

# Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan 2025-2035



**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*  
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*Boston, MA 02114*

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January 29, 2026

Rhiannon Dugan  
Old Colony Planning Council  
70 School Street  
Brockton, MA 02301

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Dugan:

Thank you for submitting the Open Space and Recreation Plan for Abington 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 November 2035. Please contact me at [melissa.cryan@mass.gov](mailto:melissa.cryan@mass.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cryan  
Grant Programs Supervisor



August 27, 2025

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

RE: Town of Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2025-2035

Dear Ms. Cryan,

On behalf of the Town of Abington Open Space Committee, I am writing to express our support for the completed Town of Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2025-2035.

The town, our committee and the Old Colony Planning Council have worked diligently to complete this final plan. The plan articulates a vision to protect/conservate open space and natural resources and improve accessibility and access to trails and parks throughout the town.

Additionally, the plan identifies the town's future open space and recreation needs.

Our committee is committed to helping ensure the implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan and providing assistance as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Parsons", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Aaron Parsons, chairperson  
Abington Open Space Committee



# Town of Abington

## OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY  
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(781) 982-2100  
FAX (781) 982-2138

#8

June 23, 2025

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environment Affairs  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan Updated, 2025

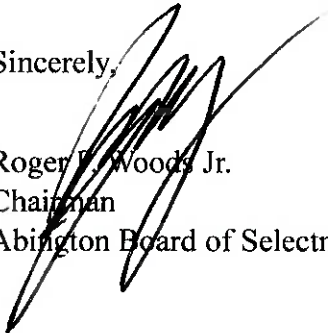
Dear Ms. Cryan,

On behalf of the Town of Abington Board of Selectmen, I am writing to express our strong support for the completed Town of Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2025-2032.

Town Planner Liz Shea, Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), and Abington's Open Space and Recreation Committee are to be commended for their diligent work to complete this plan. Under the guidance of OCPC, the Town spent countless hours conducting surveys, planning sessions, municipal joint meetings, and public meetings soliciting input for the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan. The engagement showed strong resident support for conserving open space and improving communication about open spaces in town.

The Plan also identifies the Town's future Open Space and Recreation needs such as enhancing town accessibility and connectivity, expanding climate resiliency, and protecting water systems.

Sincerely,

  
Roger F. Woods Jr.  
Chairman  
Abington Board of Selectmen



# Town of Abington

PLANNING BOARD  
500 GLINIEWICZ WAY  
ABINGTON, MA 02351  
(781) 982-0069

August 4, 2025

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environment Affairs  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan Updated, 2025

Dear Ms. Cryan,


On behalf of the Town of Abington Planning Board, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2025 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update. This plan update, in effect from 2025 through 2032, will work in conjunction with the town's 2019 Master Plan.

Under the guidance of Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), municipal employees, the Open Space and Recreation Committee, and other town boards came together to both discuss recreation and conservation goals for Abington and work diligently to complete this final plan. The planning process consisted of a series of engagement methods, including a town-wide survey. Highlights of the survey results include that there is a community desire to improve land maintenance and strong community support to use town funds, when available, to purchase land for open space.

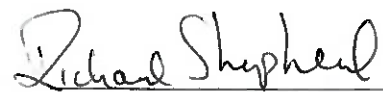
The plan update provides the Town with specific guidance and action steps to accomplish its goals and objectives. The plan articulates the need to improve active recreational spaces and accessibility, enhance town connectivity and recreational opportunities, expand climate resiliency, and protect both water systems and open space.

Please consider this support letter from the Abington Planning Board for the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan update. The Board is committed to helping ensure the creation of the updated plan and aiding as needed.


Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Hughes  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey M. Rangel  
Vice Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Shepherd  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard J. Collins, II  
Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Soper  
Member



**Town of Abington**  
OFFICE OF  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
500 GLINIEWICZ WAY  
ABINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02351

Attention: Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
100 Cambridge St, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Date: August 4, 2025

Re: Town of Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2025-2035

Dear Ms. Cryan,

On behalf of the Town of Abington Conservation Commission, I am writing to express our support for the completed Town of Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2025-2035.

The Town, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, and OCPC have worked diligently to complete this final plan. The plan articulates to protect open space and natural resources, conserve open space, and improve accessibility and access to trails and parks throughout for the town.

The Plan identifies the Town's future Open Space and Recreation needs.

The Conservation Commission is committed to helping ensure the implementation of Open Space and Recreation Plan and providing assistance as needed.

Thank you,

Nicholas Jenks  
Town of Abington  
Conservation Agent



Rebecca Coletta, President | Mary Waldron, Executive Director

(508) 583-1833

70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301

[www.oldcolonyplanning.org](http://www.oldcolonyplanning.org)

01/06/2026

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, 2025

Dear Ms. Cryan,

On behalf of the Old Colony Planning Council, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the recently completed Town of Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2025-2035. The Town and its Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee are to be commended for their diligent work in completing this plan. OCPC has been proud to collaborate with the Town on the preparation of this Plan, which represents a comprehensive and community-driven effort to protect and enhance Abington's natural resources, parks, and recreational opportunities.

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 the need to balance new development with protecting open space and natural resources and enhancing recreational opportunities. This Plan identifies key priorities to guide the Town's open space and recreation planning over the next ten years, including protecting sensitive natural areas, improving connectivity of trails and green spaces, expanding recreational amenities for all ages and abilities, and advancing climate resilience. The Plan provides the Town with specific guidance and action steps to accomplish its goals and objectives. This Plan also recognizes the need for partnerships with public and private entities to realize its goals and objectives.

We commend the Town of Abington for its proactive leadership and ongoing dedication to open space and recreation planning.

Sincerely,

Mary Waldron  
Executive Director  
Old Colony Planning Council

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## Section 1: Executive Summary

The Town of Abington has composed an update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan to continue to improve and promote outdoor recreation, improve open space, and increase conservation efforts in town.

Section 2 provides a summary of the community outreach efforts that took place to capture the wants and needs of residents. Sections 3, 4, and 5 provide an overview of the town's demographics, environmental characteristics, and a land inventory owned by the town.

Sections 6 and 7 consider the needs of the town for both conservation and environmental protection, and recreational needs for users of all ages and abilities. These needs are sorted into a 10-year action plan to satisfy the objectives below.

Sections 8,9, and the appendices provide additional resources and information.

The following are the objectives of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update. Goals and actions are paired with each of these in the 10-year action plan found in Section 7.

### **Objectives**

1. Improve active recreational spaces and improve accessibility.
2. Continue to acquire, conserve, and protect remaining natural lands in Abington to improve the environment and create additional recreation opportunities in town.
3. Create better town connectivity through expanding trail systems and other bike/ped transit opportunities in town.
4. Protect natural water systems through public education and bylaw enforcement.
5. Expand climate resilience in town through the implementation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP) 2.0.
6. Track OSRP Implementation through the creation of a joint committee of Open Space Commission, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, and Planning Board that meets quarterly.

## Section 2: Introduction

### A. Statement of Purpose:

An Open Space and Recreation Plan serves as a data update for the town. The town wrote its first Open Space and Recreation Plan in 1988. This plan will provide an update on the current status of existing recreation spaces throughout town, town-owned land, and shifting demographic trends to address upcoming needs. The update of the Open Space and Recreation plan allows municipal employees, boards, and residents to come together to discuss their wishes and hopes for conservation and recreation in town.

The plan that follows is an update to the 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan for the town of Abington. Following COVID, and the completion of the town's 2019-2020 Master Plan, there is a need to update the strategic plan for the town to continue to conserve, enhance, and enjoy natural and open spaces in town.

In addition, the Open Space and Recreation plan can be used as a tool for determining priority land uses for Abington. Massachusetts is striving to meet housing needs while preserving the beautiful landscape the Commonwealth offers. This plan will work in conjunction with the Master Plan and the upcoming Housing Production Plan to determine land best suited for housing, open space that is not for public use, and open space that may support active or passive recreation.

The following definitions are provided by the Commonwealth in the Open Space and Recreation Plan Workbook (2025):

The term ***open space*** is often used to refer to conservation land, forested land, recreation land, agricultural land, and amenities such as green buffers along roadways or any other predominantly undeveloped area that is owned by an agency or organization dedicated to conservation or recreation.

The term can also refer to undeveloped land with conservation or recreation potential. This includes vacant lots and brownfields that can be redeveloped into recreation areas or community green spaces.

Open space can be used for ***passive recreation***, which is defined as any outdoor activity that occurs in a natural setting with minimum disturbance of the natural and cultural resources and that is consistent with quiet enjoyment of the land, including walking, hiking, and nature study.

Land can also be used for ***active recreation***, defined as outdoor recreation that occurs in parks and requires significant alteration of the natural landscape to provide playground or active sports facilities, including soccer, tennis, or baseball.

### *Updates since the last plan:*

Since the last plan, the town has worked diligently to explore ways to improve and increase recreation potential in town. Many goals were completed, while others became less relevant over time as the town took different approaches. Several goals from the previous plan are ongoing needs of the community that will transfer over to this plan.

Since the last plan update, Griffin's Dairy Farm underwent a Master Plan process that explored opportunities for what the farm could be used for. Today, the Griffins Dairy committee meets regularly to maintain the trails on the grounds, improve the landscape, and maintain the contract with a local farmer who grows crops on part of the land. Efforts to preserve this land have paid off and allowed the town to maintain a piece of property that allows the preservation of agriculture, allows passive recreation, and serves as a localized floodplain.

The town's Conservation Commission has made efforts to preserve land vital for water protection and wetland health. To support this effort, the town has established changes to zoning and general bylaws. The Conservation Commission also provides public education resources on protecting wetlands.

Other achievements include ongoing expansion of community gardens, continuous improvements to park equipment, the addition of bike lanes to some roadways, and ongoing efforts to expand hiking trails in town.

### **B. Planning Process and Public Participation**

The Open Space and Recreation plan was guided by the community through a series of engagement methods. The writing and goals were guided by a steering committee consisting of the Open Space Committee members:

The steering committee met monthly on the third Wednesday of every month from 5:30-6:30 pm. These meetings were all publicly posted. These meetings consisted of updates on the Open Space and Recreation Plan and other initiatives that the committee was working on. Committee members participated in promoting outreach events and surveys, assisted with ADA assessments, and read draft chapters for accuracy and input on how to tailor the plan to the needs of the community.

The Committee was overseen by the Town Planner, Liz Shea. The plan was supported by additional town outreach through a series of meetings with various departments and boards, including the Planning Board, Parks and Recreation Committee, Conservation Committee, Community Preservation Committee, and Griffins Dairy Committee.

Reviews of the plan by the Open Space Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Select Board supported these efforts.

*Meetings with Supporting Committees:*

**Parks and Recreation Commission & Community Preservation Committee-** The Parks and Rec Commission and CPC held a joint meeting as they work together frequently and have a strong overlap in membership. Both boards discussed their successes in maintaining recreation sites in town and utilizing CPC funds for targeted facility and field improvements. The committees with OCPC reviewed public feedback on each park and field site, acknowledging the comments provided and their alignment with current measures.

**Conservation Commission-** The conservation commission met with OCPC to review their work and goals that they uphold. The conservation commission identified their current missions, in addition to protecting wetlands in town, as preparing the town to increase conservation holdings and educating the public on ways to protect water resources.

**Griffin's Dairy Committee-** OCPC staff met with Griffin's Dairy Committee to discuss their ongoing efforts to preserve the former dairy farm as a joint-use space of farming, community gardening, and walking. Griffin's Dairy is almost completely ADA Accessible and is a great example for the community to increase accessibility at other parks. Ideas were shared on how to meet full compliance. More information about the site can be found in Section 5.

**Joint Meeting –** A joint meeting was held after goals for the plan had been drafted with representation from Open Space, Recreation, Conservation, CPC, and Abington Celebrates. Representatives from each board and commission were asked to read and review the draft goals to ensure that their groups' work aligned with and was well-represented in the goals. All edits were made before the public release of the draft plan.

*Public Engagement:*

*Survey Results*

The survey was widely distributed to get an array of respondents. Physical copies were made available at the Abington Public Library and at the Abington Council on Aging. Flyers were also displayed at these locations and town hall with a QR code to access the digital survey. The survey was promoted through the social media accounts of both Old Colony Planning Council and the Town of Abington, as well as the OCPC bi-monthly newsletter and the Town of Abington's new public app.

**Who responded:**

A total of 488 survey responses were received. After filtering, the final sample size analyzed consisted of 465 individuals who indicated they resided, worked, owned property, or operated a business in Abington.

**Demographics of Survey Respondents:**

224 of the 329 respondents for the question identified as women. 103 identified as men and 2 identified as Prefer to Self-Identify. The age of respondents was mainly between 35 years to 44

years. Respondents were also asked questions related to who lives in their household. 143 respondents did not have children under the age of 18 living with them, while 189 did. 101 respondents said that an adult aged 60+ lived with them, while the remaining 230 respondents did not. 78 respondents said that they or someone they live with has a disability, handicap, or chronic illness. This is about 23% of those who responded to this question.

### **Interests of Survey Respondents:**

Respondents were asked to choose no more than three of their favorite outdoor activities. 84% of respondents chose walking or hiking, a total of 334 responses. The next top categories were playgrounds at 46% of respondents and team sports for 36% of respondents. Respondents who chose the other, roughly 9%, were allowed to provide their own responses. The most frequent responses were pickleball, photography, and watching nature or sports. Open Space and Recreation is very important to those who live in Town. When asked how important open space is to the quality of life in the community, 72% of respondents found it extremely important, 23% found it very important. The majority of survey respondents also noted that they use the park more than once a month.

Respondents were positive about the town's efforts towards environmental efforts. The following had over 95% of respondents in favor:

- Improve communication about open spaces in town, providing information and maps
- Use civic organizations, like AmeriCorps, Scouts, or volunteers, to help maintain open spaces
- Apply for and use grant funds or donations to purchase land for open space
- Work with landowners on deed or conservation restrictions to limit future land development
- Work with nonprofit land trusts able to purchase and/or maintain open space
- Develop an invasive species management plan to prevent, monitor, and remove invasive species like Japanese Knotweed

84 % were in favor of

- Use town funds when available to purchase land for open space.

Overall, survey respondents are eager for the town to improve land management and maintenance over time.

When asked to provide feedback on what else could be done in town, respondents largely spoke about the lack of maintenance. The town has several unique open spaces, playgrounds, and agricultural areas, but they are all in need of upgraded equipment, including play structures, swings, benches, security features, and trail markings.

When asked about improving accessibility, there was a clear need for flat walkable paths with sitting areas for seniors. Another identified that there needs to be better handicap parking at parks, particularly Island Grove. Improved lighting for safety was also mentioned. For a full report and accompanying data visuals, please read the full Survey Analysis in Appendix C.

## Public Meetings



Figure 1: Exploring Maps

Flyers for public meetings were displayed at the library, council on aging and town hall. The events were promoted through the social media accounts of both Old Colony Planning Council and the Town of Abington, as well as the OCPC bi-monthly newsletter, the OCPC hosted project webpage ([oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp](http://oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp)) and the Town of Abington’s new public app.

The first public meeting was held on November 18, 2024, at Town Hall. The meeting reviewed the planning process for an Open Space and Recreation Plan, allowing for Q&A. Attendees were then asked to participate in the process by identifying areas of interest for expanding conservation and suggesting improvements at local recreational sites. Following the meeting, a digital version of the activity was posted and left open from November 19 - December 11 for residents to engage in the process on their own time. This included a recording of the meeting that was held and a survey edition of the activity so respondents could provide comments on each individual park as they saw fit. This method gathered an additional 22 responses.

Figure 2: Providing Feedback



The final public meeting was held at the Town Hall on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The entire plan was made available one week before the meeting and was left available for public comment for an additional two weeks following. During the public meeting, attendees were walked through all of the goals outlined in the 10-year action plan and were allowed to provide feedback. Additionally, time was held at the end for anyone who had specific feedback on the writing as a whole. A virtual session was held on the last day of the public feedback period to allow anyone else to respond who had not yet been able to do so. Please find suggestions made in Section 8: Public Comment.



Figure 3: Providing Feedback Cont.

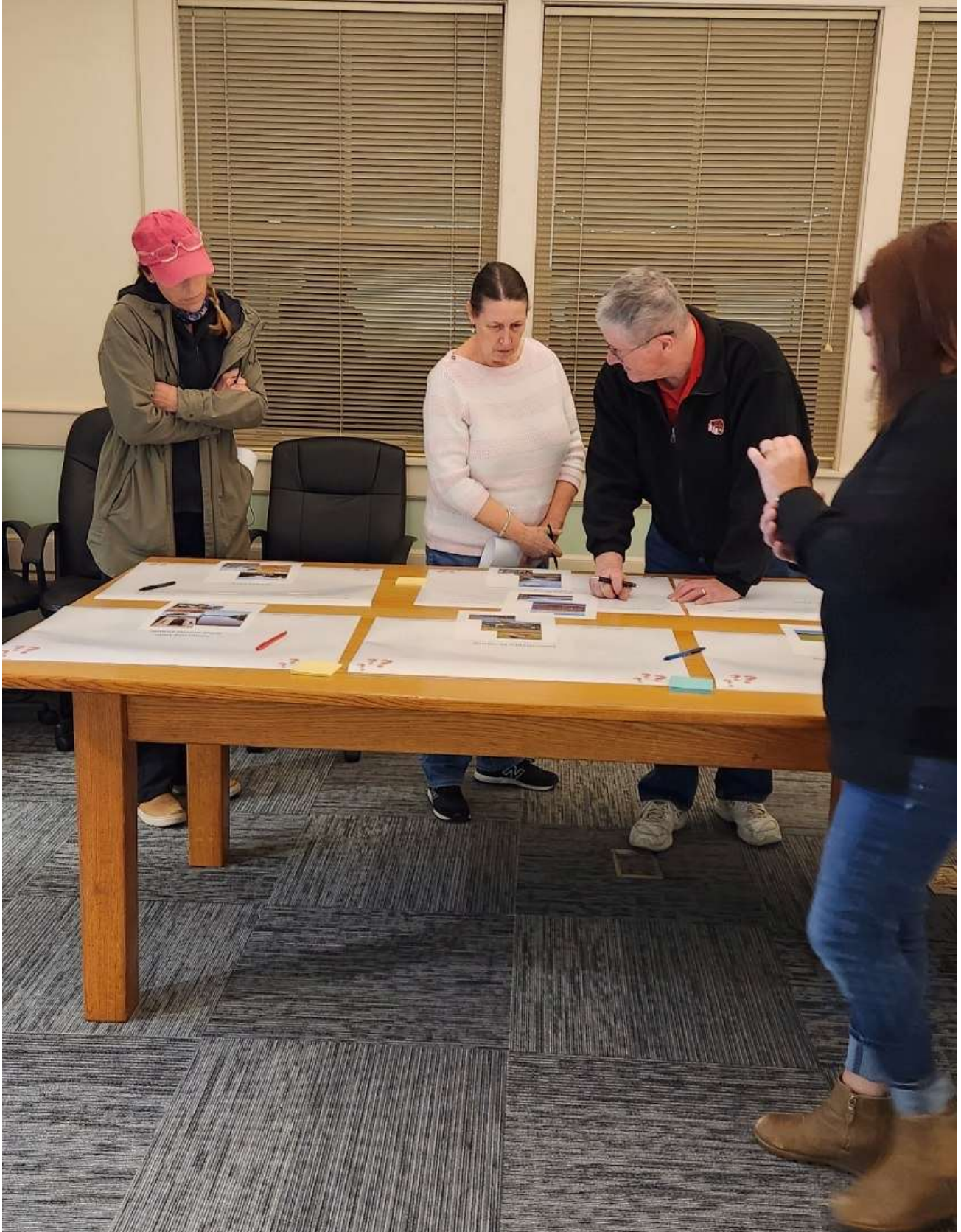


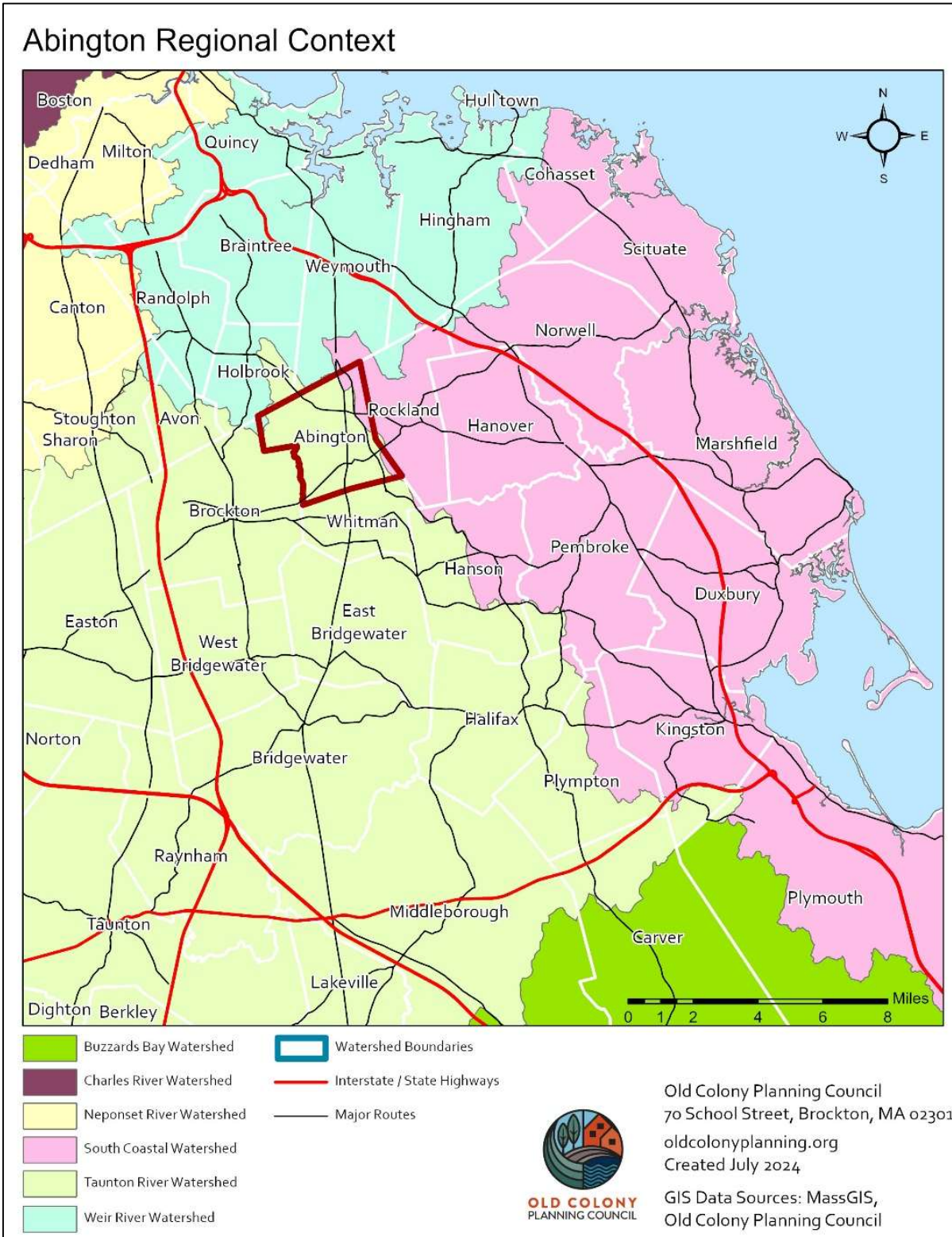
Figure 4: Working Together

# Section 3: Community Setting

## A. Regional Context

### Physical Location and Characteristics

Figure 5: Map of Regional Context



Abington is a relatively small suburban town of 10.14 square miles in area, adjacent to the City of Brockton and the towns of Holbrook, Weymouth, Rockland, and Whitman. Its population jumped from 14,605 in the 2000 Census, which grew by 9.4% to 15,985 in the 2010 Census, and 17,062 in the 2020 Census.

Abington is 22 miles from Boston and 45 miles from Providence, RI. Abington is within Plymouth County and neighbors Norfolk County. The Regional Location Map shows that State Routes 18, 58, 139, and 123 connect Abington to surrounding communities and the region's limited access highways, Routes 3, 24, and 128 (which are all one town distant), making the Town reasonably accessible by road in addition to rail. It is a suburb of both Brockton and Boston, and the restored commuter rail service to Boston has made it a desirable location for many Boston commuters.

### ***Watersheds***

The town is almost entirely within the Taunton River Basin, but also borders the Weir River Watershed and South Coastal Watershed. Abington is drained mainly by the Shumatuscacant River, Beaver Brook, and their tributaries. These flow to the Taunton River via Poor Meadow Brook in Hanson and East Bridgewater, the Satucket River in East Bridgewater, the Salisbury Plain River in Brockton, and the Matfield River in Bridgewater. A small area along the eastern edge of the town drains to the South Coastal Basin via French's Stream in Rockland, the Drinkwater River in Hanover, and ultimately, the Indian Head River and the North River. The town is at the top of each basin, as it includes the mapped headwaters of Beaver Brook and the Shumatuscacant River and is very close to the beginning of French's Stream in Weymouth. Accordingly, the streams are small, and flows are limited.

The streams and water bodies include Beaver Brook, the Shumatuscacant River, and their tributaries and impoundments. The major impoundments on Beaver Brook are the small, very scenic Cushing Pond just north of Chestnut Street and south of the Holbrook line, the large Cleveland Pond within the State Park, and the small, tranquil, secluded Hunt's Pond on the Abington / Brockton border, just above Mill Street (See the discussion of the Valatka Conservation Land in Chapter V). The ponds outside Ames Nowell State Park have some public frontage but limited access, as discussed below.

Impoundments on the Shumatuscacant River include a small pond with two apparent control structures between the Frolio School and the Mount Vernon Cemetery, and the much bigger downstream Island Grove Pond and its spring-fed swimming area. From here, the River flows freely through the Abington-Rockland Joint Water Board's Meyers Avenue well field and onto Whitman's Hobart Pond. The many impoundments offer possibilities for coordinated stormwater management and groundwater recharge for future study, while the general lack of fish ladders suggests opportunities for restored anadromous fish runs.

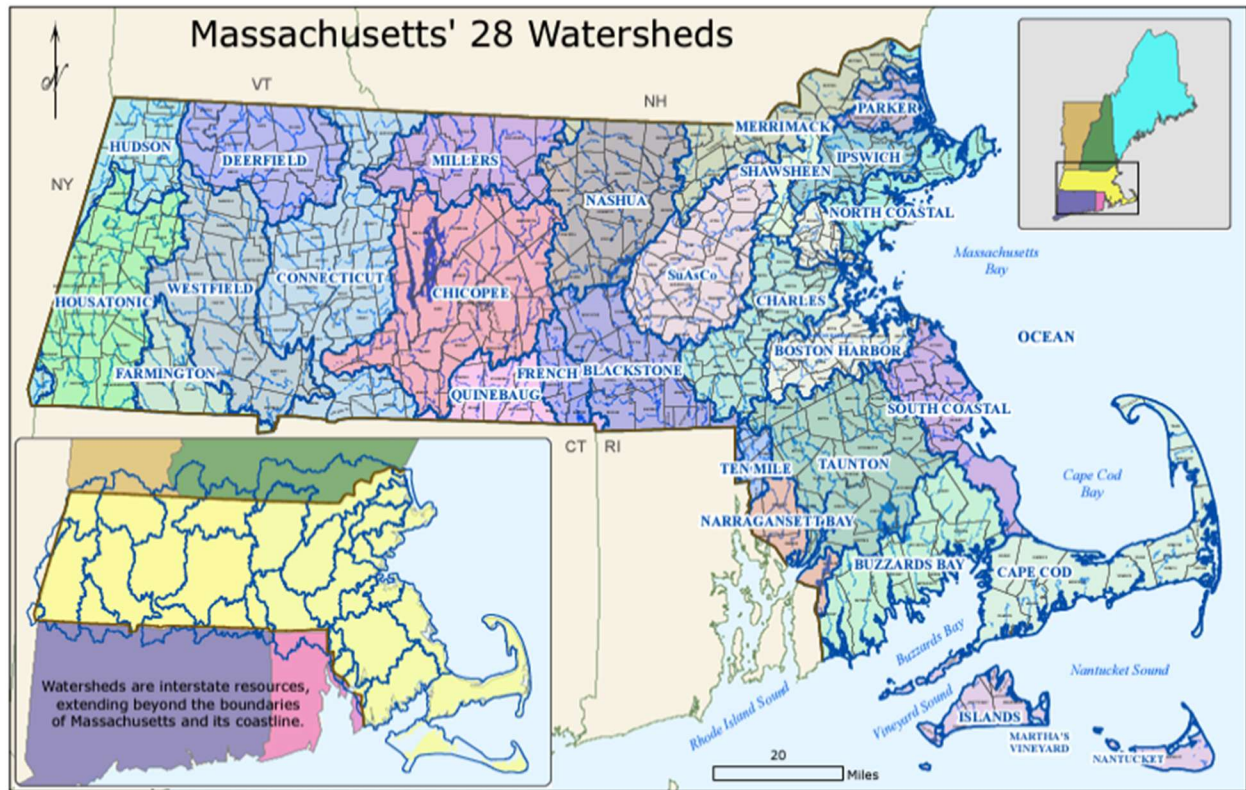


Figure 6: Image of Watersheds Statewide

## Regional Resources

### Ames Nowell State Park

Abington is fortunate to have shared parks that add to its recreation opportunities. Abington houses part of the 607.4-acre Ames Nowell State Park, with beautiful hiking trails and scenic views over wetlands and ponds. The state park connects the town to the City of Brockton and comes close to the border of Holbrook. This land is vital for creating local and regional trail connections. The large Cleveland Pond in the Park prohibits swimming, reportedly due to excess algae, though it occasionally occurs. A nearby popular resource also used by other communities is the excavated, enclosed, spring-fed swimming area at Abington's jewel, Island Grove Park, on the Shumatuscacant River. As noted earlier, the pedestrian bridge reaching this park from Lake Street in Abington is a popular approach, but it needs significant repairs.

### Beaver Brook Reservation

Abington residents also have access to the City of Brockton's extensive Beaver Brook Reservation along the town line downstream of the Park. As discussed below, the Park and Reservation lands are complemented by smaller town holdings along the Brook at Diane Circle and elsewhere.

## **Pohorecky Farm**

A related shared resource is the remaining Pohorecky Farm extending from within the State Park, around Cushing Pond, and into the town of Holbrook, abutting the Holbrook Sportsman Club. As discussed above, the Abington Town Meeting authorized the purchase of the Farm in 1999. Still, the acquisition was stalled by private litigation and Michael Pohorecky's death, and the vote has since been rescinded. Other studies have recommended state acquisition, at least of the in-holdings in the Park, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation remains interested and has pursued purchase options with the trustees of the Pohorecky estate. Currently, the town or state cannot gain ownership of the property.

## **Bay Circuit Trail**

The Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) was conceived in 1929 by Charles W. Eliot III (then Secretary to the Trustees of Reservations and later Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Design), a disciple of Frederick Law Olmsted. The concept was to have an arc of parks and conservation land linked by continuous trails, waterways, and scenic drives from the North Shore to Duxbury Bay (much as the Emerald Necklace connects neighborhoods and parks within Boston). These holdings would approximate a regional greenbelt around Greater Boston and provide access to the heritage and character of the New England countryside. The contemporary concept is necessarily more modest, as many opportunities for significant holdings are gone. The volunteer implementing body, Appalachian Mountain Club, stresses creating continuous trails through scenic areas and connecting them rather than trying to make an expansive greenbelt. However, the club still encourages and supports open space acquisition and protection of critical resources along the Trail and seeks to integrate the Trail with such resources. The 230+ mile Trail intersects over 50 communities. While South of Abington, this vital trail system connects the North and South Shores and creates regional recreation opportunities.

## ***Current Challenges***

### **Transit Concerns**

Addressing traffic and pedestrian concerns intersects with the Open Space and Recreation Plan, which addresses the town's walkability and bicycle safety issues. Roadways also impact flooding concerns throughout the town and, when constructed and maintained properly, can help reduce stormwater runoff and flooding. Residents need to be able to walk, bike, and drive safely through town to enjoy public resources such as parks and conservation land. Open Spaces can also serve as off-road pedestrian and bike pathways.

Abington is fortunate enough to have access to public transportation, including the MBTA Commuter Rail, Kingston Line services Boston, Quincy, Braintree, South Weymouth, Abington, Whitman, Hanson, Halifax, and Kingston. Abington is also in the Brockton Area Transit Authority, which includes two Brockton-based routes, Bus 5 and 6, that meet at the Abington Walmart.

There is also the Rockland Flex line, which is designed to serve Rockland residents but circulates through the town. Stops include Rockland Residences and local businesses: Target, Stop and Shop, Walmart, Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital, Abington MBTA station, and the BAT Centre.

Abington only receives Dial-a-Ride paratransit services and services to Walmart from BAT. There is still a need for additional public transportation. This includes increasing the frequency of the Rockland Flex line and creating additional flexibility for Abington Residents as it does for Rockland.

The Town's senior center also offers ride services for medical appointments and recreation opportunities.

The town has additional pedestrian and motor vehicle concerns. Many dangerous four-way intersections limit safe travel. The Town is working with OCPC to address these concerns.

#### **Plans for Action on the Transportation Improvement Program through OCP**

1. On the TIP for 2026: The intersection at Hancock Street and Chestnut Street is of particular concern to motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. MassDOT hosted an in-person design public hearing to discuss safety and operational intersection improvements to reduce crashes in September of 2023. The public process supported the design of a modern single-lane roundabout to reduce vehicle speeds, streamline pedestrian crossings, etc. The project will also include elevation changes and geometric modifications to improve sight lines. The DPW got this project on the TIP in 2016 and has worked diligently to meet design milestones and deadlines to keep the project on schedule.
2. On the TIP 2027: Intersection Improvements, Randolph Street and Richard A Fitts Drive (Route 139) at Chestnut Street and Old Randolph Street: Unlike the intersection of Hancock St. and Chestnut St., this intersection met the MUTCD warrants for signalization. This project will include traffic signals, bicycle accommodations, and much-improved pedestrian facilities. This is THE most dangerous intersection in Town, and 75% of the design is currently being completed.
3. On the TIP for 2028: Intersection Improvements at Route 18 (Bedford Street) at Route 123 (Brockton Ave).

## Pedestrian Safety

The town will continue to apply for relevant grants to meet the community's needs and protect resident safety. Some residential roads do not have sidewalks, which inhibits their walkability. But before building new sidewalks, the Town needs to address the deficient, non-ADA-compliant sidewalks it already owns. Creating and updating sidewalks is costly and beyond the capacity of the Town's DPW.

There is also a need to increase Shared-Use Paths in the town. The town created Shared-Use Paths from Lincoln Blvd. to Gliniewicz Way, led by the Abington Department of Public Works. This creates space for pedestrians, cyclists, and cars to share the road safely.

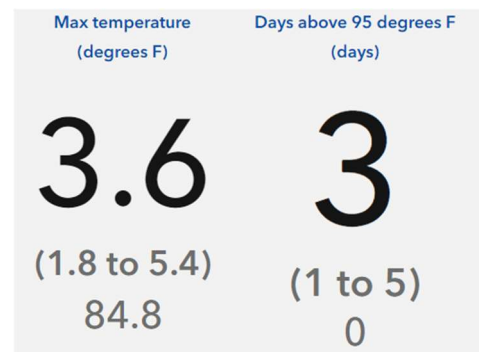
To address transit safety concerns in the town, the Town of Abington applied and was accepted to the FY25 Safe Streets for All Planning and Demonstration Grant Program for support in safety planning and demonstration activities around Centre Avenue and Hancock Street, two corridors providing essential connections to neighboring municipalities and hosting critical destinations including the MBTA Commuter Rail Station and Rockland Flex Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Bus Route. **The SS4A project will focus on improved crossings for non-vehicular road users in Abington.**

They additionally applied for a grant through the Mass Housing Works program to construct a sidewalk on Summer St. from Progress St. to Walnut St. There are no pedestrian accommodations on this stretch of road, forcing people who use trains to walk on the road. Public Transit needs to be safe and accommodating for users to be confident about using the service.

Figure 7: Image of Resilient Mass Data

## Local Climate Impact

Like all Massachusetts Communities, Abington faces impacts from Climate Change. Across the state, there is an anticipated 3.6-degree increase in maximum temperatures. According to Resilient Mass, the state will likely see an increase of 3 days above 95-degree days above annual averages. Having already completed an MVP with the Commonwealth, the plan is being updated by participating in MVP 2.0. Having previously conducted its heat study, Abington is working to get ahead of heat-related stress in town. The next steps for the town include creating plans for cooling centers during these days of high heat to protect vulnerable populations.



However, coastal and inland flood risk is one of the most significant concerns for the south shore. Abington is projected to see between 5.7 and 6.3% increase in annual rainfall. Flood risks for the

town are mainly located around brooks, streams, and ponds. However, these waterways run along major routes, including 18 and 139. Flooding creates increased pressure on dams and bridges, making them more susceptible to flooding and failure. This can cause costly damage, prevent emergency services from navigating the town, and slow evacuations.

### Abington FEMA Flood Risk

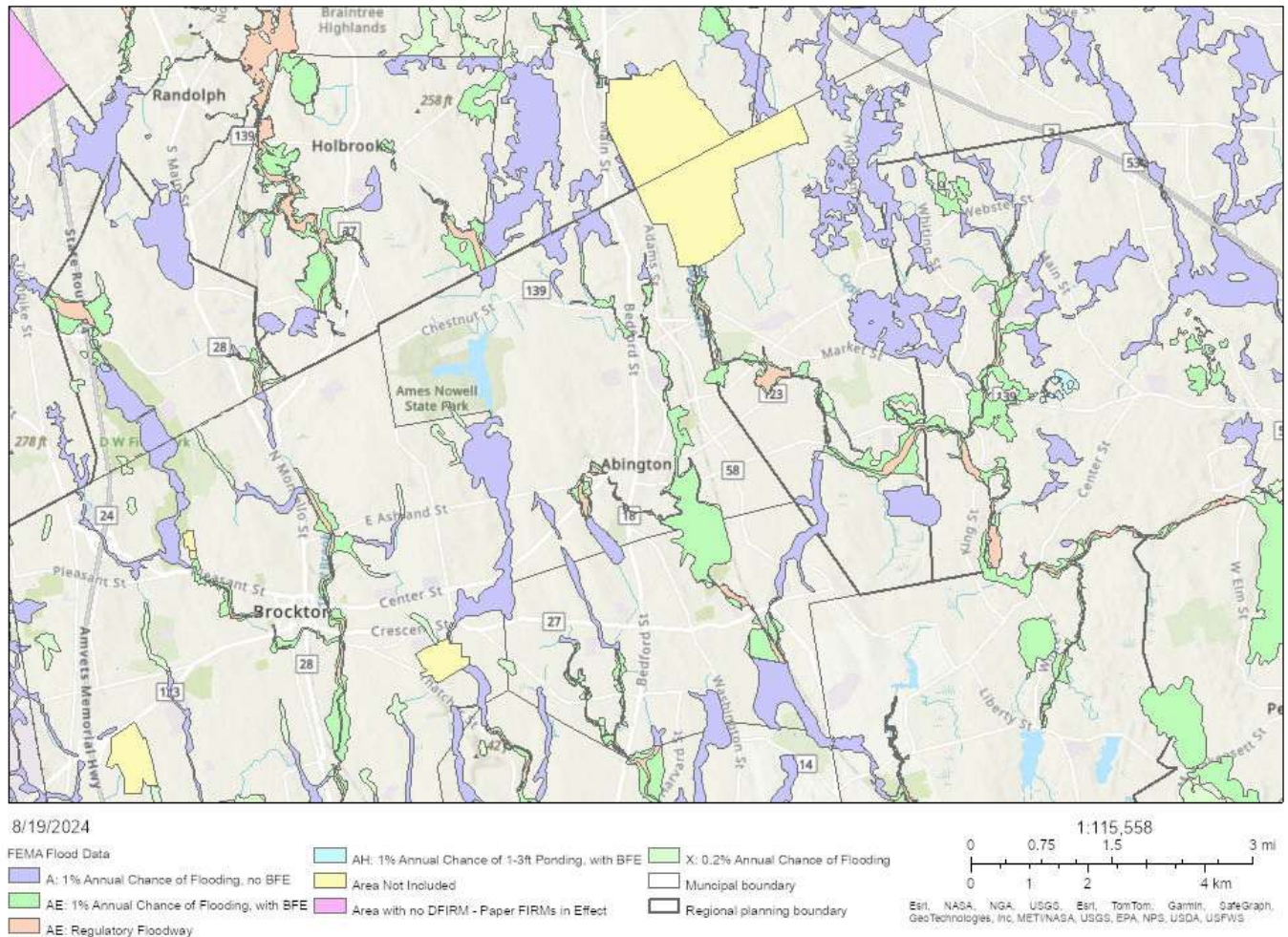


Figure 8: Image of FEMA Flood Risk

## South Shore Precipitation Change

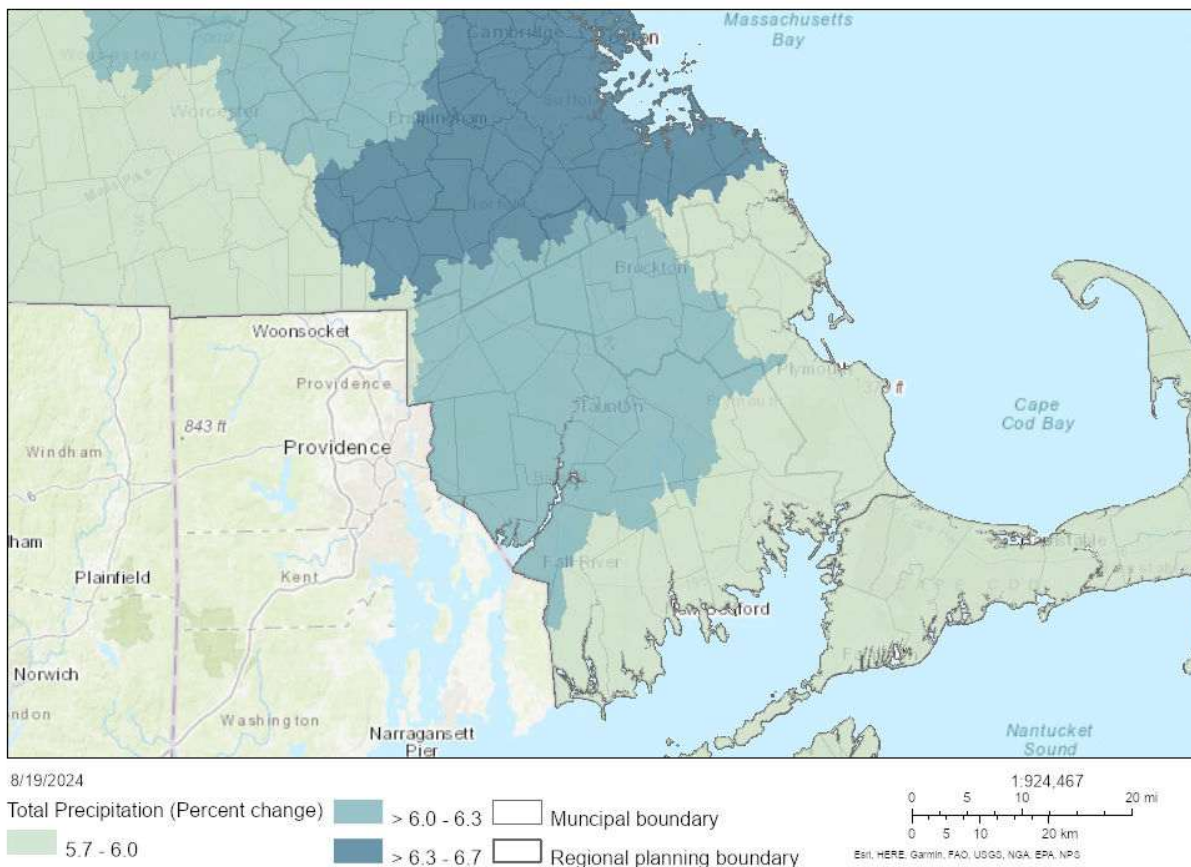


Figure 9: Image of South Shore Precipitation Change (Resilient Mass)

## History of the Community

The Town of Abington was founded in 1712 and was predominantly agricultural until the mid-1800s, when it became an essential center for shoe manufacturing. With the shoe industry's decline, the town's population varied little until after World War II. Abington was affected by the rapid post-war residential growth and development into the 1970s, growing by 72 percent from 1950 to 1970. Growth slowed from the 1970s to the late 1990s despite the availability of 1 million gallons/ day of sewage treatment through Brockton. It then accelerated when sewage treatment was joined by restored commuter rail service on the Old Colony Line, and a new rail station was built.

The restored rail service has mainly spurred residential growth in the form of condominium and apartment construction, much of it west of Route 18 and north of Rockland Street. The longer-term growth is in the form of large-lot suburban development off of Hancock Street in the former country part of the town. This growth has strained the Town's infrastructure and placed heavy demands on governmental services. The inability to offset residential development with commercial and business development has led to a continuing heavy reliance on the residential property tax

base. Today, Abington houses more than 17,000 residents and requires prioritizing land for conservation and preservation to build out its character, ecosystems, and recreational offerings for residents.

**B. Population Characteristics**

Abington’s population jumped from 14,605 in 2000, which grew by 9.4% to 15,985 in the 2010 Census and 17,062 in the 2020 Census. Current population projections from the UMass Donahue Institute show a slow decline over the next five years that will set a trend of population reduction for the next twenty years.

Continued town growth has led to increased development, a trend seen across the commonwealth. Abington especially faces a challenge as most of its zoning requires large lots per single-family home, requiring more land to house fewer people. Expanded development revamps the importance of preserving the most ecologically and recreationally valuable land. A larger population also increases the demand for quality recreational opportunities for youth and adults.

Age group patterns have been changing over the past few decades, with the town peaking in younger and older populations up through 2000, followed by a steady decline. Town-wide, the youngest and oldest age groups grew the most. From 1990 to 2000, the young population (under age 17) grew by 17.5%, increasing by 698 persons from 3,468 to 4,076 and representing 27.9 percent of the total population. Over the same period from 1990 to 2000, the population aged 60 and over increased by 850 persons or 38% percent to 3,083 and represented 21.1% of the town's population. This growth compares with an overall increase in the Town population of only 5.7 percent during the same ten-year period.

***Population Projection Trends***

<i>Year</i>	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2050
<i>Population</i>	13,817	14,605	15,985	17,062	16,799	15,266

*Table 1: Population Projections*

In 2010, both trends reversed; the slightly larger population 19 and under declined (according to the 2010 US Census) from over 4,076 or 27.9% of the population to 4,028 or 25.2% of the total, while the population 60 and over declined from 21.2% of the population to 16.2% or from 3,083 to 2,590 persons according to the Census. This may partly reflect older persons moving to retirement developments in other communities or to communities with lower property taxes. The town's youngest and oldest age groups have continued to see the most change. These numbers have since decreased again. 2,146 people, or 12.6% of the population, are over 65 years of age; this is slightly below the county average of 19.9%. The younger population in town has remained relatively the same since 2010, at 3,960 people or 23.2% of the population below the age of 18, and a total of 4,181 below the age of 19, a slight increase.

UMass Donahue Institute (UMDI) has calculated state-wide and town-by-town population projections through 2050. UMDI notes that the entire south shore will likely see a population reduction. Over the next 5-10 years, the town will likely start to see a population drop, with a prediction of numbers below the 2010 census in 2050. Despite the population anticipated to drop, there is still a gap in housing and services across the region that towns will continue to address.

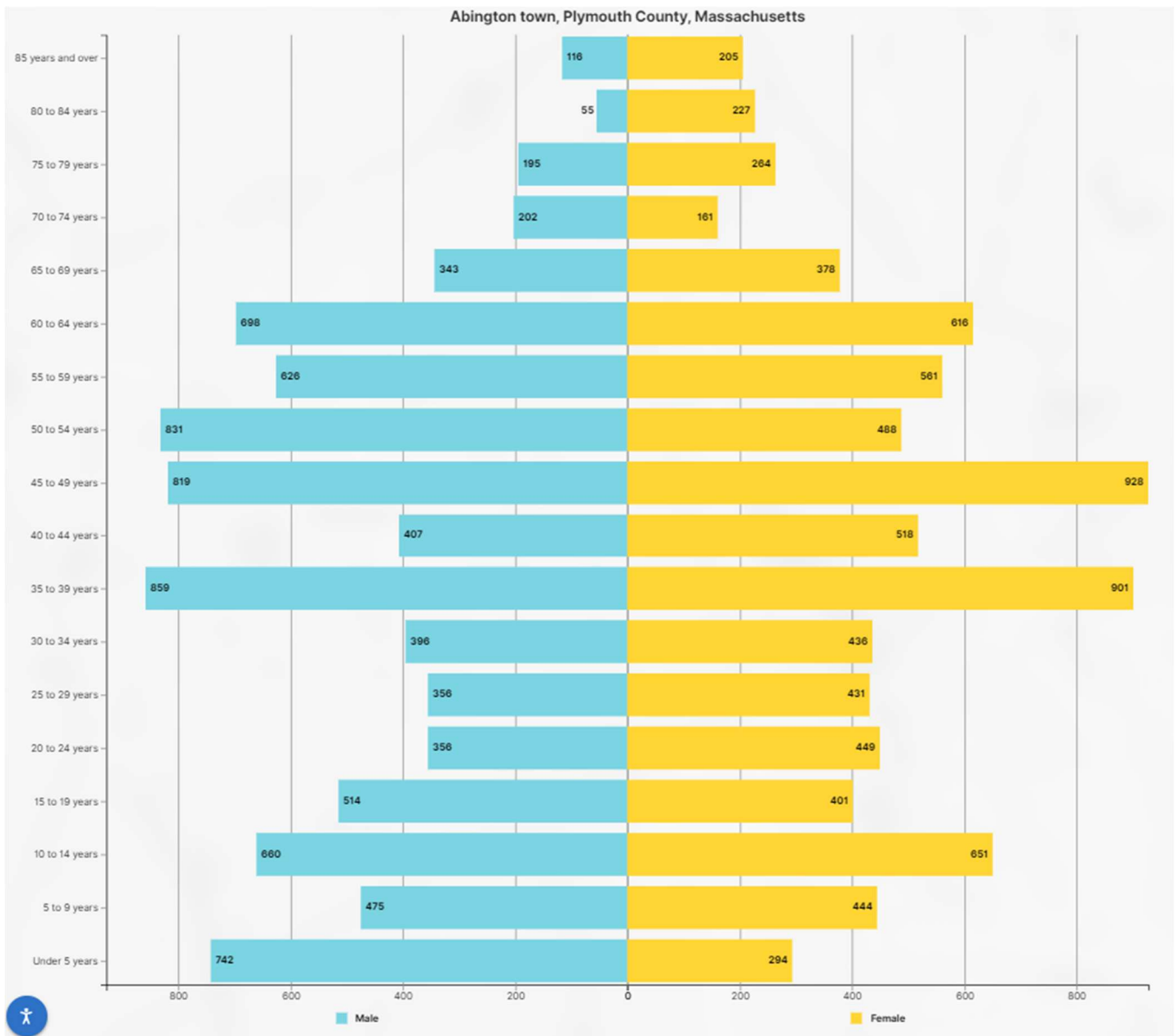


Figure 10: Population Break Down Census

## Population Density

Parks are well dispersed throughout the town increasing accessibility in denser areas. The Town's densest census block groups run along Route 18 and Route 123. The least dense part of the town is to the West and is largely due to the volume of conservation land in this area which encompasses Ames Nowell State Park and the wetlands surrounding the brook that drains south from the park through the town. Northern Abington has access to Arnold St Park which has been receiving lots of interest for upgrades due to the North Abington Redevelopment Committee (?). This neighborhood is also relatively close to the conservation land surrounding Thompson Pond and Rockland Town Forest. Further south along Route 18 where density continues to remain high, residents have access to Beaver Brook Playground, the fields at the Municipal Complex on Gliniewicz Way, and Island Grove Park near the intersection of 18 and 123 on the East part of town. Residents bordering the Brockton line have access to Green St Park and conservation land off of Linwood St which is address as an area with potential to expand public access later in this plan.

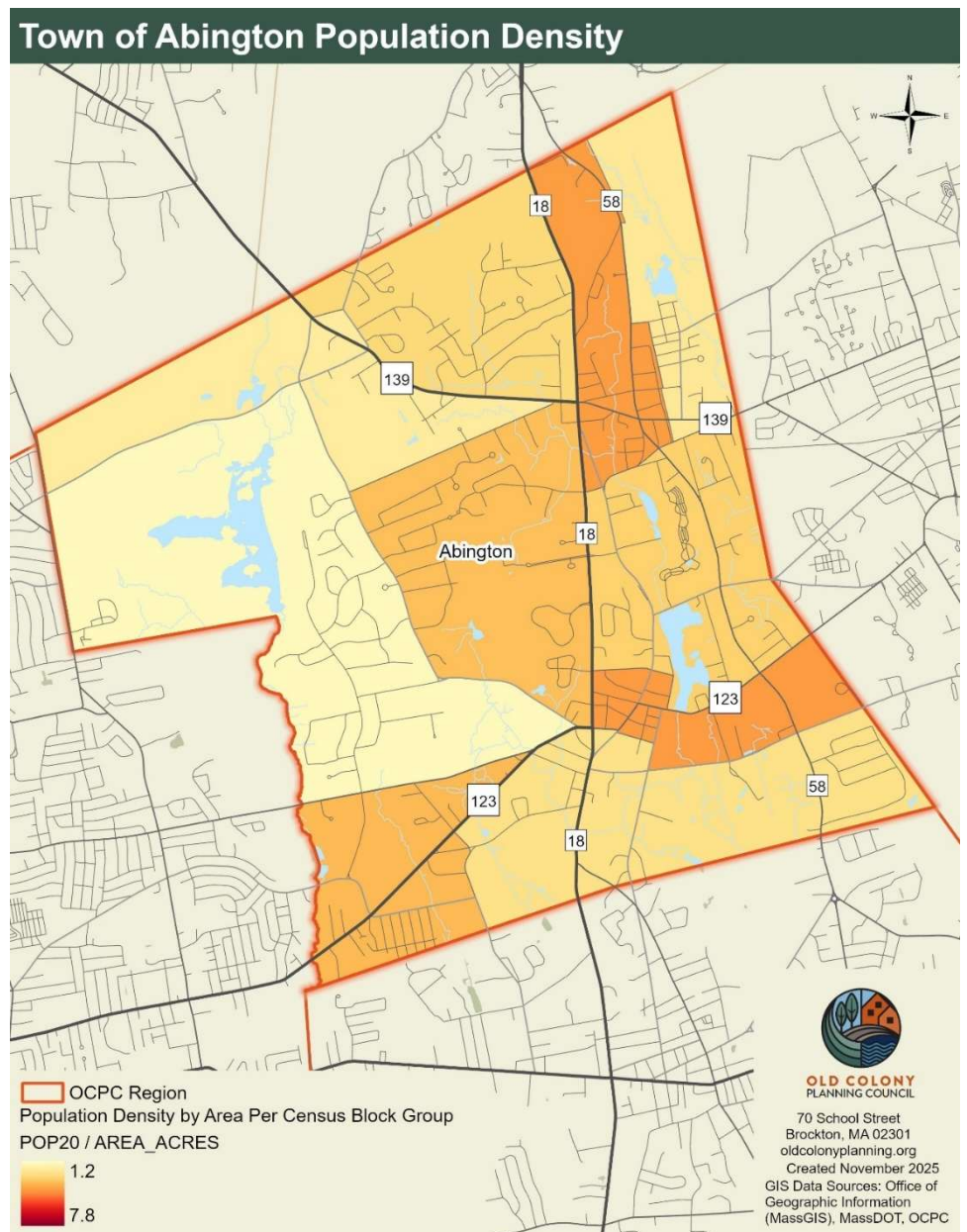


Figure 11: Abington Density Map

## Median Family Income

The median income in Abington has changed dramatically over time. It was \$57,100 in 2000, \$74,589 in 2010, and 120,535 as of 2022. This is significantly higher than the state average of \$94,488 and slightly higher than the OCPC average of \$117,495.

Table 2: Household and Income

<b>OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS AND INCOME</b>						
<i>Source: 2022 ACS S2503, Quickfacts</i>	<b>Occupied housing units</b>	<b>Percent occupied housing units</b>	<b>Owner-occupied housing units</b>	<b>Percent owner-occupied housing units</b>	<b>Renter-occupied housing units</b>	<b>Percent renter-occupied housing units</b>
<b>Occupied housing units</b>	6237	100%	4897	78.51%	1340	21.48%
<b>HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2022 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)</b>						
<b>Less than \$5,000</b>	118	1.9%	0	0.0%	118	8.8%
<b>\$5,000 to \$9,999</b>	40	0.6%	0	0.0%	40	3.0%
<b>\$10,000 to \$14,999</b>	247	4.0%	41	0.8%	206	15.4%
<b>\$15,000 to \$19,999</b>	185	3.0%	143	2.9%	42	3.1%
<b>\$20,000 to \$24,999</b>	94	1.5%	94	1.9%	0	0.0%
<b>\$25,000 to \$34,999</b>	297	4.8%	180	3.7%	117	8.7%
<b>\$35,000 to \$49,999</b>	474	7.6%	257	5.2%	217	16.2%
<b>\$50,000 to \$74,999</b>	526	8.4%	388	7.9%	138	10.3%
<b>\$75,000 to \$99,999</b>	646	10.4%	445	9.1%	201	15.0%
<b>\$100,000 to \$149,999</b>	1,054	16.9%	914	18.7%	140	10.4%
<b>\$150,000 or more</b>	2,556	41.0%	2435	49.7%	121	9.0%
<b>Median household income (dollars)</b>	120,535	120,535	149,338	149,338	46,100	46,100

## C. Growth and Development Patterns

The town's primary land use is housing, mainly in the form of detached single-family houses. Abington's town-wide sewerage system allows development in areas previously constrained by soils unsuitable for on-site septic systems. Current Land Use maps show the town's development pattern, predominantly residential, clustered around the major arterial streets. The town has two older established commercial districts, Abington Center and North Abington Center, plus larger-scale big-box/strip commercial development along Routes 123 and 18.

Per Abington's 2019 Housing Production Plan, the number of housing units in Abington increased 22.5 percent from 5,348 to 6,538 in 2017. Single-family detached structures make up 58.6 percent of all housing units in Abington.

Development in Abington in the 2010s was more intensive. It included the 192-unit Woodlands at Abington Station apartment complex near the Commuter Rail Station and the recently approved 180-unit The Point at Abington apartment development. With the restoration of commuter rail service, Abington has become a popular location for people commuting to the Boston/Cambridge core area.

Current large housing projects include 412 Summer Street, a 198-unit 40B extensive development that secured a building permit this year, and Chestnut Glen Apartments, an elderly affordable housing community with 130 apartments spread throughout two buildings on a 10-acre site in Abington.

Commercial uses in Abington are found in the two established town centers of North Abington and Abington Center and along Routes 18, 139, and 123, as noted above. Wal-Mart is located on Route 123 on the west side of town at the Brockton line. Stop and Shop located its superstore on the east side of town on Route 123, adjacent to the Rockland town line and next to a new Target store. Similarly, the Lowe's store is on Route 18 in the geographic center of the town at the former Ames Plaza, and the relocated, expanded Cape Cod Lumber is on Groveland Street off of Route 123. Thus, the major new commercial areas are on four different regionally accessible, highway-oriented sites, apart from the traditional centers.

The Town has also permitted 4 new cannabis retail stores in the marijuana overlay district, which provides additional tax revenue for the town.

## ***Infrastructure***

### **Transportation System**

Abington has a good network of state-numbered routes and local roads, allowing north-south and east-west travel through the town. Four state-numbered routes pass through the town. Routes 18 and 58 are the major north-south arterials, while Routes 139 and 123 are the major east-west routes. Residents also use moderate-capacity arterials and local streets for alternative paths to regional destinations. The state highways and town streets are generally in good condition, with sidewalks available for pedestrian traffic throughout most of the town.

The Town is served by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Kingston/Plymouth Branch of the Old Colony Commuter Rail line. The rail line is located on the eastern portion of town, with the commuter rail station south of Centre Avenue (Route 123) near the intersection with Plymouth Street (Route 58). There is parking at the station for 385 vehicles and additional private parking nearby. Abington has no fixed route bus services; however, the Brockton Area Transit (BAT) system serves the Wal-Mart store and provides DIAL-A-BAT Para Transit service to the town. The latter is available to the elderly and disabled through human service agencies or individually. Abington Senior Center currently runs a bus for elderly and disabled residents. The service provides transportation to medical appointments, shopping, and recreation.

Alternative transportation systems including bike and pedestrian pathways are limited throughout town. Major roads of connectivity in town include Route 18, 58, and 123. These roads have narrow shoulders and limited to no pedestrian infrastructure. A great example of a shared path way in town runs along Gliniewicz Way connecting the Middle and High School campus to the Town Hall, Library, and additional sports fields. When considering expanding bike and pedestrian paths there are two main concentrations. First is to increase walkable paths between neighborhoods and adjacent park spaces. Specifically providing easier access to parks without the need for cars and preventing youth from walking on roadways without sidewalks. Second is to create networks of bike and walking paths that are off of car centric roadways. Even with a well marked bike lane, motor vehicle collisions still pose a major threat for Abington when considering the expansion of access. Creating networks that rely on connected neighborhoods, parks, and greenspaces, allow residents to move through the community without a vehicle and without increased risk for collisions.

### **Dams**

As identified in their 2020 MVP, Abington's most significant environmental risks are stormwater flooding and the need for updating infrastructure. Abington co-owns the Hunts Pond Dam with Brockton. Environmental Partners inspect it every year. There are no planned repairs for it. The Town also oversees the functionality of Island Grove Dam.

Ralph Hewlard (Beaver Brook) Dam requires rehabilitation per the State's inspection and is at the top of the priority list, as noted in the Town Emergency Action Plan (2022). Abington also houses two state-managed dams, Ames Nowell Dam, and one private dam, Cushing Pond Dam. At this time, both dams are reported to be in working condition.

### **Bridges**

The Central Street Bridge was previously at an increased risk of failure due to flooding and was flagged as a significant hazard during a recent inspection, as the Town's former MVP reported. As

of 2023, it has since been repaired. The Town's DPW received a Small Bridges Grant for engineering and rebuilding the bridge located at Island Grove Dam.

### **Water Supply System**

The town of Abington obtains its water from the Abington/Rockland Joint Water Works (ARJWW), established in 1885. The ARJWW is governed by a Joint Water Board of six commissioners, three from each town. The ARJWW system has 11,597 hook-ups serving 15,130 residents in Abington and 18,022 in Rockland. In addition, there are a few hundred **out-of-district** customers in Hanson, Hingham, Weymouth, and Pembroke raised the total population served to just over 32,000 customers.

The system is unusual in having water sources in three towns and two basins: Abington in the Taunton River Basin and Rockland and Pembroke in the South Coastal Basin. The oldest source is the Great Sandy Bottom Pond in Pembroke. A treatment plant on site is designed for 4 million gallons per day (MGD) with a peak flow of 6 MGD. In Abington Center, four gravel-packed wells are at the end of Myers Avenue with their own 1.5 MGD treatment plant. The third source, the John F. Hannigan Water Treatment Facility and Reservoir in Rockland, is both a source and a storage facility. The recently enlarged reservoir holds about 380 million gallons when complete. The treatment facility is designed to treat a maximum of 3.0 MGD but can pump up to 3.0 MGD from its 2.0 million-gallon clear well.

The ARJWW distribution system uses cast iron, ductile iron, and PVC pipe, ranging in diameter from 2 to 16 inches, totaling approximately 126 miles. The system consists of two service areas: the Main Service Area, which provides water to all of the Town of Rockland and most of the Town of Abington, and Abington's Lincoln Street High Service Area, created in 1982 when development at a higher elevation near the Brockton line required a booster pump.

The system delivered 998,288,676 gallons in 2010. Recent consumption has averaged 2.77 MGD year-round, ranging from 2.36 MGD in February 2024 to 3.44 MGD in July 2024, with peak days nearly twice the annual average.

One standpipe, three elevated storage tanks, and two clear wells for a total capacity of 5.4 million gallons are provided. Rockland's two Rice Avenue elevated storage tanks hold 0.5 million gallons each. The new Lincoln Street standpipe in Abington holds 1.25 million gallons, and the new Chestnut Street elevated tank in Abington holds 400,000 gallons, increasing total capacity and helping maintain water pressure in the higher neighborhoods. (However, the total capacity of the standpipes may not be usable due to differences in elevation.) In addition, the concrete Hannigan Water Treatment Facility and the Great Sandy Bottom clear wells hold 2 million gallons at the former and 0.75 million gallons at the latter.

If usable for their total volume, the tanks and standpipe alone would provide 2.65 million gallons, close to the recent average day's consumption of 2.77 million gallons. The clear wells increase this to 5.4 million gallons, or 94% of twice the annual average use. However, even this provides relatively little reserve capacity if demands double during summertime peak periods. In addition to this storage capacity, the Abington water system has emergency connections to the Weymouth and Whitman water systems. The Rockland system connects to the Weymouth, Hanover, Hingham, and Norwell systems. The most significant recent capital improvement was the 2007 expansion of the Hingham Street Reservoir from a capacity of 95 million gallons to 380 MGD. Other improvements include upgrading/replacing older pipes, expanding service, and maintaining existing structures and facilities. Currently, the system is operating at or near its safe yield. In addition, a water conservation program requires new water hookups to save two gallons for each gallon. Given sufficient overall supplies, these are probably slight constraints on the continuing development that has consumed much of Abington's open space.

### **Sewer Service**

The City of Brockton and the Town of Rockland provide sewage treatment service to the Town of Abington through inter-municipal agreements—Abington exports 1.2 million gallons of sewage daily. The majority of this goes to the City of Brockton. The municipal agreement permits a capacity of 1.5 MGD; the current export is 1.2 MGD. The town also has a municipal agreement with Rockland, which can treat an outflow of 110k per day, which currently takes 74k daily. Connections to Rockland, greater than a 1-2 family project, require Abington and Rockland Sewer Commission authorization.

For background, the ongoing Upper Taunton Basin Wastewater Evaluation Study has been calculating needs and examining ways to make maximum use of existing treatment plants to serve nearby communities. It is considering adding several towns to the Brockton Regional Treatment Plant's service area and slightly increasing Abington's allowed flow **by .1 MGD**. These changes would reflect the significantly reduced flows through the plant (**through reduced infiltration and inflow**) and the much-improved quality of the effluent from the expanded and upgraded plant documented in the respective Notices of Project Change. They would also reflect a lifting of the present Consent Decree limiting plant operations and a proposed increase in allowed discharges under the City's future National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

### **Long-Term Development Patterns**

The long-term development pattern of the community is dictated mainly by land use controls, most significantly by the Zoning By-Law and Map, and by physical and natural features such as

wetland areas and the roadway system. The Abington Zoning Map (following) shows that, because of natural and physical location characteristics and public policies, Abington is likely to remain a predominantly residential community, with most space for commercial and business development being maximized.

The town significantly changed its Zoning By-law in 2003 by adding several new districts, including a Transit Oriented District, a Central Business District, a Transitional Commercial District, and a Multiple Use Planned Development District. These districts are discussed below and shown on the accompanying Zoning Map. These 2003 Zoning By-law changes are expected to allow a population level close to the 24,900 persons projected in the Abington Master Plan, given such changes. Since the last update, there has been an additional Marijuana Retail Overlay District, Zone II Watershed District, and Multi-Family Overlay District.

While the land is being consumed at an increasing rate, the density within the town's typical new neighborhoods is declining mainly because of the prevalent 20,000 sq. ft. to 40,000 sq. ft. large lot zone. As a result, the Town is converting land to housing faster than the present population growth. For example, from 1960 to 2000, the population grew by 37.7 percent (from 10,607 to 14,605), while in a slightly shorter 35-year period from 1962 to 1997, residential land increased by 125 percent (from 1,030 to 2,316 acres). Large lot zoning requires more land consumption and the loss of more wildlife habitat for a given population. In contrast, higher-density zoning would require less land for population increase. It would allow needed growth, along with greater land preservation.

During the 1962-1997 period, the Town's developable vacant land decreased from 3,922 acres to 1,982 acres, further reducing the town's development options. Furthermore, the original EOE A build-out analysis found a potential population of 19,275 at full build-out under these regulations. In contrast, the 1999 Master Plan saw the possibility of more dense development. It projected a build-out population of 24,900 persons under the same regulations and initial land resources, but with greater use of the higher-density provisions. Abington has relatively high square footage requirements for housing zoning. Most of the housing requires a 30,000 sq ft lot per single-family home. High-density housing is permitted around different business and commercial zones, requiring 20,000 sq ft lots. Low-density residential Housing, which only allows a 40,000 sq ft lot, is mainly located away from major routes in the western part of town.

The current land use map below shows the relationship between present zoning and actual land uses. However, it does not show causal relationships, as some zoning reflects present uses, while in less developed areas, the zoning is intended to guide the area's future character. Though new development will reflect zoning, the area will remain unchanged, with many continuing legal "non-conforming" uses.

Due to changes in land use categories between 2005 and 2016, it has been hard for towns to get an exact change count over the last decade. Some show apparent changes, though. Commercial and Industrial land use totaled 835.84 acres in 2016, a jump from 611.14 acres in 2005. Abington also saw a significant jump in multi-family homes from roughly 295 acres in 2005 to 850 acres in 2016. Multifamily housing helps provide a varied housing market in town and increases the number of people housed on a parcel, saving more land for conservation or recreation. Overall, the town has about 5,466 acres of land dedicated to housing, an increase from 4020 acres in 2005 for all types combined.

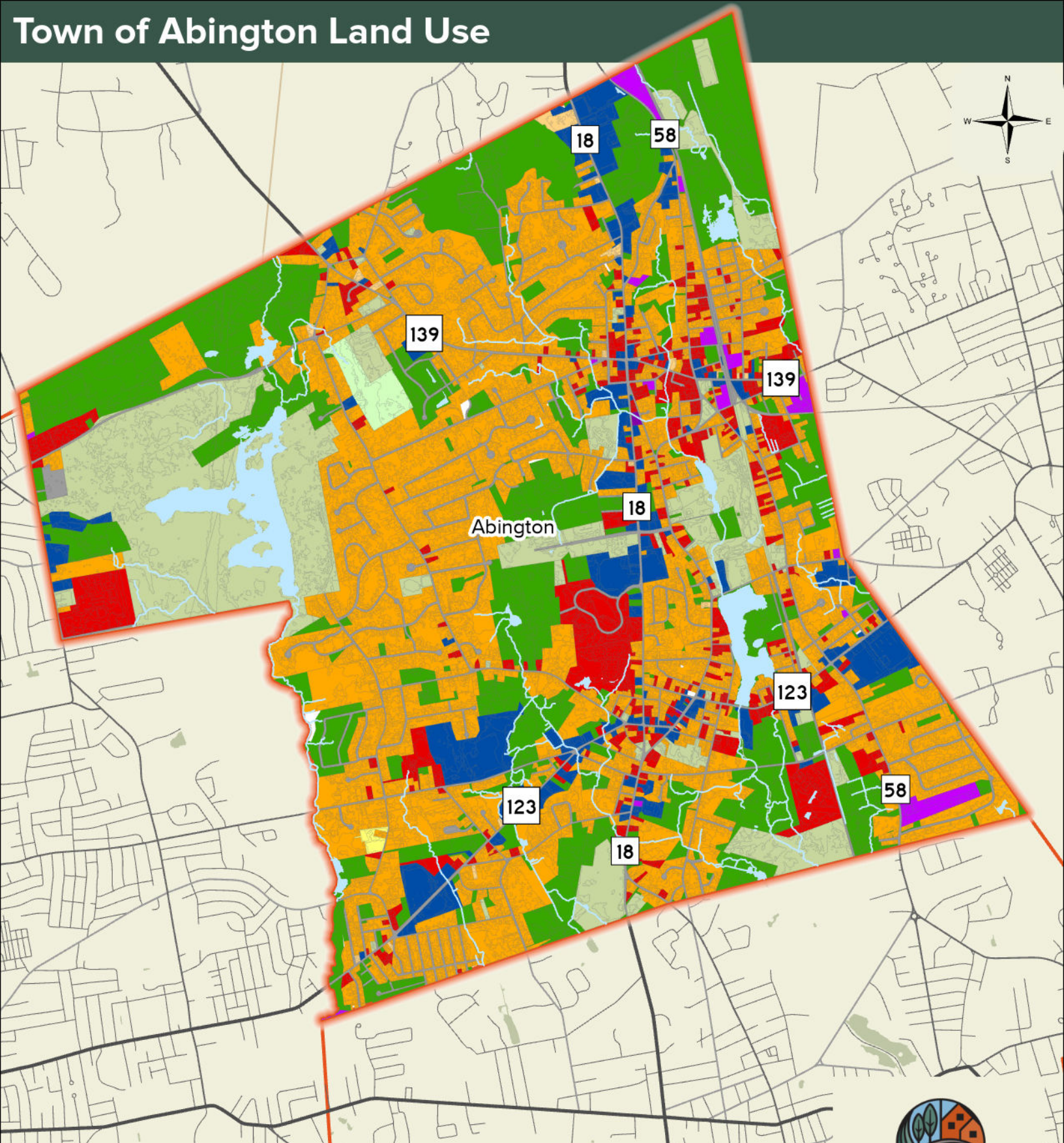
Table 3: Recent Land Use

<b>2016 Land Use</b>	
<b>Use Name</b>	<b>Area in Acres</b>
<i>Agriculture</i>	11.14
<i>Commercial</i>	732.40
<i>Industrial</i>	103.44
<i>Mixed-use, primarily commercial</i>	4.33
<i>Mixed-use, primarily residential</i>	24.06
<i>Open land</i>	2861.59
<i>Recreation</i>	69.54
<i>Residential - multi-family</i>	850.55
<i>Residential - other</i>	8.18
<i>Residential - single-family</i>	4588.54
<i>Right-of-way</i>	811.59
<i>Tax-exempt</i>	1780.96
<i>Unknown</i>	13.03

Table 4: Prior Land Use

<b>2005 Land Use</b>	
<b>Use Name</b>	<b>Area in Acres</b>
<i>Brushland/Successional</i>	37.85
<i>Cemetery</i>	50.73
<i>Commercial</i>	461.23
<i>Cropland</i>	21.65
<i>Forest</i>	4343.49
<i>Forested Wetland</i>	1303.73
<i>Golf Course</i>	67.40
<i>High Density Residential</i>	112.89
<i>Industrial</i>	149.91
<i>Junkyard</i>	2.72
<i>Low-Density Residential</i>	1086.28
<i>Medium Density Residential</i>	2528.28
<i>Mining</i>	22.68
<i>Multi-Family Residential</i>	294.48
<i>Non-Forested Wetland</i>	279.99
<i>Open Land</i>	52.90
<i>Participation Recreation</i>	123.32
<i>Pasture</i>	88.78
<i>Powerline/Utility</i>	129.59
<i>Transitional</i>	34.37
<i>Transportation</i>	262.18
<i>Urban Public/Institutional</i>	84.72
<i>Very low-density residential</i>	21.22
<i>Water</i>	300.84

# Town of Abington Land Use



- Land Use
- Generalized Use Name
- Agriculture
  - Commercial
  - Industrial
  - Mixed use, primarily commercial
  - Mixed use, primarily residential

- Open land
- Recreation
- Residential - multi-family
- Residential - other
- Residential - single family
- Right-of-way
- Tax exempt<sup>38</sup>
- Lakes and Ponds

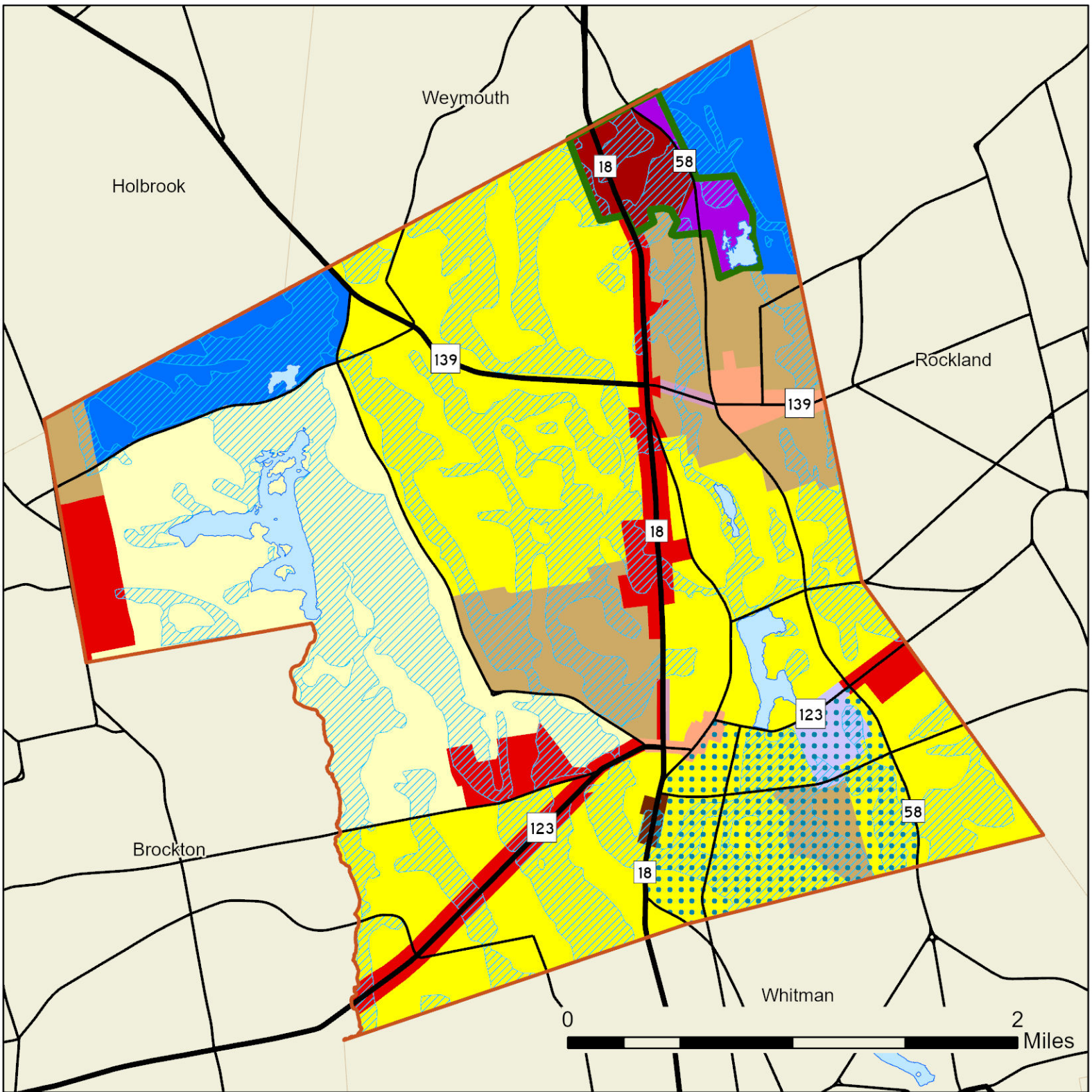


**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL

70 School Street  
Brockton, MA 02301  
oldcolonyplanning.org  
Created July 2025

GIS Data Sources: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), MassDOT, OCPC

# Town of Abington Zoning



- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Low Density Residential                |  Transitional Commercial       |
|  Medium Density Residential             |  Business Development District |
|  High Density Residential               |  General Commercial            |
|  Multi-Use Planned Development District |  Industrial                    |
|  Transit Oriented Development           |  Floodplain Wetlands District  |
|  Central Business District              |  Marijuana Overlay District    |
|  Highway Commercial                     |  Watershed Protection District |



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70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301  
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Created February 2025

GIS Data Sources: Town of Abington,  
MA Department of Transportation  
(MassDOT), Office of Geographic  
Information (MassGIS)

## **Zoning Definitions**

### *Flood Plain and Wetlands Protection District (FW)*

The Flood Plain and Wetlands Protection Overlay District protects the town's ecology. The District's regulations are intended to protect and preserve the marshes, bogs, ponds, water courses, and their inclusively defined adjoining wetlands. The district also reduces the hazards of flooding. It protects the floodplain's occupants by providing the means for the land to absorb, transmit, and store runoff and to retain sufficient floodway areas to convey probable water flows.

### *Watershed Protection District*

The purpose of the WPD is to protect public health by preventing contamination of the ground and surface water resources, both existing and future, that provide drinking water to the Town. Because pollution of groundwater resources can occur due to the cumulative effect of many insignificant uses, parameters for land use in these specific areas need to be established to avoid pollutants affecting water supplies.

### *Transit Oriented Development (TOD) District*

The purpose of the TOD District is to encourage more intensive development near the Abington commuter rail station. It promotes land uses that complement the existing commuter rail line and the established nearby neighborhoods. It does so by allowing a mix of minor uses on well-buffered sites to support and serve commuters and adjacent residential development, to encourage the continued use of rail service, and to increase the number of pedestrian and bicycle trips while decreasing the number of local automobile trips.

### *Central Business District (CBD)*

The Central Business District allows the reasonable use, enhancement, expansion, and redevelopment of the North Abington business district and Abington Center. The town's two older established business districts developed intensively with on-street parking and shared scattered off-street lots. The provisions allow new buildings to be set close to the sidewalk or street line to encourage pedestrian access, maintain pedestrian connections to adjacent properties, and allow off-site or shared parking. They also provide for residential uses in mixed-use developments.

### *Business District*

Business Development, BD – To primarily establish general commercial and business uses that require or cater to traffic-oriented business, pass-by visibility, and adequate large vehicle or large volume access as provided by the state highway, but also prohibiting the future development of residential uses

### *Multiple Use Planned Development (MUPD) District*

The Multiple Use Planned Development District was designed to set standards for the overall planned mixed-use development of the land in two largely undeveloped areas of the town. The District attempts to accommodate low-impact activities in an overall "campus" setting. The new uses would be in compact, intensive clusters, using natural features, vegetation, screening, and setbacks to retain an open space character from the road. Thus, it would have minimal impacts on surrounding land uses such as the Ames Nowell State Park. The regulations support a more flexible planned development process than is possible through conventional zoning.

### *Transitional Commercial District*

The Transitional Commercial District seeks to preserve the existing residential character along major thoroughfares under pressure for commercial development by allowing a transition to more intensive but compatible uses. It emphasizes the preservation and adaptive reuse of existing structures, provides for buffers and uses compatible with nearby residential areas, and gives property owners an additional opportunity to use their land without severely diminishing nearby properties' amenity and residential value. It seeks to minimize congestion on major streets and to protect the character and appearance of areas that are critical elements of the town by allowing limited, low-traffic generating non-residential uses that can operate in adapted/expanded existing houses or incompatible new small-scale office/ retail buildings.

### *Marijuana Overlay District*

To provide for the placement of adult-use marijuana establishments, by An Act To Ensure Safe Access to Marijuana, c. 55 of the Acts of 2017, and all regulations which have or may be issued by the Cannabis Control Commission, including, but not limited to 935 CMR 500.00, in locations suitable for such uses, which will minimize adverse impacts of marijuana establishments on adjacent properties, residential neighborhoods, schools, playgrounds, public beaches and other places where minors congregate by regulating the siting, design, placement, security, and removal of marijuana establishments.

### *High-Density Residential R-20*

The R-20 District permits single-family detached houses on 20,000 sq. ft. lots. In contrast, specially permitted two-family houses, single-family attached houses (townhouses) in groups of up to four units, and apartments and multi-unit condominium buildings require 40,000 sq. ft. lots. Despite being called "High Density," the district's highest density, slightly larger than ten units per acre, is about the same as single-family lots in older, close-built suburbs.

### *Medium Density Residential R-30*

The district requires a minimum of 30,000 sq. ft. to provide a spacious single-family detached environment. It excludes two-family or attached dwellings, apartments, and multi-unit condominiums. Special permits allow various health, social service, and recreation facilities.

### *Low Density Residential R-40*

This district intends to provide exceptionally spacious neighborhoods with at least 40,000 square feet. Although the R-40 Residential District does not allow two-family homes, attached houses, or multi-unit dwellings per se, it does allow Accessory Apartments. It also allows various health, social service, and recreational facilities by special permit.

### *General Commercial (GC)*

The GC District is intended to accommodate centrally located, compact, accessible business centers with adequate vehicular access, exclude noxious or land-expansive uses, and be as pedestrian-friendly as possible. It allows diverse retail and service uses as of right or by special permit and excludes most industrial uses. It allows one—and two-family houses as of right. It excludes attached and multi-unit housing.

### *Highway Commercial (HC)*

The HC District is intended to accommodate businesses catering to auto-oriented markets or needing relatively large sites, which would be inappropriate downtown. It allows varied retail and service uses as-of-right or by special permit. It also allows single-family and two-family houses, apartments, and motels by special permit. The district requires 20,000 sq. ft. lots for most uses, but Section 7-3 again calls for 40,000 sq. ft. lots for any attached or multi-unit housing. Coverage is limited only to yard and parking requirements.

### *Industrial (I)*

To reserve areas for industry development that will be compatible with the Town and the immediate area.

## Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

### A. Geology, Soils, and Topography

Most of the surficial materials in Massachusetts are deposits of the last two continental ice sheets that covered New England in the latter part of the Pleistocene ice age. The glacial deposits are divided into two broad categories: glacial till and moraine deposits, and glacial stratified deposits. Widespread till deposits were laid down directly on bedrock on semi-consolidated coastal plain strata by glacier ice. Tills in thick-till (>15 ft thick) drumlin landforms are found throughout the State. Areas of shallow bedrock contain thin discontinuous till deposits and several bedrock outcrops and are located chiefly in rocky upland areas. Moraine deposits related to the last ice sheet's glacial ice lobes are primarily located in southeastern Massachusetts. Glacial stratified deposits concentrated in valleys and lowland areas were laid down by glacial meltwater in streams, lakes, and the sea before the retreating ice margin during the last deglaciation. Postglacial deposits, primarily floodplain alluvium and swamp deposits, comprise a lesser proportion of the unconsolidated materials.

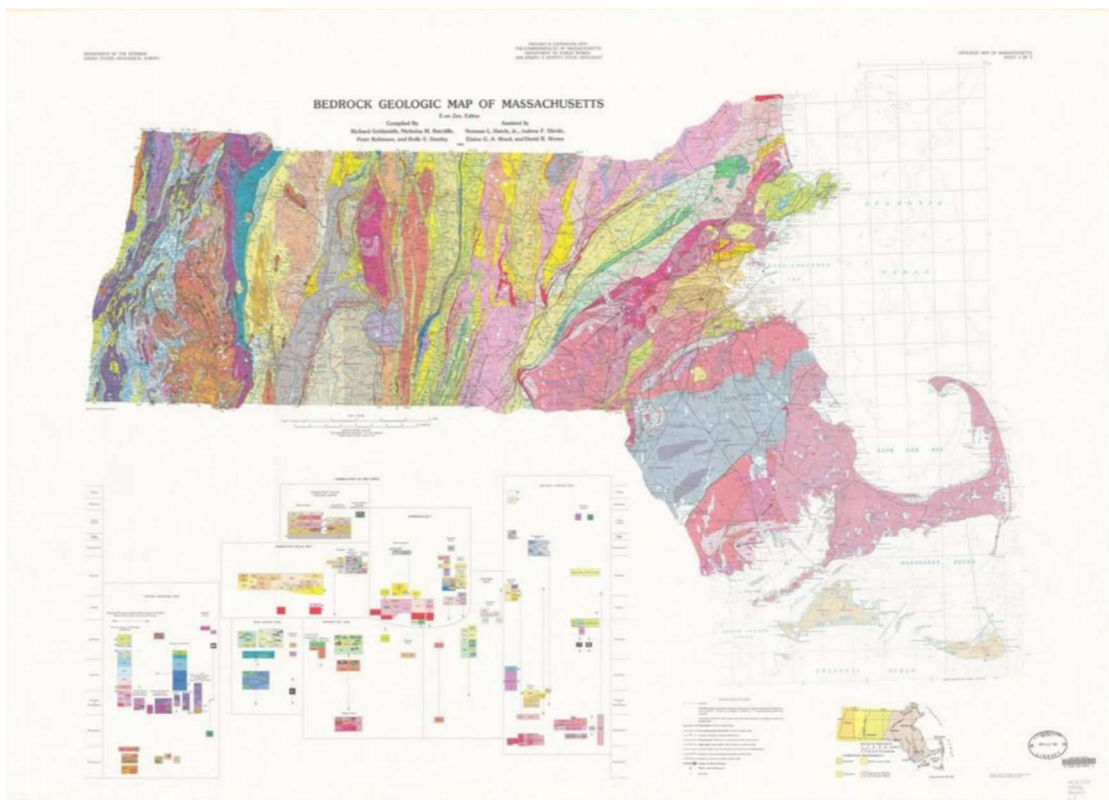


Figure 14: USGS Map of Statewide Bedrock

**Bedrock Geology:** The geology of Abington was formed by glacial ice sheets that blanketed much of southeastern Massachusetts. As the glaciers began to melt and recede, the landscape formed, and a basin was created in the present Hockomock Swamp (known to geologists as the Leverett Sea). As the ice continued to retreat, it revealed the region's characteristic north-south drumlins formed by the moving ice. The Hubbard Uplift eliminated much of the Leverett Sea and created the north-south drainage pattern in Abington.

**Surficial Geology:** Surficial geology is the basis for both natural systems and human use and provides valuable information about an area's environmental potential and vulnerabilities. The glaciers that covered New England more than 20,000 years ago left their mark on the South Shore of Massachusetts. As the two-mile-thick layer of ice moved south, it scraped the solid rock beneath it and carried along stones and soil. A mix of material ranging from clay to boulders (glacial till) was deposited at the glacier's base as it passed over the area. About 19,000 years ago, the temperature began to rise, and the ice slowly retreated. As the ice melted, the melting water deposited sand and gravel, referred to as outwash.

The ice front retreat formed a series of glacial lakes in low areas between the ice margin and the deglaciated terrain. The largest glacial lake in southeastern Massachusetts developed in the Taunton River valley and is commonly referred to as Glacial Lake Taunton; it covers the west-central part of Plymouth County and extends into Bristol County. The lake's surface was 55-65 feet above sea level. Deposited within this lake are fine-textured sediments consisting of varied silts and clays greater than one hundred feet thick in some areas (Hartshorn, 1960). The Jones River was the outlet for the lake during its final stages before filling with sediments. The clay deposited within the lake has been mined to make bricks. Soils associated with Glacial Lake Taunton include the Scio, Raynham, Birdsall, and Enosburg series; some of the best farmland soils are mapped within this area. Extensive peatlands such as the Hockomock Swamp, the largest continuous swamp in southern New England, have formed in the low elevations of Glacial Lake Taunton.

### **Soils Topography**

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service lists two major soil associations in Abington. Since these can contain very different soils, the functional characteristics depend on the mix and patterns. Scituate and Hollis-type soils are common in this area as a lasting impact from former glaciers.

- a. The Scituate - Essex-Merrimac Association covers the southern two-thirds of the town. It includes deep, nearly level to moderately steep, well-drained, moderately drained soils formed in glacial till, and almost level, somewhat excessively drained soils formed in sand and gravel.

- b. The Hollis-Charton-Essex-Muck Association covers one-third of the northern part of town. It includes rolling, somewhat excessively drained, and well-drained soils, deep and shallow bedrock formed in glacial till, and level, very poorly drained organic soils.

This would suggest that much of the town would accept water readily and be suitable for septic systems through the very tight muck areas, and those with considerable hardpan would exclude such systems. However, the limitations are more significant because many of the soils have a seasonally high-water table that commonly limits on-site wastewater disposal systems even in porous soils, and because some of the "excessively drained" very coarse soils give inadequate treatment to the effluent. Fortunately, Abington is primarily on Town Water and Sewer at this point, and through a collaboration of Mutual Town Agreements, it can create connections to different treatment centers. Please see Section III for an elaborate breakdown of how and where water usage in Abington is.

### **Landslides:**

Landslides include a wide range of ground movements, such as rock falls, deep failure of slopes, and shallow debris flows. Although gravity, acting on an over-steepened slope, is a factor in landslides, other contributing factors exist—the Commonwealth of Massachusetts classified areas of risk for Landslides in its [2018 statewide Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). No area of Abington was considered at risk for Landslides. While Plymouth and other coastal communities found on the north shore show some low risk, most of the landslide potential in Massachusetts falls along the mountains in Western Massachusetts. This data was not included in the [2022 Climate Change Report](#) for the state, but the threat of inland flooding can create landslide-like conditions in the Town.

Topography and drainage have caused impact to recreational opportunities in Abington. Abington faces challenges with fields flooding and slow drainage including the sports fields behind Abington Middle and High School and portions of Arnold Park. This can cause periods of time where fields are not able to be used as they are water logged. Soils and wetlands control the development outline of the Town, similar to much of the south shore. Abington is very built out with the best draining soils being used for housing and development. Wetlands and poor draining areas are inaccessible to development but also create barriers in creating recreation opportunities. Many opportunities for hiking in conservation land will require significant buffers around wetlands.

### *Landscape Character*

Abington's landforms are typical of Southeastern Massachusetts, with a gently rolling landscape draining to the South, primarily along the Shumatuscacant River in the east and Beaver Brook on the Brockton line. Elevations range from valleys of 80 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL) along the River south of Summer Street to a 200'+/- knoll near Lincoln and Hancock Streets, and a peak of 250' on the Brockton line leading to the placement of the water tower on Chestnut St.

A significant but subtle feature is a shallow drumlin rising to over 200 feet above MSL along Hancock Street. Floodplains of streams and brooks flow through low-lying areas within the Town.

Abington's landscape character is best described as rolling and wooded, with some remaining open fields. Many of the natural areas are blocked from view by roadside businesses and housing developments. A significant exception is the woodland on the north side of Chestnut Street across from Ames Nowell State Park.

Another landscape asset is the town's system of streams and ponds. Abington is at the head of three river basins, and though small water catchment areas limit them, they have scenic, recreational, and wildlife value and are potentially important for flood control.

### *Water Resources*

**Watersheds:** Abington is divided into six drainage areas or watersheds within three river basins: the Taunton River, North River, and Weymouth Back River Basins. However, most of Abington (87%) is within the Taunton River Basin. Meadow Brook, Beaver Brook, Stream River, and the Shumatuscacant River flow southerly to the Taunton River and then onto Mt. Hope Bay. The Shumatuscacant River serves the central watershed area of the town and flows through the recharge area for the Abington-Rockland Joint Water Works Myers Avenue wells. The recharge the Shumatuscacant River offers to this groundwater supply can be affected by upstream development and activities.

#### ***The Three Basins and Drainage Areas:***

- Taunton River Basin
  - Central Abington - 5.48 square miles drain into the Stream River and the Shumatuscant River into Whitman.
- Southwest Abington -0.40 square miles; drains into Meadow Brook in Whitman.
  - West Abington - 2.82 square miles; drains into Beaver Brook in Abington.
- North River Basin

- Northeast Abington- 0.91 square miles; drains into French Stream, Rockland. Southeast Abington- 0.29 square miles; drains into Beech Hill Swamp, Rockland.
- Weymouth Basin
  - Northwest Abington- 0.07 square miles; drains into Holbrook via Trout Brook.

As noted previously, Central Watershed, with its 5.48 square miles, is the largest in Abington. The most significant hydrologic aspect of this watershed is that it is the drainage area for the wells located off Myers Avenue in the southern part of the town; that is, the aquifer that supplied the Myers Avenue wells is under this watershed. To protect this recharge area from pollution and development that would inhibit recharge, the Abington Rockland Joint Water Works owns over 60 acres of land near the wells.

**Water Contamination:** As of the 2022 Integrated List of Waters report, and listed in the categories below, there are pollutants in local waters in Abington. This takes an inventory of Massachusetts's ponds, lakes, streams, and coastal waters and creates a report about their current condition. Data is anticipated to be updated in 2024 and 2026. The state outlines reporting as,

“A waterbody is considered impaired (i.e., unhealthy) if pollutants limit or prevent beneficial uses and services. [The Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards \(314 CMR 4.00\)](#) regulation establishes designated uses for surface waters and water quality criteria to protect and sustain waterbodies that pollutants may otherwise impair. If a water body is assessed as impaired, the federal Clean Water Act requires states to develop a TMDL. [TMDLs are Maximum Daily Loads](#). This calculates the maximum pollutant level (i.e., load) that a water body can receive while continuing to meet water quality standards.”

The table below outlines the status of water bodies in Abington.

*Table 5: Integrated Water Report 2022*

<a href="#">Integrated Water Report 2022 Abington, MA</a>	
Cushing Pond	4C- Impaired – Not caused by a Pollutant
Cleveland Pond	5- Impaired – TMDL Required
Island Grove Pond	5- Impaired – TMDL Required
Shumatuscacant River	5- Impaired – TMDL Required
Beaver Brook	4A- Impaired TMDL is Completed

**Rivers and Streams:** Most of Abington lies at the headwaters of the Taunton River Watershed. Approximately 87% of the town drains into the Taunton River Basin via the Shumatuscacant River, Beaver Brook, Meadow Brook, and the Stream River. The Shumatuscacant River is the most significant stream in Abington and is formed from several small tributaries in North Abington. The river winds down the east side of town behind the Frolio School and Early Childhood Center to Island Grove Pond, where a 13-foot earth-filled dam impounds the water. It continues below Centre Avenue and through a large wetland area near the town's wells, into the town of Whitman.

The Stream River joins the Shumatuscacant River in Whitman. It begins in Abington, just east of High Street, in Conservation Commission-owned wetlands. It flows northerly (the only stream that does so in Abington) for several hundred feet, crossing Ashland and Groveland Streets, where it joins several other small tributaries at the edge of the former town landfill. As of the 2022 Impaired Waters and TMDL report, the Shumatuscacant River is impaired and needs a TMDL.

The other major local stream is Beaver Brook, which begins in Holbrook and flows south through Cushing, Cleveland, and Hunt's Ponds into Brockton and Whitman. Protected lands along the brook include Brockton conservation land and the Ames Nowell State Park in Abington. Like all of Abington's streams, Beaver Brook has limited flows. Beaver Brook is Impaired and has a completed TMDL.

**Ponds:** The town is fortunate to have several ponds. Three are on Beaver Brook. The largest is Cleveland Pond (88 acres) in Ames Nowell State Park, bordered by woods, a park access point, swamp land, and the pond's bridged control structure. Although swimming is reportedly prohibited because of shallow depths and algae, some people swim anyway. Boating and fishing are allowed. Cleveland Pond is impaired currently and requires a TMDL.

Just north of Cleveland Pond and visible from Chestnut Street is the beautiful, scenic, privately owned 10-acre Cushing Pond. Townland is to the north and west, but there is no public pond frontage except along Chestnut Street.

Hunt's Pond (6 acres) off Mill Street is the smallest of the three Beaver Brook ponds. It is bordered on its eastern edge by protected agricultural land. (See discussion of the Valatka Conservation land.)

The Shumatuscacant River has two impounded ponds. The largest and most popular pond in Abington is the town-owned Island Grove Pond (35 acres), located between Washington and Plymouth Streets in the center of Abington. Island Grove Pond has an enclosed swimming area fed by well water that flows through the swimming basin into the pond itself. While access to the western side of the pond is limited by residential development, the Wilson Memorial Bridge reaches the eastern side. This is the town-owned Island Grove Park.

A third pond, Thompson's Pond, is located between the railroad tracks and the former naval air station, just north of Savine Street. A much smaller unnamed pond to the north is unusual in natural ponds rather than impoundments. Thompson's Pond drains to the uppermost portion of French Brook, which flows to the South Coastal drainage basin.

**Aquifer, Recharge Areas, and Well**

**Sites:** The town's aquifer recharge areas are shown by the Aquifer areas and the interim Wellhead Protection Areas (Zone II) on the Water Resources Map, and by any delineated Zone II areas (see zoning map in section 3). The Abington Zoning By-Law has a Watershed Protection District to protect these aquifer recharge areas. It is mapped around the Myers' Avenue town water wells and is bounded by Routes 18 and 58, Centre Avenue, and the Whitman town line.



Figure 16: Thompson Pond

**Wetlands:** Abington's streams, ponds, extensive wetlands, and floodplain areas form a complex pattern that constitutes the town's drainage system. This natural drainage system channels water and stormwater runoff and provides holding areas for excess water. The wetlands near the Abington wells also allow groundwater recharge. These three functions, drainage, flood protection, and groundwater replenishment, are critical for the town's floodplain/wetlands system.

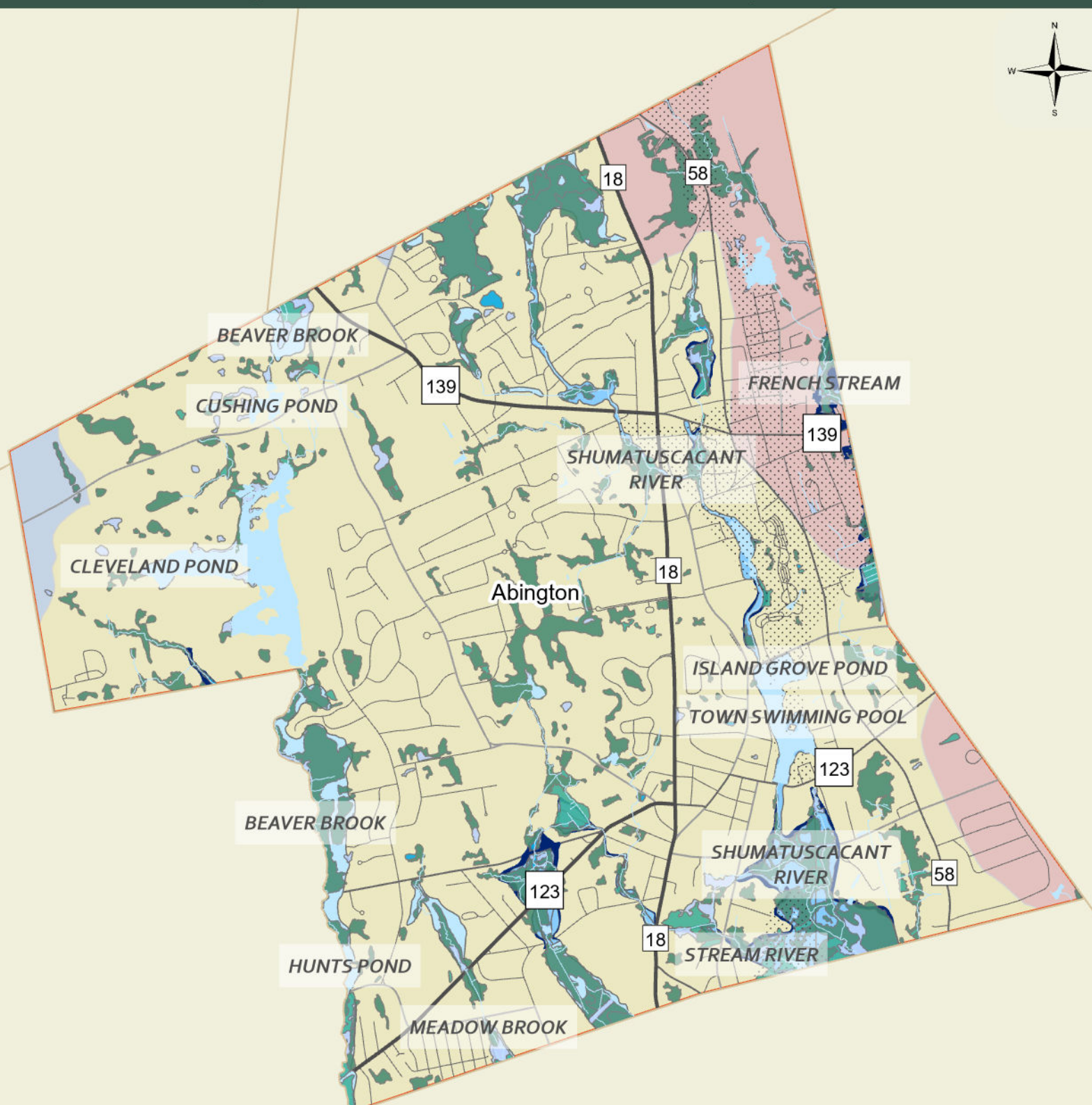
Areas within the Floodplain and Wetlands Protection Zoning District make up almost half of the town's land area. These are subject to seasonal or periodic flooding or have severe housing limitations. The flood hazard areas are limited because Abington is at the headwaters of the Taunton River Basin and has limited stream flows. In addition, little impervious development upstream would increase storm flows and downstream flooding in Abington.

**Flood Hazard Areas:** The *Town of Abington Soil Drainage* map identifies areas with poorly draining soil and very poorly drained soil. These areas are close to rivers that run through town along the West border and through the center of town. Inland flooding of existing parks has been an ongoing challenge for the town. Some examples are Griffins Dairy, especially in the spring after snow melt, when the water table is high, you can see water pooling on the trails, and the wetlands are flooded towards the back of the property. The sports fields at the high school are also flooding during snow melt or long periods of rain due to poorly-draining soils. According to Abington's research for the Hazard Mitigation Plan, less than 10% of the town is affected by damaging flood conditions. Participants of that plan identified many different areas in town that have visible flooding:

- Route 123 and Route 139
- Lynwood Street towards Mill Street (in the front of new development and former farm property)
- John L. Sullivan Way
- Center Avenue
- Buckboard Lane
- Carriage Hill Drive
- Dorsey Street
- Green Street Park
- Meadow on Platt Street that borders French Stream
- West Chapel Street (area reported since new development)
- Lincoln Street
- Hancock Street
- Central Street east of Route 58
- Route 18
- Wyman Road and Summit Road
- Behind Frolio Middle School

**Landfills:** The Town of Abington has one previous landfill site. The unlined former 13-acre Abington Landfill is on Groveland Street. It served the town's solid waste disposal needs from 1940 to 1975. The landfill was closed and capped in 1984 when the Town entered into a solid waste disposal contract and no longer disposed of refuse in town. However, the capping was unsatisfactory, and the Town is under an Administrative Consent Order from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to recap it with the work done by 2009. Limited funds delayed the work, but the town contracted with SEA Engineering, which has monitoring wells at the site and prepared plans for capping the landfill in accordance with DEP requirements, FY 2015. Subsequently, the Board of Selectmen voted in early 2014 to seek a No Action ruling from the DEP. This would indicate that over time, the landfill has ceased to be significantly hazardous and no further capping is required. The town anticipates such a response, as there has been no sign of disapproval.

# Town of Abington Water Resources Map



- Wetlands by Type**
- Deep Marsh
  - Shallow Marsh Meadow
  - Shrub Swamp
  - Wooded Swamp Varieties
  - Rivers and Streams
  - Lakes and Ponds

- FEMA National Flood Zones**
- A
  - AE
  - AH
  - AO
  - AREA NOT INCLUDED
  - D
  - VE

- X
- Aquifer Recharge
- Watersheds of OCPC**
- BUZZARDS BAY
- NEPONSET
- SOUTH COASTAL
- TAUNTON
- WEIR



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Created Month Year  
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## **B. Vegetation**

**Forest Plant Community:** Abington's undeveloped land is primarily woodland, and more specifically, wooded swampland. The previous plan documented the continuous shrinking of undeveloped woodland in the town. "Twenty Years of Change" Reports noted that farmland decreased by 75 acres between 1971 and 1991 and by an additional 59 acres in 1999. Forests decreased by over 600 acres in this same time frame.

Like much of Massachusetts, Abington's open space primarily consists of new-growth forests formerly clear-cut for agricultural land. The Deciduous Forests of Massachusetts consist of evergreen trees such as White and Red Pine, and Hemlock, and a large variety of deciduous trees, including various types of oak and maples, with others like Ash, Willow, Birch, and Beech scattered through. The understory has multiple shrubs such as high-bush blueberry, low-bush blueberry, sweet pepperbush, swamp azalea, speckled alder, and many viburnums. Abington is fortunate to have large tracts of forests conserved throughout the town, even though there has been an increase in development since the turn of the century.

**Open Field Plant Community:** Abington has several large open fields supporting an abundant wildlife community. While some of these are still in agricultural use, others are preserved as conservation land, such as Griffin's Dairy off Plymouth St and Wright's Meadow off Summer St. Milkweed, Junipers, goldenrod, meadowsweet, asters, grasses, sedges, and wildflowers are examples of plants found in these open areas. Open fields are valued for their scenic qualities and grassland habitat, but they require maintenance to remain open. This includes mowing for hay or controlled burning once a year. This should be done in the second week of September, after most field-nesting animals have finished nesting, otherwise they will return to forested land gradually, as Wright's Meadow has begun to.

In addition to these open fields, the Town also maintains a Golf Course. While not a traditional open field boasting tall grasses, many wildlife find this suitable, and it increases the Edge Habitat for animals that thrive in those conditions, including many bird species.

**Edge Plant Community:** Between field and forest (or in some cases between forest and power line easement) is the "edge" plant community consisting of dogwoods, poplars, arrowwood, sumac, raspberries, and blackberries. These edge plant communities are of exceptionally high wildlife value as an abundant source of food and cover. These areas are particularly attractive to animals looking to graze while remaining hidden, such as deer and rabbits. Edge habitat also creates a hunting ground for Birds of Prey, who may perch up in trees while overseeing a field to regulate rodent populations.

**Wetland Plant Communities:** Wetlands are abundant with plants that work to absorb and filter water. Emergent wetland species include different varieties of rush and sedge, cattail, and cowslip. Wetlands have become increasingly encroached by invasive species, including phragmites and purple loosestrife, with Japanese Knotweed crouching on the borders. Wetland edges are often vegetated with bushes, such as the scrub-shrub. The edges of the wetland area are vegetated with plants such as winterberry, high bush blueberry, poison sumac, and buttonbush. The dominant trees in forested wetlands are red maple, swamp white oak, white pine, yellow birch, and Atlantic white cedar.

**Invasive Species:** Invasive species are non-native species that cause or are likely to cause harm to ecosystems, economies, and public health (NISC, 2006). Although invasive species can be any organism, including marine organisms, insects, and birds, this Plan focuses on invasive terrestrial plants, as these are the most studied and managed invasive species.

Abington's native vegetation is threatened by invasive plant species such as purple loosestrife, Asian bitterweet phragmites, multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese Knotweed, and euonymus species. For example, many of these species can be found in Island Grove Pond. These invasive exotic plants provide a seed bank threatening the native vegetation in Abington's wilderness areas. If unchecked, some invasive exotic species out-compete native vegetation, reduce wildlife habitat, lessen the variety of plants, and dominate the landscape. Poison Ivy, although native, is also a problem for the community.

**Rare and Endangered Plants:**

There are no state-identified Rare and Endangered Plants in the Town of Abington.

**Street Trees / Public Shade Trees:** Public shade trees are essential to the community's infrastructure. Not only do large trees provide aesthetic value to a community's streets and natural areas, but they also provide value as "green infrastructure" that controls and cleanses stormwater, reduces soil erosion, absorbs carbon and air pollutants, and reduces the "heat island effect" by shading surfaces such as pavement and brick. The Town values street trees and recognizes their contribution to the visual character and sustainable design of neighborhoods. Though street trees are not usually considered part of an open space system, they are in the public right of way, are maintained by the Public Works Department, and, most importantly, add shade and beauty to the town and improve its air quality.

The trees planted are varied hardwoods, with low, flowering trees used when there are overhead wires. After Elms were affected by Dutch Elm Disease, Norway Maples became

the tree of choice, but now they are avoided because they are not native and are a host of Asian Longhorn Beetles. Sweetgum trees are becoming a more popular choice. Selecting the right trees based on size, and maintenance demand is very important for long term success of building a strong canopy. More resources can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/urban-and-community-forestry-fact-sheets>.

Street trees typically live 10 to 15 years on average. As trees need to be replaced in Town spaces, commercial corridors, business parks, and neighborhood streets, alternative species should be planted to provide greater variety and protection against substantial losses caused by diseases that are prone to certain species. To minimize conflict with wires (and roadway contaminants such as salt), trees are planted as much as 15 or 20 feet away from the edge of the road where possible. Additionally, new and replacement street trees should be carefully located so as not to block doorways, storefront windows, and signs. Deciduous trees are strongly encouraged over conifers to provide shade along sidewalks and parking lots and maintain storefront visibility. Existing street trees that are low branching should be pruned up to eight feet above the sidewalk to enhance visibility for walkers and drivers and meet accessibility needs.

The broad use of street trees planted around Abington is a simple and beautiful solution to reducing heating and cooling needs for centers, corridors, and neighborhoods. If seeking cooler temperatures during extreme heat, Island Grove and Ames Nowell State Park have the densest publicly accessible tree canopy and have proven to have reduced temperatures than other spaces in town. Major roadways like Route 18 Bedford St have limited tree canopy due to the commercial nature of this area, which may contribute to increased heat.

When grown on buildings' south and west sides, they maximize the potential to shade homes from the sun in the summer, lowering energy cost and the reverse in the winter, allowing sun to pass through to the building when they are bare to reduce energy demand. Trees surround the municipal buildings and roadway along Gliniewicz Way.

### **C. Fisheries and Wildlife**

Abington's waters, wetlands, and uplands provide homes to numerous species of animals, which offer recreational opportunities. Wildlife corridors are essential to prevent a decline in wildlife by connecting related habitats. Aquatic creatures rely on the connection between brooks and rivers to ponds for spawning fish. Hunts Pond, Cushing Pond, and Cleveland Pond are connected by Beaver Brook in the western part of town. To the east lies the Shumatuscacant River, which connects the Shumatuscacant River Pond and Island Grove Pond

As the above discussion suggests, Abington retains a significant amount of productive wildlife habitat, largely because of the pockets of forested, shrub, and emergent wetland habitats found in proximity to the streams scattered throughout the town. The mixture of wetlands, mature second-growth forests, farmland, and abandoned farmland in various stages of regrowth results in a large amount of critically important "edge" habitat. Edge habitat is where two habitat types meet and encourages larger wildlife populations of greater species variety.

*Mammals-* Most of the common mammal species in Massachusetts are found in Abington, and some less common ones are likely present as well, since otters, gray foxes, and bobcats have been observed in neighboring towns. Woodchucks, cottontail rabbits, gray squirrels, opossums, raccoons, and skunks are abundant. Manomet Conservation Sciences has provided unique footage of local woodland mammals in the region at <https://www.manomet.org/publication/mammals-at-manomet/> .

*Birds-* Abington is in a unique position for those who enjoy birding. While not a coastal community, Abington is close enough to the shore to spot migratory shore birds during their transition periods. More common birds across the Commonwealth also thrive in Abington, including Sparrows, Wrens, Cardinals, Blue Jays, and Woodpeckers, to name a few. Abington also benefits from birds with niche ecological services, such as pollinators like the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird and Birds of Prey that control rodent populations.

*Reptiles, Amphibians, and Fish-* Reptiles and amphibians are very susceptible to environmental impacts, and therefore their presence can be used to determine the quality of an environment. The presence of certain species, such as the Yellow Spotted Salamander, can be used to identify the presence of wetlands. Garter Snakes, Painted Turtles, and Snapping Turtles can all thrive in habitats within Abington, to name a few. The North South River Watershed Association has observed brown trout, pickerel, sunfish, largemouth bass, bream/bluegill, perch, and brook trout. Mass Wildlife stocks the river with rainbow trout.

*Insects and Pollinators-* Insects and pollinators are key to healthy ecosystems in town. From bees and butterflies pollinating flowers to insects that work to maintain healthy soil, they all have a key role in the ecosystem. Preserving green spaces throughout town benefits insects and pollinators, and all other wildlife listed.

**Dams and Fisheries:** Dams and industry built during the 1700s were a major cause of the decline of the fisheries that had been a mainstay food source for early colonial survival. These dams obstructed the upstream migration of anadromous herring, while effluent

from mills and factories killed the breeding fish population and polluted their nursery areas in the river.

With citizens becoming more aware of natural environmental components like flood plains, aquifers, water cycles, groundwater tables, stream flow, and wetlands, with a better understanding of the consequences of human disruption to these components, with tougher environmental laws, and with the closing of riverside industry, the river has begun to clean itself through natural processes and human mitigation.

Abington still has several dams, including Hunts Pond Dam, Island Grove Dam, and Ralph Hewlard (Beaver Brook) Dam. Abington also houses two state-managed dams, Ames Nowell Dam, and one private dam, Cushing Pond Dam. At this time, both dams are reported to be in working condition.

There are no fisheries in Abington at this time.

**Habitat Fragmentation:** Habitat fragmentation, which is the leading source of plant and animal species extinction, is occurring where development can create isolated islands of wildlife habitat. When wildlife is confined to a specific area, competition for food and predation increase, and genetic diversity decreases as mating partners are less available. Wildlife corridors can prevent habitat fragmentation by connecting habitat areas along natural connections such as riverways or fields. Such corridors are not only essential to wildlife but are very valuable for humans doing wilderness activities such as hiking, camping, bird watching, and canoeing.

**Wildlife Corridors:** As the above discussion suggests, Abington retains a significant amount of productive wildlife habitat, primarily because of the pockets of forested, shrub, and emergent wetland habitats near the streams scattered throughout the town. The mixture of wetlands, mature second-growth forests, farmland, and abandoned farmland in various stages of regrowth results in a large amount of critically important "edge" habitat. Edge habitat is where two habitat types meet and encourage larger wildlife populations of greater species variety.

Abington's small tributary streams, ponds, and swampy areas provide suitable habitat for native Black Duck and other waterfowl and muskrats. The brushy borders of such areas provide food and cover for the ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, and hare. Most of the wooded sites in town are small and surrounded by housing. Despite increased development, observations indicate that Abington now has varied wildlife. This would include raccoons, opossums, skunks, coyotes, turkeys, foxes, woodchucks, squirrels, chipmunks, deer, and possibly mink.

## Rare Habitat and Species

Table 6: Rare Species Previously Identified

Rare Species Previously Identified in Town				
Grasshopper Sparrow	Ammodramus savannarum	Bird	Threatened	2005
Hessel's Hairstreak	Callophrys hesseli	Butterfly/Moth	Special Concern	1989

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rare-species-viewer>

## BioMap

One way to determine where land holds the most value to wildlife and water quality is by reviewing the most recent BioMap data produced in 2022 through the state of Massachusetts and The Nature Conservancy. BioMap is defined by the following categories:

- Core Habitat identifies critical areas for the long-term persistence of rare species, exemplary natural communities, and resilient ecosystems across the Commonwealth.
- Critical Natural Landscape identifies large landscape blocks that are minimally impacted by development and buffers to core habitats and coastal areas, both of which enhance connectivity and resilience.
- Local components are additions to Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape, which are assessed from the perspective of each city and town to inform municipalities and others when making local decisions.
- Regional Components are additions to BioMap that are of particular importance for conservation from the perspective of the Northeastern United States.

While Abington may choose other parcels of land for conservation and local relevance, the parcels identified by Biomap consider the Statewide and Regional Importance of land for creating contiguous conservation areas to promote healthy ecosystems.

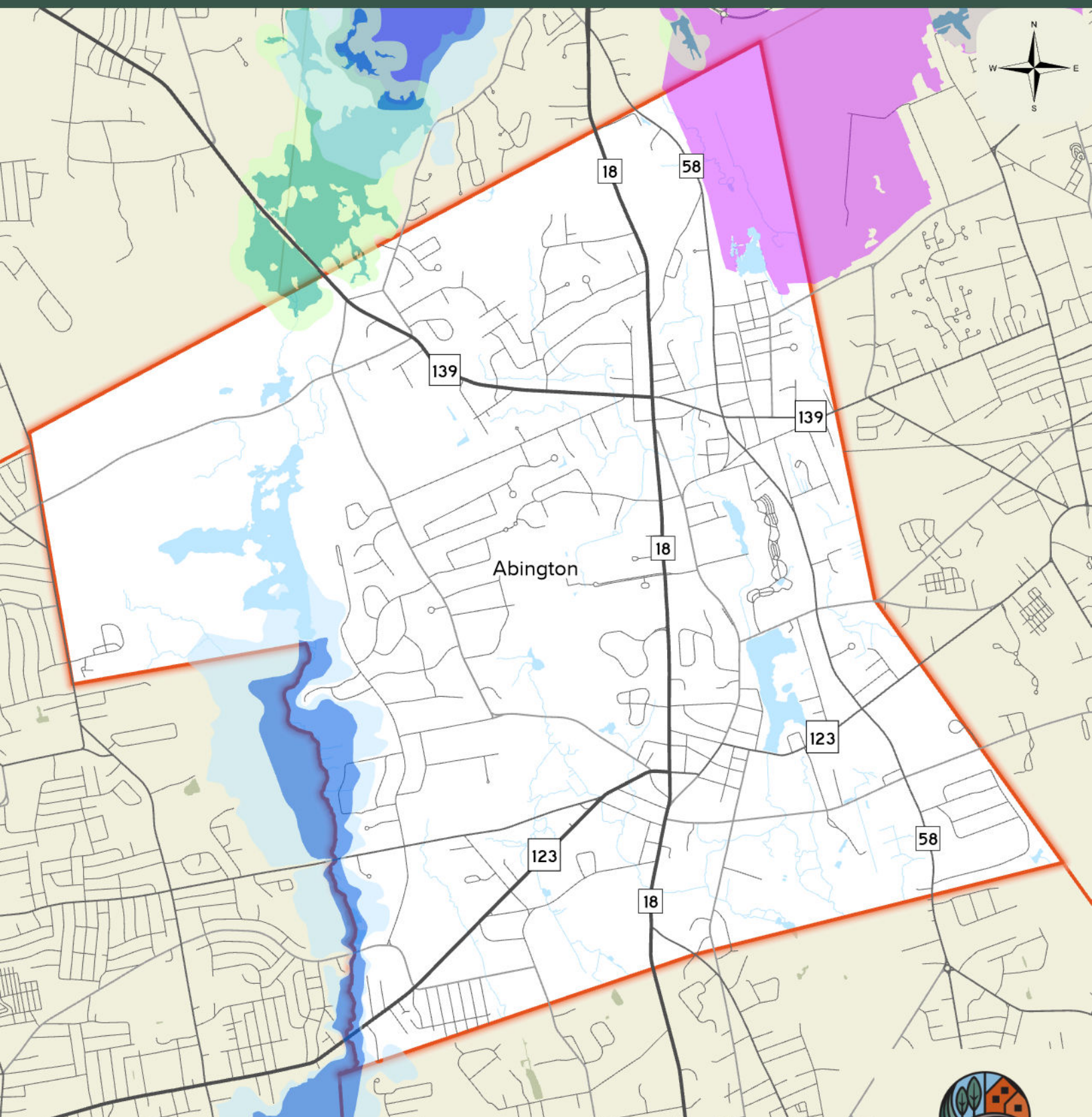
The Top Northern Corner falls under the Rare Species Core, which identifies land that is crucial to previously identified species within town boundaries and two additional regional species of endangerment. The West Boundary of the town, following Beaver Brook along Ames Nowell State Park, is comprised of a Wetland Core and Buffer Zone and an Aquatic Core and Buffer Zone.

### **Abington at a Glance**

- **Total Area:** 6,521.3 acres
  - Total Open Space Protected: 847.0 acres or 13.0% of total area
- **BioMap Core Habitat:** 327.3 acres
  - Covered by Core Habitat: 5.0%
  - Portion Protected: 26.6 acres or 0.4%
- **BioMap Critical Natural Landscape:** 279.4 acres
  - Covered by Critical Natural Landscape: 4.3%
  - Portion Protected: 107.3 acres or 1.6%
- **BioMap Local Components:** 2,051.6 acres
  - Covered by Local Components: 31.5%
  - Portion Protected: 709.6 acres or 10.9%

*Figure 18: Data of BioMap Statistics*

# Town of Abington BioMap



- Priority Natural Communities Core
- Aquatic Core
- Wetland Core
- Rare Species Core
- Forest Core
- Vernal Pool Core
- Aquatic Core Buffer
- Wetland Core Buffer



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Brockton, MA 02301  
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Created Month Year  
GIS Data Sources: Office of  
Geographic Information  
(MassGIS), MassDOT, OCPC

## D. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

**Scenic Landscapes:** Abington has seen significant development since 2000. Though growth slowed from 2010 to 2022, development has impacted the landscape that many long-term residents remember. However, many beautiful natural resources in town can still be spotted when driving or hiking. The following list notes the most prominent local landscape views.

- The view into Ames Nowell State Park from Linwood Street
- The long view across Cleveland Pond from its eastern shore
- The Stunning view across Cushing Pond from Chestnut Street
- The scenic view of the surrounding lands from the highest point in the Strawberry Valley Golf Course
- The views across Island Grove Pond from Central Street and Centre Avenue
- The view north from the top of Hancock Street Hill across Chestnut Street
- Much of Mount Vernon Cemetery



Figure 20: Aerial Photo of Island Grove Bridge

### *Cultural, Archaeological, and Historic Areas*

Abington has many historical homes that date back to the early 1700s and 1800s. Other historical sites include the North Abington Railroad Depot which has been repurposed, Mount Vernon Cemetery, and the remains of several former factories including the Crossett Shoe Factory at 10 Railroad St, a Greeting Card Factory at 98 Temple St, Samuel Colson Shoe Factory at 506 Washington St and Joseph Clevery Shoe Factory at 1331-1333 Washinton St. Many of the buildings along Washington St are Historic dating back as far as 1735. Perhaps the most well-known and recognizable historical site is Island Grove Park. Island Grove Park is known for its historical importance during the Abolition Era.

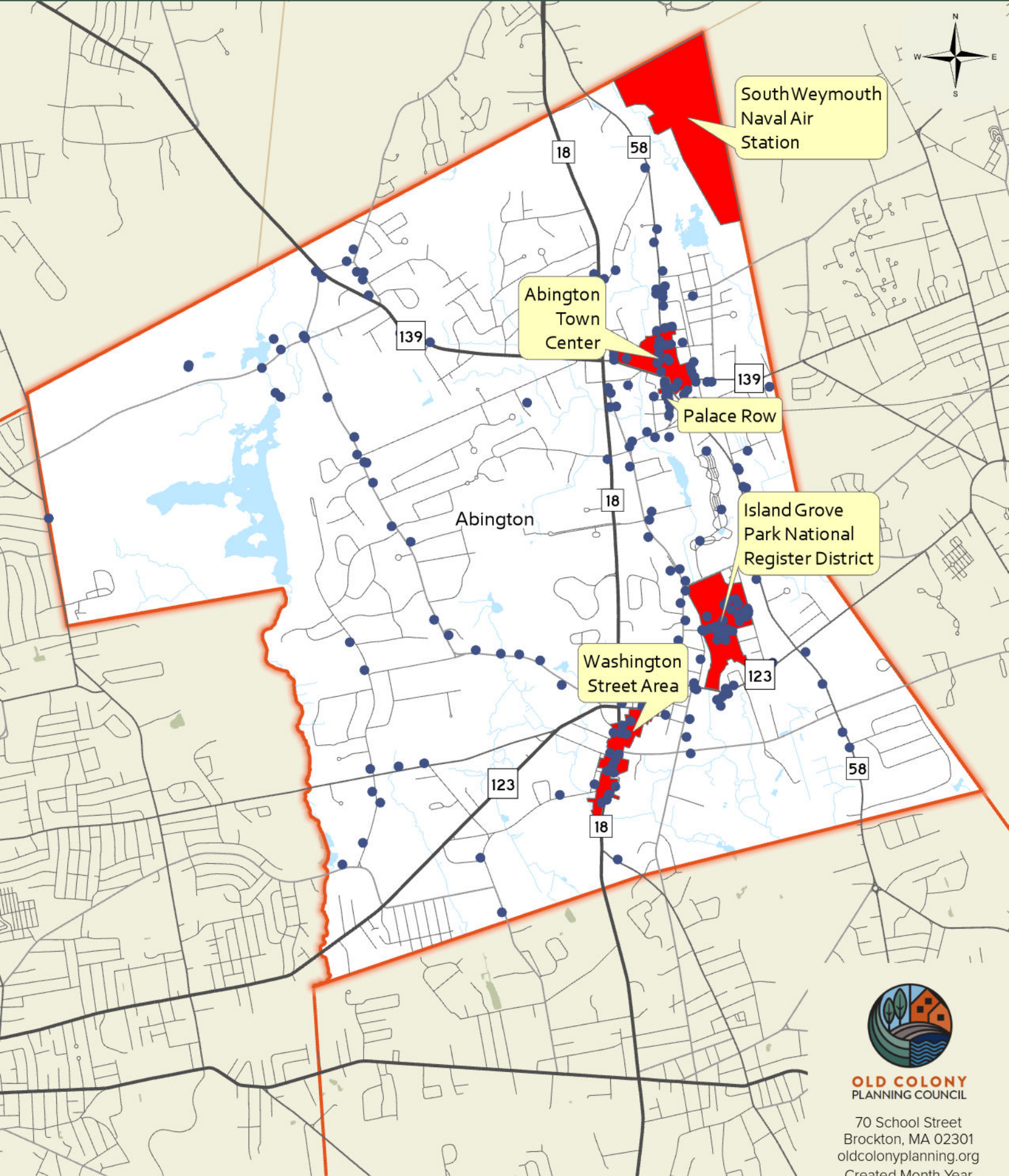
Most notable areas:

- The North Abington Railroad Depot - the only local building on the Federal List of Historic Places, now a restaurant
- Island Grove Park - a Historic Landscape and site of early Abolitionist meetings.
- Mount Vernon Cemetery - a protected Historic Landscape used as a burial ground for early residents.
- The great concentrations of historic properties in the western part of town (such as the handsome colonial house at the southern end of Linwood Street). These reflect the town's agricultural past, but few intact farmsteads remain.
- Victorian homes along Washington Street near Abington Center, along Adams Street from Washington Street to the North School, and along Adams Street from Wales Street to Pine Street. These reflect 19th-century prosperity.
- The archetypical small New England mill just north of Arnold Park.

### **Massachusetts Historical Properties:**

A table with the full list of Historic Designated Properties in Town according to the [Massachusetts Historical Commission \(MACRIS\)](#) can be found at the end of this section.

# Town of Abington Historical Properties and Areas



- Mass Historical Commission Inventory
- Mass Historical Commission Areas

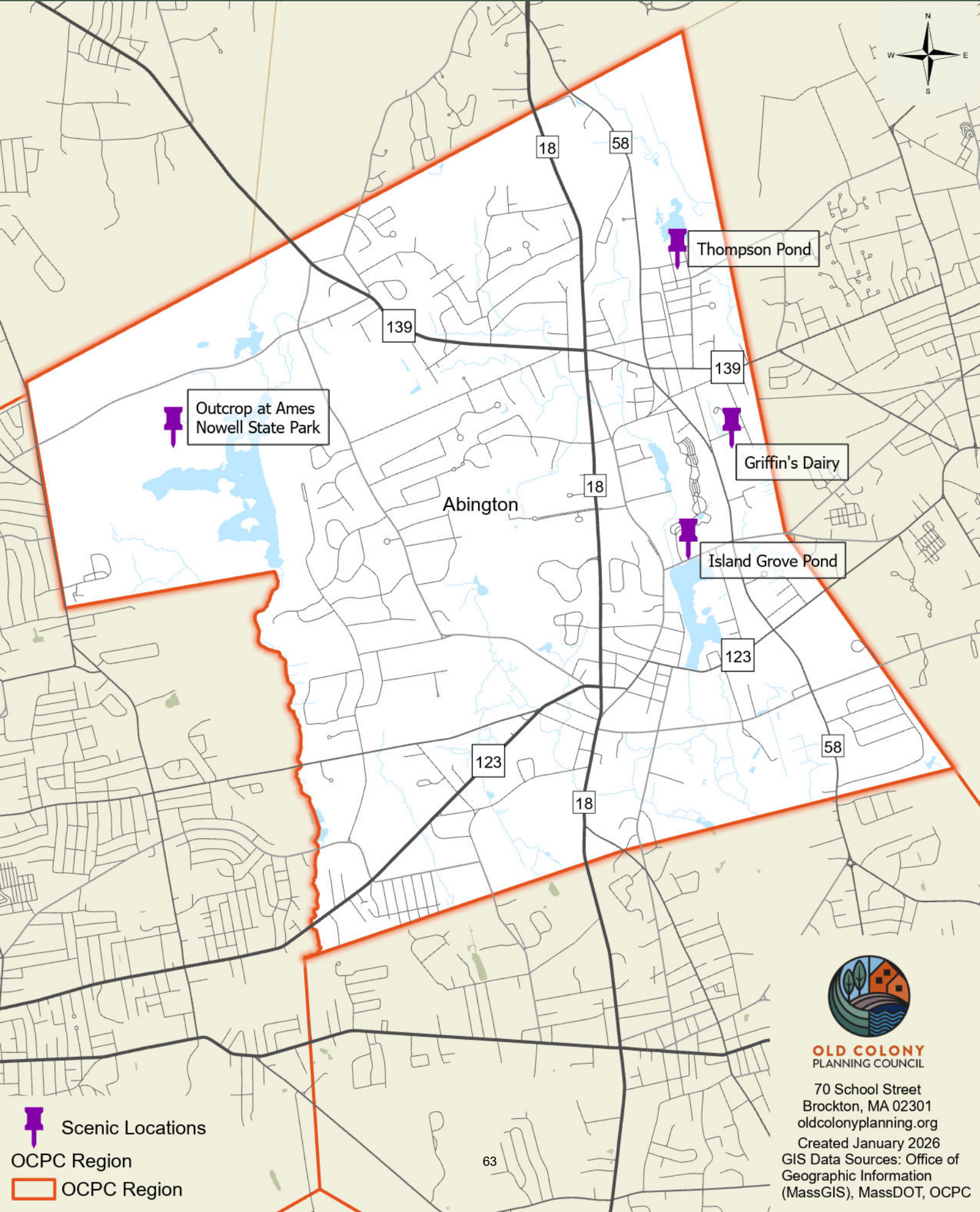




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# Town of Abington Unique Geological Features and Scenic Spaces



-  Scenic Locations
-  OCP Region



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(MassGIS), MassDOT, OCP

### **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC):**

While Abington has many unique and locally significant features, no state-identified Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) exist.

### **Major Characteristics or Unusual Geologic Features and Special Landscape Features:**

Abington borders three different watersheds, a unique feature compared to many other neighboring municipalities. Abington is a part of the Taunton River Watershed, the South Shore Watershed, and the Weir River Watershed. Being at the base of the Weir River watershed and the top of the Taunton River Watershed reemphasizes the importance of water protection in the town.

Ames Nowell State Park offers a pond wrapping around a glacial outcropping. This is the only known exposed geological feature in Abington. The outcrop behind the pond is a very common photographed area. Other popular scenic areas include Thompson Pond, Griffins Dairy which has preserved the water channels historically used for farming, and Island Grove Pond. It is not surprising that the most special landscape features are also some of the most popular passive recreational spaces as they attract visitors of all ages from Abington and the region.

### **E. Environmental Challenges**

**Challenges with Development Impact in Abington:** Development in Abington over the last twenty years has improved housing accessibility and economic growth for the town, creating homes and jobs to offer residents opportunities. Development can also impact the amount of open space available in a town and create environmental challenges such as habitat fragmentation, water quality, and flooding concerns.

Abington has relatively high square footage requirements for housing zoning. Most of the housing requires a 30,000 sq ft lot per single-family home. High-density housing is permitted around different business and commercial zones, requiring 20,000 sq ft lots. Low-density residential Housing, which only allows a 40,000 sq ft lot, is mainly located away from major routes in the western part of town. This method does limit the amount of development that can happen, which often seems like a more sustainable option. However, requiring large lots leads to larger lots needing to be cleared for individual homes, putting pressure on the remaining forested areas in town. Having smaller lots with more space dedicated to preserving open spaces to maintain a small town feeling, limits the amount of pervious surfaces and clearing of existing forests.

### **Biodiversity and Habitat Fragmentation:**

Biodiversity and habitat fragmentation are of concern within Abington. While Abington has many beautiful park spaces and parcels of protected land, many are bordered by residential homes and busy roads, causing potential habitat fragmentation. Wetlands, specifically along the west and east sides of town, are of top concern for preserving large stretches of habitat. Other preventative measures include increasing land to be set aside for permanent protection and working with neighboring communities to connect habitat corridors.

### **Water Resources:**

The town of Abington obtains its water from the Abington/Rockland Joint Water Works (ARJWW). The system is unusual in having water sources in three towns and two basins: Abington in the Taunton River Basin and Rockland and Pembroke in the South Coastal Basin. One standpipe, three elevated storage tanks, and two clear wells hold a total capacity of 5.4 million gallons, which covers the current water demand of the community, with the 2024 average daily demand being approximately 2.77 MGD. Abington is prepared to see an anticipated water demand of 3.36 MGD but may face challenges on days requiring higher-than-average demand, particularly during summer droughts. At this time, water is abundant to meet the needs of residents in this area, and current development trends are lower than in previous decades, showing minimal threat to water abundance.

The town has taken additional precautions to protect its water resources by creating the Watershed Protection District. This zoning overlay protects public health by preventing contamination of the ground and surface water resources that provide drinking water to the ARJWW system.

### **Stormwater Runoff and Management:**

Stormwater runoff — water from rain or melting snow that “runs off” across the land instead of seeping into the ground. Stormwater runoff is the major contributor to pollution in the state’s water bodies. Polluted stormwater runoff is often discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. Common pollutants include oil, grease, and metals from cars and commercial vehicles and deposited onto roadways; pesticides and fertilizers from lawn maintenance activities; nutrients leaching from residential yard lawn clippings and leaves dumped into wetlands, streams and drainage swales; bacteria-rich and nutrient-rich pet; soil sediment deposited by stormwater runoff from construction sites; and litter from the improper disposal of trash. Contaminated stormwater from all these sources can impair waterways, degrade animal habitat, pollute drinking water, increase

flooding, cause erosion of streambeds or siltation of waterways, and decrease the amount of water recharged to aquifers.

The Abington Department of Public Works (DPW) oversees stormwater management throughout the town. Like most municipalities, Abington must obtain a permit for its municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) through the Environmental Protection Agency under a program called the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES General Permit for MS4s requires the Town to undertake specific measures to reduce the pollution its MS4 contributes to local streams and rivers. These measures include public education and outreach, illicit discharge detection and elimination, control of stormwater on construction sites, stormwater management in new development and redevelopment, and good housekeeping for Town operations. The Town is also required to monitor outflows for specific pollutants.

Additionally, the town took action to prevent contamination by creating the Flood Plain and Wetlands Protection Overlay District to protect the town's ecology. The district's regulations are intended to protect and preserve the marshes, bogs, ponds, water courses, and their inclusively defined adjoining wetlands. The district also reduces the hazards of flooding. By preserving floodplains and adjoining wetlands, these areas can do what they were intended for: absorb excess water. When floodplains are filled in or developed on, properties get damaged, and the land's ability to hold water is depleted. In early 2024, Massachusetts saw significant rainfall, leading to many residents noticing abnormal flooding in their yards and slower absorption as groundwater levels were high. [The DPW encourages residents to increase permeable materials](#) in their yards, including various plantings, to help with stormwater absorption and prevent still water and flooding.

**Surface Water Quality:** As noted above, surface water can be impacted by pollutants during runoff periods. As water moves across the surface of developed areas, including commercial/industrial spaces, paved roads, and residential areas, the water is exposed to nutrients and pollutants that impact its quality as it moves towards ponds, streams, and other bodies of water untreated. Abington is working to mitigate these impacts through the designation of zoning bylaws to protect the most vulnerable land to water quality in town, staying up to date with MS4 permitting, and providing education to residents and landowners about proper maintenance of land to protect water.

**Groundwater Quality:** Currently, groundwater in town has no known concerns. Development can impact groundwater by reducing the recharge area that allows water to percolate deep below the surface, i.e., pavement. Runoff and pollution can also affect groundwater, just like surface water. However, groundwater often appears to be more filtered, as certain pollutants are discharged in the top layer of sediment.

**Hazardous Materials:** Hazardous Waste and Brownfield Sites: At this time, there is only one known Brownfield site in Abington, located on North Quincy Street. It currently serves as a lot that stores school buses and a tow yard.

**Landfills:** The Town of Abington has one previous landfill site. The unlined former 13-acre Abington Landfill is on Groveland Street. It served the town's solid waste disposal needs from 1940 to 1975. The landfill was closed and capped in 1984 when the Town entered into a solid waste disposal contract and no longer disposed of refuse in town. However, the capping was unsatisfactory, and the Town is under an Administrative Consent Order from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to recap it with the work done by 2009. Limited funds delayed the work, but the town contracted with SEA Engineering, which has monitoring wells at the site and prepared plans for the capping of the landfill following DEP requirements, FY 2015. The landfill is now overgrown with shrubs and trees, and it would be a significant undertaking to cap it properly.

**Erosion and Sedimentation:** Due to the town's low relief, slow-flowing streams, and enforcement of protective construction techniques, there are no known areas with severe erosion or sedimentation problems. The methods include protecting bare slopes, installing straw bales to protect streams from sediment, and street sweeping to keep winter sand from storm drains and stream beds.

**Flood Hazards:** A few areas are prone to flooding during a 100-year storm event. These flood-prone areas are primarily located adjacent to or along Route 18, the town's major north/south state highway. The flooding is mainly due to inadequately sized stormwater culverts in Route 18 near the Shumatuscacant River crossing at **Washington Street** that prevent stormwater flow under the roadway and result in water back-up and flooding. With the widening and improvement of Route 18 as part of the redevelopment of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station, most of these problems will be rectified. Conversely, further efforts might find low-lying areas above troublesome culverts, which could be modified as temporary detention areas, limiting downstream flooding. The culverts would be altered to allow expected flows, but to retain flood flows until the point of overtopping.

**Forestry Issues:** Currently, there are no immediate threats to Abington's existing forests other than the potential for development in remaining forested areas that are not under conservation restriction. Street trees and forestry needs are handled under the DPW. The Abington town website has an online form that residents can submit for dangerous trees. This allows residents to rapidly report trees that could cause significant damage if they fall on infrastructure, such as electrical wires, or may fall in a pedestrian walking space and harm someone.

The major potential threats to forests recognized in Massachusetts are as follows:

- Woolly Adelgids, which mainly attack hemlocks, as aphids do, suck juices from them year-round, not just in the spring.
- Winter Moths attack various deciduous trees by chewing their leaves. They fly in on silk threads rather than having a visible base like tent caterpillars.
- Other moths whose larvae eat leaves and weaken trees over time. Gypsy moth caterpillars crawl up from the ground and, therefore, are combated with bands around tree trunks.
- Tent Caterpillars occupy their very visible tents and can be combated. They are also subject to various diseases and predators and are a reduced threat.
- Asian Long-Horned Beetles are the most destructive, boring into and out of hardwoods and killing the trees. Eradicating them requires removing trees with the slightest infestation. Fortunately, none have been found in this area.

Forest Fires have been a minimal threat in Abington, mainly because there are no large areas of fire-prone scrub oak and pine, but the possibility remains if there is a long, dry summer or even fall, as seen in recent trends. Homes that abut the boundaries of the forest patches remaining in Abington could lead to the potential spread of fire.



*Figure 23: Pond at Ames Nowell State Park*

**Climate Change:** Like all Massachusetts Communities, Abington faces impacts from Climate Change. Across the state, there is an anticipated 3.6-degree increase in maximum temperatures. However, coastal and inland flood risk is one of the most significant concerns for the south shore. Abington is projected to see a 5.7- 6.3% increase in annual rainfall. Flood risks for the town are mainly located around brooks, streams, and ponds. However, these waterways run along major routes, including 18 and 139.

More extreme precipitation events, especially in winter and spring, will likely impact water quality from increased runoff and erosion ([NOAA 4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment](#)). The Massachusetts Wildlife Climate Action Tool (Massachusetts Climate Adaptation Partnership, 2015) identifies local impacts of climate change for each Massachusetts community and suggests adaptation strategies. Stressors likely to be introduced or intensified by climate change in Abington include the following: weather patterns such as extreme temperatures, more extended drought periods, and increased flooding. Other environmental stressors include an increase in invasive species. Public health is also a concern that is addressed under climate change. Extreme hot and cold temperatures can lead to health issues and exacerbate existing medical conditions. Higher temperatures have also been linked to quicker spread of disease and have increased tick-borne illnesses. In the Massachusetts Climate Impact Statewide Assessment, top regionalized concerns for Abington included reduced food safety and security, increased vector-borne disease incidences, and Bacterial infections. Abington also neighbors' communities classified as Boston Harbor in this study, which notes the impact of climate on economic losses and urban forest concerns that could have expanded impacts on the community.



# Afternoon Traverse Points

Temperature (3 - 4pm)

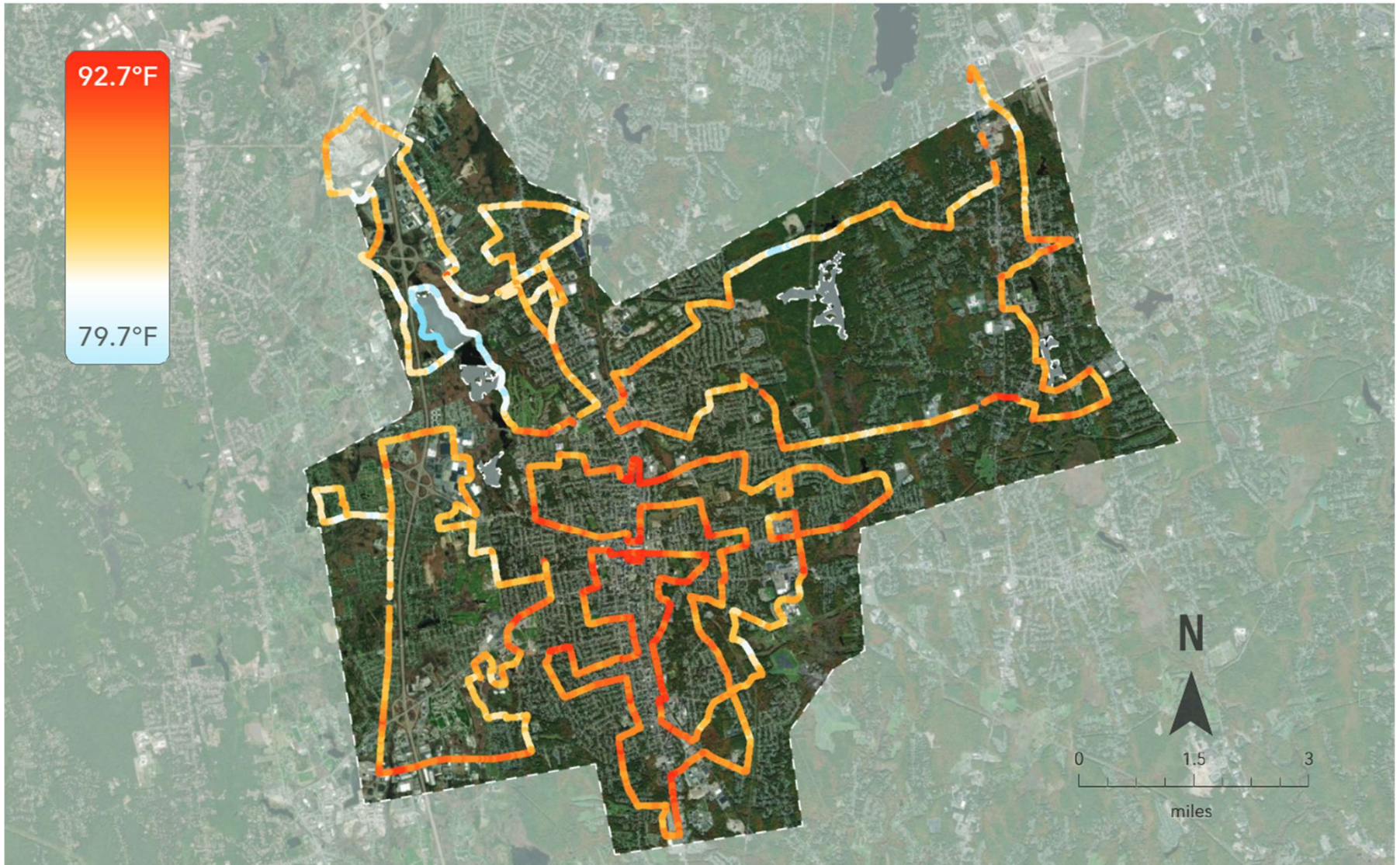


Figure 24: Heat Watch Afternoon Temperatures



# Morning Area-Wide Model

Temperature (6 - 7 am)

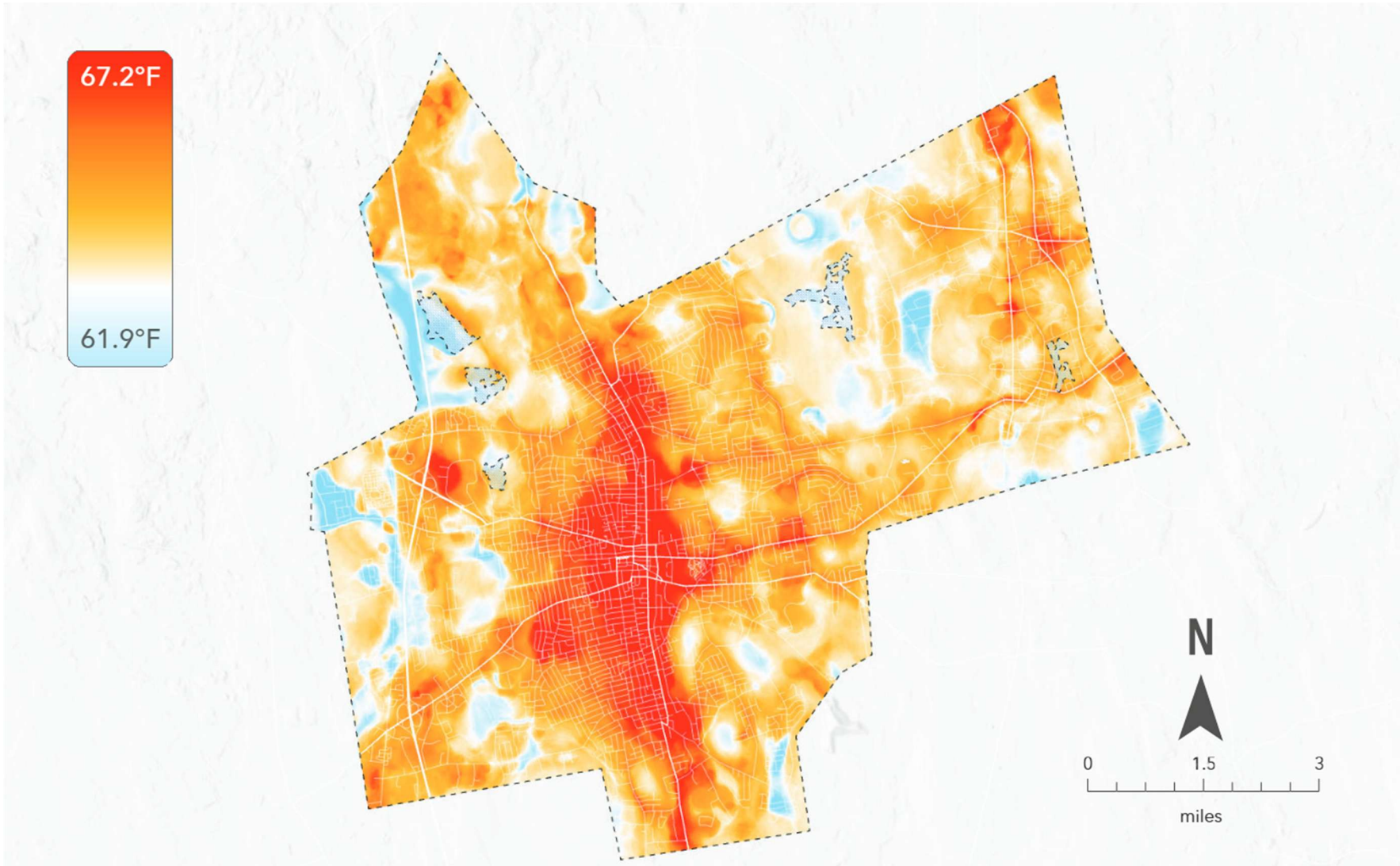


Figure 25: Heat Watch Morning Temperatures



# Afternoon Area-Wide Model

Temperature (3 - 4pm)

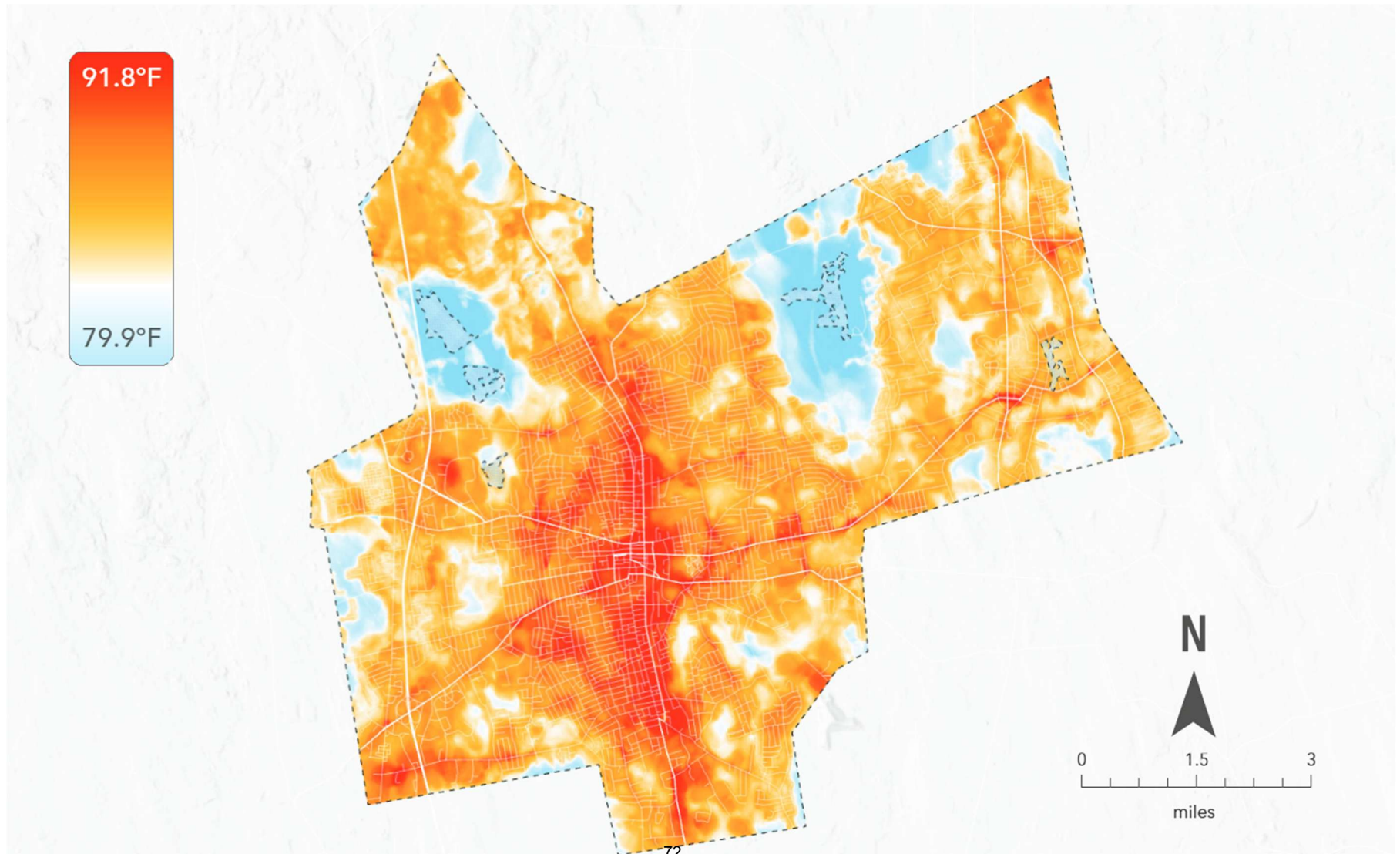
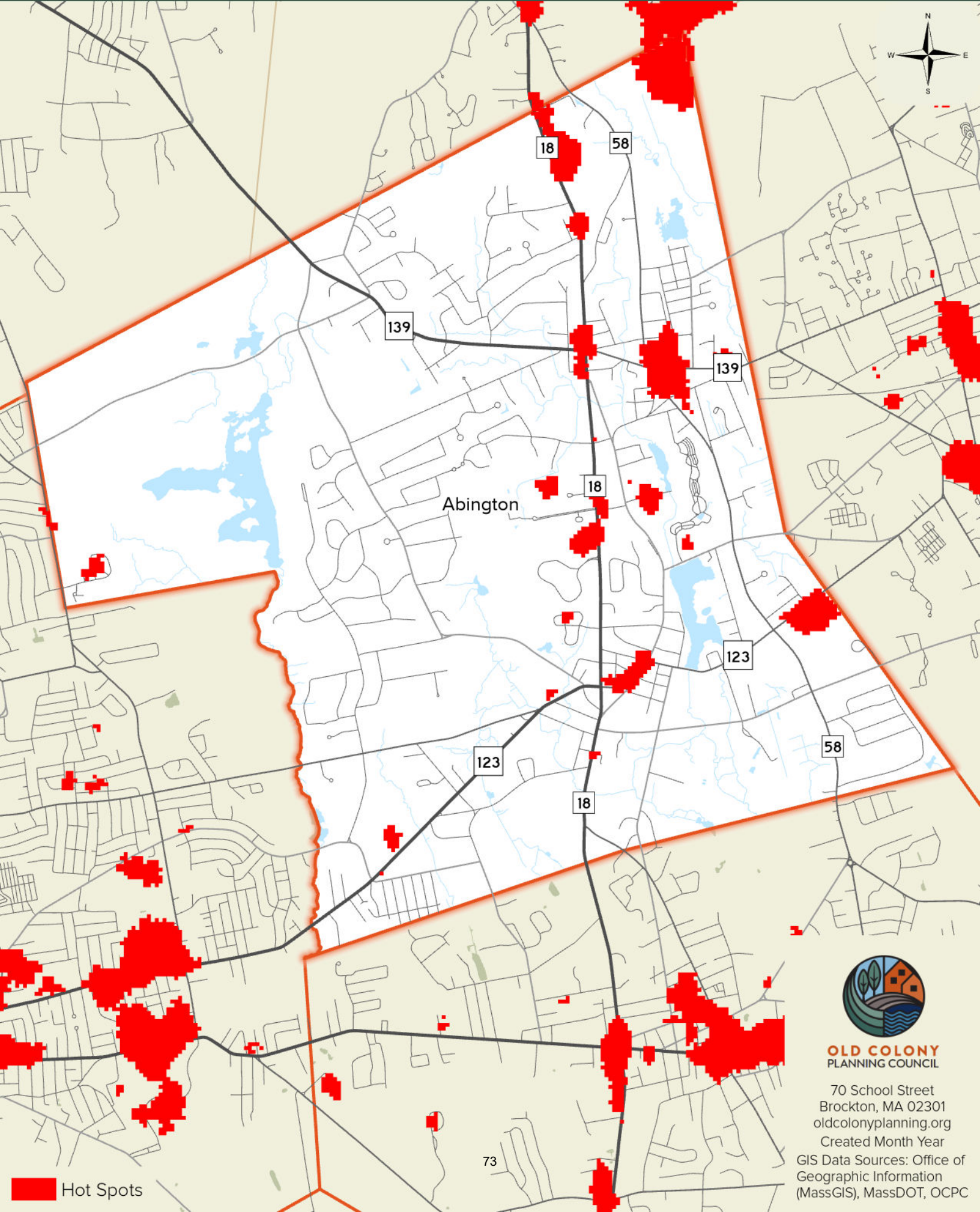


Figure 26: Heat Watch Afternoon Region Temperatures

# Town of Abington Hot Spots



 Hot Spots



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## Hazard Mitigation Planning and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Planning

Abington has taken many steps to prepare the town for hazards from severe weather events and climate impacts. Following federal guidance, Abington updated its Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2024. The town also completed an initial Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (MVP) and volunteered as a pilot community for MVP 2.0, which further examined the impacts on specific populations within the town and created pilot projects that created immediate improvements.

The MVP report drafted in 2020, using the Commonwealth of Massachusetts guidelines, identified Flooding, Strong Storms, Drought, and Extreme Temperatures as the top three hazards. These hazards were then split into categories to be impacted, which are defined as Infrastructure, Social, and Environmental. This allowed the town to define goals to make the community more resilient against each category. Goals are outlined in the table.




Category	Areas of Concern
 <b>Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater management system (town-wide)</li> <li>• Dam maintenance/repairs needed (Hunts Brook, Beaver Brook, Island Grove Pond)</li> <li>• Bridge repairs (e.g., Central Street Bridge)</li> <li>• Public water supply</li> </ul>
 <b>Societal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Housing Centers</li> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Critical facilities with only one egress</li> </ul>
 <b>Environmental</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Island Grove area (erosion and tree loss)</li> <li>• Carista property (potential for wild fires)</li> <li>• Loss of tree canopy (town-wide)</li> <li>• Water quality concerns (e.g., algae blooms)</li> <li>• Strawberry Valley Golf Course (loss of pond)</li> </ul>

Figure 28: HMP and MVP Areas of Concern

During the Hazard Mitigation Planning Process, Abington rated Hurricanes and Tropical Storms, and Winter Storms as the two highest risks in terms of severity. Winter Storms, Extreme Temperatures, and Flooding were the most likely to occur, all events residents have seen within the last ten years. The HMP states, “A 100-year flood event has the potential to cause damage to 15 buildings, two commercial and 13 residential buildings. The 500-year flood event has the potential to cause damage to 36 buildings, five commercial, and 31 residential buildings. Other non-insured damages may look like businesses closed for multiple days, roadway debris, and delayed emergency response times. With climate change, the frequency of 100 and 500-year storms is anticipated to increase. These impacts may also be duplicated if severe weather events cause damage to any of the five dams in town. As noted previously, 3 of the five dams in town need repairs. Hunt’s Pond Dam was identified in the HMP as having a significant hazard potential and being in the worst condition of the five dams, making it a priority.

**Table 4.2: Abington Risk Assessment**

Hazard	Frequency/Probability of Future Occurrence	Impact Area Assessment	Severity/Extent	Risk Rating
<b>Hurricanes &amp; Tropical Storms</b>	Likely	Large	Critical	8
<b>Winter Storms</b>	Highly Likely	Large	Critical	8
<b>Severe Storms</b>	Likely	Large	Limited	7
<b>Extreme Temperatures</b>	Highly Likely	Large	Limited	7
<b>Flooding</b>	Highly Likely	Small	Limited	5
<b>Tornadoes</b>	Possible	Small	Critical	5
<b>Earthquakes</b>	Unlikely	Large	Critical	5
<b>Wildfires</b>	Likely	Small	Limited	4
<b>Drought</b>	Likely	Medium	Minor	4
<b>Dam Failure</b>	Possible	Medium	Limited	3
<b>Invasive Species</b>	Likely	Small	Minor	3

Figure 29: Abington Risk Assessment from MVP and HMP

## Environmental Justice / Open Space Equity

Currently, there are no state-identified EJ Populations in Abington. Open spaces and parks are well distributed throughout the town through school playgrounds, playfields, and conservation and recreation spaces. However, Abington borders many communities with EJ populations abutting the town boundary. These include Rockland, Brockton, Avon, Holbrook, and Weymouth. Abington’s parks may serve as a resource to residents in these communities.

### Environmental Justice 2020 Populations

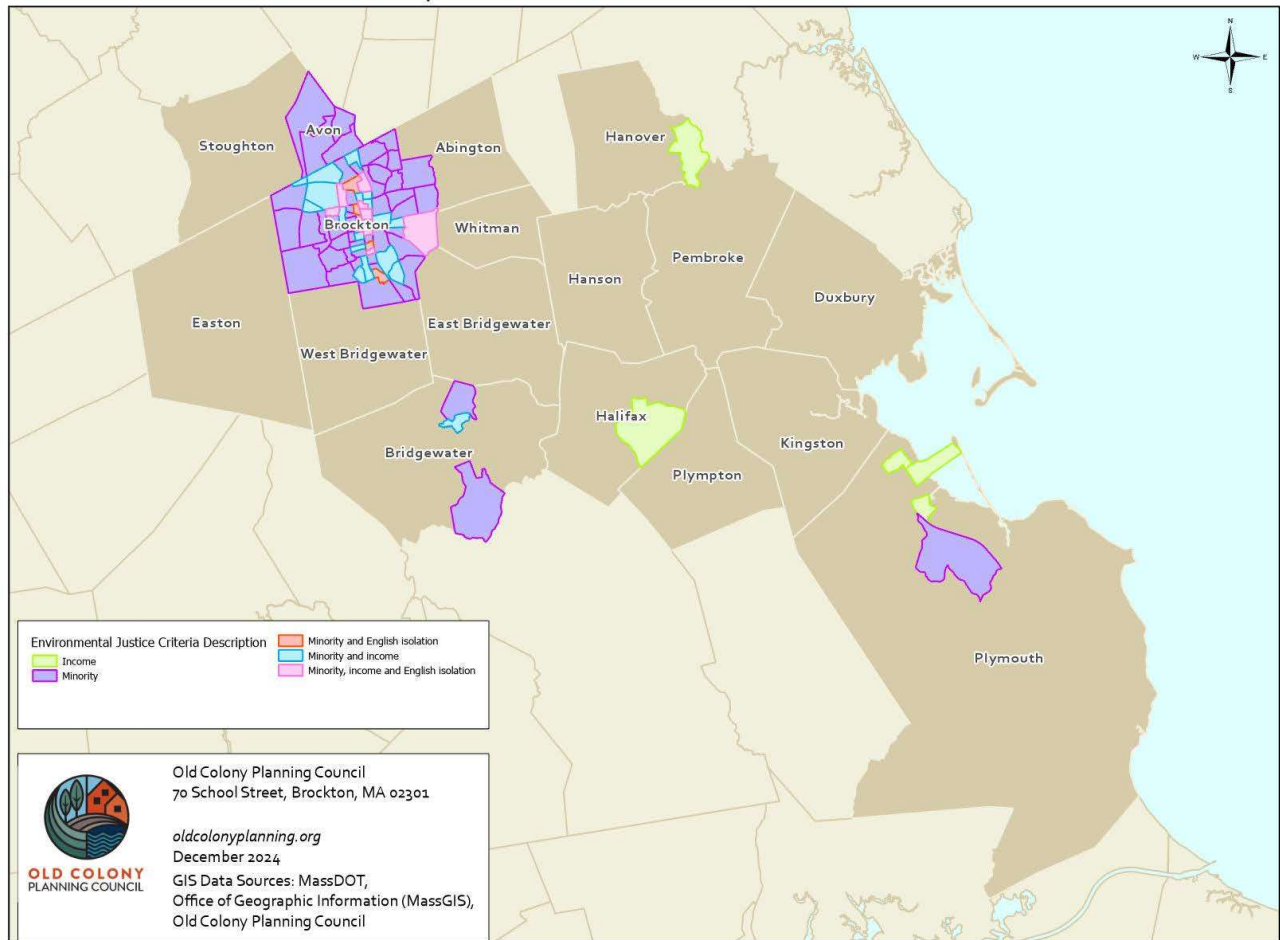


Figure 30: Map of EJ Communities in OCPC region

Table 7: Massachusetts Historical Properties List

Massachusetts Historical Properties List: Abington				
Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Year	Designations
ABI.A	Palace Row			
ABI.B	Washington Street Area			
ABI.C	Abington Town Center			
ABI.F	Island Grove Park National Register District			NRDIS;
ABI.G	South Weymouth Naval Air Station			
ABI.901	Ford Memorial Park - First Settler Plaque	Adams St	1930	
ABI.79	Johnson, James B. House	40 Adams St	1874	
ABI.78	Cleverly, Joseph House	78 Adams St	1832	
ABI.81	Gloyd, Col. Daniel House	93 Adams St	1799	
ABI.77	Arnold, W. Percy House	125 Adams St	1888	
ABI.76	Thayer, Willard H. House	160 Adams St	1901	
ABI.74	Wheatley, Dr. Frank G. House	174 Adams St	1887	
ABI.73	Lyon, William E. House	188 Adams St	1885	
ABI.201	Cleverly, George Barn	206 Adams St	1883	
ABI.72	Cleverly, George House	206 Adams St	1883	
ABI.71	Dunham, J. Ellsworth 'Elsie' House	214 Adams St	1880	
ABI.87	Abington First Baptist Church	219 Adams St	1887	
ABI.70	Tanner, Herbert House	230 Adams St	1902	
ABI.69	Boynton, Edward P. House	238 Adams St	1881	
ABI.30	Reed, Maj. Edward Payson Mansion	262 Adams St	1882	
ABI.203	Wales, Austin Barn	289-291 Adams St	C 1880	
ABI.202	Whiting, Franklin T. Barn	290 Adams St	1885	
ABI.29	Whiting, Franklin T. House	290 Adams St	1884	
ABI.28	Wales, Austin House	291 Adams St	1848	
ABI.27	Reed, Georgiana S. House	310 Adams St	C 1899	
ABI.25	Arnold, Moses Noyes House	325 Adams St	1849	
ABI.24	Rand, Dr. Richard B. House	328 Adams St	C 1880	
ABI.23	Wales, Samuel House	338 Adams St	1829	
ABI.41	Blanchard, Oliver 'New' House	362 Adams St	1852	
ABI.40	Chandler, Leonard D. House	369 Adams St	1888	
ABI.39	Littlefield, Sidney House	423 Adams St	1805	
ABI.38	Reed, Arthur Burgess House	437 Adams St	1894	
ABI.37	Raymond, Herbert Williams House	454 Adams St	1880	
ABI.36	Arnold, Nathaniel W. House	455 Adams St	1865	
ABI.33	Raymond, Charles L. House	466 Adams St	1887	
ABI.31	Brackett, Horace N. House	471 Adams St	1890	
ABI.21	Blanchard, Thomas Jr. House	499 Adams St	C 1810	
ABI.34	Shaw, Calvin House	580 Adams St	1780	
ABI.35	Smith, Joseph House	613 Adams St	1847	

ABI.3	Blanchard, Dean House	766 Adams St	R 1820	
ABI.174	Highfields	113 Ashland St	1821	
ABI.137	Abington Center School	73 Bank St	1853	
ABI.58	Victor Webbing and Goring Factory	38 Bates St	1894	
ABI.169	Abington First Parish Congregational Church	10 Bedford St	1849	
ABI.160	Cobb, Dea. Edward House	79 Bedford St	1826	
ABI.93	Shaw, Jacob House	676 Bedford St	1832	
ABI.47	Shaw, Brackley III House	981 Bedford St	1819	
ABI.46	Blanchard, Mahala House	982 Bedford St	1822	
ABI.44	Shaw, Ebenezer House	1064 Bedford St	1825	
ABI.20	Shaw, Lt. Nicolas 'New' House	1121 Bedford St	C 1767	
ABI.32	Barlow, William F. Jr. House	1142 Bedford St	1909	
ABI.90	Crossett Shoe Factory Administrative Office	81 Birch St	1920	
ABI.63	Sprague, Elbridge Drugstore	26 Brighton St	1871	
ABI.88	Tirrell, Americus Vespuccius Octagon House	35 Brighton St	1853	
ABI.163	Faxon, Lucius Shoe Factory	5-7 Brockton Ave	1845	
ABI.817	Deacon's Corner - Mount Vernon Cemetery	Central St	1938	
ABI.815	Forefathers' Lot - Mount Vernon Cemetery	Central St	1885	
ABI.816	Ministers' Corner - Mount Vernon Cemetery	Central St	1853	
ABI.913	Old Colony Railroad Central Street Bridge	Central St	1898	
ABI.134	Whitmarsh, Zichri N. Department Store	18 Centre Ave	1849	
ABI.133	Abington Swedenborgian Church	19 Centre Ave	R 1833	
ABI.132	Dyer Memorial Library	28 Centre Ave	1932	
ABI.136	Dudley, Dr. Henry W. House	64 Centre Ave	1853	
ABI.135	Keith's Law Office	71 Centre Ave	1871	
ABI.149	Buffum, Herbert H. Bicycle and Automobile Factory	123 Centre Ave	R 1897	
ABI.150	Abington Textile Machinery Company	127 Centre Ave	1929	
ABI.153	Giles, Jesse H. House	131 Centre Ave	1871	
ABI.154	Cox, Enos House	144 Centre Ave	1840	
ABI.155	Nash, James D. House	147 Centre Ave	1842	
ABI.147	Nash, Sally - Polly - Nabby House	156 Centre Ave	1850	
ABI.156	Smith, Jonathan W. House	195 Centre Ave	1869	
ABI.157	Thompson, William A. House	208 Centre Ave	1887	
ABI.1	Cobb, Charles Nelson House	209 Centre Ave	1888	
ABI.159	Reed, Ezekiel House	222 Centre Ave	C 1797	
ABI.158	Wilkes, Bela House	260 Centre Ave	1854	
ABI.104	Rockland and Abington Street Railway Power House	56 Charles St	1893	
ABI.904	Ford - Richards - Cobb Millseat	Chestnut St	R 1740	
ABI.804	Richards Family Burial Ground	Chestnut St	C 1750	
ABI.911	Washburn's Dam Retaining Wall	Chestnut St	1835	

ABI.12	Orcutt, Lewis House	263 Chestnut St	1849	
ABI.13	Orcutt, Abiel House	500 Chestnut St	R 1830	
ABI.205	Orcutt, First Abiel House	500 Chestnut St	C 1830	
ABI.146	Noyes, Hannah Shaw House	333 Groveland St	1797	
ABI.144	Abington One Room Schoolhouse	397 Groveland St	1857	
ABI.103	Edson, James H. House	55 Hancock St	1864	
ABI.102	Abington District #2 Schoolhouse	104 Hancock St	1755	
ABI.95	Blanchard, Daniel House	303 Hancock St	R 1805	
ABI.92	Colson, Samuel House	368 Hancock St	1829	
ABI.91	Blanchard, Alton House	469 Hancock St	R 1815	
ABI.200	Wales, William Jr. Barn	533 Hancock St		
ABI.54	Wales, William Jr. House	533 Hancock St	R 1815	
ABI.53	Dunham, Ezra House	554 Hancock St	1765	
ABI.52	Poole, William House	585 Hancock St	C 1830	
ABI.43	Sullivan, John L. House	704 Hancock St	C 1812	
ABI.903	Beaver Brook Millstones	852 Hancock St	R 1770	
ABI.902	Beaver Brook Millstones Marker	852 Hancock St	1954	
ABI.11	Ford, Dea. James Jr. House	852 Hancock St	C 1826	
ABI.6	Orcutt, Elisha Vining House	1007 Hancock St	1835	
ABI.5	Jackson, Isaac R. House	1020 Hancock St	1830	
ABI.189	Pratt, Philip House	287 High St	1810	
ABI.190	Shaw, Charles House	429 High St	R 1835	
ABI.75	Murdock, William L. House	43 Highland St	1889	
ABI.42	Wales, Samuel Reed - Randall, Abraham House	26 Jefferson St	C 1835	
ABI.175	King, Joshua Howe House	78 King St	1856	
ABI.914	Island Grove Park - Lake Street Stone Walls	Lake St	C 1912	NRDIS;
ABI.127	Pierce, William Carriage Shop	66-68 Lake St	1881	
ABI.188	Noyes, Jacob House	62 Linwood St	C 1758	
ABI.186	Hathaway, Franklin House	159 Linwood St	C 1824	
ABI.187	Snyder, Edward H. Sears - Roebuck House	194 Linwood St	1930	
ABI.145	Noyes, Lt. Ephraim House	248 Linwood St	C 1793	
ABI.117	Noyes, James House	496 Linwood St	C 1820	
ABI.101	Robbins, Bartlett House	568 Linwood St	1826	
ABI.185	Hunt, Lydia Peakes House	159 Mill St	1822	
ABI.65	Winthrop Building	175-177 North Ave	1885	

ABI.83	Culver, Albert Hotel	221 North Ave	C 1874	
ABI.82	U. S. Post Office - North Abington Branch	222 North Ave	1885	
ABI.84	Reed, Amos Newton Hay, and Grain Store	245 North Ave	1859	
ABI.85	Reed, Maj Edward Payson Lumber Yard Office	257 North Ave	C 1874	
ABI.86	Plymouth Rock Ice Cream Factory	385 North Ave	1925	
ABI.14	Packard, Dan House	267 North Quincy St	C 1820	
ABI.22	Meserve, Solomon House	264 Oak St	C 1847	
ABI.10	Ford, Jacob House Old	662 Old Randolph St	C 1765	
ABI.9	Jackson, Luther House	675 Old Randolph St	1828	
ABI.8	Gurney, William S. House	686 Old Randolph St	C 1879	
ABI.932	Island Grove Park - Abolitionist Meeting Site	200 Park Ave	R 1850	NRDIS;
ABI.909	Island Grove Park - Abolitionist Monument	200 Park Ave	1909	NRDIS;
ABI.916	Island Grove Park - Bandstand Base	200 Park Ave	1920	NRDIS;
ABI.800	Island Grove Park - Central Burying Ground	200 Park Ave	R 1750	NRDIS;
ABI.209	Island Grove Park - Concrete Bath House	200 Park Ave	1968	NRDIS;
ABI.927	Island Grove Park - Concrete Benches	200 Park Ave	R 1920	NRDIS;
ABI.921	Island Grove Park - Drainage Culvert	200 Park Ave	1931	NRDIS;
ABI.922	Island Grove Park - Drainage Holding Pool	200 Park Ave	1931	NRDIS;
ABI.930	Island Grove Park - Farley, Steve Memorial	200 Park Ave	1984	NRDIS;
ABI.924	Island Grove Park - Footpaths	200 Park Ave	R 1850	NRDIS;
ABI.206	Island Grove Park - Girl Scout Cabin	200 Park Ave	C 1950	NRDIS;
ABI.920	Island Grove Park - Granite Gateposts	200 Park Ave	R 1880	NRDIS;
ABI.929	Island Grove Park - Lighthouse Rock	200 Park Ave		NRDIS;
ABI.919	Island Grove Park - Perimeter Fence	200 Park Ave	R 1980	NRDIS;
ABI.928	Island Grove Park - Picnic Tables and Grills	200 Park Ave	R 1980	NRDIS;
ABI.926	Island Grove Park - Pine Grove	200 Park Ave	R 1850	NRDIS;
ABI.207	Island Grove Park - Recreation Storage Shed	200 Park Ave	C 1950	NRDIS;
ABI.208	Island Grove Park - Refreshment Stand	200 Park Ave	1931	NRDIS;
ABI.925	Island Grove Park - Roads	200 Park Ave	R 1850	NRDIS;
ABI.923	Island Grove Park - Stone Wall	200 Park Ave	1931	NRDIS;
ABI.934	Island Grove Park - Sugar Bowl	200 Park Ave		NRDIS;
ABI.918	Island Grove Park - Swimming Pond and Dam	200 Park Ave	1968	NRDIS;
ABI.931	Island Grove Park - Swing Sets	200 Park Ave	R 1980	NRDIS;

ABI.910	Island Grove Park Civil War Soldiers Memorial Arch	200 Park Ave	1912	NRDIS;
ABI.912	Island Grove Park Memorial Bridge	200 Park Ave	1912	NRDIS;
ABI.933	Island Grove Park Pond	200 Park Ave	C 1700	NRDIS;
ABI.915	Island Grove Park Pond Walls	200 Park Ave	R 1920	NRDIS;
ABI.100	Dunham, Jesse House	35 Pattison St	C 1825	
ABI.80	Naylor, Edward H. House	43 Pearl St	1899	
ABI.198	Reardon, William House	22 Plain St	1873	
ABI.204	Griffin Farm Barn and Silo	Plymouth St	C 1920	
ABI.111	Gaffney, Charles B. Grocery Store	252-254 Plymouth St	1895	
ABI.112	Gaffney, Charles B. House	258 Plymouth St	1900	
ABI.199	Chamberlain Ten-Footer Shoe Shop	300 Plymouth St	C 1773	
ABI.105	Townsend, Thomas House	300 Plymouth St	1761	
ABI.96	Dyer, Asa - Chamberlin, John Jr. House	352 Plymouth St	1802	
ABI.97	Chamberlin, John - Warren, David House	392 Plymouth St	1773	
ABI.106	Saint Bridget's Roman Catholic Church	455 Plymouth St	1863	
ABI.114	Hunt, Maj. Joseph House	466 Plymouth St	1831	
ABI.115	Hunt, Capt. Thomas House	484 Plymouth St	C 1820	
ABI.113	Vaughan, Stetson Boot and Shoe Factory	523-525 Plymouth St	1845	
ABI.172	Pine Woods Schoolhouse	734 Plymouth St	1848	
ABI.173	Reed, Capt. Thomas House	821 Plymouth St	1751	
ABI.195	Hersey, Daniel House	937 Plymouth St	C 1806	
ABI.194	Hersey, Isaac House	969 Plymouth St	1804	
ABI.196	Stetson, Levi House	1016 Plymouth St	C 1870	
ABI.197	Cook, Nathaniel House	1040 Plymouth St	1818	
ABI.89	Crossett Shoe Factory	10 Railroad St	1888	
ABI.66	Peerless Theatre	82 Railroad St	1894	
ABI.67	Gilman, Caleb Dudley Restaurant	94-96 Railroad St	C 1900	
ABI.68	North Abington Depot	101 Railroad St	1893	NRIND;
ABI.49	North Congregational Church	33 Randolph St	1839	
ABI.51	Pierce, Rev. Willard Parsonage	51 Randolph St	1841	
ABI.19	Shaw, Ezra Jr. House	425 Randolph St	C 1830	
ABI.18	Orcutt, Emerson House	500 Randolph St	C 1751	PR;
ABI.16	Randolph Street School	620 Randolph St	1870	
ABI.7	Bowen, Bracket - Ripley House	723 Randolph St	1832	
ABI.125	Rockland Street Primary School	108 Rockland St	1868	
ABI.124	Humble, David House	189 Rockland St	1824	
ABI.123	Edson, Lurana - Noyes, Ira House	237 Rockland St	1829	
ABI.122	Conneely, Joseph House	283 Rockland St	C 1967	

ABI.121	Smith, Ola F. Sears - Roebuck House	339 Rockland St	1930	
ABI.178	Nash, John House	183 Summer St	C 1775	
ABI.808	Gould Family Burial Ground	59 Sylvan Ct	1798	
ABI.50	Evans, Edward L. Greeting Card Factory	98 Temple St	1935	
ABI.164	Tyler, Charles O. House	50 Thaxter Ave	1891	
ABI.4	Remington, Thomas House	28 Thicket St	C 1755	
ABI.59	Chapman, Eugene Llewellyn Grocery Store	23 Wales St	R 1860	
ABI.60	Holbrook, Turner House	26 Wales St	1853	
ABI.61	Williamson, George H. Blacksmith Shop	53-55 Wales St	1885	
ABI.26	Whitmarsh, Emma Thaxter House	168 Wales St	1840	
ABI.62	Arnold Shoe Factory	200 Wales St	1875	
ABI.148	Powers, Harvey House, and Shoe Shop	4 Walnut St	C 1846	
ABI.166	Cobb, White House	80 Walnut St	1857	
ABI.167	Pratt, Ashton House	122 Walnut St	1885	
ABI.193	Winslow, Joshua, and Thomas Double House	69 Washington St	1830	
ABI.192	Bicknell, Jacob House	174 Washington St	1825	
ABI.191	Norton, Samuel Jr. House	237 Washington St	C 1790	
ABI.183	Dyer, Capt. James House	249-253 Washington St	C 1820	
ABI.182	Dyer Barn	277 Washington St	C 1867	
ABI.181	Browne, Lt. Samuel House	303 Washington St	C 1790	
ABI.180	King, Gen. Benjamin - French, Robert House	306 Washington St	1849	
ABI.900	First Meetinghouse Marker	325 Washington St	1940	
ABI.179	Nash, Ira House	335 Washington St	1830	
ABI.176	King, Gen. Benjamin House	349 Washington St	1850	
ABI.177	King, John House	350 Washington St	C 1780	
ABI.170	Thaxter, Dr. Gridley House	409 Washington St	C 1798	
ABI.168	Abington First Parish Congregational Meetinghouse	416 Washington St	1819	
ABI.906	Satucket Path Turnpike Junction Marker	426 Washington St	1979	
ABI.161	Thaxter, Gridley Jr. - Dr. Ezekiel House	440 Washington St	1821	
ABI.171	Faxon - Holmes House	492 Washington St	1845	
ABI.138	Ripley, William Hardware Store	500 Washington St	1855	
ABI.139	Colson, Samuel Shoe Factory	506 Washington St	C 1850	
ABI.151	Abington Hotel, Old	514 Washington St	C 1835	
ABI.152	Cushing, Greenwood House	521 Washington St	1824	
ABI.140	Whitmarsh, James House	522 Washington St	1843	
ABI.141	Whitmarsh, James Shoe Factory	524 Washington St	1847	

ABI.142	Abington Savings Bank Building	533 Washington St	1930	
ABI.143	Abington Mutual Fire Insurance Company	536 Washington St	1931	
ABI.130	Noyes, Jacob II House	596 Washington St	1835	
ABI.131	Nash, Sarah Browne House	601 Washington St	1792	
ABI.129	Nash, Nathaniel House	644 Washington St	1827	
ABI.128	Curtis, George E. House	652 Washington St	1869	
ABI.118	Fisk, William B. House and Carpentry Shop	676 Washington St	1846	
ABI.120	Vining, Josiah House	729 Washington St	1824	
ABI.116	Ford, Ens. Andrew House	770 Washington St	1735	
ABI.119	Smith, James W. Harness Maker's House	811 Washington St	1843	
ABI.109	Abington G. A. R. Hall - McPherson Post #78	833 Washington St	1896	
ABI.110	Peirce, Martin B. Carriage Shop	865 Washington St	1845	
ABI.107	Abington Schoolhouse, Old	870 Washington St	1865	
ABI.108	Rochefort, Henry T. House	984 Washington St	1831	
ABI.99	Vining, Capt. Richard House	1011 Washington St	1815	
ABI.98	Memorial Building	1027 Washington St	1890	
ABI.94	Cushing, Maj. John House	1148 Washington St	C 1830	
ABI.45	Reed, Seth House	1297 Washington St	1830	
ABI.57	Reed, Seth Dean House	1306 Washington St	1881	
ABI.55	Cleverly, Joseph Shoe Factory	1331-1333 Washington St	C 1833	
ABI.56	Plewaks, Kasmer Grocery Store	1353 Washington St	C 1905	

## Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

### A. Importance of Open Space Protection

The natural resources and open spaces help to make the Town of Abington an attractive and interesting place to live. Protection of these areas is critical for providing safe drinking water, clean air, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Government agencies, landowners, non-profits, and local land trusts all play a role in the important task of preserving open space for the benefit of current and future populations. Land conservation, especially on a permanent, landscape scale, provides numerous community benefits: protecting diverse landscapes; preserving habitat for rare or endangered species; maintaining species diversity; ensuring water quality; facilitating wildlife adaptation to climate change; and enhancing recreational access.

Open space also has a critical role to play in the fight against climate change and efforts to build resilience to the impacts of climate change. Lands that best support wildlife, absorb pollutants, and filter stormwater should be prioritized for protection. Climate-resilient open spaces and conservation lands not only protect wildlife but also provide natural defenses against floods, drought, and other risks to people.

Protected open space serves several valuable functions. Depending on the type (e.g., forest, meadow, wetlands, farmland), open space can provide valuable habitat for plants and wildlife; help replenish and protect aquifers; reduce and absorb stormwater runoff; provide a sustainable and wide range of resources; and absorb and/or treat pollutants. Open space also offers numerous active and passive recreational opportunities and adds scenic views to the landscape. “Protected” open space is land that is preserved because it is under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, Water Commission, or Park and Recreation, is subject to a Conservation Restriction (CR) or other deed restriction; is owned by a nonprofit organization whose purpose is the preservation of open space; is dedicated as park land or is otherwise protected by Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution.

Establishing criteria to prioritize open space parcels for protection would help the Town and regional conservation partners to be strategic about which lands to acquire. Such a strategy can focus on developing a network of large, connected parcels of open space that have higher ecological value. Because natural systems do not necessarily adhere to political boundaries, natural resource protection is best achieved through regional collaboration. This approach emphasizes connections between natural habitat areas and corridors, studies, and collecting inventory information for unique sites of special importance, such as vernal pools or endangered or rare habitats and species. This work will often reach beyond municipal limits.

## **B. Inventory**

The open space and recreation areas in the Town of Abington encompass both land and water sites, which are both publicly and privately owned. The purpose of this inventory is to identify areas of conservation and recreation interest in the Town to evaluate current and future open space planning needs. Areas of interest include open spaces that are valued for one or more of the following factors: recreation opportunities, protection of natural resources, and historic and scenic character.

The inventory is divided into two sections: public or non-profit land, and private open space. Within these sections, land has varying degrees of protection, which prevent or restrict land use and development. Protected open spaces are private or public parcels that are permanently committed to conservation or recreation purposes by deed restriction or easement. Unprotected open spaces are areas that are of conservation or recreation interest to the Town but are not permanently protected as open spaces. Partially or limitedly protected open spaces are areas that have a partial or short-term restriction on development but are not protected forever.

The inventory of lands of conservation and recreation interest describes ownership, management agency, lot size, primary use, public access, and type of public grant accepted for each parcel (if applicable). Further details on current use, zoning, condition, and recreation potential (potential future interventions that could broaden recreational opportunities on a site) are provided for all town-owned conservation and recreation parcels. The degree of protection from destruction or degradation that is afforded to various parcels of land owned by private, public, and nonprofit owners is also evaluated.

- Private lands can be protected in perpetuity through deed restrictions, or conservation easements, known in Massachusetts as Conservation Restrictions (some non-statutory restrictions may only run for 30 years, and those lands are therefore not permanently protected open space).
- Lands under taxation programs Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B are actively managed by their owners for forestry, agricultural, horticultural, or recreational use. The Town has the right of first refusal should the property owner decide to sell and change their use of the land. Therefore, it is important to prioritize these lands, track their status, and consider steps the community should take to permanently protect these properties when the opportunity arises.
- Land acquired for watershed and aquifer protection is often permanently protected in open space.
- Public recreation and conservation lands may be permanently protected open spaces if they have been dedicated to such uses as conservation or recreational use by deed.

## *Degree protection*

This section explores the degree of protection that is afforded to various parcels of land in Abington owned by private, public, and non-profit organizations. The inventory is divided into two overall categories based on the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services' definitions: protected and unprotected lands.

- A. *Legally Protected Lands* are private, public, or semi-public parcels that are permanently committed for conservation purposes (which is not true for all public lands). Public land dedicated to open space or recreation falls under the protection of article 97 of the State Constitution, having been acquired expressly for natural resource purposes, meaning it cannot be converted to any other use without a 2/3 vote of the Town Meeting, plus a 2/3 vote of the Massachusetts Legislature, unanimous approval of the Conservation Commission and the Governor. Private and semi-public land can be protected by Conservation Restrictions and other methods of land protection.
  
- B. *Unprotected Lands* are a mixture of town-owned and other public and private lands (including all land enrolled in MA General Law Ch. 61, 61A, and 61B). The unprotected lands are divided into five sub-categories that are: park and recreation, multi-purpose open space land, Chapter 61B recreation land, Chapter 61 forest, and wooded land, and Chapter 61A agricultural land. It is important to remember that private landowners can withdraw their properties from Chapter 61 programs at any time. If the property goes up for sale, the town has the right of first refusal, but the window of opportunity is a very short 120 days. It is therefore essential to inventory and prioritize these properties before that situation arises.

### **C. Tools for Land Conservation**

#### **1. Outright Acquisition**

Outright Acquisition provides the highest amount of protection for a piece of land. In addition, the group that purchases the property can control how it is used or managed. However, outright acquisition is often the most expensive technique. Funding mechanisms for outright acquisitions include:

- a. Town funding from a one-time appropriation, an annual contribution to a land protection fund, an open space bond, or the Community Preservation Act.
- b. Grant funding: for example, through the state's LAND grant program administered through the Division of Conservation Services.
- c. Private conservation organizations.
- d. Donations or 'bargain sales' from landowners seeking to conserve their land or gain income tax benefits.

## **2. Restrictions and Easements**

Restrictions and easements limit the future use of land by restricting or prohibiting development. However, the land continues to be owned and operated by a private owner. If the restriction on development is in perpetuity, this mechanism provides as much protection for land as outright acquisition, offers more flexibility to meet the needs of the landowner, and allows the property to stay on the tax rolls. For example, a restriction could be negotiated that allows a landowner to continue to farm the land, live on the land, or even build another house on the property. Funding can come from the same mechanisms as for outright acquisition. In addition, grant funding is available through various state programs, including the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program, which purchases easements from farmers to restrict future development.

## **3. Temporary Protections**

The State's Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B programs offer tax incentives for landowners to keep their property in active forestry, agricultural, and recreational use, respectively. However, these programs offer no long-term protection for the land.

## **4. Other Tools**

Other land conservation tools take advantage of the economics of land development to protect open spaces as part of new development projects (usually residential). If the open space is protected with a suitable conservation restriction, this form of open space protection is as good as outright acquisition.

- a. Conservation Cluster Developments, Natural Resource Protection Development Bylaws
- b. Other zoning tools
- c. Limited Development Projects

These land protection techniques should be used in appropriate situations to help protect part or all key unprotected open spaces in Abington.

### *Private Parcels*

In addition to the private non-profit lands, there is also privately owned open space in Abington. While some of this land is partially protected from development or considered undevelopable, much of it is not currently protected or restricted, although it is vacant. It is important to realize that some of these parcels will play vital roles in creating open space and recreation opportunities in Abington. In some cases, unprotected open spaces may be the missing links in creating connections between protected open spaces. In other cases,

some of these parcels might be acquired by the Town to meet the growing demand for recreational land.

### *Private Recreation*

Recreation in town occurs on town owned or public school-owned land. There are no private outdoor recreational facilities at this time.

### *Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B*

Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B are a voluntary program designed by the Massachusetts Legislature to tax real property in the Commonwealth at its timber resources, agricultural, or recreational value rather than its highest and best use (development) value. Landowners who enroll their land in the program receive property tax reductions in exchange for a lien on their property. The terms of the lien require that enrolled land remain undeveloped and be managed for forest production, agricultural production, or recreation. Furthermore, the lien provides that the municipal government of the City/town in which the enrolled property is located has the right of first refusal should the landowner put the land up for sale while it is enrolled in the program. Towns may assign their right of first refusal to a state agency or a non-profit land trust. Landowners who develop their land while enrolled in the program, or for a period after withdrawing from the program, may be required to pay penalties.

According to the Board of Assessors, the Town has roughly 68 acres of land protected under the state's tax abatement programs: Chapter 61 (forest), 61A (agricultural), and 61B (recreation).

### *Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)*

According to town records, there are currently no parcels subject to a private conservation restriction, enrolled in the state's agricultural preservation restriction program, or held by land trusts or non-profits.

The Agricultural Preservation Restriction program is a voluntary program that offers a non-development alternative to farmland owners for their agricultural lands who are faced with a decision regarding the future use and disposition of their farms. The program offers farmers a payment up to the difference between the "fair market value" and the "fair market agricultural value" of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction, which precludes any use of the property that will harm its agricultural viability. (MA DAR, 2013) More recent APRs also include an 'Option to Purchase Premises at Agricultural Value', ensuring that protected farmland is not sold at prices beyond the reach of working farmers.

## Total Chapter 61 Lands

Table 8: Chapter 61 Lands

TOTAL CHAPTER 61 LANDS	ACRES
TOTAL CHAPTER 61 FOREST LANDS	0
TOTAL CHAPTER 61A AGRICULTURAL LANDS	16.4
TOTAL CHAPTER 61B RECREATION LANDS	52.42
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION RESTRICTION LANDS	0
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE</b>	<b>68.82</b>

Chapter 61 Forest Lands (No Production): None at this time

## Chapter 61A Agricultural and Forest Production Lands

Table 9: Chapter 61A Agricultural and Forest Production Lands

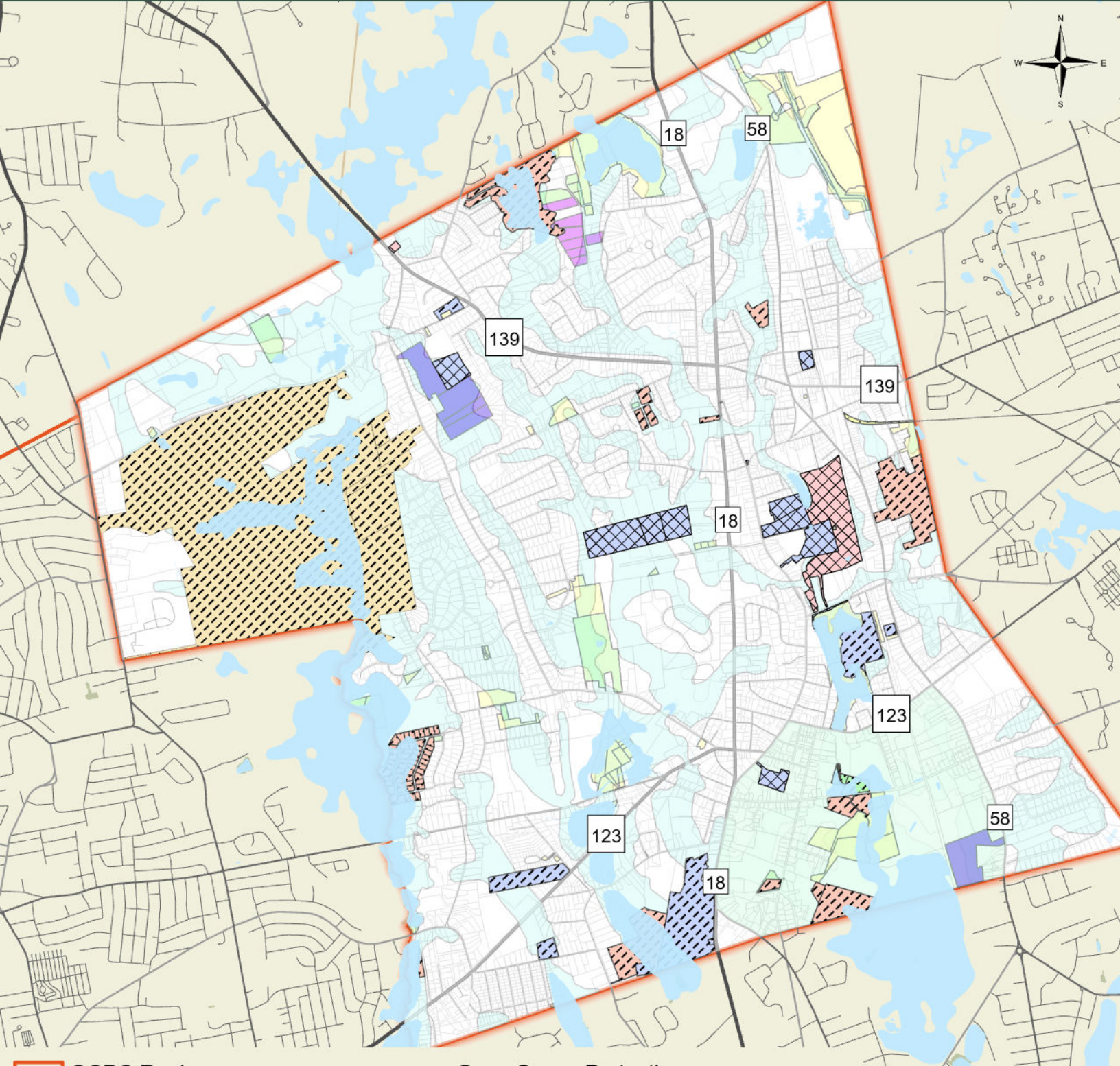
Chapter 61A Lands					
Map Parcel ID	Site Address	Lot Size (Acres)	Land Use Code	Fee Owner Manager	Land Use Code Description
63_127	OAKLAND RD	3.2	6100	RICK MONTGOMERY MECHANICAL LLC	Chapter 61A Forest Land
63_125	OAKLAND RD	3	6100	RICK MONTGOMERY MECHANICAL LLC	Chapter 61A Forest Land
64_3	DALE ST	1.9	6100	RICK MONTGOMERY MECHANICAL LLC	Chapter 61A Forest Land
63_124	OAKLAND RD	2.9	6100	RICK MONTGOMERY MECHANICAL LLC	Chapter 61A Forest Land
63_123	OAKLAND RD	2.1	6100	RICK MONTGOMERY MECHANICAL LLC	Chapter 61A Forest Land
63_122	OAKLAND RD	1.8	6100	RICK MONTGOMERY MECHANICAL LLC	Chapter 61A Forest Land
58_14	OAKLAND RD	1.5	6100	RICK MONTGOMERY MECHANICAL LLC	Chapter 61A Forest Land
Total Areas Protected	16.4				

## Chapter 61B Recreation Lands

Table 10: Chapter 61B Recreation Lands

Chapter 61B Lands					
Map Parcel ID	Site Address	Lot Size (Acres)	Land Use Code	Fee Owner Manager	Land Use Code Description
50_11	HANCOCK ST	11.33	8030	HENRIKSON REALTY CORP	Nature Study - areas specifically for nature study or observation (Ch. 61B, not classified as Open Space)
50_27	HANCOCK ST	14.09	8030	HENRIKSON REALTY CORP	Nature Study - areas specifically for nature study or observation (Ch. 61B, not classified as Open Space)
50_32	0 HANCOCK ST	4.46	8030	HENRIKSON REALTY CORP	Nature Study - areas specifically for nature study or observation (Ch. 61B, not classified as Open Space)
51_27	0 HANCOCK ST	7.3	8030	HENRIKSON REALTY CORP	Nature Study - areas specifically for nature study or observation (Ch. 61B, not classified as Open Space)
18_1	1103 PLYMOUTH ST	15.2396	8030	MARANDO RICHARD A & ALICIA M	Nature Study - areas specifically for nature study or observation (Ch. 61B, not classified as Open Space)
Total Areas Protected		52.42			

# Town of Abington Open Space Inventory



- OCPC Region
- Floodplain Wetlands District
- Watershed Protection District
- 61A
- 61B

- Unprotected Land
- Town-Owned Open Space Unprotected
  - Other Town-Owned Land
  - Town Parcels
  - Water

- Open Space Protection
- Limited
  - Perpetuity
  - Unknown

- Land Use and Ownership Categories
- Cemeteries
  - DCR
  - Municipal Owned Conservation
  - Municipal Recreation
  - Rail<sup>9</sup>Trails
  - County of Plymouth Conservator



**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL

70 School Street  
Brockton, MA 02301  
oldcolonyplanning.org  
Created January 2026

GIS Data Sources: Office of  
Geographic Information  
(MassGIS), MassDOT, OCPC

### C. Public and Nonprofit Parcels

#### Permanently Protected Open Space

##### Inventory of Open Space Owned by Abington and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Open Space and Recreational resources are listed on the following pages in Tables 11-14. Individual parcels are broken down into significant groups: Town-Owned Land Under Conservation Commission Management, Town-owned Municipal Land Under Water Department Management, Open Space Trails and Nature Areas, Town Owned Canoe Landings (none), playgrounds and athletic fields, Cemeteries, Town-owned landmarks, Town-owned municipal parcels, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Protected Properties.

*Figure 32: Land at Diane Cir*



## Town Owned Land under the Conservation Commission

Table 11: Town Owned Land: Conservation Commission

Property Name	Current Use	Lot Size Acres	Public Access	Public Grant Accepted Y/N	Condition	Recreation Potential
Bedford St	Conservation Only	1	Yes	No	Fair	Limited recreation potential, trails are possible, but close to private and residential land.
Chestnut St	Conservation Only	11.4	Yes	No	Fair	Limited recreation potential due to Cushing Pond and Beaver Brook, the surface is wet.
Diane Cir	Trails	19.1	Yes	No	Fair	Some existing trails, limited potential, residential land, and a muddy surface
Hamilton St	Conservation Only	4.18	Limited	No	Poor	Recreation Potential/land is in-between residential areas
High St	Conservation Only	3.63	Limited	No	Fair	Limited recreation potential, proximity to the Strawberry Valley Golf Course
Jeremiah Sullivan Dr	Conservation Only	9.05	Yes	No	Fair	Limited potential, some existing trails, limited potential, close to residential land, and muddy surface
Laurie Av	Conservation Only	1.26	Limited	No	Poor	None/limited, Area is close to Beaver Brook, surface is wet and slippery
Lincoln St	Conservation Only	2.54	Limited	No	Poor	None/limited/private, Area is too close to residential property
Linwood St	Conservation Only	6.92	Limited	No	Poor	None/limited, Area is close to Beaver Brook, surface is wet and slippery
Mill St	Conservation Only	0.91	Limited	No	Poor	Limited land access
Oakland Cir	Conservation Only	7.34	Limited	No	Poor	This parcel is enclosed by residential property.
Randolph St	Trails	39.99	Yes	No	Fair	Limited/Existing. Land available for trails and other recreational purposes
Rockland St	Conservation Only	27.85	Limited	No	Good	Limited conservation access, potential for recreational trails
Summer St	Conservation Only	6.76	Limited	No	Fair	Limited recreational access, close to private and residential property. Wetlands might be too sensitive.
Thicket St	Conservation Only	1.81	Yes	No	Good	Limited/Existing, Potential for recreational use, connected to Blueberry Hill Conservation Land
Walnut St	Conservation Only	0.4	Yes	No	Fair	Limited/Existing. Recreational ability, close to the Shumatuscasant River and wetlands
Washington St	Conservation Only	2.08	Limited	No	Fair	Limited recreation potential, close to Stream River and conservation land

## Open Space, Trails, and Natural Areas maintained by the Town

Table 12: Open Space, Trails and Natural Areas, Maintained by the Town

Property Name	Current Use	Lot Size Acres	Public Access	Public Grant Accepted Y/N	Condition	Recreation Potential
<b>Island Grove Pond</b>	Paved bridge over the pond. The trail that wraps around the pond includes sidewalks.	19.09	Yes	Yes – CPA Funds	Good	The bridge across the pond meets ADA requirements and is being updated to have a ramp that connects to the greater park across from the pond.
<b>Island Grove Recreation Area</b>	Large Park with forests and cleared fields leading up to Island Grove Pond.	17.22	Yes	Yes - CPA Funds	Fair	Island Grove has established recreation including a summer camp, natural style swimming pool, and hiking trails. There is a need to expand accessible sites on this side of Island Grove. Historic buildings and historic district assignment limit certain recreation potentials but there is ample room to expand and improve trail systems.
<b>Griffins Dairy</b>	Gravel walking path, Community Gardens	35.71	Yes	Yes - CPA Funds	Excellent	Griffins Dairy has recreational potential, already including trails, picnic tables, and a community garden. Current recreation leaves a margin around wetlands, and sensitive areas expansion would need to be done very carefully, but would be an excellent opportunity to connect to the rail trail. <sup>1</sup>

## Town-Owned Playgrounds and Athletic Fields (Schools Excluded)

Table 13: Town Owned Playgrounds and Athletic Fields (Schools Excluded)

Property Name	Current Use	Lot Size Acres	Public Access	Public Grant Accepted Y/N	Condition	Recreation Potential
<b>Green St Playground</b>	Sports Fields are mostly cleared with recurring flooding concerns.	3.82	Yes	Yes – CPA	Good	Green St Playground and sports fields have received funding through CPA to update this area. There have been some current improvements to sports fields. New uses would be limited other than passive rec, as this lot is prone to flooding.
<b>Strawberry Golf Course</b>	Partially cleared for a Golf Course and dense forest surrounding.	47.42	Yes	No	Excellent	The golf course management has recently been placed back under the management of the town. There is potential to increase walking trail use during hours outside of golfing and cross-country skiing in the off-season. There is an opportunity and interest to expand public programming as well.
<b>Plymouth St Park</b>	Cleared for the sports field	1.38	Yes	Yes – CPA	Fair	Plymouth St Playfield needs drainage improvements to expand the recreation potential of the lot due to flooding concerns. Improvements to the snack shack and bathrooms would be the best improvement for this space.
<b>Former North School Property</b>	Formerly North School is being converted to storage for the DPW temporarily	0.09	Yes	No	Poor	At this time, the playground that existed at this school is not available to the public. There may be potential for recreation in the far future, but not at this time.
<b>Park Department building and lot</b>	The clear field consists of Laidler Field for Little League	2.99	Yes	No	Fair	There are limited opportunities to expand recreation here, as there is limited parking and no safe alternative way to reach the park, as it is at an intersection of major roads.
<b>Arnold Park</b>	Recreational Park	2.64	Yes	Yes- CPA	Good	Established recreational parks, fields, and picnic tables. Close to commuter rail
<b>Murphy Field</b>	Former school, Sports Field still in use	13	Yes	No	Fair	Further recreation potential at this site will depend on the reuse of the former school property. There is enough acreage here to meet many different rec needs.

Town Owned Land Under Water Department Management

Table 14: Town Owned Land: Water Department

Property Name or Location	Management Agency	Co-Owner	Lot Size Acres	Current Use	Recreation Potential
<b>Walnut St Conservation Land Parcel</b>	Abington Town of	Rockland Town of	1.42	Adjacent to Richard Rd, a mix of meadow and new-growth forest	This parcel closely wraps around residential properties and creates a natural buffer for downstream wetlands. Currently, there is no recreational potential.
<b>Walnut St Conservation Land Parcel</b>	Abington Town of	Rockland Town of	16.98	The land surrounding Stream River and connecting down to the Whitman Boundary of Hobart Meadow	May be suitable for hiking paths that connect to other conservation parcels between Whitman and Walnut St. No direct access limits recreation potential.
<b>Shumatuscacant River Strip Parcel</b>	Plymouth County of Inhabitants	Plymouth County of Inhabitants	2.16	The parcel wraps around the Shumatuscacant River and surrounding wetlands.	The land is too wet to support recreation.
<b>Walnut St Conservation Land Parcel</b>	Rockland Town of	Town of Abington	5.33	Forested Highlands for wetland protection	There is no direct access to this parcel, though it could be later included in a trail system connecting to other Walnut St conservation parcels.
<b>Shumatuscacant River Strip Parcel</b>	Plymouth County inhabitants	Plymouth County inhabitants	3.0	The parcel wraps around the Shumatuscacant River and surrounding wetlands.	Land serves as a natural buffer between heavy traffic on Summer St and the Shumatuscacant River. No safe access for recreation.
<b>Wright Meadow Parcel</b>	Abington Town of	Abington Town of	2.39	Commonly known as Wright Meadow, this land is where Stream River and the Shumatuscacant River meet and is often flooded.	Wetlands are too sensitive for recreational access.
<b>Wright Meadow Parcel</b>	Abington Town of	Rockland Town of	13.69	The parcel wraps around the Shumatuscacant River and surrounding wetlands.	Only a narrow portion of this parcel could be converted to hiking trails, and pathways should be limited to areas of higher topography, not to disturb wetlands.
<b>Wright Meadow Parcel</b>	Abington Town of	Rockland Town of	17.67	The access road connects to the forested area until meeting wetlands that border the Shumatuscacant River.	Access to this site is gated at the Myers Ave access road. Allowing hiking could create access across Myers Ave and Walnut St, connected parcels to create a hiking trail through Wright Meadow and the Abington Dog Park. Land is has wetlands, specifically on the eastern half of the parcel, and trail plans should be methodical to avoid harming sensitive ecosystems.
<b>Chestnut St Water Tower</b>	Abington-Rockland Joint Water Works	Abington-Rockland Joint Water Works	0.69	This site only contains access to the Water Tower.	None
<b>Lincoln St Water Storage Facility</b>	Abington Town of	Water Department	5.68	This site only contains access to jointly owned water storage.	None
<b>Walnut St Sewer Pump Station</b>	Abington Town of	Sewer Pumping Station	0.01	Sewer access only	Not enough land for recreation
<b>Old Country Ln Pump Station</b>	Abington Town of	Pump Station	0.92	Pump Station Access Only	Not enough land for recreation. Too close to residential lots.

<b>Charles St</b>	Abington Town of	Sewer Department	6.32	Forested land surrounding Hanover Branch Rail Trail, Powerlines, and bordering the Rockland Town Line and the Golf Course	There is only access to this parcel through residential land or the Rail Trail. There are no recommended recreation changes at this time.
<b>Chestnut St Sewer Pump Station</b>	Abington Town of	Sewer Pump Station	0.92	Land used for Pump Station.	No recreation potential.
<b>Hancock St</b>	Abington Town of	Sewer Dept Pump Station	0.02	Small pathway to the Pump Station	Not enough land for recreation.

### Town Owned Cemetery

Table 15: Town Owned Cemetery

Property Name	Lot Size Acres	Public Access	Level of protection	Public Grant Accepted Y/N	Condition
<b>VETERAN BURIAL GROUND</b>	46.55	Yes	Limited	No	Paved accessible road is available for cars

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts Protected Properties

Table 16: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Protected Properties

Site Address	Management Agency	Site Facilities	Lot Size Acres	Current Use
<b>Linwood St</b>	Dept of Conservation And Recreation	None	0.92	None due to wetland.
<b>Monroe St</b>	Division of Capital Asset Management	None	1.85	This land is an easement to the rail trail.
<b>Monroe St</b>	Division of Capital Asset Management	None	0.11	This land is an easement to the rail trail.
<b>Birch St</b>	Division of Capital Asset Management	Train Crossing Infrastructure	1.49	None due to train safety.
<b>Birch St</b>	Division of Capital Asset Management	Train Crossing Infrastructure	0.1973	None due to train safety.
<b>Centre Av</b>	Division of Capital Asset Management	Rail Station and Parking Lot	4.08	None due to train safety.
<b>Linwood St</b>	Dept of Conservation & Recreation	Parking Lot, Ranger Station, Bathrooms (closed), benches	607.36	There are currently no allowed uses at Cleaveland Pond. While long-term water quality may be better suited without creating an active beach, a canoe launch would allow park users to get a different view of the park.
<b>Bedford St</b>	DOT	Fence	0.28	This narrow parcel is best suited as a commercial space, matching the underlying zoning.

## **Open Space Protected by Ownership and/or Purpose.**

### ***Island Grove Park***

Island Grove Park is a unique feature of Abington and a town and regional resource spanning 55 acres. Island Grove Park is made up of two halves, one side being Island Grove Pond and the Bridge and the other side serving as a series of hiking trails and recreational spaces. Island Grove Park, historically, holds significance as a meeting space for Abolitionists in the area and the bridge serves as a memorial for those of that time. The entire park was placed as a National Historic District with many individually recognized features within the park to preserve the historical importance of this space.

Island Grove also has a unique set of recreational features including a “natural” swim pool, summer camp, play facilities, and fishing and hiking opportunities. According to Friends of Island Grove, the pool was built in the late 1960s. The pool has a sand bottom and is continuously fed fresh water from a well. The pool offers day, and season passes and is a site that used to host Red Cross swimming lessons.

The Day Camp runs for 4 2-week sessions, totaling 8 weeks of low-cost day camp for Abington Youth. The camp is hosted at Island Grove and tours other town properties for different recreation opportunities.

### ***Griffins Dairy***

The Griffin Family ran a dairy farm from 1925 until 1968 off Plymouth St in Abington. Since the Town purchased it in the early 2000s, the goals for this site have evolved with community needs. Currently, this land hosts a relatively flat walking trail around the current meadow that has filled the land. This space is used by visitors for walks and picnics and is currently hosting a story walk presented by the town’s library. Off the parking lot, there is also a community garden that has been successful and continues to expand every year. In 2015, OCPC collaborated with the Town to write the Griffin’s Dairy Reuse Master Plan, which led to the Griffin’s Dairy Reuse committee, still active today, and works to preserve this space. Their responsibilities include maintaining 22 acres for community use, 40-plus garden beds, a picnic area, walking trails, and equipment for groundskeeping.

The current list of goals includes:

1. Open an existing artesian well for irrigation use only. To be used by other town departments in the future.
2. Provide parking for users of the Hanover Rail Trail and all other activities on the property.

### 3. Provide additional areas for multi-faceted recreational purposes

Additional goals may include improving parking and signage along Plymouth St, working towards increased accessibility of the trail, environmental education, and the potential to revisit adding solar to the site on the outskirts of the property to prevent impact on the wetland.

Due to the need to preserve the quality of the wetland and floodplain that this land serves, it is not recommended to add sports fields of any kind or any development that may increase impervious surfaces.

The land continues to be maintained as mostly a meadow by being mowed once annually or biannually, depending on weather conditions. Preserving meadow lands creates a beautiful scenic space for passive recreation but also is an essential habitat for many birds and insects. The meadow works in tandem with the wetlands, serving as a floodplain for the area and absorbing an abundance of water. Part of the land is still used for farming today, crops are grown in an area that is relatively

Figure 33: Image of Trail Map Sign



Figure 34: Trail Rules



## Section 6: Analysis of Needs

Abington is fortunate to have a wide range of natural and recreational resources. Due to many citizens' long-term generosity and diligent work, lands containing woods, fields, wetlands, and streams provide a variety of wildlife habitats and environments for Abington residents to enjoy. Playing fields and playgrounds, some with newly built facilities, provide improved play and team sports opportunities. If Abington seeks to maintain and improve these spaces, its officials and citizens must be vigilant in protecting and enhancing these resources for a growing and changing population. This section presents an updated analysis of these needs.

### **A. Summary of Natural Resource Protection Needs**

*Water:* Abington's natural resource protection needs encompass concerns around water within the town. While Abington is rich with surface water, water demands for the South Shore continue to increase and threaten water availability. Abington is unique, touching six watersheds within three river basins. These features create scenic views and play a significant role in the ability of the town to protect water resources. The Town works to ensure that it protects areas of high importance for drainage, which allows underground water to recharge and protect drinking resources. In addition to safeguarding wetlands in town, the town has also adopted zoning for critical watershed areas that create further protection from the disruption of land.

Other ways water resources in town can continue to be protected include conserving land, using nature-based solutions for stormwater, and increasing educational resources for residents on how to limit water use and keep local water clean. Abington has lots of wetlands, specifically surrounding the rivers, where it has already focused its conservation efforts. Other naturally existing wetlands occur and deal with the influx of flooding in different seasons. Griffins Dairy sees lots of flooding throughout the trails and farmable land extending up to the powerlines, which can flood to the point of having standing water in it for weeks after snow melt or a rainstorm. This land plays a critical role in protecting developed land from experiencing flooding. Continuing to conserve land in areas adjacent to heavy development or creating strips of open space will help the town continue to mitigate flooding.

*Forests and Habitat:* Abington's remaining forests fall under protection already as they wrap around the MBTA Commuter Rail and the rivers that flow through town, which has prevented their development. These areas are mostly connected due to following the paths

of the water. However, many of the forested areas in town are landlocked by housing. This limits recreational opportunities and poses a threat to wildlife that travel larger distances and may seek to cross main roads to seek other land. Reviewing the 2025 Biomap Data, areas of most significant importance include the western border of town, which follows Beaver Brook up through Cleveland Pond located within Ames Nowel State Park, and North to conservation land in Holbrook and Weymouth. This area has strong strength and is entirely protected. Another area of significant importance for Rare Species, according to BioMap, was the Northeast quadrant of the town. This land is between industrial land and the Weymouth Naval Air Station South Field location. Currently, there is a mix of land in permanent conservation and still owned by the Naval Air Station. Reuse plans for the Weymouth Naval Air Station show areas of connecting open spaces to protect wildlife and natural resources in this area.



Figure 35: Millenium Complex

## **B. Summary of the Community's Outdoor Recreation Needs**

To ensure the Open Space and Recreation Plan reflects the needs of the community, the Town is given a survey to complete, as highlighted in section two, to allow many people to provide feedback on Open Space and Recreation. Many questions in this survey are designed to mirror those of the statewide OSRP survey to gather a comparison of needs between the local and state levels. The Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services conducted an Outdoor Needs Survey for its statewide 2023 SCORP update. Respondents explained what motivates them to participate in outdoor recreation. Results showed that residents were partaking in outdoor recreation activities for physical fitness, followed closely by mental well-being, and being close to nature.

When asked which five activities they personally participated in most often during the past 12 months, the most popular included, in order: hiking, walking or jogging, swimming at the beach, lake, or river, boating (by canoe or kayak), birding or wildlife viewing, dog walking, off road bicycling (rail trails/bike paths), visiting historic sites, on road bicycling, and fishing.

Municipalities who completed the survey on behalf of overall community use and need showed significant overlap. The top 10 activities were walking or jogging, baseball/softball, playgrounds, basketball/volleyball, hiking, birding/wildlife viewing, dog walking, soccer, picnicking, and boating (by canoe or kayak).

These state-level survey responses provide an essential reference point for the input gathered during Abington's OSRP update process. Like statewide preferences, Abington survey responses indicate that they seek to improve neighborhood walkability, expand the range and connectivity of the off-road trail network, and broaden access to nature within their community.

Town survey data indicated the top outdoor activities are:

1. Walking or Hiking (84%)
2. Playgrounds (46.1%)
3. Team Sports (36%)
4. Fishing (23%)

About 91% of survey respondents indicated they visited Open Space in town at least once a month, with the majority of respondents using Open Space a few times a week.

The state SCORP also identifies that there are gaps in recreation needs by age category across the state for teenagers and seniors, with most recreational opportunities being targeted at young children or adults. The town survey concluded similar findings, though

overall, respondents were happy with the amount of recreation provided by the town. For each age group, respondents had a mix of responses on whether there were enough recreation opportunities for each age group.

The state identifies underserved populations for recreation spaces to be those with disabilities, teenagers, and senior citizens.

Teenagers, ages 13-17 were most identified as not having enough recreation opportunities according to survey results for Abington OSRP. Comments regarding age-oriented recreation need noted that parks and fields throughout town need upgrades, something the town is working diligently on. For teens specifically, having space that is age-appropriate is needed. This may be an opportunity for adult outdoor gym equipment that can also be used by teenagers at parks. Creating outdoor passive recreation spaces can help meet this deficit as well. Residents in Abington have also identified that older youth have an interest in street hockey and a skate park.

There is also a growing interest in recreational opportunities for Seniors. Abington has a fantastic senior center with lots of activities. In 2024, Abington expanded recreation opportunities by installing pickleball courts behind the senior center. During nice weather, these courts are full, showing off the success of this installment.

**Accessibility Needs:**

Access and Accessibility cover a wide range of meanings and needs for community members. Recreation needs may address age-specific needs or have options for recreation that are accessible within walking distance or by public transportation from their home. At this time, Abington no longer has a state-recognized EJ Community, though neighboring towns do, and they may come to Abington to use the park facilities.

Like many towns on the South Shore, Abington has an aging community, which can lead to the need for new initiatives for outdoor recreation needs and space. The town has kept this in mind as they create and improve recreation spaces.

*Figure 36: Handicap Parking*



Table 17: Town Owned Land with Recreation Opportunity Accessibility Suggestions

Town-Owned Land with Recreation Opportunity Accessibility Suggestions					
Park Name	Address	Trail Surface	Trail Width inches	Facilities	Suggestions
Island Grove Pond	136 Lake Street, Abington, MA 02351	Cement	132+	Bridge	No official parking, only street parking
Island Grove Park	36 Wilson Pl, Abington, MA 02351 Island Grove Park, Address	Sand and Rock	36	Playgrounds and swings, Swimming, Restroom is only available during swim hours.	Buildings are not regularly accessible to the public. Buildings currently are not retrofitted for wheelchair accessibility. There are no stairs, but entrances do not have a level path and are not flush with the ground.
Arnold Park	40 Harrison Ave, Abington, MA 02351	Paved	36	Playground, Game areas, No Buildings	Need ADA path to the bleachers and the basketball court
Ames Nowell Park	Linwood St, Abington, MA 02351	Paved, Pea Stone, Sand	36	Pond (No Recreation)	There should be three handicaps for 72. No accessible ramps or accessible parking, or trails.
Griffins Dairy	326 Plymouth St, Abington, MA 02351	Crushed stone, Grass	48	Community Garden, trails	Needs signage and official parking spots. Need to improve washout at bridges and extend railings
Green Street Playground	158-, 230 Green St, Abington, MA 02351	None	None	Playground and Game areas (Basketball and Ballfield)	No ramps, No Buildings
Plymouth Street Playfield	613 Plymouth St, Abington, MA 02351	Grass	28	Ballfield	Direct path to dugout, ramp needed to reach dugout, no public buildings, concession window
Andrew Ford Park	Adam St	None	32	Picnic Facilities	
Laidler Field	Chestnut Street Abington, MA 02351	None	N/A	Play Areas, Game Areas	No ramps, no stairs, no doors, no restroom,

Beaver Brook Fields	Ralph Hamlin Jr Blvd, Abington, MA 02351,	Grass	N/A	Ballfield	Sports fields are located behind the school, and there are no nearby handicapped spots. Fields are fenced with no accessible pathway between them, only grass. Wheelchair bound individuals would need to be left and travel through the lot to the next opening.
Beaver Brook Playground	Ralph Hamlin Jr Blvd, Abington, MA 02351,	Paved	N/A	Play areas, no handicapped swings or seating, all tables have benches on all sides welded in place. Sandy with/ weeds, uneven and bumpy	The lot next to the playground could use some repair, but is overall flat, with some dips and cracking over the .5 threshold.
Diane Circle Conservation Land	Diane Circle, Abington, MA 02351	Dirt	36+	No equipment, trails.	There is no official parking, creating handicapped concerns. This area is full of potential for recreation for all.
Strawberry Valley Golf Course	164 Washington St, Abington, MA 02351	Sidewalks, Grass	65+	The building has handicap parking and a ramp to the back door.	Meet with community members about needed modifications to improve accessibility.
Facilities around Town Hall	201 Gliniewicz Way, Abington, MA 02351	Sidewalks, Tracks	52+	Sidewalks around the track and field meet ADA requirements.	Signage improvements along sidewalks are needed to call out where facilities are.
Thompson Pond on Spruce St	104-194 Spruce St, Abington, MA 02351	Sand, Dirt	48+	No equipment, trails.	Signage is needed to inform where trails start and end, signs can also be used to address accessibility challenges one may face using the paths. No official handicap parking.

Healthy Aging Indicators for Abington:

Abington’s 60+ residents are faring well compared to state standards. Numbers for exercise, sleep, and health average close to Statewide numbers. Overall, these numbers show a low percentage of those aged 60+ getting the CDC-recommended physical exercise for both strength and aerobic. Similarly, many reported feeling unwell for more than half of the month. These statistics align with the state SCORP to provide increased services for seniors to help meet exercise needs and create support.

Other health indicators, compared to state average rates, older residents in Abington have lower rates of benign prostatic hyperplasia, osteoarthritis/rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, peripheral vascular disease, and depression. However, they have higher rates of tooth loss, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), hypertension, lung cancer, prostate cancer, and tobacco use disorder. Abington’s older residents are more likely to participate in health-promoting behaviors like having an annual physical exam and receiving a shingles vaccine, though they are less likely to receive a flu shot.

Table 18: Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative Data

Source: Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative	Community Estimates	State Estimates
% 60+ getting the recommended hours of sleep	64.3%	63.1%
% 60+ doing any physical activity in the past month	68.7%	72.8%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for muscle-strengthening activity	24.1%	25.8%
% 60+ met the CDC guidelines for aerobic physical activity	53.3%	53.9%
% 60+ with fair or poor self-reported health status	20.7%	18.5%
% 60+ with 15+ physically unhealthy days in the past month	16.4%	13.1%

*Recreation Facility Needs* – In addition to the notes listed above, the town is fortunate to have a hard-working Recreation Committee and Department as well as a strong relationship with the Community Preservation Committee and the Planning Board, leading to ongoing improvements to parking spaces and lots of accomplishments. Their detailed work is outlined in the table below to show the work that they have already accomplished in the past few years and the work they intend to complete over the lifetime of this plan.

Table 19: Recreation Site Preliminary Improvements

**Recreation Site Preliminary Improvement**

Site	Recent Completed or Scheduled Improvements	Ongoing Needs
<i>Frolio Jr High School</i>	Baseball fields were recently redone in collaboration with the coaches.	Better stadium seating and parking Better landscaping Fencing around HS baseball games
<i>Ames Nowell State Park</i>		Continue working with the state to improve safety and accessibility.
<i>Arnold Park</i>	The playground and the addition of a rain garden are scheduled for the coming year in partnership with CPC and North Abington Revitalization Group.	
<i>Beaver Brook Playground</i>	The Beaver Brook Playground has recently been replaced.	Upcoming funds are going towards redoing dugouts and fencing; fields will need updating over time.
<i>Laidler Field</i>		
<i>Griffins Dairy</i>	Expanded Community Gardens	Annual maintenance Continue improving ADA Accessibility.
<i>Island Grove Park/Facilities</i>	The bridge is to be redone.	The poolside snack shack needs to be redone. All the buildings need to be updated. Improve handicap access.

	Fix or remove swings. Handicap parking needs a better connection to paths. Cabin – historic and gets winterized twice a year
<i>Plymouth St Playfield</i>	Basketball hoops Need drainage improvements
<i>Green St Playground</i>	The playground is being replaced. Improve the baseball field, basketball hoops, and playground. Walking track because there are no sidewalks.
<i>Rockland Rail Trail</i>	Needs lights/safety concerns. Benches Sidewalk connections to other parks More directional signing More parking spaces so people can take their bikes. Add public art installations. Clarify where parking is and is not allowed. Bike repair stations
<i>Strawberry Valley Golf Course</i>	Create free time for learning beginner's golf. Increase youth/women's / beginner's league opportunities. Walking paths or cross-country skiing paths during the off-season. Better parking lot
<i>Woodsdale School Fields and Playgrounds</i>	The baseball field needs upgrading and addressing drainage issues. The playground and batting cages need to be updated. Bring back old swings and more of them. Potential to add tennis and pickleball courts.

## **Management Needs:**

Management and maintenance of the town's open space and recreation facilities are critical to these resources' safe functioning and continued operation. Maintaining safe and secure access by residents, maintaining grounds and fields, maintaining equipment, and protecting against vandalism are a few of the many issues that must be addressed on a routine schedule by the Town. Funding for managing and maintaining open space and recreation facilities must be evaluated when acquiring future resources. It is essential for an Open Space and Recreation Plan to outline specific recommendations that will help the Town meet its open space and recreation goals strategically. Currently, land in town is managed by several sectors: the Select Board, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, and the Recreation Department, which falls under DPW. The staff of the Planning Department oversees and works across all boards to ensure the town is proactive in supporting its conservation and recreation needs.

The town has many recreation facilities for its residents and locals to enjoy. With this array of properties comes an array of maintenance and improvements to be completed over time. Abington has done an excellent job creating communication amongst participating boards to ensure these projects are completed. To help with the organization of work to be done at this time, in section B. Recreation Needs, there is a table that outlines the needs for each park that are of top priority, and a table of accessibility improvement opportunities. These are separate from the action plan as they are a large volume of work that could be done, and they fall under several items in the action table. The most immediate action anticipated is for the Recreation Board to make a Capital Improvements plan for the maintenance and upgrades needed for the park. This organizational tool will prepare the recreation committee and the Community Preservation Committee to be prepared to assign funds to projects over time.

Currently, the town owns lots of land through a combination of tax takings, updating public facilities, and purchasing land for conservation over time. To keep the Town organized, relevant boards should work closely with the Assessors' office to ensure that the land is properly categorized and accounted for. Selling off land that the town does not need for municipal purposes, which can go back into meeting the housing needs, can benefit existing open space by preventing the need for new land to be developed. It is equally important that land that is intended to be conserved under perpetuity is properly assigned.

Any significant, Town-owned conservation land that is not currently permanently protected should be placed under protection by the most appropriate means available (transfer to the Conservation Commission, Conservation Restriction, etc.). The appropriate departments or commissions within the Town should also research the deeds of the

property under their control, including the acquisition history of each. The next step is to identify the parcels that have affirmative Town Meeting Votes stating that the subject property is to be dedicated to either conservation or recreation use, and determine that the deed reflects the purpose of the acquisition. If research reveals that the accompanying deed does not reflect the intent of the acquisition, the situation may be remedied by recording a corrective deed (it is recommended that the authorizing Town Meeting Vote is recorded as an adjunct to the corrective deed).



*Figure 37: Image of Pool at Island Grove*

## Section 7: 10-Year Action Plan

The Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Action Plan guides future planning efforts to protect natural resources, improve recreational opportunities, and make Abington a more climate-resilient community over the next ten years (2035). It is designed to implement the goals and objectives outlined in Section 1 and address the needs identified in Section 6. The Action Plan is also intended to be consistent with other local plans and to address the needs identified in Section 6. The Action Plan is also intended to be consistent with other local plans, and to the extent practical, the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Plans are given a timeline based on practicality. These goals may be implemented at various times due to funding opportunities and changing needs over the coming decade. The way the priorities are listed at the time of the plan is subject to change based on these Plans.

- Highest priority actions will be accomplished in the short term, years 1-3. (2025-2028).
- Actions that meet intermediate needs will be accomplished in the mid-term, years 3-7. (2028 – 2032).
- Lower priority actions will be accomplished in the long-term, years 7-10 (2032 – 2035).
- Ongoing actions occur during the entire ten-year period.

Implementing the Action Plan will take the coordinated effort of all responsible parties. As the entity responsible for the OSRP, the Open Space Committee will ask all participants in the Action Plan to report on the status of their respective action items. Timeframes are established; however, it is recognized that circumstances may change and impact resource availability, which may cause actions to move up or down in priority. As leading parties report to the Open Space Committee, they should discuss why actions could not be completed, or others rose to the top. This will help the Town prepare for the next OSRP update and other open space and recreational planning efforts. As supporting documents, reports, and studies used to develop the OSRP are revised, updated, and implemented, these activities should also be reported to the Open Space Committee and documented for future OSRP updates.

Table 20: 10 Year Action Plan

<b>10-Year Action Plan</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Funding Resources</b>
<b>Improve active recreational spaces and improve accessibility.</b>	Continue to upgrade parks to meet the town's growing needs.	Create an ongoing strategy to improve local parks that pairs needed repairs with a funding strategy. See the separate Facilities Table.	Recreation Committee	Year 1	Staff/Volunteer Time
		Increase lighting at parks for safety in the evening and during public events.	Recreation Committee / DPW	Ongoing	CPA
	Increase ADA accessibility, starting with updates to Griffin's Dairy to increase access for all disability types.	Assess the best spot for handicap parking near the trail access and make adjustments to bridges for handicap accessibility.	Griffin's Dairy Reuse Committee	Year 1-3	State ADA Funding, AARP Funding, CPA
		Identify which parks are most suitable for handicap retrofit and begin making changes to meet the needs.	Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Staff/Volunteer Time, State ADA Funding, AARP Funding, CPA
<b>Continue to acquire, conserve, and protect remaining natural lands in Abington to improve the environment and</b>	Create a Town Forest at Diane Circle or Thompson Pond to encourage hiking, care for the land, and increase environmental education.	Create a title and marketing for the new park to promote public engagement.	Open Space Committee, Planning Board, Select Board	Year 1-3	Staff/Volunteer Time, CPA Funding

<b>recreation opportunities in town.</b>	Promote digital information about hiking in town, including maps of hiking locations and a recreation map of the town.	The town should consider working with OCPC or a contractor to create a digital media profile for the town's recreation opportunities.	Open Space, Recreation, Planning Board	Years 3-7	Town Funds, CPA
	Promote the Chapter 61 program in town. The Conservation Commission and Planning Board should keep an active list of lands placed in this program to prepare to acquire lands through the Right of First Refusal.	Boards should be familiar with locations identified in the plan as Chapter 61 and should look to state resources to share program details with residents.	Conservation Commission, Planning Boards	Ongoing	Staff/Volunteer Time
	Ensure town-owned lands are categorized under the water department, conservation commission, or recreation commission to ensure they are accounted for and properly maintained.	Determine which properties best fit under the conservation commission or recreation commission and transfer as necessary.	Assessors, Water Dept, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Staff Time
<b>Create better town connectivity through expanding trail systems and other bike/ped transit opportunities in town.</b>	Consider creating a Friends of Abington Trails to work with neighboring towns to create trail connectivity.	Volunteers may seek to map out existing trails, find areas of interest for expansion, organize cleanups, and identify maintenance needs.	Open Space Committee	Ongoing	Volunteer Time
	Consider creating trail networks through conservation land around MBTA tracks connecting Abington to Whitman and surrounding towns in	Identify areas of land owned by the town that are outside the barriers of MBTA land to connect with other Rail Trail projects and expand hiking and	Planning Board	Year 3-7	MassTrails Grant

	partnership with OCPC efforts in the region.	biking opportunities for residents.			
	Expanding and improving walking paths around town-owned parcels on the Municipal/School Campus, with potential for paths to connect to other neighborhoods.	Consider formalizing the path behind schools onto Barry Rd.	Recreation Committee, Planning Board, Open Space Committee	3-7 Years	Staff/Volunteer Time, CPA, MassTrails
		Look for ways to create more connected loop paths around the property and potential spaces for expansion into neighborhoods surrounding to increase walkability off of roadways.	Recreation Committee, Planning Board, Open Space Committee	7-10 Years	Staff/Volunteer Time, CPA, MassTrails
	Improve connectivity between parks and from popular neighborhoods to nearby parks by adding sidewalks on major connecting roads and bike paths where appropriate.	Increase safe walkability between popular parks, beginning with the connection of Griffin’s Dairy to the Rockland Rail Trail with sidewalks and signage along Charles St and Linwood St heading towards Ames Nowell State Park.	DPW, Recreation Committee, Griffin’s Dairy	Years 3-7	Staff/Volunteer Time, CPA, Complete Streets
<b>Protect natural water systems through public education and bylaw enforcement.</b>	Create more nature-based solutions in town to mitigate stormwater runoff and improve absorption.	Create Nature Based Solutions at Arnold Park and Town Hall to address flooding and expand local education on stormwater runoff and solutions.	Planning Board, DPW MS4 Permit	Years 1-3	Town Funds, MVP Funding
		Explore ways to incentivize commercial and industrial landowners to decrease the	Planning Board	Years 7-10	Staff Time, MVP Funding

		impervious surface on their properties and/or implement green infrastructure like rain gardens.			
	Consider expanding high-density housing in trade off of protecting adjacent land to preserve remaining scenic lands while addressing growing housing concerns.	This may be a change to existing zoning bylaws that allow for housing density bonuses in exchange for contiguous land to be donated to conservation.	Planning Board	Years 7-10	Staff Time, MVP Funding
<b>Expand climate resilience in town through the implementation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and MVP 2.0</b>	The Planning Board will continue to oversee the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the MVP 2.0 process, which has its own committee.	Planning Board and MVP Board will work with necessary committees to implement hazard prevention measures, climate resiliency, and the MVP 2.0 “Seed Project”.	Planning Board	Ongoing	MVP Funding, MEMA funds, State funding
<b>Track OSRP Implementation through the creation of a joint committee of Open Space Commission, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, and Planning Board that meets quarterly.</b>	Whether this be a new committee or a jointly held meeting, the goals and actions described in this plan will need to be addressed through the collaborative effort of the boards noted in the responsible parties section.	Creating a quarterly update will allow committees to share ideas, progress, funding sources, and better track goals between OSRP updates.	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Open Space Committee, Community Preservation Committee, and Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Volunteer Time

### Acronym Key

ADA- Americans with Disabilities Act (federal)

CPA – Community Preservation Act (town)

OCPC- Old Colony Planning Council (regional)

CPC – Community Planning Committee (town)

MVP- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plans (state)

## Section 8: Public Comment

Comments made through open-ended response questions in surveys are attached in the appendix. The following comments are paraphrases of conversations and critiques that occurred during the first and second public meetings of the final draft of the plan/action plan.

Meeting 6/18/25:

Comment 1: Griffin's Dairy Committee has found some free materials to create borders around the ends of the bridges referenced to help prevent more washout in the meantime.

Comment 2: How does Griffin's Dairy Committee apply to the grants listed? Liz Shea, Town Planner, noted that they are welcome to meet with her to create grant applications. Rhiannon noted that she can also provide insight, and when applying for town CPA funds, they can attend CPA meetings.

Comment 3: Change the word AND to OR (typo)

Comment 4: What land is being identified as Gliniewicz Way? The land refers to that owned by the town surrounding the town hall, ball fields, and the schools. Changed the land name from the street name to Municipal/School Campus for clarification.

Comment 5: Is there a way to add in a goal or action that connects Griffin's Dairy lands to the Rail Trail? Discussion around the lack of sidewalks surrounding popular parks in local neighborhoods. Objective 3. Goal 4. Was created.

Meeting 6/25/25:

Comment 1: Look for clarification on potential trails or paths for Municipal/School Campus

Comment 2: John Stone, DPW Director, "We are working on the demonstration BMPs [Best Management Practices] for Arnold Park and Town Hall as we speak. Hoping to get them built this year, but it might not be until next year."

Comment 3: Is there a geographic location for where the "Seed Project" of expanding community gardens? There is a list of potential sites; the idea is to put them where people already go, including parks. Rhiannon will double-check with Liz Shea if specific sites have been chosen at this time.

## Section 9: References and Resources

### References in the order they appear.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Workbook 2025

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/open-space-and-recreation-plans>

Town of Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan (2014)

Census Data: Abington, MA

<https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALPL2020.P1?q=abington+ma>

Massachusetts 28 watersheds

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/river-basin-map-appendix-b/download>

Ames Nowell State Park, MA

<https://www.mass.gov/locations/ames-nowell-state-park>

Bay Circuit Trail

<https://www.baycircuit.org/>

2026 TIP

<https://oldcolonyplanning.org/get-involved/mpo/>

Resilient Massachusetts

<https://resilient.mass.gov/home.html>

School Enrollment:

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/enrollmentbygrade.aspx>

Enrollment by Grade

<https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=03230000&orgtypecode=5>

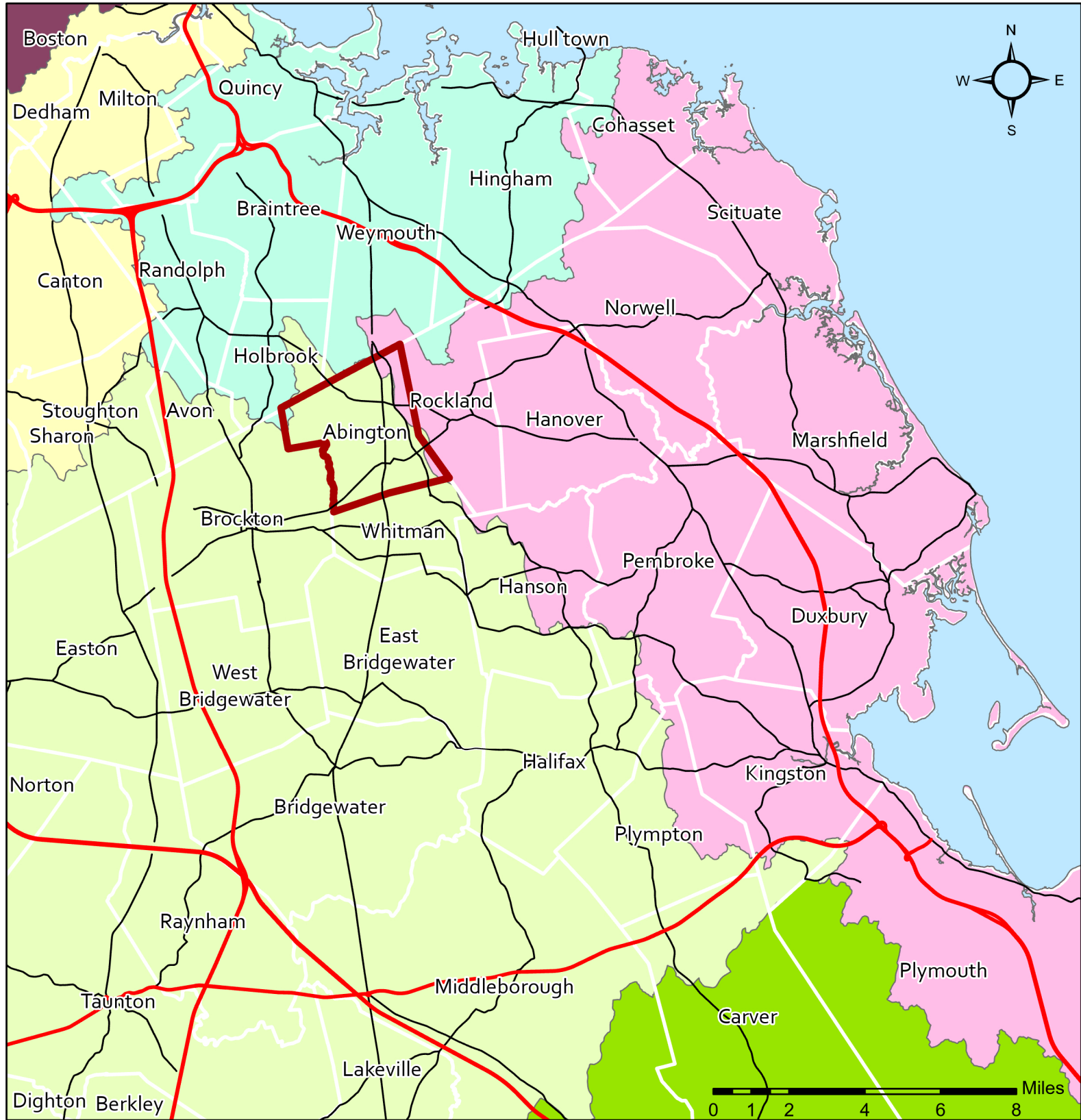
MAPC Population Projections

<https://www.mapc.org/learn/projections/>

UMass Donahue Institute Population Projections

Appendix A: Maps

# Abington Regional Context

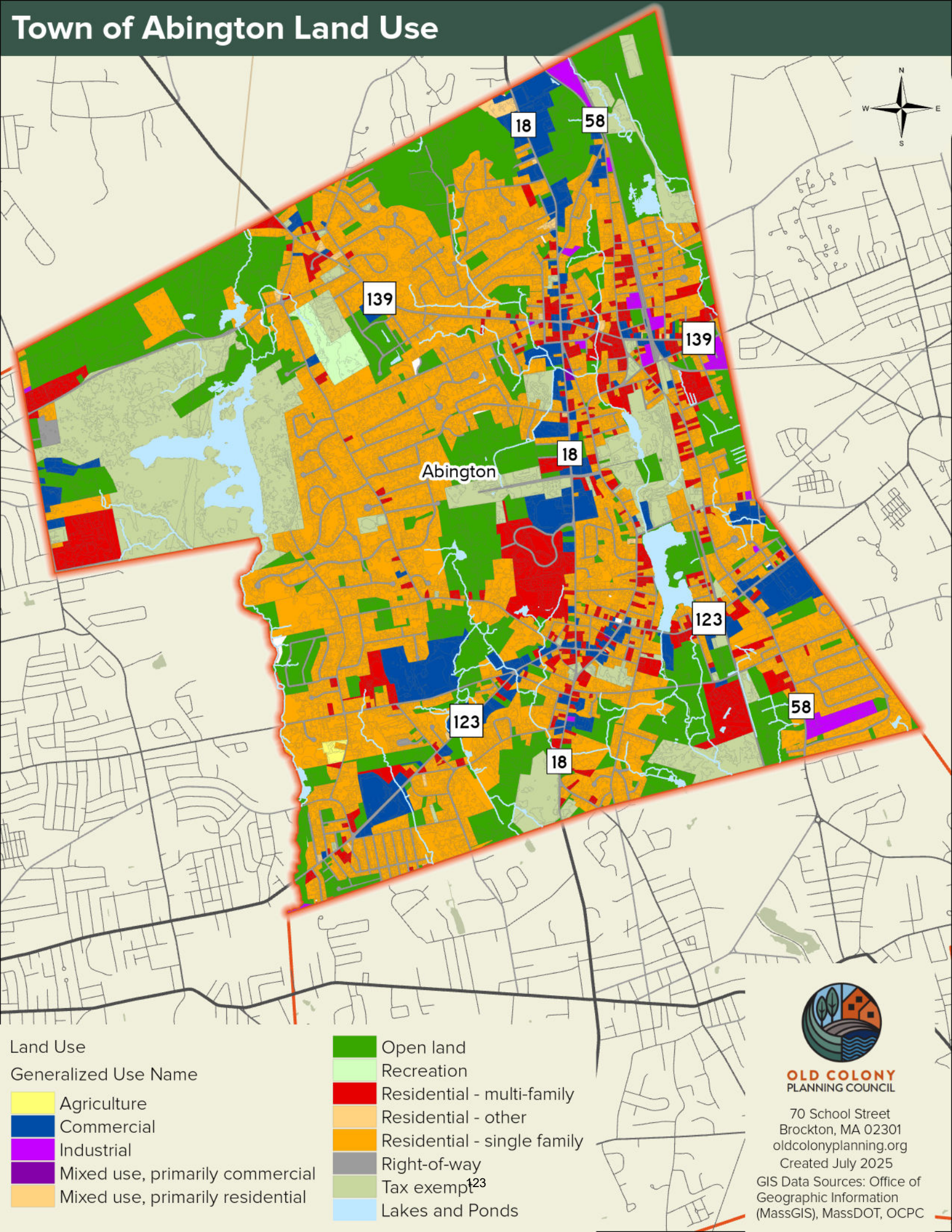


- Buzzards Bay Watershed
- Charles River Watershed
- Neponset River Watershed
- South Coastal Watershed
- Taunton River Watershed
- Weir River Watershed
- Watershed Boundaries
- Interstate / State Highways
- Major Routes



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 Old Colony Planning Council

# Town of Abington Land Use



- Land Use
- Generalized Use Name
- Agriculture
  - Commercial
  - Industrial
  - Mixed use, primarily commercial
  - Mixed use, primarily residential

- Open land
- Recreation
- Residential - multi-family
- Residential - other
- Residential - single family
- Right-of-way
- Tax exempt<sup>123</sup>
- Lakes and Ponds

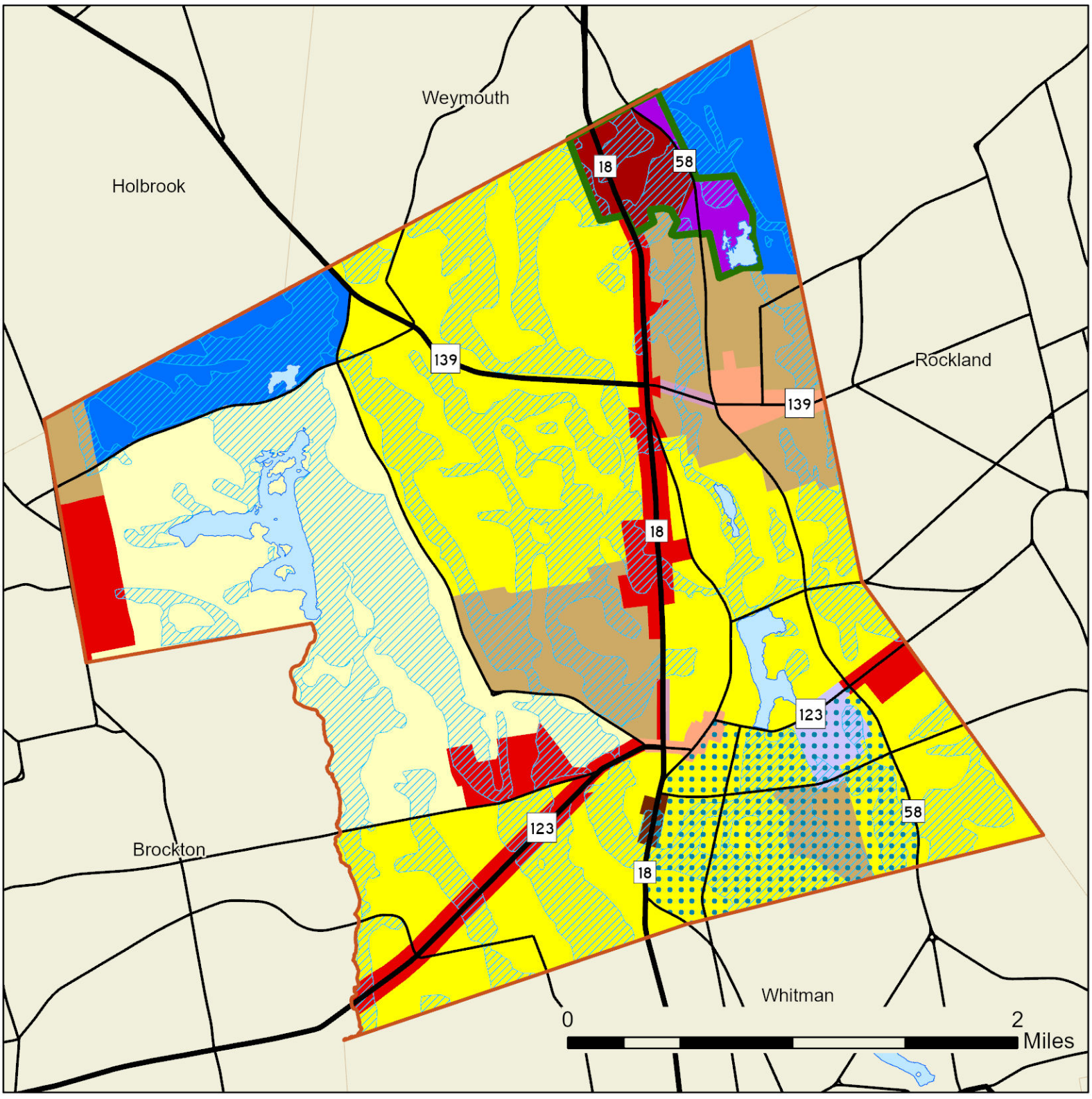


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Created July 2025

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Geographic Information  
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# Town of Abington Zoning



- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Low Density Residential                |  Transitional Commercial       |
|  Medium Density Residential             |  Business Development District |
|  High Density Residential               |  General Commercial            |
|  Multi-Use Planned Development District |  Industrial                    |
|  Transit Oriented Development           |  Floodplain Wetlands District  |
|  Central Business District              |  Marijuana Overlay District    |
|  Highway Commercial                     |  Watershed Protection District |

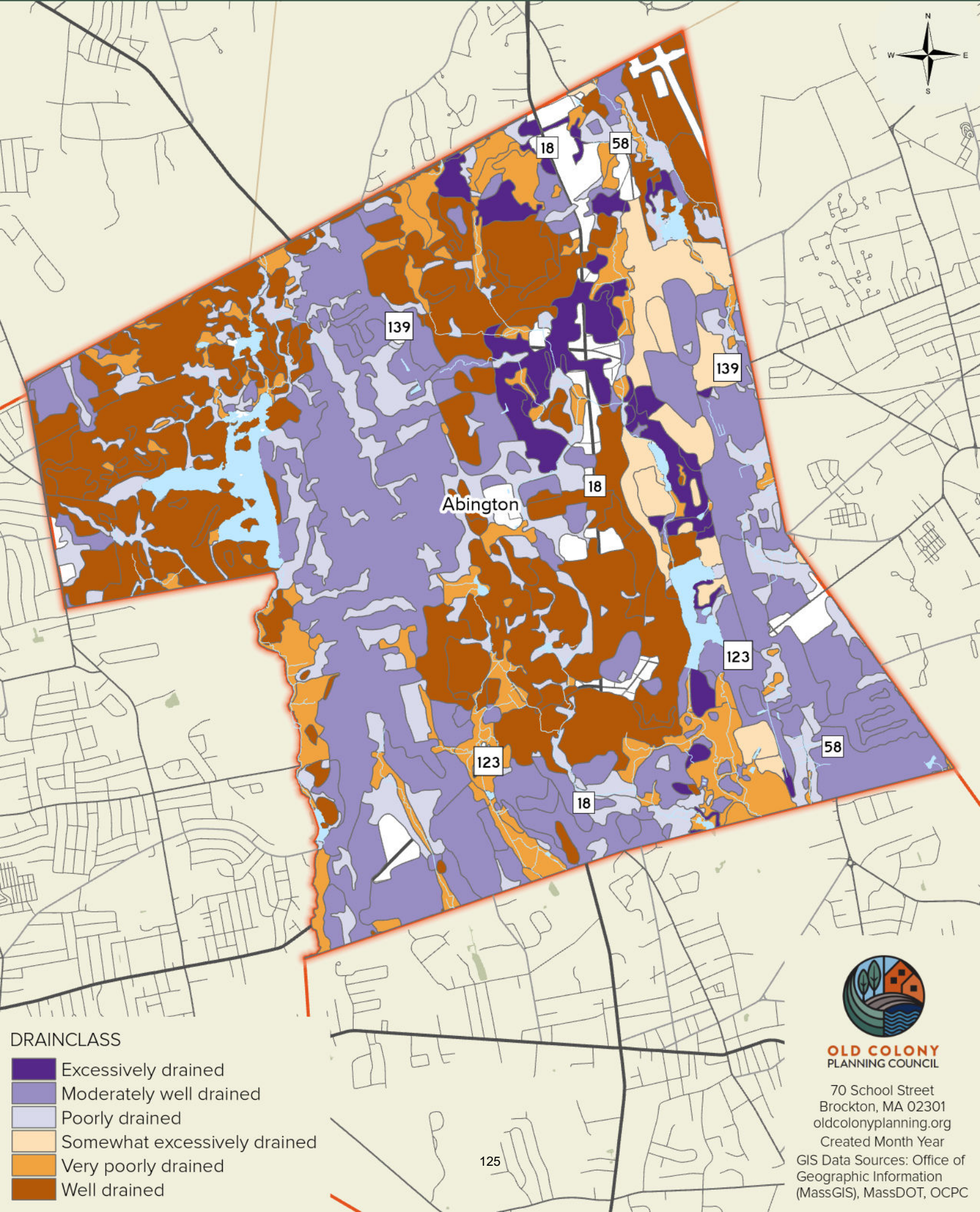


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MA Department of Transportation  
(MassDOT), Office of Geographic  
Information (MassGIS)

# Town of Abington Soil Drainage



## DRAINCLASS

-  Excessively drained
-  Moderately well drained
-  Poorly drained
-  Somewhat excessively drained
-  Very poorly drained
-  Well drained



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# Town of Abington Water Resources Map



- Wetlands by Type**
- Deep Marsh
  - Shallow Marsh Meadow
  - Shrub Swamp
  - Wooded Swamp Varieties
  - Rivers and Streams
  - Lakes and Ponds

- FEMA National Flood Zones**
- A
  - AE
  - AH
  - AO
  - AREA NOT INCLUDED
  - D
  - VE

- Watersheds of OCPC**
- X
  - Aquifer Recharge
  - BUZZARDS BAY
  - NEPONSET
  - SOUTH COASTAL
  - TAUNTON
  - WEIR

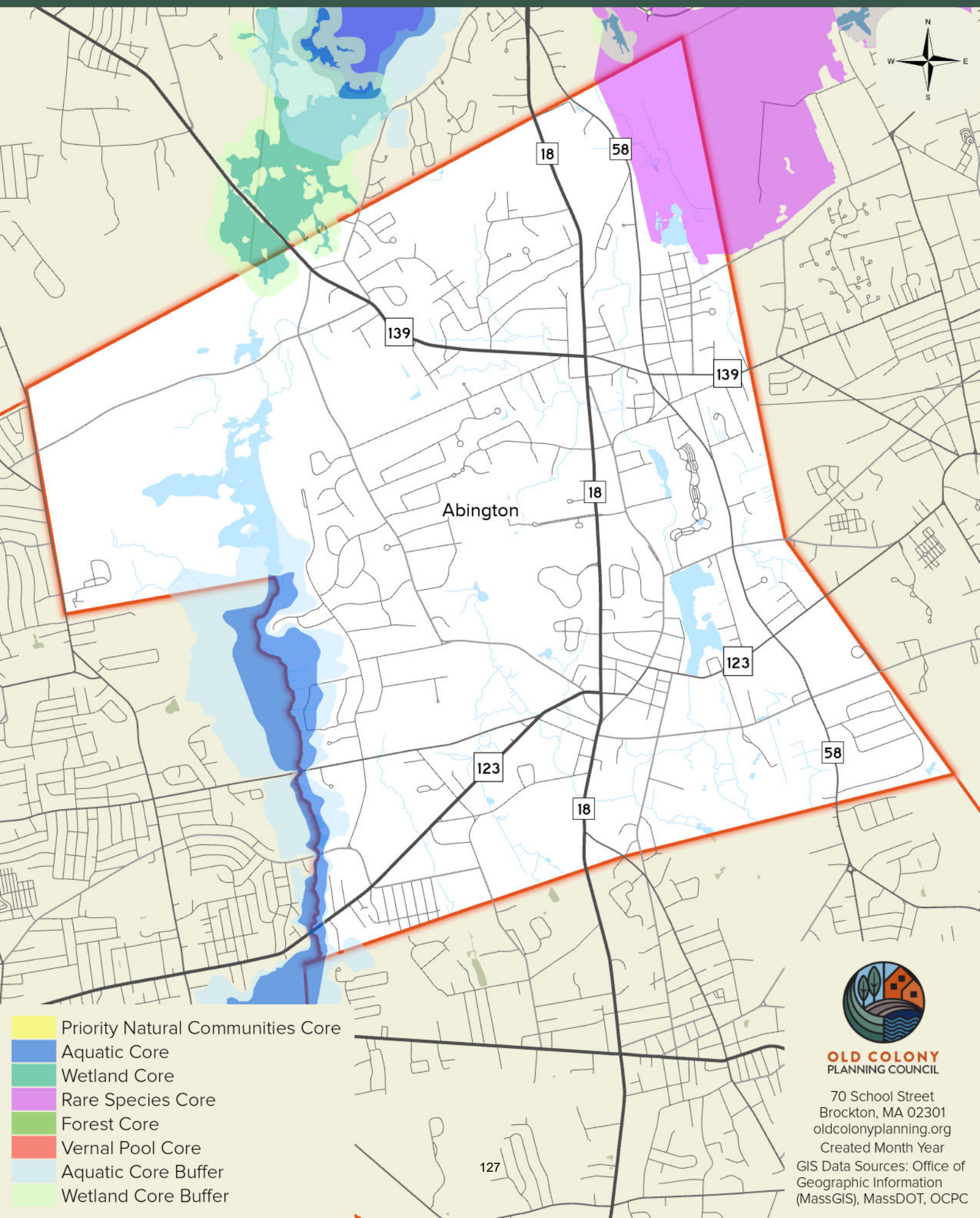


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# Town of Abington BioMap



- Priority Natural Communities Core
- Aquatic Core
- Wetland Core
- Rare Species Core
- Forest Core
- Vernal Pool Core
- Aquatic Core Buffer
- Wetland Core Buffer

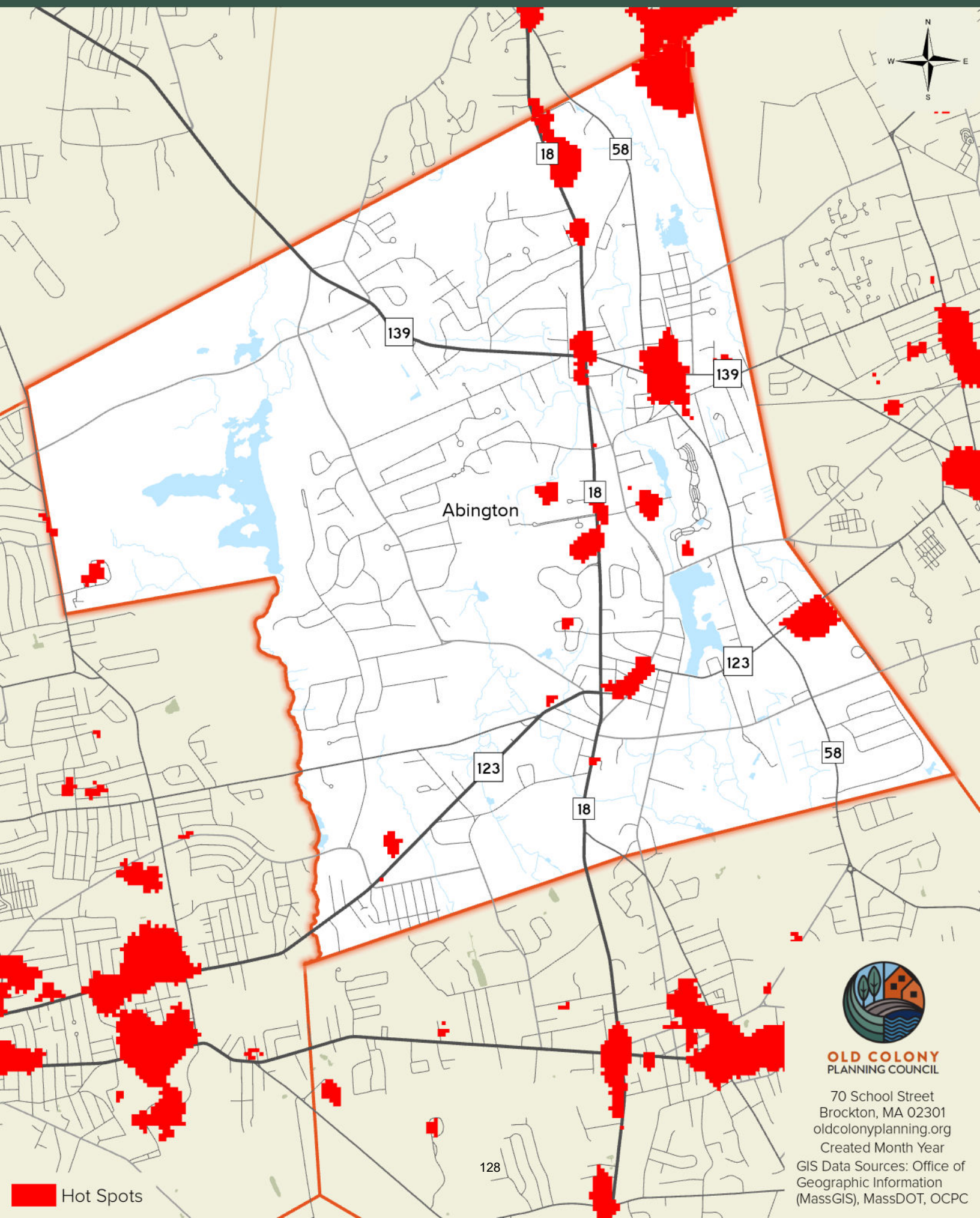


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# Town of Abington Hot Spots



Hot Spots

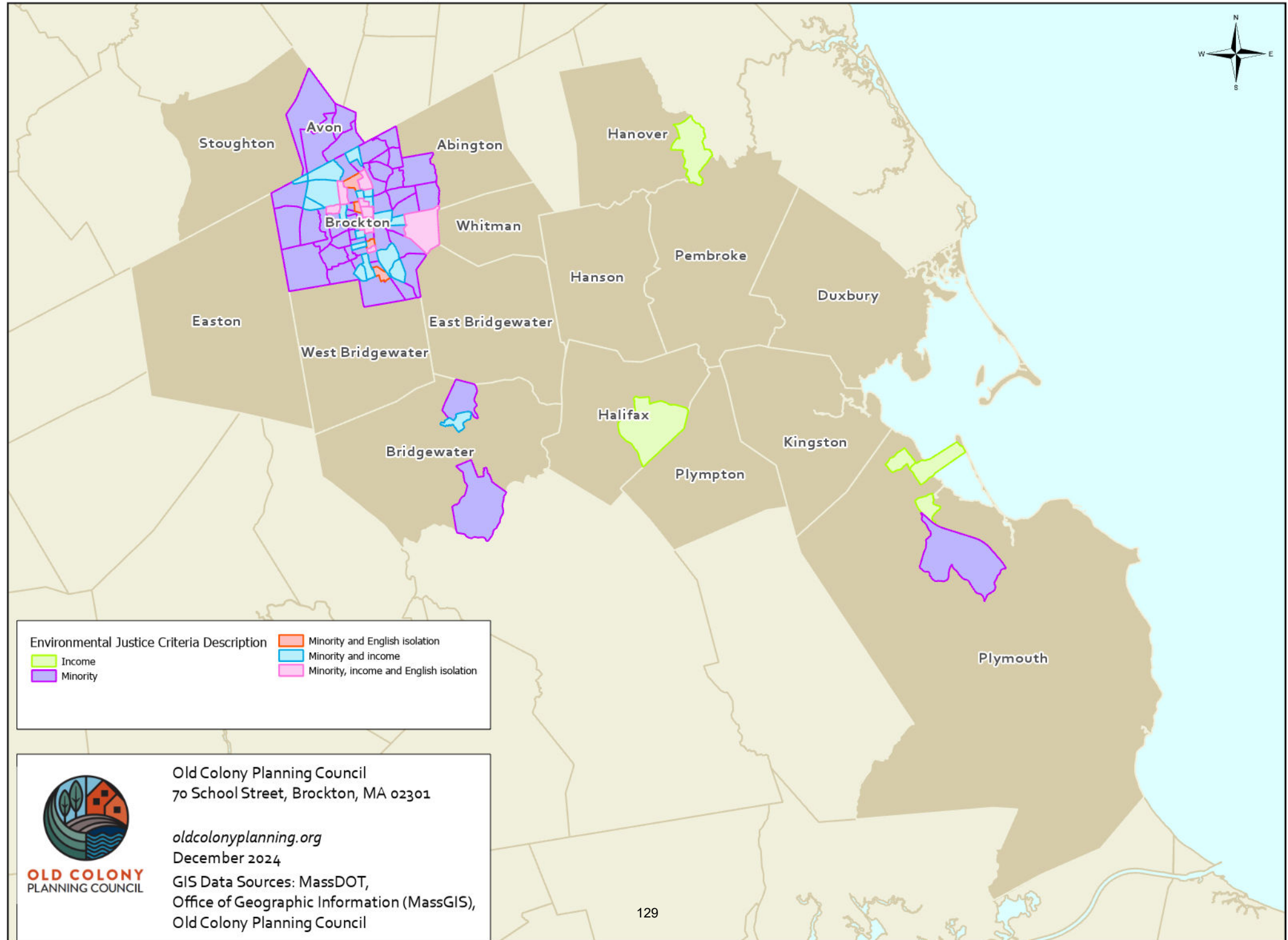
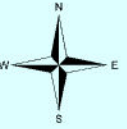


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# Environmental Justice 2020 Populations



Environmental Justice Criteria Description	
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Income	<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Minority and English isolation
<span style="color: purple;">■</span> Minority	<span style="color: cyan;">■</span> Minority and income
	<span style="color: pink;">■</span> Minority, income and English isolation

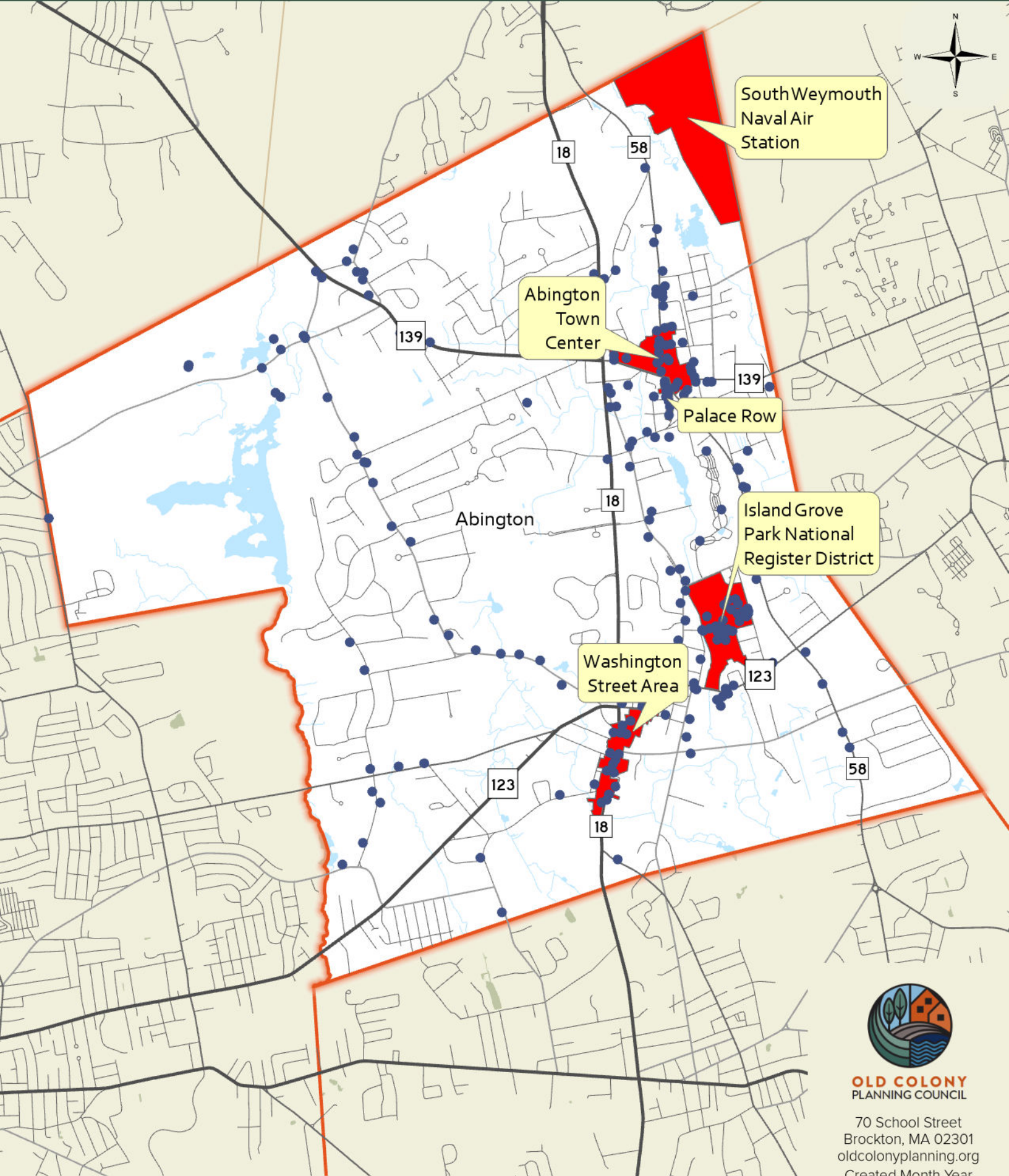


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# Town of Abington Historical Properties and Areas



- Mass Historical Commission Inventory
- Mass Historical Commission Areas

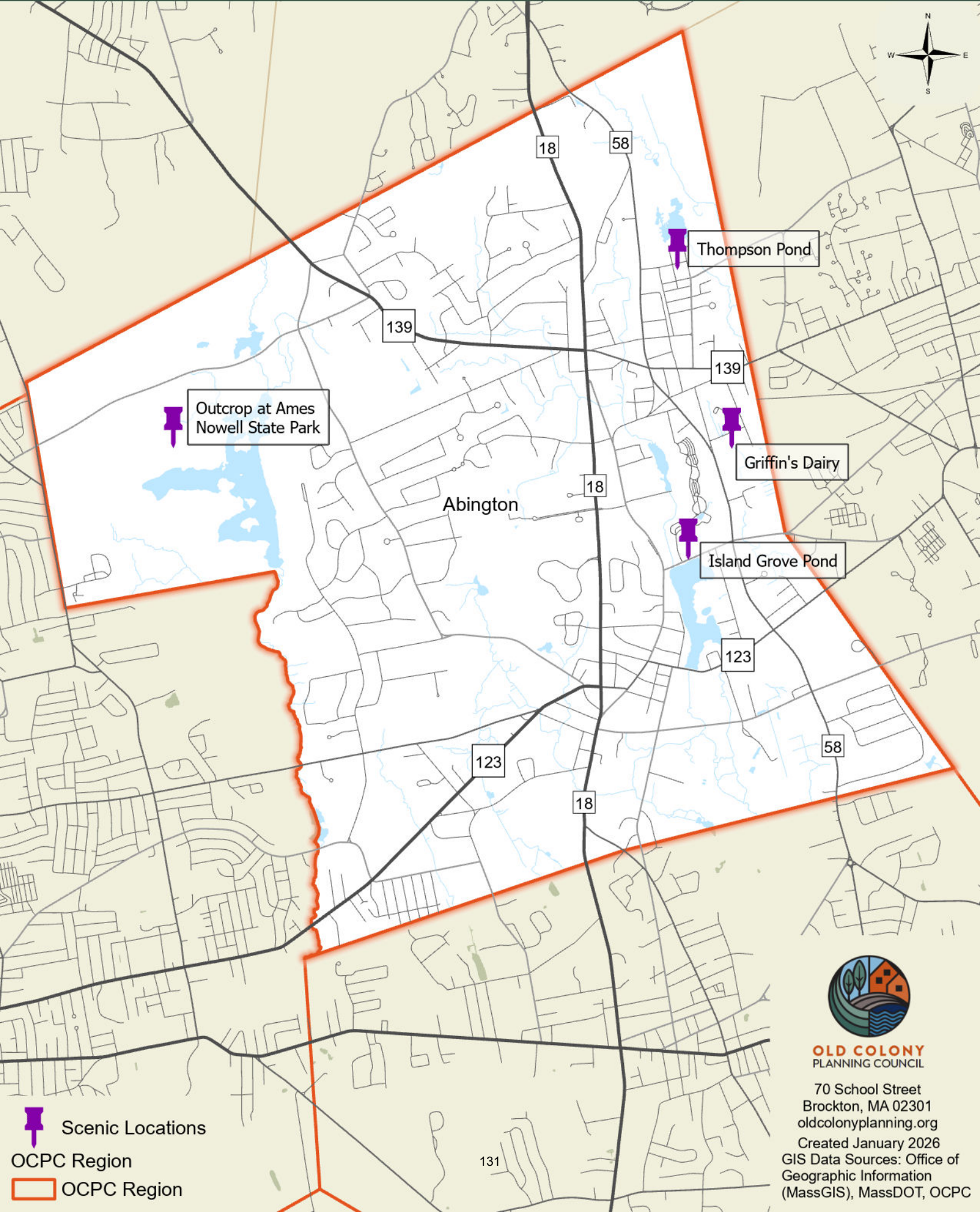




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# Town of Abington Unique Geological Features and Scenic Spaces



-  Scenic Locations
-  OCPC Region

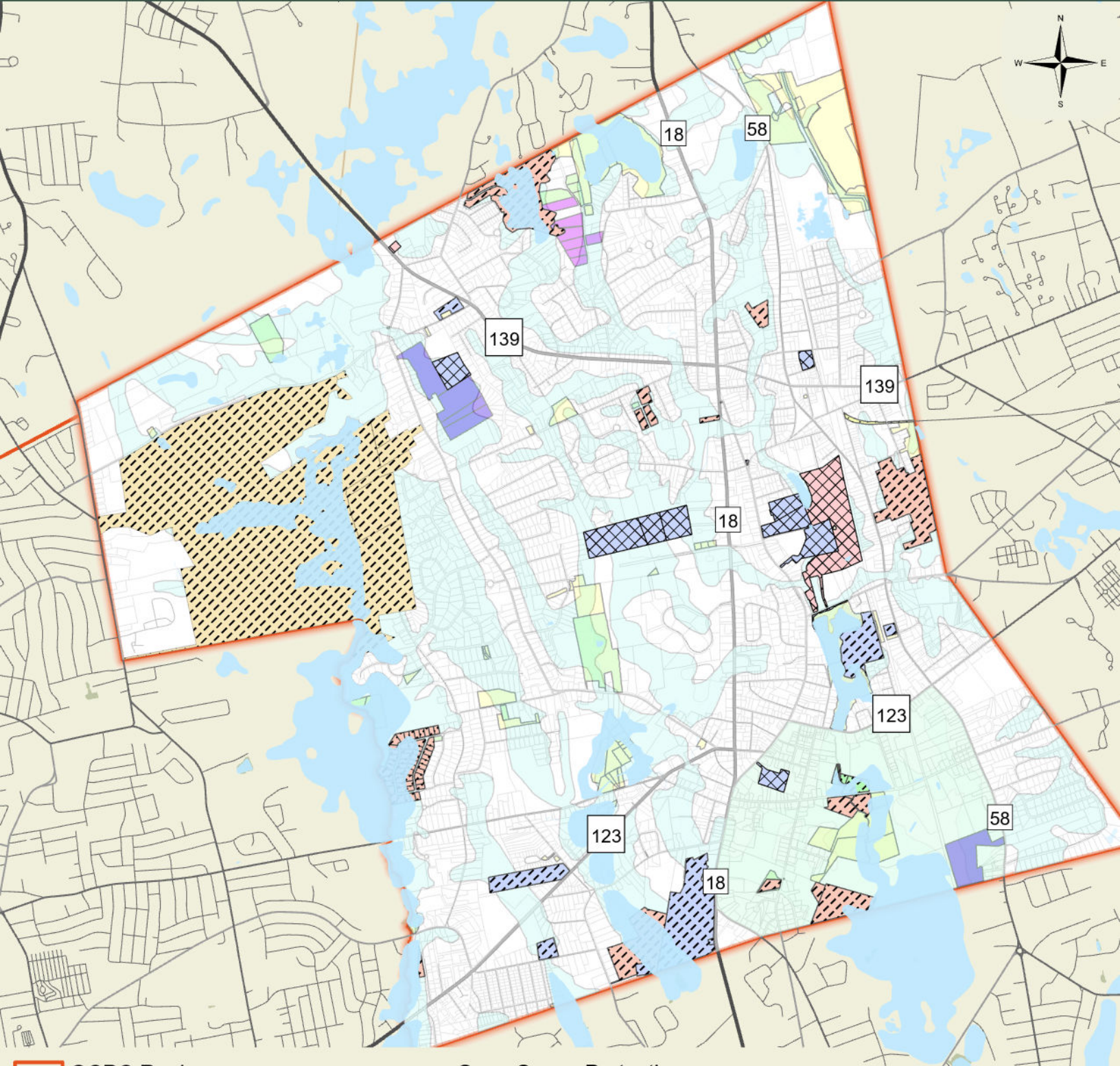


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# Town of Abington Open Space Inventory



- OCPC Region
- Floodplain Wetlands District
- Watershed Protection District
- 61A
- 61B
- Unprotected Land**
- Town-Owned Open Space Unprotected
- Other Town-Owned Land
- Town Parcels
- Water

- Open Space Protection**
- Limited
- Perpetuity
- Unknown
- Land Use and Ownership Categories**
- Cemeteries
- DCR
- Municipal Owned Conservation
- Municipal Recreation
- Rail Trails
- County of Plymouth Conservator



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Appendix B. Public Outreach Materials



# OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

What do you think? Take the survey today at  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/AbingtonOpenSpace](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AbingtonOpenSpace)



**ABINGTON**  
MASSACHUSETTS



**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL



# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT THE PLAN

**NOV 18 | 7:00**  
**2024 | PM**

**Cotter Room at  
Town Hall**



**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON:**



**CONSERVATION**



**PARKS**



**SPORTS FIELDS**

**AND MORE!**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:**

Rhiannon Dugan, [rdugan@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:rdugan@ocpcrpa.org)  
Liz Shea, [lshea@abingtonma.gov](mailto:lshea@abingtonma.gov)



Visit Our Website  
[oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/](http://oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/)



**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL



# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JUN 18 | 6:00  
2025 | PM**

**Cotter Room at  
Town Hall**



**Join us to discuss  
goals and actions of  
the OSRP update and  
the draft plan.**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:**

Rhiannon Dugan, [rdugan@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:rdugan@ocpcrpa.org)  
Liz Shea, [lshea@abingtonma.gov](mailto:lshea@abingtonma.gov)



Visit Our Website  
[oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/](http://oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/)



**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL



# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JUN 25TH | 7:30  
2025 | PM**  
**Virtual Meeting**



**Join us to discuss goals and actions of the OSRP update and the draft plan.**

Use the QR Code to Register  
OR

Find Link on Website



Visit Our Website  
[oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/](http://oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/)

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:**

Rhiannon Dugan, [rdugan@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:rdugan@ocpcrpa.org)  
Liz Shea, [lshea@abingtonma.gov](mailto:lshea@abingtonma.gov)



Rebecca Coletta, President

Mary Waldron, Executive Director

(508) 583-1833

70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301

[www.ocpcrpa.org](http://www.ocpcrpa.org)

**APPENDIX C**  
**2024 Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan**  
**Summary of Findings, April 22, 2024**

**METHOD**

---

In collaboration with Old Colony Planning Council, the town of Abington conducted a community survey between October 2023 through January 2024. The survey allowed residents to provide their perspectives about the current condition and future needs of open space and recreation in the Town, creating their visions for their community for the years to come.

The questionnaire was available online through SurveyMonkey and in hard copy throughout town. The Survey was promoted through the Town and OCPC's website and social media platforms. Flyers were additionally posted in Town buildings including the library, town hall, and the council on aging. Paper surveys were made available to those who needed it.

Figure 1. Promotional Material



# OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

What do you think? Take the survey today at  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/AbingtonOpenSpace](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AbingtonOpenSpace)



**ABINGTON**  
— MASSACHUSETTS

## RESPONDENTS

A total of 488 survey responses were received. After filtering, the final sample size analyzed consisted of 465 individuals who indicated they resided, worked, owned property, or operated a business in Abington.

Survey respondents were a mix of town residents, as shown in the figures below. 224 of the 329 respondents for the question, identified as women. 103 identified as men and 2 identified as Prefer to Self-Identify. The age of respondents were mainly those between 35 years to 44 years.

Figure 2. Gender Demographics

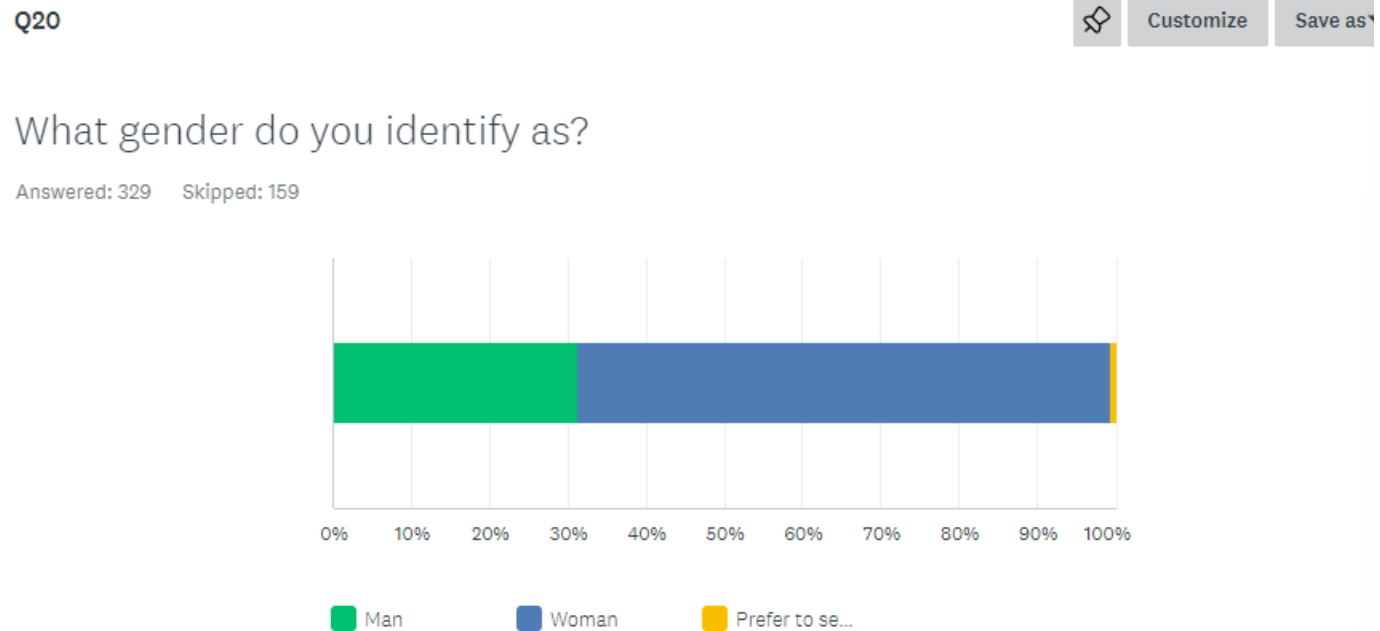




Figure 3. Age Distribution of respondents

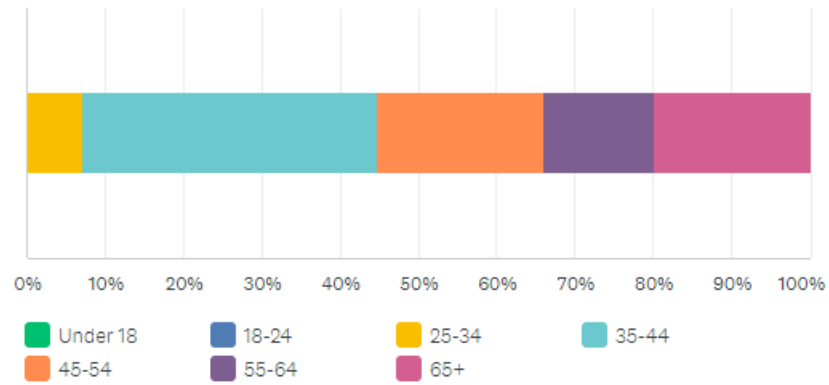
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Man	31.31% 103
Woman	68.09% 224
Prefer to self-identify:	139 Responses 0.61% 2

Q15

 Customize  Save as

## How old are you?

Answered: 332 Skipped: 156

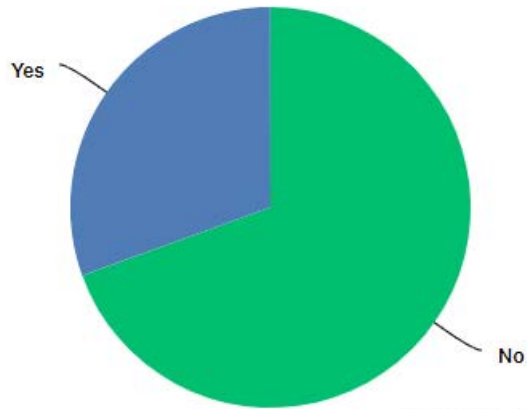


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Under 18	0.00% 0
▼ 18-24	0.30% 1
▼ 25-34	6.93% 23
▼ 35-44	37.65% 125
▼ 45-54	21.08% 70
▼ 55-64	14.16% 47
▼ 65+	19.88% 66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>332</b>

Q17

Do any adults aged 60+ live with you?

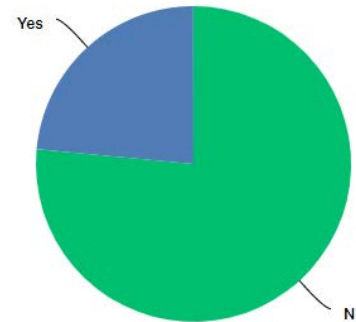
Answered: 331 Skipped: 157



Respondents were also asked questions related to who lives in their household. 143 respondents did not have children under the age of 18 living with them while 189 did. 101 respondents said that an adult aged 60+ lived with them while the remaining 230 respondents did not. 78 respondents said that they or someone they live with have a disability, handicap or chronic illness. This is about 23% of those who responded to this question.

Do you or does someone who lives with you have any disability, handicap, chronic disease?

Answered: 332 Skipped: 156

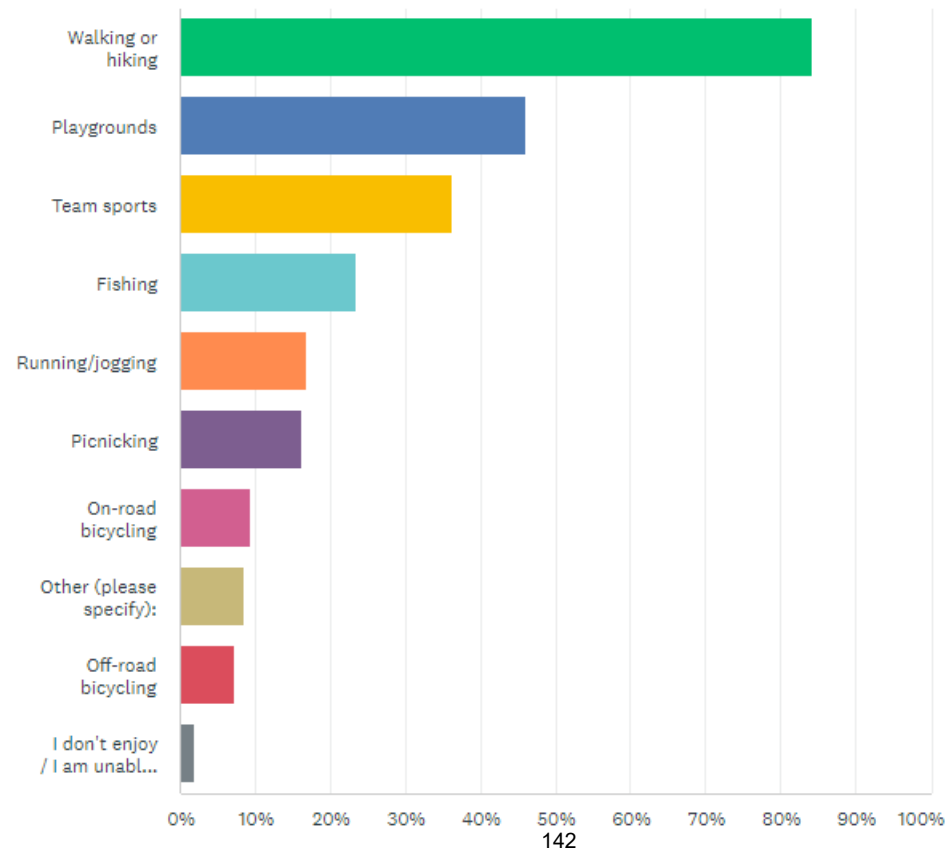


## Open Space and Recreation

Respondents were asked to choose no more than three of their favorite outdoor activities. 84% of respondents chose walking or hiking, a total of 334 responses. The next top categories were playgrounds at 46% of respondents and team sports for 36% of respondents. Respondents who chose the other, roughly 9%, were allowed to provide their own responses. The most frequent responses were pickleball, photography, and watching nature or sports.

What outdoor activities do you most enjoy? Please check no more than three boxes.

Answered: 397 Skipped: 91



Open Space and Recreation is very important to those who live in Town. When asked how important open space is to the quality of life in the community, 72% of respondents found it extremely important, 23% found it very important. Only 1 respondent said it was not important at all and 2 respondents said it was not so important. The majority of survey respondents also noted that they use the park more than once a month.

### During the past year, how often, if at all, did you visit open spaces in our town?

Answered: 397 Skipped: 91



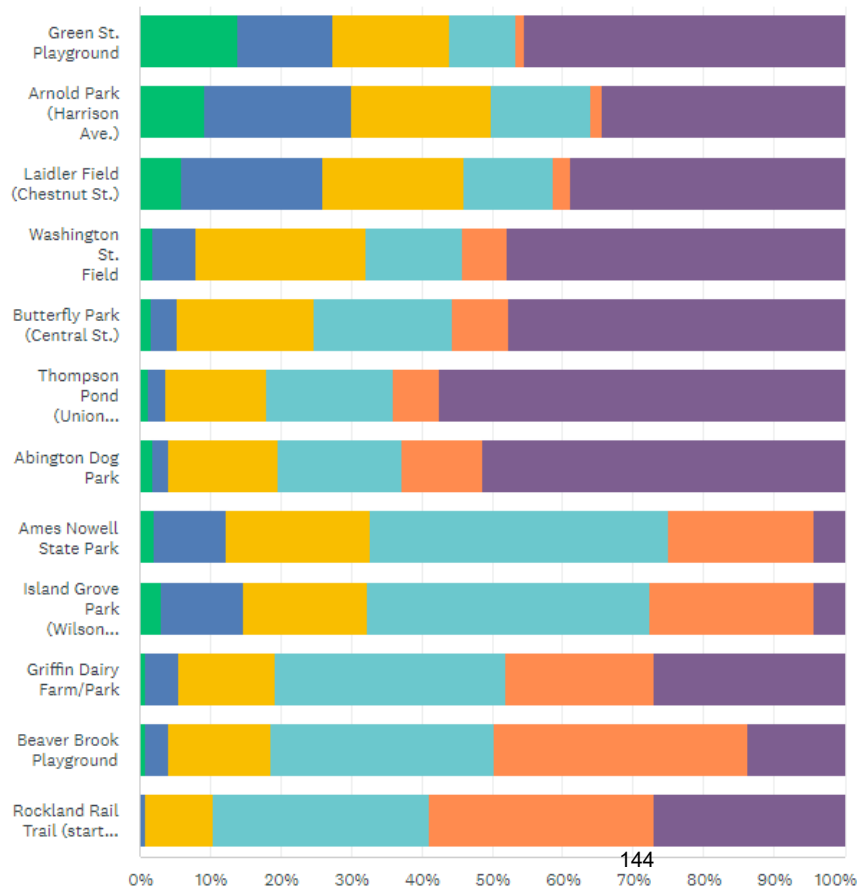
■ Never    
 ■ Once or twice a month    
 ■ About once a month    
 ■ A few times a month  
■ About once a week    
 ■ At few times a week    
 ■ Every day

	NEVER	ONCE OR TWICE	ABOUT ONCE A MONTH	A FEW TIMES A MONTH	ABOUT ONCE A WEEK	AT FEW TIMES A WEEK	EVERY DAY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	3.53% 14	4.53% 18	6.55% 26	20.15% 80	17.13% 68	37.28% 148	10.83% 43	397	4.98

The survey asked about the condition of current open spaces in town. Residents were most familiar with and satisfied with the Rockland Rail Trail and Beaver Brook Playground. Respondents were least familiar with Thompson Pond, Abington Dog Park, Butterfly Park, Washington St Field and Green Street Playground. The town may wish to increase public awareness of these green spaces or address any known accessibility issues with these areas. Respondents identified that Green St Playground, Arnold Park, and Laidler Field were open spaces that they were most dissatisfied and very dissatisfied with. These may be priority areas for the town moving forward.

How satisfied are you with the following open spaces in our town? Please choose one answer for each row. If you haven't visited a place, choose "Never Been."

Answered: 396 Skipped: 92



	VERY DISSATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	NEUTRAL	SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED	NEVER BEEN	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Green St. Playground	13.99% 54	13.47% 52	16.58% 64	9.33% 36	1.30% 5	45.34% 175	386	-0.54
Arnold Park (Harrison Ave.)	9.28% 36	20.88% 81	19.85% 77	13.92% 54	1.80% 7	34.28% 133	388	-0.33
Laidler Field (Chestnut St.)	5.91% 23	20.05% 78	20.05% 78	12.60% 49	2.57% 10	38.82% 151	389	-0.23
Washington St. Field	1.82% 7	6.23% 24	24.16% 93	13.51% 52	6.49% 25	47.79% 184	385	0.32
Butterfly Park (Central St.)	1.54% 6	3.86% 15	19.28% 75	19.79% 77	7.97% 31	47.56% 185	389	0.55
Thompson Pond (Union Point/Old Naval Station)	1.28% 5	2.31% 9	14.36% 56	17.95% 70	6.67% 26	57.44% 224	390	0.62
Abington Dog Park	1.79% 7	2.30% 9	15.56% 61	17.60% 69	11.48% 45	51.28% 201	392	0.71
Ames Nowell State Park	2.05% 8	10.26% 40	20.51% 80	42.31% 165	20.51% 80	4.36% 17	390	0.72
Island Grove Park (Wilson Pl./Park Ave.)	3.05% 12	11.68% 46	17.51% 69	40.10% 158	23.35% 92	4.31% 17	394	0.72
Griffin Dairy Farm/Park	0.77% 3	4.85% 19	13.52% 53	32.91% 129	20.92% 82	27.04% 106	392	0.94
Beaver Brook Playground	0.77% 3	3.35% 13	14.43% 56	31.70% 123	36.08% 140	13.66% 53	388	1.15
Rockland Rail Trail (starts at Monroe Street in Abington)	0.26% 1	0.51% 2	9.74% 38	30.51% 119	32.05% 125	26.92% 105	390	1.28

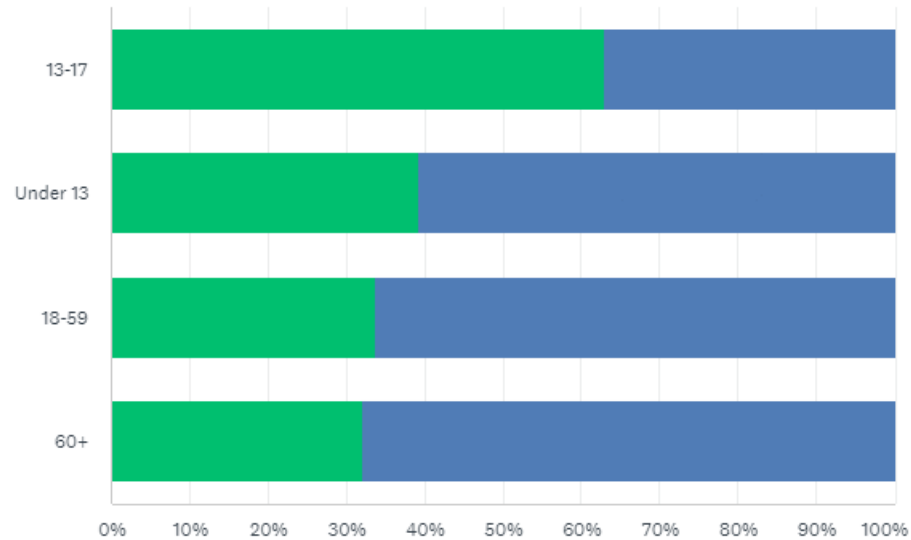


In an open-ended question respondents were asked to inform us of anything preventing them from enjoying open space in town. The most common topic was the state of the playgrounds in town, Equipment was identified as outdated and or broken in many spaces. Outdated equipment included pieces that were broken or sharp and were dangerous for children. The next most common was safety. Many reported that they felt unsafe in the parks, especially at dusk. Some suggested adding cameras around park spaces particularly near walking paths. Other options include increasing lighting and maintenance of parks. Other complaints included excessive litter, dog waste, and graffiti in the parks.

Respondents identified that there was not enough open space suitable for those under 18.

### Do you think our town has enough suitable open spaces for the each of the following age groups to enjoy?

Answered: 360 Skipped: 128



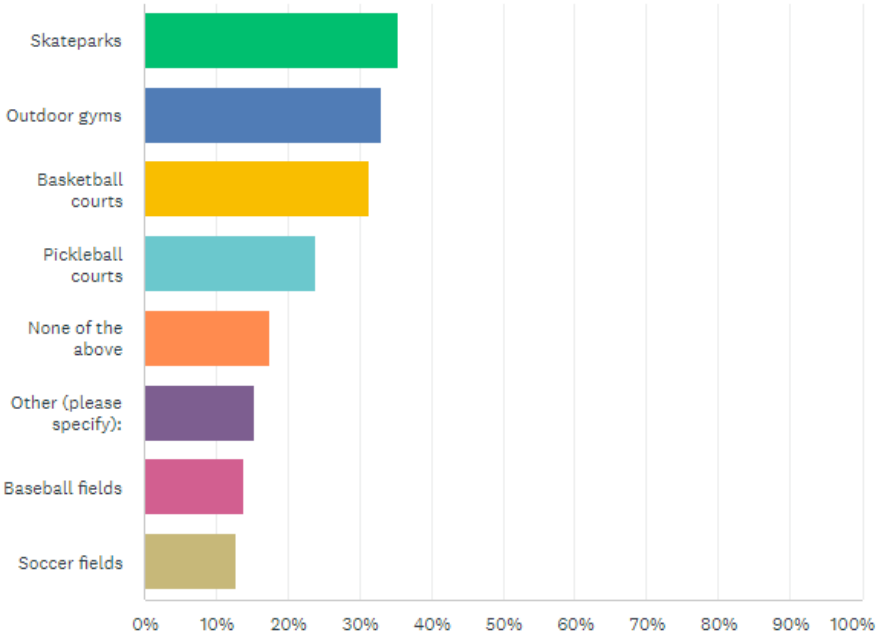
Respondents identified that the town most needed more paved paths for walking or running and unpaved trails for walking, hiking or running. Farms and community gardens were also a priority of respondents. For those who selected Other the most frequent responses were varying sports fields.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Paved paths for walking or running	49.58%	175
▼ Unpaved trails for walking, hiking, or running	39.66%	140
▼ Farms and community food-growing gardens	37.39%	132
▼ Picnic areas	30.03%	106
▼ Playgrounds	29.75%	105
▼ Swimming areas	27.48%	97
▼ Off-road bicycle trails	16.71%	59
▼ On-road bicycle paths	15.30%	54
▼ Other (please specify):	<a href="#">Responses</a> 12.46%	44
▼ None of the above	5.67%	20
<b>Total Respondents: 353</b>		

When asked directly about athletic fields answers were more scattered than some previous questions. Those with over 30% of respondent selections included skateparks, outdoor gyms, and basketball courts. For those who selected Other, 53 respondents, many noted the interest in a street hockey space. This option was also mentioned in other open response questions throughout the survey.

Which, if any, of the following athletic fields does our town need more of?  
Please check one or more boxes.

Answered: 344 Skipped: 144

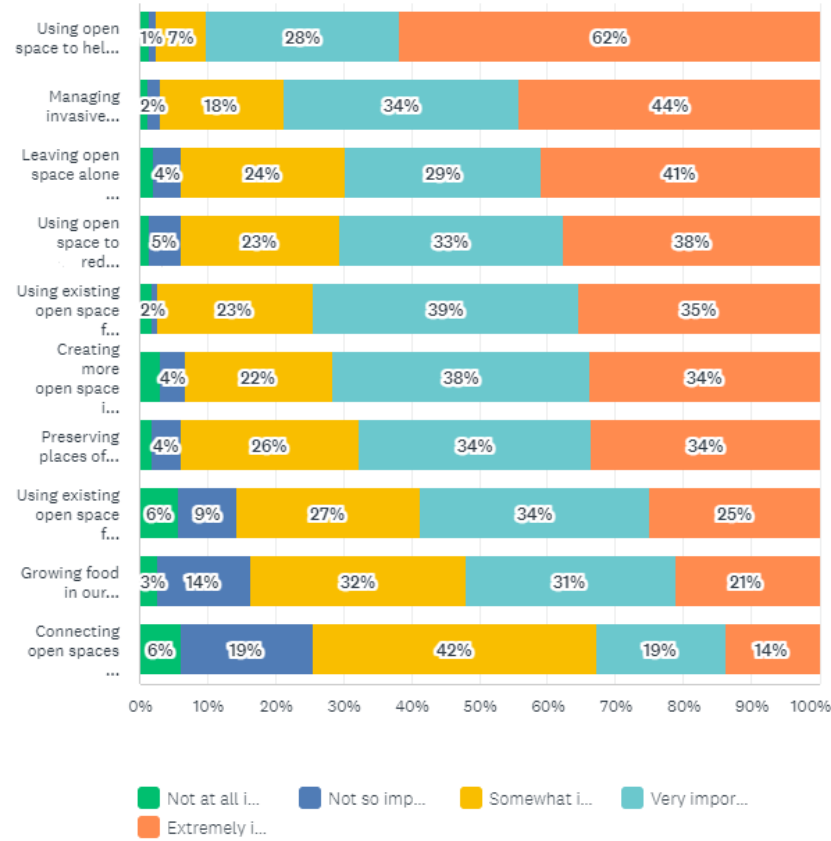


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Skateparks	35.47% 122
▼ Outdoor gyms	33.14% 114
▼ Basketball courts	31.40% 108
▼ Pickleball courts	23.84% 82
▼ None of the above	17.44% 60
▼ Other (please specify):	15.41% 50

Respondents were asked how important, if at all, was a series of land uses. Of those provided the most important to the community were using open space to help protect our drinking water supplies, managing invasive species like knotweed, that threaten open space, using existing open space to for passive recreation, like walking, funning, fishing, and birdwatching, and creating more open space in our community. The least prioritized were connecting open spaces in town and to nearby towns and growing food in our community.

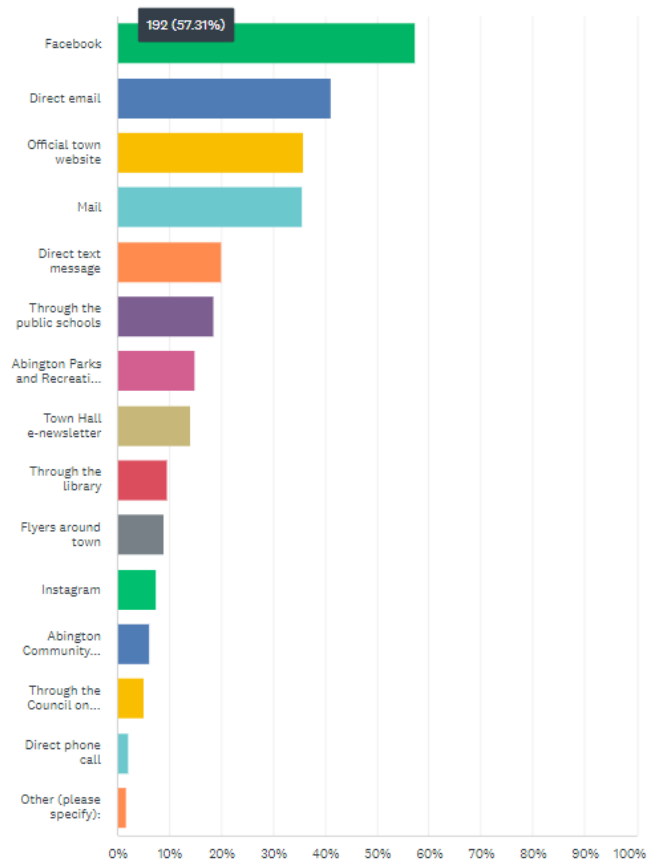
Thinking about our town, how important, if at all, are the following to you?  
Please choose one answer for each row.

Answered: 337 Skipped: 151



What are the three best ways to get town-related information to you, including information about open space and recreation in our community? Please check no more than three boxes.

Answered: 335 Skipped: 133



115  
date on  
shows

## Communications

respondents provided emails to remain up to happenings with the OSRP. The following chart communication preferences.

## Conclusions

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The respondents to Abington's OSRP survey are passionate about having beautiful and safe for all parks and open spaces. The largest identified needs across the survey were upkeep and maintenance. There is a need for better and new equipment in nearly all parks. Island Grove was noted the most by name of needing updates as a multi-use community space.

Safety is a top concern amongst respondents. There were complaints about safety from off leash dogs where not permitted, and a lack of security for those recreating solo. Some noted that there were parks that were physically not safe to bring children to as well due to broken equipment.

This information will be used to guide the action items of the OSRP.



# ABINGTON

MASSACHUSETTS

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

### Open Space and Recreation Survey 2023

The Town of Abington has partnered with Old Colony Planning Council, our region's planning agency, to update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. We need your help.

**Please take just five to ten minutes to provide your input today - this survey will close soon.** All responses are anonymous and confidential. We ask that you share this survey with those you know in town too, so we can gather as much feedback as possible.

An Open Space and Recreation Plan is a tool through which our community plans for the future of its conservation and recreation resources. The plan is informed by a thorough public participation process so that it reflects the needs of our community members. Once approved by the Commonwealth, our town becomes eligible for certain grant programs for up to seven years.

It's only with your help that we can develop a plan best-suited for our community. Thank you for your input!

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Liz Shea, Assistant Town Planner, at 781-982-0069 or [lshea@abingtonma.gov](mailto:lshea@abingtonma.gov).

1. Do you live, work, or own property in Abington?

No

Yes

## Your Experience with Open Space

"Open space" includes parks, playgrounds, trails, conservation areas, athletic fields, and similar places. It's a broad term that refers to conservation land, forested land, recreational land, agricultural land, corridor parks, and amenities such as small parks and playgrounds. Open spaces may be used for passive recreation like walking, for active recreation like baseball, or left in a natural state for drinking water protection or other reasons.

2. What outdoor activities do you most enjoy? *Please check no more than three boxes.*

- Walking or hiking
- Running/jogging
- On-road bicycling
- Off-road bicycling
- Team sports
- Picnicking
- Fishing
- Playgrounds
- Other (please specify):

- I don't enjoy / I am unable to participate in outdoor activities

3. How important, if at all, do you think open space is to good quality of life in our community?

Not at all important      Not so important      Somewhat important      Very important      Extremely important

4. During the past year, how often, if at all, did you visit open spaces in our town?

Never      Once or twice      About once a      A few times a      About once a      At few times a      Every day  
month      month      week      week

5. How satisfied are you with the following open spaces in our town? *Please choose one answer for each row. If you haven't visited a place, choose "Never Been."*

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Never Been
Ames Nowell State Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arnold Park (Harrison Ave.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Island Grove Park (Wilson Pl./Park Ave.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Laidler Field (Chestnut St.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Griffin Dairy Farm/Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abington Dog Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beaver Brook Playground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rockland Rail Trail (starts at Monroe Street in Abington)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Butterfly Park (Central St.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Thompson Pond (Union Point/Old Naval Station)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Green St. Playground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Washington St. Field	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. If there is anything preventing you from enjoying open space in our town, please tell us below:

## Open Space in Our Town

7. Do you think our town has enough suitable open spaces for the each of the following age groups to enjoy?

	No	Yes	Don't know
Under 13	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13-17	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18-59	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
60+	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you answered 'no' to any of the above, please tell us why:

8. Which, if any, of the following outdoor amenities does our town need more of? *Please check one or more boxes.*

- Off-road bicycle trails
- On-road bicycle paths
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Swimming areas
- Unpaved trails for walking, hiking, or running
- Paved paths for walking or running
- Farms and community food-growing gardens
- Other (please specify):

- None of the above

9. Which, if any, of the following athletic fields does our town need more of? *Please check one or more boxes.*

- Basketball courts
- Baseball fields
- Pickleball courts
- Soccer fields
- Outdoor gyms
- Skateparks
- Other (please specify):

- None of the above

10. Which, if any, of the following open space-related programs does our town need more of?

*Please check one or more boxes.*

- Agricultural/gardening programs
- Walking clubs/events
- Running clubs/event
- Open space stewardship opportunities
- Biking events
- Historic educational programs
- Nature/wildlife educational programs
- Citizen science opportunities
- Outdoor community events
- Other (please specify):

- None of the above

## What Should We Do?

11. Thinking about our town, how important, if at all, are the following to you? *Please choose one answer for each row.*

	Not at all important	Not so important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important
Using existing open space for passive recreation, like walking, running, fishing, and birdwatching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using existing open space for active recreation, like baseball, soccer, and pickleball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating more open space in our community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leaving open space alone to preserve (and restore) wildlife habitat and natural functions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using open space to help protect our drinking water supplies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Growing food in our community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preserving places of historic value	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing invasive species, like knotweed, that threaten open space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using open space to reduce flooding in our community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Connecting open spaces in town and to nearby towns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Should the Town of Abington take the following actions? *Please check one or more boxes.*

	No	Yes	No opinion
Use town funds, when available, to purchase land for open space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Apply for and use grant funds or donations to purchase land for open space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work with landowners on deed or conservation restrictions to limit future land development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work with nonprofit land trusts able to purchase and/or maintain open space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop an invasive species management plan to prevent, monitor, and remove invasive species like Japanese knotweed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use civic organizations or associations, like AmeriCorps, Scouts, or volunteers to help maintain open spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve communication about open spaces in town, providing information and maps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Is there something else related to open space that we should be doing, either as the Town of Abington or as a community?

## About You

14. What are the three best ways to get town-related information to you, including information about open space and recreation in our community? *Please check no more than three boxes.*

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Official town website
- Flyers around town
- Town Hall e-newsletter
- Through the public schools
- Through the library
- Through the Council on Aging
- Abington Community Access TV
- Abington Parks and Recreation Department
- Direct email
- Direct phone call
- Direct text message
- Mail
- Other (please specify):

We ask the following demographic questions to make sure we hear from a wide variety of people in our community. These questions are optional, but your answers will help us ensure we're reaching out to everyone in town.

15. How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

16. Do any children aged under 18 live with you?

- No
- Yes

17. Do any adults aged 60+ live with you?

- No
- Yes

18. Do you or does someone who lives with you have any disability, handicap, or chronic disease?

- No
- Yes

19. If yes, is there anything the town could do to help you/them access and better enjoy open spaces and recreation in our town?

20. What gender do you identify as?

- Man
- Woman
- Prefer to self-identify:

**Thank you!**

21. Your time and input is valuable to us. If there's anything else you'd like to share about open space and recreation in our community, please do so in the space below:

22. If you would like to receive updates from the town's Open Space Committee, please provide your email address below. Your email will be used by the town only, and not shared with any third parties.

**Your email**

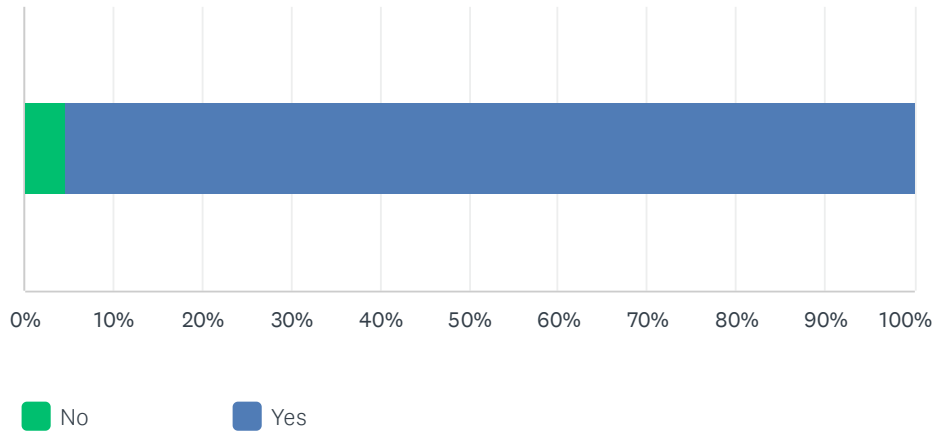
The mission of the Open Space Committee includes acquiring land to protect wildlife habitat, provide outdoor recreational opportunities, and protect public natural resources. The Committee is in charge of updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan, prioritization and recommendations for Open Space parcels, and involvement in open space projects.

We very much appreciate you taking this time to share your thoughts and opinions with us. It's only with your help that we can develop a plan best-suited for our community. Thank you for your input!

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Liz Shea, Assistant Town Planner, at 781-982-0069 or [lshea@abingtonma.gov](mailto:lshea@abingtonma.gov).

## Q1 Do you live, work, or own property in Abington?

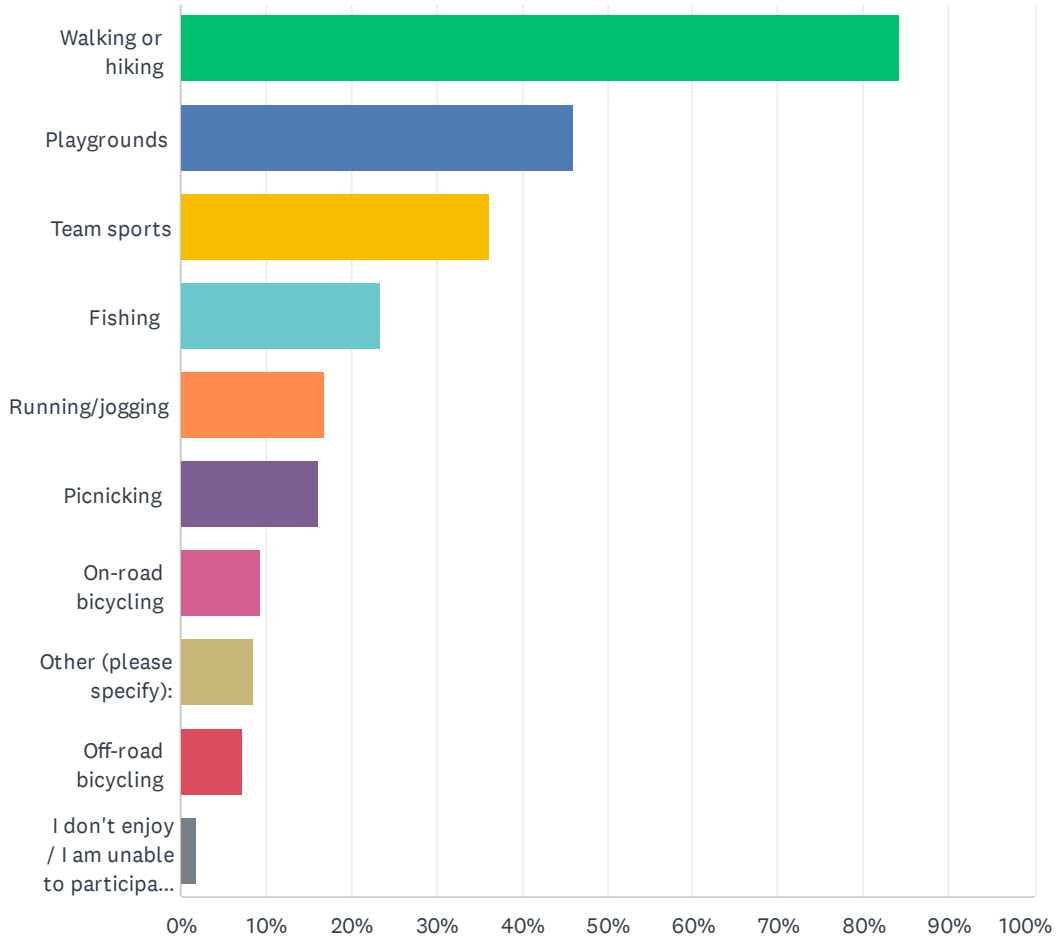
Answered: 488 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
No	4.71% 23
Yes	95.29% 465
TOTAL	488

## Q2 What outdoor activities do you most enjoy? Please check no more than three boxes.

Answered: 397 Skipped: 91



## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking or hiking	84.13%	334
Playgrounds	46.10%	183
Team sports	36.27%	144
Fishing	23.43%	93
Running/jogging	16.88%	67
Picnicking	16.12%	64
On-road bicycling	9.32%	37
Other (please specify):	8.56%	34
Off-road bicycling	7.30%	29
I don't enjoy / I am unable to participate in outdoor activities	2.02%	8
Total Respondents: 397		

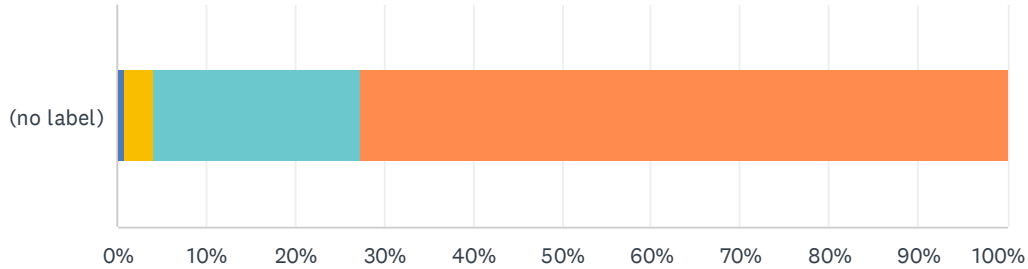
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):	DATE
1	Atv/motocross	12/29/2023 7:52 PM
2	Gardening	11/29/2023 4:55 PM
3	sitting and enjoy nature	11/21/2023 2:54 PM
4	gardening	11/21/2023 11:04 AM
5	no answers provided	11/21/2023 10:55 AM
6	Photography	11/17/2023 10:56 AM
7	watching sports	11/17/2023 10:51 AM
8	watching youth sports	11/1/2023 9:56 AM
9	Gardening	10/28/2023 3:51 PM
10	Watching wildlife	10/27/2023 7:57 PM
11	Swimming	10/26/2023 9:54 PM
12	X-country skiing, stretching, body weights, Beautiful and natural Places to meet friends and family that have places to sit, accessible bathrooms, close to activities to do - walking, playing pickleball or bball	10/25/2023 11:55 PM
13	Sitting outdoors to read/picnick	10/25/2023 11:54 AM
14	Relaxing on a bench in a beautiful outdoor setting and enjoying the nature around me	10/25/2023 11:22 AM
15	Pickleball	10/24/2023 11:05 PM
16	Swimming at Island Grove	10/24/2023 9:14 PM
17	Just enjoying the beauty of nature	10/24/2023 8:28 PM
18	Pickleball	10/24/2023 6:53 PM
19	Eager Beaver Camp	10/24/2023 3:55 PM
20	Pickleball	10/24/2023 3:00 PM
21	Photography	10/24/2023 2:41 PM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

22	Hunting	10/24/2023 2:03 PM
23	Photography	10/24/2023 11:31 AM
24	Pickleball	10/24/2023 10:04 AM
25	Island Grove area as a whole.	10/24/2023 8:08 AM
26	Pickleball	10/23/2023 6:07 PM
27	Walk dog	10/21/2023 4:49 PM
28	Pickleball at the courts	10/21/2023 3:23 PM
29	Pickleball	10/21/2023 11:45 AM
30	Tennis, pickleball	10/21/2023 9:48 AM
31	Pickleball	10/19/2023 8:11 PM
32	Pickleball	10/19/2023 7:45 PM
33	Pickleball, watching basketball games.	10/15/2023 2:25 PM
34	Pickleball	10/15/2023 8:05 AM

### Q3 How important, if at all, do you think open space is to good quality of life in our community?

Answered: 395 Skipped: 93

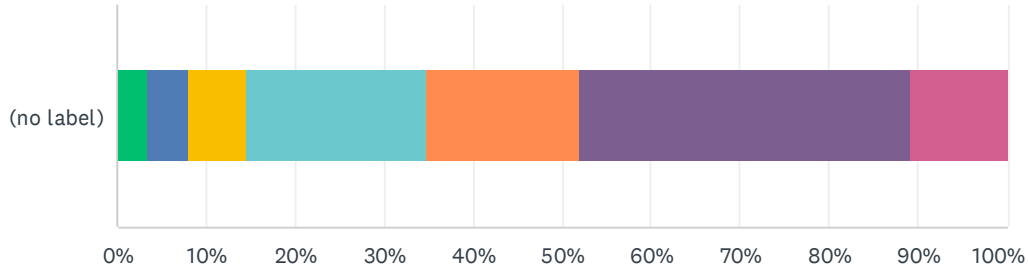


■ Not at all i... 
 ■ Not so imp... 
 ■ Somewhat i... 
 ■ Very import... 
 ■ Extremely i...

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	NOT SO IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.25% 1	0.51% 2	3.29% 13	23.29% 92	72.66% 287	395	4.68

## Q4 During the past year, how often, if at all, did you visit open spaces in our town?

Answered: 397 Skipped: 91

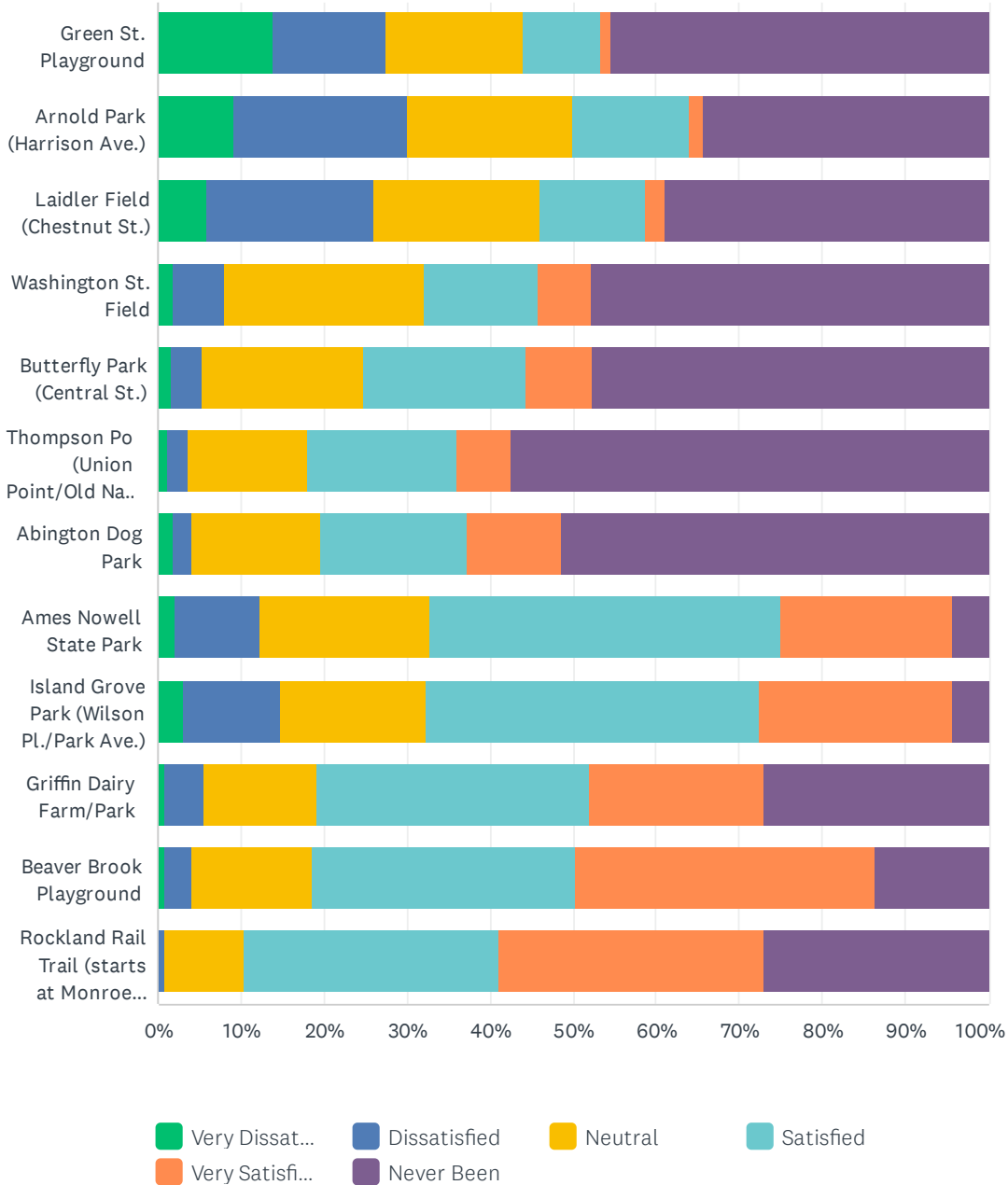


■ Never     
 ■ Once or twi...     
 ■ About once...     
 ■ A few times...  
■ About once...     
 ■ At few time...     
 ■ Every day

	NEVER	ONCE OR TWICE	ABOUT ONCE A MONTH	A FEW TIMES A MONTH	ABOUT ONCE A WEEK	AT FEW TIMES A WEEK	EVERY DAY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	3.53%	4.53%	6.55%	20.15%	17.13%	37.28%	10.83%	397	4.98
	14	18	26	80	68	148	43		

Q5 How satisfied are you with the following open spaces in our town?  
Please choose one answer for each row. If you haven't visited a place, choose "Never Been."

Answered: 396 Skipped: 92



Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

	VERY DISSATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	NEUTRAL	SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED	NEVER BEEN	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Green St. Playground	13.99% 54	13.47% 52	16.58% 64	9.33% 36	1.30% 5	45.34% 175	386	-0.54
Arnold Park (Harrison Ave.)	9.28% 36	20.88% 81	19.85% 77	13.92% 54	1.80% 7	34.28% 133	388	-0.33
Laidler Field (Chestnut St.)	5.91% 23	20.05% 78	20.05% 78	12.60% 49	2.57% 10	38.82% 151	389	-0.23
Washington St. Field	1.82% 7	6.23% 24	24.16% 93	13.51% 52	6.49% 25	47.79% 184	385	0.32
Butterfly Park (Central St.)	1.54% 6	3.86% 15	19.28% 75	19.79% 77	7.97% 31	47.56% 185	389	0.55
Thompson Pond (Union Point/Old Naval Station)	1.28% 5	2.31% 9	14.36% 56	17.95% 70	6.67% 26	57.44% 224	390	0.62
Abington Dog Park	1.79% 7	2.30% 9	15.56% 61	17.60% 69	11.48% 45	51.28% 201	392	0.71
Ames Nowell State Park	2.05% 8	10.26% 40	20.51% 80	42.31% 165	20.51% 80	4.36% 17	390	0.72
Island Grove Park (Wilson Pl./Park Ave.)	3.05% 12	11.68% 46	17.51% 69	40.10% 158	23.35% 92	4.31% 17	394	0.72
Griffin Dairy Farm/Park	0.77% 3	4.85% 19	13.52% 53	32.91% 129	20.92% 82	27.04% 106	392	0.94
Beaver Brook Playground	0.77% 3	3.35% 13	14.43% 56	31.70% 123	36.08% 140	13.66% 53	388	1.15
Rockland Rail Trail (starts at Monroe Street in Abington)	0.26% 1	0.51% 2	9.74% 38	30.51% 119	32.05% 125	26.92% 105	390	1.28

## Q6 If there is anything preventing you from enjoying open space in our town, please tell us below:

Answered: 123 Skipped: 365

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The behavior of teenagers makes me very uncomfortable bringing my young children to several of these locations.	12/27/2023 8:34 AM
2	Development of wooded areas near Union Point and Ames Nowell.	12/27/2023 8:12 AM
3	The Green street playground equipment are very old, a lot of times dirty and the tufts are worn out	12/14/2023 8:40 AM
4	All playground equipment needs to be upgraded	12/5/2023 1:06 PM
5	Most playgrounds are outdated. Limited water activities in the summer. Parks not well suited for gathering (e.g., playdates, family picnics, etc...)	12/1/2023 7:01 PM
6	Safety. Walking alone as a female.	11/29/2023 10:42 PM
7	I'm concerned about some of the dead trees along the paths	11/29/2023 4:21 PM
8	time	11/21/2023 4:03 PM
9	need places to sit as it is hard to walk physically	11/21/2023 2:54 PM
10	nothing at all	11/21/2023 2:29 PM
11	My comments are all related to Island Grove. I do not understand why dogs roam free when we have a dog park so close. Some owners are very irresponsible. The degree of litter is astounding. It is left to the neighbors to police the area. Insufficient trash receptacles near parking on Park ave side. I think there should be permit parking only. Out of town people would need to purchase at the town hall, town residents would be free but still need a sticker. The overall forestry needs help , too many dead trees and branches. The historical aspects of the park need to be maintained and in some cases replaced or major repairs such as the bridge. The grove is a wonderful and historic landmark that has been neglected in the last 30-40 years. Thank you	11/11/2023 9:07 AM
12	No	11/9/2023 4:01 PM
13	It would be nice if there were benches	11/9/2023 3:14 PM
14	Island grove needs support. It could be great but everything is broken (all swing sets are destroyed) and have been for a long time. The structure needs to be removed. And swimming should be open for past 5pm. Working people cannot enjoy it when it closes at 5pm daily.	11/5/2023 9:39 AM
15	Laidler park playground needs extreme updating. It is all rusty and has exposed sharp edges and is not safe for kids to play on. The grass/field is well kept but not the park/playground.	11/4/2023 10:41 AM
16	Love to see more activity at Ames Nowell. It's beautiful there!	10/30/2023 11:15 AM
17	Effing RAIN every effing weekend. Seriously. We LOVE Ames Nowell, but I feel like if it rains, it takes five days for it to dry up. Same with some other spaces.	10/29/2023 5:26 PM
18	Only @ night. There are creeps everywhere & would like to see more cameras @ Island Grove.	10/27/2023 7:57 PM
19	No swings on swing sets at Island Grove. Overgrown shoreline, trash during the summer as well.	10/27/2023 9:09 AM
20	More security at Ames Nowell, occasional park ranger and clearly marked trails would make me feel safer hiking	10/26/2023 9:54 PM
21	86 years old and hard to get around	10/26/2023 8:58 PM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

22	Green street park needs a complete redo, there's broken equipment and the grass is always severely overgrown	10/26/2023 6:03 PM
23	More maintained and marked mtn bike trails in Ames nowell. Place is a hidden gem	10/26/2023 5:37 PM
24	I have 4 kids 6 years old and under and live in the green street neighborhood. The green st park is so dangerous. Slides are broken, there are so many sharpe objects. We use to love spending our days there but it's getting so much worst.	10/26/2023 1:46 PM
25	Arnold playground is a good place to get tetanus. Lawsuit waiting to happen	10/26/2023 9:47 AM
26	No.	10/26/2023 4:02 AM
27	-Feeling safe in some of those areas walking/ being alone. -No public bathrooms. -Incomplete trails	10/25/2023 11:55 PM
28	None	10/25/2023 6:41 PM
29	No	10/25/2023 6:11 PM
30	Lack of clean restrooms	10/25/2023 5:12 PM
31	Nothing at all.	10/25/2023 4:14 PM
32	It would be great if we had a DCR person at Ames Nowell who would actually do some maintenance.	10/25/2023 1:57 PM
33	Aggressive dogs at the dog park	10/25/2023 12:34 PM
34	More seating would be ideal at the parks. The rail trail may also benefit from a couple of benches maybe at the entry points for those that need to rest.	10/25/2023 11:54 AM
35	Just finding the time	10/25/2023 11:51 AM
36	Dog mess not picked up. Parking could be better. All could be cleaner.	10/25/2023 11:22 AM
37	No budget to maintain the fields and playgrounds. Needles, dog feces etc. litter the ground at Island Grove and Ames Nowell. The baseball fields other than Plymouth St. were neglected by the previous leadership. Kids paid the same amount of money but if your name wasn't Maguire you didn't get to play on those fields.	10/25/2023 8:20 AM
38	We are fairly new to the town! Island Grove could use some enhancements especially for the camp! Swings are old no playground gazebo is scary.	10/25/2023 7:03 AM
39	Teenagers that are upsetting dog walkers in island grove. Graffiti all over the benches. In the summer not accepting dogs even in the areas without camp. My dog and his friends love the grove.	10/25/2023 5:59 AM
40	health reasons	10/25/2023 5:58 AM
41	I would like to see an increase in trash and recycling barrels in our parks	10/25/2023 2:23 AM
42	The lack of sidewalks and dogs off leash in the Grove	10/24/2023 10:53 PM
43	Need for street hockey courts	10/24/2023 10:32 PM
44	Porta potty/restroom year round would be helpful at playgrounds.	10/24/2023 8:53 PM
45	Arnold Park is in need of a playground upgrade! So much wasted space in the huge open field	10/24/2023 8:52 PM
46	The following examples do not pertain to all spaces. Trash, overgrowth, parking, restrooms, outdated equipment, improper use of space.	10/24/2023 8:49 PM
47	Nasty teenagers at island grove, drug dealers at Ames nowell	10/24/2023 8:28 PM
48	Off leash dogs	10/24/2023 8:24 PM
49	The condition of many of the facilities.	10/24/2023 8:19 PM
50	Wish the park on chestnut st wasn't falling apart and dangerous for children.	10/24/2023 8:07 PM
51	Trash, disrespectful people in some of the locations.	10/24/2023 7:57 PM
52	Green street playground is a hazard and needs to be torn down and replaced.	10/24/2023 7:05 PM

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53	No	10/24/2023 6:53 PM
54	Graffiti and lack of upkeep especially at island grove and Arnold park. These could be great facilities, especially island grove but it's seeing its age. Just needs a major facelift and modernization	10/24/2023 6:25 PM
55	Nothing	10/24/2023 6:18 PM
56	No. Just wish there was even more.	10/24/2023 5:25 PM
57	Yes, off leash dogs with clueless owners.	10/24/2023 5:08 PM
58	Would love Ames nowell to maintained again with rangers	10/24/2023 4:54 PM
59	I would love to see better swing sets at Island Grove and a playground there again would be awesome.	10/24/2023 4:28 PM
60	Not knowing about them	10/24/2023 4:22 PM
61	No	10/24/2023 4:16 PM
62	Need better playgrounds for younger children.	10/24/2023 4:12 PM
63	Arnold Park on Harrison St is a shame, the playground is in horrible shape and the grounds are littered with trash, it is not safe to take children to play there at all	10/24/2023 3:55 PM
64	Off leash dogs at Ames Nowell. Was bitten and never returned. Had enjoyed it for a long time.	10/24/2023 3:48 PM
65	I would like to see the ball fields at Green Street and Ladler field maintained better.	10/24/2023 3:37 PM
66	Baseball fields at Laidler and Arnold need work and updates	10/24/2023 3:21 PM
67	Need something for older kids like a skate park	10/24/2023 3:18 PM
68	The town fields outside of the high school could use some TLC. Rival towns have unbelievable open spaces.	10/24/2023 3:00 PM
69	Safety, lighting, cleanliness	10/24/2023 2:52 PM
70	I like to walk after work at 6. I take my small dog to the grove at 6:15 while the sun is setting. He's 16 so he's a slow walker as one can imagine and as it gets dark people feel very confident coming up to me and talking to me (one time a group of teenage boys kept asking me if i was scared) and groups of people have been there a few times which makes me nervous. i don't go after work anymore cuz it gets dark so fast.	10/24/2023 2:18 PM
71	Not all spaces feel safe.	10/24/2023 2:17 PM
72	No place for families to enjoy sitting on grass , ice skating or family gathering for cookout. No real park land to enjoy	10/24/2023 2:15 PM
73	Tree roots are now exposing themselves through the pavement on the rail trail,	10/24/2023 2:03 PM
74	Debris/trash and fear of ticks	10/24/2023 1:10 PM
75	The baseball and softball fields need improvements.	10/24/2023 12:46 PM
76	There should be a two lane walking / bike trail with solar street lights (no cars!) that goes from end of Broadmeadow lane straight to Abington public library. This trail would ensure less car traffic and benefit all the walkers from Hancock st area of Abington. It would be beneficial for another small playground in the area of the library as well. There is not much to offer and draw people to the library. Parents with young children could walk from Hancock st down path to library. Go in library for children's section and go outside on small play area.	10/24/2023 12:16 PM
77	People graffitiing, littering. Drug dealing especially at Arnold Park	10/24/2023 11:59 AM
78	Island grove needs to be cleaned up. Broken swings, trash, just very dirty for our children. Needs help	10/24/2023 11:52 AM
79	Disgusting litter!! Dog droppings! No respect!	10/24/2023 11:42 AM
80	Ames Nowell could use a good clean up. Overgrowth and trash are an issue.	10/24/2023 11:21 AM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

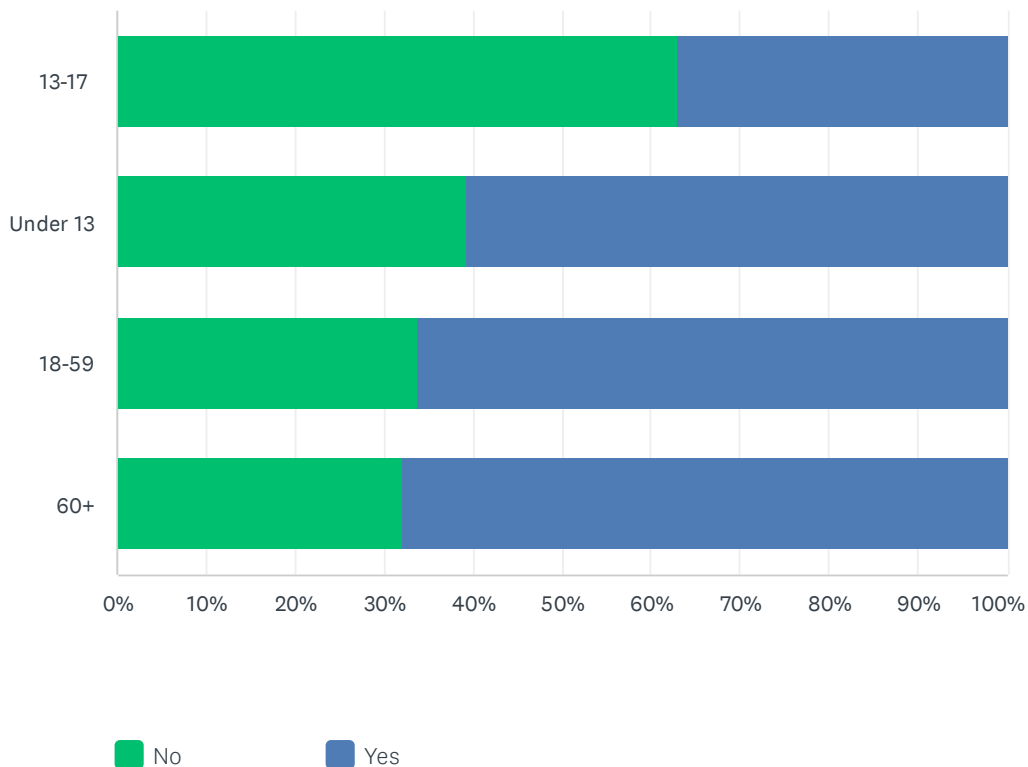
81	Not enough good walking trails and benches	10/24/2023 11:03 AM
82	The playgrounds in our town and the surrounding grassy areas are disgusting. Covered in trash, cigarette butts and empty dips. The grass around the beaver Brook new playground is uneven and unkept. Arnold park looks like it belongs off of Melina Cass Blvd it's always littered with trash and broken glass. Honestly, most of the open spaces and playgrounds are embarrassing and trashy. I live in Abington and have 2 small children. I drive to surrounding towns to use their playgrounds - Weymouth Legion Field, Hanover middle school, Hingham fire department playground, marshfield playground near the library and Duxbury. I won't even meet friends at our towns playgrounds. Clearly adults use them as party grounds instead of children for the intended purpose. Installing new equipment, proper landscaping and then maintaining it would be a HUGE improvement for this town. Island grove looks like a scene straight out of Texas Chainsaw Massacre. Everything is decrepit, rusty, dangerous, unkept and dirty. It's shocking that people aren't beyond embarrassed that this is what the town has to offer. All the other towns around us have fabulous outdoor spaces to walk, ride bikes or have playground spaces. Why is it so hard for Abington?	10/24/2023 11:02 AM
83	I have a bad knee. Irregular terrain really hurts.	10/24/2023 10:57 AM
84	Parking at rail trail and summer summer at Island Grove	10/24/2023 10:13 AM
85	n/a	10/24/2023 10:13 AM
86	Although recently Green st. Park has made good improvements the playground structure is unacceptable and dangerous. It's a great space with lots of residents nearby new play structure is a definite need. Also, a tennis or pickle ball court could be a wonderful addition. The park would then have activities for all ages.	10/24/2023 10:04 AM
87	We need more fields for sports	10/24/2023 10:02 AM
88	We need more youth development programs in town for the kids especially during the summer and school vacations.	10/24/2023 9:47 AM
89	Outdated, not maintained, lack of availability for youth sports due to high school sports and town politics.	10/24/2023 9:46 AM
90	Green street park is local but dangerous as it is damaged. Would Love to be able to bring my kids there!	10/24/2023 9:42 AM
91	Green street playground is walking distance from my home but unsafe for my 2 year old daughter. We use the one toddler swing that's left but can't walk around, use slides, or anything else for that matter.	10/24/2023 9:17 AM
92	Green st park is extremely unsafe for my daughter to play on. Very disappointing as we live right next to it so it is her favorite park.	10/24/2023 9:16 AM
93	Dogs off leash are a problem for me as well as dog owners who don't clean up after their dogs.	10/24/2023 9:09 AM
94	More sidewalks more trails	10/24/2023 9:03 AM
95	No	10/24/2023 8:43 AM
96	I live off of green street and that playground is in such disrepair it is a potential liability to the town. It has the potential of attracting so many more kids and plenty try and play on it. There are rusted broken steps, cracked slides.	10/24/2023 8:39 AM
97	Island Grove could use some work. The swing sets and all the concrete benches need some repair.	10/24/2023 8:26 AM
98	No	10/24/2023 8:23 AM
99	Ticks and mosquitoes. A few more picnic tables and benches would be nice for those that need to sit or rest.	10/24/2023 8:22 AM
100	It would help promoting the different parks with signs, identifying the areas and maybe town maps at intersections giving arrow directions.	10/24/2023 8:18 AM
101	Graffiti and broken equipment	10/24/2023 8:10 AM
102	there's often a lot of trash and the play grounds at arnold and laidler need to be updated	10/24/2023 8:09 AM

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103	It's great there are several playground on each side of town for the area. I would like to see more emphasis on the Island Grove pond as far as less vegetation and maybe a water feature for esthetics while encourage water flow for proper aerating and prevent stagnate water, caused by sediment buildup and algae growth. In the Island Grove wooded area designate the paths, encourage families to utilize the space for more than just summer activities. If there is a way to create an ice pond on the swim hole would be exciting too!	10/24/2023 8:08 AM
104	I question safety. I love Ames Howell and would go every week if I wasn't scared to go alone	10/24/2023 7:56 AM
105	Nothing prevents me	10/24/2023 7:52 AM
106	The recent litter/ fires/ homeless in Ames Norwell State Park makes me nervous about going there now and I have been going there for 25 plus years.	10/24/2023 7:49 AM
107	Playgrounds (especially Green Street) are in dangerous conditions. I can no longer allow my children to play there. Other spaces such as Island grove/ames Nowell safety is a big concern. There is also barely any up keep of trails at Ames Nowell. Other than they few major trails the rest are almost impassable.	10/24/2023 7:15 AM
108	Safety in ames knowell	10/24/2023 7:14 AM
109	Many of the areas have graffiti or broken things in the playgrounds that are unsafe. Sometimes overgrown and unappealing to want to walk through because of safety issues. Many areas used to be beautiful and now with misuse or neglect areas are no longer able to be used the same	10/24/2023 7:11 AM
110	-	10/23/2023 1:53 PM
111	Dog owners not cleaning up after their dog.	10/21/2023 6:42 PM
112	mobility issues	10/21/2023 5:03 PM
113	Trash, more trash barrels, all year. Have the employees for parks once a week, walk around and pick up the discarded trash left by the dysfunctional people.	10/21/2023 4:49 PM
114	Ticks at Griffins. Other than that, I don't have anything to say.	10/21/2023 3:23 PM
115	Need more time and not in walkming distance of my house.	10/21/2023 11:55 AM
116	No	10/21/2023 9:48 AM
117	Not enough of it	10/21/2023 8:47 AM
118	I don't want to see the trees taken down in the grove to make sports fields. This os a Historic Park. Any other places i am fine with.	10/20/2023 11:54 AM
119	We are in definite need of 6-8 more pickleball courts for those under 50 yrs to be able to play. There is a definite demand in Abington. It would be amazing to be able to have 10-12 indoor courts in the Christmas Place that has closed on Bedford street. On the cape they are putting courts in the closed KMart across from the CapeCod Mall. They are also doing this in other closed stores in Malls. We need 2 new basket ball courts to replace the courts at the police station. It would be great to offer a splash pad at Island Grove Park or some place similar.	10/15/2023 2:25 PM
120	N/A	10/15/2023 9:21 AM
121	Not enough parking for rail trail. Should be rubbish barrels around for people to put trash. Ames Nowell needs a Park Ranger to enforce rules. Island grove too many people with off leash dogs Thompson Pond not enough parking	10/14/2023 5:06 PM
122	Safety concerns, cleanliness	10/8/2023 8:33 PM
123	Due to lack of funding for many years, many of our playgrounds are rundown and unsafe. Our parks and playgrounds are typically found with trash, graffiti and broken equipment. More effort needs to be made to catch people and hold them responsible for trashing our parks and playgrounds.	10/6/2023 11:58 AM

## Q7 Do you think our town has enough suitable open spaces for the each of the following age groups to enjoy?

Answered: 360 Skipped: 128



	NO	YES	TOTAL
13-17	62.96% 170	37.04% 100	270
Under 13	39.26% 117	60.74% 181	298
18-59	33.66% 102	66.34% 201	303
60+	32.09% 86	67.91% 182	268

#	IF YOU ANSWERED 'NO' TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, PLEASE TELL US WHY:	DATE
1	Kids need more suitable spaces with neat, usable equipment	12/14/2023 8:42 AM
2	Playgrounds and sports fields/courts are outdated and other public spaces aren't well suited for social gatherings (e.g., lack of picnic tables, gazebos, etc ...)	12/1/2023 7:06 PM
3	Not enough natural open spaces for walking and picnicking	11/29/2023 7:06 PM
4	I know what Abington has for fields and open space, but I have been away from dealing with any age group Under 13 to 18-59	11/29/2023 4:57 PM
5	enough space, need plantings for areas not nec a playground	11/21/2023 4:04 PM
6	no response	11/21/2023 2:55 PM
7	no response provided	11/21/2023 11:56 AM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

8	no response	11/21/2023 11:50 AM
9	communities can always have more open space	11/21/2023 11:45 AM
10	18-59 are working not to much time to do things	11/21/2023 11:18 AM
11	not enough for the youngings	11/21/2023 9:36 AM
12	Many areas do not have access for those who have difficulty walking such as a place to rest or if in a wheelchair such as Island Grove and other areas	11/17/2023 10:59 AM
13	Teenagers need more places to go especially in summer	11/7/2023 1:06 PM
14	Kids that age want a skate park or something more age appropriate than a playground.	11/5/2023 9:42 AM
15	Island Grove could use a small playground for kids	11/4/2023 5:45 PM
16	We need better fields for sports. It's ridiculous we can't play at memorial field when it rains. Abington should be embarrassed that they have to ask other towns if we can play there instead.	11/2/2023 6:37 PM
17	you really do not have a good complex for youth like hanover and norwell i watch my grandchildren plat soccer, lacrosse, baseball etc	11/1/2023 10:01 AM
18	I think more year round and handicap accessible open space availability is important for all ages.	10/31/2023 4:14 PM
19	I only put "don't know" for categories not in our household. My little people and their middle-aged parents are just fine, thank you.	10/29/2023 5:27 PM
20	COVID showed that there is never enough open space when outdoors is the only safe space to gather. Thus, the town should acquire more open space whenever possible.	10/27/2023 8:12 PM
21	Especially for the teenager's, both much for them to do. We need a town forest and to stop building so much!	10/27/2023 4:08 PM
22	Need more room . Too many apartments and developments going in	10/27/2023 10:29 AM
23	Very child focused, which is great, but not many places for adults without kids to meet up and hang out	10/27/2023 10:01 AM
24	Not enough playgrounds or common areas for young children to play	10/26/2023 5:39 PM
25	The new beaver brook park is fantastic I just hope we can have another great park which I think like I previously stayed the green st park has so much potential!	10/26/2023 1:49 PM
26	Most places we do have need to be cleaned up and enhanced before they are suitable for proper use.	10/26/2023 9:41 AM
27	-need community center that offers extracurricular activities and programs -Limited bball courts -No pickleball for under anyone 55 -Need more areas for tweens/ teens - community center and more library options - public garden with benches and picnic tables to meet with friends/ so homework/ play games - place to walk and play sports with friends that isn't secluded or along the street and has a bathroom option (pickleball, bball, public indoor swimming pool) -	10/26/2023 12:10 AM
28	No safe places for teenagers and adults	10/25/2023 7:42 PM
29	We don't have enough in general for this town	10/25/2023 7:02 PM
30	There needs to be a more challenging playground for kids 8 plus years	10/25/2023 12:39 PM
31	Never enough :)	10/25/2023 8:29 AM
32	Not suitable in the current condition	10/25/2023 8:21 AM
33	We only have 1 good playground	10/25/2023 7:07 AM
34	There really isn't much to do for fun between 18-59. In the summer is nice to go to parks but in the winter there's no much.	10/25/2023 6:04 AM
35	Spaces are not large enough or too old and need to be replaced.	10/25/2023 5:01 AM
36	There is an extreme lack in public open spaces that accommodate the activities kids want to	10/25/2023 4:40 AM

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play safely. There is a lack of proper basketball courts. There are no public hockey rinks. There are no public bicycle or skate parks. There are no public tennis courts (only the high school). There are no quality public soccer fields (only the high school turf which is not supposed to be used without a permit). The areas are not properly maintained and are allowed to be overrun by geese.

37	I think we could do more for the teenagers in town, maybe a skate park or a workout station obstacle course	10/25/2023 2:26 AM
38	Could use more pickleball courts for younger age group.	10/24/2023 11:07 PM
39	I believe more fields, basketball courts and other sporting areas where teens can play, and explore week be useful	10/24/2023 10:13 PM
40	The playgrounds are for babies. The only other town spots are basketball courts. Street hockey would be nice. A rec center would be outstanding.	10/24/2023 10:06 PM
41	We could use more fields for youth sports	10/24/2023 9:20 PM
42	The teens only have a basketball court. They need more choices for safe spaces.	10/24/2023 9:15 PM
43	Open grass areas is not suitable to do anything other than throwing a ball..picnic tables and more things to do for teens!!	10/24/2023 8:55 PM
44	There is plenty of land in Abington to expand out open spaces. If we do not secure these spaces they will turn into housing developments in a fairly short amount of time.	10/24/2023 8:54 PM
45	They seem to go to the younger kids places. Maybe get them a skate park or Something	10/24/2023 8:49 PM
46	Never enough open spaces. In this fast paced world people need nature spaces to find peace and think	10/24/2023 8:31 PM
47	Many playgrounds need upgrades.	10/24/2023 8:21 PM
48	Updated playgrounds, basketball courts, skate park would be good for teens.	10/24/2023 8:09 PM
49	Teens need more basketball courts, skate/bike parks. This may help with certain disrespectful behaviors in other areas. There also needs to be more biking trails for teens/older people.	10/24/2023 8:02 PM
50	Teens maybe need a rec center or some place to call theirs.	10/24/2023 8:01 PM
51	A skate park would help this age group	10/24/2023 7:38 PM
52	There's not much for the age group of 13-17 to do (especially if they don't play sports)	10/24/2023 7:24 PM
53	The playgrounds are in poor condition	10/24/2023 7:02 PM
54	Lack of sidewalks to get there	10/24/2023 6:20 PM
55	I don't think you can have enough open space.	10/24/2023 5:27 PM
56	Building to much need more open space	10/24/2023 4:55 PM
57	I think all age group would benefit from a community center where we could offer more activities and not send people to Rockland or braintree or weymouth to get such services	10/24/2023 4:45 PM
58	We need to leave the space alone	10/24/2023 4:36 PM
59	No spots for the older kids, currently they just take over the playgrounds that are ment for younger children	10/24/2023 4:25 PM
60	Arnold Park on Harrison st, lots of kids in the neighborhood and the only park in walking distance is unsafe for children	10/24/2023 3:57 PM
61	There just isn't enough open space in Abington for any age group.	10/24/2023 3:50 PM
62	Abington is limited in open space options for running/waking of any distance	10/24/2023 3:29 PM
63	Playgrounds are geared toward very young children.	10/24/2023 3:21 PM
64	Not sure if teens feel they have spaces. Our kid too young and didn't grow up here.	10/24/2023 3:01 PM
65	Need more sports fields	10/24/2023 2:44 PM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

66	More spaces for people to feel safe in a clean environmnet	10/24/2023 2:38 PM
67	Playgrounds could be better	10/24/2023 2:38 PM
68	Kids needed a space, like a skate park or something similar.	10/24/2023 2:19 PM
69	Need more recreation space	10/24/2023 2:16 PM
70	Not enough for each group.	10/24/2023 1:24 PM
71	Beaver Brook playground is great but the other ones need major updating	10/24/2023 1:16 PM
72	The open space in Abington is continually encroached upon by building/housing projects.	10/24/2023 1:12 PM
73	We need more variety	10/24/2023 12:10 PM
74	Most of the parks are not take care of. No police monitoring. Most areas in abington are littered or ruined	10/24/2023 12:01 PM
75	Anywhere that is safe for teens to ride off-road vehicles, they are not allowed to ride there and then the police confiscate their equipment. We should be encouraging outdoor social activities like that and not discouraging.	10/24/2023 11:56 AM
76	If island grove got a makeover things would look better for small children	10/24/2023 11:54 AM
77	Nothing except Griffins Diary!	10/24/2023 11:44 AM
78	Overall there are a lot of spaces but would like to see youth sports more grouped together. Baseball for example has multiple fields spread out. Like other towns one location with 2-3 fields would make easier maintenance to the fields, possibility for lights and hosting tournaments which brings in money for the leagues.	10/24/2023 11:33 AM
79	Kids are told they can't play off the turf field after school, or it's being used.	10/24/2023 11:24 AM
80	More for teens and older people would be nice	10/24/2023 11:20 AM
81	There is no place for teens to hang out	10/24/2023 11:13 AM
82	There are plenty of ball fields soccer fields for school age children. Here is a need for a basketball court or two and natural trails that are good for walking some benches would be nice too	10/24/2023 11:07 AM
83	I would be shocked if anyone thinks our town does have decent outdoor space for these age groups. While the actual space may be available, it's dirty, dangerous, old, and definitely not safe.	10/24/2023 11:04 AM
84	More could be added with handicapped areas to use.	10/24/2023 11:02 AM
85	There's nowhere for preteens to go that doesn't include toddlers	10/24/2023 10:03 AM
86	Not enough youth programs for all age groups	10/24/2023 9:49 AM
87	The spaces we have are not updated or in some case safe.	10/24/2023 9:43 AM
88	A splash pad would be nice.	10/24/2023 9:40 AM
89	Safe accessible playgrounds for toddlers	10/24/2023 9:18 AM
90	I think some of our smaller playgrounds need some refurbishment and aside from athletic fields I don't think there is enough space for teenagers.	10/24/2023 9:11 AM
91	Youth sports need more space and a upgraded facilities. Fields are not kept up for our kids. Volunteers can only do so much. The town needs to support the organizations more. Youth baseball compared to surrounding towns is very far behind. There is one field which is suitable to host other towns.	10/24/2023 9:08 AM
92	Besides the high school area, which are often in use, outdoor areas for older teens aren't readily available. A skatepark with seating/picnic areas would be wonderful.	10/24/2023 8:32 AM
93	More up to date playgrounds needed	10/24/2023 8:31 AM
94	Playground is good for the little ones but over 10 or so need something more. Older folks need someplace they can sit to enjoy the outdoors without having to walk far.	10/24/2023 8:29 AM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

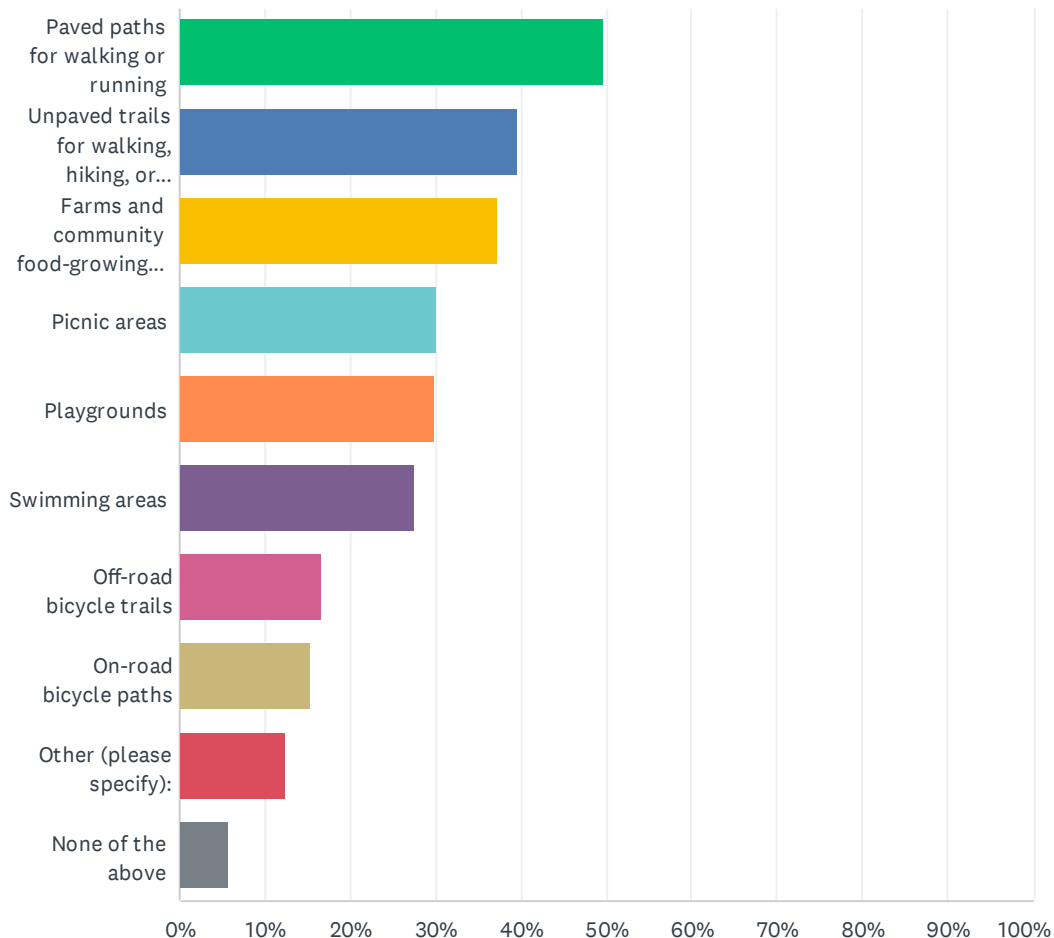
95	I think the teenagers have very little activities outside of school to enjoy , so they use the little kid parks.	10/24/2023 8:27 AM
96	Not much for the teens to do that they aren't causing problems	10/24/2023 8:21 AM
97	Unfortunately if young students are participating in sports the Town doesn't cater to this age group. A teen center might be interesting, however keeping it available to Abington teens only might be an issue. The basketball courts in front of the police station was a great idea, however there are more out of townees than Abington youth. In today's society this group we need to be more involve on keeping them safe and protected. Parents first & then community.	10/24/2023 8:21 AM
98	I think there could always be more playgrounds in town, and more open space for team sports.	10/24/2023 8:16 AM
99	The only place I know teens hang out is a basketball court. They could use more activities. Maybe a skate park or a safe place to ride bikes other than rail trail.	10/24/2023 8:15 AM
100	i think there needs be more of an effort out into having a teen center with i. the community with both indoor and outdoor activities Rockland recreation program is able to have teen nights because they have a center Abington has nothing like that i do believe there are plants of playgrounds for younger kids that need to be updated	10/24/2023 8:13 AM
101	13-17 is a hard age to accommodate. Too old for traditional playgrounds and not likely to enjoy simple open spaces	10/24/2023 8:09 AM
102	I think my no is related to the upkeep and beautification of spaces we do have. The age groups I said no to are because we lack benches, trash barrels, even some flowers etc to make the space feel peaceful vs run down	10/24/2023 7:58 AM
103	We've only owned/lived here a year and we don't have children. Haven't explored those parks yet.	10/24/2023 7:50 AM
104	Those spaces do not offer many activities for those age groups. Some have few maintenance issues.	10/24/2023 7:43 AM
105	The library has a teen center, but there are no outdoor parks that are appropriate for that age	10/24/2023 7:37 AM
106	Not a lot of spaces for teens	10/24/2023 7:16 AM
107	Many areas of town have just enough for the younger children but not always engaging enough or much to kee them going. Teenagers use the smaller playgrounds and make the younger kids uncomfortable as well as destroying some parts. If there was more things geared toward teens maybe that would help.	10/24/2023 7:14 AM
108	Many playgrounds are unusable (Arnold Park and Green Street). Teenagers need their own space and maybe they will leave the younger kids amenities alone.	10/23/2023 9:33 PM
109	There is a need for pickleball courts for 18 -59 age group	10/23/2023 6:15 PM
110	Do you need more activities for toddlers to play? I often take my grandchildren out and I can't find places for them and teenagers need activities also	10/23/2023 1:56 PM
111	Not much for teens to do in this town.	10/21/2023 6:44 PM
112	We need more walkable spaces with multi activity options	10/21/2023 5:11 PM
113	I would say that the courts near the police station is for the teens. Maybe a skate park or something else may be a nice addition.	10/21/2023 3:25 PM
114	For the under 13 kids, Beaver Brook is excellent, but other playgrounds are deplorable (broken equipment, glass, trash). Green St. & Police station b-ball are good, other locations are lacking or nasty.	10/21/2023 1:58 PM
115	13 yr olds het in trouble. Always causing problems in the Grove and detroying,vandelizing it.	10/20/2023 12:00 PM
116	Under 50 Pickleball	10/19/2023 8:16 PM
117	I am an active member of the Abington pickleball Association. It has become obvious that there is a great need for younger people to have access to pickle ball courts. I believe that building additional courts for younger people would be a huge benefit, so that everyone can have access to this very fun sport.	10/19/2023 7:51 PM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

118	Basketball courts needed ; as well as pickleball courts for under 50	10/19/2023 7:21 PM
119	This age group is looking for pickleball courts and basketball courts.	10/15/2023 2:28 PM
120	Thompson Pond area could be developed with cleaning up and creating pathways.	10/15/2023 9:25 AM
121	It seems that the town is more focused on soccer fields ball field rather than just hiking and walking jogging trails	10/14/2023 5:09 PM
122	When looking at neighboring towns, there seem to more spots like Hanover Crossing or Derby Streets where those local teens can spend time at. Abington doesn't really have a clean and localized spot like that for younger ages.	10/8/2023 8:36 PM
123	Under 13 is too large of an age group to consider. I would say under 10 yes there are suitable spaces. From 10-17 there are sports fields and open spaces that can be utilized with families. Utilizing open spaces with friends is frowned upon by older citizens even when being respectful.	10/6/2023 12:43 PM

### Q8 Which, if any, of the following outdoor amenities does our town need more of? Please check one or more boxes.

Answered: 353 Skipped: 135



## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Paved paths for walking or running	49.58%	175
Unpaved trails for walking, hiking, or running	39.66%	140
Farms and community food-growing gardens	37.39%	132
Picnic areas	30.03%	106
Playgrounds	29.75%	105
Swimming areas	27.48%	97
Off-road bicycle trails	16.71%	59
On-road bicycle paths	15.30%	54
Other (please specify):	12.46%	44
None of the above	5.67%	20
Total Respondents: 353		

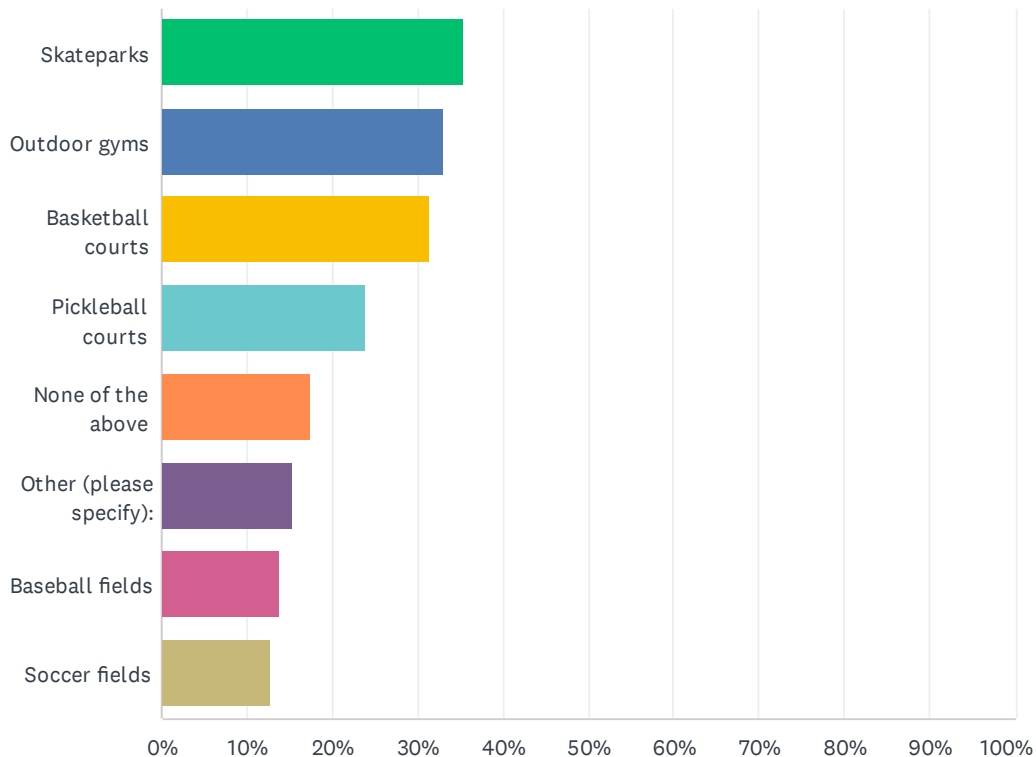
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):	DATE
1	Atv trails	12/29/2023 7:53 PM
2	Football field younger children can play on in all weather conditions	11/2/2023 6:37 PM
3	youth sport fields, use griffin farm to build a complex	11/1/2023 10:01 AM
4	Town Forest	10/30/2023 11:17 AM
5	Paved path to dock from parking lot at Ames	10/25/2023 8:53 PM
6	All of the above	10/25/2023 6:13 PM
7	Maybe an outside ice skating rink for the winter.	10/25/2023 6:04 AM
8	Basketball, hockey, tennis	10/25/2023 4:40 AM
9	Pickleball courys	10/24/2023 11:07 PM
10	Street hockey courts	10/24/2023 10:34 PM
11	Multipurpose hard court surfaces, covered for weather and sun protection. Could have pickle ball, basketball, street hockey and volleyball all in one spot	10/24/2023 9:15 PM
12	Skate Park	10/24/2023 9:15 PM
13	More places for teens! Also a pump track for biking like at wompatuck state park	10/24/2023 8:55 PM
14	Football fields we can play on	10/24/2023 8:49 PM
15	Basketball courts pickle ball	10/24/2023 8:09 PM
16	Would love to see a street hockey rink, and continue to build on beaver Brook playground as we can.	10/24/2023 6:29 PM
17	Street hockey court	10/24/2023 6:05 PM
18	Splash pad	10/24/2023 5:50 PM
19	Community and recreation center	10/24/2023 4:45 PM
20	Sports fields	10/24/2023 2:44 PM
21	Open non-developed conservation space	10/24/2023 12:08 PM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

22	Street hockey rink, ASHL is one of the best run sports organizations in town.	10/24/2023 11:33 AM
23	Improved sports fields	10/24/2023 11:24 AM
24	Quality sports fields	10/24/2023 10:28 AM
25	Upgraded playgrounds laidker/Green St.	10/24/2023 10:07 AM
26	Sports feild	10/24/2023 10:05 AM
27	Updated football and baseball fields	10/24/2023 9:49 AM
28	Designated fields for youth sports	10/24/2023 9:49 AM
29	Outdoor areas with tables and lighting for outdoor meetings	10/24/2023 9:29 AM
30	Baseball fields	10/24/2023 9:08 AM
31	Skate park or safe place for young kids to ride bikes and scooters	10/24/2023 8:29 AM
32	Peaceful places to sit/benches... meet a friend for coffee	10/24/2023 7:58 AM
33	Town pool and splash pad	10/24/2023 7:37 AM
34	Skate park	10/24/2023 7:28 AM
35	Quads, motorized atvs	10/24/2023 7:16 AM
36	open space geared towards teens	10/23/2023 9:33 PM
37	Sidewalks	10/21/2023 11:12 AM
38	Pickleball courts	10/19/2023 8:16 PM
39	More pickleball courts	10/19/2023 7:51 PM
40	Pickleball courts	10/19/2023 7:51 PM
41	Basketball and pickleball	10/19/2023 7:21 PM
42	Boating at island grove	10/15/2023 9:25 AM
43	Roads that have speed bumps, cars are flying on every road.	10/8/2023 8:36 PM
44	We need funds to take care of the properties we do have. It would also be ideal to connect paths and parks that already exist.	10/6/2023 12:43 PM

### Q9 Which, if any, of the following athletic fields does our town need more of? Please check one or more boxes.

Answered: 344 Skipped: 144



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Skateparks	35.47% 122
Outdoor gyms	33.14% 114
Basketball courts	31.40% 108
Pickleball courts	23.84% 82
None of the above	17.44% 60
Other (please specify):	15.41% 53
Baseball fields	13.95% 48
Soccer fields	12.79% 44
Total Respondents: 344	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):	DATE
1	Street hockey facilities	12/1/2023 4:17 PM
2	Street Hockey rink	11/29/2023 5:04 PM
3	no response provided	11/21/2023 3:14 PM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

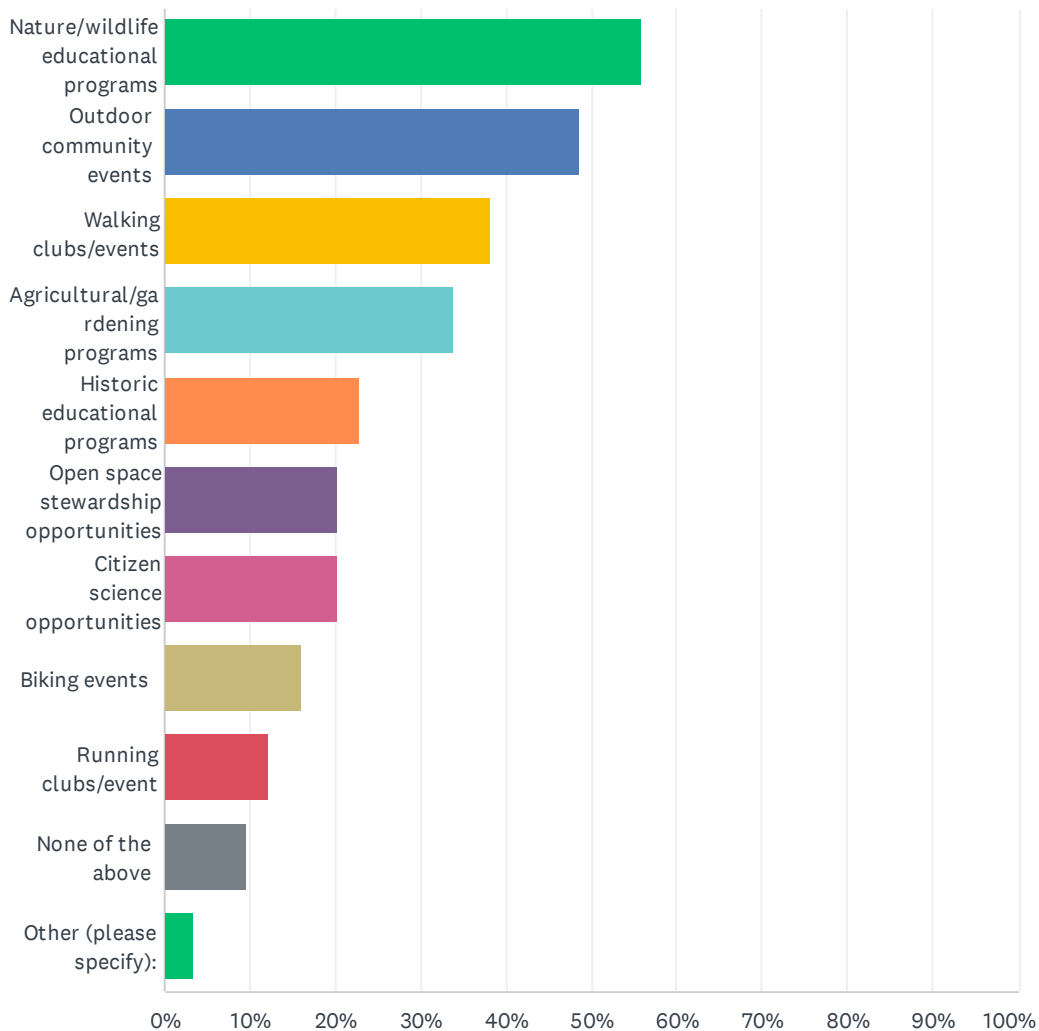
4	walking and fishing	11/21/2023 11:18 AM
5	Football fields younger children can play on in all weather	11/2/2023 6:37 PM
6	lacrosse fields	11/1/2023 10:01 AM
7	Tennis, swimming	10/29/2023 5:27 PM
8	I can't answer this because I do not play sports.	10/27/2023 8:12 PM
9	Fields for hockey or something or senior games. Volleyball.	10/27/2023 10:29 AM
10	Street hockey area	10/26/2023 1:22 PM
11	Beautiful, Tasteful and peaceful Trails (like Norwell, Weymouth, hingham) for mountain biking, hiking, walking, running, pushing a stroller and riding bikes with kids (not next to street or with multiple street crossings or completely secluded in the woods.( tons of potential if incorporated island grove, cemetery, beaver brook area, or next to behind library/ track)	10/26/2023 12:10 AM
12	A new football field	10/25/2023 5:13 PM
13	Disc golf	10/25/2023 8:29 AM
14	Ice skating	10/25/2023 6:04 AM
15	Hockey rinks for street hockey and roller hockey	10/25/2023 4:40 AM
16	Improved baseball fields	10/24/2023 11:27 PM
17	Street hockey courts	10/24/2023 10:34 PM
18	I love the idea of outdoor gyms	10/24/2023 10:13 PM
19	Street hockey	10/24/2023 10:06 PM
20	Youth football field	10/24/2023 9:20 PM
21	Pump track for teen bikers	10/24/2023 8:55 PM
22	Baseball complex	10/24/2023 8:54 PM
23	Football	10/24/2023 8:49 PM
24	Not really sure	10/24/2023 8:01 PM
25	Tennis courts	10/24/2023 6:55 PM
26	Street hockey rink	10/24/2023 6:29 PM
27	Street hockey	10/24/2023 6:05 PM
28	Street hockey court - police station isn't ideal location with little kids	10/24/2023 5:50 PM
29	Street hockey courts	10/24/2023 4:10 PM
30	Tennis	10/24/2023 3:45 PM
31	JV baseball fields need overhaul	10/24/2023 3:29 PM
32	We don't need more we need what we have taken care of	10/24/2023 12:01 PM
33	Do not know	10/24/2023 11:44 AM
34	Baseball all in one place and street hockey	10/24/2023 11:33 AM
35	Youth Football Field	10/24/2023 11:32 AM
36	Football that doesn't share with baseball field	10/24/2023 11:24 AM
37	Maintenance of current fields can be more consistent	10/24/2023 10:47 AM
38	Football	10/24/2023 10:42 AM
39	Football	10/24/2023 10:20 AM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

40	Needs sports fields	10/24/2023 10:05 AM
41	Football field	10/24/2023 9:49 AM
42	Football field	10/24/2023 9:49 AM
43	Youth football field	10/24/2023 9:08 AM
44	Street hockey court	10/24/2023 9:03 AM
45	Open field/play areas.	10/24/2023 8:32 AM
46	Bocci	10/24/2023 8:27 AM
47	Maybe a year round arena, for winter sports & clubs ie soccer, flag football, types of dance clubs or science clubs???	10/24/2023 8:21 AM
48	Street hockey rinks	10/24/2023 7:17 AM
49	Toddler playgrounds	10/23/2023 1:56 PM
50	Pickleball for younget ages	10/21/2023 11:47 AM
51	Pickle ball	10/21/2023 9:52 AM
52	Put exercise stations at Griffins along paths	10/15/2023 2:28 PM
53	The fields that we do have need to be upgraded. It would be nice to have an outdoor court that can be used for pickleball, basketball and street hockey depending on seasons.	10/6/2023 12:43 PM

### Q10 Which, if any, of the following open space-related programs does our town need more of? Please check one or more boxes.

Answered: 345 Skipped: 143



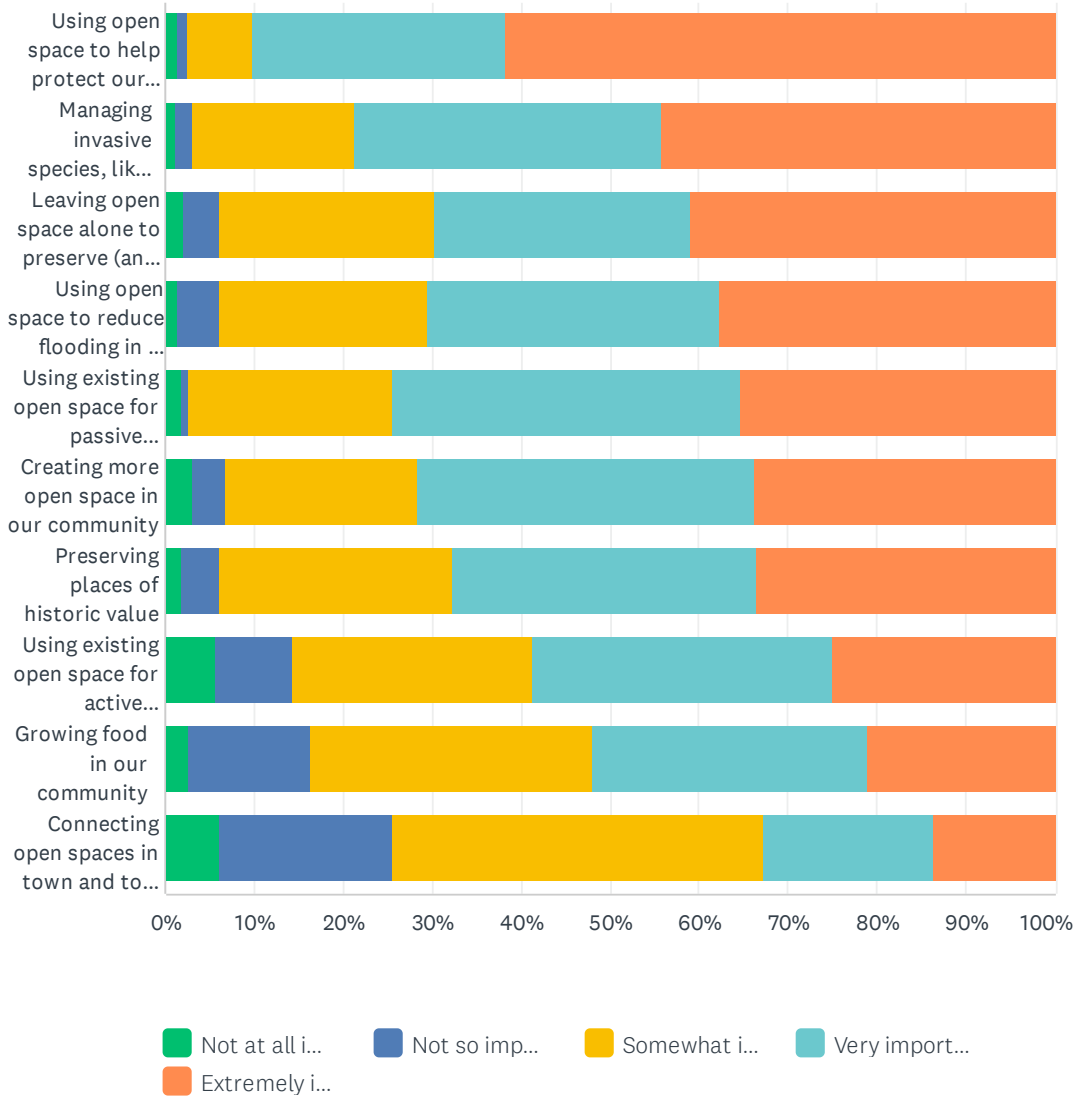
## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Nature/wildlife educational programs	55.94%	193
Outdoor community events	48.70%	168
Walking clubs/events	38.26%	132
Agricultural/gardening programs	33.91%	117
Historic educational programs	22.90%	79
Open space stewardship opportunities	20.29%	70
Citizen science opportunities	20.29%	70
Biking events	15.94%	55
Running clubs/event	12.17%	42
None of the above	9.57%	33
Other (please specify):	3.48%	12
Total Respondents: 345		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):	DATE
1	Doing sidewalks down north	10/26/2023 4:16 PM
2	Community center with great rec space outside and in along with Tween, teen, young adult and adult programs and opportunities	10/26/2023 12:10 AM
3	Teen Center	10/25/2023 8:56 AM
4	Inclusion for special needs and disabled kids. Hingham had south shore snap sports program and weymouth has challenger league baseball. Some parks have adaptable zip lines etc would love to see more opportunities geared at this population	10/24/2023 6:29 PM
5	Dark sky to see the stars.	10/24/2023 11:34 AM
6	more areas for the teens. The courts were a great addition.	10/24/2023 9:35 AM
7	Better park & rec programs for the kids during summer and winter!!	10/24/2023 9:03 AM
8	all of the above! Our community has become so diverse in the past decade trying to meet the needs of all the different groups is always beneficial. Youth need to be at the forefront.	10/24/2023 8:21 AM
9	There used to be great ranger led programs at ames knowell, would be great to bring them back	10/24/2023 7:16 AM
10	Pick up trash	10/21/2023 4:51 PM
11	More dog friendly trails	10/21/2023 9:52 AM
12	Bird watching clubs	10/15/2023 9:25 AM

Q11 Thinking about our town, how important, if at all, are the following to you? Please choose one answer for each row.

Answered: 337 Skipped: 151

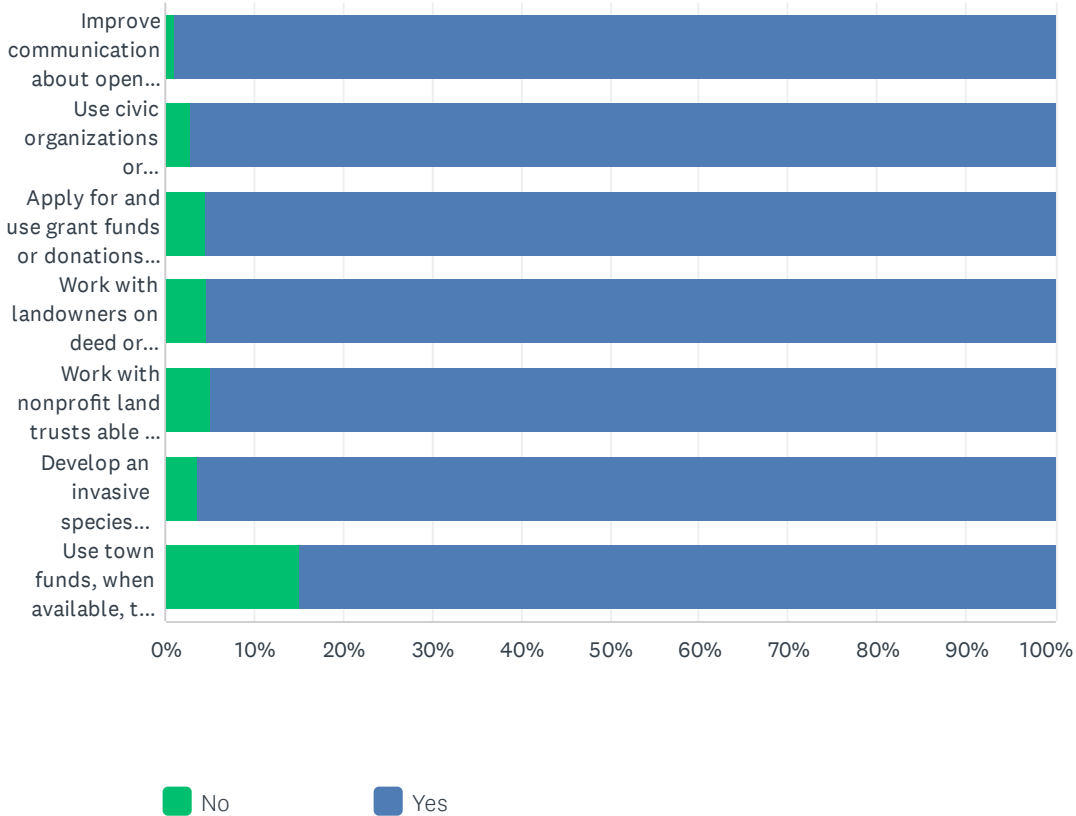


## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	NOT SO IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Using open space to help protect our drinking water supplies	1.48% 5	0.89% 3	7.42% 25	28.49% 96	61.72% 208	337
Managing invasive species, like knotweed, that threaten open space	1.19% 4	1.78% 6	18.40% 62	34.42% 116	44.21% 149	337
Leaving open space alone to preserve (and restore) wildlife habitat and natural functions	2.08% 7	4.15% 14	24.04% 81	28.78% 97	40.95% 138	337
Using open space to reduce flooding in our community	1.48% 5	4.75% 16	23.15% 78	32.94% 111	37.69% 127	337
Using existing open space for passive recreation, like walking, running, fishing, and birdwatching	1.78% 6	0.89% 3	22.85% 77	39.17% 132	35.31% 119	337
Creating more open space in our community	2.97% 10	3.86% 13	21.66% 73	37.69% 127	33.83% 114	337
Preserving places of historic value	1.78% 6	4.45% 15	26.11% 88	34.12% 115	33.53% 113	337
Using existing open space for active recreation, like baseball, soccer, and pickleball	5.64% 19	8.61% 29	27.00% 91	33.83% 114	24.93% 84	337
Growing food in our community	2.67% 9	13.65% 46	31.75% 107	30.86% 104	21.07% 71	337
Connecting open spaces in town and to nearby towns	6.23% 21	19.29% 65	41.84% 141	18.99% 64	13.65% 46	337

## Q12 Should the Town of Abington take the following actions? Please check one or more boxes.

Answered: 337 Skipped: 151



	NO	YES	TOTAL
Improve communication about open spaces in town, providing information and maps	0.94% 3	99.06% 317	320
Use civic organizations or associations, like AmeriCorps, Scouts, or volunteers to help maintain open spaces	2.95% 9	97.05% 296	305
Apply for and use grant funds or donations to purchase land for open space	4.53% 14	95.47% 295	309
Work with landowners on deed or conservation restrictions to limit future land development	4.68% 14	95.32% 285	299
Work with nonprofit land trusts able to purchase and/or maintain open space	5.07% 15	94.93% 281	296
Develop an invasive species management plan to prevent, monitor, and remove invasive species like Japanese knotweed	3.73% 10	96.27% 258	268
Use town funds, when available, to purchase land for open space	15.19% 43	84.81% 240	283

## Q13 Is there something else related to open space that we should be doing, either as the Town of Abington or as a community?

Answered: 72 Skipped: 416

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Griffin dairy is an underutilized gem. So much land that could be brought back to agricultural use. Also the community garden space is huge and underutilized.	1/14/2024 2:36 PM
2	No	12/5/2023 1:11 PM
3	Update/expand the island grove swimming area and/or create a new town pool. Potentially add a splash pad at one playground.	12/1/2023 7:13 PM
4	Not that I can think of.	11/29/2023 5:01 PM
5	Cutting down dead trees that pose a hazard to walkers/hikers	11/29/2023 4:31 PM
6	create a moratorium on further development to releave the shortage of water and the strain of our sewer system	11/21/2023 2:37 PM
7	we are lucky to live in a Town that values open space. We already have some great locations like Island Grove, Griffin Dairy and the Harris Ave park (Arnold Park) Making updates to restroom facilities, lighting and playground structures in these locations would go a long way toward making our spaces even more enjoyable and functional.	11/21/2023 11:41 AM
8	tear down Center school for open space	11/21/2023 11:03 AM
9	Preserving and increasing open space is very important to the Town, but we cannot stop all building	11/17/2023 10:53 AM
10	Properly maintain these areas. I think youth sports has taken most of the money for construction and maintenance in recent years	11/11/2023 9:11 AM
11	Take care of investments like beaver Brook playground.	11/5/2023 9:45 AM
12	Management of what we have before committing to more land. Specifically, island grove: repair the bridge, replace the gazebo, CONTROL THE POISON IVY.	11/3/2023 2:24 PM
13	Establishing a Town Forest next to Town Hall and the Public Library	10/30/2023 11:18 AM
14	I would love more swimming spaces! This isn't really an open space issue since I just want indoor swimming and swim teams in the schools, but I digress. Thank you for doing this survey. I love it when people ask my opinion! =)	10/29/2023 5:30 PM
15	Stop trying to take away what the open space the town has!	10/28/2023 3:56 PM
16	Create a town forest	10/27/2023 4:09 PM
17	Conserve what we have left and stop allowing new construction on said land	10/27/2023 10:30 AM
18	Need to clean up island grove	10/27/2023 5:24 AM
19	Continue to partner with orgs/groups like Abington Celebrates, Summer Concerts, APL, ASPIRE and others to combine art, community & cultural events and open space. Also offer more agricultural programs within Abington Public Schools.	10/26/2023 10:02 PM
20	No ideas.	10/26/2023 4:07 AM
21	Sorry in advance- typing this on my phone and hard to read through and edit. Giving polls like this and asking for feedback is great. Thank you! Mapping out the open space and connecting it all together through a trail network so it can be accessed and really used and is monitored by police at various times. (The rail trail is amazing, but can also be scary and uninviting. Same with Ames Nowell. I Am down there multiple times a week. Love that it is there, and besides being a bit scary if you are alone...it has limited marked trails and limited trails in general, no	10/26/2023 12:51 AM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

map, no bathrooms, etc.. Untapped potential. ) Places with limited space (butterfly garden /short bike paths) and trails here and there that are less than a couple of miles long are sort of a wasted space IMO. If I go and there isn't enough room to exercise and go for a walk that stinks or if it's not an inviting and safe place to sit forget it. These spaces wouldn't be a waste if they were connected in some way. Make our open space inviting- beautiful, classy and peaceful... a place you want to spend time in, can exercise in, meet friends, etc. Lots of natural landscaping. Tasteful seating. Not congested. Make our town desirable to move to and want to continue to live in and be proud of. There is so much potential here. Rte 18 and our "downtown" area are ruining any type of cute town look. Washington street area, island grove area, library, AHS/AMS area, are cute areas and they have more potential. Exercise bars/stretching zone and Walking path around Strawberry valley and the library and the track, so mothers can go with strollers and little kids on bikes and feel safe and secure and also connect their walk around the new high and middle school and to the very short bike path lane. Which could be awesome. Look at open spaces/ landscape and choices made in the towns you might look/want to move to if you had the means and/or were looking for a town to relocate to.

22	Need more public trash barrels on main streets to keep town clean, specially around Island Grove, people throw trash everywhere	10/25/2023 7:49 PM
23	No	10/25/2023 7:05 PM
24	No	10/25/2023 5:14 PM
25	We should be communicating to the residence all the available spaces we have now and the uses. Also communicate how residence, especially new comers, how to get involved. We're no very open about that.	10/25/2023 1:25 PM
26	No more building of condos!	10/25/2023 10:39 AM
27	Hire more staff at the Dow to maintain what we have	10/25/2023 8:22 AM
28	More sidewalks (Groveland Street)	10/25/2023 8:17 AM
29	Stop building houses	10/25/2023 5:03 AM
30	Stop building! Reclaim unused property for open/nature areas. Require any new builds to contribute to keeping natural areas on their property. Increase /create fines for destruction of natural environments. Greater fines and policing for dumping in natural areas.	10/24/2023 8:37 PM
31	Ames Nowell is such a great natural space. However it needs more funding to provide amenities, maintain trails etc.	10/24/2023 6:49 PM
32	The town has a lot of great outdoor space. I support buying land to keep agriculture but as far as public use I would rather see us improve what we have before creating more	10/24/2023 6:31 PM
33	Just limit new builds, if possible.	10/24/2023 5:30 PM
34	Rec center	10/24/2023 4:47 PM
35	Leave it natural and untouched	10/24/2023 3:46 PM
36	Any plan for open spaces needs to balance areas for use with preservation of natural resources and wildlife. These are what make these natural spaces special to begin with	10/24/2023 3:34 PM
37	Pickle Ball Courts for all ages, not just seniors	10/24/2023 3:13 PM
38	Sell unused buildings	10/24/2023 2:47 PM
39	Stop building house or apts. Condos. Don't need anymore. Or churches or car dealerships. need more family restrants. Breakfast lunch dinner	10/24/2023 2:20 PM
40	I thought the community preservation committee was supposed to be covering costs like this. From what I can tell they seem to be collecting money, spending the minimum required, then hoarding the rest of the cash. If funds are to be paid for by the town and not the CPA committee we should dissolve it, stop collecting the CPA fee on taxes, and return monies to the taxpayers	10/24/2023 2:07 PM
41	Enact a moratorium on multi-unit residential projects.	10/24/2023 1:15 PM
42	Police need to some thing about the obvious drug use and vandalism in public spaces.	10/24/2023 12:03 PM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

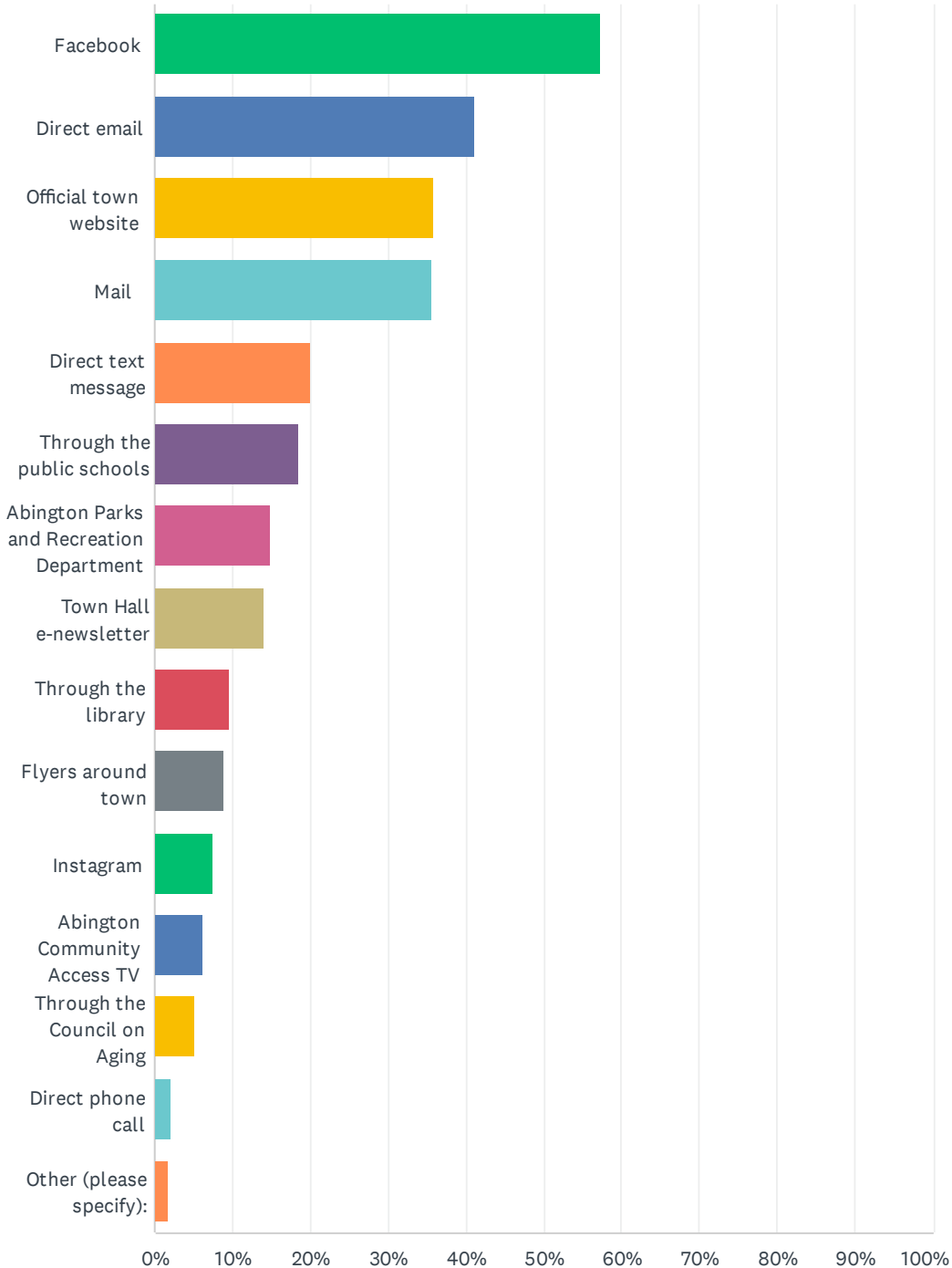
43	Encouraging more outdoor activities for all age groups. Also would be nice if there were more social events for people to connect at.	10/24/2023 11:57 AM
44	Keep it clean!	10/24/2023 11:46 AM
45	Please limit new condos and developments! We are losing the appeal of Abington, which used to be a small town feel with lots of trees and green space. Limit families from moving multi generational families into a single family home- this is taxing on our resources! Traffic is getting out of hand, and it's no longer a quiet, small town that we loved when we moved here.	10/24/2023 11:31 AM
46	Stop building apartment complexes!!	10/24/2023 11:07 AM
47	Why are these even questions?? Shouldn't these be obvious answers that these initiatives benefit the land and the people immensely!!	10/24/2023 11:06 AM
48	Maintaining current fields such as softball and track next to the library.	10/24/2023 10:50 AM
49	I wish our town had a beautification clause for our businesses and new builds such as condo developments.	10/24/2023 10:13 AM
50	Sports feilds	10/24/2023 10:07 AM
51	More outdoor activities for youths and families	10/24/2023 9:52 AM
52	Utilize space is better such as old school buildings that could become open space or playgrounds, basketball, courts, gardening spaces, etc.	10/24/2023 9:45 AM
53	more space availability for youth sports that doesn't cost the program a lot of money.	10/24/2023 9:37 AM
54	Maintain current fields and upgrade current fields. Utilize current town owned property instead of buying new	10/24/2023 9:10 AM
55	No	10/24/2023 8:51 AM
56	Following the question Civic Organization & associations, maybe apply more of this type of duty to our young students in the high school to meet their requirements for National honor society etc....	10/24/2023 8:48 AM
57	I would like to have less building and more natural open space to be enjoyed. The ideas I listed for the kids but in areas without destroying natural habitats for wildlife.	10/24/2023 8:37 AM
58	Yes, perhaps use schools as recreational areas for middle and high school age kids. Perhaps have skate parks there or area for bike ramps, maybe use for life skills programs after school.	10/24/2023 8:30 AM
59	Make it more known to the townspeople what is available	10/24/2023 8:26 AM
60	Maps of areas and what they are for would be helpful. I only know about certain spaces around me, and not those in other parts of town. Also, cleaning up graffiti and drug paraphernalia regularly.	10/24/2023 8:20 AM
61	na	10/24/2023 8:16 AM
62	We can't fit anymore kids in our schools. We also can't afford taxes to go any higher to expand or add onto schools. By limiting development and keeping open space, we keep population stable. We can't have anymore people build and live here	10/24/2023 8:00 AM
63	Prevent residential or commercial building in town forests and open spaces	10/24/2023 7:46 AM
64	Create a path to connect West Abington to Library/Town Hall and Middle/High School	10/23/2023 9:36 PM
65	Keep them clean, when park employees are looking for something to do have them go to island Grove and walk around picking up trash and leave their phones unattended while they work, young employees need to be supervised as they get on there portable electronics and waist our tax dollars screwing off. I was a facility manager for 30 years and had. To manage many young employees, when working there phones should be put away ,just watch how much more production you get get out of them. Young employees are useless and predictably lazy if there not supervised. Have them pick up trash so the tax payers don't have too	10/21/2023 5:09 PM
66	Keep our open space open!	10/21/2023 5:06 PM
67	Prevent developers from tearing down forests to build condos	10/21/2023 2:25 PM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

68	Maybe letting the kids stay later at the basketball courts. Seems like the perfect location in front of police station to keep kids out of trouble during the summer	10/21/2023 10:21 AM
69	How long is this Survey	10/20/2023 12:04 PM
70	Stay in closer touch with what the residents want	10/19/2023 7:54 PM
71	Help Thompson Pond to become usable and attractive.	10/15/2023 9:31 AM
72	Take care of what we have. We need to keep the parks, playgrounds and open space we have in good condition free from trash, graffiti and broken equipment.	10/6/2023 12:49 PM

Q14 What are the three best ways to get town-related information to you, including information about open space and recreation in our community?  
Please check no more than three boxes.

Answered: 335 Skipped: 153



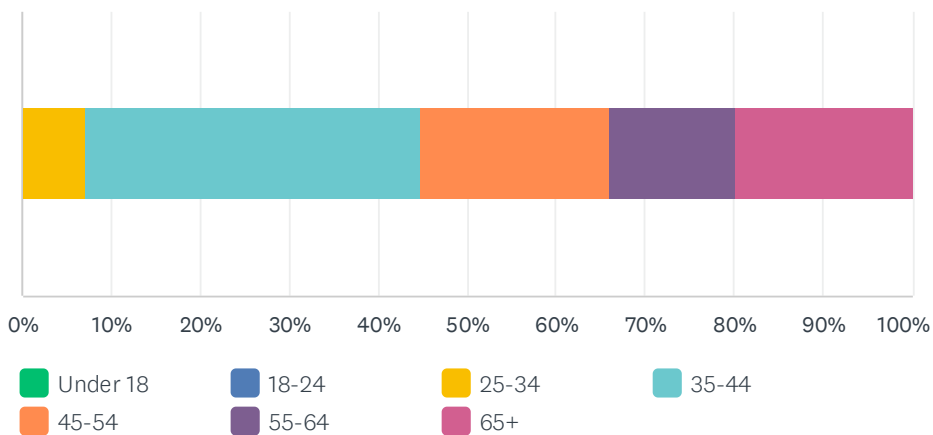
## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Facebook	57.31%	192
Direct email	41.19%	138
Official town website	35.82%	120
Mail	35.52%	119
Direct text message	20.00%	67
Through the public schools	18.51%	62
Abington Parks and Recreation Department	14.93%	50
Town Hall e-newsletter	14.03%	47
Through the library	9.55%	32
Flyers around town	8.96%	30
Instagram	7.46%	25
Abington Community Access TV	6.27%	21
Through the Council on Aging	5.07%	17
Direct phone call	2.09%	7
Other (please specify):	1.79%	6
<b>Total Respondents: 335</b>		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):	DATE
1	I don't feel there is a clear way to get town information and would love for there to be one	10/27/2023 10:04 AM
2	Kmmm	10/25/2023 2:00 PM
3	Disseminate information by utilizing established clubs/associations e.g. soccer, football, baseball, school dept., etc	10/24/2023 8:59 PM
4	If the town website could be updated regularly, with all info there, like a home base, that would be insanely helpful.	10/24/2023 8:05 PM
5	Electronic boards posted around rt 18 rt 58 rt 139 rt 123	10/24/2023 2:23 PM
6	Public signage is very helpful for those who are not tech savvy.	10/24/2023 8:51 AM

## Q15 How old are you?

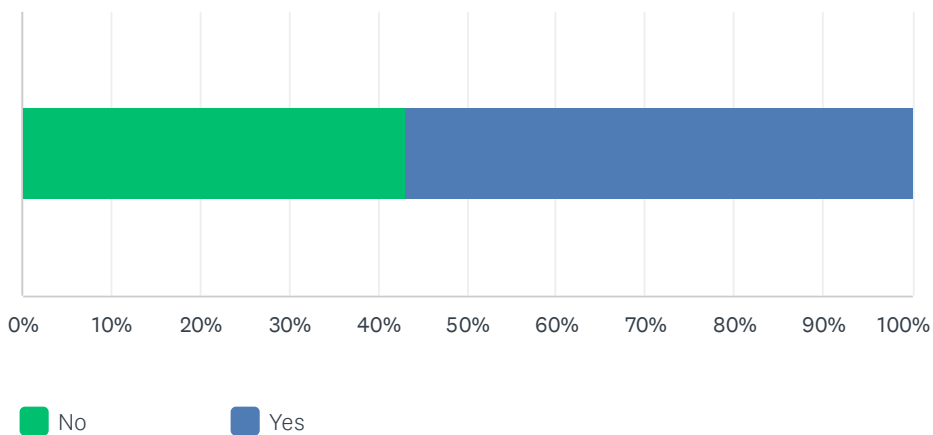
Answered: 332 Skipped: 156



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	0.30%	1
25-34	6.93%	23
35-44	37.65%	125
45-54	21.08%	70
55-64	14.16%	47
65+	19.88%	66
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>332</b>

## Q16 Do any children aged under 18 live with you?

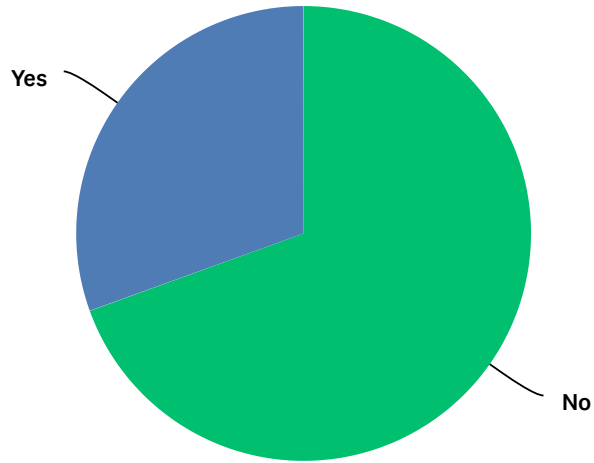
Answered: 332 Skipped: 156



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	43.07%	143
Yes	56.93%	189
TOTAL		332

## Q17 Do any adults aged 60+ live with you?

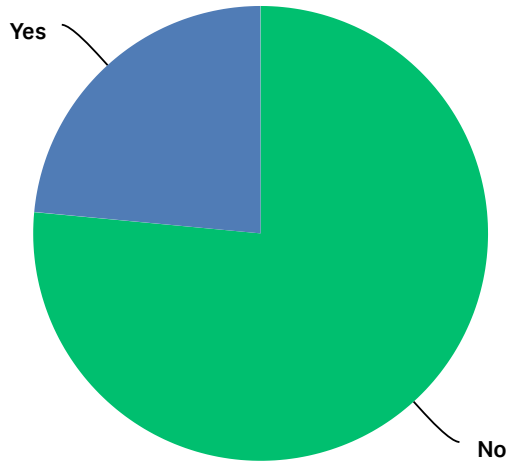
Answered: 331 Skipped: 157



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	69.49%	230
Yes	30.51%	101
TOTAL		331

# Q18 Do you or does someone who lives with you have any disability, handicap, or chronic disease?

Answered: 332 Skipped: 156



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	76.51%	254
Yes	23.49%	78
TOTAL		332

## Q19 If yes, is there anything the town could do to help you/them access and better enjoy open spaces and recreation in our town?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 455

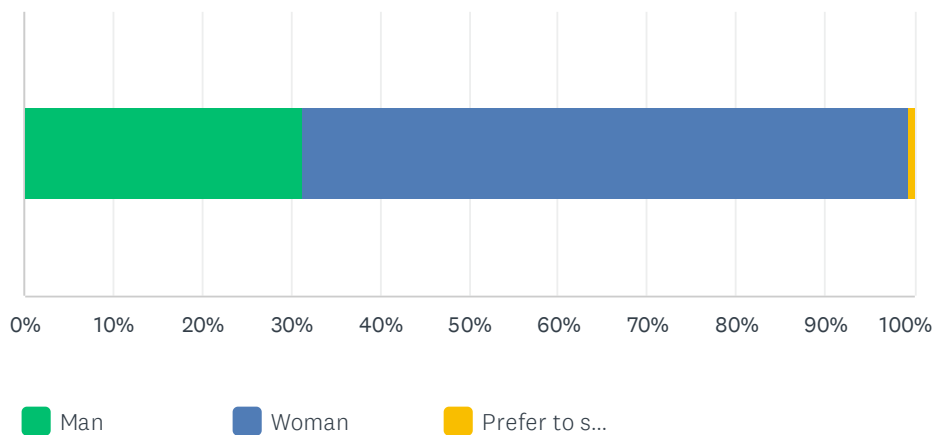
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Na	12/5/2023 1:12 PM
2	No, thank you though.	11/29/2023 8:58 PM
3	areas for seniors	11/21/2023 2:57 PM
4	ramp at the American legion	11/21/2023 2:39 PM
5	open spaces help people stay active, get exercise, releases stress	11/21/2023 11:21 AM
6	n/a	11/9/2023 3:18 PM
7	Simply having playgrounds for children, walking routes for elderly	11/4/2023 5:48 PM
8	I have no trouble accessing open space.	10/27/2023 8:15 PM
9	Leave the spaces ! Stop developing land	10/27/2023 10:32 AM
10	More benches so older people and those with disabilities can rest. Griffin Dairy Farm needs benches along the way and more older people would enjoy walking there.	10/25/2023 8:39 PM
11	Make the fields better adapted for handicapped persons to move around	10/25/2023 5:15 PM
12	More benches in walking areas..like Ames Noel, the cemetery Griffins Farm paths	10/25/2023 12:46 PM
13	Add a porta potty/restroom to playgrounds or all open spaces. This would allow us to enjoy longer rather than having to leave (I have multiple young children).	10/24/2023 8:59 PM
14	Better sidewalks to get to open spaces/rec areas. Better policing in parks/grove. Encourage senior walking type clubs. More creative with use of spaces such as fairs, nights under the stars, educational tours. Better facilities such as water fountains, benches, dog poop bag station, trash barrels etc. School trips to our open areas to teach them early about protecting, understanding nature and how vital it is. Add winter activities, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, create sledding areas, outdoor ice skating rinks, winter festivals. Find a way to connect as many spaces as possible to create a true green corridor (can include other towns).	10/24/2023 8:49 PM
15	More paved paths like the rail trail	10/24/2023 8:06 PM
16	No	10/24/2023 7:27 PM
17	Inclusion sports like hingham snap offers, adaptive playground equipment	10/24/2023 6:32 PM
18	preserve open space an stop building	10/24/2023 2:46 PM
19	Sensory experiences	10/24/2023 2:43 PM
20	Wheelchair. sidewalks. Walkways	10/24/2023 2:23 PM
21	Clean up the areas we already have. Use buildings already available or rebuild in the same area vs building taking trees and open space away	10/24/2023 12:06 PM
22	Keep our kids parks / island give clean and fix or replace the broken swing sets	10/24/2023 11:59 AM
23	No	10/24/2023 11:47 AM
24	Public restrooms Activities and events	10/24/2023 11:22 AM
25	Making sure handicap parking spots are only used by those with a plate or placard	10/24/2023 11:15 AM
26	No. Maybe add handicapped parking in Island Grove. I can't walk in anymore. Fix the gazebo as a sitting place for older people	10/24/2023 11:12 AM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

27	Clean up the empty nips and trash at parks. Provide play structures that don't require a Tdap shot to play on. Have open spaces that have actual grass - not bumps and patches of grass.	10/24/2023 11:09 AM
28	No	10/24/2023 10:45 AM
29	no thank you	10/24/2023 8:51 AM
30	Handicap parking	10/24/2023 8:39 AM
31	na	10/24/2023 8:17 AM
32	They are unlikely to use open spaces, but paved paths with frequently spaced benches and occasional handrails - all for balance.	10/24/2023 8:12 AM
33	lighted paths	10/21/2023 5:08 PM

## Q20 What gender do you identify as?

Answered: 329 Skipped: 159



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Man	31.31% 103
Woman	68.09% 224
Prefer to self-identify:	0.61% 2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>329</b>

#	PREFER TO SELF-IDENTIFY:	DATE
1	not disclosed	10/24/2023 2:21 PM
2	n/a	10/20/2023 2:08 PM

**Q21 Your time and input is valuable to us. If there's anything else you'd like to share about open space and recreation in our community, please do so in the space below:**

Answered: 58 Skipped: 430

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We are lucky to have Ames Nowell in our community. However, it is need of better upkeep and maintenance	1/14/2024 2:38 PM
2	Arnold park needs more trash barrels. Littering fines need to be enforced. It's also posted that the park is survalanced 24/7 but the camera that was installed has been removed....	12/27/2023 9:44 AM
3	Try to make at least one of the publice areas (e.g., island grove) a central town gathering space that incorporates multiple functions such as swimming, playground, gazebos and picnic tables, etc...	12/1/2023 7:16 PM
4	Abington has lovely open spaces. We are blessed to have found this wonderful little town that makes a significant impact	11/29/2023 4:35 PM
5	keep teh small town feel	11/21/2023 2:39 PM
6	consider carefully how large construction projects impact our community and open spaces	11/21/2023 11:47 AM
7	20 min (I think the respondent thought you were asking how much time it took..Liz)	11/21/2023 11:15 AM
8	keep up the good work	11/17/2023 10:55 AM
9	Allow dogs off leash each day from dawn to 9am in public parks and open spaces. This is a successful practice in many communities. It improves dog's mental health and community quality of life.	11/3/2023 2:28 PM
10	The volunteers on the Open Space and Conservation Commission, keep up the great work!	10/30/2023 11:21 AM
11	I love all the beautiful space in Abington! It is such a pretty town.	10/29/2023 5:31 PM
12	Please stop letting people develop the land	10/27/2023 10:34 AM
13	Love to see the natural woods left alone. Building takes natural spaces away from woodland animals	10/26/2023 9:09 PM
14	More sidewalks and improved existing sidewalks. We're an ADA lawsuit firms wet dream.	10/26/2023 9:51 AM
15	N/A.	10/26/2023 4:09 AM
16	I appreciate the efforts to reach out to the public and ask for ideas, and to make our town nice, accessible, and attractive on many levels. My family and I are constantly outside and using all of these spaces in our town and the surrounding towns. We actively search out open spaces we can explore, spend time together surrounded by nature and a place to get exercise. Off road Biking paths are very much wanted. Many age groups ride bikes. I have 5 Abington family members age 10-68 who all currently ride bikes weekly, if there is no snow in the ground, and more that walk/ hike. A pump track/ mountain bike skills park would also be amazing and would benefit all ages - tots to seniors. Great place to learn, meet, exercise. A Biking path through the neighborhoods and behind the woods to the library and high/ middle school complex from the Hancock/ rockland/ grove land street areas would be amazing and such great access for all to get to the library/ school easily without having to go on rte 18. Biking on rte 18 is a hard no. Especially for kids/ seniors - who all live in town and bike in my family. Thank you very much for reading/listening to my input. Again, apologies if it was hard to follow and I didn't edit well. I should have replied to this survey on a computer.	10/26/2023 1:23 AM
17	I would love to hear from the town's Open Space Committee, however, I do not use email so question 22 isn't good for me. A mailed town news letter sounded great, do we have one?	10/25/2023 1:34 PM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

Several other questions didn't have any reasonable answer presented, ie water supply, don't we get water from some other town?

18	While everyone's opinion is valid, the Open Space Committee was created and appointed by the Selectmen for specific purposes and not to push their own agendas- I'm annoyed that people not on the Committee try to overtake Open Space and Conservation-related matters with no official standing to do so.	10/25/2023 9:20 AM
19	More places to fish, open outside skating rink	10/25/2023 6:08 AM
20	Make playgrounds more appealing to others over the age of 8, the parks we have are geared towards kids 5 and under. What ever happened to regular swings.. bring back a wooded playground it wouldn't have taken much to rebuild beaver brook everything is so mainstream now and my kids think the parks are for babies.	10/24/2023 9:01 PM
21	This town undervalues its open spaces and continues to build. We are losing our charm and becoming a city. Nature and the peace it brings are priceless. If we lose nature we lose ourselves and eventually the planet.	10/24/2023 8:53 PM
22	We need a football field the kids can play on even when it rains and not be rescheduled.	10/24/2023 8:52 PM
23	Ames Nowell is great! Just needs help with cleanup and trail markers and to help in places where it's muddy. Also, any bathroom possibilities at playgrounds would be great.	10/24/2023 8:06 PM
24	I wonder if pickle ball age requirements could be flexed or adjusted	10/24/2023 7:00 PM
25	Thank you	10/24/2023 6:32 PM
26	I love our town!	10/24/2023 5:15 PM
27	I would love to see a recreation/community building	10/24/2023 4:48 PM
28	I think Abington has a lot of potential to develop and enhance our natural lands. We have alot in a small town which could be improved to enhance the experience. Baseball fields in particular are invested in heavily by Abington Little League but need towns support and investment to improve fields/ammenities	10/24/2023 3:39 PM
29	More Rex programs for all ages. We need Pickle Ball Courts for all! Washington Street or North School	10/24/2023 3:19 PM
30	Maintenance of picnic areas and gazebos at Island Grove and Ames is key	10/24/2023 3:05 PM
31	More entertainment Bus trips Community free things	10/24/2023 2:25 PM
32	I think we have plenty of playgrounds and sport related open space I think we need to preserve what we have, and not overload the area with more construction and building.	10/24/2023 1:14 PM
33	The ball fields need to be improved.	10/24/2023 12:57 PM
34	I think a playground area at Ames norwell would be great. I'm on Hancock Street and currently there is nothing in walking distance.	10/24/2023 12:48 PM
35	More parking at Ames knowell other Ruth an Linwood street	10/24/2023 11:59 AM
36	The green st playground is in desperate need of a renovation	10/24/2023 11:23 AM
37	Stop clear cutting for these big apartment complexes.	10/24/2023 11:14 AM
38	I'm sure Abington can actually handle an open space project. It is so needed in this town. People could take pictures of our open space options and they could be confused for pictures from an abandoned town. Hopefully something is done. Like planting grass seed for starters. Good luck!	10/24/2023 11:10 AM
39	My kids play in the little league baseball. Certain fields like Laidler need a lot of work. Benches, fencing, the fact that it's so muddy.	10/24/2023 10:41 AM
40	Need more open space. No more developing.	10/24/2023 10:21 AM
41	Sports feilds	10/24/2023 10:07 AM
42	Can we get a splash pad, please?	10/24/2023 9:44 AM

## Abington Open Space and Recreation 2023

43	I think we need to work together as the town/Park & Rec and youth sport programs. It feels as though we are working against one another. Youth sports are just as important as the other groups listed in the survey.	10/24/2023 9:40 AM
44	Updates are desperately needed at the Island Grove pool snack shack and restrooms	10/24/2023 9:32 AM
45	Spend current resources to improve youth sports fields	10/24/2023 9:11 AM
46	Obviously we need revenue to continue to help our town grow financially, however the over developing real estate homes is a bit much! Maybe try to sell off town property which is not utilized or outdated. Stop wasting tax payers money band-aiding old schools and municipality buildings. Create revenue base properties not more affordable housing. The town is overcrowded with more non tax paying per person. I would say no more tax free entities. Keep our green space foot print alive. It's not always what's best for the Town, it keeping the Town for it's citizens and being Proud to be an Abington Resident.	10/24/2023 9:04 AM
47	We have quite a few beautiful open spaces in Abington. I believe funds should go to maintain and improve or add to the existing open spaces	10/24/2023 8:44 AM
48	Would like to see more of food truck thursdays, would like to see more carnivals and fairs for the town. Would like to see more town wide walks, races for charities. Would like to see more outdoor yoga activities for older citizens! Would like to have a town wide indoor pool/gym facility!	10/24/2023 8:34 AM
49	I think the largest lacking area is for teens. Also, would love pickleball court that I don't have to be a "member" for, that can be used freely. Also, trying to keep investors from buying up land to develop multi family homes. Would love to see more owner occupied development.	10/24/2023 8:25 AM
50	Dead trees in island grove need to be removed	10/24/2023 7:43 AM
51	The pickleball courts should be open to the public.	10/21/2023 6:47 PM
52	Pick up trash	10/21/2023 5:11 PM
53	I think Abington could benefit from an indoor public pool.	10/21/2023 2:27 PM
54	"Washington St fields" was mentioned in a prior question... do mean "Memorial Field"?? How can you NOT refer to it as Memorial Field?? It's one of the focal points of our town with tremendous history and multiple uses, so calling it "Washington St fields" makes me question if your committee members truly understand the history and future needs of our town.	10/21/2023 12:32 PM
55	Allow animals to be in their homes	10/20/2023 2:08 PM
56	Griffins Dairy could do more to encourage passive recreation	10/15/2023 2:35 PM
57	Keep up the good work!	10/14/2023 10:59 AM
58	Hold people accountable for trashing our parks and playgrounds.	10/6/2023 12:50 PM

## Appendix D: Public Meeting Materials



**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL



# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

**JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT THE PLAN**

**NOV 18 | 7:00  
2024 | PM**

**Cotter Room at  
Town Hall**



**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON:**



**CONSERVATION**



**PARKS**



**SPORTS FIELDS**

**AND MORE!**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:**

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Liz Shea, [lshea@abingtonma.gov](mailto:lshea@abingtonma.gov)



Visit Our Website  
[oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/](http://oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/)



# TOWN OF ABINGTON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

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Old Colony Planning Council

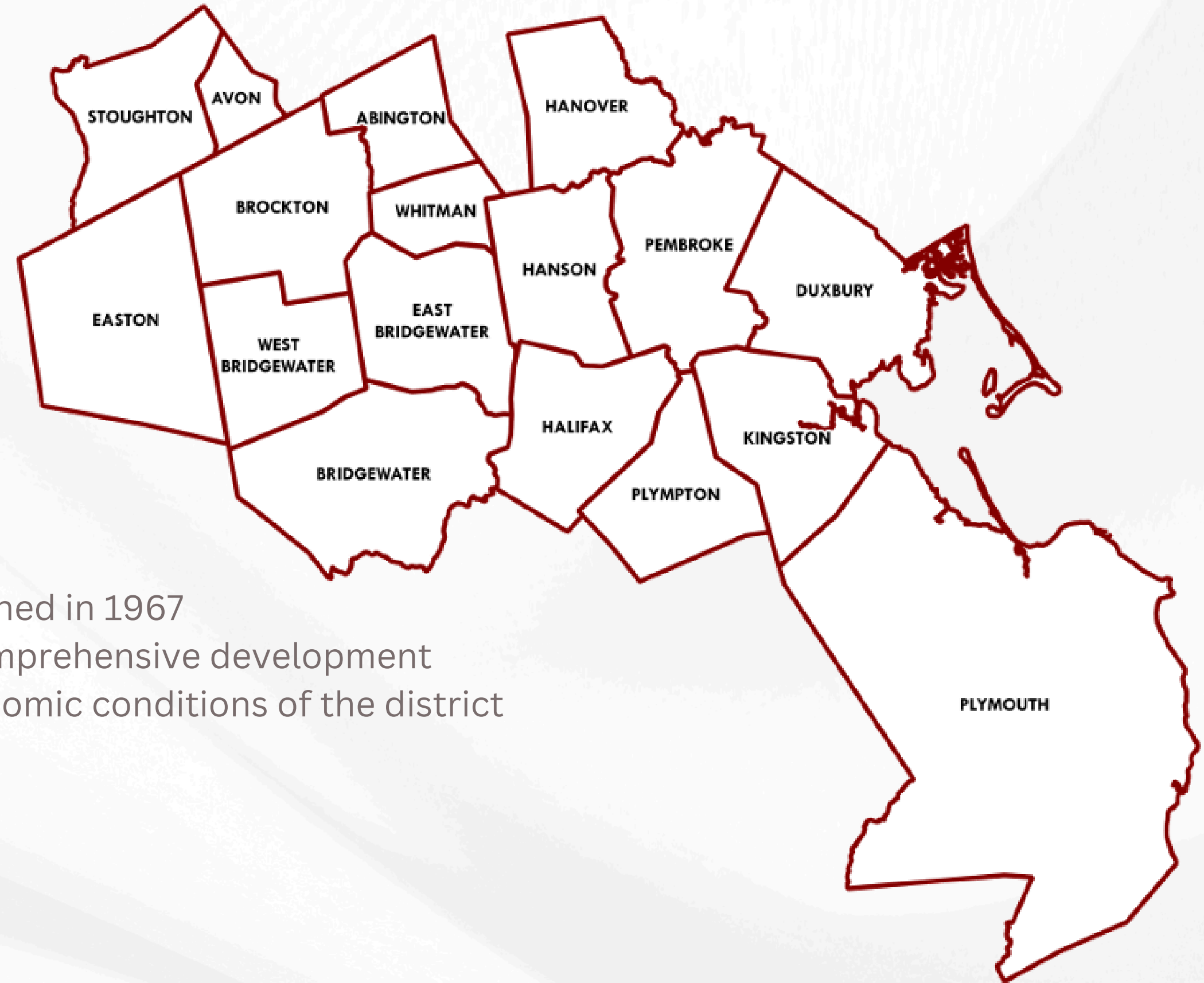


OLD COLONY  
PLANNING COUNCIL

# INTRODUCTION



**Rhiannon Dugan**  
Senior Comprehensive Planner  
[rdugan@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:rdugan@ocpcrpa.org)



## OCPC

- Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) established in 1967
- Regional planning agency with a focus on comprehensive development
- Objective: Improve physical, social, and economic conditions of the district

## -Membership and Expertise

- Comprises 17 member municipalities
- Engages in various planning disciplines

# LOOKING AHEAD

- Draft specific language for goals, objectives, and actions.
- Develop public participation plan.
- Collect data (Parcel Inventory, ADA Inventory, Analysis of Needs, Demographics).
- Analyze resource protection needs, management needs.



# BACKGROUND

## WHAT IS AN OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN?



***Island Grove Park***

- Roadmap for prioritizing open space and recreation projects and expenditures.
- Prerequisite for MA Division of Conservation Service Grants.
- Public Process.
- Plan components:
  - Plan Summary & Introduction
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  - Environmental Inventory
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  - Goals & Objectives
  - 5-Year Action Plan
  - Public Comments
  - ADA Inventory

# BACKGROUND

## WHAT IS OPEN SPACE?

- Conservation Land,
- Forested Land,
- Agricultural Land,
- Athletic Fields,
- Playgrounds,
- Small/Pocket Parks,
- Green Buffers along Roadways, and/or
- Undeveloped Land of Conservation/Recreation Interest.



***Ames Nowell State Park***

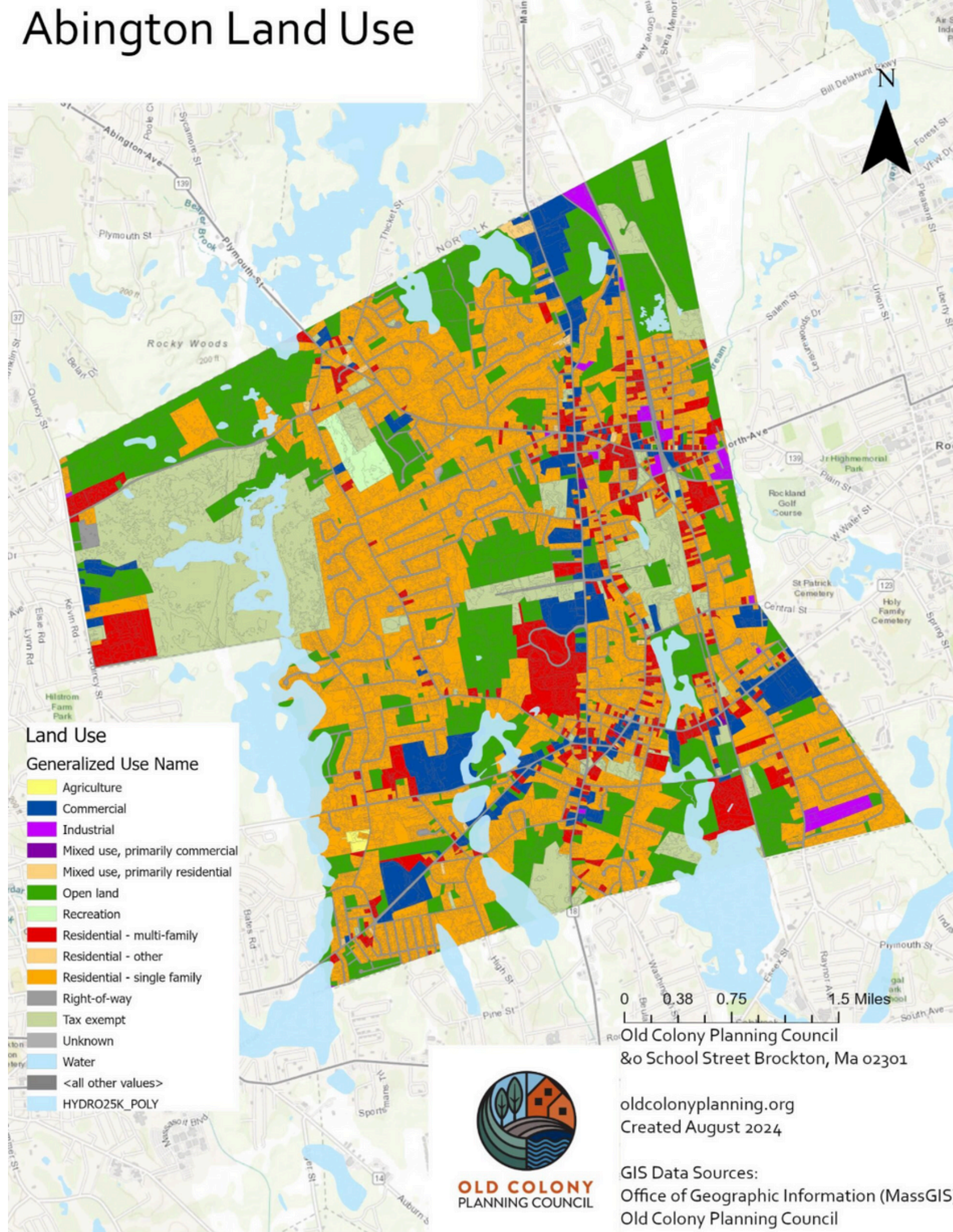


***Beaver Brook Playground***

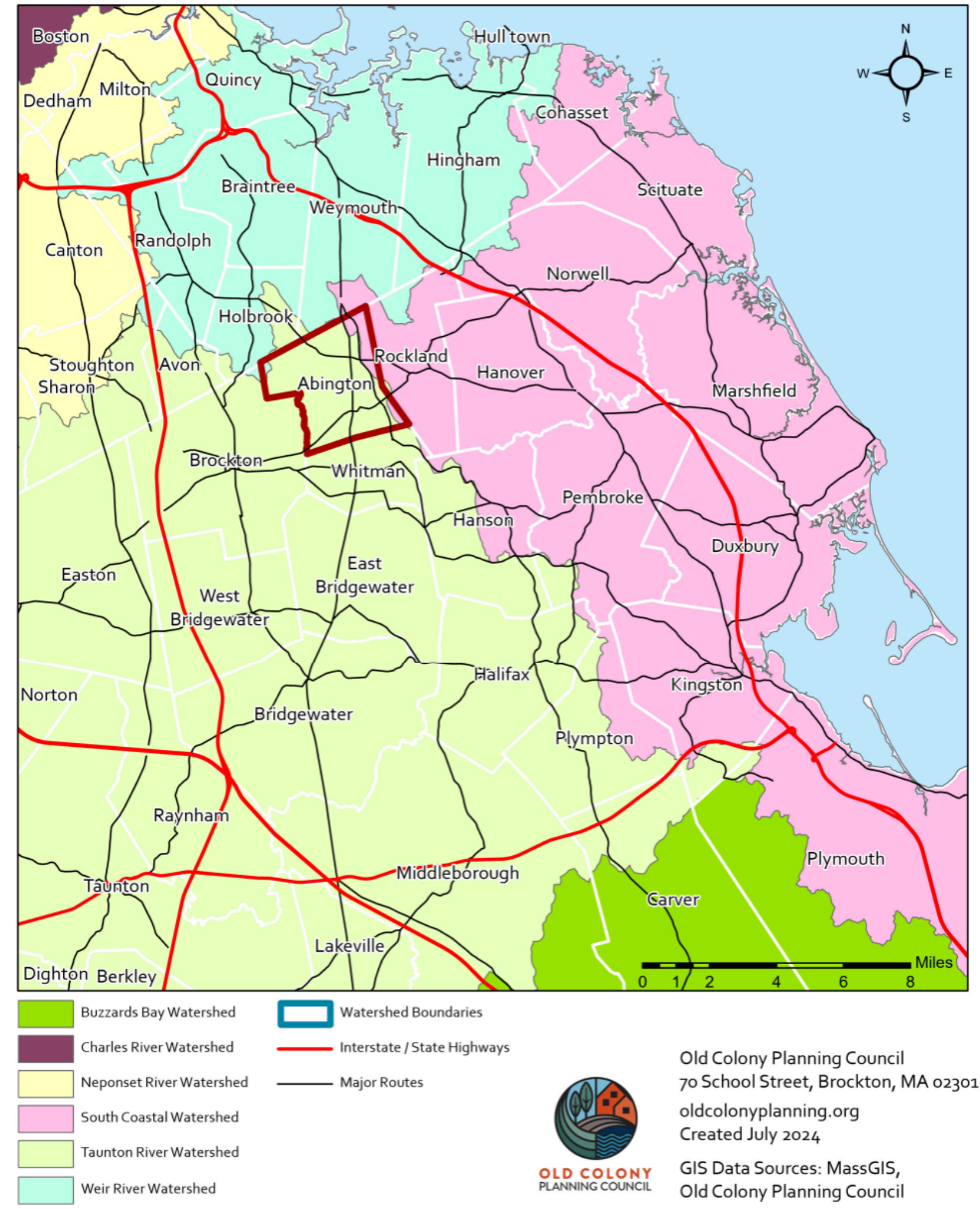


***Island Grove Park***

# Abington Land Use



# Abington Regional Context



# Who Lives in Abington?

# 86.5%

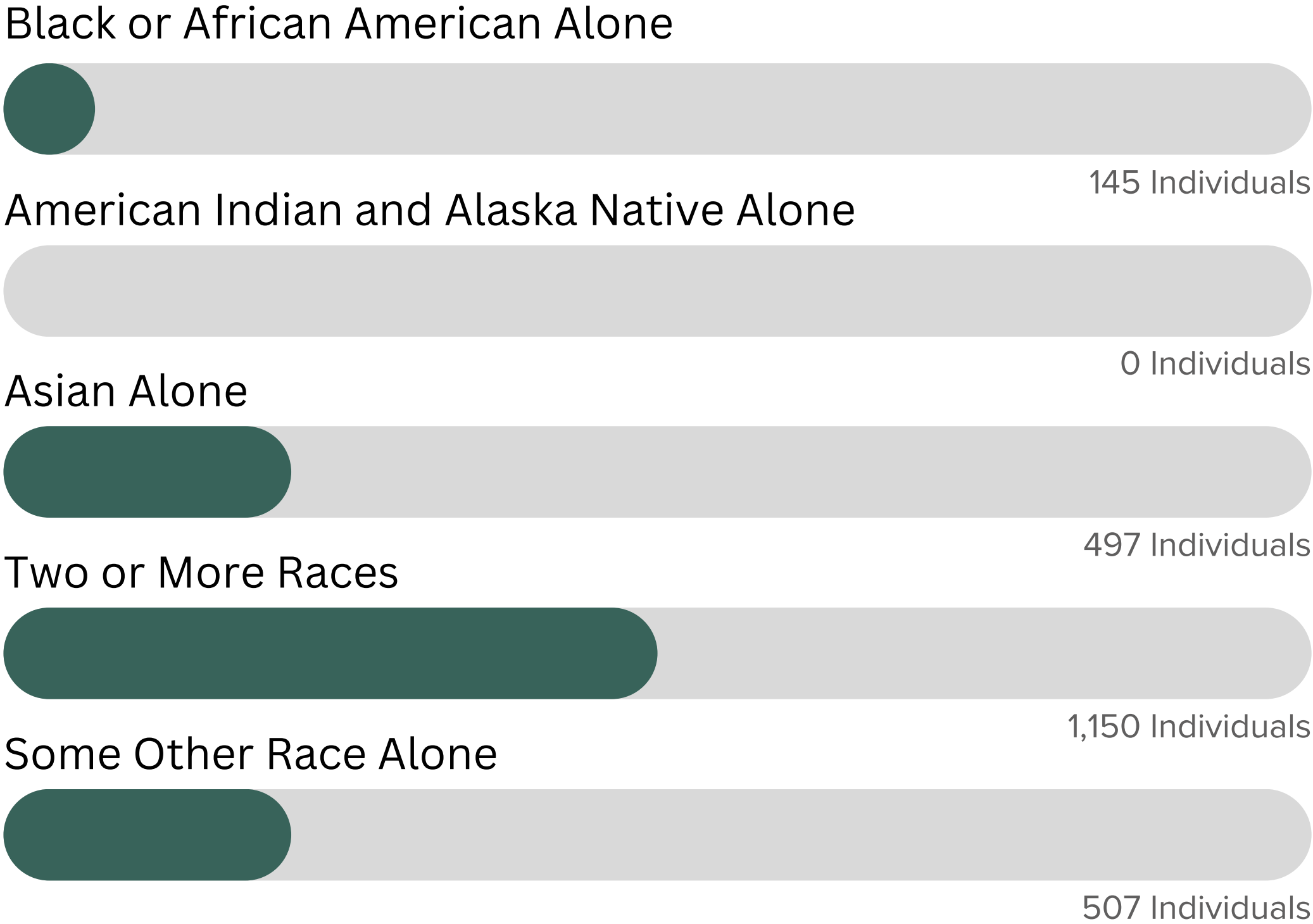
## White Alone

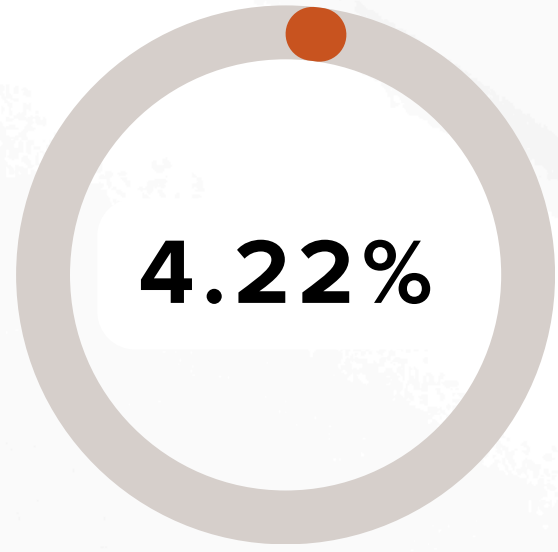
14,704 Individuals



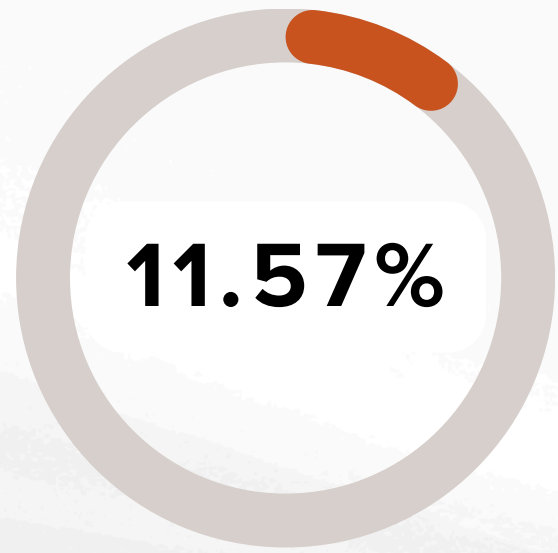
Total Population: 17,003 Individuals

## Among Minority Population:





Abington  
Household  
Growth 2010-  
2022



OCPC Region  
Household  
Growth 2010-  
2022

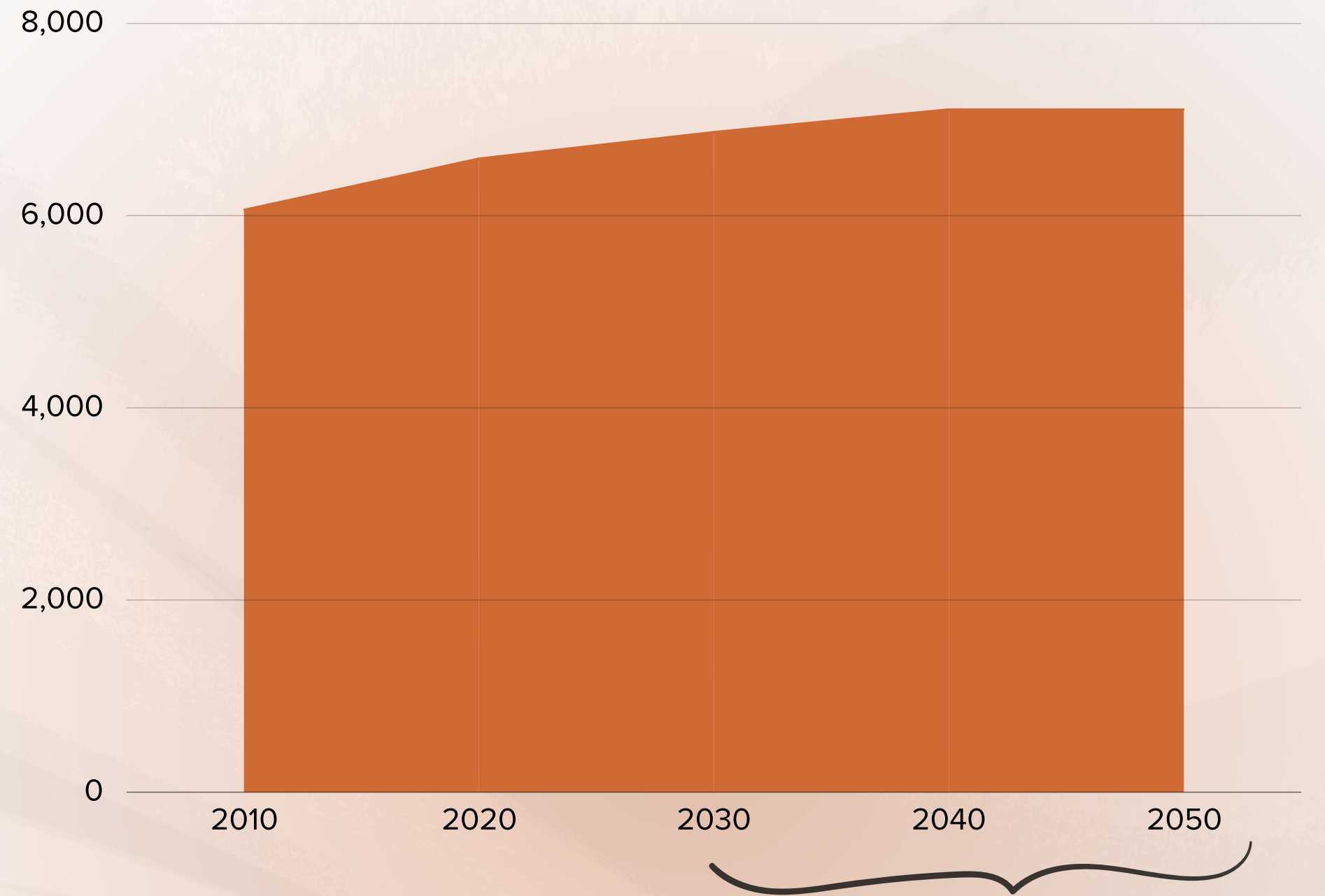


Massachusetts  
Household  
Growth 2010-  
2022

# 5,701

## TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS

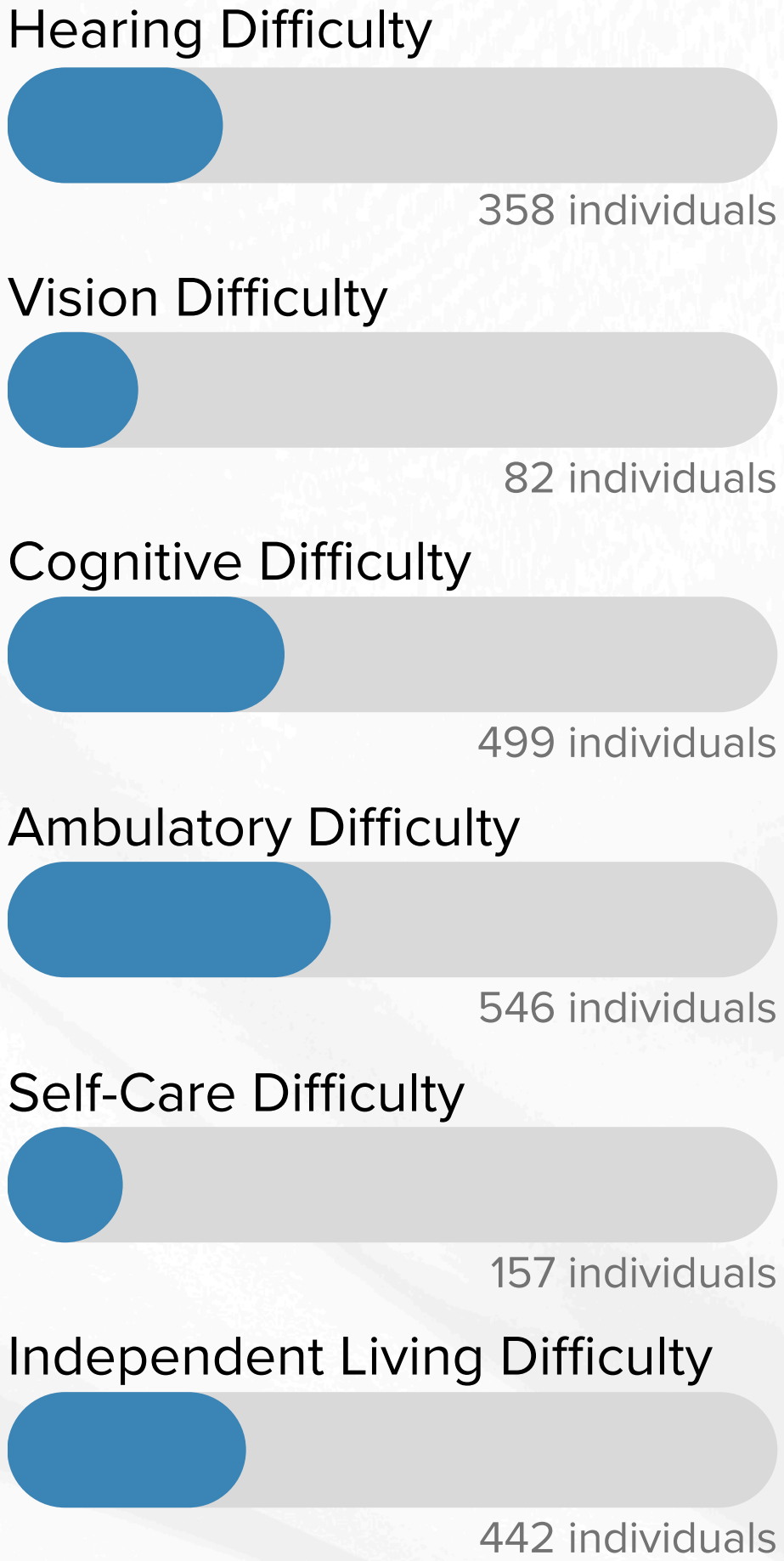
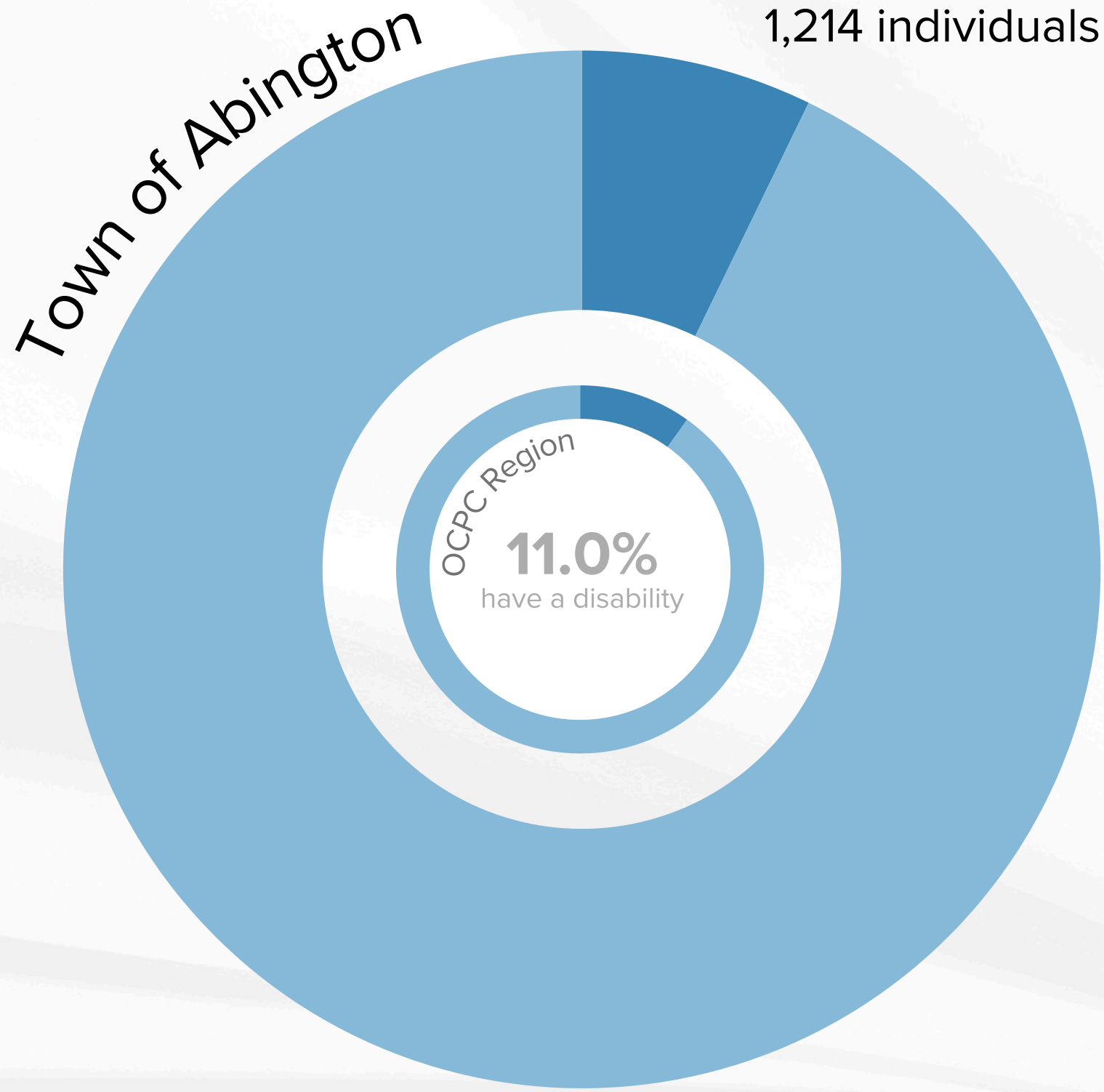
From 2022 ACS



Based on 2023  
MAPC projections

# Population Impacted by a Disability **7.2%**

1,214 individuals



**7.9%**  
of female population

**38.4%**  
of population aged 75+

**7.9%**  
of white population

# **PREVIOUS OSRP GOALS**

## **2014 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

- 1)** To preserve, protect, and expand the Town's open spaces and green areas to improve access to these resources.
- 2)** Increase the number and quality of active Recreational Areas and Facilities.
- 3)** Protection of watersheds, ground water resources and other natural resources.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## SINCE 2014 PLAN

### Completed

- 1) Created a Zone II Watershed Protection District.
- 2) Created a public recreation space at Griffins Dairy Farm including the creation of a community garden.
- 3) Created a dedicated Open Space and Recreation Committee.

### Ongoing

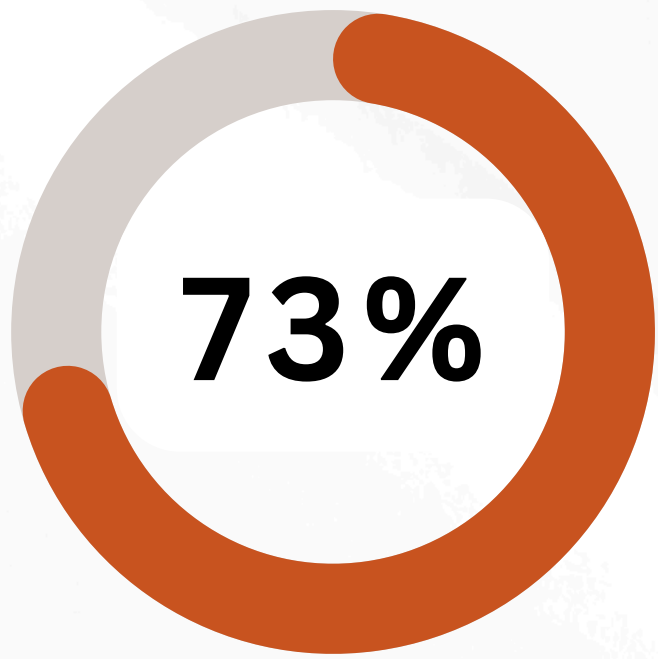
- 1) Restoration of Wilson Bridge and Arch at Island Grove Park.
- 2) Increase conservation land through acquisition, conservation, and acceptance of conservation restrictions.

# OSRP Survey

**488** total respondents

**Oct 2023-Jan 2024** survey available  
*\*Physical and digital copies provided*

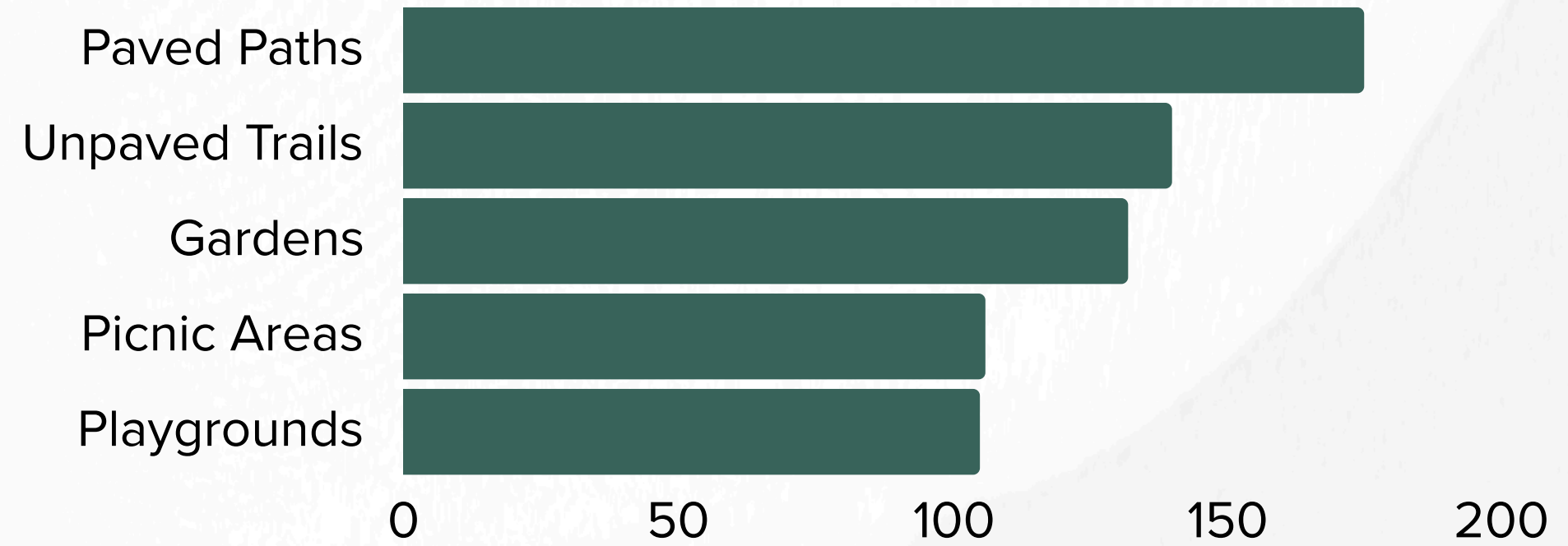
**99.24%** rated open space as at least somewhat important to quality of life



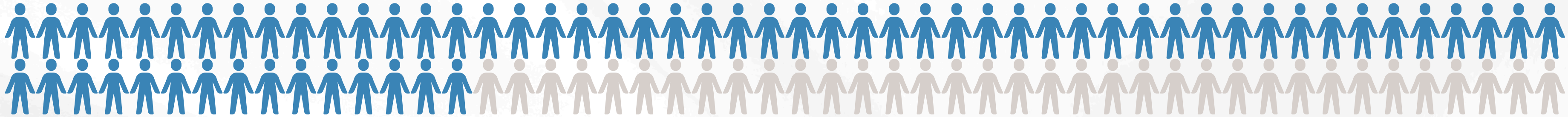
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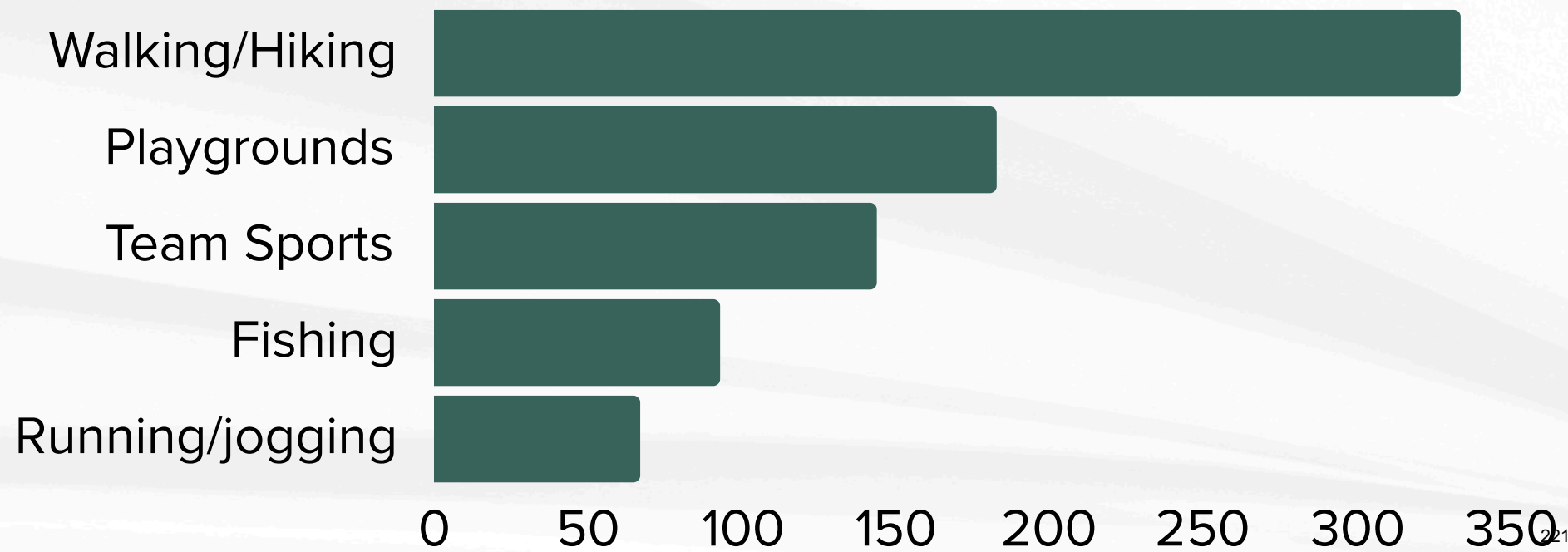
### Top Five Requested Amenities



65.24% of residents use open spaces at least once per week



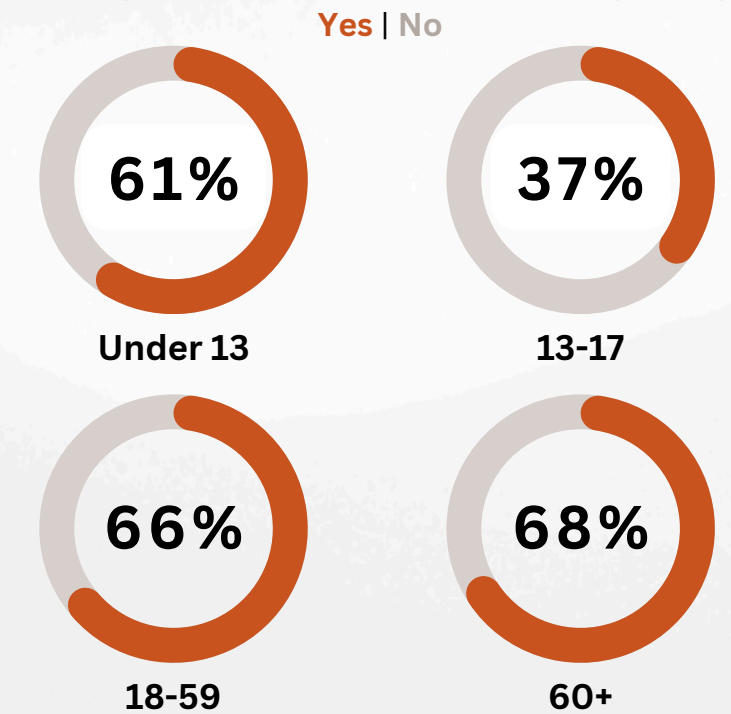
### Top Five Outdoor Activities



### Town Programming Needs



### Enough Open Space by Age?



# Survey Comments

"Island Grove needs **support**. It could be great but all [of its] swing sets are broken"

"Many areas do not have **access** for those who have difficulty walking"

"Any plan for open spaces needs to balance areas for use with **preservation** of natural resources and wildlife"

"Not all spaces feel **safe**"

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"Take **care** of what we have. We need to keep the parks, playgrounds, and open spaces in **good condition**"

"Abington has a lot of potential to develop and **enhance** our natural lands"



# THANK YOU!

---

## Any Questions?

[rdugan@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:rdugan@ocpcrpa.org)  
+1 (774) 273-2372



**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL



**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL



# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JUN 18 | 6:00  
2025 | PM**

**Cotter Room at  
Town Hall**



**Join us to discuss  
goals and actions of  
the OSRP update and  
the draft plan.**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:**

Rhiannon Dugan, [rdugan@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:rdugan@ocpcrpa.org)  
Liz Shea, [lshea@abingtonma.gov](mailto:lshea@abingtonma.gov)



Visit Our Website  
[oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/](http://oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/)





# TOWN OF ABINGTON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

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Old Colony Planning Council

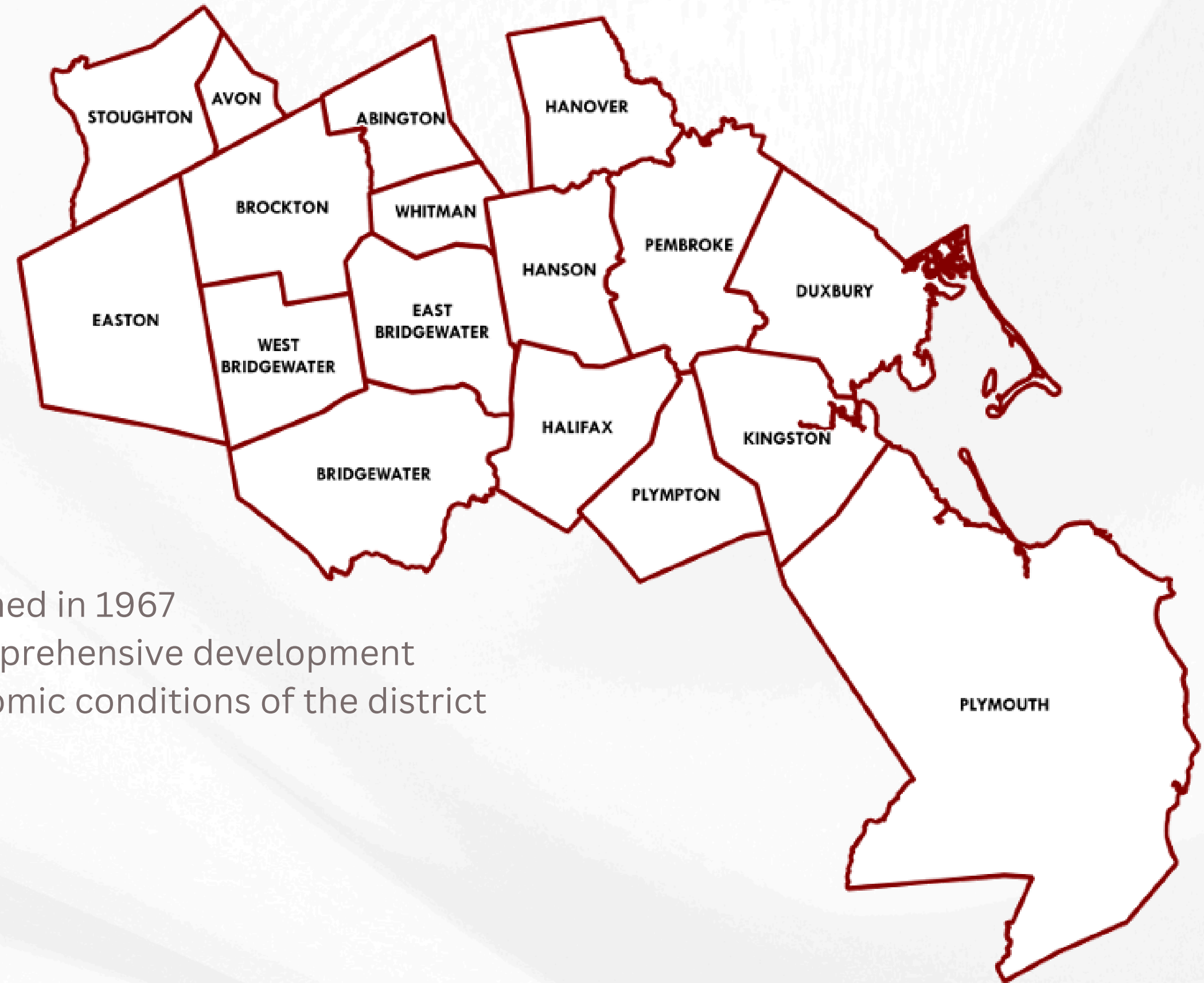


OLD COLONY  
PLANNING COUNCIL

# INTRODUCTION



**Rhiannon Dugan**  
Senior Comprehensive Planner  
[rdugan@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:rdugan@ocpcrpa.org)



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- Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) established in 1967
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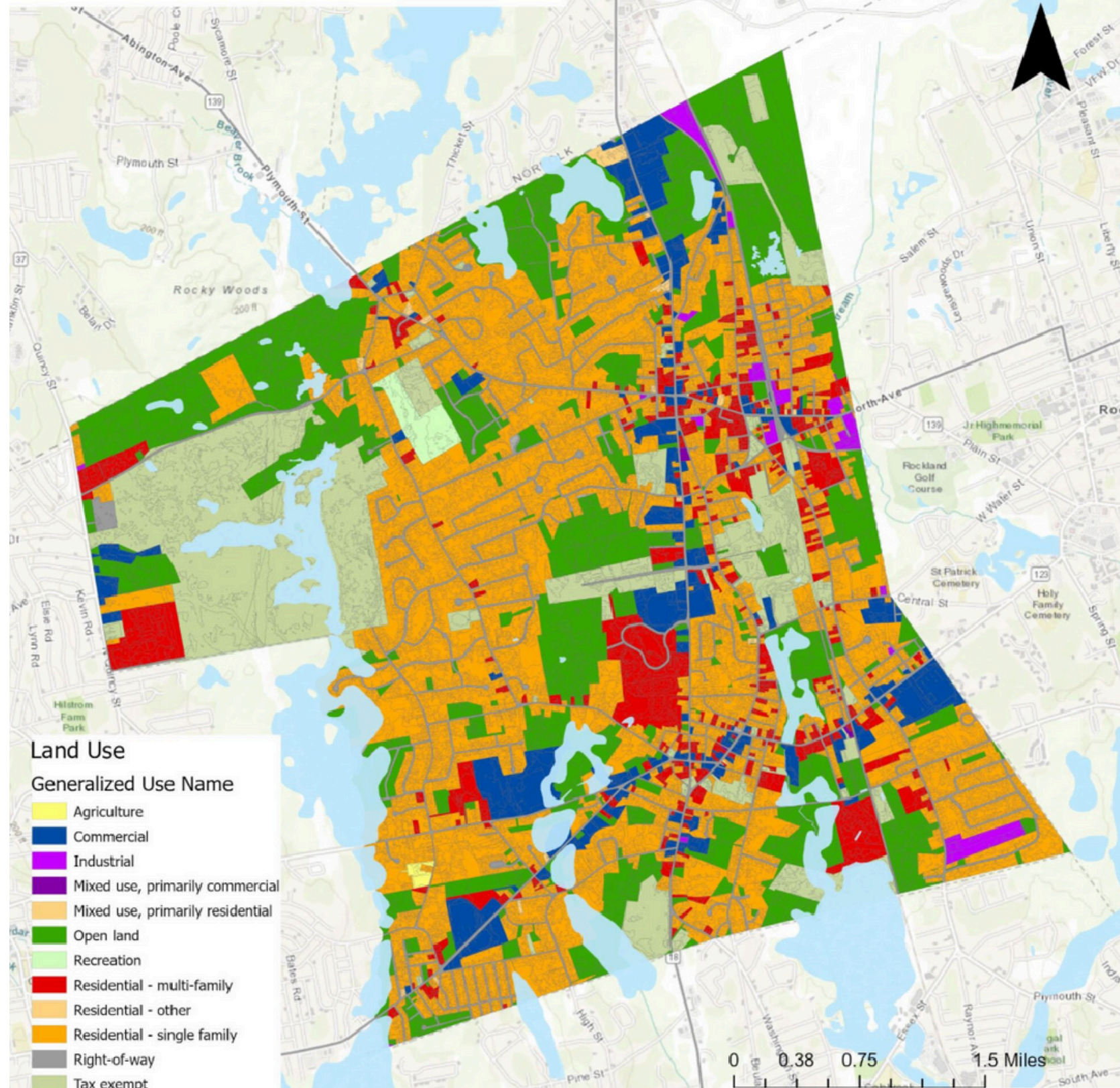
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# Abington Land Use



Old Colony Planning Council  
& School Street Brockton, Ma 02301

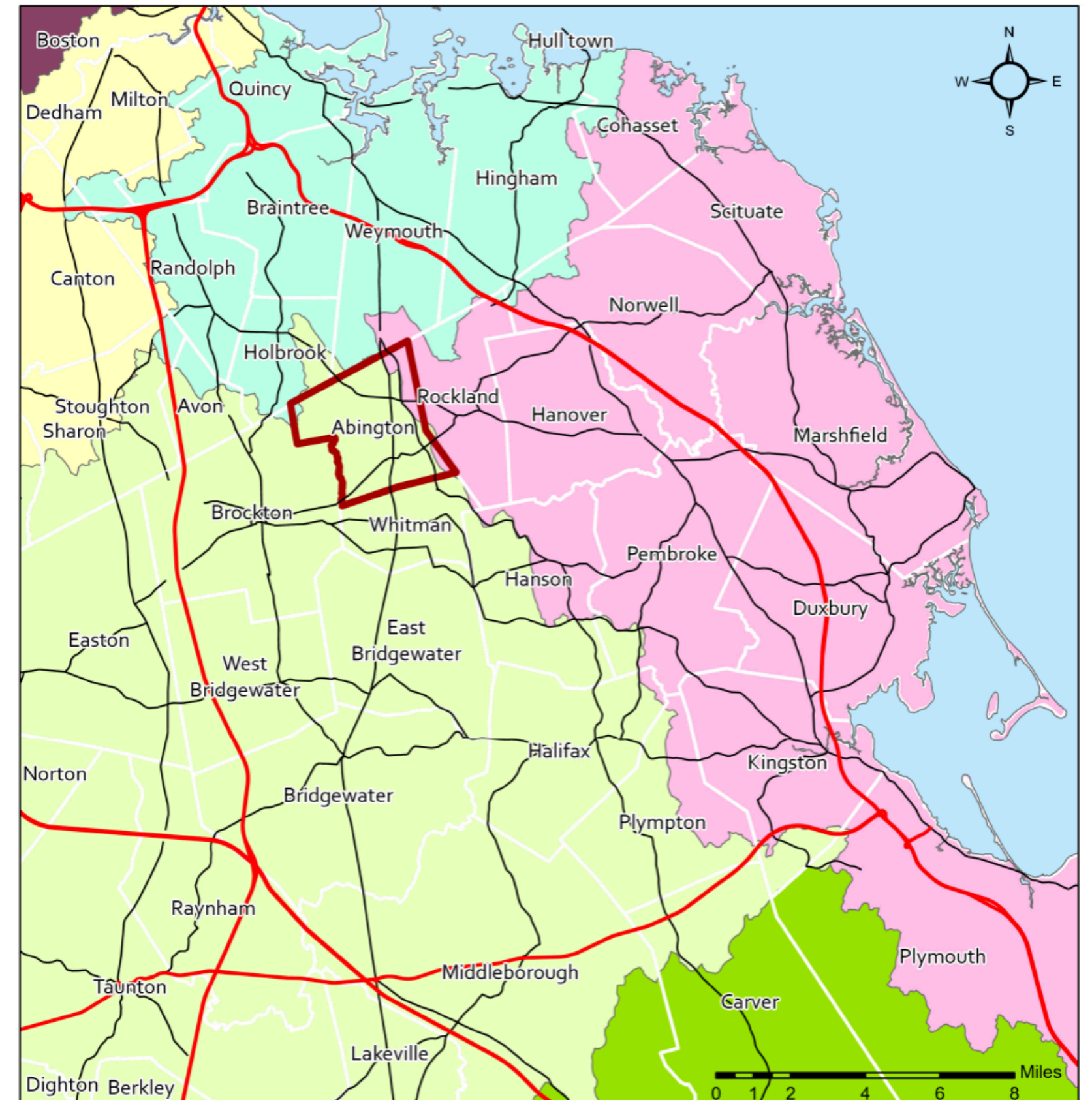
oldcolonyplanning.org  
Created August 2024

GIS Data Sources:  
Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS)  
Old Colony Planning Council



OLD COLONY  
PLANNING COUNCIL

# Abington Regional Context



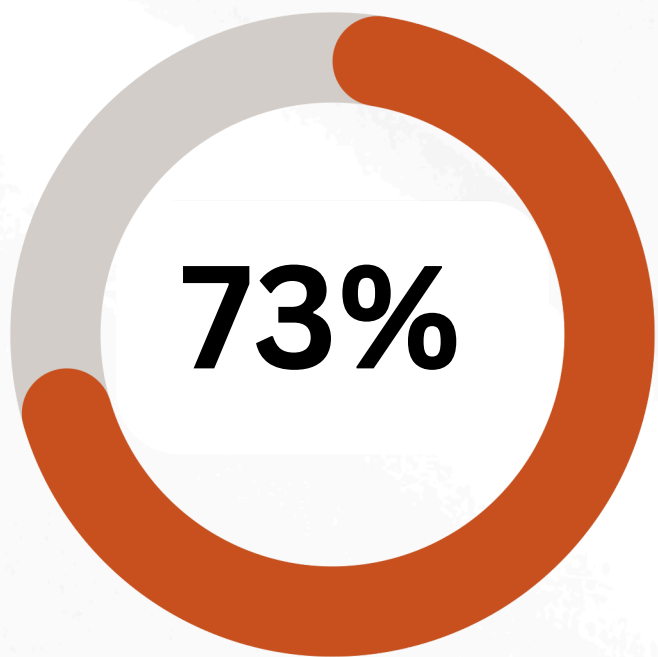
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- Neponset River Watershed
- South Coastal Watershed
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OLD COLONY  
PLANNING COUNCIL

Old Colony Planning Council  
70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301  
oldcolonyplanning.org  
Created July 2024

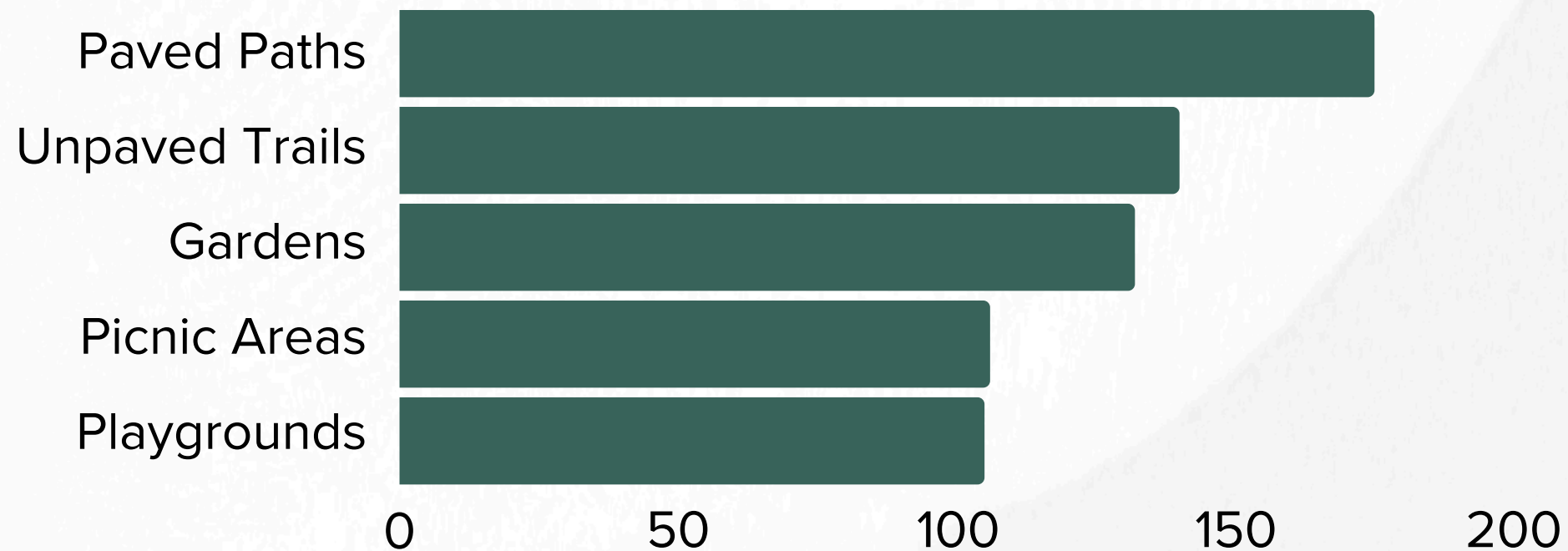
GIS Data Sources: MassGIS,  
Old Colony Planning Council



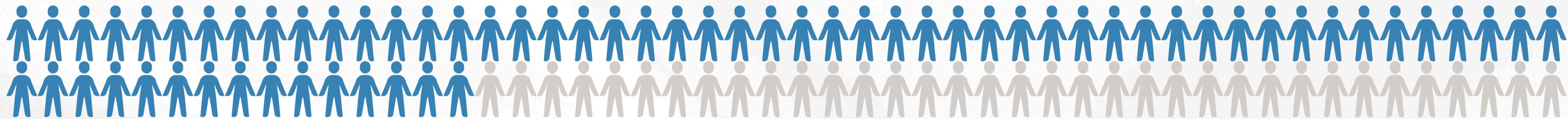
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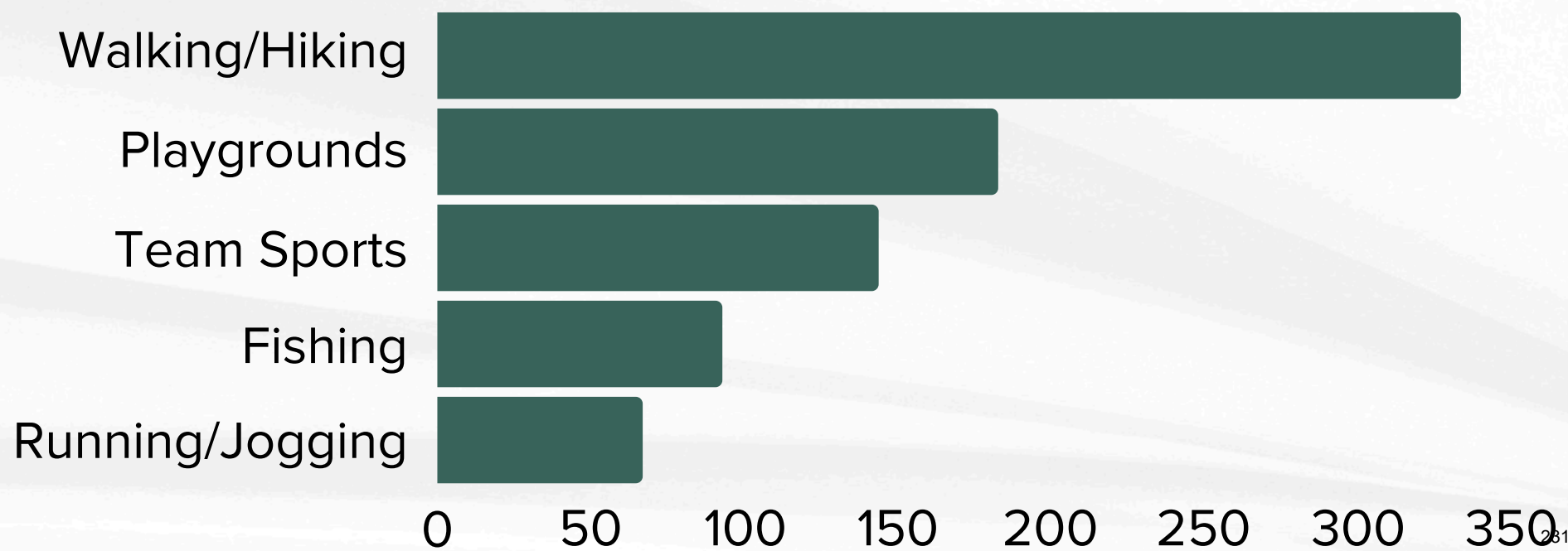
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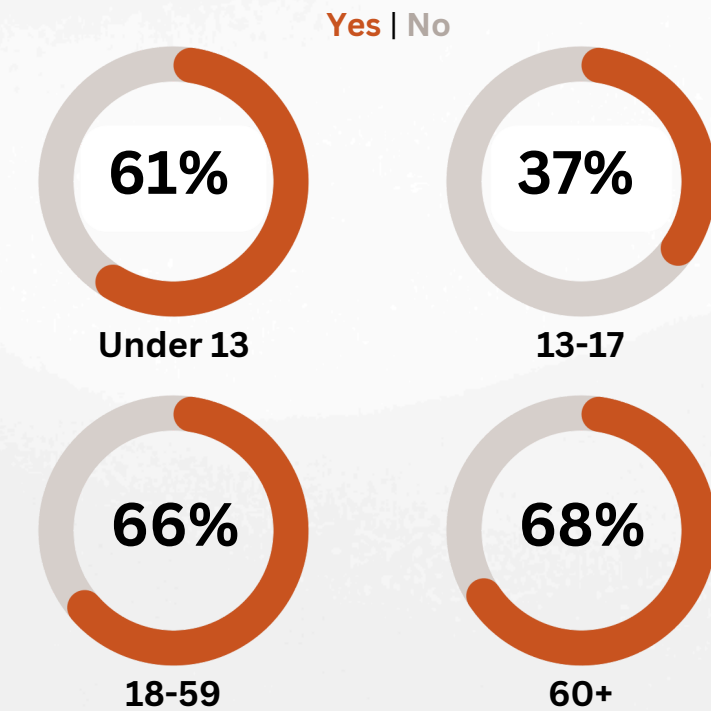
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Take **care** of what we have. We need to keep the parks, playgrounds, and open spaces in **good condition**."

"Abington has a lot of potential to develop and **enhance** our natural lands."

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 1) IMPROVE ACTIVE RECREATIONAL SPACES AND IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY.

**GOAL:** Continue to upgrade parks to meet the town's growing needs.

**ACTION:** Create an ongoing strategy to improve local parks that pairs needed repairs with a funding strategy. See the separate Facilities Table.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Recreation Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Year 1

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff/Volunteer Time

**ACTION:** Increase lighting at parks for safety in the evening and during public events.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Recreation Committee/DPW

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** CPA

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 1) IMPROVE ACTIVE RECREATIONAL SPACES AND IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY. (CONT)

**GOAL:** Increase ADA accessibility, starting with updates to Griffin's Dairy to increase access for all disability types.

**ACTION:** Assess the best spot for handicap parking near the trail access and make adjustments to bridges for handicap accessibility.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Griffin's Dairy Reuse Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Years 1-3

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** State ADA Funding, AARP, CPA

**ACTION:** Identify which parks are most suitable for handicap retrofit and begin making changes to meet the needs.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Recreation Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff/Volunteer Time, State ADA Funding, AARP Funding, CPA

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 2) CONTINUE TO ACQUIRE, CONSERVE, AND PROTECT REMAINING NATURAL LANDS IN ABINGTON TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN TOWN.

**GOAL:** Create a Town Forest at Diane Circle or Thompson Pond to encourage hiking, care for the land, and increase environmental education.

**ACTION:** Create a title and marketing for the new park to promote public engagement.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Open Space Committee, Planning Board, Select Board

**TIME FRAME:** Years 1-3

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff/Volunteer Time, CPA Funding

**GOAL:** Promote digital information about hiking in town, including maps of hiking locations and a recreation map of the town.

**ACTION:** The town should consider working with OCPC or a contractor to create a digital media profile for the town's recreation opportunities.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Open Space, Recreation, Planning Board

**TIME FRAME:** Years 3-7

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Town Funds, CPA

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 2) CONTINUE TO ACQUIRE, CONSERVE, AND PROTECT REMAINING NATURAL LANDS IN ABINGTON TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN TOWN. (CONT)

**GOAL:** Promote the Chapter 60 program in town. The Conservation Commission and Planning Board should keep an active list of lands placed in this program to prepare to acquire lands through the Right of First Refusal.

**ACTION:** Boards should be familiar with locations identified in the plan as Chapter 60 and should look to state resources to share program details with residents.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Conservation Commission, Planning Boards

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff Volunteer Time

**GOAL:** Ensure town-owned lands are categorized under the water department, conservation commission, or recreation commission to ensure they are accounted for and properly maintained.

**ACTION:** Determine which properties best fit under the conservation commission or recreation commission and transfer as necessary.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Assessors, Board of Selectmen, Water Dept, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff Time

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 3) CREATE BETTER TOWN CONNECTIVITY THROUGH EXPANDING TRAIL SYSTEMS AND OTHER BIKE/PED TRANSIT OPPORTUNITIES IN TOWN.

**GOAL:** Consider creating a Friends of Abington Trails to work with neighboring towns to create trail connectivity.

**ACTION:** Volunteers may seek to map out existing trails, find areas of interest for expansion, organize cleanups, and identify maintenance needs.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Open Space Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Years 3-7

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Volunteer Time

**GOAL:** Consider creating trail networks through conservation land around MBTA tracks connecting Abington to Whitman and surrounding towns in partnership with OCPC efforts in the region.

**ACTION:** Identify areas of land owned by the town that are outside the barriers of MBTA land to connect with other Rail Trail projects and expand hiking and biking opportunities for residents

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Planning Board

**TIME FRAME:** Years 3-7

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Mass Trails Grant

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 3) CREATE BETTER TOWN CONNECTIVITY THROUGH EXPANDING TRAIL SYSTEMS AND OTHER BIKE/PED TRANSIT OPPORTUNITIES IN TOWN. (CONT)

**GOAL:** Expanding and improving walking paths around town-owned parcels around the Municipal/School Campus, with potential for paths to connect to other neighborhoods.

**ACTION:** Consider formalizing the path behind schools onto Barry Rd.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Recreation Committee, Planning Board, Open Space Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Years 3-7

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff/Volunteer Time, CPA, MassTrails

**ACTION:** Look for ways to create more connected loop paths around the property and potential spaces for expansion into neighborhoods surrounding to increase walkability off of roadways.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Recreation Committee, Planning Board, Open Space Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Years 7-10

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff/Volunteer Time, CPA, MassTrails

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 3) CREATE BETTER TOWN CONNECTIVITY THROUGH EXPANDING TRAIL SYSTEMS AND OTHER BIKE/PED TRANSIT OPPORTUNITIES IN TOWN. (CONT)

**GOAL:** Improve connectivity between parks and from popular neighborhoods to nearby parks by adding sidewalks on major connecting roads and bike paths where appropriate.

**ACTION:** Increase safe walkability between popular parks, beginning with the connection of Griffin's Dairy to the Rockland Rail Trail with sidewalks and signage along Charles St.

Add side

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** DPW, Recreation Committee, Griffin's Dairy

**TIME FRAME:** Years 3-7

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff/Volunteer Time, CPA, Complete Streets

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 4) PROTECT NATURAL WATER SYSTEMS THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION AND BYLAW ENFORCEMENT.

**GOAL:** Create more nature based solutions in town to mitigate stormwater runoff and improve absorption.

**ACTION:** Create Nature Based Solutions at Arnold Park and Town Hall to address flooding and expand local education on stormwater runoff and solutions.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** DPW, MS4 Permit

**TIME FRAME:** Years 1-3

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Town Funds, MS4 Program, Conservation Commission

**ACTION:** Explore ways to incentivize commercial and industrial landowners to decrease the impervious surface on their properties and/or implement green infrastructure like rain gardens.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Planning Board

**TIME FRAME:** Years 7-10

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff Time, MVP Funding

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 4) PROTECT NATURAL WATER SYSTEMS THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION AND BYLAW ENFORCEMENT. (CONT)

**GOAL:** Consider expanding high-density housing in trade-off of protecting adjacent land to preserve remaining scenic lands while addressing growing housing concerns.

**ACTION:** This may be a change to existing zoning bylaws that allow for housing density bonuses in exchange for contiguous land to be donated to conservation.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Planning Board

**TIME FRAME:** Years 7-10

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff Time, MVP Funding

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 5) EXPAND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN TOWN THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND MVP 2.0

**GOAL:** The Planning Board will continue to oversee the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the MVP 2.0 process, which has its own committee.

**ACTION:** Planning Board and MVP Board will work with necessary committees to implement hazard prevention measures, climate resiliency, and MVP 2.0 "Seed Project" of expanding community gardens throughout town.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Planning Board

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** MVP Funding, MEMA Funds, State Funding

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 6) TRACK OSRP IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH THE CREATION OF A JOINT COMMITTEE OF OPEN SPACE COMMISSION, CONSERVATION COMMISSION, RECREATION COMMISSION, AND PLANNING BOARD THAT MEETS QUARTERLY.

**GOAL:** Whether this be a new committee or a jointly held meeting, the Goal and Action described in this plan will need to be addressed through the collaborative effort of the boards noted in the responsible parties section.

**ACTION:** Creating a quarterly update will allow committees to share ideas, progress, funding sources, and better track goals between OSRP updates.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Open Space Committee, Community Preservation Committee, and Recreation Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Volunteer Time

# CLOSING THOUGHTS



For more information:

<https://oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/>

## June 25, 2025

Zoom meeting for those unable to attend today (7:30 pm)

## June 29, 2025

Comment period closes





# THANK YOU!

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## Any Questions?

[rdugan@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:rdugan@ocpcrpa.org)  
+1 (774) 273-2372



**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL



**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL



# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JUN 25TH | 7:30  
2025 | PM**  
**Virtual Meeting**



**Join us to discuss goals and actions of the OSRP update and the draft plan.**

Use the QR Code to Register  
OR

Find Link on Website



Visit Our Website  
[oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/](http://oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/)

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:**

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Liz Shea, [lshea@abingtonma.gov](mailto:lshea@abingtonma.gov)



# TOWN OF ABINGTON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

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Old Colony Planning Council

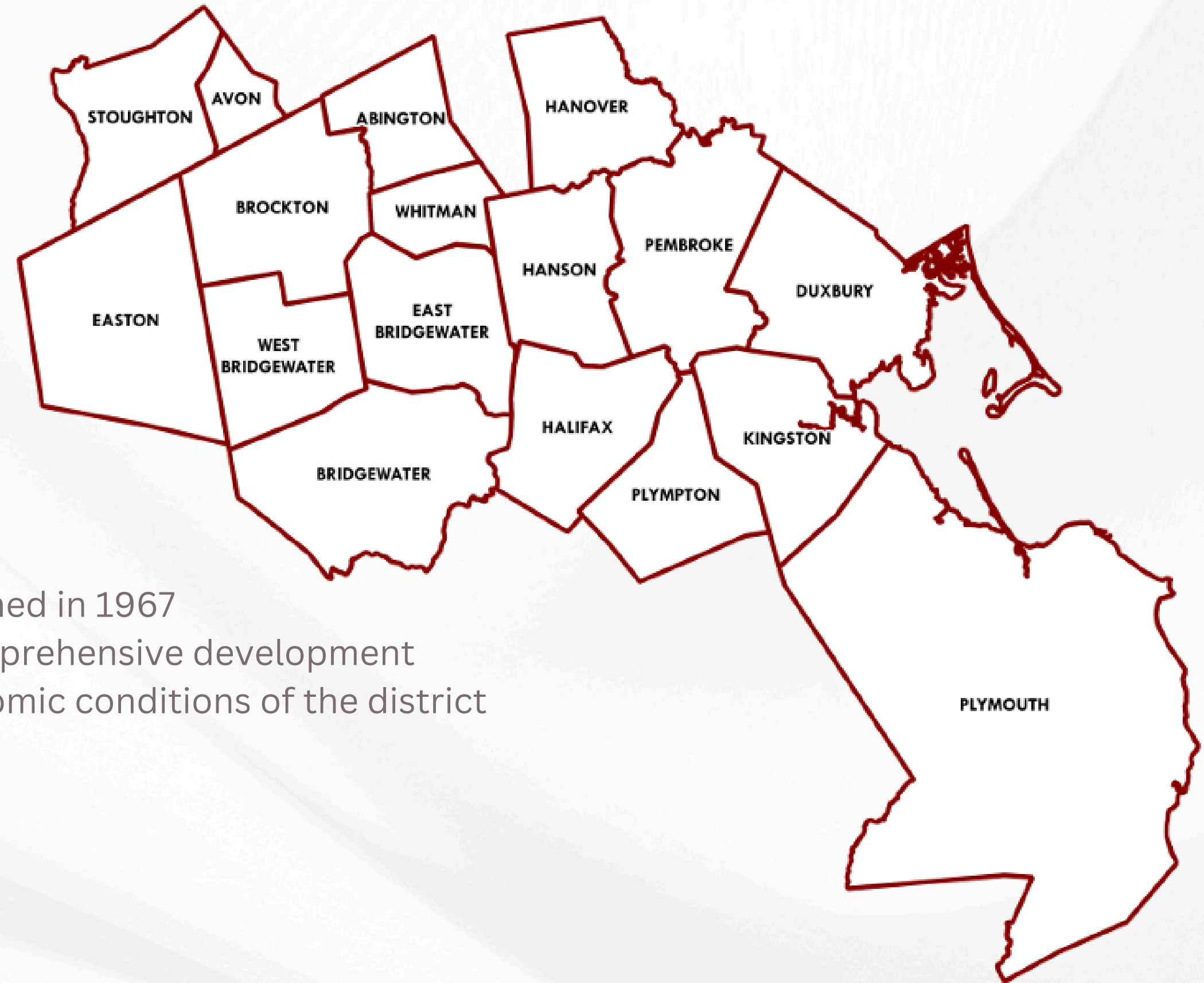


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PLANNING COUNCIL

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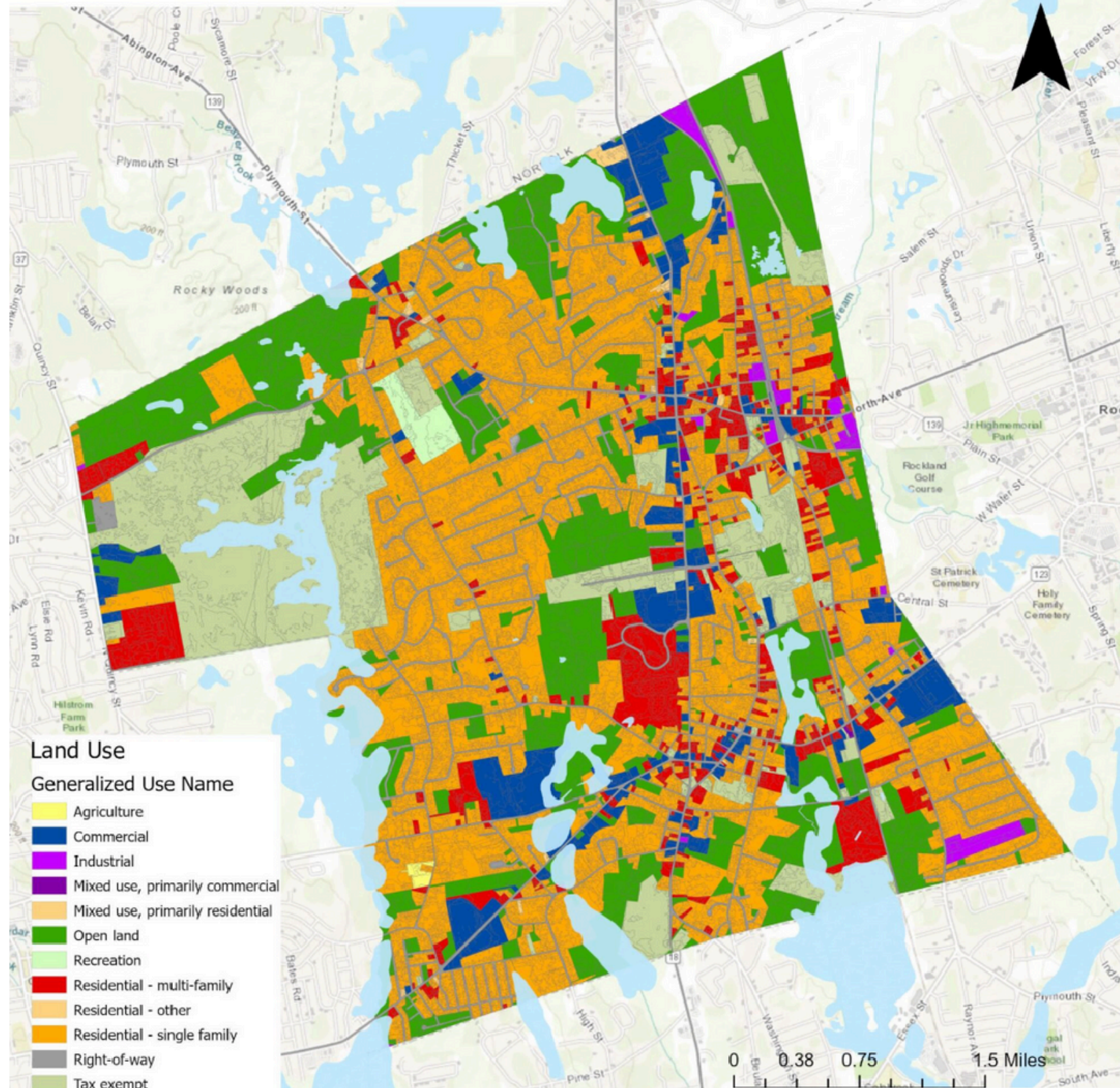
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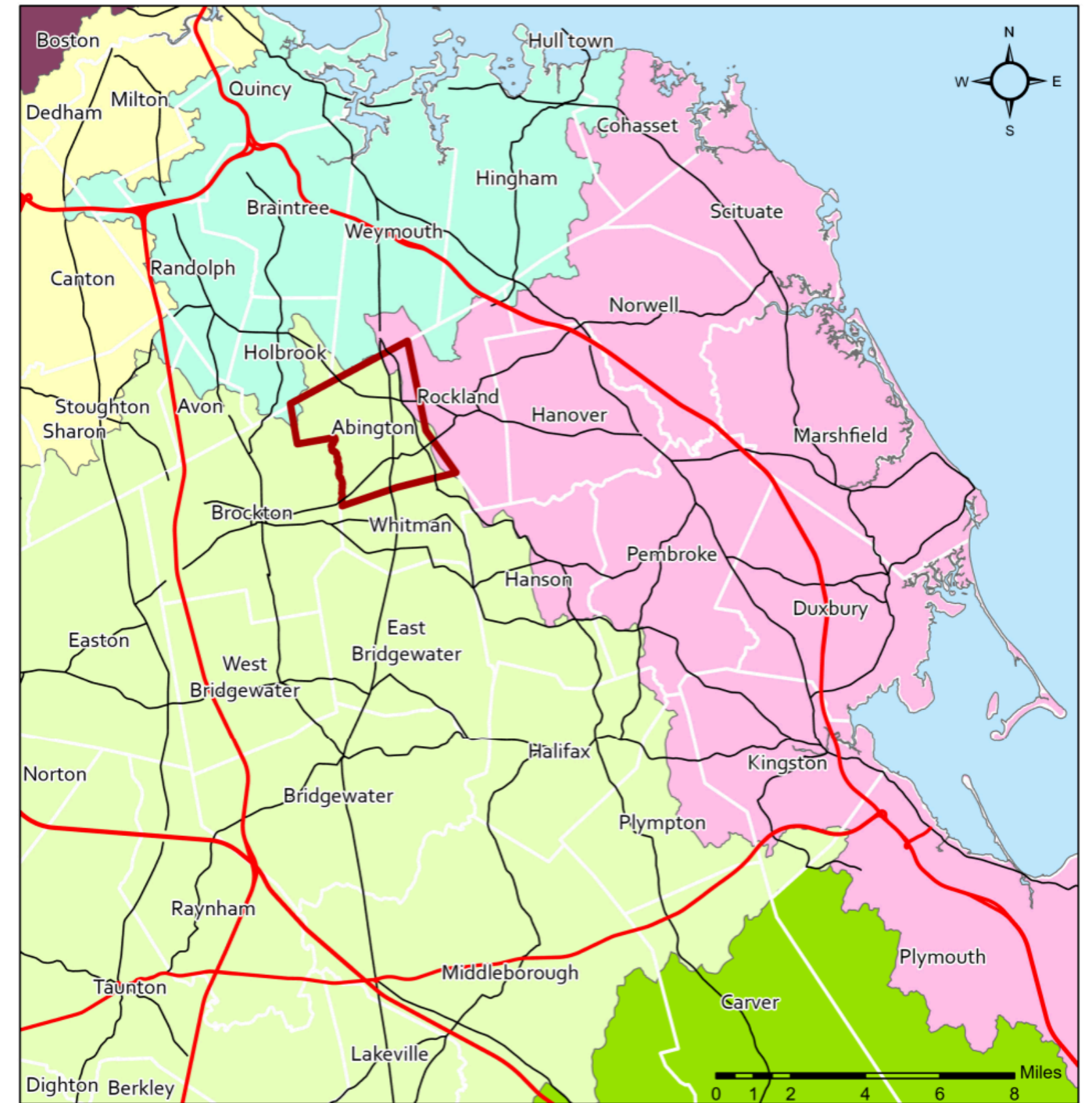
Old Colony Planning Council  
& School Street Brockton, Ma 02301

oldcolonyplanning.org  
Created August 2024

GIS Data Sources:  
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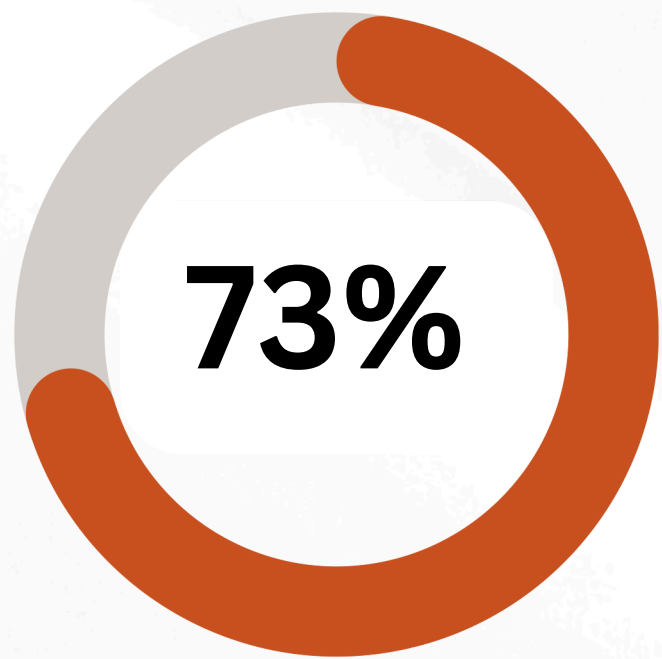


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Old Colony Planning Council  
70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301  
oldcolonyplanning.org  
Created July 2024



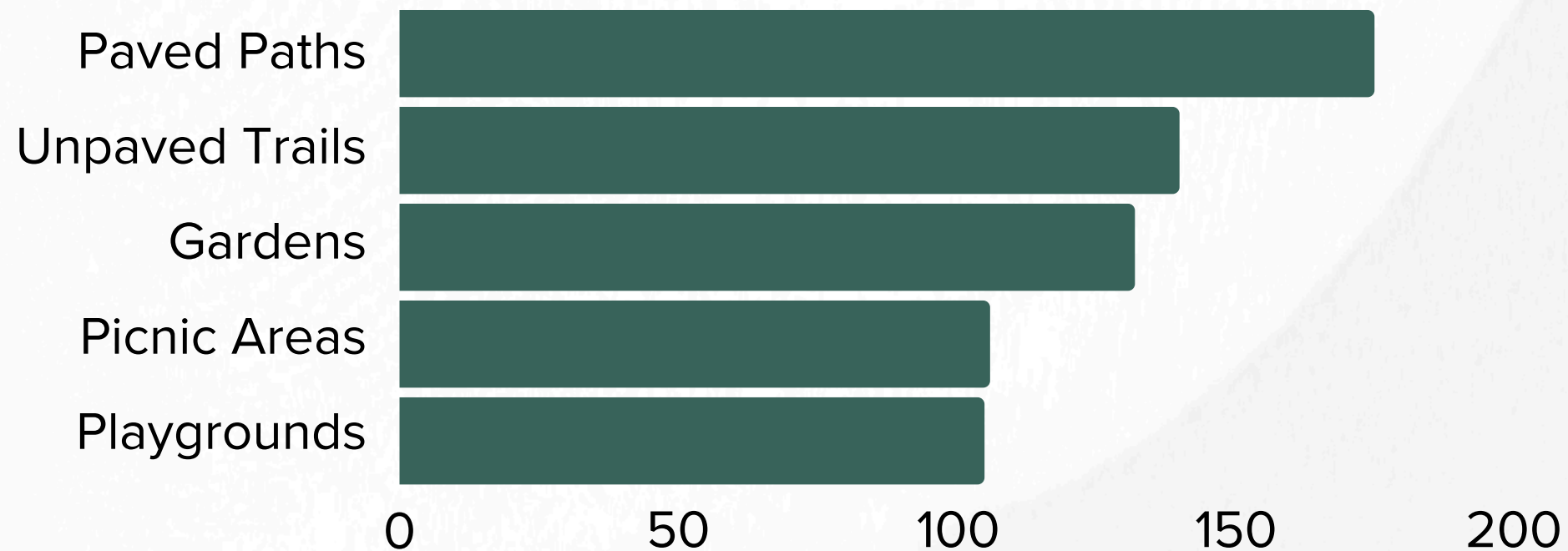
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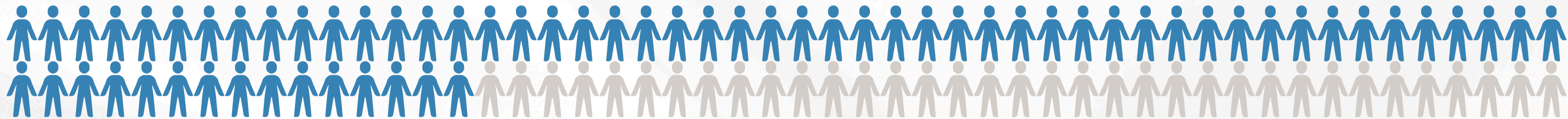
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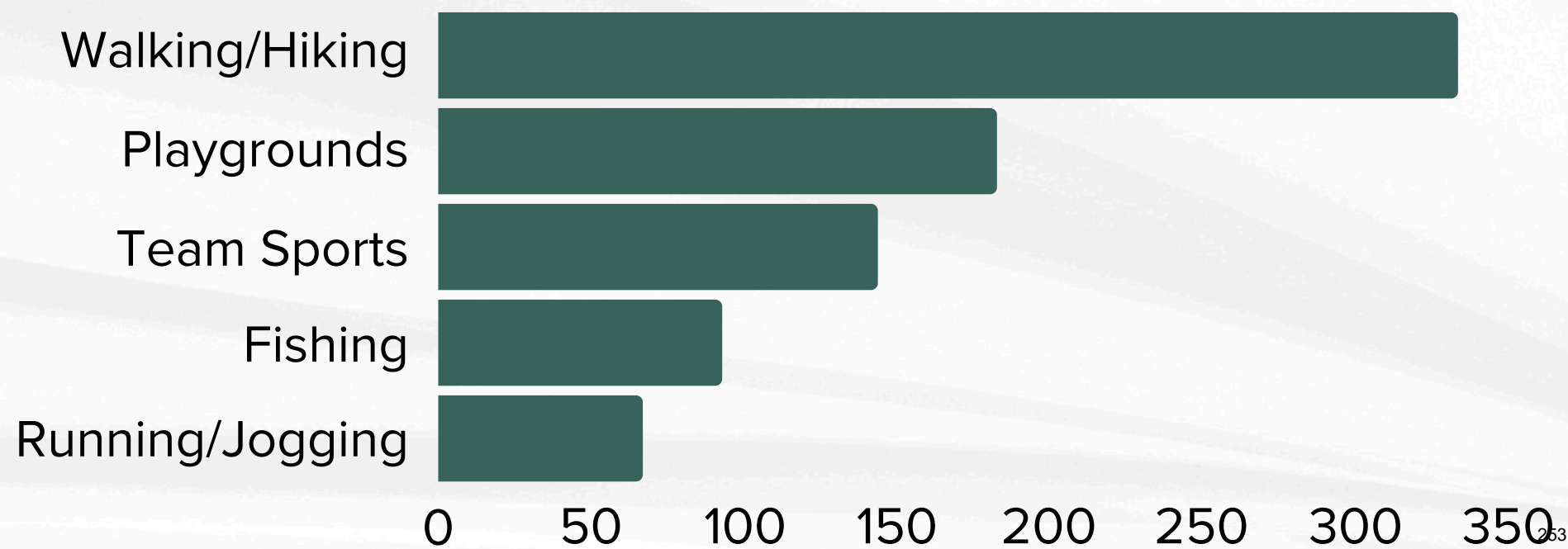
### Top Five Requested Amenities



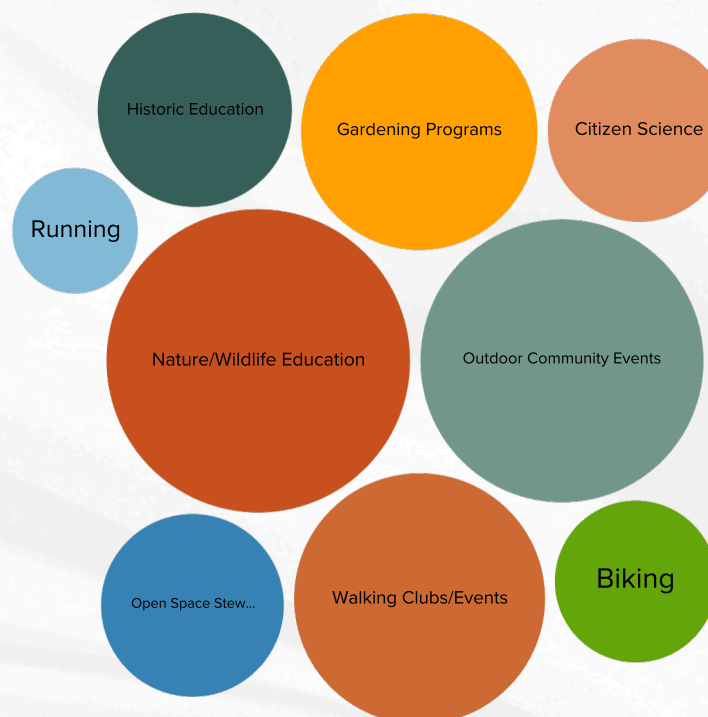
65.24% of residents use open spaces at least once per week



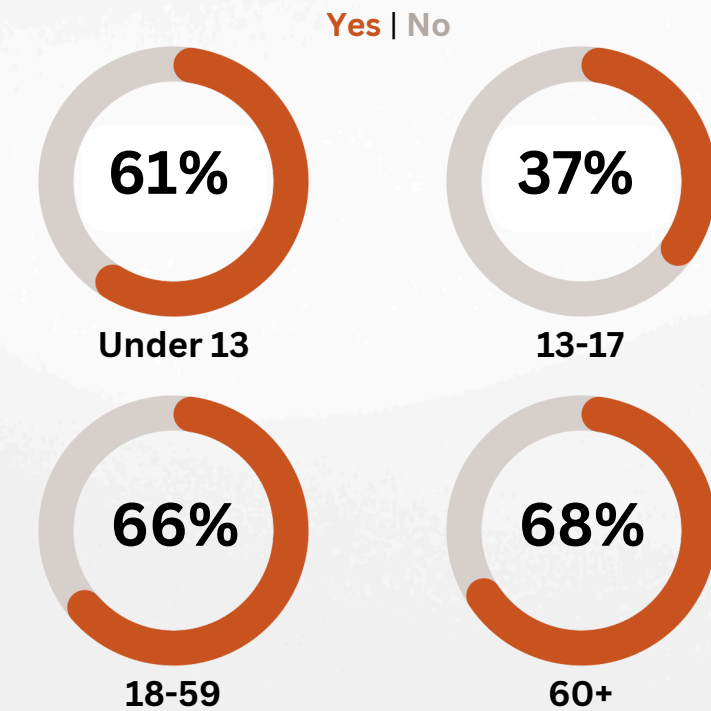
### Top Five Outdoor Activities



### Town Programming Needs



### Enough Open Space by Age?



# Survey Responses

"Island Grove needs **support**. It could be great but all [of its] swing sets are broken."

"Many areas do not have **access** for those who have difficulty walking."

"Any plan for open spaces needs to balance areas for use with **preservation** of natural resources and wildlife."

"Not all spaces feel **safe**"

"It would help **promoting** the different parks with signs, identifying the areas an maybe town maps at intersections giving arrow directions."

Take **care** of what we have. We need to keep the parks, playgrounds, and open spaces in **good condition**."

"Abington has a lot of potential to develop and **enhance** our natural lands."

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 1) IMPROVE ACTIVE RECREATIONAL SPACES AND IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY.

**GOAL:** Continue to upgrade parks to meet the town's growing needs.

**ACTION:** Create an ongoing strategy to improve local parks that pairs needed repairs with a funding strategy. See the separate Facilities Table

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Recreation Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Year 1

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff/Volunteer Time

**ACTION:** Increase lighting at parks for safety in the evening and during public events.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Recreation Committee/DPW

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** CPA

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 1) IMPROVE ACTIVE RECREATIONAL SPACES AND IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY. (CONT)

**GOAL:** Increase ADA accessibility, starting with updates to Griffin's Dairy to increase access for all disability types.

**ACTION:** Assess the best spot for handicap parking near the trail access and make adjustments to bridges for handicap accessibility.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Griffin's Dairy Reuse Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Years 1-3

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** State ADA Funding, AARP, CPA

**ACTION:** Identify which parks are most suitable for handicap retrofit and begin making changes to meet the needs.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Recreation Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff/Volunteer Time, State ADA Funding, AARP Funding, CPA

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 2) CONTINUE TO ACQUIRE, CONSERVE, AND PROTECT REMAINING NATURAL LANDS IN ABINGTON TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN TOWN.

**GOAL:** Create a Town Forest at Diane Circle and Thompson Pond to encourage hiking, care for the land, and increase environmental education.

**ACTION:** Create a title and marketing for the new park to promote public engagement.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Open Space Committee, Planning Board, Select Board

**TIME FRAME:** Years 1-3

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff/Volunteer Time, CPA Funding

**GOAL:** Promote digital information about hiking in town, including maps of hiking locations and a recreation map of the town.

**ACTION:** The town should consider working with OCPC or a contractor to create a digital media profile for the town's recreation opportunities.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Open Space, Recreation, Planning Board

**TIME FRAME:** Years 3-7

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Town Funds, CPA

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 2) CONTINUE TO ACQUIRE, CONSERVE, AND PROTECT REMAINING NATURAL LANDS IN ABINGTON TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN TOWN. (CONT)

**GOAL:** Promote the Chapter 60 program in town. The Conservation Commission and Planning Board should keep an active list of lands placed in this program to prepare to acquire lands through the Right of First Refusal.

**ACTION:** Boards should be familiar with locations identified in the plan as Chapter 60 and should look to state resources to share program details with residents

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Conservation Commission, Planning Boards

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff Volunteer Time

**GOAL:** Ensure town-owned lands are categorized under the water department, conservation commission, or recreation commission to ensure they are accounted for and properly maintained.

**ACTION:** Determine which properties best fit under the conservation commission or recreation commission and transfer as necessary.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Assessors, Water Dept, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff Time

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 3) CREATE BETTER TOWN CONNECTIVITY THROUGH EXPANDING TRAIL SYSTEMS AND OTHER BIKE/PED TRANSIT OPPORTUNITIES IN TOWN.

**GOAL:** Consider creating a Friends of Abington Trails to work with neighboring towns to create trail connectivity.

**ACTION:** Volunteers may seek to map out existing trails, find areas of interest for expansion, organize cleanups, and identify maintenance needs.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Open Space Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Years 3-7

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Volunteer Time

**GOAL:** Consider creating trail networks through conservation land around MBTA tracks connecting Abington to Whitman and surrounding towns in partnership with OCPC efforts in the region.

**ACTION:** Identify areas of land owned by the town that are outside the barriers of MBTA land to connect with other Rail Trail projects and expand hiking and biking opportunities for residents

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Planning Board

**TIME FRAME:** Years 3-7

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Mass Trails Grant

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 3) CREATE BETTER TOWN CONNECTIVITY THROUGH EXPANDING TRAIL SYSTEMS AND OTHER BIKE/PED TRANSIT OPPORTUNITIES IN TOWN. (CONT)

**GOAL:** Expanding and improving walking paths around town-owned parcels on Gliniewicz Way, with potential for paths to connect to other neighborhoods.

**ACTION:** Consider formalizing the path behind schools onto Barry Rd.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Recreation Committee, Planning Board, Open Space Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Years 3-7

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff/Volunteer Time, CPA, MassTrails

**ACTION:** Look for ways to create more connected loop paths around the property and potential spaces for expansion into neighborhoods surrounding to increase walkability off of roadways.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Recreation Committee, Planning Board, Open Space Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Years 7-10

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff/Volunteer Time, CPA, MassTrails

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 4) PROTECT NATURAL WATER SYSTEMS THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION AND BYLAW ENFORCEMENT.

**GOAL:** Create more nature-based solutions in town to mitigate stormwater runoff and improve absorption.

**ACTION:** Create Nature Based Solutions at Arnold Park and Town Hall to address flooding and expand local education on stormwater runoff and solutions.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Planning Board, DPW, MS4 Permit

**TIME FRAME:** Years 1-3

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Town Funds, MVP Funding

**ACTION:** Explore ways to incentivize commercial and industrial landowners to decrease the impervious surface on their properties and/or implement green infrastructure like rain gardens.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Planning Board

**TIME FRAME:** Years 7-10

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff Time, MVP Funding

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 4) PROTECT NATURAL WATER SYSTEMS THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION AND BYLAW ENFORCEMENT. (CONT)

**GOAL:** Consider expanding high-density housing in trade-off of protecting adjacent land to preserve remaining scenic lands while addressing growing housing concerns.

**ACTION:** This may be a change to existing zoning bylaws that allow for housing density bonuses in exchange for contiguous land to be donated to conservation.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Planning Board

**TIME FRAME:** Years 7-10

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Staff Time, MVP Funding

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 5) EXPAND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN TOWN THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND MVP 2.0

**GOAL:** The Planning Board will continue to oversee the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the MVP 2.0 process, which has its own committee.

**ACTION:** Planning Board and MVP Board will work with necessary committees to implement hazard prevention measures, climate resiliency, and MVP 2.0 "Seed Project."

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Planning Board

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** MVP Funding, MEMA Funds, State Funding

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 6) TRACK OSRP IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH THE CREATION OF A JOINT COMMITTEE OF OPEN SPACE COMMISSION, CONSERVATION COMMISSION, RECREATION COMMISSION, AND PLANNING BOARD THAT MEETS QUARTERLY.

**GOAL:** Whether this be a new committee or a jointly held meeting, the Goal and Action described in this plan will need to be addressed through the collaborative effort of the boards noted in the responsible parties section.

**ACTION:** Creating a quarterly update will allow committees to share ideas, progress, funding sources, and better track goals between OSRP updates.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Open Space Committee, Community Preservation Committee, and Recreation Committee

**TIME FRAME:** Ongoing

**FUNDING RESOURCE:** Volunteer Time

# CLOSING THOUGHTS



For more information:

<https://oldcolonyplanning.org/abington-osrp/>

## June 25, 2025

Zoom meeting for those unable to attend today (7:30 pm)

## June 29, 2025

Comment period closes





# THANK YOU!

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## Any Questions?

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**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL