



# Town of Scituate

An aerial photograph of Scituate, Massachusetts, showing a mix of residential areas, green spaces, and a large body of water. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2018

Prepared for: Town of Scituate

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# 1

## Plan Summary

This 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is an update of Scituate's 2009 Open Space Plan in accordance with the Commonwealth's 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. It has been revised to reflect the current conditions and concerns of Town officials and local residents in Scituate.

The update builds on the earlier plan, incorporating goals of protecting natural resources, conserving open space, and providing a dynamic recreation program for all ages. The updated OSRP seeks to address these goals simultaneously, where possible, by encouraging preservation of open space and natural resources, particularly coastal resources given the community's unique settings, and allowing opportunities for their enjoyment through structural improvements and enhanced access for recreation activities, as needed.

Pursuant to the guidance provided by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services (DCS), the OSRP will serve as a detailed reference for the community pertaining to information critical to the protection and enhancement of open space and recreational resources. This update is intended to be a comprehensive, integrated, and internally consistent statement of Scituate's policies related to open space and their relationship to conservation, recreation, and accessibility to all citizens. The OSRP was formulated in an effort to manage the Town's projected growth by planning for development in a way that balances Scituate's ecological and socioeconomic needs.

The OSRP and the process of putting it together seeks to accomplish the following goals:

**Goal 1:** Conserve fresh water wetlands, ponds and stream shorelines, watershed and natural drainage areas, and aquifers and tributaries to the public drinking water supply.

**Goal 2:** Protect Scituate’s natural shoreline and coastal waters, which are a prime recreational and economic resource, and which give the Town its identity as a very appealing seaside community.

**Goal 3:** Protect the heritage of the Town through the preservation of historic structures and sites.

**Goal 4:** Make a commitment to providing handicap accessible open space and recreation facilities and parks/trails.

**Goal 5:** Enhance the natural beauty of the Town’s landscape by protecting existing open space, while promoting appropriate use.

**Goal 6:** Satisfy the present and future outdoor recreation needs of community residents and visitors by offering a variety of high quality recreational facilities.

To meet the demands of existing and projected growth, Scituate must face the challenge to maintain and enhance what makes it unique among South Shore Massachusetts communities in the presence of increased market pressures. Through proper planning, including this OSRP update, Scituate will develop a clear vision of how the Town would like to look, feel and produce in the next seven years. Economic and population growth can then occur in a way that enhances, improves, and highlights the Town’s unique character.

# 2

## Introduction

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### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update is to serve as a guide for the proactive protection of Scituate's natural resources and open space, and the provision of ample recreational opportunities for its citizens by providing a framework for decision-making by Scituate's residents, Town officials and staff.

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### Planning Process and Public Participation

The update of the Scituate OSRP was developed under the guidance of a working group, which included members of the Conservation Commission, the Recreation Commission, the Town Planner, and the Town Conservation Agent. In accordance with the state Uniform Procurement Act (MGL30B), Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) was hired by the Town to provide technical assistance throughout the update process. The Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook (EOEA, 2008) was used as a guide in preparing this OSRP.

Public participation played an important role in developing the OSRP. An online OSRP survey was made available to the public on the Town website since the beginning the planning process and received a total of 335 responses (see Appendix I). The Survey was used to obtain a real sense of public opinion about the Town's approach to open space and recreation, focusing on ways that the Town can enhance their recreation offerings. There were two public forums held on November 29, 2016 and February 8, 2017 at the Scituate Town Hall, inviting all Scituate residents and officials to participate in the development of the 2018 OSRP Update. The first public

forum focused on identifying the issues and opportunities with regards to the town's open space and recreation resources, as well as developing goals for the OSRP update. The second public forum offer the public an opportunity to collectively develop strategies and actions towards achieving the goals. Both public meetings were noticed on the Town website, with paper notices placed around key civic facilities in town, such as the town hall and library, etc. In addition to the public meetings, working group meetings were held with a variety of Town officials throughout the planning process to facilitate the development of the OSRP goals and the action plan. Comments and feedback from these meetings have been incorporated in the OSRP.

### **Acknowledgements**

The following Town staff members and volunteers deserve recognition for significant contributions to the data collection, drafting, and planning analysis for this OSRP. Special thanks go to former Town Planner, Laura Harbottle, and current Director of Planning and Development, Brad Washburn, for their diligent efforts in compiling many of the Town records and data needed to complete the open space and recreation land inventory, maps, and ADA evaluations herein.

#### Conservation Commission

Frank Snow, Chair  
Penny Scott-Pipes  
Richard Harding  
Paul Parys  
Lisa Caisse  
William Schmid  
Jennifer Foley

#### Town Administrator

James Boudreau

#### Planning and Development

Brad Washburn, Director of Planning and Development  
Karen Joseph, Town Planner

#### Conservation

Amy Walkey, Conservation and Natural Resources Officer

#### Recreation

Maura Glancy, Recreation Director

#### Recreation Commission

David Smith, Chair  
Jennifer McMellen



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## Community Setting

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### Regional Context

The Town of Scituate is a coastal community located twenty-five (25) miles southeast of Boston, approximately halfway between Boston and Plymouth (see Map 1). Scituate and other waterfront communities of comparable geographic size make up the "South Shore," the shore of Massachusetts Bay south of Boston. The Town's character is very much defined by its coastline, which includes both rocky shores and sandy barrier beaches. Removed from major state highways, its sense of privacy and abundant waterfront property make it a desirable bedroom community. The regional planning agency, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), considers it a maturing suburb because of the extent of development, which has consumed a large percentage of developable land. Its land area is approximately 12,160 acres (19 square miles) in total. This includes 1,340 acres covered by water, and 1,600 acres of salt marsh.

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### Regional Coastal Resources

Scituate Harbor is a regional recreational resource. In the summer, the harbor is filled with recreational, fishing, and lobster boats. According to Harbormaster Stephen F. Mone, there are currently approximately 1,200 recreational boaters using the Harbor in the summer months. The Town operates a marina which provides slips for 250 boaters.

Scituate shares about three miles of the North River estuary as a common boundary with the Town of Marshfield. In 1979 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts designated the North River a scenic river as defined by the Scenic and Recreational River Act of 1978. The six-member North River Commission, created to enforce the Scenic and Recreational River Protective Order for the North River, (pursuant to G.L.

c. 21, s. 17B and c. 367, s. 62, of the Acts of 1978) of the Act, includes a representative from Scituate. Residential development in towns upriver, as well lower down, and along its tributaries led to pollution and the frequent closing of shellfish beds in the past two decades. The Town is now using tertiary treatment in its Wastewater Treatment Plant which has contributed towards improving water quality.

The Spit is a land area in the mouth of the North River and at the southern edge of Third Cliff. A small barrier island overwashed by tides, it is a major regional recreation area for residents and boaters. Local residents reach it by walking from Third Cliff at low tide, disembarking from a public boat launching area in Scituate (Driftway Park), several private local boat launching areas, as well as from other points on the South Shore. It is the site of a nesting area for the threatened Piping Plover and the Least Tern, a species of special concern.

The area surrounding the Driftway has become a regional recreational resource for golfers and boaters. A large land area, formerly owned by the Boston Sand & Gravel Company, was acquired by the Town in the 1970's. Through efforts of many dedicated residents, there are now numerous recreational and open space resources in this area including a public golf course (Widow's Walk); a private golf course (Scituate Country Club); a fishing pier; a trail system available to the public, including a newly constructed active walking and bike trail along the Driftway; an informal playing field; and a boat launching ramp and a waterfront park area with picnic tables and grills.

The South River passes through Duxbury, Marshfield, Scituate and Pembroke and is another regional marine resource. Shellfishing in the tidal portions was formerly abundant, but development over the past decades has greatly affected this resource. The South River is very popular for boating, and adds wonderful scenery to the Humarock area.

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## **Regional Water Supply Resources**

Scituate is located in a coastal plain and is part of the South Coastal Basin watershed area. It contains many streams and wetlands with shallow depth to groundwater in many areas. Poor drainage has limited building in some areas for many years, but the demand for new homes has continued. This has made building expensive, with special construction for septic systems and provisions for stormwater often required. The South Swamp, a major wetland in Scituate's West End, is the source water for portions of the Town of Norwell's drinking water supplies. Brooks from this wetland also feed the Aaron River Reservoir in the Town of Cohasset. Portions of the First Herring Brook watershed, which provides water for Scituate's wells and Reservoir, are located in Norwell.



Open Space and Recreation Plan

Town of Scituate, Massachusetts

**Regional Locus**

Source: MassGIS

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## Regional Planning and Scituate's Future

Scituate is one of 101 towns which belong to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency for towns in the greater Boston metropolitan area. Scituate and surrounding towns are part of the South Shore Coalition, a 13-member subregion of this agency.

In 2008, MAPC adopted its regional plan called MetroFuture which created a 30-year blueprint for the greater Metropolitan Boston area. Four types of communities were identified based on their expected development character: Inner Core, Regional Urban Centers, Maturing Suburbs and Developing Suburbs. The South Shore is occupied by maturing suburbs (Scituate, Hingham, Marshfield and Pembroke) and developing suburbs (Cohasset, Norwell, and Hanover). As a "maturing suburb" of Boston, Scituate is expected to have moderate population growth with an 11% overall increase by 2030.

The MAPC plan calls for this growth to occur primarily in town centers, near transit, and in areas already served by infrastructure. Development will use land more efficiently with multi-family and accessory dwellings predominating rather than single family homes. As this growth occurs, the pressure to develop Town's open space will increase. The population will age, with a greater number of residents over 55 than were previously seen. Recreation will need to focus as much on the needs of an older population as on youth. The older group may prefer activities with a less active pace, and may need to address changes in mobility.

Currently MAPC is in the process of beginning the update of the 2008 MetroFuture regional plan. Future open space and recreation planning endeavors in Scituate will keep evolving as new trends and policy guidance become available through this renewed planning effort.

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## History of the Community

Once a much larger town, Scituate's original geographic area included the present towns of Norwell and Hanover, and parts of Marshfield and Cohasset. The westernmost land was incorporated as the Town of Hanover in 1717, and the land immediately to the west, between Hanover and Scituate, became the Town of South Scituate in 1849. This Town later changed its name to Norwell. The sections below describe Scituate's interesting history and its relationship to the Town's development pattern.

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## **Pre-European Contact: The Native Americans**

Archeological excavations in Scituate reveal the presence of man as early as 10,000 years ago. There is little information available about the Archaic Culture beyond the fact that the people who inhabited this area were nomadic hunter-gatherers. At the time of initial European contact, Scituate lay within the Northern range of the Wampanoag Nation. The Wampanoags spoke an Algonquian dialect and their customs and practices were typical of the Eastern Woodland Culture. They moved to camps along the North River and First Herring Brook each spring when the herring and salmon began to run. As spring passed into summer, they planted fields of corn, squash and beans on Second and Third Cliffs and in the "Greenfields" area to the Southwest. With the waning of the harvest moon, they migrated westward to winter hunting camps to complete another annual cycle.

In 1617, a smallpox epidemic, presumably resulting from contact with European fishermen, spread through the Wampanoag Nation. This epidemic resulted in the deaths of three-quarters of the population and severely disrupted a pattern of life that had existed unchanged for at least a thousand years. The surviving Wampanoags lived peacefully with the Plymouth Colony settlers until the death of Chief Massasoit in 1661.

Massasoit's son and successor, Metacom or Phillip, alarmed by the continuing loss of land, raised a confederation of tribes to destroy the English. Scituate suffered heavily in King Phillip's war. The ambush (at Rehoboth by Phillip's warriors) of a militia company led by Captain Michael Peirce of Scituate resulted in heavy losses of Scituate men. Additional deaths and the burning of many outlying farms occurred when a war party raided the Town in May of 1676. The end of the war marked the effective end of the Native American presence in Scituate.

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## **English Settlement through Nineteenth Century**

The first permanent English settlement of Scituate occurred in 1632 when a group of immigrants, recent arrivals at Plymouth from Kent, England, sailed north to Scituate Harbor. The settlers erected crude houses on "Kent Street" which still runs along the salt marshes from Satuit Brook at the Harbor to the North River, near present-day Scituate Harbor.

The settlers planted corn in the Indian fields that had lain fallow since the epidemic. The stony glacial soils were poorly suited for crops, but shipbuilding and fishing helped to support a stable population of a few thousand residents from the mid-1600's through the early 20th Century. The construction of the Scituate Lighthouse in 1810 is proof of the early sea-faring history of the Town.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, many homes with farms to the back were built close to the street on the Town's winding roads, such as Grove St., Booth

Hill Rd., Clapp Rd., First Parish Rd. and Country Way. Small centers developed in Greenbush around the old Common on Stockbridge Rd. in North Scituate, and in Scituate Center at the corner of Country Way and First Parish Rd., near the original Town House (Town Hall) and First Parish Church. By the mid-1850's, Scituate Harbor and North Scituate had become thriving commercial centers.

In the 1850's several families of fishermen arrived from Ireland and settled on Second and Third Cliffs. They noticed that the ledges and boulders along the shore below the low water mark were covered with red seaweed. Back home, they had gathered this seaweed, which they called Carageen or Irish Moss. The vegetable gelatin extracted from Irish Moss is known as Carageenan. In the 1870 census, 109 Scituate men listed their occupation as "Mosser." All were born in Ireland or had parents who had emigrated from Ireland. The mossers harvested at low tide from dories using long rakes. The moss was dried on the beaches and shipped to market.

In November of 1898, the shores of Scituate were struck by the Portland Gale, one of the most severe storms of the century. Continuous, intense wave action during this extreme storm breached the connection between a long peninsula of barrier beach to the south and the rest of the Town. This resulted in the separation of Humarock from Third Cliff. It has remained part of Scituate but is accessible only through the Town of Marshfield.

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### **A Summer Vacation Destination: Late Nineteenth to Twentieth Century**

The railroad from Boston reached North Scituate in 1871, and several summer hotels were soon built along North Scituate Beach (Minot Beach) to cater to vacationers arriving by train. Horse-drawn buses carried the guests from the depot to the hotels. After 1880, prominent businessmen from as far away as Worcester built elegant, shingled "cottages" in the area inland from the hotels. These businessmen founded the "Hatherly Beach Playground Association" that evolved into the present Hatherly Country Club and golf course.

By the 1880's, Boston became a comfortable two-hour train ride rather than a difficult day-long journey by stagecoach or packet sloop. More summer vacationers discovered the sandy beaches of the Town and by 1910, the population doubled to 5,000 in the summertime. Soon, a colony of small frame summer cottages grew up along the shore from Egypt Beach to Cedar Point. Some of these cottages were occupied by their owners and some were leased by the week. Many were owned or rented by Boston fire lieutenants, police captains and other municipal workers of modestly comfortable means and Irish ancestry. By the 1930's, the coast of Scituate had become known as the "Irish Riviera."

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## **A Bedroom Community: Mid-Twentieth Century to Today**

Following World War II, people began to move from the city to suburban areas. Bostonians purchased family homes in Scituate, raising the year-round population to 11,000 by 1960. In that year the Southeast Expressway replaced the railroad as the principal means of access to Boston. Summer cottages were winterized or replaced. New subdivisions spread inland across abandoned pastures. Scituate was a good site for activities that took advantage of its waterfront location such as overseas transmission of shortwave radio. The international station WNYW operated at the former "Proving Grounds" off Hatherly Rd. in the late 1960's.

Today, with the exception of a modest fishing industry, Scituate is a commuter suburb of Boston. Still, many residents have deep roots in families who were former vacationers who had fallen in love with the Town. By 1980, the population had grown to 17,300, most of whom depended directly or indirectly on employment outside the Town of Scituate. The present population is slightly over 18,000.

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## **Population Characteristics**

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### **Population Trends**

In 1940, Scituate was a small town with slightly over 4,000 residents. Between 1950 and 1970 the number of residents almost tripled, increasing from 5,943 to 16,744. The population stabilized in the 1970's and 1980's, and the number of residents has remained relatively constant in recent years. Scituate's population was 17,317 in 1980, 16,786 in 1990. According to the 2010 Decennial Census, the Town of Scituate had a total population of 18,133, a 2% increase over the 2000 population of 17,863. This is comparable to the 3% growth rate experienced in the overall Boston region and the state from 2000 to 2010. According to the latest 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Scituate's population had increased by about another 350 residents to 18,491.

## Age Distribution of Population

The table below provides a breakdown of residents in different age groups in 1990, 2000 and 2010.

**Table 3.1a Population Characteristics of Scituate – 1990, 2000, and 2010**

Age Group	1990 (US Census)	2000 (US Census)	2010 (US Census)	% Change, 1990 to 2010
0-4	1,139	1,235	957	-16.0%
5-14	2,114	2,675	2,781	31.6%
15-19	1,061	1,036	1,171	10.4%
20-24	1,005	458	643	-36.0%
25-34	2,494	1,666	1,066	-57.3%
35-44	2,803	3,275	2,423	-13.6%
45-54	2,096	2,862	3,339	59.3%
55-64	1,790	1,930	2,639	47.4%
65-74	1,284	1,508	1,605	25.0%
75-84	667	907	1,088	63.1%
85+	283	311	421	48.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,736</b>	<b>17,863</b>	<b>18,133</b>	<b>8.3%</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990, 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census Data

This table shows a steep drop in babies and toddlers less than 5 years old, perhaps reflecting the over 55% decline in the 25-34 age cohort between 1990 and 2010. The decline in the 20-24 age cohort, in addition, indicates that the town has been losing its younger population over the years. On the other hand, the Town's population appears to be aging in place, with the over-55 groups having grown significantly between 1990 and 2010, particularly the 55-64 and over 75 age groups with respectively 47.4% and 111.9% increase.

## Comparative Age Distribution

The following table compares the age distribution of Scituate's population with that of Plymouth County and the state based on the 2010 Decennial Census data.

**Table 3.1b Population Characteristics**

Characteristics	Scituate	Plymouth County	Massachusetts
Total Population	18,133	494,919	6,547,629
% less than 18 years	25.1%	24.1%	21.7%
% 20 to 34 years	9.4%	15.4%	20.2%
% 45 to 54 years	18.4%	16.6%	15.5%
% 65 years or more	17.2%	13.9%	13.8%
Median age	45.1 years	41.1 years	39.1 years

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census



In comparison to both Plymouth County and the State of Massachusetts, Scituate's population tends on average to be somewhat older, with a median age of 45.1 years as opposed to 41.1 years for the county and 39.1 years for the state. This reflects a higher proportion of total residents over the age of 45. For example, Scituate had a higher percentage of both the 45 to 54 year age group, and the over 65 age group, than the county or the state. The Town also had a considerably smaller number of those aged 20 to 34 with 9.4% of all population in Scituate but 15.4% for the county and 20.2% for the state. The Town had a comparable proportion of children to that of Plymouth County with 25.1% of the population less than 18 years of age compared to 24.1% for the county, while the state level was 21.7%.

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## Population Projections

The latest population forecasts were projected by the regional planning agency, MAPC for MetroFuture, a regional planning process currently underway. Their projected increases in population for ten year increments to the year 2030, by age cohort, are as follows:

The table shows a continuation of the current trends, with a decrease in older teens and young adults through the mid-40's. The older groups numbers are expanding significantly. These projections may not fully reflect the impact of the new Greenbush commuter rail line, which may bring more young professional couples and single adults who want to live in starter homes and condominiums, close to transit.

**Table 3.2 Population Projections by Age Group**

Age	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	% Change, 1990 to 2030
0-5	1,166	1,235	957	754	819	-29.8%
5-9	1,095	1,353	1,358	1,124	1,192	+8.9%
10-14	1,008	1,322	1,423	1,126	939	-6.8%
15-19	1,063	1,036	1,171	1,149	957	-10.0%
20-24	1,044	458	643	669	527	-49.5%
25-29	1,138	595	555	596	605	-46.8%
30-34	1,383	1,071	511	727	778	-43.7%
35-39	1,406	1,570	965	1,023	1,092	-22.5%
40-44	1,393	1,705	1,458	967	1,230	-11.7%
45-49	1,118	1,491	1,611	1,040	1,124	+5%
50-54	965	1,371	1,728	1,526	1,042	+8.0%
55-59	946	1,059	1,419	1,588	1,029	+8.8%
60-64	838	871	1,220	1,610	1,424	+69.9%
65-69	749	804	919	1,323	1,495	+99.6%
70-74	539	704	686	1,020	1,360	+252.3%

Age	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	% Change, 1990 to 2030
75-79	397	544	599	686	1,001	+252.1%
80-85	261	363	489	468	709	+271.6%
85+	277	311	421	552	671	+242.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,786</b>	<b>17,863</b>	<b>18,133</b>	<b>17,948</b>	<b>17,994</b>	<b>7.2 %</b>

Source: MAPC

## Population Density

According to the latest Decennial U.S. Census, a population density of 1,368 persons per square mile in 2010 has allowed Scituate to retain some of the characteristics of a somewhat rural small New England seacoast town. However, development of large homes on large lots has resulted in a steady consumption of remaining open land. It is interesting to note the increases in population density from 1990 to 2010 in different parts of Town.

The table below shows a comparison of the population density of different parts of Scituate between 1990 and 2010 based on available information from the Decennial U.S. Census. The areas designated by the Census are roughly equivalent to the parts of Town identified below.

**Table 3.3 Population Density in Different Parts of Scituate - 1990 and 2010**

Part of Town	Population per Square Mile			
	1990	2000	2010	% Increase 1990-2010
North Scituate, Minot, Egypt and Sand Hills	1,365	1,470	1,368	0.2%
Scituate Harbor and area south (including Greenbush and Humarock)	964	994	1,003	4.0%
West End	704	767	799	13.5%
All of Scituate	973	1,040	1,029	5.8%

The West End, which had a surge in development over the last two decades, has had a much higher percentage increase in population density than the Town's average, but still has the lowest population density overall. While there is more land available, there is also more development pressure in this location.

The North Scituate and Sand Hills area population change may reflect increasing numbers of families with children replacing an older population in this area. The relatively steady population in this area of the community might therefore be well-

served with more playgrounds, athletic fields and recreation facilities as well as more areas for parks and passive recreation.

While Scituate Harbor has not indicated a high level of growth over the 1990's, the 2010 Census reflects increased building in this area. Over the last decade, about 75 condominiums and accessory dwellings were constructed in the Business District.

## Household Income

The 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates provides the most recent figures available for median income in Scituate. The median family income for Scituate is roughly average among the South and North Shore communities but higher than that of the Plymouth County. The median family income for Scituate and surrounding towns is shown below.

**Table 3.4 Median Family Incomes and Per Capita Income for South Shore Towns, 2010 and 2017**

Town	Median Family Income 2010	Median Family Income 2017	Per Capita Income 2010	Per Capita Income 2017
Cohasset	\$147,222	\$180,345	\$59,891	\$75,885
Duxbury	\$139,873	\$138,707	\$55,510	\$55,225
Hanover	\$114,484	\$130,341	\$39,631	\$49,009
Hingham	\$132,744	\$163,966	\$56,671	\$69,709
Marshfield	\$110,756	\$114,144	\$42,269	\$41,462
<b>Scituate</b>	<b>\$111,893</b>	<b>\$135,467</b>	<b>\$47,122</b>	<b>\$54,552</b>
Plymouth County	\$88,110	\$100,207	\$34,285	\$39,247

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The same relationship exists for per capita income, placing Scituate at the average for the South Shore Coalition and the MAPC Region. As might be expected, there is a direct correlation between per capita income and the level of education attained by the population as well as the percentage of the population employed as executives and professional. The table below shows a comparison of household income in Scituate, Plymouth County and the state in the year 2017.

**Table 3.5 Household Income, 2017: Scituate, Plymouth County and Massachusetts**

Characteristics	Scituate	Plymouth County	Massachusetts
Median income	\$111,865	\$82,081	\$74,167
Individuals in poverty	4.2%	8.0%	11.1%
% earning less than \$25,000	10.7%	14.1%	18.3%
% earning more than \$100,000	55.5%	40.6%	37.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Median household income levels per the 2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates were substantially higher in Scituate; \$111,865 as opposed to \$82,081 and \$74,167 for the county and state, respectively. Also, Scituate had a lower proportion of residents living in poverty, 4.2%, while the percentage for the county was 8.0% and state was 11.1%. There were also much higher proportions of Scituate residents earning more than \$100,000, 55.5% as opposed to 40.6% for the county and 37.7% for the state. In addition, Scituate had 10.7% of all households earning \$25,000 or less which is a lower level than that for the county at 14.1% and the state at 18.3%.

The Federal Department of Health and Human Services issues the federal poverty guidelines yearly for administrative purposes. Many of the people who fall within this category are disabled, elderly, minorities, or unemployed. The U.S. Bureau of the Census defined poverty status for 2017 as having an annual income falling below the poverty threshold in dollar amount (see table below). According to the ACS 5-Year Estimate, in 2017 there were 191 nonfamily households, and 210 families at poverty level in Scituate. Of these families, 82 were headed by women, and almost all of the 82 families had one or more children under eighteen years of age. 25% of the individuals below the poverty level were 65 years of age or older.

**Table 3.6 Poverty Thresholds for 2017 by Size of Family**

Size of family unit	Poverty Thresholds (\$)
One person (unrelated individual)	12,488
Under 65 years	12,752
65 years and over	11,756
Two people	15,877
Householder under 65 years	16,493
Householder 65 years and over	14,828
Three people	19,515
Four people	25,094
Five people	29,714
Six people	33,618
Seven people	38,173
Eight people	42,684
Nine people or more	50,681

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Thresholds for 2017 by Size of Family

## Employment Trends and Industries

According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), Scituate had an estimated annual labor force of 9,470 in 2017, among which roughly 9,100 were employed, indicating an unemployment rate of 3.5% which was lower than the state average of 3.8%. While the local labor force has increase modestly from 9,011 in 2010, the unemployment rate has dropped significantly as compared to 7.4% in 2010.

The latest 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates shows that within the 9,108 employed Scituate residents, roughly 2,571 people or 28.2% worked locally in Scituate, another 27.4% worked outside of Scituate but within Bristol County, and 43.1% worked outside of Bristol County, with another 1.2% worked outside state of residence. On the other hand, labor market information shows that the 2017 average employment in Scituate was approximately 3,673, indicating that over 1,000 workers employed in Scituate commuted to the town from elsewhere. These statistics reflect a large degree of commuting to and from Scituate both inside and outside of the region.

The industry types, employment and wages found within Scituate are summarized in the table below. The largest employment sectors were Accommodation and Food Services and Health Care and Social Assistance. The largest single employers are Scituate Rod & Gun Club, Inc. and Life Care Center of the South Shore. The town's employment trends are like those throughout the state and regional with declining manufacturing and agriculture, and growing services, particularly in education, health care, finance and other services.

**Table 3.7 Scituate 2017 Employment and Wages by Industry**

Industry	Establishments	Total Wages	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Total, All Industries	477	\$165,821,512	3,673	\$868
Construction	60	\$12,685,184	203	\$1,202
Manufacturing	8	\$2,582,747	60	\$828
Wholesale Trade	24	\$6,960,505	49	\$2,732
Retail Trade	39	\$6,983,006	302	\$445
Transportation and Warehousing	11	\$6,065,271	110	\$1,060
Information	12	\$2,059,450	71	\$558
Finance and Insurance	22	\$4,235,553	60	\$1,358
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	15	\$1,044,856	14	\$1,435
Professional and Technical Services	62	\$19,246,985	187	\$1,979
Administrative and Waste Services	36	\$7,567,919	162	\$898
Health Care and Social Assistance	70	\$22,091,614	566	\$751
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	18	\$5,022,137	198	\$488
Accommodation and Food Services	32	\$13,174,649	691	\$367
Other Services, Except Public Administration	51	\$5,057,705	168	\$579

Source: Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD) Labor Market Information Municipal Employment Data

The implications of these employment and industry trends for open space and recreation planning will need to be further explored. More people working at a distance from home and at indoor “cubicle-bound” jobs, and fewer in farming, construction and other outdoor and physically active activities may increase demand for nearby hiking, camping or water sport activities. At the same time the in-migration of people from more urban communities to a perceived semi-rural one may increase demand for landscape preservation, for nearby active recreation resources for youth, and for nearby readily accessible open space for things as simple as a walk in woods or fields after work.

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### **Recent Trends in Open Space Preservation and New Recreation Facilities**

The recent upturn in the real estate market, following extension of the Greenbush commuter rail line in 2007, has strengthened the demand for new homes. The desire to preserve open space, and establish new recreational facilities, can be expected to increase accordingly. Strong development pressure facing the Town makes it more urgent to preserve remaining land, but costs are higher and land may be more difficult to acquire. Overall, the Town's relatively high incomes push the demand for more facilities and open space, although the limited tax base makes it harder to financially support their acquisition and maintenance.

Town residents' deep desire to preserve open space is reflected in the active use of the Community Preservation Act to purchase several parcels of open space in the past five years. These include the following major acquisitions:

- The 20.6 acre Hennessey property (off Bates Lane) – purchased in April 2009 for \$355,200
- The 7.6 Bjorklund property – purchased in April 2010 for \$120,000
- The 47.6 acre Wheelwright property – purchased in April 2010 for \$814,200
- The 5 acre Mirarchi property – purchased in April 2010 for \$35,000
- The 16.3 acre Hubbell property – purchased in April 2011 for \$226,000
- The 4.1 acre Sieminski property – purchased in February 2013 for \$20,000
- The 31.4 Higgins McAllister property – purchased in October 2013 for \$126,960
- The 6 acre Lind property – purchased in January 2014 for \$30,000
- The 39 acre Crosbie property – purchased in December 2014 for \$666,380
- The 30.5 acre Nicholas Wade Preserve – purchased March 2014 for \$152,500
- The 37.7 acre Damon Memorial Preserve – purchased December 2014 for \$754,000

- Two parcels containing 26.8 acres of Maxwell Trust land off Bates Lane – voted at the 2016 annual town meeting for \$389,415
- The .92 acre Hennessey Trust land – voted at the 2016 annual town meeting for \$15,640

In addition, the Scituate Harbor Community Building at 44 Jericho Rd. was purchased with MBTA Mitigation funds.

In recent years, several athletic fields and facilities have been constructed and or renovated including:

- Dedication of Flannery Field
- Completion of new tennis courts at Gates School
- Improvements were made to the PJ Steverman Roller Hockey Rink
- Improvements to three outdoor basketball courts throughout town including Humarock Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funding for a new playground on the Scituate High School campus
- Restoration of the Cape Cod Mercury sailboats for use in Scituate Harbor
- Appropriated funding for Scituate Skatepark
- Appropriated funding for the Cushing Field/High School Girl's field hockey field
- CPC granted the Recreation Commission funding for 3 extensive projects
  - Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funding for a new playground at the WPA Building in North Scituate
  - Rehabilitation and enhancement of the Central Field softball diamonds
  - Installation of lights on the Scituate High School "back fields" and skatepark

The number of users and leagues continues to grow each and every year.

The location and type of new recreational services is suggested by the information above regarding growth trends in different parts of Town, and projected growth by different age groups. An increase in older adults is very likely to occur, and suggests a need for more recreation opportunities geared towards this group. The older population may not be physically capable of strenuous exercise, but will need and appreciate opportunities for moderate exercise with accommodation for many levels of ability.

## **Growth and Development Patterns**

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### **Patterns and Trends in Development**

Maps of Scituate from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries show a pattern of single family homes spread along the Town's large road network. Most of these homes were built near the road, with farms and woodlots behind them. The land behind the main roads was undeveloped, vacant or farmed. In the early to mid-nineteenth Century, the villages of Scituate Harbor and North Scituate began to develop as homes clustered near the centers for fishing or major crossroads where shops served the surrounding community. Except for the modest growth of Scituate Harbor, much of the development occurred inland, away from the water.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the Town's shorelines began to be developed with vacation homes. Properties near the beach were subdivided into small lots to provide opportunities for many homes to be built near the beaches. Small cottages were built along Hatherly Road, in Sand Hills and Shore Acres and in Humarock. On Hatherly near Hood Rd., and in Minot and the Glades, more luxurious summer homes were constructed. This period saw infill with new homes continuing to be built along main roads on the ample land available with street frontage.

In the mid-twentieth Century, Scituate experienced a building boom as Boston residents left the city. Infill continued and subdivisions began to be developed. Zoning was adopted in the mid-twentieth century to give builders guidelines for building in different areas. More summer homes continued to be built near the waterfront. Walnut Tree Hill, Laurelwood, Arborway, Kimberly Estates and other large tracts of land were developed in the late 1990's. During the 1990's and 2000's, changes to Title V, the state regulations governing permitting of new septic systems, allowed homes to be built where they previously would not have been approved. Much of the Town's upland area was used by new homes, and the remaining land includes many sites with poor drainage or close to sensitive wetland areas. Today, large intact parcels of land in Scituate are still subject to strong development pressure due to the high prices they obtain.

Under the Flexible Open Space Development bylaw, the Town can approve development on a portion of a parcel, with the remaining land donated to the Town, a Land Trust or a Homeowners' Association Trust. The development cannot have a greater density than would otherwise be allowed under zoning and subdivision standards in the Town's bylaws.

The Town has encouraged a development pattern of compact growth around existing village centers, as recommended in the 2004 Master Plan. This avoids sprawl and unnecessary consumption of open space in the Town's scenic, rural areas, which often



lack adequate drainage, water mains and access roads. In 2006, Scituate adopted zoning for mixed use in three villages, Greenbush, North Scituate and Scituate Harbor. In 2007, similar zoning was adopted for the center of Humarock. This zoning allowed increased residential densities, which use the existing infrastructure, with a reduction in parking in two villages with transit stations, based on the expected use of commuter rail.

Scituate's development pattern has also been significantly affected by developments approved through Comprehensive Permits issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals under M.G.L. Chapter 40B. Herring Brook Meadow is proposed on Route 3A with 60 units, while Lawson Green a senior housing development with 30 units is planned to start construction within the next year. Stockbridge Landing, a recently approved project, will consume substantial land outside a village or densely developed area and will have 76 units. This type of development, which is very difficult to control, is not consistent with the Town's desires to discourage sprawl and preserve wildlife habitat and scenic open space.

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## Trends in Total Land Use

The table below includes an analysis of the changes in land use in Scituate from 1971 to 1999.

**Table 3.8 Land Use Change from 1971 to 1999 (Acres)**

Type of Land Use	1971	1985	1991	1999	% Change, 1971 to 1999
Agriculture	279.3	245.9	205.3	196.9	-29.5%
Forest	4,450.7	4,313.5	4,173.2	4,037.9	-9.3%
Water	171.6	172.7	172.7	174.8	1.9%
Mining	66.3	56.0	31.3	50.8	-23.5%
Recreation/undeveloped/open space	2,175.3	2,203.6	2,204.7	2,192.2	0.8%
Residential	3,759.2	3,890.7	4,089.5	4,231.4	12.6%
Commercial	89.0	90.8	86.2	89.5	0.5%
Industrial	46.7	53.2	68.4	57.9	23.9%
Transportation	0.0	11.6	6.9	6.9	n/a
Waste disposal	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,050.6</b>	<b>11,050.6</b>	<b>11,050.6</b>	<b>11,050.6</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

Source: MassGIS (2001); McGregor & Associates (2004)

This table shows that the Town has a great deal more forest than agricultural land. From the beginning of the 1970's through the 1990's, there was a steady decline in agricultural and forest land, as farms and woodlands were converted to development. The decrease in land in "Mining", accompanied by the increase in Industrial land,

most likely reflects the loss of Boston Sand and Gravel, which was replaced by the former Landfill together with the new recreational use of Widow's Walk, the municipal golf course. This is probably responsible for the small net increase in recreation and open space uses during this period.

Aside from mining, which represented a one-time Town purchase of land, the Town's highest percent losses for the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's were in the agriculture and forestry categories. Overall, the Town is losing its open space at a significant rate as it becomes developed. The average annual loss of undeveloped, agricultural and forest land was 26.6 acres per year. This is most likely the amount of land consumed each year by new development. Today, there are very few farms left. Those remaining may benefit from using Chapter 61 to provide tax relief on the property, if they are not already doing so. This remaining land represents a valuable potential asset that can be used for open space or recreational purposes.

According to the latest available MassGIS data from 2005, the land use breakdown in Scituate is shown in Table 3.9. Note that because of changes in how MassGIS categorized land use classifications between 1999 and 2005, it is difficult to compare changes over that period of time.

**Table 3.9 2005 Land Use in Scituate (acres)**

Agriculture	174.2
Open Undeveloped Land	83.5
Commercial	81.5
Industrial/Transportation/Mining	114.9
Higher Density Residential	435.4
Medium Density Residential	909.6
Low Density Residential	2,367.0
Urban Open/Institutional/Recreation	621.8
Natural Land/Undisturbed Vegetation	5,710.1
Water	220.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,718.8</b>

Source: MassGIS

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## Infrastructure

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### Transportation system

Route 3A is the major state-numbered highway in Scituate. This road has limited traffic capacity due to its width, yet it has unlimited access points and serves as the principal North-South transportation route through the region. Other main arteries

with relatively high traffic volume or serving as links to Route 3A include Route 123, which connects Route 3A with Norwell; First Parish Rd.; Country Way; and Old Oaken Bucket Rd. Regional commuter transportation is provided by the Greenbush branch of the MBTA commuter rail. The Town has two stations in Greenbush and North Scituate.

Sidewalks are located in the village centers and a few nearby areas. There is strong interest in building new sidewalks both for adults and so children can safely walk to school. The Town constructed a new sidewalk on Hollett St., funded through the federal Safe Routes to School program. A bicycle and pedestrian path on Gannett Rd. was extended to Hatherly Rd., and a similar path on the Driftway was extended to Kent St. Another such path on Country Way from Greenbush to First Parish Rd. has been approved for funding for Phase I to Hughey Road and is currently under construction. A similar path is under construction on Tilden Road from Beaver Dam Road to Willow Circle. Additional funding will be sought to complete the trail to Turner Road. A sidewalk on Stockbridge Road from Vinal Ave. to Bearce Lane was completed in 2013. Phase 2 of the Harbor Walk, an expansion of sidewalk from Scituate Harbor to Cedar Point, has been completed to Lighthouse Rd.

Some dedicated residents proposed a “Grand Loop” bikepath/ sidewalk connecting Country Way, Gannett Rd., Hatherly Rd. and the Driftway. A Sidewalk Plan was developed in 2007, which includes priorities for construction of additional sidewalks throughout the Town. The Town is incrementally working to realize this goal. The Town has also recently adopted (2016) a complete street policy that allows the Town eligibility under MASSDOT for grants for sidewalk and roadway improvements.

The Master Plan contains many goals and objectives supportive of sidewalk and trail systems. The Land Use and Economic Development element describes the desirability of increasing walking as recreation, for the health of Town residents, and to bring customers to local businesses. The Transportation recommendations include Creating and supporting a network of walkways (Recommendation TR-3) and Developing and enhancing bicycle facilities (Recommendation TR-4.) Both contain substantial detail on implementation.

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## **Public Water Supply System**

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### **Public Water Supply Wells**

Approximately 59.5% of the Town’s drinking water is supplied by six public drinking water wells, with a most of the remainder coming from the Reservoir. The water for Humarock is purchased from Marshfield. Municipal wells include Well 18B, on the Widow’s Walk golf course; the Webster’s Meadow wells, 10 and 11, on Cornet Stetson

Rd.; the Stearns Meadow well, 17A on Tack Factory Pond Rd.; Well 22, off Old Forge Rd. and Well 19 (Edison's Station) on Chief Justice Cushing Highway next to Teak Sherman Park. Three wells, 17A, 19 and 22, lie within the First Herring Brook watershed and are influenced by its surface water system. Water taken from Well 17A has been diverted into Old Oaken Bucket Pond to be treated with the surface supply.

Public wells take their water from groundwater, which is held between sand and soil particles in an aquifer underground. The primary source of recharge, or replenishment of the water in the aquifer, is infiltration from precipitation and surface water resources. The land area around a well, above the groundwater it pumps, is called the recharge area. Within these recharge areas, activities on land can impact the groundwater below.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) terms the area where groundwater will reach a well under acute pumping conditions (i.e. pumping at maximum capacity for 180 days without rainfall) the Zone II. This area is the most important to protect, to prevent contamination of public drinking water. To ensure the best possible protection of the public water supplies, the greatest possible amount of open space in the recharge areas to public wells should be permanently preserved in its natural state.

The western part of Scituate including Mt. Hope, Judge's Hill, the Bound Brook headwaters and South Swamp, provides the Town's largest areas of open space. These are linked to large open areas in Hingham, Cohasset and Norwell. Much of the land here is in watersheds critical to protecting public wells and reservoirs in Scituate, Cohasset and Norwell.

The Cohasset and Scituate water supply watersheds overlap in areas north of Clapp Road and within the northwestern edge of the South Swamp. A small part of Scituate is in the watershed to the Aaron River Reservoir. Significant sections of the First Herring Brook and its watershed lie within Norwell. Whether purchased outright or protected through other means, property in this area should be targeted for acquisition or other methods of long-term protection. The important water resources of neighboring towns should be protected as well as those of Scituate, and a coordinated approach to watershed protection must be undertaken.

The Town's water mains are quite old, with many dating prior to 1935. Deposits of manganese have narrowed many of the cast iron pipes. Water main breaks have been a frequent occurrence. Town Meeting allocated \$22,000,000 in 2013 to replace the aging mains. The Town has completed water main work of approximately 15 miles through FY 2016 on Pine View Circle, Country Way, Hatherly Rd, Stenbeck Place/Hazel Ave. /Scituate Harbor, Meeting House Lane, Greenfield Lane, Porter Road, Ford Place, MacDonald Place, Lighthouse Road, Rebecca Road, Ann Vinal Road, Glades Road and Tilden Avenue. 2015 – 2016 waterline replacement work completed or underway includes Elm Street, Cudworth Road, portions of First Parish

Road, Summer Street, portions of Glades Road, Lawson Road, Curtis Street, portions of Branch Street and Captain Peirce Road, portions of Turner Road and Standish Road, Dreamwold Road, Bossy Lane, Garden Road, Scituate Avenue and Damon Road.

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## Public Reservoir

The Reservoir, Old Oaken Bucket and Tack Factory Ponds are impounded sections of the First Herring Brook which make up the Town's surface water supply. Water is treated at the southern end of Old Oaken Bucket Pond, then distributed for private use. Its headwaters are located in the South Swamp, near Scituate's western boundary with Norwell. The South Swamp, together with a large network of tributaries, are the source of the surface water supply. Old Oaken Bucket Pond, its tributaries and their bordering wetlands, including the Reservoir and Tack Factory Pond, have been designated "Outstanding Resource Waters" in 314 CMR 4.00 "Surface Water Quality Standards," and on maps prepared by DEP. These rivers and streams are hydrologically linked to neighboring wetlands and groundwater.

The watershed to a reservoir is the geographic land area where all surface and groundwater flows downhill to the surface water. The most sensitive part of the watershed to a Reservoir is the Zone A, defined as the land area within a 400' lateral distance of the bank of a reservoir, and within 200' of the banks of its tributaries.

Although water from the Reservoir is treated, it is still desirable to keep the level of contaminants entering the system as low as possible. It is extremely important to protect the water quality of the Zone A's, as well as the wetlands and tributaries which are connected with the Town's water supply. Many of these surface waters have other vital roles as wildlife habitat and flood control. The land surrounding the wetlands and streams associated with the surface water supply should be permanently protected from development to limit the potential for contamination, and to provide room for native vegetation and wildlife to thrive.

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## Sewer Service

Through the late 1980's and all of the 1990's, Scituate was unable to connect properties to public sewer following an Administrative Consent Order issued by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in April, 1987. In March, 1996 Town Meeting voted to appropriate the final sums necessary for completion of engineering and design for reconstruction of the treatment plant to eliminate deficiencies and conform to the requirements of the Administrative Order. A referendum for a proposition 2½ override was voted in early 1997 which approved funds for the required construction.

A state-of-the-art Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was constructed in 2000 and has been operating since that time. The Town adopted a Growth and Connection Control Plan to assure that the Town does not connect more homes and businesses to the sewer collection system that can be treated effectively. All new connections are carefully evaluated to make sure they conform to the regulations of the sewer commissioners (Board of Selectmen). Currently, approximately one-third of the Town is served by the sewer collection system.

The Town expanded the sewer collection system expansion program in six phases starting in 2005:

- Phase 1 Greenbush/Reservoir (Districts 23 and 28)
- Phase 2 The Cliffs (Districts 30, 31,32 and 33)
- Phase 3 Musquashcut Pond (District 1A)
- Phase 4 Front Street (Districts 24 and 25)
- Phase 5 North Scituate (Districts 3, 6 and 10)
- Phase 6 Minot (District 1)

Sewer has now been extended to Greenbush; First, Second and Third Cliffs and the area surrounding Musquashcut Pond. The areas west of Route 3A may never be sewerred, because construction is not economically feasible. However, if new development is approved for connection, this could make new building quicker and easier, and accelerate the loss of open space in locations that are newly sewerred.

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## Long Term Development Patterns

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### Local Land Use Controls

The Scituate Zoning Bylaw establishes controls on the use of property in particular Zoning Districts and the dimensions necessary for buildable lots in all districts. The Zoning Map on the following page shows the locations of the Zoning Districts (Map 2).

The Zoning Bylaw has three protective overlay districts where development is prohibited or is strictly controlled:

- A. Salt Marsh and Tideland Conservation District (Section 460) – This district includes many coastal wetlands. Construction is prohibited except for docks, wharves and floats, and filing is prohibited. Municipal parking, recreation and water supply uses are allowed.

- B. Flood Plain and Watershed Protection District (Section 470) - This district consists of areas subject to 100 year flooding. The district predates (1972) the Federal Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) of the Town, so the boundaries do not coincide with the FIRM Zone A. The regulations for this district equal or exceed the requirements of FEMA. Existing structures built before March, 1992 can be improved if a Special Permit is granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals, and new construction requires a finding that the lot is not subject to flooding.
  
- C. Water Resource Protection District (Section 510) - This district includes the surface water supply watershed area (First Herring Brook and the reservoirs) and the recharge areas for the public water supply wells. This district and the accompanying regulations (1988) were designed to minimize the introduction of hazardous or toxic substances and nutrients into the public water supply. The regulations for this district include a 150' non-disturbance buffer zone around the Reservoir and its tributaries that has now been incorporated in the Zoning Map per DEP regulations.

The required dimensions for residential construction in the zoning districts are shown in the table below.

**Table 3.10 Zoning Districts**

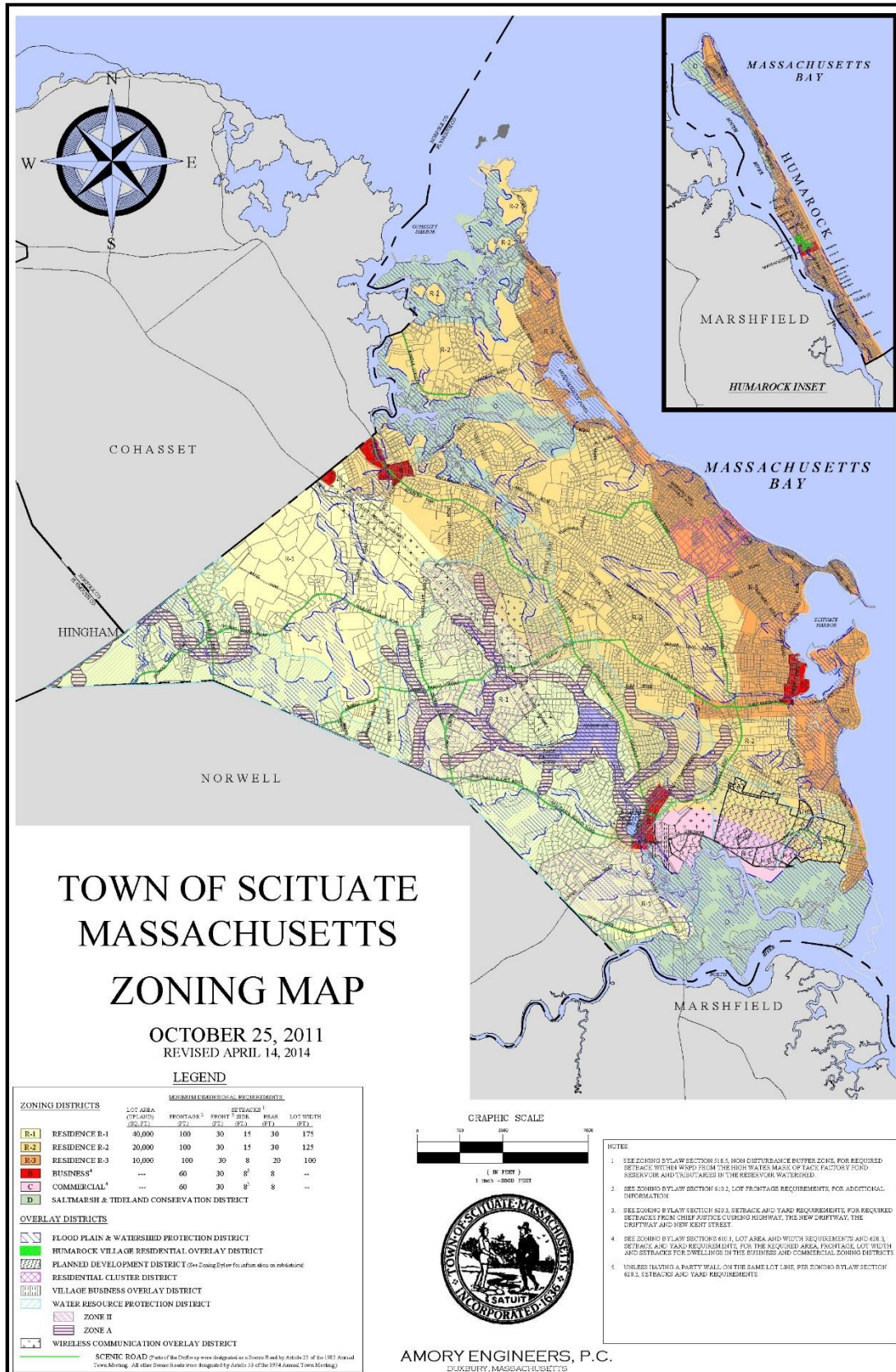
Zoning District	Lot Area	Lot Width	Height	Front Yard	Side Yard	Rear Yard
Residential R-1	40,000 sq. ft.	175'	3 stories/35'	30'	15'	8'
Residential R-2	20,000 sq. ft.	125'	3 stories/35'	30'	15'	8'
Residential R-3	10,000 sq. ft.	100'	3 stories/35'	30'	8'	8'
GB, HB, C	*	100'	3 stories/40'	30'	8'	20'
Village Business Overlay District	**	N/A	3 stories/40'	Varies; includes maximum		Varies; 8' to 15'
Humarock Village Overlay District	30,000 sq. ft.***	N/A	2 ½ stories or 35' to the ridge, whichever is lower	25' public; 8' private	15'	Underlying district setback

\* 10,000 sq. ft. per dwelling unit.

\*\* No minimum; Base residential density in Village Business Overlay District is 16 to 20 units per 40,000 sq. ft.; in Humarock Village overlay District, it is 7 to 8 units per 40,000 sq. ft.

\*\*\* Humaorck Village Overlay District also has a maximum FAR of .425.

## Map 2 Town of Scituate Zoning Map





## Proposed Development - 2009 to 2017

The following table shows new development outside town centers which was approved since the year 2009. This does not include Form A plans used to create one or two additional lots, and does not reflect building on existing lots. This table shows the extent of development in the last five years, from 2009 to 2017, consuming approximately 93 acres of land for an additional 120 dwelling units. The average annual consumption of land over this period was 10 acres per year. This represents a decrease from the rate of consumption of 32 acres per year from 2000 to 2008.

**Table 3.11 New Development Proposed Since 2009**

Year Approved	Name	# of New Lots/Units	Acres	Zoning District	Type of Development
2009	87-103 Tilden Rd.	3	2.59	R-2	Form A, Common Driveway
2009	The Glen	10	10	R-1	Flexible Open Space Development
2009	4 Cushing Rd.	3	3.12	R-1	Form A, Common Driveway
2009	Village at South River	14	1.69	R-3	Special Permit, Zoning Board of Appeals
2010	253 Country Way	1	6.05	R-2	Form A, Common Driveway
2010	Ingrid Lane	2	4.12	R-3	Definitive Plan
2011	556-562 First Parish Rd.	2	4.54	R-2	Form A, Common Driveway
2011	Tilden Estates	15	14.97	R-2	Flexible Open Space Development
2011	163, 165 & 167 Stockbridge Rd.	3	2.67	R-2	Form A, Common Driveway
2012	277/283 Chief Justice Cushing Highway	2	2.40	R-2	Form A, Common Driveway
2013	543/543R Country Way	2	1.43	R-2	Form A, Common Driveway
2014	Benjamin Studley Farm	8	14.7	R-1	Flexible Open Space Development
2014	White Ash Farm	2	4.25	R-1	Flexible Open Space Development
2014	Blanchard Farm Estates	10	7.5	R-2	Definitive Plan
2014	Colonel Mansfield Estates	1	1.78	R-1	Definitive Plan Modification
2015	Greenbush Station	30	1.41	Bus/VBOD VVBVBOD	Mixed Use Special Permit
2015	35 Dreamwold Rd.	3	4.05	R-2	Form A, Common Driveway
2015	Aquinnah Path	3	1.4	R-2	Form A, Stormwater Permit
2016	81 Mann Lot/Creelman Drive	3	1.88	R-2	Form A
2016	101, 103, 105 & 107 Hatherly	3	2.91	R-3	Residential Compound, Form A
2016	182-186 First Parish Rd.	3	1.63	R-2	Form A
2016	704 Country Way	1	2.81	R-2	Form A, Common Driveway
2017	0 Mann Hill Rd.	3	2.39	R-2	Form A
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>100.29</b>		

## **Conclusion**

Scituate has zoning, health and wetlands regulations, but these cannot stop the pressures of development nor can they completely deter development on marginal land. The present

rural environment of Scituate is defined by the remaining open space. Unless available open space is acquired, there will be a vast impact on wildlife habitat. The Town's ocean views and vistas of deep woods, which are essential to its character, will continue to diminish. As new building continues, and open land decreases, it becomes increasingly important to protect open space to maintain the Town's character, protect public water supplies, and provide adequate recreational resources. The Town of Scituate has a limited time to act before the character of the community is determined for the foreseeable future.

# 4

## Environmental Inventory and Analysis

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### Geology, Soils, and Topography

Scituate's geologic setting provides the foundation of the Town's landscape and topography (see Map 3). The streams, ponds, wetlands, coastline and aquifers in Scituate all reflect its geologic history. From a planning perspective, knowledge of Scituate's geology provides the basic framework needed to understand the land's constraints and opportunities for development. Decisions related to important issues such as septic system suitability, watershed protection and ground water supply are dependent upon Town officials' understanding of Scituate's geologic formations.

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### Bedrock Geology

The bedrock underlying Scituate consists primarily of plutonic igneous rock, such as granite and granodiorite. Dedham granodiorite, over three hundred and fifty (350) million years old, is the most common of these igneous rock types. In general, the depth of bedrock ranges from fifty (50) feet to over eighty (80) feet near the intersection of First Parish Road and Route 3A. However, granitic bedrock is exposed at the ground surface along Route 3A near Booth Hill Road and Country Way, as well as off the coast adjacent to the Minot section of Scituate.

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### Surficial Geology

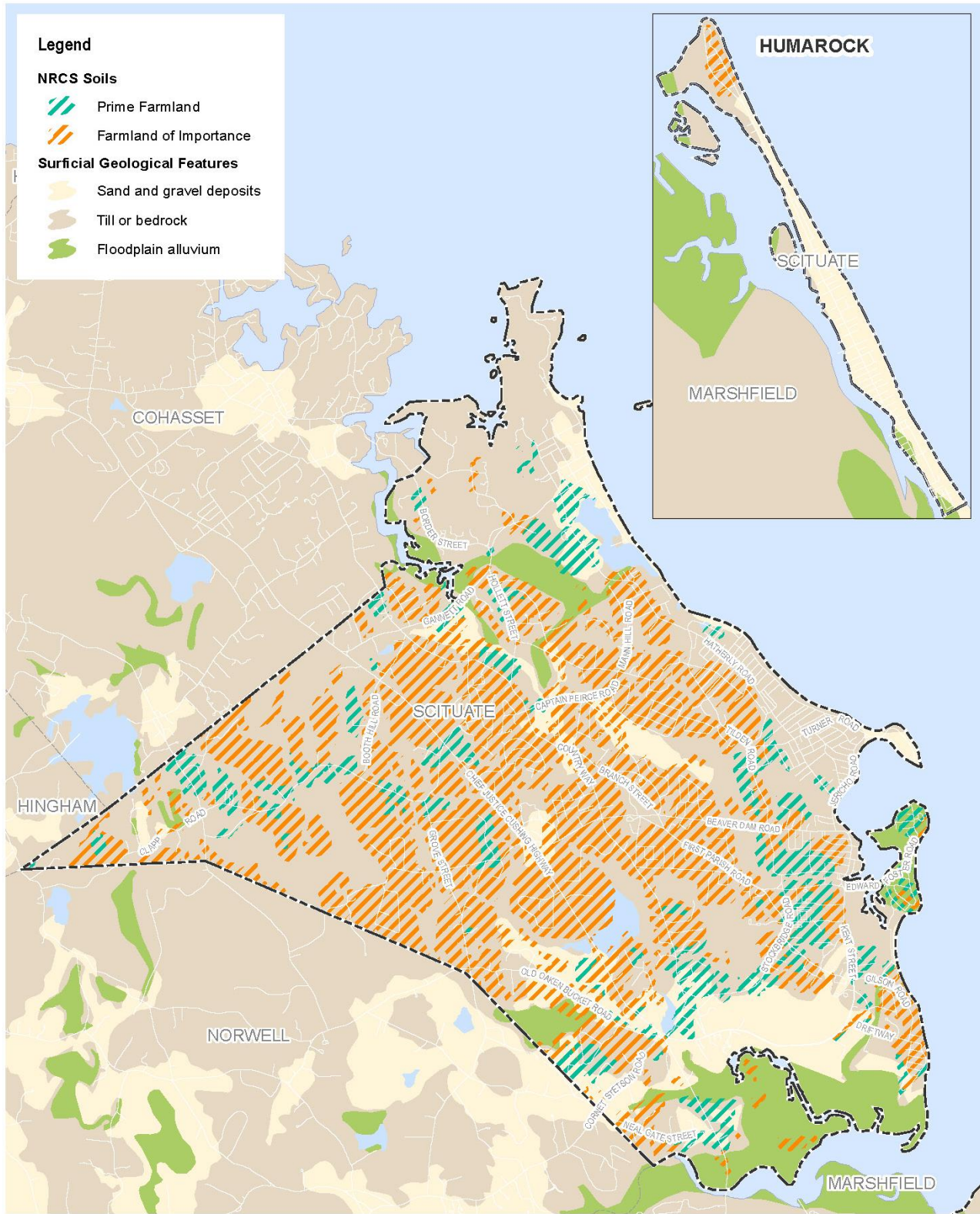
The surficial geologic deposits are the product of the last continental glaciation. Glacial processes deposited sediments ranging from unsorted mixtures of sand, silt, clay and boulders (till) to well-sorted, stratified sands and gravel (outwash). Glacial

till is the predominant surficial geologic deposit in Scituate. Much of the north, northeastern and western sections of Scituate are underlain by a compact till comprised of an unsorted mixture of silt, sand and boulder gravel (Williams and Tasker, 1974). Glacial till was molded by the continental ice sheet into smooth, ellipsoidal hills and deposited as low, rolling, boulder-strewn ground moraine on slopes and in valleys. These deposits are generally characterized as fairly dense with low permeability, high runoff potential, and low water-bearing capacity.

In many places, the underlying layer of till may be hard and compacted, forming a hardpan which limits the downward movement of water and roots. The presence of an impermeable hardpan can be an important factor in site planning because it can restrict the use of a site for on-site septic disposal to the extent that central areas are so impacted that no development can reasonably occur. Glacial till overlying stratified deposits of sand, gravel or silt and clay are common, particularly in the southeastern section of Scituate.

The four cliffs along the coastline of Scituate are comprised of undifferentiated stratified deposits overlain by till molded into ellipsoidal hills, called drumlins. Other till uplands in Scituate include: Doctor's Hill, Brushy Hill, Pincin Hill, and Walnut Hill. Limited amounts of stratified sands and gravels (outwash) occur in Scituate. The primary areas underlain by outwash include the Old Oaken Bucket Road and Driftway areas, Satuit Brook, and the Clapp Corner area in Scituate's West End. These deposits are comprised of well-sorted, coarse-grained to medium-grained sands and gravels up to seventy-five (75) feet in thickness. Stratified drift deposits are moderately to highly permeable, with good water-bearing capacity and low runoff rates. Scituate's water supply aquifers occur in stratified drift deposits. The wetlands and cranberry bogs in Scituate are most commonly underlain by stratified drift.

There are numerous bowl-shaped depressions or kettle holes found throughout Scituate, which were created when large blocks of ice were detached from the glacier and subsequently buried by outwash sediments. As the ice melted, the sediments collapsed into the holes, forming depressions. Many of these depressions intersect the water table forming kettle ponds, such as Old Oaken Bucket and Tack Factory Ponds. Postglacial deposits, such as salt marsh and dune deposits, have also formed in Scituate over the last several thousand years. The thickest salt marsh peat deposits have likely accumulated in salt marshes associated with the North River Estuary. Well-sorted gravel and fine to coarse sands have been deposited and reworked by wave action, forming coastal beaches along Scituate's shoreline.



Open Space and Recreation Plan

Town of Scituate, Massachusetts

Soils and Geological Features

Source: MassGIS

## Soils

Soils are the thin layer of naturally-occurring unconsolidated materials overlying the glacial deposits described above. Soils in the Town of Scituate were mapped and classified by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) (now the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)) as part of a soil survey of Plymouth County (SCS, 1969). Soils in Scituate can be grouped into five associations based on development limitations and future land use. The five soil associations identified in Scituate are as follows:

### ***A. Tidal Marsh-Norwell-Muck-Brockton Association***

These are poorly-drained to very poorly-drained soils which occur in inland and coastal low-lying areas such as swamps and salt marshes. Tidal marsh peat forms through the accumulation of dead plant matter (e.g., Salt Meadow Cord grass) and tidally-deposited fine-grained sediments. Muck forms in a similar way, although the plant matter is more highly decomposed and deposition generally occurs in a non-tidal environment. Norwell and Brockton series are poorly-drained and very poorly-drained soils formed in sandy and stony glacial till, which is derived mainly from granite or gneiss. This association occurs in approximately thirty-seven percent (37%) of the Town. In addition to the swamps and tidal marshes, these soils occur along stream drainages and within flat areas at higher elevations. This soil association provides substrates suitable for the development of rich wildlife habitat. Many of the inland tracts in this association are forested wetland, and are severely limited for any land use other than open space due to the presence of high water tables over much of the year.

### ***B. Scituate-Essex-Gloucester Association***

The Scituate-Essex-Gloucester Association are deep, nearly level to moderately steep, moderately well-drained to well-drained soils formed in glacial till; and nearly level, somewhat excessively-drained soils eventually formed sand and gravel. The Essex and Scituate soils occupy the uplands, and the Merrimac soils occupy nearly level plains and terraces. This association occurs over approximately forty percent (40%) of the Town. The prevailing land uses for this soil association are undeveloped woodland and residential development. These soils hold sufficient moisture for plant growth during the growing season. Stones and boulders are abundant at or below the ground surface, although they have been removed from some tracts that were farmed. Seepage is prevalent throughout the association because of the low permeability of the underlying till. Development constraints do arise in areas of commercial and residential development where public sewage disposal is not available.

### ***C. Hollis-Charlton Association***

The Hollis series consist of somewhat excessively-drained soils, comprised of stony glacial till in areas of shallow bedrock. The Charlton series are deep, well-drained

soils that formed in glacial till derived from metamorphic lithologies such as mica schist, phyllite or gneiss. Landscapes underlain by these soils are characterized by small, irregular hills with numerous bedrock outcrops interspersed with low-lying muck-filled depressions. Slopes range from gentle to steep. Approximately seven percent (7%) of Scituate is underlain by the Hollis- Charlton Association. This soil association provides relatively good recreational value (e.g., hiking trails) and wildlife habitat. The frequent bedrock outcrops interfere with the placement of service lines and sewage disposal systems. When residential dwellings are proposed, great care needs to be exercised in locating suitable pockets of soil sufficiently large and deep to dispose of sewage effluent. Only a small quantity of groundwater can be obtained from wells drilled in these soils. However, water resources can be susceptible to pollution where the soil thickness is insufficient to provide adequate treatment.

#### ***D. Merrimac-Agawam-Hinckley Association***

These soils are droughty, somewhat excessively-drained to well-drained soils that formed either in thick deposits of glacio-fluvial sand and gravel derived mainly from granite and gneiss (Merrimac and Hinckley soils) or in sands overlying silt (Agawam). This association occupies approximately eight percent (8%) of the land area in Scituate. Landscapes comprised of these soils consist of nearly level plains, irregular hills and serpentine ridges (i.e., eskers). Water easily percolates through these loose, coarse soils, resulting in little surface runoff following the most common precipitation events. Moisture retention is low, making this association optimal for crop growth.

The Merrimac-Agawam-Hinckley Association is a good source of commercial grade sand and gravel (e.g., Coleman Hills). Significant quantities of groundwater for residential, commercial and industrial use can be obtained for wells located in these soils. Water moves rapidly downward through these porous, sandy soils allowing them to easily absorb sewage effluent. However, the highly permeable substrata provide little filtering action (i.e., treatment) and these soils may present a pollution problem for water supplies obtained from nearby shallow wells.

#### ***E. Coastal Beach Association***

The Coastal Beach Association is comprised of unconsolidated sand and gravel deposits that are subject to marine wave and tidal action. This association also includes eolian, or dune deposits that form immediately landward of the coastal beach. Approximately five percent (5%) of Scituate is comprised of the Coastal Beach Association. Littoral transport along Scituate's shoreline is primarily to the south. Erosion of these deposits occurs mainly during periods of strong wave action generated by northeast winds coupled with storm surges. The excessive permeability of these soils may preclude adequate treatment of septic effluent resulting in pollution of groundwater and surface water. Active and passive recreational activities are most appropriate for these areas.

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## Distribution of Soil Associations

The above referenced soil associations are distributed in specific parts of Scituate. The poorly- drained to very poorly-drained Tidal-Marsh-Norwell-Muck-Brockton Association occurs within low-lying areas, such as wetlands in the West End (e.g., South Swamp), and the Kent Street and Driftway salt marshes. The moderately well-drained to well-drained Scituate-Essex-Gloucester Association occurs in the West End of Scituate and in Scituate Center. This association also comprises the scenic cliffs along the southeastern Scituate shoreline. The Hollis-Charlton Association, characterized by numerous bedrock outcrops, is found only in the northern end of Scituate (i.e., north of Musquashcut Pond). The Coleman Hills, largely removed by past mining operations, comprise the single largest track of the somewhat excessively-drained to well-drained Merrimac-Agawam-Hinckley Association. The Coastal Beach Association occurs along Scituate's outer shore, where waves have reworked glacial sediments into beach deposits.

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## Septic Disposal Suitability

Many soils have properties which limit their use for subsurface disposal of sanitary wastes. The major soil-related limitations influencing the installation and functioning of septic tanks include: (1) shallow depth to bedrock; (2) shallow depth to the water table; (3) slow percolation rate due to compact, impermeable soils, or hardpan; (4) steep slopes; and (5) periodic flooding. Based on these criteria, the SCS has rated the soils in Plymouth County according to the suitability for septic systems.

Approximately eighty-five percent (85%) of the Town falls within the category of "severe" or "very severe", indicating that the soil properties generally preclude use of on-site disposal systems without major and costly corrective measures. However, approximately seventy-two percent (72%) of Scituate's residences are still using on-site septic systems. It is evident from this information, and other studies previously conducted for Scituate, that when planning for future growth, the Town should give special consideration to the existing and potential problems associated with septic systems. Soil properties are not the only cause of such problems. Other contributing factors may include housing density, poor maintenance of existing systems and, in previous years, inadequate sizing of new system designs.

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## Farmlands

The SCS identified three categories of farmland for the Town of Scituate including: (1) prime farmland; (2) farmland of state and local importance; and (3) cranberry bogs under production (SCS, 1986). The classification of prime farmland soils is based upon the susceptibility to erosion and flooding, acceptable pH, lack of excessive stoniness and favorable climatic conditions for agricultural purposes. Prime farmland soils must also be available for use as crop land, pasture land or forest land, and therefore not be urbanized or under water. State or locally important farmland soils



are those that “fail to meet one or more of the requirements of prime farmland, but are important for the production of food, feed, fiber, or forage crops. They include those soils that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Because the soils best suited for agriculture are generally well-suited for competing uses, the preservation of productive soils, which are an important part of the Town’s identity and quality, requires the implementation of strong land management policies.

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## Landscape Character

The Town of Scituate is divided into four geographical sections: the West End, the central section, the north, and the south. The West End is the part of Town that lies west of Route 3A. This area is located within the watersheds of Bound Brook and First Herring Brook and contains several wetlands, including the Town’s most significant wetland area, South Swamp. What makes the West End unique compared to the rest of Scituate is its woodland setting and rolling hills that preserve the quiet rural character of this once sleepy coastal Town.

The northern part of Town includes North Scituate Village and Minot Village. Most of this section of Town is within the Musquashcut Brook watershed, a tidal waterway that drains into Cohasset Harbor. The coastline of North Scituate is characterized by sand and cobble beaches, expansive salt marshes and rocky shoreline. Strawberry Point, known as the Glades, is bound by steep, bedrock ledges up to 30 feet high, and its shores are lined with a number of bedrock islands. Extensive salt marshes occur within the sheltered bay (Cohasset Harbor) landward of Strawberry Point, and penetrate inland along Musquashcut Brook and its tributaries. Minot Beach and North Scituate Beach, coarse-grained beaches anchored by bedrock headlands, are located south of Strawberry Point. The Musquashcut Pond barrier beach, which protects Musquashcut Pond, is part of Minot Beach.

The central section of Scituate encompasses the areas just north and south of Scituate Harbor. It lies within the watershed of Satuit Brook, which discharges into Scituate Harbor. The coastline is characterized by sand and cobble beaches, including Egypt Beach and Peggotty Beach. First and Second Cliffs, along with Cedar Point, shelter Scituate Harbor from ocean waves. Inland areas are characterized by rolling hills and a number of wetlands.

The southern part of Scituate is located within the First Herring Brook watershed. It is bordered by the North River, and is home to Third and Fourth Cliffs, two of the most prominent coastal features in Scituate. Both cliffs offer spectacular views of Massachusetts Bay and the mouth of the North and South Rivers.

The Coleman Hills, located north of the North River Estuary, is another prominent landscape feature. This area of sand and gravel deposits was formerly much more extensive, but was strip mined largely for fill material to construct Logan International Airport. This area has since been transformed into a municipal golf course.

Humarock Beach is a three mile barrier beach that lies south of the mouth of the North and South Rivers, anchored at the northern tip by Fourth Cliff. Along with the South Swamp, these two areas lie within protected watershed areas for Scituate and Cohasset. Humarock and South Swamp both act as a recharge area for the Aaron River Reservoir, a water source for the Town of Cohasset. (Flood Mitigation Plan, 2001)

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## Landscape Preservation

The Town has been successful in staving off development over the years in many of these unique landscapes. In the 1990's, a long court battle was fought to protect an ancient by-way known as Bates Lane, from a series of proposed developments. The Town has purchased several significant tracts of land adjacent to Bates Lane. As the Town becomes more heavily developed over time, especially with increased accessibility to and from Boston on the Green Line, it is more critical than ever to protect open space within the watershed.

The Bound Brook flows through Cohasset and Scituate, providing habitat for alewife and blueback herring runs. Much of the area surrounding it is undisturbed, except for the MBTA parking lot in North Scituate that borders it. The MBTA installed drainage in an effort to control and mitigate the impact of stormwater runoff on the Bound Brook, but this area will need to be monitored over time to control the impacts of this development.

The hugely popular and equally fragile barrier beach, known as the Spit, is another area in need of stronger protection. This 160-acre sandbar is a popular place for local boaters to anchor. Extending into the mouth of the river from Scituate's Third Cliff, low tide unveils a stretch of sand to walk, dock, and recreate on. There is currently a Coastal Waterbird monitoring program run by the Audubon Society throughout the summer months to track and protect Plover and Tern habitat from the summer traffic. However, management of the area must be strengthened in order to minimize the impact of the thousands of visitors that crowd its shoreline each year.

The Scituate Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Scituate Sanitary Landfill lie along First Herring Brook, a tributary to the North River. Through the joint efforts of the Town and the North and South River Watershed Association, the Wastewater Treatment Plant is now a state of the art, tertiary treatment facility that uses ultraviolet light to eliminate microorganisms in the effluent before it is discharged. The Sanitary Landfill was capped in 2001, and solid waste is now transported out-of-

town for disposal. In addition to these actions, many of the Town's cesspools and septic systems were replaced. Since these improvements were made, clam beds have regained their health and have begun to be re-opened.

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## Cultural Landscapes of Scituate

Before the 19th century, the North River was known across the globe for its famous shipbuilding industry and its colony of sailors, the "Men of Kent", who settled in Scituate, Massachusetts, within five years of the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth. They saw the lush green marshlands and primeval forests hugging Scituate's harbor, and decided that it would be ideal for farming and trade.

Scituate's first farmstead was sown by Nathaniel Tilden in 1626 on the slopes of Third Cliff, overlooking the marshes of the North River. Others also settled behind their cliffs, cleared their farms and established trade, not only with Plymouth and Boston but also with England. Some of them worked their farms part of the year and fished during the rest of it. Next to farming, Scituate's fishing fleets were its greatest investment, and industry which reached its height during the Civil War.

Vacant pastures dot the Scituate landscape, existing as evidence of the Town's agricultural heritage. Many of these rolling fields can be found along Clapp and Old Oaken Bucket Roads where the famous poet, Samuel Woodworth, resided and wrote many well-known poems in the 18th century.

The Men of Kent used the North River and its harbor for sailing and docking their ships, but they also used its surrounding marshlands to build their ships. Before 1800, the North River was renowned for its ship-building industry. In those days, its forests were rich in white oak timber, windswept cedar, and offered a favorable depth of water at high and low tide.

The village center sprang up around Kent Street, a road that still wends its way around the marshes from Third Cliff down to the Harbor. From this main by-way, the settlers cleared the forests back to build their homes, a meeting house and cemetery, defining the township center. At that time, the township of Scituate extended as far inland as present-day Abington, encompassing parts of Pembroke, Hanover and Cohasset, all of Norwell and two miles south beyond the North River into what is now Marshfield. This latter stretch is still known to locals as "Two Mile." (Scituate Historical Society)

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## Water Resources

Scituate's water resources include coastal and inland wetlands as well as aquifer recharge areas. Coastal wetlands such as beaches serve as passive and active recreation areas. Salt marshes and estuaries provide habitat for many species of wildlife and the juvenile forms of fish and shellfish important to the commercial fishing industry. They also act as flood control structures tempering the effects of coastal flooding. Inland wetlands provide habitat for many species of plants and animals. They are key elements in production and storage of the Town's domestic water supply. In addition, their function as aquifer recharge and water storage areas is essential to the quality of life for Scituate residents. Finally, just as coastal wetland areas act as buffers to the negative effects of storms and flooding, so do inland wetlands (see Map 4).

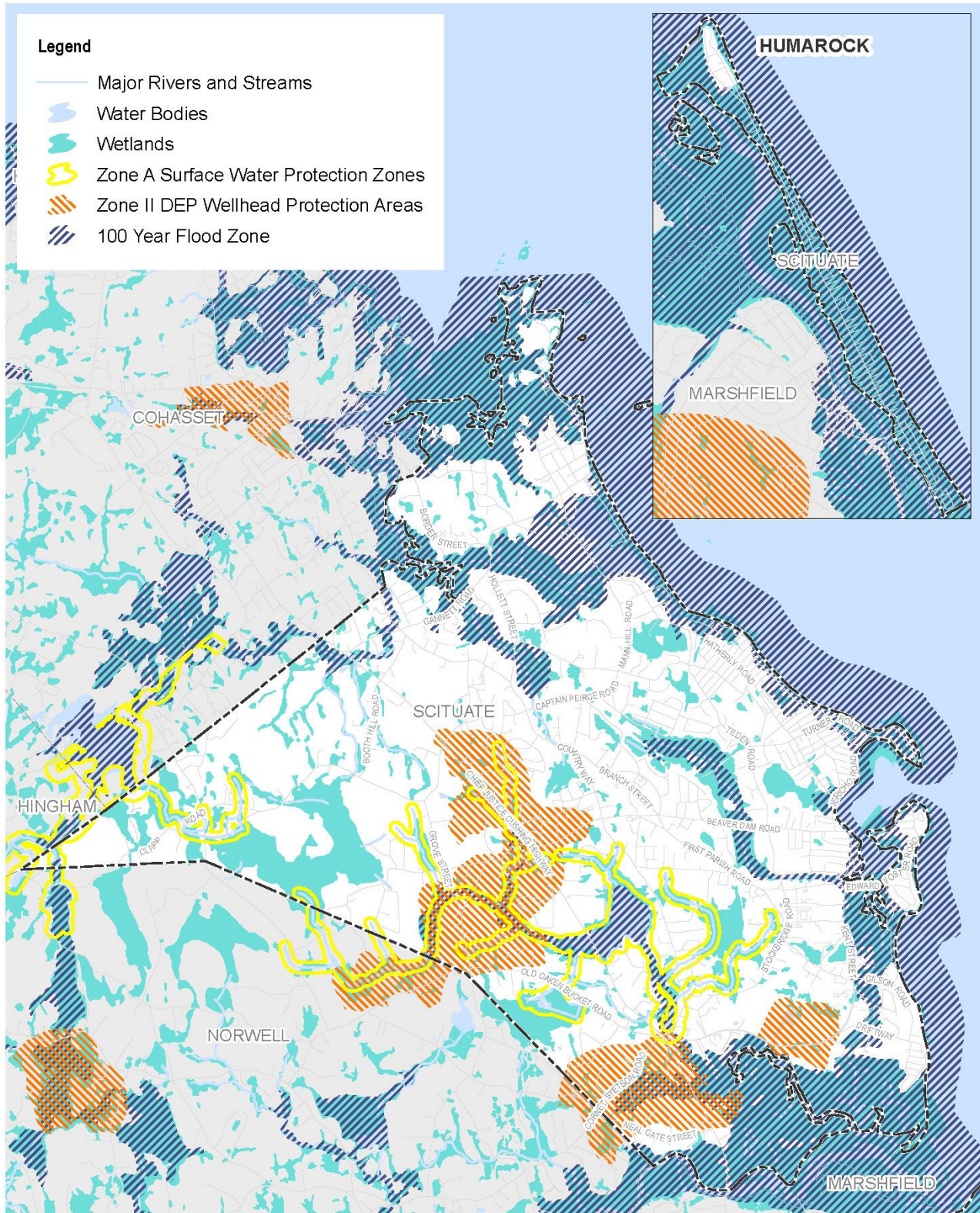
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### Coastal Water Resources

The principal water resource of the Town of Scituate is Massachusetts Bay. Scituate enjoys seven miles of coastline facing northeasterly on the bay. The Town is also bound on the northwest by Cohasset Harbor and on the southwest by the tidal estuaries of the North and South Rivers. Scituate Harbor is the largest port for recreational boating between Boston and Cape Cod. Scituate has five recreational beaches along the coast: Humarock Beach, Peggotty Beach, Sandhill Beach, Egypt Beach, Minot Beach (Glades Road End), and Minot Beach (Well Rock End). Public use of these beaches is constrained by the limited parking area available. Each of the beaches is located in the High Density A-3 Residence Zone. The land within walking distance of the beaches, with the exception of tidal wetlands and present parking areas, is substantially occupied by residences on lots of ten thousand (10,000) square feet or less.

#### **A. Barrier Beaches**

Scituate boasts a number of barrier beaches that are not as accessible as the beaches listed above, but are aesthetically valuable and ecologically critical to protect. Barrier beaches are narrow, low-lying strips of land generally consisting of coastal beaches and coastal dunes extending roughly parallel to the trend of the coast. They are separated from the mainland by a relatively narrow body of fresh, brackish or saline water, or by a salt marsh system. A barrier beach may be joined at the mainland at one or both ends. Scituate's barrier beaches are listed in Coastal Zone Management's Barrier Beach Inventory Report with a total of approximately three hundred and twenty-three (323) acres (Hankin et. al, 1985). The Humarock/Rexhame barrier beach is the sixteenth largest barrier beach landform in Massachusetts and is attached to the mainland at the southern end (IEP, 1988). Other significant barrier beaches include:



Open Space and Recreation Plan

Town of Scituate, Massachusetts

**Water Resources**

Source: MassGIS

- On the Glades peninsula south of Strawberry Point;
- Minot Beach from gate to 300' south of Bailey's Causeway;
- Minot Beach from Mitchell Ave. to Egypt Beach;
- Egypt Beach to Bradford Ave;
- Shore Acres/Sand Hill Beach from Seventh Ave. to the southerly end of Rebecca Road;
- The beach along Edward Foster Road between First and Second Cliffs;
- Peggotty Beach;
- The Spit (Rivermoor); and
- Humarock Beach except Fourth Cliff.

Storm damage prevention and flood control are two of the most important values of the barrier beaches. The sands of a barrier beach can absorb the force of storm waves, and the reshaping of beaches and dunes by waves provides material to beaches down-current and eases the effects of erosion (IEP, 1988). In Scituate, long stretches of barrier beaches have been extensively developed, increasing the potential for flood damage as well as erosion.

Although large sections of Scituate's barrier beaches are already extensively developed, they continue to provide excellent protection against flooding of more inland areas. They remain fragile and prone to erosion, and new building in these locations should be avoided to the greatest extent possible. It is important for the Town to continue its strong enforcement of local, state and federal building codes to make sure any improvements on the barrier beaches are able to withstand flooding to the greatest extent possible.

### ***B. Coastal Water Quality***

Through the 305(b) Water Quality Assessment process, DEP periodically rates water quality for coastal surface waters, estuaries and river segments according to use classes. These designations, used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies, classify water bodies according to appropriate uses. In 2012, DEP published the Massachusetts Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM) Guidance Manual. The manual contains a summary of Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS) that define the goal for water quality in the Commonwealth, the requirements for assessing the quality of data to be used for the Clean Water Act (CWA) reporting and the methods for reviewing data and information used by DEP to make use assessment decisions.

DEP stores its assessment and listing decisions in the Assessment Database (ADB) the EPA's preferred data base application for tracking water quality assessment data,

including use attainment and causes and sources of impairment. EPA approved the Final Mass Year 2012 Integrated List of Waters on 5/2/13. The 2014 Integrated List assigns assessment units (AU's) to one of the following five categories depending on their status with respect to designated uses:

- 1) Unimpaired and not threatened for all designated uses;
- 2) Unimpaired for some uses and not assessed for others;
- 3) Insufficient information to make assessments for any uses;
- 4) Impaired or threatened for one or more uses, but not requiring the calculation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL); or
- 5) Impaired or threatened for one or more uses and requiring a TMDL.

Table 4.1 includes the 2014 AU's for Scituate and sources of impairment as well as the 2013 SWQS:

**Table 4.1 Scituate Coastal Water Quality**

Salt Water Body	Use Class	Pollutants (Sources)
Cohasset Harbor	SA/Category 5	Fecal coliform
The Gulf	SB/Category 5	Fecal coliform)
Scituate Harbor	SA/Category 5	Fecal coliform

River or River Segment or Pond	Use Class	Pollutants (Sources)
North River – above 3A	SA/Category 5	Fecal coliform/Mercury in Fish tissue
North River – below 3A	SA/Category 5	Fecal coliform
Bound Brook	B/Category 5	Turbidity/Fish passage barrier (TMDL not reqd.)
First Herring Brook (from headwaters to OOB Pond)	Category 2	Aesthetics, fish & other aquatic life and recreation uses attained
Herring River	Category 5	Fecal coliform
South River (dam at Marshfield to confluence w/ North River)	SA/Category 5 /ORW	Fecal coliform
Old Oaken Bucket Pond	A/Category 5 PWS	Non-native aquatic plants (TMDL not reqd.) total phosphorus
Musquashcut Pond	Category 5	Other flow regime alterations (TMDL not reqd.), chlorophyll-a, dissolved oxygen saturation, fecal coliform, excess algal growth
Tack Factory Pond	Category 2	Aesthetics, fish & other aquatic life and recreation used attained

Source: DEP Final MA YR 2014 Integrated List of Waters and 2013 DEP 314 CMR 4.0 Surface Water Quality Standards

“SA” is the highest quality salt water designation and means that dissolved oxygen is not less than 6.0 mg/L and average levels of coliform bacteria do not exceed 70 coliform per 100 ml. These waters are approved for swimming and boating. “SB” is a

lower rating for salt water, reflecting dissolved oxygen not less than 5.0 mg/L and 200 coliform per 100 ml, with more variability in pH than SA (314 CMR). These waters may be used for boating but not swimming. "B" is a fresh water designation of water which is acceptable for swimming and boating, but is not of high enough quality for use as a drinking water supply.

The construction of sanitary sewers around Scituate Harbor has greatly improved pollution of the harbor in wintertime. Two sewer pumpouts for boats in the harbor have been installed at the Harbormaster's building. Regular water quality testing shows low fecal coliform counts. In addition, as noted above, Scituate has upgraded the Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet state and federal requirements.

It is important to maintain a high level of water quality in all of Scituate's coastal waters to preserve the integrity of coastal ecosystems, maintain their quality for boating and swimming, and keep them appealing to residents, boaters and visitors to the Town's waterfront.

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## Surface Water Resources

Scituate has sufficient water resources to provide an adequate supply at build-out, if no present source is lost. In 1988, IEP, Inc. completed a Water Resource Protection Study for the Town of Scituate. This study mapped the aquifer recharge areas of the Town. It also contained a proposed zoning bylaw to create a Water Resources Protection District. The Bylaw, which consists of an overlay map and regulations, was intended to minimize the risks of pollution, and was passed by the 1979 Annual Town Meeting. Updated studies and updated bylaws have been completed as recently as 2014.

Old Oaken Bucket Pond, Tack Factory Pond, the Reservoir and their watersheds and tributaries, along with the groundwater underlying Scituate, are the primary sources of Scituate's existing and future drinking water supply. Together, these resources provide approximately twenty percent (20%) of the Town's municipal water. They receive water originating in the South Swamp, and from a network of tributaries, including the First Herring Brook. The South Swamp, near Scituate's western boundary with Norwell, contains the headwaters for First Herring Brook. These rivers and streams are hydrologically linked to neighboring wetlands and groundwater.

Contamination of one part of the system can affect the water quality of the other connected resources. Accidental spills, discharges of petroleum products and other toxic and hazardous materials, and sewage discharge continue to threaten the quality of Scituate's groundwater surface water resources. Contamination of the water supply poses potential public health and safety hazards and potential economic losses for the community.



## Groundwater Resources

The Town of Scituate's drinking water has several sources: six wells, the Old Oaken Bucket Pond, the Tack Factory Pond Reservoir system, and the Town of Marshfield (which supplies water to Humarock). Approximately eighty percent (80%) of the Town's drinking water is supplied by six public drinking water wells. These wells tap the groundwater, or underground water supply, located within the stratified drift aquifer underlying the Town. The groundwater in this aquifer is classified "Class A" by the DEP. This designation means it is of high quality and suitable for use for public drinking water.

Scituate's municipal drinking water wells include Well 18B, on the Widow's Walk golf course; the Webster's Meadow wells, 10 and 11, on Cornet Stetson Rd.; the Stearns Meadow well, 17A, on Tack Factory Pond Rd.; Well 22, off Old Forge Rd., and Well 19 (Edison's Station) on Chief Justice Cushing Highway next to Teak Sherman Park. Three wells, 17A, 19 and 22 lie within the First Herring Brook watershed and are influenced, through infiltration, by its surface water system. Water drawn from Well 17A has been diverted into Old Oaken Bucket Pond to be treated with the surface supply. Well 2A, the Kent Street well, is used for irrigation at the golf course. It does not provide drinking water due to low capacity and poor quality.

Another potential water source might be created by the expansion of the Reservoir and associated ponds, which could be accomplished through dredging. Sites for new wells are limited due to the Town's small acreage of suitable undeveloped land.

The land area above the area of influence to a groundwater well, or that drains to a surface supply, is called the recharge area. Within these recharge areas, activities on land can impact the quality of groundwater below. DEP terms the area where groundwater will reach a well under acute pumping conditions (i.e. pumping at maximum capacity for one hundred and eighty (180) days without rainfall) the Zone II. The Zone III is defined as the entire area where groundwater or surface water drains towards the Zone II. The Zone IIs and Zone IIIs to Scituate's Wells 10, 11, 19, and 22 were delineated by Earth Tech, Inc. in 2000. A single Zone II was defined for Wells 10 and 11 which are close together, approximately 600 feet apart, as well as Wells 19 and 22, which are separated by 1,300 feet.

The primary source of recharge, or replenishment of the water in the aquifer, is infiltration from precipitation and surface water resources. As mentioned at the beginning of this section, Scituate has two predominant types of surficial geology, stratified drift and glacial till, with differing abilities to absorb precipitation. Recharge in the stratified drift is unrestricted and occurs at a relatively high rate compared to the low recharge rates found in glacial till areas. The Zone IIs contain areas with high permeability associated with their geologic deposits, which readily replenishes the quantity of water, but there is also a greater probability of contaminants being transported through their soils to the aquifer tapped by the wells. To ensure the protection of the public water supplies, it is important to identify and

manage the land use and the soils in the areas which provide recharge to the pumping wells (McGregor & Associates, et.al. 2004).

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## **Watersheds**

The watershed to a reservoir is the geographic land area where all surface and groundwater flows down slope into the surface water and ultimately, into the aquifer underground. These pathways converge into streams and rivers, which become progressively larger as the water moves on downstream, eventually reaching an estuary and the ocean. The portion of the watershed that is most vulnerable to contamination is termed the Zone A. The Zone A is defined as the land area within a 400' distance from the bank of a reservoir, and within 200' of the banks of its tributaries. The Zone B is the area within a half mile of the reservoir. The rest of the land area in the watershed is termed the Zone C (IEP, 2004).

The Herring River Watershed encompasses approximately 35 percent (6.87 square miles) of the Town's land area (most of the Town's Zone C area) and drains in a southeasterly direction to the North River. Approximately 86 percent of the watershed area consists of the First Herring Brook Watershed (FHBW) and the remainder is tidal marsh (CDM, 1974). FHBW is a complex system of surface and ground water that provides Scituate's primary source of drinking water. The Watershed is a blend of developed and undeveloped landscapes interlaced with rivers, streams, ponds and wetlands that ultimately flow into the North River. It encompasses six square miles, or one third of Scituate, and a small portion of Norwell. This large network of biologically-rich ecosystems also provides habitat to a variety of wildlife and maintains flood storage capacity to mitigate property damage caused by storm events.

### ***A. Watershed Geology***

The First Herring Brook Watershed is largely a product of New England's glacial history. Overlying much of the bedrock in Scituate are sediments laid down during the last glaciation, which ended about 15,000 years ago. Glacial till and outwash plain sediments are the most common glacial deposits in Scituate. Till, an unsorted mixture of clay, sand and boulders, covers many of the higher uplands in the watershed. Outwash sediments, on the other hand, are well-sorted sands and gravels that typically accumulated in stream valleys and other lowlands. Unlike till, permeable outwash deposits often serve as aquifers (i.e., geologic formations that supply water for wells), particularly where the sediments are thickest. More recent geologic deposits, namely, salt marsh and intertidal sediments, underlie and confine First Herring Brook just upstream of its convergence with the North River.

## ***B. Elements of the Watershed***

The First Herring Brook Watershed is divided into four sub-watersheds: the West Watershed, Tack Factory Pond Watershed, the Reservoir Watershed, and Old Oaken Bucket Pond Watershed. The West Watershed area comprises most of the upper half of the First Herring Brook watershed. Groundwater seeps along the upper watershed boundary to feed intermittent streams and wetlands that drain into large forested wetlands, namely, the South Swamp. This portion of the Watershed has remained predominantly undeveloped, but is considered “at risk” under the development pressures that continue to threaten its quiet woodlands (FHBWI, 2008).

The Tack Factory Pond Watershed contains watershed resources from Satsuit Meadow to the Cushing Elementary School and from Pincin Hill to Tack Factory Pond. Route 3A, Scituate's main transportation corridor, falls mostly within this section of the watershed. The watershed is threatened by stormwater runoff, pouring pollutants and sediments into the surface water bodies, threatening the health of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, as well as the drinking water supply. In an effort to counter balance the environmental footprint of development in the watershed, and to protect the water supply, the Town purchased the 22-acres south of Tack Factory Pond in 1999 (FHBWI, 2008).

The section of the First Herring Brook watershed draining into the Reservoir along Route 3A is known as the Reservoir Watershed. The Reservoir was constructed in 1969, at the same time as the water treatment plant on Old Oaken Bucket Pond, to improve the quality and capacity of Scituate's water supply. At less than 10 feet deep, the Reservoir, like Tack Factory Pond and Old Oaken Bucket Pond, replaced a formerly cold-water stream that once supported brook trout with warm water habitat that is populated today by pumpkinseed, bluegill, and yellow perch. First Herring Brook, as its name indicates, once supported anadromous fish, such as shad, alewife and herring. Archeological investigations conducted prior to the impoundment of First Herring Brook found evidence that Native Americans once indulged in this abundant resource. Repair of the fish ladder at the reservoir's outlet may someday restore this valuable fishery resource (FHBWI, 2008).

Old Oaken Bucket Pond Watershed is located downstream of the Watershed, and is made up of a network of wetlands between Brushy Hill and Stockbridge Road, the Greenbush rail bed, and Old Oaken Bucket Pond. It also consists of two tributaries of First Herring Brook: Clapp Brook and Tan Brook. The FHBW Stream Team is on heightened watch of this area for the potential impacts of the Greenbush rail line on the fragile ecosystems that exist within the watershed. (FHBWI, 2008)

## ***C. Local Watershed Protection***

Because it protects a regional water supply, this watershed is under close watch by local environmental groups, such as the North and South Rivers Watershed Association (NSRWA).

NSWRA is a non-profit grassroots environmental organization located on the South Shore of Massachusetts. The NSRWA was founded in 1970 by South Shore residents, businesses, and other environmental organizations with a mission to preserve, restore, maintain and conserve the waters and related natural resources that make up the Watershed. Their goals are to: protect the watershed and promote responsible growth; educate and encourage stewardship of the watershed through public education, outreach and recreation programs; and restore the water quality of the rivers by identifying and correcting adverse impacts (NSRWA, 2008).

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## Floodplains

Massachusetts Bay is the greatest water resource that Scituate has, but it is also Scituate's greatest water threat. The coast is low-lying and is exposed to a continuous onslaught of waves from the northeast. When a severe winter "Nor'easter" strikes, the results can be devastating. Within recent history, storms have occurred that approach the FEMA 100-year recurrence criteria delineated on Map 4. These occurrences were the "Portland Gale" of November 1898, the "February Blizzard" of 1978, the No-name Storm of October, 1991, "Super Storm" Sandy in 2012, the February 2013 Blizzard ("Nemo") and the January 2015 Blizzard ("Juno").

The 1898 storm destroyed the barrier beach between Third and Forth Cliffs, opened a new mouth for the North River, and permanently isolated Humarock from the rest of the Town. Sailing vessels were cast ashore and beach cottages were destroyed. In the 1978 blizzard, dozens of beach cottages were destroyed or heavily damaged. In the more recent storms, storms continue to damage beach homes due to wave action, flooding and beach erosion. Destruction occurs primarily in the Velocity or "V" Zones of these low-lying areas but can also occur in the AE or AO zones. Scituate has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program since In 1972, Scituate passed a Floodplain and Watershed Protection District Bylaw which restricts construction in these areas.

Scituate participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) program administered through NFIP (the National Flood Insurance Program), which offers a reduction in flood insurance rates to municipalities that provide education about flood-proofing and require flood-resistant building techniques. The Town has also obtained a number of grants from FEMA through the Hazard Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance Programs to help homeowners pay for elevating their dwellings and raising utilities so they are protected from flooding.

Approximately (30%) thirty percent of the Town's land, or 3,279 acres, lies within the Flood Plain and Watershed Protection Zoning District. Within this overlay district, a Special Permit is required for major additions and renovations to existing homes. New construction can only be allowed if a property owner can show his/her land is not subject to flooding. The Conservation Commission's local Wetlands Bylaw

regulates land subject to coastal storm flowage and incorporates many FEMA requirements for protecting coastal resource areas.

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## Wetlands

Wetlands, both fresh and salt water types, provide critical services to Scituate's human and non-human communities, including: flood prevention, absorption of contaminants, food and water source for most of Scituate's wild animals, and habitat for most of the Town's threatened species. Approximately 30% of the Town's land, or 3,279 acres, lies within the Flood Plain and Watershed Protection Zoning District. Of that area, 1,245 acres consist of salt marsh.

The Town also has several freshwater wetlands that play an important role in ecosystem health. These wetlands are dependent on water table fluctuations, rather than surface runoff, to ensure that the soils are suitable for wetland plants. Most wetlands are at low elevations, close to the water table and the sand and gravel soils readily transmit groundwater through wetlands. In the way, wetlands play a critical role in filtering out sediments and pollutants that are emptied into surface water bodies, as well as reducing flooding from heavy rains.

Scituate's Conservation Commission is responsible for administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, §40), as well as its own local wetlands protection bylaw. The Scituate Wetland Regulations (SWR 10.00 - 10.99) are intended to enhance wetlands protection and to provide uniformity to the procedural requirements outlined in the bylaw for work in or near wetlands. These regulations locally enforce the State Wetland Regulations 310 CMR 10.00, to protect the public water supply and coastal resources with more stringent and explicit controls than are outlined at the state level. Examples include the Bylaw's provision of a jurisdictional 250' buffer from the edge of vernal pools, with the authority to expand buffers in water resource areas to over 200', local control measures for the replication of bordering vegetated wetlands, limited access projects, and detention basins (Town of Scituate, 2003).

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## Vegetation

The plant communities of the Town of Scituate reflect the various influences of climate, geology, soils and land use on the landscape. In general, there are three different types of plant habitats in the Town: upland, freshwater wetland, and saltwater wetland. The wetland habitats are abundant, diverse and support several rare or endangered flora and fauna. The distribution of woodland species in the Town is primarily a function of the type of soil and the depth of the water table. A second major factor is the length of time since the cessation of agricultural use of a particular field.

Salt marshes account for approximately 1,245 acres, or just over eleven percent (11%) of Scituate's total area. These marshes are extremely productive ecosystems which act as nurseries for the young of many salt water organisms, and afford habitat for many species of wildlife that feed on these organisms. Salt marshes are generally typified by flat, open, grassy areas along tidal waters. They are usually found in sites protected from the high energy of the open coast: in estuaries, salt ponds, or low entrapped portions of barrier beaches. The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Ch. 131, s. 40) defines a salt marsh as a coastal wetland that "extends landward up to the highest high tide line, that is, the highest spring tide of the year, and is characterized by plants that are well adapted to, or prefer living in, saline soils" (IEP, 1988).

Scituate's coastline is one of its most appealing features. Within an area of approximately 17 square miles, Scituate has 57.8 miles of shoreline. A fundamental Scituate resource is the Town's ample natural harbor, providing refuge to an estimated 1,400 recreational boats. The Town's coastal resources are varied, but all are sensitive to development and increased use. Since the shoreline offers many recreation opportunities, coastal resources are often subject to intense use. Many of its ecosystems are inherently fragile and irreplaceable. They can be altered significantly by human development. One of the goals of this OSRP is to explore how the Town can best balance the pressures of human activity and the needs of these natural systems.

The woodland tree species of Scituate are predominantly deciduous or a mixture of deciduous and coniferous. The vegetation associations of these woodlands consist mainly of Oak, White Pine and Oak, Pitch Pine, and Swamp Maple. The Oak association occupies thirty percent (30%) of the woodland and consists mostly of Red and Scrub Oak in areas where the soil consists of weathered glacial till. The White Pine and Pitch Pine associations comprise twenty percent (20%) of the woodland in areas of well to moderately well-drained soils. The remainder of the woodland is a mixed mature forest of White Pine, Black Birch and Beech. Forested wetlands consist primarily of mature stands of Swamp Maple, where they form the second growth replacement for Eastern White Cedar.

The largest tract of undeveloped forest is located in the northwestern part of Town. There are also some vacant pastures which are located primarily along Clapp and Old Oaken Bucket Roads. These old pastures, which have become partially overgrown with Sumac, Red Cedar and Chokecherry, form an attractive habitat for small animals and birds. Many of the upland areas also are considered ecologically unique by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) because they support species such as American Holly, Red Maple and Stiff Clubmoss, which are all rare in this part of Plymouth County.

The NHESP protects and classifies rare and endangered plants. The Seabeach Needlegrass (*Aristida tuberculosa*), Pale Green Orchis (*Plantanthera flava* var. *herbiola*), Swamp Dock (*Rumex verticillatus*), Canadian Sanicle (*Sanicula Canadensis*)

are the State-listed threatened plants currently occurring in Scituate. Two other rare plants, Plymouth Gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*) and American Sea-blite (*Suaeda calceoliformis*) are noted by NHESP as being species of special concern<sup>1</sup>.

Public shade trees not only help beautify a community and provide shaded sidewalks, but also serve as traffic calming devices and alleviate stormwater runoff. Public shade trees in Scituate are protected under Section 30600 of the Town General Bylaws as well as under Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 87 Shade Trees. All trees within the boundaries of a public right of way are designated as Public Shade Trees, and are overseen by the town’s appointed Tree Warden and managed/maintained by the Public Grounds Division under the Department of Public Works.

Preservation of diverse plant communities (forest, wetlands ,fields, and shade trees) is critical to maintaining the visual and aesthetic qualities of Scituate and perhaps, more importantly, to preserving the wildlife habitat and ecological balance of the Town. These vegetative areas contribute to soil and water quality protection, offer recreational opportunities and provide open space.

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## Wildlife and Fisheries

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### Wildlife

Scituate has a large variety of native wildlife, including birds, small mammals, amphibians, fish and reptiles. Their habitats include wetlands, woodlands, transitions between woods and fields, barrier beaches, rocky shorelines, and other natural areas which provide forage for species that subsist on the vegetation and other wildlife. No recent inventory of the wildlife of the entire town has been made, but the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) maintains information on rare and endangered wildlife species as shown in Table 4.2 and described below.

**Table 4.2 Massachusetts NHESP - Element Occurrences in Scituate**

Group Scientific	Name Common	Name MESA	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Beetle	<i>Cicindela purpurea</i>	Cow Path Tiger Beetle	SC	1935
Bird	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	T	2014

▼  
<sup>1</sup>Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, September 2013

Group Scientific	Name Common	Name MESA	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Bird	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	SC	2012
Bird	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern	SC	1932
Bird	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Least Tern	SC	2014
Reptile	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	SC	2002
Vascular Plant	<i>Aristida tuberculosa</i>	Seabeach Needlegrass	T	1998
Vascular Plant	<i>Platanthera flava</i> var. <i>herbiola</i>	Pale Green Orchis	T	1916
Vascular Plant	<i>Rumex verticillatus</i>	Swamp Dock	T	2002
Vascular Plant	<i>Sabatia kennedyana</i>	Plymouth Gentian	SC	1914
Vascular Plant	<i>Suaeda calceoliformis</i>	American Sea-blite	SC	1987
Vascular Plant	<i>Sanicula canadensis</i>	Canadian Sanicle	T	1933

E = Endangered/ T = Threatened/ SC = Special Concern

### A. Wetland Species

Scituate's inland water resources consist of rivers, streams, ponds and wetlands. The Herring River, Musquashcut Brook, Satuit Brook, Herring Brook, and Bound Brook are some of the Town's other important fresh water rivers and streams. These waterways supply habitat for insects, fish and amphibians, which provide food for birds and mammals.

Vernal pools are small ponds which dry up in the summer, but reappear each spring in the same location. They are essential for the breeding of salamanders and certain other species. By certifying them with NHESP, these ponds are provided with extra levels of protection pursuant to several environmental regulatory programs, including the Wetlands Protection Act, Surface Water Quality Standards and Title V. Twenty vernal pools have been certified in Scituate, including three in North Scituate, 14 in the West End, and three in Greenbush. The Conservation Commission's efforts to locate additional vernal pools are ongoing (see Map 5).

The Town's coastal areas offer many varieties of prime habitat. The coastal areas also provide unique habitats for such marine mammals as Harbor Seals and Gray Seals, both of which migrate to land in the winter to breed. These seals are frequent visitors to North Scituate, the Glades and the exposed rocks off Egypt Beach and Third Cliff. Because of the offshore rocks, these are among the most significant areas between Boston and Cape Cod for these seals. Few locations along the East Coast compare with the Glades, by extending as far out into the ocean and having rocky areas which

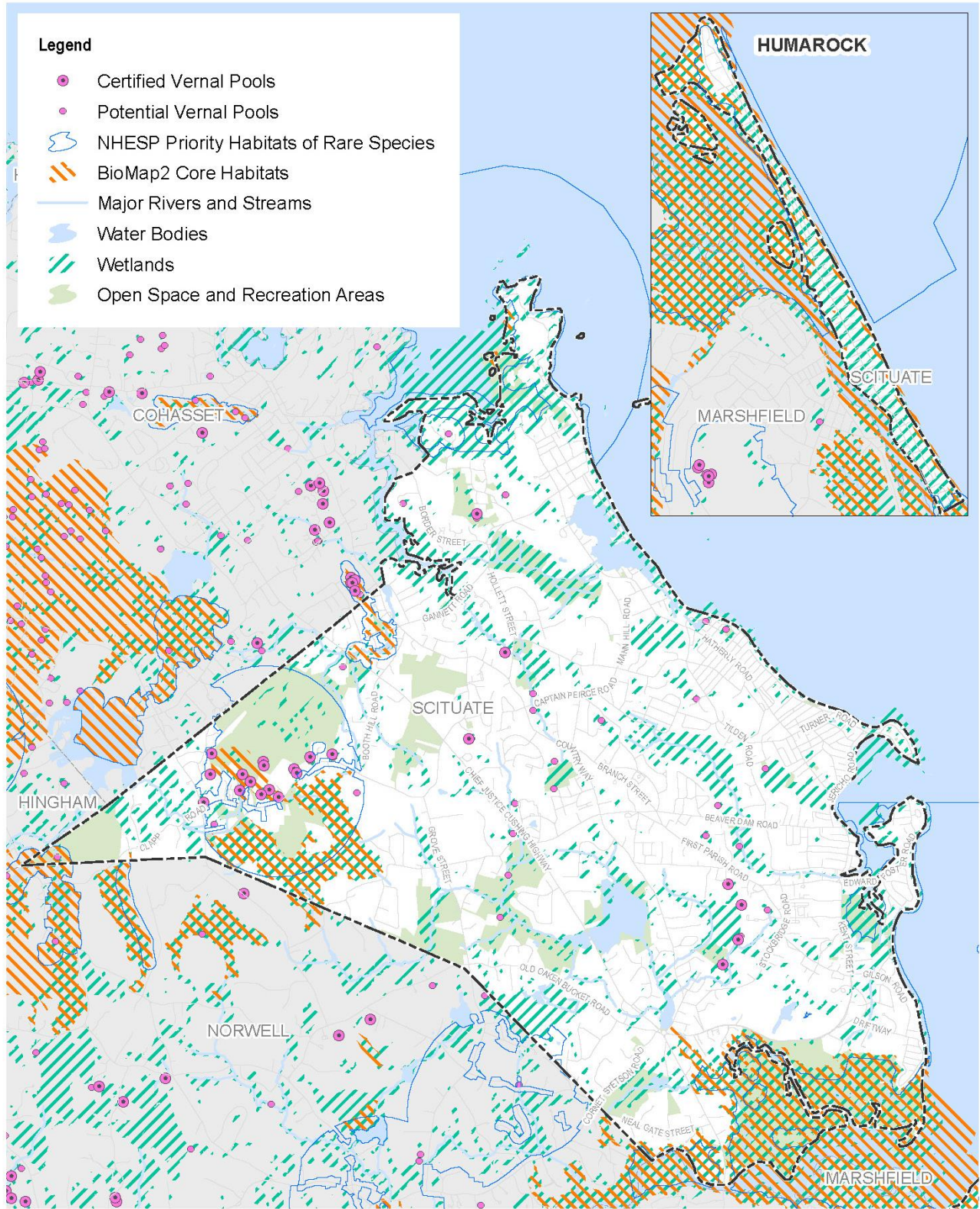


provide desirable breeding habitats for seals. Consequently, any development of the Glades would disrupt the breeding pattern of these seals.

### ***B. Avian Species***

In addition to fish, shellfish, and mammals such as seals, Scituate has long held an attraction for birdwatchers because of the wide species diversity found here on a year-round basis. There are eight areas in Town considered to be bird sighting “hot spots”. These sites provide unique habitat areas for species not common to all coastal New England communities. Without these habitat areas, the wide diversity of bird species in Scituate would decline significantly. Historically, Scituate has always been a favorite breeding spot for many bird species because of its proximity to the ocean, rocky cliff areas perfect for nesting and protection, and rich salt marsh areas with abundant food supplies. One reason for the large concentration of bird species in Scituate today is a result of the displacement from other communities due to development pressure.

The Fourth Cliff site is the home of the second largest least tern colony in the country. This bird is listed for special concern in Massachusetts. Also at Fourth Cliff is the nesting site of piping plovers, a threatened species in Massachusetts and a federally threatened species. The Spit, located at the south end of Third Cliff beach, also hosts a healthy population of piping plovers and least terns each year. Unfortunately, due to the area’s accessibility, there is an ongoing struggle between balancing recreational activity and the preservation of this delicate avian habitat. Despite efforts by Massachusetts Audubon Society (Mass Audubon), the area is often abused by visitors, posing a serious threat to these fragile birds.



**Open Space and Recreation Plan**

Town of Scituate, Massachusetts

**Natural Habitats**

Source: MassGIS

Of the rare and endangered species in Scituate, the Piping Plover is the most significant, because this shorebird is now federally-listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened along the East Coast. The Least Tern is the next most important species, because it is listed as being of special concern in MA. The nesting sites for these two birds are currently protected. The sites at Rivermoor on the north side of the North River mouth are held in permanent trust by the North and South River Watershed Association. The sites at Fourth Cliff on the south side of the river mouth are located within a U.S. Military Reservation. This reservation will probably be declared surplus and sold. At that point in time it will be critical for the Town and the Commonwealth to act on the need for permanently protecting this site. Osprey and American Bald Eagles have returned to the North and South River Estuaries, although no nesting sites of eagles in Scituate have been identified. The unique natural environments found in Scituate are evidenced by sightings of flights of hawks in groups of four or more at one time in the West End.

In late October, Red-throated Loons can be seen exploring the mouth of the North River; Golden Eye, Bufflehead, and Winter Scaup are sighted within the Scituate area. Snowy Owls are seen off the Glades and Cedar Point. Several areas in Scituate are known to birders as “migrant traps,” areas where migrant birds stop on their journey southward in the fall, and back north in the springtime. Musquashcut Pond is a spectacular migrant corner because it supports different species of migratory birds year-round. It is a freshwater source set just back far enough from the ocean to provide protection, yet close enough to the shoreline not to be a diversion from the flyway.

Another migrant bird stopover is located just inland from the Third Cliff area, in the area of Conservation Park. This area is not as spectacular as Musquashcut Pond, but it is still very important, providing a protected area close to the North River Estuary and food. The Red Knot, a migratory bird that travels from the Arctic Circle to South America stops in Scituate. The Red Knot is a species listed by the NHESP as being rare or ecologically significant, although it is not officially ranked in Massachusetts (MA) because it is not native to the state. The area inland from Rivermoor and Third Cliff is also an important harboring area for all birds along the coast during storms. Among these areas only Conservation Park is currently protected from development.

### ***C. Woodland Species***

Scituate also offers a large variety of wooded areas and abandoned pasture, which provides an excellent habitat for wildlife species. Small mammal populations including woodchucks, rabbits, red fox, gray squirrels, skunks, opossum, and chipmunks are abundant. Muskrats are common in the wetlands adjoining Satuit Brook and in South Swamp and other marshy areas of the West End. Deer have become noticeably more common in the past few years, leading within the past year to several road kills and a rescue by the Coast Guard of a deer swimming off Peggotty Beach. Sightings of coyotes and wild turkey have also become common in recent years.

### ***D. Wildlife Corridors***

Many local wildlife species in Scituate, as well as migratory birds, require access to a mixture of forest, wetland, and open land for food and shelter. Wildlife corridors enable animals, particularly upland mammals, to migrate to new territories in this mixture of environments in search of food or breeding grounds. Corridors are particularly important in urban and suburban areas where wildlife ranges can be limited by fragmented habitat, roads, houses, commercial and industrial areas and other human activity. Corridor types and scale can vary among different species, depending on their specific movement and habitat needs, ranging from undeveloped land, to stream, rail or utility corridors, to backyards. Biologists estimate that undisturbed 300-foot wide corridors are necessary for many larger species to feel comfortable enough to move around undetected, and most often these larger scale wildlife corridors can span multiple communities on a regional level.

In Scituate, many of the stream and wetland systems that cross the open space and residential areas throughout the town serve as wildlife corridors both at a local and a regional level. The primary north-to-south wildlife corridor consists of the almost continuous network of streams, such as Satuit Brook, wetlands and wooded areas along the MBTA commuter rail line running through the eastern half of the town. Another north-to-south corridor through the western half of the town can be found running along the Bound Brook to the north, through wetlands and wooded areas and across several local streets, and connecting to the First Herring Brook to the south. The First Herring Brook, which connects the Tack Factory Pond Reservoir and large tracks of conservation and water protection land between First Parish Road and Old Oaken Bucker Road, also serves as the major east-to-west wildlife corridor across southern Scituate. The undisturbed conservation and wooded lands on both sides of the Clapped Road in north-western Scituate functions both as major habitat areas but also as wildlife corridors connecting to the extensive state park and conservation areas to the west of the town. In addition, the utility corridor running from the town center to the Turner Conservation Land in Norwell and beyond also provided valuable wildlife corridor opportunities. Future acquisition of open space and conservation parcels should take into consideration of any potential to bridge the gap in wildlife corridors throughout the town and connecting larger regional systems

### ***E. Rare and Endangered Wildlife***

There have been documented occurrences (sightings) of state-listed rare species, including: Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene Carolina*), Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*), and Cow Path Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela purpurea*), all of which are considered species of special concern. The Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) is the only threatened species listed<sup>2</sup>.



<sup>2</sup>Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, September 2016

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## Fisheries

Inland fisheries are limited in Scituate. Old Oaken Bucket Pond is a 12-acre reservoir with the water rights controlled by the Scituate Water Department. It is the only pond in Scituate managed by the MA Department of Fish and Game (DFG). The predominating species in the pond are Pumpkinseed, Bluegill, Black Crappie and Yellow Perch. DFG has also stocked the pond with Bass and Pickerel. Fish stocks at the Tack Factory Pond Reservoir are poor because the pond is shallow and is often nearly drained in August.

The North River system is the home to many anadromous fish species, and their populations are maintained by fish ladders on the First Herring Brook and the Indian Head River (in Pembroke). The Scituate Water Division is currently cooperating with several local, state, and federal agencies to reintroduce fish populations to the Reservoir and Old Oaken Bucket Pond. These include, but are not limited to: Shad, Alewife, Smelt, and Searun Brown Trout. Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds totaling \$4,200 were secured for the restoration of a fish ladder in the First Herring Brook as part of this effort.

Scituate's shellfish resources can be classified into three categories: Soft-shelled clams, mussels, and quahogs. In the Bassing Beach area on the South side of Cohasset Harbor, there is an ample supply of soft-shelled clams and mussels. Mussels can also be found in portions of the North and South Rivers. Soft-shelled clams can be found near the northern shores of the North River and in certain areas of the South River, while quahogs can be found only in small tidal creeks off the North River and in a small area of the South River.

For almost 10 years, all shellfishing areas in Scituate were closed by the DEP, due to high fecal coliform levels. However, stringent efforts have been made in recent years to control pollution sources in Cohasset and along the North River. In 1994, the Bassing Beach area was again reopened for shellfishing and in 1995, the North River flats were re-opened. Upgrades to the Scituate Wastewater Treatment Plant have significantly reduced the pollution risk to the North River. At the time of this writing, the South River has been opened for clamming in certain sections, and continues to show remarkable improvements.

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## Scenic Resources and Unique Areas

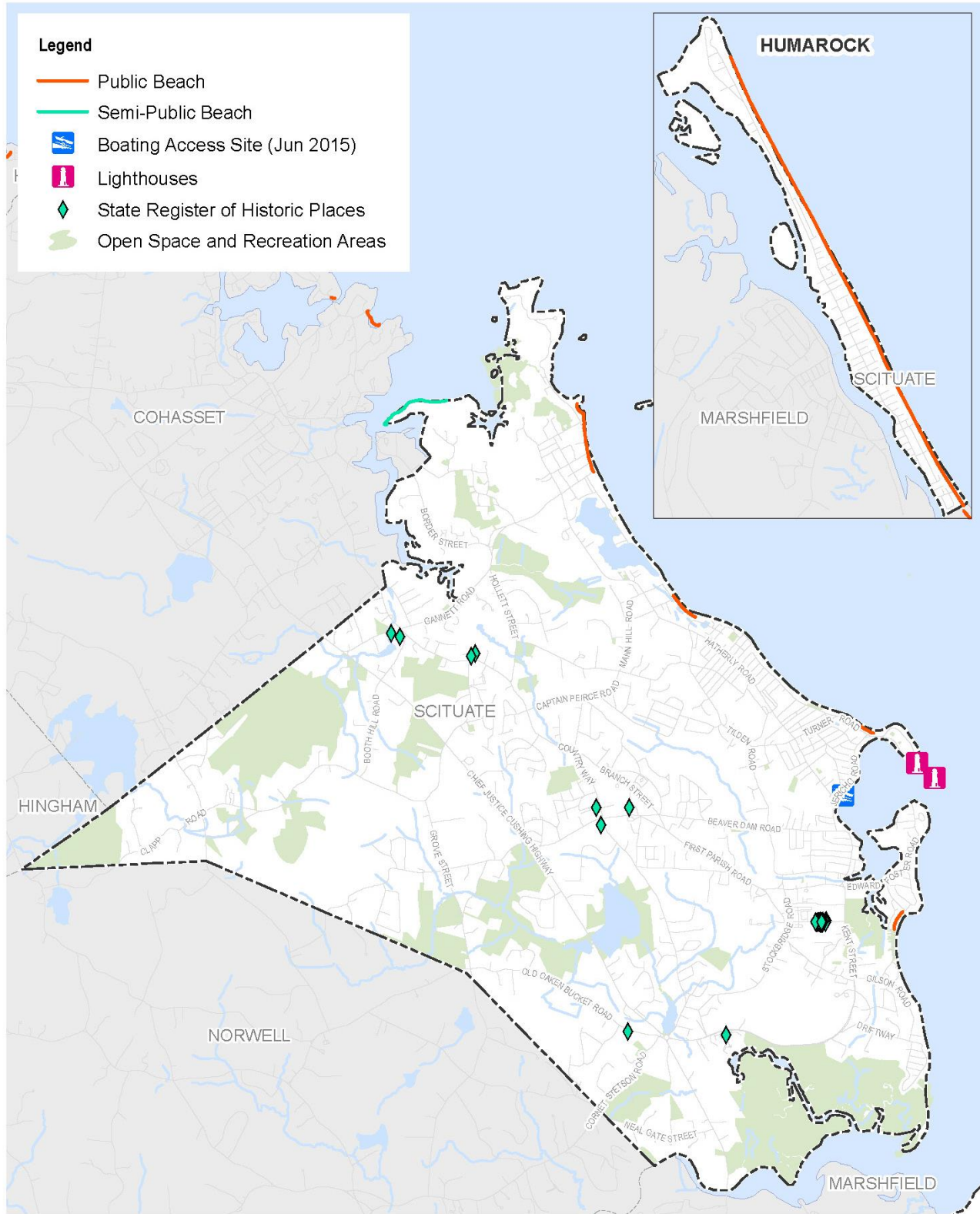
Since more people can appreciate the scenic beauty of a landscape, rather than its biological value, it is important to note the scenic resources of Scituate. Fortunately, these areas are often as ecologically rich as they are visually pleasing, helping to make a case for their protection (see Map 6)

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## Scenic Resources

One of the finest scenic landscapes in Scituate consists of the salt marshes of the North River Estuary. These are the second most extensive marshes along the Massachusetts coast. On the Scituate side of the river, 315 acres are conservation lands owned by the Town of Scituate and 201 acres are protected under the ownership of the North and South River Watershed Association. A portion of the marsh on the Marshfield side of the river is owned by the Mass Audubon. The marshes are accessible for public viewing from the Scituate Conservation Park, Little's Bridge (where Route 3A crosses the River), and the Mass Audubon Headquarters.

Two of the most magnificent seascapes in Scituate are inaccessible to the public. The first of these is Strawberry Point in the Glades. Standing on a massive pink Dedham granodiorite outcropping, the view extends from Cohasset Harbor to the west around to the Nantasket peninsula with the towers of the Boston skyline to the northwest. To the north and northeast lie the shipping lanes into Boston Harbor with Cape Ann extending to the horizon. To the east, the gray granite tower of Minot Light seems to rise from the bed of the sea. The second of the inaccessible seascapes is from Fourth Cliff in Humarock. Fourth Cliff is an eroded drumlin with a marine scarp rising over seventy (70) feet from Massachusetts Bay. The view along the coast extends from Cedar Point at Scituate Harbor to Brant Rock in Marshfield. To the southeast, the 252-foot Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown is visible on clear days. The most accessible seascape is located at the Scituate Lighthouse at the tip of Cedar Point. The parking area and walkways are maintained by the Town and both are wheelchair-accessible. Some of the parking spaces provide an excellent view of the harbor, the ocean to the southeast, and coastline south to Third Cliff. From the walkway around the tower there is also a view of the coastline north to Minot Beach, and across the water to Minot Light.



**Open Space and Recreation Plan**

Town of Scituate, Massachusetts

**Scenic and Unique Features**

Source: MassGIS

Other scenic resources include country-like roads, some of which are designated Scenic Roads under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Scenic Roads Act. Border Street, Clapp Road, Country Way, First Parish Road, Grove Street, Maple Street, Neal Gate Street, Old Oaken Bucket Road, Stockbridge Road, Summer Street, Tilden Road, and Old Driftway from New Driftway to Collier Road are winding ancient ways, bordered by stone walls, shade trees and in some cases, houses dating back to as early as 1690. They transect the Town east and west and north to south respectively. The Driftway is a former Indian trail, extending from Third Cliff along the North River marshes to the Stockbridge Grist Mill at Old Oaken Bucket Pond.

Bates Lane, in the West End, provides a unique experience in rural America. A walk along this historic path through the woods and experience a sense of a different time, before the buzz of development filled the air. One can follow this route out to the Rod & Gun Club property on Chief Cushing Highway.

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## **Cultural and Historic Areas**

An important prehistoric campsite is located along the edge of the North River marshes on the grounds of the Scituate Country Club. This site is partly protected because it lies within the limits of a designated Scenic River Corridor. As one of the first Towns incorporated in Plymouth Colony, Scituate has numerous historic sites. Ten structures and landmarks are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### ***A. Scituate Light, 100 Lighthouse Rd.***

The Scituate Lighthouse was erected in 1810. It is the setting for the legendary “Army of Two”, where, in 1813, the keeper’s daughters played a fife and drum to frighten off a raiding party from a British frigate. The Scituate Light was added to the National Register in 1987. Previously the Scituate Lightkeeper’s House was given a separate listing here, however only the lighthouse appears on the National Register.

### ***B. Lawson Tower, First Parish Rd.***

The Lawson Tower was erected by the copper magnate, Thomas Lawson, to conceal a water tower visible from his Dreamwold Estate. The 153-foot high tower is a timber copy of a 15th Century watchtower on the Rhine River in Germany. From the observational deck, there is a spectacular panoramic view including Great Blue Hill, the Boston skyline, Salem and Cape Ann, Boston, Minot Light, and Provincetown. The tower is the principle landfall for fishermen and yachtsmen seeking Scituate Harbor. The Lawson Tower was added to the National Register in 1976. The tower bells were refurbished in the spring of 2004 and the Tower re-shingled in 2005, with funding provided by CPA monies.



***C. Old Oaken Bucket House (Woodworth House), 47 Old Oaken Bucket Rd.***

According to Town Assessor's records, the Old Oaken Bucket farmhouse was originally constructed in 1674. It was the home of Samuel Woodworth, who wrote the famous poem "The Old Oaken Bucket", voted as the town's official song in 1935. The farmhouse is currently undergoing a restoration process. The property was added to the National Register of Historical Places in 1996.

***D. Maritime and Irish Mossing Museum (Capt. Benjamin James House), 301 Driftway***

According to Assessor's records, the original construction of the Maritime and Irish Mossing Museum dates to 1700. The main house was owned by a sea captain of the late 18th Century. It served at one time as a quarantine hospital for smallpox victims and is now a maritime museum, owned and operated by the Scituate Historical Society. CPA funding (\$23,000) was appropriated in March 2006 for the restoration of the Shed, located in Scituate Marine Park.

***E. Men of Kent Cemetery, Meetinghouse Lane***

The Men of Kent Cemetery was established circa 1624 on the hill overlooking the sea on Meeting House Lane near where the settlers built their first meeting house. It is Scituate's oldest known burial ground and was likely the only town burial place until the end of the 17th century. The earliest legible gravestone dates to 1694, although unmarked graves could be scattered throughout the burying ground.

***F. W. P. A. Field House, 17 Henry Turner Bailey Rd.***

The W.P.A. Field House was constructed in 1937 according to Assessor's records, as part of the Work Progress Administration Program. The building's slate roof and stone wall and granite structure are very distinctive. The building was restored and is now used for Town of Scituate meeting and workspace. Adjacent to the field house on Henry Turner Bailey Road is a colonial revival pumping station. This building was added to the National Register in 2009.

***G. First Trinitarian Congregational Church, 381 Country Way***

The First Trinitarian Congregational Church was erected circa 1826. It was established when Reverend Nehemiah Thomas and his followers separated from the Unitarian Church. It was added to the National Register in 2002.

### **H. First Baptist Church of Scituate**

The First Baptist Church of Scituate was erected circa 1870 after its original meeting place was in decay. The church was founded in 1825. It is a Victorian eclectic style building. Its parsonage was constructed about 1850 on Country Way.

### **I. Minot's Light**

Minot's Light was first constructed circa 1849. It is a lighthouse located one mile offshore in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Scituate. The lighthouse is built on Minot's Ledge, a twenty-five foot rocky outcropping which is part of the Cohasset Rocks Reef. The first iron lighthouse was washed away in a storm and the second was constructed in 1860 and still stands today. Many shipwrecks occurred off the coast prior to the lighthouse being constructed. On May 1, 1894, a new flashing lantern was installed with the characteristic of a one-four-three flash. The flashes contained the same numerical count as the words "I Love You". The United States government sold the property in 2014 and it is now in private ownership.

Other historical structures of interest include: the G.A.R. Hall (the oldest public building in Scituate, established in 1825); the 18th Century Mann Farmhouse; the 17th Century Stockbridge Grist Mill; and the Little Red Schoolhouse (constructed in 1893 as the first high school building in the Town). All of these structures are owned and/or managed by the Town of Scituate and/or the Scituate Historical Society. These sites are open to the public in the summertime.

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## **Unique Environments**

Most of Scituate's unique environments are results of the surficial geologic deposits produced through the last continental glaciation. While glacial till is the predominant surficial geologic deposit in Scituate, different compositions of the underlying layer of glacial till, e.g. compact with low permeability, or stratified with sands and gravels, as well as accumulation of postglacial deposits, formed the varying and unique types of environment, as described below, that are seen today in different parts of the town.

### **A. South Swamp**

The South Swamp has been discussed at several prior points in this Plan. It is the primary source of First Herring Brook, whose watershed feeds the surface water supply for Scituate. The ability of the swamp to store large amounts of surface runoff and to discharge this water helps to replenish the Reservoir. The Swamp also is home to a number of uncommon plant species (American Holly, Mountain Laurel, Painted Trillium, Green Ash, and Pink Lady slipper) and birds (Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Canada Warbler, Hermit Thrust and Barred Owl).

### ***B. Herring Brook/North River Watershed***

The Herring Brook/North River Watershed encompasses approximately thirty-five percent (35%), or 6.87 square miles, of the Town's land area and drains in a southwesterly direction to the North River. Approximately eighty-six percent (86%) of the watershed area consists of the First Herring Brook drainage area while the remainder is tidal marsh. The brook originates in the South Swamp and after flowing briefly through Norwell, it turns southwest until downstream from the Stockbridge Mill, where it becomes the meandering tidal creek known as the Herring River. There are a number of wetlands and tributary brooks including Doctor's Brook, Cedar Swamp Brook and Pincin Hill Brook, which feed First Herring Brook's two ponds that are part of the First Herring Brook system and constitutes the Town's surface water supply: Tack Factory Pond and Old Oaken Bucket Pond and the Reservoir.

### ***C. Satuit Brook Watershed***

Drainage from the Satuit Brook Watershed flows eastward into Scituate Harbor. The brook originates just to the east of the intersection of Lawson, Captain Peirce and Curtis Roads. Large areas of wetlands are associated with the upper half of the brook. At one time, the most productive public water well in Scituate was located near the point where Beaver Dam road crosses the brook. However, the well had to be abandoned due to contamination by nitrates and nitrites leaching from the septic systems of residential developments upstream. The wetlands form a habitat for many small animals and bird species, including muskrat and red-winged blackbirds.

### ***D. Salt Marshes***

Scituate has a significant quantity of salt marshes. These salt marshes are valuable for a variety of reasons: provision of wildlife habitat; spawning grounds for marine life; contributions to the marine food chain, by producing and exporting large quantities of plant material to nearby waters; provision of natural flood protection; adsorption and transportation of some waterborne contaminants; and protection of groundwater from salt intrusion by forming a peak filtration system along the shore.

Salt marshes were valued for hay from the time of the first European settlement until the 1920s. The marshes bordering the North River are the largest in Scituate. However, extensive salt marshes also exist on the Northern border of the Town along Cohasset Harbor and the Gulf River. These marshes originally formed the border between Plymouth Colony and the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Their value for hay before the clearing of inland pastures almost led to armed conflict between the two colonies. Scituate holds 112 acres of beach and marsh in this area as conservation land. The largest unprotected salt marsh area in the Town lies to the Northeast of the Town land, in the Glades facing Cohasset Harbor.

### ***E. Musquashcut Brook and Pond***

As noted previously, Musquashcut Pond acts as a spectacular “migrant corner” for migrating waterfowl. The pond and the brackish marshes associated with it provide nesting sites and habitat for Common Terns, Osprey, Kingfisher, and a variety of shore birds and waterfowl. The Conservation Commission holds title to over forty-five (45) acres of marsh along the south side of the Brook. Much of the remainder belongs to the Hatherly Country Club and adjoins its golf course.

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## **Environmental Challenges**

There are a number of challenges to protecting and preserving Scituate’s unique natural resources in the face of development pressures and the need for public access to fragile resources. For example, plants and animals found in dune habitats, such as the threatened Piping Plover bird species, may be killed by foot traffic and off-road vehicles. Bogs are threatened by land development, changes in water flow, and pollution from runoff and industrial sites. Septic systems resulting from residential and commercial development along the coastline can contribute excess nutrient loading to Scituate’s embayments and estuaries. Scituate has a limited the number of large-scale commercial developments, which reduces the number of oil and/or hazardous materials sites as classified by the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, Chapter 21E. However, these sites still pose a threat to the quality of drinking water for Scituate residents.

An outline of Scituate’s more significant environmental challenges is provided below.

### ***A. Hazardous Waste Sites and Releases of Hazardous Materials***

As of December 1, 2017, there have been 99 releases of oil or hazardous material reported under the provision of MGL Chapter 21E according to DEP’s Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup. They are cited in the Reportable Releases table in Appendix II. The uses which generated the spills generally fall into the following categories: gas stations, residences, marina properties, schools, and commercial sites. Numerous sites have already been cleaned up, while others are on a schedule for remediation.

Underground gasoline and heating oil tanks, landfills, salt storage areas and junkyards are also sources of groundwater contamination. These land uses must be identified and managed to reduce the potential for degradation of the Town’s water supply. It is important for the Town to take the necessary steps to prevent contamination since treating water after chemical pollution has occurred can be extremely costly.

## ***B. Landfills***

Like many other Massachusetts towns, Scituate previously operated an unlined sanitary landfill on the Driftway in a former gravel pit. This landfill site was located in a glacial outwash plain, consisting of stratified sand and gravel, and therefore the soil is very permeable. The landfill lies to the southwest of Well 18B. The Town has closed and capped the landfill with an impervious liner and constructed a transfer station to handle its solid waste, which is now shipped to SEMASS for processing. The landfill site is currently the site of a solar farm that would generate three megawatts of electricity that can save the Town approximately \$200,000 a year in energy costs.

Two other former “dump” sites exist in Scituate. The Stockbridge Road site, which was closed in 1976, was used for approximately 25 years. In the West End a similar operation was conducted at the end of the Clapp Road near the Norwell Town line. The Stockbridge Rd. site was capped in the early 1980’s and the West End “dump” was capped in 1960. Monitoring wells were installed downgradient of the Stockbridge Rd. landfill to identify any hazardous materials that might have migrated from this site towards sensitive resources. There was no requirement for monitoring wells when the West End site was capped.

Scituate has limited land zoned for business. However, some home businesses may use significant quantities of hazardous materials their activities. Their owners may receive little information about required practices, and a number of home businesses are found in remote locations. It is important for the Town to educate its residents about the potential impacts of hazardous materials generated by home businesses on the water supply.

## ***C. Erosion***

Coastal erosion is a natural process, where wind and waves continuously transport sediment along the shorefront. Barrier beaches help protect inland areas from the subsequent erosion, but are also subject to its effects. Erosion has probably been occurring along the coastline of Scituate since the end of the last ice age approximately 15,000 years ago. However, since the first accurate surveys were made in 1885, the average recession of the shoreline has been at the rate of approximately one foot per year.

In the past 50 years, large sums of public and private money have been spent to erect and repair seawalls behind the beaches and to revert the Cliffs (which are actually marine scarps formed by the erosion of drumlins) with heavy blocks of granite. The armoring of the Cliffs has temporarily reduced the erosion of the scarps. In the past, the erosion of material from the Cliffs served to nourish the barrier beaches lying between them. With the loss of nourishment, the beaches are receding at an increasing rate.

#### ***D. Sedimentation***

South Shore's coastal communities are shaped by a variety of ever-changing human and natural elements including waves, tides, sea level fluctuation, seasonal and climatic variation, development, and other factors that influence the movement of sand and material within a shoreline system. These dynamic coastal environments shift and change in response to relative shoreline shape and position, the availability of sediment (sand, gravel, and cobble), periodic increases in energy (wind and waves), and continuously rising sea levels. In this perpetually shifting coastal environment, planning and managing development presents constant challenges to developers, environmental managers, policymakers, and emergency in their attempt to stabilize an unstable landscape.

Sedimentation is the deposition of soil particles transported by wind and water. Coastal landforms such as coastal banks are essential to maintaining a supply of sediment to beaches and dunes. Where engineering structures are used to stabilize shorelines, the natural process of erosion is interrupted, decreasing the amount of sediment available and causing erosion to adjacent areas. Under conditions of reduced sediment, the ability of coastal resource areas such as dunes and beaches to provide storm damage prevention and flood control benefits is continually reduced. A major challenge is to ensure that regional sediment supplies are managed effectively and in ways that allow the beneficial storm damage prevention and flood control functions of natural coastal processes to continue—both for future projects and, where possible, existing coastal development.

Policies and regulatory tools, such as setbacks and building codes, can be developed to prevent or limit new development in hazardous locations, relocate buildings at risk of severe damage, and prohibit reconstruction of destroyed buildings. Regulations can also be implemented to limit the use of new shoreline-stabilization structures and to ensure that adverse impacts of project are minimized. The Town currently uses its Wetlands Bylaw to minimize development in sensitive coastal areas by prohibiting the expansion of existing septic systems, or the construction of new septic systems within floodplain zones.

Non-structural management techniques, such as beach nourishment (the artificial placement of sediment to rebuild the beach to historical or preferred dimensions) should also be employed to balance development and natural resource protection, in addition to stabilizing Town beaches for human enjoyment and wildlife habitat preservation. Beach nourishment projects have proven to be successful in restoring the vitality of South Shore communities, including Dead Neck Beach in Osterville (1998) and Long Beach in Plymouth (1999), stimulating local economies, and reducing property and infrastructure damages. These measures can result in a wide range of environmental and economic costs varying with the physical, economic, human, social, and natural character of coastal communities.

### ***E. Chronic Flooding***

Although the floodways of several inland brooks are shown as A Zones on the FEMA Maps, there are few structures located in these areas. Severe flood damage in Scituate is a product of ocean storm surges during winter storms. Houses located on barrier beaches are at particular risk. The sea level is rising, the beaches are eroding and some houses raised on piles after the 1978 Blizzard are now at the edge of the ocean during unusually high tides. In 1978 the stillwater level inland from the Velocity Zone rose to 11 feet. Many of the houses in these A Zones, were formerly summer cottages, but have been extensively upgraded into year-round residences.

Coastal storm flooding has historically caused significant damage to Scituate homes which front directly on the water. An extremely severe coastal storm, the Portland Gale of 1898, created a breach in Scituate's southernmost barrier beach, with the result that Humarock became separated and has remained isolated from the remainder of the Town ever since. During the past 10 years, there have been numerous intense coastal storms on the South Shore, including severe northeasters and blizzards during the winter of 2013-2014, which were accompanied by significant coastal erosion and storm flooding in Scituate.

Although there have been significant losses and insurance claims because of the chronic flooding problems, Scituate has encouraged flood-resistant construction in an effort to stem repetitive loss claims. The Town requires major new construction in the flood plain to be elevated to one foot above the minimum base flood elevation, and has strictly enforced this standard. Because of the vulnerability of development in waterfront locations, the Town should continue this policy.

The Town needs to develop a long term plan for addressing expected sea level rise. Studies recently completed for Scituate, Marshfield and Duxbury show low-lying residential areas will be inundated with two to six feet of water in seventy five years. In addition, coastal storms are expected to increase in intensity due to the effects of climate change. Sources of funds should be identified for relocating, buying out or elevating homeowners in these areas as appropriate.

### ***F. Well Protection***

The landfill lies to the southwest of Well 18A and within the same outwash formation, therefore, before the landfill could be opened, the state required the construction of an impervious barrier to protect the well. This well is now closed. This barrier consists of a bentonite slurry trench extending down into underlying impervious clay. Since the barrier runs in a North-South direction and the movement of groundwater is to the south, the well is protected.

With development and its related subsurface sewage disposal systems comes the real threat of contamination of surface and ground water supplies. The hazards of nitrate and nitrite infiltration are clearly demonstrated by the loss of the Beaver Dam Well.

Other contaminants have impacted other water supplies, such as the Kent Street Well. With careful planning and the appropriate funding, this area of Scituate can be protected from such impacts.

### ***G. Water Pollution***

As previously noted, Scituate has upgraded the Wastewater Treatment Plant to include tertiary treatment, to meet state requirements. The Town is also acting vigorously to reduce stream pollution from storm sewer discharges. Infiltration of stormwater into the sewer system previously affected the capacity of the plant, but has been reduced through lining and replacing numbers of pipes. The effort to control it is ongoing. The upgraded Title V requirements for septic systems should produce a significant reduction in the pollution of the streams and wetlands in the Town. Since the construction of sanitary sewers around Scituate Harbor, pollution of the harbor in wintertime has been greatly reduced. Two sewer pumpouts for boats in the harbor have been installed at the Harbormaster's building.

### ***H. Stormwater***

Because of glacial till and high groundwater, stormwater does not get absorbed into the ground easily in Scituate. In addition to flooding, stormwater carries many pollutants, with the potential to contaminate surface water bodies. For both reasons, stormwater management is an important part of the Planning Board and Conservation Commission's review of new development. In 2008, the Town adopted a Stormwater Bylaw and associated regulations were adopted by the Planning Board in 2010. The Stormwater Bylaw was updated in 2016. These require building sites with greater than 15,000 sq. ft. of clearing, rendering of 25% of an undeveloped lot impervious, or increasing the impervious area on a developed lot by 25% or more to be reviewed by the Town Planner or Planning Board, if they are not subject to Conservation Commission jurisdiction. The intent is to increase infiltration, prevent flooding of adjacent properties, and reduce the possibility of any contaminants reaching wetlands, streams or other water bodies. Alteration of more than one acre requires a federal NPDES permit in addition to local approval.

### ***I. Invasive Species and Forestry Issues***

Non-native invasive species often out-compete native species, degrade or destroy habitat for surviving native species, and require significant time and cost to control and remove. In 2009, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established a prohibition on the importation, sale, and trade of 138 non-native invasive plants, both terrestrial and aquatic, in order to attempt to combat their continued spread. Many state, local, nonprofit, and private organizations have worked to inform landowners about these plants and how to control and eradicate them.

Similar to many communities across Massachusetts, Scituate is faced with challenges associated with widespread non-native invasive species, primarily including oriental



bittersweet, glossy buckthorn, multiflora rose, black swallowwort, autumn olive, Asian honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, etc. Invasive species are well established on the local landscape and complete eradication is an unrealistic goal. Instead, efforts should be given on early detection and elimination of new invasive species, along with targeted management of invasive species where they threaten key and sensitive resources, such as rare and endangered native species populations and scenic resources.

The primary forest pests that are of current concern in Massachusetts include hemlock woolly adelgid, Asian longhorned beetle, and emerald ash borer. Hemlock woolly adelgid sucks nutrients from hemlock trees and ultimately kills them. Asian longhorned beetle is an invasive wood-boring insect that attacks hardwood trees, including maples, birches, and elms. Emerald ash borer is a small flying beetle native to Asia that targets ash trees. It was first noted in Massachusetts in 2012. Unlike other invasive beetles, the emerald ash borer can kill a tree quickly, within just a few years, because it bores directly under the bark. Efforts to monitor and control these forest pests are costly. Scituate will need to continue the monitoring efforts in order to determine any necessary future treatment of key trees and forest areas.

### ***J. Environmental Equity***

Environmental equity refers to the distribution of open spaces and recreational resources across a community. Scituate has variety of open space and recreation areas that are well distributed throughout town (see Map 7 in Section 5). Most neighborhoods in Scituate have easy and direct access to parks, beaches, playgrounds, conservation areas, and trails, etc. For those living in areas without direct access to these resources, access is usually only a short bike-ride or drive away. Scituate is not home to any Environmental Justice populations.

# 5

## Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

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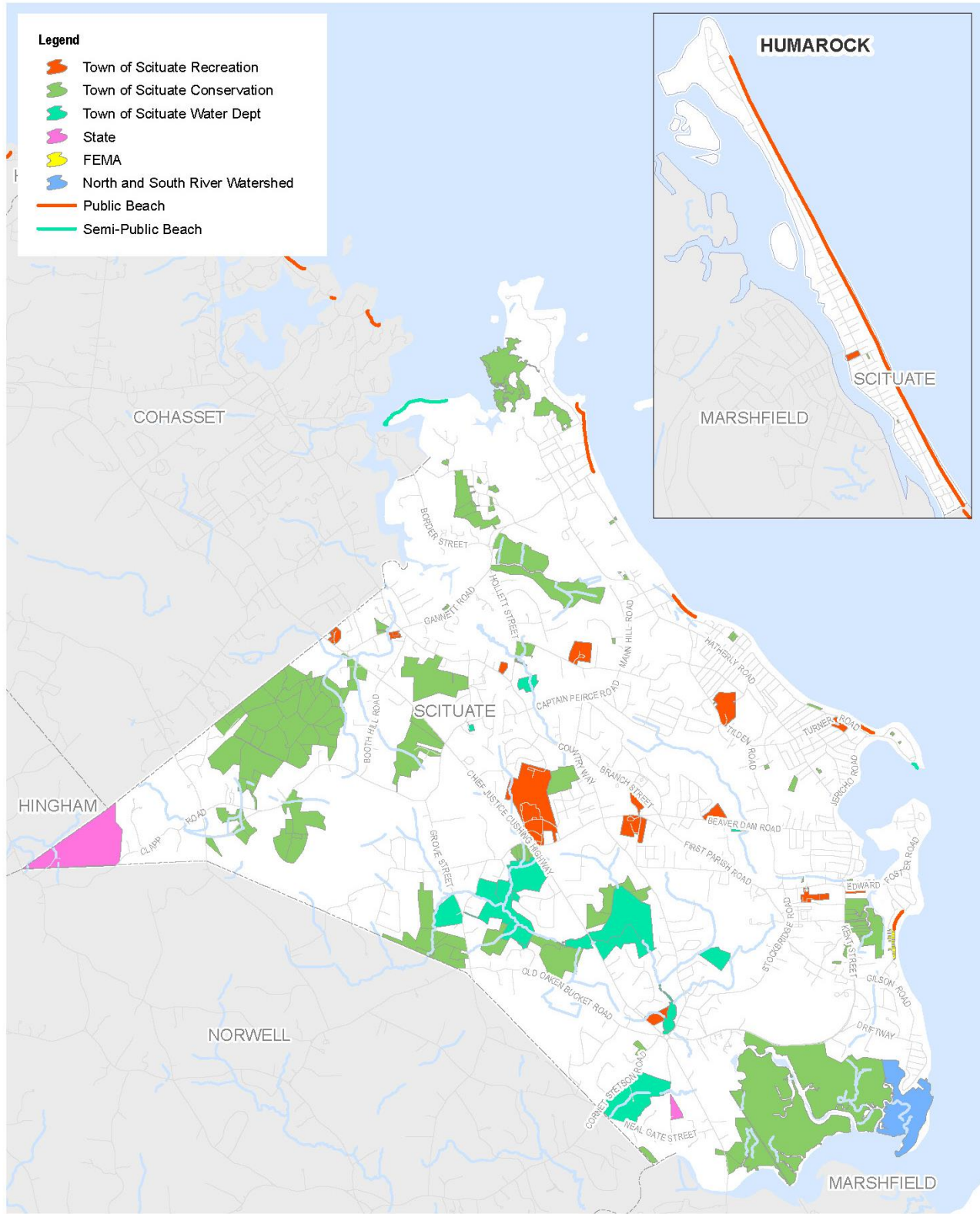
### Introduction

The protection and enhancements of open space and recreation resources are inherently important to many aspects of a healthy and livable community. Open space significantly contributes to quality of life within the community, while public recreation areas and open space provide a focus for community life and promote a unique and identifiable community character. Natural open areas also function as oases for quiet reflection and help enhance connection to the nature. Well maintained and balanced open space and recreation resources also protect and enhance property values and attract businesses, new residents, and public and private investment. Conservation land, on the other hand, serves numerous environmental functions, providing wildlife habitats and stormwater recharge areas. Impervious areas associated with open spaces can also help reduce runoff and diminish the frequency and severity of flooding while the vegetations help cool the air and improve air quality.

The purpose of this section is to provide an inventory of all lands in Scituate that are significant to open space and recreational use. Conservation areas and other notable land holdings are depicted in Map 7. A considerable effort was undertaken to provide the most accurate representation of the Town's conservation and recreation landholdings, given conflicting information, outdated GIS data, and Town Assessor records. It is important to note that open space and recreation parcels were mapped based on the available information. Open space lands can be grouped into four major classifications: protected, permanently protected, partially protected, and unprotected lands.

- Protected Parcels – Land is considered protected, at the basic level, if it is municipally owned and managed. In addition, if a nonprofit entity, with a mission similar to the above local organizations (i.e., the protection of land for conservation and open space interests), owns the land, it is considered “protected” by the Town. However, these lands do not have management agreements or deed restrictions that specify the use of the property (e.g., as conservation land or open space land rather than another use).
- Permanently Protected - Land is considered permanently protected if the Town of Scituate (e.g., Conservation Commission, Recreation Division, Public Works Department including the Water or Sewer Departments), Community Preservation Committee, Maxwell Conservation Trust, or other public or private entity owns the land and a deed/conservation restriction has been filed at the County Registry of Deeds specifying that the land has been reserved in perpetuity as open space and devoted to conservation purposes. Specifically, the Conservation Commission manages all “Article 97” lands (referring to the Articles of Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution), which cannot be converted to any other use without receiving a vote from the Conservation Commission, 2/3 Town Meeting and Massachusetts Legislature vote, as well as approval from the Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA).
- Partially Protected – Private land areas regulated under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 61, 61A and 61B: State-assessed recreational, agricultural, and forested lands, respectively, are considered partially protected. These lands have been designated by their owners for recreational, agricultural or forest land uses; and therefore, are protected as open space. However, these programs are voluntary whereby land can be sold by land owners at any time. The Town of Scituate thereby classifies these lands as having partial protection.
- Unprotected Parcels – Land is considered unprotected if it is owned by a private entity other than the private nonprofit entities listed above, and does not include a deed/conservation restriction, filed at the County Registry of Deeds, specifying that the land has been preserved in perpetuity as open space and devoted to conservation purposes.

Each of these land types can be owned privately or publicly, as described in the following sections. Table 5.1 through 5.7 provide a comprehensive list of Scituate’s open space parcels, including protected and unprotected public and private lands. Property associated with public schools was not included in the inventory



**Open Space and Recreation Plan**

Town of Scituate, Massachusetts

**Open Space and Recreation Resources**

Source: Town of Scituate, MassGIS

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## Town Land Use

Based on data from MassGIS maps from 2000, at that time approximately sixty-one percent (61%) of the land in Scituate was developed and nineteen percent (19%) was vacant and developable. The remaining land (20% of the total) was either protected open space or considered unbuildable because of environmental constraints such as wetlands or steep slopes. According to the Open Space Inventory contained in the Open Space and Recreation Plan, as of May 1998, approximately two thousand one hundred (2,100) acres of open space in the Town was owned by public entities or private nonprofit conservation groups. The location of this land is shown on the map of Open Space Resources at the end of this section. While in theory development may be possible on some of these parcels, it would be highly unlikely. Such ownership tends to allow these properties to be considered “permanently protected” for planning purposes.

There have been numerous recent acquisitions of open space. These include land obtained with CPC funds at the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, and land obtained with the approval of subdivisions. With the approval of the Benjamin Studley Farm and White Ash Farm subdivisions in 2014, the Town obtained eight acres adjacent to Bates Lane Preserve, already containing over 300 acres of protected open space, and two acres within a Zone A, an area protecting tributaries to the Town’s surface water supply.

Other open space acreage is protected through Conservation Restrictions held by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), Division of Conservation Services (DCS) or through the Chapter 61 program. This offers a tax break to landowners who keep their land undeveloped for a particular public purpose such as forestry, agriculture, open space or recreation.

The Town’s open space acreage provides a wide range of active and passive recreational opportunities including bicycling, boating, clamming, fishing, hiking, hunting, playgrounds, swimming, and Town-sponsored recreational activities such as youth programs. The Open Space and Recreation Areas map shows the locations of Scituate’s open space and recreational facilities. The Town’s open space also provides passive recreation such as nature appreciation and study, and wildlife observation.

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## Privately Owned Parcels

There are a number of privately owned recreation and open space parcels in the Town of Scituate. These contain some significant acreage, but most is not permanently protected. Because they are held by private or institutional landowners without any restrictions on the use of the property, there are no assurances that they will not be developed at some time in the future.

## Privately Owned Recreation Parcels.

Scituate contains several private, land-based commercial recreational facilities. They include the Scituate Rod and Gun Club, Scituate Country Club and the Hatherly County Club. The Hatherly and Scituate Country Club golf courses account for three hundred and fifty (350) acres of unprotected open space. Two privately owned parcels with spectacular views that are unprotected are the Adams Estate in the Glades and the Air Force Recreation compound on Fourth Cliff. The South Humarock Beach Association serves similar neighborhood goals.

Two neighborhood associations, the Scituate Beach Association and South Humarock Beach Association, own buildings where social events take place. The Scituate Beach Association building has been used for fundraising for scholarships. Both organizations host parades where children participate heavily. The Scituate Beach Association also owns a softball field. The South Humarock Beach Association building is also used for civic meetings of local residents.

A list of privately owned recreation and open space parcels follows in Tables 5.1 and 5.2. Land in the Hatherly Country Club and Scituate Country Club golf courses that is partially protected through a recreational restriction under the Chapter 61A tax program is shown as shaded in the table.

**Table 5.1 Privately Owned Recreation Lands**

Map	Block	Lot	Owner	Use
7	5	23	Hatherly Country Club	Private golf course
7	5	51	Hatherly Country Club	Private golf course
11	1	4	Scituate Rod & Gun Club	Shooting range, open space, clubhouse
12	6	1	Scituate Rod & Gun Club	Shooting range, open space, clubhouse
14	2	12	Hatherly Country Club	Private golf course
14	2	54	Hatherly Country Club	Private golf course
14	2	60	Hatherly Country Club	Private golf course
14	3	69	Hatherly Country Club	Private golf course
40	2	A	Scituate Beach Association	Community Building
40	3	0	Scituate Beach Association	Community Building
64	10	7	Scituate Country Club	Private golf course

64	10	8A	Scituate Country Club	Private golf course
68	1	A	U.S. Government, Air Force & Navy	Air Force recreation area
73	15	A	South Humarock Beach Association	Community Building

Note: Shaded parcels are protected by Chapter 61 restrictions

### Privately Owned Open Space Lands

The great majority of privately owned open space is unprotected. Table 5.2 below provides a list of all unprotected, privately owned parcels greater than ten acres. This information was provided from the Assessor’s records.

**Table 5.2 Private Open Space Lands**

Map	Block	Lot	Owner	Use
2	1	1	PM Abbott/ Chamberlain Manufacturing Co.	Estate owned by the Adams family

There are also privately-owned, protected parcels of open space land in Town. These include parcels with permanent deed restrictions placed on the land prohibiting development, those protected under Chapter 61, Chapter 61A and Chapter 61B and those owned by an organization whose purpose is protection of land. This information is provided in Tables 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5, below. The information for Table 5.3 was obtained from 2016 Town of Scituate Assessor’s Data and the State of Massachusetts list of Conservation Restrictions. Copies of the deed restrictions are on file with the Conservation Commission and Planning Board.

**Table 5.3 Protected Private Lands – Conservation Restrictions**

Map/Lot	Acres	Location	Protection
10-1-8, 11-1-1, 11-1-2 11-1-5, 11-1-6, 11-1-7	53.11	off Bates Lane (Wheelwright &	Conservation Restriction Bk 40062 p 97 - 121
17-2-10, 17-2-10 K	24	Off Kevin’s Way (Hennessey)	Conservation Restriction Bk 37673 p 283 - 295
17-2-20 D, 17-2-19 & 22, 17-2-16 B	39.71	Northerly of Clapp Road (Litchfield)	Conservation Restriction Bk 43987 p 64
18-1-21, 11-1-1C, 11-1-1B	45	Off Bates Lane	Conservation Restriction Bk 34045 p 159-171 Doc # 10568
23-1-6	9.86	150 Mann Lot Road	Conservation Restrictions Bk 33528 p 35 – 50 Doc # 117241
31-1-1	19.84	11 Grove Street Lots 2 - 7	Conservation Restriction Bk 12542 p 297 Doc # 158205

Map/Lot	Acres	Location	Protection
53-3-1A	13.03	Ladd's Way	Conservation Restriction Bk 9181 p 116 Plan 89-503
55-2-2	0.59	38 Greenfield Lane	Conservation Restrictions Bk 31127 p 1 – 13 Doc # 98830
60-3-5	1.2	0 Rear Kent Street	Conservation Restriction Bk 5215 p 144
64-10-8A Lot B 64-10-8B Lot B-1 64-10-8C Lot B-2	50.66 +/-	0 Driftway	Easement and Conservation Deed Restriction Bk 7582 p 6
64-6-39	43.5	Rivermoor area	Owned by North & South River Watershed Association

Under the Chapter 61 programs, landowners receive tax advantages in exchange for managing the land for the purposes stated above. When land is removed from these programs, the Town has one hundred and twenty (120) days to exercise its right of first refusal to purchase the property. With the numerous legal complications that can arise, as well as the procedural requirements that must be met for a municipal purchase of land, one hundred and twenty (120) days does not provide much time for the Town to exercise this right. Given the large acreage of land currently either in Chapter 61, 61A or 61B in Scituate, (or other lands identified in the OSRP for consideration) it is important to establish criteria that will assist the Town in prioritizing parcels that become available.

The Town of Scituate has fifteen parcels totaling more than two hundred acres protected under M.G.L. Chapter 61, Chapter 61A and Chapter 61B. These laws protect land whose use is restricted to forest or production of forest products (Chapter 61); agricultural or horticultural use (Chapter 61A); or recreation (Chapter 61B). These parcels are listed in Table 5.4.

In 1998, according to Assessor's data, Scituate had approximately 497 acres in these three programs, accounting for one sixth or 16.5 percent (%) of the total open space inventoried. By 2009, the land area had dropped to 315 acres. Since then, the Crosbie and Bartlett properties totaling 92 acres were purchased by the Town, and so are completely protected. However the total acreage has decreased to approximately 218 acres, largely because of these purchases.

**Table 5.4 Protected Private Lands - Chapter 61 Lands**

Program	Map/Lot	Owner	Acres	Location	Use
61A	6-1-3-0	Eleanor G. Bleakie	17.42	0 Border St.	Forestry
61A	6-2-9-A	Eleanor G. Bleakie et al Trustees	6.48	145 Border St.	Pasture
61A	31-1-45-0	Colleen & Dorothy Burke	2.05	0 Rear Pheasant Hill Dr.	Forestry
61A	31-1-46-B	Colleen & Dorothy Burke	.627	0 Rear Chief Justice Cushing Highway	Forestry



Program	Map/Lot	Owner	Acres	Location	Use
61A	31-1-49-0	Colleen & Dorothy Burke	3.55	0 Chief Justice Cushing Highway	Forestry
61A	27-6-58-0-R	Leo Costello Jr., Trustee	2.6	0 Fieldstone Rd.	Field crops - Hay
61A	24-2-9-C-R	Jean A & Ayn Duvoisin	2.64	0 Rear Clapp Rd.	Pasture
61A	44-2-24-B	Martha J & SS Litchfield	1.08	196 Country Way	Truck crops – Vegetables
61A	47-1-4-C	Pope's Pond Cranberry Co Inc.	79.0	0 Old Oaken Bucket Rd.	Cranberry bog
61A	47-1-4-D	Pope's Pond Cranberry Co Inc.	6.34	171 Old Oaken Bucket Rd.	Cranberry bog
61B	14-2-12-0	Hatherly Country Club	20.7	0 Hatherly/Gannett Rds.	Golf course
61B	14-2-54-0	Hatherly Country Club	15.0	0 Rear Hollett St.	Golf course
61B	14-2-60-F	Hatherly Country Club	9.4	0 Rear Hatherly Rd.	Golf course
61B	14-3-59-R	Hatherly Country Club	0.015	0 Rear Hatherly Rd.	Golf course
61B	64-10-8-A	JG Mariano, AJ Pacella Jr.	50.66	0 Driftway	Golf course
		<b>Total =</b>	<b>217.562</b>		

**Table 5.5 Protected Private Scituate Lands – Owned by Conservation Organizations**

Map/Lot	Acres	Location	Ownership
4-3-9A	8.0	Bassings Beach	Cohasset Conservation Trust
4-3-9D	2.04	Bassings Beach	Cohasset Conservation Trust
4-3-9E	3.03	Bassings Beach	Cohasset Conservation Trust
4-3-9F	2.09	Bassings Beach	Cohasset Conservation Trust
17-2-16-A	1.44	314 Clapp Rd.	Maxwell Land Trust Ltd.
23-1-8-0	3	0 Clapp Rd.	Trustees of Scituate Land Conservation Trust
24-2-37-0	2.5	Rear Clapp Rd.	Scituate Land Conservation Trust
24-2-38-0	5.0	Rear Clapp Rd.	Scituate Land Conservation Trust
24-2-39-0	1.0	Rear Clapp Rd.	Scituate Land Conservation Trust
24-2-40-0	1.0	Rear Clapp Rd.	Scituate Land Conservation Trust
24-2-43-0	2	Rear Clapp Rd.	Scituate Land Conservation Trust
29-2-2-S	1.72	0 Summer St.	Maxwell Land Trust Ltd.
39-27-0-A	5	Rear Beaver Dam Rd.	Scituate Land Conservation Trust
64-6-39	43	Third Cliff	North & South Rivers Watershed Association
<b>Total=</b>	<b>80.82</b>		

## Town of Scituate Public Lands

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### Public Recreation Lands

Scituate's Recreation Department oversees and permits sixteen (16) athletic fields, nine (9) Town beaches, and more than three hundred (300) annual programs serving both youth and adults. Over the past fifteen (15) years the Department has grown to two (2) full-time staff, two (2) part-time staff, and more than one hundred (100) seasonal staff.

Along with planning, organizing, and executing year-round special events, the Recreation Department also runs approximately three hundred (300) classes each year. Running these classes entails planning, staffing, and registering the more than five thousand (5,000) participants.

Scituate's recreation program continues to be the most comprehensive recreation program on the entire South Shore. Boston Magazine listed Scituate as one of the most desirable places to live in the South Shore in their annual "Best of Boston 2008" rating, highlighting the Town's "rec department on overdrive" as one of its offerings. Table 5.5 lists town-owned recreation lands that are open to the public for recreational uses. Please note that this includes some parcels that are managed by the Conservation Commission but available for active or passive recreation.

**Table 5.6 Town of Scituate Recreation Lands**

Location	Acres	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
Scituate High School Multi- Use Turf Field & Track	6.0	Recreation Department	Playing Field	Fair	Yes	Active	R-2	Protected by Town Ownership (no CR)	N/A
Central Field	16.67	Selectmen	Playing Field	Good	Yes	Active	R-2	Protected by Town	N/A
PJ Steverman Park, and Scituate High School (SHS) Basketball, & Tennis Courts	2.6	Recreation Department	Playing Field	Good	Yes	Active	R-2	Protected by Town Ownership (no CR)	N/A
Driftway Park	~ 18	Recreation Department	Park	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
Minot Beach	N/A	Recreation Department	Public Beach	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected by Town Ownership (no CR)	N/A
Minot Beach Parking – Bailey’s Causeway	6	DPW	Parking for Public Beach	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected	N/A
Minot Beach Parking – Bailey’s Causeway	2	DPW	Parking for Public Beach	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected	N/A
Mann Hill Beach (part of Egypt Beach)	End of way to water	Recreation Department	Public Beach	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected	N/A
The Spit	Accretion in North River	Recreation Department	Public Beach	Good	Yes	Active	D	Protected	N/A
Sand Hills Beach	Ends of multiple ways to water	Recreation Department	Public Beach	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected	N/A

Location	Acres	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
Museum Beach	Owners unknown	Recreation Department	Public Beach	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected	N/A
Egypt Beach	11.73	Recreation Department	Public Beach	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected by Town	N/A
Peggotty Beach	5.16	Recreation Department	Public Beach	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected by Town	N/A
North Scituate Beach	6.98	Recreation Department	Public Beach	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected	N/A
Humarock Beach	+/- 5 End of way to water + 250' north and south	Recreation Department	Public Beach	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected	N/A
Teak Sherman Park	7.24	Recreation Department	Park	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
Hubbell Land	17.55	Conservation Commission	Trail	Good	Yes	Active	R-2	Protected	N/A
Gauley Land	71.65	Conservation Commission	Trails/Pier/Way to Water	Good	Yes	Active	R-1	Protected	N/A
Hatherly Playground	2.41	DPW	Playground	Good	Yes	Active	R-2	Protected	N/A
Jericho Boat Launch	2.59	Harbormaster	Boat Launching/Parking	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected	N/A
Lawson Common	3.48	DPW	Park	Good	Yes	Active	R-2	Protected	N/A
Scituate Lighthouse	2.73	Recreation Department	Historic Site	Good	Yes	Active	R-3	Protected	N/A
Wompatuck Park	104.55	Mass DCR	Park	Good	Yes	Active	R-2	Protected	N/A
Widow's Walk	138.73	Selectmen	Public Golf Course	Good	Yes	Active	R-2	Protected	N/A
Rivermoor	315.32	Conservation Commission	Shellfishing	Good	Yes	Active	D	Protected	N/A
Bassings Beach	101.46	Conservation Commission	Shellfishing	Good	Yes	Active	D	Protected	N/A
<b>Total =</b>	<b>~ 1,009.69</b>								

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## Public Open Space Lands

The Town of Scituate has had a history of preserving land to enhance its rural character. It also has rich environmental and cultural resources such as its beaches, woodlands, stone walls, ledge outcroppings, and scenic vistas, as well as numerous agricultural and historical sites.

The task of documenting and mapping all Town conservation and recreation lands proved to be a challenging process, as it had been in prior years. Many parcels identified as open space on Assessor's Maps were never given Map/Block/Lot numbers, and therefore were not found in the Town's database, and were also not registered in the GIS database, leaving no record, other than their original deeds, to document their status. This created a hardship to come up with an accurate and consistent land use inventory and map. Different avenues of completing this task were explored, and ultimately completed with a combination of efforts. Looking ahead toward future planning efforts, the process of tracking Town properties should be examined for its potential shortcomings and an alternative process explored for improving those shortcomings.

According to prior Open Space Plans, the Town has preserved over twenty-one hundred (2,100) acres of land in order to maintain its open space character. With 1,071 acres devoted to conservation and an additional 274 earmarked for well or reservoir protection, Scituate has made a strong commitment to the setting aside of lands for public use and natural resource protection. A combination of factors, historical, geographical and political, has resulted in a less than perfect distribution of these lands, but the number of protected acres is impressive. The Town of Scituate is the largest landowner in Scituate. There are still many additional sites that warrant consideration for protection as well as for active and passive recreation, but for the community as a whole, this must be balanced against the potential loss of tax revenue.

**Table 5.7 Town of Scituate Open Space Managed by the Conservation Commission or DPW Water Division**

Location	Assessor's Map Information				Area	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
	Map	Block	Parcel	Suffix	Acres								
WOOD ISLAND RD - RICHARDSON	4	1	7		0.85	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
BRIGGS HARBOR - MEE	4	3	24		14.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	D	Protected	N/A
GANNETT RD	4	3	27		1.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
GANNETT RD - WHITTEMORE	4	3	31		3.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
GANNETT RD	4	3	33		4.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
GANNETT RD - BROWN	4	3	35		5.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
INDIAN TRAIL - HUBBELL	7	3	9		0.56	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
8 CAVANAUGH RD.	7	4	5		0.77	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
10 INDIAN TRL - HUBBELL PROPERTY	7	5	9		0.97	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
INDIAN TRAIL, BEHIND CAVANAUGH RD - HUBBELL	7	8	2		16.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	CPA
7 CAVANAGH RD - HUBBELL	7	8	10		0.63	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
HUBBELL PROPERTY	7	8	13		1.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	CPA
HUBBELL PROPERTY	7	8	14		1.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD	10	1	8		12.19	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD - MONCY	11	1	1	B	11.80	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
SUMMER ST	11	1	1		10.86	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA

Location	Assessor's Map Information				Area	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
	Map	Block	Parcel	Suffix	Acres								
CLAPP RD - MONCY	11	1	1	C	8.42	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD	11	1	2		22.66	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD - HAYDEN	11	1	3		9.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
BOOTH HILL RD - BJORKLUND	11	1	5		4.75	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
BOOTH HILL RD - BJORKLUND	11	1	6		1.63	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
BOOTH HILL RD - BJORKLUND	11	1	7		1.17	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD	11	1	12		8.98	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
H T BAILEY RD	12	1	32		1.94	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
H T BAILEY RD - SIEMINSKI PROPERTY	12	2	26		4.10	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	CPA
COUNTRY WAY - ELLIS	12	3	1		95.84	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
ROUTE 3A W/SIDE - BAILEY	12	6	2		46.11	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
C J CUSHING WAY - MONCY	12	6	4		4.90	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
VILLAGE LN	13	1	23		6.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
GANNETT RD - MERRITT	13	2	56		2.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
GANNETT RD - SILIPO	14	2	41		1.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
HOLLETT ST/HATHERLY RR	14	2	55		43.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
SURFSIDE RD	15	1	30		0.12	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A

Location	Assessor's Map Information				Area	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
	Map	Block	Parcel	Suffix	Acres								
63 SURFSIDE RD - RAND	15	1	31		0.16	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
SURFSIDE RD - RAND	15	3	12		0.21	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
CEDAR ST - WOLFE	17	1	6		8.45	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
KEVIN'S WAY	17	2	10		20.63	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD - MAXWELL TRUST	17	2	16		3.39	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD - MAXWELL TRUST	17	2	19		28.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD - MAXWELL TRUST	17	2	20D		14.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD	17	2	22		0.25	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD - BURBANK	17	4	1		3.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD	17	4	36		6.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
STUDLEY FARM RD	18	1	2		8.92	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
APPLETON FARM	18	1	4		10.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
STUDLEY NECK	18	1	4	R	10.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
HERITAGE TRL OPEN SPACE	18	1	6		2.77	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
HERITAGE TRL OPEN SPACE	18	1	6		2.16	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
BOOTH HILL RD	18	1	21		24.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
BOOTH HILL RD - HIGGINS MACALLISTER PROPERTY	18	1	23		30.99	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA



Location	Assessor's Map Information				Area	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
	Map	Block	Parcel	Suffix	Acres								
CLAPP RD - GRASSIE et al	18	1	24	A-E	16.75	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD - GRASSIE et al	18	1	24	B	29.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD - GRASSIE	18	1	24	C-E	17.81	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD - MAPPED, UNNUMBERED*	18	N/A	N/A		12.20	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD - MAPPED, UNNUMBERED*	18	N/A	N/A		10.39	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD - MAPPED, UNNUMBERED*	18	N/A	N/A		11.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
C J CUSHING WAY - TOWN FOREST	19	1	15		18.90	Water Division	Water Resource Protection	Good	No	N/A	R-1	Protected	N/A
BOOTH HILL RD - CONIHASSET ESTATES OPEN SPACE	19	2	11	G-E	6.67	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
MANN LOT RD	20	1	7		1.20	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
MANN LOT RD	20	1	8		12.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
MANN LOT RD	20	1	9		13.75	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
HOLLETT ST - TIBBETTS PROPERTY	20	6	11	O-E	2.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
HOLLETT ST - GAULEY PROPERTY	20	6	13	O-E	3.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
HATHERLY RD	21	3	2		1.22	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
MUSQUASHCUT BERM	22	8	11		7.29	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD - BEAL	23	1	3		39.14	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
APPLETON FARM	23	1	4	R	10.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA

Location	Assessor's Map Information				Area	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
	Map	Block	Parcel	Suffix	Acres								
CEDAR ST - SHERRETT CHASE	23	1	14	O-E	4.43	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CEDAR ST	23	1	24		4.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CEDAR ST - SCHWARZE	23	1	36	O-E	2.89	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD	24	2	7		2.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD	24	2	8		2.75	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD - DAMON PROPERTY	24	2	9		3.04	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD - DAMON PROPERTY	24	2	10		8.12	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD - DAMON PROPERTY	24	2	20		18.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	CPA
CLAPP RD	24	2	21		2.25	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD - MEURCH	24	2	42		3.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
CAPTAIN PEIRCE RD	24	2	44		2.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
CLAPP RD - DOLAN	24	2	50	F-E	2.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
FIELDSTONE RD - WHITE & TIBBETTS	27	6	64		0.47	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
WINSLOW AV - HOSS	28	8	2	O-E	0.60	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
WINSLOW AV - HOSS	28	9	4		0.60	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
CHITTENDEN RD	32	1	14		0.41	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
UTILITY RD - D. SMITH	32	7	25		19.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A

Location	Assessor's Map Information				Area	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
	Map	Block	Parcel	Suffix	Acres								
LAWSON RD	33	4	8		7.46	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
PINCIN HILL TANK & TOWN FOREST / CH40 S8C	35	2	3		20.50	Water Division	Water Resource Protection	Good	No	N/A	R-1	Protected	N/A
FIRST PARISH RD - PINCIN HILL TANK & TOWN FOREST	35	2	5		12.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
FIRST PARISH RD - KAPLAN PROPERTY	36	1	1		7.63	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
ROUTE 3A W/SIDE - KAPLAN PROPERTY	36	1	2		0.11	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
ROUTE 3A W/SIDE - KAPLAN PROPERTY	36	1	3		2.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
ROUTE 3A W/SIDE - KAPLAN PROPERTY	36	1	5		1.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
MAPLE ST NEAR OLD OAKEN BUCKET RD. - VASSALOTTI	36	1	13	R	41.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
STEARNS MEADOW	36	3	14		1.81	Water Division	Water Resource Protection	Good	No	N/A	R-1	Protected	N/A
PINEVIEW DR; ACREAGE WITH WELLS #19 & 22 (STEARNS MEADOW) / CH40 S8C	36	4	4		54.35	Water Division	Water Resource Protection	Good	No	N/A	R-1	Protected	N/A
STEARNS MEADOW	36	5	6		7.71	Water Division	Water Resource Protection	Good	No	N/A	R-1	Protected	N/A
COUNTRY WAY - WHITE ASH FARM OPEN SPACE	37	8	13		6.51	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
16 SHADWELL RD - LARSEN	39	26	25	M	0.46	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
22 SHADWELL RD	39	26	25	N	0.47	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
26 SHADWELL RD	39	26	25	O	0.49	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A

Location	Assessor's Map Information				Area	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
	Map	Block	Parcel	Suffix	Acres								
OLD OAKEN BUCKET RD	41	2	2		19.05	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
96 TACK FACTORY POND DR. - WELL 17	42	4	8		0.92	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
COUNTRY WAY - MIRARCHI PROPERTY	43	1	10	A	4.75	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	CPA
C J CUSHING WAY - OPEN SPACE, DOCTOR'S HILL DEVELOPMENT	43	1	12		13.42	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
C J CUSHING WAY - JAE CORP	43	1	17		11.80	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
C J CUSHING WAY	43	1	17	R	3.50	Water Division	Water Resource Protection	Good	No	N/A	R-1	Protected	N/A
ON SATUIT BROOK, MAPPED, UNNUMBERED PARCEL	44	N/A	N/A		10.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
ELM ST - TILDEN ESTATES	44	2	13	P	4.80	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
ELM ST - TILDEN ESTATES	44	2	13	Q	3.65	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
TILDEN RD	45	2	22		2.05	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
SEAMORE RD	45	9	2		0.12	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
GEORGES RD	45	9	5		0.23	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
6 ABIGAIL RD - PETERSON	46	4	3		0.11	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
ABIGAIL RD - HOBAN	46	4	9		0.31	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
OLD OAKEN/C J CUSH	47	2	26		34.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
GREENBUSH FIELD	48	1	10		5.10	Water Division	Water Resource Protection	Good	No	N/A	R-2	Protected	N/A

Location	Assessor's Map Information				Area	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
	Map	Block	Parcel	Suffix	Acres								
RESERVOIR & WATER DEPT	48	1	10	A	85.00	Water Division	Water Resource Protection	Good	No	N/A	R-1	Protected	N/A
OFF JENKINS PLACE - FORMER WELLFIELD	48	2	69		13.16	Water Division	Water Resource Protection	Good	No	N/A	R-1	Protected	N/A
ELM ST - LIND PROPERTY	49	1	43		6.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	CPA
COUNTRY WAY - NICHOLAS WADE PRESERVE (LITCHFIELD PROPERTY)	49	1	47		30.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	CPA
EDWARD FOSTER RD - TILDEN CORP. (FORMER QUINCY OIL PROPERTY)	50	7	26		4.91	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
BROOK ST - LARSEN	50	12	3		0.37	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
WELLFIELD, WELLS 10 & 11. WEBSTER'S MEADOW	52	1	16		63.75	Water Division	Water Resource Protection	Good	No	N/A	R-1	Protected	N/A
WALNUT TREE HILL BOOSTER STATION	52	2	41		0.10	Water Division	Water Resource Protection	Good	No	N/A	R-1	Protected	N/A
OLD OAKEN BUCKET RD - TEDESCHI, OPEN SPACE FOR NORTHEY ESTATES	52	2	32		3.28	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-1	Protected	N/A
WELL #18, WIDOW'S WALK	54				3.89	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
GREENFIELD ESTATES OPEN SPACE	55	2	3	D	0.62	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
RIDGE HILL RD	55	2	15		1.68	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
RIDGE HILL RD	55	2	16		0.90	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
KENT ST - BURN, CORCORAN et al	55	2	18		1.40	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A

Location	Assessor's Map Information				Area	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
	Map	Block	Parcel	Suffix	Acres								
KENT ST	55	5	4		13.91	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
29 TOWN WAY EXTENSION - FEMA BUYOUT WITH RESTRICTION	55	6	32		0.13	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
45 TOWN WAY EXTENSION - FEMA BUYOUT WITH RESTRICTIONS	55	6	42		0.13	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
40 TOWN WAY EXTENSION - FEMA BUYOUT WITH RESTRICTION	55	8	4		0.32	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
38 TOWN WAY EXTENSION - FEMA BUYOUT WITH RESTRICTION	55	8	6		0.30	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
34 TOWN WAY EXTENSION - FEMA BUYOUT WITH RESTRICTION	55	8	7		0.22	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
32 TOWN WAY EXTENSION - FEMA BUYOUT WITH RESTRICTION	55	8	8		0.16	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
28 TOWN WAY EXTENSION - FEMA BUYOUT WITH RESTRICTION	55	8	9, 10, 11		0.43	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
12, 18, 20, 22, 26 TOWN WAY EXTENSION - FEMA BUYOUT WITH RESTRICTION	55	8	12,13,14,15,16,18		0.86	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
14 TOWN WAY EXTENSION - FEMA BUYOUT WITH RESTRICTION	55	8	17		0.41	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
10 TOWN WAY EXTENSION - FEMA BUYOUT WITH RESTRICTION	55	8	19		0.10	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
8 TOWN WAY EXTENSION - FEMA BUYOUT WITH RESTRICTION	55	8	20		0.28	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
TOWN WAY EXT	55	8	13		0.14	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
SALT MEADOW LN - CRESSWELL	57	2	6		3.40	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
C J CUSHING WAY - FORMER BOSTON SAND & GRAVEL	62	1	2		8.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
C J CUSHING WAY - FORMER BOSTON SAND & GRAVEL	62	1	9		4.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A

Location	Assessor's Map Information				Area	Management	Current Use	Conditions	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Grant Received
	Map	Block	Parcel	Suffix	Acres								
C J CUSHING WAY - FORMER BOSTON SAND & GRAVEL	62	2	0		1.25	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
C J CUSHING WAY - ADJ TO WILLI ISLAND	62	3	6		1.25	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
C J CUSHING WAY	62	3	7		1.25	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
WILLS ISLAND - FORMER BOSTON SAND & GRAVEL	62	3	10		3.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-2	Protected	N/A
RIVER ST - ZEARFOSS & KENT	69	2	21	F	0.31	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
HARVARD ST - DONOVAN	72	3	4		0.13	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
RIVER ST	73	17	2		0.07	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	Yes	Passive	R-3	Protected	N/A
<b>Total =</b>	<b>1344.48</b>												

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## Recent Public Open Space Acquisitions

The Town of Scituate has had a history of preserving land to enhance its rural character. It also has rich environmental and cultural resources such as its beaches, woodlands, stone walls, ledge outcroppings, and scenic vistas, as well as numerous agricultural and historical sites. According to prior Open Space Plans, the Town has preserved over twenty-one hundred (2,100) acres of land which has helped to maintain its open space character. This number most likely included parcels of land associated with the schools, and parcels which are lacking Map-Block-Lot numbers and were therefore not included on the Assessor's lists. While there are still many additional sites that warrant consideration for protection as well as for active and passive recreation, this must be balanced against the potential loss of tax revenue.

With approximately 2,100 acres of open space lands, of which 1,359 acres are devoted to wellhead or Reservoir protection or conservation, the Town of Scituate is the largest landowner in Scituate. As a community, Scituate has made a strong commitment to the setting aside of lands for public use and natural resource protection.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was adopted by the Town of Scituate in 2002. The CPA allowed the Town to generate revenue from existing local property taxes and acquire State matching funds for projects that qualify for funding the under the following target areas: (1) the acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space, which includes "land to protect existing and future well fields" and "aquifers and recharge areas"; (2) the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources; and (3) the creation and support of community housing.

Table 5.8 lists the completed purchases of open space and recreation lands through the CPA since it was adopted through April 2016. The total does not include acquisitions for which CPA funds have been appropriated, but that have not been completed to date.



**Table 5.8 CPA Open Space Acquisitions (through April 2016)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Map/Lot/Parcel</b>	<b>Management</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Date Acq.</b>
Appleton Property	23-1-4R	Conservation Commission	\$150,000	10	9/23/2003
Clapp Rd. Property	11-1-1B-E, 11-1-1C-E, 18-1-21-0-E	Conservation Commission	\$760,585	45	9/23/2003
Cedar Street Property	17-1-6B	Conservation Commission	\$167,000	8.45	3/13/2004
Litchfield Property	17-2-19, 17-2-16B, 17-2-20D, 17-2-22	Conservation Commission	\$595,000	40	3/6/2006
Hennessey Property	17-2-10	Conservation Commission	\$355,200	20.6	4/13/2009
Bjorklund Property	11-1-5, 11-1-6, 11-1-7	Conservation Commission	\$120,350	7.6	4/12/2010
Wheelwright Property	10-1-8, 10-1-9, 11-1-2, 11-1-11	Conservation Commission	\$814,200	47.6	4/12/2010
Mirachi Property	43-1-10A	Conservation Commission	\$35,000	5	4/12/2010
Crosbie Property	21-1-3	Conservation Commission	\$666,380	39	4/11/2011
Hubbell Preserve	7-8-2, 7-8-13, 7-8-14	Conservation Commission	\$226,000	16.3	4/11/2011
Higgins-MacAllister Property	18-1-23	Conservation Commission	\$126,900	31.4	4/9/2012
Nicholas Wade Preserve	49-1-47	Conservation Commission	\$167,500	30.5	4/9/2012
Lind Property	49-1-43	Conservation Commission	\$30,000	6	4/9/2012
Sieminski Property	12-2-26	Conservation Commission	\$20,000	4.1	4/9/2012
Damon Memorial Preserve	24-2-10, 24-2-20, 24-2-9	Conservation Commission	\$754,000	37.7	4/14/2014
Maxwell Trust Property	10-1-6, 11-1-1A	Conservation Commission	-	26.8	Pending
<b>Total Acreage</b>				<b>376.05</b>	

Note: Data from Town of Scituate website 10/4/2016. The above parcels are also inventoried in Table 5.7.

# 6

## Community Vision

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### Description of Process

The broad-based goals for this 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update were developed out of a series of meetings among various local government officials, stakeholders and the public. As described in Section 2, the OSRP update process involved substantial public outreach effort that offered ample opportunities for public input, both online and in person during public meetings. These valuable public inputs helped shape the development of the community goals for the next seven years. Goals from the town's previous 2009 OSRP were also used as the basis for developing the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan goals.

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### Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Through the extensive public planning process, as well as research and discussion among the various town stakeholders involved in the planning process, the following six broad and overarching goals were formed to guide the development of Scituate's open space and recreation endeavors over the next seven years.

#### **Overarching Open Space and Recreation Vision and Goals:**

- 1. Conserve and preserve our valuable water resources, including public drinking water supply.**
- 2. Protect and enhance our natural shoreline and coastal waters as an important part of our community identity.**
- 3. Preserve our historic heritage and assets that contributes to our sense of community.**

- 4. Enhance handicap accessibility throughout our recreational areas to promote equitable access and enjoyment among residents.**
- 5. Balance protecting our open space resource and utilizing these resources appropriately for public benefit.**
- 6. Strive to meet current and future outdoor recreation needs of our residents and visitors.**

Details regarding the specific goals, developed based on the above broad-based vision/goals, and objectives supporting each goal can be found in Section 8 Goals and Objectives, and the detailed action items towards achieving each goal are presented in Section 9 Seven Year Action Plan.

# 7

## Analysis of Needs

While needs can be subjective and are often difficult to distinguish from wants, the following summary of open space and recreation needs in Scituate are derived from earlier analyses of the community's issues, resources and opportunities, and cross-referenced with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to take consideration of established standards and ensure consistency with regional goals and objectives. These needs also reflect the overarching vision and goals discussed above in Section 6.

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### Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Scituate has a wealth of land and water resources with unique characteristics that help to maintain its rural character and distinguish it from surrounding communities. The Town contains some significantly large parcels that provide a variety of passive and active recreational experiences.

Additionally, water resources provide substantial recreational opportunities (i.e., boating, fishing, shellfishing, and beach-going), as well as the Town's water supply. The Town should continue to acquire open space in order to maintain the historically rural character of the Town and to provide adequate educational and recreational experiences for Town residents. Improvements to the Town's infrastructure, such as the expansion of sewer in Greenbush and the Musquashicut Pond area, and extension of the MBTA Greenbush commuter rail line create growth pressures on the Town that will continue to threaten parcels that are not adequately protected from future development. Important factors that should be considered when deciding on future land acquisitions are described in detail in the subsections below.

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### Enforce Laws for Water Resource Protection

The Old Oaken Bucket Pond, Tack Factory Pond, the Reservoir, and their watersheds and tributaries, as well as the groundwater underlying Scituate, are the primary sources of Scituate's existing and future drinking water supply. Old Oaken Bucket

Pond is considered to be Scituate's primary surface water supply source, according to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), making the protection of its surrounding wetlands and tributaries of critical importance. Scituate's Zoning Bylaw includes a Water Resources Protection District (WRPD) Bylaw (520.4) that requires a 150' setback or buffer from any river or stream tributary that feeds a Town water supply.

In addition to the WRPD Bylaw and the State of Massachusetts' Wetlands Protection Act (WPA), Scituate has a strong local Wetlands Bylaw, which further protects wetlands and surface waters from contamination by point-source discharges, non-point pollution and sedimentation. Each of these regulations should continue to be strongly enforced to help maintain high water quality for Scituate's wetlands, surface waters, and drinking water reservoirs.

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## **Water Supply Protection**

A source of clean, drinkable water has always been a major concern to the Town of Scituate. Of the 2.80 million gallons per day (gpd) capacity, 2.05 million gpd comes from wells. One of the wells, the Fitz well, produces 225,000 gpd, but is not potable because of its high iron content.

All of the wells have to be shut down periodically to recharge. In periods of drought, such as in the early 1960's and in 2016, the volume of water available from wells and the Reservoir dropped because the wells and streams that feed it are sustained by both groundwater and surface runoff, both varying in flow rate, based on precipitation and use.

As Scituate's popularity as a bedroom community grows, much of the undeveloped land which now catches and stores rainwater and releases it slowly to the streams and wells will be under increasing pressure for housing and infrastructure. If this land is developed, the Town will be faced with an increasing population and a decreasing water supply. Even if the Town preserves all of its present water resources, there will still be a need for a larger supply of water in the future if residential and commercial use increases. Therefore, one of the prime purposes of this OSRP is to provide guidelines for preserving and protecting Scituate's water resources and the recharge areas around Town wells, the reservoir, and streams feeding the reservoir.

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## **Critical Wildlife Habitat Areas in Need of Special Protection**

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), part of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, is one of the programs forming the Natural Heritage network. NHESP is responsible for the conservation and protection of hundreds of species that are not hunted, fished, trapped, or commercially harvested in the state, as well as the protection of the natural communities that make up their habitats. The Program's highest priority is protecting the vertebrate and

invertebrate animals and native plants that are officially listed as Endangered, Threatened or of Special Concern in Massachusetts.

The overall goal of the Program is the protection of the state's wide range of native biological diversity. Progress towards this goal is accomplished through the following:

- Biological Field Surveys & Research
- Data Management
- Endangered Species Regulation
- Rare Species Recovery and Ecological Restoration of Key Habitats
- Land Protection
- Education

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, along with the Nature Conservancy, created BioMap2 to protect vulnerable species that could decline or suffer extinction in the face of changing conditions associated with climate change. BioMap2 identifies Core Habitat as specific areas critical to the survival of rare and endangered species that should be preserved to ensure their habitat. The Core Habitats include Vernal Pools, Wetland Cores and Aquatic Cores.

The Critical Natural Landscapes include buffers to the core habitats, and other areas that are more able to support disturbance, although they are also habitat areas. They include Upland buffers to Wetland and Aquatic Cores and Upland habitat to support coastal adaptation. In Scituate, Core Habitat comprises 1,199 acres of land, 528 (44.1 percent) acres of which is permanently protected. Critical natural Landscape occupies 2,328 acres and 43 percent (1,002 acres) is permanently protected.

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## **Wildlife Corridors and Strategies for their Protection**

Future land acquisition considerations should include wildlife routes between fragmented habitats. Further fragmentation of habitat should be minimized by the establishment of greenways or wildlife corridors of sufficient width for the species that will use them, or through the protection of large unfragmented areas made possible by open space cluster subdivisions or parcels connected to existing conservation lands. It would be prudent for the Town to map out potential wildlife corridors and add those parcels to the Town's open space priority list.

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## **Planning for Future Acquisition**

As expressed through an active Community Preservation Committee (CPC) which has spearheaded open space acquisitions, the Town values many attributes of open space in Scituate including the protection of water supply, habitat protection, trail

networks, and passive recreation. The Town is also aware of the costs of maintenance, insurance and removing property from the tax rolls. While there is agreement that some parcels should be acquired, in the absence of an Open Space Committee, the Town should encourage coordinated open space planning between Planning, Recreation, and Conservation, in cooperation with the CPC.

When data is available through a more advanced GIS, this will be a useful tool to analyze and compare the relative qualities of open space parcels. Town agencies can also obtain specific parcel information from the Assessor's Office, including map and lot identification, acreage, and acquisition costs. GIS professionals could potentially use that information to develop an updated Priority Parcel map, which can be used to guide Town agencies. The formation of an Open Space Committee, which would include key Town officials, staff and interested citizens, should be considered to ensure that communication is maintained and that efforts are streamlined between agencies.

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## Property Integration

There are opportunities to increase the ecological value of existing open space areas by acquiring adjacent undeveloped parcels to create greenbelts and wildlife corridors. Connective open space parcels not only ensure safe transportation for wildlife, but also ensure: the preservation of rural communities that might otherwise be absorbed by expanding suburbs; walking, camping, and biking areas close to the cities and towns; habitat for wild plants and animals; as well as cleaner air and water for citizens. Such properties should be considered in the development of a priority parcel inventory, as mentioned above.

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## Capital Costs and Funding

Due to the high costs of land acquisition, "out of the box" preservation techniques and funding sources should be explored and used to the fullest extent possible. Some of these techniques include, but are not limited to: limited developments; regulatory controls; open space cluster subdivisions, or conservation zoning; and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) purchases.

Funding resources for open space acquisition have been identified and are actively pursued. They include the submission of applications for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding and the LAND and PARC Grant funding in support of open space and recreational acquisitions and improvements.

In addition to funding open space acquisitions, there are considerable costs associated with the long-term management of open space and recreation areas. Specific costs include aesthetic improvements (i.e. benches, landscaping, repairs to trails or paved pathways) and ecological restoration projects (i.e. prescribed burning, revegetation of cleaned areas, river restoration). With limited staffing and fiscal resources, the Town

may need the assistance of other resources to keep up with management needs. These costs should be considered and included in the Town's Capital Improvements Plan.

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## Summary of Community's Needs

The following are Scituate's open space and recreational needs as they relate to the provision of conservation and recreation areas for residents and visitors alike.

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### Access to Open Space

The ability of Scituate residents and visitors alike to access open spaces and recreational facilities is an important consideration, especially since a major attraction of the Town is its beautiful coastline.

A number of Scituate's open space properties are easy to reach and have public parking. Increasing walking paths and other pedestrian facilities in appropriate locations would encourage more people to visit open spaces, participate in recreational opportunities, and enjoy Scituate's visual assets. Trails could provide informal paths for pedestrians to reach recreational resources and open space. The Recreation Commission has supported an increase in the number of hiking and biking trails.

Among the open space areas are those that are somewhat remote, such as the mud flats north of the Glades, Bassings Beach, and some of the shoreline in Minot and along the Cliffs. There is limited access to these areas, and most are privately owned. The Town should examine the feasibility of creating a comprehensive network of existing and new trails as a recreation amenity which will provide better access to open space resources.

In the past, poor access to conservation lands limited their full potential for residents of the community. Similarly, if trails are not marked or mapped, residents will not be aware of opportunities to walk through forested areas. In 2017, the Town approved the use of CPA funds to create public parking at various open space locations and to install signage and trail markers. Moving forward, additional public parking areas and the use of signs and trail markers, as well as information posted on the Town's website and in printed literature (i.e. trail guides and/or maps) need to be considered.



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## Critical Areas in Need of Protection

The Master Plan discusses some priorities for open space preservation through acquisition, easements/restrictions, and other means. In selecting and prioritizing sites, the following elements should be considered:

- Value for water supply protection;
- The continuing value of preserving large, visible areas that connect with other open space properties, including the Route 3A Greenbelt;
- Protection of wildlife habitat;
- Preservation of scenic views; and
- Balanced geographic distribution of open space and recreation among different Scituate neighborhoods, encouraging access to open space for all Scituate residents.

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## Priority Open Space Parcels

In particular, the following currently unprotected parcels have been identified by citizens of Scituate, based on previous survey results, as important parcels to protect. Their proximity to protected lands, provision of scenic vistas, or other ecological benefits were primary factors in their evaluation:

- Bates Lane Preserve and Carl Pipes Trail
- Driftway Conservation Area and McEachern Trail
- Ellis Property and Trails
- Teak Sherman Park/Community Garden
- Peggotty Beach
- Egypt Beach
- Minot Beach
- The Spit
- Scituate Lighthouse and Park
- Lawson Common
- Harborwalk
- Egypt Beach
- Humarock Beach

Establishing specific criteria for prioritizing future purchases would provide a framework for decisions on open space acquisition. This could be especially beneficial when the Town has limited time to proceed with the acquisition of a particular parcel. Specific criteria that can be used in deciding how open space parcels should be prioritized for possible purchase can be found in the Recommendations below.

The Master Plan notes the following key parcels as having high priority for acquisition or some other means of permanent protection (i.e. conservation restriction or deed restriction):

1. Strawberry Point (the Adams Estate, the Glades) is located at the northernmost point of the Scituate coast. It is one of the last promontories of unspoiled coastline in Massachusetts. With its stunted trees bent permanently by the wind and its granite cliffs dropping to the sea, this is truly an inspiring place. It is a property that has been owned by the Adams family for generations. It has several residential structures on it and is still utilized by the family. Because of the scenic vistas and the unique and sensitive coastal resources found at the site, the Town hopes to secure conservation restrictions on the property to ensure that no further development occurs.
2. Fourth Cliff has long been a priority for Town acquisition. The site has been controlled by the U.S. Air Force and is used as a recreation area by Air Force personnel. It could be an  
  
exceptional regional park, with its tremendous view of the Atlantic Ocean to the East and the North and South River marshes to the West.
3. The West End Greenbelt consists of an extensive area between Route 3A and Clapp Rd., which includes land of the Scituate Rod and Gun Club, and approximately 200 acres of Town-owned conservation land, in addition to privately-owned, undeveloped properties. While access to some of the interior land is limited, the area surrounds Bates Lane, a historic, unimproved way, and provides significant areas for habitat and groundwater protection.
4. The Route 3A Greenway is one of the most impressive features of Scituate and often the first to be noticed by a visitor. This consists of a protected 100 foot setback on either side of Route 3A running the length of Scituate from the Cohasset town line to the Marshfield town line on the North River. It is a gateway to the community and has many valued open space parcels and environmental resources within its corridor. This magnificent stretch of woodland is broken only occasionally by homes, small businesses or public buildings, and gives the traveler a feeling of remoteness and depth unique in this part of New England.

The Town possesses many beautiful scenic vistas. There are also small parcels scattered throughout the Town that could become neighborhood parks or green spaces. One example is the triangular piece of land between Carrie W. Litchfield Lane and Stockbridge Rd. near the former Allen Library. The Town's Beautification Committee has an established program for landscaping traffic islands and similar small planted spaces. This has occurred in a few locations throughout Town, but there are many other sites that could benefit from a street landscaping program, with newly developed disease-resistant species of elms and other species of trees enhancing the quality of existing open space and views along the streets.

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## **Handicap Accessible Facilities**

In light of Scituate's maturing population, it is especially important to consider the viability of recreational opportunities for the Town's disabled population. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed to provide guidelines for improving handicap accessibility to public facilities for this underserved population in communities nationwide. The ADA of 1991 states that public facilities, including Town lands, should meet federal guidelines for accessibility by handicapped persons. In order to comply with ADA guidelines, certain specifications need to be met, such as the inclusion of handrails, ramps, and handicap accessible bathrooms and parking areas.

The most popular town-owned recreational facilities and conservation areas were first inventoried by Anne Vegnani, former Fields Supervisor, with members of the Conservation Commission in the Spring of 2008, using ADA survey forms to determine their ADA compliance. An updated ADA self-evaluation was done for these facilities and several additional ones as part of this 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update using the latest facility inventory form, which is included as Appendix III. The Town has allocated funds and is currently preparing to undertake a new ADA Transition Plan.

The Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission and the ADA Committee will work together to create accessibility on Town-owned properties. These boards are also committed to continued reevaluation of the management plans for each of these properties.

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## **Affordable Housing Sites and Other Needs**

According to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development's most recent data on the Chapter 40B Subsidized Housing Inventory, Scituate had 7,163 year-round housing units, 309 of which can be counted as affordable, representing 4.3% of the year-round housing stock. Scituate is therefore vulnerable to losing control over housing development through Chapter 40B comprehensive permit applications. To meet the 10% standard, at least 712 of the existing units would have to be "affordable" based on the state's definition, requiring

at least another 403 more housing units to be converted to affordability to meet just the 10% standard. Assuming future housing growth, this 10% figure is a moving target and ultimately the required minimum number of year-round units will increase over time. Additionally, there are needs that extend beyond what would be required to reach the 10% threshold, and the Town should also attempt to exert some control related to the appropriateness of new development including siting, renewing critical areas in town, promoting pedestrian circulation, etc.

Each year, the Community Preservation Committee is required to recommend proposed CPA expenditures to Town Meeting. When there are no proposed activities to consider, the 10% allocation for housing (or any other purpose) must be transferred to a special set aside for future use. The Town will need to be proactive in anticipating future housing needs in balance with open space needs, and economic needs. Scituate must also ensure affordable housing for all of its residents.

Affordable housing needs for Scituate residents should especially be taken into account by the Planning Board when making determinations for new developments. Specifically, the idea of mandating a percentage of affordable housing for developments of a certain order of magnitude should be considered. The Affordable Housing Trust should also work with other organizations, like the Conservation Commission, to promote the use of CPA funds for projects that address multiple objectives, such as acquiring land for open space and affordable housing. When combined with any one of the many varieties of cluster zoning in Scituate, the product is the provision of open space preservation, housing assistance to residents in need, and a revenue stream for the Town. It is important that the Town envision what it hopes to look like in the future, integrating the need for a sustainable environment with that of a sustainable local economy.

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### **Areas in Need of Revitalization or Redevelopment**

Another component of stewardship should involve inventorying plant and wildlife on conservation properties to ensure the long-term health and viability of open space for humans, flora and fauna. Consideration should also be given to the health of identified vernal pools in the Town, since they are protected under the local Wetlands Bylaw and should be monitored for potential encroachment issues.

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### **Massachusetts SCORP Recreation Needs**

The latest Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), completed in 2017, presents the findings of a statewide survey on outdoor recreation needs. Three different public participation methods were utilized to conduct the surveys, including three online surveys, public meetings throughout the state, and a statistically-relevant phone survey.

The online recreation users survey indicated that, when asked about which activities the participants and their household planned to engage in over the next 12 months, the top responses included walking or jogging on trails and greenways and hiking. When asked what three activities they participated in the most over the past 12 months, the most frequent responses can be broken down into two categories: water-based recreation (specifically, boating [canoe/kayak/power boat], fishing, swimming at beach/lake/river, swimming in pool, paddle boarding, and tubing) and trail-based recreation (hiking, biking [on/off road], cross-country skiing, walking/jogging on trails, and mountain biking).

A question that directly gets at the heart of what types of projects respondents would like to see funded in the future mirrored what activities users are currently undertaking. The top online survey responses fall into three categories: 1. trails (hiking, biking, paved walkways, trails with access for people with disabilities, and mountain biking), 2. playgrounds (for ages 2-5, designed for people with disabilities, for ages 6-12, and for ages 6 months to 2 years), and 3. water (swimming pool, canoe/kayak access, and fishing areas)<sup>3</sup>. Over 80 percent of the online survey respondents also said it was a priority to have more recreation programming offered for 4-12-year old and for teens.

Phone survey revealed similar results to the online survey. When asked what the top five outdoor recreation activities in which the respondent or members of their household participated in over the last 12 months, the top six responses were: running, jogging, or walking; hiking; swimming in freshwater or saltwater; road biking; swimming in pools; and canoeing, kayaking, rafting, or tubing.

Most relevant to the purposes of the SCORP, phone survey participants were asked what the top three improvements to recreational facilities they would like to see. The top five responses can be broken into two categories: 50.3% mention some type of trail improvements (hiking trails; paved, multi-use trails, such as rail trails; and unpaved, multi-use trails, such as mountain bike trails) and 58.4% mention some type of water-based recreation (beaches and outdoor swimming pools or spray parks). When asked the same question about municipal facilities, a slightly different response is received: 59.0% mention some type of water-based recreation (outdoor swimming pools or spray parks; beaches, fresh or saltwater swimming areas; canoeing/ kayaking/ rafting/ tubing areas; fishing/ice fishing areas; and waterskiing/jet skiing areas), 52.0% request neighborhood park-type amenities (playgrounds, picnic areas, off-leash dog parks, and community gardens) and 48.0% mention some type of trail (hiking trails; paved, multi-use trails, such as rail trails; unpaved, multi-use trails, such as mountain bike trails, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails; off-road motorcycle or ATV trails; and snowmobiling trails).



<sup>3</sup>Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2017, available at: <https://www.mass.gov/files/massachusetts-scorp-2017-for-submission.pdf>

These latest findings in the SCORP clearly showed that the local recreational needs identified by Scituate residents through this Open Space and Recreation Plan process essentially align with the state-identified recreation needs. Therefore, working towards meeting these recreation needs and demands, both within Scituate and beyond on a more regional scale, contributes to the state's aspiration and efforts in providing adequate and quality recreational resources to its residents.

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## Capital Costs and Funding

Community Preservation Act funds make up the majority of available open space funding for the Town. Once land is purchased and protected, it must then be managed in perpetuity. Management includes restoration (e.g., the cost of revegetation in cleared areas, etc.) and aesthetic improvements (e.g., trail benches). Scituate, like other towns, can identify and use outside sources of funding for these types of improvements, such as seeking reimbursement for recreational development (i.e. development of hiking, biking, or walking trails) from the State's PARC or LAND grant programs.

The CPA allows participating cities and towns to adopt a real estate tax surcharge of up to 3% in order to fund three key community purposes: open space, historic preservation, and community housing. State matching funds are available for communities that accept the CPA (M.G.L. 44B). The Town adopted the Community Preservation Act in 2002. At 3%, the CPA's property tax surcharge raises approximately \$1,000,000 for Scituate per year (2012) resulting in a State match that totaled approximately \$250,000 in 2012 (this amount varies from year to year). These State and local funds can be used for these CPA purposes: (1) the acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space, which includes "land to protect existing and future well fields" and "aquifers and recharge areas"; (2) the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources; and (3) the creation and support of community housing. A minimum of 10% of those matching funds must be used for each of the three areas. The remaining 70% can be allocated for any combination of the allowed uses, or for acquisition of land for recreational use.

The Community Preservation Committee or CPC is a town board of nine members appointed by the Board of Selectmen who administer the Town's Community Preservation Program. Four are at large members and five members are representatives appointed from town boards (Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Housing Authority, and Recreation Commission). The CPC makes recommendations for the use of the funds by sponsoring Town Meeting articles. Successful initiatives require a positive recommendation from the Committee as well as a favorable vote of Town Meeting.

An obvious issue that arises when discussing expanding recreational facilities and maintaining those that exist is the funding of these efforts. Approximately 54% of

survey respondents were satisfied with the overall number and condition of Town recreational facilities. This level of response, along with expressed interest at the public forum, suggests that while there is still a demand for new facilities, trails, and walkways, the Town has done a remarkable job at providing ample recreation areas for its residents and visitors alike. Considerations of how to better organize and leverage funding for these purposes are provided in the Five-Year Action Plan (Section 9).

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## **Management Needs, Potential Changes of Use**

According to responses to the OSRP 2013 survey, maintenance is the major concern identified by Scituate residents in connection with open space and recreational facilities. The next most significant concerns were loss of open space, cleaning up after dogs, trash collection and lack of parking. A public pool and more activities for teens were the most needed improvements.

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## **Interagency and Town Board Coordination**

The Town Administrator, with support of the Board of Selectmen, should encourage coordination between Town boards with interests in open space and recreational lands, and those with responsibility for permitting. Since there is a definite order in which approvals must be obtained, timelines must be made clear to and adhered to by all boards in order to streamline the decision-making process. To avoid potential conflict, communication should be clear, with responsibility for decisions placed with the Board of Selectmen. The Town Administrator may need to encourage coordination to facilitate the process and would make a final recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

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## **Conservation Easements**

The Planning Board and other Town agencies should consider the adoption of a Conservation Easement Program. A Conservation Easement is a restriction placed on a property that relinquishes the property's development rights, but retains property ownership. An easement allows great flexibility for the landowner, allowing the carving off of valuable portions of a property, while enabling the owner to retain a lot. Charitable tax deductions are offered to landowners that either allow for public access over the easement property, or prove to contribute a substantial public benefit through the preservation of restricted lands. The more restrictive an easement is, the greater the value of the easement, and therefore the greater potential tax deduction for the land owner. Conservation easements can be donated or sold by the owner to a municipality or land trust. An easement provides the highest level of protection, as the restriction runs with the land, rather than the owner.

## **Transfer and Development Rights**

The Planning Board and the community as a whole should also consider the adoption of a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program. A TDR program in Scituate would identify “sending areas”, such as parcels listed in the “areas of conservation interest”, and “receiving areas”, such as the Town center and selected surrounding districts. A TDR zoning bylaw would enable land owners in the sending areas to sell development rights to landowners in the receiving areas. As part of the transaction, the sending area property would be restricted relative to intensity and type of use. In turn, the receiving area property could be developed at a higher density than what conventional zoning allows.



# 8

## Goals and Objectives

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### Goals and Objectives

In this section, the community vision and overarching goals from Section 6 Community Vision, as well as the data analysis from Section 7 Analysis of Needs are synthesized and further expanded to create a comprehensive and more tangible list of goals and objectives. Action items, timeline, and responsible parties to implement each of these goals are presented in Section 9 Seven Year Action Plan.

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#### **Goal 1: Conserve fresh water wetlands, ponds and stream shorelines, watershed and natural drainage areas, and aquifers and tributaries to the public drinking water supply.**

**Objectives:**

- Ensure a high level of water quality in order to meet the Town's needs.
- Provide appropriate controls over future development along river banks, wetlands, pond/lake frontages and aquifer areas.
- Encourage restoration of key fresh water habitat such as fish spawning areas.

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#### **Goal 2: Protect Scituate's natural shoreline and coastal waters, which are a prime recreational and economic resource, and which give the Town its identity as a very appealing seaside community.**

**Objectives:**

- Preserve the water quality of Scituate's pristine beaches so that recreation resources are well maintained.

- Where consistent with prevention of flooding and fiscally sustainable, provide beach nourishment to the extent feasible.
- Continue efforts to protect rare and endangered birds and other species which use the coastal environment during all or part of their life cycle.
- To maximize enjoyment of this unique asset, include maintenance, public use and accessibility in planning for the Town's coastal resources.

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**Goal 3: Protect the heritage of the Town through the preservation of historic structures and sites.**

**Objectives:**

- Identify, protect and, where necessary, restore or rehabilitate historic buildings and sites.
- Educate the public about the Town's history through ongoing programs and exhibits.

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**Goal 4: Make a commitment to providing handicap accessible open space and recreation facilities and parks/trails.**

**Objective:**

- Implement the improvements identified in the ADA self-evaluation in Appendix III of this Plan.

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**Goal 5: Enhance the natural beauty of the Town's landscape by protecting existing open space, while promoting appropriate use.**

**Objectives:**

- Ensure that lands especially appropriate for open space (i.e. providing critical habitat, connected to other open space parcels or providing other ecological value) are set aside and preserved.
- Encourage appropriate use of Conservation land, through signage, linking open space lands whenever possible, improving multi-use trail and sidewalk connections, and mapping.
- Discourage careless and haphazard development which consumes open space inappropriately through better regulation and consistent enforcement of Town bylaws.

- Provide landscape treatment for the services and utilities necessary to a community so that they become complementary parts of the open space system. Thoughtful and careful site planning will ensure a proper relationship between urban and open space needs.

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**Goal 6: Satisfy the present and future outdoor recreation needs of community residents and visitors by offering a variety of high quality recreational facilities.**

**Objectives:**

- Plan, acquire, develop and operate recreation facilities serving all parts of Town, designed for community and region-wide use for persons of all ages and ability levels.
- Provide adequate fields for children's sports, with successful maintenance and sufficient services such as parking and restrooms.
- Continue to improve pedestrian connections whether through linked multi-use trails, open space pathways and/or sidewalks.

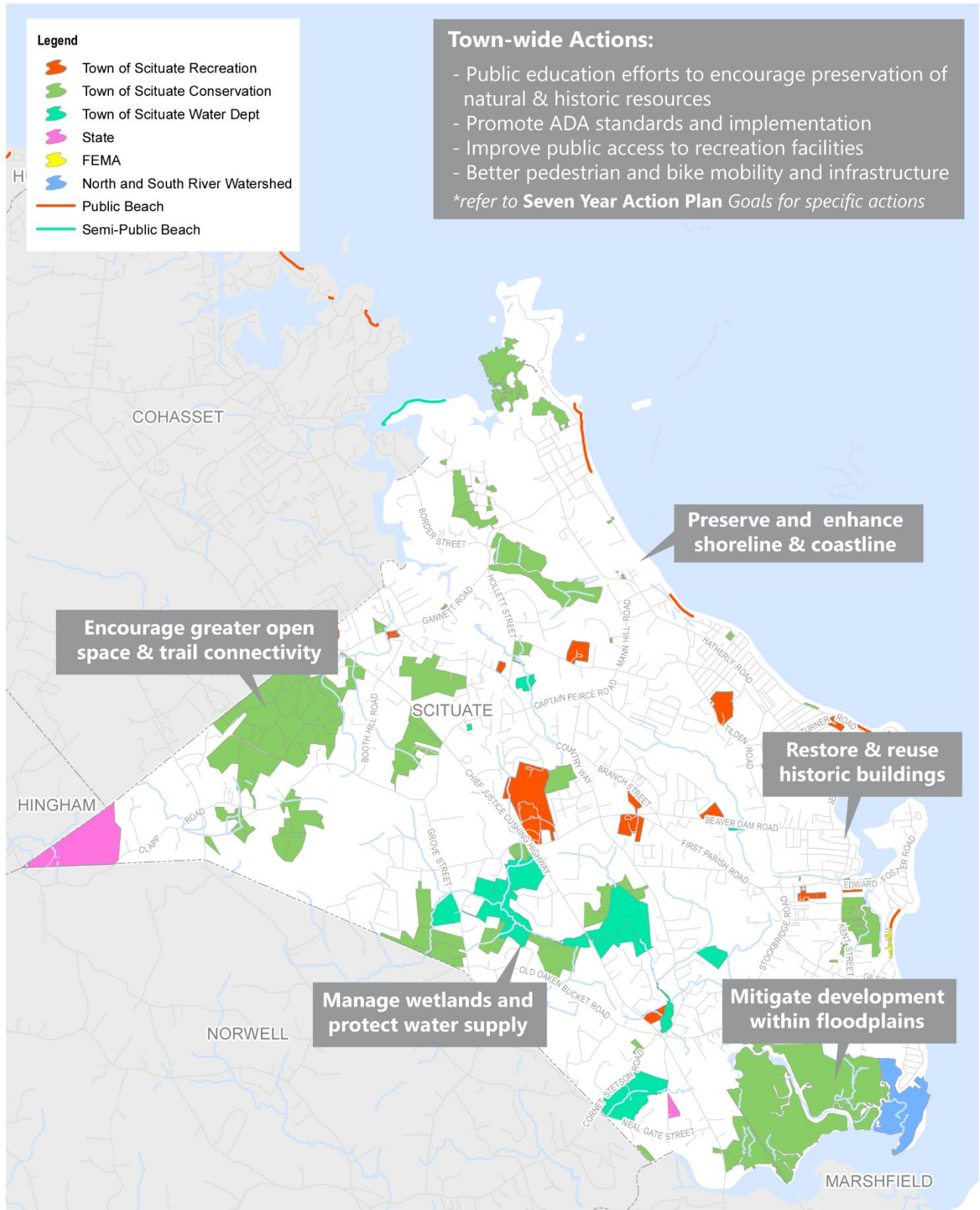
# 9

## Seven Year Action Plan

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### Introduction

The Seven Year Action Plan is based on the goals and objectives of Section 8. The following list provides concrete action items to meet the goals identified in this Plan. Each action is accompanied by a proposed timeline for completion, as well as potential funding sources and parties responsible for implementing the Plan. The actions under each goal are listed in order of priority from high to low. In addition to the more detailed plan below, some key implementation items are displayed on Map 8 Action Plan and Priorities Map.



## Seven Year Action Plan

**Goal 1: Conserve fresh water wetlands, ponds and stream shorelines, watershed and natural drainage areas, and aquifers and tributaries to the public drinking water supply.**

ACTIONS – GOAL 1	SCHEDULE	FUNDING	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Enforce appropriate controls over future development within jurisdictional buffer areas to river banks, wetlands, pond/lake frontages, public wells and tributaries to the surface water supply.	Ongoing	None required	Water Resources Committee, Planning, Conservation, Building
Encourage good management of forestry and other land cover resources along streams, rivers, wetlands, and ponds.	Ongoing	None required	Planning, Conservation
Publicly acquire or control critical wetlands, streams, ponds, Zones of Contribution and tributaries to the surface water supply, and their buffer areas, to protect important natural resources and ensure a high quality Town drinking water supply.	Ongoing	PARC, CPA	DPW Water Division, Water Resources Committee, Community Preservation Committee (CPC), Conservation, Town Meeting, DCR
Continue strong enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act, local wetlands bylaw and Town regulations including zoning, for protection of the public water supply.	Ongoing	None required	Conservation, DEP
Continue to restore herring ladders and remove barriers to fish migration and spawning.	Ongoing	Grants as needed	DPW Water Division, Conservation, Water Resources Committee, NSRWA
Update the local wetlands bylaw to reflect current needs.	Mid-term	None required	Conservation, Town Meeting
Consider bylaw changes which would discourage inappropriate use of sensitive land such as a lot shape factor or lot coverage.	Mid-term	None required	Planning, Conservation, Building, Town Meeting

**Goal 2: Protect Scituate's natural shoreline and coastal features and waters, which are a prime recreational and economic resource, and which give the Town its identity as a very appealing seaside community.**

ACTIONS – GOAL 2	SCHEDULE	FUNDING	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
<p>Continue to coordinate various town departments and local task forces to develop bylaws and best practices that relate to preserving and enhancing the natural shoreline and coastal resources in the current status and with expected impacts of sea level rise. Explore the use of beach nourishment to maintain attractive beaches well suited to local recreation.</p>	Ongoing	Grants as needed	<p>Planning, Building, Coastal Resources Officer, Conservation, Coastal Advisory Committee, Scituate Beach Commission, CZM</p>
<p>Continue collaboration with Mass Audubon, NSRWA and NHESP to protect endangered bird habitat and nesting areas.</p>	Ongoing	None required	<p>Conservation, Coastal Resources Officer, Mass Audubon, Harbormaster, Police</p>
<p>Manage the public sewer system and private septic systems in a manner that protects sensitive coastal resources.</p>	Ongoing	DEP and other State Grants, Town	<p>DPW, Board of Health, Shellfish Constable</p>
<p>Continue to strongly enforce Town bylaws discouraging new construction in the floodplain.</p>	Ongoing	None required	<p>Building, Planning, ZBA, Conservation</p>
<p>Implement recommendations from the Coastal Assessment Study and other recent and on-going studies, as applicable to shoreline protection.</p>	Short-term/ Ongoing	FEMA, State and other grants, Town	<p>Building, Planning, Conservation, Coastal Resources Officer, DPW, Conservation, CZM, Town Meeting</p>
<p>Coordinate with the Shellfish Constable and Harbormaster to continue precious efforts to support shellfish propagation and protection of marine wildlife habitat that could include seeding and educational programs.</p>	Short-term	State grants, CPC	<p>Shellfish Constable, Harbormaster, Schools, Recreation, NSRWA</p>

ACTIONS – GOAL 2	SCHEDULE	FUNDING	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Initiate public education on shoreline and coastal resources protection, as well as issues affecting public use of the beach. Include lawn service contractors, landscapers and other businesses whose actions impact the coastline.	Short-term	None required	Coastal Resources Officer, Coastal Advisory Committee, Conservation, Schools, Recreation, Beach Committee, Chamber of Commerce
Work with surrounding communities on long term planning to ensure regional cooperation on solutions to coastal hazards.	Mid-term, Ongoing	None required	Town Administrator, Coastal Resources Officer, Planning

**Goal 3: Protect the heritage of the Town through the preservation of historic structures and sites.**

ACTIONS – GOAL 3	SCHEDULE	FUNDING	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Encourage restoration and reuse of historic buildings and areas to preserve them for future generations, enhance their meaning and contribute to the quality and diversity of the community.	Ongoing	None required	Planning, ZBA, Building, Historic Commission, Historical Society, Mass. Historic Commission (MHC)
Acquire landscapes and buildings, or deed restrictions over natural areas, buildings and facades that are critical to understanding the Town's heritage.	Ongoing	CPA, Grants	Planning, ZBA, Historic Commission, CPC, Town Meeting, MHC
Develop educational materials on Scituate's history and historic sites/trails, such as maps, tour guides, signage, etc.	Short-term, Ongoing	PARC, CPA, MHC	Historic Commission
Continue to use and enforce the Demolition Review bylaw.	Ongoing	None required	Historic Commission, Building



**Goal 4: Make a commitment to providing handicap accessible open space and recreation facilities and parks/trails.**

ACTIONS – GOAL 4	SCHEDULE	FUNDING	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Update the ADA Transition Plan, including ADA self-evaluations.	Short-term	Mass. Office on Disabilities, Town	Commission on Disabilities, ADA Coordinator, DPW
Implement the ADA Transition Plan.	Mid/long-term	Town	Commission on Disabilities, ADA Coordinator, DPW, Planning, Recreation

**Goal 5: Enhance the natural beauty of the Town’s landscape by protecting existing open space, while promoting appropriate use.**

ACTIONS – GOAL 5	SCHEDULE	FUNDING	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Create a list of parcels for future acquisition, and establish a process and criteria for prioritizing them.	Short-term	None required	Planning, Conservation
Ensure that priority parcels are earmarked for conservation and recreation, and acquired as soon as possible.	Ongoing	PARC, CPA	Town Meeting, Planning, Conservation, CPC
Create active and passive recreational facilities in underserved areas of Town.	Ongoing	PARC, CPA	Recreation, CPC, Town Meeting
Encourage private development to include open space and trail systems that are connected to other open space areas where possible, using Flexible Open Space Development and/or Conservation Restrictions.	Ongoing	None required	Planning, Conservation
Encourage developers to preserve or plant trees and add landscaping on commercial sites.	Ongoing	None required	Planning

ACTIONS – GOAL 5	SCHEDULE	FUNDING	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Promote the protection of Scituate's natural environment through public education and outreach programs.	Ongoing	Grants as available	DPW Water Division, Conservation, Schools, NSRWA
Create multiple-use open space areas when possible (i.e., power lines for walking trails, parking lots for ways to water, or nature areas for recreation) to balance Town needs for open space and recreation.	Mid-term	PARC, CPA	Recreation, Conservation, CPC, Town Meeting
Prepare management plans for Scituate's public beaches	Mid-term	Grants as available	Coastal Resources Officer, Scituate Beach Commission
Work with DPW to identify locations for landscape enhancements throughout the town, such as entrances to beaches, parking lots, streetscapes, etc. to help enhance the beauty of the town.	Long-term	PARC, CPA	Planning, Beautification Committee, DPW Public Grounds Division

**Goal 6: Satisfy the present and future recreation needs of community residents and visitors by offering a variety of high quality recreational facilities.**

ACTIONS – GOAL 6	SCHEDULE	FUNDING	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Plan, acquire, develop and manage recreation facilities designed for community and region-wide use and that meet Title IX, including ballfields and track and field facilities.	Ongoing	PARC, CPA	Recreation, Schools
Improve public access to recreation facilities by constructing more sidewalks, multi-use trails, parking areas, public bathrooms and boat ramps, and maintaining them.	Ongoing	Town, PARC, CPA, grants as needed	Recreation, Planning, Harbormaster, Waterways Committee, EDC, DPW Public Grounds Division

ACTIONS – GOAL 6	SCHEDULE	FUNDING	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
<p>Improve pedestrian and bike mobility, and increase connectivity of multi-use trails by extending Country Way Trail from Oakhurst Rd. to Greenbush, adding Hatherly Rd. Trail, rehabilitate walking paths from intersection of Country Way/First Parish Road to North Scituate Village, from Gannett Rd. to Egypt Beach Rd. and expanding the Town’s trail and sidewalk network to recreation sites, schools, shopping, transit and underserved areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Town, PARC, CPA</p>	<p>CPC, Conservation, Recreation, Schools, GATRA</p>
<p>Improve and maintain existing fields and outdoor recreation areas while pursuing and building new fields to meet the demands of the community.</p>	<p>Short-term, Ongoing</p>	<p>Town, PARC, CPA</p>	<p>Recreation, Little League, Schools, DPW Public Grounds Division</p>
<p>Sustain, evaluate and expand recreation programs for all ages and abilities. Continue to expand recreation programs, and programs for special needs groups.</p>	<p>Short-term, Ongoing</p>	<p>Town, PARC, CPA, Scituate Education Alliance (SEA) Grants</p>	<p>Recreation, Community of Resources of Special Education (CORSE), Widows Walk, Recreation, Commission on Disabilities</p>
<p>Identify and develop an intergenerational recreation center and facility to serve the community and region.</p>	<p>Mid-term</p>	<p>Town, PARC, CPA</p>	<p>Recreation, Schools, Board of Selectmen</p>
<p>Develop a plan and seek opportunities for improvements of public beach facilities, including bathrooms, storage, information kiosks, and parking areas.</p>	<p>Mid-term</p>	<p>PARC, CPA, Town</p>	<p>Scituate Beach Commission, Recreation, DPW Public Grounds Division</p>

# Appendices

Appendix I: Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey Results Summary

Appendix II: Reportable Releases, as of December 1, 2017

Appendix III: Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance and Self-Evaluation

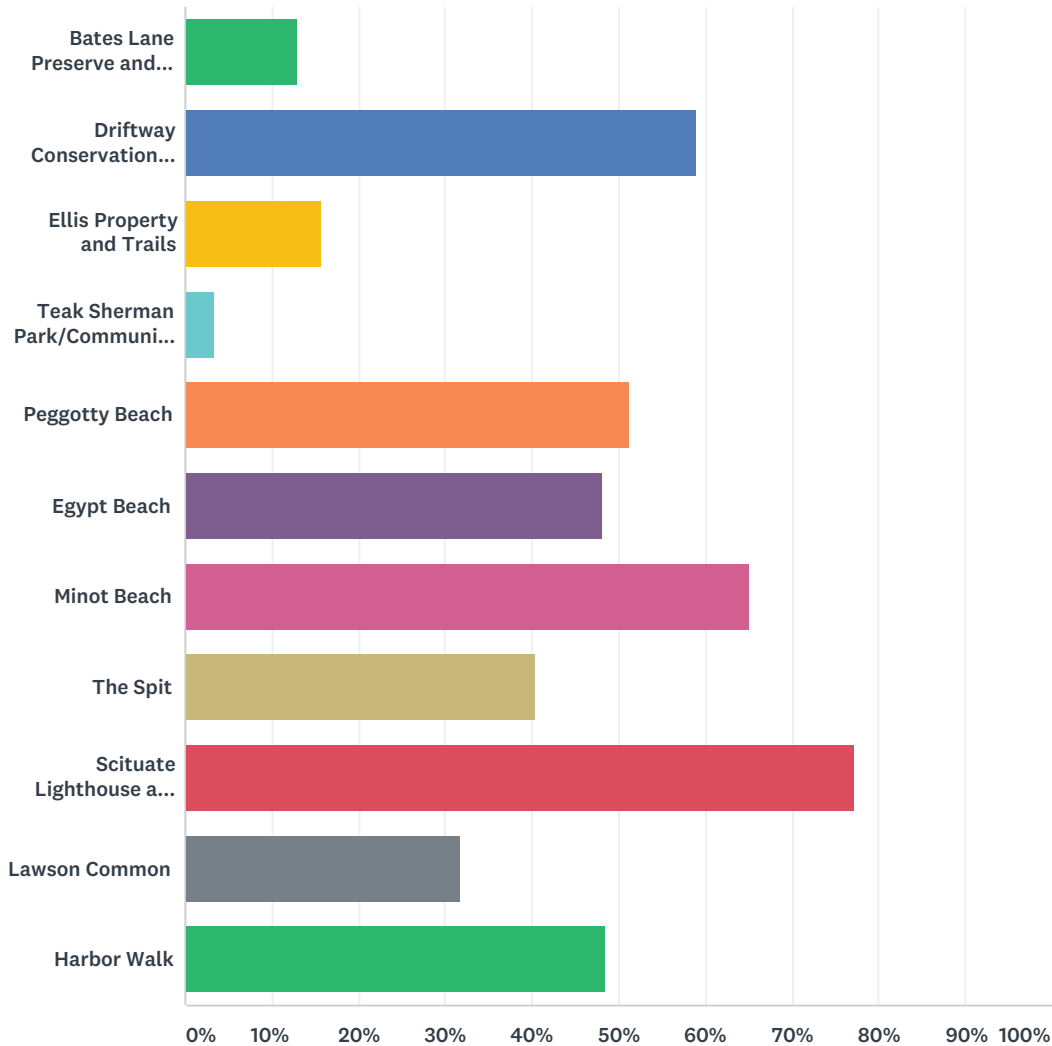
Appendix IV: Letters of Approval

## Appendix I:

### Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey Results Summary

# Q1 What are your five favorite open space, passive parks, or natural areas owned by Scituate? (choose up to 5)

Answered: 330 Skipped: 5



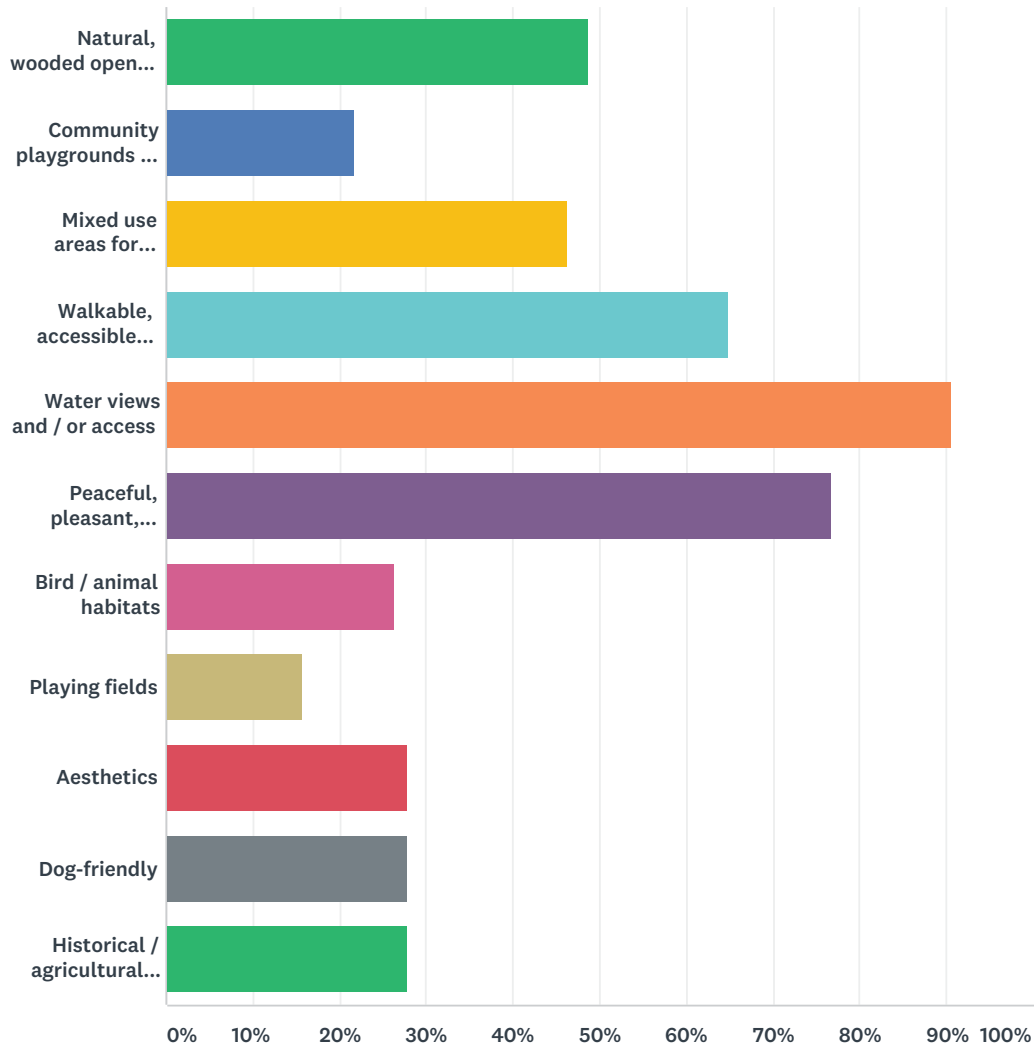
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bates Lane Preserve and Carl Pipes Trail	13.03%	43
Driftway Conservation Area and Trails	59.09%	195
Ellis Property and Trails	15.76%	52
Teak Sherman Park/Community Garden	3.33%	11
Peggotty Beach	51.21%	169
Egypt Beach	48.18%	159
Minot Beach	65.15%	215
The Spit	40.30%	133
Scituate Lighthouse and Park	77.27%	255

## Town of Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2018

Lawson Common	31.82%	105
Harbor Walk	48.48%	160
Total Respondents: 330		

## Q2 What do you like about the Town resources listed above? (choose all that apply)

Answered: 331 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Natural, wooded open spaces	48.64%	161
Community playgrounds / meeting space	21.75%	72
Mixed use areas for walking & playing	46.22%	153
Walkable, accessible areas, open to all	64.95%	215
Water views and / or access	90.63%	300
Peaceful, pleasant, attractive areas	76.74%	254
Bird / animal habitats	26.28%	87
Playing fields	15.71%	52
Aesthetics	27.79%	92



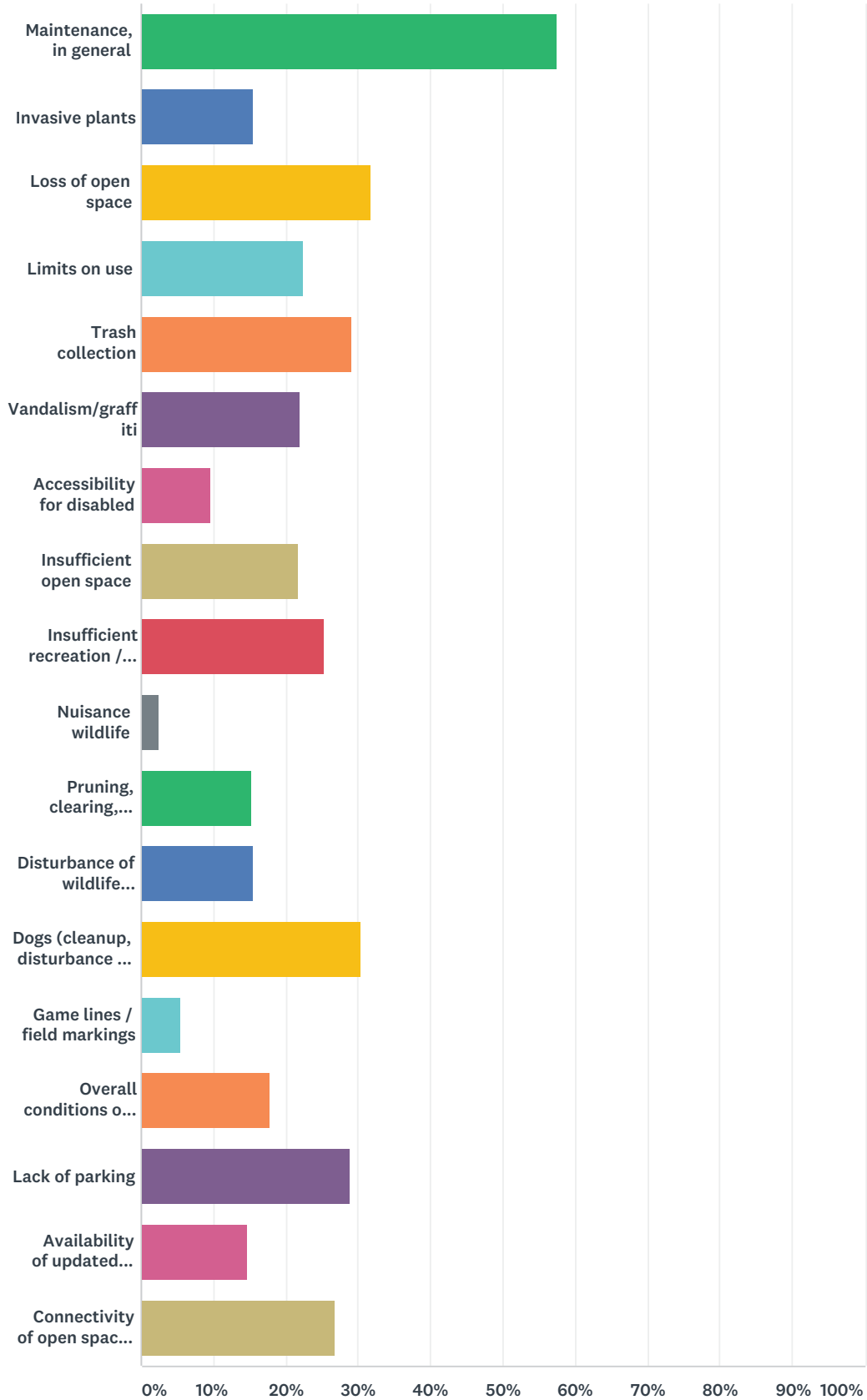
## Town of Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2018

Dog-friendly	27.79%	92
Historical / agricultural landscape	27.79%	92
Total Respondents: 331		

**Q3 What are your major concerns regarding the Town's recreational and natural open spaces? (choose all that apply)**

Answered: 309 Skipped: 26

## Town of Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2018



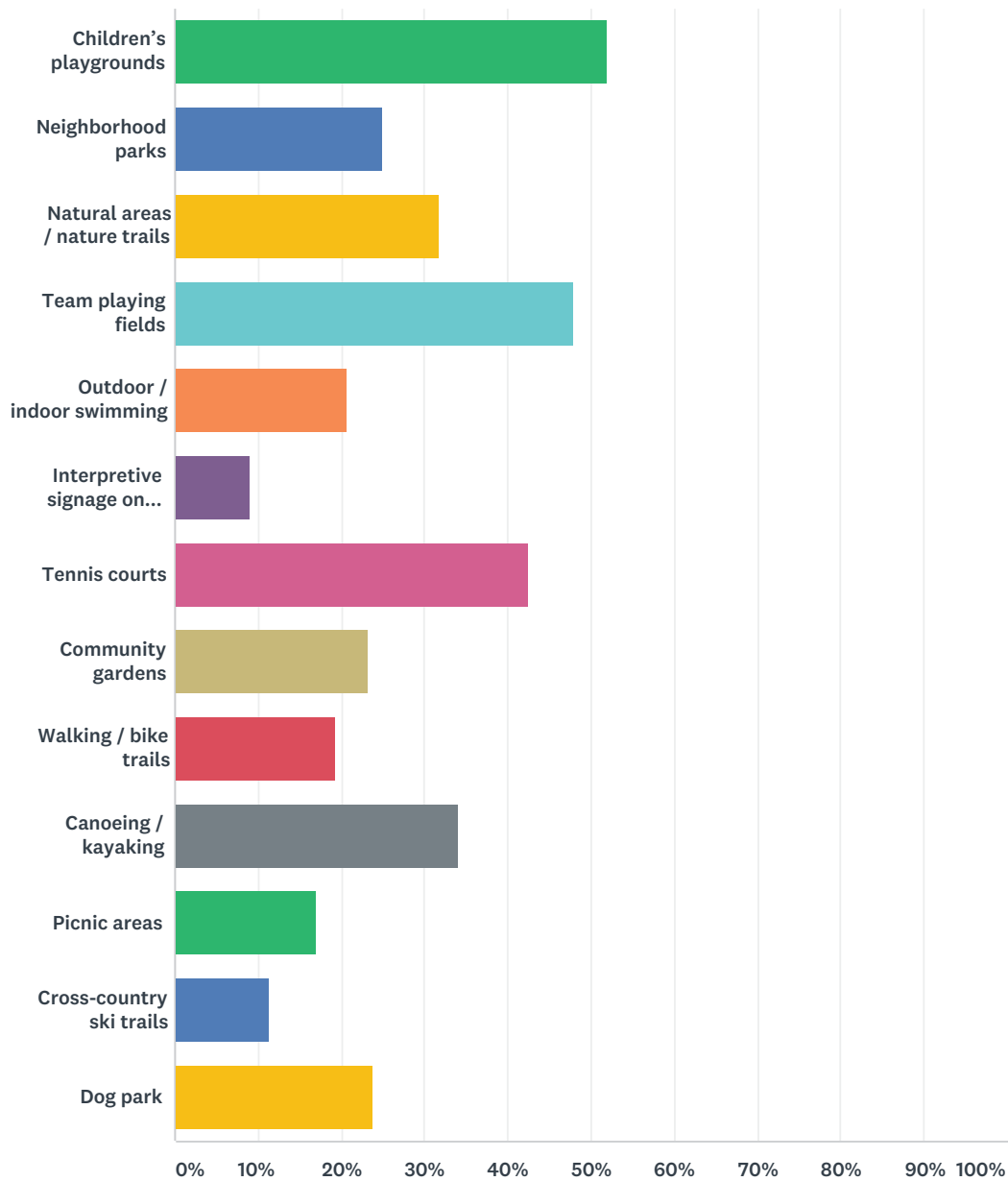
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Maintenance, in general	57.61% <span style="float: right;">178</span>

## Town of Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2018

Invasive plants	15.53%	48
Loss of open space	31.72%	98
Limits on use	22.33%	69
Trash collection	29.13%	90
Vandalism/graffiti	22.01%	68
Accessibility for disabled	9.71%	30
Insufficient open space	21.68%	67
Insufficient recreation / athletic fields	25.24%	78
Nuisance wildlife	2.59%	8
Pruning, clearing, mowing	15.21%	47
Disturbance of wildlife habitat	15.53%	48
Dogs (cleanup, disturbance of others)	30.42%	94
Game lines / field markings	5.50%	17
Overall conditions of fields and equipment	17.80%	55
Lack of parking	28.80%	89
Availability of updated trail maps	14.56%	45
Connectivity of open spaces / trails	26.86%	83
Total Respondents: 309		

### Q4 Identify the types of recreation and open space which you believe Scituate already has in an adequate amount. (choose all that apply)

Answered: 276 Skipped: 59



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Children's playgrounds	51.81% 143
Neighborhood parks	25.00% 69
Natural areas / nature trails	31.88% 88
Team playing fields	47.83% 132
Outdoor / indoor swimming	20.65% 57

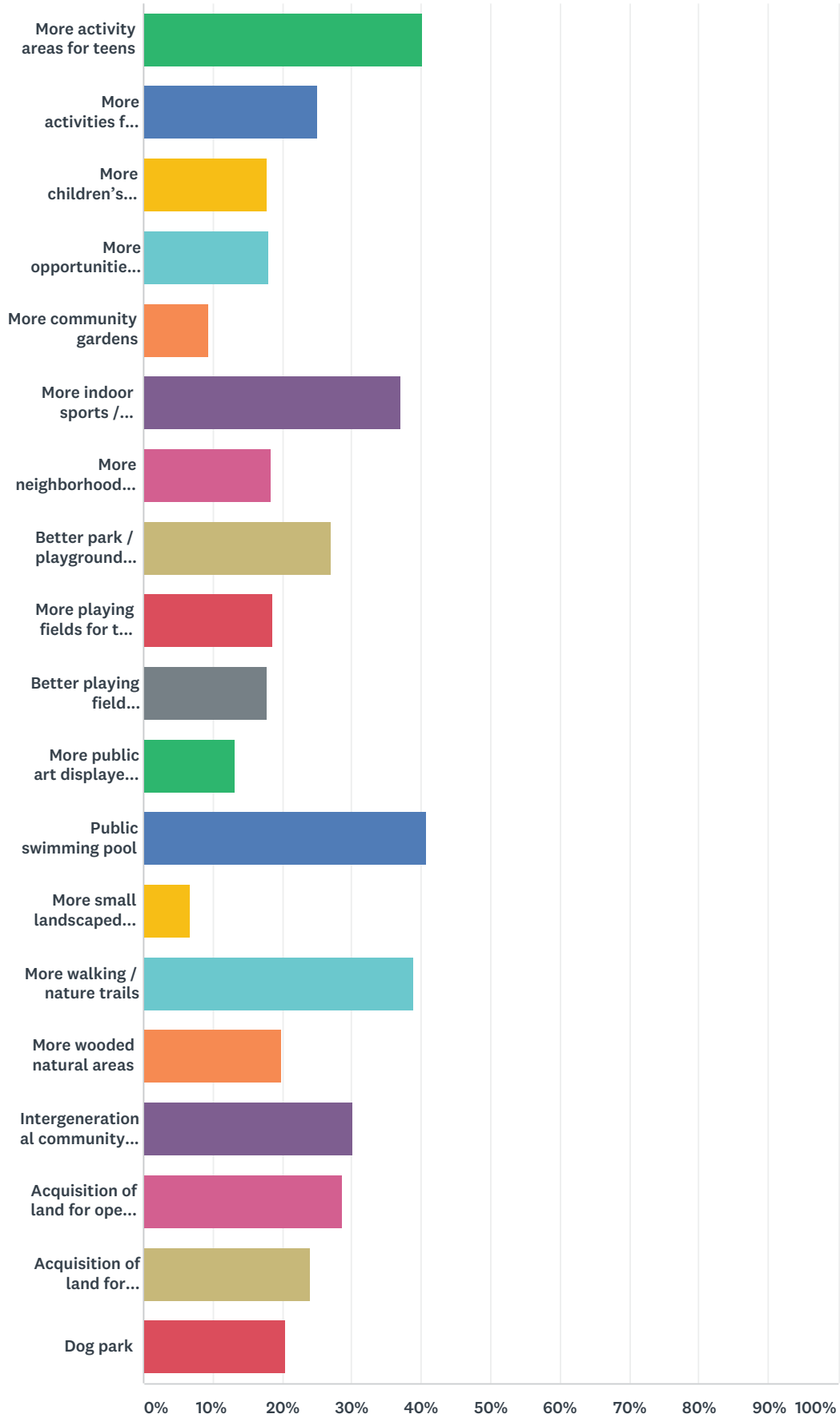
## Town of Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2018

Interpretive signage on trails	9.06%	25
Tennis courts	42.39%	117
Community gardens	23.19%	64
Walking / bike trails	19.20%	53
Canoeing / kayaking	34.06%	94
Picnic areas	17.03%	47
Cross-country ski trails	11.23%	31
Dog park	23.91%	66
Total Respondents: 276		

**Q5 Select up to five improvements from the following list that you consider important for the Town to pursue. (choose up to 5)**

Answered: 311 Skipped: 24

# Town of Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2018



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

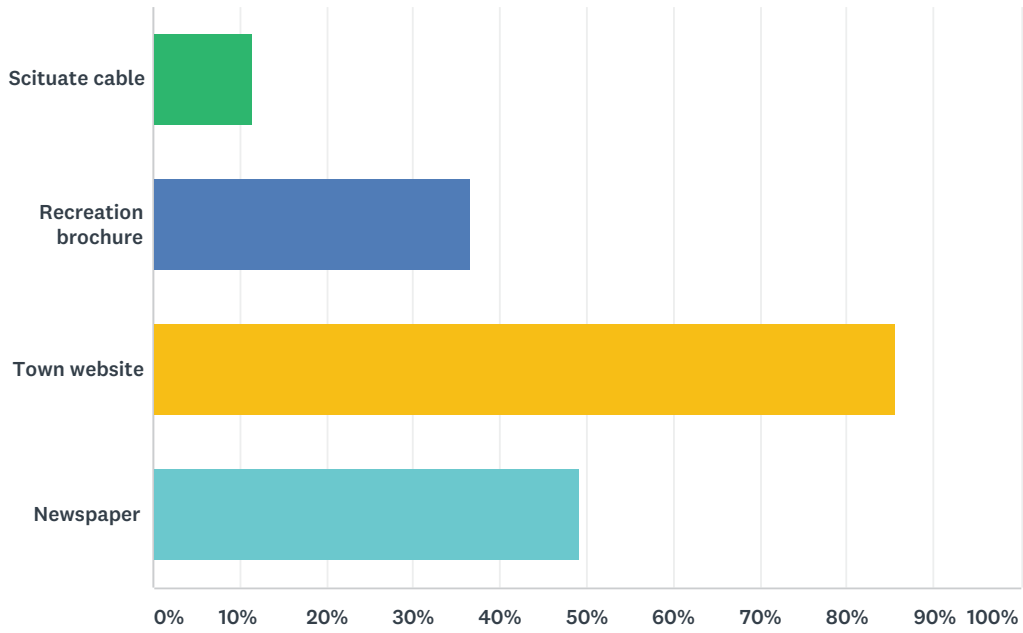


## Town of Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2018

More activity areas for teens	40.19%	125
More activities for senior citizens	25.08%	78
More children's playgrounds	17.68%	55
More opportunities for adult sports	18.01%	56
More community gardens	9.32%	29
More indoor sports / recreation facilities	36.98%	115
More neighborhood parks	18.33%	57
Better park / playground maintenance	27.01%	84
More playing fields for team sports	18.65%	58
Better playing field maintenance	17.68%	55
More public art displayed in parks	13.18%	41
Public swimming pool	40.84%	127
More small landscaped areas	6.75%	21
More walking / nature trails	38.91%	121
More wooded natural areas	19.94%	62
Intergenerational community center	30.23%	94
Acquisition of land for open space	28.62%	89
Acquisition of land for recreation	24.12%	75
Dog park	20.58%	64
Total Respondents: 311		

## Q6 How do you prefer to get information on open space and recreation in Scituate? (check all that apply)

Answered: 289 Skipped: 46



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Scituate cable	11.42% 33
Recreation brochure	36.68% 106
Town website	85.47% 247
Newspaper	49.13% 142
Total Respondents: 289	

## Appendix II:

Reportable Releases, as of December 1, 2017

**MassDEP Waste Site & Reportable Release Results – Town of Scituate, MA**

RTN	Release Address	Site Name Location Aid	Reporting Category	Notification Date	Compliance Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical Type
4-0026969	12 CURTIS AVE	12 CURTIS AVE	TWO HR	12/01/2017	UNCLASSIFIED	12/01/2017			
4-0026928	SCITUATE INNER HARBOR	SCITUATE INNER HARBOR	TWO HR	10/31/2017	UNCLASSIFIED	10/31/2017			
4-0026753	JERICHO RD	SCITUATE HARBOR	TWO HR	07/12/2017	ADEQUATE REG	07/12/2017			
4-0026746	100 COLE PARKWAY	SCITUATE HARBOR	TWO HR	07/08/2017	ADEQUATE REG	07/08/2017			
4-0026695	764 COUNTRY WAY	ROADWAY	TWO HR	06/08/2017	PSNC	08/07/2017			
4-0026709	19 PEGGOTTY BEACH ROAD	UNDEVELOPED LAND	120 DY	04/03/2017	UNCLASSIFIED	04/03/2017			
4-0026438	MANN LOTT RD @ RT 3A	ROADSIDE SPILL	TWO HR	11/26/2016	TIER1	12/01/2017	PHASE II		
4-0026395	19 UNION STREET	19 UNION STREET	120 DY	10/26/2016	TIER 2	10/26/2017	PHASE II		
4-0026170	35 DREAMWOLD ROAD	RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONST. SITE	TWO HR	06/27/2016	PSNC	08/09/2016			
4-0025953	19 UNION STREET	19 UNION STREET	120 DY	01/13/2016	TIER 2	01/13/2017	PHASE II		
4-0025880	227 CHIEF JUSTICE CUSHING HWY	RT 3A	TWO HR	11/19/2015	PSNC	11/22/2016			
4-0025841	69 KENNETH ROAD	KENNETH ROAD - SCITUATE	TWO HR	10/12/2015	PSNC	02/02/2018	PHASE II		
4-0025370	POLE #1 NEAR 10 CLIFF AVENUE	TRANSFORMER RELEASE	TWO HR	11/01/2014	PSNC	12/31/2014			Oil
4-0025374	POLE NO. 25 ADJACENT TO 160 INDIAN TRAIL	ROADWAY	TWO HR	10/23/2014	PSNC	12/22/2014			Oil
4-0025043	191 CAPT. PEIRCE ROAD	ABANDONED DWELLING	TWO HR	03/21/2014	PSNC	03/19/2015			Oil
4-0024584	581 CHIEF JUSTICE CUSHING HWY	PUMPING STATION	TWO HR	06/03/2013	RAO	07/26/2013		A2	Hazardous Material
4-0023456	29 MARILYN ROAD	POLE NO. 4	TWO HR	08/29/2011	RAO	10/27/2011		A2	
4-0023153	342 FIRST PARISH RD	PRIVATE RESIDENCE	TWO HR	03/07/2011	RAO	02/22/2013	PHASE II	A2	Oil
4-0022961	781 CHIEF JUSTICE CUSHING HWY	SUNOCO	72 HR	11/09/2010	RAO	01/10/2011		A1	Oil
4-0022887	1 BUCKEYE LANE	GREEN BUSH T-STOP	TWO HR	10/05/2010	RAO	11/23/2010		A2	Oil
4-0022848	247 DRIFTWAY	MBTA GREENBUSH LAYOVER FACILITY	TWO HR	09/23/2010	RAO	11/18/2010		A2	Oil
4-0022171	30 CIRCUIT AVE	DWELLING	72 HR	09/03/2009	RAO	10/05/2009		A2	Oil
4-0021260	17 NEW DRIFT WAY	RESIDENCE	TWO HR	05/16/2008	RAO	07/21/2008		A1	Oil
4-0020810	71 FRONT ST	PAD 17A-1 OFF BROOK STREET	120 DY	10/03/2007	RAO	04/02/2009	PHASE II	A2	Oil

4-0020485	40 DRIFTWAY ADJ TO UNIT E30	PAD MOUNTED ELECTRICAL TRANSFORMER	TWO HR	05/01/2007	RAO	03/25/2008		A1	Oil
4-0020338	72 ANN VINAL RD	HATHERLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	TWO HR	02/20/2007	RAO	04/20/2007		A1	Oil
4-0020177	75 MOORLAND RD	PRESCOTT RESIDENCE	TWO HR	11/20/2006	RAO	09/20/2007		A1	Oil
4-0020045	164 THOMAS CLAPP RD	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	09/08/2006	RAO	01/08/2007		A2	Oil
4-0019985	15 INDIAN TRL	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	08/08/2006	RAO	12/07/2006		A2	Oil
4-0019808	26 BEECH TREE FRAM LN	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	05/26/2006	RAO	07/28/2006		A2	
4-0019611	COUNTRY WAY AND GANNETT RD	MBTA CONSTRUCTION	120 DY	02/09/2006	URAM	04/26/2006			Oil
4-0019515	BORDER ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	12/10/2005	RAO	02/06/2006		A2	Oil
4-0019512	FRONT ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	12/07/2005	RAO	04/19/2007		A1	
4-0019424	COUNTRY WAY	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	10/25/2005	RAO	12/23/2005		A1	Oil
4-0018621	335 GANNETT RD	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	08/18/2004	RAO	08/25/2005		A2	Oil
4-0018656	137 HATHERLY RD	DRUM SITE	TWO HR	08/13/2004	RTN CLOSED	04/20/2005			Hazardous Material
4-0018143	137 HATHERLY RD	50 ACRES BETWEEN TILDEN & HATHERLY RD	120 DY	04/13/2004	RAO	12/21/2011	PHASE IV	A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
4-0018216	36 MANN HILL RD	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	01/08/2004	RAO	01/06/2005		A2	Oil
4-0017934	16 CRESCENT AVE	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	07/31/2003	RAO	07/28/2004		A2	Oil
4-0017822	49 GLADES RD	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	05/15/2003	RAO	07/31/2003		A1	Oil
4-0017790	405 FIRST PARISH RD	FIRST PARISH CENTER	TWO HR	04/25/2003	RAO	06/18/2003		A2	Oil
4-0017708	74 COBB LN	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	03/21/2003	RAO	06/26/2003		A2	Oil
4-0017739	MBTA GREENBUSH LINE SURVEY STA	1386&50-1388&16	120 DY	02/19/2003	SPECPR	04/23/2004			Oil and Hazardous Material
4-0017738	MBTA GREENBUSH LINE SURVEY STA	1404&20-1405&21	120 DY	02/19/2003	SPECPR	04/23/2004			Hazardous Material
4-0017737	MBTA GREENBUSH LINE SURVEY STA	1413&93-1416&18	120 DY	02/19/2003	SPECPR	04/23/2004			Hazardous Material
4-0017736	MBTA GREENBUSH LINE SURVEY STA	1422&65-1424&46	120 DY	02/19/2003	SPECPR	04/23/2004			Hazardous Material
4-0017735	MBTA GREENBUSH LINE SURVEY STA	1286&47-1291&51	120 DY	02/19/2003	SPECPR	04/23/2004			Hazardous Material
4-0017734	MBTA GREENBUSH LINE SURVEY STA	1333&85-1371&29	120 DY	02/19/2003	SPECPR	04/23/2004			Hazardous Material
4-0017733	MBTA BREENBUSH LINE SURVEY STA	1409&04-1413&93	120 DY	02/19/2003	SPECPR	04/23/2004			Hazardous Material

4-0017732	MBTA GREENBUSH LINE SURVEY STA	1432&50-1447&17	120 DY	02/19/2003	SPECPR	04/23/2004			Hazardous Material
4-0017731	MBTA GREENBUSH LINE SURVEY STA	1239&73-1244&19	120 DY	02/19/2003	SPECPR	04/23/2004			Hazardous Material
4-0017524	146 FRONT ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	12/17/2002	RAO	02/24/2003		A2	Oil
4-0017475	777 COUNTRY WAY	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY	11/25/2002	RAO	06/23/2004	PHASE II	B1	Oil and Hazardous Material
4-0017665	MBTA GREENBUSH LINE SURVEY STA	355 756ME 4671 024MN	120 DY	11/19/2002	SPECPR	04/23/2004			Oil and Hazardous Material
4-0017429	17 VILLAGE LN	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	10/17/2002	RAO	12/16/2002		A2	Oil
4-0017409	EGYPT BEACH AVE	ADJACENT TO 38 EGYPT AVE	TWO HR	10/10/2002	RAO	12/09/2002		A2	Oil
4-0016679	120 FRONT ST	THEATER FMR	72 HR	10/24/2001	RAO	12/20/2001		A2	Oil
4-0016603	SCITUATE BOAT RAMP	BOAT RAMP	TWO HR	10/01/2001	ADEQUATE REG	10/01/2001			Oil
4-0016390	RTE 3A	NORTH RIVER BRIDGE	TWO HR	07/19/2001	ADEQUATE REG	07/20/2001			Oil
4-0016100	166 TURNER RD	RESIDENCE	TWO HR	03/08/2001	RAO	06/12/2001		A2	Oil
4-0016080	144 ELM ST	RESIDENCE	72 HR	02/23/2001	RAO	08/28/2001		A2	Oil
4-0015949	124-130 FRONT ST	REAR OF BUILDING	120 DY	12/20/2000	RAO	02/08/2001		A2	Oil
4-0015917	47 EDGAR RD	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY	12/07/2000	RAO	12/07/2000		A2	Oil
4-0015679	CASTLE PIERCE RD	UTILITY POLE 52	TWO HR	08/16/2000	RAO	10/16/2000		A1	
4-0015478	150 LAWSON RD	RESIDENCE	72 HR	05/12/2000	RAO	07/26/2002	PHASE II	A2	Oil
4-0015055	OFF DRIFTWAY	JAMES LANDING MARINA	TWO HR	10/11/1999	ADEQUATE REG	10/11/1999			Oil
4-0014888	79 LAWSON RD	RESIDENCE	72 HR	07/22/1999	RAO	09/29/1999		A2	Oil
4-0014843	71 FRONT ST	SCITUATE MARKETPLACE	TWO HR	07/10/1999	RAO	09/08/1999		A1	Oil
4-0014839	339 FIRST PARISH RD	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	07/07/1999	RAO	04/25/2000		A2	Oil
4-0014736	97 HOLLETT ST	RESIDENCE	72 HR	05/20/1999	RAO	11/29/1999		A2	Oil
4-0014651	68 PRATT RD	RESIDENCE	72 HR	04/08/1999	RAO	07/28/1999		A2	Oil
4-0014507	61 FIRST PARISH RD	JENKINS SCHOOL	TWO HR	02/04/1999	RAO	06/20/2000		A2	Oil
4-0014344	OFF CHIEF JUSTICE CUSHING WAY	WELL #19, EDISON STATION	72 HR	12/10/1998	REMOPS	06/20/2005	PHASE V		Hazardous Material
4-0014045	781 CHIEF JUSTICE CUSHING HWY	CJ 3A SUNOCO	TWO HR	07/15/1998	RAO	09/16/1998		A1	Oil
4-0013485	GANNETT RD	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	11/10/1997	RAO	03/05/1998		A2	Oil
4-0013274	32 OTIS PL	HOUSE	72 HR	08/12/1997	RAO	03/16/1998		A2	Oil
4-0013220	CUSHING HWY	SCITUATE HIGH SCHOOL	72 HR	07/24/1997	RAO	10/06/1997		A1	Oil

4-0013186	TILDEN RD	WAMPATUCK SCHOOL	72 HR	07/15/1997	RAO	10/06/1997		A2	Oil
4-0012463	316 HATHERLY RD	SIMEONE PROPERTY	72 HR	08/21/1996	RAO	09/26/1996		A1	Oil
4-0012397	762 REAR COUNTRY WAY	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	08/05/1996	RAO	04/10/1997		A2	Oil
4-0012183	781 CHIEF JUSTICE CUSHING HWY	RTE 3A, SUNOCO STN	72 HR	05/16/1996	RAO	07/26/2005	PHASE V	A2	Oil
4-0011953	BROOKS RD AND HAZEL AVE	POLE 2	TWO HR	02/22/1996	RAO	04/23/1996		A2	Oil
4-0011769	376 GANNET RD	POST OFFICE SUBSTATION	72 HR	11/08/1995	RAO	01/10/1996		A2	Oil
4-0011551	340 GANNETT RD	BUCKLEY/SCOTT	72 HR	09/28/1995	RAO	07/29/1996		A2	Oil
4-0011670	5 CUSHING LNDG	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	09/22/1995	RAO	11/21/1995		A1	Oil
4-0011246	7 MARSHFIELD AVE	SO RIVER YACHT YARD	72 HR	03/31/1995	RAO	06/30/2004		A1	Oil
4-0011121	72 KENNETH RD	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	02/09/1995	RAO	03/24/1995		A1	Oil
4-0011019	BAILEYS IS	OFF WOOD ISLAND RD	TWO HR	12/23/1994	RAO	02/21/1995		A2	Oil
4-0010940	20 COUNTRY WAY	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY	11/21/1994	TIER 2	07/30/1998	PHASE IV		Oil
4-0010469	28 NEW DRIFTWAY	HERRING BROOK PLACE	120 DY	05/06/1994	RAO	05/06/1994		B1	Oil and Hazardous Material
4-0010119	816 COUNTRY WAY	RESIDNECE	TWO HR	12/06/1993	RAO	12/06/1994		A2	Oil
4-0001091	150 FRONT ST	MILL WHARF MARINA	NONE	07/09/1991	RAO	09/25/1995		A2	
4-0000798	141 FRONT ST	SHELL SERVICE STATION	NONE	05/29/1990	RAO	11/29/2001	PHASE III	A2	
4-0000510	157 FIRST PARISH RD	EXXON STATION R S 3 7796 FMR	NONE	01/25/1988	RAO	05/20/2011	PHASE IV	B1	
4-0000278	108 STOCKBRIDGE RD	PROPERTY	NONE	01/15/1987	RAO	03/12/2003	PHASE IV	A2	
4-0000252	COUNTRY WAY BAILEY RD	MOBIL STATION 01 QLX FMR	NONE	01/15/1987	RAO	10/09/2001	PHASE IV	A2	Oil
4-0000239	FIRST PARISH RD	NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE	NONE	01/15/1987	RAO	07/31/1995		A2	
4-0000154	NEW KENT ST	NEW KENT STREET SITE	NONE	06/02/1986	DEPNFA	07/23/1993			
4-0000155	46 COUNTRY WAY	COUNTRY WAY	NONE	02/14/1986	RAO	12/09/1996	PHASE II	A2	

Appendix III:

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance and Self-Evaluation

(available upon request due to size of document)



## Appendix IV:

### Letters of Approval



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

Charles D. Baker  
GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1181  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea>

August 16, 2019

Brad Washburn  
Planning and Development  
600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway  
Scituate, MA 02066

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Washburn:

Thank you for submitting Scituate's Open Space and Recreation Plan to this office for review for compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I am pleased to write that the plan is approved. This final approval will allow Scituate to participate in DCS grant rounds through September 2025.

Congratulations on a great job. Please call me at (617) 626-1171 if you have any questions or concerns about the plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Cryan".

Melissa Cryan  
Grant Programs Supervisor

**TOWN OF SCITUATE**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**



600 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy.  
Scituate, Massachusetts 02066  
Telephone (781) 545-8740  
Fax (781) 545-8704

June 5, 2018

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

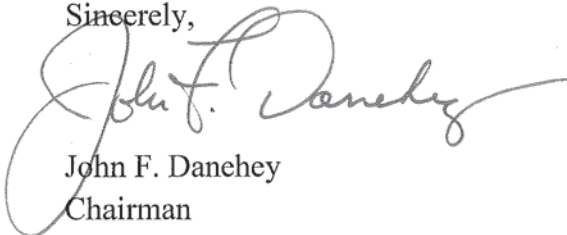
Re: Town of Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan,

On behalf of the Town of Scituate Board of Selectmen I am writing in full support of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Open Space and Recreation Plan serves as a guide for the proactive protection of Scituate's natural resources and open spaces, and the provision of recreational opportunities for its citizens by providing a framework for decision-making by Scituate's residents, Town officials and staff. This plan update builds on the existing plan, incorporating goals of protecting natural resources, conserving open space and providing a dynamic recreation program for all ages.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated approval of the Town of Scituate's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,



John F. Danehey  
Chairman

cc: Brad Washburn, Planning & Development Director  
Planning Board  
Conservation Commission  
Recreation Commission

# Town of Scituate

## Town of Scituate

Community Preservation Committee



600 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy  
Scituate, MA 02066  
781-545-8730  
[www.scituatema.gov](http://www.scituatema.gov)

June 8, 2018

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

Re: Town of Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Town of Scituate Community Preservation Committee (CPC) strongly supports the update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan. This update is intended to be a comprehensive and integrated statement of Scituate's policies related to open space and their relationship to conservation and recreation. The CPC looks forward to participating in the implementation of the plan to help ensure that future development balances Scituate's sensitive ecological needs with socioeconomic demands.

Sincerely,

Gary Meyerson  
Chairman

cc: Brad Washburn, Planning & Development Director

***Town of Scituate***

TOWN HALL  
600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway  
Scituate, MA 02066



***Conservation Commission***

Telephone (781) 545-8721  
Fax: (781) 545-8704  
Web Site: [www.scituatema.gov](http://www.scituatema.gov)

June 7, 2018

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

***re: Town of Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan***

Dear Ms. Cryan:

On behalf of the Conservation Commission we strongly support the update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. This update is important to the Commission as it relates in assisting with the balance of our many sensitive areas. We have a wide range of inland wetlands, including bordering vegetated wetlands, isolated wetlands, and many certified and potentially certified vernal pools, all of which need our protection for the future generations. Also the myriad of coastal issues that we are facing: FEMA flood zones, and the changing flood zones, sea level rise, over wash areas, beach erosion and climate change.

It is becoming more and more difficult to balance our sensitive ecological areas with on-going development. We recognize the importance of a strong policy which sets achievable goals and balances the relationship between conservation and recreation.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Snow  
Chairman

cc: Brad Washburn, Planning & Development Director  
Planning Board  
Recreation Commission

# Town of Scituate

**Town of Scituate**

*Planning Board*



600 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy  
Scituate, MA 02066  
781-545-8730  
[www.scituatema.gov](http://www.scituatema.gov)

June 8, 2018

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

Re: Town of Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Town of Scituate Planning Board strongly supports the update of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The update builds on the existing plan, incorporating goals of protecting natural resources and conserving open space. The plan update will help to guide the Town's projected growth by planning for development in a way that balances Scituate's ecological and socioeconomic needs.

Sincerely,

*Stephen R. Pritchard (RP)*

Stephen R. Pritchard  
Chairman

cc: Brad Washburn, Planning & Development Director  
Conservation Commission



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

August 5, 2019

Melissa Cryan  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge St. – Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The “2018 Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan Update” was recently submitted to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

As you know, the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans must be submitted to the regional planning agency for review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While DCS reviews open space plans for compliance with their guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

***Consistency with MetroFuture*** - *MetroFuture* is the official regional plan for Greater Boston, adopted consistently with the requirements of Massachusetts General Law. The plan includes 65 goals and objectives as well as 13 detailed implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. We encourage all communities within the MAPC region to become familiar with the plan by visiting [www.mapc.org/get-involved/metrofuture-our-regional-plan](http://www.mapc.org/get-involved/metrofuture-our-regional-plan).

We are pleased to see that the Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan will actually help to advance several *MetroFuture* goals and implementation strategies that relate specifically to open space, recreation, trails, and the environment generally. In fact, this plan identifies several positive connections with *MetroFuture*, including planning for the protection of open space land and natural resources, as well as encouraging regional cooperation on solutions to coastal hazards.

Additionally, this plan was a good resource as MAPC works to complete a Scituate Harbor Climate Action Plan for the Town of Scituate. The fact that this plan was prepared just prior to the Climate Action Plan effort works to ensure consistency in long-term planning goals and objectives.

Scituate was one of the early adopters of the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The OSRP successfully demonstrates how the CPA can be used to acquire open space. The Town acquired 16 parcels totaling 376 acres through CPA.



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

**Surrounding communities** - The plan identifies a number of partners that the Town will work with to implement the OSRP both locally and on a regional basis including the Department of Conservation and Recreation and private conservation groups such as the Scituate Land Conservation Trust, Cohasset Conservation Trust, and other private land trusts. The plan also focuses on enhancements to improve bike and pedestrian mobility.

The Scituate Open Space and Recreation Plan should serve the Town well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space and provide for the recreational needs of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

Marc D. Draisen  
Executive Director







