

TOWN OF LEXINGTON

# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Plan Update 2009





TOWN OF LEXINGTON

**OPEN SPACE AND  
RECREATION**

Plan Update 2009



# Table of Contents

<b>1. Plan Summary .....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>2. Introduction .....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1 Statement of Purpose .....	2-1
Introduction .....	2-1
Previous Open Space and Recreation Plans.....	2-1
2.2 Planning Process and Public Participation .....	2-5
Planning Process .....	2-5
Public Participation .....	2-6
2.3 Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation .....	2-7
<b>3. Community Setting .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Regional Context .....	3-1
Introduction .....	3-1
Physical Location and Characteristics .....	3-1
Climate.....	3-2
Open Space Regional Context .....	3-2
3.2 History of the Community.....	3-3
Overview .....	3-3
3.3 Population Characteristics .....	3-4
Total Population .....	3-4
Population Distribution and Density .....	3-5
Sex and Age Composition .....	3-5
Race and Ethnic Composition.....	3-5
Household Composition.....	3-5
Income Characteristics .....	3-7
Environmental Justice Population(s) Characteristics .....	3-9
Implications of Population Composition and Trends.....	3-10
3.4 Growth and Development Patterns.....	3-11
Patterns and Trends .....	3-11
Infrastructure.....	3-14
Long-term Development Patterns .....	3-17
<b>4. Environmental Inventory and Analysis .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 Geology, Soils and Topography.....	4-1
Geology.....	4-1
Soils .....	4-2
Topography.....	4-3

4.2	Landscape Character.....	4-4
	Introduction .....	4-4
	Major Characteristics or Unusual Geologic Features .....	4-4
	Areas of Archaeological Interest .....	4-5
4.3	Water Resources .....	4-5
	Watersheds.....	4-5
	Surface Water .....	4-6
	Functions of Lexington's Brooks .....	4-7
	Certified Vernal Pools .....	4-8
	Flood Hazard Areas .....	4-8
	Wetlands .....	4-9
	Aquifer Recharge Areas.....	4-9
4.4	Vegetation.....	4-9
	Introduction .....	4-9
	Unusual Vegetation Types.....	4-11
4.5	Fisheries and Wildlife.....	4-15
	Introduction .....	4-15
	Wildlife Corridors.....	4-16
	Inventory .....	4-17
4.6	Scenic Resources and Unique Environments.....	4-20
	Introduction .....	4-20
4.7	Environmental Challenges.....	4-22
<b>5. Open Space and Recreation Inventory .....</b>		<b>5-1</b>
5.1	Introduction .....	5-1
5.2	Types of Open Space and Recreation Land Protection.....	5-3
5.3	Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Resources.....	5-4
5.4	Park and Open Space Equity.....	5-5
5.5	Important Open Space and Recreational Resources .....	5-5
<b>6. Community Goals.....</b>		<b>6-1</b>
6.1	Description of Process .....	6-1
6.2	Goals.....	6-4
<b>7. Analysis of Needs .....</b>		<b>7-1</b>
7.1	Summary of Resource Protection Needs.....	7-1
	General Open Space and Recreation Needs .....	7-1
	Regional Resource Protection Needs.....	7-2
	Historical Resource Protection Needs .....	7-2
	Water Resource Protection Needs .....	7-3
	Fisheries and Wildlife Protection Needs .....	7-3
	Vegetation Protection Needs .....	7-4
7.2	Summary of Community Needs.....	7-4
	Park and Recreation Needs.....	7-4
	Enterprise Fund .....	7-5
	Lexington Parks and Playing Fields.....	7-5
	5 Year Capital Plan .....	7-9
	ADA Issues .....	7-9

	SCORP .....	7-9
7.3	Management Needs, Potential Change of Use.....	7-11
<b>8.</b>	<b>Goals and Objectives .....</b>	<b>8-1</b>
8.1	Vision Statement and Open Space and Recreation Goals and Objectives .....	8-1
<b>9.</b>	<b>Five Year Action Plan .....</b>	<b>9-1</b>
9.1	Introduction .....	9-1
9.2	Five Year Action Plan .....	9-3

---

## Maps

Regional Context .....	Map 1
Environmental Justice Populations .....	Map 2
Zoning.....	Map 3
Soils and Geologic Features.....	Map 4
Topography.....	Map 5
Water Resources .....	Map 6
Subwatersheds.....	Map 6a
Vernal Pools .....	Map 7
Habitat Corridors.....	Map 8
Unique Features .....	Map 9
Open Space and Recreation Inventory.....	Map 10
Action Plan and Priorities.....	Map 11

---

## Appendices

Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey and Results .....	Appendix A
Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance .....	Appendix B
Land Acquisition Planning Report.....	Appendix C
Letters of Approval.....	Appendix D

# 1

## Plan Summary

---

The Town of Lexington is a suburban community with an interesting array of open spaces and parks within its borders. The Town has addressed open space, natural resource, and recreation issues on a number of different fronts as described in this plan. The Town recognizes the need to improve and upgrade park facilities, and efforts to preserve and protect existing open spaces are widely recognized and deeply felt by Lexington residents.

This document is Lexington's first Open Space and Recreation Plan since 1997. Despite the elapsed time between updates, the Town has embarked on a number of initiatives since 1997 that has resulted in implementation of a number of that plan's recommendations. This 2009 update presents an updated inventory of Lexington's open spaces, documents open space and recreation needs, establishes priorities for preservation of natural and historical resources, provides an update to its capital planning program, incorporates plans for the West Lexington Greenway project, and establishes an ambitious program to continue the expansion and modernization of its park and recreation system. Overall, this Plan reaffirms Lexington's desire to meet the following goals:

1. Establish and implement a land management program that will assure optimal maintenance and use of conservation lands.
2. Protect Lexington's natural environment, both within and beyond the borders of open space and recreational properties.
3. Promote public use of recreational facilities and open space among a wide variety of user types.
4. Provide a balance of recreational activities for all of Lexington's citizens.
5. Preserve and enhance the scenic and historical value of Lexington.
6. Enhance connectivity between open space and recreation areas.
7. Acquire parcels that are important from an environmental, recreational, or historical perspective.
8. Protect and maintain Lexington's brooks.
9. Preserve, protect, and improve Lexington's recreational infrastructure.

Lexington's open space and park system is a precious and limited resource that has grown over the years to provide a wide variety of opportunities for local and area residents. This Plan presents open space goals, objectives and actions that will guide the Town's open space and recreation philosophy, planning, improvement, maintenance, and management through 2013.

# 2

## Introduction

---

### 2.1 Statement of Purpose

#### Introduction

---

The purpose of this Plan is to provide both a targeted framework and strategy for future growth and management of Lexington's open space and recreation resources. It is an update of the *1997 Open Space and Recreation Plan* and comes at a time when the demand for open space and recreation has grown dramatically. This updated plan will assist Lexington in making intelligent decisions about its future open space and recreation policies, particularly with respect to greenway connections, as well as maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities. The purpose of this plan is to make those decisions clear and prioritize them relative to the Town's needs. This document is dynamic and meant to affect change in the way that Lexington plans for open space and recreation resources.

#### Previous Open Space and Recreation Plans

---

##### **1976 Open Space and Recreation Plan**

Lexington's first comprehensive planning effort coincided with the establishment of the Conservation Commission in the mid-1960s.

Realizing that the recreation needs of the Town were not adequately addressed, a groundswell of citizens urged and supported *A Master Plan for Recreation and Open Space for Lexington, Massachusetts, Lexington Planning Board, November 1976*.

The 1976 plan was initiated by a Town Meeting appropriation. A special advisory committee produced the plan after two years of work by professional consultants and the advisory group—made up of representatives of the Planning Board, Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission, senior citizens, youth groups, athletic leagues, and the Athletic Director for Lexington Public Schools, among others.

Envisioned in that plan was the acquisition of 1,080 acres of open space land for possible recreation and preservation of critical wetlands. The initial acquisition planning was branched into recreation, land management, wetland, and a vast array of human and conservation needs.

### **1977 Conservation Master Plan**

The *1977 Conservation Master Plan*, supported by the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, the Recreation Commission, and the Board of Selectmen and approved by Massachusetts' Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, was based upon the plan of 1976 and refined aspects of conservation planning, such as land acquisition and management, not detailed in the 1976 plan.

Immediately after the submission of the 1977 plan, enormous strides were made in bringing conservation and recreation concerns together. The Conservation Administrator became Director of Conservation and Recreation, and a full-time recreation coordinator was hired. Accomplishments included the building of the Center Pool Complex and creation of more diversified programming.

The arrival of Proposition 2 ½ in 1980 froze plan implementations and caused cutbacks in recreation programs and newly budgeted land management funds. Town staffs were not increased, though workloads did, and funding was a constant problem. These distractions delayed land acquisition and implementation of many programs recommended by the plan.

### **1984 Open Space and Recreation Plan**

The 1976 plan became the "base plan" for the *1984 Open Space and Recreation Plan*. By 1984, Lexington owned 940 acres of protected open space, with another 60 acres under conservation restrictions.

The *1984 Open Space and Recreation Plan* was prepared by the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee, with considerable assistance from the Planning Board and Metropolitan Area Planning Council Representatives. The plan was supported by the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, the Recreation Commission, and the Board of Selectmen, and approved by Massachusetts' Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

First attempts at this plan were initiated by the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee in the summer of 1983, with a first draft attempted several months later. In January, the Conservation Commission realized that the plan needed more documentation and broader input from citizens. Fortunately, the plan's needs were supplied when Stewardship Committee members, recreation enthusiasts, and concerned citizens aided immensely with significant contributions.

The quality and quantity of response from a stewards meeting and two public hearings (one for conservation, one for recreation), attended by 40 citizens representing a broad range of interests (Town Meeting members, sports leagues,

Garden Club, Citizens for Lexington Conservation, senior citizens, youth groups, Selectmen) was enormous, and the result of this effort and enthusiasm was the completion of the 1984 plan.

### **1997 Open Space and Recreation Plan**

In 1990, an attempt was made to update the 1984 plan, but new guidelines issued by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' Department of Conservation Services forced facilitators of this plan to realize that "preparation of this plan involves more than the updating originally envisioned."

At the time, the Planning Department was in the process of preparing two significant reports – one on Land Use and the other on Population Characteristics – which would not be completed until 1993. A comprehensive study of the Town's brooks would also not be completed until 1993.

It became apparent that the writing of this plan should be delayed until these reports, which were to contain significant information concerning open space and recreational properties, were complete.

In 1994, the Report on Community Conversations held in 1993 was published. In 1995, the Commonwealth approved the Open Space Bond Bill, allowing towns and cities a chance to apply for Self-Help funding. Also in 1995 the Land Acquisition Planning Committee was formed to "carefully review all of the open space in Town, both private and publicly owned, that does not have permanent protection." Additionally, the *Historical Guide to Open Space in Lexington* by Thomas P. Sileo was published in 1995, and nearly 200 acres of open space was transferred to the Conservation Commission. It became clear that the time was right to complete a new open space plan. The result of this realization, *The 1997 Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan*, focused on three important elements of the Town:

- Water resources
- Existing open space properties
- Historic integrity

The 1997 plan also recommended a broader approach to accomplishing these goals. It established a five-year action plan for accomplishing open space acquisition and stewardship, as well as expansion of the recreational programs and facilities available to Lexington residents. A number of the recommendations were accomplished, although some land targeted for future acquisition was lost to development.

### **2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan**

Unlike the 1997 plan, the 2009 plan aims to take a more specific approach to accomplishing its goals. The 1997 plan's broad focus set policy goals that are generally maintained in the 2009 update. By providing specifically focused goals

and action items, the 2009 Plan attempts to set the stage for more progressive open space and recreation planning in the future.

This plan uses the information from the 1997 plan and substantially updates it in conformance with the *March 2008 Open Space Planners Workbook* revisions as required by the State of Massachusetts. Although this 2009 plan recommends specific actions, its flexibility accommodates a realistic and practical approach to preserving, enhancing, and expanding the Town's open space and recreational resources. Thus, the contents of this plan include an updated and revised inventory of open space parcels, an open space and recreation strategy in the new five-year action plan, a program for administering and achieving the plan's goals and objectives, and a prioritization of those recommendations.

As part of this planning process, Richard Thuma, a member of the Recreation Committee, undertook an extensive survey for the Town to determine compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with respect to accessibility to Town-owned open spaces and recreational facilities.

The purpose of this Open Space and Recreation Plan update is to:

- Utilize the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan from 1997 and update its information to create a document that outlines a five-year plan of action with the Town agencies and Lexington's community organizations for the protection, caretaking, and enhancement of its park facilities and open spaces
- Make the Town eligible for LAND and PARC funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and increase its Commonwealth Capital score
- Increase awareness and knowledge among residents who live in Lexington and other nearby communities about the open space and recreation amenities and needs that exist in Town
- Formulate a stronger community base that will assist with administering and implementing the Open Space and Recreation Plan and sustain a commitment to the protection and enhancement of the Town's open space and recreation resources

The Open Space and Recreation Plan is organized to provide an overall baseline of information regarding what physical resources exist in Lexington regarding properties, facilities, and infrastructure. The plan serves as an informational resource that inventories and describes resources, opportunities, and challenges. Lexington should consider this Open Space and Recreation Plan a blueprint to follow for the next five years that will help the Town attain some of its goals and objectives regarding open space and natural resources.

## 2.2 Planning Process and Public Participation

### Planning Process

---

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), the consultant selected to prepare this plan, worked closely with the Lexington Recreation Department, Conservation Division, and the community throughout the planning process. To ensure a solid line of communication between all the parties involved in preparation of the Plan, coordination meetings were held in the Lexington Town Office Building. Ralph Willmer, AICP, served as project manager for the Plan Update with Peter Coleman, Recreation Supervisor; Karen Simmons, Director of Recreation; Karen Mullins, Director of Community Development; Chris McVay, Planner; and Emily Schadler, Conservation Assistant, of the Town of Lexington providing direction and support.

A key step in the planning process was site visits to significant open space and recreation parcels in Lexington during the spring of 2008. The tour was guided by staff from the Recreation and Conservation departments and provided a means of gaining insight into the condition, type, and quality of Lexington's open space and recreation resources.



*Scenes from the site visits  
in spring 2008.*

After becoming acquainted with Lexington's resources, work began on formulating a draft of the Plan. The draft was heavily shaped by the public participation portion of the planning process, which will be detailed in the next section.

The update of the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan was a highly collaborative effort that focused heavily on how to best implement the Plan. Moving forward, residents and visitors will have numerous open space and recreation opportunities to look forward to as this Plan is implemented.

## Public Participation

---

Two public forums were held in the process of updating the Plan. Both of the forums were held at Cary Hall with the first occurring in March 2008 and the second held in June 2008. The forums served to inform the public on open space and recreation planning in general, the progress of the Plan, as well as to seek input on how to shape the new Plan. The forums provided valuable insight into what the citizens of Lexington felt the most important areas of the Plan should be and how to successfully fulfill them. Two key exercises were performed at the first public forum to reach these conclusions:

- A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) exercise
- A voting exercise designed to validate and update the goals and objectives from the 1997 Open Space and Recreation Plan



*Participants in the first public forum validate and update the previous Plan's goals and objectives.*

In addition to the two public forums held in the update process, there was also an open space and recreation survey distributed via the Town, which received 122 responses. The survey was sent out with the Town's Recreation Department brochure and was also handed out at the Town Office Building, at the Cary Memorial Library, and during various public meetings. Once adequate time was allowed for the maximum number of surveys to be returned, the results were tallied and analyzed by VHB.

The plan update was also discussed with the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Recreation Committee, and Conservation Commission.

In addition, as discussed elsewhere in this Plan, the Town was preparing a master plan for the West Lexington Greenway project during which two other public forums were conducted.

The survey results can be seen in *Appendix A* along with a voting dot and SWOT exercise summary from the first public forum.

---

## 2.3 Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation

According to MassGIS, there are three areas in Lexington in which Environmental Justice populations have been identified (see *Map 2, Environmental Justice Populations*). Although no specific enhanced outreach was conducted as part of the planning process, it is important to note that two of the three areas are located within the West Lexington Greenway project, which had additional public outreach during the parallel planning process. Moreover, as seen in the Open Space and Recreation map (see *Map 10, Open Space and Recreation Inventory*) Lexington's open space and recreation spaces are located in almost every neighborhood throughout the Town.

The Town will work towards providing translated material to ensure that the environmental justice populations are made aware of open space and recreational opportunities within close proximity to the homes. Additional outreach can occur within nearby churches and through the civic groups that work with those residents.

# 3

## Community Setting

---

### 3.1 Regional Context

#### Introduction

---

Lexington is located in eastern Massachusetts within Middlesex County. The most current estimate by the U.S. Census Bureau from 2006 puts Lexington's population at approximately 30,321. This is down slightly from 2000 when the decennial census showed a population of 30,355. Its neighboring communities include: Winchester, Woburn, Belmont, Waltham, Lincoln, Arlington, Bedford, and Burlington (see *Map 1, Regional Context*).

Lexington's location provides easy access to both Boston and surrounding towns via two major roadways, Routes 95/128 and 2. Because of this, several of Lexington's roads are used as alternate routes home for those living in surrounding towns and cities. These roads include: Massachusetts Avenue, Bedford Street, Waltham Street, Woburn Street, and Lowell Street.

#### Physical Location and Characteristics

---

The Town of Lexington is located in the eastern plateau of Middlesex County at 42.26N Latitude, 71.13W Longitude and contains 10,650.42 acres or 16.64 square miles of land within its bounds. The character of Lexington is formed by its numerous smoothly rounded hills and broad, shallow stream valleys. Some points of topographical importance include: the Town's highest point at the summit of Whipple Hill, at 374 feet above sea level; the lowest point in Lexington, Tophet Swamp, at 110 feet above sea level; and in the center of Town, Lexington Battle Green, which lies 224 feet above sea level.

The hills and ridges of Lexington have no general pattern, and the valleys are drained by small, sluggish streams. One of these streams, Hobbs Brook, supplies a reservoir used by the City of Cambridge for public water supply. Approximately 60 percent of the Town's area is drained to the Shawsheen River, with the Charles and Mystic Rivers receiving the balance of annual runoff.

## Climate

---

The climate of Lexington is marked by four distinct seasons: a long, cold winter; a wet, cool spring; a warm, humid summer; and a wet or dry fall. The warmest month is typically July, and the coolest month is typically January. The Town's precipitation averages 47 inches annually and is evenly distributed throughout the year, with the average wettest month being November.<sup>1</sup> Lexington is frost free for an average of five months and the mean annual temperature is 51.4 degrees F.

## Open Space Regional Context

---

Of the surrounding communities mentioned above, Arlington, Winchester, Woburn, Lincoln, Waltham and Burlington have currently valid OSRP's.<sup>2</sup> As described elsewhere in this Plan, there are shared resources among these communities such as the Cambridge Reservoir, a land-locked parcel in Burlington, the Minuteman National Historic park, and the Arlington Great Meadows, which are addressed in these plans. Since both the Arlington and Lexington planning efforts overlapped and were coordinated through the same consultant, common issues between the two towns were identified and reflected in subsequent recommendations.

Lexington is a member of the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC), which is one of eight subregions of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). MAGIC is a group of 13 communities that meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest, thereby creating an excellent forum for discussing regional open space plan issues and opportunities. However, the surrounding communities comprise four different subregions of MAPC.

Updated in June 2009, *MetroFuture*<sup>3</sup> is the official regional smart growth plan for the Greater Boston area. The plan includes goals and objectives, along with thirteen detailed implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. Several examples of how this Plan is consistent with *MetroFuture* include:

- Implementation Strategy 3 – The adoption of the Community Preservation Act provides flexibility in local revenue generation to strengthen municipal finance.
- Implementation Strategy 6 – the Lexington OSRP strongly advocates for increased bicycle, pedestrian, and transit accessibility.
- Implementation Strategy 7 – As demonstrated in this Plan, the recommendations provide support for the preservation of agricultural

---

1 <http://www.weather.com>

2 Division of Conservation Services, January 5, 2009 plan status

3 <http://www.metrofuture.org/>

resources. Additionally, this Plan includes discussion of regional resources, which is consistent with *MetroFuture's* goal of encouraging regional efforts to protect open space and natural resources – particularly ones that cross municipal borders.

---

## 3.2 History of the Community

### Overview

---

First settled in 1642 and known as Cambridge Farms, town land was used by early inhabitants for agriculture. Farmers were attracted by the availability of hay fields, farming acreage, and the possibilities of land speculation. Early settlers formed their own parish in 1691 to avoid traveling into Cambridge and incorporated Lexington in 1713. Their main emphasis was on clearing and draining the land in the tradition of their European forebears. In fact, they were so successful in execution of this pattern that in 1775 when King George III's troops were retreating from Concord, they used two field pieces arrayed east of Lexington Center as cover. Because the parcels were so bare with no tree cover at all, they provided a clear line of fire to the British soldiers.

The events of April 1775 inscribed Lexington forever in the pages of American history. Heralded by the midnight ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes, the Lexington Minutemen confronted the British Regulars in the early morning hours on what is now known as the Battle Green. The annual Patriots Day celebration and preserved historic sites pay tribute to that fateful time.

Lexington remained a quiet farming community until 1846 when the extension of a railroad line from Boston made commuting possible. East Lexington in the mid-19th century had been the scene of debates on such issues as abolition and temperance. After the Civil War, professionals settled into newly built large Victorian homes on Merriam and Munroe Hills. Railroad access allowed Lexington to flourish as a summer resort, providing a healthy and invigorating atmosphere. Supported by a growing immigrant population, farming would continue to play an important role in the local economy well into the 20th century.

Agriculture is no longer the preeminent land use in Lexington, but it remained unsurpassed until the mid-20th century. Following the close of World War II, the increased demand for housing sites accelerated the decline of agriculture and loss of open land. The rising cost of land made farming and holding of large tracts of land increasingly costly and drove many farmers out of business. The construction of Route 95/128 accelerated the growth of new homes and the Town's population.

Unlike many Massachusetts communities, Lexington experienced little industrial growth during the industrial revolution. The reason for this was the Town's lack of

feasible sites for producing energy via water. So instead of industry springing up in Lexington, it became a vacation spot for well-off Bostonians. In the late 1800's, several country hotels opened in town to provide fresh air for Bostonians seeking an escape from the city.

Today, Lexington is home for approximately 30,000 inhabitants and has residential neighborhoods evenly distributed throughout. Commercial and industrial research facilities are located along the transportation corridors of Routes 2, 95/128, 225, and Hartwell Avenue. In over 350 years of settlement, the community has mirrored the political times and the changing technology of each era from subsistence farming to a theater for the opening event of the American Revolution; from wilderness to a vibrant community; and from rural to suburban community.<sup>4</sup>

---

## 3.3 Population Characteristics

### Total Population

---

Population is an organic measurement that grows and shrinks with the times. It reacts primarily to transportation technology, the location of jobs, and housing opportunities. Lexington experienced its peak periods of growth in the decades following World War I and World War II during the economic prosperity of the 1920's and 1950's. The 1950's were also the apex for new home construction; 30 percent of the housing now in Lexington was built during those ten years. To create a context for Lexington, it will be judged against its neighbors of: Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Burlington, Lincoln, Waltham, Winchester, Woburn, and Concord.

Lexington's total population has experienced some extreme changes. The years between 1950 and 1960 marked an increase of 10,356 people in Lexington (59 percent at the time), which was the fourth highest numerical increase in total population by the ten communities in the study area between 1920 and 1990. In addition, Lexington's loss of 2,407 in population during the 1970's represented the fourth highest numerical decrease by communities in the study area over the same time period. Over the past thirty years however, Lexington's population has remained steady. When Lexington's population peaked in 1970, there were 31,886 people living in town, and as of the 2006 Census, the estimated population was down to 30,321. That is only a drop of 1,565 in the last 36 years. Lexington's past shows us that the Town is no stranger to abrupt population shifts, and according to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission's (MAPC) estimates, the Town might expect another shift over the next few decades (see *Figure 3-1, Population Change 1970-2030 projected*).

---

<sup>4</sup> Portions of this section were excerpted from <http://www.libertyride.us/history.html>

The MAPC predicts Lexington is set for an increase in population over the next 20 years. The difference between the latest estimate from the US Census from 2006 and the MAPC's 2030 forecast shows an increase of 2,910 or approximately 9.5 percent. Should this prediction come true, there will be increased pressure on undeveloped open space and an increase in demand for recreational resources.

## Population Distribution and Density

---

The population distribution in Lexington is generally most dense towards the center of town and disperses outward toward the edge of the community. Population density ranges from 500 people per square mile to 5,000 people per square mile per census block. The densest portions of town lie in the northwest along the Massachusetts Avenue and Bedford Street corridors starting at the Lexington Battle Green. The least dense part of town is along the western side adjacent to Route 95/128 and runs from the Tophet Swamp in the north down to Hobbs Brook in the south.

## Sex and Age Composition

---

In 2000, Lexington's population had a small majority of females over males: 16,090 females to 14,265 males. The median age was 44, which was up from 1990 and a full 13 years older than the 1970 median age. Thus, as a result of the general trend that reflects an aging population, Lexington has transformed from a town where the majority of the population was under 30 years old to one where the majority is older than 30 (see *Figure 3-2, Male vs. Female Population from 2000 Census and Median Age*).

## Race and Ethnic Composition

---

More than 85 percent of the town's population is white and almost 11 percent describe themselves as being of Asian descent, with the remainder split between African-American, Latino, and others.

For a more concise breakdown of Lexington's population derived from the 2000 Census please see *Figure 3-3, Race and Ethnic Composition from 2000 Census*.

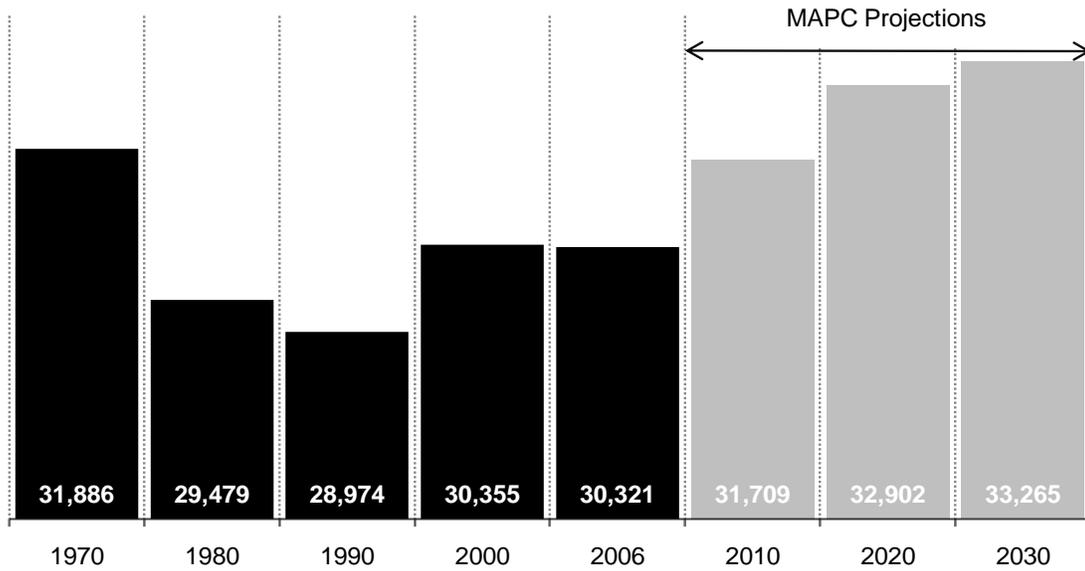
## Household Composition

---

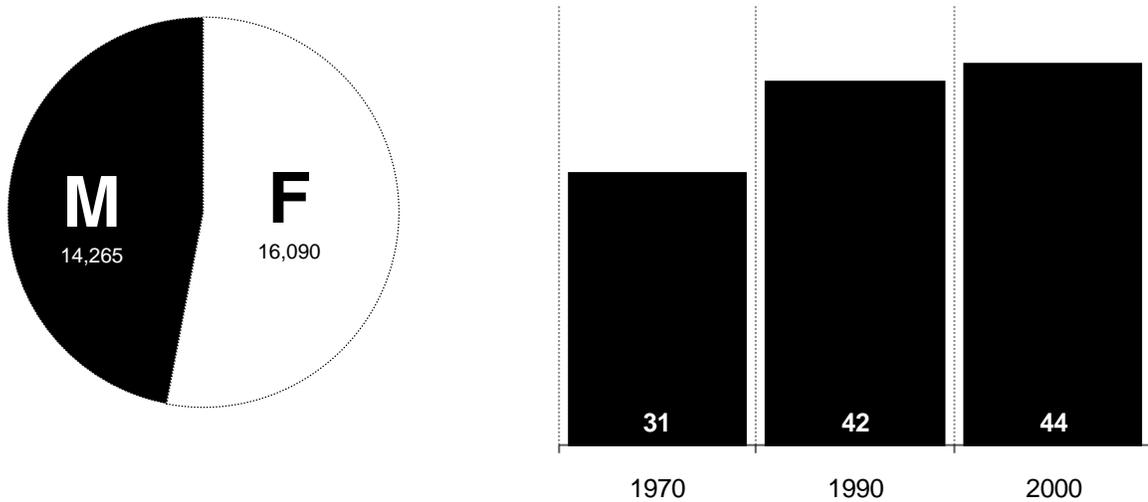
As of the 2000 Census, Lexington contained 11,119 households with each household averaging 2.7 members. Approximately 34.4 percent of these households contained a married couple with children under the age of 18. The family households without children under 18 came in at 38.1 percent. The remainder is considered nonfamily, 23.8 percent, and single parent households, 3.8 percent. Consequently, Lexington's

recreation facilities and open space resources must serve single people, families with children, empty nesters, and youth (see *Figure 3-4, Households in 2000*).

**Figure 3-1 Population Change 1970–2030<sup>5</sup> projected**

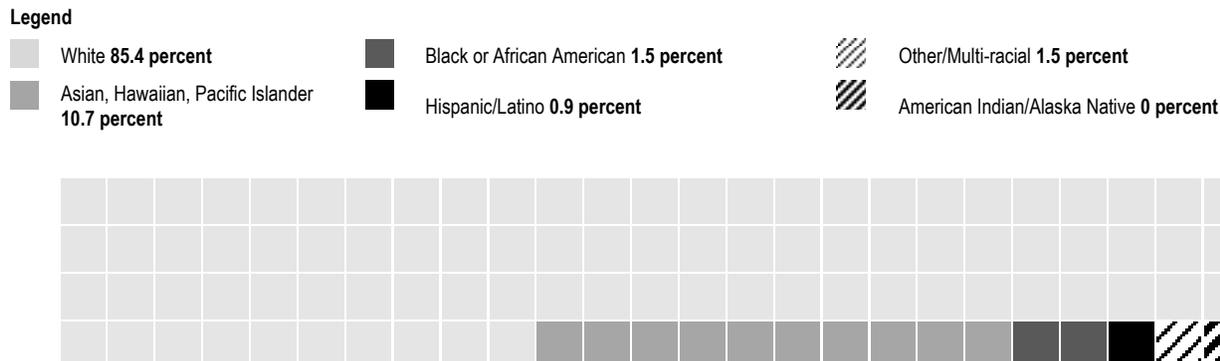


**Figure 3-2 Male vs. Female Population from 2000 Census and Median Age**



<sup>5</sup> [http://www.mapc.org/2006\\_projections.html](http://www.mapc.org/2006_projections.html)

**Figure 3-3 Race and Ethnic Composition from 2000 Census**



## Income Characteristics

---

As of 2000, the median household income in Lexington was \$96,825, which was a 44 percent increase from the 1990s value of \$67,389. This ranks Lexington’s median household income as the 15<sup>th</sup> highest in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In 1990, approximately 66 percent of households earned more than \$50,000. In 2000, that number increased by ten percent to equal 76 percent. Additionally, the US Census Bureau found that the median household income for the state in 2006 was \$59,963 and Lexington exceeds the state average by approximately 61 percent; see *Figure 3-5, Median Household Income* and *Figure 3-6, Household Income Distribution in 2000*.

## Employment

According to the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWB) Lexington has a labor force of 15,235 in 2008. Of these workers about 538 – 3.5 percent – were unemployed. This is not out of the ordinary since this rate has hovered around 3 to 4 percent since 2001 and before the recent economic downturn.

The industry employing the most people in Lexington is that of *Technical and Professional Services* with 6,319 as the average employment. The industry which employs the second most is *Manufacturing* with an average employment of 2,360. Please see the table on the following page for a complete breakdown of industries and their average employment in Lexington.

### Average Employment and Wages by Industry in Lexington

Industry	Establishments	Total Wages	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Professional and Technical Services	324	\$639,524,689	6,319	\$1,946
Manufacturing	25	\$271,598,067	2,360	\$2,213
Health Care and Social Assistance	124	\$84,475,364	1,993	\$815
Educational Services	27	\$63,788,553	1,727	\$710
Information	48	\$193,413,417	1576	\$2,360
Retail Trade	76	\$31,330,220	979	\$615
Accommodation and Food Services	55	\$18,422,181	960	\$369
Wholesale Trade	62	\$115,880,733	940	\$2,371
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	180	\$18,373,490	633	\$558
Finance and Insurance	70	\$53,668,476	492	\$2,098
Construction	67	\$24,378,977	403	\$1,163
Public Administration	10	\$17,153,604	348	\$948
Management of Companies and Enterprises	12	\$48,108,343	343	\$2,697
Administrative and Waste Services	57	\$21,349,894	342	\$1,201
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	23	\$4,772,889	212	\$433
Transportation and Warehousing	9	\$8,565,871	183	\$900
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	36	\$8,286,060	113	\$1,410
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,206</i>	<i>\$1,623,381,066</i>	<i>19,931</i>	<i>\$1,566</i>

Source: Commonwealth of MA, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development—<http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/Townbox.asp>

## Environmental Justice Population(s) Characteristics

---

•••

*Environmental justice populations are those segments of the population that include high percentages of minority and low-income people that may experience disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental impacts.*

•••

Lexington has three identified environmental justice (EJ) populations within its bounds. These three EJ populations are the result of either minority or foreign born populations exceeding 25 percent of the total block group. The first two are located in the northwest corner of town and are adjacent to Route 95/128. The third is located in the south of town and can be triangulated using Juniper Hill, Bowman Park, and Upper Vine Brook as corners. A breakdown of the demographics for each of these EJ populations is contained in the table below. The areas have been assigned a number – starting at 1 in the northwest corner of Lexington and working clockwise. See *Map 2, Environmental Justice Populations*, for a visual explanation.

All of the environmental justice populations are well served by Lexington’s open space and recreation network. The northwest populations are served by: the Marvin Street Play Area, Justin Park, Estabrook School, and Hennessy Field, to name a few. The southern population is served by: Bowman Park, the Franklin School Playground, Hayden Woods, Dunback Meadow, Juniper Hill, and the Valleyfield Play Area. See *Map 2, Environmental Justice Populations*.

<b>Environmental Justice Populations</b>			
<b>Population Number</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Total Population	789	776	2,891
Percent Foreign Born	25.62%	17.37%	25.27%
Median Household Income	\$104,466	\$72,019	\$91,158
Percent Minority	24.51%	25.42%	20.46%
Percent Proficient in English	100%	98.16%	95.23%

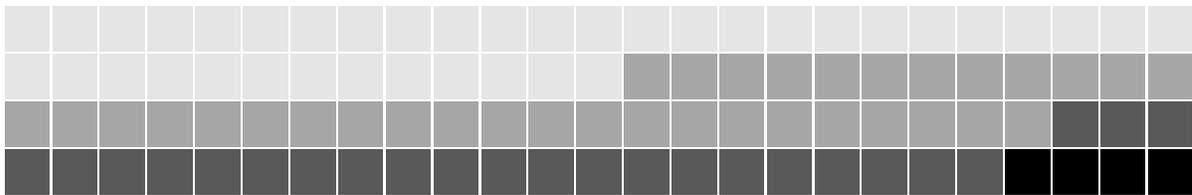
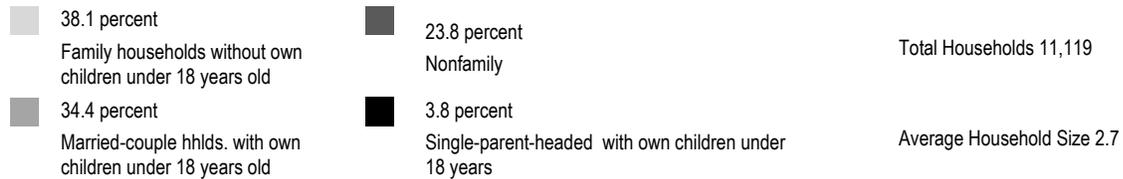
Source: MassGIS, note: EJ population shapes are based off of census block groups

## Implications of Population Composition and Trends

To meet the needs of its population, Lexington must offer recreational amenities and open space resources for a mixed urban population: single persons as well as families, youth and the elderly, households with their own backyards and those that depend on public parks. Lexington's open space and recreation resources should remain varied and flexible in order to best serve the Town's population.

**Figure 3-4 Households in 2000**

**Legend**



**Figure 3-5 Median Household Income**

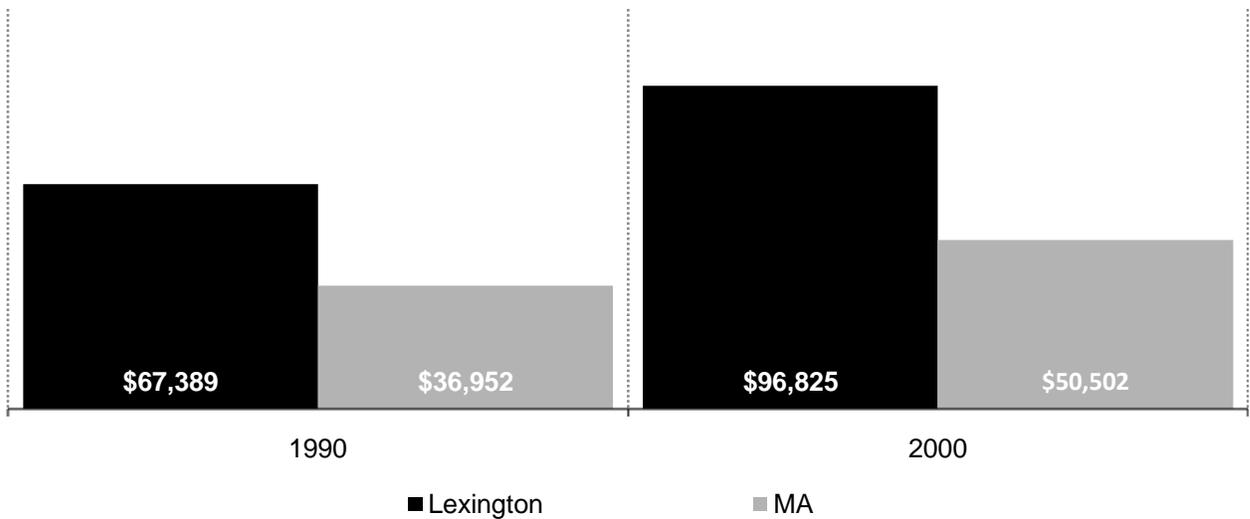
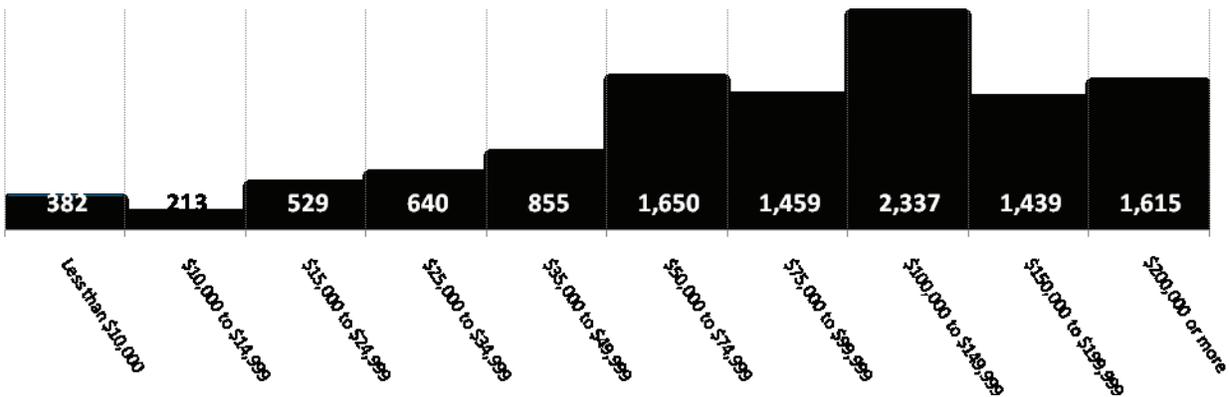


Figure 3-6 Household Income Distribution in 2000



## 3.4 Growth and Development Patterns

### Patterns and Trends

#### A Brief History of Open Space in Lexington

##### 1700's–1900's

Lexington's first "open space" property was the Lexington Common, 1.5 acres of land purchased in 1708 from Benjamin Muzzey (another acre of land was purchased in 1772). The Common, today known world-wide as the Lexington Battle Green, was used for ballgames, pasturing cows, cattle shows, picnics, and the like. This was typical of New England's rural/agricultural communities during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, where private property was not as strictly enforced as today. Lexington's landscape provided residents with spring and summer walks, winter snowshoe tramps, berry-picking, tobogganing, sled rides, and ice-skating, without much concern for whether or not a property was "public."

Perhaps the earliest effort to create an "open space" after the Common was purchased was in 1835 when Eli Robbins erected a three-story observatory on Mount Independence in East Lexington and built roads and walks intended to increase public access. About fifty years afterward in 1888, James Munroe began to improve his land east of Woburn Street and as a part of this project, built a pond intended for use by the Town's children for skating.

Through the late 1800's and into the early 1900's, Lexington continued to depend on private generosities. The following is just a sampling of some of these:

- James Munroe’s land behind Munroe Tavern was utilized for tobogganing
- Each spring, Francis B. Hayes opened his 400 acre estate up to anyone wishing to see his rhododendrons and chrysanthemums
- The old Paint Mine woods in North Lexington, owned by the Simonds family became a popular woods for fox hunting
- In 1894, the Lexington Field and Garden Club purchased Hastings Park “for the use of the inhabitants of Lexington forever”
- During the early 1900’s, several parcels of land were given to the Town by residents for the purpose of establishing public parks
- In 1902, Joseph Van Ness bequeathed land at Pleasant and Watertown Streets (“Bowman Park”) to the Town
- In 1918, Depot Park (today known as Emery Park) was purchased partly through the generous donations of private residents
- In 1921, A. E. Scott gifted 40 acres of his land as an addition to the Parker Street playground
- In 1925, the Ryder family allowed the Town use of its land for the Lexington Pageant to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Lexington
- In 1928, Ellen M. Tower gifted the Town Tower Park and a trust fund of \$10,000 for its care
- In 1938, J. Willard Hayden, Jr. gifted 25 acres on Lincoln Street to the Town

### **1900’s–Present**

During the late 1800’s, Lexington’s officials saw the need to improve the Town’s utilities and school system in order to attract residents. Their desire was to keep pace with other towns throughout Massachusetts. These improvements and the rural beauty of the Town attracted many wealthy Boston businessmen who purchased land, established gentlemen farms, and built beautiful mansions. Most of these mansions have been taken down, but some are still standing, such as the Whiting House on Adams Street, the Scott House on Waltham Street, the Tower House on Marrett Road (Headquarters of the Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry), many of the homes on Meriam Hill, and the Whipple House (formerly Fairlawn Nursing Home and now the Korean school).

Lexington’s population began to grow steadily during the early 1900’s and with this growth came new streets and homes. Concerned about maintaining the residential

quality of the Town while providing services, Lexington citizens established one of the country's first planning boards in 1918 and adopted its zoning by-laws in 1924. In addition, the first subdivision regulations were established in 1948.

From 1920 to 1940, the Town's population more than doubled from 6,350 to 13,113. The Town's most rapid development occurred between 1940 and 1960 when the population reached 28,000. By this time, private property rights were more vigorously enforced and residents depended on the Town to provide them with recreation land and to maintain existing public properties.

In 1946, the Town appointed a temporary Recreation Commission. In 1948, the Town voted to appoint a Recreation Commission, and in 1956, the Town voted to establish the Recreation Committee as a by-law committee.

In 1955, the Planning Board proposed and Town Meeting accepted (in 1956) the establishment of a series of Historic Districts in order to preserve the historic aspect of the Town. In 1963, the Lexington Planning Board decided to "take stock" of the Town's growth. "Lexington is no exception to the dizzying pace at which suburban communities have grown throughout the nation," they wrote in their Phase I Summary Report. "The revolution of the cities has changed the entire fabric of American life - in a sense, it has changed Lexington too."

Up to this time, playgrounds and school lots were purchased by the Town one property at a time. Most of the "open land" parcels were taken as tax-title lots - Sutherland Heights, lots off Grove Street, and the Meagher land in North Lexington. In 1956, total Town-owned recreational acreage represented 1.7 percent of the land within Lexington and by 1962, it represented 5 percent. The Planning Board's goal was to increase that percentage to 13.7 percent. At this point in time, town-recreation land occupies approximately 9.5 percent of the total land area in Lexington, although private recreational land brings the total of recreation land to 11 percent.

At the time, the Town was just beginning to make a distinction between those properties designated as "Open Recreational Areas" and those designated as "Conservation Areas." The emphasis was still on recreational use: "The objective in preparing the overall park and recreation plan itself," the Planning Board wrote in its 1963 Summary Report, "has been and will continue to be that of obtaining sites which will ' . . . provide opportunities for all types of desired recreation within reasonable access of all age groups.' In addition to and in conjunction with some of the areas and activities previously mentioned, this objective means having a playground in each neighborhood, a play field in each section of Town, and pleasantly planted parks and parkways; providing sites for swimming pools, skating ponds, coasting hills, and areas where our Boy and Girl Scouts can camp overnight; and selecting and developing areas where families can participate together in active sports, or enjoy the more passive pleasures of walks in the woods and enjoying views of the landscape."

In November 1963, the Lexington Conservation Commission was formed by Town vote. The Lexington Conservation Commission brought a new perspective to the Town; the Commission members felt that to protect the health of the community, it was vital to protect its woods, brooks, ponds, and fields. “Many neighboring communities,” they wrote in the 1966 Town Annual Report, “show the effects of uncontrolled development. We now face the critical point at which decisions must be made concerning the kind of community we will have over the next 50 to 100 years.”

The Commission also attempted to define their idea of conservation: “Conservation is concerned, not only with the preservation of our natural resources, but also with their efficient use and management for the benefit of the Town’s citizens.” The members began to index all the open space available for acquisition. They prioritized each parcel of land and worked toward protecting them, utilizing eminent domain, restrictions, gifts, and purchases. Their primary goal was to protect environmentally important pieces of land, but they also had a secondary goal: to distribute evenly open space land throughout the Town so that each precinct would contain a significant parcel for passive recreation.

Their first purchase was Swenson’s Farm (now included in Dunback Meadow) in 1965. The State reimbursement they received for this purchase was the first to be awarded under the new “Self-Help Plan.” With 90 percent federal funding, this 58 acre parcel cost the Town only \$39,550. In 1971, the Commission managed 280 acres of land, while today it manages around 1,300 acres, with properties evenly distributed throughout the Town.

Today, the Conservation Commission works closely with the Recreation Department, although both departments have shifted focus from acquisition to maintenance of existing properties, largely because there is less land available for purchase than in the past.

## Infrastructure

---

## Transportation

---

Lexington is crossed by two major highways:

- Route 2, a major connection between Boston and/or the Alewife MBTA terminal/parking facility and western Massachusetts, has three exit/entry points within the Town.
- Route 95/128, the major circumferential highway in eastern Massachusetts since the 1950’s, contains three complete cloverleaf intersections within Lexington; at Route 2, at Route 2A, Marrett Road, and at Routes 4/225,

Bedford Street. The latter ramps are particularly congested during peak commute hours, as they access major office/industrial complexes just outside the Route 95/128 ring as well as Hanscom Field.

The traffic problems associated with these intersection areas have long been recognized and discussed by several task forces including government, neighborhood groups, and area businesses. Efforts to cope with these traffic troubles and to prevent similar problems from spreading along Route 2 from Waltham Street to Spring Street have sparked Town zoning and permitting restrictions, such as reduction in floor area ratio and traffic study requirements. The Town has also obtained agreements with developers for staggered work schedules and financial contributions to highway improvements and alternate transportation.

The Town's Transportation Advisory Committee has repeatedly attempted to encourage public transportation for Hartwell Avenue, but temporary extensions of the local minibus Lexpress and MBTA service along Hartwell Avenue in the early 1980's failed to gain sufficient support. When the Alewife Station in Cambridge opened and became the in-town terminus of two of Lexington's three then-existing MBTA routes, the Committee urged addition of Hartwell Avenue to the Route 76 bus. This failed to materialize for lack of a satisfactory turnaround site.

The crown jewel of the Transportation Advisory Committee is Lexpress, the six fixed-route minibus system that has operated six days a week since 1979 (cutback from eight routes beginning July 1, 1990, due to budget constraints). These minibuses reach many neighborhoods hourly, generally from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lexpress is credited with saving many car trips to Lexington Center and giving students and senior citizens mobility. Lexpress depends upon Town appropriations and MBTA subsidies for over half its support, and the system's survival continues to be challenged.

However, Lexpress continues to provide services to an ever growing number of passengers with an average annual growth of approximately 8-10 percent. The most recent figures available are from FY'08 during which Lexpress had a ridership of 68,379 passengers over its six routes. Monthly ridership figures typically peaks during the months of May and October.<sup>6</sup>

### **Minuteman Bikeway**

The Minuteman Bikeway along the old Boston and Maine Railroad right of way from Bedford to Alewife Station was completed in 1993 and is 11.5 miles long. In addition to providing a bicycle commuter route to Cambridge and the Alewife T station, the bikeway provides opportunities for recreational bicycling, walking, jogging, rollerblading, and cross-country skiing, with access to many important areas of historical importance and natural beauty. In 2008, the Minuteman Bikeway was

---

<sup>6</sup> Teleconference with Gail Wagner, Transportation Services Coordinator, February 13, 2009

named as the fifth inductee into the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Rail-Trail Hall of Fame.

The Minuteman Bikeway opens up access to existing conservation areas, such as Parker Meadow and Tophet Swamp, and provides an incentive to protect additional land adjacent to it. In addition, the bikeway provides easy access to the Adams, Muzzey, Munroe, and Parker recreation facilities.



*Minuteman Bikeway in the fall.*

---

## **Water Supply and Sewer Service**

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) supplies Lexington with its water and sewer services. Most of Lexington is serviced by a public sanitary sewer system and a public water distribution system. The developed portions of town are serviced by a separate stormwater system. For the most part, because nearly all of Lexington has sanitary services available, septic systems are not a major contributing factor in polluting the brooks or groundwater. However, older sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and water lines without modern seals are subject to infiltration/outflow problems.

In 1984, sanitary sewers were improved by the building of the "Millbrook Relief Sewer" along the old Boston and Maine R.R. right of way (Minuteman Bikeway). This link serves sewer needs of Bedford and Hanscom Field, relieving Lexington trunk lines of this burden.

A valuable tool in the management of surface water runoff is the Comprehensive Drainage Study, accomplished over the years 1976 through 1982, by consultants to the Town Engineering Department. This study, plus an infiltration/inflow study and program for the Town's sewer system, has enabled the Town to manage sewers and drainage and to plan needed improvements with sensitivity to the total problem, as well as the possible impacts on wetlands. A new Stormwater Bylaw was adopted in the spring of 2008 that ensures that a wide array of development projects (both by right and by special permit) receive a complete review of their stormwater impacts.

## Long-term Development Patterns

---

### Infill vs. Vacant Land Development

---

Until recently, development in Lexington has centered on the use of vacant land. As the supply of vacant, developable land diminishes, new development will rely increasingly on the redevelopment of underdeveloped property, which is land that has not been developed to the maximum allowed by zoning. The replacement of underutilized or obsolescent uses by more intensive economic uses will likely be the predominant development scenario in Lexington from this point forward.

Lexington's location in the Boston metropolitan area dictates the process of succession. On the suburban fringe, in the towns near Route 495, development occurs almost exclusively on vacant land. In the substantially built-out central cities of the metropolitan area (i.e., Boston and Cambridge) and in communities adjacent to them, such as Newton or Arlington, development occurs almost exclusively by redevelopment on infill properties as described above. Increasingly, Lexington's development pattern is more like that of the metropolitan core than the suburban fringe.

Both rapid land development and a strong program of land conservation have resulted in a striking reduction in the remaining building capacity of the Town. The Town has largely exhausted its vacant unprotected land supply, with only about 600 acres of the developable land still available in vacant parcels in residential zones, along with some underutilized land within "underdeveloped" areas. Less than 10 percent of these 600 acres is in commercial zones. Vacant land might accommodate an additional 900 dwelling units, and some of that potential capacity is likely to be put to other uses, including open space conservation. Over the past decade, the Town has a net addition of fewer than 500 new dwelling units. Even slower net housing growth is expected for the future.

Barring unforeseen regional changes, demand for housing in Lexington seems likely to grow while housing supply remains stable. The regional housing market forces are likely to continue price escalation, making existing modest homes targets for upgrading or replacement. The trend of land succession, upgrading and replacement

is likely to continue as land becomes an ever-growing proportion of the value of residential premises; existing buildings become dispensable to owners under many circumstances. There is much more home building in Lexington than there is net growth, with work supported by tear-down replacement and additions to existing homes, which often eclipse the existing units in size. Population change in Lexington now depends more on the changing demographics of household size and key characteristics such as the age of those who will occupy existing units rather than the small number of constructed new dwelling units.

This trend toward mansionization has potential impacts on the Town's character, including the loss of relatively modest housing units and increased stress on the Town's infrastructure. On many sites, lot area, frontage, and buildable land allow substantial expansion, even though on many of those sites some development already exists. The rate of building replacement housing and accessory units is likely to increase. This process of mansionization is exacerbated by the trend toward a larger residential square footage per capital in the housing market.

---

## Zoning Changes 1998–2007

The current zoning map for the Town of Lexington is shown on *Map 3, Zoning*. The Town has four residential districts (two single-family and two multi-family), seven commercial districts, which include neighborhood business, retail, service, downtown, office and manufacturing; and planned commercial and residential districts.

The following describes zoning changes and definitive approval of major developments in the last ten years.

### 1998

First proposal under new cluster development section of Zoning Bylaw adopted by 1996 Town Meeting approved by the Planning Board allowing construction of an 8-unit development oriented to "empty nesters" off Marrett Road near five forks. Several meetings held on a 16-unit development off Wood Street and a 21-unit development off Winter Street were nearing the final approval stage.

With the cluster development concept, the board accomplished its goals of preserving open space and providing a variety of housing styles and price ranges.

#### **Final Subdivisions approved:**

- 22 Revere Street: 2 units
- 155 Old Spring Street: 22 units
- Porter Lane, off Adams Street: 6 housing units
- Coppersmith Way, off Marrett road: 8 units

## 1999

- Historic Preservation Incentives: provides incentives to preserve buildings and land of historic interest
- Worked on Land Use chapter of Comprehensive Plan

### Zoning Changes

- Procedures Section 8: Special Zoning Districts. Amends procedures for dealing with revisions to plans for special zoning districts.
- Wetlands Protection: clarifies by-laws on wetland protection, brings into compliance with state wetland laws, sets fees for applicants working on land adjacent to wetlands.
- Mansionization: Selectmen authorized to petition in General Court for an act that would permit the Town to regulate size of large houses on small lots.

### Rezoning

- 16 Hayden Avenue, office building

### Conventional Subdivisions:

- Rowland Avenue, definitive (1 lot)

### Cluster Subdivisions:

- 160-170 Wood Street, Old Smith Farm: 16 units

## 2000

### Subdivisions:

- Grandview Avenue: 3 lot subdivision
- Lexington Park cluster off Winter Street, definitive plan (22 units)

## 2001

- Comprehensive Plan completed
- 7 Hartwell Avenue rezoned from CD for bank to general office use

### Subdivisions:

- 32 Roosevelt Road: 6 units

## 2002

- Metropolitan State Hospital Reuse (involved open space and wetlands)
- Amend Wetlands Protection By-law

### Zoning Articles

- Amend Zoning By-law by adding “indoor athletic facilities” to allowed uses in a CRS zone.

- Zoning By-law designed to mitigate impact of building large houses in established neighborhoods failed but the section dealing with height and story passes

**Subdivisions:**

- Johnson's Farm cluster subdivision off Bedford Street: 17 units

**2003**

**Zoning Changes**

- Zoning By-law: Banks. Minor change regarding bank drive-in facilities
- Zoning By-law: Signs. Permits political signs on lawns; clarifies rules on signs in commercial districts.

**Subdivisions:**

- Scottish Glen, off Summer Street, 4 units, definitive plan approved

**2004**

**Zoning Changes**

- Zoning By-law: 12-18 Hartwell Avenue. Changed designation to CRO from CD-6
- Zoning By-law: 1010 Waltham Street. Amended RD Zoning Designation to permit expansion plans for Brookhaven.
- Zoning By-law: Designation for 125, 131, 141 Spring Street. Amended designation to CD from CRO and RO to allow for redevelopment of former Raytheon site.
- Amendments to Standards for RD Districts: permits substitution of dimensional standards for certain projects in large tracts of land.

**Subdivisions:**

- 47 & 53 Pleasant Street: 7 lots definitive plan approved
- 14 Glen Road South, 3 units
- Hazel road: 8 units
- Clelland Road, 2 lots, definitive plan approved

**2005**

**Zoning Changes**

- Zoning By-law: Battle Green Inn. Adopted November 7. Amended designation at 1720 Massachusetts Avenue to CD from CB.

**Subdivisions:**

- Wisteria Lane, off Colony Road: 3 lot subdivision
- 31-35 Cary Avenue: definitive plan approved (5 units, one an accessory)

## 2006

### Zoning Changes

- Amendment to bylaw that sets limits on the amount of impervious surface allowed for conventional and cluster subdivisions
- Parking in CB District: adjust parking regulations in CB districts.
- Zoning By-law: amend CD-7 to CD-13, 727 Marrett Road (Starwood Hotels and Resort)

### Subdivisions:

- Pine Meadows Farm: 14 units off Cedar Street and Freemont Street, definitive plan approved
- Woodland Farm Circle: 169 North Street, seven lots in Burlington, Lexington and Woburn; one partial lot in Lexington; definitive plan approved

## 2007

- Amend Zoning By-law, Tree Management: regarding protection of trees in cases where Planning Board grants a special permit
- Amend Tree By-law: strengthen by-law managing mature trees in town
- Amend Demolition Delay By-law: regarding the timing of granting demolition permits for historical buildings.
- Rewrote residential development section of zoning bylaw, commonly known as cluster bylaw, which regulates percentage of open space in new cluster subdivisions
- Drafted stormwater bylaw that will meet requirements for federal NPDES permit

### Subdivisions:

- 177 Grove Street, 3 lot cluster (on remand from courts)
- Lexington Hills (18 units off Walnut, part of former Middlesex Hospital). Definitive Plan approved
- 88, 92-110 Shade Street (Journey's end) Definitive plan approved for maximum of 26 units (25 percent left in open space)
- Doran Green: 9 units off East Street. Definitive Plan approved

## 2008

- Lexington Gardens – Lexington Gardens is a landscaping, plant and garden supply operation that has been sold to a developer. Although it is assumed that the property will be developed as a residential subdivision, specific plans have not been submitted as of yet.
- 960-990 Waltham Street: Definitive Plan submitted for 13 units

---

## Private Property and Vacant Land

There are some parcels deemed to be significant in terms of location or size, some of which are vacant and others underutilized, that are susceptible to new or more intense development. The Town has already begun to:

- Identify those privately owned parcels that remain vacant or underdeveloped
- Evaluate their potential for development and the likely impact of that development on public services and facilities
- Identify desirable future uses of the land in light of the Town's Comprehensive Plan (i.e. Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, Open Space and Recreation)
- Identify the actions (i.e. changes to zoning regulations and appropriations needed to implement the policies contained in the Comprehensive Plan)

# 4

## Environmental Inventory and Analysis

---

### 4.1 Geology, Soils and Topography

#### Geology<sup>1</sup>

---

Lexington's surficial geology is dominated by very old gravel and sand deposits and glacial till laid down above bedrock during the last ice age. When the Pleistocene Glacier moved down from the north, rocks and soil were scoured from the earth's surface and mixed together as they were carried forward by the flow of ice. When the glacier retreated, this transported rock and soil was left behind in various types of deposits, such as moraines, eskers, kames, and glacial erratics.

Ground moraines are deposits of unsorted rock and soil that accumulate beneath a glacier or are deposited as the glacier retreats. Ground moraines form many of the low, rolling hills that are characteristic of Lexington. Eskers are narrow ridges of well-sorted sand and gravel that are most often deposited by flowing water within and below glaciers. Examples of eskers in Lexington can be found in the Great Meadow off Maple Street, behind Hancock Street, and beneath Ridge Road (the roadway is an esker top). Kames are irregular short mounds, hills, or ridges of poorly sorted sand and gravel deposited by melt water most often flowing or settling on top of glacial ice. A classic example of a kame is located behind the Adams School. In the past, much of this material was commercially removed, such as along the Lower Vine Brook and Hartwell Avenue. Glacial erratics are large boulders, typically of a different bedrock type than the surrounding bedrock, that glaciers pick up and then drop elsewhere. Glacial erratics are common in Lexington; one example can be found at the corner of Wood Street and Hartwell Avenue.

In addition to depositing moraines, eskers, kames, and erratics throughout Lexington, glacial action also rounded the hilltops that are numerous in town (see

---

<sup>1</sup>The following section was drafted upon, *The Last Billion Year of the Geological History of the Town of Lexington* by Robert Shrock, 1984, *Citizens for Lexington Conservation* publication # P-9, and *Lexington and the Ice Age: A Field Guide* by Arthur J Latham and Winston Yelland, date and publisher unknown (located in the Lexington Conservation division office).

*Topography* in this section for more information on Lexington's hills). One of the most unusual of these hilltops is that of Granny Hill (also called Merriam Hill), which has a pond on top of it that is thought to be a glacial feature. .

Most of Lexington's bedrock is buried by glacial deposits, but there are a number of bedrock outcrops and exposures scattered throughout town. The town's bedrock is dominated by igneous rock – pink granite and darker plutonic and volcanic rock – as well as metamorphic gneisses, schists, and greenstones.

## Soils

---

Twenty-nine different kinds of soil in Lexington occupy the landscape in five naturally recurring groups called soil associations, as shown on *Map 4, Soils and Geologic Features*. Depths of soil in town range from two to twenty feet and above. The soil associations are delineated as general soil areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as the following:

---

### Hollis-Essex-Paxton-Scituate Association

This association contains shallow to bedrock soils and deep, very stony, well-drained to moderately well-drained soils with hardpans within two feet of the surface. It occupies about 50 percent of the Town. Topography of the area consists of prominent hills, low ridges, and narrow swampy intervals.

---

### Hinckley-Windsor-Au Gres Association

These are droughty and poorly drained, sandy and gravelly soils. This association occupies about 18 percent of the Town. Its topography consists of nearly level to undulating plains with a few low hills. Mining of this association has been extensive in Lexington's history, with high water tables being the main limiting factor.

---

### Charlton-Hollis-Gloucester Association

These are deep, very stony, well-drained soils with hardpans at depths of three to five feet and shallow to bedrock soils. About 14 percent of the Town is occupied by this association, mostly in the northern section of Town, which is characterized by low hills and narrow intervals.

---

### Muck-Freshwater Marsh Association

This association is made up of very poorly drained materials and occupies about 12 percent of the Town.

---

## Deerfield-Muck-Au Gres-Hinkley Association

This association consists of droughty to poorly drained sandy and gravelly soils and very poorly drained organic soils. It occupies about six percent of the Town, with nearly level soil area, a few low knolls and ridges with occasional depressions filled with organic matter.

---

## Topography

•••

*Clearly a result of glacial action, the topography of Lexington today is one of mild reliefs and moderate valleys.*

•••

The topography of Lexington bears distinct marks of the glacial period and is characterized by rounded rock hills with an average elevation of 350 feet and flat-bottomed valley segments, as illustrated in *Map 5, Topography*. The highest point in Lexington is Whipple Hill, in the northeast corner of town, which stands at 374 feet above sea level. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the lowest valley in Lexington (Swamp) is now filled with glacial deposits and is approximately 100 to 125 feet above mean sea level.

Besides Whipple Hill, other prominent hills in town include Brick Hill, Moon Hill, Follen Hill, Munroe Hill, Robinson Hill, Loring Hill, and Cranberry Hill.

Many of Lexington's valleys were also shaped by various types of glacial activity. Some once held stagnant glacial melt waters and have slowly been filling in since the glacier's retreat, so that they are now swamps or marshlands. Examples of these include Tophet Swamp and Arlington's Great Meadow. Others, particularly those sandwiched between the town's rocky hills, were carved by rushing glacial melt waters, and they now remain dry except for periods of excessive rainfalls. Many of the flattest areas of town are underlain by sand plains that were deposited by glacial melt water, and they have provided good building sites for the Town's schools, such as Lexington High school, Diamond Middle school, and Estabrook Elementary school.



*Tophet Swamp is the lowest point in Lexington.*

---

## 4.2 Landscape Character

### Introduction

---

The landscape of Lexington is one of immeasurable beauty, much of which has been retained even as the town has become more densely populated over time. The natural features and protected areas of Lexington's landscape provide its residents with scenic value, recreation opportunities, and valuable ecosystem services.

### Major Characteristics or Unusual Geologic Features

---

---

#### Bloody Bluff Fault

The Bloody Bluff, located at the historic Fiske Hill site at the corner of Old Massachusetts Avenue and Marrett Road, is a part of the Minuteman National Historic Park. The Bloody Bluff reveals a section of granite bedrock exposed by the Bloody Bluff fault, which runs through Lexington as it travels approximately 80 miles from Newbury, MA to northern Connecticut.<sup>2</sup> The Bloody Bluff fault was first recognized in the early 1960's by Norm Cupples. This discovery was seen by geologists as an opportunity to examine the theory of plate tectonics, because the Bloody Bluff area hypothesized to be an area of contact between two major continental plates.

---

#### Whipple Hill

At 374 feet, Whipple Hill is the highest point in Lexington. Its rounded summit rock and high exposed cliffs that form a shallow ravine are unusual geologic features in town. The top of Whipple Hill is home to plants not otherwise found widely in Lexington, including bear berry and scrub oak. The thickly wooded ravine features a small, unregistered vernal pond. Nearby, a larger secluded woodland pond attracts a variety of wildlife, including American eel, painted turtles, orioles, migrating warblers, dragonflies, and muskrats. Rare wild flowers also grow on this property (see Natural Heritage Program list). Whipple Hill is owned by the Town as a conservation area.

---

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.geologicresources.com/bloody\\_bluff\\_fault.html](http://www.geologicresources.com/bloody_bluff_fault.html) and *Roadside Geology of Massachusetts* by Skehan.

## Areas of Archaeological Interest

---

### Poor Farm Conservation Area

In February of 1985, Boston University's Center for Archaeological Studies, along with several Lexington High School classes, carried out an archaeological dig at a site on the Poor Farm Conservation Area. They found several prehistoric artifacts, including a projectile point of the Late Archaic/Early Woodland smallstem tradition (1,000 B.C.) and a prehistoric stone tool. They also found many 18th and 19th century artifacts, including porcelain earthenware, edge-decorated pearlware, oyster shells, a metal pin button inscribed with "W. Kid McCoy", milk cans, indications of a small forge, mason jars, stone ware, two plain clay pipes, bowl fragments, two creamware fragments, and hand-wrought nails.

---

## 4.3 Water Resources

### Watersheds

---

Lexington contains 21 sub-watersheds (also called drainage basins) that drain to the Shawsheen River Watershed, the Mystic River Watershed, and the Charles River Watershed, see *Map 6, Water Resources*. Major storage basins exist at Tophet Swamp for the Shawsheen River Watershed, Dunback Meadow and the old Metropolitan State Hospital area (and to a lesser degree, parts of Hayden Woods) for the Charles River Watershed, and the Great Meadow and Munroe Meadows for the Mystic River Watershed.

*Map 6A, Subwatersheds* depicts the Town's sub-watersheds and was prepared David Pavlik of the Town Engineer in March 2008. Note that the Shawsheen River shed is a drainage area without a major stream channel, which accounts for the difference between the town's 20 brooks and 21 sub-watersheds. Lexington's sub-watersheds include:

- Draining to the Shawsheen River Watershed:
  - Farley Brook
  - Kiln Brook
  - North Lexington Brook
  - Simonds Brook
  - Turning Mill Brook
  - Vine Brook
  - Willards Brook
  - Shawsheen River Shed

- Draining to the Mystic River Watershed
  - Fessenden Brook
  - Mill Brook
  - Munroe Brook
  - Reeds Brook
  - Sickle Brook
  - Shaker Glen Brook
  - Winning's Farm Brook
  -
- Draining to the Charles River Watershed
  - Beaver Brook
  - Chester Brook
  - Clematis Brook
  - Hardy's Pond Brook
  - Hobbs Brook
  - Juniper Hill Brook

## Surface Water

---

While Lexington does not have a major river running through its landscape, it does have 20 brooks that play important roles in the infrastructure and character of the town. All of Lexington's brooks originate within the town's boundaries and flow outward to other towns except for a small section of Reed's Brook, making Lexington a headwaters community. Over time, these brooks have been altered by human activity through changes such as channelization, the introduction of culverts, and sedimentation build-up from road sand and other run-off. Furthermore, impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and buildings have caused more stormwater runoff to enter the brooks than would naturally. These impacts have resulted in flooding problems, degradation of water quality, and impacts to habitat in many areas.

Lexington's brooks flow directly into Arlington, Belmont, Waltham, Lincoln, Bedford, Burlington, and Woburn before traveling onward to discharge in the Atlantic Ocean near Boston and Newburyport. The Town's brooks contribute to water supplies in Burlington via the Vine Brook, Bedford via the Kiln Brook/Shawsheen River, and Woburn via Woburn's Horn Pond from Shaker Glen Brook, as well as Cambridge via Hobbs Brook and the Cambridge Reservoir. The other two reservoirs in town, the Arlington Reservoir and the Lexington Old Reservoir (or Old Res), are now used for swimming rather than water supply.

In 2007, the Louis Berger Group, Inc. completed a water quality study of the Old Res, which has had problems with high coliform counts after rainstorms. A deepwater well was added in 1982, which serves to maintain the water level but does not guarantee improved water quality. The results of the study show that the major

source for bacteria entering the water body is stormwater discharged by the four outfalls along Marrett Road. In addition to providing a popular swimming area in Lexington, the water from the Old Res eventually flows to the Vine Brook and on to the Shawsheen River watershed, so improving water quality is also important to communities downstream. In 2009, Town Meeting appropriated Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding to complete a stormwater management mitigation project at the Old Reservoir.

Other issues with brook health and function in Lexington are being address through a Watershed Stewardship Program that started in the fall of 2008. The program involves a coordinated effort between the Department of Conservation, the Department of Public Works, and citizen volunteers, including the Lexington Conservation Stewards and students from the Minuteman Regional High School. Volunteers will conduct stream shoreline surveys to identify problems caused by stormwater run-off and impaired outfalls. The data collected in these surveys will be processed into map format and used as a planning tool for remediation of identified stream problems.

## Functions of Lexington's Brooks

---

Lexington's network of small brooks and the wetlands surrounding them serve as the backbone for the Town's hydrology. and provide the following functions:

### Hydrologic

- Brooks provide avenues for stormwater to travel in, acting as efficient conduits for moving water and help to reduce flooding.
- Brooks help maintain a stable groundwater "budget" by transferring excess water during seasonally high groundwater periods, thereby reducing flooding
- Brooks act to recharge groundwater supplies through infiltration
- Brooks assist in the maintaining of static water levels in ponds and reservoirs

### Ecologic

- Brooks assist in filtering out pollutants and sediment, especially by discharging water into surrounding wetlands with filtration capacities
- Brooks provide prime wildlife habitat, including habitat for several threatened and endangered species
- Brooks create ecological diversity by helping to maintain the hydric (wet) soil conditions that support important wetland plant communities
- Brooks provide aesthetic enjoyment for citizens and passive recreation for hikers, fishermen and women, bird watchers, and outdoor enthusiasts

---

## Value of Brook Corridors to Wildlife

Brook corridors traverse a large number of Lexington's conservation areas. Prolific wetland systems surrounded by relatively large tracts of undisturbed land, as well as vegetated areas running along brook channels, provide essential components of wildlife habitat, including: food, cover, water, and nesting and breeding space. Some of the most important brook corridors that currently exist in Lexington include areas along Vine Brook, Simond's Brook, and Kiln Brook. Degradation to these natural brook corridors impacts species that travel in them, such as white-tailed deer, coyote, and fisher. For a further discussion of wildlife corridors in Lexington, see *Section 4.5, Fisheries and Wildlife*.

---

## Certified Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are ephemeral bodies of water that do not support predatory fish and provide essential spring breeding habitat for various amphibian species, including wood frogs and blue-spotted salamanders. Vernal pools are protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, but must be certified as vernal pools before falling under this protection. Twelve certified vernal pools are located within the Town of Lexington (see *Map 7, Vernal Pools*).

---

## Flood Hazard Areas

The boundaries of the one hundred year floodplain are shown on *Map 6, Water Resources*. Floodplain areas in Lexington provide important temporary flood storage capacity when adjacent surface water bodies overflow. These areas frequently contain valuable wildlife habitat including a number of Lexington's certified vernal pools.



*Kiln Brook photographed in the Meagherville Conservation Area.*

## Wetlands

---

The Commonwealth's Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS) has mapped approximately 519 acres of open marshes/bogs and 750 acres of wooded marshes in Lexington, and more freshwater wetland exist that have not yet been mapped. These freshwater wetlands provide habitat, recharge groundwater, purify water, and store surface runoff, slowing the progress of flood waters. Many of the freshwater marshes in Lexington fall within open space areas, including Tophet Swamp, the Great Meadow, Willard's Woods, and Dunback Meadow. MassGIS's mapped wetlands are shown on *Map 6, Water Resources*.

## Aquifer Recharge Areas

---

The high percentage of impermeable surface in Lexington, both natural and human-made, results in a high rate of precipitation runoff, which reduces the amount of water available for groundwater recharge. Groundwater recharge takes place in wetlands, such as those found in the Upper Vine Brook, Lower Vine Brook, Willard's Woods, and Dunback Meadow conservation areas. Lexington includes 3256.7 acres of Department of Environmental Protection Approved Wellhead Protection Areas (Zone II), which are important for protecting the recharge area around public water supply groundwater sources. Most of this acreage falls in the Vine Brook watershed, which provides drinking water for the town of Burlington. These Zone II areas are shown on *Map 6, Water Resources*.



*A panorama of Willard's Woods.*

---

## 4.4 Vegetation

### Introduction

---

Before settlement, Lexington—like much of New England—was almost completely forested. As Lexington's early settlers cleared land for farming, the town's forests were transformed into grassland or cropland, and by the early 1900's, only 30 percent of the town was forested. More recently, as farming has given way to other land

uses, many of the old fields that remain as open space have transitioned back to forest.

Using the Society of American Foresters' classification system, Lexington's forests generally fall under the Transition Hardwoods-White Pine-Hemlock and the Central Hardwoods-Hemlock-White Pine forest types.

#### **Transition Hardwoods-White Pine-Hemlock**

This zone, which covers much of Worcester and Franklin counties, as well as portions of Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Norfolk counties, is named because both northern hardwoods and central hardwoods such as oaks and hickories mix here. White pine is found on abandoned fields and sandy sites and hemlock/northern hardwood mixtures on lower slopes, with central hardwoods, white birch and white pine on the hilltops.

#### **Central Hardwoods-Hemlock-White Pine**

This zone covers much of eastern Massachusetts, except southern Plymouth County and Cape Cod, as well as lower elevations in southern Worcester and southern Hampden counties. Oaks and hickories dominate, with red maple, chestnut oak, black birch and scarlet oak also common. Hemlock is the most common softwood but white pine predominates on sandy sites.<sup>3</sup>

It is important to remember that forests are dynamic, changing over time and with varying human and ecological influences, so that these classifications do not necessarily designate the type of forest found now, but rather the "type of forests that are likely to have existed prior to European settlement and would be likely to develop in the absence of radical human or natural disturbance."<sup>4</sup>

Within these two types, Lexington's forests vary widely, both due to natural and human influences. Examples of some of the less common forest communities include the patches of scrub oak and pitch pine found at the uplands of the Great Meadow and on top of Whipple Hill the yellow birch and hemlock forest found at the Paint Mine conservation area, and the stand of American beech found at the Meagherville conservation area.

The age of a forest also plays an important role in determining which plants dominate its canopy and understory. Agricultural land that was abandoned earlier, such as is found in the Sutherland Woods conservation area, supports a more mature forest than agricultural land that was abandoned later, such as is found in the Juniper Hill conservation area. In some places, old agricultural land that was previously drained has reverted back to forested wetland, such as in the lower areas of the Simond's Brook and Dunback Meadow conservation areas.

---

<sup>3</sup> MA Landowners' Forest Association website (<http://www.massforests.org/ma-forests/common-types.htm>)

<sup>4</sup> *The Forest Use Manual* by University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System

*The Meagherville Conservation Area provides a serene setting for enjoying a nature walk with a companion.*



Both the older and the younger forests in Lexington provide a scenic quality to the town as well as passive recreation opportunities for walkers, runners, skiers, bird-watches, and other outdoor enthusiasts. Forested areas surrounding the town’s streams help to provide shade cover and soil stabilization to protect stream health. Forested wetlands and uplands provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and wildlife,

contributing to the overall biodiversity of the town. Forests also perform a number of other ecosystem services, such as filtering pollutants from air, reducing erosion, and absorbing stormwater runoff.

In addition to Lexington’s forests, open meadows maintained by annual mowing are located on a number of conservation areas (see below – Managed Properties). In other cases, current agricultural activity keeps meadows open, including at Wilson Farms, Waltham Street Farm and Chiesa Farm conservation areas, and Busa Farm. These open meadows provide habitat variety in Lexington and are particularly important for certain butterfly, bird, and small mammal species, as well as hunting coyotes and foxes. Meadows also help to stabilize soil and filter air and water. Without annual mowing, these meadows would revert to forest through the process of succession.

Lexington currently has six flora species contained on the National Heritage and Endangered Species Program rare species list. The following table is based on information extracted from the NHESP database.

**Table 4-1 Rare Flora Species in Lexington<sup>5</sup>**

MESA Status Key: E = Endangered T = Threatened SC = Special Concern

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Federal Status	Most Recent Observation
1 Vascular Plant	<i>Platanthera dilatata</i>	Leafy White Orchis	T	-	Historic
2 Vascular Plant	<i>Liparis liliifolia</i>	Lily-leaf Twayblade	T	-	1971
3 Vascular Plant	<i>Mimulus moschatus</i>	Muskflower	E	-	1913
4 Vascular Plant	<i>Houstonia longifolia</i> var. <i>longifolia</i>	Long-leaved Bluet	E	-	1897
5 Vascular Plant	<i>Doellingeria infirma</i>	Cornel-leaved Aster	E	-	1931
6 Vascular Plant	<i>Liatris scariosa</i> var. <i>novae-angliae</i>	New England Blazing Star	SC	-	1902

### Unusual Vegetation Types

As mentioned above, while Lexington’s forests fall into two broad types, on a finer scale, they vary across town depending on topography, age, human impacts, and

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.mass.gov/dfele/dfw/nhesp/species\\_info/town\\_lists/town\\_1.htm#lexington](http://www.mass.gov/dfele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/town_lists/town_1.htm#lexington)

soils. The town's meadows show variety as well. Some of the more unusual vegetation features in Lexington are described below.

---

### **Oak-pine-hickory forest at Whipple Hill Conservation Area**

Whipple Hill is the largest tract of forest in Lexington, with roughly 120 acres of forest. The canopy is dominated by oak, pine, and hickory. The understory includes viburnum, sassafras, and spicebush, with sweet pepperbush growing along Whipple Brook. This woodland and the small pond located within it support abundant wildlife. A small area surrounding the summit has been cleared routinely throughout its history, either from fire or by the ravages of gypsy and brown-tailed moths during the 1890's. Vegetation found on the top of Whipple Hill, such as scrub oak, pitch pine, and bear-berry, is rare otherwise in town.

---

### **Arlington's Great Meadow**

The upland portion of Arlington's Great Meadow has been repeatedly burned, causing this area to resemble a scrub oak-pitch pine barrens, with low sweet blueberry growing in the poor soils. The wetter portions of Arlington's Great Meadow contain a wide variety of native wetland plant species, including buttonbush, highbush blueberry, and winterberry, although the invasive purple loosestrife is gaining ground in the wetlands. The vegetation in this area has made it a well-known spot for woodcock breeding.

---

### **White pine stand and meadows at Willard's Woods Conservation Area**

The white pine grove at Willard's Woods is the largest of its kind in Lexington, with some red pines mixed in and young oaks and hickories beginning to fill in the understory. The adjacent meadows are dotted with red cedar and grow high with field annuals by the end of the summer.

---

### **Pine plantation and meadow at Dunback Meadow Conservation Area**

Dunback Meadow conservation area includes a pine stand that was planted at the turn of the century as a timber source and then later abandoned. During the winter of 1980-1981, 21 long-eared owls roosted within this pine grove, and other owls have been spotted there since. The vegetation in the open meadow attracts a wide variety of bird species and makes Dunback Meadow one of the town's most popular birding areas.

---

## **Ravine community at Paint Mine Conservation Area**

Within this conservation area is a deep ravine that supports trees that are more commonly found in northern New England, including dense hemlocks and yellow birch. This is also one of the two locations in Lexington where American hop hornbeam is found.

---

## **American beech forest at Meagherville Conservation Area**

The Meagherville conservation area contains Lexington's largest forested area dominated by American beech, a tree that is not common as a dominant species in this part of the state. Beech-drops, an uncommon saprophytic plant in Middlesex County, grows on the roots of these Meagherville beeches.

---

## **Managed Properties**

Lexington manages all of its forested conservation areas for passive recreation and wildlife habitat. No forest in Lexington is currently managed for timber harvesting purposes, due in large part to the relatively small size of forest patches that exist, the lack of nearby sawmills, and the heavy recreational use on the town's forests.

The Town annually mows the vegetation at some areas of its conservation areas in order to maintain open meadows. Conservation land with mown areas include Parker Meadow, Upper Vine Brook, Blossom Street, Juniper Hill, Cataldo Reservation, Paint Mine, Hennessey Field, Poor Farm, West Farm, Daisy Wilson's Meadow, Idylwilde, Willard's Woods, and Shaker Glen. In addition, active agricultural practices keep other fields open, both on Town-owned land (Chiesa Farm and Waltham Street Farm) and privately owned land (Busa Farm, Wilson Farm, and Wright Farm). Finally, NSTAR periodically mows the vegetation in its utility easements in order to maintain access, which keeps shrubs, grasses, sedges, and wildflowers dominant in these areas.

The following list describes some of the more prominent open meadows in town.

### **Poor Farm Conservation Area**

A mowed knoll at Poor Farm, bordered by apple and peach trees and with a bench set at the center, provides a lovely open vista from the entrance off Cedar and Hill Streets.

### **Willard's Woods Conservation Area**

The mowed fields at Willard's Woods provide habitat for a wide variety of butterfly-attracting wild flowers, including milkweed, goldenrod, sarsaparilla, asters, and

thistle, that schools and clubs utilize in butterfly studies. Several cedars that have grown up in the center of the fields provide cover for birds.

### **West Farm Conservation Area**

The open hillside at West Farm provides what is considered by many to be the loveliest rural view in Lexington.

### **Daisy Wilson Farm Conservation Area**

The open field at Daisy Wilson Farm, bordered by stonewalls, gives the visitor to this property a sense of the original context for the farmhouse and barn that still stand adjacent to the property.

### **Idlywilde Conservation Area**

The open field that occupies most of Idywilde conservation area provides an area of open space in an otherwise densely populated neighborhood. Due to slope, position of trees, and rough, rocky landscape, this area is more suited for passive than active recreation.

### **Chiesa Farm Conservation Area**

The hay fields at Chiesa Farm are mowed each year by the owner of the adjacent farmhouse. This property, seen from Adams Street, competes with West Farm for Lexington's most attractive rural vista.

### **Waltham Street Farm Conservation Area**

The field at West Farm is utilized for corn crops by the lessee, a long-time Lexington farming family. The field, backed by woods and distant hills, affords a lovely scenic vista during all seasons from Waltham Street.

---

## **Department of Conservation and Recreation Forest Stewardship Program**

The Town is looking into applying for the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Forest Stewardship Program. This program provides means to protect woodlands in the Commonwealth through the creation of 10 year forest management plans. These plans are specific to each tract of woodland in an effort to protect soil and water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, timber resources, and continued recreation opportunities.

---

## Other uses

### **NSTAR Power Line Easement**

NSTAR cuts the vegetation back every five years or so in order to keep the easement open for repair trucks and regular maintenance. NSTAR encourages use of their easements, believing that an actively used property is less prone to vandalism.

---

## Public Shade Trees

The Town of Lexington approved a Tree Bylaw in April of 2001. This bylaw effectively increased the protection of Lexington's tree canopy. Shortly thereafter, in October of 2001, a Tree Committee was established for the continued protection, care, and planting of trees in Lexington. To that end, the Committee published a Tree Management Manual in 2009.

The Tree Management Manual is a practical guide to tree planting and care. It is directed toward Town employees, builders, contractors, developers, and private individuals. Topics in the Manual include:

- Tree Planting
- Planting Guidelines
- Maintenance Specifications for Pruning
- Tree Protection During Construction
- Invasive Species – Impact on Public Lands

One of the major goals of the Tree Committee is to replace trees lost during the preceding year on a one to one basis. This is accomplished through an ongoing inventory of trees kept by the Committee and a tree planting program designed to continually replenish the supply of shade trees and to maintain a healthy canopy.

Additionally, the Town has received a state grant to inventory shade trees throughout the Town.

---

## **4.5 Fisheries and Wildlife**

### **Introduction**

---

For many species of wildlife, Lexington represents the easternmost boundary of available habitat in the Greater Boston area. Lexington's wildlife provides ecological, recreational, educational, and aesthetic benefits to the citizens of an increasingly urbanized section of Massachusetts.

## Wildlife Corridors

---

Wildlife corridors connect two or more wildlife habitat areas, allowing animals to travel through otherwise developed areas or un-travelable areas. In densely populated communities such as Lexington, wildlife may use train tracks, rail trails, bike paths, or power lines as corridors as well as streams, rivers, undeveloped wetlands, riparian buffers, and backyards. Since there is no established database available for wildlife corridors in Massachusetts, a cartographic analysis of Lexington was conducted using GIS software and pertinent datalayers available through MassGIS.

The first step in this analysis was to establish conservation land boundaries within Lexington. Second, bike trails, rail lines, and the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) layers of BioMap Core Habitat and BioMap Supporting Natural Landscape were added to the map. Once all these layers were plotted on the map, a network started to emerge (see *Map 8, Habitat Corridors*).

---

### Significant Wildlife Corridors

The most significant wildlife corridors that pass through Lexington are:

#### Regional

The Minuteman Bikeway and Minuteman National Historic Park form the basis for Lexington's regional habitat links. These links provide access to the west and east toward Concord, Bedford, and Arlington.

#### Local

- The stretch of green space surrounding Munroe Brook, which connects Arlington's Great Meadow with Arlington Reservoir
- The stretch of green space from the Old Reservoir to the Lincoln Park wetlands
- The stretch along a significant portion of Vine Brook from Butterfield's Pond to Lower Vine Brook Conservation Area
- Along a significant portion of Simonds Brook and Kiln Brook (in the West Lexington Greenway region, including Meagherville Conservation area and the Pine Meadows Golf Course)
- A significant portion of Clematis Brook from Dunback Meadow Conservation Area to Beaver Brook in Belmont, including the surrounding Hayden Woods and Upper Vine Brook conservation areas

---

## Potential Wildlife Corridors

Land acquisition and protection in strategic locations could create stronger wildlife corridors in certain areas of town, such as along some of Lexington's brooks, along the West Lexington Greenway project area, and between many conservation areas. For instance, Brown Homestead conservation area, which borders the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway and sits just south of Lower Vine Brook conservation area, was acquired in 1995, increasing the already significant amount of green space along the bikeway. During the 1970's and 1980's, Lexington protected land adjacent to powerline easement through its purchase of the Paint Mine, Simonds Brook, Tophet Swamp, Katahdin Woods, and Cranberry Hill conservation areas. Protecting other areas through similar strategies can build new wildlife corridors and strengthen existing ones. Efforts toward this end are underway as part of the West Lexington Greenway project, which will link the Minuteman Bikeway with the Battle Road, providing a travel corridor for people and wildlife alike.

---

## Inventory

---

---

### Mammals

Lexington contains many mammal species that are common to semi-rural areas of eastern Massachusetts. While no formal inventory of mammals has been conducted in Lexington in the recent past, observations as well as information in MassWildlife's State Mammals List indicate that the following mammals utilize habitat in Lexington: Eastern coyote, red fox, white-tailed deer, beaver, mink, otter, muskrat, ermine, long-tailed weasel, fisher, raccoon, skunk, Virginia opossum, gray squirrels, red squirrels, flying squirrels, Eastern chipmunk, woodchuck, Eastern cottontail rabbit, various bats, and various small mammals (shrews, moles, voles, mice, rats). Occasional visitors to Lexington may include porcupine, bobcat, and bear, although no recent sightings have been noted.<sup>6</sup>

---

### Birds

In 1912, Dr. Winsor M. Tyler (contributor to Arthur C. Bent's Life Histories) compiled a bird list for Lexington that was published as an appendix to Charles Hudson's History of the Town of Lexington. Tyler's list included 166 species, 87 of which were breeding in Lexington. A modern list compiled by John Andrews for the Citizens for Lexington Conservation group lists 185 species, 69 of which are thought to breed in the Town (See "Checklist of Lexington Birds" by John Andrews) The increase in the total number of species is due primarily to the greater skill and resources of modern birders (armed with excellent field guides, optics, and automobiles) in ferreting out

---

<sup>6</sup> Based on observations and MassWildlife's State Mammals List (<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwmam.htm>)

the more rare migrants. The decline in the number of breeding species is probably due to a variety of causes, chief among them being the destruction of wetlands, conversion of farmland to residential use, and the introduction of the European starling and English house sparrow. Lexington contains at least one birding site, Dunback Meadow, that is of statewide significance. It was at this site in 1979 that the first state record of McGillivray's warbler occurred. Dunback Meadow is also a dependable site for wintering long-eared owls, a rare species in this part of the state. In the winter of 1980–81, a remarkable roost of 22 long-eared owls assembled at Dunback Meadow. Birding groups from three states visited the site to observe the birds and a behavioral study of roosting was conducted.

Dunback Meadow is also one of the best sites in the area for observing the courtship displays of the American woodcock, and birders from neighboring towns visit the site yearly to observe this spectacle. Dunback Meadow is the only site in Lexington where the following species are regularly observed: saw-whet owl, northern shrike, bobolink, and the grasshopper sparrow. Each year, several bird walks are held at Dunback Meadow by the Brookline Bird Club and by Citizens for Lexington Conservation. It is also censused yearly as part of the Greater Boston Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Other sites of birding interest are Whipple Hill (spring migration, wood duck, broad-winged hawk), Willard's Woods (spring migration, breeding broad-winged hawk), Arlington Reservoir (waterfowl, shorebirds, osprey), Hobbs Brook Basin (fall shorebirds), and Arlington's Great Meadow (ruffed grouse, great horned owl).

---

## Reptiles and Amphibians

While a formal inventory of reptiles and amphibians in Lexington has not been conducted in recent years, observations and MassWildlife's State Reptiles and Amphibians List indicate that the following species occur or are likely to occur in Lexington.<sup>7</sup>

**Snakes:** black racer, common garter, milk, brown, eastern hognose, ribbon, northern water, redbelly, ringneck, and smooth green.

**Turtles:** snapping, eastern musk, painted, spotted, and box (the last two listed as species of special concern)

**Toads:** American, Fowler's

**Frogs:** spring peeper, gray tree, bull, green, pickerel, leopard, and wood

---

<sup>7</sup> MassWildlife's State Reptiles and Amphibians List, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2000, revised 2002 and 2006, James E. Cardoza & Peter G. Mirick, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, accessed at: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwamph.htm>

**Salamanders:** spotted, northern dusky, eastern red-backed, northern two-lined, blue-spotted, four-toed, (both species of special concern), marbled (threatened species) and eastern newt

---

## Fish

The principal site in Lexington frequented by fishermen and women is the Old Reservoir. It is stocked with trout each spring by the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Other sites where fishing has occurred, but is not permitted, are Hobbs Brook Basin (Cambridge Water Supply) and Hidden Pond (owned by Patriot Partners, but it is acidified and being drained for lawn-watering purposes). Fishing at the North Street sand pits is discouraged due to dangerous depths.

---

## Rare Species

The National Heritage and Endangered Species Program, part of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, lists observations of 8 endangered, threatened or special concern species in Lexington, as indicated in the table below. As noted in the above inventories, other species may be present but unobserved due to the low level of recent survey efforts.

**Table 4-3 Rare Fauna Species in Lexington<sup>8</sup>**

MESA Status Key: E = Endangered T = Threatened SC = Special Concern

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Federal Status	Most Recent Observation
1 Bird	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe	E	-	1899
2 Bird	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	E	-	1906
3 Bird	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	T	-	1879
4 Bird	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk	SC	-	1870
5 Bird	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	SC	-	1956
6 Bird	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Sedge Wren	E	-	1868
7 Reptile	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC	-	1994
8 Reptile	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	SC	-	1992

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhESP/species\\_info/town\\_lists/town\\_l.htm#lexington](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhESP/species_info/town_lists/town_l.htm#lexington)

---

## 4.6 Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

### Introduction

---

The following list presents a brief description a few of the additional unique landscape features that have not been described elsewhere in this chapter. For a presentation of where these features are in Town, please see *Map 9, Unique Features*.

---

#### Battle Green

The Lexington Battle Green is the center point of the town's historical interpretation efforts. Tourists come by the busload to visit this important historic location, and the nearby Visitors' Center averages approximately 100,000 visitors each year. Town-sponsored guides give talks on the Battle Green year-round. Guided tours are conducted from April through October by Lexington Historical Society guides at the nearby Buckman Tavern, Hancock-Clarke House (on Hancock Street, about one-third mile away), and at Munroe Tavern (on Massachusetts Avenue, about one mile to the east).

---

#### Belfry Hill

Belfry Hill is an approximately 3 acre site located across the street from Cary Memorial Library, near the Battle Green. During the warmer months, the site provides a venue for the Town librarian's story hour, informal exploration, and a wonderful opportunity for workers from the Center to take a pleasant lunch outside. In winter, it is a popular sledding location and a destination for contemplative strolls. Tourists also ascend the hill throughout the year to see the historic belfry atop.

---

#### Tower Park

This Town-owned area is an open, landscaped park along Massachusetts Avenue just outside of the center of town and accessible from the Minuteman Bikeway. Tower Park offers benches, picnic tables, and a pathway for leisure walks, as well as shade trees, rolling lawn, and ornamental shrubs. On fair weather days, dozens of cars are often parked along Massachusetts Avenue along the park with their passengers lounging on the grass, picnicking, or playing informal games. In the winter, children sled from Massachusetts Avenue to the Minuteman Bikeway.

---

## Minuteman National Historic Park

The Minuteman National Historic Park is owned by the United States and administered by the National Park Service. Most of this linear park, stretching along Route 2A from Lexington (west of Route 95/128) to Concord, lies in Lincoln and Concord, but a small portion of the western end of the park lies in Lexington. The Lexington portion of the park contains the Bloody Bluff, the Minute Man Visitor Center, and Fiske Hill. Visitors to this park usually also stop at the Lexington Battle Green and historic houses in Lexington to view the early American Revolutionary Scenes.

---

## Paint Mine Conservation Area

In addition to the unique hemlock ravine described in *Section 4.4, Vegetation*, the Paint Mine area also contains a wetland that was previously flooded to create muskrat breeding habitat and is now slowly reverting back to bog. An open power line easement, pine-oak woods, and adjacent Hennessey field add to the ecological diversity of this area. Since at least one plant growing in Paint Mine is considered “rare” in Middlesex County, this property is listed with the Natural Heritage Program as an “estimated habitat of rare wildlife.”

---

## Great Meadow

Though owned by Arlington, the Great Meadow is located entirely within the bounds of Lexington. Consisting of dry upland areas, extensive wet meadows, and a registered vernal pond (certification #184), this 184-acre property makes up one of the largest contiguous open spaces in Lexington. During the late 1800’s, Arlington’s Great Meadow was visited by noted naturalists such as Frank Boles and William Brewster. In his 1893 journal, Brewster described a visit to Great Meadow during which he studied the pied-billed grebes that were common there. Almost 100 years later, pied-billed grebes were spotted at the nearby Arlington Reservoir (which is partly in Lexington). As far back as 1967, the Great Meadow was considered an important link in a greenbelt that connects it with the Mystic Lakes in Arlington. At the conference celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Park System, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council recommended that “trails could be developed from this center [Mystic Lakes area], around the lakes and along the greenbelt connections to the east of the Middlesex Fells and to the west to Great Meadow in Lexington.”

---

## Lower Vine Brook Conservation Area

The Lower Vine Brook property, which contains a former sand pit, displays a dramatic landscape with greatly varied topography. The area includes an uncertified vernal pond where eastern news, spotted salamanders, and northern leopard frogs have been known to breed. Vine Brook, which runs along the western side of this

property, provides a significant forested wildlife corridors stretching from the Burlington line at Butterfield Pond through the Lower Vine Brook Conservation Area. Lower Vine Brook is also one of the closest conservation areas to the center of Lexington.

---

## Hayden Woods Conservation Area

The 78.9 acre Hayden Woods Conservation Area features an old Lexington road that was laid out in 1660 and which was, according to local historians, a part of the so-called Virginia Path, which led Native Americans to the Shawsheen River where they traded goods with northern tribes.

---

## 4.7 Environmental Challenges

---

### Hazardous Waste

As of the May 6, 2008 the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) website listed 173 confirmed hazardous waste sites<sup>9</sup> in Lexington. Lexington has no Federal Superfund sites. Most of the state-listed sites are relatively minor oil releases that have been or will be soon cleaned up. However, several other sites listed as reportable releases by DEP are currently listed as open sites at various phases of assessment and remediation.

---

### Landfills

Lexington's landfill is located off Hartwell Avenue in North Lexington. Because Kiln Brook runs past this landfill before flowing into the Shawsheen River, it has become a concern for the Merrimack River Watershed Council's Kiln Brook Stream Team. Neighboring Bedford is also concerned about leaching from the landfill into Kiln Brook. Both Lexington and Bedford are eager to work with the Kiln Brook Stream Team to discover and correct any problems that might be occurring.

Lincoln Park is built on the site of a former landfill.

---

<sup>9</sup> <http://db.state.ma.us/dep/cleanup/sites/search.asp>

---

## Chronic Flooding

Over the years, Lexington has taken a proactive approach to alleviate flooding. Vine Brook was lowered during the 1950's, and other brooks were lowered during the 1970's including: Clematis Brook, Hardy's Pond Brook, and Willard's Brook.

Currently, trouble areas related to flooding include the stretch along Hartwell Avenue, where beavers have erected a dam in Tophet Swamp, the Sickie Brook area between the Adams School and the Minuteman Bikeway, the Swommon Land area off Barberry Road, and Kiln Brook at Pine Meadows Golf Club.

---

## Sedimentation

*Pictured here is Parker Meadow's manmade pond, built by the Town in the 1970's.*



Over the past twenty years, Lexington has been dealing with the build-up of sedimentation in its brooks, particularly where they pass beneath roads. In the 1970's, the Conservation Commission purchased the Parker Meadow Conservation Area and built a pond to slow down the waters of North Lexington Brook, which was causing problems where it passed beneath Route 128. Many of the Town's brooks are overloaded with excess sediment, and the Town is working to figure out a solution that addresses sedimentation and improves the ecological integrity of the brooks.

---

## Stormwater Runoff

In addition to sedimentation, Lexington's brooks suffer from pollutants entering the stream via stormwater runoff, as mentioned in *Section 4.3, Water Resources*. The Town's new Watershed Stewardship program aims to identify where these problems are occurring and plan for remediation efforts.

---

## Invasive Species

A number of invasive species are widespread in Lexington, including phragmites, Oriental bittersweet, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and barberry. These species can crowd out native plants, overgrow trails, trees, and utility lines, and impact ecosystem functions. Many groups in Lexington have worked to address invasive species, including the Tree Committee, Lexington Conservation Stewards, Citizens for Lexington Conservation, and the Lincoln Park Sub-committee, but coordinated, ongoing efforts and strategic planning are needed to best address this problem.

---

## Global Warming

With global warming, new environmental challenges may arise or current challenges may be exacerbated. Scientists generally agree that global warming will tend to create more ice storms (which can cause severe damage to forests), wetter spring seasons (which can lead to increased erosion), and warmer temperatures overall (which can affect the survival capabilities of certain species) in New England.

---

## Loss of Agricultural Land

Over the years, the Conservation Commission has acquired and protected a number of Lexington's agricultural properties, including Chiesa Farm, West Farm, Poor Farm, Hennessey Field, and Waltham Street Farm. Some of these areas are now maintained as open meadows, while others are actively used for agricultural purposes. In addition, two community gardens currently sit on Town conservation land at Idylwilde and Dunback Meadow conservation areas. In the years since the last Open Space and Recreation Plan was completed, however, Lexington has seen two of its few remaining agricultural properties – Doran's Farm and Lexington Gardens – converted to development.

The Conservation Commission is currently exploring options for incorporating Community Supported Agriculture usage onto conservation lands and for improving the Town's community gardens. Additionally, the Town is in the process of purchasing Busa Farms, another of Lexington's few remaining active farms, and the Board of Selectmen has established an ad hoc committee to determine the uses of this valuable resource.

---

## Erosion

As mentioned earlier, the Town is proceeding with a stormwater management mitigation project at the Old Res, using CPA funding. One of the key issues at the Old Res is erosion from the shoreline creating turbidity problems in the water. This mitigation project should remedy that threat to water quality at this site, but there are undoubtedly other sites where erosion threatens water quality in the town. Some of these sites will be identified through the Watershed Stewardship Program's stream shoreline surveys (discussed in section 4-3). One site that this program has already identified is the pond at Willard's Woods, where high usage by dogs of the pond's shore have impacted vegetation and soil around the pond. The Conservation Division has started taking steps to restore the Willard's Woods pond shoreline.

---

## Forestry

The Town is not managing forest lands for timber resources at this time, for a variety of reasons including: the relatively small patch size of forest in Lexington, the high recreational use of Lexington's forests, and the lack of nearby sawmills.

---

## Environmental Equity

There are three environmental justice populations in Lexington, as discussed in Sections 2.3 and 3.3. Although there do not appear to be any specific challenges with respect to access to open space and recreational resources among these populations, the Town will provide enhanced outreach to them in the future as described in Section 2.3.

# 5

## Open Space and Recreation Inventory

---

### 5.1 Introduction

This section details information about open space and recreational lands in the Town of Lexington. According to the Massachusetts' Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, open space is: "conservation land, recreation land, agricultural land, corridor parks and amenities such as small parks, green buffers along roadways or any open area that is owned by an agency or organization dedicated to conservation." The inventory provided here includes conservation and recreation land owned by the Town of Lexington, large tracts of private land, land that falls under Chapter 61, large state-owned properties, and National Park Service land. Additionally, land owned by the Town of Arlington (the Great Meadow) and the City of Cambridge (Cambridge Reservoir) has also been included.

Determinations of each site's condition, recreational potential, and public access were made based on observations by Town staff.

•••

*According to the Massachusetts' Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, open space is:*

*"conservation land, recreation land, agricultural land, corridor parks and amenities such as small parks, green buffers along roadways or any open area that is owned by an agency or organization dedicated to conservation."*

•••

Preservation of open space is extremely important to the residents of Lexington, the region, and the Commonwealth from several different perspectives. Locally, Lexington places a great deal of value in its historic and cultural resources, particularly in regards to the town's significance in the American Revolution. A number of these historic and cultural sites also serve as important open spaces, including the Battle Green and the National Park Service's Minuteman National Historic Park.

Additional land is owned and protected in Lexington by abutting communities, including the Town of Arlington (Great Meadow), which was originally preserved as a reservoir site, and the City of Cambridge (Cambridge Reservoir), which owns hundreds of acres of land in Lexington, Lincoln, Waltham, and Weston.

Much of the land listed in this inventory provides extensive passive and active recreational opportunities. There are a number of existing open space and trail networks among the preserved parcels, and with careful planning and additional acquisition, these networks can be further enhanced. To that end, Lexington has just completed a plan for the West Lexington Greenway, which will be described in more detail throughout this plan. The primary goal of the Greenway Project, funded by

the Town's Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, is to plan for a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails, including universally accessible sections, linking all Lexington conservation areas on the west side of Route 95/128. Note that within this study area, the Town landfill is located between Tophet Pond and Kathadin Woods. Although the landfill cannot be considered an open space at this point in time, it may play an important role in connecting these open spaces at some point in the future. Furthermore, the Town will continue its efforts to determine where conservation restrictions may be appropriate to further protect valued open spaces in the Greenway area.

**The Open Space Matrix column headings are defined below.**

- **Name/Location/Map/Lot** - Names the open space site and its street address, and identifies the map and lot numbers on the Town assessor's maps.
- **Acres** - Gives the site's acreage or an approximation in cases where specific information was not attainable. One acre is 43,560 square feet or 1/640 of a square mile.
- **Ownership/ Management** - Indicates the owner of the property and the agency or department responsible for managing and maintaining the parcel. Usually the two are the same.
- **Current Use** - Details the main uses for the site.
- **Condition** - Identifies the site condition (excellent, good, fair or poor). *Town-owned open spaces and parks were surveyed to obtain a general sense of the condition of the property and any facilities located on it (parking, fields, playground equipment, etc.).*
- **Public Access** - Indicates if the public can access the site.
- **ADA Accessible** - Indicates if people with disabilities can access the site or its amenities.
- **Recreation Potential** - For land not used for recreational purposes, potential for recreational activities is identified. Conservation land is generally deemed to have limited recreation potential except for passive recreation such as hiking and walking. Cemeteries and other similar lands are presumed to have no recreational potential.
- **Zoning** - Identifies the zoning district in which the parcel is located.
- **Protection Status/Deed Restrictions** - Indicates if the site, either by virtue of its zoning, ownership, existence of deed restrictions, or by the fact that it has received state or federal funding, is protected against conversion to some other use (see below).
- **Grant Received** - Where applicable, identifies the source of funding for the acquisition of the parcel, including public grants, private donations, deed restrictions, etc.

The information contained in the inventory is based on information in the 1997 Open Space and Recreation Plan, survey work of open spaces and recreational facilities by staff at the Recreation and Conservation Departments, and Assessor's data updated through fiscal year 2008.

---

## 5.2 Types of Open Space and Recreation Land Protection

Determining where the open space and recreation land is located in Lexington is the beginning stage of fully understanding what resources the Town has and where they are located. Once this land has been identified, it is important to ensure its protection and maintenance into the future to help guarantee that many more generations of residents can enjoy them. According to the Division of Conservation Services, land within a community is protected in perpetuity if it is owned by the local Conservation Commission, by Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) agencies, or by a nonprofit land trust, or if the Town received state or federal monies for the improvement or purchase of the land. Private property can also be permanently protected if there is a deed restriction, if the land is listed as having an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, or if the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has placed a restriction on the property for wetland conservation. Typically, land owned by other agencies like the Recreation Committee and the local school system should not be presumed to be permanently protected.

During the update process for this Plan, a GIS analysis was conducted to determine the amount of Lexington's open space that is protected in perpetuity. The data for this analysis was provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS). The analysis results show that approximately 20% of the total acreage in Lexington is protected in perpetuity as open space.

Listed below are details about different types of protection that either are or could be available to open space and recreation land in Lexington.

- **Massachusetts Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) program, Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) program, and Massachusetts Land and Water Fund** Parcels purchased with funding from these three grants (all administered through the State's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs), gain protection in perpetuity by automatically falling under Article 97 (see below).
- **Article 97 Protection** - Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution protects all publicly owned lands used for conservation or recreation purposes. This amendment requires action by the Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission, a 2/3 vote of the Town Meeting, as well as a roll-call 2/3 vote of the State House of Representatives and Senate, in order to sell, transfer, or convert Article 97 lands to a different use. Because the chance of this happening is so small, Article 97 lands are considered to be protected in perpetuity.

- **Protection through Ownership (“Fee”)** - In some cases, the open space in question has been acquired in its entirety (“in fee”) by a public or private conservation interest or a State or Federal agency (such as the National Park Service). In many cases, such ownership will trigger other forms of protection, such as Article 97. If the owner is a nonprofit organization (such as the Trustees of Reservations), the land could in theory be sold and/or developed, depending on its restriction status, but doing so could contradict the group’s conservation purpose.
- **Protection through Conservation Restrictions, Easements, or other Deed Instruments** - Due to the high costs of acquiring land, it has become increasingly popular to acquire conservation restrictions limiting future development. Similarly, access easements can provide permanent public access to a property. In certain situations, deed restrictions or easements may be granted by a private party as part of a development approval process. As with any matters involving real property, care must be taken in the drafting of the restrictions to ensure that the rights and interests of all parties are represented and clearly documented. Conservation restrictions must be approved by the municipality and the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services.
- **Chapter 61** - This program, through reduced property tax incentives, can help protect forest (Chapter 61), agricultural (Chapter 61A), and recreation (Chapter 61B) land in Massachusetts if the land is managed for those purposes. Should the owner wish to end the agreement, the municipality has the authority to recover tax benefits given and has first right of refusal on the purchase of the land if it is to be sold for non-Chapter 61 purposes. This right of first refusal was recently extended to one year by a 2007 amendment to the statute governing these programs.

---

### 5.3 Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Resources

The Lexington *Inventory of Public and Private Open Space* presented below includes public and private recreation and conservation land. The inventory shows approximately 1,800 acres of Town-owned conservation and recreation land. About an additional 200 acres of recreational land is privately held, including the Hayden Recreation Centre, Lexington Christian Academy, Lexington Golf Club, and Stone Meadow Golf. There is no Chapter 61B recreational land in Lexington.

Additional properties of privately-owned open space represent approximately 204 acres. There are also 2 privately-owned properties that fall under Chapter 61A, totaling approximately 18 acres.

All properties identified in the inventory are depicted in *Map 10, Open Space and Recreation Resources*.

# Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Public Lands</b>										
<b>Town Owned</b>										
<b>Adams Park</b> 739 Massachusetts Ave Map: 22 Lot: 51	10.00	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Ballfield-Fair, Tennis Courts-Excellent, Basketball Court- Excellent, Play Equipment- Fair	Yes	Partial	Basketball, Soccer, Tennis,	RS	Protected	
<b>Baskin Park</b> Wyman Road Map: 83 Lots: 106 and 107 (Recreation) & 106A (Conservation)	11.87	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Ballfield-Fair, Basketball Court-Poor, Playground- Removed in 2003	Yes	Partial	Basketball, Playground, could be a Baseball/Softball or Soccer field	RS	Protected	
<b>Belfry Hill</b> Clarke Street Map: 49 Lots: 164A & 165	2.81	Town of Lexington	Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Partial	No	RS	Protected	
<b>Blossom Park</b> Blossom Street Map: 9 Lot: 143	3.37	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Partial	No	RS	Protected	
<b>Bowman Park</b> 13 Watertown St./Pleasant St. Map: 8 Lot: 67	3.83	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RS	Protected	
<b>Bowman Park</b> Pleasant St. @ Watertown St. Map: 8 Lot: 31B	1.16	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Poor	No	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Bowman School Athletic Fields</b> 9 Philip Road Map: 15 Lot: 45B	15.43	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation & School	Ballfield-Fair, Playground- Fair	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Playground, Softball	RS		
<b>Bridge School Athletic Fields</b> 55 Middleby Road Map: 33 Lot: 143	30.25	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation & School	Fair	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Softball, T-Ball, Ultimate Frisbee	RS		

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Brown Homestead</b> Minuteman Bikeway Map: 47 Lots: 164J	6.16	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Poor	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
<b>Burlington Strip</b> Burlington Street Map: 82,86, 89, 91 Lots: multiple	10.08	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
<b>Cemeteries</b> East Lexington, Munroe, Old Burying Ground, and Westview	59.79	Town of Lexington/DPW	Cemetery		Yes	Yes	No			
<b>Center Recreation Complex</b> Worthen Road Map: 49 Lot: 90	56.46	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation & School	Ballfields-Good, Basketball Courts-Fair, Tennis Courts-Excellent, Playground-Excellent, Skate Park-Fair/Good, Town Pool-Good	Yes (Pool is Fee-based)	Yes	Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Lacrosse, Playground, Skateboarding, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field, Ultimate Frisbee, Walking, Running	RS		
<b>Chiesa Farm</b> Adams St., & Sedge Road Map: 63, 70 Lots: multiple	25.09	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation, Horse Pasture	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Clarke Middle School Athletic Fields/Tennis Courts</b> 17 Stedman Road Map: 32 Lot: 177C	20.00	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation & School	Ballfields-Good Tennis Courts-Very Good	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Field Hockey, Soccer, Softball, Ultimate Frisbee	RO		
<b>Concord Avenue (behind # 430)</b> Concord Avenue Map: 6 Lot: 1	12.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Concord Avenue @ Met State</b> Concord Avenue Maps: 1, 4, 10 Lots: 1B; 1A, 12; 26A	33.92	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO/ND	Perpetuity	
<b>Concord Avenue</b> Concord Ave. Map: 4, 5, 10 Lots: multiple	32.54	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RO/RD6	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Countryside</b> Lowell and Woburn Street Map: 46 Lots: 28 & 31	0.78	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	Yes	Partial		RO		
<b>Cranberry Hill</b> off Marrett Rd., off Lincoln St. Map: 44 Lots: 3A, 4	23.43	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Daisy Wilson Meadowland</b> Moreland Ave., Follen St. Map: 14 Lots: 111E	8.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Poor	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Diamond Middle School Athletic Fields</b> Sedge Road Map: 71 Lot: 305A	34.97	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation & School	Good	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Field Hockey, Soccer, Softball, Ultimate Frisbee	RO		
<b>Dunback Meadow</b> Marrett Rd., Allen St. Map: 9, 15, 23, 31, 32 Lots: multiple	159.54	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation, Community Gardening	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help, DCR Recreational Trails Grant

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Estabrook School Athletic Fields</b> 117 Grove Street Map: 83 Lot: 130	<b>13.10</b>	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation & School	Good	Yes	Yes	Baseball, Soccer, Softball, T-Ball	RO		
<b>Fiske School Athletic Fields</b> 55 Adams Street Map: 63 Lot: 139	<b>11.55</b>	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation & School	Fair	Yes	Yes	Baseball, Softball	RO		
<b>Franklin Park</b> 5 Stedman Road Map: 24 Lot: 83A	<b>7.07</b>	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Ballfield-Fair Playground-Fair	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Playground, Soccer, Softball	RO	Protected	
<b>Freemont Street</b> 53 Freemont Street Map: 58 Lot: 262	<b>12.60</b>	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No		RS	Protected	
<b>Garfield Park</b> Garfield Street Map: 65 Lots: 147-157	<b>7.00</b>	Conservation/Recre ation	Recreation	Ballfield-Fair/Good Playground-Good	Yes	Yes	Baseball, Playground, Softball	RS	Protected	
<b>Goodwin Parcels</b> Hartwell Avenue, Cedar Street Map: 73 Lots: 6a, 8		Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	No	No	No		Perpetuity	
<b>Hammer Hill</b> Hancock Street Map: 62 Lot: 127A	<b>0.86</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Harrington School Athletic Fields</b> 328 Lowell Street Map: 38 Lot: 21	12.10	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation & School	Good	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Soccer, Softball	RO		
<b>Hartwell Avenue</b> Hartwell Avenue Map: 80 Lot: 3	4.10	Conservation Commission	Conservation		No	No	No	CM	Perpetuity	
<b>Hastings Park</b> Massachusetts Ave Map: 49 Lot: 182	3.77	Town of Lexington/Town Manager	Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Partial	No	RS	Protected	
<b>Hastings Sanctuary</b> Massachusetts Ave Map: 50 Lot: 214A	1.62	Conservation Commission	Conservation		No	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Hastings School Athletic Fields</b> 7 Crosby Road Map: 51 Lot: 45A	14.27	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation & School	Fair	Yes	Partial	Baseball, Soccer, Softball	RS		
<b>Hayden Woods</b> Waltham St., Valleyfield St. Map: 16, 17, 24 Lots: multiple	100.70	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	Potential	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Hennessy Field</b> Robinson Road Map: 86 Lot: 1	10.00	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Potential	No	RO	Perpetuity	
<b>Hobbs Brook</b> Cambridge Reservoir Map: 19 Lot: 2	1.40	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Idylwilde</b> Lincoln St. & Middle St. Map: 34 Lots: 124A	<b>9.43</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation, Community Gardening	Good	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Ivan Street</b> Ivan Street Map:84 Lot: 19A	<b>0.52</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	ND	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Ivy Lane</b> Ivy Lane Map: 9 Lots:86, 87	<b>1.25</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
<b>James Street</b> James Street Map: 88 Lot: 57	<b>1.04</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No		Perpetuity	
<b>Jerry Cataldo Reservation</b> Bow St. Map: 13 Lots: 421A	<b>6.76</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Poor	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	
<b>Joyce Miller's Meadow</b> Minuteman Bikeway Map: 30 Lots: 83, 84, 104	<b>9.99</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Juniper Hill</b> Concord Ave., Barberry Rd. Map: 11 Lots: 96A, 98	<b>26.84</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Justin Park</b> Justin Street Map: 83 Lot: 99D	2.70	Conservation/Recreation	Recreation	Ballfield-Good Playground-Good	Yes	Partial		RO	Protected	
<b>Justin/Bernard</b> Justin St. Map: 83 Lots: multiple	21.29	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Active & Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Potential	Yes	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Katahdin Woods</b> Wood St., Bates Rd. Map: 59, 67, 73 Lots: multiple	54.43	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Kinneens Park</b> Burlington Street Map: 77 Lot: 46	5.30	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Ballfield-Fair Playground-Excellent	Yes	Partial	Playground, T-Ball	RO	Protected	
<b>Laconia Street</b> Laconia Street Map: 54 Lots: 14B, 34, & 35A	23.74	Town of Lexington/School Department	Open Space	Good	No	No		RO		
<b>Lexington Battle Green</b> <i>(includes Battle Green, Buckman Tavern, &amp; Visitor Center - 15,500 sq. ft. is leased)</i> Massachusetts Avenue Map: 49 Lots: 3 & 4	5.40	Town of Lexington/Town Manager	Historic Site	Good	Yes	Yes		RS	Protected	

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Lexington Old Reservoir</b> Marrett Road Map: 33 Lots: 99 & 100	9.44	Town of Lexington/ Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Fair/Good	Fee-based	Partial	Fishing, Kayaking, Swimming, Walking	RS	Protected	
<b>Liberty Heights</b> Hillside Ave./ Bowker St. Map:13 Lots: multiple	5.63	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Lillian Road</b> Lillian Road Map: 29 Lots: 1A, 8	1.44	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	
<b>Lincoln Park</b> Lincoln Street Map: 42 Lots: 1 & 16	39.80	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Ballfields-Excellent Playground-Excellent Fitness Path-Excellent	Yes	Yes	Baseball, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Playground, Soccer, Softball, Walking, Running	RS	Protected	
<b>Lower Vine Brook</b> Grant St., Webb St., East Emerson Rd. Map: 47, 48, 55, 62 Lots: multiple	91.72	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help, DCR Recreational Trails Grant
<b>Maple Street</b> Maple Street Map: 38 Lots: 4A, 7A	0.98	Conservation Commission	Conservation					RO	Perpetuity	
<b>Marvin Park</b> Winter Street Map: 90 Lot: 32	8.00	Town of Lexington/ Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Ballfield-Good Playground-Good Basketball Court-Good	Yes	Partial	Playground, Baseball, Softball, or Soccer field	RO	Protected	

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Marvin Street</b> Marvin St., Carriage Dr. Map: 90 Lots: 23, 29, 31, 157	1.05	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No		Perpetuity	
<b>Meagherville</b> Garfield St., Cedar St. Map: 65, 66, 72, 73, 79 Lots: multiple	61.16	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Potential	No	RS	Perpetuity	DCR Recreational Trails Grant
<b>Munroe Park</b> 1403 Massachusetts Ave Map: 39 Lot: 62	1.58	Town of Lexington/Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Ballfield-Fair Playground-Fair	Yes	Partial	Playground, T-Ball	RS	Protected	
<b>Muzzey Field</b> Massachusetts Ave Map: 48 Lot: 276B	1.06	Town of Lexington/ Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Fair/Good	Yes	Partial	Soccer	RS	Protected	
<b>North Street</b> North St., Lowell St., Emerson Rd. Map: 68, 69, 75 Lots: multiple	29.31	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
<b>Oxbow Street</b> Oxbow Street Map: 59 Lot: 137B	0.19	Town of Lexington	Open Space	Good	No	No		RS	Protected	
<b>Oxford/Bow Street Park</b> Bow Street Map: 13 Lots: 382 & 410	0.39	Town of Lexington/ Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	Swing Set, Picnic, Walking	RS	Protected	

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Paint Mine</b> Grove St., Robinson Rd., Turning Mill Rd. Map: 86, 87 Lots: multiple	<b>35.50</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Parker Meadow</b> Revere St. @ Minuteman Bikeway Map: 56, 64 Lots: multiple	<b>17.67</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Potential	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self help
<b>Pheasant Brook Pond/Open Space</b> Howard Munroe Place, Woburn Street Map: 47 Lots: 164K, 175	<b>5.36</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RZ, RO	Perpetuity	
<b>Philbrook Terrace/Grassland Street</b> Grassland Street Map: 25 Lot: 265	<b>1.13</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No		Perpetuity	
<b>Pine Meadows Golf Club</b> 255 Cedar Street Map: 66 Lot: 63	<b>87.88</b>	Town of Lexington/ Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Good	Fee-based	Partial	Golf	RS	Protected	
<b>Poor Farm</b> Hill St. @ Cedar St. Map: 58 Lots: 19A	<b>11.60</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	
<b>Poplar Street</b> Highland St., Poplar St., Garfield St. Map: 72 Lots: 491, 492, 502, 503	<b>1.88</b>	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Rindge Park</b> Rindge Avenue Map: 20 Lot: 61-64	0.65	Town of Lexington/ Rec. Dept.	Recreation	Ballfield-Good Playground-Excellent Basketball Court-Good	Yes	Partial	Basketball, Playground, T-Ball	RS	Protected	
<b>Sanitary Landfill Area</b> Hartwell Avenue Map: 79 Lot: 50	67.50	Town of Lexington DPW	Landfill					CM		
<b>Shaker Glen</b> Rolfe Road Map: 54 Lots: 92C	16.79	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	No	Yes	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Sickle Brook</b> Massachusetts Avenue Map: 21 Lot: 3A	1.05	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	
<b>Simonds Brook</b> Grove St. Map: 83, 87 Lots: multiple	58.51	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Poor	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Sutherland Park/Woods</b> <i>(4.0 acres - Active Recreation; 20.9 acres - Conservation)</i> Sutherland Road Map: 13 Lot: 107	24.90	Conservation/Recre ation	Passive and Active Recreation	Ballfield-Good, Playground-Good, Basketball Court-Poor/Fair	Yes	Yes	Baseball, Basketball, Playground, Softball	RS	Protected	
<b>Tophet Swamp</b> Minuteman Bikeway Map: 79 Lot: 49	25.50	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	CM	Perpetuity	

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Tower Park</b> Massachusetts Avenue Map: 39 Lot: 83	12.37	Town of Lexington/ Town Manager	Passive Recreation	Good	Yes		Passive Recreation	RO		
<b>Turning Mill</b> Grove St. Map: 82, 83 Lots: multiple	9.66	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Poor	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Upper Vine Brook</b> Marrett Rd., Highland Ave. Map: 31, 32 Lots: multiple	43.26	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	No	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Valley Road</b> (3.22 acres - Active Recreation; 1.93 acres - Conservation) Valley Road, Willow Street Maps: 72, 78 Lots: 427,429-433, 521; 118-124	5.15	Conservation/ Recreation	Conservation	Tennis Courts-Excellent Play Land-Good	Yes	Partial	No	RS	Perpetuity	
<b>Vine Brook Village</b> Winthrop Street Map: 40 Lot: 232	6.80	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RS	Perpetuity	
<b>Waltham Sreet Farm</b> Waltham Street Map: 24 Lots: 68A, 69A, 132, 133	17.29	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	No	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
<b>West Farm</b> Oak Street Map: 42 Lots: multiple	15.96	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Potential	Yes	RS	Perpetuity	Self Help

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Whipple Hill</b> Winchester Dr., Summer St. Map: 28, 36 Lots: multiple	72.22	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Willards Woods</b> North St., Brent Rd., Map: 76, 77, 78 Lots: multiple	99.69	Conservation Commission	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Fair	Yes	Potential	Potential	RO	Perpetuity	Self Help
<b>Wood Street</b> Holton Road, Springdale Road, Conestoga Road Maps: 59, 67 Lots: 73; 35, 45	12.39	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
<b>Woodland Bird Sanctuary</b> Colony Road Map: 63 Lot: 131	7.22	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No (due to deed restriction)	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
<b>Total Town Owned Public Lands:</b>	<b>1839.97</b>									
<b>State Owned</b>										
<b>Massport</b> Hartwell Ave Map: 80 Lot: 9	2.90	MA Port Authority	Airfield					ND		
<b>Minuteman Regional High School</b> 758 Marrett Road Map: 52 Lots: 7B & 8B	19.09	State of Massachusetts/Min uteman Regional HS	School	Good				RO		

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Walnut Street Lot 1</b> Walnut Street Map: 2 Lot: 1A	<b>47.50</b>	MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
<b>Walnut Street Met State</b> Concord Avenue Map: 1, 2 Lot: 4; 2	<b>63.16</b>	MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation	Conservation	Fair	No	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
<b>Total State Owned</b>		<b>132.65</b>								
<b>Public Lands:</b>										
<b>Federally Owned</b>										
<b>Hanscom Air Force Base</b> Wood Street, Hartwell Avenue Maps: 67, 74 Lot: 29, 5	<b>147.60</b>	USA	Air Force Base		No		No	RO		
<b>Minuteman National Historic Park</b> Route 2A- 750 total acres	<b>99.14</b>	Federal Government, National Park Service	Passive Recreation	Good	Yes	Yes	No		Perpetuity	
<b>Total Federally Owned</b>		<b>246.74</b>								
<b>Public Lands:</b>										

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Owned by Other Towns and Cities</b>										
<b>Arlington Great Meadow</b> Massachusetts Avenue Map: 30 Lot: 114	183.00	Town of Arlington	Open Space	Good	Yes	No		WPD	Protected	
<b>Cambridge Reservoir</b> Route 2 - 570 total acres Map: 19 Lot: 1A Map: 27 Lot: 1 Map: 35 Lot: 1	116.20	City of Cambridge	Drinking water supply		No	No	No	RO	Perpetuity	
<b>Cliffe Avenue</b> Cliffe Avenue Map: 13 Lot: 383	2.36	Town of Arlington	Open Space	Good	Yes	No		RS		
<b>Minuteman Bikeway</b>	<b>5 mile stretch in Lexington</b>	MBTA/Towns of Arlington, Bedford, Cambridge, and Lexington	Recreation	Good	Yes	Yes	Bicycling, Cross-Country Skiing, In-Line Skating, Walking, Running			
<hr/>										
<b>Total Public Lands Owned by Other Towns and Cities:</b>	<b>301.56</b>									
<hr/>										
<b>Total Public Open Space</b>	<b>2520.92 Acres</b>									

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Private Lands</b>										
<b>Belmont Country Club</b> 181 Winter Street Map: 1 Lot: 2A Map: 3 Lot: 2A	88.80	Belmont Country Club	Golf				Golf	RO	Chapter 61B	
<b>Busa Farm</b> 52 Lowell Street Map: 20 Lot: 38, 40A, 43	7.93	Giovanni and Rosina Busa	Agriculture		No	No		RS	Chapter 61A	
<b>Five Fields</b> 15 Barberry Road Map: 11 Lot: 76	5.10	Christopher Hess	Swimming	Good			Swimming	RO	Chapter 61B	
<b>Hayden Recreation Centre</b> 24 Lincoln Street Map: 50 Lot: 1A	28.00	Estate of Josiah Willard Hayden	Recreation		Fee-Based		Basketball, Gymnastics, Ice Skating, Swimming, Weight Training	RS		
<b>Lexington Christian Academy</b> 48 Bartlett Avenue Map: 28 Lot: 13A Map: 29 Lots: 42 & 43	30.58	Lexington Christian School Academy	School		Fee-Based		Baseball/Softball, Basketball, Cross-Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Wrestling	RS		
<b>Lexington Golf Club</b> 55 Hill Street Map: 58 Lot: 27	84.00	Lexington Golf Club	Recreation		Fee-Based		Golf	RS	Chapter 61B	
<b>Peacock Farm Association</b> Peacock Farm Road Map: 7 Lots: 90, 91B, 92A	6.93	Peacock Farm Association	Swimming				Swimming	RS	Chapter 61B	
<b>Sellars Lot</b> 430 Concord Avenue Map: 10 Lot: 8	5.10	John Sellars	Agriculture						Chapter 61A	
<b>Stone Meadow Golf</b> 675 Waltham Street Map: 16 Lot: 9	21.60	John Carroll	Recreation		Fee-Based		Golf	RO	Chapter 61B	

## Inventory of Public and Private Open Space

	Size (acres)	Owner/ Manager	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Accessible	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection Status/Deed Restrictions	Grants Received
<b>Wilson Farm</b> Pleasant Street Map: 14 Lots: 49A, 50, 62	<b>28.65</b>	Wilson Farm, Inc.	Agriculture	Good	No	No		RS		
<b>Wright Farm</b> 241 Grove Street Map: 91 Lot:1	<b>14.31</b>	Thomas Wright, Sara Frances, & Kathleen Wright	Agriculture		No	No		RO	Chapter 61A	
<b>Total Privately Owned Lands:</b>	<b>321.00</b>									
<b>Total Private Open Space</b>	<b>321.00</b>	<b>Acres</b>								
Total Public Open Space	2520.92									
Total Private Open Space	321.00									
<b>Total Open Space:</b>	<b>2,841.92</b>	<b>acres</b>								

---

## 5.4 Park and Open Space Equity

*Map 2* depicts the Environmental Justice (EJ) populations found in Lexington based upon Mass GIS data. The map also shows the proximity of the Town's open space resources. The EJ populations are both located in areas of Lexington that seem well-served with access to a variety of open space resources. The western EJ population sector is located within the West Lexington Greenway project study area. One of the goals of the West Lexington Greenway Plan is to create a connected network of trails for walking and biking, which will further enhance connectivity to that area and other portions of the Town. As is the case with the Town as a whole, many of the major recreational facilities and opportunities are located closer to the center of Lexington, so in that respect, the EJ populations are not necessarily more disadvantaged than the population as a whole.

Given Lexington's growth pattern, it does not have vacant lots that can be easily transformed into parks or open spaces. Rather, the Town hopes to be able to purchase lands of significance as they become available and when the funding exists for such purchases. Criteria will be developed to help guide the acquisition strategy for the Town.

As described in *Section 4, Environmental Inventory and Analysis* there are no brownfield sites — most of the hazardous waste site issues in Lexington are from oil releases from gas stations or similar land uses.

---

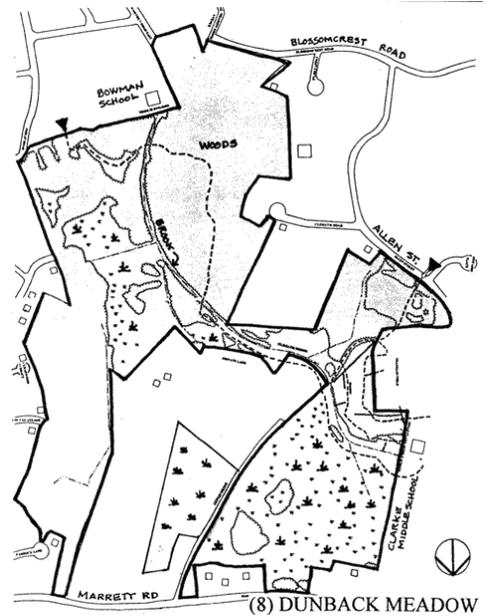
## 5.5 Important Open Space and Recreational Resources

This section provides narratives describing the most important open space and recreational resources located in Lexington. They are presented in no particular order.

## Dunback Meadow – 159.5 acres



The largest of Lexington’s conservation areas, Dunback Meadow also serves as one of the town’s prime bird-watching locations. With a large, wet meadow dominating the site and an old red and white pine plantation on the southwestern corner, Dunback Meadow attracts warblers and grassland birds not found widely otherwise in Lexington, impressive woodcock displays in the spring, and a variety of owls and other raptors. A number of organizations from outside of Lexington lead bird walks at Dunback Meadow throughout the year. A trail that crosses the Dunback Meadow property links Clarke Middle School and Bowman Elementary School, providing students with a natural walkway to class, including a ¼ mile section of boardwalk. A new trail was recently constructed to connect Bowman Elementary School to the Blossomcrest Road neighborhood, offering students a naturally scenic 500 foot route to school in place of a 1.5 walk on the road or a 3.4 mile drive. The southwestern side of the property hosts a community garden that is coordinated by volunteers.

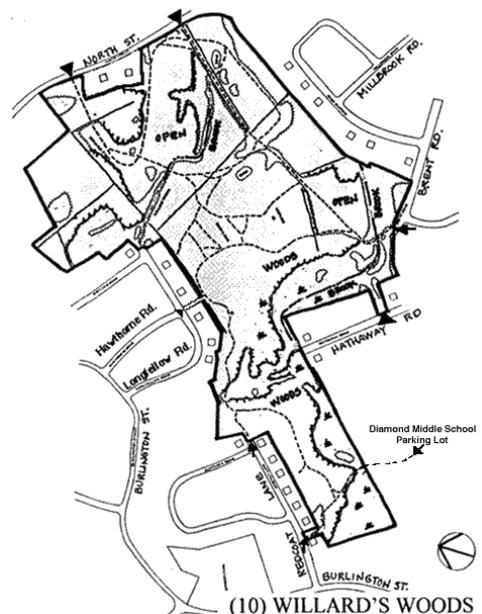


(8) DUNBACK MEADOW

## Willard’s Woods – 99.7 acres



One of the most heavily used conservation areas in Lexington, Willard’s Woods offers visitors the opportunity to wander through an old farm that appears much as it did more than 140 years ago. The property includes an old apple orchard, an old mill pond, open meadows, and a lovely white pine grove, as well as two brooks and extensive wetlands. The improved surface stone dust path connecting North Street to Hathaway Road through Willard’s Woods is scheduled for resurfacing and re-engineering of eroded areas. This is the only conservation area in Lexington that has a large dedicated parking lot and picnic area with fireplaces, where Scout troops have historically held annual camp-



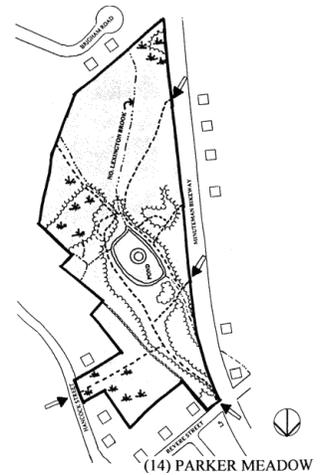
(10) WILLARD'S WOODS

outs. The meadows contain a variety of wild flowers as well as domestic species that have persisted in the wild, including an occasional asparagus plant. Fox, raccoons, opossum, deer, eastern coyotes, and many bird species frequent Willard's Woods, taking advantage of the variety in habitat. Residential neighborhoods surround the property, and Diamond Middle School sits at the outlet of one of the main trails. Recently, efforts have been underway to balance the popularity of Willard's Woods for dog walking with other uses.

### Parker Meadow – 17.7 acres



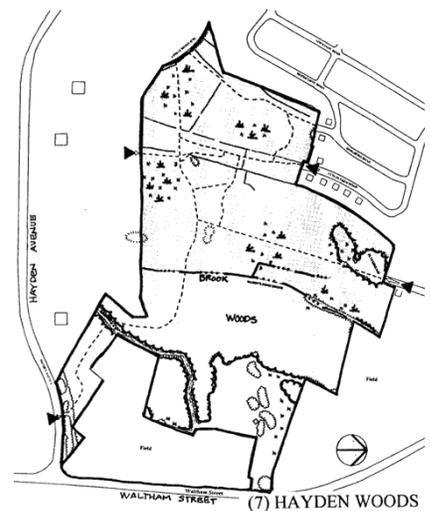
With access off of the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, Parker Meadow offers a pleasant mixture of forest, field, and wetland to its visitors in relatively small space. The property features a picturesque pond bordered by open meadow and woodland. After acquiring this land, the Conservation Commission constructed this pond to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. Today, the pond provides a home for many amphibians, reptiles, and waterfowl, as well as occasional muskrats and beavers. In recent years, trails have been closed so that they do not completely encircle the pond, increasing the human-free upland area available to pond wildlife. Existing bridges over North Lexington Brook have been extended to allow visitors to cross with minimal impact to wetlands. Additionally, volunteer efforts have made significant headway in controlling invasive species in the meadow itself and along one of the primary paths into Parker Meadow.



### Hayden Woods – 122.6 acres



As the second largest conservation area in Lexington, Hayden Woods encompasses a significant swath of contiguous forest within the town. In the past, Hayden Woods was home to farmland, pasture, an orchard, a woodlot, a dairy, and a rifle range, and it was also the desired site for what is now the Burlington Mall. The Conservation Commission purchased Hayden Woods in pieces from 1961 to 1981 in a deal that allowed for commercial development to take place on the south side of the property. Today, red maple swamps dominate the lower areas of Hayden Woods, with pines, oaks, and hickories dominating as the elevation rises. The western edge of the property is bordered by Old Shade Street, a historic cart path that was

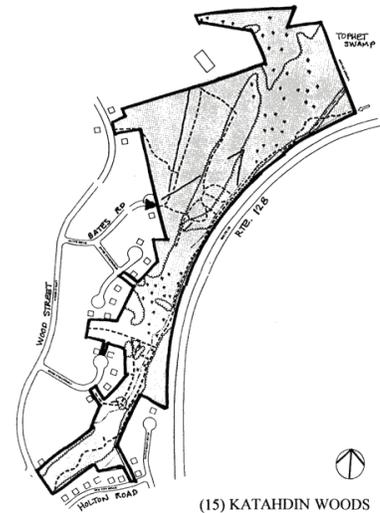


laid out in 1660 and today exists in the form of a wide, rocky path tucked into the forest. Old Shade Street and the other trails that run throughout Hayden Woods provide visitors with hiking, bicycling, and cross-country skiing opportunities. Neighbors in the abutting commercial parks often contribute funds and volunteer time towards land management projects in Hayden Woods.

### Katahdin Woods – 54.4 acres



Sitting just to the west of Route 95, Katahdin Woods is at the center of the soon-to-be West Lexington Greenway, a recreational path that will connect the Minuteman Bikeway with the Minuteman National Historic Park’s Battle Road. This new recreational path will eventually run along the eastern side of the property, in an open area under the power lines, and will head North through Tophet Swamp, Simond’s Brook, and Paint Mine and South toward Fiske Hill. The Town is currently working with consultants, NSTAR, and the community in the design phase of the West Lexington Greenway. Katahdin Woods also includes a number of other trails leading through a dry, beech-pine forest and along wetlands. The open power line area affords excellent raptor-watching opportunities for visitors.

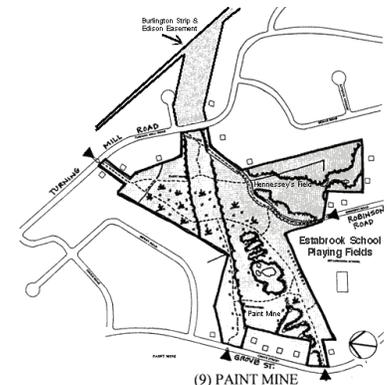


(15) KATAHDIN WOODS

### Paint Mine/Hennessey Field – 45.5 acres



Paint Mine is most famous in Lexington for its namesake feature, a natural ochre deposit that historically provided pigment for paint. This mine was tapped twice by entrepreneurs attempting to make a profit on the ochre, once in 1860’s and again in the 1880’s. Today, the old ochre mine is still visible on the property. Other prominent features of this landscape include the open area beneath the NSTAR power lines and a series of small ponds that were built during the 1930’s to trap muskrats. After their abandonment in the 1950’s, these ponds have slowly been reverting to the bog-like conditions that likely existed prior to the pond construction. In 1999, a 10-acre meadow adjacent to Paint Mine, called Hennessey’s Field, was transferred to conservation status and is now considered part of the Paint Mine conservation area. Paint Mine is frequently used by students in the adjacent Estabrook Elementary School as part of the Big Backyard nature education program. The Simond’s Brook conservation area lies just across Grove Street from the Paint Mine area, extending the trail system.



(9) PAINT MINE

## Center Recreation Complex – 56.46 acres



The Center Recreation Complex is an active and viable part of the Town, centrally servicing the recreational needs of the community. The facility consists of two senior baseball fields (one field is lighted), one lighted softball field, one Little League baseball field, a football stadium, one multi-purpose field (used for soccer, field events during track & field meets, field hockey, and lacrosse), a track, ten tennis courts (four courts are lighted), a playground, a skate park, the Lexington Town Pool Complex, and two lighted basketball courts. Lexington residents and Lexington High School (physical education classes and athletics games and practices) use the facility heavily. The Recreation Department, as well as other town organizations, regularly has scheduled games and practices on all fields throughout the year. These activities include baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, skateboarding, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track & field, and ultimate frisbee. During the summer months, lessons, clinics, and camps are held here from the beginning of June through the end of August. All high school sports teams utilize this facility for both practices and games. Although many organized activities take place at the facility, much unorganized activity and play is often seen here. Every year, there is an annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Carnival held on the baseball (Center #1) and softball (Center #2) fields. This event runs for approximately one week and is sponsored by the Lexington Lions Club. The facility is maintained entirely by the Public Works Department.



The two senior baseball fields are Center #1 and Center #5. Center #1 is well taken care of and has a batting cage behind the field. A home run fence in center and left field separates this field from the Center #2 softball field. The outfield of Center #5 overlaps with the football field. Lights were installed at Center #1 in 1997 through private fundraising. In 1998, an irrigation system was built into the infield and new benches were installed at Center #1. That same year, a new computerized lighting system for Center #1 and the Center #2 softball field was installed. Dugouts were installed in 2002.

The softball field is Center #2. This field has a skinned dirt infield and is in good condition. Lighting was installed at Center #2 in 1985. A new backstop was installed in 2000 and dugouts were installed in 2004.

The Little League baseball field is called the William P. Fitzgerald Field (also known as Center #4). The field is in good condition, but does hold water during extensive wet weather. The infield was completely rebuilt in 1994 and a new fence was installed in 1997. A new backstop was installed in 2000.

The Dr. Harold Crumb football stadium has two permanent yellow goal posts, one scoreboard, fully-accessible permanent bleachers with an announcer's box, and one concession stand. The field is in good condition and in 1991, it was regraded and set with new sod. The bleachers and press box were installed in 2001.

The Center Track multi-purpose field is used for a variety of sports, including soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, and field events during track & field meets. This field was completed in 1984 and it has an irrigation system.

An all-weather 400-meter six-lane track was constructed in 1983 with funding that was appropriated at the 1982 Town Meeting. The track is made of an all-weather rubber surface and is blue with yellow writing. The track was resurfaced in 2000. The Recreation and Parks Departments perform repair work on the track as part of its ongoing maintenance.

The Gallagher Tennis Courts consist of ten tennis courts. Courts #1 through #4 are lit. Funding for the lighting was appropriated in 1970. In 2000, the tennis courts were completely reconstructed and new fencing was installed. High school tennis matches and tournaments are held here, as well as tennis lessons for children and adults offered by the Recreation Department. The tennis courts can also be reserved through the Recreation Department. A tennis practice board exists at the end of the courts and three new tennis practice boards were installed in 2007.

The Center playground was initially built in 1989. The structure was made of wood. Over the years, it was exposed to the harsh elements of New England weather and the wood began to crack and splinter. Over this same period of time, there were numerous, significant changes and revisions to playground safety standards and guidelines. As a result, the wooden structure had several non-compliant components. A new structure for children ages 2-5 was installed in 2002 and the wooden playground was replaced with a fully-compliant play structure for children ages 5-12 in the fall of 2006. Offering more activities than the wooden structure, the new structure offers areas for imaginative play both on and under the structure. The structure is accessible to children with mobility issues and provides activities for children who may have hearing or vision impairments. The structure also has a number of components designed to provide physical fitness activities, such as climbing walls and a rock climber, and open areas for free play within the safety-surfaced perimeter of the area.

The skate park was constructed in 2003. The park is a fenced-in area that contains several skateboarding apparatus (ramps, grind rails, grind wall). Funding for the skate park has been a partnership between the Town, the Recreation Enterprise Fund,

and private fundraising. Since it was built, this facility has been used extensively by the youth in the community.

The Town Pool consists of four pools and a bathhouse. The four pools are: a wading pool, the Garrity instructional pool, a 25-meter lap pool, and a diving pool with two 1-meter diving boards and one 3-meter diving board. The bathhouse has men's and women's restrooms and locker rooms with showers, staff room with first aid equipment, office, filter room, and tennis booth. The current pool complex was constructed from 1978-1980. The Recreation Department offers many programs including swim lessons, aqua-aerobics, swim team, lifeguard training, diving lessons, and adult lap swim. Extensive work was done on the electrical and plumbing systems bathroom facilities, and on the pool decking in 1994. In 1997, all four pools were re-marcedited and wells were installed. An additional \$100,000 was appropriated at the 2000 Town Meeting for pool improvements. In 2001, two shade structures were installed at the pool complex and in 2002, three new diving boards were purchased. In 2007, a pool facility audit was completed. The audit examined the bathhouse, each of the swimming pools, and the site amenities such as pool decks and fencing. Included in the report are several recommendations that the Recreation Department will consider in the near future in an effort to maintain the safety of all patrons.

The Center Basketball courts consist of two full courts and six basketball hoops. The courts are lit and are well used by the community for countless pick-up games throughout the year. It is also the site of the Recreation Department's men's summer basketball league, as well as youth basketball camps and clinics during the summer. The courts were resurfaced in 1987. In 1982, four new backboards and rims were installed. Funding was appropriated at the 2007 and 2008 Town Meetings and these courts were completely reconstructed in fall 2008.

### Lexington Reservoir ("Old Res") – 8.70 acres



This Town-owned pond is administered by the Recreation Department and is maintained by the Public Works Department, with funding from the Recreation Enterprise Fund. One section of the Old Res is roped off for swimming purposes. This area is divided into two swimming areas; one is roped off for younger children and is located directly off the beach. The other is past the first rope and is for more proficient swimmers who can swim in deeper water. This swimming facility is staffed by the Recreation Department from early June through mid-August and contains a bathhouse with men's and women's bathrooms,



showers, and first aid facilities. The water quality is tested in the swimming areas every week during the summer season to ensure safe swimming. The Town contracts with an aquatic management company each year to treat the Old Res for nuisance vegetation.

Any Lexington resident or non-resident can use the Old Res if they have purchased a swim tag or pay the daily fee. The area outside of the Old Res is a picnic area with grills and picnic tables. Programs offered by the Recreation Department in the summer, as well as other family and group outings (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts) from the spring through the fall, utilize this area. Nature trails also wrap around the Old Res. The water is also stocked with fish in the late spring to allow for the community to fish. In the winter months, the community uses the facility for ice-skating.

The Old Res was a water supply in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the total water area is approximately four acres, with 700 linear feet of sandy beach, 50 to 70 feet wide. A gate was installed at the service entrance to the Old Res behind the Bridge School to curb vandalism and prevent vehicles from using the walking path. The Old Res was drained in the fall of 1982, the bottom was scraped, a deep well was dug, and new sand was added to the swimming and beach area. In 2000, a handicap ramp was installed to make the swimming area and bathhouse fully accessible from the outside gate. In 2007, the Louis Berger Group, Inc. completed a water quality study of the Old Reservoir. The study showed that the only major source for bacteria entering the Old Res is stormwater discharged by the four outfalls along Marrett Road. The Recreation Department will be taking measures in the coming years to address and rectify this problem. The end result will be an improvement in the water quality of the stormwater runoff that enters the reservoir.

### Lincoln Park – 38.30 acres



Lincoln Park consists of three multi-purpose synthetic turf fields, one Little League baseball field, one softball field, a playground, open space, and the Teresa and Roberta Lee Fitness and Nature Path. A portion of the Town's 8.8 miles of bike path passes through Lincoln Park, connecting the High School on Worthen Road to Bridge School on Middleby Road. Lexington High School, the Recreation Department, Lexington residents, and many other organized programs throughout the town frequently use Lincoln Park. During school sports seasons, the high school regularly has games and practices at Lincoln Park and many organizations such as Lexington Little League, Lexington Youth Lacrosse, Lexington United Soccer Club, the Recreation Department, and individual town leagues use the



fields during the year for sports activities. The three multi-purpose fields have been used for soccer, lacrosse, flag football, and field hockey. It is not uncommon to see residents of the town utilizing the Fitness and Nature Path. This path has signs identifying wildlife and describing physical fitness activities. This facility is maintained by the Town's Public Works Department.

Lincoln Park was obtained as public property when purchased as part of the water supply works for the Town of Lexington in the late 1800's. It was abandoned around 1905 when the Town joined the Metropolitan District Commission and in the 1930's became the town landfill. In 1963, the landfill was abandoned and the area was subsequently capped using dredge soil (silt and clay) from the Mystic River and blast rock from the Route 2 construction. Between 1968 and 1972, small capital appropriations were approved to create some playfields at the landfill. In 1974, Lincoln Park was turned over to the Recreation Department and by 1985, plans were made to create a major recreation complex. Three natural grass multipurpose fields, a Little League field, and a softball field were built. In the 1989, the Teresa and Roberta Lee Fitness and Nature Path and a boardwalk were constructed with private funds, and various town appropriations were used to upgrade the facility.

In 2002, a private citizen committee of over 24 individuals joined forces to address the deteriorating condition of the three multi-purpose playing fields. Simply stated, the fields were dangerous to play on. The drainage was poor, and the subsurface fill did not permit grass to root deeply enough, leaving large sections of the fields either muddy in the spring or hard packed and bare in the summer and fall. Players were hurt on the uneven and unforgiving surface. In addition, rocks, glass, and other debris that continuously percolated up from the old landfill. Field users from Lexington and neighboring communities continually voiced their concerns with the substandard field conditions. In addition to the safety issues at Lincoln, the Town needed to respond to the increased demand for athletic fields each year.

The Town, schools, youth leagues, adult leagues, and other users of the park came together and worked towards a solution. After careful research, a permanent solution was recommended and supported by the Recreation Committee and the Board of Selectmen. It was initially determined that it would cost \$2.3 million to properly rebuild the three fields with natural grass, including the required sub-surface drainage and irrigation. However, further study showed that the rebuilt grass fields would not provide a long-term solution since the unyielding usage would cause the fields to deteriorate quickly once again. For \$3.4 million, the Town of Lexington was able to build three infill-synthetic fields, rebuild natural grass baseball and softball fields, improve the fitness path and replace the fitness equipment, relocate and expand the parking area, and build a playground for children ages 2-5 and 5-12. The synthetic grass looks and plays like natural grass, yet stands up to intense wear and tear with less maintenance. The fields can be used year round in all weather conditions without damage to the synthetic grass.

Construction work on Lincoln Park began in January 2003. The three multi-purpose fields, parking area, and enclosed children's playground were in use by September 2003. Reconstruction of the softball field, Little League field, and fitness course was completed by Spring 2004. The infill synthetic turf has a life expectancy of 10-12 years.

The Teresa and Roberta Lee Fitness and Nature Path is under the administration of the Recreation Department and is maintained by the Lincoln Park Sub-committee which also raises money for its continued maintenance and improvement in addition to the funds raised privately for the original construction. The fitness and nature path is 1.35 miles and wanders through delightful natural areas as well as around the playing fields at Lincoln Park. There are fifteen self-directed, accessible exercise stations for fitness and nature enthusiasts of all levels to enjoy. The boardwalk offers many residents a chance to experience a variety of habitats, which are typically inaccessible and at the same time maintain the habitat's vegetation for use by a variety of wildlife, including migrating birds. The attractiveness of the boardwalk makes it one of the most widely used properties in Lexington. The area provides a safe and relaxing nature walk during all seasons.

Lincoln Park has turned out to be a centerpiece that the Town of Lexington can be proud of.

### **Jack Eddison/Minuteman Bikeway – 5 miles in Lexington**



The Minuteman Bikeway, a converted Boston and Maine Railroad corridor, was completed in 1992 after more than 20 years of planning and construction. Nearly 11 miles long, it begins in Cambridge (at the Arlington border near the Alewife MBTA Station), passes through Arlington and Lexington, and ends outside of Bedford Center. In 1992, the five-mile section that runs through Lexington was renamed the Jack Eddison/Minuteman Bikeway in recognition of the former selectman who served many years and worked to champion the bikeway project. In 2008, the Minuteman Bikeway was named as the fifth inductee into the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Rail-Trail Hall of Fame. It is estimated that between cyclists, joggers, skateboarders, baby strollers, and dog walkers, the bikeway has 2 million users each year.

The bikeway travels through commercial, industrial, and residential areas and open spaces. In addition to being a popular commuter bike route (with one endpoint near the Alewife MBTA Station in Cambridge), the bikeway is a linear park that connects significant historical sites and attractions as well as many conservation areas and park lands in Arlington, Lexington, and Bedford. Current issues affecting the bikeway include lighting, drainage, and surface maintenance. Plowing the path in the winter remains a topic of debate.

## Neighborhood Pocket Parks

One of the true assets that the Town of Lexington has is the collection of neighborhood “pocket” parks throughout the community. These sites offer a variety of recreational opportunities to children and adults alike and generally consist of playfields, playground equipment, or a combination of both. All of these facilities are under the administration of the Recreation Department and are maintained entirely by the Public Works Department, with funding from the Recreation Enterprise Fund.

The list of pocket parks in the community includes the following: Baskin Playground (on Wyman Road), Franklin Playground (on Stedman Road), Garfield Park (on Garfield Street), Justin Street Park, Kinneens Park (on Burlington Street), Marvin Street Play Area, Munroe School Park (on Massachusetts Avenue), Oxford/Bow Street Play Area, Rindge Avenue Playground, and Sutherland Heights Play Area (on Sutherland Road).

## Pine Meadows Golf Club – 87.88 acres



The Town of Lexington contracts with a professional golf management and maintenance company to oversee the operations at the Pine Meadows Golf Club. The Director of Recreation administers the budget and management contract. The Director of Recreation works in partnership with the Superintendent of Public Grounds to facilitate the day-to-day operations and market the golf course. Pine Meadows is a 9-hole municipal course that is open to the public. The facility draws as many as 40,000 golfers from the greater Boston area



each year. All revenues are included in the Recreation Enterprise Fund, where they are available for capital improvements and maintenance of the Town’s recreational infrastructure after compensating the golf course management company. Golf carts are available upon request and a clubhouse is on site. The clubhouse features men’s and women’s restrooms, a small “lounge,” and a concession stand which sells snacks, golf balls, and other golf necessities. Lexington residents frequently use this course during its functioning season from late March to early December. The Lexington High School golf team uses the course for practices and play.

When the 1976 Master Plan was prepared, Lexington had three golf facilities – Pine Meadows, Lexington Golf Club (a private membership facility), and Powder Horn Country Club. The report recommended the Town step in and purchase one of these valuable resources, should it be threatened by development. Today, Powder Horn, a former par three, 48-acre course is Potter Pond Condominiums. The future of Pine

Meadows looked shaky as a golf course when in 1984, Town Meeting voted down purchasing the golf course for \$1.85 million. However, in 1988, the Town purchased the course and abutting open space for \$11.3 million.

# 6

## Community Goals

---

### 6.1 Description of Process

The goals and objectives for this 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan update were derived from a series of meetings and opportunities for public input. The basis for this effort was the previous 1997 OSRP goals and objectives. During the drafting of this plan, a variety of methods, as described in *Section 2, Introduction*, were undertaken to gather information about the Town's Open Space and Recreation areas and goals the community has for maintaining and improving these areas.

Two public forums were held, one in March 2008 and the second in June 2008, to gather input from the community. Both were held at Cary Hall. In attendance were all the parties involved in writing the plan: staff from the Lexington Recreation and Conservation Departments, members of the Recreation and Conservation Commissions, key Town officials and staff, representatives of VHB, and interested citizens. During the first public forum in March, the 1997 OSRP goals were presented to citizens. A dialogue ensued where the participants at the forum provided their suggestions on amendments and additions to the goals and objectives as they were worded in the previous plan.

In addition to this, a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) exercise was conducted. The purpose of a SWOT is not to dictate what the public sees as important in the planning process, but rather to hear how they valued Lexington's open space and recreational resources and develop an updated set of goals and objectives based upon their opinions. During the SWOT exercise held in March, the following views were expressed:

Strengths:

- Variety of recreational choices in Lexington
- The high percentage of land that is protected
- Minuteman Bikeway provides activities for all ages
- West Lexington Greenway (under development)
- The abundance of open space resources in Town
- The Lincoln Park Facility
- Hayden Fields, publically available
- Open space parcels are spread throughout Town
- The Great Meadow

Weaknesses:

- Lack of connection, accessibility
- Lack of funding
- Overuse of fields/high demand
- Athletic fields in low-lying wet areas
- Little publicity of community gardens, which equals little use
  - Water availability
- Overuse of trails by mountain bikers
- Need for maintenance
- Access/signage/parking
- Lack of bikeway plowing in winter

Opportunities:

- Plowing bikeway to connect with other towns that plow it
- Use of synthetic fields
- Intergenerational recreational center
- Lexington Gardens – dry flat land for playing fields
- Outreach to other statewide land trusts (i.e. TPL)
- Zoning at Hartwell – get sidewalk/boardwalk, connection to West Lexington Greenway
- Coordinate with Hayden Center
- Adding parking/signage
- Water for community gardens

Threats:

- Overuse of fields
- Failure to comply with pooper scooper bylaw
- State-owned parcels being sold for development
- Great Meadow – Arlington plan's for golf course
- Agricultural land disappearing (i.e. Lexington Gardens)
- Proliferation of invasive species

Prior to the SWOT exercise, the participants had an opportunity to vote on which goals and objectives they found most important.

*Scenes from the Public Forum*



This was accomplished through a straightforward process that used stickers and large print-outs of the goals from the 1997 plan, along with additional points made during the forum. Each participant was given four stickers and simply affixed them

next to the goals that he or she valued most. The stickers were then tallied up and all the data gathered from the dialogue prior to this exercise was recorded and analyzed.

The following goals were selected as the highest priorities at the March 2008 public forum, which were expanded upon later in the planning process to reflect the goals listed in *Section 6.2* below.

- purchase parcels that are important environmentally or historically
- protect and maintain Lexington's brooks
- establish better connections and linkages between Lexington's open spaces
- develop strategy for use of Community Preservation Act funds

*(Note that the latter two were suggested at the forum, whereas the first two came out of the 1997 Plan.)*

Additionally, a survey was distributed throughout the Town and 122 responses were received. The following summarizes the top responses to each of the questions asked. The full survey and results can be found in *Appendix A*.

1. What are your five favorite open space, passive parks, or natural areas owned by Lexington
  - Minuteman Bikeway
  - Center Recreation Complex
  - Lincoln Park
  - Willard's Woods
  - Old Reservoir
2. What do you like about the Town resources listed above?
  - Natural, wooded open spaces
  - Walkable, accessible areas, open to all
  - Peaceful, pleasant, attractive areas
  - Community playgrounds/meeting space
  - Bird/animal habitats
3. What are your major concerns regarding the Town's recreational and natural open spaces?
  - Maintenance in general
  - Loss of open space
  - Connectivity of open spaces/trails
  - Dogs (cleanup, disturbance to others)
  - Invasive plants

4. Does the Town have an adequate amount of the following?

YES	NO <sup>1</sup>
Children's playgrounds	Canoeing/kayaking
Walking/bike trails	Cross-country ski trails
Natural areas/nature trails	Natural areas/nature trails
Outdoor/indoor swimming	Neighborhood parks
Tennis courts	Interpretive signage on trails

5. Funding open space improvements: Select up to five improvements from the following list that you consider important for the Town to pursue.

- Acquisition of land for open space
- More walking/nature trails
- More wooded/natural areas
- More activity areas for teens
- Acquisition of land for recreation

6. How do you prefer to get information on open space and recreation in Lexington?

- Recreation brochure
- Newspaper
- Town website

The second public forum was held on June 19, 2008 at which the major findings of the planning process were presented. The goals and objectives of the plan were further refined and the five year action plan was discussed and reviewed. Participants prioritized the action items, which are reflected in the Five Year Action Plan in *Section 9, Five Year Action Plan*, of this Plan.

## 6.2 Goals

The end product of this process was used as a baseline to formulate the new goals and objectives for the updated 2009 plan. The overarching vision of this plan is twofold:

- Ensure long-term stewardship and protection of Lexington's open spaces, natural environment, and historic resources.
- Maintain the Town's open space and recreational facilities and promote their accessibility to all of Lexington's citizens.

<sup>1</sup> Note that this list represents the top five vote getters, but in some cases, more people indicated there was an adequate amount.

The goals that establish the Town's policies for this plan are as follows:

1. Establish and implement a land management program that will assure optimal maintenance and use of conservation lands.
2. Protect Lexington's natural environment, both within and beyond the borders of open space and recreational properties.
3. Promote public use of recreational facilities and open space among a wide variety of user types.
4. Provide a balance of recreational activities for all of Lexington's citizens.
5. Preserve and enhance the scenic and historical value of Lexington.
6. Enhance connectivity between open space and recreation areas.
7. Acquire parcels that are important from an environmental, recreational, or historical perspective.
8. Protect and maintain Lexington's brooks.
9. Preserve, protect, and improve Lexington's recreational infrastructure.

More details on the specific objectives under each goal can be found in *Section 8, Goals and Objectives*.

The Town Recreation Department and Conservation Division took this input and weighed in on which goals they felt were feasible and of high priority. Town staff met monthly, and a representative of VHB attended all meetings, some of which focused on certain areas of the plan. Through this process, the Town focused in on a final set of policy and action plan imperatives. These discussions resulted in the final set of goals and objectives in *Section 8*.

# 7

## Analysis of Needs

This Analysis of Needs was created by reviewing the 2008 survey conducted by the Town as part of this planning process, assessing the input from the two public forums held in March and June 2008, evaluating the Recreation 5 Year Capital Plan, and other research into Lexington's resource, community, and management needs. This analysis summarizes the major open space issues and concerns facing the Town in 2008 and in the future.

---

### 7.1 Summary of Resource Protection Needs

The Town continues to address the following six general areas of concern as outlined in the 1997 Plan:

- General Open Space and Recreation Needs
- Regional Resource Protection Needs
- Historical Resource Protection Needs
- Water Resource Protection Needs
- Wildlife Resource Protection Needs
- Vegetation Resource Protection Needs

It is understood that these areas of need have broad overlap; however, the Town presents each specific resource protection need under the area of concern in which it best fits.

#### General Open Space and Recreation Needs

---

The diversity in age, ethnicity, and income in Lexington's population indicate a need to provide open space and recreation opportunities that appeal to a wide variety of potential users. The fact that Lexington's population is getting older, as noted in *Section 3.3, Population Characteristics*, points toward a need for open space and recreation areas that allow access for elderly and disabled residents, entrances that permit access, and trails that are well marked and conducive to "easy" walks. In fact, walkable, accessible areas generally ranked very highly in the survey for what people liked about Lexington's open spaces.

The Recreation Committee and Conservation Division have surveyed buildings and open spaces in Lexington to determine which ones meet current ADA guidelines and identified where improvements are needed.

## Regional Resource Protection Needs

---

Successful implementation of a good open space plan for Lexington requires cooperation with nearby communities and resource-oriented organizations in the region. The Town should continue and expand upon efforts to coordinate with neighboring communities regarding the protection and maintenance of open space areas that provide green corridors across town boundaries. Areas in Lexington that are particularly important to consider in the context of regional natural resource planning include Arlington's Great Meadow, the Cambridge Reservoir area, the Beaver Brook North area (connecting with Waltham and Belmont via the Western Greenway), the Lexington-Burlington border along Burlington's landlocked forest, and the area surrounding Minuteman National Historic Park (connecting with Lincoln and Concord).

Additionally, many of the historical sites in Lexington (together with their associated open spaces) reveal their full significance only when presented in the context of their relationship to historical sites in other communities. Lexington could best present the significance of its Revolutionary War historical sites if all the communities along the Revolutionary War battle route from Boston to Concord coordinate their presentations of this historic story, which in part is done through the Minuteman National Historic Park.

## Historical Resource Protection Needs

---

Historic preservation has always been a high priority for the Town of Lexington. In June 2006, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Freedom's Way Heritage Association prepared the Freedom's Way Landscape Inventory, called the *Lexington Reconnaissance Report*. The Freedom's Way Heritage Association includes 37 Massachusetts municipalities that "are linked by historic events that helped to shape America's democratic form of governance and the intellectual traditions that underpin American freedom, democracy, conservation and social justice".<sup>1</sup> Heritage landscapes are defined in the report as "special places created by human interaction with the natural environment that help define the character of a community and reflect its past".<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Freedom's Way Heritage Association, *Lexington Reconnaissance Report*, June 2006, p.1

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

The report identifies dozens of heritage landscapes that fall into a variety of different categories, including agriculture, burial grounds, village, industrial, institutional, military, open spaces and parks, residential, transportation, and water bodies. There were three main areas of concern raised by the report. First, landscape stewardship was cited, although there was a recognition that the Town and private entities have done a good job in developing management plans for many of the properties. However, the loss of some heritage landscapes was seen as a loss. Second, regional landscapes such as the Arlington Reservoir, Battle Road, Arlington's Great Meadow, and the Minuteman Bikeway were listed, and the report recommends that the Town continue to play a leadership role in communicating with neighboring communities. Third, the report mentioned the lack of a scenic roads bylaw and recommends that such a bylaw be adopted. These and other recommendations from this report are addressed in the five-year action plan in *Section 9*.

## **Water Resource Protection Needs**

---

The only large pond in Lexington is the Old Reservoir, which serves as the town's recreational swimming area with a beach and lifeguards. As mentioned in *Section 4*, a 2007 study identified bacteria contamination for stormwater outfalls along Marrett Road. Historically, Vine Brook, which runs through the center of Town, has offered trout fishing, but in recent years this brook runs too low during the summer months. Perhaps because it is not expected, the community has never indicated a desire for the Town to provide any opportunities for fishing or boating, such as at the Old Res. Neighboring towns offer these forms of recreation.

Lexington has 20 brooks that all flow out of town, which means that they are of special concern for downstream communities in Arlington, Belmont, Waltham, Lincoln, Bedford, Burlington, and Woburn. All of these brooks face challenges posed by non-point source pollution due to runoff from roadways, houses, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces, as well as from inputs such as pesticides and fertilizers. For instance, the Arlington Reservoir, which lies partially in Arlington and partially in Lexington, faces a major aquatic weed problem (water chestnut) due to nutrient overloading from lawn and farm run-off entering the reservoir via Lexington's Munroe Brook. More focused efforts are needed to address the degradation that stormwater run-off causes in the town's brooks. The Town's new volunteer-based Watershed Stewardship Program will help to advance those efforts.

## **Fisheries and Wildlife Protection Needs**

---

Lexington's open spaces provide important habitat for wildlife in a densely human-populated area of the state. Lexington's residents generally tend to have an

appreciation for wildlife; for instance, in a 1993 survey<sup>3</sup>, 80% of respondents indicated that the maintenance of brooks for wildlife habitat was important to them. Additionally, wide diversity of wildlife supports the ecological health of natural areas. Lexington should continue to identify and certify vernal ponds, undertake land management efforts that enhance wildlife habitat, and expand the network of wildlife corridors within town and connect with other towns.

## Vegetation Protection Needs

---

The Conservation Commission should encourage vegetative surveys, particularly in wetland areas, identify threats to plant diversity, and ensure the protection of unique plant communities. In addition, there is a need to identify trails that are vulnerable to erosion and loss of vegetation and clearly mark and maintain trails to encourage hikers to stay on them rather than trample vegetation.

---

## 7.2 Summary of Community Needs

### Park and Recreation Needs

---

The survey conducted early in the planning process noted important needs and concerns about active outdoor recreational facilities, mostly dealing with maintenance. This is an ongoing concern for communities across the Commonwealth, and the Town of Lexington has made significant upgrades to many of its facilities. However, facility maintenance and improvements are constantly on the Town's radar screen as evidenced by the Recreation 5 Year Capital Plan, the most current of which covers FY 2010 – FY 2014.

A number of Lexington's playing fields are designated for multi-sport use. During the busy spring, summer, and fall sports seasons, most of these fields are in constant



*The Center Recreation Complex facilitates, among others: track and field, football, soccer, and tennis.*

use by high school teams, organized youth sports leagues, and the public. Sports participation has increased in recent years, which creates further field availability and maintenance problems.

The Department also runs extensive programs for people of all ages. Programs are run for the spring/summer period as well as the fall/winter. Lexington residents are given preference, but the programs are generally available to others. Although most programs are run from Lexington facilities, some are off-site, such as ski programs at Nashoba Valley Ski Area. Brochures advertising the programs are mailed out to all Lexington households and posted on the Department's website.

## Enterprise Fund

---

As noted on the Recreation Department's website:

The Lexington Recreation Department has operated as an Enterprise Fund since 1991. Recreation programs are self-supported by setting user fees to cover all expenses. The Director of Recreation, through the Recreation Committee, sets fees with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. The Recreation Department operating budget supports staff that manages and delivers recreation programs along with the supplies needed to operate those programs. Surplus revenues generated through the Recreation Enterprise (Recreation and Pine Meadows Golf Club) helps fund Capital Improvement Projects and financially supports some services provided to the Recreation Department by the Department of Public Works, Public Grounds Division, and payment of \$100,000 per year towards the Lincoln Park debt.<sup>4</sup>

This is somewhat unique in that most recreation departments require operating funds from the municipal budget. That being said, the enterprise fund cannot cover all of the capital improvements identified in the 5 Year Capital Plan.

## Lexington Parks and Playing Fields

---

Lexington has numerous playing fields and courts, playgrounds and tot lots, swimming facilities, picnic areas, and recreation areas as listed below.

### **Aquatics and Swimming Facilities:**

- Center Complex, four pools, Worthen Rd.
- Old Reservoir, Marrett Rd.

### **Baseball Fields:**

- Center #1, Worthen Rd.

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/recreationdepartment.cfm>, October 17, 2008

- Center #5, Worthen Rd.
- Clarke #1, Clarke Middle School, Stedman Rd.
- Diamond #1, Diamond Middle School, Hancock St.

**Basketball Courts:**

- Adams, Mass Ave.
- Baskin, Wyman Rd.
- Center Courts, Worthen Rd.
- Estabrook, Estabrook School, Grove St.
- Fiske, Fiske School, Adams St.
- Harrington, Harrington School, Lowell St.
- Rindge, Rindge Ave.
- Sutherland, Sutherland Rd.

**Bicycle Routes:**

- Bike Routes Throughout Lexington
- Minuteman Bikeway

**Fitness Path:**

- Teresa & Roberta Lee Fitness Path, Worthen Rd.

**Football Field:**

- Crumb High School Football Field, Park Dr.

**Golf Course:**

- Pine Meadows Golf Course, Cedar St.



*A pack of golfers get ready to test their skills with an early spring round at Pine Meadows.*



*The little league field at Garfield Park.*

#### **Little League Fields:**

- Bowman #1, Bowman School, Phillip Rd.
- Bridge #1, Bridge School, Middleby Rd.
- Center #4, "Fitzgerald Little League Field", Park Dr.
- Fiske #1, Fiske School, Adams St.
- Fiske #2, Fiske School, Adams St.
- Franklin #1, Allen Rd.
- Garfield #1, Garfield St.
- Harrington #1, Harrington School, Lowell St.
- Hastings #1, Hastings School, Crosby Rd.
- Lincoln #1, Lincoln St.
- Sutherland #1, Sutherland Rd.

#### **Tee Ball Fields:**

- Bridge Triangle, Bridge School, Middleby Rd.
- Estabrook Tee, Estabrook School, Grove St.
- Kinneens #1, Hancock St.
- Munroe #1, Mass Ave.
- Rindge #1, Rindge Ave.

#### **Open Recreation/Conservation Land:**

- Hennessey Estate, Robinson Rd.
- Willard's Woods, North St.

#### **Picnic Areas:**

- Old Reservoir Picnic Area, Marrett Rd.
- Tower Park, Mass. Ave.
- Willard's Woods, North St.
- Lincoln Park, Lincoln St.

#### **Recreation Playgrounds and Tot Lots:**

- Adams Playground, Mass Ave. (Ages 5-12)
- Bow/Oxford Street Park, Bow St. (Swings)
- Center Playground, Park Drive (Ages 2-5 and 5-12)
- Franklin Park, Allen St. (Ages 5-12)
- Garfield Park, Garfield St. (Ages 2-5 and 5-12)
- Justin Park, Justin St. (Ages 2-5)
- Kinneens Park, Burlington St. (Ages 5-12)
- Lincoln Park, Lincoln St. (Ages 2-5 and 5-12)
- Marvin Park, Marvin St. (Ages 2-5)
- Munroe School Tot Lot, Mass Ave. (Ages 2-5)
- Rindge Playground, Rindge Ave. (Ages 2-5)
- Sutherland Park, Sutherland St. (Ages 5-12)

#### **Rest Rooms:**

- Center Playground, Park Dr.

### Running Outdoor Track:

- Center Track, Worthen Dr.



*The Center Recreation Complex skate park has proven an enormous success.*

### Skate Park:

- Center Recreation Complex, Worthen Road

### Softball Fields (Skinned dirt infield):

- Bridge #2, Bridge School, Middleby Rd.
- Clarke #2, Clarke Middle School, Stedman Rd.
- Center #2, Worthen Rd. (field with lights for night play)
- Diamond #2, Diamond Middle School, Hancock St.
- Estabrook #1, Estabrook School, Grove St.
- Harrington #2, Harrington School, Lowell St.
- Lincoln #2, Lincoln St.

### Soccer or Lacrosse Fields:

- Adams #1, Mass Ave. (¾ size field)
- Center of Track, Worthen Rd. (Full size field)
- Clarke #1, Clarke Middle School, Stedman Rd. (Full size field)
- Diamond #1, Diamond Middle School, Hancock St. (Full size field)
- Harrington #1, Harrington School, Lowell St. (¾ size field)
- Lincoln #1, Lincoln St. - Infill synthetic turf (Full size field)
- Lincoln #2, Lincoln St. - Infill synthetic turf (Full size field)
- Lincoln #3, Lincoln St. - Infill synthetic turf (Full size field)
- Muzzey #1, Mass Ave. (¾ size field)
- Worthen #1, Worthen Rd. (¾ size field)



*Mothers wheel their kids towards a day a fun at Lincoln Park.*

### Tennis Courts:

- Adams Tennis Courts, Mass Ave. – 2 courts
- Clarke Tennis Courts, Clarke Middle School, Stedman Rd. – 3 courts
- Gallagher Tennis Courts, Worthen Rd (lights for night play) – 10 courts
- Valley Tennis Courts, Valley Rd. – 2 courts

## 5 Year Capital Plan

---

The FY 2010 – FY 2014 Capital Plan identifies a number of projects that the Recreation department deems necessary to maintain and upgrade facilities. Some of the projects involve more urgent repairs and are therefore higher on the priority list. Funding sources are identified and may include Community Preservation Act money, Town funds, or other grant sources.

Among the more significant items in the Plan are the following:

- Old Reservoir Management – stormwater management study, dam repairs, and dredging of the retention pond
- Center Recreation Complex restroom renovation
- athletic field renovations at the Bridge School
- pond preservation work at Pine Meadows
- lighting upgrades at the Center basketball and tennis courts
- Town Pool renovations
- improvements to the playgrounds at Munroe, Franklin, and Adams Playgrounds
- hard court resurfacing projects

## ADA Issues

---

As part of this planning process, staff from the Recreation Department and Conservation Division conducted ADA assessments of each of the Town-owned recreational and conservation properties. A number of improvements have been made since the last plan was prepared in 1997. However, additional upgrades will be required during the course of this plan, which will be addressed in the Five Year Action Plan.

## SCORP

---

In 2006, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts produced a document called the *Massachusetts Outdoors 2006, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP).<sup>5</sup> The SCORP document looks at open space and recreation from a regional perspective. The purpose of the plan is to help direct the best investment of funds and effort towards protecting and enhancing recreation resources.

---

<sup>5</sup> *Massachusetts Outdoors 2006, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*, Division of Conservation Services, 2006.

Lexington is located in the Northeast Region of the SCORP, a fairly urbanized and densely populated area, particularly along the eastern edge, where Lexington sits (adjacent to the Metropolitan Boston Region). With the population density at such levels in this part of the region, land available for open space and recreation is more limited than in other parts of Massachusetts. This region ranks fifth out of seven SCORP regions for both open space acreage and land area in recreational use. However, the region is tied with the Central Region for the highest number of individual sites, which implies that the average size of open space and recreational parcels in the region is smaller than most others. The report cites Lexington as being a town that has had a long-term commitment to preserving open space, although there tends to be less land held by private non-profit entities (i.e. Lexington does not have a local land trust).

The most popular activities in this region's open space areas include swimming, walking, sightseeing, hiking, and fishing; following these are baseball, soccer, sunbathing, and tot lot activity. The Town of Lexington provides opportunities for many of these pastimes, such as walking and biking along the Minuteman Bikeway and on many of the Town's conservation areas, and playing various sports on the Town's recreational properties. There are also numerous cultural and historical opportunities for sightseeing, both in Lexington and nearby within the region.

Among the more heavily used resources in the region are golf courses, neighborhood parks, playgrounds and tot lots, lakes and ponds, and historic and cultural sites. Agricultural sites and wetland resources were less frequently used, although there was a high level of satisfaction relating to them. Also, high levels of satisfaction were reported for historic and cultural sites and wildlife conservation areas. However, there was less satisfaction with lakes and ponds, bikeway availability (this may be true for the region as a whole, but the presence of the Minuteman Bikeway makes this finding inconsistent with the Lexington survey results), and rivers and streams.

It was indicated that the most pressing need among the region's residents is improved maintenance of existing facilities. Open space and recreational planning in Lexington addresses this need through the ongoing capital plan. In terms of other regional facility needs cited, road biking, swimming, walking, golfing, and basketball facilities ranked high. Additional needs included more playgrounds and neighborhood parks, as well as better access to agricultural lands, lakes and ponds, and rivers and streams.

---

## 7.3 Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

The main management needs Lexington faces today relate to how the Town manages its open spaces and recreational facilities. In particular, the Town needs to:

- Provide capital funding for maintenance, ADA compliance, and upgrading of parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces
- Empower the Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission to facilitate, help implement, update and advance the goals of this Open Space Plan

Lexington is fortunate regarding the funding of its park and recreation facilities and programs. The Recreation Department operates as an Enterprise Fund and is self-supported through the user fees it charges for fields and activities. Additionally, the Town has adopted the Community Preservation Act, which can provide funds to support park and open space acquisitions. That being said, like most communities, it is unlikely that the Town is in a position to purchase as many additional parcels for open space and recreation as it may wish. Moreover, as expenses and maintenance needs increase, the Recreation Department may not be in a position where all short- and long-term needs can be met.

A high level of open space and recreational facility interest and commitment exists on behalf of the citizens by those who serve on the Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission, and many other neighborhood and Friends groups. This interest indicates the potential for expanded citizen support for park, playground, and other open space revitalization.

---

### Need for Open Space and Recreation Facility Management Plans

Lexington would benefit from overall conservation and recreation facility management plans that would make use of existing Town management structures and resources. These management plans would provide roadmaps to implement many of the goals of this Open Space and Recreation Plan. They would also be a tool for increased public support in making the Town's parks and open spaces the best that they can be and ensuring that every part of the Town, and every major segment of the population, has access to the most up-to-date and suitable facilities possible.

In addition to an overarching conservation and recreation facility management plans, each major conservation and recreation site needs an individualized, more fine-scaled management plan. These management plans can help the Town to respond to

long-term and short-term needs relating to conservation and recreation areas in an organized and systematic way. They can also serve as a tool for lobbying for Town resources and outside funds to implement improvements. The plans could include the following information as a service to the general public as well as a repository of information on the site:

1. Location, boundaries, and acreage (including site map with features, facilities, and trails)
2. Site history
3. Current uses
4. Current ownership, protection status, and management entity
5. Natural resource inventory
6. Natural resource management efforts (i.e. invasive species, streams, mowing, trails)
7. Other maintenance efforts (i.e. signage, trash removal, parking areas)
8. Connectivity with other open space and recreation areas
9. Financial support
10. Site rules
11. Friends and other volunteer groups
12. Handicapped accessibility
13. Other items relevant to the site (e.g., plant or bird lists, beach report for the Reservoir, etc.)

These management plans could help to:

- Evaluate the possible conflicting needs in land-use decisions
- Coordinate volunteer efforts on conservation and recreation land
- Facilitate interaction with other Town departments, such as Building, Health, and Public Works/Engineering, to follow through when collaborative action is needed
- Facilitate coordination efforts with the Conservation Commissions of neighboring towns

The site management plans should be reviewed every few years to keep them up-to-date with recent improvements and to document new problems.

The Lexington Conservation Commission has a strong working relationship with two active volunteer groups, the Lexington Conservation Stewards and the Citizens for Lexington Conservation, which are currently active in planning and undertaking many land management projects, such as maintaining/improving trails, controlling invasive species, monitoring conservation areas, and leading nature-related walks. Additionally, the Lincoln Park Sub-committee, which is a sub-committee of the Recreation Committee, is active in stewarding Lincoln Park. These organizations can be engaged in the land management planning process by contributing background and input for the plans.

# 8

## Goals and Objectives

---

### 8.1 Vision Statement and Open Space and Recreation Goals and Objectives

The natural landscape of Lexington includes densely vegetated forest lands, historic meadows, important wildlife corridors, land significant to water quality protection, and wetland resources. Lexington also has a rather extensive network of parks, playgrounds, and protected natural areas that are fairly well distributed throughout the Town. In finalizing the list of goals for the 2008 OSRP, the Town of Lexington set out to continue the traditions of protecting and augmenting these open space and recreational resources. With that in mind, the goals are focused on enhancements, maintenance, protection, acquisition, and stewardship (Refer to *Section 6, Community Goals* to understand the process of developing the goals and objectives for this 2008 Plan). Explicitly, they are:

---

#### **Goal 1: Establish and implement a land management program that will assure optimal maintenance and use of conservation lands.**

##### **Objectives:**

- Develop a formal framework for land management plans and conservation-oriented geodatabases that address town-wide and site-specific use, maintenance, and improvement of conservation land.
- Actively support existing volunteer organizations that assist Town staff in monitoring and maintaining conservation land.
- Increase fundraising efforts that replenish existing conservation trusts that can be used to maintain, improve, and acquire conservation lands.
- Increase user compliance with conservation land regulations, educate users about leave-no-trace guidelines, and reduce user conflicts.

---

**Goal 2: Protect Lexington's natural environment, both within and beyond the borders of open space and recreational properties.**

**Objectives:**

- Conserve and protect the water and wetland resources of Lexington.
- Reduce sources of air and water pollution within Lexington.
- Encourage neighboring municipalities to protect their bordering lands of conservation or wetland significance.
- Institute an aggressive invasive species control program.

---

**Goal 3: Promote public use of recreational facilities and open space among a wide variety of user types.**

**Objectives:**

- Utilize various media outlets to promote the Town's conservation and recreation properties and facilities.
- Whenever possible, provide access to programs and facilities for residents with disabilities in compliance with ADA standards.
- Increase conservation education and information offerings through websites development, kiosks, and other outlets.
- Identify ways to increase the use of recreational facilities and programs.

---

**Goal 4: Provide a balance of recreational activities for all of Lexington's citizens.**

- Maximize the use of current facilities.
- Locate sites that could be utilized for indoor facilities.
- Work with other Town departments and private organizations to expand program offerings.
- Maintain and promote the use of Pine Meadows Golf Course.
- Provide for play areas within each neighborhood.
- Develop diverse programs for people of all ages.
- Increase year-round program offerings.

---

**Goal 5: Preserve and enhance the scenic value and historical value of Lexington.**

**Objectives:**

- Preserve Lexington’s heritage through protection of historically significant areas.
- Maintain existing properties in order to enhance scenic value and preserve or increase plant and animal life diversity.

---

**Goal 6: Enhance connectivity between open space and recreation areas.**

**Objectives:**

- Implement the West Lexington Greenway Master Plan recommendations.
- Expand and maintain the network of trails within and connections outside of Lexington.
- Improve entryway signage and access to conservation and recreation areas.

---

**Goal 7: Acquire parcels that are important from an environmental, recreational, or historical perspective.**

**Objectives:**

- Identify and, when possible, acquire parcels of value that have one or more of the following attributes:
  - enhances Town character
  - provides wildlife habitat or connects isolated areas of habitat
  - protects water quality
  - contains important or unique natural features and resources
  - improves public access to open space
  - has historical or cultural value
  - provides recreational opportunities
  - connects existing town open space parcels to facilitate non-motorized transportation and recreation routes.
- Establish strategies for acquiring important properties that are threatened by development or that unexpectedly become available.

---

**Goal 8: Protect and maintain Lexington’s brooks.**

**Objectives:**

- Increase town-wide public outreach and educational offerings regarding the protection of brook health and function in town.

- Continue with efforts to establish a Watershed Stewardship volunteer program that monitors brooks for degradation and plans for remediation activities.
- Work to minimize stormwater run-off pollution impacts, sedimentation, and erosion into brooks.
- Work to minimize invasive species occurrences in brooks and along brook banks.

---

**Goal 9: Preserve, protect, and improve Lexington’s recreational infrastructure.**

**Objectives:**

- Continue long-range planning for improvements to recreational facilities.
- Prioritize park maintenance and focus on facilities that experience the highest use.
- Organize maintenance activities for maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

# 9

## Five Year Action Plan

---

### 9.1 Introduction

The Five Year Action Plan is based on the goals and objectives of the previous section. To ensure the implementation on a year-to-year basis of these actions, the Town of Lexington should clearly identify a committee comprised of representatives from Town staff and existing boards and commissions that will be in charge of ensuring this Plan is used and followed. The committee will be responsible not only for overall implementation of the plan, but would also work to ensure that public outreach and education is achieved.

The Five Year Action Plan is often the most difficult component of an Open Space and Recreation Plan. Unlike the lofty goals and objectives of the previous sections, here is where the rubber meets the road, where the planning ideals are translated into concrete actions. An Action Plan can sometimes be difficult to commit to and be problematic to review over time. Items that have been accomplished fade from view, while the more intractable problems linger for years. Financial and political trends may change, advancing some items while leaving others untouched. For these reasons alone, many communities are hesitant to put in writing the full scope of their intentions.

The following action plan intends to deliver on the promise of the goals and objectives expressed throughout this process, with a program of tangible steps for the Town to take over the next five years. There is a high level of activity already underway on many of these steps, based upon the input received during the planning process.

These actions are targeted to address the physical as well as the organizational issues confronting the Town, as described and analyzed in *Section 7, Analysis of Needs*. The five year action plan described below works to correct these “process” problems, while still maintaining a focus on the substantive issues of open space and recreation preservation, acquisition, enhancement, management, and maintenance. In addition to the more detailed plan below, some key items are displayed on *Map 11, Action Plan and Priorities*.

Some of these actions may already be well underway; others are ongoing but need additional support. And while all actions listed are recognized as important, four areas in particular rise to the top as being absolutely essential for any future progress towards meeting the goals of this Plan:

Obtaining support from Town staff, commissions, and boards that open space and recreation is a central and lasting priority for Lexington. While it is to be understood that there may be competing needs in the Town, all groups must abide by the central tenet that these issues are extremely important to the residents of Lexington. Essentially, this was the tone of the public comments and survey responses, both of which reinforced the need for the Town to have and maintain high quality open space and recreational resources. Where open space and recreational resources are concerned, the goals and policies of this Plan and the committee members and staff of the Town must be consulted. Furthermore, groups must agree in advance on the proper decision making procedures to be followed in such matters.

Creating some form of an oversight committee. If the ambitious goals and objectives of this Plan are to be achieved, there needs to be a single committee charged with overseeing progress and coordinating the actions and priorities of the various groups. Such a committee would be comprised of representatives of relevant departments, boards, committees and commissions and would meet as needed to address plan implementation. The committee would receive staff assistance from the Recreation Department, Conservation Division, and Planning Department. It also could coordinate with committees of neighboring municipalities to the extent possible on issues of regional concern (such as the Minuteman Bikeway and land surrounding the Cambridge Reservoir, for example).

Securing additional sources of funding, staffing, and other support for park facility maintenance and enhancement. One of the Town's main concerns is the need to maintain and enhance its existing parks and playing fields. Resources to achieve these goals can be scarce and the Town must be creative in how funds are raised. Several recommendations are made specifically to identify the means for spreading the responsibility specifically for parks maintenance, such as creating "friends of" groups for local parks and working with Lexington's Conservation Stewards.

Implementation of the West Lexington Greenway Plan. The West Lexington Greenway Plan will create a connected network of trails for walking and biking, which will further enhance connectivity in and to West Lexington from other portions of the Town. The action plan strategies below incorporate the recommendations from that plan.

## 9.2 Five Year Action Plan

Five Year Action Plan	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Goal 1: Establish and implement a land management program that will assure optimal maintenance and use of conservation lands.</b>					
Develop a strategy for creating a conservation land management plan that addresses both town-wide and site-specific issues <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, volunteer hours	■				
Write the conservation land management plan and create a geographic information system related to the plan <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town		■	■		
Implement the conservation land management plan <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, volunteer hours		■	■	■	■
Increase support to volunteer organizations that assist Town staff in monitoring and maintaining Town conservation lands <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town	■	■	■	■	■
Increase fundraising efforts to replenish existing conservation trusts <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Citizen donations	■	■	■	■	■
Install kiosks at major entryways to conservation areas <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, grants, volunteer hours			■	■	■
Post leave-no-trace guidelines, conservation land regulations, and other conservation-related information on new kiosks at major conservation entrances <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, grants, volunteer hours			■	■	■

Five Year Action Plan	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Goal 2: Protect Lexington's natural environment, both within and beyond the borders of open space and recreational properties.</b>					
Continue to identify, certify, and protect vernal pools in Lexington. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach to landowners regarding vernal pool identification and certification</li> <li>• Adopt a regulation regarding vernal pools under the Wetlands Protection bylaw</li> </ul> <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, grants		■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■	■ ■
Continue to implement Watershed Stewardship Program to address stormwater run-off pollution and other issues affecting brook health and function (see Goal 8) <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, grants	■	■	■	■	■
Outreach to the public regarding Lexington's Anti-Idling bylaw to reduce air pollution <i>Responsible Party:</i> Board of Health <i>Funding:</i> Town, grants		■	■	■	■
Reduce Lexington's carbon footprint <i>Responsible Party:</i> Global Warming Action Coalition, Climate Action Plan Ad-Hoc Committee <i>Funding:</i> Town, grants	■	■	■	■	■
Coordinate with neighboring municipalities to protect and maintain bordering lands of conservation or wetland significance <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, volunteer hours	■	■	■	■	■
Develop a plan for strategically managing invasive plant species in Lexington, working with the Tree Committee, volunteer citizen groups, non-profit organizations, and schools. <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, grants, volunteer hours	■	■			
Implement invasive species management plan with help from the Tree Committee, volunteer citizen groups, non-profit organizations, and schools. <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, grants, volunteer hours			■	■	■
Restore Upper Pond Dam at Pine Meadows to preserve ponds. <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town, CPA		■	■		
Address stormwater management issues at Old Reservoir and improve gatehouse/outlet structure and dredge retention pond. <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> 319 Grant, CPA	■	■	■		

<b>Five Year Action Plan</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<p>Improve management of conservation restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Identify parcels located in wetlands or other important resource areas and work with land owners to enter into conservation restrictions</li> <li>* Gather baseline documentation on conservation restrictions held by the Town</li> <li>* Establish a schedule for monitoring restricted parcels</li> <li>* Create a geodatabase of conservation restrictions in town</li> </ul> <p><i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town</p>	■	■	■	■	■
<p>Develop web-based resources to educate Lexington residents on conservation related information</p> <p><i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town</p>	■	■	■	■	■
<b>Goal 3. Promote public use of recreational facilities and open space among a wide variety of user types.</b>					
<p>Increase outreach efforts to local media sources, including the Lexington Minute Man, the Colonial Times, and the Boston Globe Northwest Edition, regarding recreation and conservation resources and programs</p> <p><i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation, Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town</p>	■	■	■	■	■
<p>Offer regular conservation education activities throughout the year</p> <p><i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town</p>		■	■	■	■
<p>Plan and construct improvements that will provide access to programs and facilities for residents with disabilities, using ADA standards</p> <p><i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation, Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town; Urban Self-Help</p>	■	■	■	■	■
<p>Work with other Town departments and citizen groups to identify how to best increase the use of recreational facilities and programs</p> <p><i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town</p>	■	■	■	■	■
<b>Goal 4. Provide a balance of recreational activities for all of Lexington's citizens.</b>					
<p>Maximize use of current facilities</p> <p><i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town</p>	■	■	■	■	■
<p>Increase efforts to promote the use of the Pine Meadows Golf Course</p> <p><i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town</p>	■	■	■	■	■

<b>Five Year Action Plan</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Explore and pursue options for increasing indoor recreation facility space <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town	■	■	■	■	■
Assess the distribution of play areas across town and create plans to install play areas in neighborhoods where they are not currently present <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town	■	■	■	■	■
Collaborate with other Town departments and citizens groups to explore options for expanding programs <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town	■	■	■	■	■
Increase year-round program offerings <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town	■	■	■	■	■
Continue to be cognizant of the need to diversify recreational opportunities to reflect Lexington's demographics <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town	■	■	■	■	■
<b>Goal 5. Preserve and enhance the scenic and historical value of Lexington.</b>					
Compile a list of historic resources that require more documentation based upon priority heritage landscapes. <sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• document secondary features such as barns, stone walls, and landscape elements</li> <li>• record historic resources including landscape features and industrial resources</li> <li>• conduct community-wide archaeological survey.</li> </ul> <i>Responsible Party:</i> Historical Commission <i>Funding:</i> Historic Landscape Preservation grant Program	■	■	■		
Adopt a scenic roads bylaw and designate selected roads as scenic. <sup>2</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inventory and document scenic roads</li> <li>• develop policies for road maintenance and reconstruction on historic or scenic roads.</li> </ul> <i>Responsible Party:</i> Planning Board <i>Funding:</i> n/a	■	■	■		

<sup>1</sup> See Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Freedom's Way Heritage Association, *Lexington Reconnaissance Report*, June 2006,  
<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Five Year Action Plan	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Goal 6. Enhance connectivity between open space and recreation areas.</b>					
Continue to pursue implementation of the West Lexington Greenway to connect the Minuteman Bikeway with Minuteman National Historic Park's Battle Road <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, grants	■	■	■	■	■
Work with neighboring communities and citizen groups to formalize trail connections between open space and recreation areas within and outside of Lexington <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, grants	■	■	■	■	■
Create a town-wide map showing trails on and connecting open space and recreational areas in Lexington. <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, volunteer hours			■	■	
Install standardized entryway signage and trail markers on open space areas <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation, Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town			■	■	■
<b>Goal 7. Acquire parcels that are important from an environmental, recreational, or historical perspective.</b>					
Identify parcels that have one or more of the following attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enhances Town character</li> <li>provides wildlife habitat or connects isolated areas of habitat</li> <li>protects water quality</li> <li>contains important natural features and resources</li> <li>improves public access to open space</li> <li>has historical or cultural value</li> <li>provides recreational opportunities</li> <li>connects existing Town open space parcels to facilitate non-motorized transportation routes and recreation routes</li> </ul> <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation, Recreation, Historical Commission <i>Funding:</i> Self-Help, CPA, Town	■	■	■	■	■
Resolve land ownership/easement issues related to the West Lexington Greenway and seek funding to acquire any necessary easements or parcels. <i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Self-Help, CPA	■	■			
Create a land acquisition committee through the Board of Selectmen <i>Responsible Party:</i> Board of Selectmen <i>Funding:</i> n/a	■				

Five Year Action Plan	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Goal 8. Protect and maintain Lexington's brooks.</b>					
Continue to implement the Watershed Stewardship program to address stormwater run-off pollution and other issues affecting brook health and function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schedule brook clean-up days to remove unnatural trash from brooks and to clear outfall blockages</li> <li>Work with the Town's DPW department to address sedimentation and outfall issues identified through shoreline surveys</li> <li>Install "Don't Dump—Drains to Brook" on storm drains in town</li> <li>Conduct water quality testing at targeted areas to identify sources of water pollution</li> <li>Conduct education and outreach to citizens regarding water quality and stormwater run-off pollution</li> </ul> <p><i>Responsible Party:</i> Conservation <i>Funding:</i> Town, grants</p>	■	■	■	■	■
<b>Goal 9: Preserve, protect, and improve Lexington's recreational infrastructure.</b>					
Renovate Center Complex restrooms <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town		■	■		
Implement improvements to athletic fields at Bridge School, Center Complex, Hastings, Garfield, and Adams <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation, DPW <i>Funding:</i> Town	■	■	■	■	■
Encourage the involvement and coordination of youth groups, sports teams, and other user groups in maintaining playing fields <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Town	■	■	■	■	■
Replace lighting at the Center tennis and basketball courts <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Recreation: Town		■		■	
Undertake Town Pool renovations <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Recreation			■		
Update and renovate playground structures at Munroe, Franklin, and Adams Playgrounds to meet safety and ADA requirements <i>Responsible Party:</i> Recreation <i>Funding:</i> Recreation: Town				■	■

<b>Five Year Action Plan</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Resurface hard courts at Center basketball courts, outdoor track, and tennis courts, and neighborhood basketball courts <i>Responsible Party: Recreation</i> <i>Funding: Recreation: Town</i>	■	■	■	■	■
Continue to monitor and respond to maintenance issues at Town parks, playgrounds, and ball fields <i>Responsible Party: Recreation</i> <i>Funding: Recreation: Town (as needed)</i>	■	■	■	■	■
Explore options for providing a sustainable off-leash activity area for dogs			■	■	