



# NORTH ADAMS

## Open Space & Recreation Plan

City of North Adams, Massachusetts

October 2023

Prepared by the City's Office of Community Development



*City's first-ever skateboard/bmx park and splash park, both of which were built with PARC funds built in 2018 and 2019 with complementing funds from the federal CDBG program respectively*

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## DEDICATION



The City of North Adams 2023 Open Space & Recreation Plan is dedicated to the memory of local resident, Stephen A. Green, who passed on September 12, 2023. Steve was serving on the plan's oversight committee while the work upon the plan renewal was underway, and his contribution to the plan was instrumental for its completion.

Steve worked a storied career as a professor of sociology at the local Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (formerly North Adams State College), for 36 years! He served as the chair of the sociology department that included various administrative roles during his tenure, as well as the Vice President of Academic Affairs. He was a mentor to many a student, as well as a huge supporter of college athletics.

Given his dedication and commitment to both student and community, it was not a surprise to see Steve's participation in other civic roles. His study of sociology, after accomplishing his PhD from the City University of New York in 1978, sparked his interest in how communities could better themselves and rebound from challenged times. When there was significant job loss of about 3,000 workers with the closure of the once renowned Sprague Electric Company in 1982, Steve was instrumental in bolstering the creation of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition (nbCC). A coalition of various community agencies was sorely needed given the quick and substantial job loss, as workers needed assistance across many fronts. Although the agency was envisioned to be temporary, it has survived to this day! He went on to serve on the nbCC board for many years.

In 1979, Steve was appointed by former Mayor Richard Lamb to serve on the HUD Funding Advisory Panel, that was later transformed into the Community & Economic Development Advisory Board (CEDAB), with him being the CEDAB appointee to this project's oversight committee. Steve served on CEDAB under six different mayors, which is true testimony for his love of community service. He was also instrumental in the identification of other local and area social services needs, as well as his ideas for shaping local policy in the quest to secure various grant sources to invest into the community. He was also the champion for the support of local social service agencies, and his efforts led to twelve consecutive years in the securing of federal Community Development Block Grant funds that provided financial assistance for a wide variety of agencies. He also participated in the city's first comprehensive master plan since 1972, North Adams Vision 2030, that was adopted by local government in May 2014. Steve also participated in every renewal of the local Open Space & Recreation Plan.

He was a great friend and an unmatched supporter of local government, and clearly demonstrated what local government can accomplish to improve the quality of life. I will miss our many conversations, which always seem to include the British Premiere Soccer League.

*Michael F. Nuwallie*

Director OCD

## SECTION 1 - PLAN SUMMARY

An Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) is a key planning tool that can effectuate and bolster quality development for those municipalities that can successfully harness it. Vibrant and quality neighborhood parks, recreational venues with complementing amenities, passive and conservational spaces, all with a keen eye towards the integration of animal habitats, plants, landscapes are the essence of such a plan. In turn, a quality plan will then help to define and specify the overall goals and objectives that will assist local government and its citizens in the identification and assessment of all open spaces and recreational areas. For more than forty years, the residents of the community have continued to promote and maintain this mission.

Professional staff within the local Office of Community Development (OCD) once again spearheaded the major updating that led to this revised OSRP that will continue to serve for the next seven years. This work was also assisted by a representative steering committee, along with the assistance of an extremely successful community survey. These recreation and open space surveys, which were distributed to every North Adams household via the annual 2021 local *City Census*, put forth the needed questions in which to assemble identified aspects of the plan that are a concern to residents. Additionally, in 2014, the local government adopted its first comprehensive master plan in over forty years-*North Adams Vision 2030*. The new master plan along with its public participatory process stressed the importance of the existing and eventual improvement of the open space system. Concurrently at that time, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission prepared its *Sustainable Berkshires*, a comprehensive regional land use plan, which had recreation and open space goals in synch with the *Vision 2030*. Various local boards and commissions also assisted in the revision of the plan through the identification and prioritization of various community and environmental concerns relating to their respective fields of interest. It was important for these various plans to emphasize common goals and objectives with the open space discussion.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through its Division of Conservation Services, requires municipalities to have an approved plan on file with the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs in order to access grant funding. As a leading planning document, this is a required precursor in order to access certain federal and state funding sources relating to the development and improvement of open spaces. These grant sources offer major funded projects a viable chance to be developed. Without them, there is high likelihood they would not be built. This can be evidenced by local government with its recent installations of its first-ever skateboard park and splash pad from 2017-2019 at the Noel Field Athletic Complex. The City's on-file and approved OSRP allowed this opportunity to happen with about \$1.094 M in secured grant funds!



Even in the absence of state mandates linked to various funding sources, North Adams needs to keep this momentum going, and has sustained quality OSRPs since 1979. With the expiration of its current plan in February 2022, local government had forged ahead with this new plan, which has encompassed:

- an inventory of all protected and unprotected open spaces and recreational areas

- the involvement of government agencies in the protection and promotion of the community's open spaces and recreational areas
- goals and objectives toward improving the community's open spaces and recreational areas
- a new *Seven-Year Action Plan* for recommended development and preservation opportunities

## SECTION 2 - INTRODUCTION

### A. Statement of Purpose

The City of North Adams first discussed open space issues as a formal topic back in 1972. At that time, North Adams had developed a comprehensive master plan, which included a small piece on conservation and recreational issues. This served as a foundation to the first-ever *Open Space Plan* that was formally created in 1979. This was essentially the city's first effort in the final development of a quality planning tool that could be effectively utilized at the local level. The initial plan was good for a five-year period as recognized by the State Division of Conservation Services (DCS), which was valid through 1983. The plan was poised to go through its first revision in early 1984, and although a revised draft was completed over the next few years, a new revision was not completed. The city was informed by DCS in January 1988 that its initial plan was no longer valid, and that a new one had to be done pursuant to their new *Open Space and Recreation Plan* requirements. A major plan revision was conducted and accepted in 1988 by DCS. Additional major document updates were also successfully done in 1994, 2001 and 2006, with all renewals being valid for a five-year period. The 2006 plan, however, received a small two-year extension due to the submission of updated materials at that time. This additional approval expired in September of 2014, thereby bringing North Adams to a full renewal submission in January 2015. Similarly, the 2015 plan was approved for five years and was allowed a two-year extension to February 2022.

Data from the previous plans are typically utilized and updated in order to maintain accuracy. The goals and objectives, along with the five-year action plan as set forth in 2015, are also required to be updated. This 2022 plan will mark the seventh time the plan will have gone through a major undertaking—its initial establishment along with its previous major updates. It is anticipated that this plan will be valid for a seven-year term once approved by DCS.

The 2001 plan incorporated current technology that gave the plan a more professional look and comprehensive style. Used for the first time in any of the plan updates, digital photographs of the inventoried open space and recreational areas were taken for the majority of sites. This was done to give the reader an opportunity to at least partially view what the respective area being presented looked like. This digital technology allowed local government to better archive the entire planning document for both current and future use. The current plan renewal has continued the successful use of this digital photographic process, and incorporated the use of new, colorized and digitized maps. The use of new technologies is always being looked to wherever possible to produce improved planning documents. This 2022 plan has also benefited from extensive public outreach during the recently approved comprehensive plan, and increased use of mapping as well as other technology.

## B. Planning Process and Public Participation

Similar to prior years, the 2022 OSRP renewal was led and prepared by professional staff within the city's Office of Community Development (OCD). Michael F. Nuvallie, Director, coordinated the overall effort and carried out many renewal tasks, the bulk of which were the implementation, collection and analysis of the open space community survey. A small steering committee was formed out of a larger Open Space Plan Advisory Committee that was approved by the mayor. A complete list of contributing municipal boards and commissions can be found in Section 10.

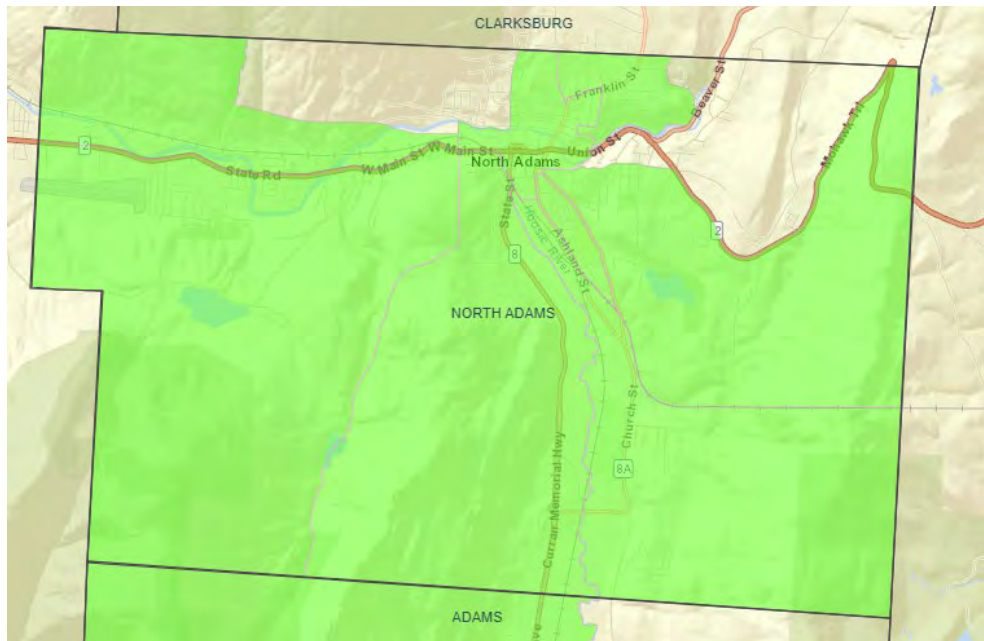
The first action in this plan renewal process was the distribution of the community-wide surveys. An action item in previous plans, distribution of the survey through the local City Census mailing has been noted for many years as a preferred method, but previously had not been attempted. In the fall of 2021, the OCD collaborated with the City Clerk, strongly supported by the Mayor's Office, to distribute the survey to every household in the community. This was a great success, achieving a rate of return close to its previous campaign that was at about 24%. The tandem use with the local census drive has enabled a significant number of households the opportunity to participate, (meanwhile, the city Census received an approximately 90% return rate). North Adams has a significant amount of *Environmental Justice* areas, and it was important to find a suitable vehicle to reach out, in particular, to those living in such areas. The local municipal census is received by every household within the community, thereby greatly increasing the opportunity of reaching this particular cohort of respondents. A copy of the final survey and full survey results can be found in Appendix A and B respectively.

Next, staff began the update to the narrative segments throughout the plan. Also, a considerable period of time was spent updating the vast number of inventoried sites from the various local and area facility locations. The latter includes all parks, playgrounds, conservation areas, etc., that are cited in Section V of this plan. Many sites had changed over the seven years since the last plan update, with some of them going from the *Unprotected* category to the *Protected* one, with a few sites even being removed.

While the inventory and general narratives were revised, the OCD had each of the most important and pertinent local boards and commissions renew the plan's identified *Goals and Objectives*, and its corresponding *Seven-Year Action Plan*. These were the Planning Board, Parks & Recreation, Conservation, Tree, and the Windsor Lake Commissions. Each commission reviewed the *Seven-Year Action Plan*. Other boards such as the Airport Commission, Zoning Board and the Board of Health, were given the opportunity for their input as well. Final comments and all corresponding material from each commission were collected and incorporated into the final draft plan which was also sent to the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for their review and commentary. The *Goals and Objectives* as highlighted in Section 8, and the *Seven-Year Action Plan* as shown in Section 9, are the full and collaborative work effort from all groups and staff.

The final approved version of the plan will continue to remain on the city's municipal website, thereby hoping to achieve its improved position within the social fabric. It is also hoped that this could lead to more useful feedback along the way until it is time for its next eventual renewal.

The aforementioned process describes a number of ways in which this planning process increased outreach to Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Almost the entire community from a geographic standpoint is classified as an Environmental Justice area, which includes 83% of the city's population, as illustrated below.



Source: 2020 Environmental Justice Populations, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
\* The "EJ population" located in North Adams illustrated in light green is based on one of the state's criteria: the annual median household income is not more than 65% of the statewide annual median household income

Due to this widespread target area, the OCD took greater measures to ensure that these particular areas and the city as a whole was included in this process. The most significant step taken to capture this population was through the Open Space and Recreation Community Survey, which was sent to every household in the community through the annual distribution of the local city census. Rather than utilizing another format that focuses on property owners, such as tax bills or assessor records, the local census reaches those actually living in the housing units. The census was tabulated to ensure that surveys were received from all areas community-wide. The public input received via the survey was integral to understanding community needs and informing the goals and objectives stated in Section 8 of this plan. Accordingly, this plan reflects the existing conditions of natural resources, open space, and recreational facilities throughout North Adams, as well as the community's vision thereto.

In addition to this effort, the viewpoints of the Environmental Justice population are captured in a number of different ways through the efforts of OCD staff on an ongoing basis and as part of the development of this plan. OCD staff administers the city's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund, and is the key conduit for organizations such as the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Berkshire Family YMCA, Hoosic River Revival, and other human services organizations that represent North Adams Environmental Justice population. OCD's experience administering CDBG funding includes planning efforts and outreach within the community to administer larger projects in the community. These projects and dialogue with organizations and residents inform specific needs and

desires by residents that is also represented within this plan. This work is also highlighted by the numerous letters of support provided for the OSRP.

## SECTION 3 - COMMUNITY SETTING

### A. Regional Context

The City of North Adams is located in the extreme northwest corner of Massachusetts within the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains in Berkshire County (about 726 feet above sea level) very close to the state borders of New York and Vermont (see *Map 1-Regional Context*, at the end of this section). It is the second largest community in Berkshire County, comprised of 20.7 square miles, and is one of the county's two cities (Pittsfield being the only other). The location of the Hoosac Tunnel, an approximate 4.7-mile tunnel going through the Hoosac Mountain Range that enabled westward expansion from the east during the 1800s, has allowed North Adams to proudly proclaim its slogan since then---*We Hold The Western Gateway*.



The eastern border of the city is the Hoosac Mountain Range that forms a strong physical boundary to the Town of Florida. This perimeter is further defined by the prominence of the Hoosac Tunnel. The steep slopes of Ragged Mountain and Mount Williams dominate the city's southwestern section where it is bordered by the Town of Adams to the south and Williamstown to the west. The northern border is primarily the Town of Clarksburg and the Clarksburg State Forest. The extreme northwest section of

North Adams is bordered by the Town of Williamstown.

The city's features include the Appalachian Mountain range, Natural Bridge, Windsor Lake and the Noel Field Athletic Complex. The Hoosic River flows directly through the city, which makes the waterway a unique characteristic of the area. The forested mountains and hills that surround North Adams and its neighboring communities also provide breath-taking scenic beauty. These features serve the area's recreational needs for both residents and visitors.

This city of approximately 12,085 persons (2022 local census) is accessed by Routes 8 and 2. Both of these two-lane highways are slow moving and congested. Due to the lack of major transportation routes going to North Adams, business recruitment, startups and expansions have historically been a challenging proposition. Similarly, even though the economy has remained stable over the last fifteen years, North Adams still continues to lag behind the Commonwealth of Massachusetts when comparing unemployment rates (see part C later in this section).

Many residents of Western Massachusetts believe they are ignored by the legislature in Boston. Therefore, the municipal governments of the region had decided quite some time ago to work together to promote the area. This has been done by sharing resources, such as the Hoosic River in North Adams, Williamstown and Adams. The City of North Adams is a partner in the Hoosic Water Quality District with Williamstown and Clarksburg, which handles the sewage from each community. North Adams provides water to the small town of Clarksburg, and the recreational area of Windsor Lake is available to all visitors. The Berkshire Mountains provide the most common resource for all of Berkshire County. Many community activities take place in state parks throughout Western Massachusetts. Mount Greylock State Park, located in Adams and North Adams, has

provided thousands of people with recreational opportunities and beautiful vistas, and possess a key link to the Department of Conservation & Recreation’s Visitor Bureau’s located at Western Gateway Urban Heritage State Park. The region in which North Adams is located has provided additional opportunities since the closing of the many mills located here. North Adams works in close partnership with other communities in northern Berkshire, and relies on county-wide agencies such as the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and 1-Berkshire Strategic Alliance that serves as the county’s chamber of commerce and economic development.

Due to the closing of the many mills over the last fifty years that once served as the economic backbone of the region, North Adams has experienced economic and social woes. Population has decreased steadily over the years since the days of the mills, as employers and residents alike have found opportunities elsewhere. Although population loss and unemployment have seemingly settled down over the last couple of decades, like other older New England towns, social challenges continue to exist. As would be expected within any caring community, North Adams has made great efforts to pivot itself, and address the tough socio-economic challenges in an effort to rebuild its economy.

Despite the economic concerns, residents have continued to realize and use the many resources that are available, and the entire region continues to actively market the Berkshires as a mecca for tourism, the arts, and recreation. Past and present improvements to the Noel Field Athletic Complex continue to make the complex the city’s most popular. It



was stated in the Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) renewal of 2001, that North Adams was fortunate in securing a baseball



team in the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL); the North Adams SteepleCats. Since launching their inaugural season in June of 2002 at the complex’s Joe Wolfe Field, the city is proud to state that its team has stood the test of time, and continues to bolster economic support for the downtown. Local government has continued to recognize the need to support activities like this wherever possible.

Since the last plan renewal, the city has completed other new and significant improvements to the Noel Field Athletic Complex to capture new features. As discussed further along in Section 5 on the



community-wide open space sites, in September 2017, the city’s first ever skateboard and bmx bicycle park, Unity Skate Park, was installed with \$616,000 of combined grant funds from the federal FY’16 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the state FY’16 Parkland Acquisition & Renovations for Communities Program (PARC). This new venue was an immediate success and is known to have attracted users from as far as two hours away! Juxtaposed to this is the complex’s new splash park. Grant



funding from the same two aforementioned sources in their FY’18 program years, which respectively totaled \$478,000, saw the creation of the city’s first ever splash pad. Other featured work saw two new pickleball courts, two refurbished basketball courts, fencing, landscaping and other small amenities thereto. Similar to the skateboard park, this has been a huge

success since its opening in July 2019. Together, both new venues have elevated the complex to a higher level!

The transformation of the former Brayton Playground into the new and substantially improved Brayton Hill Park, was yet another major accomplishment since the last OSRP renewal. Recognized now as the third premiere recreational facility in the community, this venue saw approximately \$498,000 worth of improvements, and was done with the combined use of FY'19 PARC and FY'18 CDBG grant funds. The old basketball court and playground tot-lot were razed, which fostered new ones of each respectively.



A new multi-purposed recreational wall-board was installed, as were a rain garden, passive sitting and picnic tables across the street that runs parallel to the scenic Hoosic River. New on-street parking spaces were installed that were sorely needed. Additionally, beautiful landscaping, bike racks, educational signage, and other amenities were addressed, thereby elevating the overall venue and providing immediate benefit to this neighborhood and supporting the Brayton Elementary School.

The aforementioned expansions and new improvements significantly complemented the previous work at the second premier athletic venue, Alcombright Athletic Field Complex, which saw major investment from 2005 through 2008. This has allowed local government to provide three premiere recreational venues across the community. Given population decline over the last couple of decades, there is seemingly less demand for the smaller neighborhood playgrounds. This, in turn, has placed less pressure upon local government to seriously examine venues such as these. Even though these smaller neighborhood sites still remain, local government at least has made great strides in providing the bigger and more robust facilities to combat the challenges of population loss. This plan renewal continues to recognize this issue.

The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Arts (MASS MoCA), which opened in May 1999, continues to bring visitors from around the country, and art exhibits from all over the world. MASS MoCA serves as the largest museum for contemporary art in the world, and also as a contemporary artists' center. The amount of private investment stimulated by the existence of the museum has been considerable and commercial tenancy has remained very strong. The \$25M dollar state investment in 2014 for MoCA's "Phase III" investment to open up new exhibition space in its Buildings 6 and 7, over 130,000 square feet, brought new exhibits from renowned artists such as



Jenny Holzer, James Turrell, and Laurie Anderson, as well as works by Robert Rauschenberg, Louise Bourgeois, and Sol Lewitt. Their bi-annual solid-sound festival featuring the band Wilco, along with their now highly successful late summer Fresh Grass Festival, have brought upwards of 10,000 people into the downtown. Their on-campus creation of a "Kids Space" has also been very successful for families.

In the 2015 OSRP, there was discussion on the more traditional entities such as national and regional

chain stores. Since that time, the relocation of Wal-Mart to their now Route 8 site further south on the same corridor, has proven to be highly successful. Their location nestled along Curran Highway between the city and the neighboring Town of Adams just to the south, has provided a decent amount of employment as well as a wide variety of goods with expanded food services. Regional chains, Super Big Y and Super Stop & Shop, have continued to be very successful. However, the downtown plaza along American Legion Drive, has continued to sputter since the last plan renewal. Many popular stores, such as K-Mart, Staples, Peebles, a small Sear's outlet, and a Champion sports outlet, have come and gone. As discussed later in this Section 3 on page 22, this plaza has revealed further decline; however, this retail area continues to be prime downtown land.

Since the last plan renewal, repeated attempts to spur new development for the Mohawk Theater have still not come to fruition. Despite not having realized a rejuvenated theater, this project continues to be one of the top priorities for local government. Similarly, the redevelopment of the Western Gateway Urban Heritage State Park (HSP) is key, as local government works in conjunction with its counterpart, the North Adams Redevelopment Authority. A recent \$50,350 technical assistance grant was awarded from Mass Development in February 2021, which helped to identify market conditions, strengths, weaknesses along with some reuse strategies. Like the theater, the HSP is seen as an economic opportunity to help rebuild the downtown, forge new alliances with nearby MASS MoCA, and to complement recreational opportunities that exist atop the Mt. Greylock State Reservation in conjunction with the state Department of Conservation & Recreation. Early progress at the HSP was the securing of BAAMS (Berkshires' Academy for Advanced Musical Studies) in the summer of 2022 into its Building No. 6. Their first music camp in the park ended with an outdoor public concert that was nothing short of spectacular and enjoyed by many! Their mission is to provide advanced musical study and training to the youth, ages 10 to 18, from all over the country. Their leadership and instructors are high-level professional musicians from all over the country as well, and often times have been members of famous bands. Inspiring young people to pursue their abilities and passion by utilizing music, art, and technology is the essence of their mission. The tenant recruitment of BAAMS will hopefully provide years of renewed development to the HSP.

In 2012, even before the major updating of the OSRP in 2015, North Adams became a Mass in Motion community. This program is hosted by the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition and has been sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The northern Berkshire Mass in Motion program, which includes the communities of Adams, Williamstown, Savoy and Florida, focuses upon two primary areas – Active Living and Healthy Eating. These efforts have remained through the continued use of its “Urban Walking Loops” that has encouraged greater use of the downtown for walking and running while providing exposure to the anchor institutions in the area, such as MASS MoCA and the Mass College of Liberal Arts. Technical assistance from the WalkBoston group, which extends its reach to the entire Commonwealth, as well as connections to Mass-Bike and the state's Safe Routes to School program have been maintained.

As discussed in the OSRP renewal of 2015, local government had completed its first solar photovoltaic project upon its capped land-fill. In terms of a regional context, this solar farm produces enough energy to cover the municipal electrical needs and allow a savings, thus enabling local government to continue to provide services that it might not possibly afford otherwise. The site of the land-fill, being capped, has continued as a regional transfer station allowing other North Berkshire communities and private haulers to utilize it. There are not many of this size in operation

in this region that can handle this level of waste.

During the preparation of the OSRP update for 2015, which was cited in that renewed plan, the sudden closure of the North Adams Regional Hospital in March 2014 had dramatic regional effects, with an immediate loss of about 530 jobs! Many of these former employees were not only residents of North Adams, but from the surrounding communities as well, and from the nearby States of New York and Vermont. Since that time, Berkshire Health Systems (BHS), which owns the Berkshire Medical Center, the county's largest hospital in Pittsfield, MA, purchased the property. Since reopening as *Berkshire Health North*, BHS has added an array of medical services to the campus, including, but not limited to: emergency care; primary care; physical and rehabilitation; outpatient general surgery; and pain diagnosis and treatment; community health and wellness programs. Other tenant recruitments to the other vacated campus buildings have been successful as well, such as the Berkshire Nursing Families, dermatology, and other specialized disciplines, including cardiology and urology. In June 2023, BHS reported that the site was going to reopen as the North Adams Regional Hospital, which is in keeping with its former name and featuring a 35-bed facility. This is great news for North Adams and the north Berkshire region!

The residents of North Adams continue to be relatively knowledgeable on the subject of conservation and environmental protection. Although more can always be done, many citizens continue to compost and recycle waste, and pursuant to recent open space community survey, drinking water supply, and river/stream water quality were the two highest priorities at 61% and 32% respectively. Similarly, land use in Berkshire County remains well monitored, as each municipality has a conservation commission or a conservation agent that works to ensure the protection of the county's resources. These efforts have allowed for the continued maintenance of the physical beauty of the rolling mountains, and the gorgeous views within the county. What also helps sustain this is that North Adams, as well as the Commonwealth, owns most of the land surrounding the community; therefore, there is a protective buffer zone around the water supply. In addition, Adams and North Adams continue to share information of upcoming Planning and Zoning Board meetings, so that if a case arises that may affect either community, joint notification will prevail.

As will be discussed in Section 3, part D, there are several developing projects in the community that have taken shape since the renewal of the last OSRP in 2015, none of which will adversely affect surrounding communities. Conversely, these projects will have positive economic impacts for the region. However, other new initiatives have recently sprung up all over the county that pose great challenge. New laws now allow retail cannabis stores along with new growing facilities. Many municipalities were forced to create new, never before used ordinances with which to govern such business. North Adams has allowed said uses, yet have capped them at no more than two retail establishments, and no more than three grow facilities. The more finite problem is outdoor grow facilities and the impacts of the odors that will most assuredly be produced. Adverse smells can easily pollute residential neighborhoods, nearby restaurants and other eateries that take advantage of outdoor dining in good weather. This, coupled with the increased traffic impacts, make this issue highly challenging. It is unclear at the time of this OSRP renewal as to the longer-term effects from legalized cannabis, but local government needs to remain committed in the monitoring of this new industry, and be prepared to amend and make new policies and regulations that affect precious assets like open space, which includes major planning documents such as this one.

Over the last decade, a group, the Hoosic River Revival, was formed to bring the Hoosic River back to life as it flows through the City of North Adams. The river has two branches that converge in the downtown, with its north branch emanating from up north in Vermont, and its south branch from Cheshire Lake in Cheshire, MA. It is one of the few rivers where part of its flow actually traverses northerly from its convergence upon its westward trek to the Hudson River in Stillwater, NY. The revival group is a community-based, non-profit, private organization composed of area residents whose mission is to reestablish the river as the heart of local economy and community, to remove the barriers created from the many lineal feet of fifteen-foot high concrete flood control chutes while still maintaining flood protection, and to improve spaces for recreation and wildlife habitat while serving as an economic stimulus. Early on, this group held two major “Community Conversations” that spurred local interest and ignited their efforts. Their determination and planning resilience have now allowed the City of North Adams to secure a three-year feasibility study that will allow the U.S. Army Corp of engineers to identify, evaluate and recommend a workable solution that will ensure flood protection for the community. In June 2022, the Corp pledged \$1.5M in federal aid, the Commonwealth of MA contributing \$1M with the local government seeking a half million in long term bond funding. The initial vision for river restoration and revival, as both a critical recreational and economic development asset, has finally achieved government recognition at both the federal and state levels.

Another local project with great potential for improving not only the local recreational system, but for the North Berkshire region, is the further development of the once visionary *Berkshire Bike Path*. As the path has developed over the last couple of decades, it has taken on different names for various municipal sections, as they are planned for and built. Because significant sections of new bike/ped trails have now been built, their impact is increasing in regional significance. Updates on this are more specifically discussed in section D below.

## B. History of the Community

The Hoosic River shaped the City of North Adams throughout its early development. Before there were any settlers, the river carved out the valley leaving the steep hills that dominate the physical character of the community. Originally a military and trading post, North Adams later developed because of favorable waterpower provided by the river.

First settled about 1740, the area included the present Town of Adams and City of North Adams, as North Adams was originally the north village of the township of East Hoosuck. Surveyed around 1749 by the General Court of Massachusetts, the name of Adams was bestowed upon this township in honor of the illustrious Revolutionary War leader, Samuel Adams, with its official incorporation on October 15, 1778. Early years revealed its “South End” to be much better for farming than its “North End”, and in 1878, the formal split was made that gave way to the separate towns. Early settlers recognized the industrial potential of the Hoosic River, especially in the “North End”, and constructed lumber and gristmills along the riverbanks. In the late 1820s and early 1830s, North Adams began to make substantial progress in its industrial development. Industrial expansion continued into the 1840s with several significant developments.

In 1843, the Boston and Albany (NY) Railroad completed the line through Pittsfield, MA. Three years later, the railroad opened a line between Pittsfield and North Adams. In 1851, construction began on the Hoosac Tunnel, a famous local landmark. This tunnel provided a direct rail link

Western portal of Hoosac Tunnel



between North Adams and the eastern part of the state. It is believed that the use of North Adams as a headquarters for the tunnel operations and the money spent in the town by the large workforce made significant economic contributions to the area's development.

The years between 1860 and 1875 were important in North Adams' economic expansion due to the growth of the shoe and textile industries. The population expanded from 6,924 in 1860, to 12,090 in 1870, and stimulated continued economic growth into the mid-1870s. This industrial expansion brought significant growth to North Adams, which led to the incorporation as a *city* in 1895 versus its former status a town.

At the turn of the century, business and industry were booming in North Adams, still riding the crest of a wave of explosive growth that began with the completion of the Hoosac Tunnel in 1876. Its massive railroad yard would ultimately boast two roundhouses, one belonging to the Troy & Greenfield Railroad and a smaller one belonging to the Boston & Albany. Warehouses belonging to national concerns such as Purina, Armour Meats, Nabisco and Swift Meats were built here.

The two industries that were the core of the city's burgeoning wealth (and international fame)--shoes and textiles as noted above--were enjoying spectacular success. The Arnold Print Works, with sales offices in New York City and Paris, France, operated three mill complexes in North Adams, as well as two additional mills in Williamstown and North Pownal, VT. Its main plant, the Marshall Street complex, was the largest textile mill complex in western Massachusetts, and its Union Street mill (expanded from the original Eclipse Mill to a complex operating on both sides of the street) was almost as large.

The Windsor Print Works was another major operation, as were the mills in Greylock and Braytonville, both under the control of the Blackinton Woolens' company. Shoes were made by the North Adams Shoe Company, the former Sampson Shoe Company, the Wall Streeter Shoe Company and in mills belonging to H. Torrey Cady (the city's second mayor) and his brother, William G. Cady.

The James Hunter Machine Company was on its way to becoming a leader in the textile machinery industry. In addition, there were several leather companies and metal foundries as well as an established agricultural base. The Hoosac Valley Agricultural Fairgrounds hosted a fair every year, and in 1900 the North Adams Milk Company erected a brick Milk Depot near the entrance to the fairgrounds.

The North Adams Gas Works on Brown Street put North Adams on the map all by itself in the early twentieth century. By providing the gas to inflate balloons for races, it made North Adams the Balloon Launch Capital of the World.

Two major theaters--the Empire and the Richmond--were built in 1902, each seating about 1,000 people. Both staged plays and catered to the Vaudeville crowd, bringing famous names to North Adams such as Fred & Adele Astaire, Ethel Barrymore and the Gregory Family of Acrobats. Later on, Meadowbrook Dance Hall and Johnny's Dance Palace brought famous musicians, including Vincent Lopez, the Bricktops (an all-girl, all-redhead big band), Gilda Gray (a shimmy dancer), Bob

Crosby, Rudy Vallee, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Guy Lombardo & his Royal Canadians, Gene Krupa, and Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey. They stayed in one or another of five hotels. Unfortunately, fire destroyed the Richmond and Urban Renewal took yet another theater, the Paramount, leaving only the Mohawk Theater, which the city has been trying to restore or repurpose over the last twenty years.

Small businesses were not lacking either; there was a grocery store or bakery on virtually every street corner in the city, as well as butchers, cobblers and so on. Many of those grocery concerns were serviced by the HW Clark Wholesale Grocery Company, and its subsidiary, the Clark Biscuit Company, provided regional competition for Nabisco throughout New England.

In the 1920s, textiles began leaving the city. Arnold Print Works, under the leadership of Dr. Samuel Jones, began selling off its holdings. The Eclipse Mill Complex was sold to a Boston textile company that ran it for many years under the leadership of William Kirk Greer, who served a one-year term as mayor in the 1920s. The Beaver mill was closed and in the 1930s, the Marshall Street Complex's operations were moved to the so-called Jones Division in Adams. Under the leadership of former Mayor John Waterhouse, the Blackinton Company went belly up and its mills closed.

On the shoe front, the Weber Brothers, owners of the North Adams Shoe Company, retired in the 1930s, closing that concern. Both Cady brothers died, closing their operations. By the 1930s, Wall Streeter was the only major shoe manufacturer in North Adams.

In the early twentieth century, a consortium of local business and industrial leaders pooled their resources to build a mill on Grimes Street, which they used to convince the George E. Keith Shoe Company of Boston, MA, to open a local operation. When the Keith Company moved out, they brought in the Gale Shoe Company, also of Boston. In 1929, they persuaded a small electronics company, Sprague Specialties, to move into the Beaver Mill, which they apparently owned.

Brought to the brink of bankruptcy in 1930 through mismanagement on the part of the Sprague brothers, the consortium persuaded George B. Flood to take it over. Within six years, the company was expanding into the former Johnson Manufacturing Company complex on Brown Street and RC Sprague was able to buy back the controlling interest. In 1940, the company acquired the Marshall Street complex (making it their corporate headquarters) and later on, the Eclipse complex on Union Street. By the 1950s, it was a multinational corporation with mills and offices all over the world. Employing some 4,000 people in North Adams alone, it was also the city's largest single employer.

On the educational front, the 1890s saw four new schools being built: Freeman, Houghton and Brayton (built the same year, they were duplicates of each other), and Johnson. All named after local industrialists, they were also the most modern schools up to that time, and would remain so until 1917. The North Adams Normal School, a state school for teachers, was a strongly active local institution, operating since 1894. Over the years, it underwent several name changes, including North Adams State Teachers College and North Adams State College. It has also been the source, for more than a hundred years, of most of the teachers employed in North Adams schools. This institution is now known as the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Perhaps the most interesting school in North Adams was a private one, the Bliss Business College, located for many years on the third floor of the Berkshire Bank. In addition to classroom courses in

typing, shorthand and business math, it featured a whole city's worth of virtual businesses. Each student started as a teller in the college's bank, working his/her way up through various offices and businesses until graduating with hands-on experience in literally every facet of business.

The local high school in 1900 was Drury Academy. Begun as a private school in the 1830s, direction of the school quickly passed into the hands of the town. Circa 1860, the building was outdated and overcrowded, so it was sold to the town, which razed it and built a new one. This was owned and operated by the town--and later the city--while the Academy continued to own the land. By the early twentieth century, the "new" building was not big enough anymore. Circa 1913, the city gutted that building and used it as the gymnasium for the first actual Drury High School, which saw its first graduating class in 1917. In the 1920s, Drury became one of the first high schools in the country to have a school band. John Philip Sousa was a frequent guest at the school.

In the 1950s, in an effort to replace the aging Archer School in Blackinton Village, the city erected the Greylock School, the first school in town to feature clerestory lighting. In the 1960s to early '70s, the Freeman, Houghton and Brayton schools were condemned and closed, and were replaced with the newly built East School off Kemp Avenue. Then, Freeman and Brayton were reopened as Middle School when East, Greylock and Johnson Schools were made K-6.

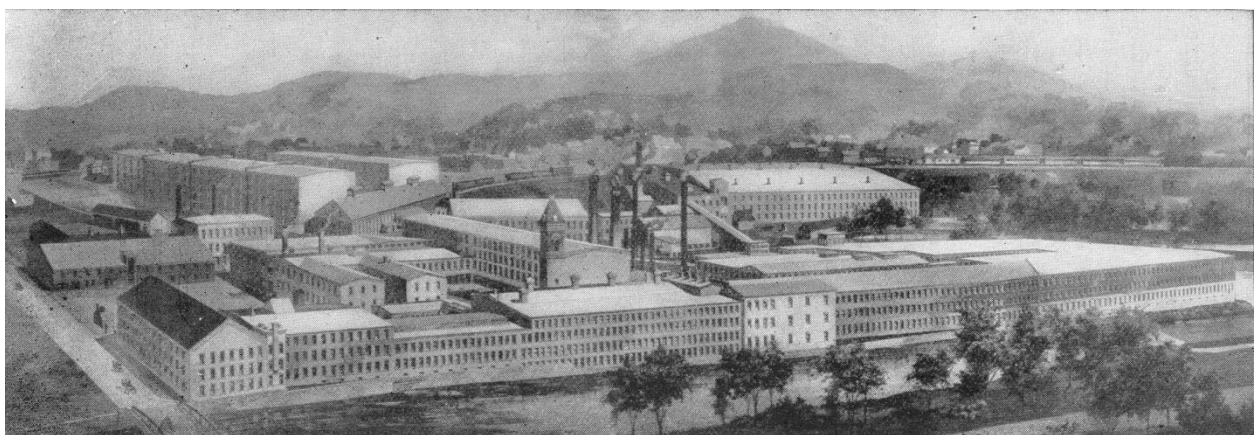
The second local high school, St. Josephs, home of the Gales, was located on the downtown at the corner of Union and Eagle Streets. Established as its first school building in 1886 next to the now absent St. Francis Church, the school was eventually razed in 1981. Rebuilt across the street on Eagle Street in 1928-29, this parochial Catholic School housed grades from kindergarten through senior graduation with a peak school population of about 1,200 in 1958. With the steady decline in population coupled with two other public high school choices, the school closed at the end of the 1973-1974 academic school year. Fortunately, the building was not demolished and has served as a senior housing complex since then.

Fast-forward to today, the original Freeman, Brayton and Houghton neighborhood schools have all been demolished, with the exception of Brayton. Brayton was rebuilt brand new in the late 1990s that was annexed to the financially strapped YMCA. A new Drury Senior High School was built in 1976 on the southerly end of Church Street that now houses grades 7<sup>th</sup> through seniors. The former Drury High, the site of the initial Drury Academy, and after having been the Conte Middle School for many years from 1976 through 2014, saw substantial renovations in 2015 and thereby springing anew as the Colgrove Park Elementary School. This in turn, forced the closure of the existing Sullivan Elementary School (formerly East School), where it still stands today as a vacant and fledgling asset owned by local government. In November 2019, the former Johnson School was sold to a private developer who started building in 2021 new housing units that are now filled today. The Greylock Elementary still remains, yet there have been recent discussions of possibly blending their student rolls into the Brayton Elementary. The Charles H. McCann Technical High School was also erected in the early 1960s that served as a training and vocational school in order to prepare students for careers in the many faceted mills and industries that were thriving here. Today, McCann has pivoted itself with new curriculums and programs around new technologies. Many of their graduates now go on to college, something that was not present in its inception and many earlier years of its operation. Rounding out educational choices, the Berkshire Arts & Technology School in neighboring Adams offers students and parents yet another educational choice.

At the turn to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the local population at its apex was about 24,000 that was obviously tied to its tremendous industrial growth. Slowly over time though, population had started to decline, which is attributed to the economic shifts to an ever changing and more competitive world. Advances in technology and transportation spanning boat, to horse, train, trucks, and a federal highway system along with airplanes, allowed for products manufactured and assembled to be easily transported to other parts of the country as well the global market. Migration of businesses from all of Berkshire County, especially high-tech ones to the easterly part of the state in order to be more strategically located near institutions of higher education such as the Mass Institute of Technology and Harvard, made operations of local businesses that much harder. Higher and ever-growing heating costs in the northeast also made it easier for businesses to be relocated to the south and mid-west, as the once huge employer of the Arnold Print Works made its way to the Carolinas, as previously touched upon. Lower labor costs, especially overseas, have been much more attractive for industrialists and businesses in parts outside of the United States; thus, the slow erosion of the economic base, especially the northeast that started post WWII, is still evident today. This is highly evident as seen in population, as the local population of approximately 13,000 today is about half compared to its peak at the turn of the century!

The most recent economic downturn for North Adams, as also touched upon above, was experienced in the early 1980s, when the Sprague Electric Company, housed at the former Arnold Print Works on Marshall Street, finally closed its doors and moved to the “Route 128 business corridor” in the eastern part of Massachusetts. About 3,500 people lost their jobs. The closure of the North Adams Regional Hospital in March of 2014 was another economic downturn, although as discussed above, this asset has rebounded to at least some level of stability.

North Adams remains resilient though, and has successfully relied upon new initiatives and strategies in which to make itself sustainable. *Adaptive Reuse* initiatives on older, vacant and underutilized mills, has been heavily looked to. Even the demise of once five Catholic Churches into one remaining one around 2009, has put adaptive reuse work into yet another light, but such strategies do work. The first photo below is the site of the former Arnold Print Works from its hey-day on Marshall Street, which then became the world-famous Sprague Electric Company. Their closure in the early 1980s brought a huge economic blow to the local economy as well as to the entire North Berkshire Region; however, one failed project brings hope for something new to be born. Upon this same site is now the world-famous Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.





History plays an important role in any community. According to the open space community survey (question 14), the clear majority of respondents felt that historic buildings and landmarks are worthy of preservation – ranking that issue third behind the quality of streams and rivers and drinking water supplies. Similar results were also echoed in the last three renewals of the OSRP on this same topic, thereby touting local history and its preservation as highly important. The city continues to have a very active North Adams Historical Commission (NAHC), which provides educational opportunities to the public regarding the history of the community. These efforts have also been supported through other educational activities, as hosted by its sister commission, the North Adams Historical Society. The NAHC also provides valuable input on many community-based projects, as was done in 2005 with the major building expansion to the public library, which is on the National Register of Historical Places. The local historical commission was instrumental in supporting recent grant opportunities over the last few years in order to expand its already very sizable written inventory of local historical districts and properties that captures critical information on many of the community’s assets. *Map 2 – Historic Resources*, can be found at the end of this Section 3.

### C. Population Characteristics

When planning open space uses, it is important to consider population characteristics and trends, as these may help to identify the type and use of various recreational venues. The *Table 1* below shows income distribution by household, along with other income measures in its lower half. It is very useful to look at this data closely, especially given the availability of multiple annual federal census benchmarks along with the use of the American Communities Survey. This comparative analysis lends itself to many trends and topics of discussion.

**Table 1**  
**Income Distribution & Socioeconomic Indicators**

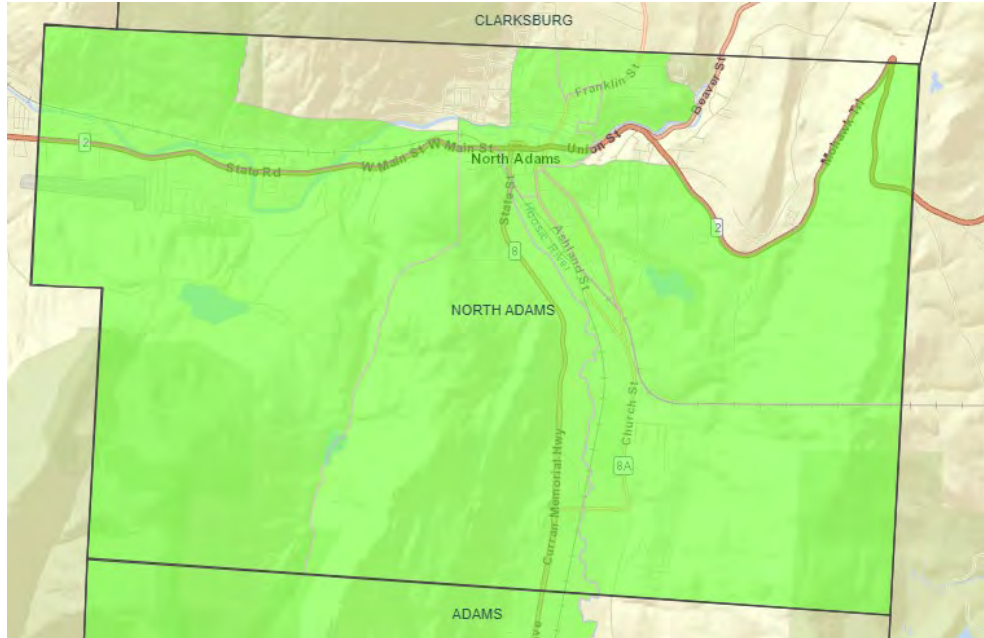
<b>Household Income</b>					
<b>1990</b>			<b>2000</b>		
Total Households: 6,614			Total Household: 6,363		
<b>Income Range</b>	<b>Households</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Income Range</b>	<b>Households</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<\$10,000	1,490	22.5%	<\$10,000	1,040	16.3%
\$10,000-\$24,999	2,079	31.4%	\$10,000-\$24,999	1,874	29.5%
\$25,000-\$34,999	1,034	15.6%	\$25,000-\$34,999	990	15.6%
\$35,000-\$49,999	1,196	18.1%	\$35,000-\$49,999	997	15.7%
\$50,000-\$74,999	636	9.6%	\$50,000-\$74,999	811	12.7%
\$75,000-\$99,999	126	1.9%	\$75,000-\$99,999	426	6.7%
\$100,000-\$149,999	36	0.5%	\$100,000-\$149,999	139	2.2%
>\$150,000	17	0.3%	>\$150,000	86	1.4%
Source: 1990, 2000, 2010 U.S. Census; 2015-2019 American Community Survey					
<b>Household Income</b>					
<b>2010</b>			<b>2019</b>		
Total Households: 5,868			Total Household: 5,568		
<b>Income Range</b>	<b>Households</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Income Range</b>	<b>Households</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<\$10,000	663	11.3%	<\$10,000	624	11.2%
\$10,000-\$24,999	1,456	24.8%	\$10,000-\$24,999	1,214	21.8%
\$25,000-\$34,999	657	11.2%	\$25,000-\$34,999	621	11.2%
\$35,000-\$49,999	804	13.7%	\$35,000-\$49,999	802	14.4%
\$50,000-\$74,999	978	16.7%	\$50,000-\$74,999	894	16.1%
\$75,000-\$99,999	511	8.7%	\$75,000-\$99,999	542	9.7%
\$100,000-\$149,999	489	8.3%	\$100,000-\$149,999	550	9.9%
>\$150,000	61	1.0%	>\$150,000	321	5.8%
Source: 1990, 2000, 2010 U.S. Census; 2019 American Community Survey					

<b>Socioeconomic Indicators</b>				
	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$22,100.00	\$27,601.00	\$35,401.00	\$41,471.00
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$10,963.00	\$16,381.00	\$20,481.00	\$25,453.00
<b>Families Below Poverty</b>	10.40%	13.50%	10%	14%
<b>Individuals Below Poverty</b>	14.30%	18.20%	16%	19%
<b>Children &lt;17 Below Poverty</b>	Data not available		22%	23%

Source: 1990, 2000, 2010 U.S. Census; 2019 American Community Survey

North Adams continues to recover from its economic fallout in the early 1980s with the loss of one of its historic job-providers, the Sprague Electric Company. This company alone employed more than 3,000 persons when it closed and relocated to the eastern part of the state. Even though the local employment situation has stabilized, approximately one half of North Adams’ households fall within the lowest two income brackets as seen in *Table 1*. In 1990, 53.9% of household incomes were in these lowest two brackets, and in 2000 this slightly improved to 45.7%. This indicator further improved in 2010 and 2019. According to the 2010 US Census, 36.1% of local households earned less than \$25,000 annually. This percentage declined further by 2019 with 33% of local households earning below \$25,000 annually, pursuant to data collected by the American Community Survey. This increase must be viewed cautiously, as the source has changed from a full census to a sample, increasing the margin for error. Wage-earning power of local residents clearly remains quite challenged. Even though the various Median and Per Capita Income figures have improved over time, North Adams present Per Capita Income of \$25,453 ranks fourth from the bottom across all communities in Massachusetts pursuant to recent state compilations. The “Families Below Poverty Level” increased from 1990-2000 (10.4% and 13.5% respectively), but declined to 10% in 2010. According to other data compiled by the State Department of Housing & Community Development, approximately 56.3% of the local population is considered to be “low-to-moderate” income pursuant to their definitions for affected programs, which is a clear majority of the local population.

The majority of the North Adams population resides in Census Block Groups that are categorized as Environmental Justice (EJ) areas in the measure of *low-income* as defined by another state source (see footnote under the below image map). According to 2020 data provided by the MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, ten (10) of the city’s twelve (12) Census Block Groups are EJ areas, and those living in these block groups comprise an astounding 85.9% of the city’s total population. As the image below illustrates, approximately 83% of all local Census Block Groups reside in an EJ geographic areas. This means that at least 25% of households within each of the ten Census Block Groups have a median household income that is 65% or less than the state median household income. Additionally, two of the ten Census Block Groups, as indicated by the darker green shading, also contain minority populations equal to or greater than 40% of the total Census Block Group population. Please also see *Map 3- Environmental Justice Populations*, in the latter part of this Section 3.



Source: 2020 Environmental Justice Populations, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
 \* The “EJ population” located in North Adams illustrated in light green is based on one of the state’s criteria: the annual median household income is not more than 65% of the statewide annual median household income

Given the above economic information and its overall meaning, it therefore makes strategic sense to concentrate on facilities and activities that are affordable for working families and individuals, or possibly free of charge. Lower cost venues, such as playgrounds, passive recreational parks, and walking paths fit into this strategy. As previously discussed with all of the recent improvements to the Alcombright Athletic Complex, Brayton Hill Park, and Noel Field Athletic Complex in terms of the city’s first ever skateboard park and splash pad, all of these are highly used and are offered with no user-fees.

Population aggregates and migration are other areas that need to be considered when formulating any type of plan. In 1880, the population of North Adams was at 10,292. By 1900, it had boomed to 24,200—its peak! According to U.S. Census Data, the population in 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 was 18,063, 16,797, 14,681 and 13,708 respectively. According to American Community Survey data, population decline continued through 2019 to 12,730. This represents a substantial 24.2 % decline from 1980 to 2019. When compared against the local City Census, it too reveals this same trend. The local annual census is seen as a better measure of local population because it is conducted on an annual basis with a decent rate of return.

**Table 2**  
**City Population**  
**1985-2022**  
 Source: City of North Adams Annual Census

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
1985	15,742	2004	14,491
1986	16,454	2005	15,598
1987	16,339	2006	15,038
1988	16,173	2007	14,417
1989	16,271	2008	14,398
1990	15,980	2009	14,012
1991	15,870	2010	13,925
1992	14,913	2011	13,689
1993	14,459	2012	13,976
1994	14,536	2013	13,469
1995	14,410	2014	13,391
1996	14,783	2015	13,185
1997	14,473	2016	13,082
1998	14,894	2017	12,969
1999	14,811	2018	12,842
2000	14,897	2019	12,730
2001	14,719	2020	12,618
2002	14,840	2021	12,506
2003	15,038	2022	12,085
'85-2022	% change	-23.2%	

*Table 2* represents the local annual City Census for the 35-year period. As shown, the population has slowly declined over this time period. Population decline is not, however, affecting North Adams alone. Population decline is a regional trend, which in 2021, led to redistricting and the loss of a seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. This constant trend will continue to directly affect open space and recreation planning. Since there is no apparent need to accommodate a growing population, the focus should be improving existing facilities within the community, ensuring the major population areas are well served, and on finding ways to better connect existing facilities to make a complete network.

Population numbers considered in terms of age are also very valuable. *Table 3* below shows the population distribution by age for the last two federal census periods along with the Median Age for the last three. According to the data, over half of the population, 51% and 47% respectively for 2010 and 2019, are between the ages of 5-44, which continue to support the presence of families with children. The data continues to show a rather large and growing percentage of seniors (65+) for both time frames as well, 16% in 2010 and 19% in 2019. The first question from the new community survey for this plan renewal asked for the number of persons in their household in each age group. The largest percentage was for persons 65-85 years at an astounding 50.49%, and if one includes 85+, that increases this figure by another 5.72%! The second largest response was from persons 30-

49 at 22.14%. This cohort was the largest response when conducted in the last plan renewal in 2015. Therefore, it stands to reason, and is not surprising, to see this same response from essentially this same now older age group. The third most at 22.14% was for cohort of 30-49 years. Similar to the last plan renewal, there appears to be some correlation between the higher percentages of respondents coming from the older groups. This peculiarity is further discussed in beginning introduction narrative to the open space community survey results as found in Appendix B.

**Table 3**

Population Age Distribution								
Age Range	1990		2000		2010		2019	
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
<5	1,061	6%	802	5%	749	5%	595	5%
5-9	1,094	7%	898	6%	654	5%	694	5%
10-14	940	6%			703	5%	623	5%
15-19	1,529	9%			1,253	9%	977	8%
20-24	1,950	12%	1,174	8%	1,384	10%	1,319	10%
25-29	1,339	8%	823	6%	851	6%	651	5%
30-34	1,235	7%	881	6%	710	5%	567	4%
35-39	1,058	6%	1,053	7%	740	5%	771	6%
40-44	889	5%	1,146	8%	791	6%	531	4%
45-49	735	4%	941	6%	925	7%	531	4%
50-54	674	4%	860	6%	1,050	8%	984	8%
55-59	673	4%	648	4%	863	6%	905	7%
60-64	806	5%	609	4%	763	6%	1,043	8%
65-69	809	5%	606	4%	584	4%	719	6%
70-74	695	4%	655	4%	451	3%	742	6%
75-79	610	4%	595	4%	432	3%	415	3%
80-84	415	2%	453	3%	400	3%	295	2%
>85	285	2%	394	3%	405	3%	298	2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>16,797</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14,681</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>13,708</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12,730</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>38</b>		<b>38</b>		<b>42</b>	

Source: 1990, 2000, 2010 U.S. Census; 2015-2019 American Community Survey

Other interesting information to note is Median Age (last row of above table). Pursuant to other federal census information, the Median Age has increased steadily from 1990 to 2019. Median Age rose from 32 in 1990 to 42 in 2019, once again revealing an aging population. This is further evidenced by another slight increase in percentage of the population aged 65+ from 17% in 1990 to 19% in 2019, along with a similar trend for persons aged 20-64 increasing from 55% to 57% in 2019.

The aging population—acerbated by the *Baby-Boomer* generation, where the last segment of this cohort has now started to retire a few years ago and more so within the next decade, is going to have an impact on wellness and recreational needs in the community. The local Mary Spitzer Senior Center has already effectively prepared for these impacts relative to the services they provide and the manner in which they are delivered. The behavioral pattern of more seniors dropping in for

individual programs, versus all-day stays, has continued. Senior interests are geared more toward wellness programming, as well as technology access and learning. Assistance for tax preparation has even increased in popularity. In an effort to complement this, local government has now successfully completed two large capital improvement campaigns at the center. From 2017 through 2022, a new roof, an electrical system upgrade, new boiler and HVAC, and major interior room renovations were made. Both phases of work were made possible by the use of the city’s Community Development Block Grant funds, and a future third phase is being planned for construction in 2024. Despite an aging population, there is still a fair amount of younger families with children. Together, this supports the need to improve existing recreational assets where possible, develop more family-oriented activities, as well as young to middle-aged adult activities.

*Table 3a*

Population Density	
Census Tract	People per Square Mile
935300	2,210
921500	456
921400	230
921300	994

Source: American Community Survey, 2012-2016

Another factor to consider is population density. North Adams spreads across 21 square miles, and according to American Community Survey data, the total population for 2019 was 12,730, which equates to a very sparse 606.2 persons per square mile. Taking a closer look at this information, as shown in *Table 3a*, a more poignant density measure is found. Pursuant to U.S. Census standards, the community is comprised of four geographical Census Tracts, as based upon the 2010

Census. Please note that this is a change from the 2000 Census and previous years which divided the city into *five* tracts. This change essentially combined the two highest density tracts (formerly 9211 and 9212) into one tract, now 9353. The aforementioned table shows the number of persons per square mile in each tract. If using acres as a counter-measure, this is less than 1 person (.96) per acre, which is down from 1.13 persons per acre in 2000. While the population density of the city as a whole is quite sparse, Tract 935300 is among the highest dense tracts in Berkshire County. This reflects the development and topographical pattern of North Adams – the very steep slopes and river valley led to development concentrated in the lower elevations and up into the bottom slopes of the mountains, with large expanses of uninhabited land in the higher terrain.

Another factor to consider is employment trends. Since the prior update to the OSRP, the landscape of employment in North Adams had changed. The influx of new, and now legal, cannabis, has allowed for new economic opportunity now seemingly all across the country, which has brought new sources of revenue to the municipality. In 2020, Crane (the well-known printing company that prints the U.S. currency based out of Dalton, MA with correlating plants in Berkshire County conducting other processes), left the local Hardman Industrial Park to consolidate operations in nearby State of New York. The Crane building was subsequently purchased by Temescal Wellness, where the company has invested over a million dollars into a new state-of-the-art cannabis grow facility, which saw its blue-ribbon opening in summer 2022. This new plant will allow for a substantial indoor cannabis cultivation operation employing up to 80 people. In addition to Temescal Wellness, Clear Skies Cannabis, a retail establishment, opened for business in 2021 in a former Friendly’s Restaurant, and remains highly viable in growth and sales, which has also led to decent paying employment opportunities. Other various inquiries for local cannabis-related ventures within the city have been fielded in recent years.

Tourism has also showed decent growth potential. For the past several decades, due in part to MASS MoCA, North Adams has been recognized as a destination for arts-based tourism. Capitalizing on strong tourism trends, the former Redwood Motel along the busy Route 2 corridor was transformed into TOURISTS, a 49-room resort hotel, which opened in 2018 and leverages the city's open space and recreational amenities in the design of its campus. The campus includes a network of trails that connect the hotel's building, via a suspension bridge across the Hoosic River, to the Appalachian Trail. Accordingly, further investment in outdoor recreation and open space could lead to continued growth in tourism as North Adams becomes increasingly recognized as a destination for natural resource-based tourism.

North Adams has also experienced increased commercial and residential development since 2015. MASS MoCA completed its expansion, and opened additional gallery space in 2017. Also, in 2017, Moresi Commercial Investments LLC, purchased the former Norad Mill at 60 Roberts Drive from Crane Property, Inc. that once was the bustling Excelsior Processing & Engraving plant. The mill was subsequently adapted to mixed commercial use and reopened in 2018. The mill now houses a diverse array of businesses, including a coffee roaster, candy shop, record store, café, credit union, and professional services. Just west of the NORAD mill, the former Greylock Mill has undergone redevelopment as the new Greylock Works. The historic mill now contains co-working and event space, a restaurant, a distillery, and a cidery. Future plans for the mill include expanded commercial space, as well as the development of fifty residential condominium units. Residential development in the community has also experienced growth. The former Wall Streeter Mill was readapted in 2019-2020 to include six residential units by Moresi Commercial Investments, the same firm previously discussed as to the adaptive reuse strategies upon the former Johnson School and Notre Dame Church with its school building, with plans to adapt the properties for residential use. All of this progress are clear and positive indicators for the North Adams economy.

Turning to the discussion of unemployment, the unemployment rate in North Adams continues to be above the state and national averages. This comparison too has remained the same for many years. However, since the last renewal of the OSRP in 2015, and unlike any other version of the plan, a rare phenomenon hit the entire world, the COVID 19 pandemic!

Information gleaned from the most recent, 2023-2027, Berkshire County Comprehensive Economic Study (CEDs), prepared by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, states that the county's unemployment rate in 2021 was 6.7%, a dramatic reduction from the COVID-19-induced 2020 unemployment rate of 9.1%. Although still above pre-pandemic levels, provisional data from the first two quarters of 2022 indicate that tight labor conditions have moved the regional unemployment rate closer to pre-pandemic levels. Locally, North Adams too had to pivot to help sustain itself.

Due to the necessary restrictions related to social distancing to reduce the spread of the virus, the pandemic resulted in the necessary closure of public buildings, schools, and businesses, particularly those predicated on travel, tourism, and social gathering. Such required closures brought the local economy to a halt for much of 2020. As the economy slowly reopened throughout the latter half of 2020 and into 2021, however, it became clear that the city's natural resources and outdoor recreation amenities could position North Adams as a destination for outdoor recreation-based tourism. Shuttered for much of 2020, lodging businesses (i.e.: hotels, motels, etc.) were allowed to reopen during Phase III of the Commonwealth's *Reopening Massachusetts* plan in July 2020. According to lodging proprietors in North Adams, room occupancy rates had remained high throughout the

pandemic. Proprietors attributed the high occupancy rates to increased visitation by residents of urban areas seeking to enjoy nature through outdoor recreation. Accordingly, outdoor recreation appears to be an opportunity that could be leveraged for economic development. Any future investment in open space and outdoor recreation, however, must be made with a focus on sustainability.

Future investments in outdoor recreation amenities might include the upcoming development of new local bike/ped trails, other trail networks that connect natural resources (e.g.: Natural Bridge State Park, Mt. Greylock, the Cascades, etc.) to points of public access and, where possible, commercial districts, and increased maintenance of existing municipally-owned trail systems. Such investments, however, should be designed so as to minimize any negative environmental impacts resulting from increased public use of natural resources. Areas of particular concern regarding negative environmental impacts are: littering, stormwater runoff, habitat disturbance, and damage caused by the use of motor vehicles. Despite the need to mitigate the above referenced impacts, outdoor recreation is an area in which there is ample opportunity for investment in both conservation and economic development.

Returning to unemployment, *Table 4* below shows the unemployment rate since 1998, which clearly reveals more challenged communities not keeping pace with their state. Given local economies like North Adams, which generally lag behind stronger ones in the eastern part of the state, there is the need to identify and plan for more affordable low income-orientated activities in terms of recreation and open space. The average unemployment rate between the 2006 OSRP and the last plan of 2015, was 8.06%. When compared to the average from the last plan of 2015 to this current 2023 plan, this rate has improved to 6.02%. This is obviously seen as an improvement.

However, it must be looked at in terms of other concurrent demographic activity. The population in the older 2006 version was 15,038, and at the time of this current one, the 2021 population was 12,506. This represents a 16.84% decline, which is a significant amount of people no longer living in North Adams. With less people in the workforce, other factors equal, it stands to reason that the unemployment would improve. It was also during this same timeframe that new private development came with a significant amount of investment towards adaptive reuse projects and the repivoting of existing yet older assets. Projects such as the transformation of the old Carridi Mill building into the new Greylock Works featuring a huge event space, a collaborative kitchen, a café, other small businesses, shops, along with a plan for future housing came to light. The Tourists transformation of an old and once typical pull-in motor lodge into a new higher-end retreat with on-campus hiking, the conversion of the one-time manufacturing Norad Mill into a wide variety of shops and other small maker-type spaces, the continued expansion of The Porches Inn, the strengthening of the BMC satellite campus, along with the infusion of new cannabis activity, have all keenly contributed to employment opportunities. This in turn has improved the local property tax-base, thereby providing more reliable municipal revenue. This level of new private development is clearly needed and welcomed, but it needs to be sustained as best it possibly can.

Year	Local Rate	State Rate
1998	4.3%	3.3%
1999	4.1%	3.2%
2000	3.3%	2.6%
2001	4.3%	3.7%
2002	5.7%	5.3%
2003	6.3%	5.8%
2004	5.9%	5.2%
2005	5.4%	4.8%
2006	5.6%	4.8%
2007	5.9%	4.5%
2008	6.7%	5.3%
2009	9.3%	8.2%
2010	10.2%	8.3%
2011	9.4%	7.3%
2012	8.2%	6.8%
2013	8.9%	7.1%
2014	9.0%	5.2%
2015	7.4%	4.4%
2016	6.0%	3.9%
2017	5.0%	3.7%
2018	5.0%	3.3%
2019	4.3%	2.9%
2020	10.0%	9.4%
2021	6.5%	4.6%
2022	5.4%	3.7%

Looking at other data from the CEDS as cited above, the study cited that Per Capita Income of 80% or less than the national average, or having an unemployment rate one point greater than the national average (based upon the last 24-month period), is seen as being economically distressed. The study stated, *Berkshire County has not historically met the threshold for either distress criteria, although a few individual municipalities and census tracts have. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the county did meet the 24-month unemployment rate threshold, and continues to do so, as unemployment has not fallen as quickly for the county as it has nationwide.* It went on to state how the pandemic prolonged the economic distress and continued in doing so for eight municipalities, with North Adams being one. It further stated that one Census Tract in North Adams (tract 9215) was actually improving, yet local tract 9353 continued to meet the distressed criteria, along with four others in the county. Given this local change, future open space planning needs to pay closer attention in these smaller geographic areas, as local residents may not have the means in which to travel to and afford recreational opportunities.

Slow, yet sustainable growth, is still needed to combat these economic pitfalls. During the last decade or so, the community has continued to see a significant amount of business turnover, most notably in the downtown. New restaurants and other new eateries have come and gone, and there still continues to be a fair number of vacant storefront and commercial spaces in the downtown versus what would be desired. A North Adams Chamber of Commerce was revived in 2013, yet there is still no local community development corporation (CDC). The last CDC went bankrupt in the early 2000s. There needs to be serious discussion of its creation, or the morphing of the local chamber into a new dynamic entity that houses both disciplines. Since the last plan renewal, Cumberland Farms opened its third local store on Ashland Street, at the site of the old municipal “DPW.” A new lumber store will be opened later in 2023, filling a vacant building at the local industrial park. Ventures such as these, coupled with the other adaptive reuse projects as aforementioned, is what the local economy needs. Similar to the last plan renewal, the local comprehensive master plan, North Adams Vision 2030 as adopted in 2014, continues to be the lead planning document, with this open space and recreational plan as one of the other top plans. Together, they have secured many thousands of dollars on a whole host of community projects, such as the skate park, splash park, and the rejuvenated Brayton Hill Park.

#### D. Growth and Development Patterns

##### 1. *Patterns and Trends*

The City of North Adams was rapidly settled essentially as a mill town with the existence of the Hoosic River as its focal point. The river forged the way for massive industrial growth in its early years, and was a key determining factor in its overall development. Residential development consisted of typical row-housing near the factories. Since the early settlement days, industry and commercial areas have expanded away from the river and residential growth has spread to the city limits.

Current land uses in North Adams will have a significant impact on the future. The emphasis placed on recreation should be considered first. There are extensive recreational sites located around the community. Due to the population and available land in the community, the focus should be the rehabilitation of these existing areas. If this is done, well-developed recreational facilities will exist long into the future that will have something to offer to all residents.

The current land use trend of cluster housing is most likely not a feasible method for use within North Adams. Due to the small amount of land with development potential, rehabilitation of existing facilities is necessary. The reconstruction of abandoned and dilapidated buildings in the area should become the focus, although demolition of the worst housing stock needs to continue. The city has conducted a very aggressive demolition campaign over the last decade in its quest of eliminating dangerous, slum and blighting conditions, which have opened up many pockets of green space. These newly opened spaces may lend themselves to new “in-fill” affordable housing initiatives; however, improvements to existing community-wide facilities need to remain where applicable.

Preservation of historical sites continues to be a major goal of local government. The North Adams Historical Commission plays a large part in this, as it has established an extensive inventory of local districts, sites and buildings that have or may have historical significance and integrity. It has also successfully preserved several important sites, such as with the expansion of the North Adams Public Library as previously stated. The once abandoned Windsor Mill continues to be a decent alternative incubator-type facility, providing low-cost rental space for small business manufacturing entities. However, there have been discussions about the mill as being a good location for a new public safety complex. The Western Gateway Heritage State Park is another area of historical significance, and is still underutilized with many of its buildings needing improvements. As previously stated, a small grant was awarded by MassDevelopment in 2021 to study marketing strategies for the park to bolster future redevelopment. One of the park's key tenants is the Department of Conservation & Recreation with its local Hoosac Tunnel museum in Building # 4. This museum is still seen as an attraction, along with a needed partnership with the city, not only in terms of tourism and as an excellent source of passive recreation in the downtown area, but improved connections to the Mt. Greylock State Reservation. This highest peak in the state at 3,491 feet, attracts many visitors annually, mostly hikers, given its many trails, such as the Hopper Trail, the Bellow Pipe and its famous Thunderbolt Trail. The Thunderbolt is the shortest and steepest trail to the mountain summit ascending 2,275 vertical feet within two miles and offers spectacular views. Established by the federal CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp) in 1934, the trail saw U.S. military practice there during WW II. It was also the practice ground for the country's first generation of Olympic Alpine ski races, and hosted the 1936 U.S. Eastern Alpine Ski championships.



The summit's Bascom Lodge also offers seasonal stay-over accommodations. Snowshoeing and skiing are also popular, as well as snowmobiling. The mountain along with its numerous attractions have been a magnet for outdoor recreational activity for close to a hundred years now, with a world-wide draw. The regional economy needs to sustain this and continue to promote it better than ever before.

The revitalization of the local economy continues to be a major concern for North Adams. Expanding the business sector and increasing tourism are local government's primary goals. The majority of the major retail chains have completed their respective major improvements and/or expansions over the last decade or so. However, since the last plan renewal, the downtown Steeple City Plaza, has again lost its anchor store, Gordmans, which shutdown during the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. This location was the former site of the previous K-Mart, then a Super K-Mart, and Peebles. The longstanding movie complex there also closed its operations at the end of January 2023, which means there is just about as much closed and vacant space versus what is in operations, as the plaza continues to struggle with sustainability. The city, along with a renewed local chamber, continue efforts to attract new business.

Tourism continues to be large source of income for North Adams, as well as the New England

region in general. As previously mentioned, the Mass Museum of Contemporary Art, located in the heart of the downtown, continues to draw a significant number of visitors annually. Their regular concert series of the Wilco Solid Sound Festival in the summer, followed up by their Fresh Grass Festival each late summer, can see a swell of over four-thousand persons flooding the city for extended weekend stays. The economic spin-offs and the amount of private investment alone in the downtown area have been significant since the museum's inception in 1998. The museum, as well as other area sites such as Natural Bridge and Mt. Greylock, is geared toward expanding tourism, which continue to aid the both the community, as well as the region, in achieving economic stability.

## 2. Infrastructure

### a. Transportation

North Adams circulation system, like its development pattern, is defined, and to some extent limited, by the local topography. Local streets can best be classified by the level of service they are designed to provide. North Adams arterials define the major east-west and north-south traffic movements within and through the community. Route 2 (State Road - West Main Street - Veteran's Memorial Drive - Union Street - Mohawk Trail) defines the primary east-west traffic flow between North Adams and the other towns in the Berkshires. Route 8 (Curran Highway) and its connecting streets (Marshall Street, Hadley Overpass, Eagle Street, Beaver Street, Ashland Street, South Church Street and Hodges Cross Road) define the primary north-south traffic flow. The most improved corridor has been a 1.3-mile section of Route 8 called the Curran Highway. In 1983-1984, the State spent five million dollars of highway funds to improve the roadway by converting the section from a two-lane highway into a four-lane divided highway. The State also invested approximately 2.2 million dollars in August of 1993, to conduct a major rehabilitation of the Veteran's Memorial Drive (Route 2) artery bridge that heads westerly from the central business district towards the Town of Williamstown, MA. As to the other major bridge, the Hadley Overpass (from Main Street southerly along Route 8), the State completed a multi-million-dollar overhaul in 2015. Since the last plan renewal as well, a few streets in the downtown, Routes 2 and 8, have seen painted *sharrowed* bicycle lanes. See this chapter's *Long Term Development Patterns*, for more information about expanding current bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and trail making.



Since the last plan renewal, however, there has been some new activity relative to the Veteran's Memorial Bridge. This elevated section of Route 2 creates barriers to downtown both on its surface level, and where it crosses Marshall Street below. For the latter, the bridge casts a large, hard shadow on this corridor, yet needing to entice people from the MASS MoCA campus into the downtown. Unfortunately, in many cases it prevents people from walking around the whole of downtown. The overpass serves as a conduit to get traffic through downtown as quickly as possible, with little opportunity to even realize that Main Street is only a block away. Maintenance-wise, the bridge, like any other asset, needs constant attention for its use and care. MassDOT began investigation and preliminary planning work in 2022 on the next refurbishment. Contrary to this, there is a vision that perhaps the removal of the bridge could foster improved connections between MASS MoCA and the downtown in terms of shopping, eating—the typical economic activity. To that end, local government received a \$790,000 grant in February 2023

from the federal government's first-ever Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The grant will study the effects of this potential bridge removal, with the results slated for end of September 2025. It will be interesting to see the study's results in terms of the net effect upon affected traffic patterns and the net effect on potential economic benefit.

The local comprehensive master plan, *North Adams Vision 2030*, envisions that in the future the downtown will provide better amenities for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as improved areas for challenging intersections and routes for vehicles. Improved way-finding efforts continued to be looked at, as well as the connection to the local Mass College of Liberal Arts (MCLA). Ashland Street serves as a vital connector from downtown Main Street southerly to the college. Planning over the last five years has taken root in terms of significantly transforming this route utilizing a Complete Streets platform, a state initiative designed to foster not only improved roadways for vehicles, but also for pedestrians and bicycle activity. The final civil engineering design plans are slated for completion in the summer of 2023, with construction for 2025. This project will provide significant benefit for passive recreational opportunity, as well as establishing a more harmonious and active contact with the student population at MCLA.

As stated in the last plan renewal as well, the Route 8 corridor was featured in a former study (the CDP—*Community Development Plan*) that was done for North Adams by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Within the transportation section, it revealed that Route 8 was adequate at that time; however, a build-out analysis going out ten years anticipated increased volume. This has actually turned out to be true, especially given the new Super Wal-Mart store that was erected as previously discussed, along with the recent Cumberland Farm's store, juxtaposed to each other along the Route 8 highway, and very nearby the municipal border to the Town of Adams just to the south. Future traffic flow, monitoring and mitigation measures must still be looked at, especially given any future expansions within the Hardman Industrial Park, which is located just south of the new Cumberland Farm's store.

As mentioned in the last plan renewal, the southerly portion of Route 8 is very conducive for new development. The failed former North Adams Plaza, near the town-line of Adams, continues to be ripe for new development upon this cleared acreage. The land here is zoned *industrial*, and with the Robert Hardman Industrial Park directly across the street, this area is a logical extension of the park.

Other minor arteries provide alternate traffic movement, generally paralleling the primary east-west and north-south roads, which provide through service with lighter traffic. Massachusetts Avenue, River Street Extension and River Street (all parallel to Route 2 to the north) provide an alternative route to Williamstown. Eagle Street, North Church Street and Church Street provide an alternative north-south route to Route 8, with Church Street running adjacent to the MCLA campus.

The following streets provide a connecting link between arteries, carrying traffic from local streets and distributing it to through routes: Houghton Street, East Main Street, Roberts Drive, Notch Road, Eagle Street, Kemp Avenue, Furnace Street, Pattison Road, Franklin Street, Bradley Street, Reservoir Road and South Church Street. The remaining roads are local streets, providing access to the residential areas of the community.

The Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) provides county-wide public transportation. There are several stops within each community; therefore, the BRTA provides the North Adams general public with a dependable intra-community bus service. Since the last plan renewal, new installations of quality bus shelters at various sites continued, such as the one on State Road near the intersection of Phelps Avenue and Route 2.

The Harriman & West Airport is a general aviation airport located in both North Adams and neighboring Williamstown, MA on State Road (Rt. 2). It provides for commercial and passenger aviation needs of the region with an asphalt runway approximately 4,300 feet long by 100 feet wide, which limits it to serving private and non-scheduled commercial service only. It is owned and operated by the City of North Adams through its Airport Commission. Aviation is obviously the main use, yet there is some correlation to the topic of open space, albeit limited.



Given the physical location of the airport and its surrounding environment, future development of the airport is sensitive within the context of open space planning. Aviation access, due to continued cultural events at MASS MoCA, and other existing renowned institutions like the Clark Art Museum and Williams College within the Town of Williamstown, continue to spur demand for long-term airport use. Long-term use is reinforced by the fact that the airport does not have any competition within a 30-mile radius. The continued growth of the airport will help ensure its long-term viability as open space. The necessity for safety zones around the runway and taxiways provides large, continuous areas of open space. Although the open space is restricted in use, it maintains all the environmental benefits of open, undeveloped land. Given this, the local government's careful stewardship of the airport includes continued sensitivity to environmental issues. All underground storage tanks at the airport have been removed and state-of-the-art above ground tanks installed. Major tree-clearing measures were done to strategic spots at both ends of the runway that led to a newly reclaimed runway, taxi-ways, aprons, replacement of the rotating beacon, with all of this major work being done within the last decade. The small aircraft mechanical service has continued to remain a staple at the facility. The airport continues to take an active role in storm water protection and erosion and sedimentation control in its day-to-day operations.

Since the last plan renewal in 2015, there were other development scenarios being discussed at that time. As discussed then, some of the open land on the northerly side of the runway would make for an ideal spot for a new solar array installation. The preliminary plans conducted in 2013 have not realized any solar array installation. The other exciting initiative at that same time was the possible expansion of the Ashuwillticook Bike Path along the outer perimeter of the airport, very close to where the solar farm was going to go. The airport offers many great scenic views, and the thought is to harness such beauty to a new biking venue. These plans did not materialize, as the route eastward from the airport would have brought it through a heavy residential neighborhood that was met with firm opposition from residents. This has forced identifying an alternative route, which has been explored over the last couple of years as discussed further below.

The area's rail system, historically the *Boston & Maine*, as established in 1835 as a U.S. Class I

railway operation, is still active today and running through North Adams. In 1983, ownership was acquired by the Pan Am Railways network, and then recently purchased by CSX in 2022. It remains primarily for freight transportation only, with nominal, yet regularly scheduled trips. This continued rail activity, albeit sparse, continues to present challenges for the future expansion of the community's bike/pedestrian trail to the other successful expansions of the visionary *Ashuwillticook Rail Trail*, with each section having its own distinguished name. The Town of Adams, directly south of North Adams along Route 8, had no active rail lines, which allowed for a more expeditious development of its trail system. The active local rail lines in North Adams means having to find new routes not close to rail, which has now revealed new challenges such as steep slopes, and wetland issues. Latest details on local bike/ped trails are discussed further in section 3 below.

#### b. Water supply system

The majority of the community is served by a municipally operated water system. The water supply comes from two reservoirs: Notch Reservoir (14 acres in surface-size with a capacity of approximately 94 million gallons) and Mt. Williams Reservoir (57 acres in surface-size with a capacity of 201.4 million gallons). The Greylock Well, capable of one and a half million gallons daily, is utilized for back-up purposes. Please see Section 4-C for further information on water supply resources. The following streets are either partially serviced by the city's water system or serviced by private wells: Notch Road, Pattison Road, West Mountain Road, Mohawk Trail, and Daniels Road.

The reservoirs are located in the surrounding mountains, giving them a higher degree of protection. The area around the reservoirs is considered to be open space and will remain so. All area reservoirs are owned by the City of North Adams or by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To ensure water quality, it is vital to keep these areas under municipal protection with strict limits on development. The latest community survey showed that of preservation and conservation concerns, quality of streams and rivers and drinking water supplies were the top two concerns.

In April of 1994, the city completed a \$11-M capital improvement project with the construction of a water filtration plant. This plant continues to allow for the filtering and purification of the water from the two reservoirs before it is passed on to the residents. This guarantees that the residents are drinking safe, healthy water. Due to this, North Adams continually meets or exceeds EPA drinking water standards.

#### c. Sewer system

North Adams is a partner in the Hoosac Water Quality District with the Town of Williamstown. Approximately 90% of the households in North Adams are part of this sewer system. A small percentage of the neighboring town to the north, Clarksburg, has some of their homes near the border that are also tied into the system. The only homes currently without a sewer system are located on Pattison Road, Woodlawn Avenue, Daniels Road, a portion of West Shaft Road, Reservoir Road and the Mohawk Trail. These areas are served by individual septic systems.

Any expansions to the sewer system depend on the Hoosac Water Quality District's ability to

accommodate additional sewage, which has been compounded by all of the new home construction within all participating communities within the district, let alone North Adams, since the last renewal of this open space plan. This continues to be an issue, as it has been for the last decade and longer. This factor influences development in the city because of limitations on how much sewage can be added into the system. Developers must consider alternatives such as private septic systems, which can be difficult to engineer and/or expensive to install. There is also the potential of contamination of resources due to leaching septic systems.

### 3. *Long-term development patterns*

North Adams has three land use control bodies within local government that work effectively in order to regulate the development of the area (see *Map 4 - Zoning*, at the end of this section) to help preserve and protect the vast scenic beauty of the community. Though the population has declined over the last four decades and has stabilized somewhat, intense growth management may not be critical; however, given all of the major investment and building made in the downtown area over the last fifteen years, the management of continued growth is key. This is largely due in part to the existence of MASS MoCA, as previously discussed, and the other more recent and sizable private redevelopment efforts. These include the Greylock Works adaptive reuse of their former mill building on Route 2, the Tourists redevelopment of their former motel asset, also on Route 2 and their future development of the former Blackinton Mill into a new hotel on Massachusetts Avenue, and the potential incorporation of the bike/pedestrian trail into their future programming of the new hotel.

The City of North Adams has, pursuant to MGL 41, Section 81A, an established Planning Board with nine members appointed by the Mayor for five-year terms. The Planning Board handles rezoning requests, site plan approvals, special permits, and subdivisions (preliminary and definitive). The present Planning Board pays particular attention to the resulting aesthetics of the proposed projects.

The Zoning Board of Appeals in North Adams consists of five members, each serving for five years. Appointments are made by the Mayor and the members perform the duties established in MGL 40A, Section 15. Cases such as home occupation permits, special permits, variances, signage and change of use are frequently reviewed by this board.

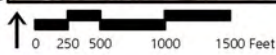
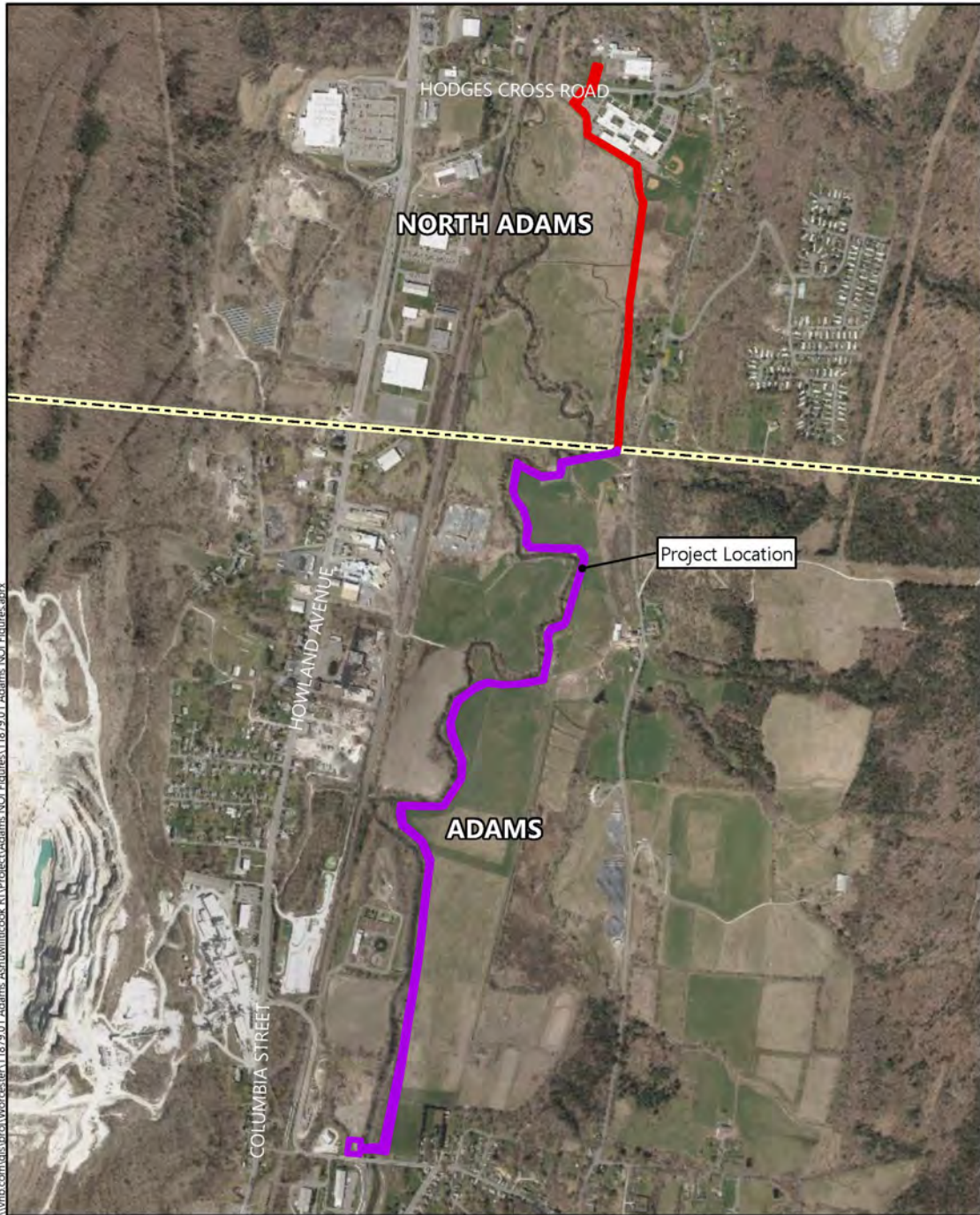
The North Adams Redevelopment Authority consists of five members, each serving for five-years, as appointed by the Mayor. The Redevelopment Authority reviews projects that are proposed to take place in the two local Urban Renewal (UR) districts. However, since the last OSRP renewal, the life-span of the UR-1 district expired. The UR-2 district has a current end date of September 2023, but a ten-year extension will be sought before then, as the key parcels in UR-2 encompass most of the southerly side of Main Street and American Legion Drive, as well as the Heritage State Park district. Therefore, long-term land-use governance of the UR-2 district is still very much needed, especially as it relates to its most important property, the Heritage State Park.

North Adams continues to see many major projects that have been developed over the last few years, which continue to change over time. Many of these projects have been discussed in prior versions of the local OSRP, yet continued monitoring of them as they mature and change is

warranted especially as to their impacts. At the height of this, as previously discussed, MASS MoCA was awarded a \$25-M grant from the State of Massachusetts in November 2014 that allowed them to conduct their Phase III improvement campaign to other major building spaces that are now dormant and vacant. This completed project has significantly increased their event space, and has helped to bolster their annual visits to the museum. This in turn has helped to spur on other investment into the community, and most notably in the creation of the short-term rental market, or more commonly known as *Air-B&Bs*. This in turn has forced local government in crafting new zoning regulations to properly cover this new and emerging market, yet being sensitive to the needs of the abutters, which are typically in heavily settled residential neighborhoods. The new cannabis industry is another one that still needs to have its progress monitored for potential adverse impacts. Thus, longer-term development and its patterns are clearly being affected by these two new and emerging trends.

Expanding the previous discussion on the advancement of the local bicycle/pedestrian trail, there have been changing developments since the last renewal of the OSRP. At present, there is no completed and operating bicycle/pedestrian trail within the confines of the city, and as previously cited, this is attributed to the fact that there are no abandoned former rail lines that make for a perfect pathway. However, decent progress has been made.

To the south, the Town of Adams has nearly completed their Ashuwillticook Rail Trail within its municipal confines. The trail connects all the way south to downtown Pittsfield, and as far north to Lime Street. The current plans upon its fourth phase of work, which will complete the Adams' Ashuwillticook path, have seen advanced engineering work with an assigned project number from MassDOT (# 606890) in order to secure future earmarked federal grant funds. From Lime Street, the trail will extend into and across the Burnett Farm, and then crossing the municipal border into North Adams and terminating it near or upon the McCann Technical High School, which is on Route 8-A (Hodges Cross Road). According to the respective TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) earmarking, construction is slated for the State's FY'2028 TIP cycle. This is for an approximate 2.4-mile trail, with estimated costs at approximately \$1.5 M to \$5 M. This will complete a full trail through Adams, finally connecting both communities, and allowing for the first section of a new bike/ped path in North Adams. Two schematic drawings are shown on the following two pages that reveal the route's alignment. The purple alignment in the first drawing, shows the existing path in Adams, and thence going north from the identified location, and from the border, the envisioned path in North Adams is depicted in red. Northward from there towards the downtown, is still very much unclear and may take up to five to ten years. The second drawing reveals the preferred alignment. The vision thereafter is to bring it north from the high school to downtown to MASS MoCA, while traversing through the Noel Field Athletic Complex and the Heritage State Park along the way.



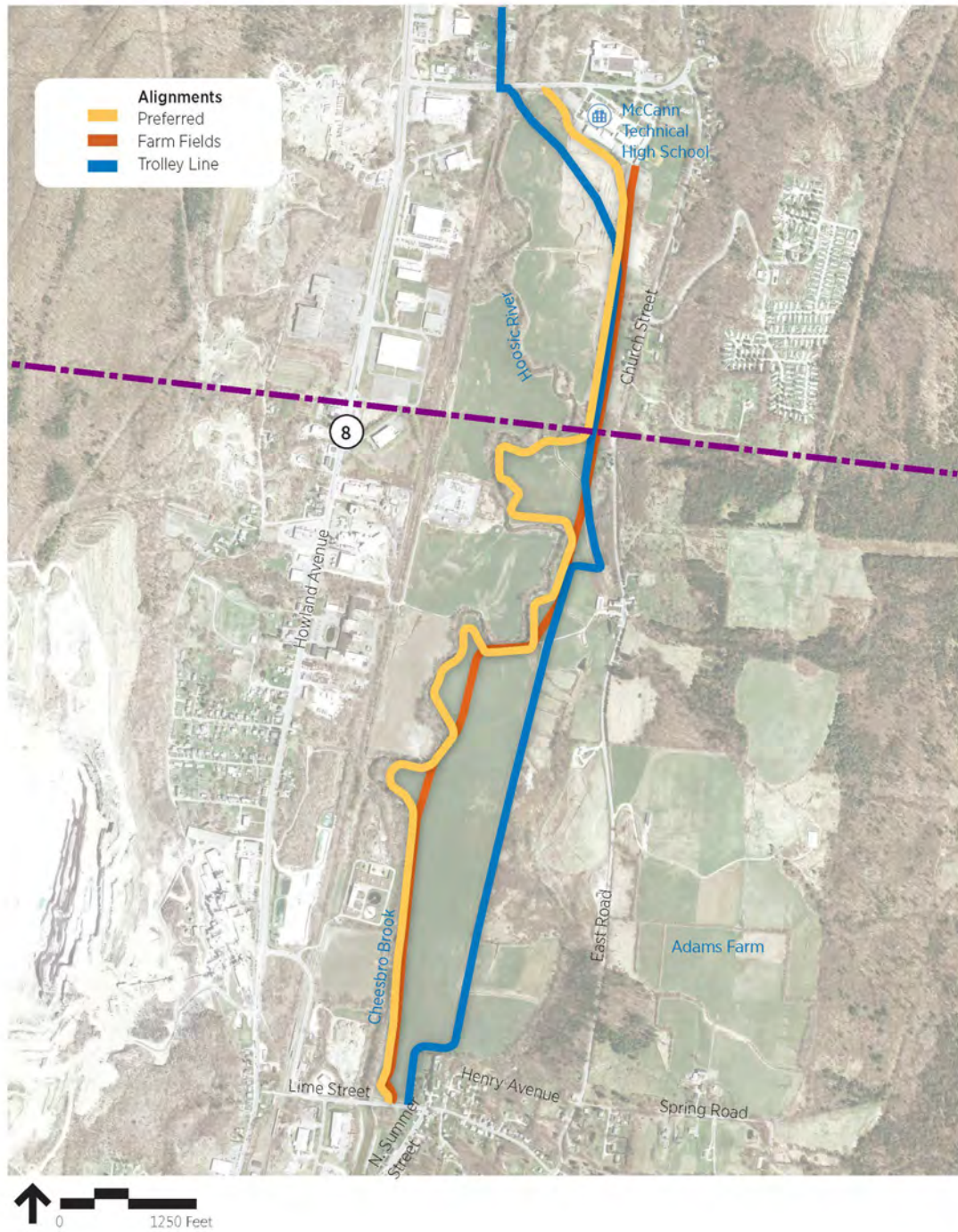
MassDOT Project #606890  
Ashuwilltcook Rail Trail Extension to Route 8A (Hodges Cross Road)

Adams, MA

**Legend**

- ▭ Total Project Limits
- ▭ Project Limits in Adams
- Town Boundaries

**Aerial Map**  
Source Info: USGS, MassGIS, VHB



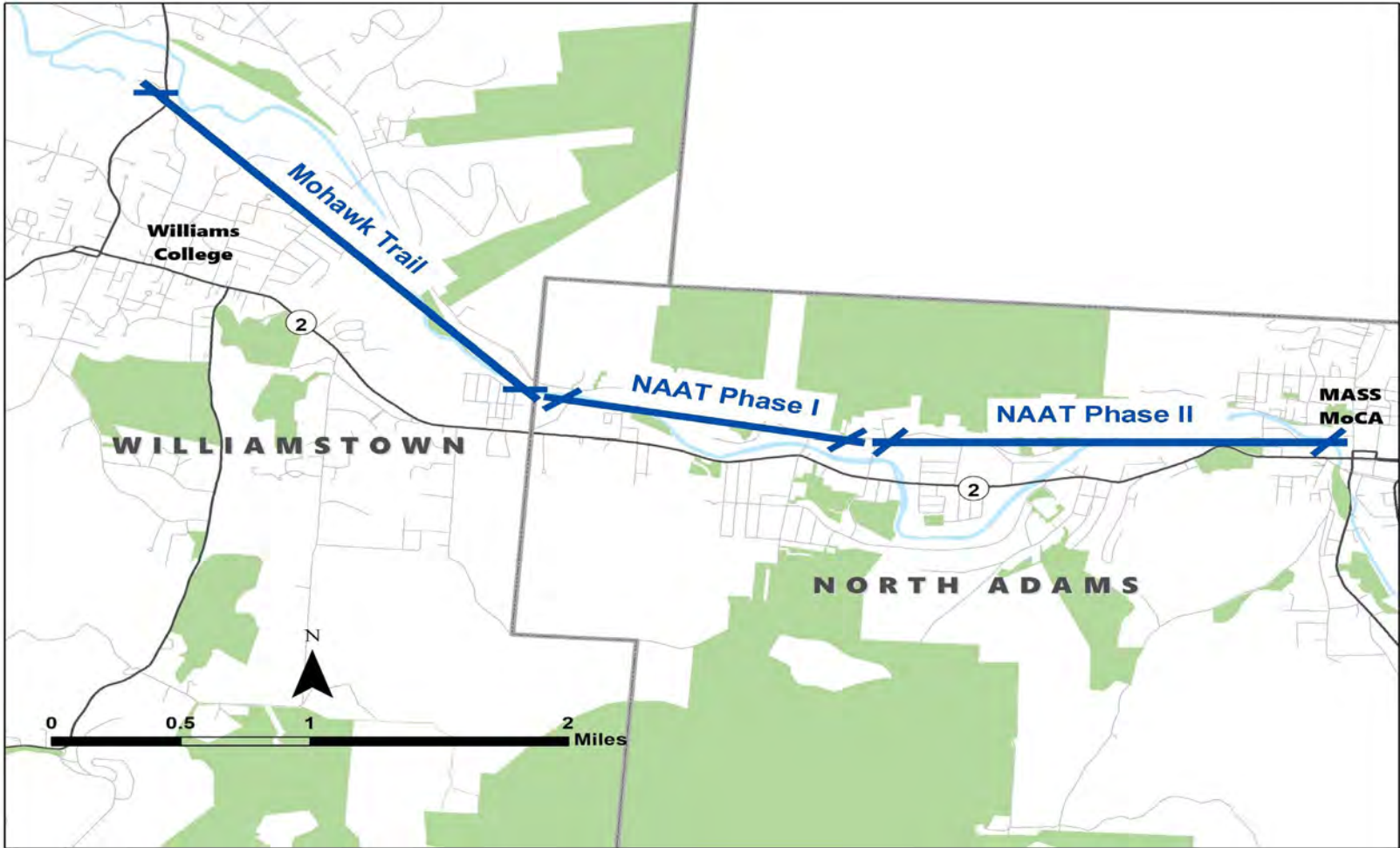
Coming in from the other or westerly side of the community, the Town of Williamstown completed the first leg of its bike/ped path, known as the Mohawk Trail, which opened ahead of schedule in early fall 2022. The new trail starts at its westerly end upon Syndicate Road approximately a couple hundred feet off of Route 7, making for an approximate 2.4-mile trek. It then proceeds easterly, north of Stetson Road and upon the northerly end of Cole Avenue, and terminating in a large open field known as the Spruces, which has access for parking from Route 2. The Spruces was once the site of the Spruces Mobile Home Park prior to 2011. Tropical Storm *Irene* saw its massive flooding destroying all 226 homes! Once cleared of all ruins, the vast amount of new open space immediately lent itself to passive recreational opportunities such as walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, along with an abundance of on-site parking. This bolstered the alignment of the bike/ped trail, as the available parking made for a great terminus point. The longer-term vision north westerly sees it going into Vermont in the Town of Pownal, thereby by making truly an inter-state pathway!

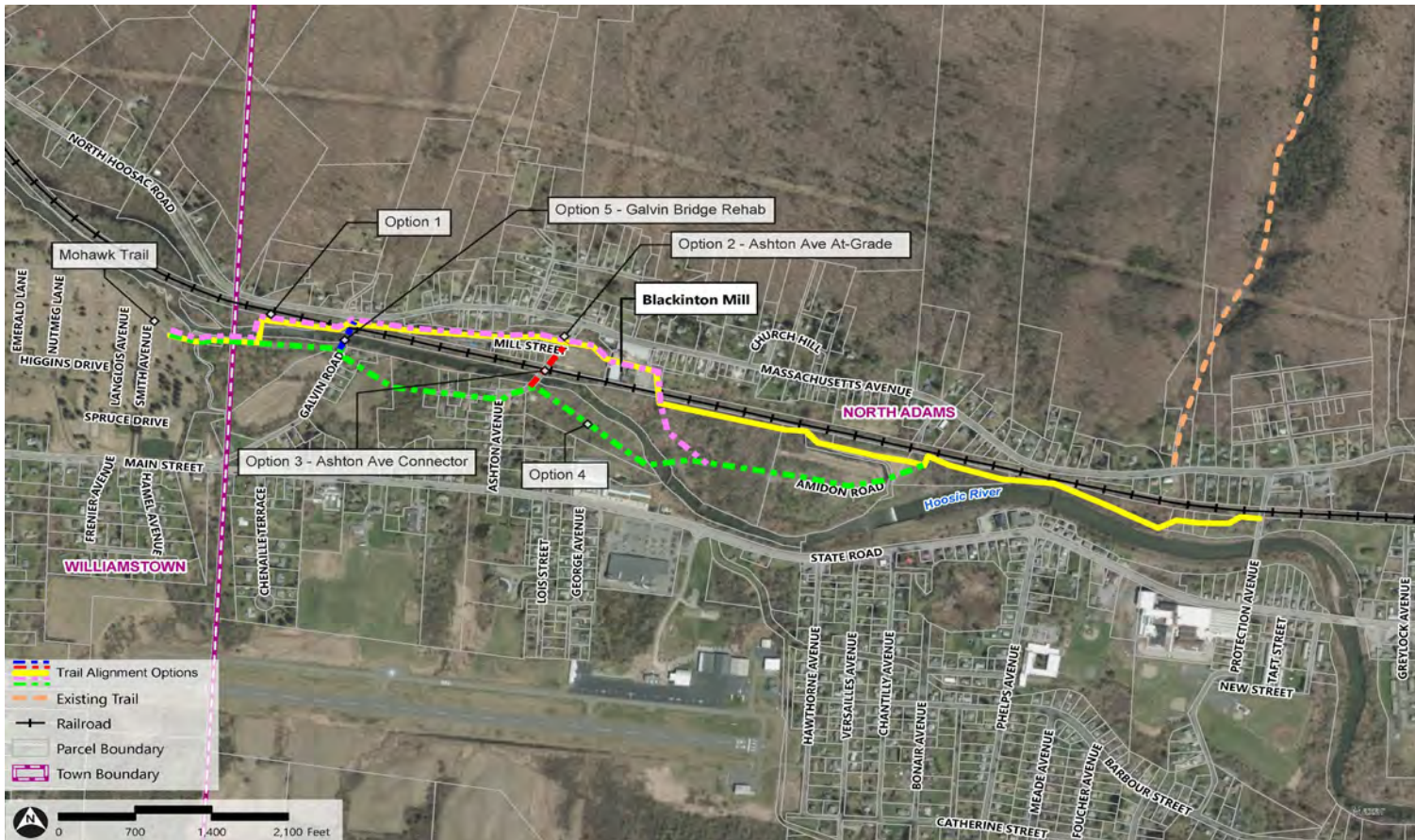
From the Mohawk Trail's easterly end from the Spruces terminus, there is a short segment of new trail, about 400-feet, that is needed to reach the North Adams border. It is at that point the trail will be known as the North Adams Adventure Trail (Adventure Trail). Unlike the Mohawk Trail, or any other trail constructed in the region, this alignment will require a significant amount of advanced engineering and environmental permitting for the structural components of the trail (tunnels, bridges, boardwalks, etc.). Given the path's complexity, and adventurous nature, the construction cost is anticipated to be more than a trail alignment on an old railbed. It is anticipated that local government will seek earmarks for implementation. The Adventure Trail is at the conceptual design stage, but has been strategically advanced. The owners of the Tourists motel in North Adams, are planning the adaptive reuse of the former Blackinton Mill, located on Massachusetts Avenue, into a new hotel. The plan for the new trail is to traverse from Williamstown into North Adams, through Ashton Avenue, and run through the basement of the new hotel, thereby branding this as the premiere feature of this adventurous new trail. The path would then strategically meander through the mill property, which essentially is the land that runs in between Hoosic River and the rail line, easterly to Protection Avenue.

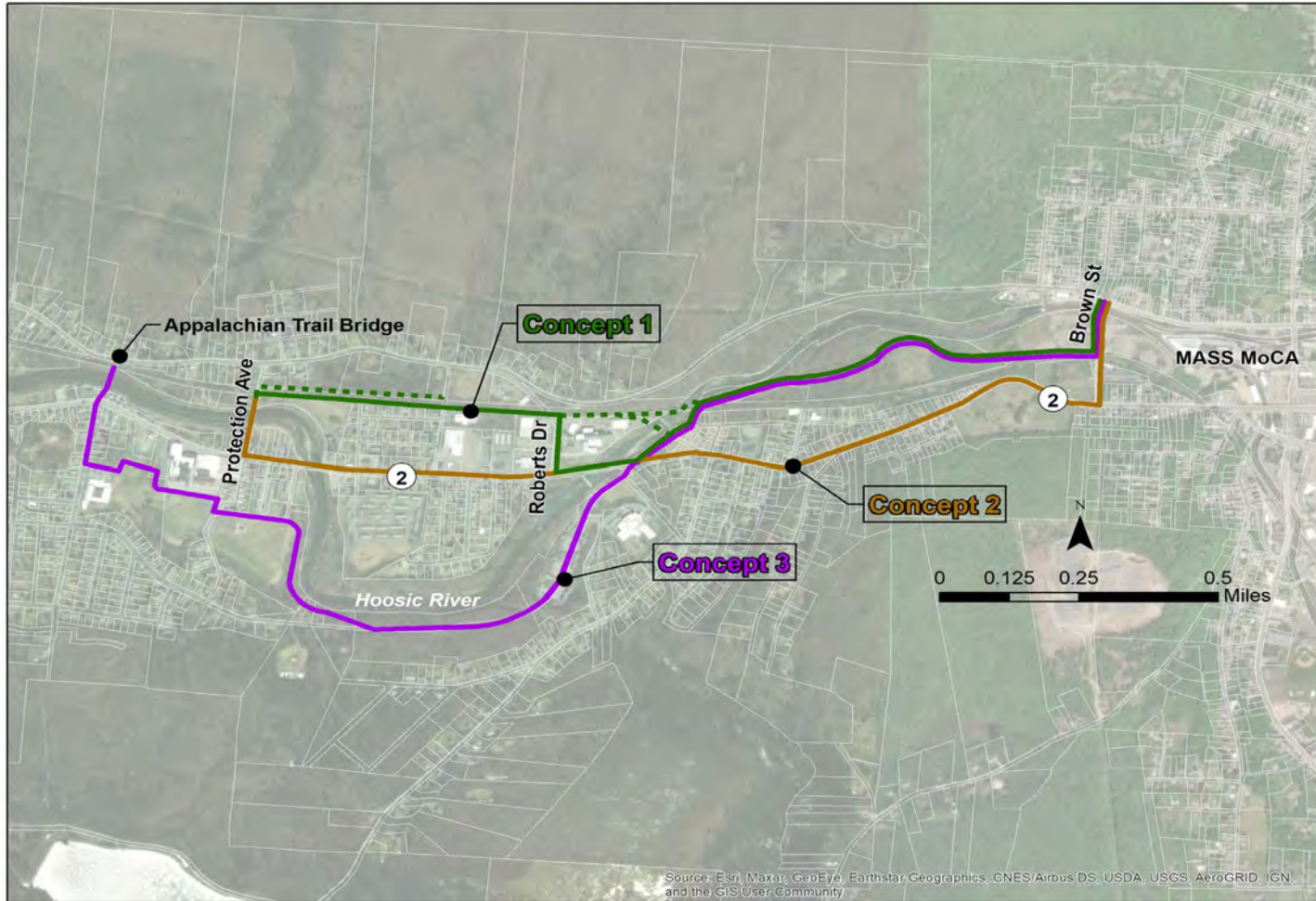
The trail could take a phased approach with the first leg extending from Williamstown to the Blackinton Mill Campus of the new hotel just east of Ashton Avenue, while the second leg would extend along the Hoosic River, connecting to the Appalachian Trail and terminating at a trailhead parking lot on the westerly side of Protection Avenue. This alignment is close to one-mile at approximately 5,100 feet. The next phase is to connect the Protection Avenue trailhead to downtown North Adams near the MoCA. This alignment, depending on the preferred alignment selected, could be between 1.5- and 1.7-miles. Schematic drawings are shown on the following three pages that reveal each of these potential routes connecting the Mohawk Trail and the Adventure Trail to downtown. Since the alignment does not follow an abandoned rail line, there are many challenges that exists such as the wooded topography, wetland locations, stream or river crossings, and work within the watershed of the Hoosic River —just to highlight the main ones. Initial planning construction cost estimates indicate that the trail alignment, depending on the segment, could cost between \$6M and \$14M per mile. By the time this is constructed over the next five to ten years, it is a concurrent goal to continue the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail northerly trek from the McCann school at Route 8A to the Adventure Trail with the ultimate goal of providing an intersecting connection at MASS MoCA. This would complete the long-term

goal of making a regional east-west and north-south connection within the geo-confines of North Adams.

To support the creation of the Adventure Trail, the North Adams secured a \$240,000 grant from the Mass Trails Program in 2021, and matched locally with \$60,000, which allowed the design firm of VHB to start the engineering plans from the westerly Spruces terminus in Williamstown to Protection Avenue as mentioned above, yet with the major emphasis upon bringing it to the Ashton Avenue, or its Phase I segment. Current design work continues to be worked upon.







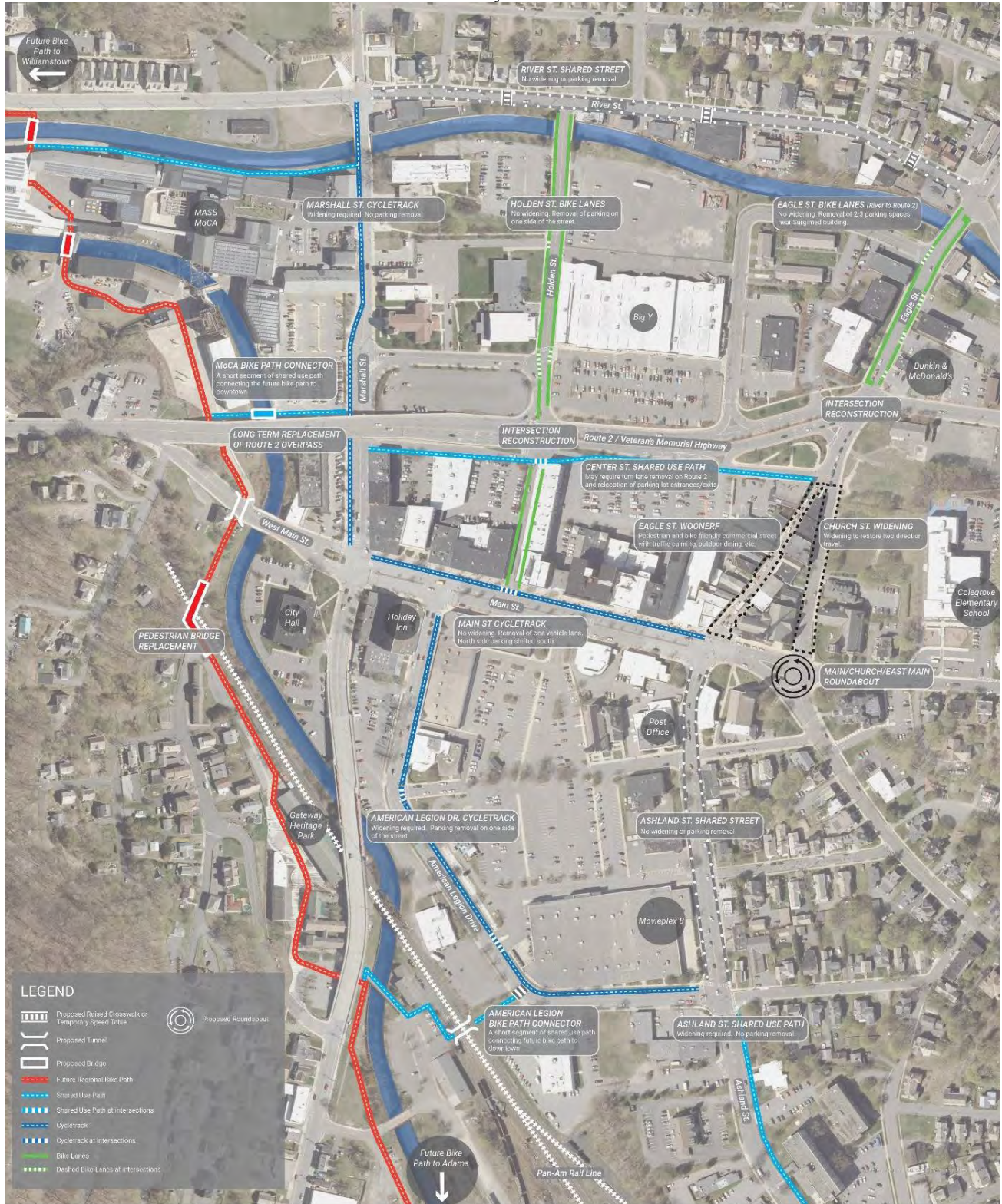
Relative to other long-term development planning with a more strategic emphasis to other current projects, such as the bike/ped path presence in North Adams, other strides have been made. In February 2020, a \$75,000 grant was awarded to North Adams from the FY'2020 Urban Agenda Program through the State Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development. The project was to advance efforts, both past and present, to greatly enhance the walkability and the bike-ability of the downtown core. Recognizing many downtown attributes such as MASS MoCA, shops, eateries, there is still the real presence of lackluster connections to outlying neighborhoods, as well as to other segments within the downtown itself. The study was managed by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, which took a hard look at prior studies center upon local government's *Complete Streets* policy and its prioritization plan of 2107, the *Eagle Street Woonerf Feasibility Study* of 2018 along with a connection to viable information in the local comprehensive plan. The goal is for the creation of a downtown cycle-track that provides *safe, convenient pedestrian pathways connecting neighborhoods to MASS MoCA, downtown and MCLA (Mass College of Liberal Arts)*.

The creation of strategic bike lanes throughout the downtown is envisioned that in turn will promote a healthier lifestyle for its users, as well as incentivizing others to participate. With the longer term goal of bringing a major bike/ped trail to the downtown from the west and the south and converging in the downtown near or within MASS MoCA, as discussed previously, the integration to it with a new downtown cycle track is seen as an outstanding recreational element for both passive and high recreational use. The 71-page study reveals three major phases of construction, which incorporates a considerable amount of expensive traffic signalization and other amenities. The cost has been pegged at approximately \$24-M! A copy of the study area from its final report is provided on the next page. Although very expensive, the vision has merit and the report is something that should be used as platform from which to push forward. Pedestrian and bicycle pathways have come a long way in terms of being used today as an economic development driver, and something nice to see as part of local government's planning.

North Adams Downtown Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan – January 2021



## North Adams Downtown Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan – January 2021 Study Area



Given the amount of private investment that has occurred in the city over that last twenty years in major projects as previously expounded upon and as spurred by the tourism industry, other major work in the downtown since the last OSRP has occurred. The downtown Holiday Inn was recently sold to a hospitality group with ties in Pittsfield, MA, who continue to see the hotel as remaining a key asset in the heart of the downtown on Main Street. In December 2022, a \$490,000 restorative campaign went into motion. All first and second floor business tenants were relocated to increase room availability that allowed for a pivoting of the hotel's main east side entry on State Street to its westerly side. The new DownStreet Hotel is providing a renewed facility in the heart of the downtown for many a patron.

The last renewal of the local OSRP touted the development of the Mt. Greylock Scenic Byway Project, which has been completed by MassDOT. This was for the widening and improvement of the Reservoir Road connection from downtown North Adams to the top of the summit at the state reservation. The usual trek up to the top of the state's highest peak is along Notch Road, which is off of State Road (Route 2) in the westerly side of the community (or from the peak's southerly access in the Town of Lanesboro), yet more removed from the downtown and through a residential neighborhood. The shift to this new route has been strategically planned in an effort to make this connection closer to the downtown, closer to stores and shops, and not through a section of residential homes only, thereby increasing the chance of economic spin-offs for downtown stores. Access to Reservoir Road is from Route 8 through Furnace Street, which is the direct access point into the Western Gateway Urban Heritage State Park (HSP). As aforementioned, the HSP still faces challenges in terms of attracting new investment. While the city and the local redevelopment authority carry out recommendations from their last funded-2021 study from MassDevelopment in which to improve its redevelopment, the connection of recreational and tourism activity from the park with the atop mountain reservation, is still a crucial need. There are about 30,000+ people that visit the mountain's summit each year, and even if a modest and steady share of those who come down the Reservoir Road scenic by-way to the HSP, the park can only see significant economic spin-offs of increased retail activity.

North Adams continues to remain close to its maximum build-out capacity due to its placement between mountains. This has been echoed in many earlier versions of the local Open Space & Recreation Plan, and the majority of undeveloped land within the municipal footprint is designated "undevelopable" (state parks, forests, and reservations), leaving only a small amount of land in which to develop.

This is supported by the current *Land Use Map* (Map # 5 shown near the end of this section), where vast majority of development existing in the flat section of the community's geographic terrain with limited room for expansion. Development has historically followed the Route 8 and 2 corridors that are nestled between the mountain ranges. However, there are many homes and other developed real estate in the upper slopes, yet the vast amount of open land in these higher terrains present slope and access problems. Additionally, there are no large tracts of undeveloped land that lend themselves to new housing subdivisions. With the lack of vast developable land, future major development can only come through reuse strategies on vacant or underutilized parcels. Therefore, new redevelopment strategies centered upon new "in-fill" initiatives, such as new affordable housing, need to be researched, as well as looking at Brownfields' strategies. The city continues with demolition of vacant and abandoned buildings, and has continued to seek Brownfields' grants for site specific adaptive reuse projects. In September 2022, it also

completed a four-year \$300,000 EPA grant as assisted by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). Three major sites saw phase one site assessment work, and how remediation can lead to gainful redevelopment. The Greylock Works site on Route 2 envisions new housing production potential, as well possibly the same for the municipally-owned Windsor Mill, also on Route 2, yet a few miles from the former.

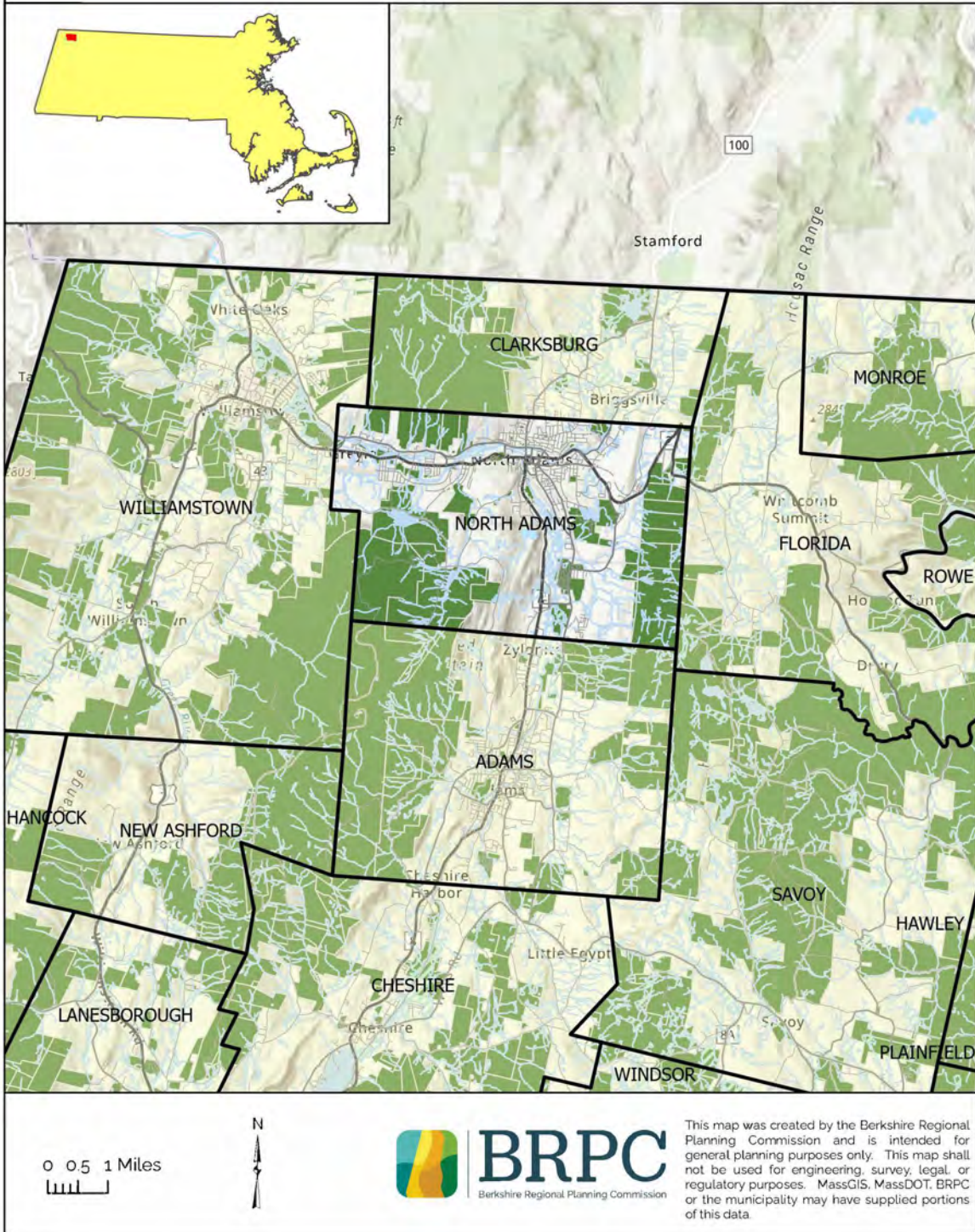
In an effort to spur new development given current land use build-out limitations as aforementioned, in December 2021, the City was approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in being designated as a *Smart-Growth Zoning* (SGZ) community. Part of the preparatory work for this designation was the establishment of a Housing Needs Assessment, which was successfully funded by a small seed grant from the BRPC District Local Technical Assistance program. This plan states:

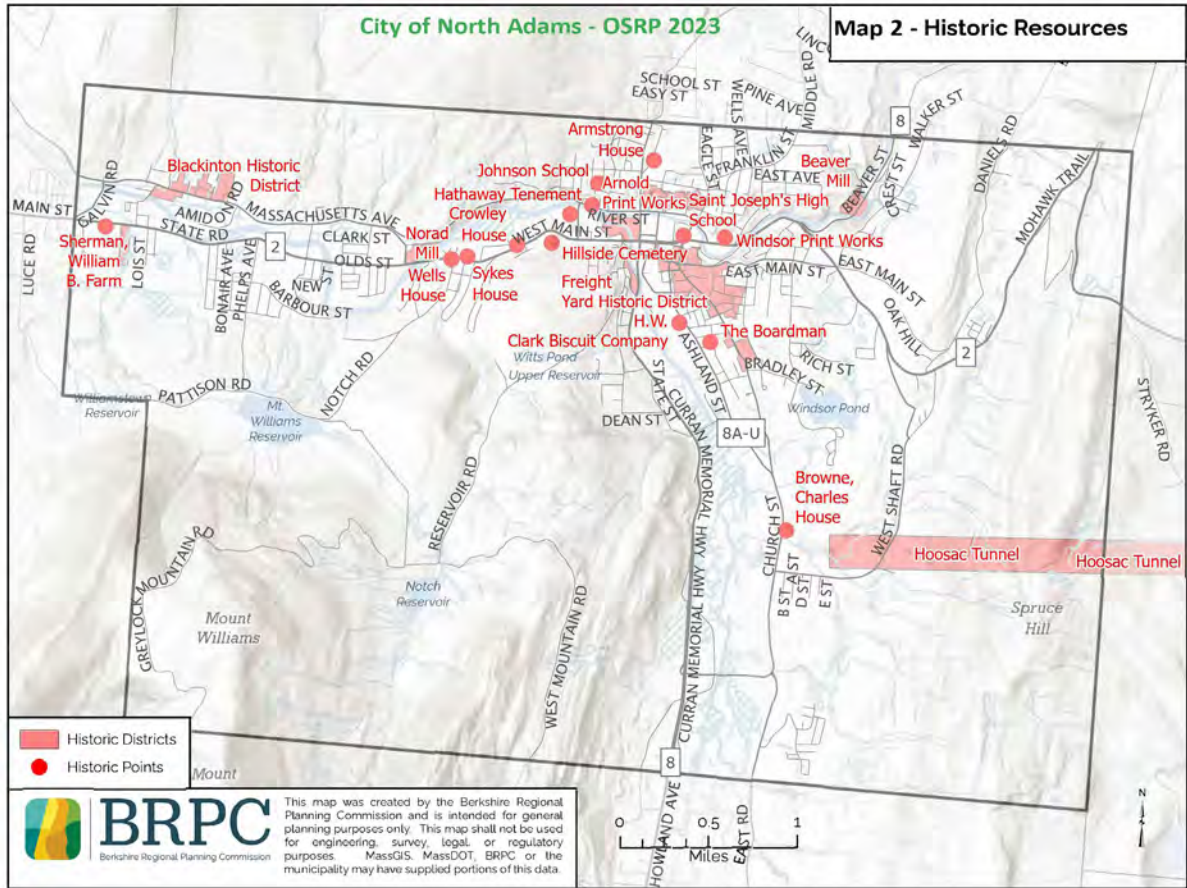
*North Adams is currently experiencing an affordable housing shortage. Across income categories ranging from extremely low-to-middle income, there exists a total deficit of 808 units affordable to North Adams households. . . . As such, the City and its various partners should undertake efforts to avail the community to resources that will enable neighborhood reinvestment and the production of new housing that is attractive and affordable to diverse income levels.*

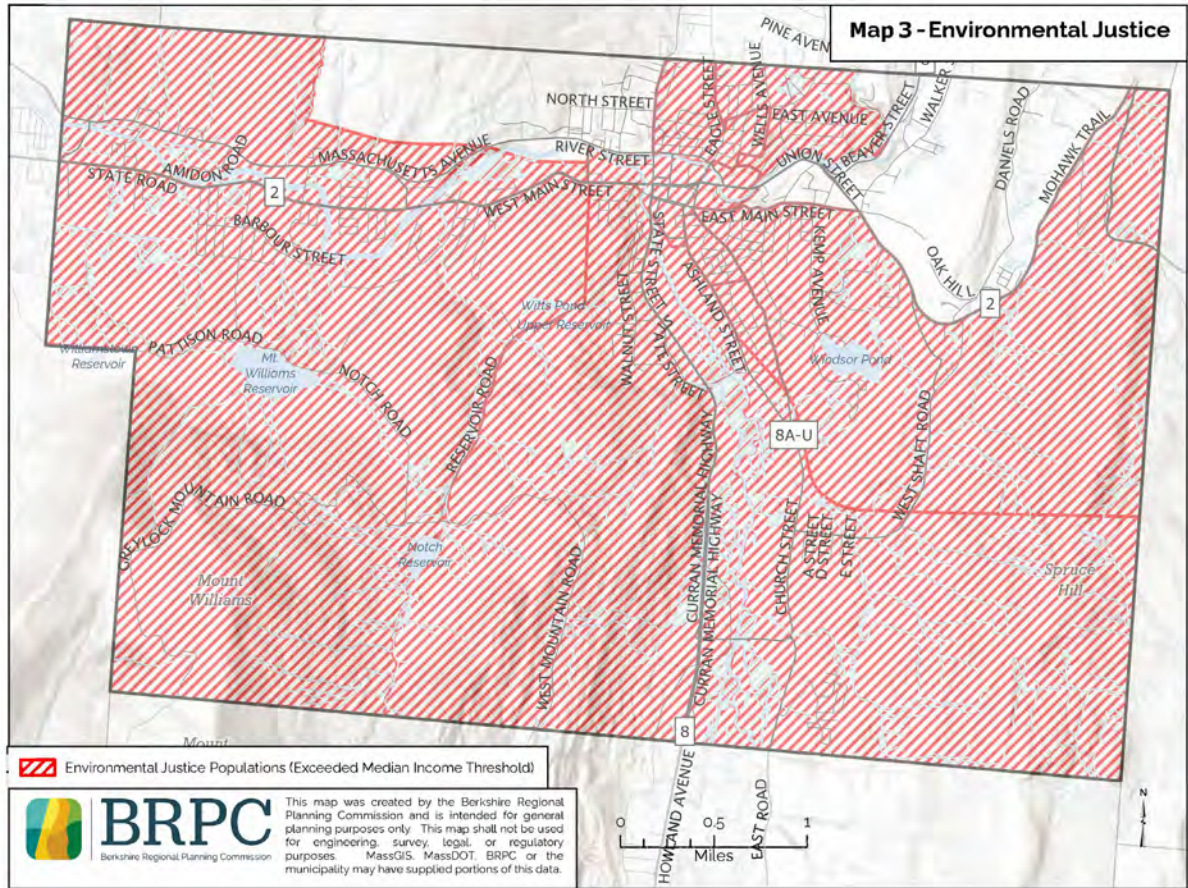
The securing of the SGZ designation will allow developers in receiving relaxed density restrictions and expedited permitting in return for new affordable and mixed-use development in an over-lay district promoting this state Chapter 40-R initiative. A significant amount of planning work went into this effort that hopes to achieve a harmonious balance between new development relative to open space and conservation concerns. The last four pages of this section are maps that were extrapolated from this SGZ work that reveal the overlay district that now sits atop local zoning, and the related density maps for overall residential development, as well as residential development for the downtown and mill sections. It is hoped that this new zoning tool can spur new investment in the near future, yet within the central city core in strategic underutilized downtown and mill sites, thereby minimizing adverse effects upon other existing open space and conservation areas.

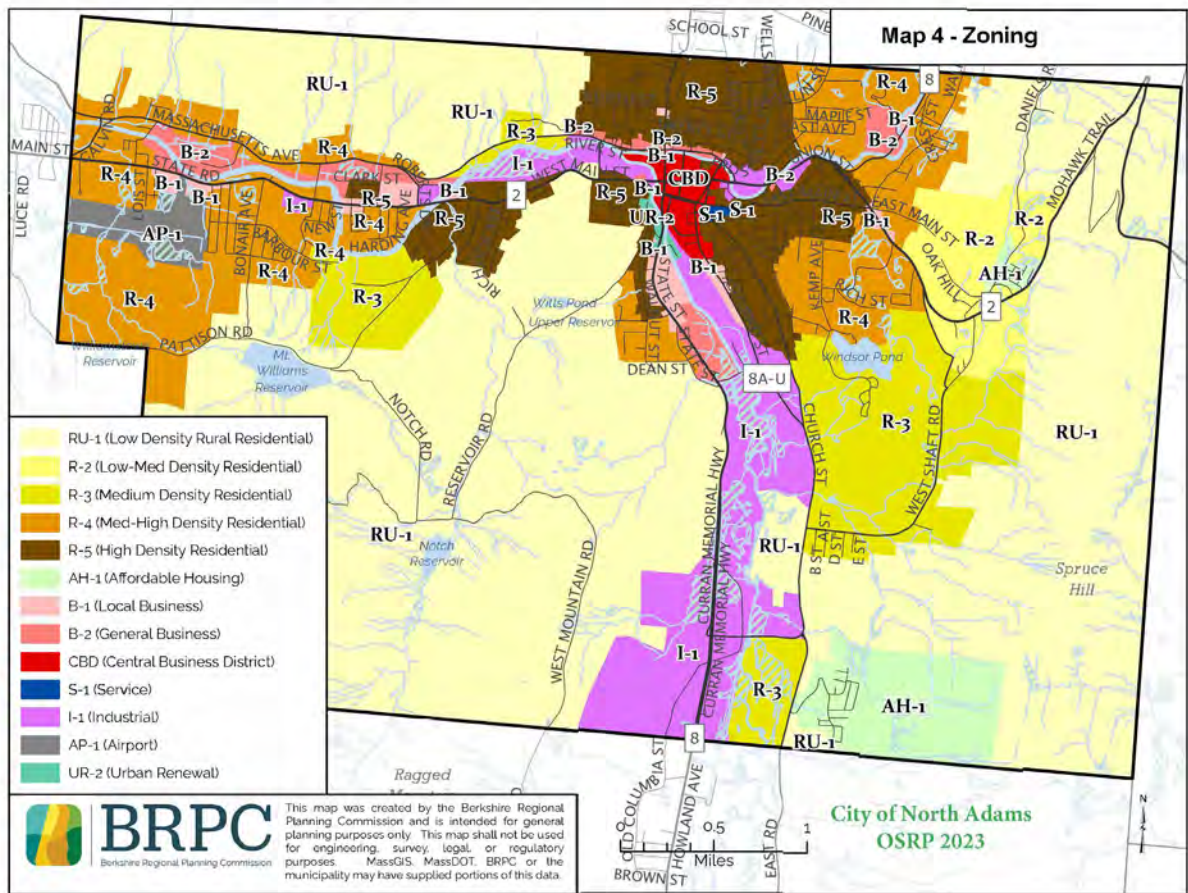
Map 1 - Regional Context

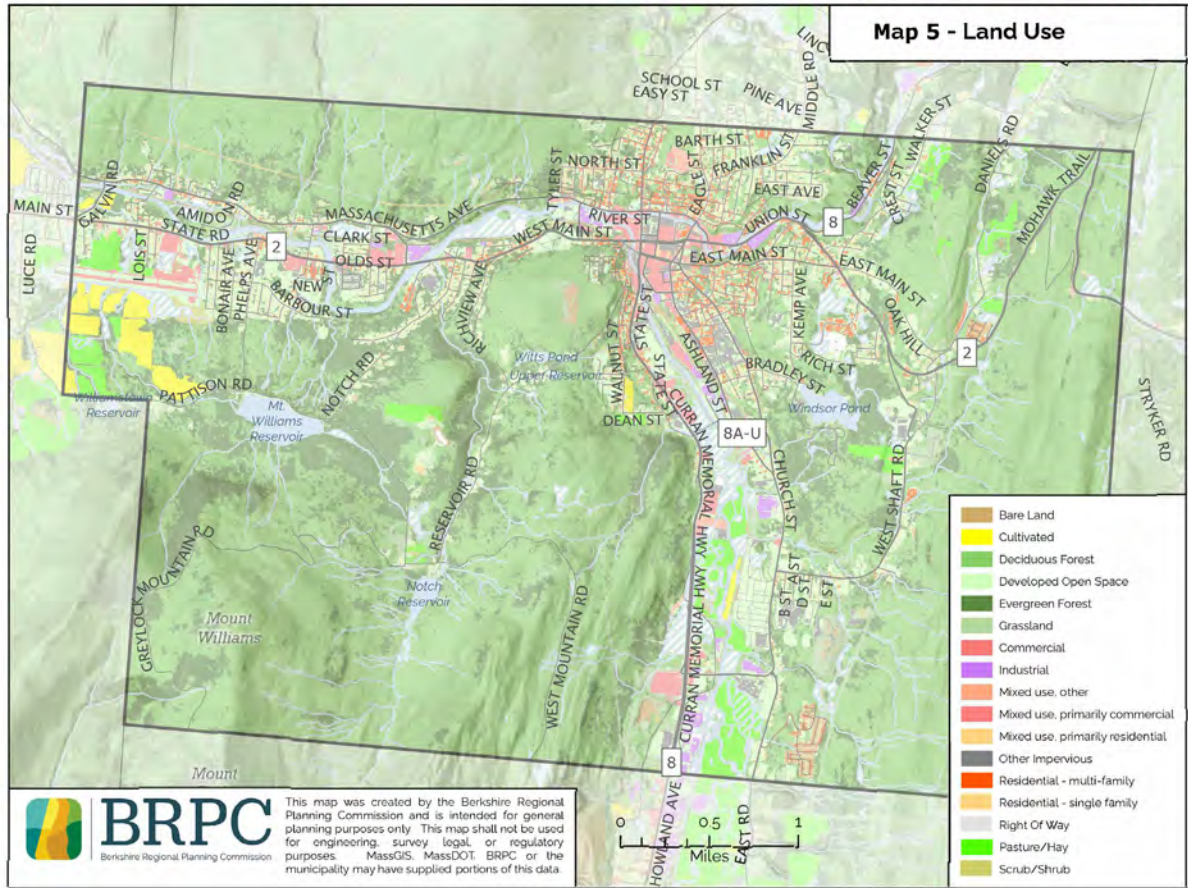
City of North Adams - OSRP 2023



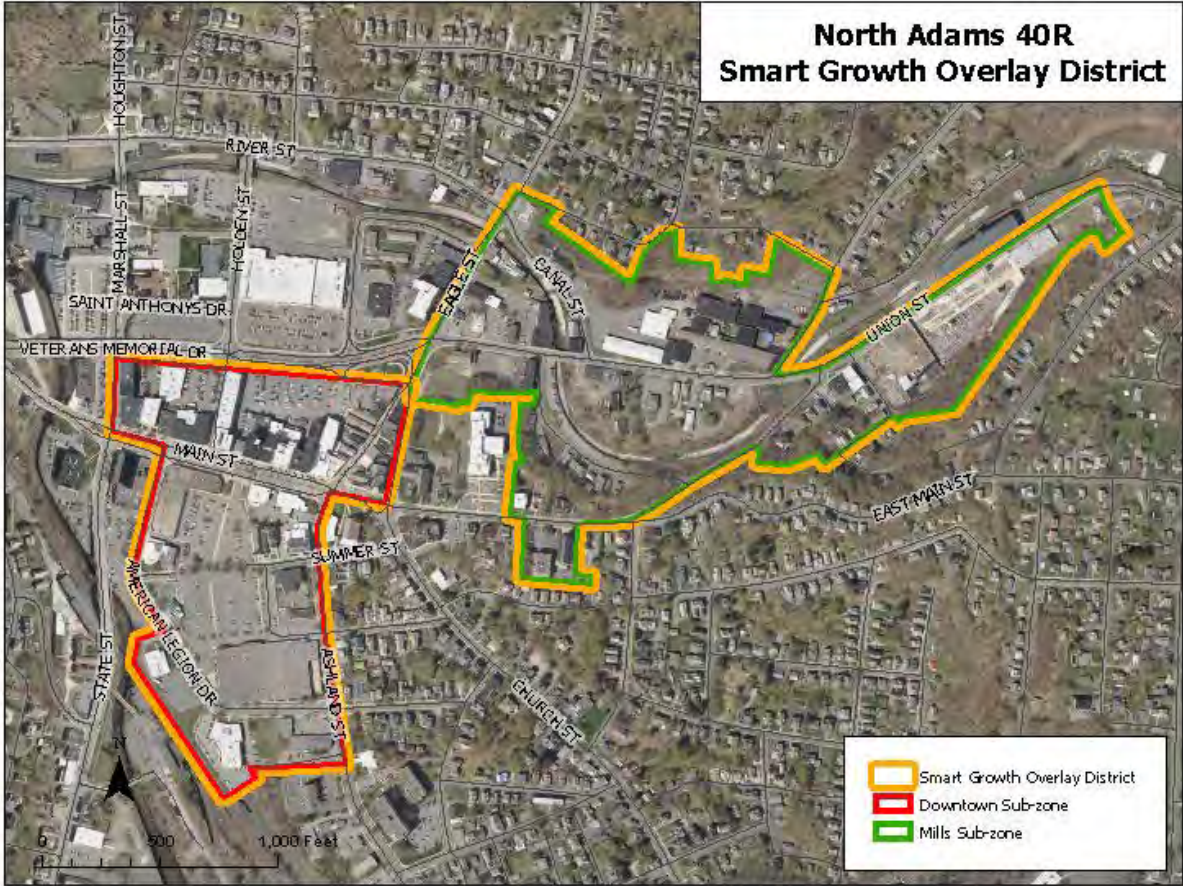






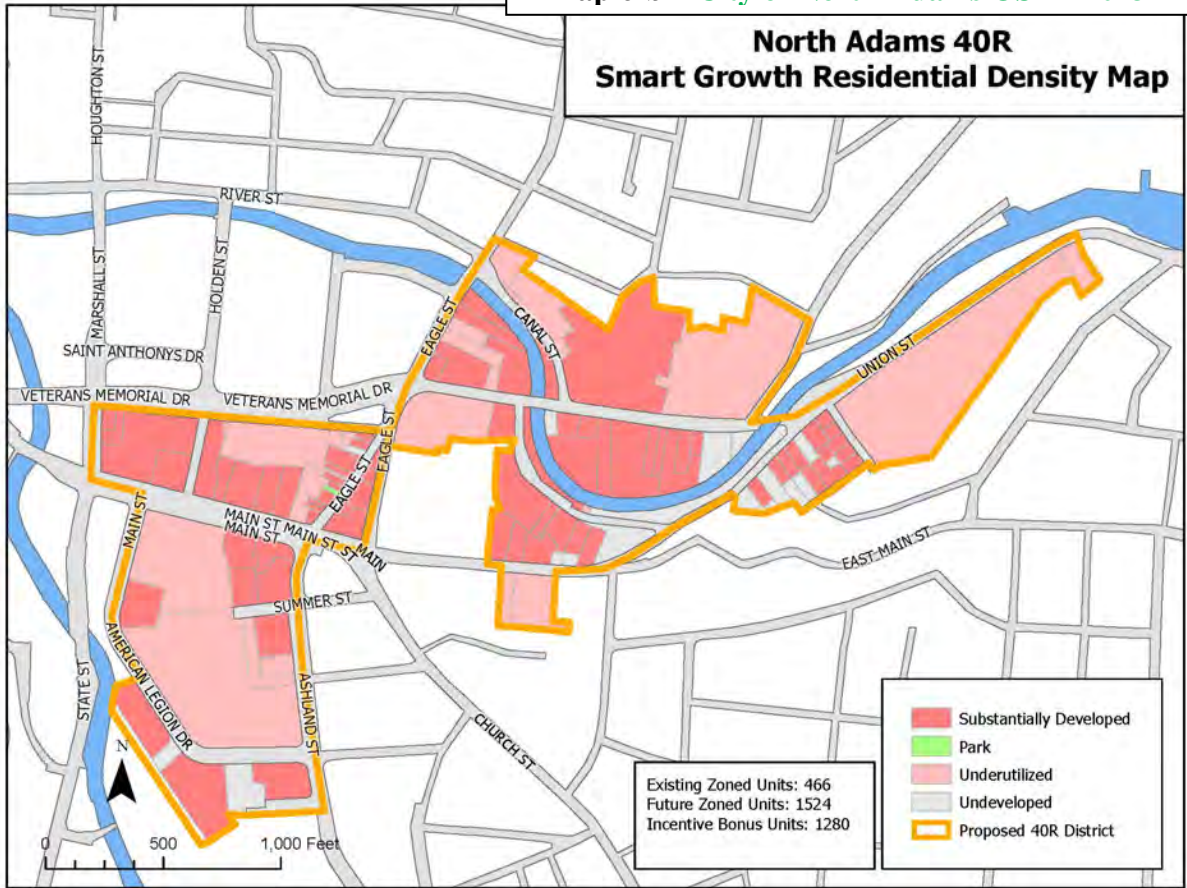


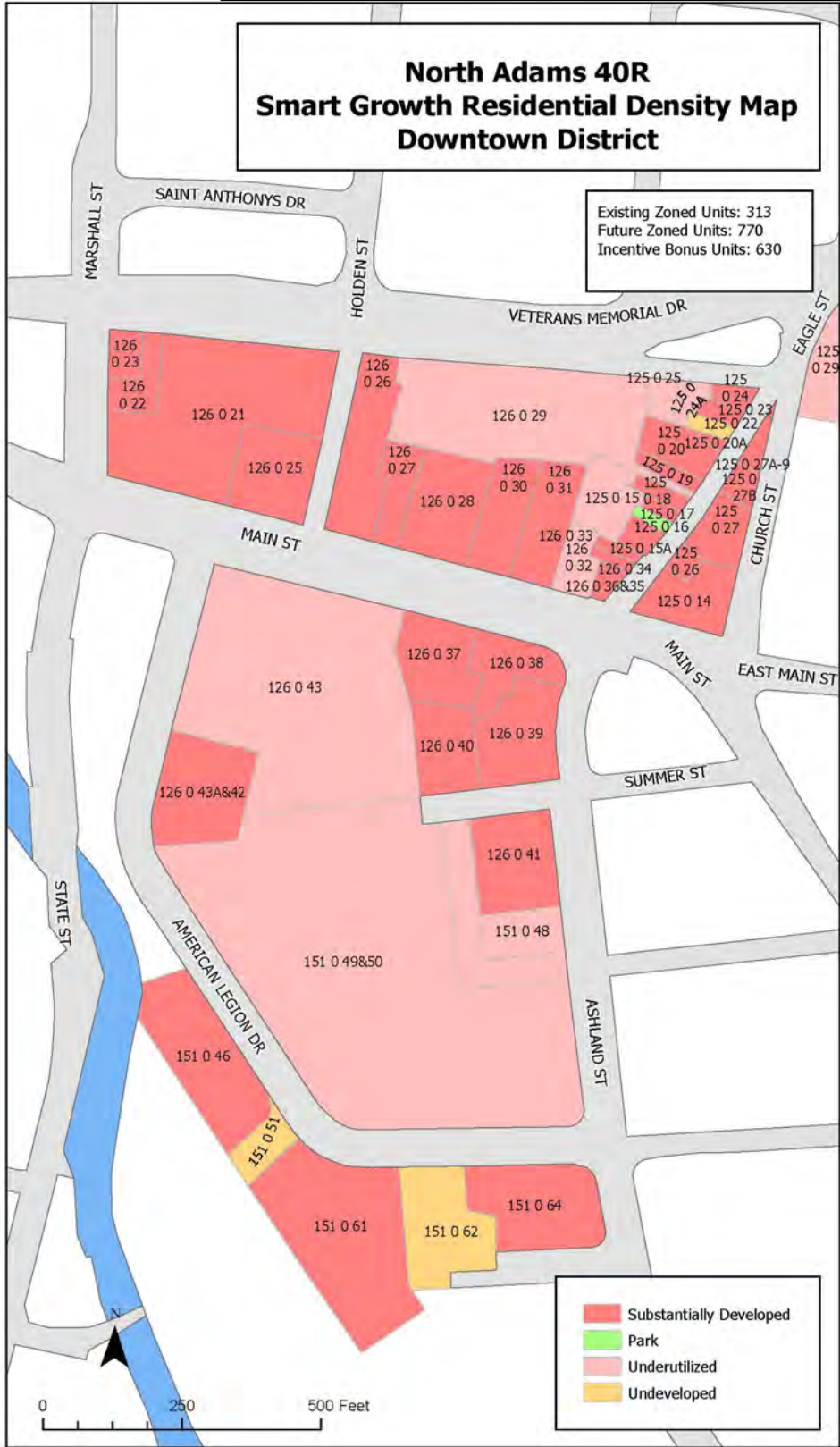
**Map 6-a City of North Adams OSRP 2023**



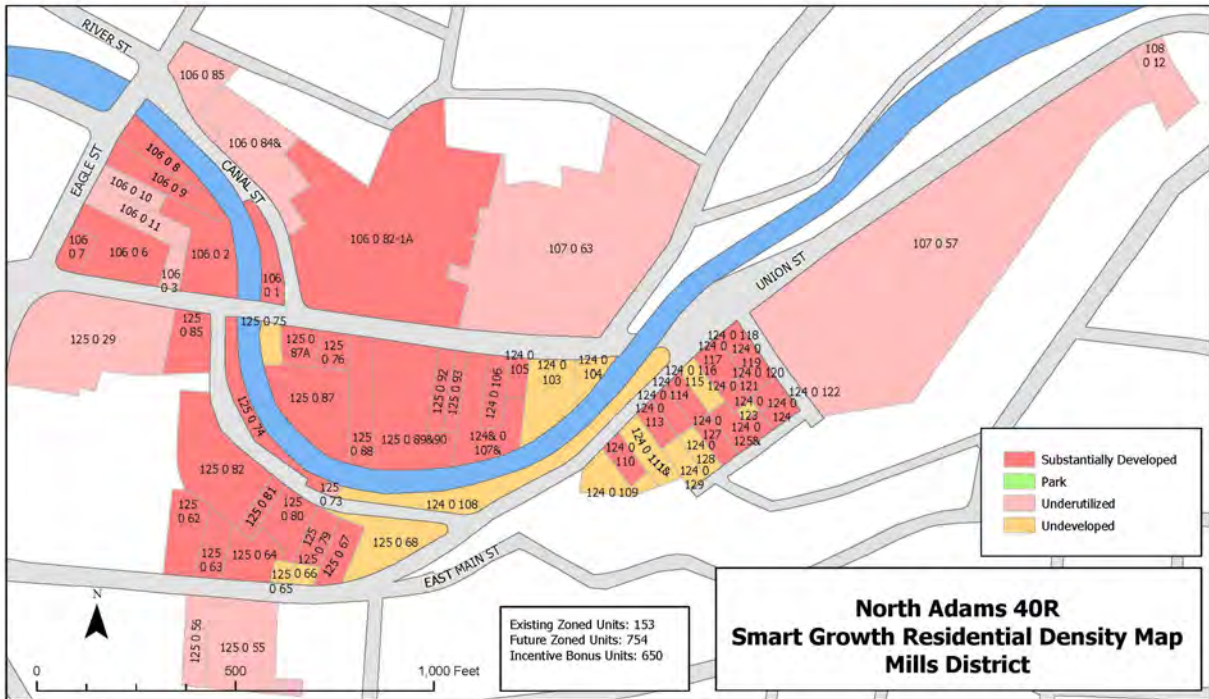
**Map 6-b City of North Adams OSRP 2023**

**North Adams 40R  
Smart Growth Residential Density Map**





**Map 6-d City of North Adams OSRP 2023**



## SECTION 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

### A. Geology, Soils, and Topography

The Hoosic Mountain Range forms a strong physical boundary between the Berkshires and land to the east. Although the Hoosac Tunnel and Route 2 cross this range, it still serves to define the eastern perimeter of the City's development. The steep slopes of Ragged Mountain and Mount Williams dominate the City's southwestern section. The periphery of urban development in North Adams is generally defined by the Hoosic River Valley.

The Berkshire Valley Lowland extends from the Connecticut border to the Vermont border in the extreme western part of Massachusetts and is drained in the north by the Hoosic River. The Lowland is produced by intensive weathering and solution of carbonate rocks in the valley in contrast to the resistant schists, gneiss and quartzites which form the surrounding highlands. Due to faulting and complex folding, some of the latter resistant rocks also crop out within the Lowland and form local topographical high areas.

The Western Upland region includes all of Massachusetts west of the Connecticut Valley Lowland except for the Berkshire Valley Lowland. It includes both the Taconic Range in the extreme western part of the State and the Berkshire Hills which cover most of western Massachusetts. The region is underlain by igneous and metamorphic rocks. Surficial deposits are generally very thin and consist primarily of glacial till with smaller areas of valley-train and ice-contact stratified drift deposits (source: *Geology and Hydrology of Wetlands in Massachusetts*, Water Resources Research Center, University of Massachusetts).

North Adams contains a variety of soil types. The downtown area consists of the soil known as Pittsfield-Urban land complex. The soils surrounding the downtown range from Lyman-Tunbridge association, steep and extremely stony to a variety of silt loam soils. If analyzed very generally, the developed areas of North Adams are characterized by urban type soils with slopes of zero (0%) to fifteen (15%) percent. The mountainsides are characterized by steep, extremely stony soils. A variety of soil types, most of them characterized as stony, make up the land in between the developed areas and the mountainside. The presence of these soil types has never hindered any type of development, nor have they stymied any recreational development. The community has many built up recreational areas, most of which have been improved upon or expanded throughout the years, as such, soil content throughout the community is not considered an obstacle for just about any type of development.

An analysis of agricultural land in North Adams found approximately 250 acres of land consisting of prime agricultural soils and 240 acres of land consisting of good to fair soil types in terms of agricultural suitability. One area of primary agricultural land is farmed by Mt. Williams Dairy Farm, located adjacent to the local Harriman & West Airport. The other is floodplain farmland along the Hoosic River between downtown North Adams and the Town of Adams. Secondary agricultural land consists of the Bernard property near the Notch Reservoir, the Wilk horse farm to the east of the downtown and Stanley Ziemba's farm.

## B. Landscape Character

The landscape of North Adams is by far its greatest attribute. It is surrounded by the Berkshire Mountains, which are a part of the larger Appalachian Mountain range. These mountains provide breath-taking views from almost any site in the community. During the winter, the snow-covered peaks give way to various recreation activities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and hiking. During the spring and summer months, the beautiful mountains can be seen for miles.

Without a doubt, the true beauty of the Berkshires is seen during the fall season. The residents pride themselves on having the most spectacular display of autumn colors in the region. A large number of tourists, a vast number of which are from other states, visit North Adams every autumn season to partake in the numerous seasonal activities. The City celebrates with its annual downtown Fall Foliage Festival and gala parade, which is usually held on the first Sunday in October.

In addition to being nestled in the valleys of the mountains, North Adams is divided by the Hoosic River. The river successfully powered ten mills in its hey-day, which employed a majority of local residents. Although the Hoosic River no longer generates power for local manufacturing, it remains a unique feature within the community and provides a great deal of historical value. It also includes several tributaries that supply areas for fishing, walking, hiking, and picnicking.

North Adams is surrounded by city and state reservations such as state parks, watershed areas, reservoirs, state forests, and protected land with habitats for rare and endangered species. These resources sustain the aesthetic beauty of the area and its wildlife population. The majority of developable land in North Adams is protected through the Commonwealth or the City. This protection is important so that the overall scenic view of the community will not be harmed by developments. If this protection were to change, the community would lose its wildlife habitats, water quality, historical sites and recreational areas.

## C. Water Resources

Water resources are an important part of open space because they serve as recreational areas, provide aesthetic beauty, and protect wildlife. According to the open space community survey, approximately 61% of the respondents want to ensure the protection of their drinking water sources, which was the largest response for preservation and conservation concerns (see Appendix B). The City of North Adams has several available water resources for these purposes such as: six brooks, two creeks, five wetland areas, four reservoirs (two active and two inactive), one pond and one river. At the end of this Section 4, please find *Map 7-Water Features*, for additional use and reference. On page 6, there is also summary table, *Table 5-City of North Adams Water Resources*.

The city's main water resource is the Hoosic River that flows directly through the center of the community. The Hoosic River is a three-state river that is fed by streams that run from the Green Mountains of Vermont, the Taconics of New York, and the sides of Mt. Greylock (highest state).

The Hoosic River's North Branch rises in Stamford, VT, and the South Branch begins in the Cheshire Reservoir in Cheshire, MA. The two branches join in a cement-encased flood-chute in downtown North Adams. It continues through Williamstown, MA, then to Vermont and New York until it empties into the Hudson River at Stillwater, NY. Major tributaries along this approximate 70 mile journey are the North Branch, the Green River, the Little Hoosic, the Walloomsac, the Owl Kill and the Tomhannock.



The Hoosic River puts nearly all of the city in the Hudson Watershed, with a portion of the eastern city border in the Deerfield Watershed. The Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRA) HooRWA is a citizens' group that provides stewardship for the river. Local government is dedicated to the restoration, conservation and enjoyment of the Hoosic River and its watershed, through education, research, and advocacy. The vision for a quality watershed is one that is ecologically sound and adds to the quality of life of its residents. The local Mt. Williams Reservoir is surrounded by a 509-acre watershed, and the Notch Reservoir is encompassed by a 1,037 acre watershed. These watershed areas are protected and are not subject to public use as recreation areas. They do, however, provide a haven for all species of wildlife as fishing, hunting and trespassing are prohibited in the watershed area.

A view toward the Hoosic River from the top of its watershed, on Mount Greylock. Cheshire Reservoir, which holds Hoosic headwaters, is visible in the distance.

The water power that the river provided attracted many mills and factories. Although the mills are not in service any longer, they continue to provide commercial space and a sense of history for the community. Many of these older mills have now undergone adaptive reuse strategies and have become new and successful entities once again. There are portions of parkland along the river in the city that are used for recreational purposes such as walking, canoeing, and fishing. The river is important due to its historical value, landmark reference, recreational usage, educational purposes, and breeding ground for a variety of wildlife such as the black duck, nesting sparrow hawk, meadowlark, and snapping turtles. The river contains floodplains that are protected by zoning ordinances and the Wetlands Protection Act. The floodplains essentially exist in their natural state with wildlife and vegetation like silver maples and wild black currant.

During the 2001 open space plan renewal for the community, it was stated that North Adams contained no "zones of contribution" relative to "Zone II" delineation. A Zone II refers to land area that contributes water to a well under the most severe pumping and recharge conditions that can be realistically projected (pumping the well at its full capacity for 180 days without rainfall). This type of zone also typically consists of land areas underlain by permeable sand and gravel deposited during the waning stages of continental glaciation. North Adams does, however, have the Greylock Well, a 12" x 18" diameter gravel-packed well about 190 feet deep, which is a contributory Zone II provider. It is located behind the Greylock Elementary School on Phelps Avenue. This well is located within an approved Zone II delineation for the Williamstown Green River Well, which is located in neighboring Williamstown hydraulically down gradient from the Greylock Well, and is screened with the same confined sand and gravel aquifer deposits. The well remains now for only backup purposes during low water supply situations. At the present time, there are no surrounding towns that possess any Zone II's, excepting for neighboring Williamstown that completed construction of a public supply well. Despite this, no adverse effect upon the environment has been realized and should remain so.

It is extremely important to note the decrease in wetlands in the City of North Adams over the past 25 years. A study performed in 1972 mapped out the locations and types of wetlands all over the City. The number was over fifty. The most recent topographical map of North Adams is 1992, which only identifies two such areas. The laws of protection are stricter now due to Section 404 of the *Clean Water Act* and the State's *Wetland Protection Act* that say one must not build on wetlands and if any construction occurs, replacement in another area is required (i.e. "no net loss").

The City's water supply is essentially the same as it was during the last renewal of the local open space and recreational plan. The City obtains its supply of drinking water from two surface sources (two reservoirs), and from a standby well. As stated above, the Greylock Well (194 feet deep, located on Phelps Road near the Greylock Elementary School) is primarily used for back-up purposes during low water situations, and can pump up to one and a half million gallons daily. The surface sources include Mt. Williams (primary) and Notch Reservoirs, which are located at the base of Mt. Greylock. All of these water sources are located within the confines of the community. The Mt. Williams Reservoir is located at an elevation of 1,044 feet on the south side of Pattison Road. It has a watershed area of 1.75 square miles with a storage capacity of approximately 201 million gallons given its surface water area at 57 acres along with a depth of 29 feet. The Notch Reservoir is located at an elevation of 1,246 feet on Reservoir Road. It has a watershed area of 2.5 square miles with a storage capacity of about 94 million gallons given its surface water area of 14 acres with a depth of 49 feet. The Notch Reservoir services the higher areas of the City and utilizes approximately half a million gallons daily.

In 2005, the City determined that it no longer requires the Broad Brook surface water supply source located in the bordering community of Pownal, Vermont. Approval to abandon this river water source was received from the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection in August 2005. Since the last plan renewal, local government has made attempts in disposing of this excess surplus land. There was a plan to sell the majority of the 3,420-acre watershed to the United States Forest Service for annexation and conservation to become part of the Green Mountain National Forest, which was slated in 2006. This plan was never consummated, and local government entered into a new sales agreement with a land conservancy based in Massachusetts in January 2019. A few difficulties had surfaced relative to boundary lines, which has negated forward progress to a completed sale even up to the time of the completion of this plan. Broad Brook is capable in supplying approximately half a million gallons of water to the City daily. Two other former reservoirs are also identified, the Upper and Lower Reservoirs. These have continued as not in service, although they have continued to be protected as potential water supply sources. Given their need for protection, they continue to be inventoried in the latter Section 5.

The main source of water recreation in the community is the Windsor Lake, known locally and more endearing as *Fish Pond*. It is open to the public with handicap accessibility and provides swimming, fishing, picnicking, volleyball, disc golf, walking, its own beach and a playground. The overall venue also houses its Historical Valley Campground, a 100-site seasonal camping facility, with its own separate beach, that gets wide-spread use from visitors coming from all over New England. The campground provides a vast number of sites for both camper and RV

use with many on-site amenities such as water, sewer and power, as well as 6 to 8 wilderness tenting sites. Given the vast number of years of popularity and success, many sites are now continually reserved by return users as reoccurring seasonal use, which has triggered the need to establish a waiting list. This means the number of sites available to new users wishing to patronize and see the Berkshires, which is a mere 15 to 20 with some of those being tent sites, in being extremely limited! Because the City has other abutting wilderness through the long ago purchase of land once known as Camp Decker, as once used by the Boy Scouts of America, this untouched land provides the opportunity to develop an expansion plan of the campground. A plan to include all types of sites, such as wildness tent sites, developed tent sites and sites for the other units such as pop-up campers, pull-behind trailers, and RVs. At a minimum, this expansion plan warrants further discussion, and is noted as an actionable plan item in Section 9 for its development.

Windsor Lake has a surface area of 25 acres and is an artificial, municipally-owned resource. There is a stage and band cover, comfort stations, and concession stands. Electric-only trolling motor boats, canoeing, fishing, hiking, nature observation, along with ice skating and cross-country skiing in the winter, are constant activities seen at this popular destination. For the last decade, a Wednesday summer concert series brings many a patron to the lake. The City also has its long-standing Windsor Lake Commission that works with the public in order to protect this most important resource, as this is a critical watershed. Part of that reoccurring protection is oversight for continued quality water maintenance from weed infestation.

The Hudson Brook, Sherman Brook, Tunnel Brook, Bowerman Creek, Phillips Creek, Paull Brook, and Notch Brook flow from the higher elevations in the mountains into the Hoosic River. These resources have the same general vegetation such as grasses, sedges, rushes, marsh marigold, monkey flower, wild flag, royal fern, ash-leafed maple, cottonwoods and willows. There are also two areas of wetlands in the City. Unfortunately, that number has decreased significantly since the early 1970s due primarily to development. The protection of wetlands and other resources is vital to the preservation of wildlife, vegetation, flood control and recreation. Only through Action Plans in any Open Space and Recreation Plans, will these areas be protected beyond what can be protected through means of the local Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Zoning Board.

Aside from the reservoirs that serve as the City's main consumption resources, all other brooks, ponds, creeks and lakes are accessible to the public. The quality of the water in North Adams has been improving over the years due to the construction of a water filtration plant coupled with the loss of industries. Pursuant to the Massachusetts Water Quality Classification System, the Hoosic Rivers and its tributaries are officially safe for bathing and recreational purposes, acceptable for public supply with treatment, excellent for fish and wildlife habitat and suitable for agricultural and industrial purposes. Having North Adams secluded in the beautiful Berkshires, creates an appreciative attitude about these important resources. Each area should provide walking trails, nature observation, panoramic views for residents and tourists alike.

The trek of the Hoosic River through the community makes for potential flood hazard areas, most of which have been alleviated through a massive concrete flood chute, along with other mitigating installations, by the Army Corp. of Engineers during the late 1940s and early 1950s.

This massive work effort has controlled all major flooding since that time. As such, flooding has not hampered the ability in which to develop new projects in any form, albeit residential, commercial, industrial, parkland, conservational, etc. The National Flood Insurance Program has established a “Flood Insurance Rate Map” (not provided herein) for North Adams (Community Panel # 250034 005 B) that shows the various zones of flood plain areas for affected federal insurance and emergency management programs and initiatives.

<i>Table 5</i>	
<b><u>City of North Adams' Water Resources *</u></b>	
1. Hoosic River	10. 5 wetland areas
2. Mount Williams Reservoir	11. Hudson Brook
3. Notch Reservoir	12. Paull Brook
4. Greylock Well	13. Notch Brook
5. Bowerman Creek	14. Sherman Brook
6. Windsor Lake	15. Staples Brook (portion)
7. Witts Pond	16. Upper Reservoir
8. Phillips Creek	17. Lower Reservoir
9. Tunnel Brook	18. The Cascades

\* For additional use and reference, please see *Map 7a-Water Resources* near the end of this section

#### D. Vegetation

The City of North Adams has a diverse range of vegetation, and is surrounded by forest land, open fields, and a few wetlands. For additional reference, please see *Map 8 – Vegetation*, near the end of this section.

**FORESTS:** The forests surrounding the City are comprised of deciduous and evergreen trees. Maple is a prominent species and is characteristic to this part of New England. These forests are important as a source of tourism in the fall, as the hardwoods provide some of the most spectacular foliage in the region.

The forests also attract tourists year-round. State parks are located in and around North Adams. Mount Greylock is a large attraction for the region, as is Natural Bridge. Venues such as these provide tourists with sites to see and stay, and residents with picnic areas. Barring the state park aspect, the forests themselves offer several forms of recreation. Hiking, camping, hunting, snowmobiling, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and nature observance are some activities commonly enjoyed by residents. For example, the City’s Historic Valley Campground, which is integrated with the Windsor Lake, is near full capacity from Memorial Day to the Columbus Day weekends!

The forests of North Adams and the surrounding area should be protected from encroaching development. Given the forest's role in recreation, city character, and tourism, it is easy to see that they are an asset to the City. However, assets such as this need maintenance. In July 2021, the City, through its Forester, went out for bidding on selective tree clearing pursuant to local forest plans. This work began in the fall of 2022 and is slated to finish late spring of the following year. Careful stewardship of forested land is an important component to any quality

open space planning, which local government has been administering for decades.

**PUBLIC SHADE TREES:** The City has accomplished a significant amount of success relative to municipal tree initiatives over the couple of decades. During the early to mid-1990s, funding from the State of Massachusetts' former *Public Works Economic Development Program* allowed North Adams, through three separate phases, to install new shade trees along with other street scaping amenities to strategic areas in its downtown. Trees were planted in a new medium strip on Main Street as well as to both sides of the street, Marshall Street, historic Eagle Street and to areas within the Monument Square near the public library. A whole new Veteran's Memorial Park was also installed in the downtown in the former open space near historic Eagle Street and Route 2, which included new shade trees. Given the vast amount of work done here, coupled with the vast number of other shade trees in other parts of the community such as Church Street, upper East Main and Ashland, the City felt it was time to take this work to a higher level.

In 1998 and 1999, the City took advantage of interns from the forestry program from UMass at Amherst, whereby they compiled a database on all municipal trees that also included their identification. Funding for this work was made possible by the USDA Forestry Service and the then State Department of Environmental Management. This new electronic inventory is full of very useful information such as location, species type, as well as recommending pruning and best practices for overall maintenance. This work also led to a publication of a new public booklet known as *The Trees of North Adams* that was done in conjunction with the City's Tree Commission. This work also led to other public workshops on the use and care of our local trees, and started a commemorative tree planting program. This program has seen over 200 trees planted in the City since that time, and with its incorporation into local GIS capabilities, this has allowed for mapping to be done as well as improving overall maintenance procedures.

Included in the *Trees of North Adams*, is a poignant description of twenty-nine trees that can be found along various streets and within cemeteries. Some species of trees are of particular interest during certain seasons, while others are unique in size or location. The following page shows three small maps taken from this booklet that show public shade trees throughout the downtown (Map #'s 1 & 2), as well as a larger locational map (Map # 3).

In 1996, North Adams was awarded in being a "Tree City USA" designee by the National Arbor Day Foundation, the only city in Western Massachusetts having received such an honor at that time. The City has enjoyed this esteemed designation 16 times over the last thirty years!

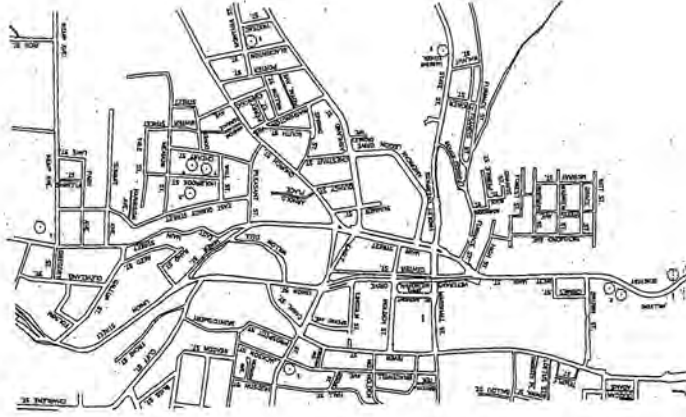
Additionally, enabled by a Franklin Land Trust grant, the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition (nbCC), in partnership with the City, established the North Adams Tree Initiative in 2019. Since its inception in 2019, this initiative has planted more than 460 trees along public ways and on private property throughout North Adams. This initiative relies on volunteer labor for planting and maintenance of the trees. The initiative's goals are to beautify the city's urban environment, provide shade, and to assist with moisture and pest control.

**FIELDS:** Open fields offer another type of vegetation, primarily grasses and shrubs. Those bordering forest land also create what is called the ecotone. This is the area on the edge between the two vegetative zones, which provides excellent living conditions for several forms of wildlife

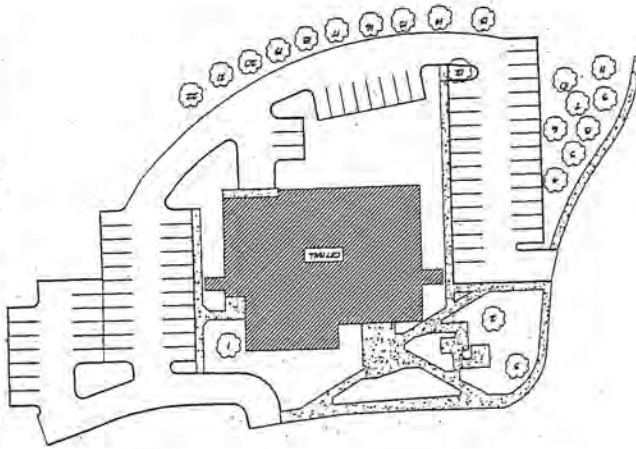
(discussed below). Fields are also important for their scenic beauty, unorganized play areas, and agricultural potential.

There is not an abundance of open fields in the City. For this reason, the ones that do exist should be appreciated and their benefits considered when development options arise.

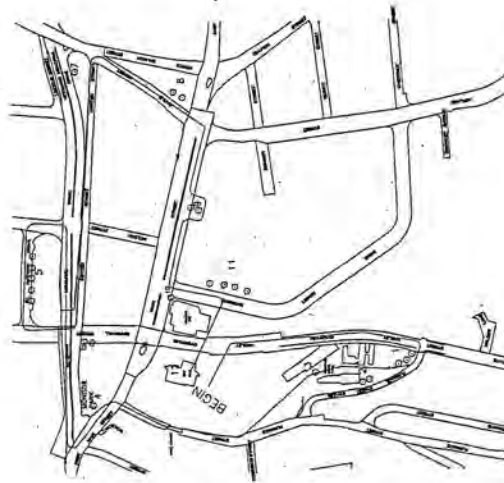
The Trees of North Adams Map #3



The Trees of North Adams Map #2



The Trees of North Adams  
MAP #1



**WETLANDS:** Wetlands are unique habitats that offer many forms of vegetation. They are important for their flood protection, aesthetic value, limited recreation (namely nature observance), and as a home for wildlife. More importantly, wetlands are vital to the safety of our drinking water. They act as a filter and recharge the ground water.

The significance of wetlands has been widely recognized, and are now protected by law. North Adams will do everything in compliance with these laws, but efforts can always be improved upon. Over the last several years, wetlands have been shrinking and disappearing; therefore, continued efforts should be made to actively protect the few that remain.

The areas of North Adams described above are also important because they are home to several species that are challenged. According to the most recent information from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program's (NHESP) website, there are 31 rare plant and other species within the city listed. Within this total count of 31, *Vascular Plants* are the resounding top species at 23. The balance of the total show 3 *Mammals*, 2 *Dragonfly/Damselfly*, 1 *Butterfly/Moth*, 1 *Bird*, and 1 *Fish*. Relative to the list's status ratings, 11 are rated as "Endangered", 7 as "Threatened", and 13 as a "Special Concern." Please see Appendix C, which shows this most recent updated list as extrapolated from their website on 03/22/23.

In the last 2015 Open Space & Recreation Plan, it showed a total of 26 affected species, thus revealing a slight increase of 19.2% in this plan renewal update at 31. There were 5 new additions, and no deletions, since the last updated endangered species list for North Adams. The added ones were: *Thuja occidentalis* (Arborvitae), *Argimonia pubescens* (Downy Agrimony), *Conioelinum chinense* (Hemlock-parsely), *Alnus viridis ssp. Crispa* (Mountain Alder), and *Moneses uniflora* (One-flowered Pyrola). These were rated as Endangered, Threatened, and three as Special Concern respectively, and with all five being Vascular Plants.

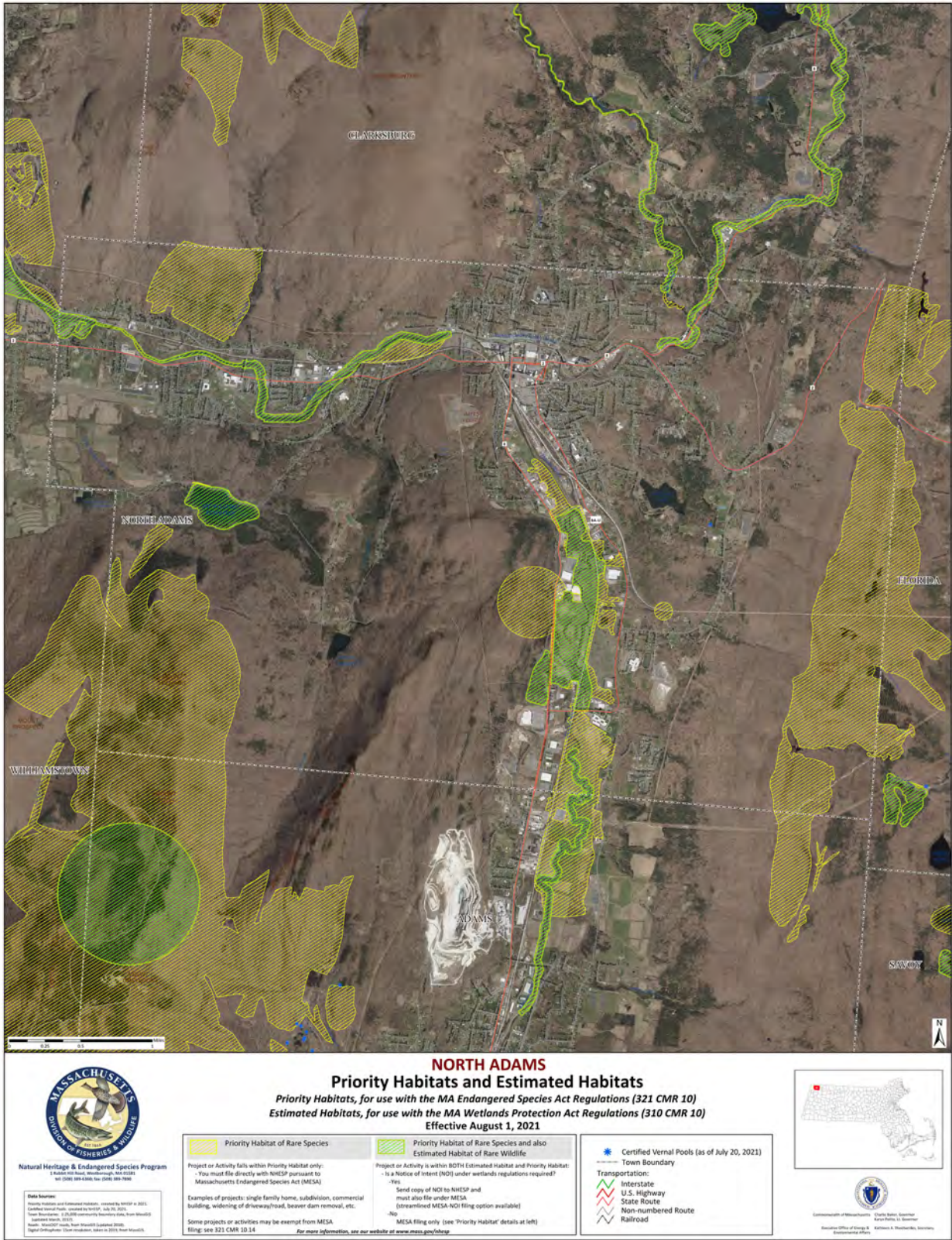
Endangered species are defined by the NHESP as any species of wildlife, or wild plant, which are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. In North Adams, there is a total of 11 such species that include the: Arborvitae, Broad Waterleaf, Little Brown Bat, Tricolored Bat, Long-eared Bat, Northern Bedstraw, Northern Mountain Ash, Schweinitz's Sedge, Thread Rush, White Adder's Mouth, and Small Dropseed. It is interesting to note that all three of the mammals listed were bats, with most recent observation in 2019 for the Little Brown Bat.

Threatened species are defined as any native wildlife or wild plant species, which have been documented by biological research and inventoried to be suffering a decline that could threaten said species if allowed to continue unchecked. Plants that occur in small numbers, or with a restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that could easily become threatened within the state, are also considered threatened species. There is a total of 7 such species locally: Bartram's Shadbush, Dion Skipper, Dwarf Scouring Rush, Foxtail Sedge, Large-bracted Tick-trefoil, Leafy White Orchid, and the Woodland Millet. Six of these are from the Vascular Plant taxonomic group, and one from the Butterfly/Moth group (the Dion Skipper).

There are also 13 local species that are considered to be of Special Concern because they are rare. Included are the: Bristly Black Currant, Dwarf Scouring Rush, Frank's Lovegrass,

Gattinger's Panic-grass, Hairy-Fruited Sedge, Hemlock-parsley, Large-leafed Godonrod, Longnose Sucker (fish), Mountain Adler, Mourning Warbler (bird), Ocellated Darner (dragonfly/damselfly), One-flowered Pyrola, and the Tule Bluet (dragonfly/damselfly). Nine of these are in the taxonomic group of Vascular Plant, one Fish, one Bird, and two Dragonfly/Damselfly.

The following page shows the map of "Priority Habitats and Estimate Habitats" as developed by the NHESP, effective August 1, 2021.



## E. Fisheries and Wildlife

The vegetation earlier described lends itself to a wide variety of wildlife species. The dense wooded forests and fields are home to many birds and other wildlife. Namely, a few common species are deer, rabbits, foxes, raccoons, opossums, coyotes, squirrels, chipmunks, turkeys, ruffed grouse, and mice. The Hoosic River is also home to several types of fish and aquatic wildlife. Ducks and other birds, turtles, crayfish, frogs, salamanders, trout, and bass all inhabit the river. It is also not uncommon to see deer along the river. Although not an official wildlife corridor, it is common knowledge that the river serves as a *de facto* type of wildlife corridor, with the river being a protected resource through state and local measures. Wildlife is important for the role it plays in the function of a healthy ecosystem, and should be respected for this. It is also a source of recreation for people. Wildlife enhances outdoor activities, especially hiking, nature observance, and photography.

As previously stated, the NHESP lists only one species of *Fish* as a Special Concern, that being the Longnose Sucker. This fish is also commonly known as the sturgeon sucker, northern sucker, fine-scale sucker, red sucker, red-sided sucker, and black sucker. This is a freshwater fish, cylindrical in shape, that can get up to as much as 25 inches in length. Confused often with the more common white sucker, the Longnose Sucker is mainly found in cool upper sections of streams and rivers in the upland regions in the western part of the state, such as the Hoosic and Housatonic Rivers, with the former running through North Adams. They can also be found on occasion in very deep, cool lakes, as well as in other parts of North America.

In the last plan renewal, the Appalachian Brook Crayfish (a crustacean) was listed as a species of Special Concern. The breeding distribution of this crayfish is restricted to only the northwest corner of Massachusetts, making it rather unique to our area. However, the Appalachian Brook Crayfish was not listed in the updated NHESP database as aforementioned.

## F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

North Adams has a variety of unique environments and scenic resources that contribute to the community's character (see *Map 10-Unique Features* at the end of this Section 4).

### 1. Scenic Landscapes

Witt's Ledge is a cliff that overlooks the city and can be reached by driving up Reservoir Road, parking, then hiking a variety of trails. The cliff is known locally as "Coca-Cola Ledge."

When the City was first established, the Hoosic River represented the power for the mills and the mainstay for the City. It still represents a scenic and historical resource. The River Floodplain Forest lies north of the railroad tracks and provides habitat for three rare plants.

Windsor Lake and the Historic Valley Campground represent the largest recreational draw of the City. This area provides swimming, fishing, canoeing, walking, volley ball, disc golfing, and camping all within these two combined venues. Of all the sporting events, disc golfing has become extremely popular, as its course covers a significant part of the property that allows one to venture around the facility. It is also played year-round, thereby providing a sport that can effectively do this for its users!

The Mohawk Trail Highway is an area that provides beautiful panoramic views, dangerous curves and vast look-out towers. The famous hairpin-turn at the point of Route 2 in Clarksburg overlooks North Adams nestled in the valley of the Berkshires, which is part of the Appalachian Mountain Range. All along the Mohawk Trail, one can find various look-out points to view the mountain ranges.

## 2. Major characteristics or unusual geologic features

One of the most unique features in North Adams is Natural Bridge. It is a white marble formation created completely from the metamorphosed and recrystallized limestone, formed through the tremendous pressure and heat during mountain formation 350 million years ago. It is recognized as an important natural feature that offers several clues to the theories of our planet's evolution. The Natural Bridge park's quarry walls expose the layers of an old sea bed, along with powder dissolved from seashells, rocks and other sediment that have settled out of the water. The calcium carbonate piled up to such depths that its own weight compressed it into limestone, which is the material that makes up the quarry walls. The climate change and the arrival of the Ice Age two million years ago left the constant advances and retreats of ice sheets in New England. Thirteen thousand years ago the melt water from the mile-thick glaciers cut deeper and deeper, sculpting the Hudson Brook chasm and the marble bridge that spans it. An additional feature close to Natural Bridge is the only white marble dam in existence built in 1838. The Berkshire Mountains that surround Natural Bridge were formed by a slow, yet colossal continental collision over 440 million years ago. Over a period of 80 million years, this area formed the Hoosac, Berkshire, Taconic and Appalachian Mountains. The Natural Bridge State Park is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation. The repointing and reconstruction of the white marble dam was completed over the approximate last two decades. A newly paved roadway coming into the site off of McCauley Road, which is on the Route 8 (Beaver Street) side of the site, was also completed on or about the same time as the dam improvements.

The North Adams area of the Mount Greylock State Reservation is important to the City because it provides habitats for four rare species while the reservation as a whole contains over 20. The reservation has a monument built in 1933, dedicated to the veterans of World War I. As part of the Appalachian Trail, this highest state peak is hiked by persons from all over the country. The Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation website posts a wonderful "Trail Guide" that defines all major hiking routes and trails surrounding the base of the mountain.

### 3. Cultural, archeological, and historical areas

The Hoosac Tunnel is considered to be one of the most historic sites within the community. Its construction began in 1851 and approximately 4.75 miles later, it was completed in 1875. Due to its construction that expanded rail travel to new westerly destinations of the state, the city was donned with the slogan of *We Hold The Western Gateway*, for the tunnel's western portal lies within North Adams. Approximately 1.75 miles of the tunnel runs easterly within the city itself. The Hoosac Tunnel is considered to be one of the greatest engineering feats of its day, as each end of the tunnel was dug concurrently and meeting in the middle portion to near precise convergence! The use of nitro-glycerin also got one of its earliest uses during the project, which made the material famous as we know it today. Many men lost their life in the creation of the tunnel.

Fort Massachusetts was an important outpost during the 1700s. Although development has taken place on and around the site, there is a monument erected in acknowledgment of its historical significance. Many other historical venues exist, such as the Blackinton Mansion (the Public Library), Monitor Park (in memory of the Civil War iron-clad ship where parts were manufactured locally). There is also an awesome museum at the Heritage State Park as operated by the State Department of Conservation & Recreation. The local historical commission at one time sponsored several historical walking tours of the Monument Square-Church Street District, and the Hillside Cemetery located on West Main Street. Because walking is considered to be a popular passive recreational activity, as it is seen in many local areas, the creation of an actionable plan item cited in Section 9 is warranted to bolster the return of these walks by the local historical commission.

### 4. Areas of critical environmental concern

The Savoy State Forest attracts many visitors to the region. Within this forest is Spruce Hill. Spruce Hill is a rare plant habitat with three endangered species currently recorded in its area. An area southwest of Mt. Williams Reservoir, near the boundary of the State Reservation, provides the habitat for the only known population of the endangered Broad Waterleaf plant in Massachusetts. The rich wooded slopes of Paull Brook are an excellent example of a Rich Mesic Forest community. This area is the site for one current and one historical rare plant species. North Adams also has a few wetland environments that are of critical concern. These wetlands serve as habitats for many threatened and endangered wildlife species.

## G. Environmental Challenges

### 1. Hazardous Waste Sites

The State's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) continues to utilize a multi-tiered classification system relative to the way it categorizes various hazardous waste/contaminated sites throughout the Commonwealth. Essentially, there is a classification system that identifies a site as either a Tier I (A, B & C sub-classifications) or a Tier II designation. Either classification will generate a five-year time-frame in which to conduct certain activities, yet only Tier I sites

need actual permits for certain types of remediation. As events unfold at any particular site, other “status” classifications are used to embody the site’s present situation.

According to DEP’s *Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup* database of identified sites (as of 03/22/23), North Adams has a total of 143 identified sites. This is an increase of about 20.2% compared to the last OSRP renewal of 2015 when it had 119 listed sites. The 20% increase is not surprising, with the total number increasing since the 2001 OSRP. Within the 143 listed sites, 59% have a *RAO* designation. A *Response Action Outcome* designation means that a previously approved plan of remediation has resulted in an acceptable outcome, and that there are no major impact considerations to the environment, such as affected drinking water. This is good for it is a clear majority. As of the review of this database, no waste site in North Adams was designated as Tier I, which means DEP has approved a formal remediation plan, which is good as this is the same result in the 2015 OSRP, and certainly more favorable compared to 9.4% in the 2006 plan. North Adams also has 4.9% of its listed sites designated as Tier II, which means that remediation of these may proceed without DEP involvement. That data is an improvement since the 2015 plan that stood at 8.4%. The minority balance of total listings falls under other categories. A complete list of all eighty-five community sites, along with its definitions of various classifications, can be found in Appendix D.

It is important to be cognizant, however, on how these once contaminated sites can affect open space planning and related issues. With the creation of new funding sources centered around the ever-growing *Brownfield’s* industry, development upon challenged and contaminated sites are actually being spurred on. Brownfield remediation funds are seemingly plentiful at the federal and state levels through EPA and DEP respectively over the last decade, and show no signs of dwindling. As previously discussed in Section 3, site clearing and remediation have already started, which is evident in the Greylock Works adaptive reuse of their old mill building. This work is also on going at the Tourists redevelopment and expansion, and the NORAD Mill. All three of these developments occurring on Route 2.

North Adams took advantage of a \$300,000 *Brownfields Assessment Grant* funded by the federal EPA. The four-year stint allowed local government to have first-phase site assessments done on four properties that are ripe for further redevelopment once existing environmental issues are addressed. The cooperating management by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission was instrumental in this initiative, with the assessment work finishing up in September 2022. A significant amount of quality information has now been compiled for each site, which will guide them as to their respective redevelopments.

Another recent example is the site of a former dry cleaners. Local government secured a \$240,000 grant from the Berkshire Brownfields Revolving Loan Program, which is administered by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The project finished up in the spring of 2023, whereby the small building was razed, along with the remediation of contaminated soil that was mostly isolated in one area, which made for somewhat of an easier project. The cleared project is envisioned to be assemblage with other abutting municipally-owned property for potential new housing development.

Quality open space planning within each community throughout Berkshire County needs to be

aware of contamination issues and challenged sites. Collectively, municipalities need to stay on top of these issues for all very directly connected by the vast number of rivers and streams that flow between us. A good open space plan needs to incorporate these regional issues, and should try to peer at the immediate surroundings. Looking at this issue a little closer for the abutting towns of Williamstown, Adams, Clarksburg and Florida and comparing their results as discussed in the North Adams 2015 open space plan, all four towns shown significant increases in the number of cited cases. Williamstown went from 78 cases cited previously as defined, yet today stand at 119, a 53% increase. Adams grew 67% with an increase from 54 to 90 sites, Clarksburg two-fold from 3 to 6, and Florida a smaller 27% from 8 to 11 sites. A closer examination of every community, however, did not reveal any major threats to North Adams or to the North Berkshire region. A significant number of environmental releases in Adams are linked to two major industrial companies along the main Route 8 corridor (Specialty Minerals/Pfizer and the Holland Transportation Company), as well as many others along the same Route 8 corridor. In Williamstown, Williams College is seen to have a significant number of listed sites as well. These observations were echoed in the last plan renewal. It is hoped that these other town's open space plans take the dedication in the research and continued remediation efforts as may be warranted.

## 2. Landfills

The North Adams Landfill had been previously identified as a priority site by the DEP due to the release of hazardous materials into the ground back in January of 1987, yet there are presently no major environmental concerns at the site. The site was the former landfill, yet was fully capped during the last renewal of the local open space plan in 2015. Still existing now is a *Transfer Station*, which incorporates major recycling initiatives for local refuse, with other over-the-scale items. The landfill does not pose a threat to the municipal water supply. Given the capped stance, therein lied an adaptive reuse opportunity. In 2013, the city' first-ever major solar array installation was accomplished on the vast capped area. There is sufficient electricity farmed and sold back to the grid in which to cover nearly all of the local municipal electrical needs!

## 3. Erosion

Unfortunately, the existing development on steep slopes encourages erosion of streams, roads and drainage systems. This condition is worsened during spring run-off and high-water events. During the Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, many surrounding communities suffered severe erosion issues, but North Adams had less issues due to the manner in which the flood control chutes moved water through the City quickly. However, there were two significant areas (Crest Street and Bluff Road) that were significantly damaged and had to be rebuilt with the use of federal aid relief. As mentioned in Section 3, the Hoosic River Revival is a non-profit organization that is also dedicating their long term vision of the resurgence of this local asset for open and passive recreational activities, but is doing so with well-crafted best management practices with full erosion and flood protection elements.

#### 4. Chronic Flooding

The City has many challenges due to run-off and the potential for chronic flooding. The City has limited low-lying areas, thus much of the housing was built into extremely steep slopes. Most of the development in the low-lying areas, both commercial and residential, has been built out, but the development pattern is less dense so flooding is less of an issue. The flood control chute system built throughout the community also prevents chronic flooding. Said system, however, is approximately seventy years old and shows signs of failure in some areas, including several collapsed concrete panels. In light of such failures, in 2021, the City of North Adams, working in partnership with the Hoosic River Revival, is still committed to this local asset. As discussed in the first part of Section 3 within *Regional Context*, the City was recently awarded a sizable federal grant in June 2022 to further study these issues. The results of this study must be looked to at the appropriate time to better shape and implement future open space actions.

#### 5. Sedimentation

Within the City of North Adams there are many dams of varying sizes. Nearly all have sedimentation buildup issues. Unfortunately, the smaller dams are usually in private ownership. There are also sedimentation challenges at the Mount Williams Reservoir. The steep slopes and resulting run-off create the potential for increased sedimentation in many of these locations.

#### 6. New development

The last open space and recreation plan of 2015 noted that new development activity in the community in being almost non-existent for residential, and limited as to commercial. The same cannot be said for the present day. Since 2015, the community has seen an expansion in both residential and commercial development.

Recent and ongoing residential development includes, the redeveloped Wall-Streeter building, a former shoe factory, with six residential and two commercial units; the former Johnson School building purchased in 2019 is now comprised of 14-unit residential units; the large residential structure at 306 Union Street was sold in 2020 that completed a new seven-unit apartment complex; Greylock Works, the former Greylock Mill, is planning up to fifty condominiums as part of its mixed-use development; and Moresi and Associates, the developer behind the former Johnson School and Wall-Streeter buildings, is planning another residential development at the former Notre Dame Church and School. In addition to the above referenced projects, numerous single-, two-, and three-family homes have been purchased and rehabilitated.

Commercial development activity has also increased since 2015. As sated previously, TOURISTS, a 49-room hotel and resort opened in 2018. MASS MoCA's Building 6 gallery spaces opened in 2017. Additionally, in 2018, Moresi and Associates opened the redeveloped NORAD Mill, which contains numerous businesses of all kinds from financial services to coffee roasters while Greylock Works added a restaurant, distillers, cidery, and private office space to its mixed-use project.

As touched upon earlier as well, the creation of the recent cannabis industry has seen a new retail establishment on Route 2 in 2021, the former site of a restaurant chain. Following that in 2022 was the transformation of one of the buildings in the local industrial park into a new state-of-the-art grow-facility. Other recent activity will most likely see another retail establishment, as local zoning allows for up to no more than two such establishments.

Development projects, such as those referenced above, are required to practice best management practices for stormwater, including, in certain circumstances, detention basins, landscaping and other run-off reduction measures. Augmenting the incorporation of these best management practices is the training and education of Planning Board and Zoning Board members from professional organizations so that newly presented plans can be reviewed with a more poignant eye.

#### 7. Ground and surface water pollution (point and non-point)

Windsor Lake is one of the most used and enjoyed open spaces in North Adams. The City owns the land on the front side of the lake, but the back side consists of private parcels, and historically were initially developed as camps. These camps were never tied into the municipal sewer system given distant constraints, and instead, utilized private septic systems. Today, there are four homes directly abutting the lake, two of which are seasonal summer use by their owners. A third serves as a second home, and the largest of the four, serves as a year-round private residence. Since these septic systems are dangerously close to the lake, an improved solution would be their annexation to the sewer system, yet as even identified in the last open space plan, this is the same situation. This directly affects the open spaces of the lake since activities in the area would be jeopardized if the lake was to become contaminated. This has continued to be an area of concern, yet the local Board of Health has done an admirable job in enforcing compliance of the subject properties to state Title V sewer regulations. The cost to bring in a sewer line to this backside of the lake is challenging, both physically and financially, and is why this issue has remained for such a long time. Also, the athletic complex of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, located on West Shaft Road to the east, also resides in the lake's watershed district. The complex has still never posed any major threats to the lake, but continued oversight is warranted.

#### 8. Impaired water bodies (water quality & quantity)

The Hoosic River, which flows through North Adams, is consistently listed on the Massachusetts Integrated Waters List. The last iteration of the local open space plan highlighted information from the 2012 MA Integrated Waters List, and this is now compared to the state's most recent information.

The flow of the river from the Adams Wastewater Treatment Plan to the confluence with the northern river branch (in the vicinity of the MASS MoCA campus along River Street), flow and vegetative cover is altered (sections flow within concrete channelized chutes). Fecal coliform levels were high in 2012, giving it the most extreme pollutant rating of *Category 5 Waters*, which was also indicative for the next section from the confluence toward the Vermont state line. In the most recent 2022 integrated waters listing, the DEP final reports reveal an unchanged

impairment summary, with alteration in stream-side or littoral vegetative covers, and flow regime modifications in these two sections of the river respectively. However, the overall rating for both of the local sections improved to a level 4c. The sections beyond this, toward Williamstown and to the Vermont border, still revealed the poorest rating of level 5.

The City has partnered long ago now with the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to identify point and non-point sources of the consistent fecal coliform issues. Much of the field work points to the aging infrastructure system and its stormwater management failings. This collaborative effort, which should include the neighboring Town of Williamstown, needs to continue on a regular basis.

## 9. Invasive species

Ove the last decade, the Windsor Lake Recreation area has been challenged with an invasive wetland plant, *Phragmites australis*, which borders nearly three-quarters of its shoreline. Prior efforts have seen the cutting of the plants once the water level freezes, which is as an interim control method. According to Mass DEP’s Watershed Planning Program report of 2022, it reveals that state permits were taken out by the City in 2006, 2007 and 2016 to treat a non-native macrophyte, *Potamogeton crispus* (common name of ‘Curly-leaf Pondweed) infecting the water. The 2007 work also revealed Eurasian water milfoil (common name *Myriophyllum spicatum*). The best practice management plan for local government is to continue a rigorous maintenance and implementation campaign to combat invasive species such as these, and in a timely manner, so that the water classification category upgrades of the lake can be achieved.

## 10. Environmental equity issues (access to open space, lack of tree cover, etc.)

North Adams has a variety of sized parks and recreational facilities throughout the city. Coverage is generally good, though there are some gaps. See *Map 11-Neighborhood Park Access*, for more information at the end of this section. Please note that the areas cited below are also individually listed in Section 5 on community-wide inventoried sites.

*Northwest:* The smaller parks are fairly well dispersed throughout this area. However, some are smaller parks requiring reinvestment. There is good access to a number of publicly accessible open spaces and trail networks. Privately held, but publicly accessible, property for outdoor recreation in this area has expanded since 2015, as the developers behind TOURISTS acquired approximately 45 acres of open land. The open land is used now contains an extensive network of hiking trails that connect the hotel to the Appalachian Trail and is open to the public for recreational use.

*Northeast & Central:* Coverage from smaller parks is good and there are a number of recently improved and developed neighborhood parks and playgrounds in these areas. The downtown itself is lacking in green space, though there are a number of facilities on its outskirts. In 2020, MASS MoCA added a landscaped park for passive recreation to its campus on the corner of Marshall Street and West Main Street, which is now added in the Section 5 of this plan as a new and inventoried site.

*Southwest:* The presence of Noel Field Athletic Complex, and its elongated area, provides good park facility access to a number of neighborhoods and to downtown with a short walk. However, there are no smaller neighborhood parks in this area. Since 2015, the complex has been expanded to include four new first-ever city venues, a skateboard/bmx park (Unity Park), and a new splash pad, pickleball courts and bocce courts. Increasing multi-modal connectivity between the complex and the downtown continue in being a priority. The recently rejuvenated Brayton Playground into the new Brayton Hill Park, done in 2019, offers new elements, right next to the elementary school. The Alcombright Athletic Complex, further west, offers a multitude of uses such as soccer, baseball, softball, and youth T-ball. With proximity of this park to the recently expanded Greylock Works projects, future bike path work and other potential connections would bode well, especially given their closeness to the Appalachian Trail.

*Southeast:* The Windsor Lake Recreation Area offers a great facility to those living in this area, although the roads are very steep and walking to this facility can be difficult. There are no smaller parks in this area. A huge feature of the lake, however, is the Historic Valley Campground that offers a very affordable source of outdoor recreation.

Previous feedback from the community survey and the local comprehensive plan process, *Vision 2030*, pointed to the need to better connect these facilities to neighborhoods, wherever possible through promotion, and better sidewalk and trail connectors. As well, because the many trail systems are under different ownership, it can be difficult for a visitor (or resident) to navigate from one to the other, and to find information about length, appropriateness for varying abilities, and access points. There is a nice hiking trail within the Historic Valley Campground and to the Windsor Lake, and there is the relatively new Mohawk-Mahican Trail atop Route 2 near the Florida town line, bringing hikers towards the downtown. There are also recent plans by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) in early 2023 for the creation of a new pedestrian trail, *The High Road*, that will start in the downtown, go up to the Windsor Lake to take advantage of the existing trail therein, cross the Mass College of Liberal Arts' athletic complex, cross West Shaft Road and bringing it up to the BNRC's Hoosac Mountain Range trail.

## 11. Regional Environmental Concerns

Regional environmental concerns are important, as they need to be eventually addressed. Berkshire County is not without its share of unclean sites; therefore, municipalities need to effectively work together, especially given that there are many more funding sources for remediation available today. For example, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) has their Berkshire Brownfields Program that offers low interest financing, and at times grants to municipalities, in which to assess and remediate contaminated sites. Many of these sites were former manufacturing or commercial concerns whose reuse of ample space often times find themselves worthy of new redevelopment. Created in 2004 with seed funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the program now offers a wider range for *Phase I* and *Phase II Environmental Site Assessments*, site reuse planning, as well as remediation. In North Adams alone, there are nine brownfield sites listed, as well as a significant number county-wide.

MassDevelopment, a state agency formed in 1988 with the convergence of the former Government Land Bank and the Mass Industrial Finance Agency, offers municipalities and private developers a host of financing options for real estate redevelopment. One of these sources is their Brownfields Site Assessment Program that provides unsecured interest-free financing up to \$250,000 for environmental assessments. Their Brownfields Remediation Loan Program offers flexible loans up to \$750,000 for environmental cleanup.

The EPA also has a host of funding sources, such as assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, and grants for cleanup, multipurpose and job training. As aforementioned, the City received a \$300,000 grant from the EPA in 2018 to conduct assessment work upon key sites.

With the growing number of funding sources over the last quarter century, the county—as a region, has experienced improved opportunities to combat its various environmental challenges. The BRPC has grown in the breadth of its services to municipalities, which now include brownfields and the coordination of that to other state and federal agencies. In the recent 2023-27 CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Study), as administered by the BRPC, it states: *Previous CEDS documents and other BRPC reports have emphasized the importance of redevelopment at existing sites, particularly in light of the limited developable land in the region due to factors such as slope, presence of wetlands, conservation restrictions, and other factors. Commercial site redevelopment for industrial and mixed-use purposes makes the most of our economic past and sets the stage for future successes.*

As to other regional concerns, wastewater, waste management and energy, are also very important. As to the first, according to information gleaned from the aforementioned CEDS as administered by the BRPC, there are nine publicly-owned municipal wastewater treatment plants: Adams, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, North Adams, Pittsfield, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge and Williamstown. This in turn means that the majority of municipalities the county rely upon private on-site septic systems. The CEDS went on to cite that the State DEP audit reports describe these municipal systems as variable in terms of infrastructure, staffing, and regulatory compliance, with some needing a considerable amount of needed capital repairs, and others reporting non-complying reporting levels of contaminates.

As to waste management, the same study reports that the county has thirteen composting facilities with two of them classified as anaerobic digesters (Pittsfield and Sheffield). The Town of Lenoxdale handles construction and demolition waste. As aforementioned, North Adams former landfill is now capped, and serves as a regional transfer station. The removal of waste is a huge industry, and a very costly ones for municipalities to operate. Therefore, it is important for the consolidation of efforts where it can be realistically done, and the pivoting to other efforts, such as improved recycling, the donation of materials such as food waste that can be turned into carbon-rich plant matter and latter distribution to regional farms.

As to the last issue on energy, being resilient means the collective attempt in reducing use and dependency on fossil-burning fuels while at the same increasing the use of sustainable sources. The above CEDS report also stated that at the time of its report, Massachusetts derived 15.6% of its electricity from renewable sources with solar at 5.4%, biomass at 5%, and wind at 1.5%. The federal EPA, through their Green Power Partnership Program, can work with all types of sectors

to bolster the use of *green* power. In Berkshire County, there are 19 state certified Green Communities (North Adams being one), 36 wind turbines generating 58 megawatts of power with only one town, Savoy, in having codified wind by-law. There are also 3,481 regional photovoltaic systems in the county, with most of them being installed within the last five years. As to biomass, the Berkshire region has no such plants.

Regionally, these three topics alone, wastewater, waste management and energy, are important as stand-alone topics. However, in terms of quality open space planning, there are clear challenges when trying to harmonize the two together. Many fields that were once active farms in their hay-day, are now homes to sizable solar array farms. Quiet and majestic mountaintops that bolster quality hiking trails, are now strewn with windmills in many regional locations. There are trade-offs here while trying to balance open space reuse and preservation to that of new economic industries, and any municipal open space and recreation plan needs to develop its action plans with this clearly in mind.

## H. Agricultural Assessment

### *Agriculture Regionally*

Agricultural activity and farming in the Berkshires account for about 12% of all of the farmland in Massachusetts. In Berkshire County, there are 475 farms with 58,647 acres in farmland, 32% of this land is in crops. The major crops consist of vegetables, melons, potatoes, fruits, and berries. There are also Christmas trees as well as poultry, eggs, milk, cattle, and hogs. Most of the farms are family owned and have been for quite some time. The average farm tends to be multigenerational, averaging 92 years, according to a survey conducted in 2014. According to the Keep Berkshires Farming study, the Berkshire region has enough land to support all the residents of the community, but not all the potential land is being used for farming. The region generates about 12% of the food consumed in the area. The study also found that there is about 43,813 acres of prime agricultural soils total in the region. However, only 12,421 of it is currently being farmed, leaving around 31,393 acres, or about 72% of the total agricultural soil not used. Privately owned farmland with owners struggling with diversifying the land use from what they are familiar with, a lack of succession planning by current farmland owners, as well as the cost of acquiring land for farmers who want to come into the region, play a role in this lack of use. According to Mass Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) snapshot 2021, the average cost for Massachusetts Farmers looking for land is \$11,300 per acre, in comparison to the national average of \$3,160—quite the difference!

There is a notable gap between the regional demand for and regional supply of all food categories. Dairy farms make up a small amount of the total farms in the area and account for a good portion of total farmland available for potential sales in communities for future farmers. The total farmland acreage harvested for vegetables is only 351 and there is a desire for some type of meat processing plant or transfer facility in the region for the farmers that grow livestock. Having a meat processing plant may make it easier for farmers to provide beef, poultry and pork products.

The need for food and usable ag-property is there, but Berkshire County and North Adams struggle with the small farm odds, and are not able to reach the region's demand for food. Despite the existence of family farms in the region, it has been declining for generations. The issues that small county farms, as well as within the country, are combatting include trade wars, severe weather associated with climate change, tanking commodity prices related to globalization, political polarization and corporate farming that has nothing to do with silos and red barns.

Trends across Berkshire County compel a closer look at food insecurity county-wide, and more specifically for North Adams. According to the USDA Economic Research, North Adams is considered a *food desert*, which is defined by them as an area that has poor access to healthy, affordable foods that are typically found in low-income and historically marginalized communities, and is based upon family income and poverty rate metrics, as well as the distance to large food outlets. The community partners that offer food security in the form of soup kitchens, meals-on-wheels and the Berkshire Food Pantry, are found in the three centrally located churches. These community partners have worked collaboratively with local government and local farms regarding food scarcity and the disadvantaged population for years, as well as during the pandemic. The City has previously used its Community Development Block Grant funds to financially assist some of these initiatives over the last decade.

Across Berkshire County, 12% of the population -- close to 16,000 people -- regularly struggle to have enough food for themselves and their families. Poverty is the largest contributing factor to food insecurity nationwide, yet food insecurity is also correlated with many other factors such as race, ethnicity, age, household composition and SNAP eligibility. The rural geography of the county and the limited public transportation options contribute additional barriers to accessing healthy food. Some of the of the food insecurity statistics reveal:

- 12% of Berkshire County residents experience food insecurity
- 27% are children
- 13% are aged 65+
- An average of 16,000 residents seek food assistance monthly
- 70% of residents report eating less than five servings of fruit and vegetables a day

As to local dynamics, North Adams with a current population of 12,085, ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in highest population of residents below the federal poverty line at 17.8%. It also ranks 8<sup>th</sup> with a high population of unemployment at 10.1% and 4<sup>th</sup> for the lowest median income at \$38,774. The former Drury Senior High School, grades 9 through 12, now serves as a middle/high school given population decline with the annexed grades of 7 through 12. The current number of enrolled students is 500, of which 66.3% qualify as low income. The overall school district free and reduced numbers are even higher at 81%! Furthermore, specific to the Drury campus population, 69.2% of the student body are identified as high needs. The long-lasting negative

effects of childhood food insecurity upon school readiness translate into poor academic and, ultimately, economic outcomes. Providing a healthy lunch to these students can potentially alleviate the burden of food insecurity at a younger age, thereby hopefully enhancing their future abilities to work and to make a sustainable living.

Building up the regional food system in North Adams and the Berkshires may be a way to combat some of these issues facing small farms. Also, by establishing relationships and connections between farmers, this could help strengthen the regional food system as a way to protect against food insecurity. The additional global issues make it increasingly more difficult to rely on larger, corporate farms to provide food because those are the farms that may be most affected, which is seen in the increased cost to consumers. Sourcing local products and growing the local agricultural economy has many benefits in the which will affect agricultural productivity and allow farmers to sell their products, vegetables and meat, locally.

Farming has been a part of the identity of Berkshire County since the 1800s. It is the home of the nation's first agricultural fair and even hosted the first plowing contest. It has been an area for innovation that has helped set the tone for agriculture across the country. Tourism and agro-tourism benefit the farms and contribute to the local economy. For example, there are tour buses that bring people into the Berkshires during the fall to experience the fall foliage and enjoy all of the rich colors the scenery offers. A big attraction when coming to view the foliage is to stop at an apple orchard to enjoy some cider and donuts. People also visit farms at other times of the year to meet farmers in person and buy their products directly. Most of the farms in the area have a storefront, and offer various products. Farms are a true part of the region's fabric.

One great example that showcases a quality farming operation in the north Berkshire region is the long-standing Burnett Farm. It is not listed within this plan for it is located in the Town of Adams with its northern boundary being on the border with North Adams, just south of the McCann Technical High School, where it traverses on both sides of East Road and bordering the Hoosic River. Land next to this river has historically been a prime spot for ag-development and conducive for farming given the flat terrain and immediate access to water. This family farm originated in Adams in 1911, having been moved from the neighboring Town of Savoy. Six generations of family members later, today, the 500-acre farm utilizes a cooperative farming approach with the Ciesluk Farm in Deerfield, MA for the cropping the hay, which is sold to horse farmers across the state, Full Well Farm, which is operated by the 6<sup>th</sup> generation family member, runs a flower and vegetable CSA and serves the immediate community and JB Beef, also family operated, developing a grass-fed beef business. The farm is protected by the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program. The farm's management recognizes the challenges of economies of scale as they pertain to running a successful farming business. In their effort to be sustainable, along with a cooperative approach, they have filed conservation and forestry plans to obtain chapter 61A tax status, as well as relied on continued resources provided by the Mass Department of Agriculture, such as the Environmental and Food Safety Programs, Agriculture Viability, Food Access and the Farm Energy Discounts. Burnett Farms works diligently to promote the importance of land conservation for agricultural purposes and offer their technical services to other local farmers. <https://www.iberkshires.com/story/64086/Burnett-Farm-Designated-As-Massachusetts-Century-Farm.html>.

The north Berkshire Region does contain some very long-term and successful farming operations, as discussed above in Adams, and there are others in nearby Cheshire and Lanesborough, MA. However, the current agricultural economy is not as strong as in yesteryears. The region lost some farms in the late 1970s with the strong industrial farm movement that was based on a “get big or get out” mentality. Lots of farms in the area were gobbled up by larger corporations or forced to shut down because they could not compete. Massachusetts has some of the highest rates of farmers who sell directly to the local community through various venues such as farmers markets, farm stands, and community agricultural programs.

Despite the constraints and real market forces for agriculture in this state, and more so for this county, there continues to be quality spirit and interest in maintaining an agricultural base. As evidenced in earlier planning work from the regional Sustainable Berkshires plan, the “Keep Berkshires Farming” initiative was established in 2013. From the early work of the local comprehensive plan as well, *North Adams Vision 2030*, this tracked alongside the regional plans to better leverage the data being collected and analyzed, including that for agriculture, and even though this information is from about ten years ago, it is important to have a firm grasp of prior events.

A focused sub-set of Keep Berkshires Farming was an effort to better understand, engage and actively enable agricultural activities in the Berkshires. The effort involved engaging a diverse set of stakeholders in gathering and analyzing data about the current state of agriculture in order to better understand existing production conditions, demand dynamics for local agricultural products or commodities, and related barriers or challenges. The data was then used to inform decision-making and prioritize specific strategies the community may undertake to support a vibrant agricultural economy. The county was broken into multiple sections since the issues and opportunities vary throughout. A resulting action plan was developed for each section. Due to this focused regional effort on agri-planning, the small number of farms and active agricultural lands in North Adams, coupled with the limited participation by local farmers in prior years, the results for the northern section of the county ended up being more of a focused summary.

This northern segment included also the municipalities of Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida, New Ashford, Savoy and Williamstown. The northern Berkshire region’s farms are in concentrated areas, especially in Williamstown, and descending along the Hoosic River Valley. The North sub-region differs from the South and Central regions of Berkshire County in that it has a greater number of meat and dairy farms. As there is more dairy and beef production in the North region, there is more land devoted to the production of feed crops, especially hay and pasture. Dairy farmers in the North region at that time expressed concern with the dairy market, and the interest in transitioning to more beef, as it is a more profitable enterprise. However, there are high cost of feed and services associated with raising livestock.

Like the South and Central regions, the North region is underserved by existing commercial USDA meat slaughter and processing facilities, as well as value-added processing facilities equipped with commercial kitchens for volume processing of vegetables, fruit, sauces, etc. Residents in the North enjoy local food, and in general, want more local food. The same can be said of institutions and restaurants.

Through the Keep Berkshires Farming, North Berkshire farmers and the ag-community have continued to fulfill the attainment of their goals:

- ✓ To get more locally grown products to low-income populations
- ✓ To get more local produce into institutions, schools and companies
- ✓ To increase amount of land protected for agricultural use
- ✓ To improve productivity and profitability of area farms
- ✓ To increase amount of land in production in North County to increase supply of local produce
- ✓ To increase economic development of farms and agriculture related food businesses in North County
- ✓ To increase viability and profitability of dairy producers to promote continued dairy farming in Berkshire County
- ✓ To increase networking opportunities for north county farmers to connect with one another
- ✓ To increase processing capacity for livestock producers

The above initiative has certainly helped to bolster, as well as to educate, agriculture and farming in the region. This to some degree segued over the more recent years to other initiatives, such as Berkshire Grown. Berkshire Grown is part of the Massachusetts Coalition for Local Food and Farms working in all regions of the state that help to strengthen local agriculture and to increase local food production consumed by state residents. This group is a key network that links farmers throughout the Berkshire community through a variety of events such as workshops, promotions, advocacy, education, all aimed at creating a thriving food economy.

Concurrent to the regional initiatives discussed above, there has been another local initiative that has helped the cause, as seen in many other communities, and doing so for a long time, that being the local *farmer's market*. Local government has supported an active North Adams Farmers Market since 1978. Their season runs each year from mid-June to late-October in the downtown at the municipal parking lot across from St. Elizabeth's Parish Center and church. Recent further expansion has been tried indoors on a weekly basis during the winter months.

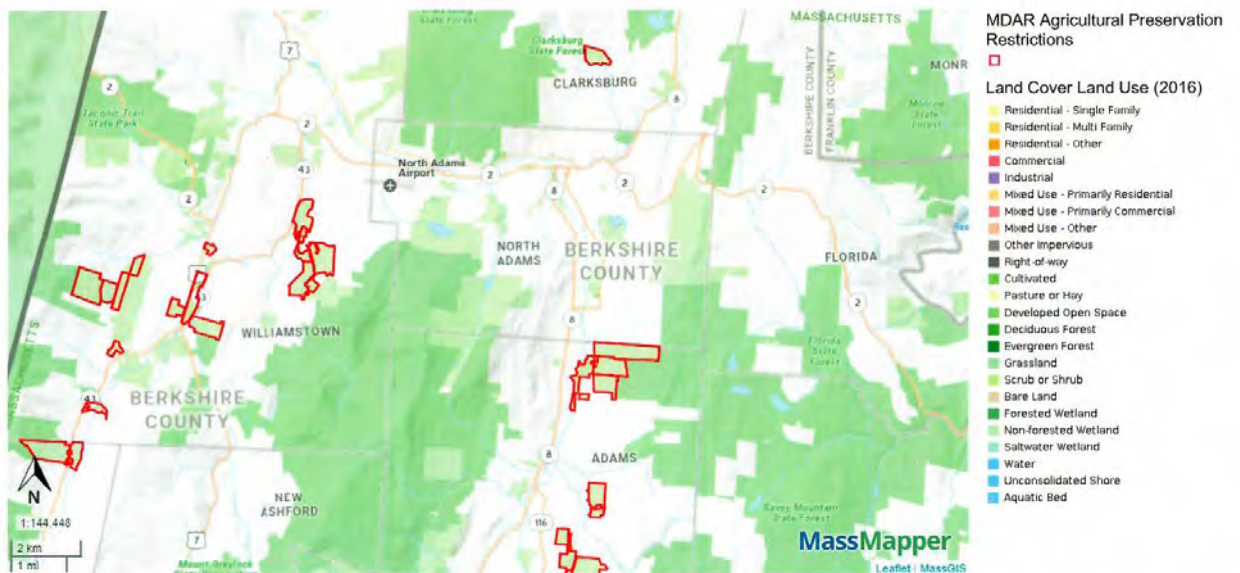
### *Agriculture in North Adams*

North Adams has some minimal agricultural business activity, yet real farm operations are nearly gone. Historically, the majority of local land is too steep and rocky for effective farming, especially as one moves further way from the floodplain corridor of the Hoosic River (see *Map 12 - Soils*, and *Map 12a – Geological Features*, at the end of this section). Local agricultural land, however, can be divided into two categories. These categories are chiefly based on the size and slope of the current farms and soil type of the farmland. First, is primary desirable farmland and then secondary lower quality agriculture land. There are two local areas of primary agricultural land.

The land farmed by Mt Williams Dairy around the Harriman & West Airport, which is still very active, and the floodplain farmland along the Hoosic River between the city proper and the

Adams town line, and here within this floodplain area the Burnett Farm has succeeded as discussed above. Second, agricultural land was used for farming on previous Bernard property near the Notch reservoir on Notch and Reservoir Roads, yet finally ceased due to sale of the property that is planned for private housing and tourism-based activity. The Wilk Horse Farm to the east on West Shaft Road is still fully operational, yet mainly for horse-related activity. The Ziemba Broadwell Farm remains as an 805-acre farm in Adams, MA, yet has 100 acres of leased land in North Adams as part of their overall operation, and remains in this plan renewal. These specific sites are also discussed in Section 5.

The regional farmland map, shown on the next page, is from MassMapper, which shows the amount of farmland that is utilizing MDAR agricultural preservation restriction programs. It shows no such designations in North Adams, which is clearly reflected in the lackluster of a local vibrant farming community.



In past open space and recreation plan renewals, the response to the local/regional agricultural survey provided very minimal results. For this local plan renewal, the City did not send out a formal survey to the small number of farmland entities. Local planning efforts around agricultural continue their reliance upon other sources, such as the Farm to School Project, by Carmen Saab, Ang Sherpa and Marcos Soto, under Professor Sarah Gardner from Williams College Environmental Planning Department, December of 2018, The Berkshire County Community Food Assessment, by Morgan Ovitsy and Amanda Chilson of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Sustainable Berkshire-Local Food and Agriculture, Long Range Planning, BRPC, 2014 and the Keep Berkshires Farming initiative work, as cited previously, and more particularly upon its *North Berkshire Region Action Plan*. Other data used

came from MDAR, with other great resources being Land for Good and the National Resources Conservations Services (NRCS).

### *Possible Assistance Available for Agriculture*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has recognized for a very long time the significant agriculture and farmland challenges. In 1977, the state set up two programs to provide relief for farmers, which are the *Farmland Assessment Act* (Chapter 61-A) and the *Agricultural Preservation Restriction Act* (APR). Chapter 61-A allows for participating farmland to be assessed at its agricultural use value as long as the land remains agricultural. If the land is sold and taken out of agriculture within ten years of first entering, then a series of rollback tax penalties are imposed. In addition, if the farmland is to be sold for development, the municipality must be notified. The municipality then has a 120-day first refusal option to match the development offer and purchase the farmland.

The APR program is another voluntary program that is intended to offer a non-development alternative to farmers and other owners of *prime* and *state important* agricultural land who are faced with a decision regarding future use and disposition of their farms. This program is more direct in that the state pays the farmer the difference between the *agricultural value* and the *market value* of the land in exchange for a permanent deed restriction that precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability. The state essentially buys the development rights to the land, while the farmer continues to farm the land, retains ownership, and still has the right to sell the land.

### *Other Recommended Methods of Preservation*

The preservation of local farmland can be promoted by both city and state government. As stated above, the state 61-A and APR programs are available and have proven workable in other communities where they have been applied, such as Williamstown. However, these programs are not being used locally as mentioned above, because of the alleged-belief that there will be a loss of control over one's land. Increased education to disperse these falsehoods are needed by local and regional entities.

Small farms, coupled with relatively short growing season, make local farming very difficult. It is understandable that a farm owner may not wish to participate in the preservation programs as cited above, as it does affect ownership title and control. There is always existing pressure from other economic interests in land, especially larger tracts that bode well for subdivision to spur new home building, that allows the chance of pivoting from farming and doing something else, or possibly just retiring. In prior open space plan renewals, many of the farmers have cited being approached by developers, and thereby making their interest in preservation programs non-existent. This is exactly what happened to the former Bernard Farm on Notch Road that now touts three new contemporary homes.

Another alternative to farmland preservation besides the APR program, could be addressing zoning. The compilation of *protective zoning*, such as farming along the Hoosic River, where

development within the floodplain is only allowed for farming, already exist, but could be promoted. Increased protection of this zone would disallow any use except for farming, as these are the areas where prime, fertile soil exists. Because farming is not highly prevalent in the community, this type of zoning would most likely meet opposition.

Other zoning tools could be adopted, such as to zone marginal soil land as RU-1, allowing for some development, while zoning the prime agricultural soil land as *non-developable* as long as it can be utilized by a farm in the region (perhaps reducing the farm's tax rate as an incentive to use it), and RU-1 if it cannot. Also, secondary agricultural land could be zoned as *non-developable* as long as there is a farm in the region that can utilize that land.

If preservation is to be accomplished via zoning restrictions, it is necessary that the community be made aware that agricultural land is a scarce resource. Even without the discussion of various zoning tools, increased awareness of scarce farmland is still needed. Just as farmers are wary of the state programs, it is likely that they will be wary of restrictive zoning changes as well, as it potentially affects land values of both the subject property as well as the abutters. Any successful zoning changes will have to have the solid support and backing of both local government and its citizens. Perhaps a lower real estate tax levy to incentivize local farming or using land for grazing as a supportive agricultural role, could be investigated.

Since the last renewal of the open space plan, significant strides were made in the improvement of zoning with the creation of a new zoning map (previously shown at end of Section 3), the retooling of the dimensional use table, along with the removal of antiquated language throughout. However, none of the updates realized were done to either promote or demote farming, as they were no pressures in doing so. The local designation of RU-1 (*Low Density Rural Residential*), where farming could take place, was actually expanded somewhat that at least sustains opportunity for potential growth.

An increased level of attention about local agriculture gets revisited with each plan renewal, as was done with this one. Despite the above discussion, what did the recent community survey reveal about agriculture and farming in North Adams, as a few questions were clearly centered upon this topic (see full survey results in Appendix B). According to question 18 relative to whether people oppose or favor the preservation of farmland, it showed a resounding 86.4% in favor. Question 19 addressed what private actions could be taken for its preservation, which revealed 68.25% supporting limited development. Question 20 looked to municipal actions that can be taken that revealed 55.02% being a combination of public and private action, and, about 10% showing no support by local government. Question 21 questioned potential state-actions, which demonstrated a substantial 77% favoring property tax reductions. Lastly, question 22 inquired about one's knowledge about various tools to bolster preservation, such as the earlier ones discussed like APR and Chapter 61-A. Of the eight tools listed, not one of them had a revealed a majority response, with the top one, Local Land Trusts, coming in at 30.22%. This is very revealing, as it shows the lack of formidable knowledge about land preservation techniques locally. However, this is somewhat expected given that local farming is not a robust sector.

It is very clear from the above discussion, centered upon local agricultural prowess versus other county areas, that local agriculture and farming exist, yet only on an extremely small-scale. As also discussed above, various state and local incentives have not spurred a marked increase in farming entities, but there has been one substantive and positive change for local farming since the expiration of the last plan renewal in February 2022. There is another important process that could bolster local agriculture and farming, something that was not achieved prior to this time.

The USDA continues to highly promote their *Designating Farmland of Local Importance*. USDA defines this as: *land that is locally important for crop production, but not categorized as prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance*. The important element within this strategy is the recognition and its admission that not every locality contains prime land ripe for farming, yet through the delineation of this strategy, the possibility in improving a locale's agriculture processes can have a decent chance of being improved. As shown on the following two pages, USDA has put forth their effort where farmlands designations are based on land and soil characteristics, and the availability for agricultural use. These can be applied to cropland, pastureland, hay land, or forest land, but not upon urban built-up land.

The main goal for establishing farmland of local importance is to ensure all lands suited for crop production can be considered if and when a landowner applies for preservation programs that involve USDA funding sources. It also augments any inventory of areas that are suited for agricultural activity. The result is the creation of a quality inventory of soil types in addition to those types identified as important farmland in the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) soil survey, which are recognized as key production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and including oilseed crops, such as hay, orchard, improved pasture.

Right after the expiration of the previous OSRP in February 2022, such a local designation was approved by the federal NRCS on July 12, 2022, thereby allowing local government a new and improved process for saving farming. A copy of this approved designation can be found a couple of pages down herein. This was the most significant and positive change since the last plan renewal. Therefore, going forward, all support should be given to sustain and enhance this new designation. Any specific ideas that can be identified as actionable items in which to do this should be listed in Section 9 of this plan renewal. If local farming is to remain, and perhaps even increase in both terms of awareness and potential new areas, this new designation needs to be made well known through effective marketing means.

# Designating Farmland of Local Importance

in Massachusetts



## What is Farmland of Local Importance?

**Farmland of Local Importance** is land that is locally important for crop production, but not categorized as prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance.

- **Prime Farmland** is that land which is best suited for agriculture and defined by national soil property and climatic criteria.
- **Unique Farmland** has characteristics distinctive to the production of a specific crop such as cranberries.
- **Farmland of Statewide Importance** is suited to crop production but lacks all the criteria required for prime. The applicable state agricultural agency sets the criteria for this category.
- **Farmland of Local Importance** is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

*In some local areas there is concern for certain additional farmlands for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops, even though these lands are not identified as having national or statewide importance. Where appropriate, these lands are to be identified by the local agency or agencies concerned. In places, additional farmlands of local importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance.*

These important farmland designations are based on land and soil characteristics, and availability for agricultural use. The designations may apply to cropland, pastureland, hay land, or forest land, but not urban built-up land.



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## How are important farmlands identified?

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) maintains the Soil Survey, which is the inventory of the nation's soil resources. The Soil Survey is comprised of maps depicting predominant soil characteristics, soil property information, and interpretations as to suitability for various land uses. The map delineations are referred to as Soil Survey map units.

Prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance criteria are applied to soil property information to generate a list of the Soil Survey map units for these important farmland classes throughout the state. Soil Survey map units that have the specialized characteristics for crops with distinctive needs are designated unique farmlands in applicable areas within the state.

A local agency has the role of identifying locally important farmland, per the Code of Federal Regulations. The term "local" is not specifically defined. Precedent suggests a municipality or town would fulfill that role, but it could include other politically defined areas.

NRCS provides leadership for inventories of important farmlands and ensures criteria are met. In Massachusetts, NRCS is proactive in recognizing all important farmlands.



The American Farmland Trust, in partnership with the NRCS, is facilitating the identification and recognition of Farmland of Local Importance.

We can assist with identifying those Soil Survey map units that may have potential for designation as Farmland of Local Importance and facilitate the process.

## Why designate Farmland of Local Importance?

**Recognizing Farmland of Local Importance may help save farms!**

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is charged with the inventory of the Nation's important farmlands, information that is crucial to ensuring the productive capacity of American agriculture.

The important farmlands inventory is applied to farmland preservation programs. To qualify for the Agricultural Land Easement component of the NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), a farm must have more than 50 percent important farmland soils. The recognition of farmland of local importance may help landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect working farms.

*"The Nation needs to know the extent and location of the best land for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops." – Code of Federal Regulations*

Massachusetts

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

[www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov)

## The Farmland of Local Importance designation process

Action	By whom?	More info
<b>1. Recognize agricultural lands not classified as prime or unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance.</b>	Any town official or commission concerned with farmland protection and open space, land trust, or ACEP program partner may appeal to NRCS for assistance.	Important farmland classes are provided at Web Soil Survey <a href="https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov">https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov</a>
<b>2. Compile evidence of suitability to produce food, feed, fiber, forage and/or oilseed crops. Crop production includes cultivated crops, perennial fruit and nut crops, hay and other feed crops, and improved pasture.</b>	NRCS. Local knowledge may be needed to verify land use.	Evidence may include aerial imagery or other documentation of crop history.
<b>3. Evaluate the Soil Survey map unit associated with the land in question for land use history and mapping accuracy throughout the locality.</b>	NRCS	The evaluation process may extend to multiple map units where the potential for additional farmlands of local importance is recognized.
<b>4. Consider concerns regarding conservation tenets.</b>	NRCS	For example, ensuring that the important farmland designation will not compromise the wetland conservation compliance provisions of the federal Food Security Act.
<b>5. Verify those Soil Survey map units that meet criteria for Farmland of Local Importance, with qualifiers as applicable.</b>	NRCS	For example, Soil Survey map units on steep slopes that are highly erodible if disturbed may be qualified as Farmland of Statewide Importance where suitable for hay or perennial fruit production.
<b>6. Sign a document identifying the Soil Survey map units as Farmland of Local Importance within the locality.</b>	The NRCS State Conservationist and the local agency/municipal representative	The designation is recorded in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide ( <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/fotg/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/fotg/</a> ) which is available to the public.

NRCS inventories of important farmland soils do not constitute a designation of any land area to a specific land use.

### For more information and assistance:

Al Averill  
Soil Scientist  
American Farmland Trust  
[albert.averill@usda.gov](mailto:albert.averill@usda.gov)  
413-253-4356

Web Soil Survey:  
[websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov](https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov)

NRCS Massachusetts soils information:  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ma/soils/](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ma/soils/)

Source of definitions and policy information: Code of Federal Regulations; Title 7 – Agriculture; Volume: 6; Date: 2012-01-01; Title: Subpart A - Important Farmlands Inventory.



*Land that does not meet criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance due to limitations such as steep slopes may be suited for orchard or hay production and qualify as Farmland of Local Importance.*

Farmland of Local Importance  
for  
City of North Adams, Massachusetts

In the City of North Adams, Massachusetts, there is concern for certain additional farmlands for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops, not identified as prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance. In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations title 7 part 657, lands in the City of North Adams represented by the following soil survey map units as qualified are identified by the local agency concerned and approved by the signatories as farmland of local importance.

Farmland of local importance qualifying conditions take into consideration the highly erodible land and wetland compliance provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 and associated USDA program eligibility however, farmland of local importance designations do not guarantee compliance with the Act.

Inventories of important farmland soil survey map units do not constitute a designation of any land area to a specific land use.

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Qualifier
5A	Saco silt loam, frequently ponded, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Where historically <sup>1</sup> drained, or growing season saturation or flooding in years of normal precipitation do not preclude crop production <sup>2</sup> viability.
8A	Limerick silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Where historically drained, or growing season saturation or flooding in years of normal precipitation do not preclude crop production viability.
76B	Kendaia silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Where historically drained, or growing season saturation in years of normal precipitation does not preclude crop production viability.
85A	Lyons mucky silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Where historically drained, or growing season saturation in years of normal precipitation does not preclude crop production viability.

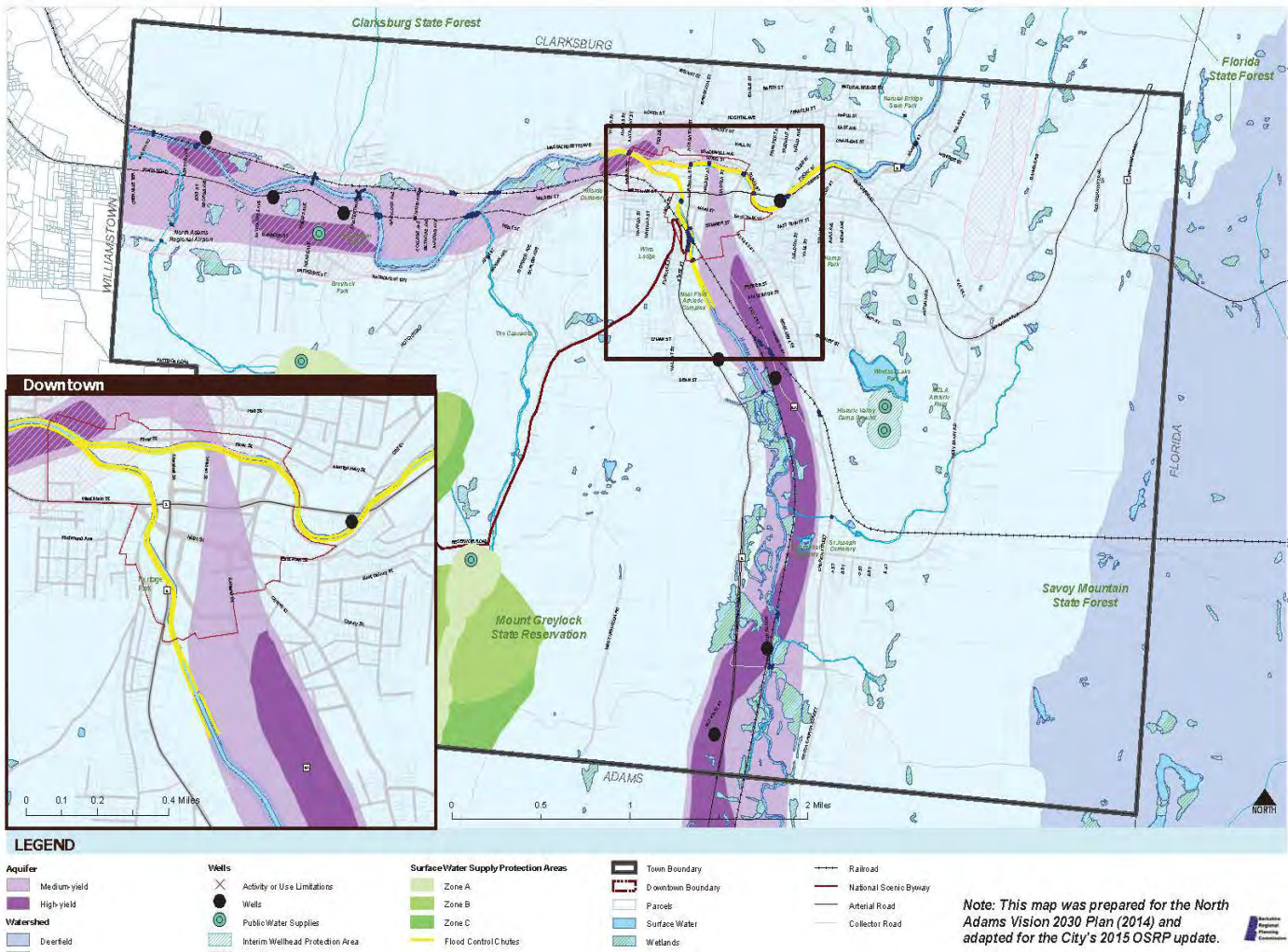
<sup>1</sup> Historically”, and “historical” defined as prior to December 23, 1985, in accordance with the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.

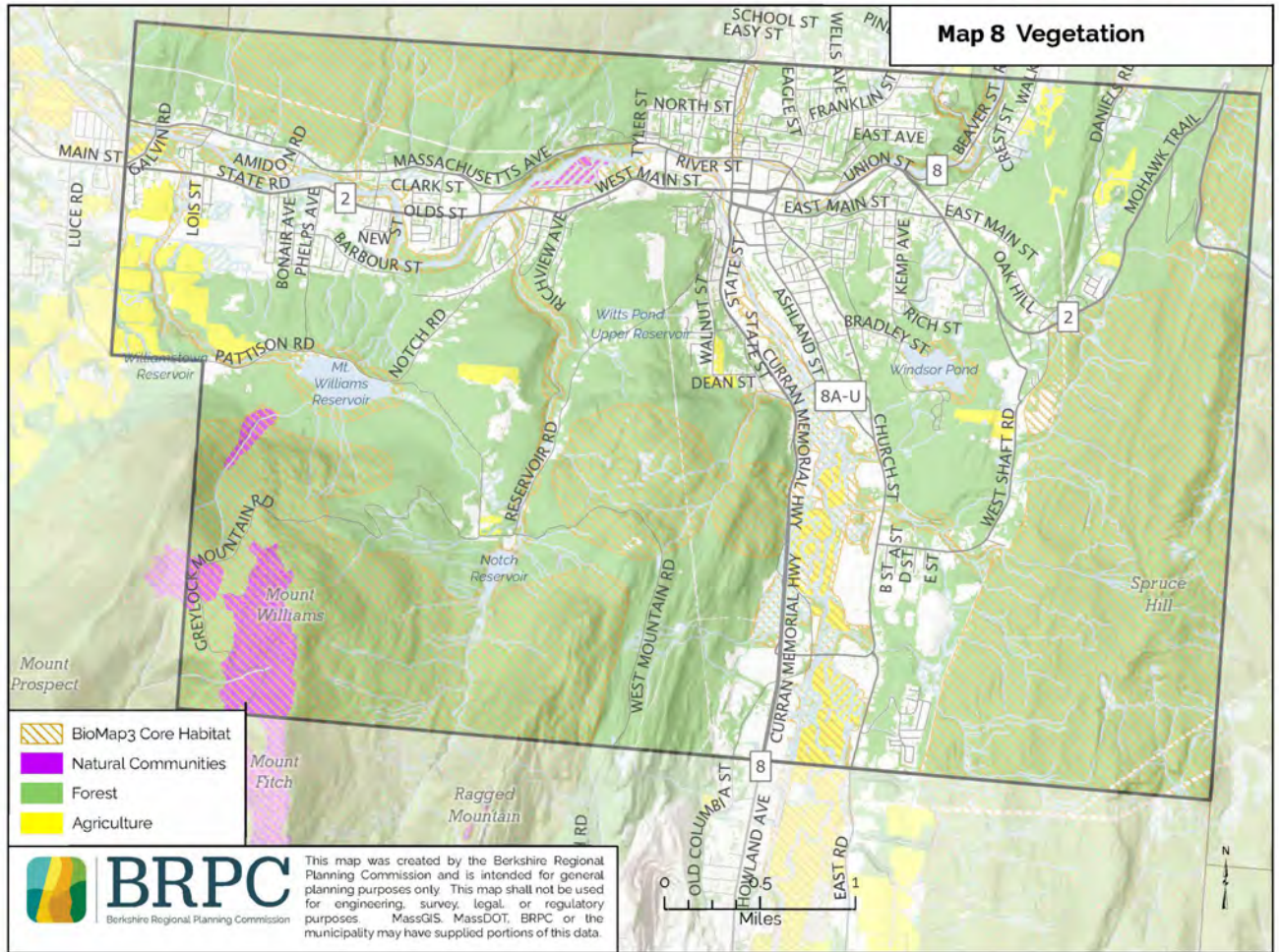
<sup>2</sup> Crop production is the process of managing land to grow and harvest food, feed, fiber, forage, and/or oilseed crops including fertilizing, pest control, irrigation, cultivating, and preparation for planting as applicable to the crop, and harvesting to maintain viable yields without causing excessive erosion. In addition to row crops, crop production includes hay and other feed crops, perennial fruit and nut crops, and improved pasture. Improved pasture is defined as grazing lands that are not in crop rotation and are planted primarily to introduced domesticated native forage species that receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, and weed control.

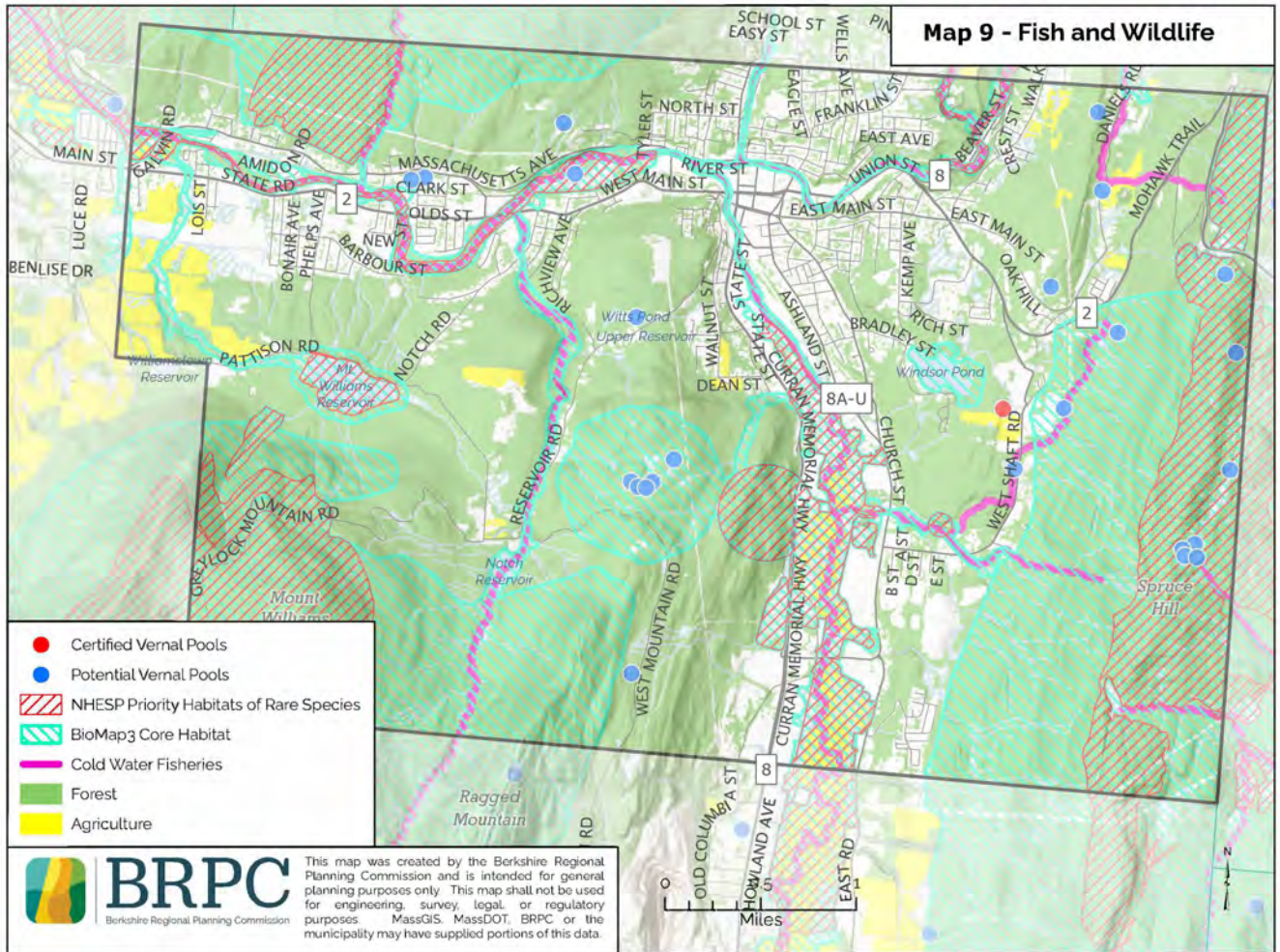


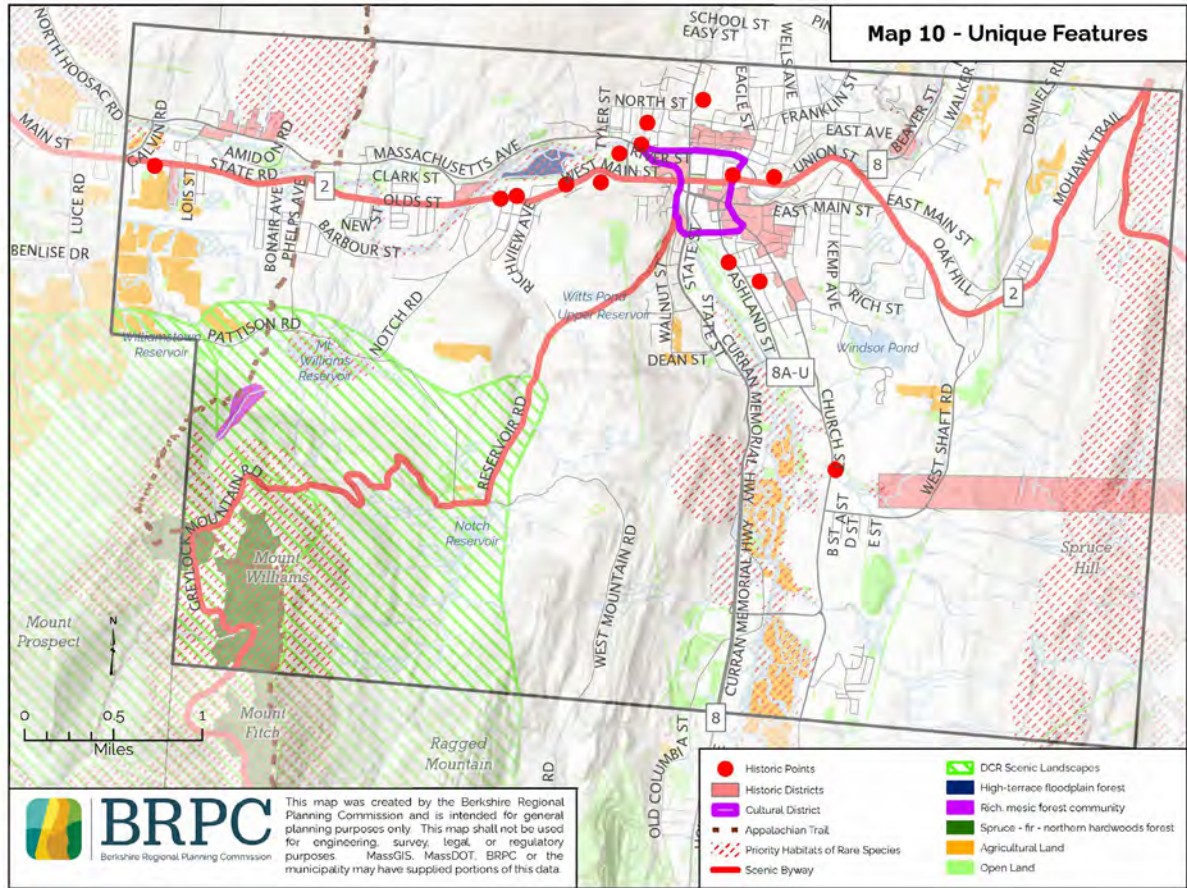


# Map 7a - Water Resources

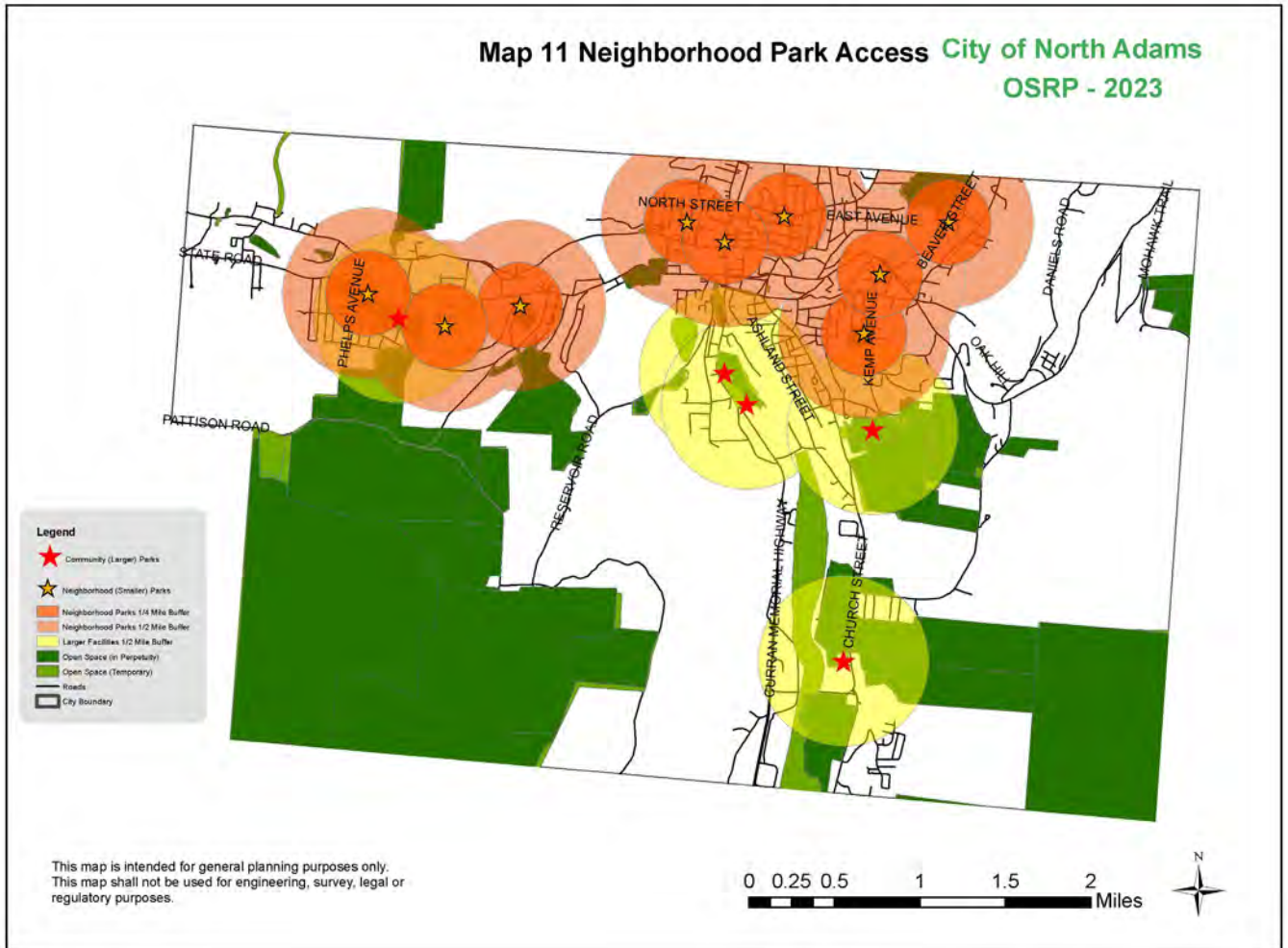


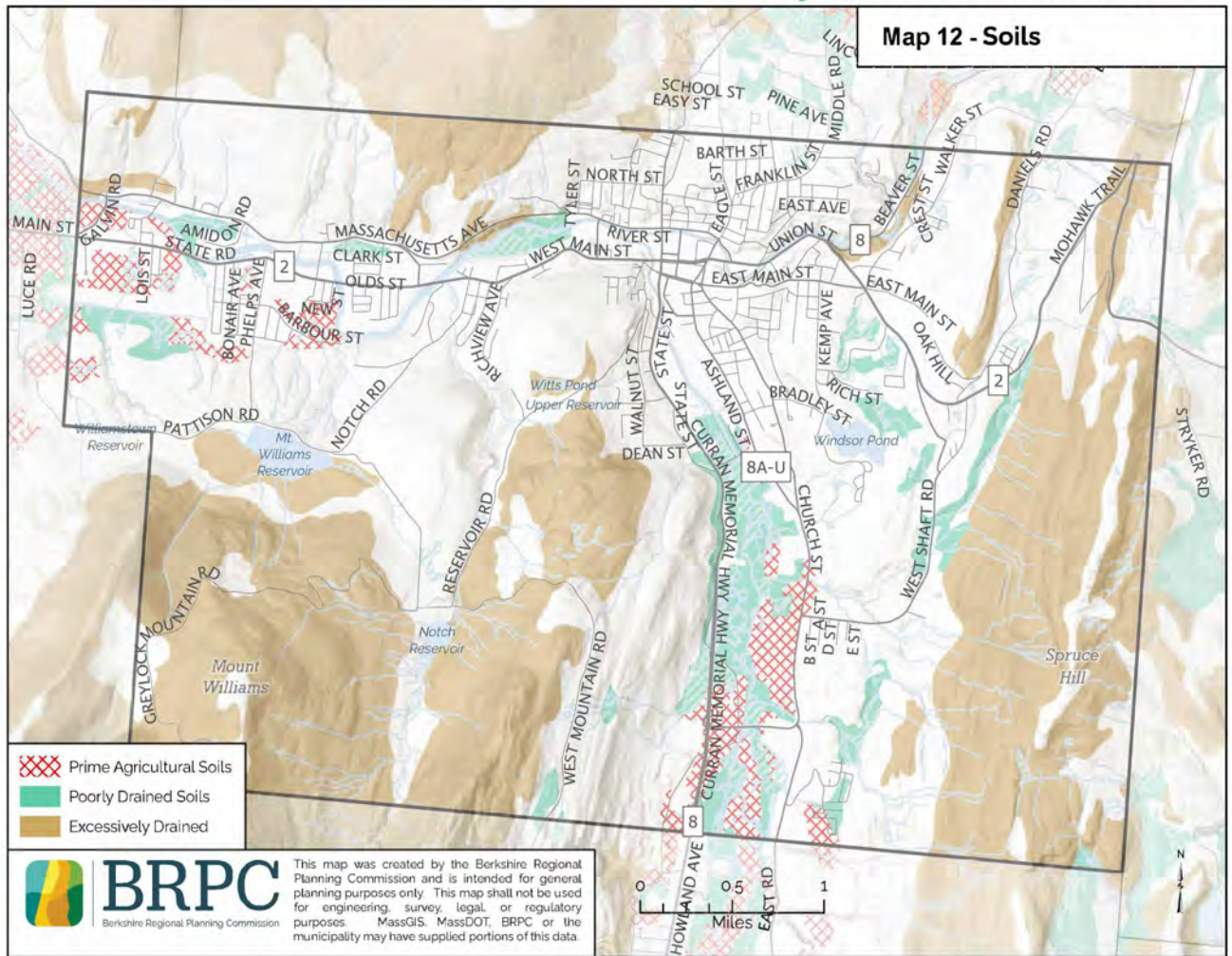






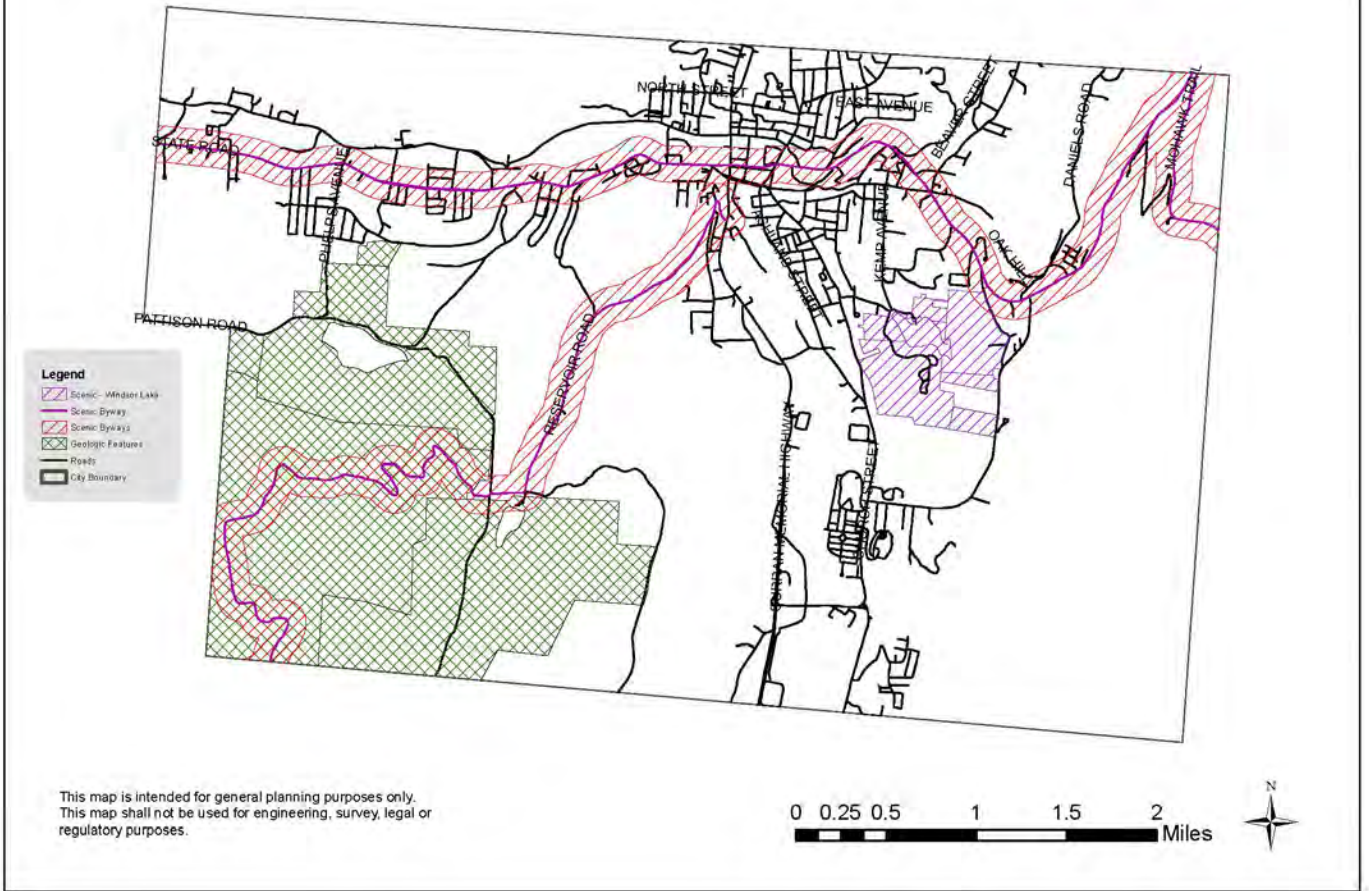
**Map 11 Neighborhood Park Access** City of North Adams  
OSRP - 2023





# Map 12a - Geologic Features

City of North Adams  
OSRP 2023



## **SECTION 5 - INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION & RECREATIONAL INTEREST**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Open space and undeveloped lands serve many functions, including wildlife habitat and corridors, water quality protection, flood control and, with the growing impacts of climate change, carbon sequestration. Conserved undeveloped lands offer residents a place to enter a fresh and quiet environment and to reconnect with nature and increase activity levels.

North Adams has a wide selection of protected and unprotected assets (See Map 13 and 13a, and the inventory on following pages). Residents of North Adams and its visitors benefit from the extensive opportunities for passive and active recreation that exist in the city's resource areas.

The following sections lists the various land parcels in the city that are undeveloped and describes whether or not those lands are available for the public to use. In general, those lands that are permanently protected for conservation and/or recreation are the most valuable to the public over the long term because they will not be threatened with development and will remain open for future generations. For the purposes of this plan, federal and state lands are being considered permanently protected because they are currently being maintained for conservation and/or recreational purposes. Most conservation lands owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are protected under Article 97, an amendment to the state constitution. To remove the protection status of these lands for development would require a 2/3 vote within the state legislature. Other lands considered permanently protected are those owned by local land trusts, as these were purchased with a conservation intent, and lands that are prohibited from development due to placement of a deeded restriction, including conservation restrictions.

The protection status of municipally-owned lands varies widely depending upon the circumstances under which the land was acquired. If the lands were acquired and accepted by the City Council that the lands are for conservation purposes, it would then take action by the City Council and a special act of the state legislature to take the land out of conservation use. Other municipally-owned conservation and recreation lands typically include parks, playing fields, playgrounds, and school properties. These kinds of lands are not typically deed restricted and thus could be vulnerable to change. Although it is unlikely that North Adams would sell public open space lands for development, there could arise a situation in which the public benefits of the land transfer would outweigh the cost of losing open land.

## B. PROTECTED LAND

Site Name	Acres	Management	Current Use	Condition	Rec. Potential	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Grants Used for Outdoor Conservation or Recreation
<b>Alcombright Athletic Complex</b>	26.22	Parks and Recreation Department	Baseball, softball, soccer, T-ball, general recreation and passive recreation	Excellent	Med. (tennis, lighting & scoreboards)	Yes	Medium	R-4 (Medium-High Density Residential)	2005 FLWCF, 2009 USH
Brayton Hill Park	1.64	Parks and Recreation Department	Neighborhood Playground (abuts Brayton Elementary School)	Excellent	Medium (walking-track)	Yes	Protected	R-5 (High Density Residential)	2019 PARC, 2018 CDBG
Camp Decker	21.80	Parks and Recreation Department	Camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and nature observation	Poor	High (expansion for campsites)	Yes	Protected	R-3 (Medium Density Residential)	1989, FLWCF(25-00398) and USH
Cascade Falls	84.50	Conservation Commission	Walking, hiking	Average	Med. (trail work by Greenagers)	Yes	Protected	RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)	1975, FLWCF (25-00097)
Clarksburg State Forest	186.00	Department of Conservation and Recreation	Cross-country skiing, hiking, hunting	Excellent	High	Yes	Protected	RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)	n/a
Florida State Forest	25.30	Department of Conservation and Recreation	Cross-country skiing, hiking, hunting, camping, snowmobiling, bicycling, boating,	Good	High	Yes	Protected	RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)	n/a
Historic Valley Campground	34.00	Parks and Recreation Department and Windsor Lake Commission	Camping, swimming, hiking, picnicking, walking, boating, fishing and cross-country skiing	Good	Med. (campsite expansion w/ Camp Decker property)	Yes	Protected	E-3 (Medium Density Residential)	2015, FLWCF (25-0005 & -00037)
Hoosac Range Reserve Trail	995.00	Berkshire Natural Resources Council	BNRC allows all forms of passive recreation, including hiking, snowshoeing and hunting. The trails are primarily constructed for hiking. No motorized recreation is permitted.	Good	Moderate	Yes	Protected	RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)	n/a
Hoosic River	N/A	Department of Conservation and Recreation	Fishing, hiking, and passive recreation	Good	High	Yes	Protected	Floodplain	n/a

Site Name	Acres	Management	Current Use	Condition	Rec. Potential	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Grants Used for Outdoor Conservation or Recreation
Joe Girardi Park	5.90	Department of Fisheries	Canoe launch site for Hoosic River	Poor	Medium	Yes	Protected	B-2 General Business	State \$ for launch site
Kemp Park	8.20	Parks and Recreation Department	Little League Baseball, basketball, & general passive use	Average	Medium	Yes	Protected	R-4 (Medium-High Density Residential)	2014 Common Backyards \$
Mass College of Liberal Arts' Complex	86.00	MCLA	Baseball, softball, men's & women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, tennis, passive recreation (hiking paths connect to nearby Windsor Lake)	Very Good	Medium	No	Protected	R-3 (Medium Density Residential)	n/a
Mt. Greylock State Reservation	1,010.00	Department of Conservation and Recreation	Hiking, picnicking, nature observation, lodging, field trips	Excellent	High	Yes	Protected	RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)	n/a
Mt. Williams Reservoir	509.00	Water Department	Municipal water supply, hiking, nature observation	Good	Low	No	Protected	RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)	n/a
Natural Bridge State Park	47.00	Department of Conservation and Recreation	Hiking, picnicking, fishing, nature observation	Excellent	Medium	Yes	Protected	R-4 (Medium-High Density Residential)	n/a
Noel Field Athletic Complex	24.68	Parks and Recreation Department	Baseball, youth football, soccer, softball, playground activities, walking, and general/passive recreation, high school sporting events, splash pad and skateboard park	Excellent	Med. (pickleball courts, Little League field, tennis, bike path ext.)	Yes	Protected	B-1 (Local Business)	2016 PARC & CDBG, & previous FLWCF(25-00291 & 00423) & USH grants
Notch Reservoir	1,037.00	Water Department	Municipal water supply, hiking, nature observation	Average	Low	No	Protected	RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)	n/a
Peter W. Foote Vietnam Vet's Skating Rink	4.60	City of North Adams	General ice skating, figure skating and ice hockey	Excellent	Medium	Yes	Protected	I-1 (Industrial)	CDBG (2007-12)
River Grove Park	4.43	Parks and Recreation Department	Youth soccer & football, general & passive recreation	Good	Medium	Yes	Protected	R-5 (Heavy Density Res.) & B-2 (General Business)	2004 FLWCF (25-00454)

Site Name	Acres	Management	Current Use	Condition	Rec. Potential	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Grants Used for Outdoor Conservation or Recreation
Savoy State Park	534.60	Department of Conservation & Recreation	Cross-country skiing, hiking, hunting, camping, snowmobiling, bicycling, boating, swimming, and horseback riding	Good	High	Yes	Protected	RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)	n/a
State Street Park	0.19	Parks and Recreation Department	Passive recreation	Excellent	Low	Yes	Protected	UR-2 (Urban Renewal Zone 2)	n/a
Western Gateway Heritage State Park	7.00	North Adams Redevelopment Authority	Retail, restaurant, specialty shops and State DEM Visitor's Center	Poor	Med-High (bike path expansion)	Yes	Protected	UR-2 (Urban Renewal Zone 2)	2012 MassWorks, 2021 MassDevelmt.
Windsor Lake	123.00	Windsor Lake Commission	Picnicking, swimming, hiking, boating, fishing, cross-country skiing, outdoor concerts	Very Good	Medium (possible pickleball courts)	Yes	Protected	R-3 (Medium Density Residential) & R-4 (Medium-High Density Residential) and within Windsor Lake Watershed District	2014 Common Backyards \$,

### Chapter 61 Restricted Land

Chapter 61 Status	Address	Owner	Acres
Chapter 61	701 Massachusetts Avenue	COOPER ROLAND E & DIANE B	14.99

### C. UNPROTECTED LAND

Site Name	Acres	Management	Current Use	Condition	Rec. Potential	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Grants Used for Outdoor Conservation or Recreation
Beaver Street Playground	.5	Parks & Recreation Department	Playground activities	Poor	Medium	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	B-1 (Local Business)	n/a
Colgrove Park	.4	Parks and Recreation Department	Passive recreation	Very Good	Medium	Yes (no on-site parking)	Unprotected	R-5 (High Density Residential)	n/a
Drury Senior High School	9.8	School Dept.	Football field w/ track, scoreboard, grandstands and concession, soccer and baseball fields, cross-country trails	Good	Medium	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)	n/a
Elderly Housing Recreation Area	.05	North Adams Housing Authority	Passive recreation (benches only)	Very Good	Low	No	Unprotected	CBD (Central Business District)	n/a
Freeman Playground	2.5	Parks & Recreation Department	Playground activities, girls softball, basketball, large field	Poor	Medium	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	R-5 (High Density Residential)	n/a
Greylock School Playground	11.4	School Dept.	Playground activities, tot-lots, basketball court, little league field w/ dugouts, press-box, concession/restrooms	Average	Medium	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	R-4 (Medium-High Density Residential)	n/a
Greylock Valley Apt.'s Playground	4	North Adams Housing Authority	Playground activities, soccer, basketball	Good	High	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	R-4 (Medium-High Density Residential)	n/a
Houghton Playground	.5	Parks & Recreation Dept.	Playground activities, basketball court	Average	Medium	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	R-5 (High Density Residential)	n/a
Main/Ashland St. Mini Park	400 SF	Parks & Rec. Dept	Downtown garden area	Average	None	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	CBD (Cent. Business District)	n/a
McCann Tech. High	7.5	No. Berk. Voc. School System	High school sports (baseball, soccer, softball and football fields)	Excellent	Medium	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	R-3 (Med. Density Residential)	n/a
Monitor Park	700 SF	Parks & Recreation Department	Monument Site (related to Civil War)	Poor	Low	Yes (no-fee)	Unprotected	B-2 (General Business)	n/a
Mt. Williams	140	Private	Pasture (80 acres), hay (40 acres),	Very	Low	No	Unprotected	R-2 (Low-Medium	n/a

Site Name	Acres	Management	Current Use	Condition	Rec. Potential	Public Access	Level of Protection	Zoning	Grants Used for Outdoor Conservation or Recreation
Dairy		(Winthrop Chenail)	feed/sweet corn (20 acres)	Good				Density Residential)	
River Street Playground	.5	Parks & Recreation Dept.	Playground activities, half-basketball court	Average	Low	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	B-2 (General Business)	n/a
River Street Riverside Park	3.63 (3.5 by NGrid)	Nat'l Grid & City of North Adams	Greenbelt for passive recreation	Average	Low	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	R-5 (High Density Residential)	n/a
Senior Center Park	.15	Parks & Recreation Dept.	Passive recreation	Very Good	Low	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	CBD (Cent. Business District)	n/a
Sunshine Park	.4	Private (Berkshire Hills Dev. Co; LLC)	Greenbelt walkway	Average	Low	Yes (no fee)	Unprotected	CBD (Cent. Business District)	n/a
UNO Park	.6	Private	Playground activities, basketball court, bocce court, drop-in center	Excellent	Low	Yes (no-fee)	Unprotected	B1 & B-2 (Local Business & General Business)	n/a
Upper/Lower Reservoirs	11.6	Water Dept.	None	Good	Very Low	Yes	Unprotected	RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)	n/a
Veteran's Memorial Park	.4	Parks & Recreation Department	Monument Memorial Wall w/ name plaques, benches, 7 flagpoles, green space for passive use	Excellent	Low	Yes (no-fee)	Unprotected	R-5 (Heavy Density Residential, & B-2 (General Business)	2002-03 PWED \$
Wilk Horse Farm	11	Private (Wilk family)	Horse farm, riding lessons, pasture, hay, barns	Excellent	Low	Private (fee)	Unprotected	R-3 (Med. Density Residential)	n/a
Witt's Ledge	33.6	Private (Landmark Infra Holdings, LLC)	Observation outlook, hiking	Fair	Low	Private	Unprotected	RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)	n/a
Ziamba Farm	16.8	Ziamba Family	Hay, corn and pasture	Very Good	Low	Private	Unprotected	Floodplain	n/a

**Note:** Please see *Map 13 – Inventory of Open Space Lands of Interest*, and an accompanying map, *Map 13a – Open Space Inventory*, which are both at the end of this section for further reference and use. Please also note that not all locations listed above are cited upon on said maps.

## D. INVENTORY OF LAND

During the summer of 2021 and through the end of that year, Office of Community Development staff revisited the vast majority of the above referenced sites in order to conduct a thorough review for the renewal of its Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). Most of the information on each site has remained the same since the last renewal; however, there were some changes to various sites that needed to be properly reflected into this revised plan.

Since the last plan renewal, there were significant improvements made at the Noel Field Athletic Complex that must be noted. In September 2017, the city's first ever skateboard and *bmx* bicycle park, Unity Skate Park, was installed with the use of \$616,000 of combined grant funds from the federal FY'16 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the state FY'16 Parkland Acquisition & Renovations for Communities Program (PARC). This new venue was an immediate success and is known to have attracted users from as far as two hours away! Juxtaposed to the skateboard park is the complex's new splash park. Grant funding from the same two aforementioned sources in their FY'18 program years, which respectively totaled \$478,000, saw the creation of the city's first ever splash pad. Other featured work saw two new pickleball courts, two refurbished basketball courts, fencing, landscaping and other small amenities thereto. Similar to the skateboard park, this has been a huge success since its opening in July 2019. Together, both new venues have brought the complex to a higher level of quality and success. These updates have been properly reflected into its respective inventory sheet shown further below.



The transformation of the former Brayton Playground into the new and substantially improved Brayton Hill Park, was also another major accomplishment since the last OSRP renewal. Recognized now as the third premiere recreational facility in the community, this venue saw approximately \$498,000 worth of improvements. The old basketball court and playground tot-lot were razed that fostered new ones of each respectively. A new multi-purposed recreational wall-board was installed, rain garden, passive sitting and picnic tables across the street that runs parallel to the scenic Hoosic River. New on-street parking spaces were installed that were sorely needed. Additionally, beautiful landscaping, bike racks, educational signage, and other amenities were addressed, thereby elevating the overall venue to a higher level. The city once again was effective in combining FY'19 PARC and FY'18 CDBG grant funds at approximately \$498,000



in which to make this happen. The project was completed in July 2020. Due to the restrictive covenants of the PARC funding to safeguard perpetual recreational and passive use, this venue has now shifted from the *Unprotected* to the *Protected* land categorization.

There was another newly created venue in the spring of 2022, known as the State Street Park (site number 21 in the inventory). This parcel, situated at the easterly corner of State Street (Rt. 8) with Christopher Columbus Drive, comes under the ownership of the North Adams Redevelopment Authority. The small and flat grassy area was just that for many years; however, the goal was to create a quaint passive sitting area with benches, along with a gazebo, in order to jazz up the space, and to make for an improved connection to the Western Gateway Heritage State Park district, which this parcel is technically part of within the Urban Renewal-2 zone.



There were also three deletions from the unprotected land category under the former inventory site number 1 for the Alibozek farm, number 3 for the Blackinton Playground, and site number 11 for the Johnson School Playground. As to the two playground sites, the declining population over the last thirty plus years has certainly affected the need upon some of these smaller facilities. The small neighborhood venue, known as the Blackinton Playground (about 2.6 acres), had finally come to its eventual demise. Its lack of use and poor condition saw the playground in no longer being needed by local government. After being declared surplus property, the parcel was sold as part of a bigger piece adjoined with vast acreage where the former municipal waste water treatment plant of 1950s once stood. That facility was razed in early 2000, and although early attempts were made to create a small industrial/commercial park, nothing was ever realized. A municipal sale was made to a private developer in April 2017. This developer has resurrected many properties in the historic Blackinton neighborhood on Massachusetts Avenue, and has future plans for other formidable development, which could include a new pedestrian/bike path. Therefore, the Blackinton Playground is no longer identified in the local OSRP.

Another deletion was noted since the last renewal and was for affected Chapter 61 forestry-protected lands. These highlighted parcels shown herein, which abut the Town of Clarksburg near its state forested section, were sold in January 2023 with the new owners removing them from the program, thereby leaving no protected lands in North Adams under this state initiative. This now leaves the Berkshire Natural Resources Council's Hoosac Range and its formerly established Hoosac Range Trail in 2015, in being the only conservation restricted and protected land in the community, with the conservation restriction held with the



Department of Conservation & Recreation. They also have plans to link their High Road initiative, which is primarily a recreational route for hikers that will support and complement many types of outdoor recreation and to help sustain local businesses. The connection of *town-to-towns* and *towns-to-trails* will help local business and provide for both visitor and resident

alike, as well as providing protection to special landscapes, mountain areas, riverfronts, farmlands and forested lands.

Relative to the other small venue at the former Johnson School site, the use as a public school ceased in 1994, although the neighborhood playground remained intact with continued use by local residents. With the property being vacant for a considerable period, it was finally declared surplus in an effort to sell and get it to a better developable use. With a successful sale in late December 2020 to a local private developer, the building was transformed into fourteen units of new market-rate apartments, which were completed in August 2023 that obviously led to the demise of this neighborhood playground. Thus, the venue has now been removed from this plan renewal.

Relative to last site deletion, the former first listing for the Alibozek farm under the unprotected category has now been omitted. As more thoroughly discussed in Section 4, agriculture and farming is not active in North Adams. The ownership of this farm has now changed to National Grid, the area's power company. As they look to their longer-term strategic plans in that section, most of which is in Adams, MA anyways, this activity no longer remains.

On the private sector side, there were also some vibrant accomplishments upon new park development. Berkshire Hills Development, LLC, the owner of very formidable and popular establishment, The Porches Inn located on River Street across the street from the Mass Museum of Contemporary Art (Mass MoCA), purchased a former bar and liquor store at both northerly corners of River Street to that of Houghton Street, along with a former pool store juxtaposed on the southwesterly corner of River Street with Marshall Street. The razing of all three structures allowed for the creation of the UNO Park on the northerly side of River Street, and the Sunshine Park on the opposite side. For many years, the United Neighborhood Organization (UNO), a local grassroots initiative comprised of residents of the Bracewell and Chase Avenue area whose mission has been to help stabilize and rebuild its character and synergies, finally achieved a major milestone that was all made possible from these private sector acquisitions. Berkshire Hills then allowed UNO to use the transformed bar for a youth-drop in center for after school and weekend activities along with new bocce and basketball courts with lighting. Across the street on the north westerly side of this intersection, Berkshire Hills transferred ownership to Mass MoCA along with one of its art foundations, which is used for passive and leisurely space. On the other side of the street, which is the south westerly side of this same intersection, Berkshire Hills razed the old pool store, created a small passive walking area donned by them as Sunshine Park, whereby they still have retained ownership thereto. Albeit these improvements were privately developed, they were seen as worthy in being added to this newest edition of the OSRP, and in which though are opened to the general public. These are now inventoried above as site numbers 18 and 17 respectively.

The last OSRP renewal of 2015 also did not utilize the survey *rating* question within its community public questionnaire. This was because many of the highly used venues, such as the Windsor Lake and its accompanying Historic Valley campground, had seen significant investment. The use of this rating question, however, was used for this plan renewal so as to capture improved response, yet only for sites as owned by the city. Local government wished to

discern how the general public rated the overall condition upon each of these. For those sites not owned or maintained by the city, the site “Condition” rating response is that of the perception by local government staff.

The Mass College of Liberal Arts Complex was identified in the last version as being within the unprotected land classification. As part of the state’s university collegiate system, this complex was shifted over to the protected classification.

Lastly, local government updated its zoning map and its associated use schedules and dimensional requirements from 2019 through 2020. Therefore, each inventoried site was checked against the new zoning map to determine its proper zone location. Subsequently added to this, was the adoption of the Smart Growth Zoning state initiative that provides a development overlay district in strategic geographic areas, which was discussed in greater detail in Section 3.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Alcombright Athletic Field Complex

**LOCATION:** Protection Avenue (and New Street aka St. Pierre Way)

**AREA (ACRES):** 26.22

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Premiere multi-purpose athletic complex

**USE:** Baseball, softball, soccer, T-ball, general recreation and passive recreation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** [easterly side] Baseball field with soccer overlay potential, lighting, dugouts, 2 upper-tier youth soccer fields, multi-purpose recreational building with restrooms, kitchen/concession, storage rooms and garage, scoreboard, tot-lot and parking lot.

[westerly side] 2 softball fields (1 with lighting), dugouts, 2 T-ball fields, comfort station/concession stand, parking lot, and fencing throughout entire facility

**CONDITION:** Excellent (*Public Survey Rating – Very Good*)

**ZONING:** R-4 (*Medium-High Density Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** An approximate \$996,000 Phase I project was done with

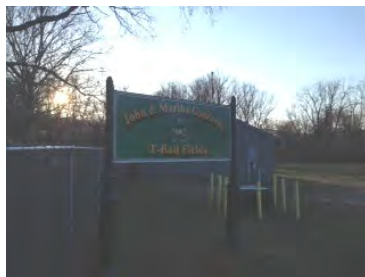
\$400,000 of FY'2005 FLWCF (*Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund*) grant moneys, along with the balance coming from other municipal sources, in which to conduct a major expansion project that included the clearing of many acres of raw woodland on the easterly side of Protection Avenue, and minor clearing to the adjacent side. A new *Facility Development Plan* was created that saw this first phase being completed in the spring of 2006, which brought forth the new facilities as identified above. During 2007, a \$430,000 Phase II project (\$300,000 of State FY'2007 USH with \$130,000 local dollars) was secured that allowed water and sewer utilities being brought down to the future concession building site, new tot-lot installation, finished parking lots with lighting, finished T-ball fields, backstops, and underground conduit installations for future field lighting throughout. Another \$417,000 improvement campaign (\$291,900 of FY'2009 USH moneys with \$125,100 of local funds) was done that installed professional sports lighting to one of the softball fields and to the baseball field, along with the installation of the new multi-purpose concession/storage building that was done in part with the students from the local McCann Technical High School.



Youth soccer fields renamed in honor of Kevin L. Boland, former local high school soccer standout at Drury Senior High School.



Girls' softball fields renamed in honor of Francis Millard, long time serving teacher, coach, Parks & Recreation Commissioner, and former Principal of the McCann Technical High School.



T-Ball baseball fields for tots named in honor of John & Martha Gaudreau, local civic leaders and activists for youth sports and recreation.



Babe Ruth baseball field named in honor of Richard (“Dick”) Lefebvre, local activist and youth baseball coach.

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected (the previous awards of both FLWCF and USH grant funds have enable this site in becoming *protected*)

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Another phase of work was completed in the summer of 2015 for various *ADA* accessible improvements that were previously identified as *ADA* regulations had changed at that time. The city successfully used funding from the its FY’2013 *Community Development Block Grant* program for handicap accessible pathways from parking lots to the various field venues. Other state funding from the Strategic Demolition Fund of the attorney general’s office, coupled with local matching funds (\$40,000 total), saw the razing of a building at the corner of Protection Avenue and New Street that offers over-flow parking when the facility is in full use.

There is more work that had been previously identified for the complex. Sports lighting and dual scoreboards are still desired for the remaining softball field. A nature trail along the Hoosic River side of the complex, along with the integration of a canoe-launch site has been discussed since the renewal of the OSRP back in 2006. A canoe-launch would tie in nicely with the other canoe-launch site [“Joe Girardi Park” as highlighted as an inventoried site) that is just downstream a bit. The expansion efforts of the future expansion of the Ashuwillticook Bike Path was seen as a higher priority with the last plan renewal in 2015, yet had lost favor from adjoining neighborhood residents. Alternative pathways have been explored since that time.

**ACCESS SURVEY:** This area is accessible, although an improved pathway to the baseball field is needed

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Brayton Hill Park (formerly Brayton Field/Playground)

**LOCATION:** Brayton Hill Terrace (abuts Brayton Elementary School)

**AREA (ACRES):** 1.64

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Neighborhood playground (abuts Brayton Elementary School)

**USE:** Softball/Baseball, basketball, youth soccer and playground activities, multi-purposed recreational wall-board, benches and sitting area on other side of the street

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Basketball court, baseball field, recreational wall-board, tot-lot, picnic tables, benches, bike rack, rain-garden, and educational signage

**CONDITION:** Excellent (*Public Survey Rating – Good-Very Good*)

**ZONING:** R-5 (*High Density Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** This site was totally transformed into the new and

improved Brayton Hill Park that is now recognized as the third premiere public recreational facility. The old basketball court and playground tot-lot were razed that fostered new ones of each respectively. A new multi-purposed recreational wall-board was installed, rain garden, passive sitting and picnic tables across the street that runs parallel to the scenic Hoosic River. New parking slots and sidewalk were installed along the street coupled with beautiful landscaping, bike racks, educational signage, and other amenities, the venue was brought to a much higher level. The combination of FY'19 PARC and FY'18 CDBG grant funds at approximately \$498,000 were secured to make this happen.

The project was completed in July 2020. Due to the restrictive covenants of the PARC funding to safeguard perpetual recreational and passive use, this venue has now shifted from the *Unprotected* to the *Protected* land categorization.



<b>RECREATION POTENTIAL:</b>	Medium
<b>PUBLIC ACCESS:</b>	Yes (no fee)
<b>DEGREE OF PROTECTION:</b>	Protected
<b>IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:</b> (these improvements had to be omitted from the above due to budget)	Possible field lighting and/or perimeter walking track
<b>ACCESS SURVEY:</b>	Site is accessible

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Camp Decker

**LOCATION:** West Shaft Road (abuts the Windsor Lake)

**AREA (ACRES):** 21.8 (wooded land)

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Undeveloped tract of land near Historic Valley Campground

**USE:** Camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and nature observation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** None

**CONDITION:** Poor (*Public Survey Rating – Average to Good*)

**ZONING:** R-3 (*Medium Density Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** Urban Self-Help funds & Federal LWCF were used in November 1989 to acquire parcel from the Boy Scouts of America-Great Tails Society when they used “Camp Decker” for scouting activities; name now only remains although it is no longer a formalized scouting camp, raw woodland only

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** High

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** None per se, although this area could be used as an expansion to the Historic Valley Campground and/or to provide an additional access road to the existing campsites or more hiking trails

**ACCESS SURVEY:** This area is not handicapped accessible as it is raw woodland. There are no buildings on site and the only parking is along the road. Due to lack of a formal footpath on site, accessible trails are not likely.

2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM



**SITE NAME:** Cascade Falls

**LOCATION:** Notch Road (GPS coordinates of falls: 42° 41' 004" N and 73° 07' 052" W)

**AREA (ACRES):** 84.5

**OWNER** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Conservation Commission

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** A series of small mountainside waterfalls situated within a forested area that is one of the most unique and natural sites within the community

**USE:** Walking, hiking

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Hiking paths

**CONDITION:** Average (*Public Survey Rating – Good to Average*)

**ZONING:** RU-1 (*Low Density Rural Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance of parking area and the trail bridges

**ACCESS SURVEY:** This open space is not handicapped accessible. It is a nature observance area and only accessible by footpaths. There are no buildings on site and no parking lot. Limited public parking is available at the end of Marion Avenue (a dead-end street off of West Main St. (Route 2)).

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**

**SITE NAME:** Clarksburg State Forest

**LOCATION:** North Adams and Clarksburg

**AREA (ACRES):** 186 acres in North Adams

**OWNER:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**MANAGEMENT:** Department of Conservation & Recreation

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** State Forest

**USE:** Cross-country skiing, hiking, hunting,

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** state forest

**CONDITION:** Excellent (*Public Survey Rating – not asked for*)

**ZONING:** RU-1 (*Low Density Rural Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** High

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** n/a

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**

**SITE NAME:** Florida State Forest

**LOCATION:** North Adams and Florida

**AREA (ACRES):** 25.3 acres are in North Adams

**OWNER:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**MANAGEMENT:** Department of Conservation & Recreation

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** State Forest

**USE:** Cross-country skiing, hiking, hunting, camping, snowmobiling, bicycling, boating,

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** n/a

**CONDITION:** Good (*Public Survey Rating – not asked for*)

**ZONING:** RU-1 (*Low Density Rural Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** High

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** n/a

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Historic Valley Campground

**LOCATION:** George Fairs Way (atop of Bradley Street)

**AREA (ACRES):** 34

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department and Windsor Lake Commission

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Wooded area along 25-acre lake adjacent to Windsor Lake

**USE:** Camping, swimming, hiking, picnicking, walking, boating, fishing and cross-country skiing

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Tent/Trailer Sites (approximately 103), comfort stations (2),  
Small basketball court, playground, pavilion, office building, garage(s) for Parks & Rec. Dept.

**CONDITION:** Good (*Public Survey Rating – Good to Very Good*)

**ZONING:** R-3 (*Medium Density Residential*) and within the Windsor Lake Watershed District

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (fee; fee dependent upon type of camp site used)

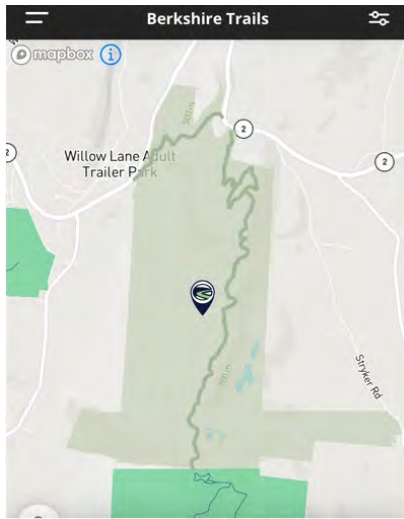
**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:**

In the summers 2013 and 2014, city crews conducted major improvements. About 80% of the camp sites saw new sewer connections, along with some new water service connections. Both comfort station buildings were also substantially rehabilitated at this time. Approximately \$115,000 of municipal funds were invested that covered these improvements, along with assistance being provided by the students of the local McCann Technical High School. Major upgrades for electrical service to sites are needed to accommodate today's vast number of RV units that put huge demand upon electrical needs. There is the continual need to maintain and upgrade roadways, as heavy rains easily washout many areas. The main entry roadway from the parking at Windsor Lake is in serious need of repair. The two small playgrounds have outdated equipment with associated accessible improvements thereto.

**ACCESS SURVEY:**

Specific elements are accessible, such as complaint restrooms, but accessible improvements are needed to better accommodate those elements, such as terrain work. Continual monitoring is always needed due to high seasonal use.



**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**

**SITE NAME:** Hoosac Range Reserve and Trail

**LOCATION:** North Adams and Florida

**AREA (ACRES):** 995

**OWNER:** Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC)

**MANAGEMENT:** BNRC is a private, not-for profit land conservation organization founded in 1967. It conserves over 12,000 acres of land through conservation restrictions, and owns just over 13,000 acres in Fee, which is open to the public. DCR (Mass Dept. of Conservation & Recreation) holds a conservation restriction over much of the Hoosac Range reserve.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Forest and ridgeline land with hiking trail system offering several vistas and options for both a shorter 3-mile loop hike, and a 6-mile out-and-back hike. A section of this trail is part of the historic Mohican-Mohawk pedestrian trail that runs nearby down the steep grade off of the Mohawk Trail Highway (Route 2).

**USE:** BNRC allows all forms of passive recreation, including hiking, snowshoeing and hunting. The trails are primarily constructed for hiking. No motorized recreation is permitted.

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Trailhead parking lot along Route 2

**CONDITION:** Good (*Public Survey Rating – not asked for*)

**ZONING:** RU-1 (*Low Density Rural Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** BNRC purchased this land, starting in July 2014 for \$65,000 with a 50% grant from the State’s “Mass Conservative Partnership” program with the balance coming from private sources. The Commonwealth’s Natural Heritage & Endangered Species program provided \$65,000 in funding to purchase an additional 104 +/- acres on the southeaster portion of the reserve.

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Moderate

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** BNRC staff, volunteers and contractors perform routine trail and parking lot maintenance. BNRC is interested in improving access to the western section of the Mahican-Mohawk Trail. *ADA* accessibility along trail is not possible given the rugged terrain. They also have plans on creating their *High Road* link, a future recreational network of routes for hikers to sustain local business and to help protect the environment (see Section 9 on its actionable item).

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Hoosic River

**LOCATION:** A three-state river that is fed by streams that run from the Green Mountains of Vermont, the Taconics of New York, and the sides of Mt. Greylock, the highest peak in Massachusetts. The Hoosic River's North Branch rises in Stamford, VT, and the South Branch begins at the Cheshire Reservoir in Cheshire, MA. The two branches join in a cement-encased flood-chute in downtown North Adams on River Street. It continues through Williamstown, MA, then to Vermont and New York until it empties into the Hudson River at Stillwater, NY

**AREA (ACRES):** n/a

**OWNER:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**MANAGEMENT:** Department of Conservation & Recreation

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Hoosic River (portion that flows through North Adams)

**USE:** Fishing, hiking, and passive recreation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** none

**CONDITION:** Good (*Public Survey Rating – not asked for*)

**ZONING:** Floodplain

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** High

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Since the last renewals of the OSRP in 2006 and in 2015, this section of the Hoosic River within the community has been seen by the local Hoosic River Revival, a local grass-roots group, whose mission it is to rejuvenate the redevelopment potential of the river along various strategic points from Foundry Road to the south and up to the Noel Field Athletic Complex at its northerly section in this vicinity. They are also concerned about the river's overall trek within the city. Thus far, nothing has ever been built, as there is still the need to repair and/or rebuild the failing flood control chutes that exist in other parts of the community.

In addition to the above events, it is also envisioned that the future expansion of the Ashuwillticook Bike Path from the south (now up to Hoosac Street in the Town of Adams) could take a formidable route along the river, and possibly integrate with the Western Gateway Urban Heritage State Park that is to the immediate north. The name *Ashuwillticook* is in keeping with the community's heritage, as this was the original Native American name for the river.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Joe Girardi Park

**LOCATION:** Ashton Avenue

**AREA (ACRES):** 5.9

**OWNER:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts (acquired 7/3/97)

**MANAGEMENT:** Department of Fisheries

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Outdoor park

**USE:** Canoe launch-site for the Hoosic River

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** No on-site buildings or amenities, a site sign exists, and a small parking lot

**CONDITION:** Poor (*Public Survey Rating – Average to Good*)

**ZONING:** B-2 (*General Business*)

**FUNDS USED:** State

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance (regular weed trimming); trash barrel

**ACCESS SURVEY:** This site is handicapped accessible in terms of parking only

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Kemp Park

**LOCATION:** Kemp Avenue

**AREA (ACRES):** 8.2

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Municipal park and playground with Little League baseball field)

**USE:** Little League Baseball, basketball, & general passive use

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Baseball field with 2 wooden dugouts, press-box, fully fenced with foul poles, comfort station building with concession single-basketball court, playground area, and parking areas.

**CONDITION:** Average (*Public Survey Rating – Good to Average*)

**ZONING:** R-4 (*Medium-High Density Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** FY’2014 “Our Common Backyards Grant Program” & local funds (see further elaboration below).

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Just before the last renewal of the OSRP in 2015, the city secured funding from the State’s FY’2014 “Our Common Backyards Grant Program” in which to remove the existing tot-lot playground area, and to install a new playground system with proper ADA entry and parking. Approximately \$100,000 of grant funds along with \$15,000 of local funds were invested that was completed by the end of 2014, yet officially reopening in the spring of 2015. At the same time, this project also allowed for another new playground installation at the Windsor Lake facility. Given the infusion of state moneys, this site was transferred over to the “Protected Land” category.



Since the last plan renewal, the overall venue has declined in use except for the new playground as aforementioned. Formal Little League play no longer takes place, and not much other activity. New fencing is needed and all structures need some decent level of rehabilitative effort. The future of this site as a formal parks and recreational area continues to lend itself to discussion about the potential removal of it from the OSRP if in fact local residents and government wish to decommission it.

**ACCESS SURVEY:** This area has sufficient on-site parking; however, proper surface and marked accessible spaces are needed with possible pathways to baseball field and basketball venue.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



Soccer & Lacrosse



Men's Baseball



Tennis courts



Women's Softball

**SITE NAME:** Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA)  
"Joseph Zavatarrò Athletic Complex"

**LOCATION:** West Shaft Road

**AREA (ACRES):** 86

**OWNER:** MCLA (formerly North Adams State College)

**MANAGEMENT:** MCLA

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** College athletic complex

**USE:** Baseball, softball, men's & women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, tennis, passive recreation (hiking paths connect to nearby Windsor Lake)

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Men's baseball field with 2 dugouts, full fencing, scoreboard,  
women's softball field with 2 dugouts, full fencing, scoreboard,  
soccer and lacrosse field with full fencing, brand new artificial  
multipurpose turf field (installed summer 2023), press-box, scoreboard and lights, 6 tennis courts, comfort

station, and storage buildings

<b>CONDITION:</b>	Very Good ( <i>Public Survey Rating – not asked for</i> )
<b>ZONING:</b>	R-3 ( <i>Medium Density Residential</i> and within the & Windsor Lake Watershed District)
<b>FUNDS USED:</b>	MCLA (state funds)
<b>RECREATION POTENTIAL:</b>	Medium
<b>PUBLIC ACCESS:</b>	No (fee-based use per college policy)
<b>DEGREE OF PROTECTION:</b>	Protected (protected through the state’s university system)
<b>IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:</b>	New tennis courts, drainage on baseball outfield or replace surface with new turf
<b>ACCESS SURVEY:</b>	The college meets the accessibility requirements and is in good condition

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Mount Greylock State Reservation

**LOCATION:** Adams, North Adams, Williamstown, Lanesborough, Cheshire, and New Ashford

**AREA (ACRES):** 1,010 (# of acres within North Adams)

Part of this is a portion known as *Ragged Mountain Reservation* (about 33.6 acres), which is along the lower northeast range of the Mt. Greylock State Reservation, with approximate boundaries in North Adams between Notch Brook to West Mt. Road, and running along the Route 8 (Curran Highway) corridor into the Town of Adams.

**OWNER:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**MANAGEMENT:** Department of Conservation & Recreation

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Mountain State Forest (part of the Appalachian Trail), highest peak in Massachusetts

**USE:** Hiking, picnicking, nature observation, lodging, field trips

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Veteran's Memorial tower, Bascom Lodge, Thunderbolt Shelter and Ski Trail, and other various hiking trails

**CONDITION:** Excellent (*Public Survey Rating – not asked for*)

**ZONING:** RU-1 (*Low Density Rural Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** High

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (parking fees at the summit only, 2021 is \$5.00 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. lower trail head parking is free to all). There are fees for lodging and meals at the Bascom Lodge atop mountain. Auto roads to the summit are open for the spring/summer/fall season starting about May. Sperry Road is closed to vehicular traffic. Campground is walk-in only.

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance of existing facilities

Of particular interest, this state mountain reservation was created in 1898 as the state's first public land for the purpose of forest preservation. The mountain is 3,491 feet above sea level and serves as the state's highest peak and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The War Memorial Tower has a translucent lighted tower from six 1,500 watt bulbs that can be seen 70 miles away night. It is estimated that about 250,000 people visit the reservation each year with about 30,000 cars making their trek to its top.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Mount Williams Reservoir

**LOCATION:** Pattison Road

**AREA (ACRES):** 509 (452 acres of land and 57 acres of water)

**OWNER** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Water Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** 2<sup>nd</sup> largest municipal reservoir based upon total watershed drainage area at 509 acres; however, it has the largest area of surface water, and given its depth of approx. 29 feet, it yields about 201.4 million gallons

**USE:** Municipal water supply, hiking, nature observation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** gate house, other small utility buildings (water filtration plant is located nearby further west on Pattison Road)

**CONDITION:** Good (*Public Survey Rating - Good*)

**ZONING:** RU-1 (*Low Density Rural Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** none

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Repairs to the gate house are needed, especially the roof

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Natural Bridge State Park

**LOCATION:** McCauley Road (off of Beaver Street-Rt. 8) or from Natural Bridge Road (off of Franklin Street)

**AREA (ACRES):** 47 (43.6 acres in North Adams)

**OWNER:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**MANAGEMENT:** Department of Conservation & Recreation

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Unique marble structure spanning the Hudson Brook and white marble dam

**USE:** Hiking, picnicking, fishing, nature observation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Parking lot, picnic tables, restrooms, and Visitors' Center

**CONDITION:** Excellent (*Public Survey Rating – not asked for*)

**ZONING:** R-4 (*Medium-High Density Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** State and Federal

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (2021 parking fees \$8.00 resident and \$30 non-resident, free for 'walk-in's')

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance of existing facilities

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**

**SITE NAME:** Noel Field Athletic Complex

**LOCATION:** State Street

**AREA (ACRES):** approximately 24.68

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** City-wide multi-purpose recreational facility

**USE:** Baseball, youth football, soccer, softball, playground activities, walking, and general/passive recreation, high school sporting events, splash pad and skateboard park

**EXISTING FACILITIES:**

*Joe Wolfe Field* – Baseball field with irrigation system, fencing, grandstand with press box, concession stand with comfort station, 2 dug-outs, lighting, scoreboard, batting cage, parking lot, and larger sized concession and storage building. Became an expansion venue for the New England Collegiate Baseball League, home of the North Adams SteepleCats (since 2002).



*Noel Field* - Fenced-in area for 2 basketball courts with lighting, ¼ mile walking track, parking lot, splash pad, rain garden, pickle ball courts, shade structure, benches, educational signage. Other area is the “Municipal Softball Field” (more commonly referred to as *Steele Field*) with press box, field lighting, with adjacent tot-lot playground, bocce courts and general open green space. Previous Urban Self-Help funds in summer of 2000 helped to start substantial improvements with another substantial phase of work from the state PARC grant funds (described further below).



*DiSanti Field* – Soccer field with comfort station, softball field with press box, fencing and parking lot.



*Unity Skate Park* – Skateboard and Bmx bicycle park newly created in September 2017 with State PARC and federal CDBG grant funds.



*Noel Field Splash Park*– City’s first-ever splash park newly created in September 2019 with State PARC and federal CDBG grant funds.



**CONDITION:** Excellent (*Public Survey Rating -Good to Very Good*)

**ZONING:** B-1 (*Local Business*)

**FUNDS USED:** Federal (FLWCF), State Urban Self-Help and Parkland Acquisition & Renovations for Communities grant funds, & federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:**

*Joe Wolfe Baseball Field* – Continued maintenance with emphasis on outfield fencing needs and irrigation system maintenance.

*Noel Field* – Possible installation of new recreational practice board in open field area, possible installation of a tennis court(s) where possible, clean fence lines where needed, install new playground equipment where needed, and possible installation of volleyball court(s) in the open area or other possible uses, refurbish the aged walking track surface.

*DiSanti Field* - Installation of kickboard for soccer, and some fencing improvements in various areas, and investigate the possibility of conducting additional lighting improvements. Portable bleachers would be a nice added element.

*Overall* - Install new sod throughout entire complex where needed for all playing fields, especially the soccer field. Improve upon the new walking track such as its enlargement and/or complement it with some exercise stations strategically located. With the recent installations of the skateboard park and the new splashpad, there is the need to research the redevelopment potential of the existing warehouse parks and recreation depot building. Given the high volume of users to both new park venues, there is an increased need for a restroom facility that also has changing rooms and more so for the splash pad. The warehouse building could be transformed with this restroom element along with new concession space, open-air yet covered space for shade, as well as storage. Similar to the last plan renewal, with the loss of the football field many years ago, there has been discussion about the return of this sport to the complex, thereby triggering the need in looking at a mild redevelopment plan of the complex or at least to the soccer field in becoming a multipurposed one.

**ACCESS SURVEY:** The parking and facilities of the Noel Field Athletic Complex meet or exceed meet or exceed the accessibility requirements and are in excellent condition

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Notch Reservoir

**LOCATION:** Reservoir Road

**AREA (ACRES):** 1,037 (1,023 acres of land and 14 acres of water)

**OWNER** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Water Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Largest municipal reservoir based upon total watershed drainage area at 1,037 acres; however, it has a smaller water surface area versus the other municipal reservoir (Mt. Williams Reservoir), and given its depth of 49 feet, it yields about 94 million gallons

**USE:** Municipal water supply, hiking, nature observation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Gate house

**CONDITION:** Average (*Public Survey Rating - Good*)

**ZONING:** RU-1 (*Low Density Rural Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** none

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance of existing facilities, the gatehouse is in need of substantial improvements, most especially the roof and exterior

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Skating Rink

**LOCATION:** 1267 (south) Church Street

**AREA (ACRES):** 4.6

**OWNER:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**MANAGEMENT:** City of North Adams

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Indoor skating rink

**USE:** General ice skating, figure skating and ice hockey

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Skating rink, restrooms, concession stand, and skate rentals

**CONDITION:** Excellent      (*Public Survey Rating - Good*)

Six major capital improvement campaigns were completed with the use of CDBG grant funds from 2007 through 2012 that installed a new roof, two new ADA compliant restrooms, new underlying concrete slab in its entirety, dasher-boards, chiller unit, entire new mechanical room, low-e ceiling and safety perimeter netting, over-head bleacher heaters, all new doors and locks, and complete new parking lot with landscaping and ADA parking)

**ZONING:** I-1 (*Industrial*)

**FUNDS USED:** State

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (fee) [since the last plan renewal, the new semi-pro hockey league in 2014 that featured a new local team, Berkshire Battalion, only survived for one season]

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** New gas-powered ice resurfacing vehicle, new changing rooms, increase supply of adaptive equipment to foster improved used of the rink by physically challenged patrons.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** River Grove Park

**LOCATION:** River Street (main parcel also abuts Houghton Street, and a second small auxiliary parcel across the street on the southerly side of River Street)

**AREA (ACRES):** 4.428 (main parcel) & .28 (small auxiliary piece, which is open green space that use to house former garage at 216-218 River Street)

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Neighborhood park (newly created in summer of 2004)

**USE:** Youth soccer & football, general & passive recreation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** General playground & tot-lot areas, youth soccer/football field surrounded by walking track, track lighting, fencing and historical period lighting, many prior tree installations, blacktopped parking lot and small storage shed

**CONDITION:** Good (*Public Survey Rating - Good*)

**ZONING:** R-5 (*Heavy Density Residential* on main parcel) & B-2 (*General Business* on the smaller auxiliary piece)

**FUNDS USED:** Federal (\$250,000 of Federal Land & Water Conservation Funds were used to help the City create the park in 2004)

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)  
**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected (“Land Use Management Plan” in place)  
**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance of all facility elements  
**ACCESS SURVEY:** This site is handicapped accessible



**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Savoy State Park

**LOCATION:** Savoy, North Adams, Florida and Adams  
260 Central Shaft Road, Florida, MA 01247

**AREA (ACRES):** 534.6 (# of acres in North Adams not available)

**OWNER:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**MANAGEMENT:** Department of Conservation & Recreation

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** State Forest

**USE:** Cross-country skiing, hiking, hunting, camping, snowmobiling, bicycling, boating, swimming, and horseback riding

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** 45 Campsites, and featuring great hiking trails such as Haskins Trail to Bog Pond, Tannery & Parker Brook Falls, Mahican-Mohawk Trail to Spruce Hill, and Busy Trail to Spruce Hill

**CONDITION:** Good (*Public Survey Rating – not asked for*)

**ZONING:** RU-1 (*Low Density Rural Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** High

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (2021 parking fee \$8.00 resident and \$30 non-resident, free for ‘walk-in’s)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** n/a

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** State Street Park

**LOCATION:** State Street (Rt. 8---on the south easterly node of the Heritage State Park [HSP] at the Rt. 8- Christopher Columbus Drive corner)

**AREA (ACRES):** .185

**OWNER:** North Adams Redevelopment Authority (NARA)

**MANAGEMENT:** City Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Small, grassy area with walking path to HSP

**USE:** Passive recreation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** 2 tables with umbrellas, 2 benches, vinyl fencing, signage

**CONDITION:** Excellent (Public Survey Rating: not included)

**ZONING:** UR-2 (Urban Renewal Zone 2)

**FUNDS USED:** local (newly created in spring 2022)

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

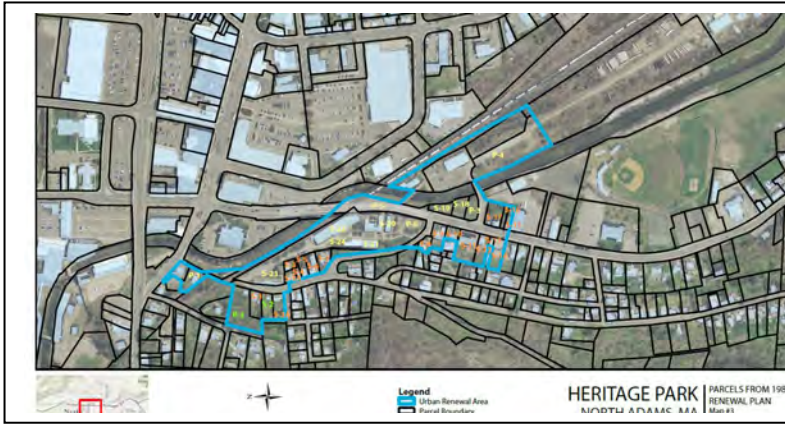
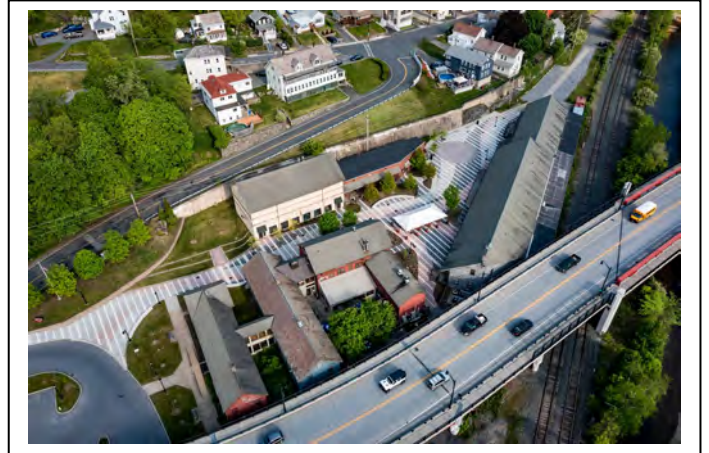
**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected (within the UR-2 zone as governed by the NARA)

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance

**ACCESS SURVEY:** A hardened surface for pathway to at least one table, and same for path and ramp for gazebo access

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Western Gateway Urban Heritage State Park

**LOCATION:** Furnace Street

**AREA (ACRES):** 7

**OWNER:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**MANAGEMENT:** North Adams Redevelopment Authority (NARA)

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Historic marketplace that was converted from an old Boston & Maine freight yard, completed in 1983

**USE:** Retail, restaurant, specialty shops and State DEM Visitor's Center

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** 7 buildings that traditionally house small retail establishments and professional offices, Visitor's Center, courtyard with cobblestone walkways, benches, tot-lot area, picnic tables, and 2 parking lots

**CONDITION:** Poor (Public Survey Rating - Poor)

**ZONING:** UR-2

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium-High

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** In an effort to bolster the park with new private investment during the renewal of the last OSPP pre-2015, the City of North Adams, in conjunction with its NARA, received an \$881,000 grant from the FY'2012 State MassWorks Infrastructure Grant Program. This work saw substantial both hard landscaping improvements, lighting and other street-scape amenities throughout the park. This work was finished 2015. The concurrent negotiations with private sector on a potential long-term lease operator or outright sale failed to come to fruition. No other solid attempts since that time have surfaced as well. In an effort to keep up future development potential, the NARA, with assistance from city staff, had secured a \$50,000 technical assistance grants from MassDevelopment's FY'21 grant round. Strategies centered upon market uses, marketing strategies, along with a building analysis upon building needs will be an excellent resource tool that will be utilized. The inclusion of abutting parcels, such as the former Sons of Italy building and its parking, are being looked to in becoming a formal annexation to the park.

Similar to previous discussions, future visions for the park also include the possible integration of the Ashuwillticook Bike Path as it looks to expand northward from its present southerly location.

**ACCESS SURVEY:** Park is completely handicap accessible and will remain so.

2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM



**SITE NAME:** Windsor Lake

**LOCATION:** George Fairs Way (off Bradley Street)

**AREA (ACRES):** 123 (includes lake—25 acres of surface water)

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Windsor Lake Commission

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Recreation area consists of woods, picnic tables, grass area, pavilion, playground, and a sandy beach at the public’s beach-side

**USE:** Picnicking, swimming, hiking, boating, fishing, cross-country skiing, outdoor concerts

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Bath-house with concession stand, ticket entrance booth, pavilion, playground equipment, boat-ramp, and handicap picnic table, volleyball court, 18-hole disc golf, and pavilion that hosts YMCA summer camp program

**CONDITION:** Very Good (*Public Survey Rating - Good*)

**ZONING:** R-3 (*Medium Density Residential*) & R-4 (*Medium-High Density Residential*) and within Windsor Lake Watershed District

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (fee for parking; walk-in’s are free)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Protected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance of the existing facilities is needed, especially for pavilion’s siding and roofing. Both existing restrooms may need more ADA compliancy work, and there should be acquisition of special beach chairs and a hardened surface so as to foster improved access to the water, along with a new adaptive playground. The biggest

improvement needed though still lies within the water itself. The long-term maintenance plan to fight Phragmite infestation needs to be diligently implemented. Parking lots spaces properly marked, and for handicap slots, need to be made, and the boat launch ramp area needs minor repairs given the recent popular use of kayaking.

On another note, in 2014, the City secured funding from the State’s FY’2014 “Our Common Backyards Grant Program” in which to install a new playground near the public parking lot, nestled in between the concession building and the open recreational area that leads to the beach. Approximately \$100,000 of grant funds along with \$15,000 of local funds were invested with the completion by the end of 2014, yet officially reopening in the spring of 2015. This project also allowed for at the same time another new playground installation at the Kemp Park facility.



**ACCESS SURVEY:** Improved connecting compliant pathways are needed to connect some complaint elements, and the restrooms need improvement. There should be a full assessment made on the entire facility as to access.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Beaver Street Playground

**LOCATION:** Beaver Street (Route 8)

**AREA (ACRES):** .5

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Small neighborhood playground

**USE:** Playground activities

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Playground equipment and basketball court

**CONDITION:** Poor (*Public Survey Rating - Poor*)

**ZONING:** B-1 (*Local Business*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Needs new fencing, new basketball court with surface coating and lining, new rims and backboards throughout, playground equipment, benches, and shade trees.  
No on-site parking exists.

**ACCESS SURVEY:** This area is not easily accessible due to on-site access problems as there is no on-site parking. All future improvements for its grounds, parking and site amenities, should incorporate *ADA* compliant features

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Colegrove Park

**LOCATION:** Church Street

**AREA (ACRES):** .4

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Small park in front of the Colegrove Park Elementary School

**USE:** Passive recreation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** No facilities (just open passive low recreational space)

**CONDITION:** Very Good (*Public Survey Rating - Good*)

**ZONING:** R-5 (*High Density Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** (see below description)

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no on-site parking)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Just prior to the renewal of the OSRP in 2015, the city took advantage of approximate \$30-M dollars-worth of school building renovation funds in 2014 from the State School Bureau Assistance Program in conjunction with local moneys. The former Conte Middle School was totally transformed into the new *Colegrove Park Elementary School* that reopened in the fall of 2015. The existing park, which is out front of the school along the northerly section of Church Street, was interrupted during the construction site, yet was fully restored so that it could remain open to the general public for passive use. The new school project included its own new playground on the southerly side of the school along East Main Street.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Drury Senior High School

**LOCATION:** South Church Street

**AREA (ACRES):** 9.8

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** School Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** High School facilities

**USE:** High School team sports

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Football field with scoreboard, outlining track, grandstands and concession stand, soccer field with kick-board, baseball field, cross-country running trail(s)

**CONDITION:** Good (Public Survey Rating - Good)

**ZONING:** RU-1 (Low Density Rural Residential)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance, fully ADA compliant

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Elderly Housing Recreation Area

**LOCATION:** Ashland Street

**AREA (ACRES):** .05

**OWNER:** North Adams Housing Authority

**MANAGEMENT:** North Adams Housing Authority

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Small grassy area with benches

**USE:** Passive recreation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Benches

**CONDITION:** Very Good *(Public Survey Rating – not asked for)*

**ZONING:** CBD (*Central Business District*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** No

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** General upkeep and maintenance

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Freeman Playground

**LOCATION:** Corner of Hospital Avenue and Eagle Street

**AREA (ACRES):** 2.5

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Neighborhood playground

**USE:** Playground activities, Girl's Minor Softball League, and basketball

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Playground equipment, softball field with 2 wooden dugouts, basketball court, memorial stone/plaque, tot-lot (Hospital Avenue side)

**CONDITION:** Poor (*Public Survey Rating - Average*)

**ZONING:** R-5 (*High Density Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Installation of a new swing set & other possible new equipment, majority of new fencing is also needed

**ACCESS SURVEY:** This is partially accessible; pathways to and around playground are sufficient, but no accessible parking.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Greylock School Playground

**LOCATION:** Phelps Avenue

**AREA (ACRES):** 11.4

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** School Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** School and neighborhood playground

**USE:** Playground activities, basketball, little league baseball

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Passive open space behind school with two tot-lot/playground areas and basketball court, benches. Further out is the little league field (locally known as “Fallon Field”) with full fencing & new foul poles, 2 dugouts, press-box, comfort station/concession building with scoreboard.

**CONDITION:** Average (*Public Survey Rating - Good*)

**ZONING:** R-4 (*Medium-High Density Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance of existing facilities. Sports lighting for the Little League may also still be desired if there is the goal to make this venue

‘tournament-ready.’

**ACCESS SURVEY:** A designated accessible parking spot(s) is needed along with an even pathways to various features in the playground.

## 2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM



**SITE NAME:** Greylock Valley Apartment's Playground

**LOCATION:** Sullivan Street

**AREA (ACRES):** 4

**OWNER:** North Adams Housing Authority

**MANAGEMENT:** North Adams Housing Authority

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Neighborhood playground/park

**USE:** Playground activities, soccer and basketball

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Swings, tot-lot equipment, benches, large open field, basketball courts and sizable parking lot

**CONDITION:** Good *(Public Survey Rating – not asked for)*

**ZONING:** R-4 *(Medium-High Density Residential)*

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** High

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Basketball court surface refurbishment with stripping, new backboards and rims. Large open field very conducive to adapt for sport uses such as softball, soccer and lacrosse.

**ACCESS SURVEY:** Designated accessible parking spots within the parking lot and possibly along the curb-side.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Houghton Playground

**LOCATION:** Cleveland Avenue

**AREA (ACRES):** .5

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Small neighborhood playground

**USE:** Basketball, and playground activities

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Basketball court, playground equipment, and light pole

**CONDITION:** Average (*Public Survey Rating - Average*)

**ZONING:** R-5 (*High Density Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Needs new fencing, upgraded playground equipment, and basketball court resurfacing, new backboards and rims, benches

**ACCESS SURVEY:** Improved accessible pathways are needed from the street or the parking lot

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Main Street/Ashland Street Mini Park

**LOCATION:** Corner of Main and Ashland Streets

**AREA (ACRES):** approximately 400 square feet

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Highway Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Small garden area in downtown

**USE:** Decorative flower beds, trees, and Hoosac Tunnel Memorial stone

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Shrubs and trees, memorial plaque dedicated to the workers of the Hoosic Tunnel, flagpole

**CONDITION:** Average (*Public Survey Rating – Good to Average*)

**ZONING:** CBD (*Central Business District*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** none

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued general maintenance

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** McCann Technical High School

**LOCATION:** 70 Hodges Crossroads (Route 8-A)

**AREA (ACRES):** 7.5

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** High School facilities

**USE:** High School sports teams

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Football with sports lighting, soccer, softball, and baseball fields

**CONDITION:** Excellent (*Public Survey Rating – Very Good to Good*)

**ZONING:** R-3 (*Medium Density Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Medium

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance program, possibly new dugouts

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Monitor Park

**LOCATION:** West Main Street

**AREA (ACRES):** approximately 700 square feet

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Small greenbelt between sidewalk and abutting property and contains a monument stone with plaque. On this site between 1858-1862, the former North Adams Iron Company smelted iron ore for the plates used to build the Civil War ship, "The Monitor."

**USE:** Monument site

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Monumental stone with a plaque face, small bricked court yard area in front of monument

**CONDITION:** Poor (Public Survey Rating - Average)

**ZONING:** B-2 (General Business)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no on-site parking)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Installation of bench(s) to make a passive sitting area, and bricked court yard area in front of monument should be reset with new brick, patio block or cobblestone

**ACCESS SURVEY:** Due to the very small scaled nature of this site, no on-site parking is possible. The site is also rather flat and is easily accessible for wheelchair use. Parking can be accommodated through the use of the City Hall parking lot which is across the street from the site.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**

**SITE NAME:** Mount Williams Dairy Farm

**LOCATION:** Luce Road, Williamstown, MA

**AREA (ACRES):** approx. 140

**OWNER:** Carol Chenail and Bay Colony Mobile Home Park

**MANAGEMENT:** Private (Winthrop Chenail)

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Pasture with stables, barn, and residence

**USE:** Pasture (80 acres), hay (40 acres, feed & sweet corn (20 acres)

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Stables, barn, residence

**CONDITION:** Very Good (*Public Survey Rating – not asked for*)

**ZONING:** R-2

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** n/a

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** n/a

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** River Street Playground

**LOCATION:** River Street (corner of River & Tyler Streets)

**AREA (ACRES):** .5

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Small neighborhood playground

**USE:** Basketball, playground activities, passive recreation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Basketball half-court, swing set, small green area

**CONDITION:** Average (*Public Survey Rating - Good*)

**ZONING:** B-2 (*General Business*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Needs new playground equipment, which should be relocated to the west side of the site and away from Tyler Street to make it safer for children. A new basketball hoop and backboard are needed, and there is potential to expand to a full court, and benches. Given the low use of this playground, there could be discussions centered upon its future use and improvement versus its omission.

**ACCESS SURVEY:** The playground equipment is located on flat, hard-packed surfaces, and is accessible from the parking area, yet there are no accessible marked spaces.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** River Street Riverside Park

**LOCATION:** River Street

**AREA (ACRES):** 3.63 (3.5 under Mass Electric & .13 by City)

**OWNER:** Massachusetts Electric & City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Highway Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Thin strip of land between a flood control chute and River Street (Brown St. to Marshall St. under National Grid; and Marshall St; to Holden St. under City), used primarily for

**USE:** passive recreation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Community gardens & outdoor brick oven, bench

**CONDITION:** Average (*Public Survey Rating - Good*)

**ZONING:** R-5 (*High Density Residential*)

<b>FUNDS USED:</b>	n/a
<b>RECREATION POTENTIAL:</b>	Low
<b>PUBLIC ACCESS:</b>	Yes (no fee)
<b>DEGREE OF PROTECTION:</b>	Unprotected
<b>IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:</b>	More benches. Similar to the last OSRP renewal, there is a plan for the future expansion of the Ashuwillticook Bike Path to run through this area that will connect to the abutting Mass Museum of Contemporary Art as located on Marshall Street.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Senior Center Park

**LOCATION:** Ashland Street (just north of the Spitzer Senior Center)

**AREA (ACRES):** .15

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Small, grassy area with trees

**USE:** Passive recreation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Benches

**CONDITION:** Very Good *(Public Survey Rating: not asked for)*

**ZONING:** CBD (*Central Business District*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance

**ACCESS SURVEY:** This park is handicapped accessible (parking near senior center)

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Sunshine Park

**LOCATION:** River Street (south westerly corner with Marshall Street)

**AREA (ACRES):** .39711

**OWNER:** Berkshire Hills Development Company, LLC

**MANAGEMENT:** (same per above)

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Small, grassy area with meandering walking path

**USE:** Passive recreation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** nothing

**CONDITION:** Average (*Public Survey Rating – not asked for*)

**ZONING:** CBD (*Central Business District*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance, possibly benches

**ACCESS SURVEY:** This park most likely needs a hardened surface along with pathway for improved accessibility, and there is no on-site parking

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** UNO Park

**LOCATION:** River Street (at the north easterly and north westerly corners to that of Houghton Street)

**AREA (ACRES):** .59584

**OWNER:** Ginko Power LLC (parcel 80, lot 64) and Mass MoCA and Art Foundation, Inc. (parcel 80 on lots 26, 25 and 23-A)

**MANAGEMENT:** (same per above)

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Private park with amenities for active and passive recreation

**USE:** Active and passive recreation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Drop-in center facility for the “United Neighborhood Organization”, bocce courts, basketball court with lighting, passive sitting area with trellis-type ceiling, pathways

**CONDITION:** Excellent (*Public Survey Rating – not asked for*)

**ZONING:** B-1 & B-2 (*Local Business and General Business respectively*)

**FUNDS USED:** Since the last renewal of the OSRP, private investment led to the razing of a former bar and automotive repair center into a new drop-in center for UNO,

which also allowed for the new bocce and basketball court installations for the norther easterly side of River/Houghton Street. On the juxtaposed side, the razing of a former package store led to the development of the passive areas for the new park. All funds used were private.

- RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low
- PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no fee)
- DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected
- IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance
- ACCESS SURVEY:** The park and its building are handicapped accessible

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



Upper Reservoir Tank

**SITE NAME:** Upper/Lower Reservoir

**LOCATION:** Reservoir Road

**AREA (ACRES):** 11.6

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Water Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** The Upper and Lower Reservoirs were originally part of the municipal water system and are now both defunct, built at the upper portion is a fenced-in water holding tank which is now also inactive, there is no longer any tank at the lower one

**USE:** Water holding tank at the upper portion (1 million capacity)

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Fenced-in water holding tank

**CONDITION:** Good *(Public Survey Rating: not asked for)*

**ZONING:** RU-1 *(Low Density Rural Residential)*

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Very Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected (the majority of the open space is unprotected, only the fenced-in storage tank area is protected)

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Continued maintenance of tank

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Veteran's Memorial Park

**LOCATION:** Veteran's Memorial Drive (abutting Eagle & Center Streets)

**AREA (ACRES):** .4

**OWNER:** City of North Adams

**MANAGEMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Strip of land between Veteran's Memorial Drive (Route 2) & Center Street

**USE:** Memorial celebrations, passive recreation & observation

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Monumental wall (over 5,000 "honor-roll names") with historical period lighting, 7 flagpoles, decorative railings along roadside, passive green space throughout with minor irrigation

**CONDITION:** Excellent (*Public Survey Rating – Good to Very Good*)

**ZONING:** CBD (*Central Business District*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Yes (no on-site parking)

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Major improvements were conducted with State *PWED* funds in 2002-2003 that totally transformed this park and this portion of the Rt. 2 corridor. There are plans for future stone installations in which to memorialize the other wars and conflicts (French & Indian War, American Revolutionary War, Civil War, Iraq/Iran Conflict and Desert Storm).

**ACCESS SURVEY:** Accessible and marked parking is nearby directly across the street in the Center Street Municipal Parking lot.

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Wilk Horse Farm

**LOCATION:** 655 West Shaft Road

**AREA (ACRES):** 11

**OWNER:** Justyn J. Wilk, III (Life Estate)

**MANAGEMENT:** private

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Pasture, hay, stables

**USE:** Riding lessons, hay, horse stables

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** Residence, stables, barn

**CONDITION:** Excellent (Public Survey Rating – not asked for)

**ZONING:** R-3 (Medium Density Residential)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** n/a

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** n/a (private property)

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**



**SITE NAME:** Witt's Ledge

**LOCATION:** Reservoir Road (accessed from Furnace Street and Witt Street which is a “paper” street)

**AREA (ACRES):** 33.59136

**OWNER:** Landmark Infra Holdings Company, LLC

**MANAGEMENT:** (same pe above)

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Cliff overlooking the city to the east (also locally known as "Coca Cola Ledge")

**USE:** Observation, hiking

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** None

**CONDITION:** Fair (Public Survey Rating – not asked for)

**ZONING:** RU-1 (*Low Density Rural Residential*)

**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Private property

**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** n/a (private property)

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** Removal of graffiti from rock, ideal site for installation of lookout tower and integration with a nature trail, although access would be a major challenge

**2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM**

**SITE NAME:** Ziemba Farm (“Broadlawn Farms”)

**LOCATION:** Walling Road, Adams

**AREA (ACRES):** 16.8 and leases 74 (owns 1,000 in total, about 850 in Adams & about 100 leased/owned in North Adams)

**OWNER:** Timothy, Mark and Michael Ziemba

**MANAGEMENT:** private

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Field surrounded by rural residential slopes

**USE:** Hay, corn and pasture

**EXISTING FACILITIES:** None

**CONDITION:** Very Good (*Public Survey Rating – not asked for*)

**ZONING:** Floodplain

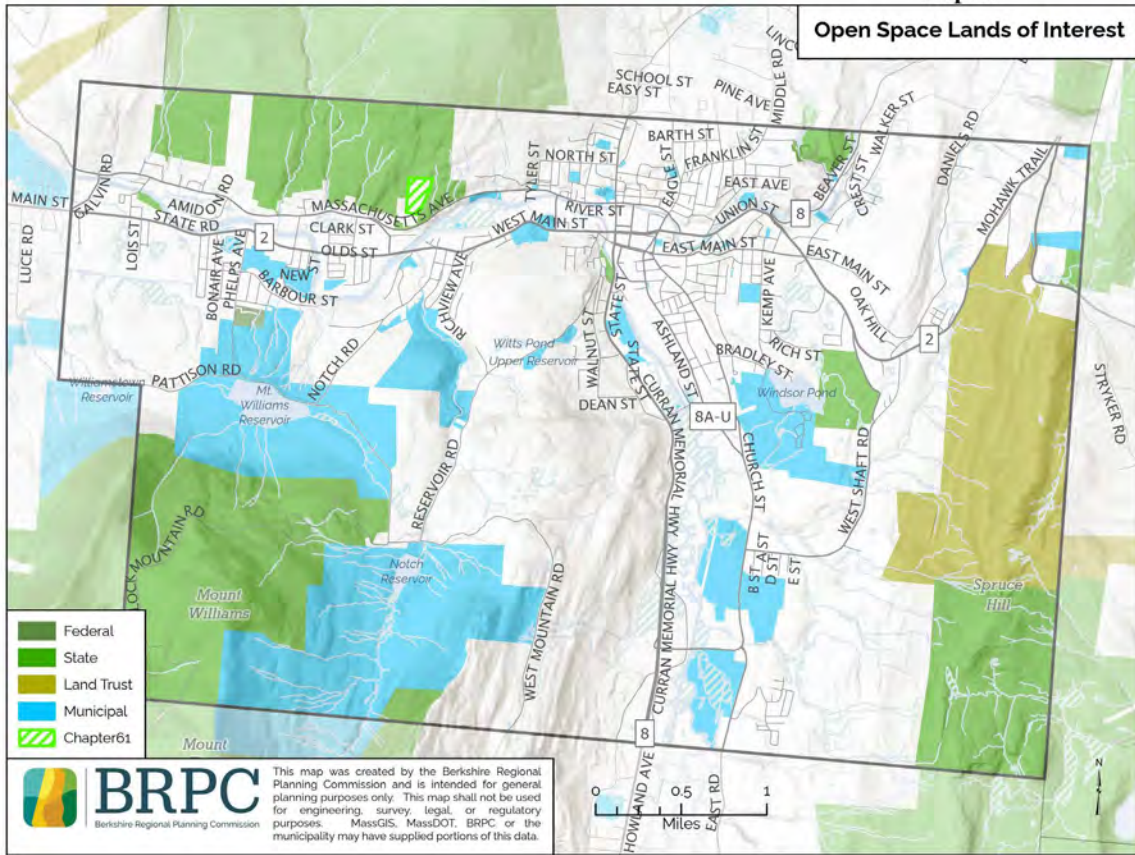
**FUNDS USED:** n/a

**RECREATION POTENTIAL:** Low

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** n/a

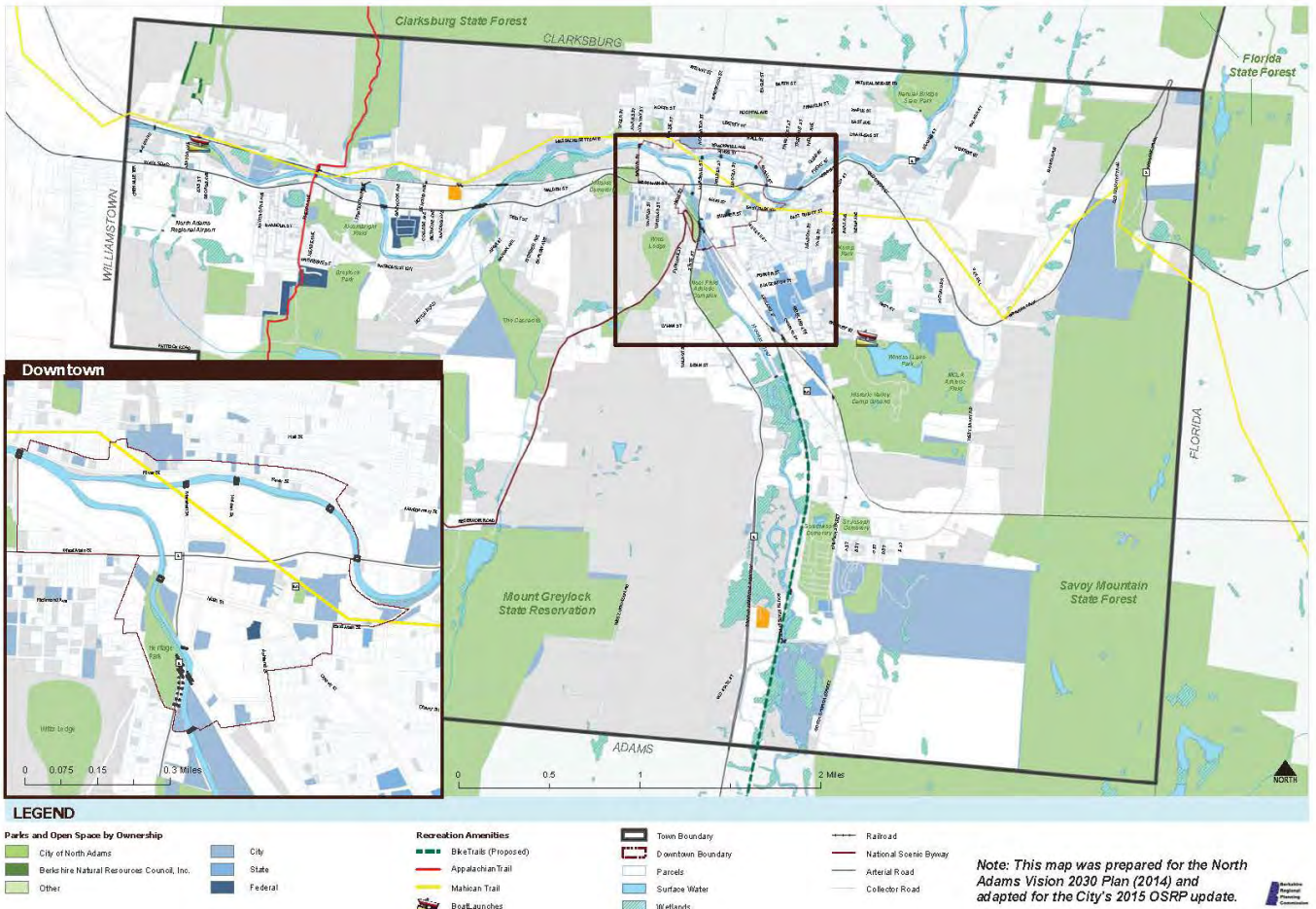
**DEGREE OF PROTECTION:** Unprotected

**IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:** n/a (private property)



# Map 13a - Open Space Inventory

City of North Adams  
OSRP 2023



This map was created by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and is intended for informational purposes only. This map shall not be used for engineering, surveying, legal, or regulatory purposes. MASSGIS, MASSDOT, BRPC or the commission may have updated portions of the data.

01.14.2014

## SECTION 6 - COMMUNITY GOALS

### A. Description of Process

The process for the renewal of the municipal Open Space & Recreation Plan has followed suit to what has been done historically. Each approved plan by the State Division of Conservation Services (DCS), which is needed if the municipality is going after funding from various DCS programs, is valid for up to seven years. In the case of the last plan, a two-year extension was allowed across the state for all active plans, which brought North Adams' plan current through February 2022. North Adams has been very fortunate in having developed a fully acceptable plan since the latter 1980s, with regular updates since then, which has effectively made it a *living* document. With each cycle the plan improves, as new information is gleaned across many fronts. What is good is that as soon as a current plan expires, it immediately serves as the substantial draft for its next version. Therefore, the plan from February 2022 was seen as an excellent platform from which to build.

As referenced in the last plan renewal, local government at that time had just recently approved its new comprehensive plan in May 2014, *North Adams Vision 2030*, which was the first since the early 1970s. The open space and recreation topic is a dedicated chapter within the comprehensive plan, and because that plan is still active, there was a need to seek effective integration of it into this plan renewal, and therefore better link these two key planning documents. For example, there are several goals from this section of the local comprehensive plan, (Goal # 3 - *Promote year-round healthy living and active lifestyles for all ages*), with a corresponding policy action for quality establishment of walking routes and trails. This has been advanced since the last plan renewal in terms of advanced bike/pedestrian route with the extension of the Ashuwillticook Bike Path, as it comes northerly from Adams and easterly from Williamstown.

Another intriguing element gleaned from comparing the comprehensive plan of 1972 to the current *Vision 2030* one, are some quotes made at that time about what local government needed to do at that time, juxtaposed with today's reality. In fact, the City actually has been on course since that time, which is very reassuring! A special report on the former comprehensive plan from the local newspaper, *The Transcript*, states on its third page of said special report:

*The City of North Adams is perhaps the area of Northern Berkshire which has suffered the greatest economic decline in the past two decades. If the tourism industry can contribute significantly to Northern Berkshire's economy, then North Adams probably stands to gain more from tourism than any other single community in the region.*

*Thus, it is crucial that the city investigate its own potential role as part of a tourist-oriented region.*

As stated in the earlier sections of this plan renewal, tourism has done exactly that! The creation of MASS MoCA planted the economic seed in 1998 to pivot the local economy. This has led to the many new ventures as also earlier described, such as the adaptive reuse at The Porches Inn, Greylock Works, The Tourists, Norad Mill, Eclipse Mill, Downstreet Hotel, along with a renewed local airport.

Office of Community Development (OCD) lead-staff once again managed the overall effort, and worked with the Department of Public Services, seeing how it has many affected departments with relevance to open space, such as the Parks & Recreation Department, Windsor Lake and the Historic Valley Campground. The OCD also worked in tandem with a wide variety of membership from key boards and commissions, such as the Parks & Recreation Commission, Windsor Lake Commission, Historical Commission, and Conservation Commission, just to cite a few. This oversight committee was mayoral appointed.

The first action taken was the review of the community-wide survey, which has been used and updated for each plan compilation; thus, a quality survey was already established. However, the survey was submitted to DCS for review and approval in order to make any recent changes that needed to be made. Similar to last time, the community survey was inserted into the local census, which was done through the City Clerk's office. This was fashioned this way because there were some economies-of-scale that could be realized in that the local census generates a decent rate of return. By inserting the survey into every household's mailing, there stood a greater chance of open space planning response. This was instituted late in the 2022 year, because the receipt of the responses, and more so the analysis of its results, are an extremely time-consuming task. While that was being done, the narrative sections of the plan could then be reviewed to make for an improved draft.

The community survey response once again was excellent. The City then reached out to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, who summarized all responses, and provided a final report by question, and put forth some minimal level of analytics, such as graphs, tables, and pie-charts. This piece was completed in the latter winter of 2023. This report can be found in Appendix B. There is still the belief that the tabulation of the community survey could be improved upon with the use of computer-aided sheets that can be instantly read. This will be looked to for the next renewal, and is therefore technically an *action plan* item, as depicted in latter Section 9.

With the results of the community survey, the oversight committee forged ahead and conducted a thorough review of every section of the plan. For example, the Parks & Recreation Commission gave closer attention to their areas of interest, such as the parks and playgrounds. This was done with other boards as well, and was considered to be a strategic move so that the final *Seven-Year Action Plan* could be the best it could be. OCD lead-staff, however, did the rigorous field reconnaissance work for all community-wide assets, such as playgrounds, parks, etc. as seen in Section 5 of the plan. Eventually, a thorough plan update, working in tandem with other resources as aforementioned, has now led to goals and actions as delineated in the latter sections.

## B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The City of North Adams, along with its residents, realize the advantageous location in which they occupy, nestled in the North Berkshires. Being surrounded by mountains and water enables us to acknowledge our local beauty—a tranquil sense of place. It is important for the municipality to protect the aesthetics of the region, as it is only through protection that the land will remain undeveloped, and remain close to its natural state.

The greatest challenge is maintaining a sensible, yet delicate balance, between economic growth of the community and the provision of sound and wise open space management. Local government has conducted a tremendous amount of activity over the last thirty plus years in an effort to change its former mill image, to that of one being driven by tourism, the arts, its historical culture and heritage, which has spurred a true, and continued, spirited renaissance for the community. Increased private sector investment into some of the older mills, along with other projects, has been the best seen in about the last forty years! However, population decline, not only locally but county-wide as well, continues to have its own adverse effects upon the region. Less people mean less workers, along with an increase pressures for the regionalization of some sectors such as schools, public safety protection, and water quality. Achieving an effective balance between growth and keen open space management in the shadow of population decline, makes the task a bit more rigorous.

## SECTION 7 - ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

### A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Protecting and conserving environmental resources remains a top priority for the city and the state.

In recent years, the city launched initiatives to educate residents to encourage greater recycling and composting rates and encourage the use of environmentally safe products. The city developed a municipal solar power array on a capped former landfill, more locally known as the dump, into a landfill and constructed a new transfer station.

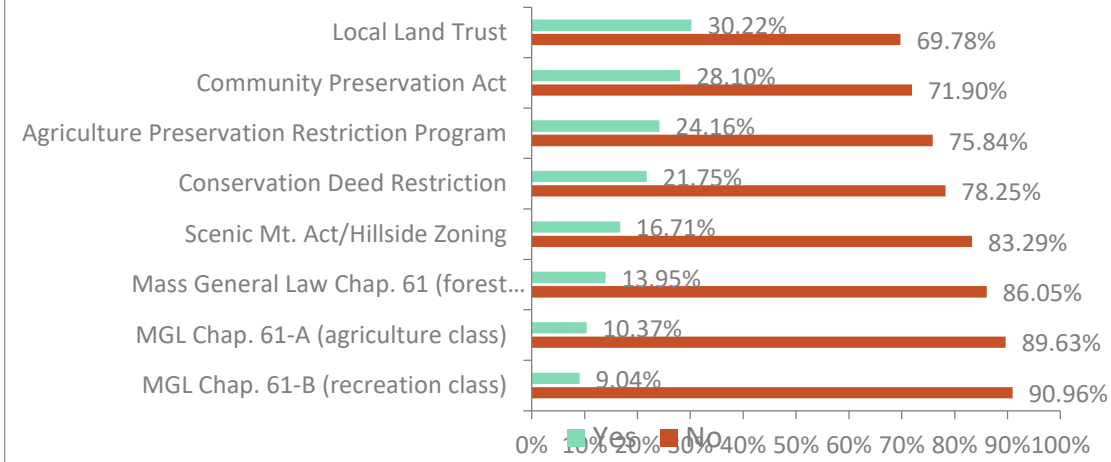
The city has advanced efforts to update and modernize its zoning ordinance, removing antiquated language from its use-table and updating its dimensional table. The effort included revamping the local zoning map, whereby expanding the RU-1 zone (*Rural Residential*) with the hope of spurring increased rural activity such as farming.

Despite the increased awareness of environmentally friendly options, along with the adaptive reuse of key assets, such as the landfill, improved education in other areas such as over-development, wetland protection, floodplains, wildlife habitats, and endangered species, remain vitally important. Local government will continue to look to protect and conserve land for future generations through zoning action, community programs or with assistance from state agencies.

The advancement of zoning was listed in the last OSRP as a needed task. Despite progress made by the city in recent years, this should be listed as an ongoing task, and the city should continue to identify and implement land use policies that support environmental conservation.

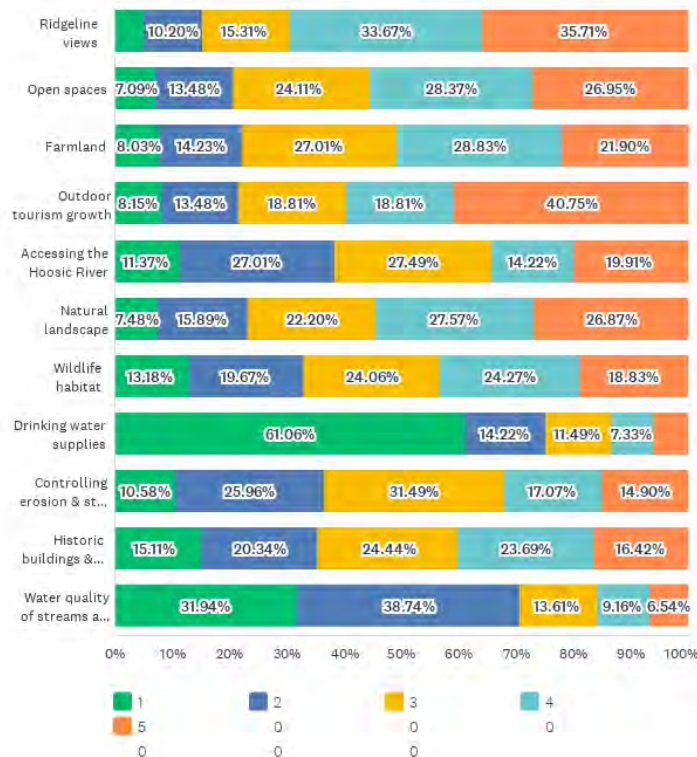
The community overwhelmingly supports protecting and preserving farmland. Eighty-six percent of survey respondents are in favor of preserving farmland, 11.8% did not have an opinion, and only 1.89% responded in opposition to preserving farmland. However, respondents to the survey were much more likely to be unaware of various protective options. The city should work with its partners to educate landowners about options they have to preserve their farmlands.

### Are you aware of any of the following options designed to protect and enhance agriculture, forestry, and recreation?



More than two-thirds of survey respondents ranked the quality of the city’s streams and riverways as their top two priorities. The city has been working with the Hoosic River Revival to improve rivers and streams as well as working with the Army Corp of Engineers improve water and habitat conditions in local flood chutes.

Q14 Please rank the top five of the following preservation and conservation considerations in order of their importance to you (1=most important):



## B. Summary of Community's Needs

The City of North Adams conducted a community-wide survey to gather the community's opinions, desires, and thoughts about current and future parks and open spaces, which produced a robust response. The results are in Appendix B.

The survey results identified similar recurring themes as prior planning efforts, including the prior Open Space and Recreation Plan and the current Comprehensive Plan. Residents desire safe spaces and activities for children and teenagers, opportunities to take advantage of the natural beauty and landscape of the city and the region, to improve aging infrastructure such as playgrounds, and to promote a more vibrant downtown economic climate. Collectively, the survey responses are again aligned to the three broad categories of: Recreational Activity, Parks and Trails, and Infrastructure. In all cases, at least one of these topical areas, and often more than one, are aligned with one of the identified broad categories.

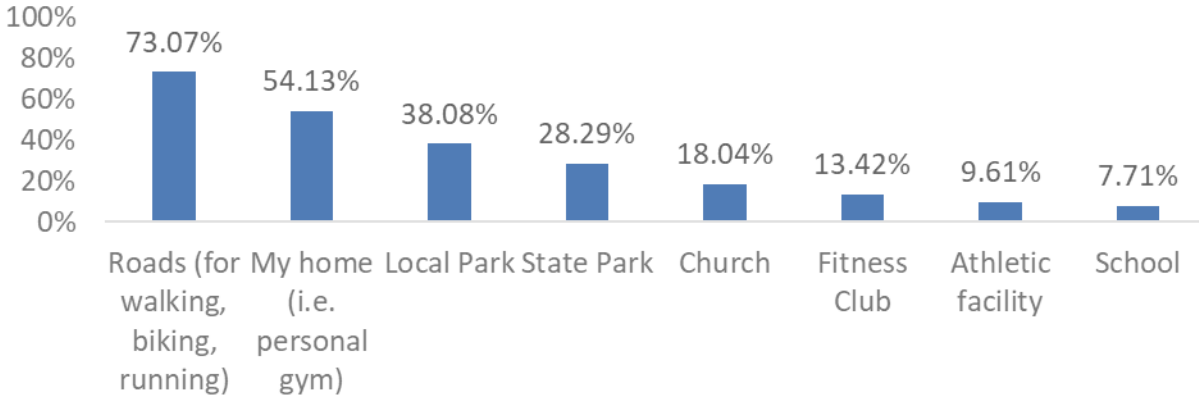
Residents utilize existing parks and opens spaces for running and walking the most. Seventy-three percent of survey respondents reported that utilizing recreational venues for walking and/or running. Residents also prefer movies and concerts (45%), hiking (40%), art and history (35%), and swimming (23%). Resident's preference for hiking reoccurred frequently. The city can add value to its parks and recreation system by supporting hiking initiatives.

The establishment of the Mass Museum of Contemporary Art in 1998 is a cultural anchor of the community and provides visual events like concerts, movies, and art displays. The Windsor Lake, along with its very popular Historic Valley Campground, provides swimming opportunities in the summer, and the local YMCA offers year-round swimming. For responses respondents identified as priorities at lower rates, such as camping, golf, and ice skating, the city has great assets, as it runs the local public skating rink, although golfing is at other venues in nearby towns.

Residents responding to the survey cited the use of roads for biking and walking the most, followed by a high level of response from people staying at home, and then utilizing local parks. The city conducted the survey while the community was still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, which increased the number of individuals exercising at home while the gyms had previously been closed. Further, two-thirds of respondents reported walking or bicycling frequently to the recreational areas they most frequently use.

The highest response of individuals using the roads signifies both that residents use the roadways and paths and that there is a need for ongoing maintenance of roadways and local parks for future enjoyment.

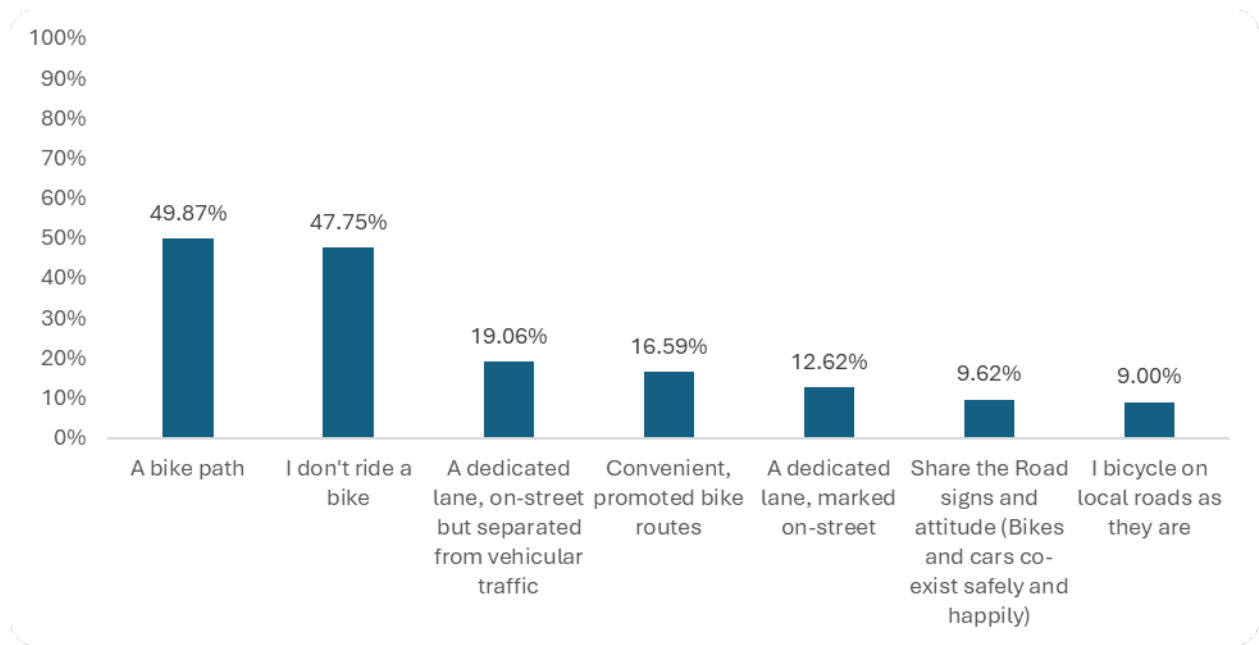
Check three (3) types of recreation venues in North Adams that you and your family use most, and list the facility name.



Half of the respondents reported that they would ride bicycles on a dedicated bike path. Approximately 58% of survey respondents ranked a desire for additional bicycle and pedestrian pathways followed by easy to moderate wooded trails and an outdoor theater.

The city of North Adams is currently working with the federal and state governments and neighboring North Berkshire communities to extend the existing Ashuwillticook Rail Trail northward into North Adams, and the Adventure Trail from Williamstown easterly, connecting the two in the city's downtown.

Approximately 20% of respondents support dedicated on-street bicycle lanes. The city has been integrating shared lanes, or sharrows, when reconstructing roadways and should continue to look to incorporate opportunities to accommodate multiple forms of travel during the design and engineering phases of roadway improvements.

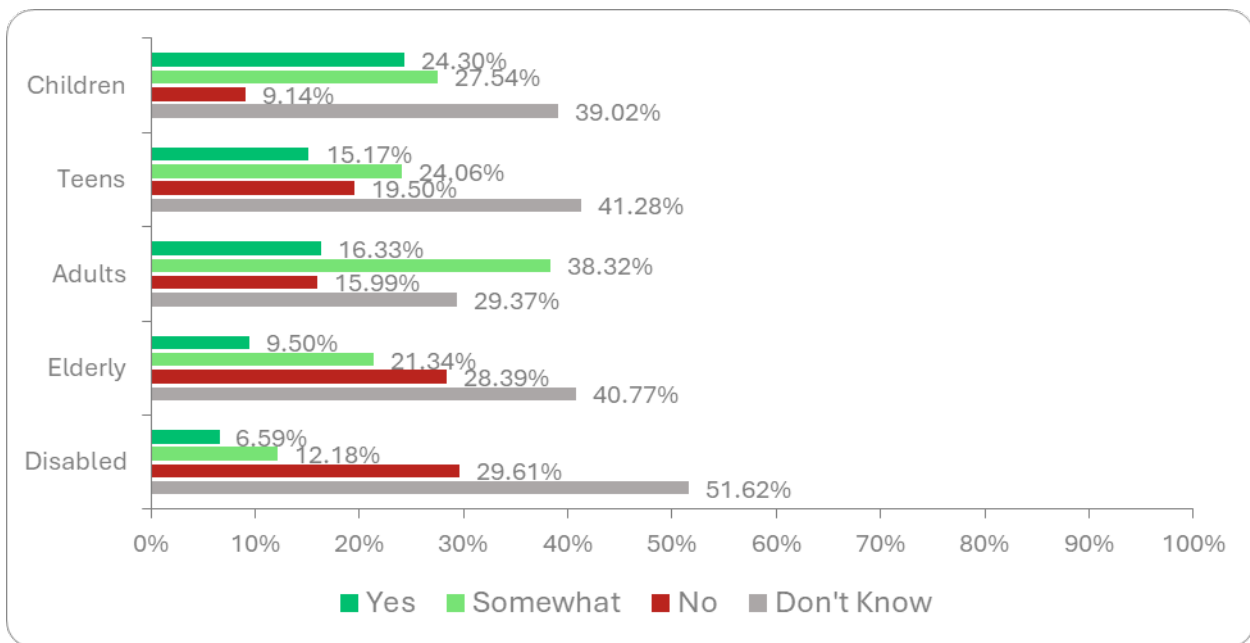


Nearly three-quarters of respondents choose venues to visit based on location/convenience while 49% for trails (both biking and hiking), and safety and relaxation nearly tied for third with around 32%.

The survey asked respondents to report the activities they leave North Adams to undertake to determine if there are amenities the city lacks. Hiking, walking, and camping were the top-five responses, yet at lower percentages of 17%, 13% and 8% respectively, demonstrating a relatively high rate of approval for the city’s current recreational facilities.

Survey responses, however, demonstrate that the community feels the city does not provide adequate facilities for people with disabilities. Only 6.59% of the respondents said the city’s facilities provide adequate service to people with disabilities. Increasing the number of handicapped accessible recreational options should be a priority.

A greater number of survey respondents reported that the city provides adequate services for children compared to other demographics. However, across nearly every demographic, respondents answered that they “did not know” if the facilities are adequate, demonstrating a need to increase marketing and awareness of the city’s recreational options.



The survey asked respondents to report the aspects of the recreational system that they felt were inadequate. The maintenance of existing parks is the top priority, with 39.75%. The lack of indoor venues and the lack of passive recreational opportunities, such as benches and picnicking places, are the next two. The city’s maintenance of existing parks should remain a top priority.

More than two-thirds of respondents reported a desire to improve parking and signage to access public spaces and more than half reported a desire for maps, both online and hardcopy, to improve the community’s usage of recreational opportunities.

Relative to needs of special interests, the clear focus is upon the senior population. The first question of the community survey asked for the number of people in the household by age group. The three biggest responses from oldest downwards were from those aged 65-85, 50-64 and 30-49 respectively. Demographic information from various reports by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (CEDS), the population of the entire county has been decreasing over the last the decade, and as shown in the previous local population table, there also is steady decline. According to documentation from the State Executive of Housing & Livable Communities, the local *Elderly Low/Moderate Income* percentage is 76.11%. According to HUD data as well, approximately 24% of the overall population is elderly, and if three quarters of those are low income, this translates into about one fifth of the overall population in being not only elderly, but low income at the same time. Therefore, focus upon more recreational opportunities for seniors, as well as making them affordable is the task at hand. In this vein, the City years ago introduced walking-tracks at its Noel Field Athletic Complex and River Grove Park. More recently at the former site in 2018, the City secured PARC and CDBG funds to install its first-ever pickleball courts; a game that is sweeping the country and highly used by seniors. It was thought that these two new courts would suffice, but over 2024, there has been a significant number of requests from local players, all elderly, to build more pickleball courts! Internal follow up reveals that there is ample additional space at the Noel complex to construct six to eight new courts. Continued improvements at the complex therefore have been duly noted in the local OSPR Action Plan, and hopefully more courts can be realized within the next two years.

The results of the community survey are also consistent with the 2017 Massachusetts SCORP from the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. As discerned in the last local plan renewal, Berkshire County has the lowest median household income of any in the state, and this trend historically holds true. Therefore, this is consistent with the City's desire to ensure access to low and/or free-of-cost outdoor recreational activities. More specifically, local and state goals align very well as further discussed below.

Goal 1 of the SCORP (*Access for Underserved Populations*) - One of its corresponding objectives as shown on its page 37, is to consider underserved demographic groups, and to improve upon ways that develop and do a better job at addressing the needs of those underserved and physically challenged persons. There has been sustained effort on local government's part to continually evaluate its recreational resources so that these objectives can be met.

Goal 2 of the SCORP (*Support Statewide Trails Initiative*) - Here too there is great connection of the SCORP to the local OSRP. On page 30 of the SCORP, it cites the top two facilities to be added to a park or conservation area as being biking paths and hiking/walking trails. This same result was echoed many times within the local community survey. With all of the prior work, and the current planning work that is still in progress, the expansion of local and area bike/pedestrian trails is well underway. Further evidence of this was a \$240,000 grant awarded from the FY'21 State's Mass Trails Program to fund the initial design of the bike/pedestrian trail from the westerly border of Williamstown into North Adams.

Goal 3 of the SCORP (*Increase the Availability of Water-based Recreation*) - One of present key concerns is to continue to protect these vital, and often times scarce, resources. Although there is not much potential for the expansion of local water-based resources, protection of existing ones is crucial. The local Windsor Lake, with the Historic Valley Campground, offers low cost opportunity for swimming, fishing, camping and hiking. Making sure the lake is clean from milfoil and other challenges that reveal themselves periodically, is critical in drawing the many patrons that it serves. The continued maintenance of the campground is also needed for the same reason, and is why these are reoccurring goals in the local OSRP.

Goal 4 of the SCORP (*Support the Creation and Renovation of Neighborhood Parks*) – Since the last local plan renewal in 2015, the City has clearly supported this goal through the creation of its first ever skateboard/bmx bike park in 2017, which is aligned with the latter installation of the first-ever splash park in 2018. Both of these new venues were done within Environmental Justice areas! Thereafter, a substantial renovation of the once Brayton Playground into the new Brayton Hill Park in the westerly part of the community was achieved in July 2020. Another small passive park area, the State Street Park, was newly created in 2022, to provide for connectivity to the Heritage State park along the main Route 8 corridor. Even the private sector has created some new parks along River Street, namely UNO Park and the Sunshine Park, as further depicted in Section 5 of this plan. This kind of work will be a continuing goal within the local plan renewal. Lastly, local government is pleased to reemphasize that it has had its own Farmer's Market that has been operating for the last two decades.

### C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

To enact the goals and objectives developed in the Open Space and Recreation Plan, all local boards and commissions need to be better educated as to what exactly this plan is and their implementation responsibilities and jurisdiction. With the turnover of commission memberships, there will always be the need to update and educate these new members upon open space issues.

Maintaining and updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan is important to ensure actions are completed and new goals are developed as the needs change. For the renewal of this plan, the city established an expanded *Oversight Committee*, which is the largest such committee since the adoption of the first plan in the 1980s. This expanded group is shown in Section 10 on public commentary.

The response rate for the community survey when distributed through the annual local municipal census drive in November 2022, once again provided for the most robust response in any plan renewal. This should be continued; however, it should do so with some precautionary measures in mind. The receipt of hard-copied mail often times may get increased attention and response from elderly persons, while younger recipients utilizing favored technological means and their tendency is to only respond to electronic platforms such as “Survey Monkey” and other contemporary on-line sources. Responses could be skewed somewhat due to this, and it is now thought that some combination of these two methods would be an improved process for future renewals.

The integration of the local comprehensive plan’s section on open space is a new feature within this plan renewal. This is because the previous comprehensive plan was from the early 1970s, thereby negating any effective use from it to any OSRP compilations. Finally, the dedicated master plan chapter on *Open Space & Recreation* objectives and corresponding goals can now be linked. North Adams Vision 2030 included the most robust public participation in a planning effort in recent memory. This combination of public engagement and overall community-wide effort resulted in a significant focus throughout the community, including efforts to evaluate open space and recreation, making the comprehensive plan a longer term complement to the OSRP renewal.

While both the Planning Board and Zoning Board can effectuate change policy and regulatory change, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Conservation Commission, and the Windsor Lake Commission are the more relevant city bodies that have a direct tie to plan elements. The latter three bodies should consider an annual or biennial meeting with key stakeholders to ensure implementation of the OSRP. Involved stakeholders should include the Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Office of Community Development, Planning Board, Health Department, North Adams Redevelopment Authority, and the Parks and Recreation Department.

In addition to the municipal bodies identified above, there are numerous non-city entities that serve as important stakeholders to effectively manage the city’s parks and open spaces. Those include: New England Mountain Bike Association, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Hoosic River Revival, Trout Unlimited, Audubon Society, Hoosic River Watershed Association, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, National Resources Council, Berkshire Environmental Action Team, Hoosic River Watershed Association, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, the Roots Teen Center, the Army Corp of Engineers, and numerous state resources, initiatives, and agencies.

## SECTION 8 - GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The local goals and objectives are formed by analyzing the needs expressed in Section 7. Goals and objectives were informed through the planning process that included a public survey that was sent to all residents, meetings with stakeholders, public meetings, and input from the Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee. The public survey identified protecting the City's reservoirs and water quality of streams and waterbodies, and access to the Hoosic River as issues of greatest importance.

As part of assessing the results of public engagement, discussions with City staff, and meetings with volunteers and other stakeholders, it is clear many of the goals and objectives from prior OSRPs remain pertinent and ongoing or unfulfilled. The compilation of the 2015 version of the local OSRP was done in tandem with the work upon the *North Adams Vision 2030* comprehensive plan, which was adopted in May 2014, and featured a robust planning process that focused on open space, recreational and conservational municipal planning. The life span of the 2015 OSRP was good through February 2022. The goals and actions that were viewed as important to the community that have not been implemented to date are folded into this work as well to assure cohesiveness of community actions. For example, the improvement of existing facilities, as well as their expansion, is an ongoing and consistent goal, as well as making recreation and open space accessible to all residents. The protection and enhancement of historic and cultural assets and greater connectivity with open space and recreational resources is another good example of an on-going goal.

Collectively, the goals and objectives outlined in this section are more diverse and comprehensive than prior planning efforts and stand as the latest guide to the city's actions and policies. North Adams is surrounded by natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities and established parks and open spaces downtown and in neighborhoods. The goals and objectives outlined in this section detail how the city can improve public health, maximize the outdoor recreation economy, and increase the enjoyment of the recreational amenities and open spaces.

*Table 8.1. Goals and Actions*

<b>GOAL 1: PROVIDE A HIGH-QUALITY SYSTEM OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION RESOURCES FOR ALL RESIDENTS</b>
<b>Actions</b>
<p>Maintain High Level of Services for Different User Groups Across the City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide ongoing oversight to ensure progress in implementing the OSRP</li> <li>• Centralize management. of recreational facilities, programs and outreach</li> <li>• Prioritize existing facility maintenance and enhancement and develop a network to ensure timely responsiveness of city services</li> <li>• Coordinate &amp; maintain comprehensive trail map data of all resources located within the city</li> <li>• Provide safe routes to recreational resources, especially in relation to pedestrian and bicycle access Expand use of existing facilities through special events and activities to enhance overall use and enjoyment</li> <li>• Engage youth to care for their recreation facilities (work with Youth Commission, local Roots Teen Center, nbCC, to develop a program like the “Greenagers” in south Berkshire County, to assist teach/engage youth in proactive means for improved care of critical assets)</li> <li>• Coordinate recreational resource management (combine efforts and the pooling of resources and assets to improve efficiency and effectiveness, link to key community anchors where applicable such as MCLA and MoCA)</li> </ul>
<p>Make Parks and Recreation Offerings more Visible to Residents and Visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Comprehensive Local Recreation Guide.</li> <li>• Improve Recreation Amenities by new/improved Wayfinding Signage</li> <li>• Coordinate and Maintain Comprehensive Trail Map Data</li> </ul>

Leverage Local Parks and Recreation Amenities to Support the Local Economy and Residential Attraction and Retention Efforts.

- Coordinate development and/or protection of priority sites with an emphasis of merging initiatives on same sites for an economy of scale same sites for economies-of-scale
- Cultivate system of mountain biking trails (create trails & connect with NEMBA, NBRC, etc., look to expand access to the Cascades)
- Increase presence of winter outdoor recreation through activities such as the creation of a new outdoor skating rink, installation of cross-country ski trails at the Noel Field Complex with connections to other locations, and promotion of the network of snowshoe and snowmobile trails to surrounding towns
- Market local businesses to external outdoor recreational events and attractions to raise awareness of the North Adams business community

Invest in the high-level/key anchor recreational sites

- Expand the Historic Valley Campground by developing unused existing forest land into additional RV sites, smaller camper sites and more wilderness campsites, and network existing trails
- Increase electric power capacity for all campsites (most especially existing RV sites)
- Refurbish existing roadways throughout campground, install new playground equipment where needed.

Update Noel Field Athletic Complex Mini-Master plan

- Update former plan, and concentrate on the redevelopment of the existing depot bldg. to be transformed into multi-purpose (restroom/changing rooms to accommodate existing splash park), interior concessions venue, covered sitting area, and a storage section for parks equipment), integrate tennis & more pickleball courts

Refurbish, improve/expand playgrounds, parks and other venues

- Development mini capital/maintenance plans for each site, and look to create new dog parks, est. costs, & upgrade weed-program for Windsor Lake, make sliding hill at Brayton

Work with local high schools on joint projects

- Network with McCann Tech. High School and Drury HS on projects such as the manufacturing of wayfinding signage, benches, bike racks, educational signage, murals, etc. to expand and promote trails, environmental awareness, downtown attractions, etc.

<p>Preserve historic buildings &amp; landmarks, and improve networking to open space areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the maintenance of the local historic survey, identify new resources for inclusion thereto, and identify funding sources</li> </ul>
<p>Develop a least 1 fully accessible trail path</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas to develop fully accessible walking trail</li> </ul>
<p>Develop North Adams sections of the Berkshire Bike path consistent with the New England Greenway Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with public &amp; private sector entities on the development of the regional Ashuwillticook Bike Path vision from Adams to the south, and upon the North Adams Adventure Trail to the west from Williamstown, in terms of both design and construction until fully developed</li> </ul>
<p>Cultivate riverway multi-use path as asset for recreation &amp; enjoyment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with and support the initiatives of the Hoosic River Revival in terms of flood control chute restoration or redevelopment, river shoreline improvements throughout the community</li> <li>• Secure/create river access points for recreational use (emphasis to coordinate effort with bike path development to river revitalization, such as fishing, canoeing/kayaking, and work with groups such as Trout Unlimited, Audubon Society, HR Watershed Association)</li> <li>• Recreation supporting infrastructure, such as picnic tables, benches, and restroom facilities</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 2: RESPECT THE CITY'S PLACE WITHIN IMPORTANT HABITAT AREAS BY PROVIDING WILDLIFE CORRIDORS &amp; CONNECTIONS TO SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY</b></p>
<p>Work with local conservation partners to implement regional conservation framework within the city</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refine and adopt conservation policies and regulations based on local and regional concerns</li> <li>• Educate landowners on conservation options and their value to the community (work with entities like Berkshire Natural Resources Council, HR Watershed, HRR) to encourage the use of conservation easements and other potential land conservation tools</li> </ul>
<p>Develop appropriate tools and practices to support wildlife-friendly development, prioritizing important habitat areas identified in said conservation framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate safe wildlife movement across major highways (Rt-2 &amp; 8) (work with MassDOT&amp; Berk. Environmental Action Team to develop, build and promote safe wildlife crossing plans along these major thoroughfares)</li> </ul>

**GOAL 3: IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND INTEGRITY OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN AND AROUND THE CITY**

Improve the data environment to inform decision-making around environmental quality & natural resources

- Advocate for & support Hoosic Watershed Rare Species Survey (work with surrounding municipalities, and groups such as HooRWA & Natural Heritage Endangered Species to develop a survey to better protect the north Berkshire Region, and link to the Sustainable Berkshire’s plan)
- Develop comprehensive understanding of municipal conservation issues and techniques for implementing conservation focused measures in government operations
- Continue water quality analysis and pollution reduction strategies

Protect & enhance the water quality of rivers and lakes throughout the city

- Work with Army Corps of Engineers and other stakeholders to improve water and habitat conditions in local flood chutes
- Implement *Tree Program* along river to provide shade and improve river water temperatures
- Inventory dams and other sources of stream fragmentation with the goal of achieving higher quality water standards for wildlife/fish habitats, yet balanced to continue needed flood control
- Provide education on *Non-point Source Pollution* to residents and businesses on polluting effects from items such as fertilizers, lawn treatments, gas/oil run-off, septic system needs, etc., and reaffirm weed program for Windsor Lake
- Offer programs and incentives for property owner runoff reduction to promote the use of rain barrels, rain gardens, and other Low Impact Development techniques

**GOAL 4: BROADEN RANGE OF TOOLS AND PARTNERS TO ACHIEVE EFFICIENT RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT**

Diversify funding and stewardship resources to benefit open space and recreation amenities, and to help preserve historical assets

- Adopt *Community Preservation Act*
- Pursue corporate sponsorship arrangements (look to local banks, major institutions/employers to spur financial pledges and/or volunteers to promote and carry out various park and recreational improvements)
- Pursue grant opportunities to implement improvement projects/initiatives based on the city’s wide range of planning projects from the past decade
- Develop/Promote *Adopt A Park/Trail* program to develop sustainable volunteer networks to assist with upkeep and clean-up efforts

**SECTION 9 - SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN**

<b>Goal 1: Provide a high-quality system of open space and recreation resources for all residents.</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Priority / Schedule (Years 2023-30)</b>	<b>Potential Resources</b>
Provide ongoing oversight to ensure progress in implementing the OSRP.	Community Development, IT.	L / Ongoing.	CDBG, Community Compact, Local.
Centralize management. of recreational facilities, programs, and outreach.	Parks and Recreation Committee, Windsor Lake Commission.	L/ Ongoing.	Local, MassTrails, PARC, CDBG.
Prioritize existing facility maintenance and enhancement and develop a network to ensure timely responsiveness of city services.	Parks and Recreational Committee, Windsor Lake Commission, DPW.	H/ 2024.	Local, MassTrails, PARC, CDBG.
Coordinate and maintain comprehensive trail map data of all resources located within the city.	Community Development, Mayor’s Office, Public Works, IT Department.	M/2025.	MassTrails, MassDOR, Federal Highway, CDBG, MDI, FLWCF , PARC, MOTT, USDA, Mass Cultural Council, MDI, Private, Local.

<p>Provide safe routes to recreational resources, especially in relation to pedestrian and bicycle access Expand use of existing facilities through special events and activities to enhance overall use and enjoyment.</p>	<p>Parks and Recreation Committee, Windsor Lake Commission, DPW, Community Development, School Department.</p>	<p>M/2026.</p>	<p>MassTrails, PARC, CDBG, MassDOT, Federal Highway.</p>
<p>Engage youth to care for their recreation facilities (work with Youth Commission, local Roots Teen Center, nbCC, to develop a program like the “Greenagers” in south Berkshire County, to assist teach/engage youth in proactive means for improved care of critical assets).</p>	<p>Parks and Recreation Committee, Windsor Lake Commission, Community Development, Youth Commission.</p>	<p>M / 2024.</p>	<p>Community Compact, CDBG, Local, Pivate.</p>
<p>Coordinate recreational resource management (combine efforts and the pooling of resources and assets to improve efficiency and effectiveness, link to key community anchors where applicable such as MCLA and MoCA).</p>	<p>Parks and Recreation Committee, Windsor Lake Commission.</p>	<p>L/2027.</p>	<p>Community Compact, CDBG, Local, Private.</p>

Develop a Comprehensive Local Recreation Guide.	Community Development, Mayor’s Office, Public Works, IT Department.	H/2024.	MassTrails, MassDOR, Federal Highway, CDBG, Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, PARC, MOTT, USDA, Mass Cultural Council, MDI, Private, Local.
Improve Recreation Amenities by new/improved Wayfinding Signage.	Community Development, Mayor’s Office, Public Works, IT Department.	M/2025.	MassTrails, MassDOR, Federal Highway, CDBG, Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, PARC, MOTT, USDA, Mass Cultural Council, MDI, Private, Local.
Coordinate development and/or protection of priority sites with an emphasis of merging initiatives on same sites for an economy of scale same sites for economies-of-scale.	Parks and Recreation Committee, Windsor Lake Commission, Historical Commission, Community Development.	M/2025.	Mass-In-Motion, MassTrails, MOTT, Local.

Cultivate system of mountain biking trails (create trails & connect with NEMBA, NBRC, etc., look to expand access to the Cascades).	Community Development, Parks and Recreation Committee, Windsor Lake Commission.	M/2025.	Mass-In-Motion, MassTrails, MOTT, AT, Local.
Increase presence of winter outdoor recreation through activities such as the creation of a new outdoor skating rink, installation of cross-country ski trails at the Noel Field Complex with connections to other locations, and promotion of the network of snowshoe and snowmobile trails to surrounding towns.	Parks and Recreation Committee, DPW/Rink, Community Development.	H/2025.	PARC, Local, Private.
Market local businesses to external outdoor recreational events and attractions to raise awareness of the North Adams business community.	Parks and Recreation Committee, Community Development, Tourism Office, Chamber of Commerce.	M/2024.	MOTT, PARC, CDBG, Local, Private.
Expand the Historic Valley Campground by developing unused existing forest land into additional RV sites, smaller camper sites and more wilderness campsites, and network existing trails.	Windsor Lake Commission, DPW.	H/2027.	PARC, FLWCF, CDBG, MassTrails, MOTT, Local, Private.
Increase electric power capacity for all campsites (most especially existing RV sites).	Windsor Lake Commission, DPW.	H/2027.	PARC, FLWCF, CDBG, MassTrails, MOTT, Local, Private.

Refurbish existing roadways throughout campground, install new playground equipment where needed.	Windsor Lake Commission, DPW.	H/2028.	PARC, FLWCF, CDBG, MassTrails, MOTT, Local, Private.
Update Noel Field Athletic Complex Mini-Master Plan and concentrate on the redevelopment of the existing depot bldg. to be transformed into multi-purpose (restroom/changing rooms to accommodate existing splash park), interior concessions venue, covered sitting area, and a storage section for parks equipment), integrate tennis & more pickleball courts.	Parks and Recreation Committee, DPW, Community Development.	H/2025.	PARC, FLWCF, CDBG, MassTrails, MOTT, Local, Private.
Development mini capital/maintenance plans for each site, and look to create new dog parks, est. costs, & upgrade weed-program for Windsor Lake, make sliding hill at Brayton.	Parks and Recreation Committee, DPW, Community Development.	M/2025.	PARC, FLWCF, CDBG, MassTrails, MOTT, Local, Private.
Network with McCann Tech. High School and Drury HS on projects such as the manufacturing of wayfinding signage, benches, bike racks, educational signage, murals, etc. to expand and promote trails, environmental awareness, downtown attractions, etc.	Parks and Recreation Committee, Windsor Lake Commission, Community Development, Tourism Department, School Department.	M/2026.	PARC, FLWCF, MassTrails, MOTT, Local, Private.
Continue the maintenance of the local historic survey, identify new resources for inclusion thereto, and identify funding sources.	LHC, Community Development.	M/2025.	Mass Preservation Project Fund, CDBG.

Identify areas to develop fully accessible walking trail.	Parks and Recreation Committee, Commission on Disabilities.	H/2026.	PARC, FLWCF, Local, Private.
Continue to work with public & private sector entities on the development of the regional Ashuwillticook Bike Path vision from Adams to the south, and upon the North Adams Adventure Trail to the west from Williamstown, in terms of both design and construction until fully developed.	Community Development, BRPC.	H/2026.	MassTrails, MassDOT, Community Compact, Federal Highway, MOTT, Local, Private.
Work with and support the initiatives of the Hoosic River Revival in terms of flood control chute restoration or redevelopment, river shoreline improvements throughout the community.	DPW, Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, Community Development, Conservation Commission.	H/2025.	PARC, FLWCF, EPA, MassTrails, MOTT, Local, Private.
Secure/create river access points for recreational use (emphasis to coordinate effort with bike path development to river revitalization, such as fishing, canoeing/kayaking, and work with groups such as Trout Unlimited, Audubon Society, HR Watershed Association).	DPW, Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, Community Development, Conservation Commission.	H/2027.	PARC, FLWCF, EPA, MassTrails, MOTT, Local, Private.

Recreation supporting infrastructure, such as picnic tables, benches, and restroom facilities.	Parks and Recreation Committee, Mayor, Administrative Officer, Community Development, Conservation Commission.	M/2027.	PARC, FLWCF, EPA, MassTrails, MOTT, Local, Private.
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**Goal 2: Respect the city’s place within important habitat areas by providing wildlife corridors and connections to support biodiversity.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Priority / Schedule (Years 2023-30)</b>	<b>Potential Resources</b>
Refine and adopt conservation policies and regulations based on local and regional concerns.	Parks and Recreation Committee, Windsor Lake Commission, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Community Development, DPW.	M /2024.	EPA, MassDEP, Local, Private.

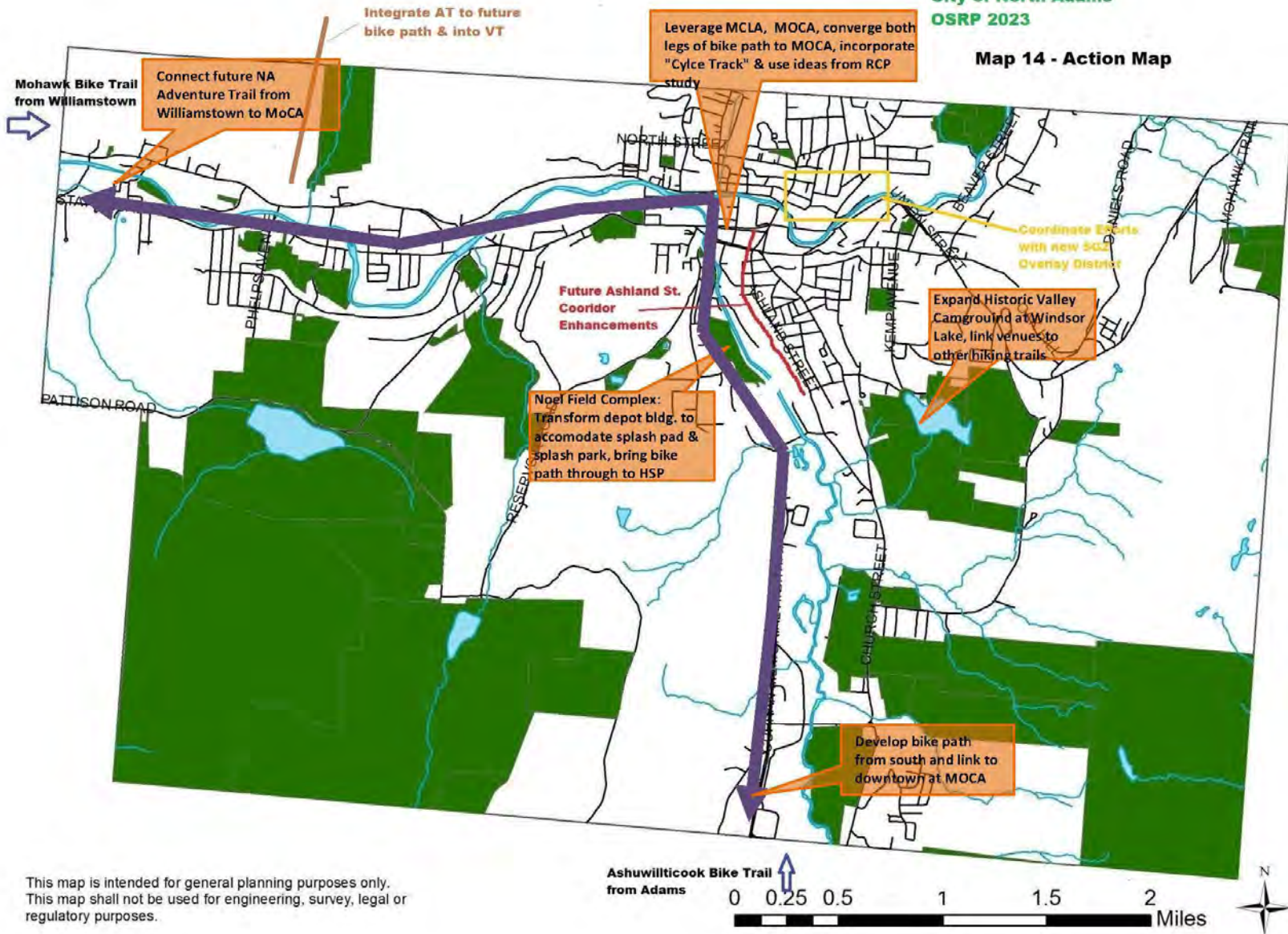
Educate landowners on conservation options and their value to the community (work with entities like Berkshire Natural Resources Council, HR Watershed, HRR) to encourage the use of conservation easements and other potential land conservation tools.	Parks and Recreation Committee, Windsor Lake Commission, Conservation Commission, Community Development.	M/2026.	EPA, MassDEP, Local, Private.
Facilitate safe wildlife movement across major highways (Rt-2 & 8) (work with MassDOT& Berk. Environmental Action Team to develop, build and promote safe wildlife crossing plans along these major thoroughfares).	Parks and Recreation Committee, Windsor Lake Commission, Conservation Commission, Community Development.	M / 2027.	EPA, MassDEP, Local, Private.
<b>Goal 3: Improve the health and integrity of the natural environment in and around the city.</b>			
Advocate for & support Hoosic Watershed Rare Species Survey (work with surrounding municipalities, and groups such as HooRWA & Natural Heritage Endangered Species to develop a survey to better protect the north Berkshire Region, and link to the Sustainable Berkshire's plan).	Conservation Commission, Windsor Lake Commission, Community Development.	H/2028.	FLWCF, Natural Heritage, EPA, MA-DEP, Local, Private.
Develop comprehensive understanding of municipal conservation issues and techniques for implementing conservation focused measures in government operations.	DPW, Conservation Commission.	M/2027.	FLWCF, Natural Heritage, EPA, MA-DEP, Local, Private.
Continue water quality analysis and pollution reduction strategies.	DPW, Conservation Commission.	M/Ongoing.	FLWCF, Natural Heritage, EPA, MA-DEP, Local, Private.

Work with Army Corps of Engineers and other stakeholders to improve water and habitat conditions in local flood chutes.	Army Corp. of Engineers, EPA, MA-DEP, FLWCF, MassTrails, Local, Private.	H / 2025.	Army Corps. Of Engineers, EPA, MA-DEP, FLWCF, MassTrails, Local, Private.
Implement <i>Tree Program</i> along river to provide shade and improve river water temperatures.	Tree Commission, Conservation Commission, Community Development.	M / 2028.	Army Corps. Of Engineers, EPA, MA-DEP, FLWCF, MassTrails, Local, Private.
Inventory dams and other sources of stream fragmentation with the goal of achieving higher quality water standards for wildlife/fish habitats, yet balanced to continue needed flood control.	DPW, Community Development.	M/2029.	Army Corps. Of Engineers, EPA, MA-DEP, FLWCF, MassTrails, Chap. 90, Local, Private.
Provide education on <i>Non-point Source Pollution</i> to residents and businesses on polluting effects from items such as fertilizers, lawn treatments, gas/oil run-off, septic system needs, etc., and reaffirm weed program for Windsor Lake.	Conservation Commission, DPW, Community Development.	M/2029.	Army Corps. Of Engineers, EPA, MA-DEP, FLWCF, MassTrails, Chap. 90, Local, Private.

Offer programs and incentives for property owner runoff reduction to promote the use of rain barrels, rain gardens, and other Low Impact Development techniques.	Conservation Commission, DPW, Community Development, MCLA.	M / 2026.	Army Corps. Of Engineers, EPA, MA-DEP, FLWCF, MassTrails, Chap. 90, Local, Private.
<b>Goal 4: Broaden range of tools and partners to achieve efficient recreation and open space management.</b>			
Adopt <i>Community Preservation Act</i> .	Community Development, Planning Board, Conservation Commission.	M/2027.	Local, Private.
Pursue corporate sponsorship arrangements (look to local banks, major institutions/employers to spur financial pledges and/or volunteers to promote and carry out various park and recreational improvements).	Community Development, Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer.	M / 2027.	Local, Private.
Pursue grant opportunities to implement improvement projects/initiatives based on the city's wide range of planning projects from the past decade.	Community Development, Chief Administrative Officer, Grants Coordinator.	H/2024.	PARC, FLWCF, MassTrails, MOTT, Community Compact, Local, Private.
Develop/Promote <i>Adopt A Park/Trail</i> program to develop sustainable volunteer networks to assist with upkeep and clean-up efforts.	Parks and Recreation Committee, Windsor Lake Commission, Community Development.	M/2026.	PARC, FLWCF, MassTrails, MOTT, Community Compact, Local, Private.

(NOTE: see Map 14, *Action Map*, on following page)

Map 14 - Action Map



## SECTION 10 - PUBLIC COMMENTS

The persons referenced below have provided substantial review and commentary upon the renewal of this Open Space & Recreation Plan. Collectively, they have served as the *Oversight Committee* for this major update for submission to the State Division of Conservation Services for its next term. They have reviewed the entire document, and specifically for Section 8 on the establishment of *Goals & Objectives*, as well as Section 9 upon the *Seven-Year Action Plan*. All board and commission letters of support are included herein this section.

<i>Member</i>	<i>Boards &amp; Commissions</i>
Mark Morandi	Airport Commission
John Meaney, Jr.	Board of Health
Deborah Forgea	Cemetery Commission
Elena Sprague	Commission of Disabilities
Steve Green	Community & Econ. Dev. Advisory Board
Glenn Murray	Conservation Commission
Heather Boulger	Council on Aging
Joanne Hurlbut	Historical Commission
David Willette	Parks & Recreation Commission
Kyle Hanlon	Planning Board
David Sookey	School Committee
Kevin Boisjolie	Tree Commission
James Holmes	Windsor Lake Commission
Ellen Janis	Youth Commission
Peter Milanesi	Zoning Board of Appeals
	<i>Municipal Staff</i>
Jennifer A. Macksey	Mayor
Michael Nuwallie	Director, Office of Community Development
William Meranti	Building Commissioner
Timothy Lescarbeau	Commissioner of Public Services
Carrie Burnett	Grants & Special Projects Coordinator, School Dept.

A letter of support has been secured from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, as required by state requirements. There are also three additional letters of support in which the first is from the Berkshire Natural Resources Council who were very helpful in the need to support new trail installations in the region as well as their connectivity. The next was from the North Adams Redevelopment Authority, as the rejuvenation of the Western Gateway Heritage State Park includes planning for the integration of the future bike/pedestrian trail through its campus that will increase connectivity to the Mt. Greylock State Reservation and to other key downtown venues such as Mass MoCA and the retail district. The last letter of support was provided by William College who was extremely helpful in recommending the integration of USDA's tool on farmland of local importance.

Lastly, the community open space and recreation survey provided a significant amount of feedback and public commentary, as alluded to in earlier sections of this plan. All of the received feedback was woven into this plan.



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

North Adams Airport Commission

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November 29, 2023

Michael Nuvallie  
Director of Community Development  
City Hall  
10 Main Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

Re: City of North Adams' Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mike,

The North Adams Airport Commission is pleased to offer this letter of support for the update to the City of North Adams' Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

As chair of the Airport Commission, I was pleased to serve as a member of the Oversight Committee and to help develop and review the updated five-year-plan.

Thank you for all your work to bring together the Oversight Committee, provide the initial drafts, and compile all the suggestions and edits to complete the OSRP.

Sincerely,

Marc Morandi, Chair  
North Adams Airport Commission



*The City of*  
*North Adams, Massachusetts*  
**DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION SERVICES**

December 12, 2023

Michael Nuvalie  
City of North Adams  
Director of Office of Community Development  
10 Main Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

Dear Michael,

The City of North Adams Board of Health is in support of the update to the City of North Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Thank you for all you have done to bring the committee together, it was a pleasure reviewing and working with the committee.

Sincerely Yours,

John Meaney, Chair  
City of North Adams Board of Health

10 Main Street, North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
Telephone: (413) 662-3000 X 3020 • Fax: (413) 662-3030



November 30, 2023

Mike Nuvalle  
North Adams City Hall  
10 Main St  
North Adams, MA 01247

Dear Mike,

I am grateful for having had the opportunity to be included in the review of the North Adams Open Space and Recreation five-year plan and want to offer my endorsement.

North Adams has multiple cemeteries which encompass a good deal of the open space in North Adams. While one might not think a cemetery would be included in the options for recreation; Southview Cemetery, in particular, provides many area residents with nearby daily access to viewing wildlife at the pond as well as quiet contemplation at the Children's Memorial. The extensive labyrinth of roads available for walking allow our residents to feel safer walking there than on the roads in order to avoid traffic. The layout of the cemetery allows an individual to alter their distance or duration with significant ease. For the most part, those using the cemetery for passive recreation do so with the appropriate reverence for the environment.

Participating in this discussion and review has provided me with an unexpected perspective and I want to thank you for the opportunity to express my ideas and opinions.

Sincerely,

Deborah C. Forgea  
Cemetery Commission



## City of North Adams Commission on Disabilities


10 Main Street  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247

Dear Michael Nuvalle,

This letter is to inform you that upon reviewing the North Adams Open Space and Recreation five-year-plan, the Commission on Disabilities clearly endorses the plan in its entirety. The Commission has made recommendations in Section 9 of the plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to athletic complexes as well as outdoor parks, walking trails and all facilities. In particular, we advise the development of a universally accessible hiking trail within the City.

The Commission on Disabilities was pleased to participate as a vital member of the plan's Oversight Committee, particularly as it relates to our Commission's role.

Sincerely,

  
Elena M. Sprague, Chairperson  
[Disabilitycommission@northadams-ma.gov](mailto:Disabilitycommission@northadams-ma.gov)  
662-3000, ext. 3016



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

**Community & Economic Development Advisory Board**

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Michael F. Nuwallie, Director  
Office of Community Development  
City Hall – 10 Main Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

Re: Open Space & Recreation Plan - 2023

Dear Mike,

As a member of the Community & Economic Development Advisory Board, I am writing in support of the city's renewed Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). The goals and objectives will support future development across many fronts. The plan was developed in conjunction with the local comprehensive plan, *North Adams Vision 2030*, and this is seen an effective link in being made, yet still allowing the OSRP in having its own independence as it goes much deeper into many topic areas.

I strongly believe this updated plan will be looked upon favorably by the State Division of Conservation Services.

Thank you for allowing CEDAB the opportunity in providing this support.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Pecor  
CEDAB Member

DP/mn



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS  
Conservation Commission

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December 8, 2023

Michael Nuvallie  
Director of Community Development  
City Hall  
10 Main Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

RE: City of North Adams's Open Space and Recreation Plan – 2023 update

Dear Michael:

The North Adams Conservation Commission is pleased to offer this letter of support for the update to the City of North Adams' Open Space and Recreation Plan. I have personally reviewed the plan and believe it is well written and reflects reasonable and achievable goals and objectives to improve the City of North Adams for recreation and open space.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kawczak, Chair  
North Adams Conservation Commission



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Council on Aging  
**Sandra Lamb, Executive Director**

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December 12, 2023

Michael Nuvallie  
Office of Community Development  
North Adams City Hall  
10 Main Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

RE: Letter of Support for the OSRP

Dear Michael,

The North Adams Council on Aging endorses the update to the City of North Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Thank you for all the time and effort that was put into this plan.

Sincerely Yours,

Nancy Canales, Chair  
North Adams Council on Aging

116 Ashland Street • North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
slamb@northadams-ma.gov • (413) 662-3125



City of North Adams, Massachusetts  
**North Adams Historical Commission**

December 11, 2023

Michael Nuvallie  
Director of Community Development  
City Hall  
10 Main Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

Re: City of North Adams' Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mike:

The North Adams Historical Commission is whole-heartly in support of the North Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan 2023. A central focus of the NAHC is the preservation of the city's history. Throughout the plan references are made to that history and how to continue connecting present residents and visitors to the past. Including a member of the NAHC on the Oversight Committee for review of the OSRP has opened the door to a wider dialogue.

Important components of the OSRP plan dovetail with NAHC goals in several areas. NAHC seeks to continue sharing the city's history through local historic tours. Improving the walkability throughout North Adams is a priority of the OSRP. The Commission is also eager to see the gatehouse at Mt. Williams Reservoir restored, as it is both a significant historical structure as well as a notable and picturesque landmark.

The adoption of the Preservation Conservation Act is a goal shared by both the NAHC and the OSRP. Assisting current homeowners in finding funding to preserve their historic homes is both a responsibility of the NAHC and a means to save local history. Working together on the Mass Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grant for 2024 will make available additional resources for both the NAHC and the OSRP.

The North Adams Open Space and Recreational Plan for 2023 is a well thought out and effective plan for moving the City of North Adams forward in the next several years. The North Adams Historical Commission looks forward to working with other city offices, local residents and community partners to improve the quality of life for everyone in the North Adams area.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Marino,  
Chairman, North Adams Historical Commission



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

**Parks & Recreation Commission**

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December 12, 2023

Michael F. Nuvallie, Director  
Office of Community Development  
City Hall – 10 Main Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

RE: Open Space & Recreation Plan – 2023

Dear Mike,

Thank you for including the Parks and Recreation Commission in the planning process to update the OSRP. The P&R Commission fully supports all of your hard work that you put into it.

North Adams has many parks and open spaces, both large and small, flat and hilly, and both downtown and in the fringe neighborhoods.

The City needs some direction as to how to fully utilize these areas and the meetings that you organized with the various committees and all of your other work guarantees that North Adams is headed in the right direction.

Sincerely,

David Willette  
Parks & Recreation Commission-Secretary



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS,  
MASSACHUSETTS  
North Adams Planning Board

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December 11, 2023

Michael Nuvallie  
Director of Community Development  
City Hall  
10 Main Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

Re: City of North Adams' Open Space and Recreation Plan


Dear Mike,

As chair of the North Adams Planning Board I endorse the City of North Adams' Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) without reservation.

The Planning Board considers the city's Vision 2030 comprehensive plan an integral part of making all our decisions and the OSRP is perfectly aligned with the comprehensive plan.

Getting input from across our community is a daunting task and I would like to thank you for your diligence in reaching out to as many people as possible.

Sincerley,



Brian Miksic, Chair  
North Adams Planning Board

## School Committee

North Adams Open Space Plan-July, 2006  
*Section X - Public Comments*



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

**Tree Commission**

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December 12, 2023

Mike Nuvalle  
Office of Community Development  
North Adams City Hall  
10 Main Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

RE: Letter of Support for the OSRP

Dear Mike,

The North Adams Tree Commission endorses the renewal of the North Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan. As the Tree Commission has focused on planting and replacing trees for the beautification of North Adams, the identified action steps will help us achieve next steps towards that effort for both residents and visitors to enjoy. The plan is also well balanced to its other identified initiatives.

Sincerely,

Stephen Betti, Chair  
North Adams Tree Commission

**Windsor Lake Commission**

North Adams Open Space Plan-July, 2006  
*Section X - Public Comments*



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

**Youth Commission**

December 20, 2023

Mike Nuvalle  
Office of Community Development  
City Hall – 10 Main Street (Rm. 107)  
North Adams, MA 01247

RE: Letter of Support for the OSRP

Dear Mike,

The City of North Adams' Youth Commission respectfully offers this letter of support upon the renewal of the municipal Open Space and Recreation Plan. The identified goals and objectives are well aligned as to the action plan items as seen in the Five-Year Action Plan, as well as providing a harmonious balance to the other vantage points of the many municipal boards and commissions.

As the Youth Commission has focused its attention on the expansion of its existing programming for local youth at our Roots Teen Center in the downtown, it was good to see our commission being identified in the action plan for support on the preservation of local assets, as well as the *Greenagers* initiative as seen in other communities. Our commission also feels that our youth have many ideas when it comes to improved recreational needs, as well poignant input to the ever-growing expansion of local and area trails and their networking.

On behalf of the Youth Commission, I hereby present this letter of endorsement.

Sincerely,

Alice Rudin  
Youth Commissioner

AR/mn



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor  
**Jennifer A. Macksey**

December 15, 2023

Melissa Cryan, Grant Programs Supervisor  
Executive Office Energy & Environmental Affairs  
Division of Conservation Services  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114-2119

RE: Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) – 2023 Renewal

Dear Ms. Cryan,

This is written in support of the 2023 updated OSRP for the City of North Adams. The compilation of this work took a significant amount of time, and was again led by key staff in my Office of Community Development. As the new mayor-elect in January 2022, I was aware that this undertaking upon the plan's renewal would be underway. I made a purposeful decision for the creation of a formidable oversight committee so that all of the municipal boards and commissions could obtain a much better knowledge base than they had before.

I was also pleased that we achieved quality sections on community goals, policies and future action items, as well as its integration with our comprehensive plan. It is my hope that the Division of Conservation Services will look favorably on the renewal of our OSRP and for another five-year term.

I look forward in working with you in the future on new projects as they arise in our fine City of North Adams.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Macksey  
Mayor

JAM/jm

10 Main Street • North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
mayormacksey@northadams-ma.gov • (413) 662-3000



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of Community Development

December 14, 2023

Melissa Cryan, Grant Programs Supervisor  
Executive Office Energy & Environmental Affairs  
Division of Conservation Services  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114-2119

RE: Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) – 2023 Renewal

Dear Ms. Cryan,

This is written in support of the 2023 updated OSRP for the City of North Adams. As you know, in my long tenure with the municipality, I have worked upon the renewal of this plan for the last five editions stemming as far back as 1988 through the present. This year's effort took about a year in which to complete, and I feel this is the best overall update compiled, as it has secured quality feedback from nearly all of the local boards and commissions. For the first time as well, I believe it has the connective link to our local comprehensive master plan, something that was never fully realized in earlier iterations.

The mayoral-appointed oversight committee, under newly elected Mayor, Jennifer A. Macksey, is the largest oversight committee I think a plan renewal has ever seen. This level of expanded oversight was very important to her.

Our community-wide survey once again was robust, as the combining of this with the local annual census bolstered a sizable outcome. I also strongly believe our goals, policies and associated action-plan items are in the best order they have probably ever been.

It was exciting in the working upon another OSRP update, and I look forward to its approval.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Nuvallie  
Director

MFN/mn

10 Main Street • North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
Telephone: (413) 662-3025 Fax: (413) 662-3149 email: [ocd@northadams-MA.gov](mailto:ocd@northadams-MA.gov)



*The City of*  
*North Adams, Massachusetts*  
**DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION SERVICES**

December 12, 2023

Michael F. Nuvallie, Director  
Office of Community Development  
City Hall – 10 Main Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

RE: Open Space & Recreation Plan – 2023

Dear Mike,

I hereby provide this letter of support for the approval of the updated 2023 Open Space & Recreation Plan for the City of North Adams. I find its many identified goals and objectives, along with their respective action plan items, in being very comprehensive.

As you are aware, in my capacity as the Building Commissioner, as well as the Zoning Enforcement Officer, I have played a significant role in the area of accessibility upon municipally-owned property, and have helped with our 504 Self Evaluation over my long tenure, as well as being the in-house liaison to the Commission On Disabilities. Collectively, I feel we have made great strides in this area whereby many small to medium-sized projects have now been accomplished. Ironically, during the COVID period where entry into City Hall by the general public was prohibited, this allowed our maintenance crew to tackle many of the smaller projects herein, such as the lowering of the service counters in just about every department. Other needed work was done to our council chambers.

Our continued work upon our inventory for other needed items continues, but this plan finds accessibility issues in a much-improved stance versus the last time the OSRP was updated in 2015.

Sincerely,

William Meranti  
Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer

WB/mn

**10 Main Street, North Adams, Massachusetts 01247**  
**Telephone: (413) 662-3000 X 3020 • Fax: (413) 662-3030**



*The City of*  
*North Adams, Massachusetts*

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES**

RE: Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) – 2023

Dear Mike,

This is written in support of the 2023 updated OSRP for the City of North Adams. I find the goals, objectives, and action-plan items to be in fine order.

In my capacity as the Commissioner of Public Services, my crew maintains several key assets that are quintessential component with the plan. The Windsor Lake is a huge draw for many users, and the associated Historical Valley Campground draws many a patron from outside destinations. The continued policies to support these types of recreational choices is very much needed, and I feel this is well represented in the plan.

Other important areas, such as the projection of water resources, dam inspections, along with the maintenance of other open spaces, such as all of our parks and playgrounds, all remain critical. I feel the plan's more than adequately addresses these areas.

It was a pleasure in serving on the oversight committee.

Sincerely,

Timothy H Lescarbeau  
Commissioner of Public Services

TL/MN

**59 Hodges Cross Road, North Adams, Massachusetts 01247**  
**Telephone: (413) 662-3000 X 3047 • Fax: (413) 662-3014**



## NORTH ADAMS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

10 Main Street, Second Floor | North Adams, Massachusetts 01247-4496  
(413) 776-1458 • FAX (413) 776-1685 • [www.napsk12.org](http://www.napsk12.org)

December 7, 2023

Michael Nuwallie  
Director of Community Development  
City of North Adams

Dear Mike,

The North Adams Public Schools (NAPS) is pleased to offer this letter of support for the City of North Adams' update to its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

Recreation is important for all ages, but it is especially crucial during children's formative years. Socialization opportunities through recreation are needed to support their social-emotional maturity into healthy adulthood. Recreation, like any life skill, requires intentional instruction, support and availability of open recreational spaces.

This plan promotes the opportunity for these activities, which in turn offers educational value to participants. Students learn skills that they can transfer from the activity to their everyday lives. Communication, teamwork, problem solving, and coping skills are all important elements learned through recreational activities that can help improve one's mental health

The City's goal of broadening the range of tools and partners to achieve efficient recreation and open space management promotes these recreational opportunities, specifically biking and hiking, engages the youth to have ownership in their sports and athletic areas, as well as opening up the possibility of programs like "Greenagers" in Great Barrington. These types of programs engage teens and young adults in meaningful work in environmental conservation, sustainable farming, natural resource management, and vocational skills building. Furthermore, the North Adams Public Schools anticipates pursuing funding opportunities to promote the procurement of locally sourced foods and more scratch cooking by partnering with community-based farmers, producers, growers and processors. The open space plan is aligned with NAPS and their long-range plan.

NAPS commends the City of North Adams for its planning efforts and is excited to work in collaboration with the city to continue to pursue opportunities to protect the region's natural resources, expand outdoor recreational opportunities and sustain a high quality of life for the youth.

Barbara Malkas, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

MALCOLM FICK, Chair  
JOHN DUVAL, Vice-Chair  
SHEILA IRVIN, Clerk  
BUCK DONOVAN, Treasurer  
THOMAS MATUSZKO, A.I.C.P.  
Executive Director

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December 4, 2023

Melissa Cryan, Grant Programs Supervisor  
Division of Conservation Services  
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) has reviewed the *North Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)*. There are several aspects of the plan that are consistent with the *Sustainable Plan for the Berkshires (original-2014)*, the 2023-2027 CEDS Report, and also the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP, 2017).

- The Sustainable Plan for the Berkshires identified encouraging municipalities to implement a regional conservation strategy that emphasizes collaboration and coordination across municipal boundaries. The 2023 Open Space Plan identifies collaboration with neighboring communities Adams and Williamstown to institute Hoosac River improvements and trail collaborations such as the Ashuwillticook and Mohican Trail multi-use paths as well as a regional conservation framework.
- The OSRP identifies strong community support to enhance water quality of rivers and lakes throughout the city. North Adams residents would like additional access points to the Hoosic river and to enhance the water quality as a cold water fishery. The Sustainable Plan for the Berkshires identified improving and enhancing use and access to rivers and lakes. While the SCORP identified "increasing the availability of water-based recreation" as a major goal.
- The OSRP highlights the need preserve farmland through limitations on development, encouragement of participation in Conservation Restrictions, and purchase of valuable land by the city. The CEDS report recognizes that Berkshire County has a long history of agricultural production with more than 475 farms, almost 60,000 acres in agricultural production and that food access and security are a regional priority.
- The OSRP identifies the need to increase the City's recreational opportunities open to residents with mobility limitations. The city has an aging population, and it will be important to be able to offer outdoor recreational facilities that seniors can access. Development of a universally accessible trail will help ensure recreational opportunities for all North Adams residents.
- The OSRP recognizes that community partners such as Mass MoCA and MCLA will be instrumental in connecting trails/routes through the city and bringing students and tourists into the downtown area. Improved signage and wayfinding will ensure that visitors and residents are able to navigate the pedestrian network.

The BRPC commends the North Adams for its planning efforts and encourages the city to continue to pursue opportunities to protect the region's natural resources, expand outdoor recreational opportunities and sustain a high quality of life.

Sincerely,

Seth Jenkins  
Senior Community Planner

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1 Fenn St., Suite 201, Pittsfield, MA 01201  
berkshireplanning.org

T: (413) 442-1521 · F: (413) 442-1523  
TTY: 771 or 1(800) 439-2370

November 27, 2023

Michael Nuvallie  
Director of Community Development  
City of North Adams

Dear Mike,

The Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) is pleased to offer this letter of support for the City of North Adams' update to its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

As a regional land trust working throughout Berkshire County, well-developed OSRPs are extremely helpful in our work to ensure that our conservation and recreation work is done in concert with a community's local goals. We are privileged to steward the Hoosac Range reserve in North Adams as one of our premier reserves in the Berkshires. BNRC has recently invested in the trail system, improving the existing route, making a deliberate trail connection to the adjacent Wigwam Western Summit, and establishing a bench and viewing area at the reserve's Sunset Rock feature.

We were particularly interested in the results of the City's survey as part of the OSRP outreach process. It was notable that over 40% of respondents identified hiking as a frequent activity. The section asking for future investment priorities was striking as well – 48% want to see more easy-to-moderate wooded trails, and 68% noted that improved access via trails, parking, and universally accessible trails were desired. The support for farmland preservation was also significant. These priorities are consistent with BNRC's strategic initiatives for land we steward, and the ways we work with local communities.

As you are aware, BNRC continues its interest in identifying a trail route to connect the Hoosac Range reserve to downtown North Adams. We consider this part of our High Road initiative, an effort to connect Berkshire communities with existing trail networks. We look forward to partnering with the City and other land partners on this long-term initiative.

Thank you for all you do to support the availability and protection of open lands and recreational opportunities in North Adams.

Best regards,



Jenny Hansell  
President



Berkshire Natural  
Resources Council

**Board of Directors**

Jenny Hansell, President  
Tim Crane, Chairman  
Pat Callahan, Vice Chairman  
Kim Seward, Secretary  
Jeffrey Belair, Treasurer

Stephen Alsdorf  
Tom Curtin  
Brian Fairbank  
Henry Flint  
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Ellen Hand  
Caroline Holland  
Brian Horan  
Eric Katzman  
Larry Lane  
Tim Lovell  
John Mancina  
Karen Coy Ross  
Brian Tobin



309 Pittsfield Road, Suite B  
Lenox MA 01240

413-499-0596

[bnrc.org](http://bnrc.org)



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS,  
MASSACHUSETTS  
North Adams Redevelopment Authority

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December 10, 2023

Michael Nuvallie  
Director of Community Development  
City Hall  
10 Main Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

Re: City of North Adams' Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mike,

As chair of the North Adams Redevelopment Authority, I heartily endorse the City of North Adams' Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

The Redevelopment Authority is, among other things responsible for the Western Gateway Heritage State park and hopefully it's resurrection as a cultural attraction for the city in the near future.

Every item in the OSRP not only aligns with the vision the Authority has for the park's and the City's future but also presents as a virtual road-map for the future redevelopment of the park.

Thank you for all your hard work updating the OSRP.

I know you performed an incredible amount of outreach to all interested and affected parties in our City. Your thorough and thoughtful work is greatly appreciated.

*Kyle Hanlon*

Sincerely,  
Kyle Hanlon, Chair  
North Adams Redevelopment Authority

Williams College Center for Environmental Studies

Class of 1966 Environmental Center

55 Mission Park Drive

Williamstown, MA 01267

413.597.4209 | ces.williams.edu

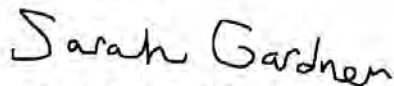
Dec. 12, 2023

Michael Nuvalle  
Director of Community Development  
City of North Adams  
North Adams, MA

Dear Mr. Nuvalle,

The Center for Environmental Studies at Williams College enthusiastically supports the City of North Adams' update to its Open Space and Recreation Plan. We were involved with the last OSRP process, which set priorities and identified opportunities for open space and recreation in the City. The City has made progress since the prior plan, and it is time to update that plan to continue progress. The revision will help to focus attention on the City's strength as a destination for outdoor recreation, arts and culture, farming and local food, and natural beauty. The residents will also benefit from an updated plan, which will identify areas where people of all ages and abilities can be outdoors for health, fitness, and experiencing nature. Further, an OSRP leads to enhanced protection of natural resources, which is important to a healthy environment for people and wildlife. The City abounds with natural beauty, hiking trails, rivers, and natural resources, and the plan will facilitate fuller use of these special resources to strengthen the community and public health. The City's economy will also benefit from an updated OSRP that will highlight access to nature and outdoor recreation for people of all ages and abilities. The Center for Environmental Studies would be interested in helping to facilitate the planning process.

Best regards,



Sarah Gardner, PhD  
Environmental Studies Faculty

## SECTION 11 - REFERENCES

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78 Center Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201
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- MA-DEP Watershed Planning Program Report, 2022
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## APPENDIX A

**Please take a few minutes to complete this North Adams 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey and return it with your City Census, or directly to the Office of Community Development. Your participation will help the City plan for the future of its recreation venues, open spaces, conservation initiatives, and will open the door to future grant funds in these areas! Questions to 662-3025 (x-3) or email at ocd@northadams-ma.gov.**

1. Please indicate the number of people in each age group in your household:

___ Under 5 years	___ 50-64
___ 6-17	___ 65-85
___ 18-29	___ 86+
___ 30-49	

2. What neighborhood do you live in or near?

___ Brayton	___ Greylock	___ West End
___ Blackinton	___ Church St.	___ South Church
___ UNO/River	___ Freeman	___ The Beaver
___ West Shaft Road	___ Mohawk Trail	
___ Other: _____		

3. Check **three (3)** types of recreation venues **in North Adams** that you and your family use most, and list the facility name.

- My home (i.e. personal gym)
- Roads (for walking, biking, running)
- Local Park: \_\_\_\_\_
- Church: \_\_\_\_\_
- School: \_\_\_\_\_
- Athletic facility: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fitness Club: \_\_\_\_\_
- State Park: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Can you walk or bike to the recreation space that you most use frequently? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no  
If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Would you ride your bike if there was:  
(Check all that apply)

- A bike path
- A dedicated lane, on-street but separated from vehicular traffic
- A dedicated lane, marked on-street
- Share the Road signs and attitude (Bikes and cars co-exist safely and happily)
- Convenient, promoted bike routes
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- I bicycle on local roads as they are
- I don't ride a bike

6. What attracts you to the venues you visit in North Adams? Check all that apply & describe where appropriate

- Location/convenience
- Walking/biking trails
- Safety
- Child play area
- Sitting/relaxation
- Dog-friendly
- Sport venues: \_\_\_\_\_
- Activities & programs: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

7. Which recreational activities do you or members of your household participate **in North Adams**? Check your **five (5)** most frequent:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/Running          | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies/Concerts     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing              | <input type="checkbox"/> Boating             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling             | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting/Shooting    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downhill skiing          | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country skiing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Skating              | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding/BMX   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Clubs/garden        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Football                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerobics/Yoga/Dance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball               | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking/BBQ      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball               | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird/Wildlife       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds              | <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art/ Historic Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____        |

8. What recreational activities do you participate in **outside** of North Adams?

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9. Which of the 3 activities in the previous question (or additional ones) that need facility improvement, development or expansion in the city (in order of preference):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

10. I think these three (3) venues need the most work:

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

11. What would you like to see more of: (Select a maximum of three (3) choices)

- Public water access
- Dog parks
- Outdoor Theater
- Bike paths/multi-use trails
- Easy to moderate wooded trails
- Community center space
- Playgrounds
- Team sport fields
- Farming initiatives
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Are existing City recreation programs and activities adequate for:

	Yes	Somewhat	No	Don't Know
Children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elderly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. What aspects of the recreation system do you think are inadequate? Check up to three (3).

- Maintenance of parks (litter/poor condition)
- Location of parks and/or access to the parks
- Number of parks (not enough now)
- Indoor venues
- Outdoor venues
- Recreational venues for youth
- Structured recreation programs
- Venues within existing parks
- Explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- Lack of passive recreation (benches, picnic)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Parks and recreation venues are adequate

14. Please rank the top five of the following preservation and conservation considerations in order of their importance to you (1=most important):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Water quality of streams & rivers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Accessing the Hoosic River
- \_\_\_\_\_ Controlling erosion & storm damage
- \_\_\_\_\_ Historic buildings & landmarks
- \_\_\_\_\_ Farmland
- \_\_\_\_\_ Open spaces
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife habitat
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drinking water supplies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Natural landscape
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ridgeline views
- \_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor tourism growth
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Which form of renewable energy is most appropriate for North Adams? Please rate your choices:

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Or check one of the following: |
| _____ Solar   | _____ No opinion               |
| _____ Wind  | _____ None are appropriate     |
| _____ Hydro   |                                |

16. What would help you access open spaces and nature venues more? Check all that apply.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Group tours
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps of locations (hardcopy and online)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Improved access, (ex. Parking, signage)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Universally accessible trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. In order to preserve open space and develop recreational venues would you support: (Check all that apply)

- \_\_\_\_\_ a small tax-surcharge
- \_\_\_\_\_ receiving donations from companies
- \_\_\_\_\_ receiving donations from individuals
- \_\_\_\_\_ the City applying for additional grants
- \_\_\_\_\_ user fees
- \_\_\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Do you favor preserving farmland?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No    \_\_\_\_\_ No Opinion

19. What private actions do you favor to preserve farmland?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase of valuable land
- \_\_\_\_\_ Limited Development
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donation & receipt of conservation restrictions



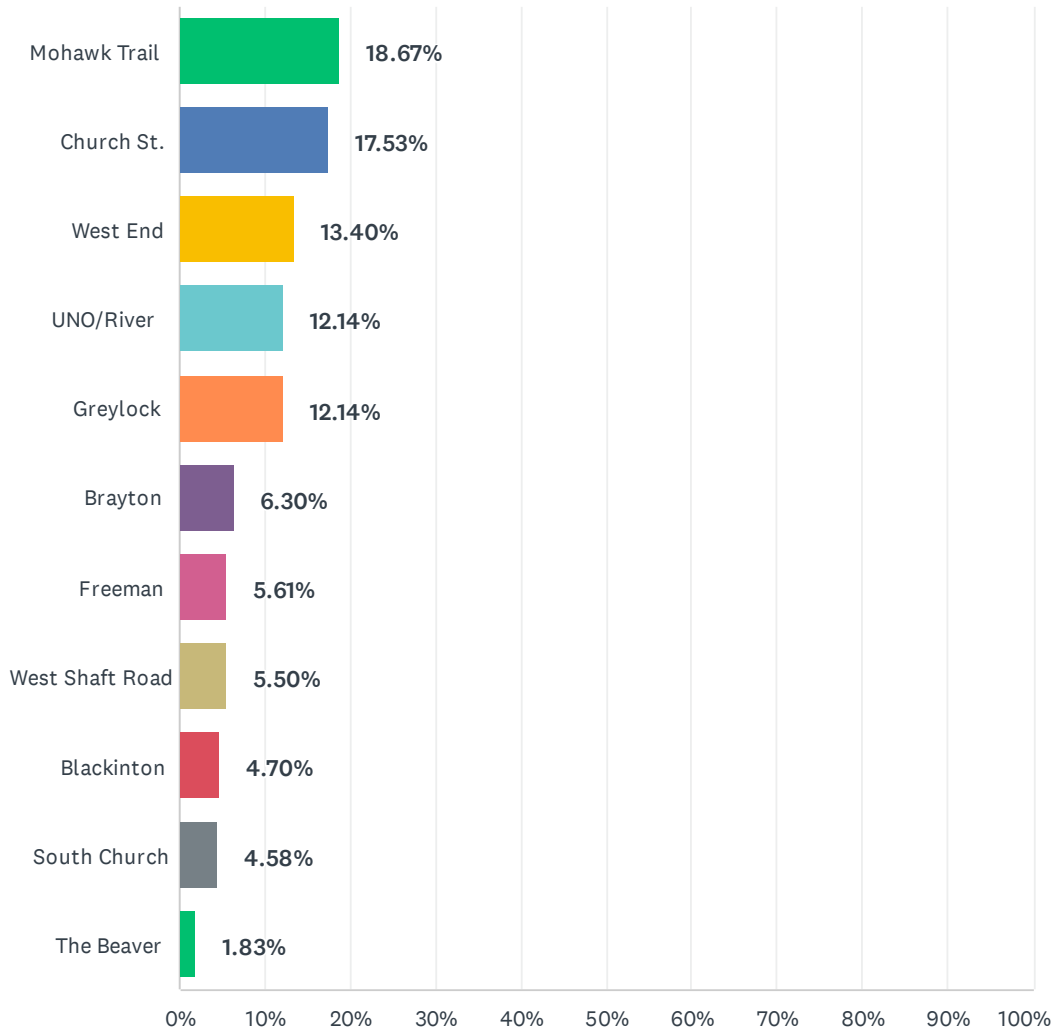
Q1 Please indicate the number of people in each age group in your household:

Answered: 1,224 Skipped: 10

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 5 years	3.84%	47
6-17	11.03%	135
18-29	11.11%	136
30-49	22.14%	271
50-64	34.97%	428
65-85	50.49%	618
86+	5.72%	70

## Q2 What neighborhood do you live in or near?

Answered: 873 Skipped: 361

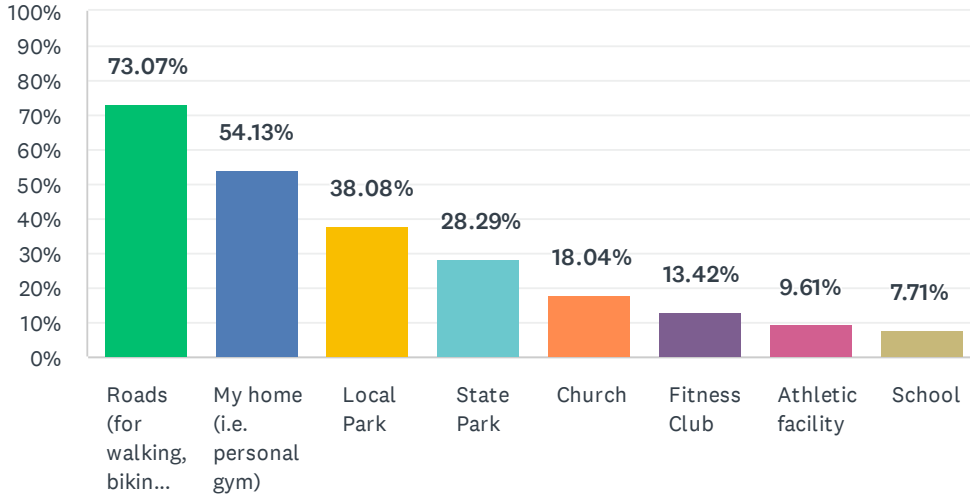


## North Adams Open Space Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Mohawk Trail	18.67%	163
Church St.	17.53%	153
West End	13.40%	117
UNO/River	12.14%	106
Greylock	12.14%	106
Brayton	6.30%	55
Freeman	5.61%	49
West Shaft Road	5.50%	48
Blackinton	4.70%	41
South Church	4.58%	40
The Beaver	1.83%	16
Total Respondents: 873		

### Q3 Check three (3) types of recreation venues in North Adams that you and your family use most, and list the facility name.

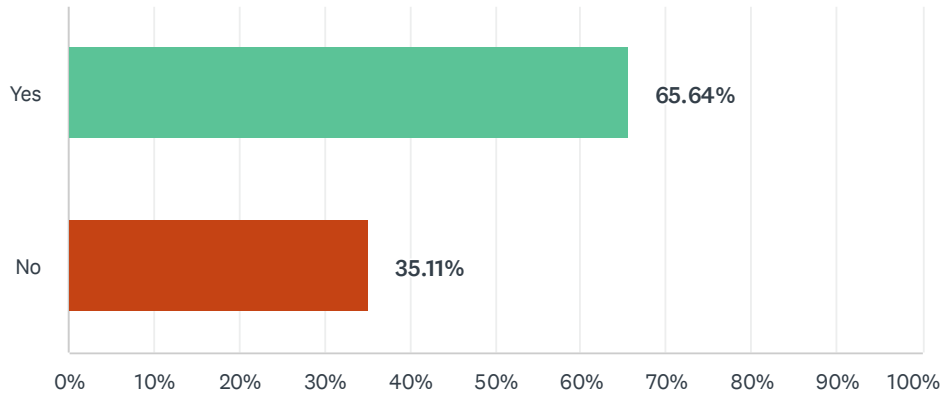
Answered: 1,103 Skipped: 131



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Roads (for walking, biking, running)	73.07%	806
My home (i.e. personal gym)	54.13%	597
Local Park	38.08%	420
State Park	28.29%	312
Church	18.04%	199
Fitness Club	13.42%	148
Athletic facility	9.61%	106
School	7.71%	85
Total Respondents: 1,103		

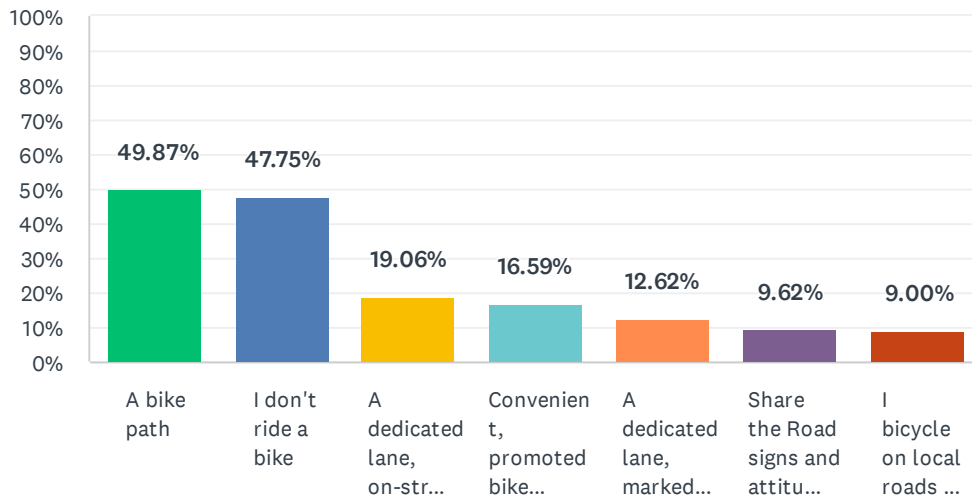
## Q4 Can you walk or bike to the recreation space that you most use frequently?

Answered: 1,071 Skipped: 163



## Q5 Would you ride your bike if there was: (Check all that apply)

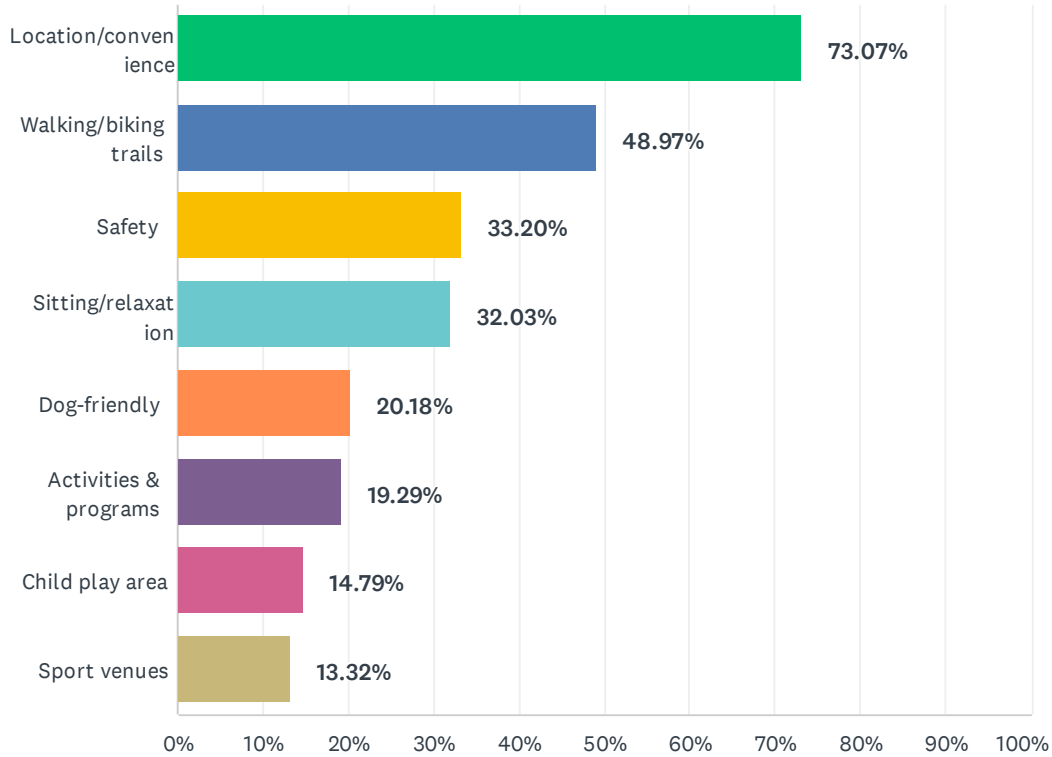
Answered: 1,133 Skipped: 101



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A bike path	49.87%	565
I don't ride a bike	47.75%	541
A dedicated lane, on-street but separated from vehicular traffic	19.06%	216
Convenient, promoted bike routes	16.59%	188
A dedicated lane, marked on-street	12.62%	143
Share the Road signs and attitude (Bikes and cars co-exist safely and happily)	9.62%	109
I bicycle on local roads as they are	9.00%	102
Total Respondents: 1,133		

## Q6 What attracts you to the venues you visit in North Adams? Check all that apply & describe where appropriate.

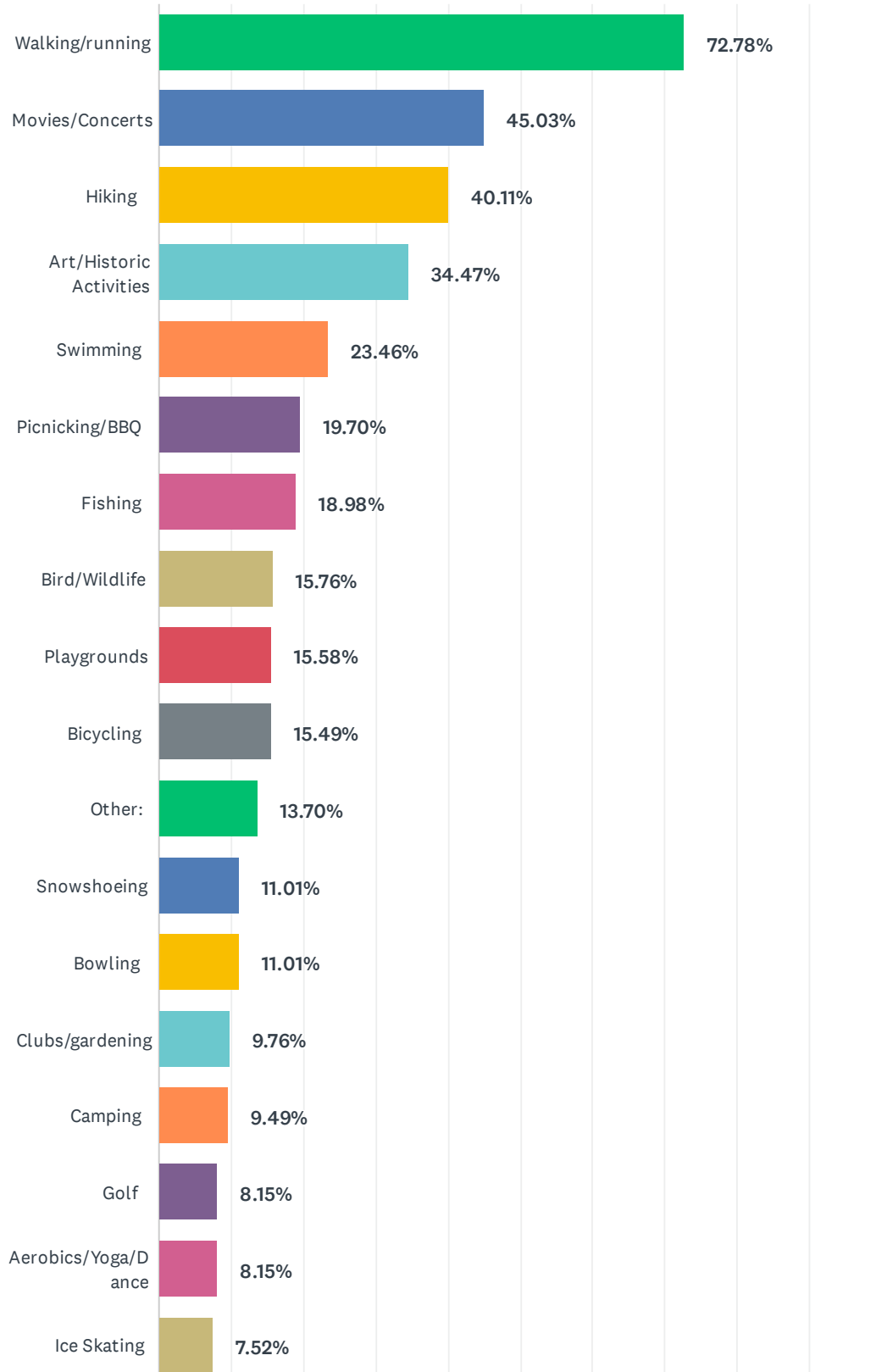
Answered: 1,021 Skipped: 213



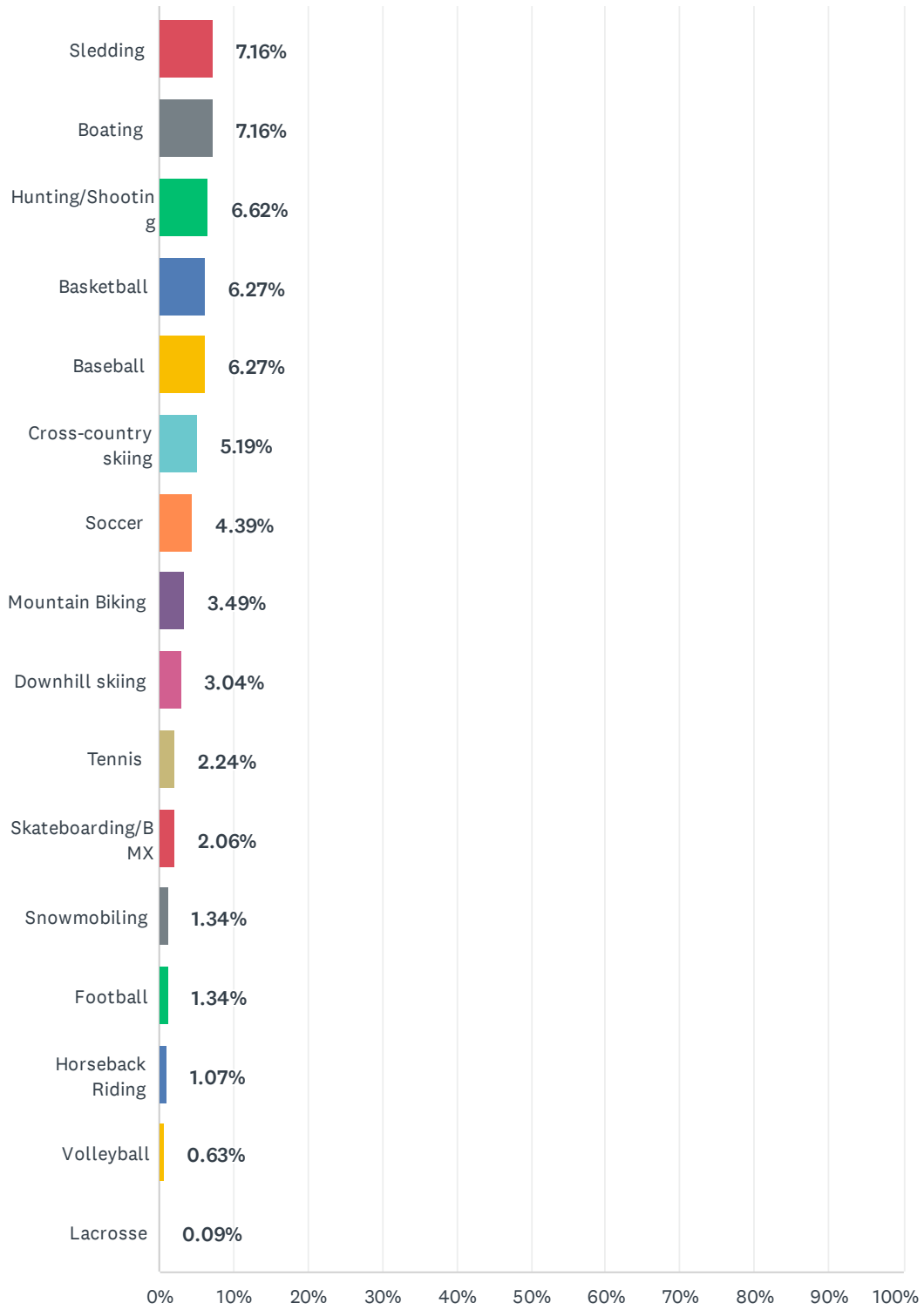
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Location/convenience	73.07%	746
Walking/biking trails	48.97%	500
Safety	33.20%	339
Sitting/relaxation	32.03%	327
Dog-friendly	20.18%	206
Activities & programs	19.29%	197
Child play area	14.79%	151
Sport venues	13.32%	136
Total Respondents: 1,021		

### Q7 Which recreational activities do you or members of your household participate in North Adams? Check your five (5) most frequent:

Answered: 1,117 Skipped: 117



# North Adams Open Space Survey



## North Adams Open Space Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking/running	72.78%	813
Movies/Concerts	45.03%	503
Hiking	40.11%	448
Art/Historic Activities	34.47%	385
Swimming	23.46%	262
Picnicking/BBQ	19.70%	220
Fishing	18.98%	212
Bird/Wildlife	15.76%	176
Playgrounds	15.58%	174
Bicycling	15.49%	173
Other:	13.70%	153
Snowshoeing	11.01%	123
Bowling	11.01%	123
Clubs/gardening	9.76%	109
Camping	9.49%	106
Golf	8.15%	91
Aerobics/Yoga/Dance	8.15%	91
Ice Skating	7.52%	84
Sledding	7.16%	80
Boating	7.16%	80
Hunting/Shooting	6.62%	74
Basketball	6.27%	70
Baseball	6.27%	70
Cross-country skiing	5.19%	58
Soccer	4.39%	49
Mountain Biking	3.49%	39
Downhill skiing	3.04%	34
Tennis	2.24%	25
Skateboarding/BMX	2.06%	23
Snowmobiling	1.34%	15
Football	1.34%	15
Horseback Riding	1.07%	12

# North Adams Open Space Survey

Volleyball	0.63%	7
Lacrosse	0.09%	1
Total Respondents: 1,117		

## Q8 What recreational activities do you participate in outside of North Adams?

Answered: 904 Skipped: 330

Q9 Which of the 3 activities in the previous question (or additional ones) need facility improvement, development or expansion in the city (in order of preference):

Answered: 569 Skipped: 665

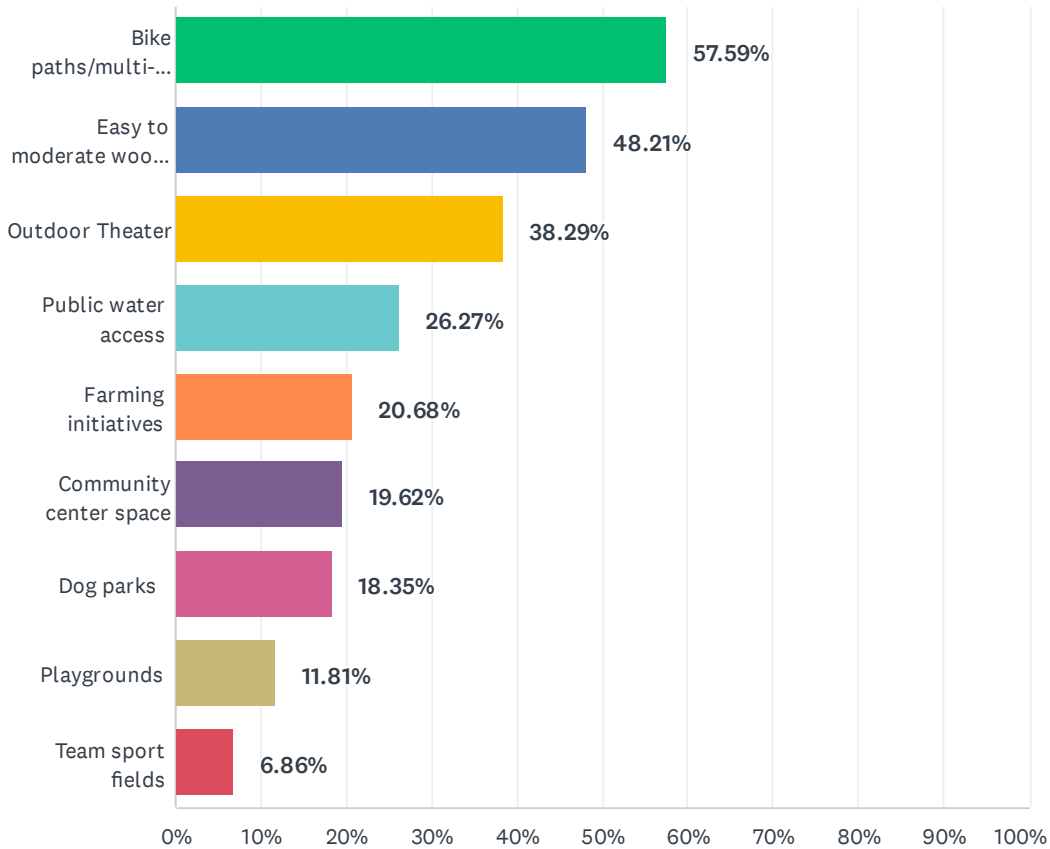
## Q10 I think these three (3) venues need the most work:

Answered: 274 Skipped: 960

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Facility Name:	99.64%	273
Needs:	55.11%	151
Facility Name:	42.70%	117
Needs:	25.91%	71
Facility Name:	19.34%	53
Needs:	12.04%	33

### Q11 What would you like to see more of: (Select a maximum of three (3) choices)

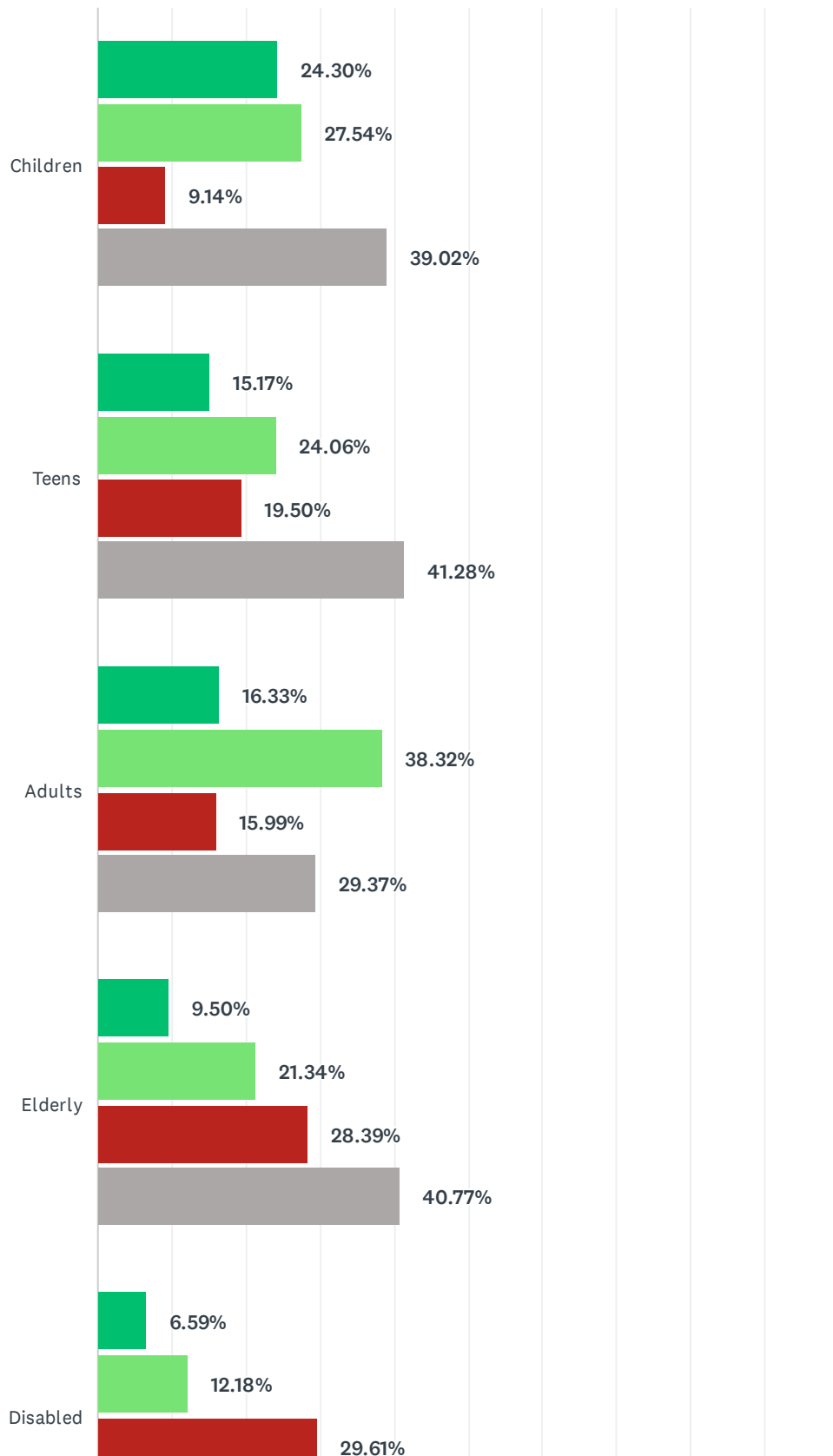
Answered: 948 Skipped: 286



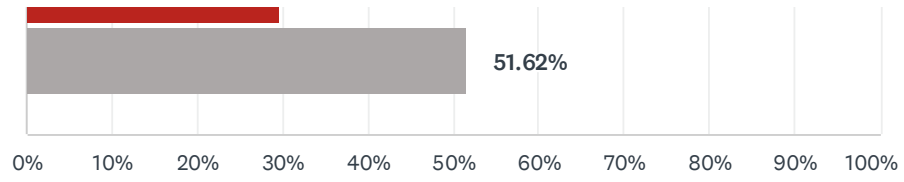
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bike paths/multi-use trails	57.59%	546
Easy to moderate wooded trails	48.21%	457
Outdoor Theater	38.29%	363
Public water access	26.27%	249
Farming initiatives	20.68%	196
Community center space	19.62%	186
Dog parks	18.35%	174
Playgrounds	11.81%	112
Team sport fields	6.86%	65
Total Respondents: 948		

# Q12 Are existing City recreation programs and activities adequate for:

Answered: 990 Skipped: 244



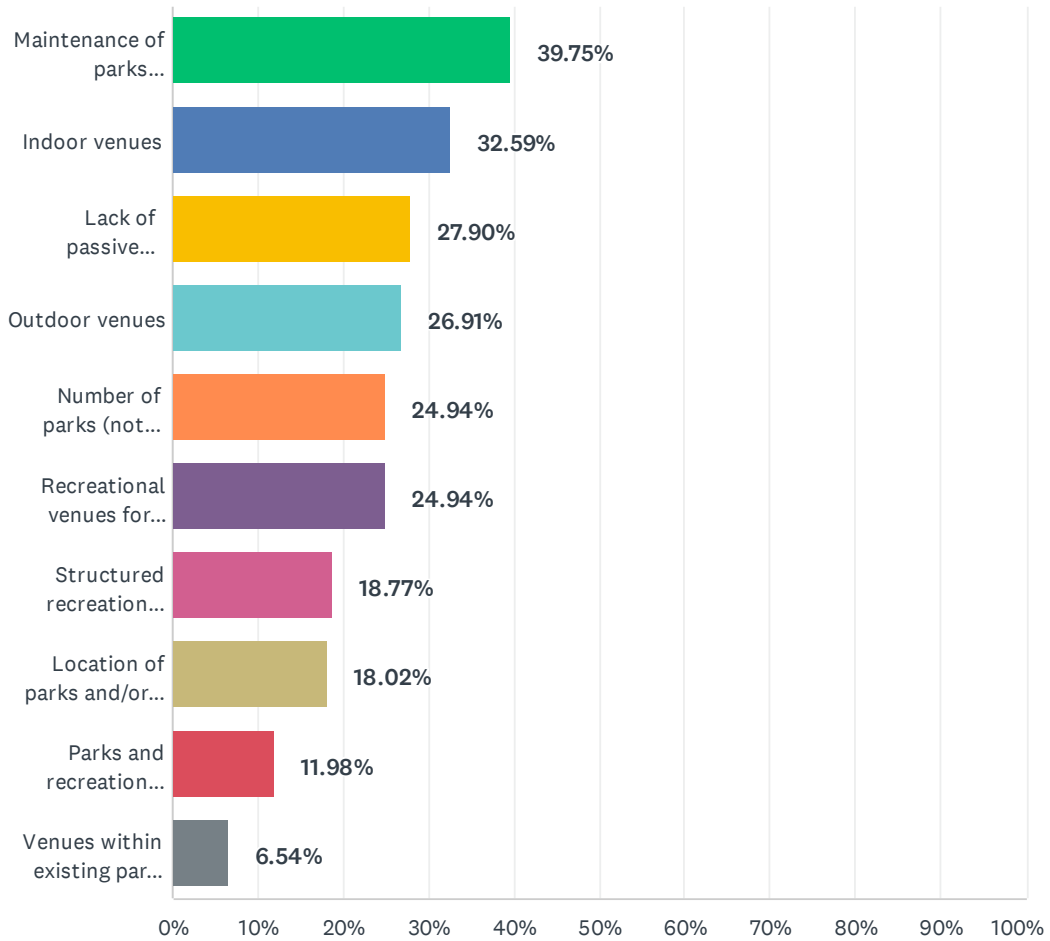
# North Adams Open Space Survey



Yes      Somewhat      No      Don't Know

### Q13 What aspects of the recreation system do you think are inadequate? Check up to three (3).

Answered: 810 Skipped: 424

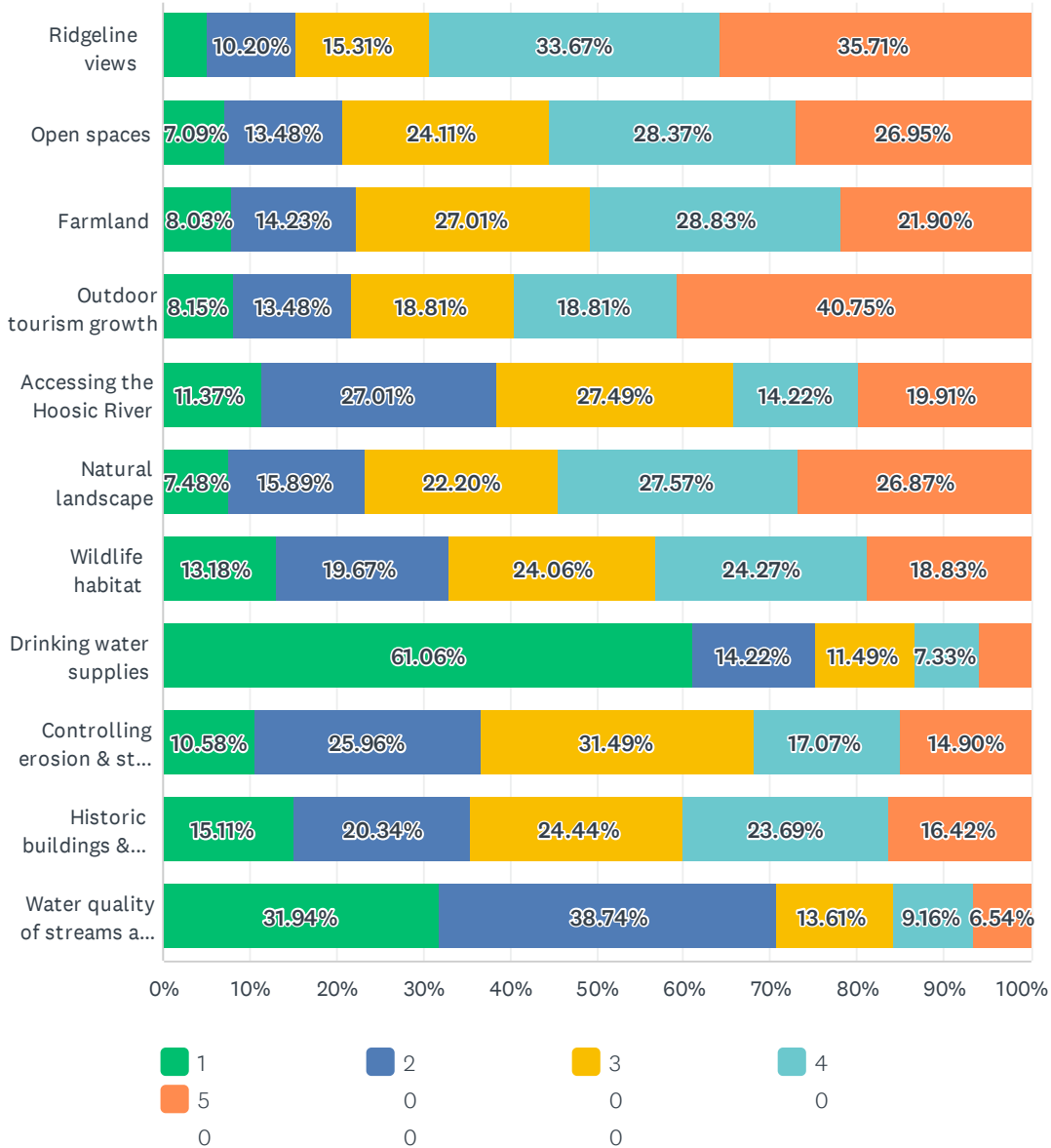


## North Adams Open Space Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Maintenance of parks (litter/poor condition)	39.75%	322
Indoor venues	32.59%	264
Lack of passive recreation (benches, picnic)	27.90%	226
Outdoor venues	26.91%	218
Number of parks (not enough now)	24.94%	202
Recreational venues for youth	24.94%	202
Structured recreation programs	18.77%	152
Location of parks and/or access to the parks	18.02%	146
Parks and recreation venues are adequate	11.98%	97
Venues within existing parks (explain)	6.54%	53
Total Respondents: 810		

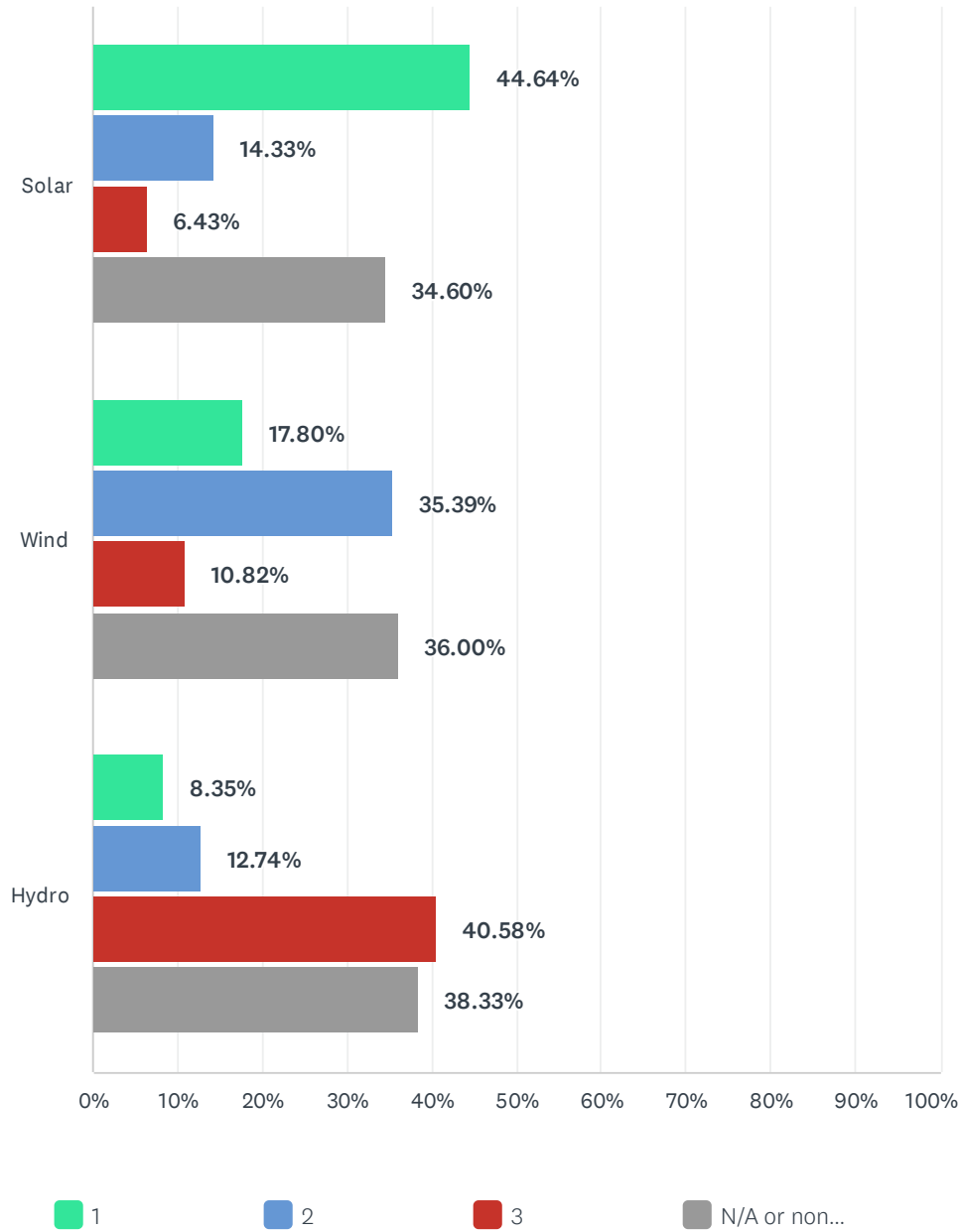
### Q14 Please rank the top five of the following preservation and conservation considerations in order of their importance to you (1=most important):

Answered: 992 Skipped: 242



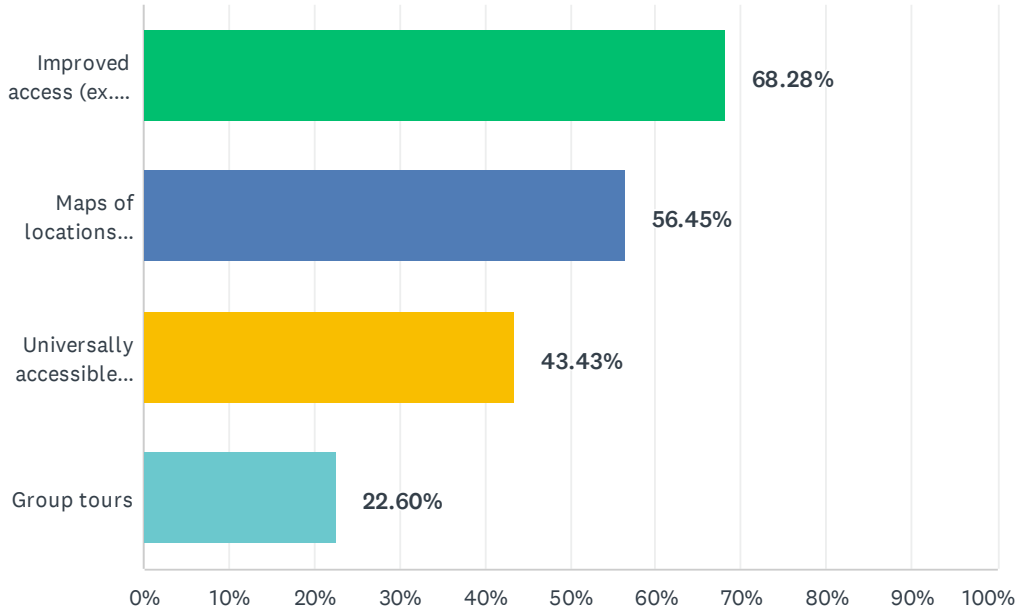
### Q15 Which form of renewable energy is most appropriate for North Adams? Please rate your choices:

Answered: 1,067 Skipped: 167



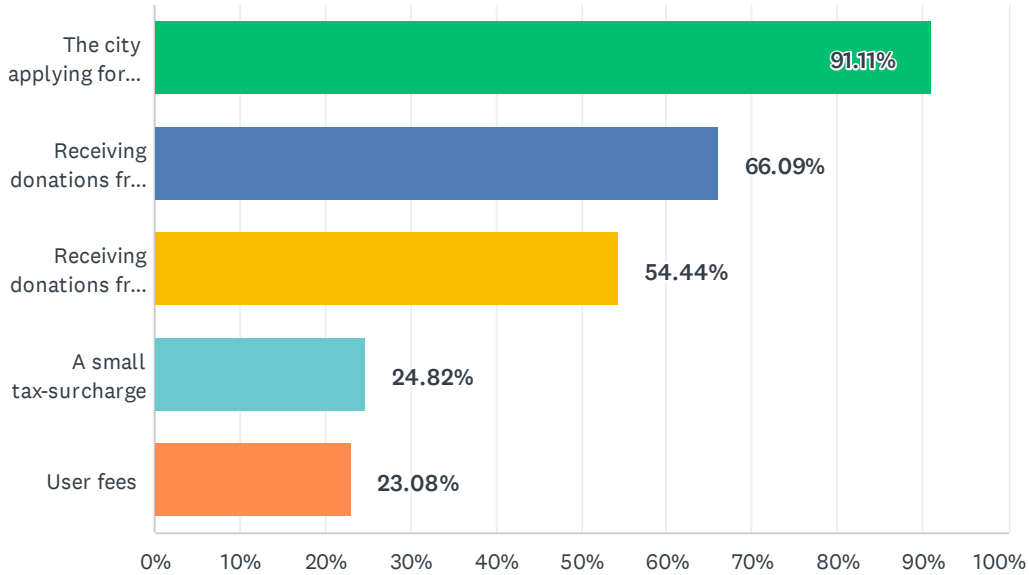
# Q16 What would help you access open spaces and nature venues more? Check all that apply.

Answered: 845 Skipped: 389



### Q17 In order to preserve open space and develop recreational venues would you support: (Check all that apply)

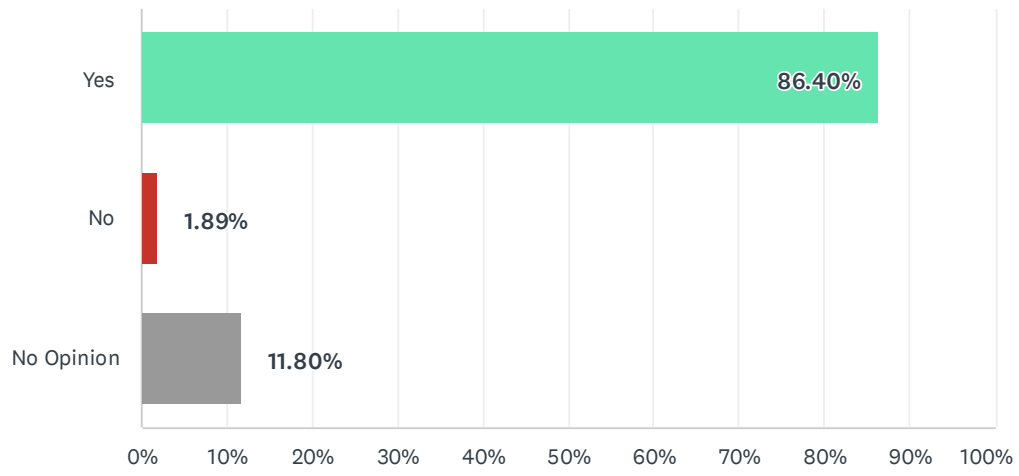
Answered: 979 Skipped: 255



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The city applying for additional grants	91.11%	892
Receiving donations from companies	66.09%	647
Receiving donations from individuals	54.44%	533
A small tax-surcharge	24.82%	243
User fees	23.08%	226
Total Respondents: 979		

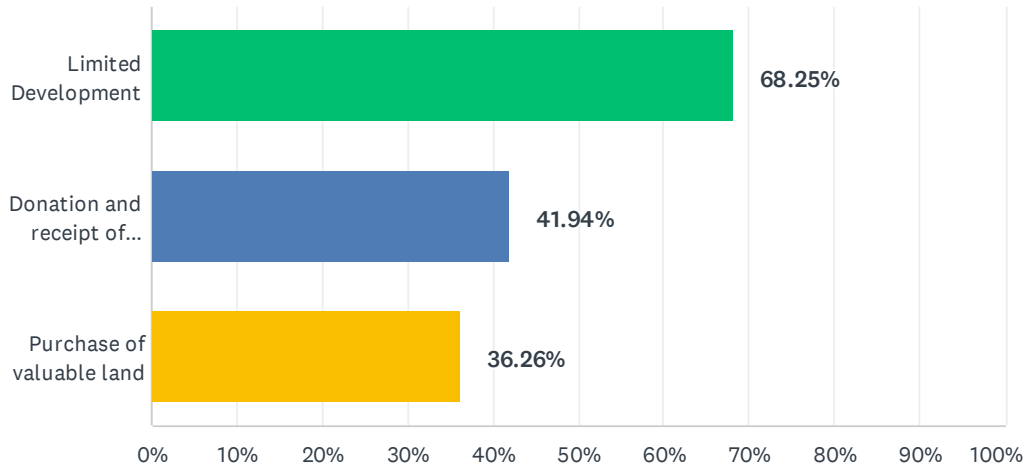
## Q18 Do you favor preserving farmland?

Answered: 1,110 Skipped: 124



## Q19 What private actions do you favor to preserve farmland?

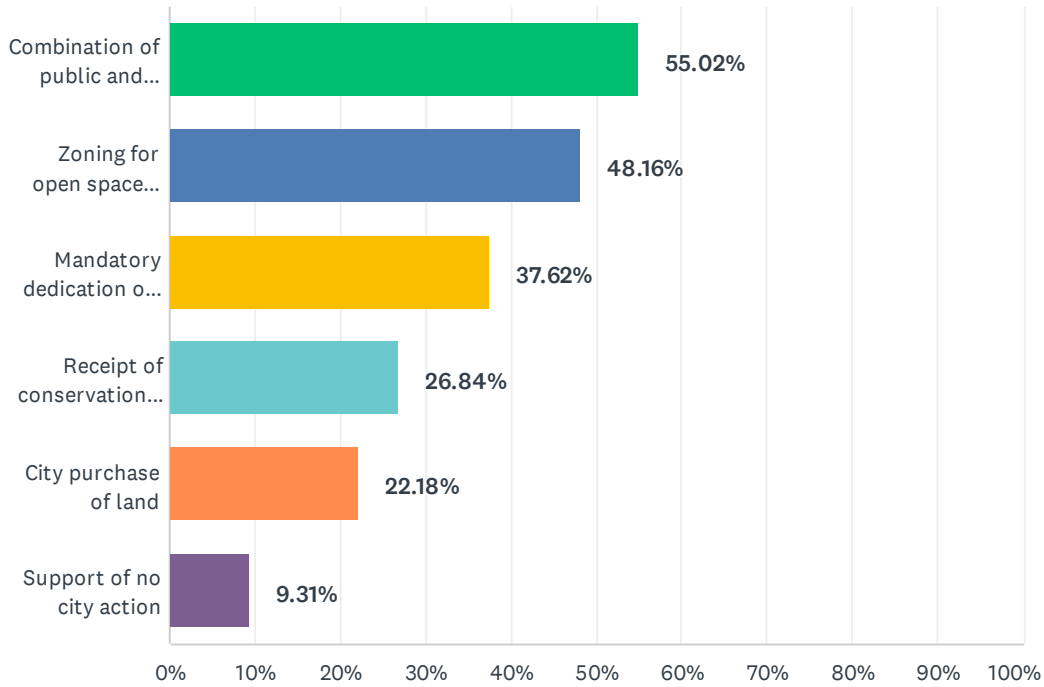
Answered: 844 Skipped: 390



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Limited Development	68.25%	576
Donation and receipt of conservation restrictions	41.94%	354
Purchase of valuable land	36.26%	306
Total Respondents: 844		

## Q20 What local municipal actions do you favor to preserve farmland?

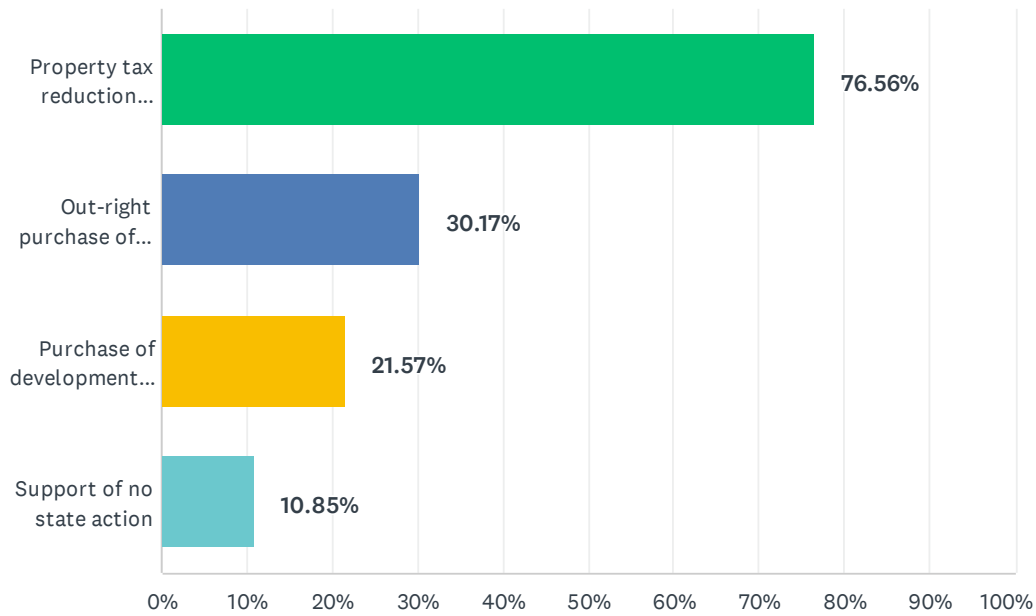
Answered: 816 Skipped: 418



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Combination of public and private action	55.02%	449
Zoning for open space conservation	48.16%	393
Mandatory dedication of farmland by developers	37.62%	307
Receipt of conservation restrictions	26.84%	219
City purchase of land	22.18%	181
Support of no city action	9.31%	76
Total Respondents: 816		

## Q21 What state-level actions do you favor to preserve farmland?

Answered: 802 Skipped: 432

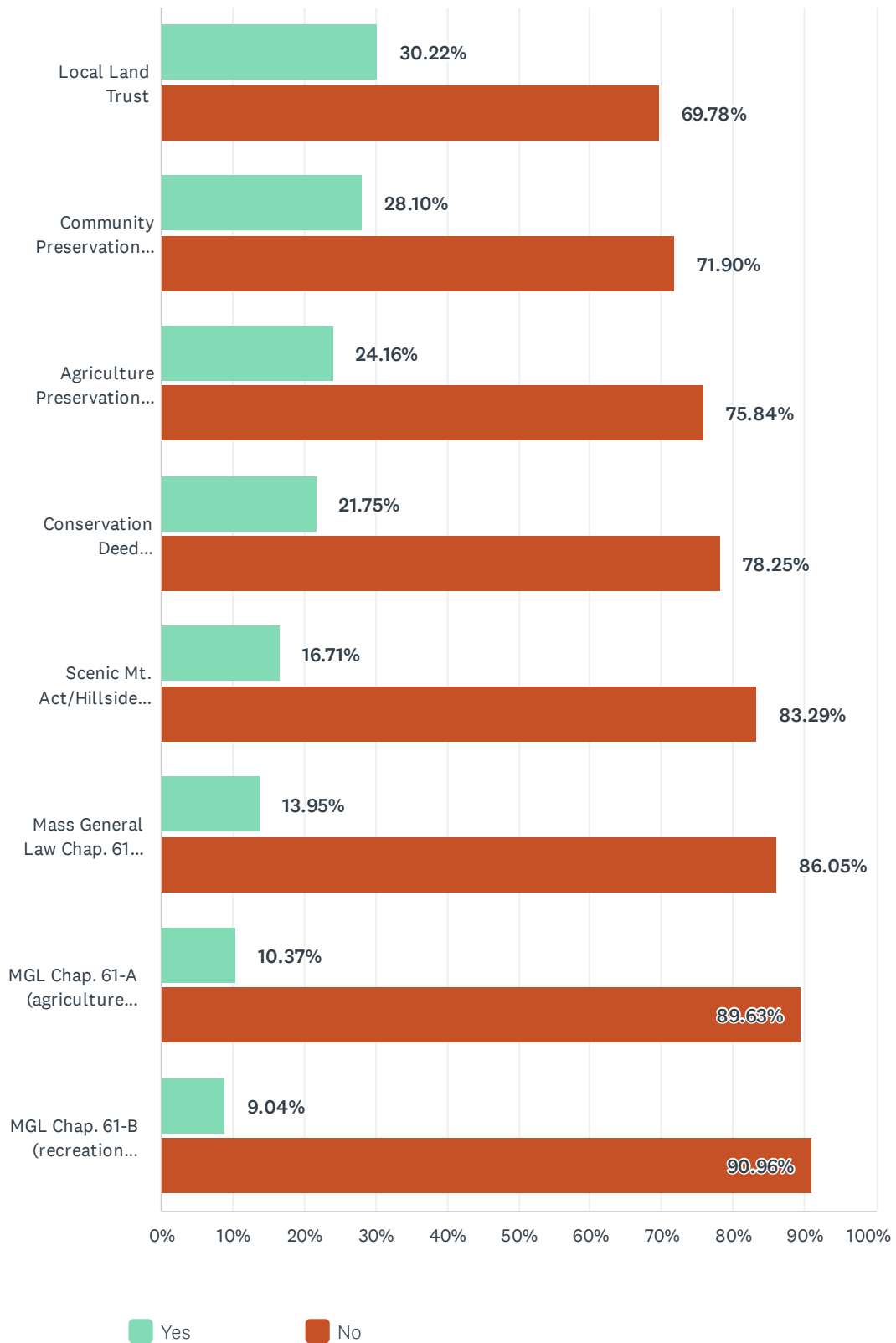


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Property tax reduction programs for farm, forest, and recreation land	76.56%	614
Out-right purchase of land	30.17%	242
Purchase of development rights	21.57%	173
Support of no state action	10.85%	87
Total Respondents: 802		

**Q22 Are you aware of any of the following options designed to protect and enhance agriculture, forestry, and recreation?**

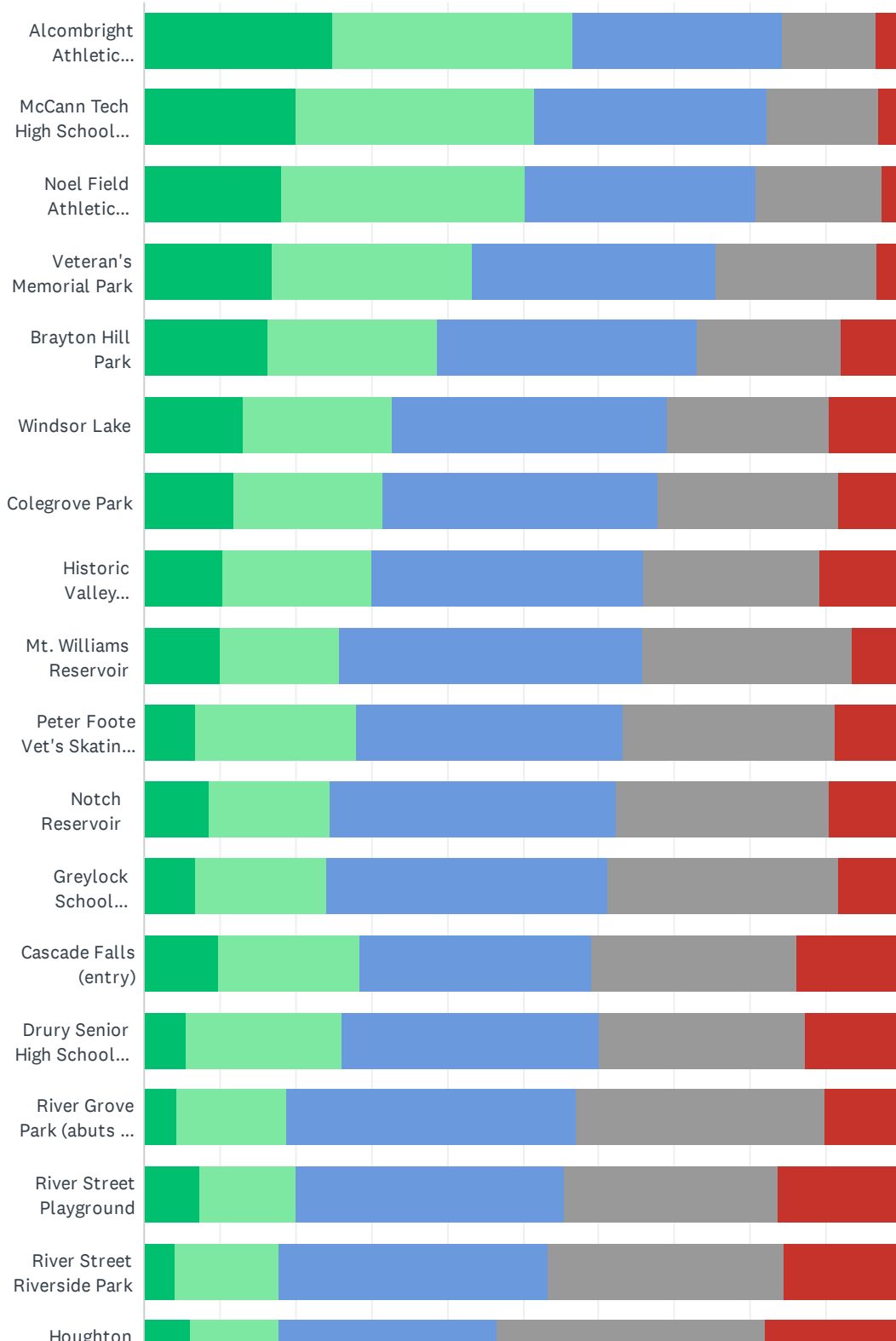
Answered: 775 Skipped: 459

# North Adams Open Space Survey

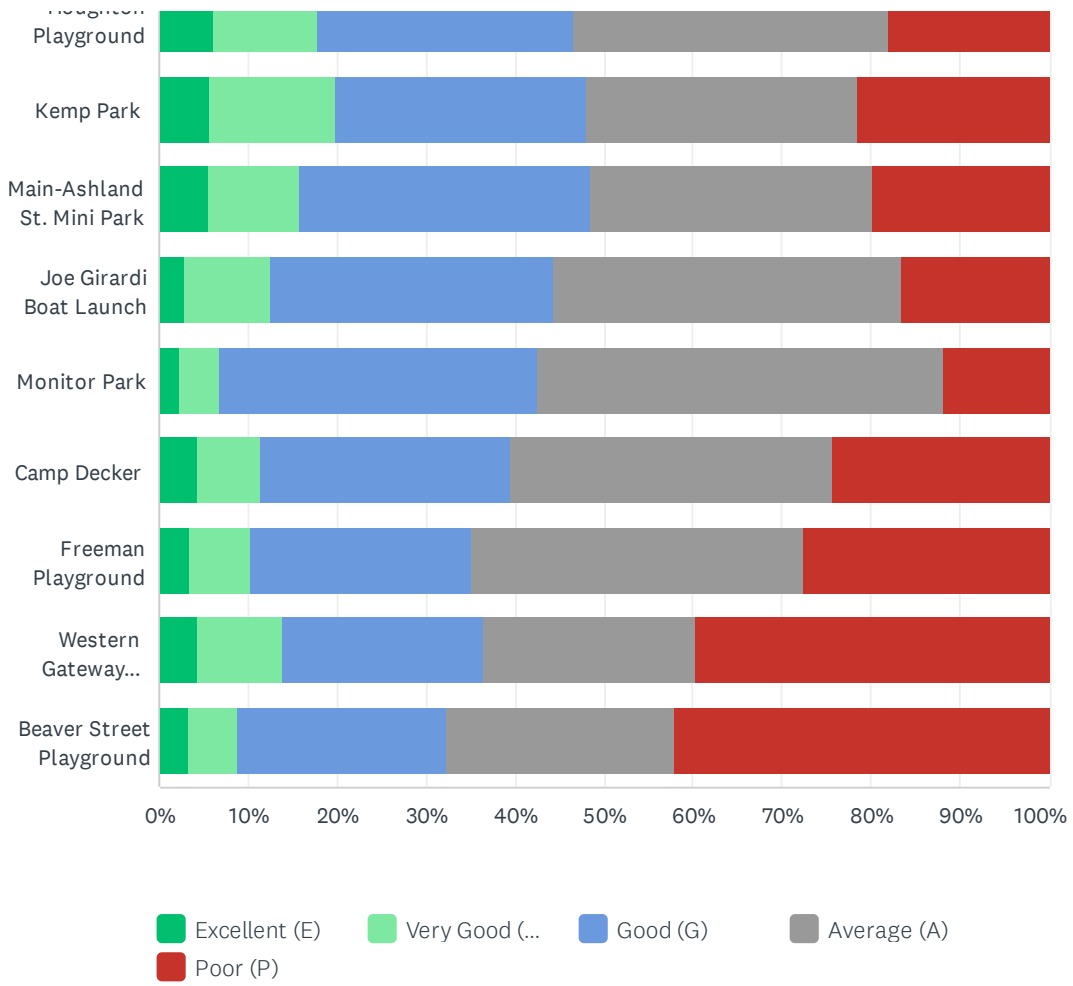


Q23 Please rate the condition of the following recreational and passive venues that are owned and maintained directly by the City as: (choose 1) Excellent (E) Very Good (VG), Good (G), Average (A), or Poor (P)

Answered: 781 Skipped: 453



# North Adams Open Space Survey



North Adams Open Space Survey

	EXCELLENT (E)	VERY GOOD (VG)	GOOD (G)	AVERAGE (A)	POOR (P)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Alcombright Athletic Complex	24.95% 119	31.66% 151	27.67% 132	12.16% 58	3.56% 17	477	2.38
McCann Tech High School Fields	20.00% 73	31.51% 115	30.68% 112	14.79% 54	3.01% 11	365	2.49
Noel Field Athletic Complex	18.28% 85	32.04% 149	30.54% 142	16.56% 77	2.58% 12	465	2.53
Veteran's Memorial Park	17.05% 59	26.30% 91	32.08% 111	21.39% 74	3.18% 11	346	2.67
Brayton Hill Park	16.30% 59	22.38% 81	34.25% 124	19.06% 69	8.01% 29	362	2.80
Windsor Lake	13.05% 74	19.75% 112	36.33% 206	21.16% 120	9.70% 55	567	2.95
Colegrove Park	11.81% 45	19.69% 75	36.48% 139	23.62% 90	8.40% 32	381	2.97
Historic Valley Campground	10.36% 43	19.76% 82	35.66% 148	23.37% 97	10.84% 45	415	3.05
Mt. Williams Reservoir	9.96% 26	15.71% 41	40.23% 105	27.59% 72	6.51% 17	261	3.05
Peter Foote Vet's Skating Rink	6.71% 22	21.34% 70	35.06% 115	28.05% 92	8.84% 29	328	3.11
Notch Reservoir	8.53% 25	16.04% 47	37.88% 111	27.99% 82	9.56% 28	293	3.14
Greylock School Playground	6.74% 26	17.36% 67	37.05% 143	30.57% 118	8.29% 32	386	3.16
Cascade Falls (entry)	9.78% 40	18.58% 76	30.81% 126	26.89% 110	13.94% 57	409	3.17
Drury Senior High School fields	5.57% 19	20.53% 70	34.02% 116	27.27% 93	12.61% 43	341	3.21
River Grove Park (abuts w/ Houghton St.)	4.29% 10	14.59% 34	38.20% 89	32.62% 76	10.30% 24	233	3.30
River Street Playground	7.33% 22	12.67% 38	35.33% 106	28.33% 85	16.33% 49	300	3.34
River Street Riverside Park	4.17% 11	13.64% 36	35.61% 94	31.06% 82	15.53% 41	264	3.40
Houghton Playground	6.15% 16	11.54% 30	28.85% 75	35.38% 92	18.08% 47	260	3.48
Kemp Park	5.65% 20	14.12% 50	28.25% 100	30.51% 108	21.47% 76	354	3.48
Main-Ashland St. Mini Park	5.60% 15	10.07% 27	32.84% 88	31.72% 85	19.78% 53	268	3.50
Joe Girardi Boat Launch	2.96% 5	9.47% 16	31.95% 54	39.05% 66	16.57% 28	169	3.57
Monitor Park	2.24% 3	4.48% 6	35.82% 48	45.52% 61	11.94% 16	134	3.60
Camp Decker	4.32% 8	7.03% 13	28.11% 52	36.22% 67	24.32% 45	185	3.69

## North Adams Open Space Survey

Freeman Playground	3.38% 10	6.76% 20	25.00% 74	37.16% 110	27.70% 82	296	3.79
Western Gateway Heritage State Park	4.33% 17	9.67% 38	22.39% 88	23.92% 94	39.69% 156	393	3.85
Beaver Street Playground	3.19% 9	5.67% 16	23.40% 66	25.53% 72	42.20% 119	282	3.98

**Q24 Please use this space to provide additional comments:**

Answered: 271 Skipped: 963

## Appendix C

<b>2012 Endangered Species List: Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program</b>				
<b>NORTH ADAMS</b>	<b>MA Natural Heritage Program</b>	<b>Endangered Species</b>	<b>(3.23.23)</b>	
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Taxonomic Group</b>	<b>MESA Status</b>	<b>Most Recent Observation</b>
Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Vascular Plant	Endangered	2021
Bartram's Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier bartramiana</i>	Vascular Plant	Threatened	2018
Bristly Black Currant	<i>Ribes lacustre</i>	Vascular Plant	Concern	2007
Broad Waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum canadense</i>	Vascular Plant	Endangered	2019
Dion Skipper	<i>Euphyes dion</i>	Butterfly/Moth	Threatened	2008
Downy Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia pubescens</i>	Vascular Plant	Threatened	2021
Dwarf Souring Rush	<i>Equisetum scirpoides</i>	Vascular Plant	Concern	2018
Foxtail Sedge	<i>Carex alopecoidea</i>	Vascular Plant	Threatened	2004
Frank's Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis frankii</i>	Vascular Plant	Concern	2007
Gattinger's Panic-grass	<i>gattingeri</i>	Vascular Plant	Concern	1997
Hairy-fruited Sedge	<i>Carex trichocarpa</i>	Vascular Plant	Concern	2018
Hemlock-parsley	<i>Conioselinum chinense</i>	Vascular Plant	Concern	2019
trefoil	<i>Desmodium cuspidatum</i>	Vascular Plant	Threatened	2018
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago macrophylla</i>	Vascular Plant	Concern	2019
Leafy Whie Orchid	<i>Platanthera dilatata</i>	Vascular Plant	Threatened	2008
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Mamal	Endangered	2019
Longnose Sucker	<i>Catostomus catoomus</i>	Fish	Concern	2003
Mountain Alder	<i>Alnus viridis</i> ssp. <i>Crispa</i>	Vascular Plant	Concern	2022
Mourning Warbler	<i>Geothlypis philadelphia</i>	Bird	Concern	2010
Northern Bedstraw	<i>Galium boreale</i>	Vascular Plant	Endangered	1901
Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Mamal	Endangered	1997
Northern Moutain-ash	<i>Sorbus decora</i>	Vascular Plant	Endangered	1987
Ocellated Darner	<i>Boyeria grafiana</i>	Dragonfly/Damselfly	Concern	2002
One-flowered Pyrola	<i>Moneses uniflora</i>	Vascular Plant	Concern	1990
Schweinitz's Sedge	<i>Carex schweinitzii</i>	Vascular Plant	Endangered	1901
Small Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus neglectus</i>	Vascular Plant	Endangered	Historic
Thread Rush	<i>Juncus filiformis</i>	Vascular Plant	Endangered	Historic
Tricolored Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Mamal	Endangered	2016
Tule Bluet	<i>Engallagma carunculatum</i>	Dragonfly/Damselfly	Concern	1998
White Adder's-mouth	<i>Malaxis monophyllos</i> ssp. <i>Brachypoda</i>	Vascular Plant	Endangered	Historic

## Appendix D

RTN	City/Town	Release Address	Site Name	Location Aid	Reporting Category	Notification Date	Compliance Status	Date	Phase	RAO Class	Chemical Type
1-0021640	NORTH ADAMS	360 STATE ROAD	VICINITY OF 360 STATE	F TWO HR		09/16/2022	UNCLASSIFIED		09/16/2022		
1-0021609	NORTH ADAMS	375 CHURCH STREET	MA COLLEGE OF LIBERAL	120 DY		07/29/2022	URAM		08/02/2022		
1-0021500	NORTH ADAMS	194 EAST QUINCY ST.	RESIDENTIAL UST RELEA	72 HR		02/17/2022	TIER1D		02/24/2023		
1-0021497	NORTH ADAMS	48 ANGELI STREET	NORTH ADAMS HOUSIN	120 DY		02/08/2022	PSNC		05/27/2022	PN	
1-0021449	NORTH ADAMS	67MEADE AVENUE	RESIDENCE	TWO HR		11/05/2021	TIER1D		11/05/2022		Oil
1-0021416	NORTH ADAMS	19-21 BLACKINGTON ST	RESIDENTIAL UST RELEA	72 HR		09/23/2021	PSNC		12/03/2021	PN	
1-0021218	NORTH ADAMS	360 STATE ROAD	FORMER AUTO REPAIR	5 TWO HR		11/25/2020	PSNC		08/21/2022	PN	
1-0021019	NORTH ADAMS	70 HODGES CROSS ROAD	MC CANN HIGH SCHOOL	TWO HR		01/14/2020	PSNC		03/05/2020	PN	
1-0020973	NORTH ADAMS	227 ASHLAND STREET	FORMER DEPARTMENT	120 DY		10/29/2019	TIER 2		10/27/2020		
1-0020945	NORTH ADAMS	17 FREDERICK STREET	ROAD SURFACE	TWO HR		09/26/2019	PSNC		11/02/2019	PN	
1-0020817	NORTH ADAMS	121 UNION STREET	WINDSOR MILL	120 DY		04/10/2019	TIER1D		04/17/2020		
1-0020785	NORTH ADAMS	136 WEST MAIN STREET	PAVED SUFACE AND SOI	TWO HR		02/25/2019	PSNC		04/25/2019		
1-0020690	NORTH ADAMS	CHRISTOPHER COLUMBI	PAN AM RAILYARD	TWO HR		10/16/2018	PSNC		02/20/2019	PN	
1-0020632	NORTH ADAMS	65 BROWN STREET	FORMER SPRAGUE ELEC	120 DY		08/17/2018	RTN CLOSED		03/14/2019		
1-0020407	NORTH ADAMS	111 RIVER STREET	VACATED PROPERTY	120 DY		11/08/2017	TIER 2		12/28/2021		
1-0020219	NORTH ADAMS	STATE STREET	NOEL FIELD ATHLETIC CC	120 DY		03/27/2017	PSC		04/03/2017	PC	
1-0020141	NORTH ADAMS	REAR MASSACHUSETTS.	FORMER TANNERY DUM	TWO HR		12/02/2016	TIER 2		12/11/2017	PHASE II	
1-0020007	NORTH ADAMS	298 STATE STREET	N/A	72 HR		06/14/2016	PSNC		08/25/2016	PN	
1-0019981	NORTH ADAMS	26 CHASE AVE	RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAY	TWO HR		05/13/2016	PSNC		09/08/2016	PN	
1-0019978	NORTH ADAMS	593 ASHLAND STREET	WEST OIL COMPANY, IN	TWO HR		05/12/2016	PSNC		09/09/2016	PN	
1-0019665	NORTH ADAMS	68 ELMWOOD AVENUE	N/A	72 HR		03/11/2015	PSNC		03/10/2016	PN	Oil
1-0019656	NORTH ADAMS	149 AMERICAN LEGION	RAILWAY BEHIND BRIEN	TWO HR		02/26/2015	PSC		07/02/2015	PC	Oil
1-0019654	NORTH ADAMS	CHRISTOPHER COLUMBI	PAN AM RAILWAYS RAIL	TWO HR		03/04/2015	PSC		07/08/2015	PC	Oil
1-0019606	NORTH ADAMS	375 CHURCH STREET	MCLA BOWMAN HALL	120 DY		12/09/2014	PSNC		08/10/2015	PN	
1-0019441	NORTH ADAMS	148 EAGLE STREET	VACANT GAS STATION	72 HR		06/26/2014	PSNC		09/09/2014	PN	Oil
1-0019439	NORTH ADAMS	606 MOHAWK TRAIL/UN	COMMERCIAL/RESIDENT	120 DY		06/25/2014	PSC		01/23/2017	PC	Hazardous Material
1-0019411	NORTH ADAMS	303 STATE STREET	P.J.S AUTO SERVICE	72 HR		05/15/2014	PSNC		07/21/2014	PN	Oil
1-0019199	NORTH ADAMS	876 STATE ROAD	ROADWAY	TWO HR		08/29/2013	RAO		10/28/2013		Oil
1-0019176	NORTH ADAMS	RESERVOIR ROAD	SCENIC OVERLOOK	TWO HR		08/06/2013	RAO		04/01/2014	A1	Oil
1-0019043	NORTH ADAMS	MOHAWK TRAIL	INTERSECTION RTE 8/G#	TWO HR		03/25/2013	RAO		06/17/2013	A2	Oil
1-0018972	NORTH ADAMS	60 BROWN STREET	FUELING LOCATION	TWO HR		01/11/2013	RAO		03/05/2013	A1	Oil
1-0018900	NORTH ADAMS	245 ASHLAND STREET	NORTH ADAMS DPW	TWO HR		10/15/2012	RAO		01/18/2013	A1	Oil
1-0018892	NORTH ADAMS	456 ASHLAND STREET	N/A	120 DY		07/26/2013	PSC		07/25/2014		Oil
1-0018721	NORTH ADAMS	128 UNION STREET	FORMER DUNN PROPER	72 HR		05/03/2012	RTN CLOSED		11/15/2012		Hazardous Material
1-0018495	NORTH ADAMS	232 ASHLAND STREET	XTRAMART	TWO HR		10/10/2011	RAO		11/23/2011	A1	Oil
1-0018466	NORTH ADAMS	458 CURRAN HIGHWAY	SHELL STATION	120 DY		09/20/2011	PSNC		02/25/2015		Hazardous Material
1-0018382	NORTH ADAMS	1519 & 1525 SOUTH ST	FORMER DELLA CONCRE	120 DY		08/10/2011	RAO		11/15/2011	A2	Oil
1-0018344	NORTH ADAMS	148 EAGLE STREET	BP GAS STATION	TWO HR		07/12/2011	RAO		08/16/2011	A1	Oil
1-0018331	NORTH ADAMS	333-341 ASHLAND STRE	FORMER SHAPIRO RECY	120 DY		06/27/2011	RAO		10/17/2011	A1	Oil and Hazardous Material
1-0018211	NORTH ADAMS	300 ASHLAND STREET	N/A	TWO HR		05/21/2011	RAO		03/14/2012	A1	Oil
1-0018137	NORTH ADAMS	458 CURRAN MEMORIAI	SHELL STATION	120 DY		02/18/2011	PSNC		02/25/2015	PC	Oil
1-0017778	NORTH ADAMS	59 HODGES CROSS RD	BERKSHIRE ANODIZING	120 DY		03/22/2010	RAO		02/21/2011	B1	Hazardous Material
1-0017654	NORTH ADAMS	70 MARSHALL ST	ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNG	72 HR		11/16/2009	RAO		03/16/2010	B1	Oil
1-0017376	NORTH ADAMS	RTE 8	FORMER NORTH ADAM	120 DY		03/16/2009	TIER 2		01/26/2011	PHASE V	Oil and Hazardous Material
1-0017112	NORTH ADAMS	464 CURRAN MEMORIAI	VERIZON LEASED GARAC	120 DY		10/31/2008	RAO		09/23/2010	B2	Hazardous Material
1-0016978	NORTH ADAMS	CHRISTOPHER COLUMBI	APKINS SCRAP YARD	TWO HR		04/17/2008	RAO		06/16/2008		Oil
1-0016859	NORTH ADAMS	STATE ST AND AM LEGIC	PAN AM RAIL YARD NEA	TWO HR		12/06/2007	RAO		11/12/2008	A2	
1-0016852	NORTH ADAMS	16 PROTECTION AVE	FORMER LAMB PRINTIN	120 DY		11/21/2007	RAO		07/21/2008	B1	Oil and Hazardous Material
1-0016843	NORTH ADAMS	44-46 HALL ST	NO LOCATION AID	TWO HR		11/12/2007	RAO		09/07/2011	A2	Oil
1-0016823	NORTH ADAMS	NOTCH RD	MT. GREYLOCK ACCESS	F TWO HR		10/26/2007	RAO		12/06/2007	A2	Oil
1-0016720	NORTH ADAMS	303 STATE RD	OLD GIBBS STATION	72 HR		08/09/2007	RTN CLOSED		06/02/2008		Oil
1-0016695	NORTH ADAMS	1288 MASSACHUSSETTS	FORMER CHURCH CHAP	72 HR		07/25/2007	RAO		11/27/2007	A2	Oil
1-0016612	NORTH ADAMS	102 WEST SHAFT RD	LAVALLEY OIL CO BULK	F TWO HR		05/23/2007	RAO		01/03/2008	A2	Oil
1-0016562	NORTH ADAMS	SOUTH STATE ST	ARG TRUCKING INC	TWO HR		03/29/2007	RAO		07/30/2007	A2	Oil
1-0016560	NORTH ADAMS	232 ASHLAND	XTRA MART	72 HR		03/29/2007	RTN CLOSED		07/26/2007		Oil
1-0016393	NORTH ADAMS	483 ASHLAND ST	OCONNELL OIL TERMIN	72 HR		10/26/2006	RTN CLOSED		10/25/2007		
1-0016282	NORTH ADAMS	303 STATE RD	GIBBS STATION	72 HR		07/27/2006	RAO		12/10/2013	PHASE IV	Oil
1-0016229	NORTH ADAMS	HODGES CROSS RD	LAVALLEY OIL BULK TERI	TWO HR		06/17/2006	RTN CLOSED		10/05/2006		Oil
1-0016098	NORTH ADAMS	458 CURRAN MEMORIAI	OCONNELL OIL	TWO HR		03/05/2006	RAO		05/05/2006	A1	Oil
1-0015846	NORTH ADAMS	HODGES CROSS RD	NO LOCATION AID	120 DY		07/28/2005	TIER1		08/23/2006		
1-0015747	NORTH ADAMS	700 STATE ST	RTE 2	TWO HR		05/03/2005	RAO		08/17/2005	A2	Oil
1-0015680	NORTH ADAMS	157 CORINTH ST	NO LOCATION AID	72 HR		03/07/2005	RAO		07/12/2005	A2	Oil
1-0015605	NORTH ADAMS	ROUTE 2 W MAIN ST	ROAD	TWO HR		12/25/2004	RAO		04/25/2005		Oil
1-0015353	NORTH ADAMS	594 UNION ST	CUMBERLAND FARMS	72 HR		06/28/2004	RAO		07/19/2007		Oil

1-0015349	NORTH ADAMS	ASHLAND STREET WASH PAD-MOUNTED TRANSF	72 HR	06/23/2004	RAO	12/22/2008		Oil
1-0015336	NORTH ADAMS	1466 CURRAN HWY	CRANE & CO TWO HR	06/14/2004	RAO	08/06/2004	A2	Oil
1-0015187	NORTH ADAMS	148 EAGLE ST	GETTY STATION TWO HR	01/31/2004	RAO	02/07/2005		Oil
1-0015179	NORTH ADAMS	HODGES CROSS ROAD S	LAVALLEY BULK TANK FA TWO HR	01/26/2004	RAO	04/01/2004		Oil
1-0015125	NORTH ADAMS	EAST ST	RE-SOIL TWO HR	12/08/2003	RAO	01/13/2004	A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
1-0015085	NORTH ADAMS	700 STATE RD	FORMER 678 STATE RD 120 DY	12/05/2003	DPS	12/07/2004		Hazardous Material
1-0014990	NORTH ADAMS	37 MARIETTA ST	RESIDENTIAL 72 HR	08/28/2003	RAO	12/23/2003	A2	Oil
1-0014919	NORTH ADAMS	87 MARSHALL ST	FORMER SPRAGUE ELEC 120 DY	06/02/2003	RAO	06/03/2009 PHASE II	A3	Hazardous Material
1-0014855	NORTH ADAMS	ROUTE 2	HAIR PIN CURVE TWO HR	05/23/2003	RAO	09/17/2003	A2	
1-0014817	NORTH ADAMS	483 ASHLAND ST	O'CONNELL OIL FACILITY 72 HR	04/30/2003	TIER 2	04/27/2004 PHASE V		
1-0014753	NORTH ADAMS	1 ASHTON AVE	NO LOCATION AID 72 HR	03/05/2003	TIER1	03/05/2003		Oil and Hazardous Material
1-0014668	NORTH ADAMS	243 UNION ST	ECLIPSE MILL ARTIST BU 72 HR	12/04/2002	RAO	12/11/2003	A2	Oil
1-0014456	NORTH ADAMS	ASHLAND ST	TRUCK ACCIDENT TWO HR	06/25/2002	RAO	07/22/2002	A1	Oil
1-0014382	NORTH ADAMS	128 UNION ST	NO LOCATION AID 120 DY	04/30/2002	TIER 2	12/24/2002 PHASE IV		Hazardous Material
1-0013969	NORTH ADAMS	ROUTE 8	NORTH ADAMS PLAZA 120 DY	06/11/2001	RAO	10/25/2002	A1	Oil
1-0013902	NORTH ADAMS	506 STATE RD	CARIDDI SALES 120 DY	10/24/2001	TMP5	12/03/2019 PHASE V	TN	Oil
1-0013849	NORTH ADAMS	74 BROWN ST	MASSACHUSETTS ELECT 120 DY	03/26/2001	RTN CLOSED	02/22/2002		Hazardous Material
1-0013792	NORTH ADAMS	159 ASHLAND ST	NO LOCATION AID 120 DY	01/31/2001	RAO	02/10/2004	B1	Oil and Hazardous Material
1-0013375	NORTH ADAMS	728 730 CURRAN MEMC	NO LOCATION AID 120 DY	03/30/2000	RAO	07/07/2000	B1	Oil and Hazardous Material
1-0013363	NORTH ADAMS	166 STATE ST	NO LOCATION AID 120 DY	03/22/2000	RAO	07/25/2000	A2	Oil
1-0013281	NORTH ADAMS	327 ASHLAND ST	NO LOCATION AID 120 DY	01/18/2000	RAO	01/16/2004	A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
1-0013088	NORTH ADAMS	71 HOSPITAL AVE	NORTH ADAMS REGION. TWO HR	09/03/1999	RAO	11/02/1999	A2	Oil
1-0012944	NORTH ADAMS	59 HODGES CROSS RD	NO LOCATION AID 120 DY	05/21/1999	ADEQUATE REG	09/22/1999		Hazardous Material
1-0012632	NORTH ADAMS	HOWLAND AVE (STATE F	NORTH ADAMS PLAZA 120 DY	10/08/1998	RAO	04/23/2002	A2	Oil
1-0012511	NORTH ADAMS	189 BEAVER ST	BEAVER MILL TWO HR	08/13/1998	RAO	01/03/2001		Hazardous Material
1-0012431	NORTH ADAMS	836 STATE ROAD	HARRIMAN AND WEST # 72 HR	06/30/1998	TMP5	03/18/2016 PHASE V	TN	Oil
1-0012426	NORTH ADAMS	STATE RD	HARRIMAN AND WEST # 72 HR	06/26/1998	RAO	06/25/1999	A2	Oil
1-0012425	NORTH ADAMS	STATE RD	HARRIMAN AND WEST # 72 HR	06/26/1998	RAO	06/25/1999	A2	Oil
1-0012182	NORTH ADAMS	ASHLAND ST RTE 8A	HIGHWAY DEPT DEPOT 72 HR	01/29/1998	RAO	09/25/2000	A2	Oil
1-0012072	NORTH ADAMS	AAG FAIRGROUNDS	SPRAGUE ELECTRIC TWO HR	10/29/1997	RAO	12/17/1997	A2	
1-0012068	NORTH ADAMS	BLACKINGTON ST	NORTH ADAMS STATE C 120 DY	10/23/1997	RAO	10/23/1998		Hazardous Material
1-0012067	NORTH ADAMS	BLACKINGTON ST CHUR	MASSACHUSETTS COLLE 120 DY	10/23/1997	RAO	10/29/1998	B1	Hazardous Material
1-0012066	NORTH ADAMS	BLACKINGTON ST	NORTH ADAMS STATE C 120 DY	11/05/1997	RAO	10/29/1998	B1	Hazardous Material
1-0012063	NORTH ADAMS	594 MOHAWK TRL	CUMBERLAND FARMS 72 HR	10/24/1997	RAO	11/06/2000	B1	Oil
1-0011984	NORTH ADAMS	MASSACHUSETTS AVE	FRMR NORTH ADAMS T TWO HR	08/28/1997	RAO	12/30/1997	A1	
1-0011857	NORTH ADAMS	BLACKINGTON ST	NORTH ADAMS STATE C 72 HR	06/05/1997	RAO	10/23/1998	A2	Oil
1-0011815	NORTH ADAMS	CHURCH ST	NORTH ADAMS STATE C TWO HR	05/07/1997	RAO	10/14/1998	A2	
1-0011682	NORTH ADAMS	594 UNION ST	CUMBERLAND FARMS TWO HR	01/25/1997	RAO	03/21/1997	A2	Oil
1-0011641	NORTH ADAMS	245 ASHLAND ST	MAIN CITY YARD TWO HR	12/16/1996	RAO	08/13/1997		Oil
1-0011640	NORTH ADAMS	ASHLAND ST	CITY YARD STORAGE ARI TWO HR	12/16/1996	RAO	08/13/1997	A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
1-0011596	NORTH ADAMS	ASHLAND ST RTE 8A	DPW FACILITY SALT STOI TWO HR	11/15/1996	RAO	01/14/1997	A1	Oil
1-0011497	NORTH ADAMS	922 CURRAN HWY	OCONNELL OIL 72 HR	08/28/1996	RAO	09/04/1997	A2	Oil
1-0011468	NORTH ADAMS	277 ASHLAND ST	OTT PROPERTY TWO HR	08/06/1996	RAO	10/01/1996	A2	Oil
1-0011369	NORTH ADAMS	376 STATE ST	PAUL CUTLER SALES & SI 120 DY	05/17/1996	RAO	05/14/1997	B2	Oil
1-0011332	NORTH ADAMS	232 ASHLAND ST	EXTRA MART 120 DY	05/08/1996	RAO	02/03/2009	A2	Hazardous Material
1-0011292	NORTH ADAMS	464 CURRAN HWY	NYNEX GARAGE 120 DY	03/14/1996	RAO	08/16/2000	A2	Oil
1-0011222	NORTH ADAMS	376 STATE ST (RTE 8)	PAUL CUTLER SALES & SI TWO HR	01/30/1996	RAO	03/18/1996	A2	Oil
1-0011219	NORTH ADAMS	590 ASHLAND ST	MHD FACILITY #8 120 DY	01/24/1996	RAO	01/21/1997	A2	Oil
1-0011089	NORTH ADAMS	TELEPHONE COMPANY L	NYNEX GARAGE 72 HR	10/12/1995	RAO	08/16/2000		Oil
1-0010828	NORTH ADAMS	218 ASHLAND ST	PITCHERS MOUND PUB 72 HR	04/21/1995	RAO	04/05/2007	A2	Oil and Hazardous Material
1-0010735	NORTH ADAMS	PROSPECT ST	INTERSECTION EAGLE & TWO HR	02/24/1995	RAO	04/05/1995	A1	Oil
1-0010727	NORTH ADAMS	74 BROWN ST	IMMED SO OF HOOSIC R TWO HR	02/17/1995	RTN CLOSED	04/20/2000		Hazardous Material
1-0010694	NORTH ADAMS	74 BROWN ST	NE ELECTRIC/FMR MGP 120 DY	01/18/1995	RAO	01/29/2010 PHASE V	TN	Hazardous Material
1-0010631	NORTH ADAMS	INTERSECTION OF RT 2	VETERANS MEMORIAL C TWO HR	11/25/1994	RAO	12/30/1994	A1	Oil
1-0010447	NORTH ADAMS	351 PATTISON RD	NORTH ADAMS WATER TWO HR	07/25/1994	RAO	11/21/1994	A1	Hazardous Material
1-0010138	NORTH ADAMS	593 ASHLAND ST	WEST OIL CO TWO HR	12/23/1993	RAO	10/24/1994	A2	Oil
1-0010038	NORTH ADAMS	234 UNION ST	UNION STREET WAREHC 72 HR	10/26/1993	RAO	02/27/2007 PHASE II	C1	Oil
1-0001061	NORTH ADAMS	708 STATE RD	GREYLOCK AUTO NONE	09/24/1993	RAO	08/05/2009	A2	Oil
1-0000961	NORTH ADAMS	OFF MASSACHUSETTS A	FMR SEWAGE TREATME NONE	04/15/1992	RAO	07/21/1999	A2	Oil
1-0000930	NORTH ADAMS	458 CURRAN HWY	MOBIL OIL STATION NONE	01/15/1992	LSPNFA	06/13/1997		
1-0000914	NORTH ADAMS	189 BEAVER ST	BEAVER MILL NONE	08/19/1991	RAO	01/03/2001	A2	Hazardous Material
1-0000881	NORTH ADAMS	51 WALDON ST	WALDEN STREET GARAG NONE	03/20/1991	RAO	09/07/2012	C2	
1-0000584	NORTH ADAMS	RTE 2	HEFLIN PROPERTIES NONE	04/15/1989	DEPNDS	10/22/2001		
1-0000553	NORTH ADAMS	HOSPITAL AVE	NORTH ADAMS REG HO: NONE	04/15/1989	WCSPRM	02/24/1995		Oil
1-0000541	NORTH ADAMS	580 WEST MAIN ST	MOBIL NONE	01/06/1989	DEPNDS	07/23/1993		

1-0000534	NORTH ADAMS	HARRIMAN AND WEST #	TURBOPROP INTERNATI	NONE	10/15/1989	RTN CLOSED	01/09/2004		Oil and Hazardous Material	
1-0000498	NORTH ADAMS	156 RIVER ST	TIRE CENTER TIRE TOWN	NONE	08/29/1988	PENNFA	07/30/1996		Oil	
1-0000475	NORTH ADAMS	1 STATE RD	O'CONNELL OIL CONVEN	NONE	07/15/1988	RAO	09/24/2009	PHASE V	C1	Oil
1-0000460	NORTH ADAMS	87 MARSHALL ST	AMERICAN ANNUITY GR	120 DY	05/02/1988	TMP5	06/02/2014	PHASE V	TN	Hazardous Material
1-0000452	NORTH ADAMS	74 BROWN ST	NEW ENGLAND ELECTRI	NONE	07/15/1988	RAO	07/07/1995			Oil
1-0000437	NORTH ADAMS	COLE ST	GILFORD B&M RAILROAI	NONE	12/28/1987	DEPNDS	07/23/1993			
1-0000392	NORTH ADAMS	TELEPHONE CO LA	NEW ENGLAND TELEPHC	NONE	11/03/1987	RAO	07/30/2002			Oil
1-0000342	NORTH ADAMS	180 RIVER ST	MANDELBAUM PROPER'	NONE	01/21/1988	RAO	06/28/2004		A2	
1-0000289	NORTH ADAMS	521 ASHLAND ST	SHAPIRO	NONE	07/15/1987	TIER 2	02/10/1999	PHASE V		
1-0000127	NORTH ADAMS	CURRAN WAY	SURE OIL	NONE	02/26/1987	RAO	09/11/1998		A2	Oil
1-0000126	NORTH ADAMS	BROWN ST	AMERICAN ANNUITY GR	72 HR	01/15/1987	TCLASS	04/14/2010	PHASE V		Oil and Hazardous Material
1-0000124	NORTH ADAMS	AVENUE E	NORTH ADAMS LANDFIL	NONE	01/15/1987	ADEQUATE REG	09/24/1998			Hazardous Material
1-0000123	NORTH ADAMS	MILL STREET UNION ST	INFLATED PRODUCTS CC	NONE	01/15/1987	DEPNFA	07/23/1993			
1-0000122	NORTH ADAMS	ASHTON AVE	BERKSHIRE TANNERY FN	NONE	01/15/1987	RTN CLOSED	12/11/2017			

## Appendix E

### Section 504 Self-Evaluation

#### Part I: Administrative Requirements

1. Designation of American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator (within text of attached documents)
2. Grievance procedures (attached)
3. Public Notification Requirements (attached)
4. Participation of Individuals with Disabilities or Organizations Representing the Disabled Community

The City of North Adams has an established Commission-On-Disabilities for many years now. They continue to provide input and implementation oversight upon various and needed ADA improvements throughout the municipality as a continuing work in progress.

#### Part II: Program Accessibility

Refer to the following updated City of North Adams ADA Compliance 2023 Report and Self Evaluation, which details the City's recent and extensive efforts to provide ADA compliant public buildings and facilities. Included in this section is a spreadsheet that inventories the key issues as identified in its last report of 2014. Since that time, a significant amount of progress has been made, as local government continues to diligently work upon the challenges. This inventory continues to be used on a regular basis.

City of North Adams, Massachusetts,  
Grievance Procedure under  
The Americans with Disabilities Act

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the City of North Adams. The City's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to: Cara Farrell, ADA Coordinator, 10 Main Street, North Adams, MA 01247 (413) 662-3000.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator or its designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, the ADA Coordinator or its designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the City and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the ADA Coordinator, or its designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and their designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Office of the Mayor or its designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Mayor or its designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Mayor or its designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator or its designee, appeals to the Mayor or its designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the City for at least three years.

## NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of North Adams will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in the City's services, programs, or activities.

**Employment:** The City does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (see also ADA Employment Practices statement on following page).

**Effective Communication:** The City will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the City's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

**Modifications to Policies and Procedures:** The City will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all City programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in City offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact Cara Farrell, ADA Coordinator, 10 Main Street, North Adams, MA 01247, (413) 662-3000, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the City to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a City program, service, or activity is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the aforementioned contact information.

The City will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.



**City of North Adams, Massachusetts**  
**Human Resources Director**

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**FROM:** Cara Farrell  
**DATE:** January 1, 2023  
**RE:** ADA Employment Practices

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The City of North Adams employment practices are in compliance with the American with Disability Act including but not limited to the following areas:

- Recruitment
- Personnel Actions
- Leave Administration
- Training
- Tests
- Medical Exams/Questionnaires
- Social and Recreational Programs
- Fringe Benefits
- Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Wage and Salary Administration

Thank you.

**Cara Farrell**

Human Resources Director

ADA Coordinator

City Hall - 10 Main Street

North Adams, MA 01247

Phone: (413) 662-3011

Email: cfarrell@northadams-ma.gov

# City of North Adams

## ADA Compliance Report 2023 & Self Evaluation

### **Introduction**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a landmark civil rights law that was passed in 1990. Civil rights, by their very nature, focus on the needs and rights of individuals; they are built on the belief that all individuals, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to equal treatment in American society. The ADA is the most comprehensive civil rights legislation ever passed into American law about how the nation should address individuals with disabilities. The City of North Adams enforces Title II of the ADA, governing City programs, services and activities. It is responsible for ensuring all facilities, programs, services and activities are accessible to, and useable by, all residents and visitors with disabilities, including City employees with disabilities.

The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) completed a compliance review in 2012 in response to a complaint against the City of North Adams, Massachusetts filed under title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The review was conducted by the Disability Rights Section of the Department's Civil Rights Division and focused on the City's compliance with the following title II requirements.

As part of its compliance review, the DOJ reviewed the following facilities, which – because construction or alterations commenced after January 26, 1992 – must comply with the ADA's new construction or alterations requirements: River Street Park; Alcombright Athletic Complex; and North Adams Public Library.

The DOJ's program access review covered those of the City's programs, services, and activities that operate in the following facilities: City Hall; Department of Public Safety; Office of Tourism and Chamber of Commerce; Kemp Park; Windsor Mill; Mary Spitzer Community Center; Northern Berkshire YMCA; Harriman and West Airport; Noel Field Athletic Complex; Western Gateway Heritage State Park; Windsor Lake Park; Vietnam Veterans Memorial Skating Rink; Freeman Park; and Greylock Park.

Since October, 2013 the City of North Adams has completed over thirty projects to ensure access to municipal facilities as well as public rights-of-way, and have both short and long term benefits for people of all ages with disabilities.

One major accomplishment was the City's ability in securing a new downtown building location for the use of its Police Department, which was specifically cited by earlier concerns of the DOJ. The new facility is totally compliant, and allows in the short term the opportunity having its two key public safety departments, the police as now located on Holden Street, and the fire department as remaining on American Legion Drive, in effectively co-existing. The new mayoral administration has pledged in 2022 the future completion of a new public safety complex, so that both departments, as well as correlating functions (ambulatory), can exist in one strategic and central location.

The City of North Adams has completed a number of written policies and procedures that specifically address area of ADA compliance. These include but are not limited to emergency management, communications, alternate formats, personnel actions, leave administration, training, tests, medical exams/questionnaires, social and recreational programs, fringe benefits, collective bargaining agreements and wage and salary administration.

Since the last Self Evaluation of 2014, the City of North Adams has expended approximately \$2 M upon the following representative projects:

### **Accomplishments**

- Installed ADA compliant sidewalks and curb ramps on the following streets: Church Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Grimes Street, West Main Street, River Street, West Main Street, Union Street, Beaver Street, Church Street, and Ashland Street
- Noel Field Restroom Facilities have been designed and constructed.
- Northern Berkshire YMCA ADA Bathroom and Shower Facility have been designed and constructed (City owned building)
- Bathrooms at Alcombright Athletic Complex have been rebuilt to meet ADA compliance
- Ramp at the Senior Center completed
- Two new ADA accessible playgrounds, one at Windsor lake and the other at Kemp Park, were completed in summer of 2015
- Training Classes
  - Making Your Community More Accessible – Presented by the Massachusetts Office on Disability
  - Public Accommodation Training – Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association
  - Whole Community Preparedness Training – Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
- Various ADA improvements to facilities, including but not limited to improved handicapped entrances, bathroom renovations and signage. For instance, during the COVID pandemic given limited access to City Hall by the general public, this allowed the opportunity for city maintenance crews to complete many projects such as: lowering of departmental service countertops with window barriers, auto-door openers to Council Chambers, new access space within the chambers, improvements to main entry door buttons, etc.
- Replacement of the handicap accessible ramp into City Hall with heated walkways were completed in the late summer of 2023

### **Continued 504 Work**

Despite the vast amount of work that has been accomplished, accessibility evaluation and corresponding projects thereto are an on-going concern, as it should be for any municipality. As aforementioned, the City has established a detailed *Facility Inventory* spreadsheet, as enclosed herein, which continues to be updated and used as a living document. This has effectively served in the guidance of the overall 504 Self Evaluation process.

# Facility Inventory

<u>St. Elizabeth Poling Station</u>		<u>North Adams</u>	
<i>Item #</i>	<i>Access Issue</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, Located on St. Anthony Drive		
1.1.	Parking		24 months
1.1.a.	The parking lot is inaccessible because the access aisles are 25 to 35 inches wide.	P1	24 months
1.1.b.	The designated accessible parking spaces are inaccessible because they lack vertical signage.	P6	24 months
1.1.c.	The route is inaccessible because there is a 2 inch high curb where the sidewalk meets the parking lot.	AR1	24 months
1.2.	Side Entrance to Gym		24 months
1.2.a.	The Exterior and interior double doors are inaccessible because each leaf is 27 inches wide.	D24	24 months
1.2.b.	The interior door is inaccessible because it requires 10 pounds of force to open.	D2	24 months
1.3.	Side Entrance by Dumpster		24 months
1.3.a.	The route to the door is inaccessible because it contains a 1 1/2 inch high step.	AR1	24 months
1.3.b.	The exterior door is inaccessible because knob hardware is used.	D1	24 months
1.3.c.	The interior door is inaccessible because it requires 15 pounds of force to open.	D2	24 months
1.1.	<b>River Street Park</b>		
1.1.a.	There is no curb ramp provided from the crosswalk to the park entrance.	AR5	12 months
1.1.b.	The route into the playground is inaccessible because there is a 2 1/2 inch vertical drop where the sidewalk and ramp meet.	AR1	12 months
2	<b>Alcombright Athletic Complex, 247 Protection Avenue</b>		
2.1.	Playground	9 P3	24 months
2.2.	The route to the equipment is inaccessible because there is a 3 inch vertical drop onto the playground surface.	AR1	
2.2.a.	None of the play equipment is usable by children with disabilities.	PG1	24 months
2.2.b.	Men's and Women's Toilet Rooms: The toilet rooms contain a number of inaccessible elements and are not accessible to people with disabilities.	TR22	24 months
2.3.			

Place portable vertical signs during elections. We need to negotiate with the church in order to make compliant

Include as part of the downtown road work  
Eliminate with blackout the 2 1/2 inch drop.

Parks grant will be applied for in the Spring, designs over the winter and

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
	Parking Lot by Baseball Fields: The parking lot, with a total of 58 parking spaces, is inaccessible because there are only 2 designated accessible parking spaces, there is no vertical signage, there is no van accessible space, and the shared access aisle is less than 50 inches wide. The lot requires 1 van accessible space and 2 standard accessible spaces.	P3	24 months	completion in Construction season 2013
2.4.	Concession Stand: The counter is inaccessible because it is 40 inches high on the interior side and 44 inches on the exterior side.	C5	24 months	
2.5.				
1	<b>North Adams Public Library, 68 Church Street</b>			
1.1.	Parking lot: The designated accessible parking is inaccessible because it lacks van accessible signage.	P6	12 months	Replace Sign
1.2.	Exterior Route to Main Entrance: The curb ramp is inaccessible because it has a slope of 9.6%.	AR5	12 months	"Take out good faith."
1.3.	Entrances: The building does not have directional signage posted in inaccessible entrances.	D16	12 months	New signs
1.4.	Public Computer Sign-In station: The computer is inaccessible because it does not have sufficient knee clearance or clear floor space.	C3	12 months	Handicap Desk
1.5.	<b>Men's 1st Floor Toilet Room</b>			
1.5.a.	No accessible coat hook has been provided.	TR1		Completed
1.5.b.	The paper towel dispenser protrudes into the walkway and is not detectable to blind persons using a cane.	AR8	12 months	"4 inches high"
1.6.	<b>Women's 1st Floor Toilet Room</b>			
1.6.a.	No accessible coat hook has been provided.	TR1		Completed
1.6.b.	The paper towel dispenser protrudes into the walkway and is not detectable to blind persons using a cane.	AR8	12 months	"4 inches high"
1.7.	<b>2nd Floor Unisex Toilet Room, Near Children's Library</b>			
1.7.a.	No accessible coat hook has been provided.	TR1		Completed
1.7.b.	The toilet is inaccessible because there are no grab bars provided.	SU10	12 months	Install Grab Bars
1.8.	<b>2nd Floor Designated Accessible Unisex Toilet Room</b>			
1.8.a.	No accessible coat hook has been provided.	TR1		Completed
	The push side of the door, which is accessed through a front approach and which has both a closer and a latch, is inaccessible because the clear space on the latch side is obstructed by a trash can.	D7		Completed
1.9.	<b>3rd Floor Men's Employee Toilet Room</b>			
1.9.a.	The lavatory is inaccessible because it has twist-type hardware.	TR10	12 months	replace hardware
1.9.b.	The toilet paper dispenser in the designated accessible stall is inaccessible because it is mounted 40 inches from the rear wall.	ST19	12 months	relocate to meet code

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
1.9.c.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is obstructed by the toilet paper dispenser.	ST8	12 months	relocate to meet code
1.10.	<b>Women's 3rd Floor Toilet Room</b>			
1.10.a.	The lavatory is inaccessible because it has twist-type hardware.	TR10	12 months	replace hardware
1.10.b.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is 36 inches long.	ST7	12 months	relocate to meet code

**Attachment K: Program Access in Existing Facilities**

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
1	<b>City Hall</b>			
1.1.	Parking: The parking lot, with a total of 67 parking spaces, is inaccessible because it only has 2 spaces designated as accessible, there is no "Van Accessible" sign provided, and one of the designated accessible spaces has a slope of 4.5%, a cross slope of 6.6%, and no access aisle. This lot requires 1 van accessible space and 2 standard accessible spaces.	P3	12 months	Relining and relocate spots to meet code
1.2.	Ramp to Front Entrance: The ramp is inaccessible because the inside handrail is not continuous and the landings have slopes of up to 3%.	R3	12 months	Removed from agreement
1.3.	Entrances: The building does not have directional signage posted at the inaccessible entrance indicating the accessible entrance location.	D16	12 months	Purchase and install signage
1.4.	Interior Signage: The signage provided throughout the facility is inaccessible because it is mounted on overhead signs and does not have raised and braille characters.	D26	12 months	Replace signs
1.5.	Interior Doors: The doors throughout the facility is inaccessible because knob hardware is used.	D1	12 months	Order and replace

**1.6. Elevator**

1.6.a.	The elevator is inaccessible because the hall call buttons are mounted with their centerlines 55 inches high.	E3	12 months	Hire Bay State Elevators to upgrade elevator to meet code.
1.6.b.	The elevator is inaccessible because the hall lanterns do not emit an audible signal indicating when a car is answering a call.	E11	12 months	
1.6.c.	The elevator is inaccessible because there is no hoist way signage provided.	E12	12 months	
1.6.d.	The elevator is inaccessible because the car control button for the main entry floor is not designated by a raised star, the floor buttons do not have visual indicators to register a call, and the highest button is 55 inches high.	E4	12 months	
1.6.e.	The elevator is inaccessible because the emergency controls are 60 inches high.	E9	12 months	
1.6.f.	The elevator is inaccessible because the car position indicators do not emit an audible and visual signal as the car passes or stops at a floor.	E5	12 months	

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
1.7.	Drinking Fountains: The hi/lo drinking fountain protrudes into the walkway and is not detectable to blind persons using a cane.	AR8	12 months	Install side walls to make it detectable
1.8.	Credit Union: The pull side of the door, which is accessed through a front approach, is inaccessible because it only has 2 inches of clear space on the latch side.	D6	12 months	Relocate to meet code
1.9.	<b>1st Floor Men's Toilet Room with Stalls</b>			
1.9.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door.	TR18	12 months	Relocate to meet code
1.9.b.	The door is inaccessible because it requires 10 pounds of force to open.	D2	12 months	Install new hardware to reduce force needed to open
1.9.c.	The pull side of the door, which is accessed through a front approach, is inaccessible because it only has 10 inches of clear space on the latch side.	D6	12 months	Move handle to meet code
1.9.d.	The paper towel dispenser is inaccessible because it is mounted with the controls 61 inches high.	TR5	12 months	Lower dispenser to meet code
1.9.e.	The lavatory is inaccessible because the hot water pipes are not insulated or otherwise configured to protect against contact.	TR12	12 months	Insulate pipes
1.9.f.	The lavatory is inaccessible because it has twist-type hardware.	TR10	12 months	Replace hardware
1.9.g.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the flush control is on the closed side.	ST2	12 months	Reverse controls
1.9.h.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the top of the seat is 21 inches high.	ST20	24 months	
1.9.i.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because its centerline is 25 inches from the side wall.	ST17	24 months	
1.9.j.	No accessible coat hook has been provided.	TR1		Completed
1.9.k.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is mounted 3 inches from the wall.	ST13	12 months	Replace grab bar to meet code
1.9.l.	There is no rear grab bar provided at the designated accessible toilet.	ST3	12 months	Install rear grab bar
1.9.m.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the stall door swings into the clear floor space of the toilet.	ST18	12 months	Reconfigure to meet code
1.10.	<b>1st Floor Women's Toilet Room With Stalls</b>			
1.10.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door.	TR18	12 months	Relocate to meet code
1.10.b.	The door is inaccessible because it requires 10 pounds of force to open.	D2	12 months	Install new hardware to reduce force needed to open
1.10.c.	The pull side of the door, which is accessed through a front approach, is inaccessible because it only has 10 inches of clear space on the latch side.	D6	12 months	Move handle to meet code
1.10.d.	The shelf under the mirror protrudes into the hallway and it is not detectable to blind persons using a cane.	AR8	12 months	Remove Shelf

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
1.10.e.	The paper towel dispenser is inaccessible because it is mounted with the controls 61 inches high.	TR5	12 months	Lower dispenser to meet code
1.10.f.	The sanitary napkin dispenser is inaccessible because the controls require twisting of the wrist to operate.	TR3	12 months	Replace operating hardware to meet code
1.10.g.	The lavatory is inaccessible because it has twist-type hardware.	TR10	12 months	Replace hardware
1.10.h.	The lavatory is inaccessible because the hot water pipes are not insulated or otherwise configured to protect against contact.	TR12	12 months	Insulate pipes
1.10.i.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the top of the seat is 21 inches high.	ST20	24 months	
1.10.j.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because its centerline is 25 inches from the side wall.	ST17	24 months	
1.10.k.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is mounted 3 inches from the wall.	ST13	12 months	Replace grab bar to meet code
1.10.l.	There is no rear grab bar provided at the designated accessible toilet.	ST3	12 months	Install rear grab bar
1.10.m.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the stall door swings into the clear floor space of the toilet.	ST18	12 months	Reconfigure to meet code
1.11.	<b>2nd Floor Men's Toilet Room with Stalls</b>			
1.11.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door.	TR18	12 months	Relocate to meet code
1.11.b.	The door is inaccessible because it requires 11 pounds of force to open	D2	12 months	Install new hardware to reduce force needed to open
1.11.c.	The door is inaccessible because knob hardware is used.	D1	12 months	Replace hardware
1.11.d.	The pull side of the door, which is accessed through a front approach, is inaccessible because it only has 10 inches of clear space on the latch side.	D6	12 months	Move handle to meet code
1.11.e.	The paper towel dispenser is inaccessible because it is mounted with the controls 61 inches high.	TR5	12 months	Lower dispenser to meet code
1.11.f.	The lavatory is inaccessible because it has twist-type hardware.	TR10	12 months	Replace hardware
1.11.g.	The lavatory is inaccessible because the hot water pipes are not insulated or otherwise configured to protect against contact.	TR12	12 months	Insulate pipes
1.11.h.	The shelf under the mirror protrudes into the walkway and it is not detectable to blind persons using a cane.	AR8	12 months	Remove Shelf
1.11.i.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the flush control is on the closed side.	ST2	12 months	Reverse controls
1.11.j.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the top of the seat is 21 inches high.	ST20	24 months	
1.11.k.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because its centerline is 25 inches from the side wall.	ST17	24 months	

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
1.11.l.	No accessible coat hook has been provided.	TR1	12 months	Completed
1.11.m.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is obstructed by the toilet paper dispenser.	ST8	12 months	Relocate Dispenser
1.11.n.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is mounted 3 inches from the wall.	ST13	12 months	Replace grab bar to meet code
1.11.o.	There is no rear grab bar provided at the designated accessible toilet.	ST3	12 months	Install rear grab bar
1.12.	<b>2nd Floor Women's Toilet Room with Stalls</b>			
1.12.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door.	TR18	12 months	Relocate to meet code
1.12.b.	The door is inaccessible because it requires 10 pounds of force to open.	D2	12 months	Install new hardware to reduce force needed to open
1.12.c.	The door is inaccessible because knob hardware is used.	D1	12 months	Replace hardware
1.12.d.	The pull side of the door, which is accessed through a front approach, is inaccessible because it only has 10 inches of clear space on the latch side.	D6	12 months	Move handle to meet code
1.12.e.	The paper towel dispenser is inaccessible because it is mounted with the controls 64 inches high.	TR5	12 months	Lower dispenser to meet code
1.12.f.	The sanitary napkin dispenser is inaccessible because the controls require twisting of the wrist to operate.	TR3	12 months	Replace hardware
1.12.g.	The lavatory is inaccessible because it has twist-type hardware.	TR10	12 months	Replace hardware
1.12.h.	The lavatory is inaccessible because the hot water pipes are not insulated or otherwise configured to protect against contact.	TR12	12 months	Insulate pipes
1.12.i.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the top of the seat is 21 inches high.	ST20	24 months	
1.12.j.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because its centerline is 25 inches from the side wall.	ST17	24 months	
1.12.k.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the grab bars are mounted 3 inches from the walls on which they are mounted.	ST13	12 months	Replace grab bar to meet code
1.12.l.	The shelf under the mirror protrudes into the walkway and it is not detectable to blind persons using a cane.	AR8	12 months	Remove shelf
2.	<b>Department of Public Safety -- Police Station, 40 American Legion Drive</b>			
2.1.	Curb Ramp: The curb ramp is inaccessible because it has a sudden 1 inch high change in level at the bottom.	AR5	3 years	
2.2.	Entrances: The building is inaccessible because both of the entrances can be reached only by stairs.	D12	3 years	
2.3.	Interior Route: The route from the front door to all elements is inaccessible because there are 3 stairs just inside the entrance door.	AR2	3 years	Move any disabled prisoners to Adams and conduct Firearm permitting in Clarksburg for anyone disabled
2.4.	Holding Cells: There is no accessible cell provided.	PI1	3 years	

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
2.5.	Visitation Area: The visitation area contains a number of inaccessible elements and is not accessible to people with disabilities.	PJ7	3 years	
2.6.	Toilet Rooms: The toilet rooms contain a number of inaccessible elements and are not accessible to people with disabilities.	SU13	3 years	
3	<b>Office of Tourism and Chamber of Commerce, 6-8 West Main Street</b>			
3.1.	Parking: The parking lot, with approximately 5 parking spaces, is inaccessible to people with disabilities.	P3	12 months	Create an appropriate parking place.
3.2.	Exterior Signage: The building does not have directional signage posted at the inaccessible entrances and does not have the International Symbol of Accessibility posted at the accessible entrance.	D16	12 months	Install new signage
3.3.	<b>Office of Tourism</b>			
3.3.a.	The entrance ramp is inaccessible because there are no accessible handrails provided.	R4	12 months	Install Handrails
3.3.b.	The entrance door is inaccessible because there is a 1 inch high threshold.	D23	12 months	Remove threshold
3.4.	The main counter protrudes into the walkway and is not detectable to blind persons using a cane.	AR8	12 months	Install on floor marker for blind person
3.4a	The door to the interior office is inaccessible because it has an opening width of 28 inches.	D25	12 months	All group meeting is accessible room
3.5.	Chamber of Commerce: The door is inaccessible because it has an opening width of 29 1/2 inches.	D25	12 months	All group meeting is accessible room
4	<b>Kemp Park, Kemp and Park Avenues</b>			
4.1.	Route from Parking to Playground: the route is inaccessible because it has a slope of up to 12.9% with a cross slope of 3.8% and there is an 8 inch vertical drop at the border of the playground.	AR1	3 years	Possibly move to lower part of the park?
4.2.	Playground: None of the play equipment is usable by children with disabilities.	PG1	3 years	Install new element to meet ADA code.
4.3.	Route from Parking to Baseball Diamond: The route is inaccessible because the grass surface is not firm, stable, and slip resistant.	AR1	3 years	Ask question for clarification?
7	<b>Mary Spitzer Community Center, 116 Ashland Street</b>			
7.1.	Parking: The designated accessible parking is inaccessible because the signs are mounted too low and there is no van accessible signage.	P6	12 months	New signage
7.2.	<b>Entrances</b>			
7.2.a.	The building does not have directional signage posted at inaccessible entrances and does not have the International Symbol of Accessibility posted at accessible entrances.	D16	12 months	New signage
7.2.b.	The interior front entrance door is inaccessible because knob hardware is used.	D1	12 months	New hardware

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
7.3.	<b>Women's Toilet Room with Stalls</b>			
7.3.a	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door and has no raised or Braille characters.	TR18	12 months	New signage
7.3.b	The door is inaccessible because knob hardware is used.	D1	12 months	Replace hardware
7.3.c	The route to the toilet room is inaccessible because a movable chair blocks the clear floor space.	TR15		Completed
7.3.d	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the top of the seat is 21 inches high.	ST20	24 months	
7.3.e	No accessible coat hook has been provided.	TR1		Completed
7.3.f	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the grab bars are mounted 31 inches high.	ST12	12 months	Relocate grab bars to meet code
7.3.g	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the rear grab bar is obstructed by the flush valve.		12 months	Relocate flush valve
7.4.	<b>Men's Toilet Room with Stalls</b>			
7.4.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door and has no raised or Braille characters.	TR18	12 months	Replace sign to meet code
7.4.b.	The door is inaccessible because knob hardware is used.	D1	12 months	Replace hardware
7.4.c.	The urinals are inaccessible because the rims are 24 inches high and the flush controls are 50 inches high.	TR20	12 months	Lower urinals
7.4.d.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the flush control is on the closed side.	ST2	12 months	Reverse flush controls
7.4.f.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is mounted 31 inches high.	ST12	12 months	Move side grab bar to meet code
8	<b>Northern Berkshire YMCA, 22 Brickyard Court</b>			
8.1.	Main Parking Lot: The parking lot, with a total of 29 parking spaces, is inaccessible because there is no van accessible space provided. This lot requires 1 van accessible space and 1 standard accessible space.	P3	12 months	With relining of the parking lot create accessible spots
8.2.	Rear Parking Lot			
8.2.a.	The designated accessible parking is inaccessible because two of the access aisles are 48 inches wide.	P8	12 months	Adjust aisle width to meet code during relining of parking lot
8.2.b.	The designated accessible parking is inaccessible because the van accessible space lacks "Van Accessible" signage.	P6	12 months	Install proper signage
8.3.	Main Entrance			

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
8.3.a.	The curb ramp is inaccessible because it has a 1 inch lip at the bottom.	AR5	12 months	Adjust curb height to meet code
8.3.b.	The interior vestibule door is inaccessible because it requires 10 pounds of force to open.	D2	12 months	Install hardware to reduce force needed to open
8.4.	Interior Doors: The doors throughout the facility is inaccessible because knob hardware is used.	D1	12 months	Replace existing hardware with ADA compliant hardware
8.5.a.	Racquetball Courts			
8.5.a.	The doors are inaccessible because they have opening widths of 30 inches.	D25	3 years	Make adjustments to one court to
8.5.b.	The doors are inaccessible because they have 1 1/2 inch high thresholds.	D23	3 years	remove threshold and width to meet ADA code
8.6.	Women's Toilet Room near Lobby			
8.6.a	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door.	TR18	12 months	Relocate sign
8.6.b	The door is inaccessible because it requires 8 pounds of force to open.	D2	12 months	Install new hardware to reduce force needed to open
8.6.c.	The air drier protrudes into the walkway and is not detectable to blind persons using a cane.	AR8	12 months	Make detectable to a blind person.
8.6.d.	No accessible mirror has been provided.	TR14	12 months	Install accessible mirror
8.6.e	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because its centerline is 23 inches from the side wall.	ST17	3 years	
8.6.f.	The toilet paper dispenser in the designated accessible stall is inaccessible because it is mounted 41 inches from the rear wall.	ST19	3 years	
8.6.g.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the grab bars are mounted 30 inches high	ST12	3 years	
8.6.h.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is mounted with the far end 48 inches from the rear wall.	ST7	3 years	
8.7.	Men's Toilet Room near Lobby			
8.7.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door	TR18	12 months	Relocate Sign
8.7.b.	The soap dispenser is inaccessible because it is mounted 51 inches high over the lavatory with forward reach required.	TR4	12 months	Relocate soap dispenser

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
8.7.c.	No accessible mirror has been provided.	TR14	12 months	Install accessible mirror
8.7.d.	The urinal is inaccessible because the rim is 23 inches high and the flush control is 51 inches high.	TR20	3 years	
8.7.e.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because its centerline is 22 inches from the side wall.	ST17	3 years	
8.7.f.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the flush control is on the closed side.	ST2	3 years	
8.7.g.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible cause the grab bars are mounted 30 inches high.	ST12	3 years	
8.7.h.	The designated assessable toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is mounted with the far end 48 inches from the rear wall.	ST7	3 years	
8.8.	Premium Locker Rooms: the locker rooms contain a number of inaccessible elements and are not accessible to people with disabilities.	LR4		Make Adjustments to the Family, Men's and Women's Basic Locker Rooms.
8.9.	Women's Basic Locker Room			
8.9.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door.	LR4	12 months	Relocate sign to meet code
8.9.b.	The door is inaccessible because it requires 8 pounds of force to open.	D2	12 months	Install hardware to reduce force needed to open
8.9.c.	The air dryer protrudes into the walkway and is not detectable to blind persons using a cane.	AR8	12 months	Make dryer detectable by a blind person
8.9.d.	The lavatory is inaccessible because the hot water pipes are not insulated or otherwise configured to protect against contact, and the lavatory is not maintained in working order.	TR12, M1	12 months	Insulate pipes
8.9.e.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the flush control is on the closed side.	ST2	3 years	
8.9.f.	The toilet paper dispenser in the designated accessible stall is inaccessible because it is mounted 43 inches from the rear wall.	ST19	3 years	
8.9.g.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is mounted with the far end 48 inches from the rear wall.	ST7	3 years	

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
8.9.h.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the grab bars are mounted 31 inches high.	ST12	3 years	
8.9.i.	There is no accessible shower provided.	B8	3 years	
8.9.j.	None of the dressing rooms are accessible.	LR2	3 years	
8.9.k.	The drinking fountain in the locker room is inaccessible because the spout is 38 inches high, the water flow is only 3 inches high, the controls require tight grasping or twisting to operate, and the controls are not front or side mounted near the front edge.	DF1	3 years	
8.10.	<b>Men's Basic Locker Room</b>			
8.10.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door.	TR17	12 months	Relocate sign to meet code
8.10.b.	The door is inaccessible because it requires more than 5 pounds of force to open.	D2	12 months	Install hardware to reduce force needed to open
8.10.c.	The soap dispenser is inaccessible because it is mounted 53 inches high over the lavatory with forward reach required.	TR4	12 months	Relocate soap dispenser
8.10.d.	The designated accessible lavatory is inaccessible because it has not been maintained in working order.	M1	3 years	
8.10.e.	The urinal is inaccessible because the rim is too high and there is inadequate floor space provided.	TR20	3 years	
8.10.f.	The designated accessible stall is inaccessible because the stall door swings into the required clear space at the toilet.	ST18	3 years	
8.10.g.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the centerline is 23 inches from the side wall	ST7	3 years	
8.10.h.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the flush control is on the closed side.	ST2	3 years	
8.10.i.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is mounted with the far end 48 inches from the rear wall.	ST7	3 years	

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8.10.j.	The designates accessible toilet is inaccessible because the grab bars are mounted 30 and 32 inches high.	ST12	3 years		
8.10.k.	The bench is inaccessible because it is 9 inches deep and it is not fixed to a wall.	LR1	3 years		
8.10.l.	There is no accessible shower provided.	B8	3 years		
8.11.	Route from Men's Basic Locker Room to Pool: The route is inaccessible because it contains a 9 1/2 inch high step.	AT2	3 years		
8.12.	Family Locker Room (with no toilet)				
8.12.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door.	TE17	12 months	Relocate sign to meet code	
8.12.b.	The door is inaccessible because it requires 11 pounds of force to open	D2	6 months	Redesign this locker room to meet the ADA code. Would allow access to the swimming area that is not possible from other locker rooms	
8.12.c.	The door is inaccessible because there is a 2 inch high threshold.	D23	3 years		
8.12.d.	The pull side of the door, which is accessed through a front approach, is inaccessible because it has only 4 inches of clear space on the latch side due to the placement of the sofa.	D6	3 years		
8.12.e.	The push side of the door, which is accessed through a front approach and which has both a closer and a latch is inaccessible because it has only 5 inches of clear space on the latch side.	D7	3 years		
8.12.f.	The soap dispenser is inaccessible because it is mounted 51 inches high above the lavatory with forward reach required.	TR4	3 years		
8.12.g.	The paper towel dispenser protrudes into the walkway and is not detectable to blind persons using a cane.	AR8	3 years		
8.12.h.	The lavatory is inaccessible because the route to it is only 32 inches wide for a depth of more than 24 inches	AR3	3 years		
8.12.i.	The transfer shower is inaccessible because it is 42 inches wide, it has inadequate floor space to allow transfer, the controls require tight grasping and twisting to operate, and there is a 2 inch high curb.	B8	3 years		
9	Harriman and West Airport, 836 State Road				
9.1.	Parking Lots: The two unmarked parking lots provide no designated accessible parking spaces.	P3	12 months		Reline parking lot to meet code

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
10	Noel Field Athletic Complex, 270 State Street			
<b>10.1. Parking Lot by State Street and Playground</b>				
10.1.a.	The designated van accessible parking is inaccessible because the access aisle is 90 inches wide.	P8	12 months	Reline parking lot to meet code
10.1.b.	The designated accessible parking is inaccessible because the signs are mounted too low.	P6	12 months	Adjust height of signs
10.2.	Parking lot near Football Field: The unmarked gravel parking lot is inaccessible because no designated accessible spaces are provided.	P3	12 months	Designate and mark spots for accessible parking
10.3.	Exterior Routes: There are no accessible routes to the playground, baseball fields, dugouts, concession stand, tennis courts, basketball courts, football bleachers, and park benches, because the grass and gravel surfaces are not firm, stable, and slip-resistant.	AR1	3 years	Redesign routes to meet ADA code
10.4.	Baseball Bleachers: The bleachers are inaccessible because no companion seating is provided next to the wheelchair seating area.	AA6	12 months	Install companion seating
10.5.	<b>Women's Rightmost Single-User Toilet Room near Baseball Stadium</b>			
10.5.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door and has no raised or Braille characters.	TR18	12 months	Replace sign to meet code
10.5.b.	The door is inaccessible because there is a 1 inch high threshold.	D23	12 months	Remove threshold
10.5.c.	No accessible mirror has been provided.	TR14	12 months	Install accessible mirror
10.5.d.	The lavatory is inaccessible because it has twist-type hardware.	TR10	12 months	Replace hardware
10.5.e.	No accessible coat hook has been provided.	TR1	12 months	completed
10.5.f.	The toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is obstructed by the toilet paper dispenser.	SU7	12 months	Relocate paper dispenser
10.5.g.	The toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is mounted 30 inches high.	SU11	12 months	Adjust grab bar height to meet code
10.6.	<b>Women's Leftmost Single-User Toilet Room near Stadium</b>			
10.6.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door and has no raised or Braille characters.	TR18	12 months	Replace sign to meet code
10.6.b.	The door is inaccessible because there is a 1 inch high threshold.	D23	12 months	Remove threshold
10.6.c.	No accessible mirror has been provided.	TR14	12 months	Install accessible mirror
10.6.d.	The lavatory is inaccessible because it has twist-type hardware.	TR10	12 months	Replace hardware
10.6.e.	No accessible coat hook has been provided.	TR1		Completed

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
10.6.f.	The toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is obstructed by the toilet paper dispenser.	SU7	12 months	Relocate paper dispenser
10.6.g.	The toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is mounted 30 inches high.	SU11	12 months	Adjust grab bar height to meet code
10.7.	<b>Women's Toilet Room with Stalls near Football Field</b>			
10.7.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door and has no raised or Braille characters.	TR18	12 months	Replace sign to meet code
10.7.b.	The door is inaccessible because there is a 2 inch high threshold.	D23	12 months	Remove threshold
10.7.c.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the top of the seat is 15 inches high.	ST20	24 months	
10.7.d.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the flush control is on the closed side.	ST2	12 months	Reverse flush controls
10.7.e.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is obstructed by the toilet paper dispenser.	ST8	12 months	Relocate paper dispenser
10.7.f.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is 30 inches long and it is mounted 16 inches from the rear wall.	ST7	12 months	Adjust grab bar height to meet code
10.7.g.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the grab bars are mounted 30 inches high.	ST12	12 months	Adjust grab bar height to meet code
10.7.h.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the rear grab bar is 30 inches long and it is mounted 18 inches from the side wall.	ST4	12 months	Adjust grab bar height to meet code
10.8.	<b>Men's Toilet Room with Stalls near Football Field</b>			
10.8.a.	The toilet room sign is mounted on the door and has no raised or Braille characters.	TR18	12 months	Replace sign to meet code
10.8.b.	The door is inaccessible because there is a 3 inch high threshold.	D23	12 months	Remove threshold
10.8.c.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the top of the seat is 16 inches high.	ST20	24 months	
10.8.d.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is obstructed by the toilet paper dispenser.	ST8	12 months	Relocate paper dispenser
10.8.e.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the grab bars are mounted 30 inches high.	ST12	12 months	Adjust grab bar height to meet code
10.8.f.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the side grab bar is 30 inches long and it is mounted 17 inches from the rear wall.	ST7	12 months	Adjust grab bar height to meet code
10.8.g.	The designated accessible toilet is inaccessible because the rear grab bar is 30 inches long and it is mounted 18 inches from the side wall.	ST4	12 months	Adjust grab bar height to meet code
10.9.	Concessions: The counters are inaccessible because they are 47 inches high.	C4	24 months	
12	Windsor Lake Park, Windsor Lake Road			

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
12.1.	Parking lot at Main Entrance: The parking lot, with a total of 94 parking spaces, is inaccessible because it has only 2 spaces designated as accessible, one of the spaces has no access aisle, the existing access aisle narrows to 24 inches wide, and there is no vertical signage. This lot requires 1 van accessible space and 3 standard accessible spaces.	P3	12 months	Reline parking to meet code and install signage
12.2.	Exterior Routes: The routes to the pavilion, picnic table, benches, and grill are inaccessible because the grass surface is not firm, stable, and slip-resistant.	AR1	3 years	Create ADA compliant route
12.3.	Pavilion: The picnic table is inaccessible because it does not provide the required knee space.	PD6	12 months	Adjust table to meet code
12.4.	Men's and Women's Toilet Rooms in Historic Valley Campground: The toilet and shower rooms contain a number of inaccessible elements and are not accessible to people with disabilities.	TR22, B8	24 months	? We do have a handicapped unisex bathroom
12.5.	<b>Small Concession Building in Historic Valley Campsite</b>			
12.5.a.	The route to the entrance is inaccessible because the grass, gravel, and dirt surfaces are not firm, stable, and slip-resistant.	AR1	24 months	Create ADA compliant route
12.5.b.	The interior counter is inaccessible because it is 40 inches high and the exterior counter is inaccessible because it is 45 inches high.	C5	12 months	Adjust counter height to meet code
12.6.	The entrance ramp is inaccessible because there is no level landing at the bottom.	R3	24 months	Create level landing
12.6.a.	The building does not have directional signage posted at the inaccessible entrance and does not have the International Symbol of Accessibility posted at the accessible entrance.	D16	12 months	Install signage
12.6.b.	The door is inaccessible because knob hardware is used.	D1	12 months	Replace hardware
12.7.	Play Area by Small Concession Building: None of the play equipment is usable by children with disabilities.	PG1	24 months	Install element to meet ADA code
12.7.a.	Men's and Women's Toilet Rooms at Far End of Campsite: The toilet and shower rooms contain a number of inaccessible elements and are not accessible to people with disabilities.	TR22, B8	24 months	Install signage to direct to front bathroom
12.8.	Parking Lot near Large Concession Building: The designated accessible parking is inaccessible because it lacks vertical signage.	P6	12 months	Install vertical signage
12.9.	<b>Campsite Playground</b>			
12.10.	The route to the play equipment is inaccessible because the grass surface is not firm, stable, and slip resistant, and there is a 4 inch high wooden barrier around the perimeter of the play equipment.	AR1	24 months	Create ADA compliant route
12.11.	None of the play equipment is usable by children with disabilities.	PG1	24 months	Install element to meet ADA code

Item #	Access Issue	Action	Date	Comments
13	<b>Vietnam Veterans Memorial Skating Rink, 1267 South Church Street</b>			
13.1.	Parking Lot: The parking lot is inaccessible because there is no van accessible space and the signs are mounted too low and do not display the International Symbol of Accessibility.	P3	12 months	Parking lot reconstruction
13.2.	Lobby Counter: The counter is inaccessible because it is 42 inches high.	C6	12 months	Adjust counter height to meet code
13.3.	<b>Concession Counter</b>			
13.3.a.	The counter is inaccessible because it is 41 inches high.	C5	12 months	Adjust counter height to meet code
13.3.b.	The condiment counter protrudes into the walkway and is not detectable to blind persons using a cane.	AR8	6 months	Remove counter
13.4.	<b>Women's Toilet Room near Skating Rink</b>			
13.4.a.	The door is inaccessible because it requires 15 pounds of force to open.	D2	12 months	Install hardware to reduce force needed to open
13.4.b.	No accessible coat hook has been provided.	TR1		Completed
13.4.c.	The toilet in the ambulatory stall is inaccessible because the side grab bar is obstructed by the toilet paper dispenser.	ST9	12 months	Relocate Dispenser
13.5.	<b>Men's Toilet Room near Skating Rink</b>			
13.5.a.	The door is inaccessible because it requires 15 pounds of force to open.	D2	12 months	Install hardware to reduce force needed to open
13.5.b.	No accessible coat hook has been provided.	TR1		Completed
13.6.	Skating Rink Viewing Area: The viewing area, containing bleachers, is inaccessible because no companion seats are provided adjacent to the 2 wheelchair spaces.	AA6	12 months	Place chairs for companion seating
13.7.	Ramp to Accessible Viewing Area: The ramp is inaccessible because the ends of the handrails are not rounded or returned.	R4	24 months	Adjust end of rails to meet code
13.8.	Team Locker Rooms: The locker rooms contain a number of inaccessible elements and are not accessible to people with disabilities.	LR4	3 years	
13.9.	Skate Shop Counter: The counter is inaccessible because it is 41½ inches high.	C5	12 months	Lower height of counter
14	<b>Freeman Park, North Eagle Street and Hospital Way</b>			
14.1.	Parking: The parking lot, with a total of approximately 5 parking spaces, is inaccessible because there are no accessible spaces provided. This lot requires 1 van accessible parking space.	P3	3 years	Redesign park with second round of the PARK grant
14.2.	Exterior Routes: The routes to the basketball court, playground, and baseball diamond are inaccessible because the gravel and grass surfaces are not firm, stable, and slip resistant, and there is a 2 inch vertical drop from the path to the playground.	AR1	3 years	
14.3.	Playground: None of the play equipment is usable by children with disabilities.	PG1	3 years	

<i>Item #</i>	<i>Access Issue</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>15</b>	<b>Greylock Park, 247 Protection Avenue</b>			
15.1.	Exterior Routes: The routes to the playground and baseball field are inaccessible because they are 30 inches wide, the grass and dirt surface is not firm, stable, and slip-resistant, and there is a 7 inch vertical drop from the small ramp to the playground surface.	AR1	3 years	Redesign park with second round of the PARK grant
15.2.	Playground: None of the play equipment is usable by children with disabilities.	PG1	3 years	