

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN



Prepared by:

Planning & Economic Development Department
Fairhaven, MA

Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District
Taunton, MA



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
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April 16, 2009

William D. Roth, Jr.
Town of Fairhaven
Department of Planning and Economic Development
Town Hall
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. ^{Bill}~~Roth~~:

Thank you for submitting Fairhaven's Open Space and Recreation Plan to this office for review for compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I am pleased to write that the plan is approved. This final approval will allow Fairhaven to participate in DCS grant rounds through September 2013.

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

Sincerely,

Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager

cc: Board of Selectmen
Parks and Grounds Division
Conservation Commission

RECEIVED

APR 21 2009

FAIRHAVEN PLANNING &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

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Section 1: Plan Summary

The 2008 Open Space Plan and Recreation Plan illustrates both the process made by the Town in implementing the actions prescribed in the 1995 plan, as well as a vision for the future that capitalizes in past successes (shown on the Action Plan Map; it and all other maps are at the end of this report). The Fairhaven Open Space System features the ongoing, development of a pedestrian and bicycle network, which connects the various sections of Town with each other. The Phoenix multi-use path, which uses an abandoned railroad right-of-way, serves as the main spine of this network. The more recently completed Little Bay multi-use path extension is the first step towards a connection of the Sconticut Neck area and the ultimate connection to the Town Beach located on West Island. This connection, when completed would, consist of a combination of a multi-use path, striped bike lanes on Sconticut Neck Road, and a bike route from the causeway to the Town beach. This connection would be accessible in most parts with a smooth surface and small parking areas for residents arriving by car to walk on the trail portion of the network. The Little Bay trail provides rest areas along the route as well as views of the marshes. There are currently no other areas offering views of the marshes, which are accessible to elder, younger and physically challenged residents.

The Action Plan also shows the multi-use trail connections running north and south off the length of the trail from the New Boston Road and Poverty Point areas to Fort Phoenix and West Island. Within the proposed trail system, New Boston Road, Gellette Road, Shaw Road, Green Street, Fort Street and Causeway Road are shown as potential Town-designated “scenic roads” in order to protect their special character. Potential “pocket parks” are shown as small resting areas along popular walking routes such as Willow Park off Fort Street. These kinds of places, along with proposals to provide a range of recreational facilities for all age groups in town, will become particularly important as the majority of the Town’s residents become older.

Other Open Space and Recreation Plan features include the protection of Fairhaven’s coastal and fresh water resources, through planned acquisition of key lands, and continued management of land resources impacting coastal and ground and surface water resources. Also included are proposals to provide a range of recreation facilities for all age groups in Town, recognizing especially that the population in Town is aging.

The Open Space Plan also highlights areas of particular landscape character. The protection of these areas is considered essential in realizing the goal of maintaining the existing character of the Town. Finally, the Atlas Tack Manufacturing site is shown as a major reuse site. This site has great potential should it be developed as a combination of uses such as elderly housing, retail and recreational facilities. Its location at the ‘in Town’ end of the Phoenix multi-use trail, its view of the marshes, and being connected to the old trolley right-of-way leading to the wharf, sets the stage for this site to be a vibrant community asset for Fairhaven.

The Phoenix Bike Path and extension to Little Bay Bike Loop were completed. This scenic path contains a breath taking view of Little Bay ending at the boat ramp where a picnic area is provided for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors to the Town of Fairhaven.

Section 2: Introduction

Statement of Purpose

The 2008 Fairhaven Open Space and Recreation Plan Update have been prepared to update the 1995 Open Space Plan and 1996 Master Plan. One motivation for the Open Space Plan in 1995 was to maintain eligibility for the state's Self-Help Land Acquisition Program. Given the open space protection goals established in this update eligibility for this funding source remains a high priority. A second important motivation is the recognition of the impacts development has on the quality of life within the Town and to ensure that as the town grows the town also provides a proper mix of open space, conservation and recreation opportunities in Fairhaven. Work on the Open Space Plan and Master Plan updates have indicated the development pressures and future changes facing Fairhaven, and the plan relies on open space, conservation and recreation planning as a major way of shaping future development.

This is the fourth open space and recreation plan prepared for Fairhaven. Items from past plans have been included in the present plan where appropriate. The 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan update reflects the work and thoughts that has occurred in Fairhaven through a number of public and private organizations interested in open space, conservation and recreation. Many of the five-year action plan items from the 1995 Plan have been carried out with considerable success. Fairhaven has done a good job in protecting its environmental and cultural resources and intends to continue its efforts. Development pressures however, have changed, and areas that needed only nominal attention in the past now need concentrated attention. It is a prime purpose of this plan to document, organize and focus this attention.

Highlighted Accomplishments Since 1995 Fairhaven Open Space Plan:

- In 2001, the Fairhaven Recreation Center opened its doors. It is home to the Council on Aging and the Recreation Center, a state of the art gymnasium for the enjoyment of the Fairhaven community. For more information regarding the Fairhaven Recreation Center see Section 5.
- The Phoenix Bike Path and extension to Little Bay Bike Loop was completed. This scenic path contains a breathtaking view of Little Bay, and ends at the boat ramp, where a picnic area is provided for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors to the Town of Fairhaven.
- The Community Preservation Act passed at the 2005 April Town Election in Fairhaven. The money raised from the CPA will be used to purchase property to limit future development; the preservation of open space; rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; and land for recreational use and community housing.
- Fairhaven acquired Hoppy's Landing, 6.4 acres of waterfront property on Causeway Road. The funding for purchasing this property was received by a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the

Seaport Bond Council. This parcel will remain open space to be used by all residents.

- During the fall of 2004, Atlas Tack Superfund site received \$1.8 million to remove the contaminated structure from the Tack site. The removal began in the spring of 2005.
- Reconstruction of Livesey Park is complete. A paved exercise walkway circles the park, tennis courts and basket ball courts were resurfaced, new benches, picnic tables, and plantings have been added. A new handicap accessible playground replaced the previous one. In addition, the skateboard area was expanded.
- The Town of Fairhaven with funding provided by a grant from Harbor Trustee Council has purchased waterfront parcels in the Hacker Street and Highland Avenue area.
- Sconticut Sewer Project has been completed and will provide municipal sewer service to nearly 700 homes.
- The Mattapoissett River Valley Water District has been established between the towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoissett, Marion and Rochester. This is an innovative regional approach to solving water supply problems.
- Improvements have been made to Cushman Park and the High School.
- Natural tidal flow was restored in 2001 to the Winsagansett Salt Marsh. The drainage culvert under Winsagansett Avenue was replaced with two larger diameter pipes. Funding was made available by a combination of grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Agency, the Fish America Foundation, and Massachusetts Highway Department/Ch 90 Program.
- In 2000, new ball fields and tennis courts were added to the Hastings Middle School.
- In 2006 the Town, Coalition for Buzzards Bay and the Fairhaven Acushnet Land Trust with funding from Federal Oil Spill funds, State APR and Town CPA funds purchased a combination of fee ownership and conservation restrictions for the Viveiros Farm on Sconticut Neck.

The accomplishments completed to from Fairhaven open space have gone above and beyond the goals set forth in the 1995 Open Space Plan.

Planning Process and Public Participation

Planning Process

The planning processes employed for the year 2008 update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan involved soliciting input on various sections of the document from the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Public Works, Recreation Commission, Harbor Master, Shellfish Constable, Tourism Commission, Council on Aging, and Bicycle Committee. Each of these Boards or Committees was included in the development and review process as they each represent significant interested parties. The Harbor Master and Shellfish Constable were included in the plan development because they are the point people in charge of all waterfront activities. It was felt that these positions would be important to carrying all water related recommendations. As with all studies, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update included a series of data collection, analysis, goal formulation, concept development, and planning tasks carried out in sequence and coordinated with a public participation program geared toward arriving at plan recommendations most appropriate to the current and future needs of the Town. The Planning Board in cooperation with the Conservation Commission and with technical assistance has led the planning process for this project from Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD). The Fairhaven Planning and Economic Development Department has acted as the key staff to the document. The first phase of the Open Space Plan update involved soliciting input from all Town boards on the accomplishments of the town over the past ten years. These accomplishments are identified in Sections 8 and 9 of this report. In addition staff has updated land use mapping for the Town based upon approved developments and aerial photographs accessed by the town off of the MassGIS website. The public process for the development of the Open Space and Recreation Plan included the review of the draft portions of the document at meetings of the Conservation Commission, Planning Board and the meetings of other committees to whom the document was distributed. One public meeting on the draft plan was held on July 21, 2005, and the public comment period for the draft plan concluded on July 31, 2005. Due to the time delay, a second Public Meeting was held on July 17, 2007.

Public Participation Program

The public participation program for the 2005 and 2007 update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan consisted of review of the accomplishments of the previous plan at public meetings of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Council on Aging and Tourism Committee during December 1999 and January 2000. However, work on the plan was postponed due to staffing and limited resources. The update resumed in the fall of 2001, then again in May of 2005. A public meeting was held on July 21, 2005, a second public meeting was held on July 17, 2007, and the completion of a number of on-site interviews with local individuals, public officials and representatives of organizations. A major purpose of the program was to establish a forum for the formulation of goals and objectives for both planning processes.

The inventory listed in the 1995 Open Space Plan was reviewed and updated and specific projects such as the Town wide bicycle connectivity goal and acquisition of "Hoppy's Landing" were investigated, accomplished, acquired and completed. An on going, field survey of all Town of Fairhaven recreation properties under the jurisdiction of the Town, Board of Public Works, School Committee, Recreation Department and the Conservation Commission was conducted. The Section 504 Accessibility Survey was completed by Wayne Fostin, Building Commissioner and William D. Roth, Jr., Planning Director and Landscape Architect. This

information supplements an earlier ADA Compliance Survey and Report done by MMA Consulting Group, Inc. for the Town of Fairhaven in November 1994, and the work done by PCI for the 1995 Open Space Plan.

For a list of primary researchers and writers of the Open Space Plan, refer to Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 1

Individuals and Organizations Interviewed

Mr. Jeffrey Osuch, Fairhaven Town Executive Secretary
Fairhaven Recreation Department
Board of Public Works
Fairhaven Conservation Commission
Mr. Mark Rasmussen, Executive Director, Coalition for Buzzards Bay
Ms. Deborah Jenkins, Director, Fairhaven Council on Aging
Fairhaven Improvement Association
Fairhaven Planning Board
Mr. William Napolitano, Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
Mr. Kenneth W. Pottel, Chair, Fairhaven Bicycle Committee

Exhibit 2

Open Space Plan

Department of Planning and Economic Development

Project Director: William D. Roth, Jr., AICP, Director of Planning and Economic Development

Project Staff: Marie Ripley, Department of Planning and Economic Development
Nancy Durfee, SRPEDD, Land Use Analyst and Mapping

Section 3: Community Setting

Regional Context

Fairhaven is located on Buzzards Bay in the extreme southeastern corner of Bristol County. The Town is 56 miles south of Boston and 35 miles southeast of Providence, Rhode Island. The Town of Acushnet is to the north, Mattapoisett to the east, in Plymouth County, and the City of New Bedford, New Bedford Harbor and Acushnet River to the west border Fairhaven. Its coastal location and more than 29 miles of coastline are important determining factors in the Town's history, open space character, and the magnitude and distribution of its natural and cultural resources.

Two parallel east-west highways serve Fairhaven. The first is Interstate Route I-195, a limited access highway that runs between Cape Cod and Providence, and has one exit in Fairhaven. The second is U.S. Route 6, an older major commercial route and traffic artery connecting Fairhaven with the communities to its east and west. In addition, State Route 240 provides a short north-

south connection between Route 195 and Route 6. These major routes provide residents of Fairhaven with relatively easy access to employment and recreation opportunities to the east and west and help to ease the movement of shoppers and visitors through and into the Town while maintaining acceptable traffic loads on local streets.

The region is rich in both cultural and natural history. Across the harbor, New Bedford boasts the largest fishing fleet on the East Coast and an historic port district, which has been restored to match the glory days of the nineteenth century, when the city was the whaling capital of the world. It also possesses a lively ethnic flavor, primarily due to its large population of Portuguese descent. New Bedford Harbor was protected by Fort Taber, on Clark Point, which dates from before the Civil War and Fort Phoenix, in Fairhaven, which dates from the Revolutionary War. The shoreline also offers numerous coves, tide flats, and expanses of salt marsh.

Inland areas consist of picturesque farms on rolling terrain separated by numerous freshwater marshes and wooded swamps. The Acushnet Cedar Swamp (575 acres), a State Reservation in northern New Bedford, is an important example of a wooded swamp dominated by Atlantic White Cedar. Directly to the north, The Town of Acushnet is a center for apple and peach orchards and in the 1800s was an early center for the cotton industry. The Town of Mattapoisett, a Wampanoag term meaning “place of rest,” attracts many summer residents, with its beaches, unspoiled harbor, visually pleasing farmland, and distinctive housing developments.

Open space maps for the region reveal that New Bedford, Acushnet, and Mattapoisett contain larger variety, wider distribution and greater quantity of protected conservation areas than does Fairhaven. Still many of the surrounding communities’ athletic leagues schedule their active recreational events on Fairhaven’s limited fields, suggesting a shortage of recreational facilities located in adjacent towns. Including the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) 350 acre West Island holdings, and Fairhaven’s 964 acres, together equals 1,314 acres of protected open space and recreation land or 16.3% of its total area. This is an increase of protected open space by 137 acres or 2% of its total area.

Fairhaven’s picturesque 19th century Town center is clustered around the waterfront on the Acushnet River, and is known as Fairhaven Center. North Fairhaven extends upriver along the Acushnet River. Sconticut Neck, 4½-mile long peninsula stretching into Buzzards Bay, was once the summer site of the Sconticut Indians who fished the waters and farmed the fields scattered along the peninsula. An Indian Cemetery near the northern end of the neck is a reminder of their early patterns. Modest homes dot the northern end and continue down the Neck interspersed with expanses of fields and salt marshes.

Fairhaven’s connection to Buzzards Bay and the ocean has played a major role in its history, and continues to positively influence its open space, recreational and natural character. The working waterfront is an on-going reminder of days of shipbuilding, whaling, rum running, and fishing. Many of these traditional water-dependent activities survive, while today’s waterfront is often a destination for local residents seeking the services of start-up businesses taking advantage of available rental space. Visitors and residents seeking places to enjoy sun, views and stimulation are attracted by the historic and natural areas adjacent to other recreational shoreline areas in the Town, and especially to the Fort Phoenix Beach State Reservation and Town Beach.

The Town's open landscape of farm fields and pastures is a product of a historically strong farm economy. This was at least in part due to a good location for the distribution of farm produce in relation to available transportation provided by the harbor and local roads. The coastal location, providing a ready source of seaweed and fish as fertilizer, is also felt to have been a factor for the Town's agricultural success in the past. However, changes in farming and dairy industry, increasing land prices, and coastal development have put the future of much of this landscape in jeopardy.

History of Community

After the last ice age, over 10,000 years ago, the first settlers began arriving in what is now Fairhaven. The Wampanoag's the Native people of the area, followed the animals that they hunted north as the climate became more moderate and the ice retreated. By the time of the first European explorers these nomadic hunters had settled and begun planting corn and other crops along the shores of Buzzards Bay. The Wampanoag's continued to supplement their agricultural products by hunting and fishing along the Acushnet River and shorelines of Little Bay and New Bedford Harbor. They dug quahogs in the tide flats and harvested oysters from the estuaries and shores of tidal streams.

The indigenous people showed the European settlers how to raise corn, beans, and squash and how to spear bottom fish and trap other fish using oak slat traps and weirs.

Unfortunately, the relationship between the indigenous people and settlers deteriorated and conflicts increased as the number of European settlements grew.

Farming began with the Wampanoag's and has continued for more than 380 years after the European's settled in the area and despite soils that required the annual hauling of seaweed from the shore to use as fertilizer. After World War I, dairy farming became the major economic activity of Fairhaven as well as other New England agricultural areas. The climate was more favorable to cows than crops and the markets for milk and other dairy products were accessible by both land and water. By the 1980's farmers were being encouraged to sell their herds and get out of the dairy business because of an excess of milk. Descendants whom no longer wanted to farm the land, decided to sell the family farm. At the same time the price being offered by developers for coastal land was increasing.

The necessity of going to sea for food and trade encouraged boat building in the Town. Schooners and small craft for cod fishing were built and sold to local fishermen, while rapidly growing coastal commerce and whale hunting stimulated both longer voyages and construction of larger vessels. This boat -building industry also figured in Fairhaven laying claim to the first naval engagement of the Revolutionary War. On May 14, 1775, Fairhaven men aboard the sloop *Success* led by Captain Nathaniel Pope and Daniel Egery, overpowered first one then a second British cruiser just 5 miles out in Buzzards Bay. As a result of British control of every other port on the coast, the Acushnet River became the major base of operations for the fleet of American privateers that preyed on the British during the war. The heritage of shipbuilding and repair is very much a part of the present waterfront.

While Fairhaven has a distinguished history as a shipbuilding and whaling center, its elaborate public buildings are almost all gifts of a local boy who made his fortune in Pennsylvania petroleum rather than whale oil. Henry Huttleston Rogers left Town a grocery clerk and returned a multi-millionaire. He donated the Town hall, grammar and high schools, Masonic Hall, Unitarian Church and library---each constructed in a different revival style.

Population Characteristics

Trends

Population forecasts by age group show a very marked trend in the growth of the upper age groups. The Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research (MISER) has prepared and released projections for all cities and towns which show forty-seven (47%) percent of Fairhaven's population in the year 2010 being age 45 or older. This compares with a figure of forty-three and eight tenths (43.8%) percent based on the 2000 US Census, which was an approximate four (4%) percent increase from 1990 figures. The age group 65+ saw a two and seven tenths (2.7%) percent increase. Clearly, recreational needs will change over the next five to ten years, with more facilities required for older people.

Fairhaven had 16,159 residents in 2000, according to the U.S. Census of Population, and has not experienced rapid residential growth in recent times. The Town has grown slowly in past years, (with a slight dip in the 1970s), from 14,300 in 1960 to 16,300 in 1970, to 15,800 in 1980, to 16,132 in 1990. The 1970's dip is attributable to thinning out of households, as baby-boom generation children were leaving home, a common nation-wide occurrence in the 1970's. And, as stated above, the population has been aging, another common characteristic of slow-growing areas. Between 1980 and 1990 population over age 64 grew by 25%, with an additional increase of 2.7% from 1990 to 2000. Population under age 25 declined by 13%, with an additional 4% drop between 1990 and 2000. Population in the age 25 to 64 group grew by 7% between 1980 and 1990, and grew an additional 5% between 1990 and 2000.

As of the census of 2000, there were 6,622 households out of which 27.7% have children under the age of 18 living in the home. Fifteen percent of the community has someone living alone who is 65 years or older. In the Town the population is spread out with approximately 28% under the age of 25, and 28% from 25 to 44, 24% from 45 to 64, and 20% who are 65 or older. The median age is 41 years.

Residential Densities

Compared to other towns in Massachusetts, residential densities in Fairhaven are considered low to moderate. Development in the past 35 years has tended to be low density, on lots of between 15,000 and 40,000 square feet. Older development tends to be on smaller lots, between 10,000 and 15,000 square feet, and is concentrated in Fairhaven Center, Oxford, North Fairhaven, and close to New Bedford Harbor and the Acushnet River. Development on Sconticut Neck consists of modest homes on lots of 15,000 square feet or larger. On West Island development has been denser, occurring on lots sometimes as small as 5,000 sq. ft., but averaging around 10,000 sq. ft. There are no extensive areas of very large lot sizes (over 60,000 square feet) in Fairhaven, although some development on scattered single lots in the northwest, more rural part of Town, occupies lots larger than 60,000 square feet.

There are no extensive areas of high residential density. There are a few apartment attached single family (row house) developments in Town, but these tend to be scattered about in areas of lower density. Several of the apartment developments serve a growing need for housing for the elderly. In addition, three Assisted Living Facilities have been built since 1999 to accommodate for the growing population of elderly in the community.

Income

The median household income from the US Census for Fairhaven in 1999 was \$41,696. This is an increase of approximately 39% from 1989. Median household income almost doubled between 1979 and 1989 in current dollars, from \$15,200 to \$30,100. The estimate from Claritas for Fairhaven for 1999 was \$36,447, which is an increase of approximately 21%. (In constant dollars, adjusted for inflation, the 1989 figure and 1999 estimate would represent a significant decline, depending on the deflation index used). Fairhaven's median household income was below both the Bristol County figure and the state figure in 1979, 1989 and 1999. Respectively, these figures are \$15,500 and \$32,300, \$43,496 for Bristol County, and \$17,600, \$37,000, and \$52,084 for Massachusetts, below in Table 1, is a comparison in income levels in the area. In 1979, 6.7% of Fairhaven's population was below the federal poverty threshold. By 1989 this figure remained essentially unchanged at 6.5%. Nine percent of the population in 1999 and 6.5% of the families are below the poverty line. This has continued to be the trend over the past 30 years.

Table 1
Comparison of Household Income

Median Household Income for Fairhaven:	
Year	Income levels
1979	\$15,200
1989	\$30,100
1999	\$41,696
Median Household Income for Bristol County:	
Year	Income levels
1979	\$15,500
1989	\$32,300
1999	\$43,496
Median Household Income for Massachusetts:	
Year	Income levels
1979	\$17,600
1989	\$37,000
1999	\$52,084

Economic Characteristics

Industries

There are no major industries in Fairhaven, and most employment in the Town is in retailing activities. The Acushnet Company, manufacturer of golf balls, including the well-known Titleist, has its corporate headquarters in Fairhaven. American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) built a facility in Fairhaven; however, it is currently closed and in the process of leasing the structure to other businesses. Atlas Tack Company is now out of business, but left a major building and site in Town, which has been declared a super fund cleanup site. The U.S. Route 6 area, especially adjacent to its intersections with State Route 240 and Alden Road, has become a major shopping area for Fairhaven residents, and for residents of surrounding towns.

Employment

Employment has in recent years increased at a much faster rate than population. In 1981 there were approximately 3,800 jobs in Fairhaven. That figure grew to about 5,600 by 1990 (a 47% increase), but had declined to 5,000 by 1993, owing to the major recession experienced by the area, the state and the nation. By the year 2000, employment had increased to 7,107 jobs, which is a 42% increase from 1993. This rise was attributed to the AT&T facility expansion and a rise in the retail and service sector. The AT&T facility has closed and has sold its facility. The new owner has leased out office space to several users and to UMASS Dartmouth. Employment is expected to continue to rise, but at a somewhat slower pace, as retail and service activities continue to grow. However, the manufacturing and the fishing industries are expected stay flat and possibly continue their decline. Fairhaven has an important working waterfront, including ship repair and outfitting, and fish processing. These activities are currently stable because of the increase in recreational boat repair and an increase in the federal government fishing limits. Whether they will rebound to former levels depends on the long-term degree of success of the limitations on fishing, replacement activities such as servicing recreational boating can be maintained and whether other sources of fish can be found to replace those currently depleted. While the fishing industry accounts only for 200 to 300 jobs, the traditional importance of those jobs, together with a wage level much higher than retail or service jobs, makes a revival of fishing very attractive to local residents. By the same reasoning, efforts to save and rebuild the working waterfront on New Bedford Harbor is an equally important objective in planning for Fairhaven's economic future. In addition, tourism has increased its importance to the Town.

The Acushnet Company (Titleist & Foot Joy) facility contributes to open space in Fairhaven, in the sense that they own unused wooded or open pasture areas on their large site that is set aside for future expansion. However, this area is not protected from development and could be lost as open space. The AT&T facility financed a sewer line extension to its site. The developers of Berdon Plaza, where a Shaw's Supermarket is located, paid for some traffic improvements around that site. It is becoming increasingly common for developers to contribute to needed town facilities, especially those directly affected by their development projects. With this in mind, contribution for open space is possible, especially if the Town identifies them as high priority needed items.

Growth and Development Patterns

Land Use

Fairhaven is dominated by an “open” landscape. About 2/3 of its 8017 acres are forest and orchard (33.3%), farm and open land (17.7%), or wetland and salt marsh (9.3%). The 1/3 that is developed consists mainly of residential land (28.4%) with commercial and industrial accounting for (5.2%), and transportation and utilities accounting for (3%). Recreational and Waste Disposal make up the bulk of the remainder (See Land Use). Statistics in these categories for 1985 and 2007 are given in Table 2.

As noted earlier, growth since 1985 has continued to be moderate for commercial and heavier for single-family, as shown by examining the record of building permits for the last ten years (see Table 3). Between 1985 and 2000, it has been estimated that an average of 9.2 acres of commercial and industrial land were converted from open and residential uses each year. For residential uses, the average is 16.6 acres of land converted from open uses each year. Based on analysis of total open space loss shown over this time period in Table 2, this leaves about 1 to 2 acres of undeveloped open land lost annually to other uses (transportation, active recreation, etc.) (Please refer to the Open Space and Land Use Maps).

Most of Fairhaven’s residential development is located within one mile of New Bedford Harbor, in the western part of Town. The remaining residential development is on the northern one-half of Sconticut Neck, the western one-third of West Island, and along U.S. Route 6 (Huttleston Avenue) toward Mattapoisett. There are small-scattered residential areas on the southern one-half of Sconticut Neck and in the rural northeast quadrant of Town.

Table 2
Fairhaven Land Use in Acres

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Residential				
Low and Medium				
Density	1,592	20.0	1,405	17.5
High Density	710	8.4	660	8.2
Commercial	167	3.0	170	2.1
Industrial	182	2.2	69	0.9
Transportation &				
Utilities	236	3.0	244	3.0
Waste Disposal	59	0.7	59	0.7
Recreation incl.				
Marina	170	2.0	78	1.0
Recreational Bea	46	0.6	40	0.5
Farm and Open Land	1,419	17.7	1,692	21.1
Forest and Orchard	2,670	33.3	2,872	35.9
Wetland & Salt				
Marsh	748	9.3	710	8.9
Water (Inland)	18	0.2	18	0.2

Table 3
Building Permits Issued in the Last Twelve Years in Fairhaven

Year	Single Family	Commercial
2007	21	3
2006	43	0
2005	98	2
2004	40	2
2003	25	1
2002	27	7
2001	26	6
2000	51	3
1999	42	2
1998	44	0
1997	34	4
1996	28	2
1995	17	5

Most of Fairhaven's commercial and industrial development is located along U.S. Route 6, east of its intersection with State Route 240, or in Fairhaven Center, along the waterfront. There are small commercial and industrial areas in North Fairhaven, centered on Howland Road (industrial) and Main Street (commercial). As noted, a small industrial area abuts the Atlas Tack site in the southeast part of Fairhaven Center.

Because of the location of infrastructure and other factors, most proposed new development will be adjacent to existing, currently developed areas. It is likely that this pattern will persist over the next 5 years, but that in the mid-and long-term future some of the more desirable sites with excellent views will be developed on agricultural land. This includes land in the northeast quadrant, along New Boston Road, and Bridge Street, and land off of Shaw and Gillette Roads, just north of Shaw's Cove, with excellent water views. Appropriate zoning has the potential to attract new industry, and as noted, such new industry would be well located along State Route 240. Fairhaven has a favorable location and access situation, being traversed east-west by Interstate Route 195, with an intersecting north-south express highway, State Route 240. Both the former AT&T and Acushnet/Titleist facilities are located along Route 240, where much of the area is zoned for industry.

South and west of David Drown Boulevard extending to Priests Cove on Buzzards Bay lays a large area that is also currently zoned industrial. It contains the Atlas Tack Site, a boat yard, and some metal working shops nearby. Because of extensive tidal wetlands, and the existence of a hurricane barrier just south of the Phoenix multi-use path that traverses the area from east to west, most of the industrially zoned area to the south of the multi-use path will never be developed.

Also zoned for industry is the working waterfront in Fairhaven Center, as is a waterfront area in North Fairhaven on either side of the Howland Road Bridge leading to New Bedford. There are also small, scattered industrial and commercial activities in the area, which are not especially waterfront-related uses. Nevertheless, there is some potential for more industrial or commercial development in this area because of good access to Interstate 195 via the Howland Road Bridge through a portion of New Bedford. Mitigation against this potential, however, is a local traffic capacity problem in the area, which might tend to limit the area's appeal to smaller firms, especially since there is some industry across the river in New Bedford.

The 1995 Plan had the opinion that it was extremely unlikely that Fairhaven will be the recipient of more large employment developments on the scale of Acushnet/Titleist and AT&T. It is the opinion of the Planning and Economic Development Department that this is still true today. The economy of the New Bedford region over the last five years has enjoyed prosperity like the rest of the country. However, with the economic down turn, which started in late 2000, it is anticipated that the region will experience a more flat or depressed economy, which it saw during the previous thirty years. In addition, other nearby towns including New Bedford compete vigorously within the region for new employment with modern, fully-serviced, industrial parks.

Infrastructure

Fairhaven has well-developed infrastructure systems fully capable of supporting projected future development. As already noted, access to the regional transportation system is quite good via Routes I-195, I-495, State Route 240, and U.S. Route 6. Town roads are well maintained: The major improvements needed are traffic control changes in commercial locations experiencing significant traffic growth in recent years. However, recent developments have participated with some of these improvements.

Fairhaven's wastewater treatment plant on Arsene Street processes an average of 5 million gallons of wastewater each day well within the facilities permitting limits. Mattapoisett contributes approximately a quarter of a million gallons per day to the Arsene Street wastewater treatment plant, and 739,000 gallons of septic waste from the towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Rochester, Acushnet, Freetown and Marion were accepted to the plant. The treatment plant processes 511 tons of bio-solids in 2004, which is taken in liquid form offsite by Synagro Northeast. The Board of Public Works has completed the renovations for converting to ultraviolet disinfection and upgrading the odor control system. As of the summer of 2007 there were 5,806 sewer connections from Fairhaven residents to the main plant. In addition, to the Arsene Street facility, there is a Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) on West Island with 326 sewer connections, receiving 12 million gallons of wastewater in 2007. The average annual sewer bill is approximately \$380.00.

Fairhaven water pollution control facility has submitted an application for the renewal of their NPDES permit, and is in the process of waiting for a new permit. The new permit will most likely include nitrogen to the list of regulations for discharge. A study was conducted by Fay, Spofford and Thorndike, Inc, consulting engineers for Fairhaven to get a better understanding of what the plants abilities are at this time. The study is still in a state of review.

Fairhaven's water system currently has 6,377-metered accounts, with users paying an average annual bill of \$172.00 (does not include meter rental fee). The Town shares a well field with the Towns of Marion and Mattapoisett, each of which holds title to its own wells. Fairhaven draws about 1.4 million gallons of water per day from its five wells. Fairhaven is in the process of re-negotiating the agreement with the City of New Bedford to purchase water. An additional Town well, providing a potential drinking water source is located in the Nasketucket River Watershed near two small ponds on the river located just north of U.S. Route 6. Having once provided all of Fairhaven's drinking water, this well was deactivated due to water quality and draw down problems. The Town owns and operates two water towers that maintain adequate residential use pressure in high service areas. A third water tower is planned for the East Fairhaven area in the next several years, to improve water pressures needed for fire-fighting purposes in that area. In addition, the Water Department has just recently approved a water system capital improvement plan. This plan will address system improvements needed to meet the existing and anticipated future water needs of the Town.

The Town of Fairhaven joined together with the Towns of Mattapoisett, Marion and Rochester to form a Regional Water District, the Mattapoisett River Valley Water District (MRVWD). This is in response to water quality and quantity to the above-mentioned townships. The District's goals are to minimize public health threats, improve overall water quality, respond to water supply deficits, provide for emergency interconnections, optimize corrosion control and provide up grades to each of the Towns pumping stations. The water treatment facility will be capable of treating up to 6 million gallons of water per day, and reduce the amount of iron and manganese with-drawn from the Mattapoisett River Valley. The facility will treat raw water from eight (8) existing groundwater wells.

The proposed treatment plant will be located in the Town of Mattapoisett on a Town-owned parcel. Along with the proposed treatment plant, the project will include raw water and finished water transmission main, as well as a metering station. The raw water transmission main will be installed to connect Fairhaven's Tinkham Lane and Wolf Island Road Wells #1,#2, and #3, Mattapoisett Wells #3,#4, and #5, and Marion's Wolf Island Road Well to the water treatment facility. The finished water transmission main will connect to the existing system distribution systems in the vicinity of Fairhaven, Tinkham Lane Well, between Mattapoisett Wells #3 and #4, and Marion's Wolf Island Road Well. The facility is schedule to be up and running in the Spring of 2008.

Water and sewer improvements are paid for from separate "enterprise funds" established with user fees derived on the basis of use levels. Sewer improvements currently involve repair work to address inflow and infiltration problems that have been identified. Un-sewered, areas are funded by the individual homeowners over a 15 to 20 year period through 100% betterment fees.

Fairhaven's solid combustible wastes are collected by a contractor and disposed of at the SEMASS waste-to-energy plant in Rochester. Fairhaven no longer operates the landfill just west of Alden Road on Bridge Street. There is a recycling center at the old landfill that handles yard and garden wastes as well as oil, batteries and cardboard. Loam is being produced from the leaf and grass composting, and is available for public use.

Long-Term Development Patterns

Current zoning favors more residential development, with about 90% of the Town being zoned for residential uses. Minimum lot size in the Single-Family Residential (RA) zone is 15,000 square feet. This zoning predominates in most of the Town west of State Route 240, the most northerly portion of Sconticut Neck and the area in East Fairhaven along U.S. Route 6. Most of Sconticut Neck, all of West Island and the northeast quadrant of Town are zoned Rural Residential (RR), which requires a minimum lot size of 30,000 square feet. In the RA zone, 100-foot lot frontage is required, with this figure increasing to 140 feet in the RR zone. The RR zone requires that buildings cover no more than fifteen percent of lots, and the RA zone requires no more than twenty-five percent. The maximum lot coverage of impervious surfaces on residential lots is twenty-five percent in the RR zone and fifty percent in the RA zone. (See Zoning Map)

An agricultural zone with a 50,000 square foot minimum lot size exists in the southeast part of the mainland (the agricultural area north of Shaw's Cove). It requires 200 feet of lot frontage. There is also a water protection overlay district in the vicinity of the Nasketucket River from U.S. Route 6 north to the Acushnet town line, bounded on the east by New Boston Road and on the west by the industrial area lining State Route 240. The overlay district regulates uses to prevent any penetration of pollutants into the watershed. The agricultural district, rural residential districts and the area contained in the watershed protection district are largely undeveloped. (See Zoning Map)

Zoning Changes

Table 4
Fairhaven Zoning Changes

Year	Zoning Type	Area (acres)
2007	None	
2006	Business (B) to Multifamily Residential (RC)	7.80
	Single Residential (RA) to Multifamily Res. (RC)	14.20
2005	Business (B) to Residential (RA)	5.38
	Industrial (I) to Rural Residence (RR)	8.53
	Industrial (I) to Business (B)	1.42
	Industrial (I) to Mixed Use (MU)	1.23
2004	None	
2003	Business (B) to Multifamily Residential (RC)	13.62
	Business (B) to Rural Residential (RR)	5.51
	Business (B) to Single Residential (RA)	9.06
	Rural Residential (RR) to Single Residential (RA)	1.22
2002	Business (B) to Multifamily (RC)	12,000 SF
2001	None	

New Subdivisions

There are 16 new subdivisions containing 177 lots in total that have been approved from 1995 to 2007 and are nearly filled with single-family homes. These are broken down by year in Table 5.

Table 5
New Subdivisions

<i>Year</i>	<i># of Subdivisions</i>	<i>Total # of Lots</i>
2007	0	0
2006	2	13
2005	0	0
2004	2	2
2003	2	8
2002	1	7
2001	1	57
2000	2	12
1999	1	8
1998	0	0
1997	3	53
1996	2	17
Total	16	177

Infrastructure Expansion

The sewerage of Sconticut Neck to approximately Camel Street on the east and Jerusalem on the west is the recent principal infrastructure expansion project and has been completed. The project includes the installation of 600 new sewer lines that would provide for sewer service to all homes in the project area, and the siting of approximately five pump stations. Town Meetings of 2000 and 2001 voted funds for the initial design of the project. The project was funded by the individual homeowners over a 15 to 20 year period through 100% betterment fees.

The sewerage of the Nancy and Marguerite Street project area in North Fairhaven is also complete. The project included the installation of sewer lines that provided for sewer service to all homes in the project area, and the siting of one pump station. The individual homeowners are providing the funding for this project over a 15 to 20 year period through 100% betterment fees.

Effects on Existing Open Space

In the last ten years there were several subdivisions that represent intrusions into undeveloped areas identified in the 1995 Open Space Plan. The two largest of these subdivisions were Howard Farms off of New Boston Road and Shannon Meadows at the end of Oliver Street. Howard Farms was the conversion of farmland into 34-lots. The developer had to extend sewer to the site in order to develop. This sewer extension can also be attributed to several smaller parcels also developing. It is the opinion of the Planning Department that a sewer extension up New Boston Road and across Intrastate I-195 would cause several hundred acres of farmland to become vulnerable to being developed. The lack of sewer and poor soils has limited development in this area of Town of Fairhaven.

Shannon Meadows was also a conversion of farmland into 57-lots. It also had to extend sewer; however, the adjacent area was relatively developed and was in the process of being sewerred. It was a loss of farmland; however, it is the opinion of the Planning Department that the existing development, wetlands and surrounding land trust/conservation land will limit further development.

Of the sixteen new subdivisions in the last 12 years, eight, containing a total of 70-lots, were located in already-developed areas. The remaining eight subdivisions, containing a total of 107-lots, represent an expansion into open farmlands. While Fairhaven has been successful in maintaining some control over the geographical distribution of new development by allowing small lots (less than one acre) that need to be serviced by sewer lines. This practice has helped to ensure that residential expansion remains concentrated around the margins of already-developed areas. However, those developable areas have been predominately built out. The remaining open farmlands of significant size are north of Shaw's Cove / south of the Bike Path, the farmlands north of I-195 off of New Boston Road and the Mariner Soccer property north of Huttleston Avenue. These areas are the most vulnerable to future development and should be considerer a priority for protection.

Residential Build-out Analysis

The Planning Departments review and opinion of the Residential Build-Out does not substantially differ from the analysis conducted for the 1995 plan with the exception that the time to obtain a population of 17,803 people will take longer than the year 2020, based on current trends.

The Town of Fairhaven residential build-out analysis was completed by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and the summary of the results are displayed in Table 6, Fairhaven Buildout Analysis Summary. In keeping with the current trends of population growth in the Town of Fairhaven, it is also in the Planning Department's opinion and agreement that the build-out analysis completed by the Planners Collaborative Inc., in the 1995 Fairhaven Open Space Plan will attain the highest population projection at a level of 19,511. The EOEA analysis appears to not take into consideration the significant areas of wetland and poor soil conditions as shown in the Town of Fairhaven Developable Land Survey, 1992. In the "Town of Fairhaven Developable Land Survey" report, contains a parcel-by-parcel status report on land considered available and developable. For purposes of this survey, developability was defined in terms of wetlands located on each parcel in such a way as to prohibit development. Acreage of wetlands is identified on each parcel record, as are zoning categories. Where more than one category exists on a parcel, the Town zoning map was consulted to determine how many acres of each parcel falls in each zoning district. Most parcels identified are vacant, although some "redevelopable" property is included; that is structures capable of being altered or torn down. Redevelopable property was not considered vacant in their analysis.

Fairhaven is likely to continue to experience the kind of slow growth that has been typical over the last 30 years. This view has been confirmed by three population projections prepared since 1993, shown in Table 7. The projection prepared for the 1995 Plan by PCI, based on a qualitative extrapolation of past growth, shows 1671 new people in Fairhaven by 2020. Using the 1999 population per household figure of 2.38, this translates into some 671 households. In

1995, this averaged out to 27 new housing units per year, which fell below the range for single family building permits. The most recent trend indicated in Table 3, for single family building permits show a significant slow down from a high in 2005. This is furthered reinforced by the current economic slowdown and sub-prime mortgage crises affecting the country.

Table 6
EOEA Buildout Analysis Summary for Fairhaven

Demographic Projections	
Residents	
1990	16,132
Current	16,159
Buildout	30,219
Students (K-12)	
1990	2,298
Current	2,400
Buildout	12,890
Residential Units	
1990	6,359
Current	7,266
Buildout	12,890
Water Use (gallons/day)	
Current	1,366,483.19
Buildout	2,740,672.19
Resources and Buildout Impacts	
(Data from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs)	
Additional Residents	14,060
Additional Students (K-12)	3,937
Additional Residential Units	5,624
Additional Developable Land Area	148,343,537 (sq ft)
Additional Developable Land Area	3,405 (acres)
Additional Commercial/Industrial	
Buildable Floor Area	4,262,935 (sq ft)
Additional Water Demand at Buildout	1,374,190 (gallons/day)
Residential	1,054,470
Commercial and Industrial	319,720
Additional Solid Waste	7,213
Non-recyclable	5,129
Recyclable	2,084
Additional Roadway at Buildout	64 (miles)

Population Projections for Fairhaven

<u>Date of Projection</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Projection Year</u>					
		1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	U.S. Census	16,332	15,579	16,132	16,159		
2000	SRPEDD*					16,459	16,759
1999	MISER**				16,440	16,628	
1995	Planners Collaborative				16,842	17,323	17,803

*SRPEDD = Southeast (Mass.) Regional Planning and Economic Development District

**MISER = Mass. Institute for Social and Economic Research

Notes:

17,803 Total Population - 16,132 1990 Population = 1671 New Population in 2020

1671 New Population/2.49 Pop. Per Household = 671 New Households

671/25 Years = 26.8 (rounded to 27) new dwelling units per year.

The highest population projection shows a year 2020 level of 17,800. This is approximately 11,000 less than the build-out population projection of about 30,219.

Implications

Fairhaven clearly has sufficient land to accommodate residential growth anticipated over the next 15 to 25 years. However, it is apparent from the 1996 Master Plan that the Town wishes new development to occur through a process of in-fill and small additions adjacent to existing development. This pattern would continue a trend apparent over the last five years.

Demographic analysis shows a shift in the demand in relation to unit size distribution; however, smaller one- and two-bedroom housing units will be needed to accommodate the needs of the aging population. Also, as the population ages, walking accessibility to shopping and services will become more important. There is adequate land interspersed and adjacent to existing development in the west of Fairhaven. Town policy favors development of this land, in areas where sewer and water services exist, over development of relatively isolated land in eastern Fairhaven.

It is also clear that the Town wishes to preserve the existing open land it has, including the few remaining operating farms. This is evident by the purchase of Shipyard Farms by the Fairhaven/Acushnet Land Preservation Trust. This objective derives from a desire to preserve important views, landscape character, and traditional activities, as well as intent to contain new development in a way that minimizes infrastructure costs and maximizes accessibility. It is therefore very clear that the systematic protection of open space will be a central component of Fairhaven's growth management strategy. (See Protected and Recreational Open Space Map).

In light of growth trends, Town objectives and the character of the land, it is clear that the areas along the coast of Buzzard's Bay are those requiring highest priority in open space protection. The area around Little Bay was the highest priority in the 1995 plan and was eventually purchased by the Town via an Urban Self-Help grant. The area north of Shaw's Cove is also in the path of advancing development, and should receive the highest priority. Southern Sciticut

Neck should be protected to preserve some beach access and traditional salt marsh areas, and to reduce the incidence of flooding from ocean storms. The southern tip of Long Island was purchased with Federal Land and Water and Seaport Council grants thus providing access to the water. The area between Route 6 and I-195, owned by Mariner Soccer, in East Fairhaven should also be protected for the sake of fresh water resources in the area (the Nasketucket River Watershed). Finally, in order to promote the survival of operating farms, the area north of I-195 in the eastern part of Town should also be the focus of protective measures.

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Geology, Soils, Topography, and Climate

Geology

Fairhaven is located on a coastal plain which was formed as outwash from the last glacier over 10,000 years ago. The meltwater from the glacier deposited soil, sand, stone and gravel over till from earlier glacial advances and left many small valleys that are now the courses of brooks, small streams, and rivers that flow into Buzzards Bay, such as the Acushnet and Nasketucket Rivers. Low areas between the hills deposited by the glaciers also became wetlands as they filled with sediment and developed the specialized flora that could stand developing in wet soils. Fort Phoenix and Sconticut Neck are two of the few places in Town where the underlying bedrock is near the surface or exposed. At 700+ million years of age, this pre-Cambrian metamorphic rock is among the oldest in New England. (See Special Landscape Features Physical Characteristics Map)

Soils

Fairhaven's soils are the result of the geological and glacial history of the area, the under-lying bedrock, surface and subsurface water, and the interaction of these factors with the flora and bacteria that live on or in the soil. These factors result in soils with different characteristics that influence land use and open space character. For example, soils that have high groundwater levels may preclude the development of conventional underground septic systems for the disposal of human wastes. Soils that are extremely stony and have many large boulders can present difficulties for construction and increase the cost of development. Deep, loamy soils are generally good for agriculture.

The accompanying maps delineate broad areas of soil types found in Fairhaven. The following are the predominant soils (also see table of soil types following this section):

Hinckley (HgB, HgC) and **Merrimac** (MeB): These soils are deep, moderately steep or hilly and deep and moderately level. They are excessively drained and well-drained soils that have formed in deep deposits of sand and gravel. They are moderately to rapidly permeable in the upper part of the soil and rapidly to very rapidly permeable in the lower part. Water tables are generally greater than 6 feet. These soils are generally favorable for development.

Gloucester (GcB, GhC) and **Paxton** (PfB, PgB, PhB): These soils are deep, very stony and extremely stony, rolling and hilly. This material is underlain at a shallow depth, 1 ½

to 3 feet, by firm compact material referred to as hardpan. The permeability of these soils is moderate to moderately rapid in the upper part and slow to very slow in the lower part. Water tables are generally at a depth greater than 6 feet in these soils. These soils are moderately to severely limited for many forms of development.

Carlton (CtC): Well-drained soils that have formed in complex area of both deep, stony and bouldery material, and shallow to bedrock with areas of rock outcrop. In areas of thick unconsolidated soil material, the permeability is moderate to moderately rapid throughout. Water tables are generally to depths greater than 6 feet in areas of these soils. These soils are moderately to severely limited for many forms of development.

Woodbridge (WrB, WsB, WtB, WrA): Fine sandy and very stony fine sandy loam. This soil is deep, gently sloping and moderately well-drained. Soil is underlain at a shallow depth, 2 to 3 feet by a firm, compact material referred to as hardpan. The permeability of these soils is moderate in the upper part and slow to very slow in the lower part. Water tables in areas of these soils are at a shallow depth, usually 1.5 to 4 feet, during the wet periods of the year. These soils are moderately to severely limited for many forms of development.

Ridgebury (ReA, ReB, RdA, RdB) and Whitman (WgA, WhA): Fine sandy loam and extremely stony fine shady loam. These soils are found in depressions, drainage ways and low areas on the uplands. These are poor and very poorly-drained mineral soils that have formed in materials ranging from sand and gravel to silt and clay. Permeability of these soils varies greatly depending upon what material they have formed over. These soils are wet and have a water table at or near the surface during wet periods of the year. These soils are severely limited for many forms of development.

Development Limitations and Agricultural Soils

Many of the soils found in Fairhaven have significant limitations for development such as large stones, wetness, slow perc rates, and frost action. However, it is important to note that many of these generalized soil types occur in very intricate patterns and most land parcels will have areas with few limitations. Many of the limitations can also be overcome by skillful design and added costs for construction. Many of the undeveloped parcels that contribute to the Town's character are potentially available for development.

There are several areas in Town that have soils that are good for agriculture and several other areas with good agricultural soils that have been or are being developed (See Soil Map). Some of the agricultural lands also have moderate or moderate to slight limitations for development and as such could be easily lost as open space.

Topography

Fairhaven occupies an area of approximately 12.5 square miles or 8017 acres. Its topography is mostly gently rolling, ranging in elevation from sea level to 90 feet. Its open land includes pasture and meadowland, fresh water wetland, low, wooded hills and areas of tide flats, salt marsh and sandy beaches.

The town has a total shoreline of approximately 29.4 linear miles according to the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Program. The coastline consists of intermittent bays and coves formed by the meltwater from the last ice age.

Climate

Fairhaven's climate is similar to that of its southeastern coastal neighbors. Extremes of heat and cold, which are felt in more inland locations, are tempered by the Town's proximity to Buzzards Bay. Winter temperatures average 30 degrees Fahrenheit and range to an average of 70 degrees in summer.

The average annual precipitation is approximately 42 to 45 inches, depending on the location within the Town. Prevailing winds are westerly with more northwesterly winds in the winter and southwesterly winds in the summer. The average growing season in Fairhaven is approximately 200 days per year.

Landscape Character and Vegetation

Fairhaven's mix of land and sea has inspired artists such as William Bradford, Lemuel D. Eldred, and Percy Cowen, who went on to achieve national reputations. Its historic harbor, views of Buzzards Bay, stony shores, salt marshes, and forested rolling hills, interspersed with pastures and agricultural fields create a rich mosaic of visual experience and opportunities to explore that continues to stimulate the imaginations of young and old, resident and visitor.

The Town has a diversity of landscape types. From the historic central area with magnificent nineteenth century public buildings to the waterfront on New Bedford Harbor, the pastoral New England countryside in the northeast corner to the marshes of Little Bay and Priests Cove to the beaches of Sconticut Neck and West Island to the dramatic vistas of the water from the farmlands along Shaw's Road, Fairhaven encompasses a wide range of ecological and cultural experiences.

The central part of Town with the nineteenth century public buildings holds a unique charm. While there is not much open space in this area, many people enjoy walking along the shaded streets lined with many period houses. Once a cove that was filled in to create a Town recreation area, Cushman Park, located in the downtown area, recently had significant drainage and site improvements completed. This was done to address the serious drainage problems, as large portions of the park were wet most of the year. In addition, Town and Fairhaven School Department worked together to develop athletic fields at the park as part of the overall improvements. In the past, Fort Phoenix State Park, at the southern end of the central section of Town, acted as a kind of town green in that it was a major outdoor meeting place.

Today, it remains a favorite walking area for Town residents. The waterfront, adjacent to the central area of Town, is in a transition process as the commercial fishing industry is still relatively flat and other marine industries are being developed to fill the gap. Development in this area will come in the form of renovation and re-use of older structures along the waterfront as there is virtually no undeveloped space within the central Town area. A Mixed Use zoning

district was created adjacent to the waterfront industrial area to aid in the transition of this area and to assist in guiding future development.

The pastoral area in the northeast corner of Fairhaven consists of small farms and some scattered housing along roads lined by old stonewalls. The Fairhaven Conservation Commission and the Fairhaven/ Acushnet Land Preservation Trust own several parcels of land in this area. The largest parcels include the Town Forest along New Boston Road that has the path of the Old Coach Road to Acushnet within its bounds. The character of the roads, such as New Boston Road, could be somewhat protected by the Town designating it to be a scenic road that would place restrictions on the way a development is constructed. Most of the holdings in this area are private and zoned agricultural and rural residential, so future development within this area would take the form of new large lot housing subdivisions.

Priests Cove contains an expanse of marsh, which, can be viewed from the hurricane barrier built across the head of the cove. This area is protected by the wetlands regulations and is bordered by the Phoenix multi-use path. The Little Bay area is also a beautiful marsh, which holds the mouth of the Nasketucket River. In fact, the native people word “Nasketucket” means place of the long grasses. This area is also bordered by the Phoenix multi-use path, which affords views of the marshes and the water of Little Bay out to Nasketucket Bay. There are currently a handful of residences along the mouth of the Nasketucket River. Any further development of this area should be done sensitively. The Town with help from an Urban Self-Help Grant purchased an 83-acre developable parcel of upland land on the western side of Little Bay known as Little Bay Estates. In addition to open space benefits to the Town of preserving this upland property, Little Bay Estates is adjacent to the Phoenix multi-use path and the spur extension runs through the eastern portion of the property. This path system offers a multi-use trail to and through the Little Bay area, thereby making this a key recreation destination for walkers and cyclists.

Sconticut Neck and West Island have historically been and look like summer resort communities. The beautiful marshes and beaches here are some of the most attractive in southern New England. With the spectacular Town Beach and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) property covering a third of the island, West Island is partially protected from future development. Two main open space issues facing West Island will be the manner in which the Town further develops its recreational facilities at Town Beach, as well as the state management plan that is to be developed for DCR property.

The character of the southern section of Sconticut Neck as a mixture of small farms and seaside houses could be significantly altered if the farms were replaced with housing subdivisions. The wide, open vistas over the flat farmland to the water would be interrupted and the spacious character of this end of the Neck negatively affected. The upper section of Sconticut Neck has been fairly densely settled, so further development in this area largely would take the form of renovation and re-use. White’s Farm, partially in the Nasketucket Basin, and the farms east along Shaw Road are large, upland parcels. White’s Farm is near the Austin Pond conservation area and the Nasketucket Watershed area. Mariner soccer, a youth soccer organization, has recently purchased the entire property. Their long-term development plans are to add additional fields and preserve the sensitive areas on site.

Similarly, the wide, expansive views through the farm silos to the water beyond Shaw's Cove are some of the most loved views in the Town. There are already several housing subdivisions in this area and the visual impact on the character of the area is significant. These "agriculturally zoned" residential subdivisions are on 50,000-acre lots, and while this type of zoning is an attempt at preserving open space, it effectively creates typical large lot suburban settings. They are neither in keeping with the agricultural character of the area, nor are they in keeping with the traditional "village-like" scale and density of the housing found in the western portion of Town. The traditional village identified by many Fairhaven residents is preferred housing type.

Common Vegetative Species in Fairhaven

American beech	Sweet pepperbush	Wintergreen
White oak	Bayberry	Indian-pipe
Red oak	Pussy willow	Phragmites
Pin oak	Skunk cabbage	Beach grass
Eastern Hemlock	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	Saltmarsh cordgrass
Pitch pine	Common ragweed	Wild rice
Cedar	Water arum	Grape sp.
Flowering dogwood	Yellow flag	Sea lavender
American holly	Yarrow	Trout lily
Sassafras	Aster sp.	Blue flag
Norway maple	Dusty miller	Bearberry
Sugar maple	Joe-pye0weed	Trillium
Silver maple	Fleabane	Solomon's seal
Sycamore	Thistle sp.	Purple loosestrife
Locust	Chicory	Milkweed
Ash	Black-eyed Susan	Swamp rose mallow
Cherry	Goldenrod sp.	Ground ivy
Alder	Tansey	Peppergrass
Aspen	Dandelion	Lady's slipper
Shagbark hickory	Knotweed	Vetch
White swamp azalea	Smartweed	Jewelweed
Highbush blueberry	Cardinal flower	Clover
Viburnum	Queen Anne's lace	Violet sp.
Buttonbush	Broad-leave cattail	Pond lily
Spicebush	Narrow-leaf cattail	Black tupelo
Witch hazel	Duckweed	Sweet birch
Beach rose	Eel grass	American holly
Beach plum	Poison ivy	Yellow Birch

Water Resources

Surface Waters

The most notable water resource in Fairhaven is its 29.4 miles of coast on Buzzards Bay, New Bedford Harbor and the Acushnet River. Sconticut Neck and West Island, which jut 4.5 miles from the mainland into Buzzards Bay, form most of the coast along this area. Localized water bodies have been formed by the interplay of land and water. These are Shaw's Cove, Stony Cove, Little Bay, Nasketucket Bay, and Priests Cove. (See Water Resource Map)

Freshwater resources consist of the Nasketucket River, which rises in northeast Fairhaven and flows south through several small ponds into an estuary in Little Bay. Its watershed is important as a reserve source of groundwater for drinking. A water resource protection overlay zoning district has been established in the watershed. The Swift Brook watershed, which lies east of New Boston Road, feeding southeastward into the Mattapoissett River Estuary in Mattapoissett is important as a drainage feature.

Fairhaven's coastal area consists of the following landform types shown in Table 8, according to a 1985 report issued by the Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies and the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management.

Table 8
Land Form Types

<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Salt Marsh	607.5
Tidal Flats	582.1
Marine Flats	442.0
Estuarine Flats	140.1
Barrier Beach	86.3
Total:	1,858.0

Storms and natural beach building activities have resulted in several more barrier beaches being created since 1985. Coastal lands are quite extensive, accounting for about 23% of total acreage in Fairhaven. These coastal lands serve a number of important functions including recreation, shell fishing, provision of habitats for wildlife, storm impact abatement, filtering of contaminants, nutrient storage, supplying beach building materials and erosion control. Barrier beaches, of which there are 23 segments in Fairhaven, abate storm waves, lessen flooding, ease erosion of other coastal areas, provide materials for beach-building, and provide feeding and breeding grounds for coastal and migratory birds. Below is a description of each landform type found along the Fairhaven shoreline.

Description of Salt Marsh, Tidal Flats, Barrier Beaches and Estuaries

Salt Marshes

A salt marsh is a nearly flat, coastal grassland community subjected to periodic flooding and ebbing of tides. Its vegetation is dominated by extensive and nearly pure stands of two types of grasses, *Spartina alterniflora*, (saltwater cordgrass) and *Spartina patens*, (saltmarsh hay). The unique character of the saltmarsh community lies in its development of intertidal location where it is influenced both by seawater and fresh water runoff. These soft green tidal grasslands are generally found in sheltered areas of the coast.

Salt marshes are extremely important for they provide a diverse habitat and nursery for two-thirds of shellfish and commercial or sport fish during their early life stages. These economically important juvenile species use the marsh for feeding, shelter and protective covering. They also filter out nutrients and sediments from runoff. Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen are taken up by plants and converted into plant biomass. And a variety of other pollutants can be taken up by the plants or held in the marsh soil.

Salt Marsh Profile

The diagram shows the common plants found in each section of the salt marsh.

- The low marsh is flooded daily by two tides and is dominated by the hardy salt water cordgrass.
- The high marsh is the part of the marsh that is periodically flooded during higher tides. Plants in the high marsh include salt marsh hay (which gives the high marsh a defining "cow licked" appearance), black grass and spike grass.
- The upper marsh is the highest portion of the marsh and is flooded only during moon tides and storms. Plants in this area include seaside goldenrod, high tide bush, and *Phragmites*. Homeowners often cut the plants in the upper marsh unknowingly. These plants can tolerate occasional flooding of saltwater and are more suited to the coastal environment than most landscape plants.

The upland edge of a salt marsh is home to plants (such as bayberry), which are known as coastal buffer plants and can tolerate occasional salt spray. These plants provide an important buffer between a homeowners managed landscape and the Bay.

Common Salt Marsh Species

Seaweeds	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	<i>Spartina patens</i>
Spike grass	Common Reed	Narrow leaf cat-tail
Sea lavender	Saltmarsh fleabane	Glasswort sp.
Saltmarsh aster	Horseshoe crab	Snail
Whelk	Periwinkle	Oyster drill
Ribbed mussel	Soft shell clam	Common oyster
Clam worm	Ivory barnacle	Grass shrimp
Saltmarsh flea	Common spider crab	Blue crab
Green crab	Hermit crab	Fiddler crab

Northern puffer	Fourspine stickleback	Silverside
Atlantic silverside	Threespine stickleback	Atlantic menhaden
Pipefish	Flounder	Striped killifish
Mummichog	Alewife	White perch
Bluefish	Atlantic herring	Northern pipefish
Winter flounder	Windowpane	Tautog
Striped mullet	American eel	Blueback herring
Atlantic tomcod	Sheepshead minnow	Cunner
Hogchoker	Soft shell clam	Scallop

Tidal Flats

Tidal flats are defined as those nearly level parts of coastal beaches, which usually extend from the mean low water line landward to the more steeply sloping face of the beach, or may be separated from the beach by an area of deeper water. They are exposed during periods of low tide and may or may not be connected to the rest of a coastal beach area. They are generally shorelines exposed to the open ocean or within estuaries functioning as habitats for shellfish, and other species. Tidal flats are also important during storm surges acting as a barrier to the area behind it, while providing sediment to down current beaches.

Barrier Beaches

American beach grass, dusty miller, beach plum and other hearty salt tolerant species grip the sand and hold the dunes in place. These beaches, with low-lying strips of land lie parallel to the main coast. Sometimes as offshore formations but often attached to the mainland at one or both ends. These formations are extremely important in holding back nor'easters. They provide nesting habitat for rare shorebirds like the least tern and the piping plover. Other shorebird species that require this type of habitat include semipalmated plover, sora, rudy turnstone, sanderling, red knot, black back gull, ring-billed gull, and the herring gull. According to the 1982 Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management's, Fairhaven has approximately 23 segments of barrier beaches, consisting of 86.3 acres. These figures are subject to change with increasing erosion, sea level rising, and continued storm surge activity.

Estuary

An estuary is a partially enclosed body of water formed where freshwater from rivers and streams flows into the ocean, mixing with the salty seawater. Estuaries and the lands surrounding them are places of transition from land to sea, and from fresh to salt water. Although influenced by the tides, estuaries are protected from the full force of ocean waves, winds, and storms by the reefs, barrier islands, or fingers of land, mud, or sand that define an estuary's seaward boundary.

Estuaries come in all shapes and sizes and go by many different names, often known as bays, lagoons, harbors, inlets, or sounds. Though they may have many names, the defining feature of an estuary is the mixing of fresh and salt water, not the name. The tidal, sheltered waters of estuaries support unique communities of plants and animals, specially adapted for life in these unique areas. Estuarine environments are among the most productive on earth, creating more organic matter each year than a comparable area of forest, grassland, or agricultural land.

The productivity and variety of estuarine habitats foster a wonderful abundance and diversity of wildlife. Shore birds, fish, crabs and lobsters, marine mammals, clams and other shellfish, marine worms, and sea birds are just some of the animals that make their homes in and around estuaries. These animals are linked to one another through a complex food web.

Besides serving as important habitat for wildlife, water draining from the uplands carries sediments, nutrients, and other pollutants. As the water flows through fresh and salt marshes, much of the sediments and pollutants are filtered out. Wetland plants and soils also act as a natural buffer between the land and ocean, absorbing floodwaters and dissipating storm surges.

Shellfishing is a long established activity in Fairhaven. Its waters have historically produced an abundant harvest of scallops, quahogs, soft-shelled clams and oysters. Industrial and domestic pollution have caused a number of shellfish beds to be closed. Closed areas include the Acushnet River, New Bedford Harbor and waters of Buzzards Bay and Priests Cove west of Sconticut Neck to the southern tip of Rickerson's Point in Dartmouth. Sewage outfalls and PCB discharges have been the cause of these shellfish beds closures. In 1988 the loss of shellfish in the closed area west of Sconticut Neck (not including New Bedford Harbor) was estimated by the Conservation Law Foundation to be 186,784 bushels. Since the 1995 plan some of the above mentioned areas are now open on a conditional basis based on a rain schedule. This conditionally approved area is south of a line from Baxter Avenue to Egg Island.

Despite Fairhaven's extensive coastline, only small segments of it are accessible to the public. Fort Phoenix State Beach is a small, public beach, located at the southern end of Fairhaven Center. Next year Fort Phoenix will be forced to charge a fee of \$7.00 dollars to park, because of budget cuts to maintain the park. There are two small paved parking areas there, with spaces for about 200 cars, and a daily fee (in season) of \$5.00. The Town Beach on West Island is also open to the general public, for a daily fee (in season) of \$5.00 and \$2.00 for walk-ins. Town property owners pay a seasonal fee of \$25.00 for a parking sticker at this beach. There are about 200 parking spaces in an unpaved lot. Hoppy's Landing, which was acquired by the Town of Fairhaven offers parking for approximately 100 spaces, is open for public use for \$5.00 per day and a seasonal fee of \$30.00 for a parking sticker.

The eastern half of West Island is state owned, under the control of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. It is kept in its natural state and there are not public access facilities such as parking or walking trails there. There are two Town-owned boat ramps, one at Pease Park in Fairhaven Center, on New Bedford Harbor (with 25 parking spaces) and one on Sconticut Neck at the end of Seaview Avenue, on Nasketucket Bay, with about 55 parking spaces. There is the potential for a third boat ramp with other recreational uses on the southern half of Long Island, which the Town should look at acquiring. There are some semi-publicly owned coastal areas. The Audubon Society owns a nature reserve at Shaw's Cove and there is a South Shore Marshes Wildlife Management Area on Stony Cove, but access to both areas is over private, unpaved roads.

Drainage

Fairhaven has three drainage areas; coastal, estuarine and inland. The coastal area includes Shaw's Cove, Little Bay, Sconticut Neck, West Island, and the area from Sconticut Neck to Fort Phoenix. Runoff in this area flows into small coastal streams or directly into the coastal waters. The estuarine area includes lands draining westward into New Bedford Harbor and the Acushnet River. The river begins north of the route 6 (Huttleston Avenue) Bridge. Most of the natural drainage of this area has been altered by development over a 300-year period. Several small ponds and streams in the area have been filled and captured in drainage pipes that flow into New Bedford Harbor or the Acushnet River.

The inland areas of Fairhaven, including East Fairhaven and the interior wetland areas are drained primarily by the Nasketucket River system, which flows into Little Bay. A small portion of the northeast section of Fairhaven is drained by Swift Brook flowing into Mattapoisett and the Mattapoisett River Estuary. Floodplain development, where it has occurred in Fairhaven, is primarily residential and recreational.

Flooding

The major flooding threat in Fairhaven occurs on low-lying coastal lands. (See Water Resource Map). These are subject to periodic flooding and wave damage resulting from coastal storms. Most storms cause damage only to boats, low coastal roads, beaches and seawalls. The northern portion of Sconticut Neck Road (between Norton Street and Grape Street), a part of the Southern portion of Sconticut Neck Road (south of Camel Street) and the causeway to West Island are all about 15 feet above mean sea level. High storm waters have flooded these road segments and surrounding residential areas. Storms that pushed water levels to between 12 and 13 feet above mean sea level were recorded in 1938 and 1954. Waters pushed by high winds, large waves and tidal action can regularly exceed the 15-foot level, resulting in coastal flooding of these areas.

A hurricane barrier has been constructed across the mouth of the New Bedford Harbor. Another barrier has been extended in the form of a dike across the tidal marshes at the head of Priest's Cove. These structures provide protection from coastal storms to development in Fairhaven Center. Other protective structures exist that have been built by the Town and by private parties, but they are smaller and result in only localized protection.

Some flooding can occur along New Bedford Harbor and the Acushnet River when run-off is high and storm surge activity is strong at the gate of the hurricane barrier.

Wetlands

Fairhaven's coastal wetlands have been noted above. (See Water Resources Map). There are three small areas of inland shrub covered swamps. Two of these areas, of less than 10 acres, are along the course of the Nasketucket River near the small ponds that occur there. The most northerly of these has residential development adjacent to it. The other is in a farm. A larger area of shrub swamp, adjacent to a forested swamp, is located just north of the interchange of I-195 and State Route 240. It generally follows the right-of-way of a major power line, lying just east of it. The wetland may have been created or enlarged by the highway interchange and power line, when land was disturbed, interfering with existing drainage patterns.

There are extensive areas of inland-forested swamp in Fairhaven. They are in the eastern half of the Town and follow fingers of lowlands that resulted from glacial melting. The soils map reflects these wetlands (See Soils and Wetlands Maps). The residential and agricultural development that has occurred in these areas is on the slightly raised uplands between the fingers of lower swampy-forested land. Wetlands follow the drainage channels out of the area, the Nasketucket River and Swift Brook, but are not confined to them. Wetlands also occur in other lowland areas. There are not large differences in elevation in the area; the highest points being 70 to 80 feet above sea level, with the wetlands occurring in the areas between 30 to 50 feet in elevation. Freshwater wetlands are considered wet areas that range from seasonally and perennially damp areas to swamps. These wetlands are nearly all found flanking our freshwater rivers and brooks, together forming a complex and ecologically healthy drainage pattern.

Aquifer Recharge Areas

The aquifer recharge area is located in the Nasketucket River Basin in the northeast quadrant of Fairhaven. The zoning that protects it runs from U.S. Route 6 (or just 200 feet north of it) for part of the southern boundary, to the Acushnet Town Line. As noted, this area is largely undeveloped and contains large areas of forested swampland. This aquifer provides water for a Town well that is currently unused. It is an emergency water supply, and was the Town water supply until wells were developed in the Mattapoisett River watershed in Mattapoisett. (See Appendix C & D)

An overlay water protection-zoning district does not protect the Swift Brook area of Fairhaven because it does not provide any public drinking water. It is zoned for rural residence, with a 30,000 sq. ft. minimum lot size. There is a very small area at the intersection of New Boston Road and Charity Stevens Lane zoned for business. The entire area is composed primarily of forested wetlands. The only developments in this area are a few homes on large lots along New Boston Road.

Fisheries and Wildlife

Wildlife

Fairhaven's forests, inland and coastal wetlands, tide flats and off-shore areas of Buzzard's Bay provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, finfish and shell fish. Common terrestrial wildlife includes:

Mammals

All members of the vertebrate class Mammalians are warm-blooded and able to maintain a near-constant body temperature. Almost all mammals are born live rather than hatched from eggs. Mammals also produce milk that is high in nutrients and fat and promotes growth in offspring.

Red fox
Gray fox
Coyote
Cottontail rabbit
Eastern cottontail
Eastern Chipmunk

Woodchuck
Flying squirrel
Raccoon
Skunk
Virginia opossum
Musk rat

Red squirrel
Gray squirrel
White-footed mouse
Northern short tailed shrew
Star –nosed mole
Little brown bat
Meadow vole

Meadow jumping mouse
Short-tailed weasel
Fisher
Long-tailed weasel
Mink
River otter
White-tailed deer

Amphibians and Reptiles

The inland wetlands provide habitat for various reptiles and amphibians common to Fairhaven. Appreciating these animals often begins with a fondness for little lizards or long-legged frogs. Fondly dubbed the herps or herpitiles, the name comes from the Greek for “creeping,” *herpetos*. These two groups include not only creepers such as snakes, but sea turtles which swim, and treefrogs that climb, and all of them burrow. They share neither a method of locomotion nor any other trait that is theirs alone. Like mammals, birds and fish, they have backbones, but no fins or feathers. Reptiles and amphibians are cold-blooded, which means the temperature of their bodies varies with the outside temperature. The differences between reptiles and amphibians tend to reflect the reptiles greater independence from the water. The bodies of reptiles furnish general protection from predators and water loss, and amphibians are thin-skinned. Unlike the eggs of amphibians, the reptile’s eggs are either leathery like a pair of moccasins, or brittle like a birds’ egg and are less likely to dry out when laid on land. Some of the more common reptiles and amphibians located in Fairhaven include:

Bullfrog
Wood turtle
American toad
Wood frog
Garter snake
Dekay snake
Treefrog
Green frog
Pickerel frog
Leopard frog
Musk turtle
Snapping turtle

Spotted turtle
Eastern box turtle
Diamondback terrapin
Painted turtle
Spotted salamander
Red-backed salamander
Northern black racer
Garter snake
Milk snake
Hognose snake
Blue-spotted salamander
Eastern newts

Birds

For some it is joy enough simply to see a bird and observe its action. Others want to learn to identify the bird, to know its life-style, to understand its behavior. They are active and attractive. They make beautiful music. They willingly come to our feeders. Their preoccupation with nest building and their mysterious ability to fly keep us entertained.

Birds are members of the class of Aves, birds are the only animals that have feathers, and most are capable of flight. Like their reptile ancestors, they lay eggs; like mammals, they are warm-blooded. The bird’s skeleton is designed for flight, the bones are light with sponge like interior.

Below is a list of common birds to Fairhaven, since they have 29 miles of coastline the town lends itself to a wider array of shorebirds.

Roseate tern	Wild turkey
Piping plover	Ring-necked pheasant
Northern harrier	Semi-palmated plover
Osprey	Killdeer
Common loon	Lesser yellowlegs
Red-throated loon	Greater yellowlegs
Horned grebe	Sanderling
Pied-billed grebe	Common snipe
Canada goose	American woodcock
Black duck	Ringed-bill gull
Mallard	Herring gull
Harlequin duck	Great black-backed gull
Common eider	Common tern
Hooded merganser	Eastern screech owl
Red-breasted merganser	Great horned owl
Clapper rail	Ruby throated hummingbird
Sanderling	Belted kingfisher
Long-tailed duck (oldsquaw)	Chimney swift
Great Egret	Downey woodpecker
Great blue heron	Northern flicker
Snowy egret	Eastern phoebe
Black-crowned night heron	Eastern kingbird
Red tailed hawk	Horned lark
Mute swan	Purple martin
Greater scaup	Tree swallow
Bufflehead	Blue jay
Turkey vulture	Bank swallow
Sharp-shinned hawk	Cliff swallow
Ruffed grouse	Barn swallow
Tufted titmouse	American Redstart
Brown creeper	Ovenbird
White-breasted nuthatch	Red-winged blackbird
House wren	Brown-headed cowbird
Carolina wren	Common grackle
Northern mockingbird	European starling
Robin	Northern oriole
Wood thrush	Scarlet tanager
Veery	Northern cardinal
Eastern bluebird	American Goldfinch
Cedar waxwing	House finch
Ruby-crowned kinglet	Rufous-sided towhee
Black and white warbler	Sparrow (sp)
Warbler (sp)	Dark-eyed junco

Black-capped chickadee
Wood duck
Whimbrel

American crow

Marine/Estuarine Invertebrates

New England marine environments are home to a wide variety of invertebrates and Fairhaven is not exception. Below is a list of invertebrates common to the Fairhaven coast.

Quahog	Common jingle shell
Oyster	Atlantic bay scallop
Soft-shell clam	Ribbed mussel
Horseshoe Crab	Blue mussel
Hard-shell Calm	Northern rock barnacle
Razor clam	Blue crab
Calm worm	Northern lobster
Anemone	Green crab
Limpet	Fiddler crab
Common periwinkle	Rock crab
Knobbed whelk	Lady crab
Moon snail	Sea star
Common slipper snail	Sea Urchin
Channel whelk	

Fish

Below is a list of fish common to Fairhaven waters. The three categories are salt, fresh or brackish. Most fish species either live strictly in either salt water or fresh water. Other species are frequently found in brackish water, where the fresh and the salt water mix. An anadromous fish, born in fresh water, spends most of its line in the sea and returns to fresh water to spawn. Common examples of this are smelt, shad, striped bass, and herring. Catadromous fish does the opposite; they live in fresh water and enter salt water to spawn. The American eel is a common example of a catadromous fish.

Windowpane	Perch
Winter flounder	American eel
Tautog	Stickleback
Herring	Lined seahorse
Smelt	Grubby
Scup	Cunner
Shad	Skate
Menhadden	Northern pipefish
Bluefish	Sculpin
Goby	Black sea bass
Striped bass	Hogchocker
Silverside	
Mummichog	

Marine Mammals

Harbor seals

Gray seals

Marine Turtles

Leatherback turtle

These lists are partial, many species of birds are known to spend part of the year in Fairhaven and there are probably other species of animals as well. Each of these animals requires habitat with food, water, cover, and the freedom to move from one suitable habitat area to another.

Rare Species and Significant Natural Communities

There are several species of shorebirds, reptiles, and vascular plants found in Fairhaven that are considered threatened, endangered or listed as “species of special concern”. These classifications specify native species which have been determined to be suffering a decline in numbers and are subject to different levels of special efforts to assure that their numbers are maintained, these include:

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Rank	Federal Rank	Most Recent Obs
Reptile	<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i>	Diamondback Terrapin	T		1988
Reptile	<i>Terrapene Carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	SC		1990
Bird	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	E		1993
Bird	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	T	(LE,LT)	1996
Bird	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Least Tern	SC	(PS,LE)	1998
Bird	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	SC		1995
Vascular Plant	<i>Dichanthelium mattamuskeetense</i>	Mattamuskeet Panic-Grass	E		1990
Vascular Plant	<i>Polygonum glaucum</i>	Sea-Beach Knotweed	SC		1989

The state follows the Federally Endangered Species Act definition for the following types of criteria.

Endangered ~ (E) Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Threatened ~ (T) Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Special Concern ~ (SC) Are native species which have been documented by biological research or inventory to have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked, or which occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements, that they could easily become threatened within Massachusetts. (Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game)

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) maintain an atlas of all vertebrate and invertebrate species that are endangered, threatened or are of special concern in the state. Listed above are species that have been observed in Fairhaven.

The BioMap identifies those areas of Massachusetts most in need of protection in order to conserve biodiversity for generations to come. Core Habitat consists of the most viable habitat for rear plants, rare animals and natural communities. The entire east coast of Sconticut Neck and West Island in Fairhaven plus Nasketucket Bay are included on the BioMap “Core Habitat”. Core Habitat consists of the most viable habitat for rare plants, rare animals and natural communities. (See Wildlife Habitat Map)

The Priority Habitats are areas with unique habitats and species considered to be priorities for conservation and management. *Priority species* require protective measures for their perpetuation due to their population status, sensitivity to habitat alteration, and/or recreational, commercial, or tribal importance. *Priority species* include State Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive, and Candidate species; animal aggregations considered vulnerable; and those species of recreational, commercial, or tribal importance that are vulnerable. *Priority habitats* are those habitat types or elements with unique or significant value to a diverse assemblage of species. A *priority habitat* may consist of a unique vegetation type or dominant plant species, a described successional stage, or a specific structural element.

Priority habitats found in Fairhaven are located in the vicinity of Round Cove, Shaws Cove, barrier beach near Winsegansett Heights, Rocky Point and the area along the eastern shore of West Island. These areas should be considered a priority in planning for the future of Fairhaven. See Wildlife Habitat Map for Priority Habitats, from the Priority Habitats of Rare Species produced by Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.

Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are magical worlds that have become a natural gateway from aquatic to terrestrial for many organisms. They are defined as depressions that in most years contain water for a few weeks to a few months and can completely dry up. Another important characteristic is that they do not contain fish. Pools begin filling with late autumn rain and freeze over during the winter cold. When spring finally arrives, the pools thaw and become a nursery. Vernal pool activity start as early as the first springs rain, when many species that have lain dormant emerge. Several of these species have been genetically programmed to follow routes overland to the pools they will breed in. Distinctive calls from croaking Wood Frogs announce the location of a pool.

The Vernal Pools include two types of species. Obligate species, which depend on vernal pools for their existence, and facultative species, which strongly favor vernal pools but also inhabit permanent ponds. Obligate species include the Fairy Shrimp, Wood Frog, Eastern Spadefoot Toad (State Threatened), Spotted Salamander, Blue-spotted Salamander, Four-toed Salamander (Special State Threatened), and Marbled Salamander.

Over the past few years many vernal pools have been identified and certified within the state of Massachusetts. But many more go undocumented, and since these particular areas are fairly easy to fill, many more could disappear from existence. The strongest instrument of protection is the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, which protects pools and land within 100 feet, and can be certified by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. To qualify the pool must

- Be a confined basin depression
- Hold water for a minimum of two continuous months during spring and/or summer for most years
- Be free of adult fish populations
- Provide breeding habitat for vernal pool amphibians or contain fairy shrimp

Towns can enact bylaws to protect their own vernal pools, and about a dozen have done so far. Fairhaven has a number of potential vernal pools and a few are certified with the NHES Program. (See Wildlife Habitats Map).

Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Areas of particular landscape character are shown on the Open Space Plan Map, and discussed in detail in Section 4, B. Landscape Character.

Environmental Problems

Fairhaven's environmental problems fall under the following categories.

Hazardous Waste Sites

The Atlas Tack site on the southeastern edge of Fairhaven Center presents the primary hazardous waste site clean-up problem in Town. The Environmental Protection Agency has declared it a 'superfund' site, along with seven other sites. The Atlas Tack site is important to open space and recreational planning because it is located on the route of the Phoenix multi-use path. In 2007 the EPA had completed the cleanup to the industrial/commercial standard and the site is in the EPA monitoring period. The cleanup also included a significant wetlands restoration project. To use the site for residential and recreational purposes would require additional cleanup.

Off Shore Oil Spills

On Sunday, April 27th, 2003, Bouchard Transportation Co. Barge owned by Bouchard Shipping struck submerged rocks off the coast of Westport and ruptures a the tank carrying #6 oil. Fuel loss was estimated at approximately 98,000 gallons. The oil released impacted hundreds of miles of shoreline and numerous species of wildlife in Buzzards Bay. Fairhaven was one of the hardest hit areas coating the shoreline with oil and closing a majority of shellfish beds. The hardest hit

areas in Fairhaven include Hoppy's Landing, Balsam Street, the Causeway, and the Town Beach at the south end of West Island, Wilbur's Point and the Hacker Street area. Sconticut Neck and the east side of West Island were also affected.

The Department of Environmental Protection defined cleanup in several phases. The duration of the phases depended upon the type of shoreline affected and the degree of oil present. Certain areas like sandy beaches were easier of clean than the rocky shoreline. Below are the various phase

Phase I: Emergency/Initial Response. This phase involves the stabilization of the vessel and stoppage of oil release, mobilization of response equipment, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, and the initial cleanup of heavily oiled areas. Phase I lasted from days for sandy beach to weeks and months for some rocky and marsh areas. [This phase ended in September 2003].

Phase II: Ongoing Treatment and Removal of Oil. This phase involves the use of many different cleanup methods depending on shoreline type. Trained experts to determine which method is most appropriate, taking into account level of oiling, environmental sensitivity, and other factors, evaluated all areas.

Phase III: Monitoring and Maintenance. After an impacted shoreline area has been deemed by the cleanup crew to reach the initial cleanup level, another team of experts is sent to the area to confirm that this is the case. On sandy beaches, this level has been reached when there is no visible oil present. On rocky shorelines and areas of mixed sand and gravel, this level has been reached when there is no sheen and the oil on rocks does not come off on one's fingers when touched.

Phase IV: Official Inspection: This phase involves the inspection of impacted, cleaned areas by federal, state and local authorities. No area will pass this phase if any of the authorities are not satisfied that an impacted area is sufficiently clean, and that no risk is posed by use of the area. Nearly all areas have now passed inspection.

Phase V: Long-Term Cleanup: The final phase of the cleanup involves a detailed and comprehensive examination and assessment of any residual impact of the oil spill. Questions considered in this phase include: are there any additional actions needed? Has the spill damaged any natural resources? What changes, if any, have occurred as a result of the spill? This phase will last for several years.

Fairhaven with 29 miles of coast is in constant threat to from shipping activities. Costs of oil spills are quite high. Like many other situations, cleaning up after the fact is one of the most costly and inefficient ways of limiting the damage caused by oil spills. A more effective way to minimize the damage caused is by preventing the spill from occurring in the first place. It is both economically and environmentally advantageous for people to work to prevent oil spills. The

vessels used to ship oil need to become sturdier, double hulls and tanks made of materials that will work to minimize the chances of another spill.

Stormwater Runoff

Rainwater running off of streets, parking lots, roofs, golf courses, lawns and other pervious and impervious surfaces carry contaminants and pollution into the rivers, ponds and bays.

Stormwater containments affect the shellfish beds and sometime close area beaches because of bacteria, which is carried in the water from pets and human. Paved roads and parking lots that are connect to the waterways by drainpipes are often a direct path for contaminants that were once isolated from the Bay.

Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program has developed an action plan for stormwater drainage in their Atlas of Storm Discharges in the Buzzards Watershed. This atlas is meant to identify with maps and tables all of the towns that discharge stormwater and road-cuts into the tidal waters in the Buzzards Bay basin. The action plan set priorities based on drainage system size, available water quality and the receiving water depending on land use and shellfish resources, estimated cost of remediation, and the sensitivity of receiving water to pollution. Fairhaven has as of 2003, 202 pipes and 40 road cuts a total of 280 discharges. See Appendix III, Fairhaven Potential Restoration Sites for detailed maps and information.

Potential Wetlands Restoration

Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program identified potential freshwater and saltwater restoration sites in the southern portion of Buzzards Bay Watershed. Of particular interest were wetlands that had been previously filled due to construction or agricultural activities on public or private lands, conservation areas, and abandoned cranberry bogs. An atlas was created to aid state and municipal officials in identifying potential remediation projects when road and bridgework is considered. It will also assist local organizations looking for restoration projects as part of the wetlands mitigation and banking efforts underway. For a listing, description and map of potential restoration sites in Fairhaven see Appendix IV.

Eelgrass Restoration

Eelgrass is a subtidal marine plant species that grows in temperate waters. Seagrass another name for eelgrass, are highly productive communities and are ecologically important because they act as a nursery, habitat, and feeding ground for a variety of fish, waterfowl and invertebrates. The loss of eelgrass can result in profound shifts in fauna, including commercial and recreational species.

Eelgrass has been recognized as a sensitive indicator of the overall ecosystem health in subtidal marine areas with which they grow. Excessive discharge of nitrogen from human sources associated with development and other human activities are a concern for the health of eelgrass beds in the Buzzards Bay area. Since Buzzards Bay is a partial enclosed embayment makes it highly susceptible to the type of human activity that have an adverse effect on these highly productive communities. The two principal human disturbances affecting eelgrass growth is declining water quality and physical disturbance.

Though Fairhaven is a relatively small community with approximately 29.4 miles of shoreline in the Buzzards Bay the collective effects of all the communities are vast.

The Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program has developed a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan that included strategies to protect and restore wetlands, habitat, and water quality and living resources in Buzzards Bay. For more information concerning the plan please visit the Buzzards Bay National Estuary web site at <http://www.buzzardsbay.org/eelgrass.htm>. (Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, 2006)

Chronic Flooding

Chronic flooding has occurred at both Cushman Park in Fairhaven Center and at Livesey Park in North Fairhaven. Cushman Park was recently renovated which included drainage improvements. A design firm is currently preparing a renovation plan for Livesey Park, which includes drainage improvements in the work program. Funding for Livesey Park is expected to come from state and local sources. Chronic flooding also occurs in the extensive coastal areas of Town. Some residential development and roads on West Island and Sconticut Neck are in the FEMA A and V Zones. There is a hurricane barrier that protects New Bedford Harbor and Fairhaven Center. Numerous public and private rock and concrete jetties offer some local protection against storm waves and erosion, as do the 23 barrier beach segments in Fairhaven. Some of the barrier beaches need protection under open space actions. (See Water Resource Map for 100 year and 500-year Flood Zones)

Development Impact

Residential development is beginning to impinge on traditional farmland in Fairhaven, in the Shaw's Cove area and in the northeast quadrant of Town. Town residents, as indicated by open space plan meetings and discussion, regard this as a very important issue. Although these areas are zoned Agricultural and Rural Residential respectively, large lot (over 30,000 sq. ft.) development has recently occurred there. There continues to be interest in creating more residences in these areas. Several farm owners are approaching retirement age and have shown some interest in selling their property. Some property owners are using the 61A Program to receive tax abatements, but some owners have apparently dropped out of this program. Clearly the farms need more attention and protection than they have had in the past.

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

The Town puts a high value on open space and recreation protection and has a long history of such protection. Over the years the Town has acquired a Civil War Fort, a Town Beach as well as numerous other beach access parcels, a Town Forest, Little Bay Conservation Area and a rail road right of way that has been converted into a bike path. The Town is also home to two State Reservations, one on West Island and the other adjacent to Fort Phoenix. The conservation and recreation lands section below are those properties that are dedicated to open space and recreation purposes. Those properties owned by the State, County and Town are restricted for conservation, open space and recreation purposes whether by state statute for the state and county lands and those properties purchased with state open space funds or by deed restriction for Town properties. The private properties are not protected with any deed restrictions, but provide recreation opportunities for the citizens of the Town; therefore, worth listing.

Appendix “E” represents an inventory of the Town of Fairhaven’s “Protected” lands and Tables 9, 10 and 11 represents an inventory of the “Unprotected” parcels of valuable open space properties, which should be protected. The designation “MAP and LOT” on the table refers to the Town’s Assessor Map and Lot numbers for that parcel. When a parcel does not have a “Purpose” description, the purpose can be found by referring to the column “Property Name”.

The Town’s Conservation Commission, using the tool of wetland protection regulations, works with landowners to assure that these ecologically important areas are protected. The Water Resource Map shows the Town’s coastal and inland wetlands. These wetlands, combined with the existing protected and unprotected open space, provide an inter-connected network of both upland and wetland open spaces that provide protection for much of the Town’s character. This network also provides habitat and movement corridors for much of the wildlife enjoyed by Town residents.

Conservation and Recreation Lands

Parks, Beaches and Boat Ramps

The Town of Fairhaven owns and maintains several fine parks, beaches and boat ramps providing access to the waterways that surround their community. There are also a number of private parcels located within the Town as well.

Pease Park Public Landing

Acreage: 1
Managed/Owned: Fairhaven BPW
Location: West end of Pease Street
Description: This site consists of a boat ramp, dock, paved parking area for approximately 20 cars with trailers.
Protection: Public Access Board Restriction

Hoppy’s Landing

Acreage: 6.4
Managed/Owned: Town of Fairhaven – Board of Selectmen
Location: 55 Goulart Memorial Drive
Description: Public access boat ramp and recreational uses.
Protection: Federal Land and Water Grant - Article 97

Cushman Park

Acreage: 13.61
Managed/Owned: Town of Fairhaven
Location: Green and Bridge Streets
Description: Located just north of Town Center, Cushman Park is a flat, grassy park with Baseball fields, running track, amphitheatre, playground equipment and tennis courts. Facilities include restrooms and a concession stand. There is limited public parking at the park. There is a paved path that winds through the park.

Protection: Deed dedicated to Parks and Open Space

Livesey Park

Acreage: 11.4

Managed/Owned: Fairhaven BPW

Location: Glenhaven Avenue, Parker Street and Livesey Parkway

Description: Livesey Park is a relatively flat, grassy park with two tennis courts, three baseball fields, football practice area, a basketball court and play equipment. Facilities include a changing room and/or restroom. This site is located adjacent to the Oxford School. There is currently no off street parking available at this park. There is a paved path that winds through the park.

Protection: Urban Self Help Grant for improvements - Article 97

West Island Beach/Town Beach

Acreage: 10.16

Managed/Owned: Fairhaven BPW

Location: West Island

Description: The Town beach facility consists of an unpaved parking lot for approximately 100-150 cars that leads to a sandy beach. This site includes salt marshes, about 3,000 feet of sandy beach frontage. The beach is unquestionably one of the finest in the area. There are no permanent restrooms at the site; however, seasonal portable restrooms are provided.

Protection: Deed dedicated to Parks and Open Space

Seaview Avenue Boat Ramp

Acreage: 1

Managed/Owned: Town of Fairhaven

Location: Sconticut Neck, end of Seaview Avenue

Description: The facility consists of a paved parking lot that services a boat ramp and dock. Parking is available for approximately 55 cars with trailers. This ramp allows access into Nasketucket Bay. Four handicapped spaces are available. The dock at the boat ramp should be modified in order to provide barrier-free access.

Protection: Public Access Board Restriction

Pope Beach

Acreage: 5.73

Ownership: Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Location: West side of Sconticut Neck at the end of Hacker Street

Description: This small Town beach is located on Buzzards Bay at the north end of Sconticut Neck. Pope Beach is a clean sandy beach that is used by local neighborhood residents. On street parking is limited.

Protection: Harbor Trustee Grant – Deed Restriction

Silver Shell Beach

Ownership: Private
Location: Silver Shell Beach Road
Description: This small private beach is located midway down the west side of Sconticut Neck.

West Island Improvement Association

Acreage: 3
Ownership: West Island Improvement Association
Location: West Island
Description: This three-acre site serves West Island residents. It provides a clubhouse and an athletic field.

Macomber Pimentel Park

Acreage: 4.75
Managed/Owned: Town of Fairhaven
Location: Bernese Street
Description: Macomber Pimentel Park consists of a ballfield and an adjacent open field with play equipment. A twenty car unpaved parking area is provided adjacent to the ballfield. There is also a playground with swings, slide, monkey bars and seesaw.
Protection: Deed dedicated for Parks

State Recreation Areas

Fort Phoenix State Park

Acreage: 16.25
Managed/Owned: DCR
Location: Fort Street
Description: Fort Phoenix State Park was the guardian of our historic whaling port from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War. The park is owned and operated by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and is located adjacent to the town-owned Fort Phoenix Beach. This historically significant park provides a swimming beach, bathhouse, two tennis courts, a basketball court and a picnic area.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between 1962 and 1966 to protect New Bedford inner harbor from the tidal surges associated with large storms built a hurricane barrier. The hurricane barrier is the largest manmade stone structure on the east coast of the U.S. During a storm, the gates are shut to hold back the floodwaters. On the barrier, one may take a walk or in-line skate to nearly the middle of New Bedford Harbor.

Fort Phoenix

Acreage: 2.9
Managed/Owned: Town of Fairhaven
Location: Fort Street

Description: Fort Phoenix consists of a beach and a pre-civil war fort with cannons. The Fort is a significant historical structure and a key tourist attraction. A twenty car paved parking lot is provided.

Protection: Deed restriction and Historic Deed Restriction

Conservation Areas

Austin Pond

Acreage: 64

Managed/Owned: Fairhaven Water Department/Bristol County

Location: Bridge Street

Description: This area includes roughly 64 acres of land stretching from the Town wells on Mill Street, up the Nasketucket River to Bridge Street. Fairhaven owns fifteen acres of open watershed land around Austin Pond adjoined by 49 acres of wooded county conservation land. Ultimately, fishing, nature study, canoeing and hiking are available to residents at this location.

Town Forest

Acreage: 50.33

Managed/Owned: Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Location: Near Acushnet Town line

Description: The Town Forest is located near the Acushnet Town line; Fairhaven owns several large parcels of wooded conservation land totaling roughly 50 acres.

Shaw's Cove

Description: A major conservation resource is located along the shores of Shaw's Cove where a total of about 100 acres of salt marsh and coastal upland is in public control. The site includes adjoining parcels owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society (19 acres), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (22.4 acres), Town of Fairhaven (10 acres), and over 50 acres of land leased to the Town for conservation use. Access to this area has been provided and no site development has yet taken place. Installation of additional walkways and nature study areas are planned.

East Fairhaven Conservation Land

Acreage: 16

Managed/Owned: Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Location: New Boston Road

Description: East Fairhaven Conservation Land is a 16-acre parcel of undeveloped land, which lies just west of the East Fairhaven School grounds.

Multi-Use Recreational Property

Phoenix multi-use Bike Path

Managed/Owned: Town of Fairhaven, BPW

Description: The Phoenix multi-use path, which uses an abandoned railroad right-of-way serves as the main spine of this network. The more recently completed Little Bay multi-use path extension is the first step towards a connection of

the Sconticut Neck area and the ultimate connection to the Town Beach located on West Island. This connection, when completed would, consist of a combination of a multi-use path, striped bike lanes on Sconticut Neck Road, and a bike route from the causeway to the Town beach. This connection would be accessible in most parts with a smooth surface and small parking areas for residents arriving by car to walk on the trail portion of the network. The Little Bay trail provides rest areas along the route as well as views of the marshes. There are currently no other areas offering views of the marshes, which are accessible to elder, younger and physically challenged residents.

The multi-use trail connections running north and south off the length of the trail from the New Boston Road and Poverty Point areas to Fort Phoenix and West Island. Within the proposed trail system, New Boston Road, Oak Grove Road, Green Street, Fort Street and Causeway Road are shown as potential Town-designated “scenic roads” in order to protect their special character. Potential “pocket parks” are shown as small resting areas along popular walking routes such as Willow Park off Fort Street. These kinds of places, along with proposals to provide a range of recreational facilities for all age groups in town, will become particularly important as the majority of the Town’s residents become older.

Fairhaven Recreation Center

Acreage: 4
Ownership: Town of Fairhaven
Location: 227 Huttleston Avenue
Description:

The Fairhaven Recreation Center was built in 2000, with the grand opening in December 2001. The Community Center houses the new Council on Aging and the Recreation Center. The Recreation Center is 12,500 square feet a state of the art gymnasium. The facility has a Multi-Purpose Room with a small kitchen facility and media services, a men’s and women’s locker room with shower facility, a 6,300 square foot gymnasium with a full court for basketball or can be split into two half courts. We have two volleyball courts, tennis net, and a scoreboard. The Wellness Room contains cardiovascular equipment such as treadmills, elliptical machines, and stationary bikes. It also has free weights, and nautilus equipment. For the enjoyment of the members the Wellness Room has two cable televisions and a scale.

Fairhaven Recreation Center is located at 227 Huttleston Avenue, conveniently placed along the Fairhaven bike path. The large spacious backyard is home to a new playground, courtyard with outdoor seating and easy access to the bike path. Fairhaven Recreation provides the community with many recreational, leisure and fitness activities year round for all ages. The facility provides the Fairhaven residents to engage in recreational, social, educational, cultural and community activities.

The Recreation Department first began by offering Karate, Preschool playgroup, Open gym basketball, Aerobics, Volleyball, Adult basketball and Arts and Crafts classes. But the Recreation Department continually adds more to meet the growing needs of the community.

Programs offered: (but not limited to)

- Miles for Matty
- Holiday Events
- Big Truck Day
- Family Movie Nights
- Flashlight Egg Hunt
- Youth Basketball League
- Pee Wee Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Cardio Step & Sculpt
- Kool Kids Summer & After School Program
- NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass and Kick Contest
- Big Apple Bus Trip

Throughout the year new programs offered included Intro to Guitar, Flag Football League, Mad Science, Boot Camp and Lunch Muscle. We also continued offering the favorites, Sports and Games, Pilate's, Yoga, 20/20/20, Volleyball, Basketball, and Huddle Up Football Clinic just to name a few.

Little Bay Conservation Area

Acreage: 70
Managed/Owned: Town of Fairhaven
Location: End of Little Bay Road
Description: Little Bay Conservation Area is adjacent to the Town sewer treatment plan and the bike path extension runs through the eastern portion of the property. This path offers a multi-use trail to and through the Little Bay area, thereby making this a key recreation destination for walkers and cyclists.
Protection: Urban Self Help Grant – Article 97

Schools

Six public schools provide recreation areas. Since the schools were built to serve the local school age population, they are well distributed throughout the Town in different residential neighborhoods. These playgrounds heavily used by residents.

Oxford School

Acreage: 1
Owned: Fairhaven School Department
Location: 347 Main Street
Though this school only consists of a one-acre site, it is located adjacent to Livesey Park.

Fairhaven High School

Acreage: 8.5

Ownership: Fairhaven School Department

Location: Route 6

The Fairhaven High School is located just north of the Town Center on Rte. 6. The building itself is a very distinguished looking stone building. The athletic fields include a quarter mile track and a football field with spectator stands.

Hastings Junior High School

Acreage: 34

Owned: Fairhaven School Department

Location: 30 School Street

The school is located several blocks northeast of the high school. It provides six tennis courts and two baseball fields and a large athletic field.

Rogers School

Acreage: 3

Owned: Fairhaven School Department

Location: 100 Pleasant Street

Rogers School is located east of the Town Center on Pleasant Street. The playground equipment (replace by PTO in 2006 and 2007), playfield, baseball field and basketball courts are heavily used.

Wood School

Acreage: 19.5

Owned: Fairhaven School Department

Location: 60 Sconticut Neck Road

Located on the northern part of Sconticut Neck, this nineteen-acre site provides a large athletic field, playground equipment, a baseball field and a basketball court.

East Fairhaven School

Acreage: 15.2

Owned: Fairhaven School Department

Location: New Boston Road

This school is located just north of Rte. 6 on New Boston Road. The original school was demolished in 2005 and a new state of the art East Fairhaven school has been constructed. It is equipped with a playground, basketball court and a play field.

Whites Farm

Acreage: 115

Managed/Owned: Mariner Youth Soccer

Location: Shaw Road

Description: White's Farm is near the Austin Pond conservation area and the Nasketucket Watershed area. Mariner soccer, a youth soccer organization, purchased the entire property. Their long- term development plans are to

add additional fields, and indoor facility and preserve the sensitive areas on site. However, to accomplish this they have sold some acreage for residential development.

Farm Preservation

The state provides farm owners with alternatives to selling their lands for residential or commercial development, through the Farmland Assessment Act (General Law Chapter 61A) and the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Act (APR). These programs not only ease developmental pressures but also preserve an important natural characteristic allowing the owner of the property an opportunity to realize the value of their property.

Under the 61A program, actively farmed lands are in a position to be assessed and taxed on its farm use value rather than its potential property value. Although designed to provide an impetus for farmers to continue to use of their land for agricultural purposes, this is not a permanent solution.

Under the APR program, the Commonwealth compensates landowners for their willingness to place a permanent restriction on their land prohibiting all development, only allowing agricultural use. The landowner retains all rights of ownership, including the right to lease, sell the property or to will it to heirs. Under this program a farmer may sell the development rights to the Commonwealth and the restricted farmland to another farmer, in keeping with the preservation of this important natural feature.

The Forest Assessment Act (General Law Chapter 61) is a program for owners of parcels of forestland consisting of ten or more acres of adjacent land. Primary use of the Forestry Act land is to devote the forest to the production of forestry products.

Finally, Chapter 61 B deals with recreational wildlife resource landscape. This act deals with the land not suitable for forestry or agriculture. Protection is offered for the preservation of wildlife, resource, and or passive recreation in areas such as steep slopes, scenic areas and wetlands. The only provision is that the land must be a least 5 acres in size, and “shall be deemed recreational land if it is retained in substantially natural, wild or open condition, or in a landscaped condition in such manner as to allow to a significant extent the preservation of wildlife and other natural resources, clean air, vegetation, rare or endangered species, geological features, high quality soils and scenic resources...”

Additional methods to protect the future of farming in Fairhaven are the Right to Farm By-law and the Agricultural Commission:

Right to Farm By-Law

The purpose of the Right to Farm By-Law is to state with emphasis the right to farm in accordance to all citizens of the Commonwealth under Article 97, of the Constitution. This General By-law encourages agriculture base economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town. It achieves this by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and other Town agencies.

Agriculture Commission

An Agriculture Commission represents the farming community, encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities and works to protect and sustain agricultural businesses and farmland. Agricultural Commissions are a standing committee of town government, created through a vote at Town Meeting appointed by the Board of Selectmen or governing body of the Town.

Agriculture Commissions have been organizing in towns and cities throughout the state. More than 30 Agriculture Commissions exist today, with more planned for creation in 2006. Some local towns that have been successful in creating Agricultural Commissions: Westport, Dartmouth, Rehoboth, Plymouth, and Middleboro.

Though the Town of Fairhaven has not adopted the Right to Farm By-Law or an Agriculture Commission it is in a position to consider adopting either/or the by-law and the Commission to aid in further protecting the future of farming in the community at large. The total acreage under the State's Chapter Land program is 985.14 acres, which equals 12.28% of the total acres within the Town. The following is a breakdown.

Chapter Lands

Table 9
Fairhaven Chapter 61 Parcels

Parcel Ownership	Site Address	Parcel Acreage	Usage
Mariner Youth Soccer	Huttleston Avenue Fairhaven, MA	52.62	Forest Land
Mahoney Property	New Boston Road Fairhaven, MA	79.22	Forest Land
Medeiros Property	107 New Boston Road Fairhaven, MA	10.69	Forest Land

Parcel Ownership	Site Address	Parcel Acreage	Usage
Dube Property	105 New Boston Road Fairhaven, MA	10.69	Forest Land
Charpentier Property	119 New Boston Road Fairhaven, MA	14.00	Forest Land
Costa's Farm	197 New Boston Road Fairhaven, MA	14.28	Forest Land
Machado Property	New Boston Rd./Town Line Fairhaven, MA	4.33	Forest Land
Total Acres Ch. 61 Lands		185.83	

Table 10
Fairhaven Chapter 61A Parcels

Parcel Ownership	Site Address	Parcel Acreage	Usage
Costa's Farm	197 New Boston Road Fairhaven, MA	56.10	Pasture
Robichaud	New Boston Road Fairhaven, MA	97.76	Field Crops
Carvalho Farm	148 Shaw Road Fairhaven, MA	69.96	Field Crops
Lopes Farm	156 Shaw Road Fairhaven, MA	82.64	Field Crops Woodland Pasture
Motta Property	483 Bridge Street Fairhaven, MA	19.84	Field Crops
Viveiros	523 Sconticut Neck Rd. Fairhaven, MA	98.96	Field Crops Pasture
Denormandie Property	Shaw Road Fairhaven, MA	88.59	Field Crops
Mariner Youth Soccer	Huttleston Avenue Fairhaven, MA	30.73	Field Crops
Denormandie Property	Nulands Neck Fairhaven, MA	68.49	Woodland
Paquette Property	Charity Stevens Ln. Fairhaven, MA	58.69	Field Crops
Deterra Property	287 Mill Road Fairhaven, MA	41.87	Field Crops
Haskell Property	Charity Stevens Ln. Fairhaven, MA	46.57	Field Crops

Winterbottom Property	31 Charity Stevens Ln. Fairhaven, MA	12.24	Field Crops
Total Acres Ch. 61A Lands		772.44	

Table 11
Fairhaven Chapter 61B Parcels

Parcel Ownership	Site Address	Parcel Acreage	Usage
Stolecki	I-195/Town Line Fairhaven, MA	26.87	Nature Study
Total Acres Ch. 61B Lands		26.87	

Section 6: Community Goals

Description of Process

The process of establishing goals for open space and recreation was explained in Section 2, Planning Process and Public Participation. The process consisted of review of the accomplishments of the previous plan at public meetings of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Council on Aging and Tourism Committee over a period of time with an ongoing working relationship. Two public meetings were held, one on July 21, 2005, a second on July 17, 2007 and the completion of a number of on-site interviews with local individuals, public officials and representatives of organizations. A major purpose of the program was to establish a forum for the formulation of goals and objectives for both planning processes.

Two advertised public meeting were held on July 21, 2005 and July 17, 2007. The meetings, which focused on the review and formulation of open space and recreation goals, opened with a review of the accomplishments since the 1995 Open Space Plan and a discussion of the overall benefits of an Open Space Plan.

Open Space and Recreation Goals

Six basic goals in the area of open space and recreation emerged during the public participation process. In descending order of importance, these are as follows:

1. Preservation of the Town's Character
 2. Environmental Awareness/Habitat Protection
 3. Recreational Facilities for Seniors and Residents
 4. Multipurpose Trail Along Rail Right-of-Way
 5. Additional Athletic Fields in Underserved Areas
 6. Upgrading of Town Athletic Fields and Parks
1. The most prominent goal is the desire to preserve Fairhaven's basic character—its open landscape, views, traditional agricultural and fishing activities, and its identity

as a series of small seaside villages. It was acknowledged that economic conditions have produced, and will continue to produce, a degrading of these character factors. Nevertheless, most participants felt that the open land and coastal facilities and waters that supported these activities should be preserved wherever possible. Public access to the shore was expressed as an important problem that should be addressed in open space and recreation planning.

2. Protecting environmental features, such as water resources, shellfish beds, and wildlife habitats are considered important components of open space and recreation planning. It is felt that an important method of addressing those primary open space and recreational goals mentioned above should include signage and directions for users that would result in a more informed and responsible use of Fairhaven's open space, environmental and recreational resources. This goal potentially overlaps with other Town objectives, such as the desire to increase tourism, and to attract former residents to return to the Town.
3. The third strongest goal is the desire to provide recreational activities to address the needs of Fairhaven's aging population. Safe and accessible walking routes should be developed perhaps including a specialized low impact exercise station course for the elderly. The development of improved pedestrian access for older and physically challenged people at current recreational sites would go a long way toward meeting this goal. Expansion of the Senior Center to accommodate this growing segment should also be considered.
4. Provision of a multi-purpose trail along the abandoned rail right-of-way is the third most important goal. It was generally agreed that extending the trail to the waterfront on New Bedford Harbor, and eastward through Mattapoisett would be desirable, thereby increasing its value as a regional facility. Linking this east-west trail to north-south intersecting trails, walkways and bike routes was also considered to be an attractive and worthwhile concept.
5. Provisions of additional athletic fields, especially in currently underserved areas, such as East Fairhaven, emerged as a medium priority goal. Additional athletic fields for soccer and baseball would help relieve the extensive overuse of existing facilities, and the potential for conflict between these two sometimes-competing uses. In addition, there is competition for use of the baseball fields between women's softball and Little League baseball. (Many existing facilities are in need of maintenance and restoration because of overuse.)
6. Finally, upgrading certain existing Town facilities, such as the Town Beach on West Island and Hoppy's Landing were also considered important. Included in this category would be the improvement of Town boat launching facilities and mooring facilities.

Again, it should be remembered that these are goals, which became apparent as a direct result of the public participation process. While these are certainly key factors in goal formulation, other factors have also entered into the development of recommended open space and recreation goals.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Residents agree that the preservation of farmland is a high priority item for open space and conservation planning in Fairhaven. Specific farms to protect were identified as the Lopes Farm, near Shaw's Cove, and the Viveiros property on Sconticut Neck, both of which are currently experiencing development pressures. White's Farm in the Nasketucket Watershed area was identified as prime developable upland in the 1995 Fairhaven Open Space Plan. At the time there was concern about access and development on this property because of its proximity to the Nasketucket River. However, as discussed earlier in this report, White's Farm was purchased by Mariner soccer, a youth soccer organization. Their long-term development plans are to add additional fields, an indoor facility and preserve the sensitive areas on site. However, to finance their purchase, they have sold off portions of the property for development.

On Nuland Neck, just west of Shaw's Cove there is open land to which access is currently restricted; owing to the lack of a public road into the area (it is accessible by water). Some interest has been expressed in extending the adjacent open land owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and in providing road access to this property.

West Island now contains approximately 350 acres of forest and wetlands owned by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. DCR has indicated in the past its intent to prepare a management plan for the property. There is pressure to install some improvements (more toilets, food vending and drinking facilities) at West Island Beach (the Town Beach). Some workshop attendees felt these were needed, while some felt the improvements would draw more beach users than desirable, and consequently contribute to environmental degradation of the area. There is an unused observation tower on West Island that the Town intended to demolish, but the proposal was defeated because the tower has some navigational value by boaters. Since then it has been fixed up and re-painted by the West Island Improvement Association. However, this property is under constant threat of being vandalized. Clearly, a long term solution for the management of this site needs to occur.

Summary of Community Needs

There is a need for better access to all of the Town's recreational facilities and open space, particularly for elder, younger and physically challenged residents. In all cases, it will be important that an appropriate level of use be determined and access be designed accordingly.

There is a need for more athletic fields in Fairhaven. Existing soccer fields behind the Hastings Middle School are quite unusable in wet weather because of drainage problems. Because the newer Little League and soccer fields, which have been built in Town are private facilities, there is no assurance of continued availability or of Town priority to their use. This is especially a problem because surrounding towns do not have as many facilities as Fairhaven, and consequently the various inter-town soccer and softball leagues schedule more games in

Fairhaven than in other towns. There is a scarcity of regulation school-use track and soccer fields, and additional baseball fields would be desirable as well. All of the existing athletic facilities are overused. East Fairhaven, in particular, needs additional public or school-related recreational and athletic facilities.

Other recreational needs for the general public include an accessible, multi-use trail network for walking and biking connecting different parts of Town, which includes rest areas along the route and directional signage. There is some sentiment in Town toward enlarging Fort Phoenix State Park with land owned by NSTAR which would support the potential rejuvenation of that area into the active community gathering place it once was. At this writing, there is some indication that this transfer of land to the state may occur quite soon. There is also a need for small pocket parks along popular walking routes throughout the Town, which would provide resting places along the walks. Specifically, pocket parks along Main Street, Fort Street and Pleasant Street in the Center, and Adams Street in the Oxford area and North Fairhaven would help meet this objective.

Management Needs and Potential Changes of Use

Specific management needs include the development of a management plan for DCR-owned property on West Island.

Improving and assuring access to relatively inaccessible sites like Shaw's Cove and Nuland Neck will require that the Town acquire some private roads and rights-of-way. Perhaps this can be done with transportation funds available under the federal ISTEA program. Access spurs from the Phoenix multi-use path should be developed to such locations as Shaw's Cove and Little Bay. Such improvements require coordination with SRPEDD and the Massachusetts Highway Department so as to aid in funding.

Community Preservation Act

The Community Preservation Act passed at the 2005 Annual Town Meeting in Fairhaven. The money raised will be used to purchase property to limit future development, preserve open space, rehabilitate and restore historic resources, and purchase land for recreational use and community housing.

Since each state has its own unique history, laws, and approach to funding land conservation. Traditionally property taxes have funded the day-to-day operating needs of townships. Operating needs such as safety, health, schools, roads and maintenance. Funding of this nature never allowed for preservation and improving a community's infrastructure. The Community Preservation Act can give a community the funds needed to control its future. Community Preservations Act is empowering cities and towns to exercise control over local planning decisions.

The Community Preservation Act provides new funding sources which, can be used to address three core community concerns:

- Acquisition and preservation of open space
- Creation and support of affordable housing

- Acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes

This will give Fairhaven the opportunity to determine its priorities, plan for its future, and have the funds to make those plans happen.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services completed a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) in 2006 called Massachusetts Outdoors. This is a five-year plan developed by each state to be eligible for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants. It is the state's Open Space and Recreation Plan and provides a regional overview for the entire state. This plan will help guide numerous acquisitions, maintenance and program decisions. It also provides important insight into Massachusetts's needs for future planning of open space and recreation.

Southeastern Massachusetts is ranked the third largest in population at 1.1 million and growing rapidly. The federal government currently has no single land holding of regional significance. The State owns nearly 50,000 acres of protected land in the region. The Town of Fairhaven is centrally located near other three state parks and forests including Haskell Wildlife Management Area, Massasoit State Park, and Myles Standish State Forest.

Haskell Wildlife Management Area

Access to Haskell Swamp is located on Dexter Lane in Rochester. The Haskell Swamp area owned by the Department and Fish and Wildlife is comprised of 2,712 acres of varying vegetative communities including: red maple, Atlantic white cedar, and oak, white pine upland, eastern hemlock covering Rochester, Mattapoisett and Marion. The swamp is a major drainage area for the Sippican River. The property offers not only excellent habitat it also has significant historic and scenic value.

Myles Standish State Forest

The main entrance to Myles Standish State Forest is located on Cranberry Road in South Carver approximately 25 miles from the Town of Fairhaven. Myles Standish State Forest is the largest publicly owned recreation in southeastern Massachusetts. The forest includes one of the largest contiguous pitch pine and scrub oak communities in Massachusetts. Scattered throughout the forest are several kettle ponds created during the last glacial period. There are five camping areas throughout the forest set along the edges of the park's ponds.

Charge Pond area is specifically set-aside for horse campers. College Pond is available for day-us offering picnicking, swimming, fishing, canoeing. The forest offers fifteen miles of biking trails, thirty-five miles of equestrian trails and thirteen miles of hiking trails. Hunting is allowed seasonally, and two areas are stocked with game birds in October and November. Other recreational activities include cross-country skiing, swimming, and camping.

Massasoit State Park

Massasoit State Park is minutes from Interstate Route 495, approximately 25 miles for the residents of the Town of Fairhaven to enjoy the many recreational opportunities. The four lakes surrounding the park provide excellent fishing, swimming, canoeing and kayaking. Other recreational activities include horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing.

In a statewide survey, the Southeastern Region ranked their three most popular individual activities as swimming 60.1%, tours and events 57.3%, a walking at 57.1% in terms of interest to residents. Other areas of interest included playground activities, fishing, hiking, golfing, watching wildlife, nature study, sunbathing, biking, skiing (downhill), non-motorized boating, and canoeing. Table 12 reveals the overall percentage of participation rate of activities in the Southeastern Massachusetts Region compared to the percentage statewide responses.

Table 12

Participation Rate in Activities in Southeastern Region

Recreational Area	Statewide (% of Respondents)	Southeastern (% of Respondents)
Field-based Activities		
Baseball	6.4	1.9
Basketball	5.6	2.5
Football	2.1	1.3
Golfing	24.7	24
Ice Skating (rink)	0.1	0
Playground activity	26.1	37.9
Soccer	2.6	0
Tennis	2.2	0.7
Toddler activity	5.5	5.2
Volleyball	2.5	1.7
Passive Recreational Activities		
Photography/painting	5	1.5
Picnicking	22.6	17.5
Sightseeing, tours, events	54	57.3
Sunbathing	19.6	17.3
Watch wildlife, nature study	21.7	23.7
Trail-based Activities		
Biking (mountain)	12.5	9.6
Biking (road)	15.8	18.3
Horseback riding	0.8	1.1
Off-road vehicle driving	0.7	0.9
Rollerblading/skating	2.7	4.2
Running/ jogging	3.9	4.3
Skiing (downhill)	7.6	10.9
Snowmobiling	0.9	0
Walking	56.5	57.1

Water-based Activities		
Boating (motorized)	8.2	9
Boating (non-motorized)	7.8	14.1
Canoeing, rafting	8.5	13.6
Fishing	26.5	34.2
Hockey (natural water bodies)	0.3	0
Ice Skating (pond, lake or natural water bodies)	1.8	3.3
Sailing	2.5	5.1
Surfing	0.9	0.9
Swimming	54.6	60.1
Water skiing/ jet skiing	1.9	0.7
Wilderness Activities		
Camping	7.7	9.1
Hiking	30.8	32.6
Hunting	2.7	3.5

Most residents in this region had higher levels of satisfaction with most resources than residents in other regions. Even so, the average trip to a state forest is the second highest, at 20 miles each way. The results of the survey revealed residents in this region travel least often to rivers, streams, and ponds and lakes resources while traveling the furthest average distance to other resources.

Residents in Southeastern Massachusetts favored maintaining and restoring existing facilities as well as improved access for people with disabilities. Other areas of importance included expanding environmental programs, providing guides and maps, purchasing of new outdoor recreational areas, improving access via public transportation, increase park police and staff.

A list of policies and recommendations were compiled from the Massachusetts Outdoor 2000 Plan. They include six major themes:

1. Resource protection, stewardship, restoration and enhancement
2. Education and information
3. Partnership
4. Funding
5. Access
6. Maintenance

The final step is to update and implement the policies, recommendations and strategies. EOEEA is committed to this process, but ultimately this plan serves the people of Massachusetts and without their support and encouragement it cannot be an effective planning tool.

Section 8: Goals and Objectives

The following is a progress report of the Goals and Objectives from the 1995 plan.

Open Space Plan Progress Report

Section 8: Goals and Objectives	Accomplishments
Goal 1: Preserve and protect Fairhaven's open space resources.	
Specific Objectives:	
A. Acquire specific critically located parcels of land to prevent development in inappropriate (e.g., coastal) areas in Fairhaven. A priority parcel for acquisition is the 70 acre site on Little Bay where the Little Bay Estates subdivision was proposed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Bay Estates Property acquired with the assistance of a state Self Help Grant. • Sylvia Property acquired by the Fairhaven Land Trust with the assistance of a New Bedford Harbor Trustees Council Grant.
B. Encourage continued participation and enrollment in farmland and forestry preservation programs under MGL 61, 61A and 61B, and in the state Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program managed by the state Department of Food and Agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
C. Protect inland and coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats through enforcement of regulations on wetlands, floodplains, and areas subject to coastal flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fairhaven Conservation Commission vigorously enforces the local wetland regulations. • The Fairhaven Conservation Commission is drafting new rules and regulations to bolster some of the present town bylaws and regulations concerning wetland protection. • Town Meeting has endorsed Zoning Changes establishing Minimum Upland Requirements, improved Floodplain Zoning Requirements and a new Wetland Resource Protection zoning district covering the areas around Girls and Boys Creek.
Goal 2: Promote environmental awareness and appropriate conservation oriented use of Fairhaven's natural resources.	
Specific Objectives:	
A. Develop multi-purpose trail and paths, where appropriate on Town-owned and private property (using conservation easements).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Phoenix Bicycle Trail was completed along the former railroad right-of-way extending between downtown Fairhaven and the Mattapoissett border. • An extension of the Phoenix Bicycle Trail was constructed in 2004 and provides access to the Little Bay Conservation Area and Sconticut Neck.

B. Prepare information, including directional and on-site narrative and graphic signage and brochures, highlighting conservation and recreation areas, and encouraging appropriate use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A state Coastal Access Grant funded a design charrette using students from Harvard University to develop recommendations for the appropriate future use of the Little Bay property and interpretation of the critical environmental resources on the property...
C. Designate selected roads as 'Scenic Roads' to preserve their character and the views from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Progress
Goal 3: Protect Fairhaven's water supply and marine resource areas, including the Nasketucket well field, Mattapoissett River aquifer, Shaw's Cove and Little Bay area.	
Specific Objectives:	
D. Continue to work with officials in Mattapoissett, Marion, Acushnet and Rochester in protecting the Mattapoissett River aquifer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
E. Continue appropriate administration of the provisions of the Water Protection Overlay Zoning District in the Nasketucket River Watershed. Direct land and development rights acquisition programs on this area as well, to better protect water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adoption of Minimum Upland Zoning Requirements will provide increased protection for water resources by increasing dry land associated with buildable lots.
F. Encourage responsible and continuous land use management and planning within all water and marine related resource areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of Minimum Upland Zoning Requirements, improved Floodplain Zoning Restrictions and the Wetland Resource Protection District all promote responsible development patterns in water and marine related resource areas.
Goal 4: Provide properly located, sized and equipped recreational and athletic facilities, accessible to all citizens of Fairhaven, including elderly, younger and physically challenged residents.	
Specific Objectives:	
G. Develop Town recreational and athletic areas including multi-purpose fields play areas, particularly in East Fairhaven.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The town has reconstructed the athletic fields at Cushman Park and Hastings's School. A new skateboard park has been constructed at Livesey Park by the North Fairhaven Improvement Association. Through volunteer efforts an accessible playground has been constructed. The Town has hired a consultant to prepare plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of Livesey Park. The Town received an Urban Self-Help Grant in 2002 and renovated Livesey Park in 2003. Ongoing

H. Meet ADA required accessibility standards for access to all Town recreational and athletic facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town has designed an accessible walkway for Fort Phoenix with the assistance of a Historic Landscape Grant. Ongoing.
I. Improve access and facilities at the Town Beach on West Island.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A partnership of the Fairhaven, East Fairhaven and North Fairhaven Improvement Associations funded a boardwalk to Town Beach on West Island. Ongoing.
J. Build a multi-purpose trail from Fairhaven Center to the Mattapoisett Town line along the existing Town-owned rail right-of-way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Phoenix Bicycle Trail was completed along the former railroad right-of-way extending between downtown Fairhaven and the Mattapoisett border. An extension of the Phoenix Bicycle Trail was constructed and provides access to the Little Bay Conservation Area and Sconticut Neck.
K. Upgrade Town boat launching and mooring facilities, including the Sconticut Neck area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new floating dock has been constructed at the Seaview Boat Ramp. The Town is working with the Coastal Access Board for funding to improve the Pease Park Boat ramp. The Harbor Master is developing a new plan for boat mooring fields.
L. Identify and develop small pocket parks in Fairhaven Center, Oxford and North Fairhaven to allow for recreation opportunities in these currently underserved areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing.
M. Request redesignation of the Atlas Tack site from its current super-fund status, to allow cleanup to occur earlier. This site will be important as a link along the multi-purpose trail and as a possible community gathering area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing. The Wetland Resource Protection Zoning District will allow the redevelopment of the Atlas Tack site for uses that could support the adjacent bicycle path and be compatible with the surrounding wetland area.
Goal 5: Provide for adequate management of recreational and open space facilities and areas, allowing for Town recreational programs, appropriate safety standards, and upgrading and care of equipment and lands.	
Specific Objectives:	
N. Schedule facility use to allow adequate time for grass, shrubs and trees to be cared for at appropriate seasons of the year. Especially allow a few weeks in the spring and fall for reseeding, fertilizing, mulching and pruning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing.
O. Prepare an overall management plan for equipment and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing.

facility maintenance and replacement.	
P. Require that all organized users of facilities have adequate supervision of activities to insure safety and prevent over- or inappropriate use and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing.

The goals and objectives of the 1995 Open Space and Recreation Plan do not need any major reorganizing or significant modification. The updated list of goals and objective reflects a number of considerations, including the expression of goals emerging from the public participation process, the study team's interviews, data analysis and field investigations, and our knowledge and experience from other planning assignments. These recommended goals and objectives are as follows:

Goal 1: Preserve and protect Fairhaven's open space resources.

Specific Objectives:

- A. Acquire specific critically located parcels of land to prevent development in inappropriate (e.g., coastal) areas in Fairhaven. A priority area for acquisition or preservation is the 100 plus acres used by Mariner Soccer. The other critical areas are the farms in East Fairhaven.
- B. Encourage continued participation and enrollment in farmland and forestry preservation programs under MGL 61, 61A and 61B, and in the state Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program managed by the state Department of Food and Agriculture.
- C. Protect inland and coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats through enforcement of regulations on wetlands, floodplains, and areas subject to coastal flooding.
- D. The Town should consider a right to farm bylaw and/or and Agricultural Commission.

Goal 2: Promote environmental awareness and appropriate conservation oriented use of Fairhaven's natural resources.

Specific Objectives:

- A. Develop multi-purpose trail and paths, where appropriate on Town-owned and private property (using conservation easements).
- B. Prepare information, including directional and on-site narrative and graphic signage and brochures, highlighting conservation and recreation areas, and encouraging appropriate use.

- C. Designate selected roads as ‘Scenic Roads’ to preserve their character and the views from them.

Goal 3: Protect Fairhaven’s water supply and marine resource areas, including the Nasketucket River Basin, Mattapoisett River aquifer, Shaw’s Cove and Little Bay area.

Specific Objectives:

- A. Continue to work with officials in Mattapoisett, Marion, Acushnet and Rochester in protecting the Mattapoisett River aquifer.
- B. Continue appropriate administration of the provisions of the Water Protection Overlay Zoning District in the Nasketucket River Watershed. Direct land and development rights acquisition programs on this area as well, to better protect water resources.
- C. Encourage responsible and continuous land use management and planning within all water and marine related resource areas.

Goal 4: **Provide properly located, sized and equipped recreational and athletic facilities, accessible to all citizens of Fairhaven, including elderly, younger and physically challenged residents.**

Specific Objectives:

- A. Develop Town recreational and athletic areas including multi-purpose fields play areas, particularly in East Fairhaven.
- B. Meet ADA required accessibility standards for access to all Town recreational and athletic facilities.
- C. Improve access and facilities at the Town Beach on West Island.
- D. Extend bicycle access from the Little Bay Extension to the Town Beach utilizing a combination of separated paths, bike lanes and bike routes.
- E. Provide bicycle connections for the existing Phoenix path to other parts of Town.
- F. Upgrade Town boat launching and mooring facilities, including the Sconticut Neck area, Pease Park and Hoppy’s Landing.
- G. Identify and develop small pocket parks in Fairhaven Center, Oxford and North Fairhaven to allow for recreation opportunities in these currently underserved areas.

Goal 5: Provide for adequate management of recreational and open space facilities and areas, allowing for Town recreational programs, appropriate safety standards, and upgrading and care of equipment and lands.

Specific Objectives:

- A. Schedule facility use to allow adequate time for grass, shrubs and trees to be cared for at appropriate seasons of the year. Especially allow a few weeks in the spring and fall for reseeding, fertilizing, mulching and pruning.
- B. Prepare an overall management plan for equipment and facility maintenance and replacement.
- C. Require that all organized users of facilities have adequate supervision of activities to insure safety and prevent over- or inappropriate use and activities.

Section 9: Action Plan

This summary of the Action Plan is made up of two major sections: (1) a statement of progress accomplished to date on the Action Plan of the 1995 Open Space and Recreation Plan and (2) the Action Plan for the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Progress Report from 1995 Open Space Plan

1995 Action Plan Items	Accomplishments
Years 1-5 On-going Long Range Projects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the EPA to review the Atlas Tack Manufacturing site within the next year, with the intent of moving it up on the priority list for action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of railroad right-of-way into an accessible multi-use path with many points of access and rest areas along the route. This path would form the central spine for a Fairhaven Open Space System. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Phoenix Bicycle Trail was completed along the former railroad right-of-way extending between downtown Fairhaven and the Mattapoisett border.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of multi-use path connections to central path by a combination of sidewalks, designating bike lanes and pedestrian routes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extension of the Phoenix Bicycle Trail was completed that provides access to the Little Bay Conservation Area and Sconticut Neck.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of more small pocket parks along main walking routes in Town such as Willow Park, developed by the Fairhaven Improvement Association, and the small memorial site southeast of the Unitarian Church on Green Street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect by acquisition, conservation restrictions or other means parcels in the Nasketucket Watershed District. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town has adopted Minimum Upland Zoning Requirements and improved Floodplain Zoning Restrictions which will provide added protection

	to this area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect by acquisition, conservation restrictions or other means large parcels of unprotected land such as the Silva, White and Viveiros Properties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town has acquired the Little Bay Estates property and the Fairhaven Land Trust has acquired the Silva property, the Marion's Youth Soccer League has purchased the White property and the Viveiros farm has been protected with APR, Oil Spill and CPA funds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect wildlife areas and greenway corridors that facilitate the movement of plants and animals, especially in the northeast part of town where there are forested wetlands that support plant and animal populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the pastoral character of the Shaw's Road area by acquisition, conservation restrictions or other means of the agricultural properties in that area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop accessible trails, interpretive nature exhibits and programs, including educational programs for the schools, and passive recreational facilities for many of the municipal conservation properties, particularly West Island Town Beach, Town Forest, Little Bay Estates, and along the proposed multi-use trail on the railroad right-of-way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using a Coastal Access Grant and the assistance of the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, a plan for the use and interpretation of the features present on the Little Bay Estates property has been developed. This study is in the process of being implemented through an extension of the Phoenix Bicycle Path and other town projects on the property. Using a Historic Landscape grant the Town has developed plans for a walkway and fixed historic interpretations to be provided at Fort Phoenix. The Fairhaven Office of Tourism provides historic interpretations with the assistance of volunteer guides dressed in period costume at Fort Phoenix. Visitor guidebooks and a brochure are also prepared by the Office of Tourism to promote Fort Phoenix and the State Beach. Two private enterprises conduct Kayak tours of Fairhaven's coastal waters. A third private enterprise is conducting boat tours of New Bedford Harbor. Office of Tourism Guide Book and brochures promote walks in scenic and historical areas, including Riverside Cemetery, Fort Phoenix, Poverty Point, Fairhaven Center, and the Little Bay Conservation Area. Free guided tours are provided in most of these areas. The Office of Tourism Guide Book also promotes recreational facilities including the Phoenix Bicycle Trail, Everybody's Playground, Livesey Skate Park and public boat landings. The Friends of the Fairhaven Bicycle Path published a brochure highlighting sights along the Phoenix Bike Trail.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring open space and recreational facilities to compliance with ADA standards as specified in the Section 504 Survey included in this plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Phoenix Bicycle Path, any extensions to the facility, the Fort Phoenix walkway and all other Town construction projects will be designed to be ADA compliant. Volunteers raised the funds necessary to construct an accessible playground.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop signage placed in various locations around the Town which would include information on the ecology of brooks, wetlands and rivers, mark historic buildings and places, and identify the Fairhaven Open Space System showing lengths of walks and the locations of gathering areas. Signs would be small and coordinated in design, similar to those placed at state parks and dedicated wildlife areas. Signs on historic buildings would be similar to those in the Oxford Area on historic homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
Years 1-3 Mid-Range Projects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct curb-cuts in compliance with ADA standards and repair sidewalks with priority improvements schedule for streets on residents' major walking routes through Town. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Grimshaw Property into an accessible park which is easily connected to Fort Phoenix Park and re-establish that area as a main Town gathering area with the ultimate goal of purchasing the utility property and developing the entire area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to increase the land holdings of the Town Forest Property and develop an accessible trail along the Old Coach Road to Acushnet as well as interpretive nature exhibits and educational programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Progress
Years 1-2 Short Range Projects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the acquisition process of the Little Bay Estates property, and its development into a passive recreational area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site has been acquired. Through a Coastal Access Grant and the assistance of the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, a plan for the use and interpretation of the features present on the Little Bay Estates property has been developed. This study is in the process of being implemented through an extension of the Phoenix Bicycle Path and other town projects on the property.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the reconstruction including drainage repairs, of athletic fields at the Hastings Middle School. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The town has completed the Hastings Middle School drainage project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Town School Building Committee to find an appropriate site for a high school athletic facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The High School athletic facility has been constructed as part of the recreational facilities at Cushman Park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the efforts of the various Improvement Associations to mark the town limits with signs. Entrances to town on Route 6 and Howland Road, and at the intersection of Main and Alden Street in North Fairhaven would be most 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing.

appropriate.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designation of selected roads as ‘Scenic Roads’ which through Town legislation would protect the existing scenic character of these roads. Some roads to be considered for this designation are New Boston Road, Bridge Street, and Green Street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Progress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjust current zoning to allow for grouping of residential development in order to protect Town’s character and maximum amount of open space. This would be most appropriate in the agricultural zoning district north of Shaws Cove, Sconticut Neck and the area along Bridge Street and New Boston Road in the northeast part of town. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The town has adopted an Assisted Living Facility zoning bylaw which allows the concentration of senior citizen living facilities. The Planning Board has a draft cluster bylaw under review.

Recommended 2008 Action Plan

The recommended 2008 Open Space Plan and Recreation Plan are shown in Action Plan Map. The Fairhaven Open Space System is based largely on the Phoenix Bike Path, which is a multi-use trail, which serves as the main spine of the system. This trail is accessible in most parts with a smooth surface and many points of access, some of which when completed would have small parking areas for residents arriving by car to walk on the trail. The trail would provide rest areas along the route for views of the marshes. There are currently no areas offering views of the marshes, which are accessible to elder, younger and physically challenged residents.

The Plan shows the multi-use trail connections running north and south off the length of the trail from the New Boston Road and Poverty Point areas to Fort Phoenix and West Island. Potential ‘Scenic Roads’ of New Boston Road, Gellette Road, Shaw Road, Green Street, Fort Street and Causeway Road are shown on the map as roads, which the Town could designate as ‘scenic’ in order to protect their special character. Potential “pocket parks” are shown as small resting areas along popular walking routes such as Willow Park off Fort Street. These kinds of places will become particularly important as the majority of the Town’s residents become older. Other pocket parks should be developed along Pleasant Street and Main Street in Fairhaven Center and Main Street in the Oxford Area and North Fairhaven, and along Adams Street north and south of Huttleston Ave.

The Open Space Plan illustrates areas of particular landscape character. The protection of these areas is considered essential in realizing the goal of maintaining the existing character of the Town. Finally, the Atlas Tack Manufacturing site is shown as a major reuse site. This site has great potential should it be developed as a combination of uses such as elderly housing, retail and recreational facilities. Its location at the ‘in Town’ end of the multi-use trail, its view of the marshes, and being connected to the old rail road right-of-way leading to the wharf sets the stage for this site to be a vibrant community asset for Fairhaven.

2008 Action Plan Items

2008 Action Plan Items	Potential Funding Sources
Years 1-5 On-going Long Range Projects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of multi-use path connections to Phoenix Path by a combination of sidewalks, designating bike lanes and pedestrian routes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, Chapter 90, MassHighway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of more small pocket parks along main walking routes in Town such as Willow Park, developed by the Fairhaven Improvement Association, and the “Lady Fairhaven Park”, which is small memorial site southeast of the Unitarian Church on Green Street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect by acquisition, conservation restrictions or other means parcels in the Nasketucket Watershed District. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, LAND), Federal Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect by acquisition, conservation restrictions or other means large parcels of unprotected land such as the farms in East Fairhaven. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, LAND), Federal Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect by acquisition, conservation restrictions or other means large parcels of unprotected land along the Town Line of Acushnet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, LAND), Federal Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect wildlife areas and greenway corridors that facilitate the movement of plants and animals, especially in the northeast part of town where there are forested wetlands that support plant and animal populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, LAND), Federal Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the pastoral character of the Shaw Road area by acquisition, conservation restrictions or other means of the agricultural properties in that area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, LAND), Federal Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop accessible trails, interpretive nature exhibits and programs, including educational programs for the schools, and passive recreational facilities for many of the municipal conservation properties, particularly West Island Town Beach, Hoppy’s Landing, Town Forest, Little Bay Estates, and along the Phoenix Bike Path. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, LAND), Federal Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring open space and recreational facilities to compliance with ADA standards as specified in the Section 504 Survey included in this plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, LAND), Federal Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop signage placed in various locations around the Town which would include information on the ecology of brooks, wetlands and rivers, mark historic buildings and places, and identify the Fairhaven Open Space System showing lengths of walks and the locations of gathering areas. Signs would be small and coordinated in design, similar to those placed at state parks and dedicated wildlife areas. Signs on historic buildings would be similar to those currently use on historic homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, LAND), Federal Grants

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the process of improving the access to the Pope's Beach property. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, LAND), Federal Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the process of improving the facilities at the three Town boat ramps, Pease Park, Seaview Avenue and Hoppy's Landing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, Seaport Council, Coastal Access Board), Federal Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the facilities at the Senior Center and Recreation Center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, CDBG
Years 1-3 Mid-Range Projects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct curb-cuts in compliance with ADA standards and repair sidewalks with priority improvements schedule for streets on residents' major walking routes through Town. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, Chapter 90, MassHighway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Grimshaw Property into an accessible park, which is easily connected to Fort Phoenix Park, and re-establish that area as a main Town gathering area with the ultimate goal of purchasing the NSTAR property and preserve the entire area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, Self-Help)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to increase the land holdings of the Town Forest Property and develop an accessible trail along the Old Coach Road to Acushnet as well as interpretive nature exhibits and educational programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (DCR, LAND), Federal Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a management plan for Little Bay Conservation Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Staff & Funds, CPC
Years 1-2 Short Range Projects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the process of improving the facilities at Hoppy's Landing into a recreational area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, State (Coastal Access, DCR, Self-Help)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the efforts of the Town's Improvement Associations to mark the Town limits with signs. Entrances to Town on Route 6 and Howland Road, and at the intersection of Main and Alden Street in North Fairhaven would be most appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Funds, CPC, Private Donations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designation of selected roads as 'Scenic Roads', which through Town legislation would protect the existing scenic character of these roads. Some roads to be considered for this designation are New Boston Road, Bridge Street, Fort Street and Green Street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Staff, Planning Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjust current zoning to allow for grouping of residential development in order to protect Town's character and maximum amount of open space. This would be most appropriate in the agricultural zoning district north of Shaws Cove, Sconticut Neck and the area along Bridge Street and New Boston Road in the northeast part of Town. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Staff, Planning Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town should consider enacting a right to farm bylaw and/or creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Staff, Board of Selectmen

Section 10: Public Comments

of an agricultural commission.



**Town of Fairhaven
Massachusetts
Office of the Selectmen**

40 CENTER STREET
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719

TEL: (508) 979-4023
FAX: (508) 979-4079

June 13, 2008

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge, 9th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

RE: Fairhaven 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Board of Selectmen endorses the Open Space and Recreation Plan prepared by the Planning and Economic Development Department and the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District. The Plan is the culmination of several years of work, which has produced a comprehensive plan that addresses Fairhaven's desires and needs.

The Board supports the Plan and recommends its approval.

Sincerely,

Michael Silvia
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

C: File



FAIRHAVEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town Hall 40 Centre Street Fairhaven, MA 02719

June 16, 2008

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge, 9th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

RE: Fairhaven 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission has worked with the Planning and Economic Development Department over the last several years in the review of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

The OSRP is comprehensive and addresses Fairhaven's open space and recreation needs. The Commission supports the plan and recommends its approval.

Sincerely,

Andrew Jones
Chairman, Conservation Commission

C: File



FAIRHAVEN PLANNING BOARD

Town Hall 40 Centre Street Fairhaven, MA 02719 508-979-4082

June 10, 2008

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge, 9th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

RE: Fairhaven 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Fairhaven Planning Board has worked closely with the Town's Planning and Economic Development Department and the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District on the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). We have held several public forums, review sessions and public hearings, which has shaped the plan.

The OSRP is comprehensive and addresses Fairhaven's open space and recreation needs. The Board supports the plan and recommends it approval.

Sincerely,

Raymond Fleurent
Chairman, Planning Board

C: File



Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District

◀ 88 Broadway ▼ Phone (508)824-1367 ▼ FAX (508)823-1803 ▼ ssmith@srpedd.org ▼ Taunton, MA 02780 ▶

June 13, 2008

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

RE: Town of Fairhaven, Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District's (SRPEDD) planning staff has recently completed a review of the Town of Fairhaven's update of their Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The plan is consistent with SRPEDD's regional goals and objectives and in general compliance with DCS's Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. The plan also reflects the time, effort and research put into it by the Town's officials, volunteers, and planning staff. The Five Year Action Plan accurately reflects community needs and issues of concern. The continued efforts of the town to: promote long-range planning for growth and conservation; promote responsible conservation and land use planning, including ongoing work with the Mattapoissett River Valley Aquifer Advisory Committee to preserve shared areas of conservation interest; develop recreational opportunities for all segments of the population, and; the town's outstanding public survey work to garner opinion and ideas upon which to build this plan, are all very commendable.

SRPEDD recommends and supports the certification of the Fairhaven Open Space and Recreation Plan. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Durfee or Bill Napolitano in our Comprehensive Planning section.

Respectfully,

Stephen C. Smith
Executive Director

cc: SRPEDD Commissioners
William D. Roth, Jr., AICP
Director of Planning and Economic Development

THE COALITION FOR BUZZARDS BAY

620 Belleville Avenue
New Bedford, MA 02745

tel: (508)999-6363
fax: (508)984-7913

www.savebuzzardsbay.org

21 Luscombe Avenue
Woods Hole, MA 02543

tel: (508)540-6222
fax: (508)540-5222

June 10, 2008

Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Re: 2007 Fairhaven Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay has had the opportunity to review the Town of Fairhaven's 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan. We greatly appreciate both the opportunity to have commented on the plan and our ongoing partnership with the Town on a wide range of environmental issues spanning from oil spill prevention to wastewater management to land conservation.

Land conservation within the town, in particular, has been an important focus for our organization over the past five years. In that time, we have been pleased to work together with the Town and the Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Preservation Trust to permanently protect some of the most important coastal woodlands and farmlands in the town such as the Viveiros (127 acres) and Douglass (17 acres) Farms on Sconticut Neck, the Nulands Neck (106 acres) peninsula on the eastern shore of Nasketucket Bay, and the Marsh Island (21 acres) peninsula in New Bedford Harbor. We believe that the preservation of these lands helps ensure the long-term ecological vitality of the town's coastal waters, maintain the scenic beauty and character of the town, and provide new public access opportunities.

We are in complete agreement with the Open Space and Recreation Plan as to the development threats facing the town's remaining open lands (most notably the Shaw's Cove coastal farmland area and the Nasketucket River Basin) and their prioritization for open space preservation. These are the same areas where our organization intends to focus our efforts in the next three years and we look forward to working in partnership with the Town toward their permanent protection.

Sincerely,



Mark P. Rasmussen
Executive Director/Baykeeper

Working to improve the health of the Buzzards Bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research and advocacy

Printed on process chlorine free, recycled paper with soy-based inks.

Waterkeeper Alliance Member

Section 11: References

Buzzards Bay Project – web site and data

Carey, Robert, Public Works Director (2002 – 2007) - Interviewed

Cooney, Thomas, Recreation Director (2006-present) – Interviewed

EPA, web site, Atlas Tact data

Fairhaven Conservation Commission - Reviewed and commented on Drafts

Fairhaven Planning Board – Reviewed and commented on Drafts

Fortin, Edward, Supervisor, Fairhaven Water Department - Interviewed

Fostin, Wayne, Fairhaven Building Commissioner & Conservation Agent – Interviewed

Jenkins, Deborah, Director, Fairhaven Council on Aging

Lopes, Myra, member, Fairhaven Improvement Association

MassDep, web site

MassGIS, mapping data, aerial photos

Natural Heritage and Endanger Species Program, Priority and Estimated Habitats, Fairhaven, MA, October 2006.

Napolitano, William, Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)

Osuch, Jeffrey, Executive Secretary, Fairhaven Board of Selectmen, Interviewed

Pottel, Kenneth, Chair, Fairhaven Bicycle Committee

Rasmussen, Mark, Executive Director, Coalition for Buzzards Bay, Interviewed and reviewed drafts

Reedy, Jeanne, Fairhaven Assessor's Office, Interviewed and Town Data

Richard, Chris, Fairhaven Tourism Office, Interviewed, provided History Information

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, Southeastern Massachusetts Fact Book, Taunton, MA, April 2008

Spinner Publications, A Picture History of Fairhaven, Fairhaven, MA, 1986.

Tavares, Renee, Recreation Director (2001 – 2006) – Interviewed

Town of Fairhaven Staff and Officials, Annual Reports 1996-2007, Fairhaven, MA

Town of Fairhaven Staff and Officials, Open Space and Recreation Plan, July 1995

The Warren Group, web site, real estate data

U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Bristol County Massachusetts, Southern Part, Washington, D.C., 1981

Appendices

Appendix A - Section 504 Self-Evaluation

Appendix B - Soil Land-Use Limitations

Appendix C – Groundwater Resources for the Town of Fairhaven

Appendix D - Groundwater Resources for the Town of Mattapoisett

Appendix E - Protected Lands

Appendix A

Section 504 Self-Evaluation

ADA Assessment of Fairhaven Parks

Conducted on March 19, 2008 with Wayne Fostin, Fairhaven Building Commissioner and William D. Roth, Jr., Planning & Economic Development Director and landscape architect.

1. PEASE PARK PUBLIC LANDING

This site consists of a boat ramp, dock, and paved parking area for approximately 20 cars with trailers. There is one designated handicap parking space adjacent to the boat ramp; however, it is not striped and the sign is not located at the correct height. The parking lot needs to be restriped and the handicap space needs to be brought up to code. The boat ramp is currently accessible, but the dock adjacent to the ramp is not accessible, and would require major modification if it were made accessible.

2. CUSHMAN PARK

Cushman Park was renovated in 1999 as part of the High School renovation project. It provides some of the athletic fields for the school. It is a flat, grassy park with baseball fields, an amphitheatre, play equipment (primarily for younger children), running track, track & field stations and tennis courts and . Facilities include restrooms and a concession stand.

There is a public parking lot for between 30 and 50 cars located off of Main Street. The parking lot is paved but not striped. There are no designated handicap parking spaces. The parking lot should be striped and handicap spaces need to be provided.

The renovations included a pathway system through out the park that provides handicap accessibility to all the fields, tennis courts, track and playground. It is recommended that additional pathways be added in the future to provide more access points to the Green Street side of the park. In addition, handicap parking should be provided on the Green Street side of the park.

The 1995 survey indicated that the baseball field dugouts need to be made accessible. The dugouts are now at grade. The bleachers at the baseball fields should have a railing added on one side. The concession stand at the baseball field should have paper and pencil available for deaf patrons.

Play equipment at the park consists of a swing set and slides. The swing set can be made accessible by replacing one swing with an ADA approved model. Accessible equipment should be added to the playground area, to meet accessibility guidelines.

The park restrooms were locked at the time this survey was conducted. They are accessible, with at grade thresholds and 34" doors.

3. LIVESEY PARK

Livesey Park was renovated in 2003 and 2004. It is a relatively flat, grassy park with tennis courts, a baseball fields, a football practice area, a basketball court, play equipment, a skate park and outdoor rollerblade hockey rink. Facilities include a changing room and/or restroom. There is a parking area containing 2 handicap spaces. The spaces were added with the renovation and are fully accessible. All other parking is on street parking.

An accessible paved path system was installed in the park providing access to all of the uses in the park. Accessible curbcuts need to be added where the path system meets Glenhaven Avenue and Livesey Street.

The baseball fields are connected by the path system and the dugouts are at grade and bleachers are not provided. The play equipment has several accessible items; however, there is a 6" boarder around the playground making is inaccessible and base under the play equipment is not accessible to a wheelchair and should be replaced by an ADA recommended accessible surface that provide protection for falling children.

The restroom/ changing room is an older facility that is currently not accessible. The 6" threshold needs to be modified and the 32" doors need to be 34". The facility was locked so the interior was not available to evaluate.

4. WEST ISLAND BEACH/TOWN BEACH

The Town Beach facility consists of an unpaved parking lot for approximately 100-150 cars that leads to a sandy beach. There are no restrooms at the site; however, the Board of Public Works provides seasonable portable restroom facilities. Currently no handicap parking spaces are designated. Handicap parking needs to be designated and the surface provided under this parking needs to be hard-packed or paved. The 1995 survey recommended an accessible path and boardwalk to the water. While such a facility would extend the access to the beach, we do not see how feasible it would be to provide such access to a beach that is then not accessible. In addition, the environmental permitting of such a facility on a barrier beach may not be allowed. The guardrail would have to be modified in order to build an accessible path to the beach.

5. SEAVIEW AVENUE BOAT RAMP

This facility consists of a paved parking lot that services a boat ramp and dock. Parking is available for approximately 35 cars with trailers, with 4 handicapped spaces currently stripped (3-12' spaces and 1-15' space). The 15' space should be 16' in order to accommodate a van, and all handicap spaces need signage and restriping. The dock at the boat ramp is seasonal and needs to be modified in order to provide barrier-free access. A railing should be added on the piling side, and metal plates added to cover the joints between sections of the dock.

6. MACOMBER PIMENTEL PARK

This park consists of a ballfield and an adjacent open field with play equipment. A paved parking area for approximately 15 cars is provided adjacent to the field. The parking is not striped and no handicap spaces exist. A handicap space needs to be provided, and parking lot

striping needs to be provided. An accessible path should be provided from the parking to the ballfield and to the play equipment. The dugout needs to be modified in order to eliminate a 6" threshold. The bleachers should have a railing added on one side.

All the existing play equipment is on grass, and consists of swings, a slide, monkey bars and a see-saw. The swings need to be made accessible and a piece of accessible equipment placed on an ADA approved surface should be added.

7. RECREATION / SENIOR CENTER

The Recreation/Senior Center was constructed in 2001. The building and parking lot are fully accessible. The facility has a parking lot for approximately 110 cars with 5 handicap spaces. A small playground was added to the rear of the building at a later date. The play equipment is on wood chips, and consists of two swings, overhead glider and platform structure with slides. The swings need to be made accessible and a piece of accessible equipment placed on an ADA approved surface should be added. An accessible path, from the play equipment to the parking lot and to the building should be added.

8. LITTLE BAY CONSERVATION AREA

The Little bay Conservation Area is an approximate 84 acre parcel. It has been left in its natural state. There is a 1,600 foot dirt road that accesses a small paved parking area. Adjacent to the parking area are two pads with accessible type picnic tables. The parking area is not striped and no handicap spaces are provided. The access road should be improved to a minimum of gravel, the parking lot should be striped, a handicap space meeting code should be added and an accessible path from the parking lot to the picnic tables should be added. There is a small, relatively unmaintained trail system through out the property. The Town should consider formalizing the trail system and in some locations add an accessible boardwalk. The Little Bay Bike Path extension runs through the property.

9. LITTLE BAY LOOP BIKE PATH

The Little Bay bike path is a 1 mile bike path that is a spur off of the Phoenix Bike Path. It starts behind the Public Works and Sewer Plant and runs in a southerly direction to the end of Orchard Street. The path is fully accessible and provides a small vista area on the edge of Little Bay. An accessible connection from the bike path to the above mentioned parking and picnic area should be provided.

10. PHOENIX BIKE PATH

The Phoenix Bike Path is a 3.9 mile path that uses an abandoned rail road right-of-way. It starts in the center of Town at the intersection of Main and South Streets and dead ends at the Town line with the Town of Mattapoisett. The path is fully accessible and provides numerous access points where it intersects with the existing street system. The intersection with Sconticut Neck Road should be evaluated for better safety and accessibility. Vista pullouts with accessible seating thought out the path should be provided. A paved parking lot behind the Public Works building exists. The parking lot is an employee lot during working hours and is used by patrons of the bike path during non-work hours. The parking lot is striped and has one handicap space.

The handicap space does not meet code for stripping and signage and should be improved. An accessible connection from the parking lot to the bike path should be added.

11. HOPPY'S LANDING

Hoppy's Landing is a 6.4 acre parcel. It has a shell parking area, boat ramp and floating dock. The ramp and floating dock are not accessible. The Town should improve the ramp and dock area to it make accessible. A small building is located on site. It is used by the Harbormaster as an annex office. Accessible portable toilets are provided during the summer months adjacent to the building. Currently no handicap parking spaces are designated. Handicap parking needs to be designated and the surface provided under this parking needs to be hard-packed or paved.

12. ANTHONY'S FIELD (ON NORTH ST.)

This park consists of a baseball field and an adjacent open field with basket court in the far northern corner of the site. There is no off street parking; however, the Town could consider adding parallel parking adjacent to the street and provide a handicap space. An accessible path should be provided from the street to the baseball field and to the basketball court. The basketball court surface is in poor condition should be resurfaced. The dugouts are at grade.

13. HASTINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL BALL FIELDS

The facilities behind the school consist of tennis courts, soccer fields, baseball fields and general open fields. There is parking for between 75 – 100 cars. The parking area is paved and striped in a majority of area. No handicap spaces are provided. Handicap spaces should be provided at various locations. An accessible path should be provided from the parking areas to the fields and tennis courts. The bleachers should have a railing added on one side.

13. WOOD SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

A paved and stripped parking lot with approximately 60 parking spaces exists. There are three handicap spaces meeting code. The adjacent playground is a fully accessible playground.

14. ROGERS SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

The site contains a basketball court, baseball field and a playground. All parking is on street. There are two signed handicap spaces on Pleasant Street; however, they are not stripped and properly signed. The Town should strip and sign these handicap spaces so as to meet code. An accessible path should be provided from the parks access points to the baseball field and to the play equipment. All the existing play equipment is on wood chips, and consists of swings, multiple platform play structures, a tot lot, slides, monkey bars and an Xscape play system. The swings need to be made accessible and a piece of accessible equipment placed on an ADA approved surface should be added.



Town of Fairhaven
Massachusetts
Office of the Selectmen

TELEPHONE (508) 979-4023

FAX (508) 979-4079

PATRICK MULLEN, Chairman
JOHN R. RODERIGUES
JOHN T. HAALAND

January 1, 1994

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fairhaven Board of Selectmen have appointed Jeffrey W. Osuch, Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectmen, as the Town's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator.

Very truly yours,
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Patrick Mullen
Patrick Mullen
Chairman

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLAINTS

The following Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in employment practices and policies or the provision of services, activities, programs and benefits by the Town of Fairhaven.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date and description of the problem. Reasonable accommodations, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities who are unable to submit a written complaint.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Executive Secretary
Town Hall
40 Center St.
Fairhaven, MA. 02719

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint the Executive Secretary will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolution. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Executive Secretary will respond in writing, and where appropriate in a format accessible to the complainant such as audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Fairhaven and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the Executive Secretary does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the Executive Secretary within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Board of Selectmen or their designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Board of Selectmen or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting the Board of Selectmen or their designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate in a format accessible to the complainant such as audio tape, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All complaints received by the Executive Secretary, appeals to the Board of Selectmen or their designee, and responses from the Executive Secretary and the Board of Selectmen or their designee will be kept by the Town of Fairhaven for at least three years.

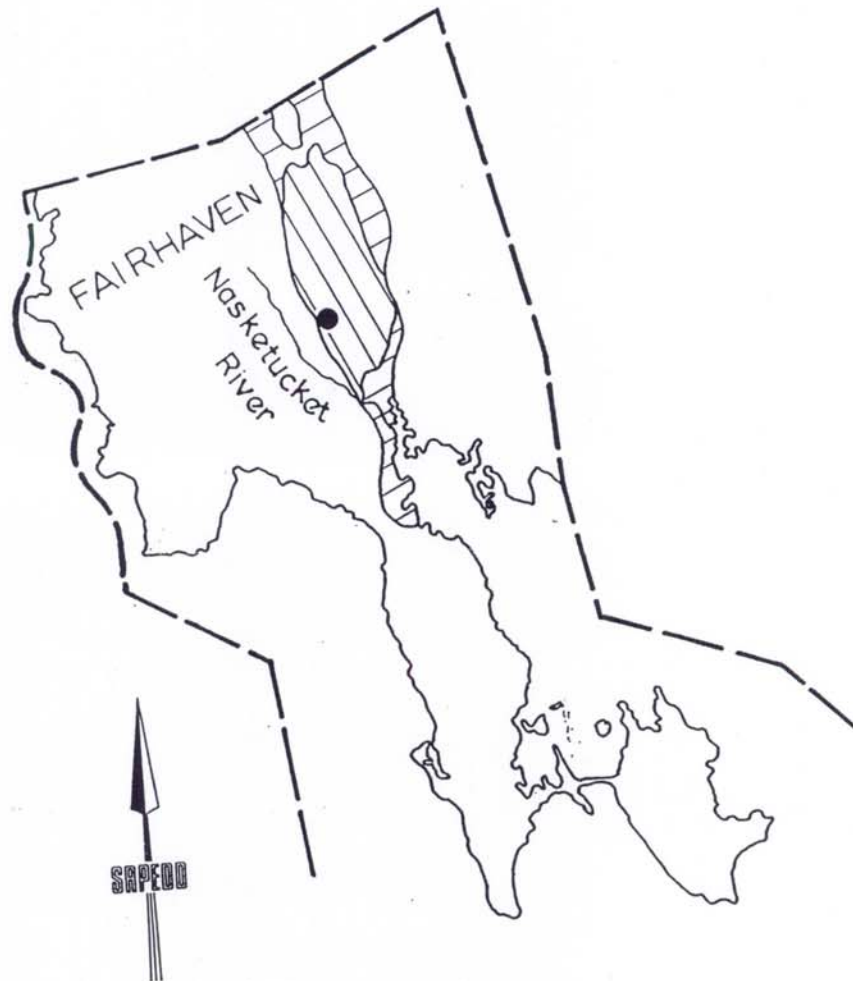
Adopted by the Board of Selectmen
Date:

APPENDIX B
Soil Land Use Limitations

General Soil Type	Ridgebury-Paxton-Woodbridge 0-15%	Hinckley-Gloucester-Merrimac 0-15%	Charlton-Paxton* Rock Outcrop 0-15%	Ridgebury-Muck-Whitman 0-15%
Slope	M	SL	M/S	S
Dwellings w/out basements	Large stones, frost action	Slope	Slope, large stones, frost action	Wetness, frost action
Dwellings with basements	M	SL	M/S	S
Small commercial buildings	Large stones, wetness	Slope	Slope, wetness, large stones	Wetness
Local roads and streets	M/S	M/S	M/S	S
Septic tank absorption fields	Large stones, frost action	Slope	Slope, frost action	Large stones, frost action, wetness
Sewage lagoon areas	Frost action	SL	M/S	S
Lawns/ golf fairways	Slow perc, wetness	SL	Slope, frost action	Wetness, frost action
Camping areas	M	SL	M/S	S
Picnic areas	Slope, stones	Slope, seepage	Slope, seepage	Stones
Playfields	M	SL/M/S	SL/M/S	S
Paths & trails	Large stones	Slope, too sandy, large stones, droughty	Slope, large stones	Large stones, wetness
Wildlife Potential	M/S	SL/M	SL/M	S
• open wildlife	Large stones, slow perc sandy	Slope, large stones, too sandy	Slope, large stones	Wetness
• woodland wildlife	M	SL/M	SL/M	S
• wetland wildlife	Large stones	Slope, small stones, too sandy	Slope, large stones	Wetness
	SL/M	Slope, large stones, too sandy	Slope, large stones	S
	Large stones	SL/M	SL	S
	M/S	Slope, large stones, too sandy	Slope, large stones	Wetness
	F	P	P	F/P
	G/F	F/P	P	F/P
	VP	VP	VP	G/VP

SL = slight, M = moderate, S = severe, G = good, F = fair, P = poor, VP = very poor
 * These Charlton soils occur in very intricate patterns with Paxton soils, thus similar limitations apply in areas of occurrence.
 Source: Soil Survey of Briston County, Massachusetts, Southern Part, USDA Soil Conservation Service, 1981

APPENDIX C



LEGEND

YIELD POTENTIAL	RECHARGE POTENTIAL	CONTAMINATION POTENTIAL	RELATIVE RIM-OFF RATE	AQUIFER COMPOSITION
HIGH >300 GPH	LOW-HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE-LOW	STRATIFIED GLACIAL DEPOSITS
MODERATE <300 GPH	HIGH- MODERATE	HIGH	LOW-MODERATE	
LOW <15 GPH	LOW	LOW	HIGH	RED ROCK & ON TILL

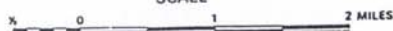
* HIGH WHERE BEDROCK IS AT LAND SURFACE

● 0.5 MUNICIPAL-AND INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY WELL.
IS YIELD, MILLION GALLONS PER DAY

--- STUDY-AREA AND DRAINAGE BOUNDARY

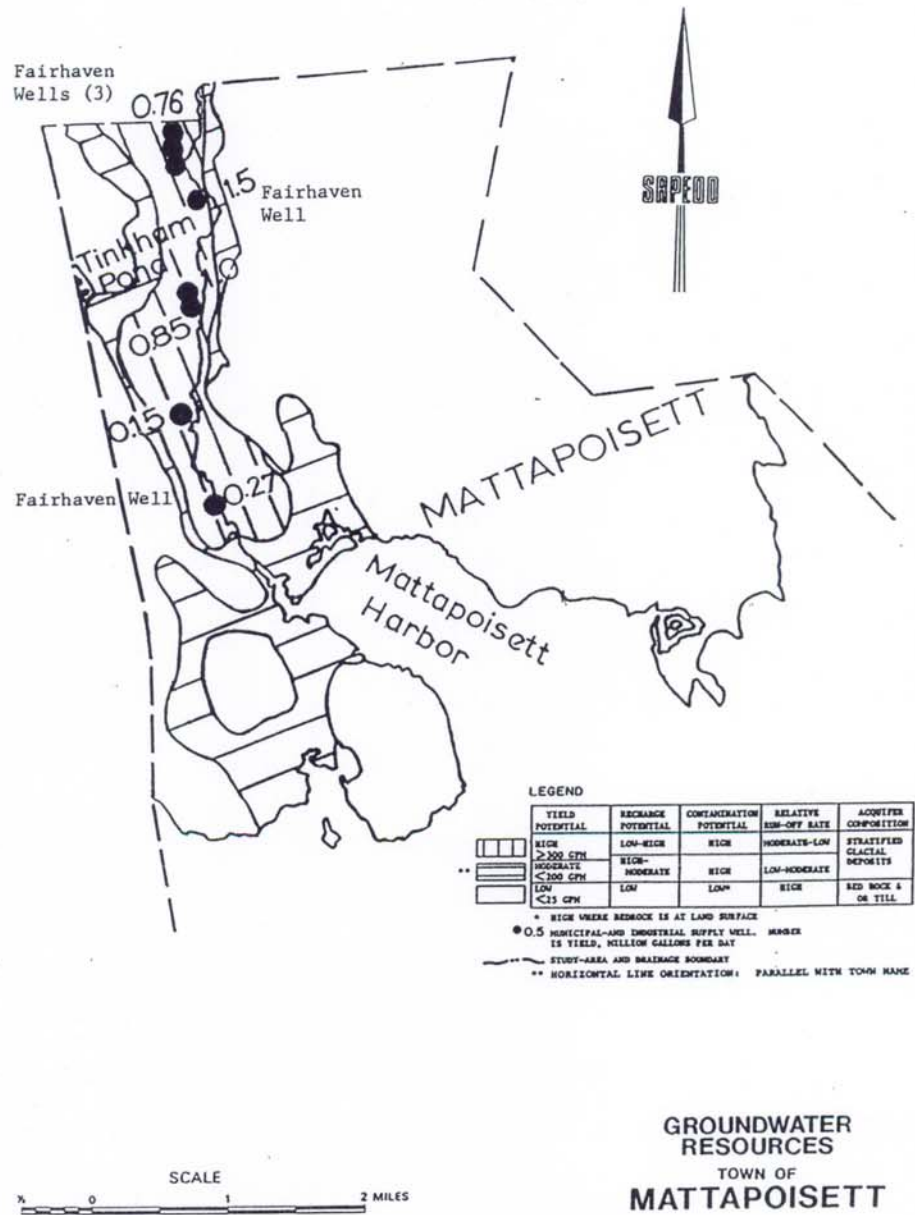
** HORIZONTAL LINE ORIENTATION: PARALLEL WITH TOWN NAME

SCALE



**GROUNDWATER
RESOURCES
TOWN OF
FAIRHAVEN**

APPENDIX D



APPENDIX E

MAP	LOT	Land Trust Location	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning
2	51	Worth St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.12	RA
15	1	Marsh Island	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	23.26	AG
17	129	Marsh Island	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	18.06	AG
23	203	Kacy Ln	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	0.66	RA
27	242	French St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.61	WRP
27	253	Scott St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.1	WRP
31	5A	Bridge St	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	3.31	RR
32	8	Weeden Rd	Land Trust	Conservation	No	6.19	RR
32	46	Shawmut St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	2.49	RR
33	3	Bass Pond	Land Trust	Conservation	No	9.94	AG
33	13	Stoney Cove	Land Trust	Conservation	No	2.39	AG
33	14	Stoney Cove	Land Trust	Conservation	No	1	AG
33	21	Shaws Cove	MA Audubon Society	Conservation	No	3.26	AG
33	24	Shaws Cove	MA Audubon Society	Conservation	No	10.56	AG
33	44	Wards Rock	MA Audubon Society	Conservation	No	0.3	AG
37	16-17	Rivard St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	32.33	RR
39	11	Turkey Grove	Land Trust	Conservation	No	22.27	RR
41	11	Sconticut Neck Rd	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	69.73	RR
41	12	Deacons Cove	Land Trust	Conservation	No	10.28	RR
41	13	Deacons Cove	Land Trust	Conservation	No	3.95	RR
41	20	Round Island	Land Trust	Conservation	No	3.76	RR
41	25	Sconticut Neck Rd	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	3.84	RR
41	2J	Sconticut Neck Rd	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	50.63	RR
41	2K	Sconticut Neck Rd	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	35	RR
42	3	Winsegansett Ave	Land Trust	Conservation	No	6.15	RR
42	14	Sconticut Neck Rd	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	52.75	RR
28B	462	Grape St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.35	RA
28B	493	Bonney St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.76	RA
28B	716	Bonney St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.1	RR
29B	13	Marion St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.53	RR
29B	26	Smith St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.53	RR
29C	190	Seaview Ave	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.17	RR
32A	18	Nonquitt Ave	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.52	RR
34A	273	Pine Grove St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.2	RA
34A	178A	Huttleston Ave	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	12.69	RA/RR

APPENDIX E

MAP	LOT	Land Trust Location	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning
34A	178B	Huttleston Ave	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	1.1	RA
43C	151	Cottonwood St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.28	RR
43C	155	Cottonwood St	Land Trust	Conservation	No	0.28	RR
TOTAL:						390.45	

MAP	LOT	Cemetery	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning
18	75	Riverside Cemetery	Riverside Cemetery	Cemetery	Unofficial	6.28	RA
17	130	Riverside Cemetery	Riverside Cemetery	Cemetery	Unofficial	15.28	RA
15	2	Riverside Cemetery	Riverside Cemetery	Cemetery	Unofficial	11.56	RA
22A	70	Woodside Cemetery	Town	Cemetery	Unofficial	2.36	RA
28	4, 5, 11	Nasketucket Cemetery	Riverside Cemetery	Cemetery	Unofficial	13.66	RA
29D		Indian Cemetery (Wigwam Beach)	Private Property	Cemetery	No	6.71	RR
33	28	Shaw Burying Ground	Town	Cemetery	No	0.1	AG
43	270A	Delano Cemetery (Wilbur's Point)	Town	Cemetery	Unofficial	0.04	RR
TOTAL:						55.99	

MAP	LOT	Conservation Lands Location	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning	Condition	Rec. Potential	Degree of Protection	Grant
20	1 to 4	Sycamore St	Town	Conservation	No	3.48	RA	Excellent	None	Limited	
20	24	Sycamore St	Town	Conservation	No	0.2	RA	Excellent	None	Limited	
20	323-326	Sycamore St	Town	Conservation	No	9.94	RA / WRP	Excellent	None	Limited	
27	7A	Egypt Ln	Town	Conservation	Yes	5.21	WRP	Excellent	None	Limited Art. 97 Land	
27	18	Boys Creek	Con Com	Conservation	No	1.49	WRP	Excellent	None	Limited Art. 97 Land	
27	24	Egypt Ln	Town	Conservation	Yes	4.26	WRP	Excellent	None	Limited Art. 97 Land	
27	144-145	Preston St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.14	WRP	Excellent	None	Limited Art. 97 Land	
27	161-162	Alexander St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.21	WRP	Excellent	None	Limited Art. 97 Land	
27	165-171	Cameron St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.82	WRP	Excellent	None	Limited Art. 97 Land	

APPENDIX E

MAP	LOT	Conservation Lands Location	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning	Condition	Rec. Potential	Degree of Protection	Grant
27	174	Cameron St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.11	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	181	Scott St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.17	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	183	Lawrence St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.34	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	193	Cameron St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.22	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	195	Scott St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.23	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	199	Sandringham Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.09	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	202- 203	Lawrence St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.5	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	207	Lawrence St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.11	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	210- 211	Hyland St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.23	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	232	Sandringham Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.2	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	235	Sandringham Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.2	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	238	French St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.11	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	260	French St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.72	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	270	Sandringham Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.6	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	279	Sandringham Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.26	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	293- 294	Circuit Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	1.01	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	309- 310	Westgate Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.84	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	327- 330	Washburn Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.41	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	335- 336	Washburn Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.14	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	340	Washburn Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.06	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	345- 346	Washburn Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.16	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	351	Cove Promenade	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.05	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	353	Cove Promenade	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.07	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	

APPENDIX E

MAP	LOT	Conservation Lands Location	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning	Condition	Rec. Potential	Degree of Protection	Grant
27	355	Cove Promenade	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.03	WRP	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	Self-Help
27	356	Washburn Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.02	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
27	360	Washburn Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.01	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
28	14	Little Bay Con. Area	Con Com	Conservation	Yes	83.7	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
29	7	Little Bay Shore	Con Com	Conservation	No	2.41	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
29	10 to 12	Little Bay	Con Com	Conservation	No	8.83	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
30	46G	Howard Farms	Con Com	Conservation	No	6.79	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
30	46H	Howard Farms	Con Com	Conservation	No	1.15	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
30	46J	New Boston Rd	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.06	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
30	47E	Tanner Ln	Con Com	Conservation	No	1.87	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
32	29	Little Bay	Con Com	Conservation	No	1.88	AG	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
33	6	Skipping Creek	Con Com	Conservation	No	5.46	AG	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
34	42	New Boston Rd	Con Com	Conservation	No	16.77	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
36	1A	Alden Rd	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.03	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
39	2, 4 & 8	Town Line Acushnet	Con Com	Conservation	No	11.09	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
39	12	Town Forest	Con Com	Conservation	Limited	31.63	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
40	1	Old Road to Acushnet	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.41	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
40	3, 5 & 6	Town Forest	Con Com	Conservation	Limited	19.37	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
40	16-17	New Boston Rd	Con Com	Conservation	Limited	51.79	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
40	25	New Boston Rd	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.24	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
40	54	Short Beach Rd	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.56	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
41	15	Deacons Cove	Con Com	Conservation	No	4.04	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
42	54	Short Beach Rd	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.56	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97	

APPENDIX E

MAP	LOT	Conservation Lands Location	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning	Condition	Rec. Potential	Degree of Protection	Grant
43	25258	Brownell Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.42	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
28A	125	Hacker St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.75	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
28A	161	Highland Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.78	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
28A	460	Pope Beach	Con Com	Conservation	Yes	1.14	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
28A	497	Manhattan Ave	Con Com	Conservation	Yes	3.51	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
28B	41A	Cove St	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.18	RA	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
28B	525	Edgewater St	Con Com	Conservation	Yes	1.96	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
28B	560	Edgewater St	Con Com	Conservation	Yes	12.85	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
28B	566-567	Edgewater St	Con Com	Conservation	Yes	0.14	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
29A	18	Sconticut Neck Rd	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.03	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
32A	29	Samoset Circle	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.38	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
42A	260	Winsegansett Ave	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.07	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
42A	268	Shore Dr	Con Com	Conservation	No	0.19	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
TOTAL:						303.68					
30	105	Town Watershed Dana Pond	Bristol County	Conservation	Unofficial	45.34	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
23	175	Retention Basin	Town/BPW	Conservation	Unofficial	40	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
30	27	Austin Pond	Town/BPW	Conservation	Unofficial	15	RR	Excellent	None	Art. 97 Land	
TOTAL:						100.34					

APPENDIX E

MAP	LOT	Recreation Lands Location	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning	Condition	Rec. Potential	Degree of Protection Deed Restrict Deed Restrict	Grant
1	1	Ft. Phoenix	Town	Recreation	Yes	1.92	P	Good	Yes		
1	1A	Ft. Phoenix	Town	Recreation	Yes	1	P	Good	Yes		
MAP	LOT	Recreation Lands Location	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning	Condition	Rec. Potential	Degree of Protection Deed Restrict Deed Restrict	Grant
1	14	Dike	Town	Recreation	Unofficial	1.3	P	Good	Yes		
6	46A	Dike	Town	Recreation	Unofficial	3.08	P	Good	Yes		
7	68	Willow Park	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.32	RA	Fair	Yes		
7	9	Union Warf	Town	Boating	Yes	1.68	MU	Poor	None		
8	68	Rogers Park	Town	Recreation	Yes	1.82	RA	Good	Yes		
9	19	Cushman Park	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.67	RA	Good	Yes		
11	61	Cushman Park	Town	Recreation	Yes	12.93	RA	Good	Yes		
11	51	Cushman Park	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.04	RA	Good	Yes		
11	12	Pease Park	Town	Boating	Yes	0.85	RA	Fair	Yes		
16	39	Anthony's Field (North St.)	Town	Recreation	Yes	2.24	RA	Poor	Yes		
27	Multiple	Dike	Town	Recreation	Unofficial	13.78	WRP	Fair	Yes		
28	23	Dike	Town	Recreation	Unofficial	1.92	WRP	Fair	Yes		
28	1	Recreation/Senior Center	Town	Recreation	Yes	4.09	B	Good	Yes		
42	23A	Hoppy's Landing	Town	Recreation	Yes	6.4	B	Good	Yes		
22A	194	Livesey Park	Town	Recreation	Yes	11.46	RA	Excellent	Yes		
29A	317	Macomber	Town	Recreation	Yes	4.76	RR	Poor	Yes		
29C	Multiple	Pimental Park	Town	Recreation	Yes	2.18	RR	Fair	Yes		
31A	721	Seaview Avenue	Town	Boating	Yes	13.43	RA	Good	Yes		
31A	804	Boat Ramp	Town	Recreation	Limited	0.37	RA	Good	Yes		
31A	866	Little League Field	Little League	Recreation	Limited	0.29	RA	Good	Yes		
		Little League Field	Little League	Recreation	Limited						

43A	44	Gulf Island Rd. Beach Access	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.2	RR	Excellent	Yes	None
43A	ROW	Little Neck Road Beach Access	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.13	RR	Excellent	None	None

APPENDIX E

MAP	LOT	Recreation Lands Location	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning	Condition	Rec. Potential	Degree of Protection	Grant
		Causeway Road									
43A	1	Beach	Town	Recreation	Yes	3.15	RR	Excellent	None	None	
		Causeway Road									
43A	1A	Beach	Town	Recreation	Yes	1	RR	Excellent	None	None	
		Blue Point Road									
43B	ROW	Beach Access	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.13	RR	Excellent	None	None	
		West Island Town									
43D	207A	Beach	Town	Recreation	Yes	14.2	RR	Good	None	None	
		West Island Town									
43D	203A	Beach	Town	Recreation	Yes	8.9	RR	Good	None	None	
43D	203B	West Island	Town	Recreation	No	5	RR	Good	None	None	
TOTAL:						119.24					

MAP	LOT	BIKE PATH	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning	Condition	Rec. Potential	Degree of Protection	Grant
7	69	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.2	RA	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
7	86	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.35	RA	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
8	62	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.21	RA	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
8	130	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.27	RA	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
8	71	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	2.16	RA	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
27	14	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	2.18	WRP	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
27	14A	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.54	WRP	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
28	23C	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	0.18	RC	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
28	37 - 39	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	4.22	RC/B	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
31	126	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	2.22	AG	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
31A	307	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	4.66	AG	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
31B	297	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	2.61	AG	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
31B	307	Phoenix Bike Path	Town	Recreation	Yes	1.59	AG	Excellent	Yes	Limited	MassHighway
TOTAL:						21.39					

MAP	LOT	SCHOOLS	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning
		Fairhaven High					
12	236	School	School Dept.	Recreation	Yes	8.69	RA
		Hastings Middle					
24	12	School	School Dept.	Recreation	Yes	34.02	RA
		East Fairhaven					
30B	146	School	School Dept.	Recreation	Yes	15.2	RA
28	24B	Wood School	School Dept.	Recreation	Yes	19.83	RA
22A	192	Oxford School	School Dept.	Recreation	Yes	1.06	RA

8	9	Rogers School	School Dept.	Recreation	Yes	1.65	RA
12	105	Anthony School (Former)	Town		Yes	1.26	RA
TOTAL:						81.71	

APPENDIX E

MAP	LOT	STATE LANDS Location	Owner	Purpose	Access	Acres	Zoning	Condition	Rec. Potential	Degree of Protection	Grant
1	2	Ft. Phoenix State Reservation	DEM	Recreation	Yes	16.42	P	Excellent	Yes	State Land	
1	5A	Ft. Phoenix State Reservation	DEM	Recreation	Yes	3.64	P	Excellent	Yes	State Land	
1	6	Ft. Phoenix State Reservation	DEM	Recreation	Yes	1.14	P	Excellent	Yes	State Land	
2	3A	Ft. Phoenix State Reservation	DEM	Recreation	Yes	2.46	P	Excellent	Yes	State Land	
2	4	Ft. Phoenix State Reservation	DEM	Recreation	Yes	6.3	P	Excellent	Yes	State Land	
33	1	Hunts Island	DMF	Conservation	No	1.15	AG	Excellent	None	State Land	
33	2	Bass Pond	DMF	Conservation	No	0.83	AG	Excellent	None	State Land	
33	5	Skipping Creek	DMF	Conservation	No	0.59	AG	Excellent	None	State Land	
33	7 to 12	Stony Cove	DMF	Conservation	No	18.85	AG	Excellent	None	State Land	
33	43	Shaw's Cove	DEM	Conservation	No	1.3	AG	Excellent	None	State Land	
43D	203	West Island State Reservation	DEM	Recreation	Yes	333.11	RR	Excellent	None	State Land	
TOTAL:						385.79					
GRAND TOTAL:						1458.59					

Zoning Index:

P: Park District
 RA: Single Residential Districts
 RR: Rural Residential Districts
 RC: Apartment Multifamily Districts
 WRP: Wetland Resource Protection Districts
 AG: Agricultural Districts
 MU: Mixed Use Districts
 B: Business Districts

**Please Note: Due to the file size,
the Maps are in a separate file.**