

TOWN OF HOPEDALE

A winter landscape featuring a calm lake that perfectly reflects the surrounding environment. The trees, both evergreen and deciduous, are heavily laden with snow. The sky is a uniform, overcast grey, which blends into the water's surface. The overall scene is serene and quiet, capturing a typical New England winter day.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

2023

Prepared by:

Hopedale Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

TOWN OF HOPEDALE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN, 2023

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OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

SECTION ONE

PLAN SUMMARY



SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

The Town of Hopedale is extremely rich in history within the Blackstone Valley, an area of Massachusetts known for its role in the Industrial Revolution that took place at the turn of the last century. Hopedale was home to the now demolished Draper Mill Factory, one of New England's largest mill structures. Small in terms of land area, close to several major highways and densely settled; Hopedale is one of the more suburbanized communities in the Central Massachusetts region.

The adjacent Town of Milford is heavily urbanized, providing an array of shopping and services to Hopedale residents. Hopedale does have a few small industrial parks within its borders; however, the Town cannot be considered an economic center. Rather, the Town can be considered a "bedroom community" where most residents work outside of Town and commute to their jobs.

The Town does not contain any State-designated Wildlife Management Areas or any significant State parks; however, the Town-owned Parklands in the north of Town does provide a large area for Hopedale residents to use for passive recreation.

Beginning in the early 1990's and continuing through today, the Blackstone Valley area has been and continues to be under tremendous development pressure. As housing prices in the Boston Metropolitan Area continue to skyrocket, Hopedale and the other Blackstone Valley communities are becoming an increasingly attractive residency option. With excellent schools and close proximity to Route 495 and the Mass Pike (I-90), Hopedale offers an excellent quality of life for people that work in the Boston area. However, such growth is not without a price. New growth impacts all levels of municipal services including the schools and recreational facilities. Several of the Town's recreational facilities are in need of substantial upgrades and repairs, and new facilities will be needed as the population continues to grow. In an effort to address these concerns, the Hopedale Open Space Planning Committee has developed the following goals to guide its efforts in protecting and preserving open space, and providing recreation opportunities and facilities:

- I. Ensure Accessibility of Open Space and Recreation Opportunities for People of All Capabilities
- II. Improve and Maintain Existing Open Space and Recreation Opportunities
- III. Develop New Open Space and Recreation Opportunities
- IV. Increase Preservation and Resilience of Natural Resources
- V. Develop an Ongoing Strategy for Community Collaboration

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

SECTION TWO

INTRODUCTION



SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this Open Space and Recreation Plan is to provide a sound, comprehensive and rational framework which the Town of Hopedale can utilize to protect and enhance current and future open space and recreational opportunities for its residents. The goal is to balance the growth of residential development with an exceptional quality of life for Hopedale residents.

Hopedale's anticipated growth has implications for both its existing open space lands and recreation facilities, several of which are in need of repair or replacement. An Open Space and Recreation Plan is an important planning tool that can help guide future growth and preserve specific parcels of value for open space, recreation, or historic preservation. An Open Space & Recreation Plan is critical to Hopedale's efforts to embrace growth management planning, protect the region's water supply, and identify key parcels for preservation.

It is paramount that Hopedale planners adopt and embrace this Open Space and Recreation Plan in order to plan for and establish reasonable controls on this development, acknowledging its inevitability as well as both its inherent benefits and constraints on municipal services and facilities.

PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This Plan represents a strong collaboration between the various stakeholders in the community to collectively identify our needs, establish goals, and develop strategies to meet future open space, conservation, recreation, and historic preservation needs in order to ensure the best possible quality of life for all residents of Hopedale now and in the future.

The Hopedale Open Space Planning Committee utilized various mechanisms for soliciting extensive public participation throughout the planning process. In addition to a series of regularly scheduled Committee meetings conducted during the planning process, the Committee published a survey and held a community-wide public forum to solicit input from the citizens of the community and to incorporate those suggestions and comments into the Plan.

A series of eight Committee meetings were held beginning in July 2021 and concluding in April of 2022. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all Committee meetings were held virtually over Zoom to allow for safe access. All meetings were advertised and were open to participation by any and all interested residents and members of other municipal boards and commissions. Each meeting was also televised on Hopedale Cable.

At the kickoff meeting in July 2021, the Committee began designing a Community Survey to gather input from residents and other local stakeholders on the open space and recreation needs of the Town. The 22 question survey launched on September 1, 2021 and ran through March 1, 2022. The Committee advertised the Community Survey on a number of different virtual platforms including on the Town's

website, the Town's Master Plan website, and various Town Boards social media pages. In addition to virtual engagement, the Committee also advertised the Community Survey by posting flyers around Town, at the Town Hall, the library, and at local stores. In total, 239 survey responses were received. More details about the survey are included in Section 6 and 7 of this plan. The survey was useful in the identification of the needs and concerns of Hopedale residents regarding open space and recreation priorities. The results of the survey were tabulated, analyzed and used to develop goals, strategies, and the associated Seven-Year Action Plan contained herein.

The Seven-Year Action Plan was also informed by input solicited at public meetings and from other municipal boards and commissions. While recognizing the importance of soliciting input upon review of the draft Plan from the various boards and commissions in Town, the Committee firmly believed it was equally vital, if not essential, to involve those boards and commissions in the actual process of developing the Plan itself. Therefore, the Committee made a concerted effort to include all affected boards and commissions, either through the appointment of representatives to the Committee or as active participants in the planning process and development of the various components of the Plan.

ENHANCED OUTREACH AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In addition to the above mentioned public participation strategies, the Committee sought additional input from the community in order to develop a more inclusive and complete plan. This additional input was gathered through enhanced outreach for the Community Survey and the organization of a public workshop to discuss the plan and recreation opportunities in Town.

To ensure that the Community Survey was widely advertised and accessible, the Committee sought additional enhanced outreach strategies. The first strategy was to advertise the survey and the Open Space and Recreation Plan update at a local event. On September 18, 2021, some Committee members tabled at the Day in the Park event at the Hopedale Town Park from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. At the event, the Committee members displayed a poster with a QR code so that attendees could easily scan and complete the survey on their mobile devices. The Committee members also passed out paper copies of the surveys at the event. Additionally, to increase youth participation with the survey, the Committee asked the School Committee to distribute the survey to students at the Hopedale public schools. The School Committee distributed the survey flier to the students and allowed them time to complete the survey during school hours. This targeted outreach was a success, and approximately 42.40% of survey respondents were under the age of 18.

To gather more input from residents, the Committee organized a public workshop. The workshop was held virtually on Sunday, February 6, 2022 from 1:30 - 3:00 pm. Residents and other interested stakeholders were encouraged to pre-register for the event on Zoom. There were 43 residents who registered for the event, however, on the day of, 22 attendees participated.

The final Plan presented herein represents a culmination of town-wide efforts to bring all these stakeholders who have a vested interest in the future of Hopedale into the planning process. The resulting

document provides a framework for the citizens of Hopedale to guide the destiny of the Town through future open space and recreation acquisition, projects, initiatives, and plans.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

SECTION THREE

COMMUNITY SETTING



SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Composed of 3,405 acres, Hopedale is bordered on the north by Upton, on the west and south Mendon, and on the east by Milford and Bellingham. The center of Town is located along Hopedale Street between its intersection with Route 16 and Freedom Street. The Town's major transportation corridors include Route 16 (Mendon Street), which runs through the middle of Town in a southwesterly direction, and Route 140, which runs through the eastern corner of Town in a southerly direction.

Hopedale was once home to the Draper Mill, one of the largest mill complexes ever built in the State of Massachusetts. The mill was largely abandoned for the last few decades and was completely demolished in 2021. Hopedale's most significant piece of permanently protected open space is the Parklands located in the north of Town. Hopedale has become one of the more urbanized communities in the Blackstone Valley and the CMRPC region as a whole. This is due to the Town's small land area, close proximity to Route 495 and the Mass Pike (I-90), and the intense development pressure that this area of the State is experiencing.

Hopedale contains several significant water resources, including Hopedale Pond (located within the permanently protected Parklands property), Spindleville Pond, Factory Pond, and a long stretch of the Mill River. The Charles River creates a border that forms the Hopedale-Milford-Bellingham town line, and continues through numerous cities and towns until it flows into Boston Harbor. The watershed divide between the Charles River system and the Mill River system roughly parallels the Hopedale-Milford town line from Freedom Street to Route 140 at the Mendon border. Approximately one-fifth of the land in Hopedale drains into the Charles River, and the remaining area drains to the Mill River.

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

Hopedale was first inhabited by tribes of Nipmuc Indians. The Nipmuc tribe occupied the lands in southern New England, between what is now Boston and Springfield. Hunting, fishing, and agriculture were ideal in this area due to the well draining soils and access to water resources. Families from Braintree and Weymouth purchased land from the Nipmuc tribe in 1664, and settled in what is now the Town of Mendon, which was later incorporated in 1667. Also during this time, Benjamin Albee built a grist mill on the Mill River to grind corn in what is now the southern part of Hopedale. The mill and the rest of the buildings in Mendon were destroyed in 1675 during King Philip's War. A new mill was built on the site by Matthias Puffer in 1684.

By the 1700s, more people were moving into the Mill River valley, which by that time was known as The Dale. One of the best known settlers of that time was John Jones. Several sections of Mendon had broken off to form separate towns and Jones became a leader of a group that wanted a new town in the area that was to eventually become Milford. Jones ran into strong opposition to his plan and for ten years failed to get any nearer to his goal. In 1741 Jones decided on another approach. Instead of petitioning for incorporation, he and his group, the Mill River Men, called an Ecclesiastical Council of area churches and

received permission to start a new church. Because only a town could have a church at that time, this was an important step, but it wasn't until 1780 that Milford, including what is now Hopedale, became a town.

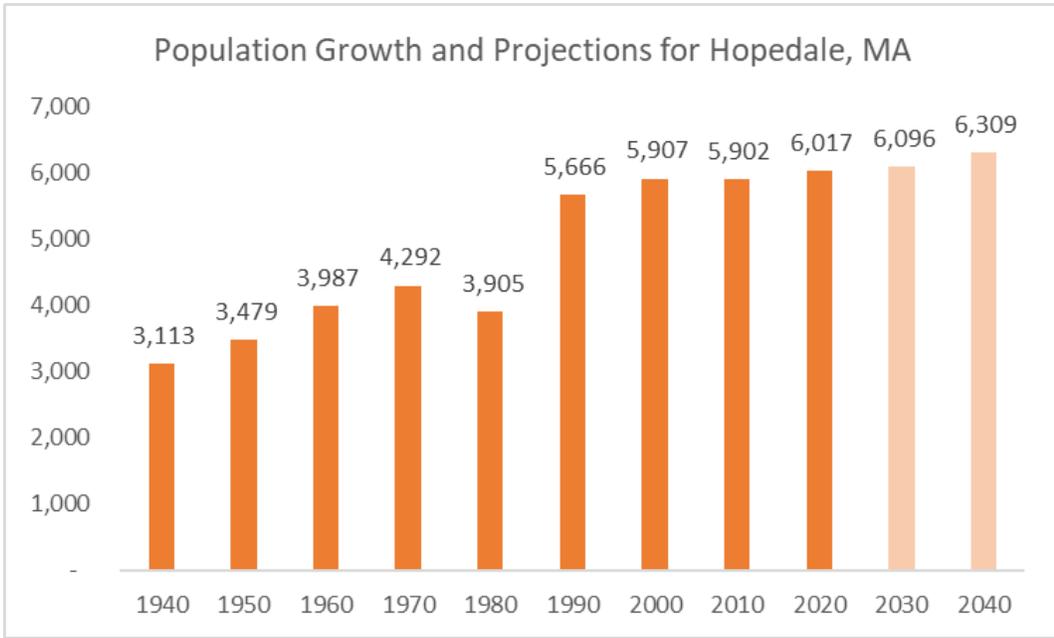
Hopedale was settled in 1842 as a Utopian socialist commune by a Universalist minister, Adin Ballou. He had proposed “a compact neighborhood or village of practical Christians, dwelling together by families in love and peace, insuring themselves the comforts of life by agricultural and mechanical industry and directing the entire residue of their intellectual, moral, and physical resources to the Christianization and general welfare of the human race.” In 1842, Ballou purchased a 258-acre farm on the Mill River known as Dale, which he renamed Hope Dale. Ballou and his settlers began planting crops, constructed a school, chapel, mechanic shop, and erected a dam. By 1852, the Town reached 200 residents.

In the 1870s, Ebenezer and George Draper purchased the land and buildings in the Hopedale Community and reorganized it as a company town. The Town became a planned industrial community, where new streets and high quality employee housing was constructed. And in 1886, Hopedale was finally incorporated as a town. The Town continued to grow, as did the Draper Company which became the world's largest producer of automatic cotton looms by the early 1900s.

By the 1950s, the Town of Hopedale was almost completely built out, and the Draper Company remained as the Town's major employer. However, in the 1970s, the Draper Company closed its doors, and Hopedale evolved into a commuter town. Due to the decline of the manufacturing industry, Hopedale became a destination for professionals who worked in Worcester, Greater Boston, and Springfield.

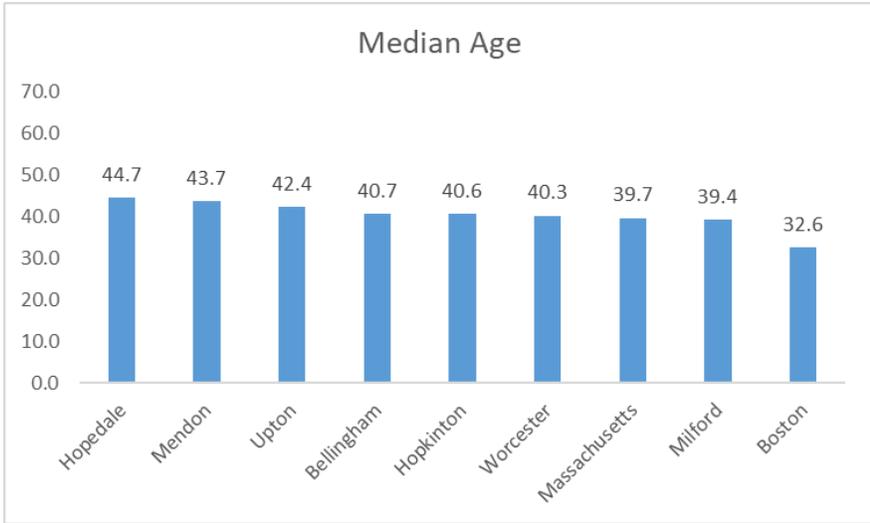
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Prior to the 1970s, the Town of Hopedale went through a period of limited growth. During that time, the population remained between 3,000 to 4,000 residents. After sustaining that small growth, the population dipped between 1970 through 1980 due to changes in employment at the Draper Factory. However, between 1980 and 1990, the population in Hopedale began to significantly grow again, with a population increase by 31%. Between 1990 and 2020, the Town has reverted back to its small, yet consistent growth rate, increasing by 6% during that time. According to the 2020 US Census, the Town of Hopedale has a population of 6,017 residents. It is projected that the Town will reach 6,309 residents by 2040. With a land area of 5.17 square miles, Hopedale has a population density of 1,163.83 residents per square mile.



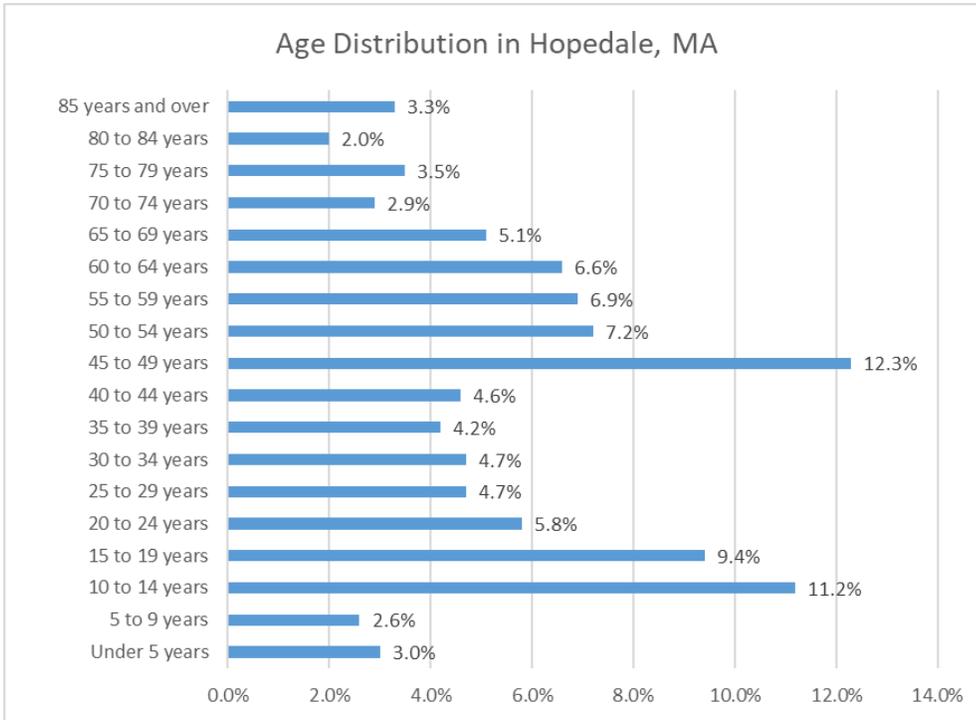
AGE

The median age of Hopedale is 44.7 years according to the 2020 American Survey 5-Year Estimates. Median age can be helpful in displaying how age distribution has changed over time. Overtime, the median age in Hopedale has been increasing, showing that the Town is trending towards an aging community. In 2000, the median age was 39.3 years and in 2010, the media age was 40.6 years. Compared to other surrounding communities and the State, Hopedale’s median age is relatively older. In the State of Massachusetts, the median age is 39.7, and in the City of Worcester, the median age is 40.3. The figure below displays the median age of Hopedale and several surrounding or similar communities.



Another important factor to consider in open space and recreation planning is the age distribution of a community. The age distribution of a community can give a glimpse of what recreation facilities and

programs may be needed currently and in the future. In the Town of Hopedale, 24.8% of persons are under the age of 18, and 16.8% of persons are 65 years and over. The figure below shows the age distribution for Hopedale across all age brackets.



RACE AND ETHNICITY

The racial breakdown for the Town of Hopedale can be viewed in the table below. The Town of Hopedale is predominantly white, with 88.8% of the population identifying as White alone. The next largest racial group in Hopedale are those who identify as two or more races, making up 6.1% of the population, followed by those who identify as Hispanic or Latino at 4.4%, and those who identify as Asian alone at 1.8%. Compared to the 2000 US Census, the White alone population in Hopedale has been decreasing, while the Hispanic or Latino population has been increasing. Though the Town is largely white presently, it is important to consider changes in the racial and ethnic makeup of the Town to ensure that recreational programs are accessible and inclusive to a wide variety of people.

Race	Size
White Alone	5,342
Black or African American Alone	51

American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	13
Asian Alone	106
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	0
Some Other Race Alone	139
Population of Two or More Races	366
Total	6,017

In the Town of Hopedale, approximately 94.3% of the population speaks English only. Of the remaining residents who speak a language other than English, 1.7% speak Spanish, 3.3% speak an Other Indo-European language, 0.5% speak Asian and Pacific Island languages, and 0.2% speak Other languages.

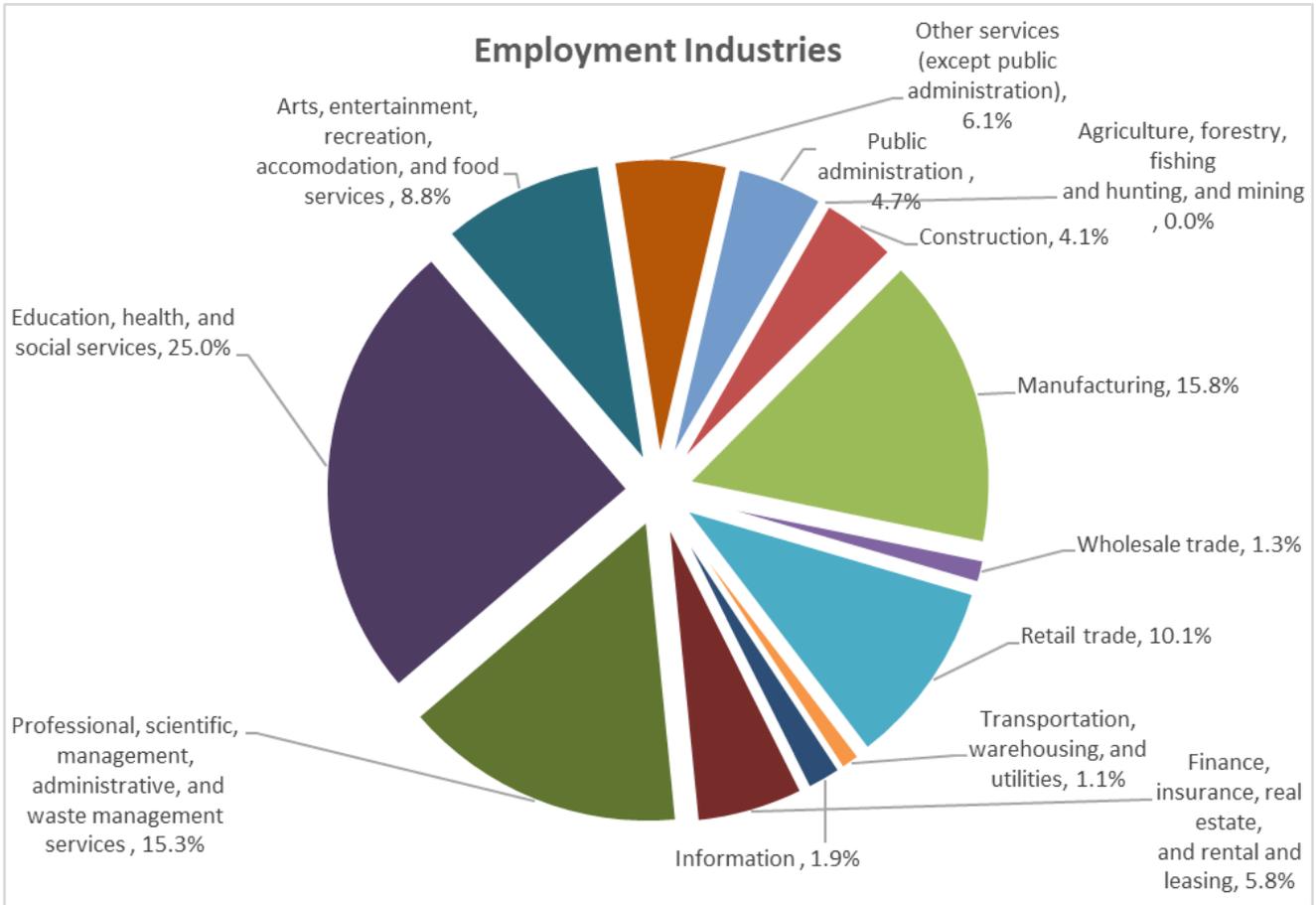
DISABILITY

Along with race, ethnicity, and language, another important factor that could impact ability in accessing or participating in a recreational program is disability. In the Town of Hopedale, 14.6% of the population is disabled. This is relatively higher than the disabled population in Worcester County, which is at 12.2%. Of those who are disabled in Hopedale, 4.7% have hearing difficulty, 2.9% have vision difficulty, 4.2% have cognitive difficulty, 8.2% have ambulatory difficulty, 1.5% have self-care difficulty, and 5.9% have independent living difficulty.

EMPLOYMENT

The labor force in Hopedale, which is defined as residents 16 years and over who are employed or looking for work, is 3,030 residents according to the Massachusetts Labor Force and Unemployment Data Reports. This has decreased by about 2.4% since 2010. In addition, the annual unemployment rate in the Town of Hopedale has increased from 7.2% to 8.7% since 2010. This increase in unemployment rate may be attributed to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, which interrupted employment and business activities, causing many to lose their jobs. Hopedale’s unemployment rate is slightly below the State of Massachusetts at 8.9% and Worcester County at 8.8%.

Major employment industries of the workers population in Hopedale are displayed in the figure below. The largest industry at 25.0% is Education, Health, and Social Services, followed by Manufacturing at 15.8%, and Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services at 15.3%.



Most residents send their children to Hopedale public schools but work outside the Town. The average commute is 30 minutes, with driving being the principal means of transportation (85%). Approximately 2.3% of workers take public transportation to work, and 7.6% of individuals work from home.

There is likely an overlap between those working from home and those who are self- employed. According to ACS estimates, 8.7% of households reported having self- employment income. However, most commuting Hopedale residents work in Milford (19%), and 7% commute to Boston. Roughly one-third of Hopedale workers live in Town. The table below lists the major employers in the Town. The largest employer in Hopedale is National Grid, followed by the Hopedale Public Schools, and Jehovah’s Witness.

Business	Product/Service	Employee Size Range
National Grid	Utilities	250-499
Hopedale Memorial School	Education	100-249
Hopedale Public Schools	Education	100-249
Jehovah’s Witness	Religion	100-249
Braun’s Express Inc	Transportation Services	50-99
Front Line	Construction	50-99
Hopedale Junior Senior High	Education	50-99
Ambro Adjustment	Insurance	20-49
Automation Consulting Svc Inc	Automation	20-49
Bright Beginnings Ctr	Education	20-49

INCOME

The median household income in Hopedale is \$110,582, while 69.2% of households earn an income of greater than \$75,000 per year, and 18.8% of households earn over \$200,000 annually. Approximately 4.3% of residents in Hopedale are in poverty, which is comparatively lower to Worcester County's poverty rate at 9.7%.

The Town of Hopedale has a high median household income compared to Worcester County and the State of Massachusetts. The median household income in the State is \$84,385, and in Worcester County it is \$77,155. Although primarily a "working-class" community when the factory was operating, today Hopedale is predominantly "white collar." Hopedale has seen a 13.7% rise in median household income over the past decade. Though a seemingly small change compared with that of nearby communities, Hopedale's households also began the decade with the advantage of the subregion's highest incomes. The table below shows the median household incomes for the communities surrounding Hopedale.

Comparison of Median Household Income to Surrounding Communities

Town	2010	2020	% change
Hopedale	\$97,227	\$110,582	13.7%
Mendon	\$102,625	\$126,806	23.6%
Upton	\$107,950	\$126,442	17.1%
Milford	\$66,636	\$86,203	29.4%
Bellingham	\$78,290	\$103,258	31.9%
Massachusetts	\$64,509	\$84,385	30.8%
Worcester County	\$64,152	\$77,155	20.3%

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

The Town of Hopedale's growth and development patterns can be summarized into two different categories: Residential Growth, and Industrial Development. Beginning with industrial development, Hopedale's history as a center of industry shaped its layout and cultural identity. The Draper Corporation, or the Draper Factory site, served as the economic and cultural heart for over a century after its founding in the 1840s. It was once the largest manufacturer of textile machinery and drew employees into the

Town for settlement. During this boom of settlement, the Draper Corporation built housing for its workers and their families, creating a planned community. The Draper family continued to build out the Town, funding the construction of many civic buildings that are still in use today, such as the high school and the Town Hall. The Draper Factory closed in 1980, and periodic efforts to reuse the site have all failed. After sitting vacant for decades, the Draper Factory building was finally demolished in 2021.

The Grafton and Upton Railroad runs through the northwest part of the Draper complex heading towards the Town of Upton, and then turns eastward to the Town of Milford in southern Hopedale. The railroad operates a yard adjacent to the Draper site and downtown Hopedale, making it the last active industrial use in the center of Town. Rosenfield Concrete, owned by Boston Sand and Gravel, operates a plant in southern Hopedale that has been in operation since the 1930s. In addition to these industrial centers, the Town of Hopedale is also home to two industrial parks - the Hopedale Industrial Park and the Hopedale Airport Industrial Park. These industrial parks are located across one another off Plain Street and host a variety of commercial and light industrial uses.

Moving towards residential growth, as noted above, substantial residential development first began to provide housing for Draper Corporation employees and their families. Due to the industrial culture of Hopedale, residential growth took the form of denser development than other towns of typical size. Company housing was built in the form of duplexes in the vicinity of the Draper Factory site and dwellings were located closer to streets.

Following the closing of the Draper Factory, growth transformed into residential subdivisions for families that would commute out of Town for work. Hopedale's most recent subdivisions are typical of a Massachusetts middle class commuter town. These neighborhoods are characterized by larger yards and open space buffers between dwellings.

Compared to industrial and residential growth, commercial uses have played a smaller role in Hopedale's development. Commercial space and businesses are concentrated in the south of Town, along Route 140, with another handful at the intersection of Hopedale Street and Route 16 in the center of Town. Businesses include gas stations and restaurants, with a minimal retail presence. Hopedale residents recognize the need for more commercial development, including conveniences like restaurants and grocery stores.

INFRASTRUCTURE

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Hopedale has access to major highways and employment centers, but it is not especially well situated for attracting large commercial and industrial developments. Heading north, Route 140 directly connects Hopedale with the MassPike and Worcester via Route 122. Although Worcester is only 15 miles away, Route 140 passes through congested areas in Upton and Grafton that increase travel time. Heading east, Route 16 passes through congested areas in downtown Milford that lengthen the time required to reach I-495 three miles away. Hartford Avenue also provides access to I-495, but is congested and there is a need for a study to improve traffic flow on this important road.

There is not much biking infrastructure in the Town of Hopedale. Bike lanes and bike paths do not exist in the Town, so biking occurs on roads or sidewalks in the areas of Town that have sidewalks. Pedestrian infrastructure is limited to the few sidewalks and trails that are in Town. The only trails in Hopedale are in the Parklands. There is a desire to upgrade these trails with better signage and improved walkways.

Hopedale Industrial Park Airport, found to the east of Hopedale Industrial Park in southern Hopedale is one of five airports located in Worcester County. Though there is very little air traffic generated at this airport, it does provide another access point into and out of the Town.

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Nearly all homes and businesses have water supplied by the Hopedale Water Department, except the southern part of Town that is serviced by the private Milford Water Company. The two water systems connect at Williams Street and South Main Street, which enables Milford to supplement the Town's Greene Street and Mill Street well fields. Hopedale purchases about 25 million gallons per year, but the Water Department is taking steps to supply all the Town water needs.

There is no distribution system for residential subdivisions located off Neck Hill Road in south Hopedale, which have on-site wells. There are also no water lines to the industrial district north of the Parklands.

The Water Department is reducing unaccounted water, and charges water rates that encourage conservation to help make the Town self-sufficient. However, the total water demand is greater than the Town wells yield at present. Additional water needs of future developments in Town should be closely coordinated with the Water Department, which prefers industrial uses that tend to require less water than large residential uses.

SEWER SERVICE

Hopedale's sewage treatment plant provides sewer service to the vast majority of the Town's area. Constructed in 1982 with a twenty-five year life expectancy, the system will likely require upgrades within the next decade. Milford's sewer system provides service to a small southeast portion of Town, and there are roughly the same number of Milford households that are served by the Hopedale sewage plant.

Similar to the water system, there is no sewer service provided to the industrial zone in north Hopedale, or to residential subdivisions off Freedom Street and off Neck Hill Road. In addition, there are no sewer lines on parts of Route 140, Mellen Street, Plain Street and Airport Road in south Hopedale. Homes and businesses here have on-site septic systems.

The Hopedale facility has a capacity of 588,000 gpd, and an average demand that ranges from 300,000 – 400,000 gpd. Much higher flows are sometimes received in spring due to infiltration that results from high ground water levels. While the Hopedale plant does service commercial areas, it does not service industrial uses, and no industrial pretreatment is currently required. The plant has adequate capacity for some additional homes and businesses, but operates near full capacity during high groundwater.

LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

While many surrounding or similar sized communities have ample land to create new residential or commercial opportunities, Hopedale is a small town in which most of the buildable land has already been built out or preserved. As noted above, Hopedale experienced enormous growth during the 1980s, when the population grew by 45% and housing units increased by 50%. According to the Buildout Analysis prepared for Hopedale by CMRPC in 1999, only 961 developable acres remained, which could have yielded 334 new residential lots under zoning bylaws and environmental constraints. Scarcity of building lots can lead to escalating housing costs, potentially resulting in the development of larger houses on remaining lots. Since 2006, 48 residential building permits have been issued in the Town, indicating limited growth in the last couple decades. Excessive minimum lot size, setback, and parking requirements have also restricted the types and sizes of homes that can be built in Hopedale.

The Land Use table below shows the Town’s primary land uses in acres and total percentage of land area. As noted in the table, the majority of land uses in Town are Residential (Single Family) at 31.20%, Tax Exempt land at 22.20%, and Open Land at 20.20%. This abundance of already developed land and preserved open space land leaves relatively little of an already small town open to further development.

Land Use	Acres	Percent
Residential (single family)	946.6	31.20%
Tax exempt	676.06	22.20%
Open Land	612.4	20.20%
Industrial	198.2	6.50%
Mixed Use (other)	162.97	5.40%
Right-of-way	137.69	4.50%
Residential (multifamily)	131.14	4.30%
Commercial	112.28	3.70%
Other Residential	29.11	1.00%

Other/Unknown	17.16	0.60%
Mixed Use (primarily residential)	12.4	0.40%
Water	1.67	0.10%
Recreational	0.99	0.00%

FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT

With the Draper Factory site now demolished, it presents an opportunity for future redevelopment. The current owner and developers for the Draper site have publicly stated their intention to build new housing along with the potential for office, retail, or other uses that are in demand. The site’s location along the Mill River also provides the potential to connect open space and recreation opportunities to the future development.

In addition to the Draper Factory site, there is also potential redevelopment being considered at the Rosenfield Concrete plant. This area has been considered for its redevelopment potential in past Town planning processes. As of February 2022, a Site Plan for a 600,000 square foot warehouse had been submitted and was undergoing review. The property is at least partly in a groundwater protection district and will also need approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Special Permit.

ZONING

The table below displays the various Zoning Districts in the Town of Hopedale along with the acres and percentage of total land area covered by each district. Hopedale has thirteen different zoning districts. Residential B and Industrial top the list as the largest Zoning Districts, covering 33.10% and 12.50% of total land area in the Town respectively. The next largest district is the Town Land District, covering 12.00% of total land area. The remaining districts can be divided up into three different main categories: residential, industrial, and commercial.

Zoning District	Acres	Percent
Residential B	1116.74	33.10%
Industrial	421.49	12.50%
Town Land	403.23	12.00%

Residential A	262.83	7.80%
Commercial	231.59	6.90%
Residential A-1	221.15	6.60%
Light Industry	200.78	6.00%
General Business A	200.23	5.90%
Recreation	182.18	5.40%
Residential C	63	1.90%
Residential Performance 1	22.44	0.70%
Cemetery	18.79	0.60%
Adult Retirement Community	13.66	0.40%
Residential A-2	7.53	0.20%
Historic Multiple Family	4.67	0.10%

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

SECTION FOUR

ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY & ANALYSIS



SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

GEOLOGY, SOILS & TOPOGRAPHY

The most recent information on the soils of Hopedale is provided by an interim soil report published for the northwest section of Worcester County by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS has completed its soil investigations and mapping for the southeastern section of Worcester County.

Much of the soil throughout Hopedale is of the Chatfield-Hollis Rock Outcrop Complex and at 15-30 percent slopes. There are large tracts of the extremely stony Montauk fine sandy loam in the northwest section of the Town where the Parklands are situated. In the Southwest corner there are some Canton fine sandy loams. The Chatfield-Hollis Rock Outcrop Complex consists of Chatfield and Hollis soil and rock outcrops that occur in such intricate patterns on the landscape that it is not practical to separate them to scale on the map. Generally these consist of about 40 percent Chatfield soils, 25 percent Hollis soils, 20 percent rock outcrop, and 15 percent other soils. Major limitations are related to depth to bedrock, rockiness and slope. Chatfield soils formed in glacial till underlain by crystalline bedrock. They have friable loam to sandy loam surface soil, subsoil, and substrata with moderately rapid permeability. Depth to bedrock is 20 to 30 inches. Hollis soils formed in a thin mantle of glacial till. They have friable, fine, sandy loam surface soil with moderate to moderately rapid permeability. Montauk soils formed in compact glacial till and have fine, sandy, loam surface soil and subsoil that have moderate or moderately rapid permeability over firm loam coarse sand; and moderately slow to slow permeability over sandy loam substratum (hardpan) at 18 to 36 inches. Canton fine sandy loams were formed in glacial till ground moraine and ice contact stratified shift. They have friable, fine, sandy loam subsurface soil and subsoil with moderate permeability over a loamy, coarse, sand; and rapid permeability over loamy fine sand substratum at 18 to 36 inches.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The Town of Hopedale is located within the Southern New England Coastal Plains and Hills Ecoregion. This is an area with generally similar soils, vegetation, shape of land, and especially, moderate climate and bedrock geology, including glacial tills and outwash deposits. The topography of this ecoregion is generally hilly, encompassing numerous flatter wetlands, broad valleys, and floodplains.

Hopedale's land area is small enough so that there is not much variation in its topography. The highest point in Hopedale is a small hill in the northwest corner of town that is split between Hopedale, Mendon and Upton. Known locally as "The Lookout", the hill's highest elevation point in Hopedale is approximately 555 feet above sea level. The land adjacent to Hopedale Pond represents the Town's lowest point of elevation at approximately 272 feet above sea level. There are some small drumlins encircled by Route 140, Mill Street and Green Street; however, these drumlins are no more than 360 feet above sea level. Mostly urbanized, Hopedale does not have any extensive forested areas or agricultural lands. The

Parklands in the north of town represents Hopedale's largest tract of protected land, and Hopedale Pond within the Parklands represents Hopedale's most significant water resource. The seasonal view looking north, northwest over the pond from Hopedale Street is one of the most photographed vistas in the Blackstone Valley.

WATER RESOURCES

Similar to many Massachusetts communities, there are two river systems that link all of the water resources in Hopedale. The Mill River is the dominant water feature and flows from the northeast corner of Town through Hopedale Pond and the former Draper Corporation complex in Hopedale center to the southeast border with Mendon. After leaving Hopedale, the Mill River flows through the towns of Mendon and Blackstone to its confluence with the Blackstone River in Rhode Island.

The Charles River forms the Hopedale-Milford-Bellingham town line, and continues through numerous cities and towns until it flows into Boston Harbor. The watershed divide between the Charles River system and the Mill River system roughly parallels the Hopedale-Milford town line from Freedom Street to Route 140 at the Mendon border. Approximately one-fifth of the land in Hopedale drains into the Charles River, and the remaining area drains to the Mill River, and eventually the Blackstone River

WATERSHEDS

Watersheds are areas of land where water drains to a river, lake, or ocean. As rainwater falls to the ground, mountains and hills funnel the runoff and groundwater into streams, brooks, and rivers. In the Town of Hopedale, there are two major watersheds and one sub-watershed: the Blackstone River Watershed Basin, the Charles River Watershed Basin, and the Mill River subwatershed.

BLACKSTONE RIVER WATERSHED

The Blackstone River Watershed is a modest 640 square mile basin of the Blackstone River. It receives water from 29 towns in Central Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The major tributaries of the Blackstone River that contribute to the watershed include the Mill River, Mumford River, West River, Quinsigamond River, and Peters River. There are approximately 1,300 acres of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs located in the Blackstone River Watershed. The Town of Hopedale falls almost entirely within the Lower Blackstone River Watershed basin.

MILL RIVER SUBWATERSHED

The Mill River is a tributary of the Blackstone River, which explains why the Mill River subwatershed overlays with the Blackstone River Watershed in Hopedale. The Mill River rises from North Pond in Hopkinton, Massachusetts and flows southeast through Upton, Hopedale, Mendon, Millville, and Blackstone. It then converges with the Blackstone River in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

CHARLES RIVER WATERSHED

The Charles River Watershed is a 310 square mile basin of the Charles River. The Charles River is the most prominent urban river in New England and serves as a major source of recreation. There are approximately 80 brooks and streams, and several major aquifers that feed the Charles River Watershed. The watershed also contains 33 lakes and ponds. In Hopedale, only the southeastern portion

of Town falls within the Charles River Watershed. This portion that Hopedale falls within is considered the Upper Charles River Watershed.

SURFACE WATERS

In the Town of Hopedale, there are four main bodies of water: the Mill River, Charles River, Hopedale Pond, and Spindleville Pond. In addition to these main water bodies, there are also several small, unnamed streams and wetlands.

MILL RIVER

The Mill River system includes large wetland and floodplain areas that extend north from Hopedale Pond to the Upton town line. Existing and future land uses in the Town of Upton are likely to affect the quantity and quality of the Mill River water that flows into the Pond. Downstream from Hopedale Pond, the Mill River used to flow underneath the extensive Draper complex. In 2021, the Draper Mill was completely demolished and portions of the Mill River were daylight. Restoration of this area should help improve the water quality and ecological functions of the Mill River. The River reemerges south of the mill complex near its confluence with a small leachate stream that flows from the former Draper Mill landfill. South of Route 16, the River meanders through narrow floodplains that are mostly owned by the Town. The Hopedale Wastewater Facility discharges effluent here and the Town's well field is located on the opposite bank of the River. The River flows into Spindleville Pond, an important historic site, and continues past the Hopedale Country Club, a second Town well field, and several undeveloped parcels until it reaches the Mendon town line. Underlying the Mill River are sand and gravel deposits that extend one-eighth to one-half mile to the east and west of the waterway.

CHARLES RIVER

Situated at the Hopedale-Milford-Bellingham border, the Charles River flows through wetlands and floodplains that Hopedale has zoned for commercial and residential uses. Sand and gravel deposits underlay the Charles River and these deposits connect to the Mill River aquifer, which is used by the Town of Milford as a drinking water supply source. There is a large wetland beside the Charles where it enters Hopedale, which is zoned commercial and is part of the Milford Zone II Wellhead Protection District. Milford supplies water to Hopedale, and Town enforcement of the state Wetlands Protection Act here helps safeguard this shared water supply. Stormwater management is also important to prevent any adverse impacts upon the quality and quantity of waters draining to the Charles from existing and future land uses. The protection of riverfront land can preserve wetlands, floodplains, and wildlife habitats along the Town line, as well as offer potential hiking and biking trails for the residents of Hopedale, Milford, and Bellingham.

HOPEDALE POND

Hopedale Pond is the major water body, which served to power the former Draper Corporation and provide water-based recreation for Town residents. It is a feature of the Parklands, a 273-acre park in the northwest area of Town. The 83-acre warm water pond is located about one mile northwest of the junctions of Route 140 and Route 16. The depth of the Pond averages about 2.5 feet throughout with a maximum depth of 12 feet. Since the early 1990s, there has been concern regarding stagnation and aquatic weeds in the Pond. And in the early 2000s, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental

Protection assessed the pond as eutrophic. Hopedale Pond is on the Integrated List of Waters in Category 4c - Impairment Not Caused by a Pollutant. This is the result of infestation by a non-native aquatic macrophyte, which is primarily variable-leaf milfoil. The buildup of aquatic vegetation together with the sediment accumulations from the outflow culverts which enter the Pond have caused a significant reduction in the Pond's ability to adequately store water.

SPINDLEVILLE POND

Spindleville Pond is a reservoir located between the Hopedale Wastewater Treatment Plant and Hopedale Country Club. Not much freshwater flows into the Spindleville Pond and water levels tend to get lower every year. Runoff from pipes off of Green Street contribute to discharges of phosphorous suds in the pond, and large quantities of milfoil have been observed. In addition to these concerns, there is also bank erosion present at the pond. Wildlife that can be found at this pond include snakes, snapping turtles, blue heron, and otter.

AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS

Aquifers are an underground water-bearing layer of permeable material that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well. Aquifer recharge areas are surface areas that contribute water to a well. In these locations, water has the ability to drain into the ground and refill an aquifer. Aquifers are an important source of water, and thus, aquifer recharge areas are vital for water supply protection.

The aquifers in Hopedale are located along the Mill River throughout the Town. High yield areas are located on the Hopedale Water Supply Land located off of Hopedale Street, and are located on Hopedale Country Club land. The Town's Zone II Wellhead Protection District includes a portion of this aquifer area from Hopedale Pond to off Plain Street. Zone II regulations control land uses to prevent contamination of the aquifer that is the primary source for current and future water supply needs in Town.

Non potential drinking water source aquifers in Hopedale exist where the Mill River flows along Fitzgerald Drive and Hopedale Village Cemetery. The aquifers in this area are both high and medium yields.

Zone II#: 494	Susceptibility: High
Well Names	Source IDs
Mill Street Wellfield	2138000-01G
Green Street Well	2138000-02G

FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

Flood hazard areas have been identified on and along Hopedale Pond, the Mill River, and Spindleville Pond. These areas are all identified as AE zones. AE flood zones are defined as areas that present a 1% annual chance of flooding, and a 26% chance over the life of a 30-year mortgage, according to FEMA.

The Flood Plain District is an overlay district that encompasses the 100-year flood plain as defined by FEMA. New construction, substantial improvements to existing structures, and earth movement within the Flood Plain District requires a Special Permit from the Planning Board if it determines that the proposed

activity will not negatively impact flooding risk. Standards for subdivisions within the Flood Plain District requiring extra flood protections are also provided.

WETLANDS

In the Town of Hopedale, 11.43% of land is identified as wetland areas. About 7.67% are forested wetlands, 1.66% are emergent wetlands, 1.26% are aquatic bed wetlands, and 0.84% are scrub or shrub wetlands. Various wetlands are scattered throughout Town, though are commonly found adjacent to surface water bodies, such as the Mill River, Charles River, Hopedale Pond, Spindleville Pond, and the many unnamed streams in Town. Types of wetlands will be discussed further in the vegetation sub-section.

VEGETATION

GENERAL INVENTORY

Plant life is also rich and varied in Hopedale. Stands of oak, maple, birch, hickory and pine dominate the landscape. Approximately half of the Town consists of hardwood stands while the rest is primarily a mixture of hardwoods and conifers. Patches of lady slippers, bluets, Canada mayflowers, and white violets are common sites during a summer walk in the woods. Jack-in-the-pulpit, pickerelweed, and arrowhead flowers can be seen in marshy areas. Several shrub swamps which include trees such as Adler can be found, as can a few seasonal shallow and deep marshes.

FOREST LAND

The Town of Hopedale comprises mainly central hardwood forests, though there are also some transition hardwood stands, some elm-ash-red maple tree stands, and some red-white pine tree stands. Approximately 1,358.99 acres, or 44.72%, of land in Hopedale is covered by deciduous forest. A **deciduous forest** is a biome dominated by deciduous trees, or trees that lose their leaves seasonally. In this region, trees in deciduous forests lose their leaves in the fall and regrow them in the spring. Northeastern deciduous forests are often dominated by oaks (*Quercus*), hickories (*Carya*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), maples (*Acer* spp.), and basswood (*Tilia*) species. Evergreen forests cover 352.57 acres, or 11.60% of land in Hopedale. An **evergreen forest** is made up of evergreen trees, or those that have foliage that remain green and functional for more than one growing season. Northern evergreen forests are often dominated by spruce (*Picea*), pine (*Pinus*), fir (*Abies*), and hemlock (*Tsuga*) species. A large parcel north of the Parklands is enrolled as Chapter 61 Forest Land, but extensive wetlands and steep slopes limit its management for forest products.

Hopedale, like many Massachusetts communities, struggles with a variety of forestry related issues. Invasive plant species, such as Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, or multiflora rose threaten to outcompete native vegetation and impact the overall health of the forest ecosystems. Diseases and pests such as the emerald ash borer, the Asian longhorned beetle, and various fungal infections can impact tree health and devastate tree populations. Hopedale, being a developed town, has also experienced forest fragmentation, where large contiguous forest is divided into smaller patches due to urbanization and infrastructure development. Forest fragmentation can disrupt wildlife habitats, impede migration patterns, and reduce overall biodiversity. Climate change can also have an impact on Hopedale's forests in a variety of ways. Rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme

weather events can affect the growth, reproduction, and survival of tree species. These forestry issues have direct and indirect consequences on the environment, human well-being, and the economy. Forests are vital for maintaining biodiversity, mitigating climate change, providing clean air and water, supporting wildlife, and offering recreational opportunities. Dying trees additionally pose a safety risk and can cause power outages or destruction of property.

To combat these issues, several actions can be taken. The community can develop a comprehensive forest management plan, that outlines goals and strategies for sustainable forest practices. Additionally, conducting workshops, public meetings, educational programs, and volunteer projects will help engage the community in forest stewardship. They can implement a monitoring and control program for invasive plants and organize volunteer removal efforts. To ensure long-term forest conservation, integrating sustainable land use and forestry practices into Hopedale's bylaws is essential.

PUBLIC SHADE TREES

The Town of Hopedale has an elected, part-time Tree Warden. The Tree Warden is tasked with caring for and controlling all of the public shade trees, shrubs, and growths in Town, except those within a state highway, and those in public parks or open spaces under the jurisdiction of the park commissioners. Public shade trees have been identified as particularly vulnerable in Hopedale, especially with more frequent and intense storms. These trees are especially threatened by drought conditions, strong winds, lightning, heavy snow, and invasive pests. Without a sustainable tree trimming program or a removal and replacement program, many of these street trees are at risk of dying and falling, impacting roadways or causing power outages. Public shade trees are of particular concern along Adin Street, Dutcher Street, and Freedom Street in Hopedale.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Town of Hopedale had agrarian beginnings that contributed to its history and character, however, agriculture's role is limited in Hopedale currently. There are no large areas of prime farmland in Town. Even though farming is not as prevalent today, the Town does have Zoning Bylaws which encourage agriculture. The Bylaw allows for commercial farms and orchards by Special Permit.

WETLAND VEGETATION

In the Town of Hopedale, there are primarily three types of wetlands found: shrub swamp, deep marsh, and wooded swamp (deciduous). Shrub swamps are wetland areas dominated by woody plants. They are characterized by saturated soils during the growing season, and standing water during certain times of the year. Oftentimes, they are inundated with flood water from nearby rivers and streams. Some of the common species found in shrub swamps are vegetation such as Buttonbush, Willow, Dogwood, and Swamp Rose. In Hopedale, shrub swamp can be found in the northern part of Town above Hopedale Pond, in the Parklands, in the Pinecrest II Conservation Area, in the Hopedale Water Supply Land, and around the Hopedale Industrial Airpark.

Deep marsh is defined as mostly freshwater non-tidal marshes. They frequently occur along streams in poorly drained depressions and in shallow water along the boundaries of lakes, ponds, and rivers. Vegetation commonly found in these areas include lily pads, cattails, reeds, and bulrushes. Common wildlife that can be found in deep marshes are Red-winged Blackbirds, Great Blue Herons, otters, and

muskrats. In Hopedale, deep marshes can be found along Hopedale Pond, along Spindleville Pond, in the Hopedale Water Supply Area, and by Rosenfield Concrete off of Plain Street.

Wooded swamps are very similar to shrub swamps except for the difference in vegetation. Like shrub swamps, they are inundated with water frequently from nearby surface waters. In years of drought, these wetlands may represent the only shallow water in the area which is critical to the survival of wetland dependent species, such as Wood Ducks, otters, and Cottonmouth Snakes. Some common tree species found in wooded swamps are Red Maple and oak tree species. In Hopedale, wooded swamps are found in a variety of areas along the Mill River, in the southern part of Town along the Mendon border, and in the Hopedale Country Club.

RARE SPECIES

MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHEP) maintains a list of rare species throughout the State. Massachusetts has a total of 432 native species that are listed as either Endangered (E), Threatened (T), or of Special Concern (SC). All of these species are either at risk, or may become at risk of extinction. In Hopedale, there have been no rare plant species found.

FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

GENERAL INVENTORY

The woods, swamps, ponds, rivers and developed areas in Town provide food and shelter for many species of wildlife and migratory birds. The noteworthy avian species include Bluejay, Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Dark Eyed Junco, Mallard, Black Duck, Wood Duck, Canada Geese, Great Blue Heron, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-Necked Pheasant, American Woodcock, Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl and various swallows, warblers, and flycatchers. The wide variety of mammals include: Grey Squirrel, Red Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Eastern Chipmunk, Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, Striped Skunk, Virginia Opossum, as well as signs of Mink, Porcupine, Coyote, Fisher Cat, Red Fox, and White-Tailed Deer. Reptiles and amphibians found in Hopedale include Pickerel Frog, Wood Frog, American Toad, Eastern Newt, Yellow Spotted Salamander, and Garter Snake.

Many common species of fish found in the Mill River and the Charles River, include: Common Carp, Golden Shiner, Longnose Dace, Fallfish, White Sucker, Creek Chubsucker, Yellow Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Redfin Pickerel, Chain Pickerel, Brown Trout, Brook Trout, White Perch, Pumpkinseed, Bluegill, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie, Swamp Darter, Tessellated Darter and Yellow Perch.

Of special note, the Audubon guide reports the unique occurrence of the American Brook Lamprey that is listed as a threatened species in Massachusetts because of its limited distribution and its sensitivity to environmental change. The maintenance of clean, silt-free water, riffle areas for nesting, and backwaters with detritus beds for larval growth will be essential to the continued existence of the American Brook Lamprey in the Mill River. The protection of riparian corridors and the mitigation of impacts from storm

water discharges will also be important to sustain the many other fish that now inhabit the Mill River, Hopedale Pond, Spindleville Pond and the Charles River.

VERNAL POOLS

Vernal pools are seasonal depressional wetlands that are covered by shallow water for variable periods from winter to spring. They may be completely dry for most of the summer and fall, and they can vary in size from small puddles to shallow lakes. The unique environment of vernal pools provides habitat for numerous rare plants and animals that are able to survive and thrive in the harsh conditions of the vernal pool. Many of the plants and animals that thrive in these areas spend the dry season as seeds, eggs, or cysts, and then grow and reproduce when the vernal pools are filled with water again. Vernal pools can also be a vital food source to birds.

Unfortunately, there are no certified vernal pools in the Town of Hopedale. There are 23 potential vernal pools, however. As these potential vernal pools are not officially certified, they do not benefit from added protections. Historically, some of these vernal pools have been lost or negatively impacted by nearby development.

CORRIDORS FOR MIGRATION

Wildlife corridors can loosely be described as connections across the landscape that link important wildlife habitat. Corridors can vary in size, either smaller connecting habitats within a community, or larger corridors connecting regional landscapes. Wildlife corridors are critical in supporting the natural processes that occur in a healthy ecosystem. These spaces allow a variety of species to move safely across the land finding resources like food, water, and shelter. In Hopedale, there are two notable wildlife corridors: the Mill River and Charles River. The Mill River links tracks of terrestrial and aquatic habitats that are vital to its ecological integrity. In the eastern part of Town, the Charles River connects a series of wetlands.

RARE SPECIES

MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHEP) maintains a list of rare species throughout the State. Massachusetts has a total of 432 native species that are listed as either Endangered (E), Threatened (T), or of Special Concern (SC). All of these species are either at risk, or may become at risk of extinction. In Hopedale, there are two wildlife species found on this list: the Bridle Shiner and the Brook Snaketail.

The Bridle Shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*) is a fish species of Special Concern. It was last most recently observed in Hopedale in 1956, though this is not an indicator of a lack of presence of this species currently. Bridle Shiner are small minnow that are straw colored with a distinct dark lateral band that start at the tip of the snout and end in a spot at the base of the caudal fin. They are found in clear water in slack areas of streams, rivers, and potentially lakes and ponds. Bridle Shiners prefer sites with high coverage of submerged aquatic vegetation along the bottom 25 cm. Threats to the Bridle Shiner include habitat alterations due to turbidity, flow alterations, draining of pounds, and exotic species.

The Brook Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus*) is a dragonfly/damselfly species of Special Concern. It was last most recently observed in Hopedale in 2007, though this is not an indicator of a lack of presence of this species currently. Brook Snaketails are large insects in the dragonfly family known as clubtails. They are characterized by a bright green thorax, eyes, and face. Like other clubtails, the Brook Snaketail swells in the abdomen to form a club that is over half the width of the thorax. Brook Snaketails can be found in clear-bottomed streams with intermittent rapids often in dense woodlands. Alterations of water quality are a threat to this species.

SCENIC AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

SCENIC LANDSCAPES

Scenic landscapes are areas in a community or region that provide unique or attractive views. Scenic views can be found anywhere, and are typically landscapes that are aesthetically, historically, or culturally important to people. In Hopedale, a few scenic landscapes have been identified by the Committee and the community. A major scenic landscape in Town is in the Parklands. This seasonal view is found looking north and northwest over Hopedale Pond from Hopedale Street. It has been called one of the most photographed vistas in the Blackstone Valley. In addition to this scenic view, another beautiful, natural landscape can be found on Mill Street. At the Mill Street crossing of the Mill River, scenic views of Spindleville Pond can be enjoyed. And finally, a downstream stretch of the Mill River can be viewed from Hartford Avenue.

CULTURAL AREAS

Heritage landscapes and areas are special places created by human interaction with the natural environment. They help to define and maintain the character of a community. In Hopedale, there are a number of priority cultural areas, which include the Parklands, the Town Park, the Little Red Shop, and the Bancroft Memorial Library Grounds.

The Parklands are a major open space area and a significant defining feature of the Town. It is a 273-acre park in the northwest area of Town, and stretches from Dutcher and Freedom Streets north of the former Draper Factory site, encompasses Hopedale Pond, and stretches across the Grafton and Upton Railroad right-of-way. The Parklands were designed by landscape architect Warren Henry Manning in 1898, was approved in 1899, and final improvements occurred in 1914.

The Town Park is a 6-acre recreational park adjacent to The Parklands on the corner of Dutcher and Freedom Streets. It is within the Hopedale Village National Register Historic District. The Town Park was also designed by Warren Henry Manning around the same time the Parklands were designed. Whereas the Parklands provided passive recreation, the Town Park was meant to provide active recreation to Hopedale. Historically, the Town Park hosted “Draper Field Days” from 1901 until World War II, which included activities such as races and pole vaulting.

The Little Red Shop is a one-store rectangular wood frame structure located on the eastern side of Hopedale Pond. It was built in the 1840s by the Hopedale Community. Currently, it sits at the corner of Dutcher and Freedom streets, though it was moved to this location in the 1950s after sitting on the opposite side of the pond. The Little Red Shop displays historic photos and artifacts telling the story of industrialism and construction in the United States. The Town of Hopedale owns the Little Red Shop, and the Historical Commission manages the property.

Bancroft Memorial Library is located in the center of Town within the Hopedale Village National Register Historic District. It sits on top of a small sloping lot off of Hopedale Street. The Bancroft Memorial Library was presented by Joseph Bancroft to the Town in 1898 in memory of his wife, Sylvia Willard Thwing Bancroft. A large marble fountain on the library's southeast lawn surmounted by a Statue of Hope was carved in 1904 by Waldo Story. And the Statue of Hope was presented to the Town by Susan Preston Draper, wife of William Draper.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC AREAS

The unique history and the architectural design of housing are very important aspects of the Town's character. The National Register (Historic) District in the center of Town includes the stately public buildings built by the Draper family on Hopedale Street, the former Draper Corporation complex, the Little Red Shop on Hopedale Pond, and the Statue of Hope. Other features that contribute to the Town's historic character include the neighborhoods of award-winning duplex homes, Adin Street, Dutcher Street, Adin Ballou Park, the Village Cemetery, the South Hopedale Cemetery, and the stone walls along Route 16. According to the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, there are 13 Areas, 42 Buildings, 2 Burial Grounds, 8 Objects, and 14 Structures of cultural, historical, and archaeological significance in the Town of Hopedale.

NOTABLE GEOLOGICAL FEATURES

THE PARKLANDS ROCK

Also known as the Texas Rock. This is a large glacial erratic located in the Hopedale Parklands.

OTHER LARGE ROCKS

A large rock can be found in the woods behind a parking lot off Prospect Street. A similar but larger mass of rock including a cave and a "chimney" can be found in the same woods but closer to Adin Street. Another is in the woods West of Bancroft Park.

FIELDSTONE FIREPLACES

Three fieldstone walk-in fireplaces can be found in the Parklands. One is at The Lookout, west of the Grafton & Upton Railroad. Another is on Fisherman's Island. The last is in Maroney's Grove, which was previously a tract of Pine trees that was cleared and converted into a picnic area in the early 1900s.

THE RUSTIC BRIDGE

A large fieldstone bridge overlooking the Hopedale Pond that connects both sides of the Parklands. The bridge was originally built to allow foot passage to the western side of the Mill River.

Rock outcroppings with scenic views can also be found on trails in the Parklands.

UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

An Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) has not been designated in Hopedale.

CORE HABITATS

Core habitats are identified as key areas that are critical for the long-term persistence of rare species and other Species of Conservation Concern. These areas are also critical in supporting a wide diversity of natural communities and intact ecosystems.

Core 1162

A 162-acre Core Habitat in the southwestern part of Hopedale near the Mill River, featuring a Species of Conservation Concern - the Brook Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus aspersus*). Brook Snaketails are dragonflies whose nymphs can be found in clear, sand-bottomed streams with intermittent rapids, often flowing through dense woodland.

Core 1249

A 3,367-acre Core Habitat in the northwestern part of Hopedale, west and northwest of Hopedale Pond, featuring Aquatic Core, Wetland Core, and seven Species of Conservation Concern.

Aquatic Cores are integrated and functional ecosystems for fish species and other aquatic Species of Conservation Concern. This habitat is identified as intact river corridors within which important physical and ecological processes of the river or stream occur.

Wetland Cores are defined as the most intact wetlands in each ecological region of the state. These intact wetlands in diverse settings may be thought of as representing the ecological stage, and are most likely to support a diversity of wetland types over time, even as different plant and animal species shift in response to climate change.

The Species of Conservation Concern contained in Core 1249 include the Climbing Fern, Triangle Floater, Creeper, Oak Hairstreak, American Brook Lamprey, Marbled Salamander, and Eastern Box Turtle.

Climbing Fern (*Lygodium palmatum*) does not have the characteristic overall shape of most ferns. Instead, it is an evergreen, ivylike plant which sprawls over the ground or climbs clockwise short distances up shrubs and coarse herbs. Climbing Fern grows in moist pine-oak-maple woods with an open understory, in moist thickets, and along stream margins. This plant prefers acidic soils that are sandy and rich in humus, but nutrient-poor.

Triangle Floaters (*Alasmidonta undulata*) are freshwater mussels commonly found in low-gradient river reaches with sand and gravel substrates and low to moderate water velocities, although they are found in a wide range of substrate and flow conditions.

Creepers (*Strophitus undulatus*) are freshwater mussels that inhabit low-gradient reaches of small to large rivers with sand or gravel substrates. Cool to warm water with diverse fish assemblages best support Creepers.

In Massachusetts, the Oak Hairstreak (*Satyrium favonius*) inhabits xeric and open oak woodland and barrens on rocky uplands and sandplains. Adults are often found nectaring in dry, open, weedy or scrub areas, such as old fields, clearings, powerline or pipeline cuts, abandoned gravel pits, etc. New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), dogbanes (*Apocynum* spp.), milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.), and blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.) are favored nectar sources, although others are used. Larvae feed on various oaks (*Quercus* spp.) across the species' range; particular oak species have not been documented in Massachusetts.

The American Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra appendix*) is a primitive, eel-like fish. They live in clear, cool streams. Adults spawn in pea gravel substrates, while the larvae live in areas with substrates consisting of fine sand and muck, often in backwaters or stream margins.

Adult and juvenile Marbled Salamanders (*Ambystoma opacum*) inhabit upland forests during most of the year, where they reside in small-mammal burrows and other subsurface retreats. Adults migrate during late summer or early fall to breed in dried portions of vernal pools, swamps, marshes, and other predominantly fish-free wetlands. Eggs are deposited under logs, leaf-litter, or grass tussocks and hatch after being inundated by fall rains. Larvae metamorphose during late spring, whereupon they disperse into upland forest.

The Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) is a terrestrial turtle, inhabiting many dry and moist woodland and early successional habitat. Development, roads, collection, and disease are the primary conservation concerns.

Core 1262

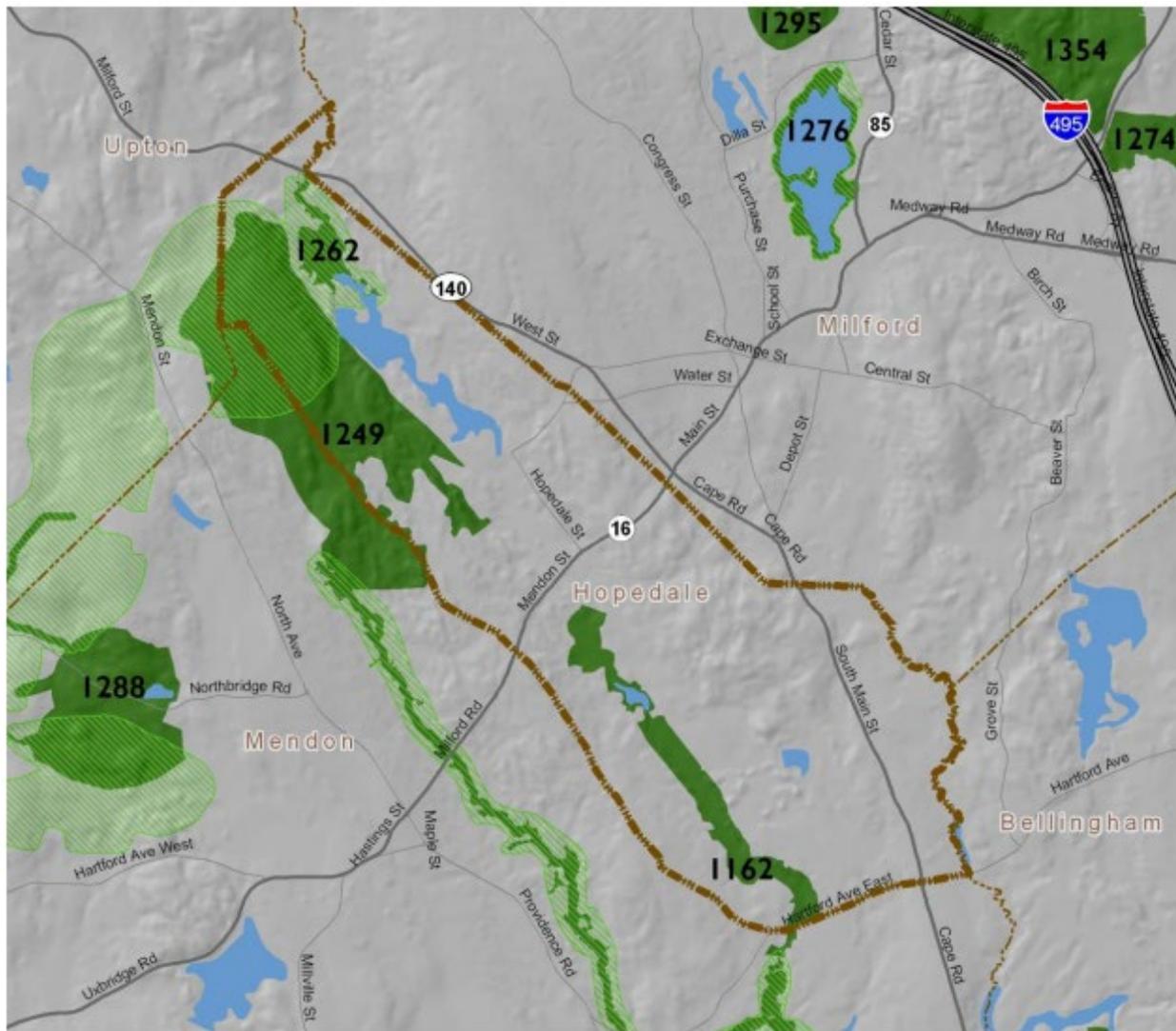
A 48-acre Core Habitat in the northeastern part of Hopedale, north and northeast of Hopedale Pond, featuring Wetland Core. Wetland Cores are defined as the most intact wetlands in each ecological region of the state. These intact wetlands in diverse settings may be thought of as representing the ecological stage, and are most likely to support a diversity of wetland types over time, even as different plant and animal species shift in response to climate change.

CRITICAL NATURAL LANDSCAPES

Critical natural landscapes are identified as large natural landscape blocks that are minimally impacted by development. These areas can provide habitat for wide-ranging native species, support intact ecological processes, maintain connectivity among habitats, and enhance ecological resilience to natural and anthropogenic disturbances.

CNL 645

A 2,992-acre Critical Natural Landscape in the northern part of Hopedale, featuring Aquatic Core Buffer, Wetland Core Buffer and Landscape Block. Aquatic Core and Wetland Core are defined on the previous pages. Landscape Blocks, the primary component of Critical Natural Landscapes, are large areas of intact predominately natural vegetation, consisting of contiguous forests, wetlands, rivers, lakes, and ponds, as well as coastal habitats such as barrier beaches and salt marshes. Pastures and power-line rights-of-way, which are less intensively altered than most developed areas, are also included since they provide habitat and connectivity for many species. These large Landscape Blocks are most likely to maintain dynamic ecological processes such as buffering, connectivity, natural disturbance, and hydrological regimes, all of which help to support wide-ranging wildlife species and many other elements of biodiversity.



- BioMap2 Core Habitat
- BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape

1 Mile



ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

HAZARDOUS WASTE, BROWNFIELD SITES, & LANDFILLS

Awareness of these hazardous materials, underground storage tanks, recorded spills, and releases of oils is important because they are potential sources of water supply contamination. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is responsible for keeping a database and enforcing the cleanup of sites that are contaminated with toxic or hazardous waste. DEP indicates that as of 2022, 50 sites in Hopedale have reported releases of hazardous waste that are in various stages of remediation, the most recent report of which was reported on January 19, 2022. Many of these reported releases occurred at gas and service stations and lasted for a few hours. Those specific releases have been cleaned up and no longer pose a threat to the surrounding area.

The Town of Hopedale has three underground storage tanks located within the Town’s boundaries. Underground storage tanks may pose adverse environmental effects in the event of a spill, leak, or failure. Additionally, there are fourteen sites with regulated facilities within the water supply protection areas. These sites should continue to be monitored by the Town and DEP to prevent any adverse consequences.

RTN	City/Town	Release Address	Site Name	Location	Aid	Reporting Category	Notification Date	Compliance Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical Type
2-0021838	HOPEDALE	13 AIRPORT RD	MOTOR OIL RELEASE			TWO HR	01/19/2022 2	UNCLASSIFIED	01/19/2022			
2-0021624	HOPEDALE	7 FITZGERALD DRIVE	FIRE HYDRANT AREA			120 DY	07/01/2021 1	UNCLASSIFIED	07/01/2021			
2-0020950	HOPEDALE	11 ROSENFELD DRIVE	MARGEURITE CONCRETE			TWO HR	07/11/2019 9	PSNC	03/10/2020		PN	
2-0020456	HOPEDALE	93 JONES RD	HYDRAULIC LEAK	OIL		TWO HR	02/19/2018 8	PSNC	03/19/2018		PN	
2-0020112	HOPEDALE	6 FITZGERALD DRIVE	SOUTH SIDE OF FORMER TANK BERM			120 DY	02/15/2017 7	PSC	06/13/2017		PC	
2-0020111	HOPEDALE	32 DANIEL STREET	HYDRAULIC RELEASE	OIL		TWO HR	02/16/2017 7	PSNC	03/08/2017		PN	

2-0020046	HOPEDALE	7 DEPOT ST	HOPEDALE DPW	TWO HR	11/14/2016	PSNC	01/13/2017	PN	
2-0020041	HOPEDALE	12 DEPOT STREET	GRAFTON AND UPTON RAILROAD	72 HR	11/07/2016	RTN CLOSED	01/06/2017		
2-0019922	HOPEDALE	25 ADIN ST	HOPEDALE JR SR HIGH SCHOOL	TWO HR	07/14/2016	PSNC	09/12/2016	PN	
2-0019441	HOPEDALE	82 DUTCHER STREET	HYDRAULIC OIL RELEASE	TWO HR	03/04/2015	PSNC	04/17/2015	PN	Oil
2-0019208	HOPEDALE	404 SOUTH MAIN STREET	HOPEDALE MART	120 DY	05/01/2014	PSNC	11/03/2017	PHASE III	PN Oil
2-0016842	HOPEDALE	4 BUSINESS WAY	ISOLATION TECHNOLOGIES INC	120 DY	09/27/2007	RAO	10/18/2007	B1	Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0016582	HOPEDALE	7 FITZGERALD DR	UTILITY TRAILERS OF NEW ENGLAND	TWO HR	02/13/2007	RAO	04/23/2007	A1	Oil
2-0016468	HOPEDALE	24 HOPEDALE ST	HOPEDALE PROPERTIES LLC	120 DY	10/17/2006	RTN CLOSED	03/02/2007		Hazardous Material
2-0016467	HOPEDALE	24 HOPEDALE ST	HOPEDALE PROPERTIES	120 DY	10/17/2006	RTN CLOSED	03/02/2007		Hazardous Material
2-0016335	HOPEDALE	7 FITZGERALD DR	FIRST AMERICAN REALTY CORP	TWO HR	08/02/2006	RAO	06/29/2007		Oil
2-0016292	HOPEDALE	7 FITZGERALD DR	MILL RIVER	TWO HR	06/29/2006	RAO	06/29/2007	A2	Oil
2-0016288	HOPEDALE	161 FREEDOM ST	FORMER DRAPER LANDFILL	72 HR	06/23/2006	RTN CLOSED	03/06/2007		Hazardous Material
2-0016184	HOPEDALE	12 DEPOT ST	GRAFTON & UPTON RAILROAD	120 DY	04/14/2006	TMPS	10/17/2018	PHASE IV	TN Hazardous Material
2-0016139	HOPEDALE	161 FREEDOM ST	DRAPER LANDFILL	120 DY	03/06/2006	RTN CLOSED	03/06/2007	PHASE II	Hazardous Material

2-0016138	HOPEDALE	24 ST	HOPEDALE HOPEDALE PROPERTIES LLC		120 DY	03/02/2006	TMPS	06/04/2014	PHASE IV	TN	Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0015983	HOPEDALE	24 RD	CEMETERY FORMER HOPEDALE ICE CO		72 HR	11/09/2005	RAO	11/08/2006		PN	Oil
2-0015776	HOPEDALE	8 SOWARD ST	RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY		TWO HR	06/07/2005	RAO	07/02/2008		B1	
2-0015727	HOPEDALE	6 PROSPECT ST	MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL		TWO HR	05/02/2005	RAO	05/03/2010	PHASE III	A2	Oil
2-0015436	HOPEDALE	49 WESCOTT ST	TITAN MOVING & STORAGE		TWO HR	10/01/2004	RAO	11/29/2004		A2	
2-0015395	HOPEDALE	DUTCHER ST	TOWN OF HOPEDALE		TWO HR	09/14/2004	RAO	11/05/2004		A1	Oil
2-0015171	HOPEDALE	105 ADIN ST	FULLUM RESIDENCE		120 DY	03/19/2004	RAO	07/01/2004		A2	Oil
2-0014965	HOPEDALE	ADIN ST	NEAR MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		TWO HR	10/20/2003	RAO	11/12/2003		A1	
2-0014830	HOPEDALE	244 MAIN ST	SOUTH MILFORD PRODUCTS	TIRE	72 HR	07/03/2003	RAO	07/12/2004		A2	Oil
2-0014816	HOPEDALE	115 ST	MENDON CUMBERLAND FARMS		TWO HR	06/20/2003	RTN CLOSED	03/10/2004			Hazardous Material
2-0014795	HOPEDALE	40 DUTCHER ST	HOPEDALE STATION	FIRE	120 DY	06/09/2003	RAO	09/03/2008	PHASE IV	A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0014561	HOPEDALE	1 DR	FITZGERALD GERRITY COMPANY		120 DY	11/20/2002	DPS	02/28/2006	PHASE II		Hazardous Material
2-0014545	HOPEDALE	115 ST	MENDON CUMBERLAND FARMS		72 HR	11/13/2002	REMOPS	06/29/2007	PHASE V		Oil

2-0014516	HOPEDALE	40 DUTCHER ST	HOPEDALE TOWN OF FIRE STATION	72 HR	10/11/200 2	RAO	12/13/2002	A2	Oil	
2-0014461	HOPEDALE	75 PLAIN ST	ROSENFELD CONCRETE	72 HR	08/30/200 2	TIERI	02/28/2005		Oil	
2-0013722	HOPEDALE	11 AIRPORT RD	AGGREKO INC	TWO HR	03/13/200 1	RAO	06/01/2001	A2	Oil	
2-0013633	HOPEDALE	7 FITZGERALD DR	GARAGE FMR	72 HR	12/27/200 0	RAO	04/27/2001	A2	Oil	
2-0013221	HOPEDALE	75 PLAIN ST	ROSENFELD CONCRETE CORP	120 DY	04/03/200 0	RAO	11/03/2010	PHASE V	A3	Oil and Hazardous Material
2-0012744	HOPEDALE	SOUTH MAIN ST	MILFORD WWTP	TWO HR	04/08/199 9	RAO	06/09/1999	A1	Hazardous Material	
2-0012646	HOPEDALE	35 MILL ST	RESIDENCE	TWO HR	02/04/199 9	PSNC	02/25/2021	PN	Oil	
2-0012312	HOPEDALE	7 DEPOT ST	DPW YARD	72 HR	07/22/199 8	RAO	02/01/1999	A2		
2-0012065	HOPEDALE	19 HILL ST	RESIDENCE	TWO HR	01/16/199 8	RAO	03/16/1998	A2	Oil	
2-0011787	HOPEDALE	245 SOUTH MAIN ST	SE DISTRICT SERVICE CTR	TWO HR	07/01/199 7	RTN CLOSED	09/09/1997		Hazardous Material	
2-0011115	HOPEDALE	245 SOUTH MAIN ST	TRUCK FACILITY	TWO HR	02/17/199 6	RAO	04/04/1996	A1	Oil	
2-0011011	HOPEDALE	32 CEMETERY ST	HOPEDALE OIL	TWO HR	11/22/199 5	RAO	11/22/1996	PC	Oil	
2-0010476	HOPEDALE	325 SOUTH MAIN ST	HOPEDALE GARDENS NURSING HOME INC	72 HR	09/15/199 4	RAO	10/24/1994	A2	Oil	

2-0010331	HOPEDALE	75 PLAIN ST	ROSENFELD CONCRETE CO	72 HR	06/10/199 4	RAO	11/17/2000	PHASE IV	A3	Oil
2-0000969	HOPEDALE	50 DUTCHER ST	GAS STATION FMR	NONE	07/15/199 3	RAO	10/25/1996		A2	Oil
2-0000960	HOPEDALE	245 SOUTH MAIN ST	MA ELECTRIC CO	NONE	12/18/199 2	RAO	01/12/1999		A2	
2-0000765	HOPEDALE	161 FREEDOM ST	DRAPER LANDFILL	NONE	06/13/199 0	TMPS	07/27/2015		TN	

EROSION

Erosion is defined as a geological process in which earthen materials wear away and are transported by natural forces, such as wind or water. Agents of erosion can include rainfall, bedrock wear, wind abrasion, groundwater processes, and mass movement processes in steep landscapes. Though erosion naturally occurs, human activities can increase the rate and severity at which erosion occurs. In the Town of Hopedale, erosion was identified along the banks of the Mill River and along the shorelines of Hopedale Pond and Spindleville Pond.

CHRONIC FLOODING

Chronic inundation is defined as flooding that occurs 26 times per year, or more, on average. In the Town of Hopedale, several areas of Town were identified as vulnerable to chronic flooding. Flooding and icing concerns are present along Green Street, Rockridge Road, Adin Street, Cemetery Street, and Hope Street. The area surrounding the Airpark and Industrial Park are also unable to handle stormwater and flood often. Due to old, historic, or undersized culverts, Cook Street, Dutcher Street, Mendon Street, and Route 16 are also impacted by chronic flooding.

SEDIMENTATION

Sedimentation is the geologic process of the deposition of sediments. It is accomplished by decreasing the velocity of water to a point at which particles will no longer remain in suspension, and gravity moves them down from the water flow as sediment on the waterbody floor. Particle size, water temperatures, and currents can all have impacts on sedimentation. Hopedale Pond is impacted by sediment accumulation at outflow culverts which enter the Pond. This has caused a significant reduction in the Pond's ability to adequately store water.

NEW DEVELOPMENT

Due to Hopedale's small size and historic industrial roots, the Town is almost entirely built out already. Therefore, there is not much additional opportunity for traditional development. Though there is no apparent opportunity for new development, the Town could be at risk of losing open space or encroaching on natural resources to accommodate new development and housing.

GROUND AND SURFACE WATER POLLUTION

Historically, Hopedale's water supply has been contaminated with polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) due to periodic mosquito spraying. In the past, one of the Town's four water wells had to be shut down due to PFAS contamination. The three other water sources are near the Maximum Contaminant Level, and there is concern that these will inevitably need to be shut down as well.

The Town of Hopedale has a Groundwater Protection Overlay District which is meant to protect the Town's drinking water by minimizing the contamination of groundwater. The Overlay is located around aquifers and recharge areas and carries its own set of prohibited uses aimed at minimizing pollution. Development activity that would otherwise be permissible in the underlying zoning district requires a Special Permit in the Groundwater Overlay.

IMPAIRED WATER BODIES

Impaired water bodies are defined as waters that do not meet Water Quality Standards even after point sources of pollution have installed required levels of pollution controls.

CHARLES RIVER

The Charles River, located along the border of Hopedale and Milford, is assessed as Not Supporting Aquatic Life Use along this section of the Charles River due to prior impairments including algae, dissolved oxygen supersaturation, organic enrichment (sewage) biological indicators, physical substrate habitat alterations, *Escherichia Coli* (E. Coli), and phosphorus. The Charles River is listed as a category 4a water with a completed TMDL.

MILL RIVER

The Mill River is assessed as Not Supporting Aquatic Life Use due to the historic presence of non-native aquatic macrophytes in Fiske Mill Pond and Hopedale Pond. The non-native aquatic macrophyte *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* was documented in Fiske Mill Pond in 1994, and two non-native aquatic macrophytes *M. heterophyllum* and *Cabomba caroliniana* (fanwort) were documented in Hopedale Pond in 1998. Additionally, former metals impairment has been noted along this section of the Mill River due to landfill leachate from the Draper Mill Landfill. Occasional chronic toxicity in the Hopedale Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) effluent is being identified with an Alert. The Mill River is listed as a category 5 impaired water requiring a TMDL due to fanwort, non-native aquatic plants, non-native aquatic macrophytes, metals, and PCBs in fish tissue.

ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

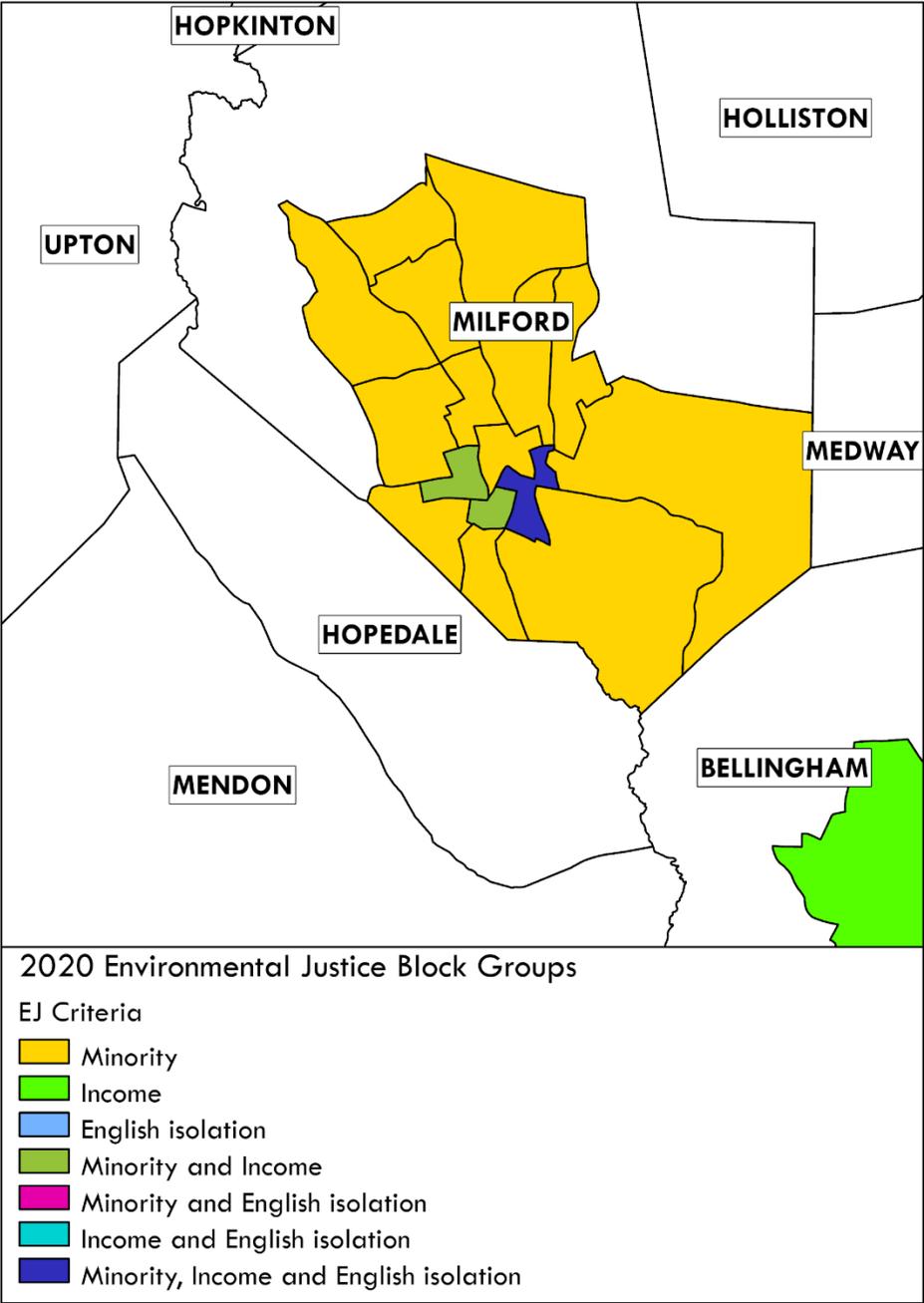
This OSRP recognizes that marginalized communities, including low-income communities and communities of color, often bear a disproportionate burden of environmental pollution, hazards, and degradation. This can lead to adverse health impacts, reduced quality of life, and unequal access to environmental resources. Environmental justice (EJ) aims to rectify these disparities and ensure equal protection and benefits for all communities.

Addressing environmental injustice necessarily involves community participation and empowerment. It requires meaningful engagement of all stakeholders, especially those from marginalized communities, in decision-making and planning processes related to environmental issues. The Town should collect and analyze data on environmental conditions, public health indicators, and demographic information to identify and work to address disparities. The below map shows the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) 2020 data on Environmental Justice populations. These areas meet one of the four criteria listed here:

- The annual median household income is not more than 65 percent of the statewide annual median household income
- Minorities comprise 40 percent or more of the population
- 25 percent or more of households lack English language proficiency; or
- Minorities comprise 25 percent or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150 percent of the statewide annual median household income.

The EJ communities near Hopedale and the criteria they meet are displayed in the map below. Much of Milford bordering Hopedale meets the minority criteria, with two block groups meeting the minority and income criteria and one meeting all three criteria. There is also a large block group in Bellingham that meets the income criteria. Although these groups exist outside Hopedale's boundaries, efforts can be

made to increase access to Hopedale’s open spaces or reduce downstream effects from activity in Hopedale. Additionally, there are still potential inequities that can be identified and addressed within Hopedale, even without meeting the State’s criteria for an Environmental Justice population.

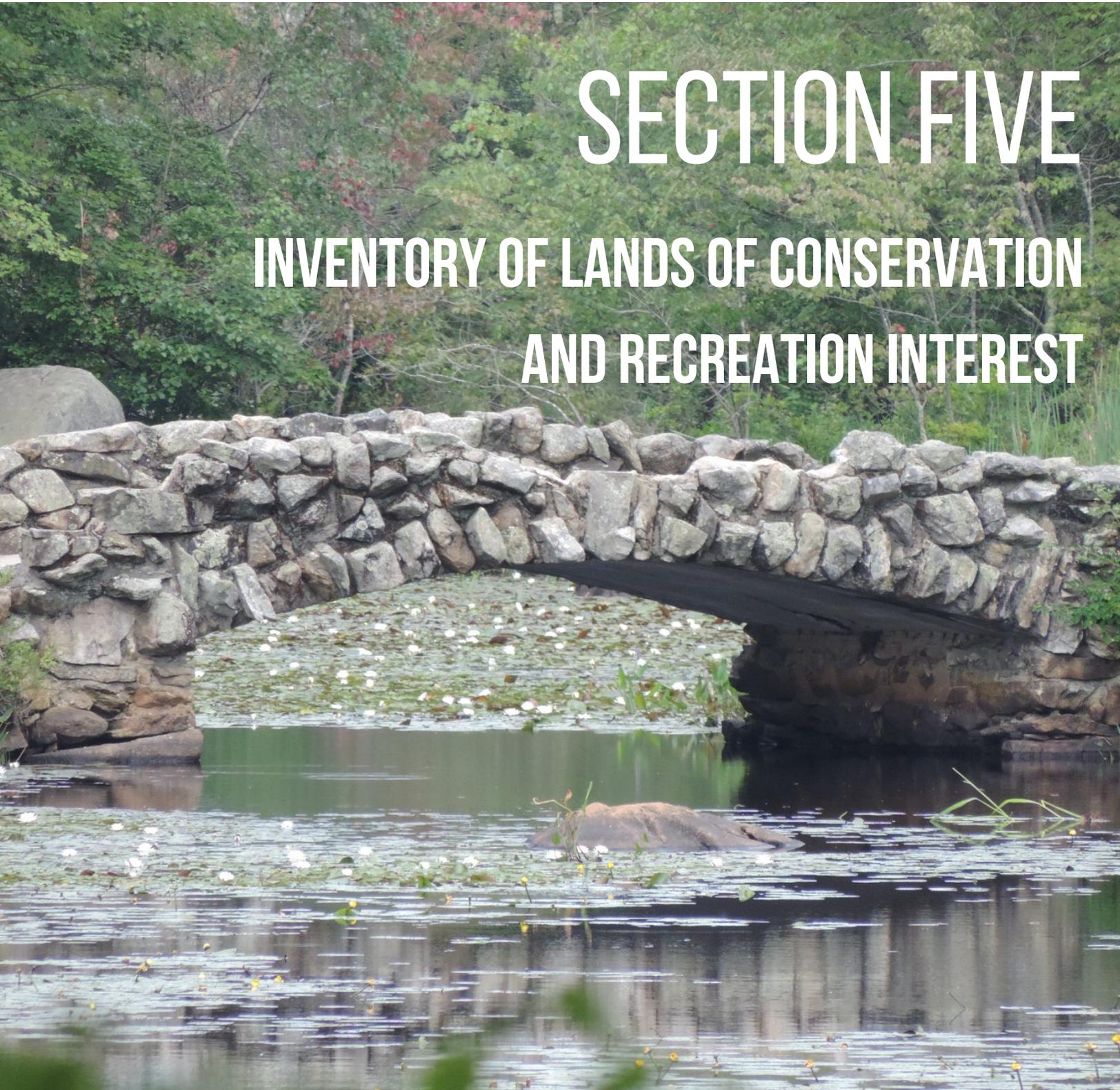


OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

SECTION FIVE

INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST



SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION INTEREST

IMPORTANCE OF OPEN SPACE PROTECTION

Open space provides numerous social benefits and ecosystem services, both of which contribute to increased quality of life at a local and regional scale. Open spaces provide peaceful areas, pleasant vistas, wildlife habitat, safety from flooding and groundwater contamination, and improved air and water quality. Conserving farmlands can help to protect healthy, locally grown foods.

Improving and expanding recreation opportunities and natural amenities is notably important for physical and mental health. They provide venues for exercise, stress relief, vitamin D absorption, cooling off, and social interaction. Relatedly, by fostering increased social engagement, these spaces can cultivate a deeper sense of communal identity. They also cater to a broad range of interests through a wide spectrum of possible passive and active recreation opportunities.

Because of this wide range of benefits, these spaces also contribute to the economic development of the Town. Visitors to the Town will spend money on accommodation, food, and other services, supporting businesses and creating job opportunities for locals. Additionally, tourism can draw in new businesses and residents and increase property values.

Municipal action is required to protect these features and benefits, which are threatened by development activity. The following chapter describes the existing open space properties that Hopedale has to offer.

“PROTECTED” OPEN SPACE

The term "protected" in the context of open space refers to land or areas that have been designated and legally safeguarded to remain in their natural or undeveloped state for the long term. Keeping undeveloped land protected can be a difficult process. If a private landowner wants to preserve their land in perpetuity, then they can do so through Conservation Restrictions, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, Historic Restrictions, or Wetlands Restrictions, usually with the help of local land trusts or through the addition of adjuncts to property deeds. The only public lands within the Town that are fully protected by Massachusetts General Law Section 40 in the parcel deed is the Conservation Commission's land, as well as land that is dedicated to recreation purposes under Chapter 45. MGL Amendment Article 97 protects other Town-owned lands, but if the parcel deeds do not indicate any use of the land then the parcel(s) can be developed or sold by the municipality. Protecting open space has many benefits – not only does it enhance the quality of life for residents, it also helps communities to maintain infrastructure and residential services in a cost effective way.

PRIVATE PARCELS

CHAPTER 61 LANDS

Many private landowners in Massachusetts participate in voluntary Chapter 61 programs that benefit forestry, agriculture or open space uses. Owners who use ten or more acres of their land for forestry

purposes can enroll in the Chapter 61 program, which allows a 95% reduction in property taxes. Owners who use five or more acres of their land for agriculture can enroll in the Chapter 61A program, and owners who use five or more acres for open space/recreation can enroll in the Chapter 61B program. The Chapter 61A and 61B programs also allow a reduction in property taxes. Communities have the right of first refusal on Chapter 61 lands if owners sell or convert to residential, commercial or industrial uses (unless it is a residential use for a family member).

Private stewardship of lands preserves open fields, productive forests and scenic stream valleys in many communities. Often, Chapter 61 lands have been owned by families for generations and have important places in local history. A town’s right of first refusal on Chapter 61 properties is an important conservation and recreation opportunity. To be prepared, a town should have a policy and a well-defined process for working with a Chapter 61 landowner who decides to divest the property.

In Hopedale, several properties have been removed from Chapter 61 programs in recent years, and many forests and farms have been lost to development. However, there is still one Chapter 61 property and two Chapter 61B properties in Town. In total, the Town of Hopedale has 188.9 acres of land listed as Chapter lands. Of those, 155.24 acres are Chapter 61 (Forestry), and 33.66 acres are Chapter 61B(Recreational). These Chapter 61 lands are listed in the tables below.

Chapter 61 Land

Owner Type	Assessor Size (Ac)	%
046	155.24	100.00%
Grand Total	155.24	100.00%

Chapter 61B Land

Owner Type	Assessor Size (Ac)	%
018	8.95	26.59%
2-12-0	8.95	26.59%
084	24.71	73.41%
25-20-0	24.71	73.41%
Grand Total	33.66	100.00%

CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS

A conservation restriction (CR) is a legal document, which extinguishes development rights and ensures a particular property will remain as open space. It is a permanent deed restriction, recorded with the

Registry of Deeds, and binding on all future owners of a parcel. It identifies the important ecological features of the property and the public benefit which results from preserving the natural condition of the land. Conservation restrictions may be granted by public or private landowners to qualified organizations. The property owner retains ownership of the land and may sell or bequeath the preserved land with all restrictions in place. There are two active CRs in the Town of Hopedale. Both are owned and managed by private landowners. In total, there are 18.35 acres of land held in Conservation Restrictions. The table below shows the CRs in Town.

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTIONS

An agricultural preservation restriction (APR) is similar to a conservation restriction except it is utilized to protect farmland. The APR program allows owners of high quality active farmland to be paid in order to extinguish the development rights on their farms. In certain circumstances, APRs can be donated to or purchased by municipalities or conservation organizations. The main objective of the APR program is to protect prime farmland with deed restrictions and revitalize the agricultural industry by making land more affordable and financially secure to farmers. There are no active APRs in the Town of Hopedale.

NON-PROFIT LANDS

It is common to find additional lands of conservation and recreation value under the ownership of private or non-profit landowners. In the Town of Hopedale, a non-profit holds ownership of the Hopedale Village Cemetery, which covers approximately 23.48 acres. The Hopedale Village Cemetery is a historic feature of the Town. In 1845, it was identified that an area dedicated for burial purposes was needed in the Town. At that time, it was decided that the former Cook Farm be converted into the burial ground, which is now called the Hopedale Village Cemetery. And in 1847, it was voted to plan and number future burial plots at the cemetery.

Aside from the Hopedale Village Cemetery, there are no other non-profit and land trusts with designated conservation and recreation lands in Town.

Private Open Space Property	Acres
Conservation Restrictions	
Psp CR	12.16
Olde Hartford Village CR	6.18
Chapter 61	
	155.2
046 2-5-0	4
Chapter 61B	
018 2-12-0	8.95
084 25-20-0	24.71
Non-Profit	
Hopedale Village Cemetery	23.48

PUBLIC PARCELS

STATE LANDS

In the Town of Hopedale, the only permanently protected, state-owned land is a small parcel on the town line that is part of Upton State Forest. The Upton State Forest is a 2,660-acre forest located almost entirely in Upton, with approximately 3.61 acres in Hopedale. Visitors of Upton State Forest can enjoy hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting, mountain biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, or can explore remnant historic structures at this property.

STATE OPEN SPACE

Owner Type	GIS Acres	%
DCR		
Division of State Parks and Recreation	3.61	100.00%
Grand Total	3.61	100.00%

MUNICIPAL LANDS

The Town of Hopedale owns 652.76 acres of land with conservation and recreation interest. Management for these lands is split among the Conservation Commission, Water Department, and Parks Commission and public access varies from site to site. The purposes of these lands range from water supply protection, conservation, recreation, and athletic fields.

Table OSNR4: Municipally Owned Lands of Conservation and Recreation Value

Site Name	Managing Agency	Purpose	Public Access	Protection	Acres
Hopedale Country Club	Town of Hopedale	Golf Course, Walking	No Public Access, Membership Only	Perpetuity	193.652
Hopedale Park	Town of Hopedale Parks and Recreation	Playground, Walking, Tennis, Basketball, Baseball, Batting Cages	Full Public Access	Perpetuity	6.274
Hopedale Pond and Parklands	Town of Hopedale Parks and Recreation	Fishing, Walking, Hiking, Wildlife Viewing, Biking, Non-motorized Boating	Full Public Access	Perpetuity	312.791
Hopedale Water Supply Land	Town of Hopedale Water Department	Water Supply Protection	No Public Access	Perpetuity	29.262

Phillips Field (Mellen Field)	Town of Hopedale Conservation Commission	Playground, Walking, Softball, Baseball, Soccer	Full Public Access	Perpetuity	14.815
Pinecrest Conservation Area	Town of Hopedale Conservation Commission	Walking, Hiking, Bird Watching, Wildlife Viewing	Official Public Access may be	Perpetuity	50.431
Pinecrest Conservation Area II	Town of Hopedale Conservation Commission	Walking, Hiking, Bird Watching, Wildlife Viewing	Full Public Access	Perpetuity	43.468
Water Supply Land	Town of Hopedale Water Department	Water Supply Protection	No Public Access	Perpetuity	9.09
Draper Field	Town of Hopedale Conservation Commission	Baseball, Field Hockey, Lacrosse	Full Public Access	Perpetuity	28.3

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION DESTINATIONS

TOWN PARK

The Town Park is a small active recreation area on the corner of Dutcher Street and Freedom Street. The 6.18-acre park sits northeast of the Parklands and opposite Adin Ballou’s historic house. A boulder wall, constructed from stones found on the property, surrounds the park. The Town Park was designed by Warren Henry Manning in the late 1890s to serve the active recreational needs of the Town. Historically, “Draper Field Days” were held on the site from 1901 up until World War II. These field days included activities such as races and pole vaulting. Originally, the park was laid out to improve the site of a former swamp, and to this day, the northeastern portion of the park still becomes inundated with water on a regular basis. The Town Park hosts a variety of amenities for Hopedale residents and visitors which include a lighted and fenced playground, a lighted bandstand, three lighted tennis courts, a lighted basketball court, a full-size baseball field, and batting cages. The Town holds a yearly Day in the Park event here with craft sales, refreshments, band concerts, and an art show. Seasonal activities at the Town Park include summer concerts, summer recreational programs, arts and crafts programs, and other cultural events.

PARKLANDS

The major conservation and recreation resource is the Parklands, which cover a wide expanse just north of the center. This large nature reserve, developed by the Draper family and donated to the Town is a unique, publicly-owned natural resource in Worcester County. The Parklands are a treasured feature of the Town and protecting their integrity is one of the Town’s highest priorities. This 179.68-acre park is located in the northwestern part of Town and encompasses Hopedale Pond. It was designed in the late 1890s by Warren Henry Manning to serve as a passive recreational resource for the Town. The Parklands were designed to keep the pond and the surrounding open spaces as natural as possible. In addition to Hopedale Pond, other amenities that the Parklands provide include the Willard Taft Nature Trail, hiking and biking opportunities, wildlife observing, picnic areas, and campfire areas by special permit. Along with hiking trails and diverse wildlife habitats, the Parklands provide a wooded buffer that protects the health of the Mill River and preserves the very scenic quality of Hopedale Pond.

HOPEDALE POND AND TOWN BEACH

Along with the Parklands, Hopedale Pond is often regarded as one of the ‘crown jewels’ of the Town. Hopedale Pond is an 86-acre, shallow, warm-water impoundment of the Mill River system. It is located about one mile northwest of the junctions of 140 and 16. This area was dammed a century ago to power the mills nearby. In 1904, a bathing beach was improved at Hopedale Pond for swimming and a bathhouse was constructed. However, in 2010, the Town Beach was closed for swimming due to rising costs for maintenance. The watercolor of the pond tends to be browner, and average depths of the pond are about 2.5 feet. A drop-off boat ramp is accessible to the public and accommodates small boat trailers. No gas motors are allowed on the pond though; only electric motors are allowed. Residents have enjoyed fishing at Hopedale Pond; however, extensive aquatic growth has become a potential obstacle to fishing at this resource during mid-summer. In addition to fishing and boating activities, there is also a segment of trails that makes its way around the Pond for a unique hiking opportunity.

PHILLIPS FIELD (FORMERLY MELLEN FIELD)

Phillips Brothers Memorial Field, formerly known as Mellen Field, is under the stewardship of the Parks Commission. Historically used as a farm, Phillips Field is now used for active recreation with two softball fields, a soccer field, a playground, and an open space area. The Hopedale Girls Youth Softball program utilizes the field for games.

ADIN BALLOU PARK

Adin Ballou Park is a 22.651 square foot historical site and monument. The monument commemorates the Town’s founder, Adin Ballou, and signifies the original site of the Ballou home. A plaque describing the Town’s utopian and industrial origins sits at the park. Adin Ballou Park is one of seven stops along Hopedale’s historical walking and biking tour.

ADIN STREET TRIANGLE

Adin Street Triangle, a 1.08-acre open space lot, is located at the intersection of Adin Street and Mendon Road near the Milford Town line. It was formerly used as a garden site, though now it serves as a scenic view.

DRAPER FIELD

Draper Field is a publicly-owned minor-league baseball field. Located on 28.3 acres of reclaimed swampland, it first opened in 1948 and was compared with Fenway Park back in its day. It was formerly used by the Hopedale Senior High School Baseball team. Currently, the field is used by the High School’s Field Hockey and Cross-Country teams, and the Little League uses the area for their meets and games.

HOPEDALE COUNTRY CLUB

Hopedale Country Club, established in 1953, is a semi-private 9-hole golf course. It was designed by world renowned architect, Geoffrey Cornish. The Club offers a Pro Shop, warm-up driving range, practice green, a clubhouse with a dining room, and scenic views. Hopedale Country Club offers a variety of different memberships or daily rates for use of the facilities.

HOPEDALE COMMUNITY HOUSE

The Hopedale Community House is a facility managed by Hopedale Community House, Inc., a private non-profit organization. Located on Hope Street, the Community House was a gift from the Draper Family to Hopedale residents and has been in use since August 1923. George A. Draper gifted this facility to

the Town as he believed there was a need for a proper community center in the Town that could provide social and recreational opportunities. The Hopedale Community House amenities include a Club Room, Senior Center/Council on Aging space, Ladies Social Room, Main Hall, and a Multi-Purpose Room. Additionally, the facility has a five-lane bowling alley, two pool tables, a ping pong table, and a kitchen. The Town and schools host a number of programs at the Community House, including men's and women's bowling leagues, adult pickleball, yoga, barre, Pilates, Zumba, and other strength and conditioning classes. Programs are available to members of the Hopedale Community House at a fee, and the amenities within the facility are available for private rental.

In the 1950s, another member of the Draper Family gifted the **Draper Gymnasium** to the Town as well. This gymnasium was meant to expand the recreational opportunities in the Town. The George A. Draper Gymnasium sits adjacent to the Hopedale Community House on Dutcher Street. It is used for voting, for the school's physical education classes, and for use by the school's athletic teams. Additionally, adult basketball and adult volleyball programs are hosted at the Draper Gym, which residents and non-residents can participate in at a fee.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

SECTION SIX

COMMUNITY VISION



SECTION 6: COMMUNITY GOALS

DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The Town of Hopedale received a grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) for the development of a Master Plan. With that, the Town also received funding to develop an Open Space and Recreation Plan. A Committee was formed to lead this update and comprised: a member of the Conservation Commission, two members of the Master Plan Steering Committee, a member of the Parks Commission, and three members of the public. And in the summer of 2021, the Town engaged the assistance of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to aid in this planning process.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee kicked off the planning process on July 13, 2021. At that meeting, they discussed what an Open Space and Recreation Plan entails, an estimated timeline, and began developing a community survey. The Committee met seven more times on August 10, 2021, September 14, 2021, October 12, 2021, December 14, 2021, January 11, 2022, February 8, 2022, and March 8, 2022. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all Committee meetings were held virtually over Zoom to allow for safe access. Meetings were advertised and were televised by Hopedale Cable.

As stated above, the Committee began designing a Community Survey in order to gather input from Hopedale's residents and other local stakeholders on the open space and recreation needs of the Town. The survey was 22 questions long and launched on September 1, 2021. Though the Committee initially intended to close the survey at the end of October, it was decided to extend the survey into the next year, and it officially closed on March 1, 2022. The Committee advertised the Community Survey on a number of different platforms. They posted a link and flier advertising the survey on the Town's website, the Town's Master Plan website, and various Town Boards social media pages. In addition, they also advertised the survey by posting fliers around Town, at the Town Hall, the library, and at local stores.

Additionally, the Committee sought other enhanced outreach strategies to ensure that the survey was widely accessible and advertised. The first strategy was to advertise the survey at a local event. On September 18, 2021, some Committee members tabled at the Day in the Park event at the Hopedale Town Park from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. At that event, the Committee displayed a poster explaining the survey with a QR code so that attendees could easily scan and complete the survey on their mobile devices. The Committee members also passed out paper copies of the surveys at the event. A second strategy that the Committee utilized was aimed to increase youth participation with the survey. The Committee asked the School Committee to distribute the survey to students at the Hopedale Public schools. A flier was distributed to the students and they were allowed time during school hours to complete the survey. This targeted outreach was a success, and approximately 42.40% of survey respondents were under the age of 18. In total, 239 survey responses were received.

Following the development and launch of the Community Survey, the Committee began planning a public workshop to gather additional input from residents. The workshop was held virtually on Sunday, February 6, 2022 from 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Residents and other interested stakeholders were encouraged to pre-register for the event on Zoom. In total, 43 residents registered for the event, however, 22 attendees participated on the day of the event. At the workshop, attendees viewed a presentation describing the planning process for the Open Space and Recreation Plan update, highlights of the plan, initial survey results, and draft goals and objectives of the plan. Following the presentation, attendees were split off into two breakout groups to further discuss the open space and recreation needs of the Town.

STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

The final Plan presented herein represents a culmination of town-wide efforts to bring all these stakeholders who have a vested interest in the future of Hopedale into the planning process. The results of the Community Survey and the discussions from the public workshop were utilized to assess the needs of the Town and to develop the Seven-Year Action Plan. The goals, objectives, and actions contained in the next few sections of the plan provides a framework for the citizens of Hopedale to guide the destiny of the Town through future open space and recreation acquisition, projects, initiatives, and plans. The community input gathered by Hopedale's Open Space and Recreation Committee helped to identify the following five goals for the 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan:

1. Ensure Accessibility of Open Space and Recreation Opportunities for People of All Capabilities
2. Improve and Maintain Existing Open Space and Recreation Opportunities.
3. Develop New Open Space and Recreation Opportunities
4. Increase Preservation and Resilience of Natural Resources
5. Develop an Ongoing Strategy for Community Collaboration

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

SECTION SEVEN

ANALYSIS OF NEEDS



SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

The Town of Hopedale residents highly value providing recreational opportunities to the community and preserving the environment for future generations to come. Maintaining the character of Hopedale as a small, historic, New England town is a priority of many residents. And while there is a desire to maintain the Town's character, there is also a desire to modernize and improve opportunities throughout Hopedale. An assessment of resource protection, community, and management needs has been conducted to assist in meeting the goals of both maintaining character and improving recreation opportunities.

SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

There was much discussion in the Community Survey results and during the public forum regarding the protection of the Town's water resources. In general, there was a desire to ensure that all water is free from harmful pollutants, bacteria, and other contaminants that can be harmful to human and wildlife health. As it regards to water infrastructure, there is a need to regularly monitor these resources to ensure that no contamination has occurred. Additionally, there was expressed interest in locating additional drinking water resources with concerns of drought, future development, and anticipated population growth limiting supplies.

In regards to the water quality of ponds, rivers, and other surface waters, there is a need to protect from nutrient pollution, bacterial contamination, heavy metal pollution, and pesticide and herbicide pollution. Excessive levels of nitrogen and phosphorous in the water can lead to the growth of harmful algal blooms, which can be toxic to fish and other aquatic life, and can also affect water quality and clarity. Bacteria such as E. coli and other pathogens can be present in the water and can pose a health risk to humans, especially if the water is used for swimming or other recreational activities. Heavy metals such as lead, mercury, and cadmium can present in the water as a result of industrial activity. These particular pollutants can also be toxic to aquatic life and human health. Pesticides and herbicides used in agriculture and lawn maintenance can run off into nearby water bodies, degrading these resources further. Overall, water quality concerns can have a significant impact on the health of aquatic ecosystems and the quality of water for human use. It is important that the Town of Hopedale continues to monitor its water resources to ensure safe use now and for future generations.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCY

The Town of Hopedale, along with the other communities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have been and will continue to feel the effects of climate change. In the Blackstone River Basin, it is projected that annual days below freezing will decrease, causing rising temperatures in the winter with precipitation falling as rain, freezing rain, or sleet. Winter storms that do occur will result in heavier and more severe snow and ice storms. Winter and spring months are expected to see increases in rainfall by up to 1-4 inches by the end of the century. As heavy rainfall events become more frequent, overbank flooding will occur from rainfall and snowmelt, and piped infrastructure may back up or fail. In the summer and fall,

precipitation may increase, and it is projected that the highest number of consecutive dry days will occur during these months. Additionally, it is projected that there will be an increase of 8 to 29 days annually over 90 degrees Fahrenheit by mid-century, and an increase of 11 to 69 days by the end of the century. As temperatures rise and the frequency of drought increases, these months could be at more risk from wildfires or negative impacts to the public water supply. Energy usage will also increase during these months as air conditioning will need to be used more to cool buildings and protect residents from negative heat related health impacts. The ecosystem is also projected to be impacted by climate change, as changes in temperature and precipitation will force native species to move north out of their range to find a climate better suited to their survival. As native species move north, invasive species and pests will continue to move into the regional environment, disrupting ecosystem processes.

To combat these challenges and negative effects, the Town of Hopedale needs to proactively plan for the impacts of climate change. The Town is an MVP Designated Community and has already gone through the initial step of identifying its most vulnerable areas. In the coming years, the Town should work to improve the resiliency of the Town by completing the recommended actions identified during the MVP Planning process. Seeking funding from MVP Action grants could assist in these resilience building efforts.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

CONDITION OF EXISTING RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Though there are a number of existing recreational facilities, areas, and programs, many of these resources have not been well maintained or have suffered a degradation in quality and use due to negative impacts from development or the environment. Phillips Field, Draper Field, and Hopedale Pond are some of the most notable resources that have suffered from a decline of functionality. Phillips Field, which is utilized by the softball program, is not a regulation size, impacting the usability of the field by the High School. Draper Field has issues with drainage on the baseball fields and in the parking lots, often leaving them inaccessible and unusable. Additionally, invasive aquatic growth in Hopedale Pond has impaired the waters and prevented public swimming. While non-motorized boating and fishing is still allowed on the Pond, the aquatic vegetation can pose an obstacle to these activities. At the Parklands, the grills and picnic tables are not upkept, leaving them largely unusable, and the signage around the property is unclear and confusing. It was also noted that the Town playground needs to be updated. It is outdated, floods often, and needs to be modernized to restore its function. Currently, there is a sand flooring at the playground, which should be removed and replaced with a soft flooring to lessen negative health risks.

In addition to these many issues, most of the recreational resources in Town are inaccessible to walkers, bikers, and especially to disabled persons. Due to a lack of sidewalks or bike lanes throughout Town, many residents utilize the recreational facilities that are closest to them, leaving gaps in recreation access. There is a desire to link the different areas of Hopedale together with a paved cross-town trail or pathway. Installing signage to highlight the locations of various recreational resources across Town should improve accessibility and usage as well.

WATER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Just as preserving water quality is an important resource need, improving water recreation opportunities is a significant community need. Providing water recreation opportunities are important for a variety of reasons including physical and mental health, economic benefits, social benefits, environmental benefits, and educational benefits. Water recreation provides an opportunity for exercise and can be a fun and enjoyable way to stay active. It can also provide a sense of relaxation and can help to reduce stress. In addition, water recreation can bring significant economic benefits to communities through tourism, recreation-related businesses, and property values. It can also provide an opportunity for social interaction and promote a better sense of community. As discussed above, water quality protection is important to the Town, and water recreation opportunities can help raise awareness of and appreciation for these natural environments. This awareness can promote improved conservation efforts. Along with this, water recreation can allow residents to learn more about ecology and aquatic life. In Hopedale, there is a desire to increase the amount of water-based recreation opportunities offered in the Town. Historically, swimming opportunities were available at Hopedale Pond. Respondents to the survey and participants at the public forum discussed the desire to make Hopedale Pond swimmable again. There were suggestions to add a sandy beach area at the pond, and to manage the water quality to make it safe for swimming. Once safe for swimming, the pond could be open for swimming lessons. There was also a suggestion to house kayaks at the pond for rentals.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

When considering open space and recreation improvements, there are certain demographics who are often missed from the planning process. Those underserved populations include young children, teenagers, and aging adults. Physical activity and play are essential for the healthy development of children. Outdoor recreation provides opportunities for children to develop their physical, social, and cognitive skills, as well as to explore and learn about the natural world. For teenagers, recreational activities can be an important outlet as they navigate the challenges of adolescence. Activities such as team sports, music, and the arts can help to build self-esteem, promote social interaction, and provide a sense of belonging. As we age, regular physical activity becomes even more important for maintaining physical and cognitive health. Recreational activities can help aging adults stay active and engaged, and can also provide opportunities for social interaction and companionship. Discussions of improving open space and recreation opportunities for Hopedale's underserved populations was mentioned frequently during the Community Survey and public workshop. It was suggested that the Town playground be upgraded and modernized to provide a more safe play space. The sand should be removed to prevent hazards, and a soft flooring or rubber material should be installed. There was also a suggestion that separate sections within the playground should be constructed to meet the needs of both younger and older kids. It was also recommended that a splash pad be constructed in the Town to provide a cooling area in summer months for children. For teenagers, improvement of the Town's existing athletic fields should provide activities for the teens, keeping them in Town. A skate park was also recommended to improve recreation opportunities for teenagers as the closest skate park is several towns away in Uxbridge. Installation of public picnic areas in parks around town, or construction of benches along the Parklands trails was recommended to provide aging adults with improved recreation access.

MANAGEMENT NEEDS, POTENTIAL CHANGE OF USE

As the Town of Hopedale continues to consider and plan for open space and recreation improvements, it is important to note that these efforts can be limited by staffing capacity and funding for a number of reasons. Open space and recreation areas require ongoing maintenance and management, such as trail maintenance, trash removal, and park security. Without adequate staffing, these areas may not be able to be kept safe and clean, which can limit their use and enjoyment by the public. These efforts also require significant funding to acquire land, develop and maintain facilities and infrastructure, and to pay for staff. Without adequate funding, these areas may not be able to be acquired or developed, or may not be able to be maintained to a high standard. Funding decisions are often made based on priorities, and open space and recreation improvements may not be a high priority for other Boards, Committees, and stakeholders in the Town. Other priorities such as infrastructure, education, and public safety may be given precedence over open space and recreation improvements. And further, the Town of Hopedale has a limited budget, and may not have the resources to devote to open space and recreation improvements consistently. This can also mean that they may not have sufficient resources to address the maintenance and repair needs of existing facilities, which can also limit their use and enjoyment by the public - an issue already noted above. Overall, staffing capacity and funding are critical factors in determining the ability to improve and maintain open space and recreation areas. Without adequate resources, these areas may not be able to be developed or maintained to a high standard, which can limit their use and enjoyment by the public.

SCORP

Assessment of the open space and recreation needs in the Town of Hopedale detailed in this plan are not just significant to the Town, but also pose regional and statewide considerations. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts updated the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) in 2017. The SCORP is a unique planning guide that considers open space and recreation from a regional perspective and helps to best direct investment of funds and other resources towards preserving and improving recreational resources. As part of the planning process for the SCORP, a regional meeting was hosted by CMRPC to better understand the challenges and needs of recreation and open space in Southern Worcester County. A representative from Hopedale was in attendance at this meeting on November 9, 2017. The goals of the SCORP fall in line with regional goals as well as the goals of this open space and recreation plan update. Those SCORP goals include:

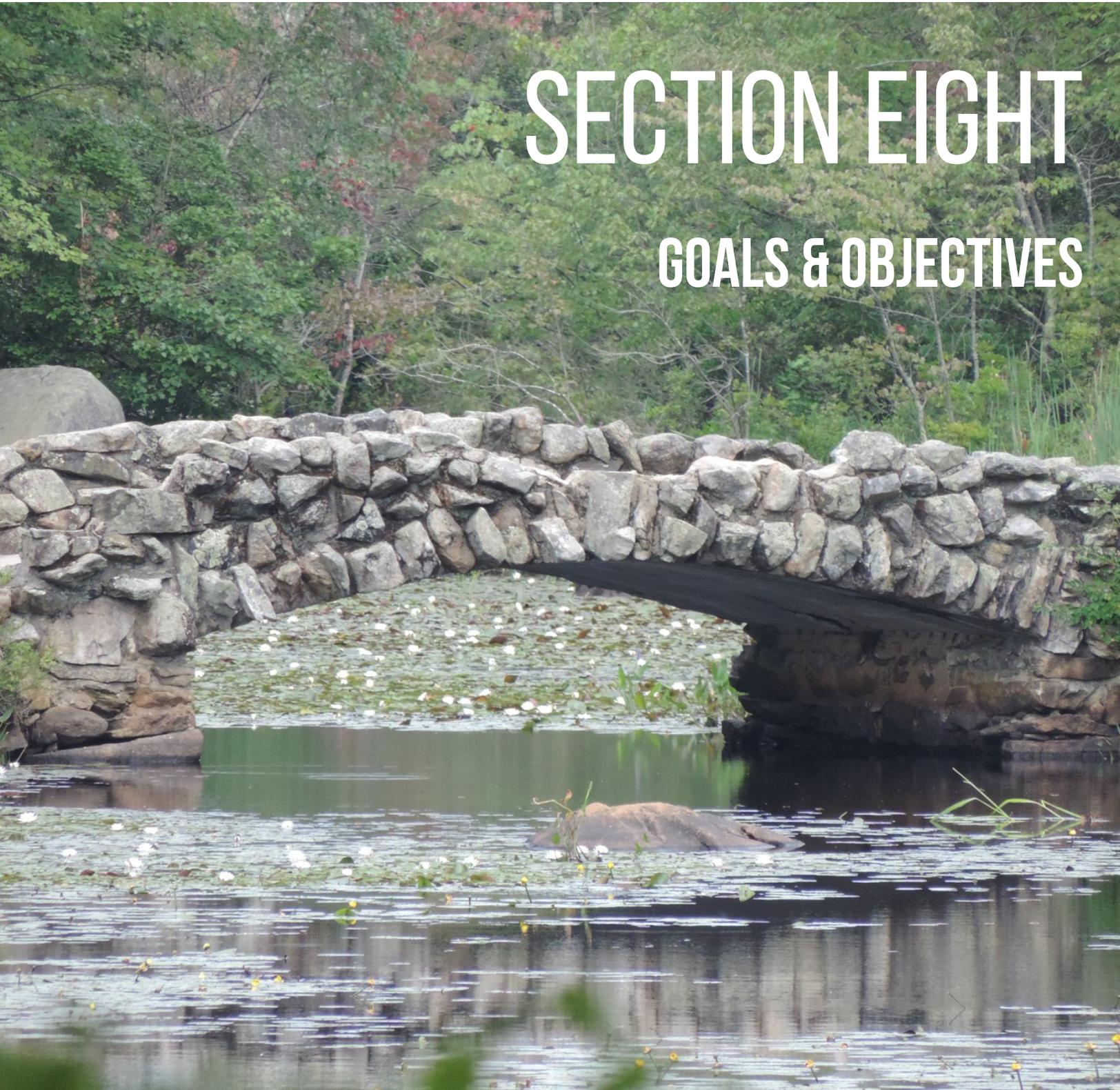
1. Provide access for underserved populations.
2. Support the Statewide Trails initiative.
3. Increase the availability of water-based recreation.
4. Support the creation and renovation of neighborhood parks.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

SECTION EIGHT

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Town of Hopedale believes that open spaces, natural resources, and recreation opportunities offer a wide range of benefits to the community that contribute to the overall quality of life for its residents. Access to open spaces and recreational areas provides opportunities for physical activity, which can improve overall health and well-being. Regular physical activity can reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, as well as mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. Additionally, spending time in natural environments can also have positive effects on mental health and well-being, such as reducing stress and promoting relaxation. These environments can also aid in the preservation of natural resources and habitats and can also serve as a buffer against the effects of urbanization, such as air, sound, and water pollution. They can also help to protect biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife, which is important for maintaining healthy ecosystems.

In an effort to achieve these benefits, the Committee has developed a set of objectives to accompany the overarching goals discussed in Section 6 of this plan. Those goals and associated objectives are as follows:

Goal 1: Ensure the Accessibility of Open Space and Recreation Opportunities for People of All Capabilities

- Identify areas in Town that are lacking in accessibility.
- Improve walkability and bikeability of the Town.
- Eliminate communication barriers.

Goal 2: Improve and Maintain Existing Open Space and Recreation Opportunities

- Manage and restore existing fields, courts, and other active recreation facilities.
- Increase utilization and awareness of open space and recreation opportunities.
- Manage and restore existing passive recreation opportunities.

Goal 3: Develop New Open Space and Recreation Opportunities

- Expand active recreation opportunities by developing new fields, courts, and facilities.
- Expand on passive recreation and open space opportunities in Town.
- Expand and promote cultural, historical, and arts opportunities.

Goal 4: Increase Preservation and Resilience of Natural Resources

- Protect wetlands, vernal pools, riparian zones, surface waters, and other water resources.
- Preserve farmlands, forested areas, and meadows.
- Protect wildlife habitats and improve connectivity.

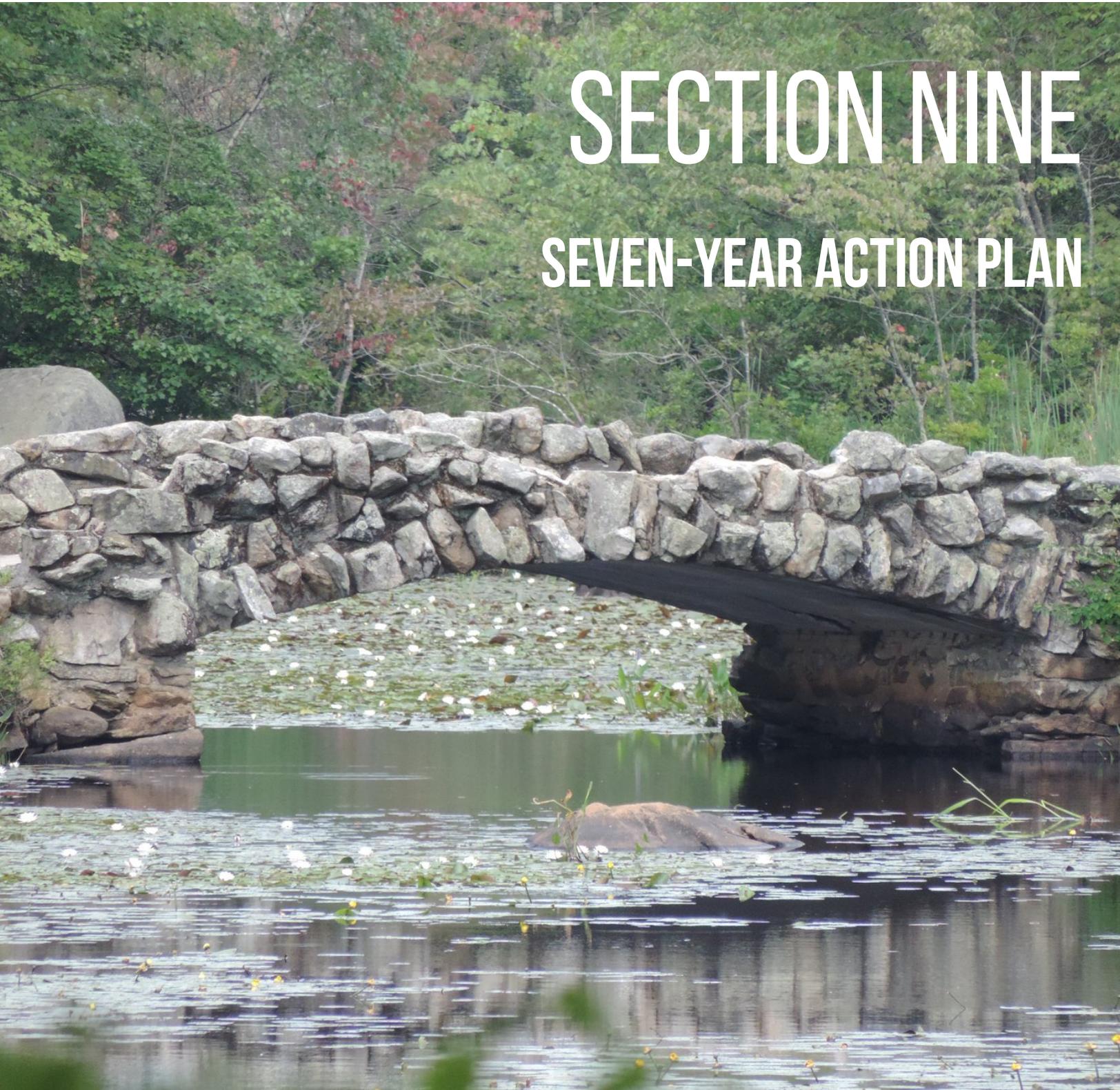
Goal 5: Develop an Ongoing Strategy for Community Collaboration

- Explore funding options from private stakeholders, Town budget, and grant/loan programs to meet the needs of this action plan.
- Develop partnerships with the community and other local and regional organizations.
- Periodic review and improvement of open space and recreation goals.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

SECTION NINE SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN



SECTION 9: SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The following Seven-Year Action Plan was developed by the Committee to aid in building towards this Plan's overarching goals of open space and recreation improvements, community collaboration, accessibility, and natural resource protection. The actions listed here include suggested responsible parties, priority rankings, estimated timelines, and potential funding sources. In doing this, the Committee hopes to utilize this action plan as an implementation guide for recreation improvements over the next seven years.

GOAL 1: Ensure Accessibility of Open Space and Recreation Opportunities for People of All Capabilities						
#	Objective	Action	Responsible Party	Priority	Timing	Funding Source
1.1	Identify areas in Town that are lacking in accessibility	Develop an ADA Transition Plan, assessing the accessibility and vulnerability of the Town's facilities and recreational areas.	ADA Coordinator Open Space Committee	High	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, District Local Technical Assistance, ADA Improvement Grant, CPA
		Install a handicap accessible bathroom at and Town-owned public parks, such as at Hopedale Pond or Philips Field.	ADA Coordinator Park Commission	High	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, District Local Technical Assistance, ADA Improvement Grant, CPA
1.2	Improve walkability and bikeability of the Town	Repair existing sidewalks, and install new sidewalks around town to allow for safe travel.	Highway Department Town Administrator Road Commission	High	Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, Complete Streets Program
		Add benches and picnic areas along the Parkland trails.	Park Commission	Medium	Medium	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MassTrails Grant, ADA Improvement Grant, PARC Grant, CPA
		Identify trails to at the Parklands to resurface for accessibility.	ADA Coordinator Park Commission Highway Department	Medium	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MassTrails Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA

		Construct bike lanes in high traffic areas of Town to allow for safe and protected biking opportunities.	Highway Department Town Administrator Road Commission	Low	Long	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MassTrails Grant, Complete Streets Program, CPA
1.3	Eliminate communication barriers	Update signage at trails and parks around Town to include other languages.	Park Commission Conservation Commission	Low	Medium	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MassTrails Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA
		Update signage and wayfinding at the Parklands to be clearer and easily understood.	Park Commission	Low	Medium	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MassTrails Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA
GOAL 2: Improve and Maintain Existing Open Space and Recreation Opportunities						
#	Objective	Action	Responsible Party	Priority	Timing	Funding Source
		Increase and plan for future staffing needs at recreational facilities around Town.	Park Commission Recreation Ad Hoc Committee	Low	Medium	Town Staff, Town Allocation
2.1	Manage and restore existing fields, courts, and other active recreation facilities	Identify additional active recreation facilities in need of repair or upgrades.	Park Commission Recreation Ad Hoc Committee	Low	Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, District Local Technical Assistance, Local Planning Assistance, CPA
		Ensure ADA accessibility of Town facilities using the ADA Access Self-Evaluation for guidance.	Park Commission Recreation Ad Hoc Committee	High	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, District Local Technical Assistance, Local Planning Assistance, CPA
		Improve Draper Fields, Phillips Field, and the Town Park Field to address drainage issues and maintain regulation use.	Park Commission Recreation Ad Hoc Committee	High	Long/ Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MVP Action Grant, PARC Grant, CPA

	Update the tennis courts to establish regulation use.	Park Commission Recreation Ad Hoc Committee	High	Medium/Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, PARC Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA
	Create and fund a facilities maintenance schedule.	Park Commission Recreation Ad Hoc Committee	Medium	Short/Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation
	Reassign Park Director position to report to the Park Commission rather than the Highway and Road Commission.	Park Commission Recreation Ad Hoc Committee	Medium	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation
2.2	Increase utilization and awareness of open space and recreation opportunities				
	Create a Communications Coordinator position to promote Town events.	Town Administrator Selectboard	Medium	Medium	Town Staff, Town Allocation
	Promote and update information at Town historical sites.	Historical Commission Park Commission Town Administrator	Low	Medium	Town Staff, Town Allocation, CPA
	Create a new resident "Welcome Packet" highlighting the services that the Town provides as well as all of the facilities and programs that residents can take advantage of.	Town Administrator (Communications Coordinator)	Low	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation
2.3	Manage and restore existing passive recreation opportunities				
	Identify additional passive recreation locations in need of repairs or upgrades.	Park Commission Conservation Commission Recreation Ad Hoc Committee	Medium	Short/Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, District Local Technical Assistance, CPA
	Maintain/resurface the Parklands trails.	Park Commission Conservation Commission Highway Department Recreation Ad Hoc Committee	Medium	Medium	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MassTrails Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA

	Create stormwater BMPs for the Parklands.	Park Commission Conservation Commission Recreation Ad Hoc Committee Highway Department	High	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MVP Action Grant
	Address and improve the drainage at the Town Park.	Park Commission Highway Department Planning Board	High	Long	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MVP Action Grant
	Upgrade the playgrounds in Town for functionality and use.	Park Commission Recreation Ad Hoc Committee	Medium	Long	Town Staff, Town Allocation, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA
	Restore and improve aquatic activities at Hopedale Pond and Spindleville Pond.	Park Commission	Medium	Long/ Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MVP Action Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA

GOAL 3: Develop New Open Space and Recreation Opportunities						
#	Objective	Action	Responsible Party	Priority	Timing	Funding Source
3.1	Expand active recreation opportunities by developing new fields, courts, and facilities	Identify additional locations and needs for new athletic fields/courts/skate park/track.	Planning Board Park Commission Recreational Field Ad Hoc Committee	High	Medium	Town Staff, Town Allocation, PARC Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA
		Construct a new turf multi-sports field.	Planning Board Park Commission Recreational Field Ad Hoc Committee	High	Long	Town Staff, Town Allocation, PARC Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA
		Construct turf baseball and softball turf fields.	Planning Board Park Commission Recreational Field Ad Hoc Committee	Medium	Long	Town Staff, Town Allocation, PARC Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA

	Construct a skate park.	Planning Board Park Commission Recreational Field Ad Hoc Committee	Low	Long	Town Staff, Town Allocation, PARC Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA	
	Construct a running/walking track.	Planning Board Park Commission Recreational Field Ad Hoc Committee	Low	Long	Town Staff, Town Allocation, PARC Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA	
3.2	Expand on passive recreation and open space opportunities in Town	Construct a splash pad for summer use.	Planning Board Park Commission Recreational Field Ad Hoc Committee	Medium	Medium	Town Staff, Town Allocation, PARC Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA
		Add sandy beach area to Hopedale Pond for public beach.	Conservation Commission Planning Board Park Commission Recreational Field Ad Hoc Committee	Medium	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, PARC Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA, MVP Action Grant
		Explore the feasibility of creating a trail connection to the Milford bike path.	Conservation Commission Planning Board Park Commission Recreational Field Ad Hoc Committee	Low	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CPA, MassTrails Grant
3.3	Expand and promote cultural, historical, and arts opportunities	Expand summer craft days at the park/playground area	Park Commission	Low	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, CPA
		Identify funding opportunities to improve summer craft days.	Park Commission	Medium	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, CPA
		Identify additional cultural opportunities, such as augmented reality art leveraging the parklands.	Hopedale Culture Society	High	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, CPA
GOAL 4: Increase Preservation and Resilience of Natural Resources						

#	Objective	Action	Responsible Party	Priority	Timing	Funding Source
4.1	Protect wetlands, vernal pools, riparian zones, surface waters, and other water resources	Create an invasive species removal plan for Hopedale Pond.	Conservation Commission Highway Department	High	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MVP Action Grant, CPA
		Utilize open spaces for water storage and collection.	Conservation Commission Highway Department	Medium	Medium/ Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MVP Action Grant, CPA
		Certify the potential vernal pools that exist in Town.	Conservation Commission	Low	Medium	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MVP Action Grant, CPA
4.2	Preserve farmlands, forested areas, and meadows	Create an inventory of potential farmlands in Hopedale and work with owners to preserve land.	Open Space Committee Conservation Commission Planning Board	Medium	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MVP Action Grant, District Local Technical Assistance, CPA
		Provide educational materials to the public regarding Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B programs to encourage utilization.	Open Space Committee Conservation Commission Planning Board	Low	Short/ Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MVP Action Grant, District Local Technical Assistance, CPA
		Provide educational materials to the public on Conservation Restrictions and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions to encourage utilization.	Open Space Committee Conservation Commission Planning Board	Low	Short/ Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MVP Action Grant, District Local Technical Assistance, CPA
4.3	Protect wildlife habitats and improve connectivity	Create an inventory of wildlife corridors in Town.	Conservation Commission Open Space Committee	Medium	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, District Local Technical Assistance, MVP Action Grant
		Establish regulations to protect wildlife corridors from deforestation.	Open Space Committee Conservation Commission Planning Board Selectboard	High	Medium	Town Staff, Town Allocation, District Local Technical Assistance, MVP Action Grant

		Identify culverts that could be upgraded and naturalized to allow for easier wildlife passage.	Conservation Commission Highway Department	High	Medium/ Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, District Local Technical Assistance, MVP Action Grant
GOAL 5: Develop an Ongoing Strategy for Community Collaboration						
#	Objective	Action	Responsible Party	Priority	Timing	Funding Source
5.1	Explore funding options from private stakeholders, Town budget, and grant/loan programs to meet the needs of this action plan	Establish a Friends of Hopedale's Parks group to aid in funding and implementation of these goals.	Town Administrator Open Space Committee	Low	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation
		Apply for LAND, PARC, and MassTrails Grants to fund some of the actions listed in this plan.	Open Space Committee Planning Board Conservation Commission	High	Short/ Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, PARC Grant, LAND Grant, MassTrails Grant, CPA
		Research regional and federal grants that could be utilized for these actions.	Open Space Committee Planning Board Conservation Commission	Medium	Short/ Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, Local Planning Assistance
5.2	Develop partnerships with the community and other local and regional organizations	Create a Town-sponsored clean up and maintenance crew for the Town's various open space and recreation areas.	Conservation Commission Open Space Committee Highway Department	Low	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation
		Join and regularly engage with the Blackstone River Watershed Association, Charles River Watershed Association, and the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative.	Conservation Commission	Medium	Short/ Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation
		Form a coalition with towns along the Mill River and within the Mill River Watershed.	Conservation Commission Selectboard	High	Short/ Ongoing	Town Staff, Town Allocation, MVP Action Grant

5.4	Periodic review and improvement of open space and recreation goals	Create a standing Open Space Committee to meet regularly for review of these goals and the Open Space and Recreation Plan.	Selectboard Town Administrator	High	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation
		Perform a SWOT Analysis of the open space and recreation facilities, planning efforts, and maintenance.	Conservation Commission Open Space Committee	Medium	Short	Town Staff, Town Allocation, District Local Technical Assistance

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

SECTION TEN

PUBLIC COMMENT



SECTION 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Letters of support are being solicited from the following entities: Hopedale Select Board and Hopedale Planning Board. A letter of support for this Open Space and Recreation Plan has been provided by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and can be viewed on the following page.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

SECTION ELEVEN

REFERENCES



SECTION 11: REFERENCES

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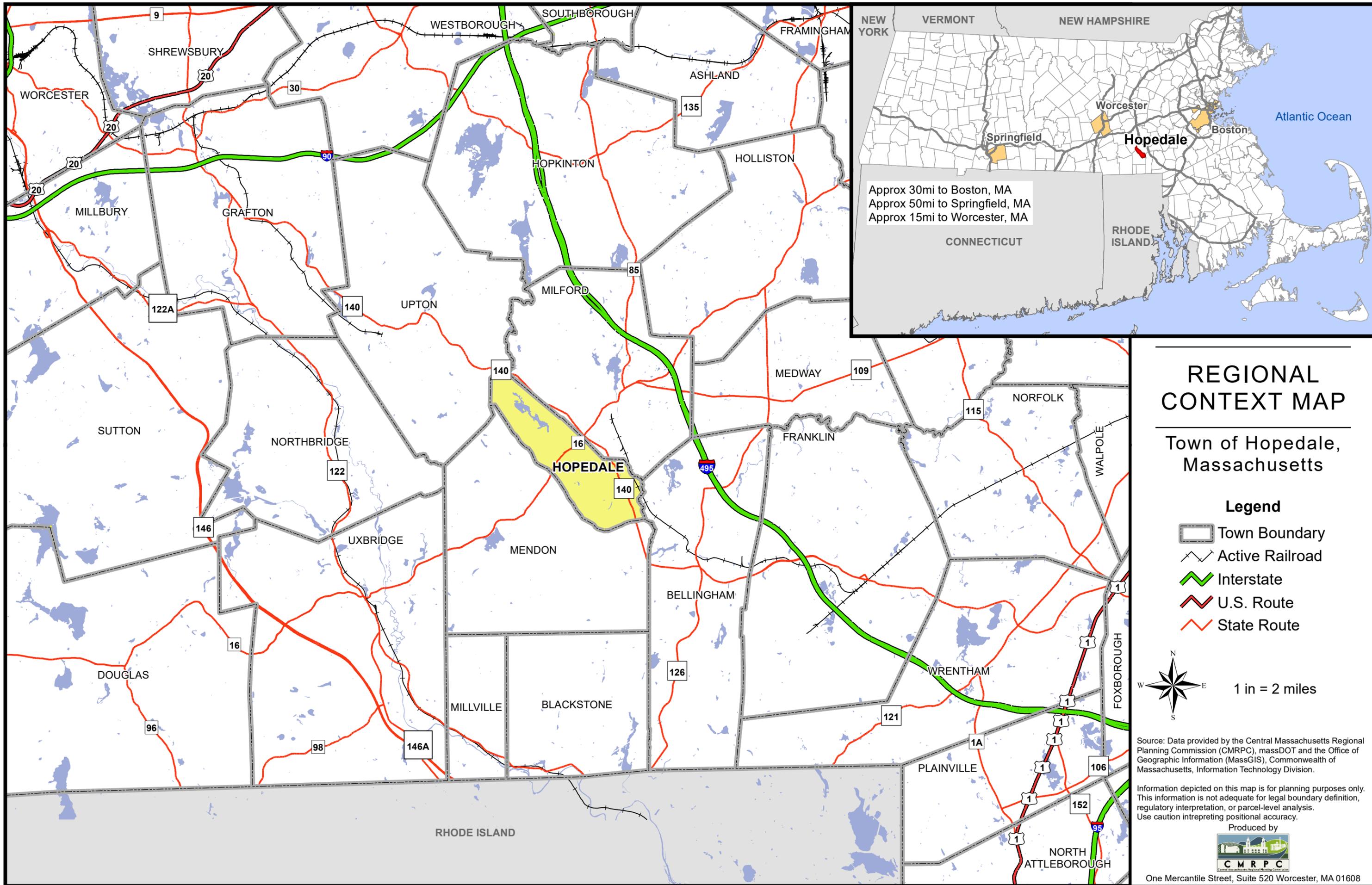
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OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Town of Hopedale

APPENDIX



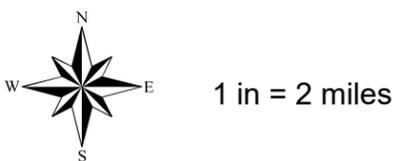


REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

-  Town Boundary
-  Active Railroad
-  Interstate
-  U.S. Route
-  State Route



Source: Data provided by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

Produced by



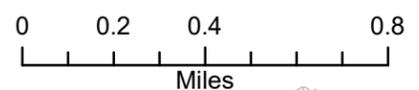
One Mercantile Street, Suite 520 Worcester, MA 01608

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (2020) MAP

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

-  Town Boundaries
- Roads**
 -  Major Road
 -  Local Road
 -  Active Railroad
-  Water Bodies
-  Streams
- Environmental Justice Populations (Census 2020)**
 -  Minority
 -  Minority and Income
 -  Minority and English isolation
 -  Minority, Income and English isolation

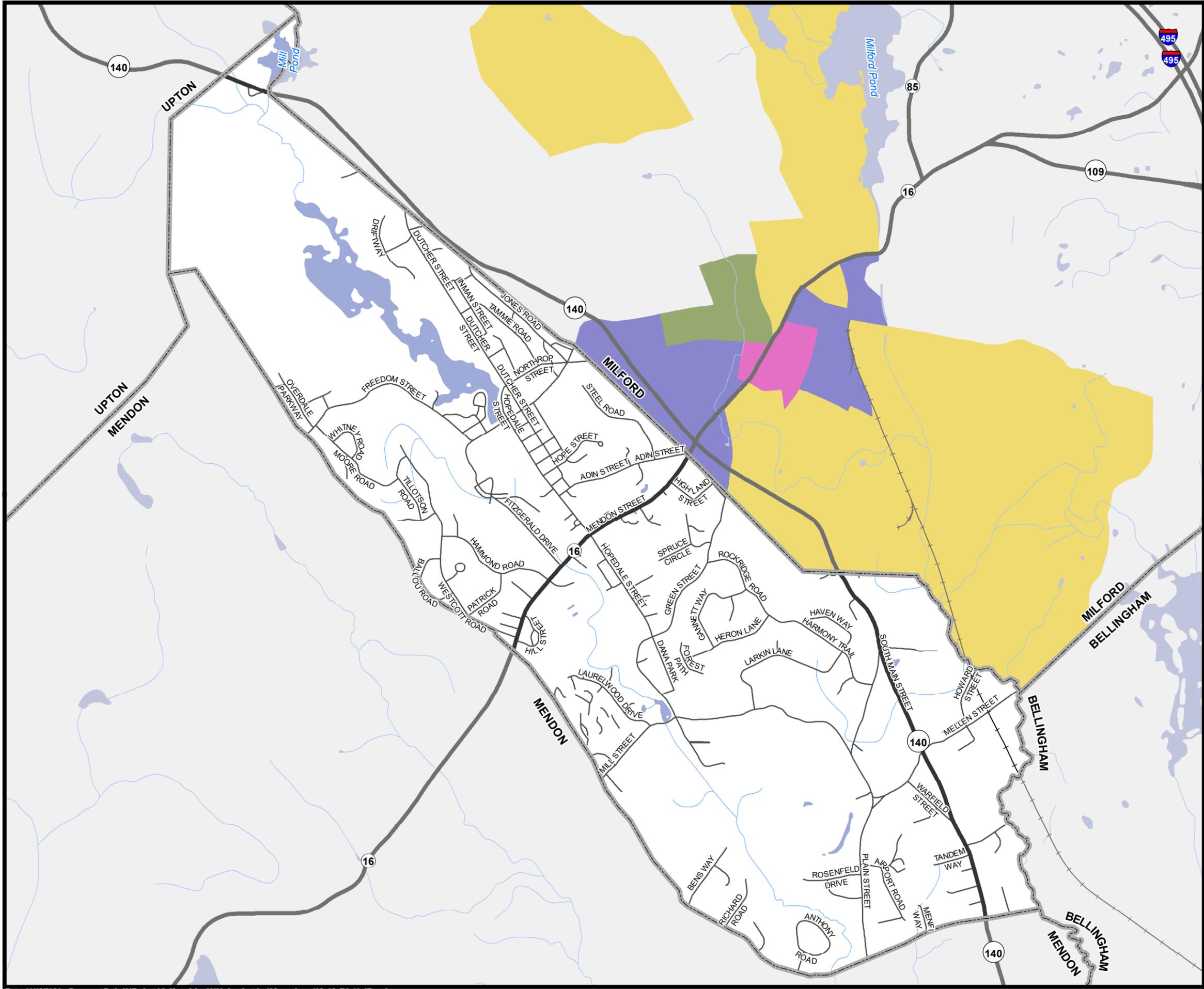


Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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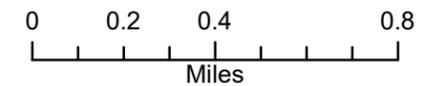


ZONING DISTRICTS MAP

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|------------------|
| | Town Boundaries | | Roads Major Road |
| | Water Bodies | | Local Road |
| | Streams | | Active Railroad |
-
- Zoning Districts
- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | Industrial (I) | | Residential A-1 (RA-1) |
| | Industrial (LI) | | Residential A-2 (RA-2) |
| | Commercial (C) | | Residential B (RB) |
| | General Business A (GB-A) | | Residential C (RC) |
| | Town Land (T) | | Residential Performan... (RP-1) |
| | Recreational (REC) | | Historic Multiple Family (HMF) |
| | Cemetery (CEM) | | Adult Retirement Community (ARC) |
| | Residential A (RA) | | |



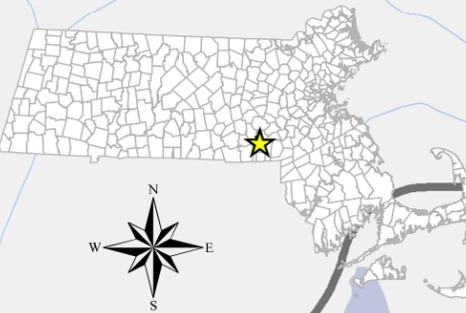
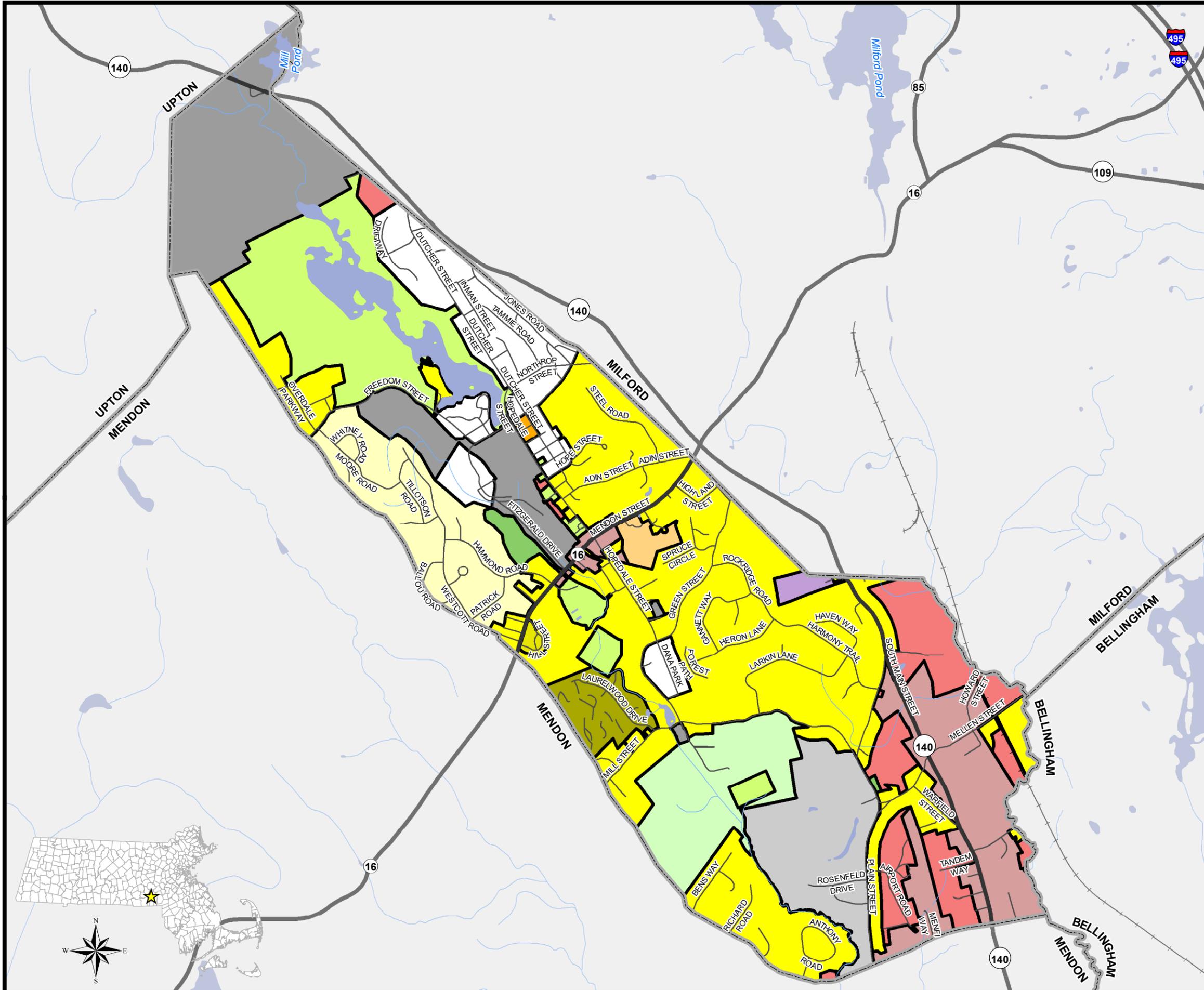
1 in = 0.4 miles

Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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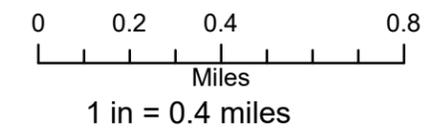


SOILS & GEOLOGIC FEATURES MAP

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

- Town Boundaries
- Roads**
- Major Road
- Local Road
- Active Railroad
- Water Bodies
- Streams
- AUL Location (12/2020) / (1)
- MassDEP Tier 21E Sites (12/2020) / (2)
- Prime Farmland Soils (NRCS Soils-WORC. S)
- NRCS SSURGO-Certified Soils (WORC. S)**
- (Dominant Drainage Class)**
- Excessively drained
- Somewhat excessively drained
- Well drained
- Moderately well drained
- Poorly drained
- Very poorly drained
- Not Classified



Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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Produced by

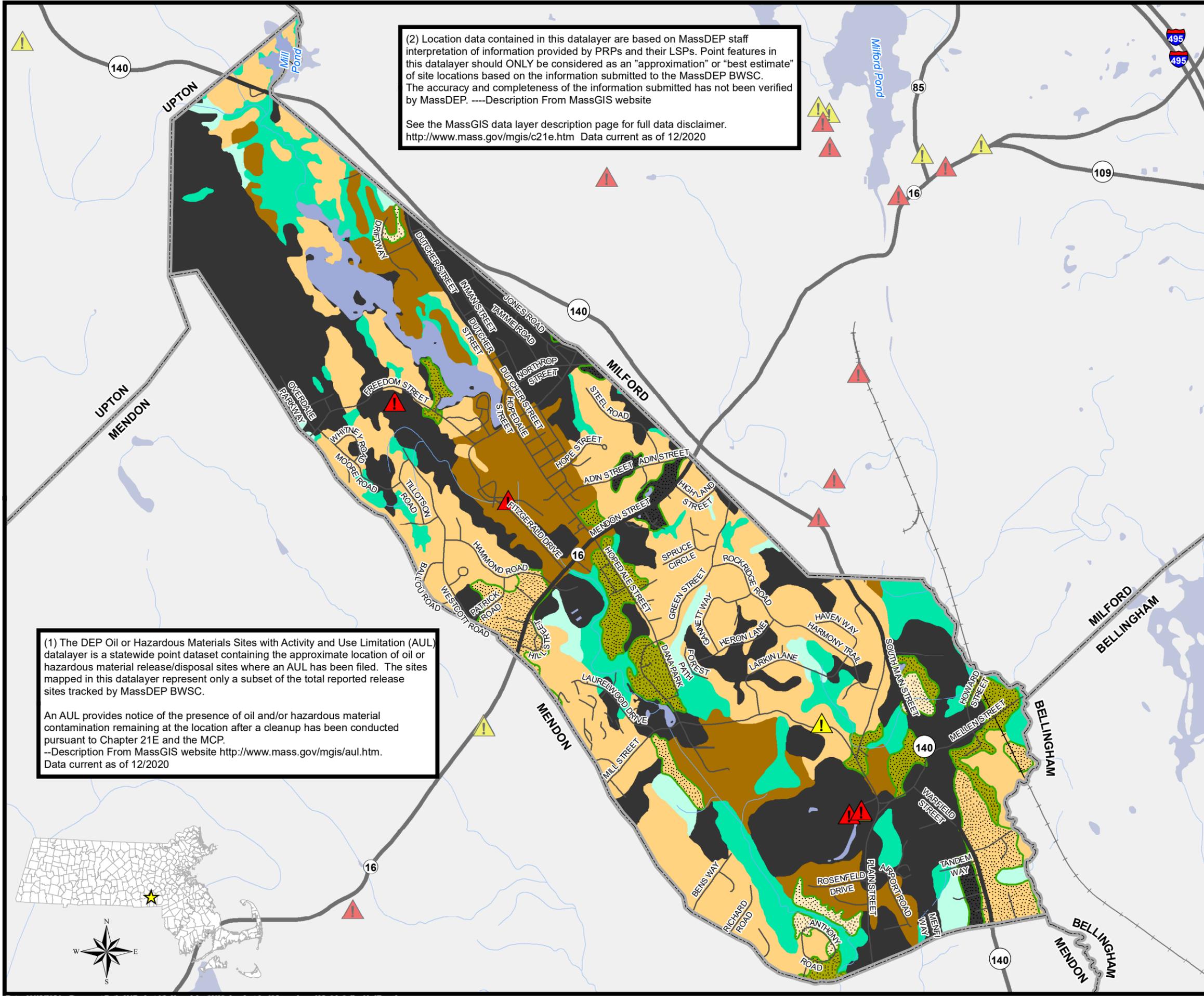
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(2) Location data contained in this datalayer are based on MassDEP staff interpretation of information provided by PRPs and their LSPs. Point features in this datalayer should ONLY be considered as an "approximation" or "best estimate" of site locations based on the information submitted to the MassDEP BWSC. The accuracy and completeness of the information submitted has not been verified by MassDEP. ---Description From MassGIS website

See the MassGIS data layer description page for full data disclaimer.
<http://www.mass.gov/mgis/c21e.htm> Data current as of 12/2020

(1) The DEP Oil or Hazardous Materials Sites with Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) datalayer is a statewide point dataset containing the approximate location of oil or hazardous material release/disposal sites where an AUL has been filed. The sites mapped in this datalayer represent only a subset of the total reported release sites tracked by MassDEP BWSC.

An AUL provides notice of the presence of oil and/or hazardous material contamination remaining at the location after a cleanup has been conducted pursuant to Chapter 21E and the MCP.
 --Description From MassGIS website <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/aul.htm>.
 Data current as of 12/2020



UNIQUE FEATURES MAP

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

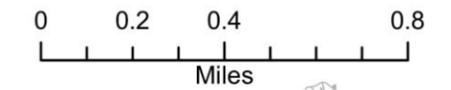
Unique, Scenic, Geologic, & Historic Features

1. The Parklands
2. Mill Street and Mill River Vista
3. Hartford Avenue and Mill River Vista
4. Hopedale Park
5. The Little Red Shop
6. Hopedale Pond
7. Bancroft Memorial Library
8. The Lookout

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| | Town Boundaries | | Town Hall |
| | Roads | | Public Elementary |
| | Major Road | | Public Secondary |
| | Local Road | | Public Library |
| | Scenic Roads | | Police Station |
| | Active Railroad | | Fire Stations |
| | Water Bodies | | |
| | Streams | | |

- MHC Historic Inventory (9/2021)
- Nat'l Register of Historic Places
 - NRHP and LHD
 - Inventoried Property
 - Nat'l Register of Historic Places
 - Inventoried Area

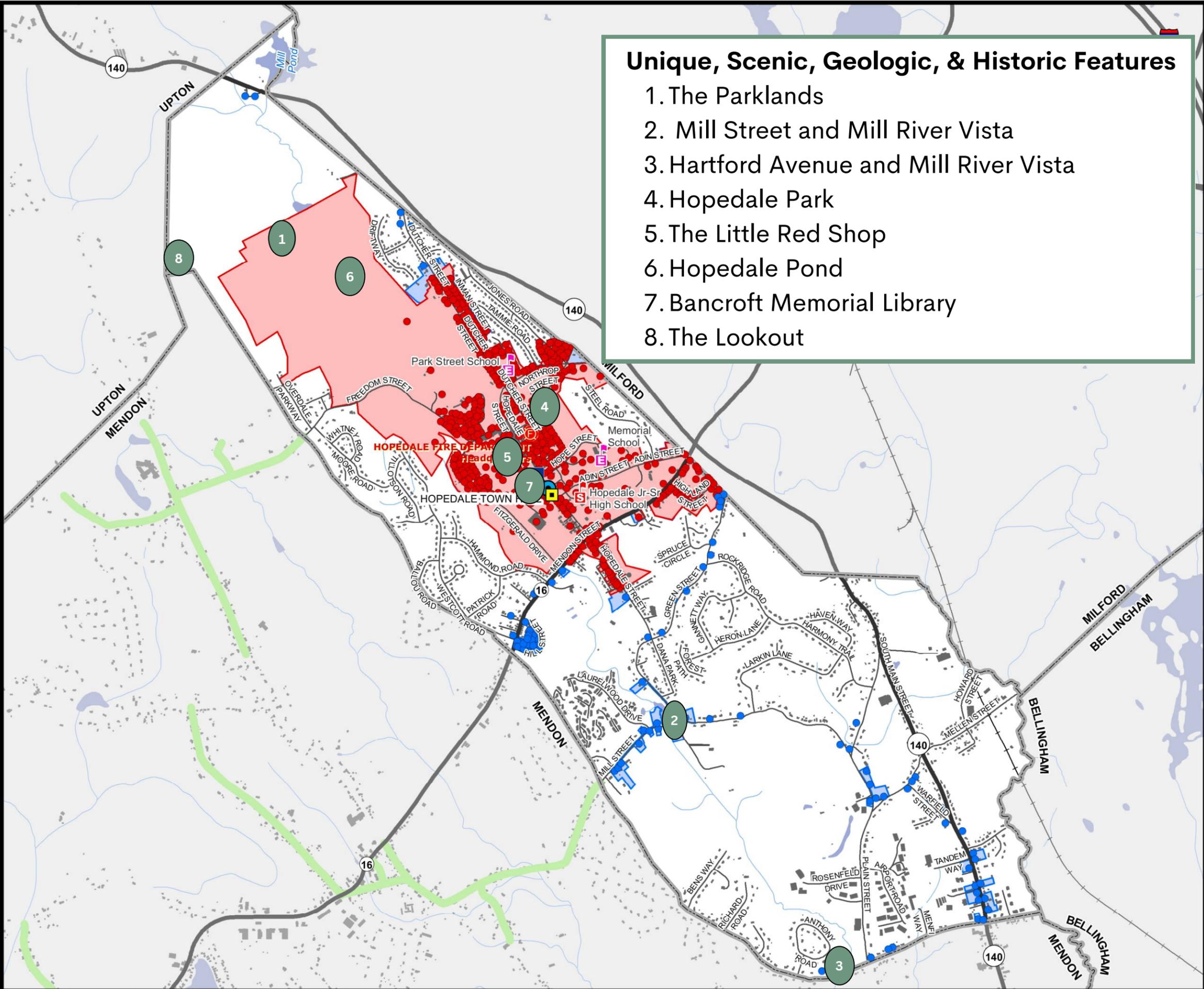


Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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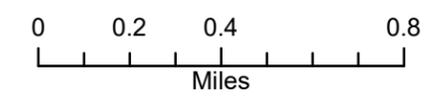


WATER RESOURCES MAP (#1)

Town of Hopedale,
Massachusetts

Legend

-  Town Boundaries
- Roads**
-  Major Road
-  Local Road
-  Active Railroad
-  Water Bodies
-  Streams
-  DEP Wetlands
- Aquifers**
-  High Yield (> 300 gpm)
-  Medium Yield (100-300 gpm)
-  NRCS HUC Subbasin Boundary
-  NRCS HUC Watershed Boundary
- NRCS HUC Subwatersheds**
-  Charles River-headwaters to Chicken Brook
-  Mill River
-  West River



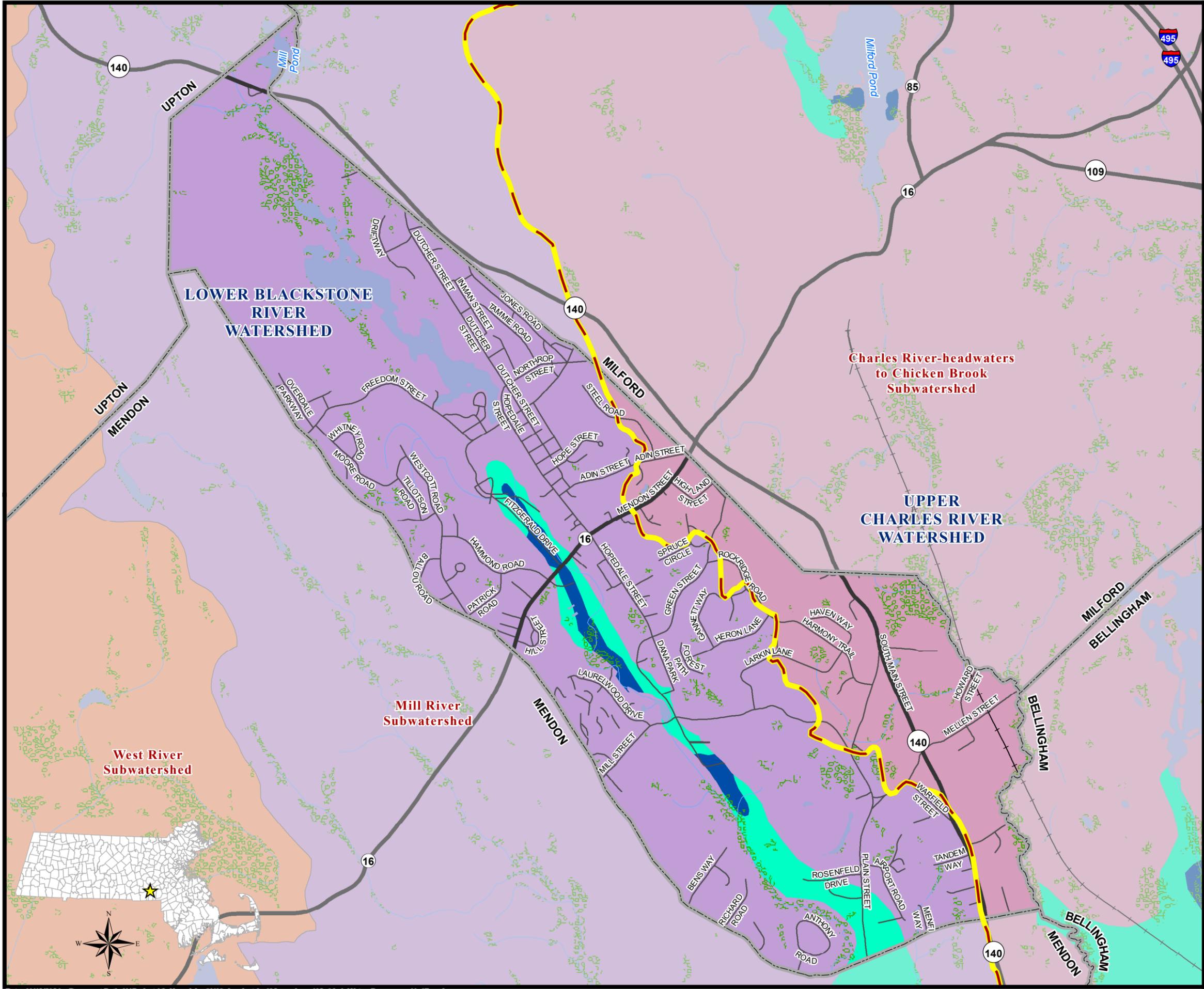
1 in = 0.4 miles

Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.



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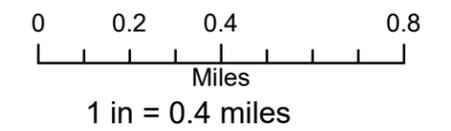


WATER RESOURCES MAP (#2)

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

- Town Boundaries
- Roads**
 - Major Road
 - Local Road
 - Active Railroad
- Water Bodies**
 - Water Bodies
 - Streams
- Public Water Supplies (8/2021)**
 - Emergency Surface Water
 - Community Groundwater Well
 - Non-Transient Non-community
 - Transient Non-Community
 - DEP Approved Zone I
 - Approved Wellhead Protection Areas (Zone II) (8/2021)
 - Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (8/2021)
 - 100-year Flood Area (FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer, DFIRM)

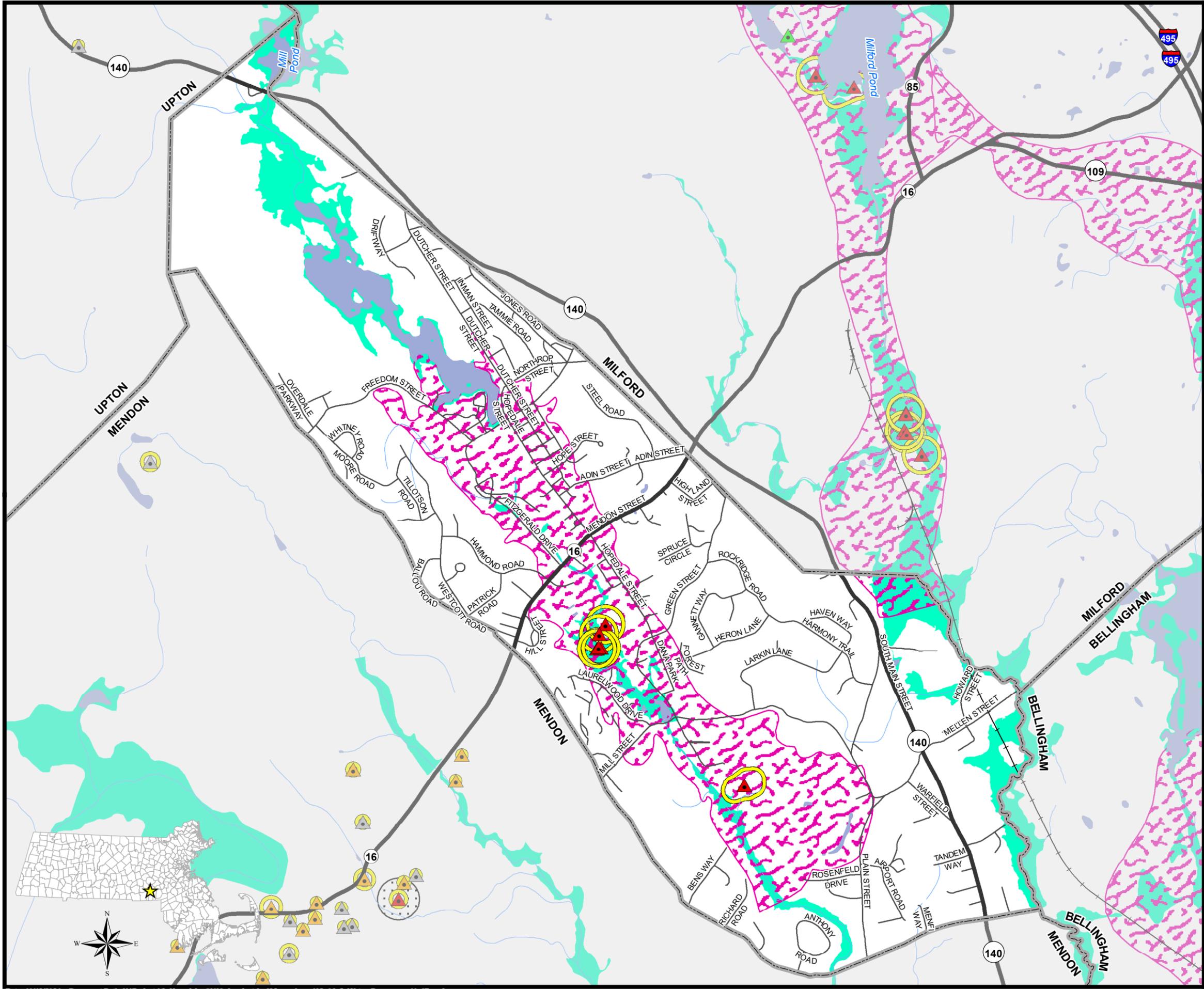


Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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OPEN SPACE INVENTORY MAP

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Town Boundaries | Major Road |
| Water Bodies | Local Road |
| Streams | Active Railroad |
| Conservation Restriction | Town Owned Land (FY2024) |
| Agricultural Preservation Restriction | Undeveloped Land (FY2024) |

Chapter Lands (FY2024)

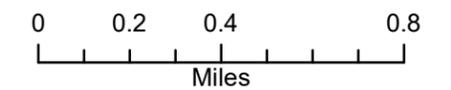
- Chapter 61B

Open Space Ownership (07/2021)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Federal | Municipal - Water Supply Protection |
| State | Municipal |
| Municipal - Conservation | Private |
| Municipal - Recreation | Non-Profit |

Level of Protection

- | | |
|-------------|------|
| Perpetuity* | None |
| Limited | |



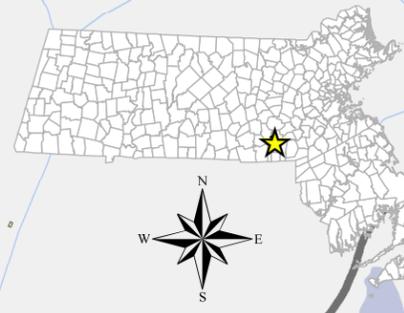
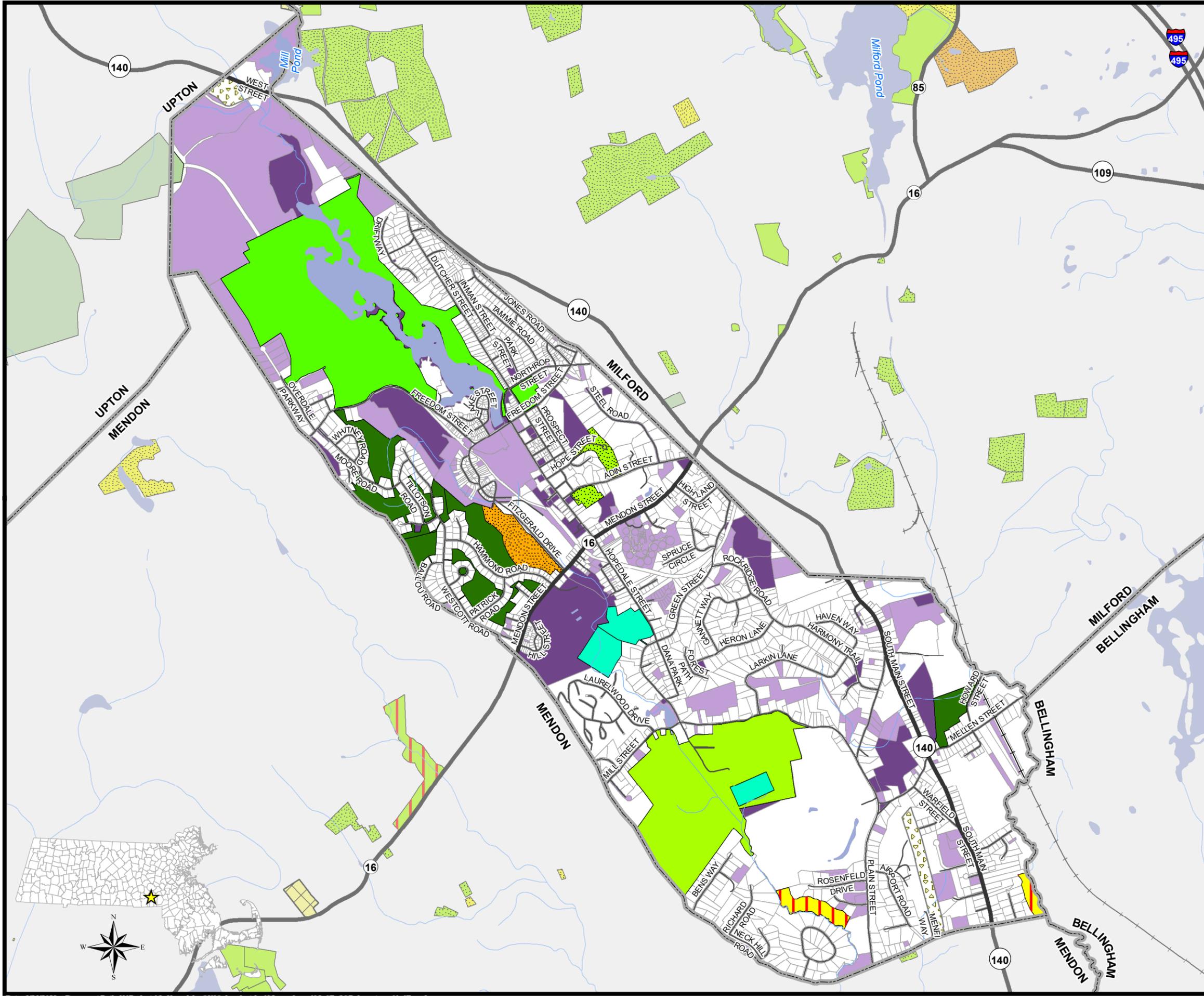
1 in = 0.4 miles

Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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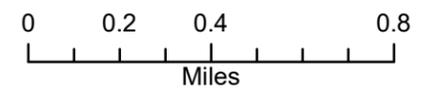
HABITAT FEATURES MAP

Town of Hopedale,
Massachusetts

Legend

-  Town Boundaries
- Roads
 -  Major Road
 -  Local Road
 -  Active Railroad
-  Water Bodies
-  Streams
-  NHESP Certified Vernal Pools (9/2021)
-  NHESP Potential Vernal Pools (1)
-  NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare (8/2021)
-  MassDEP Wetlands
-  NHESP/TNC BioMap2 Core Habitat
-  NHESP/TNC BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape

(1) NHESP Potential Vernal Pools:
Not equivalent to Certified Vernal Pools



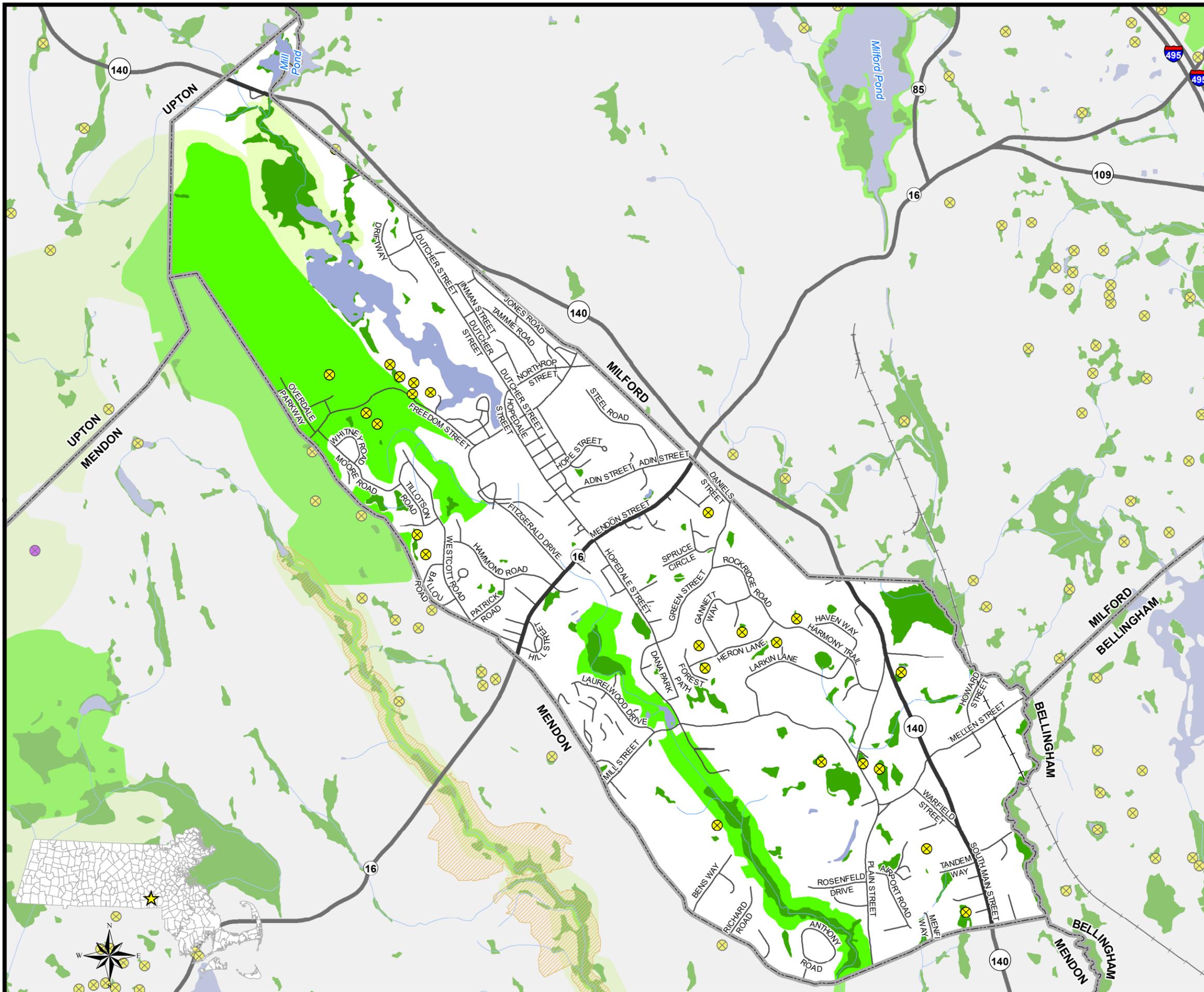
1 in = 0.4 miles

Source: Data provided by the Town of Barre, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.



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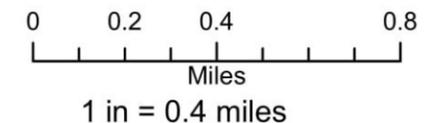


SEVEN-YEAR
ACTION PLAN
MAP

Town of Hopedale,
Massachusetts

Legend

	Town Boundaries		Major Road
	Water Bodies		Local Road
	Streams		Active Railroad
	Federal		Perpetuity*
	State		Limited
	Municipal		None
	Private	* Open space listed as "Perpetuity" will only show a solid Ownership color.	
	Non-Profit	Open Space data from MassGIS and current as of 07/2021	
	Chapter 61B		Town Owned Land (1)
	Conservation Restriction		Undeveloped Land (1)
	Agricultural Preservation Restriction	(1) based on FY22 CAMA.	



Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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One Mercantile Street, Suite 520 Worcester, MA 01608

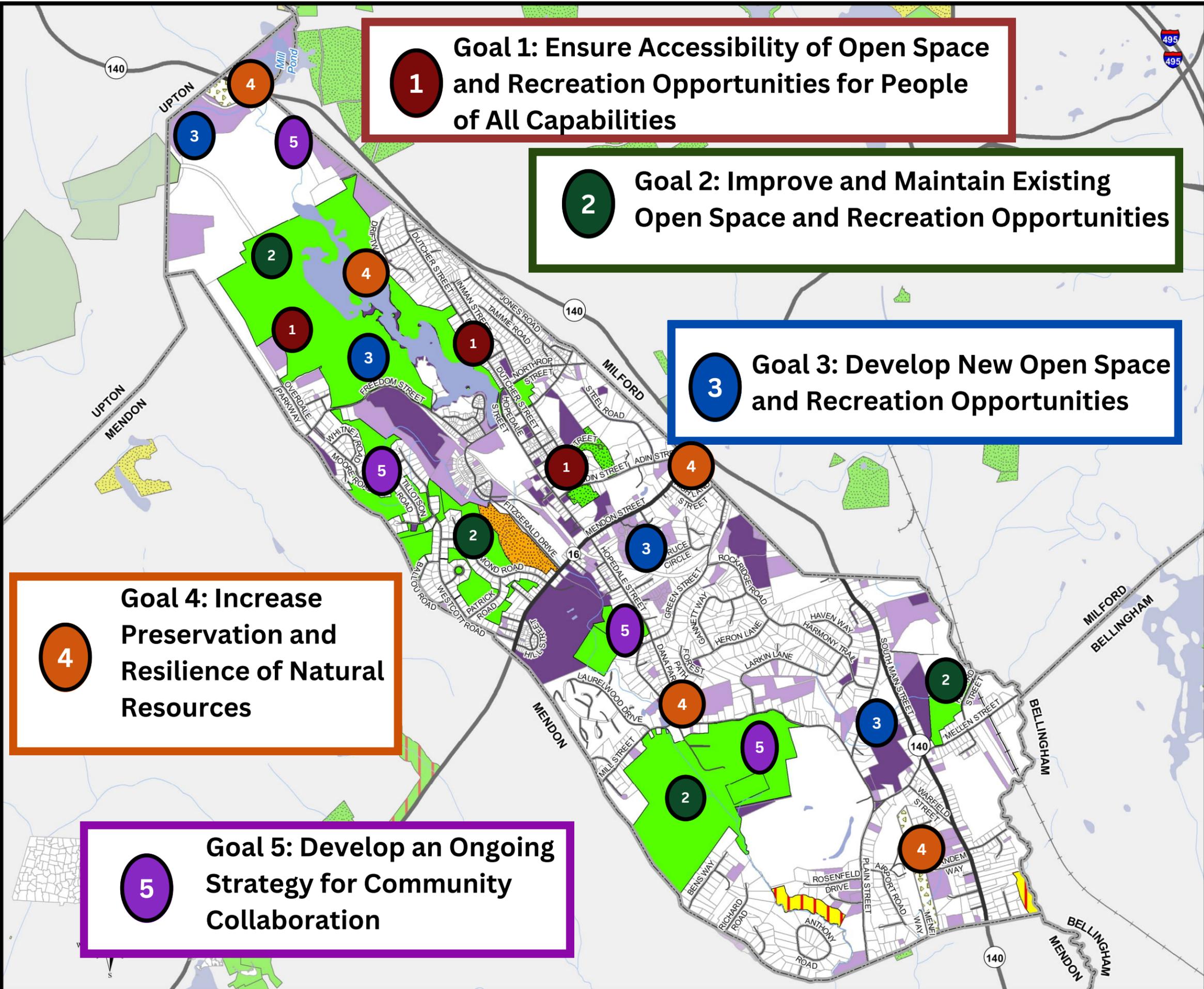
1 Goal 1: Ensure Accessibility of Open Space and Recreation Opportunities for People of All Capabilities

2 Goal 2: Improve and Maintain Existing Open Space and Recreation Opportunities

3 Goal 3: Develop New Open Space and Recreation Opportunities

4 Goal 4: Increase Preservation and Resilience of Natural Resources

5 Goal 5: Develop an Ongoing Strategy for Community Collaboration



Town of Hopedale Open Space Committee

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Remote Meeting via Zoom

6:00 pm

RECEIVED

By Lisa M. Pedroli at 1:03 pm, Jul 08, 2021

The Hopedale Open Space Committee will be holding this meeting remotely via ZOOM. To access the meeting, either follow the link or dial in over the phone.

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86244993091?pwd=amxvYWdPKytsbGFZYVNqL1VzS1EzZz09>

Meeting ID: 862 4499 3091

Passcode: 214771

Dial-in Number: 1-646-558-8656

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Plan Purpose and Requirements
3. Project Team Roles and Responsibilities
 - a. Town
 - b. CMRPC
4. Timeline
5. Elect Committee Officers
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice Chair
 - c. Secretary
6. Community Survey Discussion
 - a. Draft Questions
 - b. Launch and Distribution
7. Next Steps
 - a. ADA Self-Assessment
 - b. Next Meeting
8. Adjourn

Town of Hopedale Open Space Committee

Tuesday, August 10, 2021
Remote Meeting via Zoom
6:00 pm

The Hopedale Open Space Committee will be holding this meeting remotely via ZOOM. To access the meeting, either follow the link or dial in over the phone.

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87520461063?pwd=cFI2VkVHSnlzcFRVR3kyQnpCRmpsQT09>

Meeting ID: 875 2046 1063

Passcode: 182075

Dial-in Number: 1-646-558-8656

RECEIVED

By Lisa M. Pedroli at 9:44 am, Aug 05, 2021

Agenda:

1. Meeting Minutes
2. OneDrive Folder
3. Community Survey
 - a. Draft Questions
 - b. Launch and Distribution
4. Next Steps
 - a. Goals
 - b. ADA Self-Assessment
 - c. Next Meeting
5. Adjourn

RECEIVED

By Lisa M. Pedroli at 9:28 am, Sep 10, 2021

Town of Hopedale
Open Space Committee
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
Remote Meeting via Zoom
6:00 pm

The Hopedale Open Space Committee will be holding this meeting remotely via ZOOM. To access the meeting, either follow the link or dial in over the phone.

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87827453565?pwd=Ymg3V294aWhyb1BocVA1eG1sU21tQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 2745 3565

Passcode: 367095

Dial-in Number: 1-646-558-8656

Agenda:

1. Meeting Minutes
2. Community Survey
 - a. Responses so far
 - b. Distribution
3. Goals Discussion
4. Next Steps
 - a. ADA Self-Assessment
 - b. Next Meeting
5. Adjourn

RECEIVED

By Lisa M. Pedroli at 8:11 am, Dec 10, 2021

Town of Hopedale
Open Space Committee
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
Remote Meeting via Zoom
6:00 pm

The Hopedale Open Space Committee will be holding this meeting remotely via ZOOM. To access the meeting, either follow the link or dial in over the phone.

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88299562927?pwd=SjBBL1A5cEkzMGZDZitvRU52aVY5UT09>

Meeting ID: 882 9956 2927

Passcode: 480688

Dial-in Number: 1-646-558-8656

Agenda:

1. Meeting Minutes
2. Community Survey Updates
3. Goals/Objectives Discussion (continued)
4. Public Forum Planning
5. ADA Self-Assessment Check-in
6. Photos
7. Items Not Anticipated
8. Adjourn

RECEIVED

By Lisa M. Pedrolì at 11:24 am, Jan 06, 2022

**Town of Hopedale
Open Space Committee**

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Remote Meeting via Zoom

6:00 pm

The Hopedale Open Space Committee will be holding this meeting remotely via ZOOM. To access the meeting, either follow the link or dial in over the phone.

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82545285793?pwd=MVJSQS9scGFYURMUEQzMWQrQVdHZz09>

Meeting ID: 825 4528 5793

Passcode: 206312

Dial-in Number: 1-646-558-8656

Agenda:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Vice Chair Discussion
 - a. Resignation of Suzanne MacNeil
 - b. Election of New Vice Chair
3. Public Forum Postponement Discussion
 - a. Continued Outreach
 - b. Roles/Responsibilities
4. Goals/Objectives Discussion (continued)
 - a. Objectives for Goal 4
 - b. Refine Goals and Objectives as Needed
5. Photos of Open Space and Recreation Resources
6. Items Not Anticipated
7. Adjourn

RECEIVED

By Lisa M. Pedrolini at 8:49 am, Feb 03, 2022

**Town of Hopedale
Open Space Committee**

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Remote Meeting via Zoom

6:00 pm

The Hopedale Open Space Committee will be holding this meeting remotely via ZOOM. To access the meeting, either follow the link or dial in over the phone.

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84034611052?pwd=ZkFIZGlnaFB1ckJ4SE9sUG5uNWFRZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 3461 1052

Passcode: 057063

Dial-in Number: 1-646-558-8656

Agenda:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Public Forum Recap
3. Seven-Year Action Plan
4. ADA Assessment Check-in
5. Photos of Open Space and Recreation Resources
6. Next Steps
7. Items Not Anticipated
8. Adjourn

RECEIVED

By Lisa M. Pedrolì at 12:15 pm, Mar 03, 2022

**Town of Hopedale
Open Space Committee**

Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Remote Meeting via Zoom
6:00 pm

The Hopedale Open Space Committee will be holding this meeting remotely via ZOOM. To access the meeting, either follow the link or dial in over the phone.

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858853394?pwd=ek8yRXc4OUl3RWxJemhneUttUDM5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 878 5885 3394

Passcode: 847252

Dial-in Number: 1-646-558-8656

Agenda:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Seven-Year Action Plan- Development and Review
3. ADA Assessment Check-in
4. Plan Review Timeline
5. Next Steps
6. Items Not Anticipated
7. Adjourn

RECEIVED

By Lisa M. Pedroli at 4:57 pm, Apr 08, 2022

**Town of Hopedale
Open Space Committee**

Tuesday, April 12, 2022
Remote Meeting via Zoom
6:00 pm

The Hopedale Open Space Committee will be holding this meeting remotely via ZOOM. To access the meeting, either follow the link or dial in over the phone.

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85709702961?pwd=Rh2UWdhZVpMVW9OcUdyNzZWWVAzUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 0970 2961

Passcode: 010381

Dial-in Number: 1-646-558-8656

Agenda:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Seven-Year Action Plan- Development (cont.)
3. ADA Assessment Check-in
4. Next Steps
5. Items Not Anticipated
6. Adjourn



OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

Community Input Survey

The Town of Hopedale is in the process of updating their Open Space and Recreation Plan! An **Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)** will allow Hopedale to **protect, maintain, and improve** open spaces throughout your community. Please consider completing our Community Survey to **share your suggestions and vision** for the future of open space and recreation in Hopedale!

Access the **Hopedale OSRP community survey** virtually by scanning the QR code below or by clicking on this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HopedaleOSRP>



If you need a paper copy of the survey, or if you have questions about the Open Space and Recreation Plan, please reach out to Dani Marini, Associate Environmental Planner for CMRPC, at dmarini@cmrpc.org

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OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY



THE TOWN OF HOPEDALE IS IN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING OUR **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN (OSRP)** AND WE NEED YOUR HELP! AN OSRP WILL ALLOW THE TOWN TO **PROTECT, MAINTAIN, AND IMPROVE** OUR OPEN SPACES. PLEASE CONSIDER COMPLETING OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TO **SHARE YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND VISION** FOR THE FUTURE OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION IN HOPEDALE!



ACCESS THE HOPEDALE OSRP COMMUNITY SURVEY BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR ENTERING THIS LINK INTO A WEB BROWSER:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HopedaleOSRP>

HOPEDALE 2021





HOPEDALE *Massachusetts*

Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear residents, visitors, and business owners,

Please help the Town of Hopedale update our Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) by participating in this important survey. This survey is being conducted to understand the needs and concerns of Hopedale residents, visitors, and business owners regarding the Town's open space and recreation facilities. Your input will directly impact how the Town of Hopedale will manage open space and recreation resources, and will inform future projects that the Town hopes to pursue.

If you are interested in open space and recreation opportunities in Hopedale, please take a few minutes to answer the following survey questions. Responses for this survey will be anonymous and not attributed to individuals. Surveys must be completed by Friday, March 1, 2022. A public forum was held on February 6, 2022 to discuss potential open space and recreation improvements for the Town. A recording of the forum can be viewed here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qe230p81sja6gqw/AAAzanNxUQoKfiRMSSVT3K-za?dl=0>

Sincerely,
The Hopedale Open Space Committee

With staff support from The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)

For more information please contact:

Dani Marini, CMRPC
dmarini@cmrpc.org



HOPEDALE *Massachusetts*

Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan **Open Space and Recreation**

1. How strongly do you support Hopedale protecting, acquiring, and/or improving Town-owned land for the following reasons:

	Extremely Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Neutral	Somewhat Unsupportive	Not at all supportive
To help preserve the Town's rural character and sense of place?	<input type="radio"/>				
To protect habitat for Hopedale's wide diversity of flora and fauna (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians)?	<input type="radio"/>				
To preserve the water resources in Town (groundwater, wetlands, surface waters)?	<input type="radio"/>				
To reduce the effects of climate change?	<input type="radio"/>				
To absorb storm water and reduce the effects of flooding from extreme weather?	<input type="radio"/>				
To provide facilities and programs for active recreation (sports, fields, courts, hunting and fishing programs, etc.)?	<input type="radio"/>				
To provide areas					

for passive recreation (bird watching, walking, hiking, biking, etc.)?

To preserve unique scenic areas and vistas?

To preserve historic sites?

To control residential growth?

To link existing conservation land together to increase landscape connectivity, habitat space, and the ecological value of our open space?

2. How strongly do you support Hopedale protecting, acquiring, and/or improving Town-owned water resources for the following reasons:

	Extremely Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Neutral	Somewhat Unsupportive	Not at all supportive
To protect habitat for Hopedale's wide diversity of flora and fauna (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians)?	<input type="radio"/>				
To remove invasive species to improve water quality and habitat?	<input type="radio"/>				
To remove invasive species to improve aesthetics?	<input type="radio"/>				
To absorb storm water and reduce the effects of flooding from extreme weather?	<input type="radio"/>				
To provide areas for non-motorized boating (kayaking, canoeing, etc.)?	<input type="radio"/>				
To provide areas for motorized boating?	<input type="radio"/>				
To provide areas for a public beach and/or swimming?	<input type="radio"/>				
To provide areas for fishing and/or wildlife viewing?	<input type="radio"/>				

3. In order to preserve open spaces in Hopedale, would you be willing to:

	Yes	No	No opinion or would need more information
Vote to allocate town funds to acquire or otherwise conserve open space?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support a requirement for all new residential developments to include conservation/open space areas?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Favor zoning that provides for increases in density in existing developed areas in exchange for open space in less developed or environmentally sensitive areas?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consider allowing an easement (i.e. public access or development restriction) on a portion of your property in order to add to existing open spaces or connect to open spaces (e.g. to access a hiking trail or extend a bike path)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support a Wetlands Bylaw to limit development activities adjacent to any wetlands resource area?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Do you have any interest in volunteering to participate on a Town Board or assist a Town project that promotes the preservation of open space and/or recreation?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide your name and email address if you would like to be contacted.

5. What should Hopedale's priorities be for open space and recreation expenditures? Please rank how important each of the following are from most important (1) to least important (10):



Acquiring land for new public athletic fields.



Improving existing athletic fields.



Acquiring conservation lands for passive recreation use (e.g. trails).



Improving passive recreation opportunities on existing conservation land.



Improving/expanding wildlife habitat and corridors.



Expanding/creating available parking at open space destinations.



Expanding/creating available parking at recreational destinations.



Expanding connections for walking (e.g. sidewalks, connecting trails).



Expanding connections for biking (e.g. off-road paths, on-road lanes, and rail trails).



Removing invasive species from existing conservation or recreation lands.



Removing invasive species from water resources (e.g. ponds, streams, rivers).

6. What do you consider to be the biggest unmet open space needs in Hopedale? Please rank the following from most needed (1) to least needed (10):



Additional protected woodlands, meadows, or stream corridors to protect the diversity of flora and fauna



Conservation areas that serve as educational and research areas



Protection of agricultural land



Water supply protection



Town common improvement



Large park with many facilities



Dog park



Performance area



Community garden



Public access areas to water bodies

7. Are there any other unmet open space needs in Hopedale that were not mentioned?

8. What do you consider to be the biggest unmet recreation needs in Hopedale? Please rank the following from most needed (1) to least needed (16):

- Paved, multi-use recreational trails
- Bike lanes within the roadway
- Hiking and cross-country skiing trails
- Skate park
- Hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities
- Children's playgrounds
- Athletic fields (e.g. soccer, baseball, football)
- Tennis courts
- Lighted artificial turf field
- Basketball courts
- Pickleball courts
- Frisbee golf course
- Motocross/ATV paths
- Walking track
- Kayaks and/or canoes available for use at the bathhouse
- Upkeep of parklands

9. Are there any other unmet recreation needs in Hopedale that were not mentioned?

10. What are your favorite open spaces or recreational facilities in Hopedale? Do you have any suggestions for how these open spaces or recreational facilities can be improved?



HOPEDALE *Massachusetts*

Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan **Access and Utilization**

11. How often do you go to a park or other open space in Hopedale to...

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Rarely	Never
Participate in or watch formal youth sports leagues?	<input type="radio"/>				
Participate in or watch formal adult sports leagues?	<input type="radio"/>				
Participate in an informal playgroup or pick up game?	<input type="radio"/>				
Attend a special event at a park?	<input type="radio"/>				
Utilize public play area/playground?	<input type="radio"/>				
Utilize hiking, biking, or cross country ski trails?	<input type="radio"/>				
Visit a park or other open space?	<input type="radio"/>				
Walk or jog on a sidewalk or public way?	<input type="radio"/>				
Bike on public streets or roadways?	<input type="radio"/>				
Scooter or skateboard on public streets or roadways?	<input type="radio"/>				
Boat or fish along a river, stream, pond, or other water resource area?	<input type="radio"/>				

12. How important is it to be able to travel to open space and recreational destinations in Hopedale by:

	Extremely Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Somewhat Unimportant	Not at all important
Walking	<input type="radio"/>				
Biking	<input type="radio"/>				
Automobiles	<input type="radio"/>				
Public Transportation	<input type="radio"/>				

13. Do you have difficulty with:

	No	Some	A lot	Unable	Prefer not to answer
Seeing even if wearing glasses?	<input type="radio"/>				
Hearing even if using hearing aid/s?	<input type="radio"/>				
Walking or climbing stairs?	<input type="radio"/>				
Remembering or concentrating?	<input type="radio"/>				
Communicating (for example, understanding or being understood by others)?	<input type="radio"/>				

14. How satisfied are you with:

	Extremely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Not at all satisfied
The variety of existing recreational programs/opportunities for adults?	<input type="radio"/>				
The variety of existing recreational programs/opportunities for children?	<input type="radio"/>				
The variety of existing recreational programs/opportunities for the aging adults?	<input type="radio"/>				
The variety of and/or condition of existing indoor recreational facilities?	<input type="radio"/>				
The variety and/or condition of existing outdoor recreational facilities?	<input type="radio"/>				
The amount and condition of existing trails/other passive recreation opportunities?	<input type="radio"/>				
The amount and condition of existing sidewalks?	<input type="radio"/>				
The amount and condition of existing parking facilities at Hopedale's open spaces?	<input type="radio"/>				
The amount, condition, and/or safety of bike paths?	<input type="radio"/>				
The amount, condition, and/or safety of bike lanes within roadways?	<input type="radio"/>				

15. Do you regularly travel to any nearby communities for open space and/or recreational opportunities? Please list community and the activity for which you travel there for.

16. How would you prefer to get information about open spaces and/or recreational opportunities and events in Hopedale?

- School Community Bulletin or Listserve
- Email
- Public Bulletin Boards
- Town website
- Facebook
- Other social media (Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- CodeRED
- Information from community groups or athletic leagues
- Flyers or signs around Town
- Word-of-mouth
- Local newspapers

Would you like to be added to an Open Space and Recreation Plan listserv? If yes, please provide your name and email address.



HOPEDALE *Massachusetts*

Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan Demographics

17. What is your age?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 18 | <input type="radio"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="radio"/> 18-24 | <input type="radio"/> 65-74 |
| <input type="radio"/> 25-34 | <input type="radio"/> 75-84 |
| <input type="radio"/> 35-44 | <input type="radio"/> 85+ |
| <input type="radio"/> 45-54 | |

18. Do you have children under the age of 18 living with you?

- Yes
- No

19. What is your household size?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

20. Do you currently reside in Hopedale?

Yes

No

If no, please specify what town/city you live in:

21. If you currently live in Hopedale, how long have you lived here?

Less than 1 year

1 - 3 years

4 - 6 years

7 - 9 years

10 - 20 years

More than 20 years

I do not live in Hopedale and I have never lived there

I used to live in Hopedale, but I no longer live there



HOPEDALE *Massachusetts*

Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Thank you for your input! We greatly appreciate your involvement!

Sincerely,

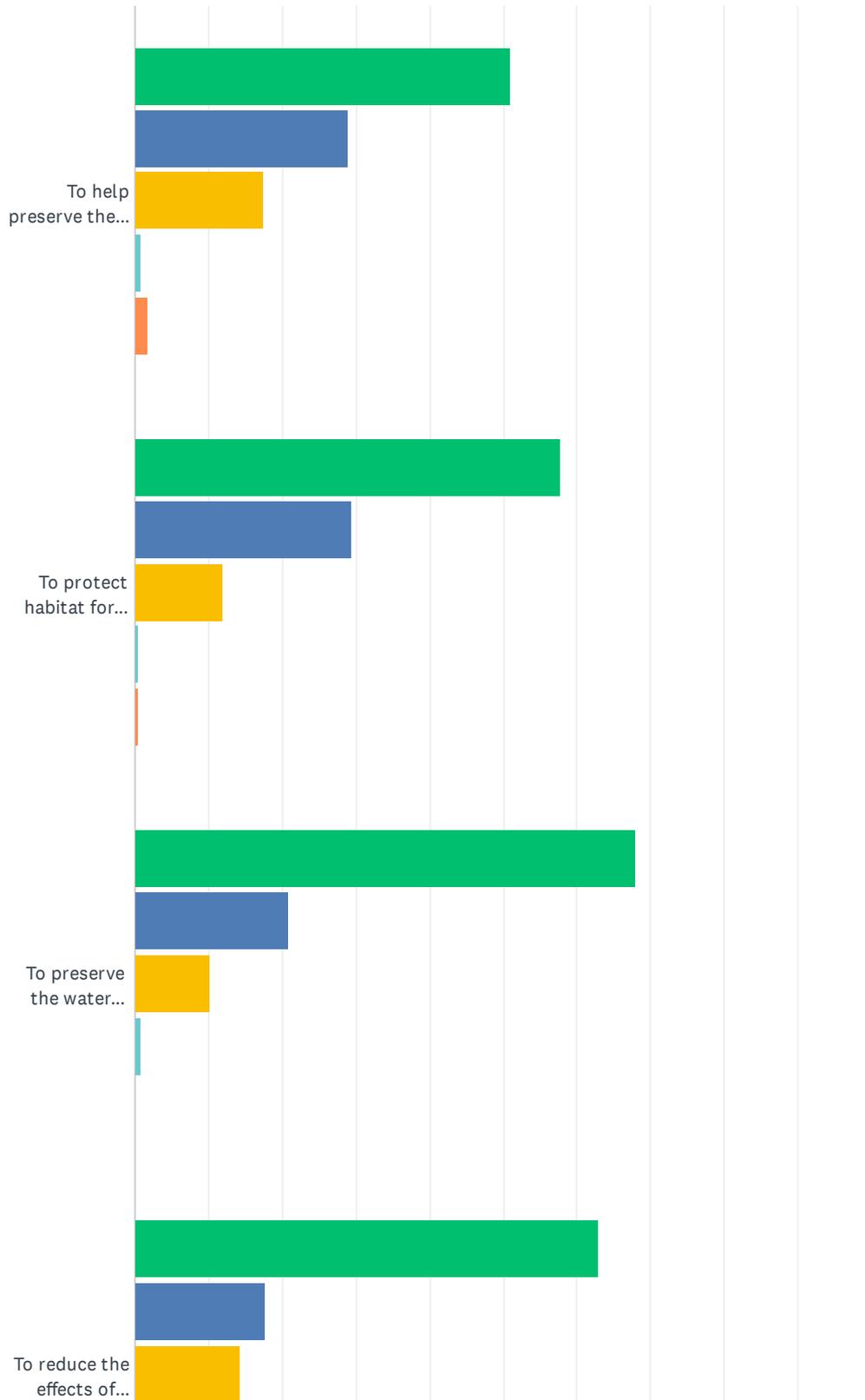
The Hopedale Open Space Committee

With staff support from The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC).

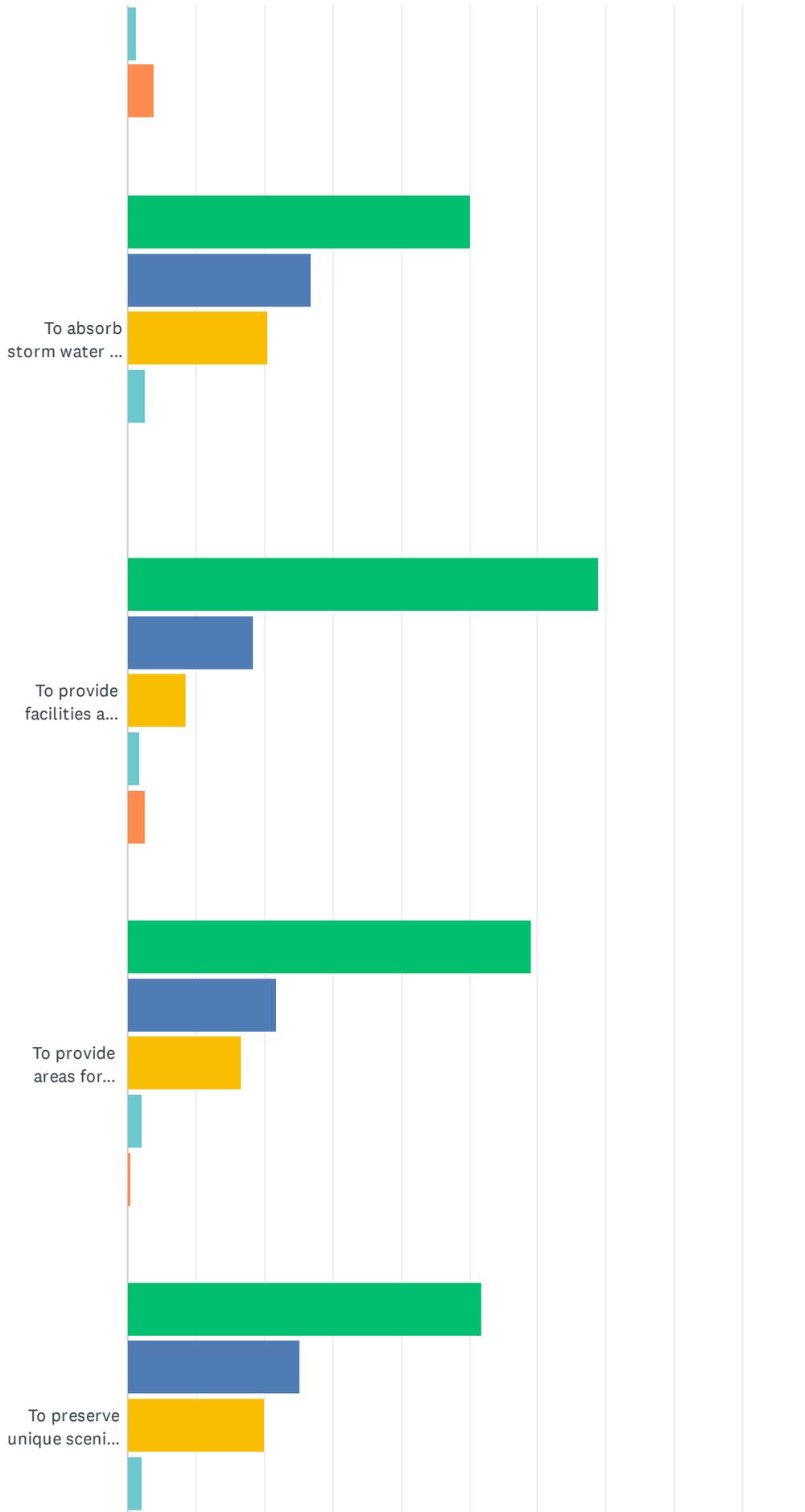
If you have further comments or questions, or if you are interested in volunteering on matters related to open space and recreation please contact Dani Marini, Associate Environmental Planner for CMRPC, at dmarini@cmrpc.org.

Q1 How strongly do you support Hopedale protecting, acquiring, and/or improving Town-owned land for the following reasons:

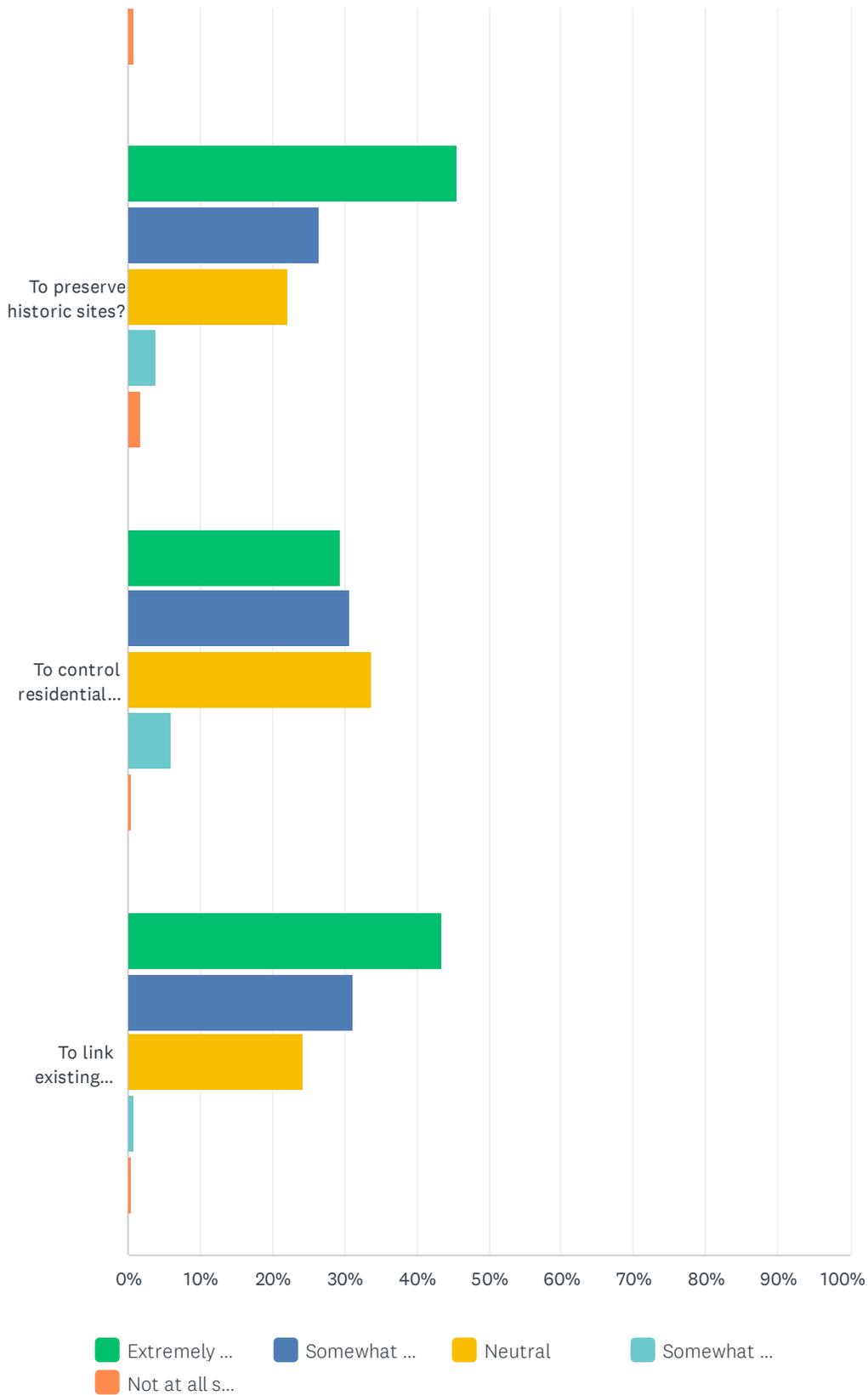
Answered: 235 Skipped: 4



Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan



Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

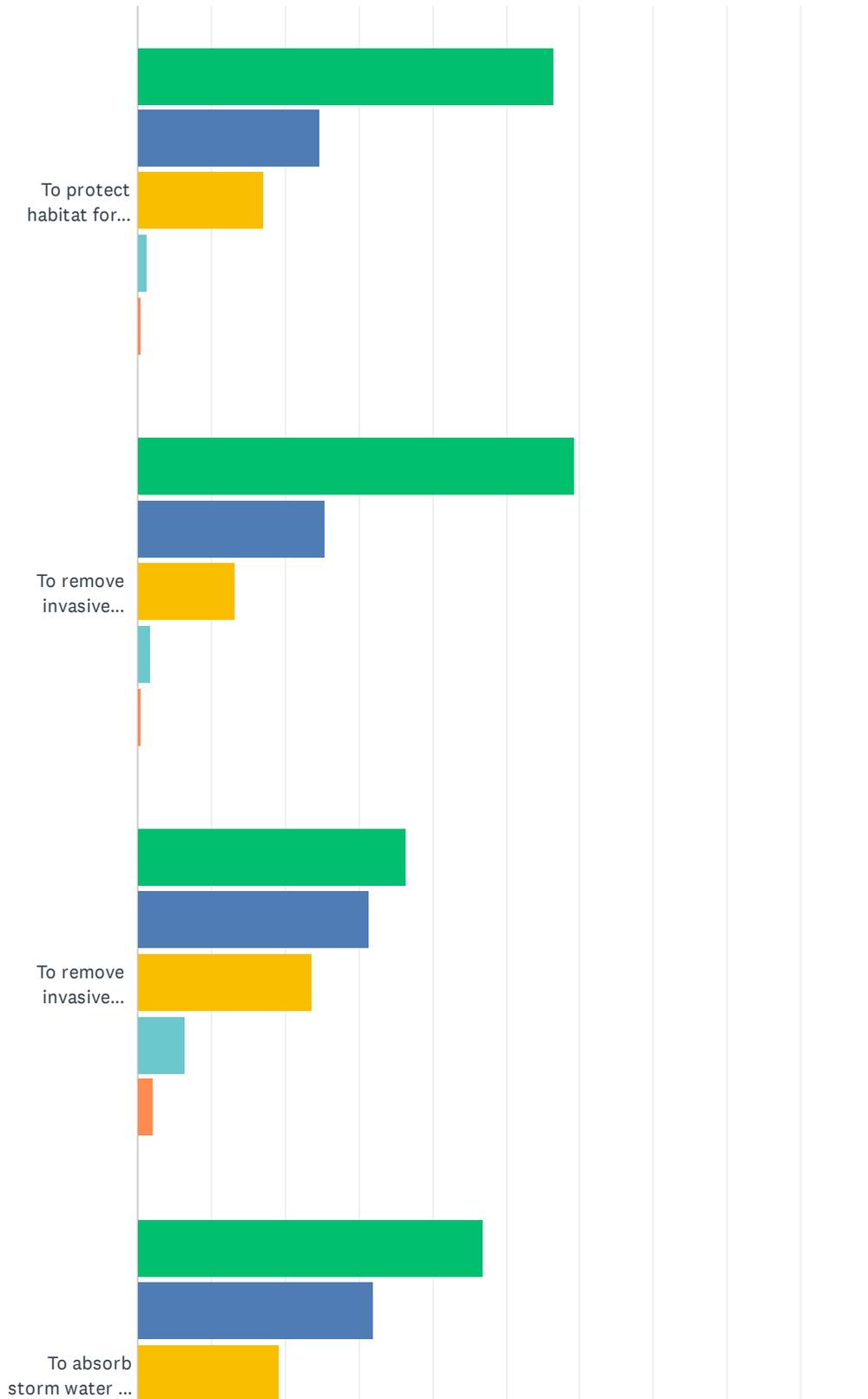


Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

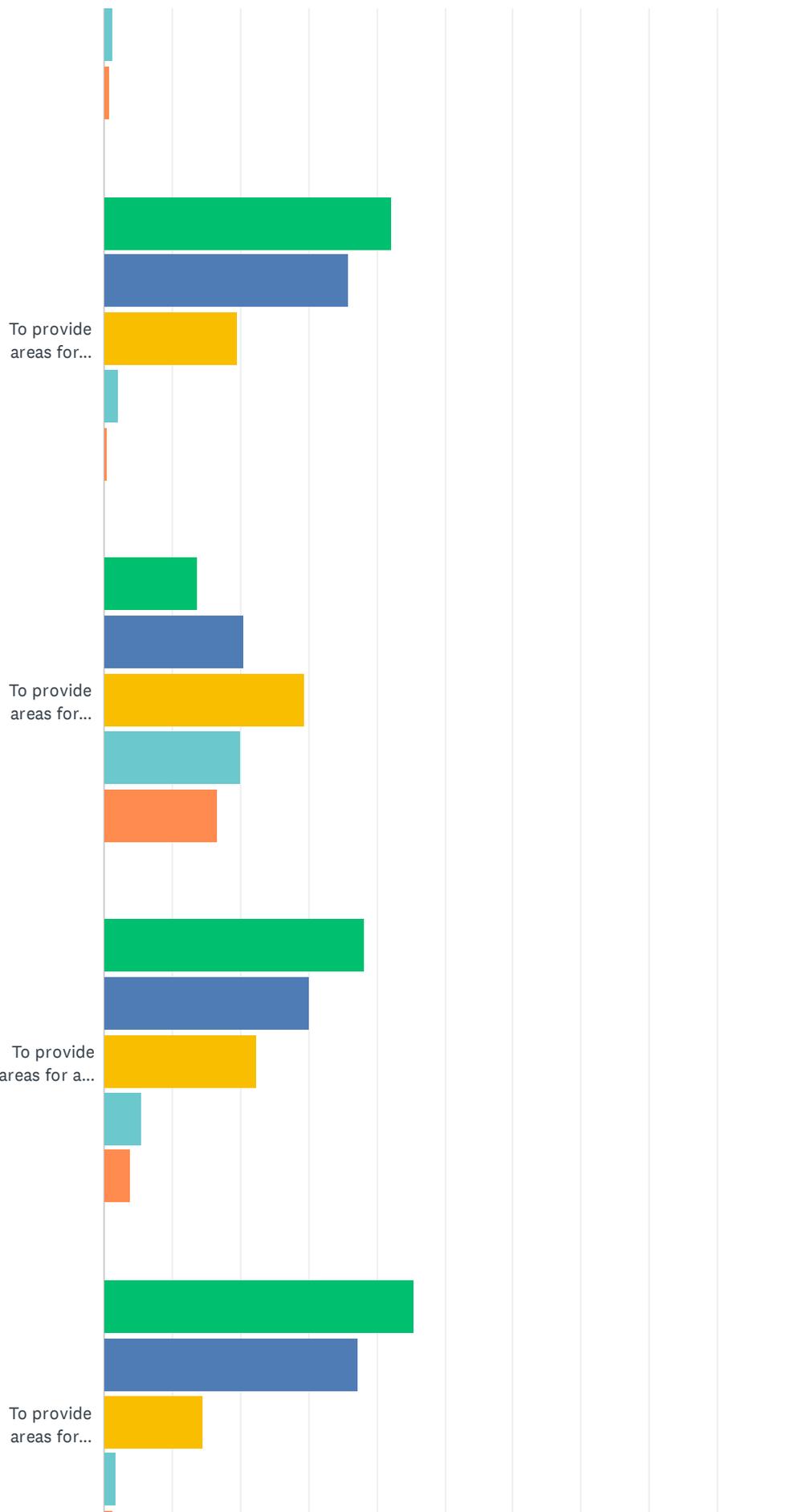
	EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE	SOMEWHAT SUPPORTIVE	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT UNSUPPORTIVE	NOT AT ALL SUPPORTIVE	TOTAL
To help preserve the Town's rural character and sense of place?	51.06% 120	28.94% 68	17.45% 41	0.85% 2	1.70% 4	235
To protect habitat for Hopedale's wide diversity of flora and fauna (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians)?	57.87% 136	29.36% 69	11.91% 28	0.43% 1	0.43% 1	235
To preserve the water resources in Town (groundwater, wetlands, surface waters)?	68.09% 160	20.85% 49	10.21% 24	0.85% 2	0.00% 0	235
To reduce the effects of climate change?	62.93% 146	17.67% 41	14.22% 33	1.29% 3	3.88% 9	232
To absorb storm water and reduce the effects of flooding from extreme weather?	50.21% 118	26.81% 63	20.43% 48	2.55% 6	0.00% 0	235
To provide facilities and programs for active recreation (sports, fields, courts, hunting and fishing programs, etc.)?	68.94% 162	18.30% 43	8.51% 20	1.70% 4	2.55% 6	235
To provide areas for passive recreation (bird watching, walking, hiking, biking, etc.)?	59.15% 139	21.70% 51	16.60% 39	2.13% 5	0.43% 1	235
To preserve unique scenic areas and vistas?	51.91% 122	25.11% 59	20.00% 47	2.13% 5	0.85% 2	235
To preserve historic sites?	45.73% 107	26.50% 62	22.22% 52	3.85% 9	1.71% 4	234
To control residential growth?	29.36% 69	30.64% 72	33.62% 79	5.96% 14	0.43% 1	235
To link existing conservation land together to increase landscape connectivity, habitat space, and the ecological value of our open space?	43.40% 102	31.06% 73	24.26% 57	0.85% 2	0.43% 1	235

Q2 How strongly do you support Hopedale protecting, acquiring, and/or improving Town-owned water resources for the following reasons:

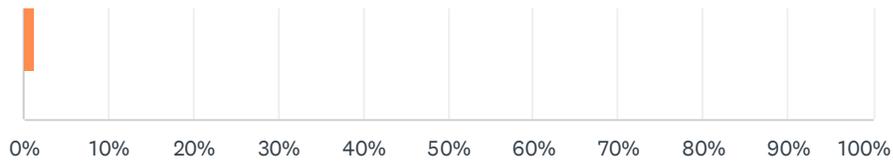
Answered: 236 Skipped: 3



Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan



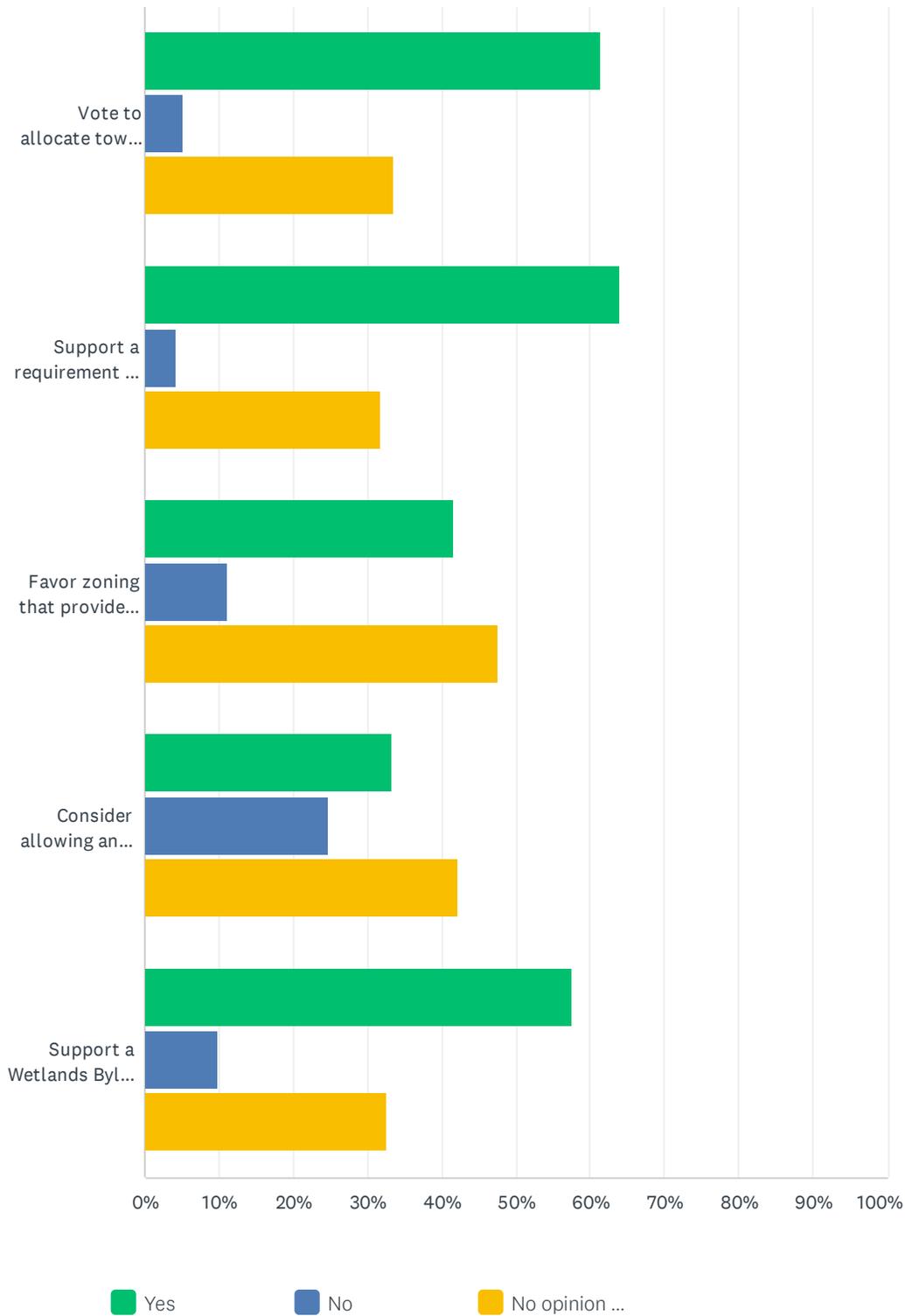
Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan



	EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE	SOMEWHAT SUPPORTIVE	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT UNSUPPORTIVE	NOT AT ALL SUPPORTIVE	TOTAL
To protect habitat for Hopedale's wide diversity of flora and fauna (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians)?	56.41% 132	24.79% 58	17.09% 40	1.28% 3	0.43% 1	234
To remove invasive species to improve water quality and habitat?	59.32% 140	25.42% 60	13.14% 31	1.69% 4	0.42% 1	236
To remove invasive species to improve aesthetics?	36.44% 86	31.36% 74	23.73% 56	6.36% 15	2.12% 5	236
To absorb storm water and reduce the effects of flooding from extreme weather?	46.81% 110	31.91% 75	19.15% 45	1.28% 3	0.85% 2	235
To provide areas for non-motorized boating (kayaking, canoeing, etc.)?	42.13% 99	35.74% 84	19.57% 46	2.13% 5	0.43% 1	235
To provide areas for motorized boating?	13.62% 32	20.43% 48	29.36% 69	20.00% 47	16.60% 39	235
To provide areas for a public beach and/or swimming?	38.20% 89	30.04% 70	22.32% 52	5.58% 13	3.86% 9	233
To provide areas for fishing and/or wildlife viewing?	45.34% 107	37.29% 88	14.41% 34	1.69% 4	1.27% 3	236

Q3 In order to preserve open spaces in Hopedale, would you be willing to:

Answered: 236 Skipped: 3

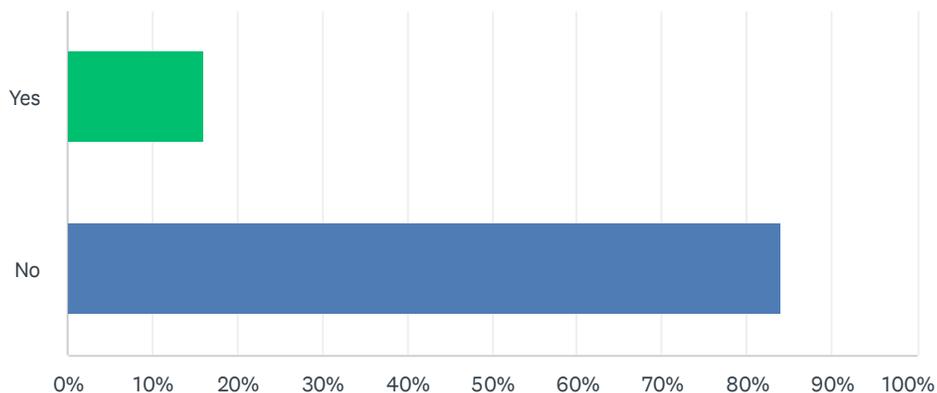


Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

	YES	NO	NO OPINION OR WOULD NEED MORE INFORMATION	TOTAL
Vote to allocate town funds to acquire or otherwise conserve open space?	61.44% 145	5.08% 12	33.47% 79	236
Support a requirement for all new residential developments to include conservation/open space areas?	63.98% 151	4.24% 10	31.78% 75	236
Favor zoning that provides for increases in density in existing developed areas in exchange for open space in less developed or environmentally sensitive areas?	41.53% 98	11.02% 26	47.46% 112	236
Consider allowing an easement (i.e. public access or development restriction) on a portion of your property in order to add to existing open spaces or connect to open spaces (e.g. to access a hiking trail or extend a bike path)?	33.19% 78	24.68% 58	42.13% 99	235
Support a Wetlands Bylaw to limit development activities adjacent to any wetlands resource area?	57.63% 136	9.75% 23	32.63% 77	236

Q4 Do you have any interest in volunteering to participate on a Town Board or assist a Town project that promotes the preservation of open space and/or recreation?

Answered: 230 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	16.09% 37
No	83.91% 193
TOTAL	230

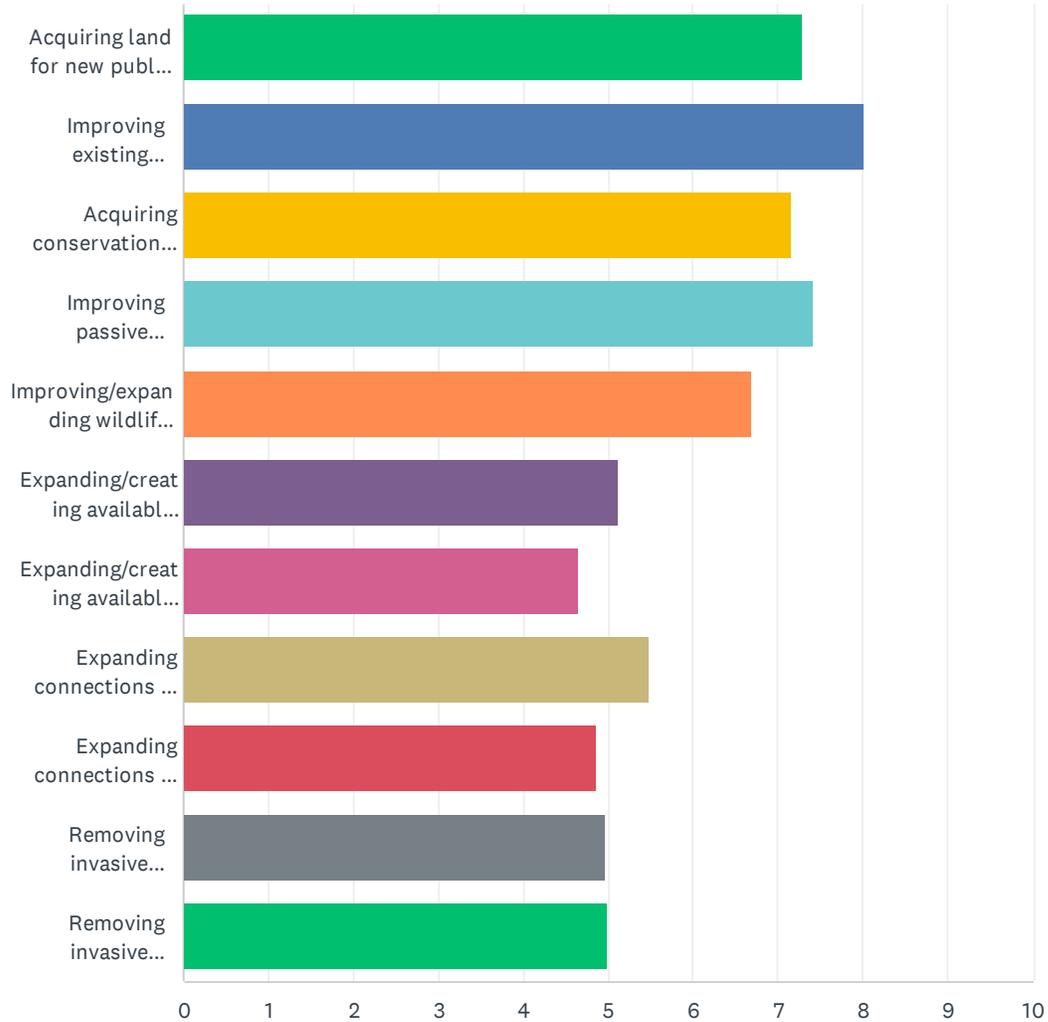
#	IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED.	DATE
1	squirrelforge@yahoo.com Evan Jacob	10/21/2021 7:11 AM
2	spellegrini@afonsore.com	10/18/2021 4:48 PM
3	Csauro92@gmail.com	10/14/2021 3:00 PM
4	Ryan.Farrell430@gmail.com	10/14/2021 10:51 AM
5	Taramch98@hotmail.com	10/14/2021 9:26 AM
6	Erin jerrett, chicklet2005@gmail.com	10/12/2021 8:12 PM
7	Ebrowne1213@gmail.com	9/29/2021 10:51 AM
8	Arianna Kotopoulos- Kotopoulosa23@hopedaleschools.org	9/27/2021 9:20 PM
9	colleenmstone@gmail.com	9/27/2021 11:49 AM
10	beang22@hopedaleschools.org	9/27/2021 8:58 AM
11	Nilton Machado nilton@curbsinc.net	9/24/2021 9:38 PM
12	Drosse@rosselaw.com	9/24/2021 3:24 PM
13	Michele Lareau-Alves mlareauvalves @gmail.com	9/24/2021 3:16 PM
14	I am unable to due to a potential conflict of interest due to my job	9/24/2021 11:35 AM
15	brossielectric@gmail.com Michael Brossi	9/24/2021 11:10 AM

Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

16	roseb24@hopedaleschools.org	9/21/2021 11:04 AM
17	Mohab Boweden / hobaemad2006@gmail.com	9/21/2021 9:04 AM
18	maureenhodgens@gmail.com	9/20/2021 12:32 PM
19	mniziak@aol.com	9/16/2021 4:46 PM
20	Jennifer Littlefield Carreiro	9/12/2021 11:39 PM
21	liz reilly liz_shop@comcast.net	9/12/2021 8:48 PM
22	Jaymes-z@verizon.net	9/10/2021 2:10 PM

Q5 What should Hopedale's priorities be for open space and recreation expenditures? Please rank how important each of the following are from most important (1) to least important (10):

Answered: 235 Skipped: 4

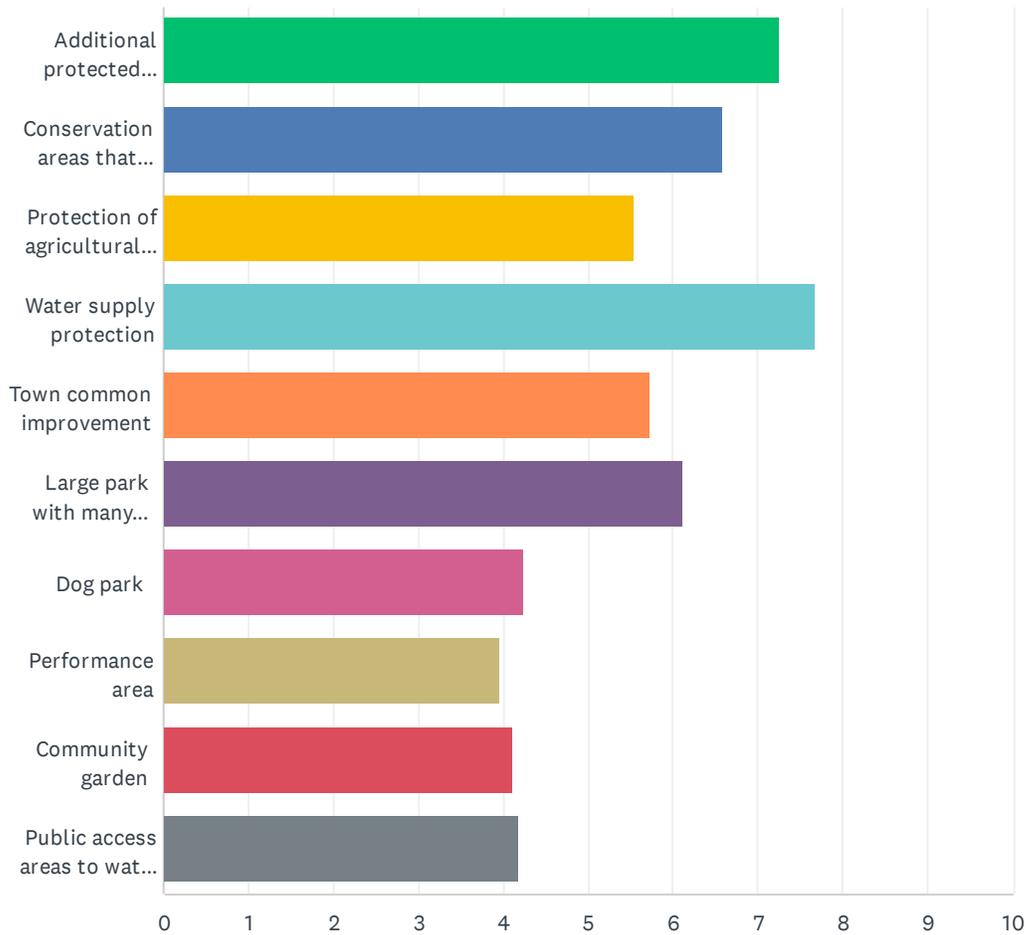


Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Acquiring land for new public athletic fields.	28.57% 66	16.45% 38	6.93% 16	6.06% 14	5.63% 13	3.90% 9	3.90% 9	4.76% 11	3.90% 9	6.49% 15	13
Improving existing athletic fields.	24.56% 56	25.88% 59	8.77% 20	6.58% 15	5.70% 13	5.70% 13	3.95% 9	4.39% 10	4.39% 10	6.58% 15	3
Acquiring conservation lands for passive recreation use (e.g. trails).	7.96% 18	9.29% 21	21.68% 49	15.04% 34	11.95% 27	9.73% 22	6.64% 15	4.87% 11	5.75% 13	2.21% 5	4
Improving passive recreation opportunities on existing conservation land.	7.59% 17	13.39% 30	17.41% 39	20.09% 45	14.73% 33	8.48% 19	4.02% 9	2.23% 5	4.02% 9	4.02% 9	4
Improving/expanding wildlife habitat and corridors.	9.96% 23	6.06% 14	10.39% 24	10.39% 24	22.08% 51	8.66% 20	9.09% 21	11.69% 27	4.76% 11	3.46% 8	3
Expanding/creating available parking at open space destinations.	2.62% 6	3.06% 7	6.11% 14	6.55% 15	8.30% 19	17.90% 41	15.72% 36	11.35% 26	9.17% 21	7.86% 18	11
Expanding/creating available parking at recreational destinations.	1.31% 3	3.06% 7	3.49% 8	6.11% 14	7.86% 18	10.92% 25	16.16% 37	14.41% 33	14.41% 33	14.85% 34	7
Expanding connections for walking (e.g. sidewalks, connecting trails).	3.08% 7	4.41% 10	4.41% 10	9.69% 22	8.81% 20	15.42% 35	14.10% 32	21.15% 48	10.13% 23	5.73% 13	3
Expanding connections for biking (e.g. off-road paths, on-road lanes, and rail trails).	0.88% 2	2.64% 6	9.25% 21	7.93% 18	4.85% 11	10.57% 24	13.22% 30	11.01% 25	22.91% 52	10.13% 23	6
Removing invasive species from existing conservation or recreation lands.	3.02% 7	12.07% 28	6.47% 15	6.47% 15	5.60% 13	7.76% 18	4.74% 11	6.90% 16	9.91% 23	28.02% 65	9
Removing invasive species from water resources (e.g. ponds, streams, rivers).	12.02% 28	4.72% 11	7.30% 17	7.30% 17	6.44% 15	2.15% 5	8.15% 19	7.30% 17	7.73% 18	9.01% 21	27

Q6 What do you consider to be the biggest unmet open space needs in Hopedale? Please rank the following from most needed (1) to least needed (10):

Answered: 227 Skipped: 12



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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
Additional protected woodlands, meadows, or stream corridors to protect the diversity of flora and fauna	21.13% 45	23.94% 51	13.15% 28	10.33% 22	7.98% 17	5.63% 12	5.16% 11	4.69% 10	3.29% 7	4.69% 10	213
Conservation areas that serve as educational and research areas	5.09% 11	18.98% 41	21.30% 46	11.57% 25	14.81% 32	8.80% 19	5.09% 11	6.02% 13	6.02% 13	2.31% 5	216
Protection of agricultural land	2.31% 5	7.87% 17	16.20% 35	14.81% 32	10.19% 22	12.04% 26	15.28% 33	9.72% 21	4.17% 9	7.41% 16	216
Water supply protection	33.48% 74	12.22% 27	15.84% 35	10.41% 23	10.86% 24	4.07% 9	6.33% 14	1.36% 3	2.71% 6	2.71% 6	221
Town common improvement	6.85% 15	8.68% 19	8.22% 18	9.59% 21	19.63% 43	18.72% 41	10.96% 24	8.22% 18	5.48% 12	3.65% 8	219
Large park with many facilities	17.97% 39	10.60% 23	7.37% 16	8.76% 19	5.53% 12	17.51% 38	11.98% 26	9.22% 20	7.83% 17	3.23% 7	217
Dog park	3.64% 8	6.82% 15	5.45% 12	6.36% 14	8.18% 18	10.91% 24	16.36% 36	9.09% 20	9.09% 20	24.09% 53	220
Performance area	2.70% 6	4.95% 11	4.95% 11	6.76% 15	4.05% 9	7.66% 17	11.71% 26	26.58% 59	18.92% 42	11.71% 26	222
Community garden	4.50% 10	2.70% 6	3.15% 7	9.91% 22	11.26% 25	9.01% 20	8.56% 19	12.16% 27	26.13% 58	12.61% 28	222
Public access areas to water bodies	4.93% 11	4.93% 11	5.38% 12	12.11% 27	8.07% 18	5.83% 13	7.62% 17	11.66% 26	13.90% 31	25.56% 57	223

Q7 Are there any other unmet open space needs in Hopedale that were not mentioned?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 181

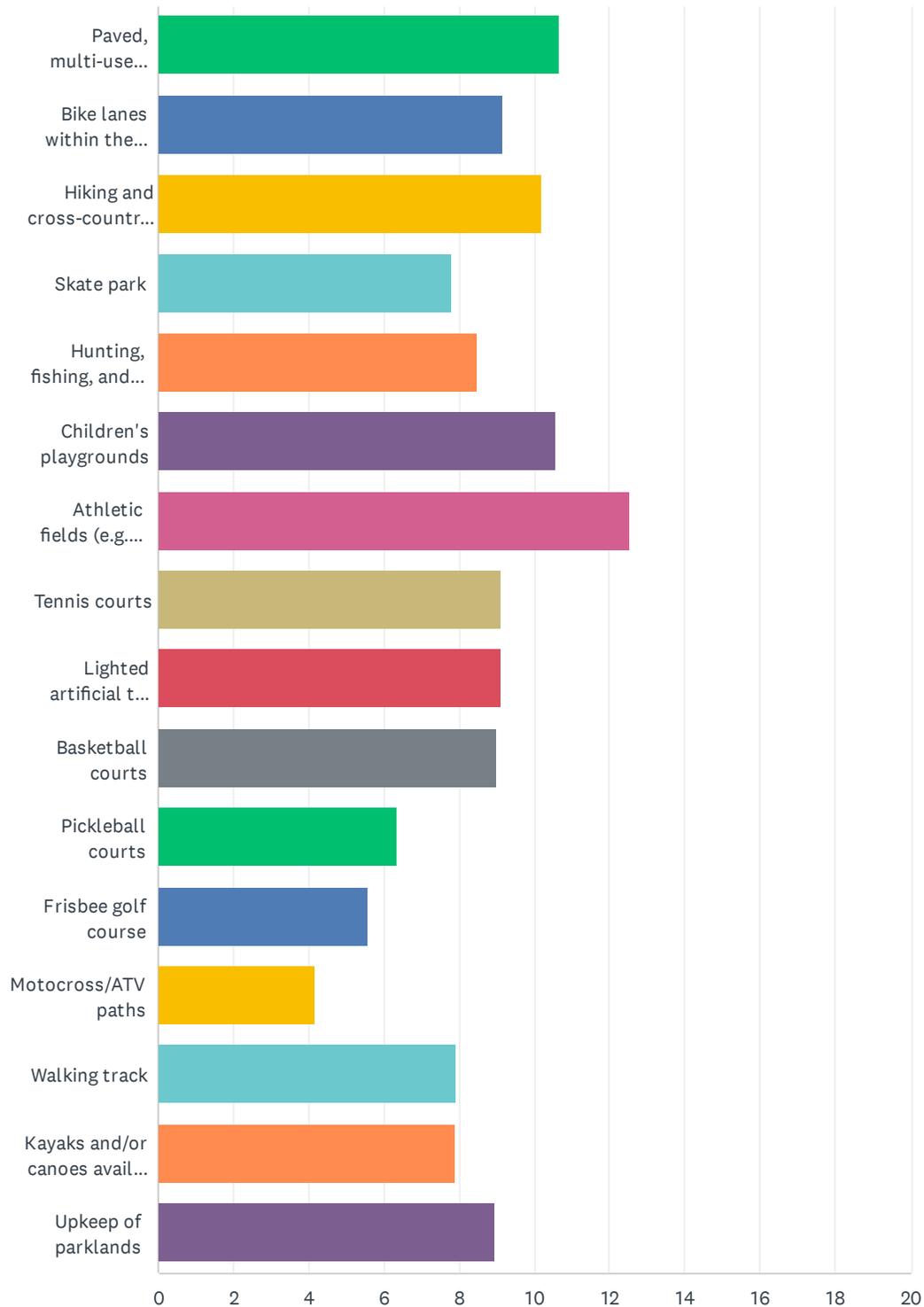
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	athletic fields (but that may be covered under "Large Park with many facilities")	2/14/2022 5:18 PM
2	Protect the entrance to the parklands from the proposed development at the end of Overdale Parkway. The most recent study suggested that development around the parklands is our biggest threat, and then an hour later our terrible board of selectman went against a court order to approve a development for 10 new homes at the entrance to the parklands. The area that the study they commissioned to state is the most beautiful point in the town of Hopedale.	10/16/2021 11:00 AM
3	no	10/14/2021 9:29 PM
4	Upgrade town playground	10/13/2021 11:49 AM
5	Hopedale is known as a historic town. That can easily be lost in large developments and big business opportunities. Open space is important to the character of the town	10/12/2021 11:28 PM
6	Public picnic areas, more benches along parkland trails for those who need to rest, better trail markings	10/12/2021 10:27 PM
7	Money. How can anything be done on zero budget?	10/12/2021 8:12 PM
8	The playground need to be completely updated. It is outdated and in desperate need of an overhaul. the playground is in a beautiful spot and part of the downtown so it needs to be modernized. The sand should be removed and a soft flooring should be installed (like choate park in midway). It is messy and could pose a health risk with breathing it in.	9/29/2021 10:51 AM
9	No.	9/28/2021 1:16 PM
10	N/A	9/28/2021 9:00 AM
11	improve mellen field	9/28/2021 8:54 AM
12	no	9/27/2021 9:03 AM
13	Turf infield and grass outfield baseball.	9/27/2021 9:03 AM
14	Mill	9/27/2021 7:50 AM
15	Using open space and town buildings to collect and store water. Water is available but not being collected and allowed to run off and create further comtamination.	9/24/2021 3:24 PM
16	Further development needs to be contained before there is no more open space	9/24/2021 1:57 PM
17	potentially letting developers build an enormous warehouse in the rosenfeld property on groundwater protection is a bad move for this town. While we need tax revenue, that space and the space along the mill river that runs from mill st to hartford ave is home to many wild animals, water resources, and the town should consider minimizing what can be developed around that land - especially given that the town is looking to build town wells right in that area. Take a walk behind the golf course and see how much conservation land is that that will be impacted by such a development.	9/24/2021 11:35 AM
18	no	9/24/2021 10:11 AM
19	no.	9/24/2021 10:03 AM
20	no	9/24/2021 9:58 AM
21	no	9/24/2021 9:58 AM
22	More and improved tennis courts.	9/24/2021 8:55 AM

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23	Nope.	9/24/2021 8:54 AM
24	no	9/24/2021 8:51 AM
25	More restaurants	9/21/2021 11:12 AM
26	New sports fields for the track, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse etc. teams.	9/21/2021 11:12 AM
27	im not sure	9/21/2021 11:09 AM
28	Sports fields and athletic fields for highschool and middle school sports	9/21/2021 11:09 AM
29	Improve athletic fields	9/21/2021 11:08 AM
30	no	9/21/2021 11:07 AM
31	No but I think new land for athletic fields is very important.	9/21/2021 11:06 AM
32	no	9/21/2021 11:05 AM
33	no	9/21/2021 11:02 AM
34	no.	9/21/2021 10:10 AM
35	No.	9/21/2021 10:08 AM
36	I don't think so	9/21/2021 10:07 AM
37	Better Baseball fields.	9/21/2021 10:05 AM
38	Improved athletic faculties	9/21/2021 10:04 AM
39	No, not that I can think of.	9/21/2021 10:04 AM
40	No	9/21/2021 10:04 AM
41	No	9/21/2021 10:03 AM
42	None that I can think of.	9/21/2021 10:03 AM
43	No.	9/21/2021 10:02 AM
44	new sports fields.	9/21/2021 10:01 AM
45	no	9/21/2021 9:59 AM
46	The Board of Selectmen mishandling of the town's right to purchase land at 364 West Street.	9/21/2021 9:11 AM
47	No	9/21/2021 9:06 AM
48	I believe that there should be a skate park for kids, teenagers, or even adults because the closest skate park is in Uxbridge and some people cannot drive there.	9/21/2021 9:06 AM
49	None.	9/21/2021 9:04 AM
50	skatepark could go in unused land	9/21/2021 9:03 AM
51	No.	9/21/2021 8:59 AM
52	protecting the water supply that the Board of Selectmen screwed up by selling the land when the Town had the first right of refusal due to stupidity, corruption, who knows?	9/21/2021 8:59 AM
53	No	9/21/2021 8:56 AM
54	no	9/21/2021 8:55 AM
55	no	9/21/2021 8:55 AM
56	No to a dog park - not needed. Use that space for more recreational activities for the children.	9/11/2021 4:05 PM
57	Accessibility needs, for trails, parking, bathrooms, and more.	9/11/2021 9:30 AM
58	South Hopedale conservation area.	9/10/2021 6:01 PM

Q8 What do you consider to be the biggest unmet recreation needs in Hopedale? Please rank the following from most needed (1) to least needed (16):

Answered: 217 Skipped: 22



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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Paved, multi-use recreational trails	13.37% 27	12.38% 25	10.89% 22	10.89% 22	6.93% 14	3.47% 7	5.45% 11	4.95% 10	4.46% 9	4.46% 9	3.47% 7
Bike lanes within the roadway	8.00% 16	9.00% 18	8.50% 17	8.50% 17	6.50% 13	3.00% 6	6.50% 13	5.50% 11	3.00% 6	7.50% 15	5.00% 10
Hiking and cross-country skiing trails	2.49% 5	6.97% 14	11.44% 23	10.95% 22	13.43% 27	8.46% 17	8.96% 18	8.46% 17	3.48% 7	5.97% 12	5.47% 11
Skate park	3.54% 7	3.54% 7	6.06% 12	6.57% 13	5.05% 10	8.59% 17	4.04% 8	7.07% 14	6.57% 13	5.56% 11	3.54% 7
Hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities	2.00% 4	5.00% 10	3.00% 6	4.00% 8	13.00% 26	7.00% 14	12.00% 24	6.50% 13	9.00% 18	6.50% 13	6.50% 13
Children's playgrounds	5.39% 11	9.80% 20	7.35% 15	7.84% 16	11.76% 24	10.78% 22	12.75% 26	7.84% 16	6.37% 13	7.35% 15	5.39% 11
Athletic fields (e.g. soccer, baseball, football)	30.10% 62	13.59% 28	11.65% 24	5.83% 12	3.88% 8	3.40% 7	7.28% 15	8.25% 17	4.37% 9	4.37% 9	0.97% 2
Tennis courts	4.00% 8	2.50% 5	6.00% 12	6.50% 13	5.00% 10	11.00% 22	6.50% 13	12.50% 25	17.00% 34	7.00% 14	7.50% 15
Lighted artificial turf field	6.53% 13	13.57% 27	6.03% 12	5.53% 11	3.52% 7	5.03% 10	4.02% 8	4.52% 9	10.55% 21	8.54% 17	7.54% 15
Basketball courts	1.51% 3	5.53% 11	8.04% 16	6.03% 12	10.05% 20	7.04% 14	5.03% 10	5.53% 11	8.04% 16	13.07% 26	13.57% 27
Pickleball courts	0.49% 1	1.48% 3	0.99% 2	2.46% 5	2.46% 5	5.42% 11	5.91% 12	6.90% 14	5.91% 12	7.88% 16	15.76% 32
Frisbee golf course	0.50% 1	0.50% 1	1.51% 3	4.52% 9	3.02% 6	3.52% 7	2.51% 5	5.53% 11	2.01% 4	5.03% 10	9.05% 18
Motocross/ATV paths	2.48% 5	2.48% 5	0.50% 1	1.49% 3	1.49% 3	2.48% 5	2.48% 5	1.98% 4	1.49% 3	3.47% 7	2.97% 6
Walking track	2.49% 5	7.46% 15	7.46% 15	7.46% 15	4.48% 9	4.98% 10	5.47% 11	4.98% 10	5.97% 12	5.47% 11	4.48% 9
Kayaks and/or canoes available for use at the bathhouse	3.94% 8	4.93% 10	6.40% 13	7.88% 16	7.39% 15	6.40% 13	6.40% 13	3.94% 8	7.88% 16	2.96% 6	3.45% 7
Upkeep of parklands	17.79% 37	5.29% 11	7.69% 16	5.29% 11	4.81% 10	9.13% 19	3.85% 8	5.29% 11	2.40% 5	2.88% 6	3.37% 7

Q9 Are there any other unmet recreation needs in Hopedale that were not mentioned?

Answered: 67 Skipped: 172

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Handicapped accessible anything should be considered in everything	10/26/2021 6:31 AM
2	We need a bigger/better indoor gym so all can attend big games and not have to stand outside because gym is too full.	10/18/2021 4:48 PM
3	Sports fields/facilities. Build our amazing well recognized Cross Country/Track program a safe and beautiful track/training facility and dedicate to Coach Drugan who has dedicated so much to the teams and the town	10/14/2021 7:31 PM
4	The town playground needs a major upgrade to the equipment ideally with a seperate sections for younger and older kids. A splash pad would also be an awesome addition during the summer months. Instead everyone travels to Choate Park in Medway or to Silver Lake Park on Bellingham	10/14/2021 9:59 AM
5	Pickleball is not a fan favorite among high school students. We have had too many issues with kids and drugs. I want to see recreational space that teens can use to prevent them from turning towards dangerous paths for entertainment.	10/12/2021 11:28 PM
6	dog Park	10/12/2021 10:08 PM
7	Budget	10/12/2021 8:12 PM
8	No.	9/28/2021 1:16 PM
9	N/A	9/28/2021 9:00 AM
10	No	9/28/2021 8:58 AM
11	improve mellen field and tennis courts	9/28/2021 8:54 AM
12	I don't know who owns the land on Adin St across from the school crosswalk but that would be a fantastic area to build some sort of waiting area or place for kids to gather away from the road at school pick up.	9/27/2021 11:49 AM
13	stores	9/27/2021 9:04 AM
14	no	9/27/2021 9:03 AM
15	turf infield and grass outfield baseball	9/27/2021 9:03 AM
16	Turf fields	9/27/2021 7:50 AM
17	Many towns are removing artificial turf. Dont waste the money.	9/24/2021 3:24 PM
18	Would you please consider removing the sand out of the Hopedale Park playground and replacing it with mulch or the rubber flooring similar to Choate Park in Medway. Thank you!	9/24/2021 2:19 PM
19	A little area similar to the Bellingham park, for walking, with benches and away from traffic	9/24/2021 1:57 PM
20	Adding sandy beach area to pond, making it safe for swimming	9/24/2021 12:14 PM
21	To Make Hopedale Pond swimmable, open beach to swimming lessons.	9/24/2021 11:10 AM
22	no	9/24/2021 10:11 AM
23	no.	9/24/2021 10:03 AM
24	no	9/24/2021 9:58 AM
25	no	9/24/2021 9:58 AM

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26	no	9/24/2021 8:51 AM
27	None	9/21/2021 11:12 AM
28	No	9/21/2021 11:12 AM
29	i cant think of any	9/21/2021 11:09 AM
30	It was already listed, but we really need athletic fields for our sports in the high school and middle school. Having to drive over to Mellen field for soccer and lacrosse, and field hockey having to go to Draper field is just annoying and is a big time commitment to parents who have to be at home and doing work. Also the track team doesn't even have a track and had to use the WCS track for captain's practices. There is a late bus, but that means that the student athlete could be late to practice which is unfair.	9/21/2021 11:09 AM
31	No	9/21/2021 11:08 AM
32	no	9/21/2021 11:07 AM
33	no	9/21/2021 11:06 AM
34	no	9/21/2021 11:05 AM
35	no	9/21/2021 11:02 AM
36	Ideally any added sports fields would have a track around it too.	9/21/2021 10:10 AM
37	no.	9/21/2021 10:10 AM
38	No.	9/21/2021 10:08 AM
39	I don't think so	9/21/2021 10:07 AM
40	Better sports fields and a connection to the Milford bike path.	9/21/2021 10:05 AM
41	No, I think they were all mentioned.	9/21/2021 10:04 AM
42	No	9/21/2021 10:04 AM
43	no	9/21/2021 10:03 AM
44	No	9/21/2021 10:03 AM
45	no	9/21/2021 10:03 AM
46	No.	9/21/2021 10:02 AM
47	no	9/21/2021 9:59 AM
48	Volunteer clean up crews should be regularly coordinated to assist the town with upkeep of all recreational areas.	9/21/2021 9:11 AM
49	no	9/21/2021 9:06 AM
50	It won't let me rate the athletic fields but I give it a 16 because I believe that there are a lot of high schoolers who play sports and we do not have ANY turf fields. Draper park has thick grass, not flat. Mellen park is all the way across town from the school and the baseball park is in the middle of Hopedale park. Track and field and cross country has to use other towns track to run on it. I believe we need many turf fields, a track and a skatepark.	9/21/2021 9:06 AM
51	No, all were mentioned.	9/21/2021 9:04 AM
52	no skate park	9/21/2021 9:03 AM
53	No	9/21/2021 8:59 AM
54	Town sponsored trails clean up day; pond cleanup day;	9/21/2021 8:59 AM
55	No	9/21/2021 8:56 AM
56	FIX THE ROADS!!!!	9/21/2021 8:55 AM
57	no	9/21/2021 8:55 AM

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58	n/a	9/21/2021 8:55 AM
59	no	9/21/2021 8:55 AM
60	Sports fields (with a track)	9/20/2021 12:32 PM
61	Splash pad for kids ... mix all of the above into something similar to Choate Park in Medway	9/11/2021 8:46 PM
62	The 3 tennis courts are in complete disrepair and not up to regulation. A complete shame as the town not only has the wonderful summer tennis program but both the girls and boys tennis teams have to play their "home" matches away. This needs to be top priority!!! Definitely no ATV/motocross. Let's preserve our wildlife and keep Hopedale quiet.	9/11/2021 4:05 PM
63	note on above: most of the options are not necessary: Paving the trails, putting in tennis courts, children's playground... We either have them already or don't need them (e.g., Hopedale is too small a town to require bike lanes).	9/10/2021 9:35 PM
64	Repair of the tennis courts needs to be prioritized	9/10/2021 8:52 PM
65	Public swimming pool Outdoor skating Charles River walk, bike path,	9/10/2021 6:01 PM
66	I'm addition to the turf I would say a track	9/10/2021 2:26 PM
67	Wasn't there money raised for a bocce court? Not sure if it was through this dept or the Parks dept? What is the status on that?	9/10/2021 1:59 PM

Q10 What are your favorite open spaces or recreational facilities in Hopedale? Do you have any suggestions for how these open spaces or recreational facilities can be improved?

Answered: 127 Skipped: 112

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The Parklands need to have more signs/ markers in case someone gets lost.	10/26/2021 11:37 AM
2	Parklands, town park (tennis courts)	10/26/2021 6:31 AM
3	The parklands. Keep railroad away!	10/18/2021 4:48 PM
4	Parklands. More needs to be done to protect the boundaries and surrounding areas. Any available space should be preserved and any and all available grants needs to be investigated to purchase and protect.	10/16/2021 11:00 AM
5	Parklands	10/15/2021 4:03 AM
6	Parklands	10/14/2021 8:14 PM
7	Parklands Pave trails for more accessibility ie wheelchairs and walkers	10/14/2021 8:01 PM
8	The Parklands	10/14/2021 7:33 PM
9	Town baseball field but needs to be upgraded and field needs to be leveled and reseeded to make safer for players	10/14/2021 7:31 PM
10	Parklands Phillips Field Community House lawn	10/14/2021 4:30 PM
11	The Hopedale parklands- better signage, additional/updated picnic areas, handicap accessibility, stroller friendly trails	10/14/2021 11:43 AM
12	The parklands	10/14/2021 9:26 AM
13	Town playground and parklands	10/13/2021 11:49 AM
14	All open spaces are such a gift in Hopedale. Let's do what we can to preserve what we have. I'm ok paying more in taxes to keep the look and feel of what we have in this town. These priorities need to be fought for as we see proposals like massive warehouses like that proposed on Rosenfeld land or when there's a proposal for the Draper site. If we let ourselves be blinded by the money then we will lose the character and appeal of Hopedale.	10/13/2021 8:59 AM
15	The parklands. Make it more handicapped accessible.	10/12/2021 11:29 PM
16	I love the parklands and how natural the trail is. I also think there could be some improvement with the bowling alley in the community house. We have a lot of children friendly recreational opportunities like summer crafts at the park and a playground area. I would like to see the community house space updated to be more teen friendly	10/12/2021 11:28 PM
17	Parkland near beach	10/12/2021 10:08 PM
18	Parklands	10/12/2021 9:53 PM
19	Parklands	10/12/2021 9:05 PM
20	My favorite space is the pond but disgusted by the invasive weeds. Would love to see swimming return and more frequent boat rentals	10/12/2021 8:56 PM
21	Parklands, hiking paths	10/12/2021 8:20 PM
22	The parklands! If I enter on Dutcher and walk all the way around the pond it would be nice to improve the walking portion between the railroad tracks on Freedom up to the Little Red House.	10/12/2021 8:12 PM
23	If there is a way to keep the geese away (I understand this could be challenging with the	9/29/2021 10:51 AM

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pond). They are in the park and near/in the park and they leave behind waste which can be stepped in.

24	My favorite open spaces in Hopedale are the park, parklands, and the pond.	9/28/2021 1:16 PM
25	My favorite spaces are in the park, they aren't very high quality, such as the basketball court	9/28/2021 9:42 AM
26	Love the Parklands	9/28/2021 9:02 AM
27	The park, the parklands, and the town center.	9/28/2021 9:01 AM
28	I think the town park and the parklands are both great recreational facilities, but more athletic fields and sporting locations would be good, and the existing recreational facilities could be improved upon.	9/28/2021 9:00 AM
29	I like athletic fields but they need to be improved.	9/28/2021 8:58 AM
30	hopedale tennis courts and mellen field (make them better)	9/28/2021 8:54 AM
31	The parklands for sure as well as the town park. I'd love to see better use of existing open space land in Hopedale.	9/27/2021 11:49 AM
32	Baseball field	9/27/2021 10:55 AM
33	basketball courts	9/27/2021 9:04 AM
34	the parklands, and the pond	9/27/2021 9:03 AM
35	town Park, Pond	9/27/2021 9:03 AM
36	The field behind draper field is beautiful, love walking there but it could be used for a new field or track	9/27/2021 8:58 AM
37	Mellon Field needs to either become turf or the grass must be improved.	9/27/2021 7:53 AM
38	Mellen, replace with turf please.	9/27/2021 7:50 AM
39	Parklands	9/26/2021 8:08 PM
40	Parklands. Stone Bridge. Walking at capped landfills	9/25/2021 7:58 AM
41	Parklands.	9/25/2021 7:52 AM
42	Tennis court, fix the court	9/24/2021 9:38 PM
43	The parklands	9/24/2021 5:23 PM
44	Parklands	9/24/2021 4:00 PM
45	Fix tennis courts so they are regulation.	9/24/2021 3:24 PM
46	The Parklands	9/24/2021 3:16 PM
47	Put a home run wall at Hopedale Town Park baseball field. Put some money into Draper field.	9/24/2021 2:19 PM
48	Parklands. Signage in pictorial form or multiple languages.	9/24/2021 2:11 PM
49	Not able to traverse the trails anymore, but would like to know the Parklands are preserved, including places to rest and enjoy the peace and tranquilly there	9/24/2021 1:57 PM
50	Hopedale pond! Clean up the water so it is more accessible and safer	9/24/2021 1:46 PM
51	Parkland	9/24/2021 1:21 PM
52	Parklands, Hopedale pond. He great to bring back swimming	9/24/2021 11:58 AM
53	Hopedale Parklands, Do not pave them. Open them to boyscouts girlscouts camping	9/24/2021 11:10 AM
54	The parklands, Adin Street Triangle park	9/24/2021 11:02 AM
55	nope	9/24/2021 10:11 AM
56	I like to drive on the road. I think some roads could be re-paved.	9/24/2021 10:10 AM
57	no.	9/24/2021 10:03 AM

Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

58	no	9/24/2021 9:58 AM
59	I dont have any	9/24/2021 9:58 AM
60	tennis courts need to be resurfaced, made the correct size, and there needs to be more of them.	9/24/2021 8:55 AM
61	trails by the pond. Updating trail markers would be nice	9/24/2021 8:51 AM
62	I like the pond and parkland trails. Adding a turf field/better overall sports facilities is highly suggested.	9/21/2021 11:12 AM
63	My favorite recreational facilities in hopedale are the parklands, the park, and the draper gym. The parklands could have the path groomed and the overgrown plants around it trimmed so as not to be a hazard to walkers, runners, and bikers. The park could have the basketball and tennis courts cracks filled in. Finally, the Draper Gym could have an improvement in plumbing and bathroom facilities as well as a refurbishment of the bleachers.	9/21/2021 11:12 AM
64	More public restrooms and tables in the parklands would be necessary.	9/21/2021 11:11 AM
65	i enjoy the overview of the lake. maybe add more benches on the lawn, more flowers, etc.	9/21/2021 11:09 AM
66	I really enjoy the parklands with the public park and all of its activities.	9/21/2021 11:09 AM
67	I like the open field at the pond, i think that it would be nice if the goose poop could be picked up every once in a while so that it is nicer for children to play on.	9/21/2021 11:09 AM
68	If Hopedale created a turf field for multiple sports then that would be my favorite facility in Hopedale.	9/21/2021 11:09 AM
69	The Mellen Soccer Fields. The ground could be improved, it is uneven.	9/21/2021 11:08 AM
70	Hopedale Park	9/21/2021 11:08 AM
71	draper field	9/21/2021 11:07 AM
72	I think that open spaces/facilities for athletic fields should be considered. The outdoor sports fields and tennis courts are in terrible shape and need to be improved.	9/21/2021 11:06 AM
73	The parklands is my favorite open space and i do not have any suggestions at the moment	9/21/2021 11:05 AM
74	My favorite open space in Hopedale is the Parklands, and I think it would benefit from some upkeep, especially in the smaller trails.	9/21/2021 11:05 AM
75	we could put a turf in at draper field	9/21/2021 11:03 AM
76	I don't spend my time in Hopedale. I don't live here.	9/21/2021 11:02 AM
77	I like the park, it's pretty chill. Just improve the baseball field that all.	9/21/2021 11:02 AM
78	Town park, re- do tennis courts	9/21/2021 10:13 AM
79	Parklands, and its improvement is not a priority.	9/21/2021 10:10 AM
80	the draper field, it can be improved by just keeping getting caught up with. always getting the field lined, keeping the grass mowed, and somehow getting rid of puddles or ditches.	9/21/2021 10:10 AM
81	My favorite recreational facilities in hopedale are the parklands and the hopedale park. I do not have any suggestions for how they can be improved.	9/21/2021 10:08 AM
82	My favorite open space or recreational facility in Hopedale would have to be the park lands, and the trails.	9/21/2021 10:07 AM
83	I enjoy the baseball fied and the parklands I think the baseball field could be improved significantly by replacing it with a new field or completely re doing it. The Parklands should be connected to the bike path using the railroad tracks.	9/21/2021 10:05 AM
84	I like the hopedale parklands, and I don't have any suggestions.	9/21/2021 10:04 AM
85	Mellen Field keeping the lines nice and visible on the field and taking care of it	9/21/2021 10:04 AM
86	Phillips field. This field needs to be fixed because it is hard to play soccer with all the random bounces and hills.	9/21/2021 10:03 AM

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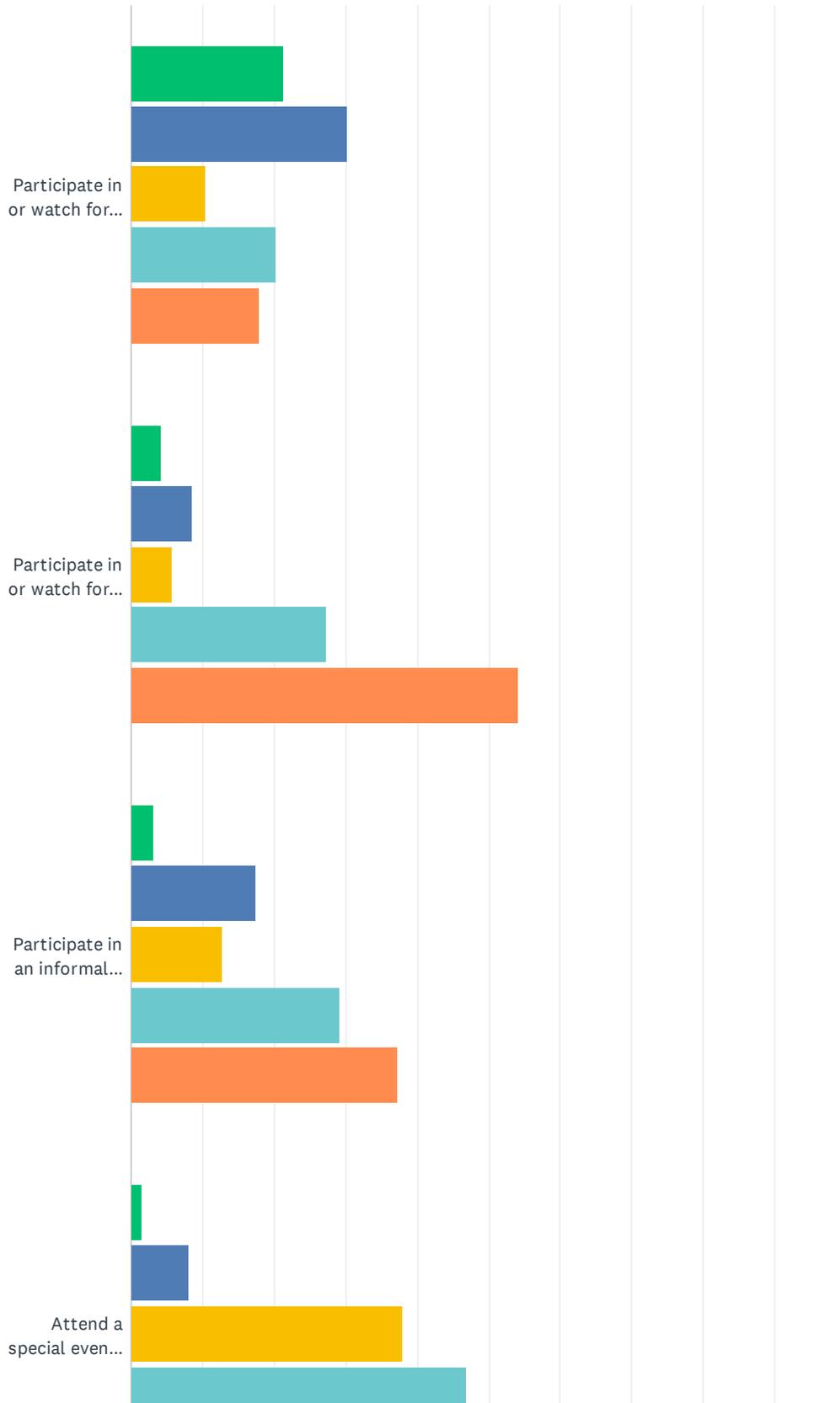
87	My favorite open space recreational facility in Hopedale is the parklands because they are very open and I run through them alot.	9/21/2021 10:03 AM
88	Athletic fields.	9/21/2021 10:03 AM
89	The parklands.	9/21/2021 10:02 AM
90	The park - better bathroom	9/21/2021 10:02 AM
91	The soccer fields, improve the grass field and maintain them so that they are in good condition for the soccer season.	9/21/2021 9:59 AM
92	Parklands, Tennis Courts Forest Management within the Parklands. Regular maintenance of existing tennis courts.	9/21/2021 9:11 AM
93	It is the park and I don't have any suggestions.	9/21/2021 9:06 AM
94	I think that we should make the town park a bit bigger and add more things to it.	9/21/2021 9:06 AM
95	My favorite open space is the park. The park can be improved by leveling the court because they are a lot of bumps and cracks.	9/21/2021 9:04 AM
96	i like the benches near the little red shop. the geese are out of control, i like to enjoy the scenery without stepping in and smelling goose poo	9/21/2021 9:03 AM
97	My favorite open space is the parklands	9/21/2021 9:03 AM
98	I use the parklands and pond to go fishing or bike. I have no suggestions for how it can be improved.	9/21/2021 9:02 AM
99	No	9/21/2021 8:59 AM
100	pond area and the areas of land lost to development by the railroad because of the lack of planning and forethought of the Board of Selectmen	9/21/2021 8:59 AM
101	The town park	9/21/2021 8:56 AM
102	Garden of hope	9/21/2021 8:55 AM
103	no	9/21/2021 8:55 AM
104	do open gym time at the draper gym for basketball	9/21/2021 8:55 AM
105	Town Park	9/21/2021 8:55 AM
106	no	9/21/2021 8:53 AM
107	The parklands are my favorite. We could have a rail trail where people can walk and ride their bikes (such as the Milford bike trail or Holliston rail trail).	9/20/2021 12:32 PM
108	The town should limit use of the parkland, park, tennis and basketball courts. and recreational fields to Hopedale residents and their guests only.	9/17/2021 6:33 PM
109	Favorite place is the Parklands. Would like to see additional walking and biking trails in Parklands.	9/17/2021 10:17 AM
110	The Parklands area gift. They should be preserved and expanded wherever possible.	9/15/2021 9:10 AM
111	Trails inside the Parklands	9/14/2021 9:19 PM
112	Fix the tennis courts!	9/11/2021 4:05 PM
113	Hopedale Pond. Could be improved for kayak/canoe/paddleboard access and use. Its currently overgrown with weeds that should be better controlled to allow ease of paddling.	9/11/2021 9:30 AM
114	Parklands children's playground	9/10/2021 10:00 PM
115	Pond trail & children's playground	9/10/2021 9:35 PM
116	Maintenance in the Parklands. Control poison ivy at the edges of trail. Repair the Rustic Bridge. Remove dead trees along trails. Add more seating, tables. Do not pave.	9/10/2021 8:52 PM
117	The parklands	9/10/2021 6:25 PM

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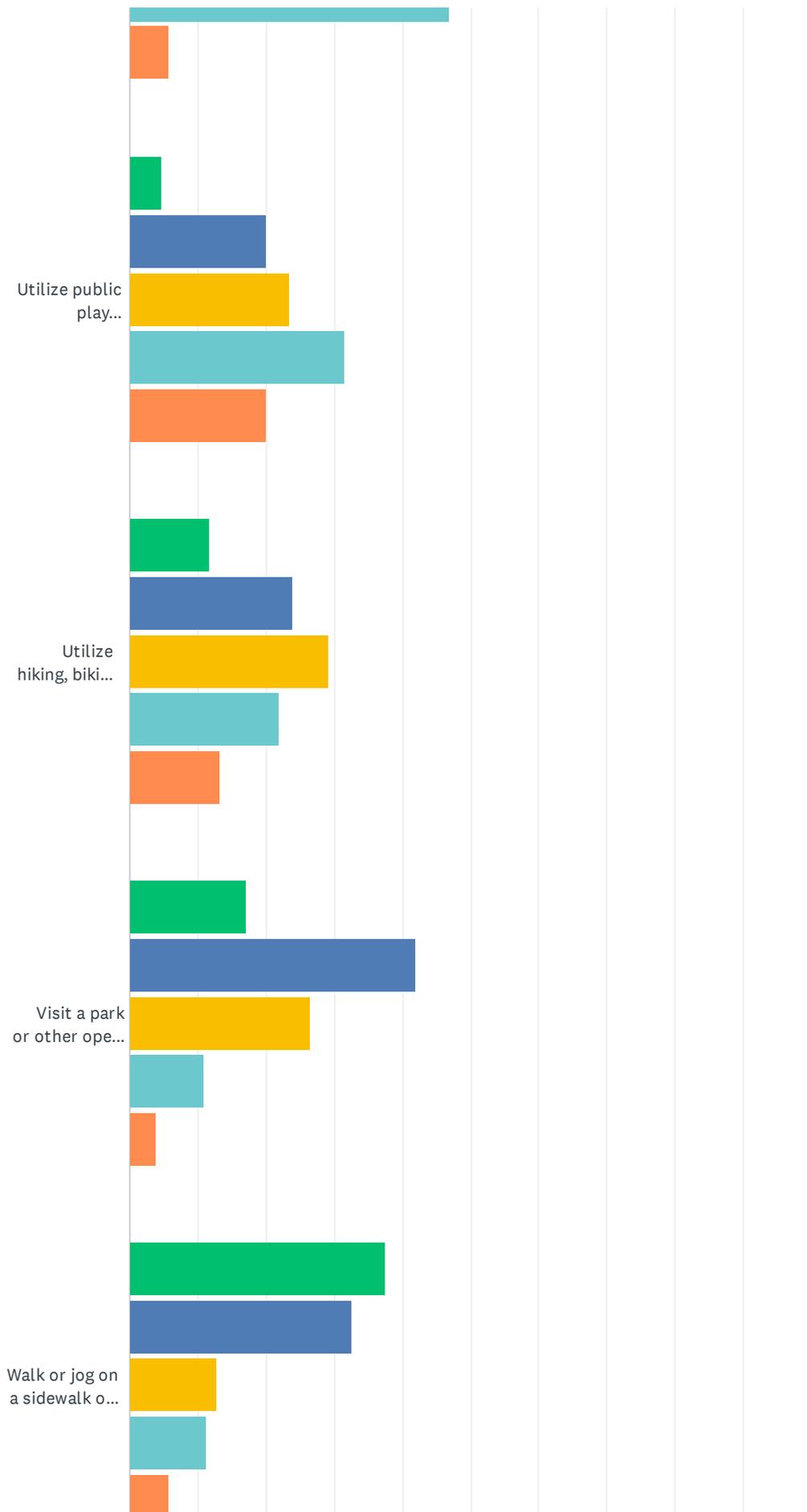
118	Trail fitness stations 10 or 20 stop. Utilize the Charles River	9/10/2021 6:01 PM
119	Parklands	9/10/2021 4:28 PM
120	Enjoy the Parklands very much.	9/10/2021 2:38 PM
121	Parklands	9/10/2021 2:30 PM
122	I would like to see definitive separation between the softball and lacrosse/soccer field at Mellen St. I've been there multiple times where the soccer teams are using the dugout or playing on the softball fields instead of moving down to the back field area.	9/10/2021 2:29 PM
123	A turf field with a track would be huge asset to the town	9/10/2021 2:26 PM
124	Parklands	9/10/2021 2:12 PM
125	Parklands	9/10/2021 2:10 PM
126	We thoroughly enjoy the Parklands. I'd like to see more care of some of the trees in there as we saw one fall while walking once.	9/10/2021 1:59 PM
127	Rosenfeld has a significant amount of land/conservation land that's currently being considered for a warehouse. That could be out to great use by the town instead.	9/10/2021 1:50 PM

Q11 How often do you go to a park or other open space in Hopedale to...

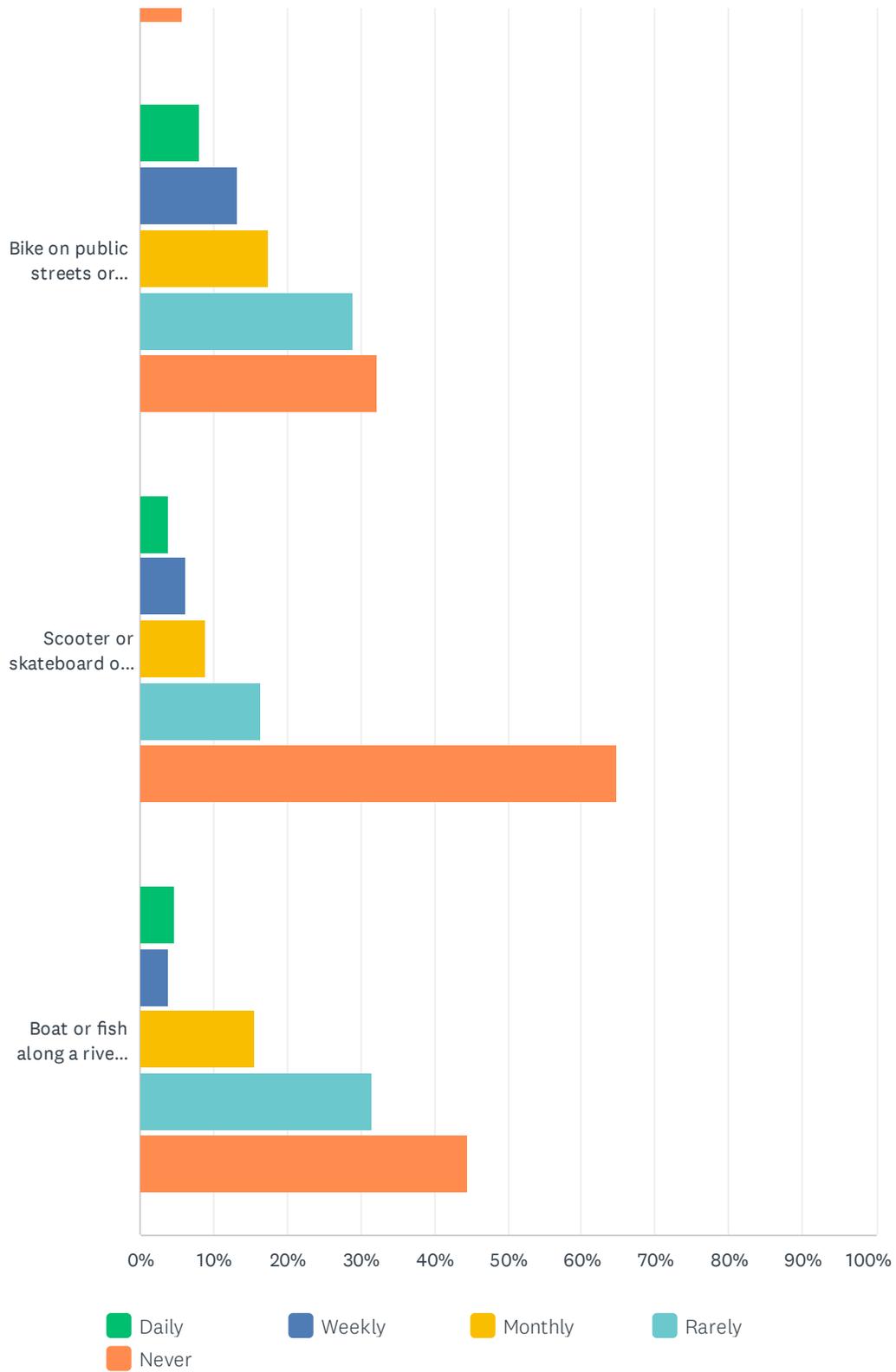
Answered: 213 Skipped: 26



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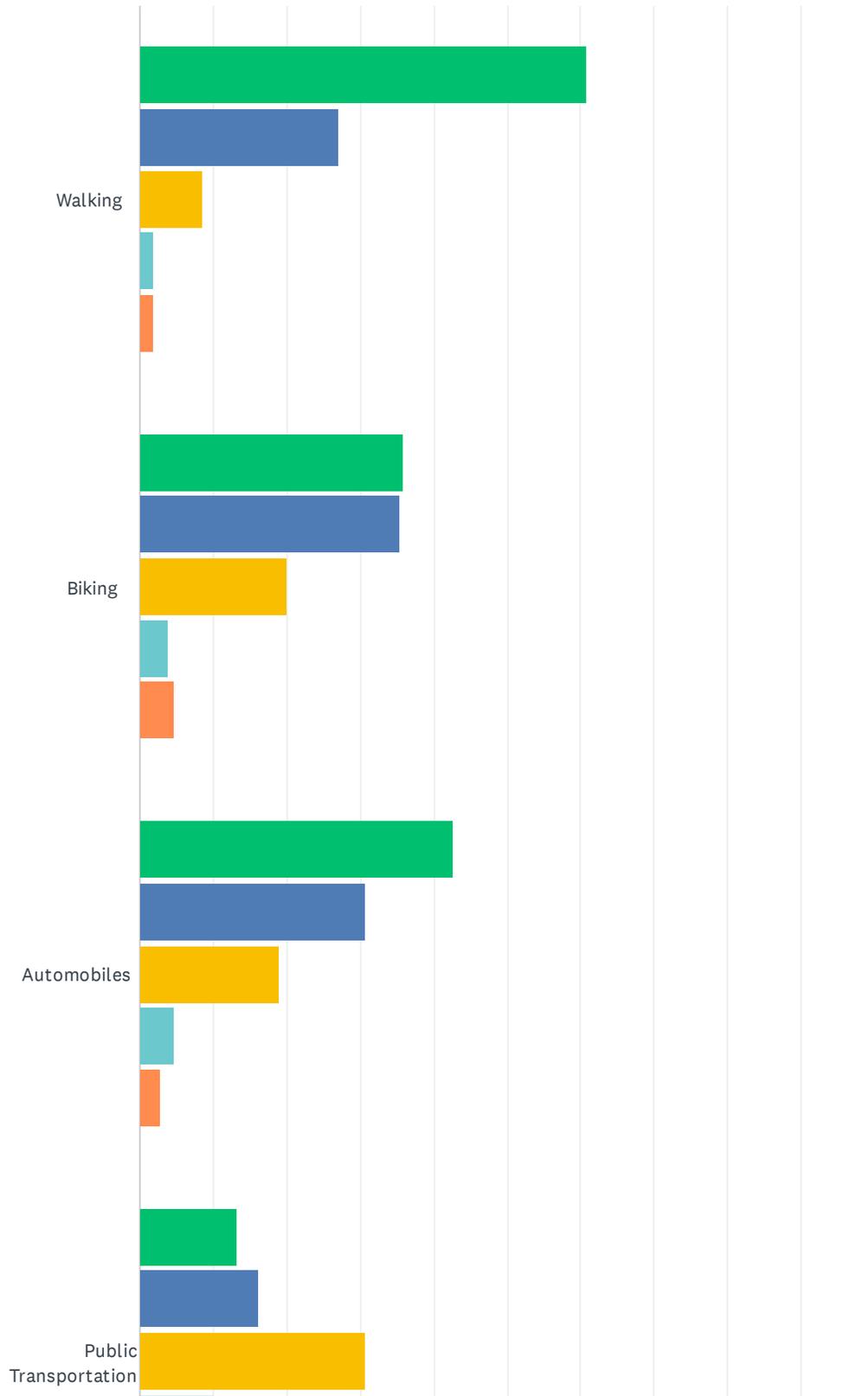


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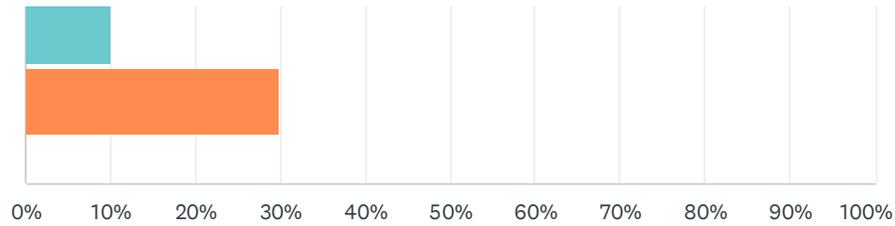
	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	RARELY	NEVER	TOTAL
Participate in or watch formal youth sports leagues?	21.23% 45	30.19% 64	10.38% 22	20.28% 43	17.92% 38	212
Participate in or watch formal adult sports leagues?	4.25% 9	8.49% 18	5.66% 12	27.36% 58	54.25% 115	212
Participate in an informal playgroup or pick up game?	3.30% 7	17.45% 37	12.74% 27	29.25% 62	37.26% 79	212
Attend a special event at a park?	1.42% 3	8.06% 17	37.91% 80	46.92% 99	5.69% 12	211
Utilize public play area/playground?	4.78% 10	20.10% 42	23.44% 49	31.58% 66	20.10% 42	209
Utilize hiking, biking, or cross country ski trails?	11.74% 25	23.94% 51	29.11% 62	22.07% 47	13.15% 28	213
Visit a park or other open space?	16.98% 36	41.98% 89	26.42% 56	10.85% 23	3.77% 8	212
Walk or jog on a sidewalk or public way?	37.44% 79	32.70% 69	12.80% 27	11.37% 24	5.69% 12	211
Bike on public streets or roadways?	8.06% 17	13.27% 28	17.54% 37	28.91% 61	32.23% 68	211
Scooter or skateboard on public streets or roadways?	3.76% 8	6.10% 13	8.92% 19	16.43% 35	64.79% 138	213
Boat or fish along a river, stream, pond, or other water resource area?	4.69% 10	3.76% 8	15.49% 33	31.46% 67	44.60% 95	213

Q12 How important is it to be able to travel to open space and recreational destinations in Hopedale by:

Answered: 211 Skipped: 28



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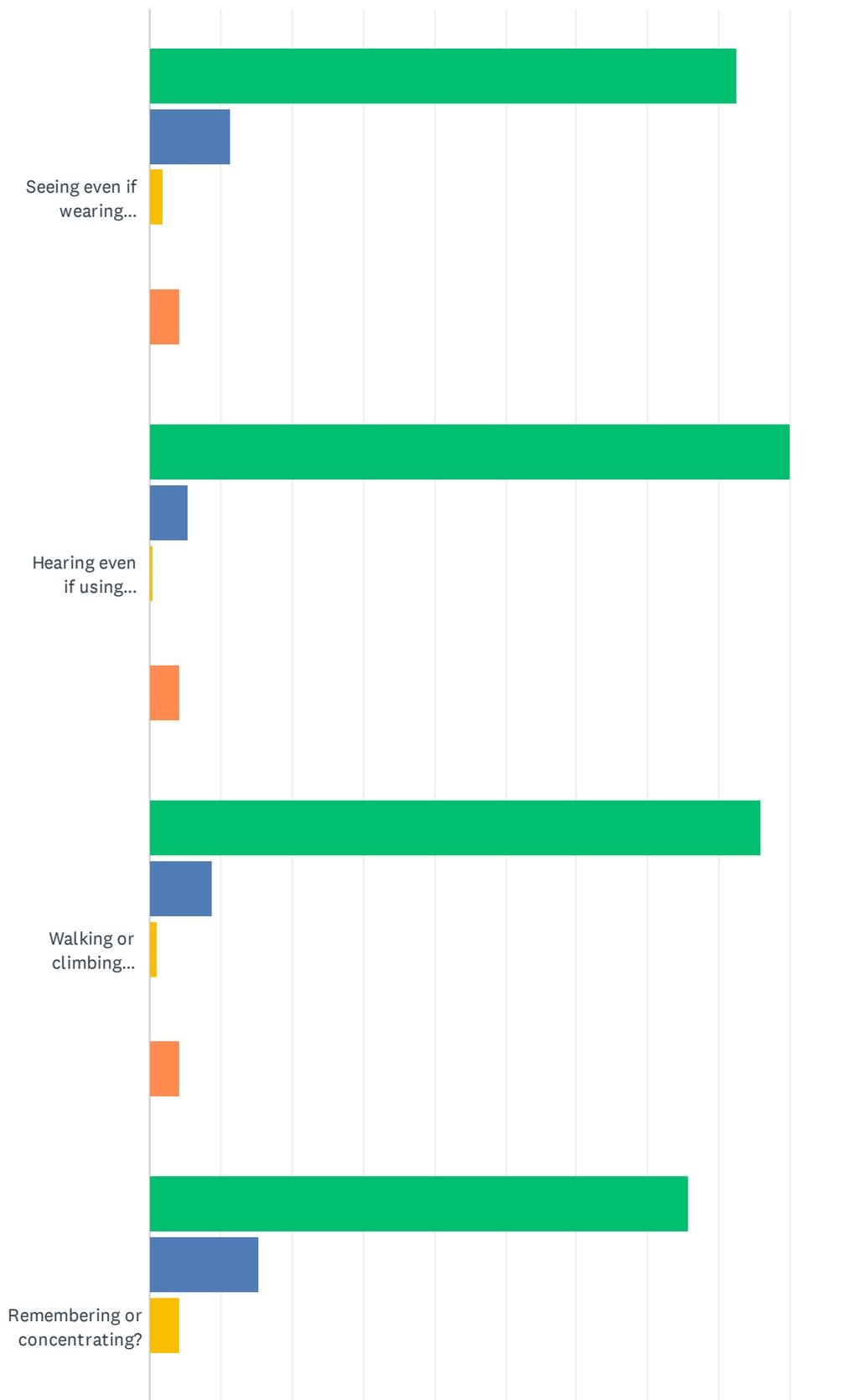


■ Extremely I...
 ■ Somewhat I...
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Somewhat ...
■ Not at all i...

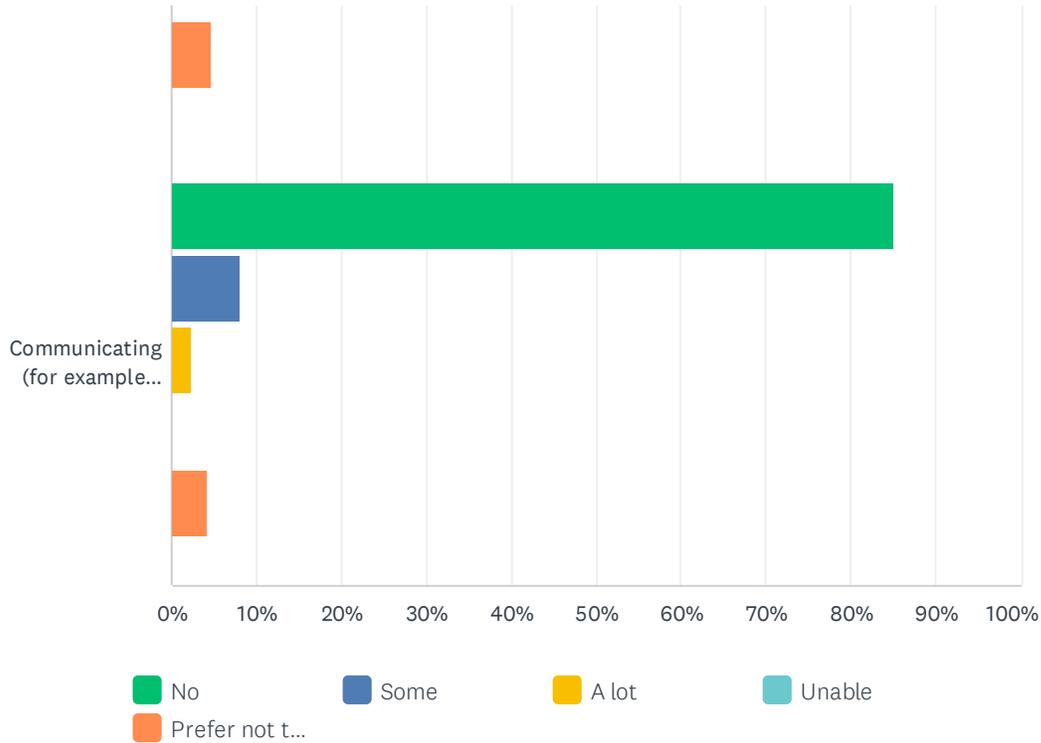
	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT UNIMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Walking	60.66% 128	27.01% 57	8.53% 18	1.90% 4	1.90% 4	211
Biking	35.89% 75	35.41% 74	20.10% 42	3.83% 8	4.78% 10	209
Automobiles	42.65% 90	30.81% 65	18.96% 40	4.74% 10	2.84% 6	211
Public Transportation	13.27% 28	16.11% 34	30.81% 65	9.95% 21	29.86% 63	211

Q13 Do you have difficulty with:

Answered: 211 Skipped: 28



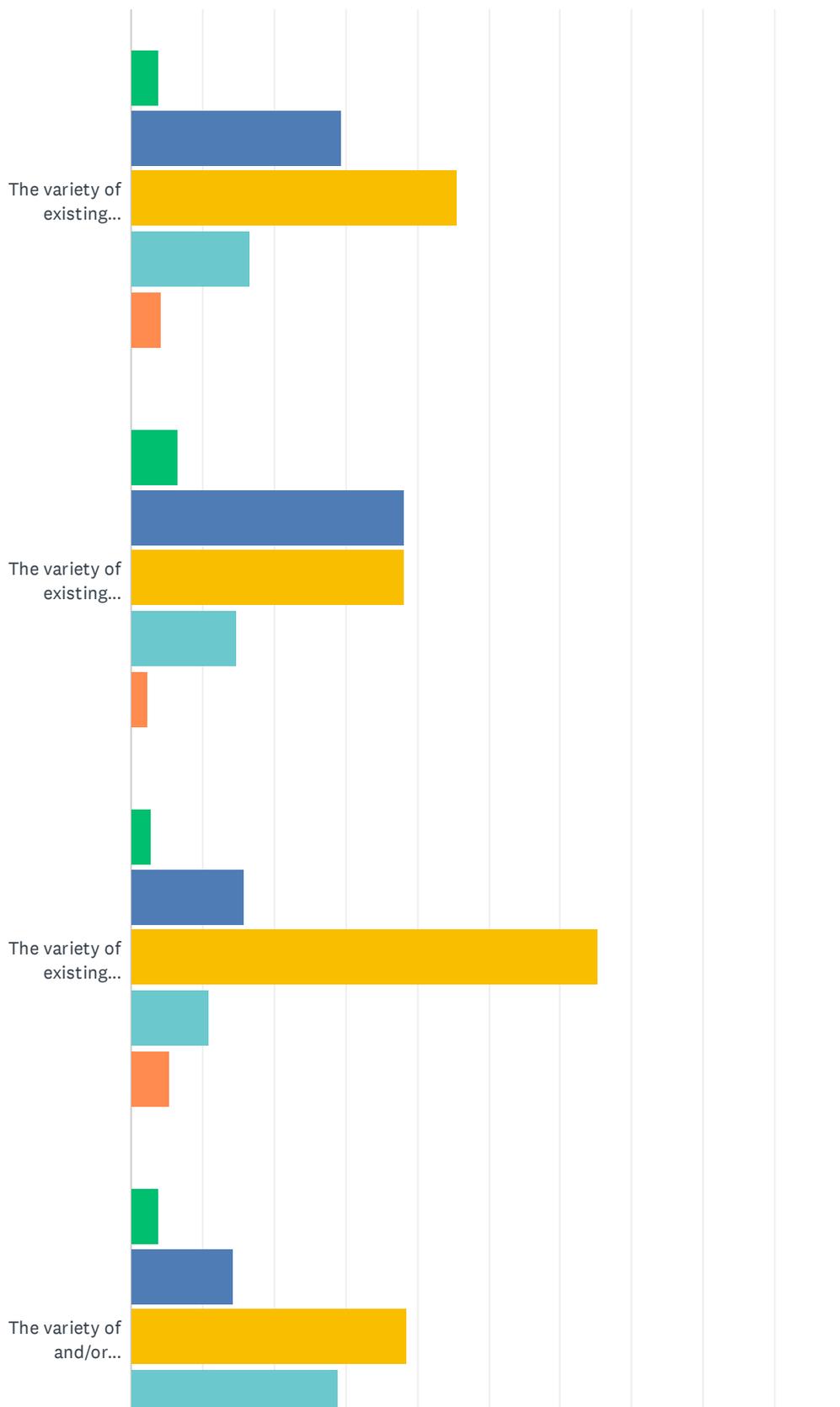
Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan



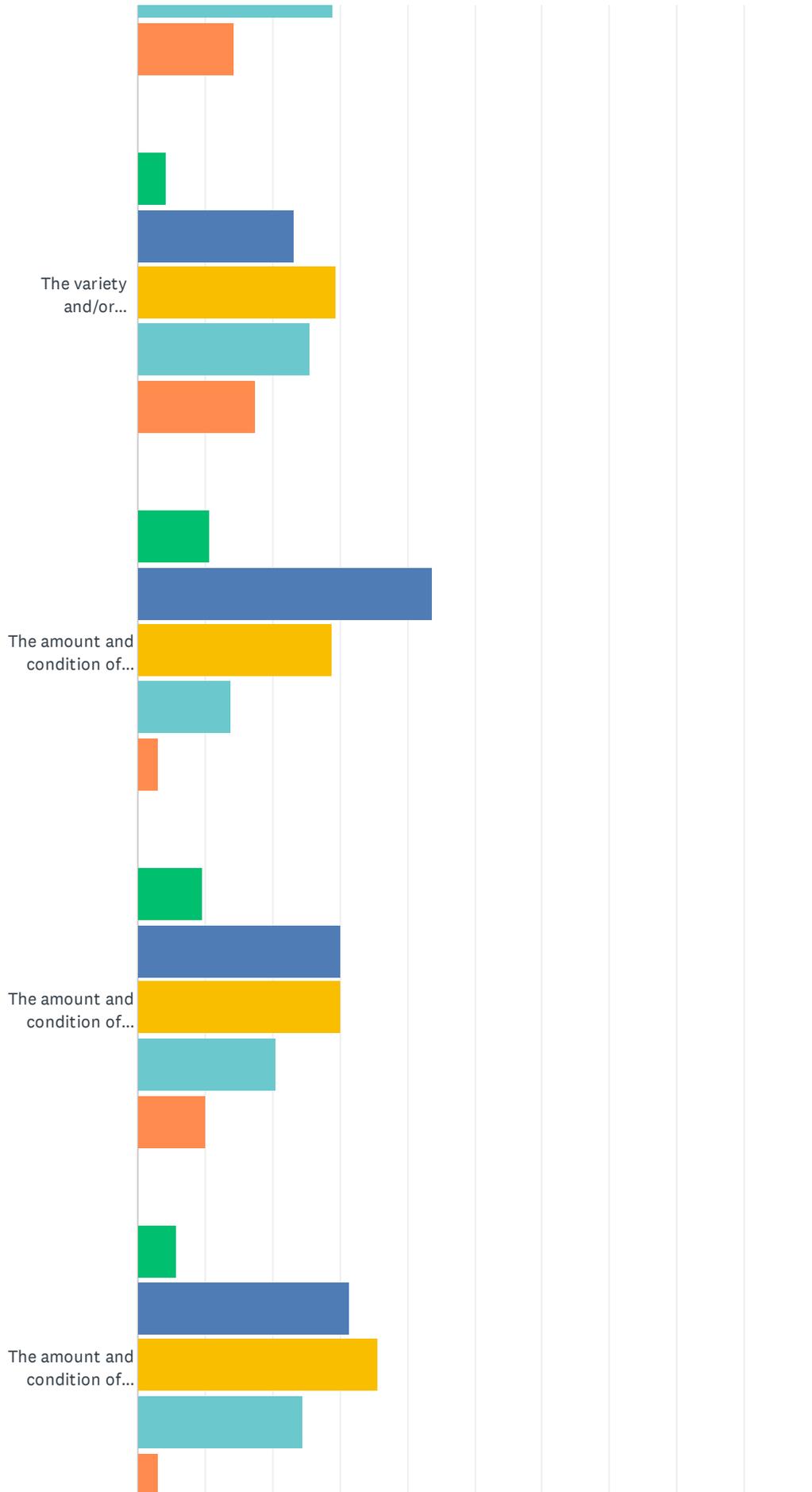
	NO	SOME	A LOT	UNABLE	PREFER NOT TO ANSWER	TOTAL
Seeing even if wearing glasses?	82.46% 174	11.37% 24	1.90% 4	0.00% 0	4.27% 9	211
Hearing even if using hearing aid/s?	90.00% 189	5.24% 11	0.48% 1	0.00% 0	4.29% 9	210
Walking or climbing stairs?	85.99% 178	8.70% 18	0.97% 2	0.00% 0	4.35% 9	207
Remembering or concentrating?	75.60% 158	15.31% 32	4.31% 9	0.00% 0	4.78% 10	209
Communicating (for example, understanding or being understood by others)?	85.17% 178	8.13% 17	2.39% 5	0.00% 0	4.31% 9	209

Q14 How satisfied are you with:

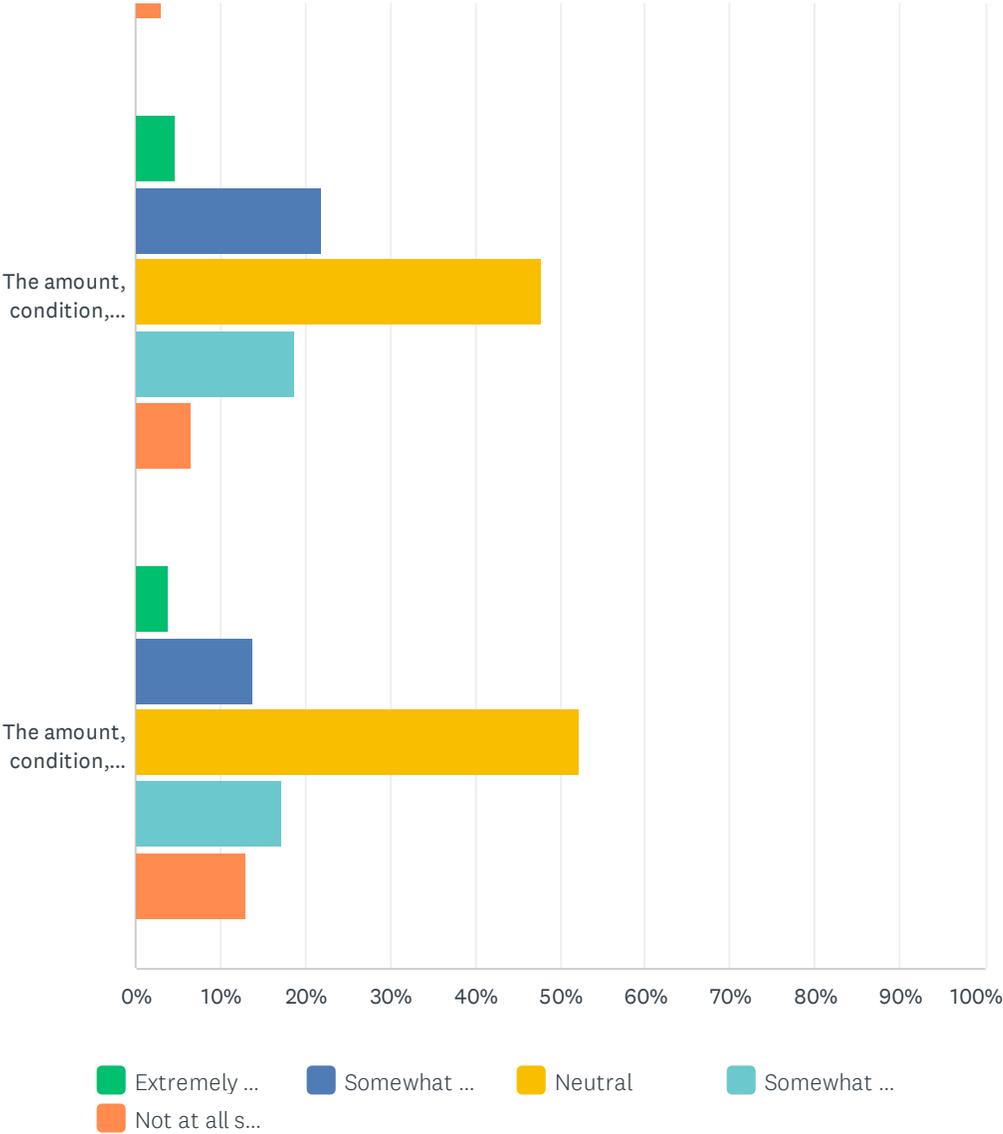
Answered: 211 Skipped: 28



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	EXTREMELY SATISFIED	SOMEWHAT SATISFIED	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT UNSATISFIED	NOT AT ALL SATISFIED	TOTAL
The variety of existing recreational programs/opportunities for adults?	3.81% 8	29.52% 62	45.71% 96	16.67% 35	4.29% 9	210
The variety of existing recreational programs/opportunities for children?	6.67% 14	38.10% 80	38.10% 80	14.76% 31	2.38% 5	210
The variety of existing recreational programs/opportunities for the aging adults?	2.86% 6	15.71% 33	65.24% 137	10.95% 23	5.24% 11	210
The variety of and/or condition of existing indoor recreational facilities?	3.81% 8	14.29% 30	38.57% 81	29.05% 61	14.29% 30	210
The variety and/or condition of existing outdoor recreational facilities?	4.27% 9	23.22% 49	29.38% 62	25.59% 54	17.54% 37	211
The amount and condition of existing trails/other passive recreation opportunities?	10.58% 22	43.75% 91	28.85% 60	13.94% 29	2.88% 6	208
The amount and condition of existing sidewalks?	9.52% 20	30.00% 63	30.00% 63	20.48% 43	10.00% 21	210
The amount and condition of existing parking facilities at Hopedale's open spaces?	5.77% 12	31.25% 65	35.58% 74	24.52% 51	2.88% 6	208
The amount, condition, and/or safety of bike paths?	4.78% 10	22.01% 46	47.85% 100	18.66% 39	6.70% 14	209
The amount, condition, and/or safety of bike lanes within roadways?	3.83% 8	13.88% 29	52.15% 109	17.22% 36	12.92% 27	209

Q15 Do you regularly travel to any nearby communities for open space and/or recreational opportunities? Please list community and the activity for which you travel there for.

Answered: 109 Skipped: 130

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Milford High - tennis courts and track Bellingham Commons - paved walkway/park	2/14/2022 5:22 PM
2	Playgrounds in Medway, Hopkinton, and Upton; bike path in Milford and Holliston	10/28/2021 8:05 PM
3	Milford- Bellingham - Grafton	10/26/2021 11:39 AM
4	Bike path in surrounding towns, kids playgrounds in different towns all local	10/26/2021 6:35 AM
5	Milford. Trails	10/21/2021 7:16 AM
6	I go to Milford Bike Trail sometimes.	10/18/2021 4:53 PM
7	Milford rail trail	10/18/2021 10:54 AM
8	Holliston trail, Blackstone walkway, Stanley swollen farm trail	10/16/2021 11:03 AM
9	Walk at Millville	10/15/2021 4:06 AM
10	Upton- pickle ball courts	10/14/2021 9:34 PM
11	Upton, Hiking. Hopkinto, Playground. Mendon, Kayaking.	10/14/2021 8:21 PM
12	Hopkintin	10/14/2021 8:03 PM
13	Milford/Upton bike trail Foxboro - Gilbert farm park for trails	10/14/2021 7:36 PM
14	Audubon locations	10/14/2021 3:03 PM
15	Medway- Choate Park. Walking trails, splash pad, playground, picnic facilities. I wish Hopedale could have these amenities!	10/14/2021 11:48 AM
16	No	10/14/2021 10:31 AM
17	Choate Park in Medway Silve Lake Park in Bellingham Upton Playground Mendon playground	10/14/2021 10:03 AM
18	Bellingham, Mendon, Upton	10/13/2021 9:01 AM
19	Yes Uxbridgr and Mendon-playgroundAq+	10/12/2021 11:37 PM
20	As a teen and now as a young adult, I find myself going to Milford for recreational opportunities. They have bars, restaurants and more stores	10/12/2021 11:36 PM
21	Mitford for walking trails	10/12/2021 10:32 PM
22	dog parks, hiking and walking trails	10/12/2021 10:11 PM
23	Medway playgrounds and splash pad Franklin farmers market Bellingham silver lake playground, splash pad, beach area	9/29/2021 10:55 AM
24	parks - just around milford bike path	9/28/2021 9:14 AM
25	I travel to other towns in order to utilize athletic fields.	9/28/2021 9:01 AM
26	mellen field and hopedale tennis courts	9/28/2021 8:57 AM
27	yes - mendon, bellingham, medway. Mostly all of the competitive youth sports games are outside of hopedale	9/27/2021 11:54 AM
28	Yes I do	9/27/2021 10:59 AM

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29	basketball courts to play basketball	9/27/2021 9:08 AM
30	no	9/27/2021 9:06 AM
31	Holliston	9/27/2021 7:53 AM
32	Medway - Choate Park	9/26/2021 11:58 PM
33	milford use of track and field	9/25/2021 6:41 PM
34	Choate and Oakland Park in Medway Mendon Park Upton Park All for playgrounds Mendon for Soccer U5	9/25/2021 5:20 PM
35	Riverbend Farm - West Hill Dam	9/25/2021 8:05 AM
36	I go to Uxbridge two or three times a week to use their dog park.	9/24/2021 6:41 PM
37	Milford and Hopkinton for bike trails.	9/24/2021 4:04 PM
38	Bikway in Kilford to Holiston	9/24/2021 3:27 PM
39	Hiking in Upton, Whitinsville, Uxbridge, Milford	9/24/2021 3:20 PM
40	Ashland state park for dog walking	9/24/2021 2:42 PM
41	I bring my young children to Mendon Park, Upton Park or Choate Park. Basically anywhere they won't collect sand in their shoes	9/24/2021 2:23 PM
42	No	9/24/2021 2:16 PM
43	All local towns to playground and hiking trails and swimming at lakes and ponds	9/24/2021 1:49 PM
44	North Attleboro, Bellingham, Franklin	9/24/2021 12:16 PM
45	Milford bike path	9/24/2021 12:01 PM
46	mendon hopkinton	9/24/2021 11:37 AM
47	Yes, I often go to Mendon and Upton to Bow Hunt	9/24/2021 11:14 AM
48	Wellesley, Newton, Boston, Swampscott, Nahant, Nantucket	9/24/2021 11:06 AM
49	no	9/24/2021 10:30 AM
50	no.	9/24/2021 10:05 AM
51	sure	9/24/2021 10:00 AM
52	no	9/24/2021 10:00 AM
53	Rec league basketball at Nipmuc	9/24/2021 9:04 AM
54	Milford for tennis and other surrounding towns for fishing.	9/24/2021 8:59 AM
55	West Hill Dam	9/24/2021 8:54 AM
56	I travel to these facilities for sports daily.	9/21/2021 11:19 AM
57	No	9/21/2021 11:17 AM
58	I will travel to the NEFC fields to sometimes play soccer because it is turf and the soccer fields in Hopedale isn't great.	9/21/2021 11:15 AM
59	no	9/21/2021 11:13 AM
60	Yes, I sometimes travel to nearby fields to participate in field hockey.	9/21/2021 11:13 AM
61	Not regularly.	9/21/2021 11:11 AM
62	no	9/21/2021 11:09 AM
63	not really	9/21/2021 11:08 AM
64	Occasionally I travel to the Milford Bike Trail to bike / run.	9/21/2021 11:08 AM
65	yes. draper field for field hockey.	9/21/2021 11:06 AM

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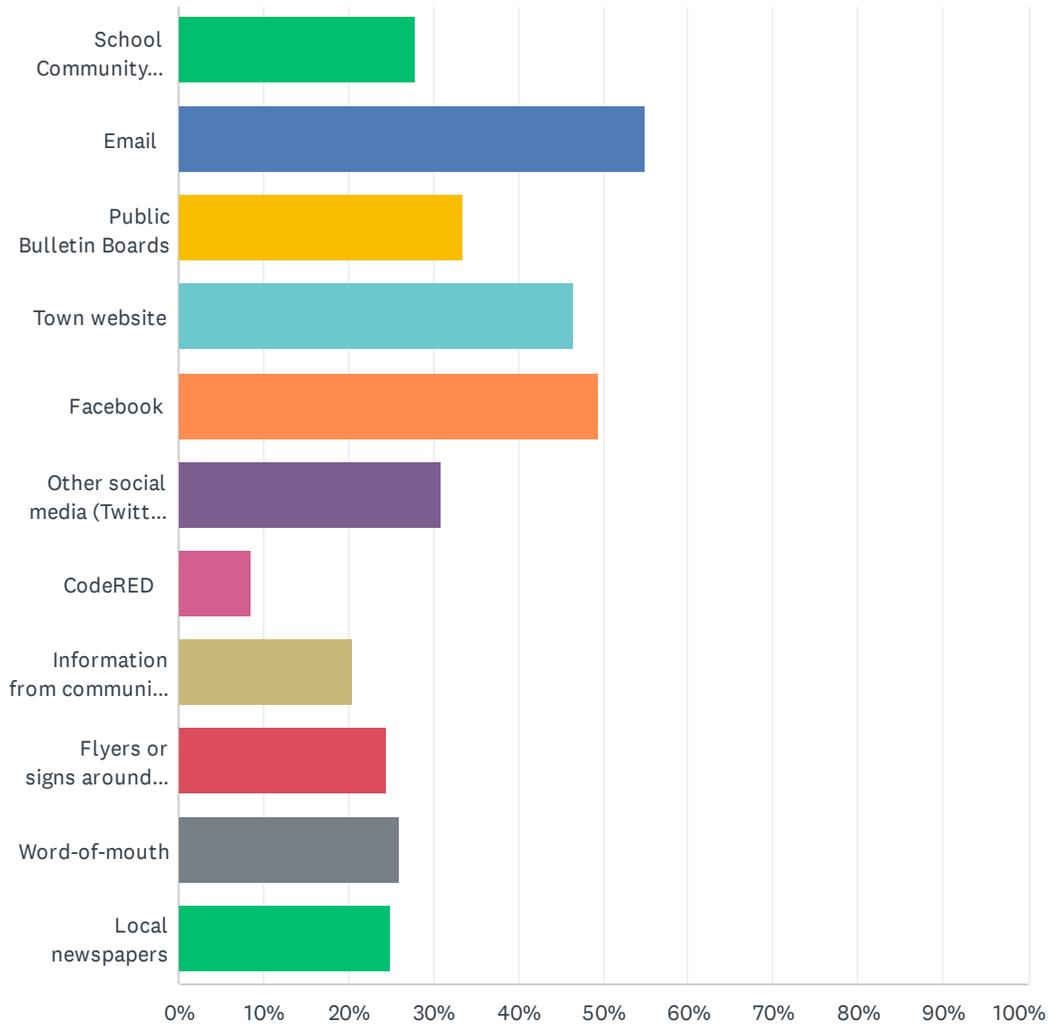
66	no	9/21/2021 11:05 AM
67	Draper field- field hockey, Hopedale town park- tennis	9/21/2021 10:18 AM
68	field hockey practice and i get driven there.	9/21/2021 10:14 AM
69	I normally travel to either the playground or the park lands, and I usually walk there.	9/21/2021 10:12 AM
70	No.	9/21/2021 10:11 AM
71	Yes to the bike path in Milford.	9/21/2021 10:09 AM
72	Franklin for sports	9/21/2021 10:09 AM
73	I travel by bike daily	9/21/2021 10:08 AM
74	I go to towns around hopedale to play soccer and the fields are way better for playing and practice.	9/21/2021 10:07 AM
75	No, not usually.	9/21/2021 10:07 AM
76	i travel to the park, school and parklands for academic and athletic activities.	9/21/2021 10:06 AM
77	no.	9/21/2021 10:06 AM
78	Sometimes.	9/21/2021 10:05 AM
79	I travel to the soccer field to play soccer.	9/21/2021 10:03 AM
80	West Hill Dam, Uxbridge walking/hiking/ranger programs/events River Bend Farm, Uxbridge walking/hiking/biking Cormier Woods, Uxbridge walking/hiking Blackstone Valley Bike Pathway	9/21/2021 9:23 AM
81	I always ride my bike to school, friends houses, cumbies, or bike into other towns.	9/21/2021 9:11 AM
82	i travel far to find skate spots	9/21/2021 9:10 AM
83	I travel to hopkinton and westborough and go fishing.	9/21/2021 9:09 AM
84	I usually bike to the park and play sports with friends.	9/21/2021 9:09 AM
85	West Hill Dam in Uxbridge, MA - daily/weekly depending on weather and schedule Cormier Woods, Uxbridge, MA - in winter when ticks are less of a threat Rhode Island Trails Ocean Drive, Newport, RI	9/21/2021 9:07 AM
86	No	9/21/2021 9:06 AM
87	No	9/21/2021 9:05 AM
88	no	9/21/2021 9:04 AM
89	No, I do not	9/21/2021 9:02 AM
90	No I do not.	9/21/2021 8:59 AM
91	no	9/21/2021 8:58 AM
92	State Parks nearby	9/17/2021 6:36 PM
93	Milford and Holliston for walking and biking Charles Iver Trail. Douglas for biking on SNETT	9/17/2021 10:21 AM
94	Mendon, Hopkinton walking in trails. Relaxing points of interest, Water, waterfalls, wildlife.	9/14/2021 9:26 PM
95	Medway, Mendon, Upton playgrounds	9/11/2021 8:50 PM
96	Milford - to run on the track at the high school and to use their tennis courts	9/11/2021 4:09 PM
97	River Bend Farm for walking	9/11/2021 3:39 PM
98	Upton State Forest. Hopkinton State Forest. Look Out Rock.	9/11/2021 9:35 AM
99	River bend farm	9/10/2021 10:04 PM
100	Canal Heritage State Park in Whitinsville	9/10/2021 9:39 PM
101	Surrounding towns for youth baseball	9/10/2021 8:55 PM

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102	Yes! Mendon, Bellingham	9/10/2021 6:28 PM
103	Franklin's playgrounds and park areas are phenomenal!	9/10/2021 4:31 PM
104	Yes, Milford walking path	9/10/2021 3:06 PM
105	Yes Milford bike daily to walk my dog. Nice 3 mile loop.	9/10/2021 2:43 PM
106	No	9/10/2021 2:39 PM
107	Medway - park and trails Milford - athletic fields, track, turf	9/10/2021 2:29 PM
108	Mendon, outdoor track	9/10/2021 2:21 PM
109	Choate park	9/10/2021 2:14 PM

Q16 How would you prefer to get information about open spaces and/or recreational opportunities and events in Hopedale?

Answered: 200 Skipped: 39



Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
School Community Bulletin or Listserve	28.00%	56
Email	55.00%	110
Public Bulletin Boards	33.50%	67
Town website	46.50%	93
Facebook	49.50%	99
Other social media (Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	31.00%	62
CodeRED	8.50%	17
Information from community groups or athletic leagues	20.50%	41
Flyers or signs around Town	24.50%	49
Word-of-mouth	26.00%	52
Local newspapers	25.00%	50
Total Respondents: 200		

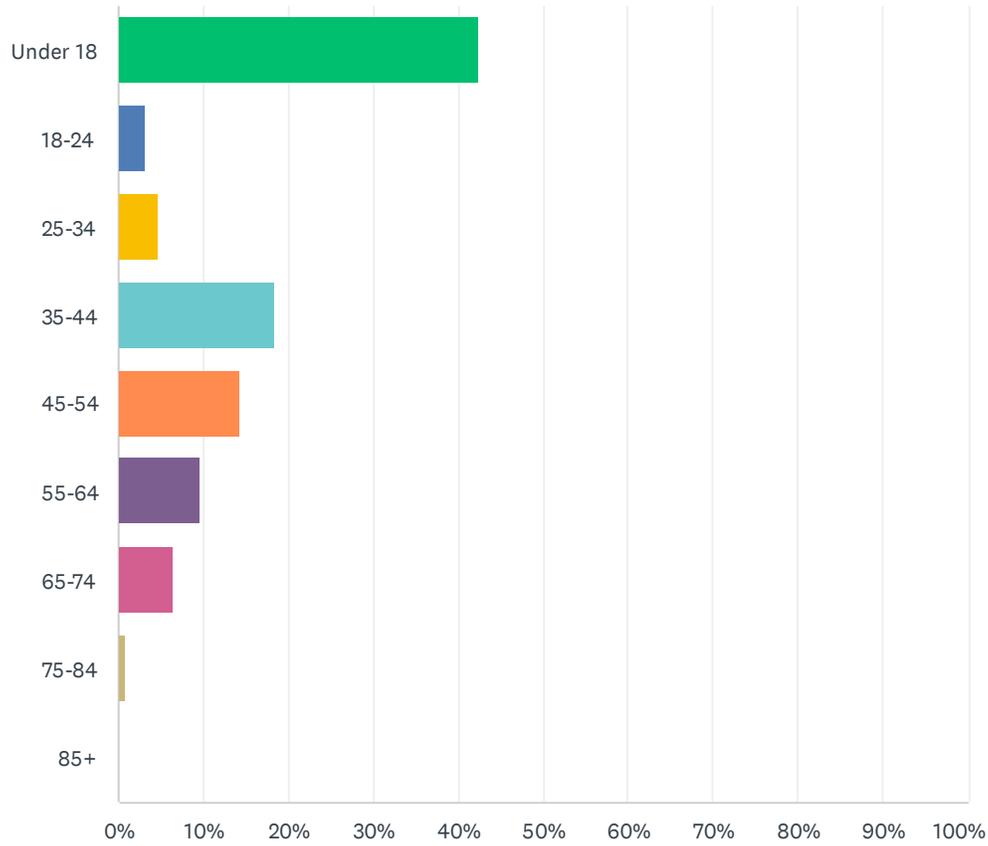
#	WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ADDED TO AN OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN LISTSERVE? IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS.	DATE
1	Sara Pellegrini spellegrini@afonsore.com	10/18/2021 4:53 PM
2	Jeffrey Kimball, Jeff.p.kimball@gmail.com	10/14/2021 8:21 PM
3	christine.seaver@gmail.com	10/14/2021 7:39 PM
4	Saraelizabethh@aol.com	10/14/2021 11:48 AM
5	Santoshamom@gmail.com	10/12/2021 9:10 PM
6	Elisabeth Nelson. Ebrowne1213@gmail.com	9/29/2021 10:55 AM
7	no	9/28/2021 8:57 AM
8	Colleenmstone@gmail.com	9/27/2021 11:54 AM
9	No	9/27/2021 10:59 AM
10	loriantobin@hotmail.com	9/26/2021 11:58 PM
11	Debora Strick, stricks4@comcast.net	9/24/2021 5:26 PM
12	Mlareaualves@gmail.com	9/24/2021 3:20 PM
13	Gail Brown. adamjefferic@yahoo.com	9/24/2021 1:25 PM
14	Chris Hodgens (cphodg17@g.holycross.edu)	9/24/2021 11:06 AM
15	no	9/24/2021 10:05 AM
16	no	9/24/2021 10:00 AM
17	no	9/24/2021 10:00 AM
18	No	9/21/2021 11:17 AM
19	no	9/21/2021 11:13 AM
20	no	9/21/2021 11:05 AM
21	no.	9/21/2021 10:14 AM

Hopedale 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

22	no	9/21/2021 10:07 AM
23	No thank you	9/21/2021 10:07 AM
24	no	9/21/2021 10:06 AM
25	No.	9/21/2021 10:05 AM
26	no	9/21/2021 10:03 AM
27	nathan jerrett jerrettn24@hopedaleschools.org	9/21/2021 9:10 AM
28	No.	9/21/2021 9:09 AM
29	no	9/21/2021 9:04 AM
30	no	9/21/2021 8:58 AM
31	no	9/21/2021 8:56 AM
32	nickeough@yahoo.com	9/15/2021 7:26 AM
33	Carleen kannar cgoober2@yahoo.com	9/13/2021 10:17 PM
34	liz_shop@comcast.net	9/12/2021 8:50 PM
35	Mosh: mrmosh27@yahoo.com	9/10/2021 9:39 PM
36	Frederick Olson / fwo1128@gmail.com	9/10/2021 6:08 PM
37	Tobybooth@comcast.net	9/10/2021 2:16 PM
38	Jaymes-z@verizon.net	9/10/2021 2:14 PM
39	jacob.heather@gmail.com	9/10/2021 2:01 PM

Q17 What is your age?

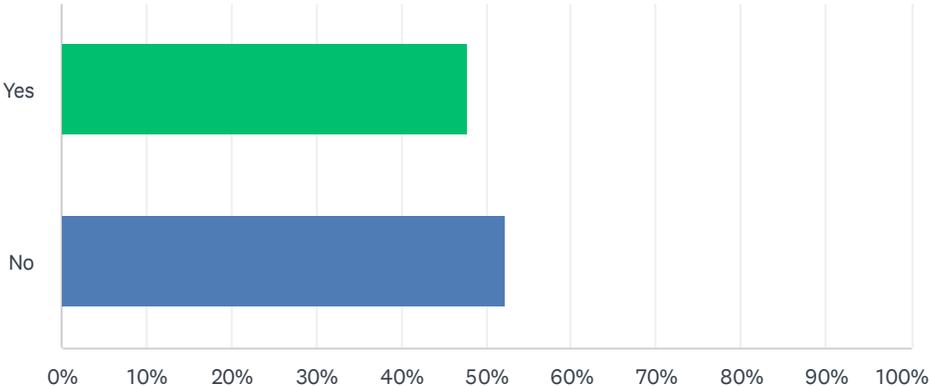
Answered: 217 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	42.40%	92
18-24	3.23%	7
25-34	4.61%	10
35-44	18.43%	40
45-54	14.29%	31
55-64	9.68%	21
65-74	6.45%	14
75-84	0.92%	2
85+	0.00%	0
TOTAL		217

Q18 Do you have children under the age of 18 living with you?

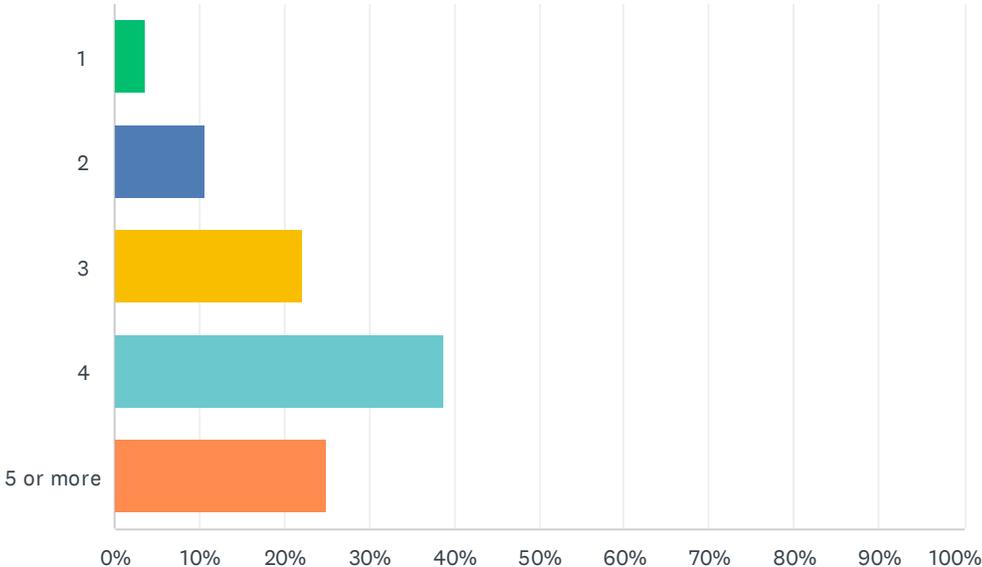
Answered: 216 Skipped: 23



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	47.69%	103
No	52.31%	113
TOTAL		216

Q19 What is your household size?

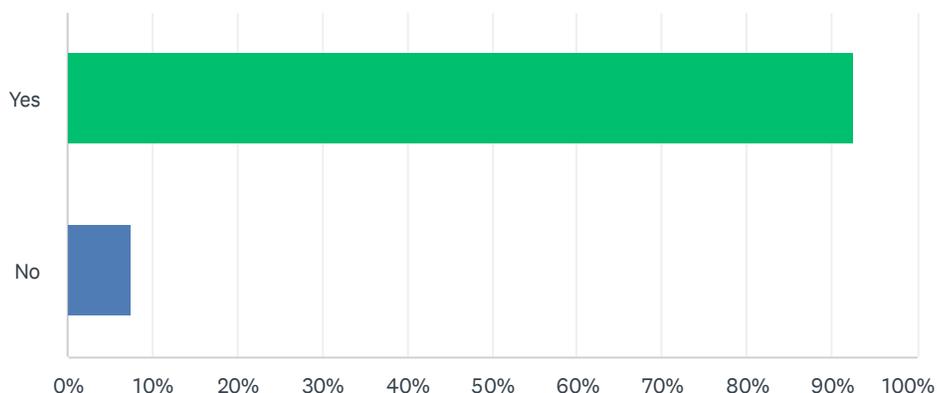
Answered: 217 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1	3.69% 8
2	10.60% 23
3	22.12% 48
4	38.71% 84
5 or more	24.88% 54
TOTAL	217

Q20 Do you currently reside in Hopedale?

Answered: 216 Skipped: 23

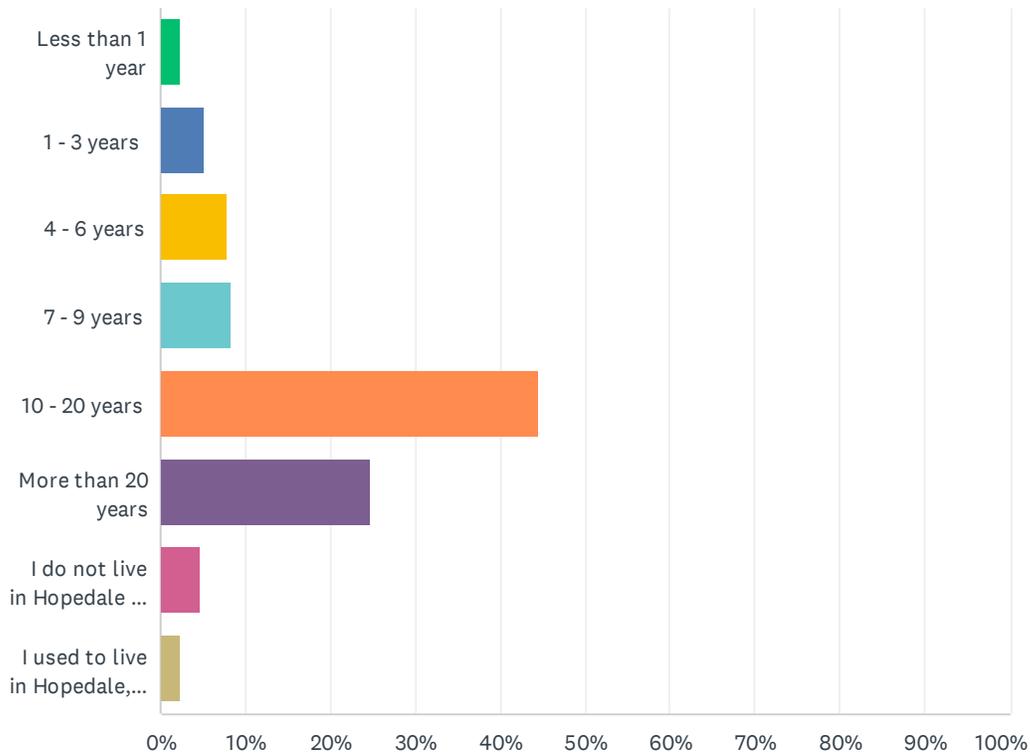


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.59%	200
No	7.41%	16
TOTAL		216

#	IF NO, PLEASE SPECIFY WHAT TOWN/CITY YOU LIVE IN:	DATE
1	Milford	10/14/2021 2:43 PM
2	Uxbridge however I work, have family in, and my children attend Hopedale schools	10/14/2021 10:03 AM
3	Hopedale 1/2 year	10/12/2021 11:39 PM
4	Bellingham	10/2/2021 9:37 PM
5	uxbridge	9/27/2021 7:57 AM
6	Holliston	9/27/2021 7:53 AM
7	Milford	9/24/2021 8:54 AM
8	Bolton	9/24/2021 8:50 AM
9	Milford	9/21/2021 11:14 AM
10	Milford	9/21/2021 11:08 AM
11	Milford	9/21/2021 11:05 AM
12	Uxbridge	9/21/2021 10:12 AM
13	milford	9/21/2021 10:07 AM
14	milford	9/21/2021 10:07 AM
15	Milford.	9/21/2021 10:05 AM
16	Milford	9/21/2021 9:06 AM
17	Milford	9/21/2021 9:06 AM
18	Milford	9/10/2021 2:29 PM

Q21 If you currently live in Hopedale, how long have you lived here?

Answered: 215 Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year	2.33%	5
1 - 3 years	5.12%	11
4 - 6 years	7.91%	17
7 - 9 years	8.37%	18
10 - 20 years	44.65%	96
More than 20 years	24.65%	53
I do not live in Hopedale and I have never lived there	4.65%	10
I used to live in Hopedale, but I no longer live there	2.33%	5
TOTAL		215

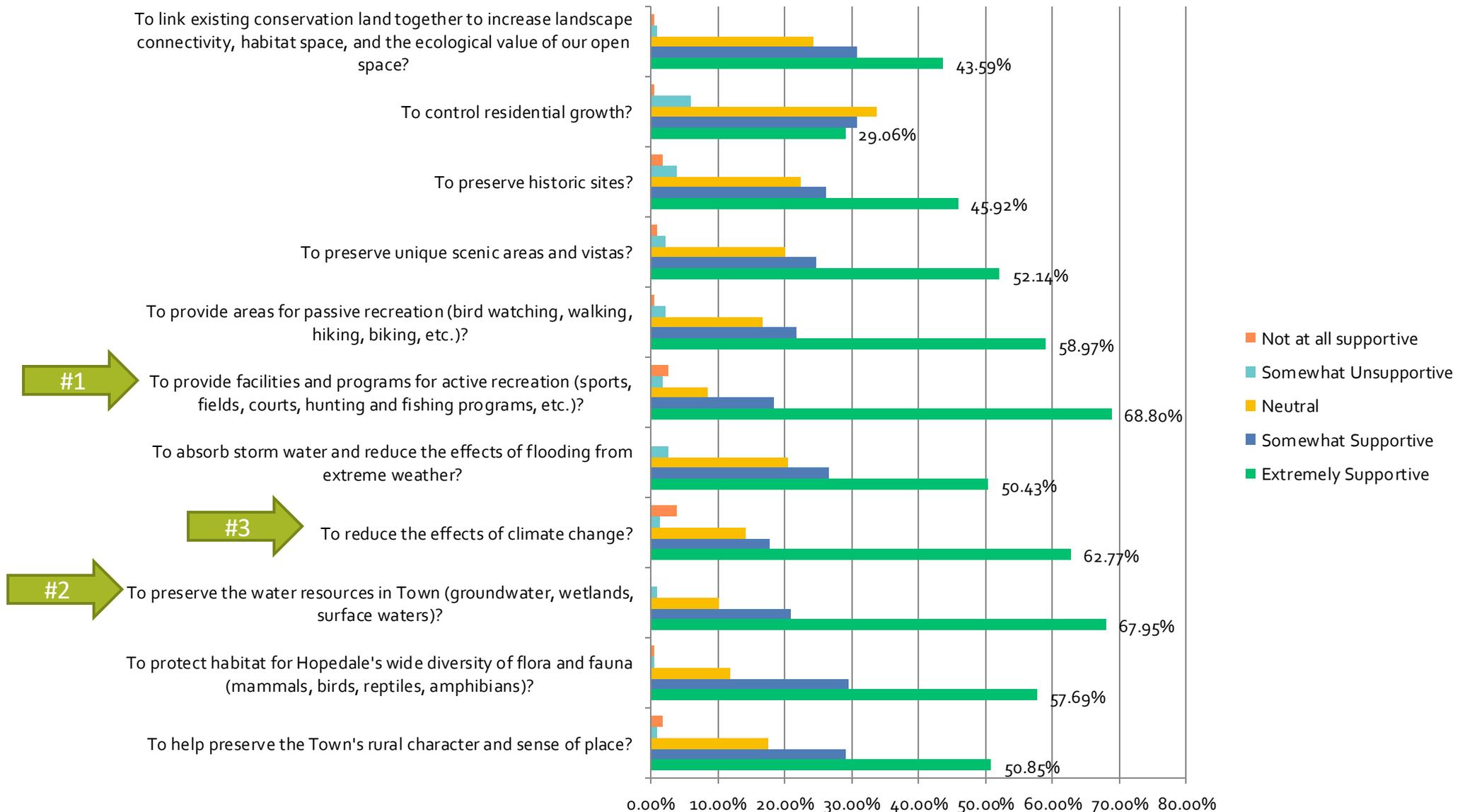
HOPEDALE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

2021 Survey Results

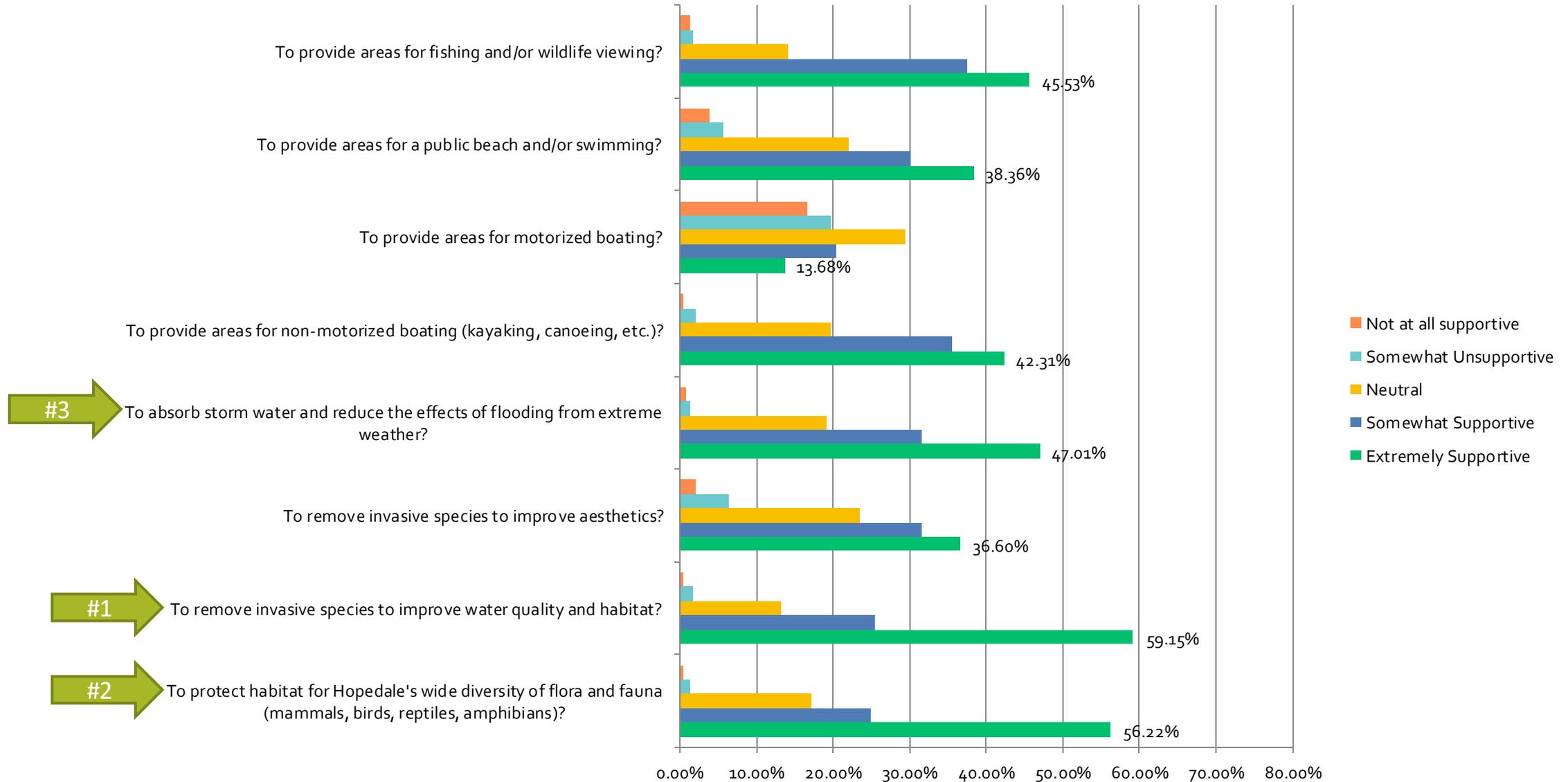
Survey Overview

- Open Space Committee began planning the Public Input Survey in July and August
- The survey officially launched on September 1, 2021
- 238 Responses were collected in total
- Results for this presentation were collected from September 1, 2021 through February 4, 2022

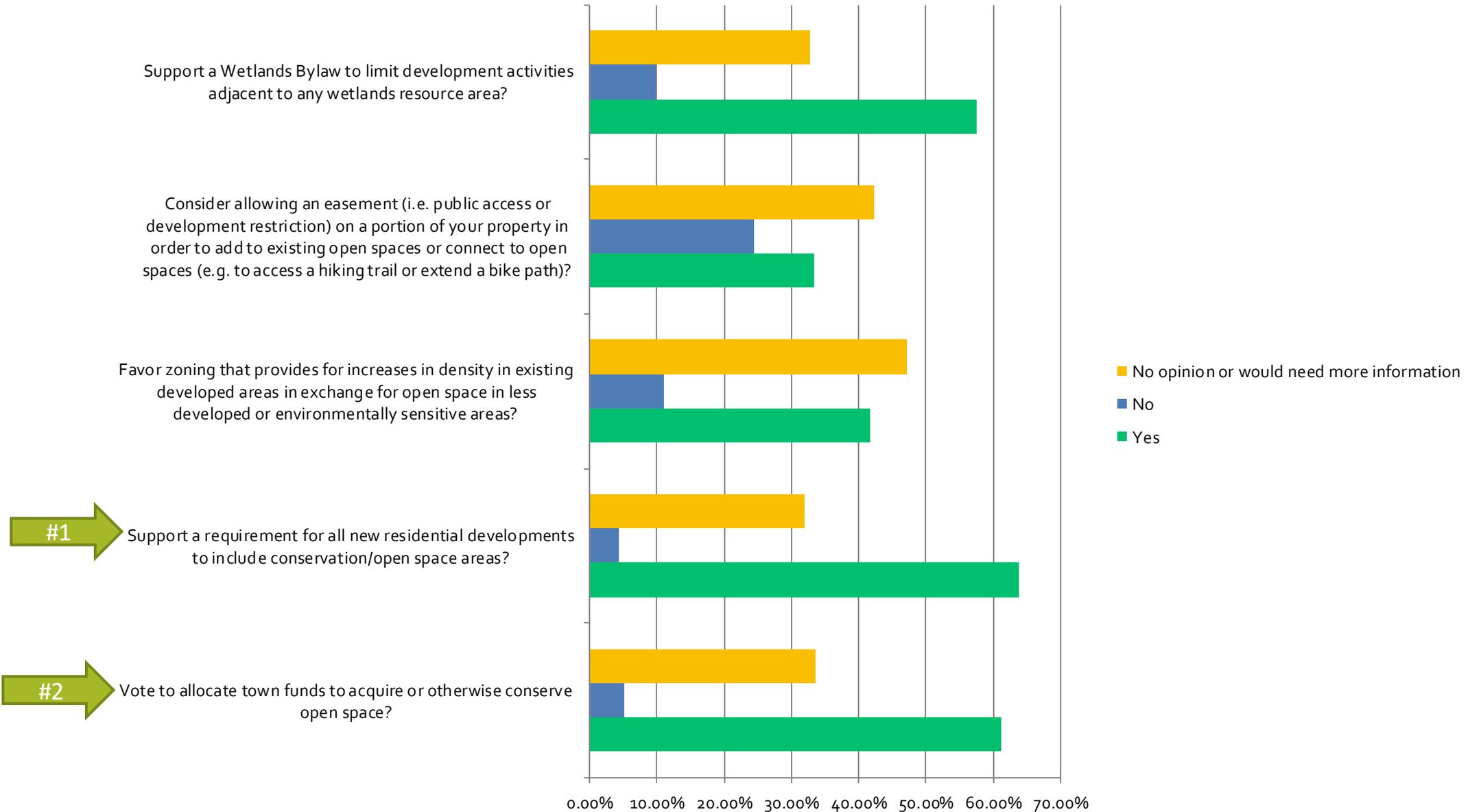
How strongly do you support Hopedale protecting, acquiring, and/or improving Town-owned land for the following reasons:



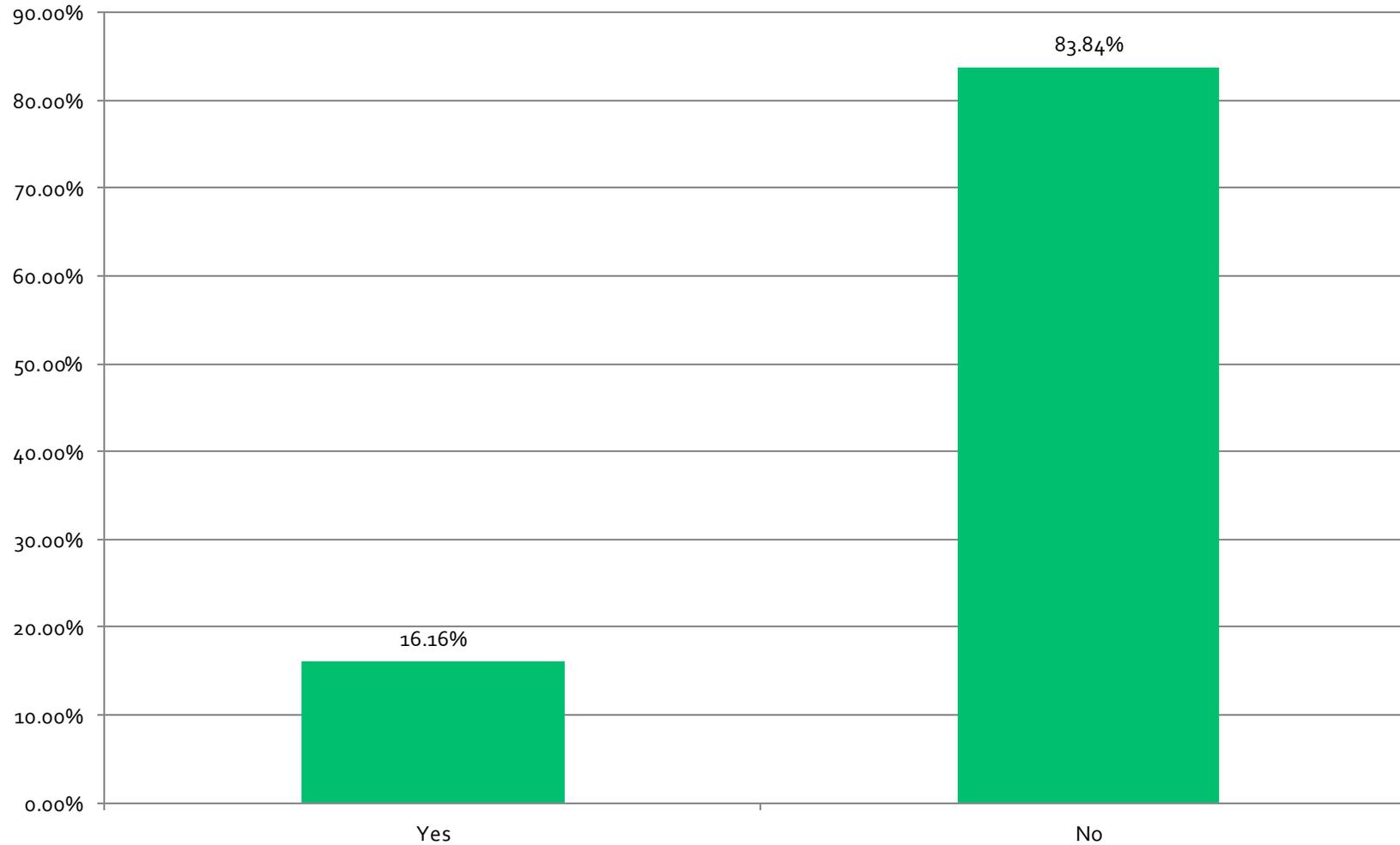
How strongly do you support Hopedale protecting, acquiring, and/or improving Town-owned water resources for the following reasons:



In order to preserve open spaces in Hopedale, would you be willing to:



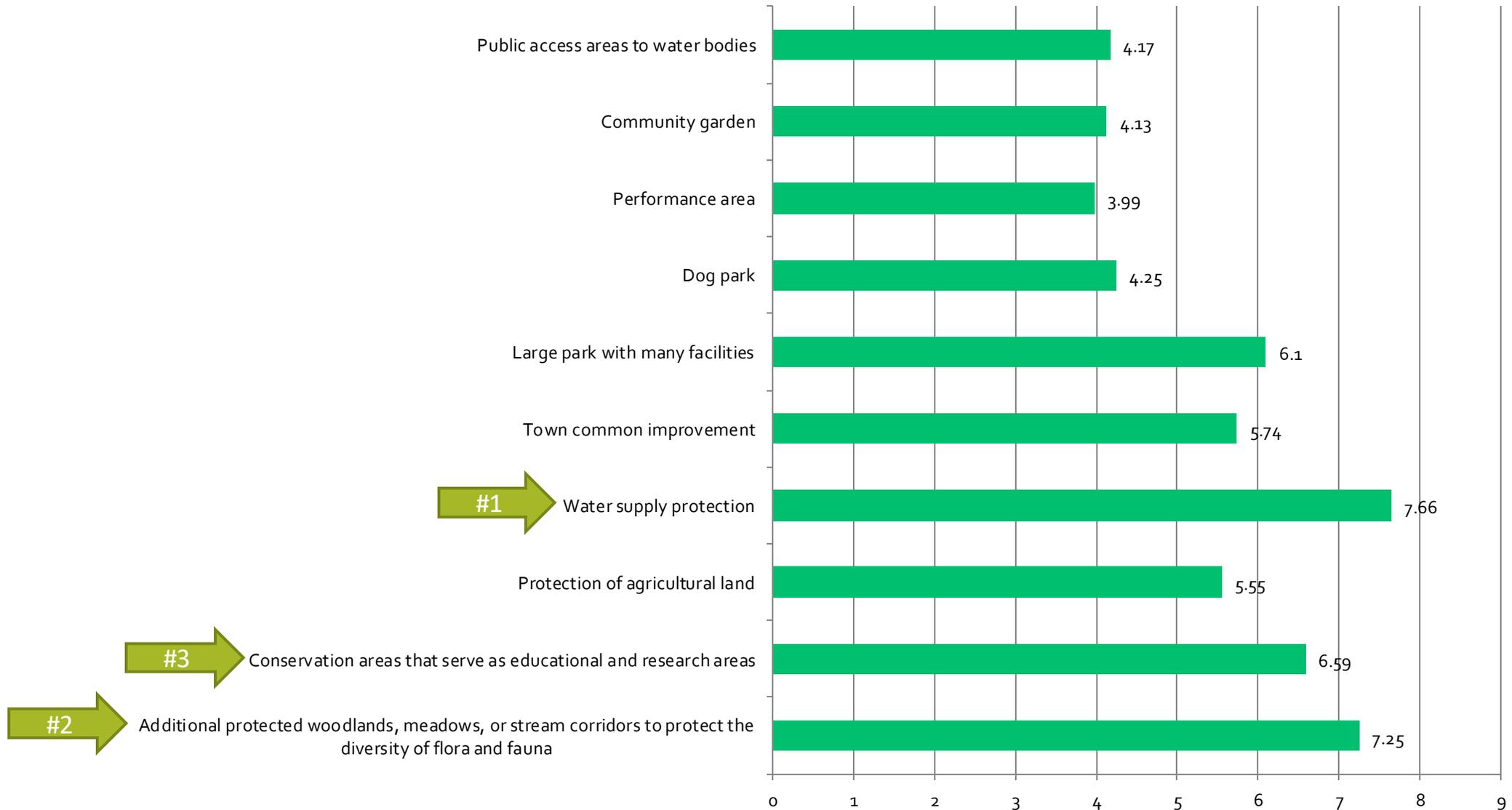
Do you have any interest in volunteering to participate on a Town Board or assist a Town project that promotes the preservation of open space and/or recreation?



What should Hopedale's priorities be for open space and recreation expenditures?



What do you consider to be the biggest unmet open space needs in Hopedale?



Benches

Public Picnic Areas

Water Supply Protection

South Hopedale Conservation Area

Protect The Parklands

Water Collection and Storage

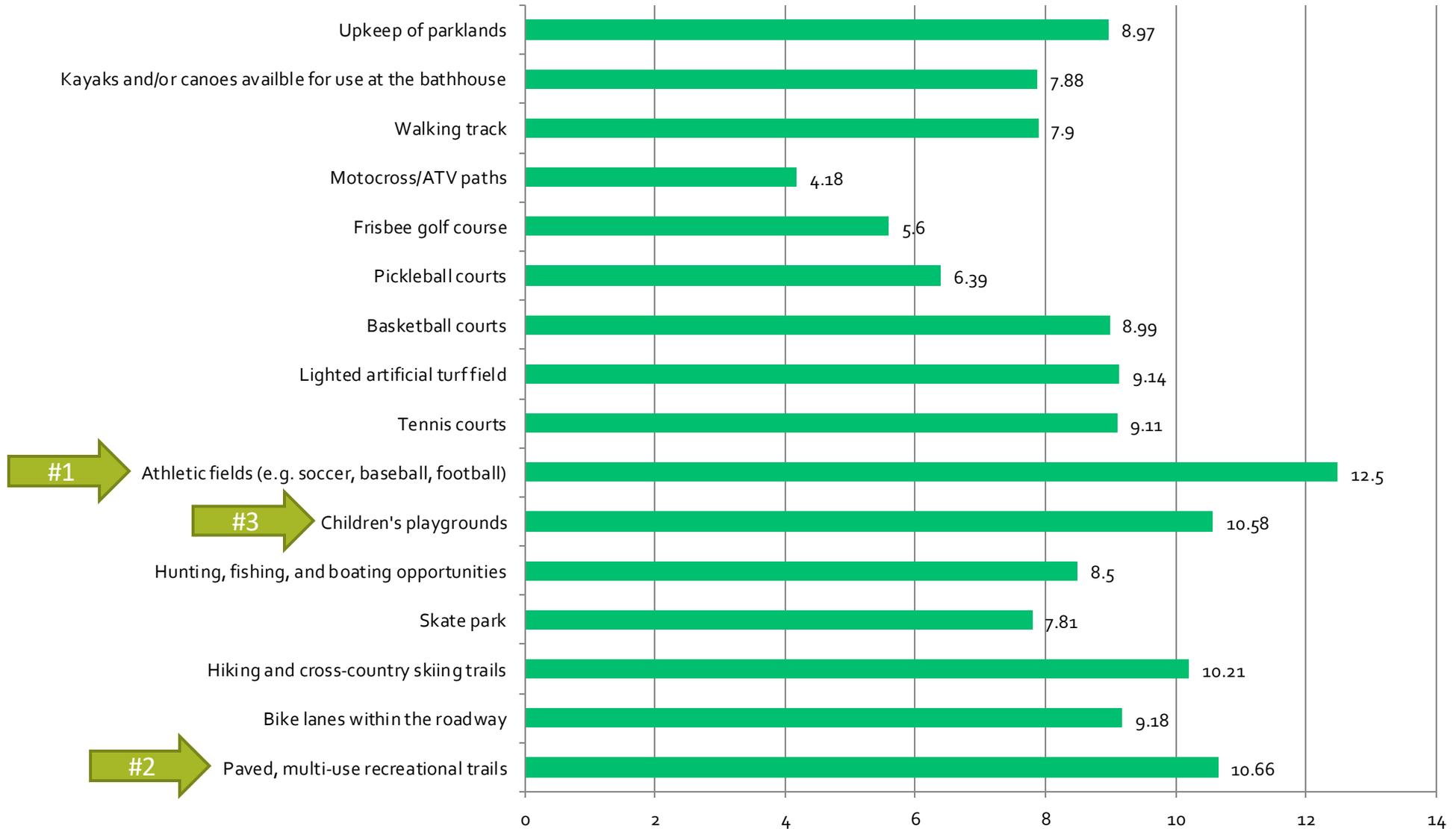
Improve Mellen Field

Trail Markings

Accessibility

ARE THERE
OTHER
UNMET
OPEN SPACE
NEEDS?

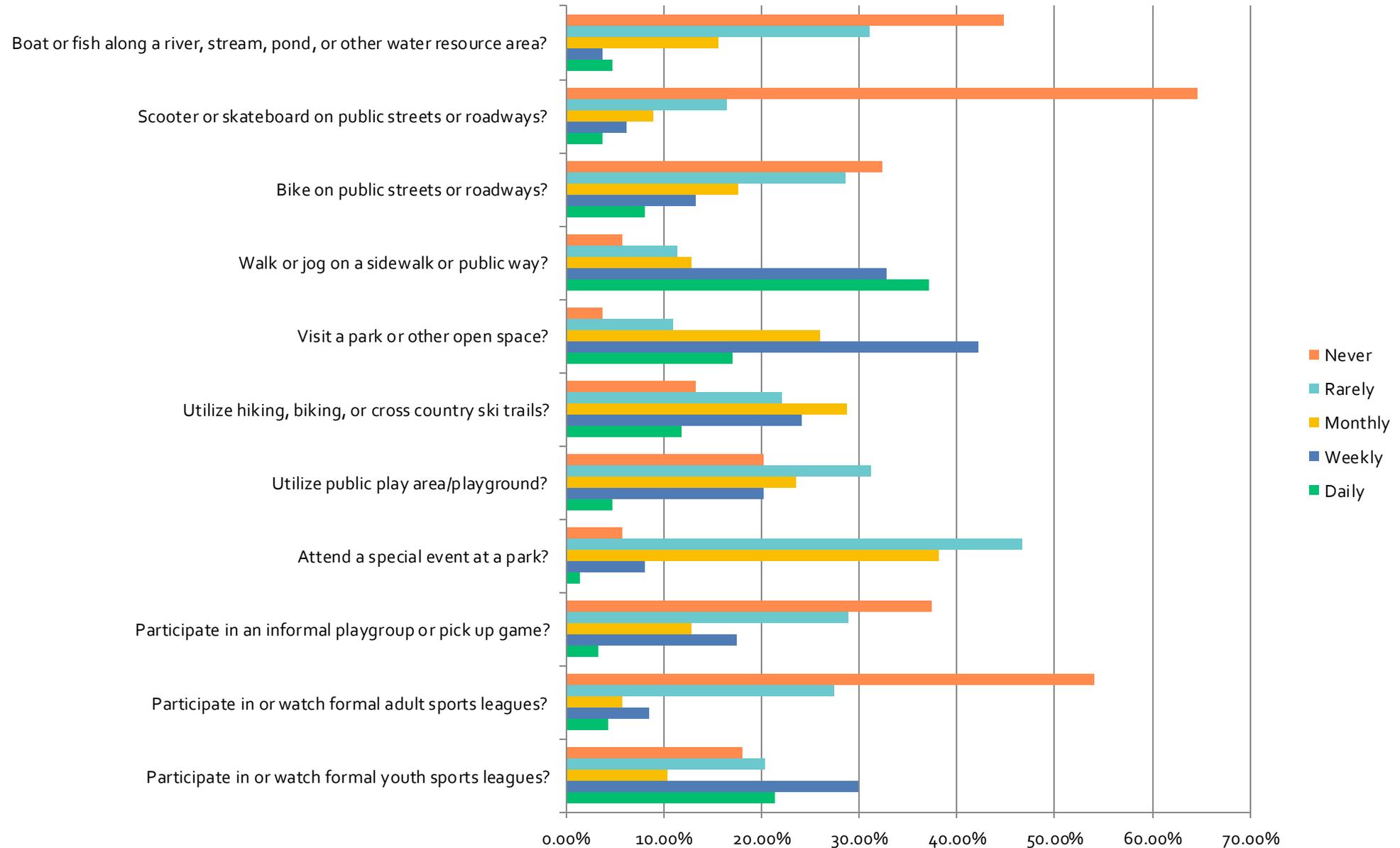
What do you consider to be the biggest unmet recreation needs in Hopedale?



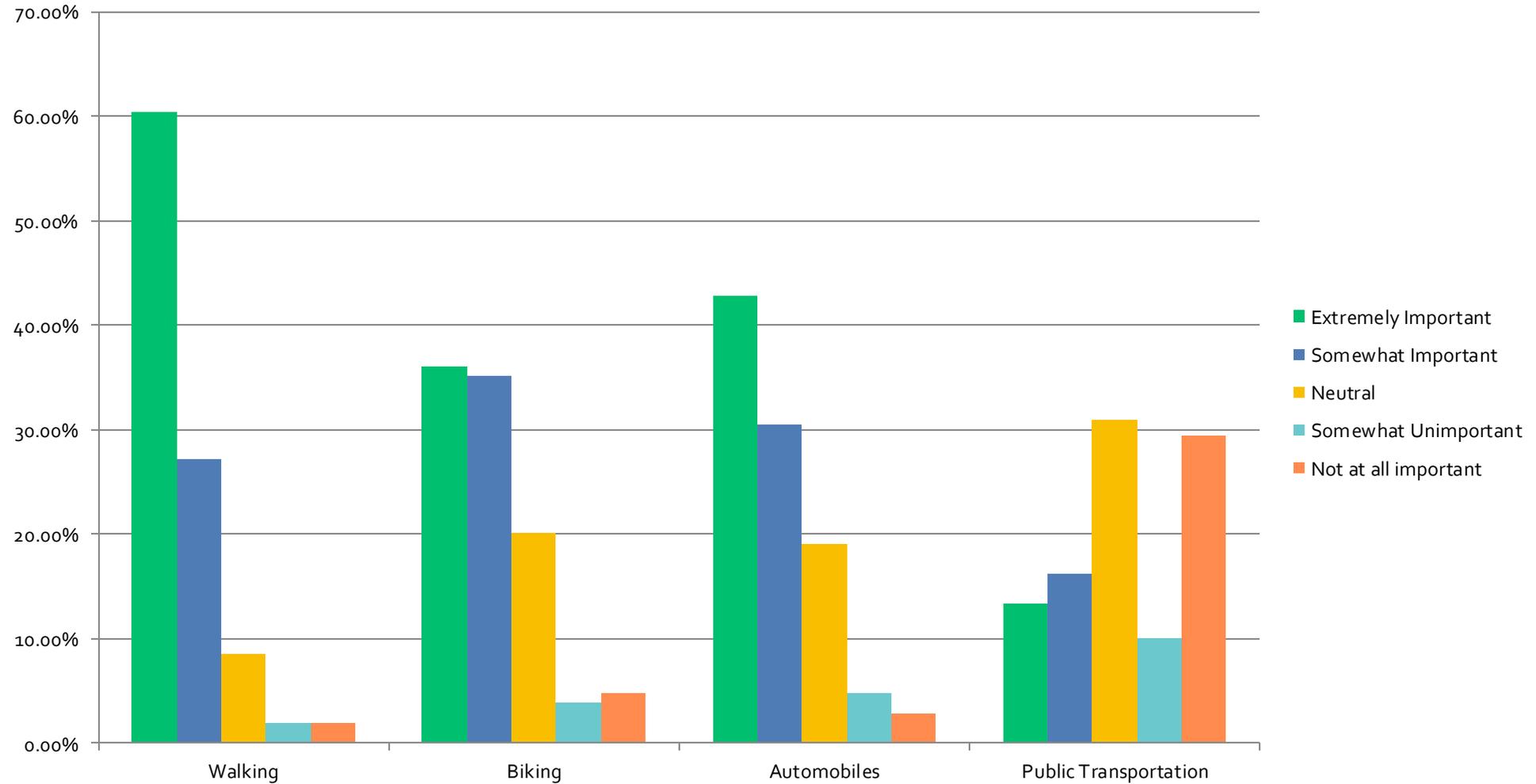
Public Beach
Skate Park
Tennis Courts
Athletic Fields
Sports Fields with Track
Indoor Gymnasium
Turf Fields
Swimming Pool
Splash Pad
Accessibility

ARE THERE
OTHER
UNMET
RECREATION
NEEDS?

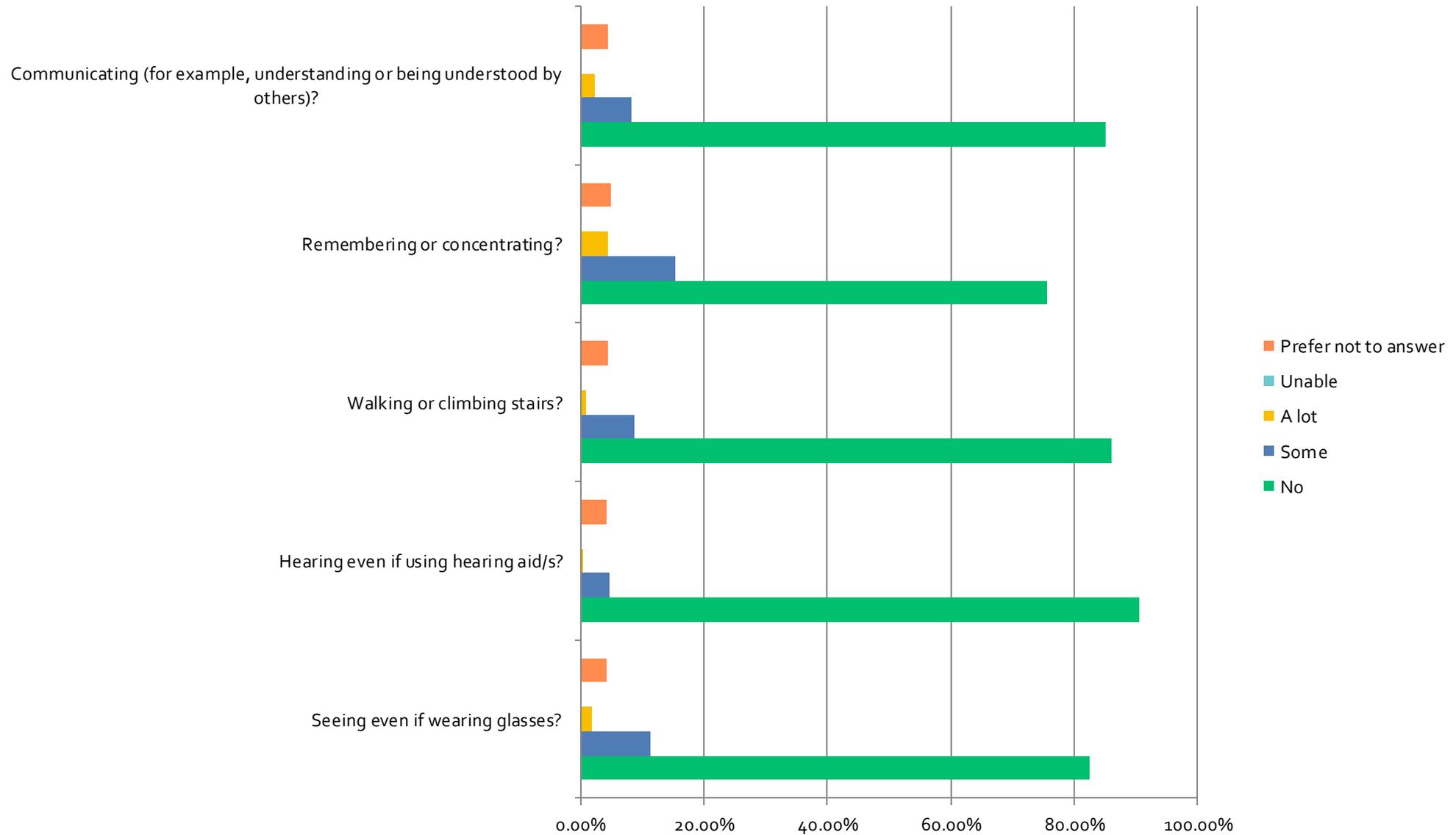
How often do you go to a park or other open space in Hopedale to...



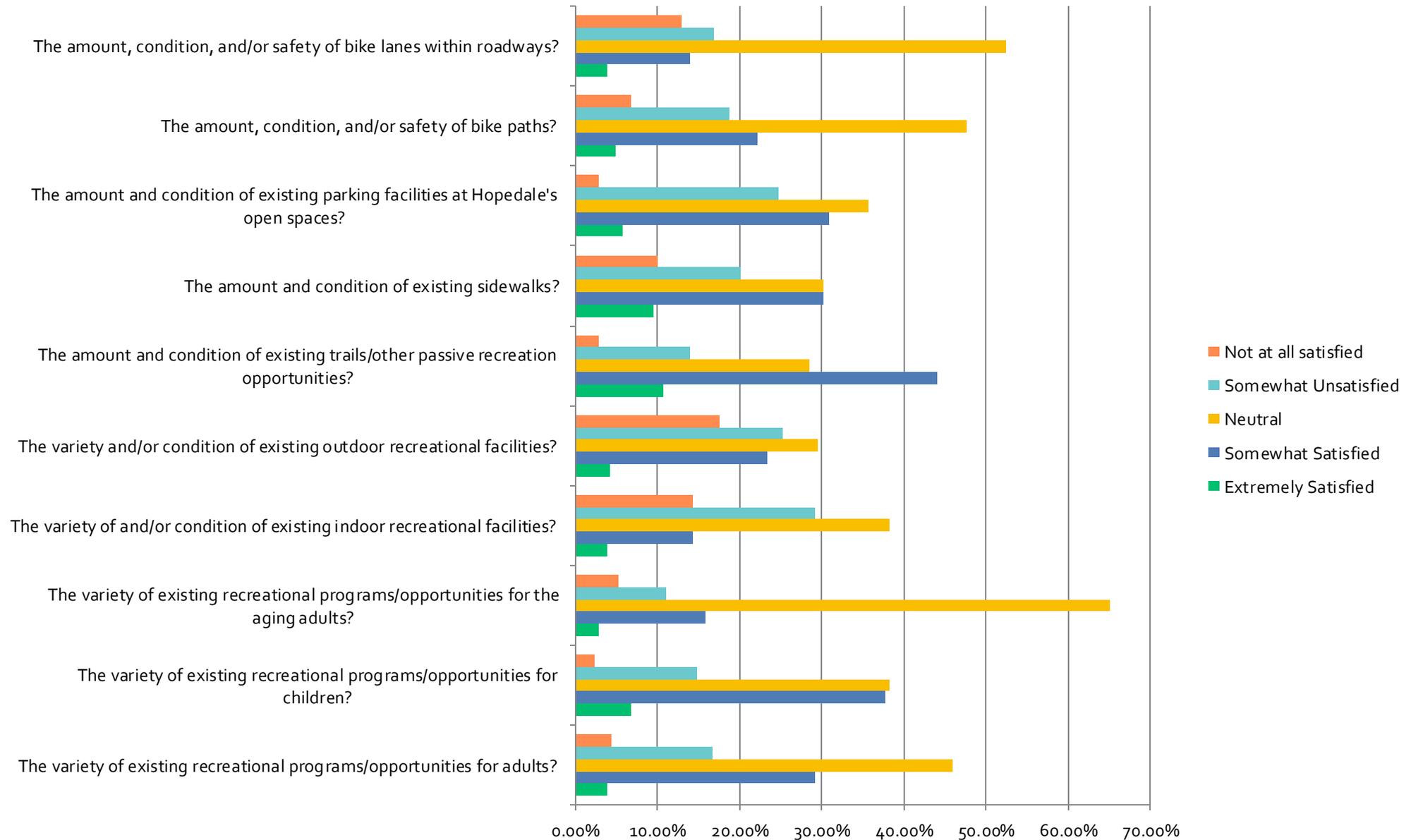
How important is it to be able to travel to open space and recreational destinations in Hopedale by:



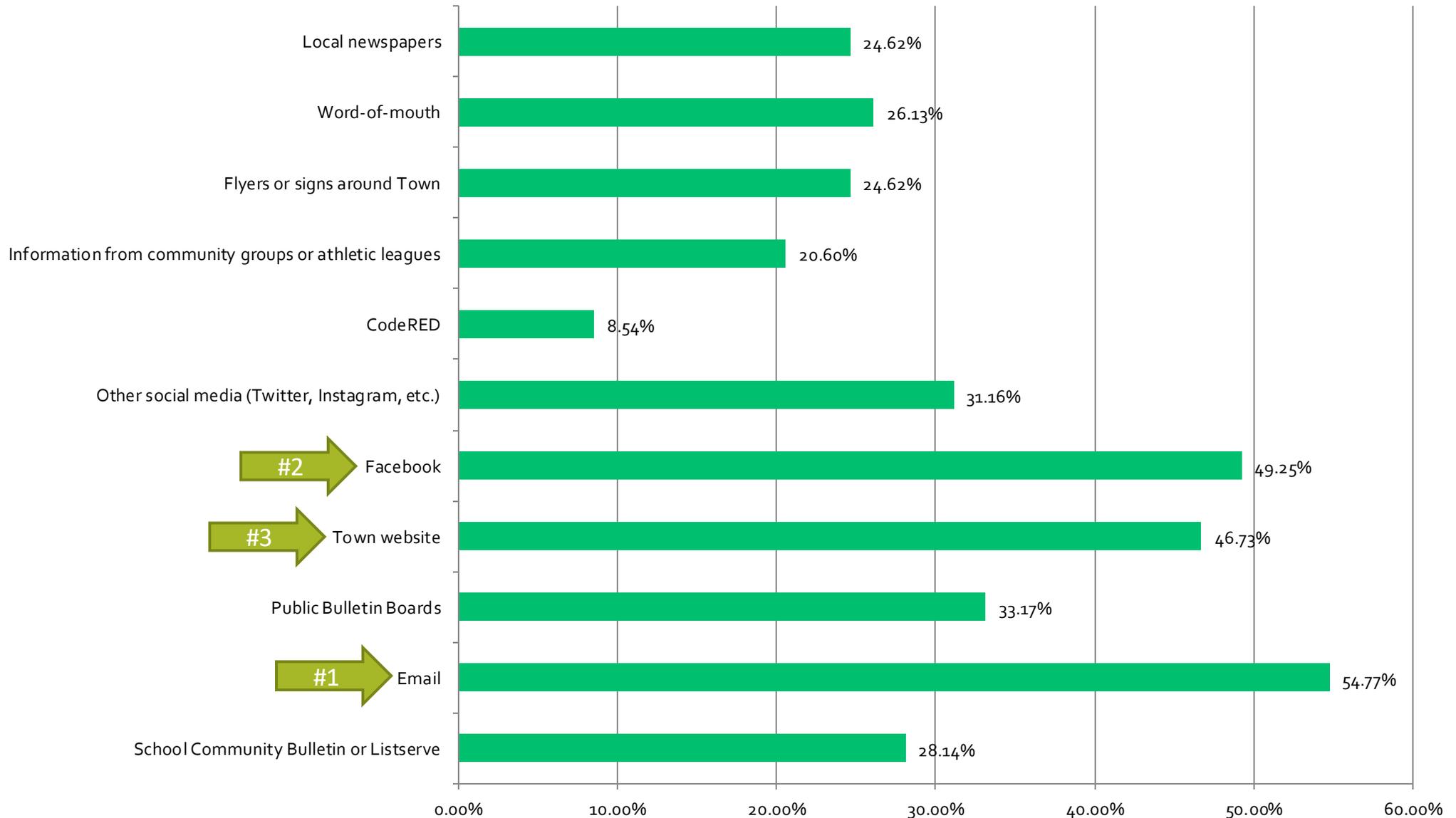
Do you have difficulty with:



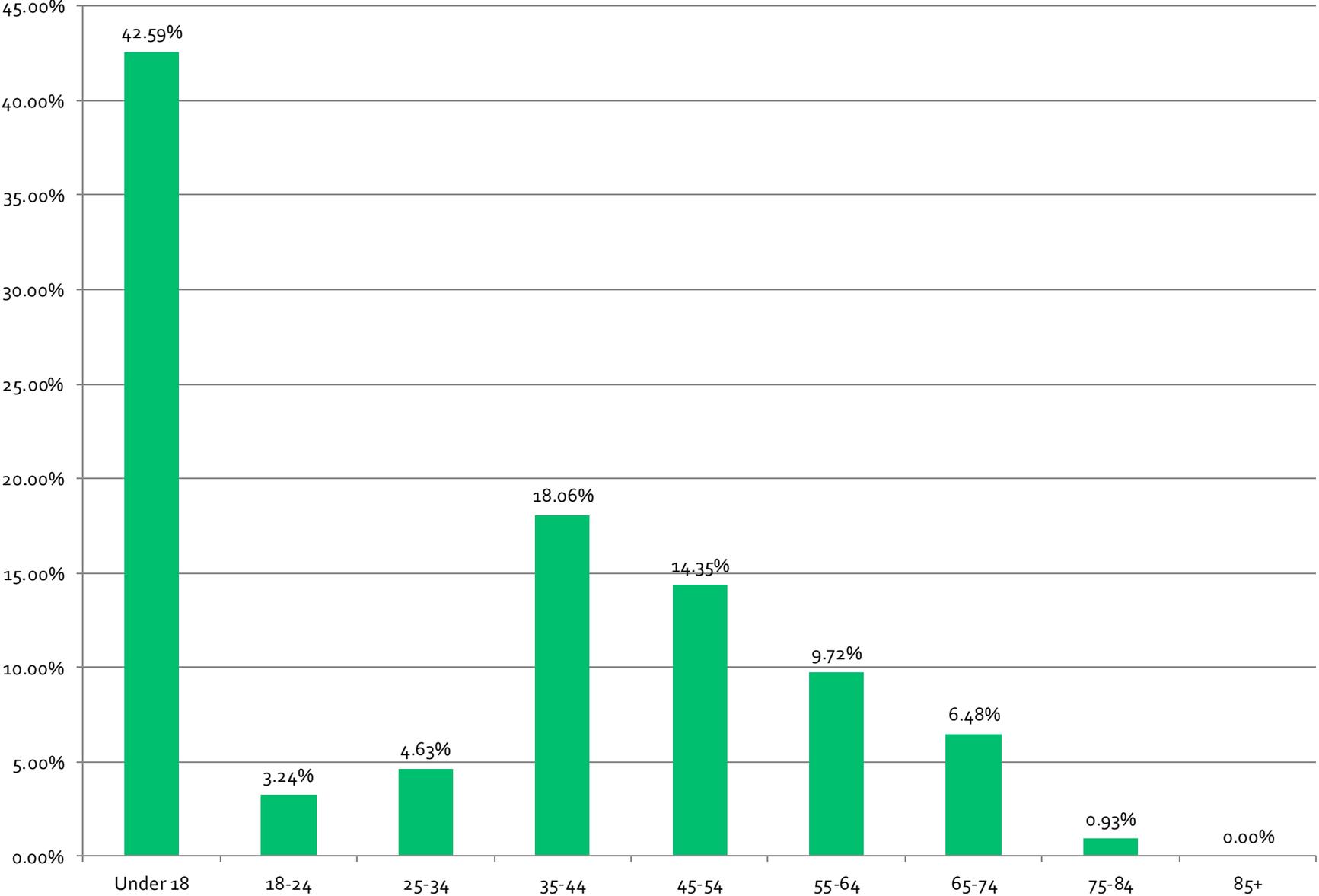
How satisfied are you with:



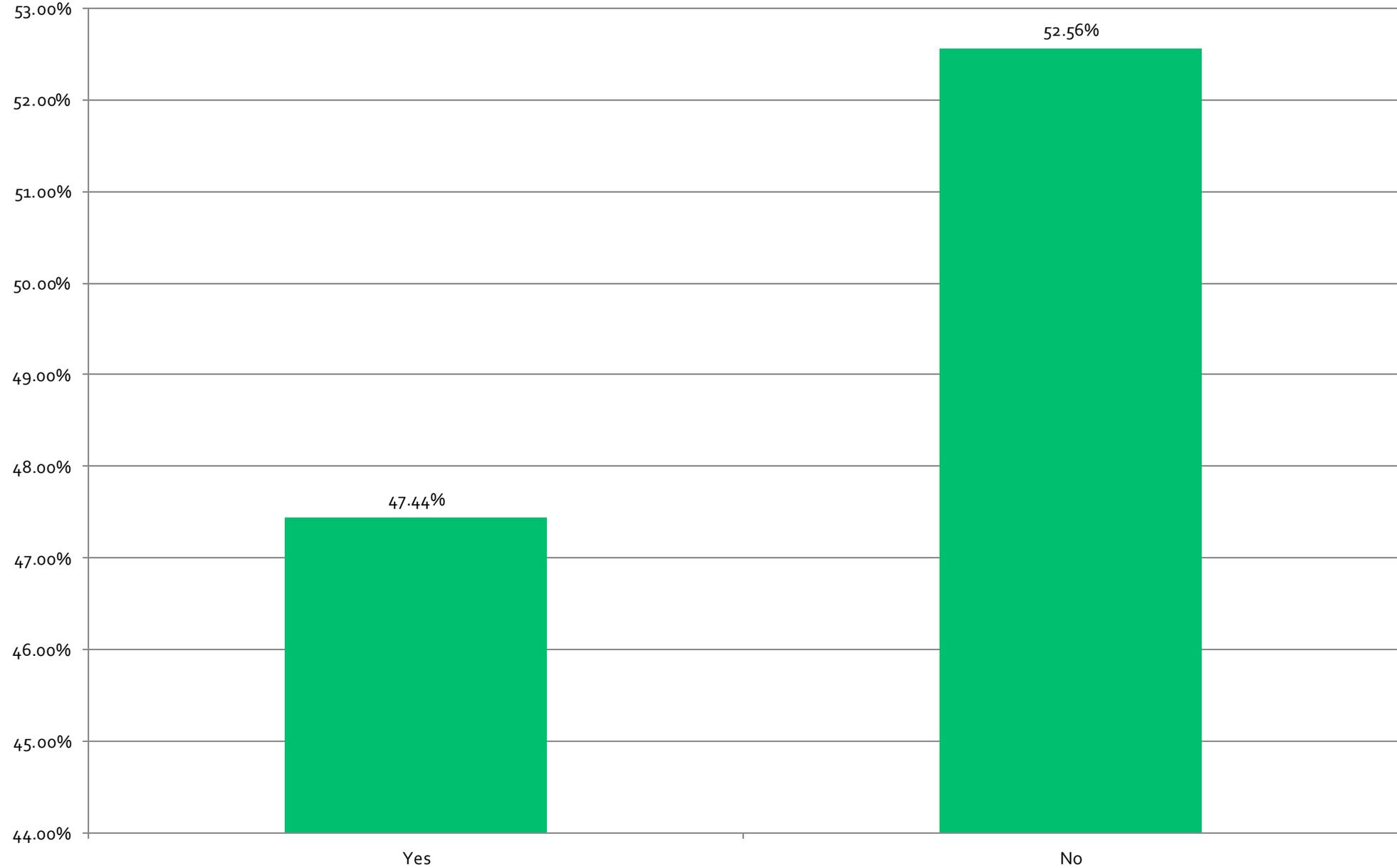
How would you prefer to get information about open spaces and/or recreational opportunities and events in Hopedale?



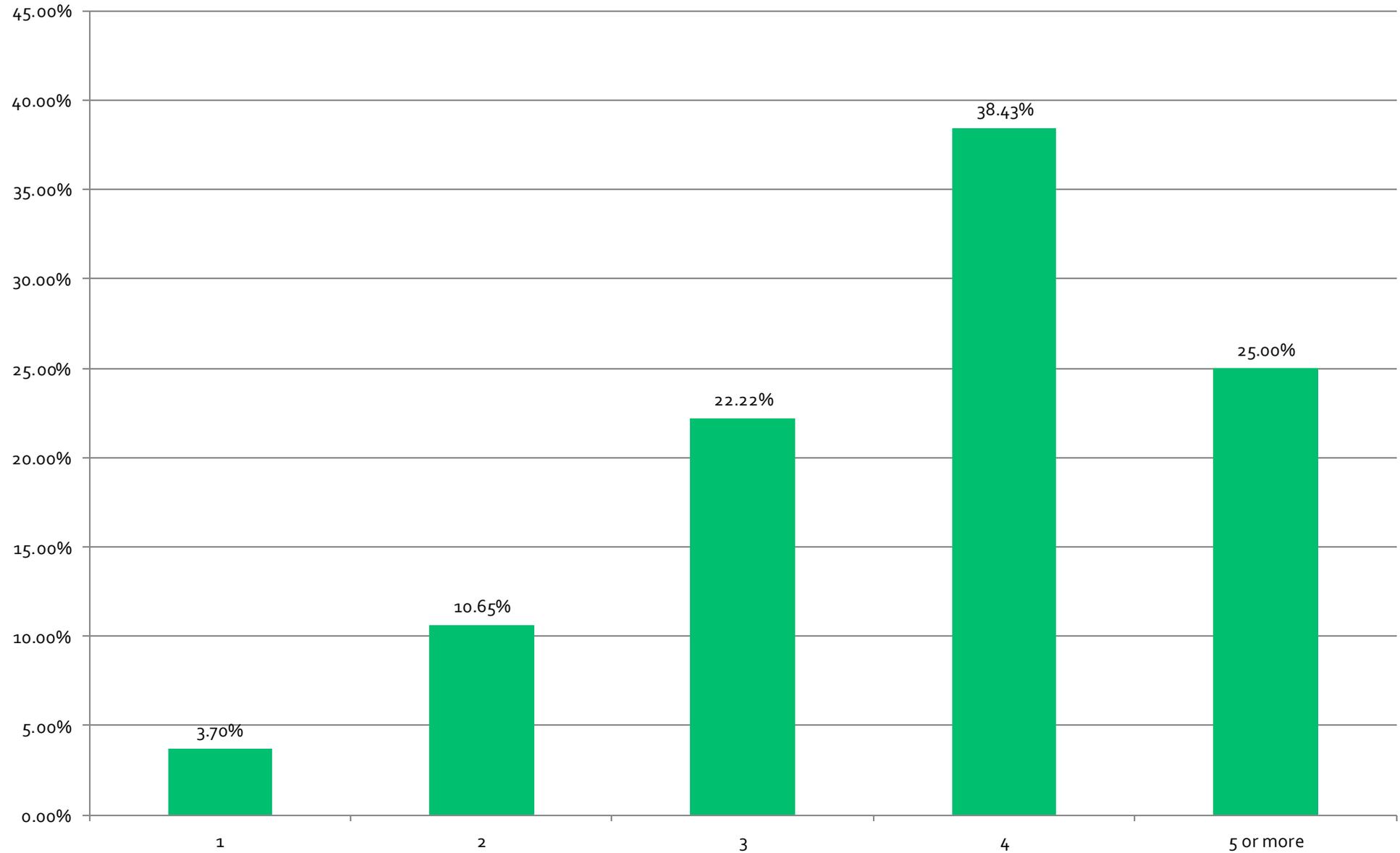
What is your age?



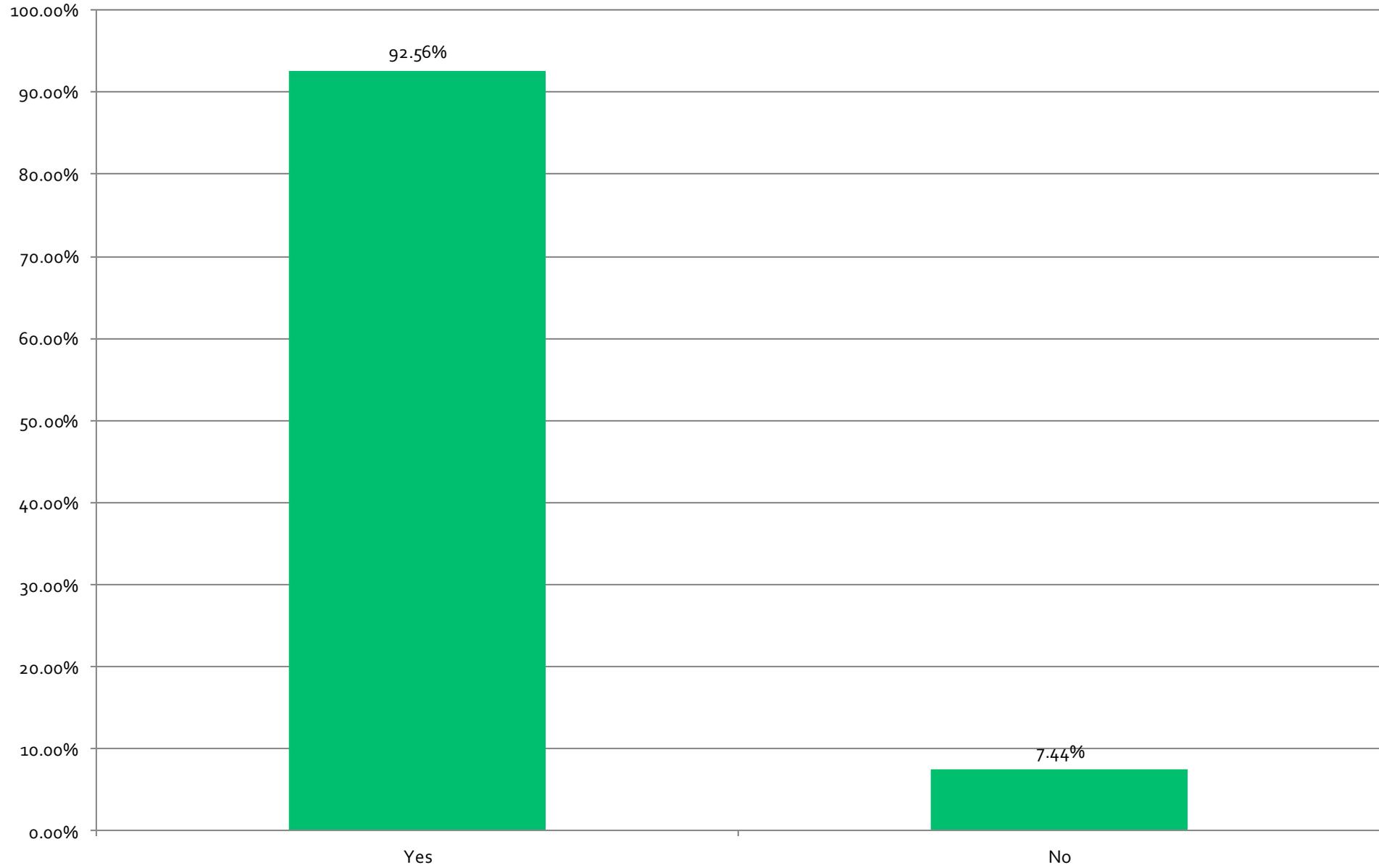
Do you have children under the age of 18 living with you?



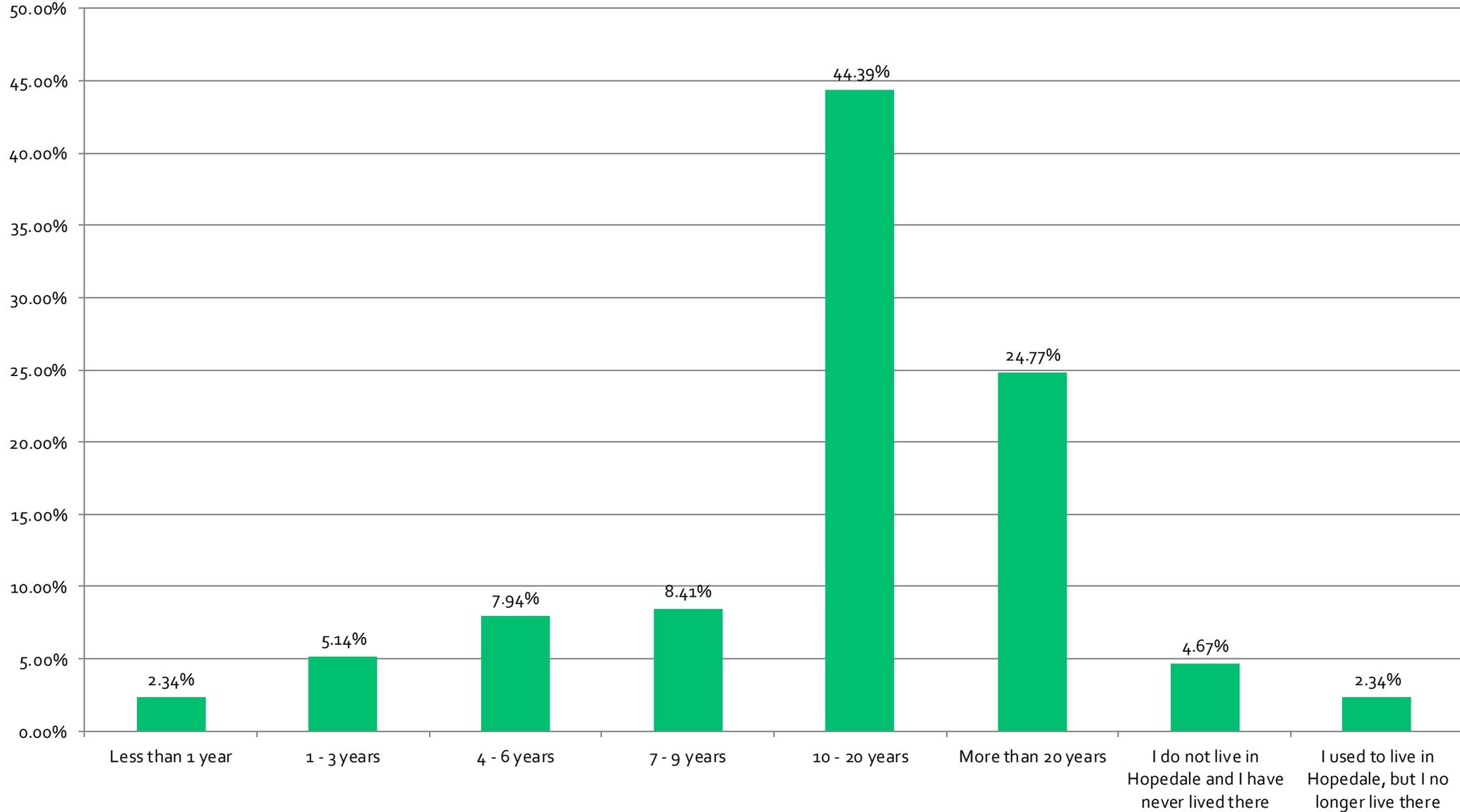
What is your household size?



Do you currently reside in Hopedale?



If you currently live in Hopedale, how long have you lived here?





Virtual Public Forum

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

An **Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)** will allow Hopedale to **protect, maintain, and improve** open spaces and recreational resources throughout your community!

You are invited to join us virtually on Sunday, January 23rd from 1:30 - 3:30 pm to **share your suggestions and vision** for the future of open space and recreation in Hopedale!

PLEASE VISIT THIS LINK TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THE TOWN OF HOPEDALE'S OPEN SPACE & RECREATION VIRTUAL PUBLIC FORUM!

Sunday, January 23rd, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsceuoqz8tHdR_DjUBzbrUmnvzmtXELHd0

PUBLIC WORKSHOP
Hopedale Open Space Committee
Open Space and Recreation Plan

This meeting is open to the public

DATE: Sunday, February 6, 2022

TIME: 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Virtual (ZOOM)

REGISTER HERE: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsceuoqz8tHdR_DjUBzbrUmnvzmtXELHd0

RECEIVED

By Lisa M. Pedroli at 8:49 am, Feb 03, 2022

AGENDA TOPICS

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Welcome, Meeting Procedures	Facilitator	1:30 PM
Planning Process Overview	Facilitator	1:35 PM
Plan Highlights	Facilitator	1:45 PM
Preliminary Survey Results	Facilitator	1:50 PM
OSRP Goals Overview	Facilitator	1:55 PM
Breakout Session	All Parties	2:00 PM
Table Report Out	Facilitator	2:45 PM
Closing Remarks	Facilitator	2:50 PM

To attend this workshop, please register in advance here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsceuoqz8tHdR_DjUBzbrUmnvzmtXELHd0

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Hopedale OSRP Public Forum Registration		
Registrants	Email Address	Attended?
Liz Empey	Lizchad922@yahoo.com	x
Michael DeMarinis	mdemarinis@verizon.net	
Jayme Solomon-Zissu	jaymes-z@verizon.net	x
Sara Pellegrini	advancedenergys@aol.com	x
Nilton Machado	nilton@curbsinc.net	
Bob Casali	casali1@verizon.net	
Chris MacDonald	chrismacd222@outlook.com	
Alissa Buckley	alissapbuckley@gmail.com	x
Diane Rosse	Drosse@rosselaw.com	
Beverly Carver	Bevcv1@yahoo.com	
Lynn Weeden	Lynnmweeden@gmail.com	
Ally O	Allisonoleary29@gmail.com	
Mary Carol Lodge	mclodge4@gmail.com	
Kim Dalpe	Kdalpe@svb.com	
Devon Grilly	devon.grilly@gmail.com	
William Roper	WillRopersEmail@gmail.com	x
Janice Doyle	janice.doyle@comcast.net	
Elisabeth Nelson	Ebrowne1213@gmail.com	
Katrina Thompson	kat1689@gmail.com	
Alysia Butler	alysiabutler@yahoo.com	x
Annette Smith	amsmith910@hotmail.com	
Elizabeth Reilly	liz_shop@comcast.net	
Briana Lima	briana.l.lima@gmail.com	
Kristi Brytowski	Kml0623@gmail.com	
Melissa Butler	Mbutler@welchsign.com	x
Colleen Stone	Colleenmstone@gmail.com	x
Megan Piatt	Meganleighpi@gmail.com	x
Tara Costanza	taramch98@gmail.com	x
Shelley Deering	bryan_shelley@hotmail.com	
Alison Ho	amph804@yahoo.com	x
Ellen Pearlman	epearlman@hotmail.com	
Jessica Bacon	jessica.r.bacon@gmail.com	
Jim Abbruzzese	jabbruzzese@gmail.com	x
Marion Miller	greengirl912@live.com	x
Julie Rinehart	Rinehartjulie@gmail.com	x
David Cedrone	davidce@cisco.com	x
Becca Solomon	beccasolomon4@gmail.com	x
Heather Lewis	hllewis6@hotmail.com	x
Dani Marini	dmarini@cmrpc.org	x
Bryan Stone		x
Jennifer Carreiro		x
Pauline Romero		x
Tara Taglianetti-Chambers		x

Hopedale Open Space and Recreation Plan

Public Forum Guidance

- 1. What are your favorite open space/recreation resources in Hopedale?**
 - a. Where are they?
 - b. What do you enjoy about them?

- 2. What are some of Hopedale's unique, scenic, or historic features?**
 - a. Where are they?
 - b. Do you feel that they are well preserved/well-advertised?

- 3. Are you satisfied with the available open space and recreation opportunities in Hopedale?**
 - a. If yes, why are you satisfied? Are you satisfied with the number of opportunities? The different kinds/types of opportunities?
 - b. If no, why are you not satisfied?

- 4. Is there limited access to any of the open space or recreation opportunities in town?**
 - a. What has limited access? (field, park, program, etc.)
 - b. How is access limited? (lack of parking, no sidewalks, communication barriers, ability barriers, etc.)

- 5. Are residents aware of the recreation and open space opportunities in town?**
 - a. If yes, what has helped improve this awareness?
 - b. If no, how can we increase awareness and enjoyment of these opportunities?

- 6. What recreation opportunities are missing in Hopedale?**
 - a. Are there any facilities that you wish Hopedale had?
 - b. Are you travelling to other communities to access those resources?

7. What open space opportunities are missing in Hopedale?

- a. Are there any resources that you wish Hopedale had?
- b. Are you travelling to other communities to access those resources?

8. What could Hopedale do to provide these missing facilities and resources?

- a. What actions could they take? What projects could they pursue?
- b. Is there a lack of recreation opportunity for a particular demographic group in Town? Children? The elderly? Minority groups?

9. Are the town's natural resources generally well protected?

- a. Are there specific water resources that should be better protected?
 - i. If yes, what are they and where are they?
 - ii. Why do they need to be protected better?
 - iii. Should specific lands be preserved to protect these water resources from runoff, pollution, development, etc.?
- b. Are vernal pools, wetlands, and wildlife habitat well protected in town?
 - i. If no, why are they not protected? What should be done to improve this?
- c. Are there farmlands or forest lands in town that should be protected?
 - i. Where are they? Who owns them?

10. Are residents regularly involved in town projects?

- a. How can we increase community involvement?
- b. What other groups, parties, or organizations should/could be involved in implementation of town projects?

11. Are land use regulations well understood by all town residents?

- a. Could the town benefit from education campaigns that provide guidance on these regulations?

Town of Hopedale

Hazard Mitigation Plan PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 6, 2022

1:30 – 3:00 PM

ZOOM



AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Purpose
- II. OSRP Highlights
- III. Survey Results Overview
- IV. Goals and Objectives
- V. Breakout Groups
- VI. Table Report Out
- VII. Next Steps and Closing Remarks

Virtual Meeting Best Practices

- Rename yourself on Zoom (First Name, Last Name)
- Keep your video on if you feel comfortable
- Keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking (use *6 if calling in over the phone)
- Use Zoom's chat feature as needed

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Becca Solomon, Chair

Melissa Butler

Megan Piatt, Secretary

Tara Costanza

Julie Rinehart

Dani Marini, Environmental Planner
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

PLANNING PROCESS

Community Organization

- Collaboration with CMRPC
- Appointment of Hopedale Open Space Committee

Data Collection

- Community profile: demographic, housing, other data from US Census
- Environmental issues and concerns
- Water quality
- Inventory of open spaces

Community Input

- Survey
- Public Forum 

Document Preparation and Review

- Presentation to Planning Board
- Presentation to BOS
- Public Comment

Submit Plan to the State

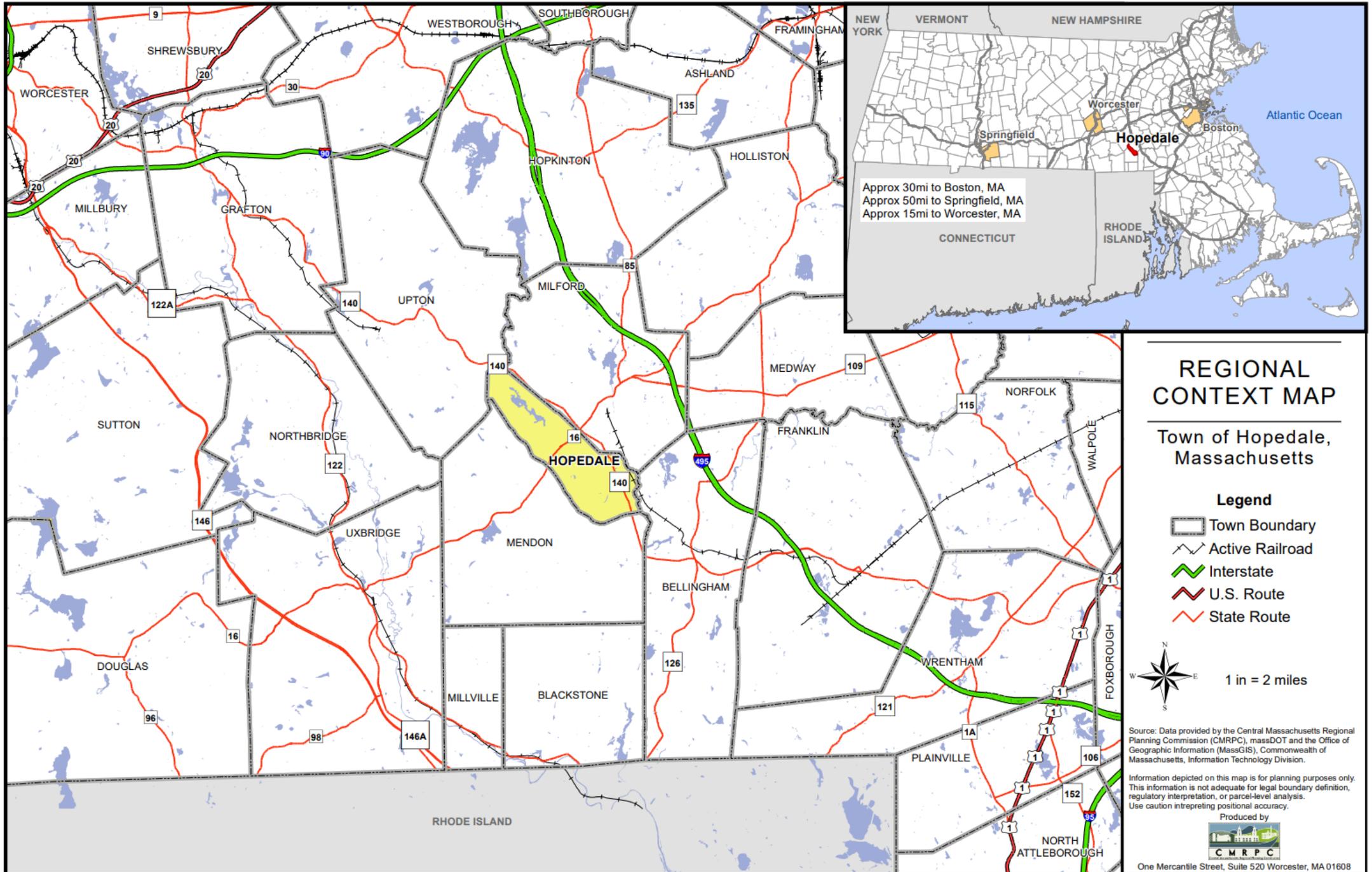
Review and Acceptance

PURPOSE OF AN OSRP

- Open space is important to the economic future of a community
- Open Space and Recreation Plans can obtain the benefits of development while protecting environmental assets
- Aid in preventing communities from overwhelming available resources
- Communities with approved OSRPs are eligible to apply for:
 - Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant
 - Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant
 - Other state grant programs



PLAN
HIGHLIGHTS



Approx 30mi to Boston, MA
 Approx 50mi to Springfield, MA
 Approx 15mi to Worcester, MA

REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

-  Town Boundary
-  Active Railroad
-  Interstate
-  U.S. Route
-  State Route



1 in = 2 miles

Source: Data provided by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

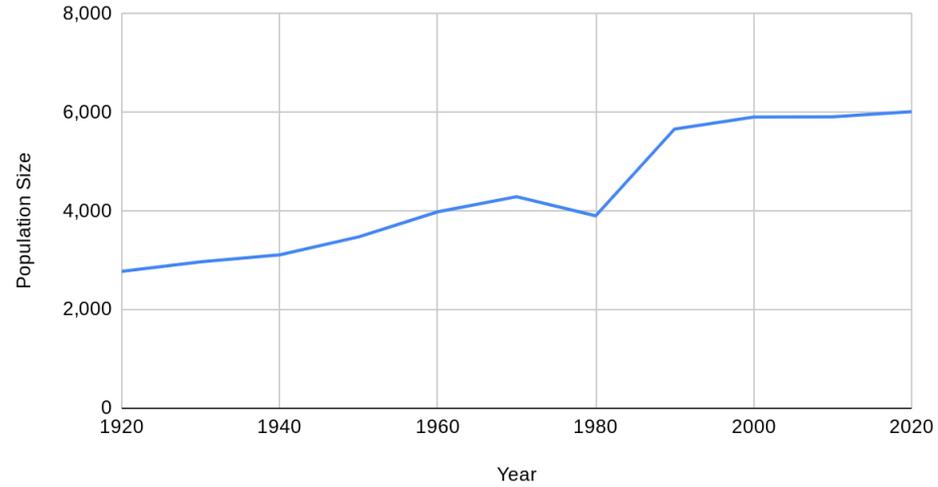
Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.



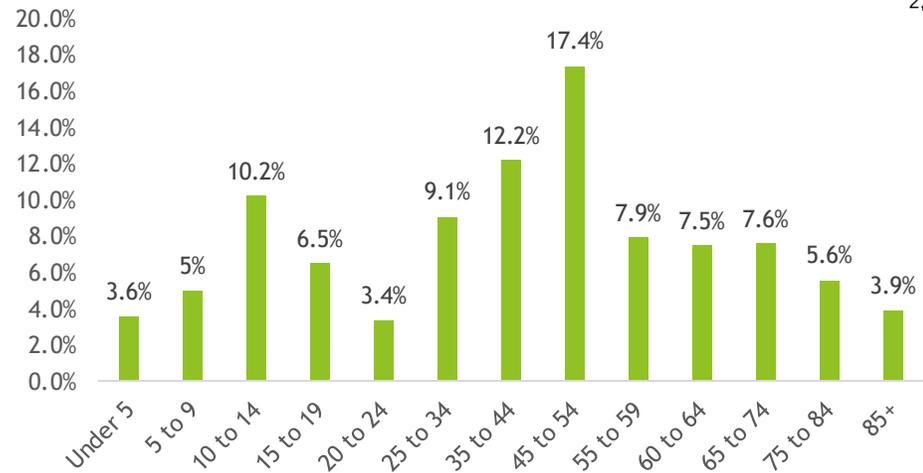
Produced by
 One Mercantile Street, Suite 520 Worcester, MA 01608

POPULATION AND AGE

Population Size vs. Year



Age Distribution



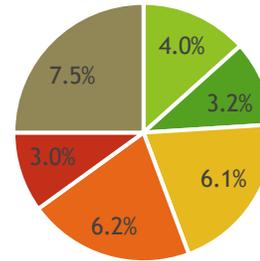
2020 US Census

Year	Population Size
1920	2,777
1930	2,973
1940	3,113
1950	3,479
1960	3,987
1970	4,292
1980	3,905
1990	5,666
2000	5,907
2010	5,911
2020	6,017

RACE, LANGUAGE, DISABILITY

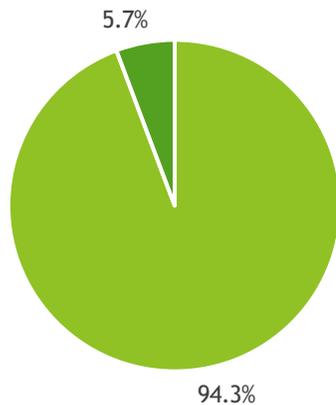
Race	Population Size
White alone	5342
Black or African American alone	51
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	13
Asian alone	106
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0
Some Other Race alone	139
Population of two or more races	366

Disabled Persons in Hopedale



- Hearing Difficulty
- Vision Difficulty
- Cognitive Difficulty
- Ambulatory Difficulty
- Self-Care Difficulty
- Independent Living Difficulty

English Speaking Population in Hopedale



- Speak only English
- Speak a language other than English

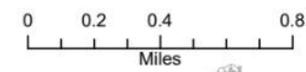
Language	Percentage
Spanish	1.7%
Other Indo-European languages	3.3%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	0.5%
Other languages	0.2%

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (2020) MAP

Town of Hopedale,
Massachusetts

Legend

-  Town Boundaries
- Roads
 -  Major Road
 -  Local Road
 -  Active Railroad
-  Water Bodies
-  Streams
- Environmental Justice Populations (Census 2020)
 -  Minority
 -  Minority and Income
 -  Minority and English isolation
 -  Minority, Income and English isolation

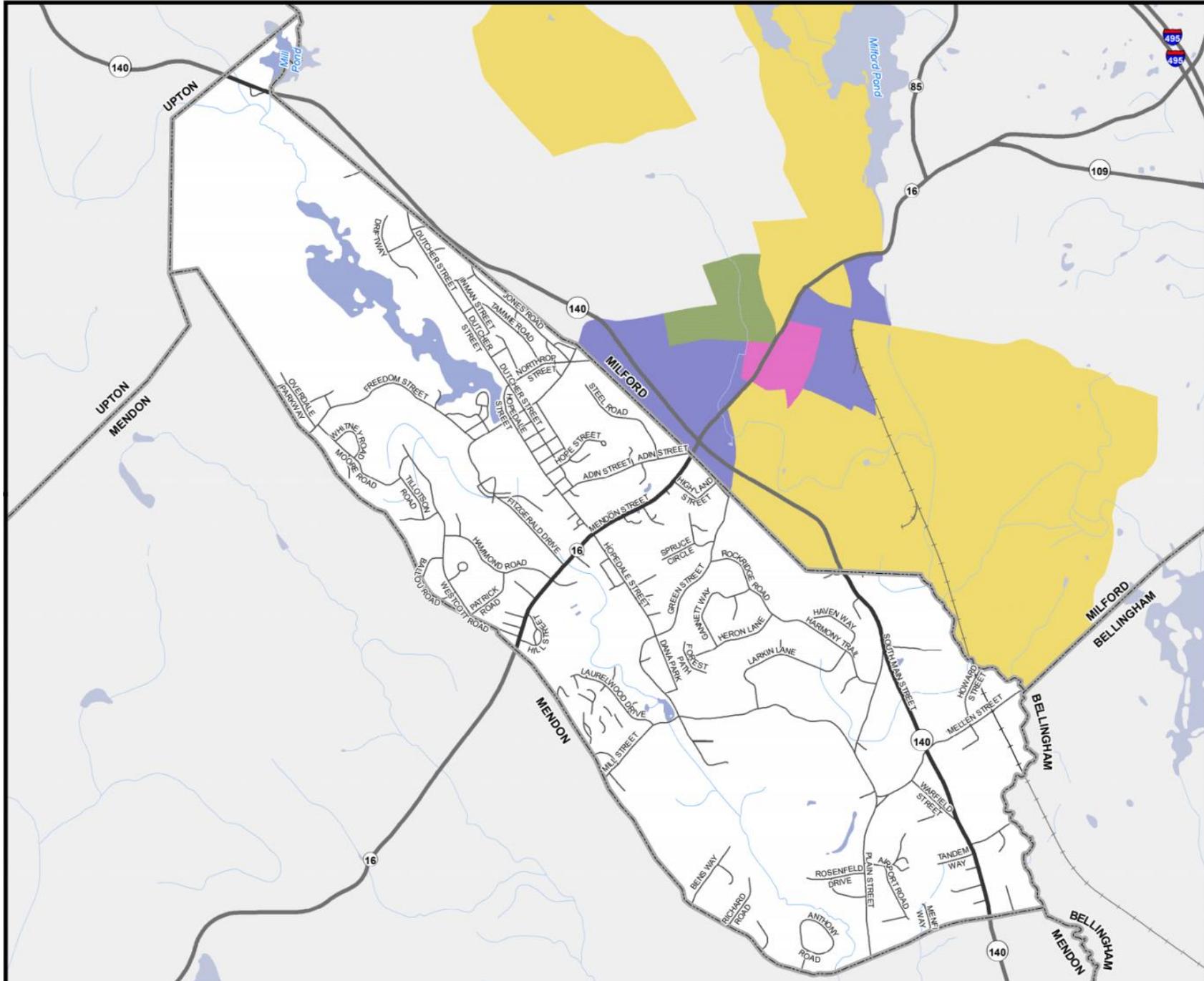


Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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One Mercantile Street, Suite 520 Worcester, MA 01608



ZONING DISTRICTS MAP

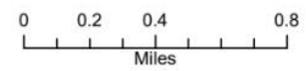
Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|------------------|
| | Town Boundaries | | Roads Major Road |
| | Water Bodies | | Local Road |
| | Streams | | Active Railroad |

Zoning Districts

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | Industrial (I) | | Residential A-1 (RA-1) |
| | Industrial (LI) | | Residential A-2 (RA-2) |
| | Commercial (C) | | Residential B (RB) |
| | General Business A (GB-A) | | Residential C (RC) |
| | Town Land (T) | | Residential Perform... (RP-1) |
| | Recreational (REC) | | Historic Multiple Family (HMF) |
| | Cemetery (CEM) | | Adult Retirement Community (ARC) |
| | Residential A (RA) | | |



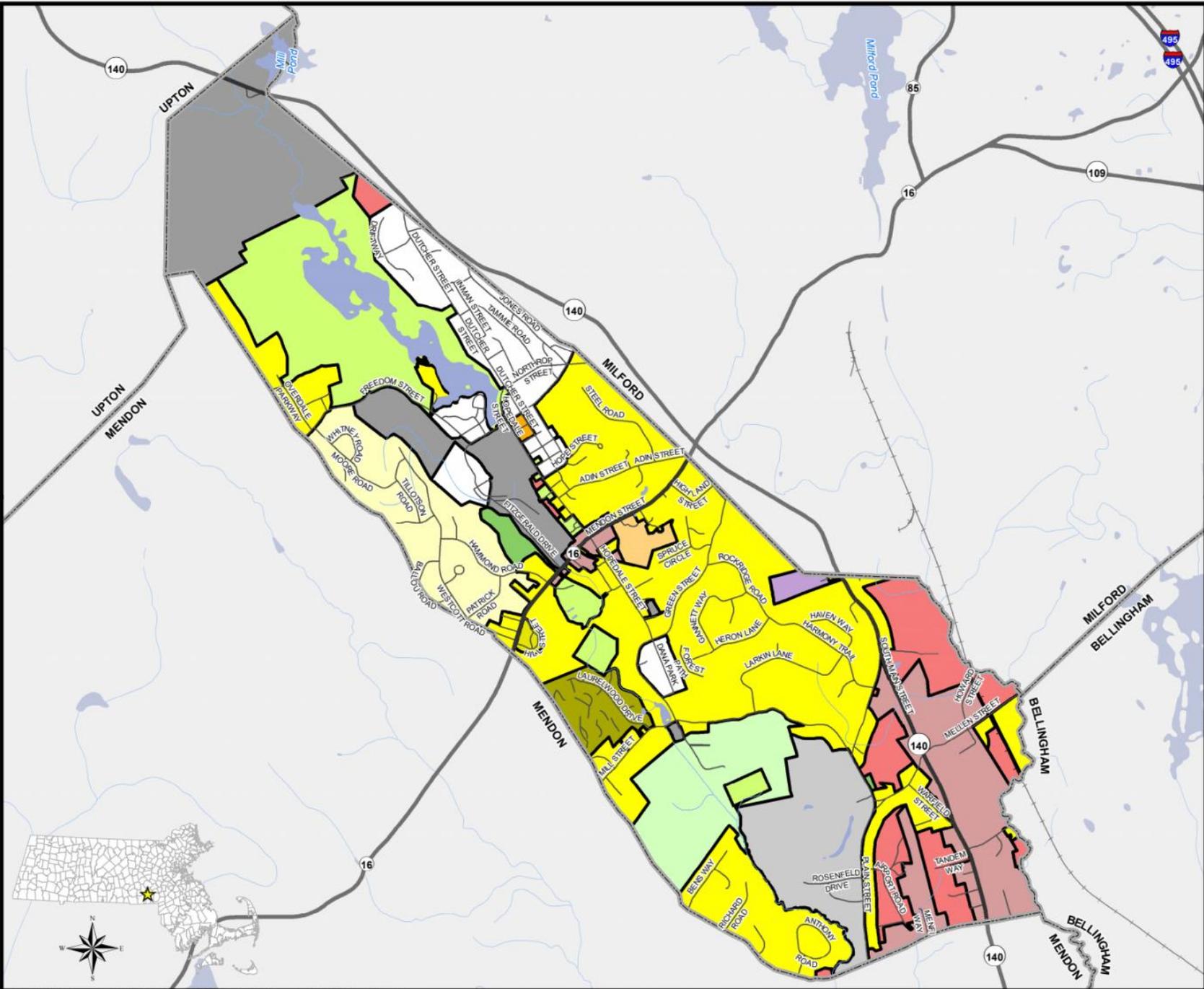
1 in = 0.4 miles

Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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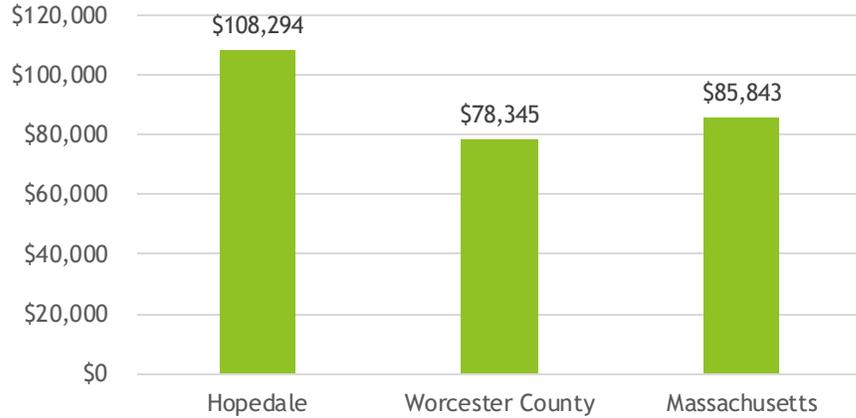


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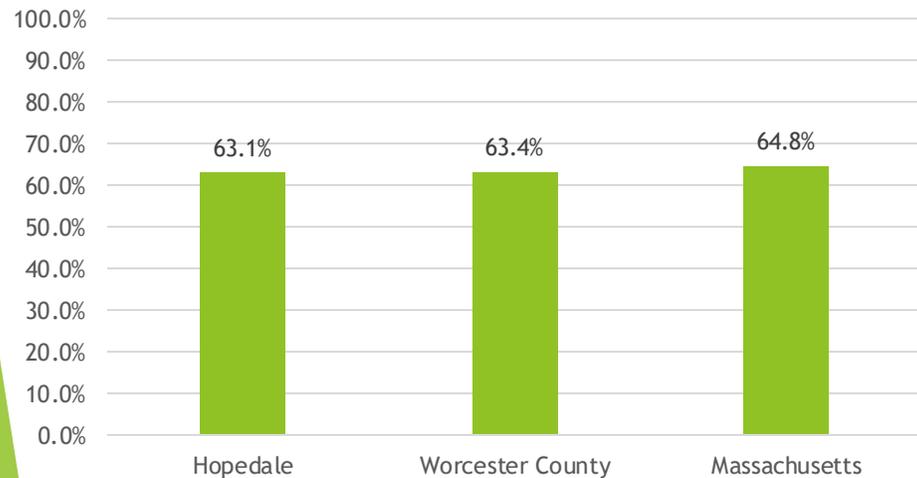


INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

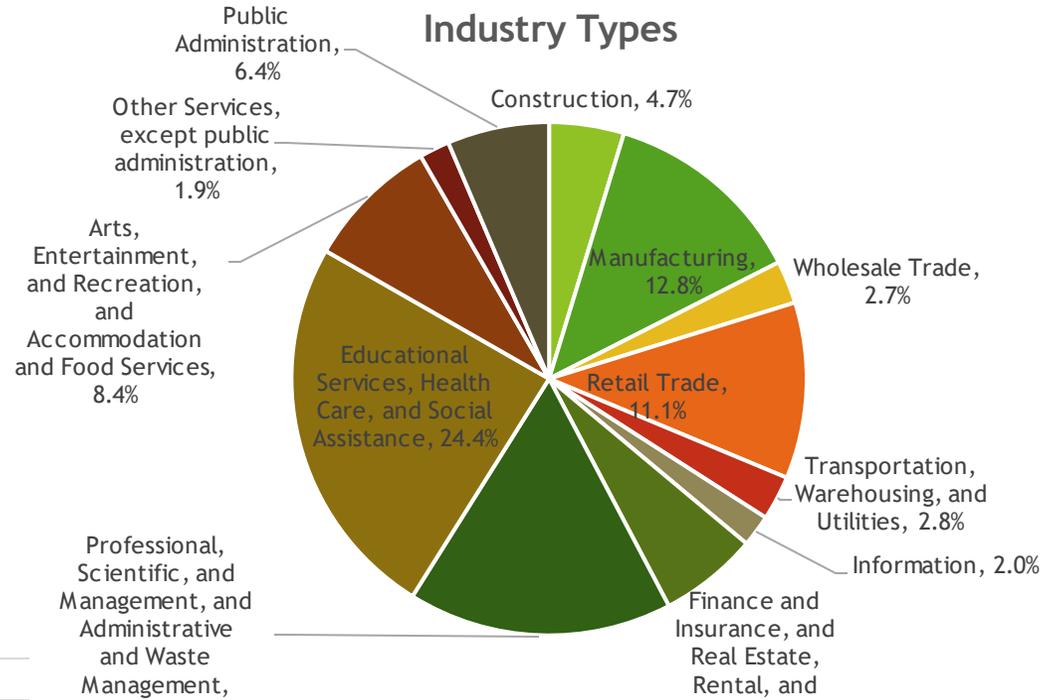
Median Household Income



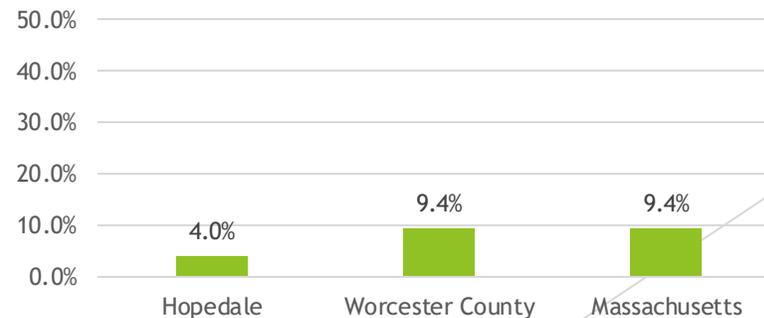
Employment Rate



Industry Types



Poverty Rate



GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND TOPOGRAPHY

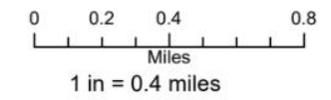
- USGS elevations range from:
 - High of 555 feet above sea level at "The Lookout" in the northwest corner of Town
 - Low of 272 feet above sea level on land adjacent to Hopedale Pond
- Soils Include:
 - Chatfield-Hollis Rock Outcrop Complex
 - Northwestern part of town: stony Montauk fine sandy loam (Parklands)
 - Southwestern part of town: Canton fine sandy loams
- Not much variation in topography, though there are small drumlins around Route 140, Mill Street, and Green Street

SOILS & GEOLOGIC FEATURES MAP

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

- Town Boundaries
- Roads**
- Major Road
- Local Road
- Active Railroad
- Water Bodies
- Streams
- AUL Location (12/2020) / (1)
- MassDEP Tier 21E Sites (12/2020) / (2)
- Prime Farmland Soils (NRCS Soils-WORC. S)
- NRCS SSURGO-Certified Soils (WORC. S)**
(Dominant Drainage Class)
- Excessively drained
- Somewhat excessively drained
- Well drained
- Moderately well drained
- Poorly drained
- Very poorly drained
- Not Classified



Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

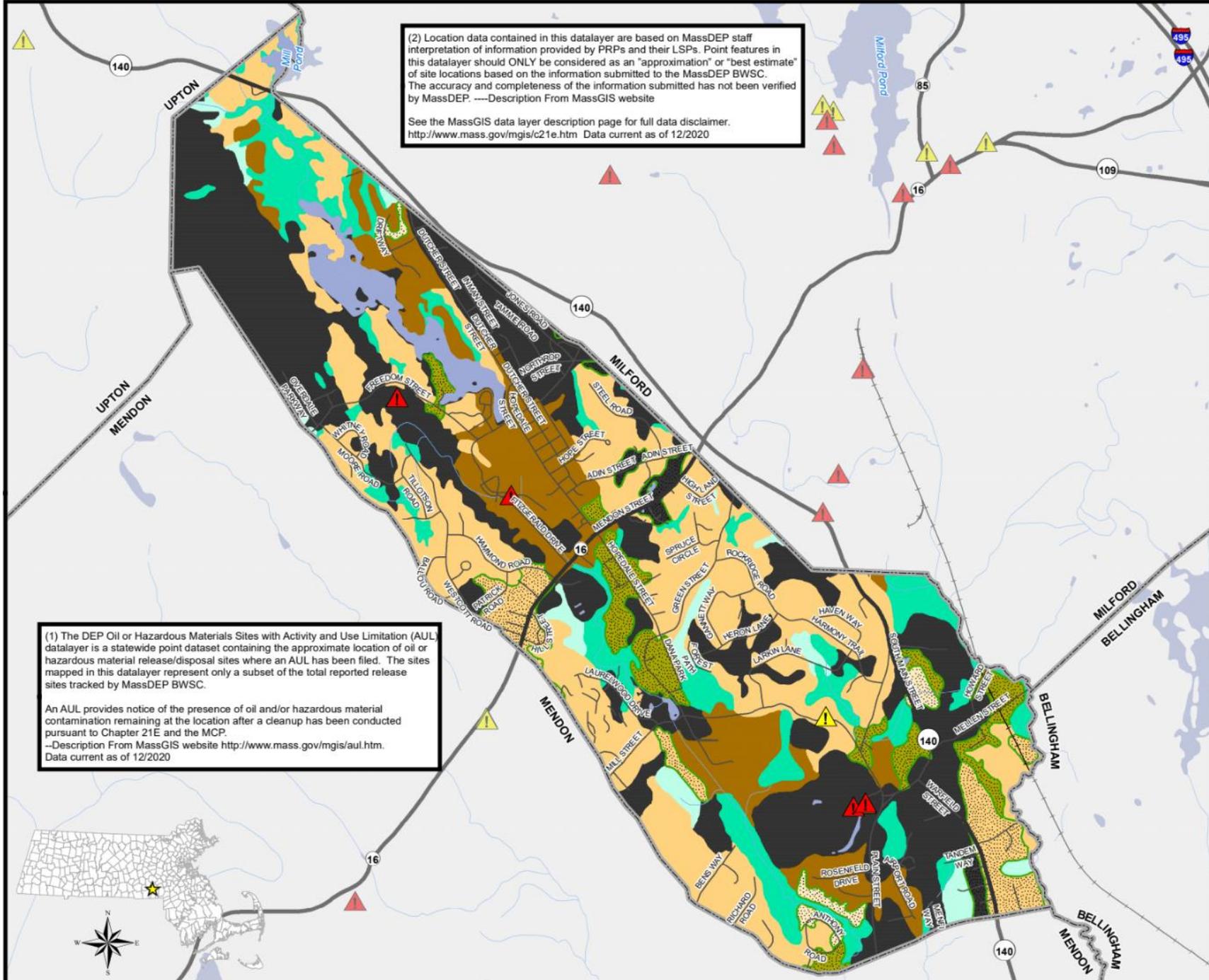
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(2) Location data contained in this datalayer are based on MassDEP staff interpretation of information provided by PRPs and their LSPs. Point features in this datalayer should ONLY be considered as an "approximation" or "best estimate" of site locations based on the information submitted to the MassDEP BWSC. The accuracy and completeness of the information submitted has not been verified by MassDEP. ---Description From MassGIS website
See the MassGIS data layer description page for full data disclaimer.
<http://www.mass.gov/mgis/c21e.htm> Data current as of 12/2020

(1) The DEP Oil or Hazardous Materials Sites with Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) datalayer is a statewide point dataset containing the approximate location of oil or hazardous material release/disposal sites where an AUL has been filed. The sites mapped in this datalayer represent only a subset of the total reported release sites tracked by MassDEP BWSC.
An AUL provides notice of the presence of oil and/or hazardous material contamination remaining at the location after a cleanup has been conducted pursuant to Chapter 21E and the MCP.
---Description From MassGIS website <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/aul.htm>.
Data current as of 12/2020



WATER RESOURCES

- ▶ Watersheds
 - ▶ Blackstone River Watershed
 - ▶ Charles River Watershed
 - ▶ Mill River Watershed
- ▶ Surface Waters
 - ▶ Mill River
 - ▶ Charles River
 - ▶ Hopedale Pond
 - ▶ Spindleville Pond
- ▶ Have public water and sewer systems
 - ▶ All but the southern part of town are on the public water supply



WATER RESOURCES MAP (#1)

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

Town Boundaries

Roads

Major Road

Local Road

Active Railroad

Water Bodies

Streams

DEP Wetlands

Aquifers

High Yield (> 300 gpm)

Medium Yield (100-300 gpm)

NRCS HUC Subbasin Boundary

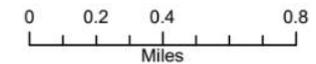
NRCS HUC Watershed Boundary

NRCS HUC Subwatersheds

Charles River-headwaters to Chicken Brook

Mill River

West River



1 in = 0.4 miles

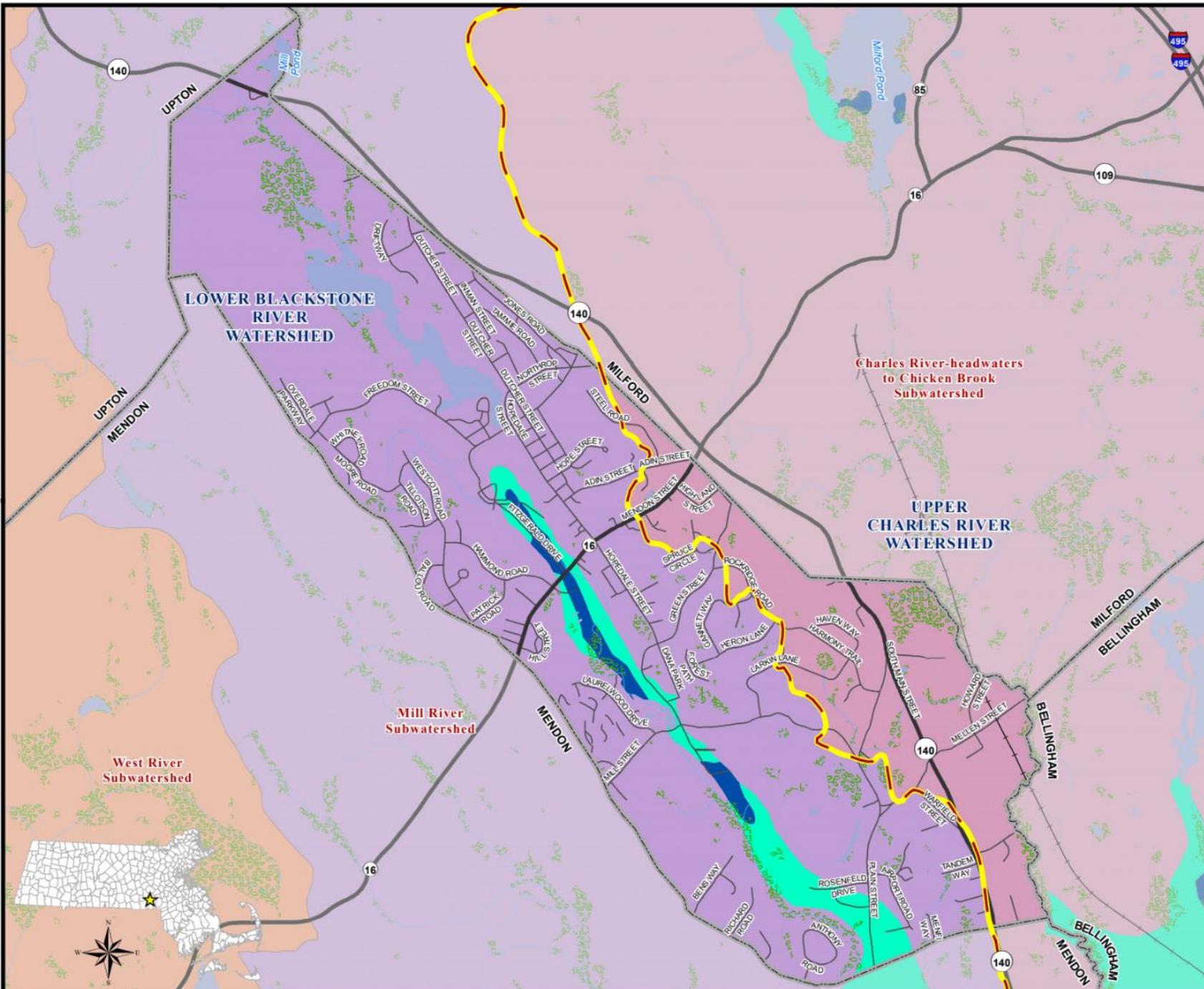
Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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Produced by
CMRPC

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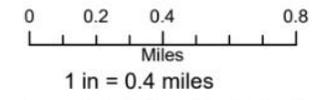


WATER RESOURCES MAP (#2)

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

-  Town Boundaries
- Roads**
-  Major Road
-  Local Road
-  Active Railroad
-  Water Bodies
-  Streams
- Public Water Supplies (8/2021)**
-  Emergency Surface Water
-  Community Groundwater Well
-  Non-Transient Non-community
-  Transient Non-Community
-  DEP Approved Zone I
-  Approved Wellhead Protection Areas (Zone II) (8/2021)
-  Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (8/2021)
-  100-year Flood Area (FEMA)
-  National Flood Hazard Layer, DFIRM)

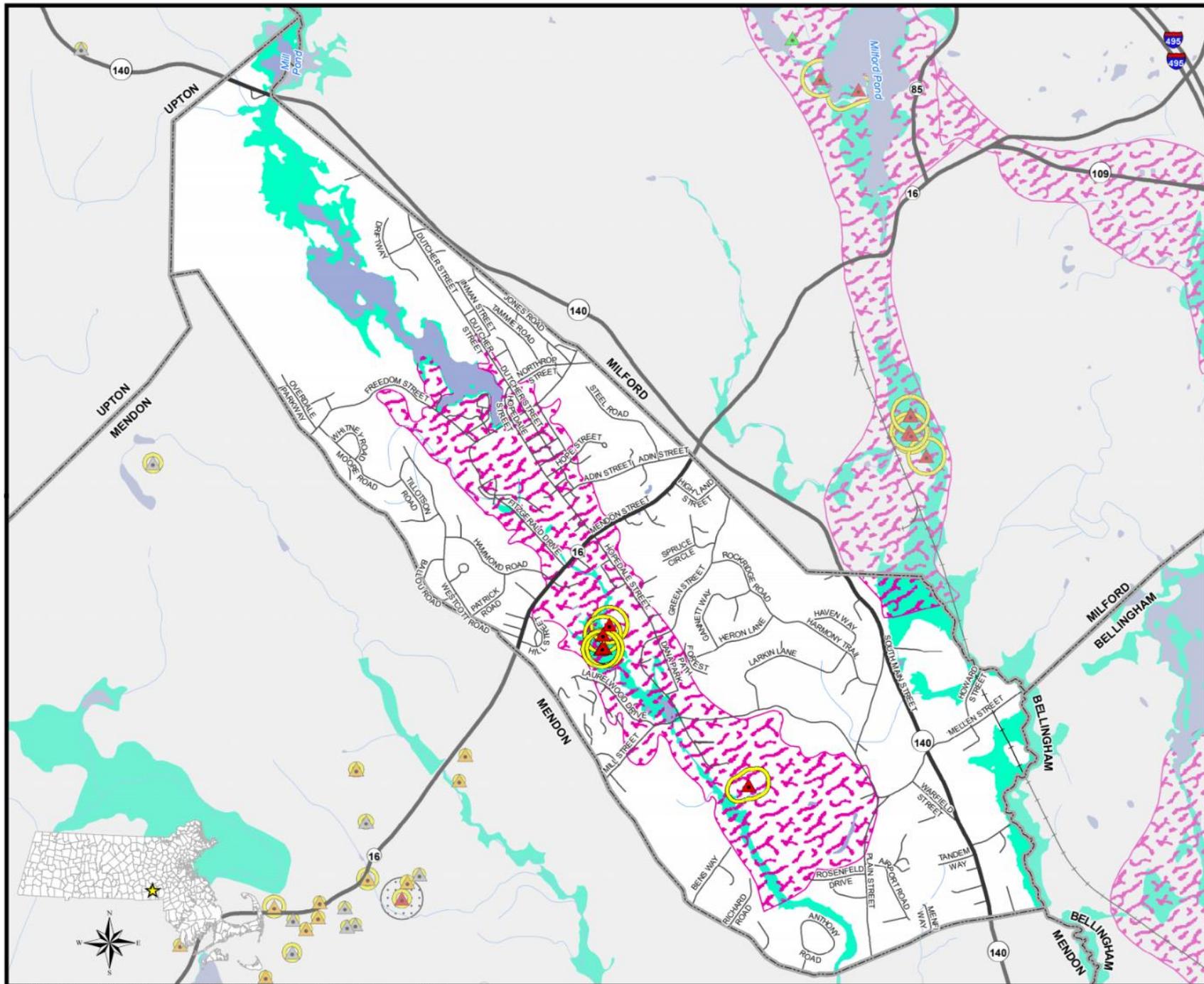


Source: Data provided by the Town of Hopedale, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, AND VERNAL POOLS

Vegetation

- Oak, Maple, Birch, Hickory
- Lady slippers, bluets, Canada mayflowers, white violets
- Jack-in-the-pulpit, pickerelweed, arrowhead flowers

Wildlife

- Bluejay, Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck
- Grey Squirrel, Red Squirrel, Eastern Chipmunk, Striped Skunk, Eastern Cottontail Rabbit
- Mink, Porcupine, Coyote, Fisher Cat

Vernal Pools

- 0 certified vernal pools
- 23 potential vernal pools

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status	Most Recent Obs.
Bridle Shiner	<i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>	Fish	Special Concern	1956
Brook Snaketail	<i>Ophiogomphus aspersus</i>	Dragonfly/Damselfly	Special Concern	2007

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION LANDS

All Chapter 61 Lands

Owner Type	Assessor Size (Ac)	%
CH61	155.24	82.18%
CH61B	33.66	17.82%
Grand Total	188.90	100.00%

Lands by Ownership

Owner Type	GIS Acres	%
Municipal	652.86	93.49%
Private	18.35	2.63%
State	3.61	0.52%
Private Non-Profit	23.48	3.36%
Grand Total	698.29	100.00%

Lands by Protection Level

Owner Type	GIS Acres	%
Perpetuity	659.78	94.48%
Municipal	637.83	91.34%
Private	18.35	2.63%
State	3.61	0.52%
Limited	38.51	5.52%
Municipal	15.03	2.15%
Private Non-Profit	23.48	3.36%
Grand Total	698.29	100.00%

Lands with Conservation Restrictions

Owner Type	GIS Acres	%
Conservation Restriction (CR)	18.35	100.00%
Private	18.35	100.00%
Grand Total	18.35	100.00%

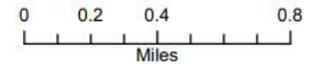
HABITAT FEATURES MAP

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Legend

-  Town Boundaries
- Roads**
-  Major Road
-  Local Road
-  Active Railroad
-  Water Bodies
-  Streams
-  NHESP Certified Vernal Pools (9/2021)
-  NHESP Potential Vernal Pools (1)
-  NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare (8/2021)
-  MassDEP Wetlands
-  NHESP/TNC BioMap2 Core Habitat
-  NHESP/TNC BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape

(1) NHESP Potential Vernal Pools:
Not equivalent to Certified Vernal Pools



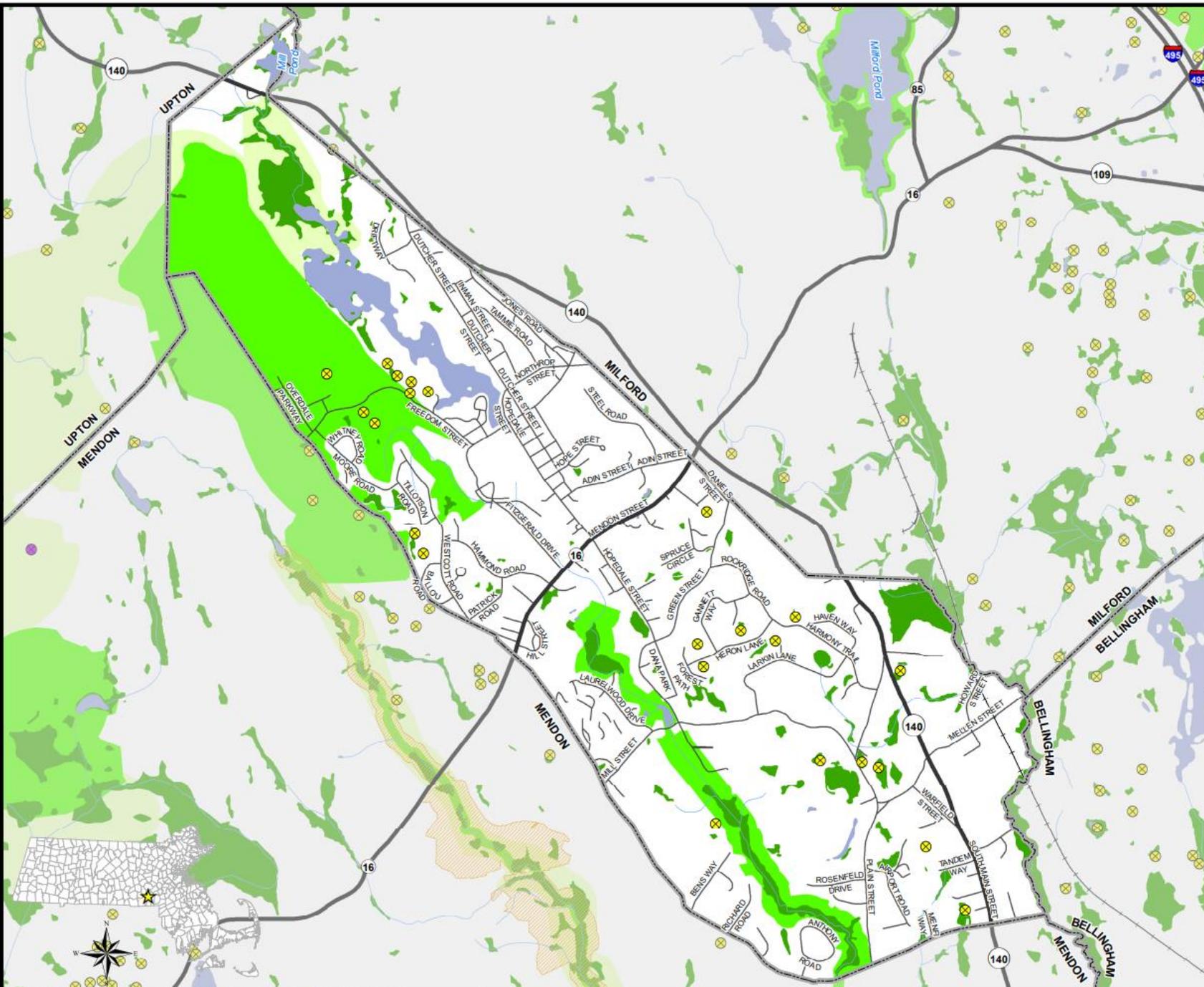
1 in = 0.4 miles

Source: Data provided by the Town of Barre, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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OPEN SPACE INVENTORY MAP

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

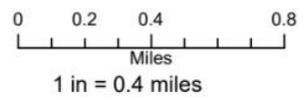
Legend

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Town Boundaries | Roads |
| Water Bodies | Major Road |
| Streams | Local Road |
| | Active Railroad |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Open Space Ownership | Level of Protection |
| Federal | Perpetuity* |
| State | Limited |
| Municipal | None |
| Private | |
| Non-Profit | |
- * Open space listed as "Perpetuity" will only show a solid Ownership color.

Open Space data from MassGIS and current as of 07/2021

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Chapter Lands (1) | Town Owned Land (1) |
| Chapter 61B | Undeveloped Land (1) |
| Conservation Restriction | |
| Agricultural Preservation Restriction | |
- (1) based on FY22 CAMA.

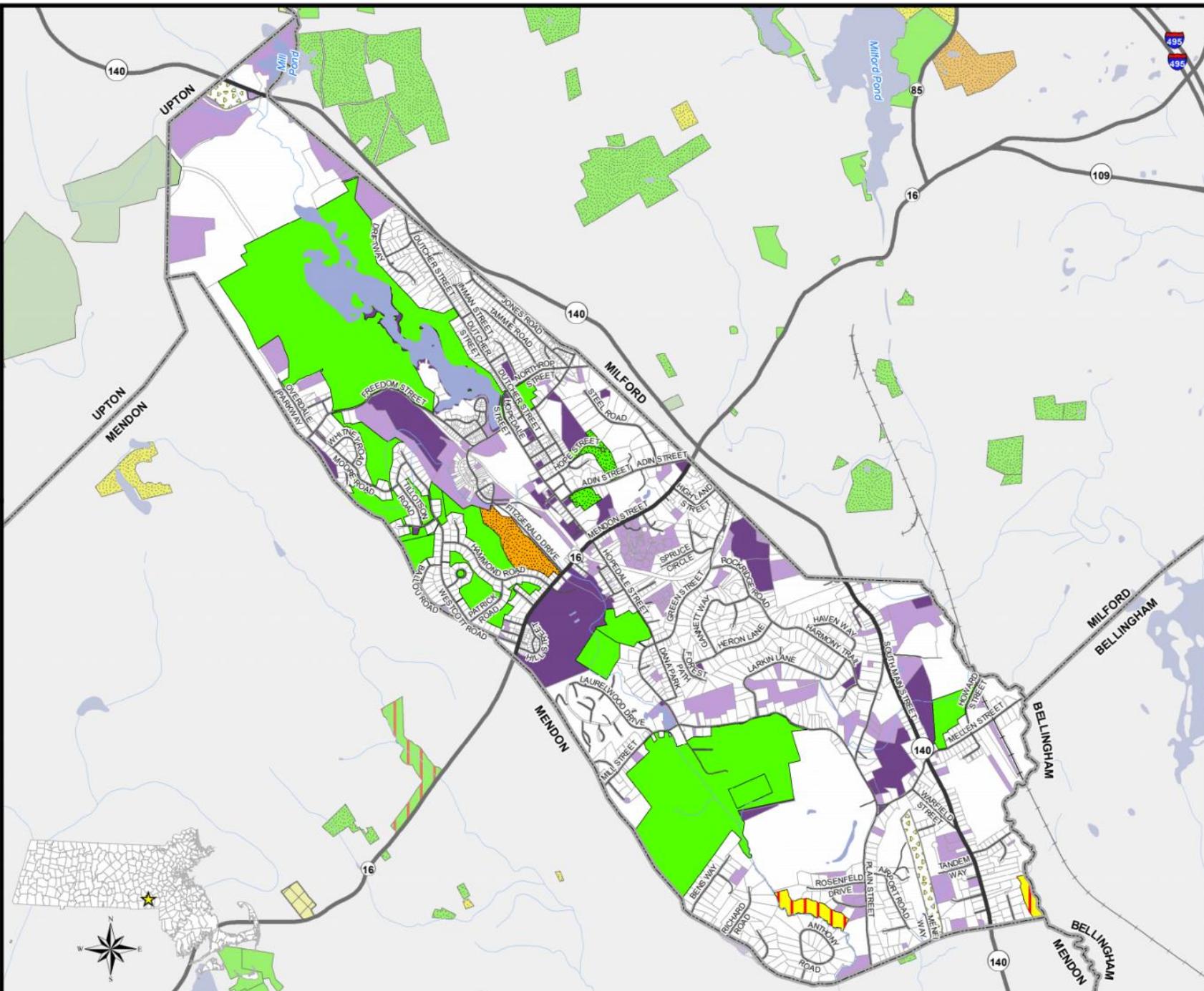


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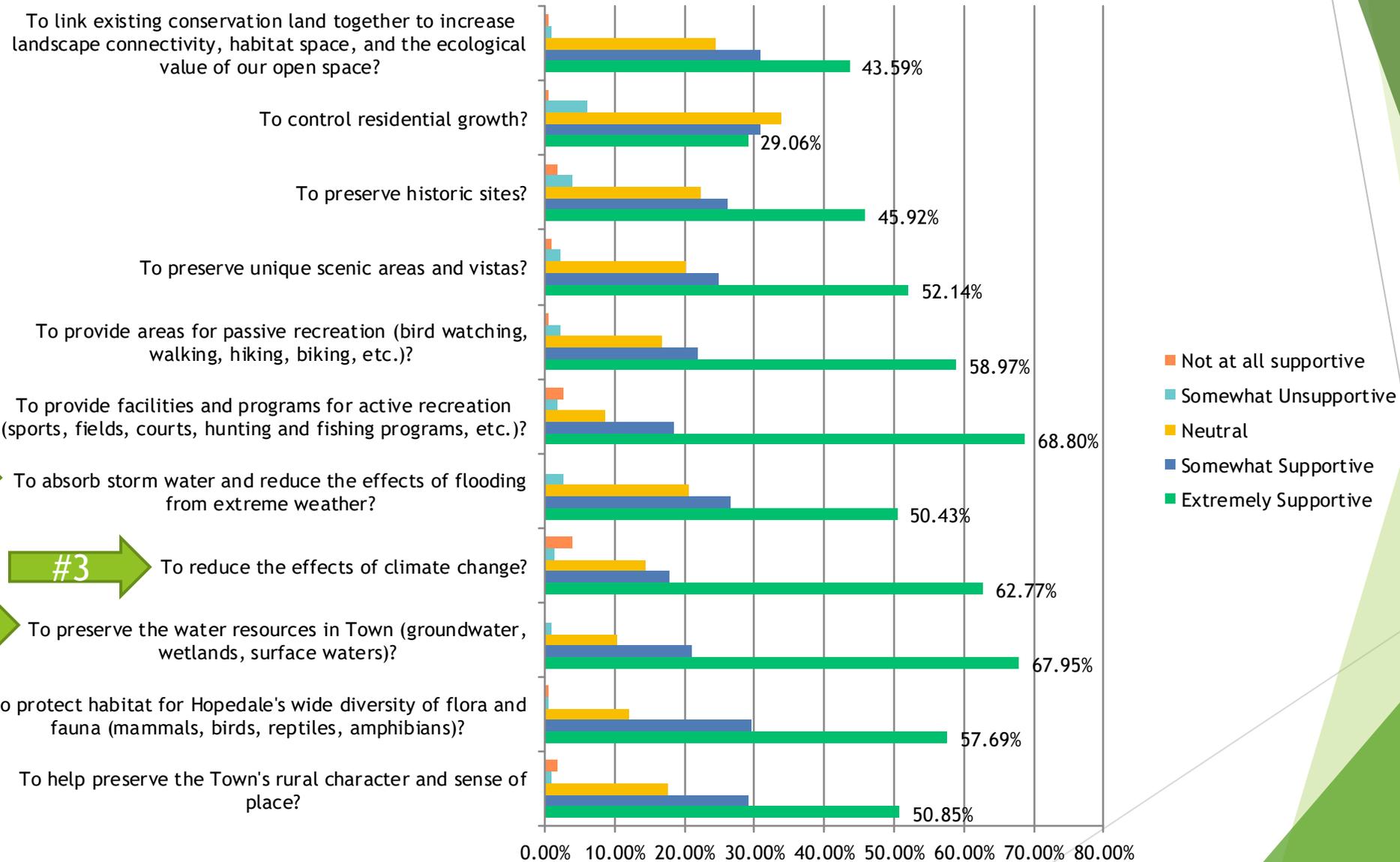
A hand is shown filling out a survey form with a black pen. The form consists of a grid of numbered circles (1, 2, 3, 4) arranged in rows and columns. Some circles are already filled with black ink. The background is a light green color with a dark green geometric pattern of overlapping shapes. The text 'SURVEY RESULTS' is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

SURVEY RESULTS

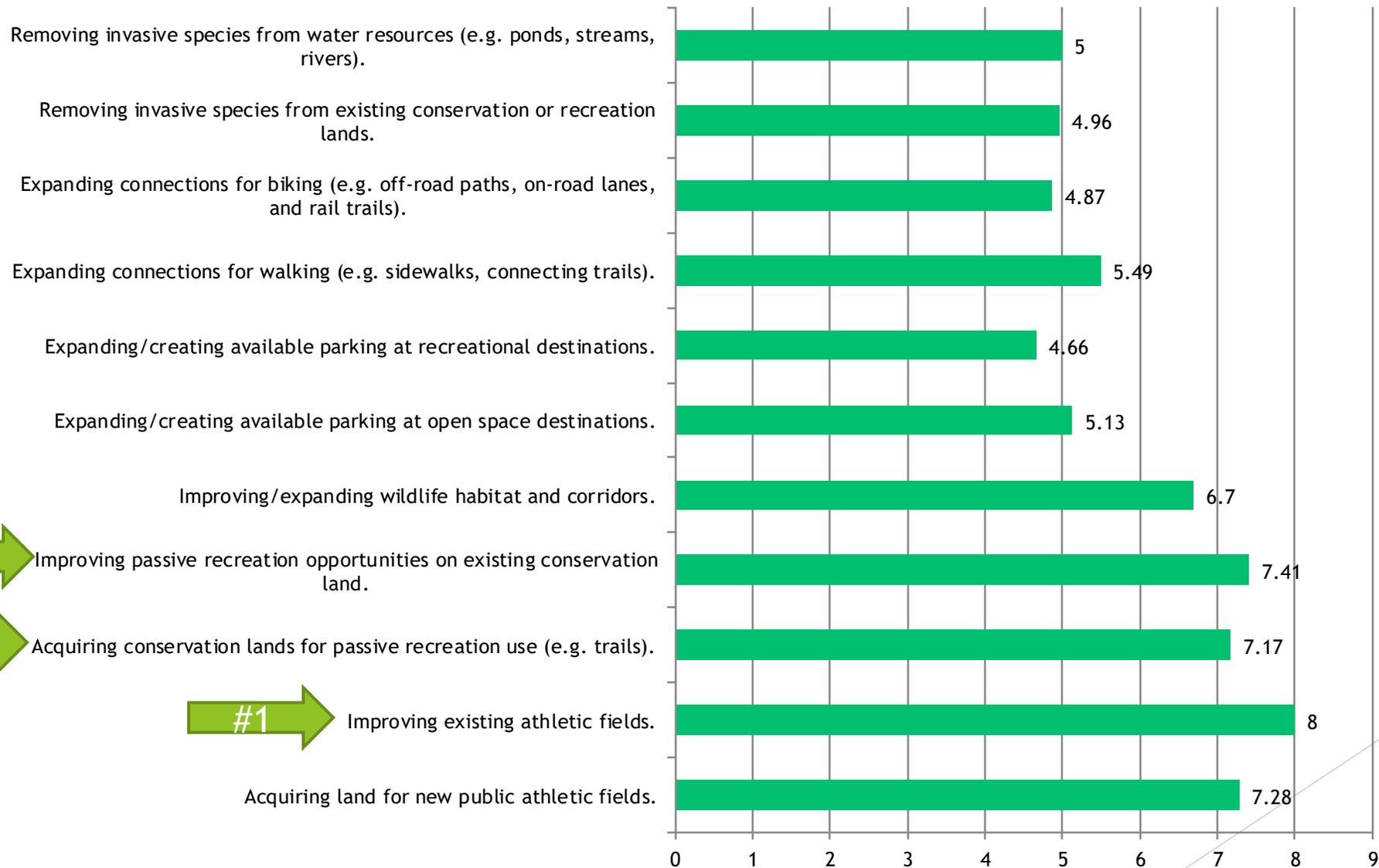
COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- Survey were available to take online via Survey Monkey
- Survey launched on September 1, 2021, and is still open collecting responses
- The survey was advertised online via the Town Website, Facebook pages, email blasts, and virtual newsletters
- A total of **238 responses** have been received to date
- 42.59% of respondents were under the age of 18

How strongly do you support Hopedale protecting, acquiring, and/or improving Town-owned land for the following reasons:



What should Hopedale's priorities be for open space and recreation expenditures?

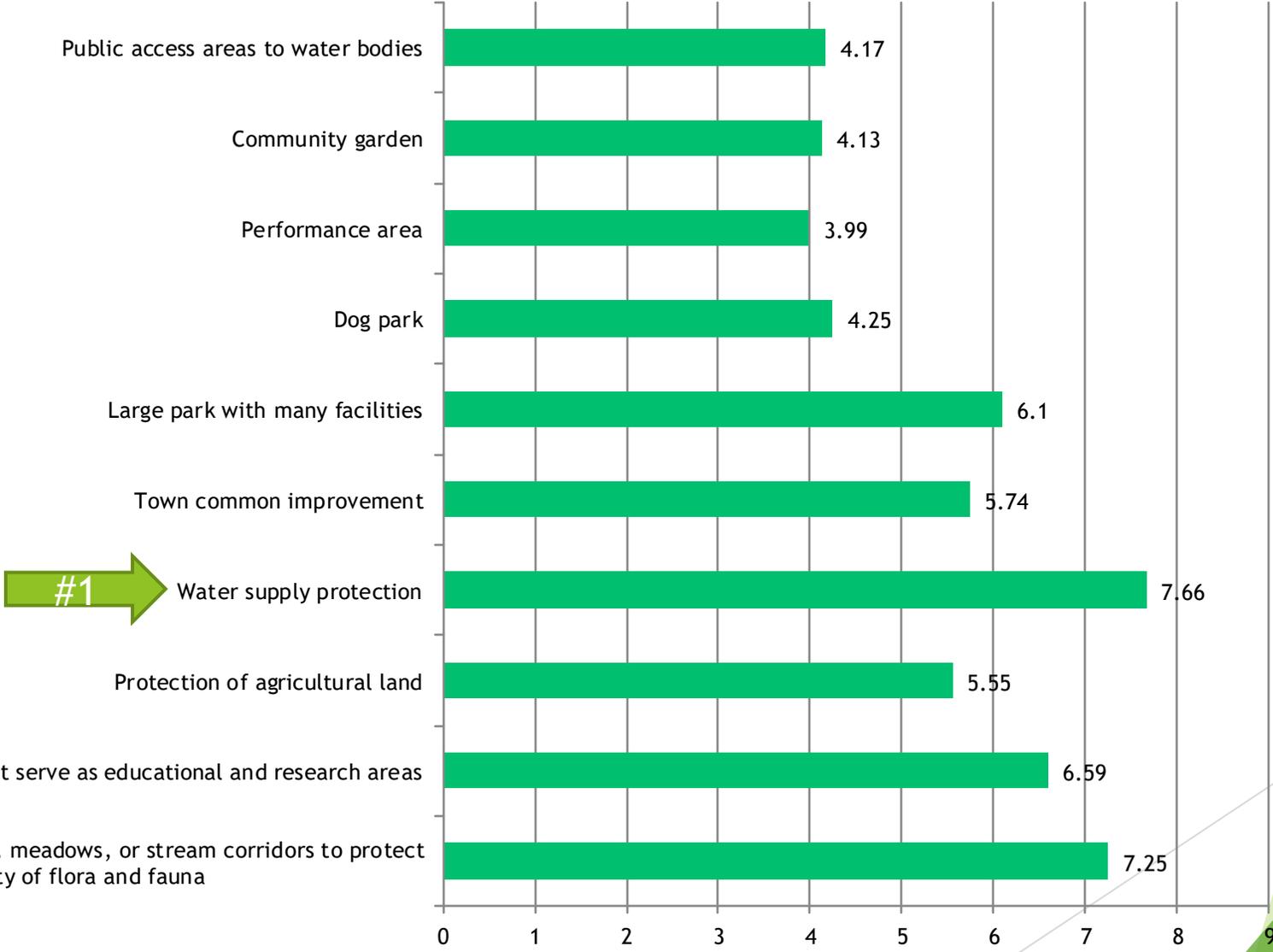


#2

#3

#1

What do you consider to be the biggest unmet open space needs in Hopedale?

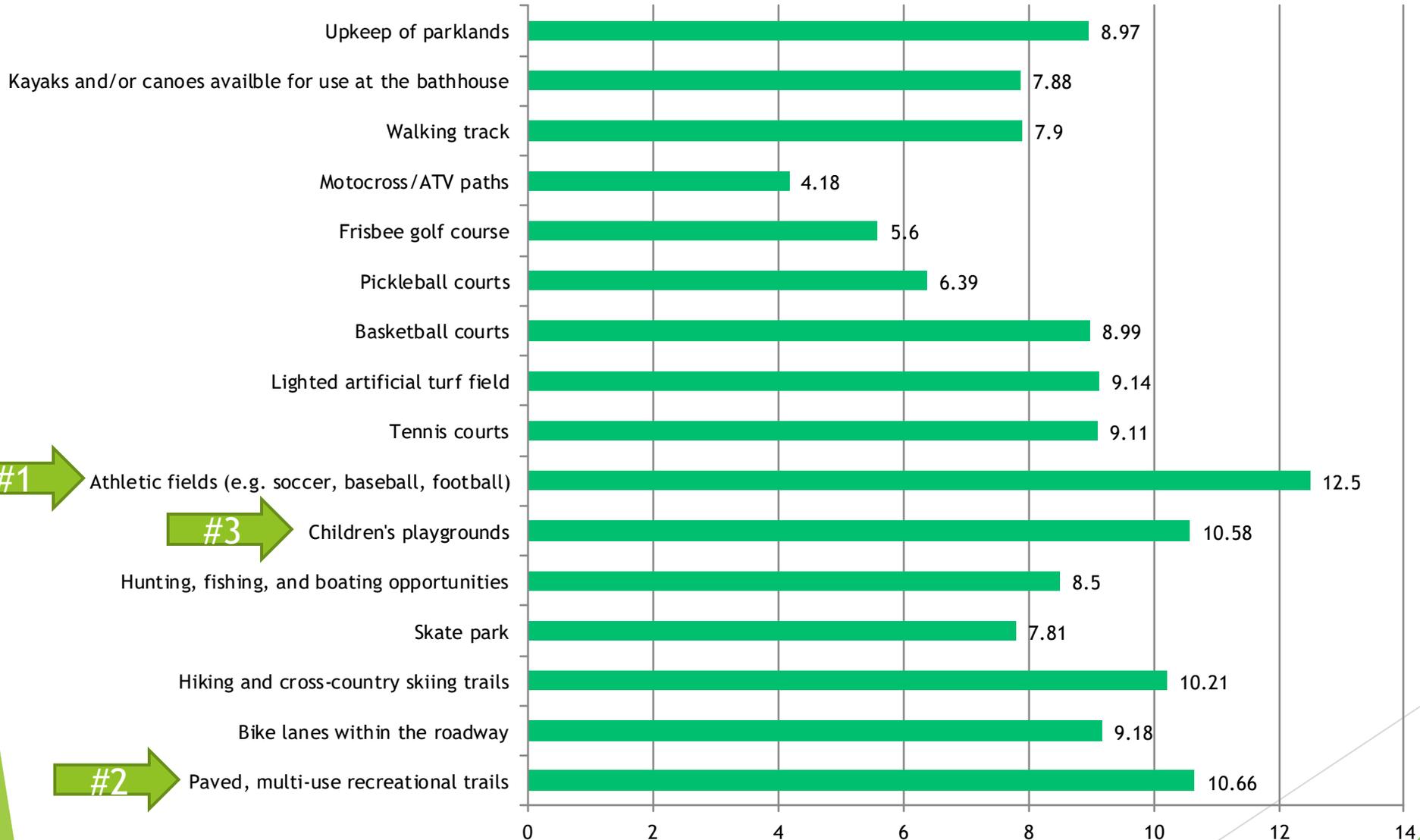


#1

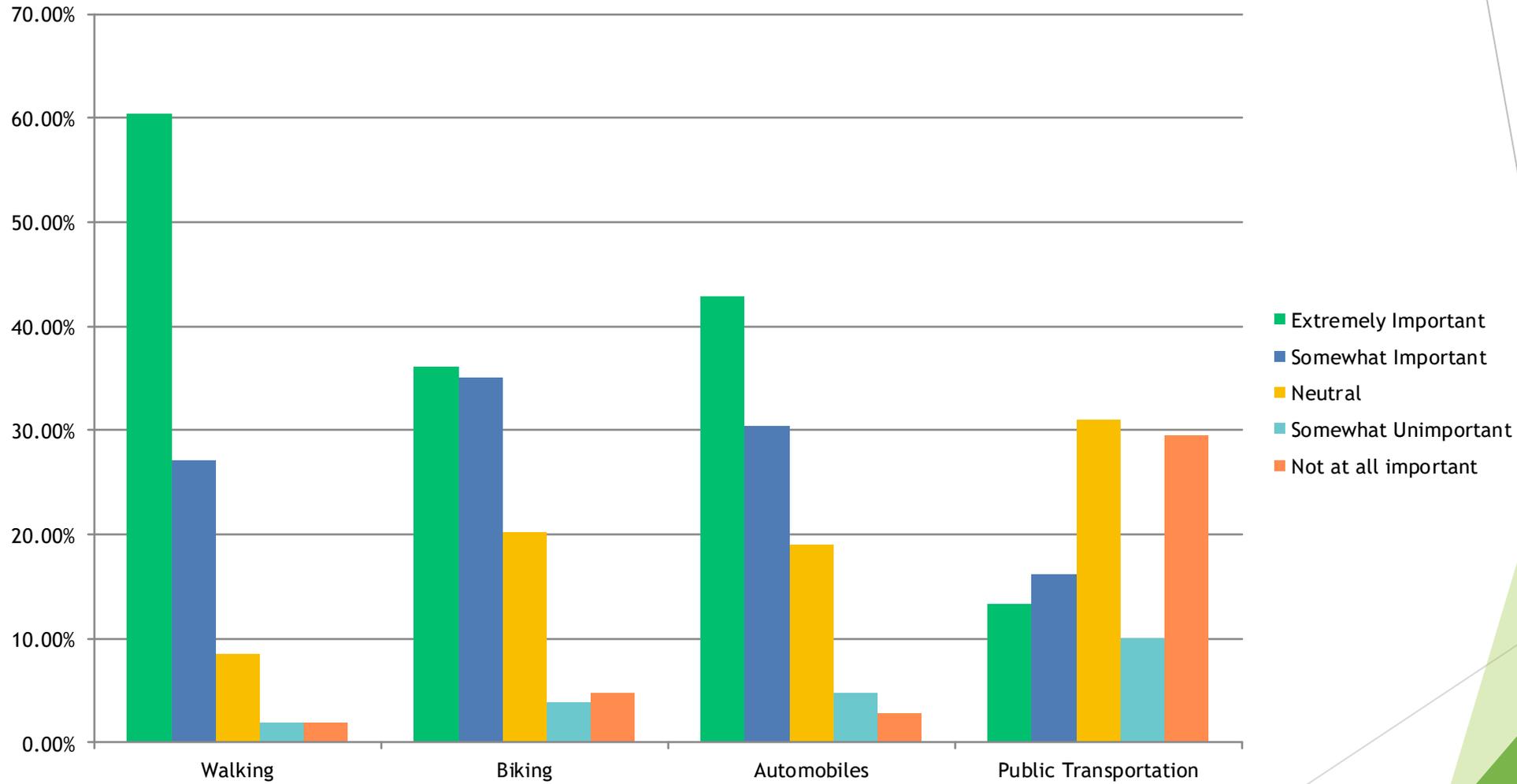
#3

#2

What do you consider to be the biggest unmet recreation needs in Hopedale?



How important is it to be able to travel to open space and recreational destinations in Hopedale by:



The image features a basketball hoop and net in the upper left corner, set against a dramatic sunset sky with orange and red clouds. The scene is overlaid with several green geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, which create a modern, abstract design. The text 'DRAFT GOALS' is prominently displayed in the center-right area in a bright green, bold, sans-serif font.

DRAFT GOALS

GOALS

- I. Improve Accessibility of Open Space Areas for People of All Capabilities
- II. Improve and Ensure Maintenance of Existing Fields, Parks, Trails, Facilities, and Other Open Spaces
- III. Create New Athletic Fields, Courts, and Other Recreation Opportunities
- IV. Increase Preservation and Resilience of Natural Resources
- V. Continuous Program Review and Improvement



BREAKOUT SESSION



QUESTIONS?



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETT
Regional Planning Commission