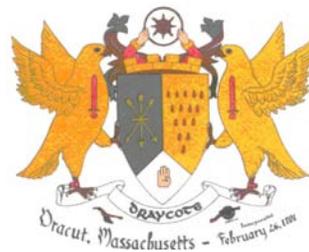


# DRACUT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

## 2009 UPDATE



**Town of Dracut  
Community Preservation Committee**



# **DRACUT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

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## **2009 UPDATE**

Town of Dracut, Massachusetts  
Community Preservation Committee

Prepared with the assistance of the  
Northern Middlesex Council of Governments  
Lowell, MA

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## SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

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A town of more than 28,000 people just north I-495 and on the New Hampshire border, Dracut grew over 20 percent in the 1980s and another 12 percent in the 1990s but growth has slowed significantly since 2000. Dracut is unusual given is densely developed neighborhoods near the City of Lowell in the western part of the town, and the numerous farms that continue to operate in East Dracut. Since completion of the 1996 Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan, Dracut residents have become increasingly concerned about development pressures on the agricultural and semi-rural character of East Dracut. As a result, residents voted to accept and implement the Community Preservation Act. In addition, a local land trust was recently formed.

The 2009 Update was prepared by the Community Preservation Committee, comprised of representatives of town boards and interested citizens, with technical assistance, from the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG). For the 2009 Update, public input was solicited via a Visioning Session conducted on April 15, 2008 and a general public hearing on October 7, 2008 to present the draft document, a written survey that was distributed as part of the Recreation Department annual mailing, and made available to citizens at both the Town Hall and the Town Library, Informational items were posted on the Town's website; and media coverage via the local cable television

The 2009 Plan Update follows the Massachusetts Department of Conservation Services (DCS) guidelines and format. The document inventories open space and recreational resources, assesses community needs, establishes goals and objectives and outlines a five year action plan. The 2009 Plan Update focuses on five goals:

- Preserve the viability and vitality of the Town's agricultural enterprises
- Make all recreational activities accessible to all members of the community
- Increase quality and quantity of recreation space and facilities
- Development of land management and facilities and maintenance plans
- Environmentally healthy water and wetlands resources

The first five sections of the Plan Update provide an overview of Dracut's natural and cultural environment; development history and current trends; and protected and unprotected lands of recreational or conservation interest. Based on this information and on input solicited through the public involvement process, the Committee developed the community needs analysis, goals, objectives, and five-year action plan as delineated in the second half of the Plan.

The Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan Update is consistent with the regional open space and recreational goals in the Commonwealth's previously issued

*Massachusetts Outdoors 2006: Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP)*, particularly in its emphasis on greenways and trails, improved public awareness and stewardship of open space resources, and public access to water resources.

## SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

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### A. Statement of Purpose

The 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan will serve as a guide for Dracut's citizens and public officials as they work cooperatively over the next five years to protect the community's natural, cultural and historic resources and to provide recreational development opportunities for the town's residents.

This 2009 update of the Town of Dracut's 2002 Updated Open Space and Recreation Plan is designed to: serve as a source of information on the town's environmental, open space, and recreation resources; review progress since the 2002 plan update; confirm and revise the goals and objectives of that plan; and articulate a policy agenda and action plan for the next five years. The Community Preservation Committee prepared this update, with technical assistance from the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), Dracut's regional planning agency.

Dracut's first open space plan was written in 1979. A revised comprehensive plan based on state open space and recreation planning principles was prepared in 1996 by the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee with assistance from the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG). The 1996 plan was further updated in 2002.

### B. Planning Process and Public Participation

This 2009 Dracut Open Space Recreation Plan Update was developed by the Dracut Community Preservation Committee with technical assistance from the NMCOG. This Committee is a permanent town committee charged with making recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on open space acquisition, agricultural land preservation, historical resource preservation, affordable housing and recreational project opportunities. The Committee included representation from the Conservation Commission, the Recreation Department, the Dracut Land Trust, the Planning Board and interested residents. The Town's Conservation Agent/Recreation Director, and the Assistant Town Manager/Town Planner, participated fully throughout the planning process. Public participation elements included public meetings, public hearings on proposed projects, and public outreach action via a written survey distributed through the Dracut Recreation Department, and by the Dracut Town Planner. A copy of the survey and the tabulation of the results can be found in Appendix B. Approximately 1,000 surveys were distributed and 102 respondents returned the survey.

An interactive public visioning session was held on April 15, 2008, and was attended by twenty (20) people. Participants discussed their experience and views relative to open space, recreation, nature, and wildlife in Dracut. They discussed past actions, future goals and priorities, and made suggestions about specific action items that the town could focus on in the coming years. A summary of the visioning session can be found in Section 7 of the Plan as well as in Appendix C.

A public hearing on the draft plan was held on October 7, 2008.

### **C. Accomplishments Since 2002**

Accomplishments in open space and land preservation since 2002, organized by the 2002 plan goals, include the following:

Goal I: Promote the preservation of important natural resources.

- Three additional Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR's) have been established: the 31-acre former Leczynski, now Dumaresq, farm on Parker Rd., and two parcels owned by Shaw Farm, 59 acres on New Boston Rd. and 15 acres on Marsh Hill Rd. This makes a total of four APR's in town, to preserve active farmland.
- Based on the successful 2000 model, two well-attended Landowners Forums were held, one in 2002 and one in 2006, by the Open Space Committee to inform landowners about land protection options and benefits.
- As part of the Meadow Creek Golf Course special permit process, 34 acres of farmland at the corner of Broadway Rd. and Jones Ave. were purchased in 2002 and preserved by the Dracut Land Trust (DLTI), using federal funds through the Farm Bill. This "Ogonowski Plot" will continue to support farming and will be dedicated to the memory of John Ogonowski, whose family has farmed this and surrounding land for generations.
- Also resulting from the Meadow Creek process, in 2002 the Town purchased and permanently preserved 45 acres of woodland, the "East Richardson Preserve," using a State Self-Help grant and CPA funds combined with the sale at auction of several house lots.
- The Town created an Agricultural Commission, as a permanent Town Commission, and this commission sponsored the first local farmers market in 2009.

Goal II: Promote the satisfaction of recreational needs for all residents.

- Recreational development of Veteran's Memorial Park (the Lachut Property) is ongoing.
- A tot lot at the Carrick Ball fields is in project development.

- Dracut Skateboard Park Association completed development of a skateboard park on land given by the Town. This park is now operated by the Town.
- A public walking trail along the approximate route of the historic Proprietors Road in has been developed in the Meadow Creek Golf Course.
- A network of public walking trails was developed over the past few years in the East Richardson Preserve by several Eagle Scouts in conjunction with the Open Space Committee
- The Community Preservation Committee is actively working on developing a recreation/natural area on the former Canney Farm in west Dracut.
- Two Town owned parcels are being developed as ADA compliant natural areas by the Open Space Committee; one at Long Pond is in the planning stage and one at Kensington Street has been completed and dedicated as Dennis P. McNamara Way.

Goal III: Protect vegetative and wildlife habitats.

- The East Richardson Preserve acquired by the Town in 2002 provides 45 acres of woodland habitat and surrounds and protects the Big Pond in the adjacent Dunlap Sanctuary. The "Grand Opening" for this Preserve was held in 2006.
- The Ogonowski Plot provides significant habitat especially for grassland birds.
- Over 200 vernal pools have been identified in town, 114 of which have been certified by NHESP. During the location and identification process, performed by a local naturalist, rare reptile and amphibian species were also identified. (See Appendix F.)

Goal IV: Promote efficient management and maintenance of open space and recreation areas.

- The Department of Public Works adopted a comprehensive management plan for Veterans' Memorial Park which may be expanded to other town lands.
- ADA compliant restrooms were installed at Veteran's Park and Hovey Field
- 65 paved, ADA compliant new parking spaces were constructed at Veteran's Park as well as an ADA accessible concession stand.

Goal V: Promote public awareness and understanding of open space, recreation, and natural resources.

- Several nature walks for the public have been well-attended: two Earth Day nature walks to the Dunlap Sanctuary in both 2002 and 2003, a Biodiversity Day walk in 2006 at the Dunlap Sanctuary -- part of a state-wide event, and a bobolink walk at the Dunlap Farm in 2004.
- In 2009, in conjunction with the Assessor's Office, the Community Preservation Committee developed a listing of all properties, most of which have ten or more acres that might lend themselves to open space and recreational purposes and is

contacting the property owners to ascertain their interest in exploring available options in this regard. The targeted properties are listed in Appendix H.

Goal VI: Promote opportunities for the local and regional linkage of open space and development of greenway corridors.

- The Proprietors Road public walking trail along The Meadow Creek Golf course forms a greenbelt connecting Veterans' Memorial Park to the Dunlap Sanctuary
- Easements have been acquired at 52 and 60 Hiland Farm Road and 737 Mammoth Road for a potential river walk that might connect by a farmer's bridge to extensive town holdings at the high school complex and along Beaver Brook.
- The network of trails on the East Richardson Preserve has been completed and is ready to connect with the proposed golf course trail.

While this is a strong record of accomplishment, it should be viewed as one of several benchmarks used when developing the goals and objectives outlined in the current Plan. Many of the items from the 2002 Action Plan will continue to be implemented in the next five years as long-term projects within the current Plan. These include the proposed trail along Beaver Brook, the protection of wetland and environmentally fragile areas and continuing public nature walks.

Furthermore, the Town will continue to build upon these accomplishments, especially in the areas of farmland preservation, compliance with the Court Consent Decree to make all town programs and facilities accessible to all segments of the population, and in the development of neighborhood based parks, playgrounds and open spaces. These items were all identified as needs in the visioning session, the public hearings and the surveys and are enumerated in the goals and objectives of the Plan. The specifics of what is hoped to be accomplished, how, and in what time frame are enumerated within the Five Year Action Plan.

## SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

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### A. Regional Context

#### Location

Located near Interstate 93 on the New Hampshire border thirty miles north of Boston, the Town of Dracut contains 21.36 square miles of land and surface water area. As shown on Map 1, the Town is bordered on the west by the Town of Tyngsborough, and the Town of Methuen abuts Dracut to the east. The City of Lowell is to the south and the southeastern border of the town is the Merrimack River, which forms the town boundary with the City of Lowell, the Town of Tewksbury, and the Town of Andover on the other shore. Dracut lies entirely within the Merrimack River drainage basin. Between 300 feet and 500 feet wide in its course through Dracut, the river is a major source of drinking water and recreation for communities along the river.

Geographically, Dracut lies within the Coastal Hills section of the New England Physiographic Province. The physiographic features do not conform to a regular pattern, although a general north-northwest alignment of many of the hills and tributary streams is apparent. The maximum relief between the Merrimack River and any point in Dracut is approximately 340 feet, with the difference between any particular valley and adjacent hills rarely exceeding 200 feet.

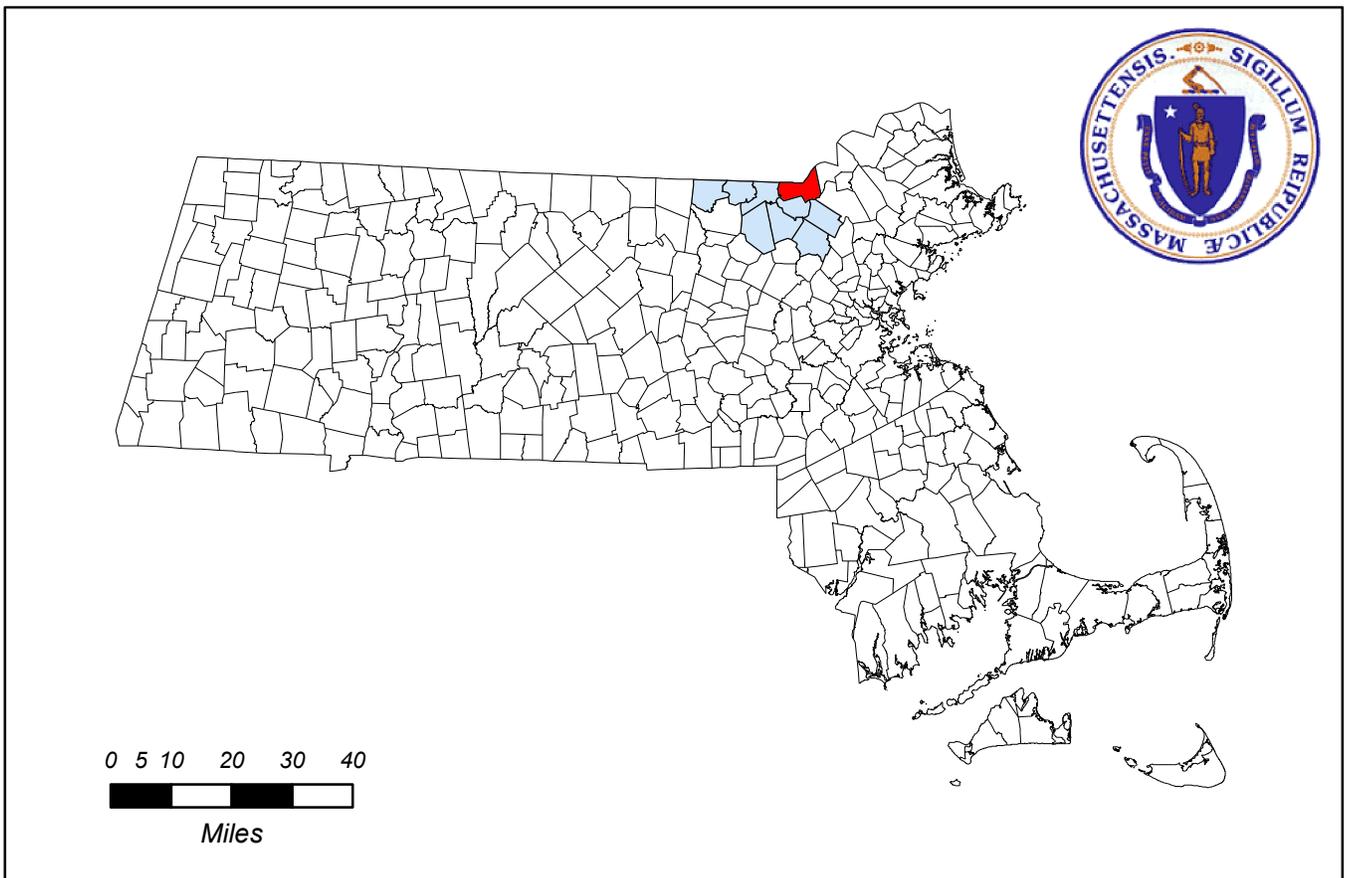
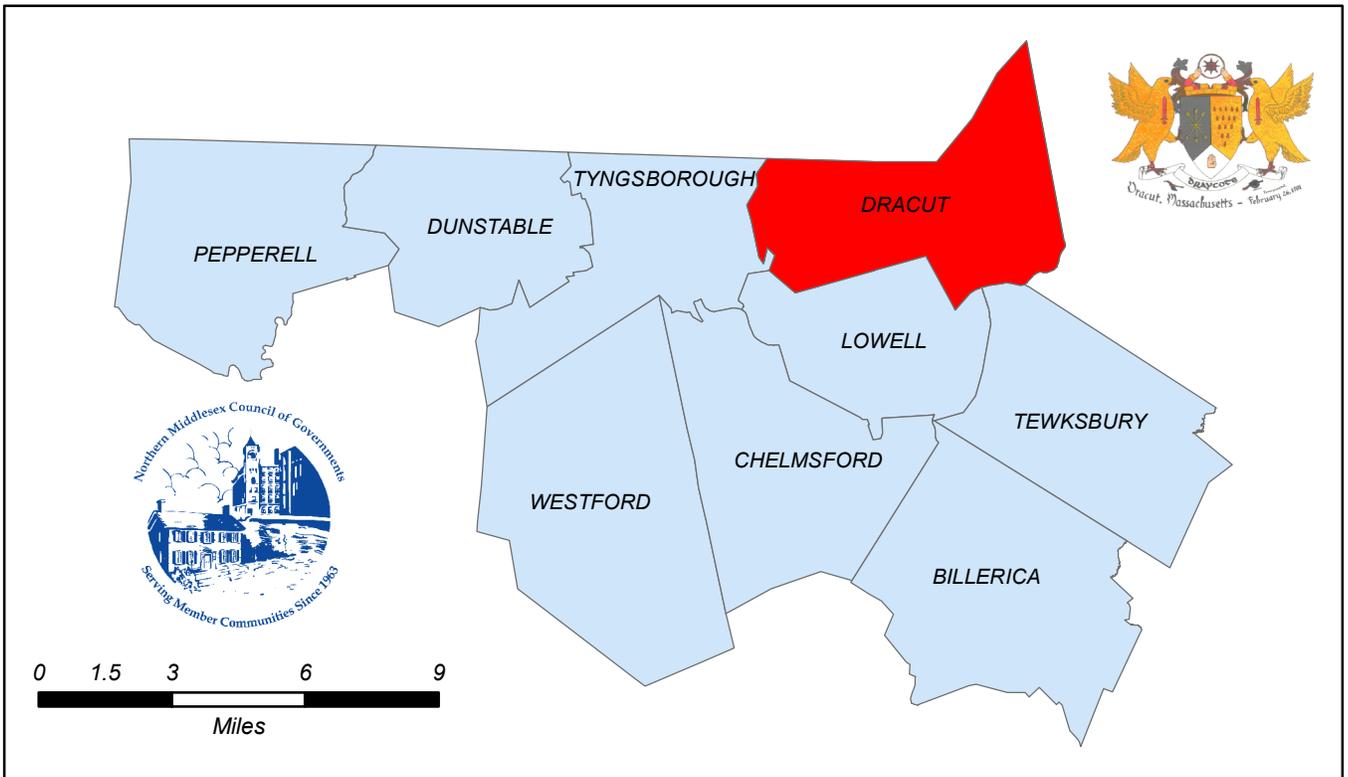
#### Regional Open Space Resources

Dracut shares several important resources with neighboring communities and the region: the Merrimack River, Long Pond, Lake Mascuppic, and the Lowell/Dracut/Tyngsborough State Forest. The river provides drinking water as well as recreational opportunities. Long Pond and Lake Mascuppic are shared with Pelham, NH and Tyngsborough respectively. The neighborhoods on their shores were formerly summer vacation colonies.

#### State Forest

The 1,040-acre State Forest, owned and managed by the State Department of Conservation and Recreation, includes approximately 527 acres within Dracut in the southwest corner of the town bordering the City of Lowell and the Town of Tyngsborough. This forested area provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities including walking, hiking, jogging, nature observation, picnicking, horseback riding, bicycling, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and hunting. The Dracut-Lowell-Tyngsborough State Forest provides an important ecosystem for the community, and adds to the quality of life for area residents by: helping clean air pollution and removing

**Dracut, Massachusetts:  
Location within the Northern Middlesex Region  
and the Commonwealth.**



carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; supporting a wide range of recreation activities, from hiking and cross-country skiing to hunting and fishing; and providing much-needed habitat for wildlife that are dependent on the forest for at least part of their lifecycle. The forest has become increasingly more important as development has led to fragmentation of forested areas throughout the region.

A Friends of the Forest group with membership from the towns and the city has been formed. Please see information on this organization in Appendix I which highlights what natural and cultural features are found in the Forest.

## **B. History of the Community**

First settled permanently in the 1660s, "Drawcutt upon Merrimack" was part of Chelmsford until 1701. Mohawk and Wampanoag Indians defended the area from incursions by European settlers through King Philip's War in 1676. Thereafter, Mohawk, Wampanoag, Pawtucket and Wamesit peoples withdrew north into Canada, opening the way for more settlers north of the Merrimack River. The settlers established farms and took their goods to market by ox-cart on roads following the existing Indian pathways. Perhaps even more important to the development of Dracut's economy were the river ferries that facilitated the crossing of the Merrimack and the moving of goods to and from the Boston market. These ferries, the first of which was the Webb/Colburn Ferry, would be the town's only connection to markets south of the river for 114 years. Even with the loss of almost one-half of its land to New Hampshire and Dunstable in 1741 and 1755 respectively, Dracut continued to grow. By 1763 mills for fulling and dressing cloth and paper operated in Dracut. The Middlesex Merrimack (Pawtucket) Bridge was built in 1792, the first of five structures that were to connect the town to the south shore of the river.

Dracut's economy continued to prosper with transportation improvements into the nineteenth century. The opening of the Middlesex Canal and the Middlesex Turnpike in the early years of the century connected Dracut more directly to Boston, stimulating the growth of mills in Collinsville and the Navy Yard. The Merrimack River provided Dracut with strategic connections to other local and regional economies through steamboats that began navigating the river in 1819. By 1826, in tandem with the incorporation of the Town of Lowell, the Central Bridge was erected, improving access and communication to the burgeoning mill town. The Boston and Lowell area economies were brought even closer together with the opening of the Boston and Lowell Railroad in 1835.

By the mid-1800's, the character and economy of Dracut began to shift as the industrial metropolis of Lowell became established as the region's economic engine. The Centralville and Pawtucketville neighborhoods of Dracut mushroomed into residential areas for Lowell mill workers, and, because of their proximity to the city on the north shore of the river, were annexed by Lowell in 1851 and 1872 (Centerville) and

1879, (Pawtucket). The installment of an electric railway system in Dracut near the turn of the century confirmed the role of nearby Dracut neighborhoods as bedroom communities for Lowell's working population.

In the early twentieth century, Dracut was reborn as a resort town. In 1908, Harry Kittredge built Lakeview Park, a summer resort on Lake Mascuppic. For more than two decades, from early spring to Labor Day weekend, the park was a mecca for summer revelers who came from as far away as Boston. In addition to its tourist and entertainment economy, Dracut's small manufacturing plants persisted. Textile and chemical products were manufactured in some of the old mills that once had made carpets, hats, brushes, shoes, farm tools, and wagons. Farms dotted the eastern portion of Dracut, which remained largely undeveloped.

Transportation improvements continued to disperse Dracut's working class. By the 1960's major highways such as I-93, I-495, and Route 3, had been constructed through neighboring towns providing access to other employment centers. This, along with the town's location north of the river and south of the New Hampshire border, reinforced the development of Dracut as a bedroom community for employment centers such as Nashua, Lowell, the Route 128 and Route 495 technology corridors, and Boston. Today, Dracut is predominantly residential, with limited industrial, commercial, and agricultural land uses.

### **C. Population Characteristics**

#### **General Population Growth Trends**

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Dracut has a population of 28,562 residing in 10,451 households. With a land area of 21.36 mi<sup>2</sup>, the population density in 2000 was 1,337 persons per mi<sup>2</sup>. The town's population grew almost 12 percent between 1990 and 2000, more than the regional decennial growth rate of 7.3 percent, but not as much as the region's very high growth towns of Dunstable, Tyngsborough, and Westford, which grew 26-28 percent during the 1990s. Dracut's growth rate since 1980 and projected through 2030 is shown in Table 1. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, sixty-seven percent of the town's population lived in Dracut at least five years and, while there are no more up-to-date figures for the current year, there is no reason to believe that this number has changed significantly.

**Table 1: Population Growth and Projections**

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Dracut	21,249	25,594	28,562	33,408	34,700	36,900	38,100	40,300
% growth	NA	20.4	11.6	17	3.9	6.3	3.3	5.8
Density/mi <sup>2</sup>	994.8	1,184.91	1,337.17	1,564.05	1,624.53	1,727.28	1,783.71	1,886.7
NMCOG region	235,052	263,656	281,225	304,000	314,500	325,000	332,500	343,800
% growth	6.8	12.2	6.7	8.0	3.5	3.3	2.3	3.4

Sources: 1980, 1990, 2000 U.S. Census  
 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030 MassHighway in consultation with NMCOG  
 NA-Not Available

**Special Needs Population**

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the special needs population of the Town of Dracut was estimated to be approximately 16% of the total population, or 4,131 residents. In comparison, the special needs population in the Greater Lowell region was 17.8% of the total population or 45,721 disabled residents. The Town of Dracut ranked in the middle of the region in terms of the overall percentage of special needs residents. Based upon age breakdown, the special needs population in Dracut comprised 41.3% of the 65 years and older group, 26% of the population between 21 and 64 years of age, and 6.2% of the population aged 5 through 20 years. Table 2 compares the special needs population in Dracut and the Northern Middlesex region by sex and age.

**Table 2: Special Needs Population by Age and Sex**

		5-15 years	16-20 years	21-64 years	65-74 years	75+ years	Total
<b>Dracut</b>	<b>Male</b>	148	64	1,237	323	262	2,034
	<b>Female</b>	83	77	1,167	250	520	2,097
	<b>Total</b>	231	141	2,404	573	782	4,131
<b>Region</b>	<b>Male</b>	1,856	1,254	14,942	2,448	2,042	22,542
	<b>Female</b>	1,023	1,273	14,229	2,650	4,004	23,179
	<b>Total</b>	2,879	2,527	29,171	5,098	6,046	45,721

Source: U.S. Census for 2000

In terms of the types of disabilities, the U.S. Census categorizes disabilities as follows: sensory, physical, mental, self-care, go-outside-home and employment. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 4,131 disabilities were tallied in Dracut, compared to 80,928 in the region as a whole. It should be noted that disabled residents might experience more than one form of disability so there is multiple counting within these estimates. Table 3 below breaks out these estimates by age group and types of disabilities.

**Table 3: Special Needs Population by Disability**

<b>Age Group and Disability Type</b>	<b>Dracut</b>	<b>Region</b>
Total disability	231	80,298
5-15 years old:	231	3,662
Sensory disability	16	489
Physical disability	30	412
Mental disability	148	2,320
Self-care disability	0	441
16-64 years old:	2,545	55,114
Sensory disability	185	3,660
Physical disability	402	9,460
Mental disability	103	7,271
Self-care disability	0	2,760
Go-outside-home disability	125	11,272
Employment disability	608	20,691
65 years +:	1,355	22,152
Sensory disability	161	3,938
Physical disability	92	7,195
Mental disability	7	2,776
Self-care disability	137	2,472
Go-outside-home disability	511	5,771

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

The Special Needs population represents a significant portion of the community. The recreation needs of this population will be given special consideration throughout the open space and recreation planning process.

### **Age Composition**

The current age breakdown of Dracut's population remains typical of an established and slowly aging, but still family-oriented, suburban community. In the last U.S. census, children and youths under 18 made up 24.5 percent of the population which is slightly more than the 24 percent of the state's population under 18. Dracut's 18 – 24 year old cohort declined by 277 persons from 1990 to 2000, reflecting the regional trend. Persons 65 and over made up over 11 percent of Dracut's population which is less than the 13.5 percent in the state's population. Table 4 offers a comparison of Dracut's population, broken down by age, with the region as a whole.

**Table 4: Population Change by Age Group**

Age	Dracut			NMCOG Region		
	1990 # (%)	2000 # (%)	Change # (%)	1990 # (%)	2000 # (%)	Change # (%)
Under 5	1,939(7.6)	1,935(6.7)	-4(0.2)	21,214(8.0)	20,536(7.3)	-678(-3.2)
5 - 17	4,493(17.6)	5,091(17.8)	598(13.3)	47,902(17.9)	55,054(19.6)	7,845(16.6)
18 - 24	2,616(10.2)	2,339(8.2)	-277(10.6)	30,779(1.7)	23,360(8.3)	-7,419(24.1)
25 - 44	9,212(36.0)	9,562(33.5)	350(3.8)	91,159(34.6)	92,446(32.9)	1,287(1.4)
45 - 64	4,740(18.5)	6,330(22.2)	1,590(33.5)	47,277(17.9)	60,964(21.7)	13,687(29.0)
65+	2,594(10.1)	3,305(11.6)	711(27.4)	26,018(9.9)	28,865(10.3)	2,847(10.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,594</b>	<b>28,562</b>	<b>2,968(11.7)</b>	<b>263,656</b>	<b>281,225</b>	<b>17,569(6.7)</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>4(12.5)</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>3.5(11.2)</b>

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census data

### Household Size

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the average household size in Dracut was 2.73 persons and the average family size is 3.19, in both cases more than the state averages of 2.51 and 3.11 respectively. Nearly three-quarters (74 percent) of Dracut households are family households (that is, married couples with or without children and single householders with children), which is much more than the 65 percent in the state's population. People living alone made up 21 percent of all households, less than the state's 28 percent. However, 23 percent of all Dracut households include persons 65 years and older, only slightly less than the 25 percent of the state's households with elderly persons. Given the projections of population growth, both in terms of numbers and rate, there is nothing to suggest that the household numbers will not remain proportional in the future.

**Table 5: Households 1980, 1990, 2000, Projections**

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Dracut	8,768	9,019	10,450	12,586	13,266	14,265	14,783	15,640
% growth	NA	2.9	15.9	20.4	5.4	7.5	3.6	5.8
NMCOG region	74,923	90,191	99,342	110,300	115,300	120,300	124,200	128,400
% growth	NA	20.4	10.1	4.5	4.5	4.3	3.2	3.4

Sources: 1980, 1990, 2000 U.S. Census  
2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030 MassHighway in consultation with NMCOG

### Income and Employment

The latest available income data shows that the 1999 median household income in Dracut was \$57,676, up almost 28 percent from 1989. In looking at the income distribution in Table 6, it becomes clear that the majority of households in Dracut have an income above \$50,000 with the mode being in the \$50,000 - \$74,999 range. The greatest percentage increase was in the \$75,000-99,999 range, while the percentage in the \$35,000-49,999 range had the largest decrease. These changes are reflective of the changes in the region as a whole.

**Table 6: Income Distribution 1990 and 2000**

	Dracut		NMCOG Region	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
	Households (%)	Households (%)	Households (%)	Households (%)
< \$10,000	661(7.3)	459(4.4)	10,570 (11.7)	6,844 (6.9)
\$10,000-14,999	487(5.4)	423(4.0)	4,709 (5.2)	4,756 (4.8)
\$15,000-24,999	910(10.1)	773(7.4)	9,780 (10.9)	8,441 (4.8)
\$25,000-34,999	990(11.0)	937(9.0)	11,323 (12.6)	9,052 (9.1)
\$35,000-49,999	2,180(24.2)	1,657(15.9)	17,794 (19.7)	14,660 (14.7)
\$50,000-74,999	2,593(28.8)	2,889(27.6)	21,526 (23.9)	21,472 (21.6)
\$75,000-99,999	806(8.9)	1,593(15.2)	9,150 (10.2)	15,100 (15.2)
\$100,000-149,000	334(3.7)	1,272(12.2)	4,199 (4.7)	13,342 (13.4)
>\$150,000	58(0.6)	447(4.3)	1,067 (1.2)	5,875 (5.9)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,019</b>	<b>10,450</b>	<b>90,118</b>	<b>99,542</b>
<b>Median Income</b>	<b>\$45,165</b>	<b>\$57,676</b>	<b>\$43,008</b>	<b>\$59,472</b>

Source: 1990 and 2000 Census

In further analyzing the income distribution figures for Dracut and the NMCOG region, it is useful to determine the percentage of extremely low-income (30% of median income), low-income (50% of median income), moderate income (80% of median income) and middle-income (95% of median income) populations. Based upon

the median income figure (\$ 67,841) for the Lowell MA-NH PMSA for 2000, approximately 11% of households (1,149 out of 10,450) in Dracut made less than 30% (\$ 20,352.30) of the area's median income. An additional 12.6% of Dracut households (1,314 out of 10,450) earned 30% or more but less than 50% of the area's median income (\$ 33,920.50) and would qualify as low-income households. Those households qualifying as moderate income represented an additional 21.3% of Dracut households (2,224 out of 10,450) and earned more than 50% but less than 80% of the area's median income (\$54,272.80). Finally, for those households (1,166 out of 10,450) that earned more than 80% of the area's median income but less than 95% (\$ 64,448.95), or 11.2% of Dracut households, would qualify as middle-income populations. (It should be noted that given that the percentage median income brackets do not exactly match the census income brackets, there is some extrapolation of household numbers within some of the income levels.)

Most Dracut residents work outside the town. According to the Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development, the 2007 labor force in Dracut was 16,530 and 15,765 of these people were employed, yielding an unemployment rate that was only fractionally higher than the state rate as a whole. In addition, in 2000 there were 4,927 jobs in the community and MassHighway projects that in 2010 there will be approximately 5,460 jobs in Dracut.

**Table 7: Labor Force and Employment Trends**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>Employed</b>	<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>Dracut unemployment Rate</b>	<b>State Unemployment Rate</b>
1990	15,358	14,209	1,149	7.5	6.3
2000	16,290	15,877	413	2.5	2.7
2005	16,253	15,452	564	3.5	3.7
2007	16,530	15,765	765	4.6	4.5

Source: Commonwealth of Mass. Department of Workforce Development

### **Industry Composition**

There were a total of 590 establishments within the Town of Dracut for the fourth quarter of 2007, and of those, 158 were in the goods-producing domain and 432 in the service-producing domain. The average weekly wage in the former was \$1,053 while in the latter it was \$702. An additional breakdown or representative industries is given in Table 8 below.

**Table 8: Industry Composition  
(fourth quarter 2007)**

Description	Number	No. of Employees			Total Wages	Ave. Monthly employment	Average Weekly Wage
		Oct	Nov	Dec			
<b>Total all industries</b>	590	5,251	5,254	5,204	\$53,374,051	5,236	\$784
<b>Goods Producing Domain</b>	158	1,259	1,214	1,196	\$16,737,681	1,223	\$1,053
23/Construction	133	779	761	777	\$10,684,195	772	\$1,065
Manufacturing	23	452	442	410	\$5,982,360	435	\$1,058
DUR-durable goods	15	183	183	190	\$2,415,152	185	\$1,004
NONDUR-nondurable goods	8	269	259	220	\$3,567,208	249	1,102
<b>Service Producing Domain</b>	432	3,992	4,040	4,008	\$36,636,369	4,013	\$702
Trade, transportation, utilities	89	1,267	1,287	1,292	\$13,452,232	1,282	\$807
42/Wholesale trade	19	262	276	273	\$5,255,233	270	\$1,497
44-45/Retail trade	52	461	463	470	\$2,984,204	465	\$494
48-49/Transportation & Warehousing	18	544	548	549	\$5,212,795	547	\$733
Financial Activities	42	179	174	168	\$1,909,559	174	\$844
52/Finance & Insurance	17	104	104	104	\$1,053,441	104	\$779
53/Real estate & rental & leasing	25	75	70	64	\$856,118	70	\$941
Professional & Business Services	68	241	283	233	\$2,111,066	252	\$644
54/Professional & business services	41	131	180	135	\$1,501,820	149	\$775
56/Administrative and waste services	27	110	103	98	\$609,246	104	\$541
Education Health Services	58	911	928	929	\$9,849,865	923	\$821
62/Health care & social assistance	46	383	388	387	\$3,366,382	386	\$671
Leisure and Hospitality	66	757	729	738	\$2,456,552	741	\$255
72/Accommodation & food service	53	706	681	687	\$2,166,453	691	\$241

Other services	96	264	267	279	\$1,450,785	270	\$413
81/Other services, ex. Public administration	96	264	267	279	\$1,450,785	270	\$413

Source: Commonwealth of Mass. Department of Workforce Development, ES 202 Reports

## Socio-economic context

Based on the information above on population, income and employment it can be seen that the Town is slightly below the household regional median income for 2000 (\$57,676 to \$59,472), but significantly above the state median of \$50,502. In a comparison of some of the indicators of the socio-economic condition of a community, Dracut has higher homeownership rates than the state as a whole (78.5% to 61.7%), a lower percentage of the population living in poverty (20.1% to 33.2%), and lower median home value (\$163,000 to \$185,700). The major population cohort is the 25-44 age category, which is the most significant in terms of employment and home buying. It can be deduced that Dracut is a typical, suburban, middle class, residential community which functions as a bedroom community to the City of Lowell and exurban technology and employment centers of the region.

## D. Growth and Development Patterns

### Patterns and Trends

Dracut has undergone many changes since its early farm and homestead beginnings. The town has had many identities -- a small agricultural community, a growing mill town, a summer resort town, and today, a suburban bedroom community. Dracut's population grew 230% in the half-century between 1950 and 2000. The greatest population increases occurred during the 1960s, when the population grew 57.8 percent, and during the 1970s, when it grew 33.2 percent.

Although Dracut lost 54 percent of its agricultural acreage in the forty years between 1950 and 1991, 14 percent of Dracut's land remained in agricultural use in 1991. A number of farms still exist in the eastern part of the town. Table 9 shows the number of building permits issued in Dracut from 2002 to 2007. It should be noted that the majority of permits were for residential development. Further, the number of permits issued in 2004 and 2005 may be reflective of the household formation increases realized in the 25- 44 age cohort, a prime home buying segment of the population.

**TABLE 9: DRACUT BUILDING PERMITS 2002 – 2007  
NEW CONSTRUCTION**

<b>RESIDENTIAL = NUMBER OF UNITS; COMMERCIAL = BUILDINGS</b>					
YEAR	TOTAL	RES.	COM.	IND.	OTHER
2002	70	65	5	0	0
2003	71	70	1	0	0
2004	119	117	2	0	0
2005	125	123	2	0	0
2006	44	40	4	0	0
2007	51	50	1	0	0

Source: NMCOG/Dracut Building Department

Table 10 illustrates the land use changes in the Town. The categories of land use are based on data compiled by MassGIS and are based on state wide, standardized land use classifications interpreted from 1:25,000 aerial photography. (See Map 2 – Land Use.)

**Table 10: Dracut Land Use Change 1999 -2008**

Land use	1999	% of Total	2008	% of Total	Acreage Change 1999 to 2008	% Change 1999 to 2008
Cropland	1505	11.0%	1247	9.1%	-258	-17.1%
Pasture	413	3.0%	182	1.3%	-231	-56.0%
Forest	5093	37.2%	4614	33.7%	-479	-9.4%
Wetland	325	2.4%	377	2.8%	52	16.0%
Mining	341	2.5%	305	2.2%	-37	-10.8%
Open Land	437	3.2%	452	3.3%	15	3.4%
Participatory Recreation	26	0.2%	107	0.8%	81	312.4%
Spectator Recreation	52	0.4%		0.0%	-52	-100.0%
Residential	4505	32.9%	5431	39.6%	927	20.6%
Commercial	215	1.6%	262	1.9%	46	21.4%
Industrial	85	0.6%	119	0.9%	34	40.0%
Urban Open Land	174	1.3%	123	0.9%	-51	-29.6%
Transportation	45	0.3%	9	0.1%	-36	-79.4%

Source: MassGIS

### **Recent Planning Efforts**

In 2005, the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments assisted the Town in preparing the Dracut Housing Productivity Plan that was subsequently approved and

certified by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The Town has also undertaken a comprehensive sidewalk inventory and has developed a priority ranking on where new sidewalks should be constructed in the community.

## **E. Infrastructure**

### **Transportation**

Dracut is located close to major interstate and state highways, including Routes 3 I-93 and I-495, but major interstate highways do not go through the town. State Routes 110, 113 and 38 do traverse the community.

All roadways are classified by both the State and Federal transportation agencies according to the road's function. Principal Arterials carry high volumes of traffic and provide connections to other major roadways and adjoining communities. The interstate highways, Routes I-93 and I-495 provide access to Dracut. Route 38 and Route 110 are classified as Urban Principal Arterials. Route 113 is classified as an Urban Minor Arterial meaning that its function is secondary to the Principal Arterials, serving primarily as a link between distinct urban geographic and/or economic regions or as a link between two Principal Arterials. Partially as a result of this roadway layout, Dracut has not yet attracted major non-residential development.

The Lowell Regional Transit Authority provides fixed bus service, as well as paratransit for the elderly and disabled. Dracut residents can access commuter rail service to Boston at the Lowell Gallagher Terminal Station or the North Billerica station.

The lack of bicycle and hiking paths and trails, along with the lack of sidewalks, has been identified as an issue in the survey distributed for the Open Space and Recreational Plan.

### **Water Supply**

Dracut obtains public drinking water from four towns organized in two different water supply districts. Private wells are still used in the rural parts of the town.

The Dracut Water Supply District covers the town west of Route 38 and a small portion directly east of Route 38. This includes the Collinsville, Navy Yard, and Dracut Center neighborhoods. The District draws its water from a well field in Dracut, a well field in Tyngsborough, and it also purchases water as needed, but not more than 1 million gallons a day, from the City of Lowell. This District supplies approximately 9,000 households, including about 1,000 residents of Tyngsborough. Tests indicate that there is little likelihood of new wells in this water district. The Kenwood Water District distributes water to approximately 1,500 households in East Dracut. Most of the water

comes from the Merrimack River and is provided through the City of Lowell. A small part of East Dracut obtains water from the Town of Methuen.

## **Sewer System**

Public sewer services sixty five (65) percent of the households in Dracut. Treatment is at the Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility, which treats an average dry weather flow of 32 million gallons per day (mgd). The Utility has allocated 2.6 mgd of wastewater capacity to Dracut, which currently uses approximately 1.35 mgd. In 1997 a court judgment found that town-owned or operated stormwater drainage systems were polluting Dracut's streams, and directed the construction of sewers in specific areas to correct stormwater discharge problems. The town is still in the midst of a sewer expansion project that will extend the sewer system to areas in western and central Dracut that need immediate attention. In May 2007, the final two phases of this expansion were filed with DEP and involve the construction of approximately thirty (30) miles of sewer line and nine (9) pump stations. Ultimately, it is expected that most already developed areas of Dracut will require sewers.

## **Long-Term Development Patterns**

The suburbanization of Dracut began early, when neighborhoods of worker housing were built close to the Lowell border in the early twentieth century. Residential development clustered on the shores of the Merrimack River, and to a lesser extent Long Pond, and Beaver Brook, while the businesses in town located near river crossings and along main thoroughfares. East Dracut remained quite rural.

During the last decade, however, residential development has been advancing into East Dracut, both in the form of Approval-Not-Required development along roads, and in the form of subdivisions. As a result, efforts have been growing to preserve open space in East Dracut through a variety of means including conservation restrictions, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, and the formation of a land trust. The most recent large subdivision project on agricultural land includes a golf course, conservation land abutting existing conservation areas, and a trail system. The project was extremely controversial and subject to lengthy negotiations. Although there is still potential for development in the western part of Dracut, East Dracut remains the town's last major frontier of undeveloped open space, protected to a limited degree from development by topography and wetlands. (See Map 3 – Zoning.)

In 2000 NMCOG prepared a buildout analysis for Dracut using methodology developed for a statewide initiative by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. (It should be noted that this methodology differs from the methodology used by MassHighway and thus the different projection numbers from those shown in Table 1.) This analysis, shown on Table 11, provides general, order-of-magnitude numbers for the amount of development capacity remaining in Dracut under current zoning and is

based on assumptions about household size and other matters. In fact, communities rarely reach 100 percent buildout; zoning regulations can change, and the time frame in which total buildout might occur depends on economic and other conditions. Taking into account these caveats, the buildout information provides a useful notion of remaining development capacity, that is, the *additional* homes and nonresidential space that could be developed, and the associated water, school and other impacts. Under the assumptions of this analysis and current zoning, Dracut has room for approximately 3,600 new housing units and 17 million square feet of nonresidential development.

**TABLE 11  
SUMMARY BUILDOUT STATISTICS  
ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACTS**

<b>Total Developable Land Area (sf)</b>	
• Residential	192,336,537
• Commercial	5,165,538
• Industrial	<u>19,721,680</u>
	<b>217,223,680</b>
<b>Total Residential Lots/Dwellings</b>	<b>3,134/3,686</b>
<b>Total Commercial/Industrial Buildable Floor Area</b>	
• Commercial	1,659,603
• Industrial	<u>15,692,918</u>
	<b>17,352,521</b>
<b>Total Water Use (gal/day)</b>	
• Residential	718,729
• Commercial/Industrial	<u>1,301,439</u>
	<b>2,020,168</b>
<b>Total Municipal Solid Waste (tons/yr)</b>	
• Recycled or composed MSW	1,420
• Non-recycled/non-composed	<u>3,496</u>
	<b>4,916</b>
<b>Students (K-12)</b>	<b>1,437</b>
<b>New Roads (miles)</b>	<b>61.8</b>
<b>Vehicle trips (per/day)</b>	
• Residential	34,123
• Commercial	7,017
• Industrial	<u>113,401</u>
	<b>154,541</b>

Notes on the Buildout analysis:

1. "Residential Water Use" is based on 75 gallons per day per person.

2. "Comm./Ind. Water Use" is based on 75 gallons per 1,000 square feet of floor space.

3. "Municipal Solid Waste" is based on 1,206 lbs per person per year.

All waste estimates are for residential uses only.

and is based on 730 lbs per person per year ending up in a landfill or incinerator.

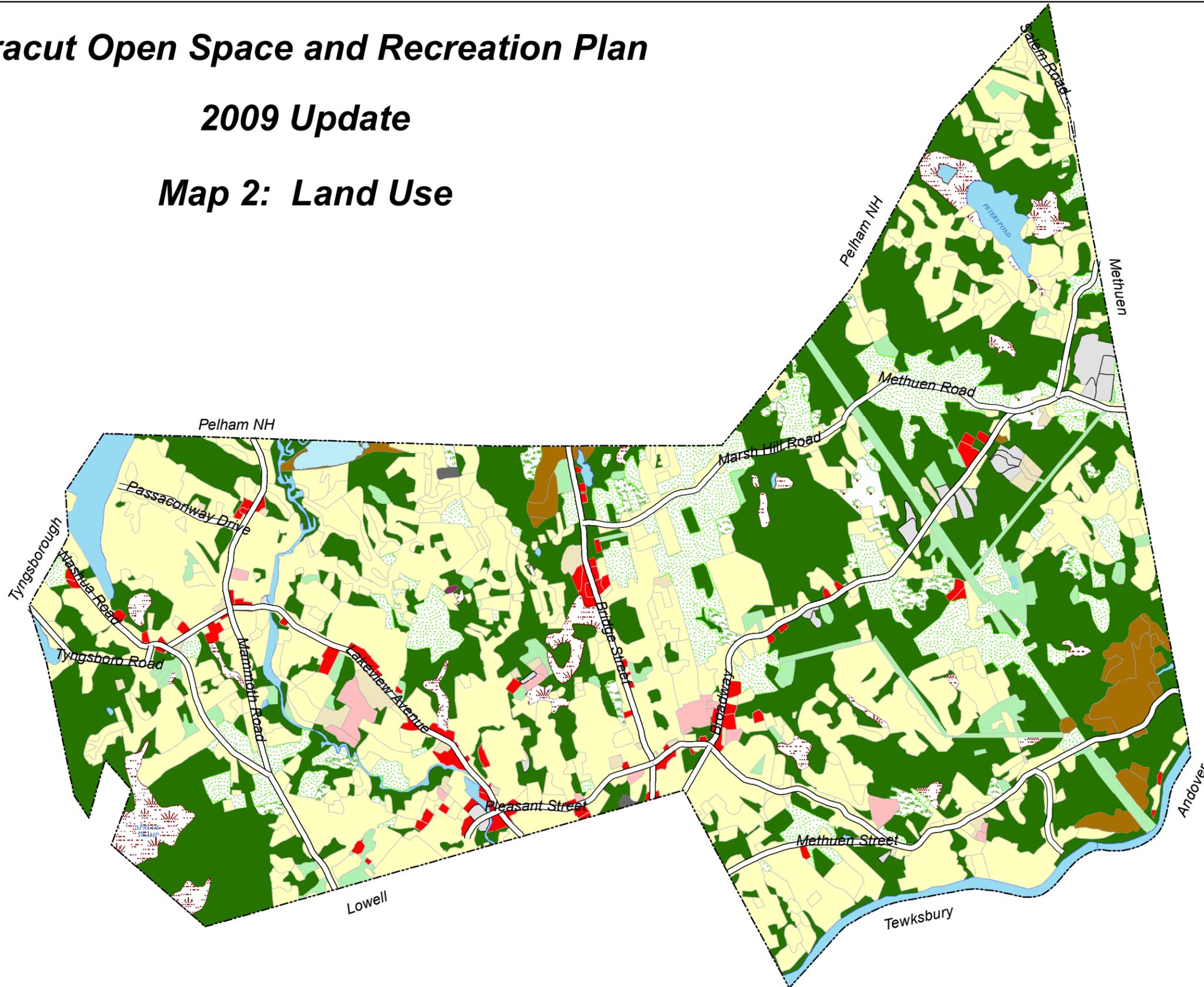
4. The number of "Residents" at buildout is based on the persons per household figure of 2.97 derived from the 2000 US Census

5. The number of "Students" at buildout is based on a student per household ratio of 0.3 taken from 2000 US Census data

# Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan

## 2009 Update

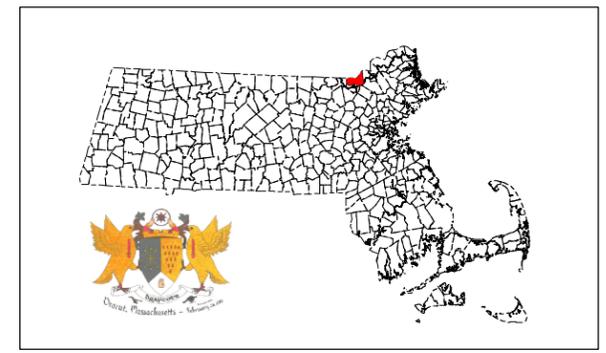
### Map 2: Land Use



**Legend**

----- Town Boundary	Residential
— Major Roads	Commercial
2008 Land Use	Industrial
•••• Cropland	Urban Open
•••• Pasture	Transportation
• Forest	Waste Disposal
•••• Wetland	Water
• Mining	Woody Perennial
• Open Land	
• Participatory Recreation	

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5  
Miles



Data provided by MassGIS, MassHighway, The Northern Middlesex Council of Governments the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and the Town of Dracut. Landuse is based on 1999 files provided by MassGIS, produced by UMass., using the McConnell, landuse and vegetative cover mapping instructions. NMCOG updated based on 2005 orthophotos and Dracut's 2002 orthophoto, aggregating all residential categories and making changes in other categories, (hydro), as needed. The information portrayed on this map is not to be used for regulatory interpretation or boundary determination.

Produced by: The Northern Middlesex Council of Governments  
115 Thorndike St.  
Lowell, MA 01852

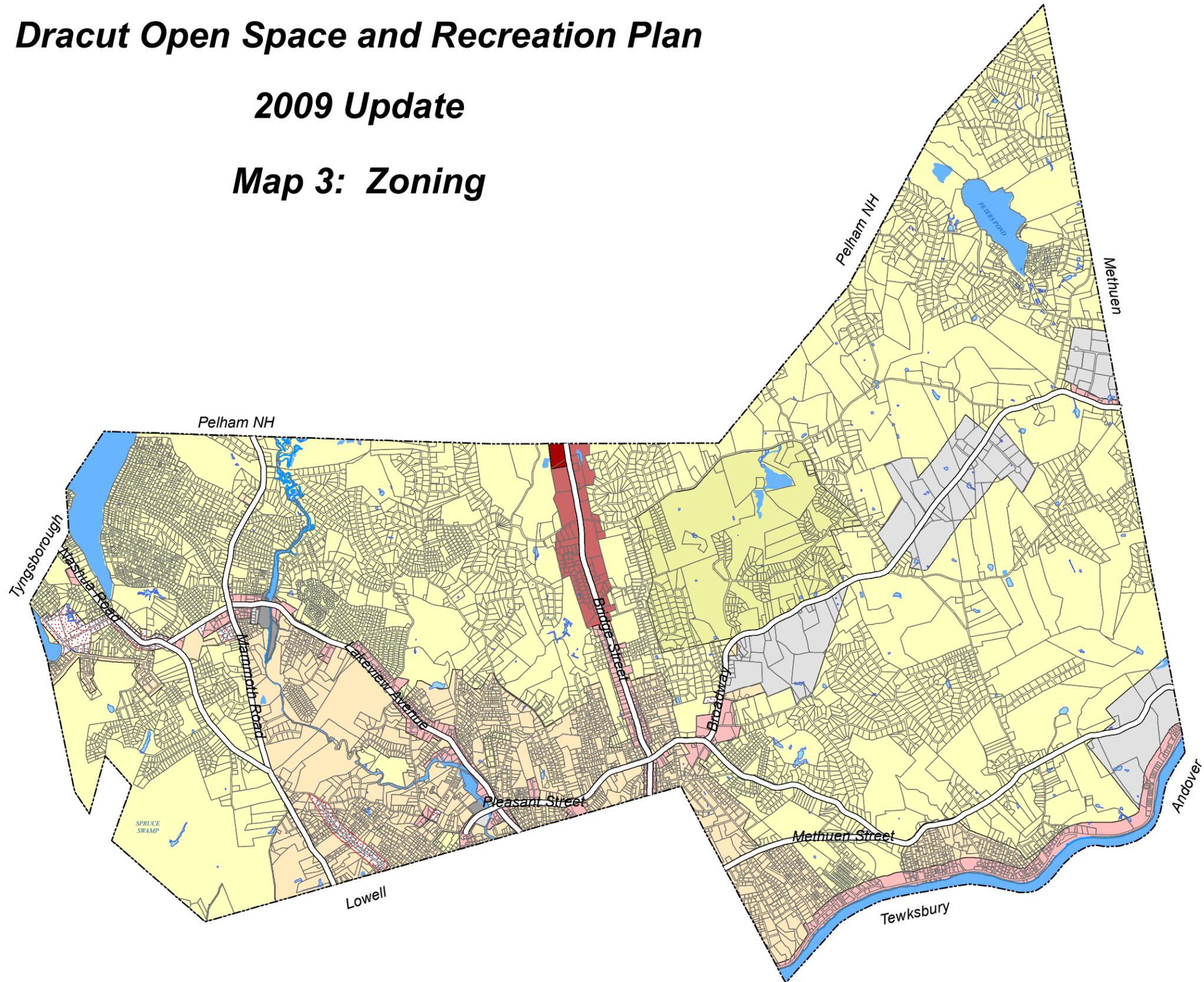
September 25, 2007 jcm



# Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan

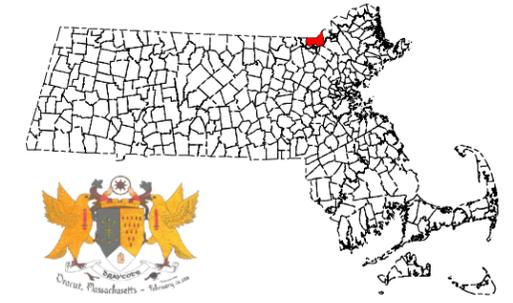
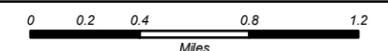
## 2009 Update

### Map 3: Zoning



#### Legend

- Town Boundary
- Major Roads
- Rivers, Streams and Ponds
- Zoning Districts**
- Business 1
- Business 2
- Business 3
- Business 4
- Business 5
- Industrial
- Mill
- Residential 1
- Residential 2
- Residential 3



Data provided by MassGIS, MassHighway Town of Dracut and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments. The information displayed on this map is not to be used for regulatory interpretation or boundary determination.

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September 15, 2007/jcm

## SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

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### A. Geology, Soils and Topography

The sharply accented hills and valleys of Dracut's pre-glacial landscape were modified by glacial abrasion and outwash deposits caused by huge ice formations during the ice age. This alluvium, known as glacial till and made up of clay, sand, silt, and gravel and deposited as the glaciers melted and withdrew, covers the town's bedrock. Remnants of the ice age, such as kettles, kame terraces, eskers, drumlins, and outwash plains, are most visible in the Kenwood section of Dracut, in the southeast part of town. Loon Hill, located in this area, is a good example of a drumlin - a long ridge formed by glacial drift. Poplar Hill and Burns Hill are excellent examples of drumloid hills - rounded, asymmetrical landforms occurring in groups and composed of till and clay. Eskers, the buildup of sand and gravel left by streams flowing under glaciers, are found on the shores of Peters Pond. The water bodies in Dracut are prime examples of glacial melt, which carved out huge depressions in the ground, leaving water in the remaining cavities. Other sand and gravel deposits left by running water, known as alluvium, are found along the shores of the Merrimack River. There are no unusual or unique geologic features in the town that distinguish it from the region.

There are three main soil series in Dracut. The dominant soil series is the Montauk, which is present in most areas of town, especially the northeastern and western regions, in Dracut Center and the Collinsville neighborhood. A fine sandy, but very stony, loam, the soil has slight or moderate limitations for woodlands, wildlife, and some kinds of recreational uses; moderate limitations for home sites; and severe limitations for high density residential, commercial, or industrial uses. The Windsor soil series is common in the East Dracut, Navy Yard, and Collinsville neighborhoods: loamy sand that has slight limitations for residential, commercial or industrial uses, including use as a source for sand and gravel and landfill areas; and moderate limitations for agricultural use. The other prevalent soil series is the Scituate which is found in the northeastern and western regions, and in the Collinsville neighborhood. The soil is best characterized as stony and fine with a slight or moderate limitation for some wildlife and recreational use; moderate to severe limitation for woodlands; and severe limitation for residential, commercial, or industrial uses.

The composition and landscape of Dracut's geology and soils have played an important part in the development and land use in town. Montauk and Scituate soils in the northeastern and western part of Dracut, mostly unsuitable for construction because of their poor drainage characteristics (slow permeability), stony surfaces and subsurfaces, kept portions of those areas only moderately developed. The loamy sands of the Windsor soils in East Dracut, ideal for agricultural uses, have long supported

crops and pastures. Sand and gravel quarries are also found in the east, as the Windsor soils are a source for gravel and fill.

Dracut's soils are generally not very suitable for on-site sewage systems. According to the 1998 Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, over 90 percent of Dracut's soils are typically not suitable for septic systems, including areas where septic systems currently exist. (See Map 4 – Soils.)

## **B. Landscape Character**

In Dracut's gently rolling landscape, elevations rarely differ more than 200 feet. The highest elevations are found in northeast Dracut at Poplar Hill (380 feet) and in the west near the Tyngsborough border at Whortleberry Hill (363 feet) and the Reservoir (322 feet). The open farmlands and meadows of the east, the shores of the waterways, lakes, and ponds scattered throughout town, and the forests of eastern and southwestern Dracut provide diversity to the town's landscape. The open countryside of East Dracut, with its farms, meadows, and woodlands, contrasts with the developed neighborhoods of the south and west, some of which are extensions of the urban landscape of the City of Lowell. The Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsborough State Forest, in the southwest corner of town, provides 528 acres of forest and wetland habitat. The Merrimack River flows along the parkway that winds along Dracut's southeastern border. Beaver Brook and its wide wetland corridor offer important habitat and recreational value, as do Long Pond, Peters Pond, and Lake Mascuppic. Poplar Hill in the northeast, and Whortleberry Hill and the Reservoir in the west provide views of the town.

## **C. Water Resources**

### **Surface Waters**

The entire town of Dracut lies within the Merrimack River drainage basin. The Merrimack has a number of tributaries in Dracut, the most important of which is Beaver Brook. The Merrimack River local watershed includes a small portion of west Dracut, below Long Pond, and most of East Dracut. The Beaver Brook sub-watershed covers most of western and central Dracut. The town also has several important ponds and lakes. Surface water bodies account for approximately one-half square mile of Dracut's area. (See Map 5 – Water Resources.)

Rivers and Streams. The Merrimack River, second largest in the state, winds easterly through the town forming its southern border with Lowell, Tewksbury, and Andover. The section of the Merrimack River that borders Dracut is designated as a Class B stream, and therefore must be protected for propagation of fish, other aquatic life and wildlife, and for primary (swimming) and secondary (boating) contact recreation. The river meets Class B requirements under low flow conditions, but sometimes does not meet the standard under wet weather and storm conditions due to

combined sewer outflows (CSOs) in Lowell and nonpoint source (NPS) pollution from communities upstream.

Several perennial streams flow through Dracut into the Merrimack River. Beaver Brook, Trout Brook, Richardson Brook, Bartlett Brook, Peppermint Brook, and Double Brook are all classified as low flow waters by the state Department of Environmental Protection, and cannot accept pollutant discharges. Beaver Brook flows south from New Hampshire in the western part of Dracut, serving as fish and wildlife habitat and an irrigation source for agriculture. Trout, Richardson, and Beaver Brooks are stocked with trout by the State.

### **Lakes and Ponds**

In western Dracut, Lake Mascuppic (215 acres total, approximately 6 acres of which are in Dracut) and Long Pond (163 acres total, approximately 123 acres of which are in Dracut) are large water bodies with developed shorelines that are used extensively for recreation - particularly fishing, swimming, and boating. Peters Pond (77 acres) is the most fragile pond in Dracut and is primarily a wildlife and fish habitat, with limited recreation potential because of terrain and access. Cedar Pond (12 acres), just north of Peters Pond, is surrounded by wetlands and a white cedar forest, providing excellent wildlife habitat but with difficult human access. The Big Pond (10 acres) on the Dunlap Sanctuary, also an excellent habitat area, can be accessed through a public walking trail.

Public access is provided to Lake Mascuppic by a town-owned beach area that includes a State-owned boat launch. The town leases beach land on Long Pond to the Long Pond Park Improvement Association (LPPIA), which is open to any resident for a nominal fee.

### **Flood Hazard Areas**

Flood hazard areas subject to the 100 year flood risk are located in the following areas: Kelly Road, Tennis Plaza, Nottingham Circle, the Peters Pond and Cedar Pond shorelines, including associated wetlands and waterways; the banks of Bartlett Brook, especially downstream; the banks of Richardson and Trout Brooks, including associated wetlands and a tributary running southwest to Trout Brook; the shoreline of Long Pond, the banks of Double Brook, the banks of Beaver Brook and tributaries; and the shoreline of Lake Mascuppic.

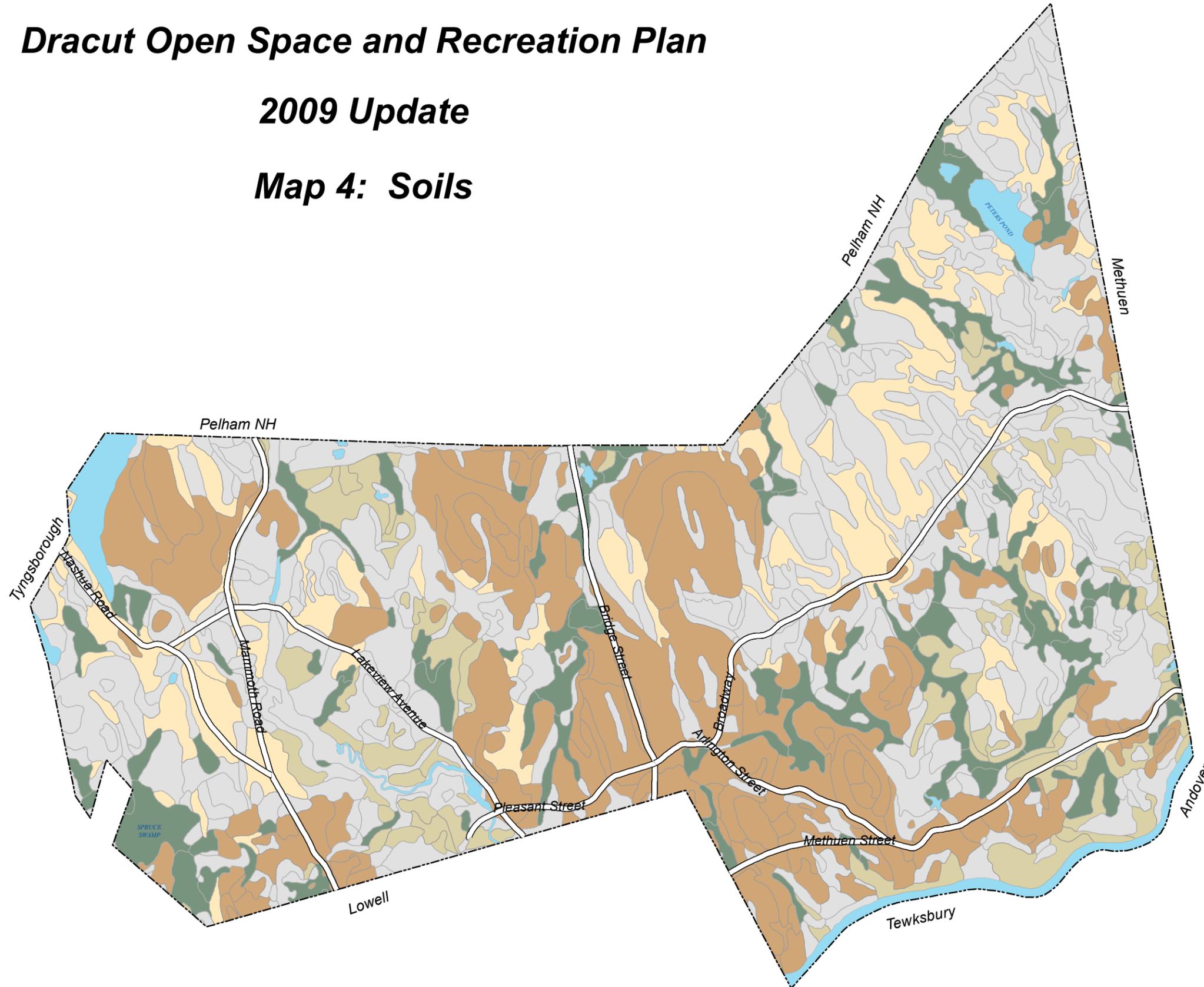
### **Wetlands**

The approximately 377 acres of wetlands in Dracut account for almost 3% of the town's total land area. As is typical of the region, more than half of the wetlands are non-forested, though extensive wooded wetlands remain in East Dracut. Dracut's

# Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan

2009 Update

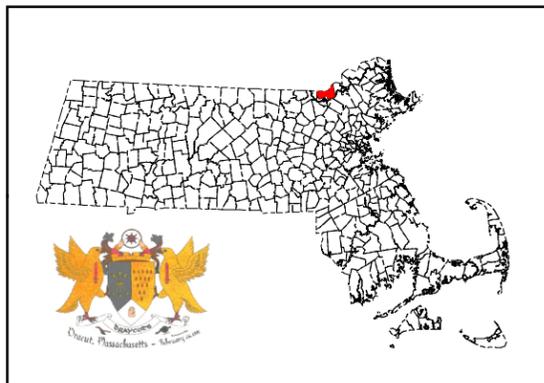
## Map 4: Soils



**Legend**

- Major Roads
- Town Boundary
- Miscellaneous soil groups
- Mucky
- Paxton, Hollis, Woodbridge
- Scituate, Essex
- Water
- Windsor, Hinkley

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Miles



Data provided by the National Soil Conservation Service, January, 2007, MassGIS, MassHighway, the town of Dracut and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments. The information portrayed on this map is not to be used for regulatory interpretation or boundary determination.

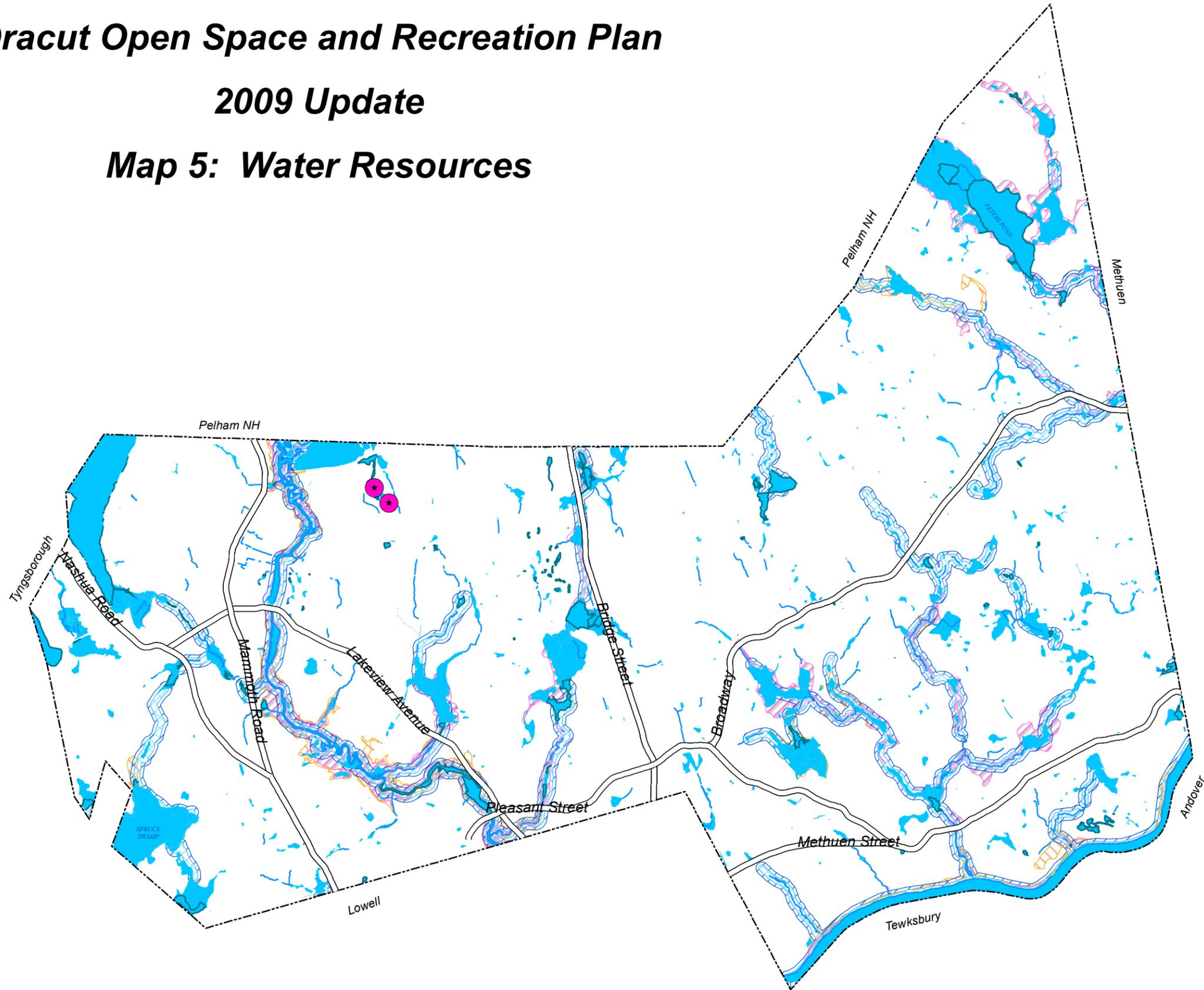
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# Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan

## 2009 Update

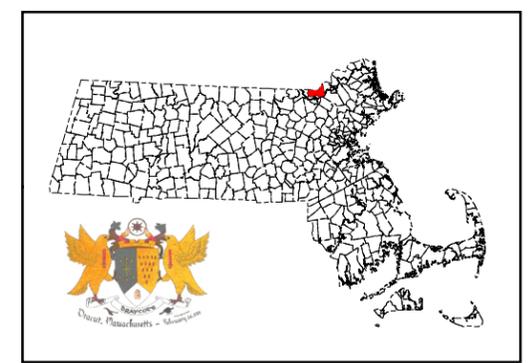
### Map 5: Water Resources



**Legend**

- Town Boundary
- Major Roads
- Major Public Water Supplies
- Vernal Pools
- Rivers, Streams and Ponds
- FEMA 100 year flood zone
- FEMA 500 year flood zone
- Rivers Protection Act
- 100 foot protective zone
- 200 foot protective zone

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Miles



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wetlands vary in size from less than one acre to approximately 125 acres, and are generally associated with waterways and water bodies, including the Merrimack River, Lake Mascuppic, Long Pond, Peters Pond, Cedar Pond, Beaver Brook, Richardson Brook and Trout Brook.

### **Aquifer Recharge Area**

Ninety percent of Dracut is serviced by public water systems through one of the towns' two water districts: Dracut Water Supply District on the banks of the Merrimack River in Tyngsborough and Kenwood Supply District in the eastern part of Dracut. The major aquifers in Dracut are primarily located in the bottomlands or floodplains along the rivers, brooks, and streams. Substantial sources of groundwater are specifically located in two places: the southeast corner of town extending from the shores of the Merrimack River up to and including wetlands surrounding Nickel Mine Hill, and a large area including Beaver Brook and its many tributaries also extending down to the river. An aquifer is also located underneath Bartlett Brook that connects to the area in the southeast. The aquifers in Dracut are rather limited in size. Any significant future expansion of drinking water supplies will probably have to come from the Merrimack River, rather than groundwater.

### **D. Vegetation**

The largest expanse of forested land in Dracut is the Lowell-Tyngsborough-Dracut State Forest located in the southwestern corner of Dracut. Substantial forested areas can also be found in the northeast corner of Dracut around Peters Pond and Cedar Pond. This area includes one of only seven inland stands of Atlantic White Cedar forest in Massachusetts. Other forested areas include over half the 100-acre Dunlap Sanctuary. Dracut's forests include hardwoods and softwoods, mostly in mixed stands, including oak, maple, ash, hickory, birch, elm and pine, with an understory of shadbush and sassafras. Most wetlands tend to be dominated by red maple, and many have nearby hemlock groves.

The distribution pattern of vegetation closely resembles the topographical and geographical land patterns in Dracut. The largest patches are found on steep slopes and pockets of wetlands in the eastern region of town, especially by Richardson and Trout Brooks and in the Dunlap Sanctuary. There are also wet areas and preserves in central Dracut, by Peppermint and Beaver Brooks, and in the west by Long Pond, Lake Mascuppic, and especially the State Forest. The "urban forest" in Dracut is composed of the small forest patches and individual trees in back yards, behind and between subdivision developments, along roads, in parking lots and in town parks. As larger woodland patches of forest become less common, management of the urban forest will become more important.

Invasive exotic species such as multiflora rose, European buckthorn, Oriental bittersweet and purple loosestrife are common in the hedgerows, roadsides, overgrown pastures and orchards, and, in the case of loosestrife, the wetlands of Dracut. These invasives crowd out native species. No efforts are yet underway to control these invasive plants that threaten native plant communities.

The diversity of plant communities within the town provides food and habitat for wildlife. The following is a partial list of plants believed to be present within the Town:

- Black Oak (*Quercus veluntina*)
- Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
- Red Oak (*Quercus rubrum*)
- Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*)
- White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
- Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)
- Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
- Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
- Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
- Grey Birch (*Betula populifolia*)
- White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
- Black Birch (*Betula lenta*)
- River Birch (*Betula nigra*)
- Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- Black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
- Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
- Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)
- European buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*)
- Shadbush (*Amelanchier arborea*)
- White Ash (*Fraxinus Americana*)
- Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)
- Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)
- Big-toothed Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)
- Chestnut (*Castanea dentate*)
- Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)
- Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
- Hickory (*Carya ovata*, *C. tomentosa*, *C. glabra*, and *C. ovalis*)
- Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)
- Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- Sweet pepper bush (*Clethra alnifolia*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Swamp azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*)

- Swamp candles (*Lysimachia terrestris*)
- Arrow wood (*Viburnum dentatum* var. *lucidum*)
- Black willow (*Salix nigra*)
- Cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*)
- Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- Shagbark and other hickories (*Carya ovata*, *C. labra* and *C. ovalis*)
- Lowbush blueberries (*Vaccinium angustifolium* and *V. pallidum*)
- Highbush blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
- Speckled alder (*Alnus incana* spp. *rugosa*)
- Smooth alder (*Alnus serrulata*)
- Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
- Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
- Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*)
- Elderberry (*Sambucus Canadensis*)
- Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)
- Scrub Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*)
- Maple-leaved Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)
- American Hazlenut (*Corylus Americana*)
- Bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*)
- Cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
- Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)
- Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)
- Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)
- Royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*)
- Pink lady slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*)
- Club mosses (*Lycopodium* spp)
- False nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrical*)
- Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*)
- White wood aster (*Aster divaricatus*)
- Indian cucumber (*Medeola virginiana*)
- Water parsnip (*Sium suave*)
- Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
- Wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*)
- Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)
- Poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*)
- Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)
- Marsh marigold (*caltha palustris*)
- Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba* var. *latifolia*)
- Maleberry (*lyonia ligustrina*)
- Star flower (*Trientalis borealis*)
- Perfoliate bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*)
- False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosa*)
- Early meadow rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*)
- False foxgloves (*Aureolaria flava*, *A. pedicularia*, and *A. virginica*)

- Little blue stem grass (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
- Awned sedge (*Carex crinita*)
- Bugleweeds (*Lycopus* spp.)
- Poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*)
- Goldenrods (*Solidago* and *Euthamia* spp.)
- Milk weeds (*Asclepias* spp. and *A. tuberosa*)

## Shade Trees

Dracut does not have a shade tree by-law. The Tree Warden inspects the Town's street trees and park trees every year for decay, damage, disease or death. Records of the tree's location and any preventive action done to the trees, including removal, are maintained. Healthy trees are not removed unless they are a hindrance to public safety. The Tree Warden works with all tree trimming companies hired by utilities for line trimming, and approves the removal of any trees. In addition, under the Planning Board rules and regulations, the Tree Warden approves tree planting in new subdivisions.

The Town has limited funding for tree planting and replacement. The Tree Warden works with the Garden Club on Arbor Day events and purchases seedlings through the Tree Wardens Association for residents to plant. In the past, grant money has been received through Mass ReLeaf and has been used to plant trees in various parks in Town.

## E. Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) currently lists only one rare, threatened, or endangered plant, documented in the last century, for Dracut. Purple milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*) is listed as a threatened species and was documented in Dracut in 1884. Other rare and endangered plant species may exist in Dracut, but have not been documented. NHESP also lists one threatened animal species, the Blandings Turtle, (*Emydoidea blandingii*) spotted in 2005 and six other special concern animal species. One state-threatened bird species, the northern harrier, which is frequently observed in spring hunting over the open fields of East Dracut, has been submitted for listing. Two species of special concern, the sharp-shinned hawk and the elderberry beetle have also been regularly observed in East Dracut. The bald eagle, an endangered species in Massachusetts, has been recently observed in Dracut along the Merrimack River. Both the range and habitat requirements of the blue-spotted salamander, another species of special concern, suggest a high probability of that species occurring here as well. Because the NHESP office depends to a significant degree on volunteer documentation of sightings of rare and endangered

species, local efforts to survey plants in Dracut could result in more listings by the NHESP.

**Table 12: Species Considered threatened, Endangered or of Special Concern**

TYPE	CLASSIFICATION	NAME	STATUS	DATE LAST OBSERVED
Amphibian	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	Blue-spotted Salamander	SC	1995
Beetle	<i>Cicindela duodecimguttata</i>	Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetle	SC	Historic
Beetle	<i>Cicindela purpurea</i>	Purple Tiger Beetle	SC	1921
Dragonfly/Damselfly	<i>Neurocordulia obsoleta</i>	Umber Shadowdragon	SC	2004
Reptile	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	SC	2005
Reptile	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC	1999
Reptile	<i>Emydoidea Blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle	T	2006
Vascular Plant	<i>Asclepias Purpurascens</i>	Purple Milkweed	E	1884

Information and forms to submit to the NHESP on sightings of rare species are available at [www.state.ma.us/dfw/nhesp/nhdatt.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dfw/nhesp/nhdatt.htm). The complete list of rare, threatened and endangered species can be found in Appendix F.

## F. Fisheries and Wildlife

Dracut's substantial woodlands, many wetlands, and extensive pastures and open fields support rich and diverse populations of birds, mammals, and other animals. In addition to a great variety of more common species, there have been recent sightings of rare or less well-known species. Mammals include fishers, otters, moose, and black bear. Dracut's open fields annually host large flocks of nesting bobolinks, birds that are exhibiting decline all over the state because of loss of grassland habitat. In winter, snow buntings can occasionally be seen in those same fields. Annual migrations of a wide variety of wood warblers travel through our woodlands every spring and fall. Bald eagles have been sighted along Dracut's stretch of the Merrimack River. The largest single habitat area is the state forest, but the Dunlap Sanctuary and private woodlands in East Dracut are also important remaining large habitat areas. The increasing suburbanization of Dracut has fragmented natural areas, increasing the amount of "edge habitat," where several land use types meet, for example the boundaries of woodlands and grassy pastures. Edge conditions are also valuable to a wide range of animals.

Specific aquatic habitats in Dracut support a growing fish population that includes bass, pike, perch, sunfish, and trout. In particular, a substantial salmon population is returning to the Merrimack River as a benefit of the restoration program conducted by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Vernal pools abound in certain areas of Dracut, including the Rifle Range Conservation Area off Cross Road, the Dunlap Sanctuary and the Meadow Creek Golf Course development. Protection of over a dozen vernal pools, one of them certified in 1999 with the NHESP (vernal pool #1947), bring the total to 114 state certified pools, as of April 2006. This certification was a significant part of the negotiations surrounding approval of the gold course development.

Animal diversity is a good reflection of the diversity and health of the habitat. A list of species of Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals can be found in Appendix F. These groups are included because they indicate the vitality of existing habitats, they are readily observed and identified, and because residents are likely to notice and become interested in them.

## **G. Corridors**

Although open space is increasingly fragmented by development in parts of Dracut, the wetlands and streams provide important habitat corridors. Rural lands and connected woodlands remaining in East Dracut also facilitate wildlife movements.

A significant wildlife corridor is being developed, connecting the Ogonowski and Shaw APR farms along Marsh Hill Road with the Dunlap Sanctuary, the proposed Dunlap Sanctuary Extension, and parts of the Meadow Creek Golf Course, all of which continues into a large prime wetland in Pelham, NH. There are other potential corridors that loosely connect with this major area. To the west, the Rifle Range Conservation Area, the Peppermint Brook wetland, and the Town Landfill could constitute one corridor. While to the east, the Smith-Healy Farm, Eadie's Orchard, and adjacent undeveloped land along Jones Avenue and Broadway Road form another corridor. In northeast Dracut, the Peters Pond-Cedar Pond area also has potential as a corridor link.

## **H. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments**

### **Scenic Landscapes**

Dracut's scenic resources include the farm and woodland landscapes of East Dracut's rolling hills, the Beaver Brook floodplain, the state forest, and the views of the Merrimack River. Views of the New Hampshire hills to the north, across open fields along Marsh Hill Road, are especially striking, as is the view of the Ogonowski fields near to the corner of Jones and Broadway, and the rolling farm landscapes along Methuen Road. In the western part of town, a signature rural view greets those

entering Dracut from the Lowell area along Mammoth Road, in the form of the sweeping fields and buildings of the Cutter and Richardson Farms. The town's lakes and ponds also provide valuable scenic views, although with limited public access.

## **Unique Environments**

Nickel Mine Hill (elevation 180 feet) was one of the earliest mining ventures in the United States, possibly worked as early as the mid-1600s for iron. Nickel was first mined in 1876 in what is now the State Forest. The deposit consists primarily of amphibolite containing nickel in disseminated copper and iron sulfides.

## **Cultural and Historic Areas**

Dracut has 55 areas, structures and/or buildings listed in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information system. More historic structures and resources may exist and local efforts to preserve the remnants of the town's history are becoming more organized. However, the majority of Dracut's historic structures are not well known, identified, or protected from redevelopment or demolition. (See Map 6 – Special Landscape Features and Historic Districts.)

Although Dracut has no formal historic town center, three particular areas have structures that are worthy of preservation and restoration: the intersection of Bridge Street and Arlington Street in Dracut Center, the intersection of Mammoth Road and Nashua Road near the State Forest, and the intersection of Mammoth Road and Lakeview Avenue in Collinsville.

The first area contains an exceptional Italianate style farmhouse (late 1800's) and a group of early and late Colonial Revival style public buildings including a Town Hall, library, and offices. Residences dominate the second area, with an early 18th century Cape style house, a late 18th century vernacular central chimney house, a mid-18th century Italianate farmhouse (The Osgood House), and a vernacular Greek Revival period farmhouse. The third area contains the Merrimack Woolen Mills building, Collins Woolen Company buildings, and a school.

Other areas important to the cultural history of Dracut are Hovey Square, the original town center; the Navy Yard with its mills and dam; millworkers' housing along part of Primrose Hill Road along Beaver Brook; the old schoolhouse and farms at the corner of Broadway and Jones; and the older houses scattered along the original town roads, such as Colburn Avenue, Sladen Street, Mammoth Road, and Marsh Hill Road.

No Dracut properties are currently on the National or State Registers of Historic Places. A partial inventory of historic structures has been made, but the survey must be completed and important sites and districts submitted for inclusion on federal or state registers. The lack of historic plaques or signs in Dracut contributes to the

public's lack of knowledge about the historic resources in town. Ensembles of historic buildings have already been disrupted by insensitive redevelopment because the town has no tools, such as demolition delay or local historic districts, to promote preservation of historic sites.

An encouraging event was the 1994 acquisition by the Dracut Historical Society of historic Harmony Hall. The hall was donated to the society and, with the assistance of the town, relocated next to the Society's headquarters on Lakeview Avenue. The 4500 square foot building now serves as an accessible public meeting hall for town events.

## **I. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

There are no state-designated ACECs in Dracut. (See Map 6 – Special Landscape Features.

## **J. Environmental Problems**

### **Hazardous Waste Sites**

Dracut has three Tier 1B sites, two of which are oil release sites and the third is a hazardous material release site. The other cleanup sites listed by the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup are predominantly oil release sites and have received a lower classification, signifying a lower level of hazard. The state's list of hazardous waste sites in Dracut is available in Appendix E.

### **Landfills**

There are no operating landfills in Dracut. The capped landfill has been converted to recreational use.

### **Erosion and Sedimentation**

Dracut has an overlay district – The Wetland and Water Conservancy District – that regulates land use in and near wetlands in addition to Conservation Commission administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Protection Act. In this overlay district new construction and earth moving are prohibited, as are sewage disposal, dumping, and storage of toxic or leachable substances.

With the exception of Conservation Commission jurisdiction over wetlands and their buffer zone, there is limited control of erosion and sedimentation within town regulations. Incorporation of the state Department of Environmental Protection's Stormwater Management Policies within town regulations, along with monitoring and enforcement, would provide greater protection of water bodies and wetlands.

Construction on steep slopes should also be more tightly regulated, and requiring a minimum percentage of upland in each subdivision lot would increase the wetlands buffer, making it less likely that homeowners will damage wetlands through mowing or other practices.

### **Chronic Flooding**

There are no significant developed areas where chronic flooding is a problem. The Dracut Flood Plain and Floodway District is an overlay district that regulates land use in flood-prone areas. All new construction or earth moving is prohibited in this district, except certain agricultural and conservation uses, repairs to pre-existing structures, and new structures that have been shown by an engineer not to be subject to flooding.

### **Development Impacts**

Dracut was one of the faster growing towns in the region during the eighties and nineties. New subdivisions have brought hundreds of new housing units to the town, with effects on environmental health and on town character.

Previous development patterns in Dracut resulted in private control of almost all pond, lake and stream shorelines in Dracut. The dense summer cottage colonies developed on Long Pond and Lake Mascuppic in the early twentieth century created pollution problems as people began to live in the cottages year round. Beaver Brook, the banks of which have considerable potential as a recreational trail, is predominantly private, with almost no public access. Houses surround less than half of the perimeter of Peters Pond, with septic system failures causing eutrophication.

Although a few farms remain in central and west Dracut, recent and new development is increasingly occurring in the eastern part of town where the vast majority of undeveloped properties (many under Chapter 61 and 61A) are located. Subdivisions have been creeping east from Bridge Street along Marsh Hill Road. After long and complex negotiations, a development proposal on a 350-acre parcel on Route 113 was approved in 2000. The project included the construction of a golf course subdivision, that also as well as 34 acres of preserved farm land, 45 acres of woodland abutting the existing Dunlap Sanctuary and a greenway plan to connect the Dunlap Sanctuary through the golf course with town lands.

The remaining undeveloped land in Dracut is increasingly attractive for residential development. The town's zoning and subdivision regulations need to be refined to insure that when development does take place, it protects environmental resources and scenic qualities. For example, inclusion of the state DEP's stormwater standards in planning regulations, regulation of building on steep slopes, better site design and landscape requirements for non-residential development, and more

sophisticated subdivision design requirements can lessen the impacts of development and help preserve the remaining semi-rural character of the town. The creation of design guidelines would serve to promote better quality design and help to further protect environmental resources.

### **Ground and Surface Water Pollution (Point and Non-Point)**

As Dracut's soils are overwhelmingly unsuitable for septic systems and the town has a relatively high failure rate for these systems, it is likely that groundwater pollution is occurring in parts of town where systems have been installed in unsuitable areas. The 1997 court judgment that directed new sewer expansion is now being implemented. Ultimately, it is expected that most areas of Dracut that are already developed will require sewers. Areas that remain less developed could appropriately retain septic systems, as long as they are well constructed, managed, and monitored.

Beaver Brook. This scenic waterway winds its way through the Collinsville and Navy Yard neighborhoods and has limited recreational use, due to past pollution from shoreline development. There is an opportunity to reclaim this attractive water resource and utilize its full potential for passive and active recreational purposes. Regional meetings have taken place to develop concepts for intermunicipal open space networks. The potential role of a Beaver Brook greenway and trail that could connect New Hampshire with Merrimack River trails, and a trail along the Concord River extending to Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge have been discussed.

Lake Mascuppic. Because this lake is surrounded by private homes, by the late 1980s, it was identified by the state DEP Division of Water Pollution as impaired due to algal growth, aquatic weeds, and eutrophication (high nutrient content). Extension of the sewer system to the homes around the lake has mitigated the pollution problems.

Long Pond. This pond was identified as impaired in the late 1980s. Dracut and Tyngsborough received a Small Lakes and Ponds Grant from the state in 1995 for chemical weed control on Long Pond. Dracut has continued this practice. Cooperation with the Town of Pelham, NH, will be helpful in managing this resource.

Peters Pond. Although there is very limited public access to this pond, the septic systems of the homes around it have caused increasing eutrophication in the pond, according to the town's 1998 Wastewater Management Plan. Because the pond is shallow and has limited inlets or outlets, the high nutrient levels result in algal blooms that discourage swimming.

Cedar Pond. This 12-acre pond is naturally isolated by surrounding wetland and a dense stand of white cedars, and may be protected from pollution from nearby development.

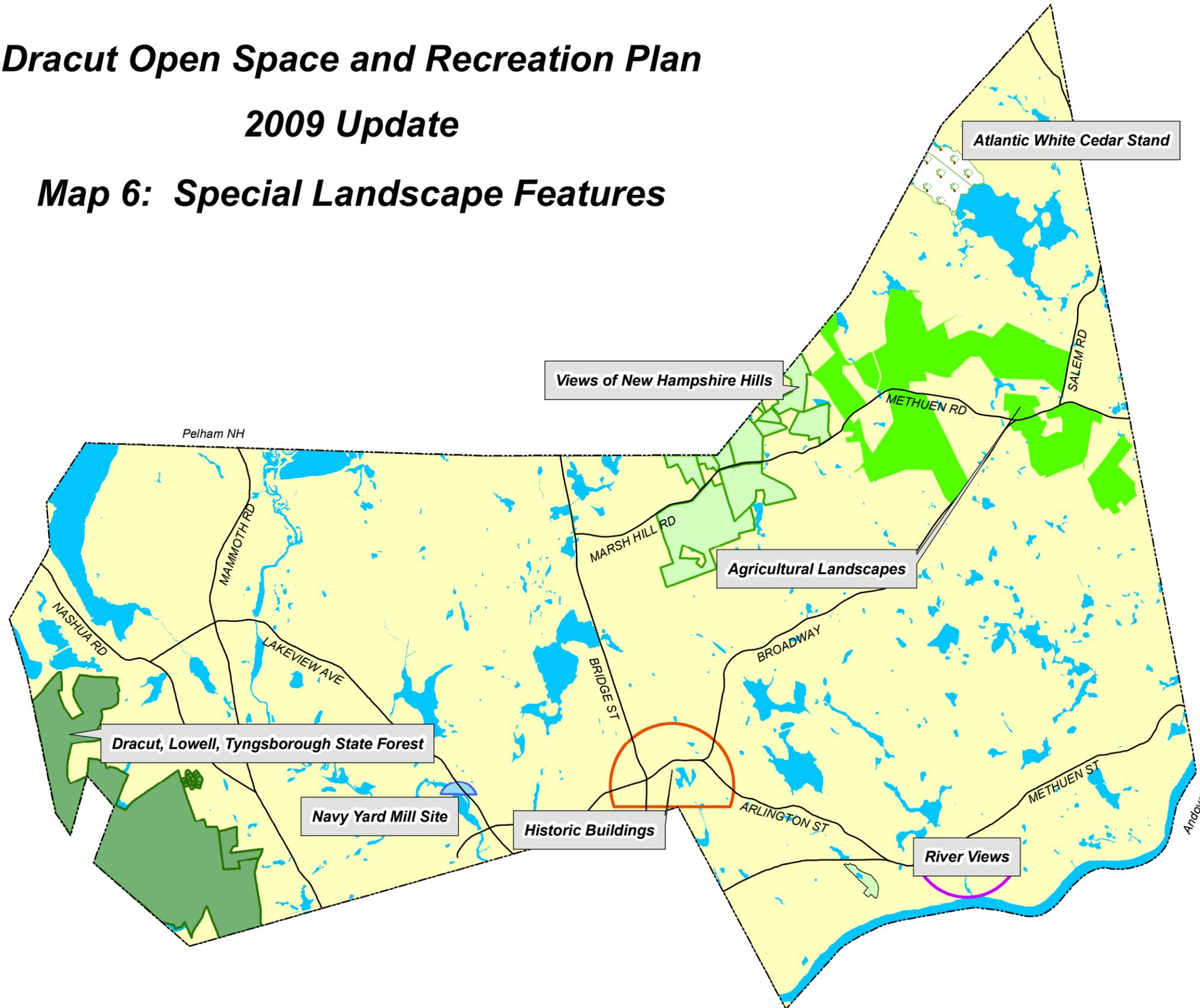
Big Pond. This 10-acre pond on the Dunlap Sanctuary is fed by wetlands and a stream running through the proposed Meadow Creek Golf Course. Although measures to minimize impact on the Big Pond were incorporated into conditions of the special permit for the project, both the pond and its associated wetlands should be monitored regularly to avert any possible future damage from fertilizers or pesticides.

Merrimack River. The river forms the southern border of Dracut and fails to meet a Class B designation during wet weather conditions. Combined sewage outflows (CSOs) and nonpoint source (NPS) pollution have been identified as significant sources of pollutants.

# Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan

## 2009 Update

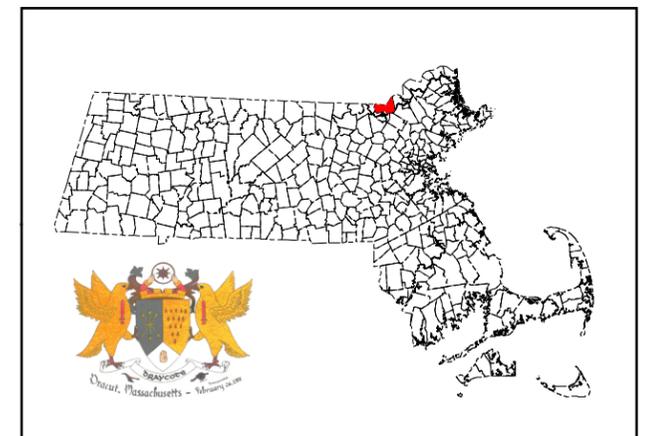
### Map 6: Special Landscape Features



**Legend**

- Town Boundary
- Atlantic White Cedar Stand
- Agricultural Landscapes
- River Views
- Historic Buildings
- Dracut, Lowell, Tyngsborough State Forest
- Views of New Hampshire Hills
- Navy Yard Mill Site

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Miles



Data provided by MassGIS, MassHighway, the Town of Dracut Engineering and Assessing departments and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments. The information displayed on this map is not to be used for regulatory interpretation or boundary determination.

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September 15, 2008 jcm

## SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

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Open space is defined as land that, for the most part, is free of structures or other impervious surfaces. Whether under public or private ownership, open spaces provide valuable habitat for wildlife; help protect water and air quality; provide flood storage, scenic vistas and recreational opportunities; preserve historic sites; and enhance the value of abutting properties.

Despite the strong pace of residential development in Dracut over the last quarter century, the town is fortunate to retain substantial open space, particularly the farm lands of East Dracut. Approximately 26 percent of the Town's total area of 13,697.8 acres is classified as open space. However, the semi-rural character of the town, valued by its residents, is by no means permanently protected. Only 1,390.63 acres of the 3,507.66 acres classified as open space is considered permanently protected. With town approval of the Community Preservation Act and the creation of a local land trust, residents have shown their desire to act to preserve open space. In addition, there is an increasing understanding of the need to seek ways to help remaining farms survive economically.

The following provides additional information on the various categories of open space and recreation lands in Dracut. The full inventory of lands of interest can be found in Table 17 following the narrative. Map 7 – Shows the location of parcels that are of conservation and recreation interest.

### **A. Permanently Protected Lands**

Dracut has 1,013.11 acres of permanently protected open space owned by the state, The Town, and the Water District, as outlined in Table 13.

State Lands. The State owns a total of nine parcels comprising 554.88 permanently protected acres in Dracut, all located in the Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsborough State Forest, except for a tiny parcel providing access to Lake Mascuppic.

Town Lands. The Town owns 358.48 acres of permanently protected conservation and park land in 70 parcels. The largest protected areas are The Dracut VFW area on Chuck Drive (54.14 acres), also known as the Rifle Range Conservation Area, and 545 Marsh Hill Road (44.64 acres), also known as the East Richardson Preservation Area. Many of the individual protected parcels are very small but have been consolidated with larger parcels to form substantial conservation or recreation

areas. In addition, there are 99.65 acres of water supply lands in 13 parcels. Eighty-nine percent of the water district lands are located within three large parcels, (40.06 acres on Hopkins Street, 38.83 acres on Hildreth Street and 9.98 acres on Sicard Avenue), with the remainder divided among small parcels.

Conservation Restrictions (CR). A Conservation Restriction is a voluntary and legally binding document, recorded in the land records, in which a land owner agrees to limit the use of his or her property for the purpose of protecting the conservation values of the land. The land owner receives an immediate income tax deduction and the grantee, usually a non-profit or municipal entity, receives assurance that the land will not be developed. Conservation Restrictions protect eight areas totaling 85.82 acres. Over half of that land is in the Dunlap Sanctuary, which also includes an additional 15 acres located in New Hampshire.

Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR). An APR is a form of Conservation Restriction designed to specifically help farmers maintain equity in their land, maintain the agricultural potential of the land, and to keep from being forced to sell the land for development purposes. There are Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on four parcels of farm land totaling 222.9 acres: the Ogonowski Farm parcel (120 acres on Marsh Hill Road in 2003), two Shaw Farm parcels (15 acres on Marsh Hill Road and 60.5 acres on New Boston Road in 2001) and the Dumaresq parcel (27.4 acres on Parker Road in 2006). It should also be noted, that while not a separate parcel, 19 acres of the "Ogonowski Memorial" acreage is under an APR agreement. This parcel is owned by the Dracut Land Trust and is shown under their designation.

**Table 13: Permanently Protected Lands within the Town of Dracut**

<b>Ownership/Protection</b>	<b>Number of Parcels</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	9	554.88
Town of Dracut	70	358.58
Dracut Land Trust	2	68.80
Agricultural Preservation Restrictions	4	222.90
Conservation Restrictions	8	85.82
Dracut Water Co.	13	99.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1,390.63</b>

**B. Unprotected/Limited Protection Lands**

Unprotected and limited protected lands of conservation and recreation interest in Dracut include public lands that are currently held as open space or historic parcels,

or used as recreation land, but which do not have permanent protection, and private parcels with limited or no restrictions on development.

## **Private Lands**

Tax Abatement Programs. Under Chapters 61, 61A and 61B of the Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.), a land owner that has either 10 contiguous acres of land that are being actively used as a forest (Chapter 61), 5 contiguous acres in active agricultural use, (Chapter 61A) or 5 contiguous acres of open space (Chapter 61B), is entitled to certain local tax abatements. These abatements are given in exchange for the property owner maintaining the use of the land as agriculture, forest or open space. Dracut currently has 1,829.49 acres of private land in forestry, agricultural or recreational uses enrolled in the Chapter 61A and 61B tax abatement programs. Most of this land is comprised of 63 parcels of agricultural land in the Chapter 61A program, which accounts for over 90 percent of the total land in tax abatement programs. A fifty one acre sportsmen's club, and the Meadow Creek Golf Course account for the majority of the acreage in the Chapter 61B category. Should the current land owner(s) decide to sell or develop property covered under these programs, the Town of Dracut will have an opportunity to exercise its right of first refusal, or, alternatively, assign this right to a non-profit conservation organization or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A land owner who has property classified in Chapter 61, 61A or 61B, must notify the Chief Elected Official, the Board of Assessors, the Planning Board the Conservation Commission and the State Forester, when all or a portion of the land is being sold or converted to a disqualifying use.

Utility Right of Way Parcels. Dracut has 82.04 acres of electric utility right-of-way parcels. These parcels provide habitat diversity and potential corridors for wildlife. In addition, there is the potential to use these rights of way for pedestrian trails or All-Terrain-Vehicle trails. Although this is not common in New England, and utility companies are often very concerned about liability issues, use of these corridors for recreation should be discussed as part of a town-wide trails plan.

## **Public Resources**

While these lands are not permanently protected, there is no reason to believe that they will not continue in open space and recreational uses. As an example, the land owned by the City of Lowell, can be sold by that community to a private developer and would be lost as a recreational resource. By the same token, school athletic fields or other open space on school grounds could be converted to a use such as a school addition, if the need should arise.

School Resources. There are 114.84 acres of school property in Dracut, including school athletic fields and playgrounds.

Town Parks. Though several important parks, such as the 25-acre Veterans' Memorial Park, are protected, other town parks and playgrounds totaling over 16 acres are without full, permanent protection. These properties include Carrick Ball Park, Monahan Park and Playground, Hovey Playground, and Intervale Park. The City of Lowell also owns a 1.29-acre ball park in Dracut.

Cemeteries: It is highly unlikely that Dracut's 4.27 acres of cemeteries would change use although they are not technically under permanent protection.

**Table 14: Unprotected/Limited Protection Public Lands within the Town of Dracut**

<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Number of Parcels</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Town of Dracut	77	204.21
City of Lowell	1	1.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>205.50</b>

**Table 15: Unprotected/Limited Protection Private Lands within the Town of Dracut**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of Parcels</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Chapter 61A	63	1,614.97
Chapter 61B	7	214.52
Electric Rights-of-Way	9	82.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1,911.53</b>

As indicated in Table 16, despite the strong pace of residential growth, the actual acreage of land of conservation or recreation interest increased by 389.31 acres from 2002 to 2008 with the largest increase being reflected in Chapter 61B land.

**Table 16: Open Space Comparison 2002 – 2008 in Acres**

<b>Category/Ownership</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2008</b>
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	536.46	554.88
Town of Dracut (full protection)	286.98	358.58
Dracut Land Trust	0	68.80
Agricultural Preservation Restrictions	185.00	222.90

Conservation Restrictions	127.01	85.82
Dracut Water Co.	99.65	99.65
Town of Dracut (limited protection)	105.57	204.21
City of Lowell	1.29	1.29
Chapter 61A	1635.99	1,614.97
Chapter 61B	58.63	214.52
Electric Rights-of-Way	82.04	82.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,118.35</b>	<b>3,507.66</b>

### C. Recreation Programs

Existing recreation programs in Dracut focus on children and youth. These programs are well used, with over 5,000 registrations annually. Except for several small leagues, there are no organized recreation programs for adults. With more families with school-aged children moving into Dracut, demand for recreation programs is increasing and there is a shortage and over-use of both facilities and fields for town recreation programs. The Recreation Department hopes to implement more family-based programs in the near future.

As is the case in many communities, facilities are inadequate for the demand. There are not enough soccer fields, and the basketball travel team program plays both in and out of town. Dracut Recreation uses six parks, including the Veteran's Memorial Park. These are all maintained by the Department of Public Works, but time constraints, high demand and insufficient maintenance resources mean that fields are often not rested sufficiently. Monahan and Hovey Parks are maintained primarily by private funds through Dracut Softball and Dracut Baseball. Recreation programs also rely heavily on the Dracut school system facilities, both indoor and outdoor. For instance, the new fields at the Junior High School are currently used by both recreational softball and baseball. A swimming program, held at either the Regional Technical School or Lowell High School, is offered with about 150 children and parents involved at any one time. There is also a small town beach at Lake Muscuppic, but there are no lifeguards.

The Dracut Council on Aging offers recreational programs designed for the elderly population in Town. Educational programs in art, computers, knitting and writing are offered, along with activities that include bowling, card games, line dancing, glee club, quilting and Tai Chi. The Council also sponsors both day and overnight trips, as well as walking groups.

TABLE 17: DRACUT - INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST - UPDATE 2008

Map	Block	Lot	Acres	Name	Address	Land Use Code	Zoning	Level of Protection	Owner	Manager	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Public Grant
<b>PROTECTED PARCELS</b>															
<b>PUBLIC LANDS</b>															
<b>State Lands</b>															
	30	0	61	0.08	Lake Mascouppic Access	280 Tyngsboro Rd	901	B-1	permanent	State	DFWELE	Recreation	good	yes	public
	41	0	2	1.27	State Forest	25 Highland Ave	901	R-1	permanent	State	DCR	Cons/Rec	good	yes	public
	41	0	3	1.69	State Forest	20 Highland Ave	901	R-1	permanent	State	DCR	Cons/Rec	good	yes	public
	41	0	19	1.82	State Forest	45 Highland Ave	901	R-1	permanent	State	DCR	Cons/Rec	good	yes	public
	41	0	20	1.54	State Forest	42 Highland Ave	901	R-1	permanent	State	DCR	Cons/Rec	good	yes	public
	41	0	128	142.21	State Forest	120 Tyngsboro Rd	901	R-1	permanent	State	DCR	Cons/Rec	good	yes	public
	57	0	5	1.19	State Forest	Totman Rd	901	R-1	permanent	State	DCR	Cons/Rec	good	yes	public
	58	0	6	20.68	Old Quarry	55 Gumpus Rd	929	R-1	permanent	State					
	58	0	7	384.40	State Forest	75 Gumpus Rd	901	R-1	permanent	State	DCR	Cons/Rec	good	yes	public
			<i>total</i>	<b>554.88</b>											
<b>Town Lands</b>															
	2	0	61	1.71	Scott St Cons Area	46 Scott St	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	3	0	1	35.00	Cedar Pond Area	661 Pelham Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	ConComm	conservation	good	limited	public
	3	0	28	6.90		65 Saw Mill Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	3	22	1	3.39		201 Saw Mill Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	4	0	11	4.00		247 Salem Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	10	0	4	0.27	Long Pond Park	212 Lake Shore Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	ConComm	conservation	good	yes	public
	10	0	63	0.56	Long Pond Park	202 Lake Shore Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	ConComm	conservation	good	yes	public
	11	16	39.3	12.20		150 Turtle Hill Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	19	0	29	19.01	Colburn Cons.Land	102 Cross Rd	903	B-4	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	19	32	1	0.59		1920 Bridge St	903	B-4	permanent	Town					
	20	0	45	44.64	East Richardson Pres.	545 Marsh Hill Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	ConComm	conservation	good	yes	public
	20	0	47	10.00	Dracut Historical Area	384 Proprietors Rd	903	R-2	permanent	Town	Con Comm	cons/historic	good	yes	limited
	24	0	15	0.11	Long Pond Cons Area	120 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	24	0	16	0.10	Long Pond Cons Area	106 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	24	0	17	0.11	Long Pond Cons Area	102 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	24	0	19	0.12	Long Pond Cons Area	96 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	24	0	20	0.12	Long Pond Cons Area	92 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	24	0	21	0.29	Long Pond Cons Area	86 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public
	24	0	41	0.11	Long Pond Cons Area	119 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public

TABLE 17: DRACUT - INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST - UPDATE 2008

Map	Block	Lot	Acres	Name	Address	Land Use Code	Zoning	Level of Protection	Owner	Manager	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Public Grant
24	0	51	0.17	Long Pond Cons Area	33 Hillside Terrace	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
24	0	52	0.20	Long Pond Cons Area	41 Hillside Terrace	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
24	0	232	2.20	Long Pond Cons Area	8 Shore Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
24	0	233	0.29	Long Pond Cons Area	4 Shore Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
24	0	234	1.74	Long Pond Cons Area	2 Shore Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
24	0	235	25.22	Long Pond Cons Area	Long Dr Rear	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
24	13	1	0.11	Long Pond Cons Area	136 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
24	13	2	0.11	Long Pond Cons Area	132 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
24	13	3	0.11	Long Pond Cons Area	128 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
24	16	2	0.18	Long Pond Cons Area	114 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
24	16	1	0.10	Long Pond Cons Area	110 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
24	21	1	0.11		84 Long Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town						
28	0	11	25.05		101 Colburn Way	903	R-1	permanent	Town						
29	0	2	54.14	Rifle Range Cons. Area	Chuck Dr.	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	limited	
30	0	42	0.07		21 Arch St	903	R-1	permanent	Town						
30	0	60	0.99	Lakeview Cons Area	272 Tyngsboro Rd	903	B-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
30	0	67	0.95		203 Tyngsboro Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
30	0	68	0.79		20 Swan St	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	6	0.51	Evergreen Cons. Area	42 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	7	0.39	Evergreen Cons. Area	52 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	59	0.38	Evergreen Cons. Area	24 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	60	0.43	Evergreen Cons. Area	15 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	61	0.41	Evergreen Cons. Area	21 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	62	0.34	Evergreen Cons. Area	31 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	63	0.35	Evergreen Cons. Area	41 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	64	0.34	Evergreen Cons. Area	51 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	65	0.34	Evergreen Cons. Area	61 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	

TABLE 17: DRACUT - INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST - UPDATE 2008

Map	Block	Lot	Acres	Name	Address	Land Use Code	Zoning	Level of Protection	Owner	Manager	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Public Grant
44	0	66	0.34	Evergreen Cons. Area	71 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	67	0.84	Evergreen Cons. Area	81 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	68	0.69	Evergreen Cons. Area	91 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	69	0.51	Evergreen Cons. Area	97 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	70	0.34	Evergreen Cons. Area	101 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	71	0.34	Evergreen Cons. Area	105 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	72	0.64	Evergreen Cons. Area	109 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	73	0.35	Evergreen Cons. Area	113 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	74	0.34	Evergreen Cons. Area	117 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	75	0.35	Evergreen Cons. Area	121 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	76	0.37	Evergreen Cons. Area	125 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	77	0.40	Evergreen Cons. Area	129 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	79	0.38	Evergreen Cons. Area	42 Forest Pk Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	146	0.37	Evergreen Cons. Area	62 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	0	149	0.37	Evergreen Cons. Area	92 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	103	4	6.63		Lafond Lane Rear	903	R-3	permanent	Town						
44	147	1	0.36	Evergreen Cons. Area	72 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	148	1	0.41	Evergreen Cons. Area	82 Evergreen Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
44	229	6.25	7.47		118 Tennis Plaza Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
50	0	159	0.27	Tercentennial Park	1346 Bridge St	903	R-3	permanent	Town	Rec Dept	park	good	yes	public	
51	0	90	1.63		131 Leo Ave	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
51	61	3	24.58	Veterans Memorial Park	Montaup Ave	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Rec Dept	recreation	good	yes	public	yes
51	198	1	32.00		Baldwin Rd (Rear)	903	R-1	permanent	Town	ConComm	conservation	good	yes	public	
68	0	1	23.35	Polubinski Land	103 Varnum Ave	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Con Comm	conservation	good	yes	public	
		total	358.58												
<b>Land Trust Lands</b>															
	21	16	1	35.00	Smith/Healy Farm	30 Wildlife Way	905	R-1	Permanent	Dracut Land Trust	D. Land tTr.	Conservation	good	yes	limited
	38	6	3	33.80	Ogonowski: Memorial	680 Broadway Rd	905	R-1	Permanent	Dracut Land Trust	Dracut Land Trust	Conservation	good	yes	limited

TABLE 17: DRACUT - INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST - UPDATE 2008

Map	Block	Lot	Acres	Name	Address	Land Use Code	Zoning	Level of Protection	Owner	Manager	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Public Grant	
<b>total</b>			<b>68.80</b>													
<b>Water Supply Lands</b>																
15	0	87	1.38	Water Dist.	25 K St	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
16	0	10	0.39	Water Dist.	35 Passaconaway	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
18	0	1	38.38	Water Dist.	Hildreth St	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
18	108	1	3.41	Water Dist.	58 Village Dr	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
29	0	50	3.29	Water Dist.	32 Proprietors Rd	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
32	61	2	0.10	Water Dist.	18 Water St	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
34	0	90	40.06	Water Dist.	59 Hopkins St	903	R-1	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
45	0	21	0.19	Water Dist.	54 Hopkins St	903	R-3	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
45	0	22	0.23	Water Dist.	47 Hopkins St	903	R-3	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
45	0	37	1.21	Water Dist.	54 Hopkins St	903	R-3	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
45	0	38	0.54	Water Dist.	35 Gerard St	903	R-3	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
45	0	64	9.98	Water Dist.	146 Sicard Av	903	R-3	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
63	0	7	0.49	Water Dist.	280 Pleasant St	903	R-3	permanent	Town	Water Dist.	watershed	good	limited	limited		
<b>total</b>			<b>99.65</b>													
<b>PRIVATE LANDS</b>																
<b>Agricultural Protection Restrictions</b>																
20	4	1	15.00		342 Marsh Hill Rd	71	R-1	permanent	Shaw Farm Dairy	Shaw	agriculture				private	
34	0	87	60.50		211 New Boston Rd	761	R-1	permanent	Shaw Farm	Shaw	agriculture				private	
38	0	35	27.40		437 Parker Rd	1010	R-1	permanent	Dumaresq	Dumaresq	agriculture					
20	41	1	120.00		315 Marsh Hill Rd	71	R-1	permanent	Ogonowski	Ogonowski	agriculture				private	
<b>total</b>			<b>222.90</b>													
<b>Conservation Restrictions</b>																
20	9	1	4.50	Dunlap Farm	420 Marsh Hill Rd	132	R-1	CR	Dunlap/Steucek	Dunlap	conservation	good	yes	public		
20	9	3	26.00	Dunlap Farm	430 Marsh Hill Rd	132	R-1	CR	Dunlap/Steucek	Dunlap	conservation	good	yes	public		
20	43		50.51	Dunlap Sanctuary	473 Marsh Hill Rd	132	R-1	CR	Dunlap/Steucek	Dunlap	conservation	good	yes	public		
40	5	1	0.92	Boisvert Land	51 Lakeview Terr	132	R-3	CR	Boisvert/DCR	Boisvert	conservation	good	yes	limited		
40	5	2	0.92	Boisvert Land	61 Lakeview Terr	132	R-3	CR	Boisvert/DCR	Boisvert	conservation	good	yes	limited		
40	5	4	0.93	Boisvert Land	81 Lakeview Terr	132	R-3	CR	Boisvert/DCR	Boisvert	conservation	good	yes	limited		
40	10	6	0.98	Boisvert Land	72 Lakeview Terr	132	R-3	CR	Boisvert/DCR	Boisvert	conservation	good	yes	limited		
40	7	7	1.06	Boisvert Land	62 Lakeview Terr	132	R-3	CR	Boisvert/DCR	Boisvert	conservation	good	yes	limited		
<b>total</b>			<b>85.82</b>													
<b>TOTAL PERM. PROTECTION</b>			<b>1390.63</b>													
<b>LIMITED PROTECTION OR UNPROTECTED LANDS</b>																
<b>PUBLIC LANDS</b>																
<b>Town</b>																
2	0	37	3.34		56 Spring Rd	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited		
2	0	70	16.08		Spring Rd Rear	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title					
2	22	1	0.64		17 Harley Dr	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Drainage Basin	Wet	No	Limited		

TABLE 17: DRACUT - INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST - UPDATE 2008

Map	Block	Lot	Acres	Name	Address	Land Use Code	Zoning	Level of Protection	Owner	Manager	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Public Grant
3	54	8	1.06		13 Sophia Dr.	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Drainage Basin	Wet	No	Limited	
4	0	59	8.66		242 Pelham Rd	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Vacant	good	Yes	Limited	
5	0	10	0.04		52 Jane St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
5	0	11	0.32		53 Jane St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
5	0	20	0.17		26 Gilbert St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
5	0	40	0.20		63 Mildred St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
5	0	41	0.19		60 Milfred St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
5	0	49	0.24		61 Aline St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
5	0	50	0.11		63 AlineSt	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
5	0	106	0.08		11 Sylvia St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
5	0	143	0.08		15 Sylvia St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
7	0	56	6.22		53 Island Pond Rd.	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Vacant	good	Yes	Limited	
7	11	2.5	0.39		48 Trinity Way	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
8	6	7	0.66		6 Rocky Rd	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
8	0	13	1.53	Richardson Cemetery	1343 BRdway	903	R-1	limited	Town	Town	Cemetery	good	No	public	
8	0	27	0.62	Bailey Cemetary	1339 BRdway	903	R-1	limited	Town	Town	Cemetery	good	No	public	
8	0	28	0.16	Bailey Cemetary	1337 BRdway	903	R-1	limited	Town	Town	Cemetery	good	No	public	
10	0	173	0.05		3 Eighth St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
10	0	174	0.01		1 Eighth St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
25	0	61	1.83	Collinsville School	2063 Lakeview	903	R-1	Limited	Town	School Comm	recreation	good	yes	public	
25	0	104	4.97	Carrick Ball Park	1285 Mammoth Rd	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	recreation	good	yes	public	
25	0	145	0.10		25 Howe St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
25	0	148	0.14		8 Howe St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
25	0	193	0.11		5 Myron St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
25	0	223	0.13		2032 Lakeview Ave.	903	B3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
25	0	229	0.29		1990 Lakeview Ave.	903	B3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
25	243	5	0.98		8 Daybreak Dr	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
26	0	63	0.26		10 Blossom Lane	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
26	0	66	0.23		37 Heartstone Lane	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
27	0	106	0.42	Cemetery	1150 Hildreth St	903		limited	Town	Town	historic	good	no	public	
27	1	30	2.30		109 Sue Ann Dr	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Drainage Basin	Wet	No	Limited	
27	47	1	0.55		15 Mattys Way	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
44	0	122	70.20	Dracut High School Complex	1624 Lakeview Av	903	R-3	limited	Town	School Comm	recreation	good	yes	public	
44	0	124	12.76	Behind School	Lakeview Ave	903	R-1	limited	Town	School Comm	recreation	good	yes	public	
48	76	2	3.35	Parker Ave School	93 Parker Av	903	GR	limited	Town	Rec Comm	recreation	good	yes	public	
50	0	125	2.21	Greenmont School	88 Spring Park Av	903	R-3	Limited	Town	School Comm	recreation	good	yes	public	
50	0	176	5.63	Monahan Park and Playground	499 Pleasant	903	R-3	limited	Town	Rec Comm	recreation	good	yes	public	
50	0	12	2.14	Hovey Playground	330 Pleasant	903	R-3	limited	Town	Rec Comm	recreation	good	yes	public	
51	0	37	0.94		85 Ansonia Ave.	903	R-1	Limited	Town						
51	0	97	0.18		144 Sawyer Ave	903	R-1	Limited	Town						
51	61	3	24.58	Veterans Memorial Park	Montaup Ave	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Rec Dept	recreation	good	yes	public	yes

TABLE 17: DRACUT - INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST - UPDATE 2008

Map	Block	Lot	Acres	Name	Address	Land Use Code	Zoning	Level of Protection	Owner	Manager	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Public Grant
52	0	29	0.30		31 Griggs St	903	R-3	Limited	Town						
52	0	44	0.22		30 Griggs St	903	R-3	Limited	Town						
52	0	93	0.75	Varnum Park	165 Arlington St	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Rec Dept	recreation	good	yes	public	
52		174	0.22		42 Mailloux	903	R-1	Limited	Town						
52	0	229	0.19		28 Cheever Ave	903	R-1	Limited	Town						
54	0	18	0.72	Varnum Cemetery	71 Parker Rd	903	R-1	limited	Town	Town	historic	good	no	public	
55	41	1	0.20		35 Oakside Tr.	903	B-3	Limited	Town						
59	95	4	0.14		86 Homefield Ave	903	R-1	Limited	Town						
67	0	94	0.13		125 Levitt St	903	R-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
67	0	99	0.35		21 Kenmore St	903	R-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
67	0	104	11.00	Campbell School	1021 Methuen St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	School Comm	recreation	good	yes	public	
67	0	105	3.17	Campbell School	1051 Methuen St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	School Comm	School		No	Public	
67	0	108	0.34		16 Kearsarge St	903	R-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
68	0	16	0.07		31 Fuller Ave	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
68	0	48	0.75	Intervale Pk	30 Intervale Av	903	R-1	limited	Town	Rec Comm	recreation	good	yes	public	
68	0	49	0.75		31 Congress St	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
68	0	74	1.48		901 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title	Wet	No	Limited	
68	23	3	0.30		9 Katies Way	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
69	0	13	1.16		1093 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title	Wet	No	Limited	
69	0	15	3.29		1145 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title	Wet	No	Limited	
70	0	2	0.11		400 Methuen St	903	R-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
70	17	1	0.23	Sewer Easements	71 View St	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Sewer	Sewer	No	Limited	
71	0	74	0.07		241 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
71	23	79.1	0.30		3 Rueger Rd	903	R-1	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
72	0	97	0.12		465 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
72	0	98	0.06		471 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
72	0	104	0.06		511 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
72	0	107	0.04		531 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
72	0	108	0.01		537 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
72	0	109	0.04		541 Merrimack Ave.	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
72	0	110	0.18		549 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
73	0	63	2.26		675 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title	Wet	No	Limited	
73	0	68	0.06		793 Merrimack Ave	903	B-3	Limited	Town	Town	Tax Title		No	Limited	
		<i>total</i>	<b>204.21</b>												
<b>Other Public</b>															
	63	70	1.29	Ball Park	Hovey Av	9035	R-3	limited	City of Lowell	same	recreation	good	yes	public	
<b>PRIVATE LAND</b>															
<b>Chapter 61 Forest</b>															
			<b>0.00</b>												
<b>Chapter 61A Agriculture</b>															

TABLE 17: DRACUT - INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST - UPDATE 2008

Map	Block	Lot	Acres	Name	Address	Land Use Code	Zoning	Level of Protection	Owner	Manager	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Public Grant
	4	0	6		290 Salem Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Snapauskas, Wladislaw	same	agriculture			private	
	4	0	12			71	R-1	temporary	Snapauskas, Wladislaw	same	agriculture			private	
	4	1	1.1		600 Salem Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Cieslik, John J.	same	agriculture			private	
	6	0	1		372 Richardson Rd	717,718	R-1	temporary	Eno Athur, L. JR Etals Trustee	same	agriculture			private	
	6	0	5		371 Richardson Rd	71		temporary	Richardson, Roscoe	same	agriculture			private	
	7	0	2		93 Methuen Rd	716	R-1	temporary	Kerepka, Frank	same	agriculture			private	
	7	0	3		119 Methuen Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Richardson, George M., Tr	same	agriculture			private	
	7		4		205 Methuen Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Richardson, Gilbert	same	agriculture			private	
	7	0	7		333 Methuen Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Richardson, Gilbert	same	agriculture			private	
	7	0	8		379 Methuen Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Kerepka, Frank	same	agriculture			private	
	7	0	9		37 Island Pond Rd Rear	717	R-1	temporary	Kerepka, Francis J., Jr	same	agriculture			private	
	7	0	13		6 Island Pond Rd	717	R-1	temporary	Kerepka Pauline	same	agriculture			private	
	7	0	14		461 Methuen Rd	712	R-1	temporary	Brox, Jane, trustee	same	agriculture			private	
	7	0	17		370 Methuen Rd	716	R-1	temporary	Kerepka, Pauline	same	agriculture			private	
	7	0	18		260 Methuen Rd	71	R-1		Ogonowski, Albert S.	same	agriculture			private	
	7	0	19		200 Methuen Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Dadak and Schuessler, Tr.	same	agriculture			private	
	7	0	26		1211 BRdway	71	R-1	temporary	Brox, Eric	same	agriculture			private	
	7	1	1		1276 BRdway	71	R-1	temporary	Brox, Kalil	same	agriculture			private	
	7	4	1		179 Methuen Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Richardson, Gilbert	same	agriculture			private	
	7	4	3		207 Methuen Rd	716	R-1	temporary	Richardson, Gilbert	same	agriculture			private	
	7	20	1		120 Methuen Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Richardson, George M., Tr	same	agriculture			private	
	8	0	9		200 Salem Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Brox, Kalil	same	agriculture			private	
	8	0	10		1374 BRdway	71	R-1	temporary	Brox, Robert A.	same	agriculture			private	
	8	14	3		1363 BRdway	71	R-1	temporary	Brox, Jane, trustee	same	agriculture			private	
	18	0	20		112 Crosby Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Gosselin, Kenneth J.	same	agriculture			private	
	19	0	4		520 Colburn Ave	71	R-1	temporary	Maguire, Robert H.	same	agriculture			private	
	19	0	26		331 Colburn Ave	71	R-1	temporary	Paradis, Raymond	same	agriculture			private	
	19	56	8.1		Rear Pheasant Ln	718	R-1	temporary	Ogonowski J.	same	agriculture			private	
	20	0	10		560 Marsh Hill Rd	718	R-1	temporary	Koenig, Allen B. Trustee	same	agriculture			private	
	20	9	2		430 Marsh Hill Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Dunlap/Steueck	same	agriculture			private	
	20	14	1		700 Marsh Hill Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Zagorski, Doreen H., Tr	same	agriculture			private	
	20	14	2		650 Marsh Hill Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Yapp, Helen B. , Tr	same	agriculture			private	
	20	14	3		600 Marsh Hill Rd	717	R-1	temporary	Dawson, A.	same	agriculture			private	
	21	0	7		405 Jones Av	712,717	R-1	temporary	Greene, I.	same	agriculture			private	
	21	0	8		215 Jones Ave	71	R-1	temporary	Lepine, Isabelle	same	agriculture			private	
	22	0	38		615 Wheeler Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Walor, Frederick M.	same	agriculture			private	
	22	3	1		666 Wheeler Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Leczinski, Walter	same	agriculture			private	

TABLE 17: DRACUT - INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST - UPDATE 2008

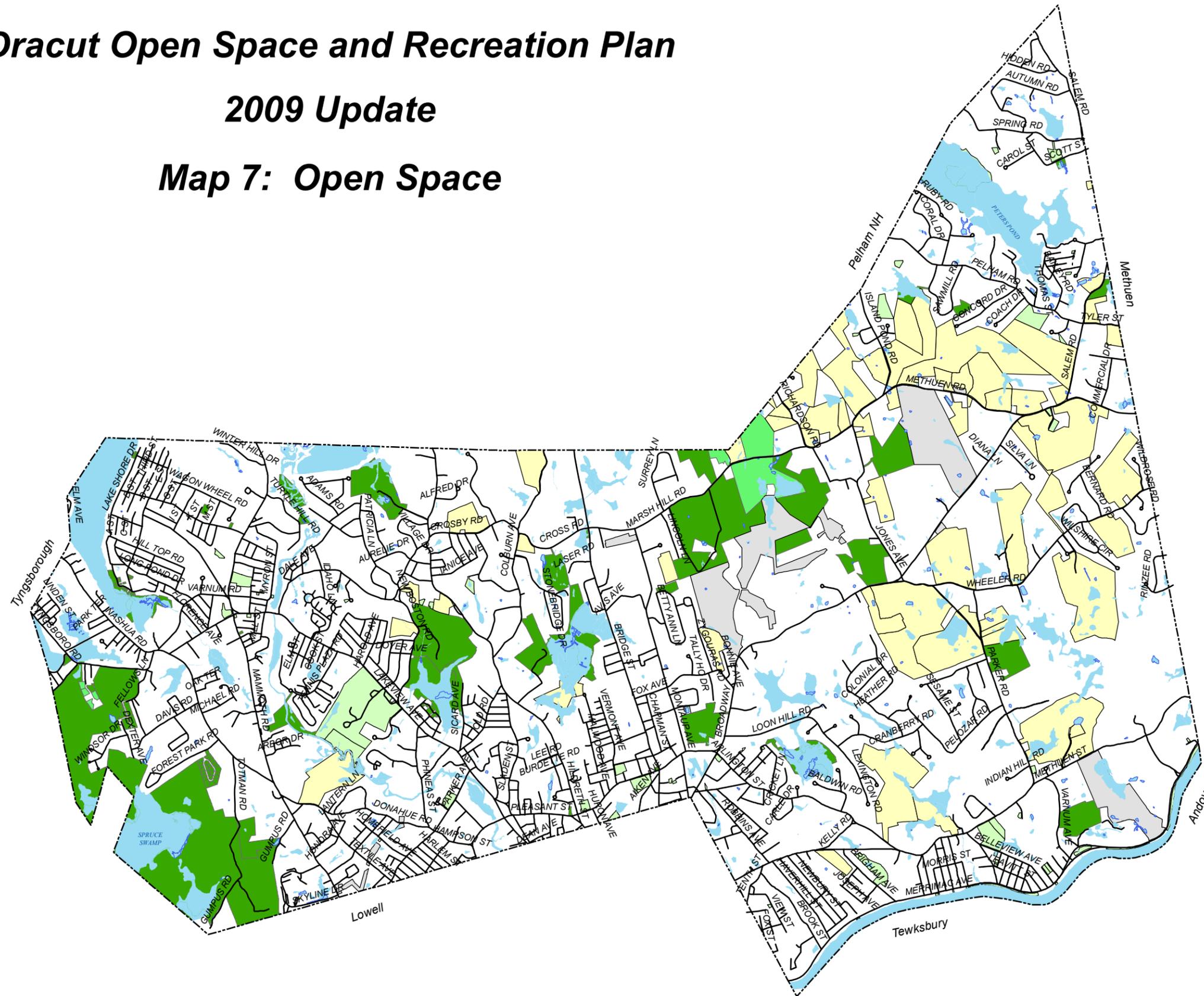
Map	Block	Lot	Acres	Name	Address	Land Use Code	Zoning	Level of Protection	Owner	Manager	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Access	Public Grant
22	23	0	17.00		470 Wheeler Rd.	71	R-1	temporary	Monte, Carl	same	agriculture			private	
22		34	16.88		524 Wheeler Rd.	717	R-1	temporary	Couture, Donald	same	agriculture				
22	34	1	0.92		534 Wheeler Rd.	717	R-1	temporary	Couture, donald	same	agriculture				
27	0	37	5.40		315 New Boston Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Adamczyk, Irene	same	agriculture			private	
27	0	105	7.92		1132 Hildreth St	712,713	R-1	temporary	Kieczkowski, C.	same	agriculture			private	
34	0	1	8.50		204 New Boston Rd	716	R-1	temporary	Shaw Farm Dairy, Inc	same	agriculture			private	
35	0	24	9.03		Hildreth St Rear	717	R-1	temporary	Perlack Daniel (TE)	same	wood			private	
37	0	19	13.00		238 Fox Ave	71		temporary	Cutrumbes, John B.	same	agriculture			private	
38	0	2	94.00		713 BRdway Rd	716,717	R-1	temporary	Ogonowski, A.	same	agriculture			private	
38	0	3	56.00		403 Parker Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Bromislawa, S. and Mullin, F.	same	agriculture			private	
38	0	36	12.00		438 Parker Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Stuart, Irene	same	agriculture			private	
38	0	37	6.00		122 Old Parker Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Pimentel, Edward	same	agriculture			private	
38	0	38	8.00		106 Old Parker Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Niemaszkyk, John W.	same	agriculture			private	
38	0	51	10.97		100 Old Parker Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Mullin, Helen	same	agriculture			private	
38	0	52	51.00		110 Wheeler Rd	712, 713, 714,717	R-1	temporary	Zanni, E.	same	agriculture			private	
38	2	1	15.00		713 BRdway	71	R-1	temporary	Ogonowski, Alexander	same	agriculture			private	
39	0	4	96.00		489 Wheeler Rd	716, 717	R-1	temporary	Taplin, C.	same	agriculture			private	
44	0	111	43.00		343 Donohue Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Charbonneau, David R;	same	agriculture			private	
46	0	105	0.31		36 Moore Av	717	R-1	temporary	Perlack, Daniel (TE)	same	wood			private	
46	118	32	15.50		63 Tremwood Rd	71	R-1	temporary	Perlack, Daniel	same	agriculture			private	
54	0	13	86.60		766 Arlington	716	R-1	temporary	Hand, Pauline, trustee	same	agriculture			private	
55	0	5	3.68		1300 Methuen St	712	R-1	temporary	Marvin, Ritchie	same	agriculture			private	
55	0	6	85.00		1300 Methuen St	71	R-1	temporary	Marvin, Ritchie	same	agriculture			private	
66	0	32	9.00		583 Methuen St.	71	R-1	temporary	QEI, Inc.	same	agriculture			private	
66		53	4.00		12 Brook St	717	R-1	temporary	Hand Pauline tr.	same	agriculture			private	
67	0	9	20.00		946 Methuen St.	71	R-1	temporary	Wasylak, John W.	same	agriculture			private	
		total	<b>1614.97</b>												
<b>Chapter 61B - Recreation</b>															
	8	0	26	8.00	Methuen Rod & Gun Club	368 Tyler St	803	R-1	temporary	Methuen Rod & Gun Club	same	recreation		private	
	20	41	195	8.96		60 Regency Dr.	805	R-2	none	MR5A, LLC	same	recreation		private	
	37	41	192	5.13		51 Regency dr,	805	R-2	none	MR5A, LLC	same	recreation		private	
	37	41	198	68.52		91 Meadow Creel Dr.	805	R-2	none	MR5A, LLC	same	recreation		private	
	37	41	199	12.13		41 Meadow Creek Dr.	805	R-2	none	MR5A, LLC	same	recreation		private	
	37	41	201	61.15		1/5 Clubhouse Lane	805	R-2	none	MR5A, LLC	same	recreation		private	
	38	0	47	50.63	Centerville Sportsmen's Club	308 Wheeler Rd	900	R-1	temporary	Centerville Sports	same	recreation		private	
		total	<b>214.52</b>												
<b>Other</b>															



# Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan

## 2009 Update

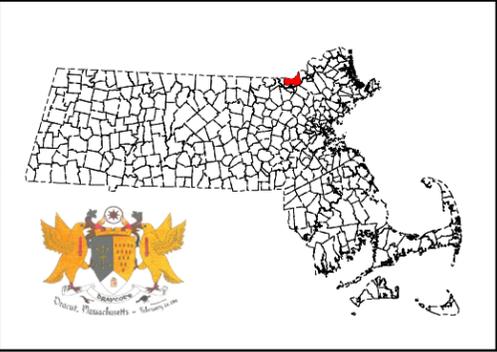
### Map 7: Open Space



**Legend**

- Roadways
- - - Town Boundary
- Dracut Open Space Parcels
- Level of Protection
- Permanently Protected
- Conservation Restriction
- Limited Protection
- Temporarily Protected
- No Protection

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2  
Miles



Data provided by MassGIS, MassHighway Town of Dracut Engineering, Assessing and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments. The information displayed on this map is not to be used for regulatory interpretation or boundary determination.

Produced by:  
The Northern Middlesex  
Council of Governments  
115 Thorndike St.  
Lowell, MA 01852



September 15, 2008 jcm

## SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION

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### A. Description of the Process

The 2009 Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan has been developed by the Dracut Community Preservation Committee, with technical assistance from the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments. The Committee includes representatives from the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. The Committee met several times throughout the plan development process. These meetings were open to the public and properly posted in accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

The public participation process consisted of the following:

- Two public meetings: A Visioning Session conducted on April 15, 2008 and a general public hearing on October 7, 2008 to present the draft document;
- A written survey that was distributed as part of the Recreation Department annual mailing, and made available to citizens at both the Town Hall and the Town Library;
- Informational items were posted on the Town's website; and
- Media coverage via the local cable television.

Summaries of the survey results and visioning session can be found in Section 7 and a more detailed breakdown of the survey results is provided in Appendix B.

### B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The 2002 Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan established six primary goals:

- Environmentally healthy water and wetland resources;
- Preservation of key open space, habitat, cultural and historic resources in all parts of town and rural character in East Dracut;
- Improved public awareness of open space;
- Efficient management, maintenance, and enhancement of open space and recreational areas;
- Trails and greenways to link open space and provide access; and
- Access to open space and recreation for all members of the community

Since completion of the 2002 Open Space and Recreation Plan, a number of the objectives and actions outlined under these goals have been accomplished, and were previously discussed in Section 2 of this document.

In developing the 2009 Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Committee has added additional goals to reflect valuable and constructive input received through the public participation process, to include updated information, and to address needs that have been identified since completion of the previous plan. For the next five years, the goals of the Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan are as follows:

- Preserve the viability and vitality of the Town's agricultural enterprises;
- Make all recreational activities accessible to all members of the community;
- Increase quality and quantity of athletic facilities, parks and playgrounds;
- Development of land management, facilities and land maintenance plans; and
- Environmentally healthy water and wetlands resources

## SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

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Throughout the plan development process, many needs were identified through discussions with town departments, from input received during the public meetings and the visioning session, and through the written survey. These needs are described and outlined below, and were used as the basis for formulating the goals, objectives and action plan outlined in other sections of this document.

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

The Town of Dracut contains many natural resources that are at risk from future development. Future attention should be paid to protecting areas with agricultural lands, historic properties and resources, steep slopes, forested lands, riverfront, water bodies and water resources, wetland resources, floodplains, and wildlife habitat.

Protection of water resources is a continuing priority in Dracut. The town has confronted the challenge of failing septic systems in some areas, particularly in the densely-built lakeside neighborhoods, by extending the sewer system. However, septic failures, eutrophication of ponds, potential groundwater pollution, and nonpoint source pollution from driveway runoff, excessive fertilizer and pesticide use, household chemicals and other contaminants continue to threaten water quality. Dracut has a local Wetlands By-law, which includes a 50-foot no structures zone around wetlands and water resource areas, and enhanced protection of vernal pools.

Public education and improved practices by residents are essential to water resource protection. All residents should be made aware of how they can reduce nonpoint pollution through their own practices. Residents with property abutting streams, ponds, and wetlands should receive information on how to protect these resources by reducing fertilizer and pesticide use, refraining from mowing to the edge of the resource area, and by not dumping grass clippings or other organic materials into water and wetland resource areas.

Clean water resources are important for the human residents of Dracut, of course, but are also essential for wildlife. Streams, ponds, and wetlands serve as corridors or concentration points for wildlife. Preservation of habitat diversity in Dracut is enhanced by the state forest and the woodlands and farms in East Dracut. Future protection of open space for wildlife habitat would maintain wildlife corridors and networks, and create a buffer for water resources and wetlands.

## B. Summary of Community Needs

Community needs were identified through input received from the written survey, at public meetings, at Committee meetings, and as a result of the visioning process. The results of the survey and visioning process are discussed below.

### Survey Results

A survey was formulated and distributed to over five hundred (500) Dracut households as part of a Recreation Department mailing. The survey was also available for downloading through NMCOG's website, the Town's website, and copies were made available at the Town Hall, the Town Hall Annex and the Town Library. One hundred two (102) responses were received and coded. The results of the tabulation are outlined in the tables below. A complete listing of all responses can be found in Appendix B. It should be noted that in all tabulations, the numbers will not add up to exact percentages due to rounding, and the columns will not add to the number of respondents, since not all questions were answered by all respondents. It is important to note that of the 102 surveys returned, 38 surveys contained at least one question that could not be included in the final tabulations, since questions were not answered in a manner where the response could be accurately determined. In addition, 58 surveys were returned with at least one question unanswered.

**Table 18: Length of Residency of Respondents**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
UNDER 5 YEARS	10	9.8
5 – 20 YEARS	26	25.5
OVER 20 YEARS	66	64.7

**Table 19: Residence of Respondents by Neighborhood**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Collinsville	20	19.6
Dracut Center	9	8.8
Navy Yard	12	11.8
East Dracut	26	25.5
Kenwood	14	13.7
Other	24	23.5

**Table 20: Age Distribution of Respondents and Household Members**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
UNDER 4 YEARS	12	11.8
5 – 11 YEARS	24	23.5
12 – 19 YEARS	32	31.3
20 – 29 YEARS	21	20.6
30 – 44 YEARS	36	35.3
45 - 59 YEARS	48	47.1
OVER 59 YEARS	20	19.6

Respondents were asked to look at Items A-G below, and rank their importance for preservation; with 1 being the most important to preserve and 7 being the least important.

**Table 21: Preservation Priorities**

A. Buildings/Places of Historical Value

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	12	11.8
2	24	23.5
3	32	31.4
4	21	20.6
5	36	35.3
6	48	47.1
7	20	19.6

B. Open Space to Preserve Wetlands

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	7	6.9
2	12	11.8
3	9	8.8
4	7	6.9
5	8	7.8
6	14	13.7
7	31	30.4

C. Open Space for Agriculture

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	18	17.6
2	17	16.7
3	15	14.7
4	15	14.7
5	9	8.8
6	6	5.9
7	7	6.9

D. Open Space for Active Recreation

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	20	19.6
2	9	8.8
3	13	12.7
4	11	10.8
5	10	9.8
6	10	9.8
7	10	9.8

E. Open Space for Passive Recreation

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	8	7.8
2	14	13.7
3	14	13.7
4	15	14.7
5	23	22.5
6	9	8.8
7	2	2.0

F. Open Space for Other Activities

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	6	5.9
2	10	9.8
3	16	15.7
4	12	11.8
5	15	14.7
6	28	27.5
7	28	27.5

G. Preservation of Forest Land

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	15	14.7
2	21	20.6
3	15	14.7
4	22	21.6
5	13	12.7
6	17	16.7
7	11	10.8

Respondents were asked to list five open spaces, recreation facilities or programs, public or private, that are in town, and are used by the respondent and/or their families.

**Table 22: Open Space, Recreation Facilities or Programs Used by Respondent**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Veteran's Park	66	64.7
State Forest	18	17.6
High School Facilities	17	16.7
Shaw's Farm	13	12.7
Dunlap Sanctuary	10	9.8

Respondents were asked to list the top five recreation/open space areas, facilities or programs that the Town needs and currently does not provide.

**Table 23: Needed Open Space, Recreation Facilities or Programs**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Hiking Trails	22	21.6
Tennis Courts	14	13.7
Basketball Courts	11	10.8
Sports Fields	11	10.8
Swimming Pool	9	8.8

Respondents were asked to rank their satisfaction with "open space, recreational facilities, programs or places" for both adults and youth.

**Table 24: Satisfaction with Recreation Programs and Places**

	<b>ADULTS</b>		<b>YOUTH</b>		
	<b># of Respondents</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>		<b># of Respondents</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>
Very satisfied	9	8.8	Very satisfied	10	9.8
Satisfied	29	28.4	Satisfied	32	31.4
Neutral	26	25.5	Neutral	9	8.8
Dissatisfied	11	10.8	Dissatisfied	12	11.8
Very Dissatisfied	4	4.0	Very Dissatisfied	3	3.0
Don't know	5	5.0	Don't know	9	8.8

The respondents were asked to indicate if they went out of town to use open space, recreational facilities, programs or places and if so, for what.

**Table 25: Use of Out of Town Facilities**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Yes	56	54.9
No	15	14.7

Out of Town Activity (top 5 responses):

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Hiking/Walking	24	23.5
Swimming	14	13.7
Biking	10	9.8
Skiing	4	3.9
Hockey/Ice Skating	4	3.9

Respondents were asked to rank the top three "landscapes, views, buildings, recreational areas or outdoor experiences", whether public or private, that most symbolize Dracut's unique character.

**Table 26: Top Three Landscapes, Views, Buildings, Recreational Areas or Outdoor Experiences**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Farmland	39	38.2
Veteran's Park	5	4.9
Town Hall	5	4.9

Respondents were asked for those "open space, recreational facilities, programs or places" that people like best and those they liked least.

**Table 27: Best Liked Open Space, Recreational Facilities, Programs or Places**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Rural Character	11	10.8
Open Space	10	9.8
Veteran's Park	10	9.8
Farms	8	7.8
Hiking Trails	3	2.9

**Table 28: Least Liked Open Space, Recreational Facilities, Programs or Places**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Too Much Development	13	12.7
Traffic	5	4.9
Not Enough Open Space Facilities or Programs	3	2.9

Respondents were asked what specific actions the Town should take in the next five years to address open space and recreational issues.

**Table 29: Most Important Actions to Be Undertaken Concerning Open Space and Recreation**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Preserve Farms	10	9.8
Preserve Open Space	6	5.9
Prohibit Development	5	4.9
Hiking Trails	4	3.9
Swimming Pools	3	2.9

### **Visioning Session**

The Visioning Session was conducted to provide input and assistance in the development of the Open Space and Recreation Plan goals and objectives. The session was held on April 15, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in Harmony Hall on Lakeview Avenue and emphasized brainstorming and open discussion. The session was attended by twenty participants who were asked to address the following:

- What are the Town's strengths /assets in terms of Open Space and Recreation facilities and programs?
- What are the community's weaknesses and liabilities in this regard?
- What opportunities does the Town have to improve upon or expand its existing open space and recreation facilities and/or programs?
- What challenges lie ahead? What concerns need to be addressed in order to move forward to meet the Town's open space and recreation needs?

The following were identified as the community's strengths and/or assets relative to open space and recreation facilities and programs:

- Volunteer spirit - Sports groups contribute time and funds to help maintain some of the current recreation facilities; e.g. Hovey Field, Monahan Park. There has been a willingness on the part of the town's people, to volunteer their time. This has greatly contributed to the success of the recreation programs and to the maintenance of open space and passive recreational facilities, such as the hiking trails.
- Schools - The schools contain recreation assets such as playgrounds, gymnasiums and sports fields that are available to students and citizens via town Recreation Department programs.
- Agriculture - The Town still has active farms located throughout the town, e.g. along Methuen Road.
- Multi-use facilities - Some recreational facilities, such as Veterans' Park, are multi-use for both passive and active recreational pursuits.
- Maintenance - The Town, including the schools, does a good job in maintaining the existing recreational facilities.
- History - There are two areas listed with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the Merrimack Avenue Riverfront and the Dracut-Mammoth Road Area, along with fifty-two individual buildings or other structures.

The following were identified as the community's weaknesses and liabilities relative to open space and recreation facilities and programs:

- Underutilization – There was a general feeling that some of the recreation facilities were being underutilized, partly due to the condition of the areas and partly due to lack of the facilities available for more than one purpose. Examples included the baseball fields at the DPW, the Parker Avenue School and the 11-acre parcel next to the Meadow Creek Golf Course.
- Lack of facilities – There is a need for outdoor basketball courts and skating facilities specifically, and team sports facilities in general, particularly in light of the increase in the utilization of existing facilities.
- Schools – There was a general feeling that the school recreation facilities were not being used to their fullest potential.

- Maintenance – There should be a dedicated budget line item for maintenance.
- Walking/biking – There is a perceived need for sidewalks, bike paths and hiking trails to facilitate walking, biking and exercise.
- Staffing – There is a need for additional full time staffing in the Conservation/Recreation Department.
- State Forest – This resource appears to be underutilized.

The following were identified as opportunities to expand or improve upon the town's existing open space and recreation facilities and programs:

- Staffing – There is a need for additional full time staffing in the Conservation/Recreation Department.
- Rural Character – The Town should take steps to acquire open space and to create active recreational facilities.
- Signature Pieces – The Richardson Farm, Brox Farm and the Cieslik Farm are "signature pieces" for the Town and should be preserved.
- Agriculture – The existing farms in Town should be preserved, especially those along Methuen Road.

The following were identified as concerns that need to be addressed in order for the town to meet its open space and recreation needs:

- Be Proactive – The Town should be more proactive in meeting with property owners whose land is subject to developmental pressure. In addition, open space could be preserved by: (1) hiring staff to work as a liaison; and (2) undertaking more advertising on the Community Preservation Act.
- Costs – The Town should formulate estimates of the costs associated with developing open space, and for the costs of creating recreational facilities, including land purchase expenses.
- ADA – The Town is under a consent decree and needs to make its programs and facilities ADA accessible.
- Flood Plains – The Town should continue to prohibit building in the flood plains to mitigate the flooding potential in the community.

- Expansion – The Town should not expand facilities or open space acreage if it cannot maintain the new facilities and land.

**Massachusetts Outdoors 2006: Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP 2006)**

Massachusetts Outdoors 2006: Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP 2006), developed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, assessed the recreational needs of the state by region. The intent of the document is to direct investment decisions in a manner that best meets the needs of the Commonwealth's citizens.

Within SCORP 2006, Dracut is considered part of the northeastern region. According to the report, the most popular recreational activities within the region include swimming, walking, sightseeing, hiking and fishing. In addition, baseball, sunbathing, horseback riding, off-road vehicle driving, and snowmobiling, were identified as being more popular in the northeast region than in other areas of the state. Soccer, tot lots, and pond hockey were also found to be popular; these preferences reflect the abundance of water resources and conservation areas throughout the region.

According to the survey conducted for SCORP 2006, northeast region residents strongly support improving access to recreational facilities for persons with disabilities, and support prioritizing funding for maintenance of existing facilities and new open space acquisitions. Survey respondents also identified the following recreational needs for the region:

- Biking Facilities 14.1%
- Playgrounds 13.8%
- Swimming 12.6%
- Walking 11.8%
- Golfing 9.1%
- Baseball 8.3%
- Tennis 7.6%
- Fishing 6.5%
- Mountain Biking 6.1%

**C. Management Needs and Potential Changes of Use**

Based on the input received during the plan development process, the top priority is the need to preserve open space for active recreation, as indicated by 19.6% of the survey respondents. The strong desire to preserve existing farmland was reflected in both the survey and the visioning session. The number of survey respondents indicating the farmland, the Town's rural character and over development

are priority concerns, supports the importance of maintaining the Town's agricultural landscape.

Competing and increased demand for playing fields was also identified as problematic. Such demand does not allow sufficient time for rest and recovery of the turf or allow for rotation of the fields. Some field maintenance is performed by volunteer youth sports organizations. While this assistance is helpful and appreciated by the town, it doesn't provide for a coordinated maintenance and management efforts. The need to construct additional playing fields was identified as necessary to reduce the overuse of the existing facilities.

The need for additional basketball and tennis courts was also expressed and is in keeping with the findings in the SCORP 2000 report. The results of the public process also pointed to a desire on the part of residents and participants to acquire additional open space, and to construct additional hiking, bicycle and swimming facilities.

At the June 2008 Town Meeting, the purchase of the 15-acre Canney Farm on Lakeview Avenue was approved. Along with the purchase of the land, funds were also included for design costs to convert the land into recreational uses that include baseball, soccer, lacrosse and football fields, basketball courts, walking paths, a playground, off street parking and a concession stand. This action is in line with both the SCORP 2000 report and the local survey and visioning session results.

#### **D. Environmental Equity**

In terms of the needs of special groups such as persons with disabilities, the Town is under a court consent decree to bring town facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This is enumerated as a stated goal of the Town in Sections 8 and 9 of the Plan. The Town is committed to complying with this order to make sure all of its citizens can fully partake of all of the community resources. It should be noted that a complaint was filed in December 2008 concerning accessibility issues at the Dracut Library. Repairs and modifications were made by the town and all issues were resolved.

While the needs of the elderly did not come up during the public meetings, the visioning session, and only once in the town survey, the Dracut Council on Aging, located at 951 Mammoth Road, was consulted during the preparation of this Update. The Council offers recreational programs designed for the elderly population in Town. Educational programs in art, knitting and drawing are offered along with activities that include quilting, bowling, art, card games, bingo and Tai Chi. The Council sponsors day trips and overnight bus trips as well as walking groups, and offers health services involving blood pressure screenings, fitness programs and podiatrist services. Fuel assistance, grocery shopping and transportation are also available.

## SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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Goal 1: Preserve the viability and vitality of the Town's agricultural enterprises

Objectives:

- Promote farmland preservation
- Encourage local farming activities
- Explore creative funding options for the preservation of farmland

Goal 2: Make all recreational activities accessible to all members of the community

Objectives:

- Comply with Court Consent Decree
- Encourage broader participation in recreational pursuits

Goal 3: Increase the quantity and quality of recreation space and facilities

Objectives:

- Create more neighborhood and youth recreational facilities
- Review use of existing school facilities and maximize utilization
- Expand existing non-school recreational programs and facilities
- Educate the residents on the value of open space in the Town and region
- Create a recreational trail system

Goal 4: Develop land management, facilities and land maintenance plans

Objectives:

- Proper management of athletic facilities
- Proper management of open space and conservation areas
- Enhance partnerships with volunteer and private organizations
- Expand existing non school recreational program and facilities
- Develop an appreciation of the value of open space in the town and region

## Goal 5: Environmentally healthy water and wetland resources

### Objectives:

- Use Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control non-point source pollution and other activities that impact water quality
- Increase awareness relative to the importance of wetland resource areas
- Eliminate/minimize invasive and exotic species in both upland and wetland areas
- Protect upland buffers to water resources and wetlands
- Preserve and protect wildlife habitat
- Monitor water quality of brooks, ponds, lakes and the Merrimack River

## SECTION 9: FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

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The table below outlines the Five-Year Action Plan for implementing the goals and objectives described in previous sections of this document. Implementation responsibility is identified and the timeframe for the implementation of individual actions is specified as follows:

- Ongoing: Implementation occurs on an ongoing basis throughout the five-year implementation period;
- Short-term: Implementation is planned within 2 years;
- Intermediate: Implementation is planned between years 2 and 3; and
- Long-term: Implementation is planned in years 4 and 5.

Based on the variability of the many factors involved in implementing the Action Plan, such as funding, the need for town meeting approval, and legal and permitting issues, the Committee concluded that structuring the schedule in the timeframes outlined above was more practical and meaningful than the year-by-year schedule utilized in previous Open Space and Recreation Plans. (Also see Map 8 – Five Year Action Plan.)

**GOAL 1: Preserve the viability and vitality of the Town’s agricultural enterprises.**

<b>Objective: Promote farmland preservation</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Develop data base on existing farms	Town Assessor	Town budget	On-going
Meet periodically with farm owners about farmland preservation options	Open Space Committee, Town Planner	Town budget	On-going
Consider developing and implementing farm-friendly zoning and other by-laws, e.g. “Right to Farm” and investigate creative ways to support farming economically	Agricultural Commission, Town Planner; Town Meeting	Town budget	Short term
Pursue alternative funding sources for farmland preservation	Town Planner	Town budget	On-going
Hold annual joint meeting of all committees involved in farmland preservation	Agricultural Commission	Town budget	On-going

<b>Objective: Encourage local farming activities</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Develop a plan to encourage people to “buy local”	Agricultural Commission	CPA funds, town budget	On-going
Continue holding local farmers’ market	Town Manager	Town budget	On-going

<b>Objective: Develop creative methods to preserve farmland</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Pursue all funding sources for farmland preservation	Town Planner, Agricultural Commission	Town budget	On-going
Develop "right of first refusal" instruments in favor of the Town for existing farms	Town Planner Town Counsel	Town budget	On-going

**Goal 2: Make all recreational activities accessible to all members of the Community**

<b>Objective: Comply with court consent decree on ADA accessibility</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Inventory and prioritize facilities	Recreation Director, DPW, Town Engineer, ADA Coordinator	Town budget	Short term
Develop implementation schedule	Recreation Director, Town Manager, ADA Coordinator	Town budget	Short term
Retrofit facilities	Town Manager	CDBG Funds	Long term

<b>Objective: Encourage broader participation in recreational pursuits</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Fill vacancy on Town Disability Commission	Town Manager	Town budget	Short term
Advertise availability and accessibility of programs	Recreation Director, Town Manager, ADA Coordinator	Town budget	Short term

**Goal 3: Increased quantity and quality of recreation space and facilities**

<b>Objective: Create more neighborhood and youth recreational facilities</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Inventory and identify tax title parcels for suitability for neighborhood parks and tot lots, and survey neighborhoods for interest in town acquisition for this purpose	Town Planner, Recreation Director, Recreation Commission, Open Space Committee	Town budget, CPA	On-going
Ensure maintenance and accessibility of dedicated open space in new subdivisions	Planning Board	Town budget	On-going

<b>Objective: Review use of existing school facilities for maximum utilization</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Develop an inventory of all school facilities and utilization schedule	Recreation Director, School Athletic Director	Town budget	On-going
Develop and implement use schedule	Recreation Director, School Athletic Director	Town budget	On-going

<b>Objective: Expand existing non school recreational programs and facilities</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Identify users and needs	Recreation Director, sports sponsors and volunteers	Town budget	On-going

Identify land adjacent to existing facilities for possible expansion opportunities	Town Planner, Recreation Director, sports sponsors and volunteers	Town budget; CPA	On-going
Pursue funding for expansion of facilities	Town Planner, Recreation Commission, Recreation Director, Town Manager	CDBG funds; CPA funds; Urban Self-help Funds	On-going

<b>Objective: Develop an appreciation on the value of open space in the Town/Region</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Develop and initiate public nature walks	Recreation Director, Open Space Committee	Town budget, CPA funds	On-going
Develop printed guide to the conservation areas and hiking trails in town	Recreation Director, Open Space Committee, Engineering Department	Town budget, CPA funds	Short term
Develop signage in public conservation areas to identify natural features, vegetation etc.	DPW, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	Town budget	On-going
Work with surrounding municipalities to develop regional trails, etc.	Town Manager, Recreation Director, Conservation Commission	Town budget	On-going
Prioritize parcels needed for interconnected wildlife corridors	Open Space Committee, Community Preservation Committee	Town budget	On-going
Develop local cable TV information program	Open Space Committee	Town budget	Short term

**Goal 4: Development of land management, facilities and maintenance plans**

<b>Objective: Proper management of athletic facilities</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Create or appoint a sub-committee to oversee all athletic facilities	Recreation Commission	Town budget	Short term
Inventory needs and develop a long range plan for ongoing maintenance and upgrades	Recreation Commission, DPW	Town budget	Short term
Develop a maintenance plan to accompany sidewalk, bike lane, and bike and pedestrian trail plans	Recreation Commission, DPW	Town budget	Short term
Implement maintenance plan	Town Meeting	Town budget	Long term

<b>Objective: Expand existing non school recreation programs and facilities</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Identify users and needs	Recreation Director, sports sponsors and volunteers	Town budget	On-going
Identify land adjacent to existing facilities for possible expansion opportunities	Town Planner, Recreation Director, sports sponsors and volunteers	Town budget, CPA	On-going
Pursue funding for expansion of facilities	Town Planner, Recreation Director, Recreation Commission, Town Manager	CDBG Funds, CPA funds, Urban Self-help Funds	On-going

<b>Objective: Develop an appreciation on the values of open space in the Town and Region</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Develop and initiate public nature walks	Recreation Director, Open Space Committee	Town budget, CPA funds	Short term
Develop printed guide to the conservation areas and hiking trails in town	Recreation Director, Open Space Committee, Town Engineer	Town budget, CPA funds	Short term
Develop signage in conservation areas to identify natural features, vegetation, etc.	DPW, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	Town budget	On-going
Work with surrounding municipalities to develop regional trails, etc.	Town Manager, Recreation Director, Conservation Committee	Town budget	On-going

<b>Objective: Proper management of open space/natural areas</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Develop a stewardship program for conservation land	Conservation Agent, Conservation Commission	Town budget	Short term
Develop a use and maintenance plan to accompany all new open space	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, DPW	Town budget	Short term
Document existing maintenance and management gaps and problems	Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, DPW	Town budget	Short term

Create a management and maintenance plan with incremental implementation steps for existing conservation land	Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, DPW	Town budget	Short term
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<b>Objective: Enhanced partnership with volunteer/private organizations</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Develop a stewardship program for recreation facilities	Recreation Director. Town Manager	Town budget	Short term

**GOAL 5: Promotion of environmentally healthy water and wetland resources**

<b>Objective: Use best management practices to control nonpoint source pollution and other activities that impact water quality</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Create stormwater and wellhead protection by-laws	Water Departments, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Town Counsel, Town Meeting	Town budget	Short-term

<b>Objective: Increase awareness and importance of wetlands resource areas</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Work with schools to develop educational program	Conservation Commission, School Department	Conservation Commission funds, school funds	On-going
Develop wetlands informational booklets	Conservation Commission	Town budget, Conservation Commission funds	Short term

Develop local cable TV information program	Conservation Commission	Town budget, Conservation Commission funds	Short term
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<b>Objective: Eliminate/minimize invasive and exotic species</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Develop informational booklets	Conservation Commission	Town budget, Conservation Commission funds	Short term
Help NHESP update inventory of invasives	Conservation Commission	Town budget Conservation Commission funds	On-going
Remove or control invasives	Conservation Commission	Grants, Conservation Commission funds	On-going

<b>Objective: Protect upland buffers to waters and wetlands</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Educate private owners about vegetation management on river, stream, pond and lake banks through activities such as web page information or videos for public forums	Open Space Committee Merrimack River Watershed Council (MRWC) conservation Commission	Town budget	On-going
Form a sub-committee to prioritize upland wetland buffers in acquisition efforts	Community Preservation Committee Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee,	Town budget, CPA Funds	On-going

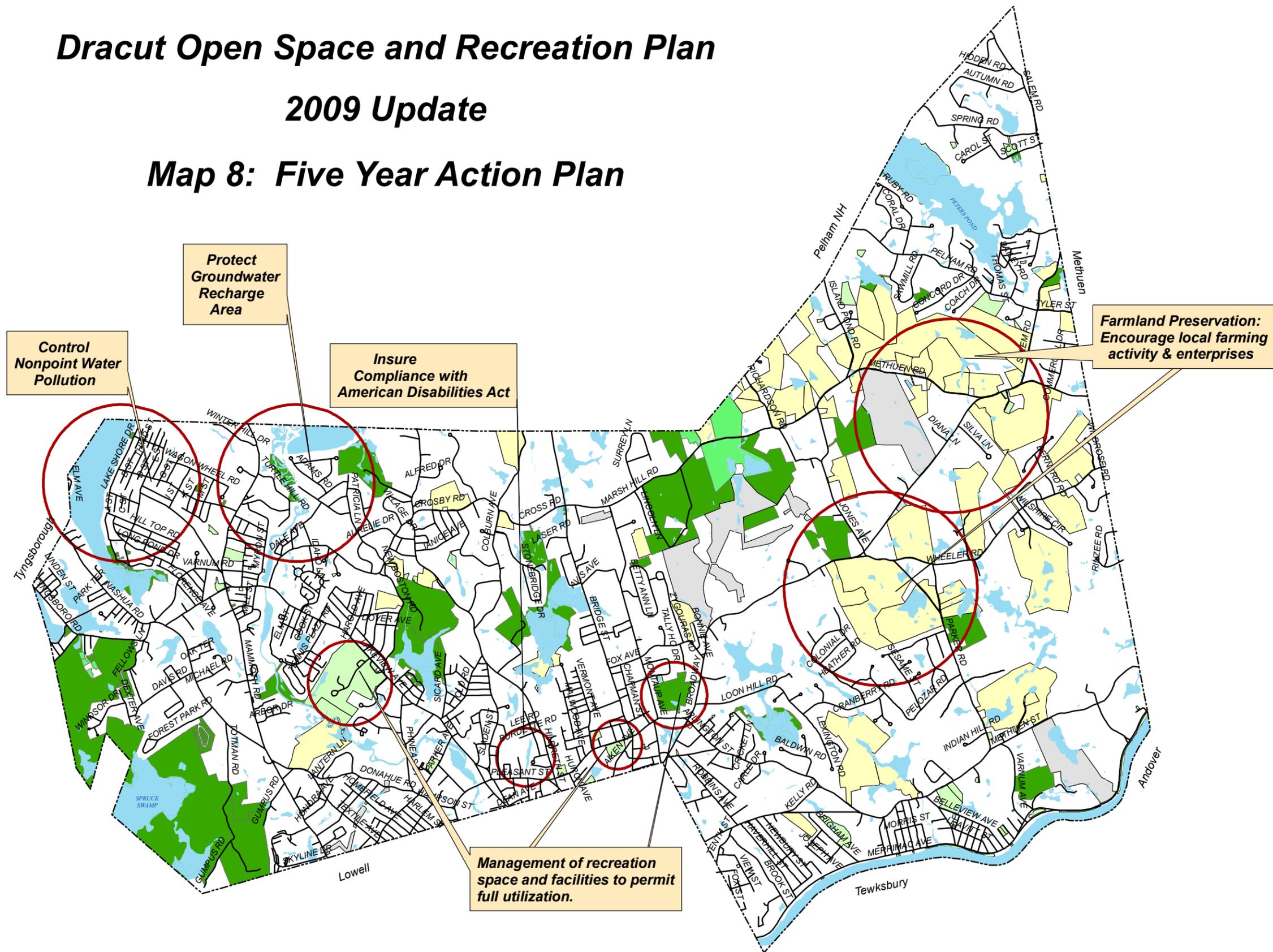
<b>Objective: Preserve and protect wildlife habitat</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Document rare and endangered species and survey wildlife and vegetation communities	Volunteers, Conservation Commission, NHESP	Volunteer funds	On-going
Identify and prioritize key habitat along rivers and ponds and advocate for public acquisition	Open Space Committee; Community Preservation Committee	CPA Funds	On-going
Advice on the transfer of suitable undeveloped tax title properties to the appropriate board or commission in accordance with open space priorities	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Town Meeting	Town budget, CPA Funds	On-going

<b>Objective: monitor water quality</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Identify needs for further water quality monitoring and testing of streams, ponds, and lakes	Board of Health; MRWC	Town budget	On-going
Identify Open Space Comm. representative to focus on water issues and participate in MRWC	Open Space Comm.	Town budget	Short term

# Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan

## 2009 Update

### Map 8: Five Year Action Plan



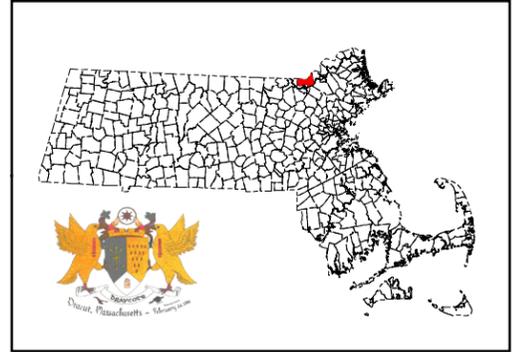
**Legend**

- Roadways
- - - Town Boundary
- ▭ Action Plan

**Dracut Open Space Level of Protection**

- Permanently Protected
- Conservation Restriction
- Limited Protection
- Temporarily Protected
- No Protection

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2  
Miles

Data provided by MassGIS, MassHighway the Town of Dracut Engineering and Assessing departments and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments. The information displayed on this map is not to be used for regulatory interpretation or boundary determination.

Produced by:  
The Northern Middlesex  
Council of Governments  
115 Thorndike St.  
Lowell, MA 01852



September 15, 2008 jcm

## SECTION 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS

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The Draft Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan 2009 Update was released for public review and comment on October 7, 2008. A public Hearing was held on October 7, 2008 to receive comments from the public, town boards and committees and other interested stakeholders. A copy of the draft document was made available on the Town website and on the Northern Middlesex Council of Government's website. Hard copies were delivered to Town boards and commissions and were also made available at the Town Hall and Town Library. (See distribution list in Appendix D.)

Comments were received from the Conservation Commission, The Recreation Committee and the Planning Board as well as from the Regional Planning Agency the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments. (Please see letters of support in Appendix D.) Based on comments received, which were very positive, the final draft Plan was revised and then presented to the Board of Selectmen on January 13, 2009 for approval. The final draft of the Plan was then submitted to the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) for review.

The DSC granted a conditional approval through April 2014. The comments provided by DCS as part of the conditional approval were addressed and the final Open Space and Recreation Plan was resubmitted to DCS in May 2009. DSC grant final approval to the Plan on May 4, 2009

## SECTION 11: REFERENCES

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*The Open Space Planner's Workbook*, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, February 2001.

*Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2002 Update*, Town of Dracut.

*Massachusetts Outdoors 2000! Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 2001.

*Dracut Master Plan*, Town of Dracut, 2004.

*Dracut Smart Growth Technical Assistance Mixed-Use Zoning Study*, prepared by Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, 2005.

*Greater Lowell Comprehensive Economic Development Study*, prepared by Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, 2003.

*Affordable Housing Productivity Plan*, Town of Dracut, prepared by Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, November 2004.

1990 and 2000 U.S. Census.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Hazardous Material Release Inventory

Dracut Buildout Analysis, prepared by Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, 2000

*2020 Vision: Planning for Growth in the Northern Middlesex Region*, prepared by Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, 2000.

*Greater Lowell Regional Open Space Strategy*, prepared by Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, 2002.

*Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for the Northern Middlesex Region*, prepared by Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, 2006.

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, NHESP website.

Town of Dracut, Assessors Office Database.

# **APPENDIX**

**APPENDIX A**  
**MEETING NOTICES AND AGENDAS**

**Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan**  
**Meeting of the Community Preservation Committee**  
**Harmony Hall, Lakeview Avenue**  
**7:00 P.M.**

TO: OSRP Committee

FM: George Russell, AICP  
NMCOG

RE: 9/16/08 meeting

DATE: 9/16/08

Items for discussion at the 9/16/08 meeting of the Committee:

- Open Space Committee
- Accomplishments since 2002 Plan
- Maps
- Final edits, comments, suggestions
- Public hearing

**Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan**  
**Meeting of the Community Preservation Committee**  
**Harmony Hall, Lakeview Avenue**  
**7:00 P.M.**

TO: OSRP Committee

FM: George Russell, AICP  
NMCOG

RE: 9/2/08 meeting

DATE: 9/2/08

Items for discussion at the 9/2/08 meeting of the Committee:

- Cover and Acknowledgements
- Sections 6, 8 & 9: Goals and Objectives
- Maps
- Final process for plan adoption and approval
- Public Hearing

**Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan**  
**Meeting of the Community Preservation Committee**  
**Harmony Hall, Lakeview Avenue**  
**7:00 P.M.**

TO: OSRP Committee

FM: George Russell, AICP  
NMCOG

RE: 6/17/08 meeting

DATE: 6/17/08

Items for discussion at the 6/17/08 meeting of the Committee:

- Cover, Acknowledgements and Table of Contents
- Open space inventory narrative and inventory/Review
- Survey results
- Needs, objectives and Goals
- Public Hearing

**Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan**  
**Meeting of the Community Preservation Committee**  
**Harmony Hall, Lakeview Avenue**  
**7:00 P.M.**

TO: OSRP Committee

FM: George Russell, AICP  
NMCOG

RE: 5/6/08 meeting

DATE: 5/6/08

Attached, please find the following for discussion at the 5/6/08 meeting of the Committee:

- Visioning session results
- Open space inventory narrative
- Survey results
- Needs Analysis

**Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan**  
**Meeting of the Community Preservation Committee**  
**Harmony Hall, Lakeview Avenue**  
**7:00 P.M.**

TO: OSRP Committee

FM: George Russell, AICP  
NMCOG

RE: 3/18/08 meeting

DATE: 3/18/08

Attached, please find the following for discussion at the 3/18/08 meeting of the Committee:

- Reportable hazardous releases appendix
- 504 material
- Final survey distribution/collection
- Visioning session material

**Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan**  
**Meeting of the Community Preservation Committee**  
**Harmony Hall, Lakeview Avenue**  
**7:00 P.M.**

TO: OSRP Committee

FM: George Russell, AICP  
NMCOG

RE: 2/6/08 meeting

Items for discussion at the 2/6/08 meeting of the Committee:

- Survey instrument/distribution
- Rare Species information
- Mapping for the Plan
- ADA issues with Open Space
- Letters for 504 Self Evaluation section

## **APPENDIX B**

### **COMMUNITY SURVEY AND SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY**



6. List the top 5 recreation/open space areas, facilities or programs that the Town needs and does not provide: currently

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

7. How satisfied are you with facilities and activities in Dracut for adults and youths:

Adults: Very satisfied   satisfied   neutral   dissatisfied   very dissatisfied   don't know  
Youths: Very satisfied   satisfied   neutral   dissatisfied   very dissatisfied   don't know

8. Do you go out of town for open space or recreation facilities; if so, for what?

No   Yes   \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What landscapes, views, buildings, locations or other outdoor experiences most symbolize unique character to you? Dracut's

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What do you like best/least about Dracut's environment and outdoor experiences?

Best: \_\_\_\_\_

Least: \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is the most important *specific* open space or recreation actions the Town should take in the next five years. E.g. should the town acquire a specific piece of property, save a particular existing resource, initiate a particular program, concentrate on maintenance, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to discuss preserving your land through the Town and would like someone to contact you, please write your name and telephone number below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND COOPERATION**

## DRACUT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

### TALLY OF ALL RESPONSES

A survey was formulated and distributed to over five hundred (500) Dracut households as part of a Recreation Department mailing. The survey was also available for downloading through NMCOG's website, the Town's website, and copies were available at the Town Hall, the Town Hall Annex and the Town Library. One hundred two (102) responses were received and coded. The results of the tabulation are outlined in the tables below. It should be noted that in all tabulations, the numbers will not add up to exact percentages due to rounding and the columns will not add up to the number of respondents, since not all questions were answered by all respondents. In addition, all of the responses are listed as they were given on the survey form. In light of this, it is important to view the responses in a holistic manner since a number of responses will indicate the same basic premise, need or perception but be given in a different form. For instance, the need for additional sports facilities might be given as "sports fields", "baseball fields", basketball courts" and/or "soccer fields".

Question 1: How long have you lived in Dracut?

RESPONSE	# OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONDENTS
UNDER 5 YEARS	10	9.8
5 – 20 YEARS	26	25.5
OVER 20 YEARS	66	64.7

Question 2: What part of Dracut do you live in?

RESPONSE	# OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONDENTS
Collinsville	20	19.6
Dracut Center	9	8.8
Navy Yard	12	11.8
East Dracut	26	25.5
Kenwood	14	13.7
Other	24	23.5

Question 3: Which age groups reside in your household?

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
UNDER 4 YEARS	12	11.8
5 – 11 YEARS	24	23.5
12 – 19 YEARS	32	31.3
20 – 29 YEARS	21	20.6
30 – 44 YEARS	36	35.3
45 - 59 YEARS	48	47.1
OVER 59 YEARS	20	19.6

Question 4: How important is it to you to preserve the following? Please rank in order of importance from 1 through 7 with 1 being the most important.

A. Buildings/Places of Historical Value

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	12	11.8
2	24	23.5
3	32	31.4
4	21	20.6
5	36	35.3
6	48	47.1
7	20	19.6

B. Open Space to Preserve Wetlands

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	7	6.9
2	12	11.8
3	9	8.8
4	7	6.9
5	8	7.8
6	14	13.7
7	31	30.4

C. Open Space for Agriculture

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	18	17.6
2	17	16.7
3	15	14.7
4	15	14.7
5	9	8.8
6	6	5.9
7	7	6.9

D. Open Space for Active Recreation

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	20	19.6
2	9	8.8
3	13	12.7
4	11	10.8
5	10	9.8
6	10	9.8
7	10	9.8

E. Open Space for Passive Recreation

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	8	7.8
2	14	13.7
3	14	13.7
4	15	14.7
5	23	22.5
6	9	8.8
7	2	2.0

F. Open Space for Other Activities

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	6	5.9
2	10	9.8
3	16	15.7
4	12	11.8
5	15	14.7
6	28	27.5
7	28	27.5

G. Preservation of Forest Land

<b>RANKING</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
1	15	14.7
2	21	20.6
3	15	14.7
4	22	21.6
5	13	12.7
6	17	16.7
7	11	10.8

Question 5: List the top five open space, farm, recreation facilities or programs (public or private) or places in Town that you and your family use.

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Veteran's Park	66	64.7
State Forest	18	17.6
High School Facilities	17	16.7
Shaw's Farm	13	12.7
Dunlap Sanctuary	10	9.8
Campbell School	8	7.8
Marsh Hill Road	7	6.9
Sports Fields (non-specific)	6	5.9
Library	6	5.9
Lake Muscuppic/Town Beach	6	5.9
Brox Farm	5	4.9
Open Space	4	4.9
Monahan Field	4	4.9
Historic Sites/Harmony Hall	4	4.9
Long Pond	4	4.9
Baseball fields	3	2.9
Hovey	3	2.9
Park (non-specific)	3	2.9
Farms (non-specific)	3	2.9
Basketball Courts	3	2.9
Hiking Trails	2	2.0
Family Farms	2	2.0
Carrick Farm	2	2.0

Richardson Farm	2	2.0
Playgrounds	2	2.0
Water Park	2	2.0
Walkway at Police Dept.	1	1.0
Town Hall	1	1.0
Cutrumbes Farm	1	1.0
Golf Course	1	1.0
Colter Farm	1	1.0
Local Farm Stands	1	1.0
Dumaresq Farm	1	1.0
Skate Park	1	1.0
Sidewalks	1	1.0
Soccer Fields	1	1.0
None	1	1.0
Brookside Farm	1	1.0
Team Sports	1	1.0
Pop Warner	1	1.0
Bike Paths	1	1.0
Peter's Pond	1	1.0
Brookside Farm	1	1.0
Hickory Hill	1	1.0
Boule Preserve	1	1.0
Parker/Wheeler Road	1	1.0
Daoulas School Complex	1	1.0
Beaver Brook Fishing	1	1.0
Senior Center	1	1.0
Waterfall	1	1.0
Local natural areas & Parks	1	1.0
Kids Rec. Programs	1	1.0
Polly's Corner	1	1.0
Band Concerts	1	1.0
Cong. Pond	1	1.0
Conservation Land	1	1.0

Question 6: List the top 5 recreation/open space areas, facilities or programs that the Town needs and currently does not provide.

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Hiking Trails	22	21.6
Tennis Courts	14	13.7
Basketball Courts	11	10.8

Sports Fields	11	10.8
Swimming Pool	9	8.8
Parks	4	3.9
Playgrounds	4	3.9
Soccer Fields	3	2.9
Facilities for young Adults	3	2.9
Dog Park	3	2.9
Cross Country Skiing	2	2.0
Clean and Safe Beach at Lake	2	2.0
Hunting	2	2.0
Farms	2	2.0
Hiking Maps	2	2.0
Skateboard park	2	2.0
Sidewalks	2	2.0
Fishing	2	2.0
Picnic Area	2	2.0
Paintball space	1	1.0
Artificial surface Fields	1	1.0
Wildlife Education	1	1.0
Adult Rec. Programs	1	1.0
Community Gardens	1	1.0
More Rec. Programs	1	1.0
Ice Skating	1	1.0
Visitor's farm	1	1.0
H.S. Field House	1	1.0
Park – West Side of Town	1	1.0
Professional Planner	1	1.0
Recreation Staff	1	1.0
Trash clean-up	1	1.0
Parks Ex. Director	1	1.0
Lake	1	1.0
Better Historic Preservation	1	1.0
Lake Muscuppic	1	1.0
Children's parks	1	1.0
Paintball Space	1	1.0
Outdoor Kids Programs	1	1.0
Boating Program	1	1.0
Hockey Rink	1	1.0
Public boat Ramps	1	1.0
Vets park in Collinsville	1	1.0

Commercial Garden	1	1.0
Historic Preservation	1	1.0
Youth Programs	1	1.0
Lacrosse	1	1.0
Beach on Lake	1	1.0
More Programs	1	1.0
Indoor sports Programs	1	1.0

Question 7: How satisfied are you with facilities and activities in Dracut for adults and youth?

<b>ADULTS</b>			<b>YOUTH</b>		
	<b># of Respondents</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>		<b># of Respondents</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>
Very satisfied	9	8.8	Very satisfied	10	9.8
Satisfied	29	28.4	Satisfied	32	31.4
Neutral	26	25.5	Neutral	9	8.8
Dissatisfied	11	10.8	Dissatisfied	12	11.8
Very Dissatisfied	4	4.0	Very Dissatisfied	3	3.0
Don't know	5	5.0	Don't know	9	8.8

Question 8: Do you go out of town for open space or recreation facilities; if so, for what?

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Yes	56	54.9
No	15	14.7

Out of Town Activity:

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Hiking/Walking	24	23.5
Swimming	14	13.7
Biking	10	9.8
Skiing	4	3.9
Hockey/Ice Skating	4	3.9
Tennis	3	2.9
River Walk	2	2.0
Soccer	2	2.0
Historic Sites	2	2.0

Camping	1	1.0
Paintball	1	1.0
Hunting	1	1.0
Nature Trails	1	1.0
Audubon Facilities	1	1.0
Parks	1	1.0
Boating/Canoeing	1	1.0
Basketball	1	1.0
Sports	1	1.0
Playgrounds	1	1.0
Winter Sports	1	1.0
Summer Camp	1	1.0
Picnicking	1	1.0
Older child Playground	1	1.0
Lacrosse	1	1.0
Water Sports	1	1.0
Golf	1	1.0
Fishing	1	1.0

Question 9: What landscapes, views, buildings, locations or other outdoor experiences most symbolize Dracut's unique character to you?

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Farmland	39	38.2
Veteran's Park	5	4.9
Town Hall	5	4.9
Open Fields	4	3.9
Library	4	3.9
Marsh Hill Road	4	3.9
Dunlap Sanctuary	3	2.9
Yellow Meeting House	3	2.9
Shaw Farm	2	2.0
Corner of Nashua & Mammoth	2	2.0
Methuen Road	2	2.0
Schools	2	2.0
Wheeler Road	2	2.0
Forests	2	2.0
Parker Road	1	1.0
Long Pond	1	1.0
Views/Vistas	1	1.0
Richardson Farm	1	1.0

Small Stores Only	1	1.0
Historic Buildings	1	1.0
Post Office	1	1.0
Salem Road	1	1.0
Fireworks	1	1.0
High School	1	1.0
Pelham Road	1	1.0
Mills-Lakeview Ave.	1	1.0
Mammoth Road Fields	1	1.0
Kenwood Ski Area	1	1.0

Question 10: What do you like best/least about Dracut's environment and outdoor experiences?

Best:

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Rural Character	11	10.8
Open Space	10	9.8
Veteran's Park	10	9.8
Farms	8	7.8
Hiking Trails	3	2.9
State Forest	2	2.0
Cheap Housing	1	1.0
Long Pond	1	1.0
Young Adult Recreation Programs	1	1.0
Increase in Accessibility	1	1.0
Marsh Hill Road	1	1.0
Availability	1	1.0
Maintenance	1	1.0
Clean	1	1.0
Dump Fields	1	1.0
Family Atmosphere	1	1.0

Least:

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Too Much Development	13	12.7
Traffic	5	4.9
Not Enough Open Space Facilities or Programs	3	2.9
Town Forest	2	2.0
No Hiking Areas	2	2.0
Sidewalks	2	2.0
No Town Center	2	2.0
Dump Fields	1	1.0
Lack of Youth Activities	1	1.0
Poor Drainage	1	1.0
Blighted Stores	1	1.0
Trash	1	1.0
Form A lots	1	1.0
Dirty Beach	1	1.0
Empty Gas Stations	1	1.0
No Boating areas	1	1.0
No swimming Areas	1	1.0
No Winter Sports	1	1.0
No Hunting Areas	1	1.0
Population growth in Collinsville	1	1.0
No Planning	1	1.0
No Athletic Fields	1	1.0
Condos	1	1.0
Lack of Music/Plays	1	1.0
Too Many 40B's	1	1.0
No Parking	1	1.0
No Diversity	1	1.0
Wetlands Pollution	1	1.0
No Beach	1	1.0
Overcrowded	1	1.0
Lowell	1	1.0
People from Lowell use Dracut facilities	1	1.0

Question 11: What is the most important specific open space or recreation action the Town should take in the next five years. E.g. should the Town acquire a specific piece of property, save a particular existing resource, initiate a particular program, concentrate on maintenance, etc.

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>% OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Preserve Farms	10	9.8
Preserve Open Space	6	5.9
No More Development	5	4.9
Hiking Trails	4	3.9
Swimming Pools	3	2.9
Maintenance	2	2.0
Buy/Preserve Canney Farm	2	2.0
More Fields	2	2.0
More Athletic Fields	1	1.0
Develop Boating	1	1.0
No More 40B	1	1.0
Clean-up State Forest	1	1.0
Another Park	1	1.0
Fields with Artificial Surface	1	1.0
Facilities for all Ages	1	1.0
Veteran's Park in Collinsville	1	1.0
Preserve Cemetery	1	1.0
Preserve Nashua & Mammoth	1	1.0
Active Fitness Space	1	1.0
Buy Land	1	1.0
Buy Burgess Farm	1	1.0
Restore Old Town Hall	1	1.0
Recreation Nashua & lake	1	1.0
Basketball	1	1.0
Biking Paths	1	1.0
Convert Open Space to Recreation Space	1	1.0
Public "Members Only" Beach	1	1.0
Summer Camp	1	1.0

Professional Planner	1	1.0
Enforce Building Codes	1	1.0
Youth Programs	1	1.0
Town Center	1	1.0
Buy Richardson Farm	1	1.0
Preserve Parks	1	1.0
Advertize CDA	1	1.0
Tennis Courts	1	1.0
Boy's & Girl's Club	1	1.0

The survey also left a place for respondents to leave their name and telephone number if they wished to be contacted concerning the survey. Twelve respondents indicated they wished to be contacted.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **VISIONING SESSION: AGENDA, HANDOUTS AND SUMMARY OF COMMENTS**

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The following notice was published in the Lowell Sun on April 10, 2008:

### **DRACUT RESIDENTS IMPUT NEEDED**

Dracut's Open Space and Recreation Plan is being updated. The Community Preservation Committee is hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 @7:00 PM in Harmony Hall, 160 Lakeview Avenue. Open discussion will be encouraged with the objective of determining the community's open space and recreation goals.

# **DRACUT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

## **VISIONING SESSION**

### **AGENDA**

**APRIL 1, 2008**

1. Welcome
2. Overview of the Open Space and Recreation Plan process
3. Components of the Plan
4. Opportunities for Public Involvement
5. Visioning
6. Adjournment

## Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan

### Questions and Answers

#### *1. What are the benefits of developing an updated Open Space and Recreation Plan?*

Developing an updated Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) provides Dracut with an opportunity to maintain and enhance the open spaces that play an important role in preserving the community's character and uniqueness. Planning the infrastructure of Dracut's open space, which includes farms, forests, recreation areas, trails, rivers, conservation lands, wildlife habitat and waterways, will contribute to the quality of life and increase Dracut's desirability as a place to live, work and play.

Completion of the OSRP will help guide the town's future decision making relative to the protection of natural resources and the implementation of recreation projects that best meet the needs of the residents. A department of Conservation Services (DCS) approved Plan will make the town eligible to receive DCS grant money. In order to maintain eligibility for the funds, the Plan must be updated every five years.

#### *2. What are the components of the OSRP?*

An OSRP must contain, at a minimum, the following components in order to be approved by DCS:

Section 1     Plan Summary

Section 2     Introduction

- A.     Statement of Purpose
- B.     Planning Process and Public Participation.
- C.     Accomplishments Since 2002

Section 3     Community Setting

- A.     Regional Context
- B.     History of the Community
- C.     Population Characteristics
- D.     Growth and Development Patterns
- E.     Infrastructure

- Section 4 Environmental Inventory and Analysis
  - A. Geology, Soils and Topography
  - B. Landscape Character
  - C. Water Resources
  - D. Vegetation
  - E. Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species
  - F. Fisheries and Wildlife
  - G. Corridors
  - H. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments
  - I. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
  - J. Environmental Problems
  
- Section 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest
  - A. Permanently Protected Lands
  - B. Limited Protection or Unprotected
  - C. Recreation Programs
  
- Section 6 Community Vision
  - A. Description of the Process
  - B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals
  
- Section 7 Analysis of Needs
  - A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs
  - B. Summary of Community Needs
  - C. Management Needs
  
- Section 8 Goals and Objectives
  
- Section 9 Five-Year Action Plan
  
- Section 10 Public Review and Comments
  
- Section 11 References

*3. Are there any additional opportunities for the public to participate in the development of the OSRP?*

There are several ways in which the interested citizens can participate in the development of the Plan: a written survey will be distributed and posted on the Town's website; a public hearing will be held when the draft Plan is prepared and the Community Preservation Committee will meet periodically to discuss the plan and its

development. These meetings are open to the public and the meeting notices are posted at the Town Clerk's office and on NMCOG's website at [www.NMCOG.org](http://www.NMCOG.org).

## **Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan**

### **Visioning Session Summary**

The Visioning Session was conducted to provide input and assistance in the development of the Open Space and Recreation Plan goals and objectives. The session was held on April 15, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in Harmony Hall on Lakeview Avenue and emphasized brainstorming and open discussion. The session was attended by twenty participants who were asked to address the following:

- What are the Town's strengths /assets in terms of Open Space and Recreation facilities and programs?
- What are the community's weaknesses and liabilities in this regard?
- What opportunities does the Town have to improve upon or expand its existing open space and recreation facilities and/or programs?
- What challenges lie ahead? What concerns need to be addressed in order to move forward to meet the Town's open space and recreation needs?

### **Strengths and Assets**

The following were identified as the community's strengths and/or assets relative to open space and recreation facilities and programs:

- Volunteer spirit - Sports groups contribute time and funds to help maintain some of the current recreation facilities; e.g. Hovey Field, Monahan Park. There has been a willingness on the part of the town's people, to volunteer their time. This has greatly contributed to the success of the recreation programs and to the maintenance of open space and passive recreational facilities, such as the hiking trails.
- Schools - The schools contain recreation assets such as playgrounds, gymnasiums and sports fields that are available to students and the citizens via town Recreation Department programs.
- Agriculture - The Town still has active farms located throughout the town, e.g. along Methuen Road.

- Multi-use facilities - Some recreational facilities, such as Veterans' Park, are multi-use for both passive and active recreational pursuits.
- Maintenance - The Town, including the schools, does a good job in maintaining the existing recreational facilities.
- History - There are two areas listed with the Massachusetts Historic Commission, the Merrimack Avenue Riverfront and the Dracut-Mammoth Road Area, along with fifty-two individual buildings or other structures.

### **Weaknesses and Liabilities**

The following were identified as the community's weaknesses and liabilities relative to open space and recreation facilities and programs:

- Underutilization – There was a general feeling that some of the recreation facilities were being underutilized, partly due to the condition of the areas and partly due to lack of the facilities available for more than one purpose. Examples included the baseball fields at the DPW, the Parker Avenue School and the 11-acre parcel next to the Meadow Creek Golf Course.
- Lack of facilities – There is a need for outdoor basketball courts and skating facilities specifically, and team sports facilities in general, particularly in light of the increase in the utilization of existing facilities.
- Schools – There was a general feeling that the school recreation facilities were not being used to their fullest potential.
- Maintenance – There should be a dedicated budget line item for maintenance.
- Walking/biking – There is a perceived need for sidewalks, bike paths and hiking trails to facilitate walking, biking and exercise.
- Staffing – There is a need for additional full time staffing in the Conservation/Recreation Department.
- State Forest – This resource appears to be underutilized.

### **Opportunities for improvement/expansion**

The following were identified as opportunities to expand or improve upon the town's existing open space and recreation facilities and programs:

- Staffing – There is a need for additional full time staffing in the Conservation/Recreation Department.
- Rural Character – The Town should take steps to acquire open space and to create active recreational facilities.
- Signature Pieces – The Richardson Farm, Brox Farm and the Cieslik Farm are "signature pieces" for the Town and should be preserved.
- Agriculture – The existing farms in Town should be preserved, especially those along Methuen Road.

### **Challenges and Concerns**

The following were identified as concerns that need to be addressed in order for the town to meet its open space and recreation needs:

- Be Proactive – The Town should be more proactive in meeting with property owners whose land is subject to developmental pressure to try and preserve open space by: (1) hiring staff to work as a liaison; and (2) undertaking more advertising on the Community Preservation Act, as it relates to taking a proactive posture in the preservation of open space.
- Costs – The Town should develop estimates of the costs associated with developing open space, and for the costs of creating recreational facilities, including land purchase expenses.
- ADA – The Town is under a consent decree and needs to make its programs and facilities ADA accessible.
- Flood Plains – The Town should continue to prohibit building in the flood plains to mitigate the flooding potential in the community.
- Expansion – The Town should not expand facilities or open space acreage if it cannot maintain the new facilities and land.

**APPENDIX D**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE, AGENDA AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

**DRACUT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

You are invited to participate in a public hearing to discuss the draft of Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan. Please come and provide valuable input that will be used to help establish the open space and recreation goals and policies for the Town over the next five years. October 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Harmony Hall, 1660 Lakeview Avenue, Dracut, MA. A copy of the draft Plan will be put on the Town's website, [www.dracut-ma.us](http://www.dracut-ma.us) and on the NMCOG website, [www.nmcog.org](http://www.nmcog.org). Alternatively, hard copies of the Plan will be available at the Town Library and the Town Hall in the Town Planner's Office. For further information contact NMCOG at 978-454-8021.

Published in the Lowell Sun on September 19, 2008 and October 3, 2008.



# Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

April 21, 2009

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

A Multi-Disciplinary  
Regional Planning  
Agency Serving:

Billerica  
Chelmsford  
Dracut  
Dunstable  
Lowell  
Pepperell  
Tewksbury  
Tyngsborough  
Westford

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James G. Silva  
Chair

---

Beverly A. Woods  
Executive Director

---

40 Church Street, Suite 200  
Lowell, MA  
01852-2686

TEL: (978) 454.8021

FAX: (978) 454-8023

www.nmcog.org

Dear Ms Cryan:

The Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) has reviewed the Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Dracut. NMCOG staff finds the Plan to be thorough and consistent with the *Greater Lowell Open Space and Recreation Plan*. The town's objective of developing an extensive trail system and educating residents on the value of open space and recreation resources will benefit the region overall.

The Plan complies with the guidelines set forth by your office, and provides town decision-makers with specific guidance for protecting and enhancing the community's open space, recreation and agricultural base. Such a coordinated and well-planned initiative will ensure that the special places that make Dracut unique can be enjoyed by future generations. By undertaking this plan, the Town has recognized that protection and stewardship of its natural, cultural and historic resources is essential to the overall quality of life, health, economic vitality and sustainability of the community.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have questions regarding NMCOG's support for the updated Plan or if you require additional information. NMCOG looks forward to the successful implementation of the Action Plan over the upcoming years and commends the Town for its efforts.

Sincerely,

Beverly Woods  
Executive Director

cc: Dennis Piendak, Town Manager  
John Hassan, Chair Community Preservation Committee  
NMCOG Councillors

Community Preservation Committee  
62 Arlington Street  
Dracut, MA 01826  
(978) 452-1227

September 17, 2008

Ms. Karen Merrill, Chair  
Open Space Committee  
11 Springpark Avenue  
Dracut, MA 01826

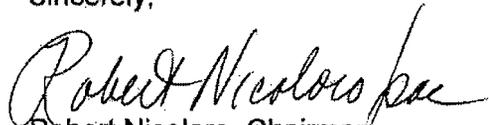
Dear Ms. Merrill,

I am pleased to forward for the Board's review and comment, the draft 2008 Update to the Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan. This update builds upon the 2002 update and is in keeping with the state requirements for the preparation of an Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Any comments your Board may have should be forwarded to the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments 115 Thorndike Street, Lowell, MA 01852 or to [grussell@nmcog.org](mailto:grussell@nmcog.org) by November 7, 2008. These comments will then be incorporated into the final document which will be submitted to the State Division of Conservation Services for review and approval.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact George Russell, Senior Planner at NMCOG at 978-454-8021 ext. 18.

Sincerely,



Robert Nicoloro, Chairman  
Community Preservation Committee

/sac

The preceding letter, and a copy of the draft Plan, was sent to the following for review and comment:

Planning Board  
Recreation Commission  
Open Space Committee  
Agricultural Commission  
Conservation Commission  
Board of Selectmen



**Town of Dracut**  
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS 01826  
**PLANNING BOARD**

**RECEIVED**

NOV 07 2008

**N.M.C.O.G.**

November 5, 2008

George Russell, Senior Planner  
NMCOG  
Gallagher Terminal, Floor 3B  
115 Thorndike Street  
Lowell, MA 01852-3308

Dear Mr. Russell,

The Dracut Planning Board wishes to grant their endorsement of the draft of the Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan 2008 Update, as submitted on September 17, 2008 from the Community Preservation Committee. We have found the report to be both thorough and thoughtful. The information garnered within this report shall help to guide the further development of the Town's needs and resources.

I look forward to the finalized report. The information shall be useful by both the Planning Board and staff in its duties.

Thank you for your efforts,

Respectfully,

Philippe Thibault, Chairman  
Dracut Planning Board

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Dennis Piendak, Town Manager  
CPC  
Glen Edwards, Town Planner



**TOWN OF DRACUT**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

TOWN OFFICE  
11 SPRINGPARK AVENUE - Room No. 4  
DRACUT, MA 01826  
Phone: (978) 458-4478 - Fax: (978) 937-9885

**LORI CAHILL**  
Conservation Agent

November 12, 2008

Mr. George Russell, AICP  
NMCOG  
40 Church Street Suite 200  
Lowell, MA 01852-3308

Dear Mr. Russell,

The Dracut Conservation Commission has reviewed the draft of the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan and generally supports the overall Plan with the following concerns:

The Five Year Action Plan as listed in Section 9, Page 71 clearly identifies the Conservation Commission as a contributor to the goals of this Five Year Action Plan. The Conservation Commission will contribute as much as possible to reach these goals however, please be advised that due to budgetary and personnel constraints there are concerns that we will not be able to fulfill all of these goals. Perhaps changing the language in the Plan to say "may" be involved in the process, instead of "shall" be involved, will alleviate this concern.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Lori Cahill, Dracut Conservation Agent.

Sincerely,

James Jendro, Chairman  
Dracut Conservation Commission

**RECEIVED**

JAN 20 2009

**N.M.C.O.G.**

**LORI CAHILL**  
Recreation Director

**TOWN OF DRACUT**  
**RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

TOWN OFFICE  
11 SPRINGPARK AVENUE - Room No. 4  
DRACUT, MA 01826  
Phone: (978) 458-4478 - Fax: (978) 937-9885



January 16, 2009

Mr. George Russell, AICP  
NMCOG  
40 Church St Suite 200  
Lowell, MA 01852-3308

Dear Mr. Russell,

At our meeting of December 1, 2008, the Dracut Recreation Commission voted unanimously to support and endorses the Final 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Lori Cahill, Dracut Recreation Director.

Sincerely,

Michael Parent, Chairman  
Dracut Recreation Commission

mp/srb

**APPENDIX E**

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**REPORTABLE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RELEASES**



Massachusetts  
Department  
of  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

## fact sheet

# The Massachusetts waste site cleanup program - the basics

### Introduction

This brochure highlights the major components of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) waste site cleanup program. The program, under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup (BWSC), administers oil and/or hazardous material cleanups, ranging from tanker truck spills, to contaminated groundwater, to sites with acres of polluted soil.

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 21E, the state Superfund law, was originally enacted in 1983 (and amended in 1992, 1995, and 1998), and created the waste site cleanup program. Contaminated properties regulated under this law are often called "21E sites". The regulations adopted to implement c. 21E are called the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP).

Soon after the waste site cleanup program started, it became clear that DEP could not oversee cleanup of thousands of sites and do it at an expeditious pace. As a result, 1992 amendments to c. 21E privatized the program, meaning that those responsible for cleaning up contamination (potentially responsible parties or PRPs) hire licensed site professionals (LSPs) to oversee most cleanups (with limited DEP oversight) to ensure compliance with the MCP. This allows DEP to focus its resources on key stages of assessment and cleanup at specific sites as conditions warrant.

### Major program components

Major program components include:

- **requiring that DEP be notified** about contamination that exceeds specific levels. DEP maintains a searchable database (<http://www.mass.gov/dep/cleanup/sites/sitelook.htm>) to track the cleanup progress of reported sites. Once a site is reported to DEP, regulatory deadlines are triggered for submitting site information and conducting the cleanup so that, within 6 years, the site no longer poses an unacceptable health or environmental risk. The graphic on page 4 depicts the cleanup timeline.
- **responding to emergencies** when oil and/or hazardous material is no longer contained and presents a risk to people and the environment. These situations trigger immediate response actions. If the person responsible for the contamination cannot or will not clean it up, then DEP brings in its own cleanup contractors to carry out rapid responses at the PRP's expense.

Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108-4746

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
Deval L. Patrick, Governor  
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Gov.

Executive Office of Energy and  
Environmental Affairs  
Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Laurie Burt, Commissioner

Produced by the  
Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup  
April 2001/Rev. January 2008.  
Printed on recycled paper.

This information is available in  
alternate format by calling our  
ADA Coordinator at  
(617) 292-5565.



- **encouraging early risk reduction** cleanup actions. For serious problems, such as sudden releases, imminent hazards, and other time-critical conditions, early actions are required to reduce risks. When the situation poses a lesser threat, limited cleanup actions may be performed voluntarily to reduce risks or lower the cost of future comprehensive cleanups. Sites may not have to tier classify (see the next bullet and the graphic) or be subject to cleanup deadlines if early actions performed before the one-year tier classification deadline are sufficient to meet cleanup standards.
- **classifying sites** that are not cleaned up within one year of being reported. Sites are ranked by complexity, the number of sources, and how serious a potential threat the contamination poses: Tier I (serious, with Tier 1A the most serious) or Tier II (less serious.)
- **allowing varying levels of cleanup** based on land use. The MCP requires contamination to be cleaned up to a level that protects people and the environment based on how the site is being or will be used, such as for housing or commercial purposes. The regulations also allow land use controls, called activity and use limitations (AULs), to be used as cleanup strategy components.
- **assessing fees** for sites that have not completed and documented a cleanup within a year of being reported. All sites are assessed a fixed annual compliance fee while work continues. These fees are assessed each year the site is being addressed until DEP receives documentation that the site has been cleaned up consistent with MCP standards.
- **facilitating redevelopment** and reuse of contaminated sites. State and federal "Superfund" laws place the burden of cleanups on owners and anyone else who caused or contributed to the contamination. To encourage these sites to be reused, the Brownfields Act, which amended c. 21E in 1998, created protections for people who did not own or operate the site at the time of the release and did not cause or contribute to the contamination and who complete the cleanup. This relief ends liability for third party costs, property damage claims, and state reimbursement actions. People not qualifying for this protection may apply to the Attorney General for a negotiated "covenant not to sue" for cleanup costs.  
  
The Brownfields Act also created exemptions and defenses for other entities such as tenants, banks, community development agencies, and downgradient property owners.
- **ensuring compliance** through use of several mechanisms created so the program works correctly without direct DEP involvement. PRPs/LSPs send reports to DEP that they develop while working to clean up sites. They must also submit a wide range of information

about cleanup process activities. DEP conducts audits and has the authority to reopen cases not complying with the MCP.

- **providing direct oversight** during key stages of assessment and cleanup at specific sites, as conditions warrant, thereby limiting DEP staff involvement at most sites. Direct oversight is reserved for time-critical situations, sudden releases, and other serious conditions when a PRP cannot or will not perform required work. When a PRP cannot or will not perform required work, DEP may hire its own contractor to conduct the cleanup and bills the PRP for the costs.
- **involving the public** throughout the site cleanup process. People responsible for cleaning up sites must publish notices in local newspapers at major milestones (see graphic), informing the public about their activities and providing an opportunity for public involvement. People with a high level of interest in a site can petition to make it a "public involvement plan" site. Plans are developed by conducting interviews to identify public concerns and include opportunities for the public to comment on the cleanup process. The person conducting the cleanup is responsible for providing these public involvement opportunities.

Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108-4746

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
Deval L. Patrick, Governor  
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Gov.

Executive Office of Energy and  
Environmental Affairs  
Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Laurie Burt, Commissioner

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ADA Coordinator at  
(617) 292-5565.



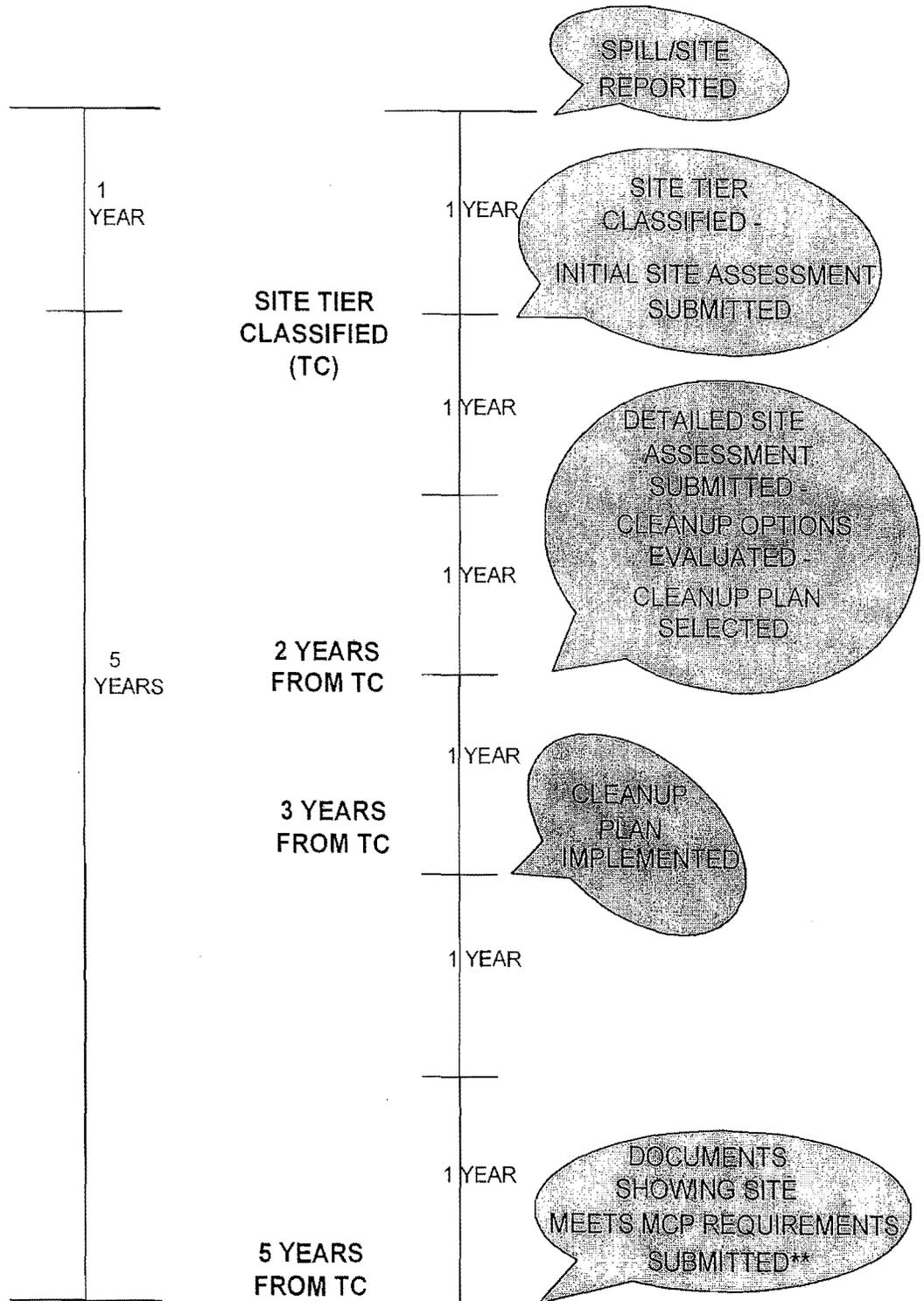
### For more information

Report a site or spill 24/7: 888-304-1133 (toll free) or 617-556-1133

Visit our Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/cleanup/>

Contact the LSP Board: 617-556-1091 or <http://www.mass.gov/lsp>

# MCP CLEANUP TIMELINE



Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108-4746

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
Deval L. Patrick, Governor  
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Gov.

Executive Office of Energy and  
Environmental Affairs  
Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

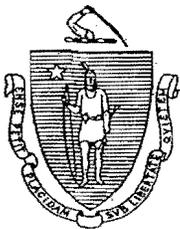
Department of  
Environmental Protection  
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(617) 292-5565.



\*\* CAN OCCUR AT ANY POINT ALONG THE  
TIMELINE



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
 ONE WINTER STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108 617-292-5500

MITT ROMNEY  
 Governor

ELLEN ROY HERZFELDER  
 Secretary

KERRY HEALEY  
 Lieutenant Governor

ROBERT W. GOLLEDGE, Jr.  
 Commissioner

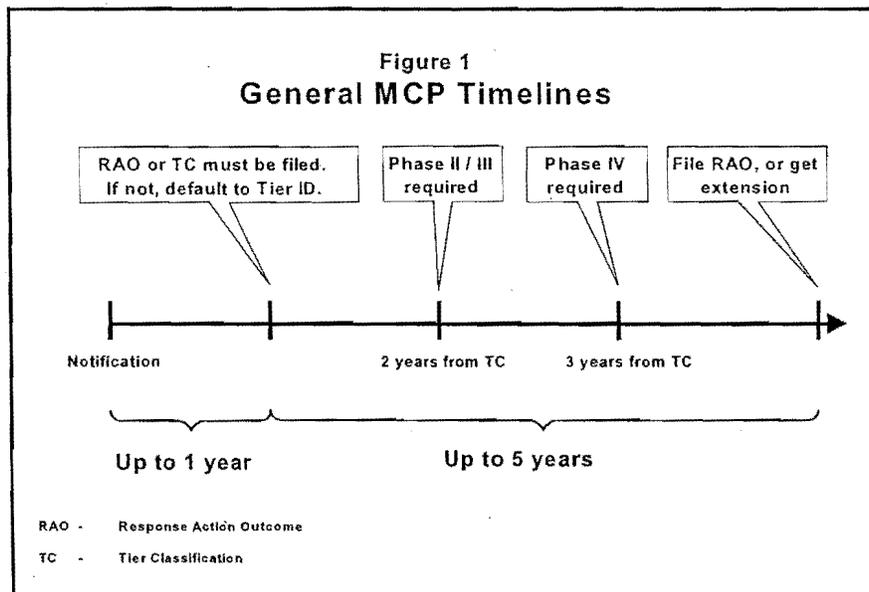
### MCP TIMELINES AND FEES

This document summarizes the timelines and fees associated with response actions conducted pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 21E and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) 310 CMR 40.0000.

#### MCP TIMELINES

The MCP establishes timelines for cleanups at all sites as well as timelines for specific types of response actions. **Figure 1** shows the general timelines for the MCP cleanup process.

For all sites, the clock starts when the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is notified of a potential or actual release of oil or hazardous material that exceeds a reporting threshold. Within one year, the legally responsible person must either: (1) clean up the disposal site to MCP standards (i.e. achieve a Response Action Outcome or RAO), (2) obtain Downgradient Property Status (DPS), or (3) classify the disposal site as either Tier I (A, B, or C) or Tier II. **If an RAO or Tier Classification for the disposal site is not submitted to DEP by the one-year deadline, the site is deemed Tier ID by default.**



For sites that are Tier Classified, there are MCP deadlines for completing each phase of the cleanup process, and for filing an RAO Statement. If an RAO cannot be achieved within the allowable timeframe, a Tier I Permit Extension or a Tier II Classification Extension must be obtained before cleanup work can continue.

#### FILING SUBMITTALS

To ensure that cleanups are proceeding as required, the MCP requires completion of response actions and the submittal of certain documents to DEP within specific time frames. The appropriate DEP Regional Office stamps each document with the date on which it is received. Missed deadlines can result in requirements for additional documentation and in new or higher fees. For this reason, all documents should be mailed, hand-delivered or filed electronically (for submittals for which electronic filing is available) so they are received at the appropriate DEP Regional Office by the applicable deadlines. Because mail service can vary, however, the

MCP provides a seven-day grace period. If the date stamped by the appropriate DEP Regional Office is within seven days of the actual due date, DEP considers the submittal to be on time.

For example, the one-year deadline for the Tier Classification (or for filing an RAO) for a release reported on June 5, 2002 is June 5, 2003. Whether it is mailed or hand-delivered, the required document is considered on time if it is received by DEP on or before June 12, 2003. If the submittal is date-stamped June 13 or later, it is considered late. In this example, if the submittal is late, the site would be classified Tier ID by default and the party performing response actions in the first year would be assessed the Tier ID fee for the first year.

The grace period also applies to submittals made electronically. With electronic transmissions **only**, a printed copy of the complete document must be submitted to the appropriate regional office within 14 days of the original submittal due date to be considered received by DEP on time. Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday run to the end of the next business day. **Please note that there are some deadlines for which the seven-day "grace" period does not apply.** See 310 CMR 40.0008 for additional information regarding the grace period and exceptions.

### MCP FEES

To keep pace with private sector responses, DEP must audit individual cleanups to ensure that they are adequate and, review permit applications and make timely decisions. Two types of fees have been established in the "Timely Action Schedule And Fee Provisions" (310 CMR 4.00) to provide DEP with the resources it needs to get these jobs done:

- Annual Compliance Assurance Fees (ACFs), assessed for all disposal sites, cover a portion of the costs of DEP compliance and enforcement activities, including inspections and audits of response actions. There are two groups of ACFs:
  1. **One-time fees** apply to three specific submittals if filed within the first year after notification (i.e. before Tier Classification). These are: RAO Statement; DPS Submittal; Release Abatement Measure (RAM) Plan. One-time fees do not apply after Tier Classification (excluding RAOs filed within the first 90 days of the second year for Tier ID sites). See **Table 1**.
  2. **Annual fees** apply to all sites where the party conducting response actions has not submitted RAO Statement within one year of notification. Sites that are classified by default (i.e. the Tier Classification or RAO deadline is not met) are also subject to Annual Compliance Assurance Fees.
- Permit Application Fees for Tier I Permits, Extensions, Transfers and Major Modifications, and Grants of Environmental Restriction or Special Project Applications are paid by applicants to cover the costs of timely review and approval. DEP must refund these fees if it fails to meet the review timeline specified in 310 CMR 4.00.

These fees also create incentives for quicker cleanups. The sooner a party completes response actions at a disposal site and submits a Class A or B RAO, the lower the fees will be. Initiation of Phase V cleanup activities or submittal of a Class C RAO will trigger a lower annual fee category.

Annual Compliance Assurance Fees initially set in 1993 were increased effective June 27, 2003. The increases were based on increased DEP costs over ten years. Five new fee categories were adopted in 2003 for homeowners (see Homeowner summary below). Fee amounts are summarized in Table 2 at the end of this fact sheet.

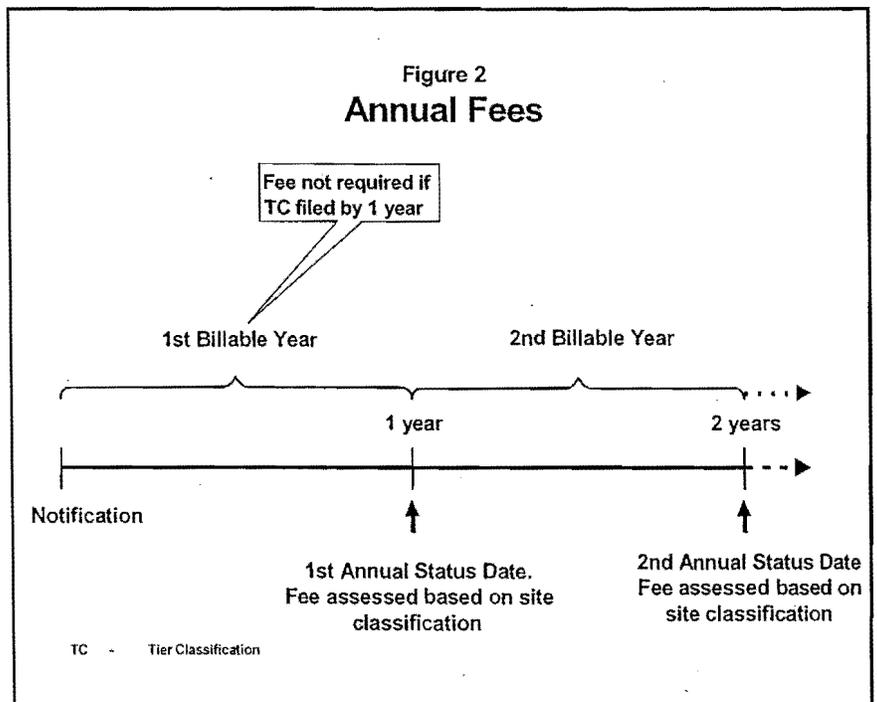
TABLE 1: ONE-TIME FEES

SUBMITTAL	TIME OF FILING	FEE
RAO	within 120 days of notification	no submittal fee
RAO	after 120 days but prior to Tier Classification	\$1,200 RAO submittal Fee
RAO	after Tier Classification (including Tier ID if RAO is filed AFTER first 90 days of one-year deadline)	no submittal fee (Tier Classification Annual Compliance Fees will be billed)
RAO	within 90 days after one-year deadline if classified by default to Tier ID	\$1,200 RAO submittal fee in lieu of second year Tier ID fee (first year Tier ID fee will also be billed)
DPS	in first year, prior to Tier Classification	\$1,600 DPS submittal fee
DPS	after Tier Classification (including default Tier ID)	No DPS submittal fee (Tier Classification Annual Compliance Fee will be billed)
RAM Plan	in first year, prior to Tier Classification	\$800 RAM submittal fee
RAM Plan	after Tier Classification (including default Tier ID)	no RAM submittal fee (Tier Classification Annual Compliance Fee will be billed)

Figure 2 shows how annual fees are assessed for Tier Classified sites. If an RAO Statement is not filed for the entire site in the first year, the site must be Tier Classified. As an incentive to meet the one-year deadline, the first year fee is **not required** if a Tier Classification submittal is made on time. If an RAO or Tier Classification is not filed, the site is deemed Tier ID by default and the first year's fee will be invoiced at the Tier ID rate (\$4,000). Subsequent years will be billed based on the site classification (i.e. Tier II, Tier IB, Tier ID, etc.) on the annual status date. For a Tier ID site, if an RAO Statement is filed within the first 90 days of the second billable year, an RAO Fee is required to be paid in lieu of the Tier ID fee for the second year. This second year fee is in addition to the first year \$4,000 Tier ID fee.

The fee amount is determined by a site's classification on its annual "status date" (which falls on the anniversary of initial notification). For example, if a Tier IB site is downgraded to Tier II one day prior to its status date, a Tier II fee will be assessed for that year.

An Annual Compliance Assurance Fee is assessed for each year that a site is in the MCP system, *including* the year in which a Class A or B RAO Statement is filed with DEP. These fees cannot be prorated. For example, if an RAO is submitted to DEP fifteen days into the third billable year, the third year's fee will be assessed in full. A few days either way can cost (or save) an entire year's fee, so it is important to remain aware of and plan around a site's status date.



**Downgradient Property Status (DPS)**

Parties who file a DPS submittal are required to pay fees until and including the year that the DPS is filed. DPS is applicable to the party making the submittal. Other parties performing response actions at the site (such as a new owner or property developer) are subject to Annual Compliance Fee billing until they obtain an initial DPS or transfer an existing DPS if applicable. An RAO Statement is still required for a site where a DPS exists.

**Fees for Homeowners with Oil Releases**

DEP has adopted a lower schedule of rates for some fees applicable to homeowners performing work to cleanup an oil release. These rates are effective for billable years ending on or after June 27, 2003. To qualify for the reduced fee rate, a homeowner must submit a completed DEP Certification Form (BWSC-120) stating that they are performing response actions at the residential property that they own and occupy as their principal residence for six or more months per year. Additionally, the home must be one to four units and used exclusively as a residence.

**TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF MCP-RELATED PERMIT AND COMPLIANCE FEES**  
(Based on 310 CMR 4.00)

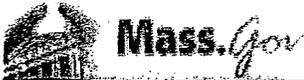
Permit/Annual Compliance Fee Category	Permit Fee: Homeowner	Permit Fee: Non-Homeowner	Annual Compliance Fee: Homeowner	Annual Compliance Fee: Non-Homeowner
Response Action Outcome (RAO)*	-----	-----	\$1,200	\$1,200
Release Abatement Measure (RAM)*	-----	-----	\$800	\$800
Downgradient Property Status (DPS) Submittal*	-----	-----	\$1,600	\$1,600
Tier IA Disposal Site	\$500	\$3,550	\$1,000	\$5,000
Tier IB Disposal Site	\$500	\$3,550	\$1,000	\$4,000
Tier IC Disposal Site	\$500	\$3,550	\$1,000	\$3,000
Tier ID Disposal Site	-----	-----	\$2,000	\$4,000
Permit: Major Modification, Extension or Transfer**	\$250	\$1,200	-----	-----
Tier II Disposal Site	-----	-----	\$1,000	\$2,000
Phase V Operation, Maintenance or Monitoring	-----	-----	\$800	\$800
Post-RAO Class C	-----	-----	\$800	\$800
Grant of Env. Restriction	\$1,050	\$1,050	-----	-----
Amendment of Env. Restriction	\$850	\$850	-----	-----
Release of Env. Restriction	\$650	\$650	-----	-----

\*these are one-time fees (see page two)

\*\*multiple permit applications submitted concurrently for a single disposal site only require one application fee

All checks for fees should be made payable to **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**. For One-Time Fees and Permit Application Fees, the check and a copy of the first page of the applicable BWSC transmittal form should be mailed to: DEP, P.O. Box 4062, Boston, MA, 02211-4062. The original BWSC transmittal form, report, and a photocopy of the check, should be sent to the appropriate DEP Regional Office. Payments for Annual Compliance Assurance Fee invoices should be mailed to: DEP, P.O. Box 3982, Boston, MA 02241-3982 with the invoice remittance.

Visit DEP's web site at <http://mass.gov/dep/bwsc> for more information. If you have questions about the MCP or timelines and fees, please contact DEP at [BWSC.regulations@state.ma.us](mailto:BWSC.regulations@state.ma.us).



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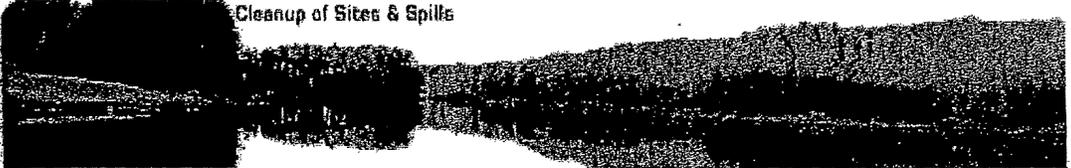
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MassDEP Quick Links:



## Definitions of Fields Listed in Search Results

### Release Tracking Number (RTN):

The number assigned to every site /reportable release. This number is preceded by 1, 2, 3, or 4 depending on the region where the release/site is located (e.g., 3-0001234). Corresponding regions are:

- Western Region
- Central Region
- Northeast Region
- Southeast Region

Additional information about RTNs may be found at toknow.htm.

### City/Town:

The city or town where the release of oil or hazardous material occurred. Boston and Barnstable are also broken down by neighborhood or village (e.g., Boston-Brighton, Barnstable-Hyannis)

### Release Address:

The number and street that most accurately describe the site/release location.

### Site Name/Location Aid:

Describes the site in terms of its location, use, or type ("Bob's Gas Station" or "Across from Building 1").

### Reporting Category:

How quickly a release must be reported to DEP. The potential severity of a release dictates how soon it must be reported. Reporting categories are 2 hours, 72 hours, and 120 days.

### Notification Date:

The date DEP uses to establish 21E deadlines. This date is usually the date when the site/release was reported to DEP. However, for some sites, especially those dating before 1993, the notification date may be later than the date DEP first learned about the site.

### Compliance Status:

21E sites compliance status definitions:

- **ADEQUATE REG (Adequately Regulated):** A site/release where response

actions are deemed adequately regulated under another DEP program or by another government agency.

- **DEPMOU (Memorandum of Understanding):** A site/release where DEP has a Memorandum of Understanding or other written agreement with a responsible party.
- **DPS (Downgradient Property Status):** A site where a DPS Submittal to DEP has stated that contamination on the property is coming from an upgradient property.
- **DPSTRM (Downgradient Property Status Terminated):** A site where Downgradient Property Status has been terminated.
- **INVSUB (Invalid Submittal):** An RAO Statement that was submitted for the site has been determined to be invalid by DEP.
- **RAO (Response Action Outcome):** A site/release where an RAO Statement was submitted. An RAO Statement asserts that response actions were sufficient to achieve a level of no significant risk or at least ensure that all substantial hazards were eliminated.
- **REMOPS (Remedy Operation Status):** A site where a remedial system which relies upon Active Operation and Maintenance is being operated for the purpose of achieving a Permanent Solution.
- **RTN Closed:** Future response actions addressing the release associated with this Release Tracking Number (RTN) will be conducted as part of the response actions planned for the site under another "primary" RTN.
- **SPECPR (Special Project):** The site has Special Project status.
- **STMRET (Statement Retracted):** An RAO Statement that had been submitted for the site has been retracted.
- **TCLASS (Tier Classification):** A site/release where a Tier Classification Submittal was received, but the classification type has not been confirmed by DEP.

*Note: Sites are usually Tier Classified using the Numerical Ranking System (NRS). The NRS scores sites on a point system based on a variety of factors. These include the site's complexity, the type of contamination, and the potential for human or environmental exposure to the contamination. In addition, some sites are automatically classified as Tier 1 sites if they pose an imminent hazard, affect public water supplies, or miss regulatory deadlines.*

- **TIER 1A:** A site/release receiving a total NRS score equal to or greater than 550. These sites/releases require a permit and the person undertaking response actions must do so under direct DEP supervision.
- **TIER 1B:** A site/release receiving an NRS score of less than 550 and equal to or greater than 450. These sites/releases also require a permit, but response actions may be performed under the supervision of a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) without prior DEP approval.
- **TIER 1C:** A site/release receiving a total NRS score of less than 450 and equal to or greater than 350. A site/release receiving a total NRS score of less than 350, but which meets any of the Tier 1 Inclusionary Criteria specified in 310 CMR 40.0520(2)(a), is also classified a Tier 1C. These sites/releases also require a permit, but response actions may be performed under the supervision of an LSP without prior DEP approval.
- **TIER 2:** A site/release receiving a total NRS score of less than 350, unless the site meets any of the Tier 1 Inclusionary Criteria (see above). Permits are not required at Tier 2 sites/releases and response actions may be performed under the supervision of an LSP without prior DEP approval. All pre-1993 transition sites that have accepted waivers are categorically Tier 2 sites.



- **TIER 1D:** A site/release where the responsible party fails to provide a required submittal to DEP by a specified deadline. Note: formerly **Default Tier 1B**.
- **UNCLASSIFIED:** A release that has not reached its Tier Classification deadline (usually one year after it was reported), and where an RAO Statement, DPS Submittal, or Tier Classification Submittal has not been received by DEP.

The following definitions apply to sites that were reported to DEP prior to October 1993 and which were regulated under an older version of the MCP:

- **DEPNDS:** DEP Not a Disposal Site means that DEP has determined that these locations did not need to be reported and are not disposal sites.
- **DEPNFA:** DEP No Further Action means that response actions were conducted and DEP determined that no further action was needed for the site.
- **LSPNFA:** LSP No Further Action means that response actions were conducted and an LSP has determined that no further action was needed for the site.
- **PENNDs:** Pending Not a Disposal Site means a document was submitted to DEP asserting that these locations did not need to be reported and are not disposal sites. These submittals are considered pending until DEP audits them.
- **PENNFA:** Pending No Further Action means a document was submitted to DEP asserting that a site assessment had determined that no further action was required. These submittals are considered pending until DEP audits them.
- **WCSPRM:** A Waiver Completion Statement has been submitted to DEP.

**Compliance Status Date:**

The date a release/site was listed as its current compliance status.

**Phase:**

Indicates the release/site cleanup phase.

- **No Phase:** Phase report not required or not submitted.
- **Phase I:** Initial Site Investigation, including Tier Classification. In this phase, samples are collected and analyzed to determine the types, amounts, and location of contaminants.
- **Phase II:** Comprehensive Site Assessment. During Phase II, the risks posed to public health, welfare, and the environment are determined.
- **Phase III:** Identification, Evaluation, and Selection of Comprehensive Remedial Action Alternatives and the Remedial Action Plan. In Phase III, cleanup options are assessed and a cleanup plan is selected.
- **Phase IV:** Implementation of the Selected Remedial Action Alternative and Remedy Implementation Plan. The cleanup plan is implemented in Phase IV.
- **Phase V:** Operation, Maintenance, and/or Monitoring. During Phase V, long-term treatment processes are implemented and monitored to track cleanup progress.

**RAO Class:**

The class of Remedial Action Outcome submitted to the Department:

- **Class A RAO**- Remedial work was completed and a level of "no significant risk" has been achieved.

**A1:** A permanent solution has been achieved. Contamination has been reduced to background or a threat of release has been eliminated.

**A2:** A permanent solution has been achieved. Contamination has not been reduced to background.

**A3:** A permanent solution has been achieved. Contamination has not been reduced to background and an Activity and use Limitation (AUL) has been implemented.

**A4:** A permanent solution has been achieved. Contamination has not been reduced to background and an Activity and use Limitation (AUL) has been implemented. Contamination is located at a depth of >15 feet but evaluation has determined that it is not feasible to reduce it.

- **Class B RAO**- Site assessment indicates that "no significant risk" exists. No remedial work was necessary.

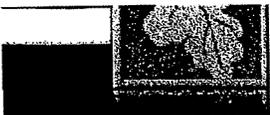
**B1:** Remedial actions have not been conducted because a level of No Significant Risk exists.

**B2:** Remedial actions have not been conducted because a level of No Significant Risk exists, but that level is contingent upon one or more Activity and use Limitations (AULs) that have been implemented.

**B3:** Remedial actions have not been conducted because a level of No Significant Risk exists, but that level is contingent upon one or more Activity and use Limitations (AULs) that have been implemented, and contamination is located at a depth of >15 feet but evaluation has determined that it is not feasible to reduce it.

- **Class C RAO**- A temporary cleanup. Although the site does not present a "substantial hazard", it has not reached a level of no significant risk. The site must be evaluated every five years to determine whether a Class A or Class B RAO is possible. All sites are expected eventually to receive a Class A or B RAO.

*Note: **Activity and Use Limitations (AULs)** are legal restrictions used in the context of the Massachusetts Contingency Plan to limit future exposure to contaminants remaining at a site. See *Guidance on Implementing Activity and Use Limitations* for additional information.*



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**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**

**Reportable Releases**

RTN	Town	Address	Site Name	Category	Notification Date	Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical Type
3-0023972	DRACUT	36 AND 52 ALFRED DR	MINI-PAD TRANSFORMER, ALFRED DRIVE	TWO HR	6/14/2004	RAO	7/30/2004		A1	Oil
3-0001983	DRACUT	10 ARLINGTON ST	CHRIST CHURCH UNITED	NONE	1/15/1989	PENNF A	9/27/1993			
3-0004070	DRACUT	41 ARLINGTON ST	DRACUT CENTER GARAGE	NONE	10/15/1992	RAO	1/13/1998		A2	Oil
3-0023058	DRACUT	2022 BRIDGE ST	AUTO VILLAGE	120 DY	8/13/2003	RAO	8/12/2005		B1	Hazardous Material
3-0004651	DRACUT	2060 BRIDGE ST	VEHICLE REPAIR GARAGE FMR	NONE	1/26/1993	RAO	5/15/2003			
3-0019549	DRACUT	2060 BRIDGE ST	CROSS ST	72 HR	5/16/2000	RAO	5/15/2003	PHASE II	A2	Oil
3-0004408	DRACUT	2140 BRIDGE ST	KEATING MATERIALS CORP	NONE	10/1/1993	RAO	10/27/1998		C1	Oil
3-0011677	DRACUT	2140 BRIDGE ST	KEATING MATERIALS INC	TWO HR	10/1/1994	RAO	12/7/1994		A1	Oil and Hazardous Material
3-0018402	DRACUT	1379 BRIDGE ST RTE 38	INTERSECTION RTE 113	TWO HR	6/11/1999	RAO	6/30/1999		A1	Oil
3-0010680	DRACUT	BROADWAY	RT 113 BY JONES AVE	TWO HR	3/16/1994	RAO	4/28/1994		A2	Oil
3-0020365	DRACUT	114 BROADWAY	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	2/1/2001	RAO	1/7/2002		A2	Oil
3-0020281	DRACUT	970 BROADWAY	FMR EXXON TERMINAL	72 HR	1/4/2001	RAO	4/30/2001		B1	Hazardous Material
3-0001069	DRACUT	BROADWAY RD	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY	NONE	4/15/1988	TIER1D	8/9/1995			Oil
3-0017374	DRACUT	BROADWAY RD	UTILITY POLE NUMBER 38	TWO HR	10/4/1998	RAO	12/7/1998		A1	Oil

3-0001550	DRACUT	830 BROADWAY RD	ATLANTIC COREY CRANE	NONE	6/14/1988	RAO	8/7/2000	PHASE II	A2	Oil
3-0000307	DRACUT	970 BROADWAY RD	EXXON TERMINAL FMR	NONE	1/15/1987	RAO	11/5/2002	PHASE IV	A3	
3-0020115	DRACUT	610 BROADWAY RD NEAR	2 10TH MILE SOUTH OF WHEELER RD	TWO HR	11/13/2000	RAO	1/17/2001		A2	Oil
3-0001070	DRACUT	955 BROADWAY ST	NORTHEAST INVESTMENT CO	NONE	4/15/1988	RAO	12/23/1996	PHASE IV	A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
3-0026797	DRACUT	BROOKSIDE ST	PEPERMINT BROOK AND BEAVER BROOK	TWO HR	5/1/2007	TIER1D	5/8/2008			Oil
3-0024182	DRACUT	CHUCK DR LOT 49	K AND K EQUIPMENT INC	TWO HR	8/24/2004	RAO	10/19/2004		A2	Oil
3-0025578	DRACUT	395 DONAHUE RD	POLE #105-2	TWO HR	1/15/2006	RAO	3/14/2006		A1	
3-0012026	DRACUT	22 ESSEX ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	1/1/1995	RAO	4/13/1995		A1	Oil
3-0021930	DRACUT	267 FLADEN ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	7/12/2002	RAO	5/23/2003		A2	Oil
3-0024137	DRACUT	37 GREENMONT AVE	GREENMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	TWO HR	8/12/2004	RAO	10/13/2004		A2	Oil
3-0016670	DRACUT	HILDRETH ST	NEW BOSTON WELLFIELD	TWO HR	4/6/1998	RAO	6/4/1998		A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
3-0026063	DRACUT	HILDRETH ST	POLE 98	TWO HR	7/18/2006	RAO	9/15/2006		A1	
3-0016970	DRACUT	833 HILDRETH ST	DPW FACILITY	72 HR	6/25/1998	RAO	10/23/1998		A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
3-0022751	DRACUT	LAKEVIEW AVE	POLE 7 IN FRONT OF 1055 LAKEVIEW AVE	TWO HR	4/7/2003	RAO	6/6/2003		A1	Oil

3-0000496	DRACUT	1095 LAKEVIEW AVE	NORTHEAST PETROLEUM	NONE	1/15/1987	REMOP S	1/26/2006	PHASE V		Oil
3-0024576	DRACUT	1095 LAKEVIEW AVE	FORMER NORTHEAST PETROLEUM	72 HR	1/20/2005	RTN CLOSED	5/9/2005			Oil
3-0003330	DRACUT	1100 LAKEVIEW AVE	SHELL SERVICE STATION	NONE	10/15/1990	DPS	9/23/2002	PHASE V		
3-0021441	DRACUT	1100 LAKEVIEW AVE	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	1/29/2002	DPS	9/23/2002			Oil
3-0003725	DRACUT	1266 LAKEVIEW AVE	GASOLINE STATION FMR	NONE	10/15/1991	RAO	1/31/2000	PHASE II	A2	
3-0003492	DRACUT	1507 LAKEVIEW AVE	CYR OIL	NONE	5/17/1990	TIER 2	3/26/2007	PHASE III		
3-0015630	DRACUT	1507 LAKEVIEW AVE	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	10/20/1997	RTN CLOSED	2/10/1999			
3-0016749	DRACUT	1507 LAKEVIEW AVE	NEW BOSTON AVE	72 HR	5/4/1998	TIER 2	2/10/1999			Oil
3-0017550	DRACUT	1560 LAKEVIEW AVE	DRACUT MIDDLE SCHOOL	TWO HR	11/9/1998	RAO	3/16/1999		A2	Oil
3-0010948	DRACUT	1580 LAKEVIEW AVE	BEHIND THE DRACUT MIDDLE SCHOOL	TWO HR	5/3/1994	RAO	8/22/1994		A1	Oil
3-0025063	DRACUT	1643 LAKEVIEW AVE	JIMS SERVICE STAION	120 DY	7/21/2005	RAO	6/28/2007	PHASE II	A2	Oil
3-0025313	DRACUT	1643 LAKEVIEW AVE	HESS STATION 21230	72 HR	10/13/2005	RTN CLOSED	11/22/2006			Oil
3-0023548	DRACUT	1734 LAKEVIEW AVE	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY	1/23/2004	RAO	2/7/2007	PHASE II	B1	Hazardous Material

3-0001960	DRACUT	2003 LAKEVIEW AVE	GASOLINE STATION FMR	NONE	1/15/1989	RAO	10/30/1997	PHASE II	A2	
3-0002805	DRACUT	2166 LAKEVIEW AVE	CANNEY FARM	NONE	1/15/1990	RAO	8/5/2002		A2	
3-0025268	DRACUT	110 LOON HILL RD	FORMER TRUCKING TERMINAL	120 DY	9/16/2005	RAO	9/8/2006		A2	Oil
3-0002428	DRACUT	110 LOONHILL RD	PROPERTY	120 DY	10/15/1989	RAO	6/14/2004		B1	Oil
3-0002992	DRACUT	1225 MAMMOTH RD	JAYS MOBIL STATION	NONE	12/9/1988	DEPNDS	4/4/1996			
3-0011805	DRACUT	1550 MAMOUTH RD	GAGNONS SAND PIT	TWO HR	11/2/1994	RAO	12/29/1994		A1	Oil
3-0025691	DRACUT	600 MARSH HILL RD	ROADSIDE RELEASE	TWO HR	2/23/2006	RAO	4/24/2006		A2	Oil
3-0027046	DRACUT	22 MCGRATH RD	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	8/17/2007	RAO	10/12/2007		A1	Oil
3-0001900	DRACUT	31 MCGRATH RD	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY	NONE	1/15/1989	DEPNDS	5/10/1996			
3-0018692	DRACUT	31 MCGRATH RD	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY	8/6/1999	RAO	4/30/2002	PHASE II	A2	Hazardous Material
3-0022874	DRACUT	50 MCGRATH RD	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	5/21/2003	RAO	7/28/2003		A1	Oil
3-0002364	DRACUT	888 MERRIMACK AVE	PROPERTY	NONE	1/15/1990	LSPNF A	8/9/1996			
3-0027263	DRACUT	1166 MERRIMACK AVE	RTE 110	TWO HR	11/19/2007	RAO	1/17/2008		A1	Oil
3-0011567	DRACUT	METHUEN ST	1/4 EAST OF QUARRY GATE	TWO HR	9/6/1994	RAO	10/5/1994			Oil
3-0017391	DRACUT	METHUEN ST	EAST DRACUT SUBSTATION	TWO HR	10/8/1998	RAO	12/7/1998		A1	Oil

3-0025084	DRACUT	METHUEN ST	EAST DRACUT SUBSTATION	TWO HR	8/1/2005	RAO	9/22/2005		A1	Oil
3-0002568	DRACUT	1471 METHUEN ST	BROX PAVING MATERIALS	NONE	1/15/1993	RAO	1/28/2000	PHASE IV	C1	Oil
3-0024944	DRACUT	1471 METHUEN ST	BROX QUARRY	TWO HR	6/13/2005	RAO	8/12/2005		A1	Oil
3-0004645	DRACUT	91 MILL ST	MILL BLDG	NONE	2/16/1993	RAO	8/1/2006	PHASE III	A2	Oil
3-0017157	DRACUT	91 MILL ST	LAKEVIEW AVE	72 HR	8/13/1998	RTN CLOSED	10/19/1998			Oil and Hazardous Material
3-0022288	DRACUT	MILL ST AND LAKEVIEW AVE	BEAVER BROOK ISLAND	TWO HR	11/7/2002	TIER 2	1/30/2006	PHASE II		Hazardous Material
3-0022961	DRACUT	45 MT PLEASANT ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	6/25/2003	RAO	6/27/2008		A2	
3-0025612	DRACUT	500 NASHUA RD	AUTOMOTIVE CENTER	TWO HR	1/27/2006	TIER1D	7/7/2008			Oil
3-0018325	DRACUT	NEW BOSTON ST AND ORIOLE DR	AT INTERSECTION	TWO HR	5/24/1999	RAO	7/26/1999		A2	Oil
3-0016617	DRACUT	55 PERCY ST	RICHARDSON BROOK	TWO HR	3/21/1998	RAO	3/23/2001	PHASE II	A2	Oil
3-0014012	DRACUT	351 PETERS POND RD	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	7/20/1996	RAO	9/25/1996		A2	Oil
3-0000154	DRACUT	PLEASANT ST	MILL POWERHOUSE FMR	NONE	1/15/1987	DEPND S	5/10/1996			
3-0010531	DRACUT	PLEASANT ST	ADJACENT TO #329 PLEASANT ST	120 DY	2/1/1994	RAO	7/12/1994		A1	Oil
3-0026049	DRACUT	76-100 PLEASANT ST	NAVY YARD MILLS (AKA FMR STEVENS MILLS)	120 DY	7/12/2006	TIER1D	7/7/2008			Oil and Hazardous Material
3-0026546	DRACUT	76-100 PLEASANT ST	NAVY YARD MILLS (FRM STEVENS MILLS)	TWO HR	1/26/2007	TIER1D	2/4/2008			Hazardous Material

3-0017667	DRACUT	96 PLEASANT ST	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY	12/2/1998	RAO	12/15/2000	PHASE II	A3	Oil and Hazardous Material
3-0018352	DRACUT	96 PLEASANT ST	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY	5/26/1999	RTN CLOSED	11/23/1999			Hazardous Material
3-0020521	DRACUT	301 PLEASANT ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	3/24/2001	RAO	5/24/2001		A1	
3-0015447	DRACUT	RAINBOW ST	WASTE MGMT	TWO HR	8/19/1997	RAO	10/16/1997		A1	
3-0012351	DRACUT	RTE 113 LAKEVIEW	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	4/5/1995	RAO	6/2/1995		A1	
3-0017436	DRACUT	290 SALEM RD	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	10/14/1998	RAO	9/24/2007		A1	Oil
3-0018759	DRACUT	SAW MILL RD	EAST SIDE UTILITY POLE 20	TWO HR	9/17/1999	RAO	6/28/2000		A2	Oil
3-0021638	DRACUT	SCOTT ST	NEAREST RESIDENCE-61 SCOTT ST	TWO HR	4/3/2002	RAO	6/10/2002		A1	Hazardous Material
3-0024086	DRACUT	33 SILVA LN	UP & LOWER PARKING LOT; RETENTION POND 1	TWO HR	7/28/2004	RAO	10/1/2004		A2	Hazardous Material
3-0027683	DRACUT	49 SILVA LN	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	5/8/2008	RAO	6/17/2008		A2	Oil
3-0020767	DRACUT	SILVA LN LOT 3	INTERSECTION WITH RTE 113	120 DY	5/16/2001	RAO	8/15/2002		B1	Hazardous Material
3-0023989	DRACUT	15 UPLAND ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR	6/18/2004	TIER1D	6/27/2005			Oil
3-0004460	DRACUT	4 VICTORY LN	SYNTHETIC LABS	NONE	7/15/1993	RAO	7/14/1994		B1	Oil
3-0024674	DRACUT	20 VICTORY LN	BRIAN'S AUTOMOTIVE	TWO HR	3/3/2005	RAO	5/2/2005		A1	Oil
3-0002400	DRACUT	25 VICTORY LN	DRACUT FUEL OIL CO	NONE	7/15/1991	RAO	1/20/2004	PHASE II	A2	Oil
3-0017877	DRACUT	313 WILLARD ST	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR	1/20/1999	RAO	1/27/2000		A2	Oil

## **APPENDIX F**

### **WILDLIFE, RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES INFORMATION**

## Dracut Wildlife

In the list updated in February 2008 by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), the latest documented observation of threatened (T) Endangered (E) or special concern (SC) species in Dracut is as follows:

TYPE	CLASSIFICATION	NAME	STATUS	DATE LAST OBSERVED
Amphibian	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	Blue-spotted Salamander	SC	1995
Beetle	<i>Cicindela duodecimguttata</i>	Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetle	SC	Historic
Beetle	<i>Cicindela purpurea</i>	Purple Tiger Beetle	SC	1921
Dragonfly/Damselfly	<i>Neurocordulia obsoleta</i>	Umber Shadowdragon	SC	2004
Reptile	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	SC	2005
Reptile	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC	1999
Reptile	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle	T	2006
Vascular Plant	<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	Purple Milkweed	E	1884

An "endangered" species (E) is a native species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or part of its range or which is in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts, as documented by biological research and inventory.

A "threatened" species (T) is a native species that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, or which is declining or rare as documented by biological research and inventory.

A "special concern" species (SC) is a native species that has been documented by biological research and inventory to have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked, or that occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become threatened within Massachusetts.

(Definitions are from the NHESP.)

The following is a list of Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals, compiled for the most part by several members of the Open Space Committee and local naturalists. Species are listed in alphabetical order by common name; bird groupings are based generally and broadly on accepted relationships. The list does not distinguish between common and rare species, or, in the case of birds, among over-wintering, migratory, breeding, and year-round populations. Residents are encouraged to report to the Community Preservation Committee or the Open Space Committee any sightings of rare or new species, which can then be incorporated into the next and hopefully more detailed update. Also, information from Dracut's fishermen and hunters would allow us to include both Fish and more ducks and gamebirds in the future. Names are taken from Richard M. DeGraaf & Mariko Yamasaki, 2001, New England Wildlife, University Press of New England, Hanover, NH.

(I: introduced; E: endangered; SC: special concern; T: threatened)

## AMPHIBIANS

Blue-Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*)  
Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)  
Eastern American Toad (*Bufo americanus*)  
Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*)  
Green Frog (*Rana clamitans melanota*)  
Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)  
Northern Red-Backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*)  
Northern Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer crucifer*)  
Northern Two-lined Salamander (*Eurycea bislineata*)  
Pickerel Frog (*Rana palustris*)  
Red-Spotted Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens*)  
Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*)  
Wood Frog (*Rana sylvatica*)

## REPTILES

Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) (T)  
Common Musk Turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*)  
Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*)  
Eastern Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*)  
Eastern Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum*)  
Eastern Ribbon Snake (*Thamnophis sauritus*)  
Eastern Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta picta*)  
Northern Black Racer (snake) (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*)  
Northern Water Snake (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*)  
Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) (SC)  
Wood Turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) (SC)

## MAMMALS

Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)  
Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)  
Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)  
Canada Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*)  
Coyote (*Canis latrans*)  
Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*)  
Eastern Cottontail (Rabbit) (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)  
Eastern Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)  
Eastern Mole (*Scalopus aquaticus*)  
Ermine (Short-tailed Weasel) (*Mustela erminea*)  
Fisher (*Martes pennanti*)  
Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)  
House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)  
Long-Tailed Weasel (*Mustela frenata*)  
Masked Shrew (*Sorex cinereus*)  
Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius*)  
Meadow Vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*)  
Mink (*Mustela vison*)  
Moose (*Alces alces*)  
Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)  
Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)  
Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*)  
Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)  
Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)  
Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)  
River Otter (*Lutra canadensis*)  
Southern Red-Backed Vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*)  
Southern Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*)  
Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)  
Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*)  
White-Footed Mouse (*Peromyscus sp.*)  
White-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)  
Woodchuck ("Groundhog") (*Marmota monax*)

## BIRDS

### Water Birds, Shorebirds

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)  
Blue-Winged Teal (*Anas discors*)  
Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)  
Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)  
Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)  
Double-Crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)  
Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)  
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)  
Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

Green-Winged Teal (*Anas crecca*)  
Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)  
Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)  
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)  
Ring-Necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*)  
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)  
Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)

### **Game Birds, Pigeons, Doves, etc.**

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*)  
Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)  
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)  
Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)  
Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*)  
Ring-Necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) (I)  
Rock Dove ("Pigeon") (*Columba livia*) (I)  
Ruffed Grouse ("Partridge") (*Bonasa umbellus*)  
Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

### **Hawks, Owls, Eagles, Vultures**

American Kestrel ("Sparrow Hawk") (*Falco sparverius*)  
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (E)  
Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)  
Barred Owl (*Strix varia*)  
Cooper's ("Chicken") Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*)  
Eastern Screech Owl (*Otus asio*)  
Great-Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)  
Merlin ("Pigeon Hawk") (*Falco columbarius*)  
Northern Harrier ("Marsh Hawk") (*Circus cyaneus*) (T)  
Northern Saw-Whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)  
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)  
Red-Tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)  
Sharp-Shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) (SC)  
Turkey Vulture ("Buzzard") (*Cathartes aura*)

### **Swifts, Swallows, Kingfishers, Hummingbirds, Nighthawks**

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*)  
Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)  
Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)  
Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)  
Northern Rough-Winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)  
Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)  
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)  
Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

**Blackbirds, Orioles, Meadowlarks, Tanagers, Crows, Jays, Cuckoos,  
Starlings**

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)  
Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)  
Black-Billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)  
Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*)  
Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)  
Brown-Headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)  
Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*)  
Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)  
European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) (I)  
Red-Winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)  
Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)

**Woodpeckers**

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*)  
Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*)  
Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)  
Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)  
Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*)

**Flycatchers, Larks, Waxwings**

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)  
Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)  
Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*)  
Eastern Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*)  
Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*)  
Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)  
Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*)  
Olive-Sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)

**Thrushes (incl. Robins, Bluebirds, Kinglets), Mimic Thrushes,  
(Mockingbirds)**

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)  
Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)  
Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*)  
Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)  
Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*)  
Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)  
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*)  
Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*)  
Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)

**Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers**

Black-Capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*)  
Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*)  
Red-Breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*)  
Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*)  
White-Breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*)

### **Sparrows, Finches, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Juncos, Cardinals**

American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*)  
American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*)  
Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)  
Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*)  
Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)  
Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)  
Dark-Eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)  
Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)  
Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)  
House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)  
House ("English") Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) (I)  
Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*)  
Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)  
Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*)  
Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*)  
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)  
Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)  
Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)  
Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)  
White-Crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)  
White-Throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

### **Wrens, Warblers, Vireos**

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*)  
Black-and-White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)  
Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)  
Black-Throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*)  
Blue-Winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*)  
Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)  
Chestnut-Sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*)  
Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)  
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)  
Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*)  
Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*)  
Red-Eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)  
Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)  
Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)  
Yellow-Rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*)

**APPENDIX G**

**SECTION 504 SELF EVALUATION**



# Town of Dracut

TOWN HALL  
62 ARLINGTON STREET  
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS 01826

Office of the Town Manager  
(978) 452-1227  
Fax: (978) 452-7924  
Email: townmanager@dracut-ma.us

Dennis E. Piendak  
Town Manager

February 11, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Cryan:

I am writing to confirm that Mr. William Zounes, Veteran's Agent/Personnel Director for the Town of Dracut has officially been appointed as the Town's ADA Coordinator. As such is responsible for insuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis E. Piendak".

Dennis E. Piendak  
Town Manager

/sac



# Veterans' Benefits Town of Dracut

TOWN HALL  
62 ARLINGTON STREET  
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS 01826

February 11, 2008

**WILLIAM M. ZOUNES**  
VETERANS AGENT  
(978) 453-9492

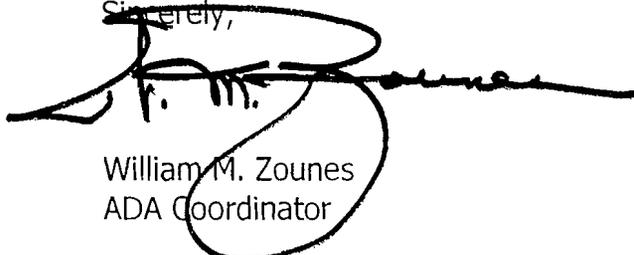
Ms. Melissa Cryan  
Grants Manager  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

I am writing to certify that the Town of Dracut's employment practices are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in the following categories: recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training, tests, medical exams and questionnaires, social and recreation programs, fringe benefits, collective bargaining agreements and wage and salary administration.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



William M. Zounes  
ADA Coordinator

/sac

## **SECTION 504/A.D.A.\* GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

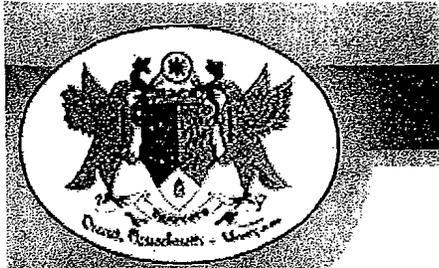
The Town of Dracut has adopted an internal grievance procedure providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794) or (28 CFR 35.130, Department of Justice). Section 504 states, in part, that "no otherwise qualified handicapped individual. . . shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance..." Also, Section 35.130 (A) of the Americans with Disabilities Act states that "no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, program, or activities of a public entity or be subjected to discrimination by any public entity.

Complaints should be addressed to: William M. Zounes, Human Resource Coordinator, Town Hall, 62 Arlington St., Dracut, MA 01826 (978) 453-9492, who has been designated to coordinate Section 504/A.D.A. compliance efforts.

1. A complaint should be filed in writing or verbally, containing the name and address of the person filing it, and briefly describe the alleged violation of the regulations.
2. A complaint should be filed as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation. (Processing of allegations of discrimination occurring before this grievance procedure was in place will be considered on a case-by-case basis).
3. An investigation, as may be appropriate, shall follow a filing of a complaint. The investigation will be conducted by the ADA Coordinator. The rules contemplate informal but thorough investigations, affording all interested persons and their representative, if any, an opportunity to submit evidence relevant to a complaint.
4. A written determination as to the validity of the complaint and description of resolution, if any, shall be issued by the ADA Coordinator no later than fifteen (15) days after its filing. A copy will be forwarded to the complainant immediately.
5. If the response by the ADA Coordinator does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the ADA Coordinator within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Town Manager.
6. Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Town Manager 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 audiotape, with a final resolution of the complaint.

7. All complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, appeals to the Town Manager and responses from the ADA Coordinator and the Town Manager will be kept by the Town of Dracut for at least three (3) years.



Town of Dracut, Massachusetts

Public Notice Detail

- Home
- Departments
- Board
- Calendar
- Town Profile
- Meetings
- Rebital Links
- FAP
- Contact Us

Americans with Disabilities Act

ATTACHMENT A

NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

--- In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Town will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in the Town's services, program, or activities.

Employment: The Town does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Effective Communication: The Town will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Town's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people, who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Town will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all Town programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in Town offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedure to participate in a Town program, service, or activity, should contact the office of William M. Zounes ADA Coordinator, 62 Arlington St., Dracut, MA 01826, (978) 453-9492 as soon as possible but no later than two weeks before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Town to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a Town program, service, or activity is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to William M. Zounes ADA Coordinator, 62 Arlington St., Dracut, MA 01826 (978) 453-9492.

The Town will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons, who use wheelchairs.

**ADA TOWN POLICY**  
**POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the government of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Town of Dracut, that no person shall be discriminated against in any manner whatsoever because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, handicap, or disabilities.

That no person shall because of race, color national origin, sex, religion, age, handicap, or disabilities be excluded from, participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity, or employment funded entirely or in part by the Town, the State, or the Federal Government.

The Town of Dracut unequivocally ascribes to said policy and procedures, and will fully comply with federal, state and local laws and directives governing non-discrimination in all municipal activities.

The Town of Dracut strongly affirms that it will abide by such laws, regulations and procedures, and that this policy shall be administered and implemented at all levels with a positive, aggressive and supportive attitude. The ADA Coordinator Mr. William M. Zounes, Veterans' Office, 62 Arlington St., Dracut, MA, (978) 453-9492 shall be responsible for the implementation, monitoring and ensure that all aspects of the ADA Act are initiated to its fullest extent.

By virtue of the delegation of this responsibility and authority to direct the program, the ADA officer will report directly to the Town Manager on all ADA matters. The program requires all Town departments to cooperate with this policy. Failure to follow this policy and its regulations will result in disciplinary action to be administered by the appropriate supervising authority.

It is hereby agreed, that the following ADA program be instituted on behalf of the Town of Dracut.

Town Manager  Date Adopted 7/1/1992

## The American with Disabilities Act 1990

In July 1990, new civil rights legislation, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law. The ADA is a comprehensive and complex law covering a wide scope of disability issues, including employment discrimination, public accommodations and private service establishments, and discrimination in transportation and communication access.

The Town of Dracut has formed what is to be known as an ADA Taskforce. The following are some of the goals this taskforce has set.

### Dracut ADA Taskforce Mission Statement:

To focus the Town's resources to ensure that the wide scope of disability issues raised by ADA are addressed and resolved by the Town of Dracut, in its efforts to comply with the intent and the spirit of the ADA Act of 1990.

#### Awareness/Public Relations:

To promote awareness both within the municipal and school government as well as to the general public of the steps the Town is taking to comply with ADA.

#### Employment Accommodations:

To develop an employment process assisting the Department Heads and Town Manager in hiring the best qualified individuals by helping them identify necessary and reasonable accommodations for qualified disabled candidates. This covers internal and external candidates as well as employees returning from medical leave.

#### Facility Accommodations:

To ensure that all of the Town of Dracut facilities are and will be brought into compliance.

**Management Tools:**

To develop management tools including information about ADA's affects on the Town's employment practices and Human Resources policies that assist the Department Heads in meeting the technical requirements of the law.

**Definition**

CFR 35.104 (4)

**Disability means:**

With respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment.

The phrase "major life activities" means functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

# Application for Employment

Please Print

Equal access to programs, services and employment is available to all persons.

Name  Social Security #

Address

Telephone  Mobile/Beeper/Other  E-mail Address

Position(s) applied for  Date of application

Referral Source (Please check the appropriate category and name the source.)

- Walk-in
- Employee
- Advertisement
- Company's Website
- Other Internet

- School
- Job Fair
- Staffing Agency
- Government
- Employment Agency
- Other

If necessary, best time to call you at is

May we contact you at work?  Yes  No

If yes, work number and best time to call:

If you are under 18, and it is required, can you furnish a work permit?  Yes  No

If no, please explain

Have you submitted an application here before?  Yes  No

If yes, give date(s) and positions(s)

Have you ever been employed here before?  Yes  No

If yes, give dates From  To

Are you legally eligible for employment in this country?  Yes  No

Date available for work

What is your desired salary range or hourly rate of pay?

\$  Per

- Type of employment desired  Full-Time  Part-Time
- Educational Co-Op  Seasonal  Temporary

Will you relocate if the job requires it?  Yes  No

Will you travel if the job requires it?  Yes  No

If they have been explained to you, are you able to meet the attendance requirements of the position?  N/A  Yes  No

Will you work overtime if the job requires it?  Yes  No

If no, please explain

Driver's license number if driving may be required in position for which you are applying:

State

Have you ever been bonded?  Yes  No

Have you ever pled "guilty" or "no contest" to, or been convicted of a crime?  Yes  No

Answering "yes" to the following question does not constitute an automatic bar to employment. Factors such as date of the offense, seriousness and nature of the violation, rehabilitation and position applied for will be taken into account. You may respond "no" if you: " have been arrested, but never convicted within five (5) years prior to making this application, and have only on your record misdemeanors more than five (5) years old; " have only one (1) conviction for any of the following misdemeanors: drunkenness, simple assault, speeding, minor traffic violations, affray, or disturbance of the peace; or, " have a "sealed record" (see back of application for more information on "sealed records").

If yes, please provide date(s) and details

THE TOWN OF DRACUT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER AND DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY IN ITS HIRING PRACTICE. THOSE APPLICANTS REQUIRING REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION TO THE APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW PROCESS SHOULD NOTIFY A REPRESENTATIVE OF HUMAN RESOURCES. ADA/HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR - WILLIAM ZOUNES (978) 453-9492

## Employment History

Starting with your most recent employer, provide the following information.

Employer	Telephone #	Dates employed:	to
Street Address	City	State	
Starting job title/final job title	Immediate supervisor and title (for most recent position held)		
May we contact for reference? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Later		Why did you leave?	
Summarize the type of work performed and job responsibilities.			
What did you like the most about your position?			
What were the things you liked least about the position?			

Employer	Telephone #	Dates employed:	to
Street Address	City	State	
Starting job title/final job title	Immediate supervisor and title (for most recent position held)		
May we contact for reference? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Later		Why did you leave?	
Summarize the type of work performed and job responsibilities.			
What did you like the most about your position?			
What were the things you liked least about the position?			

Employer	Telephone #	Dates employed:	to
Street Address	City	State	
Starting job title/final job title	Immediate supervisor and title (for most recent position held)		
May we contact for reference? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Later		Why did you leave?	
Summarize the type of work performed and job responsibilities.			
What did you like the most about your position?			
What were the things you liked least about the position?			

Employer	Telephone #	Dates employed:	to
Street Address	City	State	
Starting job title/final job title	Immediate supervisor and title (for most recent position held)		
May we contact for reference? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Later		Why did you leave?	
Summarize the type of work performed and job responsibilities.			
What did you like the most about your position?			
What were the things you liked least about the position?			

**Employment History (continued)**

Explain any gaps in your employment, other than those due to personal illness, injury or disability. \_\_\_\_\_

If not addressed on previous page, have you ever been fired or asked to resign from a job? .....  Yes  No

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**Skills and Qualifications**

Summarize any special training, skills, licenses and/or certificates that may assist you in performing the position for which you are applying.

**Computer Skills** (check appropriate boxes. Include software titles and years of experience.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Word Processing _____	Years _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Internet _____	Years _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheet _____	Years _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Years _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation _____	Years _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Years _____
<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail _____	Years _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Years _____

**Educational Background**

Starting with your most recent school attended, provide the following information.

School (Name, City & State)	Years Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Diploma <input type="checkbox"/> GED <input type="checkbox"/> Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Other	GPA Class Rank	Major/Minor
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**References**

List name and telephone number of three business/work references who are *not* related to you and are *not* previous supervisors. If not applicable, list three school or personal references who are *not* related to you.

Name	Title	Relationship to You	Telephone	Number of Years Known
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Related Information**

To what job-related organizations (professional, trade, etc.) do you belong?

Exclude memberships that would reveal race, color, religion, sex, national origin, citizenship, age, mental or physical disabilities, veteran/reserve national guard or any other similarly protected status.

Organization	Offices Held

List special accomplishments, publications, awards, etc.

Exclude memberships that would reveal race, color, religion, sex, national origin, citizenship, age, mental or physical disabilities, veteran/reserve national guard or any other similarly protected status.

In your current or a prior job, have you ever written instructions or directions to be followed by employees or customers?

Yes  No  Not Applicable

If yes, please explain:

Is there any other job-related information you want us to know about you?

**Applicant Statement**

I certify that all information I have provided in order to apply for and secure work with the employer is true, complete and correct.

I expressly authorize, without reservation, the employer, its representatives, employees or agents to contact and obtain information from all references (personal and professional), employers, public agencies, licensing authorities and educational institutions and to otherwise verify the accuracy of all information provided by me in this application, resume or job interview. I hereby waive any and all rights and claims I may have regarding the employer, its agents, employees or representatives, for seeking, gathering and using truthful and non-defamatory information, in a lawful manner, in the employment process and all other persons, corporations or organizations for furnishing such information about me.

I understand that this employer does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and no question on this application is used for the purpose of limiting or eliminating any applicant from consideration for employment on a basis prohibited by applicable local, state or federal law.

I understand that this application remains current for only 30 days. At the conclusion of that time, if I have not heard from the employer and still wish to be considered for employment, it will be necessary to reapply and fill out a new application.

If I am hired, I understand that I am free to resign at any time, with or without cause and with or without prior notice, and the employer reserves the same right to terminate my employment at any time, with or without cause and with or without prior notice, except as may be required by law. This application does not constitute an agreement or contract for employment for any specified period or definite duration. I understand that no supervisor or representative of the employer is authorized to make any assurances to the contrary and that no implied oral or written agreements contrary to the foregoing express language are valid unless they are in writing and signed by the employer's president.

I also understand that if I am hired, I will be required to provide proof of identity and legal authority to work in the United States and that federal immigration laws require me to complete an I-9 Form in this regard.

It is unlawful in Massachusetts to require or administer a lie detector test as a condition of employment or continued employment. An employer who violates this law shall be subject to criminal penalties and civil liability.

Sealed Records: Disclosure of information relating to such records.

An applicant for employment with a sealed record on file with the Commissioner of Probation may answer "no record" with respect to an inquiry herein relative to prior arrests, criminal court appearances or convictions. An applicant for employment with a sealed record on file with the Commissioner of Probation may answer "no record" to an inquiry herein relative to prior arrests or criminal court appearances. In addition, any applicant for employment may answer "no record" with respect to an inquiry relative to prior arrests, court appearances, and adjudications in all cases of delinquency or as a child in need of services which did not result in a complaint transferred to the superior court for criminal prosecution.

I understand that any information provided by me that is found to be false, incomplete or misrepresented in any respect, will be sufficient cause to (i) eliminate me from further consideration for employment, or (ii) may result in my immediate discharge from the employer's service, whenever it is discovered.

**DO NOT SIGN UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THE ABOVE APPLICANT STATEMENT.**

I certify that I have read, fully understand and accept all terms of the foregoing Applicant Statement.

Signature of Applicant

Date

## **2008 DRACUT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE**

### **SECTION 504 SELF-EVALUATION**

#### **Designation of Section 504 Coordinator:**

The designated Section 504 Coordinator is Mr. William Zounes, Veteran's Agent/Human Resources Director.

#### **Grievance Procedures:**

Persons wishing 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 Dracut, should make the complaint in writing according to the grievance procedure adopted by the Town and detailed in the attached document.

#### **Public Notification Requirements:**

Employment applications and advertising contain non-discriminatory statements. (See attached application.)

#### **Participation of Individuals or Organizations Representing the Disabled Community:**

The Dracut Disability Commission currently does not have a representative from the disabled community. The Town has been actively tried to recruit a resident to fulfill this position and will continue to do so until a representative is seated.

#### **Program Accessibility:**

Almost all government, recreation, elder services and public service programs provided by the Town of Dracut are readily accessible and useable by persons with disabilities.

#### **Transition Plan:**

Since the 2002 Open Space Recreation Plan, the town has been actively studying ways to upgrade facilities to accommodate disabled persons. The town has received funding to upgrade the parking facilities at the Dillon Center and is currently studying the best alternatives to making the athletic fields at Carrich Field and the Town Hall Annex accessible.

In Addition, the Town is under a Consent Decree to make accessible those town buildings and facilities that are currently non accessible (e.g. the Town Hall Annex) and is working diligently towards this end.

**Facilities Inventory:**

All recreation facilities associated with the public schools are fully ADA Compliant. Those facilities managed by the Conservation Commission or the Recreation Department are owned by the Town and all are listed below. Most of the land managed by the Conservation Commission contain extensive wetlands and are not intended for public access.

The accessibility of private facilities is unknown.

**Employment Practices**

Dracut is an equal opportunity employer.

## 504 FACILITIES INVENTORY AND TRANSITION PLAN

The following inventory includes those facilities that are under the jurisdiction of the Conservation and/or Recreation Departments. Parcels not intended for public use or access, including most lands under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission, are not listed. In addition, all recreation programs and facilities associated with the public schools are held in buildings that have adequate access, parking and restrooms for disabled persons. Some of the facilities and programs that are on school property, and are ultimately under the control of the School Committee, are run and managed by the Town's Recreation Department and are thus listed here for clarification.

Facility: Recreation/Conservation Office  
 Location: Town Hall Annex, Springpark Ave.  
 Manager: Board of Selectmen

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	ASSESSMENT	TRANSITION PLAN
Parking	Paved Parking	No marked handicapped parking	Under court order to evaluate making structure handicapped accessible
Office	Standard office equipment	Not accessible	
Restrooms	Handicapped facility	Accessible	

Facility: Dracut High School  
 Location: Lakeview Ave.  
 Manager: School Committee

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	ASSESSMENT	TRANSITION PLAN
Parking	Paved parking lot with handicapped spaces	Accessible	
Restrooms	Handicapped facility	Accessible	
Meetings	Ramp; all rooms can be reached without using stairs	Accessible	

Facility: Veterans Memorial Park  
 Location: 80 Broadway Road  
 Manager: Recreation Department

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	ASSESSMENT	TRANSITION PLAN
Parking	Paved parking lot with handicapped spaces	Accessible	
Restrooms	Handicapped facility	Accessible	
Hiking trails	Paved trails	Accessible	

Facility: Monahan Park  
 Location: 499 Pleasant Street  
 Manager: Recreation Department

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	ASSESSMENT	TRANSITION PLAN
Parking	Paved parking lot with handicapped spaces	Accessible	
Restrooms (portable)	Handicapped facility	Accessible	
Athletic Fields	NA	Accessible	
Skateboard facility	NA	Accessible	

Facility: Carrich Field  
 Location: Mammoth Road  
 Manager: Recreation Department

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	ASSESSMENT	TRANSITION PLAN
Parking	Paved parking lot with handicapped spaces	Accessible	
Restrooms (portable)	Handicapped facility	Accessible	
Athletic Fields	NA	Not Accessible	Study underway to improve accessibility

Facility: Varnum Park  
 Location: Broadway & Arlington  
 Manager: Recreation Department

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	ASSESSMENT	TRANSITION PLAN
Parking	Paved parking lot with handicapped spaces	Accessible	
Picnic tables	NA	Accessible	

Facility: Lake Muscuppic Beach  
 Location: Willow Drive  
 Manager: Recreation Department

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	ASSESSMENT	TRANSITION PLAN
Parking	Unpaved	Not accessible	Working with the Town of Tyngsborough and the State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to make facility accessible
Beach/boat ramp	NA	Not accessible	
Restrooms (portable)	Handicapped facility	Accessible	

Facility: Hovey Playground  
 Location: Hildreth and Pleasant St.  
 Manager: Recreation Department

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	ASSESSMENT	TRANSITION PLAN
Parking	Paved parking lot with handicapped spaces	Accessible	
Restrooms	Handicapped facility	Accessible	

Facility: Dillon Center  
Location: Hildreth Street  
Manager: Recreation Department

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	ASSESSMENT	TRANSITION PLAN
Athletic Fields	NA	Not Accessible	Funding for capping the landfill is being obtained and handicapped parking is to be installed

## **AUXILLARY AIDS CONTACT LIST**

### Sign Language Interpreters

Mass. Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
150 Mt. Vernon Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-740-1600  
800-882-1155

Signers charge \$60-120/hr. Over 45 minutes, must hire two interpreters depending on meeting situation.

### Braille Translation

Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Lowell Association for the Blind  
174 Central Street  
Lowell, MA 01852  
978-454-5704

Mass. Association for the Blind  
200 Ivy Street  
Brookline, MA 02146  
617-738-5110

### Devices for hard of hearing or any other aid requested

Mass. Office on Disability  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-727-7440  
800-322-2020 (TTY)

### Information Center for individuals with disabilities

Fort Point Place  
27-43 Wormwood St.  
Boston, MA 02210  
617-727-5540  
800-462-5015

**APPENDIX H**  
**INVENTORY OF LANDS OF INTEREST FOR OPEN SPACE  
PRESERVATION**

**INVENTORY OF LANDS OF INTEREST FOR OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION**

M	B	L	ST#	STREET	OWNER	CO OWNER	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip	CODE	Use Descript	ACRES
2	24	1	290	SPRING RD	BOLIS VINCENT	JEANNE BOLIS	241 SPRING RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	1310	POTENTIAL DEV LAND	26.79
3		11	439	PELHAM RD	KOUMANTZELIS VAIA		ROUND HILL RD	LINCOLN	MA	01773	1300	DEV LAND	10.61
4	1	1.1	600	SALEM RD	CIESLIK JOHN J. (JT)	IRENE CIESLIK	624 SALEM RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7180	61A	76.00
4		12	221	SALEM RD	SNAPPAUSKAS WLADISLAW		290 SALEM ROAD	DRACUT	MA	01826	1300	DEV LAND	10.50
6		7	485	METHUEN RD	DALPHOND LEO&CHRISTINE 1/2 INT	ROBERT STONE & DONNA NASTEK	149 RIDGE RD	FAIRFIELD	ME	04937	1320	UNDEV LAND	21.00
6		6	401	MARSH HILL RD	GORMAN FRANK J.	C/O LOUIS M SAAB	175 CENTRAL STREET	LOWELL	MA	01852	1320	UNDEV LAND	15.48
6		5	371	RICHARDSON RD	MOYLAN DEBORAH		89 WHINEY RD	ASHBY	MA	01431	1300	DEV LAND	23.72
6		3	316	RICHARDSON RD	RICHARDSON CATHY (LE)		316 RICHARDSON RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7180	61A	19.97
7	13	1.4	421	METHUEN RD	BROX GEORGE NOMINEE TRUST	F.BROX,S.BROX & H.HYDER JR TRS	1471 METHUEN ST	DRACUT	MA	01826	1320	UNDEV LAND	10.67
7		14	461	METHUEN RD	BROX JANE TRUSTEE	ANTOINETTE BROX NOMINEE TRUST	1443 QUINCY RD	RUNMEY	NH	03266	7220	61A	40.00
7	1	1	1276	BROADWAY RD	BROX KALIL	C/O RAYMOND BROX	1276 BROADWAY RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7140	61A	13.00
7		26	1211	BROADWAY RD	BROX PETER (JT)	WILLIAM H. BROX & NANCY BROX	1211 BROADWAY RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	1300	DEV LAND	11.00
7		19	200	METHUEN RD	DADAK P & S SCHUESSLER TRSTS	C/O P DADAK	P.O. BOX 426	PELHAM	NH	03076	7130	61A	23.50
7		9	37	ISLAND POND RD REAR	KEREPKA FRANCIS J JR		406 METHUEN RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7220	61A	22.00
7		2	93	METHUEN RD	KEREPKA PAULINE (LE)	FRANCIS J. KEREPKA	406 METHUEN RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7120	61A	43.00
7		8	379	METHUEN RD	KEREPKA PAULINE (LE)	FRANCIS J. KEREPKA	406 METHUEN RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	19.00
7		13	6	ISLAND POND RD	KEREPKA PAULINE (LE)	FRANCIS J. KEREPKA	406 METHUEN RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	13.11
7		17	370	METHUEN RD	KEREPKA PAULINE (LE)	FRANCIS J. KEREPKA	406 METHUEN RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	11.00
7		18	260	METHUEN RD	OGONOWSKI ALBERT S		267 METHUEN RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	103.00
7		20	150	METHUEN RD	RICHARDSON DOROTHY V TRSTEE	RICHARDSON FAMILY TRUST	150 METHUEN RD	DRACUT	MA	1826			0.95
7		3	119	METHUEN RD	RICHARDSON GEORGE M. TRUSTEE	DVR NOMINEE TRUST	119 METHUEN RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7220	61A	37.00
7	20	1	120	METHUEN RD	RICHARDSON GEORGE M. TRUSTEE	D.V.R. NOMINEE TRUST	150 METHUEN RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	15.08
7		4	205	METHUEN RD	RICHARDSON GILBERT		333 METHUEN RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	16.50
7		7	333	METHUEN RD	RICHARDSON GILBERT	JANET RICHARDSON	333 METHUEN ROAD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7170	61A	35.89
7	4	1	179	METHUEN RD	RICHARDSON GILBERT		333 METHUEN RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	10.81
8	14	3	1363	BROADWAY RD	BROX JANE TRUSTEE	ANTOINETTE BROX NOMINEE TRUST	1443 QUINCY ROAD	RUMNEY	NH	03266	7120	61A	24.00
8		9	200	SALEM RD	BROX KALIL	C/O RAYMOND BROX	1276 BROADWAY RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	1300	DEV LAND	61.00
8	11	2		CEMETERY RD	BROX PETER (JT)	WILLIAM H. BROX & NANCY BROX	1558 BROADWAY RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7220	61A	17.00
8	11	1	1334	BROADWAY RD	WOODWARD GEOFFREY	WOODWARD LOIS	63 WILLIMANTIC RD	CHAPLIN	CT	06235	1320	UNDEV LAND	17.00
11		15	1555	MAMMOTH RD	GAGNON HARVEY J. (JT)	HARVEY J. GAGNON JR	1 GAGNON DR	DRACUT	MA	01826	4100	SAND & GRAVEL V	52.54
18		1	1340	HILDRETH ST	DRACUT WATER SUPPLY DIST		52 HOPKINS ST	DRACUT	MA	01826	9030	MUN V	38.38
18		20	112	CROSBY RD	GOSELIN KENNETH J. ETALS	DORRIS T. BURSEY IRREVOCABLE TR.	112 CROSBY RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	19.81
19		3	420	COLBURN AV	KEATING MATERIALS CORP		RESERVOIR RD	LUNENBURG	MA	01462	1300	DEV LAND	64.90
19		22	2016	BRIDGE ST	KEATING PJ CO		998 RESERVOIR RD	LUNENBURG	MA	01462	3900	DEVEL LAND	12.73
19		4	520	COLBURN AV	MAGUIRE ROBERT H		520 COLBURN AVENUE	DRACUT	MA	01826	7180	61A	20.00
20		48	400	PROPRIETORS RD	FOX RICHARD & WARREN		28 SURREY LANE	PELHAM	NH	03076	1320	UNDEV LAND	10.00
20	14	2	650	MARSH HILL RD	YAPP HELEN B TRSTEE	C/O JEFFREY YAPP	600 MARSH HILL ROAD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7180	61A	25.37
21		8	215	JONES AV	COREY MARK R. (TE)	ANNA M. COREY	215 JONES AVENUE	DRACUT	MA	01826	7220	61A	19.60
22		34	524	WHEELER RD	COUTURE DONALD A. (TE)	ALISON R. COUTURE	23 MONTE ROAD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7120	61A	17.28
22	3	1	666	WHEELER RD	LECZYNSKI BARBARA A. (TC)	EDWIN W. LECZYNSKI	666 WHEELER RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	48.00
22		35	470	WHEELER RD	MONTE CARL, JR.		470 WHEELER RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7120	61A	17.99
22	35	1	460	WHEELER RD	MONTE HAZEL B.	C/O MARGARET THOMPSON	1276 BRIDGE ST	DRACUT	MA	01826	1300	DEV LAND	12.00
22		53	231	WHEELER RD	MURPHY JOHN J	M ALINE MURPHY	90 WHEELER RD	DRACUT	MA	1826			50.00
22		38	615	WHEELER RD	WALOR FREDERICK M. TRUSTEE	WALOR REALTY TRUST OF 2001	615 WHEELER RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7180	61A	27.80
23		7	760	NASHUA RD	RABIAS NICHOLAS J.		24 MERRIMACK ST SUITE 411	LOWELL	MA	01852	3900	DEVEL LAND	13.25
29	14	2	52A	AVIS AV	FOX ALDEN		104 AVIS AV	DRACUT	MA	01826	1300	DEV LAND	27.70

37		19	238	FOX AV	CUTRUMBES JOHN B. (JT)	ANNE E. CUTRUMBES	238 FOX AV	DRACUT	MA	01826	7220	61A	13.00
38		3	403	PARKER RD	MULLIN HELEN C., TRUSTEE	THE HELEN C. MULLIN IRREV. TRUST	436 PARKER ROAD	DRACUT	MA	01826	1060	VACANT WITH IMPR	56.00
38		51	100	OLD PARKER RD	MULLIN HELEN C., TRUSTEE	THE HELEN C. MULLIN IRREV. TRUST	57 OLD PARKER ROAD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	10.97
38	2	1	713	BROADWAY RD	OGONOWSKI ALEXANDER	THERESA OGONOWSKI (TE)	713 BROADWAY RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7170	61A	15.00
38		2	713	BROADWAY RD	OGONOWSKI ALEXANDER F		713 BROADWAY RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	94.00
38		36	438	PARKER RD	STUART SUZANNE I (JTRS)	MARIA A. STUART	438 PARKER RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7180	61A	12.00
38		52	110	WHEELER RD	ZANNI EDWARD J. (TE)	MARIA H. ZANNI	P.O. BOX 387	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	52.00
39		4	489	WHEELER RD	TAPLIN DANA V.		489 WHEELER RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	96.00
44		111	343	DONOHUE RD	CHARBONNEAU DAVID R.	351 DONOHUE ROAD REALTY TRUST	343 DONOHUE RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7220	61A	43.00
44		106	761	MAMMOTH RD	RICHARDSON GEORGE B		165 NASHUA RD	DRACUT	MA	1826			23.60
44		42	51	NASHUA RD	RICHARDSON GEORGE B		165 NASHUA RD	DRACUT	MA	1826			6.70
44		41	165	NASHUA RD	RICHARDSON GEORGE B		165 NASHUA RD	DRACUT	MA	1826			16.10
44		100	710	MAMMOTH RD	TIGGER REALTY TRUST	C/O FOTENE DEMOULAS	P.O. BOX 1228	BOSTON	MA	02117	3171	FARM V	20.02
46	118	32	63	TREMWOOD RD	PERLACK DANIEL E. & MARY E., TRS.	PERLACK 2007 FAMILY TRUST	63 TREMWOOD RD	DRACUT	MA	01826	7220	61A	15.50
47		249	144	GREENMONT AV	RICHARDSON HAROLD TRST	H.G.R NOMINEE TRUST	1471 BRIDGE ST	DRACUT	MA	01826	1300	DEV LAND	17.31
50		9	509	HILDRETH ST	PARKER E. GATES	DOROTHY E. GATES	499 HILDRETH ST	DRACUT	MA	01826		DEV LAND	1.27
50		8	515	HILDRETH ST	PARKER E. GATES	DOROTHY E. GATES	499 HILDRETH ST	DRACUT	MA	01826		DEV LAND	0.98
51		204	274	LOON HILL RD	PAONESSA JOHN J		219 MEADOWCROFT ST	LOWELL	MA	01852	4400	IND DEV LAND	26.30
54		13	766	ARLINGTON ST	HAND PAULINE J. TRUSTEE	THE BURGESS FAMILY TRUST	162 BRIGHAM AVE.	DRACUT	MA	01826	7130	61A	86.60
54	21	2.1	1167	METHUEN ST	MARTINEAU DAMINA J. (JT)	SONIA E. MARTINEAU	7206 KING RICHARD DRIVE	UPPER MARLBORO	MD	00000	1300	DEV LAND	12.58
54	11	1	1102	METHUEN ST	PRIME GROUP THE		23 SWAN ROAD	TYNGSBORO	MA	01879	1320	UNDEV LAND	44.57
65	24	1	18	KELLEY RD	HAND PAULINE J TRUSTEE	THE BURGESS FAMILY TRUST	162 BRIGHAM AVE.	DRACUT	MA	1826			37.60
67		9	946	METHUEN ST	WASYLAK JOHN W. & IRENE E., TRS.	THE JOHN & IRENE WASYLAK FAM. TR.	946 METHUEN ST	DRACUT	MA	01826	7220	61A	20.00

**APPENDIX I**

**FRIENDS OF THE FOREST INFORMATION**

# ***Friends of the Forest***

## **About the Forest**

[Home](#)  
[About the Forest](#)  
[About Us](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[Calendar and Events](#)  
[Community News](#)  
[Trail Map](#)  
[Hunting schedule and info](#)  
[Anne Welcome Woods](#)  
[Links to Websites and Resources](#)  
[Photo Album Page](#)



**Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsboro State Forest DCR Website**  
**Massachusetts Dept of Fish and Game**

### **NATURAL FEATURES**

***The forest is large enough to enclose a natural drainage system all of its own***

***- hills and springs as a source of water, with brooks, swamps and lakes that act as holding basins. Just outside the forest to the south, this drainage area joins the larger system of the Merrimac watershed. Visitors will also find these natural features in the forest: Whortleberry Hill, Huckleberry (Gage) Hill, Claypit (Second) Brook, Scarlet Brook, Flagg Meadow Brook, Spruce Swamp and Lake Althea (Mud Pond). The forest is the habitat of mammal species, large and small that include coyote, fox -- silver and red -- rabbits, raccoons, squirrels and deer, and even the occasional moose. There are also several beaver lodges in this drainage system.***

### **HISTORIC SITES**

***The forest is a unique place to explore the history of the area and the human interaction with the landscape. The indigenous people in this area, the Pawtucket and Wamesit tribes of the Pennacook Nation called this region Augumtcooke.***

***A recent archeological dig unearthed the remains of a native person and has verified human***

*occupation of the forest dating back nearly nine thousand years, to the Early Archaic Period. In the forest you can find evidence of numerous populations that have live in or around it, from the earliest settlements just mentioned to more recent developments in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.*

### LANDMARKS

#### Whortleberry/Huckleberry Hills

*Though a modest 350 feet above sea level, Whortleberry Hill is the highest elevation area in the forest. Huckleberry (Gage) Hill, next to it, is fifty feet lower. Both hills are in Dracut Township.*

*Technically they are called 'drumlins,' formations made-up of debris deposited and left behind when the Wisconsin Glacier withdrew from this region -- about 15,000 years ago. The hills are now covered with birch, oak, and pine which dominate this third-growth forestation. The hills offer their loveliest view looking north, from below Spruce Swamp, a thousand yards away.*

#### Vernal Pools

*Vernal pools are transient pools of water, or temporary ponds. They appear late in winter and during the early spring thaw. Because they come and go in relatively little time, lasting perhaps two or three months, the inhabitants of vernal pools must complete their reproductive activity in quick order. Some organisms are adapted so they live only in temporary pond conditions. Frogs and salamanders arrive in March and April, court, mate, deposit their gelatinous eggs, and depart. In April, the waters of these vernal pools are alive with small crustaceans. For most of the year, however, these pools are nearly dry. Eggs of shrimp, cysts of flatworms, and dormant mollusks lie buried in the bottom mud. The diversity of organisms alone make these ephemeral pools worth further study and protection.*

#### Beaver Lodge

*Nearly hunted to extinction, the beaver has made a remarkable comeback in recent decades. One reason for this return is the secure shelter it makes for itself, the beaver lodge. The lodge is built in flowing water from trees and branches felled by the beaver, creating a dam that makes its own pond where the beaver can find a reliable food supply. A beaver lodge is made of one room but it is expanded as needed to accommodate larger communities. The lodge is accessible only underwater, making it secure from possible predators.*

#### Spruce Swamp

*Spruce Swamp used to be Indian Head Lake before the construction of Carney Road interrupted the natural flow. Like all wetlands, swamps abound in a variety of lifeforms. Fish, amphibians, insects, birds, and several varieties of plants thrive in this environment. The ecology of the swamp begins with the abundant nutrients that are found in areas of aquatic vegetation. Among the plants at Spruce Swamp are white water lilly, yellow dock, and pickerel weed. One plant in the Forest is the purple iris, known locally as flagg. The name has been applied to Flagg Meadow Brook which rises in the Forest and flows into the Merrimack. Among the reptile population of Spruce Swamp are varieties of turtle (Painted, Box, Snapping) and snakes (Decay, Black Race). Bird species include ducks, osprey, eagles, geese and owls. Great Blue Heron have been sighted here, as well as White Egret on occasion. Recently, a bird-watching party reported sighting 'only' 32 varieties on a single morning's outing.*

### Carney Road/Pine Stand

*Carney Road connects Totman Road with Trotting Park Road. The road was built in 1936 for fire protection service. Two years later, a hurricane caused severe damage in the forest. Consequently, this part of the forest was logged and reforested with the stands of pine that you see from Carney Road. Reforestration continued into the 1950s. Many of these trees are Pennsylvania red pine which is not native to this area. They were planted as a cash crop, to be harvested for use as telephone poles. That plan never reached fruition. Laid out at a time when the effect of roads on ecology was not understood, Carney Road was constructed bisecting Indian Head Lake which turned into a marsh-like area now known as Spruce Swamp.*

### Sites of the Greater Lowell Indian Cultural Association

*Two sites, comprising about 250 acres, have particular meaning for members of Greater Lowell Indian Cultural Association (GLICA). The Association uses these locations for events that celebrate and commemorate the local Native American community. Some of these events mark the stages in the earth's yearly cycle of production and rest. There is a New Moon Festival every twenty-eight days, making for a thirteen month calendar. There are also Maple, Strawberry, Planting, and Harvest Festivals. Every year GLICA holds a Men's Weekend and a Women's Weekend. There is a Children's Day as well, for persons of either gender, twelve years of age and under. Most of these celebrations are open to the general public.*

### Quarries

*In the area where glacial boulders were deposited, residents of the area quarried granite and gneiss originally for farm use and later, in the 1820s, as building material for Lowell's canal system and as foundation stone for the city's textile mills. There are over 70 quarry sites in the Forest including an existing ledge quarry where tourists may find tools for cutting the stone still embedded in the rock wall. In excavation quarries, the ledge had first to be exposed by digging before stone could be cut up and carted away. There were, then, three different sorts of quarry enterprise in the Forest: boulder, ledge, and excavation.*

### Sheep Rock

*One of the large glacial boulders located in the Forest is called Sheep Rock, once belonging to George Carney whose land made up much of this part of the Forest. Legend has it that during a severe blizzard, the sheep belonging to farmer William Parham, found refuge in the overhang of the Rock, on its southern side. Because the sheep knew enough to get out of the wind, the shape of the rock and the direction of the wind worked together to make a snow drift that sheltered the animals in its hollow. The sheep survived several days without food, until rescued by local residents. The rock bears the inscription,*

*Sheep Rock  
George Carney  
Born June 13, 1835 Died April 24, 1906*

### Indian Head Rock

*Another of the glacial boulders has been named "Indian Head Rock." This stone shows its distinctive profile facing North to visitors standing on the trail. A natural spring nearby was the source used by The Indian Head Water Company. This company and others in the Forest did a thriving business in Lowell because the City's water was contaminated by the operations of the textile mills.*

### Saw Mill Dams

*Along Claypit Brook -- also called Second Brook -- are the remnants of three dams built from local stone much like the stone walls you see in the Forest. The three dams created a mill pond of approximately 100 acres. This created an adequate supply of water for the sawmill operated at the site during the 1700s by Timothy Coburn of Dracut. A few artifacts from that operation were found as late as the 1970s. There were hundreds of these mill sites built*

*throughout New England during the two hundred years after European settlement -- beginning in the 1630s. The combination of vast forests which covered North America and abundant water power made lumbering a leading enterprise. In this way, as in many ways, the Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsboro State Forest is typical of the history of the region.*

*PDF File of Forest Brochure*