



PRINCETON

2020 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

Submitted by the Princeton Open Space Committee

Risk Gardner

Karen Rossow

Deb Cary

Cary LeBlanc

Kelton Burbank

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Note: Maps 1 and 3-8 Provided by Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)



One of Princeton's many shaded roads

Section 1. Plan Summary

Princeton's 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan builds on several successes from the past seven years and addresses a number of hurdles that were encountered with some previous goals. We identified several new goals that logically extend from what has already been accomplished. It is encouraging to see what has been attained to date and this motivates us to maintain our commitment to open space.

Perhaps our greatest accomplishment in the past several years is the preservation of the former Smith Farm, a property with over 250 acres of fields and forest that provides lovely views along both sides of Route 62 just west of the town center. This was achieved by the involvement of many organizations, including the Town of Princeton, the Princeton Land Trust, the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, Worcester Water, and private residents. A portion of that land has been designated as the Calamint Hill Conservation Area and a dedicated team has cleared and marked trails throughout the area, with bridging and signage work in process.

In developing this plan, we have extensively involved Princeton residents, organizations and committees involved in open space and recreation issues. One of the primary sources of data was a town-wide survey, which helped identify resident's open space preferences.

Our Open Space and Recreation Survey was returned by over 40% of town households and provided a clear view into the resources and activities valued by the residents. It was gratifying (though not surprising) to learn that the vast majority of the respondents, whether new to town or lifelong residents, strongly value the open space and natural resources within our borders and desire to preserve the rural character of our town, a characteristic that is steadily being depleted in surrounding communities. Preservation of our natural landscape, including forests, fields and water, is for most of us an immutable value that only increases as residential and commercial development encroaches around us. What we strive to do with the Open Space Committee and Parks & Recreation is to retain these attributes while making them accessible to the community for active interaction with them.

In addition to the town-wide survey we held workshops early in the process with pertinent organizations such as the Princeton Land Trust, the Historical Commission, the Council on Aging, Environmental Action Committee, local hunt clubs, and town departments and officials that could be affected by the action items of the plan. A workshop was also held as part of a 'town buzz' forum which invited citizens with an interest in the plan to participate. The input of these groups has been immensely valuable, and we are grateful for their suggestions and insight.

We strived to consider all perspectives and opinions in the gathering of information to generate our findings. There is strong interest in accomplishing the goals within this plan and we look forward to our multi-year implementation.

The top-level goals that we seek to address are:

1. Maintain and improve Princeton's existing natural resources, open spaces, and recreational areas. A key part of this goal is to strengthen the Parks and Recreation role and to develop new opportunities for using Krashes Field and the Needham field house, which are presently under-utilized.
2. Plan for protection of Princeton's scenic, historical, and natural areas through proactive planning and advocacy for thoughtful development strategies. The key part of this goal is to develop a process for identifying and monitoring high-impact land parcels so that we can be involved in discussions with landowners of current and future use.
3. Promote the appropriate use of Princeton's recreational assets. This will involve better documentation and communication about trails and recreational areas.
4. Improve connectivity between open spaces, parks, and other important town locales. This is a continuation of our project to develop ways to travel (by foot, bicycle, horse) between areas of town in a safe way.
5. Improve coordination and communication between departments, committees, and local organizations working toward common goals for open space and recreation. We envision an annual goal-setting process for the implementation of open space objectives, and ongoing communication between all involved parties.



Wachusett Mountain from Bickford Pond

Section 2. Introduction

A. Statement of Purpose

It is the intent of this plan to provide to the Town of Princeton, its citizens, regional and state governments, and other land use authorities with the current status of Open Space in Princeton. This 2020 Update will describe the efforts and results since the publication of the previous plan that was written in 2013, as well as prioritize projects for the next seven years. In particular the plan will address monitoring of preserved parcels, preserving of newly available land, improving the utilization of existing Open Space, and identification other lands that could benefit Princeton as Open Space.

The 2020 plan continues with the goals from the 2013 plan. In the past seven years, we have succeeded in preserving the Smith property with a combination of conservation land, agricultural preservation land, and a few house lots. We *continue to identify and monitor other properties considered important for conservation and protection. There is widespread support for improving the use of town land such as Boylston Park and Goodnow Park and improving trails and recreational facilities are of more immediate interest to the town.



Scouting out trails in the new Calamint Hill Conservation Area

It should be recognized that in a small community such as Princeton, virtually all of these endeavors are undertaken by volunteers, not paid personnel. These are residents who are willing to donate their time, expertise, and energy towards making Princeton a remarkable and vibrant community today for their families and also with the future in mind. Princeton could very easily make short-sighted choices that would be devastating to the character of the town. This document serves to reaffirm the objectives in the original 2000 Plan and the subsequent updates in 2007 and 2013.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

This planning process was spearheaded by the Princeton Open Space Committee (OSC). The planning workshops and public hearing were publicized through local papers (The Landmark and the Redemption Rock News) and town-wide social media and mailing lists, and residents were encouraged to participate. Steps involved in the process included:

- A working session was held to review the purpose of the plan and collect input from

several town groups including the representatives from Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Parks and Recreation Committee, Environmental Action Committee, and conservation groups such as Princeton Land Trust, Mass Audubon, local hunt clubs, and other stakeholder groups.

- Interviews were conducted with town staff, board and committee members, and representatives of conservation-related organizations.
- A significant survey of residents was conducted, with residents receiving a paper copy with the annual town census, along with being notified via electronic means. Follow up was done via social media channels and copies of the survey were collected from collection points at the town hall, library and the Senior Center.
- A public hearing was held in February with other departments and town residents, and to listen to their feedback. At this session, the planning draft of needs, goals, objectives, and action plans was reviewed with attendees.

A copy of this plan was reviewed by the Select Board, the Planning Board, and the Central Mass Regional Planning Committee. Letters of support from these reviews is included in Section 10.



Section 3. Community Setting

A. Regional Context

The Town of Princeton was settled in 1759 and incorporated on April 24, 1771. Princeton is bordered on the northeast by Leominster, on the east by Sterling, on the southeast by Holden, on the southwest by Rutland, and on the northwest by Hubbardston and Westminster. It is situated about 14 miles from Worcester, 14 miles from Fitchburg, and 52 miles from Boston. The main roads are Routes 62, 31 and 140. Route 31 leads to Route 2 and all points east and west, Route 31 leads to Holden and Worcester, Route 140 north also leads to Route 2 and Route 140 south leads to Route 190 whose northern end merges with Route 2 and whose southern end merges with Route 290 in Worcester.

The closest commuter train stations with lines into Boston are in the adjacent Town of Westminster, the City of Leominster and the City of Worcester. Generally, the T.F. Green Airport in Rhode Island (Providence) or Bradley International Airport in Connecticut (Hartford) are used as often as Boston's Logan Airport, while the closest, Worcester Regional Airport is being used more often as flight availability improves.

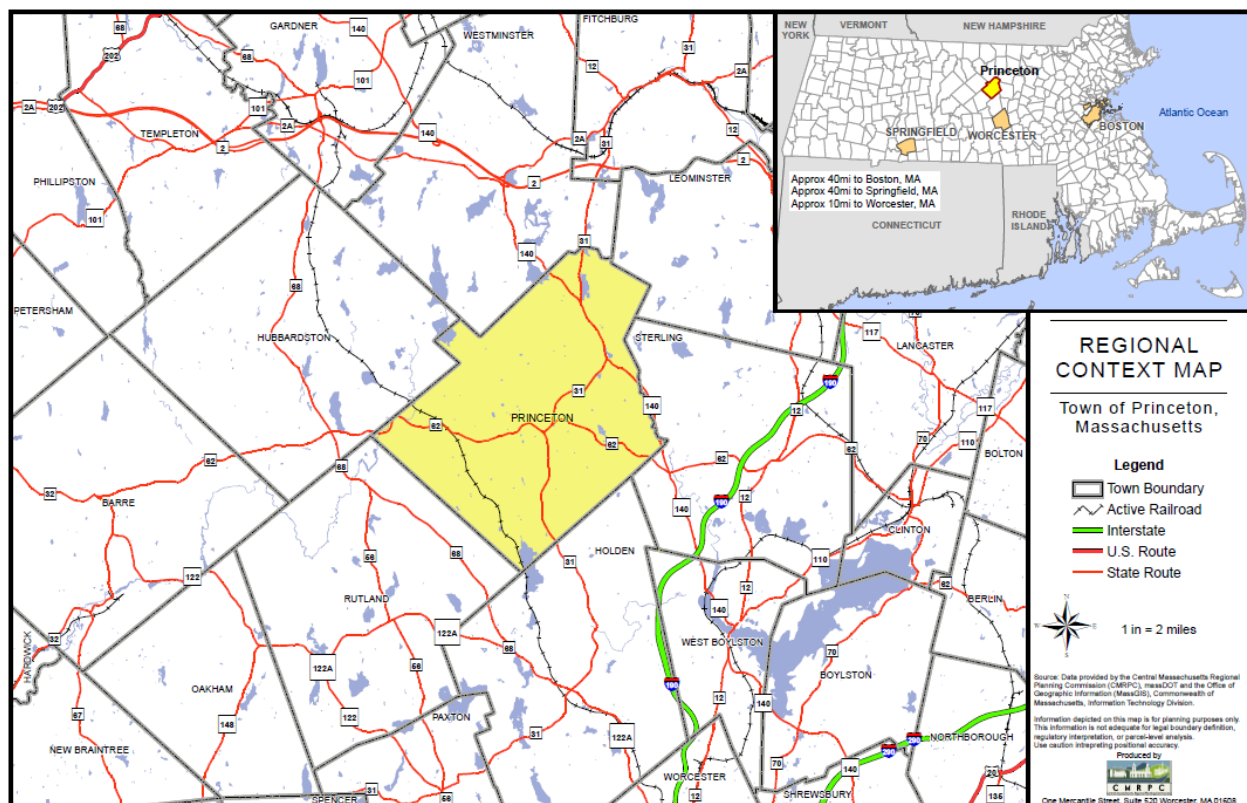
We have one school in town, the Thomas Prince School which serves K- 8 students. There are several options for high school education in the region, including Wachusett Regional High School, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School, and a number of private schools. There are an abundance of colleges and universities in the area, mostly in Worcester, and this affords many educational, cultural and employment opportunities.

The predominantly rural/residential nature of Princeton, coupled with unique geographical features and open space, provides residents and visitors varied recreational opportunities. As indicated in Section V, sizeable tracts of land are publicly accessible, although permitted uses vary according to the landowner. Many large tracts of land within Princeton are owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Division of Water Supply Protection, the City of Fitchburg Water Division, and the City of Worcester Water Supply Division to protect water supplies. Other large areas are owned by state agencies such as DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation, in particular Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, along with parcels owned by Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Together these lands serve to protect and benefit the natural, cultural, environmental and recreational objectives. The Town of Princeton owns several smaller parcels utilized for park, sports and recreation purposes, including Princeton Park, Thomas Prince School, Sawyer Field, Krashes Field, Calamint Hill

Conservation Area and Princeton Center. Other tracts of land are owned by private non-profits in particular Mass Audubon, Princeton Land Trust, and the Nimrod and Norco sports clubs.

B. History of Princeton

Wachusett Mountain has been a major focus of historical settlement in Central Massachusetts. The Mountain was a sacred ground of a branch of the Nipmuck Indians who inhabited the area into the 1600s. To this day it is considered sacred to the tribe. In 1675, long before the Town was settled, Mary Rowlandson of Lancaster was held captive for six weeks by natives and ransomed at the site of Princeton's 'Redemption Rock' from the Chief known as Metacomet, though he was referred to as King Philip by the new neighbors. Incorporated in 1771, Princeton was named after the Reverend Thomas Prince, Pastor of the Old South Church in Boston and one of the first proprietors of Princeton. During the Revolution, Princeton supported its own company of Minutemen. After the Revolutionary War, the Town was one of the many hotbeds of dissension that resulted in Shays Rebellion in 1786.



Map 1 - Princeton Regional Context

Colonists established subsistence farms in the 1700s and by the beginning of the 19th century, much of the land had been deforested for agriculture. During the 1800s, Wachusett Mountain and the Town of Princeton served as a summer resort for residents of Worcester and Boston (and beyond) who arrived by train to spend the summer months and take in the clear Princeton air.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, eight trains daily came to Princeton, bringing hundreds of summer visitors to the many hotels and boarding houses. During these 'seasons' many famous individuals signed hotel registers- Louisa May Alcott, Sarah Bernhardt, Lydia Pinkham, the Harpers (of Harper's Magazine), and Thomas Edison. In addition, many famous names are

associated with 19th century Princeton: Edward Savage, the artist, renowned for his portraits of George Washington, was born and is buried in Princeton. J.G. Whittier visited here and immortalized Mt. Wachusett in a famous poem. Earlier, in 1842, Henry D. Thoreau walked from Concord to Mt. Wachusett where he was inspired to write of the Mountain 'who like me/standest alone without society.'

Wachusett Mountain and its environs became a designated Commonwealth of Massachusetts reservation in the year 1899.

The 20th century saw major changes in the town and a transition from a farming and summer resort town to rural suburb with hiking and skiing resources that attract visitor from across the region.

With the arrival of the automobile, vacation and recreation habits changed. The number of active local farms decreased to two during the 20th century, and with the emergence of the automobile summer tourism moved to more distant locations. After 1900, small local industries such as hat making, lumbering, and chair-making gradually disappeared. The many Princeton hotels were gone by the 1930s and Princeton summer population went from a peak of about 15,000 back to the level of permanent residents, down to a low of 800 people. By the end of the 20th century the population had risen to over 3,000.

Power and Telephone service were both started in the early 1900s. Princeton Center School was replaced by Thomas Prince School during the 1950s. Princeton joined the Wachusett Regional School District. At the end of the century Princeton made an early investment in wind power.

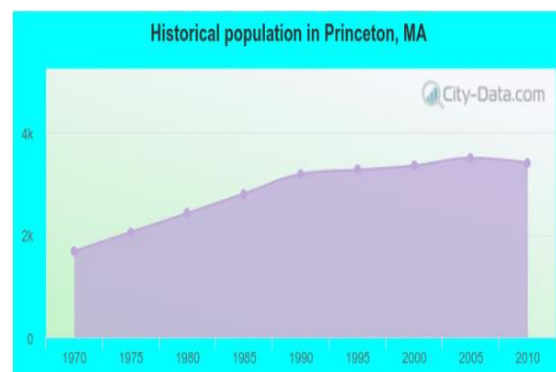
Wachusett Mountain was acquired by the state to start the 20th century, and Wachusett Meadow was acquired by Mass Audubon in 1956 and grew into a major Audubon center. Minns Wildlife Management Area ("Little Wachusett") was established in 1926, and Savage Hill Wildlife Management Area was established by 2002. The Princeton Land Trust was founded in 1967. The Wachusett Ski area was greatly expanded in the 1980s.

Princeton's history has been recently documented in a book called *Princeton and Wachusett Mountain* by Joyce Baily Anderson (2003). In 2009 Joyce Baily Anderson also wrote "Princeton: A History of Its Villages" with Sheila Dubman and Alexandra Fiandaca.

C. Population Characteristics

The population of Princeton has grown modestly over the past 50 years from 1,028 in 1950. After a period of more rapid growth in the 1980s and 1990s, growth has slowed in the past twenty years to less than a half percent per year. Population as of January 2019 was 3,531. There are 1,279 households and the average house assessment is \$419,097 for fiscal year 2020. Based on the full 35.8 square miles of town area, the population density is 98 people per square mile.

The population is predominantly white (93%) and relatively affluent, with an EQV(Equalized Value) per capita of \$148,259 in 2018. Sixty one percent of adults hold bachelor's degrees, and 98.6% have graduated from high school. Since there are relatively few employment opportunities in town, most people commute to work elsewhere. The



average commute takes 35 minutes and 79% of households have two or more cars.

Median Family Income in 2019 was \$128,000. As shown below, Median income has been on the upswing for the past 40 years as the town has become more populated by white collar workers. Median income in 2018 was 73% higher than the state average, and 26% of families had an income over \$200,000.

Princeton does not contain environmental justice areas.

Our largest employer is Wachusett Mtn. Ski Area (privately owned and seasonal), which employs at least 1,000 people at some point during the year. Aside from municipal employment there are also some restaurants and a few small businesses. McLean Hospital has a facility in town, and the non-profit National Education for Assistance Dog Services (NEADS) program is located in our community.

There are quite a few home-based businesses but they generally employ one or two people. The labor force includes 1,995 individuals as of September 2018. Of those people 1,928 are employed and 67 are unemployed so that our unemployment rate is 3.4%.

Princeton is part of the five-town Wachusett Regional School District, which also includes the Towns of Holden, Paxton, Rutland, and Sterling. There is one school physically located in town, the Thomas Prince School which currently serves grades K through 8. Enrollment has been steady for the past seven years after Thomas Prince became a STEAM school: one in which the curriculum focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. About 400 students have been enrolled per year, and Princeton routinely ranks in the top 20% of schools in the state on test performance.

D. Growth and Development Patterns

Princeton has developed from a rural farming and residential community to primarily a residential community with a rural character. 34% of land is used for residential purposes, 4% is used for commercial/industrial, 2% is agricultural land, and 56% of the land within our boundaries is open space. Princeton's ledges and wetlands, along with the large amount of protected watershed land, have constrained development.

The chart shown below, taken from MASSGIS Assessor Database) shows how Princeton compares to surrounding towns in the mix of open space usage and other type of usage. Map 2 (Princeton Land Usage, below) depicts usage by area of town.

Land use Breakdown	PRINCETON	HOLDEN	HUBBARDSTON	RUTLAND	STERLING	WESTMINSTER	AVERAGE
1. Residential	34%	22%	15%	18%	20%	37%	23%
2. Comm/Industrial	4%	2%	2%	1%	4%	9%	3%
3. Agricultural 61A	2%	3%	2%	5%	9%	3%	4%
4. Mixed/Town/State	5%	23%	9%	8%	10%	1%	10%
5. Open Space*	56%	50%	72%	68%	56%	50%	60%
Residential Acres/Lot	6.2	1.0	4.0	2.1	1.8	3.2	2.0
Population/Sq Mile	98	458	82	183	220	210	235
* Includes all undeveloped land for the town, state, private including chapter 61 lands and commercial or industrial zoned lands							

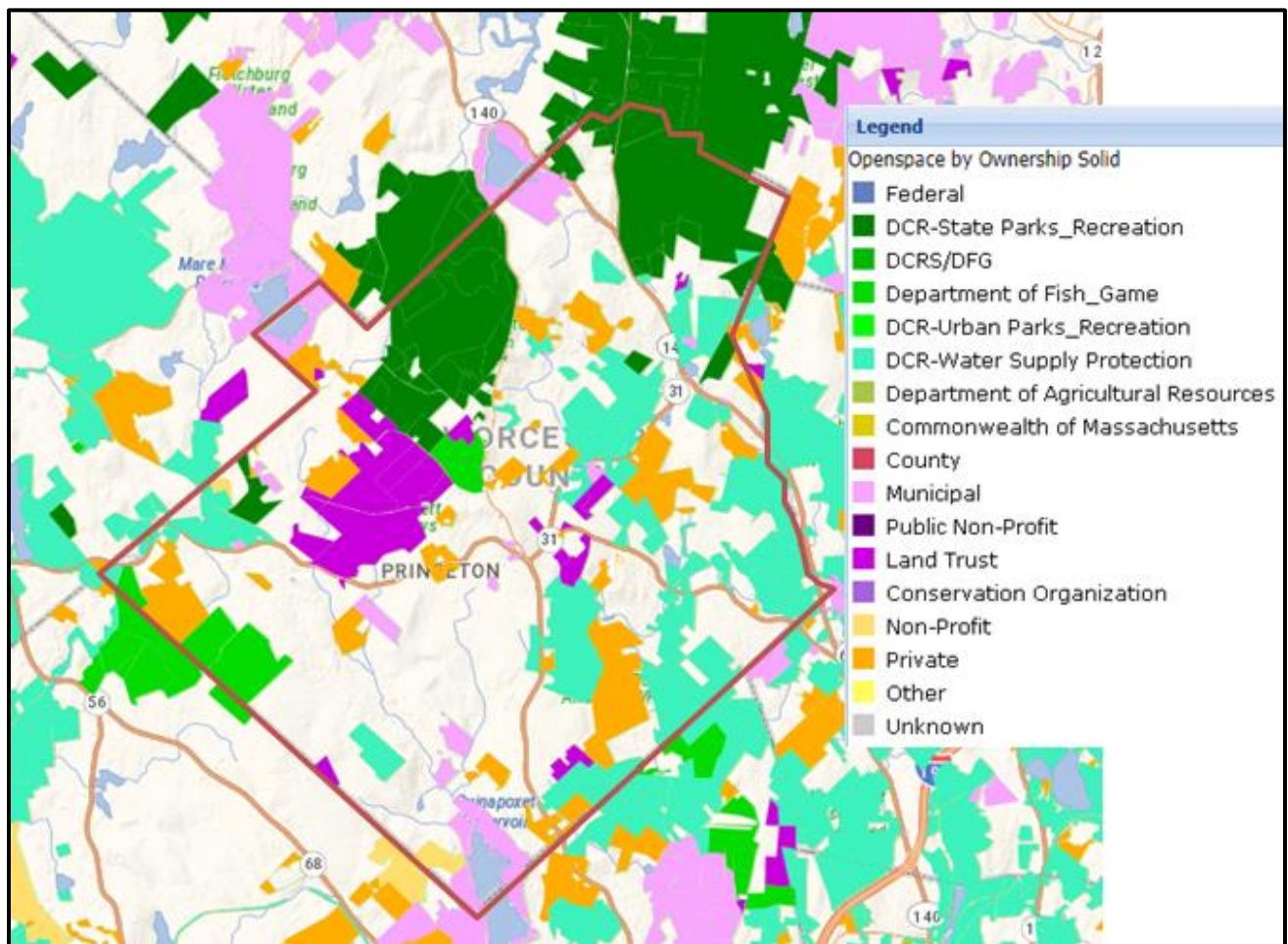
Compared to surrounding towns, Princeton has a low population density of 98 people per square mile, and house lots are comparatively large.

Princeton's 35.8 sq. miles are characterized by sloped terrain that has encouraged the development of a radial frame of narrow, winding roads. We have an excellent and dedicated Road Advisory Committee which has made sure that the town roads have been maintained and routinely upgraded.

Public transportation is not available in our town because of the small distributed population. The Princeton Council on Aging arranges transportation for seniors for medical appointments and for shopping.

As shown in the OSRP survey results, Princeton residents value all forms of hiking and biking. The town contains many trails, and there has been an active push by the Open Space Committee to expand the availability of trails for both biking and hiking/walking. An important goal (Trail Around Princeton) is to provide safer ways to travel between key areas in town. Currently Wachusett Mountain, Leominster State Forest, and Wachusett Meadow provide over 100 trails. Residents walk on the many quiet roads in town and would like to see more sidewalks on the state roads. Biking is a favored activity.

Within the past few years, Princeton has transitioned from a poor internet infrastructure to a state-of-the art fiber-to-the-home system, which has encouraged development to a small degree.



Map 2 - Princeton Land Usage

Much of our electrical system was replaced ten years ago after the ice storm of 2008. Princeton utilizes a wind farm for passive energy and work is underway to investigate adding solar power to our infrastructure.

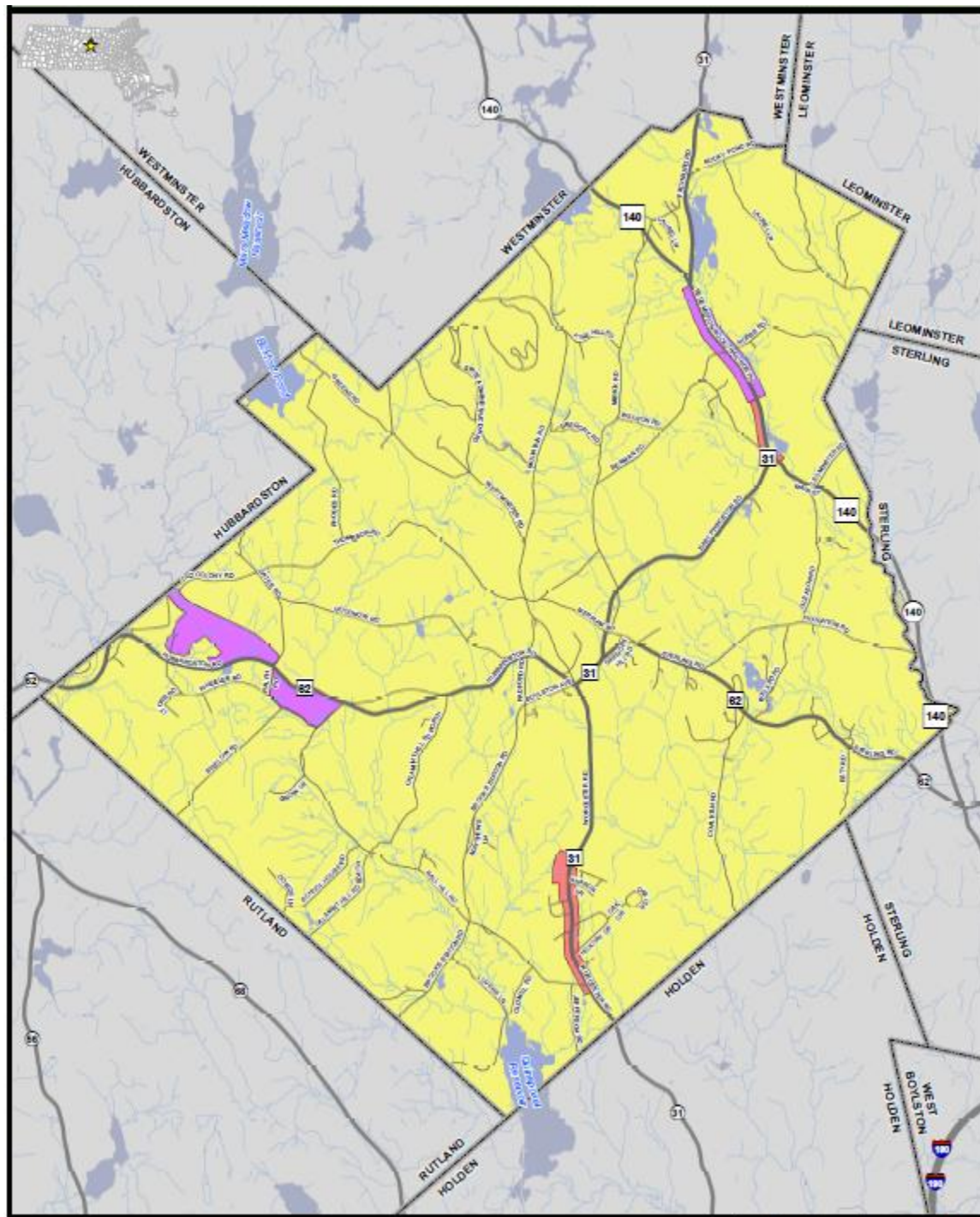
The fact that Princeton has no public sewer or water service and relies instead on private septic systems and wells may have inhibited large scale developments. Plus, much of the undeveloped land is ledge or wetland.

The Planning Board has addressed the need for legal accessory apartments (“in-law”) and it recognizes that as the population ages older residents may require smaller, less labor-intensive living quarters than their current houses in order to remain in Princeton. Many older residents would like to stay in town, however, there is only Wachusett House which serves as a senior apartment facility and can only accommodate 16 residents.

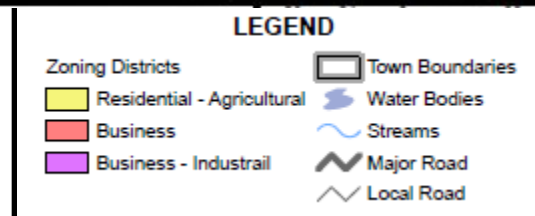
With the improvement of internet service and the improving economy, Princeton has seen an uptick in the number of single-family building permits issued, from about 3 per year between 2010 and 2017 to about 10 per year in years 2017 and 2018, with 8 in 2019 and we expect that to have a rate close to 10 continue.

As shown in the OSRP survey results, Princeton residents value all forms of hiking and biking. The town contains many trails, and there has been an active push by the Open Space Committee to expand the availability of trails for both biking and hiking/walking.

Princeton has revised zoning regulations, including a great deal of work on establishment of a commercial overlay zone. However, this has not had an appreciable impact in the interest of businesses to move to town. Commercial development has been limited within Princeton because so few people reside here. Almost no industrial activity exists today, and less than 100 acres are currently in use for commercial purposes. The land that Princeton has zoned for business has attracted more residential than non-residential investment. Business/industrial development is limited to three zoned areas, all of which are oddly situated and for the most part too narrow to attract high quality commercial projects.



Map 3 – Zoning





Section 4. Environmental and Cultural Inventory and Analysis

A large percentage of land in Princeton includes middle-aged forests, hay fields and bodies of water. Wachusett Mountain has old growth forest on its south side (so in Princeton) but the majority of forest here is between 40 and 120 years old. We have an overabundance of rocks which we have no choice but to tolerate. They have resulted in stone walls all over New England but nowhere more so than in our town. Among them are some impressive glacial erratics (enormous rocks above ground) of which we are quite fond.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) owns large tracts of land in town for recreational use. Mass Audubon and the Princeton Land Trust also have hundreds of acres permanently protected for passive recreation and to protect it from further development. Princeton has water sources that lead to three separate watersheds, which has resulted in substantial purchase of these areas by the DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection in the past decade. To protect the high quality of these drinking water supplies, recreational activity within these areas is limited to walking, fishing and hunting with restrictions. Walking on trails in the watershed areas is tolerated but not encouraged. This means that even with pre-existing trails the marking of them is prohibited, which limits our ability to share them with the community and, more problematic, can and does result in people getting lost.

In addition, the cities of Fitchburg and Worcester both own land in Princeton to protect their drinking water supplies. There are pros and cons for our residents: we have the tremendous benefit of considerable land and water protection, which is beneficial for people beyond our boundaries as well as within. But there are imposed limitations for our access and use by our residents.

A. Geology, Soils and Topography

Three million years ago ice sheets up to a mile in thickness covered most of New England. The ice receded some 15,000 years ago and is responsible in large part for the rugged and uneven terrain that we see today. The three principal peaks – Wachusett Mountain, Little Wachusett Mountain and Pine Hill – stand dramatically above the surrounding terrain because they are monadnocks composed of extremely resistant *gneiss* that was able to resist the ravages of ice and water during the Pleistocene ice age. Gneiss is a common and widely distributed type of

metamorphic rock. It is formed by high temperature and high-pressure metamorphic processes acting on formations composed of igneous or sedimentary rocks.

Elsewhere in Princeton one can see where the glaciers scraped and tugged at the gneiss bedrock, forming a *knob and kettle* landscape with *kettle holes*. Kettle holes are created by water spinning a rock within a rock impression until it forms a deep kettle and a smaller rock which may eventually be carried downstream.

Inactive kettle holes (where the process is complete) include Crow Hill Pond and Paradise Pond. There are also *roche moutonnee* which are outcrops of bedrock with a gentle slope on the upstream side of the ice and a steep, rough slope on the downstream side such as Redemption Rock, and cliffs such as those near Crow Hill Pond and the southwest side of Little Wachusett on Thompson Road.

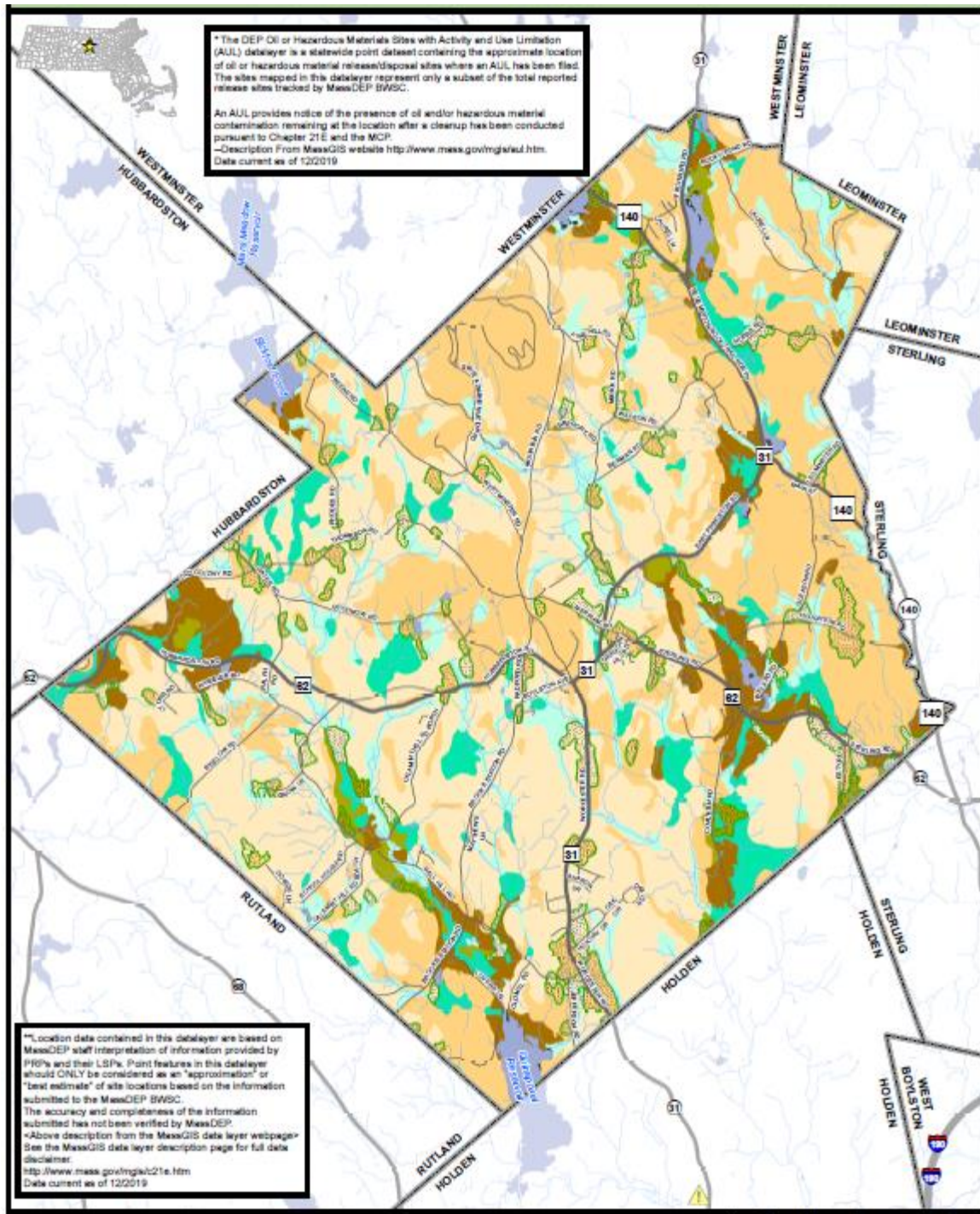


Redemption Rock is one of several large boulders in town

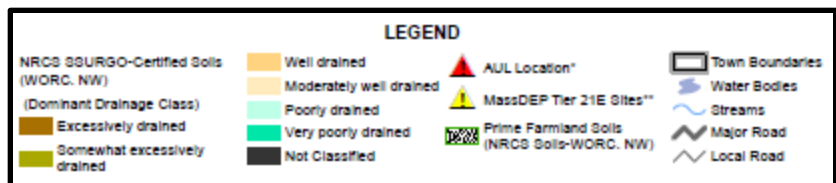
The rest of Princeton is littered with the debris left behind after the glaciers receded. Thick deposits of glacial till cover the bedrock in most places and provide either extremely sandy soils or heavy, silty soils that are poorly suited to agriculture. Early settlers pulled boulders of granite out of the ground to facilitate cultivation and piled them on the boundaries of the fields to form the walls that are characteristic and charming features of Princeton today.

There are two types of rock walls: the larger ones are generally close to the old houses and this is where the soil was thoroughly cleared for crops. As new rocks would naturally rise to the surface over time they would be thrown onto these large stone walls, which is why there are smaller rock on top of the walls. Then there are the smaller rock walls where fields were cleared for grazing. These fields were not cleared as meticulously as would be for the crops. In some instances, the boulder fields were so large as to defy removal and cultivation and these remain impenetrable to this day, such as on the northeast side of Wachusett Mountain above the headquarters of the state reservation and on the boundary of the Audubon Sanctuary near the junction of Ball Hill Road and Hubbardston Road.

As the ice sheets moved out over the land, they carried huge boulders with them, often for hundreds of miles. When the ice sheets melted these boulders were dropped as *glacial erratics* including Redemption Rock (Route 140), Balance Rock on Wachusett Mountain, and the Glacial Boulder at Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary. In this age of technology, it is gratifying to find that people of all ages and backgrounds admire these marvelous stones.



Map 4 - Soils



Children become cubs and adults test their faith in the earth; the precariously set rock hasn't moved in thousands of years so surely, they can sit on top for a photograph! The beautiful egg-shaped hills, or *drumlins*, found in much of southern Princeton were formed as the ice sheets proceeded as well, as they plowed up and rode over huge mounds of earth. In addition, the enormous volumes of water molded and carved the sand and silt into bizarre shapes, leaving *outwash terraces* and long, sinuous ridges, or *eskers*, as seen due south of the Princeton Highway Department facility on Route 31.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has identified 34 soil types or associations in the Town of Princeton. These include five primary types. (1) The Woodbridge-Paxton association comprises rolling, well-drained, stony soils that are underlain with hardpan. They cover approximately 19.8% of the town and are generally unfavorable to high-density development. (2) The Peru-Marlow association soils occupies 17.3% of the town. These soils are moderate to well-drained, very stony and underlain with hardpan. Spring water table levels can be 1 to 3 feet below the surface. (3) The Montauk-Scituate-Canton association, rolling and extremely stony accounts for 14% of the town. These soils are moderate to well-drained with bedrock below 60 inches and seasonal water tables within 2 feet. (4) The Ridgebury-Whitman association, undulating, extremely stony is the fourth largest soil group. These are poorly to very poorly drained soils. Water tables in the spring are at or near the surface of the soil. (5) The fifth largest soil group is Buckspott-Wonsquesk mucks. These soils are very poorly drained.

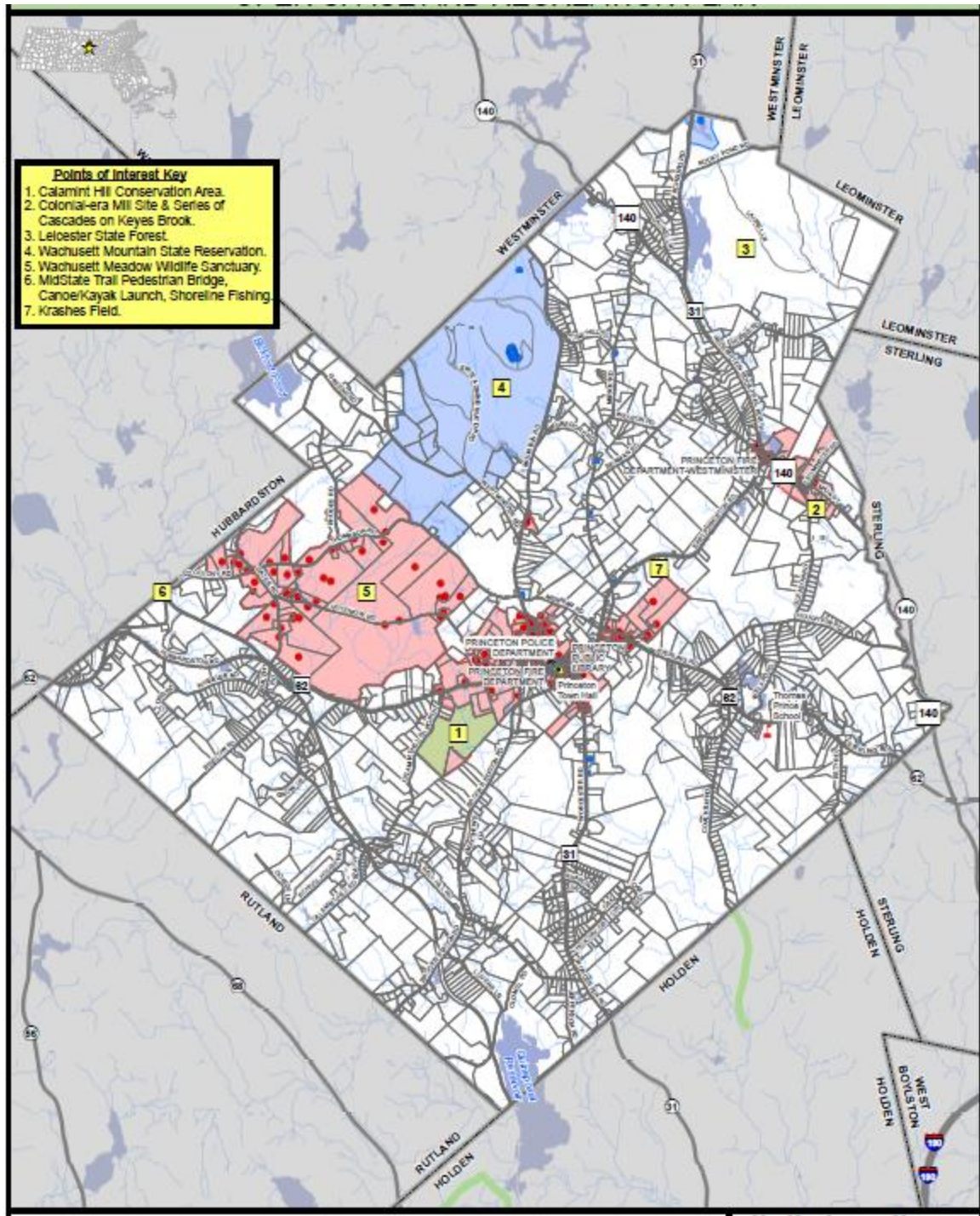
These five soil groups comprise 61% of the town soils. All have limitations because of hardpan layers, drainage, slope or rockiness. There are better soil types and association scattered across the town. The major limitations to development are the steep slopes and the presence of hardpans that restrict the location of on-site septic systems. Development has been along established roads with soils compliant for septic systems.

B. Landscape Character

The Princeton landscape is dominated by the graceful, forested peaks of Wachusett Mountain (2006 ft.), Little Wachusett (1560 ft.) and Pine Hill (1440 ft.), and Brown Hill (1,312), all clustered in the northern portion of town. Viewed from the south and east, the town of Princeton is seen nestled against this scenic backdrop. As the highest vantage points in Central Massachusetts, these peaks also provide glorious vistas of Boston to the east, Mount Monadnock to the north, and Mount Greylock and the Berkshires to the west.

The remainder of the town is characterized by rolling hills, rocky slopes and numerous small valleys, with babbling brooks and quiet ponds. Over 70% of the land was previously cleared for farmland, but most of the farms have been abandoned and secondary growth, mixed hardwood and softwood forests have reclaimed these areas. Isolated fields are still hayed periodically and the vistas they afford add enormously to the character of the town. Beautiful dry-stone walls frame these fields and the boundaries of former fields can be traced for miles through the now dense forest. The walls also parallel many of the winding country lanes and provide great aesthetic appeal as well as attractive habitats for numerous plants and animals.

The town would benefit from adopting the Community Preservation Act to support preservation of these natural and historic qualities and, based on the feedback we have received during our planning process for this document, we have added its passage to our list of Objectives in the seven year plan. This was recommended by our last Town Master Plan and reiterated in the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) of 2019 (page 72). The Community Preservation Act was voted down over ten years ago as it generated ill feelings related to taxation at the time.



Map 5 – Unique Features

C. Water Resources

More than ten percent of the town consists of open water or wetlands. Paradise Pond, Snow Pond, Glutner Pond, Echo Pond, the Onion Patch and numerous smaller unnamed ponds are located within Princeton, as are portions of Bickford Pond, Crow Hill Pond, Wachusett Lake and the Quinapoxet Reservoir. Streams include Babcock, Cobb, Cold, East Wachusett, Governor, Justice, Keyes, South Wachusett, Steam Mill, West Wachusett brooks, the Stillwater River and the east branch of the Ware River. Many areas bordering these ponds, streams and rivers are located within the 100-year flood zone.

A watershed is an area of land in which all surface and ground water drains to a common river, stream, pond, lake or coastal water body. Since water flowing over land picks up dissolved materials, land use and development regulations within a watershed affect the quality of the water supply. Nearly all of Princeton (86%) lies within the Nashua River Watershed, which encompasses 538 square miles in 31 communities in north central Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. The western corner of Princeton around the east branch of the Ware River and the area around Bickford Pond and West Wachusett Brook lie in the Chicopee River Watershed, which covers 721 square miles in 32 cities and towns.

These watershed lands flow into four Class A public water supplies: the Quabbin Reservoir, the Wachusett Reservoir, the Quinapoxet Reservoir and the Fitchburg Reservoir. The Wachusett Reservoir is part of the storage system for the Quabbin Reservoir, which supplies water to more than 2.5 million people in the MWRA region. The Stillwater River and East Wachusett Brook drain the eastern half of Princeton and supply approximately 30% of the water in the Wachusett Reservoir. The rest of Princeton to the west drains to the Quinapoxet Reservoir, a water supply to the city of Worcester. The northern part of Princeton drains to the Fitchburg Reservoir. None of these public water supplies provides water for our town. Princeton has no central public water supply and relies entirely on private wells.

Nearly all of Princeton is subject to the Watershed Protection Act (WsPA) which regulates land use and development in 22 towns located in the watersheds for the Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River and Wachusett Reservoir. Also known as the 'Cohen Bill', the WsPA was passed in 1992 and it is currently administered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The WsPA establishes two protection zones: The Primary Protection Zone and the Secondary Protection Zone. The Primary Protection Zone includes lands within 400 feet of reservoirs and within 200 feet of tributaries and surface waters. Within the Primary Protection Zone any land alteration or activities that result in the storage or production of pollutants are prohibited. 'Alteration' includes a variety of activities, such as construction, excavation, grading, paving and dumping.

The Secondary Protection Zone includes land within 200 to 400 feet of tributaries and surface waters, land in flood plains and above certain aquifers, and bordering vegetated wetlands. Several types of activities are prohibited in the Secondary Zone: the storage, disposal or use of toxic, hazardous, and certain other materials; alteration of bordering vegetated wetlands; certain types of development; and other activities. The WsPA exempts specific uses and structures existing as of July 1, 1992, the construction of a single-family dwelling on an existing vacant lot,

and minor changes to an existing structure. Owners of property located wholly or partially in a WsPA protection zone received written notification of their status when the law went into effect. Today, property owners can check the location of their parcel relative to WsPA protection zones on maps available at Princeton Town Hall and DCR offices. DCR personnel provide technical assistance to landowners in order to ensure that projects comply with WsPA regulations. In addition, DCR monitors development by attending municipal board meetings reviewing legal advertisements in local newspapers and conducting periodic windshield surveys. When violations are identified DCR notifies property owners and works with the Department of Environmental Protection to secure enforcement when necessary.

Princeton's flood hazard zones are widely scattered around town and exist almost exclusively in areas protected for conservation or water quality purposes, such as the areas owned by DCR, Mass Audubon, Fitchburg Water or Worcester Water. The largest flood hazard areas in town exist along East, West, and South Wachusett Brooks, in Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow, and around the Poutwater Pond area.

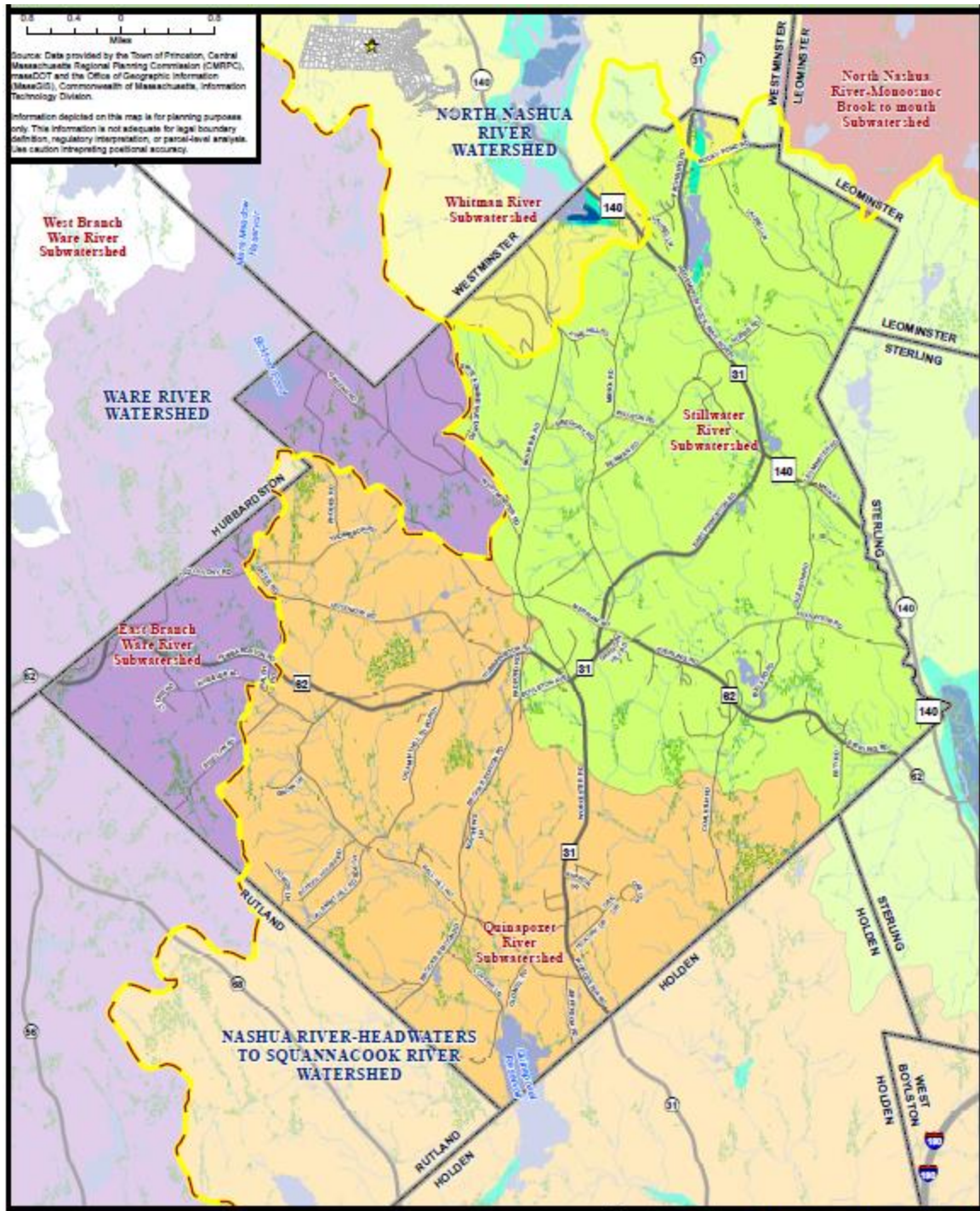
None of the lands designated as X500 flood hazards pose significant threat to developed areas.

The water resources of Princeton offer a few recreation opportunities. Fishing, canoeing, kayaking and nature study are all potential activities. Some areas are owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts DCR or Mass Audubon, however, restrictions on certain types of recreation do exist. The DCR generally does not allow swimming, hunting or fishing on watershed lands or in any water draining to DCR reservoirs. These activities are not allowed on Mass Audubon property either. There are not any town- owned recreational water bodies and citizens must depend on the generosity of private landowners for access and use in some areas. Princeton residents have access to the DCR beach on the vast and beautiful Comet Pond in Hubbardston where anyone is welcome to swim at no charge. Boating and fishing is permitted on Paradise Pond by the DCR. Boating and fishing on Snow Pond is controlled by private landowners. In Leominster State Forest in Westminster the northern section of Crows Hill Pond is open to swimming after paying a parking fee. The Quinapoxet Reservoir and Wachusett Lake are for water supply only and access is restricted to specific fishing locations. Other water resources in town are privately controlled.

Princeton contains about 2,000 acres of wetlands including marshes, wet meadows, bogs and swamps, along with several brooks that feed into larger bodies of water. South Wachusett Brook empties into Quinapoxet Reservoir and Glutner Pond empties into Keyes Brook which in turn empties into the Stillwater River. According to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program there are eight certified vernal pools and approximately 75 potential vernal pools. There is a significant wooded swamp around Governors Brook near the Holden border and many small patches of wooded swamp and shrub swamp throughout Princeton. Typical wetland vegetation such as sedges, Jack-in-the-pulpit, goldthread, speckled Alder, high bush blueberry and red maple can be found adjacent to the low, wet areas.

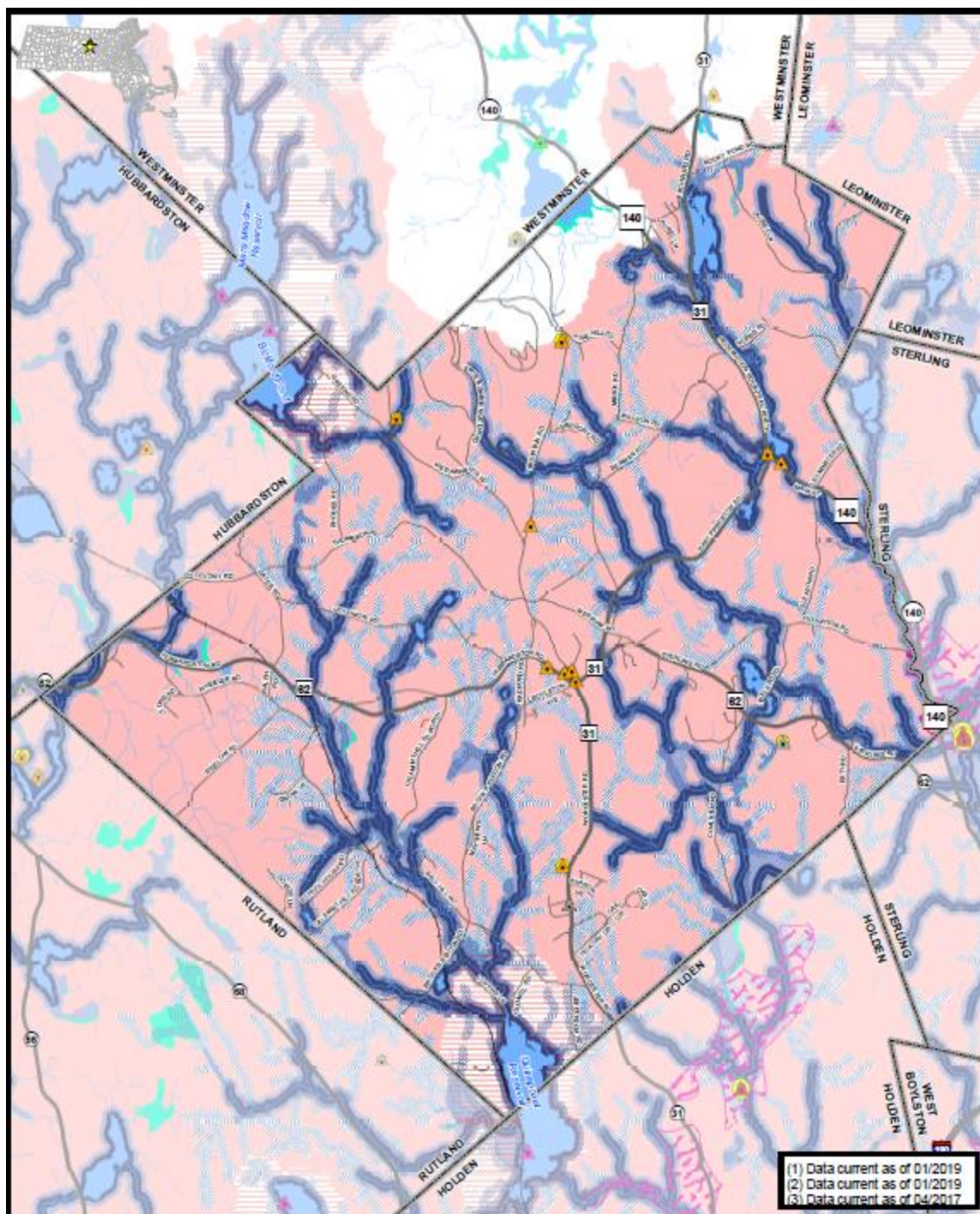
About 20 years ago the population of beavers in Princeton increased substantially and they created new ponds and associated wetland habitats at numerous locations until their activity leveled off a bit. Predictably, some beaver wetlands have been abandoned by the mammals in

the past seven or eight years and these sites have very gradually reverted to meadow. There are newer beaver lodges elsewhere, established by the offspring of the initial pairs. Unless something happens to them, beavers live for over 20 years in the wild. Timber wolves fed extensively on them until those canines were eliminated in the early 19th century. ("Beavers in Massachusetts", Scott Jackson, Thomas Dekker, University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System.) It is a normal process for the dams to eventually fail without the beavers, enabling herbaceous plants to flourish again. There is not enough habitat for the population so the abandoned areas may find beavers there again in the future.

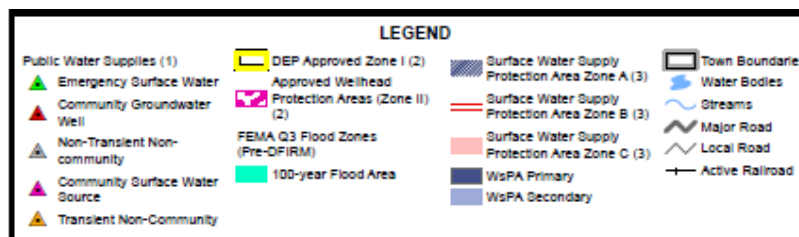


Map 6 - Watersheds





Map 7 - Water Resources



D. Vegetation

i. Forest Land

Princeton is dominated by secondary growth, mixed hardwood and softwood forest. The uplands (drier, well-drained sites) are characterized by Hickory/Oak associations while the lower, moister sites oftentimes produce a Beech/Birch/Maple woodland. Groves of White and Red Pine and Hemlock are found mixed with both forest types. Forested areas in Princeton are utilized for timber management and harvesting, walking, hiking, skiing, rock climbing, picnicking, birdwatching, outdoor meditation, hunting, horseback riding and environmental education.

Princeton has several connected, uninterrupted blocks of protected woodland. Minns Wildlife Sanctuary (137 acres) is primarily a forested hill (Little Wachusett Mountain) with a few hiking trails that are informally maintained. Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary (1,124 acres) has a large diversity of habitats: forest, meadow, wetland, pond, and stream ecosystems. Mass Audubon maintains 12 miles of trails through the Wildlife Sanctuary and provides interpretive information and educational programs.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, which is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) comprises more than 2,050 acres, including 1,350 acres that are located in Princeton. Of the total acreage, 450 acres are leased to Wachusett Mountain Associates for an alpine skiing facility that serves approximately 500,000 people annually. The remaining 1,552 acres contain a variety of plant communities which vary with the slope and elevation. In 1996, researchers at Harvard University confirmed and documented the unique presence of four stands of old growth forest on Wachusett Mountain. This important discovery is attributed to the late Gordon Brownell, a local environmentalist. The forest is composed of Red Maples, Sugar Maples, Yellow Birch, American Beech, Red Oak and Eastern Hemlock that are between 100 and 350 years old. Additionally, the Leominster state forest has 4,246 acres, many of which are within our boundaries. There is an abundance of outdoor experiences for Princeton residents to enjoy without leaving town.

Today most of our forests are middle-aged but young and old forests also play important roles. We cannot make them older; we must wait another 100 years for that. Forests help reduce climate change by sequestering and storing carbon. Carbon sequestration is the process of removing carbon from the atmosphere, which trees use in photosynthesis. This helps plants and trees grow. Carbon storage means the carbon retained in the forest as it ages.

There are five carbon “pools”: *live aboveground* (trees and other plants), *live belowground* (roots), *deadwood* (downed logs and large branches), its close relative *litter* (leaves, needles and small branches), and *soil organic matter* dead and decaying bio mass such as plants and insects. Young forests maximize carbon sequestration and old forests provide greater carbon storage. Each forest is unique and may be managed on an individual basis. If one is harvesting trees for lumber, leaving as much of the slash, treetops and other non-merchantable logs on the forest floor is beneficial. Also, the carbon stored in the lumber remains in it even as it is used for other purposes. (“Forest Carbon: An Essential Natural Solution for Climate Change”, Paul Catanzaro and Anthony D’Amato, 2019 University of Massachusetts Amherst).

Clearings provide opportunities for new growth but removing trees should be done judiciously and with consultation of trained Foresters. Preserving older trees, the live aboveground and live belowground pools, will be beneficial based on the size, number, arrangement, and species of trees involved. Joint active and passive forest management will work in retaining as much carbon as possible.

The vegetation at the lower altitudes is quite similar to most of Princeton; a hardwood forest of Red Oak, Red Maple, Yellow Birch and White Ash, with a shrub layer of Witch Hazel, Striped Maple, Beech, Hazelnut and Lowbush Blueberry. There are many trail systems that traverse these uninterrupted blocks of woodlands including the Mid-State Trail, which runs between Connecticut and New Hampshire and connects Wachusett Meadow to Wachusett Mountain and Leominster State Forest.

ii. Public Shade Trees

In many parts of town shade trees are planted along the sides of the road. In some cases the trees are aging and over time many have been removed. Replacement plans have been left up to local owners and there is no town-driven plan to replace these.

Princeton is primarily a forested town and our state parks and wildlife management areas are well shaded, as is Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadows sanctuary. As such there are plenty of shaded walking trails available.

Shade tree are in place for most of our public parks.

iii. Other Plant Communities: Meadows and Fields

The town of Princeton has several open meadows and fields, both public and private. Most are mowed regularly to maintain grass and herbaceous vegetation. Along Routes 62 and 31 privately owned fields provide scenic viewing of the rural landscape and Boston in the distance. Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary maintains several meadows primarily for wildlife habitat. DCR also maintains a high meadow for wildlife habitat and scenic viewing in the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. Thomas Prince elementary school and Krashes Field have several sports fields used for organized soccer and softball games. The public school also maintains approximately 20 acres of nature trails behind the building, some of which traverses a meadow habitat and is used often by teachers and students.

iv. Rare Plants

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has documented ten endangered or threatened species in Princeton. (Information provided by Jennifer Longsdorf, NHESP Program Coordinator.) The date indicates the most recent reported sighting, so they might not occur here today. These are:

- Back's Sedge (E) *Carex backii* (1997)
- Mountain Cranberry (E) *Vaccinium vitis-idaea ssp. Minus* (historic)

- Northern Wild Comfrey (E) *Cynoglossum virginianum* var. *boreale* (historic)
- Spiked False Oats (E) *Trisetum spicatum* (2015)
- Wild Senna (E) *Senna hebecarpa* (1879)
- Adder's Tongue Fern (T) *Ophioglossum pusillum* (2003)
- Bartram's Shadbush (T) *Amelanchier bartramiana* (1983)
- Great Laurel (T) *Rhododendron maximum* (2010)
- Woodland Millet (T) *Milium effusum* (2001)
- Pale Green Orchis (T) *Plantanther flava* var. *herbiola* (2016)

v. Rare Fungi

Many experienced naturalists frequent Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary in search of species specific to their field of interest. Conversely, quite a few individuals with a great interest in nature become experts by observing closely the species we have. Because we have such dedicated naturalists actively studying species here we feel their work is a valuable addition to this document and have included some of the uncommon and rare species in appendix C. The fungi data has been confirmed by Cindy Dunn, Joseph Choiniere and Lawrence Millman, a noted authority and author of "Fascinating Fungi of New England" (Kollath + Stensaas Publishing 2011). The list of confirmed species is exhaustive and we have included only the rare species here. In the appendix you will find some dragonfly species as well. The dragonfly data has been collected by citizen scientist Brian David Steinberg in 2019. We also have confirmed 74 species of butterflies but, while delightful, they may not be rare.

Fungi were listed in the Plant Kingdom for many years but they are more closely related to animals, so scientists have placed them in their own taxonomical Kingdom. When you happen upon a mushroom or a fungus, what you see is the fruiting body of the organism. The rest is a mycelium made out of a web of tiny filaments called hyphae. The mycelium is usually hidden in the soil, in wood or another food source. The mycelium may be small (the fuzz you see occasionally on strawberries is the fruiting body of a common fungus) or cover many acres. In fact, DNA evidence has confirmed that the largest creature on earth is a fungus in the northwest United States. Until they develop mushrooms, puffballs, truffles, brackets, cups or other fruiting bodies large enough to see, you likely would not know they are there. If you're in the vicinity of one or more of these it is definitely possible you smell the spores being dispersed in the air before you locate the source.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Princeton is home to abundant wildlife, supported by robust conservation planning toward the preservation of habitat diversity and contiguous open space. While a species inventory for the town has not been deliberately conducted, data from some significant properties including Wachusett Mountain State Reservation and Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary provide a solid baseline. For example, Wachusett Meadow has documented over 2000 species including over 35 mammals, over 120 nesting birds, over 470 plants, 15 reptiles, 14 amphibians, over 70 butterflies, over 80 dragonflies, and over 300 fungi.

The prevention of landscape fragmentation is viewed as essential to the stability and health of the environment. Without corridors of undeveloped land many animals may find the resources of isolated protected areas too limiting for survival and reproduction. An Open Space Plan should serve to guide development in a way that preserves tracts of land of adequate size to enhance the survival of Princeton's wildlife. At present Princeton contains some large parcels of unbroken land in the form of mixed forests and open farmland with various streams and wetlands.

Several sites in Princeton have been designated by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as Priority Habitats for Rare Species and or Estimated Habitats for Rare Wildlife. Priority Habitats are regulated under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act and Estimated Habitats are regulated through the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. In Princeton these habitat areas are associated with Bickford Pond, Glutner Pond and surrounding wetlands, Wachusett Mountain old growth forest, Stillwater River wetland corridor, wetlands in the Thomas Prince school area and Wachusett Meadow and associated wetlands.

As stated earlier, Princeton is also home to 8 certified vernal pools with potential for many more. The mapped potential vernal pools and others that are unmapped have been identified by state and local experts as and they await formal certification. Vernal pools contain water only seasonally and are home to certain species of frogs, salamanders, shrimp, shellfish and insects that depend on them for survival. A key feature to them is that, due to their temporary nature, they lack fish. This is why they are critical habitat for the above-mentioned creatures: their eggs would be consumed by fish if those were present. Most vernal pools are afforded no formal protection unless they are certified.

To ensure biodiversity both wetland and dry wildlife corridors must be conserved. For example, river otters move primarily along wetland corridors whereas fishers primarily use dry corridors. Princeton supports a population of fishers whose movements have been carefully tracked by local naturalists. Additionally, we have a substantial increase in bear, moose, coyote and bobcat populations. There are enough turkeys for them to be considered commonplace. Strategic parcels of land which will maintain the integrity of these corridors should be preserved and establishing a wildlife corridor overlay district is an action supported by the Environmental Action Plan (pages 74, 75), which was developed by the Princeton Environmental Action Committee.

While Princeton enjoys the benefits of several large tracts of public and privately-owned land protected from development, full value of these areas as wildlife habitat will be retained only by the protection and preservation of connecting parcels. Examples of areas where existing corridors could be preserved include South Wachusett Brook to Wachusett Meadow and land linking Wachusett Meadow westward to the east branch of the Ware River. These areas support a wide diversity of wildlife including some that are listed by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife as rare. Rare animal species classified as endangered (E), threatened (T), and special concern (SC) found in Princeton include:

- Marbled Salamander (T) *Ambystoma opacum* (2001)
- Blanding's Turtle (T) *Emydoidea blandingi* (2001)

- Wood Turtle (SC) *Glyptemys insculpta* (2018)
- Eastern Box Turtle (SC) *Terrapene Carolina* (2014)
- American Bittern (E) *Botaurus lentiginosus* (2013)
- Sedge Wren (E) *Cistothorus plantensis* (1942)
- Upland Sandpiper (E) *Bartramia longicauda* (historic)
- Common Loon (SC) *Gavia immer* (2017; frequent visitor and occasional nester)
- Water Shrew (SC) *Sorex palustris* (2007)
- Spine Crowned Clubtail (E) *Gomphus abbreviates* (2004)

Chain Dot Geometer (SC) *Cingilia catenaria* (1927)

- Creeper *Strophitus undulates* (2017)
- Little Brown Myotis *Myotis lucifugus* (2018)
- Harris Checkerspot butterfly (on Mass Butterfly Club State List)
- Spiny Sculpin (considered rare and special by local naturalists)

Other wildlife species in town include the following furbearers from smallest to largest: Brown and field mice, moles and voles, red squirrel, gray squirrel, chipmunk, skunk, short-tailed weasel, long-tailed weasel, eastern cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare (uncommon), muskrats, woodchuck, opossum, mink, raccoon, fisher, beaver, otter, gray fox (uncommon), red fox, bobcat, coyote, white-tailed deer (abundant), black bear and moose (in cold seasons). Princeton is home to a large population of porcupines throughout town, including a blond one discovered this spring on the mountain.

Our bat populations and species are not well-documented but anecdotally their numbers have decreased, which is expected given the effects of white nose syndrome. There are beekeepers throughout the community providing honeybees. Periodically there are unsubstantiated mountain lion sightings. We also have turkeys in abundance, hundreds of bird, insect, and plant species. The population of grouse has substantially decreased in the past decade, while the blue jay has made a recent comeback after a decline. We have a variety of snake species, including eastern ringneck, smooth green, eastern garter, eastern ribbon (uncommon), northern brown, redbelly, eastern milksnake, and northern watersnake.

Princeton's diverse species and habitats provide opportunities for hunting and fishing as well as hiking, birdwatching, photography, cross-country skiing and other forms of passive recreation. The east branch of the Ware River, Keyes Brook and Stillwater River are all stocked with trout. Many streams support populations of native brook trout. In addition, the town's waters offer bass, pickerel and panfish for fishermen seeking warmwater species.

Mass Audubon has designated Wachusett Mountain an Important Bird Area (IBA) and identifies it as a premier hawk migration and observation point in New England.

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Most of Princeton's roads are narrow lanes lined with woods, fields, clapboard houses and stone walls that create and access uniquely preserved scenic images of rural New England. The following roads are of particular note but no formal protection or designation currently exists: Allen Hill Rd, Ball Hill Rd, Beaman Rd, Bigelow Rd, Blood Rd, Bullard Rd, Bullock Lane, Calamint Hill Rd, Coal Kiln Rd, Connor Lane, Esty Rd, Fitchburg Rd, Gates Rd, Gleason Rd, Goodnow Rd, Greene Rd, Grow Lane, Hobbs Rd, Houghton Rd, Jefferson Rd, Leominster Rd, Lyons Rd, Matthew Lane, Miriam Rd, Myrick Rd, Mountain Rd, Old Brooks Station Rd, Old Colony Rd, Old Colony Rd ext., Pine Hill Rd, Prospect St, Radford Rd, Ralph Rd, Rhodes Rd, Rocky Pond Rd, Sam Cobb Lane, Schoolhouse Rd, Sterling Rd, Thompson Rd, Westminster Rd, Wheeler Rd, Whitaker Lane, Wilson Rd and Worcester Rd.

Princeton contains within its borders Wachusett Mountain and its associated foothills. Much of the town's rolling terrain affords views of the mountain and from the mountain into the surrounding countryside. Particularly spectacular views of the landscape to the East towards Boston can be seen from Wachusett Mountain, Minns Wildlife Sanctuary and at various points along Mountain Rd.

In addition, as a result of its rural history and natural beauty, Princeton contains many more intimate landscapes of significant scenic value. Many of these vistas remain open, however only with periodic grazing, mowing, clearing and stewardship some particularly fine vistas include:

- All directions from Wachusett Mountain summit and the Summit Rd
- North from 358 Mountain Rd over common land to Mount Monadnock
- East from Mountain Rd between Miriam and Pine Hill Roads
- West from Mountain Rd above Goodnow Park to Meetinghouse Cemetery
- East from Worcester Rd to one mile South of Prince of Peace Church
- Former Halls fields from Gregory Hill Rd
- West from Russell Corner to Wachusett Mountain
- South from Wachusett Meadow's North Mowing field
- North and South from the former Smith farm on Hubbardston Rd
- West from Route 31 near the Princeton Municipal Light Department

Though less dramatic than the sweeping vistas noted above there are many other local features that have particular historical and or aesthetic value including but not limited to the following:

- Redemption Rock
- Paradise Pond
- Keyes Brook stone arch bridge and mill sites
- Russell Corner
- Houghton Road at Hubbard's farm
- East Wachusett Brook
- Brook cascading along south side of North Cemetery
- Former Allen estate
- Cow tunnel on Allen Hill Rd
- Four Corners (Thompson and Gates Roads)

- Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary
- Blueberry Hill (Little Wachusett, Minn's Wildlife Sanctuary)
- High Meadow at Echo Lake

Princeton's town common is beautifully situated on sloping ground with views to the Boston skyline. The common is surrounded by a variety of well-kept 18th and 19th century buildings, contains a bandstand, and is flanked on the north by architecturally distinguished public buildings.

Princeton has a dramatic natural landscape characterized by steep and rolling hills and forested slopes. The landscape has been shaped by glaciation and subsequent erosion that has left many unique geological features, including glacial striations, balanced rocks, glacial erratics and glacial deposits such as drumlins and eskers. Wachusett Mountain dominates the town and hosts one of the largest stands of old growth forest east of the Connecticut River. Princeton does not contain any areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as officially designated by the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. The old growth forest on Wachusett Mountain, however, may be eligible for listing as an ACEC.

Wachusett Mountain is the highest mountain in the eastern and central regions of Massachusetts (2,006 feet). The hiking and ski trails are used annually by thousands of people. Several bands of old growth forest exist on the inaccessible ledges on the mountain. One band occurs above the visitors center and has Red Oak and Yellow Birch ranging in age from 150 to more than 350 years old. The West side of the mountain has stunted Red Oaks that are 100 to 180 years old and the East side has Beech and Oak trees over 200 years old. Noted forest ecologist Dr. Charlie Cogbill suggests that "the significance of these forest stands is increased by the diversity of vegetation types, the dominance of deciduous hardwood species, the presence of an unusual Yellow Birch talus community, the location of WM [Wachusett Mountain] in the eastern part Massachusetts and the relatively large increase that these areas make in the state total of identified old-growth forest." (Quoted in *Final Report an Old Growth Forests on Wachusett Mountain* by Foster, Orwig and O'Keefe.) Presently, the old growth area is protected and a permit is required in order to enter the critical habitat.

G. Environmental Challenges

The Town of Princeton is located in the headwaters of the Wachusett Reservoir Watershed. Water and sewer services are not available, thus, each home has its own well and septic system. Potentially, surface and groundwater supplies could be damaged by excessive development. The approval of septic systems is important in that the majority of soils are hardpan shallow to bedrock or hydric. The rules of Title V should ensure that new development does not pollute groundwater. Similarly, the Watershed Protection Act (Cohen Bill) and Rivers Protection Act combine to yield a good degree of riparian zone protection by establishing buffers along waterways. Nevertheless, the potential for suburban sprawl is recognized by many as the single most significant threat to the preservation of Princeton's special rural character and its

environmental well-being. Runoff from the domestic use of pesticides and fertilizers present a potential problem if development densities increase, regardless of these legislative provisions. That said, there has been very modest development in town since the 2013 OS&RP Update. While this may increase as a result of Princeton's new high-speed Internet connection, we do not anticipate a rapid increase in development.

Two old landfills are no longer in use in town. Potentially, leachate from these sites could enter groundwater supplies. Two small, hazardous waste sites are located at the Town Hall and Highway Department. Corrective measures to remove contaminants have been taken at these locations.

Currently, Princeton has been identified by the state Department of Environmental Protection as responsible for the remediation of well water contaminants in and around the center of town. Perfluoroalkyl and/or Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been detected at levels deemed unsafe for drinking water. The town held an emergency special town meeting where the voters approved spending \$1,000,000 in the effort to investigate and remediate this problem. Meanwhile, testing for the contaminants in private wells in the area surrounding the center of town continues. If unacceptable levels of the contaminants are discovered the town is providing bottled water to those homes and extending the testing further outward to additional homes.

The EPA identifies three recommendations to maintain high water quality: first, inform residents and businesses about contaminant testing; second, create and adopt a "green" town winter road management approach; and third, implement "green" stormwater retrofits on town buildings. We can also facilitate the sale and use of rain barrels for private and public buildings (EPA report, page 10).

To protect our air quality the EPA recommends testing town buildings for radon and other air pollutants and remediate as needed. We can educate residents about these air pollutants and how to test for them and teach about the remediation process. We can enact a bylaw regarding vehicle idling. At first glance that would not seem like a concern in such a rural community, but one photograph in the EPA vividly illustrated a problem: parents and guardians routinely idle in a congested pattern to drop off and pick up the school children each weekday. This is next to the school where our children spend so much of their time. To be effective we have to demonstrate the harm alleviated by finding workable solutions to the problem.

Lastly, Princeton can apply for a Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) and Action grants to better prepare for natural disasters caused by global warming. We can logically expect more ice storms in winter and flooding and/or drought in summer. We recently experienced a rain-free summer and fall in which some resident's wells went dry.

These are efforts to sustain a healthy human population. There are numerous ecological threats, which many of us are familiar with but an educational outreach effort to reach more residents could be undertaken. Some examples of invasive species include: the Asian Longhorn beetle, which Princeton may have avoided thanks to a herculean effort by the state; Mile-a-

Minute Vine, which hasn't been reported here and hopefully never will (although it's in nearby towns); the Asian carp; the Emerald Ash Borer; the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and many more. All invasive species wreak havoc on the environment and some can lead to extermination of their hosts. Citizen naturalists are vital to protecting our natural resources.

Princeton has recently embarked on a plan to install new culverts along roadways to better control chronic flooding. All new roads, driveways and development projects must meet increased storm water management standards to prevent erosion and sedimentation.

In general, equitable outdoor recreational opportunities are available in several parks and conservation areas throughout the town. However, in order to the meets of all citizens, additional investments could be made in East Princeton at Sawyer Field, walking areas should be identified and upgraded near the Community/Senior Center on Rt 31 including sidewalk installation, and facilities at Krashes Field complex could be expanded to accommodate more activities – such as an all person (handicapped accessible) walking path around the outside of the playing fields, a designated area for dogs, rest rooms could be made available and open at certain times at the field house and more. A task force has been proposed to address and determine opportunities to provide more equitable use of this complex.



Section 5. Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

The term *open space* as used in this plan denotes any medium or large parcel of undeveloped land, and all land (developed or not) that is managed primarily for preservation or recreation purposes. *Protected open space* refers to open space owned by a municipality, a state or federal agency, a non-profit land protection agency, or private entities, and managed primarily for conservation, recreation, or environmental protection. Protected open space is sheltered from development, although there is sometimes the chance that the use of these areas will be changed. Ordinary open space is often NOT protected; for instance, land owned by the school or public works department and privately owned parcels are often relatively easy to develop, even if they have been maintained as open space for a number of years.

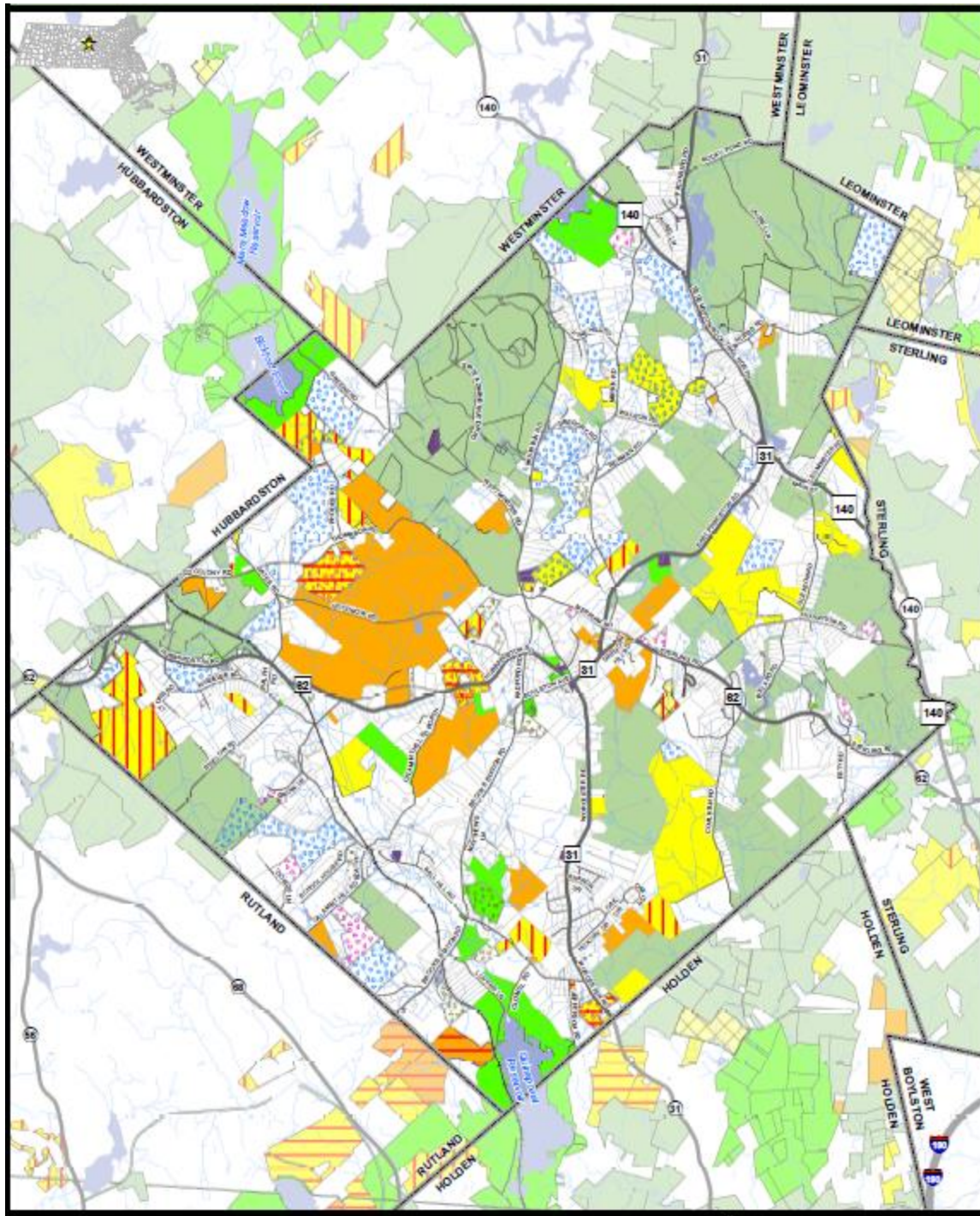
Princeton has long been considered a welcoming place for those seeking to live in and visit a natural environment. The beauty of the landscape, with the terrain dominated by Wachusett Mountain, draws people near and far who wish to escape urban areas and experience fresh air, even if only for a short time. Our forests, fields, streams and ponds that make up the bulk of our open space, collectively provide the opportunity for residents to enjoy both active and passive recreation. Certainly, the benefits of being outdoors are widely understood, and we have no shortage of places to go to. Our residents are fortunate to have the beauty of our scenery and vistas right outside their door. Outdoor recreational activities abound, including extensive multi-use trails, alpine skiing, cycling, fishing, bird watching, field sports, playgrounds, and places just to sit and reflect. Such are the benefits of living in such a rural town with an abundance of natural beauty.

Preservation of open space, while benefitting the people who live and visit Princeton, is also of vital importance to other species that inhabit the land. We are fortunate to have the tremendous support and collaboration with many state, regional, public, and private organizations that share our desire to effectively preserve open space. In particular we are indebted to Department of Conservation and Recreation, City of Worcester, City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the Princeton Land Trust. These organizations not only have protected thousands of acres in Princeton, but they also provide us with valuable information and assistance regarding research effects of development, establishing protocols and educating the public on issues related to the preservation of open space and the protection of fresh water.

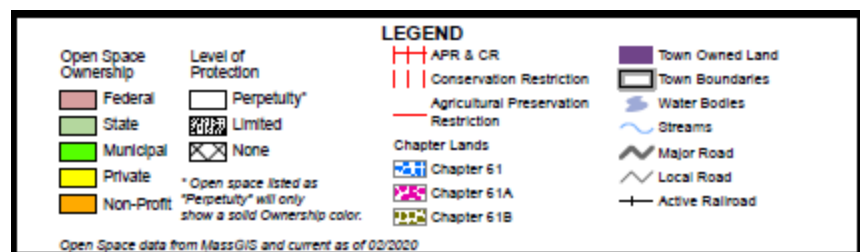
Since Princeton's incorporation in 1771, while many things have changed, there are many places that have not and would be recognizable to previous generations. Our landscape, and its protection, is as historically important as our old homes and public buildings. The fields and forests that have been preserved are vital to maintaining the scenic and aesthetic value that historically and in current day enrich all who live here.

Much land has been protected from development in Princeton. Protection includes ownership by DCR, Fitchburg and Worcester Water Departments, and other conservation groups like Mass Audubon, establishment of Conservation Restrictions, and protection under MA Chapter 61.

Summary of Town-Owned Recreational and Conservation Properties									
Name	Location	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Type of Grant	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Krashes Field	E Princeton Rd	P+R	Soccer, Basketball, Playground, Ice Ronk, Trails	Good	Possible to repurpose and expand scope	PARC	Yes	NA	Article 97
Town Common	Center	P+R	Band Concerts and other events	Good	Add benches?	NA	Yes	NA	Article 97
Sawyer Field	E. Princeton	P+R	Playground, Baseball	Needs upgrade	Upgrade playground	NA	Yes	NA	Article 97
Thomas Prince School	Sterling Rd	P+R	Baseball, Playground, Soccer, Trails	Good		NA	Yes	NA	Article 97
Center School	Boylston Rd	P+R	Walking Track, Swingset	Needs upgrade	Consider upgrade in walking track and playground	NA	Yes	NA	Article 97
Goodnow Park	Center	P+R	None	Wild	Consider cleaning up, adding trails, picnic facilities	NA	Yes	NA	Article 97
Calamint Hill Conservation Area	Calamint Hill Rd North	PCC	Trails	Good	Complete trails project	NA	Yes	NA	Article 97
Boylston Park	Calamint Hill Rd North	P+R	Trails	Good	Improve Trails	NA	Yes	NA	Article 97
P+R: Parks and Recreation Commission PCC: Princeton Conservation Commission									



Map 8 – Open Space



A. Public Recreational Facilities

i. Town of Princeton

The properties in this section have been managed by Princeton's Parks and Recreation Department and they have offered a wide variety of activities, classes, team sports and events for all ages. The community has been kept notified of Parks and Recs programming via their web page on the Town's website, a Facebook page, email notifications, and local newspapers. Their winter carnival and summer events have been very popular and revenue generated from them helped fund a variety of other activities and upgrades to playgrounds. At the present time, the Parks and Recreation director position is vacant, and the Select Board is considering how to move forward.

Krashes Field is a significant Town recreation area and is centrally located on Route 31 and 1.5 miles from the Town center. The site features 3 full-sized soccer fields, lighted outdoor basketball court, access to marked Princeton Land Trust hiking and nature trails, seasonal sledding hill, a small playground, and ice-skating pond. Also a fieldhouse with restrooms and seasonally available food, and free wireless internet. There is ample parking at the site.

Thomas Prince School, the Town's elementary/middle school is located on Route 31 and approximately 2.2 miles from town center. It offers several baseball fields, soccer fields, an outdoor basketball court, extensive nature trails and a playground. A snack shack is available seasonally with access to restrooms. There is ample parking. Thomas Prince School facilities are not available for use during school hours.

Center School Area is located about a quarter mile from Town center at 18 Boylston Avenue and includes baseball field, walking track and small playground. Center School has been closed due to the building condition; however the field and walking track are available for use.

Sawyer Field is located in East Princeton, just off of Route 140, 3.5 miles from Town center and includes a baseball backstop, playground with swings, climbing structure and slide. There is an open playing field for multiple uses.

Goodnow Park, which is next to Town Hall, needs cleaning up and reprogramming. The latter refers to the space previously being used for disc golf, which was abandoned several years ago. Likely plans will include passive picnicking, and nature trails. Ample parking exists in and around Town Hall.

Calamint Hill Conservation Area, which is on Calamint Hill Road North is open for all passive activities including hunting, hiking, biking, XX skiing, and snowshoeing. Two miles of trails have been developed by the Princeton Trail Stewards Group, and work is continuing to add bridges to two wetland crossings. Princeton Land Trust has built the .7 mile Appell trail in an adjacent property that connects to the Calamint Hill and Boylston Park trail systems.

Boylston Park is located on Calamint Hill Road North and is 1.8 miles from Town center. There is a .5 mile nature trail down to the South Wachusett Brook which is open for passive hiking.

ii. State and Other

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation with its summit at 2006' is the highest peak from Boston in the East to the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts. It is easily the most recognized public recreation area in Town and the region. Over 500,000 people come annually to enjoy this gem of a mountain with 3000 acres (1350 in Princeton) of four-season opportunities. Features include a visitor's center, run by DCR staff that includes historical and natural environment information, trail maps and restroom



Snowshoeing at Wachusett Mountain

facilities. The park has extensive marked trails, including a section of the Midstate

Trail/ There are also unpaved and paved roadways for hiking, with reduced access for biking and horseback riding. In addition to trail hiking and views from many locations, the mountain also contains several bands of old growth forest that are on inaccessible ledges and include red oak and yellow birch trees ranging in age from 150 to more than 350 years old. The west side of the mountain has stunted red oaks that are 100 to 180 years old and the east side has beech and oak trees over 200 years old. The old growth area is protected, and a permit is required to enter this critical habitat. The ski area draws around 500,000 people annually.

Leominster State Forest is managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of State Parks and Recreation. This 4300-acre parcel contains an expanse of woodlands covering portions of Westminster, Princeton, Leominster, Fitchburg and Sterling. Princeton's section includes 1380 acres in the northern part of town. Access to the Leominster State Forest is conveniently located off Rout 2 and Routes 31 and 140, making the park accessible to local and regional visitors. Leominster State Forest offers extensive trails that cross a wide variety of terrain, which includes a section of the Midstate Trail. There are year-round recreational opportunities ranging from hiking, mountain biking, swimming, kayaking and rock climbing in the summer to cross-country skiing, mountain biking and snowmobiling in the winter.

B. Private Parcels: Recreation

The following are parcels, which are privately owned though they provide recreational opportunities to members (mostly) and the general public for special events.

Nimrod League Inc. owns 447 acres for member access including fresh water fishing, hunting, target archery and hiking. *Did they establish hiking trails open to the public?*

Norco Sports Club owns 302 acres for member access for hiking, hunting, target archery, picnicking and nature observation.

Within Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, Wachusett Mountain Associates (WMA), a private organization has since 1962 leased approximately 400 acres of the state park, of which 110 have been developed into trails for downhill skiing, helping to fulfill the “recreation” part of DCR. In addition, WMA built a 50,000 square foot lodge that serves skiers, hikers, and is the base for dozens of public and private events year-round. Most of the area leased by WMA is in Princeton.

Princeton Land Trust (PLT), founded in 1990, has been dedicated to preserving from development many types of parcels. Since their founding they have acquired 24 parcels totaling 379 acres. In addition, they have obtained conservation restrictions on 16 parcels totaling 298 acres, for a grand total of 677 acres of PLT properties offering access to all for hiking, hunting, and nature observation. Several PLT properties contain marked hiking trails, and PLT maintains a few parking areas at trail heads. PLT had recently expanded their trail system on the newly acquire Appell property on Calamint Hill Road.

<i>Princeton Land Trust Fee-owned Land</i>				
Parcel	Street	Acreage	Trails?	Acquired
1 Rocky Mason	East Princeton Road	0.03		1992
2 Holt	Ball Hill Road	2.09		1994
3 McElroy	Bullock Lane	18.00	Y	1995
4 Bullock	Bullock Lane	35.70	Y	1996
5 Gregory	Prospect Street	8.30	Y	1996
6 Densmore	Merriam Road	2.50		1996
7 Burkhardt	Calamint Road	30.70		1997
8 Metcalf	Sterling Road	49.00	Y	2005
9 Fiore	Beaman Road	3.15		2005
10 Boy Scout Land	Old Colony Road	31.00	Y	2006
11 Sandstrom	Worcester Road	45.00	Y	2006
12 Nichols	Sam Cobb Lane Ext.	0.05		2006
13 Fox Hill Bldrs	Old Colony Road	11.50	Y	2008
14 Reynolds	Mountain Road	1.10		2009
15 Poor	Sterling Road	11.82	Y	2011
16 Giard	Off Ball Hill	52.00		2013
17 Brooks	Ball Hill Road	3.00		2013
18 Eden-Kilgour	Hobbs Road	11.40		2015
19 Fieldstone Farm	Hubbardston Road	17.00		2016
20 Alexander	East Princeton Road	2.02	Y	2016
21 Littlefield	Sterling Road	2.97		2018
22 Fieldstone Farm	Hubbardston Road	3.00		2019
23 O'Loughlin	East Princeton Road	2.78		2018

24 Appell	Calamint Road North	34.00	Y	2019
Total Protected acreage =		378.92		

C. Public and Non-Profit Parcels: Recreation

Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary owned by Mass Audubon is 1130 acres providing 13 miles of trails for hiking, nature observation, picnicking, canoeing, snowshoeing, and limited cross-country skiing. There are many nature programs, summer nature adventure camp and preschool and homeschool programs. The sanctuary holds many events and several annual events including Hey Day in the fall, and Sheep Shearing in the spring.

Wachusett Lake is located adjacent to Wachusett Mountain, once provided the City of Fitchburg with drinking water and now mostly serves watershed purposes and scenic value. The southern section is located in Princeton and near the Midstate Trail.

Midstate Trail is a 95-mile long trail running through Central Massachusetts, extending from Rhode Island to New Hampshire. It is maintained by the Midstate Trail Committee with the cooperation of state agencies and private property owners. Locally, within Princeton, the trail passes through Savage Hill, the Four Corners Conservation Area, Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, Wachusett Mountain State Reservation and Leominster State Forest.

Massachusetts Department of Recreation and Conservation (DCR) own 3,434 acres in Princeton for watershed protection and another 3,635 acres for parks, which are available for biking, nature observation, exploring the natural world and other forms of outdoor recreation. (Note: some of this acreage is included in the aforementioned Leominster State Forest and Wachusett Mountain state Reservation).

Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife owns 259± acres in town for hunting, hiking and nature observation, with 37 acres in the Savage Hill Wildlife Management Ara, which straddles Princeton and Rutland.

D. Protected Land

The following chart summarizes land that is protected from development. All parcels are assessed under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 61, 61A, & 61B, which indicate current commitment but not long-term assurance of protection. Details of the Chapter 61 properties are included in Appendix B.

# of Parcels	Chapter#	Chapter Type	Acreage
74	Chapter 61	Forestry	3,010
74	Chapter 61A	Agricultural	1,340
47	Chapter 61B	Recreational	695
Total # of parcels = 195		Total 61 acres	5,045

Princeton Land Trust <i>Conservation Restricted</i>				
Parcel	Street	Acreage	Year Acquired	
1 Garfield	Mirick road	33.24	1992	
2 Krashes	Rhodes Road	31.00	1995	
3 Yaglou	Mountain Road	2.30	1999	
4 Woodward	Thompson Road	42.00	2004	
5 Burdick	Ball Hill Road	51.00	2006	
6 Nimrod League	Worcester Road	47.00	2006	
7 Cronin	Oak Circle	2.00	2006	
8 Davis	Hickory Drive	1.00	2006	
9 Forkey	Hickory Drive	1.00	2006	
10 Aijala	Oak Circle	1.00	2006	
11 McNary	Oak Circle	1.00	2006	
12 Greene	Goodnow Road	17.05	2006	
13 Krashes 2	Rhodes Road	44.30	2007	
14 Brewer	Wheeler Road	14.63	2007	
15 Poor	Sterling Road	2.00	2011	
16 Four Corners	Gates Road	7.41	2013	
Total Restriction Acreage =		297.93		

<i>Conservation Restricted Other Holders</i>				
<i>CR Name</i>	<i>Holder</i>	<i>Acquired</i>	<i>Acres</i>	
Krashes CR	FDWS	0	31.4	
Wagner CR	PCC	0	30.8	
Fieldstone Farm CR	DCRW	2017	123.9	
Hubbardston Rd CR	PCC	2017	32	
Wachusett Mountain State Reservation	DCRS	1996	54.7	
Wachusett Mountain State Reservation	DCRS	1980	3.6	
Huck WPR	DCRW	2012	7.7	
Carlson & Sweeney WPR	DCRW	2003	57.2	
Cumming WPR	DCRW	2008	11.3	
Schlaikjer WPR	DCRW	1998	41.1	
Schlaikjer 2 WPR	DCRW	2007	57.4	
Thorell WPR	DCRW	2000	5.0	
Kalenian WPR	DCRW	2001	46.7	
Norco WPR	DCRW	1997	264.0	
Mosher WPR	DCRW	1998	46.0	
Trow WPR	DCRW	2002	4.7	
Jacobson WPR	DCRW	2009	14.0	

Nimrod Rod And Gun WPR	DCRW	1998	346.5
Lindstrom WPR	DCRW	2014	4.6
Kessler & Marro WPR	DCRW	2017	74.0
Baker WPR	DCRW	2001	54.4
Casale WPR	DCRW	2008	7.8
Dourdeville & Carnright WPR	DCRW	2016	44.8
Charbrook Farm	DAR	1987	103.0
Zottoli	DAR	1982	9.0
Zottoli	DAR	1982	33.5
Dourdeville Denise APR	DAR	2016	7.3
Savage Hill WCE	DFG	2001	234.0
Wagner CR	PCC	0	30.8
Total other CR Acreage			1,594

FDWS=Fitchburg Water, DCRS=DCR Rec, DCRW=DCR Water, DAR=DCR Agri,
DFG= DCR Fish & Game, PCC= Princeton ConCom



Section 6. Community Vision

For visitors, newcomers and long-time residents, Princeton offers a spectacular array of natural areas to enjoy year-round. Protecting open space and connecting these areas for both people and wildlife is a top priority. Access to nature and the great outdoors is vitally important to town residents and the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan lays out the action steps needed maintain and expand such access for people of all ages and abilities.

A. Description of Process

In the fall and winter of 2019-2020 the Princeton Open Space Committee met with the Town's Select Board to review plans for the 2020 plan update, developed and ran a survey of town residents, provided a workshop with residents at a 'town buzz', and conducted two workshops with representatives of organizations that are involved in town open space and recreation activities.

Through these data gathering processes, interests for open space and recreation improvements were discerned. This section explains the results from each of the activities.

i. Survey of Residents

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey was sent to all Princeton homes with the 2020 Census, and was also posted on line using Survey Monkey. In total 582 responses were returned, a response rate of over 40%. Responses were evenly balanced between age groups and between years of residency in town, representing a good cross section of residents.

The survey determined that residents place a high priority on all the conservation and protection activities that were presented, such as protecting water supplies, protecting open space, trails, agricultural areas, and scenic views. Approximately 95% deemed these activities as important or very important.

A poll of resource usage showed that use of our key recreational areas is very high, including Wachusett Mountain (used by an estimated 90% of residents), Mass Audubon Wachusett Meadow (80%) and Leominster State Forest (75%). Use of some of the new Calamint Hill

Conservation Area was higher than expected (22%), and the survey pointed out some areas with low utilization or which were not known to a large number of residents (for example Goodnow Park (15%) and Boylston Park (10%).

The survey showed that 'Hiking' and 'Walking on Roads' were both activities enjoyed by 85% of residents with more than 50% engaging in these activities more than ten times per year. Related activities such as snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and biking were also highly rated, highlighting that hiking and trails are very important to residents. Residents also mentioned that safer roads or sidewalks improve the road walking experience. Picnicking is a low-cost activity that came up surprisingly high in the survey. Activities such as snowmobiling, hunting, and fishing were enjoyed by closer to 10% of residents.

Residents expressed interest in more programming, including programs on nature, historical topics, and agricultural topics. Many people said they would like more fitness programs and more guided hikes. There were several comments from people asking for more activities for those who are not seniors and do not have children.

Residents were asked to describe their number one improvement recommendation, and these reflected the interest in activities mentioned above. Also, preserving open space, expanding and documenting the trail network, and making roads safer for hiking and biking all were often mentioned in comments. Improvements to public parks (primarily Krashes and Sawyer field) were also common comments.

A more complete analysis of survey results, including several graphs, can be found in Appendix A

ii. Workshops for 'Town Buzz' and Organizations

The public input process provided the OSC the opportunity to dig into comments and to poll Princeton organizations on their priorities for improvements to Open Space and Recreation. Comments received from these forums served to underscore many of the needs identified in the survey.

In total, about 40 people participated in the group processes. The 'Town Buzz' was open to the public and attended mostly by seniors during the work week. Two additional sessions were conducted with invited representatives of local land trusts, hunting clubs, and various organizations. Active participation by invited guests was close to 100%.

Highlights from these meetings included:

- Provide more documentation and better maps for trails in town. More trail connections. Develop a 'trail vision' for the town.
- Provide a walking track and also outdoor recreational areas for seniors (which were lost with the move of the senior center to a location without outdoor space).

Person or Group	Group
Anna Wilkins	North Country Land Trust
Sherry Patch	Town Administrator
Deb Cary	OSC and MA Audubon
Walter Gowey	Ag Council
Rick Bullock	Historic Society
Aimee Kindorf	Council on Aging
Marie Auger	Planner
Clair Degutis	Mass Audubon
Corey Burnham Howard	EAC
Chris Craigie	Nimrod
Kari Sledzik	Parks and Rec
Terry Bass	Boy Scouts
Kelton Burbank	Parks and Rec and OSC
Cary LeBlanc	OSC
Lisa Drexhage	Historic Society
Erin Bonifacio	PTA
Rachel Catlow	ConComm
Christian Henderson	Trail Stewards and PLT
Ed Sweeney	Trail Stewards
Phil Obrien	Trail Stewards
John McCullough	Trail Stewards
Jaye Fitzgerald	NORCO
Bill Whiting	NORCO
Sarah Griffin	Girl Scouts
Rick Gardner	OSC, PLT, Trails
Karen Rossow	OSC

Participants in Workshops

- Integrate with the town roads committee to identify places where sidewalks might be added to make road walking safer, along with parking spaces at trail heads.
- Provide programs for residents who are not seniors and do not have children. Also include intergenerational programs.
- Add more shade at Krashes field and consider adding shade trees along several Princeton road to replace trees recently removed.
- Provide programs on management of invasive species.
- Improve management of trail parking areas for both hikers/bikers and hunters. This includes plowing in the winter, and creation of pull-offs on roads for winter hunting.
- Add or better maintain public flower gardens
- Improve communication between groups interested in conservation and open space.
- Improve playgrounds. Make them accessible during the school day for families with pre-school children.
- Improve communication of town events. We have many news sources, none of which get to a majority of the town residents (other than monthly).

B. Goals

Goals were determined from the survey notes, workshop feedback, the 2013 plan, and other sources. Refer to section 8 for the full list of Goals and Objectives.



Section 7. Analysis of Needs

This section outlines the town needs, broken out by Resource Protection, Community, and Management/Change of Use needs. These needs were determined primarily through community outreach, represented by the survey and workshops.

The plan also reflects the needs outlined by the 2017 Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) in many areas including:

- Outlining needs for recreation areas for Seniors, ADA improvements in our parks, additional recreational programming for all groups including teens.
- A comprehensive trail program that connects areas of the town and provides additional trail options in Princeton neighborhoods
- Improvements to our parks, including walking access

SCORP Goals and Objectives can be seen in many of the items proposed in section 8 of this plan.

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

1. A process is needed to identify, prioritize, and shepherd land parcels that have conservation value

At present there is no 'watch list' identifying land parcels which have environmental, scenic, recreational, or other open space value to the town. There are few formalized outreach methods to contact owners of conservation-important parcels. A process is needed to raise awareness of conservation options that could be employed, such as Conservation Restrictions or Chapter 61. There is also no process identifying pending sales of conservation-important parcels.

2. There is little guidance or training of Princeton residents in land/environment management issues

Topics such as forest management, agricultural management, management of invasive species, management of disruptive animals or insects, dealing with ticks and poison ivy are all topics that are of interest to a wide segment of Princeton residents. Offering programs on these topics will not only help residents to deal with these issues, it will also develop a network of local experts/volunteers that we can better utilize.

Offer programs which highlight rationales for habitat preservation and restoration to provide residents with a better understanding of the intrinsic qualities of native fauna and flora on their property. Examples may also include vernal pools, pollination, native spirituality, and so forth.

3. Improved information about trails, recreational areas, and points of interest is needed.

A lot of work has been done to document area hiking spots, but more is needed, and information needs to be more readily accessible. A town-wide map of trails is needed, showing key connections, all usage restrictions, and historical and environmental highlights for the properties.

Periodic 'Trail Summits' would be useful to share information on trails and trail plans, and to solicit input from the public on trail connection needs or opportunities.

Continue the Princeton Hikes! program as a way of showing people the trails in Princeton and meeting other objectives of safe hiking, recreation, and social connections.

4. Wildlife Corridor

Our Town Plan identifies a land use goal of providing an environment that sustains wildlife. Due to Princeton's rural nature and large tracts of protected land we are well-positioned to establish a wildlife migration corridor. Further, there are areas that can connect to wildlife corridors beyond our borders for a greater impact. This goal is supported by the town Environmental Action Committee and we would collaborate with knowledgeable entities such as MassWildlife, Mass Audubon and our Conservation Commission to identify significant corridors. The final component would be to establish one or more wildlife corridor overlay districts and management guidelines for such areas.

B. Summary of Community Needs

1. The Parks and Recreation function needs to be strengthened to meet the recreational needs of the town.

The recent departure of the Parks and Recreation Director has weakened the ability of the town to provide organized activities. A stronger Parks and Recreation function will attract a dedicated volunteer group, deliver more activities/events, plan and execute improvements to parks to better fit the needs of Princeton.

While the Princeton Council on Aging delivers many programs for Seniors, little is done for middle aged residents without children, and programs for children have been lacking as well. Also, there is little planning for intergenerational activities.

The move of the Senior Center to the new facility at Post Office Place has unfortunately left the seniors with no nearby outside area to support senior activities such as a horseshoe pit and a walking track. Finding a senior-friendly area to support these and additional activities such as picnicking, group cookouts or barbecues, bocce, and perhaps pickle ball would be a plus for the town. If possible, land near Post Office Place could be identified and developed as well.

2. Develop new opportunities for the use of Krashes Field and Needham Field House to more effectively meet the needs of Princeton.

Krashes Field is a great asset to the town. However, the original plan was for the fields to be a profit center, bringing in revenue for rental of soccer fields by regional groups. This was significantly disrupted when Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association relocated their headquarters and constructed 16 soccer fields in Lancaster, MA, approximately 15 miles from Krashes. As a result, Princeton spends a significant amount of money maintaining fields that are not heavily used. In addition, the field house was envisioned as a potential snack bar, but without the soccer crowds this idea has not proved successful. A new plan for Krashes Field is needed, perhaps re-purposing one or more of the soccer fields for facilities such as a walking track, dog park, picnic area, tennis court, croquet courts, and improved playground.

The survey analysis presented as Appendix A lists the ideas of residents for re-purposing Krashes field, collected from the surveys and workshops.

By re-assessing the opportunities at Krashes field, Princeton can take advantage of this park and deliver more benefits to a wider group of residents.

3. A plan is needed for improvements/evolution of other Princeton parks, including the Town Common, Thomas Prince School, Sawyer Field, Goodnow Park, and Boylston Park.

These parks are used by residents to varying degrees, but little has been done historically to improve or promote them. Simple changes such as additions of gardens, benches or rough walking trails would help to meet the recreational needs of the town.

4. More trail interconnections are needed to allow travel around town off the roads, and an overall strategy is needed to govern the development of trails.

The 'Trails Around Princeton' (TAP) initiative, managed by the Open Space committee, made good progress in the past seven years but there is still a long way to go to provide connections between key parts of town. Besides wooded trails, the strategy has to consider road walkers. In some places the strategy may propose sidewalks and document good walking routes on quiet roads. The recent addition of sidewalks in East

Princeton has improved walking routes along busy route 140. Similar action along Worcester Road from the Princeton Municipal Light Department building down past Hickory Drive would meet the needs of many road walkers in that part of town.

The strategy also must consider access to hunting areas. As part of this strategy, parking needs and plowing of trail/woods access points need to be considered.

Management of landowner concerns is a critical requirement in this area, and approaches is necessary to ensure that landowner concerns are met. This may include development of formal 'Method of Operation' (MOI) documents, and clarification of trail rules and restrictions.

At the same time, water protection is a major factor in restricting the use of many existing private trails for public recreation, and we need to recognize that groups like DCR have important responsibilities that may conflict with trail development.

5. Complete work on the trails around Calamint Hill Conservation Area

These trails deliver on a promise to the town after the town purchase of the Calamint Hill Conservation Area. 3.5 miles of new trails around a large beaver pond have been developed, and plans are in process to complete the project with signage and bridges through the wetlands.

C. Summary of Management Needs, Potential Changes of use

1. Improve collaboration between conservation-minded organizations to drive annual projects around Open Space goals.

Organizations such as the Open space committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, local Land Trusts, Environmental Action Committee, and local sports/hunt clubs all have an interest in working together on many of the Open Space Conservation projects. The town would benefit from better coordination on conservation-oriented projects such as trails, and protection, and resident programming.

2. Improve town-wide communication of Open Space and Recreational activities.

Town-wide communication methods and frequency need to be improved in order to better inform residents of recreational activities and events. Forums such as Town News and NextDoor reach a small percentage of town residents. The daily Worcester paper and the weekly Landmark are no longer widely subscribed, and the one publication that is seen by all residents, the Redemption Rock News, is only published once per month. A more effective communication tool is needed to reach more residents fully and inform them of all activities.

Section 8. Goals and Objectives

The Goals have been developed by the Open Space Committee, considering all of the input received from earlier plans, surveys, workshops, and other sources.

GOAL 1: MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE PRINCETON'S EXISTING NATURAL RESOURCES, OPEN SPACES, AND RECREATIONAL AREAS

OBJECTIVES

1. Support/strengthen the town's Parks and Recreation Commission to improve planning and ongoing use of town recreational facilities such as Krashes Field, Thomas Prince School Fields, and the Town Common as well as smaller parks such as Goodnow, Sawyer Field, Center School, and Boylston.
2. Assess Krashes Field and Needham Fieldhouse uses and opportunities and implement a new plan
 1. Evaluate town needs vs. current Krashes Field uses and devise a new strategy going forward
 2. Develop/Implement a new business plan for field use (Consider all ideas listed in Appendix A.
 3. Develop/Implement a plan for use of Needham Field House
3. Develop a plan for other town-owned Parks
 - Sawyer Field: Develop a plan and implement changes.
 - Thomas Prince School: Review usage and condition of the recreational fields and nature trails and work to make improvements where needed.
 - Center School: Review usage, particularly of walking track, and consider improvements to structure and access.
 - Town Common: Consider adding benches and picnic tables.
 - Goodnow Park: Determine how this space could be used more effectively. Possibly develop trails and add picnic tables and benches.
4. Plan and develop a balanced program of intergenerational activities to include team sports, seasonal events, fitness/yoga, nature, agricultural, guided hikes and other programs.
5. Explore Options for communicating trail use standards, particularly regarding dogs, horses, mountain bikes, motorized vehicles, hunting and seasonal constraints,
6. Develop / Implement beautification projects (flower beds, trees, community gardens, etc) in public areas, such as in front of Baggs Hall, Goodnow Memorial Library, along Town Hall Drive and the entrance to Goodnow Park.
7. Study and Design ways to improve availability of ADA compliant resources and promote existing opportunities for people of all ages and mobilities

GOAL 2: DEVELOP A PROACTIVE PROCESS FOR PROTECTION OF PRINCETON'S SCENIC, HISTORICAL, AND NATURAL AREAS THROUGH PROACTIVE PLANNING AND ADVOCACY FOR THOUGHTFUL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a list of 'high impact' parcels that will be considered for protection
2. Provide additional Landowner Education seminars
3. Work with landowners to monitor the status and develop plans for protecting high impact parcels.
 - Chapter 61 properties (where town has a right of first refusal)
 - Other non-protected parcels
4. Provide programs to residents on land stewardship topics. Programs to include forestry, managing for wildlife, management of garden pests (animals and insects), management of Invasive Plants, etc.
5. Determine appropriate areas for establishment and enhancement of wildlife corridors in town and to create official overlay districts.
6. Support the Implementation of the Green Communities Program which provides state funds for local projects involving open space, parks, as well as environmental, energy, building, and other projects.
7. Consider the implementation of the Community Preservation Act, which allows communities to tap into State Grants for community projects including open space and recreation, buildings, and historical preservation.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE THE APPROPRIATE USE OF PRINCETON'S RECREATIONAL ASSETS

OBJECTIVES

1. Improve documentation/awareness of trails and recreation areas and publish to various on-line and paper media.
2. Develop a town-wide map showing all trails, recreation areas, and natural points of interest
3. Conduct periodic 'Trail Summits' to gain public awareness and help with the trails program

GOAL 4: IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN OPEN SPACES, PARKS , AND OTHER IMPORTANT TOWN LOCALES

OBJECTIVES

1. Continue work on 'Trails Around Princeton' by adding linkages between areas of Princeton and between towns with walking paths for hikers and non-motorized vehicles.
2. Continue cultivating relationships among the Town, Princeton Land Trust, DCR, Worcester Water, and town landowners.
3. Complete the Calamint Hill trail network, including Boylston Park and the Princeton Land Trust Appell property/
4. Continue guided hikes (Princeton Hikes!) and add guided bike rides
5. Improve trail heads, parking pull-offs, and winter plowing to make town trails and hunting areas more accessible year round
6. Work with town groups that manage roads, to study and recommend areas where sidewalks can be added to facilitate road walking in higher traffic / higher density areas.

GOAL 5: IMPROVE COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES, AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TOWARD COMMON GOALS FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION.

OBJECTIVES

1. Host an Open Space and Recreation Summit annually to review and adjust goals and objectives. Include representatives from the Town's Conservation Commissions, Select Board, and Planning Board, and Agricultural Commission plus Trail Stewards, local land trusts, the Historical Commission and Historical Society, the road advisory group, and hunting clubs.
2. Organize annual maintenance and improvement activities for town parks and trails, to include park and trail cleaning, signage and parking improvements, control of invasives, and other needs.

Section 9. Seven Year Action Plan

The Action plan builds on the Goals and Objectives (Section 8) by indicating the responsible groups, the relative priority, and the years in which the activity is expected to take place. We have not specified detail action steps, as these will be developed at the initiation of each objective.

Legend: P+R: Parks and Recreation OSC: Open Space committee PCCL Princeton Con Comm PLT: Princeton Land Trust
EAC: Environmental Action Committee

Goal 1: Maintain and improve Princeton's existing natural resources, open spaces, and recreational areas.											
Objective	Responsibility	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Priority	Funding Source
1. Support the town's Parks and Recreation function	Select Board, OSC< Parks and Rec Commission	X								1	Town, P+R
2. Assess Krashes Field and Needham Fieldhouse	Parks and Rec	X								1	Town, P+R, PARK Grant
3. Develop a plan for other town-owned parks	Parks and Rec		X	X	X					2	Town, P+R
4. Plan, and develop a balanced program of recreational activities for all ages	Parks and Rec	X	X							2	P+R
5. Communicating trail use standards	OSC		X	X						3	OSC
6. Implement beautification projects	OSC TBD			X	X					2	Garden Club, Town
7. Study and Design ways to improve availability of ADA compliant resources	OSC and Parks and Rec	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	P+R
Goal 2: Plan for protection of Princeton's scenic, historical, and natural areas through proactive planning and advocacy for thoughtful											

development strategies.

Objective	Responsibility	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Priority	Funding Source
1. Develop a list of 'high impact' parcels that will be considered for protection	OSC, PCC, PLT		X							1	OSC
2. Work with landowners to monitor the status and develop plans	OSC, PCC, PLT			X		X		X		2	OSC, PLT
3. Provide additional Landowner Education seminars	OSC, PLT			X		X		X		2*	OSC, PLT
4. Provide programs to residents on land stewardship topics.	OSC, PCC, PLT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	OSC, PLT
5. Determine appropriate areas for establishment and enhancement of wildlife corridors in town and to create official overlay districts.	OSC, EAC, PCC		X	X	X					2	OSC, EAC
6. Support the Implementation of the Green Communities Program	Town Admin, EAC, OSC and others	X	X	X	X					1*	Town, EAC, OSC
7. Consider the implementation of the Community Preservation Act	Town Admin, EAC, OSC and others				X	X	X	X		2	Town, EAC, OSC

Goal 3: Promote the appropriate use of Princeton's recreational resources

Objective	Responsibility	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Priority	Funding Source
1. Improve documentation/awareness of trails and recreation areas and publish to various on-line and paper media	OSC, P+R	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	OSC, P+R
2. Develop/Update a town-wide map showing all trails, recreation areas, and natural points of interest	OSC, P+R	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	OSC, P+R

3. Conduct periodic 'Trail Summits' to raise public awareness and help with the trails program	OSC, P+R		X		X		X		2	OSC
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Goal 4: Improve Connections between Open Spaces, Parks, and other important town locales

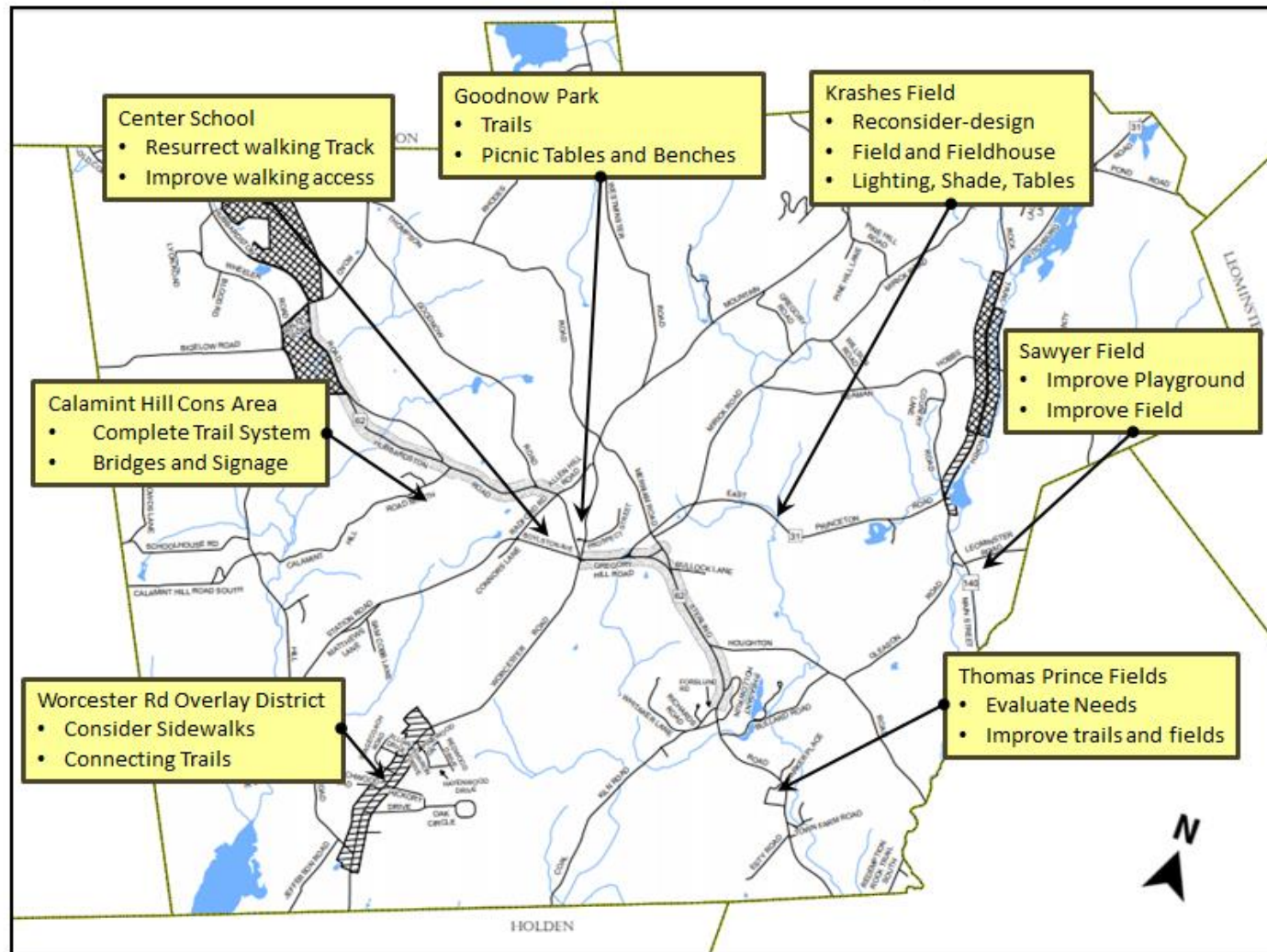
Objective	Responsibility	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Priority	Funding Source
1. Develop a comprehensive trails plan and continue work on 'Trails Around Princeton'	OSC, Trail Stewards	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	OSC
2. Continue working with the town, Princeton Land Trust, DCR, Worcester Water, town landowners, and other stakeholders on trail development	OSC Lead	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	OSC
3. Complete the Calamint Hill Trail network, including Boylston Park	Trail Stewards	X	X						1	OSC, ConCom
4. Continue guided hikes (Princeton Hikes!) and add guided bike rides	OSC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	OSC
5. Improve trail heads, parking pull-offs, and winter plowing to make town trails and hunting areas more accessible year round	OSC Leads, Highway Dept		X	X					2	OSC, Town
6. Work with town groups that manage roads, to study and recommend areas where sidewalks can be added	OSC, Highway Dept, Road Committee			X	X				2	OSC, Town

Goal 5: Improve Coordination between Departments, Committees, and Local Organizations

Objective	Responsibility	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Priority	Funding Source
1. Host an Open Space and Recreation Summit annually	OSC, P+R		X	X	X	X	X	X	1	OSC

2. Organize annual maintenance and improvement activities for town parks and trails	OSC, EAC, Parks and Rec		X	X	X	X	X	X	1	OSC, P+R
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Seven-Year Action Plan Map



Map 9 - Action Plan

Section 10. Public Comments

CMRPC Support

	UNUM Building, 1 Mercantile St. Suite 620 Worcester, MA 01608 www.cmrpc.org	Denny Drewry Janet A. Pierce Sujatha Krishnan Dianna Provencher Trish Settles	Commission Chair Executive Director Transportation Business Manager Regional Collaboration & Community Planning
<p>May 21, 2020</p>			
<p>Melissa Cryan Division of Conservation Services Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs 100 Cambridge St., Ste. 900 Boston, MA 02114</p>			
<p><u>RE: Town of Princeton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update</u></p>			
<p>Dear Ms. Cryan,</p>			
<p>The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is writing this letter in support of the Town of Princeton and its recently completed <u>2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update</u>. The Town and its Open Space Committee are to be commended for their diligent work completing this Plan.</p>			
<p>The Town and the Open Space Committee have done a very thorough job, and the final document appears to meet the standards for such plans as promulgated by your office. This plan highlights how Princeton continues to be a desirable place to live where residents greatly value protected open spaces and recreational opportunities. Princeton recognizes the need to balance new development with the need to protect open space and natural resources, as well as enhance recreation opportunities. In particular, this Plan articulates a need for improving planning and ongoing use of Town recreational facilities, developing a list of "high-impact" parcels to be considered for protection, improving trail connectivity and accessibility, and promoting awareness of and use of trails and recreation areas. Princeton's Plan provides the Town with specific guidance and action steps needed to accomplish its goals and objectives. This Plan also recognizes the need for partnerships with public and private entities to make its goals and objectives a reality. Princeton will be well-served by having a State-approved, updated Plan in order to plan for its recreation facilities and programs, as well as to preserve and protect its valuable open spaces and natural resources.</p>			
<p>Please consider this letter to be a demonstration of CMRPC's support for the Plan and the process used to develop it. We find Princeton's Plan to be fully consistent with CMRPC's <u>Regional Open Space and Recreation Plan</u>, our <u>2020 Growth Strategy for Central Massachusetts (2000)</u>, its <u>2013 update</u>, and the <u>Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan</u>.</p>			
<p>Sincerely,  Mimi Kaplan Associate Planner</p>			
<p>CC: Princeton Open Space Committee Princeton Planning Board Princeton Board of Selectmen</p>			

Town Administrator Support



TOWN OF PRINCETON

Office of the Town Administrator

6 Town Hall Drive
Princeton, MA 01541
(978) 464-2102 Phone (978) 464-2106 Fax
www.town.princeton.ma.us
townadministrator@town.princeton.ma.us

May 28, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge St., Ste. 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Town of Princeton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Der Ms. Cryan:

I am writing this letter in support of the Town of Princeton's 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Plan reflects the ongoing commitment and dedication of the Open Space Committee, local officials and residents to protect and preserve open space and to prioritize maintaining and improving upon the town's many natural, historical and cultural resources and to continue to work together to create and develop new recreational opportunities for future use of the town's exiting fields.

I look forward to working with the committee, local officials and Princeton residents to meet the goals identified in the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,


Sherry Patch
Town Administrator

Planning Board Support



TOWN OF PRINCETON 6 TOWN HALL DRIVE
PRINCETON, MASSACHUSETTS 01541-1137
(978) 464-2100 • FAX: (978) 464-2106

PLANNING BOARD

May 28, 2020

Rick Gardner, Chair
Open Space Committee
6 Town Hall Drive
Princeton, MA 01541

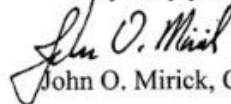
Re: 2020 Open Space and Recreational Plan

Dear Rick:

The Planning Board has reviewed and discussed the 2020 Open Space and Recreational Plan prepared by the Open Space Committee. It is readily apparent how much work you and the committee put into the plan. Princeton is fortunate to have such committed residents.

The Planning Board voted last night to support the 2020 Open Space and Recreational Plan, and to express appreciation for the work of the Open Space Committee. The Plan is a great source document, and the thoughtful analysis of needs (Section 7) and statement of goals and objectives (Section 8) will be very useful as the Planning Board works on projects that are brought to the Planning Board, and as the Planning Board independently considers initiatives for Princeton.

Very truly yours,


John O. Mirick, Chair

Section 11. References

1. Massachusetts Open Space and Recreation Planner’S Workbook:
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-space-and-recreation-plan-workbook/download>
2. Maps, with the exception of the Action Plan Map, were provided by CMRPC.
3. Town of Princeton Annual Reports: <https://www.town.princeton.ma.us/town-administrator/pages/annual-reports>
4. Princeton Open Space Committee Web Page: <https://www.town.princeton.ma.us/open-space-committee>
5. Population Information in Section 2:
 - Population Data: censusreporter.org
 - EQV per capita:
https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/04/24/FY20_reimbursement_rates.pdf
 - Employment Information: http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/town_comparison.asp
 -
6. Princeton Environmental Action Plan:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gDznzlt09z6GaA_qcRgBCb9bwb560tsi/view
7. Information About Fungi: <https://herbarium.usu.edu/fun-with-fungi/what-are-fungi>
8. Mass Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
(SCORP): <https://www.mass.gov/files/massachusetts-scorp-2017-for-submission.pdf>

Section 12. Appendix

A. Open Space and Recreation Survey

To support the 2020 update to the Open Space and Recreation plan, the Princeton Open Space Committee ran a survey of residents, gathering input on conservation preferences, use of recreation assets, resident activities, and recreation interests. 582 responses were collected from Princeton households (out of 1,512 surveys sent via the census mailing).

This information has been used to identify action items for the 2020 plan and to set priorities. Results were presented to various town organizations as part of the outreach to residents, during the workshops.

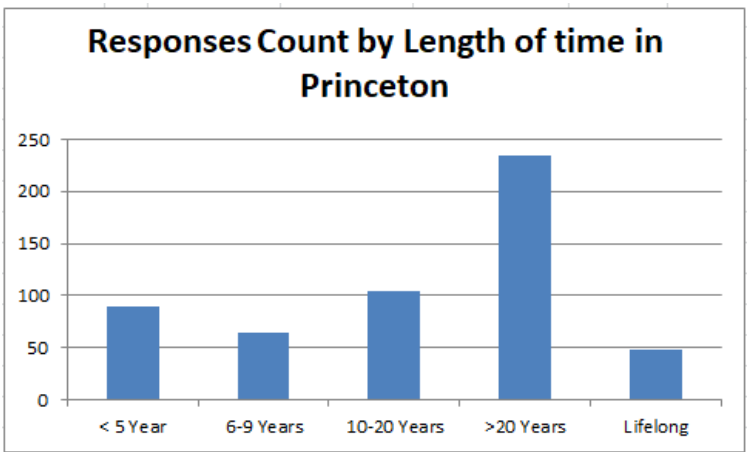
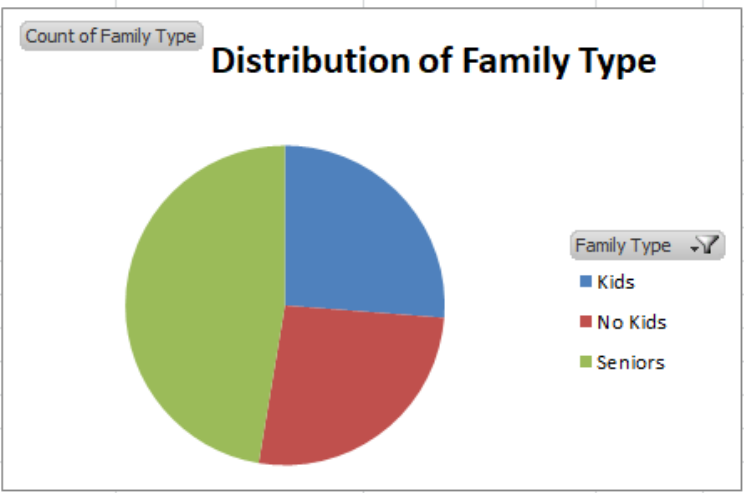
1. Demographics

With a response of over 40% of households, the survey represents the opinions and experiences of a sample of the town’s residents, and provides some useful insight to the nature of open space priorities and usage, and the interests of residents.

We recognize that people filling out the survey may have a stronger interest in either protecting open space or saving town money than people who did not fill out the survey, so this data is taken as input but not as a definitive statement of all residents.

Respondents were asked to specify ages of the people within their family unit, and from that we determined the type of family and assigned a code to split seniors, families with children, and families without children, for purposes of analysis (see chart to right).

In addition, respondents were asked how long they have lived in town, and the results are shown in the residency chart to the right.



2. Conservation Priorities

Values	
Preserve Water Quality	4.6
Protect Natural Resources	4.5
Preserve Open Space / Trails	4.3
Preserve Historic/Scenic View	4.2
Preserve Existing Recreational Land	4.2
Preserve Agricultural	4.2
Improve Trail Connections	3.8

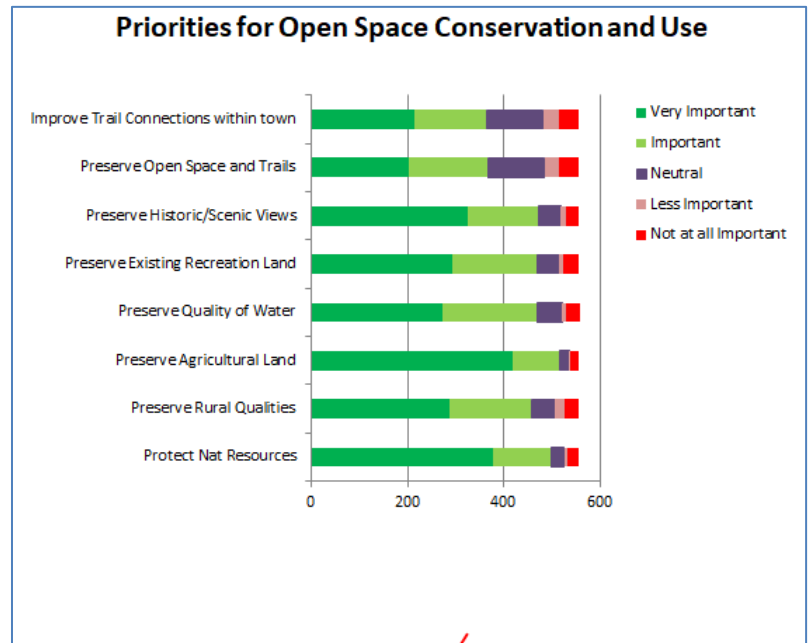
Question was: Of how much concern are the following issues to you?

The scoring was 5 points for 'very important' and 1 point for 'not important.' Less than 5% of the total answers were a 1 or 2. All of these items were considered to be important.

All of these categories were rated between important and very important. Preserving Water Quality, protecting Natural Resources, and Preserving Historic/Scenic Views were the top rated items. However even the lowest rated item, Improving Trail Connections, was clearly rated as important overall.

The survey was flawed in that the middle category was called 'Neutral' (probably categories 1-3 should have been 'extremely', 'very' and 'important'.

The second chart shows the distribution of scores for each line in this question. Preserving Water Quality, Protecting Natural Resources had the most 'very important' scores.



Comments:

- I am concerned about the impact of industrial use (Rt 62) on water and natural resources and towns lack of oversight and follow up
- Eliminate obvious eyesores like the Truck abandoned at the corner of Ball Hill Rd. and Brooks Station Rd.
- Don't buy expensive land and use it as hay fields.
- Stop house development! In 50 yrs Princeton will be sought after for forests and nature!
- Biking trails that are fun for youth, ramps and such.
- Adding additional recreational spaces like a dog park
- Can some of the preservation work be done by volunteers? I don't want to be taxed out of town.
- Conservation is important however we have to balance preservation with cost (taxation) per household cause by doing so. No sense in preserving at the expense of driving people out of town.

3. Recreation Assets being used

Question Was: Which of Princeton's recreational resources do you use?

The survey asked residents to indicate how often they use each of the listed recreation areas in town. A value of 5 = Often, 3=Sometimes, and 1=Never.

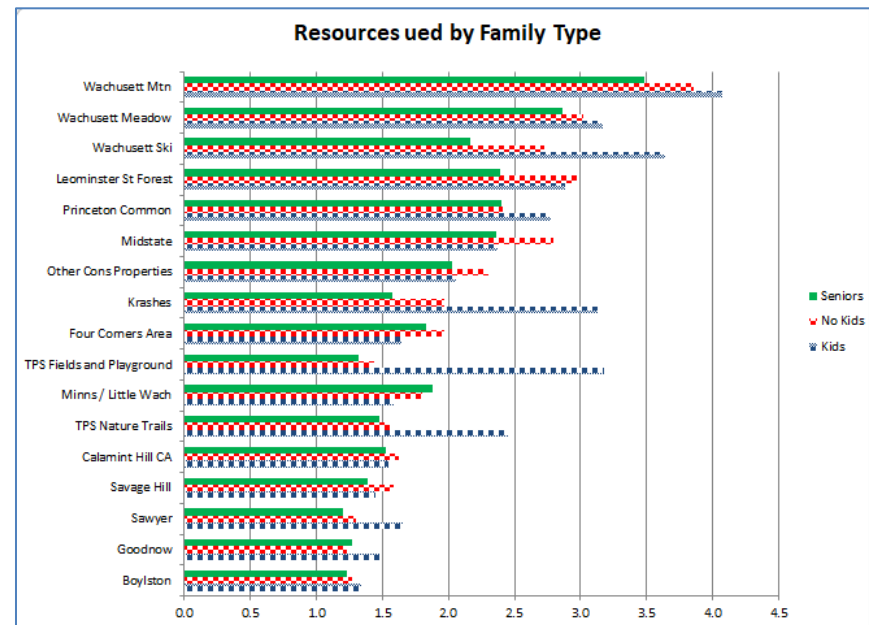
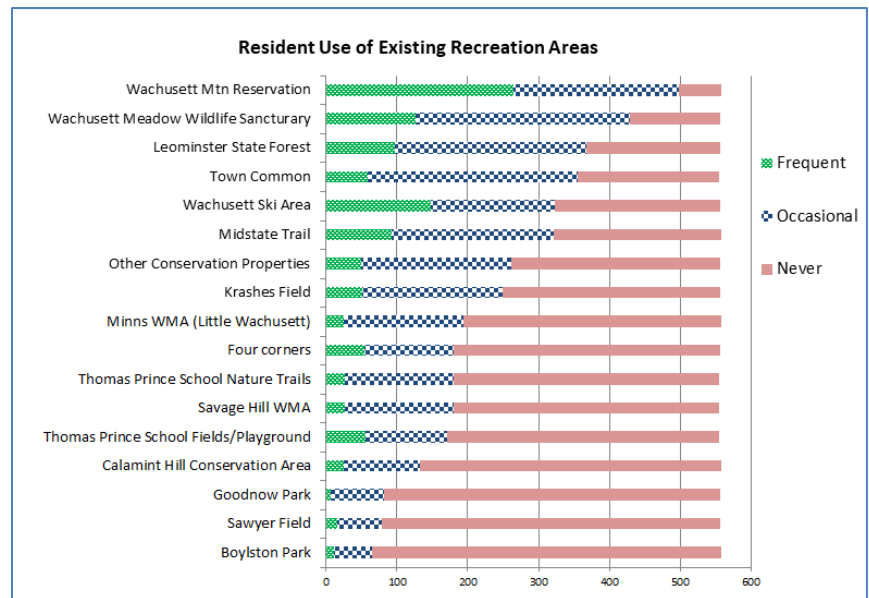
Two charts are shown, one with the average score for each area, and the second showing the distribution of scores.

In both cases, Wachusett Mountain, and Wachusett Meadow Sanctuary lead the list. Leominster State Forest, Mid-state trail, and Wachusett Ski area are close behind.

Several areas at the bottom of the list, with lower usage, are assets that people generally know less about, and that could be advertised and promoted to the benefit of Princeton residents.

It is interesting that some of the newer or less well known areas such as CHCA and Savage Hill are used by upwards of 100 people, and that there are a large number of people who use other conservation areas such as Princeton Land Trust trails.

Also interesting to note that our most expensive parks (Krashes and TPS) are used substantially more by young families than by Seniors. For example Krashes is used only slightly more than the new Calamint Hill Conservation Area.



Comment:

- Need some places to camp!!

4. Level of Interest in Recreational Activities

Question Was: What is your interest in the following activities

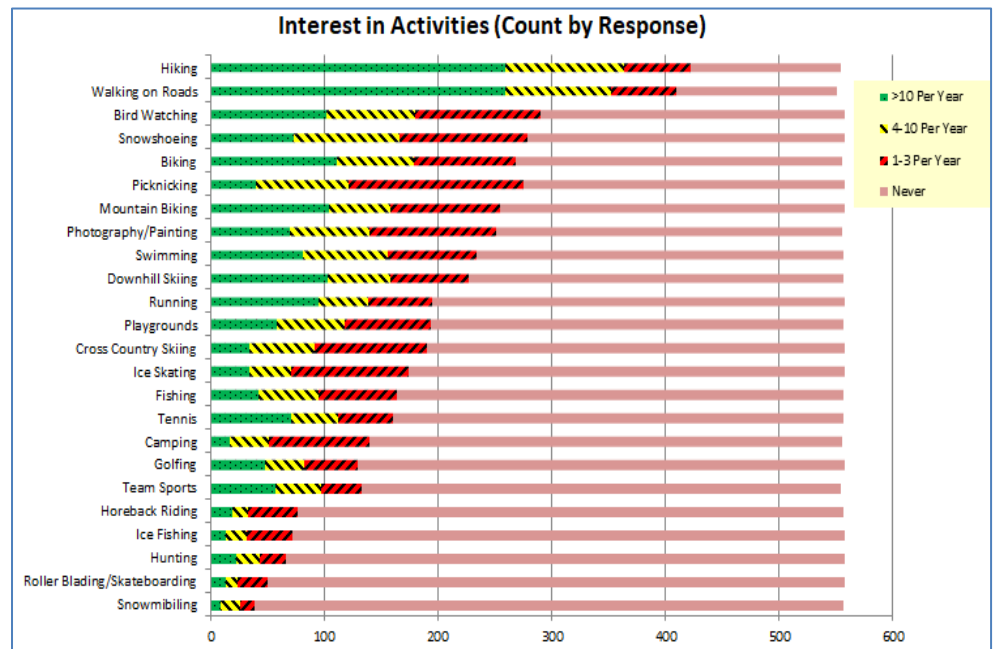
First columns: How often do you do the activity in a typical year?

Last column: Check if this an area where we should expand/improve resource

The scoring on this question was 0=0 times per year, 1=1-3 times per year, 2=4-10 times per year and 3=over 10 times per year. So a score of 2 means that on average, people are 'occasional hikers'. But as the chart shows, nearly 80% of respondents either hike or walk on roads, and about 50% do this frequently.

The first chart shows the average score assigned to each activity, and the second chart shows the distribution of scores for each activity. A third breaks down the level of interest by family type.

Values	
-Hiking	1.9
-Walking on Roads	1.9
-Biking	1.0
-Bird Watching	1.0
-Mountain Biking	0.9
-Snowshoeing	0.9
-Downhill Skiing	0.9
-Swimming	0.9
-Photography/Painting	0.9
-Running	0.8
-Picknicking	0.8
-Playgrounds	0.7
-Tennis	0.6
-Cross Country Skiing	0.6
-Fishing	0.6
-Team Sports	0.5
-Ice Skating	0.5
-Golfing	0.5
-Camping	0.4
-Hunting	0.2
-Horseback Riding	0.2
-Ice Fishing	0.2
-Roller Blading/Skateboarding	0.2
-Snowmobiling	0.1



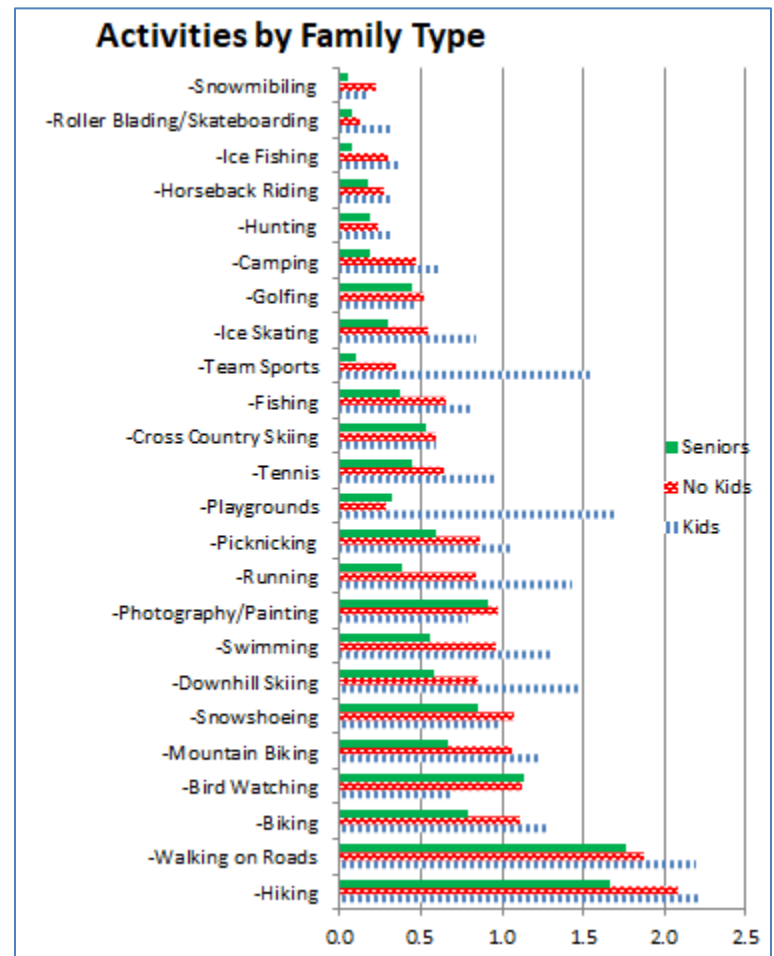
Biking and snowshoeing were in the next tier of activities, and surprisingly bird watching and picnicking also were highly rated. Hunting, Snowmobiling, Horseback Riding, Rollerboarding, and Ice fishing were all less popular choices.

The breakout by family group (below) shows few surprises. Seniors are much more interested in hiking, walking, snowshoeing, and bird watching. Families with children have a stronger interest in playgrounds and team sports.

In setting recreation plans, it is useful to understand how much residents are involved in the various activities. Hiking, Biking, Snowshoeing all lead the list, but activities such as Picnicking, Playgrounds, and Ice Skating are fairly popular but perhaps under-resourced in town.

Comments:

- Need town rec leagues.
- Sidewalks! Shoulders! Speed limit enforcement.
- other natural history in addition to bird watching. would participate if time; currently too busy.
- Walking on roads: I would love it if everyone move more slowly and moved over for pedestrians, but I'm not sure the town can do much about that!
- Gates Rd and Lombard Rd. need resurfacing. Portion of Gren Rd. washed out.
- Can't participate in activities due to being homebound.
- More attention to Krashes Fields.
- Would like to see rail trails for bikes.



5. Interest in Organized Events

Question was: Which of the following organized events would be of interest to you in Princeton?

In this question, respondents checked the recreational programs in which they 'would participate' and also indicated which areas should be considered for improvement or more events. So values were either 1 (interest) or 0 (no interest).

The first chart shows the number of people expressing an interest in each of the listed activities. The second chart shows the same picture, but split by family type. The category 'kids' indicates families with children under age 18. Seniors indicates families with ages 60 or over.

Nature programs are the most highly rated, and there is a high interest in concerts and plays. The next tier includes historical programs, guided hikes, and picnics.

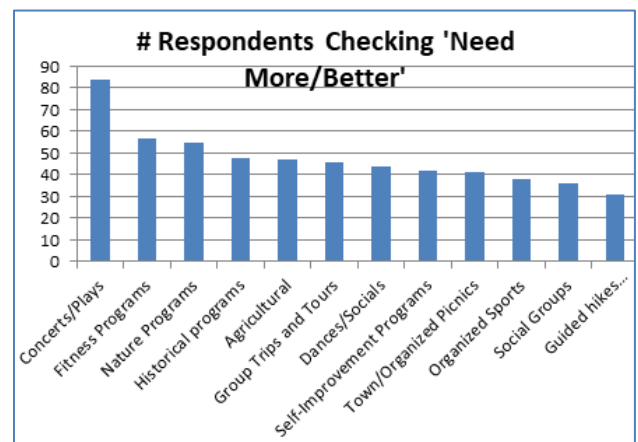
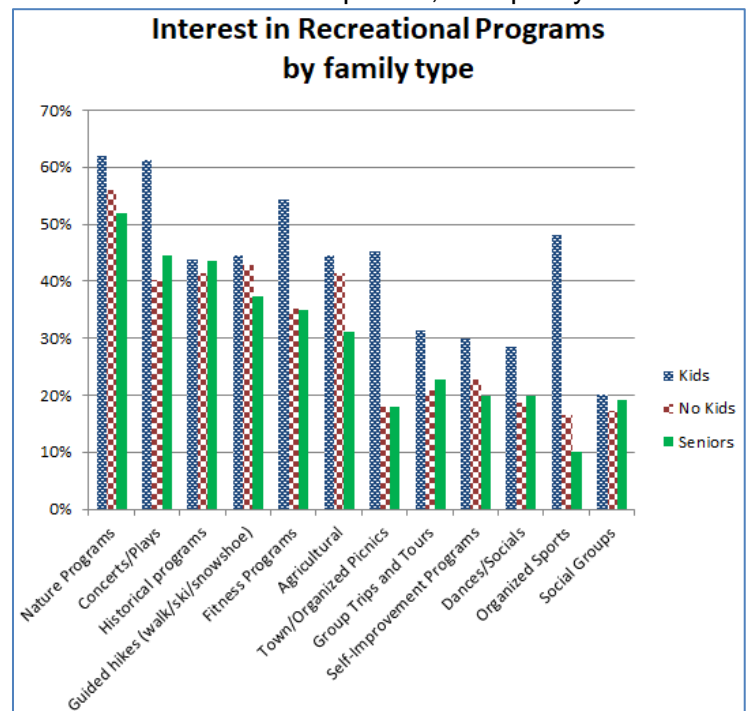
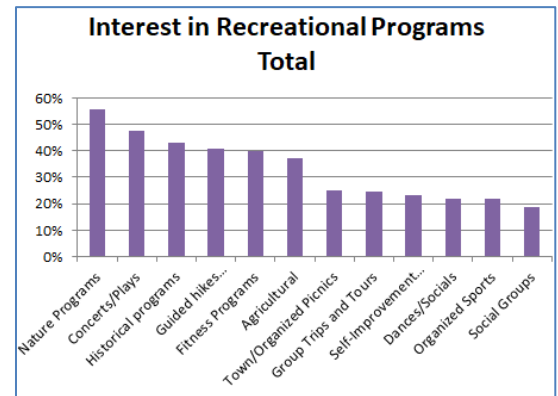
In the breakout by age, young families have a much stronger preferences for picnics and organized sports, while seniors have an interest similar to other groups in most areas, though lower in organize sports. There is a strong interest by the middle group – families without children, for many activities.

The third chart shows where residents would like to either see more events or better events.

A couple of comments were picked up on this question and are presented below.

Comments:

- walking safely on the street, reduce speeding
- walking safely on the street, reduce speeding
- Improve signage for trails (visibility), Improve tick and mosquito management
- Current hikes are excellent.



- Group game ticket purchases (ex: Red Sox, Woo Sox, Patriots, etc.)
- Rick Gardner does a fantastic job at organizing guided hikes on a monthly basis.

6. Comments

This question asked residents to comment on their number one recommendation for improvement of Princeton's Open Space and Recreation resources. Nearly 300 comments were returned, and these are available in the full report on the Open Space Committee webpage.

A high-level summary of the comments is as follows:

- "Preserve more" or "Maintain" open space – 48
 - No additional Open Space preservation - 5
- Expand, document, mark, interconnect and maintain trails - 34
- Safer Roads for Biking and Walking - 22
- Improve Rec Programs and Team Sports for kids in Princeton – 16
 - For adults - 4
- Improve Sawyer Field - 14
- Improve awareness of trails and parks/resources – 13
- Improve and reconfigure Krashes Field – 12
- Reduce or control cost of open space – 8
- Biking or Walking Track – 6
- More flowers, beautification – 6
- Add Dog Park – 4
- Cleanup program for town roads/parks – 3

The comments reflected a strong interest by residents to support the maintenance of Open Space, and a strong interest in improving the walkability within town. The comments about trail interconnections dovetail with comments about safer roads. If we can reduce walking on roads by building better trail connections (or improving trails to be easier to walk) then we can address both suggestions.

A second tabulation was done of all comments related to Krashes field. We received many suggestions about ways to improve Krashes field. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department conducted a survey recently which specifically focused on Krashes Field. The table below shows the number of times that respondents mentioned various improvement ideas in both surveys.

Krashes Ideas	P+R Survey	OSC Survey	Total
Walking/Running Track	14	3	17
Dog Park/Playground	7	4	11
Tennis Court	8	2	10
Hockey/Skating Rink	4	4	8
Baseball/Softball	7	1	8
Bike or pump Track	7	1	8
Shaded/Covered Picnic Area	7	1	8
Water Park/Splash Pad	7		7

Lights	7		7
Lacrosse	6		6
Pool	5	1	6
Dek Hockey	5	1	6
Basketball	3	1	4
Football	4		4
Volleyball Court	3	1	4
Playground	3	1	4
Skateboard	3		3
Frisbee Golf	1	2	3
Mountain Bike Track	2	1	3
Mini Golf, Chip and Putt	2		2
Wildflower/Gardens	2		2
Community Fair/Farmers Market	2		2
Teen Center	2		2
Bocce	1		1
Roller skating	1		1
Bathrooms	5		5
Paved Parking Area	2		2
Handicap Accessibility	1		1

B. Chapter 61 Properties

Map & Lot Info			Location	61 - Forestry 10 year 61A= Agricultural 61B= Recreational		
3	5	0	0 GREENE RD	61	32.5	AC
3	13	5	21 GREENE RD	61	18.89	AC
3	18	0	RHODES RD	61	53.19	AC
4	8	0	331 MIRICK RD	61	20.99	AC
4	14	0	264 MIRICK RD	61	12.99	AC
4	40	0	26 PINE HILL RD	61	2	AC
7	6	0	114 GATES RD	61	84.73	AC
7	7 B		270 THOMPSON RD	61	12.09	AC
7	16	0	182 THOMPSON RD	61	38	AC
7	31	0	GATES RD OFF	61	50.93	AC
8	2	1	64 GOODNOW RD	61	11.39	AC
8	23	0	184 MOUNTAIN RD	61	14.1	AC
8	26	0	MERRIAM RD	61	35.2	AC
9	18	0	91 HOUGHTON RD	61	261.9	AC
10	15 C		HUBBARDSTON RD	61	18.64	AC
10	16	0	501 HUBBARDSTON RD	61	29.86	AC
10	19	0	20 LYONS RD	61	20.85	AC
11	26	11	20 BLOOD RD	61	37.68	AC
11	49 C		291 BALL HILL RD	61	30	AC
12	1	1	45 GOODNOW RD	61	16.7	AC
12	22	2	43 BROOKS STATION RD	61	19.42	AC
12	36	0	47 STERLING RD	61	16.99	AC
12	37	0	51 STERLING RD	61	10.81	AC
13	62	0	194 STERLING RD	61	22	AC
13	82	0	32 WHITAKER LANE	61	69.35	AC
14	4	0	152 CALAMINT HILL RD N	61	44.68	AC
14	14	0	1 REBECCA ROSE PATHWAY	61	30.19	AC
15	6	0	1 MATTHEWS LANE	61	12.1	AC
16	1	0	168 COAL KILN RD	61	435.7	AC
5.B	2	0	44 LEOMINSTER RD	61	26.99	AC
13	17	0	13 TOWN FARM RD	61	19.74	AC
14	39	0	29 DOWDS LANE	61	10.1	AC
1	2	0	MOUNTAIN RD	61	27.96	AC
1	3	0	MOUNTAIN RD	61	17.69	AC
1	31	0	MIRICK RD	61	90.91	AC
1	31	2	REDEMPTION ROCK TR	61	3.99	AC
2	3	0	ON LEOMINSTER TOWN	61	121	AC

3	13	0	GREENE RD	61	82.96	AC
3	20	1	0 RHODES RD	61	9.04	AC
3	21	0	RHODES RD	61	22.34	AC
4	3	15	MOUNTAIN RD	61	8.49	AC
4	3	16	MOUNTAIN RD	61	1.8	AC
4	4	0	PINE HILL RD	61	41.16	AC
4	15	0	MIRICK RD	61	55.69	AC
4	21	0	WILLSON RD	61	44.99	AC
4	26	0	HOBBS RD	61	18.99	AC
4	28	0	REDEMPTION ROCK TR	61	8.19	AC
4	29	0	123 BEAMAN RD	61	10.99	AC
4	38	4	MIRICK RD	61	22.33	AC
4	41	0	PINE HILL RD	61	2	AC
4	41	0	PINE HILL RD	61	13	AC
5.A	2	B	0 BEAMAN RD	61	19.8	AC
7	28	3	THOMPSON RD	61	7.13	AC
8	21	0	MOUNTAIN RD	61	22.92	AC
8	25	3.A	0 MERRIAM RD	61	46.75	AC
8	32	A	MIRICK RD	61	42.69	AC
8	39	A	MIRICK RD	61	87.29	AC
8	40	A	MIRICK RD	61	22.42	AC
8	49	0	MIRICK RD	61	23.32	AC
9	23	0	91 HOUGHTON RD	61	44.8	AC
11	21	0	WHEELER RD	61	62.99	AC
12	1	2	GOODNOW RD	61	10.63	AC
12	29	0	COAL KILN RD, OFF	61	14.5	AC
12	36	1	0 STERLING RD	61	1	AC
13	22	3	0 TOWN FARM RD	61	1.39	AC
13	56	9	ESTY RD	61	37.17	AC
14	13	8	0 CALAMINT HILL RD S	61	4.96	AC
14	21	0	BROOKS STATION RD OF	61	70	AC
14	46	0	BALL HILL RD	61	100.74	AC
16	7	0	COAL KILN RD OFF	61	25	AC
4	54	0	MOUNTAIN RD	61	53.19	AC
4	55	0	MOUNTAIN RD	61	0.6	AC
7	12	0	RHODES RD	61	143.83	AC
7	34	0	GATES RD	61	42.99	AC
					3010.33	
7	35	4	71 GATES ROAD	61A	16.55	AC
11	4	0	27 GATES RD	61A	6	AC
12	1	1	45 GOODNOW RD	61A	10	AC
12.B	34	1	44 GREGORY HILL RD	61A	12	AC

13	42	0	STERLING RD	61A	20	AC
15	28	0	28 BALL HILL RD	61A	8.33	AC
15	76	0	143 BALL HILL RD	61A	30	AC
18	11	0	294 WORCESTER RD	61A	23.18	AC
5	30	6	126 HOBBS RD	61A	8.08	AC
9	24	0	GLEASON RD	61A	4.7	AC
9	30	0	72 GLEASON RD	61A	17.04	AC
11	45	0	32 GROW LANE	61A	25	AC
14	25	0	CALAMINT HILL RD S	61A	0.49	AC
14	40	0	51 DOWDS LANE	61A	8.16	AC
5	31	0	104 HOBBS RD	61A	32.05	AC
7	31	0	GATES RD OFF	61A	13	AC
8	27	0	70 MERRIAM RD	61A	22.86	AC
8	60	0	26 BULLOCK LANE	61A	30.65	AC
9	24	0	GLEASON RD	61A	77.01	AC
9	24	3	53 GLEASON RD	61A	5.98	AC
9	24	4	71 GLEASON RD	61A	7.14	AC
9	30	0	72 GLEASON RD	61A	39.36	AC
11	4	0	27 GATES RD	61A	11.86	AC
11	45	0	32 GROW LANE	61A	45.47	AC
11	49	F	319 BALL HILL RD	61A	13.69	AC
11	62	1	158 HUBBARDSTON RD	61A	14.85	AC
12	30	0	42 B STERLING RD	61A	30.19	AC
12.D	9	0	17 WORCESTER RD	61A	9.79	AC
13	32	0	154 HOUGHTON RD	61A	32.99	AC
13	42	A	275 STERLING RD	61A	17.49	AC
14	25	0	CALAMINT HILL RD S	61A	7	AC
14	40	0	51 DOWDS LANE	61A	92.33	AC
14	43	0	20 DOWDS LANE	61A	30.5	AC
7	2	B	113 OLD COLONY RD	61A	9.19	AC
10	19	0	20 LYONS RD	61A	9.64	AC
11	32	0	60 BIGELOW RD	61A	7	AC
11	35	1	0 BIGELOW RD	61A	2	AC
11	49	E	313 BALL HILL RD	61A	6.6	AC
12	20	0	100 BROOKS STATION RD	61A	24.78	AC
13	32	0	154 HOUGHTON RD	61A	23	AC
13	42	0	STERLING RD	61A	31.99	AC
14	25	0	CALAMINT HILL RD S	61A	8.7	AC
15	28	0	28 BALL HILL RD	61A	15.96	AC
15	48	0	263 A WORCESTER RD	61A	5	AC
15	76	0	143 BALL HILL RD	61A	11.37	AC
9	24	0	GLEASON RD	61A	0.81	AC

9	30	0	72 GLEASON RD	61A	2.16	AC
11	25	0	29 LYONS RD	61A	24.19	AC
11	32	0	60 BIGELOW RD	61A	14.53	AC
14	25	0	CALAMINT HILL RD S	61A	11	AC
15	48	0	263 A WORCESTER RD	61A	12.99	AC
15	48	2	0 WORCESTER RD	61A	47	AC
18	11	0	294 WORCESTER RD	61A	11.15	AC
13	22	4	0 TOWN FARM RD	61A	2	AC
7	27	1	0 THOMPSON RD	61A	20	AC
8.A	11	2	MERRIAM RD	61A	1.5	AC
12	16	C	0 HUBBARDSTON RD	61A	22.92	AC
7	27	1	0 THOMPSON RD	61A	73.53	AC
8.A	11	2	MERRIAM RD	61A	2.19	AC
14	27	0	CALAMINT HILL RD S	61A	50	AC
14	42	0	30 DOWDS LANE	61A	13.39	AC
18	17	0	WORCESTER RD	61A	7.55	AC
1	5	3	0 MIRICK RD	61A	22.19	AC
7	27	1	0 THOMPSON RD	61A	13.08	AC
9	40	0	HOUGHTON RD	61A	13.8	AC
11	45	A	BALL HILL RD	61A	6.5	AC
12	1	A	0 HUBBARDSTON RD	61A	37.73	AC
12	35	0	STERLING RD	61A	17	AC
13	33	0	HOUGHTON RD	61A	6.2	AC
14	24	0	CALAMINT HILL RD S	61A	5.81	AC
14	42	0	30 DOWDS LANE	61A	10	AC
15	28	A	BALL HILL RD	61A	2	AC
11	26	10	BLOOD RD	61A	2.06	AC
13	22	4	0 TOWN FARM RD	61A	8.01	AC
					1340.26	
4	31	0	72 BEAMAN RD	61B	5.57	AC
11	53	1	94 CALAMINT HILL RD N	61B	20	AC
12	15	2	0 HUBBARDSTON RD	61B	19.58	AC
14	51	0	282 BROOKS STATION RD	61B	47.05	AC
1	17	0	290 REDEMPTION ROCK TR	61B	7.19	AC
4	17	0	228 MIRICK RD	61B	7.59	AC
4	37	0	196 MIRICK RD	61B	9.49	AC
5	10	1	27 HOBBS RD	61B	8.02	AC
8	1	2	25 THOMPSON RD	61B	0.84	AC
8	43	6	120 MIRICK RD	61B	6.67	AC
9	21	0	27 GLEASON RD	61B	20.44	AC
9	29	2	11 MAIN ST	61B	28.75	AC
11	41	3	351 B BALL HILL RD	61B	6.48	AC

11	42	A	BALL HILL RD	61B	15	AC
11	53	0	122 CALAMINT HILL RD N	61B	107.8	AC
12	1	4	142 HUBBARDSTON RD	61B	6.29	AC
12	11	0	26 GOODNOW RD	61B	8	AC
12	12	0	14 GOODNOW RD	61B	7.49	AC
12	20	2	86 BROOKS STATION RD	61B	7.24	AC
12	43	0	112 BROOKS STATION RD	61B	9.91	AC
12.C	1	0	18 CONNOR LANE	61B	2.82	AC
13	56	8	244 STERLING RD	61B	7.28	AC
14	32	0	40 CALAMINT HILL RD S	61B	16.13	AC
14	39	0	29 DOWDS LANE	61B	12	AC
14	50	2	125 CALAMINT HILL RD N	61B	11.54	AC
15	8	2	20 SAM COBB LANE	61B	9.37	AC
9	24	D	7 ISAACS WAY	61B	5.08	AC
9	18	0	91 HOUGHTON RD	61B	37	AC
5	28	A	HOBBS RD OFF	61B	11	AC
14	9	0	BALL HILL RD	61B	16	AC
14	15	0	BALL HILL RD OFF	61B	40	AC
11	62	2	HUBBARDSTON RD	61B	7.22	AC
7	35	1	OLD COLONY RD	61B	6.11	AC
8	1	2.A	THOMPSON RD	61B	11.39	AC
8	38	0	MIRICK RD	61B	21.07	AC
11	13	0	HUBBARDSTON RD	61B	6.59	AC
11	20	0	HUBBARDSTON RD	61B	17.73	AC
11	35	0	0 BIGELOW RD	61B	9.25	AC
11	41	4	BALL HILL RD	61B	8.5	AC
12	13	1	GOODNOW RD	61B	10.64	AC
12.C	1	A	BROOKS STATION RD	61B	6.97	AC
12.C	17	0	BROOKS STATION RD	61B	12.52	AC
13	56	3	ESTY RD	61B	7.14	AC
14	36	0	SCHOOLHOUSE RD	61B	5.39	AC
15	67	0	BALL HILL RD OFF	61B	12.8	AC
15	73	0	BROOKS STATION RD	61B	28.5	AC
7	31	B	GATES RD	61B	5.48	AC

C. Uncommon and Rare Species in Princeton

1.) Rare dragonflies

Spreadwings *Lestidae*:

- Amber-winged Spreadwing *Lestes eurinus* uncommon
- Sweetflag Spreadwing *Lestes forcipatus* uncommon

Pond Damsels *Coenagrionidae*:

- Variable (violet) Dancer *Argia (vilacea) fumipennis* uncommon
- Hagen's Bluet *Enallagma hageni* uncommon
- Lilypad Forktail *Ischnura kellicotti* uncommon
- Sphadnum Sprite *Nehalennia gracilis* **rare**

Spiketails *Corduliogastridae*:

- Delta-spotted Spiketail *Cordulegaster diastatops* uncommon
- Twin-spotted Spiketail *Corduegaster maculate* **rare**

Clubtails *Gomphidae*:

- Beaverpond Clubtail *Gomphus borealis* **rare**
- Ashy Clubtail *Gomphus lividus* **rare**
- Black-shouldered Spineyleg *Dromogophus spinosus* **rare**

Darners *Aeschnidae*:

- Springtime Darner *Basiaeschna Janata* uncommon
- Harlequin Darner *Gomphaeschna furcillata* uncommon
 - Swamp Darner *Epiaeschna heros* **rare**
- Mottled Darner *Aeshna clepsydra* uncommon

Cruisers *Macromiidae*:

- Stream Cruiser *Didymops transversa* **rare**

Skimmers *Libellulidae*:

- Painted Skimmer *Libellula semifasciata* **rare**
- Hudsonian Whiteface *Leurcorrhinia hudsonica* **rare**
- Black Saddlebags *Tamea lacerate* **rare**

2.) Rare Fungi *Ascomycota*. All of the fungi on this list are rare, which indicates they are found on fewer than 10% of walks in season within its habitat. Single record means it is the only recorded instance of this species at Wachusett Meadow.

- Acorn Cup Fungus *Hymenoscyphus fructigens*
- Stalked Hairy Fairy Cup *Dasyscyphus virgineus*
- Green-headed Jelly Club *Leotia viscosa*
- Fluted White Helvella *Helvella crispa*
- Long-stalked Gray Cup *Helvella macropus*

- Common Morel *Morchella esculenta*
- ? common name *Peziza arvernensis*
- ? common name *Diatrype stigma*
- Skull-shaped Puffball *Calvatia craniformis*
- Splash Cups *Cyathus striatus*
- Cannon Fungus *Sphaerobolus stellatus*
- Stinky Squid *Pseudocolus fusiformis*
- ? common name *Schleroderma areolatum*
- ? common name *Schleroderma geaster*
- Scarlet Cup *Sarcoscypha australiaca*
- ? common name *Cordyceps Canadensis*
- Horse Mushroom *Agaricus arvensis*
- Malodorous Lepiota *Lepiota cristata*
- ? common name *Leptonia serrulata*
- Caesar's Amanita *Amanita jacksonii* (Tuloss)
- Rag-veil Amanita *Amanita cinereopannosa*
- Frost's Amanita *Amanita frostiana*
- Yellow-orange Fly Agaric *Amanita muscaria*
- ? common name *Amanita onusta* **SINGLE RECORD**
- Destroying Angel *Amanita virosa*
- Shaggy-stalked Bolete *Austroboletus betula*
- Graceful Bolete *Austroboletus gracilis*
- Gray Bolete *Boletus griseus*
- Parasitic Bolete *Bolets parasiticus*
- Red Gyropus *Gyroporus purpureum*
- Aspen Scaber Stalk *Leccinum insigne*
- ? Common name *Suillus intermedius* **SINGLE RECORD**
- Slippery Jack *Suillus luteus*
- Slippery Jill *Suillus subluteus*
- ? common name *Tylopilus albellum*
- Black Velvet Bolete *Tylopilus alboater*
- Dark Bolete *Tylopilus pseudoscaber*
- ? Common name *Tylopilus rubrobrunneus*
- Non-inky Coprinus *Coprinus disseminatus*
- Japanese Umbrella Inky *Coprinus plicatilis*
- Bell-cap Panaeolus *Panaeolus campanulatus*
- Haymaker's Mushroom *Panaeolus foenicisii*
- Clustered Hydrophila *Psathyrella hydrophila*
- Corrugated-cap Psathyrella *Psathyrella rugocephala*
- ? Common name *Cortinarius caninus*

- Bulbous Cort *Cortinarius glaucopus*
- Red-gilled Cort *Cortinarius semisanguineus*
- Pungent Cort *Cortinarius traganus*
- Violet Cort *Corinarius violaceus*
- ? Common name *Galerina paludosa*
- Poison Pie *Hebeloma crustuliniforme*
- White Fiber Head *Inocybe geophylla*
- The Gypsy *Rozites caperata*
- ? Common name *Entoloma alboumbonatum*
- Yellow-green Entoloma *Nolanea lutea*
- Hairy-stalked Entoloma *Pouzarella nodospora*
- Velvet-footed Pax *Paxillus atrotomentosus*
- Yellow Pluteus *Pluteus admirabilis*
- Gerard's Milky *Lactarius gerardii*
- Dirty Milky *Lactarius sordidus*
- Short-stalked White Russula *Russula brevipes*
- Fragile Russula *Russula fragilis*
- ? Common name *Russula paludosa*
- ? Common name *Russula pulchra*
- Sharp-scaly Pholiota *Pholiota squarrosoides*
- ? Common name *Pholiota vernalis*
- Hard's Stropharia *Stropharia hardii*
- ? Common name *Armillaria bulbosa*
- Grayling *Cantherellula umbonata*
- Swollen-stalked Cat *Catathelasma ventricosa*
- Spotted Collybia *Collybia maculate*
- Golden Scruffy Collybia *Cyptotrama asprata*
- Elm Oyster *Hysizygus tessulatus*
- ? Common name *Laccaria amethystine*
- ? Common name *Laccaria bicolor*
- Purple-gilled Laccaria *Laccaria ochropurpurea*
- Cockle-shell Lentinus *Lentinellus cochleatus*
- ? Common name *Lentinellus vulpinus*
- Train Wrecker *Lentinus lepideus*
- Ruddy Panus *Lentinus strigosus*
- Lichen Agaric *Omphalina ericetorum*
- Fragrant Armillaria *Tricholoma caligatum*
- ? Common name *Tricholoma subresplendens*
- ? Common name *Tricholoma sulphureum*
- ? Common name *Xeromphalina tenuipes*

- ? Common name *Xerula longipes*
- Magenta Coral *Clavaria zollingeri*
- Flat-topped Coral *Clavariadelphus truncates*
- White Green-algae Coral *Multiclavula mucida*
- Wet Rot *Coniophora puteana*
- Dry Rot *Serpula lacrimans*
- ? Common name *Peniophora serpula*
- ? Common name *Schizopora paradoxa*
- ? Common name *Hydnum pineticola*
- ? Common name *Sarcodon scabrosus*
- ? Common name *Hydnum umbilicatum*
- ? Common name *Steccherinum pulcherrimum*
- ? Common name *Abortiporus biennis*
- Green's Polypore *Coltricia montagnei*
- Red-bellied Polypore *Fomes pinicola*
- Ling Chi *Ganoderma Lucidum*
- Tender-nesting Polypore *Hapilopilus nidulans*
- Resinous Polypore *Ischnoderma resinosum*
- ? Common name *Polyporus elegans*
- Umbrella Polypore *Polyporus umbellatus*
- Orange Poria *Poria spissa*
- ? Common name *Trametes elegans*
- ? Common name *Trichaptum abietinum*
- Club-like Tuning Fork *Calocera cornea*
- Pale Jelly Roll *Exidia alba*
- ? Common name *Lycogala flavofuscum*
- Yellow-fuzz Cone Slime *Hemitrichia clavata*
- Pretzel Slime *Hemitrichia serpula*

D. ADA Accessibility and Self-Evaluation

A self-evaluation of ADA accessibility for Princeton Parks has been completed and a summary is provided below. Following the summary we present four required documents:

- A copy of a letter designating Princeton's ADA coordinator
- A copy of the town grievance procedure
- A statement of public notification requirements
- A statement from the town's ADA Coordinator

The facility inventory form was used as the basis of the evaluation for the accessibility of each town-owned recreation and conservation property. The ADA survey summary was completed for the following Princeton-owned parks. All of these are managed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, except for Calamint Hill Conservation Area, which is managed by the Conservation Commission:

- Krashes Field
- Thomas Prince Fields
- Town Common
- Sawyer Field
- Goodnow Park
- Boylston Park
- Calamint Hill Conservation Area

A one page summary is presented showing the facilities at each park. This is followed by a summary outlining the evaluation and recommendations for each park.

Summary Table of ADA Accessibility Self-Evaluation

Location	Parking	Pathway	Toilet Facility	Picnic Area	Features
Krashes Field	X	X	X	X	Soccer Fields Basketball Court Playground Field House Trails 6 Picnic tables
Thomas Prince School Fields	X	X		X	Baseball Fields Soccer Fields Snack Shack Playground Trails
Goodnow Park	X				
Sawyer Field	X	X			Playground Baseball Field
Center School	X	X			Walking Track Play Equipment
Boylston Park	X	X			Trails

Calamint Hill Conservation Area	X	X			Trails
Town Common	X				Gazebo

Individual Property Self-Evaluation

Krashes Field (Managed by the Parks and Recreation Commission)

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two rough gravel lots (lower and upper). Uneven surface.
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails to Princeton Land Trust through rough terrain. Lower entrance through a field, upper entrance up a steep hill to the upper soccer fields. Paved ramp from upper parking area to field house however there is a curb blocking this
Toilet Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available in some seasons ADA compliant restrooms
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small area
Picnic Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two tables are available but not handicap accessible and not shaded
Recommendations: Consider ADA requirements and facilities during the proposed re-thinking of this park. Add handicap parking signage/lines and remove curb blocking wheelchair access. Consider adding shaded areas for picnicking. Consider ways to provide some handicap access to more activities, including perhaps the lower trails into Princeton Land Trust.	

Thomas Prince School Fields (Managed by the Parks and Recreation Commission)

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two large paved lots near the school. Soccer fields are located far from the parking area and are difficult to access for wheelchairs.
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails are rough and not handicap accessible.
Toilet Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not open during off-school hours
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent playground with several features. Surface area is wood chips and may have drainage issues. Not available to young children during school hours
Recommendations: Add ADA Compliant picnic tables and improve wheelchair access to back fields. Add a handicapped parking space near the play area. Add a paved route to the back upper fields with railings and turn-outs.	

Sawyer Field (Managed by the Parks and Recreation Commission)

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Parking spots are currently blocked by construction, but parking will be restored during reconstruction of Route 140 this year.
Playground	Playground equipment is very old and in need of replacement.
Picnic Area	One non-ADA-complaint picnic table

Recommendations: Residents would like to see a new play area for children which could serve the whole population of Princeton. Tables and shaded areas would be an asset to the town.

Goodnow Park (Managed by the Parks and Recreation Commission)

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	At the head of the town common
Pathway	Overgrown presently. The Princeton OSC committee hopes to renovate this area and add trails and picnic facilities, but currently none really exist.
Recommendations: Consider ADA opportunities while designing improvements to this area. Add benches, support library programs. The park is mostly hilly and rocky so there is a limit to what we can do, but the parts near the parking lot have some potential.	

Center School (Managed by the Parks and Recreation Commission)

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Parking lot surrounds the old Center School. This is separated from the field with a smooth pathway to the back but there are no handrails to assist in getting to the fields.
Pathway	A rough walking path exists
Playground	Some very old equipment
Picnic Area	One table, not ADA compliant
Recommendations: The town is planning to use this site for a future public safety building, and improvements to the fields behind the building can be made as part of this larger project.	

Boylston Park (Managed by the Parks and Recreation Commission)

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Two spots, not close to the trails
Pathway	Pathways are very rough/rocky and slope downhill for .25 mile.
Recommendations: Priority for this park is to expand and clean up existing trails. No intent to add ADA compliance	

Calamint Hill (Managed by the Parks and Recreation Commission)

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Rough gravel parking lot at the top of Calamint Hill with 10 spaces
Pathway	Trails are rough and in places very rocky and steep.
Recommendations: Priority for this park is to finish the conservation trails by adding signage and benches. Longer term there may be an opportunity to improve the trail surface in some area to give handicapped residents access to the scenic beaver pond.	

Town Common (Managed by the Parks and Recreation Commission)

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Paved lots for the town offices and library. With handicapped parking
Other	Gazebo is used for summer concerts and draw many people with seating on the lawn.
Recommendations: Consider adding some type of benches if allowed by the town deed. Consider adding better handicapped access for attending town concerts and events such as the Memorial Day celebration.	



TOWN OF PRINCETON

6 Town Hall Drive
Princeton, MA 01541
(978) 464-2118 Phone (978) 464-2106 Fax
www.town.princeton.ma.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Princeton Open Space Committee
Date: June 3, 2020
Re: Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator

Please note that the Princeton Selectboard members, at their legally called meeting on June 2, 2020, voted all in favor to appoint Town Administrator Sherry Patch to the position of Americans With Disabilities Coordinator for a term from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Thank you,

Marie Auger

Selectboard recording secretary & land use coordinator

TOWN OF PRINCETON

Grievance Policy For the General Public

EQUAL ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Maximum opportunity will be made available to receive citizen comments, complaints, and/or to resolve grievances or inquiries.

STEP 1:

The Town Manager will be available to meet with citizens and employees during business hours.

When a complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification is received either in writing or through a meeting or telephone call, every effort will be made to create a record regarding the name, address, and telephone number of the person making the complaint, grievance, program policy interpretation or clarification. If the person desires to remain anonymous, he or she may.

A complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification will be responded to within ten working days (if the person making the complaint is identified) in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc.)

Copies of the complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification and response will be forwarded to the appropriate town agency (i.e. park commission, conservation commission). If the grievance is not resolved at this level it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 2:

A written grievance will be submitted to the Town Manager. Assistance in writing the grievance will be available to all individuals. All written grievances will be responded to within ten working days by the Town Manager in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc.). If the grievance is not resolved at this level, it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 3:

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, citizens will be informed of the opportunity to meet and speak with the Board of Selectmen, with whom local authority for final grievance resolution lies.

Section 3. Equal Employment Opportunity

A. Equal Employment

- 3.A.1. The Town of Princeton is an equal opportunity employer and has a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, sex, creed, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation or age, as defined by law. The Town conforms to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

B. Sexual Harassment

- 3.B.1. Sexual harassment by an employee of the Town is prohibited. No employee shall exercise responsibilities or authority in such a manner as to appear to make submission to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, a term or condition of employment within the Town. No employee shall conduct himself or herself, with respect to verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature, in such a way that such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.
- 3.B.2. Sexual harassment of any employee of the Town, whether involving managers, supervisors or co-employees, is contrary to the Town's Sexual Harassment Policy. Violation of this policy will be grounds for immediate and severe disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.
- 3.B.3. Guidelines and regulations regarding sexual harassment are detailed in the Town's Sexual Harassment Policy. (See Appendix E.)

C. Drug Free Workplace/Drug & Alcohol Testing

- 3.C.1. The Town seeks to ensure a safe, healthy and productive work environment for all employees. Evidence clearly indicates that alcohol and other drug abuse by employees results in low productivity, high absenteeism, excessive use of medical benefits and a risk to the personal safety of the employee as well as that of co-workers. In a good faith effort to comply with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the Town prohibits the use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs/controlled substances on the Town's premises. It is prohibited for any employee of the Town to unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, or use controlled substances at the workplace or on other premises while conducting Town business. Controlled substances are defined for the purposes of this policy as those groups of drugs whose use is limited or prohibited by federal and/or state law.
- 3.C.2. Guidelines and regulations regarding a drug free workplace are detailed in the Town's Drug Free Workplace Policy in Appendix A. The Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for Highway and Police employees is also detailed in Appendix A.

Princeton Employment Application

	<p>TOWN OF PRINCETON 6 Town Hall Drive Princeton, MA 01541 townadministrator@town.princeton.ma.us</p>	<p>07/26/2018 Version</p>
<p>An Equal Opportunity Employer</p> <p>The Town of Princeton is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, ancestry, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identification, pregnancy, or any other class protected by federal, state or local law. Any person who needs assistance in fully participating in the application process should contact the Town Administrator.</p> <p>A fully completed application is required for each position applied for. "See Resume" is not acceptable in any field; however, you may attach a resume to this application form.</p> <p>Employment Application Form</p> <p><i>I. Your Contact Information:</i></p> <hr/> <p>Name (please print) _____ Date _____</p>		

E. 2020 OSRP Approval Letter



Charles D. Baker
GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Kathleen A. Theoharides
SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181

September 1, 2020

Rick Gardner
Open Space Committee
6 Town Hall Drive
Princeton, MA 01541

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Thank you for submitting the Open Space and Recreation Plan for Princeton to this office for review and compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I'm pleased to write that the plan has received final approval and the town is eligible to apply for DCS grants through July 2027. Please contact me melissa.cryan@mass.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cryan

Melissa Cryan
Grant Programs Supervisor