

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

2023



BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS

Prepared by:

Town of Blackstone

With assistance from:

PGC Associates, LLC

1 Toni Lane

Franklin, MA 02038

Acknowledgements

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March 26, 2024

Gino Carlucci
PGC Associates
1 Toni Lane
Franklin, MA 02038

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Carlucci:

Thank you for submitting the Open Space and Recreation Plan for Blackstone to this office for review and compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I'm pleased to write that the plan has received final approval and the town is eligible to apply for DCS grants through November 2029. Please contact me at melissa.cryan@mass.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cryan

Melissa Cryan
Grant Programs Supervisor

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Section 1: Plan Summary

This 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is an update of the 2002 regional OSRP done in conjunction with Bellingham and Franklin. It consists of the following major elements:

- A description of the public input used in developing the Plan;
- A demographic profile;
- A summary of recent and projected growth trends;
- An environmental description of the town;
- An inventory of existing protected open space and recreation facilities;
- An analysis of open space and recreation needs;
- A statement of goals and objectives;
- A seven-year action plan; and
- An evaluation of public recreation and conservation sites for compliance with the American with Disabilities Act.

The Community Setting section discusses the history and population growth of Blackstone. It notes that Blackstone has experienced significant growth in the 1980s and 1990s, reduced growth in the early 2000s, and slower growth since 2010.

The Environmental Inventory and Analysis section describes the geology, soils, and topography of the town and includes a description of its landscape character. Major surface waters are indicated and mapped along with wetlands, aquifers, flood plains, public wells, and wellhead protection areas. Priority habitat areas are also mapped and three species that are endangered, threatened, or of special concern are identified. This section also presents a number of environmental challenges facing the town, including protection of the town's water supply, management of stormwater, control of invasive species, and adaptation to climate change.

The Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest identifies 531 acres of protected conservation lands owned by the Town,, including parcels within open space subdivisions. It identifies 49 additional acres that are owned by the town and dedicated to water supply protection. The Commonwealth owns 298 acres including the Quisset Wildlife Manage Area which is partially located in town, plus the SNETT/Blackstone River Greenway. Another 124 acres are in use as public and private recreation. Finally, 498 acres have limited protection as Chapter 61, 61A and 61B lands.

Public input was used to develop the goals and objectives. The goals include the following:

Goal 1: Protect Natural Resources Through Acquisition of Open Space

Goal 2: Develop Additional Trails

Goal 3: Improve Open Space and Recreation Resources

Goal 4: Expand Active Recreation Resources

Goal 5: Improve Access and Awareness of Open Space and Recreation Resources

Goal 6: Develop New Facilities and Programs to Serve all Demographic Groups

Each goal includes several objectives. The Action Plan makes recommendations addressing each of the objectives. It also identifies the lead agency for each action, recommends implementation mechanisms, includes a general schedule for each item, and proposes potential funding sources for implementing the action, where applicable.

Some of the major recommended actions include establishing a Sustainability Committee. Among its functions would be to advocate for the role of open space and recreation resources in increasing resiliency to, and helping to mitigate, climate change. Other actions include developing and improving trails and connecting them where feasible, acquiring and/or protecting additional open space in targeted areas, improving recreation resources for all demographic groups, improving public knowledge about existing and planned open space and recreation facilities, and increasing universal access to open space and recreation sites.

Properties related to the key recommendations are also mapped.

Section 2: Introduction

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to help ensure that the open space and recreation resources of Blackstone are enhanced and protected as the town continues to develop and grow.

In 2018, Blackstone completed a Master Plan that contained an open space and recreation element, as well as a natural and cultural resources element. The Master Plan included the goals of Improving Open Space and Recreation Resources primarily through the following steps:

- a. Acquire additional open space
- b. Link/expand existing open space and recreation areas, including links to Bikeway
- c. Encourage use of Flexible Residential Development
- d. Improve access and visibility of open space and recreation resources (signage, website, maps, trail heads, etc.)
- e. Expand active recreation resources

Building on this overarching goal, this Open Space and Recreation Plan update seeks to extend the vision for Blackstone's future through thoughtful planning for development that protects and enhances the town's valued resources.

The updated Open Space and Recreation Plan supports Blackstone's eligibility for grants from the Division of Conservation Services of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Blackstone has taken numerous steps over the years to identify, plan for, acquire, manage, improve and protect open space within its borders. These steps are discussed below. Blackstone has undertaken this work on its own as well as in conjunction with its neighboring towns of Bellingham and Franklin.

Prior Open Space and Recreation Efforts

Blackstone's 1987 Open Space and Recreation Plan was prepared by the Open Space and Recreation Committee and benefitted from the knowledge and guidance of the Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and town residents. Additional input was received from the Historical Commission and the Blackstone Council on Aging. This document was foundational to the development of Blackstone's 1995 Open Space and Recreation Plan, which was a regional collaboration with the towns of Bellingham and Franklin. This tri-town plan was developed through the leadership of the Metacomet Land Trust with the assistance of a consultant.

The three towns updated their Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2002. Once again, the Metacomet Land Trust prepared the plan with assistance from a consultant. These were years of intense growth for the region. This is the first plan update since 2002.

Blackstone has made significant efforts to manage, acquire, plan for, or otherwise protect open space, natural resources and recreation facilities. The following list summarizes those efforts:

- Blackstone's completion of its first Open Space and Recreation Plan in February, 1987.
- Blackstone's participation as a member of a tri-town regional effort that included a single regional Open Space and Recreation Plan for the three towns in 1995 and in 2002.
- The Village Overlay District, adopted by the Annual Town Meeting 4.25.1994, Article 22; amended by the Annual Town Meeting 5.31.2005.
- The Flexible Residential Development Bylaw, adopted by the Annual Town Meeting, 4.25.1994, Article 24A; amended by the Annual Town Meeting 5.27.2008, Article 20. This Bylaw has resulted in the significant acquisition of open space since 2008.
- Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance Bylaw, adopted by the Annual Town Meeting, 5.31.2011, Article 22.
- Earth Removal Bylaw, adopted by Annual Town Meeting, 5.27.1997, Article 9.
- Master Plan completed in 2018.
- Housing Production Plan completed in 2019.

Planning Process and Public Participation

Public Input

The first step in preparing an update to Blackstone's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) was to conduct a survey of residents. A draft questionnaire was prepared by PGC Associates and reviewed by the Park and Recreation Committee and others. The final questionnaire consisted of thirteen substantive questions (some with multiple parts) plus three optional questions pertaining to demographic information about the responder.

The survey was available from February 20 through March 20, 2020 through a link on the home page of the Town website. It was also promoted by the Park and Recreation Committee and Metacomet Land Trust on social media. Paper copies of the survey were available at Town Hall, and notices about the survey were available at the Library, Town Clerk's Office, and Town Administrator's Office. *The Valley Breeze* newspaper published a press release about it in both in its print and online editions and featured a direct link to the online survey. A total of 328 responses were received.

The survey results were compiled into a report (see Appendix). A public forum had been planned to present the survey results, as well as the draft goals to the public. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the public forum was deferred while work continued on other sections of the plan. The survey results were presented to the Board of Selectmen through the Town Administrator. The results were also presented to the Park and Recreation Commission and the Planning Board.

A remote public hearing to present the survey results, draft goals and objectives, and the draft Community Setting and Environmental Inventory and Analysis sections was held on April 26, 2021. The input from the survey, public forum and meetings with the Park and Recreation Commission, Board of Selectmen, and Planning Board was used to produce a draft Open Space and Recreation Plan. The draft plan was posted on the Town website and distributed to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, and Board of Selectmen.

A second public forum was held on January 24, 2022 to present the draft plan and to receive input from the general public. The forum was promoted with a legal notice in *The Woonsocket Call* on January 10th and 17th, 2022, as well as via a press release and social media.

Enhanced Outreach for Environmental Justice Neighborhoods

The Environmental Justice neighborhood in Blackstone is Block Group 3 of Census Tract 7471.01. Its 2020 population was 1166 in 376 households. It makes up the majority of what is the Millerville section of Town, which is not directly connected to the rest of town by road since it is separated from it by Harris Pond. Its primary recreation facility is Turbesi Park, which is just outside Block Group 3.

In order to encourage participation by the residents of Millerville, the Park and Recreation Committee identified Turbesi Park as its top priority for renovation at the start of the Open Space and Recreation process. It was the only park that was specifically identified as a priority and included as such in the goals and objectives. It was also the only park for which there was a specific question in the survey about improvements. The effort was successful since the share of survey respondents who identified their neighborhood as Millerville was 9.36% of the total, which is just under Block Group 3's 12.7% share of the total 2020 population of Blackstone. Furthermore, 32.96% of respondents selected "Other" on this question so Millerville respondents represent 13.97% of those selecting a specific neighborhood.

In addition to singling out Turbesi Park in the goals and objectives and in the survey, the Park and Recreation Committee has continued to seek input and support from the Millerville community in its efforts to design and renovate Turbesi Park. It placed an article in a local newspaper that is delivered to all households, along with postings in social media that resulted in 16% of the EJ population attending the 2023 Annual Town Meeting that approved funding for the park renovation.

After that, a community forum was held on September 27, 2023 that focused on the design of Turbesi and Roosevelt Parks. About 30 persons, including children, actively participated in the forum. Among the suggestions made were the need for separate areas for bigger and smaller kids, a splash pad, fencing and bushes for sound mitigation, a zip line, monkey bars, seesaw, twisty tube slide, water bottle filling station, swings for the disabled, and a rubber surface.

Shortly after the community forum, the Park and Recreation Committee used the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Turbesi Park to hold a rededication ceremony on October 28, 2023. Blackstone's State Representative Michael Soler attended along with many neighborhood residents, and the preliminary design concepts were shared and discussed again.

Many of the suggestions from the community forum held in September, including a twisty tube slide, basket and ADA compliant swings, monkey bars, seesaw, rubber surface, fencing, and other features

were incorporated into a plan and presented to residents at a workshop held on March 13, 2024. The additional feedback received is being reviewed while working toward a final plan.

Board and Commission Review and Approvals

The draft was presented to the Planning Board on January 6, 2022, and it voted to support the plan on that date. It was also presented to the Park and Recreation Committee on January 10, 2022 and the Committee voted to support the plan following the public forum on January 24, 2022. The Plan was presented to the Board of Selectmen on January 11, 2022. The Board opted to take additional time to review the plan and to ask Town Counsel to review it. The plan was presented to the Conservation Commission on January 31, 2022. The Commission opted to defer a vote of support until after the Board of Selectmen vote. The plan was discussed again by the Board of Selectmen at its meeting of August 9, 2022 and the Board voted to support it at its meeting on August 16.

The draft plan was also sent to the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) for review and comment. Comments from each of boards and commissions and CMRPC were addressed and the OSRP was submitted to the Division of Conservation Services.

Section 3: Community Setting

Regional Context

Blackstone, MA is located in the southern region of the state that abuts Rhode Island, specifically, it borders the town of North Smithfield and city of Woonsocket. In Massachusetts, Blackstone borders the towns of Mendon, Millville, and Bellingham. Importantly, Blackstone is located within the Blackstone River Watershed. The Blackstone River helped to shape the economic development of the town through water-powered mills.

Additional surface waters include: Harris Pond, Lake Hiawatha, Crane's Pond, Mill River, Fox Brook, Aldrich Brook, Hop Brook, and Quick Stream. Aquifers also influenced Blackstone's development, as they are the source of drinking water for Blackstone's residents. There are two types of aquifers: bedrock and sand and gravel. The waters from Blackstone's aquifers fill its municipal wells.

Blackstone is approximately 50 miles from Boston, 42 miles from Worcester and 20 miles from Providence, Rhode Island. It is a member of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and the Southeast Sub-Region, along with Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton and Uxbridge.

Blackstone has one state highway, Route 122; however, there are connections from Elm Street to Route 126 in the adjacent town of Bellingham. East Blackstone is about seven miles from I-495 Exit 17 in Franklin. Finally, Route 146 in North Smithfield is about three miles from Route 122 at St. Paul Street and the governmental center of Town. Map 1 illustrates the regional context of Blackstone.

Blackstone is home to a segment of the John H. Chaffee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor that runs from Worcester, MA to Providence, RI. The Blackstone segment includes access to the Blackstone River Greenway.

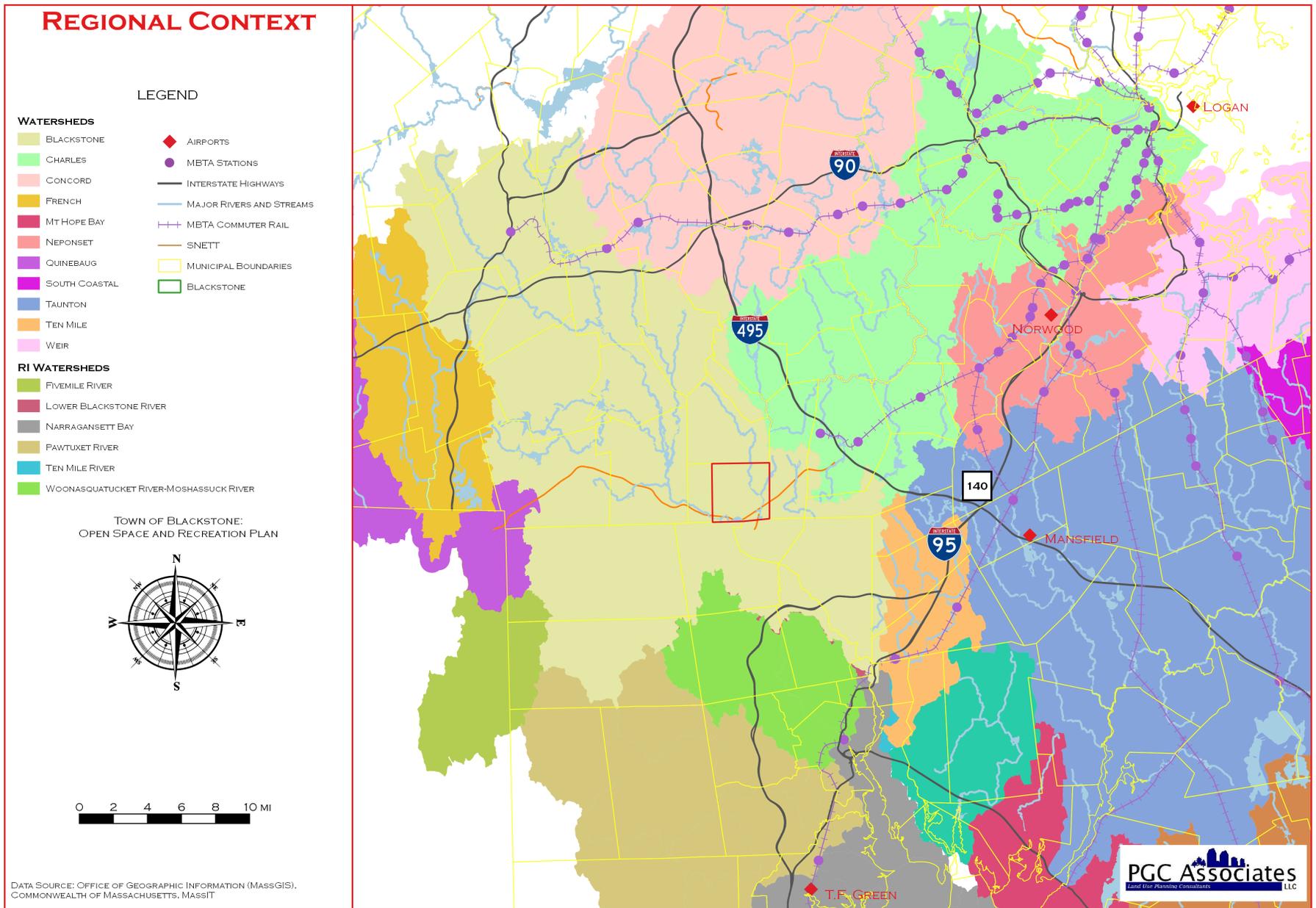
The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2017 is a five-year plan developed by the Commonwealth to ensure eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservations Fund (LWCF) grants. Blackstone is in the Central region.

Among its abutting towns, several of Blackstone's neighbors have OSRPs:

- Millville – 2018
- Mendon – 2013 – 2020 (expired)
- Bellingham – 2018
- Woonsocket RI – OSR Element of Comprehensive Plan – April 2012
- North Smithfield -- OSR Element of Comprehensive Plan – June, 2018

Blackstone, MA offers a variety of housing options, myriad open space and recreation opportunities, a strong historical background evident in its built environment, a grouping of core town services on St. Paul Street, and a good school district.

Map 1 – Regional Context



History

Blackstone, first known as Squinshepaug, was originally part of the town of Mendon. On March 25, 1845, Blackstone was incorporated as a separate town. Blackstone's economic development efforts were related to farming and other agrarian endeavors. The Quakers, in search of religious freedom, settled in Blackstone. The East Blackstone Friend's Meeting House and its cemetery are still active. The Meetinghouse holds an annual Christmas service each December. The historic meetinghouse is a single story wood frame structure. Built in 1812, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The water power generated by the Blackstone River and other streams and rivers made possible Blackstone's natural transition from a farming community to a manufacturing community. Mills, important to economic development, began to appear in the early 1800's. They contributed to the emerging textile industry. In 1808, The Blackstone Manufacturing Co. was founded and proceeded to lead Blackstone's development endeavors. In addition to development directly associated with manufacturing, the Company influenced the development of Blackstone, as a residential community, through the construction of worker housing, a school, a church, and other services needed by people living in town. The Blackstone Manufacturing Company is now part of a historic district by the same name.

Today, Blackstone is home for many commuters to Boston, Worcester and Providence, RI. Included among the housing units are 56 units for the elderly at Fox Brook Manor, as well as 48 housing units for the elderly and handicapped at the Joseph D. Early Village on Blackstone Street. Both developments are directed by the Blackstone Housing Authority. New houses continue to be built in Blackstone at a fairly stable rate. Between 2015 and 2019, an average of twenty-two houses were constructed annually. These ranged from a low of nineteen to a high of twenty-five. The 2019 annual report identified twenty permits issued for new single-family homes.

Route 122 remains a viable mixed-use commercial district. There is little industry remaining in Blackstone. Its largest Industrial zoning district in the western part of Town is essentially undeveloped. In recent years, four large-scale commercial solar facilities have been approved.

Population Characteristics

Population Changes

As shown in Table 1, Blackstone experienced a significant increase in population, just over twenty-two (22) percent, between 1980 and 1990. Growth slowed to an increase of just under ten (10) percent between 1990 and 2000. The decline in growth rate continued into the new century slowing to 2.4 percent from 2000 to 2010. Blackstone continued a pace of 2.2 percent growth during the next decade, which was reflected in a total estimated population of 9,208 in 2020.

Table 1
Blackstone Population Growth

Year	Population	Absolute Change	Percentage Change
1980	6,570	NA	NA
1990	8,203	1,633	22.1%
2000	8,804	601	9.7%
2010	9,011	207	2.4%
2020	9,208	197	2.2%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020) Decennial Census,

In the region consisting of Blackstone and its five abutting towns and city, two are located in Rhode Island and four, including Blackstone, are located in Massachusetts. Blackstone, Mendon and Millville, all in Massachusetts, are the three smallest towns with populations under 10,000. Between 2000 and 2020, Blackstone experienced a 4.6 percent increase in population or an increase of 404 residents. Mendon and Millville experienced increases more than triple Blackstone's rate: Mendon – 17.8 percent and Millville – 16.5 percent.

Table 2
Regional Population Growth, 2000 to 2019

Town	Year			Change	
	2000	2010	2020	Number	Percent
Bellingham	15,314	16,332	16,945	1,631	10.65%
Blackstone	8,804	9,011	9,208	404	4.58%
Mendon	5,286	5,839	6,228	942	17.82%
Millville	2,724	3,190	3,174	450	16.51%
N. Smithfield	10,618	11,967	12,588	1,970	18.55%
Woonsocket	43,224	41,186	43,240	16	0.03%
Total	85,970	87,525	91,383	5,413	6.30%
Massachusetts	6,349,097	6,547,790	7,029,917	680,820	10.72%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2000, 2010, 2020). Decennial Census

The largest community in Blackstone’s region is the city of Woonsocket. In 2000 it had a population of 43,224. However, it experienced a loss of 4.7% or 2,038 residents between 2000 and 2010 before rebounding to a slightly higher population in 2020. Excluding Woonsocket and North Smithfield, the Massachusetts towns had a growth rate between 2000 and 2020 of 10.67%, virtually equal to the state as a whole which grew by 10.72%. Blackstone had the lowest population increase; it grew by 4.58%. All of the abutting Massachusetts towns grew by double digits during that period. North Smithfield had the largest growth of 1970 persons, or 18.55%.

Population Density

Table 3
Population Density

Year	Blackstone	Massachusetts
1980	585	732
1990	714	767
2000	784	814
2010	815	839
2020	839	901

Population density is measured in terms of the number of persons per square mile. Blackstone encompasses approximately 10.97 square miles. In 1980 Blackstone had a population density of 585 persons per square mile. By 2020 the density increased by 254 persons to 839 persons per square mile.

Source: Calculated by authors

The state of Massachusetts, by way of comparison, covers 7800.6 square miles. In 1980 it had a population density of 732 persons per square mile. Like Blackstone, the density in Massachusetts increased between 1980 and 2020. However, it increased by 169 persons per square mile, which is significantly less than the increase experienced by Blackstone.

Population and Age

Age distribution in a community as small as Blackstone or as large as Massachusetts tells a story about who lives there at an identified point in time. When studied over years, the story broadens to include multiple changes over time. Table 4 considers age distribution in Blackstone in 2000, 2010 and 2019. In 2000 the two largest age cohorts were 5 – 19 years and 35 – 49 years. Additionally, the median age was 35.4 years.

In 2000, Blackstone’s median age of 35.4 was younger than the median age of 36.5 years for the state. However, that changed in 2010 and the gap continued to grow by 2019. In 2010 the median age in Blackstone exceeded the median age for the state: 39.6 years versus 38.7 years. By 2019 the median age in Blackstone was estimated to be 41.7 years, while Massachusetts was estimated to be slightly younger at 39.5 years (Note: As of this writing, the 2020 Census had not released age breakdowns).

**Table 4
Blackstone Age Distribution**

Range	2000		2010		2019	
	Blackstone	MA	Blackstone	MA	Blackstone	MA
	8,804	6,349,097	9,003	6,547,629	9,263	6,892,503
Under 5	6.3%	6.3%	4.6%	5.7%	4.4%	5.2%
5-19	23.6%	20.1%	23.6%	19.5%	19.1%	17.4%
20-34	19.1%	21.0%	15.3%	19.9%	17.5%	21.4%
35-49	27.0%	39.1%	28.6%	22.2%	19.6%	18.6%
50-64	13.6%		18.2%	19.1%	25.0%	20.4%
65+	10.1%	13.5%	10.0%	13.5%	14.5%	17.0%
Total						
Median Age	35.4 yrs.	36.5 yrs.	39.6 yrs.	38.7 yrs.	41.7 yrs.	39.7 yrs.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010) Decennial Census
U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates

The two largest cohorts remained the same, 5 – 19 years and 35 – 49 years; however, there were some changes. In 2000, the under 5 years cohort represented 6.3 percent of the population. That percentage declined to 4.6 percent in 2010 and to 4.4 percent in 2019. Another cohort, 20 – 34 years also experienced a decline, shrinking from 19.1 percent to 15.3 percent in 2010; however, it is estimated to be 17.5 percent in 2019. The cohort with the greatest increase over time was 50 – 64 years. This cohort increased from 13.6 percent in 2000 to 18.2 percent in 2010 and to an estimated to 25.0 percent in 2019.

The older years cohorts were expanding, reflecting the increase in Blackstone’s median age. The 50 – 64 and the 65+ years cohorts combined grew from 23.7 percent in 2000 to 28.2 percent in 2010, and to an estimated 39.5 percent in 2019. Over one third of Blackstone’s residents were included in these two cohorts.

It is important to acknowledge that as a population changes its needs also change. The way an individual uses open space and recreation areas differs from school age children to senior citizens.

Income

According to 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the median household income in Blackstone, in 2019 dollars, was estimated to be \$95,375. This exceeds the statewide median of \$62,843. It also places Blackstone in third position for median income among the six municipal members of the region. Mendon at \$125,945 and Bellingham at \$101,497 are ahead of Blackstone. In 2000 and 2010 Blackstone was in fifth position with only Woonsocket, RI having a smaller median household income. The 2019 estimates indicate a financial increase for the town.

Approximately 2.4 percent of Blackstone families are estimated to have lived in poverty in 2019. This is about half of the estimate of 4.8 percent for Massachusetts families living in poverty during the same time period.

Table 5
Median Household Income, Blackstone Region

Municipality	2000	2010	2019
Bellingham	\$64,496	\$78,200	\$101,497
Blackstone	\$55,163	\$71,875	\$95,375
Mendon	\$71,164	\$102,625	\$125,945
Millville	\$57,000	\$77,250	\$79,129
N. Smithfield, RI	\$58,602	\$75,838	\$78,617
Woonsocket, RI	\$30,819	\$38,625	\$42,595
Massachusetts	\$61,664	\$64,509	\$62,843

Source: US Census 2000, 2010; U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates

Race and Ethnicity

Using race and ethnicity counts for Blackstone for 2020, as seen in Table 6, approximately 89.6 percent are White alone, 1.0 percent are Black or African American alone, 4.0 percent are Hispanic alone, and 1.08 percent are Asian alone. Additionally, 0.6 percent are Some Other Race alone and 3.7 percent are Two or More Races. With the exception of Woonsocket at 64.4% White alone, all of the towns in the region are at least 85% White alone.

Environmental Justice

Blackstone's has one Block Group in its southeast corner along the Rhode Island border with an environmental justice population. The median household income in the Block Group is \$54,643, 64.8% of the Massachusetts median household income. The minority population of the Block Group is 9.6%, and 4.8% of households have a language isolation issue. In 2020 this block group had a population of 1,166 in 376 households.

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. No sub-populations or areas have been identified as receiving unfair treatment. Many open space and recreation resources fall within or nearby Blackstone's environmental justice neighborhoods. These include Roosevelt Park, Turbesi Park, the Southern New England Trunkline Trail, and Harris Pond. Menard Field and other fields and playgrounds are a short distance outside the area in Woonsocket Rhode Island..

The environmental justice area is one of the most densely populated sections of Blackstone and it directly abuts the City of Woonsocket which also has an environmental justice population on its side

of the city-town border. The Blackstone River flows from Blackstone into Woonsocket. Furthermore, Harris Pond in Blackstone serves as a source of drinking water for Woonsocket. Therefore, it is important that Blackstone protect the water quality of both Harris Pond and the Blackstone River.

Table 6
Race and Ethnicity, Blackstone and Region, 2020

Town	Population	White alone	Black or African American alone	Hispanic	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander alone	Some other race Alone	Two or more races
Bellingham	16,945	85.40%	1.75%	4.44%	2.97%	0.12%	1.06%	4.25%
Blackstone	9,208	89.57%	0.99%	4.03%	1.08%	0.09%	0.59%	3.66%
Mendon	6,228	90.62%	0.63%	2.91%	1.69%	0.08%	0.64%	3.44%
Millville	3,174	91.84%	0.82%	2.71%	0.82%	0.00%	0.50%	3.31%
N. Smithfield	12,588	91.27%	1.20%	NA	1.33%	0.03%	1.70%	4.40%
Woonsocket	43,240	64.41%	7.86%	NA	5.79%	0.06%	9.64%	11.63%
Massachusetts	7,029,917	67.6%	6.5%	12.6%	7.2%	0.1%	1.3%	4.7%

Source: U.S. Census (2019), 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Employment

According to the 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates, 77.7% of Blackstone’s residents, aged 16 years+ are in the civilian labor force. During the nine years between 2010 and 2019, Blackstone’s unemployment rate declined from 9.6 percent to 5.7 percent. The town was similar to the state in that Massachusetts had an unemployment rate of 8.3 percent in 2010, which was reduced to 2.9 percent in 2019.

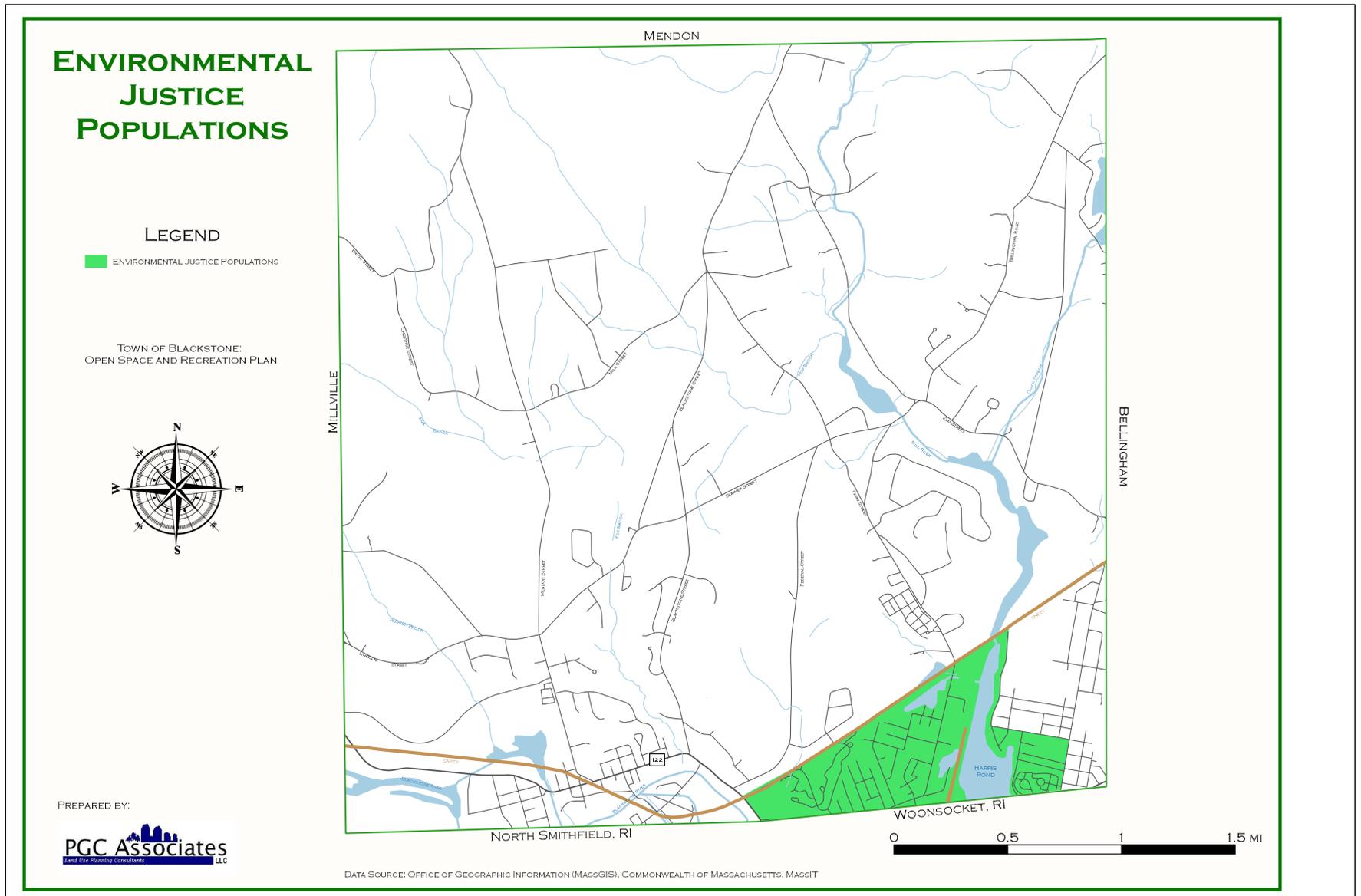
Table 7
Employment by Blackstone Residents, 2010 – 2020

Employment 2010 to 2020					
Year	Labor Force – Annual	Employed	Unemployed	Area Rate	MA Rate
2010#	5,170	4,675	495	9.6	8.3
2015#	5,165	4,902	263	5.1	4.8
2020*	5,260	4,983	277	5.3	6.2

Source: Labor force and Unemployment Data, Commonwealth of MA, 2010, 2015, 2021

#Annual Rate *Monthly rate for November 2020

Map 2 - Environmental Justice Population



The Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development indicates that the largest economic sector in Blackstone in 2019 is elementary and secondary schools. There are three schools in the top ten positions of largest employers. Also in the top ten are the Town Municipal offices. The schools and municipal offices indicate a range in the number of employees between 50 and 99. Additionally, included in the top ten largest employers is Kalaoun Hatem (50 – 99), Park ‘n Shop¹ (50 – 99), and Tellstone Garage, Inc. (50 – 99).

The next group of employers within the top ten include The Blackstone Police Department (20 – 49), the Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club (20 – 49) and the Blackstone Valley Dental Associates (20 – 49).

Table 8
Blackstone Employment by Sector, 2010 – 2019

	2010			2019		
	Establishments	Av. Monthly Employees	Av. Weekly Wages	Establishments	Av. Monthly Employees	Av. Weekly Wages
Total, All Industries	148	1074	\$675	198	1,334	\$823
23 – Construction	37	85	\$693	45	169	\$857
31-33- Manufacturing	3	4	\$671	NA	NA	NA
42-Wholesale Trade	5	22	\$1,039	NA	NA	NA
44-45 Retail Trade	17	141	\$402	22	144	\$565
48-49- Transportation and Warehousing	8	104	\$590	6	254	\$574
54-Professional & Technical Services	10	9	\$1,201	9	16	\$1,355
56-Administrative & Waste Services	6	22	\$549	10	43	\$753
62-Health Care & Social Assistance	8	85	\$702	39	74	\$608
72-Accommodation & Food Services	14	122	\$223	13	130	\$346
81-Other Services, Except Public Administration	22	63	\$334	14	57	\$505

Sources: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Labor Market Information, 2010 and 2019.

¹ Now closed

Housing

Table 9 is based on the 2019 American Community Survey. Blackstone had an estimated 3,757 housing units, of which 3,526 were occupied. Single family housing was the predominant housing type with 2,372 units. There were another 445 units of single family attached housing (for example, townhouses). Additionally, there 931 units in structures including two or more units..

Table 9
Housing Units, Blackstone and Region, 2019

Town	Single Family	1-unit attached	2-unit	3 or 4 units	5 to 9 units	10 to 19 units	20 or more units	Mobile Homes	Total Units
Bellingham	5,245	489	297	207	297	74	331	0	6,940
Blackstone	2,372	445	308	383	116	94	30	9	3,757
Mendon	2,024	83	19	11	0	0	0	12	2,149
Millville	873	97	193	78	32	36	0	6	1,278
N. Smithfield	3,690	210	335	141	106	80	535	0	5,097
Woonsocket	4,627	446	3,019	4,547	2,932	1,169	1,894	63	18,697
Massachusetts	1,509,059	154,822	285,563	309,832	167,945	124,931	320,697	23,523	2,897,259

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019), 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns and Trends

The Blackstone River, as well as suburban development trends driven by the automobile, have influenced development in the town of Blackstone. As noted in the history section, the Blackstone River provided initial transportation and later, served as a power source for mill-related industries. The Blackstone River expanded its presence through the Blackstone Canal, as well as was additional transportation options made possible through the emerging railroad.

The post-World War II era saw the rise of the automobile, the development of the interstate highway system and the increased use of the automobile as the primary transportation vehicle. In Blackstone, the forested and agricultural lands north of the Town Center transitioned into residential subdivisions

In terms of land area, the Town of Blackstone is a smaller municipality, encompassing 10.97 square miles, located on the southern border of the state, in Worcester County. It has one state highway: Route 122. However, it is a short distance, via Elm Street, from Route 126 in Bellingham, MA and about just under three miles from Route 146 in North Smithfield, RI. Using these roadways, Blackstone residents commute to employment options in neighboring communities. Importantly, Interstate 495 is about seven miles from East Blackstone and can be accessed at two stops in Franklin, MA.

Blackstone has five zoning districts: three residential, one commercial and one industrial. The residential districts are Residential 1, Residential 2, and Residential 3. The primary difference among them is size.

- R1 – minimum area 35,000 square feet
- R2 – minimum area 65,000 square feet
- R3 – minimum area 120,000 square feet

The residential districts generally run across Blackstone from east to west. They also appear to be stacked. The R1 district is located along the southern border, adjacent to Rhode Island, and R3 covers the northern and north east border, with R2 in between. There is a very small section of Blackstone in the south east corner of town that is zoned R3. As the districts move from south to north they become less dense with the requirements for greater lot sizes. The southern part of town along the Blackstone River has a strong urban character while the town becomes more suburban and rural as toward the north.

All three residential districts accommodate single and two-family housing. They do not include multi-family housing; that is accommodated in the Multi-Family Overlay and Village Overlay districts as well as in Commercial districts by special permit. Additionally all three residential districts allow accessory apartments with special permit approval from the Planning Board.

The Commercial districts are in the southern part of town, interspersed among R1 zoning. There are three areas zoned Commercial highlighted on the zoning map. These districts benefit from their proximity to the government center, proximity to Route 122 and the close location to the city of Woonsocket and town of Bellingham, both communities that are larger than Blackstone.

There are five areas zoned Industrial in Blackstone. One is located in the northeast, straddling the Mill River. The largest Industrial district is in the south west. It abuts Millville to the west and is north of Route 122 and south of Lincoln Street. It is largely undeveloped, but holds the greatest potential for future economic development. There are three, small Industrial districts along the southern border with North Smithfield and Woonsocket. Some uses in the Industrial district are allowed by right. Others, however, require special permits from the Board of Appeals or the Planning Board.

Also influencing development in Blackstone are three overlay districts. Generally overlay districts can impose greater restrictions or they can provide for increased flexibility. The type of overlay district reflects the type of development intended.

- Multifamily Overlay District – this overlay district provides a location for multifamily housing, which isn't allowed by right in the residential districts. This overlay district is located on the southern border of the town and overlays Commercial and Residential 1 areas. This district was adopted in 1984 and amended three times, most recently in 1986.
- Groundwater Protection District – This overlay district covers about 50% of the town. It begins at the northernmost border of town and covers a significant portion of R2 and R3 zoning districts and dips into the middle of the R1 district. This overlay district helps to protect the

environment, especially the critical and essential public and private water supplies. This district was adopted in 1988 and amended in 1991.

- Village Overlay District – This overlay district helps to stimulate new investment through the inclusion of pedestrian-scale convenience and amenity. This tool helps to meet housing needs of Blackstone residents and also protects and enhances the village heritage. This district was added in 1994 and amended in 2013.

Blackstone’s zoning map (Map 3) illustrates five zoning districts, three overlay districts, four historic districts, and five historic sites. All of these guide and inform development within the town. The five zoning districts include: Commercial, Industrial, Residential 1, Residential 2, and Residential 3. Residential 1 lots are the smallest at 35,000 square feet and a minimum lot frontage of 150 linear feet. The minimum requirements increase with Residential 2, which requires almost twice as much area at 65,000 square feet and 185 linear feet of frontage. Finally, Residential 3 has a minimum lot area of 120,000 square feet and frontage of 275 linear feet. This variation in residential lot sizes from less than one acre to just under three acres, along with the Village Overlay and Multifamily Overlay districts contributes to the variety of housing in town.

The zoning map also indicates four historic districts: Blackstone Canal, Blackstone Manufacturing Company, East Blackstone and Farnum’s Gate. These districts are part of Blackstone’s cultural resources and contribute to the historical fabric of the town.

Zoning changes as ideas emerge and existing practices change. Over the course of the past ten years, several zoning changes have been implemented which influence the appearance and functionality of land in Blackstone. Some of these changes include:

Wind Energy Facilities – In 2011, the town adopted a bylaw that allows wind turbines by special permit from the Planning Board. There are no wind energy facilities in town.

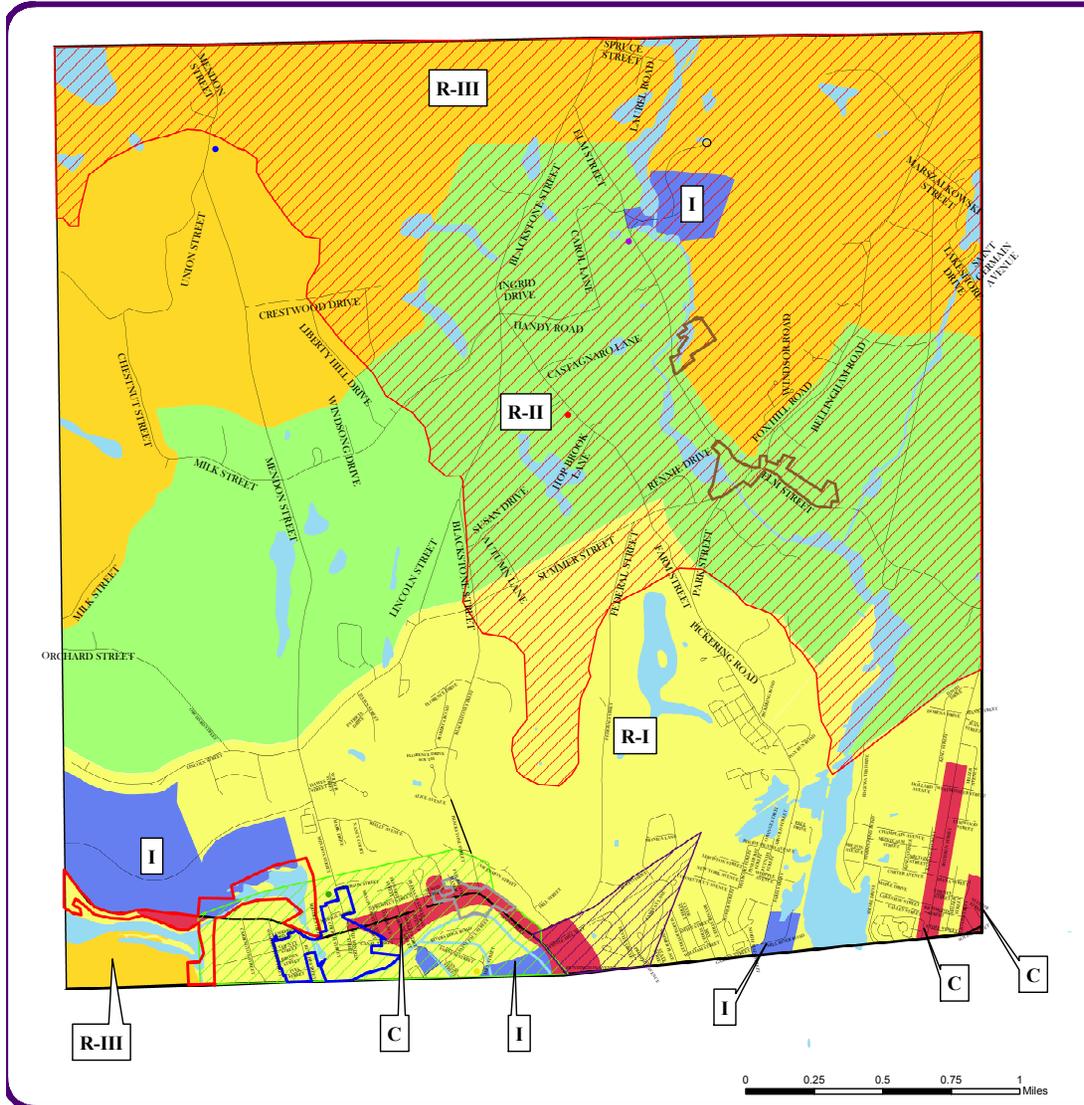
Commercial ground-mounted solar photovoltaic facilities – In 2012, the town adopted a bylaw that makes these facilities allowed by special permit from the Planning Board. In 2019, the Planning Board approved four (4) solar photovoltaic commercial facilities. [Added 5-29-2012 ATM, Art. 19]. In 2019, Town Meeting approved a zoning change limiting large-scale solar facilities to the Industrial districts.

The Village Overlay District (VOD) – Originally added in 1994 and amended in 2013, this overlay district encourages mixed uses in the Commercial portion of the district by allowing mixed uses to comply with the dimensional requirements of the VOD rather than the Commercial district.

Flexible Residential Development – Adopted by the town in 1994 and amended in 2008, this bylaw allows for greater flexibility and creativity in residential development. The amendment specifically clarified that the open space that results from said development is not built upon but remains open. Since its amendment in 2008, important open space parcels been added. Some of these parcels include:

- Over 55 acres associated with The Meadows at Harris Pond,
- Just under 13 acres associated with Rolling Brook Estates, and
- Slightly more than 17 acres associated with Sycamore Estates.

Map 3 - Zoning



Town of Blackstone Zoning Map

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Zoning Districts | Overlay Districts | Historic Districts | Historic Sites |
| Commercial (C) | Groundwater Protection | Blackstone Canal | Benjamin Thayer House |
| Industrial (I) | Multifamily | Blackstone Manufacturing Company | Christ Community Church |
| Residential I (R-I) | Village | East Blackstone | Daniels Farmstead |
| Residential II (R-II) | | Farmans Gate | Quaker Meeting House |
| Residential III (R-III) | | | Viaduct |

	Residential I	Residential II	Residential III	Industrial	Commercial
Minimum Lot Area (sq. ft)	35,000	65,000	120,000	30,000	15,000
Minimum Lot Frontage (ft.)	150	185	275	140	100
Minimum Front Yard (ft.)	25	30	30	30	25
Minimum Side or Rear Yard (ft.)	15	20	30	20	15
Maximum Lot Coverage (%)	30	25	25	40	40
Maximum Building Height (ft.)	35	35	35	45	45

Articles

Adopted:
June 26, 1968 (Article 10)

Revised:
June 26, 1969 (Articles 1, 2)
September 25, 1975 (Article 11)
May 2, 1977 (Article 19)
December 10, 1979 (Article 9)
September 20, 1982 (Article 6)
September 24, 1984 (Article 2)
April 25, 1994 (Articles 22, 24)
May 29, 2002 (Article 17)

Revisions

December 1967
January 1969
January 1978
July 1980
November 1982
February 1983
October 1985



Commercial Districts

Blackstone's Commercial districts are along its southern border. The largest of the three commercial districts straddles Main Street and is near the Blackstone River Greenway and the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT).

Saint Paul Street intersects Main Street. While most of the street is located outside of the Commercial District, it offers important municipal services. These services include the Town government offices, the Police and Fire headquarters, and the Senior Center. Together with the businesses and services along Main Street, this area is robust and vibrant.

The other two commercial districts are toward the south east corner, near the Blackstone and Bellingham town line. These two districts feature Lloyd Street and Rathbun Street.

Infrastructure

Blackstone's 2019 Annual Town Report describes the Department of Public Works (DPW) as consisting of the Highway Division, the Water Division, and the Sewer Division. It is responsible for the general upkeep and maintenance of most of the Town's infrastructure.

In 2019 the *Highway Division* "repaved portions of Mendon Street, Shore Drive and Rathbun Street." It helps with repairs to culverts and bridges. Additionally, groundwork such as cutting brush, is another responsibility. The division also contributes to the quality of life in Blackstone through assistance with the Memorial Day Parade, cleaning of the parks for the fishing tournament, and ongoing grounds work, including weeding and mulching, throughout the town.

The *Water Division* of the DPW maintains and operates six pumping stations that pump water from eight wells. Importantly, the Division is responsible for over forty miles of water main that constitute the drinking water for almost the entire town. This also includes water used in fire protection. These are important tasks as the health and safety of town residents and those who work in town and are dependent on a safe, secure and reliable water supply.

The *Sewer Division* is the third area of responsibility for the DPW. It maintains and operates fifteen wastewater pump stations that are located throughout Blackstone. Like the water pump stations, these wastewater pumping stations contribute to the quality of life of people who live and/or work in Blackstone.

The *Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center* is located on Chestnut Street. It is open to the public two days a week: Thursday and Saturday from 8:00 am to 12 noon. The Recycling Center is supported by a Recycling Center Coordinator, Attendant, and Laborer. There is also curbside trash and recycling pick up.

Transportation Systems

There are approximately 75 miles of roadway in Blackstone. These roads provide connections to adjacent towns as well as facilitate movement among residents and businesses within the Town's area of just under 11 square miles.

There is only one state highway in Blackstone and that is Route 122. As noted earlier, there is access to Route 146 in Bellingham and Interstate 495 in Franklin.

Air transportation is provided at Green International Airport in Warwick, Rhode Island. This is the closest airport to Blackstone at a distance of 26 miles. Located farther from Blackstone, Logan International Airport offers more expansive airline services. Worcester Regional Airport is about 30 miles to the north.

The Blackstone Senior Center/Council on Aging provides important but limited transportation services. Residents 60 years of age and older may use van transit services on weekdays between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. This service will most likely experience an increase in demand as the 50+ years of age cohort is growing.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Trends

A transportation opportunity that blends recreation with mobility is the Blackstone River Greenway. This is a paved pathway used for walking, running, jogging, biking, strolling, rollerblading and more. The Greenway crosses the center of Town and thus, could be used to increase access to the available commercial services. It also provides a connection to Millville and Uxbridge and will eventually connect to Worcester and Providence. T

he Blackstone River Greenway offers both transportation and recreation through its paved, multiuse path. It is used for biking, walking, jogging, running and walking, and running or jogging with a stroller. An extension south to connect with the Rhode Island section of the Greenway is underway. The \$11.3 million project includes rehabilitation of 2 railroad bridges and expected to take 3 years to complete.

Furthermore, the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT). is coterminous with the Greenway for part of its route and provides additional connections to Bellingham and Franklin to the east and Douglas to the west. The SNETT has recently undergone major improvements in Bellingham and Franklin. These include a new tunnel under a major street crossing as well as well as surface improvements to the trail. A extension further east to downtown Franklin is in the planning stage.

Finally, the Town's Complete Streets Prioritization Plan identifies several opportunities for improved pedestrian and bicycle mobility, which the Town is actively pursuing.

Long Term Development

The Zoning Bylaw, discussed above, is essential in laying a foundational guideline for long term development of Blackstone. The town is fairly evenly divided among the three residential zoning districts. The R1 district is interspersed with pockets of Commercial and Industrial districts. All of the commercial districts are located in the southern section of town. Many of these are along the Blackstone River.

The residential districts are designed for single family and two family housing. The following describes the zoning districts in Blackstone:

- *Residential 1, 2 and 3 Districts* cover most of the town and are designed for single and two-family housing and agricultural use. The minimum square footage are 35,000 square feet (sf), 65,000 sf, and 120,000 sf.
- The *Commercial District* is designed for business and professional offices; funeral home; auto, boat or farm equipment sales, rental, service; print shop; bank/financial; restaurant; retail sales/service; and wholesaling without storage. It can also accommodate an animal kennel or hospital with approval from the Board of Appeals.
- The *Industrial District* allows by right light manufacturing for on-site sales; light manufacturing, research or development; bulk storage, contractor's yard, earth removal; junkyard, secondhand auto parts; transportation terminal; warehouses; commercial radio transmission; laundry or dry cleaning plant; renewable or alternative energy manufacturing facility; and renewable or alternative energy research and development facility. With approval from the Planning Board personal wireless service facilities; wind energy facility; and commercial solar photovoltaic facility can be accommodated.

The *Groundwater Protection District* is an overlay district that covers a significant portion of R2 and R3, and dips into the center of the R1 district and a small pocket by the Mill River. As described in the Zoning Bylaw, "the purposes of this district are to protect public health from contamination of existing and potential public and private water supplies and to protect the general welfare by preserving limited water supplies for present and future use." The overlay district includes certain sensitive areas, including aquifers and recharge areas. The Planning Board and the Building Inspector, depending on the situation at hand, may be involved in periodic monitoring.

The *Flood Hazard District* was adopted at Special Town Meeting on September 19, 1979 and amended on at Annual Town Meeting on April 7, 1980 and again at the October 18, 2011 Special Town Meeting. As described in the Blackstone Zoning Code: "The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Blackstone designated as Zones A and AE on the Worcester County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program." The purpose of the Flood Hazard District is to protect public safety and to limit damage caused by flooding.

Earth Removal was added to Blackstone's special regulations at the May 27, 1997 Annual Town Meeting. The purpose noted that "Earth removal must meet the requirements of Chapter 109, Soil Removal, of the Code of the Town of Blackstone in addition to meeting the requirements of the

Zoning Bylaw. The earth removal section of the Code provides a procedure for determining whether proposed locations are suitable for certain earth removal activities.

Site Plan Approval assures that the development proposals within town are consistent with the environmental and siting objectives of the Town of Blackstone. Site plans provide the details of site development including access and parking, stormwater management, landscaping, lighting and other features that may impact abutters or the public way.

Other local regulations that impact long-term development include:

- *Rules and Regulations for the Subdivision of Land.* These regulations were most recently amended and adopted by the Planning Board on October 7, 2010. Their purpose of this legislation is to establish and provide uniform and consistent procedures and rules for subdividing land for construction purposes on single family lots.
- *Scenic Roads Bylaw.* Chapter 190 Scenic Roads bylaw was adopted on May 31, 2016 at the Annual Town Meeting. Town character is important to Blackstone residents. Protecting scenic roads helps to maintain the natural beauty along Blackstone's scenic roads; maintains and enhances the Town's rural character; and assists the Town with the implementation of the Scenic Road Act.
- *Chapter 119 Wetlands.* These regulations were adopted by Annual Town Meeting on April 29, 1986. The purpose, as defined " ... is to protect the wetlands of the Town of Blackstone by prior review and control of activities which would have any adverse impact on wetland values, including, but not limited to the following: public and private water supply, groundwater, flood control, erosion and sedimentation control, storm damage prevention, water pollution prevention, fisheries, shellfish, wildlife habitat, recreation and aesthetics (collectively, the "wetland values protected by this chapter")." The Conservation Commission is responsible for enforcing this town Bylaw.
- *Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance.* These regulations were adopted by Annual Town Meeting on May 31, 2011. Their purpose, as described in the code, is " ... to protect water resources, prevent pollutants from entering the Town's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), prohibit and remove illicit connections and unauthorized discharges to the MS4, promote the infiltration and recharge of groundwater, ensure that soil erosion and sedimentation control measures and runoff control practices are incorporated into the site planning and design process and are implemented and maintained, comply with state and federal statutes and regulations relating to discharges and establish the legal authority to ensure compliance with the provisions of this chapter through inspection, monitoring, and enforcement."

The Director of Public Works, under the direction of the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen is responsible for enforcement and implementation of these regulations. This area of responsibility will be limited to "illicit discharges and connections." The Land Disturbance regulations are addressed by the Planning Board and the Building Inspector. The Planning Board administers and implements actions relative to land disturbance. The Board is supported by the Building Inspector or their designee who is responsible for enforcement.

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Geology, Soils and Topography

Geology, soils and topography are significant factors in determining both natural and manmade land uses. They influence the flora and fauna that are attracted to Blackstone, and they help determine the types and extent of development that are feasible within specific areas of Town.

Geology

Geology can be divided into two realms throughout New England. The bedrock geology consists of consolidated rock that is solid and continuous and of considerable depth. Overlying the bedrock are the glacio-fluvial deposits from the glaciers that covered the area less than 15,000 years ago. Repeated advances of glacial ice are primarily responsible for the current topography of the area, which is characterized by low, rounded hills and open valleys. These glacial deposits consist of unconsolidated till and outwash plain materials. Also unconsolidated, but not of glacial origin, are the alluvial deposits that consist of silt and sand. These deposits, the result of deposition by streams, are found adjacent to those bodies exclusively.

The bedrock in Blackstone is part of the Milford-Dedham zone. This zone runs northeastward to Cape Ann and also includes Cape Cod. It is characterized by its intrusive granites of the Proterozoic Z age. The Milford-Dedham zone includes two extensive batholithic masses of granitoid rock. Blackstone is located on the Rhode Island batholith which extends into western Rhode Island. Blackstone consists mostly of undivided granite of the Blackstone Group, and a variety of batholithic rocks. The Blackstone Group rocks extends along the Blackstone River into Uxbridge and can also be found in the Milford, Medway and Franklin areas. It is classified as “undivided” because outcrops are poor and quartzite and amphibolite are extensively interlayered. There is a belt extending from the town of Blackstone north through Hopedale and Milford with poorly-exposed amphibolite, hornblende gneiss, quartzite, and minor rusty-weathering feldspathic mica-quartz schist. (U.S. Geological Survey, 1991).

Soils

Soils form the foundation of a town’s natural resources and strongly influence the type of vegetation that grows and the wildlife that live there. Of course, soils also determine the suitability of land for farming and the types of crops and/or animals raised.

The predominant soil group in Blackstone is Canton-Montauk-Scituate group. The soils along most of the Mill River are of the Merrimac-Hinkley-Windsor group. The southwestern corner of town along the Blackstone River is also of this type. The northern part of the Mill River consists of Freetown-Swansea-Saco soils, and an area just west of Mill River is made up of Paxton-Woodbridge-Ridgebury soils. The characteristics of these soils are as follows (U.S.D.A., undated):

Canton-Montauk-Scituate – These consist of very deep, well-drained soils on uplands. They formed in glacial till from gneiss and granite. Slopes range from 3 to 35 percent. They are generally extremely to moderately acidic.

Merrimac-Hinkley-Windsor – Merrimac soils are often associated with Hinkley and Windsor soils. They consist of very deep, excessively drained soils on outwash plains. They are mainly derived from granite, gneiss, and schist. Slopes range from 0 to 35 percent.

Freetown-Swansea-Saco – These soils are very deep, poorly drained organic soils on till and outwash plains. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent. They generally have at least 51 inches of organic material such as twigs, branches, logs and stumps.

Paxton-Woodbridge-Ridgebury – Paxton soils are very deep, well drained on glacial till uplands. They formed in firm and very firm till derived from schist, gneiss, and granite. Slopes range from 3 to 35 percent.

Soils are a significant controlling factor in the location of residential housing in areas without municipal sewer since new housing in those areas are dependent on soils that can support septic systems. Innovative alternative septic system technologies have increased locational options to some degree.

There are prime farmlands throughout Blackstone, though a significant portion of them have been developed into other uses. There are Farm Lands of Statewide Importance, mostly along the Mill River and Quick Stream as well as around Harris Pond.

Topography

Blackstone is part of the Southern New England Coastal Plains and Hills Ecoregion (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 2012). [Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, “BioMap 2 - Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World”] The tallest hill in Blackstone is Waterbug Hill, at 450 feet. It is on the border with Millville between Fox Brook and Aldrich Brook. Candlewood Hill is on the eastern end of town just west of Lake Hiawatha. It tops out at about 360 feet.

Map 4 illustrates the surficial geology and topography of Blackstone and Map 5 presents the soils.

Map 4 – Surficial Geology

GEOLOGIC FEATURES

LEGEND

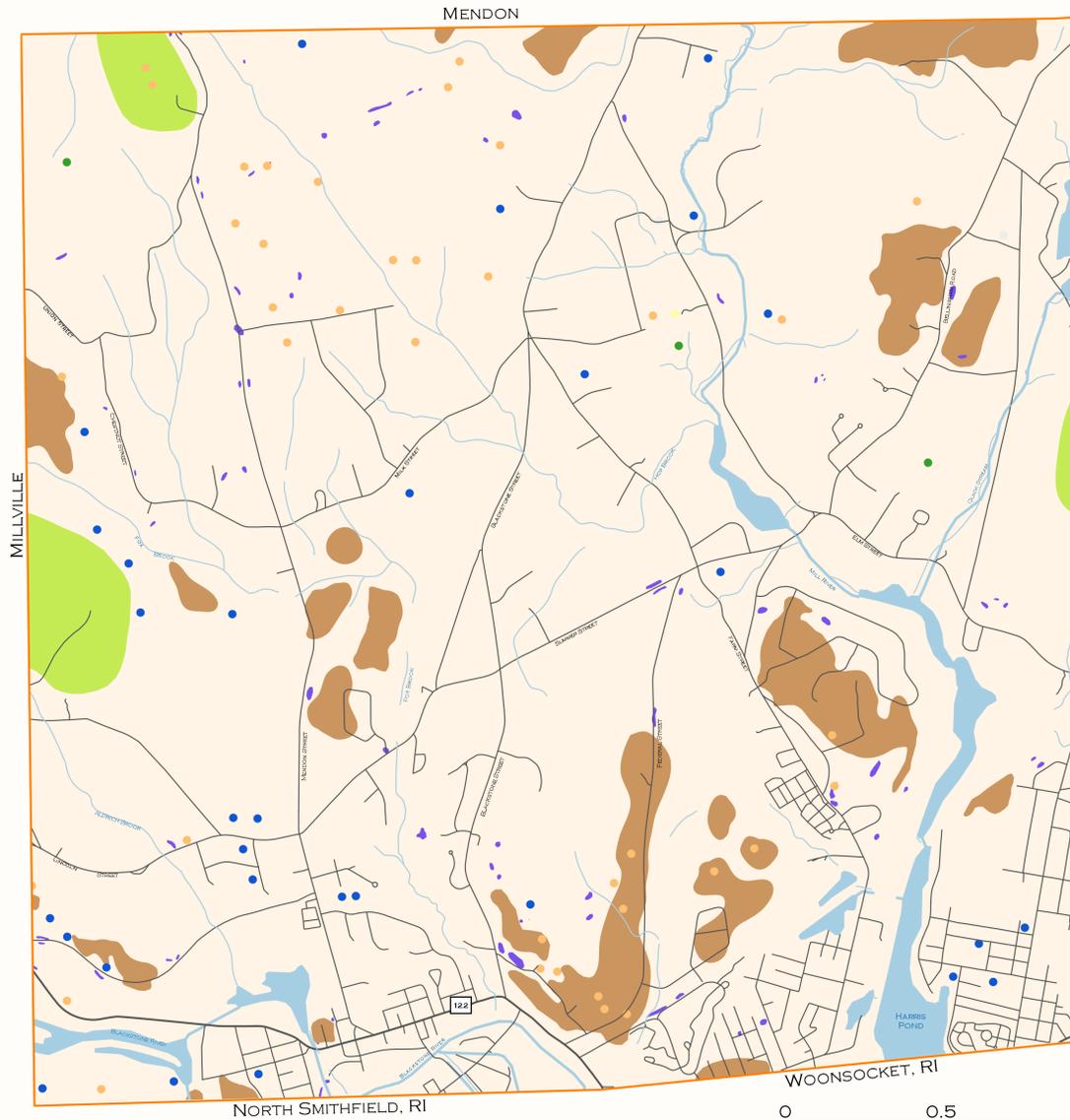
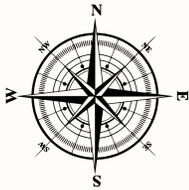
SPECIAL SPOT FEATURES

- DRY SPOT
- GRAVEL PIT
- MARSH OR SWAMP
- ROCK OUTCROP
- SANDY SPOT
- VERY STONY SPOT
- WET SPOT

SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

- BEDROCK OUTCROP
- ABUNDANT AND/OR SHALLOW BEDROCK
- THIN TILL
- THICK TILL

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE:
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN



PREPARED BY:



DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT



Map 5 – Soils and Slopes

SOILS AND SLOPES

LEGEND

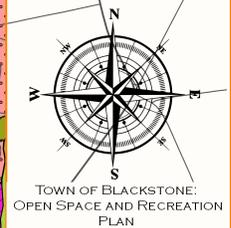
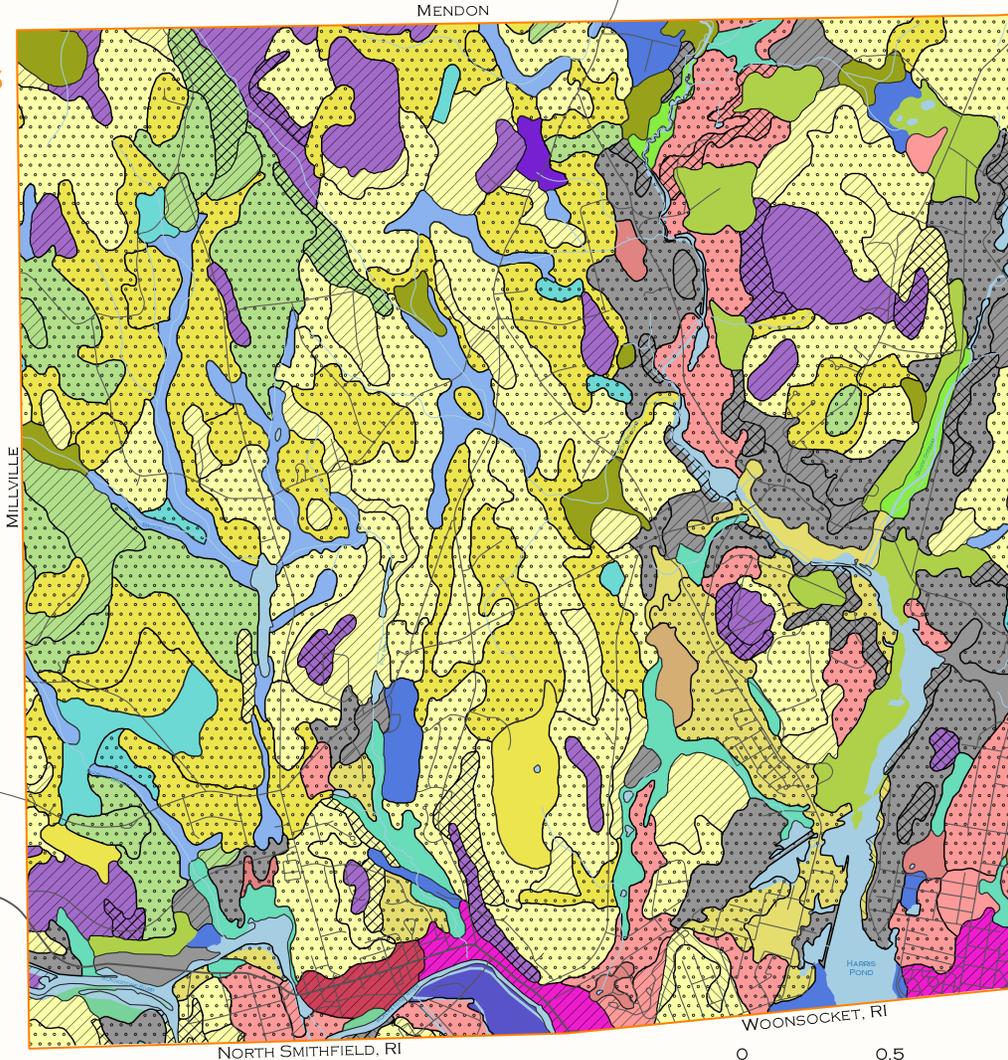
SOILS

- CANTON FINE SANDY LOAM
- CHATFIELD-HOLLIS-ROCK OUTCOP COMPLEX
- FREETOWN MUCK
- HINCKLEY SANDY LOAM/LOAM SAND
- HINCKLEY-URBAN LAND COMPLEX
- MERRIMAC FINE SANDY LOAM
- MERRIMAC-URBAN LAND COMPLEX
- MONTAUK FINE SANDY LOAM, EXTREMELY STONY
- PAXTON-URBAN LAND COMPLEX
- PITS, GRAVEL
- PITS, SAND AND GRAVEL
- POOTATUCK FINE SANDY LOAM
- RIDGEBURY FINE SANDY LOAM
- RIPPOWAM FINE SANDY LOAM
- SACO MUCKY VERY FINE SANDY LOAM
- SCARBORO AND WALPOLE SOILS
- SCITUATE FINE SANDY LOAM
- SUDBURY FINE SANDY LOAM
- SWANSEA MUCK
- UDORTHERTS, SMOOTHED
- WHITMAN SANDY LOAM
- WHITMAN SANDY LOAM, EXTREMELY STONY
- WINDSOR LOAMY FINE SAND
- WOODBRIDGE FINE SANDY LOAM

SLOPES

- 0-3 PERCENT
- 3-8 PERCENT
- 8-15 PERCENT
- 15-25 PERCENT
- 25-35 PERCENT

PREPARED BY:



TOWN OF BLACKSTONE:
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION
PLAN



DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT

Landscape Character

Blackstone offers a rich diversity of landscape character, including urban, suburban, small town, and rural/agricultural. It includes hills, forests, fields, old stone walls, lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, and swamps. All these features work together to serve a variety of lifestyles and to create a pleasant environment in which to live and work. Since the natural features of the landscape are discussed elsewhere in this section, this sub-section will emphasize the man-made features.

Neighborhoods and business areas with an urban flavor include the Main Street corridor and Millerville. These mixed use areas include, among other things, stores, services, parks, and churches, as well as both single family and multi-family residences. It represents a type of development referred to in the planning profession as "traditional neighborhood development."

This compact type of development is able to accommodate relatively large numbers of people within a small area thus allowing more areas to remain as open space, minimizing automobile traffic, and producing strong close-knit neighborhoods. It was virtually abandoned after World War II in favor of the more land-intensive and automobile-oriented suburban style of development.

Most development (including residential, commercial, and industrial) since World War II has been suburban in character. That is, most residential development has been in subdivisions containing lots of 20,000 to 80,000 square feet and located off the major streets. Commercial development has occurred in strips or shopping centers along Main Street/Route 122 and there has been little new industry.

Residential subdivisions are scattered throughout the town and, in many cases, have transformed (and are transforming) the character of some streets from rural to suburban. It is this type of development which has been (and continues to be) the greatest agent of change to the character of the town. Map 6, Land Use, illustrates the changing character of the landscape in Blackstone.

The town still has areas of rural/agricultural character, particularly in the northern part of town. That is also where most of the protected open space is located. However, as discussed above, many of these areas have been transformed by suburban-style development. Narrow, winding, stonewall-lined streets that once passed by farms and woods now serve as collector roads for the subdivisions that are replacing the farms and woods. As the subdivisions generate more traffic on these roads, the roads must be upgraded to handle it thus further changing the character of the area. In recent years, solar farms have replaced some agricultural farms and wooded areas. However, future solar facilities are now limited to the Industrial districts. Map 6 illustrates land uses in Blackstone, and Table 10 illustrates land use changes from 1971-2005.

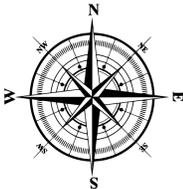
Map 6 – Land Use

LAND USE

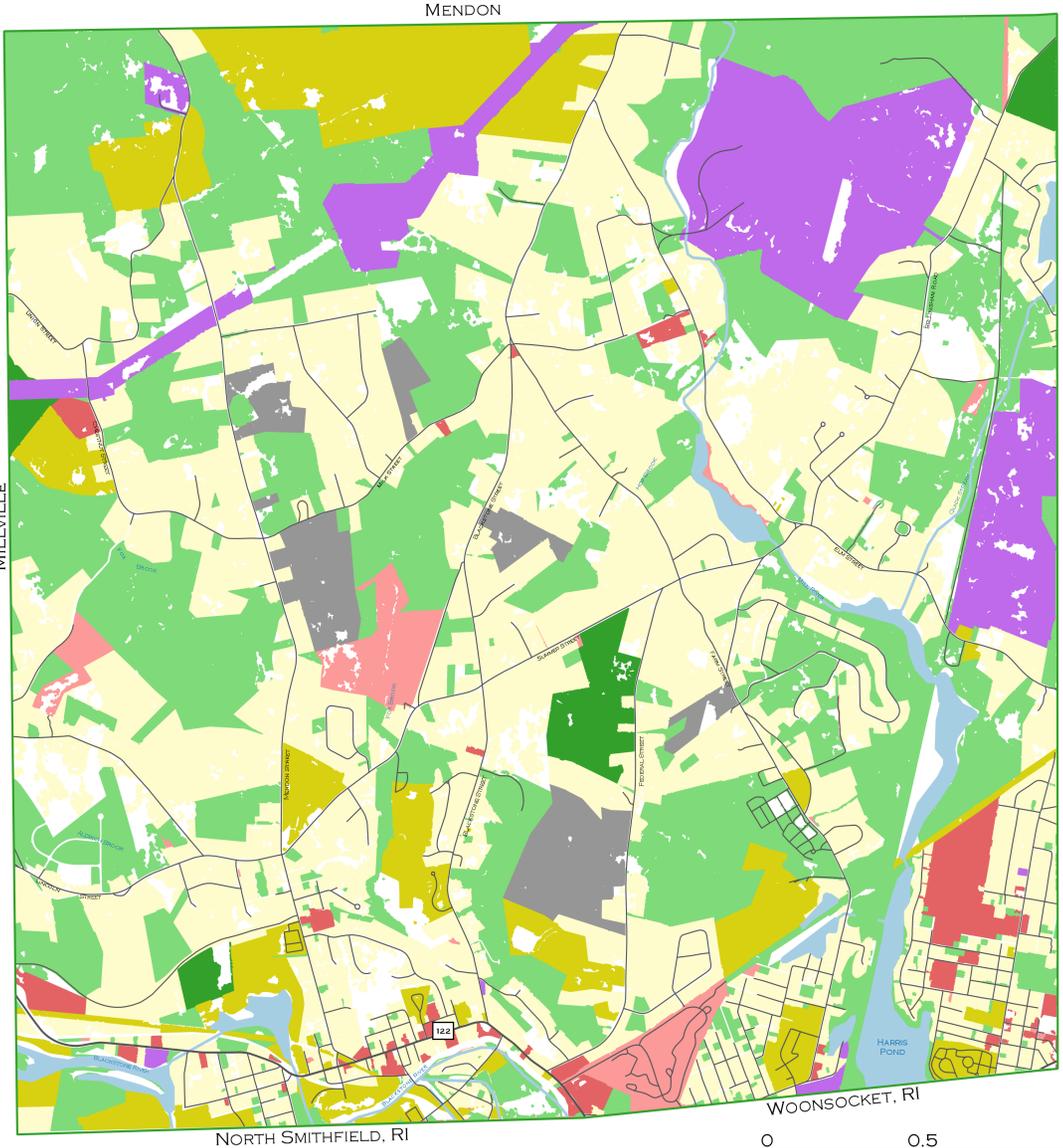
LEGEND

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- FOREST
- INDUSTRIAL
- MIXED USE
- OPEN LAND
- RECREATION
- RESIDENTIAL
- TAX EXEMPT
- UNKNOWN

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE:
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN



PREPARED BY:



DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT

Table 10
Land Uses, 1971, 1985, 1999 and 2005
(acres)

Land Use	1971	1985	1999	2005*
Crop Land	212.49	210.79	180.77	54.73
Pasture	599.5	438.72	361.11	166.52
Forest	4528.09	4241.8	3779.36	4240.28
Non-Forested Wetlands	96.08	96.08	104.72	168.08
Mining	103.25	175.33	242.14	147.97
Open land	280.63	216.9	339.5	160.86
Participation Recreation	40.99	46.09	62.21	81.99
Spectator Recreation	0	0	0	
Water-Based Recreation	0	0	0	
Multi-Family Residential	0	15.25	38.22	128.8
High Density Residential	213.46	208.67	210.51	133.33
Medium Density Residential	345.75	359.84	495.35	382.13
Low Density Residential	474.82	716.3	1044.43	678.17
Salt Water Wetlands	0	0	0	0
Commercial	20.11	29.38	29.39	50.95
Industrial	0	0	1.14	5.9
Urban Open	125.74	183.03	133.09	160.86
Transportation	25.39	28.11	28.84	6.45
Waste Disposal	27.04	55.18	42.4	4.3
Water	183.06	183.06	175.28	201.31
Woody Perennial	24.2	66.06	32.14	
Cemetery				61.95
Brushland/Successional				2.29
Forested Wetland				291.57
Junkyard				29.69
Orchard				32.05
Powerline/Utility				98.3
Transitional				12.48
Urban Public/Institutional				61.18
Very Low Density Residential				81.9
TOTALS	7300.61	7300.61	7300.61	7444.04

Sources: University of Massachusetts Resource Mapping Project

*Land Use 2005, MassGIS (from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.)
used a different methodology so categories do not correspond exactly.

Water Resources

Map 7 illustrates the water resources of Blackstone. These include surface waters, flood hazard areas, wetlands and certified vernal pools. Well locations and aquifer recharge areas are shown on Map 8. Each of these is discussed below.

Surface Water

The Town lies entirely within the Blackstone River Watershed. Map 1 Regional Context illustrates the extent of the watershed, which extends from the Worcester area into Rhode Island to the Pawtucket area. The major surface water bodies, in addition to the Blackstone River include:

- Harris Pond
- Lake Hiawatha (western shore)
- Crane's Pond
- Mill River
- Fox Brook
- Aldrich Brook
- Hop Brook
- Quick Stream

None of these surface water bodies serves as a source of drinking water for Blackstone. However, Harris Pond, which is a reservoir artificially impounded, serves as a drinking water source for the City of Woonsocket, RI. Nevertheless, Blackstone does draw its public water supply from wells that tap into aquifers that are associated with Harris Pond and some of the other water bodies. Additionally, these water resources contribute to the diverse habitats in Blackstone as discussed further below.

Harris Pond is also a recreational asset and is used for fishing, swimming and hiking. Lake Hiawatha is a small private lake that straddles the line between Blackstone and Bellingham. It has a beach and a boat launch that are accessible to people who do not live on the pond.

Lake Hiawatha straddles the border between Blackstone and Bellingham. It is a private lake of about 70 acres. For a fee of \$100, people who do not live on the lake can become members of the Lake Hiawatha Association and gain access to the beach and boat launch.

Crane's Pond is a small pond along Fox Brook used for fishing. Fox Brook is a tributary of the Blackstone River that runs from the western section of Blackstone to join the Blackstone River in the Town Center. It also is used for fishing.

Hop Brook runs through the northwest section of Blackstone and joins the Mill River in the central part of the town. The Mill River then continues southerly where it passes through Valati Nature Park and is then joined by Quick Stream, which runs from Lake Hiawatha. The joined rivers then forms Harris Pond.

Aldrich Brook is a short stream that drains the southwest section of town and joins the Blackstone River at an oxbow of the River.

Aquifers

There are two major types of aquifers: sand and gravel aquifers and bedrock aquifers. Sand and gravel aquifers are the most important of the two aquifer types and initially were formed by melting glaciers at the end of the last ice age. Sand and gravel aquifers are shallow and are located near surface water bodies. These aquifers are capable of producing the hundreds of gallons of water per minute that are expected from municipal wells. Such wells generally range in diameter from 10 to 24 inches and in depth from 20 to 80 feet with an average depth of about 50 feet. Their capacity averages around 500 gallons per minute.

The other type of aquifer, bedrock, has formations that underlie virtually the entire area of Blackstone and the region. The bedrock has cracks and crevices through which water travels. Bedrock aquifers are a water source for domestic wells. These wells are drilled into bedrock and intercept the water that is located in the cracks and crevices. The wells are commonly 6 to 8 inches in diameter, and deep enough (usually 50 to 300 feet, but sometimes more) to intercept sufficient water in the crevices to be able to produce about 5 gallons of water per minute. Some wells can produce as much as 50 gallons per minute. These wells are more likely to occur in lowlands rather than higher elevations.

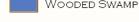
Map 7 delineates the major aquifers and Zone I and II areas in Blackstone. Zone II areas are designated by the State and represent the primary recharge areas for its associated well. As the map illustrates,

Map 7 - Water Resources

WATER RESOURCES

LEGEND

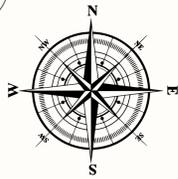
WETLANDS

-  BOG
-  CRANBERRY BOG
-  MARSH
-  SHRUB SWAMP
-  WOODED SWAMP

FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

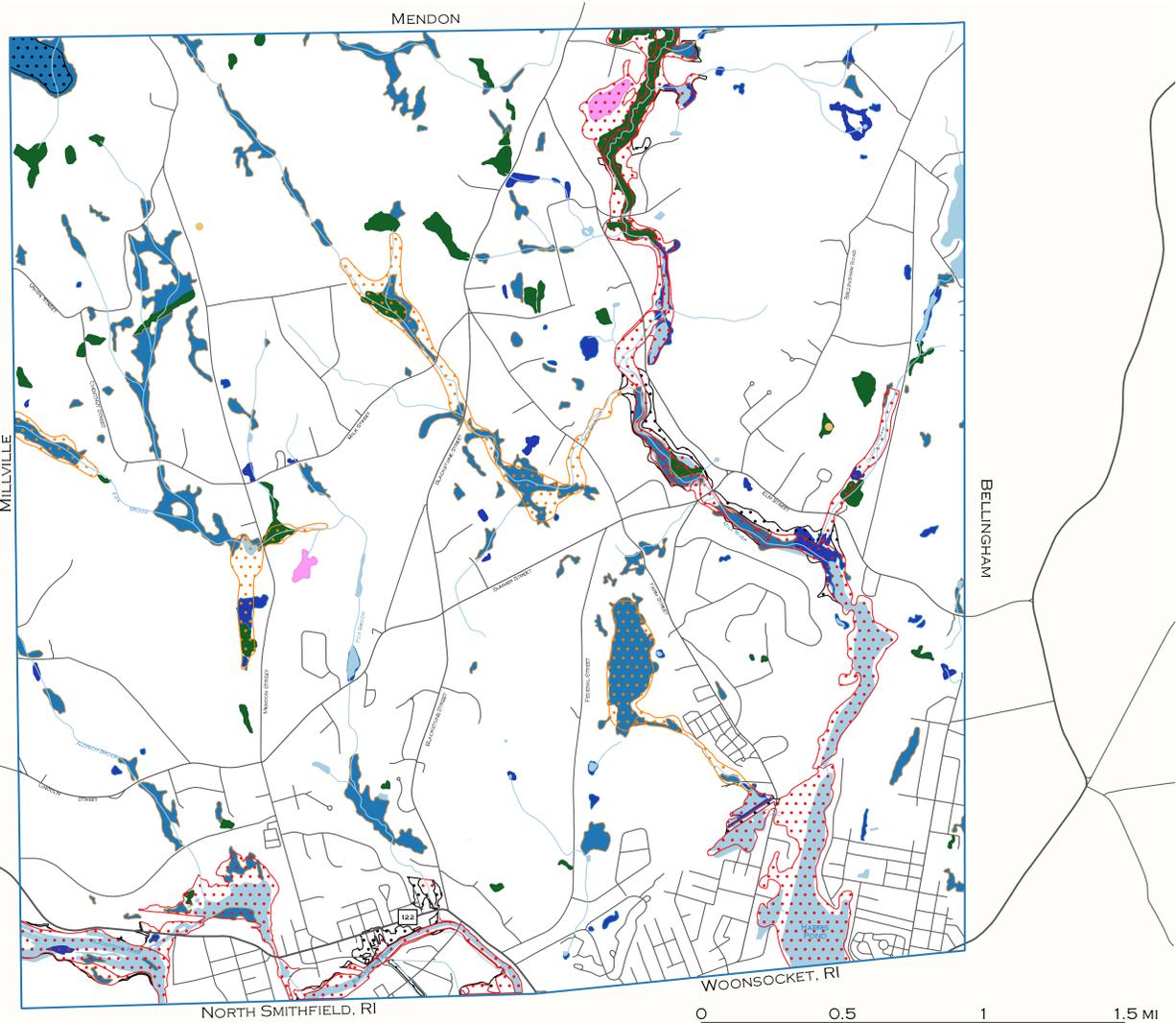
-  A
-  AE
-  X
-  CERTIFIED VERNAL POOLS

WATERSHED: THE ENTIRE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE IS WITHIN THE BLACKSTONE RIVER WATERSHED. MAP 1. REGIONAL CONTEXT ILLUSTRATES ALL OF THE WATERSHEDS IN THE REGION.



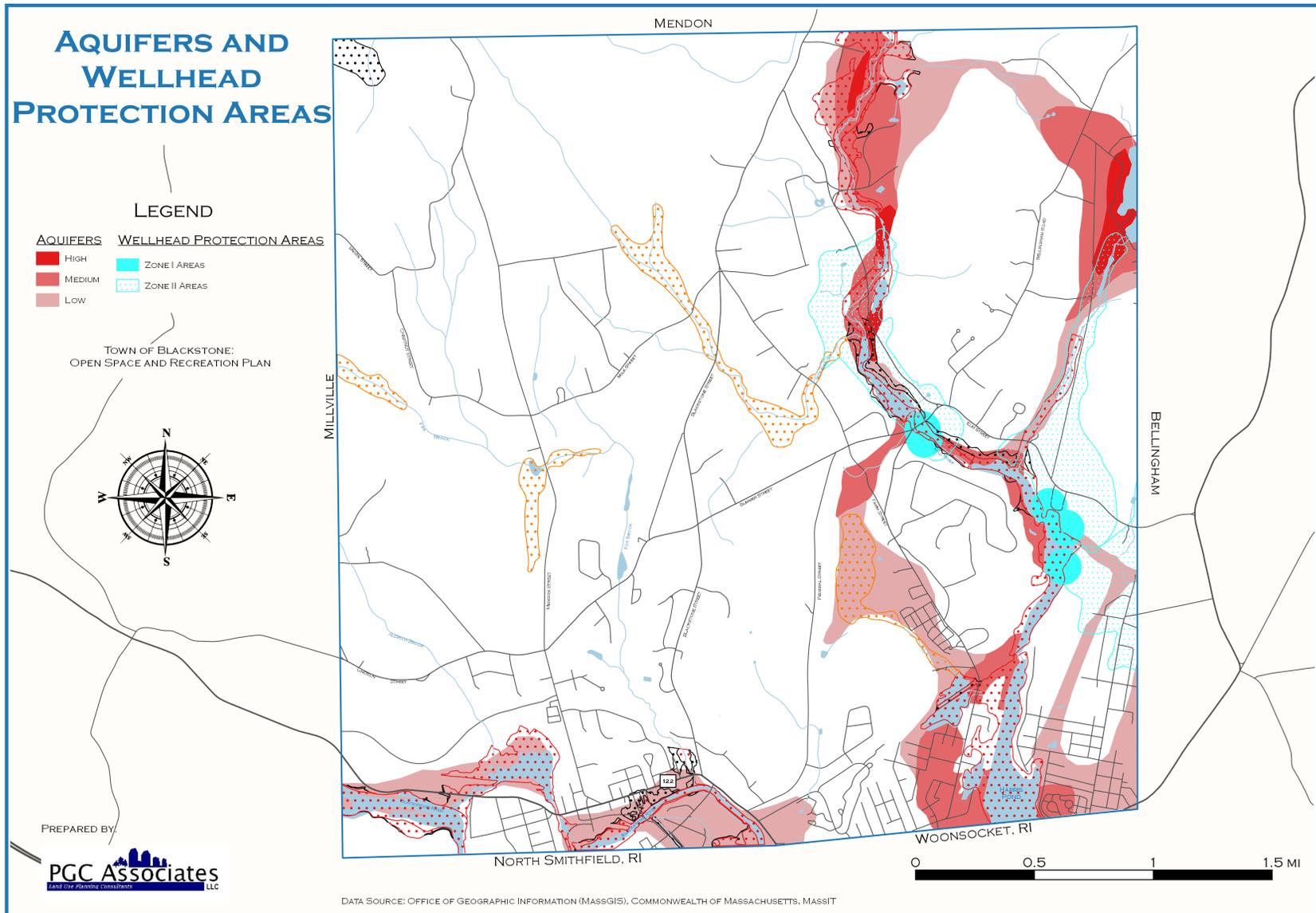
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE:
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

PREPARED BY:



DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT

Map 8 – Aquifers and Wellhead Protection Areas



most of the aquifers are connected with, and are in close proximity to, surface water bodies. It is critical that the aquifers and Zone II areas be protected, since they provide the municipal water supply for Blackstone.

Aquifers, in general, are afforded protection by the Groundwater Protection District. Municipal wellheads are provided with at least a 400-foot wellhead protection zone. This 400-foot-area is known as a Zone I.

Flood Hazard Areas

Blackstone has flood hazard zones subject to a 1% chance of flooding per year (100-year storm) along Fox Brook in the eastern part of town and along Hop Brook in the central part of Blackstone. There is also an area between Federal and Park Streets that drains into Harris Pond that is subject to flooding in a 100-year storm. Areas along the Mill River near and parallel to Elm Street and areas along the Blackstone River near Main Street as well as the area in the northwest corner of town are subject to flooding in a 500-year storm. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has published Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) delineating 100 year and 500 year floodplains. The maps were most recently updated July 4, 2011.

Stormwater management to control flooding as well as the quality of runoff has become an increasing focus of concern. More frequent and more intense storms due to climate change, in conjunction with infrastructure that was designed for past storm events, could lead to more areas being subject to flooding in the future.

Wetlands

In addition to surface water bodies, like rivers and lakes, wetlands include “bordering vegetated wetlands” which are the vegetated wet areas adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes or ponds, and “isolated wetlands” that flood occasionally or seasonally, such as vernal pools. The determination of wetlands is a science and is based on a combination of vegetation and soils. Wetlands provide wildlife habitat, floodwater storage, and help clean the water that passes through them by absorbing pollutants. This last characteristic makes them particularly important when located on or near aquifers and Zone II’s. Wetlands are



already protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L Chapter 131, Section 40) and the local wetlands bylaw (Chapter 119 of the Blackstone Code) all of which

are enforced by the Conservation Commission, a six-member board that meets throughout the year and advises town officials and boards on matters associated with conservation.

The locations of major wetlands are estimated based largely on information from aerial photos. Map 7 illustrates the general location of wetlands in Blackstone, primarily along the Mill and Blackstone Rivers, Fox and Aldrich Brooks and Quick Stream. Wetlands on individual parcels can only be identified and delineated following a site visit by a wetlands scientist, which then needs to be confirmed by the Conservation Commission.

Vegetation

Map 9 presents Blackstone’s vegetation. Blackstone consists of a variety of soil types and hydrologic conditions which support a wide array of vegetation and wildlife. The native forests of the area are mixed coniferous and hardwood trees. Major forest types are oak, red maple, and white pine. Canton soils are well suited to oak and pine growth (U.S.D.A., undated).

Black choke cherry and witch hazel shrubs, swamp azalea and highbush blueberry (especially in wetter soils), and dewberry, cinnamon fern, sphagnum, and skunk cabbage are some common examples of the vegetation found in the upland and wetland areas. Other wild herbaceous plants and fruit-producing shrubs include bluestem, goldenrod, beggartick, quackgrass, ragweed, gray dogwood, autumnolive, and crabapple. Some additional wetland plants found in the area are smartweed, arrowhead, burrweed, pickerelweed, cordgrass, rushes, sedges and reeds (U.S.D.A., undated).

Public shade trees represent another important component of vegetation. In addition to their role in sequestering carbon, public shade trees provide other significant benefits including providing cooling during hot summer months, extending the life of street pavement by shading it from the effects of the sun, absorbing stormwater runoff and adding an aesthetic element to the streetscape. Consequently, Blackstone protects public shade trees through its adoption and enforcement of the Scenic Roads Act and Scenic Roads Bylaw on its four designated Scenic Roads, as well as enforcing the Public Shade Tree Act for its other public ways.

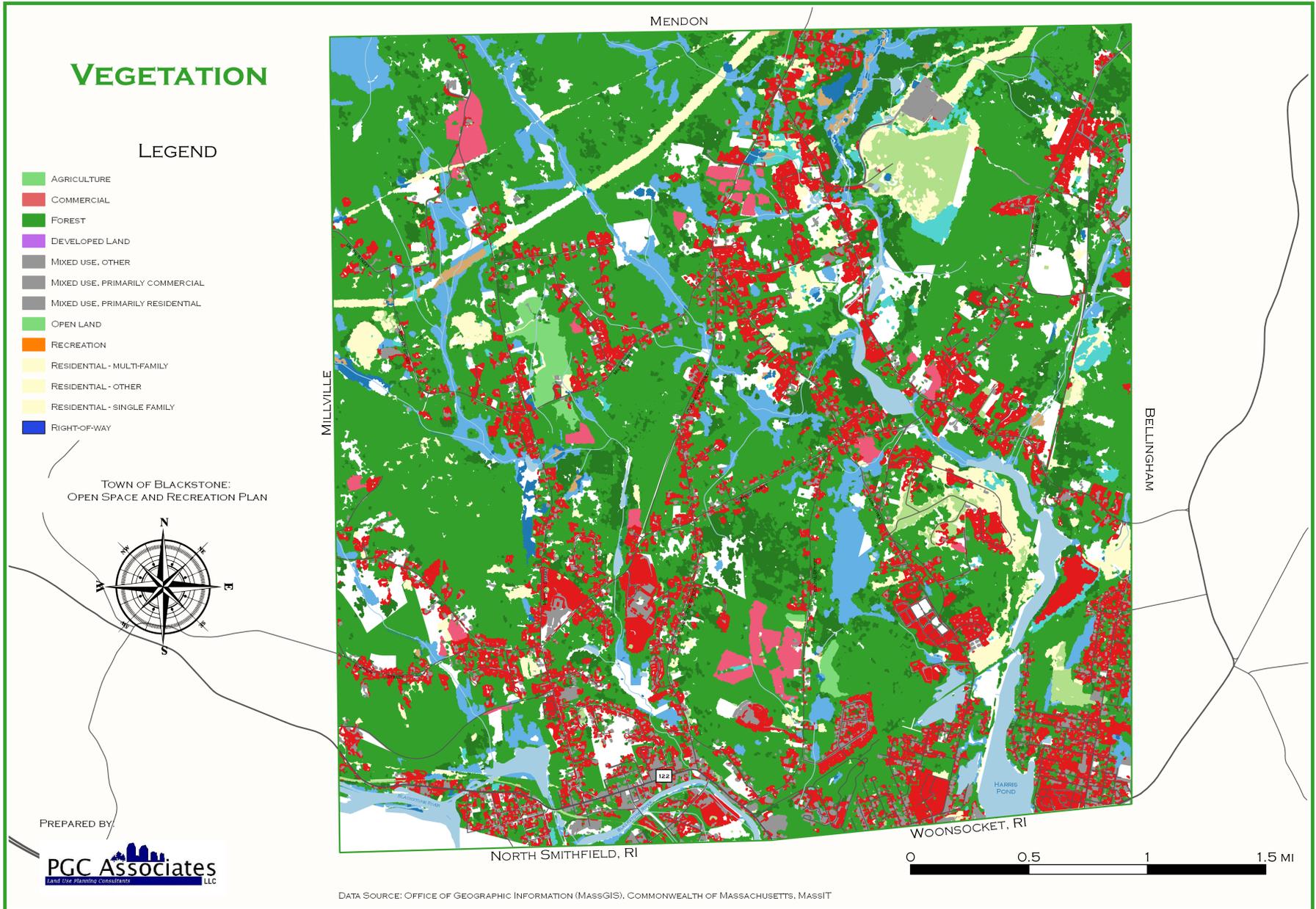
Table 11 lists the rare and endangered plant species in Blackstone as identified by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW). The Grass-leaved Ladies tresses have been added to the list as a Threatened species relatively recently.

Table 11
Rare And Endangered Species - Vegetation

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status*	Most Recent Observation
Grass-leaved Ladies'-tresses	Spiranthes vernalis	Vascular Plant	Threatened	2009

Source: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassWildlife’s Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (n.d.) *Massachusetts Endangered Species Act

Map 9 – Vegetation

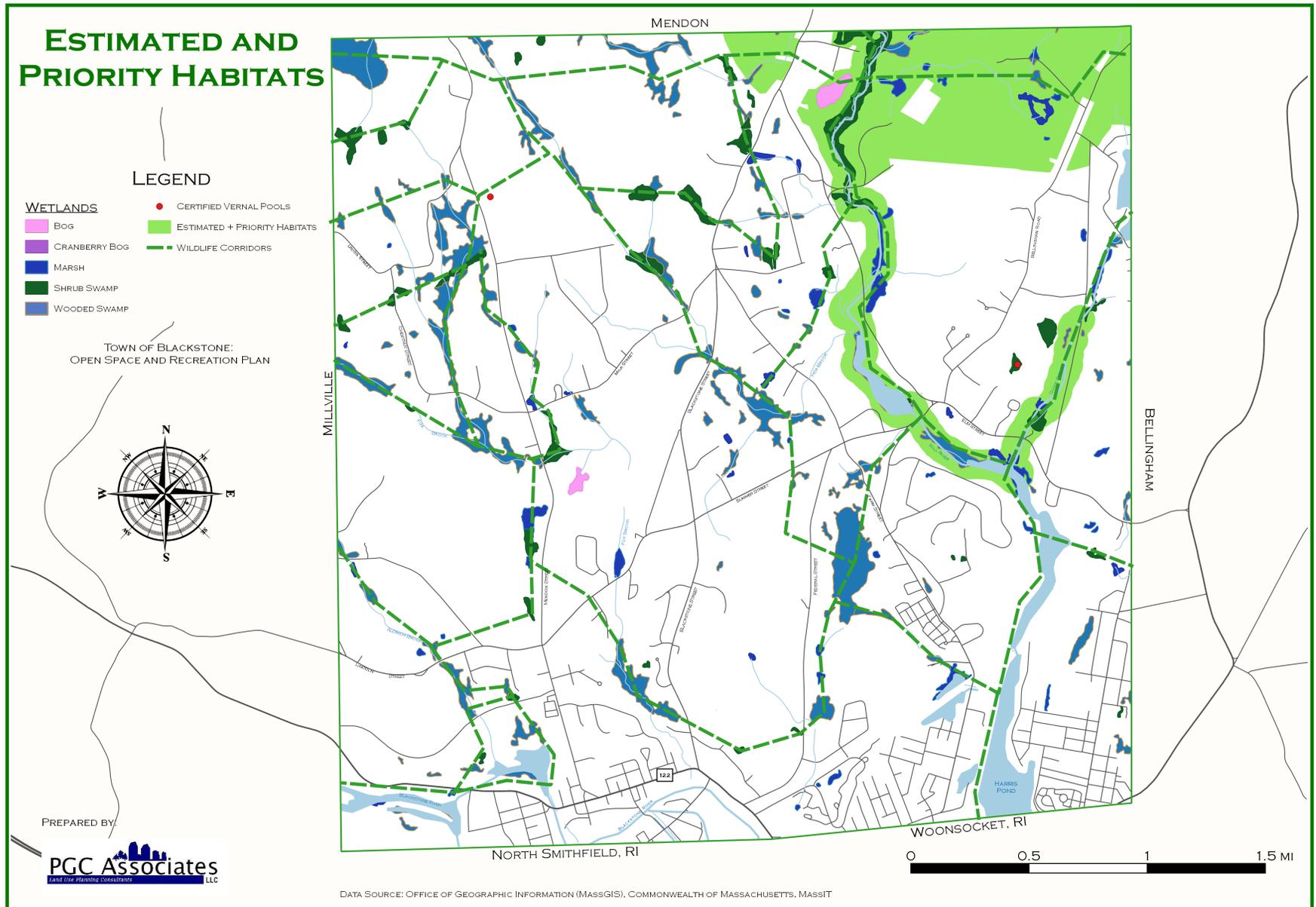


“Threatened” means any species of plant or animal likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and any species declining or rare as determined by biological research and inventory and likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. The category “Species of Special Concern” includes any species of plant or animal which 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 occurs in such small numbers or with such a restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that it could easily become threatened within Massachusetts.

A habitat is an ecological or environmental area that is conducive to the survival and well-being of particular species of animal, plant, or other type of organism. Map 10 illustrates some of the key habitat areas in Blackstone. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has produced BioMap2, which identifies “Core Habitats” that are necessary to protect “Species of Conservation Concern,” including those on the list of rare and endangered species as well as other species identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan, exemplary natural communities, and intact ecosystems. Also illustrated are “Critical Natural Landscapes,” which include intact landscapes in Massachusetts that are better able to support ecological processes and disturbance regimes, and a wide array of species and habitats over long time frames.

Map 10 also presents Priority Habitats for Rare and Endangered Species, as well as Estimated Habitats of Rare Wetland Species, which are a subset of Priority Habitats. In Blackstone, the two areas are identical, so they are shown as Estimated Habitats. There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Map 10 - Estimated and Priority Habitats



Fisheries and Wildlife

The Blackstone River, plus the numerous streams, lakes and ponds, provide habitat for numerous fisheries. Among the species found in the area are brown, brook and rainbow trout; pickerel; perch; pumpkinseed (also known as sunfish, kibbie and sun bass); redbreast sunfish; smallmouth bass; white sucker; carp; golden shiner; fallfish; creek chub; yellow bullhead; and brown bullhead (also known as hornpout and catfish).

The kind and abundance of wildlife depends to a large extent on the amount and distribution of food, cover and water. Furbearers such as fox and muskrat live in the area. Other mammals found in town include deer, cottontail, skunk, gray and red squirrels, flying squirrels, chipmunks, vole, mice and bats. Raccoons and woodchucks are plentiful. Opossum have expanded their range northward into the area. Coyotes have also been sighted.

Birds include hawks, kestrel, screech and great horned owls, grouse, pheasant, woodcock and a great variety of songbirds. Cardinal, titmouse, and mockingbird have become increasingly numerous. Common reptiles include garter and milk snakes, as well as snapping and painted turtles. Red-backed salamanders are commonly found under rotting logs. Spotted salamanders are declining in number due to the impact of acid precipitation.

Open areas such as cropland, pastures, meadows, and areas of grasses, herbs, shrubs, and vines tend to attract kestrel, meadow vole, meadowlark, field sparrow, cottontail and red fox. Woodlands provide habitat for nuthatches, ruffed grouse (pheasant), woodcock, thrushes, woodpeckers, squirrels, gray fox, raccoon and deer. Wetlands attract ducks, geese, herons, muskrat, frogs and tree swallow. Even urbanized areas support raccoon, opossum, skunk, nighthawks, bats, Norway rat, English sparrow and starling (U.S.D.A., undated). All of these habitats are found in abundance.

Table 12 lists the rare and endangered fish and wildlife in Blackstone. In recent years, the Eastern Box Turtle and Spotted Turtle have been removed from the list of Rare and Endangered Species in Blackstone as their populations have recovered. The Creeper mussel has been added as one of Special Concern.

Table 12
Rare And Endangered Species – Fisheries and Wildlife

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status*	Most Recent Observation
American Brook Lamprey	Lampetra appendix	Fish	Threatened	2008
Creeper	Strophitus undulatus	Mussel	Special Concern	1999

Source: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassWildlife’s Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (n.d.) *Massachusetts Endangered Species Act

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors can be either natural or manmade. Natural corridors generally follow waterways while manmade ones generally follow linear infrastructure systems like pipelines, electric transmission lines or even roadways.

The Blackstone River serves as an important wildlife corridor as it connects Blackstone with Priority Habitat areas in Millville and Uxbridge. The Mill River and Quick Stream serve as corridors connecting Lake Hiawatha and Harris Pond to an extensive Priority Habitat area in northeast Blackstone that also spills over into Bellingham and extends northward through Mendon.

Protected land in northwest Blackstone serves as part of a wildlife corridor that extends into Mendon as well as along the western boundary with Millville. This corridor is primarily forested land.

Manmade corridors in Blackstone include the Southern New England Trunkline Trail. This former rail forms a corridor that connects Franklin State Forest with Douglas State Forest and beyond into Connecticut. An electricity transmission corridor crosses northern Blackstone. It connects the Priority Habitat in the northeast corner with the forested area of northeast Blackstone and then on through Priority Habitats in Millville and Uxbridge. Map 11 illustrates the primary wildlife corridors.

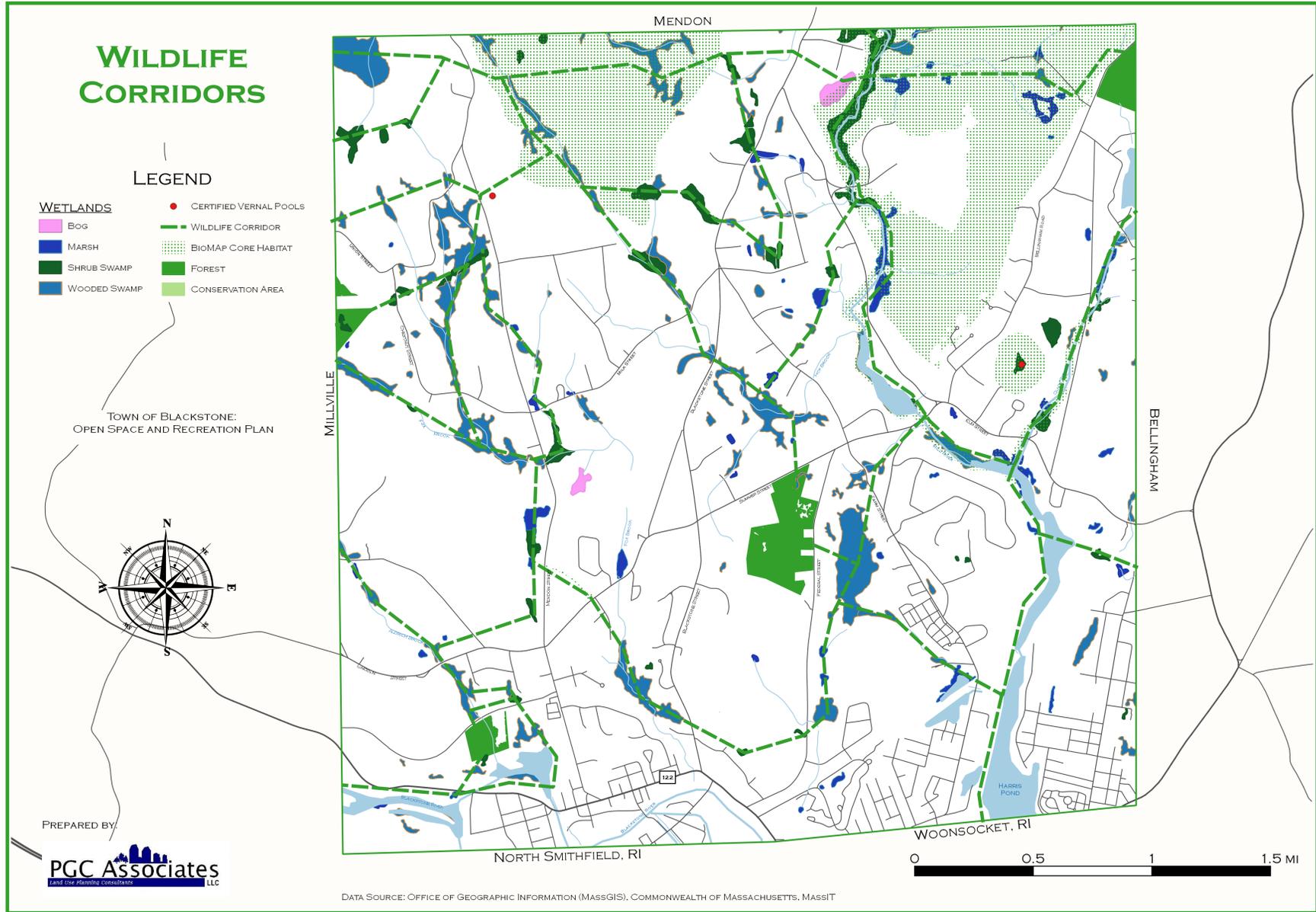
Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Blackstone has an abundance of scenic resources and unique environments. The Blackstone River is a significant scenic resource. The river can be seen from a number of bridges, trails and other nearby vantage points. The Blackstone Gorge is a unique geological feature located in a protected area along the river with a trail and magnificent view of a waterfall.

Blackstone has hundreds of historic buildings, as well historic areas, objects, structures and burial grounds. Among the most significant are the following which are on the National Register of Historic Places:

- **East Blackstone Friends Meetinghouse** at 197 Elm Street. This structure was built in 1812 on land donated by Samuel Smith to the Quakers.

Map 11 – Wildlife Corridors



- **Benjamin Thayer House** at 200 Farm Street;. Built around 1790, Thayer family members lived here until the early 20th century.
- **Southwick-Daniels Farm** at 286 Mendon Street. The historic farm was initially established in 1750.
- **Blackstone Viaduct**; built in 1872 by the Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad. A viaduct is a long, bridge-like structure, supported by a series of arches and generally supports a road or railroad.

Blackstone has four historic districts on the National Register of Historic Places:

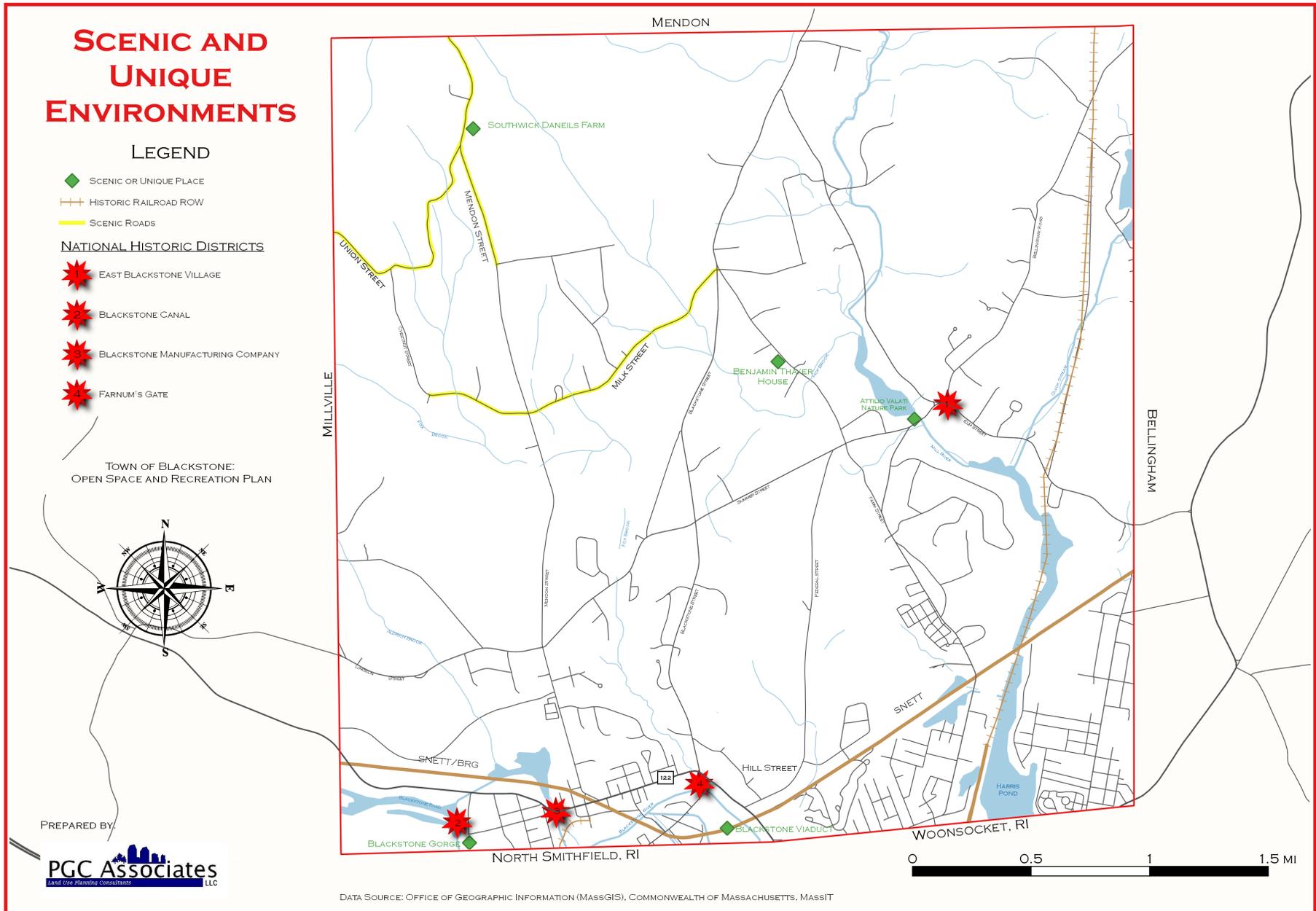
- **Blackstone Canal Historic District.** This District follows the Blackstone River and Canal in the southwestern corner of town and includes the Blackstone Gorge area.
- **Blackstone Manufacturing Company Historic District.** The District encompasses the “New City” or “High Rocks” area of Blackstone. It includes, roughly, the area surrounding Butler, Canal, Church, County, Ives, Main, Mendon, Old Mendon and School Streets.
- **East Blackstone Village Historic District.** The district is located along Elm Street with the juncture at Summer Street
- **Farnum’s Gate Historic District.** The District is located in the area surrounding the junction of Main and Blackstone Streets.

Besides the nationally recognized historic districts and structures, the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) lists numerous historic areas, buildings, burial grounds, objects and structures located in Blackstone. The MACRIS list consists of the following:

- **Historic Areas** – 27 areas, including the Southwick-Daniels Farm, Blackstone Canal Historic District, East Blackstone Friends Meetinghouse, Blackstone Manufacturing Company Historic District, East Blackstone Village Historic District and Farnum’s Gate Historic District, all on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Buildings** – 429 properties, including the Benjamin Thayer House, on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Burial Grounds** – 15 burial grounds/cemeteries, some dating to the 18th century.
- **Objects** – 5 objects including two war monuments, two located at Southwick-Daniels Farm, and one associated with the Blackstone Canal.
- **Structures** – 44 structures, including the Blackstone Viaduct on the National Register. (Massachusetts Historical Commission, n.d.)

Blackstone also has four Scenic Roads. A Scenic Roads bylaw was adopted in 2016 and at the same time Milk Street, Union Street, Hill Street and Mendon Street (from Crestwood Drive to the Mendon Town line) were designated as Scenic Roads under the Scenic Roads Act, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 15C. Map 12 illustrates the Scenic Resources and Unique Environments.

Map 12 - Scenic and Unique Environments



Environmental Challenges

One of the major environmental challenges in the area concerns both the quality and quantity of the water supply. Blackstone is served by a municipal water system and some properties are served by private wells. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection regulates and monitors public water supplies for both quality and quantity. It is imperative that both the quality and quantity of these water sources be maintained. In 2019, the Blackstone DPW secured the well head protection zone for its Well #9.

The State's efforts to encourage keeping wastewater local and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's MS4 storm-water management regulations will also help assure that more water is returned to the ground to recharge aquifers and in a way that maintains quality while also reducing flooding potential. Open space can be a key component in addressing this issue. Also, educational efforts regarding the use of fertilizers and pesticides as well as reduced lawn areas and native plantings can help reduce non-point source pollution to surface waters. Blackstone's DPW has posted suggestions for residents on its web page and in its annual report on water quality that help educate residents on practices to protect the water supply.

In 2011, the Town adopted a bylaw regulating stormwater management. This will help reduce negative impacts on water quality and quantity as well as other environmental impacts.

The Town's Wetlands Protection Bylaw supplements the State's Wetlands Protection Act. Its purpose is to protect the wetlands of the Town of Blackstone by prior review and control of activities which would have any adverse impact on wetland values, including, but not limited to the following: public and private water supply, groundwater, flood control, erosion and sedimentation control, storm damage prevention, water pollution prevention, fisheries, shellfish, wildlife habitat, recreation and aesthetics.

Another environmental challenge is the cleanup and reuse of brownfields. Blackstone has a small number of contaminated sites that need to be cleaned up and reused. In addition to removing a threat to groundwater (and surface water), redeveloping such sites both returns the site to productive use and reduces the need to expand infrastructure and develop green field sites.

Invasive species also present a challenge to Blackstone and the region. In recent years, non-native insects and plants have damaged and in some cases replaced native species. While difficult to manage, efforts should be made to identify the invasive species and address to the extent possible.

Related to the issue of invasive species but an issue in its own right, is that of climate change. While a changing climate invites new species to the area, it also has caused, and is expected to continue causing, more frequent and more intense rainfall, as well as more and longer periods of drought and increasing the threat of wildfires. Green infrastructure can play a role in both helping reduce climate change and mitigating its impacts.

Blackstone's southeast corner is composed of environmental justice populations. Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. No sub-populations or areas have been identified as receiving unfair treatment. Many open space and recreation resources fall within Blackstone's environmental justice neighborhoods. These include the Blackstone Gorge, Roosevelt Park, the Blackstone River Greenway, and Harkness Farm. The Blackstone-Millville Regional High School and two elementary schools with their associated fields and playgrounds are a short distance outside the area.

The environmental justice area is one of the most densely populated sections of Blackstone and it directly abuts the City of Woonsocket which also has an environmental justice population on its side of the city-town border. The Blackstone River flows from Blackstone into Woonsocket. Furthermore, Harris Pond in Blackstone serves as a source of drinking water for Woonsocket. Therefore, it is important that Blackstone protect the water quality of both Harris Pond and the Blackstone River.

It should also be noted that Turbesi Park is in the Millerville section of Blackstone. While it is not within an environmental justice area, it is close to one serves as an amenity for it. Therefore, Turbesi Park is also an important resource for environmental justice populations.

Some more specific challenges include the following:

Landfills – The Recycling Center and Landfill on Chestnut Street has had issues with litter management, paper bales and operations impacting adjacent wetlands. All of these are being addressed in association with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Environmental monitoring of the landfill in accordance with DEP requirements is ongoing at both the Chestnut Street and Farm Street landfills. Restoration of altered wetlands at the Chestnut Street is in process.

Erosion and Sedimentation - Generally, erosion and sedimentation issues have been associated with new development projects. The Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance Bylaw, as well as Planning Board and Conservation Commission regulations have addressed most of these issues. However, a solar project and a subdivision project in particular have caused significant erosion and sedimentation problems to adjacent properties and have required additional efforts to mitigate.

Chronic Flooding – As noted in the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan, there is minor chronic flooding due to the bridges and culverts in Town that were designed to handle the increasing rates and volumes of precipitation due to climate change.

Development Impacts – Development results in loss of habitat as well as green infrastructure that can absorb and help treat stormwater. Natural areas can also help provide a cooling effect as temperatures rise. As noted above, new development can also result in at least temporary erosion, flooding and sedimentation impacts, especially during construction. The most significant impact from development in recent years has been flooding and erosion. In particular, a new subdivision off Elm Street caused major flooding and sedimentation on Elm Street and properties across the street. Also, two new solar farms have severely aggravated flooding and sedimentation on neighboring properties and efforts are still ongoing to solve that problem. Other developments have also caused stormwater issues and the Town's Land Disturbance Permitting process is helping to mitigate those issues.

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation or Recreation Interest

A critical responsibility in long-range municipal planning is protecting existing and potential conservation and recreation open space from development. Open space parcels provide valuable functions to human beings, plants, and wildlife. The valuable functionality of open space gave rise to Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, which protects the right of the people of the Commonwealth to “clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment.” An Open Space and Recreation Plan facilitates a municipality’s ability to exercise these rights by identifying open space lands, developing and applying appropriate protective measures for those lands, and planning for future conservation and recreation needs.

Conservation lands are typically undeveloped parcels that are entirely undisturbed or are used by the public for low-impact passive recreation such as hiking, biking, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Depending on the type of land, conservation parcels can provide natural habitats for both plants and wildlife, help to replenish and protect aquifers, reduce and absorb storm water runoff, produce a sustainable source of natural resources, and absorb and/or treat human-caused pollutants. They are typically protected from development through deeded restrictions or obtained outright for management by the Conservation Commission. Approximately 948 acres of land in Blackstone are currently dedicated to public or semi-public open space.

Recreation lands are generally improved parcels used for, or having the potential to be used for, active recreation. They are often owned or managed by public or non-profit entities, but private ownership of recreation lands is common as well.

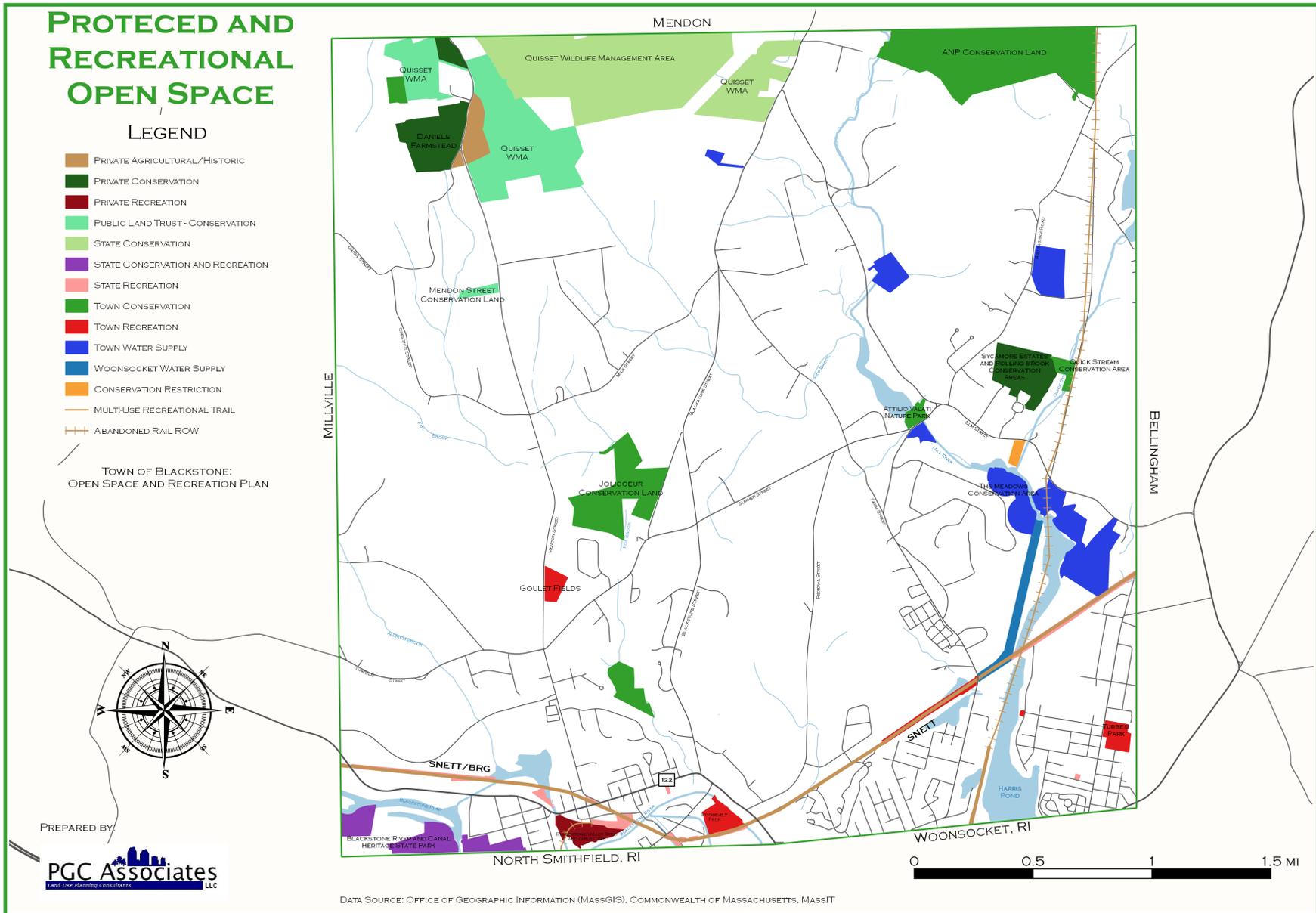
Blackstone’s Flexible Residential Development Bylaw was enacted in 1994 and amended in 2008 to provide flexibility for developers in exchange for the permanent protection of open space. About 78 acres of open space have been protected under this bylaw as part of the three most recent subdivisions. Additionally, the development patterns that the bylaw has produced have saved the Town money in infrastructure maintenance, while protecting significant open space without direct cost.

Open space and recreation are important features of a community. In addition to providing places for residents to enjoy both passive and active recreation and stay connected to nature, open space provides habitat for wildlife and vegetation and can serve as “green infrastructure” by storing and/or absorbing stormwater runoff preventing flooding in developed areas, and filtering it to replenish aquifers.

Overview of Open Space and Recreation

Table 13 presents the current protected open space parcels in Blackstone. Map 13 illustrates those lands. More than 900 acres of public and private land are protected. The Town of Blackstone owns nearly half, 451.58 acres of the protected land. Of that amount, 49 acres protect the municipal wells and Town’s water supply. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts owns 298.9 acres, of which most is located at Quissett Hill. Metacomet Land Trust and Daniels Farm Homestead Foundation own 131.1 and 66.9 acres respectively. These open space properties constitute a total of 918.6 protected acres in Blackstone.

Map 13 – Protected and Recreational Open Space



**Table 13
Protected Open Space Parcels In Blackstone**

LOCATION/ DESCRIPTION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	EXISTING USES	CONDITION
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE					
Back Meadows	7-6	5.0	I	Vacant/storage	NA
Blackstone River Island	11-86	2.2	R3	Conservation	Excellent
Lincoln Street/Fox Brook*	14-52	12.6	R1	Conservation, Abuts brook	Excellent
Farm Street	16-61	6.0	R1	Future Trail/Bike path	NA
11 Summer Street	17-39	3.4	R2	Wells #1 & 2	NA
Elm Street/Harris Pond	17-64-A, 17-66, 18-1 18-2, 18-6, 18-7A	15.5	R2	Wells #1 & 2	NA
Glenside Drive	17-239	18.19	R2	Wells	NA
Glenside Drive*	17-234, 17-264	29.83	R2	Conservation, trails	Excellent
Off Elm Street	18-9, 18-10	24.54	R2	Water Supply	NA
Off Elm Street	18-21	1.51	R2	Forest	NA
Off Elm Street	18-31	1.31	R2	Forest/Stream	NA
Quickstream Street	18-55	5.0	R2	Forest/Trails	NA
Rolling Brook Lane	18-89	12.89	R2	Forest/Trails	Excellent
Sycamore Lane	18-106	17.18	R2	Forest/Trails	Excellent
Quickstream Street*	18-109	4.4	R3/R2	Forest	Excellent
45 Bellingham Road	19-140	17.36	R3	Water Tank	NA
Elm Street/Walsh's Pond	20-05, 20-06	9.8		Well Site	NA
Bellingham Road	20-33	12.28	R3	Forest	NA
Old Lincoln St./Fox Brook*	23-16F	47.1	R3	Forest/Trails/ Brook	Excellent
Chestnut Street	24-9	30.11	R3/R2	Landfill	NA
Mendon Street	26-20, 26.23, 27-3, 27-20, 28-8	68.7	R3	Parcels near Daniels Farm	NA
Mendon Street*	26-21	4.0	R3	Forest	Excellent
Blackstone Street	29-18	3.1	R2	Forest/Trails	NA
Off Mendon	29-33	11.8	R3	Former RR ROW	NA
Blackstone Street	29-25-A	2.1	R2	Water Department	NA
Bellingham Rd- Spruce St	30-69,31-20	136.2	R3	Forest/Power lines	NA
Off Elm Street	31-20	128.41	R3	Excellent (From ANP Power Plant)	NA
SUB-TOTAL		630.51			

Continued *Managed by Conservation Commission

Table 13
Protected Open Space Parcels In Blackstone
(Continued)

LOCATION/ DESCRIPTION	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT#	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	EXISTING USES	COMMENTS
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS					
SNETT Trail	7-5, 8-53, 8-72, 8-75, 8-53A, 8-123, 8-129, 8-132, 10-133, 10-147, 11-28, 11-62, 11-68, 17-69,	34.42	R1/I	Trail	
Harkness Farm/ Blackstone Gorge	11-80, 11-82	29.4	R3	Conservation	
Quissett Hill	10-5+57	8.2	R1		
	28-1, 28-2, 28-3, 29-3, 29-10, 29-36, 29-38	226.9	R3	Conservation, Trails, Hunting	
SUB-TOTAL		298.92			
PRIVATE NONPROFIT					
METACOMET LAND TRUST	25-18, 26-16, 28-10	131.09		Conservation/ Preservation	
DANIELS FARMSTEAD FOUNDATION	25-33, 26-11, 26-12, 28-16	66.85	R3	Conservation/ Preservation	
SUB-TOTAL		197.94			
TOTAL		1127.37			

Source: Blackstone Assessors Database

**Table 13
Protected Open Space Parcels In Blackstone
(Continued)**

SUMMARY AND TOTAL		
OWNER	USE	ACREAGE
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE	Conservation	539.62
	Water Supply	90.89
	Sub-Total	630.51
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	Trail	34.4
	Conservation	264.5
	Sub-Total	298.9
METACOMET LAND TRUST	Conservation/ Preservation	131.1
DANIELS FARMSTEAD FOUNDATION		66.8
	Sub-Total	197.9
TOTAL		1127.3

Source: Blackstone Assessors Database

Table 14 presents the Conservation Restrictions in Blackstone. Most (12.89 acres out of 16.54) of the land under Conservation Restriction is in favor of Metacomet Land Trust.

Table 15 presents the Chapter 61, 61A and 61B lands in Blackstone. Chapter 61 lands keep land undeveloped and each category focuses on a different type of land use. Chapter 61 lands includes land growing forestry products, Chapter 61A represents agricultural land, as well as horticulture land, and Chapter 61B lands are for open space and recreation, which can be anything from a golf course or tennis club to undeveloped land for hiking or observing nature. These “Chapter lands” are not permanently protected. However, they are part of a state program designed to encourage land preservation by offering a local property tax reduction in return for maintaining those uses. However, if those specified uses are changed, then the property owner must pay back taxes for a certain number of years, as well as offer the town the right of first refusal to match any bona fide offer for purchase of the property.

As Table 15 indicates, most of the Chapter land, 358 acres, is in the agriculture/horticulture category, Chapter 61A. Another 140 acres are involved in forestry. There are no Chapter 61B lands in Blackstone. The nearly 500 acres of farm and forestry land play a significant role in helping to maintain Blackstone’s agricultural and rural heritage.

Access to parks is also important to the health of Blackstone residents since they provide opportunities for physical activities. The AARP Livability Index rates neighborhoods on their access to parks within a half-mile. A rating of 0.0 indicates that a community has an average number of parks within a half mile. Blackstone’s score is 0.7, indicating more parks within a half-mile than the U.S. average.

Table 16 presents the public and private recreation sites in Blackstone. The school sites provide recreation facilities that supplement Roosevelt Park, located behind the Municipal Center and Turbesi Park, located in Millerville. Veterans Park on Elm Street had been developed with soccer fields but is currently unused. However, while much of the site will be devoted to veterans housing in the future, that development provides for the construction of soccer fields for Town use, as well as use by residents.

The only significant private recreation facility in Blackstone is Tupper Park. In the late 1950's Earl Tupper purchased the site of an old mill, dating back to the early 1800's, to manufacture the product he invented: Tupperware. He built a recreation park on 12 of the acres of land to be enjoyed by his employees and their families. This property was used until the late 1980's, when Tupper sold the park. In 1995, the Blackstone Valley Boys & Girls Club (BVBGC) leased the park and revived Tupper Park for a summer program for 400 local youths. In 1996, David King, from the Champlin Foundation, donated funds to purchase the land to create a year-round home for the Boy & Girls Club.

**Table 14
Conservation Restrictions in Blackstone**

CR#	CR Reference	Date Received by DCS	Grantor	Grantee	Street	Acreage
1	11288	4/18/2006	C and B Blackstone	Metacomet Land Trust Inc.	--	12.89
2	16377	7/13/2017	Thomas J. and Donna M. Bik	Town of Blackstone, Board of Water & Sewer Commission	95 Elm	0.58
3	16378	7/13/2017	Stephen C. and Susan K. Burke	Town of Blackstone, Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners	60 Glenside	0.03
4	16379	7/13/2017	Stephen R and Tracy L. LaBonte	Town of Blackstone, Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners	89 Elm	0.13
5	16380	7/13/2017	Joseph L. and Ellen Martel	Town of Blackstone, Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners	85 Elm	0.30
6	16381	7/13/2017	Sandra A. Remillard and Matthew G. Boulay	Town of Blackstone, Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners	101 Elm	0.02
7	16382	7/13/2017	Woo-Kyung Shim and Hyung-Suk Jung	Town of Blackstone, Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners	87 Elm	0.74
8	16383	7/13/2017	Sarah R. and Wallace R. Amant	Town of Blackstone, Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners	91 Elm	0.70
9	16384	7/13/2017	Paul E. Vallee	Town of Blackstone, Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners	83 Elm	0.08
10	16468	1/18/2018	Thomas J. and Donna M. Bik	Town of Blackstone	97 Elm	1.07
TOTAL CR Acreage						16.54

Division of Conservation Services, 2021

**Table 15
Chapter 61, 61A And 61B Lands in Blackstone**

LOCATION	OWNER	ASSESSOR'S MAP/LOT NO.	AREA (acres)	ZONING
Chapter 61				
Lincoln Street	Makowski	11-17A	16.3	I
79 Mendon Street	Makowski	11-24A	25.43	I/R1
Federal and Summer Streets	Alexandrowicz	15-61&61A	57.22	R1
Farm Street	Bik	16-24A	5.35	R1
Farm Street	Bik	16-28A	5.75	R1
Bellingham Road	Cournoyer	19-10	16.93	R3
Union Street	Saravara	24-17&18	13.14	R3
Total Chapter 61			140.12	
Chapter 61A				
Federal Street	Zerva/Green	15-13	8.56	R1
83 Federal Street	Zerva/Green	15-66A	70.00	R1
25 Park Street	Notorantonio	16-3A	8.19	R2
Federal Street	Zerva/Green	16-45	42.37	R1
Elm Street/Handy Rd	Fox	21-27,27A&33	16.89	R2
216 Blackstone	Webber	22-62A	16.7	R2
60 Milk Street	Deguire	23-19A	51.74	R2
Chestnut Street	Wojcik	25-15	17.27	R3
Mendon Street	Wojcik	25-17	26.02	R3
Union Street	Poirier	26-37A	5.64	R3
222 Mendon Street	Wojcik	27-8A	11.36	R3
33 Milk Street	Markle	27-21A	9.05	R2
277R Blackstone St.	Robbins	27-38	39.70	R2
63 Milk Street	Wojcik	27-42	1.16	R2
Milk Street	Wojcik	27-49	19.39	R2
Mendon Street	Wojcik	27-134A	7.95	R3
Milk/Mendon Streets	Wojcik	27-10A, 11,43,44&131	6.01	R2/R3
Total Chapter 61A			358.00	
Chapter 61B			0.0	
Total Chapter 61B			0.0	
TOTAL CHAPTER 61, 61A & 61B LANDS			498.12	

Source: Blackstone Assessors Database

**Table 16
Public And Private Recreation Sites in Blackstone**

NAME	LOCATION	AREA	EXISTING USES/FACILITIES	CONDITION
PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS				
A. Roosevelt Park	St. Paul Street	9.00	Baseball fields, basketball courts, pavilion, playground equipment, track	Good
B. Turbesi Park	Rathbun Street	5.90	Baseball/softball fields, basketball court, tot play area	Fair
C. JFK/Maloney Elementary Schools/Goulet Field	200 Lincoln Street	23.36*	Baseball fields, basketball courts, playground equipment, gymnasium	Good
D. Blackstone-Millville Regional Senior High School	Lincoln Street	34.7*	Baseball/softball fields, soccer/field hockey fields, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, tennis courts, track, gymnasium	Good
E. Blackstone-Millville Regional Middle School (Hartnett)	Federal Street	33.12*	Soccer field	Good
F. Elm Street Mini-Park	Elm Street	2.00	Basketball/playground equipment	Fair
G. Valati Mini-Park	Summer Street	3.75	Benches, picnic tables	Excellent
H. Veterans Memorial Park	Elm Street	24.54	Currently mostly unused, to be used for parking to access trails	Poor
I. Town Common	Main Street	.25#	Grassy area with a gazebo, stone monument and a bench	Good
Total Public Recreation Acreage (including schools)		136.62		
PRIVATE RECREATION AREAS				
I. Tupper Park (Boys and Girls Club)	115 Canal Street	11.8	Swimming and wading pools, tennis and basketball courts, shuffleboard, baseball/softball fields, arts and crafts center, picnic areas, playground equipment	NA
Total Private Recreation Acreage		11.8		
TOTAL RECREATION ACREAGE		148.42		

Source: Blackstone Assessor's Database

*Acreage includes entire school sites. #Estimated, not a separate parcel

Section 6: Community Vision

Description of Process

The Community Vision was derived, in part, from a survey of residents completed in March 2020 with 328 responses (See Appendix for a report on the results), the goals from the 2018 Master Plan, and input from the first public forum conducted via Zoom on April 26, 2021. Additional input was received from the Parks and Recreation Committee, Board of Selectmen, and Planning Board. A second public forum was held on January 24, 2022, at which additional input was received.

Open Space and Recreation Vision

Blackstone strongly values both open space and recreation and continues to invest in both. Most importantly, open space is valued for its role in protecting water quality, sensitive habitat areas and wildlife corridors and the town's rural character. It also provides opportunities for green infrastructure as well as passive recreation through trails, observation of nature, fishing and other similar activities. The Town's vision is to ensure that the amenities provided by its open space will continue to be available for future Blackstone residents in perpetuity.

Blackstone's recreation facilities are also important components of life for its residents. The Town's vision is to continue to build upon the current inventory of recreation facilities through upgrades and new facilities to serve the current and future recreation needs of all demographic groups and sections of town.

A specific set of goals and objectives can be found in Section 8.

Section 7: Needs Analysis

Resource Protection Needs

As the Community Setting section indicates, the Town of Blackstone experienced significant growth between 1980 and 1990 and steady, but more moderate growth since 1990. The population grew 22.1% in the 1980's, before slowing to 9.7% percent in the 1990's then 2.4% in the 2000s. The slowdown in growth continued after 2010, increasing by only 2.2% percent between 2010 and 2020. Overall, Blackstone's population grew from 6,570 in 1980 to 9,208 in 2020, averaging roughly 660 additional persons per decade. While there are numerous positive aspects of growth, there are also negative impacts associated with pressures on the natural and built environments.

Growth often contributes to changes in a town's character, such as through the loss of open space and transformation of rural roadways into suburban collector roads. As identified in the responses to the survey questions, the town's character is important to residents and needs to be protected. The town's character has been supported through the acquisition of open space and conservation lands, and by the development of policies and regulations that protect Blackstone's natural resources.

Growth can also increase stress on water recharge areas and wildlife habitat, creating a need to conserve natural resources, especially water. Map 8 in the Environmental Inventory and Analysis section illustrates the public well locations and aquifer recharge areas of Blackstone.

Map 12 presents the Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife, and Priority Habitats of Rare Species areas of Blackstone. A Priority Habitat is based on the known geographical extent of habitat for all state-listed rare species, both plants and animals, and is codified under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). Estimated Habitats are a subset of Priority Habitats and are based on the geographical extent of habitat of state-listed rare wetlands wildlife and is codified under the Wetland Protection Act (WPA). These areas also represent sensitive areas in need of protection.

The Priority Habitat areas are in the northern part of town. Both straddle the town line with Mendon. One includes the area within the Quisset Wildlife Management Area and the other is along the Mill River and Quick Stream as well as the area around the power plant.

Protecting these important resources is critical. The Management Needs section presents some of the potential and existing tools that are available to help fulfill this need. Maps, social media, town website, signage and other measures can be used to identify and increase awareness about those resources. Increasing awareness and highlighting the need for protection can help build support for protection measures. When asked about priorities for spending Town funds in the survey of residents, maintaining conservation areas was supported by 80% of respondents.

Community Needs (Recreation)

Blackstone residents had the opportunity to participate in a survey and two public forums [to be held] to help identify community needs. (See the appendix for more information on the survey). The

Parks and Recreation Committee also identified needs pertaining to its mission. The survey queried responders about the overall quality of recreational facilities in Blackstone. Approximately 52 percent of responders ranked Blackstone's recreation facilities as good or excellent. The survey respondents were also asked to rank a list of recreation items, indicating those considered to be a priority. The top five recreation items identified as priorities by survey responders who ranked them as first, second or third most important* are:

- Children's playgrounds (54 percent of total responses),
- Bike trails (37 percent),
- Hiking trails (35 percent),
- Conservation areas (32 percent),
- Neighborhood parks (27 percent), and
- Basketball courts (25 percent).

The percentages listed represent the total percentages for each facility ranked as the first, second and third highest priority.

In the survey question about priorities for spending Town funds, improving recreation areas was the most supported category with 92 percent support. Maintaining conservation areas was second with 80% support followed by developing recreation facilities with 74 percent.

At the first public forum on April 26, 2021, the need for more and connected trails was strongly supported. It was suggested that creating trails within the Quissett Hill Wildlife Management Area be pursued. It was noted that the New England Mountain Bike Association will help support trail maintenance. In response to questions about scheduling recreation facilities, it was noted that the Parks and Recreation Committee was developing its own web site that would have the capability of showing a use schedule as well as receive requests for scheduling use of the various fields and facilities. The need for programs for those with special needs was also presented. Questions were also raised about dog parks and skateboard parks.

The Parks and Recreation Committee was able to identify both general needs, and specific needs at each of their facilities. Among the general needs are the following: improve handicapped accessibility, create hiking and bike trails, field maintenance and repair, continued growth of recreation facilities, and create and manage interactive events for residents of all ages.

The handicapped accessibility and walking paths would help address the needs of seniors as well as the disabled, and hiking and bike trails address all ages, including teens, young and middle aged adults and seniors. Programs to address the needs of those under 19 and between 50 and 64 were specifically identified as a need.

The specific needs at each facility are as follows: Upgrade Turbesi Park by replacing the playground equipment and adding a new building for concessions, rest rooms and a meeting room; adding lights and cameras at Valati Park, and upgrading the concession building at Roosevelt Park and adding pumps to the existing cisterns for irrigation; and adding community gardens at Roosevelt Park.

The 2017 Massachusetts State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) survey of residents found that 78.1% rated their community's recreation facilities as good or excellent, higher than the 52% in the Blackstone survey. The top activities in popularity mentioned in the SCORP survey were walking, running or jogging (the only category with more than 50% support), and hiking (mentioned by about a third of respondents). These correspond to the popularity of bike and hiking trails in Blackstone. The next three were swimming in freshwater or saltwater (19%), road biking (18%), and swimming in pools (15%). The most desired improvements in local facilities were hiking trails, playgrounds, paved multi-use trails, swimming pools and spray parks, and unpaved multi-use trails such as mountain bike trails. Again, these results correspond closely with the Blackstone survey results.

Community Needs (Open Space)

Regarding open space needs, survey respondents felt that the most important characteristics of open space were serving as greenways/wildlife corridors (78.7%), wildlife habitat (78.6%) protecting land from development (74%), hiking/walking venue (71%) and scenic value (69%). Passive recreation (55%) also received majority support. Similarly, when asked how important it is to preserve certain features, open spaces – water (86%), trails/paths (80%), open spaces – recreation (78%), farmlands (73%), historic places (72%), open spaces – conservation (72%), and historic buildings (69%) were rated as very important.

At the first public forum on April 26, 2021, it was noted that a parcel of land was for sale between Route 122 and the Blackstone Canal, and a question was asked about how would one initiate consideration of the Town purchasing that parcel. The need and desire for more trails and connecting trails was also strongly noted. Gaps in the SNETT where sections had been sold off were noted as challenges to making connections. The need for an area at the crossroads of the Blackstone River Greenway and SNETT that would serve as a stopping off point was also noted.

Again, as noted above, the 2017 SCORP corresponds with the Blackstone survey results regarding the desire for trails and bike paths. The SCORP goal to go “above and beyond ADA requirements” in designing trails also relates to the Town’s recognition of the need for improved accessibility on its trails, which will also better serve seniors. The goal of serving the needs of underserved groups such as seniors and teens also supports the Town’s identification of the need for better services for those under 19 and between 50 and 64.

Management Needs

A fundamental requirement of maintaining and enhancing the Town’s open space and recreation assets is having the resources to do so. Revenues must be identified for the purposes of maintaining, enhancing and acquiring open space or recreation properties, as well as developing or rehabilitating recreation facilities and promoting their use. Some options include state grant funds, collaborating with neighboring towns and/or private entities, and identifying additional revenue-generating activities that could be used to help maintain existing facilities as well as providing for future growth.

Collaborative efforts are possible in supporting open space and outdoor activities. These could include entities such as Metacomet Land Trust, the various Watershed Associations, scout and youth sports groups, etc.

Other management needs include developing use and maintenance plans for each conservation area and improved maintenance for recreation areas and facilities. This would include increased connectivity, development of trails, adding benches and tables, encouraging their use as focal points of town interaction, and improved communication about the existence and availability of each of the sites and facilities.

Protecting and enhancing Blackstone's community character is also an important need as indicated by the survey. Many tools are already in place to accomplish this. Blackstone government leaders, town staff, and citizens have been diligent in protecting the Town's resources. Over the course of the past several years, town bylaws, zoning bylaws, and specific rules and regulations, were added to Blackstone's bylaws and regulations. These inform and guide development in an effort to continue to protect the Town's natural and historic resources which contribute to the Town's character, while simultaneously safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of its residents. These include regulatory tools such as:

- Flexible Residential Development
- Groundwater Protection District
- Village Overlay District
- Soil Removal Bylaw
- Wetlands Protection Bylaw
- Floodplain District
- Scenic Roads Act
- Stormwater Management regulations

Regarding priorities for the next 5-10 years, the following additional management needs were identified:

- Prepare management and maintenance plans for each of town-owned conservation and recreation properties.
- Explore potential to collaborate with other towns and/or nonprofits to provide recreation and conservation opportunities.
- Continue to identify and protect places with special significance to the community.
- Expand efforts to increase awareness about recreation and conservation lands..

Section 8: Open Space and Recreation Goals and Objectives

Open space can be protected through outright acquisition, conservation easements, flexible residential development, donation and other means. Protected natural areas help preserve Town character, serve as wildlife habitat, can be used as “green infrastructure” to absorb flood waters and stormwater management in general, and provide opportunities for trails and other passive recreation opportunities.

Blackstone has increased its protected open space by about a third since 2001. Most of this increase was due to the acquisition of 136 acres, as a result of the power plant development on Bellingham Road. Acquisition of additional lands remains a high priority, as documented in the survey of residents.

As the survey results demonstrate, active recreation is important to Blackstone residents. While 62% and 61% responded that the number and type of recreation facilities were “Important” or “Very important”, only 52% of survey participants were satisfied with the types of recreational facilities available and 47% of participants rated the number of facilities as “Fair” or “Poor”. This indicates a need for improvement.

The goals and objectives are presented below in priority order:

Goal 1: Protect Natural Resources Through Acquisition of Open Space

- Target priority areas
- Identify additional lands that abut existing protected open space or wildlife corridors
- Identify parcels needed to increase resiliency to climate change
- Encourage use of Flexible Residential Development

Goal 2: Develop additional trails

- Identify lands with potential for hiking and/or bike trails
- Review feasibility of connecting existing and future trails into a network
- Develop, improve and promote bike and hiking trails
- Develop a plan to create trails in former rail corridors

Goal 3: Improve Open Space and Recreation Resources

- Improve ADA accessibility at all facilities
- Acquire additional open space
- Link/expand existing open space and recreation areas
- Increase connections to Blackstone River Greenway and SNETT
- Evaluate feasibility of solar or other renewable energy at each recreation site

Goal 4: Expand Active Recreation Resources

- Construct bathroom/concession stand at Turbesi Park
- Explore opportunities for new or expanded playgrounds
- Identify areas for potential new playing fields
- Increase amenities at existing sites

Goal 5: Improve Access And Awareness Of Open Space And Recreation Resources

- Provide an inventory of Town lands available for passive and active recreation uses
- Add signage at locations where use is encouraged
- Increase outreach efforts through traditional and social media
- Develop or identify new revenue sources for maintenance and future growth
- Maintain and improve as feasible landscaping and hardscaping materials at all recreation sites

Goal 6: Develop New Facilities and Programs to Serve All Demographic Groups

- Advocate for programs/activities/clubs to utilize recreation sites and further involve community members
- Create and manage interactive events to involve residents of all ages
- Facilitate outdoor recreational opportunities for adults
- Ensure that new playground equipment is ADA-compliant
- Facilitate outdoor recreational opportunities for seniors

Section 9: Action Plan

One key recommendation of the Action Plan is the creation of a Sustainability Committee. A Sustainability Committee would have a greater role in Town activities than assisting in implementing open space and recreation goals. As indicated in the Action Plan chart, the Sustainability Committee would have a lead role in identifying and advocating for acquisition of open space but with a primary perspective of increasing resiliency to climate change.

It could, in conjunction with other boards and committees consider more traditional functions of open space such as preservation of habitat, passive and active recreation, etc. But its primary criterion for evaluating potential acquisition or improvements would be to improve climate change resiliency or mitigation by storing carbon, absorbing and treating stormwater, serving as flood plains for increasingly intense storms, and cooling the surface as temperatures continue to increase.

Other functions of the Sustainability Committee could include (1) assisting the Town in maintaining its status as a Green Community by proposing, evaluating and/or advocating for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects; (2) monitoring the State's evolving climate policies and greenhouse gas emissions goals and make recommendations on keeping the Town aligned with those policies; (3) promoting or encouraging residents to take action to improve resiliency and reduce carbon emissions by participating in programs such as MassSave; and (4) identifying and pursuing external funding sources, such as grants and incentives, to address the above tasks.

Blackstone has increased its protected open space by about a third since 2001. Most of this increase was due to the acquisition of 136 acres, as a result of the power plant development on Bellingham Road. Acquisition of additional lands remains a high priority, as documented in the survey of residents. Areas that have been identified include the Quisset Hill/Daniels Farm area, Fox Brook area, Chapter 61, 61A and 61B Lands Sensitive Environmental Areas.

Improving and adding trails is a high priority for Blackstone as evidenced in the survey of residents and at the public forums. Accordingly, developing additional trails is a major goal of the Action Plan.

The Action Plan includes a goal to improve open space and recreation resources. As identified in the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan in the Appendix, most facilities are in need of improved accessibility. Connections among open space and recreation areas, especially to the Blackstone River Greenway and SNETT, are also desired.

There is demand for expanding active recreation resources. This includes improving existing facilities as well as working to develop additional facilities. Adding a bathroom/concession stand at Turbesi Park was one such improvement that was identified specifically.

Improving access and awareness of existing open space and recreation resources is also important. Signage, use of GIS and public outreach programs are some of the suggestions to address this. Not all demographic groups are being adequately served by the current inventory of open space and recreation resources. Therefore, this will be addressed by developing new programs and facilities.

The table on the next page presents the Action Plan followed by Map 14, the Action Plan Map.

ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
Goal 1: Protect Natural Resources Through Acquisition of Open Space					
Target priority areas	Sustainability Committee	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, DPW	Establish Sustainability Committee by Board of Selectmen, Assessors Database	2022-2029	LAND grants, Flexible Development
Identify additional lands that abut existing protected open space or wildlife corridors	Sustainability Committee	Planning Board, Conservation Commission	GIS, Assessors Database	2022-2024	NA
Identify parcels needed to increase resiliency to climate change	Sustainability Committee	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, DPW	GIS, Assessors Database	2022-2027	NA
Encourage use of Flexible Residential Development	Planning Board	ZBA, Building Inspector, Conservation Commission	Special permit process	2022-2029	NA

Continued LAND = Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
Goal 2: Develop Additional Trails					
Identify lands with potential for hiking and/or bike trails	Parks and Recreation Committee	Sustainability Committee, Planning Board, Conservation Commission	Assessors Database, GIS	2022-2025	NA
Review feasibility of connecting existing and future trails into a network	Parks and Recreation Committee	Sustainability Committee, Planning Board, Conservation Commission	Identify and map existing trails and potential routes for connections, GIS	2022-2024	Town Budget
Develop, improve and promote bike and hiking trails.	Parks and Recreation Committee	DPW, Board of Selectmen, Sustainability Committee	Categorize trail segments and develop standards for each category	2023-2027	MassTrails, PARC grants, LWCF, Complete Streets
Develop plan to create trails in former rail corridors.	Parks and Recreation Committee	Sustainability Committee, Planning Board	Deed research, environmental assessment	2026-2029	Town Budget

Continued PARC = Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities
 LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
Goal 3: Improve Open Space and Recreation Resources					
Improve ADA accessibility at all facilities	Parks and Recreation Committee	Conservation Commission, DPW	ADA Coordinator, Council on Aging	2022-2027	Municipal ADA Improvement Grants, Capital budget
Acquire additional open space	Sustainability Committee	Planning Board, Conservation Commission	Flexible Residential Development, Conservation restriction, Chapter 61, 61A and 61B right of first refusal	2022-2029	LAND grants,
Link/expand existing open space and recreation areas	Parks and Recreation Committee	Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee	Flexible Residential Development, Conservation restriction, Chapter 61, 61A and 61B right of first refusal	2022-2027	LAND grants
Increase connections to Blackstone River Greenway and SNETT	Sustainability Committee	Planning Board,	Provide signage, limited parking, trail connections for pedestrians and bicyclists	2023-2028	MassTrails, PARC grants,
Evaluate feasibility of solar or other renewable energy at each recreation site.	Sustainability Committee	Parks and Recreation Committee, Board of Selectmen, DPW	Consult with solar developers	2022-2024	DOER Technical Assistance

Continued LAND = Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity DOER = Department of Energy Resources
 LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
Goal 4: Expand Active Recreation Resources					
Construct bathroom/concession stand at Turbesi Park	Parks and Recreation Committee	DPW	Develop specifications	2022-2024	PARC grants, LWCF Capital budget, User fees
Explore opportunities for new or expanded playgrounds	Parks and Recreation Committee	Planning Board	Outright purchase, Chapter 61, 61A and 61B right of first refusal, Flexible residential development	2022-2027	NA
Identify areas for potential new playing fields	Parks and Recreation Committee	Planning Board	Outright purchase, Chapter 61, 61A and 61B right of first refusal, Flexible residential development	2022-2027	NA
Increase amenities at existing sites	Parks and Recreation Committee	DPW	Focus groups, surveys	2022-2024	PARC grants, Capital budget, User fees

Continued PARC = Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities
 LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
Goal 5: Improve Access and Awareness of Open Space and Recreation Resources					
Provide an inventory of Town lands available for passive and active recreation uses	Board of Assessors,	Sustainability Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee	GIS Assessors Records	2022-2023	NA
Add signage at locations where use is encouraged	Parks and Recreation Committee	DPW, Board of Selectmen	NA	2022-2023	Town Budget
Increase outreach efforts through traditional and social media	Parks and Recreation Committee	DPW	Local media Social media Cable access	2022-2029	Town Budget
Develop or identify new revenue sources for maintenance and future growth.	Board of Selectmen	Parks and Recreation Committee	Fees from private sports groups, user fees, fund raisers	2022-2026	Town Budget
Maintain and improve as feasible landscaping and hardscaping materials at all recreation sites.	Parks and Recreation Committee	DPW	Seek donations from landscape companies and suppliers	2022-2024	PARC grants,

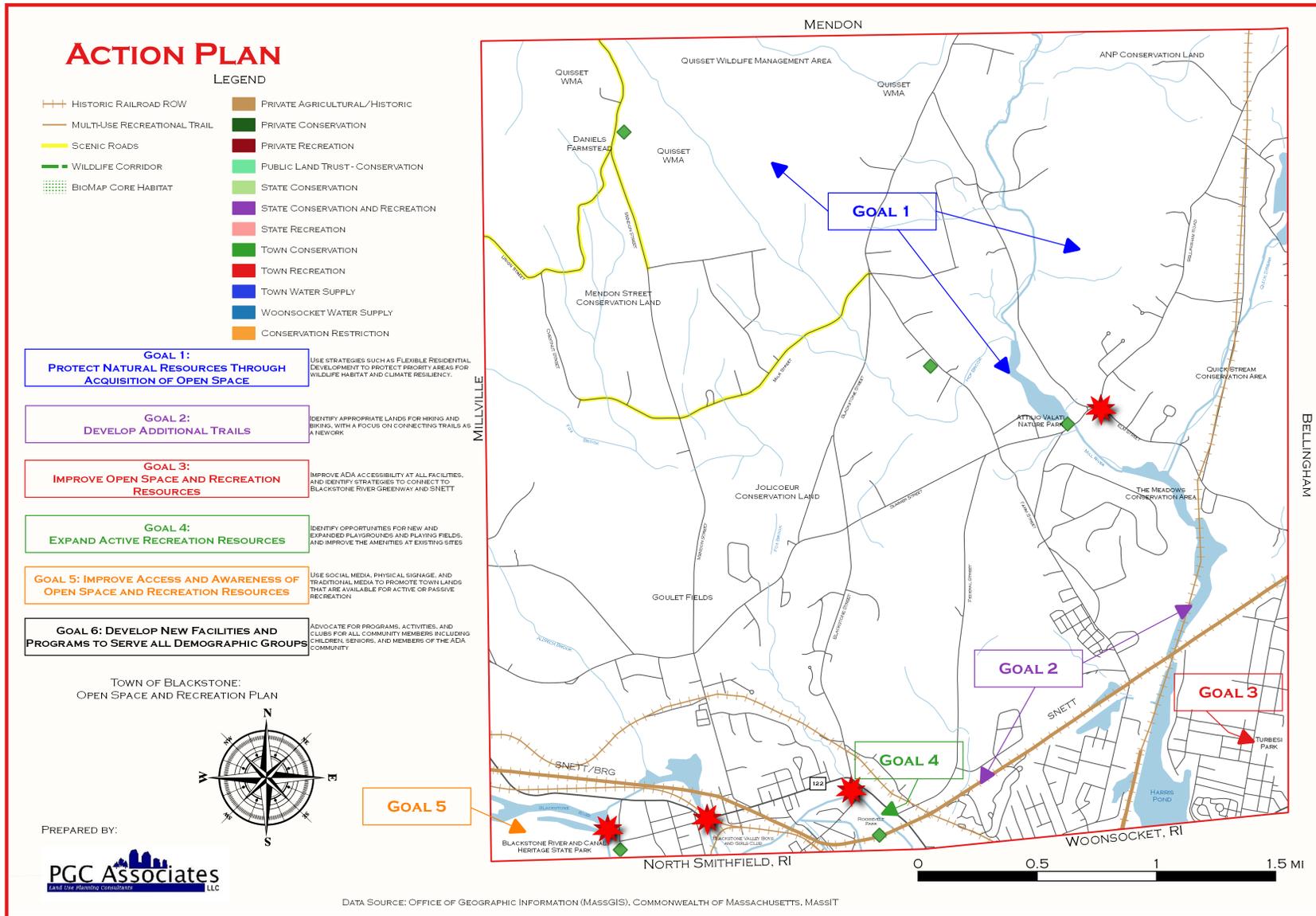
Continued PARC = Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
Goal 6: Develop New Facilities and Programs to Serve All Demographic Groups					
Advocate for programs/activities/clubs to utilize recreation sites and further involve community members.	Parks and Recreation Committee	Board of Selectmen	Seek input from youth sports organizations	2022-2024	Town Budget User fees
Create and manage interactive events to involve residents of all ages.	Parks and Recreation Committee	Council on Aging, Public Schools	Seek input from youth sports organizations, and adult sports groups	2022-2025	Town Budget User fees
Facilitate outdoor recreational opportunities for adults.	Parks and Recreation Committee	Board of Selectmen, Council on Aging	Seek input from adult sports groups	2022-2024	PARC grants
Ensure that new playground equipment is ADA-compliant.	Parks and Recreation Committee	Board of Selectmen	Consult with ADA Coordinator, parent organizations	2023-2025	PARC grants, capital budget
Facilitate outdoor recreational opportunities for seniors.	Parks and Recreation Committee	Board of Selectmen, Council on Aging	Seek input from Council on Aging and ADA Coordinator	2023-2026	PARC grants, capital budget

PARC = Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities

Map 14- Action Plan



Section 10: Public Comments

The following letters of support are attached:

- Board of Selectmen
- Planning Board
- Recreation Committee
- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission



Town of Blackstone
Board of Selectmen
Blackstone, Massachusetts 01504
TEL. (508) 883-1500 • FAX (508) 883-7043

August 16, 2022

Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street — Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

At its meeting of August 16, 2022, the Blackstone Board of Selectmen voted to approve the Open Space and Recreation Plan following a review to confirm that its comments have been incorporated into the plan.

Sincerely,

Ryan Chamberland
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

BLACKSTONE

Office of the Planning Board
Paul Marville, Chairperson
Kirk Van Dyke, Vice-Chairperson
Owen Bebeau
Joseph Belrose
Anthony Catalano



MASSACHUSETTS

15 St. Paul St.
Blackstone, MA 01504
Telephone: 508 883-1500 ext. 163
Stacia Lariviere
Planning Coordinator
planning@townofblackstone.org

February 1, 2022

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

Dear Melissa,

At the January 6, 2022 Planning Board meeting, the Board unanimously voted to write this letter of support for the proposed Open Space and Recreation Plan submitted by the Town of Blackstone with assistance from Mr. Gino Carlucci.

The Planning Board feels that the plan will help guide the town in making decisions about open space and recreation in the future, and the eligibility for grants will help the Town in implementing its goals and objectives. The Board feels that the Town of Blackstone will benefit from improvement of the current open space so that it can be made useable and accessible to the residents of this town.

Please consider this letter for your approval of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Paul Marville
Chairman
The Town of Blackstone Planning Board



Celeste Langlois
Chairperson

Robert Gilbert
Vice-Chairperson

Don Cox

Kim Briggs

Matthew Bourgeois

Blackstone Parks and Recreation Commission
15 St. Paul Street
Blackstone, MA 01504

January 10, 2022

To whom it may concern,

The Town of Blackstone Parks and Recreation Commission has been actively engaged with PCG Associates in review of an updated Open Space and Recreation Plan.

We hosted a public hearing on April 26, 2021 where public survey results were presented and goals and objectives were refined.

In response to the survey results calling for recreational use of open space we initiated an objective to utilize town owned property for walking and bicycling. Two initial properties of over a combined 140 acres were identified and explored. We requested and received approval from the Board of Selectman on December 7, 2021 to designate these properties for conservation and passive recreation.

A draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan was reviewed in our board meeting on December 13, 2021 where we provided our feedback. In addition, we will host the host a public hearing on January 24, 2022 for presentment of the plan highlights and to seek comments from those in attendance.

We are pleased to provide our unanimous support for the updated Plan.

Sincerely,

Celeste Langlois, Chairperson
Blackstone Parks and Recreation Commission
15 St. Paul Street
Blackstone, MA 01504

Matthew A. Bourgeois





1 Mercantile Street – Suite 520
Worcester, MA 01608
508.756.7717 P
508.792.6818 F
www.cmrpc.org

August 31, 2022

Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge St., Ste. 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of Blackstone 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan;

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is writing this letter in support of the Town of Blackstone and its recently completed 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Town is to be commended for its hard work putting this Plan together.

The Committee and its consultant, PGC Associates, have done a very thorough job and the final document appears compliant with the standards for such plans as promulgated by your office. This plan highlights how Blackstone continues to be a desirable place to live and examines the demand and pressures associated with residential development in a historical mill village. Blackstone has recognized the need to balance new development with the need to protect water quality, sensitive habitat, and wildlife corridors and the town's rural character. Its vision is to provide opportunities for green infrastructure as well as passive recreation through trails and other outdoor activities is consistent with those of other communities in our region. Additionally, this Plan acknowledges the public's desire to the preserve Blackstone's natural resources, improve its water supply, protect and promote its agriculture, provide recreation opportunities for all demographics, and improve the Town's climate resilience.

Blackstone's Open Space and Recreation Plan provides the Town with the specific guidance and action steps needed to accomplish its goals and objectives. These goals and objectives, which have been informed by significant community input, are clearly laid out in this plan. One key recommendation of the Action Plan is the creation of a Sustainability Committee. A Sustainability Committee would have a greater role in Town activities than assisting in implementing open space and recreation goals. This recommendation will enable the implementation of the rest of the Action Plan.

Please consider this letter to be a demonstration of CMRPC's support for the Plan and the process used to develop it. The Town of Blackstone will be well-served by having a State-approved Open Space and Recreation Plan in order to plan for its recreation facilities and programs, as well as to preserve and protect its valuable open spaces and natural resources.

Sincerely,

Trish Settles
Deputy Director
Regional Collaboration & Community Planning

Section 11: References

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- <https://lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/lmi/EmploymentAndWages/EAWResult?A=05&GA=000283&Y=2010&P=00&O=00&I=10~0&Iopt=1&Dopt=TEXT>
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Appendix

- A. ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan**
- B. Detailed Tables of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest**
- C. Report on Survey Results**

Appendix A: ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Introduction

The ADA Self Evaluation is “a detailed assessment of the recreation commission and conservation commission [that]... includes a site-by-site inventory of all recreation and conservation areas and buildings, programs or services and a transition plan if any changes are necessary to make these public facilities, programs, or services accessible. The Assessment should ensure compliance with Federal anti-discrimination regulations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as Amended (“ADA”).²

The requirements of the ADA are administered in Massachusetts by the Architectural Access Board (“AAB”), as set forth in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations.³ The purpose of the ADA requirements is to “seek to create or adapt sites, buildings and facilities so that they can be approached, entered, and used by persons with disabilities.” For the purpose of an OSRP, public recreational and conservation facilities must be evaluated for compliance with the ADA in accordance with the Code of Massachusetts Regulations. It should be noted, however, that the DCS Workbook emphasizes the creation of an accessible system of facilities rather than an inventory of facilities in which every site is fully accessible.

Part I: Administrative Requirements

1. Designation of an ADA Coordinator

The ADA Coordinator for the Town of Blackstone is its Town Administrator:

Chad Lovett
Town Administrator’s Office
15 St. Paul Street
Blackstone, MA 01504
508-883-1500
dvecchio@townofblackstone.org

The following letter signed by Board of Selectmen Chairman Ryan Chamberland confirms the designation of the Town Administrator as the ADA Coordinator. Also, attached in Part III is a letter from Mr. Lovett confirming that employment practices in Blackstone are consistent with ADA requirements.

² ADA

³ 521 CMR 19:00



Town of Blackstone
Board of Selectmen
Blackstone, Massachusetts 01504
TEL. (508) 883-1500 • FAX (508) 883-7043

February 13, 2024

Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street — Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114 Date

Dear Ms. Cryan:

Please be advised that Chad Lovett, Town Administrator, is currently Blackstone's ADA Coordinator.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Ryan Chamberland, Chairman

2. Public Notification and Grievance Procedure

The Town of Blackstone does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or in services. Notification pertaining to employment is posted prominently in Town Hall:



According to the Town of Blackstone's Recruitment policy, it "is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, sexual orientation, or veteran status in the provision of employment opportunities and benefits."

The Town of Blackstone designates its Town Administrator as the responsible party for receiving and answering complaints. According to the Town Charter, the Town Administrator "shall receive and answer complaints and refer complaints to the proper department for attention. When [s]he deems it advisable [s]he shall make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen concerning the disposition of complaints.

The Grievance Procedure is specified in Section 145-54 of the Town Code as follows:

§ 145-54. Grievance procedure.

Grievances shall relate to improper application of these personnel rules and regulations or disciplinary procedures and shall be resolved in the following manner:

A. First step.

- (1) An aggrieved employee shall discuss any matter of dispute with an immediate supervisor in a mutual effort to resolve any problem or misunderstanding. Upon failing to resolve any grievance in an informal manner, an aggrieved employee may present a grievance in writing to the department head within 10 days from the time the employee has knowledge or reasonably should have had knowledge of the occurrence which gave rise to the grievance. The written grievance shall contain the following information:
 - (a) The section of the regulation upon which the grievance is based;
 - (b) The occurrence(s) being grieved;
 - (c) Applicable dates and time;

- (d) Any pertinent information relative to the grievance;
 - (e) An indication of the relief that is desired.
- (2) The department head, within five working days of receipt of a grievance, shall provide an answer in writing to the aggrieved employee.
 - (3) If the immediate supervisor and the department head are the same, the employee may follow procedures set forth in Subsection B below.
- B. Second step. If the grievance has not been resolved as provided in Subsection A above, the aggrieved employee may, within five working days after receipt of the written answer from the department head, or within 10 working days after presentation of the grievance to the department head, present the grievance in writing to the appointing authority. If the appointing authority and the department head are the same then the employee shall immediately follow procedures set forth in Subsection C below. The appointing authority shall answer the grievance in writing within 10 days after its receipt.
- C. Third step. If the grievance has not been resolved as provided in Subsection B above, the aggrieved employee may, within 10 working days after receipt of the written answer from the appointing authority, present the grievance in writing with a request for a hearing to the Personnel Board. The Personnel Board shall hold a hearing on the grievance and shall answer the grievance within 30 days after its receipt. The Personnel Board may support, modify or reverse the action of the appointing authority, provided, however, that such action to modify or reverse a decision shall be by roll call vote of the Personnel Board and the appointing authority sitting in joint session. Any such decision shall be final.

3. Participation of Individuals with Disabilities or Organizations Representing the Disabled Community
This report was reviewed by the Town's ADA Coordinator.

Part II: Program Accessibility

The DCS Workbook calls for an inventory and a future transition plan that includes the buildings, recreation facilities and equipment (swimming areas, tot lots, etc.), programs, and services under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission or Recreation Commission, including lessees or concessionaires. The inventory is an analysis of the existing conditions at conservation and recreation sites for compliance with the AAB regulations, while the transition plan identifies a path towards improved accessibility and ADA compliance.

Facility Inventory:

There are four sites in the Town of Blackstone that are under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission or the Parks and Recreation Committee and include the requisite facilities to require study for ADA compliance. Three are under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Committee and one is under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. The sites offer a variety of opportunities for public use including both active and passive recreation.

1. Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities in Blackstone include picnic sites, trails, tot lots, playing fields and courts. The facilities were reviewed for their proximity to accessible paths and their compliance with accessibility requirements set forth by the AAB. Common requirements include accessible dimensions and features on equipment, proper signage including for the visually impaired, and accompanying programs and services that provide opportunities to the disabled community.

2. Parking

Any public recreation or conservation site with designated off-street parking shall comply with the parking and passenger loading zone provisions set forth in 521 CMR 23.00 (“the Parking Requirements”). The Parking Requirements set forth a minimum number of accessible spaces that must be provided according to the number of total spaces available in the lot, as follows:

Total Spaces In Lot	Required Minimum Number of Accessible Spaces
15-25	1
26-50	2
51-75	3
76-100	4
101-150	5
151-200	6
201-300	7
301-400	8
401-500	9
501-1,000	2% of total
1,001+	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1000

Source: 521 CMR 23.2.1

Furthermore, one in every eight accessible spaces, but not less than one space, shall be van accessible.⁴ Van accessible spaces must provide a minimum vertical clearance of eight feet, two inches at the parking space and along at least one vehicle access route to such spaces from site entrances and exits. The space shall also have a minimum dimension of eight feet in width as well as an eight foot wide adjacent access aisle, and be marked by a sign designating it as “Van Accessible”.⁵ Alternatively, the van requirement may be satisfied by having all handicapped spaces eleven or more feet wide.⁶

3. Ramps

For the purposes of ADA compliance, any part of an accessible route with a slope greater than 5% shall be considered a ramp.⁷ Ramp designation triggers slope, rise, width, and landing requirements as well as gripping requirements on rails and surfaces.

Any accessible route shall provide a continuous unobstructed path connecting accessible spaces and elements inside and outside a facility.⁸ The route must adhere to width, turning radius, passing space, and slope requirements. Furthermore, an accessible route may also be designated as a walkway, giving rise to further requirements set forth in 521 CMR 22:00.

4. Rest Rooms

Roosevelt Park and Goulet Fields, under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Committee, have permanent public toilet facilities that were reviewed for ADA compliance.

5. Picnicking

Picnic areas are regulated under recreational facilities in 521 CMR 19.6. The regulations require that picnic facilities be accessible from an accessible route that is paved or hard packed.⁹ Additionally, 5% of tables provided at a site shall comply with 521 CMR 19.5.2, which sets forth dimensional requirements for accessible tables.

Site Evaluations

The following Facility Inventory is a comprehensive accessibility evaluation of all sites in the Town of Blackstone under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Committee or Conservation Commission with public facilities. A summary of each facility is presented, followed by full tables from individual site observations.

Please note: Conservation Commission properties that are natural areas, with no man-made facilities, were not evaluated since they have no facilities to evaluate. Similarly, for sites with some facilities but not all of the facilities listed on the forms, the forms were edited to address only the applicable facilities at that site.

⁴ 521 CMR 23.2.2

⁵ 521 CMR 23.4.7

⁶ 521 CMR 23.4.7

⁷ 521 CMR 24:00

⁸ 521 CMR 20.1

⁹ 521 CMR 19.6.1

Facility Overviews

Franklin D. Roosevelt Park



Address: 15 Saint Paul Street (Rear)

Parcel Number(s): 31-20

Approximate Acreage: 9

Jurisdiction: Parks and Recreation Committee

Facilities: Parking area, signage, picnic shelter, tot lot, basketball courts, softball field, baseball field.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Park is a Works Progress Administration facility located along Blackstone River and behind Blackstone's municipal complex. The majority of the facility is a full-sized baseball field facility with dugouts, bleachers, and permanent concessions and restrooms.

The parking lot for the facility supports 30-40 parking spaces, but the spaces are unmarked, and the pavement is in poor, prone-to-ponding, condition. There is a paved path that provides access around the baseball field, but it is in poor condition as well and doesn't quite reach the main parking lot. It does, however, also provide access from the sidewalks on Farnum Street at the rear of the facility and from the municipal parking lot to the north. The access path could be significantly improved with new paving and some auxiliary branches to provide direct access to facilities at the park. Restroom and concession facilities are old and in need of improvement and repairs to meet ADA requirements. The picnic shelter provides a flat, smooth, concrete surface accessed by a densely packed gravel path from the parking lot.

Roosevelt Park		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths: Nearby, but could be moved closer to path
		Access to open spaces: Yes
		Back and arm rests: No
		Adequate number: No - 4 tables in grass, and 0 in shelter at time of visit
		A minimum of 5% of total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access: No
		For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide, and 24" deep: N/A
		Top of table no higher than 32" above ground: Yes
		Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm, and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with minimum slope of 2% in all directions: No
	Trash cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths: Nearby, but could be moved closer to path
		Number of trash + recycling: 4 trash, 1 recycling observed
Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths: Yes (gravel)	
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash cans, restrooms, parking, etc: Accessible to parking area, trash, and restrooms by gravel path.	
Play Areas (Tot lots)	All Play equipment	Playground equipment is outdated and located on unmaintained surfaces
	Access Routes	No accessible path from parking to play area
Baseball and softball fields	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths: A paved path provides access from the parking lot to Ralph Grignon Memorial softball field. Additional paved path from aqueduct at rear of site provides access to both fields but needs maintenance.
		Handrails: No
	Equipment	Player facilities: Paved path provides access to open softball dugouts. Baseball facilities accessed by dirt path in poor condition. Spectator facilities: Bleachers are not ADA compliant but there are open spaces adjacent.
Basketball Courts	Access Routes	Court is adjacent to paved parking lot but access is obstructed by parking curbs
	Equipment	Player facilities: One metal bench on Main Street side - difficult access.
		Spectator facilities: None present.
		3 trash receptacles and a bicycle rack are adjacent to the court
PARKING		
Total Spaces	30-40	Notes (dimensions)
Required Accessible Spaces:	2	

Existing Accessible Spaces:	2	2 located near entrance to softball field, but surface condition made these spaces difficult to find
Van spaces:	1	located near entrance to softball field, but surface condition made it difficult to find
Access	Is accessible space located closest to accessible entrance?: Yes	
	Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100': N/A	
	Minimum width of 13' including 8' space + 5' aisle: Yes	
	Min. 1 van space for every accessible space. 8' width + 8' aisle. Alternatively all accessible space 11' wide with 5' aisle: Yes	
Signage	Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces: No	
	Sign minimum 5' max 8' to top of sign: No	
Surface	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): No	
	Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%): Yes	
	Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present: N/A	
	Curbcut is a minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow: No	
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance: Yes - but affected by gate	
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance: Yes	
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): Yes	
	No ponding of water: Yes	
Path of Travel	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs: Yes	
	The path is stable, firm, and slip resistant: Yes	
	3' wide minimum: Yes	
	Slope maximum 1:20 and maximum cross pitch 1:50: Yes	
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2": Yes	
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane: Yes	
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80": N/A	
Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-offs: Yes		
BATHROOM FACILITY		
Entrances	Level space extending 5 feet from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors: No, ~4' interior	
	Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge): No	
	At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door: Yes	
	Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist: Yes, No	
	Vestibule is 4' plus the width of the door swinging into the space: Not at entrance	
	Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened: N/A	
	Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed: N/A	
Doors	Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum: N/A	
	Minimum 32" clear opening: Yes	

	Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch: N/A
	Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors: Yes, estimated
	Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides: Yes
	Hardware operable with a closed fist: No
	Clear, level floor space extends out 5' from both sides of the door: No
Sink Area	5' turning space measured 12" from the floor: Yes
	Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow forward approach to sink: Yes
	Sink mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim: Yes, 32"
	Sink extends at least 22" from wall: No
	Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" wide, 27" high: Yes
	Exposed pipes covered with insulation: No
	Faucets operable with closed fist: Yes
Stalls	Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep: No
	Stall door 36" wide: No, 30"
	Stall door swings out: Yes on HC Stall
	Stall door self closing: No
	Stall door has a pull latch: Yes
	Lock on stall door is operable with closed fist, and 32" above floor: No
	Coat hook is 54" high: N/A
Toilets	18" from center to nearest side wall: No
	42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture: No
	Top of seat 17-19" above floor: 17"
Grab bars	On back and side wall closest to toilet: Yes
	1 1/4" diameter: Yes (estimated)
	1 1/2" clearance to wall: Yes
	Located 30" above and parallel to the floor: Yes
	Acid-etched or roughened surface: No
	42" long: Yes, 48"
Fixtures	Toilet paper dispenser 24" above floor: Yes, 37"
	One mirror set at a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted then 42"): N/A
	Dispensers (towel, soap) at least one of each of a maximum 42" above the floor: Yes, soap and PTs are 42"
Floors	Non-slop surface: No
Switches	36-48" height for forward reach, 54" for side reach: Yes, no
Signs	Mounting height 60" to centerline of sign: N/A
	Letters and numbers raised and contrast with background color: No

Turbesi Park



Address: 655 Rathbun Street

Parcel Number(s): 2-141

Approximate Acreage: 6

Jurisdiction: Parks and Recreation Committee

Facilities: Parking area, signage, picnic shelter, tot lot, basketball court, little league field, softball field.

Turbesi Park is a neighborhood facility in the Millerville area of Blackstone and features a basketball court, little league field, and softball field. The facility is accessed from a 40-50 car packed gravel parking lot on Rathbun Street or a path from Miller Street at the south side of the facility. The parking lot is in good condition, but the spaces are not marked, and none are designated handicapped or van spaces. A picnic shelter with a flat concrete surface is located very close to the parking lot, but there is no path to provide access. A tot lot, ball fields, and basketball court are located further from the parking lot and also are in need of an accessible path to provide access for all. Turbesi could be improved with an accessible path to provide access to the park's main facilities, with auxiliary paths to supporting facilities such as porter potties, bleachers, and waste receptacles. The Parks and Recreation Committee has discussed a new restroom facility and other improvements which present an opportunity to make the whole facility more accessible.

Turbesi Park		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths: No
		Access to open spaces: Yes
		Back and arm rests: No
		Adequate number: Yes - one table in open park, 1 table and 2 benches in picnic shelter
		A minimum of 5% of total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access: No
		For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide, and 24" deep: N/A
		Top of table no higher than 32" above ground: Yes
		Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm, and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with minimum slope of 2% in all directions: Yes in shelter, no in park
		Accessible tables, grills, and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter: N/A
	Trash cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths: Located near shelter, but not path for access
		Number of trash + recycling: 2 trash, 1 recycling observed
Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths: No - a path is needed	
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash cans, restrooms, parking, etc: No, a path is needed. But located near parking.	
Play Areas (Tot lots)	All Play equipment	Playground equipment is located on woodchip surface
	Access Routes	No accessible path from parking to play area
Baseball and softball fields	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths: Paths are needed
		Handrails: No
	Equipment	Player facilities: Both fields have dugouts with obstruction or surface issues Spectator facilities: Bleachers are not ADA compliant but there are open spaces adjacent.
Basketball Courts	Access Routes	A paved path provides access from Rathbun Street
	Equipment	Player facilities: One metal bench on each side - no accessible path to access the area
		Spectator facilities: None present.
		2 trash and 2 recycling receptacles - no path to access
PARKING		
Total Spaces	40-50	Notes (dimensions)
Required Accessible Spaces:	2	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	0	The lot is not marked
Van spaces:	0	The lot is not marked
Access	Is accessible space located closest to accessible entrance?: N/A	

	Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100': N/A
	Minimum width of 13' including 8' space + 5' aisle: N/A
	Min. 1 van space for every accessible space. 8' width + 8' aisle. Alternatively, all accessible space 11' wide with 5' aisle: No
Signage	Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces: No
	Sign minimum 5' max 8' to top of sign: No
Surface	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): No
	Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%): Yes
	Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present: N/A
	Curb cut is a minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow: No
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES	
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance: No
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance: No - and picnic shelter is blocked by parking curbs
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): Yes, but failing
	No ponding of water: Yes
Path of Travel	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs: N/A
	The path is stable, firm, and slip resistant: N/A
	3' wide minimum: N/A
	Slope maximum 1:20 and maximum cross pitch 1:50: N/A
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2": N/A
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane: N/A
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80": N/A
	Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-offs: N/A

Goulet Park



Address: Off Mendon Street

Parcel Number(s): 23-1

Approximate Acreage: 5

Jurisdiction: Parks and Recreation Committee

Facilities: Parking lot, signage, accessible path, basketball court, little league field, softball field, soccer fields, small playground.

Goulet Park is located at the JFK-Maloney school complex and shares an assessors' parcel with the school but is operated under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The park consists of a large parking area with accessible path, baseball and softball fields with dugouts and bleachers, soccer fields with benches, and a basketball court. The large parking lot can fit approximately 50-75 spaces, but like the other sites all the spaces are unmarked. An accessible path stretching from the fields' parking lot to the school area provides an opportunity for spectating ballgames and reaching concession and bathroom facilities that may be used in connection with the fields but presumably fall under the jurisdiction of the school department. There is not a path to reach the basketball court, or the infield areas of the ballfields.

Goulet Park		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Baseball, softball, and soccer fields	Access Routes	A gravel path provides access from the school area to the ballfield parking lot. An additional gravel path, in poor condition, extends from the parking lot to bleachers at the softball field. The full sized soccer field has a path along Lincoln Street.
		Handrails: No
	Equipment	Player facilities are generally not accessible to the disabled community.
		Spectator facilities: One set of bleachers at the softball field is accessible by a loose gravel path. Various benches and dugouts are not accessible by paths.
PARKING		
Total Spaces	50-75	Notes (dimensions)
Required Accessible Spaces:	3	0
Existing Accessible Spaces:	0	All spaces are unmarked. However, designated accessible spaces are available in the school's lot.
Van spaces:	1	All spaces are unmarked
Access	Is accessible space located closest to accessible entrance?: N/A	
	Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100?: N/A	
	Minimum width of 13' including 8' space + 5' aisle: N/A	
	Min. 1 van space for every accessible space. 8' width + 8' aisle. Alternatively all accessible space 11' wide with 5' aisle: N/A	
Signage	Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces: No	
	Sign minimum 5' max 8' to top of sign: No	
Surface	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): No	
	Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%): Yes	
	Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present: N/A	
	Curbcut is a minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow: N/A	
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance: N/A	
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance: No designated disembarking area	
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): No, but conditions are better at the school's parking area with designated spaces	
	No ponding of water: Yes	
Path of Travel	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs: Yes	
	The path is stable, firm, and slip resistant: Yes	
	3' wide minimum: Yes	
	Slope maximum 1:20 and maximum cross pitch 1:50: Yes	
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2": No	

	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane: Yes
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80": N/A
	Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-offs: Yes

Attilio Valati Nature Park



Address: 8 Summer Street

Parcel Number(s): 21-50

Approximate Acreage: 4

Jurisdiction: Conservation Commission

Facilities: Parking area, signage, trails, benches, picnic tables

Valati Nature Park straddles the Blackstone River where it crosses Summer Street and provides an opportunity for passive recreation in the forms of nature-viewing, picnicking, and walking. The dirt parking area provides space for approximately 10 vehicles, and like the other sites does not have any marked spaces. It is also prone to ponding. There is a mix of new, accessible benches and tables and older ones, but all could benefit from an accessible path.

Attilio Valati Nature Park		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths: No
		Access to open spaces: Yes
		Back and arm rests: Benches have back rests
		Adequate number: Yes - 3 picnic tables and 6 benches, but none are accessible
		A minimum of 5% of total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access: No
		For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide, and 24" deep: N/A
		Top of table no higher than 32" above ground: Yes
		Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm, and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with minimum slope of 2% in all directions: No
		Accessible tables, grills, and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter: N/A
	Trash cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths: Located near parking, but no path for access
	Number of trash + recycling: 2 trash, 2 recycling observed	
PARKING		
Total Spaces	9-10	Notes (dimensions)
Required Accessible Spaces:	1	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	0	The lot is not marked
Van spaces:	0	The lot is not marked
Access	Is accessible space located closest to accessible entrance?: N/A	
	Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100'?: N/A	
	Minimum width of 13' including 8' space + 5' aisle: N/A	
	Min. 1 van space for every accessible space. 8' width + 8' aisle. Alternatively all accessible space 11' wide with 5' aisle: No	
Signage	Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces: No	
	Sign minimum 5' max 8' to top of sign: No	
Surface	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): No	
	Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%): Yes	
	Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present: N/A	
	Curbcut is a minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow: No	
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance: No	

	Disembarking area at accessible entrance: No
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): No
	No ponding of water: A lot of ponding
Path of Travel	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs: N/A
	The path is stable, firm, and slip resistant: N/A
	3' wide minimum: N/A
	Slope maximum 1:20 and maximum cross pitch 1:50: N/A
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2": N/A
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane: N/A
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80": N/A
	Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-offs: N/A

Elm Street Park



Address: 132 Elm Street

Parcel Number(s): 20-15

Approximate Acreage: 0.59

Jurisdiction: Parks and Recreation Commission

Facilities: Half basketball court, small tot lot area

Elm Street Park is a small facility located behind Fire Station 3 and on the same parcel. There is no designated parking area and no path of travel from the public road to access the facility.

Elm Street Park		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Basketball Court with adjacent tot lot	Access Routes	No path is provided to access the park facilities.
		Handrails: No
	Equipment	Player facilities are generally not accessible to members of the disabled community.
		There are no spectator facilities at the site.
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance: N/A	
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance: No officially designated disembarking area	
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): N/A	
	No ponding of water: N/A	
Path of Travel	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs: N/A	
	The path is stable, firm, and slip resistant: N/A	
	3' wide minimum: No	
	Slope maximum 1:20 and maximum cross pitch 1:50: N/A	
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2": No	
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane: N/A	
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80": N/A	
Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-offs: N/A		

Town Common



Address: Main Street, between Butler and County

Parcel Number(s): N/A

Approximate Acreage: - Not a separate parcel

Jurisdiction: Parks and Recreation Commission

Facilities: Small park with gazebo

Blackstone's Town Common is a very small site located between streets on no separate parcel. The area is grassy and hosts a small gazebo. However, there are no other facilities including parking. There is no path of travel at the park, and there is no break in the curb cut to provide access from any street.

Town Common		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Passive park	Access Routes	No path is provided to access the park facilities.
		Handrails: No
	Equipment	Gazebo, flagpole, monuments
		There are no spectator facilities at the site.
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance: N/A	
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance: No officially designated disembarking area	
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): N/A	
	No ponding of water: N/A	
Path of Travel	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs: N/A	
	The path is stable, firm, and slip resistant: N/A	
	3' wide minimum: No	
	Slope maximum 1:20 and maximum cross pitch 1:50: N/A	
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2": No	
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane: N/A	
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80": N/A	
	Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-offs: N/A	

Note: The following are areas under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. They are natural areas with no parking or other man-made facilities.

Lincoln Street/Fox Brook – This is a 12.6 acre parcel that helps protect Fox Brook.

Lincoln Street/Fox Brook Conservation Area		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Conservation land	Access Routes	No path is provided to access the conservation area.
		Handrails: No
	Equipment	NA
		NA
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance: N/A	
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance: No officially designated disembarking area	
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): N/A	
	No ponding of water: N/A	
Path of Travel	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs: N/A	
	The path is stable, firm, and slip resistant: N/A	
	3' wide minimum: No	
	Slope maximum 1:20 and maximum cross pitch 1:50: N/A	
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2": No	
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane: N/A	
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80": N/A	
	Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-offs: N/A	

Glenside Drive – This is a 29.83 parcel that resulted from a subdivision approved under Blackstone’s Flexible Residential Development Zoning Bylaw. There are trails that connect to the SNETT and there is an abutting parcel of 18.19 acres from the same subdivision that is the site of Town wells and their protection zones.

Glenside Drive Conservation Area		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Conservation land	Access Routes	No path is provided to access the conservation area.
		Handrails: No
	Equipment	NA
		NA
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance: N/A	
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance: No officially designated disembarking area	
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): N/A	
	No ponding of water: N/A	
Path of Travel	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs: N/A	
	The path is stable, firm, and slip resistant: N/A	
	3' wide minimum: No	
	Slope maximum 1:20 and maximum cross pitch 1:50: N/A	
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2": No	
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane: N/A	
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80": N/A	
	Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-offs: N/A	

Quickstream Street – This is a 4.4 acre forested parcel.

Quickstream Street Conservation Area		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Conservation land	Access Routes	No path is provided to access the conservation area.
		Handrails: No
	Equipment	NA
		NA
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance: N/A	
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance: No officially designated disembarking area	
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): N/A	
	No ponding of water: N/A	
Path of Travel	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs: N/A	
	The path is stable, firm, and slip resistant: N/A	
	3' wide minimum: No	
	Slope maximum 1:20 and maximum cross pitch 1:50: N/A	
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2": No	
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane: N/A	
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80": N/A	
Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-offs: N/A		

Old Lincoln Street/Fox Brook – This is a 47.1 acre forested parcel that helps protect Fox Brook.

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Conservation land	Access Routes	No path is provided to access the conservation area.
		Handrails: No
	Equipment	NA
		NA
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance: N/A	
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance: No officially designated disembarking area	
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): N/A	
	No ponding of water: N/A	
Path of Travel	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs: N/A	
	The path is stable, firm, and slip resistant: N/A	
	3' wide minimum: No	
	Slope maximum 1:20 and maximum cross pitch 1:50: N/A	
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2": No	
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane: N/A	
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80": N/A	
	Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-offs: N/A	

Mendon Street – This is a 4 acre forested parcel.

Mendon Street Conservation Area		
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Conservation land	Access Routes	No path is provided to access the conservation area.
		Handrails: No
	Equipment	NA
		NA
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance: N/A	
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance: No officially designated disembarking area	
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks): N/A	
	No ponding of water: N/A	
Path of Travel	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs: N/A	
	The path is stable, firm, and slip resistant: N/A	
	3' wide minimum: No	
	Slope maximum 1:20 and maximum cross pitch 1:50: N/A	
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2": No	
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane: N/A	
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80": N/A	
Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-offs: N/A		

Transition Plan

A transition plan is required if structural changes are necessary. The plan must: (1) identify physical obstacles; (2) describe necessary changes; (3) schedule those changes; and (4) identify the responsible individual. The self-evaluation and transition plan must be written with an individual or organization representing the disabled community.

Part III: Employment Practices

The following letter by Chad Lovett, the Town Administrator and ADA Coordinator for the Town of Blackstone, attests to the fact that the Town's employment practices are in compliance with the ADA:

Office of the
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Chad T. Lovett



Telephone: (508) 883-1500
Fax: (508) 883-7043
clovett@townofblackstone.org

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE
Blackstone Municipal Building
15 St. Paul Street
Blackstone, MA 01504

February 13, 2024

Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants
Manager Division of Conservation
Services 100 Cambridge Street
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

As the Town of Blackstone's ADA Coordinator, I hereby confirm that Blackstone's employment practices, including recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training tests, medical exams/questionnaires, social and recreational programs, collective bargaining agreements and wage and salary administration, are consistent with ADA requirements.

In the event you have questions regarding this matter, please advise.

Sincerely,

Chad Lovett
Town Administrator

Appendix B: Detailed Table of Lands of Conservation and Recreation

Site Name	Number	Street Name	Parcel Number	Map	Lot	Acreage	Owner	Managing Agency	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Access	Recreation Potential	Zoning	Protection	Grant Funding or Source	Book	Deed Reference	Page
Turbesi Park	655	Rathbun Street	2	141	5.88	Town of Blackstone	Recreation Department	Field and playground	Fair	Yes	Yes	Yes	Playground	C	Article 97	NA	4968	367	
Turbesi Park	0	Rathbun Street	2	196	0.36	Town of Blackstone	Recreation Department	Field and playground	Fair	Yes	Yes	Yes	Field	C	Article 97	NA	11972	298	
Roosevelt Park	0	Saint Paul Street	7	4	9	Town of Blackstone	Recreation Department	Baseball	Good	Yes	Yes	Yes	Fields	R1	Article 97	NA	unknown	unknown	
Back Meadows	-	Off Mill Street	7	6	5.32	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Vacant	Fair	No	-	NA	I	Limited	NA	4964	236		
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Mill Street	7	5	1.91	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Fair	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	R1	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Saint Paul Street	8	75	2.36	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Conservation and Recreation	Former rail bed	Good	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	R1	Protected	NA	49574	188	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Canal Street	8	123	1	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Fair	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	R1	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Saint Paul Street	8	129	0.44	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Fair	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	R1	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Saint Paul & Canal	8	132	1.28	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Fair	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	I	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Canal Street	8	72	1.51	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Excellent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	C	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Canal Street	8	33-A	0.19	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Excellent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	R1	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Main Street	8	33	0.43	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Excellent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	R1	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club	115	Canal Street	10	112	11.8	Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club	Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club	Recreation complex	Good	Yes	Yes	Yes	Active	R1	Limited	NA	18501	39	
Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park	0	Staples Lane	10	5	8.2	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Conservation and Recreation	Wooded, trail, waterfall	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trail	R1	Perpetuity	NA	14611	386	
Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park	0	Staples Lane	10	57		Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Conservation and Recreation	Wooded, trail, waterfall	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trail	R1	Perpetuity	NA	14611	386	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Mendon Street	10	147	0.34	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Excellent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	C	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Mendon Street	10	133	0.24	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Excellent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	R1	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park	0	Harkness Road	11	80	16	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trails	R3	Perpetuity	NA	14611	382	
Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park	0	Harkness Road	11	82	13.69	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trails	R3	Perpetuity	NA	16021	263	
Blackstone River Island	0	Main Street Off	11	86	2.2	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trails	R3	Unprotected	Tax Taking	9817	341	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Main Street	11	28	1.65	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Excellent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	R1	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Main Street	11	62	0.53	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Excellent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	I	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Main Street	11	68	5.29	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCAM - Office of Real Estate	Former rail bed	Excellent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	I	Protected	NA	8502	23	
Main Street DCR Parcel	0	Main Street	11	45	1	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Conservation and Recreation	Forest, stream	Excellent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trails	R1	Protected	NA	49574	188	
Lincoln Street/Fox Brook	0	Lincoln Street Off	14	52	12.59	Town of Blackstone	Conservation Commission	Forest, wetlands, brook	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trails	R1	Perpetuity	NA	11609	73	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Farm Street	16	61	5.51	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Former rail bed	Good	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	R1	Unprotected	Bankruptcy	19670	140	
Brook River/Wells #1 and #2	11	Summer Street	17	39	3.4	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	No	-	-	No	R2	Unprotected	NA	3505	235	
The Meadows Conservation Area	56	Glenside Drive	17	239	18.19	Town of Blackstone	Conservation Commission	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trails	R2	Perpetuity	FRD*	45944	105	
Harris Pond/Wells #1 and #2	0	Elm Street	17	64-A	2.1	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	No	-	-	No	R2	Unprotected	NA	5943	352	
Glenside Drive/Well #8	56	Glenside Road	17	239	18.19	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	No	-	-	No	R2	Perpetuity	FRD*	45944	105	
Southern New England Trunkline Trail	0	Elm Street	17	69	8.35	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Conservation and Recreation	Former rail bed	Good	Yes	-	-	Trail	R2	Perpetuity	NA	8502	23	
Former Rail Bed ROW	0	Elm Street	17	66	1.45	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Recreation/Water Supply	Good	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	R2	Unprotected	NA	6378	275	
Former Rail Bed ROW	0	Farm Street	17	1	16.89	City of Woonsocket	Water Division	Recreation/water protection	Good	Yes	Yes	Yes	Trail	R1	Unprotected	NA	10581	223	
Well #9 Conservation Restriction	87	Elm Street	17	60	1.5	Private	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	No	-	-	No	R3	Perpetuity	NA	63516	314	
Well #9 Conservation Restriction	89	Elm Street	17	59	1.29	Private	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	No	-	-	No	R3	Perpetuity	NA	60917	77	
Harris Pond/Wells #1 and #2	0	Elm Street	18	1	15.5	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	No	-	-	No	R2	Limited	Eminent Domain	6701	193	
Harris Pond/Wells #1 and #2	0	Elm Street	18	2	0.17	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	No	-	-	No	R2	Limited	Gift	5028	131	
Harris Pond/Wells #1 and #2	0	Elm Street	18	7-A	0.3	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	No	-	-	No	R2	Limited	NA	6068	39	
Harris Pond/Wells #1 and #2	0	Elm Street	18	6	7.46	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	No	-	-	No	R2	Unknown	NA	unknown	unknown	
Veterans Park Water Supply Land	0	Elm Street	18	9+10	24.54	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	No	-	-	No	R2	Limited	NA	19487	121	
Elm-Quickstream Tax Taking	0	Elm Street	18	21	1.5	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trails	R2	Limited	Tax Taking	10482	380	
Elm-Quickstream Tax Taking	0	Elm Street	18	31	1.31	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Forest, stream	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trails	R2	Limited	Tax Taking	10482	380	
Elm-Quickstream Tax Taking	0	Quickstream Street	18	35	5	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trails	R2	Limited	Tax Taking	10482	380	
Rolling Brook Estates Open Space	0	Rolling Brook Lane	18	89	12.89	Rolling Brook Estates HOA	Rolling Brook Estates HOA	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trails	R2	Limited	FRD*	51858	266	
Sycamore Park Estates Open Space	0	Sycamore Lane	18	106	17.18	T&S Land & Development Corporation	T&S Land & Development Corporation	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Trails	R2	Limited	FRD*	48024	260	
Quickstream Conservation Area	0	Quickstream Street	18	109	4.4	Town of Blackstone	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R2	Protected	NA	58966	302	
Elm-Quickstream Tax Taking	0	Quickstream Street	19	112	5	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Vacant	Good	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	Tax Taking	10482	377	
Kamball Sand Land	45	Bellingham Road	19	140	17.36	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Water Supply	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	NA	34635	151	
Walsh Pond/Water Supply	0	Elm Street	20	5	5.5	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	NA	unknown	unknown	
Walsh Pond/Water Supply	0	Elm Street	20	6	4.33	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Water Supply	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	NA	unknown	unknown	
Bellingham Road Tax Taking	0	Bellingham Road	20	33	12.28	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Vacant/District	Good	Yes	-	-	Passive	R2	Limited	Tax Taking	9817	332	
JFK School	200	Lincoln Street	23	1	23.36	Town of Blackstone	School Department	Recreation	Good	Yes	-	-	Active	R2	Limited	NA	4495	137	
Jolicoeur Conservation Land?	0	Lincoln Street	23	16-F	47.19	Town of Blackstone	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R2	Protected	Gift	58966	302	
Blackstone Landfill	14	Chestnut Street	24	9	30.09	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Landfill	Fair	No	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	NA	5365	247	
Hop Brook Preserve	0	Mendon Street	25	18	3.23	Metacomet Land Trust	Metacomet Land Trust	Conservation	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Perpetuity	Gift	20528	104	
Daniels Farmstead	0	Mendon & Union	25	33	1.16	The Daniels Farmstead Foundation, Inc.	The Daniels Farmstead Foundation, Inc.	Agricultural/Historic	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	Gift	40102	109	
Quiet Wildlife Management Area	0	Mendon Street	26	16	28.31	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Fish and Game	Conservation/Hunting/Fishing	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Perpetuity	-	20528	104	
Mendon Street Open Space	0	Mendon Street	26	20	3.79	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Vacant/District	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	Tax Taking	10482	376	
Mendon Street Open Space	0	Mendon Street	26	21	4	Town of Blackstone	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Perpetuity	-	59335	361	
Mendon Street Open Space	0	Mendon Street	26	23	31	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	Tax Taking	9817	319	
Daniels Farmstead	0	Mendon Street	26	11	5	The Daniels Farmstead Foundation, Inc.	The Daniels Farmstead Foundation, Inc.	Agricultural/Historic	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	-	40102	109	
Daniels Farmstead	289	Mendon Street	26	12	46.1	The Daniels Farmstead Foundation, Inc.	The Daniels Farmstead Foundation, Inc.	Agricultural/Historic	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	-	40102	109	
Mendon Street Open Space	0	Mendon Street	27	3	0.46	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	Tax Taking	10482	377	
Mendon Street Open Space	0	Mendon Street	27	20	28.28	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	Tax Taking	9817	320	
Quiet Wildlife Management Area	0	Mendon Street	28	10	99.5	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Fish and Game	Conservation/Hunting/Fishing	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Perpetuity	-	20528	104	
Quiet Wildlife Management Area	0	Blackstone Street	28	1	30.92	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Fish and Game	Conservation/Hunting/Fishing	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Perpetuity	-	17142	4	
Quiet Wildlife Management Area	0	Blackstone Street	28	2	60.35	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Fish and Game	Conservation/Hunting/Fishing	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Perpetuity	-	17142	4	
Quiet Wildlife Management Area	0	Blackstone Street	28	3	85.37	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Fish and Game	Conservation/Hunting/Fishing	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Perpetuity	-	17142	4	
Mendon Street Open Space	0	Mendon Street	28	8	4.7	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Forest	Excellent	Yes	-	-	Passive	R3	Limited	Tax Taking	10482	377	

Appendix B: Detailed Table of Lands of Conservation and Recreation

Daniels Farmstead	286	Mendon Street	28	16	13.75	The Daniels Farmstead Foundation, Inc.	The Daniels Farmstead Foundation, Inc.	Agricultural/Historic	Excellent	Yes	-	Passive	R3	Limited	Gift	40102	109
Quiset Wildlife Management Area	0	Blackstone Street	29	3	6.73	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Fish and Game	Conservation/Hunting/Fishing	Excellent	Yes	-	Passive	R3	Perpetuity	-	17142	4
Quiset Wildlife Management Area	0	Blackstone Street	29	10	7.9	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Fish and Game	Conservation/Hunting/Fishing	Excellent	Yes	-	Passive	R3	Perpetuity	-	17142	4
Blackstone Street Open Space	0	Blackstone Street	29	18	3.07	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Forest,wetlands	Excellent	Yes	-	Active	R2	Limited	Tax Taking	21735	59
Mendon Street RR ROW	0	Mendon Street	29	33	11.78	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Former rail bed	Good	Yes	-	Passive	R3	Limited	Tax Taking	9817	318
Quiset Wildlife Management Area	349	Blackstone Street	29	36	15.2	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Fish and Game	Conservation/Hunting/Fishing	Excellent	Yes	-	Passive	R3	Perpetuity	-	17142	4
Quiset Wildlife Management Area	0	Blackstone Street	29	38	20.46	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Dept of Fish and Game	Conservation/Hunting/Fishing	Excellent	Yes	-	Passive	R3	Perpetuity	-	17142	4
Water Tank Area	309	Blackstone Street	29	25-A	2.12	Town of Blackstone	Water Department	Water Supply	Good	No	-	-	R2	Unprotected	-	unknown	unknown
Spruce Street Open Space	12	Spruce Street	30	69	7.75	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Forest, wetlands, brook	Excellent	Yes	-	Passive	R3	Limited	Tax Taking	28268	30
ANP Conservation Land	0	Bellingham Road	31	20	128.41	Town of Blackstone	Board of Selectmen	Conservation/forest	Excellent	Yes	-	Passive	R3	Limited	Gift	36325	341

*FRD= Flexible Residential Development

Appendix C. Report on Survey Results

REPORT ON RESULTS OF CITIZEN SURVEY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

March 31, 2020

Introduction

The first step in preparing an update to Blackstone’s Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) was to conduct a survey of residents. A draft questionnaire was prepared by PGC Associates and reviewed by the Park and Recreation Committee and others. The final questionnaire consisted of thirteen substantive questions (some with multiple parts) plus three optional questions pertaining to demographic information about the responder.

The survey was available from February 20 through March 20, 2020 through a link on the home page of the Town website. It was also promoted by the Park and Recreation Committee and Metacomet Land Trust. Paper copies of the survey were available at Town Hall, and notices about the survey were available at the Library, Town Clerk’s Office, and Town Administrator’s Office. The Valley Breeze newspaper published a press release about it in both in its print and online editions and featured a direct link to the online survey. A total of 328 responses were received.

The following narrative presents a summary of the survey results. The complete results are attached as an appendix.

Highlights

Perhaps the strongest but not necessarily surprising finding from the survey is the popularity of the Blackstone River Greenway. Table 1 lists the percentage of respondents who selected the following as among their “favorite” open spaces/conservation/recreation area in Blackstone.

Blackstone River Greenway	80%
Blackstone Gorge	75%
Daniels Farmstead	45%
Goulet Park at Maloney/JFK Elementary School	36%
Roosevelt Park	35%
Bibeault Playground at JFK Elementary School	34%

Similarly, Table 2 lists the responses to the question about which Town or nonprofit open spaces were used frequently or occasionally by the respondent or a family member. Again, Blackstone River Greenway came out on top.

Blackstone River Greenway	81%
Blackstone Gorge	60%
Daniels Farmstead	45%
SNETT Trail	41%
Valati Nature Park	32%
Back Meadows	30%

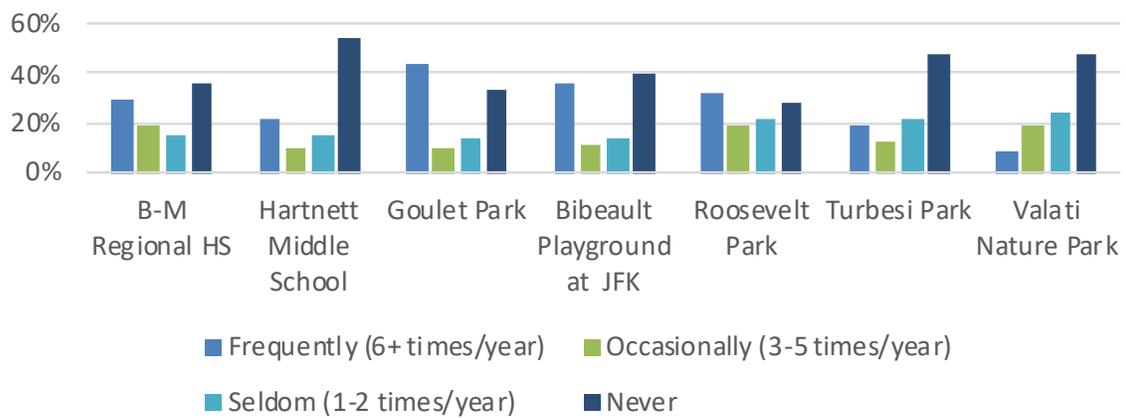
More than 63% of respondents said they visited the Greenway 6 or more times per year while another 18% said they visited it 3-5 times per year. Just over 33% said they visited Blackstone Gorge 6 or more times per year and another 27% said they visited it 3-5 times. The results for Daniels Farmstead are 20% and 25%. The figures for the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT) are a little unclear since the SNETT and the Greenway are the same for much of the route through Blackstone. Since the SNETT was listed separately in the questionnaire, it is assumed that the SNETT responses refer to that portion that is not part of the Greenway. Valati Nature Park and Back Meadows received 32% and 30% respectively.

Table 3 lists the responses to a question about the most frequently used recreation facilities. There is some overlap with most frequently used open space areas as Valati Nature Park appears on both lists. Table 3 presents the totals for responses of “frequently” and “occasionally.” Chart 1 presents the entire results.

Goulet Park at Maloney/JFK	53%
Roosevelt Park	51%
Blackstone-Millville Regional High School	49%
Bibeault Playground at JFK	47%
Turbesi Park	31%
Hartnett Middle School	31%
Valati Nature Park	28%

Chart 1

During the past year, what Town athletic facilities, playgrounds, parks or fields did you or your family use?



Value/Importance of Open Space and Recreation

The survey also asked about the importance of open space. First was a question about the important features of open space. Chart 2 illustrates that the five features of open space most valued are greenways/wildlife corridors (78.7%), wildlife habitat (78.6%), land protected from development (74%), hiking/walking (71%) and scenic value (69%). Passive recreation, (55%) also received support from a majority.

Chart 2

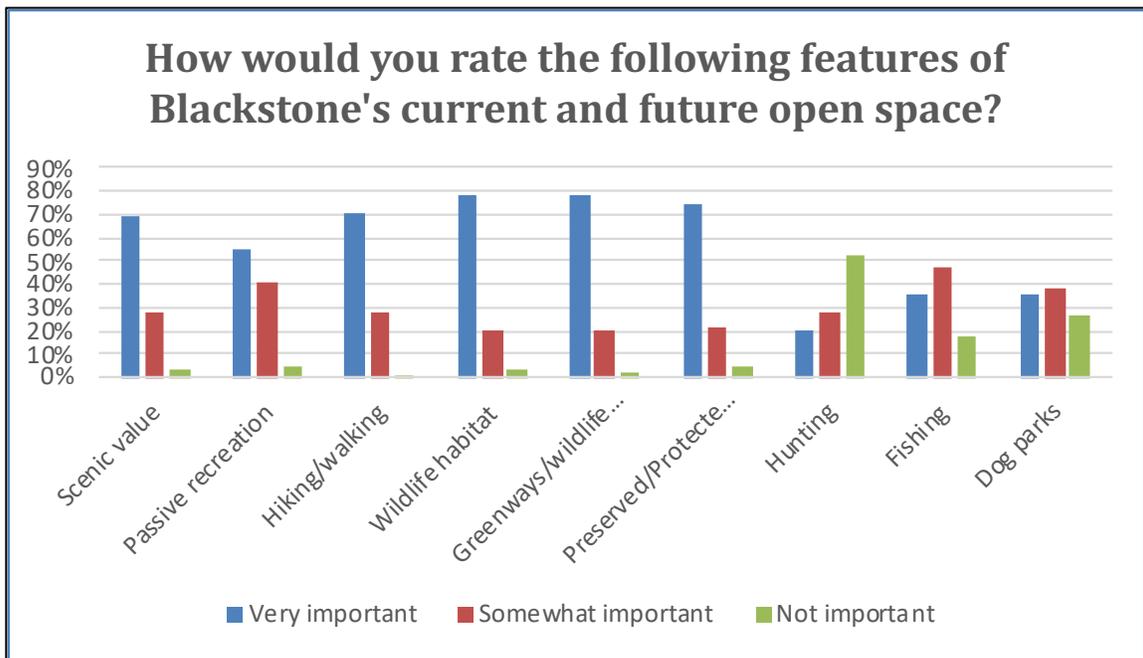
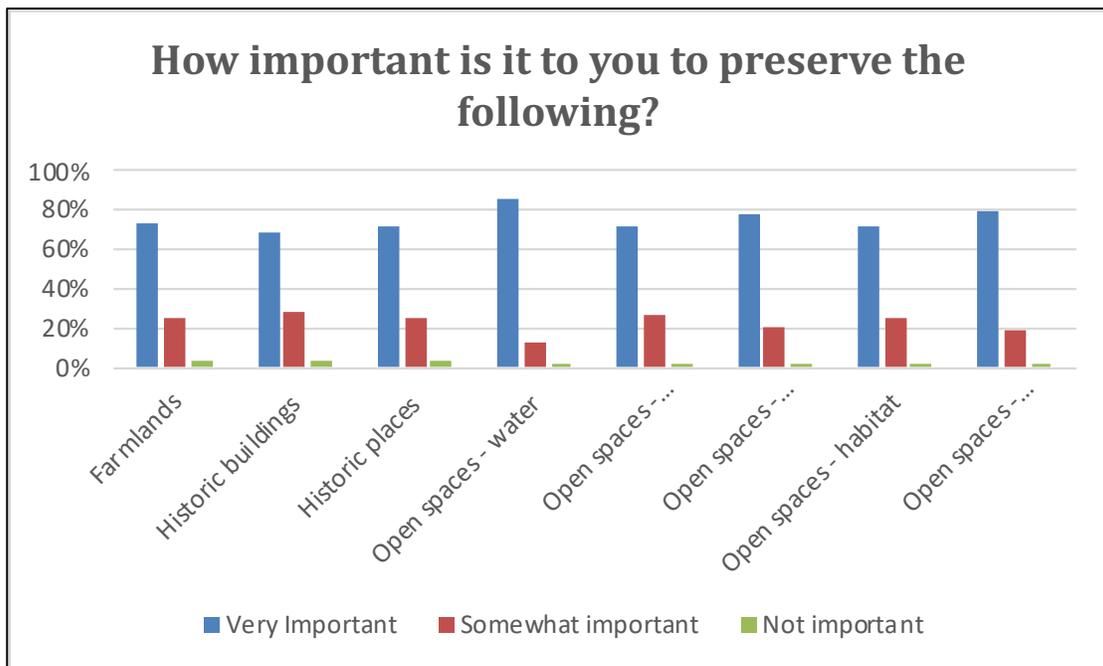


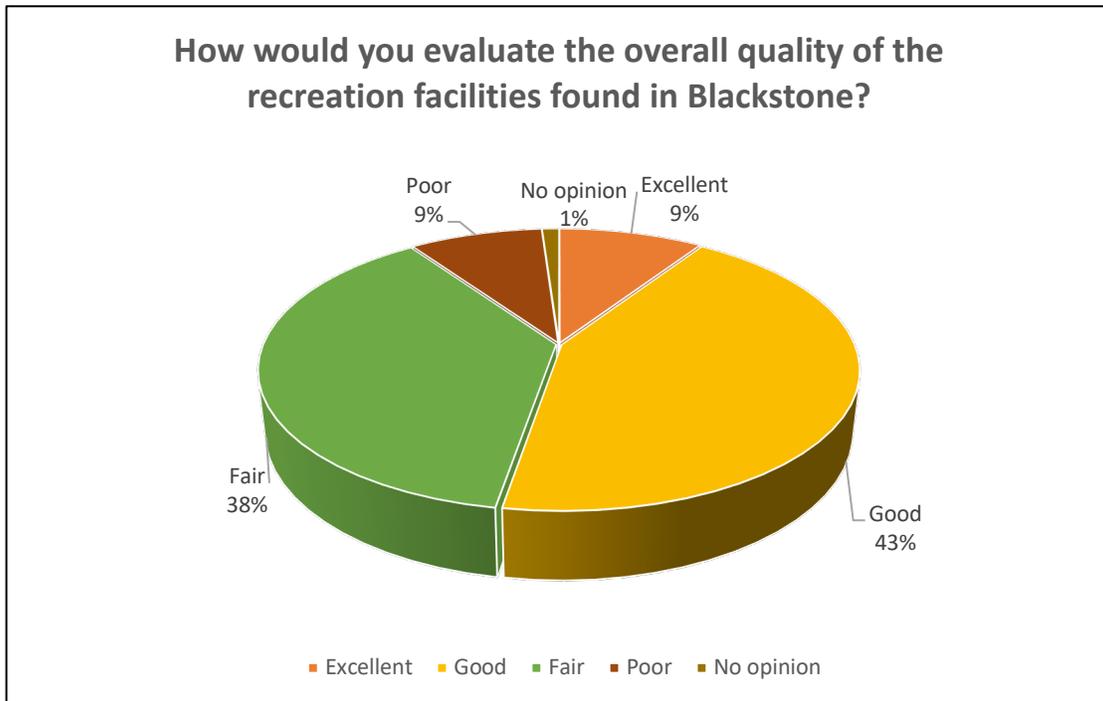
Chart 3 presents the results of community features that are important to preserve. All of the features are highly valued with water features topping the list at over 86%. The other features received strong support in the following order: trails/paths (80%), recreation (78%), farmlands (73%), habitat, (72%), historic places (72%), conservation (72%) and historic buildings (69%).

Chart 3



Blackstone residents also think highly of the quality of recreation facilities available to them. Chart 4 illustrates that 53% of respondents rate the quality of recreation facilities as excellent or good versus 9% who rate them as poor. Another 38% rate them as fair and 1% had no opinion.

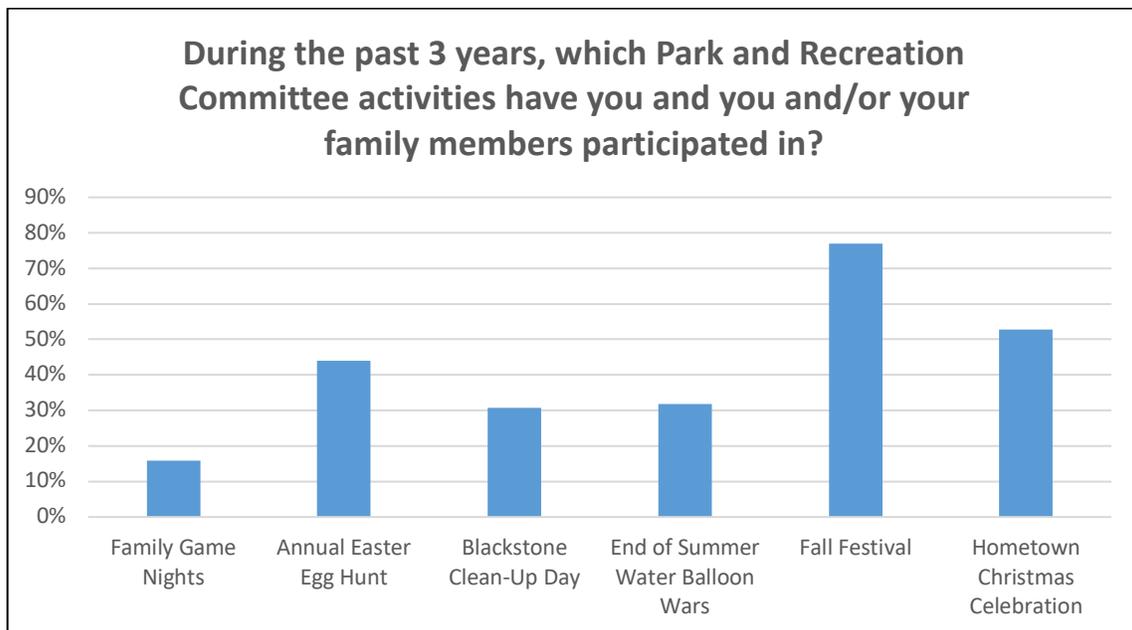
Chart 4



Participation in Recreation Activities

Respondents were asked which Park and Recreation Committee activities they participated in during the previous three years. The most popular activity was the Fall Festival in which 77% said they participated. The second most popular activity was the Hometown Christmas Celebration with 53%. This was followed by the Annual Easter Egg Hunt (44%), End of Summer Water Balloon Wars (32%), Blackstone Clean-Up Day (31%), and Family Game Nights (16%). Chart 5 presents the results.

Chart 5



The survey also asked what types of recreation activities people participated in: frequently (6 or more times per year), occasionally (3-5 times per year), seldom (1 or 2 times per year) or never. By far, the most popular activity was “walking/hiking” with 80% saying they participated frequently and another 10% saying occasionally. “Health/fitness” was second most popular with a total of 73% participating frequently or occasionally. “Playground” was third with 68% followed by “Bicycling” with 61%. Table 4 lists those activities whose responses for frequently and occasionally totaled at least 25%.

Table 4
Frequency of Recreation Activities

Walking/hiking	90%
Health/fitness	73%
Playground	68%
Bicycling	61%
Swimming	51%
Fishing	35%
Canoeing/kayaking	33%
Bowling	32%
Soccer	32%
Baseball/softball	30%
Basketball	28%

Priorities for Future Action

Respondents were asked to list the top five needs pertaining to open space and recreation, as well as priorities for spending. Table 5 presents the results of choices that received a total of at least 20% as a first, second, or third most important need. Children’s playgrounds received the most top choice answers as well as the most responses as a top 3 choice. It was followed closely by bike trails, conservation areas and hiking trails.

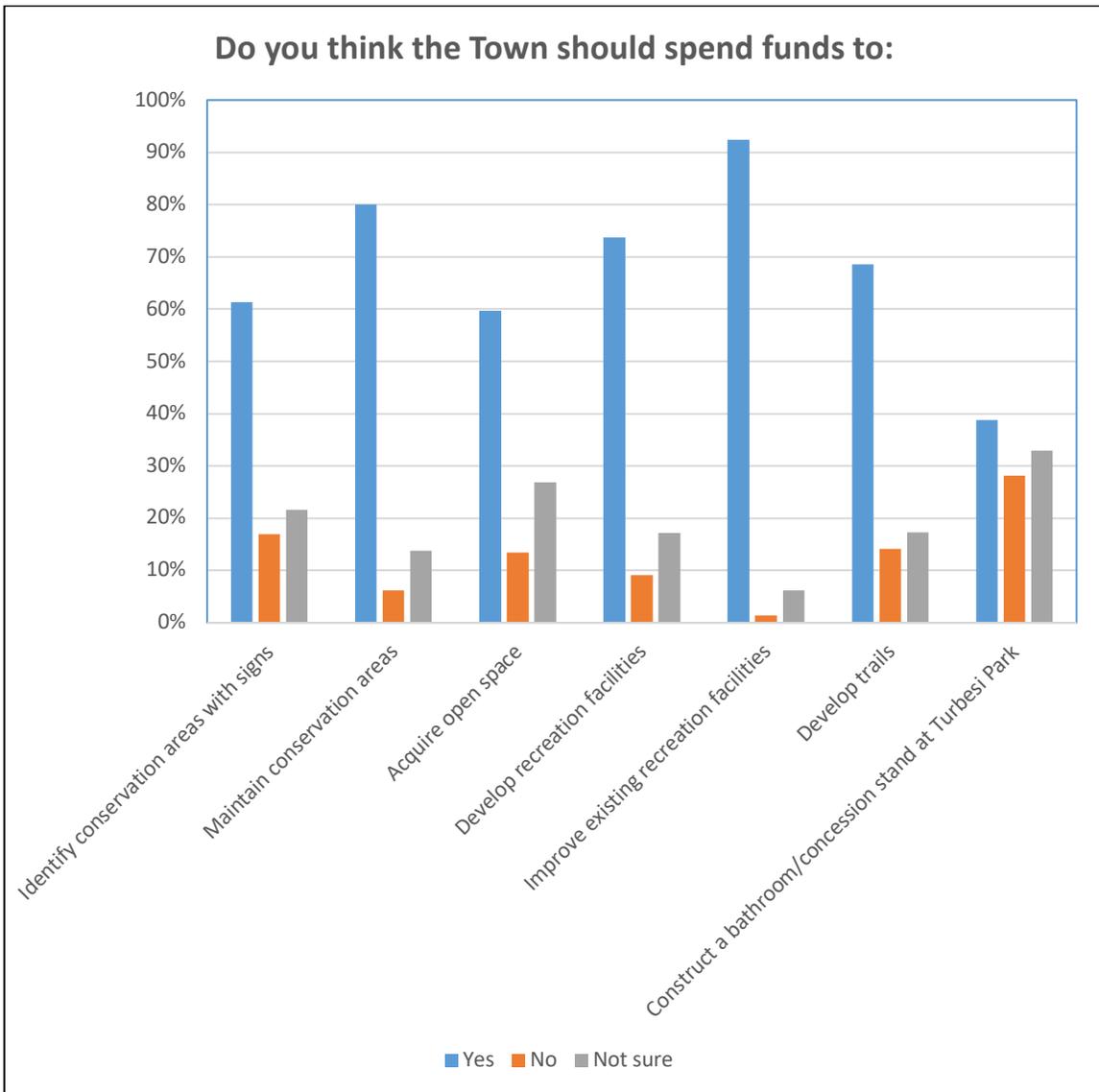
Table 5
Most Important Open Space and Recreation Needs

Recreation Facility Need	1	2	3	Total*
Children’s Playground	29%	12%	12%	54%
Bike Trails	11%	15%	10%	37%
Hiking Trails	8%	15%	11%	35%
Conservation Areas	14%	9%	9%	32%
Neighborhood Parks	5%	13%	8%	27%
Basketball Courts	13%	5%	7%	25%
Family Picnic Areas	3%	10%	9%	22%

*Total may need equal sum of 1, 2 and 3 due to rounding.

When asked about spending priorities, pertaining to open space and recreation, improving existing recreation facilities was the top choice as presented in Chart 6, with 92% in favor. Maintaining conservation areas was favored by 80% and 74% supported developing recreation facilities. Developing trails was supported by 69%, 61% supported identifying conservation areas with signs and 60% favored acquiring open space. Constructing a bathroom/concession stand at Turbesi Park received a plurality of support at 39%, but 33% were unsure and 28% opposed.

Chart 6

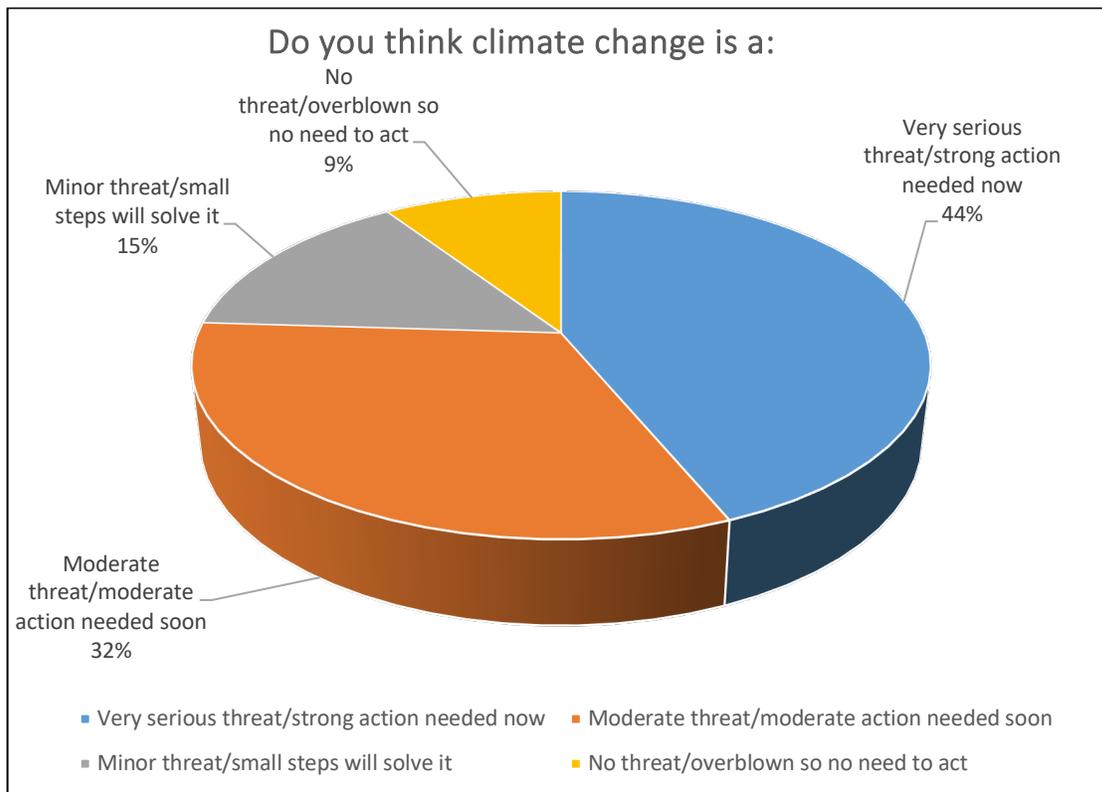


Other Results

Other noteworthy results include the fact that the open space created by the Flexible Residential Design bylaw may not be widely known. More than 100 acres have been preserved through this bylaw. However, only 36-42% of respondents had heard of the open space created any of the three most recent flexible residential design subdivisions. The open space at The Meadows at Harris Pond was the most visited at 21%. The open space at Sycamore Park Estates and Rolling Brook Estates (which abut each other) had been visited by 12% and 11% respectively. These results support the need for signage at conservation areas as shown in Chart 6.

The survey also asked opinions related to climate change. As Chart 7 illustrates, a strong majority of 76% believe climate change is a very serious or moderate threat while only 24% see it as a minor threat or not a threat at all.

Chart 7



The following Appendix presents the complete detailed results of the survey.

APPENDIX

SURVEY RESULTS

Q1 How important is it to you to preserve the following?

Answered: 326 Skipped: 2

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Farmlands	72.53% 235	25.00% 81	2.47% 8	324
Historic buildings	68.92% 224	27.69% 90	3.38% 11	325
Historic places	72.22% 234	25.31% 82	2.47% 8	324
Open spaces - water	86.46% 281	12.92% 42	0.62% 2	325
Open spaces - conservation	72.14% 233	26.01% 84	1.86% 6	323
Open spaces - recreation	77.54% 252	20.92% 68	1.54% 5	325
Open spaces - habitat	72.31% 235	25.54% 83	2.15% 7	325
Open spaces - trails/paths	79.94% 259	18.83% 61	1.23% 4	324

Q2 How would you rate the following features of Blackstone's current and future open space?

Answered: 324 Skipped: 4

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Scenic value	69.04% 223	27.55% 89	3.41% 11	323
Passive recreation	55.28% 178	40.68% 131	4.04% 13	322
Hiking/walking	70.72% 227	28.35% 91	0.93% 3	321
Wildlife habitat	77.57% 249	19.63% 63	2.80% 9	321
Greenways/wildlife corridors	77.74% 248	20.69% 66	1.57% 5	319
Preserved/Protected land	74.06% 237	21.88% 70	4.06% 13	320
Hunting	19.63% 63	28.04% 90	52.34% 168	321
Fishing	35.20% 113	47.35% 152	17.45% 56	321
Dog parks	35.09% 113	38.20% 123	26.71% 86	322

Q3 During the past year, how often did you or your family use Town/nonprofit open space areas?

Answered: 327 Skipped: 1

	FREQUENTLY (6+ TIMES/YEAR)	OCCASIONALLY (3-5 TIMES/YEAR)	SELDOM (1-2 TIMES/YEAR)	NEVER	TOTAL
Back Meadows	14.65% 46	15.61% 49	16.24% 51	53.50% 168	314
Lincoln Street/Fox Brook	9.81% 31	14.56% 46	22.15% 70	53.48% 169	316
SNETT Trail	22.47% 71	18.04% 57	17.72% 56	41.77% 132	316
Blackstone River Greenway	63.47% 205	17.65% 57	11.15% 36	7.74% 25	323
Harkness Farm	3.18% 10	12.74% 40	13.38% 42	70.70% 222	314
Blackstone Gorge	33.02% 107	27.16% 88	24.69% 80	15.12% 49	324
Metacomet Land Trust/Hop Brook	6.33% 20	12.03% 38	16.14% 51	65.51% 207	316
Daniels Farmstead	20.00% 65	24.62% 80	31.08% 101	24.31% 79	325
Quissett Hill	5.68% 18	7.57% 24	15.77% 50	70.98% 225	317
Valati Park	10.90% 35	20.87% 67	26.48% 85	41.74% 134	321
Padula Parcel	1.90% 6	5.40% 17	12.06% 38	80.63% 254	315
Other Areas	18.99% 49	23.26% 60	15.12% 39	42.64% 110	258

Q4: Open Space Subdivisions are housing developments that preserve a portion of the land area as open space rather than dividing it all into house lots. More than 100 acres have been preserved through Blackstone's Flexible Residential Development Bylaw. Are you familiar with any of the following open space areas that resulted from subdivision development? Check all that apply.

Answered: 312 Skipped: 16

	YES, HEARD OF IT	YES, VISITED	NO	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
The Meadows at Harris Pond	40.00% 124	21.29% 66	45.81% 142	310
Sycamore Park Estates	36.22% 113	12.18% 38	53.53% 167	312
Rolling Brook Estates	42.44% 132	11.25% 35	47.91% 149	311

Q5 During the past year, what Town athletic facilities, playgrounds, parks or fields did you or your family use?

Answered: 315 Skipped: 13

	FREQUENTLY (6+ TIMES/YEAR)	OCCASIONALLY (3-5 TIMES/YEAR)	SELDOM (1-2 TIMES/YEAR)	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
B-M Regional HS	29.81% 93	19.23% 60	15.06% 47	35.90% 112	312	2.57
Hartnett Middle School	21.47% 67	9.29% 29	15.06% 47	54.17% 169	312	3.02
Goulet Park at Maloney/ JFK	43.27% 135	9.94% 31	13.78% 43	33.01% 103	312	2.37
Bibeault Playgrnd at JFK	36.01% 112	11.25% 35	13.50% 42	39.23% 122	311	2.56
Roosevelt Park	32.27% 101	18.53% 58	21.09% 66	28.12% 88	313	2.45
Turbesi Park	19.11% 60	12.10% 38	21.66% 68	47.13% 148	314	2.97
Valati Nature Park	8.97% 28	19.23% 60	24.04% 75	47.76% 149	312	3.11

Q6 What are your favorite Open Space/Conservation/Recreation areas in Blackstone? (select all that apply)

Answered: 309 Skipped: 19

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Back Meadows	8.41% 26
Lincoln St./Fox Brook	7.12% 22
Turbesi Park	22.01% 68
Roosevelt Park	34.95% 108
Valati Nature Park	27.18% 84
SNETT Trail	26.54% 82
Blackstone River Greenway	79.94% 247
Blackstone Gorge	74.76% 231
Metacomet Land Trust/Hop Brook	7.12% 22
Daniels Farmstead	44.98% 139
Blackstone-Millville Regional High School	31.39% 97
Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School	18.12% 56
Goulet Park at Maloney/JFK Elementary School	35.92% 111
Bibeault Playground at JFK Elementary School	33.98% 105
Other (please specify)	2.91% 9
Total Respondents: 309	

Q7: How would you evaluate the overall quality of the recreation facilities found in Blackstone?

Answered: 279 Skipped: 49

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	9.32% 26
Good	43.37% 121
Fair	37.63% 105
Poor	8.60% 24
No opinion	1.08% 3
TOTAL	279

Q8: During the past year, how many times did you or your family use private facilities in Blackstone or neighboring towns?

Answered: 280 Skipped: 48

	FREQUENTLY (6+ TIMES/YEAR)	OCCASIONALLY (3-5 TIMES/YEAR)	SELDOM (1-2 TIMES/YEAR)	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Tupper Park/Boys and Girls Club	12.54% 35	6.45% 18	13.62% 38	67.38% 188	279	3.36
New England Country Club	2.86% 8	4.64% 13	9.29% 26	83.21% 233	280	3.73
Maplegate Country Club	1.79% 5	2.87% 8	5.38% 15	89.96% 251	279	3.84
YMCA in Woonsocket	1.44% 4	1.44% 4	8.27% 23	88.85% 247	278	3.85
YMCA in Franklin	9.29% 26	4.64% 13	7.50% 21	78.57% 220	280	3.55
Blackstone Valley Ice-Plex	4.66% 13	5.02% 14	7.17% 20	83.15% 232	279	3.69
Sher-le-mon Swim Club, Cumberland	0.00% 0	0.36% 1	1.43% 4	98.21% 274	279	3.98
Other	16.16% 32	4.55% 9	7.58% 15	71.72% 142	198	3.35

Q9: During the past year, how often had you or your family participated in the following recreational activities in Blackstone or elsewhere?

Answered: 280 Skipped: 48

	FREQUENTLY (6+ TIMES/YEAR)	OCCASIONALLY (3-5 TIMES/YEAR)	SELDOM (1-2 TIMES/YEAR)	NEVER	TOTAL
WINTER SPORT Cross-country skiing	1.80% 5	2.16% 6	2.88% 8	93.17% 259	278
Ice skating	8.24% 23	8.96% 25	19.35% 54	63.44% 177	279
Snowmobiling	2.52% 7	2.52% 7	6.83% 19	88.13% 245	278
Snowshoeing	1.08% 3	4.69% 13	6.14% 17	88.09% 244	277
Ice Fishing	1.45% 4	3.64% 10	11.64% 32	83.27% 229	275
ORGANIZED SPORTSBaseball/Softball	25.27% 70	4.69% 13	8.66% 24	61.37% 170	277
Basketball	21.66% 60	6.50% 18	9.03% 25	62.82% 174	277
Field hockey	5.07% 14	1.45% 4	2.17% 6	91.30% 252	276
Football	9.78% 27	4.35% 12	7.25% 20	78.62% 217	276
Ice hockey	6.16% 17	2.90% 8	4.35% 12	86.59% 239	276
Lacrosse	4.40% 12	1.10% 3	1.10% 3	93.41% 255	273
Soccer	26.09% 72	5.43% 15	7.25% 20	61.23% 169	276
WATER SPORTSFishing	21.17% 58	13.50% 37	11.31% 31	54.01% 148	274
Canoeing/Kayaking	17.75% 49	15.58% 43	15.94% 44	50.72% 140	276
Motorized boating	7.97% 22	7.97% 22	8.70% 24	75.36% 208	276
Non-motorized boating	12.45% 34	9.89% 27	11.72% 32	65.93% 180	273
Paddle boarding	3.32% 9	4.06% 11	6.27% 17	86.35% 234	271
Swimming	38.18% 105	13.09% 36	8.73% 24	40.00% 110	275
INDIVIDUAL SPORTSBadminton	1.83% 5	2.20% 6	4.76% 13	91.21% 249	273
Bicycling	39.35% 109	22.02% 61	14.44% 40	24.19% 67	277
Jogging/Running	37.82% 104	18.55% 51	10.55% 29	33.09% 91	275
Pickle Ball	0.73% 2	0.73% 2	1.83% 5	96.70% 264	273
Tennis	3.28% 9	4.01% 11	8.39% 23	84.31% 231	274
GENERAL RECREATIONDisc golf	3.65% 10	2.55% 7	4.38% 12	89.42% 245	274
Golf	12.55% 34	8.12% 22	8.49% 23	70.85% 192	271
Health/Fitness	56.36% 155	16.73% 46	7.27% 20	19.64% 54	275
Horseback riding	4.41% 12	4.78% 13	5.51% 15	85.29% 232	272
Playground	50.72% 140	17.39% 48	5.43% 15	26.45% 73	276
Rollerblading	6.39% 17	3.01% 8	7.14% 19	83.46% 222	266
Walking/Hiking	80.36% 221	10.18% 28	2.55% 7	6.91% 19	275
Bowling	14.60% 40	17.88% 49	22.26% 61	45.26% 124	274
Other	11.66% 19	6.75% 11	1.84% 3	79.75% 130	163

Q10 During the past 3 years, which Park and Recreation Committee activities have you and/or your family members participated in? (select all that apply).

Answered: 182 Skipped: 146

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Family Game Nights	15.93%	29
Annual Easter Egg Hunt	43.96%	80
Blackstone Clean-Up Day	30.77%	56
End of Summer Water Balloon Wars	31.87%	58
Fall Festival	76.92%	140
Hometown Christmas Celebration	52.75%	96
Total Respondents: 182		

. Q11: Please identify the TOP FIVE recreational facilities you think need to be developed or improved. IDENTIFY THEM FROM 1 TO 5, WITH 1 HAVING THE HIGHEST NEED (select 5 only):

Answered: 276 Skipped: 52

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Basketball courts	12.71% 30	5.08% 12	6.78% 16	4.66% 11	7.63% 18	16.53% 39	7.20% 17	6.78% 16	8.05% 19	3.39% 8	2.54% 6	3.39% 8	3.81% 9	3.81% 9
Bike trails	10.83% 26	15.42% 37	10.42% 25	14.58% 35	7.50% 18	8.33% 20	6.67% 16	7.08% 17	3.33% 8	3.75% 9	4.17% 10	3.75% 9	0.42% 1	0.42% 1
Boat landings	3.06% 7	3.49% 8	9.17% 21	5.68% 13	3.49% 8	10.92% 25	18.34% 42	9.61% 22	7.86% 18	4.80% 11	3.93% 9	3.06% 7	4.37% 10	4.37% 10
Children's playgrounds	28.98% 71	12.24% 30	11.84% 29	11.43% 28	8.57% 21	6.12% 15	3.27% 8	7.76% 19	2.04% 5	2.45% 6	0.82% 2	0.00% 0	0.82% 2	0.82% 2
Conservation areas	13.77% 34	8.50% 21	9.31% 23	10.12% 25	11.34% 28	9.72% 24	8.50% 21	7.29% 18	8.10% 20	6.07% 15	2.02% 5	1.62% 4	0.81% 2	1.62% 4
Family picnic areas	3.25% 8	10.16% 25	8.54% 21	10.98% 27	10.57% 26	17.07% 42	12.20% 30	6.10% 15	9.35% 23	3.66% 9	2.44% 6	0.81% 2	2.03% 5	0.81% 2
Golf course	0.85% 2	2.54% 6	2.97% 7	1.69% 4	1.69% 4	5.08% 12	11.86% 28	15.68% 37	11.02% 26	11.44% 27	7.20% 17	5.93% 14	5.08% 12	2.54% 6
Hiking trails	8.43% 22	15.33% 40	11.11% 29	10.34% 27	7.28% 19	2.30% 6	5.36% 14	14.56% 38	8.05% 21	6.51% 17	6.13% 16	1.53% 4	1.53% 4	0.81% 2
Lakes	0.82% 2	3.27% 8	6.12% 15	4.49% 11	7.76% 19	3.67% 9	4.90% 12	6.12% 15	19.18% 47	15.10% 37	9.80% 24	10.20% 25	2.86% 7	2.86% 7
Neighborhood parks	4.76% 12	13.49% 34	8.33% 21	9.92% 25	7.94% 20	3.57% 9	2.78% 7	1.98% 5	4.37% 11	21.83% 55	4.76% 12	6.35% 16	3.57% 9	3.11% 8
Pickle Ball courts	0.00% 0	0.42% 1	0.00% 0	0.42% 1	1.27% 3	0.84% 2	2.11% 5	1.27% 3	3.38% 8	4.64% 11	31.65% 75	16.88% 40	12.66% 30	8.06% 20
Recreation areas	4.35% 11	3.56% 9	7.51% 19	8.30% 21	9.09% 23	2.37% 6	3.56% 9	3.16% 8	1.98% 5	2.37% 6	7.91% 20	26.48% 67	9.09% 23	6.35% 16
Swimming pool, indoor	2.50% 6	2.50% 6	3.33% 8	3.75% 9	2.92% 7	1.67% 4	0.83% 2	0.42% 1	1.67% 4	4.17% 10	4.17% 10	3.33% 8	35.83% 86	16.67% 40
Swimming pool, outdoor	2.51% 6	2.09% 5	2.51% 6	1.26% 3	5.44% 13	1.26% 3	1.26% 3	1.67% 4	1.26% 3	1.26% 3	2.09% 5	5.86% 14	5.86% 14	36.44% 86
Tennis courts	1.24% 3	1.66% 4	1.24% 3	1.66% 4	1.24% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.41% 1	1.66% 4	0.00% 0	0.83% 2	0.83% 2	4.56% 11	5.86% 14
Town Common	4.80% 12	6.00% 15	3.60% 9	3.20% 8	5.20% 13	2.80% 7	3.60% 9	3.20% 8	1.60% 4	1.60% 4	2.00% 5	2.00% 5	1.20% 3	1.20% 3
Dog park	8.06% 20	2.02% 5	6.05% 15	4.03% 10	4.44% 11	1.61% 4	2.02% 5	1.21% 3	0.81% 2	0.40% 1	1.61% 4	1.21% 3	1.61% 4	1.20% 3
Community gardens	1.63% 4	3.25% 8	1.63% 4	3.66% 9	5.69% 14	2.85% 7	2.44% 6	2.44% 6	2.85% 7	2.44% 6	1.63% 4	1.63% 4	0.81% 2	1.63% 4

Q12 Do you think the Town should spend funds to:

Answered: 279 Skipped: 49

	YES	NO	NOT SURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Identify conservation areas with signs	61.37% 170	16.97% 47	21.66% 60	277	1.60
Maintain conservation areas	80.07% 221	6.16% 17	13.77% 38	276	1.34
Acquire open space	59.70% 160	13.43% 36	26.87% 72	268	1.67
Develop recreation facilities	73.72% 202	9.12% 25	17.15% 47	274	1.43
Improve existing recreation facilities	92.39% 255	1.45% 4	6.16% 17	276	1.14
Develop trails	68.59% 190	14.08% 39	17.33% 48	277	1.49
Construct a bathroom/concession stand at Turbesi Park	38.83% 106	28.21% 77	32.97% 90	273	1.94

Q13 Do you think climate change is a:

Answered: 279 Skipped: 49

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Very serious threat/strong action needed now	43.73% 122
Moderate threat/moderate action needed soon	32.26% 90
Minor threat/small steps will solve it	14.70% 41
No threat/overblown so no need to act	9.32% 26
TOTAL	279

Q14: Please provide the following optional demographic information pertaining to your age.

Answered: 275 Skipped: 53

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
15-19	0.36% 1
20-34	16.00% 44
35-44	36.73% 101
45-64	39.27% 108
65+	7.64% 21
TOTAL	275

Q15 In what area of Blackstone do you live ?

Answered: 267 Skipped: 61

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Blackstone Village	24.34%	65
Millerville	9.36%	25
East Blackstone	33.33%	89
Other	32.96%	88
TOTAL		267

Q16: Please provide the following optional demographic information.

Answered: 271 Skipped: 57

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
How many years have you lived in Blackstone?	20	5,408	270
How many people live in your household?	4	1,018	267
How many of those are under 18?	1	341	266
In the last 5 years, approximately how many Town Meetings have you attended?	3	757	266
Total Respondents: 271			