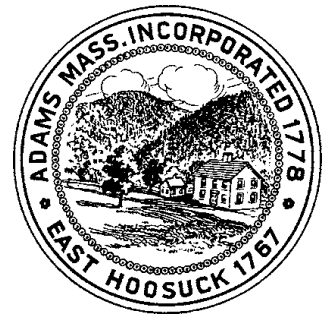




TOWN OF ADAMS

Open Space and Recreation Plan 2019-2024

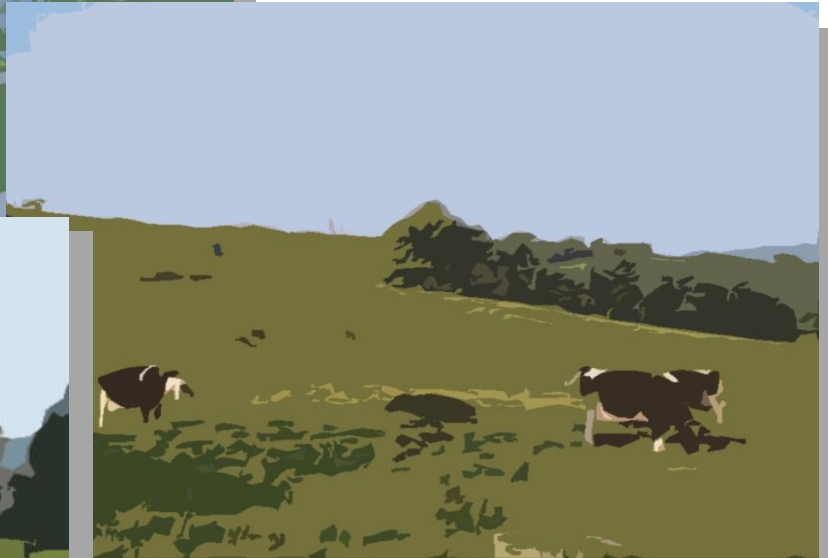
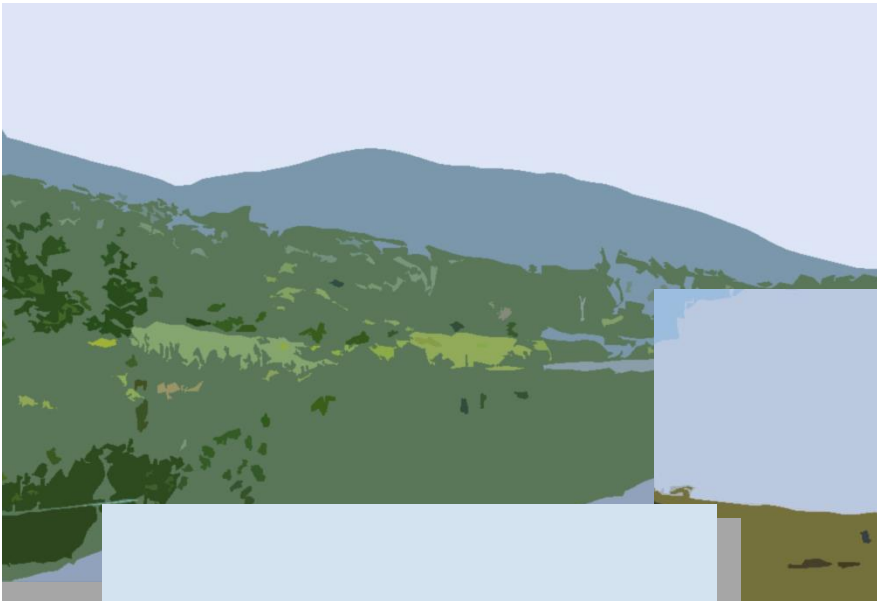


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Acknowledgements

We express our gratitude to the members of the Adams Board of Selectmen, the Adams Parks Commission, the Adams Planning Board, as well as to other Town officials and board members. We also extend our appreciation to the many Adams residents who contributed their time to complete the survey and/or participated in other ways of providing their input on recreation and open space issues in the community.

This *2019 Adams Open Space & Recreation Plan* is an update of the Town's previous 2003 and 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plans. The 2019 Plan was prepared by the Adams Community Development Department with assistance from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). All photographs were taken by Community Development staff members. We very much appreciate the efforts of Mark Maloy at Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) for his GIS and mapping support. Mark was instrumental in providing current data for the preparation of both plans.

Again, we wish to thank the many residents and members of Town boards and committees who offered information, insight, and their valuable time.

Section 1: Plan Summary

Plan Summary

The residents of Adams, Massachusetts deeply value the Town's rural character, sense of community, beautiful scenery and historic and cultural amenities. Residents are interested in a revitalized network of neighborhood and regional parks with playground and picnic areas, indoor recreational opportunities regaining access to the Hoosic River as it flows centrally through town, and protecting the scenic and recreational assets of the farms, open spaces, and forests prevalent in the surrounding hills.

As reflected in the *Adams Downtown Development Plan*, the Town is interested in revitalizing commercial and retail enterprises in the downtown area, while paying special consideration to the community's environmental resources and unique natural features.

A significant portion of the Town of Adams' land area is owned and protected by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as state forest and state park. Working with the Commonwealth to enhance and encourage local use of these areas is a major interest expressed by Town residents as a means to achieving the community's recreational goals.

The *2019 Adams Open Space & Recreation Plan* has been developed with citizen participation and designed to address the following goals:

- Continue to develop and maintain multi-use and multi-generational recreational opportunities that bring together Town residents;
- Protect, manage, and promote the Town's natural attractions that are the basis for the Town's efforts toward a tourism-based economy;
- Protect the Town's historic and cultural resources for the enjoyment and instruction of future generations;
- Continue to protect the Town's existing open space resources while enhancing connectivity throughout the community;

The *2019 Adams Open Space & Recreation Plan* recommends actions to protect valued farmland and other environmentally-sensitive resources, enhance the quality of Town parks and recreational facilities, and preserve the Town's historic and cultural assets. The plan considers enhanced connectivity between existing open space resources as a key factor in long-term land use and recreation planning which benefit both the people and environment in Adams.

Section 2: Introduction

2A. Statement of Purpose

The Town of Adams is working towards becoming a sustainable community. The Town wishes to do so by preserving its rural roots and sense of place within the greater Berkshire region, enhancing its quality of life, fostering economic opportunity and security, and maintaining the ecological integrity of its natural resources. This *Open Space and Recreation Plan* addresses various choices regarding future management of the Town's natural resources, expansion and improvement of its recreational facilities, and development opportunities that will contribute to the revitalization of Adams' economy. The Plan offers a series of recommendations and necessary targeted actions towards achieving these goals. The Plan also outlines a long-term vision and an action plan to inform future decision-making by Town officials.

The residents of Adams care deeply about the character of their town and are vocal advocates for improving their quality of life while maintaining and preserving their scenic, family- oriented community. Residents share the sentiment that economic stability can be achieved while simultaneously protecting the environment and enhancing recreational opportunities.

2B. Planning Process and Public Participation

In spring 2019, the Town's Community Development Department began preparation of an update to the *Open Space and Recreation Plan* for Adams with technical assistance from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). Town officials agreed that completion of the *Open Space and Recreation Plan* was a high priority for the Town.

In fall 2010, a survey posing a series of questions or choices relative to open space and recreational issues was mailed to approximately 600 Adams residents selected randomly from a polling list prepared by the Town Clerk. Students from Hoosac Valley High School also participated in the survey as representatives of the younger generation, whom were not well represented in the original survey results. The *North Adams Transcript* published an article in March 2010 describing how data derived from the survey would be used to establish priorities for future open space preservation, park renovation, and the development of new public recreational facilities. The Town received 231 responses to the survey, the results of which are described in Appendix A. The survey results were analyzed and presented to the Adams Downtown Development Committee and the Master Plan Committee in June-July 2010. In preparation for the 2019 update, the Community Development Department released

Section 2: Introduction

an online survey in conjunction with an update to this plan. Paper copies of the survey were made available at the Adams Free Library, Town Hall and Council on Aging. The survey was also presented at a public meeting of the Board of Selectmen and distributed among attendees. The goal of the survey was to solicit updated responses to many of the questions contained in the 2010 survey while also obtaining community feedback on many of the updated goals identified by the Town. The survey garnered 235 responses.

Adams is identified as an Environmental Justice (EJ) community, with 57.8% of its population low-to-moderate income. The Town is committed to providing enhanced outreach to its low income residents, many of whom do not have personal transportation. With the greatest concentration of these residents in the downtown area, public meetings and additional opportunities for public input will be provided at Town Hall, the Adams Free Library, and in other downtown locations. A broad variety of outreach tools will be used to engage the Town's EJ population to ensure they are part of decision-making for the community.

Section 3: Community Setting

3A. Regional Context

Adams, a small town with a population of approximately 8,090, is located in northern Berkshire County in the northwest corner of Massachusetts. The Town shares boundaries with the City of North Adams to the north, the towns of Cheshire to the south, Savoy to the east, and New Ashford and Williamstown to the west. It is situated 15 miles northeast of Pittsfield, 60 miles east of Albany, 138 miles west of Boston, and 158 miles north of New York City.

Set in the Hoosic River valley, Adams is bounded by Mount Greylock on its western edge and the Hoosac Range to the east. The Hoosic River flows northward through the center of town, eventually meeting the Hudson River at Stillwater, New York. State Route 8 is the major transportation corridor, running north towards the City of North Adams and south to the rural community of Cheshire. Route 8 generally parallels the Hoosic River. Both the river and the roadway are the main development corridors in Adams. The Massachusetts Turnpike is the closest U.S. Interstate highway, located 36 miles south of the Town.

The Town's remote location delayed European settlement of the area until the mid-1700s. It was incorporated as a township in 1778, one of the last in the Commonwealth to achieve this status. The water power of the Hoosic River was quickly put to use, as Adams became a thriving nineteenth century mill town. When the Pittsfield & North Adams Railroad line came through in 1843, Adams instantly had access to major centers of commerce such as Boston and New York City. Railroads also made Adams accessible to families emigrating from Europe who were attracted by the abundance of available work. Within one year of the railroad's arrival, the population of Adams doubled, and five new mills were built within seven years.



Figure 1: Community Setting

Adams is located in northern Berkshire County, 128 miles west of Boston and 15 miles northeast of Pittsfield.



The Hoosic River has historically been one of Adams' most important natural and economic resources.

Section 3: Community Setting

Since WWII, there has been a steady decline in the region's industrial base similar to that experienced by other New England mill communities. The eventual departure of the mill economy led to drastic changes within Adams – large numbers of jobs were lost, merchants lost their customer base, elements of the region's transportation system vanished, and Town civic and education needs no longer had the patronage of wealthy industrialists. The Town's population has steeply declined and, without direct access to the interstate highway system, the economic recovery of Adams and the northern Berkshires generally has lagged. Adams has not been able to capture the new economy, and continues to struggle in its effort to attract new employers and economic investment.



The Quaker Meeting House, attended by Susan B. Anthony, is one of Adams' important historical attractions.

While the mountain setting has inhibited economic development, the Town's beauty and environmental resources make Adams uniquely attractive. The Town's isolation has preserved its rural character which, in turn, sustains its remaining residents and inspires visitors. The Berkshires are well known as a cultural arts mecca. Many Berkshire towns along Route 7 have capitalized on their scenic, rural and cultural resources as an incentive for tourism.

Historically significant sites such as the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace, the Quaker Meeting House,

the many prominent 19th century buildings along Park Street, and the historic mill structures in Adams secures the Town's contributions to the northern Berkshires cultural corridor.



Mount Greylock, Massachusetts' highest point, rises majestically over Adams

In addition to the area's extensive cultural assets, the Berkshire region is equally rich in outdoor recreational opportunities. Adams' greatest natural resource is Mount Greylock, the State's highest peak, and the picturesque setting of the Hoosic River valley. The surrounding Greylock and Hoosac ranges are threaded with trails, streams and wildlife, offering opportunities for hiking, biking, fishing, swimming and hunting, as well as multiple winter sports. When Adams' scenic and natural resources are combined with its cultural assets, it is clear that Adams has great potential and opportunity for cultural tourism.

3B. History of the Community

Following the end of the French and Indian wars in the mid-1700s, land parcels in the Berkshire area went up for sale. Wealthy colonial businessmen purchased the land and hired a Congregational minister to establish a church and bring his flock to settle the area. These early inhabitants soon tired of the isolation and rocky farmland, and sold their parcels to a group of Quakers from Rhode Island in the 1770s. It is from this second wave of settlers that Adams' most famous resident, Susan B. Anthony, is descended. Anthony is a nationally significant historic figure, well known as a tireless feminist leader and a suffragist. In 1778, the Town was incorporated and named for another historic figure, revolutionary Samuel Adams, one of the most vocal and ardent supporters of colonial independence from England.



The many churches in Adams are a legacy of the various immigrant groups that came to work in the mills.



Prudent land stewardship was essential to the survival of the early settlers in this rugged and isolated area. They had to learn to make wise use of the resources the land provided. Early townsfolk fashioned brick from rich clay deposits and harvested tanning bark from the town's abundant forests, using it to tan leather. They discovered an iron ore deposit at the foot of Mount Greylock and established iron foundries, and in early industrial times they tapped the Hoosic's waters to power mills and factories.

Textile mills began to appear in the early 1800s, when the first cotton mill was built. Wool and paper mills followed the route of the newly built Pittsfield & North Adams railroad line, which came to Adams in mid-century. By 1850, industry had replaced agriculture as the predominant employment sector. With each new mill came a new wave of settlement, usually dominated by a different immigrant group seeking jobs, freedom, and prosperity. Housing, businesses, schools, and churches sprang up around each mill. These small neighborhood pockets made it possible for new citizens to maintain their unique cultural identities. At one point,

church services were being conducted in five different languages in five different churches throughout the Town. Adams continued to prosper through the beginning of the twentieth century, with the population peaking in 1925 at 13,500.

As American industry began to move its factories closer to raw materials and less expensive labor in the South, the economic situation in Adams, like many New England mill towns,

Section 3: Community Setting

began to falter.

Further contributing to the economic downturn was the very source from which the Town drew its strength — the Hoosic River. Following the Great Depression and the industrial flight to the South, four major floods between 1901 and 1938, shattered most of the remaining industry. The economy of Adams has never fully recovered from this devastating confluence of circumstances. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers undertook major flood control efforts in the 1950s, resulting in the concrete channelization of the Hoosic River where it flows through the downtown. Though this may have quelled the catastrophic flooding of the river in the town center, the area's steep topography and narrow valley structure still make parts of Adams vulnerable to localized destructive flooding.

Urban renewal projects razed Center Street in 1967, replacing historic but decrepit buildings with a new shopping plaza and multi-family housing. A similar project was planned for Park Street but was narrowly averted when Adams citizens rallied to save the street's historic structures.



The channelized Hoosic River protects downtown Adams from flooding, but prevents access to the river.

3C. Population Characteristics

The U.S. Census estimates that the population in Adams in 2017 was 8,090, a decline of almost 4.66 percent since the 2010 census. Adams' population has been steadily declining since its 1925 peak of 13,500. This is consistent with trends in Berkshire County; however the trend is reversed at the state level. This continuing population decline is most likely due to the ongoing loss of jobs. The Town has approximately 354 people per square mile.

Adams' residents are fairly equitably distributed among age groups, though the Town is increasingly comprised of an aging population. This suggests that the Town's *2019 Open Space & Recreation Plan* must accommodate the needs of a wide spectrum of ages and interests. The median age for the Town is 46.0, higher than the state median age of 39.4 (2013–2017 American Community Survey). Adams continues to have a higher proportion of elderly residents than most Berkshire County communities and the state average. This higher concentration of elderly residents indicates the need for recreational facilities and programs appropriate for use by an aging population.

Section 3: Community Setting

Table 3-1: Historical Population of Adams

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017
Adams	12,034	12,391	11,772	10,381	9,445	8,809	8,485	8,090
Berkshire County	132,966	142,135	149,402	145,110	139,352	134,953	131,219	126,313
Massachusetts	4,690,514	5,148,578	5,689,170	5,737,093	6,016,425	6,349,097	6,547,629	6,859,819

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010 Census, 2017 Population Estimates)

Table 3-2: Age Distribution in Adams

Age Range	Population	Age Range	Population
<5	233	25-34	707
5-9	176	35-44	576
10-14	319	45-54	927
15-19	334	55-64	924
20-24	358	65+	957

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (American Community Survey 2013-2017)

Adams is racially homogeneous, with over 97.0% percent identifying themselves as white. Great cultural diversity within this group exists, however, owing to the Town's strong immigrant roots. The largest cultural group in Adams is of Polish descent, with significant Italian, German, Irish and French-Canadian groups present as well.

As per the 2013-2017 American Community Survey, median household income in Adams was \$48,313, which was approximately 65% of the statewide median. In Adams, 11.8% of residents fell below the poverty level, as compared with 11.1% statewide. This suggests that the average Adams resident is middle class. However, as is consistent with unemployment levels across the U.S., the unemployment rate for Adams increased from 4.0% in 2000 to 9.9% in 2010 and has since declined back to 5.3%, though still remains higher than both the state and national rates. Adams is, in fact, an Environmental Justice Community as rated by the state on the basis of income. If households earn 65% or less of the statewide household median income the community will be classified as having an Environmental Justice population. The western portion of town as well as the downtown area falls within the Environmental Justice area. Map 3.1 shows the location of the Environmental Justice areas within Adams (*Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development*).

Table 3-3: Average Annual Unemployment for Adams, Massachusetts

Year	Labor Force	Unemployment	% Unemployment	% Statewide Rate
2008	4,480	320	7.1	5.5
2009	4,534	458	10.1	8.1
2010	4,488	444	9.9	8.3
2011	4,445	413	9.3	7.3
2012	4,358	385	8.8	6.7
2013	4,308	382	8.9	6.7
2014	4,321	357	8.3	5.7
2015	4,260	273	6.4	4.8
2016	4,183	221	5.3	3.9

Section 3: Community Setting

2017	4,269	222	5.2	3.8
2018	4,300	212	4.9	3.3

Source: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

Many residents work in neighboring towns such as Cheshire, North Adams and Pittsfield. Thirty-six (36%) percent of workers travel less than 15 minutes to work. Thirty six (36%) percent of workers travel 15-29 minutes to work. An additional twenty-three (23%) percent of workers travel 30-60 minutes to work. Most of Adams labor force is employed in the trade sector (retail and wholesale), with manufacturing jobs as the second largest employment group and the construction industry third. Employment trends in Adams indicate that the labor force – that is, the number of people employed plus the number of people looking for work in Adams – has increased from 4,437 in 2000 to 4,567 in 2010, the most recent Census data available. The five largest employers in Adams are: Adams Plumbing & Heating, Inc.; Mullen Moving and Storage; Specialty Minerals, Inc.; Town of Adams; and Aladco Linen Supply.

3D. Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns and Trends

Adams began as a small farming community, surrounded by rugged hills and thick forests. As the fertile plains of the Midwest became more accessible via the railroad, river and canal travel, many farming families migrated west. By 1850, industry was booming; textile and paper mills sprang up along the banks of the Hoosic River and its tributaries, forming a dendritic development pattern. Though most industry has long since departed, the industrial landscape and its associated pocket neighborhoods still dominate the Route 8 corridor through town. Other sections within Adams are characterized by low-density residential land use that has developed over the years as farmland frontage has been subdivided for single-family house lots. Adams is fortunate to retain its traditional settlement pattern of a distinct town center, mill and industrial development north and south of this center, less dense residential development rising into the hillsides, and finally protected farmland and forestland along the higher elevations

The Town's land use pattern has been remarkably stable over the last 60 years. There has been very little new residential or commercial development. With the exception of a few small residential subdivisions, development that has taken place is mainly centered on the rehabilitation of existing structures within the town center. Though there is low development pressure on the community's open space resources, the economic vitality of the Town has suffered greatly as a result. Going forward, Adams has the opportunity to plan for a sustainable economic future that includes integrating and preserving its valuable open space resources for the benefit of generations to come.

Infrastructure

Transportation Systems

Adams' geographical location within Berkshire County restricts transportation to and from the town. U.S. Route 7 links the major cities and towns in the County, but does not pass through Adams. Principal highways in Adams are State Routes 8, running north-south between North Adams and Pittsfield, and 116, which runs primarily east-west from Adams to Sunderland, at which point it runs north-south to Springfield. Access from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) lies 36 miles south of town, and access is slow and indirect. A bypass around Pittsfield has been proposed several times over the past 20 years to improve access to the North Berkshire area but the difficulty in identifying an alignment and the cost of obtaining funds for right-of-way acquisition and construction make this unlikely.

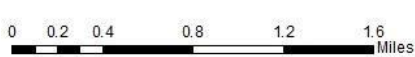
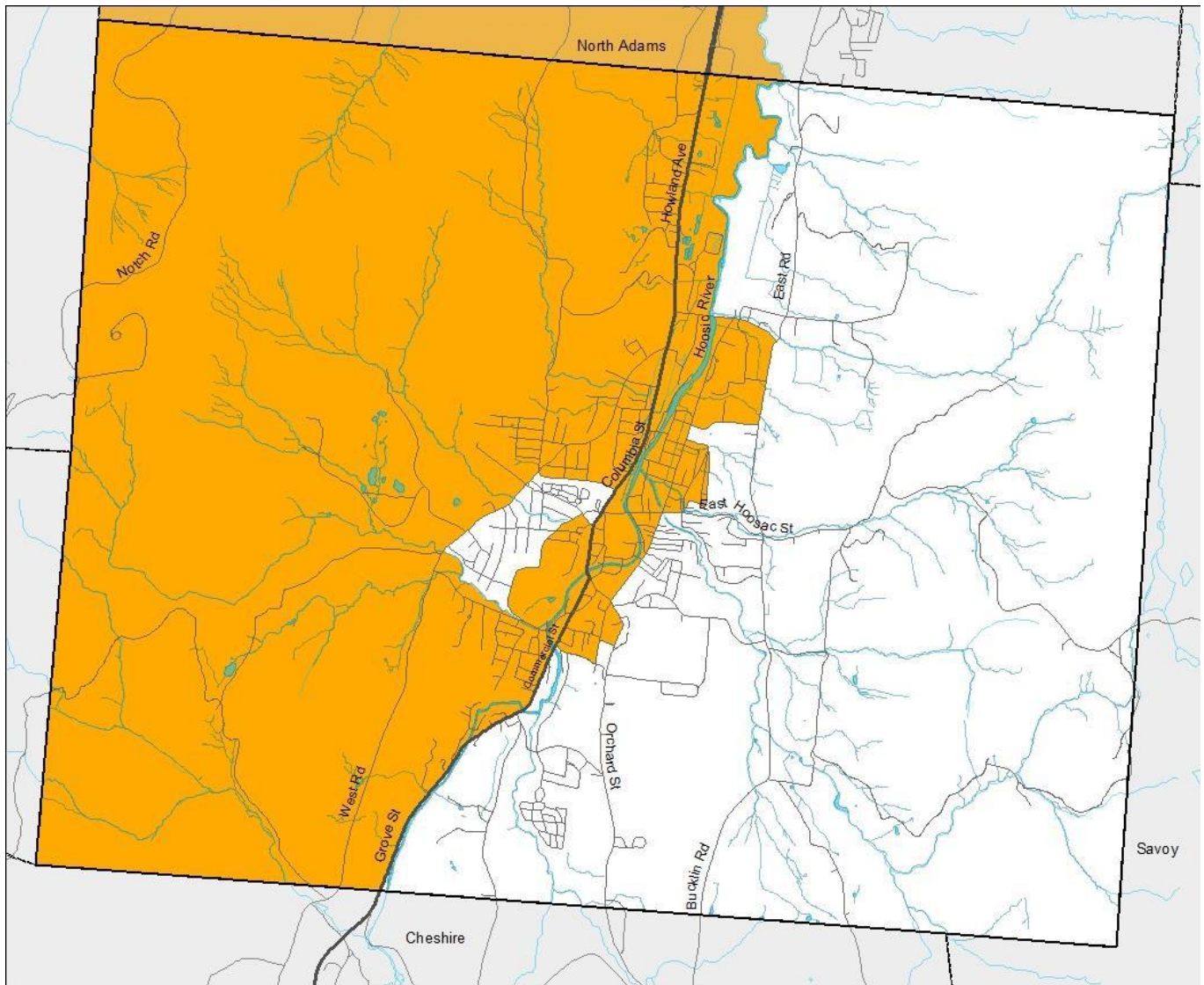
The intra-town transportation network is limited to some degree by topography and protected open space. There is no road access within Adams to the summit of Mount Greylock, the most prominent landscape feature within the area. The Mount Greylock State Reservation and Greylock Glen properties occupy a large portion of the western half of Adams.

Road access and aerial means of transport from Adams to the summit have been explored and supported locally but are also highly controversial, essentially prohibiting such access for the foreseeable future. The steep topography on both the eastern and western sides of Adams has helped concentrate roads and development in lower land areas along the Hoosic River.

As Route 8 also parallels the river, transportation and development have historically been concentrated in the valley and floodplain.

The Town was actively involved in the development of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail – which extends 12.2 miles from Lanesborough to downtown Adams with its current terminus at Lime Street. The existing Rail Trail represents the first segments of a proposed recreation path that will traverse the length of Berkshire County from Connecticut to the Vermont border. The Trail's route behind the Town's "Main Street" is intended to establish a key activity/interest generator that has been central to Adams' downtown revitalization efforts. The Town is currently working to extend the trail north to connect with downtown North Adams. The most recent section was completed and opened in 2017. If successful, the rail trail will provide an important alternative mode of transportation in the northern Berkshires. Over the next several years, the Town hopes to develop a more comprehensive bikeway system to all parts of the community with the Ashuwillticook as the spine of the new system and with a new network of mountain bike trails at Greylock Glen.

Map 3-1: Environmental Justice



Environmental Justice

Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

Section 3: Community Setting

Adams is a member of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA). The BRTA provides fixed-route bus service to Adams and neighboring towns, with connections to the southern Berkshires via Pittsfield. The BRTA also offers user-side para-transit services for the elderly and disabled.

North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry into Massachusetts for freight rail. There is no passenger or freight rail service in Adams, but the town has access to the network of inter-modal facilities serving Massachusetts.

The Berkshire region has several commercial airports. The Harriman & West Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located North Adams, has a 4,300' x 100' asphalt runway. The facility only serves non-scheduled commercial flights. The North Adams Airport Commission expects some future growth of the facility; however, it is limited by environmental constraints.

Water Supply System

Greater than 90% of the water users in Adams draw their water from the municipal supply. The Adams Fire District draws water from a series of wells known collectively as the Cheshire Harbor wellfield, located in the neighboring town of Cheshire. The district draws an average of 1.7 million gallons per day (mgd) from this source. It also maintains Bassett Brook Reservoir, located off Route 8 in Cheshire, as back-up water supply. The use of the Bassett Brook Reservoir as a primary water source was discontinued in 1995. The reservoir is maintained as an emergency water source, which cannot be used without prior approval of the MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The small reservoir has a surface area of .33 acres, and a total storage capacity of about 2.4 million gallons.

The Cheshire Harbor wellfield is located on the east side of Route 8 in Cheshire and consists of four separate wells. Wells # 2 through # 4 are currently in use. Well # 4 is presently used as the main supply and has an approved daily pumping rate of 2.3 mgd, with an average daily withdrawal rate of approximately 1.2 mgd. The distribution system has a total of 55 miles of cast iron pipe ranging in diameter from 4 to 20 inches. There are three pump stations and two storage tanks on the distribution system to augment pressure in the higher elevations of Town. The three tanks have storage capacities of 100,000 gallons, 500,000 gallons, and two million gallons respectively.

In 2007, Adams collaborated with the town of Cheshire to implement a Zone II Wellhead Protection Overlay District for its water supply resources. Special requirements within the overlay district have been adopted into Cheshire's zoning bylaws. These requirements limit the uses and activities that can take place within the boundaries of the district, with the intent of protecting the quality of the Adams municipal water supply.

Sewer Service

The Adams wastewater treatment plant, completed in 1971, is located in the northeast

Section 3: Community Setting

section of Adams on 3.5 acres of land. The system is a separate collection system that collects sanitary and industrial wastes only – stormwater is diverted through a system of drains that empty directly into the Hoosic River and its tributaries. The treatment plant treats an average 2.18 million gallons of wastewater each day (mgd). The plant has a design capacity of 4.6 mgd and it is permitted to treat 3.5 mgd from June to November and 4.6 mgd the remainder of the year. Demands on the system are light, since industrial users have declined significantly since the construction of the plant.

Approximately 94% of the commercial and residential units in Adams are on the sewer system (see *Map 3-2: Sewer & Water Lines*, page 16). The remainder use private septic systems. These are located on parts of West Road, West Mountain Road, Gould Road, Notch Road, parts of East Road, East Hoosac Street, Walling Road, East Mountain Road, Burlingame Road and Bucklin Road. Extension of municipal sewer service into areas with the potential for new growth will be important to obtain an appropriate density and intensity of development.

Stormwater Management

The flood control chutes on the Hoosic River through the urban downtown comprise the most significant stormwater infrastructure in Town. There are more than 175 major drainage-related structures consisting of stormwater outfalls, dikes, levees, stilling basins, weirs, diversion channels, and sluice gates related to the functioning of the flood control chutes (see *Figure 2: Adams Flood Control Chutes Schematic Diagram*, page 15). The majority of rainfall and runoff from urban areas in Adams is handled by standard stormwater collections systems such as catch basins, drainage manholes and concrete pipes.

In most cases, these pipes discharge directly into adjacent streams and eventually the Hoosic River. Stormwater is also conveyed by drainage swales and ditches along roads, some of which have been paved or lined with concrete due to high stormwater velocities and steep drainage areas. The Town's stormwater collection system consists of some 284 drain outfalls, 1,596 catch basins, 331 drainage manholes, and 30.7 miles of drain pipe. The exact age of most stormwater structures is not well known. The majority of drainage structures along the Hoosic River are approximately 50 years old since they were built at the same time as the flood control chutes. Drainage structures upstream of the Hoosic River are likely 75-100 years old, though changes to the system over the years has not been accurately documented. Historically, sewer and drainage pipes likely discharged directly into waterways, but sewer systems have since been disconnected and now go to the Town's wastewater treatment system.

As assisted by Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. (CEI) and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the Town prepared a comprehensive Stormwater Management Strategic Plan in 2005. The plan was intended to reduce stormwater-related impacts from land use and development in Adams. The recommendations presented in the plan will enable Adams to comply with current EPA-mandated stormwater discharge regulations, while optimizing

Section 3: Community Setting

existing stormwater infrastructure and planning for future improvements and enhancements to the system.

Land Use Control and Long-term Development Patterns

Land Use Controls

Zoning

Adams has a mix of zoning districts and regulations, especially along the Route 8 corridor and in the downtown area. The Town has a dense downtown core which supports mixed-use development, as well as suburban neighborhoods and rural areas. The zoning districts are outlined in Table 3-5. There are four residential districts in Adams whose minimum lot sizes are shown in Table 3-6. Residential lots that are not connected to public sewer must conform to larger lot dimensions and setbacks (see *Map 3-3: Current Zoning*, page 18).

The Town's Open Space zoning district is mostly occupied by Mount Greylock State Reservation and Savoy State Forest. The Zoning Bylaws allow for Cluster Development for parcels in excess of five times the minimum lot size in several residential zones. Approval under this provision states that a development must be superior to conventional development in preserving open space and utilizing natural features of the land. Cluster development allows for a density bonus of 20% over the number of dwelling units permitted under standard residential development. The cluster provisions have not yet been widely used in Adams. Planned Development is allowed, with the provision that not less than 20% of the land be preserved for recreation and open space. Adams also has a Planned Unit Resort Development provision, which outlines very specific site development guidelines.

The Town's residential development growth is characterized by 5 to 10 housing starts per year. This growth is essentially single lot development either infill or along existing roadways. Approval Not Required or ANR development is typical in Adams as in other communities.

Existing farms often sell off their frontage to sustain their operations but this can create land use conflicts over time and an ultimate loss of land for production. A few small subdivisions have been built on inactive farmland in recent years. These subdivisions are small, averaging only 8-10 house lots.

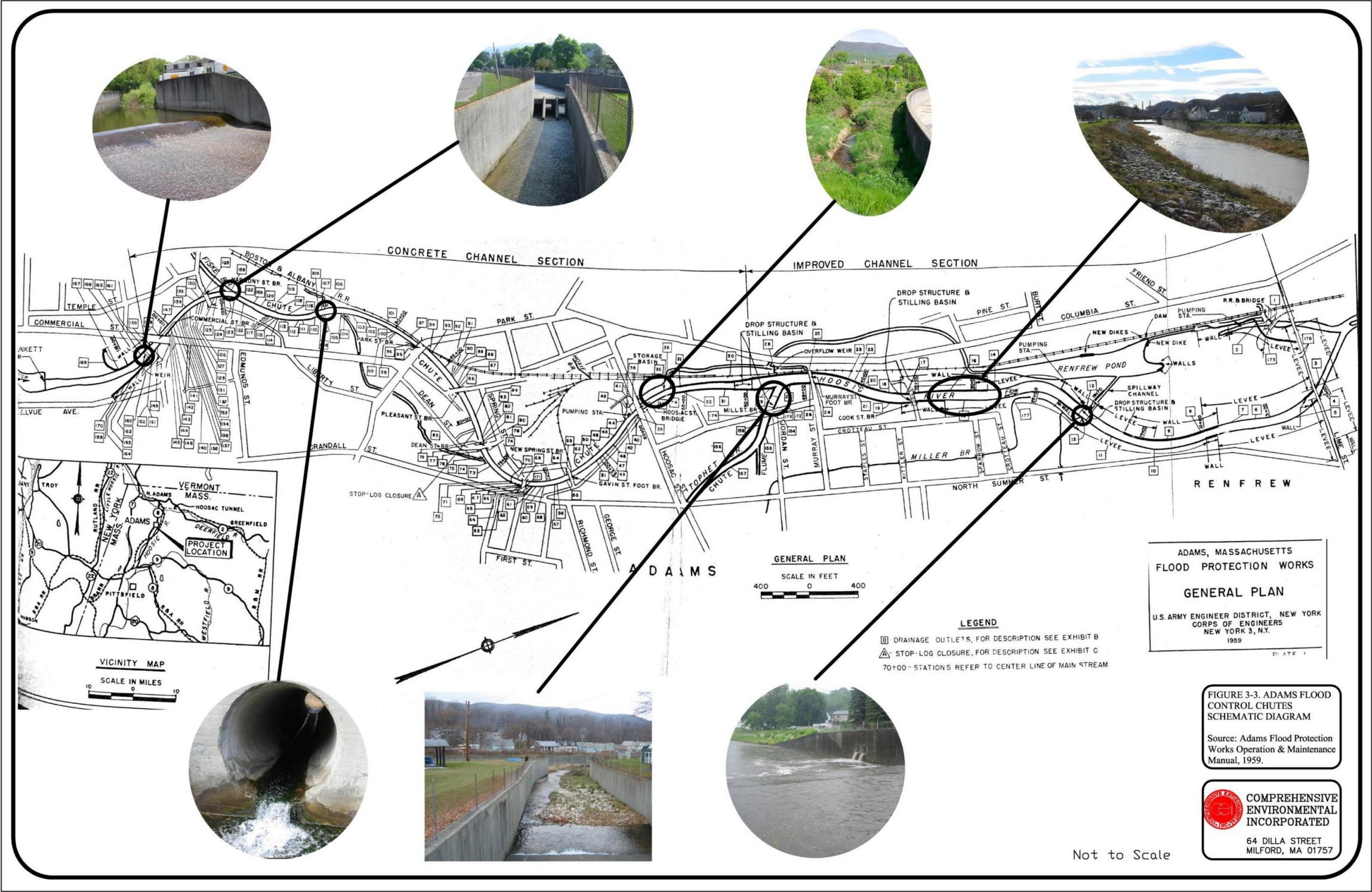
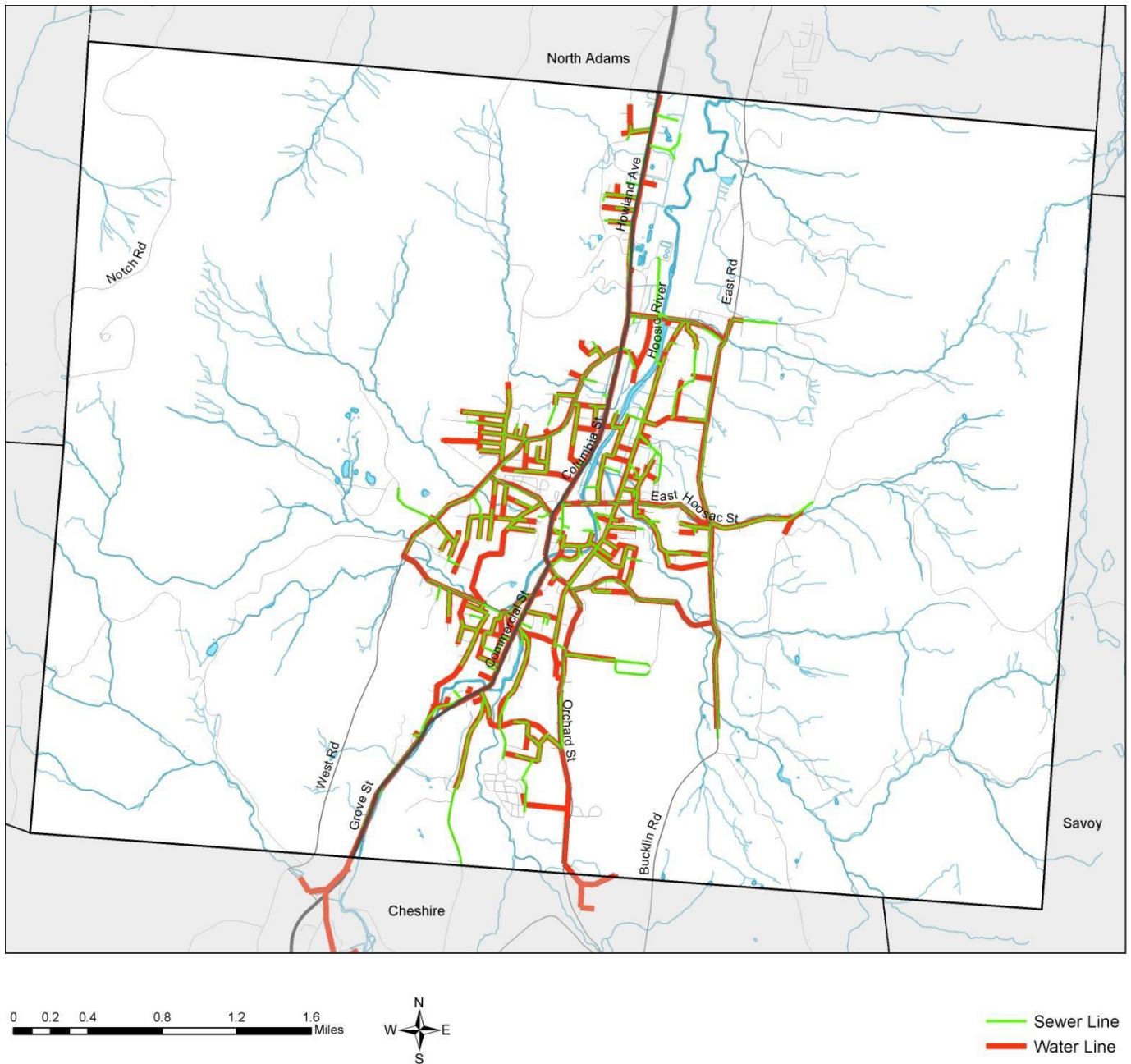


Figure 2: Flood Control Chute Map and Schematic Diagram

Map 3-2: Sewer & Water Lines



Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

Section 3: Community Setting

The Intensity of Use Schedule provides additional details regarding the land use within the zoning districts:

Table 3-4: Adams Zoning Districts	
Residential Districts	Business Districts
R1: Rural Residential	B1: General Business
R2: Low Density Residential	B2: Extensive Business
R3: Medium Density Residential	B3: Forest recreation
R4: High Density Residential	
Industrial Districts	Open Space District
I: Industrial	OS: Open Space
IP: Industrial Park	

Source: Town of Adams Zoning By-Laws 2018

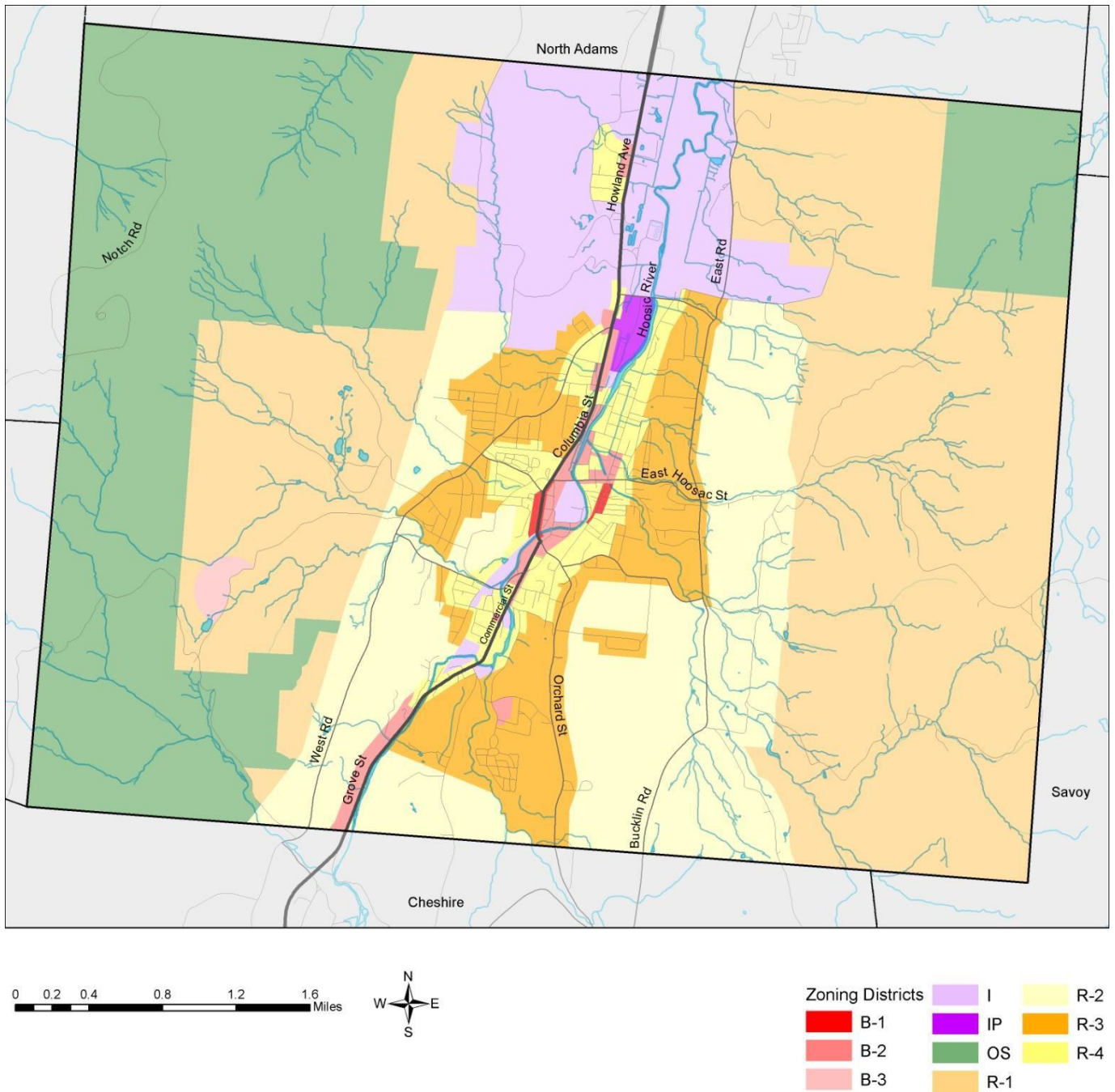
Table 3-5: Adams Zoning Intensity of Use			
District	Minimum Lot Area (sq. ft.)	Minimum Open Space (%)	Maximum Building Height (ft.)
R-1	43,560	70	30
R-2	21,780	70	30
R-3	2,000	50	30
R-4	10,000	50	30
B-1	0	0	40
B-2	10,000	25	30
B-3	10,000	20	30
IP	43,560	25	40
I	20,000	25	40
OS	2 Acres	85	15

Source: Town of Adams Zoning By-Laws 2018

Build-Out Analysis

In 2000, a Build-Out Analysis was conducted for the Town with assistance from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The analysis was based on current Town zoning. While the Build-Out analysis indicated a build-out population of 18,840; economic factors, including the loss of manufacturing jobs and the limited transportation access, make this scenario unlikely. At current rates of development (approximately 25 acres per year), it would take over 150 years or more to achieve build out based on the EOEA analysis. This would clearly indicate that Adams, at least for the present, is not threatened by development pressure. In fact, additional high quality development in Adams could have a positive economic impact on the community (see *Map 3-4: Buildable Land*, page 22).

Map 3-3: Current Zoning



Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

Section 3: Community Setting

<i>Table 3-6: EOEA Build-Out Anticipated Impacts</i>	
Additional Residents	10,031.00
Additional School Children	1,762.00
Additional Residential Units	4,518.00
Additional Developable Land Area (acres)	2,913.00
Additional Commercial/Industrial Buildable Floor Area (sq. ft.)	9,275,089.00
Additional Water Demand at Build out (gallons/day)	1,520,078.00
Residential	808,271.00
Commercial and Industrial	711,807.00
Additional Solid Waste (tons/yr.)	4,514.00
Non-Recyclable	3,912.00
Recyclable	602.00
Additional Roadway at Build out (miles)	45.00

Source: Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

The Town's residential development growth is characterized by 5 to 10 housing starts per year, which is largely infill. Little forested land or active farmland is being lost to such development.

Major Town Development Initiatives

Adams Downtown Revitalization Program

In 2003, the Town adopted the *Adams Downtown Development Plan*. The goals of the plan are to enhance opportunities for economic and tourism development in the downtown area by facilitating the rehabilitation and redevelopment of many of the downtowns' historic structures, upgrading the housing stock, encouraging mixed-use and infill development, improving the functional and aesthetic character of Town commercial districts, and creating solid connections to the downtown from outlying development projects like the Greylock Glen and Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. As a result of the goals of the *Downtown Development Plan*, the Town has prioritized the development of "pocket parks" along the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Corridor. Recent efforts have included the development of Armory Court, the redevelopment of a former car wash facility into Adams Station Park in an effort to both complement the Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum's Hoosac Valley Service – which has created a downtown-to-downtown (Adams to North Adams) tourist train service – and to pay homage to the history of rail through Adams. The Town is currently evaluating opportunities to renovate the interior to provide facilities for Rail Trail users and is working with BSRM to provide historical exhibits to complement the service.

The Armory Court Pedestrian Walkway and the Armory Court Park were completed in 2003 and 2009, respectively. The Town has recently completed streetscape improvements to the commercial portion of Summer Street (2010), and similar improvements to Park Street. Additionally, the Town has prioritized development of a Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District ("SG District") consistent with M.G.L. c. 40R. Once the SG District is adopted mixed-use

Section 3: Community Setting

redevelopment within underutilized and undeveloped areas of Town, along or abutting the Town's main corridor will be a programmatic priority.

The Downtown Façade & Signage Improvement Program, funded under the MA Community Development Block Grant program, provides financial incentives in the form of grants and loans to downtown property owners and businesses enabling them to undertake needed façade renovations. The program also works to eliminate blighted conditions in the downtown by decreasing the number of structures in poor or dilapidated condition.

Recent Town efforts have also focused on three other key open space projects: the redevelopment of the former Hoosac Valley Coal and Grain site into a "pocket park" as well as updates to the Town Common and Russell Field.

Located along the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, the former Hoosac Valley Coal and Grain site has long been a priority redevelopment project for the Town. The site suffers from environmental contamination from its previous use, but also features a historically significant grain elevator. In addition to site cleanup, the Town has prioritized preservation of the existing building and grain elevator. The park will be fully ADA-accessible and will feature a dog run as well as picnic facilities.



The former Hoosac Valley Coal and Grain site along the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. The grain elevator is shown.

The Adams Town Common has been a focal point of the community since its inception. In addition to being the site of numerous community events, the Common serves as the gateway to the community's downtown lying at the district's southern boundary. The Town plans to pursue a PARC grant in order to update the site. Work is scheduled to include new lighting, landscaping, and plantings. The site work is also planned to include updates to the layout of the Common in order to accommodate a new statue dedicated to Adams resident and suffragette, Susan B. Anthony. Work on the statute has largely been funded through private donations and the unveiling is scheduled to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment that granted women the right to vote in 2020. At the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, town meeting members approved an article that dedicates the Town Common for recreational use in perpetuity.

In 2018, the Town sought Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in order to pursue upgrades to the Town's Russell Field site. Russell Field, also located adjacent to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, is widely used by Town residents of all age categories. It is a popular location for tennis, as well as the site of practice fields used by school sports teams in town. Upgrades to Russell Field are slated to include reconstruction of the tennis courts, ADA accessibility upgrades, regrading of the playing fields, and updates to seating. Russell Field has frequently been a source of safety concerns by Town and school officials as well as frequent park users. The Community Development Department has worked closely with the

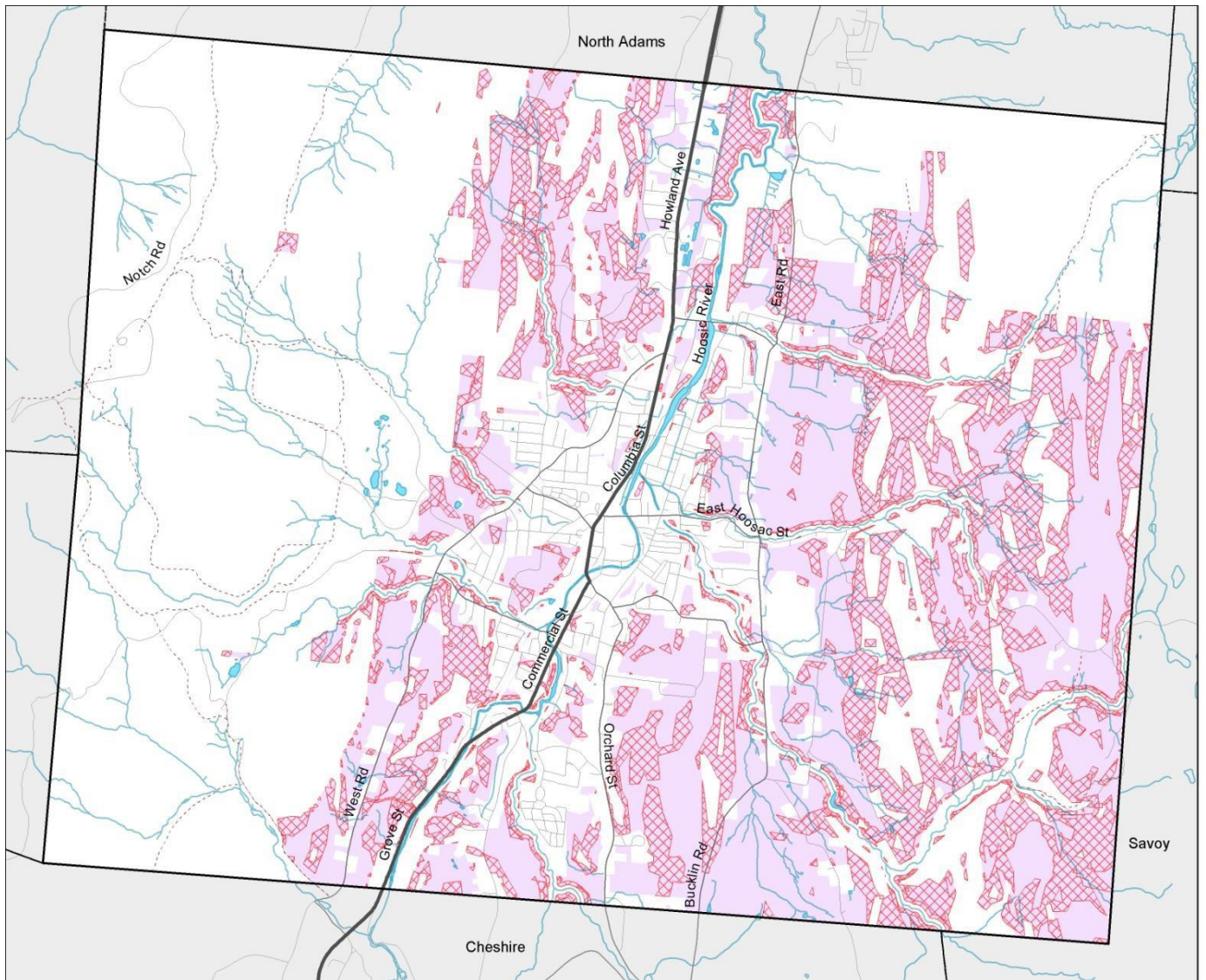
Section 3: Community Setting

engineers, the Parks Commission, the schools, and the Council on Aging to ensure that the updates to the facility promote multi-generational facilities and recreational opportunities for all ages.



Photographs of Russell Field showing the need of improvement. Image at right courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Map 3-4: Buildable Land



0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Miles



 Partial Constraints
 Buildable Land

Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

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Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center

A long-term development strategy for Adams has for years revolved around plans for the Greylock Glen, a 1,063-acre site at the base of Mount Greylock. The Glen, now owned by the state, has been the site of a golf course and previously proposed hotel development and a downhill ski resort. Numerous plans for additional economic developments have been proposed, though none have been successfully developed. More recent Town efforts to become a sustainable community have centered on the site serving as a demonstration for innovative environmental technologies, best practices, and environmental programs.



Conceptual design of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center. Image courtesy of Maclay

On December 11, 2006, the Town of Adams executed an agreement with the Commonwealth, which designated the Town as the developer of the *Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center* in Adams. The proposed Greylock Glen project is envisioned as a four-season resort intended to make Adams a recreation and environmental education destination. The project proposal, developed in collaboration with the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA), Massachusetts Audubon, and the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), includes the following components:

- Lodging and Conference Facility -- the 170-room “Thunderbolt Retreat;”
- Performing Arts Amphitheater;
- Campground, containing cabins and “eco-tents”, as well, as tradition tent and small pull-in trailer sites;
- Environmental Education Center, which will incorporate a field station and lab for MCLA's growing environmental studies program and accommodate a Nordic Ski Center to be run by a private operator;
- Outdoor Environmental Art; and
- Multi-use Trail System.

The project was successfully reviewed under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) in May 2010 and the Town is currently in the process of undertaking detailed engineering for site improvements and soliciting private developer partners.

The Town’s proposal for Greylock Glen represents a development approach that is environmentally and economically sustainable. Over 1,000 acres or 94% of the entire Glen

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site will be placed in permanent conservation easement and profit centers within the development will support those components generating insufficient revenues to sustain their operations and maintenance. The Glen site comprises 1,063 acres of land but development will be concentrated in the 53-acre area currently served by public utilities.

The collaboration with institutions/organizations has deep roots in the Berkshires. The Town's Glen project will make extensive use of local resources and designed to reinforce and enhance the region's educational, recreational, and cultural assets. The Glen project will serve local and regional residents and the growing number of outdoor recreational tourists visiting the region. The proposal will expand the local and regional economy by establishing Adams as a destination for outdoor recreation and environmental education, expanding the Town's and the region's visitor services and attractions, and connecting the Town more meaningfully to cultural institutions within the Berkshires and the creative economy.



Figure 3: Proposed layout of Greylock Glen Development

Drawing courtesy of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

While the Town has undertaken a process to develop areas of the Greylock Glen for purposes that complement outdoor recreation, the area is currently utilized for passive recreational purposes. The Town and the Commonwealth have worked closely to develop a trail network throughout the Greylock Glen area (see Figure 4 below). This network of trails is increasingly utilized by both residents and visitors.

Section 3: Community Setting

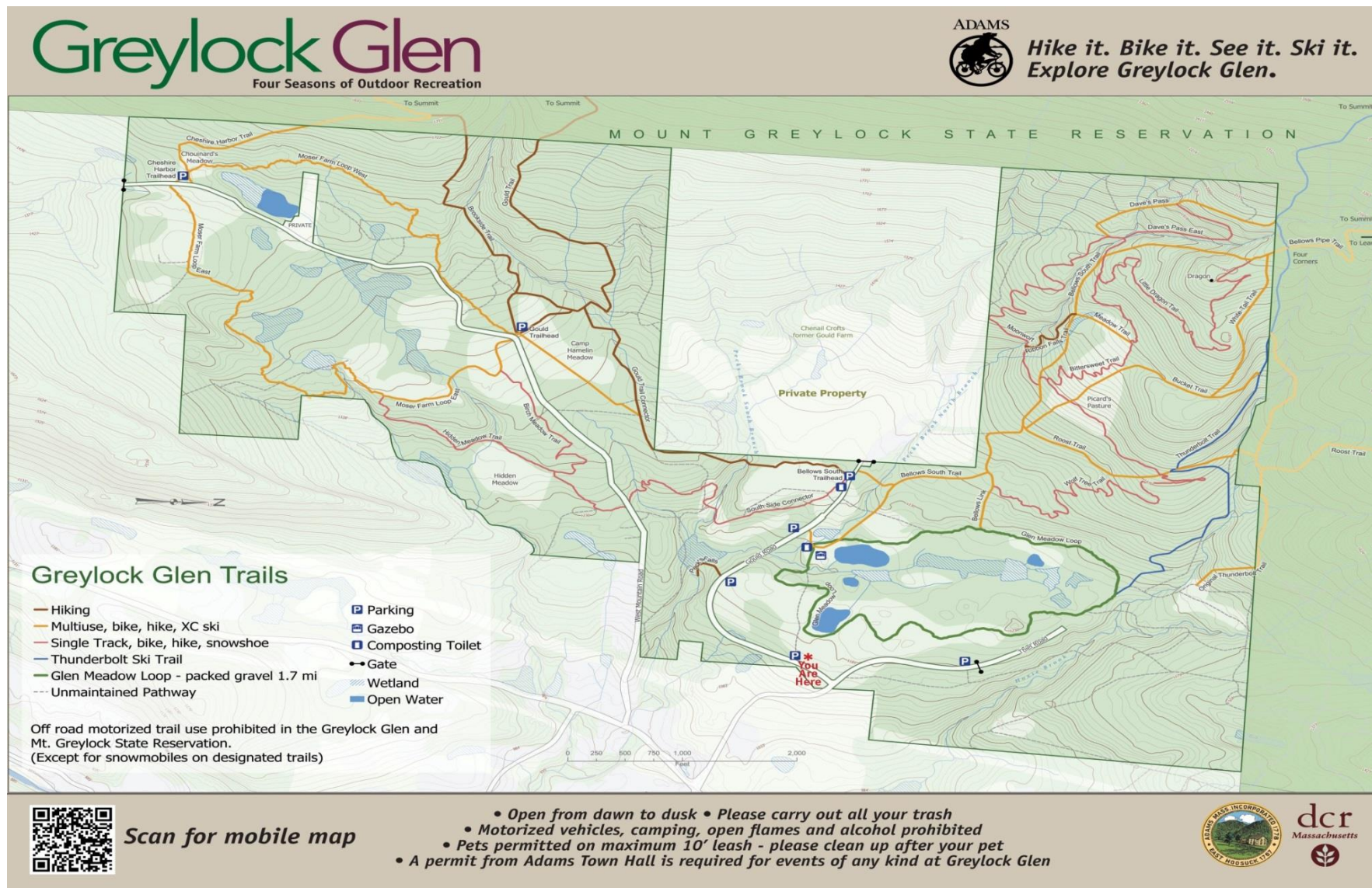


Figure 4: Greylock Glen Trail Map

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

4A. Geology, Soils and Topography

Geology

About 500 million years ago, enormous shifts in the Earth's plates pushed the European continent westward, thrusting the ocean floor and island masses into the eastern side of the North American plate. The massive force of this collision formed today's north-south Appalachian and Taconic mountain ranges, including the Berkshire Hills, thought to have once reached a height of 20,000 feet. Meanwhile, extreme subterranean pressure and accompanying high temperatures transformed the ocean deposits into quartzite, schist, gneiss and limestone, with portions of the limestone hardening into marble. Thrust faults commonly accompanied the intense buckling of these upsurging mountains; one such fault exists today, running north-south through the Hoosic River valley. These new, high mountains were eventually pared down by the ceaseless action of erosion. Wind, water, and ice eroded the hills and sculpted deeper valleys by removing the softer formations such as limestone, leaving the hard schist mountain ridges.

Over the last two million years, Earth has seen its most radical fluctuations in temperature. There have been as many as 16 glacial cycles descending from the north. Glaciers were the most important acting agent in shaping the land into what it is today. The enormous ice sheets, in some places a half-mile deep, scoured and gauged out valleys, smoothing and rounding Adams' surrounding hills while grinding, mixing, and depositing the loose debris to form today's till soils. The most recent glacial event, known as the Wisconsin Ice Age, created a blockage that resulted in the formation of Lake Bascom, the surface of which covered entirely the areas now known as the Hoosic and Green River valleys. The churning action of this glacial lake deposited sand, which mixed with glacial till, acted as upland groundwater recharge areas. About 13,000 years ago, the last great ice sheets retreated to the north removing the obstruction that held the waters of Bascom Lake. The draining of the lake allowed plants and animals from the south to re-inhabit the area. Following these glacial events, the Hoosic River has been the primary agent of geologic change in the Hoosic River valley, slowly depositing eroded mineral silts on the valley floodplains.

Topography

Adams has tremendously varied topography (see *Map 4-1: Unique Features*, page 28). From the valley elevation of 760 feet above sea level, the land surface rises steeply to the west, reaching the summit of Mount Greylock, the tallest peak in southern New England, at 3,491 feet. The more gradually sloping Hoosac Range framing the eastern edge of the valley reaches a height of 2,400 feet. The valley's mean width is only about one-half mile. The slopes of the Hoosac Range are regular, broken only by steep V-shaped stream gullies. The Greylock Range has steeper slopes with shoulders, outcroppings, and false summits. Just below the summit of Greylock is an area of recurring landslides that is visible from the valley

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

as a patch of scarred land. Many of the narrow V-shaped stream channels that descend the steep mountain slopes are vulnerable to erosion from rapid runoff. The Hoosic River valley's eastern watershed drains into the Hoosic River via the Chesboro, Southwick, Tophet, Reed, and Patton brooks, and Anthony Creek. Similarly, the Notch, Hoxie, Pecks and Bassett brooks channel runoff from the Greylock slopes to the Hoosic River. The lowlands experience a significant level of siltation, particularly from upstream storm erosion. In the center of town, the Hoosic River has been channelized with concrete to alleviate the threat of damaging floods such as those experienced in the 1930s. As the river winds its way northward through the valley and into the city of North Adams, its floodplain widens.

The extent of steep topography in Adams presents a major restriction to development in upland areas. Slopes of 25 percent or more are generally considered undevelopable, without special construction measures. Steep slopes may experience serious erosion problems if vegetation is removed. Forest activities must be carefully planned and managed in order to avoid these conditions.

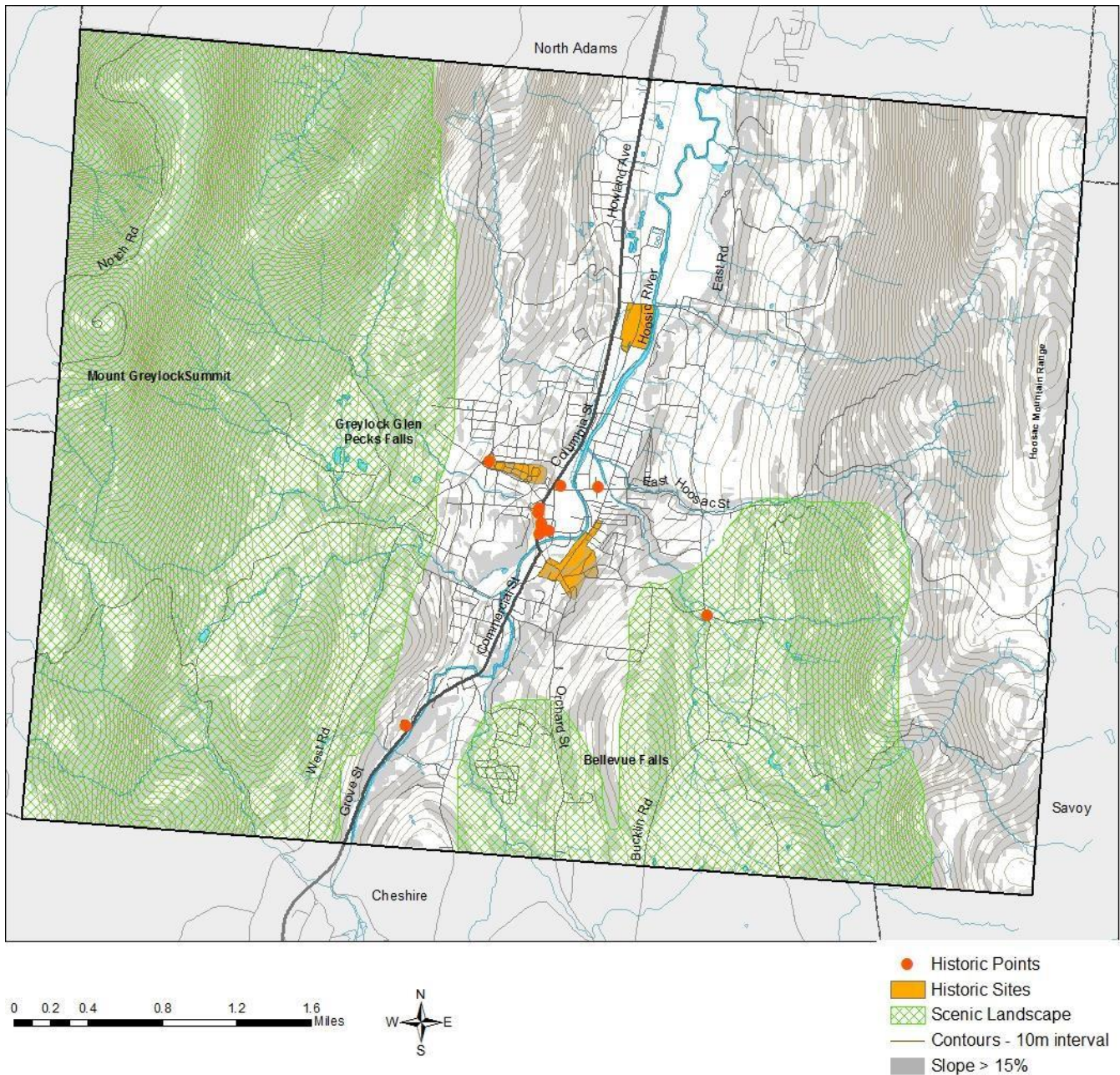
Soils

The soil formations of Adams are primarily the result of glacial action. The enormous force of giant ice sheets scraped and mixed together a variety of soil particles, ranging from fine clays and silts to sand rubble and mixed rocks. This variegated soil mixture is called glacial till. The glacial Lake Bascom was responsible for enriching much of the valley's soils, having accumulated deep layers of mineral and organic material, in some places as much as 20 feet deep. Most recently, the Hoosic River has helped to improve the valley floor with rich alluvial deposits. These fine clays and silts are continuously eroded from the hills by the action of fast-running streams and are left to settle on the riverbanks and floodplains. The channeling of the Hoosic River has considerably reduced this activity within the downtown corridor.

According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services soil survey for Berkshire County, the soils of Adams fall under three general soil associations, Tunbridge-Lyman-Peru, Amenia-Pittsfield-Farmington, and Copake-Hero-Hoosic. Within each association, soils can differ considerably with regard to variations in slope, depth, stoniness, drainage, and other physical characteristics. Soils largely reflect the parent materials of their underlying bedrock, thus closely resembling the area's surficial geology.

The Tunbridge-Lyman-Peru Association is found on both gently and steeply sloping terrain on hilltops and hillsides. This association makes up more than half the soils in town and is generally limited in terms of potential use for industry or agriculture because of its location on steep, forested slopes. Land with this soil association is best suited to recreational activities.

Map 4-1: Unique Features



Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

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Soils in the Armenia-Pittsfield-Farmington association make up less than one third of soils in Adams. This soil association generally exists in areas with rolling hills and moderate slopes. Much of the land in town with this soil association has been cleared for agricultural, residential and industrial uses.

The Copake-Hero-Hoosic association is generally located on level to gently rolling terrain which lies along the central valley and floodplain of the Hoosic River. The land in areas with this soil association has mostly been developed for industrial and residential use (see *Map 4-2: Soils*, page 30).

4B. Landscape Character

Adams' landscape is characterized by its combination of a densely developed late-nineteenth century village core, surrounded by rural mountain scenery. The Town lies within a distinctive portion of the Hoosic River Valley, articulated by some of the highest ridges in the region, including the Greylock Range to the west and the Hoosac Range to the East. The rich alluvial soils of the mid and lower transitional slopes were well-suited for traditional agricultural uses, while village settlement followed a pattern typical of New England mill towns, with major development confined to the valley floor along the Hoosic River. The steep slopes and ridgelines that encompass the valley, by contrast, are predominantly tree-covered, providing a panorama of scenic vistas from the village, including some of the Commonwealth's most picturesque mountain scenery (*DCR 1982, 215*; see *Map 4-1: Unique Features*, page 28).

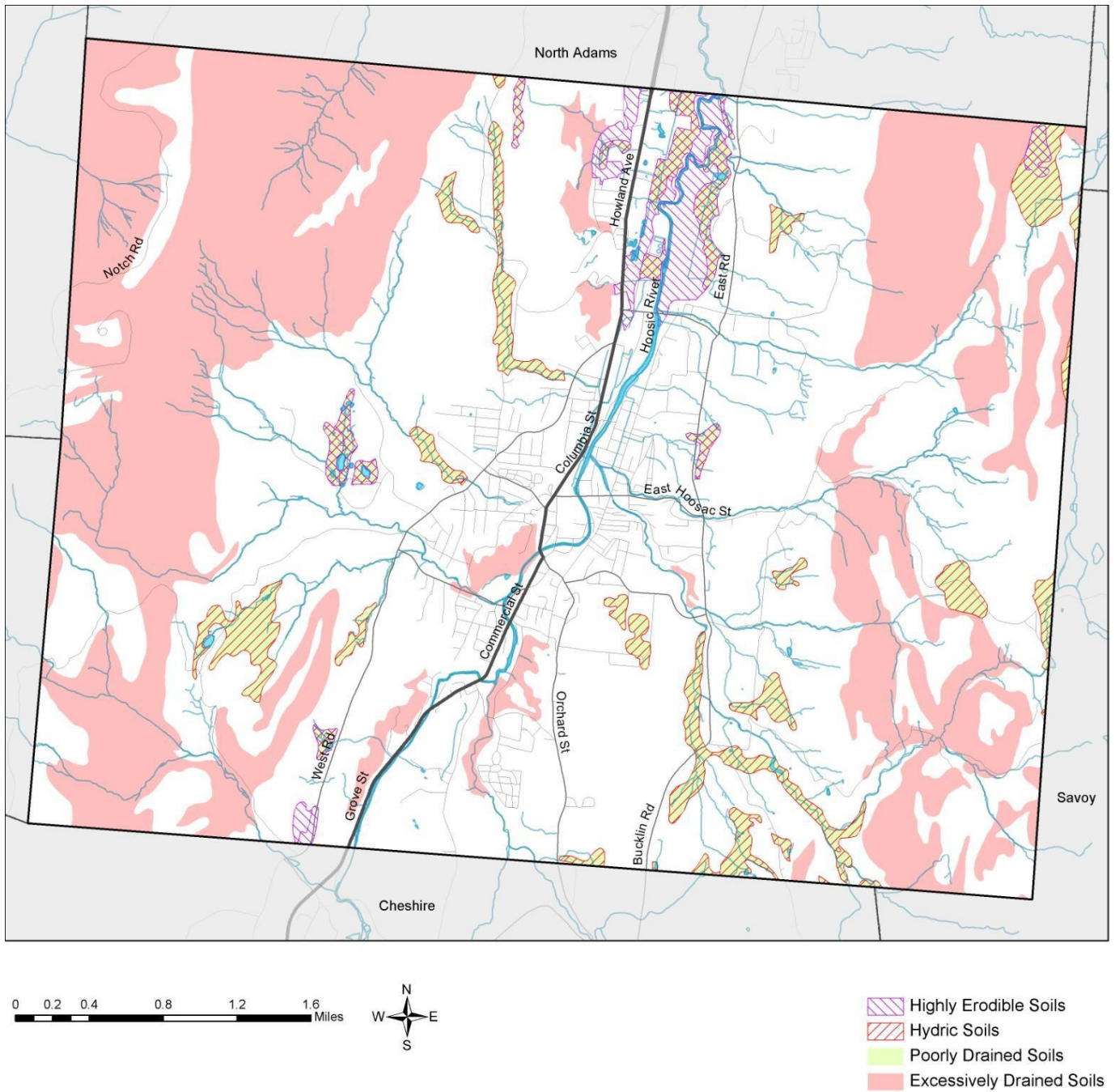
While land uses have changed considerably with the decline of industrial growth, Adams has managed to maintain its traditional development pattern, lending an authentic historic quality to the town. To uphold the charm that the village's clustered nature imparts on the character of Adams, it is important for development to remain condensed, for the farmland and other open space surrounding the village to be maintained, and for the steep-slope woodland coverage and vistas to be preserved.

4C. Water Resources

Watersheds

The majority of the Town of Adams falls within the greater Hudson basin which encompasses a large network of tributaries that ultimately flow into the Hudson River. The Hudson basin is composed of three subbasins, the Hoosic, Kinderhook, and Bashbish. The Hudson watershed basin has a total drainage area of approximately 202 square miles. The Hoosic watershed encompasses several towns in northwestern Massachusetts, southwestern Vermont, and eastern New York -- nearly all of Adams falls within this watershed. Only a small, forested area in Adams (part of Savoy State Forest) near the northeastern boundary of town lies within

Map 4-2: Soils



Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

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the greater Deerfield watershed basin.

The Hoosic watershed is composed of the Hoosic River, the Green River, and many smaller tributaries which drain from the steep hillsides of the Hoosac Range and Mount Greylock into the valley. These rivers ultimately feed the aquifers and surface waters within Adams. As noted above, the Town relies on three wells located within the neighboring town of Cheshire, also within the Hoosic watershed, to supply its drinking water.

The Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA) was founded in 1986 to protect and promote awareness and appreciation for the Hoosic River. The organization has a long-standing water quality monitoring program and has worked in coordination with the Town, Mass DEP, and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to address nonpoint sources of pollution as the largest contributor of pollutants to the Hoosic River and its tributaries.

HooRWA continues to work with the Town and the Commonwealth to provide water quality monitoring and follow-up studies which highlight the need for better stormwater management to prevent nonpoint source pollution from entering the Hoosic River during and after storm events.

Surface Water

The Hoosic River is the dominant surface water feature in the town of Adams. The river is composed of the main stem, south branch and north branch. The North Branch begins in Readsborough, Vermont and flows southerly through Stamford, Vermont into Clarksburg, Massachusetts. The river continues in a southwesterly direction until joining the South Branch in North Adams. The headwaters of the South Branch begin in Pittsfield, flow into the Cheshire Reservoir and then northward through Adams to its confluence with the North Branch in North Adams. From this point, as the Main Stem travels west through Williamstown, the river leaves Massachusetts and travels northwesterly through Vermont and New York to enter the Hudson River at Stillwater, NY.

In the 1950s, the Army Corps of Engineers channelized the river where it flows through the downtown in a concrete flood control chute. Channelization reduced the incidences of catastrophic flooding which was common in the 1920s and 1930s. While the channelized portion of the river is inaccessible for recreational uses, it does provide a distinctive corridor that is ideal for a greenway connection between the northern and southern sections of town (see *Figure 6: Aerial View of Downtown Adams Along the Hoosic River*, page 33).

There are seven major tributary streams that flow into the Hoosic River in Adams, including Dry Brook, Miller Brook, Southwick Brook, Tophet Brook, Pecks Brook, Reed Brook, and Hoxie Brook. These tributaries, in addition to the Hoosic River, comprise roughly 100 miles and form the majority of surface water resources in Adams (see *Map 4-3: Surface Water Resources*, page 34). Though the overall water quality of the Hoosic River has improved

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greatly over the past 40 years, the entire length of the river in Adams is classified as impaired due to pathogens entering the river during storm events (Hudson River Watershed Action Plan). Historical studies indicate that nonpoint source pollution from stormwater is currently the greatest contributor to the degradation of water quality in the Hoosic River and its tributaries.

In the *Adams Downtown Development Plan* of 2003, restoration of the Hoosic River was identified as a key opportunity in developing the economic vitality, future growth, and the cultural- based tourism potential of the Town (See *Adams Downtown Development Plan* 2003). The river creates an opportunity in the downtown area to become an attractive open space resource. Its meander through the Town center could become a greenway that complements the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.



Figure 5: Conceptual Sketches of a Potential Riverside Park through Downtown Adams

Drawings courtesy of Chan Krieger & Associates.

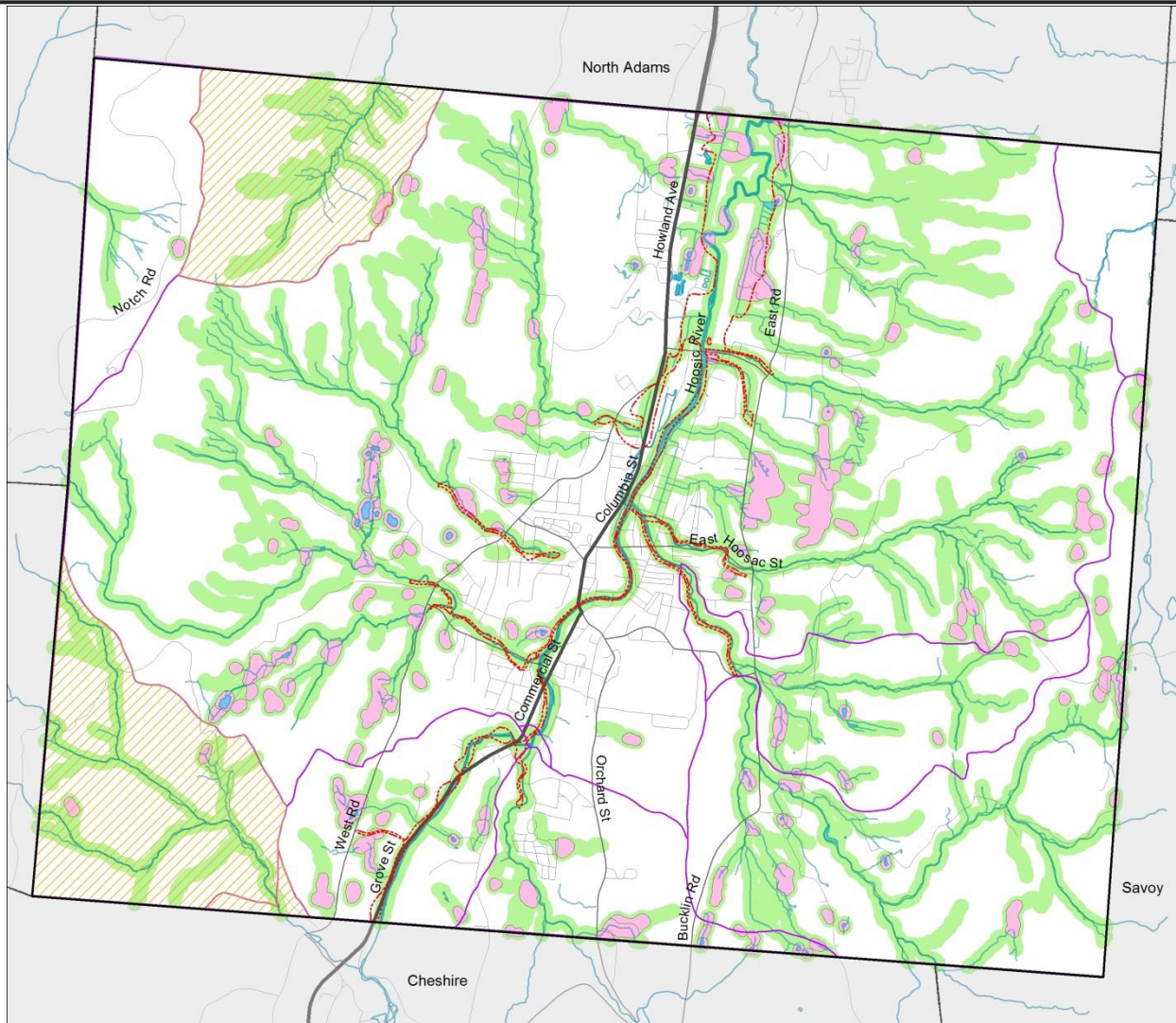
The Hoosic River in Adams is also one of the few remaining self-sustaining trout habitats in Massachusetts, making it an important habitat for protection and preservation. Since 1999, the Town has participated with its partners (HoorWA, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the Massachusetts Riverways Program, the MA Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Specialty Minerals, Inc., and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) in the Hoosic River Ecosystem Partnership, whose goal is aimed at improving the water quality and wildlife habitat of the Hoosic River where it flows through the flood control chutes. In 2006 funding was made available by a Congressional earmark to the Corps of Engineers to study the feasibility of restoring the fisheries and wildlife habitat in the 2.2 mile flood control chutes, improving water quality, enhance the river's accessibility and aesthetics, and increasing economic opportunities related to fishing and other activities related to improved river access.





Figure 6: Aerial View of the Flood Chutes through Downtown Adams

Map 4-3: Surface Water Resources



0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Miles



- Outstanding Resource Water
- FEMA 100 yr Flood Zone
- Subwatershed
- Lake / Pond Resource Area - 100 ft
- River Protection Area - 200 ft

Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

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Aquifer Recharge Areas

Based on the US Geological Survey 1:48,000 hydrologic atlas series on groundwater favorability, there are high-yield and medium yield aquifers that run along the Hoosic River from the Adams downtown, north into North Adams (see *Map 4-4: Drinking Water Resources*, page 36). Much of the land use in this area is urban, industrial, and dense residential and not conducive to developing large-scale potable water supplies. However, some undeveloped floodplain areas exist where well development could proceed if additional protective measures were applied, such as bunkered wellfields. Industrial uses of water withdrawn from these aquifers should not be negatively impacted by the existing land uses. Adams' drinking water supply is located in the town of Cheshire to the south. Aquifers within Adams do not supply any municipal drinking water to the Town.

Flood Hazard Area

The general boundaries of the Floodplain District are shown on the Adams Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), dated August 1, 1983, as Zones A, A1-30, which indicate the 100-year floodplain.

The floodplain extends along the Hoosic River through the downtown and along low-laying areas of adjacent tributaries (see *Map 4-3: Surface Water Resources*, page 34). The steep slopes surrounding the town, limited wetlands and natural low-land floodplain storage, and hard soils, combine to create the "quick draining" effect that causes large flow fluctuation in the Hoosic River after storm events.

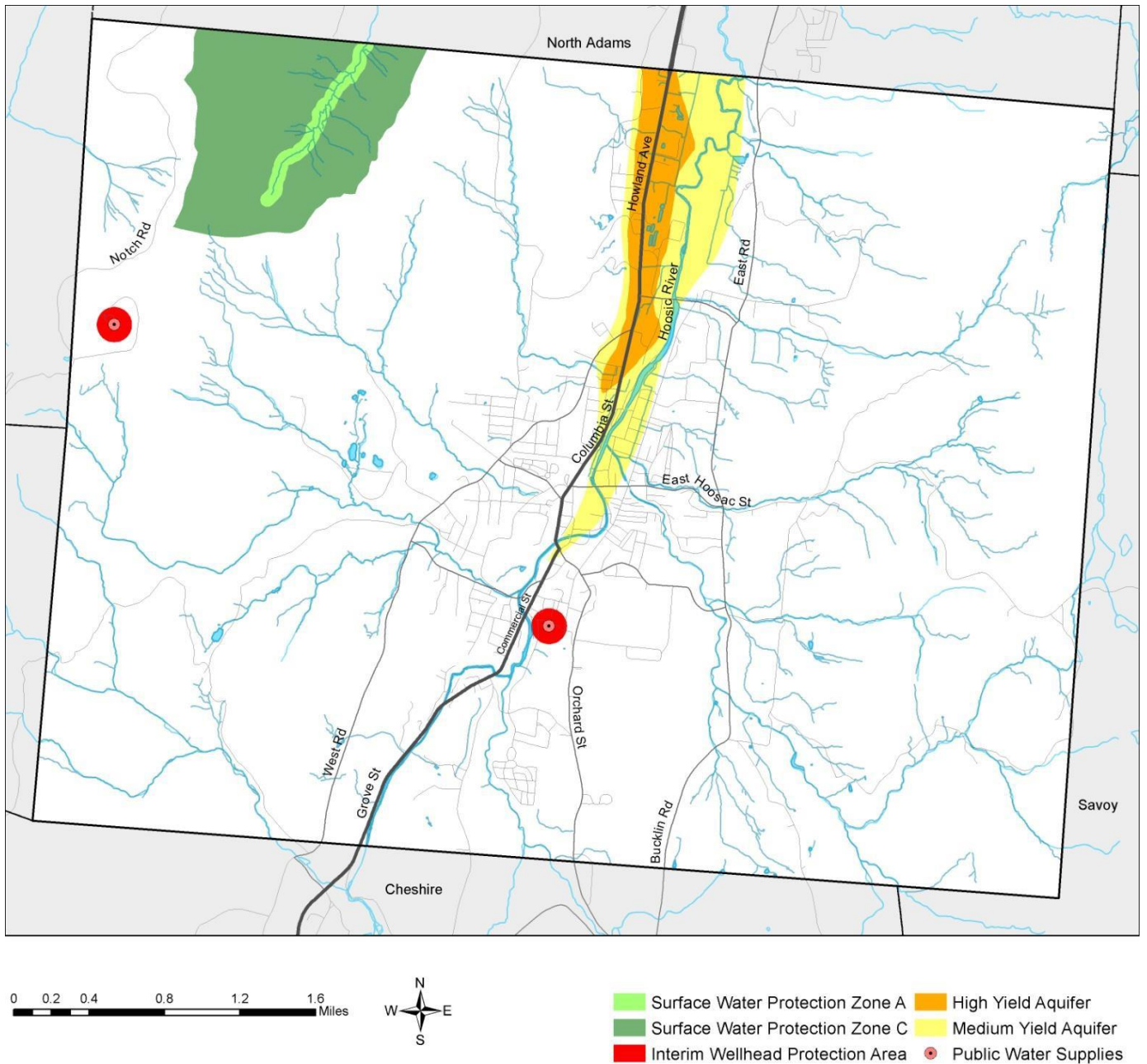
Wetlands

The health of a municipality's wetlands has direct bearing on water quality and availability, flood control, prevention of pollution and the health of local fisheries and wildlife habitats.

The wetlands in Adams are primarily Riverine and Palustrine wetlands associated with perennial rivers and streams. Riverine wetlands can be found near a river or stream, and may contain any number of plant species depending on the nature of the soil and the local climate. The vegetative character of these areas could be shrub and scrub, or broad-leaved deciduous. Palustrine wetlands are characterized by lowland areas, substantially covered in emergent vegetation, which may be wet for part or all of the year. Smaller open bodies of water are also included in this designation. These areas may have water flowing through the site during any season. Typical wetlands found in Adams include fens, floodplains, swamps, wet meadows and small ponds.

The University of Massachusetts (UMass) completed the most recent wetland mapping for the Hoosic Watershed in 2006. UMass performed original photointerpretation, delineated the wetlands and conducted field surveys on a limited number of sites. The results show that wetlands make up less than 3% of the Hoosic watershed and 1.5% of Adams.

Map 4-4: Drinking Water Resources



Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

4D. Vegetation

General Inventory

Reforestation has taken place over much of New England in the past 150 years, as the majority of the nation's agricultural output moved west. This has had a positive effect on the habitats of many species dependent on forest cover and increased successional growth.

Eastern white pine, a common successional species, is found in many of Adams' abandoned fields. It seldom succeeds itself except after major disturbance such as fires, wind throw, or human disturbance (*Eyre 1980, 25*). Existing agriculture lands in Adams are primarily pasture, hay land, and row crops.

A community that supports timber production, agriculture, industry, clean water, fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, passive and active recreation must manage its forests and fields with a careful and balanced approach. Every activity mentioned depends on a healthy ecosystem. The natural cycle of life, inherent in every ecological process, should be fostered in an open space plan. Natural disturbances should be minimized and creative solutions and partnerships formed to move Adams towards a sustainable future.

Forest Land

Of the Town's 14,384 acres, approximately 9,551 acres or 66% are classified as forest (see *Map 4-5: Land Use*, page 39). Predominately a cool, moist climate, Adams' forest consists of 58 percent hardwoods, 32 percent mixed hardwoods and softwoods, and 7 percent abandoned field vegetation (*Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan 2003*). The predominant hardwood species include sugar maple, red maple, American beech, white birch, yellow birch, red oak, and white ash (*Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan 2003*). Common undergrowth vegetation includes the wildflowers spring beauty, large flowered trillium, marsh blue violet, and sweet cicely. Softwood (coniferous) stands, including eastern hemlock, white pine, and red spruce, make up only three percent of Adams' forested land. Eastern hemlock is the most common softwood species found in Adams, often mixed with northern hardwoods, or found in pure stands along streams and wetlands.

Ownership of the town's forested land is 52 percent private. The remaining 48 percent is owned by the Town of Adams, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (see *Map 5-1: Open Space*, page 56 and *Map 4-5: Land Use*, page 39).

The largest contiguous forests lie to the west of town on the flank and slopes of Mount Greylock, and to the east in Savoy State Forest. These forested areas support important habitat for wildlife and valued recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors. Hiking, snowshoeing, camping, swimming, hunting, snowmobiling and skiing are among the most popular recreational activities taking place within the forests of Adams.

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Comprehensive land management of Adams' forests is needed to insure a healthy ecosystem. In recent years, the decline of the Sugar Maple population and the threat posed by Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestation throughout New England, has the potential to dramatically alter the forest composition in and around Adams. Changes to beloved scenic vistas and loss of mature forest cover could result in economic impacts including loss of tourism, erosion due to destabilization of steep slopes, and loss of biodiversity due to reduced habitat.

Public Shade Trees

The Town is responsible for maintaining all shade trees in Bellevue and Maple Street cemeteries, as well as, any trees in public parks and along the two main commercial streets. Cemetery and park trees species are predominately maple, Bradford pear and some birch and pine. The Town Parks & Grounds Division within the Department of Public Works, planted 20 hybrid elm trees several years ago in Bellevue Cemetery, half of which will eventually be replanted throughout the Town.

Agricultural Land

The majority of agricultural land lies along the foothills to the east and west of town. The mix of fallow and active farm fields is supportive of a wide variety of vegetative field and edge species, which in turn provide important wildlife habitat. Native plants which thrive in open fields and transitional meadows are rapidly disappearing in more densely developed parts of the state as farmland is increasingly sold for housing development.

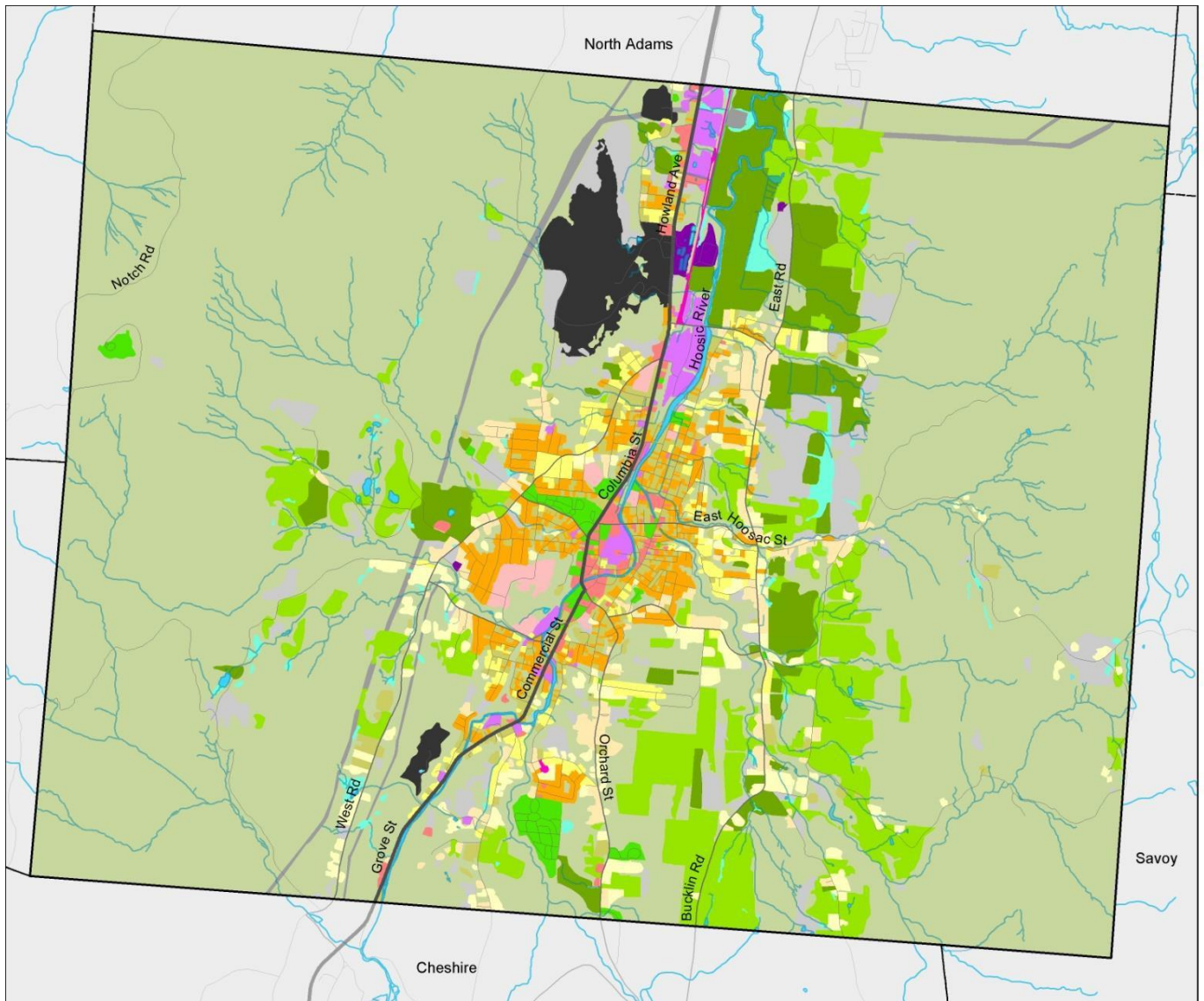
The Town's agricultural land also has great scenic value as it helps to maintain the traditional growth patterns of Adams from a compactly developed village, transitioning to open fields, woodlands and mountains. Land that is currently under cultivation is predominantly used for growing feed silage and for grazing meat and dairy cattle.

Wetland Vegetation

The majority of wetlands in Adams are found along the many tributaries that feed into the Hoosic River from the Mount Greylock and Hoosac mountain ranges. Several small ponds, wet meadows, calcareous fens, and a few isolated wetlands that are the result of past development, can be found in the Greylock Glen. A vegetation and natural communities survey performed by Biodrawiversity, LLC of Amherst Massachusetts in 2008 identified the predominant wetland vegetation species at the Glen which are likely to be found elsewhere in the Town where wetland habitats occur.

Wetland plant communities included wet meadows dominated by sedges, marshes dominated by emergent species such as broad-leaf cattail or Phragmites and open fen-like habitats dominated by low herbs, colorful wildflower species and shrubs. Ponds within the Glen contained a mix of native and introduced species including Eurasian water milfoil and species of duckweed.

Map 4-5: Land Use



Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

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Wetland plant communities included wet meadows dominated by sedges, marshes dominated by emergent species such as broad-leaf cattail or Phragmites and open fen-like habitats dominated by low herbs, colorful wildflower species and shrubs. Ponds within the Glen contained a mix of native and introduced species including Eurasian water milfoil and species of duckweed.

Some herbaceous species in the calcareous fens were also found in other wetlands, including several sedges, rushes, wetland grasses, and bulrushes and one watch-list species, the knotted rush. This species also occurred in other fen-like wet meadows, along with three other watch-list species: variegated scouring rush, fringed gentian, and pendulous bullsedge (*Rare Plant and Natural Community Survey in Greylock Glen, p.7-9*).

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

The following list of rare and endangered species comes from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, updated in September 2009. The State Rank indicates species of, Special Concern (SC) species are natives that have suffered a decline which could threaten the species, or have a small number, limited distribution, or specialized habitat; Threatened (T) species are likely to become endangered in the future; Endangered (E) species are in danger of extinction (see *Map 4-6 Biological Resources*, page 44).

Table 4-1: Rare and Endangered Species of Vegetation

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Rank	Most Recent Observation
<i>Amelanchier bartramiana</i>	Bartram's Shadbush	T	2005
<i>Blephilia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Wood-Mint	E	2005
<i>Boechera laevigata</i>	Smooth Rock-Cress	T	2008
<i>Carex alopecoidea</i>	Foxtail Sedge	T	2018
<i>Carex baileyi</i>	Bailey's Sedge	T	2008
<i>Carex hitchcockiana</i>	Hitchcock's Sedge	SC	1918
<i>Carex tetanica</i>	Fen Sedge	SC	1995
<i>Carex trichocarpa</i>	Hairy-fruited Sedge	T	1986
<i>Conioselinum chinense</i>	Hemlock Parsley	SC	1982
<i>Equisetum scirpoides</i>	Dwarf Scouring-Rush	SC	1998
<i>Galium boreale</i>	Northern Bedstraw	E	1995
<i>Geum fragarioides</i>	Barren Strawberry	SC	1922
<i>Huperzia appressa</i>	Appalachian Fir-moss	E	1901
<i>Lissaea borealis</i> ssp. <i>americana</i>	American Twinflower	SC	2007
<i>Luzula parviflora</i> ssp. <i>melanocarpa</i>	Black-Fruited Woodrush	E	2007
<i>Malaxis monophyllos</i> var. <i>brachypoda</i>	White Adder's-Mouth	E	Historic
<i>Milium effusum</i>	Woodland Millet	T	2005
<i>Equisetum scirpoides</i>	Dwarf Scouring-Rush	SC	1998
<i>Galium boreale</i>	Northern Bedstraw	E	1995
<i>Luzula parviflora</i> ssp. <i>melanocarpa</i>	Black-Fruited Woodrush	E	2007
<i>Malaxis monophyllos</i> var. <i>brachypoda</i>	White Adder's-Mouth	E	Historic
<i>Malaxis unifolia</i>	Green Adder's-Mouth	T	1984
<i>Milium effusum</i>	Woodland Millet	T	2005
<i>Potamogeton ogdenii</i>	Ogden's Pondweed	E	1996
<i>Ribes lacustre</i>	Bristly Black Currant	SC	2008
<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	Northern Prickly Rose	E	1919

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<i>Sanicula canadensis</i>	Canadian Sanicle	T	2008
<i>Solidago macrophylla</i>	Large-Leaved Goldenrod	T	2005
<i>Sorbus decora</i>	Northern Mountain-Ash	E	2007
<i>Triphora trianthophora</i>	Nodding Pogonia	E	2008
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> ssp minus	Mountain Cranberry	E	2006

Sites Containing Unique Natural Resources

Most of the sites in Adams containing unique natural resources as pertaining to vegetation are associated with the slopes of Mount Greylock and the Greylock Glen.

As of 2010 there are 7 certified vernal pools in Adams, all of these are located in the Glen. The steep slopes of Mount Greylock support some characteristically sub alpine species which exhibit such features as stunted vegetative growth and are found in relatively few places in the state. In addition, the rich mesic forests and calcareous fens located in the Glen contain several state-listed and watch-list species plant species (*Rare Plant and Natural Community Survey in Greylock Glen*).

Vegetation Mapping Projects

A vegetation and plant community identification and mapping survey was performed in the 1,063-acre Greylock Glen, as part of the permitting requirements for a proposed outdoor recreation and environmental education facility. Surveys were associated with a core development area that will include buildings and related facilities, a public campground, parking areas, an extensive trail system, and grassland reclamation sites. Botanists surveyed these areas approximately every two weeks from May 13 to September 20, 2008. All areas were surveyed but efforts were intensified in potential rare plant habitat and where rare plants were actually found. A total of 439 plant species, including 21 state-listed or watch-list species, were found during the survey. Old fields, early successional woodlands, and altered wetlands in the property's lower elevations were characterized by a rich diversity of native and introduced species, with relatively few state-listed or watch-list species. Plant communities elsewhere on the property included more intact native plant assemblages and higher numbers of rare species, especially in rich mesic forests and calcareous fens. Mature hardwood stands contained one of the rarest plants encountered during the survey: the Nodding Pogonia (*Triphora trianthophora*). Among the state-listed species were three endangered species and two threatened species, two of which are reported in Greylock Glen for the first time. The Nodding Pogonia is possibly the first report of the species in Berkshire County but it does occur in western sections of Franklin County (*Rare Plant and Natural Community Survey in Greylock Glen, p.1*).

4D. Fisheries and Wildlife

Inventory

As a result of Adams' dramatic natural setting, remote location, and abundance of protected land, it is home to a variety of unique aquatic and upland wildlife species, including some threatened, rare, and endangered species. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program has designated several areas within town as priority and estimated habitat for state-listed rare and endangered species. The majority of these areas are located along the riparian corridors of the Hoosic River and outlying tributaries, and in the Greylock Glen and Mount Greylock State Reservation (see *Map 4-6: Biological Resources*, page 44).

Upland wildlife species found in the forests and reverting woodlands of the Greylock and Hoosac Ranges include deer, cottontail rabbit, bobcat, fox, squirrel, varying hare, ruffed grouse, American woodcock, moose and black bear. In addition, smaller species of reptiles, mammals, and birds add to the region's ecological diversity while simultaneously providing recreational opportunities for naturalists and hunters alike (*Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan 2003*). The steep terrain, high altitude, and extensive forested slopes of Mount Greylock support species and habitats uncommon to Massachusetts. The many expansive views present an excellent chance to view migratory bird species and birds of prey, particularly hawks and falcons, which utilize the highland updrafts and views to hunt (*Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan 2003*).

The transitional forest areas provide an important habitat for a variety of edge species, which are at home in the transitional zone between forest and field. This zone supports a distinct community of birds and mammals that commute between one habitat and another to satisfy their needs. The edge is a stopover place when moving between dense forest cover and open field. It provides cover, food, and nesting sites to support a diverse and broad selection of wildlife, including woodpecker, deer, migratory songbirds, hawks, and skunks. On average, these edge communities have three times the diversity of species of other vegetative zones (*Benyus 1989*).

Open fields are popular feeding grounds for certain wildlife. With greater exposure to sunlight, fields lose their snow cover earlier than upland forests, providing excellent foraging opportunities among the grasses and plants during springtime (*Benyus 1989*). Insects are drawn to flowering vegetation, in turn attracting birds to feed.

Pheasant and wild turkey can be found in the lowland agricultural fields and forest edges. Three areas are presently stocked with pheasant: Burlingame Hill (on the east side of town), the Hoosic River floodplain (north side), and northeast of the Cheesbro Brook headwaters (*Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan 2003*). As agricultural uses dwindle and fields grow over, field bird populations will decline as a result of insufficient cover and nesting areas.

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The Adams area is an excellent place for hunting and wildlife observation. Fast-moving, forested streams draining from the steep slopes of the Greylock and Hoosac Ranges into the Hoosic River provide extensive lengths of edge habitat for fur-bearing animals such as mink, otter, and muskrat (*Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan 2003*). Beaver have been creating wetlands in the upland areas of Adams, increasing the number of wetlands found in the area. However, due to the topography, wetlands are typically small and sparse. Along the Hoosic River and on small lowland ponds, waterfowl, including black duck (*Anas rubripes*, a declining species) and great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) can be found.

The ecological health of Adams' Hoosic River and its many tributaries varies. Native species of trout can be found in the upland mountain streams where oxygen, water temperature, and forest cover is suitable for their habitat. These intact riparian habitats are also home to the rare and endangered Appalachian Crayfish. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife provide trout stocking at the south branch of the Hoosic River (*MA Department of Fisheries & Wildlife*).

Great consideration should be given to protecting and maintaining the diversity of habitat types that currently exist in Adams. Though much of the Town's open space is permanently protected and development pressure generally low, future land use planning efforts should identify and protect at-risk field, edge, and interior habitats that support the diversity of wildlife that make the Town unique within the state.

Vernal Pools

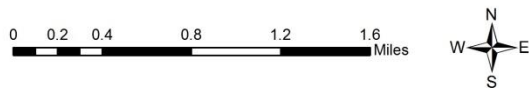
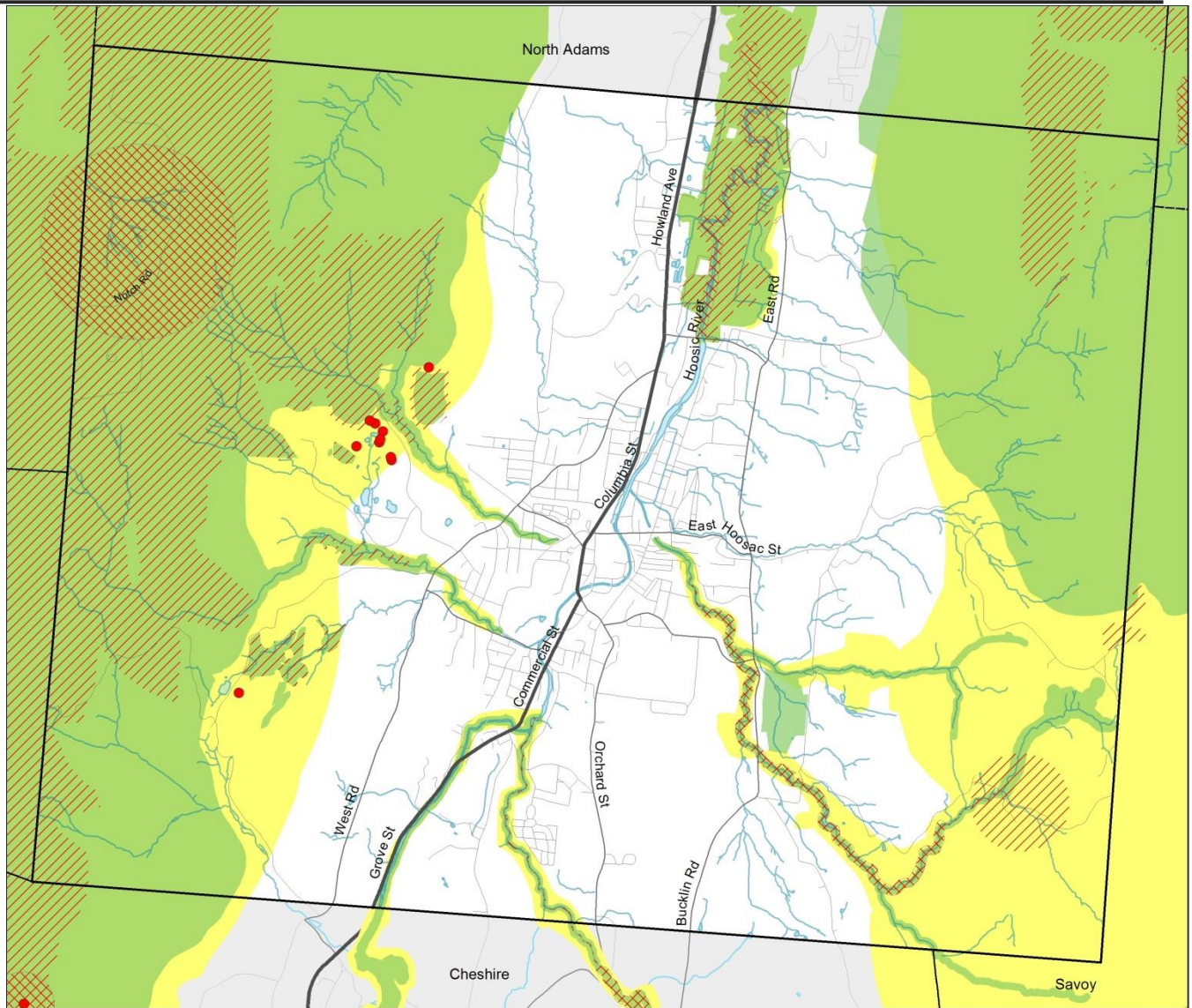
The Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program has certified seven vernal pools in Adams. All are located in the Greylock Glen, at the foot Mount Greylock. Vernal pools are essential for the survival of certain amphibian and aquatic species.

Wildlife Corridors

There are extensive areas to the east and west of town that are traversed by riparian corridors. These areas serve the habitat needs of large and roaming animals such as bear, moose and coyote. They also provide buffers for deeper forest species and birds of prey that have a large home range. However, there is no adequate corridor between the eastern hills of the Hoosac Range and the western Mount Greylock region. This valley bottomland has been the traditional area of development, the continued infill of which is important in preventing sprawl in Adams (see *Map 4-7: Ecological Resources*, page 45).

The Hoosic River is a highly altered natural corridor due to long-standing source pollution from local manufacturing, and to flood control channelization throughout downtown.

Map 4-6: Biological Resources

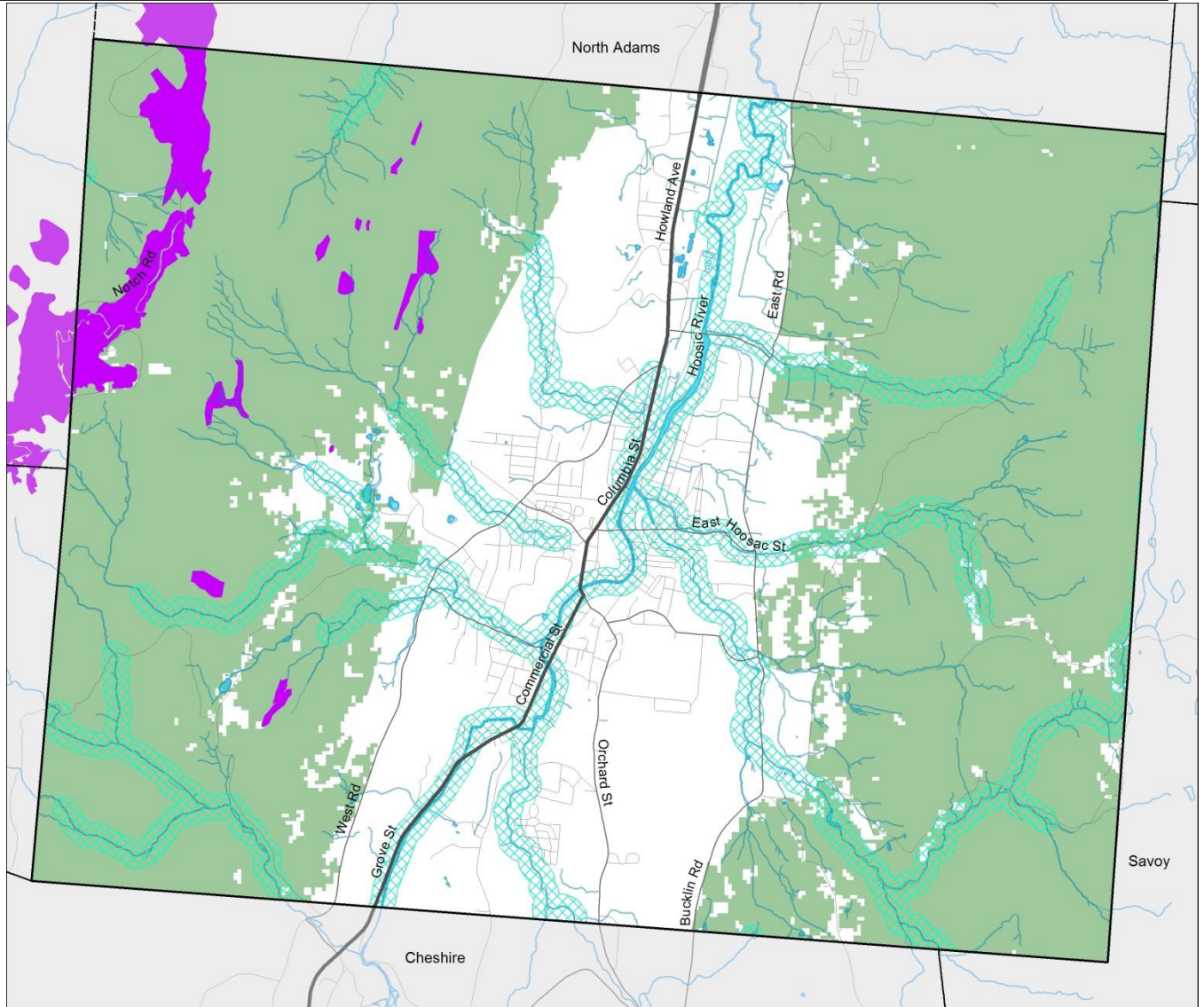


- NHESP* Massachusetts Certified Vernal Pool
- ▨ Estimated Habitats for Rare Wildlife
- ▨ Priority Habitats for State-Protected Rare Species
- NHESP BioMap2 Core Habitat
- NHESP BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscapes

*Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

Map 4-7: Ecological Resources



- Natural Communities
- MRIP* Riparian Corridor
- MRIP Contiguous Natural Land

*Massachusetts Resource Identification Project

Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

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The limitation of the river's use by residents for recreational and drinking purposes indicates an unhealthy link in the local ecosystem. A key to remedying Adams' water cycle is to restore the river to the extent possible. Restoring the river in the flood control chutes with bioengineering, controlling runoff with stormwater best management practices, and reducing agricultural runoff and erosion by planting vegetative buffers along stream networks are a few proactive solutions to improving water and habitat quality.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

The following list of rare and endangered species comes from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, updated in 2009. All of the following species have the State Rank "Special Concern" (SC). This indicates that the species are natives that have suffered a decline which could threaten the species, or have a small number, limited distribution, or specialized habitat (see *Map 4-6: Biological Resources*, 44).

Table 4-2: Rare and Endangered Species of Fish and Wildlife

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Rank	Most Recent Observation
<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Jefferson Salamander	SC	2016
<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>	Longnose Sucker	SC	2017
<i>Dendroica striata</i>	Blackpoll Warbler	SC	2007
<i>Enallagma carunculatum</i>	Tule Bluet	SC	2001
<i>Erora laeta</i>	Early Hairstreak	T	2006
<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC	2008
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Long-eared Bat	E	2000
<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	Mourning Warbler	SC	2007
<i>Sorex dispar</i>	Rock Shrew	SC	2000

4F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Scenic Landscapes

The unique visual character of Adams is created by a combination of its natural and built environments. The Town's scenic landscapes are extensive, articulated by the dense development of the downtown core along the Hoosic River, the surrounding undulating hills of agricultural fields and open pastures, and the dramatically steep, forested slopes, high peaks and ridge lines of the mountain ranges that frame it.

Large tracts of land to the east and west of the downtown have been designated as scenic landscape by the state of Massachusetts (see *Map 4-1: Unique Features*, page 28). Though there has been a small amount of development along the foothills on former agricultural land, the majestic views of the surrounding hills and peaks from town are remarkably unobstructed. Likewise, views from higher elevations toward the town center are equally scenic, presenting a clearly delineated panorama of the transition from dense development to open fields, and forested slopes and peaks.

Of particular scenic value is the Greylock Glen. This 1,063-acre parcel at the foot of Mount

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Greylock consists of former farmland in varying states of succession from open meadow, to old fields and maturing forests. Most of the Town's wetlands exist here as well. Greylock Glen is extremely popular among Adams's residents as well as visitors for hiking, biking, skiing, hunting, fishing and passive recreation.

The downtown area and surrounding neighborhoods serve as a scenic, well preserved, example of a late 19th century mill town, with many historic structures and Victorian era neighborhoods still intact. In addition, the downtown has many parks, green spaces, and mature street trees, which contribute to the overall scenic value of the town.

Unique Geologic Features

The following is a list of specific geologic features that add to the character and beauty of the Town. Although most of these features are on protected land, their scenic qualities could be at risk from future development. Great care should be taken to ensure that any development on Adams' scenic slopes be minimal and discreet.

Table 4-3: Geologic Features of Adams	
Geologic Feature	Description
Mount Greylock Summit	The most prominent single geologic feature in Adams is Mount Greylock, located in the town's northwest quadrant. Greylock is Massachusetts' highest peak, reaching 3,491 feet above mean sea level. Rising approximately 2,700 feet above the valley floor, Mount Greylock is visible throughout the town, and also provides a commanding view of the valley and the Hoosac Range.
Hoosac Mountain Range	The Hoosac Range, bordering the eastern side of town, is an extension of the Green Mountains of Vermont, and is the first mountain barrier encountered rising west of the Connecticut River Valley. "Hoosac" is an Algonquin word meaning "place of stones."
Pecks Falls	Pecks Falls are an impressive series of waterfalls, cascading over massive boulders in Pecks Brook, located on the western side of Adams within Greylock Glen. There are informal trails through the sheltering woodland that surround the falls, providing access to the brook and falls.
Bellevue Falls	Bellevue Falls are located in the Bellevue Cemetery, in the south-central part of town.

Cultural, Archeological, and Historic Areas

Adams has numerous culturally and historically significant areas that are an important part of the Town's heritage. The Town has several properties listed on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places either as individual listing or as Historic Districts. Those designated as nationally significant are currently listed on the National Park Service National Register of Historic Places. Resources designated as locally significant are not listed on the National Register, but are recognized locally as important cultural and historical features. Historic and cultural resources may include individual properties, such as houses or buildings, or embody an entire district. While National Register status may increase local awareness of

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the significance of these properties to some degree, those that remain in private ownership remain vulnerable to alterations, which may degrade their level of historic integrity.

The Town has recognized numerous historically and culturally significant properties in addition to nationally significant properties or areas. Religious buildings in Adams are included as culturally significant because they typically represent the locations of social activities for various ethnic groups in Adams during the Towns industrial era. In addition, the grand architectural nature of these buildings contributes to the scenic beauty of Adams' downtown. Cemeteries and burial grounds also provide a direct link to Adams' past, and are valuable as historic artifacts.

Table 4-4: National Historic Districts	
Listing Name	
Summer Street National Register Historic District	
Mount Greylock Summit National Register Historic District	
National Register of Historic Places: Individual Property Listings	
Listing Name	Location
The Armory Block, Park Street	39-45 Park Street
P. J. Barrett Block, Park Street	70-76 Park Street
Berkshire Mill #1	1 Berkshire Square
Hoosac Street School	20 Hoosac Street
Jones Block	49-53 Park Street
Maple Street Cemetery	Maple Street
Mausert Block	19-27 Park Street
Adams Ambulance Service (Firehouse)	47 Park Street
Phillips Woolen Mills(includes associated structures)	71 Grove Street
Pittsfield and North Adams Passenger Station and Baggage House	10 Pleasant Street
Quaker Meeting House, Friend Street	Maple Street Cemetery
Simmons Block, Park Street	86-90 Park Street
Susan B. Anthony Birthplace	67 East Road

Table 4-5 Locally Significant Historic Properties	
Proposed Local Historic Districts	
Park Street Local Historic District	
McKinley Square Local Historic District	
Summer Street Local Historic District	
Renfrew Local Historic District	
Individual Properties	
Listing Name	Location
Joshua Lapham House Marker	Crandall Street
Hale-Parker House	100 Orchard Street
Eleazer Browne House	135 Orchard Street
Edmund Jenks House	Orchard Street
Jeremiah Bucklin House	Bucklin Road
Burlingame House,	Walling Road
Cpt. Philip Mason House	East Road
Staples Houses	East Lime and Lime Street
Daniel MacFarlane House	238 Columbia Street
Town Meeting House	Old Columbia Street
Abraham Howland Mansion	378 Old Columbia Street
Benjamin Lapham House	91 Friend Street
The Upton Houses	140 Friend Street

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Zacheus Hathaway House	62 Notch Road
The Isaac Killey House	11 West Road
Joseph Shove House	12 West Road
The Dean Grist Mill and Cotton Batting Factory	West Road
Israel Cole Homestead and Underground Railroad Graves	West Road
Bob's Hill	west of Park Street , north of the Hoosac River
Cemeteries	
St. Stanislaus Kostka Cemetery and Grotto	
Bellevue Cemetery	
Maple Street Cemetery	
Charles Sprague Cemetery	
Daniel's Court Cemetery	
Orchard Street Burial Ground	
Bowen Corner Cemetery	
Elijah Sprague Cemetery	
James Eddy Burial Ground	
West Road	
Jewish Cemetery	
Churches	
First Baptist Church, 13 Commercial Street	13 Commercial Street
The Congregational Church	42 Park Street
St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Commercial and River Streets
Pope John Paul the Great Parish	Columbia and Maple Streets
St. Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Church	Hoosac and Summer Streets
St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church	2 Columbia Street

Unique Environments

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of Massachusetts has identified several ecologically significant areas within Adams, along the Hoosic River and Pecks, Tophet, Notch, and Hoxie Brooks, and in the Mount Greylock Reservation (See *Map 4-6: Biological Resources*, page 44 and *Map 4-7: Ecological Resources*, page 45). These areas contain supporting habitat for threatened, rare, or endangered terrestrial and wetland species.

4G. Environmental Challenges

Inventory

Future open space and recreation planning efforts will need to consider whether environmental challenges within the community will stand in conflict with stated recreation and open space goals. Threats to public safety and ecological suitability must be considered in all such efforts.

Hazardous Waste Sites

There are 19 registered Underground Storage Tanks in Adams. Most of these are for existing commercial uses and should be regulated. Unknown USTs are more likely to pose a threat, but would have to be discovered through a municipal inspection program. No such program exists at this time.

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Landfills

There is one municipal landfill within Adams. This landfill, located on East Road, has been closed and capped and currently has solar panels on it. There are two private landfills for sludge located off of Howland Avenue and owned by Specialty Minerals. One of these landfills is still active.

Erosion

Erosion is a concern where stormwater outfalls do not have outlet protection to prevent scouring and erosion downstream. In many cases, the discharge point for outfalls is a stream bed, bank, or a concrete chute and these direct stormwater discharges result in flashy stream flows which cause significant bank erosion. The channelized section of the Hoosic River through the downtown prevents flooding and erosion of the banks in this area, but the northern section of the river is lightly vegetated and some soil loss can be expected during major flood events.

Chronic Flooding

Flood protection in Adams consists principally of levees, floodwalls, chutes, appurtenant structures, pumping plants and channel improvement. These improvements provide protection for downtown Adams against a flood discharge that is about 50 percent greater than the maximum flood of record which occurred in September 1938. The FEMA 100 year floodplain at northern end of town along the Hoosic River, widens out to encompass a broad low-lying area containing highly erodible soils. Most of the land in this area agricultural and under conservation restriction so the potential for development is already limited and not likely to be affected by flooding.

In September 2018, the Town was impacted by a series of storms that brought torrential downpours. The volume of precipitation over a short period of time inundated the Town's stormwater drainage system and stream networks resulting in significant flooding. The Davis/Lime Street area was among the hardest hit and a culvert erected in the neighborhood was washed out. A large sinkhole formed in the area of Glenn Street and a portion of the roadway along East Road collapsed. Several other neighborhoods were impacted by flooding as well. In late 2018 to early 2019, the Town of Adams undertook an update of the Town's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and participated in a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness workshop facilitated by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. While the workshop and plan laid out numerous potential natural hazards that could impact the Town, flooding was among the greatest concerns considered by both the



*Damage to Davis St. Bridge
9/11/2018 (photo courtesy of
the Berkshire Eagle)*

plan and workshop participants.

Sedimentation

The Steep slopes that surround downtown Adams create a large, fast flowing drainage area in which sediments are transported downstream into local rivers and streams via the existing stormwater infrastructure. Sediments that accumulate in stormwater structures are washed into waterways with each successive storm event. Point source pollution in Adams has historically been a concern due to industrial waste being disposed of in the Hoosic River. Most of the industry has since left the area and with the implementation of more stringent environmental regulations, the river has regenerated somewhat (see *Figure 6: Aerial View of the Flood Chutes through Downtown Adams*, page 33).

The majority of nonpoint source pollution in the Hoosic River and its' tributaries is due to stormwater runoff and agricultural land uses. There are three NPDES Stormwater permits in Adams. These are for: Specialty Minerals, Inc., Berkshire Mill Residences, and Lane Construction. All of these properties are located along the Hoosic River. Under these US EPA permits, these industrial activities must have stormwater management plans in place and must seek to reduce the impact of their stormwater on the river.

New Development

Most of the environmental challenges occur in the lowland developed areas of town. The recent developments that have occurred have been on the upland periphery of the existing development and have not been impacted by environmental challenges. However the new development is pushing into land that was previously farmed or forested, thus increasing the developed footprint of town.

Impaired Water Bodies

The following list outlines impaired water bodies in Adams as per the Massachusetts DEP, Division of Watershed Management's, Hudson River Watershed 2002 Water Quality Assessment Report:

- Hoosic River (upper 1.2 miles) – Impaired for aquatic life. Suspected cause is elevated water temperatures due to a dam or impoundment.
- Hoosic River (lower 0.6 miles) – Impaired for aquatic life and primary contact recreation. The suspected causes of these impairments are; the alteration of the stream bank due to the channelization of the river through the center of town, and nonpoint source pollution due to stormwater and agricultural runoff.
- Hoosic River (entire length through Adams) – Impaired for primary contact recreation. Suspected causes are fecal coliform bacteria due to waterfowl, discharges from municipal storm sewer systems, and illicit connections to the storm sewer systems.
- Tophet Brook (lower 0.3 miles) – Impaired for aquatic life. Suspected cause is the alteration of the stream bank due to channelization of the river through the center of town.

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Invasive Species

The invasive species found in Adams are likely representative of invasive species commonly found throughout inland areas of Massachusetts. Invasives can out-compete native species resulting in changing ecological and scenic values of the landscape. In some instances invasive plant species pose a threat to the health of humans and livestock.

The following is a list of plant species identified as invasive by the Massachusetts Invasive Plants Advisory Group (Massachusetts Invasive Plants Advisory Group):

- *Acer platanoides* L. (Norway maple)
- *Aegopodium podagraria* L. (Bishop's goutweed; bishop's weed; goutweed)
- *Ailanthus altissima* (P. Miller) Swingle (Tree of heaven)
- *Alliaria petiolata* (Bieb.) Cavara & Grande (Garlic mustard)
- *Berberis thunbergii* DC. (Japanese barberry)
- *Cabomba caroliniana* A.Gray (Carolina fanwort; fanwort)
- *Celastrus orbiculatus* Thunb. (Oriental bittersweet; Asian or Asiatic bittersweet)
- *Cynanchum louiseae* Kartesz & Gandhi (Black swallow-wort, Louise's swallow-wort)
- *Elaeagnus umbellata* Thunb. (Autumn olive)
- *Euonymus alatus* (Thunb.) Sieb. (Winged euonymus; Burning bush)
- *Euphorbia esula* L. (Leafy spurge; wolf's milk)
- *Frangula alnus* P. Mill. (European buckthorn; glossy buckthorn)
- *Hesperis matronalis* L. (Dame's rocket)
- *Iris pseudacorus* L. (Yellow iris)
- *Lonicera japonica* Thunb. (Japanese honeysuckle)
- *Lonicera morrowii* A.Gray (Morrow's honeysuckle)
- *Lonicera x bella* Zabel [*morrowii* x *tatarica*] (Bell's honeysuckle)
- *Lysimachia nummularia* L. (Creeping jenny; moneywort)
- *Lythrum salicaria* L. (Purple loosestrife)
- *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* Michx. (Variable water-milfoil; Two-leaved water-milfoil)
- *Myriophyllum spicatum* L. (Eurasian or European water-milfoil; spike water-milfoil)
- *Phalaris arundinacea* L. (Reed canary-grass)
- *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud. subsp. *australis* (Common reed)
- *Polygonum cuspidatum* Sieb. & Zucc. (Japanese knotweed; Japanese or Mexican Bamboo)
- *Potamogeton crispus* L. (Crisped pondweed; curly pondweed)
- *Ranunculus ficaria* L. (Lesser celandine; fig buttercup)
- *Rhamnus cathartica* L. (Common buckthorn)
- *Robinia pseudoacacia* L. (Black locust)
- *Rosa multiflora* Thunb. (Multiflora rose)
- *Trapa natans* L. (Water-chestnut)

Environmental Equity Issues

Though Adams is classified as an environmental justice community based on the percentage of low income persons living in town, access to open space and recreation areas are readily available to all residents. Town parks and sports fields are scattered throughout the densely developed town core, many in close proximity to low-income neighborhoods. The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, Greylock Glen, and adjacent trails on Mount Greylock are all within a moderate walking distance or a short car ride from the town center.

Many of the Town's recreational facilities do not meet accessibility requirements for the

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

mobility impaired. Lack of firm path surfaces and accessible restrooms do not promote equitable use of some of the Town's recreational spaces. The Town is working towards upgrading all of its public facilities to be accessible as the need for restoration or renovation arises. The Town is currently working towards completing a comprehensive ADA plan which will address issues of accessibility and recommend an action plan for bringing the Town's park and recreational facilities into compliance. The Town has recently completed plans to renovate Russell Field and the Town Common, including fully accessible facilities. New paths and access points will be added for the fields, tennis courts, playground, adult fitness area and bleachers at Russell Field. A reconfiguration of the Town Common is proposed, including new pathways to bring the facility up to ADA standards.

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest

Introduction

The Town of Adams has a range of open space resources and recreational areas that add to the quality of life enjoyed by its residents. The parks and playgrounds of the Town's densely developed village core are complemented by the hiking trails and scenic vistas of the forests and open spaces in the outlying sections of Town. Open space resources are under both public and private ownership, and hold varying levels of protection from the possibility of future development. Open space also supports important ecological functions throughout the town like absorbing and filtering stormwater runoff before it flows into rivers and streams, and providing wildlife habitat and corridors through the more developed areas of the Town.

The term open space as used in this plan denotes any parcel of developed or undeveloped land that is managed primarily for recreation, conservation or agriculture. Protected open space is sheltered from development, although sometimes the use of protected areas will change, especially if the level of protection is designated as temporary rather than permanent.

Many types of open space are not protected. For instance, municipal parks owned by the Town of Adams have no formal protection but are maintained as open space, primarily for recreational purposes and are unlikely to be developed. Large corporate holdings which are not currently developed, but may be developed in the future are also considered as open space for the purposes of this plan.

Approximately 37% of Town's total land area (or 5,467.75 acres) are permanently protected. There are another 103.79 acres that are undeveloped and under public ownership but have limited protection or no protection. Another 956.38 acres of privately held open space lands are undeveloped and have limited or no protection. In total, approximately 8,093.85 acres of open space are either permanently protected, have limited protection or no protection. Maps *5-1: Open Space* and *5-2: Recreational Resources*, on pages 56 and 57, depict existing open space and recreational facilities, and their designated level of protection.

5A. Private Parcels

Agricultural Properties

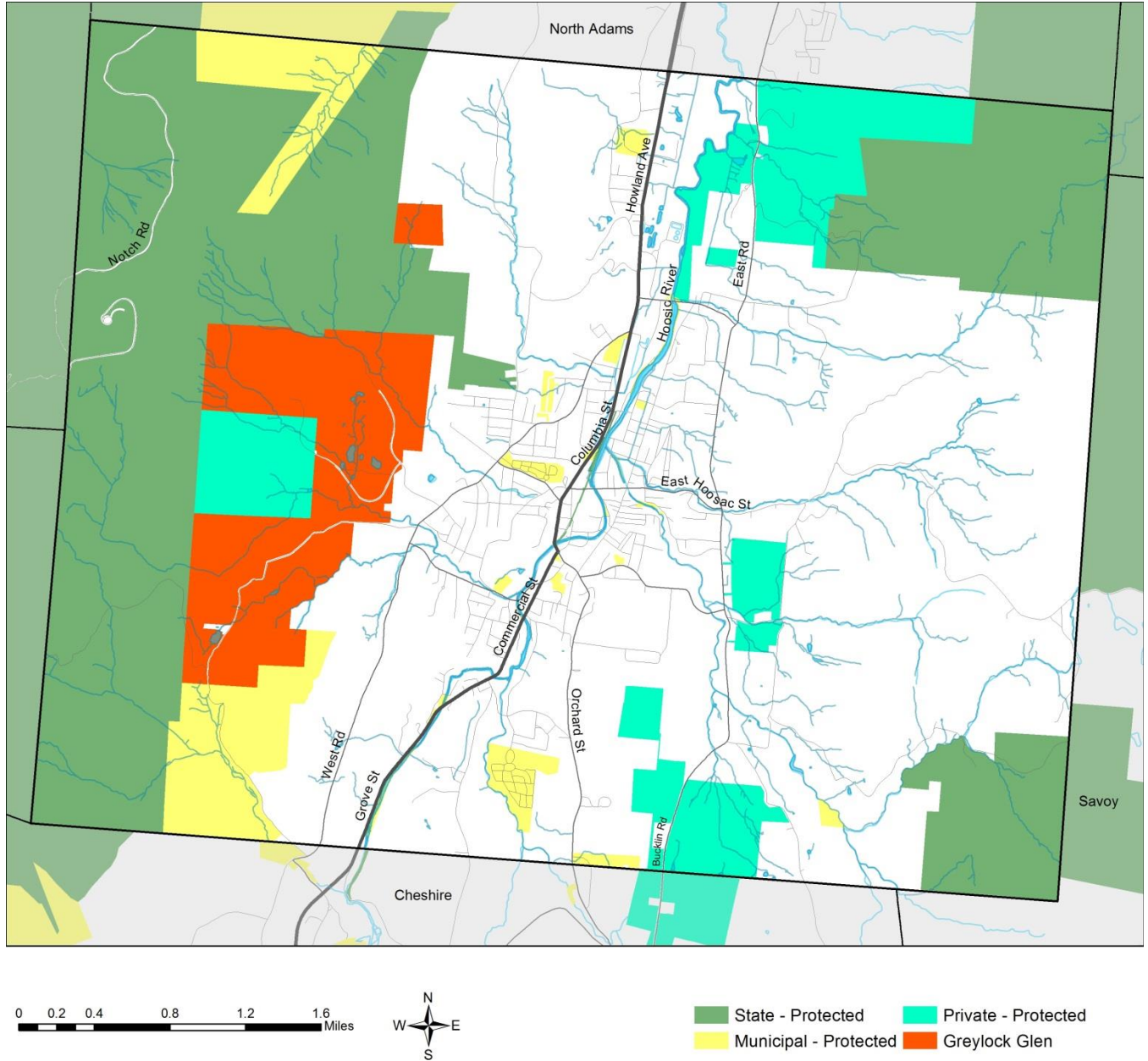
Chapter 61A is a state sponsored, voluntary enrollment program for preferential tax assessment based on maintaining agricultural use of the land. Currently several farms in Adams are taking part in this program and a total of over 759 acres of agricultural land hold temporary protection from development. Chapter 61A requires a 5 acre minimum of

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest
 agricultural land which must produce a minimum amount of agricultural products.

Chapter 61A prohibits development unrelated to agricultural purposes. The landowner must re-apply for the program each year (See *Map 5-3: Agricultural/Protected Land*, page 61).

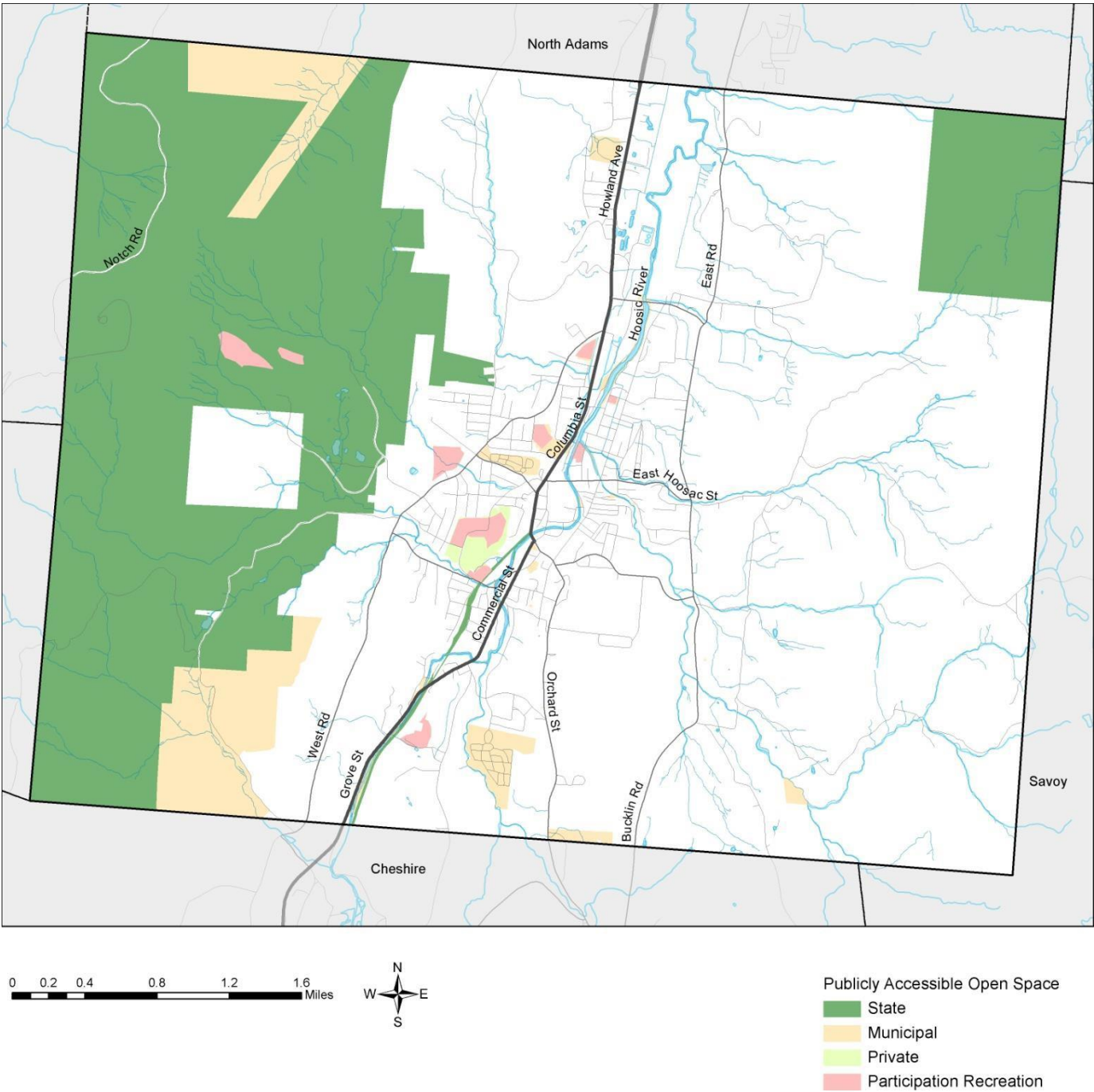
Table 5-1. Chapter 61A Land – Agriculture						
Location	Map/Parcel Number	Owner/Manager	Status	Acres	Public Access	Level of Protection
Burlingame Hill	222-6	Alibozek, Barbara J	Private	25.3	N	Temporary
E Mountain Rd	234-13	Alibozek, David	Private	8.6	N	Temporary
E Mountain Rd	234-7.1	Alibozek, David	Private	1.4	N	Temporary
E Mountain Rd	234-7.3	Alibozek, David	Private	6.0	N	Temporary
E Mountain Rd	234-12	Alibozek, David E	Private	150.2	N	Temporary
Walling Rd	224-13.1	Alibozek, Gary	Private	70.2	N	Temporary
Walling Rd	224-14	Alibozek, Gary	Private	21.8	N	Temporary
Burlingame Hill	235-3.D	Alibozek, John J	Private	13.6	N	Temporary
Burlingame Hill	235-3.A	Alibozek, Joseph & Theresa (Lt)	Private	39.9	N	Temporary
Walling Rd	224-13	Alibozek, Sharyn L	Private	2.7	N	Temporary
Burlingame Hill	222-7	Alibozek, Wanda	Private	10.4	N	Temporary
Bucklin Rd	222-2.1	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Private	6.4	N	Temporary
Bucklin Rd	222-2.2	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Private	52.4	N	Temporary
Bucklin Rd	222-3	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Private	151.6	N	Temporary
Orchard St	223-3.1	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Private	37.0	N	Temporary
Bucklin Rd	223-58.8	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Private	9.0	N	Temporary
Lime St	104-24	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	11.1	N	Temporary
Charles St	226-1	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	9.3	N	Temporary
East Rd	227-1	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	183.8	N	Temporary
East Rd	227-3	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	108.2	N	Temporary
East Rd	227-5	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	80.5	N	Temporary
East Rd	227-6	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	70.2	N	Temporary
Gould Rd	211-1	Gould, Margery L (Lt)	Private	212.5	N	Temporary
East Rd	106-53.1	Stohlman, Martha Jean	Private	20.7	N	Temporary
E Hoosac St	232-1	Stohlmann, Arthur John & Helen	Private	308.9	N	Temporary
Country Rd	233-1.1	Stohlmann, Martha Jean	Private	150.5	N	Temporary
Orchard St	222-10	Trzcinski, Paul A	Private	67.5	N	Temporary

Map 5-1: Open Space



Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

Map 5-2: Recreational Resources



Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest

A conservation restriction is legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or government agency that permanently limits a property's use in order to protect its conservation values. The APR Program in Massachusetts is a voluntary, state run program which is intended to offer a non-development alternative to farmers and other owners of "prime" and "state important" agricultural land that are faced with a decision regarding future use and disposition of their farms. The program offers to pay farmers the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction which precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.

According to the Town assessor's office, as of fiscal year 2019, landowners in Adams have permanently protected a total of 1077 acres of farmland through the APR Program.

<i>Table 5-2. Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Land</i>						
Location	Map/Parcel Number	Owner / Manager	Status	Acres	Public Access	Level of Protection
Walling Rd	224-13.1	Alibozek, Gary	Private	70.2	N	Permanent
Walling Rd	224-14	Alibozek, Gary	Private	21.8	N	Permanent
Bucklin Rd	222-2.2	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Private	52.4	N	Permanent
Bucklin Rd	222-3	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Private	151.6	N	Permanent
Orchard St	223-3.1	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Private	37.0	N	Permanent
Lime St	104-25	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	11.1	N	Permanent
Charles St	226-1	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	9.3	N	Permanent
East Rd	227-1	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	183.8	N	Permanent
East Rd	227-3	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	108.2	N	Permanent
East Rd	227-5	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	80.5	N	Permanent
East Rd	227-6	Burnett, Douglas C	Private	70.2	N	Permanent
Gould Road	211-1	Gould, Margery L.	Private	212.5	N	Permanent

A number of farms in Adams are operating without conservation restrictions or tax abatements. These lands have no formal protection from future development. In total, over 444 acres of farmland in Adams are unprotected.

<i>Table 5-3. Unprotected Farmland</i>						
Location	Map/Parcel Number	Owner/Manager	Status	Acres	Public Access	Level of Protection
Gould Road	218/002	Jaesche, Retta	Private	21.89	N	None
East Road	110/001.1	Stohlmann, Aurthur J	Private	41.8	N	None
Howland Avenue	104/10	Ziemba, Michael & Mark	Private	12.8	N	None
Walling Road	223/040	Ziemba, Stanley J., Jr.	Private	20	N	None
Walling Road	223/041	Ziemba, Stanley J., Jr.	Private	208	N	None
East Road	227/007	Ziemba, Mark	Private	70	N	None
Gould Road	218/6	Jaesche, Retta	Private	36	N	None

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest

Forested land

Chapter 61 designation gives a tax abatement for forest lands that are managed for timber production. In order to qualify for Chapter 61, landowners must have at least 10 acres that are suitable for timber production. The program prohibits development unrelated to timber production, and requires a 10-year management plan.

Adams has two landowners receiving tax abatements for maintaining forestlands that are managed for timber production. A total of 346 acres are currently under temporary protection from development under this program.

<i>Table 5-4. Chapter 61 Land – Forestry</i>						
Location	Map/Parcel Number	Owner/Manager	Status	Acreage	Public Access	Level of Protection
E. Hoosac Street	240/001	Balardini, Thomas	Private	90	N	Temporary

Private Recreation Lands

This category contains privately-owned recreational areas that may or may not charge a fee for use of the facilities. It also includes areas that are commonly used by residents but are on private land and are not protected for future use.

Table 5-5. Private Recreation & Open Space Land									
Site Name	Location	Map/Parcel#	Owner/ Manager	Acres	Use	Activities	Public Access	Status	Level of Protection
Forest Park Country Club	Forest Park Avenue	115/117	Adams Fairway Realty Co.	4.1	Active	Golf	Y-Fee	Private	None
Forest Park Country Club	Forest Park Avenue	115/118	Adams Fairway Realty Co.	11.6	Active	Golf	Y-Fee	Private	None
Forest Park Country Club	Forest Park Avenue	115/115.1	Adams Fairway Realty Co.	33	Active	Golf	Y-Fee	Private	None
Mill St. Field	Off of East Hoosac St.	112/28	RC Bishop of Springfield	2.6	Active	Field Sports/ picnicking	Y	Private	None
St. Stanislaus Cemetery	Off SR 116	223/001	St. Stanislaus RC Church	37.1	Passive	Passive recreation	Y	Private	None
Elijah Sprague Cemetery	Behind Barnett APR land N/E corner of town	230/1.1 & 1.2	Small parcel w/in state land, exact acreage unknown	--	Passive	Passive recreation	Y	Private	None
West Road Cemetery		209/1.03	David & Linda Horn	.25 may	Passive	Passive recreation	Y	Private	None
Jewish Cemetery	Meadow St.	117/19	John Ziembra		Passive	Passive recreation	Y	Private	None

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest

Corporate Holdings

A total of 432.38 acres of land are currently under private industrial use in Adams, most of which is open space.

<i>Table 5-6. Large Parcel Industrial Land</i>							
Location	Map/Parcel Number	Owner/Manager	Status	Acreage	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning
Notch Road	216/004	Specialty Minerals, Inc.	Private	70	N	None	I
Notch Road	217/006.1	Specialty Minerals, Inc.	Private	19	N	None	I
Notch Road	217/007	Specialty Minerals, Inc.	Private	45	N	None	I
Notch Road	217/005	Specialty Minerals, Inc.	Private	74.38	N	None	I
Notch Road	216/003	Specialty Minerals, Inc.	Private	139	N	None	I
Notch Road	216/001	Specialty Minerals, Inc.	Private	69	N	None	I
Columbia Street	107/045	Specialty Minerals, Inc.	Private	16	N	None	I

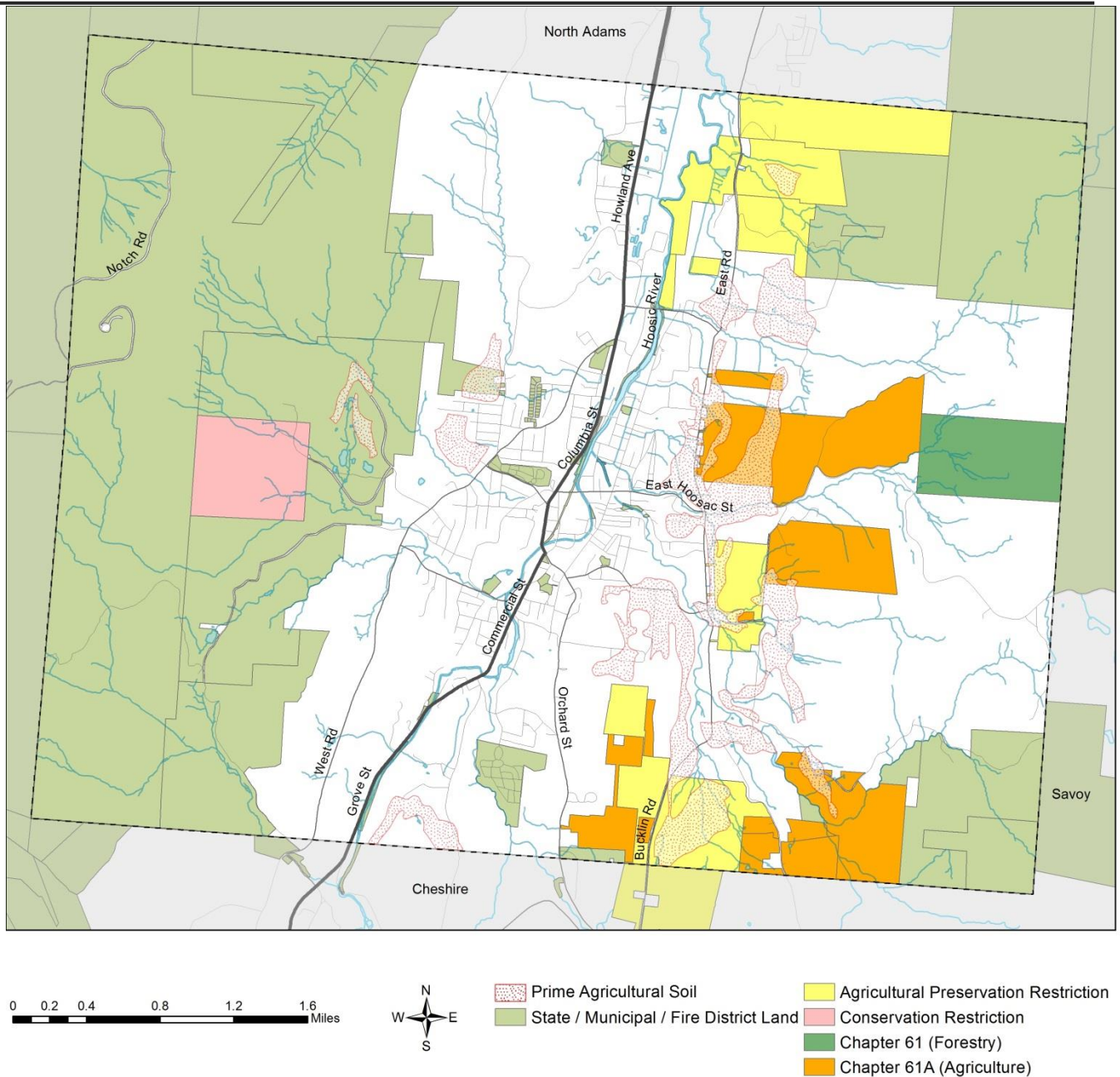
5B. Public and Nonprofit Parcels

Public Conservation & Recreation Resources

Table 5-7 inventories permanently protected public lands within Adams. The majority of protected open space in Town is owned and managed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, comprising a total of 3,950 acres. Mount Greylock State Reservation makes up the bulk of state owned lands, while the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, which runs along former railroad land running North/South along Route 8, and a small section of the Savoy State Forest located in northeastern Adams, makes up the rest.

The City of North Adams owns the water rights to the Bellows Pipe watershed, an overlay district, the majority of which is within Mount Greylock State Reservation. The Town itself owns relatively little in the way of protected public open space, only the 341 acre Bassett Brook Watershed is town-owned. In total 4,390 acres of public lands within Adams are permanently protected. Most of these lands are located on the western side of Town, the majority of protected lands on the eastern side of Town are privately owned.

Map 5-3: Agricultural / Protected Land



Map Sources: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Town of Adams.

Table 5-7. Permanently Protected State & Municipal Land

Site Name	Map / Parcel Number	Owner	Manager	Acreage	Use	Activities	Public Access	Level of Protection (Article 97)	Zoning	Condition
Ashuwillticook Rail Trail	119/312, 109/324	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCR	21	Recreation	Walking, Biking, Rollerblading	Y	Permanent	R-2, R-3, R-4, I, B-2	Excellent
Bellows Pipe Watershed	214/001	City of North Adams	City of North Adams	228	Recreation Conservation	Hiking, Mountain Biking	Y	Permanent	OS	Fair
Savoy Mt. State Forest	230/1.1, 230/1.2, 234/10, 234/11.A, 236/241/001, 232/001 (portion)	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCR	1,289	Recreation / Conservation	Hiking, Biking, Camping, Picnicking, Swimming, Skiing, Boating, Hunting, fishing, Horseback riding	Y	Permanent	OS	Fair
Greylock Reservation	203/1, 218/38.2	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	DCR	2,808.4	Recreation / Conservation	Hiking, Camping, Picnicking, Swimming, Skiing, Hunting	Y	Permanent	OS	Good
Bassett Brook Watershed	209/014	Adams Fire District	Adams Fire District	339.2	Recreation / Conservation	Hiking	Y	Permanent	OS	Fair
Renfrew Park	107/ 155, 107/154, 107/153	Town of Adams	Town of Adams	6.6	Active Recreation	Field sports, picnicking	Y	Permanent	R-4	Excellent
Memorial Park	112/1 112/4 112/4.A	Town of Adams	Town of Adams	1.5	Passive	Passive	Y	Permanent	R-3, B-2	Good
Town Common	115/073	Town of Adams	Town of Adams	0.57	Recreation/ Conservation	Passive	Y	Permanent	B-2	Good

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest

Unprotected public lands that are of conservation and recreation interest are inventoried in Table 5-8. The parks, playgrounds, and cemeteries owned or managed by the Town of Adams hold no formal protection from development, though they have historically been preserved as publicly accessible open space. The majority of these lands are concentrated around high-density residential areas in the town center. There are currently 12 municipal parks averaging three acres, offering a variety of passive and active recreational opportunities. The Town has recently completed design for a new “pocket” park at One Cook Street, the site of the former Hoosac Valley Coal and Grain company. The park is adjacent to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail as well as the Berkshire Scenic Railroad. The park will be fully ADA accessible, include a dog run, picnic facilities and a playground.

Many of the smaller cemeteries have walking paths which allow for passive recreation. The largest cemetery, the 47-acre Bellevue Cemetery, contains Bellevue falls, a popular water recreational area in the summer months. A total of 455 acres of unprotected public open space and recreation lands exist in Adams.

Table 5-8: Unprotected Recreation Land

Site Name	Map/ Parcel #	Manager	Acres	Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Facilities	Zoning
Greylock Glen	210/2, 210/7, 217/6, 218/5	DCR	916.6	Passive	Good	Passive/ Active	Hiking trails, gazebo, picnic facilities	R-1
Bowe Field	102/ 037	Town of Adams/ Adams Agricultura l Fair	14	Active	Fair	Active	Field House, cattle barn, flood lights, on-site parking, playground	R-4
Quality Playground	121/ 024	Town of Adams	1.9	Active	Fair	Active	Playground, river access	R-4
Reid Field	109/ 265	Town of Adams	1.34	Active	Good	Active	Playground, picnic facilities, softball field.	R-4
Russell Field	119/ 088	Town of Adams	3.8	Active	Good	Active	Playground, tennis courts, benches, baseball field, restrooms, off street parking	R-4
Siara Street Field	112/ 311	Town of Adams	0.53	Passive	Fair	Passive	No facilities	R-4

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest

Valley Street Field	112/ 002	Town of Adams	12.24	Active	Good	Active	Regulation little league field, lighted scoreboard, batting cage, accessible bathrooms, bleachers, youth soccer fields, computerized irrigation	R-3
Liberty Street Field	115/ 081	Town of Adams	1.7	Active	Good	Active	Elaborate playground, picnic facilities	R-4
Hoosic River Floodplain	104/24, 107/84, 112/11, 112/36.1, 112/270, 112/271.1, 112/311, 119/96.1, 220/4	Town of Adams	15.2	Passive	Fair	Passive	None	IP, R-4, B-2
East St. Community Center	116/268	Town of Adams	4.3	Active	Fair	Active	Pavilion, playground, picnic facilities, benches	R-4
Maple Street Cemetery	113/083	Town of Adams	16	Passive	Excellent	Passive	None	R-4
Daniel's Court Cemetery	119/207	Town of Adams	0.15	Passive	Good	Passive	None	R-4
Orchard Street Burial Ground	122/071	Town of Adams	0.06	Passive	Fair	Passive	None	R-3
Bellevue Cemetery	123/036	Town of Adams	58.3	Passive	Good	Passive	Swimming area, fishing access	R-3
Bowen's Corner Cemetery	223/029	Town of Adams	0.12	Passive	Good	Passive	None, little or no Town involvement	R-2
James Eddy Burial Ground	234/2	Town of Adams	500 sq ft.	Passive	Fair	Passive	None, little or no Town involvement	R-1

Section 6: Community Vision

6A. Description of Process

The *2019 Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan* has been developed by the Adams Community Development Department, with technical assistance from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Community Development staff prepared the draft Open Space Plan based on an update of the Town's previous 2003 and 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plans. The draft 2019 Plan was then provided to the members of the Adams Parks Commission, the Adams Planning Board, the Adams Conservation Commission, and the Board of Selectmen.

The Plan's public participation process consisted of the following:

- In spring 2019, an electronic survey was made available to interested citizens via the Town website, Council on Aging website, and via town-maintained email lists;
- Informational items and surveys were posted on the Town's website, at the Town Hall, at the Adams Free Public Library and at the Council on Aging and in the Adams Visitors Center.
- Presentation to the Adams Board of Selectmen, aired on local television.
- Presentation to public meetings of the Adams Planning Board, Parks and Conservation Commissions
- Media coverage via the local newspapers.

A summary of the survey results can be found in Section 7, with a more detailed data breakdown provided in Appendix A and Appendix B.

6B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The Town has identified the following goals based on an analysis of changing conditions within the community by Community Development staff, input from local officials, and input received through the Plan's public participation process. The goals also address opportunities that have been identified since completion of the Town's approved 2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Plan's goals are intended for a seven-year planning horizon. The seven-year goals of the 2019 Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan are as follows:

1. Continue to develop and maintain multi-use and multi-generational recreational opportunities that bring together Town residents;
2. Protect, manage, and promote the Town's natural attractions that are the basis for the Town's efforts toward a tourism-based economy;
3. Protect the Town's historic and cultural resources for the enjoyment and

Section 6: Community Vision

instruction of future generations;

4. Continue to protect the Town's existing open space resources while enhancing connectivity throughout the community.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

While the Town of Adams is experiencing a relatively slow growth rate in residential, commercial and industrial development, there are many unprotected open space resources that could be at risk from future development. This is an ideal time to plan for the protection of these resources. Ninety Six percent of the respondents to a recent Open Space and Recreation Survey indicated that the Town's rural nature and open spaces are one of the greatest advantages to living in Adams, and they are supportive of town initiated efforts to protect these resources.

The analysis of needs is based upon the results of the community survey as well as needs identified in other planning studies, previous open space plans, and interpretation of the Open Space Plan maps.

7A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

According to the survey, 96.07% of Adams residents support the protection of farms, forests, and other scenic and historic resources in Town. Agricultural land is the most likely open space to be threatened by future development pressure. The continued viability of small, family-run farms like those in Adams is always in question. State programs, like the Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, have long waiting lists, and should ideally be supplemented with some local effort toward protection. Recent state budget efforts to secure a conservation land tax credit would greatly benefit local farms and privately-held open space areas, as well. In addition, the town's agricultural resources are located in areas zoned as buildable land, with few constraints to development (see *Map 5-3: Agricultural/Protected Land*, page 61). Some of the Town's largest farms are located on land identified by the state as prime agricultural soils; other soils in town are not well suited to agriculture. Once prime farmland is lost to development it cannot be replaced.

Forest resources associated with state lands are protected; however, the scenic areas to the south and east of town are unprotected and have few constraints to development. (See *Map 3- 4: Buildable Land*, page 22 and *Map 4-1: Unique Features*, page 28). Many of these areas also contain Priority and Estimated Habitat for Rare Species.

Protecting Town drinking water supplies was rated as one of the top priorities for resource protection in both the 2011 and 2019 Open Space and Recreation Survey. Given that the Town of Adams' water supply wells are located in the neighboring town of Cheshire, it is important for Adams to continue to collaborate with Cheshire in the protection its wellhead protection zone and the surface water resources which recharge these wells. There are high and medium yield aquifers in Adams that lie along the Hoosic River in the northern half of town. Efforts to limit development in this area will help protect these potential future water

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

sources and the water quality of the Hoosic River in general.

Protection of surface water resources in the urbanized area of downtown Adams merits special attention. Adams' historical development pattern along the banks of the Hoosic River provides a challenge to protecting water quality because of the amount of impervious surface associated with past industrial development. In order to adequately protect rivers and tributary streams from urban runoff and siltation, specific actions that focus on reducing the amount runoff that makes its way into the river will be necessary. The river, where it has been channelized by flood control chutes, is impaired by its highly altered and disturbed state. Efforts by the Hoosic River Ecosystem Project Partnership are underway to study the possibility of retrofitting the flood control chutes with a simulated streambed and bioengineered pool and riffle structures, which would help restore some of the ecological functions that have been lost. The State and the Army Corp of Engineers will all need to be part of this effort if it is to succeed.

Though Adams has large contiguous tracts of protected open space to the west of town associated with the Mt. Greylock State Reservation, and to the east of town associated with Savoy State Forest, there are few connecting links or green corridors between these two resources. Adams' densely developed downtown and the location of Route 8, which bisects the town in a north/south direction along the river, presents a challenge to developing adequate wildlife corridors from east to west. There are opportunities to protect the many tributaries and their adjacent lands that feed into the Hoosic River. Only a small percentage of this riverfront land is publicly owned. Acquisition, conservation restrictions, or access easements could help to create a network of wildlife corridors connecting the largest conservation areas to the east and west of town.

7B. Summary of Community's Needs

The summary of community needs is based on the results of the 2010 Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey, 2019 Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey and the Massachusetts Outdoors 2006: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the Berkshire region.

2019 Open Space & Recreation Survey Results

In May of 2019, the Adams Community Development Department conducted an Open Space and Recreation Survey as part of the process of updating its Open Space and Recreation plan. The electronic survey solicited input via the Town's official website as well as the Council on Aging website. The survey also solicited responses via town-maintained email lists and paper copies were made available at the Adams Free Library, the Adams Visitors Center and Town Hall. Particular effort was made to solicit responses from the EJ population, seniors, and students. The survey garnered 235 responses. Of those who responded to the

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

survey, 79.83% have lived in Adams for eleven (11) years or longer. Sixty-six (66%) percent of respondents were between the ages of 30 and 64.

Survey respondents report the majority of their recreation and exercise activities take place at home (52.77%), the Rail Trail (59.15%), out of town (29.79%), within their neighborhood (23.83%) and at a local park (18.30%). The most popular activities in Adams are walking, running and hiking (85.96%); gardening (48.09%); and bicycling (44.68%). Over 29% of respondents reported that most of their recreation and exercise activities take place outside of Adams. Most often lack of availability of venues/services and lack of diversity were cited as the reasons for pursuing recreation outside of the town.

In question eight, respondents were asked to rate the adequacy of existing outdoor recreation programs and activities by demographic group. Many respondents related they would like to see improved maintenance (44.25%); more indoor recreation opportunities for youth (42.48%); more indoor recreation opportunities for adults (38.94%) and improving/increasing the variety of facilities within existing parks (38.94%).

Table 7-1: Open Space & Recreation Survey Question 8 - Are existing Outdoor recreation programs/activities adequate for the following groups?

Group	Yes	Somewhat	No	Don't Know
Children	26.11%	40.27%	21.68%	12.39%
Teens	13.45%	30.49%	43.05%	13.45%
Young Adults	10.76%	32.29%	43.50%	14.35%
Adults	18.94%	47.58%	29.52%	3.96%
Elderly	13.79%	30.60%	32.76%	22.84%
Disabled	5.22%	18.26%	35.65%	40.87%

In question nine, respondents were asked to rate the adequacy of existing indoor recreation programs and activities by demographic group.

Table 7-2 Open Space & Recreation Survey Question 9 - Are existing Outdoor recreation programs/activities adequate for the following groups?

Group	Yes	Somewhat	No	Don't Know
Children	17.86%	32.59%	30.36%	19.20%
Teens	9.38%	24.11%	43.30%	23.21%
Young Adults	5.88%	17.19%	52.04%	24.89%
Adults	6.25%	28.57%	51.79%	13.39%
Elderly	14.47%	28.07%	30.26%	27.63%
Disabled	4.44%	17.33%	30.67%	47.56%

Question twelve asked for input on what features would make the Town's parks more attractive to visit. The over-whelming response was picnic and seating areas.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

Table 7-3 Open Space & Recreation Survey Question 12 - what features would you like to see in the park most convenient to you to make it more attractive to visit?

Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Picnic area	62.56%
Seating area	51.54%
Nature trail	40.53%
Swimming pool	26.43%
Children's play area	32.60%
Baseball field	5.29%
Basketball court	11.45%
Tennis court	8.81%
Other	19.82%

In question thirteen, respondents were asked to choose five (5) recreational activities and/or facilities that they would like to see developed in Adams. The top responses were: outdoor concert/event facilities (61.23%), movie theater (47.14%), picnic/barbecue areas (43.61%), access to the Hoosic River/canoe or kayak ramp (39.65%), and playgrounds (35.24%)

Massachusetts 2017 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP 2017)

The *Massachusetts 2017 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*, developed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, assessed the recreation needs of the state by region. The intent of the document is to direct investment decisions in a manner that best meets the needs of the Commonwealth's citizen.

Within *SCORP 2017*, Adams is considered part of the Berkshire region. According to the report, the most popular recreational activities within the region include walking, jogging, and hiking and skiing. Passive activities such as picnicking, photography and painting, and nature study have very strong participation rates in the Berkshire Region as well.

According to the survey conducted for *SCORP 2017*, Berkshire region residents strongly support prioritizing funding for restoration, maintenance, and improvement of existing facilities. Improving access to recreational facilities for persons with disabilities was also highly rated. The majority of *SCORP 2017* survey respondents believed that the state did not prioritize funding for outdoor recreation enough.

The results of the Adams 2019 Open Space and Recreation Survey are relatively consistent with the SCORP 2017 survey results. This suggests that many of the overall recreational desires of the citizens of both the Town and the broader Berkshire region have yet to be met.

7C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

After carefully analyzing data from the survey responses and discussions among Town boards, the following opportunities for improved communications were identified:

- There is a need to develop an Acquisition and Management Strategy for the Parks and Conservation Commissions.
- The Parks and Conservation Commissions should have the opportunity to provide input to the Town's seven-year capital improvement programming process.
- Outreach programs to the public and opportunities for public input, such as through an "Adopt-a-Park" programs would increase visibility and support for parks.
- The Town should revisit consideration of the Community Preservation Act as real estate and development markets change in the future.
- Town zoning and subdivision bylaws need to be evaluated for their consistency with revitalization plans and conservation needs.

Survey results indicated that the Town needs to concentrate on maintenance of its existing recreational facilities through the creation of an overall maintenance program.

Comprehensive maintenance plans for all recreational facilities would be beneficial in regards to protecting the Town's investment and reducing long-term costs to playing fields and athletic facilities. Town maintenance programs and aesthetic upgrades need to be coordinated between planning, public works, and historic preservation efforts.

Many of the Town's existing parks are centered on the sports facilities they contain. Respondents to the survey indicated a strong need to enhance the Town's parks and recreational facilities by incorporating more passive recreation elements, such as picnic tables, benches, and walking trails. The continued implementation of the Town's vision for creating "pocket" parks along the Downtown/Ashuwillitcook Rail Trail corridor will fulfill the need for new and improved passive recreational opportunities. Additionally, simultaneously emphasizing improvements to indoor recreation will fulfill the community's need for all-season multi-generational recreational opportunities and will promote a healthier, more active community.

Section 8: Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives outlined in this section reflect the priorities and needs of the community, while providing the structure for the Five-Year Action Plan in the next section. The plan's recommendations represent a balance between those actions focused on conservation and protection of open space and those actions focused on active and passive recreation. Specifically, plan actions address the community needs identified in Section 7 which are derived from the Town's "Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey" (2019) and discussions with the Board of Selectmen, Parks Commission, Conservation Commission, and other Town boards. The goals articulate the desires of community residents and address their concerns for the future:

1. Continue to develop and maintain multi-use and multi-generational recreational opportunities that bring together Town residents;
2. Protect, manage, and promote the Town's natural attractions that are the basis for the Town's efforts toward a tourism-based economy;
3. Protect the Town's historic and cultural resources for the enjoyment and instruction of future generations;
4. Continue to protect the Town's existing open space resources while enhancing connectivity throughout the community.

GOAL 1

CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN MULTI-USE AND MULTI-GENERATIONAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT BRING TOGETHER TOWN RESIDENTS

Objectives:

- Develop recreational facilities that integrate active and passive recreational opportunities available to all ages and abilities.
- Develop new recreational opportunities within the Town center and established residential neighborhoods.
- Maintain, renovate, and adapt existing parks, facilities, fields, and recreational areas to serve multiple purposes and to meet the changing recreational needs of the community.
- Enhance passive recreation opportunities within Adams.

GOAL 2

PROTECT, MANAGE, AND PROMOTE THE TOWN'S NATURAL ATTRACTIONS THAT ARE THE BASIS FOR THE TOWN'S EFFORTS TOWARD A TOURISM-BASED ECONOMY

Objectives:

- Develop new outdoor recreational opportunities to increase visitation to the Town and enhance visitor experience of Adams and the northern Berkshires.
- Ensure access to all public or publicly available open space for all demographic groups.

GOAL 3

PROTECT THE TOWN'S HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND INSTRUCTION OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

Objectives:

- Preserve the Town's historic character and encourage development that promotes the historic small-town identity of Adams.
- Protect the Town's scenic resources.
- Preserve and enhance existing neighborhoods within Adams to provide stronger identities, establish a high degree of visual quality and more useable social spaces and recreational amenities.
- Continue to maintain the Town's important historic resources and cultural landscapes.

GOAL 4

CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE TOWN'S EXISTING OPEN SPACE RESOURCES WHILE ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

Objectives:

- Expand and connect existing protected lands and trails to make a continuous greenway network throughout Adams.
- Make Adams "bicycle-friendly" by reducing reliance on motor vehicles and improving walkability within the Town center and close-in neighborhoods.
- Expand and protect open space resources within the Town from inappropriate development by embracing wise stewardship practices.

Section 9: Five Year Action Plan

This Five-Year Action Plan below establishes a number of objectives with associated projects and actions developed through community input and integrated with other community planning efforts and their associated public processes. Continued Town commitment and citizen support are essential in order to accomplish these goals. Many of the listed actions reflect priorities and recommendations that have been in development for many years. The Town's ability to implement any of the given objectives is also dependent on the current budget and available funding for a given year.

Goal 1: Continue to develop and maintain multi-use and multi-generational recreational opportunities that bring together Town residents

<i>OBJECTIVE 1A: Develop recreational facilities that integrate active and passive recreational opportunities available to all ages and abilities.</i>			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Indoor Recreation – Improve bleachers and HVAC system at Adams Memorial School.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., BOS	HIGH – YEARS 1-3	Town Funds, CDBG
Work with the City of North Adams and landowners to extend the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail north Hodges Cross Road in North Adams.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., BOS	HIGH - YEARS 3 - 5	FEDERAL HIGHWAY, MASSDOT
Develop active and passive recreation on Winter Street as a catalyst for revitalization of the neighborhood. Apply for grant funding for implementation of amenities such as seating, new basketball hoops.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., BOS	HIGH - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME, TOWN FUNDS
Using the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail as a spine, develop a network of cross-town bike paths to connect residential neighborhoods to schools, parks, other recreational sites, and the downtown.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., BOS	MEDIUM - YEARS 5+	TOWN FUNDS, FEDERAL HIGHWAY
Continue to work with DCR and the Thunderbolt Ski Runners on the development of new hiking and mountain biking trails at the Greylock Glen Resort.	CONSERVATION COMMISSION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	Low - YEAR 5+	U. S. ARMY CORPS
<i>OBJECTIVE 1B: Develop new recreational opportunities within the Town center and established residential neighborhoods.</i>			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Develop new recreational opportunities, like giant chess, outdoor dancing, and lawn concerts, at the Adams Visitors Center and along the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., BOS	HIGH – YEARS 2 - 5	PARC, TOWN FUNDS
Incorporate “pocket” parks and basketball facilities throughout the downtown, including on Cook Street and on Winter Street.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	HIGH – YEARS 5+	CDBG, PARC, TOWN FUNDS
Develop a “connector trail” for bicyclists from the Adams Visitors Center to Greylock Glen.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	MEDIUM – YEARS 5+	DCR

Section 9: Five Year Action Plan

OBJECTIVE 1C: Maintain, renovate, and adapt existing parks, facilities, fields, and recreational areas to serve multiple purposes and to meet the changing recreational needs of the community.			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Undertake a major renovation to Russell Field, including an accessible field house, drainage, accessible walkways and bleachers, new tennis courts, lighting, and picnic facilities. Actively pursue grant funding to implement the Russell Field renovation project.	DPW, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., PARKS COMMISSION	HIGH - YEARS 1 - 3	PARC, CDBG TOWN FUNDS
Undertake a renovation of the Town Common including redesign of the park, inclusion of Susan B. Anthony memorial statue and public performance space, new gazebo and plantings, and historical markers	DPW, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., PARKS COMMISSION	HIGH - YEARS 1 - 3	PARC, TOWN FUNDS, DONATIONS, STAFF AND/OR VOLUNTEER TIME
Develop additional youth sports playing fields for soccer and baseball, and other sports as needed.	PARKS COMMISSION	MEDIUM - YEAR 5	TOWN FUNDS
Continue to upgrade playground equipment in all parks consistent with NPPS and CPSC standards, and install new equipment such as ground-level trampolines and water play features (i.e., Renfrew Park).	PARKS COMMISSION, DPW	MEDIUM - YEARS 3 - 5	TOWN FUNDS, DONATIONS
Work with the Adams-Cheshire School District to develop appropriate youth programs for certain active recreational pursuits.	PARKS COMMISSION, SCHOOL DISTRICT	Low - YEARS 4 - 5	STAFF AND/OR VOLUNTEER TIME
Work with Adams Agricultural ("Aggie") Fair Committee to develop practice fields that can also provide additional parking for events at the fairgrounds.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT	Low - YEARS 4 - 5	TOWN FUNDS, LEAGUES, AGGIE FAIR
OBJECTIVE 1D: Enhance passive recreation opportunities within Adams.			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Continue efforts to develop former Coal & Grain site on Cook Street into a new pocket park along the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and the Hoosac Valley Service rail line.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	HIGH - YEARS 3-5	STAFF TIME, CDBG, TOWN FUNDS, PARC
In conjunction with downtown revitalization efforts, pursue opportunities to develop additional pocket parks and install benches, outdoor game tables, and other public amenities in downtown.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	HIGH - YEARS 5+	CDBG, TOWN FUNDS, PARC
Provide new picnic facilities within the Town's existing parks. Develop new picnic locations along scenic roadway segments and at other special places within Town.	PARKS COMMISSION, DPW	HIGH - YEARS 4 - 5	STAFF TIME, TOWN FUNDS, DONATIONS
Develop Adams Station interior to provide new facilities; work with Berkshire Scenic Rail Museum on exhibits to enhance experience of tourist train service between Adams and North Adams.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., BSRM	HIGH - YEARS 4 - 5	STAFF TIME, TOWN FUNDS, DONATIONS
Work with MA Fisheries & Wildlife to develop parking areas and enhanced public access for anglers along Route 8 and the Hoosic River.	DPW, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	Low - YEARS 5+	DF&W, STAFF TIME
Increase benches and other seating opportunities within Town cemeteries, particularly Maple Street Cemetery and Bellevue Cemetery to provide attractive, quiet areas for contemplation.	ADAMS CEMETERY COMMISSION, DPW	Low - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME, TOWN FUNDS, DONATIONS

Section 9: Five Year Action Plan

Goal 2 - Protect, manage, and promote the Town's natural attractions that are the basis for the Town's efforts toward a tourism-based economy

OBJECTIVE 2A: Develop new outdoor recreational opportunities to increase visitation to the Town and enhance visitor experiences of Adams and the northern Berkshires.			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Aggressively pursue implementation of the Town's Greylock Glen Resort project. Secure funding to complete the construction of the proposed Greylock Glen Outdoor Center, a multi-purpose building to serve as a basecamp for visitors to the resort.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., BOS, DCR	HIGH - YEARS 1 - 5	TOWN, DCR, OTHER STATE, USDA, PRIVATE FUNDS
Develop a "connector trail" for bicyclists from the Adams Visitors Center and the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail to the trails system at Greylock Glen.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	MEDIUM – YEARS 5+	DCR
Explore opportunities with Berkshire Regional Transit Authority to implement an electric shuttle between Downtown and other destination points within Adams.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	MEDIUM – YEAR 5	BRTA, TOWN FUNDS
OBJECTIVE 2B: Ensure access to all public or publicly available open space for all demographic groups.			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Implement recommendations in the Town's ADA Transition Plan to improve park and open space facilities so that they meet ADA accessibility standards.	DPW, BUILDING COMMISSIONER	HIGH - YEARS 4 - 5	TOWN FUNDS, CDBG, PARC, STAFF TIME
Develop wayfinding and signage to enhance accessibility to existing open space resources within the community.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	HIGH - YEARS 4 - 5	FIRST PHASE COMPLETED, TOWN FUNDS
Investigate opportunities to increase and improve parking, including handicapped, at public open space areas.	PARKS COMMISSION, DPW	LOW - YEARS 4 - 5	STAFF TIME, TOWN FUNDS
Work with the Council on Aging to implement frequent trips for elderly residents to the Town's open space resources. Ensure an adequate supply of benches at these sites for elderly use.	PARKS COMMISSION, DPW	LOW - YEARS 4 - 5	STAFF TIME, TOWN / COA FUNDS

Section 9: Five Year Action Plan

Goal 3 - Protect the Town's historic and cultural resources for the enjoyment and instruction of future generations

<i>OBJECTIVE 3A: Preserve the Town's historic character and encourage development that promotes the historic "small town" identity of Adams.</i>			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Review zoning for the Downtown and other settled areas to ensure there is adequate flexibility to encourage adaptive reuse of existing buildings.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., PLANNING BOARD	HIGH - YEARS 4 - 5	STAFF TIME, DLTA
Develop new signage and community appearance standards as an amendment to the Town's Zoning Bylaws.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., PLANNING BOARD	HIGH - YEARS 4 - 5	STAFF TIME, DLTA
Evaluate historic district wayfinding for the Park Street and Summer Street business districts to preserve and enhance the existing streetscape and to showcase the historical fabric of Adams' downtown.	ADAMS HISTORICAL COMMISSION; ADAMS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PROADAMS	Low - YEAR 5	STAFF TIME
<i>OBJECTIVE 3B: Protect the Town's scenic resources.</i>			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Work with landowners to protect the agricultural character and scenic quality of the Gould Road approach to the Greylock Glen.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	HIGH - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME, AG COMMISSION FUNDS
Identify key parcels likely lost as open space if the Town did not acquire them.	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	HIGH - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME
Identify the Town's most important views and vistas to protect.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., PLANNING BOARD	Low - YEAR 5	STAFF TIME

Section 9: Five Year Action Plan

OBJECTIVE 3C: Preserve and enhance existing neighborhoods within Adams to provide stronger identities, establish a high degree of visual quality and more useable social spaces and recreational amenities.			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Work with investor-owners to rehabilitate existing multi-family residential structures within Adams to maintain the integrity of the Town's mill history and to improve the living environment of low- and moderate-income residents.	ADAMS HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM	HIGH - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME, CDBG
As part of the Town's ongoing community planning efforts, evaluate neighborhoods within Adams on an on-going basis relative to their access to park and recreational resources.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	MEDIUM - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME, DLTA
Implement a comprehensive neighborhood reinvestment program to bring neighborhood parks facilities up to current standards.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., DPW	MEDIUM - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME, DLTA
OBJECTIVE 3D: Continue to maintain the Town's important historic resources and cultural landscapes.			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Restore the Quaker Meeting House, including repairs to the north wall, to ensure its continued use.	DPW, HISTORIC COMMISSION	HIGH - YEARS 5+	TOWN FUNDS, MHC GRANT FUNDS
Complete the rehabilitation of Maple Street Cemetery, including reconstruction of existing retaining walls and extension of the decorative perimeter fence.	DPW, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	MEDIUM - YEARS 5+	TOWN FUNDS, CEMETERY CARE FUNDS
Continue the tree replanting program in Town cemeteries and parks, especially Maple Street and Bellevue Cemeteries.	DPW, CEMETERY COMMISSION	MEDIUM - YEARS 5+	TOWN FUNDS

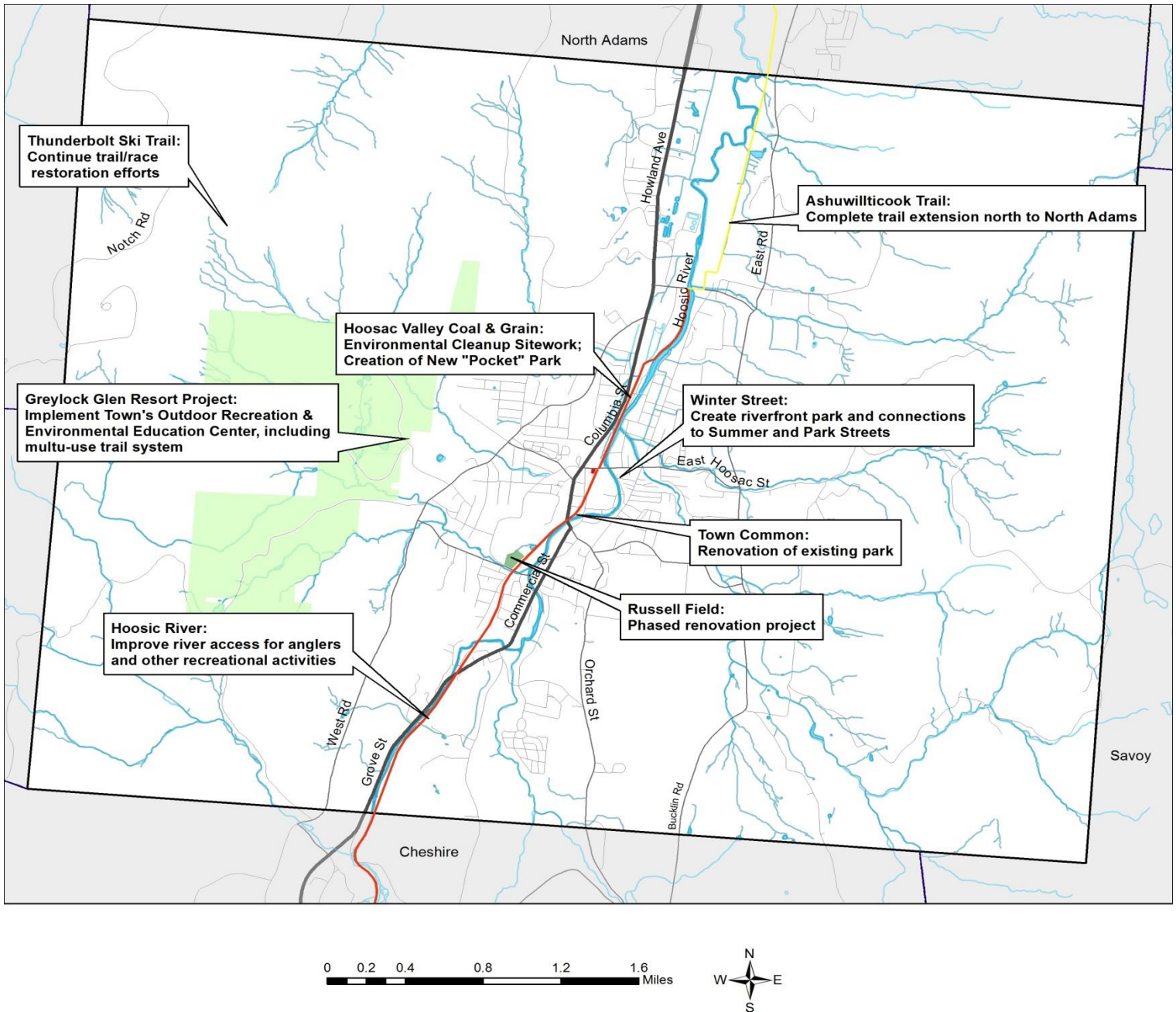
Goal 4 - Continue to protect the Town's existing open space resources while enhancing connectivity throughout the community

OBJECTIVE 4A: Expand and connect existing protected lands and trails to make a continuous greenway network throughout Adams.			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Work to implement recommendations from the Winter Street Revitalization Plan to develop an attractive open space resource to connect with the Ashuwillticook Trail.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	HIGH - YEARS 5+	CDBG, PARC, STAFF TIME
Continue working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a greenway and/or linear park concept in conjunction with the Hoosic River restoration project.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	MEDIUM - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME, FEDERAL FUNDS
Prepare a plan for greenways and trails to connect major recreation facilities within Town and neighboring communities.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	LOW - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME
Work with property owners to develop the "Pine Brook Greenway." Investigate opportunities to connect the greenway with other recreational amenities including the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail extension.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	LOW - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME
Continue working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a greenway and/or linear park concept in conjunction with the Hoosic River restoration project.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	MEDIUM - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME, FEDERAL FUNDS

Section 9: Five Year Action Plan

OBJECTIVE 4B: Make Adams “bicycle-friendly” by reducing reliance on motor vehicles and improving walkability within the Town center and close-in neighborhoods.			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Continue to implement the Route 8 / Friend Street Signalization Project, incorporating a safe crossing for pedestrians and bicyclists.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., DPW	HIGH - YEARS 1 – 4	MASSDOT, TOWN FUNDS
Develop a comprehensive Bike Plan for Adams that uses the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail as a spine to connect Town neighborhoods, schools, parks, and other recreational sites.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT., PLANNING BOARD	MEDIUM - YEARS 5+	TOWN FUNDS, DCR
Identify barriers to pedestrian and bicycle travel within Town and develop implementation strategies to overcome such barriers for these travel modes.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	Low - YEARS 5+	STAFF TIME
OBJECTIVE 4C: Expand and protect open space resources within the Town from inappropriate development by embracing wise stewardship practices.			
Action	Responsibility	Priority/Schedule	Funding
Continue to implement “Right to Farm” provisions within the Town Code.	AG COMMISSION; SELECTMEN	HIGH - YEARS 1 – 2	TOWN FUNDS
Develop a “management and acquisition strategy” to implement recommendation in the Town’s 2011 OSRP to strategically target parcels and/or easements for acquisition.	TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	MEDIUM - YEARS 1 – 5	TOWN FUNDS
Identify and prioritize key parcels for acquisition and protection to help preserve lands for conservation (trail, habitat), recreation, watershed protection, and agriculture.	CONSERVATION COMMISSION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	Low - YEARS 5+	TOWN FUNDS, LAND, DCR
Restore, as appropriate, natural environments along stream corridors and other open space edges within existing residential areas.	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	Low - YEARS 1 – 5	STAFF TIME, PRIVATE FUNDS

Map 9-1: Five Year Action Map



Map Source: Office of Geographic & Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs.

Section 10: Public Comments

In March 2019, the Adams Community Development Department published an electronic (online) survey. The survey was distributed to Town officials and posted to the websites of the Town, the Library, and the Council on Aging. The goal of the survey was to solicit responses to better understand the open space and recreation-related needs and desires of the community.

The survey featured several questions in common with the 2011 survey. The purpose of this was to better understand how needs and desires had changed over time. Responses to the survey were incorporated into the narrative components of this plan as well as the Five Year Action Plan table. More information and results of the 2011 and 2019 surveys can be found in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

On June 17, 2019, the updates to this plan and the Five Year Action Plan table were presented to the Adams Planning Board and Adams Parks Commission at respective public meetings. Both the Planning Board and Parks Commission reviewed the plan and provided comments that are memorialized in Appendix C.

On June 26, 2019, the updates to this plan and the Five Year Action Plan table were presented to the Adams Board of Selectmen at a public meeting. On June 27, 2019, the updates to this plan and the Five Year Action Plan table were presented to the Adams Conservation Commission at a public meeting. Both the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission reviewed the plan and provided comments that are memorialized in Appendix C.

This plan update was also reviewed by the Adams Town Administrator and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Comments from both are memorialized in Appendix C.

Section 11: References

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Appendix A: Adams 2010 Open Space and Recreation Survey

In late 2009, the Adams Community Development Department began the process of updating the Town's existing "Open Space and Recreation Plan." The plan is a required component for state and federal grant applications related to the acquisition, development, maintenance and conservation of Town parks and open space. The plan also assists the Town in establishing priorities for improvements to its recreational facilities and open spaces. In updating the plan it is necessary to obtain input from Town residents. To this end, in March 2010, the Community Development Department conducted a random survey of 600 Town households, receiving 231 surveys returned for a 39% response rate.

Eighty-three percent (83%) of respondents viewed the quality of life as a positive with only 13% reporting the quality of life to be poor or very poor. Respondents reported feeling the Town was a safe, attractive, family-oriented, rural community. Respondents were asked about perceived advantages and disadvantages of living in Adams, responses are indicated in the chart below:

	Advantage	Disadvantage
Rural Nature & Open Spaces	74%	11%
Neighborhoods	56%	26%
School System	59%	22%
Cost of Living	70%	15%
Location within the County	41%	41%
Historical & Cultural Amenities	52%	37%
Local Tax Rates	41%	44%
Parks & Recreational Facilities	59%	22%
Availability of Services	33%	48%
Downtown	19%	63%
Job Opportunities	0%	85%

The survey supports a common belief that the small town atmosphere, sense of neighborhood, and affordability, contribute significantly to the positive perceptions of quality of life in Adams. Other areas were viewed as disadvantages to living in Adams — the availability of services, the downtown area, and lack of job opportunities.

Respondents reported that in addition to the listed reasons above they made the decision to reside in Adams due to a familial connection, safety, and the small town feel. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of all respondents reported a connection to a particular neighborhood within the Town. Respondents

Appendix A: Adams 2010 Open Space and Recreation Survey

report the majority of their recreation and exercise activities take place at home (56%), the Rail Trail (44%), out of town (22%), within their neighborhood (22%) and at a local park (19%). The three most popular activities in Adams are walking/running/hiking, movies/concerts and bicycling. Over 67% of respondents reported seeking recreational activities outside of Adams, such as dining, shopping, concerts, camping, movies/concerts/theater, skiing, fitness and boating. Most often lack of availability of venues/services and lack of diversity were cited as the reasons for pursuing recreation outside of the town.

In question 10 respondents were asked to rate the adequacy of existing outdoor recreation programs and activities in Adams, for particular demographic groups, the responses are indicated below. Many respondents related they would like to see more large parks for passive recreation, as many of the existing parks are centered around sports facilities. Picnic facilities, a dog park, and increased access to the Hoosic River were all viewed as opportunities for improvement.

Question 10				
Group	Yes	Somewhat	No	Don't Know
Children	37%	33%	15%	15%
Teens	15%	44%	26%	15%
Adults	26%	26%	26%	22%
Elderly	19%	30%	15%	37%
Disabled	11%	11%	26%	56%

In question 11 respondents were asked to rate the adequacy of existing indoor recreation programs and activities in Adams, for particular demographic groups, the responses are indicated below. Respondents cited the lack of a comprehensive indoor recreation/community center in a central location as a significant need in the community, citing the need for structured programming, especially for youth and the elderly. A pool and a fitness facility were most requested.

Question 11				
Group	Yes	Somewhat	No	Don't Know
Children	15%	30%	22%	33%
Teens	4%	22%	44%	30%
Young Adults	9%	40%	21%	30%
Adults	4%	26%	41%	30%
Elderly	15%	19%	19%	48%
Disabled	4%	19%	15%	63%

Appendix A: Adams 2010 Open Space and Recreation Survey

Question 12 asked for input on the greatest inadequacy in Town recreational programs. The over-whelming response was the lack of indoor recreational facilities for youth and facilities for elderly and disabled. Respondents also identified maintenance to existing parks and facilities as needing improvement. Respondents were asked about their use of parks in the past year and which parks they visited. Most of those responding had visited at least one park in the past year. Typically they drive or walk to the parks and facilities most visited were Russell Field, Valley Street Field, Renfrew Park, and the Rail Trail. The availability of sports facilities, biking/walking trails, and the location of parks was identified as the primary reason residents visit local parks. Of note, concerns were raised regarding the lack of accessibility for the mobility impaired, lack of adequate supervision/policing/safety, and poor cleanliness in the recreational areas in Town.

The survey asked respondents to identify improvements for the parks they visit most often to encourage them to utilize parks and recreation spaces more often. Respondents indicated the addition of public restrooms, picnic areas, additional/improved seating, improved accessibility, appropriate supervision/policing, cleanliness, and the addition of a swimming pool, nature trails, basketball courts, and picnic facilities were most often identified. Respondents would like to see the addition of entertainment amenities such as concert facilities, a movie theater, hiking/ski trails, indoor/outdoor pools, picnic areas, ice skating, an indoor fitness gym with yoga/pilates, and improved access to the Hoosic River for fishing and passive recreation.

When asked if they would support a (1-3%) property tax increase to build a community center or youth center, 48% responded they would support the increase with 26% responding no, with 26% either not responding or responding they were unsure. Respondents were equally split on the question of whether the Town should have more spaces designated as "open spaces." Of 33% who were in support of increasing "open spaces," respondents were split on whether this should be accomplished through additional state-owned land or via private donations to assist with land acquisition. The majority (52%) of respondents would favor a Town initiative to protect farms, forests and scenic resources, with only 15% reporting they would oppose such an initiative.

There was support for a small (3%) tax increase to promote conservation of unprotected open spaces in Adams.

Respondents ranked community conservation issues, indicating that protecting water quality and drinking water supplies were their highest priorities. Additionally residents give high priority to making the Hoosic River more accessible, while balancing increased access with continued erosion and storm damage control.

The survey solicited feedback on development in the Town of Adams. A respondent were split on whether the current level of residential development was adequate or not,

Appendix A: Adams 2010 Open Space and Recreation Survey

with the majority believing it was adequate or could be improved, and wishing to see more “mixed development.” There is significant support (92%) for a mix of redevelopment of downtown mixed with suburban growth. The majority of respondents (63%) believe there is adequate available land for the Town’s future growth and development.

Condition	Poor	Satisfactory	Great
Conservation Efforts	0%	89%	11%
School Programs	15%	85%	0%
Recreation Facilities	12%	81%	7%
Park Accessibility	4%	78%	18%
Community Appearance	4%	78%	18%
Municipal/Government Services	15%	78%	7%
Quality/Condition of Parks	5%	77%	18
Recreational Programs	22%	74%	4%
School Facilities	34%	59%	7%
Cultural Resources	41%	52%	7%
Downtown Appearance	44%	44%	12%

Survey recipients were asked to provide a response to a question about their level of satisfaction with the following conditions in Town:

Respondents rated the school facilities, cultural resources, and overall appearance of downtown in need of improvement.

The survey requested general demographic information from respondents, 86% of the residents who responded have resided in Adams for 11+ years, 89% are homeowners, 38% have a child/children under the age of 18 residing in their home. Respondents reported their ages as 40- 69 (64%), 70+ (26%), 18-39 (10%). The majority (40%) of the respondents reported their 2009 household income being between \$35,000-49,999. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the respondents reported being employed full or part time.

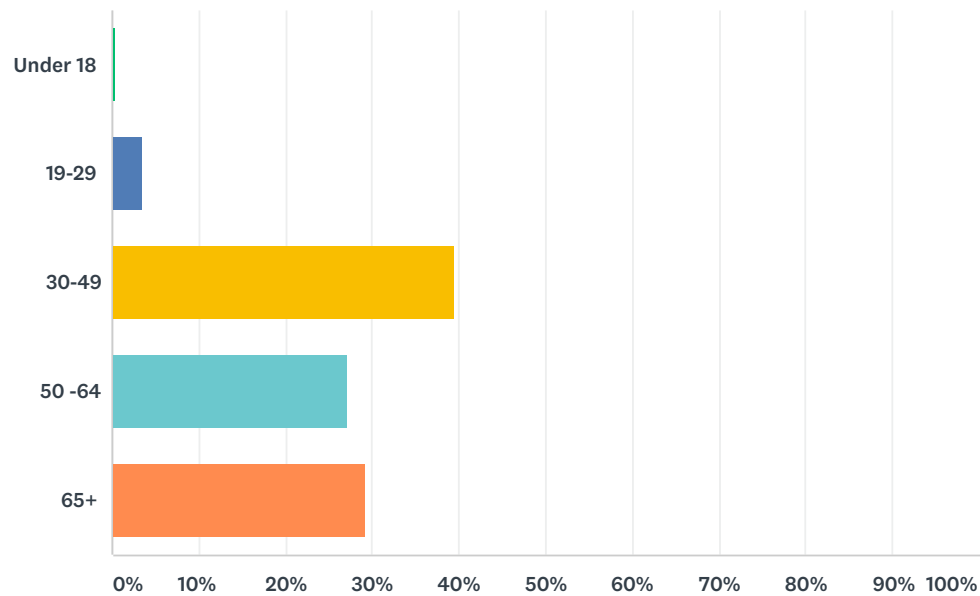
Appendix B: Adams 2019 Open Space and Recreation Survey

2019 Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey Results

In early 2019, the Adams Community Development Department began the process of updating the Town's existing "Open Space and Recreation Plan." The plan is a required component for state and federal grant applications related to the acquisition, development, maintenance and conservation of Town parks and open space. The plan also assists the Town in establishing priorities for improvements to its recreational facilities and open spaces. In updating the plan it is necessary to obtain input from Town residents. To this end, in May 2019, the Community Development Department conducted an electronic survey to assess the community perception of open space and recreation-related needs and efforts. The survey garnered 235 responses. The survey results are included below.

Q1 What is your age?

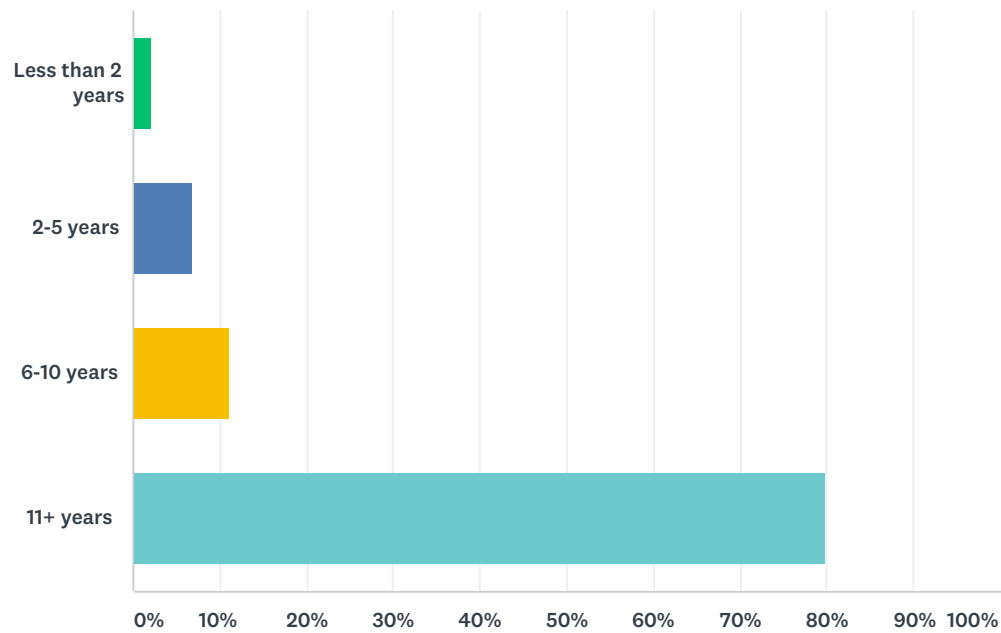
Answered: 228 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Under 18		0.44%	1
19-29		3.51%	8
30-49		39.47%	90
50 -64		27.19%	62
65+		29.39%	67
TOTAL			228

Q2 How long have you lived in Adams?

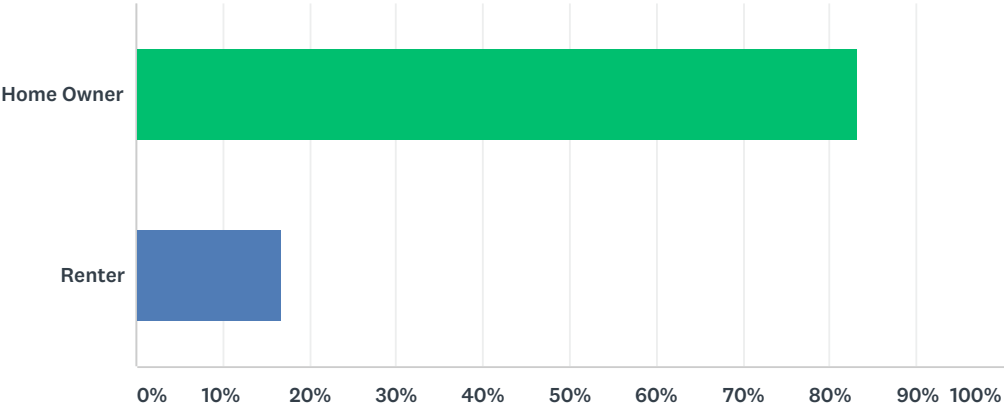
Answered: 233 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Less than 2 years		2.15%	5
2-5 years		6.87%	16
6-10 years		11.16%	26
11+ years		79.83%	186
TOTAL			233

Q3 Are you a?

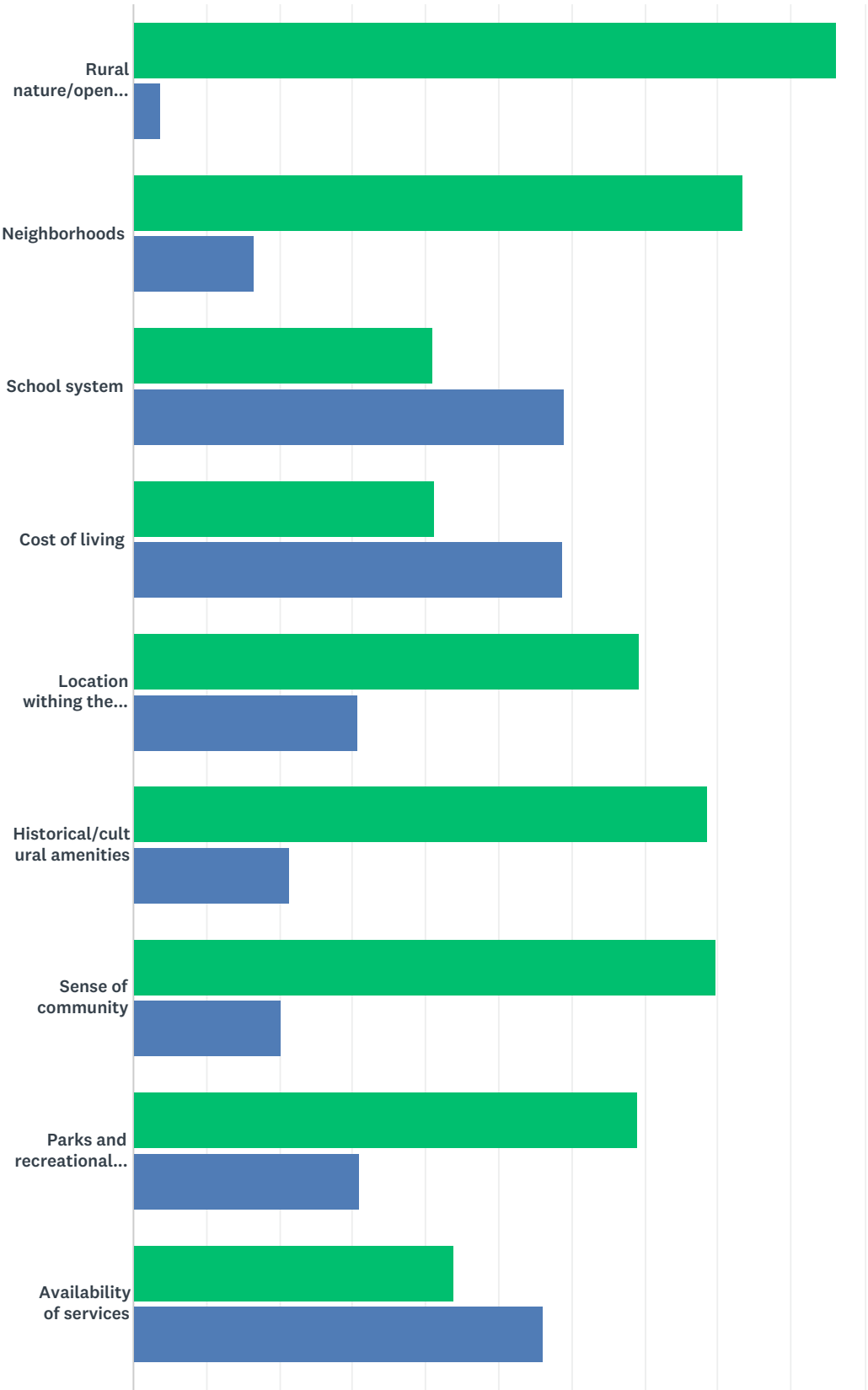
Answered: 234 Skipped: 1

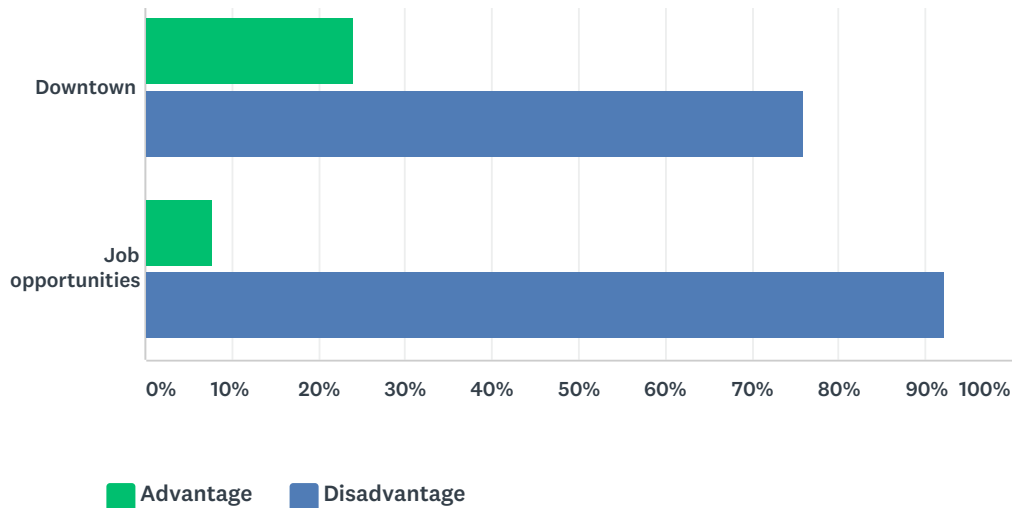


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Home Owner		83.33%	195
Renter		16.67%	39
TOTAL			234

Q4 What do you see as the advantages or disadvantages of living in Adams?

Answered: 235 Skipped: 0

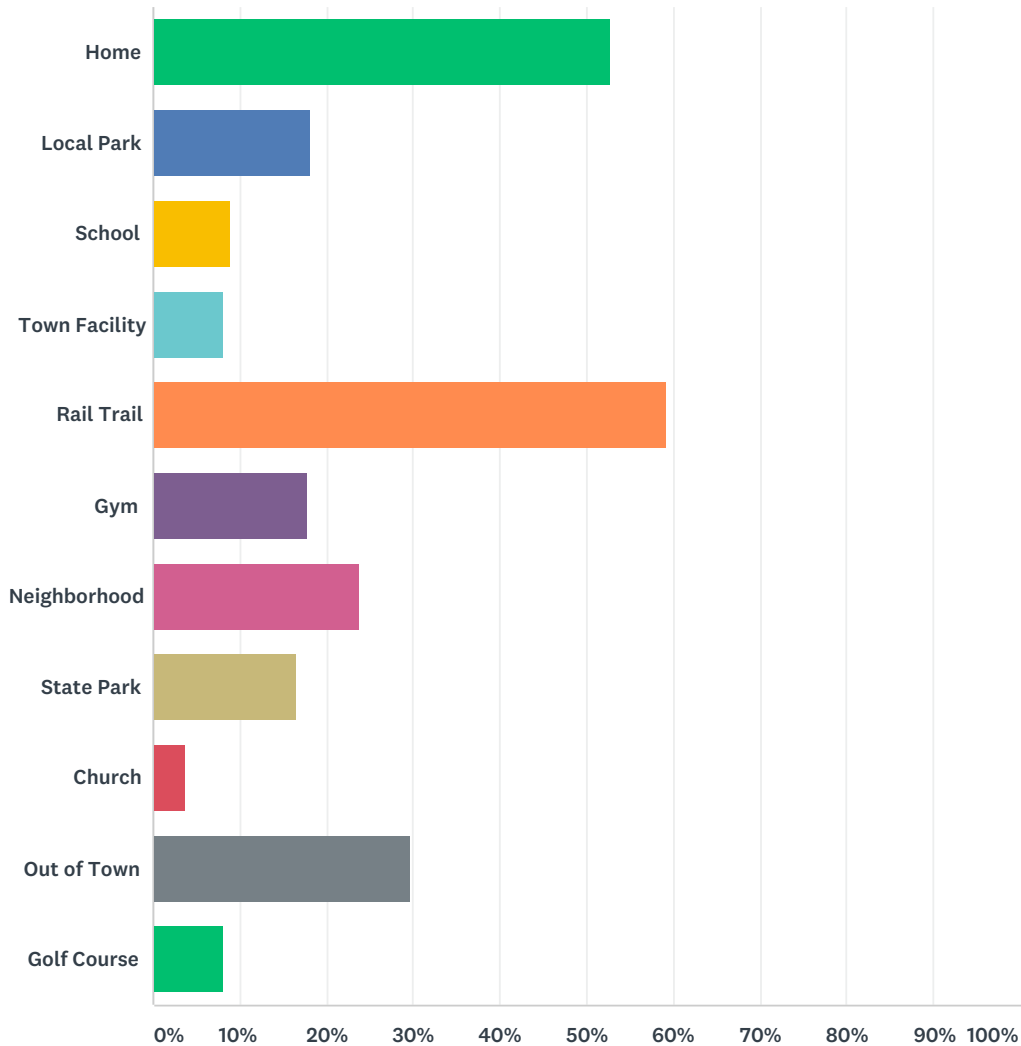




	ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE	TOTAL
Rural nature/open spaces	96.14% 224	3.86% 9	233
Neighborhoods	83.41% 186	16.59% 37	223
School system	41.10% 90	58.90% 129	219
Cost of living	41.18% 91	58.82% 130	221
Location withing the county	69.33% 156	30.67% 69	225
Historical/cultural amenities	78.57% 176	21.43% 48	224
Sense of community	79.74% 181	20.26% 46	227
Parks and recreational facilities	69.06% 154	30.94% 69	223
Availability of services	44.04% 96	55.96% 122	218
Downtown	23.98% 53	76.02% 168	221
Job opportunities	7.73% 17	92.27% 203	220

Q5 Where do MOST of your recreation and exercise activities take place?

Answered: 235 Skipped: 0

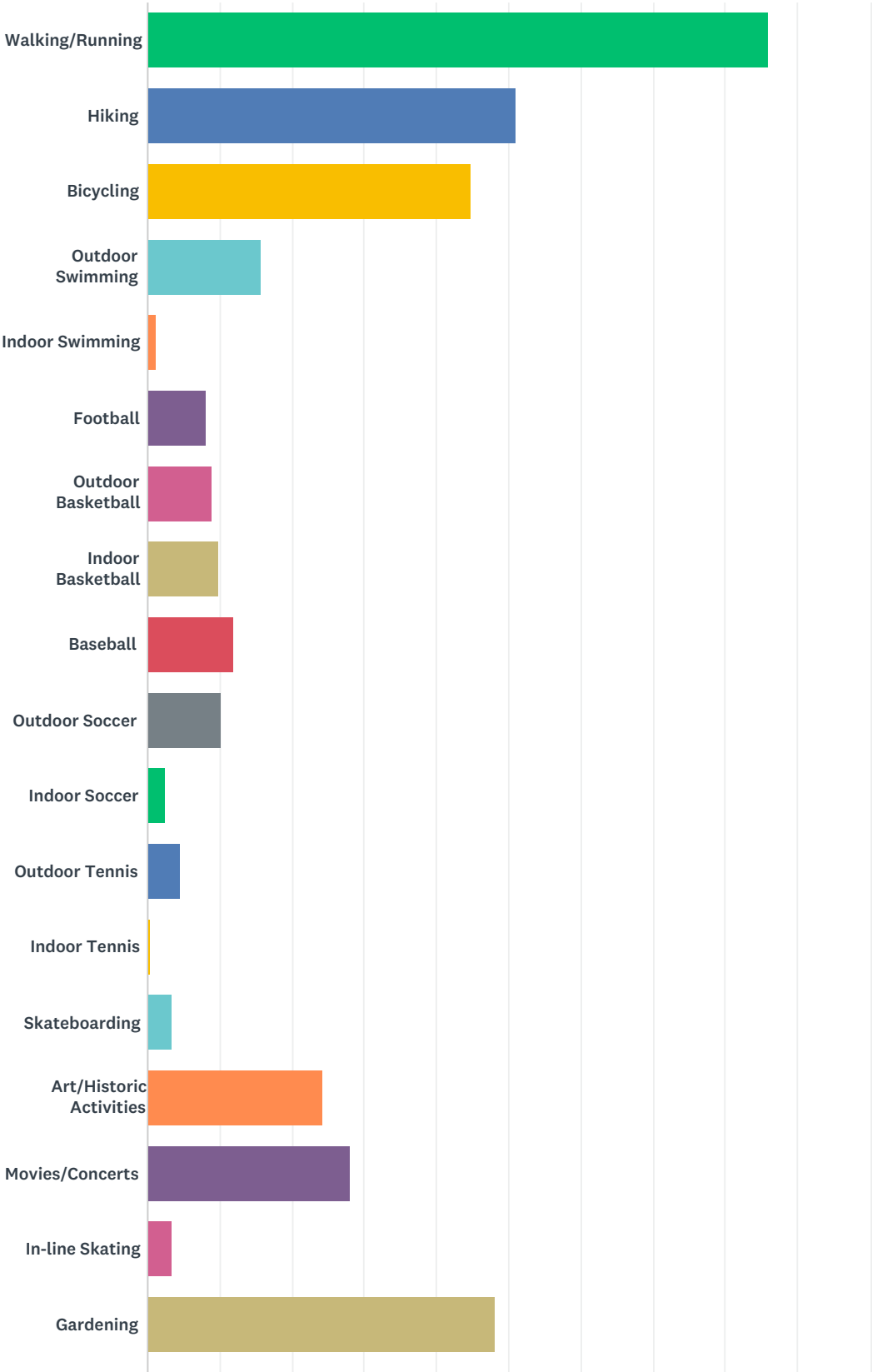


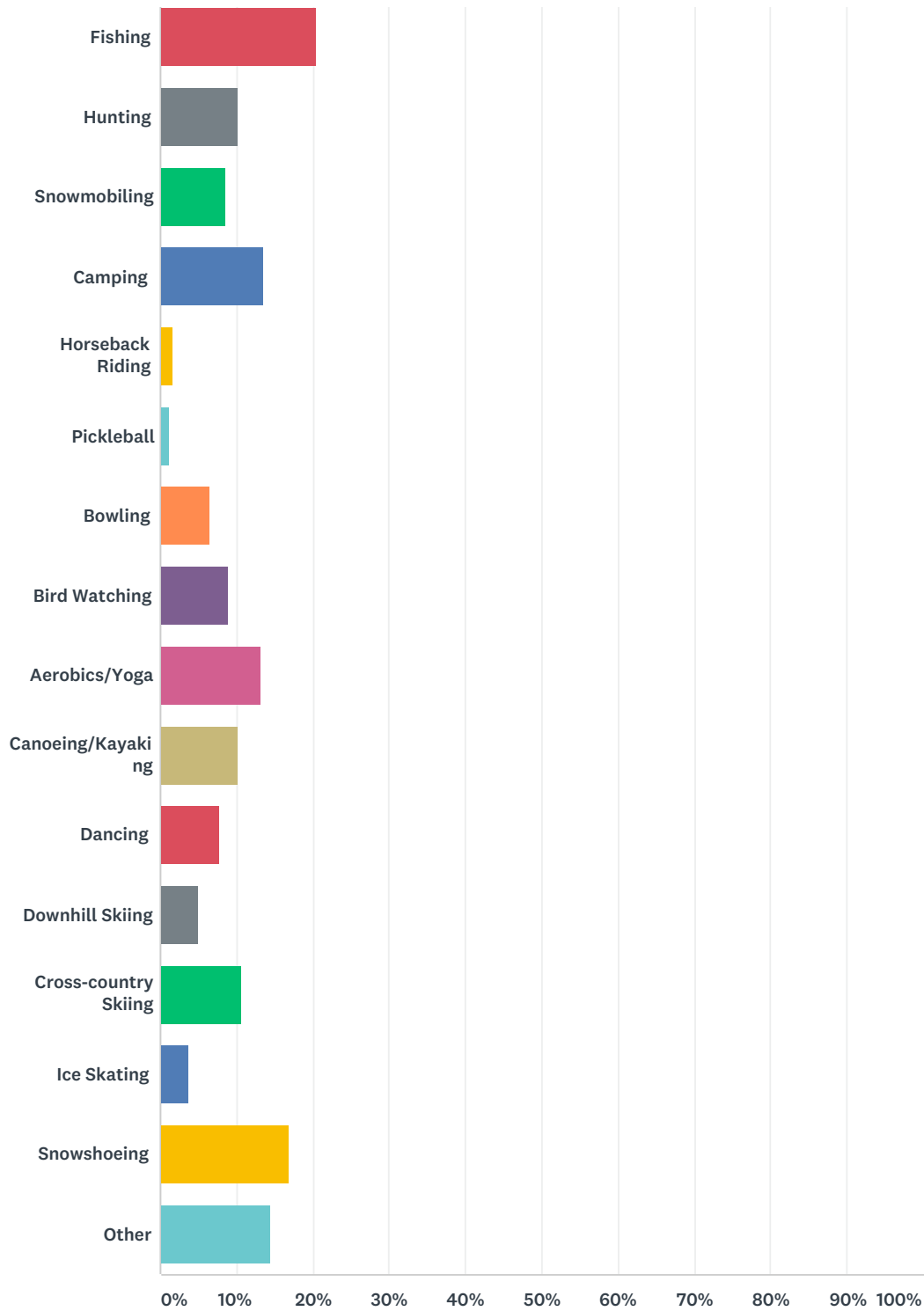
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Home	52.77%	124
Local Park	18.30%	43
School	8.94%	21
Town Facility	8.09%	19
Rail Trail	59.15%	139
Gym	17.87%	42
Neighborhood	23.83%	56
State Park	16.60%	39
Church	3.83%	9

Out of Town	29.79%	70
Golf Course	8.09%	19
Total Respondents: 235		

Q6 Which Recreation Activities do you or members of your household participate IN Adams

Answered: 235 Skipped: 0



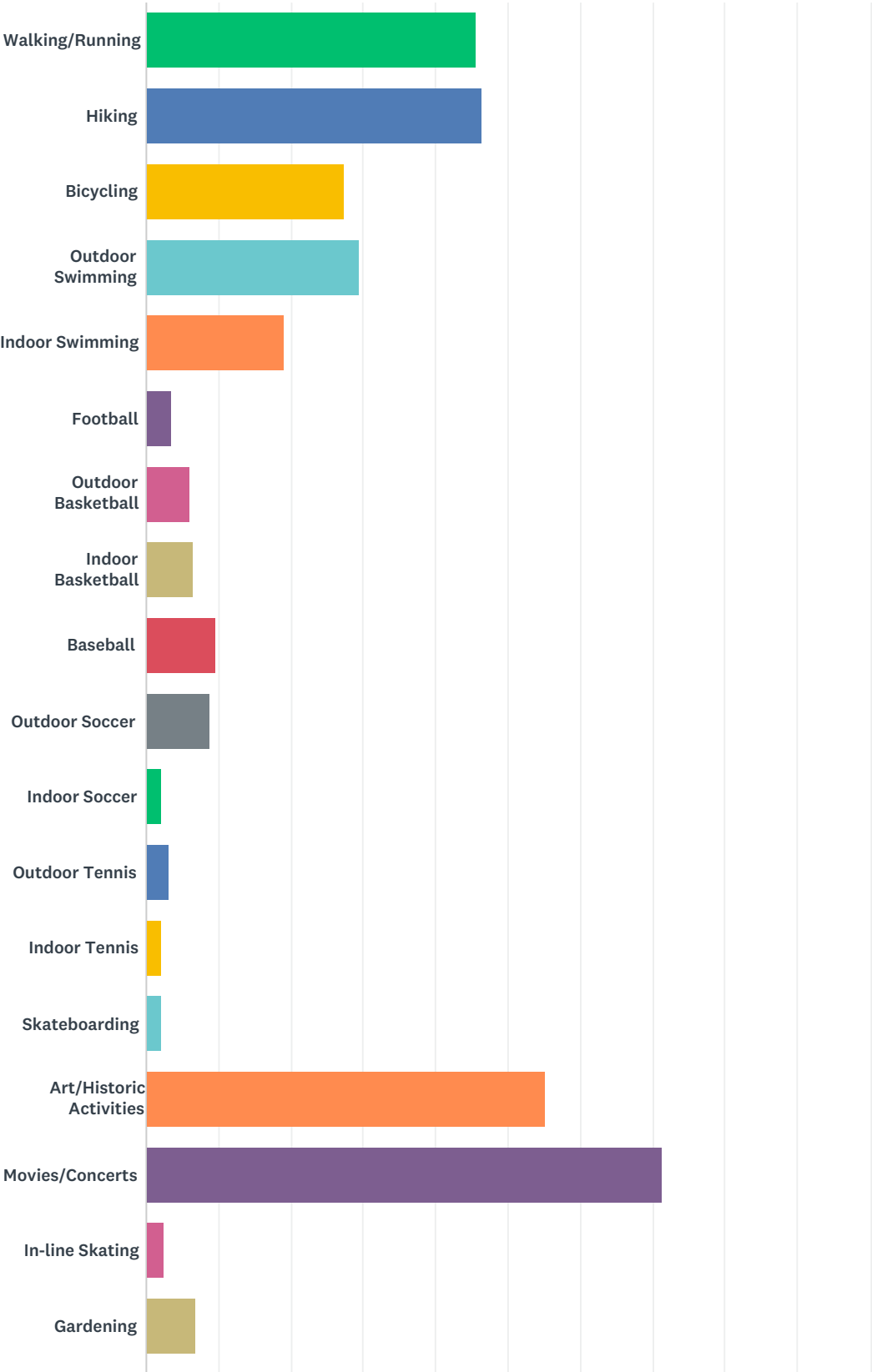


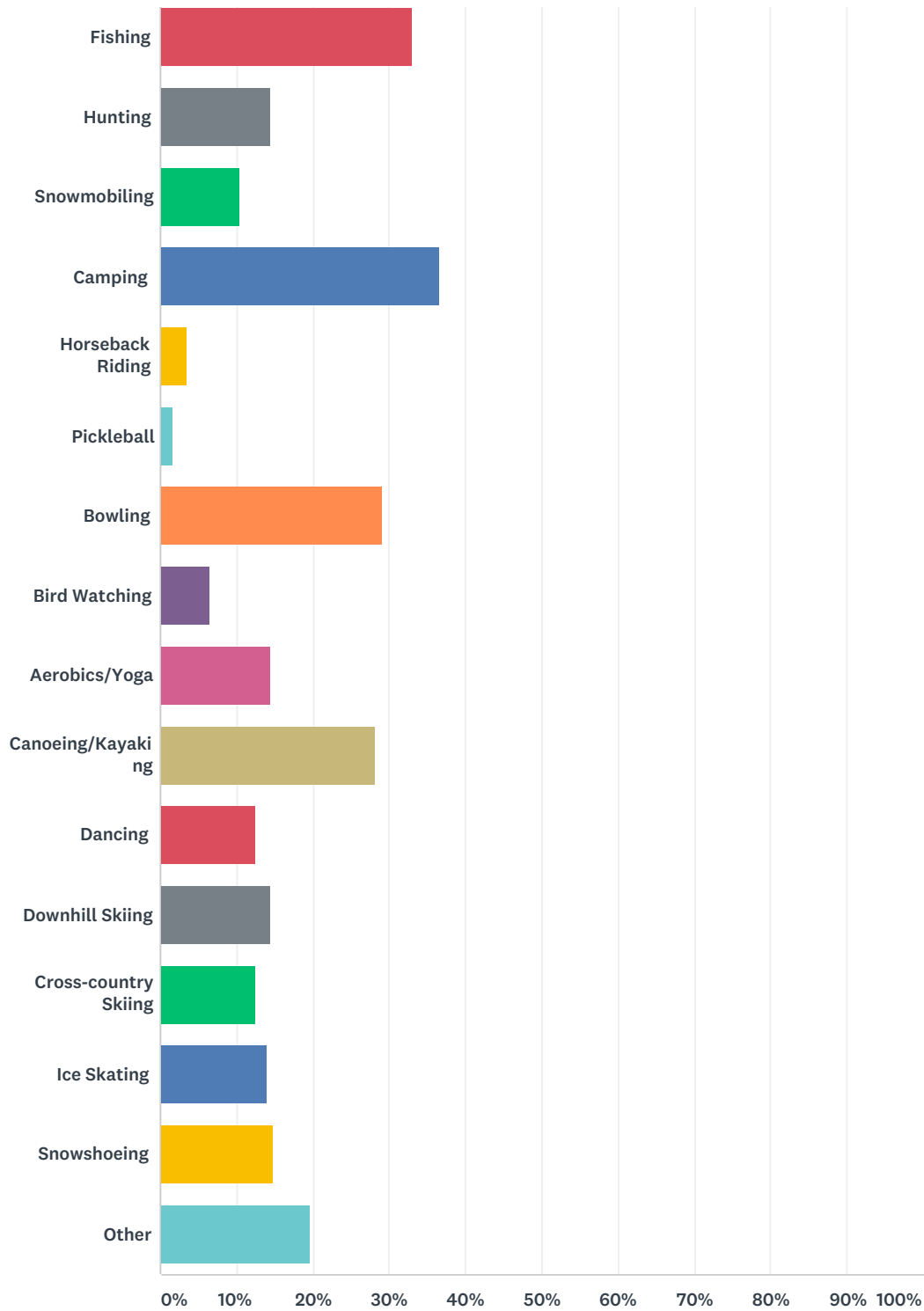
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking/Running	85.96%	202
Hiking	51.06%	120
Bicycling	44.68%	105
Outdoor Swimming	15.74%	37
Indoor Swimming	1.28%	3

Football	8.09%	19
Outdoor Basketball	8.94%	21
Indoor Basketball	9.79%	23
Baseball	11.91%	28
Outdoor Soccer	10.21%	24
Indoor Soccer	2.55%	6
Outdoor Tennis	4.68%	11
Indoor Tennis	0.43%	1
Skateboarding	3.40%	8
Art/Historic Activities	24.26%	57
Movies/Concerts	28.09%	66
In-line Skating	3.40%	8
Gardening	48.09%	113
Fishing	20.43%	48
Hunting	10.21%	24
Snowmobiling	8.51%	20
Camping	13.62%	32
Horseback Riding	1.70%	4
Pickleball	1.28%	3
Bowling	6.38%	15
Bird Watching	8.94%	21
Aerobics/Yoga	13.19%	31
Canoeing/Kayaking	10.21%	24
Dancing	7.66%	18
Downhill Skiing	5.11%	12
Cross-country Skiing	10.64%	25
Ice Skating	3.83%	9
Snowshoeing	17.02%	40
Other	14.47%	34
Total Respondents: 235		

Q7 Which Recreation Activities do you or members of your household participate OUTSIDE Adams

Answered: 230 Skipped: 5



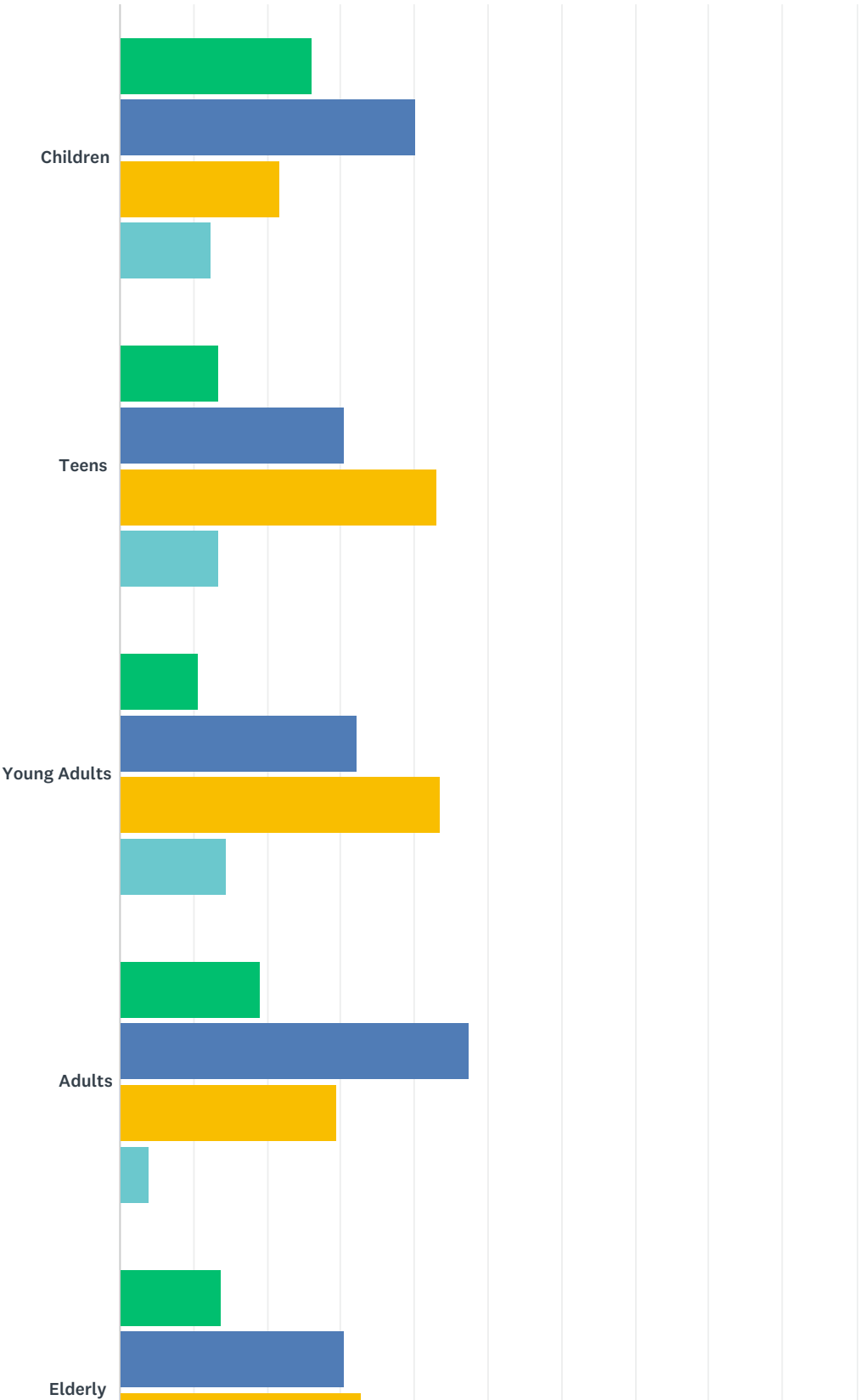


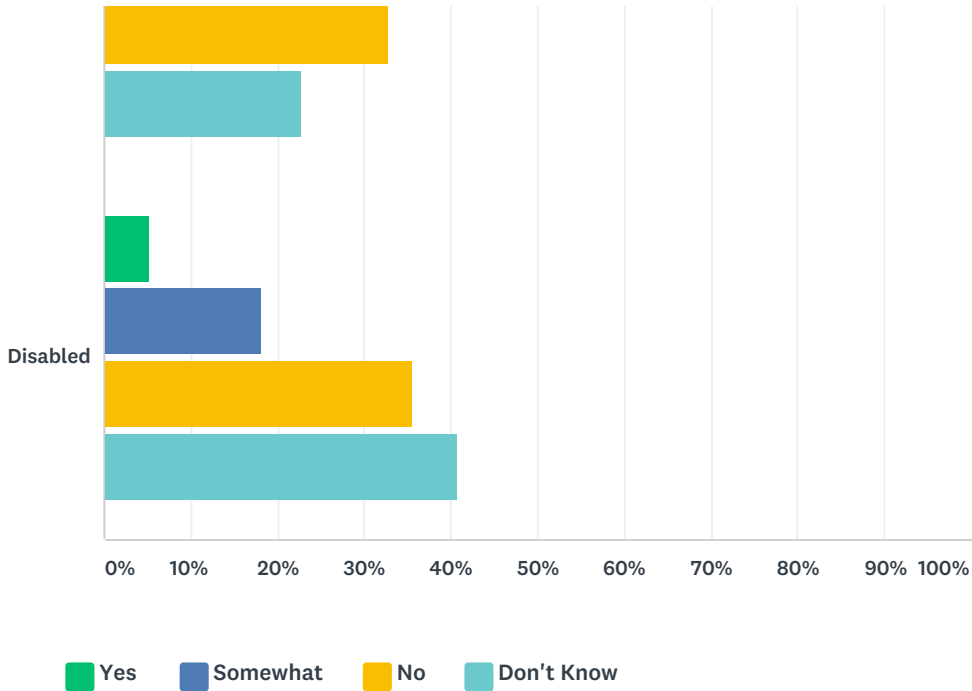
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking/Running	45.65%	105
Hiking	46.52%	107
Bicycling	27.39%	63
Outdoor Swimming	29.57%	68
Indoor Swimming	19.13%	44

Football	3.48%	8
Outdoor Basketball	6.09%	14
Indoor Basketball	6.52%	15
Baseball	9.57%	22
Outdoor Soccer	8.70%	20
Indoor Soccer	2.17%	5
Outdoor Tennis	3.04%	7
Indoor Tennis	2.17%	5
Skateboarding	2.17%	5
Art/Historic Activities	55.22%	127
Movies/Concerts	71.30%	164
In-line Skating	2.61%	6
Gardening	6.96%	16
Fishing	33.04%	76
Hunting	14.35%	33
Snowmobiling	10.43%	24
Camping	36.52%	84
Horseback Riding	3.48%	8
Pickleball	1.74%	4
Bowling	29.13%	67
Bird Watching	6.52%	15
Aerobics/Yoga	14.35%	33
Canoeing/Kayaking	28.26%	65
Dancing	12.61%	29
Downhill Skiing	14.35%	33
Cross-country Skiing	12.61%	29
Ice Skating	13.91%	32
Snowshoeing	14.78%	34
Other	19.57%	45
Total Respondents: 230		

Q8 Are existing Outdoor recreational programs and facilities in Adams adequate for the following age groups?

Answered: 232 Skipped: 3

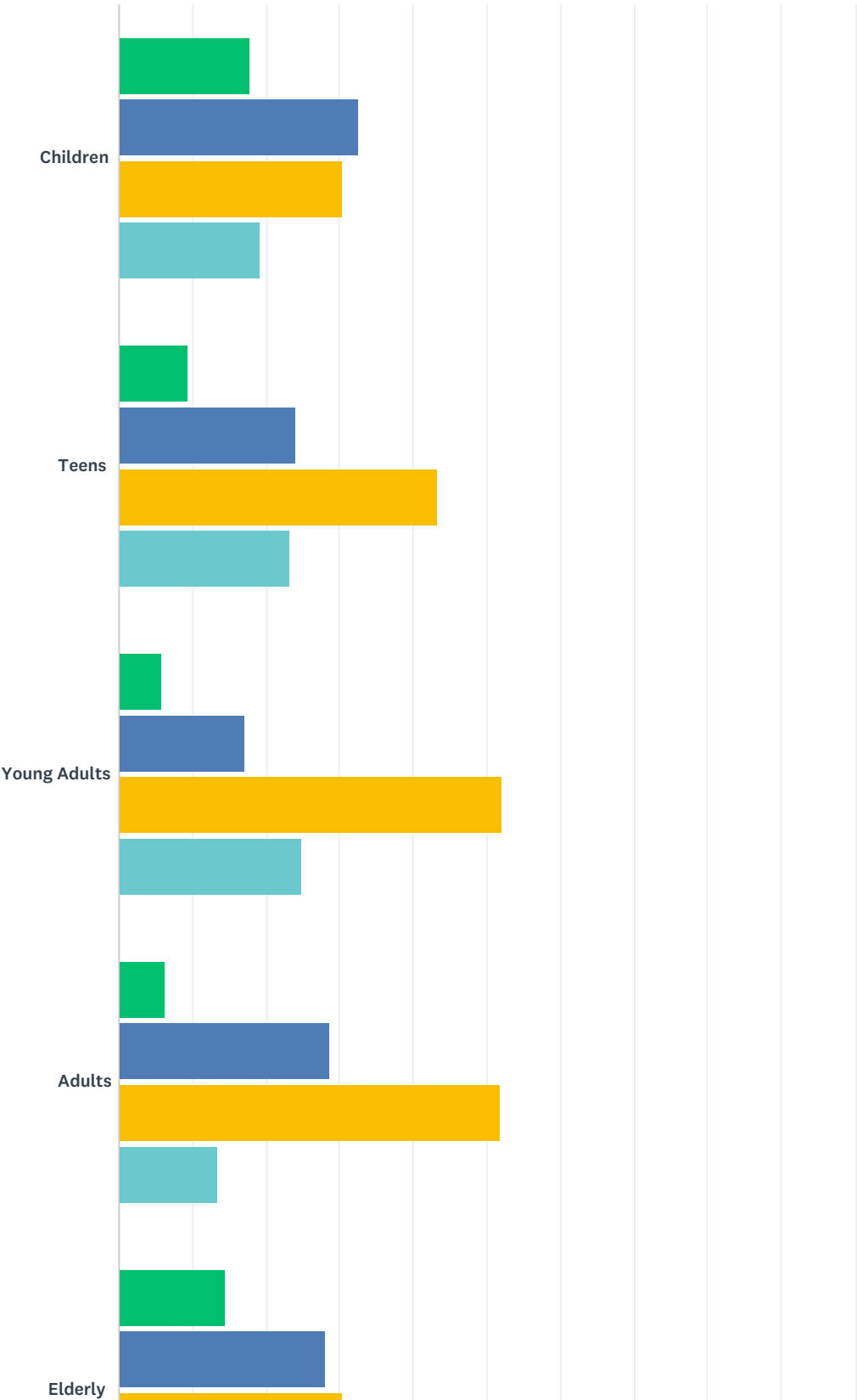


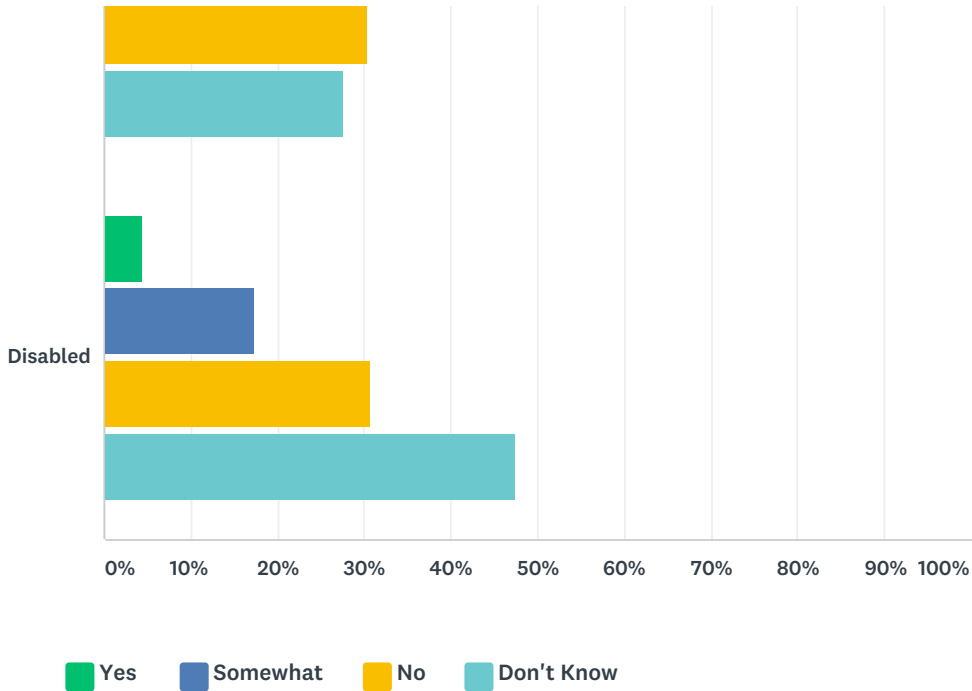


	YES	SOMEWHAT	NO	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Children	26.11% 59	40.27% 91	21.68% 49	12.39% 28	226
Teens	13.45% 30	30.49% 68	43.05% 96	13.45% 30	223
Young Adults	10.76% 24	32.29% 72	43.50% 97	14.35% 32	223
Adults	18.94% 43	47.58% 108	29.52% 67	3.96% 9	227
Elderly	13.79% 32	30.60% 71	32.76% 76	22.84% 53	232
Disabled	5.22% 12	18.26% 42	35.65% 82	40.87% 94	230

Q9 Are existing Indoor recreational programs and facilities in Adams adequate for the following age groups?

Answered: 229 Skipped: 6

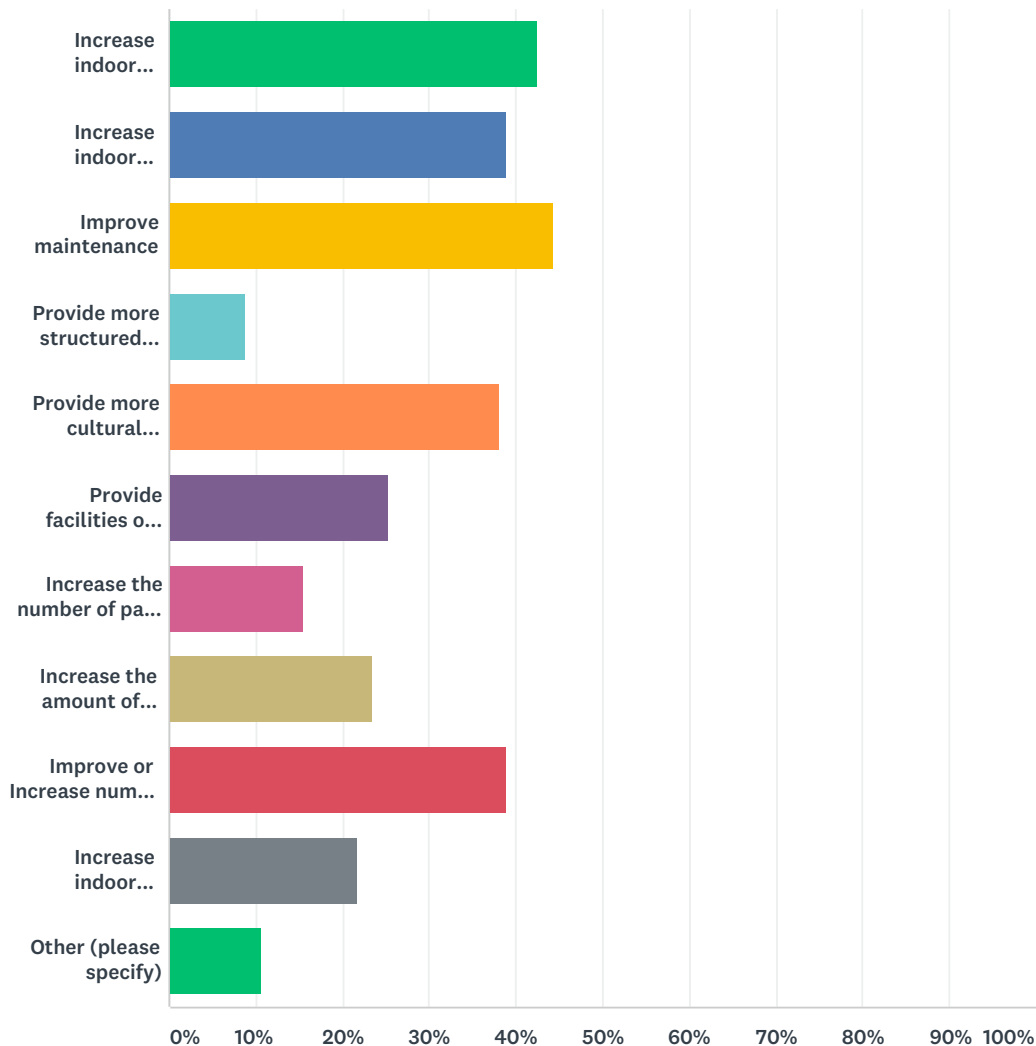




	YES	SOMEWHAT	NO	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Children	17.86% 40	32.59% 73	30.36% 68	19.20% 43	224
Teens	9.38% 21	24.11% 54	43.30% 97	23.21% 52	224
Young Adults	5.88% 13	17.19% 38	52.04% 115	24.89% 55	221
Adults	6.25% 14	28.57% 64	51.79% 116	13.39% 30	224
Elderly	14.47% 33	28.07% 64	30.26% 69	27.63% 63	228
Disabled	4.44% 10	17.33% 39	30.67% 69	47.56% 107	225

Q10 Please check the top THREE (3) areas in which the Town could improve open space and recreation facilities

Answered: 226 Skipped: 9

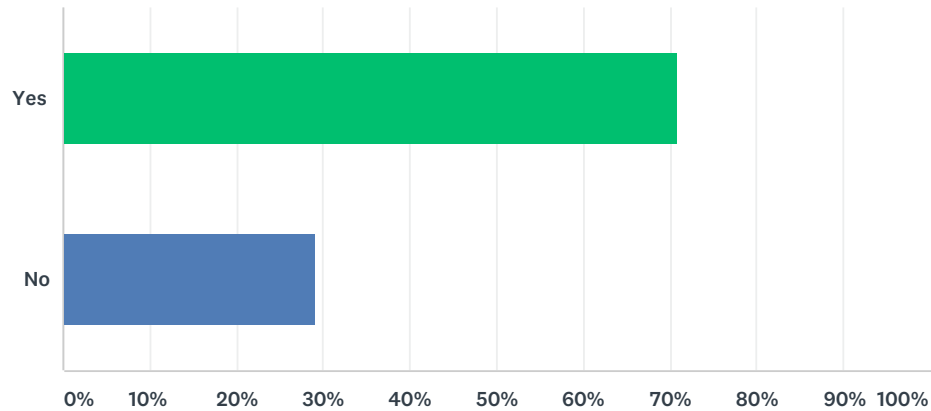


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increase indoor recreation opportunities for youth	42.48%	96
Increase indoor recreation opportunities for adults	38.94%	88
Improve maintenance	44.25%	100
Provide more structured athletic programs	8.85%	20
Provide more cultural programs	38.05%	86
Provide facilities or programs for elderly or disabled	25.22%	57
Increase the number of parks close to downtown	15.49%	35
Increase the amount of accessible open space near downtown (hiking, biking, skiing)	23.45%	53
Improve or Increase number of facilities within parks	38.94%	88

Increase indoor recreation opportunities for youth	21.68%	49
Other (please specify)	10.62%	24
Total Respondents: 226		

Q11 Can you walk or bike to your preferred park or open space?

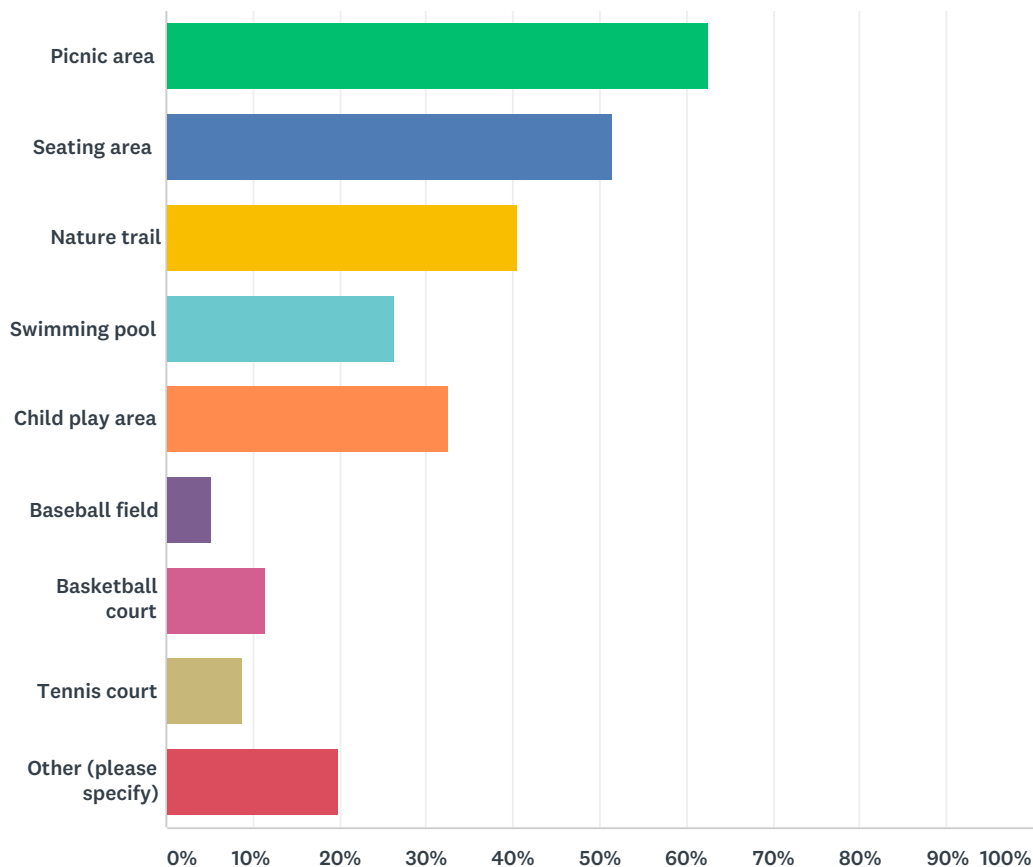
Answered: 231 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		71.00%	164
No		29.00%	67
TOTAL			231

Q12 What features would you like to see in the park most convenient to you to make it more attractive to visit?

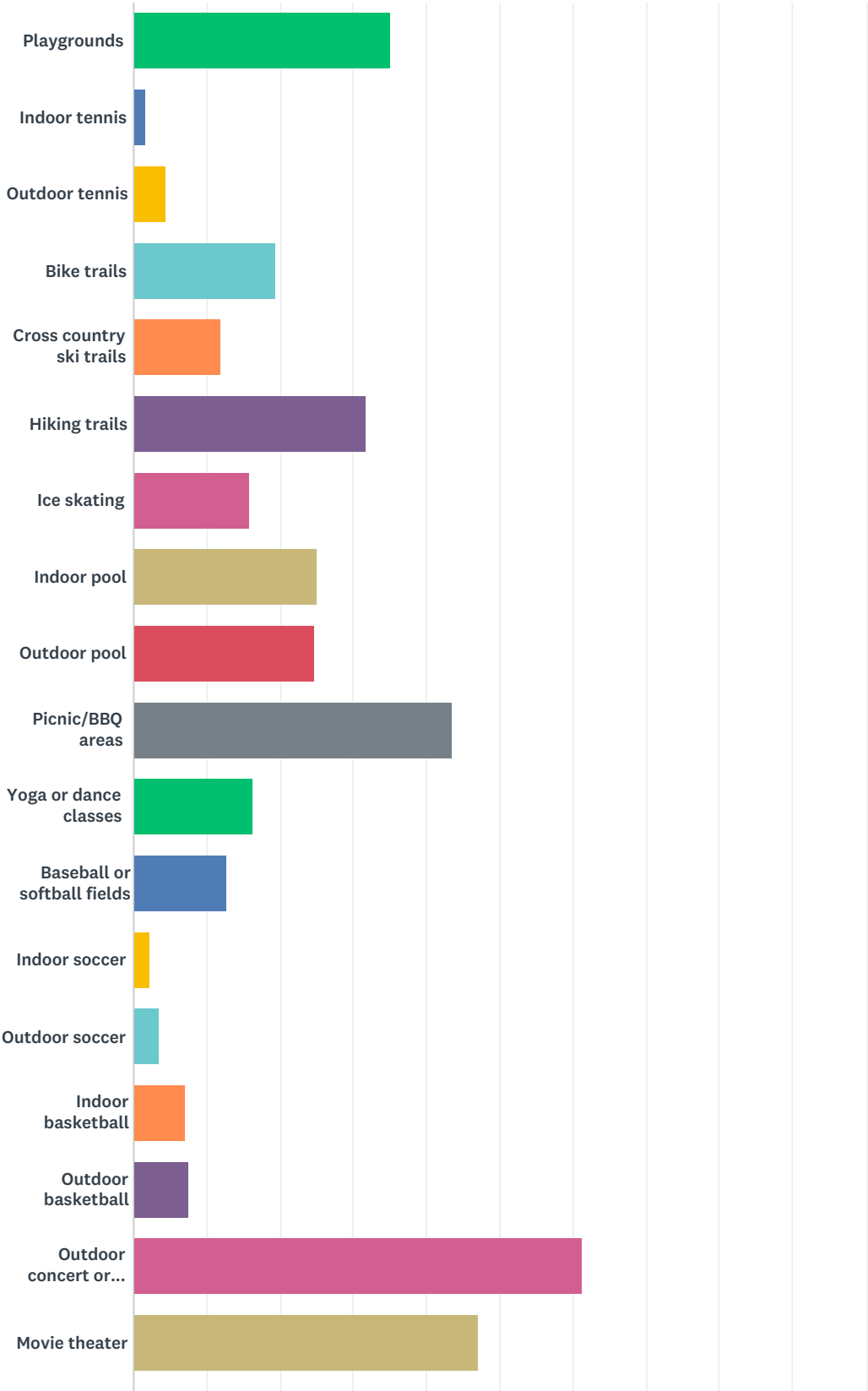
Answered: 227 Skipped: 8

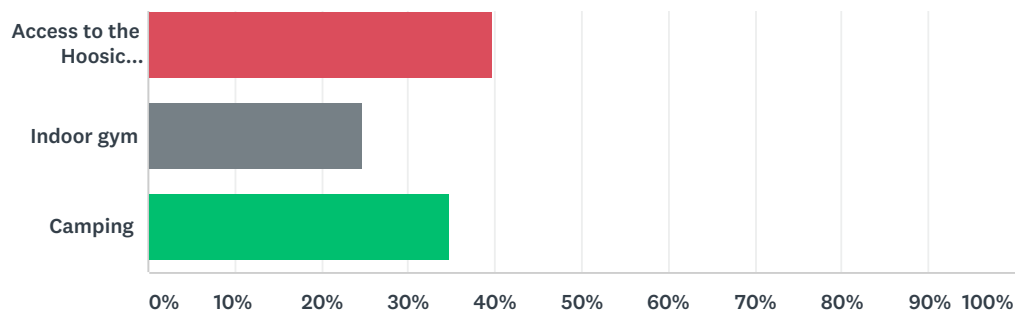


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Picnic area	62.56%	142
Seating area	51.54%	117
Nature trail	40.53%	92
Swimming pool	26.43%	60
Child play area	32.60%	74
Baseball field	5.29%	12
Basketball court	11.45%	26
Tennis court	8.81%	20
Other (please specify)	19.82%	45
Total Respondents: 227		

Q13 Check FIVE (5) recreational activities/facilities you would like to see developed or expanded in Adams.

Answered: 227 Skipped: 8

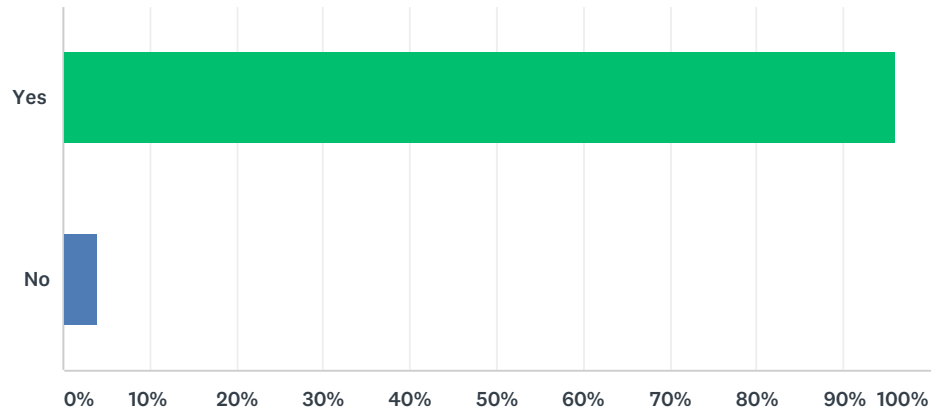




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Playgrounds	35.24%	80
Indoor tennis	1.76%	4
Outdoor tennis	4.41%	10
Bike trails	19.38%	44
Cross country ski trails	11.89%	27
Hiking trails	31.72%	72
Ice skating	15.86%	36
Indoor pool	25.11%	57
Outdoor pool	24.67%	56
Picnic/BBQ areas	43.61%	99
Yoga or dance classes	16.30%	37
Baseball or softball fields	12.78%	29
Indoor soccer	2.20%	5
Outdoor soccer	3.52%	8
Indoor basketball	7.05%	16
Outdoor basketball	7.49%	17
Outdoor concert or event facilities	61.23%	139
Movie theater	47.14%	107
Access to the Hoosic River/canoe or kayak ramp	39.65%	90
Indoor gym	24.67%	56
Camping	34.80%	79
Total Respondents: 227		

Q14 Would you support a Town effort to protect farms, forests and other scenic and natural resources?

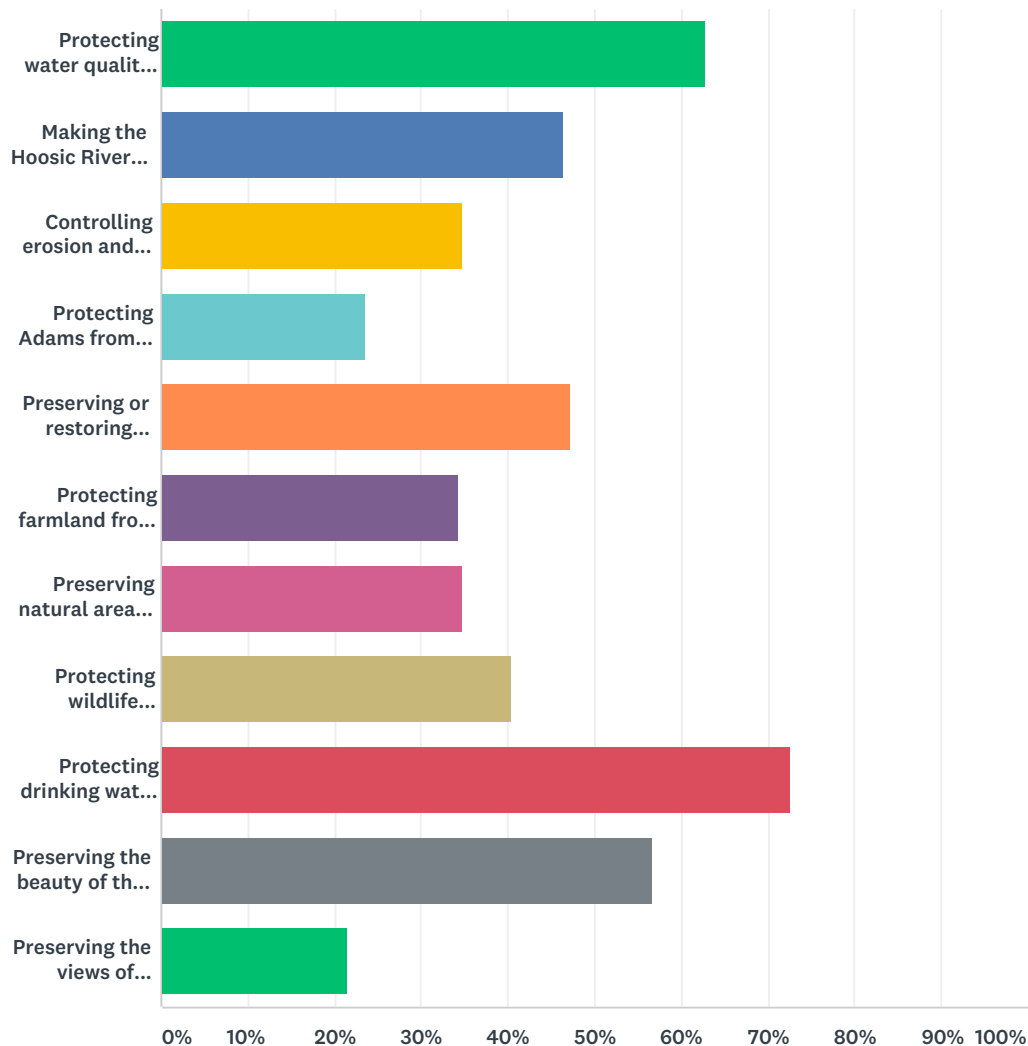
Answered: 229 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		96.07%	220
No		3.93%	9
Total Respondents: 229			

Q15 Please check the top FIVE (5) conservation issues most important to you.

Answered: 233 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Protecting water quality of streams and rivers	62.66%	146
Making the Hoosic River more accessible for recreation activities such as boating, fishing and picnicing	46.35%	108
Controlling erosion and effects of storm damage	34.76%	81
Protecting Adams from impacts due to climate change	23.61%	55
Preserving or restoring historic buildings	47.21%	110
Protecting farmland from development	34.33%	80
Preserving natural areas and open space from development	34.76%	81
Protecting wildlife habitat	40.34%	94
Protecting drinking water supplies	72.53%	169

Preserving the beauty of the natural landscape in Adams	56.65%	132
Preserving the views of ridge-lines	21.46%	50
Total Respondents: 233		

Appendix C: Letters of Review

In June 2019, the Adams Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Parks Commission, and Conservation Commission reviewed the contents of the *2019 Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan* with members of the Adams Community Development Department at respective public meetings. All boards and commissions that reviewed the plan update provided comments and letters of review that are included in the following pages.

In addition, the Adams Town Administrator and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided comments and letters of review that are also included in the following pages.



Town of Adams • Massachusetts 01220-2053

OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL
8 Park Street
Tel. (413) 743-8300 x170
Fax (413) 743-8316

July 1, 2019

Ms. Donna E. Cesan, Director
Community Development Department
Town of Adams
8 Park Street
Adams, MA 01220

RE: 2019 Adams Open Space & Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cesan:

Thank you for presenting the updated 2019 Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan to the Board of Selectmen on June 26th, as well as the results from the survey conducted to inform the plan. The 2019 Open Space Plan reflects the needs of our community and sets ambitious goals for our future.

Ongoing projects like the renovation of Russell Field, Town Common and the Hoosac Valley Coal and Grain park will provide more local and accessible recreation opportunities, more picnic areas and playgrounds, all items identified as priorities in the survey. Ambitious projects like the Greylock Glen Nature Center and the extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail will help Adams become a destination for outdoor recreation. As Adams moves towards becoming a more environmentally and economically sustainable community, it is important to be able to identify and prioritize the goals and objectives that will help achieve a bright future for Adams and the Northern Berkshire region.

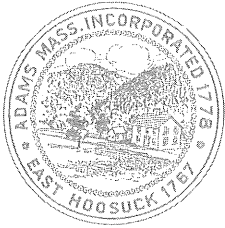
The Adams Board of Selectmen supports the 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan and believes it will help guide the Town's future decisions regarding its valuable open space resources and create quality recreational opportunities for all of its citizens.

Sincerely,

Christine Hoyt
Chairman



"Home of Mt. Greylock"



Town of Adams • Massachusetts 01220-2090

OFFICE OF THE PLANNING BOARD

Under Chapt. 41A Act. 1936 Sec. 81 A-J

TOWN HALL

8 Park Street - 3rd Floor

Tel. (413) 743-8315

Fax (413) 743-8309

Ms. Donna E. Cesan, Director
Community Development Department
Town of Adams
8 Park Street
Adams, MA 01220

RE: Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan 2019 Update

June 17th, 2019

Dear Ms. Cesan:

The Planning Board has reviewed the proposed 2019 Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan. Many of the recommendations in the five year action plan are relevant to the Planning Board, as stewards of the Town's unique character and sense of community:

Protecting the Town's historic and cultural resources while enhancing the identity and character of existing neighborhoods and parks within Adams, is key to maintaining the identity of the Town and encouraging responsible economic development;

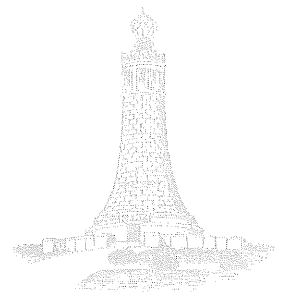
The renovation of well-utilized Town recreational facilities like Russell Field, to make them accessible to all residents and visitors, coupled with efforts to develop new indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities, will be an important part of the ongoing revitalization of Adams;

The Town's ongoing efforts to develop the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center project will provide economic benefits while preserving the natural beauty of the Greylock Glen for future generations.

The Planning Board officially endorses the 2019 Open Space & Recreation Plan and recommends that the plan be submitted to the Commonwealth's Division of Conservation Services for approval.

Sincerely,

David Rhinemiller
Chairman





Town of Adams • Massachusetts 01220-2012

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN HALL
8 Park Street
TEL. (413) 743-8330
FAX (413) 743-8309

July 1, 2019

Ms. Donna E. Cesan, Director
Community Development Department
Town of Adams
8 Park Street
Adams, MA 01220

Dear Ms. Cesan:

The Conservation Commission has reviewed the proposed 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Many of the recommendations in the updated five year action plan are relevant to the Conservation Commission and we appreciate the opportunity to review the plan and give feedback.

Protecting the Town's existing natural resources is the Conservation Commission's priority. The identification and prioritization of key parcels for acquisition and protection will help us preserve lands for conservation, recreation, watershed protection and agriculture. These efforts help preserve natural areas for future generations and are important elements to a healthy economy.

The Town's purposed Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center project will preserve the natural beauty of the Greylock Glen and educate our community about the importance of sound environmental stewardship.

The Planning Board supports the Adams 2019 Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,


James Fassell
Chairman

"Home of Mt. Greylock"





Town of Adams • Massachusetts 01220

Parks Commission

TOWN HALL
8 PARK STREET – SUITE 203
TEL. (413) 743-8300 ext. 122
FAX (413) 743-8316

June 27, 2019

Ms. Donna E. Cesan, Director
Community Development Department
Town of Adams
8 Park Street
Adams, MA 01220

Dear Ms. Cesan:

Thank you for sharing the draft 2019 Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan with the Parks Commission. It is encouraging to see the great efforts the Town is making to expand and improve our parks with projects like the renovation of Russell Field and Town Common and the continued progress on the development of Greylock Glen. The plan will help guide the Town's future decisions to preserve and manage our natural areas.

The Parks Commission is dedicated to promoting robust use of our parks and playing fields. The Commission believes the 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan will help Adams expand opportunities for everyone in our community to access open space and recreational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Scott Cernik
Chairman
Adams Parks Commission



Town of Adams • Massachusetts 01220

JAY R. GREEN
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TOWN HALL
8 Park Street
Tel. (413) 743-8300 x170
Fax (413) 743-8316
jgreen@town.adams.ma.us

July 1, 2019

Ms. Donna E. Cesan, Director
Community Development Department
Town of Adams
8 Park Street
Adams, MA 01220

Dear Ms. Cesan:

Thank you for preparing the updated Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan. It is critical to the future of Adams that we plan comprehensively to create access to recreational opportunities for all our citizens and to protect and care for sensitive environmental areas. These efforts are critical to the well-being of our residents and the health and sustainability of our town.

The 2019 Open space and Recreation Plan lays out detailed goals and strategies for: the management of our existing parks and opens spaces; to increase access to facilities and programs for all generations and populations; to support economic growth; and to preserve and expand natural and historic resources.

I fully support the Adams 2019 Opens Space and Recreation Plan and recommend submission to the State for approval. This plan will help lead Adams towards a bright and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Jay R. Green
Town Administrator

"Home of Mt. Greylock"

