

# CITY OF LAWRENCE 2009 OPEN SPACE and RECREATION PLAN



*Prepared by Groundwork Lawrence for  
The City of Lawrence Community Development Department*

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## Section 1: Executive Summary

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**View of Lawrence above the Great Stone Dam looking east.**

Groundwork Lawrence, under contract with the City of Lawrence's Community Development Department, has completed the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan with the Community Development Department and additional research as requested by the Conservation Commission. The City of Lawrence finds importance in improving the quality of life for residents through support of community initiatives and open space improvements. These open space improvements require capital investment, dedicated city officials and an engaged populace. Lawrence suffers, like many cities in the Commonwealth, from a diminished budget in the current fiscal climate but

has a wealth of active, engaged, and dedicated residents who will be vital in helping the City achieve the goals set forth in the 2009 Open Space Plan.

The City of Lawrence is a community facing numerous challenges emblematic of those in other older northeastern urban centers and unique to its particular history. A compact textile manufacturing "machine" built in 1847 that enjoyed about 70 years of industrial prosperity, this densely-built city has experienced a long period of decline and disinvestment. Today our population, estimated around 70,000, is on the rise, particularly among our 65% Latino community although the City still has a per capita income of just \$13,360, a high school equivalency rate of 47%, and unemployment rates routinely

twice the state average. In addition, being one of the youngest communities in the Commonwealth, demand in Lawrence for parks, open space and recreational amenities is high. The challenges of many vacant properties, abandoned alleyways, brownfield sites, and underutilized riverfront areas are opportunities for creative and innovative open space development.

Lawrence's diverse population desires a variety of open space and recreation amenities that meet their needs. The 2009 Open Space Plan Goals are a framework to improve the City's infrastructure and maintain it as a vibrant place to live, work, and play. To achieve this vision, the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan establishes the following goals:

- Goal Number 1. Increase regular maintenance by dedication of more resources and decrease the amount of litter and debris in parks and open space
- Goal Number 2. Improve safety and perception of safety through increased enforcement of illegal and unsafe activities in parks and open space.
- Goal Number 3. Decrease dependence and burden on the DPW by encouraging public-private partnerships to protect and maintain public space.
- Goal Number 4. Increase activity and attendance in parks by creating and implementing more active in-parks programming.
- Goal Number 5. Increase attendance in parks by creating and implementing more passive park elements.
- Goal Number 6. Increase pedestrian and biking activity by encouraging walking and biking for exercise and enhancing safety and connectivity between schools, neighborhoods, and parks.
- Goal Number 7. Reclaim vacant lots and other abandoned and under-utilized land.
- Goal Number 8. Increase access to waterfront resources (i.e. rivers, canals) through enhancement and protection.

## Section 2: Introduction

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### A. Statement of Purpose



The 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan is intended to guide the City of Lawrence's investments and plans for parks, recreational amenities, trails, gardens, alleyways, and other open spaces across the community. This Plan is a renewal of the 2004 Plan, and contains numerous updates on improvements and investments that have taken place since the previous Plan was adopted in 2004.

The City of Lawrence has made a significant number of improvements to its parks and open spaces since the 2004 Open Space Plan was established. While the City did not achieve all of the short-term goals highlighted in

the 2004 Plan, Lawrence did take advantage of many distinct opportunities to improve its open spaces in

spite of being challenged by budget shortfalls and a continued lack of maintenance dollars and manpower. For instance, along the Spicket River, three new parks (Dr. Nina Scarito Park, the William Kennedy Playstead, and Manchester Street Park) were constructed, and major renovations were made at a third (Misserville Skate Park); the new state-of-the-art Lawrence High School was constructed, along with an overhaul to the adjacent Veterans Memorial Stadium; and a full renovation of Mt. Vernon Park and ballfields was completed as well. In late 2005, the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) completed construction of the new McGovern Transportation Center, which includes Lawrence's MBTA Commuter Rail station, a parking garage, a Lawrence Police Department substation, community meeting space, a café, and a public plaza. Funding from the Mayor's Parks Improvement Plan allowed for several phases of recreational field repairs of fencing, bleachers, players' amenities, and ball fields across the city, along with installation of new blue park signage and new trash receptacles; these funds also supported the installation of new field lighting and a field drainage study at Hayden Schofield Playstead, as well as design plans for the renovation of Cronin Park (2009-2010 construction) and the new Gateway Park at the former Oxford Paper Site.

#### *B. Planning Process and Public Participation*

The City of Lawrence Community Development Department and the Conservation Commission contracted with Groundwork Lawrence, a local nonprofit focused on environmental and open space improvements, community food programs, youth initiatives and educational programming and events, to complete the evaluation and renewal of the Open Space Plan for 2009. To inform the 2009 Plan with the community's sentiments about open space and recreation needs, on behalf of the City of Lawrence, Groundwork Lawrence conducted extensive public outreach, including individual interviews with local officials, a series of three community meetings, and distribution of bilingual (English/Spanish) surveys to residents and students across the community (with over 250 residents completing surveys). Groundwork Lawrence also met with several neighborhood associations, and made presentations about the Open Space Plan renewal to the Lawrence Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Historical Commission, Board of Health, and Redevelopment Authority. For the additional research at the behest of the Conservation Commission, additional interviews were conducted and are outlined in Appendix E.

### Section 3: Community Setting

#### *A. Regional Context*

Lawrence is a small urban center located 25 miles north of Boston on the Merrimack River. With a land area of only 7 square miles, Lawrence is a densely populated community of 72,000 (2000 Census) people in the midst of a predominantly rural and suburban region. It is the largest municipality in the Lawrence/Haverhill primary metropolitan statistical area (PMSA). Lawrence is part of both Essex County and the Merrimack Valley region, and is located just 15 miles west of the Atlantic Ocean and 2 miles south of the New Hampshire border. The city is host to a variety of regional services, including government agencies, transportation facilities, and a mix of commercial and industrial activities. Lawrence is easily accessible to nearby communities and urban centers by virtue of its proximity to Interstates 495 and 93, as well as State Routes 28, 110, and 114.

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

Lawrence, Massachusetts is known as the Immigrant City - an industrial center rich in ethnic diversity and culture. Today, Lawrence is a majority Latino city, with much of its population hailing from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. This influx of new residents is helping to recharge the city's economy, bringing new life to neighborhoods that were nearly abandoned over two decades ago.

Lawrence is now among the youngest communities in the state, with nearly half its population under the age of 24. This intensifies the demand for open space, especially among children and teenagers.

Lawrence was first settled in 1708 by the Bodwell family, and remained a farming area for the next 150 years. It was incorporated as a town in 1847 and became a City in 1853. The city was built by entrepreneurs from the Essex Company eager to harness the power of the Merrimack River for textile manufacturing. Within three years of acquiring the land from neighboring towns, the Essex Company had built the Great Stone Dam, two canals, the Pemberton Reservoir, fifty brick buildings, a large boarding house, and four textile mills. A total of six parks were given to the City by the Essex Company and by 1924, the City had 185 acres of parks and playsteads.<sup>1</sup> By the early 1900s, Lawrence was the world's leading manufacturer of woolen textiles.<sup>2</sup> The demand for labor in the city's vast mills attracted immigrants from across the world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This contributed to the development of a powerful labor movement in the city, culminating in the 1912 Bread and Roses Strike that established new standards for workers' rights and inspired reform legislation that led to better working conditions in every major American industry.<sup>3</sup>

However, Lawrence's dominance of the textile industry was short-lived. The introduction of synthetic fibers in the 1940s and the migration of textile mills to the south and eventually offshore led to a dramatic decline in jobs and population. By 1950 Lawrence had lost more than 20,000 manufacturing jobs.<sup>4</sup> The city's population went into a steep decline, from a peak of nearly 100,000 in 1920 to approximately 63,000 by 1980.<sup>5</sup>

### C. Population Characteristics

#### 2000 Census Information

According to the 2000 Census<sup>6</sup>, the City of Lawrence has a population of 72,043 people. Lawrence is one of the youngest cities in Massachusetts, with 43 percent of the population under the age of 24 and an average age of 32 years old. The majority of Lawrence residents are Hispanic or Latino, comprising 59.7 percent of the total population. Approximately one-third of Lawrence residents are foreign-born. Median household income for the City of Lawrence is \$27,983, compared to \$50,502 statewide. Of the population age 25 and older, only 30 percent are high school graduates, six percent hold a bachelor's degree, and four percent hold a masters, professional, or doctorate degree.<sup>7</sup>

The City of Lawrence has a total of 25,601 housing units, of which 30.7 percent are owner-occupied, compared to 57.5 percent statewide. The average number of household members is 2.74 persons. Median rent in the city is \$504, compared to the statewide average of \$604. The median housing cost per month for owner-occupied units with a mortgage is \$1,044, and the median value of owner-occupied homes is \$116,400. The average number of vehicles per household for renters is 0.86 compared to an average of 3.11 vehicles per household for owner-occupied units. Of the working

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<sup>1</sup> Images of America: Lawrence Massachusetts, Eartha Dengler et al, p. 120

<sup>2</sup> City of Lawrence 1997 Open Space Plan: Lawrence Community Development Department, page 4

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, page 4

<sup>4</sup> Images of America: Lawrence Massachusetts, Eartha Dengler et al, p. 8

<sup>5</sup> US Census data compiled by the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization, [www.ctps.org/bostonmpo/data](http://www.ctps.org/bostonmpo/data)

<sup>6</sup> It should be noted that this reflection of Lawrence's demographic information is limited by the outdated nature of Census 2000 data. It is recommended that the community revisit and reexamine this Open Space and Recreation Plan upon the release of new Census 2010 data.

<sup>7</sup> US Census Bureau, 2000 Census, from ePodunk Inc., [www.epodunk.com](http://www.epodunk.com)

population age 16 and over, 86.3 percent of residents drive to work, 6.3 percent take public transit, 3.3 percent walk to work, and 2 percent work at home.<sup>8</sup>

#### *2009 Demographic Information*

With Census 2010 right around the corner, it should be noted that Census 2000 data may no longer accurately reflect Lawrence's most current demographic trends. For this reason, we include the following updated demographic information below.

Monthly unemployment figures in Lawrence for 2008 ranged from a low of 8.4 percent in April 2008 to a high of 13.1 percent in December 2008. Statewide, since February of 2008 the rate has risen from 4.8 percent to 9.1 percent in August of 2008 with the 2008 average for the state at 6.5 percent. 2009 has seen significant increases in the unemployment rate in Lawrence – August 2009 measured a rate of 17.8 percent. In the first quarter of 2003, Lawrence was home to 1,247 establishments in a variety of industries, employing close to 22,000 people. In 2008 Lawrence counted 1,608 establishments who employ an average of 23,371 people with the leading industries being Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Professional and Technical Services, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Other Services.<sup>9</sup>

The Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development Division of Career Services estimates the 2007 population for Lawrence to be 70,066 - a decrease in residents from Census 2000. However, the population of the Merrimack Valley is estimated to increase by 5,000 and the employment totals for the city have increased from 2000.<sup>10</sup> Lawrence is still a young community full of tremendous assets, as well as significant challenges to overcome. Chief among these challenges are the persistently high rate of unemployment, low rates of homeownership, and limited educational attainment. While the Open Space Plan cannot fully address all of these concerns, it is clear that parks and open space play a vital role in the physical, environmental, and economic health of the community. Improving Lawrence's parks and open spaces can help to attract jobs to the city, increase property values, improve health among residents, address transit needs, and provide safe recreational opportunities for people of all ages.

In 2007, following nearly a decade-long increase in home ownership rates, Lawrence (like a number of other communities across the country) began witnessing high rates of home foreclosure across the city. As of early 2009, the City of Lawrence's foreclosure rate was 45.2 annualized foreclosure notices per 1,000 properties—the highest in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and three times higher than the State median. Between 2007 and 2008, while foreclosure activity across Massachusetts slowed 4%, Lawrence in that time period saw an 8% increase in home foreclosures. The highest concentration of Lawrence foreclosures is located in the 01840 ZIP code with a rate of 63.7 housing units per 1000 units. In fact, eleven of the twenty Census block groups with the highest foreclosure rate in the Commonwealth are located in Lawrence.<sup>11</sup>

Lawrence is unique because it has many of the positive attributes associated with well-designed cities. The city has high connectivity (a dense network of streets and sidewalks connecting residents to

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<sup>8</sup> US Census Bureau, 2000 Census, from ePodunk Inc., [www.epodunk.com](http://www.epodunk.com)

<sup>9</sup> Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Unemployment Assistance, [www.detma.org](http://www.detma.org)

<sup>10</sup> Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Unemployment Assistance, [www.detma.org](http://www.detma.org)

<sup>11</sup> Massachusetts Housing Partnership; Massachusetts Foreclosure Monitor January 2009 [www.mhp.net](http://www.mhp.net)

points of interest), mixed land use, small blocks, and high residential density. It is possible to live, work, shop, and play within a few square blocks. Residential zones are located throughout the city, with a variety of housing types and densities permitted. While almost all of the land is developed, approximately 6 percent of city land area is devoted to parks, and there are 3.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. By comparison, Boston has 9.3 acres of parkland per 1000 people and a higher population density.

However, despite the positive attributes of the city's design, obesity and related health disparities are disproportionately prevalent among Lawrence residents. Lawrence lags behind the rest of the state on virtually all health status indicators. The community reports rates of obesity-related indicators that are all higher than state rates (*Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2001*):

- The age-adjusted mortality rate for coronary heart disease is 167.77 per 100,000 residents, which is significantly higher than the state rate of 145.77.
- The age-adjusted rate for hypertension for Lawrence is 8.73 per 100,000 residents, compared to 5.49 statewide.
- The age-adjusted rate for diabetes is 36.25 per 100,000, or 76 percent higher than the state rate of 20.56.

According to the 2000 Census (and 2009 park acreage), the nine census tracts that make up the central core of north Lawrence have approximately 2 acres per 1000 people. The southern half of the city has approximately 7 acres per 1000 people.<sup>12</sup>

A similar pattern emerges when the census data is broken down by age group, with the greatest concentration of children and elderly residents living in the northern part of city bordering the Spicket River. The greatest density of children under the age of 5 (averaging 2,196 to 4,017 children per square mile) can be found in four contiguous census tracts in the Arlington, Back Bay, and North Common neighborhoods, with the next highest concentrations in the Monmouth Street and Lower Tower Hill neighborhoods. The distribution is similar for children ages 6 to 15, with the greatest densities in the same four census tracts as the under-5 age group. The highest concentration of elderly residents (age 65+) can be found in four census tracts in the South Broadway, Monmouth Street/ Back Bay, and North Common neighborhoods (averaging 1907-6007 persons per square mile). The next highest concentrations of elderly residents are located in three census tracts in the Arlington, Back Bay, and Lower Tower Hill neighborhoods.<sup>13</sup> Taken together, these statistics strongly indicate a need for more open space in the northern part of the city, especially along the Spicket River.

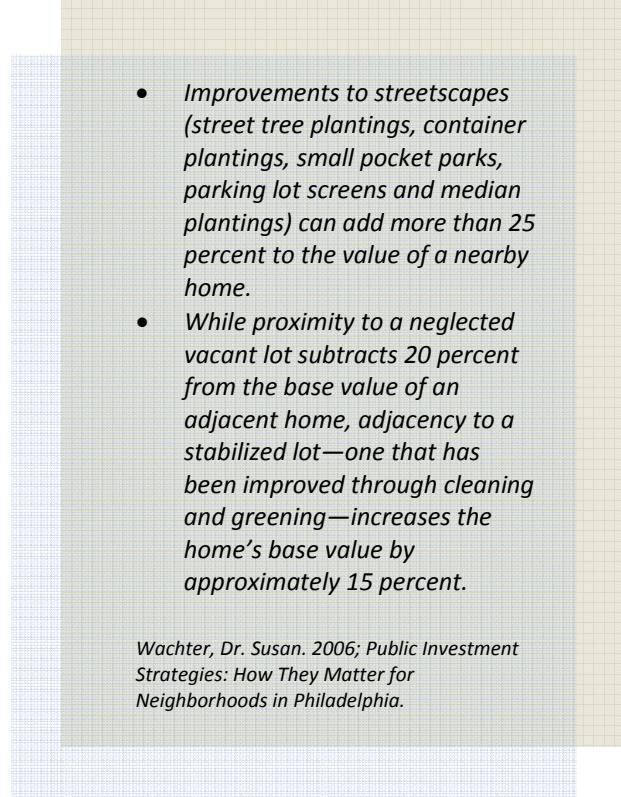
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<sup>12</sup> US Census Bureau, 2000 Census, from the City of Lawrence Office of Planning and Development

<sup>13</sup> US Census Bureau, 2000 Census, from the City of Lawrence Office of Planning and Development.

#### D. Growth and Development Patterns

As an industrial city, Lawrence first developed along the banks of the Merrimack River. The city developed at an extraordinarily rapid pace during the latter half of the nineteenth century, fueled by investment from Boston families eager to capitalize on the textile trade. Unlike many New England cities, however, Lawrence was carefully planned and designed, with streets, parks, churches, commercial areas, and mill buildings located in close proximity. The historic core of the city is located on the north bank of the Merrimack River, and includes the North Canal Mill District, Essex Street, and the North Common neighborhood, where Lawrence's early immigrants worked, lived, shopped, and socialized. This area is also home to City Hall and the Essex County Courthouse. In 1848 the Essex Company donated 17 ½ acres of land to be set aside as the Lawrence Common—now named Campagnone Common. The Common when originally installed was a Victorian Public Garden with a fountain, wading pool and bandstand and was donated with the stipulation that the land "be forever kept open as a place of public recreation and rest."<sup>14</sup> The North Common, located in the historic center of Lawrence, serves as a central place to walk, play, and relax, much like New York's Central Park. In addition to this initial core of the City, on the south bank of the Merrimack River mill buildings were developed with housing and commercial areas nearby. The South Common serves as a symmetric counterpoint to the North Common, offering many of the same amenities and providing valuable open space in the heart of the city.



Lawrence.

Lawrence's sewer system is part of the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District (GLSD), which serves Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, and Salem, New Hampshire. The existing system

<sup>14</sup> Images of America: Lawrence Massachusetts, Eartha Dengler et al, p48

functions effectively under normal conditions, but Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) is a recurring problem during heavy rains, when a combination of raw sewage and storm water empties into outfall pipes along the Merrimack and Spicket Rivers. CSO issues directly affect water quality downstream and negatively impact parks and recreational boating along the river. There are currently five CSO outfall pipes in Lawrence. The primary outfall pipes are located by Lawrence General Hospital on the Spicket River, on the former Ferrous Technology site at the confluence of the Spicket and Merrimack Rivers, and behind the Wood Mill on the south bank of the Merrimack River. In addition, there are two secondary bypass pipes located several hundred yards upstream of the primary pipes on the Merrimack. Before the 2007 upgrade, the GLSD system would overflow an average of fourteen times per year.<sup>15</sup> The GLSD implementation of Phase One of a CSO Control Plan brought the system into compliance with state standards.<sup>16</sup> The GLSD Phase One CSO Control Plan included improvements to the existing wastewater treatment facility and pumping station in North Andover, as well as a limited program to divert storm drains in commercial and industrial areas that are currently utilizing CSO outfall pipes. The control plan reduces overflows from fourteen per year to five.<sup>17</sup>

#### *Zoning and Development*

Lawrence's zoning ordinance includes thirteen zoning districts and two Overlay Districts (see zoning map in Attachment A). In general, business districts are concentrated in the downtown area and along major thoroughfares, including routes 28 and 114. The city's industrially-zoned land is primarily located on the north and south banks of the Merrimack River and along the rail corridors, as well as in a large industrial park on the western side of the city. Residential zones are located throughout the city, with a variety of housing types and densities permitted. In 1999, Lawrence's zoning was amended to create a minimum lot size of 10,000 square feet in all residential zones, making many of the city's smaller lots non-conforming. In October 2003, a zoning overlay district called the Reviviendo Gateway Initiative (RGI) was approved that permits a greater mix of uses and streamlined permitting in the mill district, eastern end of downtown, and the North Canal mill district. A similar overlay was created in April of 2008 for the Arlington Mill District in the northwestern corner of the city.

The buildout analysis for Lawrence, conducted in 2001 by the State's Executive Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs (EOEEA), projects a total possible buildout potential of approximately 700 new housing units and 1.5 million square feet of commercial/industrial space for the city. The study also indicates that Lawrence has approximately 211 acres of additional developable land area.<sup>18</sup> These calculations do not, however, account for the potential conversion of existing commercial/industrial space to housing as is partially allowed in the Reviviendo Gateway Overlay and the Arlington Mill District Overlay. This important assumption dramatically shifts the city's buildout potential, since much of the Lawrence's mill space could potentially be converted into lofts or apartments. Washington Mills was the first such mill conversion in Lawrence. The 200,000 square foot mill was renovated in 2007 and now contains 155 apartment units. At capacity, Washington Mills can house over 250 people in downtown Lawrence.

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<sup>15</sup> Minutes of GLSD Public Meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> 2003, Thomson Elementary School, North Andover.

<sup>16</sup> CSO regulations are mandated through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program administered by EPA and authorized as part of the Clean Water Act.

<sup>17</sup> Press release GLSD August 23, 2007 <http://www.glsd.org/news.html>.

<sup>18</sup> Buildout Analysis – Lawrence, MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Similarly, in the fall of 2008, College Street Development LLC received 40R approvals for a mixed use redevelopment of the Malden Mills site. Chapter 40R of the Massachusetts General Laws provide financial incentives and encouragement for Cities and Towns to establish zoning overlay districts to promote housing and smart growth development.<sup>19</sup> This redevelopment will provide up to 500 residential units and 250,000 square feet of retail/commercial space in the buildings.

Another mill redevelopment that will impact residents and businesses is Union Crossing – slated for the Southwick Mill building at 50 Island Street and the Duck Mill across Union Street. This is a massive redevelopment that includes 125 housing units and approximately 125,000 sf of commercial space, with a 12,000 square foot daycare center. This redevelopment also plans to create two acres of new public open space including a streamlined pedestrian thoroughfare, new park space, and playground area.

In a city like Lawrence, further analysis of existing occupancy patterns and potential re-use scenarios is needed to fully account for the city's buildout potential. In any case, conversion of the city's vast mills to higher-intensity uses, such as housing and commercial office space, can yield significant new development opportunities. Conversion of mill space will in turn create a greater demand for high-

quality open space, as new residents and workers move into the area. At the same time, new parks, recreational trails, infrastructure and streetscape improvements can contribute to building the market for these types of uses. It is therefore vitally important that open space improvements are carefully integrated into future redevelopment efforts for mills, brownfield sites, and riverfront areas, as well as existing residential and commercial areas.

### ***What is Smart Growth?***

*Smart growth makes efficient use of land, fully utilizes urban services and infrastructure, promotes a wide variety of transportation and housing options, permanently preserves critical natural resources, and protects architectural and environmental character through compatible, high quality, and environmentally-sensitive development.*

MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

### ***Industrial Infrastructure***

A vestige of the high level of design and management of the downtown area by the Essex Company are the numerous alleyways. Historically they were used for trash and waste removal, and the inclusion of alleyways in an urban row could maximize the number of dwellings in one block. Currently they are a unique challenge and opportunity for the City and residents because the alleyways are subject to varying levels of illegal dumping and vandalism of adjacent property.

Residents also use the alleyways for pedestrian perambulation through the city, off-street parking and in a few cases for gardening and open space. Originally owned by Enel North America (who absorbed what was left of the Essex Company), the alleyways are now in an unknown state of ownership because they have not been successfully granted to and accepted by the City. Redevelopment options for the alleyways have been explored by GWL. Examples can be found in the LID Alleyway study.<sup>20</sup>

Two alleyways are used for gardening. One space has a few raised garden beds that are tended by the adjacent homeowners, and the other is owned by Groundwork Lawrence. In addition to gardening

<sup>19</sup> Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Smart Growth Toolkit - [http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart\\_growth\\_toolkit/pages/mod-40R.html](http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit/pages/mod-40R.html)

<sup>20</sup> Groundwork Lawrence Low Impact Development Alleyway Guide <http://www.groundworklawrence.org/library>

in alleyways and community space, Lawrence residents garden in their yards and adjacent vacant lots. Vacant lot gardening provides food for residents, but in Lawrence, as in many urban areas, contamination of the lot could be present. Typical concerns are lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) which is a byproduct of burning certain materials. The Planning Department maintains a list of vacant and non-vacant city-owned lots in the city that are periodically proffered for sale as surplus property. Because of zoning restrictions, some City-owned lots are not buildable for businesses or residences and could meet the demand for more public gardening space. The City, through the Community Development Department, is establishing a more comprehensive list of these lots that would be suitable for garden development and determining what, if any, contaminants might be on site. The City has been successful in utilizing EPA Brownfields funding to conduct assessment on city property and plans to build on that program for vacant lots for gardens and other development.



Another remnant of Lawrence's industrial heritage are the North and South Canals. The Canals run parallel to the Merrimack River and were created to bring water power to the mills along the river. The canals are also owned by Enel which is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the walls. Water levels remain low in the canals due to the instability of those walls and raceways that extend to the mills. The Lawrence Heritage State Park maintains a portion of the sidewalk adjacent to the North Canal along Canal Street and adjacent property owners maintain other sections. The North Canal walkway provides a pleasant walking environment but a loop of the canals on both sides of the river has gaps lacking sidewalk and the South Canal along Merrimack Street does not have as many trees, benches or other amenities as the North Canal. The North Canal Cleanup in October 2004 removed ten tons of debris and trash from the canals, removed weeds along the walls and planted bulbs near the canal bridges. The work on that day highlighted the condition of this piece of City infrastructure and the work necessary to enhance it.<sup>21</sup>

The power of Lawrence's rivers was used for industrial development until the mills were less viable and the industry began to decline. As in other Massachusetts industrial and formerly industrial communities, that legacy left behind contaminated and sometimes abandoned sites that monopolized large portions of waterfront access. One such location was known as the Brook Street Site. A former industrial laundry facility, the site was pinpointed to be a neighborhood park by a community planning process initiated by Lawrence CommunityWorks in 2001. Groundwork Lawrence developed plans for the brownfield with help and support from the adjacent residents, Lawrence CommunityWorks, the City of Lawrence, and a landscape architect. The park, now named Dr. Nina Scarito Park, was constructed in 2006 and is a showcase brownfield-to-park project. Building on that success, Groundwork Lawrence and the City repeated their success with the construction of a 5 acre park along Stevens Pond that was completed in 2009 and christened Manchester Street Park.

Dr. Nina Scarito Park and Manchester Street Park currently are destination-points along the burgeoning Spicket River Greenway.<sup>22</sup> The Greenway is envisioned as a three-mile long "emerald

<sup>21</sup> North Canal Restoration and Enhancement Study; Groundwork Lawrence; April 2005; <http://groundworklawrence.org/files/library/nc-study.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> The Spicket River Greenway Design Guidelines <http://www.groundworklawrence.org/spicketrivergreenway>

bracelet" of green spaces and walking paths connecting parks and open space through multiple neighborhoods and helps support the community's dual goals of riverfront restoration and neighborhood revitalization. Other parks to be linked along the river include Kennedy Playstead (completed in 2007), Misserville Park (renovated in 2007), Hayden Schofield Playstead and Immigrant Park. Linking parks and neighborhoods with car free access is an important tenet of smart-growth development, neighborhood revitalization, and improving the health of Lawrence residents.

## Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

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### B. Geology, Soils and Topography

Lawrence's surficial geology includes Floodplain Alluvium, Till or Bedrock, and Sand and Gravel Deposits. Floodplain Alluvium is located along the Merrimack, Spicket, and Shawsheen Rivers, extending as much as half a mile beyond the Merrimack water channel in some locations. Till or Bedrock can be found in the Prospect Hill/Back Bay and Tower Hill neighborhoods of North Lawrence, as well as some portions of South Lawrence, particularly the Saunders Street Neighborhood. The balance of the city's land is comprised of Sand and Gravel Deposits. See the figure of the surficial geology in Attachment A.

Lawrence's elevation changes approximately 210 feet from the lowest to the highest point within city limits. The lowest points are 40 to 45 feet above mean sea level, located along portions of the Merrimack and Shawsheen Rivers. Downtown Lawrence, which extends along Essex and Common Streets, is at an elevation of 50 to 56 feet above sea level. Much of the rest of the city is located at elevations between 50 and 150 feet above sea level. The highest elevation, approximately 250 feet, is near the water standpipe at the Reservoir on Tower Hill in the northwest corner of the city. The Reservoir is one of the city's largest open spaces, with 20 acres of land, walking paths, and tennis courts. The same elevation is achieved approximately a half-mile to the south, just west of the Our Lady of Good Counsel School. From this point, the grade drops some 200 feet over a distance of approximately 1500 feet to the northern banks of the Merrimack. The second highest point in the City is Prospect Hill, located in the northeast part of the city. Prospect Hill also held a reservoir that has since been closed and built over. The elevation at the peak of Prospect Hill is approximately 190 feet above sea level. Over a very short distance, the elevation drops more than 100 feet from Storrow Park to Marston Street below, creating some of the city's steepest slopes.<sup>23</sup>

In addition to the Reservoir and Storrow Park, the most dramatic topographic features in the City are Den Rock Park and the Frost School Park, both located in South Lawrence. Abundant elevation changes, frequent rock outcroppings, and a natural wooded setting make the 120 acre Den Rock Park valuable for hiking, rock climbing, and nature observation. At the Frost School Park, steep rock cliffs surround the athletic fields, with a shear drop in excess of fifty feet. In addition to providing a dramatic backdrop for the fields, the cliffs could potentially be used for rock climbing.<sup>24</sup>

### C. Landscape Character

The City of Lawrence encompasses just over 7 square miles, less than half the size of the surrounding communities of Methuen, Andover, and North Andover. The City's landscape is defined by an unusual combination of natural features, including its three rivers and two hills, and by its remarkable works of industrial engineering and architecture, most notably the Stone Dam, the North and South Canals, and the Ayer Mill Clock Tower. Lawrence's urban landscape is also defined by a tightly woven

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<sup>23</sup> City of Lawrence 1997 Open Space Plan, Lawrence Community Development Department, p. 8

<sup>24</sup> Ibid, p. 8

network of streets, alleyways, parks, and civic buildings, many of which were laid out as part of the original plan for the city in the 1850s. Finally, the city's chimneys and smokestacks, bell towers, steeples, and bridges contribute to a varied and dramatic vista from many vantage points both inside and outside Lawrence.

Lawrence is split roughly in half by the Merrimack River, which flows in a northeasterly direction towards Newburyport and Salisbury. The Spicket River enters the city at its northwest corner by Stevens Pond, and flows southeast through the city until it reaches the Merrimack River near the intersection of Canal and Marston Streets. The Shawsheen River flows north through Den Rock Park until it meets the Merrimack at a point roughly opposite the confluence with the Spicket River. The Shawsheen River also forms a portion of the boundary between Lawrence and North Andover. Den Rock Park forms part of the southeastern boundary of the city.

#### *D. Water Resources*

Lawrence has a wealth of natural and engineered water resources, which are contained within the Merrimack River watershed and the Shawsheen River sub-watershed. These resources include three rivers, two canals, Stevens Pond, Jacque's Pond, and the Reservoir. These water resources have tremendous ecological, historic, and recreational value, and could be greatly enhanced for the benefit of both city residents and the regional ecosystem. The Merrimack River is the state's second largest drinking water source for over 300,000 people in Lowell, Lawrence, and Methuen.<sup>25</sup> The water resources are also potential economic assets, as they contribute to the desirability of the city as a place to live and do business. Several recent initiatives and events in Lawrence demonstrate the growing level of public interest in the city's water resources:

- The Greater Lawrence Community Boating Program, located at the Abe Bashara Boathouse near Riverfront State Park on the Merrimack River<sup>26</sup>, hosts several community events each year, such as the Lawrence Celebration Regatta, the Tony LaHoud Memorial Sailing Classic, and several other educational and community events. In 2006, a competitive youth rowing team was formed that hosts many home meets during the school year, including an annual full squad scrimmage with Phillips Academy. In 2009, guided kayak tours of the Merrimack River were offered.
- Groundwork Lawrence's Annual Spicket River cleanups have been continually successful. 2009 was the 8<sup>th</sup> cleanup with approximately 350 volunteers and approximately 10 tons of garbage collected. Due to low water levels in 2007, the Spicket volunteers removed 17 tons of trash and scrap from the river banks by an unprecedented 700 volunteers. After eight years of Cleanups, thousands of residents have removed 92 tons of trash and over 1000 tires from the Spicket River.
- In 2005 local boaters, Rocky and Paula Morrison, organized the first Merrimack River Scavenger Hunt in response to the amount of trash visible along the banks of the river. The first Hunt collected and removed 300 tires and two 30-yard dumpsters of trash. Two years later they started the non-profit Clean River Project and have organized regular cleanups since. In 2007, a "tire-pullout day" removed over 500 tires from the river and 23 cars with the help of the Massachusetts State Police.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2004 RGI and Enel sponsored and organized the first canal cleanup. To safely remove debris, Enel lowered the water level to access the bottom and required safety gear such as

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<sup>25</sup> Merrimack River Watershed Council; <http://www.merrimack.org/watershed/surfacewater.html>

<sup>26</sup> Greater Lawrence Community Boating Program [www.boatingprogram.com](http://www.boatingprogram.com)

<sup>27</sup> Clean River Project [www.cleanriverproject.org](http://www.cleanriverproject.org)

waders, goggles and heavy gloves. Ropes, ladders and baskets were also necessary to pull items out of the canal. Then in 2005, Groundwork Lawrence and the Architectural Heritage Foundation submitted an application to the National Park Service “Save America’s Treasures” Program for funding to research and repair the canal’s bridges.<sup>28</sup>

- With the assistance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Nashua National Fish Hatchery, the Essex Agricultural and Technical High School released Atlantic Salmon smolts (young adult fish) at the base of the Great Stone dam in April of 2009. The hope is for the salmon to migrate to the Atlantic and then return to the Merrimack to spawn.<sup>29</sup>
- The Shawsheen River Watershed Association has regular cleanups, canoe trips and camping on the Shawsheen from Bedford to Lawrence. Since 2002, more than 2000 tires have been removed as well as pallets, lumber, and other trash. In the winter of 2008, the group also successfully removed a waste oil canister from the river that had been washed there by flooding.<sup>30</sup>
- Building on the community involvement begun by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs sponsored Urban River Visions program, Manchester Street Park (the former Covanta Site) received grant funding for construction and brownfield remediation and was completed in July of 2009.
- The Friends of Jacques Pond are currently studying what environmental protections are feasible around the pond by methods that include a zoning change to Open Space Conservation and regulations on stormwater management and snow removal. The group is hoping to create a handbook with resident input for planning and protection around the pond that addresses the water quality.
- After significant community input and outreach by Lawrence CommunityWorks, Groundwork Lawrence developed a plan for and the City received a grant to construct a park on the Spicket River at the “Brook Street Site” in 2005. The park, renamed Dr. Nina Scarito Park, opened in 2006 and is a neighborhood amenity with community gardens, basketball court, a gazebo and walking trail.
- After similar neighborhood outreach and collaboration with Arlington Community Trabajando (ACT) and Central Catholic High School, Groundwork Lawrence developed a plan for and the City received a grant to construct a park adjacent to the Spicket River at the former “FEMA site,” a location that after the 2001 flooding saw the removal of 14 homes by FEMA. The park includes a portion of the Spicket River Greenway, playground, picnic areas and a shared softball field.
- Misserville Park, located next to the Leonard School and the Spicket River, was renovated in 2007 and includes expanded green space reclaimed from the parking lot, a basketball court and the city’s first designated skate-park. In addition, a school yard garden was constructed in



2007 Spicket River Cleanup at the confluence of the Spicket River with the Merrimack River

<sup>28</sup> North Canal Restoration and Enhancement Study; Groundwork Lawrence; April 2005; <http://groundworklawrence.org/files/library/nc-study.pdf>.

<sup>29</sup> Eagle Tribune; A true fish story: Essex Aggie students release Atlantic salmon into Merrimack River; April 10, 2009.

<sup>30</sup> Shawsheen River Watershed Association <http://www.shawsheen.org/>

- the school courtyard that includes low maintenance perennials, flowering trees and significant space for garden education for the middle school students.
- The Spicket River Greenway, a trail of green spaces and paths connecting parks and neighborhoods along the Spicket River was derived from a multi-year collaborative effort that has included the City of Lawrence, Groundwork Lawrence, numerous other community organizations, and a diverse group of stakeholders. Groundwork Lawrence continues to advocate for further enhancement of the Greenway through neighborhood cleanups, design charrettes, and community events. Through the DCR Recreational Trails Grant Program, the City's Community Development Department and Groundwork Lawrence have created design documents for portions of the trail after completion of a topographic survey of the entire 2.5 mile section of the Spicket River from Stevens Pond to Scarito Park.

#### ***Rain to Recreation – Examples of Open Space uses for storm water management***

*After a regional watershed based approach to exploring water quality concerns and improvements, the city of Lenexa, KS created wetlands and lakes for flood retention and improving water quality. Their "Rains to Recreation" program specifically created dry bottom detention basins for use as sports fields. These open spaces are connected to neighborhoods and commercial areas by greenways.*

*Curitiba, Brazil has a high quality of life which is partially from an increase in parks and pedestrian amenities over the past 30 years. Most parks are on land unsuitable for development due to flooding and the linear park system provides buffering from these floods between rivers and streams and the adjacent neighborhoods.*

*Houston, TX's Cullen Park includes sports fields, drainage, trails and bathrooms all designed to withstand flooding that occurs in heavy rains that overfill the city's reservoir.*

*Brush Creek Park in Kansas City, MO was built as storage for big storms and a means for water recirculation for late summer droughts by the US Army Corps of Engineers.*

*2004; The Trust for Public Land and American Water Works Association; Land Conservation and the Future of America's Drinking Water.  
 2000; The Urban Land Institute and the Trust for Public Land; Inside Urban Parks.  
 April 9, 2007; "A Convenient Truth: Urban Solutions from Curitiba, Brazil" MariaVazPhotography in Association wth Del Bello Pictures. Video posted to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRD3lMpo&NR=1&feature=fvwp>*

The Merrimack River is considered a Class B waterway<sup>31</sup> which means that it is a habitat for fish and other wildlife and is also suitable for drinking water with appropriate treatment<sup>32</sup>. However, there are still major challenges to the health of Lawrence's rivers, including illegal dumping, Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO), stormwater runoff, bank erosion, and the persistent presence of invasive species. The Arlington Neighborhood experienced significant flooding in 2001 and 2006. After repeated floods, a portion of the neighborhood at Marion Avenue was declared a FEMA flood zone in 2001 and is now the site of Kennedy Playstead. The Spicket and Shawsheen rivers in particular suffer from illegal dumping of trash as well as oil and other toxic substances from auto body shops along the river.

<sup>31</sup> Mass DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Report for Lawrence Water Department, p. 2

<sup>32</sup> 314 CMR 4.0 Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards

There are no currently mapped DEP designated Zone IIs, Interim Wellhead Protection Areas or Surface Water Protection areas within the boundaries of the City. There are SWPAs directly upstream and downstream of the Merrimack, however. (For definitions of IWPA, SWPAs see <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/wspaglos.htm> )

The historic flooding patterns of all three rivers in Lawrence have been drastically altered due to development, storm water controls and the construction of Interstate 495. However, significant portions of the city (17% according to MVPC's Merrimack Valley Region Natural Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan) are located within the 100-year flood plain of the three rivers. Following is a summary of the flood plains along the banks of the three rivers.

#### *Merrimack River*

Much of the flood plain along the Merrimack River is undeveloped, or developed as parkland. Portions of the flood plain are also located within the Interstate 495 right-of-way. Several neighborhoods and businesses are located within the 100-year flood plain, including:

- An eight-block area southeast of the Guilmette School, which encompasses portions of Water Street, Medford, Melrose, Chandler, and Oxford Streets.
- A large area in the southwest portion of the city between Andover Street and the southern banks of the Merrimack, which encompasses part of the Lawrence Industrial Park.
- All of the area north of Merrimack Street between South Union Street and I-495, which includes several large mill buildings and parking lots.

#### *Shawsheen River*

Much of the land along the western side of the Shawsheen River is within the 100-year floodplain. Most of this land is undeveloped and is part of Den Rock, Shawsheen, Costello, and Coyne Parks, or within the corridor between I-495 and the river. The only developed area within the 100-flood plain is at the confluence of the Shawsheen and Merrimack Rivers. This area, which includes both residential and industrial uses, encompasses portions of Portland, Market, Greenfield, Salem, Loring, and East Streets, and Crawford Road.

#### *Spicket River*

Several densely developed residential and commercial areas are located within the 100-year flood plain along the Spicket River. This includes the FEMA flood zone in the Arlington neighborhood (roughly bounded by Manchester and Holly Streets and the former Marion Avenue). In addition, the areas south of the river between Hampshire and Short Street, which includes the City Yard, are within the 100-year flood zone. A 16-block residential area north of the Spicket River is also within the 100-year flood zone, and is roughly bounded by Lawrence Street, Park Street, and Broadway. This includes the Hayden-Schofield Playstead, a heavily used neighborhood park with two ballfields. On the eastern end of the Spicket River, a large portion of the former Gencorp and Oxford Paper sites are within the 100-year flood zone. This area is under construction for new downtown parking and design plans have been created for a new park along the river.

#### *Wetlands*

The City of Lawrence has relatively few wetlands, due to the intensive development of riverfront lands and other areas over the past 150 years. Most of the wetlands that remain are concentrated along the undeveloped portions of the Shawsheen River and Merrimack Rivers. This makes the case all

the more important to preserve these existing wetlands, and to ensure that there is no further degradation of the city's wetland resources.

In 2005 the Lawrence Conservation Commission expanded the state wetland ordinance (25 foot buffer along all rivers) to recognize and further protect certain extended areas as wetlands. This designation provides for stricter regulation surrounding the city's wetlands, water resources, and adjoining lands when new development or redevelopment projects are proposed. Four additional riverfront areas were assigned to the City's rivers - 200 feet, 100 feet, 50 feet, and 25 feet based on the existing unique characteristics, development densities and uses.<sup>33</sup> This additional designation is important in preserving the existing wetlands and wildlife corridors that they provide. Further protection of riverbanks and wetlands could be accomplished through conservation or recreation easements (sometimes called a conservation restriction) that "sets aside" property and restricts development completely in a specific area.

#### ***What do wetlands do and what do they provide?***

- *Flood control*
- *Silt Catchment*
- *Erosion Control*
- *Groundwater Recharge and filtration*
- *Vital habitat*
- *Recreation and Economy*

*The US Environmental Protection Agency;*  
<http://www.epa.gov/bioiweb1/aquatic/importance.html>

North Lawrence has virtually no wetlands, save for a very small area inside the cloverleaf of the I-495 interchange and a narrow band along the north bank of the Merrimack between the Spicket River and I-495. In South Lawrence, the wetlands along the Shawsheen River are primarily Wooded Swamp Deciduous, with smaller areas of Shallow Marsh Meadow or Fen. The wetlands on the south banks of the Merrimack River by the Industrial Park primarily consist of Wooded Swamp Deciduous, with several isolated areas of Shrub Swamp and Shallow Marsh Meadow or Fen. In addition to these areas, there are several small, isolated wetlands in the southwestern part of the City, including Jacques Pond and the area behind Donovan Playground. All of these smaller wetland areas are classified as Wooded Swamp Deciduous, Shallow Marsh Meadow or Fen. (see map in Attachment A).

Lawrence has 12 Potential Vernal Pools and no Certified Vernal Pools as identified in an aerial survey by Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program

(NHESP). A cluster of Potential Vernal Pools is in Den Rock Park and the other isolated pools are also in South Lawrence. For these locations as identified by NHESP, please see Attachment F.<sup>34</sup>

#### **D. Vegetation**

Much of Lawrence's old growth vegetation is located in Den Rock Park, where the dominant species include White and Red Oak and Gray Birch. Other species include Scotch Pine, White Pine, Poplars and Red Maples. The understory consists primarily of high blueberry bush and ferns.<sup>35</sup> Lawrence's three rivers are home to a variety of wetland plant species, including several spectacular weeping willows along the upper sections of the Spicket River. Invasive species are also prevalent in these areas,

<sup>33</sup> City of Lawrence Codes and Ordinances Rivers and Protection Ordinance September 30, 2004 p. 8

<sup>34</sup> Swain, Patricia C.Ph.D. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program; City of Lawrence Open Space Plan Response Letter. October 23, 2009.

<sup>35</sup> City of Lawrence 1997 Open Space Plan: Community Development Department, p. 12

especially Japanese Knotweed and Oriental Bittersweet. Other common species include Tree of Heaven (Acanthus), Sumac, and Poison Ivy. These plants, which choke native vegetation, are also commonly found in many of the city's vacant lots, alleys, and parks. Beyond the riverfront areas, a variety of mature and attractive trees can be found in the neighborhoods of Mt. Vernon, Colonial Heights, and sections of Prospect Hill and Tower Hill. In many of the city's neighborhoods, however, older street trees have been removed or destroyed by disease, leaving these neighborhoods with a poor urban tree canopy bereft of greenery. Several historic downtown streets including Essex, Common, Canal and Salem Streets are lined with attractive street trees. Species on these streets include Honey Locust, Pin Oak, and Princeton Elms.

Since 2004 over 440 trees have been planted in the City with assistance from Groundwork Lawrence, private contractors, and volunteers. Tree species include pear, lilac, liberty elm, London plane, honey locust and others. Many trees like river birch, silver maple, willows and black gum were planted in new parks but, in 2008 GWL piloted a new GreenStreets Program with 18 trees planted in various city neighborhood road rights-of-way. In 2009, GWL planted an additional 60 trees. Trees within the road right-of-way are planted on private property and the homeowners take care of the trees, but the entire community benefits from the shade, beauty and countering of the urban "heat-island" effect that the "private" trees provide.

#### *E. Fisheries and Wildlife*

The intensity of development and limited vegetative cover in Lawrence has minimized the extent of wildlife habitat over the years. Nonetheless, a great variety of fish and bird life can still be found in and around the city's riverfront areas. Three types of wildlife habitat are common to Northeastern Massachusetts: open land, woodland, and wetland. Of these three types, wetlands are by far the most common in Lawrence. Below is a summary of each of the habitat areas and their characteristics:



2008 GreenStreets Tree Planting at Salem and Market Streets in South Lawrence.

- 1) Open land habitat consists of cropland, pasture, meadows, and areas that are overgrown with grasses, herbs, shrubs, and vines. These areas produce grain and seed crops, grasses and legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. The kinds of wildlife attracted to these areas include woodchuck, mourning dove, meadowlark, field sparrow, eastern cottontail rabbit, and red fox.
- 2) Woodland habitat consists of areas of hardwoods or conifers, or a mixture of both, and associated grasses, legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. Wildlife attracted to these areas includes ruffed grouse, woodcock, thrushes, woodpeckers, squirrels, gray fox, raccoon, porcupine, and deer mice.
- 3) Wetland habitat consists of open marshy, swampy, or shallow water areas where water-tolerant plants grow. Some of the wildlife attracted to such areas include ducks, geese, herons, shore birds, muskrat, snapping turtle, and beaver.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>36</sup> City of Lawrence 1997 Open Space Plan: Community Development Department, p. 12-13

A portion of the Shawsheen River just north of 114 has been identified by NHESP as an uncommon natural community - a Small River Floodplain Forest which is a silver maple/green ash forest on alluvial soils. This particular community is currently degraded by abundant exotic species, disturbance, and no buffer from development.

Rare and protected species that have been found in Lawrence include birds, vascular plants, and invertebrates. Our neighboring communities of Andover, Methuen and North Andover are also identified by NHESP to have significant Core Habitat for Watch Listed Species like river birch (*Betula nigra*) and the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and recently a listing of Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) just over the border in Methuen. The habitat areas are shown on the map in Appendix F but are predominantly focused near water resources. River birch is a species found in a floodplain forest and while Lawrence does not have any communities identified by NHESP, stands of the tree with peeling bark are visible along the Merrimack and Spicket's banks. The bald eagle, peregrine falcon and other raptors have increased their population in Massachusetts due to restoration and environmental laws. Numbers of peregrine falcons reached the "pre-DDT" levels for the first time in 2007 after successful introduction of young falcons into the state (NHESP 2009). Peregrine falcons can be found and prefer roosting in high man-made or natural structures that overlook water bodies. The Bald Eagle uses the Merrimack River for winter habitat and is protected and monitored by NHESP.

According to NHESP, Lawrence has lost many species of the past century and a half. It is very important to protect and manage the existing habitat along Lawrence's floodplains and riverside areas to prevent habitat fragmentation for these protected and non-protected species. NHESP states,

Completing conservation protection of remaining unprotected land along the rivers, with buffers included where possible, would enhance the viability of these special areas - size and continuity of open space is particularly important for supporting wildlife populations. Preventing habitat fragmentation is vital in protecting the ecosystem, for the rare species on the enclosed list, as well as for additional common species, particularly reptiles and amphibians.<sup>37</sup>

For further information about Lawrence's rare and listed species, please see the NHESP letter and mapping information in Appendix F.

The Merrimack River is also home to a variety of fish. The most common species found in Lawrence are American Shad, River Herring, Sea Lamprey, Striped Bass, and Atlantic Salmon.<sup>38</sup>

Merrimack River Essex Dam, Lawrence, Massachusetts (as of: 10/31/08)	
Species	Total Returns to Date
Atlantic Salmon	119
American Shad	25, 116
River Herrings *	108
Striped Bass	6

<sup>37</sup> Swain, Patricia C.Ph.D. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program; City of Lawrence Open Space Plan Reponse Letter. October 23, 2009.

<sup>38</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anadromous Fish Returns for the Merrimack River at the Essex Dam, Lawrence, as of 10/31/08: [www.fws.gov/r5cneafp/returns.htm](http://www.fws.gov/r5cneafp/returns.htm)

Sea Lamprey	4,873
*River herring refers collectively to two fish species: blueback herring and alewife	

A new fish lift was completed just prior to completion of the 2004 Open Space Plan that should have improved passage for anadromous fish in the Merrimack River. Unfortunately, numbers of shad and herring specifically have collapsed across a wide range of their habitat, so the numbers represented above do not reflect improvement from 2004.<sup>39</sup> The lift constructed at the Essex Dam in Lawrence works well, but has a limited flow range. For example, during extremely high (i.e. 2006 Mother's Day Flood) flow events, the fish cannot find the entrance to the lift. The Fish and Wildlife Service is looking for funding to increase passage and capacity in the Spicket River in order to improve habitat for anadromous fish in the Merrimack River watershed. In addition, there are currently three dams under study for removal on the Shawsheen being led by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Coastal America Foundation.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 2008 Annual Report; <http://www.asmfc.org/>

<sup>40</sup> Eagle Tribune; Experts study Shawsheen's Future: Dam removal evaluation begins; May 15, 2008

## *F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments*

Lawrence has a wealth of scenic resources and unique environments, many of which have been discussed earlier in this section. These resources include riverfronts, forested settings, and a variety of historic structures and landscapes. The City's most outstanding scenic resources are summarized below:

- **The Great Stone Dam**, designed by Charles S. Storrow, Chief Engineer for the Essex Company, was completed in 1848 to power Lawrence's vast mills. At the time of its construction it was the longest dam in the world, measuring 1629 feet.<sup>41</sup>
- **The Everett Mill** is one of the City's largest mill buildings, standing six stories tall and occupying an entire city block. The Everett Mill Clock Tower, which faces the eastern end of Essex Street, creates an impressive anchor to the city's historic main street.
- **Merrimack River Views:** There are a number of outstanding views of the Merrimack River located throughout the City, especially from the many bridges and the 495 highway overpass. Several locations along the riverbanks also afford excellent views, especially at the Abe Bashara Boathouse, Pemberton Park, and Riverfront State Park.
- **Rollins School Clock Tower:** This stately brick school building and clock tower were built in the early 1900s as part of a citywide school building program that also included the Bruce, Tarbox, Wetherbee, Hood, and Breen Schools. The Rollins School is named for John Rodman Rollins, a two-term Mayor of Lawrence who also served as paymaster of the Essex Company and cashier for the Pacific Mills.<sup>42</sup>
- **Water Tower and Reservoir:** The Water Tower and Reservoir on Tower Hill are among the city's most important historic sites. Built in 1896, the water standpipe was designed by City Engineer Arthur D. Marble to hold more than 500,000 gallons. The brick casing for the tower, designed by Lawrence architect George G. Adams, is the tallest building in the city with an observation deck at 107 feet above the foundation. The Reservoir originally had a storage capacity of more than 40 million gallons of water.<sup>43</sup> Although a portion of the Reservoir has since been filled in, it still serves as the City's primary facility for water storage.
- **City Cemeteries:** The City's three cemeteries (Bellevue, St. Mary's, and Immaculate Conception) on Tower Hill are significant both for their historic and scenic value. In total, the cemeteries comprise more than 130 acres of land.
- **Historic Mill Buildings:** The enormous mill buildings lining the Merrimack River are perhaps the city's most distinctive feature. With close to twelve million square feet of space, these buildings are testament to the city's industrial past. Among these, the Pacific Mill, Washington Mill, Wood Mill, and Ayer Mill are the largest. In 1924, mill buildings covered nearly 300 acres of land along the Merrimack River.<sup>44</sup>



**Everett Mill building and Clock Tower**

<sup>41</sup> Images of America- Lawrence Massachusetts: Eartha Dengler et al, p. 12

<sup>42</sup> Images of America- Lawrence Massachusetts: Eartha Dengler et al, pp. 105, 115

<sup>43</sup> Images of America- Lawrence Massachusetts: Eartha Dengler et al, p. 47

<sup>44</sup> Images of America- Lawrence Massachusetts: Eartha Dengler et al, p. 42

- **Ayer Mill Clock Tower:** The Ayer Mill Clock Tower, built in 1910 as part of the American Woolen Company headquarters, is the largest mill clock in the world. The clock tower was completely restored in 1998.
- **Arlington Mills and Stevens Pond:** The Arlington Mills complex, originally built in the late 1800s, is now used by Polartec, LLC (formerly Malden Mills) to manufacture their signature Polartec fleece fabric. After a devastating fire in 1995, Malden Mills built a new facility on the site and continues to be one the city's largest employers. Stevens Pond, located at the center of the complex, is one of the most attractive features of the site and includes a small dam with a walkway connecting the north and south sides of the Spicket River. In 2009, Manchester Street Park opened on the North side of Stevens Pond. The new park includes a large open space, playground, community gardens and a dramatic overlook of the pond and mill buildings. The City received funding in 2009 from the DCR Recreational Trails Grant Program to complete the park's connection with the Spicket River Greenway.
- **Campagnone North Common:** The Campagnone North Common was included in the original plan for the city. The 17 ½ acre park was donated by the Essex Company to the young city of Lawrence. The Common had a bandstand and a pond as well as the pathways, veteran monuments and trees that you see today. Historically, the houses and buildings facing the Common had specific rules regarding the height, material and usage of the structure. The Common was renamed the Campagnone North Common after three sons of a Lawrence family were killed in World War II.
- **Shawsheen River Walkway:** This walkway, which meanders along a section of the Shawsheen River through Costello Park and behind the South Lawrence East School, offers lovely views of the river and surrounding woods and wetlands. The Walkway and Shawsheen River are also used as an outdoor classroom by some Lawrence High School teachers.
- **Den Rock Park** is the city's largest open space, with 120 acres of woodland trails and a natural rock face used for climbing.
- **Views from Storrow Park:** The views from Storrow Park on Prospect Hill are among the best in the city. The Ayer Mill Clock Tower, Lawrence City Hall tower, and other landmarks are visible from the walkways and benches along High Street.
- **Wall Experiment Station:** The Senator William X. Wall Experiment Station, also known as the Lawrence Experiment Station sits on the Merrimack River just upstream of the Great Stone Dam. The facility, designated as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers, was one of the first laboratories in the world to conduct environmental research.<sup>45</sup> Beginning in November 2007, a \$22 million expansion and renovation will take 2 years to complete and the finished building will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified with photovoltaic cells, rainwater recycling, stormwater management, and green roof designs.

#### *G. Environmental Challenges*

Like many industrial cities in New England, Lawrence faces significant environmental challenges related to the contamination of land and buildings from former industrial uses. This is especially true of the city's waterfront sites where industrial activity was historically concentrated. Recognizing this, the City has been actively working with private landowners to clean up and redevelop contaminated sites. Since 2004, the City of Lawrence has received \$800,000 in EPA Brownfields Funding for Site assessment and cleanup. GenCorp is scheduled to complete their clean-up at the 8 acre former manufacturing site on Canal Street in the fall of 2009. Adjacent to that site, the Massachusetts Highway Department and

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<sup>45</sup> Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; <http://www.mass.gov/dep/about/organization/wes.htm>

the City of Lawrence have been working collaboratively to remediate a 3 acre site. The two sites together will become parking and a passive park along the Spicket River. The parking lot construction will begin this year but the park is currently not funded.

There are currently 44 DEP Tier Classified Oil or Hazardous Materials sites in Lawrence (Tier Classified Sites are oil or hazardous waste sites that have been reported to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and “tier classified” under M.G.L. Chapter 21 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan).<sup>46</sup> More than half are located on or near a river; for approximate locations see Attachment A. Lawrence still has one solid waste site after two DEP solid waste sites

closed in Lawrence since 2004. The remaining location, a materials recycling facility operated by Waste Management, Inc, is on Marston Street.<sup>47</sup>



**Flooding in the Arlington Neighborhood – 2006  
(Photo by J. Duxbury)**

Flooding along the Spicket and Shawsheen Rivers continues to be a major problem. The 2006 Mother’s Day event flooded half of the Arlington Neighborhood along the Spicket River.<sup>48</sup> Rainfall between 10-15 inches was recorded in Northeastern Massachusetts over four days. The estimated property damage (commercial, residential, and municipal) along the rivers exceeded \$34 million.<sup>49</sup> For maps of the 500 and 100 year flood plains, please see Attachment A.

Native invasive species and non-native invasives make up a portion of the flora along the rivers and in Lawrence green spaces. Invasive species degrade floodplain and adjacent habitat and NHESP recommends monitoring conservation land and removing invasives before they become a problem and impact native species. The predominant trouble plants (not all non-native) are Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). In park construction and renovation projects the City includes measures to remove the invasives at the site during construction; unfortunately, the long term maintenance and diligence required in final removal of some invasives is more than the Department of Public Works (DPW) can currently manage.

Erosion along the three rivers is not currently an issue that dramatically affects residents and properties. The banks of the three rivers is mostly stable; flooding is an issue as previously discussed, and with the flooding, some areas see deposits of sand and sediment that is costly to clean up. A large portion of the Merrimack has existing development including buildings and parking lots directly abutting the river, so there is concern that contaminants can be regularly washed into the river. Unchecked or increased stormwater runoff from new impervious area can be a significant factor for new erosion concerns on river banks or sloped areas. Future development on all three rivers will be subject to

<sup>46</sup> For more information visit <http://www.mass.gov/dep/> or for the Massachusetts Contingency Plan see <http://www.mass.gov/dep/cleanup/laws/mcptoc.htm>

<sup>47</sup> [www.wmdisposal.com](http://www.wmdisposal.com)

<sup>48</sup> Informing the Plan for a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area for the Neighborhood of Arlington in Lawrence, MA. MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning; Fall 2007.

<sup>49</sup> DRAFT Merrimack Valley Region Natural Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan; Merrimack Valley Planning Commission; Spring 2009.

current stormwater and wetland regulations which protect against erosion potential by the development.

There are a few areas of the City where steep riverbank slopes exist as defined and mapped by the USDA and NRCS however most of the City is identified as “water or urban land-no slope.” The steeper locations with a slope of 25-35% are along the north bank of the Merrimack along Water Street as well as the southern bank of the Merrimack near Wolcott Street and Riverfront State Park. Although mapping does not show it, some locations along the Spicket have significantly steep banks or sedimentation issues. Some steep areas, based on observation, include the bank across from Scarito Park, the bank under the E. Haverhill Street Bridge and some sections along Erving Avenue. The DPW yard also sits on the southern bank of the Spicket at Auburn Street. For their operations they are required to stockpile piles of sand, gravel, and dirt which without proper storage and management could pose threats to the Spicket. All of these locations should be given special attention for any increase in the level of existing erosion, adverse impacts by new and existing development, and if necessary soliciting professional recommendations for repairing the river bank and armoring against further erosion.

Lawrence's alleyways are a unique environmental challenge. Historically used for garbage and sewer access to homes, the alleyways have since fallen into disrepair and negligence without an obvious

owner. The alleyways are predominantly paved surfaces used for parking and garage access.

They consistently have poor drainage and can be found as illegal dumping grounds of household waste, larger items such as televisions, computer monitors, mattresses and other white goods. Groundwork Lawrence has developed schematic visions for Low Impact Redevelopment of the alleyways that await funding availability and a comprehensive plan for establishing ownership.

<sup>50</sup> Wetlands Regulations, 310 CMR 10.04, and the Water Quality Certification Regulations, 314 CMR 9.02, define low impact Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to mean



*Image from GWL North Common Alleyways Guide. Examples of LID techniques include permeable pavement, stormwater catchment and infiltration trenches and green walls.*

innovative stormwater management systems that are modeled after natural hydrologic features. Low impact development techniques manage rainfall at the source using uniformly distributed decentralized micro-scale controls. Low impact development techniques use small cost-effective landscape features located at the lot level.<sup>51</sup>

LID techniques such as rain gardens, infiltration beds, or permeable pavement are comprehensive approaches to the stormwater management of a site or facility and generally attempt to “treat the rainwater where it falls” instead of large catchment basins and piping.

<sup>50</sup> Groundwork Lawrence Low Impact Development Alleyway Guide <http://www.groundworklawrence.org/library>

<sup>51</sup> Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook 2008 can be found here <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/laws/policies.htm#storm>

## **Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest**

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There are 41 publicly owned parks in the City of Lawrence, comprising a total of more than 270 acres of open space. Approximately half of these parks are less than 2 acres in size. The majority of these parks are owned and managed by the City, with the exception of the Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, the Riverfront State Park, Abe Bashara Boathouse, and Pemberton Park, which are owned and managed by the State Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Twenty of these parks include active recreational facilities and fifteen provide opportunities for passive recreation.

Open Space and areas for recreation in Cities are important to the health and strength of the community and its residents. Cities' built environment encompassing streets, sidewalks, buildings, and infrastructure and the less structured open space affect the daily lives of residents by providing healthy means of getting to work and safe places to exercise. A community as a whole is healthy because of safe access to parks and open space across their City. The report, *Strategies for Enhancing the Built Environment to Support Healthy Eating and Active Living* by the Healthy Eating Active Living Convergence Partnership outlines several organizational practices and policies that can shape healthy communities through the built environment. Two main components are walkable and bikable neighborhoods and park and recreation facilities. Parks and recreation facilities provide the space for unstructured or structured outdoor play and a walkable community has equal opportunity access to those amenities.

The City of Lawrence, like most Massachusetts communities, uses zoning to define and restrict use on its land. The Open Space and Recreation (OSR) zone is the most basic of definitions for protecting and maintaining park and recreation areas and is defined to "permit public recreational uses in areas which will benefit and be compatible with surrounding uses." Areas zoned Open Space Conservation (OSC) are designated to "preserve natural resources and environmentally significant area while promoting public access for passive recreation..." Also for OSC zones, infrastructure is only permitted to promote passive recreation and access to the natural areas. Changes to zoning are required to have a public hearing, a positive recommendation by the Planning Board and a vote by the city council. Any infrastructure proposed in an OSC area must also be approved by the Conservation Commission.

There are other mechanisms for protecting land in the Commonwealth which include conservation restrictions (CR's), deed restrictions, and combinations of the same. "Conservation restrictions are interests in land acquired through gift, purchase, or regulatory exaction which are designed to preserve natural resources from adverse future change"<sup>52</sup> Municipalities through their Conservation Commission or non-profits can "hold" the restriction on property which defines the potential uses or lack of uses on land that the owners wish to preserve in a specific way. Deed restrictions are legal covenants included in the property deed which are imposed on a buyer at the time of sale of the property. These can limit the use on property and restrict development, hence protecting the land or preserving an existing use.

Although quite dense and urbanized, the capacity for green connections of the existing parks and open space is vast. With the burgeoning Spicket River Greenway, existing trails along the Shawsheen and Merrimack Rivers, vacant lots and alleyways, Lawrencians could walk to work, school, and home on almost exclusively off-road routes. With regional connections, residents of Lawrence and neighboring communities could walk, bike and hike through a large portion of the Merrimack Valley including New

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<sup>52</sup> Massachusetts Conservation Restriction Handbook; Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; First Edition 1991 rev 2008 <http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/eea/dcs/crhandbook08.pdf>.



*Shawsheen River Trail behind  
South Lawrence East School*

Hampshire as well as further south towards Boston. Regional initiatives are detailed in Appendix E but include connections to the Bay Circuit trail to the west of Lawrence through Andover, northern connections along the Spicket River and former rail lines in Methuen and into Salem, connections south through Den Rock Park along the Shawsheen River into Andover. Regional non-motorized connections are not limited to off road trails. Andover is moving forward with sidewalk and streetscape improvements along Rt 28 that include lighting, landscaping and more pedestrian space. To date, Andover has completed Wheeler Street to Stevens Street and is seeking funding to complete the area from downtown Andover to the Lawrence border. In their planning in the Open Space Plan and Master Plan, The Town of Andover identified linkages and locations for improved access to the Shawsheen and their existing river trail that could extend to their border with Tewksbury and the 93 Junction Project.<sup>53</sup>

Section 3C discusses the quantity of open space in Lawrence but a discussion of access to open space can be accomplished by reviewing the 1/10 th mile walking distance to parks. In that analysis one can see the *coverage* of parks in relation to areas with high concentrations of children. The radius was chosen for the walkability and universal access of this short distance. As previously mentioned, the northern portion of the City's open space distribution is 2 acres per 1000 people and in south Lawrence is 7 acres per 1000 people. The heavy use of parks and playgrounds in the north portion of the city is reflected by the sheer concentration of young people as shown in the map depicting that density (Attachment A). This map also displays the locations in the City that do not have parks within the tenth of a mile radius. As the City utilizes and improves existing parks and infrastructure in neighborhoods, increasing the coverage of parks could become a future goal.

The following six pages tabulate park land and recreational space in the City by owner and usage.

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<sup>53</sup> I-93 Interchange Project Information <http://i93tritowninterchange.mhd.state.ma.us/>

## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan

### Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Name	Size (acres)	Owner	Management Agency	Current Use			Special Characteristics			DCS Funded	Public Access	HC access	HC Zoning	Other Statutory Protections	
				X=Existing	P=Potential	Active Recreation	Passive Recreation	Pocket Park	Historic Resource						
<b>Public Ownership</b>															
<i>Existing Parks</i>															
Bourgoin Square	2.7	City	City		X						N	Y		I-2	None
Bruce School Park	1.7	City	City		X					X	N	Y		R-2/R2A	None
Campagnone Common	17.5	City	City		X	X			X		N	Y		OSR	Local Historic District, National Register Historic District
Costello Park	6.9	City	City			X			X		N	Y		OSR	None
Coyne Park	5.2	City	City						X		N	Y		OSR	None
Cronin Park	1	City	City				X				N	Y		R3/R4	National Register Historic District
Den Rock Park	81.8	City	City			X			X		N	Y		OSC	None
Donovan Park	3.4	City	City				X		X		N	Y		R2/R3	None
Frost School Recreation Complex	2	City	City		X					X	N	Y		R1/ R1A	None
Geisler Pool		Mass. DCR	Mass. DCR		X						N	Y	Y		
Gagnon Park	1.2	City	City				X				N	Y		R-2/R2A	None
Guilmette School	1.5	City	City		X					X	N	Y		OSR	None

## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan

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				X=Existing	P=Potential	Active Recreation	Passive Recreation	Pocket Park	Historic Resource							
Hayden Schofield Playstead	3.1	City	City		X						N	Y		OSR	None	
Kennedy Playstead	1.3	City	City		X		X				Y	Y	Y	I2/R3	None	
Lawrence Heritage State Park	0.5	Mass. DCR	Mass. DCR						X		N	Y		B3	None	
Higgins Pool		Mass. DCR	Mass. DCR		X						N	Y	Y			
Highland Park	0.2	City	City					X			N	Y		I2/B1/R3 /R4	None	
Howard Playstead	4.6	City	City		X						N	Y		OSR	None	
Immigrant Place	1.6	City	City			X					N	Y		B2/OSR	None	
Lindquist Playstead	2	City	City		X						X	N	Y	OSR	None	
Manchester Street Park	5	City	City		X	X				X		Y	Y	Y	OSR	AUL
Marston Street Park	7	Mass Highwa y	Mass Highway		X							N	Y		R2/R2A	None
McDermott Park	0.5	City	City					X			N	Y		R2	None	
Misserville Park	1.6	City	City		X	X				X	Y	Y	y	R3	None	
Mount Vernon Park	12	City	City		X						N	Y		OSR	None	

## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan

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				X=Existing	P=Potential	Active Recreation	Passive Recreation	Pocket Park	Historic Resource						
O'Connell South Common	11	City	City		X	X			X			N	Y		OSR ?
O'Neill Park	6.9	City	City		X							N	Y		B2/R3 None
Oxford Street Park	0.2	City	City					X				N	Y		B2 None
Parthum School	1.5	City	City		X						X	N	Y		OSR None
Pemberton Park	3	Mass. DCR	Mass. DCR				X					N	Y		I2 National Register Historic District
Plainsman Park	0.7	City	City					X				N	Y		R3 None
Reservoir and Water Tower	20.8	City	City			X			X			N	Y		R2/R2A National Register Historic District
Riverfront State Park/ Bashara Boathouse	12	Mass. DCR	Mass. DCR				X			X		N	Y		OSR/R1/ I1 ?
Reviviendo Playground	0.25	City	City					X				N	Y		B2 None
Rowell Park	0.8	City	City					X				N	Y		R3/R4 None
Dr. Nina Scarito Park	2.78	City	City		X	X						Y	Y	Y	OSR None
Shawsheen Park	9	City	City			X				X		N	Y		R1/OSR ?
South Lawrence East School	5	City	City		X							N	Y		OSR/R1/ R1A/R2 None

# **City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan**

## **Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest**

## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan

### Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Name	Size (acres)	Owner	Manage- ment Agency	Current Use		Special Charact- eristics			DCS Funded	Public Access	HC access	Zoning	Other Statutory Protections	
				X=Existing	P=Potential	Active Recreation	Passive Recreation	Pocket Park						
Boys & Girls Club: Rec. Center and Playing Fields	n/a	Boys & Girls Club	Boys & Girls Club		X					N	Members only		B2	None
Sons of Italy: Playing Fields	n/a	Sons of Italy	Sons of Italy		X					N	Members only		I3	None
Union and Mechanic Community Garden	n/a	Ground work Lawrence	Groundw ork Lawrence			X				N	Members only		B2/R3	
YMCA: Rec. Center and Pool	n/a	YMCA	YMCA		X					N	Members only		B3	None
Private Ownership														
Bellevue Cemetery	?	?	?					X		N	Y		R2/R2A	None
St. Mary's Cemetery	?	?	?					X		N	Y		R2/R2A	None
Immaculate Conception Cemetery	?	?	?					X		N	Y		R2/R2A	None
Duck Bridge Riverfront	?	KGR Properties	KGR Properties		P			P		N	N		I2	National Register Historic District
East Island Riverfront	8	(window manufacturer)	(window manufacturer)	P	P			P		N	N		I2	National Register Historic District

## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan

### Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Name	Size (acres)	Owner	Management Agency	Current Use			Special Characteristics			DCS Funded	Public Access	HC access	HC Zoning	Other Statutory Protections	
				X=Existing P=Potential	Active Recreation	Passive Recreation	Pocket Park	Historic Resource	Natural Resource						
Malden Mills/ Covanta	?	Malden Mills/ Covanta	Malden Mills/ Covanta	P	P			P			N	N		I2/40R/P IOD	National Register Historic District
South Merrimack Riverfront	?	multipl e owners	multiple owners	P	P			P			N	N		I1,I2	None
Jacque's Pond	?	?	?		P			P			N	N		R1/R1A/ R2/R2A	?
Plycraft site	?	Merrim ack Paper?	Merrimac k Paper?	P	P			P			N	N		I2	?
North Canal	n/a	Enel North Americ a	Enel North America		P		P			N	Limited		n/a	National Register Historic District	
South Canal	n/a	Enel North Americ a	Enel North America		P		P			N	Limited		n/a	none	
Tombarello site	?	First Essex Bank?	First Essex Bank?	P	P					N	N		I3	none	

### *A. Private Parcels*

The roughly 14 Lawrence alleyways in the North Common comprise approximately 2.5 acres of land in the heart of the downtown area. One alleyway (the “Garden Street alleyway”) was transformed in 2004 to a passive park. Residents from the adjacent homes participated in a charrette with Groundwork Lawrence to create a plan for the space, and on Earth Day with help from corporate sponsors and volunteers, the trash was cleaned out and stormwater rain gardens (see sidebar) were constructed along the edges of the alley. The gardens have native and flowering plants and a grape arbor was constructed for a shady place to sit on granite benches. One resident planted a tree just outside of her back gate and tends this space diligently. Unfortunately the alley garden still experiences vandalism and illegal dumping. A second alleyway off of Elm Street has raised wooden garden beds that the adjacent homeowners garden in. These beds were constructed in 2006 when the alleyway was cleaned out of garbage and overgrown vegetation by corporate volunteers and residents.

Additional large private parcels include the former Oxford Paper site which is currently slated for parkland in conjunction with the reconstruction of the Spicket bridge at Canal Street. In addition the so-called “Ferrous Site” at the end of the East Island is a large parcel (approximately 4 acres) with little development on it at this time. The connection across the Spicket from the Oxford Site to the Ferrous site would tie the Spicket River Greenway to the Merrimack River. Other privately owned and undeveloped property along the Spicket River is in the Arlington Neighborhood. Approximately 2 acres of property between Wells Street to Broadway currently has no buildings and lies within the 100 year flood plain.

### *B. Public and Nonprofit Parcels*

Groundwork Lawrence, as a land trust, owns and manages a community garden in the North Common Neighborhood in an alleyway adjacent to Union and Mechanic Streets. The garden was constructed in 2006 with the help of volunteers. The garden houses two large stone beds and nine people garden there. The Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence is on the north bank of the Merrimack River and opened a renovated 58,000 square foot facility in 2006. The club recreational spaces include game rooms, two gymnasiums, swimming pool, and a large backyard field. Members enjoy sports leagues, karate classes, swimming lessons and additional summer program activities. The Boys and Girls Club also operates the Beacon Club in South Lawrence whose recreational facilities include an outdoor field and basketball courts. The Lawrence branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA has a wellness center, two gymnasiums, aquatic center, track and racquetball courts. The YMCA also has sports programs for youth and adults as well as Day Care and After School Care. Movement City at Our House, managed by Lawrence CommunityWorks, offers after school programming in dance, music, art and homework help at their facility on Newbury Street.

#### **Rain Gardens**

*Bioretention is a technique that uses soils, plants, and microbes to treat stormwater before it is infiltrated and/or discharged. Bioretention cells (also called rain gardens in residential applications) are shallow depressions filled with sandy soil topped with a thick layer of mulch and planted with dense native vegetation. Stormwater runoff is directed into the cell via piped or sheet flow. The runoff percolates through the soil media that acts as a filter. Bioretention areas can provide excellent pollutant removal for the “first flush” of stormwater runoff. Properly designed and maintained cells remove suspended solids, metals, and nutrients, and can infiltrate an inch or more of rainfall.*

*2008 Massachusetts Stormwater Manual  
– Chapter 2 – Structural BMPs*

## **Section 6: Community Vision**

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### **A. Description of Process**

As part of the Open Space Plan renewal, Groundwork Lawrence conducted extensive public outreach, individual interviews with local officials, and distributed open space plan surveys in English and Spanish. Groundwork Lawrence presented the Open Space Plan renewal to Neighborhood Associations, the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Historical Commission, Board of Health, and Lawrence Redevelopment Authority. A small number of residents participated in the three community meetings, but over 250 residents completed surveys. Below is a summary of the outreach and presentations made for the 2009 Open Space Plan.

- One on one interviews were conducted with Frank McCann, Director of Public Works; Susan Fink, Acting Director of Community Development Department; Linda Schiavone and Nelson Ortiz, Department of Recreation; Tom Schiavone, Mayor's office; Mike Sweeny, Director of Planning; John Romero, Chief of Police; Peter Takvorian, Fire Chief; and Dennis DiZoglio and Alan Macintosh, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. Interviews are summarized in Attachment B.
- Presentations were made to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Historical Commission and the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority to discuss the 2004 Open Space Plan and its achievements as well as solicit input for the 2009 Plan. Notes from the presentations are summarized in Attachment B.
- Presentations were made at the following neighborhood association meetings from September to November 2008: General Donovan Neighborhood Association, South Common Neighborhood Association, Tower Hill Neighborhood Association, Lawrence Alma Arlington Neighborhood Association, Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association, and the North Common Community Safety Meeting. In addition, the Tower Hill Neighborhood Association, South Common Neighborhood Association and the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Associations published information about the Open Space Plan renewal and community surveys in their print or online newsletters.
- Groundwork Lawrence hosted three public meetings on October 2, 9 and 16 to solicit community input and involvement in establishing goals for the 2009 Open Space Plan. Meeting notices were faxed to every public school principal and organized PTA in Lawrence; additionally, the meetings were advertised with posters and/or flyers at the following events and locations:
  - LiveLawrence! presents Edwin Pabon on September 18
  - Manchester Street Park public meeting September 24
  - Lawrence Alma Arlington Neighborhood Association Meeting September 25
  - General Donovan Neighborhood Association Meeting September 29
  - Greater Lawrence Community Action Council
  - YMCA of Lawrence
  - Boys and Girls Club
  - Lawrence CommunityWorks – Our House and Hennigan Center
  - Lawrence Public Library-Main Branch
  - Lawrence Public Library-South Branch
  - Lawrence City Hall
  - Lawrence Public Schools-Central Office
  - 60 Island Street
  - Lawrence Farmers Market

- Flyers were displayed on Lawrence Community Access Television
- The resident surveys were available at the community meetings and after the meetings were concluded Groundwork Lawrence continued accepting resident surveys in hand and online from our website through the month of November. A copy of the resident survey is included in Attachment C. Promotion of the surveys was completed in the following ways:
  - Fax of the survey and Open Space Plan information to every public school principal and organized PTA;
  - The Groundwork Lawrence Green Team had a contest as to who could return the most completed surveys;
  - Surveys and a poster were displayed at LiveLawrence! Canal Illuminations on October 5; and
  - Emails were forwarded to Lawrence residents in the Groundwork Lawrence mailing list as well as to all Neighborhood Association presidents.
- Copies of the flyers, poster, and slides for cable access are included in Attachment D.
- For research on regional trail and pedestrian improvements, see Attachment E for a list of interviews and research documents.

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

Through the Open Space Plan meetings Lawrence residents asked for and visualized many changes and improvements not just to the parks and open space but the City's infrastructure and community as a whole. Feedback highlighted that the existing density and diversity of the City can be expanded upon and enhanced through stronger open space connectivity, public involvement, and municipal oversight.

Lawrence's community vision for infrastructure and public open space includes safe spaces, clean spaces and a consistently maintained park and trail system. Across the board residents were clamoring for more maintenance in parks and public space. Maintenance includes trash removal, lawn and planting care, equipment repair and brush removal. The citizens who attended the meetings and responded to surveys envision walking through their neighborhood or even from one end of the City to the other through well maintained trails and lush parks. Residents could stop by their community garden or the Farmers Market then shop on Essex St or Broadway. Some residents would plan to bring their dogs and stop at a new dog park to let the dog off-leash for an hour or more. Many residents will bring their children and even more will likely be children or teens going to visit friends and family or merely taking a fun bike ride. Well maintained parks and trails, safe bicycle routes, and activities for youth and teens creates a healthy Lawrence community. A community as a whole is healthy because of safe access to parks and open space across their City.

This community vision can be realized through further public-private partnerships, support of DPW, and systematic enhancement of trail connections between parks and the region. Lawrence is a small community with fantastic resources that can be shared and enjoyed by residents and the Merrimack Valley Region.

## Section 7: Analysis of Need

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### A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Lawrence is a highly urbanized community with 72,000 (2000 Census) people living on seven square miles. Currently 14 parks are not covered by Open Space Recreation or Open Space Conservation Zoning. Rezoning all city parks to Open Space Recreation is recommended as a minimum for protection of these assets. With new mixed use developments of mill buildings in the City, the population stands to grow and the demand for parks and recreation to increase. The consensus from community officials and residents during the Open Space Planning Process was for a focus on existing parks and no great demand for creating new parks was evident. In turn, the residents demanded an increase in maintenance and upkeep. Until the City can afford to maintain existing infrastructure, construction of new parks should be a lower priority. However, construction of connections between parks, enhancing existing trails, and facilitating greater use of the parks in the City can bring more users to parks and in turn more stewards. Because of this mandate, protection and enhancement of the current resources are highly important.

The Statewide Conservation Open Space and Recreation Plan is the Commonwealth's Open Space and Recreation Plan – outlining goals, priorities and deficits for open space and recreation across the Commonwealth. The Northeastern region of the state ranks fifth (out of seven) among the regions in open space acreage and percentage of regional land in open space. A strong concentration of that land is in Essex County. This is a strong resource base for Lawrence residents to participate and enjoy regional activities, but as we have found, the community and the region lack access to much of these amenities. The Northeast Region's popular activities matches much of the statewide patterns with swimming, walking, sightseeing, hiking and fishing at the top of the list. However, the region has stronger reported demand and activity of sports like baseball, soccer, tot lot activity, sunbathing, horseback riding, off-road vehicle driving, snowmobiling, boating, surfing and hockey. The above state average demand for soccer, baseball, and tot lot activity is a reflection in Lawrence of the average age and population demographics.

*Parks and Greenways can mitigate air pollution and increased temperatures. Mature tree canopies can reduce air temperature five to ten degrees, helping to counteract the urban heat island effect, according to the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture, and trees filter pollutants out of the air. According to American Forests, trees in Atlanta remove 19 million pounds of pollutants annually, a service worth \$47 million.*

*The Trust for Public Land, How Parks Help Keep Americans and Their Cities Fit and Healthy. 2006*

A special note is necessary on regional satisfaction of bikeways – the Northeast region residents report the highest level of dissatisfaction for bikeways for reasons of cleanliness, maintenance and other. Although not as strong, the same is true for forests with capacity and attractiveness cited as complaints. The Northeast Region has a high satisfaction level for cultural and historical sites, followed by wildlife conservation areas. Again, there is a great quantity of resources close to Lawrence – in the region and Essex County and improvements should be made to bring residents from the dense cityscape to the nature in their county and region's backyard.

#### *Parks and Trails*

Habitat and resource protection in Lawrence is possible in a few ways. Large open spaces provide the most obvious type of habitat, but rivers and protected

pathways provide additional habitat for wildlife through the urban center by linking these open spaces. The burgeoning Spicket River Greenway could enhance the network for wildlife through the densest part of the city and the Shawsheen River is already protected along a large portion of its path through South Lawrence. These rivers and the Merrimack are part of a greater regional habitat for wildlife; expanded protection in Lawrence through open space recreation and conservation can also tie into regional recreational trail endeavors. Den Rock Park with its 120 acres of woodland and wetlands is protected by Open Space Conservation zoning. This method of zoning further protects land from development than Open Space Recreation zoning which can still fall prey to development pressures.



Jacques Pond

Regional trails protect wetland resources by providing a buffer from neighboring development. (for benefits of buffers, see below ) Andover's trails on the south bank of the Merrimack are within a 50-100' conservation restriction behind existing businesses and institutions. Since a large portion of land along the rivers is currently in private ownership, long-term protection of these corridors will require the development of effective public-private partnerships. Trail stewards and recreational users can protect riverfront buffers from illegal dumping and keep it undeveloped and therefore able to provide necessary

habitat and stormwater management. Along the Shawsheen River, through volunteers, the SRWA removed a grease trap that had washed into a remote portion of the river during the 2006 flooding and conducts regular clean-up activities and monitors for illicit stormwater discharges. The Andover Trails groups cleaned the area up from dumping 20 years ago and now through their presence prevents dumping and can react to the rare instances of it.

#### *Forests and Tree Canopy*

A 2004 statistical study of Lawrence's street trees show that the city is overplanted with Norway Maples which has the potential to provide optimal conditions for insects and disease through this lack of diversity. The Norway Maple is also an invasive species that reseeds aggressively and out competes other species. The city's street trees are all primarily young trees under 16" diameter. These young trees need regular maintenance and care to become a strong urban forest in years to come.<sup>54</sup> This survey was of street trees in the city and a proper inventory of the full breadth of the city's trees including trees in the parks has not been done. A study published in 2007 showed that "New York City receives \$5.60 in benefits for every dollar spent on trees."<sup>55</sup>

Groundwork Lawrence and the City partnered on tree planting initiatives in 2007 and the City continues their "Tree City USA" status that was first achieved in 2002. 17 trees were planted on the North Common, 6 trees on the Bodwell Lot, and more at the Tarbox School, St. Patrick's School, Hayden Schofield Playstead and Appleton Way. Species planted included pear, lilac, London plane, honey locust, crab apples, maples and others. The Groundwork Lawrence's "GreenStreets" Program provides trees to homeowners for their yard. The residents receive a planted tree and instructions on maintaining the tree for its first two years. 78 trees have been planted in the first two years of the program. The North Common and South Common are home to many significantly sized trees but no survey on the make-up

<sup>54</sup> The Community of Trees of Lawrence MA; Jane Calvin MA DCR Urban Forestry Program p.4

<sup>55</sup> Maybe Only God can Make a Tree, but Only People Can Put a Price on It; The New York Times; April 18, 2007.

of species, sizes, or health exists. The city also does not have a long term care or replacement plan for their trees.

Beginning in early 2009, through support and collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the US Forest Service (USFS), Groundwork Lawrence convened an Urban Forestry Coalition of local officials and stakeholders to define goals to strengthen the urban tree canopy, identify improvement projects for the same and plan a tree inventory of Lawrence's trees. The support from DCR and the USFS also provided GIS analysis to highlight areas of need for increased tree canopy. This analysis will also be helpful in analyzing the threat of Asian Long Horned Beetle (ALB). ALB is a foreign beetle that bores into hardwood trees and destroys their vascular system. Trees affected include maple, elm, birch, willow, horse chestnut, poplar, sycamore, mimosa and katsura.<sup>56</sup> In Worcester County, a 74 square mile area has been quarantined with over 15,000 infested trees and over 10,000 high risk host trees have been removed.<sup>57</sup> According to the small study here, Lawrence is heavily planted with the most common trees affected, maple and birch.



**Dr. Nina Scarito Park Community Garden**

### *Gardening*

There are a handful of "squatter" gardens in Lawrence where residents keep vacant lots tidy and grow vegetables. Some concerns for these open space stewards is soil in these lots could have been impacted by previous uses. Typical problems with urban soils include lead contamination, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) and other heavy metals. Resources for protecting these gardens and the health of the residents is lacking. LID could be used in creative redevelopment of these lots; rainwater harvesting would lessen the need for municipal water for gardening and creative site design could attenuate stormwater impacts from adjacent properties. The City has begun a process to identify small undevelopable vacant lots and transform them into community gardens if environmental factors are safe or remediated and the neighborhood supports the effort. By partnering in this endeavor, neighborhood associations can help

outreach to members and neighbors who are gardening in unsafe conditions and engage them to create the design parameters for these new gardens.<sup>58</sup>

Illegal dumping is still prevalent in the city's rivers, vacant lots, and alleyways. Trash can attract rodents and also is hazardous to mammal and aquatic life. Some materials dumped include oils, tires, computer monitors and televisions as well as household white goods. Many of these items can leach heavy metals over time and are usually disposed of in hazardous landfills. Protection of resources from dumping is two-fold: enforcement of target areas combined with education and outreach as to how to safely and legally dispose of materials.

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<sup>56</sup> Massachusetts Regulated Area: The Asian Longhorned Beetle Plant Protection and Quarantine Factsheet; USDA Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service; August 2008.

<sup>57</sup> Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry Cooperative Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Project – Weekly Report; October 13, 2009.

<sup>58</sup> Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program – Fiscal year 2010 Application for funding for Neighborhood Community Gardens Initiative; Community Development Department; July 15, 2009.

Even though Lawrence is a very dense urban community, Lawrence residents are not oblivious to its natural areas; over half of the survey respondents rated land conservation to protect water and natural habitats as highly important.

#### *Waterways and Wetlands*

Three rivers run through the City of Lawrence: the Merrimack, the Spicket, and the Shawsheen. These three rivers, in combination with the North and South Canals, the Reservoir on Tower Hill, Stevens Pond and Jacques Pond constitute an unusual and important concentration of water resources. These resources are vitally important from an ecological, historic, and recreational standpoint (see Section 4 for more information about the city's water resources). Protecting the city's waterways is vital to improving the health of regional ecosystems, as well as enhancing Lawrence as a place to live, work, and do business. A 2005 report by the RGI Steering Committee outlines phases of research, planning, design and construction necessary to restore and enhance the North Canal. Those enhancements include restoration of the walls, bed, bridges, and mechanical infrastructure as well as studying the feasibility of repairing the capacity for energy production in adjacent mill buildings.<sup>59</sup>

As previously mentioned in Section 4, the largest area of wetlands in the city are along Rt 495 at the edge of the Shawsheen River. The two isolated wetlands in the City are within a 3.4 acre site owned by the City that includes a neighborhood playground, Donovan Park, and Jacques Pond located off Genesee Street in South Lawrence.<sup>60</sup> The Friends of Jacques Pond Association is currently determining the best means for further protection of this resource.

Buffers enhance viability of resource habitat areas and help filter runoff before reaching water bodies. Buffer zones are important in preserving the "physical, chemical, and biological" characteristics of wetlands and waterways.<sup>61</sup>

#### *Historic Sites*

The City of Lawrence has a wealth of historic buildings, parks and infrastructure with regional and national significance. In the context of open space protection, the most important historic sites are the North and South Canals, the Reservoir, the North and South Commons, and the cemeteries. The North Common was part of the original plan for the City prepared by Charles Storrow, and includes open lawns, recreational facilities, walking paths, performance spaces, play equipment, a baseball field, and historic monuments. In fact, in 1857 a gold fish pond was installed at the North Common with a public groundbreaking. The goldfish pond was replaced in 1914 with an artificial pond and fountain.<sup>62</sup> The Leonard Bernstein Stage now stands in place of the fountain.<sup>63</sup> The South Common offers many of the same amenities, with more space dedicated to recreational facilities.

The city's three cemeteries, located on Tower Hill, collectively make up more than 130 acres of land. These cemeteries offer a peaceful, green setting with walking paths and trees. Although they are not officially designated as city parks, they are frequently used for walking and jogging by nearby residents.

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<sup>59</sup> North Canal Enhancement and Restoration Study; Groundwork Lawrence; April 2005; <http://groundworklawrence.org/files/library/nc-study.pdf>.

<sup>60</sup> City of Lawrence 2004 Open Space Plan Community Development Department p. 32

<sup>61</sup> Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; Wetlands PPA Summary and Workplan; July 2009.

<sup>62</sup> Dorgan, Maurice B. One Hundred Years of History of Lawrence, MA; 1924.

<sup>63</sup> Walking Tour of Lawrence Common; Lawrence History Center.

The cemeteries are also significant historic sites and should be considered part of the city's open space system. Built in 1847, Bellevue Cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.<sup>64</sup>

Another site only tangentially discussed in Open Space Planning is the Reservoir on Tower Hill. A number of residents frequently use this area for walking and quiet reflection. The Reservoir is protected by OSR Zoning, local historic district designation, and is maintained by standards protecting the water quality although there has been little aesthetic enhancement in regards to benches or permanent shade structures.

The City should consider developing more detailed design guidelines for plantings, pathways, lighting, and other features in the North and South Common, cemeteries, and Reservoir that are in keeping with the historic character of these important civic spaces. Finally, the Bodwell site in the North Common neighborhood has significant historic value. This small lot was the location of the oldest house in Lawrence prior to its demolition in 1957. The lot is still vacant with a small historical marker; in 2007 six trees were planted at the lot. Sadly, the young trees did not survive and need to be removed and replaced.

#### *B. Summary of Community's Needs*



Young park stewards and parents – Boy Scout troop volunteers.

The Open Space Survey asked residents to choose their top 5 items most important for future investments. The top five responses were a swimming pool, walking trails, bike paths, family picnic areas and basketball courts. The parks in Lawrence with the greatest use according to the Survey were the North Common, Howard Playstead, Misserville Park (from a large proportion of Leonard school respondents), Dr. Nina Scarito Park, South Common, Riverfront Park and Shawsheen Park with the top activities there being walking, jogging, playing sports, biking and social gatherings. These survey responses speak to a desire in the community for active and diverse recreation

spaces. Lawrence residents and families look for space that groups or individuals can go to relax, play, and socialize. The parks with the most use provide almost all of the desired park activities of the community—sidewalks and paths, playgrounds, unstructured lawn, picnic and sitting areas and shade. The North Common, in the heart of the city, contains all but a swimming pool and is a focal point of the dense downtown matrix. Two public pools are operated in Lawrence by the Department of Conservation and Recreation located at Storrow Park and near the South Lawrence East School. The pools charge a nominal fee, are very busy in the open months, and generally close in August.

In interviews City officials expressed a desire for focusing investments on existing parks in the City over the next five years and specifically the North Common. All officials and employees discussed the challenges of encouraging festivals such as carnivals and car shows with their heavy traffic on the North Common while also protecting the grounds. Currently the North Common is the site for Semana Hispana and the Bread and Roses Festival, two festivals with high turnout celebrating the rich culture

<sup>64</sup> Massachusetts Cultural Resource Inventory; <http://mhc-macris.net/index.htm>

and history of the city. The City needs a site to hold these two festivals as well as the Feast of the Three Saints, currently utilizing the streets adjacent to the Common, which bring significant activity to the City.

The festivals celebrate the rich culture of the city, but unfortunately highlight issues with maintenance and city budgets. High use and traffic on the Common is damaging to the grounds and trees. Maintenance that addresses soil compacting and tree damage does not happen under the current budget. This neglect can have long lasting effects on the nature of the Common. The Recreation Department, responsible for almost 300 hours of free summer programming for youth, depends on the income and fees associated with the festivals and DPW collects a security deposit that is refundable to the users. This fee is nominal and hardly covers the high cost of staff time required when a user does not appropriately repair the grounds after a festival. It does not include any tree protection or maintenance associated with ground compaction due to equipment and trucks. During the interviews City officials discussed moving the festivals from the North Common to other locations such as Pemberton Park. The Canal District Strategic Master Plan identified Pemberton Park as a location for an outdoor performance space as a means of reconnecting the Downtown area to the Merrimack River.<sup>65</sup> Pemberton Park is the site of the annual Kite Festival-a Family Fiesta because of the large lawn space, access to the River and sufficient parking. For some, the festival grounds of Pemberton Park seem too far removed from downtown foot and vehicular traffic while the abuse of the North Common is almost sacrilegious to others. A plan for festivals, post-activity maintenance, and requirements for the users should be created with public involvement in order to meet the needs of the users, respect the historical significance of the site, and protect its natural resources.

*The Broken Windows theory was first published in a 1982 Atlantic article by James Q. Wilson. "...at the community level, disorder and crime are usually inextricably linked, in a kind of developmental sequence. Social psychologists and police officers tend to agree that if a window in a building is broken and is left unrepairs, all the rest of the windows will soon be broken. ...one unrepairs window is a signal that no one cares, and so breaking more windows costs nothing."*

Lawrence residents express a desire and concern for safety in their community. Safety and security, as discussed in the survey and community meetings encompasses multiple aspects. Residents strongly desire more regular maintenance in parks and the city as a whole. Regular maintenance and enforcement of dumping and graffiti were the top responses in many survey questions including concrete actions the city should take to improve open space and recreation, overall goals the city should set for recreation and open space, changes they would like to see for youth and adults, the level of satisfaction in youth spaces and programming as well as perceived obstacles to improving open space and recreation. 58 out of 180 Lawrence respondents wanted the parks and streets cleaned and maintained when asked "What concrete actions should the City take to improve Open Space and Recreation." Another large response was for improved planting, benches and paths. Not only do residents desire safer spaces but they state that the lack of safety from

traffic, drugs, and gangs is the City's greatest obstacle to improving open space. The lack of maintenance, enforcement, funding, and community perception can create an environment that fosters further dilapidation of the park and neighborhood. This has been tested in an experiment related to the "Broken Window Theory" (see sidebar) by researchers and police in Lowell: cleaning up the physical

<sup>65</sup> MassDevelopment and the City of Lawrence; Lawrence Canal District Strategic Master Plan; November 11, 2008; can be found at [http://www.cityoflawrence.com/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_WebDocs/cmp](http://www.cityoflawrence.com/Pages/LawrenceMA_WebDocs/cmp)

environment was proven to be the most effective in preventing crime over misdemeanor arrests and boosting social services.<sup>66</sup>

While 40% of survey respondents were satisfied with places and programs for play for children under 12, almost all of the additional comments stressed the concern with trash and broken equipment in the play areas. Similar rates of satisfaction were recorded for children aged 12-18 but the comments also included requests for more ball fields and basketball courts.

Lawrencians want more constructive and healthy activities for their children to take part in. Demand for park programming and cultural activity appears high in the survey and was a common theme at the community meetings. Eighty-two youth on average each weekday in July and August come to five park sites in the city (South Common, Howard, Storrow, North Common, and Riverfront) for activities during the day managed by the Recreation Department. The program is open to any young people every day with no registration or commitment required and there is no charge. To advertise the Recreation Department sends flyers to schools, advertises on the local radio, and places announcements in the Eagle Tribune and Rumbo.



2007 Earth Day Alleyway Cleanup.

Volunteer activities and youth programming topped the suggestions in five different survey questions; residents are taking advantage of the programming in the city, but are consistently looking for inexpensive activities for all ages. According to Recreation Department records, adult softball leagues that they manage have 107 teams and serve 2,300 residents and the street hockey league has 18 teams that play four times a week. Additionally, the Recreation Department permits 77 adult teams of soccer, softball, basketball and women's volleyball for a total of 1,500 active adults. Additional leagues permitted by the Recreation Department include eight

Little Leagues, two youth football leagues and youth soccer. The Recreation Department does not manage an active handball league that used to play in Lawrence as well as Worcester. While the City's last public handball court was removed at Misserville Park during the renovation in 2007, a new one will be constructed at Costello Park in 2010 and the Recreation Department will issue a permit for its use.

#### *Management Needs, Potential Changes of Use*

DPW Parks Division has a staff of five that includes one foreman and four laborers; this foreman is also the tree warden for the city. In 2004 the DPW staff included eleven individuals including a tree warden, a foreman, a graffiti-removal specialist, and eight laborers. In addition to park maintenance, street maintenance, and city building maintenance, the DPW is responsible for emergency tree removal and tree trimming. Previous generations in Lawrence saw a DPW Parks Division staff of 25 full time employees and roughly 200 summer employees.<sup>67</sup> From the initial adoption of parks in the City as public property to the 1900s there was a Parks Commission that reported on work completed and required in the City Parks. Mr. McCann and his staff are responsive to and appreciate volunteer cleanup

<sup>66</sup> Breakthrough on “broken windows”; In Lowell Experiment, crime linked to conditions. Boston Globe; February 8, 2009.

<sup>67</sup> City of Lawrence 2004 Open Space Plan Community Development Department p. 32

activity but DPW has to store trash or lawn and leaf bags and dispose of them outside of the regular trash collection. The director, in his interview, asked for maintenance free equipment installed in parks and establishing a surplus of certain items that can be replaced more quickly in the event of damage or vandalism. Grants cannot sustain maintenance in parks but can be used to purchase equipment and furniture in parks.

In highlighting maintenance and litter in the city parks, residents also discussed the vacant and abandoned properties and the alleyways. Residents see these spaces as a large opportunity for open space improvement if developed into positive uses. Specific community objectives included creating an inventory of vacant land and reclaiming it for a host of uses such as new recreation spaces, community gardens or beautification, and dog parks.

The survey responses to the questions regarding changes for adults, changes for youth, overall goals, and concrete actions all show a desire for age and gender focused times on the basketball courts and more toddler safe playgrounds. There were additional comments on creating better access and amenities for the elderly. Some suggested programming activities included concerts, clean-ups, movie nights, sporting events, and environmental education.

## Section 8: Goals and Objectives

The Goals and Objectives were compiled by the responses to survey question #11-What overall goals should the City set for recreation and open space, the community meetings' discussions of the same question and by responses to the needs of the community and resource protection needs outlined above. A desire for safety, cleanliness, and enforcement permeates every survey response and discussion with officials and community members. Lawrencians want and deserve safe clean places to play and socialize. They recognize the vast opportunities in the community as well as the very real obstacles to continued improvement and enhancement of natural areas and playscapes. Below are eight quite broad goals created by the community through meetings and surveys. The number one goal is safety through increased maintenance, without which, further park or policy improvements will suffer. Larger investment in park maintenance can lead to increased safe activity in the parks which in turn fosters community pride, a sense of ownership, and improved health of the community.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Goal Number 1. | Increase regular maintenance by dedication of more resources and decrease the amount of litter and debris in parks and open space                                       |
| Goal Number 2. | Improve safety and perception of safety through increased enforcement of illegal and unsafe activities in parks and open space  |
| Goal Number 3. | Decrease dependence and burden on the DPW by encouraging public-private partnerships to protect and maintain public space   |
| Goal Number 4. | Increase activity and attendance in parks by creating and implementing more active in-parks programming   |
| Goal Number 5. | Increase attendance in parks by creating and implementing more passive park elements  |
| Goal Number 6. | Increase pedestrian and biking activity by encouraging walking and biking for exercise and enhancing safety and connectivity between schools, neighborhoods, and parks. |

- Goal Number 7. Reclaim vacant lots and other abandoned and under-utilized land
- Goal Number 8. Increase access to waterfront resources (i.e. rivers, canals) through enhancement and protection

## Section 9: Seven Year Action Plan

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The elements of the Seven Year Action Plan are formulated to achieve the goals outlined above. It is also necessary to recognize the changing community of Lawrence that will be demonstrated with the completion of the 2010 Census. This Plan update relied on 9 year old census data and may not accurately depict the face of the city. All points in the Action Plan increase activity and programming in the city's open space as desired by Lawrencians but cannot be successful and thrive without increased maintenance and enforcement of safety in the city.

The following seven-year Action Plan identifies the tasks and objectives, schedule, and responsible parties required to implement the City's open space goals and objectives.

<b><i>To achieve Goal 1 : Increase regular maintenance by dedication of more resources and decrease the amount of litter and debris in parks and open space.</i></b>	<b><i>Anticipated Schedule</i></b>	<b><i>Primary Organizers</i></b>
Develop a detailed needs assessment for DPW parks maintenance operations and identify potential funding sources to supplement the existing budget.	2010-2011	DPW, Mayor's Office, Budget and Finance Office
Conduct a city-wide tree survey that accounts for street trees, park trees and trees on private property.	2010-2011	CDD, Groundwork Lawrence

<b><i>To achieve Goal 2: Improve safety and perception of safety through increased enforcement of illegal and unsafe activities in parks and open space.</i></b>	<b><i>Anticipated Schedule</i></b>	<b><i>Primary Organizers</i></b>
Build on existing Neighborhood Associations and police relationships to identify, track, and respond to crime in neighborhood parks.	2010-2017	Police Department, Neighborhood Associations, CDD
Work with Neighborhood Associations and police to create and implement educational programming about public safety for youth and adults.	2011-2017	Police Department, Neighborhood Associations, CDD, Recreation Department

<b><i>To achieve Goal 3: Decrease dependence and burden on the DPW by encouraging public-private partnerships to protect and maintain public space.</i></b>	<b><i>Anticipated Schedule</i></b>	<b><i>Primary Organizers</i></b>
Encourage public private partnerships to	2010-2017	Mayor's Office, CDD,

protect and maintain parks and open spaces.		Planning Department
Work with existing Neighborhood Associations to create “friends of” type groups for parks in their neighborhoods.	2011-2013	Neighborhood Associations, CDD, Planning Department, Mayor’s Office
In collaboration with the Lawrence Historic Commission and Lawrence History Center, outline a plan for a Friends of the North Common that includes studying existing “friends of” type groups and Business Improvement Districts to fund capital investments in the Common.	2011-2012	Historic Commission, Lawrence History Center, Bread and Roses Committee, Groundwork Lawrence, CDD, Planning Department
Create a plan for systematic inventory and improvements to the North Common focusing on its significance to the history of the city and the health and age of the trees.	2012-2014	Friends of the North Common, Historic Commission, Lawrence History Center, Bread and Roses Committee, Groundwork Lawrence, DPW
Enhance collaboration between DPW, Recreation, and the Planning and Community Development Departments with regular meetings between department heads in discussion of planning open space and healthy community initiatives.	2010-2017	Mayor’s Office, DPW, CDD, Recreation Department, Planning Department
Address the barriers to hiring Lawrence youth to maintain parks and trails in the summer months.	2010	Mayor’s office, DPW, DPW Union Representatives, Groundwork Lawrence
Establish City-wide day of service with Lawrence Public Schools in schoolyards, parks and open space across the city.	2011-2012	Lawrence Public Schools-Superintendent’s Office, Mayor’s Office, DPW, Groundwork Lawrence

<b>To achieve Goal 4: Increase activity and attendance in parks by creating and implementing more active in-parks programming</b>	<b>Anticipated Schedule</b>	<b>Primary Organizers</b>
Using the existing open space inventory, work with Neighborhood Associations, local non-profits, and existing recreation programs to create recreational programming in the parks for youth, teens and adults.	2011-2017	Neighborhood Associations, Recreation Department, non-profit youth programs(GWL, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, ACT, YDO etc)
Work with schools, Neighborhood Associations, local non-profits, and existing recreation programs to create educational environmental education programming in the parks.	2012-2017	Neighborhood Associations, Recreation Department, Lawrence Public Schools, non-profit youth programs (GWL, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, ACT, YDO

		etc)
Identify sources of and implement funding support for city led recreational programming.	2011	CDD, Mayor's Health Task Force, Groundwork Lawrence, Mayor's Office, Recreation Department
Establish and promote regular concert series in the parks.	2011	Mayor's Office, Lawrence Cultural Alliance, CDD
Establish and promote a regular movie series in the parks.	2012	Mayor's Office, Lawrence Cultural Alliance, CDD, Recreation Department
Establish a youth jobs initiative and apprenticeship to train Lawrence youth (ages 18-24) in landscaping and park maintenance.	2012	Mayor's Office, CDD, Groundwork Lawrence

<b><i>To achieve Goal 5: Increase attendance in parks by creating and implementing more passive park elements</i></b>	<b><i>Anticipated Schedule</i></b>	<b><i>Primary Organizers</i></b>
Continue to invest in park benches, picnic tables and trees and plantings in existing open spaces.	2010-2017	CDD, DPW, Groundwork Lawrence
Establish new passive recreation spaces in vacant lots and alleyways.	2012-2017	CDD, Groundwork Lawrence
Improve the quality of the open lawn space of parks and open spaces by systematic improvements and regular maintenance.	2017	DPW, Mayor's Office

<b><i>To Achieve Goal 6: Increase pedestrian and biking activity by encouraging walking and biking for exercise and enhancing safety and connectivity between schools, neighborhoods, and parks.</i></b>	<b><i>Anticipated Schedule</i></b>	<b><i>Primary Organizers</i></b>
Identify and map highly used pedestrian/bike corridors within the city and to surrounding regions.	2010	CDD, Planning Department
Build walking/bike paths in parks and between parks.	2011-2017	CDD
Install signage in parks and along highly traveled pedestrian corridors indicating distances traveled.	2011-2015	CDD, Mayor's Health Task Force, Department of Public Health
Conduct a "walkability" study for the entire city.	2011	CDD, Groundwork Lawrence, Department of Public Health
Build on the walkability study by creating a plan to improve safety and connections within highly used pedestrian/bike corridors.	2012-2014	CDD, Groundwork Lawrence
Build walking/bike paths between parks such as the Spicket River Greenway and	2012-2017	CDD, Groundwork Lawrence, Regional Trail and

expansion of the Shawsheen River trail and the proposed Riverwalk Trail.		Watershed Partners
Create trails and linkages between trails along all the waterways including the canals.	2013	CDD, Planning Department, Canal Abutters
Highlight regional trail connections and work with neighboring communities to collaboratively improve regional trails including implementing a “Rails to Trails” feasibility study.	2013	CDD, MVPC, Groundwork Lawrence, Methuen Rails to Trails

<b><i>To achieve Goal 7: Reclaim vacant lots and other abandoned and under-utilized land.</i></b>	<b><i>Anticipated Schedule</i></b>	<b><i>Primary Organizers</i></b>
Re-evaluate the open space demands and population statistics after the 2010 census and complete a buildout analysis that includes residential mill redevelopments.	2014	Mayor’s Office, Planning Department
Inventory and create a plan for reuse of vacant lots and other abandoned/under utilized land, including alleyways.	2010	CDD, Planning Department
Work with Planning Department to find safe garden locations for squatter gardeners and homeowners with contaminated soil.	2010	Planning Department, CDD, Groundwork Lawrence
Build upon Groundwork Lawrence’s Alleyway LID Report and Environmental Site Analysis of the alleyways to establish criteria for systematic improvements of the alleyways that meet community needs.	2011	CDD, Planning Department, Groundwork Lawrence

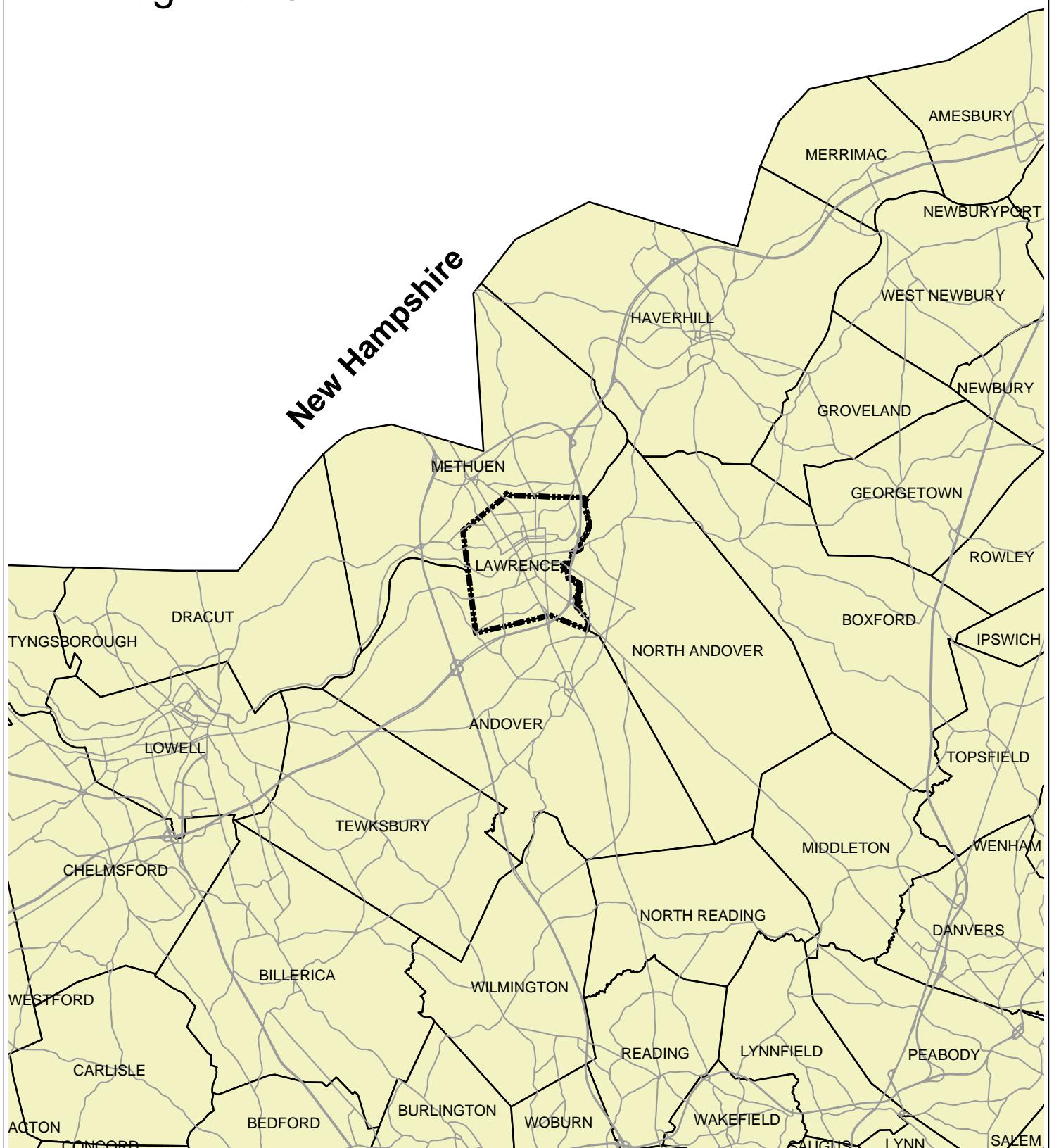
<b><i>To achieve Goal 8: Increase access to waterfront resources (i.e. rivers, canals) through enhancement and protection.</i></b>	<b><i>Anticipated Schedule</i></b>	<b><i>Primary Organizers</i></b>
Create a plan to remove invasive plants along the river using a Natural Resource Management Plan as a guide.	2010	Groundwork Lawrence, Conservation Commission
Initiate discussions around permanent cleanup and repair of the canals.	2011	CDD, Mayor’s Office
Support and encourage river cleanups on all three rivers.	2010-2017	CDD, Conservation Commission, Mayor’s Office
Build walking/bike paths between parks such as the Spicket River Greenway and expansion of the Shawsheen River trail.	2012-2017	CDD, Groundwork Lawrence, Regional Trail and Watershed Partners
Create trails and linkages between trails along the waterways including the canals.	2013	CDD, Planning Department, Canal Abutters

# Attachment A

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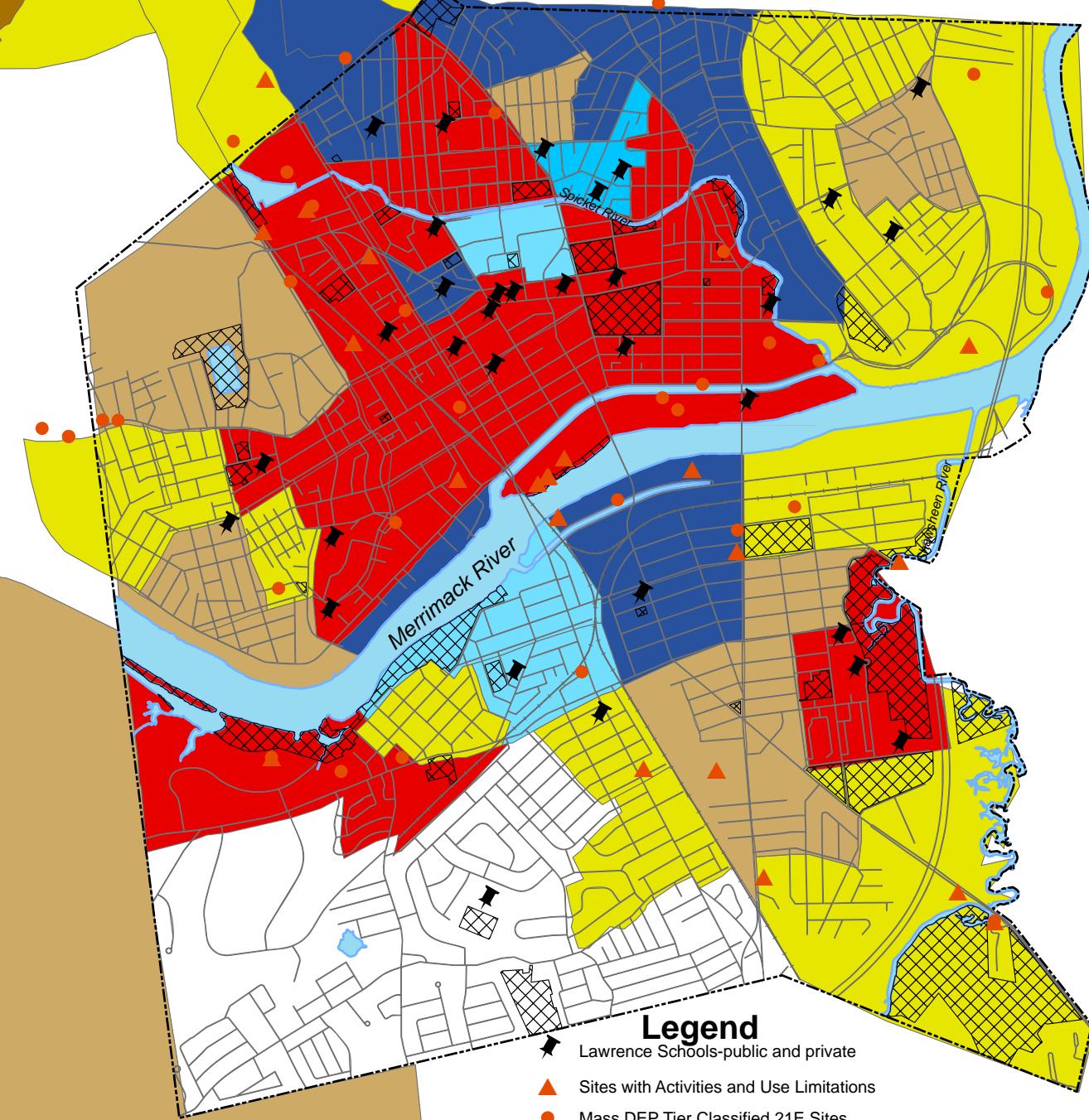
*Maps*

# Lawrence, Massachusetts Regional Context



# Environmental Justice Populations

City of Lawrence, MA



## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan



0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles

- Populations meeting EJ Criteria**
- foreign-born population
  - income
  - minority population
  - income and foreign-born
  - income and English proficiency
  - income and minority population
  - minority population and English proficiency
  - minority population and foreign-born
  - income, English proficiency, and foreign-born
  - foreign-born, income, and minority population
  - foreign-born, minority population and English proficiency
  - income, minority population and English proficiency
  - four criteria: income, minority population, English proficiency, and foreign-born

### Massachusetts Environmental Justice Criteria\*

**Income** Households earn 65% or less of statewide median household income

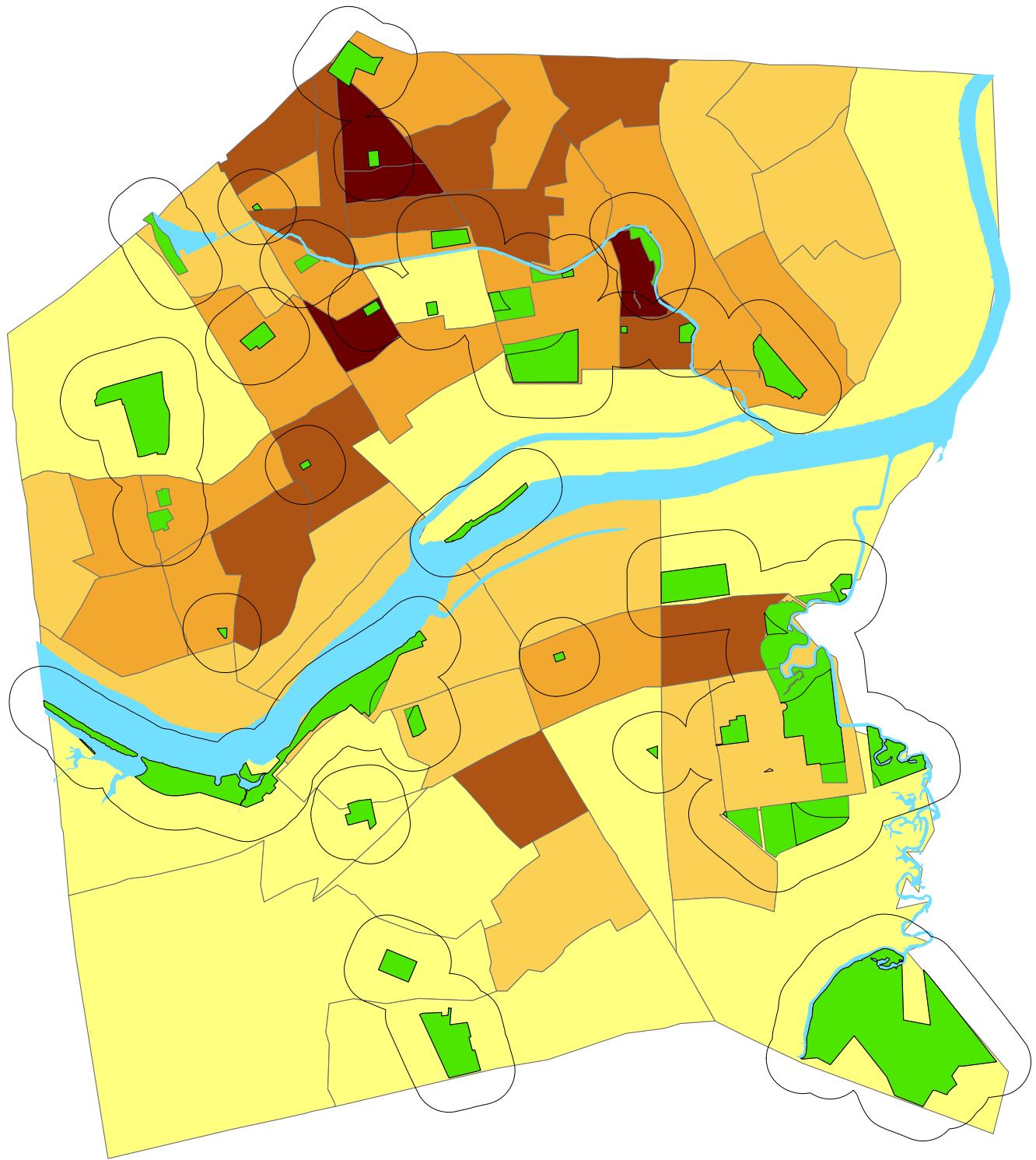
**Minority Population** 25% or more of residents belong to a minority group

**Foreign-born** 25% or more of residents are foreign-born

**English proficiency** 25% or more of residents lack English language proficiency

Based on 2000 Census Data

# Youth Density and 1/10 Mile Park Buffer



City of Lawrence  
2009 Open Space Plan



0.4 0.2 0 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles

■ Tenth mile buffer-parks

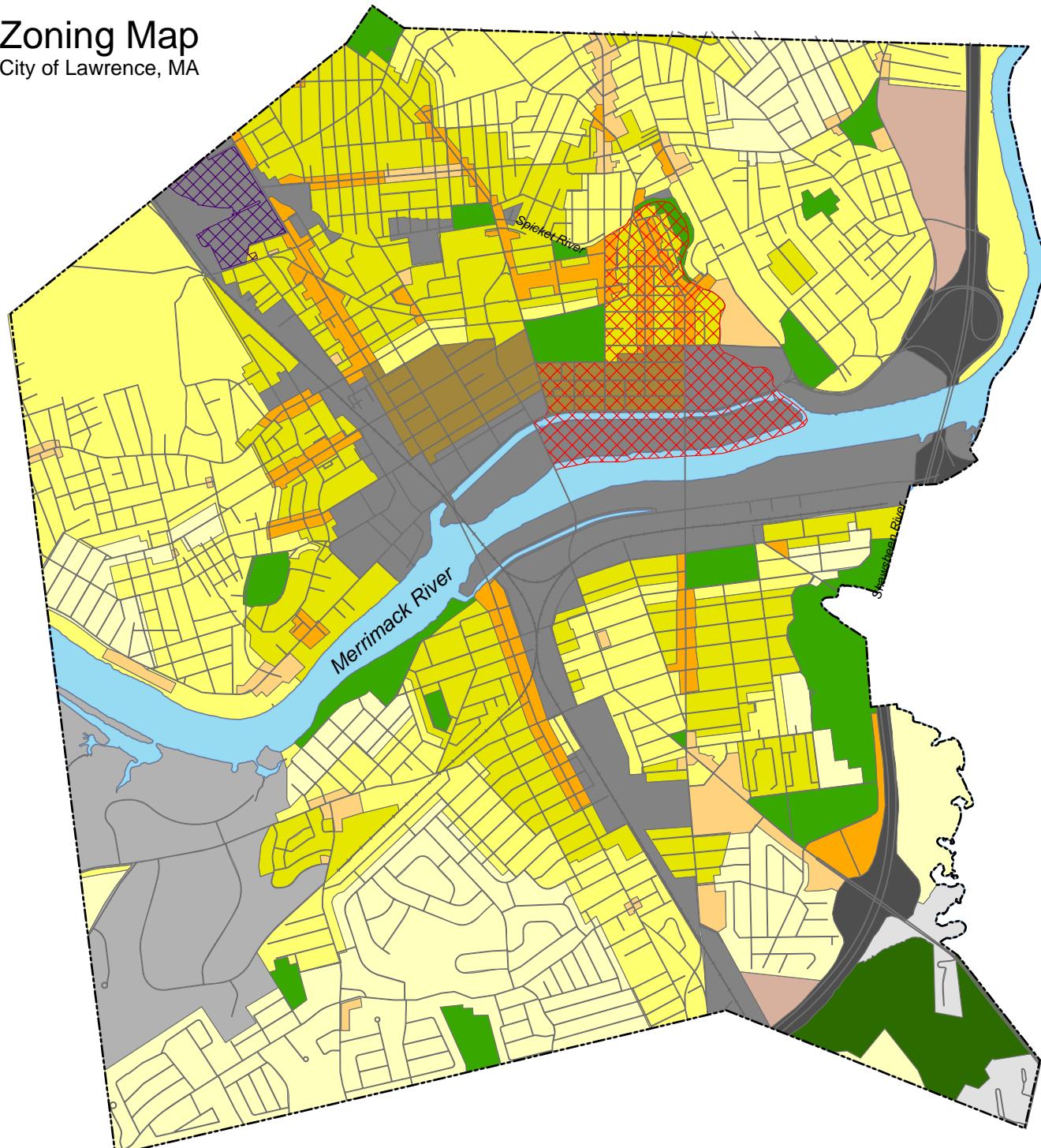
■ Lawrence Parks

**Youth Density by Census 2000 Block Groups**

76 - 655  
656 - 1440  
1441 - 2729  
2730 - 4670  
4671 - 7448

# Zoning Map

City of Lawrence, MA



## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles



### Zoning Legend

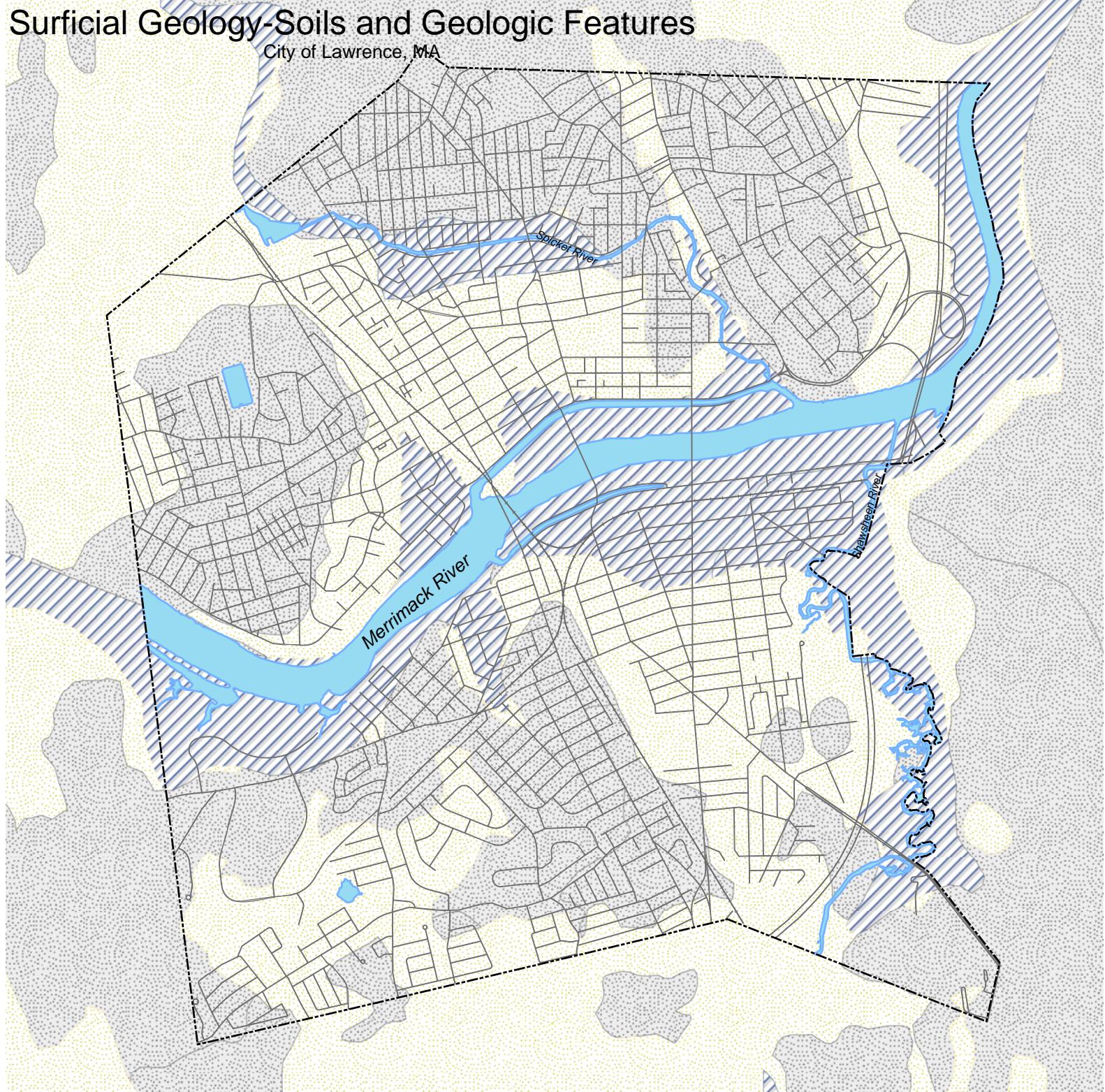
#### Lawrence Zoning

- B1-Local Business District
- B2-Secondary Business District
- B3-Main Business District
- HA-Highway Access District
- I1-Industrial Park District
- I2-General Industrial Park District
- I3-Limited Industrial District
- I495
- OSC-Open Space Conservation
- OSR-Open Space Recreational
- R1-Residential District
- R2-Residential District
- R3-Residential District
- Arlington Mills Overlay District
- Reviviendo Gateway District Overlay

February 2009, Created by Groundwork Lawrence

# Surficial Geology-Soils and Geologic Features

City of Lawrence, MA



**City of Lawrence  
2009 Open Space Plan**



0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles



Surficial Geology	
	Sand or Gravel Deposits
	Till or Bedrock
	Fine Grained Deposits
	Floodplain Alluvium

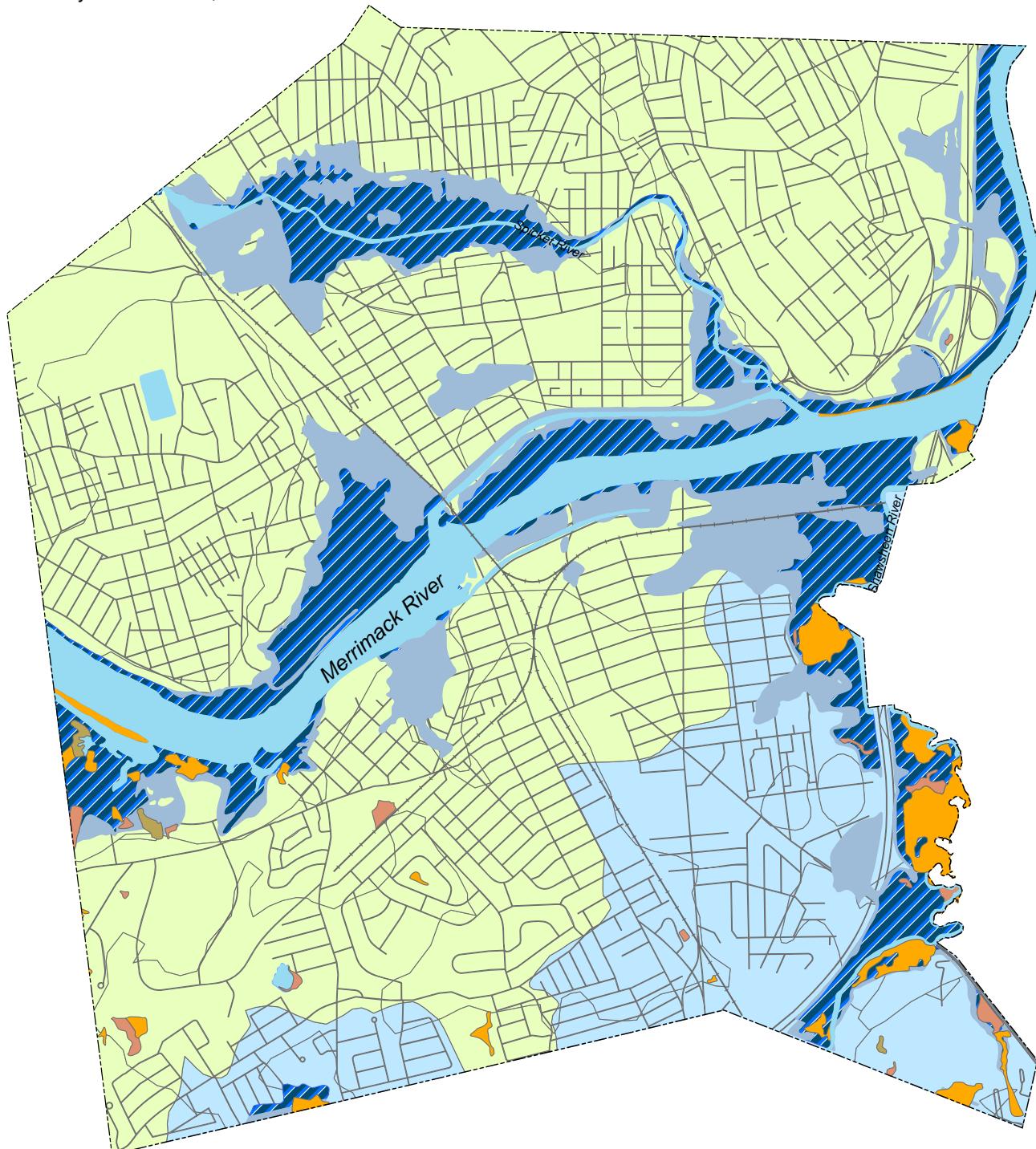
February 2009, Created by Groundwork Lawrence

# Lawrence, Massachusetts Unique and Scenic Features



# Water Resources

City of Lawrence, MA



## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan

### Watersheds

- Merrimack Watershed
- Shawsheen Watershed

### Wetland Type

- Deep Marsh
- Shallow Marsh Meadow or Fen
- Shrub Swamp
- Wooded Swamp Coniferous
- Wooded Swamp Deciduous
- Wooded Swamp Mixed Trees
- Open Water

### Flood Zone

- 100 Year Flood
- 500 Year Flood

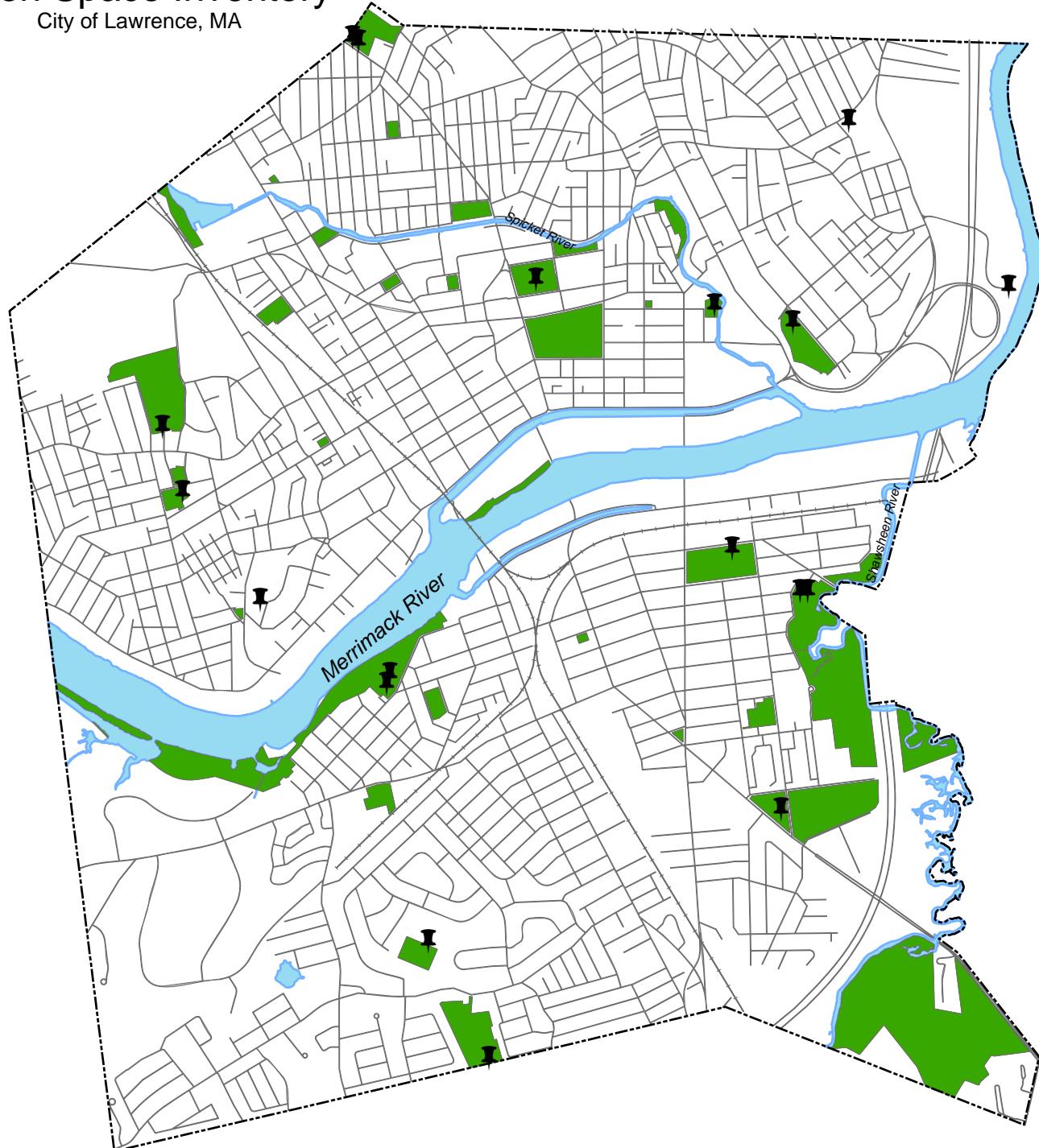


0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles

February 2009, Created by Groundwork Lawrence

# Open Space Inventory

City of Lawrence, MA



## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan

### Legend

- ◆ City-owned Recreational Facilities
- Lawrence Parks



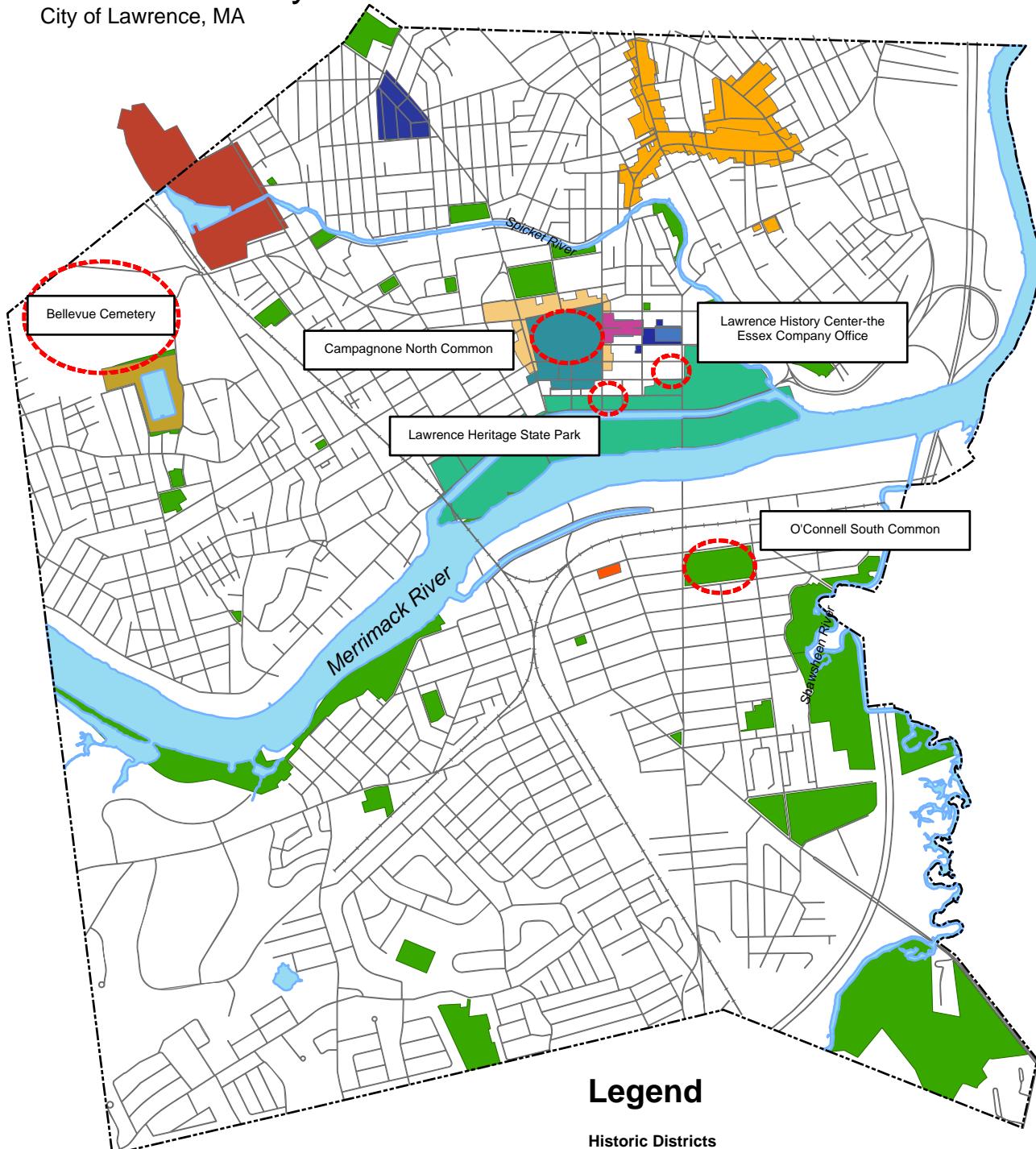
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles



February 2009, Created by Groundwork Lawrence

# Historic Community

City of Lawrence, MA



## Legend

### Historic Districts

- American Woolen Mill Housing District (national district)
- Arlington - Basswood District (national district)
- Arlington Mills Historic District (national district)
- Downtown Lawrence Historic District (national district)
- High Service Water Tower and Reservoir (local district)
- Jackson Terrace (national district)
- Mechanics Block Historic District (national district)
- North Canal Historic District (national district)
- Prospect Hill Historic District (local district)
- Jackson Terrace (local district)
- Mechanic's Block (local district)
- North Common (local district)
- Prospect Hill
- City-owned Parks

## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan

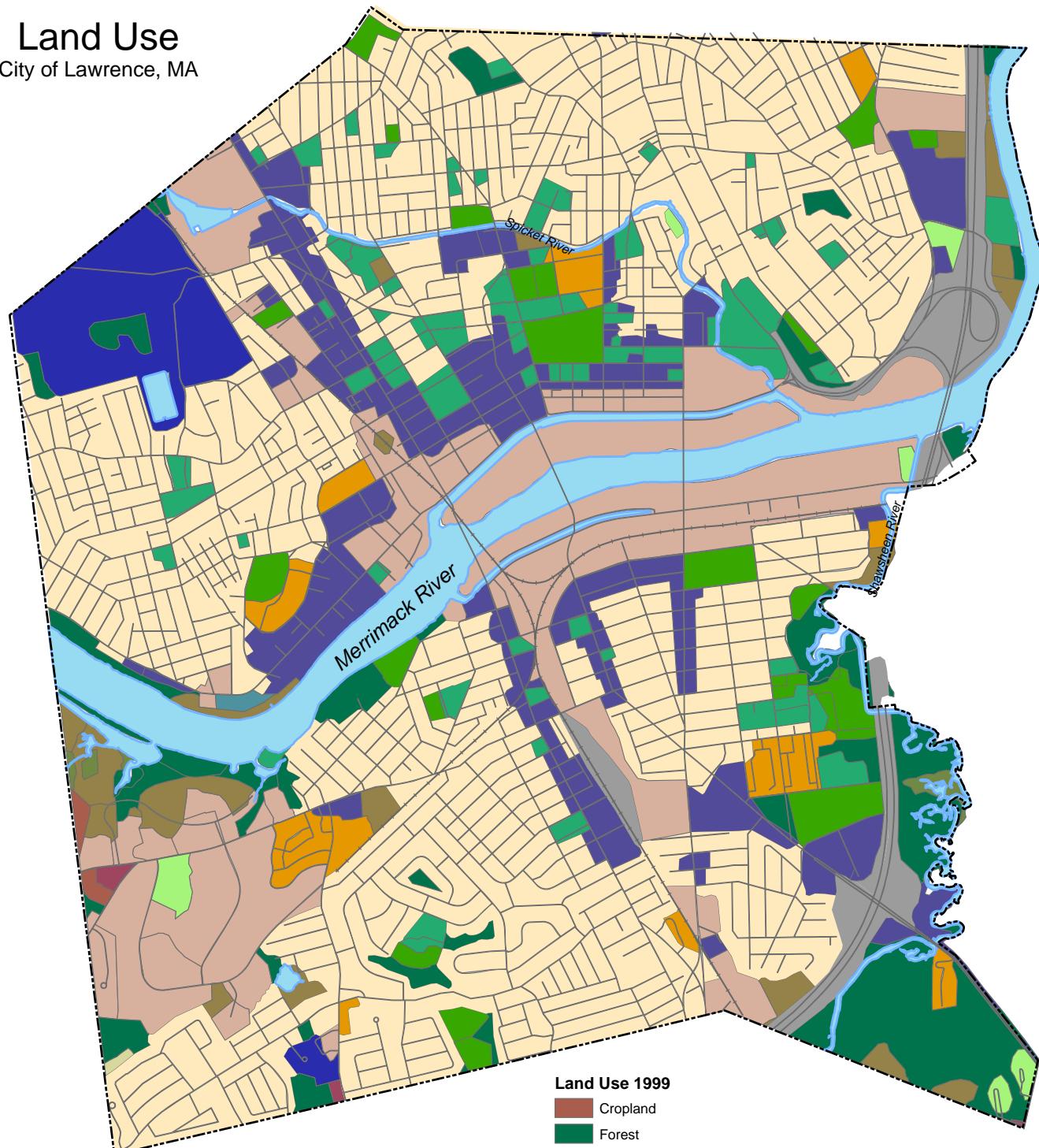


0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles

February 2009, Created by Groundwork Lawrence

# Land Use

City of Lawrence, MA



## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan



0    0.15    0.3    0.6    0.9    1.2 Miles

- Land Use 1999**
- Cropland
  - Forest
  - Wetland
  - Open Land
  - Participation Recreation
  - Residential-Multifamily
  - Residential-< 1/4 acre lots
  - Residential-1/4-1/2 acre lots
  - Residential-> 1/2 acre lots
  - Commercial
  - Industrial
  - Urban Open
  - Transportation
  - Waste Disposal
  - Water
  - Powerlines
  - Urban Public
  - Cemeteries

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# City of Lawrence Composite Development

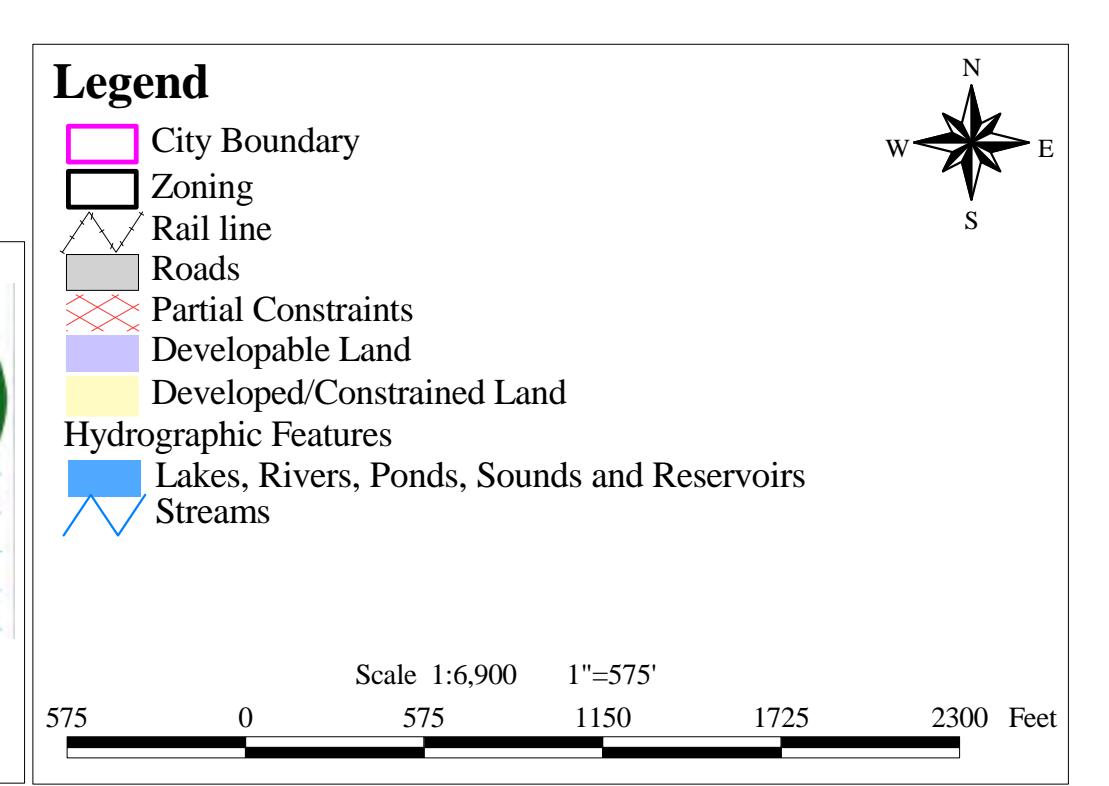
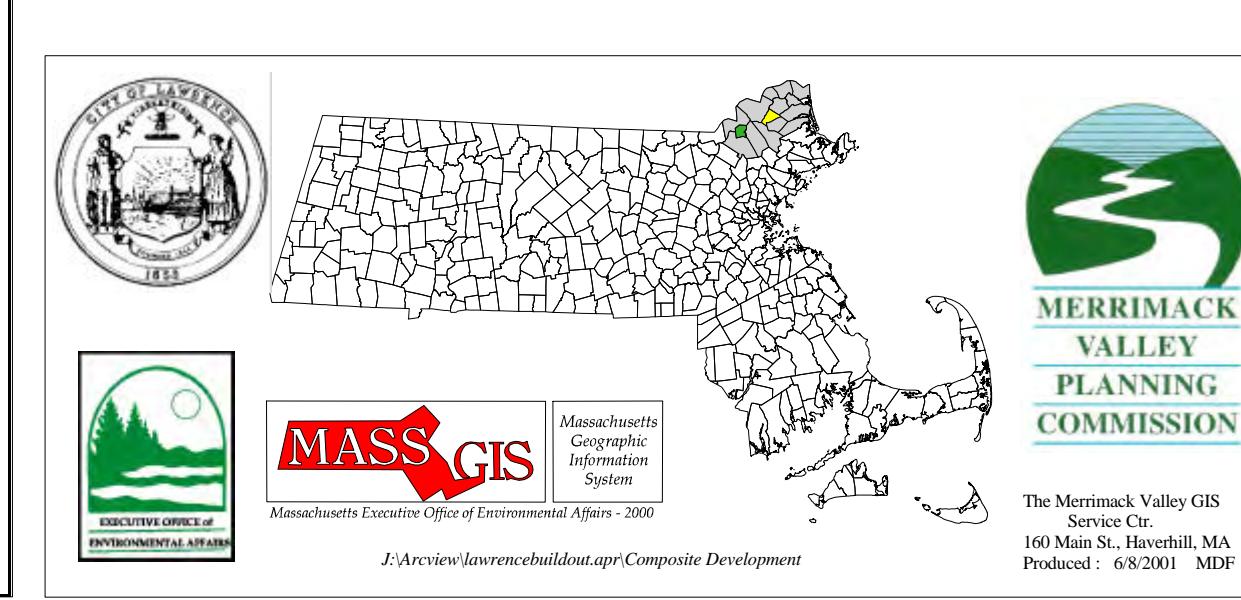


**SUMMARY BUILDOUT STATISTICS**  
(New Development and Associated Impacts)

Developable Land (sq ft)	9,191,160.0
Developable Land (acres)	211.0
Total Residential Lots	521.0
Comm./Ind. Buildable Floor Area (sq. ft.)	1,596,525.0
Residential Water Use (gallons per day)	154,675.0
Comm./Ind. Water Use (gallons per day)	119,740.0
Municipal Solid Waste (tons)	1,243.4
Non-Recycled Solid Waste (tons)	721.7
New Residents	2,062.0
New Students	318.0
New Residential Subdivision Roads (miles)	4.0

Notes:

1. "Residential Water Use" is based on 75 gallons per day per person.
2. "Comm./Ind. Water Use" is based on 75 gallons per 1,000 square feet of floor space.
3. "Municipal Solid Waste" is based on 1,206 lbs per person per year.
4. "Non-Recycled Solid Waste" is a subset of Municipal Solid Waste and is based on 730 lbs per person per year ending up in a landfill or incinerator.
5. The number of "Residents" at buildout is based on the persons per household figure derived from the 1990 US Census.
6. The number of "Students" at buildout is based on a student per household ratio taken from 1990 US Census data.
7. "New Residential Subdivision Roads" are based on the assumption that 60% of the new residential lots will have required frontage on new subdivision roads.



# Environmental Challenges

City of Lawrence, MA



## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

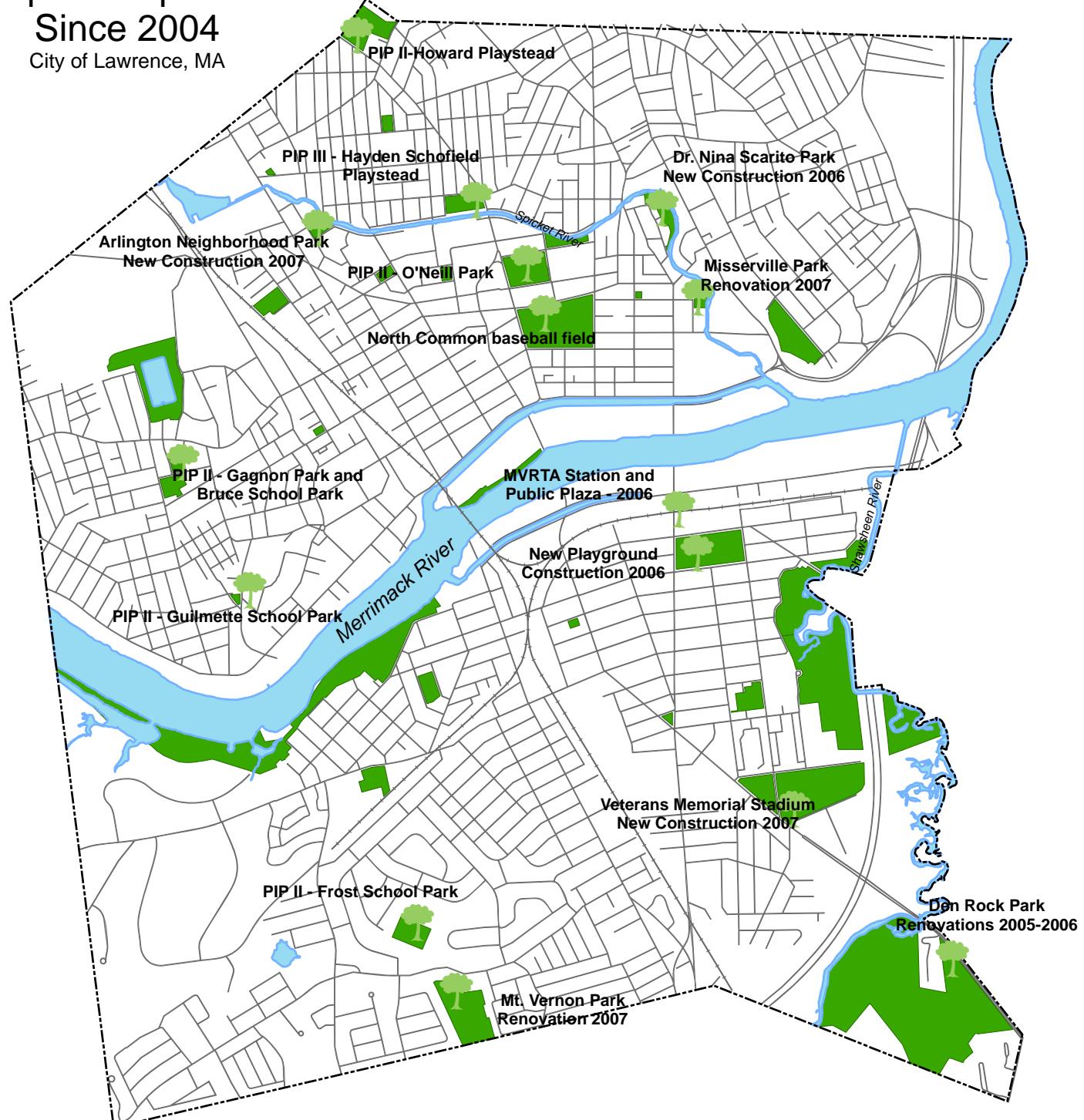


### Legend

- ▲ Lawrence Schools-public and private
- ▲ Sites with Activities and Use Limitations
- Mass DEP Tier Classified 21E Sites
- Lawrence Parks

# Open Space Improvements Since 2004

City of Lawrence, MA



## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan

### Legend

- Improvements since 2004
- City-owned Parks



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

# 7-Year Action Plan

City of Lawrence, MA

Howard Playstead  
lighting improvements



City of Lawrence  
2009 Open Space Plan



Increased Maintenance and/or  
Dedicated Improvements



Improvements planned for 2010



Designed Capital Improvements



Additional Areas Identified by  
Neighborhood Associations

■ Existing Lawrence Parks

— Existing Trail

— Off Road Trail - Potential

— Sidewalk or Roadway Improvement

— SRG - Off Road Trail - Potential

— SRG - Sidewalk or Roadside Trail

— SRG - Existing

— Gateway or Neighborhood Connector

■ City-owned Recreational Facilities

0    0.15    0.3    0.6    0.9    1.2 Miles



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# Attachment B

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*Interviews with Officials and Public Boards*

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October 21, 2008  
Board of Health Meeting

Conducted by Kathryn Prybylski

Myles Burke introduced the presentation by highlighting the dense nature of the City and the small yards. He commented that parks and open space are highly important to the health and viability of city residents.

- Presentation about 2004 Open Space Plan and accomplishments since by KP and then asked BOH the question: As the City comes out of four years of significant parks and open space investments, which of the existing recreation fields, parks, or open space are now in most need of immediate improvements?

The Board of Health discussed various specific locations that the members are familiar with as well as maintenance issues with parks, trees and sidewalks near to their homes. In addition, Mr. Burke commented on the viability of locating the new police station at the Pemberton Park parking lot. Another member would like to include community health workers in programming in Open Space in the city. The comments are detailed below:

- Streets Butler and Margin were formerly squatter gardens but are now overgrown. The board would like to see that lot cleaned up again. One attendee commented on city liability issues and it would not conceivably be to their benefit to encourage use in an abandoned lot.
- Parking is still a problem on Mt. Vernon Street after the park completion. There was a major expansion to the park, but no added “no parking” signs or enforcement of not parking on the street.
- Would like to include community health workers in open space programming in regards to active living and healthy living. Milagro(representing the Mayor’s Health Task Force) commented that the MHTF is currently completing a parks and walkability study that can address this.
- Mr. Burke hopes that locating the new police station at Pemberton Park is sufficiently vetted before final decisions are made. He thought that the clean-up of the river and the park was a huge improvement to the area. He enjoys that park and feels that many people enjoy the river access there and enjoy the calm, relaxing nature of the river access and that the location is not optimal for a new police station. The board felt that the increased traffic, noise, vehicle pollution would ruin the idyllic setting on the river. In his opinion, the construction of a new police station there would also negatively impact the festivals that are at Pemberton. Mr. Burke feels that a police station should be constructed in a neighborhood and that Pemberton Park is not really in a neighborhood.
- KP asked the board what they thought about the use on the North Common since we have had many comments regarding the use there and



the impact on the grounds. Would the board be in agreement that Pemberton Park should be used more for festivals as opposed to the North Common? The board did not really have any comment on moving festivals to Pemberton Park, but is concerned with the back to back use that the North Common sustains. One member thought that the North Common festivals could be spread around the city. Also, the City should be replacing the dying trees and protecting the existing trees.

- Members would like to see more tree lined streets in the City. Many streets (specifically mentioned S Union) are devoid of trees. The Board recognizes trees as important to the community's health.



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October 21, 2008  
Conservation Commission Meeting

Conducted by Kathryn Prybylski

- Presentation about 2004 Open Space Plan and accomplishments since 2004 by KP and then asked ConCom the question: As the City comes out of four years of significant parks and open space investments, which of the existing recreation fields, parks, or open space are now in most need of immediate improvements?

The Conservation Commission talked a lot about connectivity, maintenance of existing park facilities, using new technology such as solar panels, and an overall desire for more trees. The comments are detailed below:

- One member asked if Canal Beautification could be included in the Open Space Plan. Maintenance of the canal, canal walls, sidewalks and trees should be a priority.
- Trail connection at the Boat House/Riverfront State Park area to the Industrial Park(Glen St) would draw more people to the river and the Boathouse. Additional connections and trails should include across Rt 28 to the Wall Experiment Station and then along the river bank to the parks.
- River access should be possible at the following stretches:
  - Behind the Boys and Girls Club to the Merrimack River
  - Water Department Land to the Merrimack River
  - Rt 28 to the Wall Experiment Station along the Merrimack River
- Further connections through the City to existing trails and along all the rivers
- The city should map all of its existing and potential trails to focus on potential connections and highlight existing trails.
- The Commission suggested a City-wide day of service that includes all the schools, scouts, after school programs as a way to foster a feeling of ownership of the parks by the community. The commission was concerned with discovering a way to establish a greater sense of ownership of the parks in general across the whole city. They felt that the involvement of young people is a huge step in creating better citizen stewardship of the parks and open space. Another idea was for young students to plant a tree and then take care of it throughout the year. Students can learn about nature and how to take care of their environment.
- The commissioners also recommended greater involvement of the neighborhood associations in stewardship of the parks.



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November 17, 2008  
Historic Commission Meeting

Conducted by Kathryn Prybylski

- Presentation about 2004 Open Space Plan and accomplishments since by KP and then asked discussed questions posed questions on priorities to Commissioners: As the City comes out of four years of significant parks and open space investments, which of the existing recreation fields, parks, or open space are now in most need of immediate improvements?

The commission had a few comments and questions on public open space that are outlined below:

- The ballpark on the North Common has been a source of contention for the Historic Commission as the ballfield was constructed on a temporary basis. The HC has continually been concerned with the non-permanent nature of the fence and structures associated with it.
- The HC had a question as to there is any other property that will be demolished or is under similar restrictions as the FEMA land that is now the site of Arlington Neighborhood Park. KP did not know of any, but that is out of her purview.
- The HC will be submitting a letter to the City and Mayor with the Prospect Hill Historic Society regarding use and historic intent of the North Common as well as ideas and concerns.
- The HC has a goal for increased tree planting on the North Common. The goal also includes greater protection of existing trees and removal of dead trees.
- The HC discussed the creation of a “Friends of the North Common” group to advocate for and undertake improvements to the North Common. They are working with the bordering North Common Historic District businesses and residences to create the group.
- One member asked about the trees mentioned in the 2004 Plan that were planted at Bellevue Cemetery and if Groundwork was part of that. KP did not know and did not want to claim they were “ours” but did highlight the other tree plantings that Groundwork has been involved in throughout the city. A second member, Sarah, mentioned a current initiative that the History Center has regarding cemeteries and that some mention of it could be made in the OSP.



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November 25, 2008

Meeting with the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority; all three members were present as well as Administrator Anne-Marie Doherty and Planning Department Staff member April Lyskowsky  
Conducted by Kathryn Prybylski

KP gave a brief background of the Open Space Plan and the method for gathering input from residents, city boards and city officials and posed the same questions to the police department that were offered to those individuals and groups as well as an additional one:

- What role should the LRA play, if any, in defining Open Space priorities and/or investments in the City?

Board member Cuddy had a question regarding the improvements at the high school and if playgrounds and school grounds are included in the plan. He is concerned that the tennis courts and other facilities are locked on the weekends and they should be open to residents since tax payer dollars paid for the improvements. KP told him that yes, playgrounds can be included in the plan but that she had no direct knowledge of the policies at the school, but she had heard similar comments at the Open Space Plan resident meetings.

Mr. LaPlante commented that the LRA's specific mission in the city is to take blighted properties and renovate or improve them to active and usable lots. He thinks its role as they relate to the Open Space improvements could be to potentially acquire and develop property into open space depending on the location, economy and the wishes of the board members.

KP asked if they generally solicit input from the neighbors when they RFP or plan to RFP a property. Mr. LaPlante stated that usually they will hear from abutters and potential bidders, but they do not solicit neighbor input. Much of their property is turned over when an abutter or near neighbor comes to them and says that they have noticed a particular property and could they have it or develop it for a specific reason. An example he gave was the YMCA requesting a vacant lot that was owned by the LRA for additional parking. In general the LRA works with the Planning Department to establish RFP's and create use and improvements at specific properties.

Mr. Cuddy also offered the example of the Oliver School who wanted an adjacent property to use as a private playground or school yard.

Ms. Lyskowsky also wanted to know what comments we had heard from residents in the community meetings. KP stated that the most overwhelming concern was maintenance. Additionally there was a desire to establish a plan for the City's vacant and abandoned lots and alleyways as well as connectivity across the city using the parks. Mr. Cuddy commented that trail connections are really pleasant ways to traverse the City and referenced the trail system from Concord into Arlington and Boston.



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September 24, 2008

Meeting with Dennis Dizoglio, Alan McIntosh MVPC

Meeting conducted by Kathryn Prybylski

Alan not only responded to the regional context regarding Lawrence's open space plan but also gave suggestions based on plans they have created and advised on in the past.

- Be practical-long lists of goals raise expectations
- Make plan short so people will read it

Dennis talked about their current planning initiative-the Priority Growth Strategy and what items it includes that involves Lawrence.

- Regional connections through Lawrence include the Shawsheen Trail through Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover; also the Merrimack Riverwalk
- Creation of an "Open Space Layer" for GIS mapping
- Also the Merrimack River Trail has a potential "easy" connection to the Andover side at Riverfront State Park

Other connections to other communities include the Methuen end and the railroad corridor that runs adjacent to Manchester Street Park. The railroad line is included in the I-93 transit study for possible commuter rail connection to New Hampshire in the next 30 years.

AM suggested looking for any future opportunity for more federal money for work like the Arlington Neighborhood demolition from the flooding. The city of Lawrence recently signed on to a regional hazard mitigation plan.

KP asked if they have any resources that we can use for the Open Space Plan.

Currently MVPC does mapping for communities who are contracted with them. Lawrence is not but MVPC does do aerial fly-over for the city. Lawrence can request mapping time-with eligibility for DHCD.

AM suggested integrating references to Smart Growth and LID practices. They(MVPC) can also offer some expertise in that area.

KP asked if there are any other planned but unbuilt park and recreation areas. MVPC replied that they are hoping to establish that in the Priority Growth Strategy and could be more helpful in 1-2 months as the plan is completed.



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September 17, 2008

Meeting with Sue Fink, Acting Community Development Director  
Meeting conducted by Kate O'Brien and Kathryn Prybylski

- What priorities do you think the City should have in the next 5 years for Open Space and park improvements?

The North Common needs an overhaul. There are not many amenities on the common. Some suggestions include:

- Picnic tables
- Domino tables
- Big chess set on common
- Bulb planting for spring time flowering
- Irrigation system for trees and grass

North common is center of the City, is very visible and very well used and loved. Pathways and walkways need to be revamped. There are dead trees on the common that need removal.

- Where should carnivals and festivals be directed if not to the North Common?

Pemberton Park was built with the idea that is where festivals would go

In general, more parks should have plantings that include flowers and perennials. Flowers and plantings make parks more inviting.

Find partnerships for businesses and smaller parks. Create a maintenance fund that incorporates these partnerships. Focus in next five years on revamping and rehabbing existing parks and less on building new ones.

Capital improvements will probably be focused on hardscape and less on parks over next few years. Have to use the budget to support parks with funding dpw, purchasing new and better equipment. DPW is usually the hardest hit department.

Programming is needed in parks. Youth need more programmed activity. Suggestions included gardening, basketball competition and other organized sports. CDBG has availability of spending grant money on good park programming applications. Stewardship by the youth could be cultivated with park programming.

Educational programming in the parks could include pedestrian and bike safety and rules. It is important to incorporate safety of pedestrians and walkability to



parks in the Open Space Plan. Additional walkability is needed with the high school in South Lawrence. There are many kids who walk to school.

Sue Sees North Common improvements as a phased investment.



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September 16, 2008

Meeting with Frank McCann, Director of Department of Public Works  
Meeting conducted by Kate O'Brien and Kathryn Prybylski

- What priorities do you think the City should have in the next 5 years for Open Space and park improvements?

Cronin park needs help. neighborhood is very dense and uses the park a lot. Neighborhood also has parking issues, so maybe converting it to a parking lot will help in the winter.

Building new parks is hard on DPW, but increasing amenities (swings, signage, tot lots) has been good. Frank is not a fan of food gardens, but likes flower and perennial plantings. Restroom facilities have been requested including Howard, Lorenz, Gagnon. Little Leagues and Neighborhood Associations have been looking for restroom facilities at parks. South Lawrence East got a nice overhaul, but the capacity to maintain it is not there.

Frank would like the city to do some work on the North Common. Needs include new walks, curbing, period lighting, watering/sprinklers, plantings including tree replacements. DPW does not have capacity to water the young trees though, so irrigation is key.

O'Connell/Shawsheen Rod also needs a facelift as well as a "theme." The gazebo is being torn down due to continual vandalism. Nilka (Alvarez) is a champion of the handball association that is interested in using the space there.

Important to keep purchasing maintenance free and vandalism resistant equipment like the same benches, tables and garbage receptacles. Should over-purchase to build a stockpile to replace items. DPW has space to store extra items.

Frank is concerned with the Manchester Street Park project not just because of the added maintenance but because it is an isolated area. Would like to see a police call box there for sure.

Using capital money to replace and repair fencing along the Spickett along Erving avenue next year. Would be welcome to a grant that addressed invasives (poison ivy) as well as the safety installation of guard rail and/or new fencing.

- What are your thoughts on the summer youth job corps program as stated in the 2004 OSP.

Frank could not say yes or no because the job program encounters union issues. If union laborers are laid off due to budget constraints, the City can't hire youth to fill their roles.

- Do you talk to other DPW's and how they function with similar budget shortfalls?



I don't talk to other DPW's. I have to constantly move resources and people around to keep department work done. He needs staff, however, to get that done.

Likes support of volunteer groups. DPW can respond to those requests easily. Court ordered workers and detainees are difficult because oversight is necessary; his department does not have the time to continually train new people.

The DPW Department has been able to purchase better equipment over the years and that helps keep the parks in order in the summer. He has bought larger mowers so it takes one person less time to mow a large area. Small pocket parks are harder to maintain because it takes small equipment.

Large events on North Commons cause strain to his department when they don't clean up fully.

- Concerns and ideas surrounding the Water Department Land on Water St/Riverside Drive

Used to access Water department there, but not anymore. Water Department workers are housed there and some at the DPW yard. That area used to have a ball field and folks parked at the water department. Any new use there would need parking addresses as there is no parking on Riverside Drive. Could potentially use across the street-at Ames and Riverside Drive. He sees that site as passive recreation and river access. The site does not flood.

Top priorities would be 1. Cronin, 2. O'Connell, 3. North Common

(Comments on FEMA land)



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November 21, 2008

Meeting with Chief Romero, Deputy Chief Mike Driscoll and Community Policing officer Detective Tom Cuddy, Lawrence Police Department  
Conducted by Kathryn Prybylski

KP gave a brief background of the Open Space Plan and the method for gathering input from residents, city boards and city officials and posed the same questions to the police department that were offered to those individuals and groups. The chief was very interested in learning what the residents discussed and brought up at the community meetings. Chief Romero, the Deputy Chief and Detective Cuddy made the following observations and gave general input in park developments.

- When building new parks or improving existing ones, they asked that the designers take into account the method of patrolling best suited and most utilized by the police force and that is from their cars or motorcycles. Police enter many parks (for example Scarito Park) on their motorcycles for general patrols, so path widths are not a huge concern unless they would restrict access in an emergency. However, much patrolling is also done from outside the park in a police cruiser. Police need to be able to see in to the park and find that “privacy hedge” type planting as well as coniferous trees with low branches makes parks conducive to criminal and clandestine activity.
- The police department has not had many false alarms from the police call boxes installed at Scarito Park or Arlington Neighborhood Park. They recommend including those in new park projects and improvements. Also, they recommended the call box with life raft (that are installed at the Boat House and other river access places) for the pond edge at the new Manchester Street Park.
- A couple of the officers would love to see the ice skating in the winter reinstated at some parks. It was remembered very fondly from their youth.
- The police department would love to see additional neighbor and neighborhood association involvement in “light” park maintenance such as trash pick up.
- Signage in the parks displaying the rules (specifically the park hours) is necessary for police officers to make an arrest. They made it clear that they don’t arrest everyone they find in a park after hours, but it would be helpful when they would like to make an arrest. Currently not all the parks have the signage displaying the hours. They also think additional signage should be posted regarding picking up dog waste. They referenced a recent trip to San Diego where there were bag holders on many city blocks for people to use a bag to pick up their dog waste.



# **Groundwork LAWRENCE**

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September 18, 2008

Meeting with Linda Schiavone, Director, Recreation Department and Nelson Ortiz, Coordinator, Recreation Department  
Meeting conducted by Kathryn Prybylski

- What priorities do you think the City should have in the next 5 years for Open Space and park improvements?

Thinking big: Dome over hockey rink, new gazebos

Other ideas include better trash receptacle that doesn't lose the bag.

Borgoin Square still has need for soccer field improvements. The City Recreation Department sees a high demand for soccer facilities across the city as well as for football space.

Kane Gym Site is used for ball field space but is also designated as overflow parking for the high school. The field is uneven and hard to use, there is enough space there for football or soccer or a combination field. Demand for the space is very high at South Lawrence East.

Frost ball field needs improvements. An added field there could increase rec teams in the City from 12 teams to 16 or 20. The field also has no lighting and needs an outfield fence. The Rec Department thinks that there would not be any neighbor concerns with the addition of lights at that field either.

Stockton Park needs significant help. The water feature does not work and the disrepair is especially unfortunate because it is such a visible park at a major intersection in Lawrence.

Below is a list created by the Recreation Department and presented at the interview:

5 Year park improvements request from Lawrence Recreation Department

Howard Park  
Lights  
Irrigation

Bruce Park  
Lights  
Irrigation

Gagnon Park  
Lights  
Irrigation



Playstead 1 and 2  
Stone Dust infield  
Netting

O'Neill  
Stone Dust Infield  
Fencing along first and third base side  
Flag Pole at Center Field

O'Neill 2  
Lights  
Stone Dust infield

S.L.East  
Fence dugouts  
Clay infield on field 3  
Netting at Field # 4

Hockey Rink  
Resurface

1. Replace Boards
2. Paint lines
3. Replace spectator seating with elevated stands
4. Replace perimeter fencing ( Approximately 600' of 10'high fence)
5. Repair penalty box area
6. Paint entire rink

Donahue Park Andover Street, Howard Park, Storrow Park, North Common, O'Connell Park, West Street, Immigrant Place, Marston Street, McDermott Place, Rowell Park, Cronin Park

New playground equipment  
Benches  
Picnic Tables  
Trash Receptacles  
Bleachers in ball fields  
Gazebo  
Concession Stand at Howard Park  
Mile Markers Howard Park



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September 23, 2008

Meeting with Tom Schiavone, Acting Economic Development Director  
Conducted by Kate O'Brien and Kathryn Prybylski

- What priorities do you think the City should have in the next 5 years for Open Space and park improvements?

Tom sees utilizing the space at Pemberton Park for a police station to be a high priority for the City. Currently that space (the adjacent parking lot space) is a “no man’s land” and is underutilized. The parking lot was built in the 50s for Essex Street use and was never used for that traffic. The area is development ready and a police station and improvement in the parking area there would only enhance the open space there now. There is also room in that plan for an outdoor amphitheater.

The next critical project for completion in the city is the Gateway project. Costs have gone up, but construction of the parking lot will begin soon. The park plan increased in cost from \$1M to \$2M and will be an amazing space, but it needs fundraising.

The Mayor has interest in seeing improvements at Howard Playstead beyond the PIP 1 improvements. Standard new park improvements should include bathrooms/concession stands that are open when the fields are being used. The tennis courts at the Howard are underused; the schools think they would be better served as basketball courts.

South Lawrence East ball fields have been improved but the users there want a concession stand and bathroom.

We discussed how concessions and bathroom would be controlled and Tom thinks that the Recreation Department should have control and distribute keys to these facilities.

GWL has heard walkability concerns from neighborhoods to parks-do you have any thoughts on the subject or have you heard any similar concerns? Tom had not until recently.

Tm would love to see a “Taste of Lawrence” event from the great restaurants in Lawrence. One could envision using pushcarts or setting up tables along Appleton Way – similar in size and scope of the Farmers Market.

The Water Street parcels adjacent to the Water Plant are large unused locations along the Merrimack River. The river bank there is a beautiful spot and is underutilized. Access to the river is possible and one could almost walk to the falls. The view to the other side of the river is the section with trails near Riverfront State Park. He thinks this section of the river adjacent to the Water Department should be a passive recreation site with walking and biking paths.



Tom has heard from Nelson and Linda (Recreation Department) that they would like lights at the Frost School ballfield. The addition of lights would increase the usage there from 12-17 teams at night.

Tom would like to see the trail connection from Arlington Park to the sidewalk along Hampshire St.

The Oxford Park site is a high priority for Tom. Canal St widening and the Spicket River Bridge should be done by 2010 to 2011. Pedestrian access to both sides of the Spicket Bridge is important and the greenway continuing under the bridge will be great aesthetically and create pedestrian access to the Gateway site. The Gateway project represents \$200M in investments in infrastructure in Lawrence: \$100M from Gencorp, \$45M from Mass Highway, \$25M in the park and parking and the remainder to the Canal St widening.



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November 18, 2008

Meeting with Mike Sweeney, Planning Director  
Conducted by Kate O'Brien and Kathryn Prybylski

- What priorities do you think the City should have in the next 5 years for Open Space and park improvements?

Mike had specific priorities in mind for open space and for specific planning in the City; they are outlined below:

- The City needs to actively plan a method of moving the City Yard off of the Spicket River. Moving the City yard is a large but necessary undertaking that requires momentum and planning. Mike feels that by some incorporation of moving the yard into the Open Space Plan will begin to lay groundwork for moving the yard. The City will need to acquire land or reutilize existing owned city land for the yard. He would like to see the Spicket River Greenway incorporated in the space the yard currently occupies.
  - Kate asked if he knows the current needs of the city yard-if an inventory of sorts has been created so that we can incorporate specific needs into the plan. Currently that type of inventory does not exist, but the physical space the yard occupies is a known quantity.
- Mike would like to see more planting (tree, perennial, flowers) on the North Common.
- The City should start to look for more corporate sponsors for park support. The city budget is not going to improve any time soon, so there should be a concerted effort to find support from businesses that can advertise via supporting neighborhood days or similar events for the community
- The former Kane Gym site is a stagnant site. Mike would love to see it utilized more for football and other team practices. He would really love to see it installed as a synthetic turf site. Currently many teams utilize a few fields that get really torn up from the use. He's concerned with the high level of play by the high school athletes and their coach has said that they are being injured because of the rough condition of the field.
- The City owns some land in Prospect Hill that could be feasible for dedication as open space. It is also adjacent to land privately owned that is not developable. Mike would like to absorb those properties together for potential open space development. The site is steep sided and constantly has water running out of it-some residents claim there is a spring.
- Mike feels that Den Rock Park has a lot more potential and needs more attention. He would love to see science teachers use the park as an outdoor laboratory.
- Kate and Mike want to continue their discussions on City land available for gardens and helping gardeners move off of contaminated land.
- Mike would also be open to discussing the City's official involvement in a Rail to Trails project. The City of Methuen has discussed signing a long term lease with the MBTA to develop a trail. He asked Kate to email the particulars to him and Tom Schiavone.



# Groundwork LAWRENCE

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October 23, 2008

Meeting with Peter Takvorian, Lawrence Fire Department Chief  
Conducted by Kathryn Prybylski

- What priorities do you think the City should have for Open Space and park improvements in regards to public safety?

Chief Takvorian is not sure he can make any substantive recommendations. His only concern would be that parks and open space facilities incorporate access for fire trucks as well as for other emergency vehicles (ambulances).

Fire trucks require 18' of clearance for fire access. Also, because Lawrence does not have its own ambulance system, full size fire trucks are deployed when ambulances are called. The firepeople can help the emergency workers with the individual or individuals injured and in need of the ambulance.



# Attachment C

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*Resident Survey*

**1. Please enter your address so that we can verify that you are a Lawrence resident. This address will not be recorded or used for anything aside from the stated purpose.**

Addresses withheld

---

**2. Please enter your age:**

Average Age: 21 Median Age: 13

---

**3. Which three (3) parks or playgrounds do you use most often? What activities do you use them for?**

#1) Mount Vernon Park -- Walking

#2) Jacques Pond -- Meditation

Den Rock Park, Kennedy Park, Riverfront State Park

Scaritos-relaxing, enjoy river, play games in field

North Common- special events, lunch, chimi

Reservoir-run

Mt. Vernon Street-

Jacques Pond- Mt Vernon Park- McCarthy Park

Brook St., North Common, South Common

- used for exercise

South, North CCommon and Shawsheen park

North Central play and parks area children to play (play area)

Gagnon Park- Neighborhood activity Reservoir Area- Walking

Reservoir Common Lawrence Heritage State Park- all parts

1) Reservoir- jogging, sledding, tennis 2) Riverfront- Jogging 3) Miserville- Basketball

Gagnon Park, Mt. Vernon Park, HHoward Playstead, playground and little league

At my age I do not use the parks but feel we must make such space available for our young people

hayden scofield- watch baseball. North common- hang out. howard park-recreational things.

SHawsheen Park

CCommon- walk and play Shawsheen- play South Common- play

Common Park, South Common, and Escarito park. In these parks I play basketball, walk around, and bike around.

Common Skorito park

Scarito Park- Greeteam, Movement City Heritage State Park- Green Team Common Park- Movement City

South Common, Shawsheen Park- to take my niece to playground & walk the dogs

North Common, Hayden Schofield. running, walking, playing

Common Park, South CCommon Park & Scarito Park

I walk around mostly and occasionally play with my friends, or bike around.

Common park and I jog or just walk around. Also Escarito park and I do the same thing.

Parthum School;

Storrow-

maintain flags @ the park. Also the greens (trees etc.- should be cleaned up to view the city.

2009 Open Space Plan  
*Resident Survey-Results*

Storror Park to walk around, picnic, and sometimes take stairs to go to Canal district  
Pemberton Park- walk and see the river  
Den Rock Park- to get away from it all- hike  
Lawrence hear the oliver? St. Union  
-Scarito Park/ Brook St.  
-Bellview Cemetary- walk my dog  
-COmmon- walking/festivals/ lawn games  
Campagnon Common  
Brooke St. Park  
Lawrence Heritage Park  
Primarily the Campagnon Common, use for frisbee, bocce ball, and sitting. Also use Lawrence Heritage State Park.  
North Common  
South Common  
Brook Street  
-walking, gardening, festivals  
-Campagnon Common  
-Scarito Park  
-North Common  
-Den ROck Park  
-WALKING from Bashara Boat yard, along the Canal to Essex Street & the N. Common. (Needs improving)  
So. Common Park- football & cheer practice So Lawrence East field-football & cheer practice  
Gagnon Park- movies in the summer National Night Out  
The swings  
-Den Rock Park -Kennedy Park -Riverfront State Park  
The Common park. To sit and chill or to take my little sister to play.  
I am still new to the area and I really don't know the actual names of the parks or playgrounds, but here area couple that I go to most often, mount vernon park, the park on market st.  
MOUNT VERNON PARK - WALKING  
VETERANS STADIUM - VARIOUS EVENTS  
Pemberton Park - just a stroll  
Common - walking to the planning office  
West St  
playstead  
West St Park  
Campagnone Common for Bread and Roses and other gatherings; South Lawrence Common for playing with grand children; small playground on Andover Street near MacDonalds to play with grand children  
  
Jacques Pond. I do not use the pond for activites. Just watch the beautiful wild life that passes through my yard.  
Mt. Vernon Park I use the walking paths.  
Gagnon- NOrth Common  
-Sullivan Park [play basketball]  
-Common Park [swings]  
-Riley Riverfront Park

Howard Park  
Common park  
Tarbox park

Common Park- i go to play on the swings, to walk + talk, for Semana Hispana, and to get out of the house.  
Common Park - I just play around with my little cuzins.

Sullivan Park  
Riverfoot Park

Howard Park- go on the swings and run around.  
North Common Park- I go only for Spanish festival  
Riverfront- to walk in the water and watch the boats in the water

I dont go to parks.

basketball

Basketball baseball football

Common Park, hang out and just walk.

Howard Park- sports Sullivan Park- Walk (Located near Merrimack Plaza) Park- Eat and play sports  
ellos le gusta jugapo futbol

Common Park, to play or to relaxe

North Common

Common Park, Brook St. Park,

Common Shawsheen

The 3 most parks I see are the Lawrence High School Park, Common Park, Shawsheen Park. I see them for basketball, walking around and playgrounds.

El Parque de las ardillas el campo de la escuela south lawrence eas. Y El de Lawrence high. you practico soccer.

Comon Prk, SOuth Common Prk. y riverfront park. Juego basketball en esos parques.

-riverside park, south common, North common park

We like to just chill out and have fun in the playgrounds sometimes we take our little cousins to play.

I see the howard park, Arlington playstead people play, also smoke, Arlington playstead is dead (boring) very ugly

Common

South Commom

Stadium

to take my cuzins to attend activities

1) Riverside Park (South Lawrence)

2) North Common (North Lawrence)

3) Immigrant Place Park (South Lawrence-near King Pizza)

I go mostly to the main park and the one near lawrence high. I just go and walk around with friends.

Shawsheen park

Common park

Howard park

Howard-> tennis

North Common

South Common

-swing + play ground + running + walking around, exercise

The North Common, Jogging, Softball etc.

The park near the Lawrence High- hang around with friends

Common Park

North Common, South Common, Den Rock Hike- Gathering; socializing

Las ardillas, Methuen. Recreaccion familiar, especial con nieto.

Common St.

Las Ardillas Myrtle St. By Old LHS

Hayden Schofield, Oneill, Howard, North Common

West St Park Soccer

Common (Exercising & take my little brother to play baseball) South Common (Exercisin")")

Reservoir, Den Rock, Stadium Walking, biking.

South Common-playground

Den Rock Park-hiking/running

Pemberton Park-walking, enjoying the river.

Boating house

Don't use.

Common park

1. Reservoir Park-abutting cemetereis for walking

2. den rock park for hiking, bird watching and nature observation

3. merrimack river, banks above dam on both south and north sides for walking, birdwatching and boating

Lawrence Common

Den Rock Park

Spricket River Greeway

Dog walking

Storrow Walking

prospect hill park

none

currently do not use

none

Mount Vernon Park - slides/swings, bike path

Lawrence Boat house - sailing

Playground @ South Lawrence Branch library - slides, etc...

Playground on Alder so my child can play in. But the playground is rather beat up and broken down.

common street park i go to community activities there.

Howard park on Lawrence St- to bring my kids to play

COMMON,PEMBERTON AND KIDS PLAYGROUND AND RELAX UNDER A TREE WITH A FAMILY

Common Park for walking and take my kids to the little park that is there to play and ride their bikes.

O'Neil park, common Park

swings

o'neil park, common park

common park, haverhill park

Skate Park - BMX

Common Park - Tag

Newbury - Tag

No answer

brook-play tag

common park-play at the swings

leonard school playground-chill with my friends and play football

The common park

Leornad School Park. For the skate park to talk with friends.

park

Leonard to skate, bike ride

Leonard School playground, hangout and sometimes play Basketball.

No Playgrounds

brook park-play basketball

leonard school park-baseball and football

common park-(cross oliver)baseball and football

bradford farm cometn park clinton park

Common Park

Common Park Leonard Skate Park Not sire about acivities

I dont play in playgrounds.

North common park

common park - play football lenord park- play anything howerd park-play baseball

basketball baseball

Cement Park

common park - to walk around

I don't go to any parks

Lawrence common-walk around Howard Park-baseball riverside park-swings

None

South Lawrence East Park, The activities , I play tag.

Common Park - The monkey bars

Common park milkyway park lahey park for dance and shows to go play

I dont know

Haward Park

Skate Park to skate,

i doto go to the park that much

None

Skate Park, I skateboard

I dont know

common park south lawrence common riverside park

Common Park Scarito Park

Streets for Football

O'neil North common Park

Howerd Park - Play on the swings

I dont go to playgrounds

North Common Park

Common Park- To play when its hot, Semana Ipana

common park riverside park dancing and playing around

Common park, Leonard School playground, Parthum school playground; riding bike, skatboarding, relax, play

basketball

North common Park

I do not go to parks or skate parks

common park

North Common Park

Common Park

Common Park Brook Park Howard Park

I use the football field to play football

the common park. i play on the play ground

Common Park,Central Catholic playground, a park near central catholic school,

howard park-hangout common park-play basketball and have a picnic

Boston Park Main Park Walking Park I use them to ride bike and play ball and go on the rides.

no graffiti no littering no hobos clean enviorment

No answer

loitering

Parking Lot

common park howara park

Brook park I play on the playground Milk park baseball

Playstead Park Common Park Howard Park

The common park, the one in older street and that Leonard one here

the common park

the school park

my back yard

i use them all to play sports

leonard schol park

Common Park- walk in riding bikes the feild at my house- Kickball football dodgeball Leonard park- Basketball

football

Arlington School

Basketball

Walk around

Baseball

Common Park

Walk around

Brue Park

Walk around

Howard Park

Brooke Park

Comic Park

I used them to play basketball, base ball, and football you know sports

Leonard skate park

leonard school prak

The park in front of the Oliver Leonard school school park.

Basketball and walking.

common park  
West st. park  
tenney park  
I hang out at them  
The Common Park  
Basketball  
The Leonard School  
Basketball  
Football  
Walk around  
The park around Newbury st  
walk around  
Leonard Skate park  
no answer  
The central park baseball basketball  
Leonard School Playground, run around  
common park Play basketball chill with friends go bike riding  
I go to howard Park and Lawrence Park and Common Park to play softball  
Square Park  
i mostly go to Howard Park on Lawrence St. I usually go there to swing on the swings or play baseball.  
common park  
Common park footbal and baseball Brook street park Basketball  
Leonard School park  
Common Park Lawrence Park Howard Park  
brook park-hang around  
common park. slides baseball and ride bikes  
BROOK PARK  
Common Park -walk around Brook park- Play Basketball  
The football field to run an excersize  
Leonard School playground. I walk around and hang out with my friends.  
Common Skate Park  
no answer  
the common leahy and leonard school  
Leonard school, park I walk around and hang out with my friends  
common park walk my dog  
Bradford st  
common park 1 new the loop  
Common Park  
oneil, brook, howard i like to play baseball there  
common park  
i play baseball i visit common park more street  
shawsheen park  
Leonard skate park Common park Basketball court in the leonard  
common park to play baseball  
The south Common The Common Brooks Park I use all these facilities for football

brook park squirrel park  
howard park play baseball common  
Common Park ride bike  
Common park brook park random park walk around play tag and talk  
The school park is the only one I go to and I play footcall and casketball  
common park leonard park howard park  
leonard school playground hang out with friends, walking  
Common Park Howard Park Brooke park  
none  
common park  
solamente el parque la ardilla  
caminar  
-cerca de la woodland Street o arca el acueducto. -WI parque conocido como la ardilla  
No se solo e ido a un parque y no me se el nombre  
yo no boy a los parques  
Comic park  
parque de las jardillas  
campos de futbol americano canchas de baloncesto teatro al aire libre  
cancha de baloncesto juego vasque piscina aprender a nadar canchas de biesbol  
YMCA nadar baloncesto  
NO  
Common park eneille park  
common park/ to play on my bike with my friends  
none  
skateboard park skateboarding  
One of the parks called Squirrel Park. I go to run around.  
football field baseball field basketball field  
common park  
common park for bike riding and running  
Squirrel park, O'Neil park. To hang around with friends  
They should put more money  
common park/carnivals  
common park  
common park the park in back of the oliver  
common park, park behind the oliver  
common park/ reservoir  
I don't go to playgrounds  
slides, monkey bars, swings  
slide, monkey bars, swings, free running  
common park to play games and to chill  
I see people play baseball and basketball  
I don't go to playgrounds  
common park campignone park  
Riverfront park, common park and O'Neil park  
swings. monkey bars, slide, freedom air

none

#### 4. What concrete actions should the City take to improve open space and recreation?

#1) Supervised by each neighborhood association, as the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Association, of which I am a member, have a centralized and developed area/open space to have outdoor association meetings in each neighborhood.

#2) Provide safe locations where individuals can barbecue and enjoy their neighborhood.

-connections -maintenance

Inspire/hire young people to care for our environment and open space

Inventory all the vacant lots

Dog Parks, involve neighbors and list all

Make the space accessible to all ages

make use of all the empty lots in the city

Reassessment and reinvestment

Increase area's example water plant area Increase cleaning maintenance (use of sheriff work groups)

develop more open space on Tower Hill through use of water dept. land

1) Better pedestrian access to Den Rock 2) Maintain existing parks

clean + maintain

maintenance

Instead of building housing and parks, the city should build more entertainment places for the youth

-maintenance

cleaner places

Fixing the park up like some basketball hoops are broken and they leave it like that.

clean them

Use space wisely--We have a lot of parks but parks are only useful in the summer. There has to be more than that.

maintenance, safety

clean, recycle

To put the word out and let people know about these things.

The mills that aren't being used, can be turned into useful places.

need for more

as money allow

city needs to publicize the parks, keep them clean and engage users to keep them clean. The hill off Storrow Park is a mess with litter, overgrown and stairs need to be fixed

-Create a bike/walking trail that is continuous with other trails throughout the county/state

-Take on the Alleyways as a green way.

more trash cans, better care of current open spaces and more of them

Plant more trees, plant gardens, keep grass cut

Take ownership of all its alleyways in the North Common

Continue with SPicket River cleanup, creating 3 mile path. Continue with N. Common alleyway improvements

Love the idea of a Merrimack Riverwalk.

Don't know-this city procrastinates

none

-connections

-maintenance

Teen activities

Making sure that any graffiti or trash at the playgrounds are cleaned up. If we don't show that, that behavior will not be tolerated it will continue. I also think that trash receptacles and hearty plants in area will help make areas more pleasing to the eye and make people want to visit a local park, rather than going to a neighboring town that takes the time to show pride.

MONITOR ACTIVITIES & PROPERTIES ON A REGULAR SCHEDULE. MAINTAIN VANDALISM REPAIRS.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE CHAIN LINK PERIMETER FENCE AT MT. VERNON PARK ON THE WEST SIDE HAS BEEN CUT FOR "SNEAK THROUGHS".

Have planned activities in the park to get people interested in using the space; do things to make the parks more active, like having vendors, art shows, concerts, etc.; publish a brochure or have a website devoted to the open spaces in Lawrence for new and current residents - sort of like a park "trail"

?

Improve maintenance and upkeep of playgrounds; keep sandboxes clean and filled with sand!! Improve signage and crosswalk markings for access

Leave the wet lands as they are. They protect from floods & it gives the wild life a place to call home since all the woods are being taken away from the wild life.

Take better care of our facilities and more focus on recreation for all citizens

they should fix the swings or the ground because there messed up

I don't know

more activities at the park, such as parades, shows, etc.

they should take down old stuff and build new ones.

Clean the grass.

I think the concrete action the city should take is to protect the parts of Lawrence from littering and other damaging items by adding security.

paro los portivos es tener una de porte para ganar uno trofeo

mes juego or diuevaion(?)

game and more plants

Plant flowers and try some flowers that are not common in the area and more flower to keep the air clean in my opinion to much cars and pollution we need more trees and flowers.

tienen que tener mas limpieza para tener mas espacio abierto

They should do what's best for the city.

Recoger la basura y cortar la gramma.

Creo que si deberia hacer lo posible para mejorar los parques. Talvez limpiarlos y cortar la grama mas a menudo haci sera un lugar mas apropiado para los deportes.

limpiarlos mejor

-see what people have to say and make a space suitable for everybody.

take down parks that are disgusting build something safer for friends

clean them more

Clean-cut grass-maintain park

THey should just do what they have to do.

They need people to realize that we need open space.

clean fix water fountain fix swings

a skate board park

skate park

cleaning (once a week)

Reparacion de algunos columpios    Traer deportistas destacados paradar alguna clinica abierta a la jurentud.

Darle mantenimiento continuo

Mantenerlos limpios

more lighting after dark or brighter bulbs

benches at the "Rez"!

All parks, schools, stadium, etc should all have separate recycling recepacles! (At all times)!

allocate more resources to parks maintenance/upkeep

support Groundwork community gardens (help build more!)

continue building new riverfront parks and trails

Not sure

more maintenance

1. enhance and improve the river bank on the north side of the merrimack river from the boys club to the water treatment plant for passive recreation use

2. extend the south side merrimack river walkway from the boat house to the andover line and the andover 4 mile long riverside trail

I would love a dog park and would get very involved in working to make it happen

Keep area clean, and free from ICE and SNOW

increase police presence to decrease drug activity

maintenance, lighting @ night for vandalism prevention, general cleanliness.

I always bring a trash bag and pick up litter while my kids play. In other communities there is not as much trash, broken glass, etc... even in parks where the equipment is fairly new - like the north common playground or the Mt. Vernon - there are broken bottles and other stuff that is just unsafe for kids.

Rebuild all the parks that are in place already. Use the actual taxes that is taking out of my check to do so!

I believe the city should build private housing for homeless people or do a project that contributed to the children so that they can do something creative during their time off. or for students that have droped out of school that dont have jobs.

HAVE NEWER PLAYGROUND FOR KIDS AND FOR PERBERTON PARK NEW PLAYGROUND.

We need more security more surveillance. we need more programs for children in this community so they could be active. We have a high percentage on obesity due to limited activties in the community for low income families.

raise money

make them bigger

a skate park

they need more basketball tracks

make a baseball park

get rid of old factories and abandond houses

need a pond

No trash, no grafitti, no bumbs, no riping nets off basketball , no littering.

more lights on Avon St. Better skate park at Leonard School

The city should have a pet park to walk dogs, more spot lights, snd city lights.

BasketBall Court

they should put a pool place indoors.

fix the hole in the street

The city should improve churches and the inside of them because it's really important

A football field

use parking lots as activity center

A playground that is biug and kids could use.

make more baseball parks

Put nets on all of the hoops.

Basketball Court

A water fountain at every Park

Basket Ball Courts.

the city should but a store or a teen center to all of the parks. Im sure more people would go.

Get rid of unstable and burnt down houses

Football field for kids agess 11-15

A water fountain

the roads old school building

Want to make a baseball field

get rid of old factories

football field

fix the holes in the st

Football field

gardens

A public football field

A huge baseball field

To have more gardens

Clean them add tennis courts

That they should but a grass hockey field

A water fountain in every park

they should build a center with activities that offer scholarships. activities:dance, singing, acting, playing ball

tennis, volleyball

football field

We should put more cement

Dance school including ballet, hip hop, R&B, Reggae, ice scream shops

There should more parks with at least for more swings ages 10 to 13 only

The skate park

use parking lot and make it an activity center

they should keep it cleaner and a little more safer like more ladders

1. Put rides to go on. 2. Put baseball fields. 3. Put a path for us to walk and throw the water

Make more baseball parks

They should put more security and police

They should put some places with pools in it and to do lots of celebrations in December.

stop throwing the trash in the streets and make basketball courts.

no braking things in the park no people sleeping no litterng no graffiti

A teen place

I think the city should recreate new basketball courts for certain age groups and grades

no trash, no pullin wires, no public drunkers.  
no littering  
they should put more swing seats  
no trash , no hobos.  
make basketball park  
they should make a place for people to chill and make more activities  
no drunk people  
a dog park would help people walk their dogs and play with their dogs  
a dog park  
clean park no littering  
more lights  
yes a pond with a bridge across it. more lights.  
they should put some places with pools in it and to do lots of celebrations in december  
more lights  
the skate park  
More Houses  
pond with a wooden bridge over it and more lights  
more space, more jobs  
need a pond, more lights  
Make a dog park  
to just clean up lawrence  
better buildings  
they should make a basketball court in the common park for kids 13 and under for a certain time.  
The damn drugs we should stop it now  
Big parking lots  
there should be basketball, baseball courts and field near some parks  
take off some of the grass and fix benches.  
fix the gang writing, make more water parks and more football fields  
Basketball courts or shelters  
places for jogging,more spotlights on parks  
They should have more policeman around the parks  
making abandoned buildings a park or place for kids  
basketball court  
mantenerlos en buen esado  
limpieza e iluminacion  
-fondos economicos y esfuerzo (?) de la comunidad. Educate a la comunidad pon(?)dejar los parques limpios, y cuidarlos.  
Seguir cuidando los parques como lo que estan haciendo ahora.  
limpiar las cayes y proveer a la gente que no tires basura en la caye  
Que cada uno tengan un parqueo  
poner covija para el sol  
eso yo no lo se muy bien porque no regalo mi pago  
de futbol para chicos y lo que sea  
que entodos los parques que pongan canchas de baloncesto solo para ninos de 9 a 13  
football field

Baseball field  
a baseball park  
A playground around Berkley St for children to use.  
common park  
I don't know and I really don't care  
fix up the streets and make parks for kids safer, no glass in the playground  
cracks on the road  
put more money in it  
lock up basketball courts after 10pm  
the city should clean it like pick up the trash and put new benches,fix streets  
use vacant land  
make football fields or baseball

**5. Are you satisfied with the outdoor places for play and recreational use for children under 12?**

	Number of Respon- sive(s)	Respon- sive Ratio
Yes	115	41%
No	89	31%
Not Sure	79	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>100%</b>

Don't have children  
x for alleyways  
their should always be that availability  
The parks that I have been, there is more trash than I care to speak of. Our children are subject to seeing dirty diapers, cig. butts and broken bottles.  
SEA SAW & MERRY-GO-ROUNDS ADDED  
Equipment is often broken or missing entirely; play spaces are dirty and waste barrels not always available to that we might clean up before play.  
need to be kept clean  
but have heard parents say playgrounds are lacking for tots  
for the most part, but please see #7  
COULD BE BETTER  
I think it is very dirty they don't keep any of the parks cleaned. the city don't fix any of the equipment in the parks for children to use.  
The Howard park has something that if the kids get near it they can fall  
in a lot of the parks the basketball courts are broken  
Deben tener mas seguridad y supervisión

**6. Are you satisfied with the outdoor places for play and recreational use by children between 12-18?**

	Number of Respon- sive(s)	Respon- sive Ratio
Yes	104	38%
No	106	38%

Not sure	66	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>100%</b>

x for alleyways

The Mount Vernon park-clean and well lit, but more lights near the woods. Too many kids being rude and disrespectful-they weren't even from the area.

We do not have children or grand children in this age group

need a full size slo-pitch field and full size baseball field

they don't have a lot of varieties

Need more basketball courts

i'm sure though that more outdorr neighborhood basketball courts would be heavily utilized

Tons of ballfields in the city, lots of basketball courts, sailing, rowing, new football stadium,

I believe these places should be drug free and that these children be watched at all time because this is the time when kids experiment on things.

mas seguridad y supervision

#### 7. What changes would you like to see in the outdoor places for play and recreational used by children under 12 and 12-18?

more of both

More school gardens-ways for kids to learn about their own backyard

green and healthy place

Better upkeep and security

under 12- better safety 12-18-fields be maintained

a couple more basketball courts wouldn't hurt

safe area for children with less older teens and young adults hanging out

develop more open space in lower Tower hill N.

make walkways/sidewalks from schools

maintain + repair

more playgrounds unused space

Better care of our current facilities

cleaner & more maintained & safe.

-Make parks in suburban areas, since most parks are in the middle of the city.

more activities for them to play

I would like it to be safer for kids under 12 because theirs lots of fights at the park, for kids of the ages 12-18 is

for things to be fixed so they wont go there to bother others.

cleaner places.

Maybe having roofed areas with more benches for people to sit. more swings for younger kids.

For 12 years its fine but ages 12-18 there should be a place that has fun activities for age group 12-18

more safety

Maybe to be safer and maybe more clear so it can be safe- for kids to play in.

The changes are that the skate parks should be fixed for the 12-18 ages and more supervision for younger kids.

lighting

I'd like to see 12-18 in the parks rather than hanging around. Put up lights so parks can be used a night

12-18: skateboard park, bmx park, well lit basketball courts

more access to the river

alleyway maintenance with help of residents

Maybe more hands-on volunteer opportunities to help their community be a good place to live.

12 -structured event areas 12-18= Team effort/Group activity

More basketball courts

none

more of both

activities and groups

More police patrolling when the parks are open, so that young family members can enjoy the park and NOT have to confront or tolerate rude, sexualized comments and conversation from youth. If they know the police make their presence known they may be more aware that their actions WILL have consequences. Keeping up with the trash and graffiti on the equipment. Possible group activities to help occupy the teenagers that don't have supervision, i.e. peer leaders, pickup games.

Same as general improvements, but I would also add better maintenance of grass and plantings

more supervision

Basketball Courts

better lighting

under 12- more play area [swings,aid? 12-18- more seats and swings

They should add more things to the parks.

put water bubblers and make swings safer

More activities at the parks.

More activities for us to do.

The swings you have to make them safe. Fix the water bubbles.

nothing

I would like to see more benches and places for shade during the summer.

I think it'd be best to build restroom instead of using port-o-potties cause throughs are more sanitary and safer.

Si esta vien como de 18 ano a 22 x 12

Nose.

I was like to see more kids in parks

Places with security yet a beutifull park that flourishes with plants and animals/ wildlife

quiero mas espacio para entre tenimiento para nosotros jovenes.

For under 12 to make places to play more playful so basically to just add better young activites.

No basura

En los parques, un poco mas de limpieza y talvez mas lugares de juego de ninos. En los escenarios deportivos:

mas asientos en buenas condiciones donde los expectadores puedan sentarse.

ningun cambio

-make them strictly for kids 12-18 and put in more sport space and put clubs that older kids help younger kids do acitivities in parks.

more games/playgrounds for kids. something entertaining for teenagers

under 12- more Jungle gyms 12-18- hang out places-centers (free)

I would like to see the parks more clean not as many bottles and trash. For people 12-18 I don't really know. I

mean it should be equal to everyone but im npt sure

The playground to be cleaner and a seperate place for teenagers to hang out.

add mural? / paintings/graffiti to make it look nice

a skate board park

skate park

more skate parks.

Less pollution and less conflict within people.

clinica oreintadora de practicas.

mas de portes para ninos 12 y 18 anos

Mejores coridiciones y limpieza

Cualquier equipo que sea buenas para ellos

Mejor-Mantenimiento

A skating park

under 12- high-quality playgrounds (like South Common) in every neighborhood.

12-18: more soccer fields + environmental education opportunities

more

I would like that have free softball programs for youth

see above

make it more clean, with light at night

but have heard parents say playgrounds are lacking for tots, I'm sure though that more outdoor neighborhood

basketball courts would be heavily utilized

need structured activity

RE: Mt.Vernon Park playground - the equipment is nice/new BUT it lacks a good slide or climbing piece for kid age 4-8. There is a nice "toddler" slide, and a piece of equipment with a rock wall and sliding poles that is very neat for kids age 8+, but no traditional slide/climber for the usually playground age child - 4 - 8.

Would love to see a playground @ the Frost School.

Updated playgrounds.

I want to see these places drug free clean and safe for the kids to play without getting stung with a needle used by drug addicts.

MORE BASKETBALL COURT

more programs in the community for these children and to offer them scholarships to become someone.

make swings higher

and make the picnic areas cleaner! make the monkey bars higher for older kids, chessboards, make swings higher

make different sections and more swings higher

make swings higher

make swings fix courts

clean parks only around 12 year olds and 18 year olds unless accompanied by an adult

handball court hang out spot bike ramps

cleaner

more and better swings, very long and high slides.

Clean and fun basketball court.

bigger and better skate park

A bowling place, and a roller skating place.

I don't know

I think they should put chain nets so it won't break.

it could be cleaner and have more games

Basketball

BASKETBALL COURTS

The changes I would like to see are skating parks. They should add more ramps to them

Playing Manhunt

more sport equipment like basketball hoops

the swings are broken fix the hoops for basketball

Make a little playground for kids under 12. Also put basketball hoops and football station for 18 year olds.

More Swings

cleaner more / more space for kids

I would like there to be more seats and water fountains

under 12 playgrounds

I would want to see more space for the little kids. to separate the park like one side for older people

T would change the pollution habits on parks and streets

More Swings

I would like I would like to invent something new like a way to talk from feet away in parks

cleaner parks new basketball hoops

clean parks

I would like to see protection for the children

A big football field for big people.

cleaner parks

None

A big baseball field

Okay

more parks fix swings more space for

water fountains

No answer

More skate Parks

safer cleaner more fun activities to do

I say more protection for the children, water fountains

cleaner safer better basketball courts

I don't play outside but I do hang out with my friends outside, so I would say nice and cleaner places.

A baseball field

I would like to see skating parks

basketball court

need to expand playgrounds, add safer swings.

In parks there should be two people swing's and more seating places

Fields

I would like to see new seats outside

want a basketball court

I would like to see a park with a lot of sports and activities that teenagers like, park with

skateboards,basketball court. A park all ages can go to. A theme park and sport park

more swings

more basketball hoops and cleaner

I would like to see a bike park

more games like kids or our age or basketball courts

big old abandoned buildings in Lawrence should be taken down, and be put to use for children and teenagers

changes I would change would be a little more protection and more fences(under 12)(over 12) make more things

for older and fix swings and chain nets for basketball

baseball fields, swimmind pools, basketball, volleyball

longer slides better swings

hard swings

I dont know

no glass play full big play ground

under 12 Not sure 12-18 Not sure

Well a basketball, baseball field, football field, tennis and soon

A lot in all schools

put everything new and put new ones.

more swings longer slides better basketball courts

12 they should be in the playground 12-18 need to go on going bus could play basketball

I would like to see stores lower the candy because they are getting expensive

longer slides, unbreakable swings

the chnages they can make is to make a playground for kids all ages

I would like to see benches people should be allowed in park after dark

basketball courts

longer slides, umbreakable swings.

no concrete

football field and basketball courts

12-14= More active and place to chill 15-18= help them get scholarship to school

I want people to try to fix that little problem at Howard park

skate parks basketball court

a little chill spot our age

new swings

No violence going to school or work

a little chill spot for our age

handball courts bike ramps

a lot in school

A little chillin spot for our age

more dancing place and kid places.

to put an a set of swings

12-18 Make them bigger

handball courts hangout for teens bike ramps

parks should be safer for little kids but for big kids it should be fun

I would like to see six flags and places just for us

handball court, bike ramps

swings for baby swimming pool rubber ground

clean up the town put street lights on

more basketball courts

park should be safer for toddlers

the people fighting age 18 down doing drugs in the parks

people shouls play at parks all the time

football field basketball court and baseball

i would change the ages from 12-15. you can play in a baseball field with lights

a place for big kids and a place for for small kids.

the changes are more water parks-12 something and fix the swings

More Basketball courts and fields

i think we should make a water park and roller coaster

a handball court a place where kids can hang out eat and hang blowing, roller skating place

They should have more handball courts and basketball courts. They should have a court for only kids 6-13.

celebration party for each holiday

18 to make a skate park fix swings new game

a handball wall

Haber mas parques para ninos de 12 años

mas actividades y mas comunicacion acerca de programas

-mas limpios -mejores se requiredad(?) -mas supervision y presentacion

mas diversion, juegos, no tan infantiles como los que hay.

que pagan las luces en la cayes y en los parques.

bueno son muchos porque aunque ellos sean grande necesitan recreatividad tienen que poner juegos pero no de los chiquitos. otra cosa que le pueda gustar.

que tengan mejores equipos

para los 12 me gostaria ver pajase para las

bueno yo quisiera ver algunos cambios

que podamos jugar todos juntos y no pelear por las bolas de baloncestos

NO

futbol para ninos de 12 o 18 y para los ninos

yo creo que para los ninos de middle school pudieramo tener nuestro propio stadio de baloncesto

safety

football field

none

nothing

more baseball parks

more basketball courts

no changes

more fun things

nothing

I like rapping and I like to play baseball

none

to be a good place

fix the floor for little children won't fall

more swings and see-saws for more children to play

recreation centers

same as 2

**8. Are you satisfied with the outdoor places for play and recreational use for adults?**

	Number of Respon- se(s)	Respon- se Ratio
Yes	76	27%

2009 Open Space Plan  
*Resident Survey-Results*

No	109	39%
Not Sure	95	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>100%</b>

More open space be made available in each neighborhhod for adult get-togethers. Neighborhood clean-up ( volunteer ) is needed in each neighborhood.

we need a riverwalk/run bike trails

but we could do more

x alleyways

Would like to have a theatre where I could walk to.

None that I know of

Having proper lighting in the woody areas of the parks so the adults can do early morning or late night walks after the little ones go to sleep.

We could use better marking of walking trails, with distances of walks.

NOT REALLY MUCH TO DO

#### **9. What changes would you like to see in the oudoor places for play and recreational use by adults?**

Better lighting, benches etc.

trail improvements

More Trails for bike/walk/run

Track similar to High School Track or lightering @ Common and Sign St.

-same-

More places for excercise purposes i.e. Track

...not sure

more protection (protected areas)

I would like more space for basketball or softball in my neighborhood.

Keep nets on B-ball hoops

better safety conditions

A safe location for outdoor activities such as walking + jogging

cleaner.

-more walking trails and excercising equipment such as the park located in Methuen, behind the MarketBasket,

AJ Wright, Dots Plaza

to get up and at least do something

I think its alright but they also cause lots of disturbance like argumnets between one another.

more jogging routes.

Maybe more places to exercise or have cookouts with families

I don't know

Are there any?

Maybe cleaner so it can attract more adults to fo there.

They should fix up the places for elderly people.

cleanliness, police patrols

I'd like to see them better maintained, lights cleaner

-bike trails (along river) -I would love to see people using the Alleyways as walkways

more of them. community gardens

would like more lighting in the main common

more spaces to go running-long trails etc more gardens more access to the river

Tennis court- Bocce Court- Horshoe court volley Ball. WOULD love to see a gazebo in the open space next to the "OUR HOUSE" Community CTR. on Newbury/E HAv. Sts.

advertisement of events

Walking places other than the reservoir

none

trail improvements

more walking areas.

Same as above

None

See above

Dog walk- Bike Path

I think there should be more water bubblers and seats.

More chairs or benches in the park and basketball courts.

more benches

none

More romantic places! =)

nothing

water boberler.

I'm not sure because I don't know much about places for adults.

I think it'd be best to have shacks and drink bar (without alcohol) to keep them distracted.

reunion para los adultos y para los menores deportivos de futbol

Nose

Things that make them feel like they're in the outdoors not in the city/town but with plants

Necesitan algun espacio que tengan mas cosas para ellos hacer

To make it more adultish. To make outdoors for adults more workful and like picnic and walking paths.

No basura

ningun cambio

-Adults should have a place where they can go and relax and not worry about their kids getting hurt. Board games like Dominos or any grown-up activity.

not sure?

I don't know

I'm not sure.

More parking spots closer to the playground

more tennis court

nothing

skate park

More areas to gather and socialize. Areas to study during the warm seasons.

Actividades de charlas orientadora

Que agan actividades para las personas adultas.

Banos con seguridad

Mantenerlos limpios

Nueva-Grama

more benches and gardens

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more walking + biking trails    more outdoor concerts/cultural programs    more community gardens  
more places

I would like to see more tennis court

varous age categories would have different needs/interests. i'm happy i live next to the reservoir and cemeteries which provide good walking opportunities. would like to see improvements as indicated above. also specifically, a couple of benches along the reservoir walkway would be nice. also i wish the city was more bicycle friendly.

Fixing railing at STORROW park down by the steps; and keep the area free from ice and snow. Last years was a POOR result.

walking trails and bathrooms

unsure

PROMOTION! Den rock park or the Lawrence Boathouse are both great but neither has the resources to advertise or create a "friends of" group. Many Lawrence residents are not even aware of these resources.

Updated and up keep of these places

I would like to see more adults working or doing community work instead of using drugs.

DO KNOW

make an old people section

places to play dominoes and chess

fix streets

No answer

neighborhood watching    cameras    safe place to walk at night

domino table

do track on the track make them run.

security cameras

Security cameras, safe place for adults

They should put a water fountain and cut some branches because you could slip on the leaves that fall.

make a race for them to run

different games for them

To make better churches so people could notice that their churches

Not sure

give them more things to do like domino table

fix the path for walking

I wouldn't change anything.

I would like there to e more seats and water fountains

parks should be only for adults to walk and to play games with other people.

adults usually throw cigaretts and garbage on the floor and that should change

Don't Know

To get me money in the jobs

make track for them to run

I dont know

No school

make a place for them to walk around and run

I dont know

No school

keep streets clean without leaves or snow

gardens

Less clubs, and more safety Bars.

To not Liter

I dont know

Football Field

I would like to new seats, and playgrounds outside

trail, sitting area, pond, smoking area, picnic area, fishing area

Ponds

I would like to put new schools

A place for them to enjoy themselves, to relax after work,

tennis courts for adults

leave the basketball court for which the adults tske a break.

more benches and like domino play

More jobs would be great for Adults, some adults in lawrence need good jobs.

make trails a little wider and less of the street more bences and repave and pick up all the leaves.

check table

more better benches

House, me or you

no alcohol bigger slide and bigger swings

Not sure

I think tracks running places

Well I dont really know because thats a decision for adults.

fix all the side walks

benches picknik tables bathrooms

the look of the place clean the place clean the place and renew it

No answer

I think they should let more women play because there are usually more men

more benches

more benches

i dont know

more benches , check tables

fix the chair of the restaurant

security cameras

They should fix more the streets more parking and to clean the streets

nothing really

Picnic tables

there could be security cameras placed on street corners to ensure safety

cameras

I dont know

benches

cameras

neighborhood watch surveillance cameras park for dogs that are safe

well i dont really know because thats a desicion for adults

camaras, safe places

less clubs because it increases crime.

to put a long place to walk

Nothing

neighborhood watch at night safer places for adults to walk drug free park

i would like to see skate parks basketball sport track and other things

to be safe security cameras and near hoods

neighborhood watch, cameras, safe place for dogs

i dont know

Basketball court and gardens

not so much cost

basketball courts just for woman

dont know

i would like to see skate parks and besketball

A guards to protect us from harm

they shouls have basketball courts and football fields

Not Sure

make courts just for women

football field & flowers

my parents think it is just fine but more cocurity

More jogging places

roller coaster

more security cameras, a dog park

More gardens and sitting areas

no violence

more light or camera

que siempre se mantengan limpios y en buen estado.

mas limpieza e lluminacion

Pronovermas conocimiento y recreacion academia.

Todas las presentacions son un desastre balla, con y llada nos. Sin ninguna comciencia social de ser Hispanos

no se

me guataria que posieran una cancha donde se juega baloncesto

que pongan teatro al aire libre picinas para bebes ninos jovenes y aldutos

ninguno

nose que le guste

yo ne se porque yo no soy un adulto

NO

nose

ningunos

que tengan para deportivos para las mujeres

none

not sure

I don't know

the adults use it mostly to smoke

don't know

I like to play baseball

none  
 the places that we play to be good  
 not sure  
 a few things adults would actually enjoy for once  
 gardens  
 less clubs

**10. Are you satisfied with the programs for play and recreational use in the parks? What programs would you like to see?**

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Yes	93	36%
No	64	25%
Not sure	103	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>100%</b>

more soccer- I haven't played in Lawrence yet  
 Signs for walking and measures distance!  
 I would like more community teen events such as movie nights at the parks or a teen bbq.  
 more jogging routes.  
 They should hold more events to bring people together and clean up.  
 THey hsould make festivals and other things to bring together.  
 The should be more adults watching childrens  
 adult sports leagues and pickup games  
 Environmental education. Guided nature walks/hikes  
 Map and then post on the City's web site the bike & walking paths.  
 Band concerts (like Methuen), movies  
 I never hear of programs for woman or preschoolers.  
 Parks are often over programed, and closed to kids who just want to play. Too much Little League, not enough pick up ball!!  
 I think there should be ymca and more activities  
 Parades, shows, parties, and more  
 I would like to see places to be able to go in for especially the winter.  
 I'd like to see T.V networks on sport courts to entertain us while working out.  
 That teach you about plants and plant life and how to plant.  
 I would like to see more playgrounds and swings and nice and undamaged basketball courts.  
 They just build parks and leave the idea there when they need to do more  
 Hay pocas: Los discapacidas no teinen programas gimnacia fisica adaptordas a ellos.  
 Aquellos que estan cerrados deben abrirse al pueblo  
 Programas deportivos  
 more education tied to recreational programs-support environmental stewardship  
 I would like to see more playground for kids.  
 I do think that an instructional tennis program at the reservoir summers would be good for youth and adults  
 we do not really use the "programs" we just use the equipment on our own time

i would like to see more community programs so that the community can get well aquainted.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

better equipment and safer

I would like to see swings

basketball programs

i would like to see more sporrt activities because getting active is good

Basketball

Basketball teams

they need basketball courts. and a talent show

volleyball and theater parks.

I would like to see a skate Parks

Basketball

i would like to see more like carnival or holiday activies

Yes programs for play and recreational use would be good for fitness of children.

more helping teens activities and basketball tounaments and play more teams and arts and crafts, theater camps

Baseball

I would like to see another boys and girls club beacause it is really fun

I would like to see an art program

the program they should do that if some students dont make the team for sport they should make teams to help

them become better

soccer softball baseball but they should have a basketball court

Baseball programs batting cages.

more dancing places and drama mocking.

more creative programs

Circus

wiffle ball

no teen tagging in Lawrence court or home walls and school

in parks they should have basketball tournaments

basketball football bowling

more guards in parks because sometimes its not safe

I would like to see field hockey programs

modelaje

como asel ejercicios en una pisinas

programas de empusa familiares

musica

baseball games or football games and basketball

YMCA programs

play baseball

They're good the way they are

#### 11. What overall goals should the City set for recreation and open space?

To use ( any ) existing state/federal monies to create and maintain on a regular basis existing open space and to

NOT mis-use monies slated for this purpose for any other project.

connections

More green corridors-along river, streets (bike lanes)

Possible DOg Park South and North

security

TO put them to proper use.

neiborhood cookouts

not sure yet.

Connect open spaces- improve sidewalks, rail trail? walkways, use/access to rivers

they should maintain and clean them to provide a safer environment

A solid five year plan with realistic goals

THey shuold try to install more fun teenager places like bowling alleys and cafe.

clean open space for theire can be more active and more better.

I would like to see activities going on for people to go or sign up like basketball tournaments.

clean open space for people to jog, play sports

keep them clean

A fun place where all ages can enjoy

make them safe and cleaner and fun.

More events to bring people together in our cause for a healthy environment.

Maybe, take down places that are not being used, for space.

safe recreational places

open space is needed in every neighborhood so people can walk to it and feel ownership

more people checking childrens for the safety

-Bike and walking trails (expanding)

-Exproving Alleyway use as green space

better maintenance all the time not just before the feast of the 3 saints.

maintain clenliness, removal of trash/ liter, keep grass cut.

maintain cleanliness & safety

create a diverse set of programs and parks

preserve history

See above

maintenance/ creativity use of area

more fund raisers

connections

geting teen out of streets

cleaning up.

police patroling.

lighting of walkways.

PROPER MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF EXISTING FACILITIES.

To have every open space be a programmed and active part of the city for all residents to enjoy

Clean up and safety

Make safe and clean areas available for kids of all ages to play.

Set golas for the future and stick to the plan

I think they should make more parks but also to walk around.

Should add another skate park that is bigger than the first.

IDK!

to appeal to people of all races and ages  
To make things better  
more parks, clean the area  
fix the parks there  
I think maybe things that can be used by kids as well as teens and adults.

The overall goals the city should set are:

1) finding ways to clean park and keep park cleans, and 2) Add food and non-alchoholoc drink bars and stacks.

No esue eno asi porque acer parque es esto nota  
con pantalla.

They should make more parks including me we should make this area more natural with the environment  
necesitan mas opiniones para hacer algo diferente.

Well first of all it should be safe and definitly very clean and to always have someone who can help around that  
are like a lifeguard or something.

Limpiar

Talvez ponerse la meta de limpiarlos todos los meses y poner mas seguridad para que no hallan problemas  
nada

Comment for above: People don't really care about programs anymore and that is really important because how-a-days parks are used for bums to slepp and for people to smoke

Q11:

-make an open space that is really an "open sapce" that is suitable for kids, teenagers, and adults, even old  
people who want to enjoy a park.

gardens, pathways, gazebos!

places to relax!

more activities

more activities for youth

It should be a safe area and something clean and have a nurse nearby incase if a kid gets injured.

Overall goals have the place le cleaner

made it a prettier space + safer + funner

to make a skate park

skate park

TO much parking spaces. We can do more thing build more thing for kids

To have more residents attend

To be more clean

TO keep these places fun, yet safe at the same tieme.

Mayor programacion y mejor convocatoria.

Integrar a la juventud de la secundaria.

Que puedan lograr todas las metas propuestas.

Buscar mesedios(?) de fundaciones

Peder colaboracion de la comunidad

Crear una cerento

A way to satisfy the general public

increased quality + quantity of open space, esp in underserved neighborhoods. A place for everyone to enjoy the  
oudoors.

not sure

2009 Open Space Plan  
*Resident Survey-Results*

The showcase cinemax is closed, I will like that they put eigther' skateland or any youth and adult play place.

Clean-up

not sure

Protect and enhance existing open space, especially on the rier banks plus define and improve linkages between green areas, neighborhoods and parks and emphasis on aesthetically historical recreational aspects.(2004 goals were great!)

cleanliness

decrease gang/drug activity

investing in maintenance. Seems like this is starting to happen.

More parks for the kids to play in so they are not playing in the middle of the streets.

the overall goal for the city should be a drug free place.

BETTER PARK

MORE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

knock old buildings down

home for the poor

Cleanliness

Security

more activities

Make more spaces for swings

more activities

Cleaner places.

well you should put a program that takes you to fun places in the summer

more activities

No answer

i think they should make a pool but indoors or water fountains.

cleaner places

goals city should recreate are skate parks, Basketball, baseball fields and churches

places for people who want to have wrestling careers.

make space for courts and swings

make a baseball field

Not sure

stuff for kids

I would like to see more gyms

i would want them to put a teen center for teens can go and do their homework. an all day program

to make better places for everyone

If I can set the city for recreation and open space I will put a house

clean add more equiptment

I dont know

A lot of football field

cleaner places

Yes

they should make necessary needs for pre-teens after kid before teenager

safety

Football field

More skate Parks

Have more gardens, and places to playmore  
cleaner safer  
make sure it stays clean.  
Pond Bike path, swimming pool, sketa parks, football field.  
I would like new gyms  
clean  
clean parks, add more activities, build more centers and reuse all the open space that we dont need.  
Pond and bike paths  
New schools  
Theme Parks and activities centers.  
Parks that have more swings for kids ages 10 to 14 only  
cleaner  
Its fine  
courts and swings  
i say, if i were to be mayor of the city i would not make any changes  
a teen center with a safe place teens can go hang out and and talk about their problems with someone  
trustworthy.  
more planting trees open space  
Ice Hockey  
indoor football and baseball  
Baseball parks  
they should have security and protection for children  
Lots like basketball and baseball places  
make it a teen center  
they should make it a park with leaves  
An overall goal would be to lower prices on candy in stores  
more trees, more paths, more open space  
more clean, more space  
more planting, activities, path baseball field  
make basketball park  
there should be more rides in the hispanic festival  
I think they should but move active gangs on the city  
I want people to try to fix that little problem at Howard park  
there should be more activities  
I dont know  
more planting,more baseball fields.more walking paths, trees,  
Let people over 14 work for a living  
more kid place and less clubs for adults.  
more fun places for the kids  
Houses  
handball  
make community fun for kids  
laws and traffic  
more swings  
better park

clean up perserve of the streets, better police  
that it will look better  
destroy some of the factorys that are not in use and make a park or a court  
make community fun for kids  
an indoor pool and basketball court. A program to do this  
football fiels  
basketball court  
Not Sure  
they should take out the factorys they don't use  
put bike land  
they should make a goal is parks should'nt have a time to close  
More basketball courts football fiels soccer fields  
we should encourage kids to join lbgc  
they should have more activities  
more things like parades or things that the whole family can do  
parks that have tracks and basketball courts that are only for ages 15 and down kids.  
i don't know  
river, money  
Hacer mas actividades diferentes para la recreacion infantil  
mas apoyo  
Mejor vision positive hacia lo que somos(?):  
Educarnos. Economicamente, socialmente, juridicamente, jundiconare, intelectualmente saber donde estamos  
pisando  
esta bien como esta creo que ninguna.  
buscar policias mejores y meter los ladrones en carce  
que pongan pisinas para bebes ninos jovenes y adultos  
nada  
NO  
no se  
que pongan cancha de baloncesto  
add at least a small park with swings and slides for young children.  
skateparks  
I like music  
I don't have anything in mind  
make a park with things that both children and adults will enjoy. also a shady place  
skate parks  
building a better school

**12. What do you see as the City's biggest obstacle to improving open space and recreation?**

- #1) Lack of interest by MOST residents in helping to maintain open space/recreation areas.
- #2) Cut-backs in monies needed for such.
- #3) Not having enough media coverage on existing/proposed projects and having periodic neighborhood meetings on these projects.

money  
political will  
Essex Co.

DPW should contract GWL not just to do the open space planning but the operations and maintenance as well.

-Better lightening

Groundworks- Very nice =)

security and maintenance

Vandalism and lack of use.

money problems

-the absence of a City Parks and Recreation Plan

poor property value, lack of ownership/ literally and figuratively in communities

lack of funds or employees to maintain

in a word money

keeping it clean & maintained w/ no graffiti on things.

the city's input

Getting people to participate.

One of them is peoples attitude towards others.

The trash.

creativity in creating more yet different things

safety and graffiti on playgrounds etc.

that nobody chooses to start so nobody will follow. "Nobody cares so why should I?"

The trash that is scattered on the streets and maybe some peoples attitude.

The obstacle is the people that litter.

money, money

money

money

people should relate more to work together

-money

-the alleyways are not owned by the city.

usage and litter.

The city cleans up before the feast of the 3 Saints, but NOT afterward. We still have confetti on the garden st +

in the vacant lots that is not cleaned up.

money

stopping graffiti, getting businesses and residents/visitors to have more respect in caring for their city.

\$ and manpower

money, volunteers-

kids with bad behavior

money

political will

Essex Co.

teenagers that have little or no respect or pride for their community. Creating groups or clubs that are centered around the community, maybe they could earn extra credit towards school. I think having our youth more involved with community and showing them that helping their neighbors helps to make stronger communities that come together in a time of happiness and crisis!

VANDALISM & UNSUPERVISED TEENS

Lack of funding and maintenance

Money

Finances, so we need to organize more volunteers and to get more part time workers on board in the summer time. Once many teens found good summer jobs which often lead to life work goals and/or connections to city employment. These opportunities seem to have disappeared.

Keeping the trash away

attitude and money

the trees. I think

IDK

I don't know!

IDK.

using space wisely

People are not doing anything.

Idk

Maybe how people show bad appreciation.

THe biggest obstacle that the city hsould see is to prevent pollution and littering.

ir ajpaque

las gangas

Clean the Park

necesitan jente para saber lo que hacer.

To tell you the truth I dont really think the city cares that much about the outdoor fun activities and I really think the should change that because it can make a difference.

que no hay comunicacion y organisasion entre si.

la cooperacion de las personas

no lo se

- the city's biggest obstacle right now is the economy and everything that is going wrong right now and overall the people because if you don't have the support, nothing would work

everyones motivation, and the environment people complain but nothing gets done

All the streets; we're very urban & cramped

funds volunteers- space

Their very not giving and I personally dont think they care. If they did they would of done something about it along time ago.

Keeping environment clean and good condition.

It's very dirty, trash everywhere! polluted river!

adults thinking the projects dangerous.

( "people will not be admited into the skatepark without a helmet.")

Lazy workers and the mayor

The biggest obstacle would be the mayor accepting it.

People coming together to clean a park or nearby river.

La apatia de la poblacion. Buscar metodos que integra a la poblacion a los actividades.

Falta de planificacion Falta de fiencionarios que luchen por lograr esta meta

Nieve en Inviero

No Hay dinero-en la cuidad

political will!

Funding

To many buildings

space available

keeping it clean and safe

lack of public awarenesss and participation. financing projects is always an issue.

funds

gang/drug activity

ACTUALLY DOING IT!!!!!!!

the people that dont let the city succeed are the only obsltacle

MONEY

Lack of security they don't give these children and families any opportunities.

gangs, drugs, they should put a big fence around the parks and lock it

were they put trash

Security

laws too much traffic too much money

littering vandalism

littering and grafitti, no loitering

Not clean.

money, traffic

Laws, to much traffic, and cost money.

economy, vandelism, littering

The biggest change are in the churches and inside them so people would feel free yo pray to god

Not sure

stop littering/ global warming

the taxes for houses

Not sure either

Gangs

I want roofs on top of the seats so when it rains we won't get wet

the biggest problem in the city has it that its a mess like dirty. it looks dirty.

polution

People going Drugs and drinking next to our parks.

The thing that is in the way is that there is no spas

that it is not clean and not safe some places

gangs, drugs, and more bad stuff

I dont know

All the bad things

it not clean

Gangs

safety

The lot in garden street

Drugs, gangs, and drugs dealers.

drugs vandalism

I would say safety and cars

drugs violence

The disrespect towards parks made by not only teens by adults.

Softball field

I would like seats with roofs on top for we won't get wet

drugs

rebuilding every school in lawrence!

Skate park

Nothing is going to stop me

My biggest concern is when I want to play basketball the fields are always full of men so we want to make a basketball court for women only

drugs

Skate park

they have to clean the litter and vandelism

i don't know

they are to many litterbugs and everything looks so run down well it is.

littering loitering graffiti

I dont know

Potholes

I think for money

that it is all messed up all of the parks are breaking.

littering argueing and fights

The city's biggest problem is money

loritering ,graffiti

loitering , certain time to leave the park

the biggest problem is the centent

littering loitering graffiti.

concrete

to much traffic

The biggest problems is that since the city doesnt help the people in the city, the people in the city dont help

I want people to try to fix that little problem at Howard park

money, gangs, and buildings

laws traffic money

I dont know

Lotering

The biggest obstacle to improve is less going to parties and court

laws traffic money

laws, money

to much traffic Money

Money problems and jobs.

to put on another set of park

people littering. trash and lots of houses

Making parking lots

traffic crosswalk people that actually do their jobs

how fast people trash it up and everything

laws and traffic

money, traffic

rubber ground

free helping programs

Nothing

money

good and bad!!! and cleaning up the bad people

Not Sure

money

look out for robbers

obstacle is put more trees and add water fountains

Taking the other places that are of no use

money because the economy is actually in debt

the traffic, money and more space

gas is the biggest and dirt and trash

el dinero y el interes

no los toman encuenta

Lo economico y la falta de interes de los actividades para que nos desarrollemo, como lo que somos una  
comunidad valiosa, trabajadora y luchadora. Deberemos reconocerlo

no se

mejor programas

mas parques

que pongan conchas y fuentes y maquinas de papita y agua pero no tirar las cosas en el piso

NO

no se

dinero

trash

none

space,gangs,drugs,drug dealers

teenagers that are in gangs, people smoking,drugs.

At the park

see more baseball parks and baseball courts

don't know

fix streets because they're too bumpy

fixing the streets

playgrounds

fixing the streets

### 13. What do you see as the City's biggest opportunity to improving open space and recreation?

To actively engage it's residents of their time and talents to improve areas for use.

The urban rivers- Spicket and Merrimack are great bodies of water for trails.

To assure the proper use of the open spaces.

the covanta site

Renovate the vacant lots and do something with them.

vacant lots burnt buildings

Get more education to people

2009 Open Space Plan  
Resident Survey-Results

I think one of the biggest opportunity to improving open space and recreation is some abandoned buildings that they don't use they could reconstruct and use it for activities for people to go to.

get more education to people.

vacant lots or the unused mills.

use the unuse space for recreation

THere are alot of kids, so we can pronanly get them more involved.

The children programs that can get people more involved, to help community.

none

requiring new development/rehabilitation of property to create, improve open space

-areas along the river (trails) -the alleyways

Beautiful historic buildings that can be used creatively to make new spaces.

The City should take responsibility for the alleyways-keeping them lit + clean

vacant lots & alleyways

Take ownership of alley's employ youth thru Groundwork Lawrence green team-youth core programs-parter by providing funding to increase the capacity of these programs

to NOT build on empty lots as these lots represent green space for a city and an improved quality of life;  
especially whil there is 700+ empty foreclosed homes/businesses in need of occupancy and improvement.

Life time lease use to private onrganization

the opportunity ti develop & maintain

I can't think of any place

To keep all children and teens off the street so that theres less problem

We still have a chance to strengthen the foundation for the new and younger generation to to build upon so this city can continue to be a source of pride.

UTILIZE THE NEW LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Using programs and funding, even funds like Preserve America, to highlight the history and value of Lawrence  
Good open space available, especially along the rivers and in neighborhoods and at schools. And I believe that there is significant volunteer help available to help develop plans.

I do not see many if any at all

kids, children..

To add more thing, such as big playgrounds.

IDK!

Talk to people about it, spread the word.

better parks

Im not sure

The city's biggest opportunity I see is using lakes or pond for acitivites in parks should as fishing.

we need to see the river

opiniones de las jente que viven aqui

grupos recreativos

basket ball hoops (more)

- the fact that they have parks to work with and everybody wants to help kids, so they would help.

All the open, empty space!

abandoned spaces

I don't know...

skate park

skate park

La comunidad empresarial

Organizaciones gubernamentales y coritativas que pueden ser contactadas

walking and bike paths along the Merrimack River- Teaching respect for others property

-community gardens on vacant lots

-completing the riverfront park/trail system

-improvements to the North & South Commons

Neighborhood Groups participating

Park development on the Merrimack River along water street, also extension of the river walkway above the boat house into andover.

the citys biggest opportunity is now that we have enough space to do something productive with it.

The city of Lawrence is pretty big and have unused buildings the city could take one and fix it for programs and activites for after school to lower crimes and maybe they would be less violence.

park no body goes

more people hang out more

more family to come outside and participate

not sure

Families can be safer

Nothing

if students should finish highschool and go into college

more family would go outside

n/a

Games

where the hospital is they should block one of the parking lots and build a park

more family would go to the park

I dont know

They are making more programs for children

if students finish highschool and go to college

Skate Parks

people volunteers

Football field, bike path and grass,

more basketball for kids ages 10 to 13

more family gatherings

Skate park

more family will go outside and participate

There are so many vacant spaces so take it and make something out of it . their are lots of volunteers

Baseball Park at Brook park

More Baseball field for kids and adult

loitering littering graffiti

alot of volunteers would be good

I think the city should bring down abandoned factories that we don't use

they now have many volunteers

money

it would make it better, and a better popularity

the city biggest opportunity to improve the space is to help peoplr who have many problems and they will help them back

it would make the city more fun and give more opportunities to people

more population

I dont know

more population

more people would come safer

more population

put the coolest stuff and funnest thing ever

a lot of more familys will be safer

Find a lot of money

more population

People would be safer like families

more population

volunteers

open space and getting rid of shut down factorys to make parks in them

Parks

take old factorys

i think they should cut down parks that are known bad and also people will help

Finding alot of money or oil

people can be more as a family, more safer families, population

to make parks in open big spaces

it will be better and kids have fun

el terreno, el espacio y la (?)

destruir las factorias que no estan usando y hacer algo como un parque

tenerios limpio y preobil muchas cosas.

mas parqueos

por ejenplo siben espacio adonde pueden contruir parques derotivos que contrullen

none

the biggest opportunity to improving open space recreation is a park

streets

get more space

a vacant parking lot

fixing streets

#### **14. Buildings of historical or architectural interest 1=least important 5=most important**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	1	2	3	4	5
	49	27	83	49	52
	19%	10%	32%	19%	20%

#### **15. Places of historical value or interest 1=least important, 5=most important**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	1	2	3	4	5
	29	40	77	57	55

11% 16% 30% 22% 21%

**16. Land conservation to protect water and natural habitats 1=least important 5=most important**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

1	2	3	4	5
26	10	18	58	149
10%	4%	7%	22%	57%

**17. Open Space to meet active recreation needs 1=least important 5=most important**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

1	2	3	4	5
30	26	47	68	88
12%	10%	18%	26%	34%

**18. Open Space to meet aesthetic or passive recreation needs 1=least important 5=most important**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

1	2	3	4	5
36	22	58	81	62
14%	8%	22%	31%	24%

**19. Walkability-pedestrain or bike access to parks and open space 1=least important 5=most important**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

1	2	3	4	5
9	7	34	50	160
3%	3%	13%	19%	62%

**20. Please choose the top five items most important to you in terms of the City's parks and open space future investments:**

	Number of Response(s)
Bike paths	124
Walking trails	125
Conservation areas	68
Family picnic areas	125
Community gardens	77
Baseball fields	98
Softball fields	40
Soccer fields	35
Football fields	82
Skate parks	101
Basketball Courts	121
Handball courts	69
Outdoor ampitheater	57
Public access to water bodies	95
Tennis courts	25
Swimming pool	154

2009 Open Space Plan  
*Resident Survey-Results*

Community Center	58
Farmers Markets	52
Other	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>290</b>

**Q.20 Additional Comments**

more chill places, places to go and relax or get away.

alleyways

map the historical walking route of Lawrence

Outdoor concerts in the summer.

fountain

Dog Parks

BIGGER PLAYGROUND

volleyball, track.

dance center/area

ice skating

Dance

more swings

olley ball court

make a dog park

Field hockey

educacionales (centros comunitarios)

biciletos

**21. Additional Comments:**

I, as a former graduate of Holy Rosary School ( Summer Street - 1962 ), understand that the monies to preserve this historic piece of Italian Archetecture have been LOST by the city. credit to Sal Lupoli etc. and other businessmen who have taken a sincere interest in Lawrence's rebirth - but as Mr.DeMarca stated - Where Did Holy Rosary's Monies Go ?

I strongly suggest that the Eagle Tribune run editorials every so often urging the Mayor etc. to channel monies ( with the reduced budget )

This is a great beginning

more needs to be done by public officials, to improve the quality of life

I don't consider farmers Markets to be open space but I believe they are very important.

(for Q14-19 participant ranked them from 1-5 in order, said question was a little confusing.)

Bike paths and alleyway use would be great. These are two areas of importance to me. I would love for the city to take a very aggressive approach to making the alleyways, green, walkable and a destination for people who want to explore the bones of the city!!

I would also like to see legislation requiring sidewalks to be kept clean of snow + trash by homeowners/ landlords with fines for not shoveling (this limites the city's walkability in the winter)

\* I tie the various sport fields to schools, etc. and are already in existance. What is needed are more areas where the whole family can participate.

( arrows are drawn on the paper version to Q20)

Keep up the good work.

2009 Open Space Plan  
Resident Survey-Results

City investment in dollars is most needed in high cost improvements; fewer dollars are needed for open space and passive recreation areas. High cost improvements like those in South Lawrence that make the areas unavailable to the casual user are a poor use of public funds. Little League should pay for its own upgrades... scoreboards, fine grass infields, bleachers.

It would be nice to have weekly outdoor concerts in the park like Andover has.

Andover holds weekly concerts in the park every Tuesday 6:00pm-8:00pm

This survey is a good start

We can make it! =)

Please think about the change in outdoor play or recreation use in #5..

( #17 was not filled out, but I couldn't deselect option- so I said 3)

Por favor ami me gusta jugar golf pogram uno

make an environment that is suitable for anybody

advertise more for youth volunteers

THey should really (can't make out word?), there is would make a difference

A giant soccer field.

what about volleyball?

Kids has to have more fun and also parents can take their little kids to play where is more safe

Felicitar su empero en la orientacion a la poblacion

Hay que actuar.

Although there is much still to do, the City & Groundwork Lawrence have made incredible progress over the past few years-thank you!

I think it would be beneficial to have a citizen open space committee with a quasi relationship to the conservation commission. I appreciate the vision and leadership of Groundwork Lawrence has provided in terms of Open Space Recreation Matters. Also a committee on walkability or bike access to parks and open space.

It seems like the city has invested in its parks in the past few years. Hopefully they will be maintained now. Parks add to general quality of life and improve the community on so many levels. Would love to see a walking trail down by the river. There has been a lot of talk about linking the few patches of trail that exist down there. that would be a jewel.

Excellent survey hope you make a change in our community. Thank you

childrens club (safe, no drinks)

volleyball

They should help poor people, churches, water fountains outdoors

should re-do all of the parks

there should be more places someone can ride bikes without danger of being hit by a car.

hope you make those changes

volleyball

if they can conserved this needs that people fill or establish good possibilities

We need a public football field

I would like more skate parks.

none

The city of Lawrence need to improve more things to get a better city

No comment

you should put in tennis courts its good exercise

it would be nice to put more interesting games there

2009 Open Space Plan  
*Resident Survey-Results*

please bike paths    dont ruin the environment    handball court

I would like their to be more jobs.

please help us with this stuff i would appreciate it

please make more basketball courts

I think that we should have alot of more community center and swimming pools

yo queiro deportes de hembras

Thank you for making this big change for us.

There should also be skateparks

maybe you guys should also kick in some of your own ideas to also try putting in parts for adults, trust me my mom loves a good park

# Attachment D

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## *Outreach and Presentations*

How do you play?



How do you use our parks?



¿Como usas nuestras parques?

¿Como juegas?

*The City needs your input!*

*About/sobre*

# Community Meetings Reuniones comunitarias

## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan Plan para Espacios Abiertos

*¡La Ciudad necesita su opinión!*

*Come to one of three planned sessions / Ven a una de las tres reuniones planeadas*

### Session/sesión 1

Oct 2, 2008

6:30 pm

Lawrence Public Library  
(north branch)  
51 Lawrence St.

\*\*Childcare Available\*\*

\*\*cuidado de niños disponible\*\*

### Session/sesión 2

Oct 9, 2008

6:30 pm

New Lawrence High  
School  
Cafeteria

\*\*Childcare Available\*\*

\*\*cuidado de niños disponible\*\*

### Session/sesión 3

Oct 16, 2008

6:30 pm

Lawrence Heritage State  
Park-third floor/tercer  
piso  
1 Jackson St.

The Open Space Plan prioritizes and identifies the investments Lawrence makes in its parks and open space. The updated Open Space Plan also keeps the City eligible for receiving state grant funds for future park and recreation projects.

El Plan de Espacios Abiertos ("Open Space Plan") definirá la inversión y mejoras en los parques, y espacios abiertos de la ciudad. El Plan de Espacios Abiertos actualizado también permitirá a la ciudad obtener fondos del estado para proyectos futuros.

\*\*If you need childcare please contact/  
si Usted necesita cuidado de niños por  
favor contacte a  
Kathryn Prybylski-978.974.0770

Spanish translation available at each session.  
Traducción al español disponible en cada sesión



[www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com)

For more information please contact/ para más información por favor contacte a

Ellen Minzner, City of Lawrence

978.620.3516

or

Kathryn Prybylski, Groundwork Lawrence

978.974.0770



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



# City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan

## Community Meetings

We want  
your input!

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New Lawrence High School Cafeteria  
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Refreshments Provided!

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Oct 16, 2008

6:30 pm

Lawrence Heritage State Park-third floor  
1 Jackson St.



Contact Ellen Minzner at the Community Development Department at 978.620.3516 or Kathryn Prybylski at Groundwork Lawrence at 978.974.0770

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# Ciudad de Lawrence 2009 Plan para Espacios Abiertos “Open Space Plan”

Queremos su opinión!

## Reuniones Comunitarias

El Plan de Espacios Abiertos (“Open Space Plan”), que necesita ser actualizado cada cinco años y presentado a la División de Servicios de Conservación de Massachusetts, definirá la inversión y mejoras en los parques, y espacios abiertos de la ciudad. El Plan de Espacios Abiertos actualizado también permitirá a la ciudad obtener fondos federales y del estado para proyectos futuros.

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2 de Octubre de 2008

6:30 pm

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51 Lawrence Street

\*\*Cuidado de niños disponible\*\*

Por favor contacte a Kathryn Prybylski a  
Groundwork Lawrence si Usted necesita  
cuidado de niños. 978.974.0770

### Sesión 2

9 de Octubre de 2008

6:30 pm

Lawrence High School  
Cafetería

\*\*Cuidado de niños disponible\*\*

¡Habrá comida y refrescos!

### Sesión 3

16 de Octubre de 2008

6:30 pm

Lawrence Heritage State  
Park—tercer piso

1 Jackson St.



**Traducción al español disponible en cada sesión**

Contacte a Ellen Minzner del departamento de desarrollo de la comunidad a 978.620.3516 o Kathryn Prybylski at Groundwork Lawrence a 978.974.0770.

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1 Jackson St.



**Traducción al español disponible en cada sesión**

Contacte a Ellen Minzner del departamento de desarrollo de la comunidad a 978.620.3516 o Kathryn Prybylski at Groundwork Lawrence a 978.974.0770.

[www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com) [www.groundworklawrence.org](http://www.groundworklawrence.org)

**City of Lawrence Disposition List-October 2008**

Planning Board  
147 Haverhill St  
Lawrence MA 01840

Lawrence Historical Commission  
147 Haverhill St  
Lawrence MA 01840

City of Lawrence  
200 Common St  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Lawrence City Council  
200 Common St  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island St  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Lawrence Community Works  
Our House Campus  
168 Newbury Street  
Lawrence, MA 01841

Habitat for Humanity  
60 Island St  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Bread and Roses  
58 Newbury St  
Lawrence MA 01840

Lazarus House Ministries  
410 Hampshire St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Greater Lawrence Community  
Action Council  
305 Essex St  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Arlington Community Trabajando  
599 Canal St, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Neighborhood Legal Services  
170 Common St, Suite 300  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission  
160 Main St  
Haverhill, MA 01830

Merrimack Valley Economic  
Development Council  
439 South Union St  
Lawrence, MA 01843

Merrimack Valley Regional Transit  
Authority  
85 Railroad Ave  
Haverhill, MA 01835

Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce  
264 Essex St  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Department of Housing and Community  
Development  
100 Cambridge St, Suite 300  
Boston, MA 02114

Massachusetts Executive Office of  
Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge St, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Us Department of Housing and Urban  
Development  
10 Causeway St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02222

October 28, 2008

Dear Lawrence School Principal;

Groundwork Lawrence is a non-profit here in Lawrence focused on reclaiming open space and building parks, connecting people to fresh and locally-grown food, coordinating volunteer events to keep our community clean, and raising residents' awareness about environmental issues our community faces. On behalf of the City of Lawrence, GWL has been collecting community input for the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, which is a public document that helps the City prioritize its investments in existing and new open spaces and recreational amenities citywide. We are contracted by the City of Lawrence Community Development Department to renew the 2004 Plan, and so I am asking for some help in reaching Lawrence residents-especially students and their families. First, here are a few items about the Open Space Plan:

### **What is an Open Space Plan?**

- City's "road map" for open space conservation, acquisition, and improvements;
- Includes parks, recreational facilities, vacant lots and alleyways, and natural areas;
- Must be updated every 5 years and submitted to MA Division of Conservation Services;
- Approved plan allows the city to apply for state and federal grants, e.g., PARC (formerly the Urban Self Help program)
- Plan includes inventory and analysis, community needs/goals, 5-year action plan

### **What kind of open space do we have in Lawrence?**

- 39 parks and schoolyards across the city (40 as of fall 2009);
- 270 acres of open space, equivalent to 3.7 acres per 1,000 people; by contrast, Boston has 9.3 acres per 1,000 people (and has a much higher population density);
- Majority of open space is owned and maintained by the city; several parks are owned and managed by the State (Mass. DCR);
- Open space amenities in Lawrence include recreational fields and playgrounds, historic parks and monuments, boating, swimming pools, rock climbing, a skate park, community gardens, and nature trails.

### **How Groundwork is creating the 2009 Open Space Plan**

- Community meetings-3 have already taken place in October
- Resident Surveys-attached to this letter or found at [www.groundworklawrence.org](http://www.groundworklawrence.org)
- Presentations to City Boards (Planning Board, Conservation Commission, etc.)
- Interviews with City Officials
- We also accept formal letters from individuals, officials and organizations, and these will be added to the document.

We'd greatly appreciate your willingness to distribute the attached survey to your teachers who could in turn distribute them to their students who live in Lawrence. Please call my project manager, Kathryn Prybylski, with any questions. Thank you for your attention.

Kate O'Brien  
Executive Director



## Channel 8 Open Space Plan Outreach

  
City of Lawrence  
**2009 Open Space Plan**

Community Meetings

*Share your opinions, ideas and concerns about Lawrence parks and recreation areas.*

Come to one of three planned sessions.

Contact Ellen Minzner at the Community Development Department at 978.620.3516  
or  
Kathryn Prybylski at Groundwork Lawrence at 978.974.0770 with any questions.

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Spanish Translation available at each session.

Childcare available by calling Kathryn at Groundwork Lawrence.



  
Ciudad de Lawrence  
**2009 Plan para Espacios Abiertos "Open Space Plan"**

Reuniones Comunitarias

*Necesitamos sus opiniones e ideas sobre los parques y escenarios deportivos.*

Ven a una de las tres reuniones planeadas

Contacta a Ellen Minzner del departamento de desarrollo de la comunidad al 978.620.3516  
o  
Kathryn Prybylski at Groundwork Lawrence al 978.974.0770.

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Traducción al español disponible en cada sesión.

\*\*Por favor contacte a Kathryn Prybylski a Groundwork Lawrence si Usted necesita cuidado de niños. 978.974.0770



  
City of Lawrence  
2009 Open Space Plan  
Community Meetings

*Share your opinions, ideas and concerns about Lawrence parks and recreation areas.*

Session 1  
Oct 2, 2008  
6:30 pm  
Lawrence Public Library (north branch)  
51 Lawrence St

\*\*Childcare available-call Kathryn at 978.974.0770 if you need childcare.

Spanish Translation available at each session.



Contact Ellen Minzner with the Community Development Department at 978.620.3516 or Kathryn Prybylski with Groundwork Lawrence at 978.974.0770.

  
Ciudad de Lawrence  
**2009 Plan para Espacios Abiertos "Open Space Plan"**

Reuniones Comunitarias

*Necesitamos sus opiniones e ideas sobre los parques y escenarios deportivos.*

Sesión 1  
Oct 2, 2008  
6:30 pm  
Lawrence Public Library  
La Biblioteca  
978.974.0770

Cuidado de niños disponible-contacte a Kathryn Prybylski a Groundwork Lawrence 978.974.0770

Traducción al español disponible en cada sesión



Contacta a Ellen Minzner del departamento de desarrollo de la comunidad al 978.620.3516 o Kathryn Prybylski del Groundwork Lawrence al 978.974.0770.

## Channel 8 Open Space Plan Outreach



**City of Lawrence**  
**2009 Open Space Plan**  
**Community Meetings**

*Share your opinions, ideas and concerns about Lawrence parks and recreation areas.*

Session 2  
Oct 9, 2008  
6:30 pm  
Lawrence High School  
Cafeteria

Spanish Translation available at each session.

\*\*Childcare available-call Kathryn at 978.974.0770 if you need childcare.

Contact Ellen Minzner at the Community Development Department at 978.620.3516 or Kathryn Prybylski at Groundwork Lawrence at 978.974.0770 with any questions.





**Ciudad de Lawrence**  
**2009 Plan para Espacios Abiertos "Open Space Plan"**  
**Reuniones Comunitarias**

*Necesitamos sus opiniones e ideas sobre los parques y escenarios deportivos.*

Sesión 2  
Oct 9, 2008  
6:30 pm  
Lawrence High School  
Cafeteria

Cuidado de niños disponible-contacte a Kathryn Prybylski a Groundwork Lawrence 978.974.0770

Traducción al español disponible en cada sesión

Contacta a Ellen Minzner del departamento de desarrollo de la comunidad al 978.620.3516 o Kathryn Prybylski del Groundwork Lawrence al 978.974.0770.





**City of Lawrence**  
**2009 Open Space Plan**  
**Community Meetings**

*Share your opinions, ideas and concerns about Lawrence parks and recreation areas.*

Session 3  
Oct 16, 2008  
6:30 pm  
Lawrence Heritage State Park- third floor  
1 Jackson St

Spanish Translation available at each session.

Contact Ellen Minzner at the Community Development Department at 978.620.3516 or Kathryn Prybylski at Groundwork Lawrence at 978.974.0770 with any questions.





**Ciudad de Lawrence**  
**2009 Plan para Espacios Abiertos "Open Space Plan"**  
**Reuniones Comunitarias**

*Necesitamos sus opiniones e ideas sobre los parques y escenarios deportivos.*

Sesión 3  
Oct 16, 2008  
6:30 pm  
Lawrence Heritage State Park- tercer piso  
1 Jackson St

Traducción al español disponible en cada sesión

Contacta a Ellen Minzner del departamento de desarrollo de la comunidad al 978.620.3516 o Kathryn Prybylski del Groundwork Lawrence al 978.974.0770.



# Attachment E

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## *Regional and Local Trail Initiatives*

The Conservation Commission requested an additional scope of work from GWL to broaden the 2009 Open Space Plan to explore and research means of connecting to regional trail initiatives and expanding habitat and resource protection specifically along the city's rivers and other habitat corridors.

Discussion of the benefits of trails, habitat protection needs and case studies are described in the body of the Open Space Plan. This memo outlines local non-motorized connectivity as well as regional trail initiatives in our neighboring communities and the Merrimack Valley.

Interviews, conversations, or trail tours were conducted with the following individuals:

- Betsy Goodrich, Transit Planner, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission;
- Paul Materazzo, Director of Planning, Town of Andover;
- Fred Snell, President, Andover Village Improvement Society;
- Robert Decelle, Special Projects Manager, Town of Andover Conservation Commission;
- Alan French, Chairman, Bay Circuit Alliance;
- Joyce Godsey, President Pro Tem, Methuen Rail Trail; and
- Matthew Kraunelis, Mayor's Chief of Staff, City of Methuen.

The following planning and research documents were also utilized:

- MVPC Priority Growth Strategy;
- Merrimack River Shoreline Survey Report 2008;
- NHESP Core Habitats of North Andover;
- NHESP Core Habitats of Andover;
- NHESP Core Habitats of Methuen;
- City of Lawrence Canal District Master Plan;
- Arlington Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy
- Essex County Landscape Inventory - Lawrence Reconnaissance Report;
- Essex County Landscape Inventory - Methuen Reconnaissance Report;

## City of Lawrence Existing and Potential Trail Network

### *Lawrence Spicket River Greenway*

The Spicket River Greenway in Lawrence is envisioned as a three-mile long "emerald bracelet" of green spaces and walking paths connecting parks and open space through multiple neighborhoods. The Greenway will link parks in north Lawrence including Manchester Street Park, William Kennedy Community Park, Hayden Schofield Playstead, Immigrant Park, Dr. Nina Scarito Park, Misserville Park, and the proposed Oxford Paper Site and Ferrous Site Parks. The Greenway starts in the Lower Tower Hill Neighborhood at the Methuen line through the Arlington Neighborhood, the North Common Neighborhood and ending in the Downtown Canal District. The Greenway also connects Lawrence schools: Central Catholic High School, the Leahy School, and the Leonard School. Portions of the Greenway exist formally in the parks, but also informally in the streets and sidewalks along the river. Significant improvements and requirements for these improved connections are outlined below:

- Manchester Street Park to Broadway
  - At present, pedestrians can travel on a sidewalk along Manchester Street from the front of La Frutería to Broadway where they can cross at the traffic signal towards William Kennedy Community Park.

- The City has received funding from the DCR Recreational Trails program to fund partial construction of a connecting path from Manchester Street Park to the dam across Stevens Pond. Design and construction documents were completed with previous DCR Recreational Trails grant funds, easement and ownership issues are currently being addressed.
  - The College Street Management redevelopment of Malden Mills has included the Greenway in their design plans. From the dam to Broadway, a sidewalk with buffering plants will be constructed between the river and their parking area. This sidewalk will link users to a crosswalk and light at Broadway.
- Broadway to Hampshire Street
  - From Broadway, the sidewalk is the best access to William Kennedy Community Park's portion of the Greenway. At Kennedy Park, users can walk along the river on an off-road pathway. At the Central Catholic Parking lot, however, the pathway stops and continues as an informal worn grass path to Hampshire Street. The gap from Kennedy Park to Hampshire Street is 0.1 miles or 530.'
- Hampshire Street to Hayden Schofield Playstead at Lawrence Street
  - Across Hampshire Street, on the south side of the Spicket, is a street that dead ends into the City DPW Yard. The DPW yard is fully enclosed and there is no room at present for a trail between the yard and the river. If improvements are made at the Yard a trail along the river would come out at Bennington Street and the Mary Immaculate Nursing Home. The Nursing Home property abuts the river and has a small sitting area along the river, but trail development would require significant coordination at their site. The benefit to a trail here would be at Lawrence Street where the trail is at the same grade as the road. The city would conceivably not need a conservation or public use easement from the property owners as their property does not extend to the river. The City owns the actual river bank on both sides in this location. The distance from Hampshire Street to Lawrence Street through the Mary Immaculate Property is 0.15 miles
  - Across Hampshire Street, Erving Avenue runs along the north side of the Spicket. There is no sidewalk along Erving Avenue, but as discussed in the Arlington Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy, it has a wide right-of-way and relatively low vehicle volumes.<sup>1</sup> Erving Avenue's vehicle travel widths could be narrowed and a landscaped walkway constructed along the river. The distance from Hampshire Street to the Hayden Schofield Playstead along Erving Avenue is 0.2 miles, with a street crossing required at Bennington Street. Near the Portuguese Club, between Bennington Street and the start of the pathway at the Playstead, is an area currently used as a taxi stand. A formal curb and sidewalk would better define the space for pedestrians and vehicles.
  - For a distance of 0.1 miles, the Hayden Schofield portion of the Greenway sits above the playing fields along an abutment and chain link fence. The path is mostly an informal footpath, but is highly used. To reach Lawrence Street, however, a trail user must ascend stairs.
- Lawrence Street to Jackson Street at Immigrant Park
  - Erving Avenue runs along the north side of the Spicket to Jackson Street, crossing Short Street at about the halfway point. As previously mentioned Erving

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<sup>1</sup> August 2009; Community Opportunities Group, Inc. with Land Strategies Group LLC, Connery Associates, and Public Planning, Research and Implementation, Inc. Arlington Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy.

Avenue is wider than necessary and could be narrowed for a landscaped walkway on the river side. The distance to Hampshire Street is 0.3 miles. At Short Street however, trail users could cross the Spicket to access Immigrant Park.

- The south side of the river at Lawrence Street is the dead end of Marion Avenue at the Farrah Funeral Home. Marion Avenue dead ends into a fence at a large vacant property behind a housing complex. The property is owned by the City and shows evidence of informal pedestrian use along the river. A preliminary design for a trail here includes fence removal, path construction and accommodation at Marion Avenue for the light traffic that is necessary for the funeral home. The distance from the end of Marion Avenue to Short Street through the vacant property is 0.1 miles. After Short Street a trail user could use the existing path at Immigrant Park as mentioned above. Immigrant Park has a riverside trail briefly that cuts across the park to the sidewalk at Chestnut Street.

- Jackson Street to East Haverhill Street

- For less than 0.1 mile the river in this portion is channelized and has little access to the banks; however two streets dead-end at the river (Lincoln Court and Albion Street). Businesses that abut the river here include two auto bodies, a church, and a restaurant. Pedestrian access directly along the river would require access down to the bank as it is lower than the street level, and then access under or over the bridge at East Haverhill Street. Also, the bridge over the Spicket at East Haverhill Street is currently undergoing reconstruction and will be minimally reconfigured.
- An alternative route of the Greenway would be to proceed south along Jackson Street to Elm Street, and then east to East Haverhill Street to Brook Street. The vacant lot on the corner of Brook Street and East Haverhill could have a formal access point to the river at Brook Street.

- E. Haverhill Street at Brook Street to Dr. Nina Scarito Park

- Between the East Haverhill Street Bridge and Dr. Nina Scarito Park on the South bank of the river are a vacant lot, an auto body shop and a private residence. The vacant lot, owned by the City, is eyed as community garden space that could also provide access to the river bank. A trail along the river is feasible, but coordination and cooperation from those adjacent owners would be necessary as their properties appear to extend to the river's edge. This is a location that a conservation or other public easement would be necessary for behind the auto body shop as city park property extends behind the private residence. The distance from E. Haverhill Street to Dr. Nina Scarito Park is less than 0.1 miles.

- The trail at Dr. Nina Scarito Park is a little more than 0.1 mile along the river.

- Downstream from Dr. Nina Scarito Park – Misserville Park and the Oxford Paper Site

- The river from Scarito Park picks up speed and depth and the banks are steeper than in other locations in the city. Properties along the river here have steep walls as their river banks and with walls and fences blocking their access to the river. Misserville Park at the Leonard School has a pathway along and access to the river, but at the General Street Bridge and downstream to the Oxford Paper site, views of the river are through fencing and from high walls. Behind Lawrence General Hospital's parking lot, there seems to be space for a trail, but access would need to be configured down from General Street. There is a footbridge 0.1 mile from General Street that connects the parking lot with 1 Canal Street and the Oxford Paper Site. Conservation or public access easements would be required behind LGH parking but the end of the footbridge is on City property.

- There is a park design for the Oxford Paper Site as part of the Gateway Project. The Gateway Project also includes improvements to Canal Street and the bridge over the Spicket from Marston Street. The park design includes passive recreation and a trail along the river. The park construction is currently only partially funded.

### ***Lawrence Riverwalk Trail***

The Riverwalk Trail was originally envisioned as a north side and south side recreational loop with possible spurs to adjoining communities in the future; the initial phase of the project has been scoped as a 10-12 foot wide walkway stretching along the 1.2 mile southern side of the Merrimack from I-495 to the Great Stone Dam. There is strong community support for the project and extensive stakeholder meetings have been held since 2005. Design and engineering is at 75%. The Riverwalk project stands to greatly improve opportunities for bike and pedestrian-oriented riverfront recreation, will spur further economic development and reinvestment in Lawrence's downtown, and enhance local and regional connections in concert with other communities' capital improvements throughout the Merrimack Valley. The Riverwalk project is envisioned as a public/private partnership project, the first of its kind in the City of Lawrence. Additional support and schematic design is in place along the east end of the island to the Duck Bridge. The Union Crossing mixed-use development is a primary driver for trail development along the former Southwick mill. The very end of the east island is known as the "Ferrous Site" and is privately owned, but undeveloped. Trail development at the Ferrous site would tie in directly with the proposed Spicket River Greenway at the mouth of the Spicket River. Buildings on the central island extend all the way to the river's banks, so a continuous trail to the dam would require creative design and easements. At the west end of the island, Pemberton Park already has riverfront access with a trail that goes almost to the base of the dam. The distance of a continuous trail from the Ferrous site to the dam is 1 mile

A Riverwalk trail on the south side of the Merrimack could also connect Riverfront State Park and the Abe Bashara Boathouse along the south side of the Merrimack all the way to 495 and to a potential trailhead of the Shawsheen River Trail. This distance would be almost 2.5 miles of off-road trail. A Riverwalk Loop, crossing the river at the dam and the Duck Bridge would connect the two ends of the island and be 2.5 miles of trail along the Merrimack River. The demand for these trails will grow with continued private development on the island with Washington Mills, Monarch on the Merrimack, Forest City Project and Union Crossing bringing more residents looking for active recreation near their homes.

Upstream of the dam on the north side of the river are residential, wooded, or institutional parcels. Closest to the dam are small warehouses with trucking needs and then the Boys and Girls' Club. Almost a mile upstream from the Boys and Girls' Club is a large parcel owned by the City of Lawrence Water Department. This parcel is mostly open land with the water department facility. It is also tends to flood with high storm events. Some residents in the adjacent Tower Hill Neighborhood have expressed interest in Open Space Plan discussions to develop this parcel into public open space and river access. Further upstream from the Water Department Property are properties that are predominantly wooded at the river's edge. The river bank is steep from Riverside Drive to the water and while undeveloped, is also not very accessible by any public access from the roadway. Trail development would require private easements and construction of safe public access. As the river passes through Methuen, the riverfront begins to be dominated again by manicured lawns and private residences.

### ***Canal Walk***

Both the North and South Canals begin at the Great Stone Dam and empty into the Merrimack River. The North Canal is just over a mile long and empties out near the outfall of the Spicket River while the South Canal is about half as long and goes underground near the New Balance Factory on Merrimack Street. The North Canal has a maintained sidewalk, trees and benches that are maintained by the Lawrence Heritage State Park while the South Canal is sparse in amenities. For pedestrians walking a loop of the canals, some small improvements at the South Canal would be necessary to cross the driveway access at the New Balance Factory. At the intersection of South Union and Merrimack Street, the sidewalk on the north side of Merrimack Street stops as it crosses the truck and vehicle access. The sidewalk picks up again after less than 0.1 miles. Currently, many New Balance employees park west down Merrimack Street at a parking lot and groups walk down Merrimack Street safely, but for a safer walking environment or destination historic trail, accommodation to distinguish pedestrian space from truck traffic would be necessary. Changing the driveway configuration or rerouting the pedestrians are obviously options, but creative traffic calming design could also work to designate a shared space for pedestrians and cars.

The loop around the Duck Bridge to the Great Stone Dam is almost 2 miles. When the Gateway Project is complete including the new bridge from Island Street to Canal Street, the combination of way-finding and historical signage will create a destination for residents and visitors to Lawrence looking to explore the industrial legacy, immigrant history and open space amenities.

Recommendations for opening up access to the Merrimack River and enhancing the Canal and adjacent streetscapes have been described in several planning documents including the *Lawrence Canal District Revitalization Strategy* by MassDevelopment and the City of Lawrence, the *Lawrence Reconnaissance Report of the Essex County Landscape Inventory* by the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, *Merrimack Valley Priority Growth Strategy* by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and the *2004 Open Space Plan* by the City of Lawrence. These documents can be consulted for further information.

### ***Neighborhood Connections – Connecting homes, business, parks, and schools***

Lawrence residents are walkers and bikers for both exercise and local transportation. Bikers travel on sidewalks and on streets but do not have designated bicycle lanes. Like most urban areas, Lawrence streets are not simply means of getting from one end of town to another, but locations of commerce and socialization. Lawrence has sidewalks on many of its streets; however they are in various conditions, and as discussed elsewhere in this memo, do have gaps in coverage. For the Arlington Neighborhood, the Arlington Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy discusses the condition of the roads and sidewalks and the impact on community character and safety. Lawrence streets are vibrant locations in the city with tremendous potential for activity on foot and wheel. The dense street network with underutilized alleyway connections provides exciting possibilities for pedestrian-centric and creative use. A focus on improving connections between and within neighborhoods could lead to a study of Lawrence's arterial streets. Arterials are the streets which provide direct long distance connection between towns and cities while local roadways and collectors access local land use, service local trips and connect to the higher level arterials.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> MA Department of Transportation, Office of Transportation Planning, “*Functional Classification Definition*”, <http://www.eot.state.ma.us/default.asp?pgid=content/planDefinition&sid=about> (accessed 3 November 2009)

The major arterials in Lawrence that connect to our neighboring communities include Broadway (Rt. 28), Andover Street, Riverside Drive, South Union Street, Winthrop Avenue (Rt. 114), Merrimack Street, Lawrence Street, and East Haverhill Street past Marston Street (Rt. 110). These avenues serve as “gateways” to Lawrence including our roads adjacent to the major highways like Canal Street, Marston Street and Haverhill Street (Rt. 110). In addition to bringing neighboring communities in and through Lawrence, these roads are the main thoroughfares of cross-town travel for Lawrence residents and school children. Safe and attractive streetscape improvements include maintained sidewalks, street trees and furniture, crosswalks, and defined curb cuts as well as bicycle accommodations.

Neighborhood Connector Streets provide means of travel within neighborhoods – connecting the parks and schools and places of business within a smaller region of the City. These streets sometimes have lower traffic speeds, more parking and serve the residents’ needs more than the regional community. Two examples of organized street inventory and design guides include the City of St. Louis and Los Angeles. While significantly larger in total than Lawrence, these two projects focused their efforts in their downtown cores and can serve as models for similar analysis in Lawrence. The Downtown St. Louis Project explores and views road improvements as more than just physical improvement of the roadway, but a way to increase economic development and social capital in a neighborhood. Their Great Streets Program looks to create vibrant places to live and work that include street and streetscape design as the catalyst for that development.<sup>3</sup>

The City of Los Angeles created design guidelines for the bulk of their downtown area that includes street standards and a focus on human scale building interactions. The street standards include reconstruction widths for all roadways in the downtown based on use (bus route, pedestrian need, land use) with an emphasis on “alternatives to the automobile and wider sidewalks.”<sup>4</sup>

These two comprehensive street design guidelines could serve as a model for Lawrence and its neighborhoods to engage residents in creation and enhancement of pedestrian spaces. Because Lawrence is a dense urban community and mostly built out, more of the residents’ time is spent interacting with the street dominated urban landscape than with open space respite in parks. Parks serve the need of the community for passive and active recreation, but people’s day to day lives are played out through the streets and sidewalks, thus street and sidewalk improvements can affect community character and neighborhood identity as much as large park amenities.

As Lawrence is a city of neighborhoods, a combination neighborhood scale organization of roads and land use with city-wide organization of arterials and gateways can create a comprehensive transportation plan (including bus, car, bikes and pedestrians). Example recommendations for streetscape improvements could include bicycle lanes and signage, road striping to define travel lanes, normal and enhanced crosswalks at intersections, and sidewalk and street tree maintenance. Some locations adjacent to schools, parks, or community centers may be better served by traffic calming devices to alert drivers that there are more pedestrians in an area. Determination of what is appropriate in a certain instance is best decided by the experts—the residents and youth who use the streets and sidewalks daily.

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<sup>3</sup> St. Louis Great Streets Initiative, <http://www.greatstreetsstlouis.net/> (accessed 10 November 2009)

<sup>4</sup> The City of Los Angeles; “Downtown Design Guide” and “Downtown Street Standards”, [http://www.urbandesignla.com/downtown\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.urbandesignla.com/downtown_guidelines.htm) (accessed 10 November 2009)

*Parker Street* is a link from North Lawrence to South Lawrence across the Central Bridge and also ties into Rt. 114 at Winthrop Avenue. Immediately adjacent to Parker Street is the South Branch of the Lawrence Public Library, St. Patrick's School, and McDermott Park. Bringing together this South Lawrence neighborhood could define what pedestrian paths are currently used and why as well as create a plan that includes traffic control and pedestrian protection near the schools and library.

*Winthrop Avenue* (Rt. 114) extends into the Town of Andover and is a gateway street to Lawrence. Adjacent to Winthrop Avenue is Stockton Park, Sullivan Park, Veterans Memorial Stadium, and Den Rock Park. In addition, the newly constructed Lawrence High School is on Rt. 114. Many students walk to the high school and the sidewalk does not extend fully to Den Rock Park. Winthrop Avenue near the high school has had a history of pedestrian accidents and is obviously highly traveled. Improvements discussed have included a pedestrian "bridge" over the roadway. Bridges generally signal that a community has given their roads to the auto. Better pedestrian-focused design near the school and analysis of the pedestrian traffic can be used to create a safe space for pedestrians, bikers, and drivers.

*South Union Street* extends from the Town of Andover across the Merrimack River into North Lawrence across the Duck Bridge. Union Street is adjacent to the South Common, the MVRTA Train Station, the North Canal, and the Leonard School. This heavily trafficked corridor includes buses, pedestrians, bikers, cars and many individuals heading to the train station, high school, Leonard School, Lawrence General Hospital and downtown Lawrence. The intersection with the MVRTA Station could be improved to identify it as an entrance to Downtown Lawrence and direct pedestrians to other places in the City through way-finding signage.

Other Gateway Streets that connect the City to the region could undergo similar improvements as the examples above and they include:

- Merrimack Street
- Andover Street to River Road
- Lawrence Street
- Marston Street
- E. Haverhill Street
- Lowell Street
- Haverhill Street
- Riverside Drive
- Jackson Street
- May Street
- Broadway

Neighborhood Connector Streets serve residents' needs for connection and interaction within a smaller scale than the regional connections. Residents live on these streets and travel to work or to the broader Gateway streets to get to school or work. These streets are where residents come home and should reflect the character of the neighborhood.

Important Neighborhood Connector Streets include

- Park St
- Arlington Street
- Mt. Vernon Street
- Salem Street

- Manchester Street
- Cross Street
- Beacon Street
- Osgood Street
- Erving Avenue
- Berkeley Street

Other streets of neighborhood importance could be identified through focused neighborhood charrettes, traffic counts, and pedestrian analysis.

## Merrimack Valley Region Existing and Potential Trail Network

### ***Methuen***

#### *Spicket River Greenway and Rail Trail north to New Hampshire*

There is an active Rail to Trail Group in Methuen working to convert the 2.5 miles of rail bed that runs north from the Lawrence border to their border with Salem. The group sees the rail trail as two sections – from downtown Methuen to Lawrence and from downtown Methuen north to Salem. Through the City's Energy Block Grant funding, the group will be able to conduct an Engineering Feasibility Study which can lead to design. The existing rail bed is owned by the MBTA who can lease it to the city for \$1/year for 99 years. The Methuen Rail Trail Group has initiated the agreement with the MBTA who would then provide maps of the area. The abutters to the potential Rail Trail include the MSPCA at Nevins Farm, private commercial property and a significant amount of conservation land including the Mass Audubon Bird Sanctuary. The Rail Trail connection in Lawrence would be at Manchester Street Park. The rail line is on an abutment that sits above the park between it and Currant Hill Road and there is enough property and grade sufficient to construct a ramped path down to the park and tie in with the Spicket River Greenway. The park area used to have several rail spurs that were removed through years of changes at the site and then the final spurs were removed during park construction. At the Methuen line an existing rail line sits on a bridge crossing the Spicket into Malden Mills. The bridge is owned by the City of Lawrence and could connect the park-side Greenway to a loop around the pond and further connection to the Spicket River Greenway in Methuen.

The City of Methuen is also pursuing park and trail projects along the Spicket River. In 2009, the City received EOEEA P.A.R.C. funding to complete a passive riverside park and downtown parking area at the former Appleyard Trucking Site. The site is less than one acre and would build on the downtown Spicket Riverwalk at Riverwalk Park on Osgood Street in Methuen. Riverwalk Park, rebuilt in 2009, connects the retirement community on Gleason Street to other downtown locations. Between the Appleyard Trucking Site and Manchester Street Park on the Spicket River is another park adjacent to an area that has seen flooding in the recent large storms. Abutters to the Spicket that have existing informal trails include an assisted living facility, commercial properties, and the Methuen Memorial Music Hall. Just before entering Stevens Pond and Lawrence, the river snakes through the Malden Mills property and there is a small bridge that crosses the river as part of the factory complex. Creation of a river trail here would require coordination and agreement with Malden Mills for access. As mentioned above, a loop of Stevens Pond is possible across the railroad bridge into the Malden Mills property as is continuing the trail north into Methuen along the Spicket. From the Appleyard Trucking Site at the intersection of Lowell and Hampshire Streets it is 1.5 miles to the Lawrence line along the river. A Stevens Pond loop

would add almost  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of trail and the distance from Manchester Street Park along the Rail Trail to Appleyard Trucking at Lowell Street would be approximately 1 mile.

#### *Merrimack River*

Methuen also has a few parks along the northern bank of the Merrimack River downstream from Lawrence and a few upstream as well. There is no large scale effort to connect these parks with a trail system, but currently the areas are mostly residential and developed. The MVPC shows property along the Merrimack for Priority Open Space Acquisition. The Shoreline Survey by the Merrimack River Watershed Council notes there is significant development but very little access to the riverfront.

#### **North Andover**

##### *Sutton Street East to Haverhill*

Part of North Andover's Osgood Landing Development Site is approved as a Priority Development Site and another portion has been designated as a 40R Smart Growth Overlay. Adherence to the site's Master Plan will create a smart growth centered development with pedestrian and non-vehicular accommodations necessary along Rt. 125. From Lawrence, the main route to Osgood Landing is along Sutton Street east from Merrimack Street. With development centered along Merrimack Street and Sutton Street designated as priority transportation projects, non-vehicular and pedestrian accommodations should be part of the plan and design for this area. Currently employees at Osgood Landing can take the train to Lawrence and find bus service to Osgood Landing. Safe pedestrian and bicycle ways would greatly improve the corridor as a whole. The south bank of the Merrimack River from the Lawrence line through North Andover has little access or development because the MBTA tracks and power lines parallel the river into Haverhill. Limiting access to the MBTA lines would make trail provisions here difficult.

##### *Rail Trail south*

An inactive rail line runs from near the intersection of Sutton Street at 495 south through North Andover skirting the Machine Shop Village District, residential areas, and open space into Middleton. Accessing this potential rail-trail in Lawrence would tie the community to a large recreation amenity.

##### *Shawsheen River Trail*

The Shawsheen River has a short stint in North Andover, but that location is directly adjacent to Den Rock Park and a portion of the river that NHESP has recognized as an uncommon natural community (See Open Space Plan Section 4-E and Appendix F). The Shawsheen River, after entering the southern portion of Den Rock Park in Andover, exits the park and crosses Rt. 114 where the river runs between the Market Basket Plaza and a hotel then continues through South Lawrence toward the Merrimack. A continuous trail from Andover through Den Rock and to the mouth of the Shawsheen will require creative pedestrian accommodation at Rte. 114 and the Market Basket Plaza. This portion of Rte. 114 is also identified as a high priority transportation project by the MVPC and they are studying the full corridor but specific improvement near Den Rock Park is not included in the study. A traffic light exists at the Market Basket Plaza but improved signage, trail demarcation, and user safety should be incorporated in development and improvement at this busy traffic area.

##### *Lawrence hub of trail networks*

The area near the mouth of the Shawsheen at the Merrimack River, Rte. 495 access, and Merrimack and Sutton Streets is currently undergoing intense redevelopment by Sal Lupoli with his Riverwalk Complex. This area could also become a hub of a regional trail network-connecting the Shawsheen Trail, Sutton

Street east to Osgood Landing and Haverhill, and the rail trail south through North Andover. It could also serve as a main launch point for boating trips south on the Shawsheen. This hub in Lawrence would likely draw recreational users from around the region due to its close proximity to 495 and varied recreational activity and could include trail-head amenities such as food, gear, showers, and regional open space information.

## ***Andover***

### *Merrimack River Trail*

Along the south side of the Merrimack River in Andover, the Andover Improvement Society (AVIS) and the Andover Conservation Commission manage the Merrimack River Trail situated on conservation easements between businesses and the river. A large portion of the riverbank is held in easement or independently by AVIS or the town of Andover Conservation Commission. The easements are 100 feet wide in most cases, but 50 feet in others. Private landholders that granted easements include The Andovers (insurance company), the New England Business Park, New England Power, private homes, a seminary and a school. Establishment of these easements and the trail management are undertaken by passionate volunteers. The Merrimack River trail is not ADA accessible but provides a link to natural areas in Andover and the Bay Circuit Trail at Deer Jump Reservation. The trails also run either on top of or alongside the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District trunk line. The trail ends at the Andover metering station at the Lawrence line behind the Andover Place Apartments on Bullfinch Drive. Trail clearing beyond the metering station into Lawrence would require bush-whacking and trail clearing. Only 0.6 miles from the metering station is the Abe Bashara Boathouse operated by the Greater Lawrence Community Boating Program. The abutter along that location is the Lawrence Riverfront Industrial Park off of River Road and a trail would require coordination as well as creative layout. Behind the Industrial Park and across the Andover line are two large inlets from the Merrimack and from the Boathouse. Directly upstream is another inlet that varies greatly in size with water flow in the river. A trail could be created that circumscribes the inlets and then utilizes existing public and private roadways to cross them or a series of bridges could be constructed to keep trail users separate from the businesses.

From the Boathouse, trails exist further east to Riverfront State Park. At Riverfront State Park the trail ends in the residential neighborhood at Shattuck Street where there is a gap in the sidewalk to Broadway for .1 miles. A riverside path would provide a view of the Great Stone Dam and power plant facilities and 530' of new sidewalk would essentially create almost a mile of pedestrian access in the city.

### **Proposed Goals and Action Items**

- Create a Lawrence Trails Committee to spearhead efforts and coordinate with regional trail groups. The Trails Committee can be ad-hoc or officially sponsored by the City but should have access to mapping resources;
- With the Boathouse and Andover Trails Group, engage residential neighbors and commercial neighbors to create a layout for a trail from the Boathouse to Andover;
- Complete sidewalk connecting the Riverfront State Park to the end of the sidewalk at the William X. Wall Experiment Station;
- Engage Greater Lawrence Sanitary District to determine the feasibility of utilizing their network of sewer easements for trail use and create a framework agreement for that use;
- Seek funding with other trail groups for topographic survey of the area between the Abe Bashara Boathouse and the Andover sewer metering station;
- Continue to work with the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission's regional trail meetings and actively seek funding to develop regional trails through MVPC and state transportation dollars.

## Funding resources

- DCR's Recreational Trails Grant – provides up to \$50,000 for a variety of trail protection, construction, and stewardship projects throughout Massachusetts. DCR Recreational Trails grants are 80-20 challenge grants. In other words, 80% of the project costs are reimbursed to grantees, but at least 20% of the total project budget must come from other sources.

- The City of Lawrence has been successful in utilizing Recreational Trails dollars for survey, design and construction of portions of the Spicket River Greenway.
  - The Town of Andover applied for Recreational Trails funding to construct .45 miles of the Shawsheen River trail but was not successful.
  - The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has applied for funding to survey the entire Shawsheen Corridor, funding is pending.

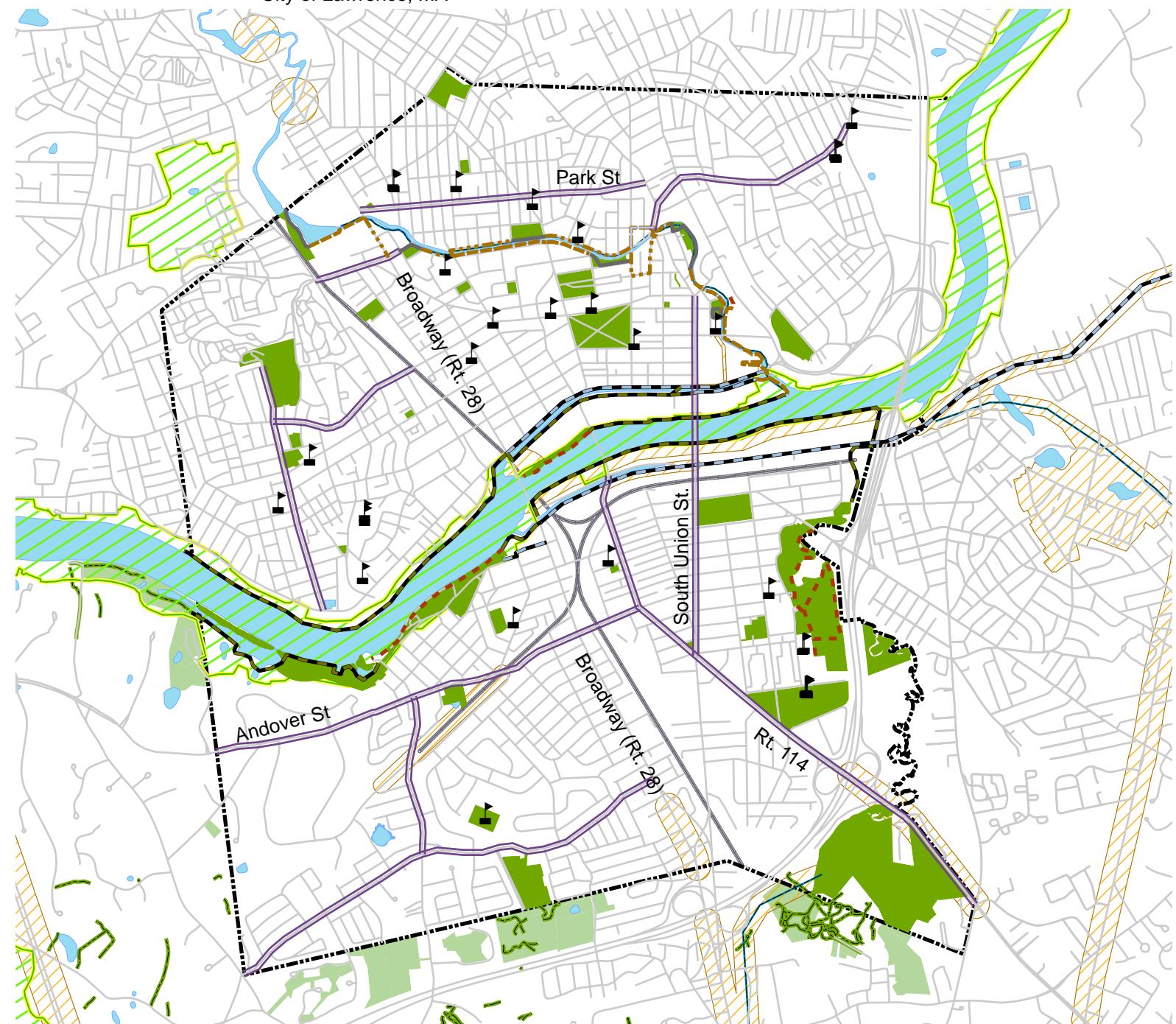
A successful application may be possible by focusing on coordinated efforts of more than one community - enhancing or creating a space that benefits the region as a whole. For example, the intersection of the Shawsheen at Den Rock Park and Rt. 114 would benefit three communities, or the Merrimack River Trail upstream from the boathouse would be a benefit to Lawrence and Andover residents and businesses and draw other communities to the Boathouse and Lawrence.

- Executive Office of Transportation - Transportation Enhancement Program - Eligible projects include development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, educational programs, landscaping, acquisition of scenic easements, historic preservation, restoration of buildings and structures, removal of outdoor advertising, archaeological research, environmental mitigation of stormwater pollution, and establishment of transportation museums. The project must be regional and the regional planning agency must determine whether the project is eligible according to Mass Highway Guidelines.
- Private property owners: Some communities charge a fee or tax to property owners or businesses along a public amenity such as a boulevard, trail or walkway. The fee system can be based on linear frontage and pays for upkeep and maintenance of the open space. Institution of this fee is based on the assumption that adjacent businesses receive a commercial benefit by being adjacent to the public amenity.
- EOEEA – P.A.R.C. Program assists cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Grants are reimbursable up to \$500,000 for new park and open space development and require a match.
  - The City of Lawrence has been successful in receiving P.A.R.C. funding for construction of Dr. Nina Scarito Park, Kennedy Community Playstead, Manchester Street Park and the renovation of Misserville Park.
  - Applications to the P.A.R.C. program can also be regional.
- Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) funds are focused on water quality initiatives and require a match in most instances. MET likes funding projects that draw in several partners including other State funding, private funding and local sources. MET funds up to \$50,000 that can be a part of a larger project, impacts water quality, and is replicable for other communities.
- Massachusetts Department of Ecological Restoration (a new State Division of the Department of Fish and Game that includes the Riverways Division) is dedicated to restoring the integrity of waters and streams through partnerships with local stake-holders, state agencies, watershed organizations, federal agencies and other organizations. There is currently a grant pending to designate the Spicket River as a priority site.

- Other regional and national grant programs focused on parks, trails, transportation and public health.

# Local Non-motorized Connections

City of Lawrence, MA



## Legend

- School
- Lawrence Potential and Existing Paths
  - 0
  - Existing Trail
  - Off Road Trail - Potential
  - Sidewalk or Roadway Improvement
  - SRG - Off Road Trail - Potential
  - SRG - Sidewalk or Roadside Trail
  - SRG - Existing
  - Gateway or Neighborhood Connector
  - MVPC Proposed Trails
- Lawrence Parks
- NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife
- Andover-Existing Trails
- MVPC High Priority Transp. Projects

## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan

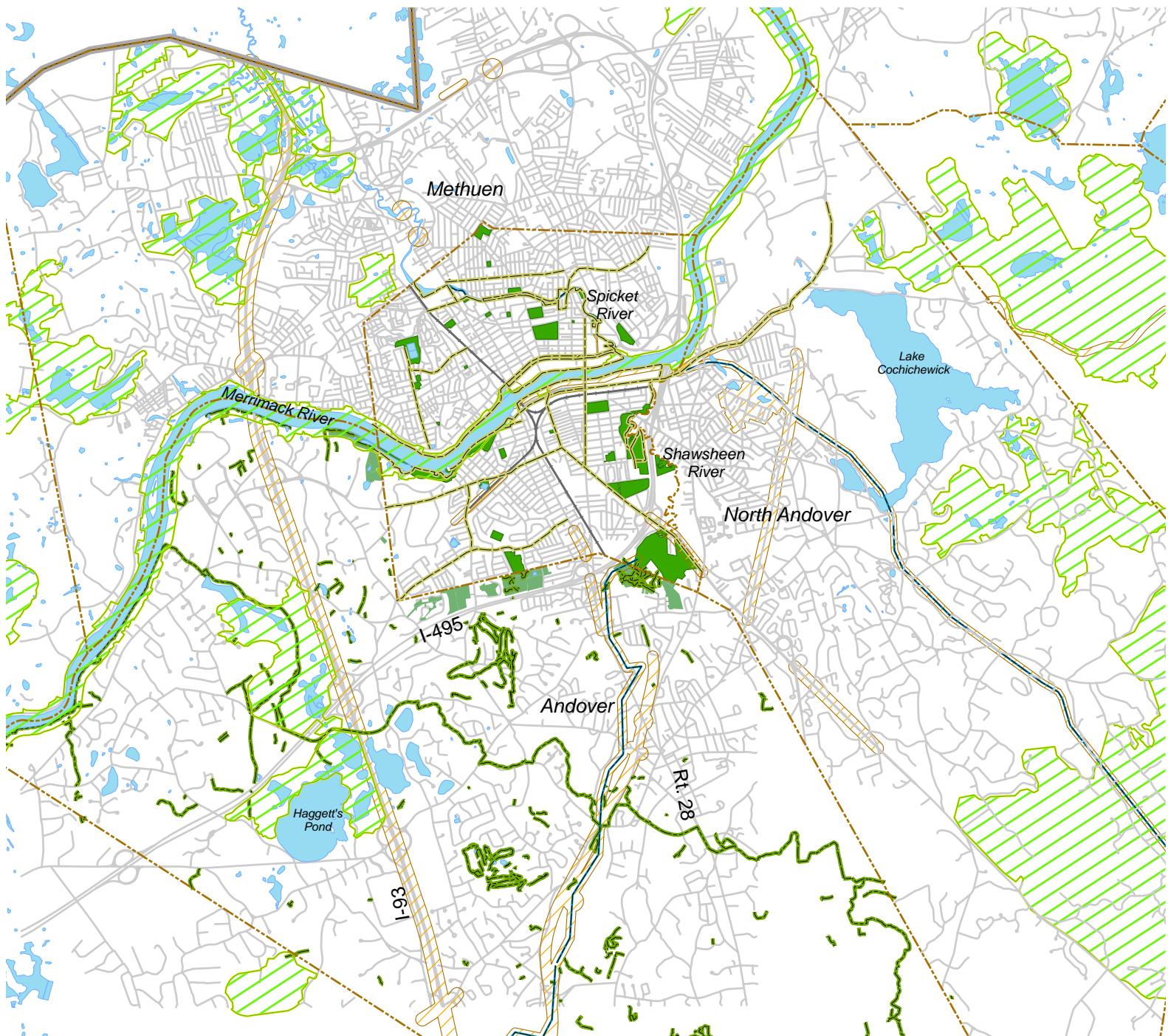


0 0.10.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles

November 2009, Created by Groundwork Lawrence

# Regional Trail and Transportation Projects

City of Lawrence, MA



## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



## Legend

- Lawrence Potential and Existing Paths
- MVPC Proposed Trails
- Andover-Existing Trails
- NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife
- MVPC High Priority Transp. Projects
- - - Community Boundaries

November 2009, Created by Groundwork Lawrence

# Spicket River Greenway

City of Lawrence, MA



## City of Lawrence 2009 Open Space Plan



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles



November 2009, Created by Groundwork Lawrence

### Legend

- School (black flag icon)
- Lawrence Potential and Existing Paths**
  - 0 (light blue line)
  - Existing Trail (dashed orange line)
  - Off Road Trail - Potential (solid black line)
  - Sidewalk or Roadway Improvement (solid grey line)
  - SRG - Off Road Trail - Potential (solid brown line)
  - SRG - Sidewalk or Roadside Trail (dashed brown line)
  - SRG - Existing (solid dark grey line)
- Gateway or Neighborhood Connector (solid purple line)
- Lawrence Parks (large green areas)
- MVPC Proposed Trails (solid teal line)
- Building\_Polys\_2008\_Lawrence (light grey polygons)
- NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife (yellow-green polygons)
- Andover-Existing Trails (solid green line)

# Attachment F

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*Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Information*



# Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

October 23, 2009

Kathryn Prybylski  
Project Manager  
Groundwork Lawrence, Inc.  
60 Island St.  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Re: Open Space Plan; 09-27299 City of Lawrence

Dear Ms Prybylski:

In response to your request for information and rare species lists for the Open Space and Recreation Plan for the City of Lawrence from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, we are sending information on the rare species and other forms of biodiversity that we have documented in the City. The most important areas of Lawrence to protect in order to maintain biodiversity are the areas in and around the 2008 Priority Habitat, essentially the Merrimack River (which includes Estimated Habitat, wetland areas completely included in Priority Habitat), available as GIS layers, described at and with links from: [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/gis\\_resources.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/gis_resources.htm). An additional area of biodiversity importance not included in the Priority Habitat or other NHESP data layers on MassGIS are undeveloped areas in southeastern Lawrence around the Shawsheen River. The floodplain and adjoining habitats have been degraded by invasive species, encroaching development, and centuries of use and control of the river. These areas, which have a core of city and conservation owned lands, could be managed to protect and restore biodiversity, and the river and its water.

The Priority Habitat along the Merrimack (PH1321, including EH 65) covers land in Lawrence and adjoining towns, indicates habitat used by several species including Bald Eagles that winter on the Merrimack and the dragonfly Umber Shadowdragon that lives there all year. Some of the historic locations of rare plants previously known to occur in Lawrence are along the shores of the Merrimack. Other historic locations of rare plants that would need restoration to provide habitat include the Spicket and Shawsheen Rivers. In addition, observations of rare species and presence of potential vernal pools in Den Rock Park make that area one where rare species habitat needs to be included in management plans. The Shawsheen River just north of Rt. 114 supports a degraded example of a Small-River Floodplain Forest. After a survey of floodplain forests throughout the state, NHESP described this occurrence as follows: 'this large example of Small-River Floodplain Forest is highly disturbed, with abundant exotic species and no natural buffer to surrounding development.' Small-River Floodplain Forests are silver maple/green ash forests occurring on alluvial soils of small rivers and streams.

Enclosed is a list from our database of all rare species currently known to occur or to have occurred in or have a habitat in Lawrence. The list has species protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), and other, not regulated, indicators of local biodiversity, including Plant Watch Listed species, vernal pools, and uncommon types of natural communities. Any species with a most recent observation date within the past 25 years is considered to be current. Older dates may be species occurrences that have not been recently inventoried, or they may be lost from Lawrence as land use has changed. Fact Sheets describing many of the MESA listed species and their habitats are available on our website at [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species\\_info/mesa\\_list/mesa\\_list.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/mesa_list/mesa_list.htm). A Fact Sheet for floodplain



## Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

North Drive, Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581 Tel: (508) 389-6360 Fax: (508) 389-7891

forest that includes Small-river Floodplain Forests is also available from our website at  
[http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/natural\\_communities/fact\\_sheets.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/natural_communities/fact_sheets.htm)

Lawrence has lost many species over past the century and a half that records have been kept of plants and animals – of the 11 state listed species on the enclosed list, five are considered current. Protecting and managing remaining habitat or restoring floodplain and riverside areas along the Merrimack, Shawsheen and Spicket rivers, is very important to maintain the species that remain. Completing conservation protection of remaining unprotected land along the rivers, with buffers included where possible, would enhance the viability of these special areas - size and continuity of open space is particularly important for supporting wildlife populations. Preventing habitat fragmentation is vital in protecting the ecosystem, for the rare species on the enclosed list, as well as for additional common species, particularly reptiles and amphibians.

The rare species in Lawrence: As a result of restoration and changed environmental laws, Peregrine Falcons have become an expanding species that now nest in downtown Lawrence. Bald Eagles use the Merrimack for wintering habitat. A Blandings Turtle, recently very near the Lawrence line in Methuen, could be indicating an expanding population, if there is habitat.

The Merrimack River provides habitat for a dragonfly, Umber Shadowdragon, which is a species of medium to large rivers that are unvegetated, and lakes and dammed portions of rivers. The rare invertebrates of Lawrence have included rare freshwater mussels, previously known from the Spicket River, that haven't been relocated there in many years. Freshwater mussels require clear clean water and do best in free flowing rivers to become re-established. The Purple Tiger Beetle, also not seen in Lawrence for a long time, is a species of open grasslands that has declined as agriculture has declined throughout the state.

Several of the rare plants in Lawrence, historically and recently, are species of floodplain forests: River Bulrush (SC) is found on river shores, inland marshes, and freshwater to brackish tidal wetlands; Andrew's Bottle Gentian (E) grows in openings in floodplain forests, thickets, fens, and swampy areas near bodies of water; and Cat-tail Sedge (T) is found in openings of floodplain forests, as is the more habitat generalist, Bristly Buttercup ((SC). River Birch (WL) is a species of floodplain forests that is found in Massachusetts only in the Merrimack watershed. Mud-arrowhead (WL) occupies brackish shallow water and shores of ponds, swamps, and rivers – suggesting that it may have occupied tidal parts of the Merrimack before dams interrupted the tidal influence in Lawrence. Thread Rush (E) and Bog Sedge (WL) are species of peatlands and other wet, acidic, nutrient poor substrates. Plymouth Gentian (SC) is a globally uncommon species that is mostly limited to SE Massachusetts where it occurs on shorelines and shallow water of ponds that fluctuate naturally throughout the year. The robust population in Lawrence is newly known and perhaps introduced to the site, where small ponds provide habitat similar to that in the main area of distribution.

There is an uncommon natural community from Lawrence in the NHESP database, a Small-river Floodplain Forest. The occurrence in Lawrence along the Shawsheen is in poor condition, as described above.

There are no Certified Vernal Pools (CVP) and 12 Potential Vernal Pools (PVP) (identified from aerial photographs, needing verification on the ground) in Lawrence. Areas of swamps also provide habitat for vernal pool species. The PVP data are available as a datalayer from MassGIS at <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/pvp.htm> and shown on the enclosed map. If no attempt has been made to certify the PVPs, they are a good target for evaluation. Certifying the PVPs would provide more recognition and protection to these wetlands and the species that use them. There are a cluster of PVPs in Den Rock Park and the adjoining Trust land (as identified on MassGIS) and two near the Small-river floodplain Forest. Clusters of PVPs provide extra habitat value for the species that use them since each pool is somewhat different and provides alternate habitats in different years and seasons.

There are no BioMap or Living Waters cores in Lawrence. The Merrimack and short stretches of the Spicket and Shawsheen were modeled as Critical Supporting Watershed (CSW), important support areas for Living Waters areas that did support rare species as of 2003 when the report was written. The BioMap and Living Waters report can be downloaded from the NHESP website at <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/nhtwnreports.htm>. BioMap and Living Waters cores were produced by NHESP to identify the areas of most importance for biodiversity: they are based on known locations of rare species and uncommon natural communities, and incorporate the habitats needed by rare species to

maintain the local populations. BioMap focused on species of uplands and wetlands; Living Waters focused on aquatic species. Large unfragmented conservation land provides the best opportunities to maintain populations of species and limit further species loss from the City. Land protection that ties in with open space in other municipalities, and other protected open space, public or private is one way to provide important large areas of biodiversity protection. BioMap and Living Waters polygons are also available from MassGIS at <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/biocore.htm> and <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/lwcore.htm>.

Just to differentiate the BioMap and Living Waters core areas from the following Priority and Estimated Habitats: BioMap and Living Waters core areas identify areas particularly important for conservation planning purposes. Priority and Estimated Habitats are regulatory. However they are updated regularly, and the BioMap / Living Waters report is static (data from 2001 and 2003), so misses some of the most recently identified rare species areas.

The NHESP produces the Natural Heritage Atlas with maps for use under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (Priority Habitats -PH) and Wetlands Protection Act (Estimated Habitat- EH,, provided to the Conservation Commission and also shown in reduced form in the Natural Heritage Atlas). The PH and EH data layers are also available from MassGIS, requiring access to some form of GIS to view them, at <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/wethab.htm> and <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/prihab.htm>. These two sets of maps are created for regulatory use. Estimated Habitats are a complete subset of Priority Habitats that focus on habitat of rare wetlands wildlife. Priority Habitats are drawn for all rare species. Early planning and review of development projects under the Wetlands Protection Act regulations and Massachusetts Endangered Species Act plays a very positive role in protecting rare species habitats. City commissions and boards are encouraged to request the assistance of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program in reviewing any project proposed in the habitat areas of the regulatory areas of the maps in the Natural Heritage Atlas.

Management and monitoring of conservation lands become important as acquisition and protection are accomplished. All wetlands particularly need to maintain their natural water regime, including normal fluctuations and connections with the uplands and other wetlands. Water quantity and quality are ongoing issues for wetlands. Another aspect of managing conservation lands that is important in many areas is controlling invasive non-native species that alter the habitat and occupy space that native species would otherwise use. We strongly recommend monitoring conservation land, and removing non-native species before they become a problem and impact native species.

Please note that this evaluation is based on the most recent information available in the Natural Heritage database, which is constantly being expanded and updated through ongoing research and inventory. Should new rare species information become available, this evaluation may need to be reconsidered.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (508) 389-6352 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Patricia C. Swain, Ph.D.  
Ecologist

cc: Melissa Cryan, EOEA



# Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

## Rare Species and Natural Communities Documented in or with habitat in the City of Lawrence

AS OF October 22, 2009

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>MESA Status</u>	<u>Most recent Year</u>
<b>VERTEBRATES</b>			
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	E	2006
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	E	2005
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>			
<i>Alasmidonta varicosa</i>	Brook Floater (Swollen Wedgemussel)	E	Historic
<i>Cicindela purpurea</i>	Purple Tiger Beetle	SC	1923
<i>Neurocordulia obsoleta</i>	Umber Shadowdragon	SC	2004
<b>VASCULAR PLANTS</b>			
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	WL	2008
<i>Bolboschoenus fluviatilis</i>	River Bulrush	SC	1877
<i>Carex exilis</i>	Bog Sedge	WL	
<i>Carex typhina</i>	Cat-tail Sedge	T	1879
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	Andrews' Bottle Gentian	E	1885
<i>Juncus filiformis</i>	Thread Rush	E	1903
<i>Ranunculus pensylvanicus</i>	Bristly Buttercup	SC	1879
<i>Sabatia kennedyana</i>	Plymouth Gentian	SC	2006
<i>Sagittaria rigida</i>	Mud-arrowhead	WL	
<i>Schoenoplectus torreyi</i>	Torrey's Bullseye	WL	
<b>NATURAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
Small-river floodplain forest	S2, a CD rank occurrence		1997
<b>CERTIFIED VERNAL POOLS</b>			
Certified Vernal Pool (# 0)			

This list does not include data sensitive species.

**KEY TO MESA STATUS:** E = Endangered. T = Threatened. SC = Special Concern. WL = unofficial Plant Watch List, not regulated. Some Plant Watch List dates are not available. H = Historic, species documented to have occurred in Lawrence in the past, but not in the past 25 years, no date attached to the record. Natural Communities are not regulated. S (state abundance) ranks are on a 1 to 5 scale, with S1 being considered vulnerable, generally having 1 to 5 good occurrences, and S5 being demonstrably secure. Community types ranked S1, S2, and S3 are priority for conservation protection.

**Additional species of interest, found just over the city's border, near enough to possibly occur in appropriate habitat in Lawrence**

### VERTEBRATES

<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle	T	2006
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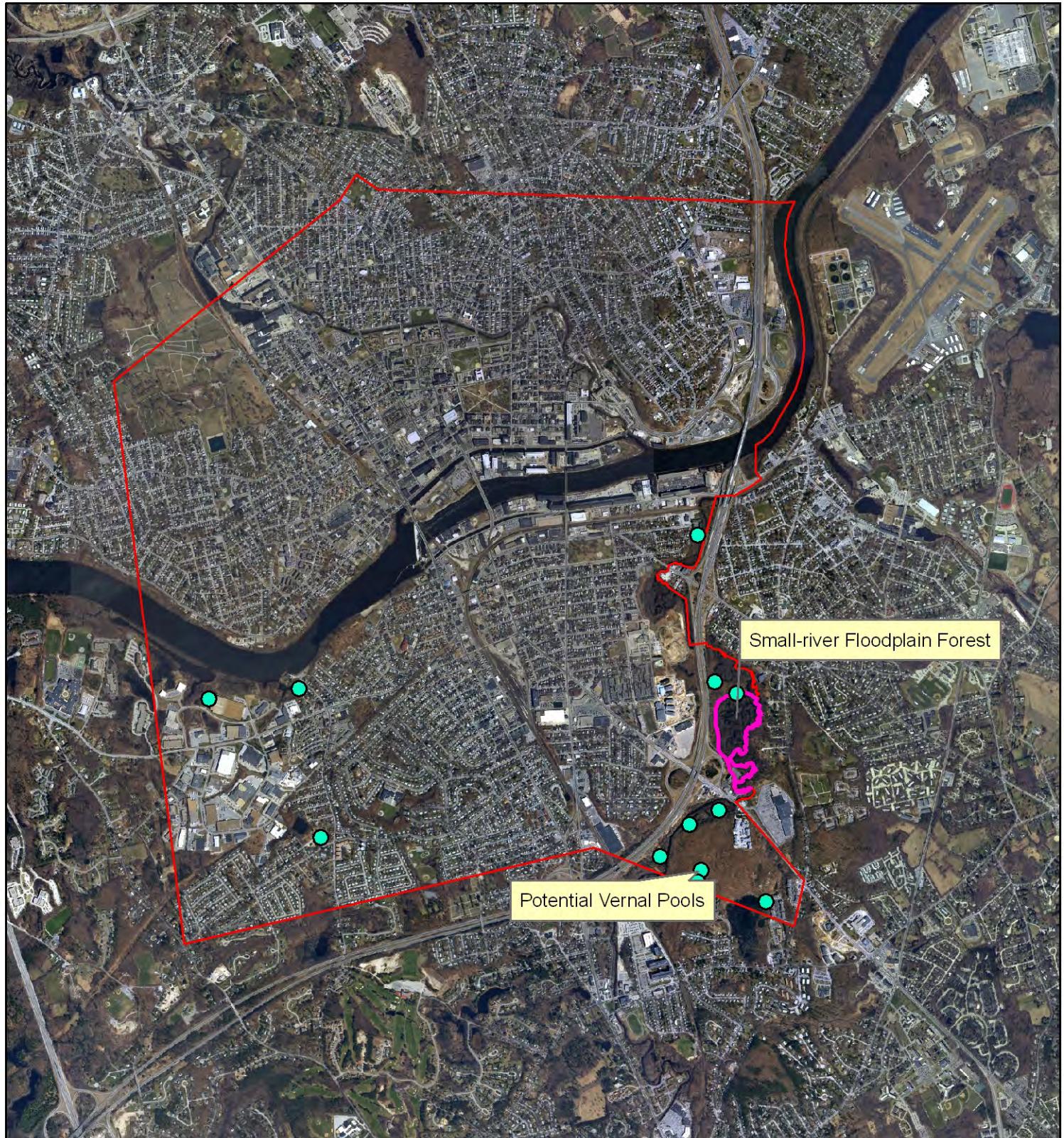
### Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Field Headquarters, Westborough, MA 01581 Tel: (508) 389-6360 Fax: (508) 389-7891

An Agency of the Department of Fish &amp; Game

<http://www.nhesp.org>

# Lawrence Small-river Floodplain Forest



## Legend

NHESP Natural Community

NHESP Potential Vernal Pools



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Map created October 23, 2009

# Attachment G

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## *Official Review and Public Comments*

# *City of Lawrence, Massachusetts*



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
Michael J. Sullivan

Kathryn Prybylski, Project Manager  
Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island St  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Re: City of Lawrence Open Space Plan

Dear Kathryn:

I have completed my review of the 2009 Open Space Plan for the City of Lawrence and am writing this letter to express my acceptance and endorsement of the Plan.

The goals and action plan stated in the plan reflects the interests of our community especially in the current fiscal climate of the country, Commonwealth, and Lawrence. It is important to engage the City's residents in structured programmatic stewardship of our parks and open space as well as provide the resources necessary to maintain them. I have been pleased, in my tenure as mayor, to have new parks completed, renovated existing parks, and have added trail connections and community gardens to the fabric of the City. However, more can still be done to increase the open space available to residents and to maximize the activity in the parks.

The City has a good relationship with its nonprofit and business partners in the community. The goals in the 2009 Open Space Plan include strengthening those relationships both formally and informally through parks programming, inventories of the parks, and continued investment in park amenities. A result of increased activity and maintenance of the parks is, I hope, an increased atmosphere of safety in the City.

Although I have come to the end of my term as Mayor of the City of Lawrence, I look forward to only good things in the future for this City and its parks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Sullivan".

Michael J. Sullivan



**MERRIMACK  
VALLEY  
PLANNING  
COMMISSION**

**Robert Lavoie**  
Chairman

**Joseph Sullivan**  
Vice Chairman

**Rob Phillips**  
Secretary

**Mathilda Evangelista**  
Assistant Secretary

**Robert Snow**  
Treasurer

**David Powell**  
Assistant Treasurer

**Dennis DiZoglio**  
Executive Director

**Serving the  
communities of:**

Amesbury  
Andover  
Boxford  
Georgetown  
Groveland  
Haverhill  
Lawrence  
Merrimac  
Methuen  
Newbury  
Newburyport  
North Andover  
Rowley  
Salisbury  
West Newbury

Kathryn Prybylski  
Project Manager  
Groundwork Lawrence, Inc.  
60 Island Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840

RE: Regional Review of Draft City of Lawrence OS&R Plan 2009

Dear Ms. Prybylski:

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) has reviewed the Draft 2009 City of Lawrence Open Space and Recreation Plan, and we commend the Groundwork Lawrence staff, the Lawrence Community Development Department, and the Lawrence Conservation Commission for a job exceptionally well done. This comprehensive plan represents an extensive updating of the City's 2004 Open Space and Recreation Plan, and provides a wealth of new information on the City's current open space and recreation facilities, natural resources, community character, socioeconomic conditions, land use, and public infrastructure. Used in conjunction with the City Master Plan, this new Open Space and Recreation Plan will be an invaluable local and regional planning tool for many years to come.

We take note of and applaud the very open, public process which you and your Planning Team followed in updating the plan. The participation of multiple city departments and boards, as well as nonprofit organizations and neighborhood groups, demonstrates a broad base of stakeholder investment in and support for the plan. This should prove extremely helpful in the months and years ahead as the City works to implement the plan.

We also are pleased to note the Planning Team's thoughtful development and clear articulation of a set of **realistic** plan goals and associated actions. All too often, local open space plans contain a long 'wish list' of generalized goals and actions that fail to recognize and address the specific priority needs of a community. Without clear focus and direction, these plans cannot inspire and elicit the community interest and commitment that are needed to successfully implement a plan. In contrast, the Lawrence Planning Team has made a concerted effort to identify the City's major open space and recreation needs over the next five years, and to design a 5-Year Action Plan that responds to these needs. The prescribed actions appear doable and, if implemented, promise to expand and improve the City's natural resource base and to positively change the lives of City residents.

We commend the City also for its recognition of the *intermunicipal* aspects of open space planning and natural resources protection, and of the value in exploring joint open space and recreation opportunities with neighboring communities, MVPC, and other Merrimack Valley entities. Our own Trails Planning staff has begun working with Lawrence, North Andover, and Andover trail advocates on several important regional greenway/trail planning projects, including the intermunicipal Shawsheen River Greenway project, and we look forward to assisting in the implementation of these projects and the 5-Year Action Plan as a whole as our resources permit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your updated plan. Your Planning Team and advisors, many of whom are unpaid volunteers who gave generously of their time and expertise, have done a truly fine job and deserve the appreciation of the entire Lawrence community.

The MVPC regional planning staff would welcome the opportunity to partner with the City on the plan's implementation. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Alan Macintosh  
Assistant Director/Environmental Program Manager

# PLANNING BOARD

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## *Administrative Assistant*

Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty

## *Land Use Planner*

Daniel A. McCarthy

December 18, 2009

Kathryn Prybylski, Project Manager  
Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island St.  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Re: City of Lawrence Open Space Plan

Dear Kathryn:

As the Chairperson of the Lawrence Planning Board, I have completed my review of the 2009 Open Space Plan for the City of Lawrence.

The goals and action plan stated in the plan reflects the interests of our community sufficiently and efficiently. The City of Lawrence has been successful in recent years in adding new Open Space parks and trails for its residents. While there is still continued demand for new park space and amenities, this plan reflects the equal need for increased programming, attention and maintenance in our existing parks. Better utilization of our existing parks can provide recreation, respite and a learning experience for our youth and adults.

One programs discussed in the Open Space Plan that I feel is an important priority is a city-wide tree survey with a strong focus on assessing our old growth trees in the North and South Common and Den Rock Park. Our tree resources are vitally important to the health of the City. Establishing a baseline of tree health and a management plan is necessary for efficient protection and replanting.

The other program that is needed in the community is the establishment of jobs for youth and young adults. There is a continued demand for jobs for youth and increased maintenance in the parks. Job training in parks and trails works in many communities; Lawrence, with its young population, should also be able to maximize this resource to meet some needs for maintenance in parks and public space.

I look forward to seeing these goals realized and to evaluate their progress over the next five years.

Yours truly,

Lesly Melendez  
Chairman

12/17/09

Dear Kathryn,

Attached are a few comments, questions and suggestions pertaining to the Open Space Plan 2009. I hope you can follow my rather unique format.

A big concern for myself and also my organization, the Lawrence Environmental Action Group, is the prospects for the city owned land abutting the water treatment plant and running down to the Boys & Girls Club. Unfortunately this choice slice of beautiful river front property is not mentioned at all in the 2009 plan. It is an ideal site for open space enhancement. Do you know if the city has any plans at all for this land?

I would really appreciate meeting with you to discuss some of our concerns.

I expect that the Lawrence Environmental Action Group (LEAG) will be submitting a formal comment on the plan by December, 23 2009.

Many thanks for your good efforts on the 2009 Plan!

Best regards,  
  
Richard McCarthy

To: Kathryn Prybylski, Groundwork Lawrence

Re: Open Space Plan 2009, December 16, 2009

Comments, Questions, and Suggestions

Goal 1. Increase Regular Maintenance etc.

Action2. Conduct a city wide tree survey...etc.

Questions: 1. Doesn't the tree survey done just a few years ago apply?

2. How does a tree survey relate to maintenance?

Goal3. Decrease dependence and burden on the DPW etc.

Action 4. Inventory... on the age and health of trees in Common.

Question: Wasn't this done a few years ago in the tree survey?

Goal 6: Increase pedestrian & biking activity.

Action 6. Suggestion. Add "expansion of State River Front Park walkway up and Into Andover."

Goal 7. Reclaim vacant lots etc. ...and other underutilized lands.

Action 2. Suggestion. Add; "including city owned land on the north side of the Merrimack above the dam including the unused water treatment plant land and also the land running east from the plant to the Boy's Club."

Goal 8 . Increase access to waterfront resources... through enhancement and protection.

Action 1. Questions: Natural Resource Management Plan – Who would do it etc.?

Action 3. Comment:

The Shawsheen River in Lawrence is now very clean. The Shawsheen River Watershed Association does yearly cleanups. Also the Clean River Project organization has done an excellent job cleaning the Merrimack River in Lawrence above the dam. These volunteer organizations certainly should be supported and applauded by both the city government and citizenry.

Suggestion: Reference these groups in this action statement.

Action 4. Add: "expansion of State River Front Park up and into the Andover Merrimack River trail system."

Add an Action 5 as follows: "Include the Merrimack River bank land on the north side of the river from the Boy's Club to the Water Department's pumping station for enhancement and protection by officially including it in the open space inventory."

Submitted by: Richard McCarthy, President, Lawrence Environmental Group, Inc

4 Bicknell Terrace, Lawrence, MA 01841

lawrenceenvironmentalactiongrouop@live.com

Eileen Margaret  
113A Beacon Ave. Lawrence Ma.01843  
Email: eileen-margaret@yahoo.com

December, 6 2009

Dear Ms. Kathryn Prybylski

Thank you for helping to make Lawrence better. Lawrence needs a plastic field for sports like soccer. A perfect for a plastic field is across the street from the South Lawrence East School on Osgood street. A plastic field could be shared by Lawrence High School and my soccer team.

Thank you for your help for a plastic sports field for the children of Lawrence.

Sincerely,

*Eileen Margaret*  
YDO Soccer



Lawrence High Campus • 70-71 N Parish Road • Lawrence, MA 01843

**Timothy Finn**  
Supervisor of Athletics

Ms. Kathryn Prybylski, Manager  
Ground Work Lawrence  
60 Island Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840-1835  
(978) 974-0770

December 9, 2009

RE: Open Space Plan for Lawrence

Ms. Prybylski:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Open Space Plan for the City of Lawrence. It is important that our children, athletes, schools and sports leagues have safe and accessible open space to exercise, compete and play.

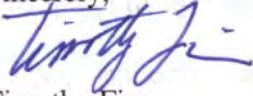
The site of the former Kane School on Osgood Street, between Exeter and East Cambridge streets is an ideal open space to upgrade to a recreational area. The best use would be a level, plastic turf covered field that the Lawrence High School athletic teams could use for practice and share with several of the youth and sports leagues in Lawrence.

Several sports, such as soccer, softball, lacrosse, baseball, football and others would be able to share a multi-lined field that would be viable for play earlier in the spring than the grass fields. A plastic field would allow more of the city's youth to play sports with less down time, even after wet weather.

That site on Osgood Street, between Exeter and East Cambridge streets, would allow thousands of students from both the South Lawrence East School and the Lawrence High School to use it during the day. Also, a plastic turf field would be a viable option for thousands more of the city's children to utilize on weekends for organized soccer, little league, youth football and other forms of recreation.

Thank you to Groundwork Lawrence for your help to make a plastic turf sports area a reality.

Sincerely,

  
Timothy Finn

DEC 12 2009

Telephone: 978-722-8473 • Fax: 978-722-8500 • E-mail: tfinn@lawrence.k12.ma.us



**South Common Central  
Neighborhood Association**  
**74 Salem Street #4**  
**Lawrence, MA 01843**



Kathryn Prybylski  
Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island St.  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Dear Ms Prybylski,

We, members and attenders of the South Common Central Neighborhood Association, are responding to the request for public comments on the Draft 2009 Open Space Plan Renewal. We understand how critical this document will be in guiding the City in its efforts to improve our quality of life.

The South Lawrence East ball fields, behind the South Lawrence East School, are the home for many organized recreational activities in our City. When the ball fields were renovated several years ago, the improvements failed to include a facility to store equipment, house restrooms, and offer a concession stand. We urge that the final Open Space Plan correct this oversight and incorporate such a facility in its Final Plan. The lack of an adequate multipurpose storage facility made national headlines earlier this year when the South Lawrence East Little League's equipment was stolen from its POD the day before opening day. A multipurpose storage facility would safely keep equipment, improve on concession stand sales, and provide restroom facilities, thereby likely producing greater use of the fields.

We ask that you include a multipurpose storage facility at the South Lawrence East School's ballfield in the final Open Space Plan.

Sincerely,

*Jessica Winiecki, President*

Name

*Jessica Winiecki*

*Patrick O'Connor*

*James Bowes*

*Lisa Woodard*

*Charles Woodard*

*Genevieve Leotacio*

*Dix Gayle*

*Cheryl Laudette*

*Gloria Dufbury*

*David Duncan*

*Carol Jahn*

Street Address

*88 Bailey St.*

*46 Salem St*

*74 Salem St.*

*423 Pelham St., Methuen*

*423 Pelham St. Methuen*

*52 Foster St. Lawrence*

*85 Market St.*

*85 Market St.*

*83 Market St.*

*58 Greenfield St.*

*62 Greenfield St.*

~~Theresa Lynneas~~  
DR. Dan Rivera  
Janice Marshall  
Mary Valcourt  
Sophie Veilleux  
Catherine McCarty  
John R. O'Sullivan  
Diane Medin

ARTHUR KILCOURIE

Sharon Tessier  
Barbara D'Alleva

87 Cambridge St.  
12 Jefferson St. Law. MA 01893  
3 Greenfield Street  
79 Audrain St.  
247 Farnham St  
85 Shawneen Rd  
62 Exeter St.  
16 Market St Law -  
21 GREENFIELD ST  
74 Salem St  
88 Bailey St. exec. suite

**Linda A. Siegenthaler**  
27 Ames Street  
Lawrence, Ma 01841

Comments on the Draft 2009 City of Lawrence Open Space and Recreation Plan,  
submitted to Kathryn Prybylski, Groundwork Lawrence

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Lawrence's 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The eight goals of the report and the accompanying Action plan build on responses of the community, interviews and meetings. The goals and action steps are well specified. The need for maintenance of existing parks and open space is a major theme as is the need for more organized activities in parks.

The city of Lawrence has made considerable progress in the availability of parks since the release of the 2004 Open Space and Recreation Plan. However, at the same time as the city created new parks, the resources available for maintenance declined. The city and state's continuing fiscal crisis and the subsequent decline in per capita income, along with the downturn of the real estate market will affect the availability of resources to accomplish the goals stated in the report. Innovative models and organizations used in other areas for maintaining parks and open space recreation are needed in Lawrence.

## Comments

My comments largely focus on issues that need more focus and attention.

**Goal 8 , Increase Access to Waterfront Resources and its action steps .** The report really does not address possible trails along the north side of the Merrimack River in a comprehensive manner. Interviews with the Conservation Commission and the Director of DPW in **Appendix B** do refer to access to the north side of the Merrimack and also the possible use of the city owned Water Treatment facility as a possible park . The existence of city owned open space at the Water Treatment facility is an opportunity for either a new park with mixed uses or a passive recreation use. The existence of the levee on the north side of the river makes this tranquil and beautiful path along the north side of the river ideal for walking, cycling, bird watching, and wildlife protection. We have an extraordinary opportunity to create a beautiful greenway gateway to Lawrence . It is now time to conduct a comprehensive analysis of land use along the north side of the river.

### **Park Maintenance of Existing parks**

The Reservoir is one of the treasures of Lawrence both for its historic water tower and its location. However, much it is admired, it does need a new landscaping plan and a study of the use of its current tennis courts and whether that is the best use for this space.

The upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1912 strike in Lawrence will bring a lot of attention to the North Common which is in dire need of a systematic study of its landscaping, tree canopy and historic monuments.

I recommend the formation of a Friends of the Parks or a Parks and Recreation Commission that can seek funding to support the maintenance of parks and recreation programs in Lawrence. Higher user fees for parks use for festivals need to be considered. Also it might be useful to check on park maintenance methods with the National Park Service for ideas on festival maintenance of parks.

## Kathryn Prybylski

---

**From:** Frank O'Connor [foconnor@CITYOFLAWRENCE.COM]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2009 11:59 AM  
**To:** Kathryn Prybylski  
**Cc:** Michael Yameen; Timothy Finn; Nelson Ortiz; Susan Fink; Arthur McCabe  
**Subject:** RE: Lawrence Open Space: field development

Thanks for your help, Kathryn ~ plastic turf field would greatly improve access to sports for the children of Lawrence. The site at the former Kane School is well suited to serve both Lawrence High School teams and children in the neighborhood leagues.

All the best,

**Frank O'Connor, Jr.**

Community Development Dept.  
Office of Economic Development  
147 Haverhill St.  
Lawrence, MA 01840  
1-978-620-3517

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Please resist printing this eMail and join us in saving paper.

Alexi Jimenez  
62 Union Street, #. 3 Lawrence, MA 01841 (347) 615-3932 [alexi.jp@gmail.com](mailto:alexi.jp@gmail.com)

27 September 2008

Honorable Mayor Michael J. Sullivan,

Thank you for all you have done to improve the quality of life in Lawrence. Lawrence is a better place to live and work because of your efforts.

During an extended visit to Europe, I was very inspired by the Dutch life style and high quality of life enjoyed in the Netherlands. I will be brief now to explain some of the things that I would like to implement here in the City of Lawrence that are directly inspired by my experience of life in the Netherlands.

One of those things is the infrastructure of bicycle paths and lanes within the city. I would like to work with the city to make Lawrence a bicycle friendly city, much like Cambridge, MA enjoys. Bicycle paths and lanes are not mere recreational, but a transportation alternative that becomes an integral part of the imprint and face of the city in this increasing global battle to preserve the environment. And it is not only the environment that is at stake, it is also our fellow community members that are at higher health risks by the lack of daily exercise and awareness.

When I returned from the Netherlands a couple of months ago I was alarmed to find the state of Hispanic and African American population of Lawrence. I observed and paid attention to the amount of overweight and obese people that walked the streets, rode on the bus or boarded the train. It was an astounding high level that scared and concerned me for the health and well being of these communities. Here in Lawrence the level of obese people is too high.

Luckily the streets of Lawrence are wide enough to accommodate bicycle lanes within the streets. The benefits of bicycle lanes and paths within the city are multifold: cleaner air, less consumption of natural resources, less traffic, less noise, fitter and healthier citizens, more organized city that allows for options and alternative forms of transportation within this small city and educates both motor vehicle drivers, cyclists and pedestrians on the rules of the roads. I often times see cyclists riding on the sidewalk, which of course puts at risk the safety of the pedestrians.

It may be argued that the city of Lawrence is too poor to provide for bicycle lanes, but in my view it is precisely because of its grave health crisis, low economic, and educational level of the larger Lawrence community that I ask for the support of this implementation of bicycle infrastructure. It is my deep belief that through the investment in education, organization, and a healthier population in Lawrence that the economic level of this community will not only grow, but thrive.

This is a chance to make the city of Lawrence a more livable and aware city. I look forward to hear from you to talk more in depth about this issue and other ideas for economic development in this city.

Sincerely,

Alexi Jimenez

Cc: Councilor Patrick Blanchette, President  
Councilor Grisel Silva, District B

## Kathryn Prybylski

---

**From:** Kate O'Brien  
**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2008 10:07 AM  
**To:** Kathryn Prybylski  
**Subject:** FW: Open Space Hearing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

FYI

Kate O'Brien, Executive Director  
**Groundwork Lawrence**  
*Changing Places, Changing Lives*  
60 Island Street, 2nd Floor  
Lawrence, MA 01840  
Phone: 978-974-0770  
Fax: 978-974-0882  
[kobrien@groundworklawrence.org](mailto:kobrien@groundworklawrence.org)

Mark your calendar for the final *LiveLawrence!* event of the season - [Canal Illuminations](#) on October 12!  
For all of GWL's upcoming events visit: <http://www.groundworklawrence.org/node/8>.

Check out photos of projects and programs you support on [Flickr](#)

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**From:** Kay B. Frishman [mailto:[KBFrishman@FamilyServiceInc.com](mailto:KBFrishman@FamilyServiceInc.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2008 9:52 AM  
**To:** [gsidell@kgr.com](mailto:gsidell@kgr.com); Kate O'Brien  
**Subject:** Open Space Hearing

I think I mentioned to you both that I am unable to attend any of the Open Space hearings. However, I would very much appreciate that the following opinion be entered into the discussions for the West Island. Many thanks!

### Open Space Idea for the West Island

For many years there has been an effort by the abutters on the West Island to increase the accessibility, use, and beautification of the West Island. Persons who have been involved in this effort (The West Island Committee) have included local businesses, state and local politicians, local organizations, and state and local officials. Over the years, we have increasingly achieved a more beautiful island that is being used by more and more residents. The local West Island Committee has for many years discussed the idea of building a small stage for performances, at the end of the Pemberton Park near the Casey Bridge. We have envisioned that the City's festivals could take place at the Pemberton/Worker's Park, which is certainly the most beautiful location in Lawrence.

We propose that a small stage be built, which would back up against the bridge so as to maximize the river view. This stage would enhance the whole site and hopefully increase the overall accessibility and use of the open space. The proposed walk way on the south side of the river could

be extended to loop around to the north side to make an entire loop, and certainly be enhanced by the building of such a performance stage.

Kay Berthold Frishman

Executive Director

Family Service, Inc.

430 North Canal Street

Lawrence, MA 01840

978-327-6600 (agency)

978-327-6636 (direct)

[www.familyserviceinc.com](http://www.familyserviceinc.com)

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# **LEAG**

**Lawrence Environmental Action Group, Inc.**  
**4 Bicknell Terrace, Lawrence, MA 01841**  
**lawrenceenvironmentalactiongroup@live.com**

Kathryn Prybylski, Project Manager  
Groundwork, Lawrence  
60 Island Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840

December 22, 2009

Dear Ms Prybylski,

The Lawrence Environmental Action Group Inc, (LEAG) is made up of Lawrence citizens and has been involved with all aspects of environmental improvement in Lawrence since January 1994.

What follows are our comments on the Draft 2009 City of Lawrence Open Space and Recreation Plan, which relate chiefly to Goal 8 of that document, i.e. “Increase access to waterfront resources (i.e. rivers, canals) through enhancement and protection.”

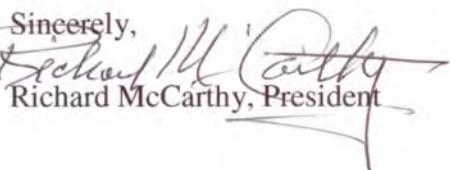
As we said in our comment to the Open Space Plan 2003 “we believe that our rivers are our most important natural resource” and we deeply appreciate Groundwork Lawrence’s spectacular and ongoing development of the Spicket River Greenway. Also we are happy that the banks of the Shawsheen River in Costello and Den Rock Parks are secure and walkable. (We do believe that linking these two parks by a walkway is a worthy goal as indicated under the 2009 Plan’s Goal 6.)

Our major concern here is enhancement and protection of the banks of the Merrimack River above our great stone dam, specifically, the slice of city-owned land starting at the water treatment plant and tapering eastward for about a half mile to the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club. The well used shrub and tree lined levee pathway that runs along the river bank on this parcel already indicates extensive public recreational use. Considerable fishing activity occurs along this banking in the summer season. The land is now rather well protected from residential and business development by the city’s current set-back ordinance. Discussion of making the land space next to the water treatment plant (the former site of the aeration fountains) a park, either passive or recreational, has been ongoing by the Tower Hill Neighborhood Association and beyond. Lastly, as we said in our comment to the 2003 Plan: the existing green tree line that runs along this parcel complements tree lined Riverfront State Park on the south side river bank and is integral to the natural beauty of the total river basin above the dam. Because of these circumstances i.e. the availability (i.e. it is city owned) of this choice river property, the already present public interest, the ready public accessibility to the property, and lastly,

the natural beauty of the river basin above the dam, we strongly believe that plans for its enhancement and protection should certainly be incorporated in the 2009 Open Space Plan.

Also in regards to the Goal 8 proposed action to “increase access to waterfront resources”, and relative to the south side of the river basin, we would like to see expansion of the Riverfront State Park riverside walkway up river into Andover. This would allow linkage with the already established riverside trail on Andover Conservation Land and above Route 93 onto the AVIS Deer Jump Trail. Altogether this linkage would provide hikers with a beautiful riverside trail which would be altogether about five miles in length! Although a trail proposal is indicated from the Bashara Boathouse to Andover in the 2009 Open Space Draft, under Attachment E, Regional and Local Trail Initiatives, we would like to see it actually written into the major body of the Open Space Plan as an action item either under Goal 6 or Goal 8, or under both goals, in Section 8 of the plan.

Sincerely,



Richard McCarthy, President

**Officers:**  
**Richard McCarthy, President**  
**Mary DiMauro, Vice President**  
**Arthur Brien, Treasurer**  
**Rebecca Jani, Clerk**

**Board Members:**  
**Kathryn Moyes**  
**Christine Torres-Vegas**  
**Richard Rodrigues**  
**Denise van Vooren**

**Kathryn Prybylski**

---

**From:** Frank O'Connor [foConnor@CITYOFLAWRENCE.COM]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2009 12:30 PM  
**To:** Michael Yameen  
**Cc:** Kathryn Prybylski; Susan Fink; Heather McMann  
**Subject:** RE: Lawrence Open Space: field development

Thanks, Coach

**Frank O'Connor, Jr.**

Community Development Dept.  
Office of Economic Development  
147 Haverhill St.  
Lawrence, MA 01840  
1-978-620-3517

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**From:** Michael Yameen [mailto:[myameen@lawrence.k12.ma.us](mailto:myameen@lawrence.k12.ma.us)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2009 12:25 PM  
**To:** Frank O'Connor  
**Subject:** Re: Lawrence Open Space: field development

Frank,

I've been asking for that field for three years. Hopefully, it will happen. It will not only help out LHS athletics but also the youth soccer and football programs. It's will be a great investment for everybody.

Thank You,

Mike Yameen

Kathryn Prybylski  
Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840

2/27/09

Dear Ms. Prybylski,

We are responding to the request for public comments on the Draft 2009 Open Space Plan Renewal. We understand how critical this document will be in guiding the City in its efforts to improve our quality of life.

The South Lawrence East ball fields, behind the South Lawrence East School, are the home for many organized recreational activities in our City. When the ball fields were renovated several years ago, the improvements failed to include several vital elements. A main element that was overlooked was a multipurpose storage facility. We urge that the final Open Space Plan correct this oversight and incorporate such a facility in its Final Plan. The lack of an adequate multipurpose storage facility made national headlines earlier this year when the South Lawrence East Little League's equipment was stolen from its POD the day before opening day. A proper multipurpose storage facility would include the following: male/female handicap accessible restrooms, storage on the ground floor for field equipment (line chalker, lawn mowers, etc), storage for consumable goods, 2nd floor storage and/or conference room (eliminates the cost of renting space for meetings), a kitchen (with running hot, cold water – including a grill, deep fryer, refrigerator, freezer, etc for proper concessions), and last but not least electricity. A facility such as this would safely keep equipment, improve on concession stand sales, and provide restroom facilities, thereby likely producing greater use of the fields by all recreational activities in our city.

Also, as it is a very important goal of the South Lawrence East Little League to enable all children to play baseball and softball, we are the only Lawrence League with a Challenger League for disabled youth. This league provides children with disabilities the chance to participate. In order to fill the needs of these children as well as to meet all Little League requirements, it is vital that the following repairs and enhancements be completed as well. In order to meet Little League and safety requirements, fencing in field 3 and field 4 needs to be installed, the complex needs proper fencing for dugouts on field 3, proper roofing on all field dugouts, proper netting on field 4 to stop foul balls from going into the swamp, repair to all the gates at the dugouts in order to make them handicap accessible, electronic score boards at all fields, and to obtain lawn equipment and chalking equipment in order to maintain the complex for special game events.

We ask that you include a multipurpose storage facility and the above listed repairs at the South Lawrence East School's ball field in the Final 2009 Open Space Plan Renewal.

Sincerely,

Name:

Melanie Gilbert  
Norman Maldonado  
David & Sue  
Kathy Rodriguez  
Gisele  
Leonardo Medina  
Fernando Vazquez  
James Ford  
William Cosme  
Melissa Ferrigno  
Monique Chundamali  
Roxane Brito  
Jose Alvarado  
Dulce Ortega  
Hazel Drumm  
George Herman  
Donna Herman

Street Address:

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151 Bailey St Lawrence MA 01843  
29 Crawford Lawrence MA 01843  
20 Bailey St. #1 Lawrence MA.  
170 Bailey St. 2nd floor Lawrence MA 01843  
99 Berkley St. 2nd floor Lawrence MA 01843  
3 Curfield St. Lawrence MA  
270 Farnham St. Lawrence MA  
175 Abbott St. Lawrence MA 01843  
17 Exeter St Lawrence MA 01843  
57 Macimic Ave  
185 Abbott St.  
2 Museum Square Apt 902  
Lawrence MA 01842  
10 Cambridge St. Lawrence MA  
10 Cambridge St. Lawrence MA.

Kathryn Prybylski  
Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840

12/23/09

Dear Ms. Prybylski,

We are responding to the request for public comments on the Draft 2009 Open Space Plan Renewal. We understand how critical this document will be in guiding the City in its efforts to improve our quality of life.

The South Lawrence East ball fields, behind the South Lawrence East School, are the home for many organized recreational activities in our City. When the ball fields were renovated several years ago, the improvements failed to include several vital elements. A main element that was overlooked was a multipurpose storage facility. We urge that the final Open Space Plan correct this oversight and incorporate such a facility in its Final Plan. The lack of an adequate multipurpose storage facility made national headlines earlier this year when the South Lawrence East Little League's equipment was stolen from its POD the day before opening day. A proper multipurpose storage facility would include the following: male/female handicap accessible restrooms, storage on the ground floor for field equipment (line chalker, lawn mowers, etc), storage for consumable goods, 2nd floor storage and/or conference room (eliminates the cost of renting space for meetings), a kitchen (with running hot, cold water – including a grill, deep fryer, refrigerator, freezer, etc for proper concessions), and last but not least electricity. A facility such as this would safely keep equipment, improve on concession stand sales, and provide restroom facilities, thereby likely producing greater use of the fields by all recreational activities in our city.

Also, as it is a very important goal of the South Lawrence East Little League to enable all children to play baseball and softball, we are the only Lawrence League with a Challenger League for disabled youth. This league provides children with disabilities the chance to participate. In order to fill the needs of these children as well as to meet all Little League requirements, it is vital that the following repairs and enhancements be completed as well. In order to meet Little League and safety requirements, fencing in field 3 and field 4 needs to be installed, the complex needs proper fencing for dugouts on field 3, proper roofing on all field dugouts, proper netting on field 4 to stop foul balls from going into the swamp, repair to all the gates at the dugouts in order to make them handicap accessible, electronic score boards at all fields, and to obtain lawn equipment and chalking equipment in order to maintain the complex for special game events.

We ask that you include a multipurpose storage facility and the above listed repairs at the South Lawrence East School's ball field in the Final 2009 Open Space Plan Renewal.

Sincerely,

Name:

Maria Alarcon  
Johanna Taguewada  
ANGELA FERNANDEZ  
Karen Mora (U)  
Luis D. Morales  
Christ Avery  
Tina MacLean  
Ruth McCannell  
Cynthia Fernandez  
Eugenio y Flores  
Mike Clark  
Katherine Morris  
Lisa Cruz  
Katiria Perez  
Emilia Lichtig  
Miledy Lizando.  
Lou Drumm

Street Address:

139 Parley st #1 Lawrence Mass 01843  
129 Abbott St #1 Lawrence, MA, 01843  
89 Andover St. Lawrence MA 01843  
839 Farnham St. Lawrence, MA 01843  
111 White St. Lawrence MA. 01841  
129 Foster St, Lawrence, MA 01843  
94 Andover St Lawrence, ma 01843  
96 Andover St Lawrence, MG 01843  
277A Merrimack St., Lawrence, MA 01843  
24 Phillips St Lawrence MA, 01843  
36 Jamaica Street Lawrence ma 01843  
18 Market St Lawrence ma 01843  
46 Cambridge St Lawrence ma 01843  
36 Andover St. Lawrence, MA. 01843  
12 Osgood St. Lawrence, MA 01843  
15 Portlan St Lawrence MA 01843  
33 Cambridge St

Kathryn Prybylski  
Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840

12/23/09

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Sincerely,

Name:

Evelyn Tengle  
Jacqueline BOWPTON  
Bridget Lipscomb  
Wanda York 015  
Priscilla Munoz  
Rosalie Munoz  
Julalina Munoz  
Brent Hall  
Felix Benitez  
Yaira Roman  
Dariel Guzman  
Cynthia Arellis  
ARELLIS MECLENDEZ  
Sandrea Gomez  
Jonathan Gonzalez  
Jenny Perez  
Hilary Cespedes

Street Address:

163 Boxford St. Flwr 3rd, Lawrence MA 01843  
237 Polly St 2nd &  
509 Greenfield St. Lawrence  
237 Polly St 2nd  
175 Andover St Lawrence  
41 Vine St. Lawrence  
1 Patton St Lawrence  
175 Andover St Lawrence  
119 Andover St Lawrence MA 01843  
1088 Newpoint Way Apt 4102 Lawrence  
25 E. Dalton St Lawrence MA 01843  
202 South Union St #22 Lawrence MA  
55B Portland St. Lawrence MA 01843 01843  
169 Abbott St. Lawrence MA 01843  
205 Boxford St. #1 Lawrence, MA 01843  
11 Boxford St Lawrence MA 01843  
412 Andover St. Lawrence MA 01843

Kathryn Prybylski  
Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840

12/27/09

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Sincerely,

Name:

ANTONIO VILORIO  
Stephanie Santana  
HENRI SQUEEEM BEERG  
Jose Rodriguez  
DANIELLE GUERRERO  
Adrian Stewart  
Dioniz M. 7029 v. p.  
Peggy Zenteno  
Diane M. D.  
Florence Schrepp  
Juli Diaz  
Suzanne Diaz  
KARIA MARTINEZ  
Elizabeth Roeger  
Desiree Clark  
Linda P.

Street Address:

253 FARNHAM ST S LAW  
115 MARKET ST. LAWRENCE MA  
73 Duxbury St. Lawrence  
176 Farnham St. Lawrence  
113 Foster St.  
25 E. Dalton St. Lawrence, MA  
19 Camelia Teoli Way Lawrence  
11 Exeter St. LAW 01843  
235 Bailey St. Lawrence, MA 01840  
14 Cambridge St. Lawrence Mass  
100 Dsgood St. LAW MA 01843  
34 JAMAICA ST LAW MA 01873  
130 Salem St. LAWRENCE MA 01843  
82 Jamaica St  
211 Merrimac St. Lawrence, Ma. 01843  
10 Chapman St. Lawrence MA 01843

12/23/09

Kathryn Prybylski  
Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island St.  
Lawrence, MA 01840

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We ask that you include a multipurpose storage facility at the South Lawrence East School's ballfield in the final Open Space Plan.

Sincerely,

Name

Sorangel Gutierrez

Street Address

44 Forest St

Helen Torres Rodriguez

19 Ridge Rd

Susan M Laplante

29 Durso Ave

Judyne Marie

32 Buswell St

Marta Cebat

3 Summer Ave.

Alberto Mavro

32 Buswell St

Maria A Halloran

33 Shaw St

Ana Robles

24 Crestwood Circle

Susanne Petrikis

18 Gilbert Street

Glenda Javier

12 Allyn Terrace

Soraya Victoria

10 Boston St.

12/23/09

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Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island St.  
Lawrence, MA 01840

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Sincerely,

Name

Street Address

Michael J Lauque

69 Colonial Rd, Lawrence

Michelle Handcastle

35 Groton St. Lawrence MA

Ojabisi Lightfoot-Taylor 232 Prospect St. Lawrence, MA

Kourtney K. Shmley

310 Mt. Vernon St. Lawrence MA

Max Laplante

29 Dunn Ave, Lawrence MA

Kathryn Prybylski  
Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island St.  
Lawrence, MA 01840

12/23/09

Dear Ms Prybylski,

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The so called "Five Corners" area, located at the intersections of Winthrop Avenue, South Union Street, and Exeter Street, has a water fountain that has fallen in disrepair and neglect. Route 114 (Winthrop Ave) is a gateway into Lawrence, and this unsightly visual detracts from the City's image. Including this water fountain/park in the Final Open Space plan would provide an opportunity to apply for the funding that is sorely needed to improve and revitalize this important park. With businesses abutting this park along with residences on each side, returning the water fountain/park to its past glory would provide a welcoming entrance to those who wish to shop in the South Lawrence corridor, while also providing peaceful escape to those who wish to walk in the park and take in its beauty. We strongly encourage you to include the water fountain at the Five Corners area in the 2009 Final Open Space Plan, with a direct goal of fixing the fountain.

Again, we ask that the Five Corners water fountain park be included in the final Open Space Plan.

Sincerely,

Helen Jones-Rodriguez      19 Ridge Rd  
Sorangel Gutierrez              44 Forest St  
Susan Mc Laplane              29 Durso Ave  
Mathie Ladd                      3 Sumner Ave.

Belynn mate                      32 Buswell St  
Alberto Menezes              32 Buswell St  
Marcia Halloran              35 Shaw St  
Ana Rodier                      24 Crestwood Circle

Alicia Jenkins                      35 Sargent St.  
Suzanne Petrakis              18 Gilbert Street.  
Glenda Javier                      12 Allyn Terrace  
Soraya Victoria                      10 Boston St.

12/23/09

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Lawrence, MA 01840

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*Michael J. Lauque*  
Michael Hardcastle

*Kathy Kellinay*  
Mary Capone

69 Colonial Rd, Lawrence  
35 Groton St. Lawrence, MA  
310 MT. Vernon St. Lawrence  
29 Penn Ave, Lawrence  
*MA*



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

December 22, 2009

Kathryn Prybylski  
Project Manager  
Groundwork Lawrence  
60 Island Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840

RE: Lawrence Open Space & Recreation Draft Plan. MHC #RC.47445.

Dear Ms. Prybylaki:

The open space that is part of the New Lawrence High School property, adjacent to Memorial Park, includes a highly significant archaeological site (19-ES-758). As part of the MEPA review for the new high school project, the City of Lawrence has committed to protect and preserve the open space where the archaeological site is located.

Please designate this open space as an historic asset. The City of Lawrence should not permit any activity that would cause ground disturbance or excavation on the open space of the new high school property. If any activities are proposed, the City should provide project information to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for review and comment as early as possible during the conceptual planning process.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with MGL c. 9, s. 26-27C.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edward L. Bell".

Edward L. Bell  
Technical Services Division  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc:

Lawrence Conservation Commission  
Lawrence Superintendent of Schools  
Lawrence Community Development  
Lawrence Historical Commission

JAN 04 2013