

TOWN OF SHERBORN



OPEN SPACE AND  
RECREATION PLAN

2018

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# SECTION 1

# PLAN SUMMARY



- A. Vision for the Future**
- B. Goals and Recommendations**

## A. VISION FOR THE FUTURE

This Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) replaces the 2007 edition. Sherborn's Open Space Committee led the OSRP process and worked closely with the Sherborn Planning Board, which is producing the 2018 General Plan for the Town of Sherborn. The three-year planning and writing process involved many people and raised public awareness of the value and vulnerability of Sherborn's open space resources.

The committees, working groups, and individuals who participated in producing this document and the General Plan began by formulating a set of fundamental shared values or "guiding principles." These include: (1) preserve open space and rural character; (2) increase the diversity of housing options; and (3) achieve economic sustainability. The OSRP process focused solely on the first of these principles: preservation of the town's open space and its environmental and recreational resources. We were guided by our collective vision of a future Sherborn in which:

- water resources will be protected and maintained for residents' needs and long-term environmental and human health;
- the abundant woodlands and wildlands will be biodiverse, rich in wildlife, and resilient in the face of climate change;
- scenic open spaces will actively be protected to support the quality of life of the town's residents and the region;
- sustainable working farms and agricultural open spaces will be integral to the town's semirural atmosphere, healthy environment, and historic legacy;
- the trails and open space recreational resources will be widely used, and a continuous system of trails will be expanded to connect neighborhoods with each other and with Sherborn's Town Center; and
- diverse organized recreational resources, facilities, and programs will support the health of residents of all ages and abilities.

## B. GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Open spaces are fundamental to the quality of life in Sherborn. In surveys, residents consistently cite open space and the town's semirural character as being among their primary reasons for choosing to live here. While development and population density in surrounding towns has steadily increased, Sherborn's population density remains low. Thanks to the town's abundant forest cover and undeveloped land, its groundwater resources, on which residents depend for well water, continue to be maintained. Sherborn residents also appreciate that proximity to open space increases home values, as stated in the 2017 Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Strong pressures against open space preservation are at work, however, due in part to the growing demand for housing in the Boston metropolitan area. Many of the remaining large private parcels of undeveloped or underdeveloped land in Sherborn are vulnerable to sale and development.

The major challenges facing the town and the overarching goals of this OSRP are listed below. They reflect Sherborn's desire to maintain the health and resilience of our natural environment as a recreational resource and an essential source of clean water and climate control. They also reflect the community's

commitment to improving access to and enjoyment of our recreational resources for people of all ages and abilities. More details are included in Section 8 (Goals and Objectives), and specific recommendations and actions are outlined in Section 9 (Action Plan).

## Goals for Natural Resources and Open Space

### I. Maintain the long-term quality and quantity of Sherborn's water resources

Sherborn's near total dependence on wells makes protection of water quality and quantity crucial to residents' health as well as the economic development and sustainability of the town. However, our water resources are vulnerable to waste from septic systems and other contaminants derived from human activity within the town as well as pollution from contaminated sites in neighboring, densely developed towns.

### II. Protect Sherborn's forests and overall biodiversity

In the eastern region of the commonwealth, Sherborn's abundant forest cover is unusual. It is responsible for maintaining groundwater resources and for the cleaner, cooler air one appreciates when driving into Sherborn from more densely developed surrounding towns. Our wetlands, waterways, uplands, fields, and forests provide habitat for numerous plant and animal species, some of which are rare or endangered. Even so, the plans and land use decisions of private landowners and developers often are made without regard to preserving the natural corridors important for ecosystem health. This results in forest and habitat fragmentation and loss of resilience.

### III. Preserve Sherborn's semirural character and scenic beauty by protecting and maintaining open space

The open spaces in Sherborn support the physical and psychological health of adults and children. Residents consistently cite open space and the town's semi-rural character as being among the primary reasons to live in Sherborn. Unspoiled landscapes and open spaces provide a sense of well being and connection to nature that is unique in the area. Strong economic and development pressures work against open space preservation, however, and the long-term, intangible benefits for human health and environmental resilience usually are not included in economic analyses.

### IV. Formulate and implement policies that promote the retention and economic sustainability of agricultural lands

Agriculture is an integral part of the town's heritage: since its settlement in the 1600s, Sherborn has been a farming community. Today, a handful of farm businesses and many small private farms benefit all Sherborn residents by providing scenic vistas and a rural atmosphere as well as fresh, locally grown agricultural products and recreational horse riding. An economically sustainable farm requires skilled farmers, land, capital, labor, and access to markets, and each of these presents its own challenges. Even with these elements in place, however, the seasonal nature of farming makes it very difficult to sustain a farm in this region.

## Goals for Recreational Resources

### V. Protect, improve, and expand the use of open space as a resource for recreation

The extensive trails through our open spaces are widely distributed throughout the town, offering opportunities for exercise and exploration of nature at close hand, often just outside the door. The trail system promotes the health of residents, who use them for hiking, bicycling, horse riding, and cross-country skiing. The trails are lightly traveled and many residents are unaware of their locations, extent and beauty, however. Raising awareness of this irreplaceable resource's enjoyment and accessibility will increase public support for its preservation and improvement. Although the rough woodland trails cannot be made accessible for all ages and abilities, improvement of selected pathways for all users is needed.

### VI. Maintain and improve Sherborn's organized recreational facilities and programs

Sherborn's recreational fields and facilities are not extensive, but they are heavily used and play an important role in the health of adults, the development of children, and the sense of community among residents. The recreational programs available have remarkable breadth and depth and include programs for all ages and abilities. Organized recreation in Sherborn depends on the Recreation Commission, a small group of dedicated volunteers and part-time support staff who manage the diverse and successful program. The commission manages maintenance of the town's recreational facilities and fields at modest cost through a complex system of funding. The town now and in coming years needs a plan to ensure the financial stability of the program and the improvement of facilities including accessibility as prescribed by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

# SECTION 2

# INTRODUCTION



- A. Statement of Purpose**
- B. Planning Process and Public Participation**

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Sherborn has long recognized the value of preserving its open space. In 1989 Sherborn adopted its first Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), which was updated in 1996. In 2007, a revised OSRP was produced in collaboration with students of the Conway School of Landscape Design. In contrast, in 2018, this new OSRP was written entirely by Sherborn residents. It incorporates some elements from the 2007 plan but includes extensive new text, data, and maps; summarizes progress during the last ten years; takes stock of current needs; and establishes goals and recommendations for the future.

### 1. Progress Made since 2007

In the years since the 2007 OSRP was adopted, Sherborn has made significant progress in open space protection, recreational opportunities, and public support for conservation. As examples:

- The Sherborn Rural Land Foundation (SRLF) purchased 22 acres of land on Green Lane, providing a new wildlife corridor and walking route from the Town Center to Town Forest lands.
- A group of contiguous parcels totaling about 83 acres and known as the Nason Hill Woods has been permanently protected by SRLF as undeveloped forest.
- The Silverwood Farm on Western Avenue, previously under temporary protection through MA Chapter 61A, is now permanently protected by a conservation easement held by the SRLF.
- The Sherborn Forest & Trail Association revived “Conservation Connections,” a popular town-wide midwinter party, held biannually, that follows an environmental-conservation theme and presents a featured speaker.
- A detailed management plan for the Barber Reservation, produced by the Conservation Commission with the help of the Conway School of Landscape Design, now serves as a model for management of other open space properties in town.
- The Recreation Commission organized new recreational opportunities, such as yoga classes, pickleball for older adults, and expanded offerings to all age groups during all seasons of the year.
- The Land Acquisition Committee, which was reactivated, completed an analysis of the large (20-plus-acre) private properties in town identifying lands with potential conservation, recreation, or municipal value.

As in 2007, some of the most scenic and environmentally important open space lands in Sherborn today are held privately, making them vulnerable to development. Since then, even though the “sprawl frontier” of rapid development and loss of open space moved beyond I-495, Sherborn property values remain lower than those in neighboring towns. Both factors intensify development pressures, making Sherborn’s open lands increasingly vulnerable to development and the need to preserve open space more pressing than ever.

### 2. The Purpose of This Revised Open Space and Recreation Plan Is:

- to provide a detailed overview of Sherborn’s current open space and recreation resources including conservation lands, agricultural lands, private undeveloped lands, and recreational assets;
- to map a course of action for preserving and enhancing these resources and assets for the long-term benefit of the community; and

- to meet the requirements set forth for an Open Space and Recreation Plan by the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, thereby making Sherborn eligible to receive state and federal funds to help support the actions recommended in this plan.

## B. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### 1. Concurrent Planning Activities in Sherborn

Over the past three years, through several concurrent planning endeavors, the residents of Sherborn have drafted, discussed, and agreed upon a shared vision and a set of goals for the town's future. The results include writing a revised General (Master) Plan, a Housing Production Plan, and this OSRP. The boards and committees responsible for these planning processes have worked in close collaboration to assure that the goals and recommendations in these Plans are consistent with one another.

A Planning Board subcommittee—the Land Use Working Group—generated the first draft of the Natural Resources and Open Space section of the General Plan. Drafts of the open space and recreation-related goals, recommendations, and proposed actions that are included in the General Plan were reviewed and revised by the Open Space Committee with the assistance of Sherborn's town planner for incorporation into this OSRP. Over two years, the Open Space Committee assembled the text and revised the maps and documentation that make up this 2018 OSRP.

### 2. Participation of Other Boards and Committees

Throughout the process of producing this OSRP, the Open Space Committee solicited input from many other town boards and committees. Drafts of the goals and recommendations as well as sections of the complete draft plan were reviewed by relevant Sherborn boards, committees, and organizations.

Plans have been reviewed with particular care by Sherborn's Disability Advisory Committee. Its recommendations regarding accessibility were an important contribution to the 2007 OSRP; many have since been accomplished. This revised plan includes recommendations for completing remaining actions from the 2007 OSRP and adds new recommendations resulting from a more comprehensive analysis of accessibility issues affecting Sherborn's open space and recreation resources.

#### Open Space Committee

Marian Neutra, *Chair*  
 Kelly McClintock  
 Tom Trainor  
 Seth Molloy  
 Laura VanBlarcom  
 David Killeen  
 Gino Carlucci, *Town Planner*

#### Planning Board

John Higley, *Chair*  
 Addie Mae Weiss  
 Marian Neutra  
 Chris Owen  
 Will Dunham  
 Chris Tullman (to 2016)  
 Eric Johnson (to 2016)  
 Grace Shepard, *Associate*

#### Land Use Working Group

Art Schnure, *Chair*  
 Marian Neutra  
 Chris Tullmann  
 Richard Antell  
 Jean Bednor  
 Andrew Lauterback  
 Peggy Novak  
 Tom Trainor  
 Susie Wheelwright

Many of these groups also contributed to completion of the Implementation Tables and agreed to assume responsibility for specific actions. Completed drafts of the plan were distributed to all relevant groups before the final editing began. Thus, many groups in addition to the Open Space Committee have contributed to this revised OSRP.

#### ***Participating Boards and Committees***

Agricultural Commission	Land Acquisition Committee
Board of Health	Land Management Task Force
Select Board	Recreation Commission
Conservation Commission	Sherborn Forest & Trail Association
Council on Aging	Sherborn Rural Land Foundation
Disability Advisory Committee	Town Forest Committee
Energy Committee	Water Commissioner
Farm Pond Advisory Committee	Upper Charles Conservation Trust

### **3. Surveys**

The Land Management Task Force, an informal consortium of volunteers representing various Sherborn town boards, committees, and organizations seeks to implement the land management goals articulated by the Conservation Commission, the General Plan, and the OSRP. The task force conducted a survey in 2013 that focused on open space and recreation issues and was completed by about 45 self-selected residents, who consistently placed high value on Sherborn's protected open space and outdoor recreation.

The following year, the Planning Board sent a town-wide survey to all 1,500 Sherborn households, 44 percent of which responded. Its topics were wide ranging and included questions that bore on open space and recreation issues and preferences as well as overall satisfaction with life in Sherborn. The input on community opinions and values gained from this survey served as a basis for this revised OSRP and guided determination of the open space and recreation goals in the General Plan. (See Appendix A for details.)

As these results were consistent with a similar survey performed in 1998, it is clear that Sherborn continues to be a town that cherishes its rural heritage and characteristics and wants to preserve and maintain its open space and resources for recreation.

### **4. Public Forums**

Early in 2017, two community forums were organized jointly by the Sherborn Planning Board and the Open Space Committee. The gatherings were advertised in the local newspaper *Hometown Weekly*, on the website Nextdoor Sherborn, and on the town's official website. The first forum, held on January 25, focused on natural resources, open space conservation, and agriculture; the focus of the second, on February 28, was open space as a recreational resource, organized recreation programs, and facilities.

Each forum was attended by 20 to 30 residents, but they reached a much wider audience when they were televised live and later made available on YouTube. At each forum the draft vision, goals, recommendations, and actions were presented and discussed. Feedback forms were distributed to the attendees and made available on the town's website, which allowed verbal and written feedback to be collected at the forums as well as via email afterward. This provided additional input and raised community awareness of open space and recreation resources.

## **5. Online Access**

As drafts of the General Plan sections included in this OSRP were completed, they were posted on the [Town of Sherborn website](#). Thus, all residents have had access to the draft goals, recommendations, and actions in this OSRP during the writing process. After approval, the complete final plan will be available on the town website, and online readers will have access to supplementary information through links provided within the plan.

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# SECTION 3

# COMMUNITY SETTING



Source: Google Earth

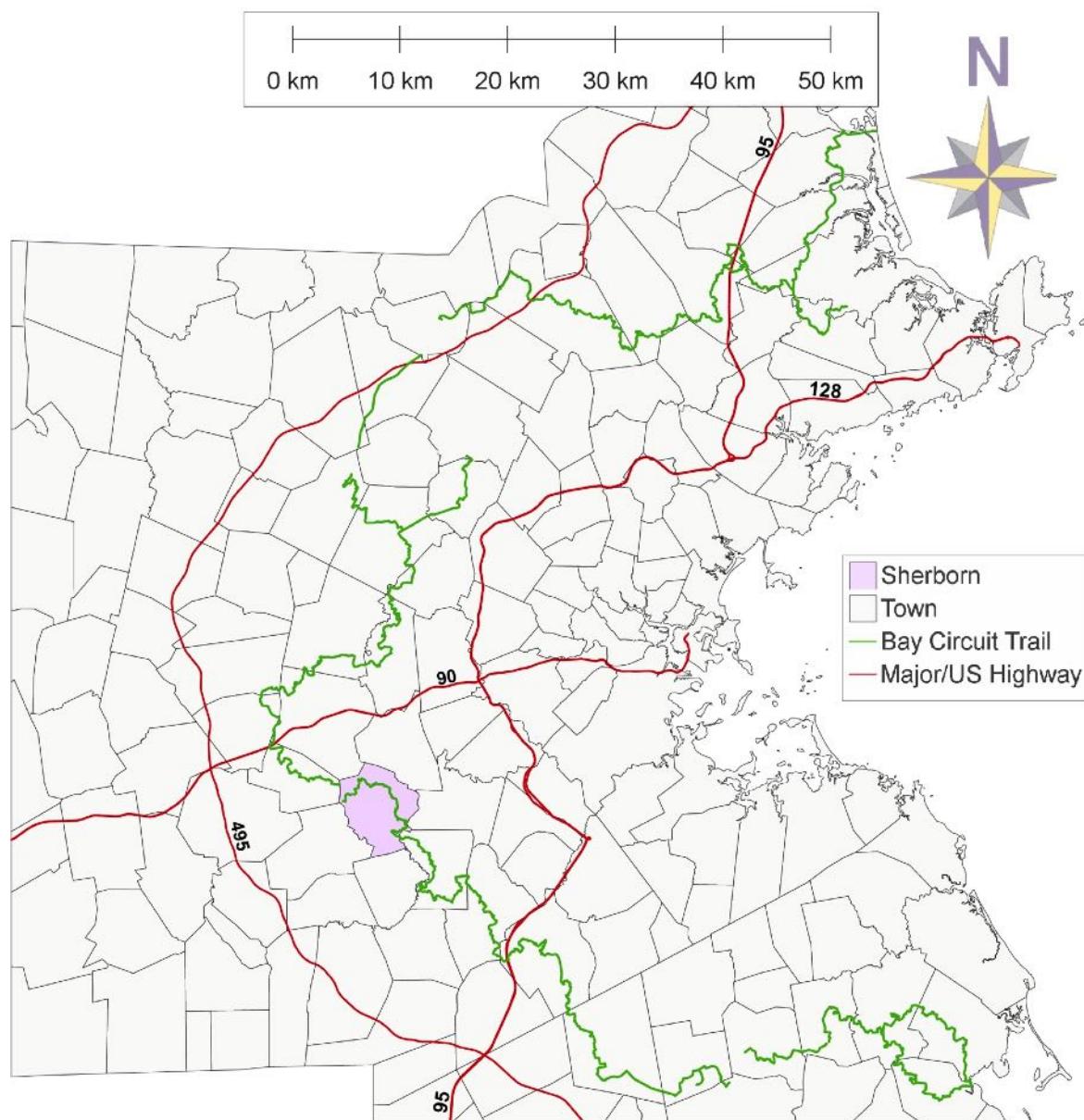
- A. Regional Context**
- B. History**
- C. Current Population Characteristics**
- D. Growth and Development Patterns**

## A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

### 1. Location and Regional Links

Sherborn, Massachusetts, is located in the southeast corner of Middlesex County between three growing metropolitan areas: Boston, which is 18 miles northeast; Worcester is 22 miles west; and Providence, Rhode Island, is 30 miles south. No interstate highways enter Sherborn, but three numbered state routes (Routes 16, 27, and 115; MAP 3.1) run through town, carrying considerable volumes of commuter and commercial traffic to the regional commercial centers outside of town. From its northern to its southern borders, Sherborn measures about five miles, and four miles from east to west; its area is sixteen square miles or 10,328 acres.

MAP 3.1 — *Transportation routes in relation to Sherborn, Massachusetts*



Source: Matt Neutra

When driving into Sherborn from the more densely developed adjacent towns, one immediately notices an abrupt change in terrain. The town's open fields lined with stone walls, intact forest, farms, and dispersed single-family homes distinguish it as an environmental "oasis" in the greater Boston region.

Sherborn is an important regional resource for open space recreation. It is one of fifty-two communities that host the Bay Circuit Trail, a continuous band of trails and greenways providing a hiking link from the North to South Shores of the Boston metropolitan area. This outer "Emerald Necklace" was conceived in 1929, and Sherborn's portion of the trail system was dedicated in 1993. In addition, the town's quiet scenic roads attract cyclists from the entire metropolitan Boston area.

Sherborn's water resources contribute to two major watersheds. The brooks and wetlands in the northern portion of the town flow to the Sudbury River while those to the south flow to the Charles River. The Charles River and Dopping Brook flow along town boundaries, and several aquifers are shared by Sherborn and its surrounding communities.

Sherborn also shares important regional ecosystems and wildlife corridors with neighboring towns. For example the Massachusetts Audubon Society's (Mass Audubon) Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary straddles the Sherborn-Natick border, and protected conservation lands in Sherborn share the broader Charles River ecosystem with protected lands in Dover, Medfield, and Millis.

## 2. Regional Development Trends

Surrounding communities—indeed, Boston's entire Metrowest region—have experienced rapid growth. Between 2005 and 2013, for example, the "sprawl frontier"—as the front of rapid development and loss of open space has been dubbed—moved west beyond Sherborn (MAP 3.2). The preservation of Sherborn's forests has palpable effects on local temperatures and will serve the town well as the Earth's climate warms. Even so, much of the undeveloped land that remains in Sherborn is vulnerable to development.

## 3. Regional Planning Resources

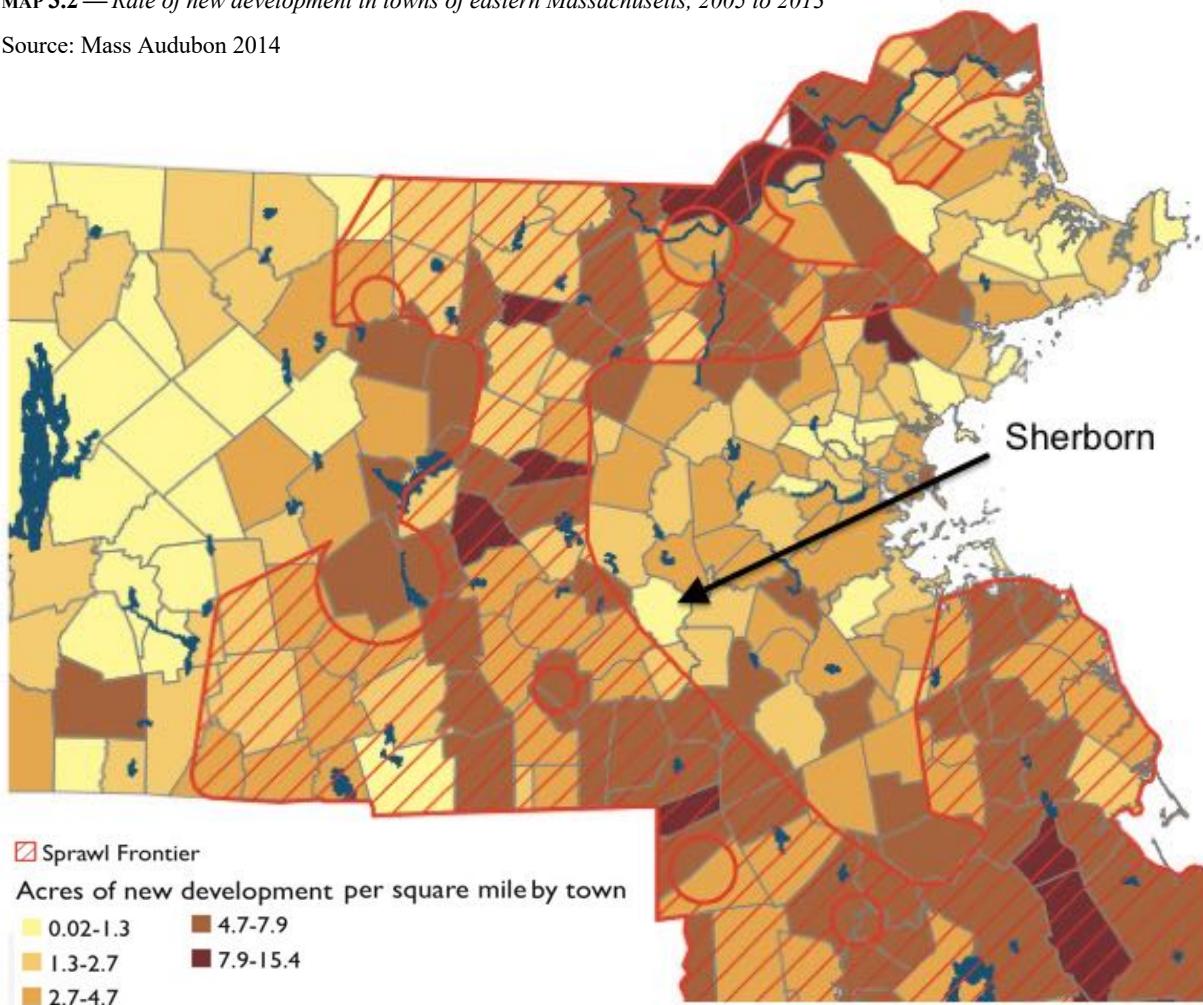
Sherborn belongs to several regional planning agencies, which link it with neighboring communities and foster intermunicipal collaboration on issues that go beyond individual towns' borders. Sherborn representatives and officials actively participate in the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and its subregion group, the SouthWest Area Planning Committee (SWAP). Sherborn's volunteer boards and planning groups have been guided by MAPC's *MetroFuture*, a 30-year plan for the metropolitan Boston region. *MetroFuture* supports smart growth and regional collaboration through the promotion of:

- efficient transportation systems;
- conservation of land and natural resources;
- improvement of the health and education of residents; and
- an increase in equitable economic development opportunities for prosperity.

## Town of Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan

MAP 3.2—Rate of new development in towns of eastern Massachusetts, 2005 to 2013

Source: Mass Audubon 2014



As a member of the SWAP subregion of MAPC, representatives of Sherborn's Planning Board meet regularly with representatives of the nearby towns of Bellingham, Dover, Franklin, Hopkinton, Medway, Milford, Millis, Norfolk and Wrentham to discuss issues of common interest and to learn about new state and federal initiatives and programs. The 495/Metrowest Partnership, which also includes Sherborn, is represented at SWAP and provides valuable input for identifying priority development and preservation opportunities at the local, regional, and state levels. These public/private organizations advocate for both the economic development and quality of life for its member communities. They have helped Sherborn keep abreast of regulatory issues at the state level and navigate the local challenges of balancing housing needs and open space preservation.

Sherborn is located within the northeastern region of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which is the broad open space and recreation plan developed by the commonwealth. This revised Sherborn OSRP is guided by the goals of SCORP.

The open space and recreation plans of the abutting towns of Ashland, Dover, Medfield, and Walpole have expired, but the other abutting towns all have active plans that will expire over the next few years. Natick's plan expires in 2019, and both Holliston's and Framingham's plans are in effect through 2020.

## 4. Regional Conservation Organizations

Sherborn benefits from the presence of three regional, nonprofit conservation organizations that have preserved ecologically important lands in the town including outdoor recreation areas and sensitive watershed areas along the Charles River.

The [Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust](#), established in 1992, includes communities within the Upper Charles River Valley that share the objective of preserving the natural resources of the region and protecting the Charles River watershed. Its board currently includes two Sherborn representatives. The trust has sponsored a 26-mile recreational walking and bicycling trail (the Upper Charles Rail Trail) along abandoned railroad tracks in the towns of Holliston, Milford, and Sherborn and along roadways in Ashland, Framingham, and Hopkinton. Planned improvements in the short segment within Sherborn will provide access for the town's disabled citizens to the entire Upper Charles Rail Trail.

The [Trustees of Reservations](#) owns, manages, and protects the Rocky Narrows Reservation, a major conservation and recreation area in Sherborn. This 227-acre property includes pine groves, wetlands, and beautiful views of one of the most pristine segments of the Charles River as it slowly winds between granite walls. Its 7 miles of trails include a segment of the Bay Circuit Trail and connect to additional trails on 150 adjacent acres of Sherborn Town Forest.

Mass Audubon's [Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary](#) includes 624 acres of conservation land, a portion of which is in Sherborn. This expansive property along Indian Brook and the Charles River consists of woodlands, open fields, streams, ponds, and marshland with well-groomed trails. It provides sanctuary for native flora and fauna, such as dragonflies, turtles, otters, beavers, and more than 150 bird species. Sherborn planners have benefitted from Mass Audubon's planning resources including guidance on low-impact development (LID) zoning and the conservation mapping tool MAPPR (Mapping and Prioritizing Parcels for Resilience Project).

## 5. Regional Recreational Resources

Sherborn connects to multiple eastern Massachusetts communities via the [Bay Circuit Trail](#). The Sherborn segment of more than 11 miles through woodlands is considered one of the most scenic and unspoiled parts of the route. The [Sudbury Aqueduct](#), passes through several Metrowest towns including Sherborn, and is a potential regional trail link. In Sherborn, however, this aqueduct route passes through working farms with fields and crops that could suffer damage from pedestrian traffic and, although parts of the aqueduct are now walkable, this link remains incomplete. Sherborn is connected to Holliston and other communities to the west by the [Upper Charles Trail](#) that begins in Milford, crosses Holliston, and extends a quarter of a mile into Sherborn, where it ends at Whitney Street. Sherborn owns an easement for parking and access to the trail, which will be improved for access to all as described in Section 5 (Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest). We hope that in the future the trail will be extended along the rail line into Framingham, and efforts toward that goal have begun.

Sherborn is in the midst of a region that is popular among recreational bicyclists, and two bike shops are located in the Town Center. Our scenic roads are listed in books and shown on bike club maps that detail bike routes in eastern Massachusetts. Bike routes through Sherborn have been used by regional clubs, such as the Charles River Wheelmen, as well as for nonprofit fundraisers including Bikes Not Bombs, the CFS Cycle for Life, and the Dover-Sherborn Boosters Biathlon.

The Charles River provides a beautiful canoe/kayak connection to Medfield to the south, Dover to the east, and Natick to the north. Thanks to the extensive protected conservation lands along its banks in Sherborn, this segment of the river is scenic and unspoiled. Canoes can be rented upstream, in Medfield, and downstream, in Needham; private boats may be launched on the Sherborn segment of the river at the Route 27 and Farm Road Bridges.

Sherborn has no indoor sports facilities, but residents have access to several in neighboring towns. For example, Natick's William L. Chase Skating Arena is nearby. This year-round facility hosts recreational skating and ice hockey teams and offers skating instruction for all ages. Sherborn's local and regional sports teams use commercial indoor facilities, such as Slugger's Academy in Medfield. Sherborn's outdoor playing fields, however, are a regional resource. The town's Recreation Commission rents the Laurel Farm and Fessenden athletic fields to sports teams from neighboring towns, such as Dover.

In abutting towns, Sherborn residents have access to several outstanding regional resources under the aegis of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation that they use for hiking, canoeing, and exploring. These include Ashland State Park in Ashland, Callahan State Park and Nobscot Hill in Framingham, and Cochituate State Park in Natick and Framingham.

## B. HISTORY

### 1. History of Sherborn Agriculture

Since the first European settlers arrived in the 1640s, the Sherborn area has been a farming community. The portion of the Charles River Valley from South Natick to the falls at Medway kept the Indian name Boggestow for some time after the English General Court began making land grants in the 1640s. The town of Sherborn was incorporated in 1674.

In the quarter-century between 1675 and 1700, Sherborn's earliest European settlers organized their local government, drew up a social covenant, built a meeting house, called their first minister, granted house lots, formed a town militia, hired a schoolmaster, and established a sawmill and a gristmill.

Many areas of Sherborn proved to be too rocky for tillage, but apple trees grew well in these soils, and by the 1890s one of the town's cider mills was advertised as the largest refined-cider mill in the world. In one season alone, more than forty thousand barrels of cider were pressed. "Champagne" cider from the mills of Sherborn was shipped as far away as Texas and even to Europe. A railroad line was built into town to supply the large volume of apples needed. In the 1890s Sherborn was also the largest peach producer in Massachusetts, and dry goods products such as willow baskets, tools, whips, and shoes contributed to the town's economy in the nineteenth century.

Between 1830 and 1880, Brown's Meadow, Dirty Meadow, and Dunstable Meadow were developed into cranberry bogs. The small brooks that ran through town provided sufficient water power to keep saw- and gristmills operating, but its inconsistency precluded industry from developing further.

Although few working farms remain in Sherborn today, agriculture remains an important part of the town's character. Currently, six food-producing farm businesses—with land area totaling about 444 acres—call Sherborn home, and several other farm businesses provide horse boarding and training. In addition to agricultural businesses, many private properties host small, noncommercial agricultural activities that contribute to the town's rural atmosphere. Sherborn residents maintain horse stables and

facilities for goats, alpacas and llamas, pigs, chickens and other fowl, and bees. Many produce fruits and vegetables in backyard gardens.

## 2. History of Sherborn Open Space and Recreation

Farm Pond, a major open space and recreational area in Sherborn, is considered a *Great Pond*, a legal term established by the Great and General Court in 1649 to indicate a natural pond that reserved fishing rights for all settlers. This statute remains in effect today, and all ponds so designated must remain open to the general public for fishing. Farm Pond was also an important source for ice cutting. In the late 1800s, up to three thousand tons of ice were cut each year, then stored in several double-walled barns that were further insulated with sawdust. Because Farm Pond was a water source for the Medfield State Hospital, Sherborn's selectmen were given unusual powers to regulate its access. Today, Farm Pond remains a favorite recreation spot where residents swim, fish, sail, and skate. Motorboats are not allowed.

Historically, the town's residents have responded to the need for preserving open space. In the 1920s, when the Shell Oil Company sought to run a pipeline through Sherborn, Walter Channing, a resident, negotiated an unusual arrangement whereby Shell Oil gave the land adjacent to the pipeline to the town. That land became Town Forest, one of Sherborn's greatest assets.

From the mid-1950s to the early 1970s, the substantial growth and construction Sherborn experienced led to a corresponding loss of farms and open space. In the 1950s, as old homes were repaired and empty lots were developed, Main Street underwent a building boom. In the 1960s and 1970s, large parcels of former farmland became suburban neighborhoods of single-family homes.

Nevertheless, most residents continued to value the town's rural look and actively supported the purchase of land to protect open space and natural resources. Many parcels were acquired by the town for open space conservation and recreation from the mid-1960s through the mid-1980s.

Since that time, the capital costs of new facilities, operating, and school costs; the constraints occasioned by Proposition 2½, which limits property tax increases; and the residents' decision in 2002 not to adopt the Community Preservation Act have made it difficult for the town to fund special projects of any kind. However, two parcels—Price Woodlands (1997) and Hidden Meadow (2001)—were purchased through a combination of town funds and donations from local organizations and private contributors.

In 1974 a group of citizens founded the Sherborn Rural Land Foundation (SRLF), a private community organization that, through gift or purchase, acquires property and conservation easements in and around Sherborn. The foundation's focus has been to preserve land that has particular aesthetic or environmental value and buildings that have historical or architectural significance. In recent years, the SRLF has taken the lead in acquiring or otherwise negotiating protection for open space properties in Sherborn.

## C. CURRENT POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

According to the 2014 Town of Sherborn census, 4,493 citizens reside here. The U.S. Census Bureau, however, uses different parameters to estimate population—for example, college students are counted as residents of their school's locality rather than that of their parents' home.

Nevertheless, federal records provide more detailed information and facilitate comparisons with other towns (TABLE 3.1). The bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) uses a five-year rolling average to produce annual estimates. Sherborn's population is considerably less than that in the surrounding towns. Dover, the second least populous, is 36 percent larger than Sherborn. The density of Sherborn also is the lowest in the area.

The racial composition of Sherborn's population is primarily comprised of persons who identify as white. According to the ACS for 2012 through 2016, an estimated 8.3 percent of the town's total population identifies as nonwhite, including Asian or two or more races mixed.

About 73 percent of Sherborn households have annual incomes in excess of \$100,000, and more than 39 percent surpass \$200,000. With one of the highest levels of median household income in the state (TABLE 3.2), Sherborn is considered an affluent or upper-middle-class community. Income for 5.7 percent of the town's households is below \$25,000, and 10.4 percent is \$25,000 to \$50,000.

TABLE 3.1—Population and density, 2016: Sherborn and surrounding communities

Community	Population	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	Density (per mi <sup>2</sup> )
Framingham	70,743	26.4	2,679.7
Natick	35,385	16.1	2,197.8
Ashland	17,420	12.9	1,350.4
Holliston	14,324	19.0	753.9
Medway	13,135	11.5	1,142.2
Medfield	12,510	14.6	856.8
Southborough	9,968	15.7	634.9
Millis	8,110	12.3	659.3
Dover	5,864	15.4	380.8
Sherborn	4,255	16.2	262.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017

TABLE 3.2—Median household income, 2010 and 2016

Community	2010	2016
Ashland	\$ 92,974	\$103,700
Dover	\$164,583	\$189,265
Framingham	\$ 64,061	\$ 70,706
Holliston	\$103,600	\$110,295
Medfield	\$126,048	\$147,630
Millis	\$ 85,472	\$ 97,591
Natick	\$ 87,568	\$104,372
Sherborn	\$145,250	\$158,250

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2010; 2017: (ACS 2012–2016).

Note: ACS data, based on samples, are subject to variability.

## D. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

### 1. Patterns and Trends

Over its history, Sherborn's land has evolved from native forest that, once cleared for pastures and orchards, was the basis for a farming settlement before it was developed into a green, reforested suburb seeking to preserve its rural heritage. Land use in Sherborn today is devoted primarily to single-family residences including homes on large, variable lots along major streets and scenic roads, conventional subdivisions with uniform lots, and significant areas of open space. While the surrounding towns and metropolitan communities have grown, Sherborn remains a peaceful, semirural community.

**Population trends** ■ The growth in population since 1850 has been accompanied by corresponding loss of open space. The sharp decline in population during the 1920s resulted from the transfer of Sherborn land to Framingham. Subdivision development accounts for the accelerated population growth in the 1960s and 1970s (TABLE 3.3).

TABLE 3.3—*Changes in Sherborn population, 1850–2017*

Year	Population
1850	1,043
1920	1,558
1930	943
1950	1,245
1960	1,806
1970	3,309
2000	4,200
2010	4,119
2016	4,255

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2017

The town tends to attract people who appreciate a quiet, unspoiled environment, opportunities for open space recreation, and excellent schools. Many have chosen to live in Sherborn and commute to Boston or elsewhere for work. Over the late twentieth century, the influx of new residents with professions in high tech, business/ finance and other fields paralleled a marked reduction in the number of active farms. From 2000 to the present, Sherborn's population has not increased significantly, but its number of households has grown from 1,451 (2000) to 1,539 (2016), which reflects an increase in older residents without children.

The number of residents under age 15 has been dropping and is projected to continue to drop through 2030, while the number of those 65 and over is projected to continue to increase. The median age of Sherborn residents has climbed from 32 in 1980 to above 41 in 2000 and as recently as 2016, to more than 45 (TABLE 3.4).

The current Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) forecast into the year 2030 projects a population decline from 2010 for Sherborn of more than 12 percent (4,119 to 3,615). This seems unlikely, however, given that the population actually had increased to 4,255 by 2016, and currently planned development projects will add significant numbers of new residents. If the developments in progress or proposed house a similar number of people per unit as existing housing does, Sherborn's population could be as high as 5,100 in 2030.

TABLE 3.4—*Population and age composition for Sherborn since 2000, with projections through 2030*

Year	Population	Ages ≤ 14	Ages ≥ 65
2000*	4,200	1,116	474
2010**	4,119	966	554
2016†	4,255	843	685
2020††	3,752	617	716
2030††	3,615	551	913

Sources: \*U.S. Census Bureau 2000; \*\* U.S. Census Bureau 2010; † U.S. Census Bureau 2017; †† MAPC 2014

**Employment trends** ■ The employment rate of Sherborn residents has always been high. While the total labor force grew modestly over the five-year period from 2013 to 2017, the unemployment rate fell to levels well below nationwide rates (Table 3.5).

TABLE 3.5—*Employment of Sherborn residents from 2013 through 2017*

Year	<b>Labor force</b>	<b>Employed</b>	<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>Unemployment rate</b>
2013	1,926	1,833	93	4.80
2014	1,989	1,918	71	3.60
2015	2,221	2,160	61	2.70
2016	2,201	2,166	35	1.60
2017	2,244	2,186	58	2.60

Source: Commonwealth of Massachusetts DOR

**Industry trends** ■ The number of people employed by Sherborn businesses also increased by 20.2% during that time period, from a monthly average of 605 employees in 2013 to 727 employees in 2017. (Table 3.6) This reflects an increase in the number of business establishments from 143 to 150. Administrative and Waste Services had the highest average weekly wage in 2017, followed by Finance and Insurance, Wholesale Trade and Professional and Technical Services. Note that these numbers do not include municipal employees working in schools, town administration, and other public services.

**Building trends** ■ As the historical population stability suggests, the number of building permits for new houses in Sherborn remained in single digits for many years, a trend that has continued. From 2010 through 2014, 22 permits were issued, of which 5 were for replacements for existing houses. Although few single-family homes have been built in recent years—and several of those replaced older homes—five new ones presently are being constructed on Green Lane.

It also should be noted that these numbers do not consider the new dense, multi-unit housing developments currently planned. An 18-unit, age-restricted development was recently completed on Abbey Road. The Fields at Sherborn, a 32-unit, MA Chapter 40B (affordable housing) townhouse development, has recently been approved. In addition, a zoning change was approved to pave the way for a 67-unit, age-restricted project that will share infrastructure with an adjacent 88-unit, Ch. 40B apartment complex by the same developer.

## 2. Infrastructure

**Transportation** ■ Sherborn is situated 18 miles from Boston and is served by State Routes 16, 27, and 115. The Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) is just five miles to the north; Route 128 (also known as I-95) is eight miles to the east via Route 16; and I-495 is ten miles to the west via Route 16. In a section that runs through the Town Center, Routes 16 and 27 are merged and carry a significant volume of through traffic at peak travel times.

Private automobiles are the primary source of transportation for the residents of Sherborn. The town itself has no MBTA, private bus, or locally based taxi services, but commuter rail service is available in the neighboring towns of Ashland, Framingham, Natick, and Wellesley. Passenger and freight air service is available at Boston's Logan International Airport (20 miles to the northeast), and express-bus service to Logan is also available five miles away in Framingham. The lack of in-town public transportation has been a factor that slows the town's development.

TABLE 3.6—Employment by Sherborn businesses by sector, 2013 and 2017

Sector	2013			2017		
	Establishments	Average monthly employees	Average weekly wage	Establishments	Average monthly employees	Average weekly wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>\$ 798</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>\$1,093</b>
11: Agriculture, forestry, fishing	7	41	\$ 433	8	45	\$ 466
23: Construction	15	60	\$1,076	15	70	\$1,441
42: Wholesale trade	6	7	\$1,658	9	9	\$1,908
44–45: Retail trade	6	21	\$ 741	7	40	\$1,220
52: Finance and insurance	8	23	\$1,176	9	36	\$1,941
53: Real estate and rental and leasing	4	19	\$1,089			
54: Professional and technical services	32	43	\$1,417	36	107	\$1,845
56: Administrative and waste services	9	31	\$ 724	3	6	\$2,369
62: Health Care and social assistance	8	19	\$ 605	9	40	\$1,099
72: Accommodation and food services	5	77	\$ 405	4	14	\$ 723
81: Other services, except public administration	27	52	\$ 676	25	45	\$ 776

Source: Commonwealth of Massachusetts 2017

The Complete Streets Program Sherborn adopted in 2017 includes plans to improve road, sidewalk, and trail infrastructure for pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle movement within and through town. Sherborn residents of all ages currently enjoy the town’s extensive trail system for recreation and exercise and have indicated interest in having greater opportunities to leave their cars at home and walk or bike to local destinations. The development of additional trails and trail connections, as recommended in this plan, will allow for additional travel options through town.

**Water supply** ■ With the exception of a few properties on the northern border of town that are connected to Framingham’s municipal water system, residents of Sherborn obtain their water from

groundwater through on-site, privately owned wells. Sherborn has no public water system operated either by the town or a private water company, and this lack of public water and sewer is another factor that has slowed development. Wetlands and bedrock throughout town have limited the placement of private septic systems. Building lots must be large enough to accommodate septic systems and wells, which must be separated by a safe distance to maintain the water supply's safety and quality.

Some older homes depend on shallow "point," or driven, wells typically of 30 to 75 feet in depth. Wells that serve most existing homes and businesses as well as all new construction are drilled into fractured bedrock. The yield and depths of bedrock wells vary widely, depending on the likelihood that a particular well will intersect an open fracture system. Well depths typically vary from 150 to 500 feet or more. Per-minute well yields may be as low as one-half gallon or as high as twenty gallons or more.

Most of the town's private on-site wells are fed by gradual recharge of bedrock fractures by the water in overlying soils and/or from flow through deep-fracture systems of unknown source or extent. Thus, regional impacts on groundwater quality and quantity is of concern to Sherborn residents.

Sherborn Board of Health (BOH) regulations require that all new wells provide a minimum yield of two gallons per minute at the well head. Required water-quality testing looks for a series of bacterial, chemical, and physical characteristics that include 35 volatile organic compounds and 2 heavy metals. Water quality must meet standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state, and the town; otherwise, it must be treated to obtain the approved quality. If volatile organics, excessive heavy metals or sodium is detected, a document must be recorded at the state Registry of Deeds so that any future owners will have notice of water-quality issues and the need for proper operation and maintenance of a treatment system. Some wells in the town's business center do not meet drinking water standards, so bottled water or the installation of treatment systems is required.

Currently, seven wells are classified as "public water supplies," and as such they are routinely analyzed for quality according to state requirements. These include wells at the town offices and Pine Hill Elementary School, the Woodhaven elderly-housing complex, and the Leland Farms affordable-housing complex.

Because high-yield aquifers are scarce, the entire town must be considered a water-supply area and protected from contaminants. At the same time, the possibility that a municipal water system may be necessary in the long term obliges Sherborn to take steps to protect the high-yield aquifers on its northeastern, eastern, and southeastern borders; the moderate-yield aquifers on its northwestern and western boundaries; and the drainage area surrounding Farm Pond.

**Wastewater management** ■ Sherborn has no central sewage system. All sewage is handled by subsurface disposal through individual on-site septic systems. To date, the only wastewater treatment plant is a small one at the Whitney Farms Ch. 40B development; others are anticipated to accommodate additional multi-unit developments that will be built under the Elderly-Accessible zoning by-law and Ch. 40B affordable-housing law.

The reliance on subsurface wastewater disposal coupled with the town's dependence on individual wells requires strong measures to ensure that septic systems do not contaminate water sources. Historically, the BOH adopted and enforced regulations that are stricter than the state's Environmental Code, Title 5. This is justified by the need to protect water quality and quantity over the long term.

**Solid waste management** ■ The town presently operates a recycling center with a solid waste transfer station off North Main Street, near the Natick border. It handles about two thousand tons of

refuse per year. But this site could possibly contaminate the underlying aquifer, so the waste is compacted and trucked to the Millbury Regional Facility for final disposal.

Sherborn also runs a recycling program that accepts metals, all types of paper, and all recyclable types of plastic and glass. During the spring of 2004 the Sherborn Swap Shop was constructed at the transfer station.

Few residents desire town-wide utilities, and most have forcefully expressed their desire to maintain the present residential water supply from individual private wells. Since the continued viability of local private wells cannot be guaranteed over the long term, however, zoning regulations must be consistent with protection of the town's limited groundwater supplies.

### **3. Long-term Development Patterns: Control Through Zoning Regulations**

Sherborn's long-term development will be determined in part by existing zoning districts that define sections of town based on environmental characteristics, settlement patterns, and residents' desire to maintain its rural character (MAP 3.3).

Zoning districts also reflect geologic and hydrologic conditions and the need for safe and effective septic systems. Responsibility for reviewing and acting upon land development proposals is shared by the elected Planning Board and the appointed Zoning Board of Appeals. The Planning Board reviews and approves subdivision plans, formulates and proposes changes in the zoning by-laws for approval by Town Meeting, and leads the long-term planning process that produces the General Plan. It also can issue special permits for variations from standard zoning rules. The Zoning Board of Appeals can issue certain types of special permits, such as those for nonconforming uses or structures, and it represents the town in the MA Chapter 40B affordable-housing process and issues Ch. 40B comprehensive permits, appeals, and variances.

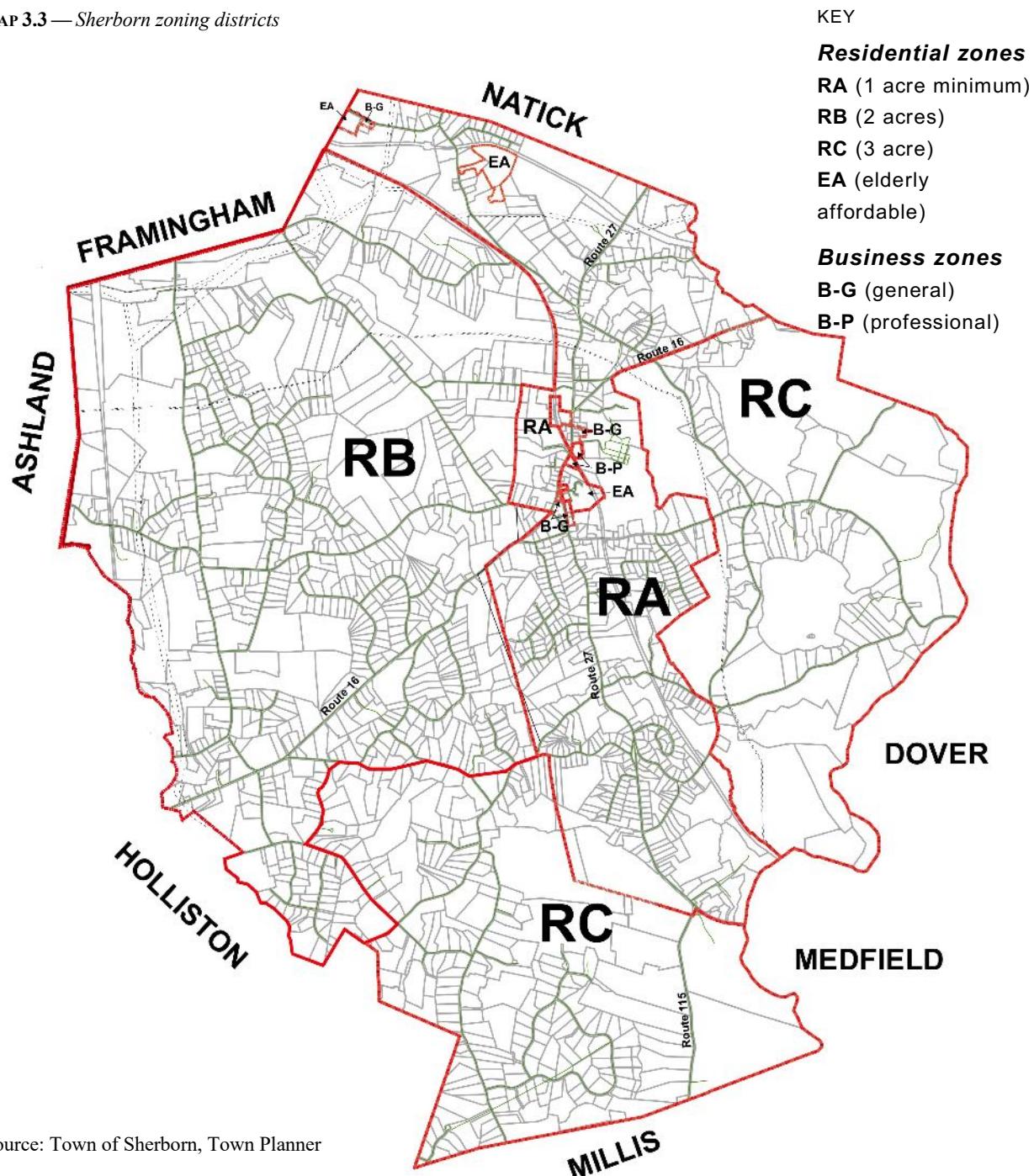
#### ***Residential districts***

Sherborn's current residential zoning districts promote overall continuation of the present pattern of large one- to three-acre single-family lots. Each residential district also includes multiple parcels of protected open space. To accommodate limited increases in housing density at specific locations, the town adopted—and recently amended—an Elderly and/or Affordable (EA) by-law that allows denser and/or multi-unit residential developments on specific parcels, provided that at least 25 percent of the parcel remains undeveloped open space. An Open Space Subdivision by-law passed in 1996 enables single-acre lot developments with at least 40 percent protected open space (described in more detail below).

**Residence A (RA)** ■ The Residence A (one-acre minimum) district describes an irregular corridor from the town's northern border to the Medfield border in the southeast. Embedded within this district are several denser housing developments including EA housing and multi-unit housing developments currently planned under Ch. 40B law. The Town Center business districts and municipal buildings also fall within the boundaries of the Residence A zone. Despite these pockets of density, Sherborn's rural character is maintained within this zone thanks to significant open space (Peter's Hill), recreation fields (Laurel Farm Fields, Jameson Fields), and farms (Sunshine, Columbia, Dowse Orchards).

**Residence B (RB)** ■ The Residence B (two-acre minimum) district roughly covers the western half of Sherborn. Its environmental characteristics and topography are diverse, ranging from forests at the town's highest spot (Brush Hill, 396 feet above sea level) to low-lying brooks, wetlands, and meadows along Western Avenue. The area is primarily glacial till, with rocky soils layered on dense deposits of silt and clay that result in high water tables. Thus, house lots generally require a substantial area to locate both a private well and septic system. Small areas of mixed sand and loam soil deposits on the western side support agricultural uses.

MAP 3.3 — *Sherborn zoning districts*



Source: Town of Sherborn, Town Planner

The Dopping Brook aquifer lies beneath the western edge of this district, and portions of it fall within the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) approved Zone II water supply protection areas for two municipal wells just across the town line in Holliston. A watershed boundary divides the Residence B zone: its northern portion drains to the Sudbury River watershed and the southern area to the Charles River. Many of the town's protected open spaces are located within this region, among them the Barber Reservation, the Bailey Trail with its Swan Pond, and a large part of the Town Forest. The Bay Circuit Trail passes through several of these open spaces.

**Residence C (RC)** ■ Two areas of town are designated Residence C (three-acre minimum lot size): the Charles River zone in the south and the Farm Pond zone in the east. Much of this area is characterized by glacial till; thus it requires substantial area to locate both a private well and septic system. Its most prominent feature is Farm Pond, which the commonwealth designates a “Great Pond”—one that in its natural state encompasses more than ten acres. The areas north and south of Farm Pond and along the Charles River have Sherborn’s only high-yield aquifers that merit strict protection. A significant portion of the district lies within the MassDEP-approved Zone II for a municipal well in Medfield. Water in this area of town flows to the Charles River.

The eastern RC district holds Sherborn’s major scenic open space and recreational resources, including Farm Pond, Little Farm Pond, historic farms, Mass Audubon’s Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Rocky Narrows Reservation, and portions of the Town Forest. Although the southern district includes less protected open space than other parts of town and has no major trail systems or active recreational fields, abundant forest cover is found on private residential lands.

**Residence Elderly-Affordable (EA)** ■ With the goal of encouraging housing diversity, EA zoning may be applied to specific parcels of six acres or more anywhere in town. Each EA property is essentially an overlay district on a specific property that must be approved by two-thirds vote at Town Meeting. As amended in 2017, EA zoning allows denser housing (four units/acre) that may either be age-restricted (over 55), affordable (age-unrestricted with 25 percent “affordable” units by Ch. 40B standards), or both (age-restricted with at least 10 percent affordable units). A minimum of 25 percent of the property, excluding setback areas, must remain undeveloped open space. Alternatively, setback areas may be included in the open space calculation if a minimum of 50 percent of the property remains undeveloped.

The town currently has four EA developments, all of which consist of multi-unit residences. Three contiguous properties in the Town Center comprise Sherborn’s largest EA district. Woodhaven is both age restricted and affordable, Leland Farms is affordable, while the recently completed Abbey Road is age restricted. An additional EA age-restricted, multi-unit condominium complex is on a parcel adjacent to Sunshine Farm at the northeast border with Framingham. In 2017 an additional EA parcel on Coolidge Street was approved and presently is in the planning stage.

**MA Chapter 40B Affordable Housing** ■ Affordable-housing developments permitted under Massachusetts Law Chapter 40B may be located in any zoning district and do not require town-approved rezoning. At this writing, Sherborn has 34 housing units that qualify as “affordable” under state criteria. These units are located within an age-restricted rental complex of 24 units and a condominium complex in which 10 of 17 units are affordable. An additional three non-age-restricted 40B developments are partially constructed or in the planning stage. These promise to diversify Sherborn’s housing stock greatly by adding multi-unit rental apartments as well as duplex and triplex housing units.

## ***Business districts***

***Business General (B-G)*** ■ The B-G district allows a wide range of businesses, including restaurants, retail stores, and gas stations as well as municipal uses and housing. Currently, two widely separated B-G districts are in the Town Center.

***Business Professional (B-P)*** ■ The B-P district allows only offices and certain shops. It does not allow restaurant, retail, service stations, drive-through windows, or assisted living facilities.

Through Sherborn's Planned Unit Development (PUD) by-law, mixed commercial and housing developments are allowed on the periphery of a B-G or B-P district if 25 percent of its land lies within a business district. Both business zones allow single-family dwellings by right and accessory apartments by special permit. At present no PUD developments have been established in Sherborn, but use of this provision to enhance the town's vitality is being encouraged.

## ***Overlay districts***

***Flood plain districts*** ■ The flood plain districts in Sherborn cover lands subject to periodic or seasonal flooding, defined as Zones A and AE (100-year base flood elevations) on the maps periodically issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These overlay districts prohibit building or other encroachments that would interfere with the natural water-storage capacity of the land or the natural flow of water and that would increase flooding in adjacent communities and within wetland areas. Flood plains may be located within any other zoning district.

***Water supply protection districts*** ■ Water supply protection districts are areas designated as Zone I or Zone II by the MassDEP for protection of community water supply wells. The intent is to ensure public health by restricting use of lands that function as recharge areas for shared water supply wells and to prevent contamination of drinking water supplies. These zones prohibit underground storage tanks holding any petroleum products and construction of wastewater treatment facilities. However, given that nearly all wells draw from unmapped bedrock fractures, quality protection is more complicated and thus the Board of Health treats all lands as potential recharge areas for private well water.

***Photovoltaic solar district*** ■ This overlay district allows and regulates the installation of large-scale commercial and municipal solar photovoltaic facilities and restricts their location to minimize negative visual and environmental impacts on the town's scenic, natural, and historic resources. It applies to installations with a capacity of at least 250 kW (DC). Because of the large land area needed for such high-capacity installations and the lack of appropriate locations in town, at present only one site exists: the town's former landfill on North Main Street.

***Wireless communications district*** ■ The wireless communications overlay districts (WCOD) were adopted as part of the Wireless Communications Facilities by-law in 1997. WCODs include all of the electric transmission-line corridors and two locations within Town Forest. Locations outside the WCODs are allowed without a special permit if they use existing structures and are "essentially not visible." As a result, only a single new tower has been constructed since the by-law was approved in 1997; it is situated within the Town Forest overlay district where it has little visibility. Two additional towers remain from before passage of the by-law, and Sherborn is served by several virtually unseen facilities within steeples and cupolas and on electric transmission towers.

***Historic district*** ■ As far as zoning is concerned, the Sherborn Center Local Historic District is not officially a town district, but it functions as an overlay district with the goal of preserving the historic

features of individual properties and maintaining the district's overall integrity and character. Sherborn's Local Historic District, established under MA General Laws Chapter 40C, includes 25 properties and is administered by the Sherborn Historic District Commission, which reviews proposed changes and additions that will be visible from a public way. Building permit applications for such changes require review by the commission.

#### 4. Current Zoning Regulations: Implications for Open Space Preservation

Many large, privately owned properties in Sherborn could be sold for development. Together, these lands contribute significantly to the town's scenic beauty and environmental resilience. Development pressures, fueled by incentives such as regional housing needs and Sherborn land's low cost (relative to other upscale suburbs), could result in the gradual disappearance of the viewscapes enjoyed by those driving, running, walking, or biking on Sherborn's scenic roads. Subdivision of all these private lands, including current Ch. 61 lands, would leave about 30 percent of Sherborn as open space. The impact can be imagined by looking at MAP 5.1 in Section 5 of this OSRP (Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest).

**Subdivision by-laws** ■ The open space acquisition and protection goals outlined in this plan would be adversely affected by the subdivision of existing large private parcels or farmlands. Both state and local zoning by-laws allow development of open lands as conventional subdivisions "by right"—that is, with no requirement for Town Meeting approval, rezoning, or a special permit from the Planning Board. Thus, when large parcels are sold, they could be replaced by uniform one-, two-, and three-acre private lots. This type of suburban sprawl consumes large open fields, farms, and mature woodlands.

In 1996, the town adopted an Open Space Subdivision by-law intended to allow an alternative design for new subdivisions. Under this special permit, the number of lots that conventional subdivision rules would allow can be laid out more flexibly in order to preserve at least 40 percent of the property as open space. Although this provision is intended to preserve vistas, woodlands, and trails, the minimum lot size of one acre does not permit cluster developments. Furthermore an open space subdivision requires a special permit from the Planning Board, while a conventional subdivision does not; this may explain why no such subdivisions have been built in Sherborn. At this writing, the Planning Board is crafting a revised Open Space Subdivision by-law based on current LID principles. It would allow open space (cluster) developments by right, with no minimum lot size, preservation of at least 60 percent of the property as open space, and other provisions consistent with LID.

**Single-family lots** ■ Sherborn's zoning by-laws support some degree of open space preservation by limiting housing density. Under the existing zoning districts, building lots in the Residence A, B, and C districts must contain at least one, two, or three acres of land, respectively; at least 150, 200, or 250 feet of frontage on a public or private road is also required.

However, Sherborn, along with every other town in the commonwealth, is required by state zoning laws to permit "Approval Not Required" (ANR) development, which allows landowners to divide roadside properties without subdivision review by the Planning Board as long as each parcel has the frontage required in its zoning district. The properties at risk typically include older homesteads and houses now separated by open lands, woodlands, and farmlands and situated at a variety of distances from town roads. Although they must meet the uniform legal frontage and setback requirements, ANR developments of such properties may block natural ecosystem corridors and destroy scenic views along Sherborn's country roads. It should be noted that Massachusetts is the only state that permits this method of lot creation. A

proposed land use-reform act pending before the state legislature would eliminate this practice. If this legislation is passed, the approval of all new lots will be subject to review by the Planning Board and the approval process will likely yield a more environmentally friendly result.

**Other zoning impacts** ■ Elderly-affordable (EA) zoning districts in Sherborn allow denser housing, but they also have an open space requirement. In addition to its lot-setback requirements, an EA development must retain a prescribed amount of open space, as described above.

Regulations pertaining to subdivisions require that utilities be installed underground and that the scenic or natural qualities of the land be considered when reviewing plans for new developments. These regulations are intended to maintain the aesthetic qualities of Sherborn's land.

Finally, Sherborn's zoning by-laws promote open space preservation by protecting use of the land for agriculture. Agricultural activities, including nonprofit farms, commercial farms, large and small commercial stables, and commercial greenhouse/nurseries are allowed in all of Sherborn's districts. Under state law, uses relating to agriculture, horticulture, and floriculture are permitted with few restrictions on parcels more than five acres in size or on two-acre parcels with certain restrictions.

As demand for housing increases in the eastern Massachusetts region, the availability of developable land in Sherborn may hasten the town's rate of growth. Thus it is important to act on the open space priorities expressed by Sherborn citizens and to implement the protective measures proposed in this OSRP. This could include revisions to the zoning by-laws to protect wildlife corridors and natural resources or public acquisition by purchase or easement.

# SECTION 4

## ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS



*Wetland* (Source: R. Novak)

- A. Geology, Soils, and Topography**
- B. Landscape Character**
- C. Water Resources**
- D. Vegetation**
- E. Fisheries and Wildlife**
- F. Scenic Resources**
- G. Environmental Challenges**

## A. GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND TOPOGRAPHY

### 1. Bedrock Geology

Bedrock refers to the solid rock that underlies more recent unconsolidated soils and sediments. Sherborn's landform was shaped over a complex succession of ancient tectonic episodes, during which bedrock was lifted up to the surface followed by long periods of gradual erosion and, more recently, glaciation. The surface exposures of ancient bedrock and younger unconsolidated sediments that exist today can yield clues to Sherborn's geologic past.

The most recent glacial period ended about 10,000 years ago, when the glaciers melted as the climate warmed, spreading a veneer of loose or unconsolidated sediment over the area's bedrock. In numerous locations throughout the town, such as on the crest of Pine Hill or along Coolidge Street, bedrock is exposed at the surface. Many examples of local bedrock exposure and other evidence of ancient geologic history along with other major geologic features can be observed here today; they have been documented by Sherborn resident and geologist Mary E. Dowse and are summarized below (Dowse 1988).

A major regional fault or fracture zone, now inactive, runs north-northwest across Sherborn. It extends from the railroad crossing over the Charles River near Rocky Narrows, along the western boundary of Great Rock Road and Pine Hill, and beneath Indian Brook north of Lake Street. This ancient fault marks the western boundary of the Boston Basin, which is lower than the areas to the west and north.

### 2. Surficial Geology

The surficial deposits left behind by glaciers in New England determine the composition of overlaying soil. Geologists estimate that sheets of ice more than one mile thick covered Sherborn at times. As the glaciers retreated and melted they deposited debris known as glacial till, an unsorted mix of compacted sand, gravel, silt, clay, and boulders. Approximately 50 to 60 percent of Sherborn, including the entire central region of the town, is covered by glacial till. Silt and clay deposits cover another 15 to 20 percent of Sherborn. Because glacial till, silt, and clay deposits are all relatively impermeable, they tend to inhibit aquifer recharge and constrain septic system placement.

Running glacial melt-water left outwash deposits of stratified sands and gravels that, today, cover approximately 20 to 30 percent of Sherborn's land areas. These are highly permeable and allow for quick aquifer recharge but they may also result in groundwater degradation brought about from surface contaminants.

Glacial melt-water often carried finer-grained clays and silts further downstream, where it was deposited in deeper, quieter waters. These silts and clays form impermeable hydric soils where wetlands frequently form. Some streams running beneath the glaciers left eskers—long undulating ridges of sand and gravel. Local examples of eskers can be seen along Hollis Street and in the wetlands between Woodland and Goulding Streets.

Isolated remnants of ice from retreating glaciers were sometimes left on the sand and gravel outwash that flowed off the melting ice sheets. These blocks of ice melted slowly and left large depressions called *kettles* that collected groundwater. Farm Pond and Duck Hollow Pond off Farm Road are kettles, and smaller depressions are now vernal pools. The irregular higher terrains around kettles are

called *hummocks*. Examples of hummocky terrain can be observed on Broadmoor land west of Little Farm Pond. Deltas were also created as water carrying sands and silts flowed off the ice fronts. An ice-front delta possibly created the great sledding hill at Charlescote Farm off South Street and Farm Road.

At times, ice or transported debris temporarily dammed glacial melt-water, thus forming large glacial lakes. At one time, glacial Lake Medfield, one such ancestral lake, covered the lowlands of Sherborn as well as towns to the south. The lake drained south and east through the Neponset River Valley. Eventually melt-water breached the dam and drained the lake, possibly causing sudden flooding. Later, Sherborn lay under the ancestral Lake Charles, which drained to the northeast. Sherborn's present north-south surface water drainage systems reflect these past patterns of melting during glacial advance and retreat. Remnants of these glacial lakes can be seen in the fine-grained lake bottom deposits along Western Avenue.

### 3. Soils: Major categories

Soil surveys completed under the U.S. Department of Agriculture have determined that approximately 60 distinct soil classifications are found in Sherborn, and detailed maps of Sherborn soils are also available (NRCS 2009). Map 4.1 indicates the town's five major soil categories; it is a simplified version of a map in the Woodward and Curran 2003 report and published in the 2007 Sherborn Open Space Plan (Woodard & Curran 2003; Town of Sherborn 2007).

We must emphasize that there is tremendous local variation in soil types that is not captured by these maps. For example, in the glacial till zone of MAP 4.1, the soil depths to hardpan, water table, and/or bedrock can differ widely, even within a short distance on the same property. Thus, landowners and the Sherborn Board of Health (BOH) must evaluate specific septic system locations individually.

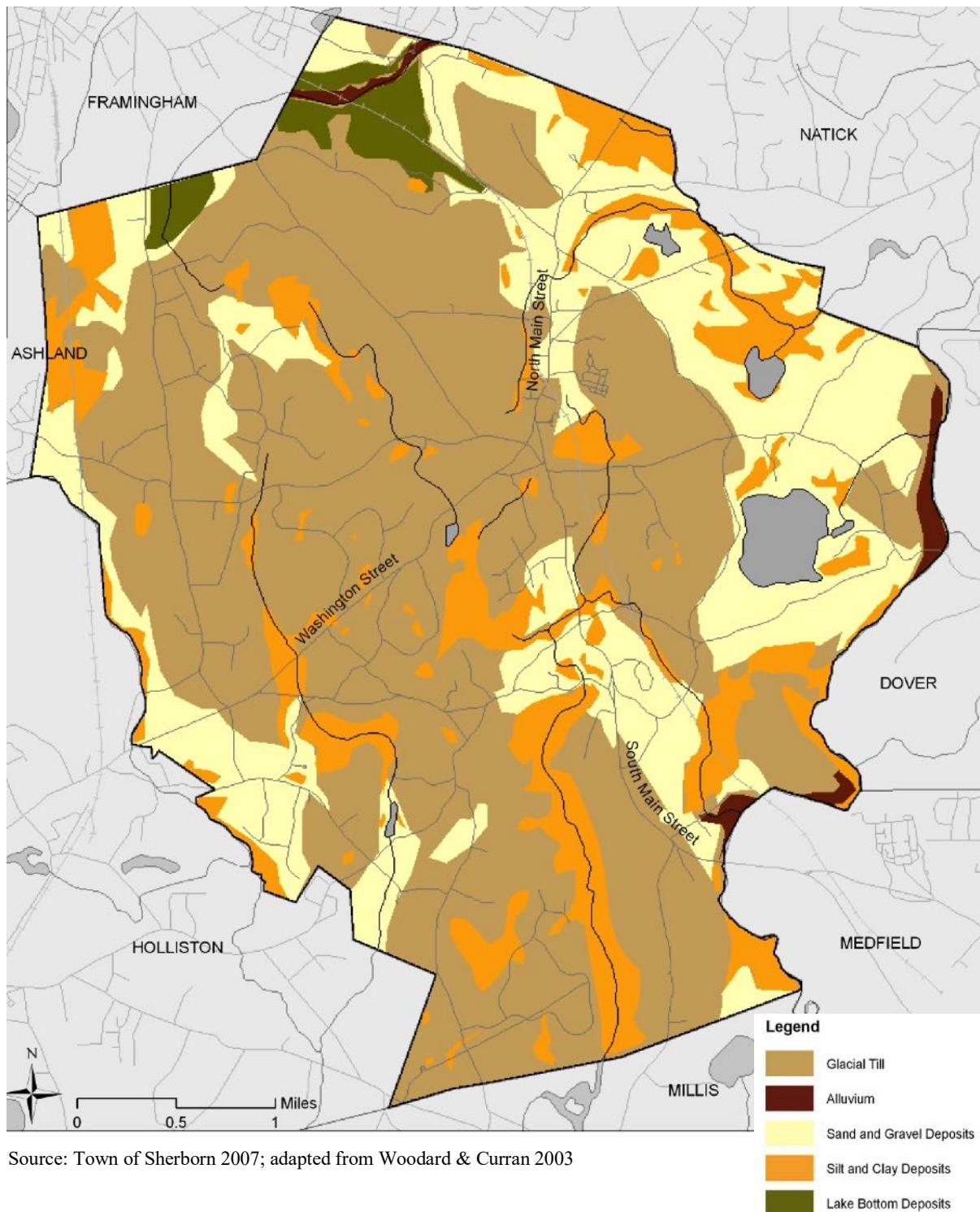
### 4. Soils: Constraints on Septic Systems

**Geologic realities** ■ The 2003 Woodard and Curran study describes how the patterns of land, soils, and water resources in Sherborn were established during the retreat of glaciers some ten thousand years ago. On the east and west flanks of town, glacial retreat left stream valleys with sand and gravel deposits that are permeable to water and recharge underlying high-yield aquifers. In contrast, the central area of town is generally higher, perched on shallow bedrock coated with compact soils that limit the infiltration and storage of groundwater. As a result, precipitation near the center tends to move toward the flanks and then out of town. The wetlands in the central area are evidence of groundwater collected on dense soils and bedrock rather than underlying aquifers. These hydrogeologic features explain many of the challenges to septic system placement in Sherborn: very rapid water percolation rates result in incomplete removal of contaminants while very dense soils impede filtration, and shallow bedrock traps groundwater close to the surface.

Sherborn is one of the few towns in Massachusetts that both depends almost entirely on groundwater wells for drinking water supplies *and* has no municipal wastewater treatment system. It is thus important to consider the entire town as an aquifer recharge area and to be very protective of the groundwater when designing and siting subsurface wastewater treatment (septic) systems.

## Town of Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan

**MAP 4.1 — Surficial geology:** *The patterns of ancient glacial deposits determine the surficial geology and distribution of major soil types found in Sherborn today.*



Source: Town of Sherborn 2007; adapted from Woodard & Curran 2003

**Septic system placement** ■ For evaluating suitability for septic systems, soils have been classified as highly constrained, constrained, possibly constrained, or unconstrained. The term *highly constrained* refers to wet soils. Other soils may be referred to as *constrained* because a high water table is caused by the presence of hardpan and shallow depth to bedrock. Soils dubbed *moderately constrained* are located in areas of hardpan and bedrock, but their less severe density and depth provide areas where septic system leach fields can be installed. *Partially constrained* soils are in areas characterized by a rock outcrop complex that may include locations suitable for septic systems. Finally, areas of highly permeable *unconstrained* soils reliably support septic systems. All of these soil types exist in Sherborn, but the majority of the town is constrained to some degree (TABLE 4.1).

TABLE 4.1 — Sherborn land areas with varying degrees of constraint on septic systems

Soil classification	Land area (%)
Highly constrained	20
Constrained	40
Moderately constrained	10
Partially constrained	10
Unconstrained	20

attempted to take into account the latest developments in technology and soil science. Towns nevertheless retain the authority to set stricter standards than those stipulated by Title 5, and Sherborn has exercised that right because of residents' total dependence on private wells and the vulnerability of our limited groundwater resources.

The town's regulations governing septic system placement and design are written with the goal of protecting water resources and human health rather than providing a tool in town planning. In Sherborn, however, as in many towns across Massachusetts, local geological and soil constraints on septic systems have had the effect of limiting growth.

In March 1995, new Massachusetts Title 5 regulations governing the use of septic systems and other human-waste disposal systems in towns across the state went into effect. The Title 5 revision



Brook and pond

Source: T. Trainor

Sherborn's regulations for septic systems are stricter than those of Title 5 in three major respects:

1. Percolation rates (rate of passage of wastewater through the soil; slower rates provide better filtering): Sherborn has set a different limit for percolation rate (less than 40 minutes/inch) than the state (less than 60 min./inch) for enhanced virus and bacterial reduction in septic system leachate.
2. Timing of soil inspections and percolation tests by certified soil inspectors: Sherborn limits testing to the period between November 1 and April 30; the state does not.
3. Depth to groundwater at location of a new septic system: Sherborn requires five feet of natural soil for new systems, but Massachusetts requires just four feet. Like the state, Sherborn allows soil depth to be increased artificially by adding material (mounding), but its approach differs because Sherborn only allows mounded systems for replacement septic systems.

Sherborn's current BOH works to keep abreast of scientific evidence on wastewater filtering as well as changes in septic technologies. Incomplete scientific evidence and the complexity of soil types and groundwater flows in Sherborn, among other challenges, are inherent to setting and defending local regulations. Current regulations are intended to assure broad groundwater protection throughout the town, given current wastewater treatment practices. Future technological innovation could lead to the development of many previously undevelopable lands.

## **5. Soils: Agricultural**

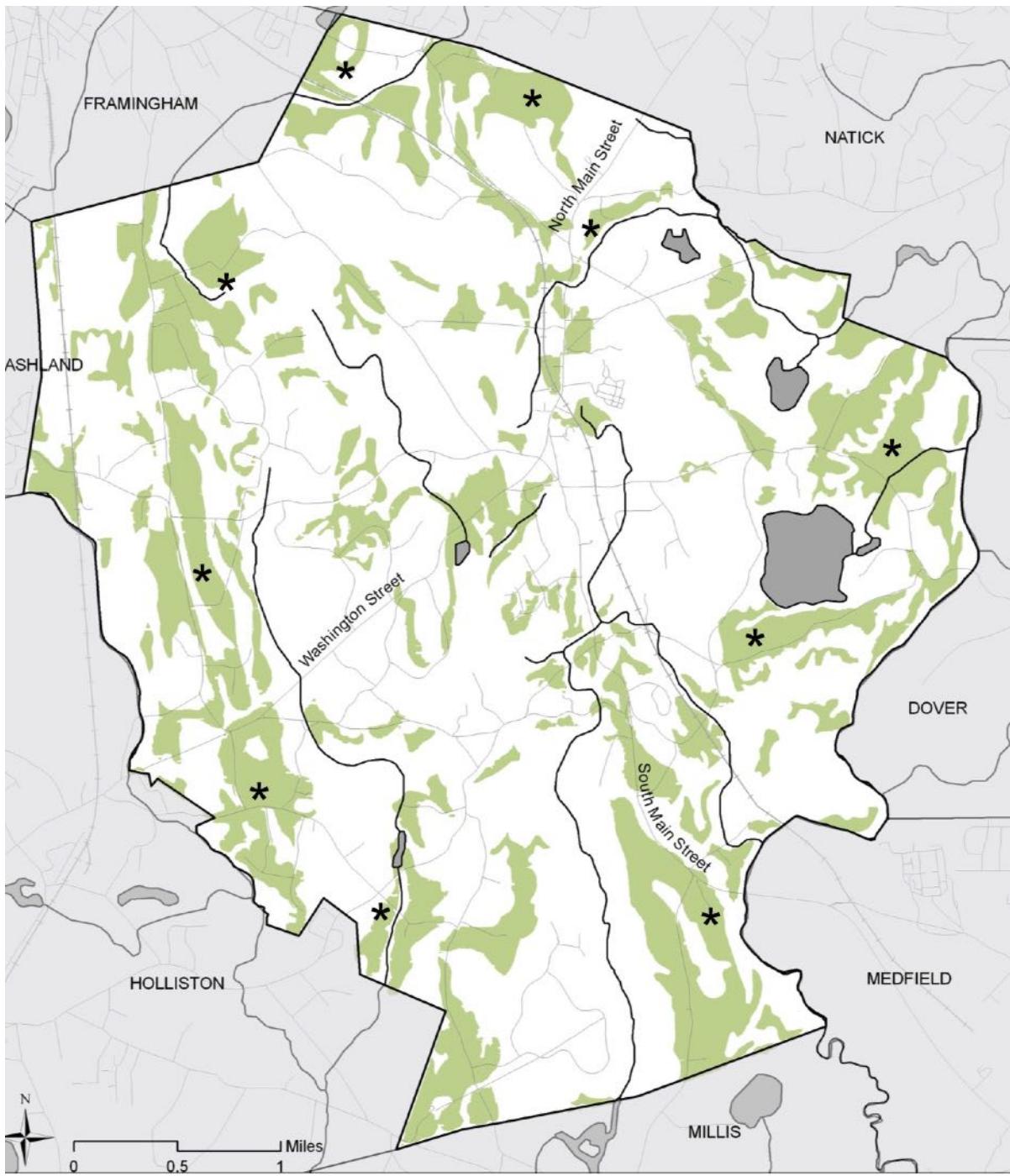
Due to the preponderance of rocky glacial till and wetlands, relatively few areas in Sherborn are suitable for cultivation. *Prime farmlands* are those with sandy loam, an adequate water supply from precipitation or irrigation, acceptable acidity or alkalinity and salt content, and few or no rocks. When treated and managed well, prime farmland can produce sustained crop yields. Land that fails to meet all the requirements of prime farmland may also be of statewide importance for the production of forage and crops. *Important farmlands* can economically produce high yields of crops when managed well.

Despite its limited areas of tillable land, through most of its history Sherborn has been a farming community, because untilable soils are appropriate for stock grazing, dairy farming, and apple production. Apple trees grow well in Sherborn's rocky soils, and one of Sherborn's farms has been producing fine apples and cider since 1778. Today, several large horse farms and at least two that raise cattle are in operation. Small-scale commercial production of other fruits and vegetables follow either organic or conventional growing methods. Sherborn's current working farms are generally located in areas with agricultural soils (MAP 4.2).

Many private properties in Sherborn host small, noncommercial agricultural activities that contribute to the rural atmosphere of the town. Residents maintain stables for horses and facilities for goats, alpacas and llamas, pigs, chickens and other fowl, and bees. Many produce fruits and vegetables in backyard gardens.

Approximately 50 percent of Sherborn's prime and important agricultural soils lie over permeable, poor-filter soils and the town's aquifer recharge areas. Over time, excessive use of crop treatments could compromise areas of the town's underground drinking water supplies.

MAP 4.2—Agricultural soils and commercial farms: Areas in Sherborn with soils suitable for cultivation are colored green; stars indicate locations of existing agricultural businesses.



Source: Town of Sherborn 2007; adapted from Woodard & Curran 2003

## 6. Topography

Sherborn's present landscape holds many clues to the geologic history of the area. The town's eastern border is delineated by the Charles River, which, along with the town's various small streams, follows a general north-south orientation, a result of gouging by the north-south advance and retreat of glaciers. Such glacial scouring also produced Farm Pond and Little Farm Pond as well as the rolling hills and rock outcrops in Sherborn (TABLE 4.2).

TABLE 4.2 — *Major hills and elevations*

Brush Hill	396 feet
Paul Hill	351 feet
Bear Hill	344 feet
Pine Hill	310 feet
Nason Hill	298 feet
Peter's Hill	291 feet

The varied terrain and ponds provide excellent outdoor recreational opportunities, such as swimming, hiking, and riding. An extensive network of public trails exists throughout Sherborn, including 11 miles of the regional Bay Circuit Trail that connects protected open spaces, such as the Town Forest, Rocky Narrows Reservation, and the Barber Reservation (see MAP 5.2). Over time, the terrain determined the routes followed by Sherborn's roads, resulting in a network of winding scenic roads that contribute to its rural atmosphere.

## B. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The combination of woodlands, open fields, and farms lends Sherborn its rural atmosphere. An abundance of surface water including brooks, wetlands, and ponds provides important wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. The rich diversity of town's rural landscape has inspired efforts toward preserving its open space.

In the mid-1800s, like most of Massachusetts, Sherborn was almost completely deforested (Wildlands & Woodlands 2013). Since that time, oak, pine, birch, hickory, beech, and maple trees have returned, and most of Sherborn's total acreage is now forested. The human history of Sherborn's landscape is visible in the stone walls that crisscross the land, providing evidence of former fields and property lines. Today, only about one-fifth of Sherborn is open land such as meadows and farm fields. Currently, active farms—among them Dowse Orchards, Sunshine Farm, Silverwood Farm, Charlescote Farm, Hopestill Farm, and Course Brook Farm—are responsible for a large part of Sherborn's rural character.

The gentle hills and valleys of Sherborn's landscape have historically provided an environment well suited to its thriving apple orchards. The hills allow air movement, thus limiting the frost pockets that can destroy apple blossoms in early spring. Dowse Orchards, established in 1778, continues to produce excellent apples today.

Surface water is abundant across Sherborn's landscape. The forested and emergent wetlands, the brooks, the swamp and marshland, the Charles River, and the two natural ponds—Farm Pond and Little Farm Pond—provide ideal wildlife habitats and many recreation opportunities for the town's residents.

Sherborn's intact natural landscape is a valuable environmental oasis in the midst of the increasingly developed Greater Boston metropolitan area. Middlesex County is the most densely populated county in Massachusetts specifically and New England generally (pop. 1,589,774 in 2016, or 1,877 residents

per square mile). In contrast, Sherborn maintains a low population density (262.7 residents per square mile) and an uncharacteristically large amount of open space and undeveloped land. The population densities of nearby towns, including the seven towns that border Sherborn, are markedly higher (see TABLE 3.1).



*Synthesized aerial view showing extent of tree cover in Sherborn*

Source: Google Earth.

## C. WATER RESOURCES

### 1. Watersheds

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts includes [28 major watersheds](#), and Sherborn straddles two of them (MAP 4.3). An area representing about 18 percent of the northwest corner of the town lies in the watershed of the Sudbury River, which flows north to combine with the Assabet and Concord Rivers. Collectively these three rivers comprise the SuAsCo Watershed; they feed the Merrimack River, which empties into the Atlantic Ocean between Salisbury and Newburyport, Massachusetts. The remaining 82 percent of Sherborn lies within the Charles River Watershed. The Charles forms Sherborn's southeast boundary with Medfield and Dover as it flows northeast toward Boston Harbor.

Sherborn's ponds and eight brook sub-basins drain toward the town's boundaries and contribute to these two major watersheds. Beaver Dam Brook and Course Brook flow north to the Sudbury River, while Dopping, Bogastow, Dirty Meadow, Sewall, and Indian Brooks flow to the south and east into the Charles River. The most prominent surface-water bodies in Sherborn—the 126-acre Farm Pond, the 24-acre Little Farm Pond, and the Charles River itself—all lie within the Charles River Watershed. Sherborn's brooks are first-order streams, so any contaminants that enter here eventually will affect water quality downstream. Protection of all water resources in Sherborn will benefit the town's water as well as that of the SuAsCo and Charles River Watersheds.

### 2. Surface Water

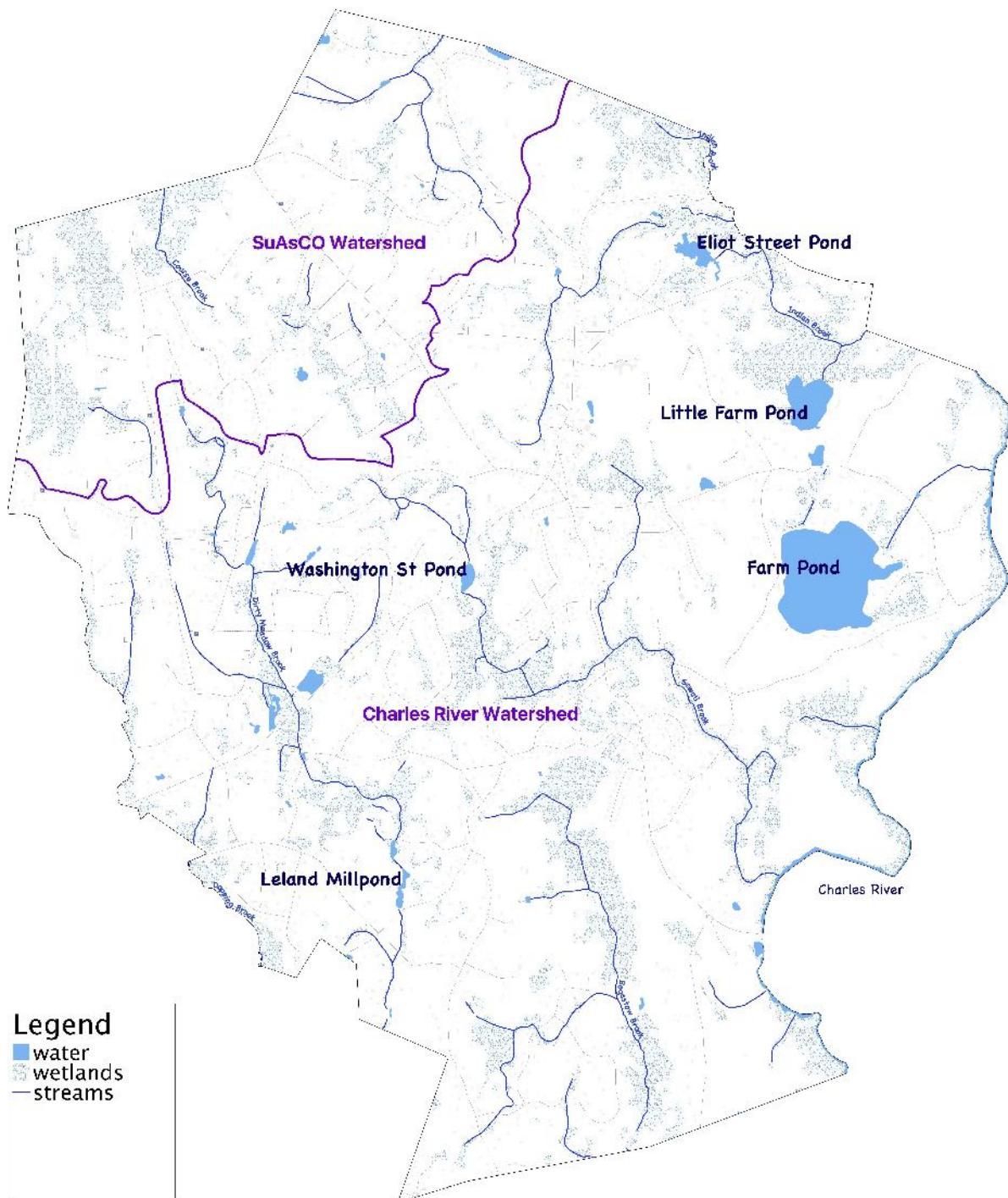
The major bodies of surface water in Sherborn are its five ponds and the Charles River.

**Farm Pond** ■ This large kettle pond is a treasured natural resource of the town. At its southwest corner, a popular town-owned recreational facility offers a public beach for swimming and a boat-launch ramp. A dock on adjacent private property is maintained by residents who belong to the Sherborn Yacht Club. No motorized (gas or electric) boats are allowed, and skating is popular during sufficiently cold winters. In the past, Farm Pond served as a source of water for the nearby Medfield State Hospital, and it also hosted commercial ice operations.

The pond has a maximum depth of 58 feet, typically varying by a foot or two during the year due to seasonable changes in the water table of the surrounding watershed. No streams feed into the pond, the water levels of which are maintained by precipitation and groundwater flows. The pond drains indirectly into the Charles River: a small outlet from the shallow lagoon at its southeast corner drains into a marsh at certain times of the year. This marsh connects to a small stream that runs northeast, crossing Farm Road, and eventually entering the Charles River. The lagoon is separated from the larger pond by an earthen dike that was constructed around 1890 during the placement of a water main that connected to Medfield State Hospital. The dike merits protection, as it assists in maintaining Farm Pond's level and provides a potential trail connection. A small waterfall can often be viewed above it in the early spring, when its water level is at its annual maximum.

The Farm Pond Advisory Committee (FPAC), a volunteer organization that reports to Sherborn's Board of Selectmen (now termed Select Board [SB]), has managed a volunteer water-quality-monitoring program at the pond since 1998. From April to October, monthly measurements are taken at a moored location near the center of the pond to acquire data on water clarity and water-column temperature along with dissolved-oxygen data points at one-meter intervals. Occasionally, additional

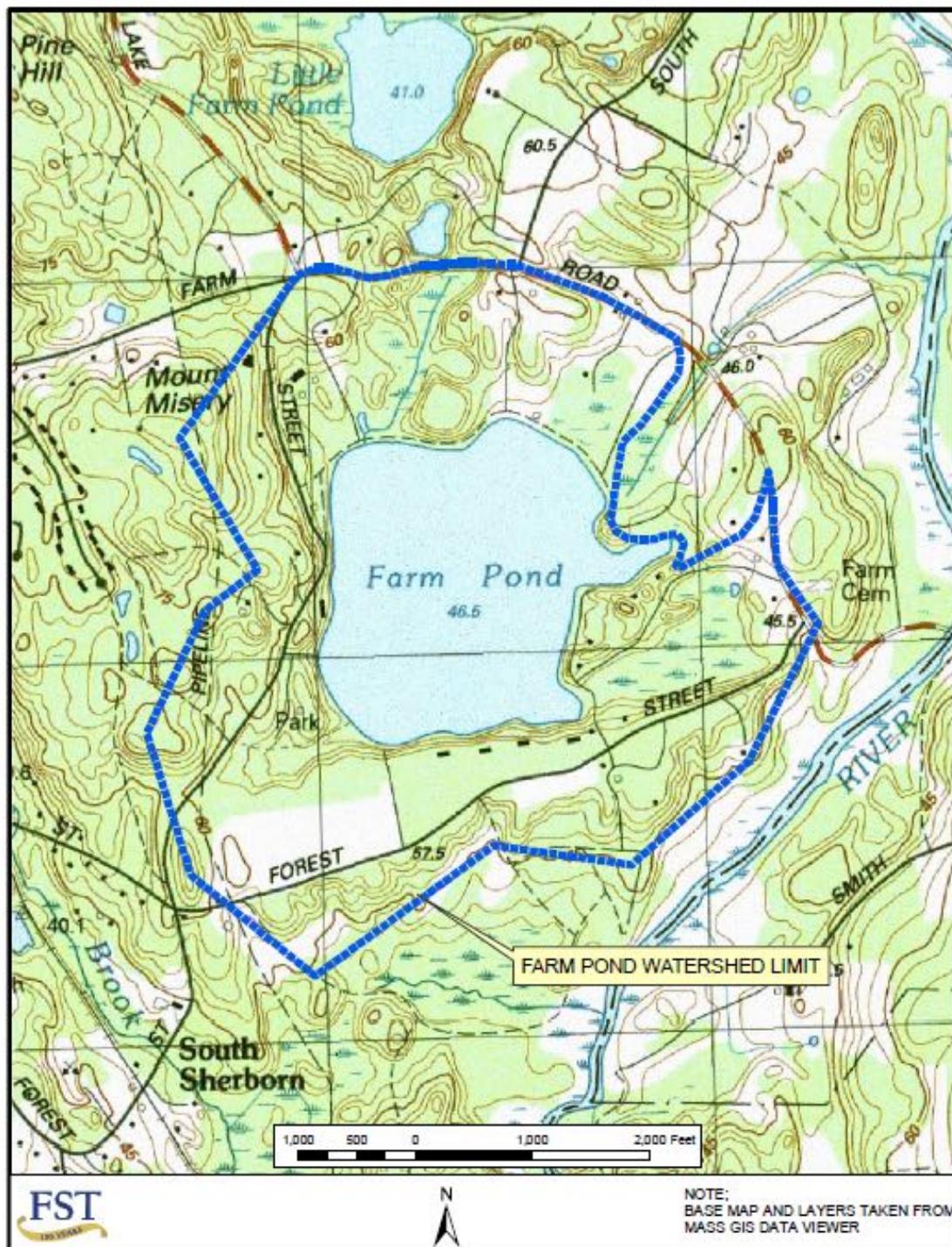
**MAP 4.3 — Watersheds, wetlands, and surface water:** Surface water in Sherborn flows into one of two major watersheds, the Sudbury River (SuAsCo) or the Charles River.



Source: Seth Molloy; Data source: MassGIS

analyses are done to obtain pH and total phosphorous measurements. This program has shown the health of Farm Pond to be exceptionally good, with high clarity and low levels of phosphorus. These characteristics, are indicative of a primarily forested, sparsely developed pond watershed.

MAP 4.4 — Farm Pond watershed.



Source: Farm Pond Management Plan, 2015

In 2015 the FPAC commissioned the consulting firm Fay, Spofford, and Thorndike to produce a Farm Pond Management Plan (Fay, Spofford and Thorndike 2015; available as a pdf on [www.sherborn.org](http://www.sherborn.org)).

The report showed that the Farm Pond watershed is relatively small (410 acres) as shown on map 4.4. Although the pond is protected from nutrient runoff by the presence of minimal (1.2 percent) impervious surfaces within the watershed (Fay, Spofford and Thorndike 2015), most of the watershed consists of privately held property. The sandy soils that are prevalent around the pond mean that contaminants can travel more readily from surrounding lands to the pond. Thus its protection depends on continued cooperation of landowners.

Unlike most ponds in the towns that surround Sherborn, Farm Pond fortunately shows no sign of non-native invasive aquatic plants. Besides requiring that boats be washed before they are launched at the ramp, the FPAC, with support from MassDEP's Lakes and Ponds program, supports a group of "Weed Watcher" volunteers who help ensure early detection of any potentially devastating weed introductions.

Farm Pond's historic status as a drinking water source and an ice supplier attests to its consistent water quality. The document summarizes recent diagnostic fieldwork, watershed evaluation and analysis, review of pond management options, and recommended actions for conserving and protecting the recreational, ecological, and aesthetic features of the pond. An important recommendation was for the town to nominate Farm Pond for designation as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW). Based on its pristine water quality and exceptional clarity, particularly in the context of numerous degraded lakes in the Upper Charles River Watershed, ORW status would gain added protection for Farm Pond.

**Smaller ponds** ■ Little Farm Pond covers 22 acres; two-thirds of its shoreline is protected as part of the Broadmoor Sanctuary, a property of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The trails around this pond provide opportunities for hiking and viewing wildlife.

Ward Park Pond, a small body of water managed by Sherborn's Recreation Commission, is located adjacent to a playground in the center of town. It provides limited habitat for wildlife, but use of adjoining land has raised issues about the pond's water quality.

Lower and Upper Mill Ponds, both part of the Leland Reservation, are managed by Sherborn's Conservation Commission (Con Com). Once they were homes to the most active sawmills in town, but today both ponds and the associated wetland regions provide excellent wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities, such as hiking and ice skating in winter.

**Charles River** ■ The Charles River forms Sherborn's southeast boundary, separating it from the neighboring towns of Medfield and Dover. Much of the western bank of the river in Sherborn is protected as public land, publicly accessible land of The Trustees of Reservations, or through conservation restrictions on private property. The opposite bank is protected as the Medfield State Forest and by The Trustees of Reservations property just downstream in Dover. This stretch of the Charles is considered the most undeveloped portion in its entire 78-mile length (McAdow 1992). This stretch of the river offers ideal canoeing, both upstream and down, and its water quality is excellent. Two locations allow access to the river from Sherborn: at Farm Road bridge on the Dover side (mile 34.3); and along Route 27 at mile 34.8 on the Medfield side of Death Bridge (so named for an early resident).

### 3. Aquifer Recharge Areas

**Groundwater resources** ■ The only water source for the great majority of Sherborn residents, businesses, farms, and public facilities is the town's groundwater resources. Our dependence on wells makes protection of water quality and quantity crucial to residents' health as well as to the economic development and sustainability of the town. Sherborn is also entirely dependent on private subsurface disposal (septic) systems for treating wastewater. Therefore, a critical relationship exists between the design and placement of septic systems and well-water quality. Sherborn's critical dependence on limited drinking water resources is the basis for the town's more restrictive septic requirements.

Over the past few decades the town has sponsored three major studies to examine and document its water resources. In 1989, Lycott Environmental Research, Inc., completed *Water Resources, Town of Sherborn* (Lycott 1989). The Sherborn Groundwater Protection Committee engaged Woodard & Curran, Inc., in 2003 to produce the detailed *Town of Sherborn Groundwater Protection Study* (Woodard & Curran 2003), a benchmark resource that remains valuable today. The Farm Pond Management Plan was produced in 2015 (Fay, Spofford and Thorndike 2015). Together, these thoughtful studies describe in detail the underlying hydrogeology and land attributes that must be considered carefully if we are to protect Sherborn's water supply for the future.

By reviewing existing maps and performing limited field investigation, the 1989 Lycott study identified the town's aquifers and recharge areas. The aquifers in Sherborn's northeastern and western regions, found within deposits of sand and gravel, were identified as likely to support wells yielding between 50 and 250 gallons of water per minute. The study states:

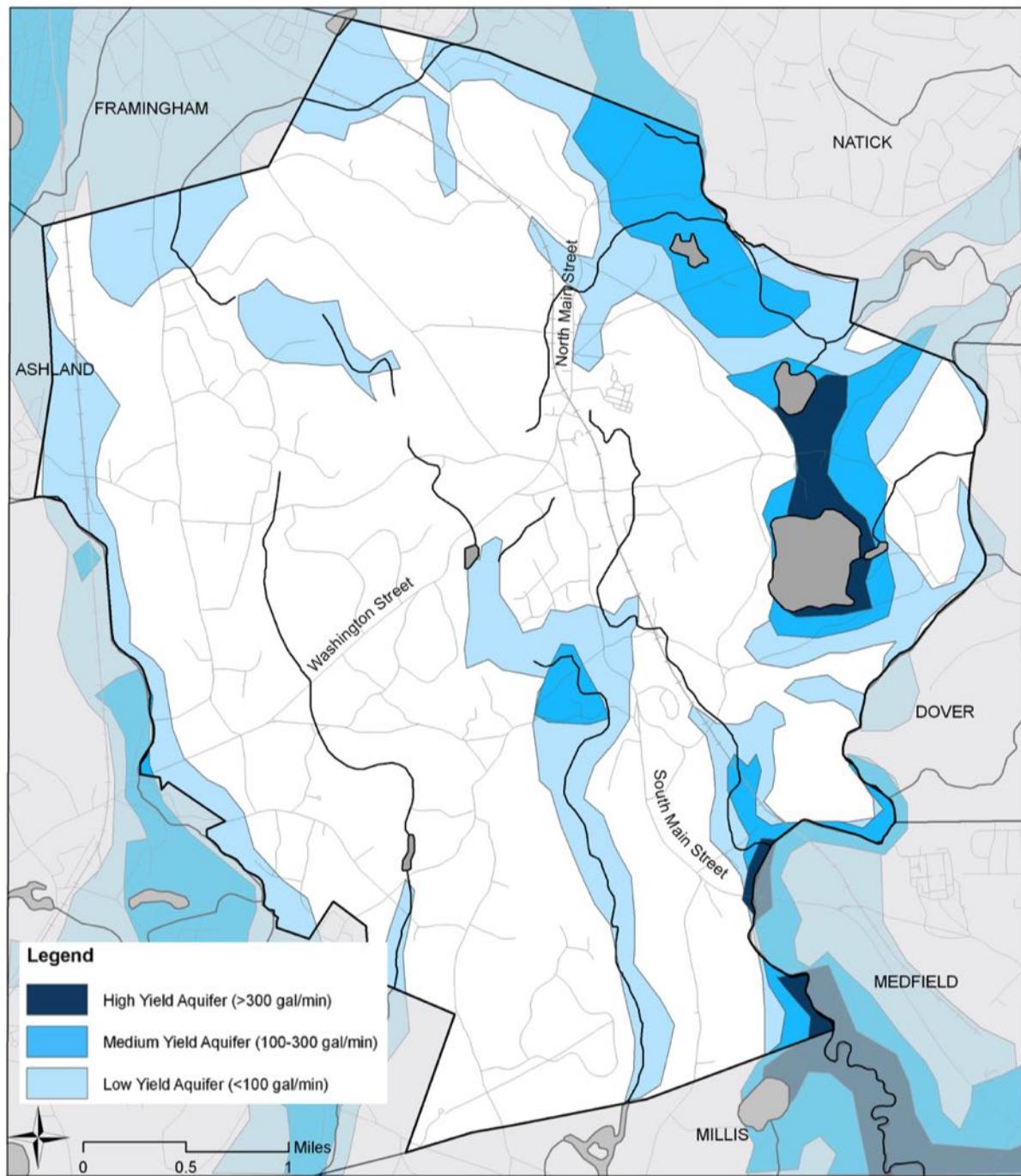
*Based on the results of this study, the Town of Sherborn may have to rely on more than one water resource area if a water supply is desired in the future. Because only a few areas within Sherborn may be capable of sustaining moderate-to-high yields, thus limiting the quantity of homes that could be connected to a town system and because all of Sherborn presently utilizes private water wells, protection of all groundwater in the Town of Sherborn is critical. (Lycott 1989)*

**Aquifers** ■ The Woodard & Curran study emphasized that, despite its abundant wetlands, Sherborn is not rich in water resources (MAP 4.5). Only the east and west flanks of town have permeable sand and gravel deposits that recharge underlying high-yield aquifers. The majority of town has compact soils perched on shallow bedrock, causing precipitation in the center to tend to collect in surface wetlands or drain into brooks flowing out of town. Most of Sherborn, including its central area, has no significant aquifers and relies on wells drawing water from unmapped bedrock fractures. For practical purposes, therefore, most or all of the town must be considered to be an aquifer or groundwater recharge area, with wetlands and sand and gravel deposits contributing the most recharge and glacial till contributing less. The lack of high-yield aquifers has proven particularly problematic in the Town Center, where businesses and administrative buildings, some of which require multi-user or "public" wells, have added wells and septic systems over many years, including before strict standards for separation of well fields and septic systems were established.

For many years, especially after the passage of MassDEP Title V regulations in 1995, it has been recognized that many properties within the Town Center do not meet current regulations for both water quality and septic-system design. Many Town Center wells and septic fields were installed years before strict regulations were established; under today's standards they would not be allowed because they pose potential health risks. Although no major adverse events have occurred to date, the

paucity of remaining room for expansion of septic capacity without contamination of groundwater supplies limits current businesses' options.

**MAP 4.5**—*Aquifers: Sherborn's only high-yield aquifers lie in the Farm Pond area and along the Charles River, both on the eastern side of town. In general, the town has limited underground water resources.*



Source: Town of Sherborn 2007; adapted from Woodard & Curran 2003

A nonbinding ballot question at the May 2007 town election asked: "Shall the Town encourage the formation of a public water and/or sewer system to service the current Business District?" Residents voted "yes" by a two-to-one margin. A report proposing a Town Center Water District, compiled the same year by the Sherborn Business Association and interested residents, was submitted to the SB. It recommended that the SB establish a water district and water delivery system within the Town Center to alleviate the water quality and quantity challenges posed by the overlapping well fields and septic systems in that area.

In May 2014 the SB formed the Town Center Options Committee (TCOC) to study technical and financial options for adding water supply and/or wastewater treatment systems for the Town Center. The TCOC continues to work with technical and legal consultants to provide data to Sherborn's governing boards to support informed decision making. On balance, the data show that the Town Center's further development is constrained both by septic disposal capacity and water supply. Data on the technical feasibility and costs of various options are under continued analysis. The final solution will also require consensus concerning the residents' vision of the future Town Center.

## **5. Protection of Water Resources**

The town places a very high priority on protecting its groundwater. In 1992 the town passed a groundwater protection by-law that requires the removal of underground storage tanks that are more than 20 years old. It also established a registration system for businesses that use oil and hazardous materials. Sherborn has a continuing interest in preventing excessive development, especially of commercial activities that require use of petrochemicals and other toxic substances.

In 1993, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) issued its *Southwest Water Supply Protection Plan*, a study of water supplies for nine communities, including Sherborn, in the Upper Charles River Basin to help coordinate protection of municipal water supplies that cross town lines. Although Sherborn does not have a municipal water supply, protection zones for the public water supplies of Holliston, Medfield, and Millis extend into Sherborn. The plan encourages the town to continue enforcing its groundwater protection by-law and educating residents about protection of the groundwater supply.

Woodard & Curran's 2003 study presented the existing hydrogeological conditions, their assets and vulnerabilities, and illustrated them with a series of maps. Among other findings, the study delineated the extent and potential yields of all aquifers in Sherborn and recommended strict groundwater protection measures in these areas.

Under Title 5 regulation, it is possible that certain aquifer recharge zones could be designated "nitrogen sensitive zones." Septic systems in nitrogen sensitive zones are subject to standards that limit the amount of nitrogen and organic matter permitted to leach into the soil. The possibility of establishing local "groundwater aquifer overlay districts" that delineate major aquifers and recharge areas has been discussed but not pursued by the town. In such a district, certain activities would be limited and septic system size—hence bedroom count—would be controlled.

Because of Sherborn's widespread soil constraints and complete reliance on private wells, however, it is currently assumed that all areas of town should be equally protected. Sherborn must continue to enforce its groundwater protection by-law and BOH regulations as well as educate residents about protection of the groundwater supply.

## 6. Flood Hazard Areas and Storm-water Management

Principal floodplains within Sherborn lie along the Charles River, the lower portion of Sewall Brook, Dopping Brook, and the tributaries of Bogastow Brook (MAP 4.6). The ability of local floodplains and wetland areas to store flood waters has limited serious effects from flooding.

Flooding results when headwaters can no longer retain water due to an increase in impervious surfaces, lack of vegetative cover, or loss of flood storage area. Preserving the flood-preventive aspects of the Charles River's headwaters—its floodplains and wetlands—is vitally important to protecting the lower portions of the river from flooding. In Sherborn, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns or has easements on 250 acres along Dopping and Sewall Brooks. These lands, which have no dams or other flood-control structures, are maintained as part of a program to protect important natural flood-storage areas in the Charles River headwater region.

Areas within the 100-year floodplain fall under the jurisdiction of the Con Com. Development in the floodplain is not prohibited, but under the state's Wetlands Protection Act, building in a floodplain requires creating a flood-storage area that fully compensates for flood storage lost by development.

In 2016, Massachusetts adopted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Storm Water Phase 2 program which requires each town in the commonwealth to develop its own Stormwater Management Plan. Sherborn has complied, and its plan is in place. This is just one of the efforts presently underway to anticipate the potential effects of climate change on management of water resources. Through its Shaping the Future of Your Community program, Mass Audubon recently worked with Sherborn on developing an approach to municipal resiliency that involves both mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

## 7. Wetlands

Approximately 20 percent of Sherborn's land is occupied by wetlands, which are protected resource areas in Massachusetts (see MAP 4.3). Sherborn's strict wetland protection by-law allows it to control activities that could have a significant effect on wetland health and function.

Wetlands are found in low-lying areas and spaces with poor drainage throughout Sherborn. These are important as animal habitats and for water resource management; as legally protected open space, they also contribute to the town's scenic character. Sherborn's diverse wetlands include emergent wetlands, forested wetlands, scrub-shrub wetlands, river corridors, and vernal pools. In the past, some were filled for development purposes, but today their value is recognized and protection of wetlands provides a significant constraint to development.

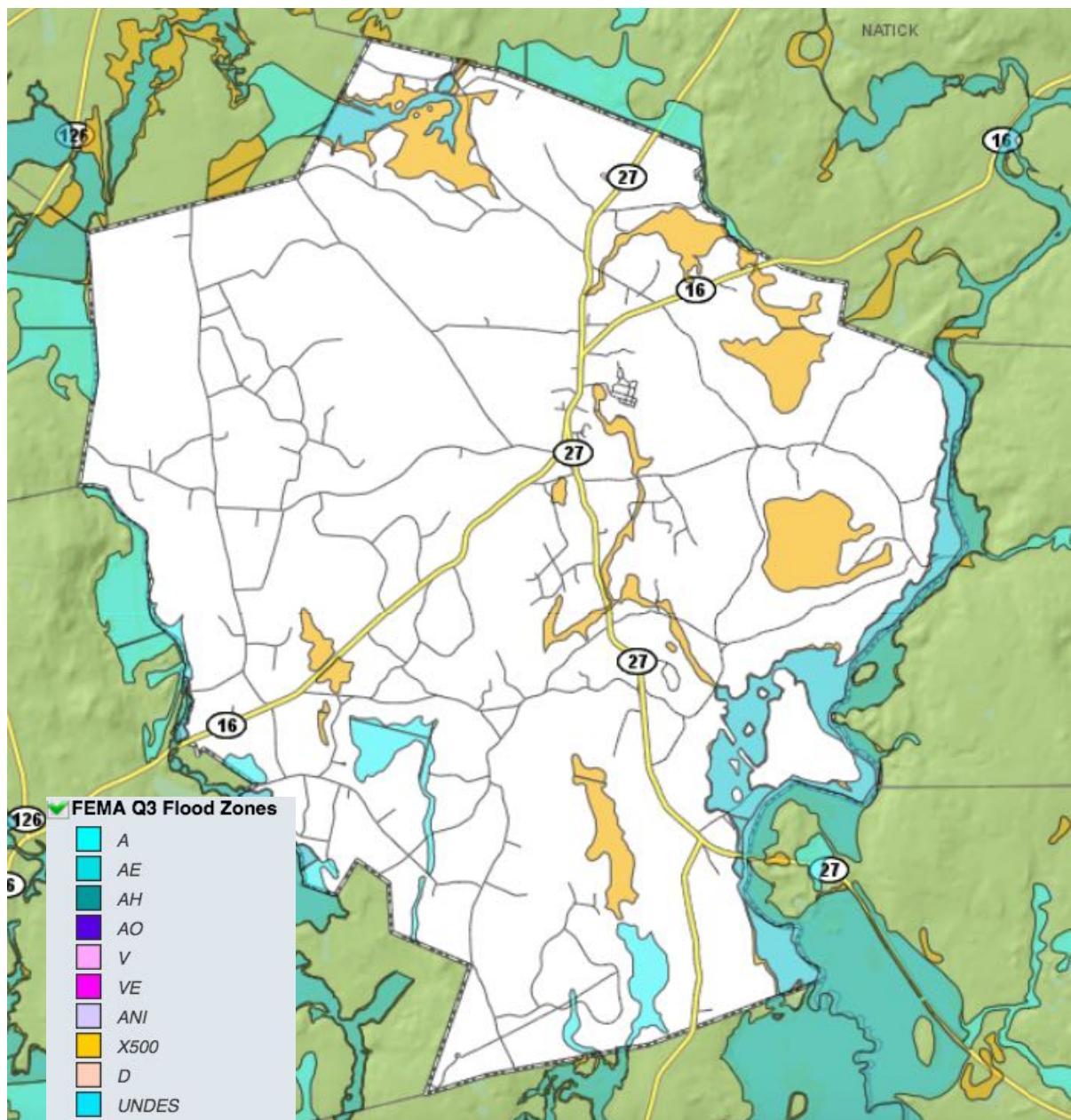
Large wetland areas in Sherborn are located in Broadmoor Sanctuary (owned by Mass Audubon) and along the Charles River and major brooks, such as Dirty Meadow Brook, Dopping Brook, and Sewall Brook. In addition, many minor wetland areas in Sherborn are legally protected, and areas of hydric soils, which are saturated during significant months of the year, may also qualify.

To protect flood-storage capacities in the Sewall Brook basin and reduce the potential effects of flooding along the Charles River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has purchased wetland areas that provide additional benefits as important habitats for wetland wildlife.

## Town of Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan

MAP 4.6 — *Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood zones*

Key: **A** = 1 percent chance of flooding annually; **X500** = 0.2 percent chance of flooding annually



Source: MassGIS

Massachusetts communities also value wetlands as protected open space. Under the state's Wetlands Protection Act, these areas fall within the jurisdiction of a municipality's conservation commission, which is responsible for protecting them. The Sherborn Con Com protects its wetlands conscientiously. In 1994, Sherborn increased protection of its resources by passing regulations that forbid building within 100 feet of a protected wetland.

Vernal pools are critical habitat for frogs and other amphibians, and Sherborn may have more than 100 such pools or other isolated wetlands that fill with water only during the wettest times of the year. As of today, however, only nine of Sherborn's vernal pools are state certified (see MAP 4.8).



*Vernal pool*

Source: B. Kantorski

## D. VEGETATION

### 1. Vegetation of Sherborn's Landscape

By 1850 Sherborn's land area had been almost entirely deforested. Today, approximately 5,500 acres—more than one-half of the town's 10,328 acres—are forested. Non-forested wetlands, including the areas of Farm Pond and Little Farm Pond, equal approximately 1,000 acres; open fields, meadows, and farmland constitute roughly 1,700 acres.

The abundant forest cover in Sherborn is unusual in the eastern region of the commonwealth. A healthy forest is more than just trees; it is a complex system that includes plants and the network of soil, insects, microbes, and fungi that support plant growth. Forests provide many services that are important to the health and well being of Sherborn residents, including:

- water filtering, protection, storage, and flood control;
- recreational resources that promote physical and psychological well being;
- pollinator habitat that supports agriculture;
- firewood and nontimber products; and
- climate improvement through carbon sequestration, shading, and humidifying.

Because forests are important in the maintenance of groundwater supplies and climate control, Sherborn's forests should be considered a significant component of the town's infrastructure. An example of the climate improvement fostered by forestation is experienced in summer, when one

travels into Sherborn from one of the more densely developed towns that surrounds it and immediately appreciates the cleaner, cooler air. The cooling effect of the forested landscape and tree-shaded roads in Sherborn was documented by measurements of land-surface temperatures in eastern Massachusetts on a hot August day in 2010 (MAP 4.7).

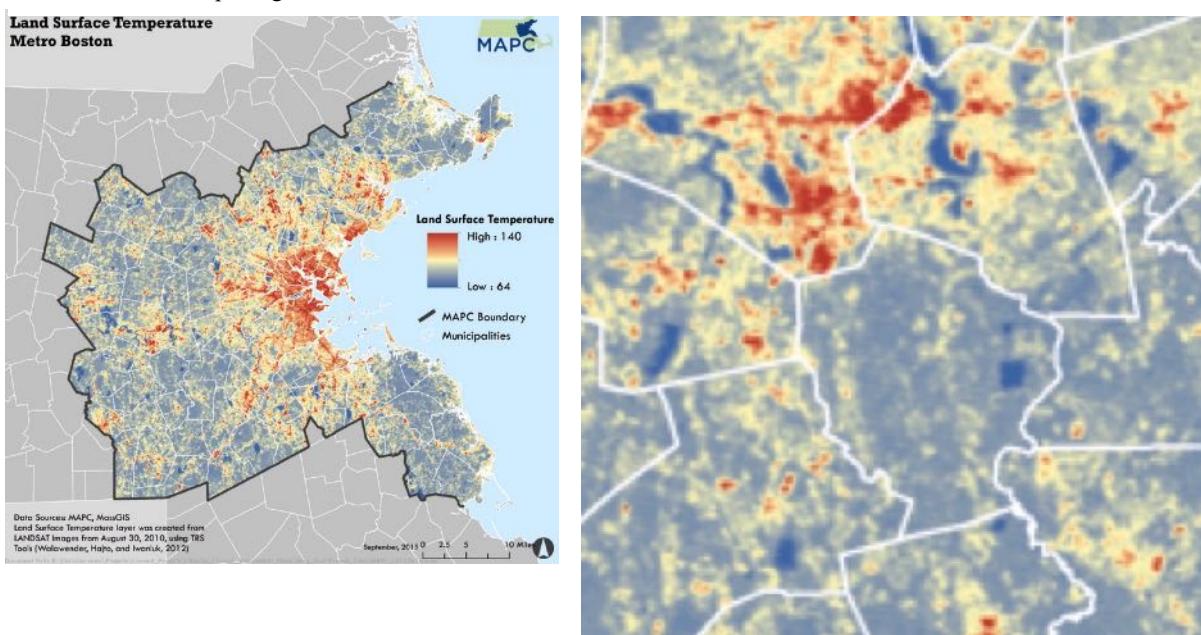
Studies have shown that larger areas of contiguous forests are most resilient, but smaller forests can also be resilient when connected by forested corridors (Wildlands & Woodlands 2013).

Connected ecosystems make no distinctions because of land ownership; thus the health of Sherborn's entire forest ecosystem will be maintained best if sound strategies are applied to public and private lands alike. Ideally, an effective Town Forest management plan that covers public land will serve as a model that private landowners also will apply.

Sherborn's diverse natural landscapes—wetlands, waterways, uplands, fields, and forests—provide habitat for numerous plant and animal species, some of which are rare or endangered. Sherborn's biodiversity is valuable because it fosters resilience, or the ability to withstand damage from extreme weather and human impacts. Biodiversity benefits landscapes by greatly reducing their susceptibility to invasive species: when its available niches are filled by native organisms, they resist invasion by non-native plants, insects, and pathogenic microorganisms. A biodiverse landscape also supports insect pollinators that, in turn, support plant health and the success of wildlife populations and agriculture.

**MAP 4.7 — Surface temperatures, August 2010**

The white lines in map at right indicate town borders, and Sherborn is the town at center.



Source: MAPC

## 2. Plant Species

**Plant succession** ■ The upland areas of Sherborn are covered largely by second-growth forest, the result of many decades of natural succession. Tree species are primarily red oak, white oak, and white pine, but hemlock, red maple, black birch, pignut hickory, white ash, American beech, American hop hornbeam, and black oak are also found. The understory vegetation includes witch hazel, American chestnut, lowbush blueberries, flowering dogwood, and poison ivy. The larger trees of the upland forests provide excellent canopy for wildlife and understory species.

Over time, most of Sherborn's former marsh-hay meadows and cranberry bogs have become wetlands forested with trees, such as red maple, hemlock, elm, swamp oak, willow, and black gum; white pine predominates along the drier sandy edges. Shrubs including highbush blueberry, sweet pepperbush, speckled alder, swamp azalea, and spicebush are prevalent in the understories of these wetland forests. The edges of open wetland area are vegetated with buttonbush, poison sumac, winterberry, and rose as well as cattail, cowslip, and sedge rush. Invasive exotic species, such as purple loosestrife and phragmites, are also found in Sherborn's wetlands.

Although the town's former pasture lands have largely reverted to forest through the natural process of plant community succession, some open areas remain. Common juniper, eastern red cedar, meadow sweet, grasses, wildflowers, and lowbush blueberry grow in them, while their edge-plant communities include poplar, gray birch, dogwoods, raspberry, and blackberry. These edge regions provide an excellent source of food and cover for wildlife. Certain protected open fields, such as those in the Barber Reservation, are valued as scenic and recreational resources. Some are maintained as fields by mowing, and owners of private farms have permission to mow some town fields as a source of hay for livestock.

Poison ivy is abundant in Sherborn and is considered problematic only when it conflicts with human recreational use of town trails. This native species also has environmental value, as its berries are a major source of winter food for 35 or more species of birds and mammals. While many residents try to control poison ivy on private property, no concerted control program is in effect on public lands.

**Rare and endangered species** ■ Nine rare plant species known to be native to Sherborn are included in the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife [Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program](#) (NHESP). Per the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, five of these plants are classified as endangered and four others as threatened (for a list, see Appendix B, Table B.1).

**Invasive species** ■ Some of Sherborn's native vegetation is adversely affected by invasive plant species. At some locations, invasive exotic species, such as bittersweet and buckthorn, are outcompeting native vegetation, thus reducing habitat and dominating the local landscape. Invasive plants have become established at many locations in Sherborn, and controlling their spread is an ongoing challenge. (Appendix B, Table B.2, provides an up-to-date list of invasive species identified in Sherborn.)

Infestations by both native and imported insects also have taken a toll on Sherborn's forests. In recent years many ash trees were lost due to the ongoing spread of the ash borer; other hardwood trees have been weakened by periodic expansion of gypsy moth and winter moth populations.

### 3. Public Shade Trees

All of Sherborn's forests are important for the maintenance of groundwater supplies and climate control. Public shade trees along the town's many scenic roads play a special role; they prevent heating of road surfaces, and help keep the air cool on summer days. Roadside shade trees provide esthetic value as well, creating a beautiful canopy over the road that adds to the rural character of the town.

Massachusetts State Law Chapter 40 section 15c enables preservation of designated scenic roads by protecting public shade trees within the road right of way. Removal of trees greater than 1.5" in trunk diameter within the public right of way along a designated scenic road requires prior permission from the Planning Board. Sherborn's Tree Warden and Planning Board together hold annual public hearings on the management of individual trees along scenic roads. A separate public hearing is held with utility company representatives to manage trees that may threaten utility lines. Sherborn has formally adopted a Tree Manual that provides guidance for the care and maintenance of public trees.

Removal of shade trees on certain other municipal properties requires review and approval by the Planning Board as well, but a long-term goal is to expand oversight to all the significant public shade trees in town. One option would be to establish an evidence-based Public Shade Tree Policy for preservation of significant trees in all public places including road rights of way, sidewalks and trails, and on certain publically accessible private lands.

## E. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

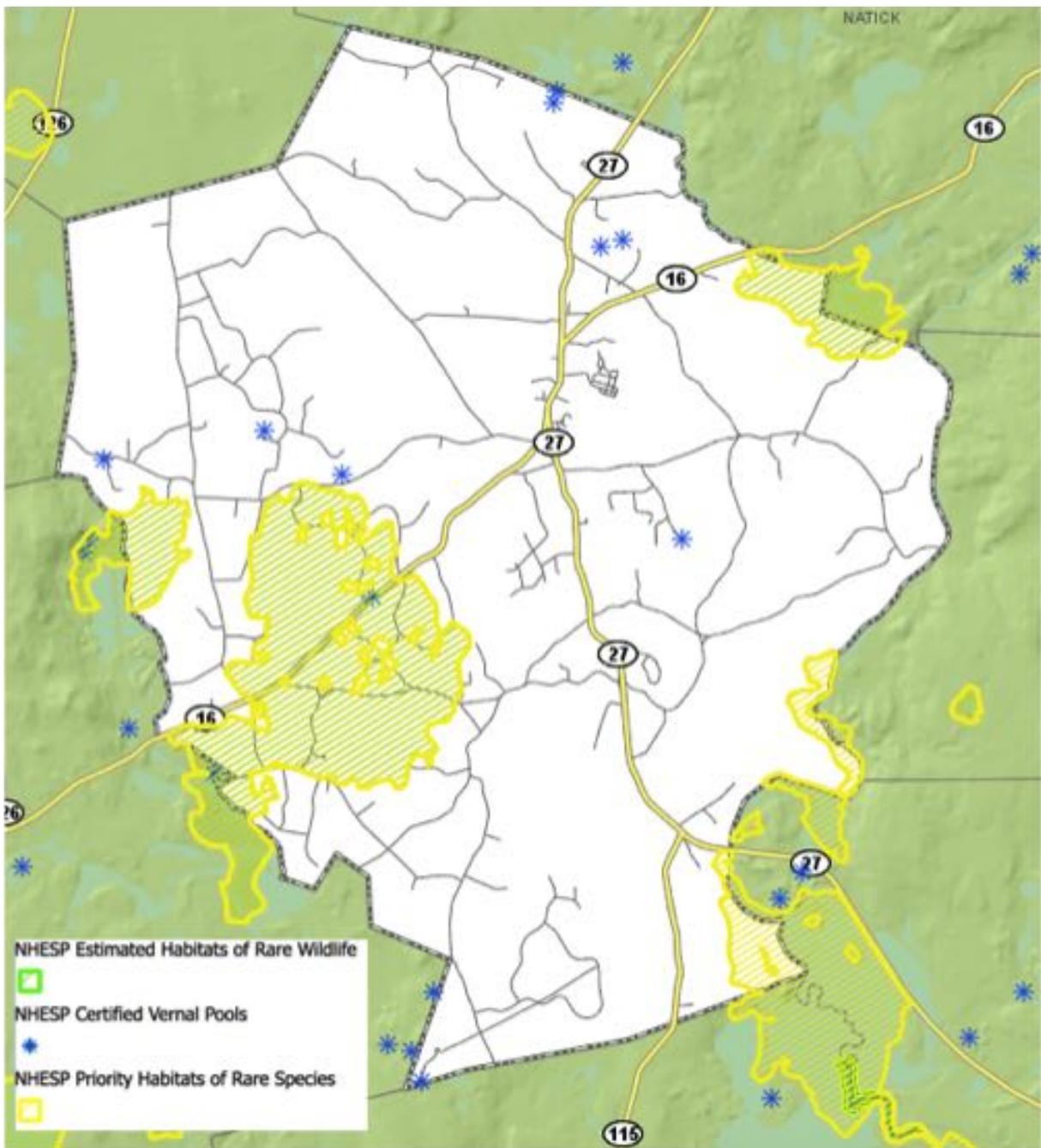
### 1. Wildlife Biodiversity in Sherborn

Sherborn hosts a wide variety of wildlife species that include mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, fish, and insects. Typical upland wildlife includes white-tailed deer, raccoon, cottontail rabbit, opossum, striped chipmunk, gray squirrel, red squirrel, woodchuck, fisher, red fox, gray fox, skunk, and coyote; in summer 2017, a black bear took up residence in the Town Forest. Among the many bird species in town is the wild turkey, which is represented in abundance. Animals found in wetland areas, ponds, and the Charles River include mink, muskrat, otter, beaver, wood duck, kingfisher, herons, bitterns, and rails as well as several species of snakes, turtles, salamanders, frogs, and toads.

Most of the 146 bird species on Mass Audubon's [Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary](#) checklist are found here; in fact Eliot Taylor, Sherborn's local bird expert, has identified two hundred bird species in the town. Sherborn is one of Boston MetroWest's remaining locations that still has significant grassland habitat under both public and private ownership. This is crucial habitat for the bobolink and, perhaps, the eastern meadowlark, two of the few remaining grassland birds that have become increasingly rare in the area.

**Mapping resources** ■ Computer-mapping resources have provided Massachusetts towns including Sherborn with valuable tools for visualizing and evaluating forest resilience and wildlife habitat. For example, the State of Massachusetts maintains "Priority and Estimated Habitat" maps for each municipality in the commonwealth, and they are based on the best scientific evidence available as well as regulations stipulated by the [Massachusetts Endangered Species Act \(MESA; 321 CMR 10.12\)](#). The maps were compiled using recorded sightings of rare species, various spatial layers, and aerial photographs (MAP 4.8). They serve a regulatory purpose, as they are used to screen projects and

MAP 4.8—Habitat of rare and endangered species; state-certified vernal pools



Source: Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)

activities that may have an impact on state-listed rare species and their habitats. For example, a proposed new housing development located in one of these areas may require review by the NHESP to ascertain compliance with MESA and the state's [Wetlands Protection Act](#).

In the past decade, an additional resource, [BioMap2](#), was developed by the NHESP, the state's Department of Fish and Game, and the Nature Conservancy. BioMap2 identifies "core habitat" for

key species and intact ecosystems as well as “critical natural landscapes,” which are undeveloped and important for maintenance of resilience.

More recently Mass Audubon, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy and LandVest, developed **MAPPR** (Mapping and Prioritizing Parcels for Resilience). This online mapping tool combines the data from BioMap2 with other metrics, such as forest resilience and connectivity, along with parcel size and assessor parcel data from MassGIS. MAPPR allows the user to identify specific parcels that, if protected, are most likely to contribute to achieving the town’s land protection goals.

## **2. Rare and Endangered Animal Species**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has designated eight sites in Sherborn as high-priority habitats of rare species and exemplary natural communities. In addition, estimated habitats of rare wetlands wildlife have been designated at Dopping Brook, Indian Brook, the wetland areas that cross the eastern half of Maple Street, and the wet areas east of Nason Hill Road.

The NHESP lists [ten rare animal species that have been sighted in Sherborn](#), including salamanders, turtles, and tiger beetles that are either endangered, threatened, or among those species of special concern (see Appendix B, Table B.3). While planning for its future growth, Sherborn must consider the importance of protecting the habitats of these state-listed species, which is vital to their conservation.

## **3. Vernal Pool Species**

Vernal pools are isolated, seasonally wet depressions in the land that are critical to the survival of many amphibian and insect species. They migrate to and from vernal pools during breeding cycles, so disturbances in and around these sites reduce the likelihood of their survival.

Through 2015, nine vernal pools in Sherborn have been state listed and certified, but numerous others—as many as one hundred—may exist at various locations around town and potentially could receive such certification. Certified vernal pools are protected by both the state and federal governments. The Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act, protect certified vernal pools from being filled or used for wastewater discharge. They are not protected under state wetland-protection regulations, however, making the best safeguard of land around vernal pools to be through conservation easements or acquisition.

## **4. Wildlife Corridors**

Wildlife corridors permit the movement and migration critical to many animal species’ survival and provide buffers between human and wildlife activities. While Sherborn’s forests are extensive, they are also fragmented by fields, roads, and developed areas. Although some important linkages of conservation lands provide habitat continuity, the patchwork of Sherborn’s currently protected lands does not necessarily suit the migratory patterns that many species require. Corridors can connect habitat for different populations of the same species, which has become increasingly important for its recovery and repopulation as weather extremes, invasive pests, and human development affect animals and plants. The size needed for such buffers varies with species, but in general wider corridors are better than narrower ones.

Future protection of critical undeveloped lands that link existing areas of open space will serve to enhance wildlife corridors as well as improve Sherborn's system of human trails. Powerline rights of way, if managed mechanically rather than with chemicals, can become important wildlife corridors as well as shrubland habitat. Mechanical management by utilities often consists of rough cutting with a machine called a brontosaurus. This promotes growth of wildlife food sources including blueberries, saplings, and small shrubs and makes excellent nesting habitat for birds, such as the prairie warbler, eastern bluebird, eastern towhee, and blue-winged warbler.

No public land in Sherborn is open to hunting, but with the permission of the landowner, it is allowed on private land. Fishing is allowed and popular along the banks of Farm Pond, Little Farm Pond, and the Charles River and Bogastow Brook. The state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stocks Bogastow Brook with brown and brook trout; northern pike is stocked in the Charles River.

## 5. Awareness and Protection of Biodiversity in Sherborn

Protection of the natural landscape and habitat involves multiple Sherborn boards and committees and the coordination of their efforts.

Approximately 1,325 acres of public, predominantly forested land is protected and managed by Sherborn's Conservation Commission and Town Forest Committee. Until very recently, no formal management plans existed for any public forests within town boundaries but, in 2012 and 2014, a licensed forester developed forest stewardship plans for the Barber Reservation and Hidden Meadow, which together cover approximately 365 acres of public land. These plans adopt a forest-management approach designed to encourage trees of varying species and ages within forested stands, thus improving long-term forest health, productivity, habitat value, and biodiversity.

The **Town Forest Committee**, established in 1938, manages the lands designated as Town Forest. This five-member group is charged with overseeing and directing efforts to keep the forest ecosystem healthy. They have developed a Town Forest Firewood Program through which volunteers cut and split dead hardwood trees to reduce fire hazards in the Town Forest and provide firewood to town residents, especially seniors, for a modest fee paid to the town clerk. The revenue is deposited in a revolving fund earmarked for forest maintenance.

To better coordinate and promote the health of vegetation on all Sherborn's conservation lands, representatives of multiple official and interested groups formed the **Land Management Task Force (LMTF)**, a consortium of volunteers representing the Conservation Commission, Town Forest Committee, and the Sherborn Rural Land Foundation, among others. In 2014, the LMTF partnered with the Con Com to commission an in-depth analysis and management plan for the 196-acre Barber Reservation. The analysis, plan, and publication, produced by students of the Conway School of Landscape Design, serves as a model for all Sherborn's conservation lands. The LMTF and Con Com have implemented recommendations of Barber management plan to protect this habitat and ensure the future of grassland bird species.

The **Sherborn Forest & Trail Association (SFTA)** also contributes to the maintenance and appreciation of the town's landscape. Membership in this nonprofit organization is open to all residents and consists of volunteers who work to maintain the extensive system of trails on public lands and to raise awareness of the value of natural landscapes. They organize hikes, the "hunter pace" equestrian event, and popular environmentally focused social gatherings called Conservation Connections. In 1991, the SFTA produced a book of hand-drawn trail maps accompanied by

descriptions of local flora and fauna. This book, *Sherborn Walks* (Schnure 1992), is being reissued in 2018 in an updated version to be available online and in print.

In summary, Sherborn's natural resources and diverse, predominantly forested landscape merit prudent stewardship. Although resource rich by comparison to other towns in our region, Sherborn's forests and open spaces are finite, irreplaceable, and threatened by development pressures and environmental stresses. We need to understand better the complexity of these resources, beginning with inventorying and monitoring conditions and changes. This will prepare us for better protective management and decision-making.

## F. SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

### 1. Scenic resources

Scenic resources are fundamental to Sherborn's residents' view of their town's character and are an important part of its rural landscape. The town's scenic beauty is due largely to the relative absence of dense residential development. The visual appeal of the larger parcels of land, including privately and publicly owned open spaces, fields, protected woodlands, and wetlands, is complemented by the historical significance and architecture of certain clustered older homes and public buildings in the Town Center.

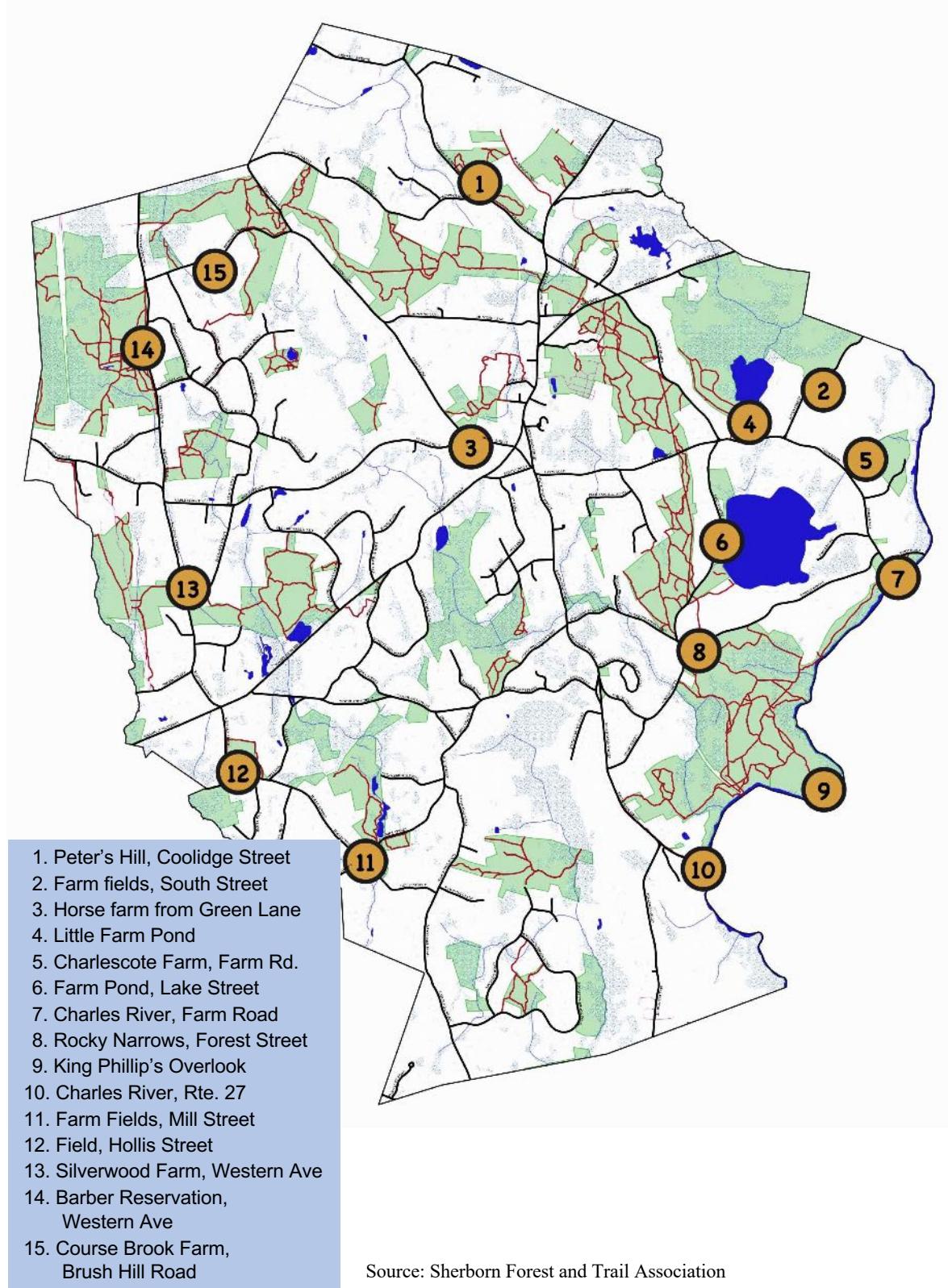
The favorite scenic views identified by the public and mapped in the 2007 Open Space and Recreational Plan remain highly favored today (MAP 4.9). The majority of these views, including beautiful open spaces and historic farms and homes, can be seen from one or more of Sherborn's 26 scenic roads (TABLE 4.3), which are so designated under Massachusetts law by an affirmative vote of the Sherborn Town Meeting. Numbered state roads, such as Bullard Street (Route 115) and South Main Street (Route 27), are not eligible for scenic road designation, even though they also offer some favorite views.

TABLE 4.3 — *Sherborn's scenic roadways*

Apple Street	Goulding Street E.	Maple Street	Snow Street
Ash Lane	Goulding Street W.	Mill Street	South Street
Brush Hill Road	Green Lane	Nason Hill Road	Western Avenue
Cross Street	Greenwood Street	Perry Street	Whitney Street
Curve Street	Hollis Street	Pleasant Street	Woodland Street
Farm Road	Hunting Lane	Prospect Street	
Forest Street	Lake Street	Rockwood Street	

The state Department of Conservation and Recreation has designated areas along the Charles River corridor in Sherborn as scenic landscapes. These areas are included in the Heritage Landscape Inventory, which places strong emphasis on the value of open land, historical land use, and agriculture while it also takes into account the importance of natural features and scenic beauty.

MAP 4.9 — Favorite scenic views in Sherborn. (Circled numbers indicate scenic vistas, many of which are seen from town roads; most views along trails [red lines] are also scenic.)



The most popular views are of open lands crossed by historic stone walls or across fields to distant woodland edges. It should be noted that the majority of these favorite views involve private property that has no permanent protection from development. Of the favorite scenic views, some have temporary protection under MA Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B; but others have no protection of any kind, so future development could dramatically affect the scenic character of the town.

State law concerning scenic roads protects only the area within a road's legal right of way, including stone walls and mature roadside trees. The act requires a municipality's "planning board, conservation commission or historical commission" to hold a public hearing before trees are removed or stone walls disturbed. Areas of private land outside the right of way, including the scenic views seen from roads, are not afforded this nominal degree of protection.

## **2. Geologic features**

The glacial history of the region produced geologic features that are not unique to Sherborn, but that are well known landmarks in the town (Map 4.10). There are two major kettle ponds, Farm Pond and Little Farm Pond. The Sherborn segment of the Charles River, that forms the eastern boundary of the town, is a unique environment in that its wooded, undeveloped banks are home to abundant wildlife including great blue herons, white egrets, ducks, beavers, muskrats and countless turtles. The bank of the Sherborn Charles River rises high above the water at King Phillip's Overlook, a popular hiking destination. There are no state-identified Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in Sherborn.

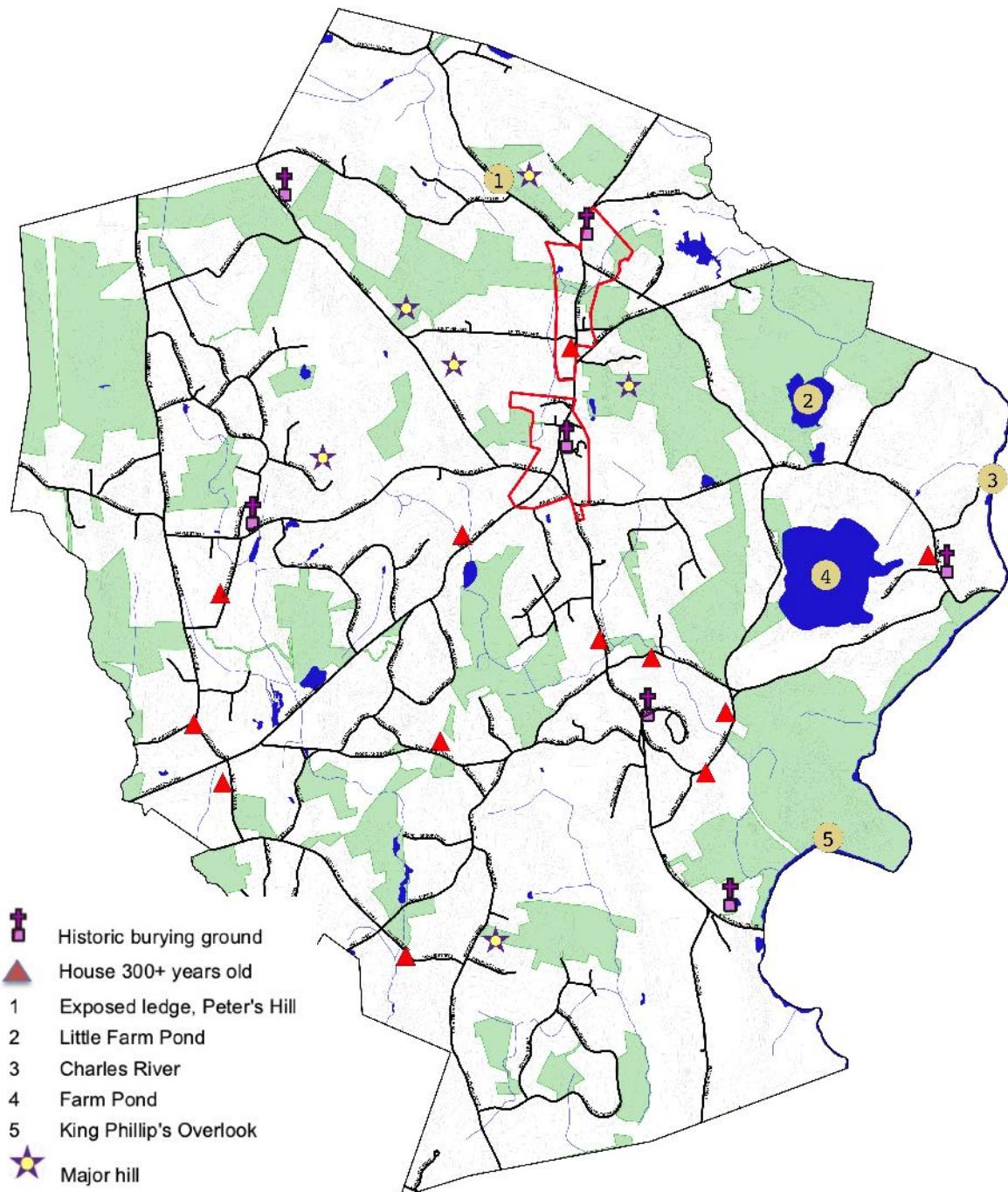
The landscape of the town is hilly, and six named hills rise over 290 feet above sea level (Table 4.2). Large ledges of bedrock are exposed at many locations; the most dramatic of these is the high rocky bank along the south side of Peter's Hill, visible from Coolidge Street. Large "glacial erratic" boulders left by the retreating glaciers are scattered around the town, and some of these serve as landmarks on Sherborn's trails.

## **3. Historic features**

Some of Sherborn's scenic views are valued for their historic significance, such the farms labeled on Map 4.9. The entire town is rich in regional history and well-preserved architecture, but the town center area is a historically unique environment. Two National Register districts are in or near the center of town (Map 4.10): the Sherborn Center Historic District and the Edwards Plain-Dowse's Corner District that together include 68 properties. A National Register District is part of the National Register of Historic Places. There is also a Town Center Local Historic District that provides more significant protection to 15 of the properties listed on the National Register.

Ninety sites distributed throughout the town have been listed on the National Register. They include 79 old structures such as houses and barns, two historic burying grounds, and three monuments. Map 4.10 shows some historic highlights: 7 burying grounds established during the 17th and 18th centuries, and 12 houses that are over 300 years old and still occupied today. For example, recorded history of the Whitney-Paul House, a National Register site in the historic district at 41 North Main Street, begins in 1679.

MAP 4.10 — Important geologic and historic features. (National Register Historic Districts are outlined in red)



Source: Seth Molloy and MassGIS

## G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

### 1. General Groundwater Resources

Sherborn's total dependence on groundwater makes protection of clean water resources our primary environmental challenge. Because all residents have their own individual wells and septic systems, our water resources are always vulnerable to septic waste and other contaminants from human activity.

In the past, underground leaks from oil and gas pipelines or storage tanks were significant threats to groundwater resources. A state database reports that 15 incidents of spills or releases of oil or hazardous materials were recorded in Sherborn between 1980 and 1989. In 1980, 42,000 gallons of oil spilled from the Shell Pipeline as a result of a four-inch hole caused by corrosion. In 1992, Shell suspended use of the pipeline and has no plans to resume use. A groundwater-protection by-law, passed in 1992 and updated in 2006, required removal of older underground petrochemical storage tanks, and none remain today.

Sherborn's groundwater continues to be vulnerable, however. Pollution from private septic systems, contaminated sites in town, major toxic waste sites in neighboring towns, and pollution from densely developed surrounding towns via shared aquifers and unmapped bedrock flows are among the risks.

The addition of large housing developments, some currently in the planning stage and others possible in the future, tend to amplify the water resource challenge. Wastewater management in state-mandated Ch. 40B affordable-housing developments falls within Title 5 regulations and is not governed by Sherborn's stricter standards. Private water and septic systems serving dense developments permitted under Sherborn's elderly-affordable zoning by-law fall under local BOH jurisdiction. This by-law was recently revised to favor installation of "public" water sources and/or wastewater treatment plants to assure stricter state oversight and monitoring. Sherborn's current State Senator Richard Ross has filed bill S.748, which would require mandated periodic testing of the private water resources servicing any new housing development. Testing of water from private wells is required when new wells are installed, but not thereafter.

Sherborn's trash landfill, now capped and inactive, still lies over the aquifer shared by Natick at the north end of town. The town's former landfill site is now surrounded by monitoring wells. Natick's former landfill, immediately adjacent, lies over the same aquifer.

### 2. Potential Sources of Pollution from Neighboring Towns

Sherborn's groundwater is vulnerable to contamination from point sources outside its borders. The former Medfield State Hospital and its wastewater disposal beds are located over an aquifer that Sherborn shares with the town of Medfield. The Woodard & Curran study identified the importance of this high-yield area. Reuse of the former hospital site is underway, and in the future it could pose a threat to water quality and yield available to Sherborn.

The site of the former Cadillac Paint and Varnish Company in Ashland, near the Sherborn town line, has undergone massive site clean up and testing since the business's operations ceased in 1985. Contaminants in water on this site have exceeded MassDEP limits, and groundwater flow from this site could still reach the bedrock aquifer in Sherborn.

The site of the General Chemical Company in Framingham, less than a mile from Sherborn, poses an ongoing concern for water resources on the northwest side of town. Originally Gulf Oil used the property as a bulk-fuel terminal in the 1920s, but in the 1960s, General Chemical began its operations there, among them hazardous-waste treatment and storage and recycling used solvents. General Chemical was forced to cease operations in 2012 and to decontaminate the buildings, tanks, and equipment under MassDEP supervision, but significant concentrations of chlorinated hydrocarbons and other contaminants remain in the ground at the site. MassDEP has ordered continued testing and cleanup of the contaminated site, and a round of partial decontamination is scheduled for 2018. Sherborn's BOH, Select Board, and its water commissioner all continue to monitor the situation.

### **3. Flooding, Erosion and Sedimentation**

Given that Sherborn abuts the Charles River and has many brooks, ponds and wetlands, it is remarkable that major flooding, erosion and sedimentation are not problems in the town. This is due in part to the enforcement of protected buffer zones around all wetlands and streams, and conservation of forested lands with natural water-retaining capacity. Most importantly, large areas along the Charles River and flood-prone streams are protected by the Army Corps of Engineers through a combination of ownership and easements. Along the Sherborn segment of the Charles River, the riverbanks are mostly wetlands and other undeveloped conservation lands. This allows natural flooding to occur during and after periods of high precipitation, without detrimental effects on homes or infrastructure. In addition, Sherborn has a State-approved Storm Water Management Plan in place, as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Storm Water Phase 2 program.

### **4. Environmental Equity**

The wide distribution of Sherborn's public lands and the extensive trail system provide residents in all parts of town easy access to open space recreation (see Map 5.2). Because organized recreational resources and programs are also widely distributed and open to all residents, the town has no underserved populations.

### **5. Environmental Resilience and Climate Change**

Sherborn's forests and open spaces are more extensive than those in neighboring suburban towns, but they are fragmented by roads, lawns, and houses. The connections among forested and open lands that provide essential wildlife corridors continue to face the threat of progressive fragmentation. Coordination of efforts to identify and protect the town's most critical ecosystems is inhibited by dispersion of responsibility among multiple committees and groups.

In addition, the actions of private property owners can have considerable impact on wildlife. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides used on lawns, for example, can contaminate surface water. The survival of grassland-nesting birds is threatened when fields and lawns are mowed, making education of private landowners crucial to assuring species survival. Landowners must be encouraged to delay field mowing until after young birds have fledged. [Mass Audubon's Grassland Bird Program](#) offers excellent information and management details.

Over the long term, our environmental challenges are likely to be exacerbated by climate change. Global warming will impact water resources and alter the composition of our familiar flora and fauna, either gradually or through major climate disruptions. As the earth warms, the cooling effect of Sherborn's intact forests will be compromised unless the value of the forested landscape is recognized and its resilience protected.

With this in mind, changes in Sherborn's zoning by-laws as they concern subdivisions should be revised to protect our remaining large, undeveloped, or underdeveloped properties from conventional suburban sprawl subdivisions. Such conventional division of land tends to replace natural ecosystems with lawns and roads. The town would benefit from by-laws that favor low impact developments, commonly called cluster developments. An improved open space subdivision by-law would protect at least 60 percent of a large property as open space, which would reduce the amount of pavement area and promote groundwater recharge.

The town must continue to plan for climate change. In Sherborn, the potential impacts could include drought, flooding, and hazardous-weather patterns. As of 2017, a group of town residents are active participants in Upper Charles Climate Action (UCCA) comprised of Sherborn and Holliston residents. UCCA is a chapter of 350 Massachusetts, an organization with chapters throughout the state that coordinate action on effective local energy conservation and national energy policy.

Sherborn is participating in Massachusetts's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program, which provides a prescribed process and support for cities and towns in the commonwealth to plan proactively for resiliency and to implement key climate change adaptation actions. In 2017, the Town of Sherborn was awarded a \$15,000 MVP grant to fund the planning stage of this process. Representatives of the town, working with a certified MVP provider, held a workshop in 2018 that developed a comprehensive baseline climate change and natural hazard vulnerability assessment and a list of priority actions for the town. Sherborn is now eligible for further MVP grants to support high-priority projects that anticipate and mitigate the effects of climate change.

# SECTION 5

## LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST



*Riders in Town Forest* (Source: L. VanBlarcom)

- A. Private Parcels**
- B. Public and Nonprofit Parcels**
- C. Recreation Facilities**

In Sherborn, preservation of open space is motivated by community needs and priorities, such as clean water resources, climate control, recreational resources, and the health of the community. Our natural landscapes and forests also contribute to the environmental health and sustainability of the entire region. Sherborn's area is approximately 16 square miles (10,328 acres). Relatively large tracts of land amounting to about 30 percent of the town are under comparatively permanent conservation protection, but many of the large tracts of open fields and forest that contribute significantly to the town's rural character are privately held and have either temporary conservation protection or none.

Strong, long-term protection of conservation land is provided by conservation restrictions or easements that are recorded in the deed. Lands and easements owned by certain non-profit organizations may be strongly protected as well. For example, Rocky Narrows Reservation, owned by The Trustees of Reservations, is protected in perpetuity, while Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, is not permanently protected but is unlikely to be sold or developed. Certain town-owned conservation and recreation lands, including Town Forest lands, town-owned lands managed by the Conservation Commission, playgrounds and athletic fields have strong protection under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution; a change of use requires approval by Town Meeting and a two-thirds vote by the Massachusetts legislature. Wetlands also have strong protection under state and local wetlands regulations, regardless of ownership. Lands controlled by the Army Corps of Engineers, whether by fee or easement, are not permanently protected, but sale or development is highly unlikely because they are crucial for flood control.

Other lands have more limited protection. Municipal lands such as cemeteries and school grounds, have no permanent conservation protection but are unlikely to be sold or developed. Lands owned by the Sherborn Rural Land Foundation, although acquired for conservation purposes, can be sold or partially developed to facilitate protection of additional conservation lands.

State lands in Sherborn include the Sudbury aqueduct path that has no conservation protection.

## A. PRIVATE PARCELS

### 1. Massachusetts Chapter 61 Programs

As the tan areas on Map 5.1 indicate, about 21 percent of Sherborn (2,172 acres) currently is temporarily protected by inclusion in MA Chapter 61 programs including 319 acres in Ch. 61 (Forestry), 1,284 acres in Ch. 61A (Agriculture), and 569 acres in Ch. 61B (Open Space/ Recreation). This state law is designed to keep open land undeveloped for public benefits like clean water, wildlife habitat, wood products, food products, rural character, and outdoor recreation. Land enrolled in the Ch. 61 programs can be developed when removed from Ch. 61.

**MA Chapter 61 (Ch. 61) programs** offer a property-tax break for landowners in exchange for keeping some or all of their land undeveloped for a specified period of time. The three programs are:

Ch. 61 (Forestry): minimum ten acres; ten-year term;

Ch. 61A (Agriculture): minimum five acres; one-year term; and

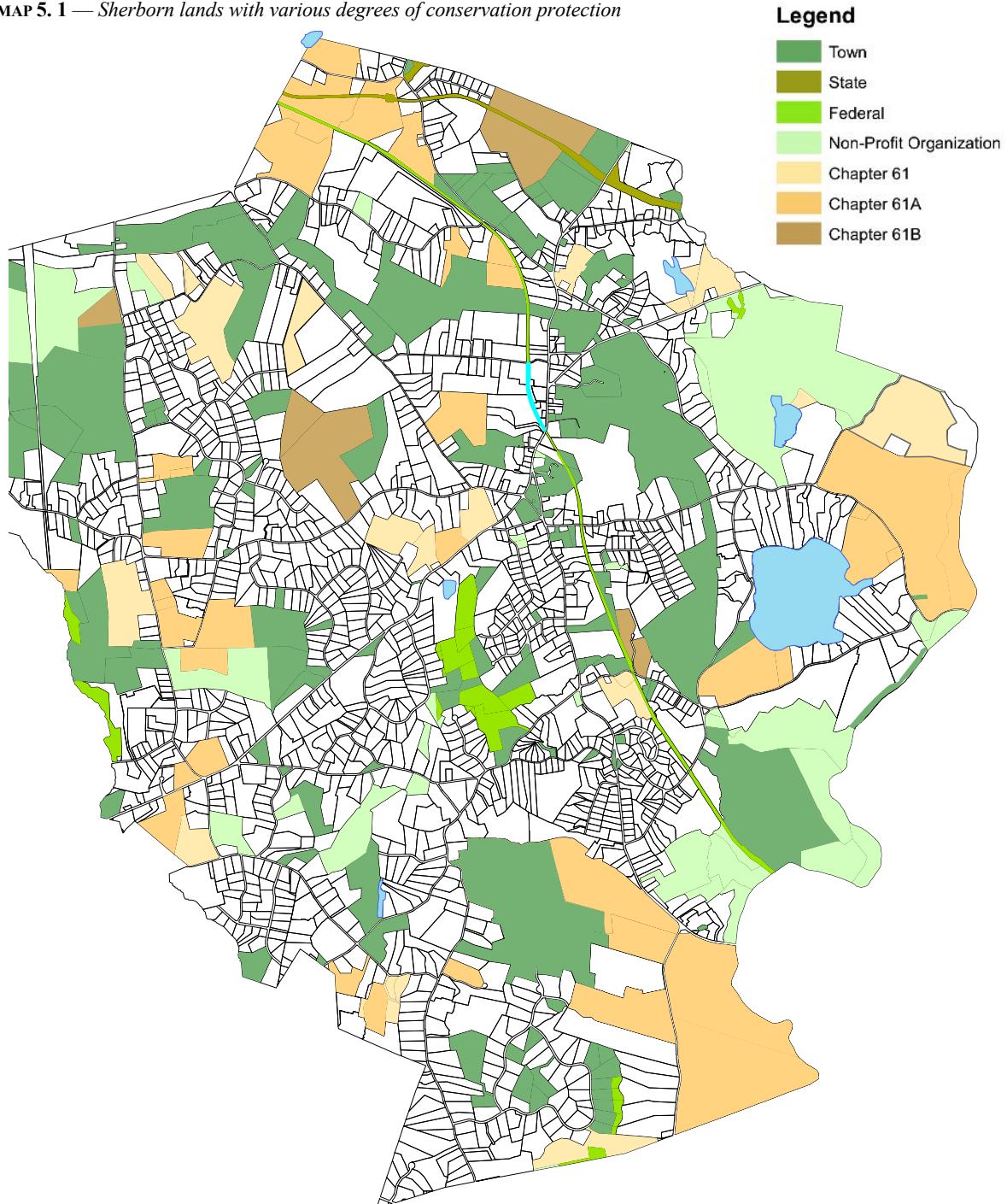
Ch. 61B (Open Space/Recreation): minimum five acres; one-year term.

If any land under Ch. 61, 61A, or 61B is converted to a different use while enrolled or within one year of its removal from the program, five years of back taxes must be paid. If the land is proposed for sale with a change of use, the town has the option to match a bona fide offer to purchase the property.

## 2. Conservation Restrictions

About 101 acres (5 percent of Sherborn) are privately owned but protected from development by conservation easements. The Massachusetts Audubon Society (Mass Audubon), and Sherborn Rural Land Foundation (SRLF) hold these easements.

MAP 5. 1 — Sherborn lands with various degrees of conservation protection



Source: Sherborn Town Planner

### 3. Large Private Parcels

The town's Land Acquisition Committee (LAC) conducts analyses of large private parcels with the goal of determining their potential conservation, recreation, or municipal values. The information may be useful to town officials if and when a large parcel is placed on the market, or for exercise of the "right of first refusal" provision of the Ch. 61 law.

## B. PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT PARCELS

Conservation and recreation lands in Sherborn include parcels owned by the federal government, the state, the town, and nonprofit organizations (TABLE 5.1 and Appendix C).

**Federal government lands** in Sherborn are administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These cover an area within the Charles River Natural Valley Storage area flood-control lands; additional conservation restrictions on private lands along the Charles also are part of this project.

**State-owned lands** include the Sudbury aqueduct, now inactive, which is held by the state in case of future need to deliver water from Framingham's Farm Pond to Boston.

**Municipal lands** are owned by the town and devoted to the campus of municipal buildings in Town Center, Pine Hill Cemetery, the Road Maintenance Facility, and Pine Hill School. Other town-owned land is developed for recreational activities including the Farm Pond Reservation, Ward J. Parks Recreation Area, and three recreational playing fields for team sports: Jameson Fields in Town Center, Laurel Farm Fields on North Main Street.

TABLE 5.1 — *Sherborn lands with conservation, recreation, or other protection* (For details, see Appendix C)

<b>Status of land</b>	<b>Total acres</b>	<b>Portion of town (%)</b>
<b>Private, temporary protection (MA Chapter 61)</b>		
Ch. 61 (Forestry)	319	3.09
Ch. 61A (Agriculture)	1,284	12.43
Ch. 61B (Open Space/Recreation)	569	5.51
<b>Private, permanent restriction or easement</b>	350	3.38
<b>Public or nonprofit open land</b>		
Federal (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)	92.18	0.89
State (MWRA, Dept. of Corrections)	64.54	0.62
Town of Sherborn, Town Forest, other open lands	468	4.53
Town of Sherborn, Conservation Commission	931	9.01
Nonprofit organizations	933.54	9.04
<b>Municipal</b>		
Municipal campus	5.03	0.04
Recreational fields and facilities	63.25	0.61
Pine Hill School	10.70	0.10
Cemeteries	172.07	1.67

**Town-owned conservation lands** include 468 acres administered by the Select Board (formerly the Board of Selectmen) and the Town Forest managed by the Town Forest Committee. The state considers Town Forest lands to be protected in perpetuity. A change would require approval of both Sherborn's Town Meeting and the Massachusetts legislature. A Town Forest Management Plan, adopted in 1993 by the Town Forest Committee, allows for selective harvesting of trees to generate funds for maintenance of the Town Forest; in 2012 and 2014, forest stewardship plans were developed by a licensed professional forester.

The town also owns 931 acres that are controlled by the Conservation Commission (Con Com). In 2014 the Land Management Task Force, with support of the Con Com, sponsored an extensive management plan for the Barber Reservation that serves as a model for management of all open space properties in town. Of the town-owned protected lands, only the Barber Reservation was purchased with public grant money: a "Self-Help Grant, now known as Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity or LAND. It is managed by the Conservation Commission. For more details about town-owned conservation lands, see Appendix C.

**Nonprofit organizations** play a major role in open space conservation in Sherborn, protecting a total of 933 acres. This includes land owned by Mass Audubon as part of the Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary; Rocky Narrows and Grandfather's Field owned by the Trustees of Reservations; the Upper Charles Conservation Trust; and various properties of the SRLF, which is locally funded and managed. This last group has responded to opportunities for land conservation by purchasing land for environmental protection, recreational trails, and farming in Sherborn. SRLF can develop portions of its lands to further its mission of protecting lands of high conservation value.

## C. RECREATION FACILITIES

### 1. Open Space as a Recreational Resource

Sherborn is proud that its public and protected lands provide residents with a wide range of recreational opportunities. The extensive trails through our conservation lands offer opportunities for hiking, bicycling, horse riding, cross-country skiing, and exploration of nature. The trails make it possible to enjoy outdoor exploration and wildlife through all seasons of the year. During warm weather, Farm Pond and the Charles River are beautiful, unspoiled settings for swimming and boating, and provide outstanding access to water-based recreation, a major goal of the 2017 SCORP. Sherborn's scenic roads are also part of our recreational infrastructure, as they are popular regional routes for recreational cyclists from Sherborn and the entire region.

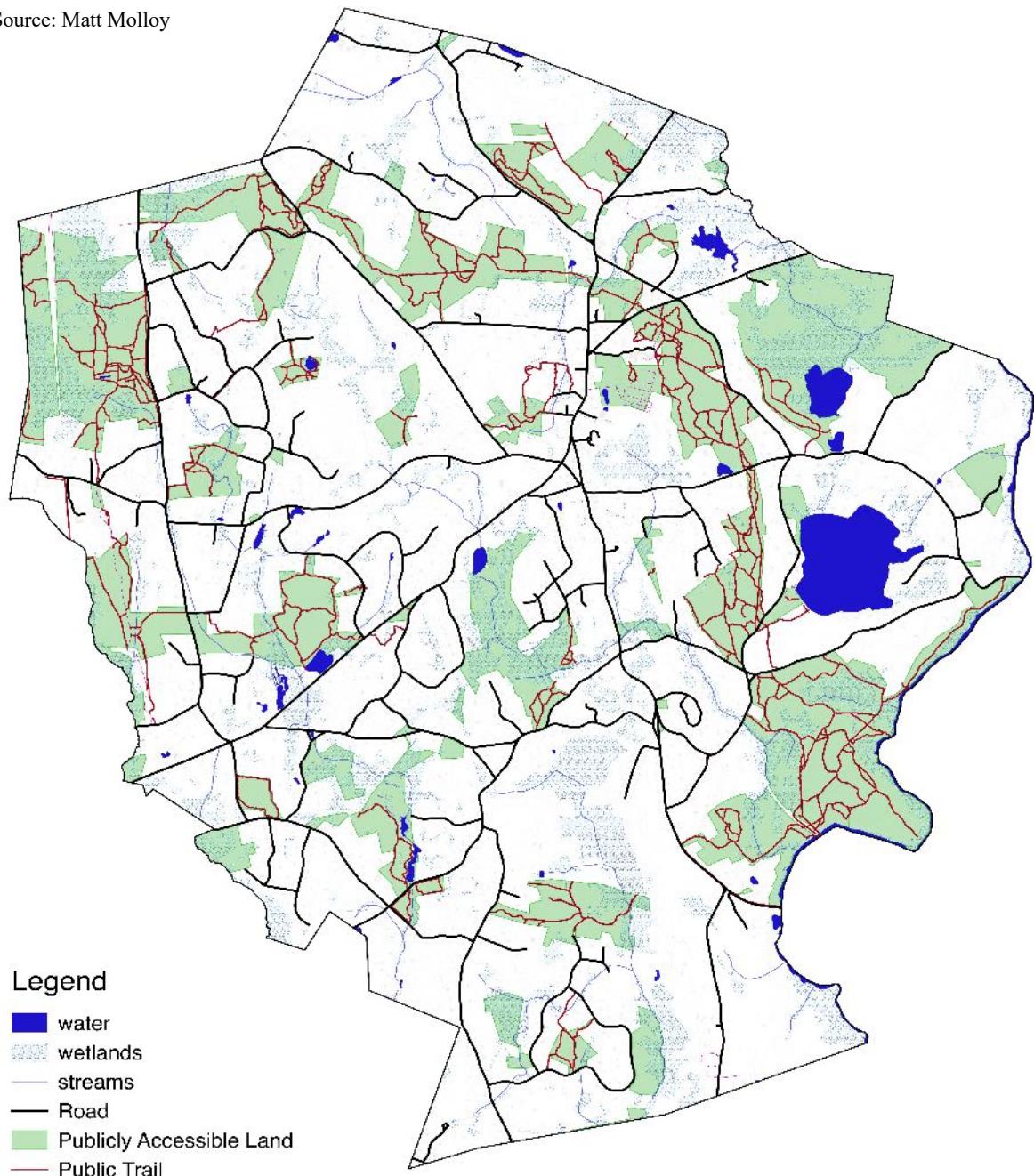
Sherborn also shares with SCORP the goal of providing recreational opportunities close to home for citizens of all ages and abilities. Recently completed projects are improved accessibility of the Farm Pond waterfront, and renovation of the Ward J. Parks Recreation Area with a fully accessible state of the art playground for children of all abilities, and a skateboard facility for pre-teens and teens.

**Two regional trails** connect Sherborn to neighboring towns. The Bay Circuit Trail from Gloucester to Duxbury, a regional trail dedicated in 1993, passes from Ashland through Sherborn for ten and one-half scenic miles, crossing the Charles River into Medfield at Route 27. The completed sections of the Upper Charles Rail Trail begin in Milford, cross Holliston, and end at the Sherborn border near Whitney Street. Sherborn owns an easement for parking and access to this trail, and we hope that in the future the trail can be extended through Sherborn, following the rail line north into Framingham.

## Town of Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan

**MAP 5.2 — Trails on public lands in Sherborn**

Source: Matt Molloy



**The town-wide trail system** (MAP 5.2) is maintained by resident users and by the Sherborn Forest & Trail Association (SFTA). This volunteer organization is dedicated to the enjoyment, protection, and maintenance of Sherborn's open space recreational resources, and it sponsors many outdoor events through the seasons, including guided trail walks and bicycle rides, a hunter pace for

equestrians, and trail maintenance and construction gatherings. To help residents find and navigate the trails, the SFTA and Sherborn resident Art Schnure are producing a revised edition of Art's 1992 booklet, *Sherborn Walks*. The new book will provide descriptions of 27 walks through the protected open spaces in town and include detailed trail maps in color and information about landmarks and local flora and fauna. It is expected to be available February 1, 2019, in digital and print formats.

The increasing proportion of elderly residents has increased the demand for age-adapted recreational activities. The town's very active Council On Aging has promoted activities for elders for years, including a popular year round "Senior Walks" program.

Unfortunately, none of Sherborn's trails is now handicapped accessible, but plans are in place to create access to the Upper Charles Rail Trail, which will be surfaced with crushed stone. This will provide a beautiful, long-distance, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant trail experience for everyone, consistent with the goals of the Statewide Trails Initiative.

**Farm Pond** is a center of summer recreation and provides water-based recreation appropriate for all ages and abilities. Sherborn residents swim, canoe, kayak, sail, and fish here. It also provides a venue for organized events and recreational programs, such as swimming lessons and the swim team, which offers children the opportunity to swim competitively. Sherborn's Yacht Club sponsors several two-week sailing camps during the summer months and organizes sailing races every Sunday during the summer. In addition, an annual Marathon Swim, Fishing Derby, and Sand Castle Competition are sponsored by Friends of Farm Pond. Its beach and boat launch areas are handicapped accessible.

Farm Pond's water quality is excellent due to its relatively small, sparsely developed watershed, inspection of incoming watercraft for invasive species, and the absence of motorized boats. The Town of Sherborn owns the only public access to Farm Pond, and the public beach and facilities are overseen by the Select Board with support of the Farm Pond Advisory Committee.



*Riders in field, Sherborn Hunter Pace*

Source: Town of Sherborn, Open Space Committee

## 2. Organized Recreational Resources

Sherborn's organized recreational programs are heavily subscribed and successful thanks to the work of the elected Recreation Commissioners and many volunteers. The Commission is a small group of dedicated volunteers, assisted by part-time support staff, who coordinate and manage all the organized recreational programs for the town. It provides a user-friendly information source and an interactive activity-registration system on the [Town of Sherborn's Recreation webpage](#). The Recreation Commission's diverse programs serve all ages and include team sports and instruction at town-owned recreational facilities, such as tennis in Town Center, and swimming instruction and competition at Farm Pond. It recently initiated a pickleball program, primarily for seniors, at the town tennis courts. The commission also oversees the maintenance of the town-owned recreational facilities and manages their finances.

The Ward J. Parks Recreation Area (commonly called Ward Park) is located in the town center. It is overseen by the Select Board, but its management is divided between the Conservation Commission (playground and pond) and the Recreation Commission (skateboard park and parking lot). An updated, fenced playground at Ward Park was completed in 2016. This handicapped-accessible amenity was funded with donations from town organizations and citizens and constructed with the help of volunteers, all having been organized by the Playground Committee. Sherborn has two other handicapped-accessible playgrounds, both part of the Pine Hill School facility.

Sherborn residents have access to golfing at the Sassamon Trace nine-hole course, which straddles the Sherborn-Natick border just north of Laurel Farm Fields. Ice skating and hockey happen year-round at the regional William Chase Ice Arena nearby in Natick. Sherborn's local and regional sports teams also use commercial indoor facilities in neighboring towns, such as Slugger's Academy in Medfield.

TABLE 5.2 — *Sherborn recreational facilities*

<i>Sherborn recreational facilities</i>	<i>Activities</i>
<b>Farm Pond Beach</b>	beach, swimming area, swimming lanes
<b>Fessenden Fields</b>	2 soccer fields, practice field
<b>Jameson Baseball Fields</b>	4 baseball diamonds
<b>Laurel Farm Fields</b>	2 baseball diamonds, 6 soccer fields
<b>Pine Hill School</b>	gym, playgrounds
<b>Sassamon Trace Golf Course</b>	9-hole course
<b>Town Center Recreation Area</b>	4 tennis courts, fields
<b>Ward J. Parks Recreation Area (Ward Park)</b>	playground, skateboard park
<b>Sherborn Community Center</b>	yoga space
<b>Unity Farm Sanctuary</b>	yoga, meditation space

### **3. Accessibility Compliance**

Sherborn's 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan identified many barriers and deficiencies at these facilities that hindered enjoyment by those with handicaps. The report listed a range of accessibility recommendations to accelerate the town's progress toward compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Some of these have been implemented, especially at Farm Pond. Most facilities now have some designated parking areas, and Farm Pond, Ward Park, and Laurel Farm have accessible toilets as well. (For a detailed analysis, see Appendix D.) The town makes Farm Pond available to the Walker School in Needham, whose students are handicapped and/or emotionally disabled.

Improvements to accessibility still need to be implemented. Most sites need more designated parking spaces, and some need additional accessible toilets. These and other improvements vary in cost and priority. The Town of Sherborn's Open Space Committee and Recreation Commission have consulted with its Disability Advisory Committee regarding needs and priorities, which are detailed in the discussion of community needs in Section 7 (Analysis of Needs) and in Appendix D.

Because of its small size, Sherborn does not have all of the recreational facilities and equipment required by federal compliance guidelines for the Section 504 Self-Evaluation. As needs arise, ongoing recreational programs are customized to accommodate specific requirements of handicapped individuals.

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# SECTION 6

# COMMUNITY VISION



*Sewell Brook Pond* (Source: T. Trainor)

- A. Description of Process**
- B. Statement of Vision and  
Open Space and Recreation Goals**

## A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The preparation of this revised Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) was facilitated by concurrent planning activities in Sherborn, including a new General (Master) Plan and a Housing Production Plan. Close collaboration among the committees involved assured that the goals and recommendations of these plans are consistent with each other. In addition broad community participation, beginning with two surveys that together provided input from more than 700 residents (see Appendix A), was crucial to the plans development.

The Land Use Working Group, a Planning Board subcommittee, generated the first draft of the goals and recommendations in this OSRP. The draft was reviewed and revised by the Open Space Committee and served as a resource that contributed to the OSRP.

The draft open space and recreation goals, recommendations, and proposed actions were also reviewed and revised by more than ten Sherborn boards, committees, and organizations. A series of televised public forums were held to introduce the plan to the community at large, and the goals and recommendations were posted on the town website. Together, these efforts provided valuable feedback and raised broad community awareness of the plan. A detailed description of the process is provided in Section 2.

## B. STATEMENT OF VISION AND OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

### VISION

Sherborn's unspoiled landscapes, open spaces, and recreational opportunities provide a sense of well being and connection to nature unique to the region. Our overarching vision is that Sherborn will maintain and enhance these resources well into the future.

- Sherborn's natural water resources will be actively protected, monitored, and maintained to support the needs of all town residents and to assure long-term environmental and human health.
- Sherborn will maintain abundant healthy woodlands and wildlands that are biodiverse, rich in wildlife, and resilient in the face of climate change. Sherborn's natural ecosystems will continue to provide services that support the health and well being of people in Sherborn and the region.
- Sherborn's scenic open spaces will be actively protected to support the quality of life of residents of the town and the region.
- Sherborn will continue to have sustainable working farms and agricultural open spaces that are valued and recognized as integral to the town's semirural atmosphere, healthy environment, and historic legacy.
- The trails and open space recreational resources of Sherborn will be used widely and recognized as a valuable resource. A continuous system of trails will connect neighborhoods to allow safe nonmotorized travel throughout the town. Sherborn's Town Center will be known widely as a user-friendly hub for cyclists, hikers, and cross-country skiers.
- Sherborn will maintain diverse organized recreational resources, facilities, and programs that contribute to the health and community engagement of residents of all ages and abilities.

## **GOALS**

Each of the major goals of this Plan is based on a component of the community vision.

### Natural resource and open space goals:

- Maintain the long-term quality and quantity of Sherborn's water resources.
- Protect Sherborn's forests and overall biodiversity.
- Preserve Sherborn's rural character and scenic beauty by protecting and maintaining open space.
- Formulate and implement policies that promote the retention and economic sustainability of agricultural lands.

### Recreational resource goals:

- Protect, improve, and expand the use of open space as a recreational resource.
- Maintain and improve Sherborn's organized recreational facilities and programs.

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# SECTION 7

# ANALYSIS OF NEEDS



*Soccer at Laurel Farm Fields* (Source: Sherborn Open Space Committee)

- A. Resource Protection Needs**
- B. Community Needs**
- C. Management Needs**
- D. Elder, Teen, Family, and Disability Needs**

Sherborn is a small, primarily residential town with houses widely dispersed on large lots. Surveys demonstrate that its residents place a high value on the town's rural character, open vistas, farms, and trails. Its lack of a municipal water system, however, makes the town entirely dependent on its groundwater supplies. Most of the needs identified and addressed in this Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) reflect these realities.

The Open Space Committee consulted with the Sherborn Council on Aging (COA), which for years has sponsored walks for elders, many on town trails. In 2016, the COA surveyed these walkers to determine their needs and preferences. The Open Space Committee also met publicly with members of the Sherborn Disability Advisory Committee and the Recreation Commission, and sought informal input from parents of babies and young children. The recommendations of all these groups are reflected in the findings that follow, but it became very clear that improving access to open space and recreation facilities for all ages and abilities is one of the town's major needs.

Massachusetts's new State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP 2017) identified statewide and regional open space and recreation needs and goals. Many of these pertain specifically to Sherborn. Despite many years of effort and considerable success (as discussed in Section 5), significant needs remain.

## **A. RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS**

### **1. Water Resource Protection**

SCORP 2012 and 2017 affirmed that the protection of drinking water supplies is one of the most important reasons for protecting open space, and this goal remains especially important in Sherborn. With no town water system, protecting groundwater supply is essential, but significant gaps in protection remain:

- We lack the hydrologic data needed to assess the impact on water resources of proposed high-density developments.
- No policy is in place to assess private well-water quality and quantity.
- No comprehensive system is used to regularly monitor contaminants in surface water, aquifers, and wetlands.

### **2. Open Space Protection**

Multiple surveys demonstrate the high value Sherborn residents place on protecting their town's scenic vistas and rural character, but a significant portion of the most valued open space is vulnerable to development.

- Some of the most valued and scenic open space under town ownership has no permanent conservation protection and could become a source of revenue or housing in future.
- Many of the open spaces and scenic views we now enjoy are on unprotected private properties, but no established process is in effect for working toward open space protection with key landowners.
- Protection of lands registered under MA Chapter 61, 61A and 61B are temporary and can readily be reversed.

### 3. Ecosystem Health

Sherborn residents agree with the other respondents to the SCORP telephone survey in placing great value on protecting wildlife habitat, including defending habitat against encroaching invasive species:

- Much remaining ecologically valuable land is privately owned and therefore not protected from fragmentation and loss of forest cover and wildlife habitat.
- Generally, private landowners make development plans and land use decisions without regard to preserving the natural corridors important for ecosystem health, which results in forest and habitat fragmentation and loss of resilience.
- Invasive plants and insects are emerging across the landscape.

## B. COMMUNITY NEEDS

### 1. Trails and Open Space Recreation

Two of SCORP's major goals are to support the Statewide Trails Initiative and to improve access to water-based recreation, and Sherborn shares these goals. Access to water based recreation in Sherborn is enviable, with Farm Pond and the Charles River. Despite Sherborn's extensive trail system, however, the standards of the Statewide Trails Initiative have not been fully met and many needs remain:

- Existing town trails are lightly traveled, and many are unknown to most residents.
- Many public open space parcels lack trail connections among themselves and to the Town Center.
- Most trailheads offer limited or no parking, no road signs indicating locations, and few posted trail maps.
- Sherborn offers poor connectors between its trails and those in adjacent communities. The Bay Circuit Trail connections from Sherborn to Ashland and from Sherborn to Medfield require travel on busy, dangerous roads. The Upper Charles Rail Trail from Holliston into Sherborn has yet to be developed, and the remaining right-of-way across town into Framingham has yet to be acquired.

### 2. Town Center Facilities

SCORP 2017 emphasizes the goal of providing recreation and conservation areas close to home through neighborhood parks. Sherborn is fortunate that Ward J. Parks Recreation Area and Farm Pond are easily accessible for everyone in town, are both highly handicapped accessible, and together provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities. This OSRP responds to Sherborn's additional need to situate better trail access and information close to the Town Center:

- Despite the popularity with cyclists of Sherborn's roads, no bike trails lead to the Town Center, where no bike lanes are in place, and no signs warn vehicles to share the road with bikes.
- The Town Center has no readily accessible, central source of information about the town's trails, bike routes, and recreational opportunities.
- Town Center has no small parks or attractive outdoor gathering places; few sources of informal refreshment; and no publicly accessible restrooms or water sources.

### 3. Agriculture

Although Sherborn places a high value on its agricultural history and continued farming activities, the town grapples with significant problems:

- The continuity of small, family farms depends on younger generations' ongoing interest in farming and willingness to commit to a farming lifestyle, a path that may be difficult in Sherborn.
- Farm businesses face economic challenges that could be alleviated by alternative uses of farmland and access to low-cost housing for workers.
- Sherborn offers a number of roadside farm stands, but so far its lack of a municipal water supply has stymied efforts to establish a community garden.



*Course Brook Farm*

Source: Sherborn Open Space Committee

## C. MANAGEMENT NEEDS

As a small town, Sherborn relies largely on volunteers to manage its open space and recreational resources. Even though many volunteers participate, thus reflecting the value town residents place on these areas and facilities, this reliance also leads to a number of management deficiencies that must be addressed:

- We lack a town-wide, coordinated natural resource management plan that includes both private and public lands and coordinates with regional planning.
- Coordination of efforts to identify and protect critical ecosystems is inhibited by fragmentation of responsibility among multiple committees and groups.
- Existing publicly accessible open space resources, including trail systems and the Farm Pond waterfront, need increased support and improved management.
- The current piecemeal approach to recreation management, inadequate funding, staffing, and management of organized recreational facilities, and the lack of a comprehensive business and management plan, make it difficult to fulfill the recreational goals of the town.

- Laurel Farm playing fields, some of the most intensively used for middle and high school sports, are not sustainable as currently used: they are difficult to maintain and not optimally designed for multiple uses.
- Currently, the town's website has no up-to-date information and maps that encourage use of trails and stewardship of open space resources, and maps are not posted in accessible public locations.

## D. ELDER, TEEN, FAMILY, AND DISABILITY NEEDS

This OSRP incorporates the results of extensive analysis of facilities by the Open Space Committee in consultation with the Disability Advisory Committee, the Council On Aging, and the Recreation Commission. Major conclusions follow (detailed results are in Appendix D).

### 1. Trail Access

- Both the elderly and the disabled want to share in the town's enjoyment of its rural character and wooded paths. While the COA has organized guided senior walks on many of the trails, most trails are too uneven to be suitable for handicapped access.
- The Upper Charles Rail Trail offers the best potential for handicapped access. It is finished in Holliston and terminates (for now) at the Sherborn border near Whitney Street. The town owns the rail bed to Whitney St. in Sherborn, and holds an easement for a potential parking lot and access point. This location needs to be developed as an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant access, and the trail must be made suitable for wheelchairs, strollers, and easy walking.
- Trail and parking maps need to be more readily available to all, including the elderly, disabled, teens, and families with young children.
- Even if most trails are not ADA compliant, maps should indicate their levels of difficulty so elders and parents with young children can find appropriate trails to explore.
- The Conservation Commission and Town Forest Committee have supported biking on the trails by an active high school Trail Bike Club, but more trail-based activities for teens are needed.

### 2. Recreational Facilities Access

- The Disability Advisory Committee gives highest priority to providing disabled access to the Jameson Fields from Cemetery Lane. These fields are used intensively for baseball and also for town-wide gatherings; at present, no adjacent accessible parking or wheelchair access from Cemetery Lane exists.
- Substantial progress has been made in providing disabled access to Farm Pond, but one additional designated parking space is needed.
- Laurel Farm and Fessenden Fields need additional accessible parking spaces, and Laurel Farm needs an additional accessible toilet. These accommodations could easily be provided.
- The tennis courts adjacent to Jameson Fields remain difficult to access. The Disability Advisory Committee identified this shortcoming, but considered it of very low priority.

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# SECTION 8

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



*Paddling on the Charles River* (Source: Town of Sherborn Open Space Committee)

- A. Water Resources**
- B. Environmental Resilience and Biodiversity**
- C. Scenic Open Space and Rural Character**
- D. Agricultural Lands**
- E. Trails and Open Space Recreation**
- F. Organized Recreation**

## Overview

The goals and objectives presented in this Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) are the product of a three-year-long, community-based process. The intention has been to incorporate Sherborn citizens' desires into this plan, the revised and broadened General Plan, and the Housing Production Plan. The OSRP goals and recommendations listed below are also incorporated in the new Sherborn General Plan.

The process included two town-wide surveys, years of work by several topic-focused working groups, review by all relevant town boards and committees, and three public forums (see Section 2).

Our OSRP shares the overarching goals of the latest Massachusetts's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP 2017), and in some aspects, Sherborn's existing resources already are consistent with SCORP. For example, excellent access to water-based recreation is available in and near Sherborn, such as at Farm Pond and put-in sites at the Charles River, and the Ward Parks Recreation Area and Farm Pond both serve as popular neighborhood parks.

In this plan we seek to fulfill the SCORP handicapped-access goal by improving pedestrian walkways in the Town Center and trail access at Sherborn's segment of the Upper Charles Rail Trail.

Fulfillment of the objectives listed below will require many specific actions, which are detailed in Section 9, the Action Plan.

## A. WATER RESOURCES

### GOAL I ► Maintain the long-term quality and quantity of Sherborn's water resources

#### Recommendations

- Compile existing information on all Sherborn's water resources and track changes over time.
- Strengthen Sherborn's readiness to respond to potential or actual threats to water resources, including drought and pollution, and mount effective actions.
- Ensure that water-protection and conservation practices in Sherborn provide the best possible safeguards for shared water resources based on the best available technology that is economically achievable and the best available scientific evidence.
- Plan for the long-term sustainability of these resources by researching, evaluating and, when appropriate, adopting new approaches to water conservation and protection.
- Develop an ongoing educational and outreach program to promote practices that protect the groundwater and surface-water supply.

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE AND BIODIVERSITY

### GOAL II ► Protect Sherborn's forests and overall biodiversity

#### Recommendations

- Know what we have and prioritize it: establish and maintain a comprehensive, accessible inventory of all forested and open land in Sherborn; include information on forest composition, biodiversity, connectivity, and invasive plants of greatest concern.
- Preserve Sherborn's remaining natural landscapes and ecosystems by negotiating protection of critical undeveloped properties including forested lands and wildlife corridors on private properties.
- Lead by example: work toward a plan for management of all public lands to maintain and improve ecosystem health, biodiversity, connectivity, and pollinator habitat.
- Using the management of public lands as an example, plan and implement public-outreach strategies that promote sound forest management and protection of biodiversity and pollinator habitat on private properties.

## C. SCENIC OPEN SPACE AND RURAL CHARACTER

### GOAL III ► Preserve Sherborn's rural character and scenic beauty by protecting and maintaining open space

#### Recommendations

- Protect existing conservation land and town-owned open space from development.
- Identify and prioritize crucial parcels of privately owned, scenic open land that contributes significantly to Sherborn's rural character.
- Protect lands identified and prioritized above, including private farms, MA Chapter 61 properties, and parcels with valued natural features, such as historic and aesthetically significant viewscapes and open space trail connections.
- Encourage landowners of large at-risk properties to favor development strategies that preserve scenic views, open space, and trail connections.
- Cultivate among Sherborn's citizenry support for preservation of open space and aesthetically significant viewscapes.

## D. AGRICULTURAL LANDS

### GOAL IV ► Formulate and implement policies that promote the retention and economic sustainability of agricultural lands

#### Recommendations

- By documenting the extent of agricultural lands and diverse agricultural activities, develop a visual tool that highlights their contributions to Sherborn's rural atmosphere and culture.
- Support the long-term economic viability of Sherborn's existing agricultural businesses.
- Work with individual landowners to develop strategies for protecting their land and retaining its use for agriculture over the long term.

- Adopt zoning by-laws, regulations, and permitting standards that promote preservation of current agricultural uses while allowing limited development and alternative uses, thus providing owners of agricultural lands an economically viable alternative to sale and unrestricted development.
- Enhance appreciation of the history, science, and technology of farming by engaging the public, both young and old.

## **E. TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE RECREATION**

### **GOAL V ► Protect, improve, and expand the use of open space as a recreational resource**

#### **Recommendations**

- Improve trail connections within Sherborn and with adjacent towns, including ADA compliant access to the Upper Charles Rail Trail.
- Provide safe and improved walkability along roads throughout town for the health and enjoyment of residents.
- Create new easements and walkways that link Sherborn's trail system to Town Center trailheads and businesses.
- Promote public awareness, usage, and support of existing open space and trail systems.
- Improve and support management of existing publicly accessible open space resources including trail systems and Farm Pond waterfront.

## **F. ORGANIZED RECREATION**

### **GOAL VI ► Maintain diverse recreational resources, facilities, and programs that contribute to the health and community engagement of residents of all ages and abilities**

#### **Recommendations**

- Design a realistic management, personnel, business, and funding plan that can sustainably support current and future organized recreational programs and facilities.
- Repair, maintain, and improve the recreational infrastructure at Laurel Farm and Jameson Fields to support current and future needs of all residents, and improve access for residents with disabilities.
- Make the Ward Park area on Cemetery Lane a central gathering place and welcome/information center for residents and users of recreational resources in the Town Center and town-wide trail systems.
- Establish and maintain effective communication and collaboration among town committees and organizations that are concerned with all of Sherborn's recreational resources.

# SECTION 9

# SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN



- A. Implementation Process**
- B. Action Plan Map**
- C. Implementation Tables**

## A. Implementation Process

The recommendations, strategies and actions outlined in this Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) represent ideas contributed by the many citizens who participated in writing, discussing, and revising the plan. They have been reviewed and agreed upon by relevant boards and committees. The major recommendations are listed in the order of priority established in the new Sherborn General Plan, and are identical to those of the General Plan. This consistency will ensure community and administrative support in the town as we work toward implementation. The plan is intended to be a living document that will be used frequently over the coming years, both as a reference and a guide for all the officials and citizens of the town.

Our goal is to assure that it is regularly revisited and revised as conditions change, actions are completed, and objectives are met. To that end, this Action Plan section includes Implementation Tables designed to facilitate keeping track of progress toward our goals. The boards and committees named as leaders of specific actions have reviewed the tables and agreed to assume these roles.

It is understood that, over time, some elements of this plan will become obsolete as new information is gained, new needs become evident, and changes outside of the town's control occur. The plan will be reviewed on a regular basis in preparation for its required resubmission to the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services (DCS) in seven years. This review is the responsibility of the Open Space Committee (OSC) in collaboration with the Planning Board and other relevant boards and committees. It is anticipated that the Select Board will also take an active role in implementing and revising this document by ensuring that its goals and recommendations are regularly evaluated against existing expenditures, staffing, and management plans. Major revisions should also be accompanied by opportunities for public input.

To ensure that the plan is kept current and useful, the current OSC recommends the following:

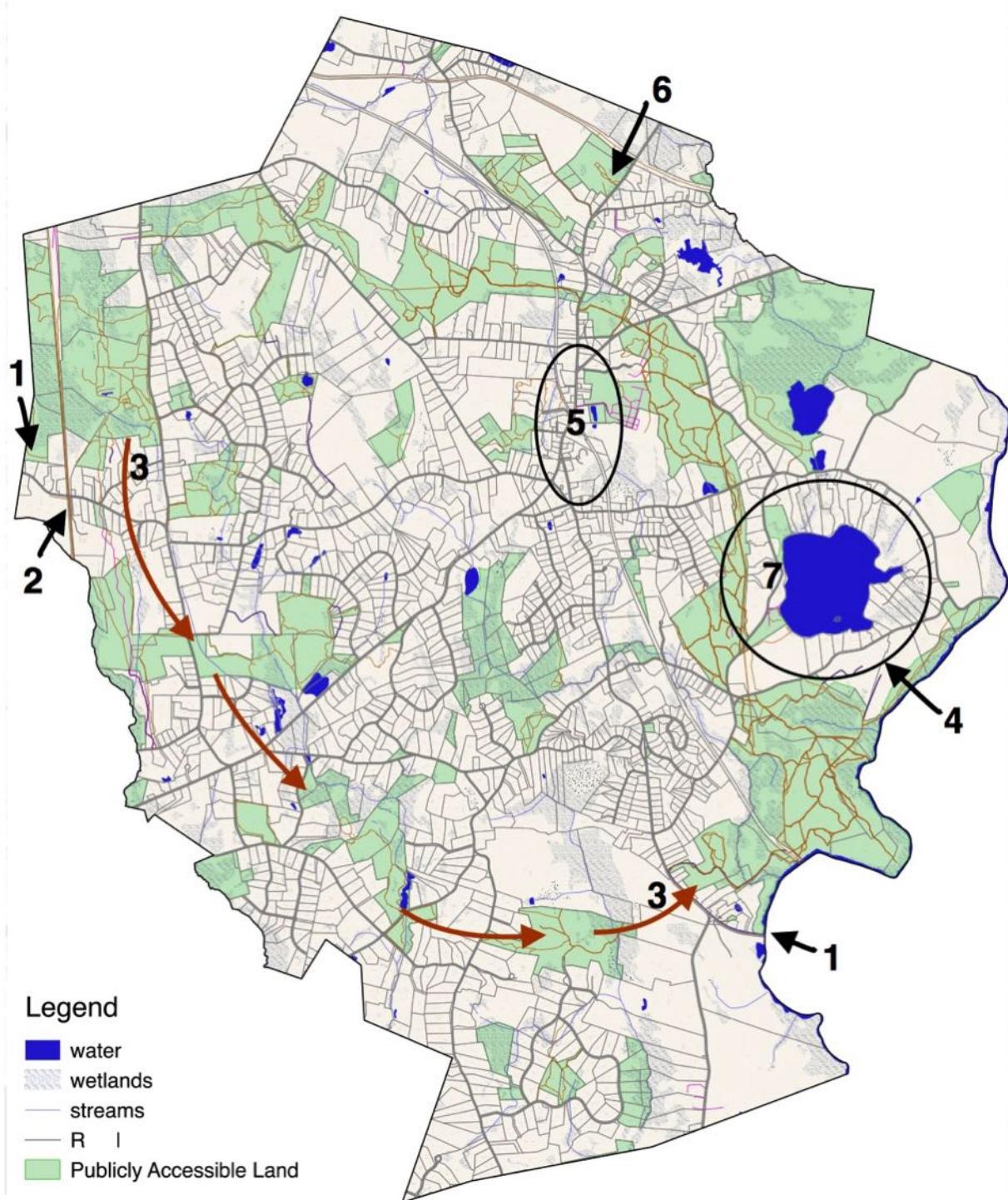
- The OSC should continue to function as an OSRP-oversight committee charged with maintaining contact with and collaboration among the various boards and committees that have assumed leadership roles in implementing this plan, advocating for OSRP goals, and keeping track of progress made toward those goals. In this way the OSC would assist the Planning Board with its tracking of the identical open space and recreation recommendations presented in the General Plan.
- Based on progress and input from all sources, the OSRP Implementation Tables should be updated at regular intervals (at least every three years, or more frequently if needed). The current tables would be available to the public on the town website and in print at the library and Town Hall.
- Progress toward completion of the recommendations presented in both the OSRP and General Plan should be summarized within the reports made by individual boards and committees for inclusion in the town's annual report.

## B. Action Plan Map

Many of the recommendations of this OSRP are relevant to the entire town. Others, such as protection of aquifer recharge areas and conservation of large private properties, are applicable to many locations in town and are shown on maps in Sections 3, 4, and 5.

Locations of important site-specific actions recommended in this OSRP are shown in Map 9.1 and numbered as follows: *(Note that the numbers do not indicate priority.)*

MAP 9.1 — OSRP Action Plan map



Source: Town of Sherborn Open Space Committee

1. Improve Bay Circuit Trail connections from Sherborn to Ashland and Medfield so that users no longer need to travel along busy roads.
2. Extend and improve the Sherborn portion of the Upper Charles Rail Trail to establish a connection to the Bay Circuit Trail in the Barber Reservation; improve accessibility for all users.

3. Complete a continuous loop of trails—Sherborn’s “Emerald Necklace”—by creating connectors between existing trails and neighborhoods through conservation purchases and trail easements.
4. Strictly protect the Farm Pond watershed and continue to protect the water quality of Farm Pond.
5. Extend ADA-accessible walkways for pedestrians and bike lanes for cyclists that connect trail systems and neighborhoods to gathering places in the Town Center.
6. Through consideration of costs and benefits of alternative options, agree upon and implement a plan at Laurel Farm to maintain resilient playing surfaces that are sustainable over the long term.
7. Support current management of the public waterfront as a recreational resource for safe and healthy water-based recreation for users of all ages and abilities.



*Bay Circuit Trail*

Source: Sherborn Open Space Committee

## C. Implementation Tables

### *Notes on the Implementation Tables*

**Organization.** The tables include major goals and recommendations as summarized in Section 8 along with specific strategies or actions to provide practical guidance toward fulfillment of the goals. Recommendations are listed roughly in order of priority, but all are considered important.

**Time targets.** These estimate the time after publication of this plan within which actions should be initiated. We have not attempted to estimate completion times. Elements marked as “Ongoing” will require sustained effort over time. Some of these have already been initiated.

**Leader.** This is the specific board, committee, or group most committed to “making it happen.” The leader—the initiator and driving force—may delegate or share the work involved as needed.

**Others involved.** Most actions will require the efforts of, collaboration with, and/or approval by multiple groups. (See Table 9.1, for a list of town boards, committees, and departments and their respective letter codes.)

**Funding.** Throughout the planning process, the town's fiscal constraints have been kept in mind. Many of the recommended actions can be done by volunteer boards and committees, and expenditure of taxpayer funds is not applicable "(N/A)." "Town" indicates that either (1) the work can be handled by existing town employees; or (2) a spending decision at Town Meeting will be required. "Grant" indicates projects that may be eligible for grant support; the specific source is not specified because it will depend on grant availability and program announcements from various funding agencies. "TBD" means To Be Determined.

**TABLE 9.1** — *Boards, committees, and town departments involved in implementation of this OSRP*

<b>Board, committee, department, etc.</b>	<b>Code</b>
Advisory Committee	ADV
Agricultural Commission	AGC
Board of Assessors	BOA
Board of Health	BOH
Community Maintenance and Development	CM&D
Community School Association	CSA
Conservation Commission	CC
Council on Aging	COA
Disability Advisory Committee	DAC
D-S Regional School Committee	DSRS
Elder Housing Committee	EHC
Energy Committee	EC
Farm Pond Advisory Committee	FPAC
Groundwater Protection Committee	GPC
Land Acquisition Committee	LAC
Land Management Task Force	LMTF
Library Trustees	LT
Open Space Committee	OSC
Planning Board	PB
Recreation Commission	REC
Recycling Committee	RCYC
Select Board	SB
Sherborn Business Association	SBA
Sherborn Garden Clubs	SGC
Sherborn Historical Society	SHS
Sherborn Forest & Trail Association	SFTA
Sherborn Rural Land Foundation	SRLF
Sherborn School Committee	SSC
Town Forest Committee	TFC
Traffic Safety Committee	TSC
Tree Warden	TW
Water Commissioner	WC
Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust	UCCT
Zoning Board of Appeals	ZBA

NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE		TIME	LEADER(S)	OTHERS INVOLVED	FUNDING SOURCE
I. GOAL: MAINTAIN THE LONG-TERM QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF SHERBORN'S WATER RESOURCES					
<b>I A. Recommendation:</b> Compile existing information on Sherborn's water resources and track changes over time.					
1. Compile and maintain an electronic database of public and voluntary private wells, including water quality and quantity.		2 yr ongoing	BOH	WC, GPC	grants, town
2. Use the database to generate a town-wide GIS map showing well locations, depths and yields.		5 yr	BOH	WC, GPC	grant
3. Use the information to assess the impact of short and long term threats including high density development and climate change.		5 yr ongoing	BOH	WC, GPC	town
<b>I B. Recommendation: Strengthen Sherborn's readiness to respond to potential or actual threats to water resources, including drought and pollution, and to mount effective actions.</b>					
1. Reestablish an active Groundwater Protection Committee to lead implementation of this recommendation.		1 yr	SB	BOH, CC, WC	NA
2. Create and implement a regular testing program to monitor the quality and quantity of both shared and private water resources, and to document changes over time.		3 yr	BOH	WC, GPC	grant
3. Promote and facilitate voluntary testing of private well water by residents.		ongoing	BOH	GPC, WC	NA
4. Regularly monitor the water quality of Sherborn creeks and brooks, the Sherborn segment of the Charles River, Farm Pond and all of our Aquifers in collaboration with appropriate Town Committees, State agencies and regional organizations.		ongoing	GPC	WC, CC, CM&D	state
5. Establish frequent and focused monitoring of aquifers and groundwater at the town borders, in areas adjacent to potential sources of pollution in neighboring towns, and work with neighboring towns to identify potential sources of aquifer and groundwater contamination.		ongoing	SB	WC, GPC	town, DEP, EPA
6. Partner with active groups in adjacent towns to raise awareness and advocate for solutions to serious threats to water resources at the regional and state level, including the Mass DEP and the EPA.		1 yr, ongoing	SB	UCCT, WC, GPC	DEP
<b>I C. Recommendation: Ensure that water protection and conservation practices in Sherborn provide the best possible protection of shared water resources based on the best available technology economically achievable (BAT) and best available scientific evidence.</b>					
1. Support the efforts of the Board of Health and Conservation Commission to stay current and obtain needed information.		ongoing	CC, SB	BOH, CC	town
2. Ensure that our current regulations and practices support Sherborn's ability to protect its water resources, given our total dependence on groundwater.		ongoing	CC, BOH	WC, GPC	town
3. Improve stormwater management town wide, to make Sherborn a community leader in implementation of the current EPA Stormwater Management Plan.		ongoing	CM&D	CC, PB	town
4. Minimize salt use on Sherborn roads.		1 yr	CM&D	GPC	NA
<b>I D. Recommendation: Plan for the long term sustainability of these resources by researching, evaluating and, when appropriate, adopting new approaches to water conservation and protection.</b>					
1. Identify and address future risks to Sherborn's water resources, given the long term vision of Sherborn as a sustainable, ecologically and environmentally unique community.		ongoing	BOH	CC, WC, GPC	NA
2. Charge the Groundwater Protection Committee with keeping abreast of new developments and approaches to water protection and conservation, and evaluating their applicability to Sherborn.		1 yr	SB	BOH, CC, GPC	NA

NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE	TIME TARGET	LEADER(S) INVOLVED	OTHERS INVOLVED	FUNDING SOURCE
3. Strictly protect identified aquifers through strong regulation and conservation practices.	ongoing	BOH, CC	GPC	NA
4. Strictly protect the Farm Pond Watershed.	ongoing	FPAC, CC	GPC	NA
5. Develop and promote Low Impact Development zoning bylaws for protection of areas most important for the recharge and protection of groundwater.	1 yr	PB	GPC, CC, BOH	NA
6. Develop Large Construction-specific regulations to protect the quality and quantity of groundwater resources.	1 yr	BOH, CC, PB	GPC	NA
<b>I E. Recommendation: Develop an ongoing educational and outreach program to promote practices that protect the groundwater and surface water supply.</b>				
1. Develop education and outreach programs for private homeowners, municipal officials, and business owners on well water protection, septic system maintenance, water conservation, controlling storm water runoff, environmentally conscious lawn care, and use and disposal of pesticides, petroleum and automotive products.	ongoing	BOH, CC	RCYC, GPC	NA
2. Partner with regional schools to provide options for students' science or community service projects that contribute to monitoring and protection of Sherborn's water resources.	ongoing	SSC, DSRS	FPAC, CC, CSA, GPC	NA
3. Provide links on the Town website to interactive and informative maps being developed by the State to protect water resources, including aquifers, brooks, and intermittent streams and their watersheds, wetlands, small ponds, and other major groundwater recharge areas, vernal pools, the Farm Pond watershed and the Charles River watershed.	2 yr	CC	GPC, SB	NA
4. Use these maps to engage the community and schools in water protection and conservation.	ongoing	CC	CC, SFTA, CSA	NA
<b>II. GOAL: PROTECT SHERBORN'S FORESTS &amp; OVERALL BIODIVERSITY</b>				
<b>II A. Recommendation: Know and prioritize what we have: Establish and maintain a comprehensive, accessible inventory of all forested and open land in Sherborn including information on forest composition, biodiversity, connectivity, and invasive plants of greatest concern.</b>				
1. Prioritize the conservation values of town-owned and private undeveloped and forested properties.	ongoing	CC	RLF, TFC, LAC	NA
2. Create a town-wide map and database that includes the total area of Sherborn's natural landscapes, a quantification of areas of public vs. private forest holdings, the description of broad forest characteristics, and the locations of invasive plant and insect species.	ongoing	CC	OSC, TFC	NA
<b>II B. Recommendation: Preserve Sherborn's remaining natural landscapes and ecosystems by negotiating protection of critical undeveloped forested lands and wildlife corridors on private properties.</b>				
1. Develop a proactive strategy for maintaining Chapter 61 protection, and adding permanent protection to selected conservation-critical Chapter 61 properties.	1 yr	LAC	SRLF, SB	NA
2. Work with private landowners to negotiate protection of critical natural landscapes, especially those that provide forest connectivity and wildlife corridors that support biodiversity.	ongoing	LAC	SRLF, CC, LAC, SFTA	NA

<b>II C. Recommendation: Lead by example. Work toward a Land Management Plan for all public lands to maintain and improve ecosystem health, biodiversity, connectivity, and pollinator habitat.</b>					
1. Create a plan to coordinate the activities and goals of the multiple committees and groups concerned with ecosystem protection and health.	ongoing	LMTF	CC, TFC		NA
2. Adopt the Sherborn Land Management Task Force Guiding Principles as a set of management goals and priorities for all public protected land.	done	CC	TFC, LMTF		NA
3. Adopt methods for forest management as described in the Massachusetts Forestry Best Management Practices Manual (MFBMPM) and the MA Trustees of Reservations Guidelines.	1 yr	CC	TFC, LMTF		NA
4. Develop a realistic plan to periodically and routinely monitor public forest conditions, cutting activities, and compliance with best management practices, and to oversee the spread or the removal of invasive species on all public forested lands in Sherborn.	1 yr	CC	LMTF, TW, TFC		NA
5. Encourage the Town Forest Committee, Conservation Commission, and members of other relevant boards to attend continuing education events to stay abreast of the latest research and best management practices.	ongoing	CC	LMTF		NA
6. Control and minimize the spread of invasive plants, particularly in recently disturbed forested areas and roadsides that are highly susceptible to colonization by invasives.	ongoing	CC	LMTF, CM&D		NA
7. Maximize pollinator habitat on all town-owned lands and public properties.	ongoing	CC	LMTF		NA
8. Develop a land management funding strategy for Recommendation II C.	2 yr	CC	SB		NA
<b>II D. Recommendation: Plan and implement public outreach strategies to promote sound forest management and protection of biodiversity and pollinator habitat on private properties, using the management of public lands as an example.</b>					
1. Encourage private forest owners to employ sound ecosystem management approaches, as in Item C above.	ongoing	CC	SRLF, LMTF		NA
2. Encourage landowners to minimize hardscapes and manicured lawn areas, prioritize landscaping with native plants, reverse previous ecosystem damage by removing superfluous hardscapes and manicured areas, and restore natural areas.	ongoing	CC	FPAC, OSC		NA
3. Make available on the town website and advertise the wide variety of educational opportunities that are offered by regional organizations such as the Harvard Forest, the Trustees of Reservations, and the Massachusetts Audubon Society, to educate Sherborn residents about biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.	ongoing	LMTF	CC		NA
4. Work with teachers toward inclusion of local Sherborn environmental issues in the school science curriculum. Create resources for the schools on the wildlife habitat, biodiversity, endangered species, and migration routes that exist in Sherborn.	ongoing	LMTF	CSA, DSRS, SSC		NA
<b>III. GOAL: PRESERVE SHERBORN'S RURAL CHARACTER AND SCENIC BEAUTY BY PROTECTING AND MAINTAINING OPEN SPACE.</b>					
<b>III A. Recommendation: Protect existing conservation land and town-owned open space from development.</b>					
1. Develop and implement a plan to permanently protect strategically important open space, Town Forest, and Conservation Commission lands.	2 yr	SB	CC, TFC		NA
2. Adopt the Sherborn Land Management Task Force Guiding Principles as a set of management goals and priorities for all public protected land.	done	CC, SB	CM&D, TFC		NA

<b>III B. Recommendation: Identify and prioritize crucial parcels of privately-owned, scenic open land that contribute significantly to Sherborn's rural character.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify high-priority private parcels through a collaborative effort involving the existing committees, organizations, and interest groups concerned with open space and conservation.</li> <li>Evaluate feasibility of and potential mechanisms of protection for each parcel; develop an appropriate strategic plan for each, taking into account the tax revenue implications for the Town.</li> <li>Maintain active communication among the Sherborn organizations above to keep abreast of alternative sources of funding and nonprofit partnership strategies for land acquisition and/or protection.</li> </ol>	ongoing	SRLF, LAC	OSC	NA
<b>III C. Recommendation: Protect lands identified and prioritized above, including private farms, Chapter 61 properties, and parcels with valued natural features including historic and aesthetically significant viewscapes and open space trail connections.</b>					
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop funding strategies and/or partnering mechanisms that will empower the town to exercise or transfer its right of first refusal on high-priority Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B lands that become available.</li> <li>Acquire key parcels or development rights by gift, Conservation Restriction, or purchase.</li> <li>Exploit grant opportunities for acquisition and/or preservation of high-priority open space.</li> </ol>	1-4 yr -- 2-7 yr	SRLF SB, LAC SB	SB, LAC SB, LAC grant	NA TBD
<b>III D. Recommendation: Encourage landowners of at-risk large properties to favor development strategies that preserve scenic views, open space, and trail connections.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proactively cultivate relationships with "crucial parcel" landowners and explore alternative zoning strategies that allow development consistent with General Plan goals.</li> <li>Inform owners of larger tracts of unprotected land of subdivision options that favor open space preservation, i.e. denser clustering of houses in exchange for preservation of a portion of the property as open space.</li> <li>Revise Zoning Bylaws to favor open space subdivisions, low impact developments, and site plan review criteria that value preservation of scenic viewscapes.</li> <li>Adopt "Dark Skies" lighting standards as part of the site plan review of all new construction.</li> </ol>	ongoing	SRLF, PB	SB, ZBA CC, BOH PB	NA NA NA
<b>III E. Recommendation: Cultivate support among the Sherborn citizenry for the preservation of open space and aesthetically significant viewscapes.</b>					
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate the public about the importance of protecting open space for the long term maintenance of Sherborn's unique character, desirability, and property values.</li> <li>Utilize existing communication tools (and create new ones) to encourage the public to explore and appreciate the town's open space. (E.g. Sherborn Forest and Trail walking/equestrian/bicycle events and website content, Sherborn Walks book).</li> <li>Encourage citizen volunteerism to further the enjoyment and maintenance of open space.</li> </ol>	ongoing	PB SFTA	UCCT RLF CC TFC CC TFC	NA NA NA

<b>IV. GOAL: FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES THAT PROMOTE THE RETENTION AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS.</b>						
<b>IV A. Recommendation: Document the extent of agricultural lands and diverse agricultural activities, as a visual tool to highlight their contributions to Sherborn's rural atmosphere and culture.</b>						
1. Use the Massachusetts Agricultural Commission database to create a user-friendly map of agricultural properties and businesses in Sherborn.	3-4 yr	AGC	BOA	NA		
2. Survey and document properties with significant non-commercial, small-scale agricultural activities such as backyard horse barns, chickens, orchards, etc. cetera.	3-4 yr	SFTA	AGC	NA		
3. Document other agriculture-related activities that contribute to residents' health, education, and sense of community.	3-4 yr	AGC	OSC	NA		
4. Use these data to raise awareness of the contribution of agriculture to overall property values and desirability of Sherborn as a unique community in the greater SBton region.	4-7 yr	AGC	OSC	NA		
<b>IV B. Recommendation: Support the long-term economic viability of Sherborn's existing agricultural businesses.</b>						
1. Ensure effective communication between the Agricultural Commission and other town boards, such as the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Board of Health regarding land use matters that affect the economic sustainability of agricultural businesses to ensure that any new local bylaws and regulations take into account the potential impact on working farms.	ongoing	AGC	PB CC BOH	NA		
2. Consider allowing the long-term lease of selected open, non-forested public lands for agricultural purposes to strengthen economic viability of existing or new agricultural businesses while retaining other values of these lands such as ecosystem health and resilience and open space recreation.	ongoing	SB	AGGC, CC, TFC	NA		
3. Organize an awareness campaign that promotes local farms and encourages residents to consume locally-grown farm produce.	ongoing	AGC, SBA	OSC	NA		
4. Continue to highlight Sherborn's farm products and services at special events.	ongoing	AGC	SBA	NA		
5. Given the seasonal nature of farming, encourage and allow alternative commercial and community uses of agricultural properties for economic sustainability of agricultural businesses (see D).	yr 1	PB	AGC	NA		
<b>IV C. Recommendation: Work with individual landowners to develop strategies for protecting their land and retaining its use for agriculture over the long term.</b>						
1. Educate agricultural landowners about the benefits of Chapter 61A designation.	ongoing	AGC	LAC	NA		
2. Exercise purchase rights when desirable Chapter 61A agricultural properties become available, through town funding or through assignment of purchase rights to an appropriate conservation organization or land trust that will support its continued agricultural use.	ongoing	SB	SRLF, LAC	TBD		
3. Encourage landowners to work with local conservation organizations to place permanent conservation or agricultural restrictions on large parcels of property.	ongoing	LAC	SRLF	NA		
4. Ensure that State programs designed to support agriculture are known and used as needed by Sherborn farms.	done	AGC	AGC	NA		
5. Continue discussion on potential use of transfer of development rights to allow the town to facilitate appropriate housing development in agreed-upon, appropriate locations while preserving open lands in agricultural use.	yr 2	PB	AGC	NA		

<b>IV D. Recommendation: Adopt Zoning Bylaws, regulations, and permitting standards that promote preservation of current agricultural uses while allowing limited development and alternative uses to provide owners of agricultural lands an economically viable alternative to sale and unrestricted development.</b>						
1. Revise Zoning Bylaws to allow open space or cluster developments by right while permanently protecting a significant portion of the land for agricultural or other open space use.	yr 1	PB	AGC, OSC	NA		
2. Explore other innovative ways through local bylaws to preserve agricultural lands consistent with Low Impact Development strategies.	yr 1	PB	AGC, OSC	NA		
3. Revise bylaws and regulations to permit secondary uses of agricultural properties such as accessory rental housing, retail sales, agro-tourism, restaurants, or use for non-agricultural activities or events, subject to review and approval by relevant town boards.	done; yr 2	PB	AGC	NA		
4. Explore possible revisions of bylaws and regulations that would allow farms to provide housing for farm workers and interns on site.	yr 4	PB	AGC, BOH	NA		
<b>IV E. Recommendation: Enhance appreciation of the history, science, and technology of farming by engaging the public, young and old.</b>						
1. Encourage the Agricultural Commission and others to work with the local and regional School Committees to provide outreach and education to students on farming practices and farm life.	ongoing	AGC	CSA, DSRS	NA		
2. Support efforts by the agricultural community and private initiatives to develop educational programs for all Sherborn residents about the important role of farming in Sherborn, the place of farming in regional history, and the science of sustainable farming.	ongoing	AGC	SHS, CSA, SSC	NA		
3. Create community gardens.	yr 3	SGCs	OSC, SB	NA		

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES		TIME TARGET	LEADER(S)	OTHERS INVOLVED	FUNDING SOURCE
<b>I. GOAL: PROTECT, IMPROVE, AND EXPAND THE USE OF OPEN SPACE AS A RECREATIONAL RESOURCE</b>					
<b>I A. Recommendation: Improve trail connections within Sherborn and with adjacent towns.</b>					
1. Expand connectors between existing trails and neighborhoods by negotiating trail access agreements through private lands.	ongoing	SFTA	SB	NA	
2. Improve Bay Circuit Trail connections from Sherborn to Ashland and Medfield so that users no longer need to travel along busy roads.	2 yr	SFTA	CC , TFC	grant	
3. Extend and improve the Sherborn portion of the Upper Charles Rail Trail to establish a connection to the Bay Circuit Trail in the Barber Reservation, and improve accessibility for all users.	1-2 yr	UCCT	SFTA, PB	grant	
4. Explore the feasibility of a "Rail with Trail" – a trail along the rail line to the center of Town – to provide an off-street trail connection to the Town Center.	4 yr	PB, SFTA	SB	grant	
5. Coordinate Sherborn's Open Space and Recreation Plan with those of neighboring communities and regional planning and recreation groups, such as the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the Audubon Society, and the Trustees of Reservations.	1 yr	REC	PB, OSC	NA	
<b>I B. Recommendation: Provide safe and improved walkability along roads throughout Town for the health and enjoyment of residents.</b>					
1. Create a system of roadside trails that provide safe travel for pedestrians, bike, and horseback riders along roads that lack sidewalks to improve the walkability of the entire Town.	ongoing	SFTA	PB	NA	
2. Construct additional sidewalks annually, according to a predetermined prioritization plan.	ongoing	CM&D	PB	Town	
<b>I C. Recommendation: Create new easements and walkways to link Sherborn's trail system to Town Center trailheads and businesses (see also: Town Center section, Goal IV).</b>					
1. Create a multi-use trail along the railroad tracks to the Town Center.	5 yr	SFTA	CM&D	grant	
2. Extend walkways for pedestrians and bike lands for cyclists that connect trail systems and neighborhoods to gathering places in Town Center.	3-7 yr	CM&D	PB	grant	
3. Wherever possible, connect unpaved walkways and roadside trails as links from Town Center to adjacent neighborhoods and trail systems.	ongoing	SFTA	CM&D	Town	
4. Add bike lanes and shared lanes for cyclists on main roads that connect to gathering places in Town Center (see also: Circulation section).	CM&D	PB	Town, grant		
<b>I D. Recommendation: Promote public awareness, usage, and support of existing open space and trail systems.</b>					
1. Support efforts to improve trail use and accessibility through improved signage and maps.	1 yr	SFTA	CC, TFC	Town	
2. Create easily-visible, small-scale, unpaved parking areas at selected trail heads.	3 yr	CC, TFC	CM&D	Town	
3. Improve a few selected trails to be more accommodating to a broader range of the Sherborn residents, in particular the elderly and physically challenged, especially near the Town Center, with connections to 55+ developments.	1-3 yr	DAC, CM&D	COA, PB	Town, grants	
4. Organize and support activities and events that promote the trails and encourage local and regional residents to use our open space.	ongoing	SFTA	OSC, LMTF	NA	
5. Organize and support public trail workdays for trail maintenance and improvement.	ongoing	SFTA	OSC, LMTF		

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES	TIME TARGET	LEADER(S)	OTHERS INVOLVED	FUNDING SOURCE
<b>I E. Recommendation: Improve and support management of existing publicly-accessible open space resources, including trail systems and Farm Pond waterfront.</b>				
1. Establish and maintain effective communication and collaboration among Town Committees and organizations concerned with maintaining Sherborn's open spaces and trails as a recreational resource.	ongoing	LMTF	SFTA	NA
2. Consider hiring a Recreation Manager to oversee the recreational infrastructure of the Town, including organized facilities and Farm Pond Reservation, and to support and facilitate the efforts of the Recreation Commission, Farm Pond Advisory Committee, and Sherborn Forest and Trail Association.	2 yr	SB, REC	FPAC	NA
3. Establish a plan for long-term funding and management of public lands and trails.	3 yr	CC, TFC SFTA, LMTF	SB, AC CC	NA
4. Encourage public land and trail stewardship with local volunteers.	ongoing	BOA, CC	Town	NA
5. Maintain a user-friendly database and map of publicly-accessible open space, Chapter 61B designated as recreational, and other conservation-restricted properties for use by Town officials, boards, and committees.	1 yr	PB		
6. Use the Barber Reservation and other public parcels as "showcase" sites; improve and promote the trail systems on these parcels to demonstrate the value of well-maintained, well-marked trails.	ongoing	LMTF, SFTA	CC	Grants
7. Continue to protect the water quality of Farm Pond and support current management of the public waterfront as a recreational resource for safe and healthy water-based recreation.	ongoing	FPAC	CC, BOH	NA
8. Explore and evaluate ways to promote the Charles River as a recreational resource for Sherborn residents and visitors.	2 yr	UCCT	REC, SFTA	NA
<b>II. GOAL: MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE SHERBORN'S ORGANIZED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS</b>				
<b>II A. Recommendation: Design a realistic management, personnel, business, and funding plan that can sustainably support current and future organized recreational programs and facilities.</b>				
1. Clarify and simplify the complex system of revenue streams, funding mechanisms, and responsibilities currently in place for recreational facilities and programs.	2 yr	SB, REC	ADV	NA
2. Consider hiring a Recreation Director to oversee the recreational resources of the Town. (see Goal I, Recommendation E.2)	1 yr	SB, REC	FPAC	Town
3. Explore possibilities of more user self-funding for certain programs and facilities.	3 yr	REC	SB	NA
4. Gauge the willingness of the Town to build a regional sports facility for revenue generation, to fund Sherborn's recreation programs and to provide a revenue stream for the Town (see also: Recommendation B: Laurel Farm, below).	4 yr	REC	SB, ADV	Town
<b>II B. Recommendation: Repair, maintain, and improve the recreational infrastructure at Laurel Farm to support current and future needs.</b>				
1. Agree upon and implement a plan for maintaining resilient playing surfaces at Laurel Farm that are sustainable over the long term, considering the costs and benefits of alternative options.	4 yr	REC	SB	Town
2. Adopt the Recreation Commission's plan for future Laurel Farm redesign and renovation and implement in phases as agreed upon by the Town.	4-7 yr	SB	CM&D	Town

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES	TIME TARGET	LEADER(S)	OTHERS INVOLVED	FUNDING SOURCE
<b>II C. Recommendation: Make Ward Park area on Cemetery Lane a central gathering place and welcome/information center for residents and users of recreational resources, both in Town Center and Town-wide trail systems.</b>				
1. Assemble a Ward Park Working Group, including representatives from the Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Playground Committee, Planning Board, CM&D, and others to make an agreed-upon plan for improvement of the Ward Park area.	1 yr	REC	CC	NA
2. Ensure that any proposed alterations are guided by Low Impact Development principles to maximize groundwater recharge, minimize stormwater runoff, and protect the pond.	ongoing	CC	PB, CM&D	NA
3. Make the area near the pond a site for nature/environmental education.	5 yr	CC	CSA SGC	Town, grant
<b>II D. Recommendation: Establish and maintain effective communication and collaboration among Town Committees and organizations concerned with all of Sherborn's recreational resources.</b>				
1. Maintain close collaboration between the Recreation Commission and the Farm Pond Advisory Committee.	ongoing	REC, FPAC		NA
2. Explore ways to integrate organized recreational infrastructure and programs with open space recreational infrastructure, i.e. the trail system.	1 yr	REC	SFTA	NA
3. Use the organized Recreation Commission communication network to increase use and appreciation of open space recreational resources.	ongoing	REC	CC SFTA	NA

# SECTION 10

# PUBLIC COMMENTS



**Letters of Endorsement**

October 23, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Cryan:

Thank you for submitting the “2018 Town of Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan” to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

As you know, the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans must be submitted to the regional planning agency for review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While your office reviews open space plans for compliance with your guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

**Consistency with MetroFuture** - *MetroFuture* is the official regional plan for Greater Boston, adopted consistently with the requirements of Massachusetts General Law. The plan includes 65 goals and objectives as well as 13 detailed implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. We encourage all communities within the MAPC region to become familiar with the plan by visiting [www.mapc.org/get-involved/metrofuture-our-regional-plan](http://www.mapc.org/get-involved/metrofuture-our-regional-plan).

We are pleased to see that the Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan will actually help to advance several *MetroFuture* goals and implementation strategies that relate specifically to open space, recreation, trails, and the environment generally. In fact, this plan identifies many positive connections with *MetroFuture*, including planning with neighboring communities around shared resources, particularly protection of the Charles River watershed; enhancing recreational access to the Charles River; protection of regional wildlife corridors; and increasing bicycle and pedestrian accessibility, such as through potential additional connections to open spaces in adjacent communities.

**Surrounding communities** - The plan acknowledges the Town’s commitment to coordinate with other regional planning efforts including the 495 MetroWest Partnership and the establishment of the Bay Circuit Trail. The plan provides a good regional overview and perspective, including both indoor and outdoor open space and recreational opportunities that benefit Sherborn residents. The Town shares a number of significant regional resources including the Charles River Watershed ecosystem, Mass Audubon lands, the Upper Charles Rail Trail, and the Sudbury Aqueduct. The plan’s recommendations encourage Sherborn to work with neighboring communities to explore ways to enhance these opportunities. The

plan also advocates for the protection of natural resources in Sherborn, which in turn helps to create larger contiguous blocks of open space regionally, creating connections to protected lands in the surrounding towns.

**Community Preservation Act** - Adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a key strategy recommended by *MetroFuture*. We note that Sherborn has not adopted the CPA, and that the plan acknowledges that funding for special projects is more constrained without CPA.

Reforms to the program were passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2012). These reforms include broadened eligibility of recreational facilities, the option to exempt up to the first \$100,000 of commercial property value from the CPA surcharge, and the ability to use additional municipal revenue to qualify for state matching funds. These amendments should make CPA even more attractive to the Town, and may encourage residents to support the proposal. More detailed information on the 2012 amendments can be found at <http://www.communitypreservation.org> or by contacting MAPC's Government Affairs staff.

Please be aware that MAPC is also working actively in the Legislature and with the Baker Administration to encourage the assignment of additional revenue into the state's CPA matching fund. We encourage Sherborn to join those efforts, which will inure to the Town's benefit when and if its voters adopt CPA.

The Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan should serve the Town well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space and provide for the recreational needs of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,



Marc D. Draisen  
Executive Director

cc: Marian R. Neutra, Chair, Sherborn Open Space Committee



**TOWN OF SHERBORN**  
19 Washington Street  
Sherborn, MA 01770  
508-651-7850

Charles Yon, *Chairman*  
Michael Giaimo, *Vice Chairman*  
George Morrill, *Clerk*  
Paul DeRensis  
Eric Johnson

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

October 18, 2018

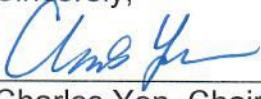
Dear Ms. Cryan,

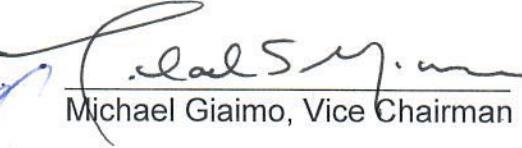
The Sherborn Select Board voted unanimously at its October 18, 2018 meeting to enthusiastically endorse the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) and its submission to the Department of Conservation Services.

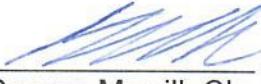
The Select Board finds this plan to be comprehensive, thoughtful and forward-looking. It accurately describes Sherborn and its open space, environmental and recreational resources. The goals, recommendations and actions outlined in the plan are entirely consistent with the new Sherborn General Plan, which is nearing completion. The writing of both plans has raised awareness and appreciation of our open space, natural resource and recreational assets, and has strengthened citizen support for their maintenance and improvement.

The Board is particularly appreciative of the inclusive and transparent process that resulted in this comprehensive OSRP. Throughout the process the Open Space Committee repeatedly sought input from many boards and committees including the Select Board, as well as interested citizens. They invited critical review, welcomed discussion, and revised the plan accordingly. The resulting document is a valuable educational resource for the entire town, and will help guide the decisions of town boards and officials in the years to come. We wholeheartedly support its goals and recommendations, and we request that the Department of Conservation Services approve this Plan.

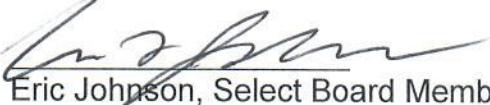
Sincerely,

  
Charles Yon, Chairman

  
Michael Giaimo, Vice Chairman

  
George Morrill, Clerk

  
Paul DeRensis, Select Board Member

  
Eric Johnson, Select Board Member

# PLANNING BOARD



19 WASHINGTON STREET  
SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

October 16, 2018

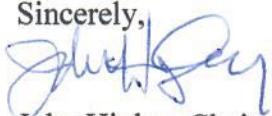
Melissa Cryan, Grant Programs Supervisor  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan,

At its meeting of October 16, 2018, the Planning Board unanimously voted to support the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Board commends the Open Space Committee for preparing the excellent draft OSRP. The Plan provides a valuable resource to help guide future decisions by Town boards and commissions. It will also encourage positive efforts to expand and link open space in Sherborn, expand recreation resources, and protect natural and cultural resources.

The OSRP was prepared concurrently with an updated General Plan and recently preceded by a Housing Production Plan. Working on all of these plans virtually simultaneously ensures that they are in concert, and reinforce each other in terms of establishing goals and objectives for the future of Sherborn. The OSRP was prepared in close coordination with the Planning Board. It also received important input from the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Board of Health, Select Board and others, including residents.

Furthermore, the OSRP documents and supports the long-standing policies of the Town to protect its open space and recreation resources. It also identifies new policies to achieve sustainability and resiliency as we address the threats of climate change, invasive species and other short and long term issues. Its Action Plan will be a valuable resource for all Town boards in their efforts to maintain a high quality of life and a healthy environment for Sherborn residents.

Sincerely,  
  
John Higley, Chairman

# Conservation Commission



19 WASHINGTON STREET  
SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Sherborn Open Space Committee  
FROM: Michael Lesser, Chair  
DATE: October 4, 2018  
RE: **Support for the Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan**

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The Sherborn Conservation Commission gives its unanimous support for the recently drafted Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Many of us have participated in the discussions and development of this document. We are impressed with the time and effort the Open Space Committee put into this important guide for the future of our community, and in particular the time and effort of its chair, Marian Neutra. This plan addresses many of the most important issues facing the town and identifies actions necessary to protect Sherborn's best characteristics.

In addition to being an important guide for the town's future development and for the use and protection of its natural resources, the plan documents and brings together in a comprehensive way information relating to Sherborn's natural, agricultural and recreational resources that will be invaluable to our residents as they make their own decisions about the use of their land. We are particularly pleased with the Plan's emphasis on implementation, and with the Open Space Committee's intention to continue in existence and help to coordinate and support its implementation.



## Board of Health

TOWN HALL • 19 WASHINGTON ST. • SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770  
508-651-7852 • FAX 508-651-7868

November 8, 2018

Marian Neutra, Chair  
Open Space Committee  
Sherborn Town Hall  
Sherborn, MA 01770

### RE: 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Neutra:

Having reviewed the Town of Sherborn's Open Space and Recreation Plan (2018), the Board of Health would like to express its support for the Plan for the following reasons.

- Given the importance of the quantity and quality of water resources in the Town to public health and well-being, the information communicated in the Plan about these topics is much appreciated.
- The Plan concisely but appropriately identifies various relationships between open space topics and water supply issues of protection and sustainability.
- Helping residents and others who may also enjoy the open spaces and recreational opportunities in Sherborn to understand those relationships also reminds them of the stewardship role we have for protecting and fostering public health.
- The Plan recognizes the health enhancements that may be realized through enjoyment and recreational use of the Town's open spaces.

If at any time there are questions about:

- the Town's water resource issues, including the Board of Health's efforts to prevent contamination and to promote long term drinking water supply sustainability, or
- further details about drinking water, wells, or septic systems,

please do not hesitate to contact the Board of Health.

Respectfully and on behalf of the Board of Health,

Daryl Beardsley, Chair



## Town of Sherborn

SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

TOWN OFFICES: 19 Washington Street • Phone (508) 651-7850 • Fax (508) 651-7854

October 2, 2018

### Support of the Open Space & Recreation Plan for the Town of Sherborn

The Sherborn Water Commission applauds the comprehensive objectives and methods planned for the protection and use of our open spaces. Our Town is totally dependent on local wells for water for almost all residences, businesses and public buildings. The Water Commission has limited authority in this situation. The Plan carefully spells out the responsibilities and interconnections of the several Town boards and committees that impact the use and protection of our resources.

The Plan lays out the way forward to implement this critical effort.

For the Water Commission, I commend the Sherborn Open Space Committee for this valuable insight.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Demler".  
Roger Demler, Water Commissioner  
demler@msn.com

Sherborn Recreation Commission

19 Washington St

Sherborn, MA 01770

October 15, 2018

Town of Sherborn Open Space Committee

Attn: Marian Neutra

Dear Town of Sherborn Open Space Committee:

This letter serves as a thank you from the Sherborn Recreation Department for your diligence in the development, revision and finalization of the official Town of Sherborn Open Space document. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the process, which has resulted in a valuable document for all Sherborn residents, as well as other constituents who may be interested in learning about the current and historical layout of the Town of Sherborn. It will be a great resource for years to come.

Thanks again for your time and effort on this critical project, it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dave Goldberg, Bo O'Connell, and Gavin Mish

Sherborn Recreation Commission

Enclosures



## Sherborn Forest & Trail Association

P.O. Box 477

Sherborn, Massachusetts 01770

[www.sherbornforestandtrail.org](http://www.sherbornforestandtrail.org)

Date: November 6, 2018

To: Open Space Committee

The Sherborn Forest and Trail Association gives its enthusiastic support for the recently revised Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Many of us have participated in the discussions and development of this document. We are impressed with the time and effort the Open Space Committee put into this important guide for the future of our community, and in particular the time and effort of its chairwoman Marian Neutra.

We are particularly impressed with the Plan's emphasis on improving trail links with the town center, and on promoting town awareness of the extraordinary trail network Sherborn has developed over many years.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sherborn Forest and Trail Association

Laura VanBlarcom, President

## References

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts DOR

Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services, Municipal Data Bank  
<https://dlsgateway.dor.state.ma.us/reports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Dashboard.TrendAnalysisReports.LaborForce>

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOLWD

Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), “Labor Market Information: Employment and Wager (ES-202).”  
[http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi\\_es\\_a.asp#IND\\_LOCATION](http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_es_a.asp#IND_LOCATION)

### Dowse 1988

Dowse, Mary E., *Sherborn Geology, Groundwater, Environmental Concerns*. Sherborn, Mass.: [n.p.], 1988

### Fay, Spofford and Thorndike 2015

Fay, Spofford and Thorndike. *Development of the Farm Pond Management Plan*. Sherborn, Mass.: Farm Pond Advisory Committee, 2015

### Lycott 1989

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### McAdow 1992

Ron McAdow, *The Charles River: Exploring Nature and History on Foot and by Canoe*. Marlborough, Mass.: Bliss, 1992

### Mass Audubon 2014

“Losing Ground: Planning for Resilience.” Losing Ground 5. Lincoln, Mass.: Massachusetts Audubon Society, 2014.

[www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/advocacy/shaping-the-future-of-your-community/publications-community-resources/losing-ground-report/losing-ground-fifth-edition](http://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/advocacy/shaping-the-future-of-your-community/publications-community-resources/losing-ground-report/losing-ground-fifth-edition)

### NRCS 2009

Natural Resources Conservation Service, *Soil Survey of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Washington, D.C.: Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; in cooperation with Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station, [2009].  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_MANUSCRIPTS/massachusetts/MA017/0/middlesex.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/massachusetts/MA017/0/middlesex.pdf)

### Schnure 1992

Arthur Schnure; Dorothy Magadieu, photographs, *Sherborn Walks: Exploring Publicly Accessible Land in Sherborn, Massachusetts*. Sherborn, Mass.: Sherborn Forest & Trail Association, 1992

### Town of Sherborn 2007

*Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan*. Sherborn, Mass.: Town of Sherborn, 2007

### U.S. Census Bureau 2000

Census Gateway 2000. <https://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>

### U.S. Census Bureau 2010

## *Town of Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan*

One-year ACS 2010 [issued September 11, 2011].

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/comparing-acs-data/2010.html>

### **U.S. Census Bureau 2017**

Five-year ACS 2012–2016 [issued December 9, 2017].

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t#none>

### **Wildlands & Woodlands 2013**

Wildlands & Woodlands, “A Policy Agenda for Conserving New England’s Forests.” Harvard University Forest. Petersham, Mass.: Wildlands & Woodlands, 2013.

[www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/sites/default/files/A%20Policy%20Agenda-FY13.pdf](http://www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/sites/default/files/A%20Policy%20Agenda-FY13.pdf)

### **Woodard & Curran 2003**

Woodard & Curran, Inc., *Town of Sherborn Groundwater Protection Study*. Sherborn, Mass.: Sherborn Groundwater Protection Committee, 2003.

[www.sherborncac.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2003-color-maps-Woodward-Curran-Sherborn-Groundwater-Protection-Study.pdf](http://www.sherborncac.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2003-color-maps-Woodward-Curran-Sherborn-Groundwater-Protection-Study.pdf)

## **Links to Additional Online Resources**

**Bay Circuit Trail:** <https://www.baycircuit.org/>

**BioMap2:** [http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap/pdf/town\\_core/Sherborn.pdf](http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap/pdf/town_core/Sherborn.pdf)

### **Commonwealth of Massachusetts (mass.gov) sites**

- **Endangered Species Act (MESA):** [www.mass.gov/regulations/321-CMR-1000-massachusetts-endangered-species-act](http://www.mass.gov/regulations/321-CMR-1000-massachusetts-endangered-species-act)
- **Major watersheds in Massachusetts:** [www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/water/watersheds-map.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/water/watersheds-map.pdf)
- **Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP; Division of Fish and Wildlife):** [www.mass.gov/orgs/masswildlifes-natural-heritage-endangered-species-program](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/masswildlifes-natural-heritage-endangered-species-program)
- **Wetlands Protection Act:** [www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/vy/310cmr10a.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/vy/310cmr10a.pdf)

### **Mass Audubon sites**

- **Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary:** [www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/broadmoor](http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/broadmoor)
- **Grassland Bird Program:** [www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/wildlife-research-conservation/grassland-bird-program](http://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/wildlife-research-conservation/grassland-bird-program)
- **MAPPR (Mapping and Prioritizing Parcels for Resilience):** [www.massaudubon.org/MAPPR](http://www.massaudubon.org/MAPPR)

**Sudbury Aqueduct:** [www.mwra.state.ma.us/01news/2014/042414-naticktrail.html](http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/01news/2014/042414-naticktrail.html)

### **Town of Sherborn sites**

- **Homepage:** <http://www.sherbornma.org/>
- **Recreation Commission:** [www.sherbornrec.com/](http://www.sherbornrec.com/)
  - Farm Pond Beach:** [www.sherbornrec.com/info/facilities/details.aspx?FacilityID=14721](http://www.sherbornrec.com/info/facilities/details.aspx?FacilityID=14721)
  - Fessenden Fields:** [www.sherbornrec.com/info/facilities/details.aspx?FacilityID=14708](http://www.sherbornrec.com/info/facilities/details.aspx?FacilityID=14708)
  - Jameson Baseball Fields:** [www.sherbornrec.com/info/facilities/details.aspx?FacilityID=14703](http://www.sherbornrec.com/info/facilities/details.aspx?FacilityID=14703)

**The Trustees of Reservations:** <http://thetrustees.org/>

**Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust:** <http://www.uppercharles.org/>

**Upper Charles Trail:** [www.uppercharlestrail.org/maps.htm](http://www.uppercharlestrail.org/maps.htm)

# APPENDICES



- A. Surveys of Public Opinion**
- B. Plant and Animal Species of Interest in Sherborn**
- C. Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest**
- D. Handicapped Accessibility Self-Evaluation**

## APPENDIX A

### Surveys of Public Opinion

#### 1. LAND MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE SURVEY 2013

##### Survey questions and results

##### **SHERBORN FORESTS AND RESERVATIONS PLANNING**

The Sherborn Land Management Task Force (SLMTF) is developing a set of guiding principles for managing our town forests, reservations and conservation land and wants your opinion.

	very important	moderately important	slightly important	not at all important
<b>How important is it to enhance biodiversity?</b>	#	6	2	
Control invasive plants	26	17	4	
Improve wildlife habitat	25	14	6	1
Encourage vigorous forests improvements	21	11	7	2
Ecosystem services derived from Sherborn's open space (or forests and reservations) benefit individuals and the entire community. They include Flood control, Groundwater supply, Local climate modification, Carbon sequestration, Pollination, Air and water cleansing, Habitat functions, Human health and well-being benefits.				
<b>How important is it to preserve Ecosystem Services at our forests and reservations?</b>	33	11	3	1
<b>How important are public engagement and education?</b>	15	7	1	
Improving awareness of public lands	25	16	4	
Offering maps and other informational materials	25	18	5	
Improving accessibility	17	15	9	3
Corridors and linkages between open spaces in Sherborn and adjoining towns enhance passive recreation and wildlife habitat.				
<b>How important are corridors and linkages?</b>	26	15	1	
<b>Protect Sherborn's rural character including appropriate low intensity agriculture by:</b>	15	2	1	
preserving scenic vistas?	35	11	2	2
protecting historic resources?	30	11	6	
<b>How important is it to seek self-sustaining financial management programs consistent with these goals?</b>	24	10	1	7

	weekly	monthly	yearly	daily
<b>How would you describe your visits to Sherborn's public lands?:</b> daily, weekly, monthly or yearly?	21	15	4	5

	walk	bike	boating
<b>What activities do you pursue on your visits?</b>	24	5	2

<b>Does Sherborn's open space need more or less of the following?</b>	<b>MORE</b>	<b>NO CHANGE</b>	<b>LESS</b>
Parking	13	25	
Signage	21	25	
Public events	10	24	3
Seating	5	30	1
Upkeep	17	19	
Informational walks	17	18	1
Agricultural use	23	17	1
Gathering spaces	7	28	
Snowmobile trails	2	18	19
Volunteer opportunities	13	23	
Bridges & boardwalks	15	20	
Camping sites	6	26	5

## 2. SHERBORN RESIDENTS SURVEY 2014

*(Edited for this 2018 OSRP to focus on questions related to Open Space and Recreation)*

### A. Survey questions

This survey by the Sherborn Planning Board is to gauge residents' opinions about various issues relating to the Town and its future.

### SECTION 1. *Perceptions and Opinions about Sherborn, its Government, Facilities, and Services*

(For all questions, a blank response indicates you have insufficient information or no opinion.)

#### 1. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the items listed below.

Please use the following rating codes. 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor.

##### Open Space and Recreation

Q	_____	Number of Recreational Facilities
R	_____	Type (Mix) of Recreational Facilities
S	_____	Condition of Recreational Facilities
T	_____	Amount of Open Space Protected
U	_____	Appropriate Use of Open Space
V	_____	Horse Trails
W	_____	Walking Trail
X	_____	Farm Pond
Y	_____	Maintenance of conservation land

2. Do you feel overall efforts in the following are?	Too Weak	About Right	Too Strong
Efforts to preserve open space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts to making open space more accessible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts toward historic preservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts toward protection of water quality and flood control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts toward protection of scenic roads and rural views	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts toward maintaining agricultural uses and lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts toward fostering a strong business climate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts to promote additional residential development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts to enforce codes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts to control taxes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts to fund services such as schools, fire, police, CM&D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efforts to plan for the future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

#### 3. Please rate Sherborn as a place to live. (Please circle one)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Poor

### SECTION 3. *Future Policies*

16. What residential growth policies do you favor for the town?	Favor	Don't Favor	Need More Information	No Opinion
Continuation of present policy of single family homes in the present 1, 2, and 3 acre zoning districts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Modify single-family development to occur in a smaller area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Modify zoning regulations to conform with an agreed-upon plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

that factors in groundwater supply, scenic views, unusual features, historic structures, open space and recreation				
Locate housing in smaller and higher density areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add additional affordable housing in the town	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add additional over 55 housing in the town	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquire more open space to somewhat offset new housing development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Place some restrictions on the building size of very large houses, in relation to their lot size	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Smaller, higher density homes for households over 55 years old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessory apartments created within existing housing units	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Smaller, tighter streets in subdivisions to save land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased walkability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allowing additional housing units in a subdivision which clusters and preserves open space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Easing groundwater and environmental protection to promote growth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Relaxing Health and Conservation regulations to be no more strict than State regulations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. What rural character initiatives do you favor?	Favor	Don't Favor	Need More Information	No Opinion
Preserve and assist agricultural activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outright purchase of open space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Purchase of development rights (Owner retains title but sells right to build)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Should the consider selling some open space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transfer of development rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preservation of scenic roads (Protect stone walls and trees at side of road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protect scenic roads by providing incentives to increase housing setback on scenic roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Removal of Invasive plants and view obstructing brush along scenic roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restoration and maintenance of public fields and meadows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support community gardens on town land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allow managed hunting on public land to control deer population	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**21. You have just addressed the following five topics.**

Rank in importance where 1 is most important and 5 is least important

Residential Growth Policy \_\_\_\_\_

Town Services \_\_\_\_\_

Rural Character \_\_\_\_\_

Economic Development \_\_\_\_\_

Town Center \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 4. Suggestions for Future Planning**

<b>22. Thinking ahead over the next 15 years, please rate the importance to Sherborn</b>	Low Importance	Moderate Importance	High Importance	Critical Importance	One or Two Most Important
Preserve rural character	<input type="radio"/>				
Preserve excellence in Schools	<input type="radio"/>				
Reduce taxes	<input type="radio"/>				
Improve the Town Center	<input type="radio"/>				
Slow the rate of Tax Increases	<input type="radio"/>				
Improve traffic safety	<input type="radio"/>				
Improve equestrian, pedestrian and bicycling trails	<input type="radio"/>				
Preserve open space	<input type="radio"/>				
Encourage development	<input type="radio"/>				
Encourage EA elder and affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>				
Improve town services, communication and access to town government	<input type="radio"/>				

**23. Are there any issues or concerns you may have regarding Sherborn this survey has not covered, or you would like to share with us? (Use additional space if necessary)**

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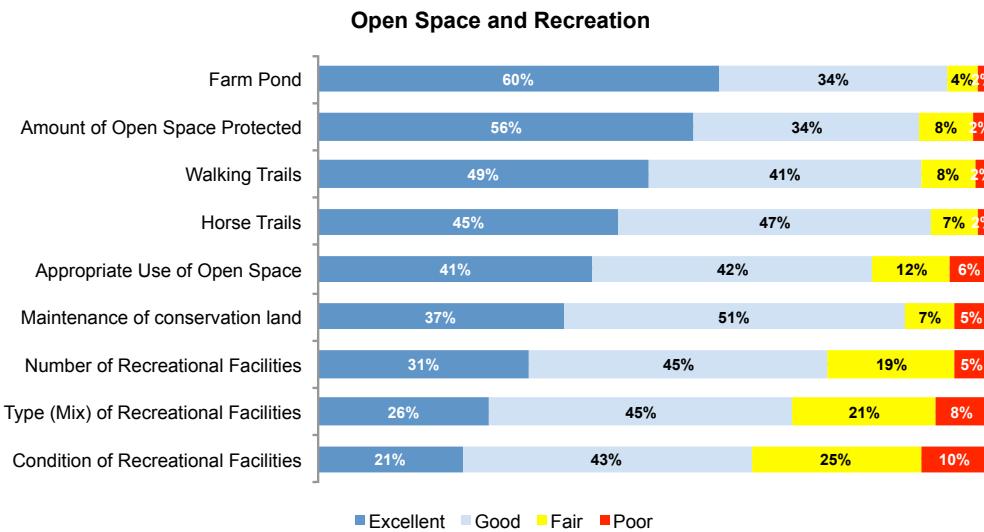


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## B. Survey results

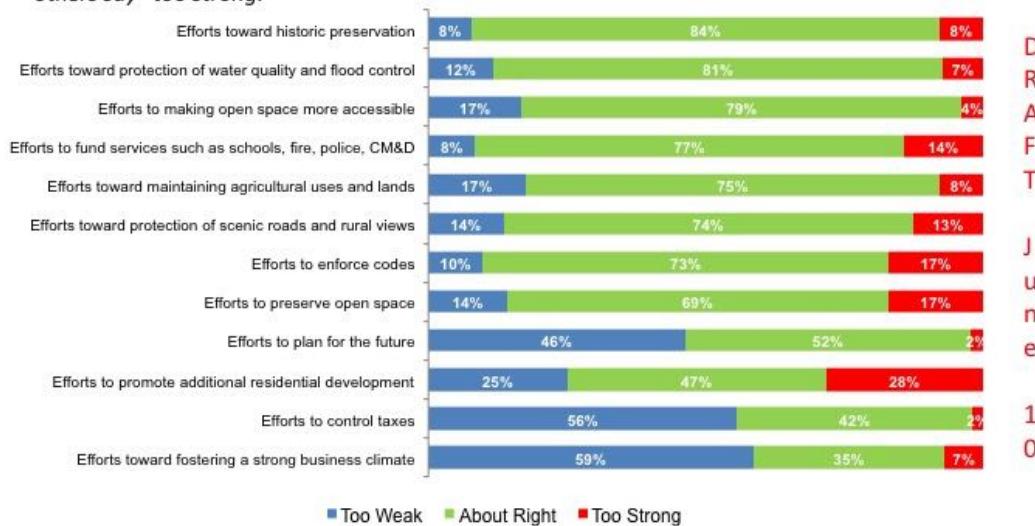
# Satisfaction 2014

- Satisfaction with Open Space and Recreation is generally high, most so for Farm Pond.*



# Strength of Efforts 2014

- Efforts to control taxes, foster a strong business climate and plan for the future are viewed as too weak.*
- Efforts to promote residential development are most polarizing: some say “too weak” and others say “too strong.”*



## Rating of Sherborn as a Place to Live

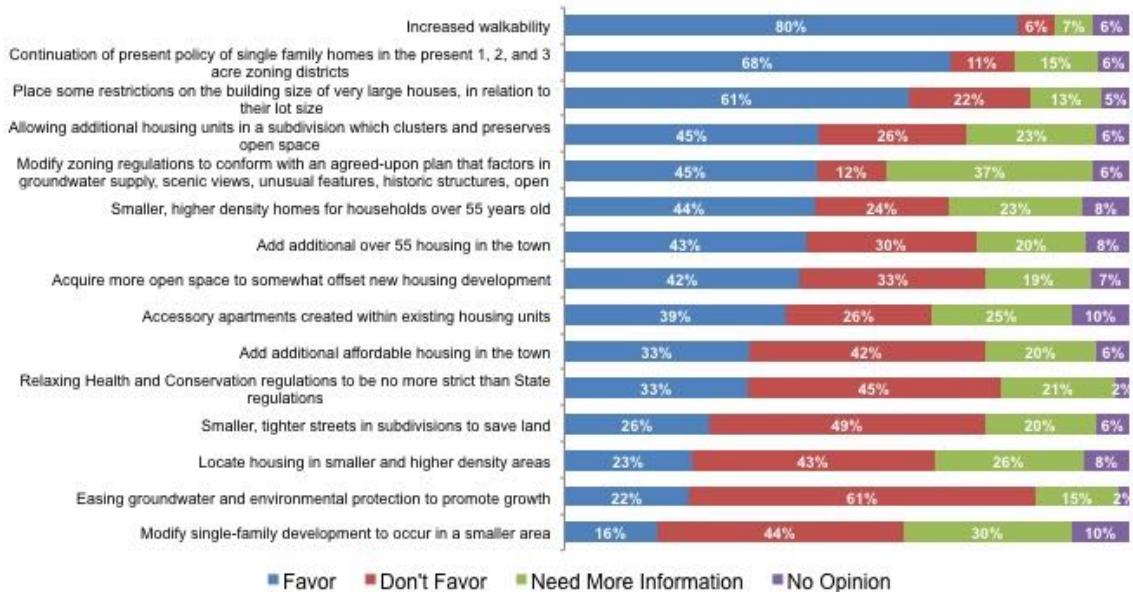
- 55% of residents rate Sherborn "Excellent" as a place to live and only 5% rate it "Fair" or "Poor." This sentiment is largely unchanged from 1998.



## Future Policies 2014

- There is strong support to continue the present policy of single family home zoning but to place restrictions on house size relative to the lot
- Sherborn wants to protect groundwater and the environment. Water is State and Federally controlled and can not be eased by Sherborn. There is some interest in looking at Health and Conservation regulations
- Residents are of mixed mind in terms of clustered housing strategies.

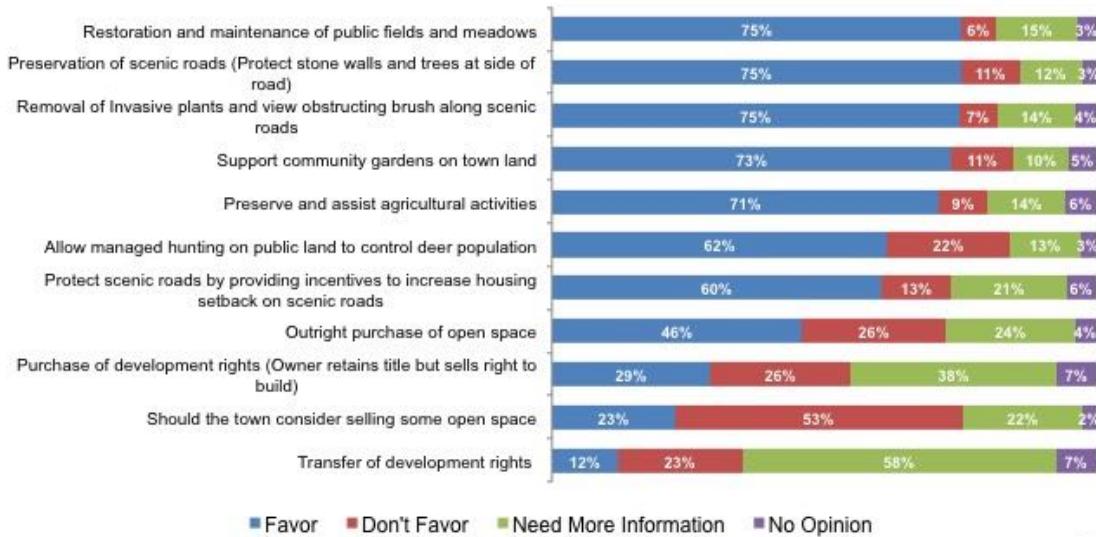
### Residential Growth



# Future Policies 2014

- *There is strong support for almost all initiatives that support Sherborn's rural character.*
- *There is also strong support for managed hunting of deer.*
- *There is opposition to the town selling open space.*
- *Some rural character initiatives require greater explanation.*

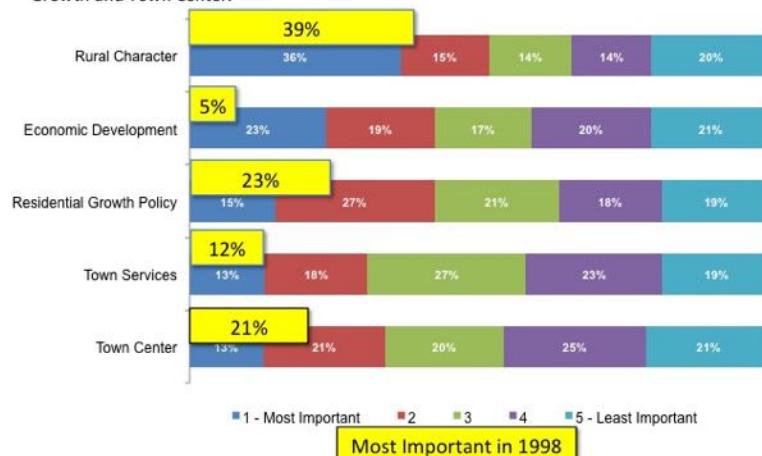
## Rural Character Initiatives



30

## Importance of 5 Main Town Goals 2014

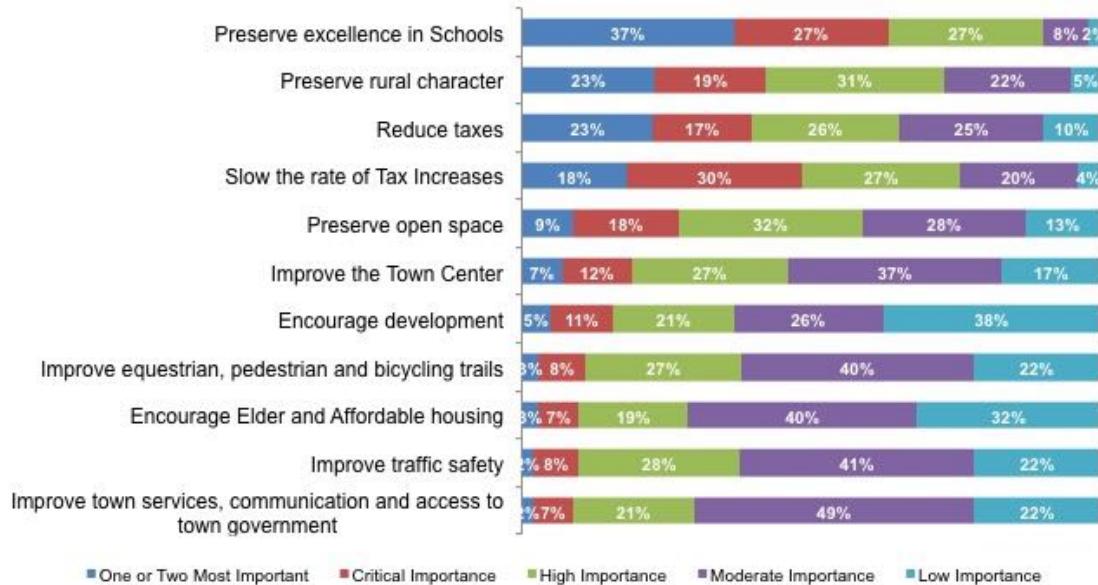
- *Rural Character continues to be the most important town goal.*
- *The importance of Economic Development has grown since 1998, at the expense of Residential Growth and Town Center.*



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## Suggestions for Future Planning 2014

- *In terms of specific future planning policies, "Preserving excellence in Schools" is rated as most important ahead of second place "Preserve rural character."*
- *Reducing taxes, or slowing the increase in taxes, is the other leading future planning goal.*



## APPENDIX B

### Plant and Animal Species of Interest in Sherborn

**Table B.1 Rare and Endangered Plant Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name	MESA Status
Adder's-tongue Fern	<i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i>	Threatened
Andrews' Bottle Gentian	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	Endangered
Dwarf Bulrush	<i>Lipocarpha micrantha</i>	Threatened
Wild Senna	<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	Endangered
Resupinate Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia resupinata</i>	Threatened
Bush's Sedge	<i>Carex bushii</i>	Endangered
Purple Milkweed	<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	Endangered
Lion's Foot	<i>Nabalus serpentarius</i>	Endangered
Long's Bulrush	<i>Scirpus longii</i>	Threatened

*Data source: Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program.*

**Table B.2 Invasive Plant Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name
Multi-flora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Common Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Garden loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Yellow iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus L.</i>
Winged euonymus	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>
Autumn olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Goutweed	<i>Aegopodium L.</i>
Swallow-wort	<i>Cynanchum louiseae &amp; rosicum</i>

*Data source: Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program.*

**Table B.3 Rare and Endangered Animal Species.**

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	MESA Status
<b>Amphibian</b>	Blue-spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	Special Concern
<b>Amphibian</b>	Jefferson Salamander	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Special Concern
<b>Beetle</b>	Eastern Red-bellied Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela rufiventris hentzii</i>	Threatened
<b>Beetle</b>	Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela duodecimguttata</i>	Special Concern
<b>Beetle</b>	Cow Path Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela purpurea</i>	Special Concern
<b>Butterfly/Moth</b>	Barrens Metarranthis	<i>Metarranthis apiciaria</i>	Endangered
<b>Mussel</b>	Brook Floater	<i>Alasmidonta varicosa</i>	Endangered
<b>Reptile</b>	Wood Turtle	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Special Concern
<b>Reptile</b>	Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Threatened
<b>Reptile</b>	Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Special Concern

*Data Source: Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program*

[www.mass.gov/service-details/rare-species-by-town-viewer](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/rare-species-by-town-viewer)

## APPENDIX C

### Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

*For a discussion and summary of this inventory, see Section 5.*

#### Abbreviations used in the Tables:

##### Parcel ID

# 0 #: Assessor's map number - 0 - parcel number

##### Zone

All Sherborn lands of conservation and recreation interest are located in Residential Zoning districts.

- Zone **A** - 1 acre minimum
- Zone **B** - 2 acre minimum
- Zone **C** - 3 acre minimum

##### Property owner/ manager

Municipal: Owner: Town of Sherborn.

Manager:

<b>SB:</b>	Select Board (Board of Selectmen)
<b>ConCom:</b>	Conservation Commission
<b>TFC:</b>	Town Forest Committee
<b>RecCom:</b>	Recreation Commission
<b>CemCom:</b>	Cemetery Commission
<b>CM&amp;D</b>	Community Maintenance & Development

State and Federal:

<b>MA DOC:</b>	Mass. Department of Corrections
<b>MWRA:</b>	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
<b>ACE:</b>	US Army Corps of Engineers

Nonprofit organization:

<b>SRLF:</b>	Sherborn Rural Land Foundation
<b>TTOR:</b>	The Trustees of Reservations
<b>MA Aud:</b>	Mass. Audubon Society
<b>UCCT:</b>	Upper Charles Conservation Trust
<b>NEFF</b>	New England Forestry Foundation

##### Current Use

<b>Cons:</b>	Conservation only
<b>Cons/Trails:</b>	Conservation & Trails
<b>Cem</b>	Cemetery
<b>Farm</b>	Agriculture
Other recreational uses are specified (i.e. sports fields, beach, playground, etc.)	

##### Recreation Potential

The "recreation potential" of lands currently used for recreation is the same as "current use". However, an open space property that is not publically accessible or used for recreation at present may have future recreation potential, as indicated.

Level of protection

Strong: (robust, durable legal protection)

Permanent, deed-recorded restrictions or easements

Municipal lands protected under MA Chapter 97

Non-profit organization lands with permanent restriction

Wetlands and waterways governed by wetland regulations

Medium: (no permanent protection, but unlikely to be developed)

Mass. Audubon Sanctuary lands

Municipal improved lands (playgrounds, athletic fields, cemeteries, school grounds)

Army Corps of Engineers flood control land

Sherborn Rural Land Foundation Lands

Weak: (protected by current use, but could be sold or repurposed)

State lands (MDC, DOC)

Certain unimproved municipal lands

Chapter 61, 61A and 61B lands

***Note that the following required categories apply to very few parcels. They are noted in the Tables:***

Grants received

The town-owned Barber Reservation on Western Avenue (Map 2, 132 and 132A) is the only public conservation land in Sherborn that was purchased with a state grant (Self-Help Grant, now Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity or LAND). These parcels are indicated in **bold**, with \*asterix and footnote.

ADA accessibility

ADA-accessible properties are indicated by "ADA" in the "Public Access" column.

**I. MUNICIPAL LANDS****Owner: Town of Sherborn****Open (vacant) Lands**

Parcel ID map 0 parcel	Zone	Manager:	Location	Acres	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Level of Protection
1 0 2	B	TFC	WESTERN AV	9.20	Cons/Trails	fair	no	trails	strong
2 0 11	B	TFC	STEVENS LN	2.00	Cons	good	yes	trails	strong
2 0 12	B	TFC	HARRINGTON RIDGE RD	2.00	Cons	good	yes	trails	strong
2 0 92	B	SRLF/UCCT	WESTERN AVE (Wilson)	41.50	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	medium
2 0 13	B	SB	HARRINGTON RIDGE RD	2.19	Cons	good	yes	trails	medium
2 0 80	B	SB	HARRINGTON RIDGE RD	3.01	Cons	good	yes	trails	medium
5 0 9	B	SB	SPEEN ST	1.30	vacant	poor	yes	none	weak
6 0 20	B	TFC	HUNTING LN	22.50	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
6 0 70	B	SB	HARRINGTON RIDGE RD	2.44	vacant	good	yes	trails	medium
6 0 71	B	SB	HARRINGTON RIDGE RD	2.02	vacant	good	yes	trails	medium
6 0 89	B	TFC	PROSPECT ST	107.00	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
7 0 95A	B	SB	WASHINGTON ST	0.42	vacant	poor	yes	none	weak
8 0 100	B	SB	PARKS DR	10.47	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
8 0 12	C	TFC	WOODLAND ST	1.40	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
8 0 2	C	SB	WOODLAND ST	5.00	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
8 0 97	C	SB	MILL ST	0.81	Cons	good	yes	trails	medium
12 0 164	C	SB	WOODLAND ST	1.02	vacant	good	yes	trails	medium
12 0 193	C	TFC	FARM RD	96.30	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	strong
12 0 194	C	TFC	FOREST ST	153.00	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
12 0 69	A	TFC	WOODLAND ST	1.10	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
13 0 41	C	SB	SPARHAWK RD	3.00	Cons	good	yes	trails	medium
<b>TOTAL Select Board and Town Forest lands</b>				<b>467.68</b>					

Parcel ID	Zone	Manager	Location	Acres	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Level of Protection
1 0 8	B	ConCom	WESTERN AV	45.54	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
2 0 121	B	ConCom	WHITNEY ST	3.10	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
2 0 128	B	ConCom	WHITNEY ST	30.00	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
2 0 128A	B	ConCom	WHITNEY ST	26.00	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
<b>2 0 132</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>ConCom *</b>	WESTERN AV	18.00	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
<b>2 0 132A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>ConCom *</b>	WESTERN AV	106.70	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
2 0 138A	B	ConCom	WHITNEY ST	9.17	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
2 0 92	B	ConCom	WESTERN AV	41.50	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
2 0 129	B	ConCom	WHITNEY ST	6.00	Cons/Trails	fair	yes	trails	strong
3 0 23	B	ConCom	WESTERN AV	60.00	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
3 0 23A	B	ConCom	WHITNEY ST	5.75	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
3 0 82C	B	ConCom	WASHINGTON ST	6.33	Cons/Trails		yes	trails	strong
5 0 56	A	ConCom	COOLIDGE ST	13.56	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
5 0 56A	A	ConCom	COOLIDGE ST	6.43	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
5 0 56B	A	ConCom	COOLIDGE ST	2.15	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
5 0 56C	A	ConCom	COOLIDGE ST	2.38	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
5 0 56F	A	ConCom	ROCKWOOD ST	4.94	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
5 0 56G	A	ConCom	ROCKWOOD ST	4.66	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong

Town of Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan

5 0 57	A	ConCom	COOLIDGE ST	4.20	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
5 0 81	A	ConCom	PROSPECT ST	17.71	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
6 0 65	B	ConCom	MCGREGOR DR	12.70	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
6 0 72A	B	ConCom	MAPLE ST	23.01	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
6 0 82	B	ConCom	BRUSH HILL RD	37.54	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
6 0 83	B	ConCom	BRUSH HILL RD	35.41	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
7 0 171	B	ConCom	RUSSETT HILL RD	5.10	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
7 0 181	B	ConCom	DEERFIELD RD	8.56	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
7 0 21A	B	ConCom	OLD ORCHARD RD	2.12	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
7 0 28	B	ConCom	OLD ORCHARD RD	2.06	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
7 0 33	B	ConCom	OLD ORCHARD RD	20.09	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
7 0 33A	B	ConCom	OLD ORCHARD RD	29.46	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
7 0 36	B	ConCom	OLD ORCHARD RD	2.50	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
7 0 37	B	ConCom	WASHINGTON ST	6.60	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
7 0 61	B	ConCom	GREENWOOD ST	3.20	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
7 0 88B	B	ConCom	WASHINGTON ST	3.94	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
7 0 89B	B	ConCom	THOROUGHBRED DR	7.60	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
8 0 36	C	ConCom	WOODLAND ST	14.00	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
8 0 37	C	ConCom	WOODLAND ST	3.00	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
8 0 52	C	ConCom	HOLLIS ST	5.05	Cons	good	yes	trails	strong
8 0 58	C	ConCom	MILL ST	32.00	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
8 0 80	C	ConCom	MILL ST	13.60	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
9 0 12	C	ConCom	SPYWOOD RD	3.76	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
9 0 7	C	ConCom	SPYWOOD RD	19.10	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
11 0 60B	C	ConCom	FARM RD	6.9	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
11 0 102	A	ConCom	PECKHAM HILL RD	1.0	vacant	poor	yes	trails	strong
11 0 107	A	ConCom	PECKHAM HILL RD	6.9	vacant	poor	yes	trails	strong
12 0 112	A	ConCom	SOUTH MAIN ST	1.0	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
12 0 113	A	ConCom	SOUTH MAIN ST	2.0	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
12 0 117	A	ConCom	GOULDING ST, EAST	4.2	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
12 0 12	A	ConCom	GOULDING ST, WEST	9.1	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
12 0 124	A	ConCom	GOULDING ST, EAST	1.1	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
12 0 125	A	ConCom	GOULDING ST, EAST	1.6	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
12 0 24	A	ConCom	BRIDLE PATH	1.2	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
12 0 46A	A	ConCom	BRIDLE PATH	12.0	Cons	good	yes	trails	strong
12 0 191A	A	ConCom	SOUTH MAIN ST	0.7	Cons	fair	yes	trails	strong
13 0 37	C	ConCom	SPYWOOD RD	3.6	Cons	good	yes	trails	strong
13 0 39	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	3.4	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
13 0 47	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	4.1	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
13 0 47A	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	3.2	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
13 0 48	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	6.7	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
13 0 49	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	3.0	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
13 0 50	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	3.0	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
13 0 51	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	3.1	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
13 0 52	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	3.0	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
13 0 56	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	4.2	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
13 0 57A	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	7.2	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
13 0 61A	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	4.9	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
14 0 9	C	ConCom	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	3.3	wetland	good	yes	none	strong

16 0 28	C	ConCom	FARM RD	125.5	Cons/Trails Little Farm Pd	excellent	yes	trails	strong
			<b>TOTAL Conservation Commission lands</b>	<b>931.4</b>					

\* Purchased with state grant funds.

### Other Municipal Lands

Parcel ID	Zone	Manager:	Location	Acres	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Level of Protection
1 0 32A	B	SB	WHITNEY ST	2.26	Trail	fair	no* ADA	trails	strong
2 0 98A	B	CemCom	MAPLE ST	1.00	Cemetery	good	yes	none	medium
5 0 88	A	CemCom	PERRY ST	0.47	Cemetery	fair	yes	none	medium
10 0 1A	A	RecCom	NORTH MAIN ST	15.00	Sports Fields	fair	yes ADA	Sports Fields	strong
10 0 2	A	RecCom	NORTH MAIN ST	6.00	Sports Fields	fair	yes ADA	Sports Fields	strong
10 0 3	A	RecCom	NORTH MAIN ST	26.01	Sports Fields	fair	yes ADA	Sports Fields	strong
10 0 69A	A	CemCom	NORTH MAIN ST	0.50	Cemetery	good	yes	none	medium
11 0 127A	C	CemCom	FARM RD	0.25	Cemetery	good	yes	none	medium
11 0 168	A	ConCom	NORTH MAIN ST	0.30	Cemetery	good	yes	none	medium
11 0 170	A	SB	SANGER ST	4.91	Town Admin. Campus	good	yes ADA	community events	medium
11 0 171	A	SB	SANGER ST	0.12	Community Center	good	yes	community events	medium
11 0 172	A	ConCom	CEMETERY LN	4.50	Playground	excellent	yes ADA	playground	medium
11 0 174	A	SB	PINE HILL LN	10.70	Elementary school	excellent	yes ADA	playground, trails	medium
11 0 174A	A	CemCom	CEMETERY LN	167.00	Cemetery	fair	Yes ADA	walking paths	medium
12 0 190	A	CemCom	SOUTH MAIN ST	1.08	Cemetery	good	yes	none	medium
12 0 191	A	CemCom	SOUTH MAIN ST	0.39	Cons	fair	yes	none	strong
12 0 192	C	SB	LAKE ST	11.74	Beach	good	yes ADA	water rec., beach	strong
13 0 1B	A	CemCom	SOUTH MAIN ST	0.58	Cemetery	good	yes	none	medium
16 0 29	C	CemCom	FARM RD	0.50	Cemetery	good	yes	none	medium
			<b>TOTAL other municipal lands</b>	<b>251.05</b>					

\*Public access and ADA access will be available once improvements are completed.

## **II. STATE & FEDERAL LANDS**

Parcel ID	Zone	Owner	Location	Acres	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Level of Protection
1 0 33	B	MA DOC	PROSPECT ST	22.34	prison grounds	poor	no	none	weak
3 0 23B	B	ACE	WHITNEY ST	6.63	flood control	good	yes	none	strong
3 0 36	B	ACE	BROOK ST	10.46	flood control	good	no	none	strong
5 0 10	A	MDC	COOLIDGE ST	2.10	aqueduct	good	yes	regional trail	weak
5 0 10A	A	MDC	COOLIDGE ST	32.20	aqueduct	good	yes	regional trail	weak
5 0 85	B	MA DOC	PROSPECT ST	7.90	vacant	poor	no	none	weak
7 0 75A	B	ACE	RUSSET HILL RD	1.62	flood control	good	no	none	strong
7 0 77A	B	ACE	RUSSET HILL RD	0.31	flood control	good	no	none	strong
7 0 79A	B	ACE	RUSSET HILL RD	0.50	flood control	good	no	none	strong
7 0 80A	B	ACE	RUSSET HILL RD	0.54	flood control	good	no	none	strong
7 0 88A	B	ACE	WASHINGTON ST	12.83	flood control	good	no	none	strong
7 0 89	B	ACE	THOROUGHBRED DR	3.74	flood control	good	no	none	strong
7 0 89A	B	ACE	THOROUGHBRED DR	7.00	flood control	good	no	none	strong
7 0 170A	B	ACE	DEERFIELD DR	0.30	flood control	good	no	none	strong
7 0 180A	B	ACE	DEERFIELD DR	0.41	flood control	good	no	none	strong
7 0 182	B	ACE	GOULDING ST WEST	13.66	flood control	good	no	none	strong
7 0 183	B	ACE	DEERFIELD DR	11.28	flood control	good	no	none	strong
7 0 184	B	ACE	IVY LN	4.67	flood control	good	no	none	strong
10 0 58A	C	ACE	ELIOT ST	2.70	flood control	good	no	none	strong
12 0 48	C	ACE	GOULDING ST WEST	6.50	flood control	good	yes	none	strong
13 0 43A	C	ACE	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	1.47	flood control	good	yes	none	strong
13 0 50A	C	ACE	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	1.43	flood control	good	no	none	strong
13 0 51A	C	ACE	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	1.45	flood control	good	no	none	strong
13 0 52A	C	ACE	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	1.13	flood control	good	no	none	strong
14 0 3A	C	ACE	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	0.48	flood control	good	no	none	strong
14 0 6	C	ACE	BULLARD ST	3.07	flood control	good	no	none	strong
<b>TOTAL state &amp; federal lands</b>				<b>177.52</b>					

### III. NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Parcel ID	Zone	Owner/Manager	Location	Acres	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Level of Protection
1 0 3A	B	SRLF/UCCT	WESTERN AVE	55.37	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	medium
1 0 3B	B	SRLF/UCCT	WESTERN AVE	18.05	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	medium
1 0 13C	B	SRLF	BRUSH HILL RD	10.34	Cons	good	yes	trails	medium
2 0 156	B	SRLF/UCCT	WESTERN AVE	24.54	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	medium
3 0 8	B	SRLF	PLEASANT ST	50.91	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	medium
3 0 24	B	SRLF/RecCom	WESTERN AV	27.00	Sports Fields	good	yes ADA	Sports Fields	medium
4 0 1	B	SRLF	WESTERN	16.78	Farm	excellent	yes	Farm events	medium
5 0 70	A	SRLF	PROSPECT ST	4.00	Cons	fair	yes	trails	medium
6 0 39A	B	SRLF	GREEN LN	2.67	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	medium
6 0 39B	B	SRLF	GREEN LN	19.75	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	medium
7 0 75	B	SRLF	RUSSET HILL RD	3.56	wetland	good	yes	none	medium
8 0 17C	C	SRLF/UCCT	WOODLAND ST	4.08	wetland/farm	good	yes	trails	medium
8 0 26	C	SRLF/UCCT	WOODLAND ST	5.80	wetland/farm	good	yes	trails	medium
8 0 29	C	SRLF/UCCT	WOODLAND ST	35.13	wetland	good	yes	none	medium
8 0 31	C	SRLF	WOODLAND ST	9.30	wetland	good	yes	none	medium
8 0 42	C	SRLF	ASH LN	4.86	wetland	good	yes	none	medium
8 0 48	C	SRLF	ASH LN	6.19	wetland	good	yes	none	medium
10 0 58C	C	MA Aud	ELIOT ST	9.73	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	medium
10 0 58D	C	MA Aud	ELIOT ST	0.56	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	medium
11 0 103	A	SRLF	PECKHAM HILL RD	1.00	Cons	good	yes	trails	medium
11 0 103A	A	SRLF	PECKHAM HILL RD	0.45	Cons	good	yes	trails	medium
11 0 148	A	SRLF	IVY LN	1.17	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	medium
11 0 149	A	SRLF	IVY LN	1.00	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	medium
11 0 64D	C	MA Aud	LAKE ST	5.64	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	medium
12 0 56C	A	SRLF	SOUTH MAIN ST	1.13	Cons	fair	yes	trails	medium
12 0 163	A	TTOR	SOUTH MAIN ST	18.25	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
12 0 163A	A	TTOR	SOUTH MAIN ST	6.0	Cons/Trails	good	yes	trails	strong
12 0 195	A	TTOR	FOREST ST	4.61	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
13 0 1D	A	TTOR	SOUTH MAIN ST	9.20	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
13 0 5	A	TTOR	SOUTH MAIN ST	33.66	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
13 0 4B	A	TTOR	SOUTH MAIN ST	6.87	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
13 0 21B	C	SRLF	NASON HILL RD	82.91	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	medium
15 0 11	C	MA Aud	SOUTH ST	273.63	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	medium
15 0 12	C	MA Aud	SOUTH ST	3.40	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	medium
15 0 13A	C	MA Aud	SOUTH ST	0.66	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	medium
15 0 14	C	MA Aud	SOUTH ST	0.63	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	medium
16 0 17	C	TTOR	FARM RD	6.00	hayfield	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 17A	C	TTOR	FARM RD	7.98	hayfield	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 18A	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	2.46	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 19A	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	6.85	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 20A	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	59.68	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 20D	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	1.24	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 24	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	36.00	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong

16 0 25A	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	2.60	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 25B	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	1.50	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 25C	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	12.00	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
17 0 1	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	24.20	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
17 0 2	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	14.20	wetland	good	yes	none	strong
<b>TOTAL Nonprofit organization lands</b>				<b>933.54</b>					

#### **IV. PRIVATE LANDS, Conservation easements or restrictions**

Parcel ID	Zone	Holder of Easement	Location	Acres	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Level of Protection
3 0 9	B	SRLF *APR	PLEASANT ST	51.27	Farm	excellent	no	sports fields, trails	strong
4 0 14A	B	NEFF	HOLLIS ST	20.76	Forestry	good	no	trails	strong
8 0 17	C	SRLF	WOODLAND ST	-	Trail only**	good	yes	trails	strong
8 0 17A	C	SRLF	WOODLAND ST	-	Trail only**	good	yes	trails	strong
9 0 42	C	SRLF	HOLLIS ST	0.89	Cons	excellent	no	trails	strong
9 0 42A	C	SRLF	HOLLIS ST	3.53	Cons	excellent	no	trails	strong
9 0 42B	C	SRLF	HOLLIS ST	16.42	Cons	excellent	no	trails	strong
9 0 42C	C	SRLF	HOLLIS ST	3.01	Cons	excellent	no	trails	strong
9 0 43	C	SRLF	HOLLIS ST	3.04	Cons	excellent	no	trails	strong
11 0 69A	C	TOWN	LAKE ST	6.52	Cons	excellent	no	trails	strong
13 0 19	C	TTOR	NASON HILL RD	100.00	Cons/Trails	excellent	no	trails	strong
13 0 69	A	TTOR	SOUTH MAIN ST	24.00	Cons	excellent	no	trails	strong
14 0 67	C	ConCom	LAKE ST	12.90	Cons	good	no	trails	strong
15 0 10A	C	MA Aud	SOUTH ST	17.52	Cons	excellent	no	trails	strong
15 0 8	C	TTOR	FARM RD	80.00	Farm	excellent	no	trails	strong
15 0 8A	C	MA Aud	FARM ROAD	30.14	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 17A	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	7.98	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 18A	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	9.32	Cons	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 19A									
16 0 20	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	12.00	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
16 0 20B	C	TTOR	FOREST ST	2.11	Cons/Trails	excellent	yes	trails	strong
<b>TOTAL private lands with easements</b>				<b>350.14</b>					
		* Agricultural Preservation Restriction			** Not DCR- registered				

## **V. PRIVATE LANDS, MA Chapter 61 Program**

### **Chapter 61, Forestry use.**

*All Ch. 61 Forestry Lands:*

*Kept in good to excellent condition by required Ch. 61 forestry management plans.*

*Not publically accessible.*

*Have future recreation potential for trails.*

Parcel ID	Location	Acres
4 0 16	HOLLIS ST	14.95
13 0 67A	BULLARD ST	12.80
6 0 29	HUNTING LN	23.10
10 0 80	EVERETT ST	66.43
12 0 119A	GOULDING ST, EAST	3.77
12 0 119	GOULDING ST, EAST	14.23
6 0 48	HUNTING LN	17.26
6 0 49	HUNTING LN	25.00
3 0 91A	WESTERN AV	5.01
15 0 2	SOUTH ST	33.33
15 0 1	SOUTH ST	3.97
6 0 50	HUNTING LN	23.50
14 0 5	BOGASTOW BROOK RD	27.84
7 0 132A	MAPLE ST	20.00
9 0 42	HOLLIS ST	3.53
9 0 42B	HOLLIS ST	3.04
9 0 42C	HOLLIS ST	0.89
9 0 43	HOLLIS ST	16.42
9 0 44B	MILL ST	0.89
9 0 44D	MILL ST	3.46
<b>TOTAL Chapter 61 Forestry</b>		<b>319.42</b>

### **Chapter 61A, Agriculture use.**

*All Ch. 61A lands:*

*Kept in good to excellent condition as productive farms or horse facilities.*

*Not publically accessible, except insofar as they are open to customers.*

*Have future recreation potential for trails, sports fields or riding fields.*

Parcel ID	Location	Acres
13 0 18	SOUTH MAIN ST	74.80
13 0 21A	BULLARD ST	51.01
13 0 20A	BULLARD ST	29.12
1 0 13	BRUSH HILL RD	12.00
1 0 13B	BRUSH HILL RD	11.29
8 0 134	NASON HILL RD	9.25
3 0 7A	PLEASANT ST	13.95

Town of Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan

5 0 1	KENDALL AV	21.96
11 0 3A	UNITY LN	15.45
3 0 9	PLEASANT ST	51.27
2 0 79	WILD MEADOW LN	9.45
3 0 80A	WESTERN AV	6.33
6 0 73	MAPLE ST	17.61
5 0 7	KENDALL AV	35.30
2 0 95	MAPLE ST	21.55
13 0 19	NASON HILL RD	107.93
10 0 16	COOLIDGE ST	8.30
15 0 8	FARM RD	168.64
16 0 16	FARM RD	35.58
16 0 21	FARM RD	3.02
15 0 15	FARM RD	3.02
7 0 91	WASHINGTON ST	15.70
1 0 23	BRUSH HILL RD	49.60
13 0 68	BULLARD ST	125.00
13 0 69	SOUTH MAIN ST	79.00
10 0 63	NORTH MAIN ST	11.24
5 0 47	COOLIDGE ST	23.47
5 0 3	KENDALL AV	48.46
9 0 42A	HOLLIS ST	3.01
5 0 78	PROSPECT ST	41.68
12 0 161A	FOREST ST	45.78
16 0 1	FOREST ST	7.38
3 0 16	WESTERN AV	5.00
5 0 63	PROSPECT ST	11.36
8 0 81B	HOLLIS ST	9.06
6 0 37	GREEN LN	33.00
3 0 88D	WASHINGTON ST	3.50
10 0 17	NORTH MAIN ST	9.00
2 0 76A	WILD MEADOW LN	1.06
2 0 79Y	WILD MEADOW LN	2.52
3 0 100	WESTERN AV	14.00
1 0 13A	BRUSH HILL RD	3.45
15 0 8A	FARM RD	30.14
15 0 9	SOUTH ST	5.00
<b>TOTAL Chapter 61 Agriculture</b>		<b>1,284</b>

**Chapter 61B, Conservation or Recreation use.***All Ch. 61B lands:**Kept in good to excellent condition as undisturbed open space and wildlife habitat.**Currently, no Ch. 61B lands in Sherborn are officially accessible to the public.**All have future recreation potential for trails.*

Parcel ID	Location	Acres
2 0 123	WHITNEY ST	14.99
9 0 27	NASON HILL RD	12.00
3 0 19	WESTERN AV	43.00
3 0 44	WESTERN AV	10.48
7 0 2	MAPLE ST	70.00
2 0 118A	WHITNEY DR	10.05
1 0 3	WESTERN AV	15.39
2 0 74	WESTERN AV	11.01
12 0 154	SNOW ST	25.39
11 0 3C	HUNTING LN	16.93
3 0 36	WESTERN AV	17.36
2 0 138	CURVE ST	6.89
13 0 20	BULLARD ST	38.96
11 0 27	NORTH MAIN ST	69.80
11 0 91A	GREAT ROCK RD	12.60
10 0 5	ROCKWOOD ST	85.00
4 0 14A	HOLLIS ST	17.83
3 0 16A	WESTERN AV	2.93
3 0 18	WESTERN AV	6.00
6 0 66	WILLOWOOD DR	20.00
11 0 3B	HUNTING LN	8.00
4 0 14C	HOLLIS ST	2.01
8 0 3	WOODLAND ST	6.00
5 0 71A	PROSPECT ST	1.93
5 0 79	PROSPECT ST	36.14
2 0 74A	STEVENS LN	4.02
2 0 74B	HARRINGTON RIDGE RD	4.49
<b>TOTAL Chapter 61B Conservation</b>		<b>569.20</b>

## **Appendix D**

### **Handicapped Accessibility Self-Evaluation**

#### **Part I: Administrative Requirements**

The ADA Self Access Evaluation should be “a detailed assessment of the recreation department 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”). This revised Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan provides the complete evaluation requested.

The requirements of the ADA are administered in Massachusetts by the Architectural Access Board (“AAB”), as set forth in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (521 CMR 19:00). 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. Sherborn's goal is ensure accessibility of all facilities where access is desired, and where it is feasible.

#### **1. ADA Coordinator**

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

David Williams  
19 Washington Street  
Sherborn, MA 01770  
508-651-7850  
[dwilliams@sherbornma.org](mailto:dwilliams@sherbornma.org)

The following 2 pages include (1) a letter signed by Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Charles Yon, officially confirming that the Town Administrator has been designated as the ADA Coordinator, and (2) a letter from Mr. Williams confirming that employment practices are consistent with ADA requirements.



**TOWN OF SHERBORN**  
19 Washington Street  
Sherborn, MA 01770  
508-651-7850

Charles Yon, *Chairman*  
Michael Giaimo, *Vice Chairman*  
George Morrill, *Clerk*  
Paul R. DeRensis  
Eric Johnson

June 7, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Cryan,

Please be advised that Town Administrator David Williams has been designated as the ADA Coordinator for the Town of Sherborn.

Please contact me if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Charles Yon  
Chair



**TOWN OF SHERBORN**  
19 Washington Street  
Sherborn, MA 01770  
508-651-7850

Charles Yon, *Chairman*  
Michael Giaimo, *Vice Chairman*  
George Morrill, *Clerk*  
Paul R. DeRensis  
Eric Johnson

June 7, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Town of Sherborn complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and applicable state law providing for nondiscrimination in employment against qualified individuals with disabilities. The Town also provides reasonable accommodation for such individuals in accordance with disability laws. Qualified individuals with disabilities may make requests for reasonable accommodation to the Town Administrator.

Please contact me if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

David Williams  
Town Administrator

## 2. Public Notification and Grievance Procedure

The following ADA Compliance Policy is in place for the public to follow in the event that a complaint must be made in connection with accessibility of conservation or recreation facilities:

### **EQUAL ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES**

Maximum opportunity will be made available to receive citizen comments, complaints, and/or to resolve grievances or inquiries.

STEP 1: The Town Administrator will be available to meet with citizens and employees during business hours. When a complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification is received either in writing or through a meeting or telephone call, every effort will be made to create a record regarding the name, address, and telephone number of the person making the complaint, grievance, program policy interpretation or clarification. If the person desires to remain anonymous, he or she may. A complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification will be responded to within ten working days (if the person making the complaint is identified) in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient, (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc). Copies of the complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification and response will be forwarded to the appropriate town agency (i.e. Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission). If the grievance is not resolved at this level it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 2: A written grievance will be submitted to the Town Administrator. Assistance will be available to all individuals to write the grievance. All written grievances will be responded to within ten working days by the Town Administrator in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient, (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc.). If the grievance is not resolved at this level it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 3: If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, citizens will be informed of the opportunity to meet and speak with the Select Board, which is the local authority for final grievance resolution. Public Notification Notices in large print are posted in Town Hall indicating that the Town of Sherborn does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Town's standard employment application includes a non-discrimination statement (see below) and is posted on the Town's web site.

## 3. Non-discrimination in Employment.

The following ADA Compliance Policy is from the Personnel Administration bylaw as updated through the 2017 Annual Town Meeting. It is posted on the Town web site as well as Town Hall.

### **ADA COMPLIANCE POLICY**

The Town complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and applicable state law providing for nondiscrimination in Employment against qualified individuals with disabilities. The Town also provides reasonable accommodation for such individuals in accordance with disability laws. Qualified individuals with disabilities may make requests for reasonable accommodation to the Town Administrator.

- a. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy: The Town provides equal employment opportunities to all Employees and applicants for Employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, status as a veteran or as a member of the military or status in any group protected by applicable federal or state laws. This policy

applies to all terms and conditions of Employment, including hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training.

The Town expects that all Employees will treat one another with respect and cooperation. The Town expressly prohibits any form of unlawful Employee discrimination or harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, status as a veteran or a member of the military, or status in any group protected by applicable federal or state law. The purpose of this equal employment opportunity policy is not to regulate Employees' personal morality but rather to ensure that interference with the ability of a Town Employee to perform his or her expected job duties is not tolerated and may be cause for termination by the Appointing.

b. Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint Procedure: Supervisors and Department Heads are responsible for creating an atmosphere free of discrimination and harassment, and Employees are responsible for respecting the rights of their coworkers.

If an Employee experiences any job-related discrimination or harassment based on his or her race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, veteran or military status, or status in any group protected by applicable law, or believes that he/she has been treated in an unlawful, discriminatory manner, the Employee should report the incident in writing to the Town Administrator.

#### **4. Participation of Individuals with Disabilities or Organizations Representing the Disabled Community**

Achieved through the assistance of the Town's Disability Advisory Committee and the Town's ADA Coordinator.

## Part II: Program Accessibility

Sherborn's open space and recreational facilities are described in Section 5. These include: an extensive and decentralized trail system; Farm Pond for both general swimming and beach enjoyment as well as organized team swimming; three field facilities for organized team sports; a set of tennis courts; and the Ward Park playground.

The Open Space Committee has analyzed the accessibility of each facility in collaboration with the Recreation Committee and the Sherborn Disability Advisory Committee. ADA compliance varies considerably among the facilities, as does the difficulty and complexity of improving accessibility and ADA compliance.

### Facilities Analyzed

- Conservation lands & trails
- Farm Pond recreation area
- Ward J Parks recreation area (Ward Park) playground
- Laurel Farm fields
- Fessenden fields
- Town Center tennis courts
- Jameson baseball complex

**Facilities inventory on following pages.**

## Conservation Lands and Trails



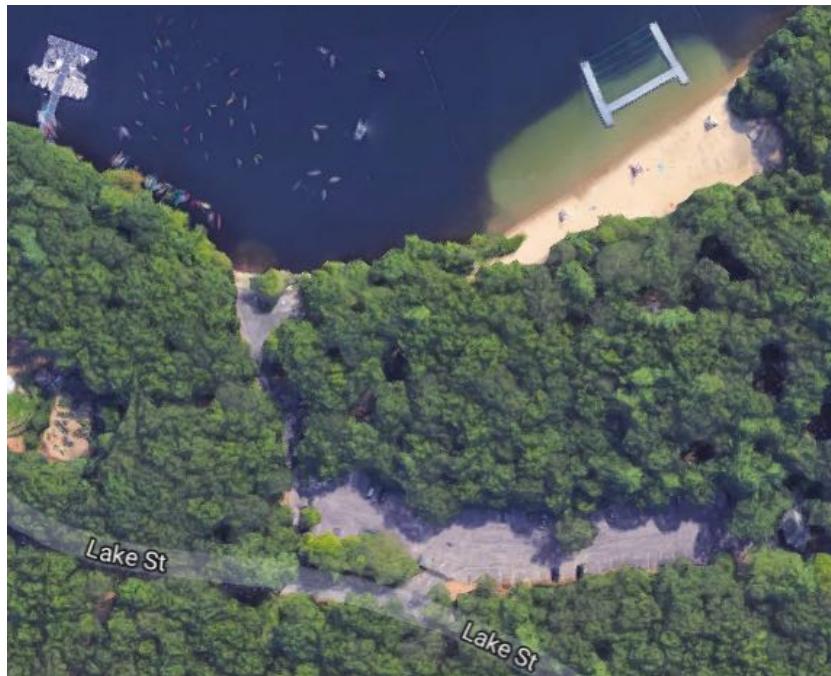
Sherborn is a rural town in which unimproved open space provides many outdoor recreational opportunities including hiking, trail biking, horseback riding, and simply meandering through the forest. This "recreational facility" consists of trails through the Town Forest, various Conservation Commission lands, and other protected open spaces (see Map, Section 5). The trails run through woods, over streams, and around fields, and their surfaces are frequently hilly, rocky, wet and uneven. None of Sherborn's trails are handicapped accessible today, and it is unlikely that they could be made accessible without prohibitive cost and conservation impact.

Town-owned trailheads are generally unimproved, with no parking lots, restrooms, or picnic areas for any users. One exception is the Barber Reservation which has a parking area at the entrance on Western Avenue (photo above). This is unpaved, with unmarked space for up to 10 cars, and no space designated or designed for handicapped accessibility (see table below). In the future, certain Barber Reservation trails could possibly be improved for limited access by handicapped individuals, and addition of accessible parking would be part of such a plan.

Barber Reservation Parking	# places
Total Spaces	~10
Required Accessible Spaces	1
Existing Accessible Spaces	0
Required Van Spaces	1
Existing Van Spaces	0

The best future opportunity for accessibility is the Upper Charles Rail Trail, which promises to be an ideal facility for handicapped use. This Trail already extends across several towns and someday will be longer; its level, crushed stone surface was recently completed through Holliston, where it is fully accessible up to the Sherborn border. There is not yet access to this Trail in Sherborn, but an unimproved segment of the former rail bed extends into Sherborn; it is under the jurisdiction of the Select Board, and the town owns a parking and access easement. Plans are now underway to continue the crushed stone surface to Whitney Street in Sherborn, and create accessible parking and handicapped access to the Trail. While this work is of high priority, it will require additional planning, engineering, and financing, and may take two or three years to complete.

## Farm Pond



Farm Pond is under the jurisdiction of the Select Board. There is a beach, boat dock, and vehicle access to the water's edge with a level path to the beach. A bathhouse adjacent to the main parking lot has indoor toilets and running water. Major improvements in accessibility have been implemented since the 2007 OSRP. Farm Pond now offers several accessible parking spaces, accessible toilets, handicapped access to the beach, and a beach-adapted wheel chair. In addition, new docks authorized at Sherborn's 2018 Town Meeting will for the first time be handicapped accessible. One more designated parking space is needed, which only requires repainting parking lines and appropriate signage. Work should be implemented during 2018.

Parking	# places		
Total Spaces	58		
Required Accessible Spaces	3		
Existing Accessible Spaces	2		
Required Van Spaces	1		
Existing Van Spaces	1		
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200' of accessible entrance, drop-off area provided within 100 ft			na
Minimum width of Van space 13' includes 8' space plus 5' access aisle	X		
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every 8 accessible spaces	X		
<i>Alternative: Every accessible space is 11' with 5' aisle</i>			na

Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	x		
Sign height: minimum 5' maximum 8'	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed with no cracks	x		
Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)	x		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			na
Curbcut is minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			na

Site Access	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	x		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	x		
No ponding of water	x		

Path of Travel	Yes	No	Notes
Path does not require the use of stairs	x		
Path is stable, firm, and slip resistant	x		
3' minimum width	x		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch 1:50 (2%)	x		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	x		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detectable by a person with a visual disability using a cane	x		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	x		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			na

Portable Toilets	Yes	No	Notes
5%, not less than one, are accessible			Permanent toilets are accessible
Marked by International Symbol of Accessibility	x		

## Appendix D: Handicapped Accessibility Self-Evaluation

Restrooms	Yes	No	Notes
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	x		
<b>At least one Sink:</b>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a	x		

forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	x		
Extends at least 22" from the wall	x		
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high	x		
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	x		
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)	x		
<b>At least one Stall:</b>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	x		
Stall door is 36" wide	x		
Stall door swings out	x		
Stall door is self closing	x		
Stall door has a pull latch	x		
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor	x		
Coat hook is 54" high	x		
<b>Toilet</b>			
18" from center to nearest side wall	x		
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	x		
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	x		
<b>Grab Bars</b>			
On back and side wall closest to toilet	x		
1 1/4" diameter	x		
1 1/2" clearance to wall	x		
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	x		
Acid-etched or roughened surface	x		
42" long	x		
<b>Fixtures</b>			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor	x		
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")	x		
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor	x		

## Ward Park Playground



Ward Park is under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission, but is largely managed by the Recreation Commission. The playground is the major feature of a small recreation area that also includes a skateboard structure, basketball hoop and picnic area. The playground was recently rebuilt and is fully compliant.

Parking	# places		
Total Spaces	40		
Required Accessible Spaces	2		
Existing Accessible Spaces	2		
Required Van Spaces	1		
Existing Van Spaces	1		
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance	x		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200' of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft			n/a
Minimum width of Van space 13' includes 8' space plus 5' access aisle	x		
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every 8 accessible spaces	x		
<i>Alternative: Every accessible space is 11' with 5' aisle</i>			n/a
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	x		
Sign height: minimum 5' maximum 8'	x		

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed with no cracks	x		
Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)	x		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	x		
Curbcut is minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	x		

<b>Site Access</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	x		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	x		
No ponding of water	x		

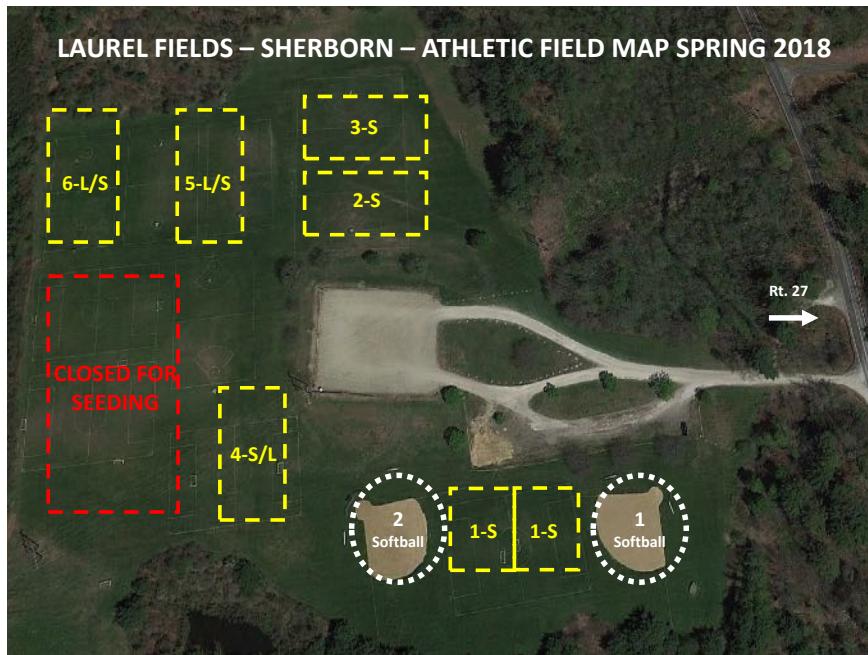
<b>Path of Travel</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Path does not require the use of stairs	x		
Path is stable, firm, and slip resistant	x		
3' minimum width	x		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch 1:50 (2%)	x		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	x		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detectable by a person with a visual disability using a cane	x		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	x		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	x		

<b>Portable Toilets</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
5%, not less than one, are accessible	x		
Marked by International Symbol of Accessibility		x	

<b>Picnicking</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>

A minimum of 5% of the 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.	x		
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.	x		
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	x		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm, and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions.		x	Table is over grass.
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter.		x	

## Laurel Farm Fields



Laurel Farm Fields are under the jurisdiction of the Select Board and managed by the Recreation Commission. This large facility, a reclaimed gravel pit on the northeast side of town, is the site of four soccer fields, two baseball diamonds and an exercise course. The soccer fields receive heavy use by both youth and adult leagues in spring and fall. The large unpaved parking area offers handicapped parking spaces but additional handicapped parking is needed. There is no picnic area. There is an accessible portable toilet, but an additional toilet is needed. This improvement can be readily implemented and should be completed during 2018.

Parking	# places		
Total Spaces	~125		
Required Accessible Spaces	5		
Existing Accessible Spaces	2		
Required Van Spaces	1		
Existing Van Spaces	1		
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance		X	Accessible entrance at front left, accessible space at front right
Where spaces cannot be located within 200' of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft	X		

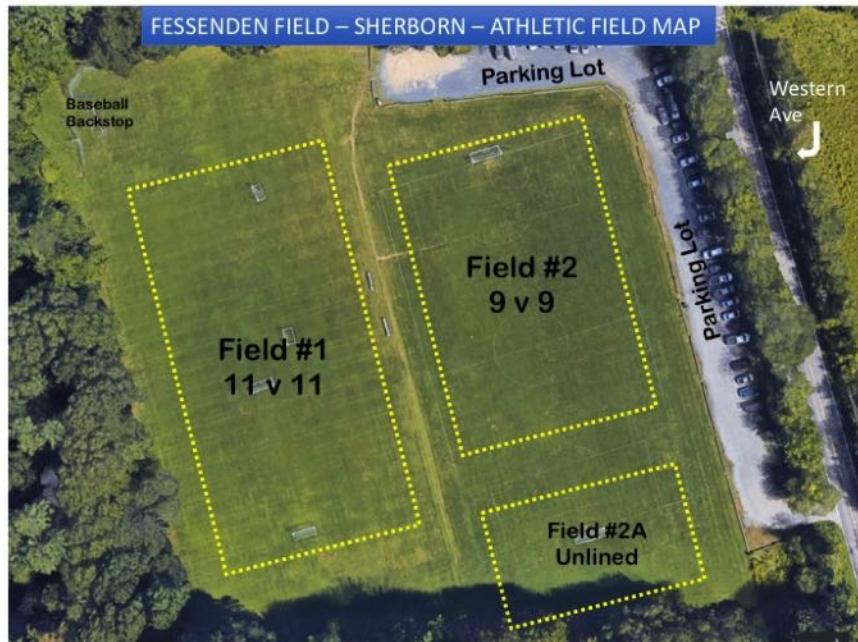
Minimum width of Van space 13' includes 8' space plus 5' access aisle	X		
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every 8 accessible spaces	X		
<i>Alternative: Every accessible space is 11' with 5' aisle</i>			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign height: minimum 5' maximum 8'	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed with no cracks	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)	X		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	No curb
Curbcut is minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	No curb

Site Access	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		

Path of Travel	Yes	No	Notes
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm, and slip resistant	X		
3' minimum width	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch 1:50 (2%)	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	X		Rock lot, close to 1/2"
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detectable by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	X		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A

<b>Portable Toilets</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
5%, not less than one, are accessible		x	
Marked by International Symbol of Accessibility		x	

## Fessenden Fields



Land on Western Avenue was recently donated to the town for two additional soccer fields and a baseball diamond, now known as Fessenden Fields. Fessenden Fields are under the jurisdiction of the Select Board and managed by the Recreation Commission. It is another of the town's major facilities for organized sports and is heavily used. There is no picnic area. There are handicapped parking spaces, but additional handicapped parking is needed. There is no accessible portable toilet. These improvements can be readily implemented and should be completed during 2018.

Parking	# places		
Total Spaces	~100		
Required Accessible Spaces	4		
Existing Accessible Spaces	1		
Required Van Spaces	1		
Existing Van Spaces	1		
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200' of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100'	X		
Minimum width of Van space 13' includes 8' space plus 5' access aisle	X		
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every 8 accessible spaces	X		

Alternative: Every accessible space is 11' with 5' aisle			N/A
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		Sign is damaged, bent
Sign height: minimum 5' maximum 8'		X	Sign is damaged, bent
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed with no cracks	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)	X		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	No curb
Curbcut is minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	No curb

Site Access	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		

Path of Travel	Yes	No	Notes
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm, and slip resistant	X		
3' minimum width	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch 1:50 (2%)	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	X		Rock lot, close to 1/2"
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detectable by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	X		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A

Portable Toilets	Yes	No	Notes
5%, not less than one, are accessible		X	
International Symbol of accessibility		X	

## Town Center tennis courts



The tennis courts are under the jurisdiction of the Select Board and managed by the Recreation Commission. These four public tennis courts are located on Cemetery Lane, across from Ward Park and adjacent to Jameson Fields. While accessible parking is offered at Ward Park, this is 200 feet away. There is no designated drop-off area, and immediate access to the courts is sloped and uneven.

The tennis courts would be difficult to make fully ADA compliant. Because the Disability Committee confirms that this facility is of low priority for access, there are no plans at this point to improve accessibility.

Parking	# places		
Total Spaces	0		
Required Accessible Spaces	1		
Existing Accessible Spaces	0		
Required Van Spaces	1		
Existing Van Spaces	0		
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance		x	Parking is shared with Ward Park 200' away.
Where spaces cannot be located within 200' of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft		x	No designated drop-off area.
Minimum width of Van space 13' includes 8' space plus 5' access aisle		x	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every 8 accessible spaces		x	
<i>Alternative: Every accessible space is 11' with 5' aisle</i>			n/a
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	x		Spaces at Ward Park are compliant.
Sign height: minimum 5' maximum 8'	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed with no cracks	x		
Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)	x		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	x		

Curbcut is minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	x		
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Site Access	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		x	Path from Ward parking to curb via the Cemetery Lane. No path from the street.
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		x	
No ponding of water	x		

Path of Travel	Yes	No	Notes
Path does not require the use of stairs		x	
Path is stable, firm, and slip resistant		x	
3' minimum width		x	
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch 1:50 (2%)	x		No discernable path. Slope along grass is unknown.
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		x	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detectable by a person with a visual disability using a cane		x	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	x		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	x		

Portable Toilets	Yes	No	Notes
5%, not less than one, are accessible		x	Portable toilets. Not ADA compliant.
Marked by International Symbol of Accessibility		x	

## Jameson Baseball Complex



Jameson baseball facilities are under the jurisdiction of the Select Board and managed by the Recreation Commission. The ball fields, located between Cemetery Lane and Pine Hill Lane, are extensively used for organized sports and also for town-wide social events and gatherings. There is no picnic area. Accessibility is difficult, and the nearest parking and accessible toilets are at Ward Park, 200 feet away.

The Disability Committee identifies improving access to these Jameson Fields as its highest priority. Needed are:

- An accessible parking space and drop off location adjacent to the fields on the north side of Cemetery Lane;
- Level and improved access from Cemetery Lane to the fields themselves; and
- An accessible toilet.

The Disability Committee and the Recreation Commission will be working with Community Maintenance and Development to implement these improvements as soon as possible.

Parking	# places		
Total Spaces	6		
Required Accessible Spaces	1		
Existing Accessible Spaces	1		
Required Van Spaces	1		
Existing Van Spaces	0		
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible Space located closest to accessible entrance. There are two 'entrances' to Jameson, on Pine Hill Lane and Cemetery Lane.		x	One existing Accessible Space is on Pine Hill Lane. Parking on Cemetery Lane

			is shared with Ward Park.
Where spaces cannot be located within 200' of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100'		x	No designated drop-off area on Cemetery Lane.
Minimum width of Van space 13' includes 8' space plus 5' access aisle		x	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every 8 accessible spaces		x	
<i>Alternative: Every accessible space is 11' with 5' aisle</i>		x	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	x		
Sign height: minimum 5' maximum 8'	x		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed with no cracks		x	Surface to Jameson 3 field is uneven. No clear path to Jameson 4 field.
Surface slope less than 1:20 (5%)	x		Surface has unknown slope
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	x		
Curbcut is minimum width of 3', excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	x		

Site Access	Yes	No	Notes
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		x	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		x	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		x	
No ponding of water	x		

Path of Travel	Yes	No	Notes
Path does not require the use of stairs	x		No stairs
Path is stable, firm, and slip resistant		x	No clear path to any ballfields.
3' minimum width		x	No clear path to any ballfields
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch 1:50 (2%)	x		Slope is unknown
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch		x	

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

Portable Toilets	Yes	No	Notes
5%, not less than one, are accessible		x	
Marked by International Symbol of Accessibility		x	