

Open Space & Recreation Plan Town of Southbridge

2004 Update

June 22, 2004



P.O. Box 31 Hadley, Massachusetts 01035-0317 (413) 549-5353

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Michael Loin	Lawrence Spinelli	John Szugda	Daviel Mercado
Cassandra Acly			

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Anna Smith volunteered many hours to pull together the preliminary draft of the *Open Space & Recreation Plan Update* and to note corrections and additions to Southbridge's original set of GIS [Geographic Information Systems computer-generated] maps from the build-out study previously provided funded by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Anna also performed the research and documentation of the inventories of unique features and special places, and the lands of conservation and recreation interest.

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- **the Department of Housing and Community Development,**
- **the Department of Economic Development, and**
- **the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction.**

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SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

This document updates the 1999 *Open Space & Recreation Plan* of the Town of Southbridge. Public deliberations, research, and documentation of findings and consensus took place within the E. O. 418-funded 2003 – 2004 *Long Term Plan* process. Unlike its 1999 predecessor, this Plan benefits from geographic information systems [“GIS”] analysis and mapping. The 2000 Update’s goals and action priorities are shaped by community consensus and mandates.

The open space & recreation goals set forth by the 2003 – 2004 process are:

- 1. Over time conserve/protect the watershed & aquifer-rich southwest quadrant of Town [from Eastford Road west]**
- 2. Gain additional recreation facilities, and improve & maintain the ones we have**
- 3. Expand benefits and enjoyment through linking existing & potential recreation facilities and areas.**
- 4. Develop a Town-wide Comprehensive Plan, based on the *Long Term Plan* and principles of Smart Growth.**
- 5. Incorporate into the development review & permitting process consideration of scenic features identified by the OSRP.**

The inventory of Southbridge’s open space and recreation resources show strikingly that the town is poised to achieve a number of benefits for its citizens. There are numerous opportunities for improving, expanding, and linking together existing recreation and open space amenities. Moreover, there is good opportunity to create much needed additional facilities, *and* achieve open space conservation through a careful managing of the development process.

Southbridge is also uniquely situated to achieve significant contributions to the region’s open space and recreation efforts, for example through a Riverside walk that connects the Providence and Worcester Rail Trail, Quinebaug River Heritage Nature Trail, and Grand Trunk Trail.

In the face of serious fiscal constraints, the 5 Year Action Plan lays out very practical steps to make progress toward each of the *Open Space and Recreation Plan*’s five goals. Projected actions will call on local & regional volunteers, Town staff, and grants.

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Purpose and Historic Context

The purpose of the Open Space Plan is to be a resource tool and guide in the development of the community. The Town has many densely populated areas that were created 100 years ago when the mills and the American Optical Company were the power behind the community. People did not think about open space at that time; they were concerned with convenient location and minimum upkeep during snow season. Consequently, houses were built at the road's edge and in clusters with many that do not even have a yard. The Town has learned from past mistakes and is striving to protect the future.

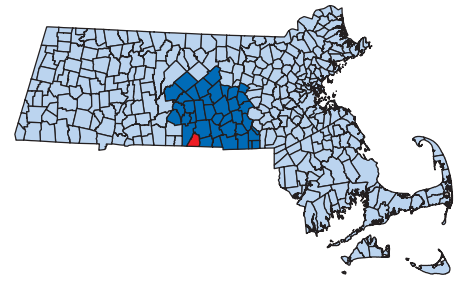
The Town has been practicing open space protection for a number of years. One example is the purchase in the 1980s of the Southbridge Water Supply Company and lands for water supply protection purposes. The community concern was that a private company could sell water and the individual reservoirs to other entities, thus putting the residents at risk for their own water needs. After the purchase of the company and properties, the Planning Board prepared and submitted the Watershed Protection Overlay District that was approved by the Town Council on April 23, 1993. [See accompanying map: *Zoning*.] This district protects the 5 reservoirs and 1,100 acres of watershed land from development that might endanger the Town's water supply. Watershed lands that lie outside Southbridge have been protected through purchase of properties. The combination of Town ownership and overlay protection zoning district provides extensive but not totally complete protection of the reservoirs from which we draw the community's water. When opportunities arise, the Town will continue to pursue the purchase of lands that abut the watershed properties to insure added protection.

The Town also works to provide open space in overcrowded neighborhoods. In the mid-1990s the Town was able to acquire title to abandoned, condemned buildings that were creating public safety issues. Grant funds were received and used for demolition purposes, and the Town designed and built neighborhood lot lots at 636-640 Main Street and 19-23 Walcott Street. Thanks to the Mass Releaf program the Town acquired and created green spaces at 42 Worcester Street [at the corner with Charlton Street] and 192 North Street [at its intersection with Mechanic Street]. A third major open space improvement opportunity arose in the center of town when a developer went bankrupt and abandoned a large parcel. Because some earth removal had occurred, the neighboring homes suffered serious problems when heavy rains came. The town was successful in securing ownership of the land and obtaining grant funds to create Capillo Park, a neighborhood park that is handicap accessible with accessible playground equipment and a 1/4 mile walking path. This particular area of town has over 60% low/moderate income residents and a large multi-story senior living facility. Capillo Park overlooks the nearby Henry Street Playground, which in turn is adjacent to Carpinter Pond, thereby offering potential for future connections for a major recreation and open space amenity in the heart of Southbridge.

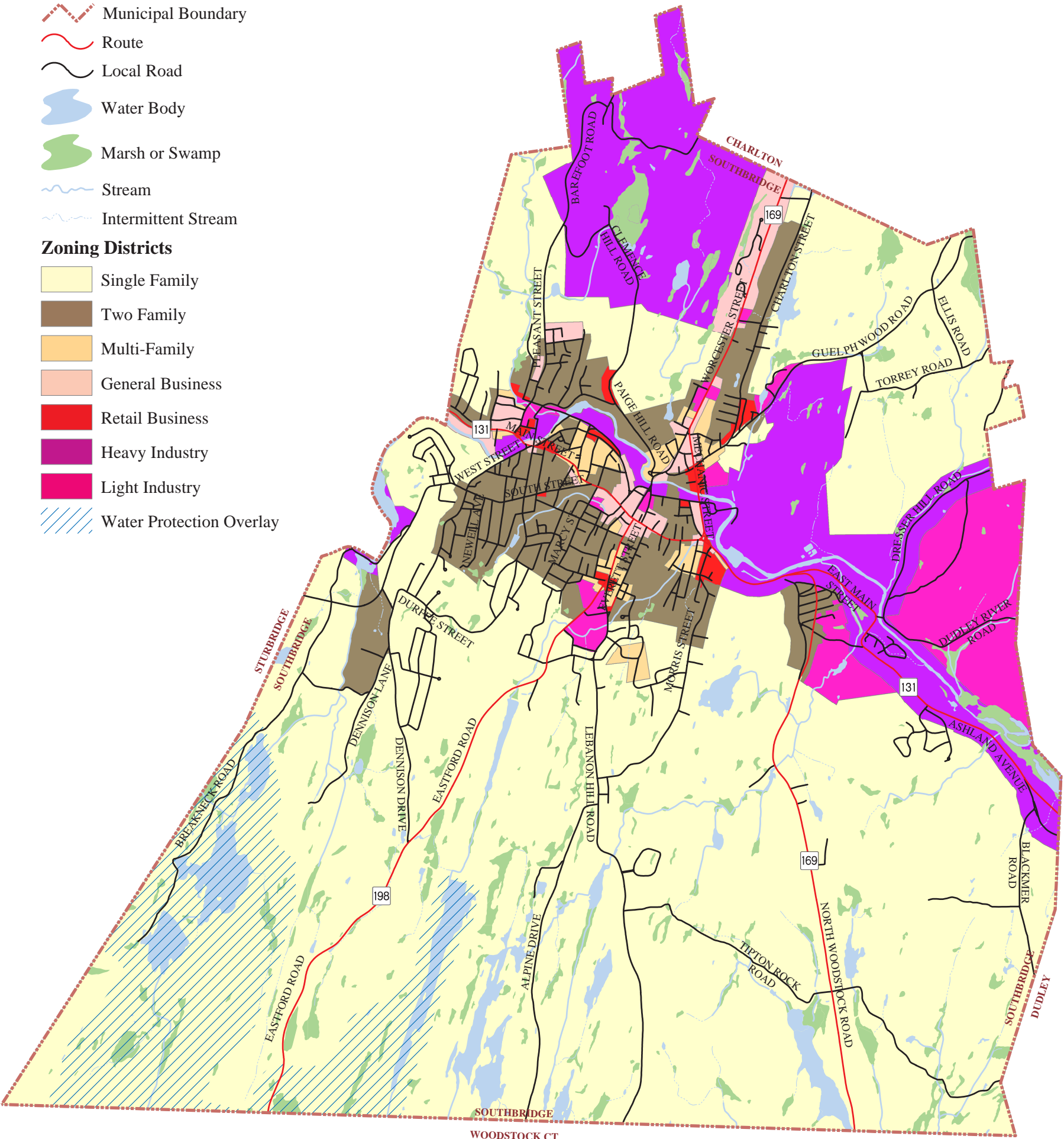
This document will serve as an update to Southbridge's first open space plan completed in May 1999. It was drafted and reviewed in the context of the community's 2002 - 2004 *Long Term Plan*, so that open space and recreation planning may be integrated into a full growth management plan.

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

Zoning & Overlay District Map



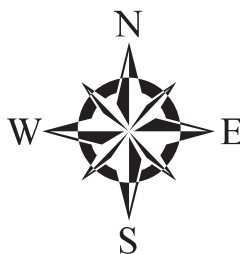
- Municipal Boundary
- Route
- Local Road
- Water Body
- Marsh or Swamp
- Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Zoning Districts**
- Single Family
- Two Family
- Multi-Family
- General Business
- Retail Business
- Heavy Industry
- Light Industry
- Water Protection Overlay



Source data:
 Hydrography derived from MA DEP and USGS.
 Zoning developed by Town and CMRPC.
 All other data are from MassGIS, enhanced by CMRPC.

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only.
 This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition,
 regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution
 interpreting positional accuracy.

Produced by the GIS Center at
 Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.
 35 Harvard Street, Second Floor, Worcester, MA 01609-2801



B. 2002 – 2004 Planning Process and Public Participation

On November 21, 2002, the community of Southbridge held a visionary forum to discuss the future townpeople desire for Southbridge. In both small discussion groups and plenary sessions it was clear that the community regards open space, natural & cultural resources, recreation, housing, and economic development as mutually supporting the quality of life desired by the community.

In keeping with Executive Order 418, and in conjunction with previous planning efforts and visioning, the Town of Southbridge began its Long Term Planning effort in early 2003. The Planning and Development office hired Jeanne Armstrong, from LandUse, Incorporated, as consultant for this project. It was agreed to begin with the Open Space and Recreation portion of the plan for two reasons. First, it is logical to plan and preserve the Town's open space and recreation areas before development takes place. Past experience has shown the Town of Southbridge that a narrow vision of development results in over crowded neighborhoods. Second, Anna Smith, a student at Worcester State College volunteered to work on the Open Space & Recreation Plan update through an independent study in natural science for the Spring of 2003. Third, the maps generated for the Open Space & Recreation Plan would provide an important base of information upon which to evaluate future scenarios of residential and economic development.

A steering committee, the Long Term Planning Committee, was formed in March of 2003 consisting of the following members: Cassandra Acly, Jackee Cepeda, Michael Colognesi, Margie Ducharme, Holly LaFrance, David Livengood, Michael Loin, Laurent McDonald, Daniel Mercado, Lawrence Spinelli and John Sugda. The committee first convened on April 15, 2003, to launch the project. They began by reviewing and considering maps from the previous build out study performed for Southbridge by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, plus Ms. Smith's initial draft of special features in Southbridge.

A community wide forum was held on April 30, 2003. The buildout maps were presented to the community as a way to raise awareness of potential development trends and to take stock of Southbridge's current open space and recreation areas. In small discussion groups and in a plenary session the assembly confirmed and suggested additions to the special features map, and they discussed additional recreation and open space areas needed by the community. The forum ended by, first, confirming the open space and recreation-related statements in the November 2002 Vision Statement and adding the consideration of "Keeping it all clean, counter attitudes and lack of caring that lead to trash and litter". Secondly, participants suggested priorities for action in regard to open space and recreation. [See Appendix A: *Community Meeting on Open Space & Recreation, April 30, 2003, Transcription of Notes.*]

A workshop of Town officials was convened on May 29, 2003, to consider the priorities that had emerged from the April community forum and to answer specific questions about each priority:

- What specific step(s) should be taken to get started on implementing each priority?
- Who should spearhead & monitor progress?
- What support will they need?
- How might the Town marshal that support?

The results of this spring workshop provided the first draft of Southbridge's *Open Space and Recreation Plan Update*'s action plan. Working meetings over the summer and fall of 2003 concentrated on housing and economic development. From December through January the Long Term Plan Steering Committee briefed Town Council Subcommittees, Town boards, and community groups on the highlights that had emerged from the community's deliberations. Their suggestions were incorporated into the draft list of priority actions that was presented and discussed at a community workshop in March 2004. At that workshop townspeople gathered again for a working session to map out specific ways to make progress on actions for which there is general, broad-based agreement in the community. In May 2004 the Southbridge Town Council formally adopted by *Long Term Plan* by unanimous vote. The 2004 *Open Space & Recreation Plan Update* is a supportive component that is integral to Southbridge's on-going planning and growth management policies and administration.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

A. Regional Context

Southbridge is a town of 17,746 people located on the banks of the Quinebaug River in the south central portion of Massachusetts, nearly equidistant from the cities of Hartford, Springfield, Providence and Worcester. Although conveniently situated near larger more urbanized areas, Southbridge is the nucleus of a scenic, semi-rural region. Southbridge is one of the few surrounding communities that owns and operates their own water, sewer and municipal landfill. The Town has 5 reservoirs that provide municipal water. Approximately 2,024 acres are protected by the watershed district. About 1,100+ acres of border lands are protected by the Watershed Protection Overlay District. The municipal landfill contains a total of 54 acres, 24 acres are DEP approved and another 30 acres are within the site assignment area.

Southbridge and Sturbridge share a joint recreational facility, the Westville Lake recreation area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers own and operate this 23-acre lake that also offers picnic sites, ball fields and lake fishing. Undeveloped lands are managed by the State, which also stocks trout.

Other key regional open space and recreational resources include the Quinebaug River, the historic Grand Trunk Railway, and an expanding regional system of paths and trails.

Historically, Southbridge has been the vibrant economic core of this scenic rural region. As is typical of other mill towns throughout the Commonwealth, however, Southbridge has hit upon hard times due to the closing of the mills and the inability to attract modern manufacturing to fill the vacancies and replace the lost jobs. Our community-wide figures from the Department of Housing and Community Development show 57% of households with low/moderate income, and the Town Clerk's 2002 Town Census shows 18% of the population over age 60 (this is down 8% since the 1995 Census). Statistics concerning the youth reveal a school drop out rate of 3.6% (down from a 9.9% rate recorded in 1999), and a teen birth rate that remains 5th highest in the State.

But for the size of the Town, Southbridge would be considered an urban community due to the ethnic background of the population and financial demographics. Much of the housing stock is pre-WW11, multi-family dwellings built on postage-stamp size lots that create densely populated neighborhoods with little or no green space for children and families.

These socio-economic statistics demonstrate the need for the town to continue the efforts to provide open space in densely populated neighborhoods and to improve and develop recreational facilities that are easily accessible by foot. Southbridge does not have a public transportation system and many of the residents do not have the wherewithal to travel outside of the community for recreation.

B. History of the Community

Southbridge was incorporated on February 15, 1816, and the first Town Meeting was held the following March 6th. At the time of incorporation there were about 900 persons living in the community, which developed into a manufacturing town. The Marcy Saw and Grist Mills back in the 1730's had started the trend using the Quinebaug River as a convenient source of power.

The first cotton factory was built in 1811 at Westville with a woolen factory going up about the same time near the "old bridge". Deacon Sumner manufactured the first wool designed for sale in 1811, the wool being supplied by Calvin and Luther Ammidown, Esquires.

The War of 1812 provided impetus to clothing manufacture. "Water-privileges and water-power were sought and examined with lively interest," Moses Plimpton writes in 1836. "The introduction of manufacturing in this place in 1812 to 1814 may be considered the great cause or first step in the rapid increase of business and population in this town. As an illustration it need only be remarked, that previous to that time there were not more than ten dwelling houses within 1/4 mile of the Baptist Meeting House. There were only three dwellings in Globe Village - Captain Newell's, Gershom Plimpton, and Samuel Fiske's".

In 1814 Globe Manufacturing Company was incorporated. It built a large dam and gave the name "Globe Village" to that end of town. Cotton, woolen cloth, and yarn were made there. During the same year spinning and weaving machinery were introduced and that brought hardship to the many home weavers. Then in 1815 peace with Britain led to the repeal of double duties on foreign woolens. The consequent influx of foreign goods brought further hardship.

The Columbian Cotton Mill was built in 1821. The town was not populated entirely by gifted and ambitious Ammidowns, Plimptons, and Masons. Many hands of simpler people were needed in the mills. By today's standards working conditions were unpleasant but typical of the age. Power looms were installed in 1824 after much opposition from handweavers. The factories maintained their own company stores, where the workers bought on credit since they received their salaries only once a year. By 1820 there were 1,066 persons living in Southbridge. Textile manufacturing dominated town industry until well into the twentieth century. For example, the Hamilton Woolen Company, which dissolved in the early 1960s, was incorporated in 1831.

In the 1820s, however, another industry began which gave Southbridge a national reputation as an optical manufacturing center. Mechanic, inventor, and businessman William Beecher had been manufacturing articles of silver in Southbridge since 1826. About 1831 he began making silver frames for eyeglasses. A couple of years later he made steel frames that were better and less expensive than those made in Europe. These were possibly the first steel frames made in the United States. This was the beginning of what became the American Optical Company.

In 1840 Beecher sold his business to Holdridge Ammidown and Jairus Putney, who continued it until 1842 under the name Ammidown and Son. By 1850 it was called Ammidown and Company, and the manufacture of gold spectacles began. Beecher returned to the company in 1860. Name and personnel continued to change until the business was incorporated as the American Optical Company in 1869. Through the years American Optical grew to produce over 2,000 products with over 11,000 employees worldwide. The Southbridge location grew from 4 employees back in 1833 to 4,200 by 1966.

In 1933, the Harrington Cutlery Company (perhaps the first American cutlery company), merged with the John Russell Cutlery Company (established in 1833) and formed the Russell-Harrington Cutlery Company of Southbridge and Turner Falls. Under the ownership of the Wells family and American Optical, the union brought together two legendary names in cutlery "Dexter and Green River". Following the flood of 1936 and the months long clean up, the entire operations were moved from Turners Falls to Southbridge. The move to Southbridge proved advantageous to the new Company.

Meanwhile, the town worked to create infrastructure to support the growing community. The first road into Southbridge was constructed in 1739 and began at the Sturbridge meeting house. In 1828 the board of County Commissioners laid out and ordered to be constructed the county road leading from Southbridge to Dudley, by way of the Red Bridge.

The pattern of development in Southbridge is still connected to the early years. The Globe village section of the community was built and prospered as the textile mills grew along the banks of the Quinebaug River. The area of town known as "The Flats" was built to house the workers of the American Optical Company. As times progressed and people began to work out of the town centers, other sections of the community were developed.

As hard times hit the mills and the AO, the community at large was affected. The large owner-occupied three-deckers that were built for mill workers had now become economically attractive to families of limited income and landlords who live elsewhere. The lack of green space in these densely populated areas creates living conditions that are especially detrimental to children.

Unfortunately, fires have destroyed the majority of the mill buildings that used the "mighty" Quinebaug as a source of power. Nevertheless, the town is trying to protect some of this rich heritage through the development of a passive recreation trail along the Quinebaug featuring interpretive signs to depict and preserve the river's rich past.

C. Population Characteristic

The information presented below is excerpted from the Housing and Demographics element of the Town of Southbridge's 2003 - 2004 Long Term Plan.

Who Lives in Southbridge?

The 2000 Census reports a **total population of 17,214**. These residents described where they lived as

- In urbanized areas: 15,296
- On a farm: 30
- In non-farm rural areas: 1,888

Townpeople think of Southbridge as a diverse community, and the Census bears this out.

Here is the distribution of residents in 2000 among "times of life", in percentages: [See Figure 1]

- Preschool: 7.1 %
- School-age through High School 18.4
- Starting out [18 – 34] 23.5
- Prime working years [35 – 64] 36.0
- Seniors & elderly [65 +] 15.0

Figure 1: Diversity of Ages in Southbridge

Age group	# Male	# Female	Total	% of All Residents
Infant –4 yrs.	571	648	1,219	7.1
5 – 10 yrs.	848	757	1,605	9.3
11 – 17 yrs.	750	814	1,564	9.1
18 – 24 yrs.	734	801	1,535	8.9
25 – 34 yrs.	1,236	1,280	2,516	14.6
35 – 49 yrs.	1,806	1,920	3,726	21.7
50 – 64 yrs.	1,138	1,323	2,461	14.3
65 – 74 yrs.	454	603	1,057	6.1
75 or more	518	1,013	1,531	8.9
Totals	8,055	9,159	17,214	100

“**Household**” means “person or persons who live in a certain home”. Since a home may be located, for example, in a single family house, a duplex, or an apartment building, housing data reports refer to a home as a “dwelling unit”. The 2000 Census reports a **total of 7,097 households**, with the following characteristics relating to size and presence of own children under the age of 18 years.

1-person Household (“h/h”): **2,094**
Male Householder 819
Female Householder 1,275

2- or More-Person h/h: **5,003**

Family h/h: 4,594
Married Couple Family h/h 3,153
 With own children under 18 1,407
 No own children under 18 1,746
Other Family h/h 1,441
 Male householder, no wife 327
 With own children under 18 144
 No own children under 18 183
 Female householder, no husband 1,114
 With own children under 18 775
 No own children under 18 339

C. Nonfamily h/h **409**
Male householder 196
Female householder 213

The next figure reports the distribution of households in 2000 that were “family” [related people living together] and “nonfamily” [single resident or unrelated people living together], according to the age of the “householder”. The “householder” is the head of the household, as described by the person who filled out the Census survey questionnaire.

**Figure 2: Family and Nonfamily Households [“h/h”] in Southbridge,
Comparing Frequency Among Age Groups**

Age of Householder	Total h/h	# family h/h	% of age group	# Nonfamily h/h	% of age group
15-24	410	254	62.0	156	38.0
25-34	1,382	1,018	73.7	364	26.3
35-44	1,530	1,121	73.3	409	26.7
45-54	1,332	857	64.3	475	35.7
55-64	815	566	69.5	249	30.6
65-74	658	357	54.3	301	45.8
75-84	702	363	51.7	339	48.3
85+	268	58	21.6	210	78.4
Totals	7,097	4,594		2,503	

Southbridge traditionally thinks of itself as a “family town”, and the Census shows that there are, indeed, many families of all ages living in Southbridge. At the same time, the Census shows that in 2000 more than 35% of Southbridge households were not “family” households, but rather were people living alone or unrelated people living together.

Figure 3: Southbridge Residents’ Marital Status, Comparing Genders

	Total	Male	Female
Population 15 & over	13,531	6,187	7,344
Never Married	3,680	1,854	1,826
Now Married	7,212	3,528	3,684
Spouse Present	6,446	3,226	3,220
Spouse Absent	766	302	464
Separated	475	171	304
Other	291	131	160
Widowed	1,121	164	957
Divorced	1,518	641	877

Of Southbridge residents aged 15 and over in 2000, fewer than half [47.6%] were currently married with their spouse present in the home. 6% were married but their spouse was absent, 27.2% had never been married, 19.5% were widowed or divorced.

Here is what the Census says about the **types of families with children present:**

Total number of families 4,594

<u>Married couple families</u>	<u>3,153</u>
With own children under 18	1,407
Under 6 years only	381
Under 6 and 6 – 17	334
6 – 17 only	692
No own children under 18	1,746
<u>Other families</u>	<u>1,441</u>
<i>Male householder, no wife present</i>	327
With own children under 18	144
Under 6 years only	59
Under 6 and 6 – 17	9
6 – 17 only	76
No own children under 18	183
<i>Female householder, no husband present</i>	1,114
With own children under 18	755
Under 6 years only	209
Under 6 and 6 – 17	147
6 – 17 only	419
No own children under 18	339

Participants at a June 12, 2003, Long Term Plan community meeting spoke of working parents' need for child care, a need that relates to considerations for recreation programs. In 2000 more than 1400 families were headed by a single father or mother, and 424 of those families included children under the age of 6. There were 356 single mothers with children under the age of 6.

In 2000 240 residents were **grandparents living with their own grandchildren under the age of 18 years**. Of these, **140 grandparents had been responsible for their grandchildren** of the following lengths of time:

Less than 6 months	15
6 to 11 months	11
1 to 2 years	63
3 to 4 years	22
5 years of more	29

The Census reports **534 unmarried-partner households**:

Male Householder and Male Partner	0
Male Householder and Female Partner	253
Female Householder and Female Partner	33
Female Householder and Male Partner	248

Where Did Residents and Their Ancestors Come From?

Residents of Hispanic or Latino origin comprise 20.7% of Southbridge's population. 14.9% of the population are residents who are multi-racial or of a race other than "white".

Figure 4: Southbridge Residents' Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin

	Total	Hispanic or Latino
Total Population	17,214	3,557
White alone	14,636	1,601
Black/African American alone	156	73
Asian alone	330	9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0
Some Other Race alone	1,682	1,676
Two or More Races	396	187

In 2000 97.6% of Southbridge residents were **citizens of the United States**, with the great majority born in Massachusetts. Here is residents were born:

Native to the United States	16,283
Born in Massachusetts	12,181
Born in other state in the U.S.	2,377
Northeast	1,658
Midwest	159
South	390
West	170
Born outside the United States	1,725
Puerto Rico	1,680
U. S. Island Areas	0
Born abroad of American parent(s)	45
<u>Foreign born</u>	<u>931</u>
Naturalized Citizen	523
Not a Citizen	408

The following figure compares the number of naturalized citizens with the length of time they had lived in the United States as of 2000.

Figure 5: Year of Entry and Citizenship Status of Foreign-born Residents in 2000

	Naturalized Citizen	Not a Citizen
Total Foreign-born	523	408

<i>Entered US 1990 – March 2000</i>	27	232
1980 to 1989	79	79
Before 1980	417	97

During the 1990s there was an **increase in the number of arriving foreign-born residents.**

Total Foreign-born population in 2000	931
Arrived in U.S. 1995 to March 1999	130
1990 to 1994	129
1985 to 1989	79
1980 to 1984	79
1975 to 1979	85
1970 to 1974	48
1965 to 1969	74
Before 1965	307

Local observers report that foreign-born arrivals tend to cluster in waves, for example, the years 1979-1980 saw a number of Laotians move into Southbridge.

As an entire community, Southbridge residents reported many different **ancestries outside the United States**, and often residents reported a mix of ancestries.

Figure 6: Ancestries Outside the U. S. Reported by Residents in 2000 Including “First Ancestry” and All Others Mentioned

Ancestry	# who reported as first ancestry	Total # who mentioned
Albanian	55	55
Arab:	33	57
Lebanese	25	49
Palestinian	8	8
Armenian	22	22
Australian	6	6
Austrian	15	15
British	34	46
Canadian	260	276
Ancestry	# who reported as first ancestry	Total # who mentioned
Croatian	6	6
Czech	6	6

Ancestry	# who reported as first ancestry	Total # who mentioned
Hungarian	0	13
Iranian	7	7
Irish	1,232	2,251
Italian	1,104	1,482
Lithuanian	39	79
Norwegian	11	11
Polish	932	1,367
Portuguese	119	119
Romanian	26	47
Ancestry	# who reported as first ancestry	Total # who mentioned
Russian	34	69
Scotch-Irish	104	140

Czechoslovakian	5	11
Danish	12	17
Dutch	0	29
English	668	1,194
European	7	7
Finnish	12	18
French [except Basque]	3,275	4,103
French Canadian	2,139	2,385
German	340	627
Greek	84	111

Scottish	218	296
Slovak	0	21
Subsaharan African:	18	18
African	11	11
Other Subsah. Afric.	7	7
Swedish	165	220
Ukranian	16	22
Haitian	0	8
Yugoslavian	8	8
Other Groups	3,570	4,062

The Census asked **what language was spoken at home**. If the language spoken at home was other than English, the Census asked how **well the residents spoke English**.

Total population 5 years and older	15,995
Speak only English	11,587
Speak Spanish in home	2,671
Speak English "Very well"	1,381
Speak English "Well"	643
Speak English "Not well"	456
Speak English "Not at all"	191
Speak Other Indo-European Language in home	1,511
Speak English "Very well"	1,085
Speak English "Well"	338
Speak English "Not well"	68
Speak English "Not at all"	20
Speak Asian/Pacific Island Language in home	218
Speak English "Very well"	122
Speak English "Well"	49
Speak English "Not well"	47
Speak English "Not at all"	0
Speak Other Languages in home	8
Speak English "Very well"	8
Speak English "Well"	0
Speak English "Not well"	0
Speak English "Not at all"	0

The householder was asked about **linguistic isolation**.

Figure 7: Proportion of Linguistically Isolated Households in 2000, Comparing Households' Languages

Language Spoken at Home total %

Spanish	1177	
linguistically isolated	350	29.7%
not ling. Isolated	827	
Other Indo-European Langs	1,063	
linguistically isolated	143	13.5%
not ling. Isolated	920	
Asian/Pac. Island Langs.	86	
linguistically isolated	14	16.3%
not ling. Isolated	72	
Other Languages	5	
linguistically isolated	0	0.0%
not ling. Isolated	5	

The Census asked **where residents lived in 1995**.

Total population 5 years old and over:	15,995
<u>Same house in 1995</u>	<u>8,701</u>
<u>Different house in 1995</u>	<u>7,294</u>
<i>In United States</i>	6,817
In Southbridge	2,715
Not in Southbridge	4,102
Elsewhere in Worcester County	2,591
Different county in Massachusetts	505
Different state in U.S	1,006
Northeast	473
Midwest	53
South	361
West	119
<i>In Puerto Rico</i>	291
<i>In Foreign Country or At Sea</i>	186

Summary. Clearly, the community of Southbridge is marked by diversity of income, family structure, ethnic background, and place of origin. Working schedules, lack of transportation, financial constraints, and language barriers all raise potential obstacles to many residents' enjoyment of and participation in open space resources and recreation programs in town.

D. Growth and Development Pattern

1. *Patterns and Trends*

Residential and economic development in the community grew around the several mill sites and was close knit. As times changed and the mills declined, public and personal transportation became within easy reach, the farther removed residential neighborhoods with small yards and trees developed.

The Southbridge of today is far more prepared for development and encourages economic growth in order to provide jobs within the community. Recent rezoning of town owned land and the subsequent development of the municipal industrial park directs heavy industrial development to the right location; away from the residential core area. The Ashland Avenue Economic Opportunity Area was approved October 10, 1995 by the Economic Assistance Coordinating Council in Boston. The town chose to request this approval because the land is properly zoned and has the necessary infrastructure to support new development.

The Hamilton Mills site that abuts the Quinebaug River was almost destroyed by fire 10 years ago. Revitalization of the site with the help of a state grant, and in cooperation with the land owners, will turn this blighted area along the river into a new and modern small industrial park.

The appointed and elected municipal officials have worked very hard to bring about the necessary changes to protect the quality of life for residents while still encouraging planned growth.

2. Infrastructure

The Town of Southbridge is one of the fortunate communities in Southern Worcester County with municipally owned water, sewer and landfill. 85% of the community is serviced by municipal sewer and 95% by municipal water. The older manufacturing firms are located within 3 miles of Main Street in Southbridge where it appears that the first municipal services were provided. As the Town expanded its infrastructure, the industrial/commercial development moved away from the center. The capacity of the water and sewer departments shows that the Town utilizes less than 50% of the safe yield of the reservoir, allowing the Town to provide infrastructure to further development in Southbridge.

In order to further direct industrial/commercial development in the community the Town has become designated as an Economic Target Area and has one Economic Opportunity Area in place. The town Council Planning and Development Subcommittee has reviewed possible locations for additional EOA's in areas already properly zoned.

The development of the Southbridge Environmental Industrial Park, which will also have EOA designation and municipal water and sewer, provides another location to direct industrial development away from the residential core area.

3. Long Term Development Patterns

The elected and appointed officials have used their legislative power to steer development in the proper directions. In 1941 the Town of Southbridge adopted their first Zoning By-laws. Very little is known about changes that were made to the original document but in 1975 when the Town Council/Town Manager form of government came to be, a completely revised Zoning By-law was enacted. During the period of 1975 to 1985 eleven changes were made and all of them had to do with extending the retail, commercial and industrial areas.

In 1985 the Zoning By-laws were revised and adopted May 20, 1985 by the Town Council. From 1985 to 1990 additions and changes were made to the table of use regulations, table of dimensional regulations, the special permit process and cluster and planned unit development was added. Since 1990 various additions and changes have been made to continue the refining process that guides the development of the community. On March 26, 1990 the Interim Planning Overlay District was added to protect the reservoirs until the Watershed Protection District could be completely designed. The Watershed Protection District was approved by the Town Council on April 23, 1993

The Planning Board and town Council continue to review the document to make sure that it is complete and serves the best interests of the community.

The existing land in the Town of Southbridge consists of an area encompassing over 20 square miles totaling 13,274.49 acres. Of the 5,478 total parcels in the town, 2,479 are classified as single family residential making up 16.28% of the land in the town at an average of almost an acre per parcel. The largest parcel in this category is 94.66 acres while the smallest is 0.02 acres (872 sq. ft.). This represents a large range, however the median value is .365 acres per parcel (15,900 sq. ft.) which best represents the most typical type of lot in this class.

Two and three family residential are grouped together. This combination is used since two and three unit structures generally are in the form of detached houses as opposed to apartment complexes. These classes make up a large number of the total parcels in the town, nearly one fifth, while accounting for only 3.3% of the total land area. The average land per parcel for the category is .44 acres while the median number is .17 acres, with the largest parcel being 43.3 acres and the smallest .04 acres. These numbers indicate that for the most part the multi-family units in this category are on small parcels. These units are located primarily in the central part of town.

Multi-family and group quarters consist of those structures housing four or more units as well as condominium complexes. Although condominiums are usually one household per parcel for tax purposes, when looking at land use it is more useful to consider the high density of households found in condominiums as being more similar to the multi-family structure setting. Also in this category are group quarters such as rooming and boarding houses. The amount of land taken by this category is similar to that of the previous category, only fewer parcels on slightly larger parcels on average. The category totals 288 parcels on 192.68 acres.

The hospital, nursing home and charitable organization category is made up of twenty five parcels that are on 64.18 acres of land, with 38 of those acres belonging to the New England Forest Foundation. This use, due to its assessors code, falls into this category, however, the land use may not be totally explained by the classification which is one of the downfalls of using this approach to categorizing land use.

The next category pertains to religious organizations and their facilities. These parcels vary in size and amount to about .97% of the land in the town.

Multi-use residential and commercial is the designation used for those buildings that have multi floors with a mix of uses. A common example of this is the three story main street type building with a commercial activity on the ground floor and housing units on the upper two. Included in this category are multi-use properties that favor both residential and commercial as well as a commercial/industrial

mix. These multi-use properties make up a substantial part of the town accounting for 856.44 acres at an average of 7.45 acres per parcel.

Retail uses; including stores, eating and drinking establishments, auto sales and service, and gas station among others, comprise a small percentage of the total land area despite being on a fairly large number of parcels. This lends itself to the thought that there are many small shops in town with few large plazas and malls. The largest in this category is 38 acres and is automotive sales and service, while the next largest in the category are two parcels at just over 12 acres each.

The Office, General Business and Hotel category comprises a very small percentage of the land area in the town, only, .17%. Approximately half (12.17 acres) of the total 23.27 acres in this category is in one parcel in the General Office Buildings classification (340). Included in this category are banking and medical offices.

There are 32 parcels in the warehouse and distribution category accounting for 138.24 acres. This category contains all types of storage facilities such as oil and gas tanks, lumber yards and truck terminals.

The industrial category, made up of manufacturing buildings, land, and offices, shows a few large parcels making up a large portion of the land area in the category. One parcel, the Schott Fibre Optic Inc., takes up 116.08 acres, which is 37.5% of the land found in the Industrial use category. Overall, the entire category comprises only 2.33% of the land in the Town.

The public utilities category takes up limited space in the town on only a few parcels, a little more than half of which are radio/television transmission towers, the other half consists of natural/manufactured gas storage.

Public and municipal property is somewhat all encompassing in terms of uses. Those properties owned by the town may provide a variety of services and uses. Also, the lands in town owned by the state and the federal government are included in this category. The category comprises 24.94% of the land in the town (3,310.46 acres) on 183 parcels. This is the second largest category primarily because it includes watershed lands (over 2,000 acres), and the airport which encompasses 246.4 acres. Also, another 261.58 acres are dedicated to state and federal uses. The remaining municipal parcels are relatively small with a few exceptions such as schools.

The recreation, entertainment, and culture category is represented by a few parcels (7) but has a relatively large amount of land (362.35 acres). This is due to the three golf courses that are in the category that contain 305.35 acres combined. In addition, an outdoor target shooting area of over 35 acres makes up a portion of the total land for the category.

The agriculture category contains 16 parcels, 13 of which are dedicated to field crops, 2 are devoted to pasture land, and 1 to woodland. The amount of acres in this category is 452.88 with the average of 28.8 acres per parcel. This high average is indicative of the one large agricultural operation of 150 acres that skew the average.

The open space and vacant land category by far encompasses the majority of the land in the town, nearly 3757.65 acres (which does not include watershed land), approximately 28.3% of the town land. This category comprises a variety of types of land 'non-use'. The open space is divided into classes based not

only on development potential but also the type of use (residential, commercial, or industrial) it is near or most suitable for. In addition, forest property is given a classification of it's own (601) with 738.32 acres. One interesting fact about this category is that included in it is land specifically designated as open space (200's class), however Southbridge has no land classified as such.

Looking at the categories for residential, commercial, and industrial land as it is broken down into developable, potentially developable, and undevelopable, can provide insight into the possible expansion that can occur in the town. The basis for these designations is varied but may depend on factors such as slope, wetlands, and lot dimensions.

The only planned industrial development at this time is the Southbridge Environmental Industrial Park. Currently the project is in the last stages of environmental approval. The park will be able to provide the necessary infrastructure for almost any type of development. The anchor tenant is a large recycling company and they have already started operations at the municipal landfill. It is hoped that the industrial park will attract other recycling related business.

Another area for concern in long term development is protection of historical artifacts. Some of the history of the community has been lost through remodeling of beautiful historical architecture into modern brick and plaster square structures. The character and imprint of the craftsman has been covered by fabricated wood paneling creating a bleak and generic look. Southbridge now has a Historical Commission who actively watches over preservation of our history.

Although designed to meet the need of water power, the mills along the river never considered that they might be harming the environment. Today we have a diligent Conservation Commission that strives to protect the rivers edge, isolated wetlands in danger of being destroyed and wooded areas from unscrupulous destruction.

SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

A. Landscape Character

Southbridge is a south-central Massachusetts community where landscape is characterized by contrasts: industry and wild places, hills and valleys, history and future. One resident at a recent public meeting described Southbridge as "a town in transition."

The town is bordered to the west by Sturbridge, to the north by Charlton, to the east by Dudley, and to the south by Woodstock, Connecticut. The Quinebaug River bisects Southbridge, flowing from the northwest through the town center towards the southeast. Occasionally a glimpse of dramatic rock outcrops or the deep ravine cut by the river can be seen beyond the buildings or through the trees. The river has powered industrial growth along the river valley and has been a catalyst for the evolution of this mill town.

One hundred and fifty years of industrial expansion is exhibited in the urban architecture of Southbridge. The rich reds, greens, and greys of the Victorian-style buildings and unique multi-family dwellings contrast with the ridges and forested hilltops. Sparsely developed spaces surround Southbridge's center. Houses and small businesses dot the roadsides along the main access routes to and from town.

Residents characterize Southbridge as having "hilly terrain and many waterways. " Southbridge also has large tracts of forest interrupted occasionally by ponds or lakes, open pastures, and stone walls".

Summary: Diversity is a cornerstone of the character of Southbridge. The Quinebaug River cuts a ravine from west to east through the town, while ponds, lakes, and pastures sit among forested hills offering pleasing vistas and valuable wildlife habitat. Turn-of-the-century residential architecture and brick mill buildings portray the history and industrial foundation of the community. The rich collection of natural resources and the diversity of styles found in Southbridge's architecture are worthy of preservation.

B. Topography, Geology, and Soils

[See accompanying map: *Soils & Geology*.]

1. Topography

Elevations range from an average low point of 600 feet above sea level in the northwest corner of town to the highest point at 1019 feet in the southwest corner of town near the Massachusetts /Connecticut border. The Quinebaug River travels northwest to southeast through the town center and drops to an elevation of about 400 feet as it crosses into the town of Dudley - 100 feet lower than the river's western boundary elevation. Eighteen percent of Southbridge is steep (15-35%) slopes and extremely sensitive to erosion; these steep slopes add visual drama and have potential, although limited, recreation value. Recreational activities promoting soil erosion should be avoided.

Most of Southbridge consists of slopes between 3-15%, where the urban center has concentrated and where outlying growth has occurred. These slopes have some restrictions when designing for

recreational use. For example, playing field sites would require grading. Slopes greater than 5% are not universally accessible and should be addressed on an individual, site-specific basis.

The flattest areas of Southbridge, between 0-3% slope, are typically found in wetlands and floodplains and comprise approximately 15% of the total land area of the town. These low lying areas are scattered throughout the town as well as along the river. While the slope may be conducive to recreational activities, the wet soils pose a problem.

The shallow depth to bedrock, found in at least 35% of Southbridge, increases the expense of installing septic systems, basements, and foundations for buildings. Shallow depth to bedrock can result in slow percolation rates making it difficult to site septic systems. In some areas the shallow depth to bedrock prevents percolation and creates perched wetlands. These wetlands are not dependent on streams, rivers, or lakes for their water supply. Rainwater and snow melt run-off are their primary water source.

Summary: Southbridge's topography has shaped the town center's physical sprawl and restricted suburban growth. Overall, Southbridge is textured by a series of ridges and valleys that extend in a north/south pattern. Steep ridges have kept most outlying growth to the valley floors, low lying areas, and major transportation corridors. These ridges add visual drama and have potential, although limited, recreation value. Care should be taken to avoid recreational activities that would promote soil erosion.

2. Soils

[See accompanying map: *Soils & Geology*]

Approximately 43% of the soils in Southbridge have few constraints for development. Wet soils and those with shallow depth to bedrock and steep slopes constrain development but provide opportunities for recreation and education. Three percent of soils in Southbridge are prime agricultural soils, a valuable state and national resource, worthy of conserving.

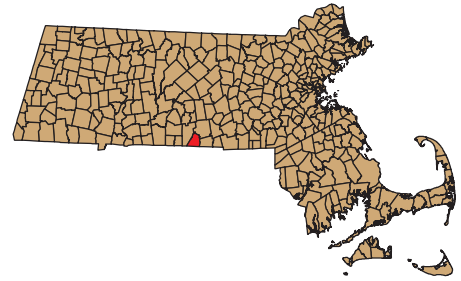
Most of the soils found in Southbridge can be categorized as glacial till - unsorted deposits left by melting continental glaciers. Glacial till is made up of a mixture of sediment, stones, and rocks of various sizes. Drumlins and other landforms; composed of till were created as a result of the distribution of till by glacial advance and retreat. Soil types change from higher elevations to lower elevations with thin, rocky, upland soils characterizing higher elevations. Deeper, less rocky, more fertile soil characterizes the lower elevations, making agriculture more viable in the eastern region of town.










Three percent of the soils in Southbridge are considered prime for agriculture. Unfortunately, prime farmlands also hold few restrictions for development.

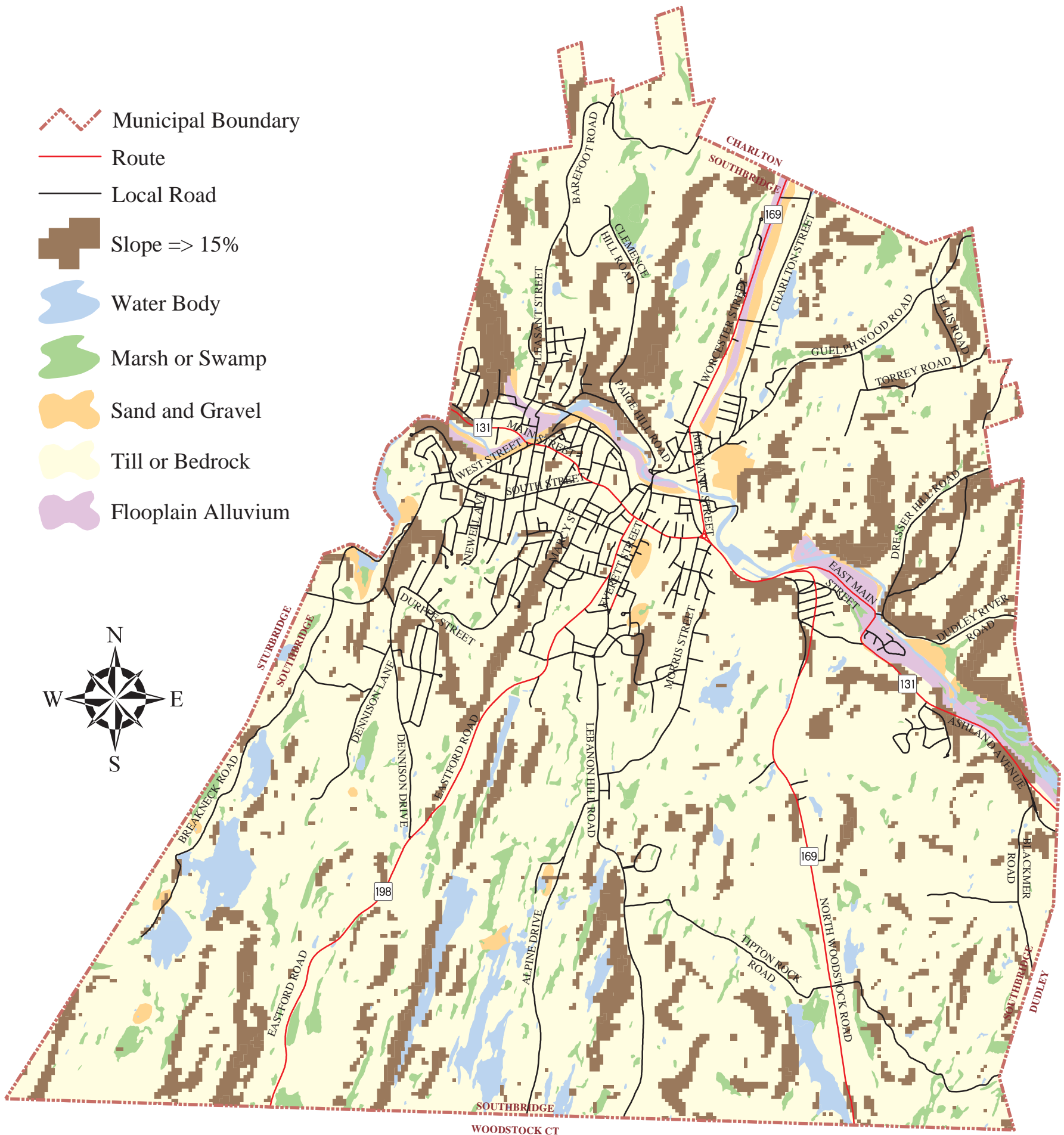
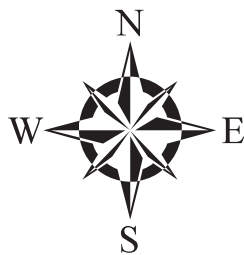
Prime farmland, as defined by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is the land that is best suited to food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. It may be cultivated land, pasture, woodland, or other lands, but is not urban and built-up land or water areas.

While the percentages of soils that have limitations for development total 66%, there is some overlap of hydric soils and steep slope soils with the shallow to bedrock soils. Due to this overlap, the soils with constraints for development total approximately 57%. Soils that have few restrictions for development total 43%.

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE SOILS and GEOLOGIC FEATURES MAP



-  Municipal Boundary
-  Route
-  Local Road
-  Slope => 15%
-  Water Body
-  Marsh or Swamp
-  Sand and Gravel
-  Till or Bedrock
-  Flooplain Alluvium



Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

Produced by the GIS Center at
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.
35 Harvard Street, Second Floor, Worcester, MA 01609-2801

Source data:
Hydrography derived from MA DEP.
Roads derived from MassHighway.
All other data are from MassGIS.



Paul J. Samara
GIS Coordinator

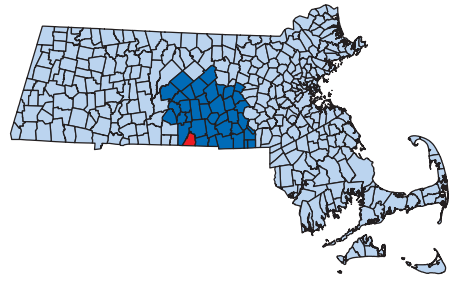
Michael T. Morin
GIS Analyst

Map Produced August 7, 2003

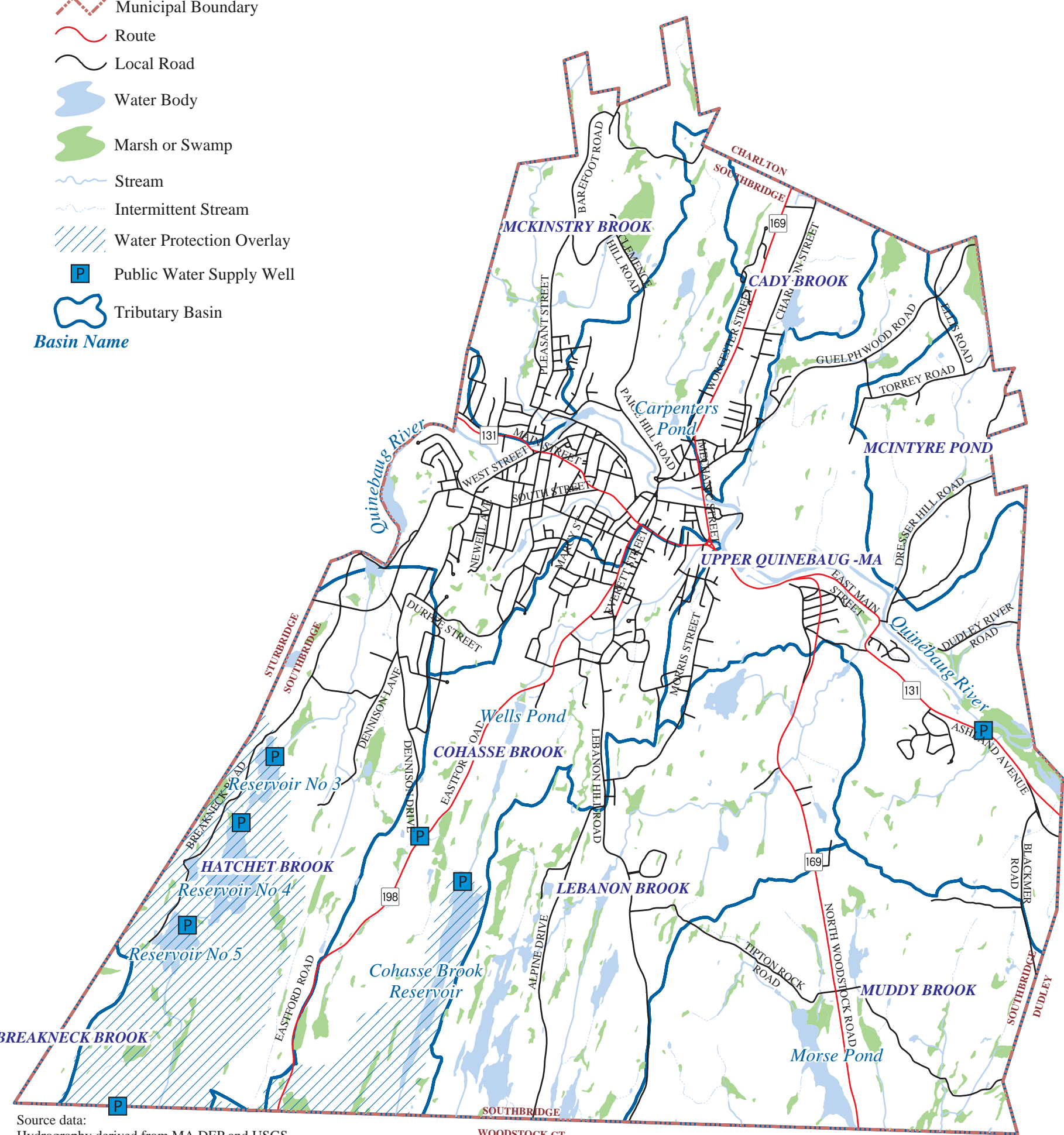


TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

Water Resources Map



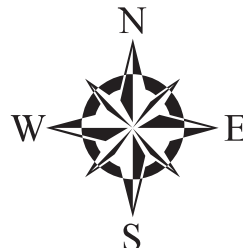
- Municipal Boundary
 - Route
 - Local Road
 - Water Body
 - Marsh or Swamp
 - Stream
 - Intermittent Stream
 - Water Protection Overlay
 - Public Water Supply Well
 - Tributary Basin
- Basin Name*



Source data:
 Hydrography derived from MA DEP and USGS.
 Public Water Supply Well supplied by Mass DEP.
 Tributary basins supplied by Mass Fisheries & Wildlife.
 (Town of Southbridge lies entirely within the Quinebaug Watershed Basin)
 All other data are from MassGIS, enhanced by CMRPC.

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C. Water Resources

[See accompanying map: *Water Resources*]

Excellent water quality is a priority for Southbridge. Five reservoirs located in a watershed protection zone provide the town water supply. The flood protection reservoir behind Westville Dam is the major recreation center, while the valley of the Quinebaug River is neglected. Rivers, streams, wetlands, and ponds are distributed throughout the town and offer a potential network of open space.

Located in the Quinebaug River Basin, Southbridge has five reservoirs which provide the town water supply. The Quinebaug River, its tributaries, and small ponds are recreational areas.

The town has insured the quality of its drinking water by purchasing the water company. The town owns over two thousand acres in the southwest corner of Southbridge which includes Reservoirs 3, 4, and 5 and the Cohassee Brook Reservoir. The sub-basins that drain into the reservoirs are under a watershed protection zone. Land is also owned in Connecticut in an effort to protect Hatchet Pond [located in Woodstock, Connecticut] and Hatchet Creek which contribute to the water supply. Access is restricted to these town-owned lands, and they are not available for passive or active recreation use. Reservoirs 1 and 2, located in the Westville neighborhood, are no longer part of the supply system. Reservoir 2 is under conservation restriction. Reservoir 1 is an ice skating rink in the winter and pond in the summer.

The Quinebaug River has been the hub of industrial growth since the nineteenth century. The role of the Quinebaug has expanded in this century to include that of a recreational resource as well as an industrial resource. The Army Corps of Engineers owns and manages Westville Dam on the western border of the town where the Quinebaug enters Southbridge. The dam protects the town from flooding and provides the towns of Southbridge and Sturbridge with a primary recreation area centered on Westville Lake. Fishing, boating, and swimming are activities the lake offers the region. Other than the Westville Recreation Area, access to the Quinebaug River is difficult, making the rest of the river less popular as a recreation spot, despite its central location within walking distance of the majority of town residents.

Streams flowing through Southbridge include: Cohassee Brook, McKinstry Brook, Lebanon Brook, Dean Brook, Hatchet Brook, Nuisan Brook, and Cady Brook. Concerned that humans' activities on the land may be creating siltation problems, a Stream Team began surveying Southbridge streams in 2002. Field notes were collected from all or portions of Cohassee Brook, McKinstry Brook, Lebanon Brook, and Cady Brook. In addition to completing the stream inventories, the next major step is to survey conditions along the Quinebaug River. Once the survey is completed, the Teams need to write up their findings and recommendations. Dean Brook

Morse Pond, in the southern part of town near the Connecticut border, is a favorite fishing spot.

Wetlands. Because flood storage, filtration of water, and wildlife habitat are critical services provided by wetlands, construction is prohibited in wetland areas as sited under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Activities within the 100-foot buffer zone are governed by the local Conservation Commission. A year-round high water table, broad expanses, sections of open marsh, and seasonal flooding characterize wetlands. Streams generally travel through or supply wetlands. Southbridge has perched wetlands due to the layer of bedrock that lies close to the surface. These wetland areas are

supplied by rain water and snow melt and are rarely part of a tributary system. The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act defines freshwater wetlands in terms of vegetation and hydrology:

Wet meadows; marshes; swamps; bogs; areas where groundwater, flowing or standing surface water, or ice provide a significant part of the supporting substrate for a plant community for at least five months of the year; emergent and submergent plant communities in inland waters; that portion of any bank which touches inland waters. (The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act;10.54)

Development is prohibited within the boundaries of wetlands, designated by the line within which hydric

soils are present in combination with a plant community comprised of at least 50% of wetland indicator plant species. The Conservation Commission enforces state regulations, confirms wetland borders as flagged and submitted by applicants, and has jurisdiction over activities occurring within a 100-foot buffer zone outward from any freshwater wetland boundary.

The following functions are performed by wetlands:

a. Flood Damage Mitigation

Wetlands reduce the frequency and damage of flooding, thereby playing a crucial role in watershed management. They provide this function in two ways: they absorb and hold water during times of peak storm water run-off, and they are safe flood plains for the areas that flood.

b. Air and Water Purification

Air and water pollutants are filtered out through wetland ecosystems, making them one of the most important self-cleaning, natural environments. The conversion of carbon dioxide to oxygen is a primary function of these ecosystems. Toxic substances such as heavy metals and various chemicals can be transformed into a harmless, nontoxic state through a series of chemical and/or biological processes. Other toxic elements can be neutralized through burial in sedimentation.

c. Groundwater Recharge

Surface water is filtered through wetlands into aquifer areas. These aquifers provide a stable water table for domestic and town wells. During periods of high water tables and excess ground water, wetlands absorb the excess and discharge water downstream. Surface recharging systems are prone to dry up during periods of drought. Wetlands located at the headwaters of a stream may insure that water will continue to flow and recharge the stream during dry periods.

d. Natural Drainage Ways

Water falling on the landscape does one of three things; it is absorbed into the ground, evaporates, or moves to a low point on the surface. Streams that carry water and wetlands that hold water assist the town by serving as part of the storm water drainage system. In this capacity they:

- carry away excess groundwater,
- collect excess groundwater,

- serve as holding basins during peak flood conditions, and
- recharge the ground water table during dry periods.

e. Siltation Settlement Basins

Wetlands trap silt and nutrients that are washed down from upland areas. By preventing these nutrients from entering water bodies, wetlands slow a process known as eutrophication, or the growth of algae and water plants. The nutrients support a good deal of wetland vegetation, and sediment traps heavy metals and other pollutants.

f. Important Wildlife Habitat

Food, water, and cover are essential for successful wildlife habitat. Because wetlands provide all three elements in abundance, they are perhaps the most important natural resource supporting wildlife diversity. The various wetland habitats provide a number of options for breeding grounds and add to the diversity of wildlife.

g. Natural Open Space Networks

The indigenous structure or links supplied by wetlands and streams provides opportunities for a network of open space corridors; a framework for recreation and education activities.

h. Visual Diversity and Landscape Character

The contrast between light, flat, open areas of wetland juxtaposed with the dark, forested ridges and hills of Southbridge creates a striking image and adds visual diversity to the landscape. Contrasting textures, lines, forms, and colors create visually rich images and provide scenery which is bold and delightfully varied.

D. Vegetation

Southbridge has large areas of mixed hardwood and pine forest that produce clean air, reduce run-off and flooding, and moderate climate. Wetland and upland plant communities provide rich wildlife habitat, enhance passive recreation experiences, and add visual interest to the landscape.

Large areas of Southbridge are forested with plant communities typical of Southern New England. Northern red oak, eastern white pine, sugar maple, and white ash are found in the acidic, well drained, upland soils. These forests offer visual screens and contribute to rural character while they modify environmental elements such as temperature, erosion, and air and soil quality. The Westville Dam area is an excellent example of a place where people enjoy these forests while they hike or bicycle. The forest also provides a pleasing backdrop for soccer games or canoe races.

Wetlands, floodplains, and areas with seasonally high water tables support communities of red maple, Atlantic white cedar, green ash, yellow birch, red pine, American elm, balsam fir, and eastern hemlock. Since the wetlands of Southbridge are not developed they are a valuable resource for wildlife habitat. Wetland plants also detoxify water that is polluted with heavy metals and other contaminants. Wetlands are a vital resource for the conversion of carbon dioxide to oxygen.

One of Southbridge's most unique natural resource areas is located along the eastern border of the town where the Quinebaug River flows into the town of Dudley. An exemplary natural community (described by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program as a dry rich forest on acidic/ circumneutral bedrock or till) is located north of the river near the town line. This forest is unusual for this region because of the age and size of the trees and because of the habitat created for other flora and fauna by its less acidic soil. A more neutral soil is more hospitable to flowers known as spring ephemerals than is the typical acidic soil found in most parts of New England. Ephemerals such as hepatica, bloodroot, trillium, and pink lady slipper are expected to be found in this area during their blooming season in May and early June.

With the exception of the above described "unique" area, the variety of plant communities found in Southbridge mirrors those found in many central Massachusetts towns. The contrast of the wetland and upland vegetation provides a diversity of habitats that is the foundation for some of Southbridge's most preferred recreational settings such as the Westville Dam Recreation Area.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Three protected properties in Southbridge are significant open spaces valuable to wildlife. The Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) owns two portions of land in Southbridge; the McKinstry Brook Wildlife Management area, in the northwest corner of town, and acreage in the southwest corner of the town that surrounds Breakneck Brook in Sturbridge and extends into Southbridge abutting land owned by the town's water company. These areas are accessible for hunting, hiking, and fishing as well as other types of passive recreation. The New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) owns 49 acres along the Massachusetts /Connecticut border that is also adjacent to the water company's land. The NEFF land is not actively managed for timber production, is protected in perpetuity, and is open for passive recreation activities.

The DFW the NEFF land, and the land owned by the water company, combined with land in abutting towns and in Connecticut, create a substantial wildlife habitat and corridor for migration.

Typical upland wildlife in this portion of south central Massachusetts include white-tailed deer, fox, raccoon, skunk, and coyote. Wetlands and waterways support a number of mammals, amphibians, insects, and birds. Beaver, muskrat, wood ducks, various species of snakes and turtles, salamanders, toads, and frogs all contribute to the ecosystems found in Southbridge.

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program has identified two estimated rare wetland species habitat sites in Southbridge. One of these sites, located where the northern part of Lebanon Brook flows into the Quinebaug River and including the Sandersdale area of the Quinebaug River near the water treatment plant, constitutes an estimated habitat location. The other site is east of Morse Pond, south of Blackmer Hill.

Three rare species of animals and nine rare species of plants are thought to inhabit parts of Southbridge according to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. Animal species of special concern include the wood turtle, four-toed salamander, and the insect known as the twilight skimmer. Plants identified as threatened include climbing fumitory, slender cottongrass, violet wood-sorrel, and shining wedgrass. Plants whose status is of special concern include Indian paintrush, purple clematis, New

England blazing star, ginseng, and chaffseed. This rare species information should be of special interest to people concerned with conservation issues.

These areas of special habitat and exemplary communities are not protected by town zoning or wetland regulations. They are valuable natural and educational resources for Southbridge and may soon disappear as a result of growth and development. It is vital that the town include protection of these species in its plan for open space and recreation.

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

[See accompanying map: *Scenic Places & Unique Features.*]

Southbridge has beautiful views, a rich architectural heritage and large areas of forest that provide the scenic infrastructure of the town. Without protection and careful planning these attractive features could be lost to development. Currently only few of the popularly identified sites have some level of protection.

Through the Open Space and Recreation planning meetings over 50 places were identified by the community as “special places”. These places are listed here and identified on the map provided on the following page. The places have been catergerized by type and if they are publicly or privately owned. Being town-owned offers a measure of protection to a site. Twenty-six places were identified as publicly owned.

Areas of historical significance include the town center with its many historic buildings and old cemeteries, too numerous to list or outline on the map. Southbridge has 211 buildings recognized by the National Historic Register.

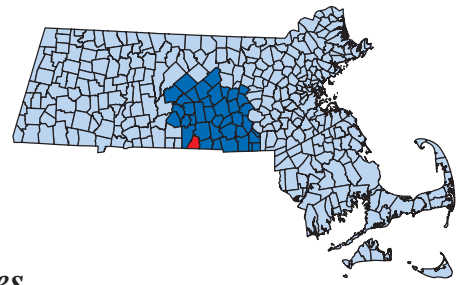
Key to Map: Unique Features & Special Places

1	Capillo Park	28	Royal Oaks Golf Course
2	Charlton Street Recreation Area	29	Kings Rock
3	Dresser Park	30	Palmerino Property
4	Future Site of P&W Rail Trail	31	Stone Room
5	Gibraltar Field	32	Torrey Road
6	Globe Village Recreation Area	33	Cats Rock
7	Grand Trunk R.R. Trail	34	Clemence Hill/Airport Area
8	Henry Street Field	35	Clemence Hill Farm
9	Heritage Nature Trail	36	Paige Hill
10	Main Street Tot-lot	37	Lebanon Hill
11	McKinstry Brook Trail	38	Lasalette
12	McMahon Field	39	Dennison Hill
13	Morris Street Field	40	Carpenter's Pond
14	Pearl Street Field	41	Dresser Hill Road
15	State Pool	42	Blackmer Hill
16	Town Pool	43	Dennison Rock
17	Walcott Street Tot-lot	44	Arts Center
18	Westville Lake Recreation Area	45	Morse Family Cemetery
19	Youth Center	46	Numerous Privately-Owned Buildings in Town Center
20	Town Common	47	American Optical Buildings and Campus
21	Reservoirs	48	Notre Dame Church
22	Numerous Monuments	49	Flat Iron Building
23	Cole Forest	50	North Woodstock Road
24	Parish Cemeteries	51	Fork in the road Duck Pond
25	Numerous Publicly-Owned Buildings in Town Center	52	Morse Pond
26	Cohasse Country Club	53	Quinebaug River
27	Rama Soccer Fields	54	Oak Ridge Cemetery

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

Unique Features & Special Places

Map



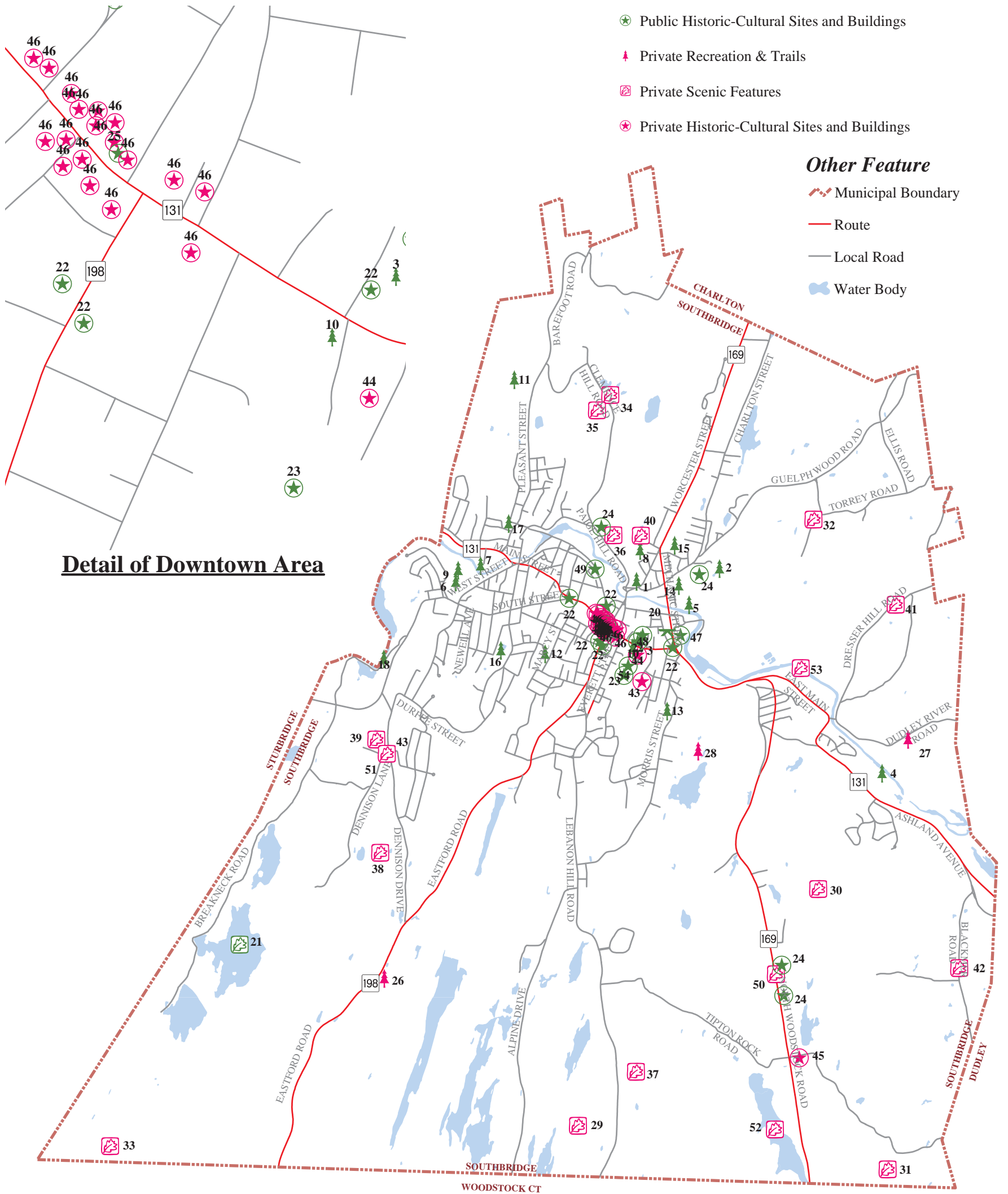
Legend

Special Places

- Public Recreation & Trails
- Public Parks
- Public Scenic Features
- Public Historic-Cultural Sites and Buildings
- Private Recreation & Trails
- Private Scenic Features
- Private Historic-Cultural Sites and Buildings

Other Feature

- Municipal Boundary
- Route
- Local Road
- Water Body



Detail of Downtown Area

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

Produced by the GIS Center at
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.
35 Harvard Street, Second Floor, Worcester, MA 01609-2801

Map Produced May 2004



Source data:
Hydrography derived from Mass Dept. of Enviro. Protection.
Roads derived from MassHighway.
All other data from MassGIS and enhanced by CMRPC GIS Center.

G. Environmental Problems

Contamination of rivers and streams limit the recreational use of these resources. Six sites in Southbridge currently been identified and listed by the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup as 21E, or hazardous waste sites; these sites are polluted by petroleum and/or chemical waste that contaminate the immediate area and could potentially contaminate nearby rivers, streams and ponds, or ground water depending upon their location.

The following table lists sites and their source of pollutants. Location mapping and validation of clean-up status needs to occur before implications can be fully analyzed.

21 E Sites within the Town of Southbridge

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contaminants</u>
American Optical Corp.	100 Mechanic Street	Oil and Hazardous Material
B & D Petroleum	39 Main Street	Oil and Hazardous Material
Brookside Terrace Apts.	Village Drive	Oil and Hazardous Material
Delehanty Furniture	858 Main Street	Oil and Hazardous Material (remedial work complete)
FinallyLisa's Salon	33 Hamilton Street	Oil and Hazardous Material
Gas Station	135 East Main Street	Oil and Hazardous Material
Guelphwood Rd. Realty	185 Guelphwood Road	Oil and Hazardous Material
Marane Oil	54 Foster St	Oil and Hazardous Material
MEC Southbridge Main Street		Oil and Hazardous Material
O'Connell Oil Assoc.	795 Main Street	Oil and Hazardous Material
OMA Group LLC	529 Ashland Avenue	Oil and Hazardous Material (nosignificant risk)
Sacred Heart Parish	40 Charlton Street	Oil and Hazardous Material (remedial work complete)
Southbridge WWTF	83 Dresser Hill Road	Oil and Hazardous Material (remedial work complete)
Vincent Oil	51 Guelphwood Road	Oil and Hazardous Material (remedial work complete)
Xtra Mart	464 East Main Street	Oil and Hazardous Material

SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

This section of the Open Space Plan provides an overview of the parcels and facilities within the community that hold significance pertaining to open space and recreation that are critical when considering the quality of life.

Southbridge is a community that understands the need for open space. Incorporated in 1816 the early developers of the Town started with the Main Street and built out from there. In the neighborhoods that abut the Main Street the homes were built close together with no idea that driveways and family play space would be needed. At the East and West ends of Town factories were built along the Quinebaug River and the result was the multi-storied tenements that were close together and within walking distance of the factory. Where there once would have been some green space in these neighborhoods, there now are paved streets, sidewalks and private driveways in order to facilitate the growth of motorized transportation.

Whenever possible municipal officials work to reclaim and create bits and pieces of open space in the densely populated neighborhoods and to protect the open space that still exists.

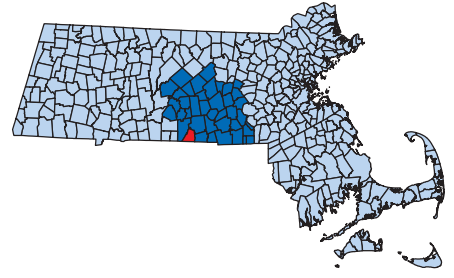
The Open Space Planner's Workbook describes *protected parcels* the following way: Land is considered protected if it is owned by the town's Conservation Commission or Water Department, one of the state's conservation agencies (thereby covered by Article 97), a nonprofit land trust, or if the town received state or federal funds for the purchase or improvement of the property. Private land is considered protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity, if an Agricultural Preservation Restriction has been placed on it, or if the state's Department of Environmental Protection has placed a conservation restriction on it as part of the Wetlands Conservancy Program.

The workbook describes *unprotected parcels* as follows: Land owned by other agencies (local school department, Department of Defense, Department of Corrections, etc.) is not protected; it can be sold for development with relative ease.

The following Map: *Protected & Chapter 61 Lands* shows where parcels in these categories are located throughout the Town of Southbridge. Following the map is a chart of information about each parcel. The data reported is current as of April 2004.

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

Protected and Chapter 61 Lands



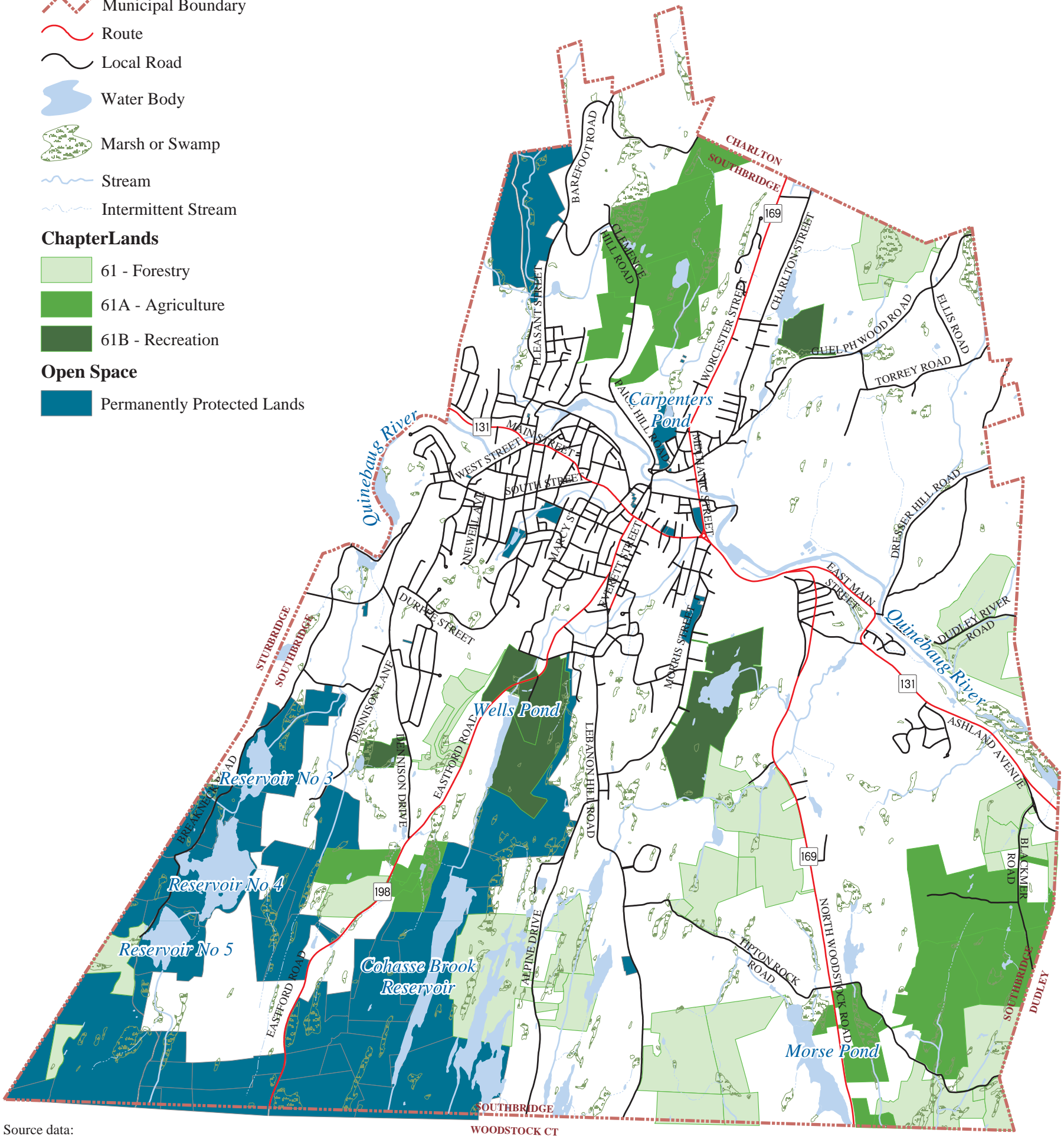
- Municipal Boundary
- Route
- Local Road
- Water Body
- Marsh or Swamp
- Stream
- Intermittent Stream

ChapterLands

- 61 - Forestry
- 61A - Agriculture
- 61B - Recreation

Open Space

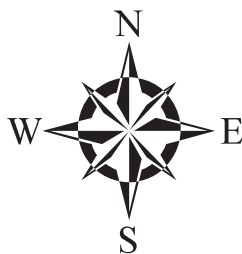
- Permanently Protected Lands



Source data:
 Open Space determined using Assessor database with assistance from Town's Planning Department.
 Permanently Protected lands include lands owned and managed by federal, county, state, municipal and local agencies.
 Hydrography derived from MA DEP and USGS.
 Wetlands supplied by MA DEP.
 All other data are from MassGIS, enhanced by CMRPC.

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

Produced by the GIS Center at
 Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.
 35 Harvard Street, Second Floor, Worcester, MA 01609-2801



Key to Notations in the Protected Parcels Charts

PARCEL ID – Identifies the parcel by map and lot number

and STREET – Identifies the address of the property

OWNER OF RECORD – Denotes deed ownership

TYPE – Ownership Type	F	Federal
	S	State
	C	County
	M	Municipal
	N	Private Nonprofit (e.g. local land trust)
	P	Private for profit (individual, country club, etc)
	B	Public Nonprofit (foundations or centers)
	O	None of the Above
	X	Unknown

CLASS – Massachusetts Department of Revenue’s Property Type Classification Codes

DESCRIPTION – of above CLASS (Includes ‘TYPE’ for Chapter 61 lands, i.e., F – Forestry, A- Agriculture, B – Recreation and Y – specific land use unknown)

ACREAGE – Total Land Acreage of Parcel

INTEREST – Type of Restriction	CR	Conservation Restriction
	APR	Agricultural Preservation Restriction
	CAPR	Conservation/Agricultural Preservation Restriction
	N/A	Not applicable – No restriction

[Note: This information was not available at the time of this report, so there is not a column for “Interest” in the chart]

LEVEL – of Protection	P	In Perpetuity
	T	Temporary
	L	Limited (other by time)
	N	None
	X	Unknown

ACCESS – Public Access Type	Y	Open to Public
	N	Not open to Public
	L	Limited (membership)
	X	Unknown

PURPOSE – Primary Purpose of land use	R	Recreation
	C	Conservation
	B	Recreation and Conservation
	H	Historic/Cultural
	A	Agriculture
	F	Forestry
	W	Water Supply Protection
	S	Scenic (official designation only)
	O	Other
	X	Unknown

Chart of Protected and Chapter 61 Lands in Southbridge

<u>CHAPTER 61 LAND</u>										
PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION & TYPE	# acres	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
086-015- - 00001	6	BLACKMER ROAD	ACLY EDWARD & CASSANDRA M	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	32.5	T	N	F
142-001- - 00001	866	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	BALDYGA EDWARD W & DONNA M	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	35.4	T	N	F
070-001- - 00001	199	DURFEE STREET	HILLMAN JULIA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	4.19	T	N	F
133-002- - 00001	501	ALPINE DRIVE	MCGARRY MATTE G & LAUREN E GATZKE	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	49.3	T	N	F
121-002- - 00001	390	ALPINE DRIVE	PARA JEANNE R	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	91.32	T	N	F
089-003- - 00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	SAGA REALTY CORP	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	97.28	T	N	F
136-008- - 00001	949	LEBANON HILL ROAD	SHIELDS JOHN F & BEATRICE & KATHLEEN E	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	71	T	N	F
059-003-A -00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	74.12	T	N	F
059-003-B -00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	33.09	T	N	F
086-014- - 00001	78	BLACKMER ROAD	SZLOSEK WALENTY JR & HAZEL V	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	11	T	N	F
104-005- - 00001	110 0	EASTFORD ROAD	THOMPSON CLYDE B & DENISE J	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	30.03	T	N	F
133-005- - 00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE	ROBERTS WENDY J ETAL	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	3.44	T	N	F
134-001- - 00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE	ROBERTS WENDY J & WILLIAM A & KENNETH D	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	38.01	T	N	F
133-007- - 00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE REAR	ROBERTS WENDY J & WILLIAM A & KENNETH D	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	6.49	T	N	F
086-008- - 00001	0	BLACKMER ROAD	SZLOSEK WALENTY JR & HAZEL V	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	9	T	N	F
086-012- - 00001	0	BLACKMER ROAD	SZLOSEK WALENTY JR & HAZEL V	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	9.7	T	N	F
152-002- - 00001	0	BREAKNECK ROAD	HULL FORESTLANDS LP	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	20	T	N	F

PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION & TYPE	# acres	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
126-001-A-00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	HULL FORESTLANDS LP	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	32	T	N	F
095-022-D-00001	0	DENNISON DRIVE	HILLMAN JULIA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	16.9	T	N	F
059-003-A-00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	74.12	T	N	F
059-003-B-00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	33.09	T	N	F
095-022- -00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	HILLMAN JULIA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	10.2	T	N	F
095-023- -00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	HILLMAN JULIA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	19.4	T	N	F
001-032- -00001	0	ELLIS ROAD	SANTOS JOHN	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	0.61	T	N	F
001-005- -00001	0	GUELPHWOOD ROAD	SANTOS JOHN	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	56.99	T	N	F
011-003-B-00001	0	GUELPHWOOD ROAD	SANTOS JOHN G	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	10.1	T	N	F
145-002-A-00001	0	LEBANON HILL ROAD REAR	DETMER CHARLES A & BARBARA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	24	T	N	F
110-002- -00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	SAGA REALTY CORP	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	70.1	T	N	F
110-010- -00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD REAR	SAGA REALTY CORP	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	8	T	N	F
144-001- -00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD REAR	MORSE DAVID G & NATALIE L MOORE & AMY V MORSE-OBRI	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	19.8	T	N	F
109-001- -00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	MORSE WAYNE H	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	64.77	T	N	F
109-002- -00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	MORSE WAYNE H	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	5.04	T	N	F
141-001- -00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	CHICKERING KENNETH S JR & BARBARA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	91.9	T	N	F
141-003- -00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	REMIAN KATHLEEN A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	2	T	N	F
141-004- -00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	REMIAN KATHLEEN A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	32.37	T	N	F

137-002- - 00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD REAR	MORSE DAVID G & NATALIE L MOORE & AMY V MORSE-OBRI	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	70.8	T	N	F
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CHAPTER 61A LAND

PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION & TYPE	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
105-002- - 00001	919	EASTFORD ROAD	LOGAN RICHARD J & DANIKA R JACKSON	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	26.07	T	N	A
086-015- - 00001	6	BLACKMER ROAD	ACLY EDWARD & CASSANDRA M	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	17.3	T	N	A
020-002-A -00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	CLEMENCE GEORGE H & SHIRLEY A	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	34.34	T	N	A
105-003- - 00001	935	EASTFORD ROAD	COURNOYER DANIEL L & TRACEY A	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	6.62	T	N	A
114-001- - 00001	324	BLACKMER ROAD	MORNEAU MAURICE H	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	104	T	N	A
116-013- - 00001	990	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	MORSE MARSHALL P	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	60	T	N	A
113-005- - 00001	236	BLACKMER ROAD	PICKREN KENNETH & VIVIANNE P	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	164	T	N	A
059-003-A -00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	5.88	T	N	A
059-003-B -00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	3.61	T	N	A
113-001- - 00001	191	BLACKMER ROAD	SZLOSEK PAULINE	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	18.67	T	N	A
105-012- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	THOMPSON ELINOR ESTATE OF	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	24.78	T	N	A
051-036-A -00001	561	SOUTH STREET	HARWOOD RICHARD M ETAL	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	26.8	T	N	A
004-002- - 00001	0	BAREFOOT ROAD	LOWDEN DIANE I	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	38.7	T	N	A
113-004- - 00001	0	BLACKMER ROAD	PICKREN KENNETH S & VIVIANNE P	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	10	T	N	A
004-005- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	MCKINSTRY JAMES H	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	25	T	N	A
007-002- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	MCKINSTRY JAMES H	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	4	T	N	A
016-002- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	MCKINSTRY JAMES H	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	125	T	N	A
017-001- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	LOWDEN DIANE I	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	21	T	N	A

016-004- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD REAR	CLEMENCE GEORGE & SHIRLEY	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	53.34	T	N	A
105-011- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	COURNOYER DANIEL L & TRACEY A	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	11.32	T	N	A
138-001-E -00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	MORSE WAYNE H & ELEANOR P	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	7.87	T	N	A
142-003- - 00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	OLEKSIK SUZANNE M & RICHARD J OLEKSIK	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	8.5	T	N	A
142-004- - 00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	OLEKSIK SUZANNE M & RICHARD J OLEKSIK	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	2	T	N	A
139-002- - 00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	MORSE MARSHALL P	P	717	Productive Woodland- F	56	T	N	A
016-003-A -00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	CLEMENCE GEORGE H III & SHIRLEY A	P	718	Pasture- A	41.63	T	N	A
017-002- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	MCKINSTRY JAMES H	P	718	Pasture- A	6.96	T	N	A
105-010- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	LOGAN RICHARD J & DANIKA R JACKSON	P	718	Pasture- A	0.28	T	N	A

CHAPTER 61B LAND

PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION & TYPE	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
066-003- - 00001	0	DURFEE STREET	COHASSE COUNTRY CLUB	P	380	Golf Courses - B	91.4	T	L	R
066-004- - 00001	383	EASTFORD ROAD	COHASSE COUNTRY CLUB	P	380	Golf Courses - B	73.6	T	L	R
121-002- - 00001	390	ALPINE DRIVE	PARA JEANNE R	P		Chapter 61B Land - Y	21.74	T	N	R
014-002- - 00001	243	GUELPHWOOD ROAD	BAY PATH ARCHERS INC	P	814	Target Shooting Areas- B	34.92	T	L	R

RECREATION AND FLOOD CONTROL										
PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
073-006- - 00001	0	BREAKNECK ROAD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	11.1	L	Y	R & O
074-004- - 00001	0	DENNISON DRIVE	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	4.38	L	Y	R & O
050-054- - 00001	200	MARJORIE LANE	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	12.9	L	Y	R & O
073-011- - 00001	0	OLD SOUTH ROAD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	11.8	L	Y	R & O
051-038- - 00001	0	SOUTH STREET	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	54.17	L	Y	R & O
072-001- - 00001	0	SOUTH STREET	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	5.54	L	Y	R & O
072-009- - 00001	0	SOUTH STREET	UNITED STATE OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	0.03	L	Y	R & O
PARKS & RECREATION										
048-076- - 00001	0	DRESSER STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	8.5	P	Y	R
047-158- - 00001	0	ELM STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.75	L	Y	R
028-001-B -00001	0	EVERGREEN STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	19.89	P	N	R
052-021- - 00001	262	HIGH STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.37	P	Y	R
052-032- - 00001	0	HIGH STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	16.88	P	Y	R
034-005- - 00001	0	MAIN STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.13	L	Y	R
036-007- - 00001	0	MAIN STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	1.34	P	Y	R
036-008- - 00001	0	MAIN STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	1.6	P	Y	R
071-024- - 00001	0	MARC AVENUE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.39	P	Y	R
036-179-A -00001	1	MECHANIC STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	3.07	P	Y	R

PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
046-061- -00001	168	MORRIS STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	9.9	P	L	R
046-060-A-00001	0	MORRIS STREET REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.09	P	L	R
052-111- -00001	0	NEWELL AVENUE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.05	P	L	R
030-022- -00001	0	PAIGE HILL ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	4.7	P	Y	R
030-071- -00001	0	SNOW STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	3.6	P	Y	R
030-072- -00001	0	SNOW STREET REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	2.8	P	Y	R
032-001- -00001	0	WALCOTT STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.29	L	Y	R
050-095- -00001	0	WEST STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	6.71	P	Y	R
049-158- -00001	0	WEST STREET REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	12	P	Y	R
030-058- -00001	0	WORCESTER STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	11.45	P	Y	R
030-167- -00001	0	WORCESTER STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.15	P	Y	R
018-019- -00001	0	PLIMPTON STREET	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	S	911	DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLI	87.49	P	Y	R
018-020- -00001	0	PLIMPTON STREET	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	S	911	DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLI	55.42	P	Y	R
022-077- -00001	15	RANDOLPH STREET	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	S	920	DEPT OF ENIROMENTAL MANAGMENT	4.9	L	Y	R
064-014- -00001	381	MORRIS STREET	P & P REALTY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	P	380	Golf Courses	140.35	L	L	R
096-003- -00001	926	DENNISON DRIVE	DIGREGORIO HENRY J JR & NANCY MILLS	P	382	Riding Stables	18.98	L	L	R
069-027- -00001	0	DURFEE STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	11	N	Y	R

WATERSHED

PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
121-002-A-00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	3.01	P	N	W
106-001- -00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	14.2	P	N	W
122-001- -00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	140	P	N	W
147-002- -00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	85	P	N	W
148-001- -00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	2	P	N	W
100-001- -00001	511	BREAKNECK ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	116.4	P	N	W
101-001- -00001	0	BREAKNECK ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	50	P	N	W
102-001- -00001	0	BREAKNECK ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	105.7	P	N	W
152-001- -00001	0	BREAKNECK ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	12	P	N	W
125-001- -00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	100	P	N	W
128-001- -00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	142.1	P	N	W
151-001- -00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	16	P	N	W
151-002- -00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	20	P	N	W
151-003- -00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	180	P	N	W
075-001- -00001	86	DENNISON CROSS ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	25	P	N	W
074-001- -00001	0	DENNISON DRIVE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	809	P	N	W
103-001- -00001	0	DENNISON LANE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	81	P	N	W
124-001- -00001	0	DENNISON LANE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	81	P	N	W

122-002- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE WATER SUPPLY CO	M	903	Municipalities	62	P	N	W
123-004- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	185.8 2	P	N	W
150-002- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	38.9	P	N	W
098-001- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	78	P	N	W
105-001- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	62	P	N	W
152-003- - 00001	0	BREAKNECK ROAD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	S	911	Division of Fisheries & Wildlife	10	P	N	W

LAND TRUST

PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
123-011- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	ORENDA WILDLIFE LAND TRUST INC	N	905	Charitable Organizations	4.04	P	X	C
150-001- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION	N	905	Charitable Organizations	38	P	X	C
105-012- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	OPACUM LAND TRUST	N	905	Charitable Organizations	40.29	P	X	C

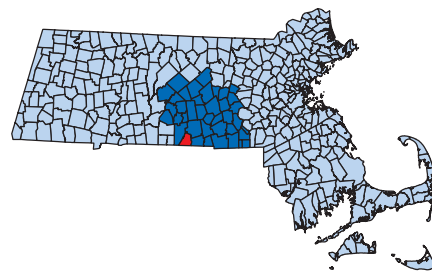
TOTALS

The above chart lists a **total of 5,397.57 acres**, distributed among Chapter 61 and other categories as follows:

Chapter 61 land category	Total acres	Protected land category	Total acres
Chapter 61	1,248.06	Recreation & Flood Control	99.92
Chapter 61A	903.67	Parks & Recreation	422.8
Chapter 61B	221.66	Watershed	2,419.13
		Land Trust	82.33
Subtotals	2,373.39		3,024.18

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

Existing & Potential Recreation and Open Space



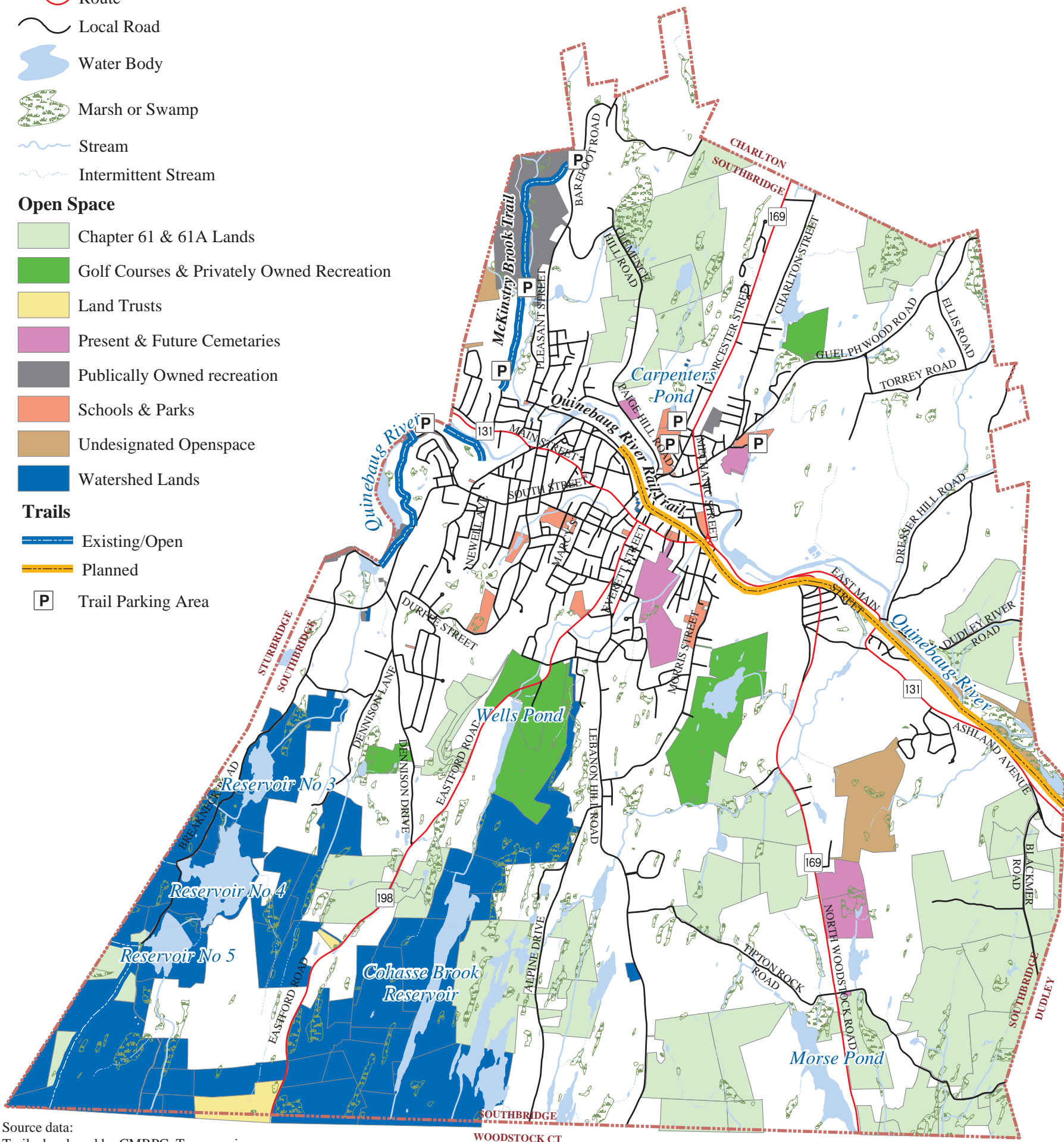
- Municipal Boundary
- Route
- Local Road
- Water Body
- Marsh or Swamp
- Stream
- Intermittent Stream

Open Space

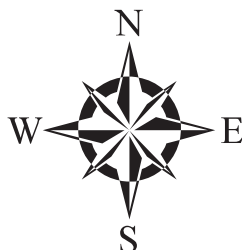
- Chapter 61 & 61A Lands
- Golf Courses & Privately Owned Recreation
- Land Trusts
- Present & Future Cemeteries
- Publicly Owned recreation
- Schools & Parks
- Undesignated Openspace
- Watershed Lands

Trails

- Existing/Open
- Planned
- Trail Parking Area



Source data:
 Trails developed by CMRPC, Town, various agencies and volunteers.
 Open Space determined using Assessor database with assistance from Town's Planning Department.
 Permanently Protected lands include lands owned and managed by federal, county, state, municipal and local agencies.
 Hydrography derived from MA DEP and USGS.
 Wetlands supplied by MA DEP.
 All other data are from MassGIS, enhanced by CMRPC.
 Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.



Produced by the GIS Center at
 Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.
 35 Harvard Street, Second Floor, Worcester, MA 01609-2801



Chart of Existing & Potential Recreation and Open Space in Southbridge

CHAPTER 61 LAND										
PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION & TYPE	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
086-015- - 00001	6	BLACKMER ROAD	ACLY EDWARD & CASSANDRA M	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	32.5	T	N	F
142-001- - 00001	866	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	BALDYGA EDWARD W & DONNA M	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	35.4	T	N	F
070-001- - 00001	199	DURFEE STREET	HILLMAN JULIA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	4.19	T	N	F
133-002- - 00001	501	ALPINE DRIVE	MCGARRY MATTE G & LAUREN E GATZKE	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	49.3	T	N	F
121-002- - 00001	390	ALPINE DRIVE	PARA JEANNE R	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	91.32	T	N	F
089-003- - 00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK RD	SAGA REALTY CORP	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	97.28	T	N	F
136-008- - 00001	949	LEBANON HILL ROAD	SHIELDS JOHN F & BEATRICE & KATHLEEN	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	71	T	N	F
059-003-A -00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	74.12	T	N	F
059-003-B -00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	33.09	T	N	F
086-014- - 00001	78	BLACKMER ROAD	SZLOSEK WALENTY JR & HAZEL V	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	11	T	N	F
104-005- - 00001	110 0	EASTFORD ROAD	THOMPSON CLYDE B & DENISE J	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	30.03	T	N	F
133-005- - 00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE	ROBERTS WENDY J ETAL	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	3.44	T	N	F
134-001- - 00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE	ROBERTS WENDY J & WILLIAM A & KENNETH D	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	38.01	T	N	F
133-007- - 00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE REAR	ROBERTS WENDY J & WILLIAM A & KENNETH D	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	6.49	T	N	F
086-008- - 00001	0	BLACKMER ROAD	SZLOSEK WALENTY JR & HAZEL V	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	9	T	N	F
086-012- - 00001	0	BLACKMER ROAD	SZLOSEK WALENTY JR & HAZEL V	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	9.7	T	N	F
152-002- - 0	0	BREAKNECK	HULL FORESTLANDS LP	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	20	T	N	F

00001		ROAD								
PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION & TYPE	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
126-001-A-00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	HULL FORESTLANDS LP	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	32	T	N	F
095-022-D-00001	0	DENNISON DRIVE	HILLMAN JULIA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	16.9	T	N	F
059-003-A-00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	74.12	T	N	F
059-003-B-00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	33.09	T	N	F
095-022- -00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	HILLMAN JULIA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	10.2	T	N	F
095-023- -00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	HILLMAN JULIA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	19.4	T	N	F
001-032- -00001	0	ELLIS ROAD	SANTOS JOHN	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	0.61	T	N	F
001-005- -00001	0	GUELPHWOOD ROAD	SANTOS JOHN	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	56.99	T	N	F
011-003-B-00001	0	GUELPHWOOD ROAD	SANTOS JOHN G	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	10.1	T	N	F
145-002-A-00001	0	LEBANON HILL ROAD REAR	DETMER CHARLES A & BARBARA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	24	T	N	F
110-002- -00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	SAGA REALTY CORP	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	70.1	T	N	F
110-010- -00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD REAR	SAGA REALTY CORP	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	8	T	N	F
144-001- -00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD REAR	MORSE DAVID G & NATALIE L MOORE & AMY V MORSE-OBRI	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	19.8	T	N	F
109-001- -00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	MORSE WAYNE H	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	64.77	T	N	F
109-002- -00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	MORSE WAYNE H	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	5.04	T	N	F
141-001- -00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	CHICKERING KENNETH S JR & BARBARA	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	91.9	T	N	F
141-003- -00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	REMIAN KATHLEEN A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	2	T	N	F
141-004- -00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	REMIAN KATHLEEN A	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	32.37	T	N	F

137-002- - 00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD REAR	MORSE DAVID G & NATALIE L MOORE & AMY V MORSE-OBRI	P	601	Chapter 61 Land - Y	70.8	T	N	F
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CHAPTER 61A LAND										
PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION & TYPE	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
105-002- - 00001	919	EASTFORD ROAD	LOGAN RICHARD J & DANIKA R JACKSON	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	26.07	T	N	A
086-015- - 00001	6	BLACKMER ROAD	ACLY EDWARD & CASSANDRA M	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	17.3	T	N	A
020-002-A -00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	CLEMENCE GEORGE H & SHIRLEY A	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	34.34	T	N	A
105-003- - 00001	935	EASTFORD ROAD	COURNOYER DANIEL L & TRACEY A	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	6.62	T	N	A
114-001- - 00001	324	BLACKMER ROAD	MORNEAU MAURICE H	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	104	T	N	A
116-013- - 00001	990	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	MORSE MARSHALL P	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	60	T	N	A
113-005- - 00001	236	BLACKMER ROAD	PICKREN KENNETH & VIVIANNE P	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	164	T	N	A
059-003-A -00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	5.88	T	N	A
059-003-B -00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	ST JEAN RAYMOND A & MARGUERITE A	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	3.61	T	N	A
113-001- - 00001	191	BLACKMER ROAD	SZLOSEK PAULINE	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	18.67	T	N	A
105-012- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	THOMPSON ELINOR ESTATE OF	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	24.78	T	N	A
051-036-A -00001	561	SOUTH STREET	HARWOOD RICHARD M ETAL	P		Chapter 61A Land - Y	26.8	T	N	A
004-002- - 00001	0	BAREFOOT ROAD	LOWDEN DIANE I	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	38.7	T	N	A
113-004- - 00001	0	BLACKMER ROAD	PICKREN KENNETH S & VIVIANNE P	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	10	T	N	A
004-005- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	MCKINSTRY JAMES H	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	25	T	N	A
007-002- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	MCKINSTRY JAMES H	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	4	T	N	A
016-002- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	MCKINSTRY JAMES H	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	125	T	N	A
017-001- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	LOWDEN DIANE I	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	21	T	N	A
016-004- - 0	0	CLEMENCE HILL	CLEMENCE GEORGE & SHIRLEY	P	713	Field Crops - hay,	53.34	T	N	A

00001		ROAD REAR				wheat- A				
105-011- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	COURNOYER DANIEL L & TRACEY A	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	11.32	T	N	A
138-001-E -00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	MORSE WAYNE H & ELEANOR P	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	7.87	T	N	A
142-003- - 00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	OLEKSIK SUZANNE M & RICHARD J OLEKSIK	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	8.5	T	N	A
142-004- - 00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	OLEKSIK SUZANNE M & RICHARD J OLEKSIK	P	713	Field Crops - hay, wheat- A	2	T	N	A
139-002- - 00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	MORSE MARSHALL P	P	717	Productive Woodland- F	56	T	N	A
016-003-A -00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	CLEMENCE GEORGE H III & SHIRLEY A	P	718	Pasture- A	41.63	T	N	A
017-002- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	MCKINSTRY JAMES H	P	718	Pasture- A	6.96	T	N	A
105-010- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	LOGAN RICHARD J & DANIKA R JACKSON	P	718	Pasture- A	0.28	T	N	A

CHAPTER 61B LAND,GOLF COURSES AND PRIVATE RECREATION LANDS

PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION & TYPE	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
066-003- - 00001	0	DURFEE STREET	COHASSE COUNTRY CLUB	P	380	Golf Courses - B	91.4	T	L	R
066-004- - 00001	383	EASTFORD ROAD	COHASSE COUNTRY CLUB	P	380	Golf Courses - B	73.6	T	L	R
064-014- - 00001	381	MORRIS STREET	P & P REALTY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	P	380	Golf Courses	140.3 5	L	L	R
096-003- - 00001	926	DENNISON DRIVE	DIGREGORIO HENRY J JR & NANCY MILLS	P	382	Riding Stables	18.98	L	L	R
121-002- - 00001	390	ALPINE DRIVE	PARA JEANNE R	P		Chapter 61B Land - Y	21.74	T	N	R
014-002- - 00001	243	GUELPHWOOD ROAD	BAY PATH ARCHERS INC	P	814	Target Shooting Areas- B	34.92	T	L	R

PUBLICALLY OWNED RECREATION LANDS

PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
073-006- - 00001	0	BREAKNECK ROAD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	11.1	L	Y	R & O
074-004- - 00001	0	DENNISON DRIVE	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	4.38	L	Y	R & O
050-054- - 00001	200	MARJORIE LANE	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	12.9	L	Y	R & O
073-011- - 00001	0	OLD SOUTH ROAD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	11.8	L	Y	R & O
051-038- - 00001	0	SOUTH STREET	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	54.17	L	Y	R & O
072-001- - 00001	0	SOUTH STREET	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	5.54	L	Y	R & O
072-009- - 00001	0	SOUTH STREET	UNITED STATE OF AMERICA	F	900	United States Government	0.03	L	Y	R & O
018-019- - 00001	0	PLIMPTON STREET	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	S	911	DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLI	87.49	P	Y	R
018-020- - 00001	0	PLIMPTON STREET	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	S	911	DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLI	55.42	P	Y	R
022-077- - 00001	15	RANDOLPH STREET	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	S	920	DEPT OF ENIROMENTAL MANAGMENT	4.9	L	Y	R

SCHOOLS & PARKS

PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
048-076- -00001	0	DRESSER STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	8.5	P	Y	R
047-158- -00001	0	ELM STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.75	L	Y	R
028-001-B-00001	0	EVERGREEN STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	19.89	P	N	R
052-021- -00001	262	HIGH STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.37	P	Y	R
052-032- -00001	0	HIGH STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	16.88	P	Y	R
034-005- -00001	0	MAIN STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.13	L	Y	R
036-007- -00001	0	MAIN STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	1.34	P	Y	R
036-008- -00001	0	MAIN STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	1.6	P	Y	R
071-024- -00001	0	MARC AVENUE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.39	P	Y	R
036-179-A-00001	1	MECHANIC STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	3.07	P	Y	R
046-061- -00001	168	MORRIS STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	9.9	P	L	R
046-060-A-00001	0	MORRIS STREET REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.09	P	L	R
052-111- -00001	0	NEWELL AVENUE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.05	P	L	R
030-022- -00001	0	PAIGE HILL ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	4.7	P	Y	R
030-071- -00001	0	SNOW STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	3.6	P	Y	R
030-072- -00001	0	SNOW STREET REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	2.8	P	Y	R
032-001- -00001	0	WALCOTT STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.29	L	Y	R
050-095- -00001	0	WEST STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	6.71	P	Y	R

049-158- - 00001	0	WEST STREET REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	12	P	Y	R
030-058- - 00001	0	WORCESTER STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	11.45	P	Y	R
030-167- - 00001	0	WORCESTER STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.15	P	Y	R
022-191- - 00001	220	CHARLTON STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	7.5	L	L	O
022-214-A -00001	224	CHARLTON STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.05	L	L	O
048-055- - 00001	167	DRESSER STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	2.7	L	L	O
053-004- - 00001	120	EASTFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	5	L	L	O
035-108- - 00001	80	MARCY STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	2.24	L	L	O
049-157- - 00001	156	WEST STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	9.1	L	L	O
069-027- - 00001	0	DURFEE STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	11	N	Y	R

WATERSHED

PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
121-002-A -00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	3.01	P	N	W
106-001- - 00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	14.2	P	N	W
122-001- - 00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	140	P	N	W
147-002- - 00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	85	P	N	W
148-001- - 00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	2	P	N	W
100-001- - 00001	511	BREAKNECK ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	116.4	P	N	W
101-001- - 00001	0	BREAKNECK ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	50	P	N	W
102-001- - 00001	0	BREAKNECK ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	105.7	P	N	W
152-001- - 00001	0	BREAKNECK	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	12	P	N	W

00001		ROAD								
PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
125-001- - 00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	100	P	N	W
128-001- - 00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	142.1	P	N	W
151-001- - 00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	16	P	N	W
151-002- - 00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	20	P	N	W
151-003- - 00001	0	CRAWFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	180	P	N	W
075-001- - 00001	86	DENNISON CROSS ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	25	P	N	W
074-001- - 00001	0	DENNISON DRIVE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	809	P	N	W
103-001- - 00001	0	DENNISON LANE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	81	P	N	W
124-001- - 00001	0	DENNISON LANE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	81	P	N	W
122-002- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE WATER SUPPLY CO	M	903	Municipalities	62	P	N	W
123-004- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	185.8 2	P	N	W
150-002- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	38.9	P	N	W
098-001- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	78	P	N	W
105-001- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	62	P	N	W
152-003- - 00001	0	BREAKNECK ROAD	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	S	911	W				
074-001				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
074-002				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
074-003				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
075-001C				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
075-001D				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
100-002				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
103-002				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W

103-003				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
104-001				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
107-008- - 00001	0	ALPINE DRIVE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	118.3	P	N	W
123-001- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	12	P	N	W
123-002				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
123-003				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
123-010				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
124-002				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
128-002				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
128-003				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
129-001				M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
130-001- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	56.95	P	N	W
130-002- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	14	P	N	W
130-003- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	14.2	P	N	W
130-004- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	76	P	N	W
135-015- - 00001	0	LEBANON HILL ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	3.7	P	N	W
149-001- - 00001	0	EASTORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	19.9	P	N	W
149-002- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	14.9	P	N	W
149-003- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	69.6	P	N	W
150-003			SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities		P	N	W
<u>LAND TRUST</u>										
PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
123-011- -00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	ORENDA WILDLIFE LAND TRUST INC	N	905	Charitable Organizations	4.04	P	X	C
150-001- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION	N	905	Charitable Organizations	38	P	X	C

105-012- - 00001	0	EASTFORD ROAD	OPACUM LAND TRUST	N	905	Charitable Organizations	40.29	P	X	C
PRESENT AND FUTURE CEMETERIES										
PARCEL ID	#	STREET	OWNER OF RECORD	TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	LEVEL	ACCESS	PURPOSE
021-070- - 00001	0	CLEMENCE HILL ROAD	ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF WORCESTER	N	906	CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES	10	L	Y	906
029-027- - 00001	196	CHARLTON STREET	ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF WORCESTER	N	906	CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES	13.25	L	Y	906
028-001-A -00001	0	EVERGREEN STREET	ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF WORCESTER	N	906	CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES	0.35	L	Y	906
029-027-A -00001	0	CHARLTON STREET	ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF WORCESTER	N	906	CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES	0.45	L	Y	906
088-025- - 00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	ST HEDWIDGE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH	N	906	CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES	30	L	Y	906
111-001- - 00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF WORCESTER	N	906	CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES	39	L	Y	906
111-002- - 00001	0	NORTH WOODSTOCK ROAD	ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF WORCESTER	N	906	CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES	0.25	L	Y	906
116-006- - 00001	0	TIPTON ROCK ROAD	MORSE NEIGHBORHOOD CEMETERY ASSOC	M	903	Municipalities	0.55	L	Y	H
047-017- - 00001	0	OAK RIDGE AVENUE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	50	L	Y	H
055-034- - 00001	0	MORRIS STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	6.12	L	Y	O
UNDESIGNATED OPEN SPACE										
060-005- - 00001	0	ASHLAND AVENUE	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	20.98	L	Y	O
019-001- - 00001	0	CRESTWOOD DRIVE REAR	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	0.79	L	Y	O
043-005- - 00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	2.17	L	Y	O
060-009- - 00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	3.55	L	Y	O
060-010- - 00001	0	DUDLEY RIVER ROAD	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	9.28	L	Y	O
018-021- - 00001	0	PLIMPTON STREET	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	9.53	L	Y	O
088-026- - 00001	0	GRANDVIEW	SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN OF	M	903	Municipalities	98.09	L	Y	R

00001		DRIVE							
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In addition to the 5,397.57 acres inventories by the previous map and chart of Chapter 61 and Protected Lands, the above map and chart add the following 436.61 acres:

Category	Total acres
Town schools & parks	142.25
Undesignated Town-owned open space	144.39
Present & future cemeteries [Town & private]	149.97

Recreation Facilities, Noting Accessibility to Persons With Limited Mobility.¹

Note: all fields without bathrooms are serviced with “Port-o-Potties”.

1. Recreation Facilities Owned by the Town of Southbridge

Henry Street Playground - 6.6 acres

Facilities include: 1 baseball & 2 Little League diamonds; a softball field with lights, press box and dugouts used and maintained by the Southbridge Softball Association; 3 basketball courts; and a tot-lot play area.

The area is flat and some parts are paved. There are no restrooms. The area is accessible for spectators but none of the playing fields or tot-lot area are accessible.

Nearby is Carpenter’s Pond, which is spring-fed and used to be used for swimming and skating. The banks and water are now inaccessible due to growth of weeds. Beavers are damaging nearby trees.

Capillo Park - ± 0.5 acres

Although the entry is off Central Street, this park abuts the lower lying Henry Street Playground. At present only a winding trail connects these two facilities.

Capillo Park offers a street hockey/rollerblade area, 1 basketball court, three picnic tables, and a quarter-mile walking path. The park is underutilized.

Morris Street Field - 2.5 acres

Facilities include 2 softball fields, 1 baseball field, a basketball court, tot lot with swings and slide, and field storage building.

The area is flat and has paved parking. Two accessible bathrooms are being installed. The area is accessible for spectators but none of the playing fields or playground equipment is accessible.

¹ Information supplied by former Recreation Director Mark Soper.

High Street Pond [“The Rez”]- 0.5 acres

Formerly know as Reservoir #1 and used as a swimming hole, the large pond is now drained in the summer to keep down the mosquito population. This spring-fed pond is allowed to refill each fall for winter use. This facility is only used during the winter when the ice is safe for skating. Weather permitting, the pond is used for adult ice hockey. The former pool building was renovated by Firefighters volunteering their time, and it is used for the children to change from shoes to skates and to warm up a bit. A donation from Clare Burts was received to fix up the area, and there is a small supportive group called “Friends of the Rez”. There is a bathroom, but the facilities are not accessible.

Alva Gregoire [West Stree] Recreation Area - 26 acres

The two parts of this area are located on either side of West Street School. Upper West Street offers 1 baseball/softball and 1 baseball field used by the Little League in the summer. Located in the school and facing out onto the fields are 2 ADA-accessible bathrooms and 2 garage storage areas. Lower West Street offers a soccer field, a smaller field hockey field [used for soccer by smaller children], and 4 tennis courts with lights.

Quinebaug River Heritage Nature Trail

A trail head is located at the Lower West Street Recreation Area. A handicap accessible concrete ramp connects to the stone dust Quinebaug River Heritage Nature Trail along the south side of the river. There are several boardwalk areas and a platform that extends to the river's edge.

Walcott Street Tot-lot - 1/2 acre

This play area is fenced with a grass surface The junior whirl is accessible and the play structure has a transfer platform. There are three park benches that are accessible. There are no restroom facilities.

Southbridge Town Common and Gazebo - 1 acre

This area is grass with accessible concrete paths that allow travel through the common. The Gazebo is accessible via a concrete ramp. Restroom facilities are available at the Police Headquarters at the end of the common. The restrooms are accessible.

Charlton Street Recreation Area - 18 acres

Located behind the Charlton Street School, this area offers one soccer/football field, a small practice field, a hard surface skate/roller blade court, walking path, gazebo, accessible tot-lot play structure and accessible restrooms located in the School. The land is flat with many paved areas that makes it readily accessible.

The School and Recreation Committee cooperate on maintaining the area.

There is the potential to extend the Recreation Area to include trails and possibly another playing field.

Youth Center

Located on Chesnut Street, this former house offers after school programs. It has one basket outdoor basketball court.

The High School's McMahon Field

Facilities include: 1 baseball diamond, 1 softball diamond, a track, football field, and soccer field. There are bleachers, 2 bathrooms, a concession stand, and locker room/storage.

In contrast, the Wells Junior High has no fields. Baseball teams play at West Street, softball at Morris Street, and soccer at Charlton Street.

School Gyms

All Town schools contain gyms. The High School and Wells Junior High School have full sized gyms. Small gyms are located in the West Street, Charlton Street, and Eastford Elementary Schools. The gyms at the Charton Street and Eastford School are "game only", that is, there are not bleachers for spectators.

2. Recreation Facilities Rented or Leased by the Town

Gibraltar Field - 4.9 acres

Owned by the State and administered by the Department of Environmental Management, this area is under a ten year lease which allows for developing fields.

At present closed, the swimming complex includes an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a wading pool, and changing rooms.

There is one large playing field that can be used for practice. Adjoining this is a large area of scrubby, succession growth that could be cleared to create additional, much needed sports fields.

Rama Field – approximately 2 acres

Located on Dudley River Road, this area is leased from Rama Kennels for \$2,000/year and provides 2 playing fields.

3. Level of Participation and Need for More Playing Fields

As of the summer of 2003 there were 672 youngsters playing in Little League [using Upper West Street and Henry Street fields] and 250 in Lassie League [Henry Street]. Youth Soccer is very popular: 500 children play during the spring season, and 700 in the fall [Lower West Street & Charlton Street, with practice on Rama Field]. 300 youngsters participate in Pop Warner Football.

Southbridge is only able to offer programs for so many youngsters because the rental fields are available. There is a big, unmet need for practice fields. Moreover, due to inability to rotate the use of fields, maintaining them in good condition is a big challenge.

At present about 80% of participating children who participate in team sports walk to their games, so it would be difficult for them to reach fields located outside the center of Town.

4. Westville Lake and Park²

Owned by the Federal Government and constructed in 1962, the Westfield Dam is administered by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers as a flood control facility for the Quinebaug River with recreation opportunities at Westville Lake and the surrounding Westville Park area. Much of the Park is located in Sturbridge, but a footbridge provides pedestrian access over the River. Westville provides a “breathing space” and is a major recreation amenity, with potential for even more facilities, as long as they are designed to be compatible with Westville’s main purpose: to serve as a flood control facility. Westville does not yet have a Master Plan, but staff suggests that townspeople watch for a master plan process in coming years.

The Park is closed to “drive-ins” in mid-September, but it is open all year to pedestrians. There are 3 major parking areas, including a 22-car off-season parking lot and trail head. [The off-season lot includes 2 spaces for the handicapped].

Westville Park contains a youth softball playing field, and soccer practice and playing fields used by leagues. Southbridge High School uses the Park for its cross-country team. There are 2 large pavilion shelters rented by residents of Sturbridge and Southbridge for large parties. There are restrooms. Walking dogs is allowed if they are leashed.

Westville Lake was recently upgraded to Class B [swimmable]. The State stocks the Lake with trout from fisheries and with native warm water species such as bass. Although not highly utilized, there is boating by way of a ramp. [There is a canoe launch up river.] By 2005 there is expected to be a Westville Shuttleville³ Recreation Area where there will be fishing off a platform. A beach could be developed if one or both towns could get the funding and commit to maintaining the beach.

November 2003 was the expect date of completion of a footbridge over the River channel to create a circuit trail around both sides of Westville Lake.

5. Regional Planning for the Quinebaug & Shetucket Rivers Corridor.

² Information courtesy of September 2003 interview with Merl Bassett, Park Ranger at Westville Dam area.

³ The site of the former Litchfield Shuttle Manufacturing Company, which dominated the world market in weaving shuttles.

The Westfield Dam and Park are key links in the Quinebaug River Heritage Nature Trail and evolving Grand Trunk Regional Trail, of which Southbridge also provides key existing and potential links. For example, the accessible ramp from the Lower West Street Recreation Area connects into the Heritage Nature Trail path along the Quinebaug. There is a plan for a Grand Trunk trailhead at the Pilsudski Polish American Club off Route 131 in Southbridge. From there a safe connection is needed across or under Route 131 to connect with the riverside path that could work its way east to connect at the American Optical complex with the planned "Southbridge Spur" of the Providence and Worcester Rail Trail. A second option is a designated connection through Downtown Southbridge.

These regional trail plans take place in the context of the Federally designated Quinebaug -Shetucket Heritage Corridor, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts-created Quinebaug & Shetucket Rivers Valley Heritage District and Commission. The Town of Southbridge has been supportive and active in these two interrelated planning "districts". For example, Cassandra Acly, Director of the Town's Office of Economic Development and Planning has recently been appointed to serve on the State's Commission.

The Quinebaug River literally flows through the heart of Southbridge and offers unique opportunities for recreation and open space amenities in locations that are a walkable distance from the majority of the town's population. For example, plans are coming to fruition for the Providence and Worcester Rail Trail to enter Southbridge from the east and follow the river to the American Optical complex. From there a riverside path could continue along the River, possibly connecting with a Waterfront Park near Central Street, and continuing further west to connect with the Grand Trunk links described above.

6. Local & Regional Trails

Formal existing trails in Southbridge include:

McKinstry Brook Trail in the 226-acre McKinstry Brook Wildlife management area, with trailheads on Plimpton Street, Pleasant Street opposite the Southbridge Airport, and Wall Street.

Heritage Trail leading from the Lower West Street Recreation Area via an ADA accessible ramp down toward the Westville Lake Recreation Area and the Grand Trunk Trail.

Trail connecting Capillo Park and Henry Street Playground. Although not ADA accessible, this trail is at present the only connection between these two parks.

There are a number of informal trails, including ones in the undeveloped Town-owned land that connects with the Charlton Street School Recreation Area. Some trails are in need of maintenance, for example the one around Carpenter's Pond which is now overgrown with weeds.

There are good opportunities for Southbridge to link into the regional trail system. A new footbridge across the River links the Heritage Trail with the Westville Recreation Area's trails. The proposed Providence & Worcester Rail Trail opens good potential for a link to the Grand Trunk Trail via a Riverside Path along the Quinebaug through the heart of Southbridge.

SECTION 6 - COMMUNITY GOALS

A. Description of Process: 1999 Plan and 2004 Update

Both the 1999 Plan and the 2004 Update were shaped by community input, and it is important to see where there is continuity and where there are changes in perception and priorities. For the first *Southbridge Open Space & Recreation Plan* the Town started holding public meetings and working groups in April of 1995. An intern from the Conway School of Landscape Design was hired to complete Section 4 of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. As part of her assignment she conducted a public participatory meeting where breakout groups provided necessary input for the project. In the Spring of 1996 4,000 survey forms were mailed out to citizens. A response of 329 forms was received and with the help of a senior volunteer the information was tabulated.

The five most critical issues for those who responded were:

1. Lack of business in town
2. Lack of jobs
3. Lack of recreational facilities
4. Increasing tax rate
5. Residents' lack of interest in public service.

The 2004 Update grew out of the 2003-2003 Long Term Plan process, a year and a half of local efforts that:

- began with a vision statement generated by the community,
- gathered information about Southbridge's current situation
- discussed potential action strategies,
- reached agreement on the most promising actions to help Southbridge move toward the future townspeople want.

The planning process was guided by the members of the Long Term Planning Steering Committee, who were appointed by the Town Manager. The process focused on hearing what the community has to say about our desired future and how we want to work together to achieve that future. We began with a visioning forum in November of 2002. The vision statement that emerged from that first forum was reviewed and endorsed by every subsequent community planning meeting. Community workshops in April and May 2003 considered a new set of town-wide maps and suggested a prioritized list of actions relating to open space, natural resources, and recreation. The goals and action plan of the 2004 *Open Space & Recreation Plan Update* grew directly from these spring 2003 workshops. Working meetings over the summer and fall of 2003 concentrated on housing and economic development. From December through January the Long Term Plan Steering Committee briefed Town Council Subcommittees, Town boards, and community groups on the highlights that had emerged from the community's deliberations. Their suggestions were incorporated into the draft list of priority actions that was presented and discussed at a community workshop in March 2004. At that workshop townspeople gathered again for a working session to map out specific ways to make progress on actions for which there is general, broad-based agreement in the community.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The 2004 *Long Term Plan*'s vision statement shows how the town sees recreation and natural resource conservation as part of a balanced, vibrant community. [*Italics highlight the portions of this vision that particularly relate to open space and recreation.*]

As we move proactively into Southbridge's future, we see our town as continuing the tradition of being a vibrant, diverse community. *The mission of our town is to promote balanced diversity in economic activity, housing, and the pattern of development and open space.* A broad business base of industry, retail, and service businesses will provide goods, services, and employment to households with a full spectrum of income levels. This vital economic base will also support the level of services desired by current and potential residents and business owners. Southbridge will be attractive to upper middle income people without leaving behind working people with limited skills and incomes, so local businesses will provide increasing numbers of professional, higher skilled jobs while continuing to provide jobs for less skilled workers. Well designed and well maintained homes will be available for the full range of people who will work for and do business with local firms. *Green spaces and recreation areas will be integrated into developed areas, from our historic Downtown Centre, through existing neighborhoods, and into future development in outlying areas. Green spaces and recreation facilities will add to the community's quality of life, which will improve the vitality of our residential areas and attract desirable businesses to town.* Similarly, a high quality of town services will continue to support the quality of life desired by residents and business owners. An excellent school system for youngsters and adults will be particularly key to achieving a vibrant and diverse range of businesses and residents.

Here in Southbridge we have a good base to work from, but there are specific gaps that need to be filled. We have a strong manufacturing tradition, family-owned businesses, finance and insurance, the AO Business Center, the Hospital and Airport, pedestrian and historic Town Centre, infrastructure, and good regional access. We need to gain more high end employment, retail, broader technology sector, more specialty shops, tourist-based business. It is important to improve access to the Industrial Park and to reuse vacant buildings including historic mills. Our housing stock offers good prices, historic design, and a good mix of neighborhoods. We need to address the problem of poor maintenance, with a special concern about the affect of absentee ownership. We also need to make sure that we continue to offer homes that are affordable to lower income persons at the same time that we increase the offerings to upper middle income persons. There will be an expanding need for elderly housing, too. *In terms of recreation and open space, we have built new sports fields, have begun a trail system, and have a significant amount of undeveloped acreage in outlying areas. We need more sports fields, extension and upgrading of the trail system, conservation of key open spaces such as the watershed, and integration of open spaces into future development.*

SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

1999 Plan: This section discusses the need to protect our assets. The findings of the first public meeting revealed that what sets Southbridge apart from other communities are the beautiful views from Clemence Hill, Paige Hill, Lebanon Hill, Dennison Hill and the area around the airport. Cultural resources include the rich architectural heritage of the historic downtown district, old cemeteries, Dennison Rock, Cats Rocks, the American Optical complex and the Southbridge Town Common and the history of the growth and development along the banks of the Quinebaug River. These are important resources for this community that once lost can never be restored.

2004 Update: Community forums and workshops convened as part of the E. O. 418-funded 2003-2004 *Long Term Plan* effort confirmed that the resource protection needs stated by the 1999 Plan are still valid. Additional needs were identified, including the need to identify and preserve habitat of endangered species. Townspeople also stressed that owning the community's own reservoirs and watershed is a unique treasure that needs to be protected. The *Long Term Plan* recommends working over time to increase the extent of protection for watershed and other water resource areas.

When the Stream Team completes their inventory and analysis of human activities' impact on the Quinebaug River and its Southbridge tributaries, there will be the need to address problems they identify and to follow take action on their recommendations.

B. Summary of Community's Needs

1999 Plan: Those who responded to the written survey felt that the community lacked recreational facilities in the form of playgrounds, hiking trails, outdoor amphitheater, bike trails, family picnic areas and skating rink. Of great importance to the community is the development of a trail(s) that will connect Southbridge with our surrounding communities and provide access to the trails that exist in the rest of the state. Southbridge would also like to be connected to the south and have access to the trail system in Connecticut.

The Town has already addressed a number of these needs. Three new playground facilities have been constructed with one opening in the Spring of 1998 and the other two opening in early Summer of 1999. The second phase of the Quinebaug River Heritage Nature Trail will be completed in the Spring of 1999 and will bring us closer to the connection with the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers Westville Lake and Recreation Area and provide access to trails in Sturbridge.

The development of more recreational facilities adds additional work for the Department of Public Works, but they work very closely with the Recreation Committee and School Maintenance Department to keep the responsibilities coordinated.

2004 Update:

Community forums and workshops convened as part of the E. O. 418-funded 2003-2004 *Long Term Plan* effort confirmed that the community needs stated by the 1999 Plan are still valid. Additional needs were identified, for example the need for additional sports fields and better maintenance of what we have. Townspeople express fears that existing recreation facilities will be taken away due to the Town's tight financial situation. They express the strong need for a maintenance plan and funding. There is also a desire for the community to be able to make better use of school facilities after school hours, during vacations, and on weekends.

It is important to create and maintain green space and recreation amenities in all parts of Southbridge. By the creation of neighborhood green space the Town is able to provide some improvement to living conditions in existing residential areas.

The Quinebaug River that runs through the Town offers unique opportunities for recreation and open space amenities, because not only are its banks lightly developed, it is also very close to the Downtown and Globe Village areas. Consequently, the River could be accessible to a large portion of Southbridge residents. For example, there is potential for a waterfront park in the Downtown. In addition, providing a passive recreation path along the banks of the River west into the Westville Recreation Area in Sturbridge would open the door for many residents who otherwise would not be able to obtain transportation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Westville Lake and Recreation Area. Such a trail would also provide direct connections into the regional trail system, including the Grand Trunk Trail and the Providence & Worcester Rail Trail.

There will continue to be the need to update this 2004 plan's inventory of recreation resources. There also is the need to create a mapped inventory of existing trails, potential connections, and potential new trails.

The preceding two paragraphs point out the potential for achieving much through linking elements that already exist: along the River and among existing trails. In a similar fashion, there is a good opportunity to expand and multiply benefits and enjoyment of currently listed recreation facilities and open space amenities: Capillo Park, Henry Street Fields, and Carpenter's Pond. These three areas adjoin each other, but they are separated by topography [Capillo Park's elevation] and vegetation [weeds encircling & invading Carpenter's Pond]. As does the River, these three recreation resources lie in the heart of Southbridge's densest residential areas in the Downtown.

C. Land Use Management Needs

1999 Plan: The Town of Southbridge has a very pro-active Conservation Commission and Planning Board that keep themselves well-informed on development that goes on in the community. Our Boards and Committees work very well with other municipal departments to ensure that protective measures of enforced.

2004 Update: Community forums and workshops convened as part of the E. O. 418-funded 2003-2004 *Long Term Plan* effort confirmed the importance of land use management by the Town's Boards and Departments. In fact, townspeople urge more proactive planning and action. Even though outlying open space areas are zoned single family residential, which is Southbridge's most stringent zoning

district, townspeople have seen open space resources lost to development. A major recommendation of the 2004 *Long Term Plan* is to build upon the 2002-2004 effort and create a full Town-wide Comprehensive Plan. Mandates from the *Long Term Plan* position Southbridge to incorporate the principles of Smart Growth into the Comprehensive Plan:

- Aiming for a balance of housing, business, open space & natural resource areas,
- Revitalizing the Town Center through infill and expansion, in tandem with careful development and conservation of open space and natural resources in outlying areas,
- Maintaining and increasing walkability,
- Enhancing livability through open space and recreation amenities in every living area.

The Town recognizes that we need to consider how to conserve open space through a variety of coordinated and mutually supportive strategies, for example during review and permitting procedures, working with land trusts and other allies, providing for transfer of development rights to encourage development where we want it and decrease or avoid development where it would have negative impacts on open space and natural resources.

The *Long Term Plan* also stresses the important opportunities offered by the Town's ownership of large tracks of land around the Airport and in the Guelphwood and Torrey Roads area. A resulting major recommendation is to develop site master plans for these two areas, taking into account the neighboring privately owned parcels. The community envisions careful and creative combinations of land uses, in each case to include trails and recreation facilities. In some cases there may be trails and green spaces in association with residential development. In other cases there may be sports fields and trails in a carefully planned business park setting.

SECTION 8: GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1999 Plan: As stated in Section 6, one of the most important objectives is to improve the overall appearance of Southbridge and create a community with pride in itself. Community meetings and written response to the survey have provided the following list of initiatives that are important to members of this community.

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Objectives</u>
Improve community appearance and pride.	Target main entrances into community and Provide plan to improve each area.
Remove blight in dense neighborhoods. Additional recreational facilities.	Provide safe play areas for young children. Adequate to provide enough space for everyone So that fields are not overused and can be properly maintained.
Improve existing facilities.	Provide play areas that meet today's safety standards and are handicap accessible.
Develop paths for hiking and biking.	Increase the variety of recreational facilities offered in the community and provide the opportunity to access recreational facilities outside of our community.

2004 Update: Community forums and workshops convened as part of the E. O. 418-funded 2003-2004 *Long Term Plan* effort confirmed that the community goals and objectives stated by the 1999 Plan are still valid. In addition, townspeople agreed on the following goals, some of which are updated versions of the goals listed above:

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Objectives</u>
1. Over time conserve/protect the watershed & aquifer-rich southwest quadrant of Town [from Eastford Road west]	Consider expanding the protective zoning overly district
2. Gain additional recreation facilities, and improve & maintain the ones we have	Develop Gibraltar Field Solve the need for a place that skateboarders want to use. Preserve the Rez & maintain it as a valuable recreation facility. Focus on youth activities Consider purchase of the rented fields on Dudley River Road. Develop and fund a maintenance plan for recreational facilities Develop, map & identify with signs public walking trails & trail heads, to include McKinstry Brook Trail, Carpenter's Pond, the Airport area. [continued. . . .]

	<p>Develop & put into effect a maintenance plan for trails. Explore the possibility of a trail & footbridge stream crossing on the promised donation of land on North Woodstock Road.</p> <p>Work to bring facilities into compliance with ADA accessibility regulations</p> <p>Publicize recreational areas with a small brochure</p> <p>Continue to preserve & maintain existing trails, parks, fields & amenities</p> <p>Continue to create small green spaces and play areas in neighborhoods, especially in densely developed areas.</p> <p>Continue mapping trails and maintain an official inventory of trails & other open space and recreation facilities.</p>
<p>3. Expand benefits and enjoyment through linking existing & potential recreation facilities and areas.</p>	<p>Plan and implement physical & functional connections among Capillo Park, the Henry Street Playground, and Carpenter’s Pond.</p> <p>Act on opportunities to link existing trails with each other, and with potential new extensions, to include connections into the regional trail system.</p> <p>Continue to work for a Riverside walkway that connects the Providence & Worcester Rail Trail [including the Old Dudley Road loop], the Downtown, Globe Village, the Grand Trunk Trail, the Westville Recreation Area, and regional paths that continue westward.</p> <p>Continue active membership in, and support the mission & activities of the Quinebaug & Shetucket Rivers Valley Heritage District Commission.</p>
<p>4. Develop a Town-wide Comprehensive Plan, based on the <i>Long Term Plan</i> and principles of Smart Growth.</p>	<p>Gain funding for assistance with this project.</p> <p>Incorporate recreation facilities & their maintenance into plans for other Town developments.</p> <p>Incorporate open space and recreation considerations into the Downtown Southbridge Urban Renewal Plan.</p> <p>Develop site master plans for the Town-owned properties near the Airport and in the Guelphwood & Torrey Road areas.</p> <p>Investigate land use management strategies for including trails and recreation facilities in new developments. Pick the ones that would work for Southbridge and implement them.</p> <p>Complete the Stream Team survey, analyses, and report. Act on their recommendations.</p>

5. Incorporate into the development review & permitting process consideration of scenic features identified by the OSRP.	Prioritize open space & recreation resources that are at risk Work with each developer, add conditions to permits. Improve ease & efficiency of communication among Planning Board, the Historic Commission, and other Boards that need to be involved in development review & permitting.
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SECTION 9: FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

1999 Plan: The following projects listed in the 1999 Plan have been completed:

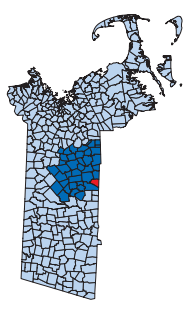
Location	Year	Task
Quinebaug River Heritage Nature Trail - Phase II	1998	Award bids and start/complete construction
Capillo Park	1998 1999	construction bidding, begin construction/complete
Charlton St. School Recreation Area	1998	Complete construction facilities for additional active and passive Recreation
Alva Gregoire Complex Lower Fields	1999	Re-grade and upgrade both lower field hockey and soccer field
Morris Street Field Rehabilitation	1999/ 2000	Upgrade and rehabilitate all facilities

2004 Update:

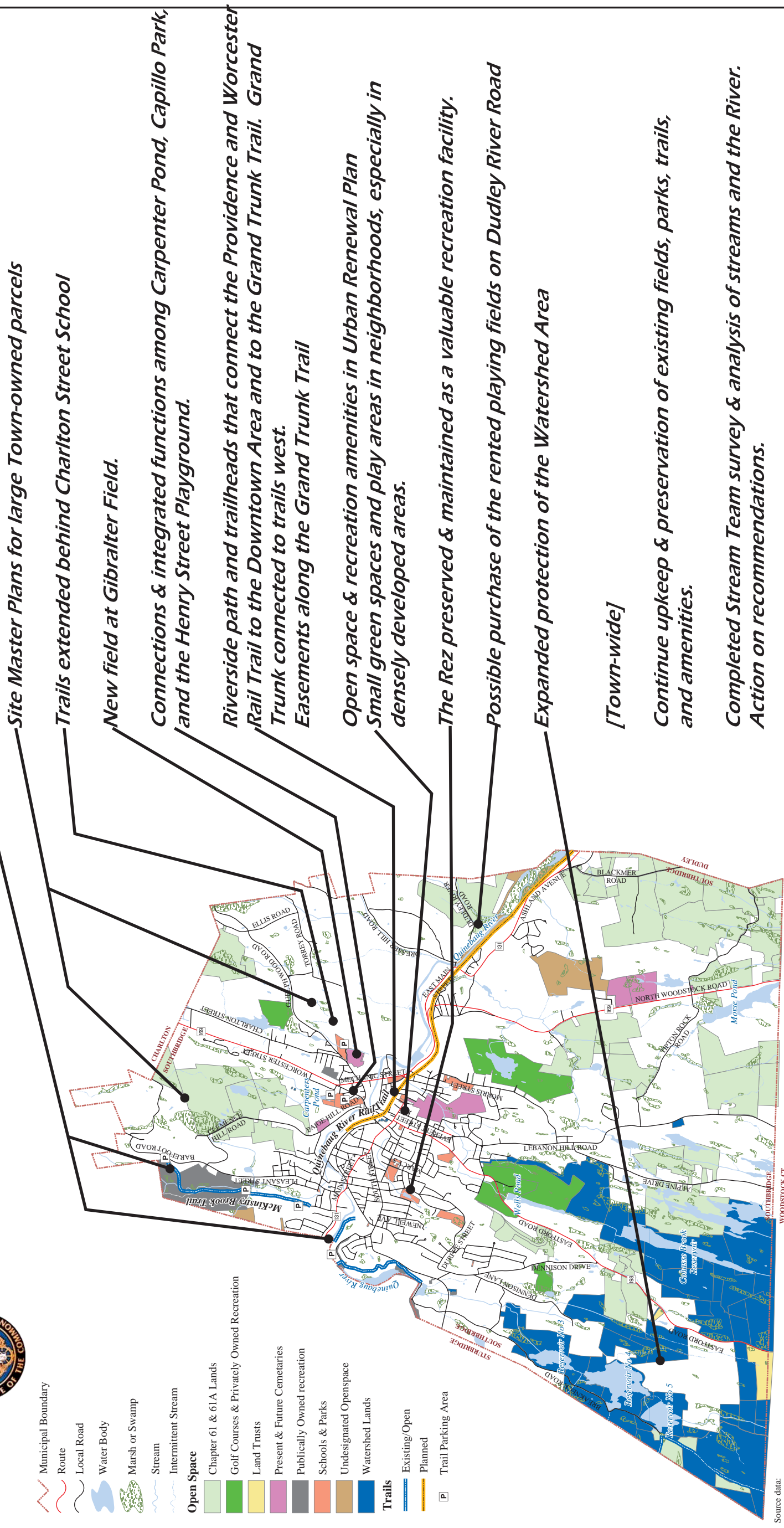
Goal and actions	Year				
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Over time conserve/protect the watershed & aquifer-rich southwest quadrant of Town [from Eastford Road west]					
Consider expanding the protective zoning overly district	X	X			
2. Gain additional recreation facilities, and improve & maintain the ones we have					
Solicit volunteers to develop playing field at Gibraltar Field	X				
Make needed repairs at the Rez	X	X			
Research grants to purchase rented fields on Dudley River Road			X		
Convene a meeting of groups that use the fields to work out strategies for shared maintenance responsibility			X		
Continue to watch for opportunities to create small green spaces and play areas in neighborhoods, especially in densely developed areas.	X	X	X	X	X
Adopt Urban Redevelopment Plan	X				

Obtain grant to map & identify with signs public walking trails & trail heads, to include McKinstry Brook Trail, Carpenter's Pond, the Airport area.			X		
Obtain grant to bring into ADA compliance the Heritage Trail all the way to Marjorie Lane, and McKinstry Brook Trail from the beginning to the bridge & back.			X	X	
3. Expand benefits and enjoyment through linking existing & potential recreation facilities and areas					
Obtain TEA-21 funding to implement a Riverside walkway & trailheads that connect the Providence & Worcester Rail Trail [including the Old Dudley Road loop], the Downtown, Globe Village, the Grand Trunk Trail, the Westville Recreation Area, and regional paths that continue westward.		X	X	X	
Explore possibilities & obtain funding & permits to dredge & clean Carpenter's Pond			X	X	X
Search out funding & construct ADA compliant ramp from Capillo Park to Henry Street Playground, and ADA compliant trail from Henry Street around Carpenter's Pond. Fence trees around Pond to prevent further beaver damage.		X	X	X	
Extend, connect, and improve existing trails on Town property behind Charlton Street School			X		
Explore possibilities to link into the Sturbridge trail system, for example via the McKinstry Brook Trail				X	
4. Develop a Town-wide Comprehensive Plan, based on the Long Term Plan and principles of Smart Growth.					
Research & watch for funding sources to assist with Comprehensive Plan	X	X	X	X	X
Complete the Stream Team's inventory to include the River	X				
Perform Stream Team analysis and write report		X	X		
Act on Stream Team recommendations				X	X
Include recreation facilities in plans for the new High School			X	X	
Develop site master plans for the Town-owned properties near the Airport and in the Guelphwood & Torrey Road areas					X
Investigate land use management strategies for including trails and recreation facilities in new developments. Pick the ones that would work for Southbridge and implement them.	X	X	X	X	X
5. Incorporate into the development review & permitting process consideration of scenic features identified by the OSRP.					
Prioritize open space & recreation resources that are at risk	X				
Review & update the <i>Development Process Handbook</i>			X	X	
Work with each developer, add conditions to permits.	X	X	X	X	X

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE Open Space & Recreation Action Plan Map



- Municipal Boundary
- Route
- Local Road
- Water Body
- Marsh or Swamp
- Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Open Space**
- Chapter 61 & 61A Lands
- Golf Courses & Privately Owned Recreation
- Land Trusts
- Present & Future Cemeteries
- Publicly Owned recreation
- Schools & Parks
- Undesignated Openspace
- Watershed Lands
- Trails**
- Existing/Open
- Planned
- Trail Parking Area



Heritage Trail & part of McKinstry Brook Trail ADA compliant

Site Master Plans for large Town-owned parcels

Trails extended behind Charlton Street School

New field at Gibraltar Field.

Connections & integrated functions among Carpenter Pond, Capillo Park, and the Henry Street Playground.

Riverside path and trailheads that connect the Providence and Worcester Rail Trail to the Downtown Area and to the Grand Trunk Trail. Grand Trunk connected to trails west.

Easements along the Grand Trunk Trail

Open space & recreation amenities in Urban Renewal Plan

Small green spaces and play areas in neighborhoods, especially in densely developed areas.

The Rez preserved & maintained as a valuable recreation facility.

Possible purchase of the rented playing fields on Dudley River Road

Expanded protection of the Watershed Area

[Town-wide]

Continue upkeep & preservation of existing fields, parks, trails, and amenities.

Completed Stream Team survey & analysis of streams and the River. Action on recommendations.

Town-wide system of trails and trailheads that link with regional trails
Maintenance plan for trails

Trails and recreation facilities included in plans for new development

New recreation facilities during construction/renovation of schools, especially as part of the potential new high school.

Source data: CMRPC, Town, various agencies and volunteers.
Open Space determined using Assessor database with assistance from Town's Planning Department.
Permanently Protected lands include lands owned and managed by federal, county, state, municipal and local agencies.
Hydrography derived from MA DEP and USGS.
Wetlands supplied by MA DEP.
All other data are from MassGIS, enhanced by CMRPC.
Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.



Produced by the GIS Center at
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission,
35 Harvard Street, Worcester, MA 01609-2801

Map Produced May 2004

SECTION 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS

[Need letters of support from the following]

Southbridge Town Council
Southbridge Conservation Commission
Southbridge Recreation Committee
Southbridge Planning Board
Town Manager
DPW Director
Historical Commission
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

SECTION 11: REFERENCES

1999 Plan:

Recreation Master Plan

Quinebaug River Corridor Master Plan of 1990

Community Action Statement of 1996

The Southbridge Open Space and Recreation Planning Study

Assessors Records

Land Use Inventory, 1997, Peter Christian - U. Mass Intern

South Central Worcester County Community Health Needs Assessment

EOCD 1995 Community Profile

Southbridge Recreation Committee

Southbridge Conservation Commission

Southbridge Historical Commission

April Carder, Intern, Conway School of Landscape Design

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

APPENDICES

A. Report on April 30, 2003, Community Workshop on Open Space & Recreation

B. January 2003 Interim Accessibility Plan

APPENDIX A
Community Meeting on Open Space & Recreation

Wednesday, April 30, 2003
6:30 – 8:30 P.M.
Town Council Chambers

Transcription of Notes

Purposes: Review Southbridge's open space and recreation resources
Identify specifically what our *Open Space & Recreation Plan* should work for

What other really distinctive places in Southbridge make our Town special?
[Mark on maps & identify]

Notes From Small Discussion Groups

Group # 1

Delete town pool.
We have seven brooks in this town, and they are all perennial.
We have many trails, fields, the river. Unique geographical location.

Other points:

Ken discussed that there were many hiking trails behind Charlton St. School.
Henry Street area is a potential area to be developed
McMahon Field and Charlton Street Rec Area are not publicly owned.
Already have a place for a skateboard park, just need the funds.
Property in the back of state pool field has been looked into becoming a soccer field
Should be a census taken about what the town wants.
The town should be aware of what we have
A survey should be developed
It would make sense to let people know what we have.
Other people without permission have been using the softball fields where the girls play. They also have been destroying them.

Group #2

No. Woodstock Road into Connecticut, Rte 196, scenic feature
#24 Oakridge Cemetery – historical/cultural
Fork in the road – duck pond – scenic feature
? Trail in Westville Dam – going out toward Sturbridge – is part of it in Southbridge?

Group #3

AO area
Notre Dame Church
Fire Station
Quinniboag River
Morse Pond
Flatiron Building

In what ways is Southbridge well supplied with opportunities for active & passive recreation?

Group # 1

Trails
Fields
Walking
Pool

Group #2

Passive recreation

Mountain bike trails
Hiking
Walking
[fishing Westville]
boating Westville – canoe, kayaking
tennis courts @ West Street
golf
skating rink
cross country skiing – hockey at Rez

Active [organized]

Henry Street Field – adult softball leagues
Leagues – soccer, Little League, Lassie League
Pop Warner
Basketball
Summer leagues for adults
Field hockey
Tot lots
Concerts on the Common

Group #3

Charlton Street
Trail at Westville
West Street Trail
McKinstry Trail
Some tot lots

What additional recreation areas or facilities do we need? Specifically what & where?

Group # 1

I think there is a need for tennis courts
Skateboard Park!
We could refurbish tennis courts
new fields or let public know about them
Basketball courts at McMahan field.
I think we need more fields.
Near the airport
The Rec Committee has to come and just ask.
State Pool is a great spot for a field.
Denisson crossroad? Basketball court [*Sandy?? Did I read this correctly??*]
Survey age of kids in the area

The Downtown Partnership took good money to buy signs, why don't they use that money for the kids and build a skateboard park. Now the downtown partnership is angry their buildings are getting ruined.
800 – 1000 dollars each
Charlton St. School is important.

Group #2

** Can we develop the Southbridge side of Westville for recreation??

Boys/Girls Club – youth hangout/recreation area

Fields – for soccer/football

Gibraltar Field for football

Airport backfield – used for football

3 new fields -- 1 for football, 1 for soccer, 1 for baseball

Capillo Park & MacMahon, walking park & skateboard, track field, accessible

Cross country skiing designated trails [could be summer bike path]

Reopen Town Pool for summer recreation. Not swimming at this point

Group #3

Facilities not welcomed in neighborhoods

Need to utilize available space

Utilize schools [gymnasium]

Need Youth Center

New recreation area near Airport

** Need rules, supervision, security

More tot lots

Movie Theatre

Summary when reconvened and compared notes

Important Features

Oak Ridge Cemetery

North Woodstock Road [Rte 169]

Fork in the Road, duck pond

Flat Iron building

Morse Pond

AO Building and Campus

Walking trails

McKinstry Trail

Brooks

Lebanon, McKinstry, Cady, Cohasse, Dean

Fields

River

Recreation Strong Points

Walking trails

Playing field [but need more!]

Trails that can be used for more than one thing

Fishing at Westville

Boating on the river [canoeing, kayacking]

Tennis courts

Golf

Skating rink [Rez]

Cross country skiing

Hockey at the Rez

Henry Street adult softball, Little League, Lassie League, soccer

Summer basketball league
Pop Warner
Children's bowling league
Sr. citizen and adult bowling league
Field hockey
Tot lots
Capillo Park
Concerts on the Common

Recreation needs

Rules/supervision/security t parks
More tot lots, strategically placed
Utilizing schools more for recreational [after hours & summer]; this also would avoid disturbing neighbors of newly created recreation areas
More tennis courts
Basketball courts
Skateboard park
Fields [baseball, soccer, football]
Softball fields
Boys and girls club/youth area or center
Develop Gibraltar Field
Three new fields: football, baseball, soccer
Airport fields to be used for practice
McMahon field open early morning
Cross country ski areas with biking and walking other seasons
Town pool as summer recreation spots
Develop Southbridge side of Westville

Priorities

Skateboarding [think seriously about it]
Address our fields
Focus on youth activities
Develop Gibraltar Field

In light of tonight's materials and discussion, does the Vision Statement from our November forum still seem on track? Are there more specific objectives that the Open Space & Recreation Plan should spell out?

[after re-reading the Vision Statement, participants felt that it was on target in terms of open space and recreation, with the one suggested addition:

Keeping it all clean, counter attitudes and lack of caring that lead to trash and litter]

Appendix B

INSERT January 2003 INTERIM ACCESSIBILITY REPORT HERE