

Town of New Marlborough

Open Space and Recreation Plan

January, 2025



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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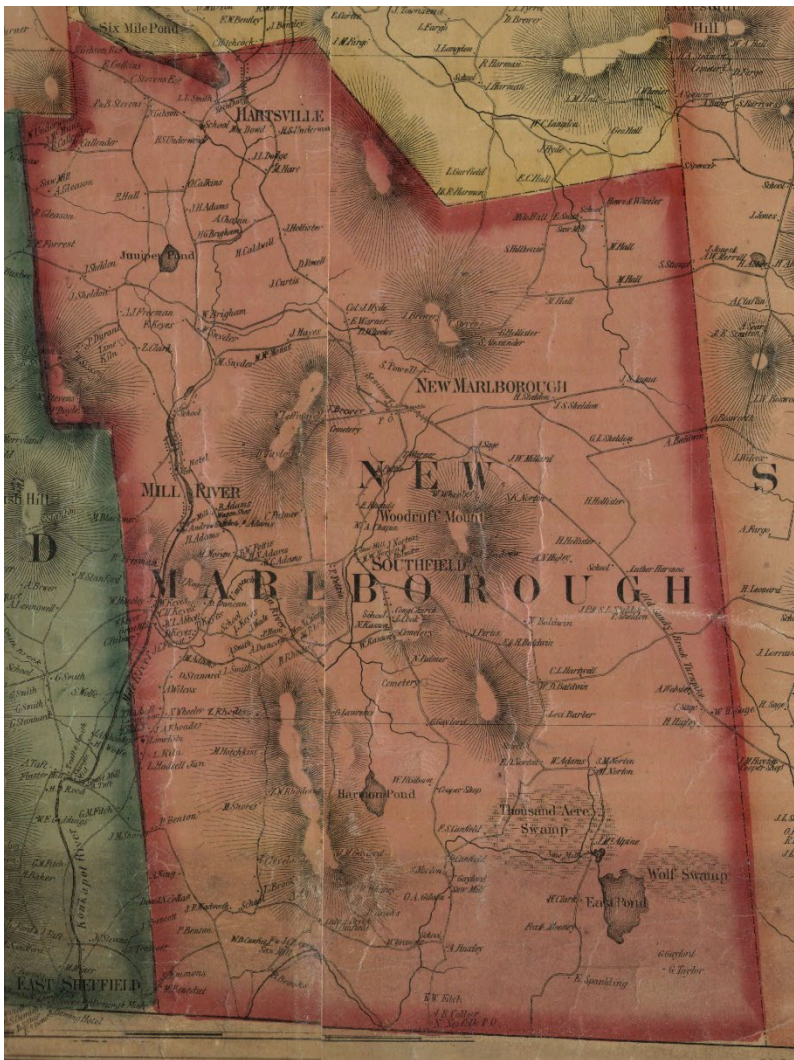
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2025 Open Space and Recreation Plan for New Marlborough, Massachusetts

This plan was developed in part thanks to a Community Compact Best Practices Program Grant from the State of Massachusetts. Open Space and Recreation Plans (OSRP) provide guidance for municipalities to prioritize investments in recreational offerings for citizens while ensuring that needs for wildlife, water resources, flood protection, agriculture, and habitat connectivity are accounted for. OSRP's have a 7-year lifespan and enable the town to apply for Massachusetts State Grant programs such as the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Program (PARC Grant) and the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity Program (LAND Program). To remain eligible for State Funding, the existing 2017 plan needed to be updated.

Figure 1 Historic Map of New Marlborough



Acknowledgements

This plan was developed in coordination with the Town of New Marlborough Planning Board and with valuable input from members of the community.

Planning Board Committee Members:

- Robert W Hartt, Chairman
- Jonathan James, Vice Chair
- Jordan Archey
- Christian Stovall
- Becky Wilkinson

Land Acknowledgement

Land in New Marlborough and all of Berkshire County is the ancestral homeland of the Mohican people. These people lived in the area for hundreds of years before being forcibly displaced to Wisconsin by European colonization. These lands continue to be significant to the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation today.

Section 1: Plan Summary

Background

The town of New Marlborough produced its first Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2006 and then updated the plan in 2017. The 2017 plan was developed in conjunction with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. More recently, recognition of the need to update the plan and enable the town to access state grant funding has provided the incentive for the current update. The earlier plan addressed issues of resource protection and conservation of lands and historic structures. The plan outlined a set of goals and actions in a 5-year action plan. This new version builds on those goals and objectives using resident feedback to prioritize and plan for the future of the town.

New Marlborough residents value its rural, relatively undeveloped, and historical character. They recognize the importance of incorporating climate mitigation into planning models. Residential development has trended toward second homes from nearby metropolitan areas. This development in the town has pushed home prices higher, pricing out many long-term residents, stressing town services, and decreasing habitat and the rural character of the town. Many residents have expressed a desire to balance second home development with affordable housing for local residents, as well as conserving the natural environment.

The town has not yet voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act. Funds from this program are used to support historic preservation, low-income housing, and land protection. Many survey respondents mentioned a desire for New Marlborough to prioritize funding in these areas. The Community Preservation Coalition is a good resource regarding the state program and could provide guidance to the town on adopting the bylaw.

The Town can use its Right of First Refusal in the Chapter 61 state tax abatement program to conserve land for public enjoyment of history, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation.

When asked about why they choose to live in New Marlborough, they told us it was the rural, natural setting of the town that brought them here. In their own words,

- *All the rivers, amazing views on high ground, lots of farms and farm diversity, mix of old and new blood-surprisingly lots of new younger families.*
- *I found my home here, 23 years ago. It is the beauty, community, and quiet that brought me here.*
- *I live in New Marlborough because of the wonderful quality of life in the aggregate, the natural beauty of the surrounding forests, meadows and streams, and the character of our little villages.*
- *It's rural environment and beauty. New Marlborough also is a true community in the best sense where people are friendly and reach out to help when a friend or neighbor needs support.*
- *New Marlborough has much open space and is not yet too overdeveloped. There are views of forests, pastures, mountains, rivers and lakes. It is generally quiet. The people are friendly and helpful.*

New Marlborough residents are active and enjoy getting outside for recreation. In the public survey, 9 out of 10 residents stated that they enjoy hiking and walking, more than half enjoy gardening, and more than a third are active birdwatching, boating/canoeing/kayaking, bicycling, and swimming. They take advantage of the Konkapot River, Local Land trust and other non-profit lands, the Umpachene Falls

Park, and local state parks and forests. They support these efforts both financially and through their own volunteer efforts. They are interested in working with nearby communities to enhance wildlife habitat and migration corridors. The town's five historic villages create the sense of place that citizens want to protect. They would like to continue to concentrate development in these areas, while retaining the agricultural and natural characteristics of the rest of the town. Town residents are concerned about haphazard sprawl and development that they view as changing the rural nature of the town.

In developing the New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan, the committee identified 5 overarching goals, as follows:

Goal 1 Character of the villages' remain intact.

- a. Coordinated long-term growth management planning and zoning achieves a healthy rural community.
- b. Flexible building envelopes containing small business, light commerce, and residences exist in village centers.
- c. Well-planned growth in village centers is cohesive, attractive, and welcoming.

Goal 2 Diverse, accessible, and safe recreational opportunities are provided for residents of all ages without conflicting with the needs for protection of natural resources.

- d. Accessible gathering areas exist for all town residents.
- e. Outdoor recreation coexists with the preservation of natural resources.
- f. Children, teens, families, seniors and people with disabilities have access to recreational sites and activities.

Goal 3 Healthy natural resources support both human and wildlife communities.

- g. Ground and surface waters are of excellent quality.
- h. Diverse flora and fauna exist throughout town.
- i. Wetlands and floodplains remain as diverse habitat.

Goal 4 New Marlborough's historic integrity and scenic beauty are preserved.

- j. Historic resources are maintained as cultural landmarks.
- k. Scenic views and unique natural resources are cherished by residents and visitors.
- l. Local agriculture thrives amidst sustainable land use.

Goal 5 State and Town Officials work with citizens and non-profits to determine and implement the management of open space and recreational facilities.

- m. Residents are involved in the promotion and maintenance of areas within town and state-owned properties.

Figure 2 New Marlborough Town Green



Section 2: Introduction

A. Statement of Purpose

New Marlborough, located in Southern Berkshire County between Sheffield (West) and Sandisfield (East) and Monterey (North) and the Connecticut border (South) is a rural community composed of 5 distinct village centers.

- Hartsville
- New Marlborough
- Southfield
- Mill River
- Clayton (Three hamlets)
 - Konkapot
 - North Clayton
 - Clayton

The intervening land is sparsely populated with large tracts of farmland, forest (including several Land Trust, State Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas), and rivers, wetlands, lakes and ponds.

The town's population has remained approximately 1,500 individuals since 2000 but has seen a shift in composition as more residents are second homeowners from Boston or New York City. This change has increased the price of housing and has made it more difficult for long-term residents to afford to remain in the town. The Town last updated its Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2017.

This plan identified a number of priorities in the town, including:

- Preserving village character.
- Balancing recreational opportunities for all residents while accounting for natural resource protection.
- Protecting natural resources for both human and wildlife communities.
- Protecting historic resources and scenic beauty.
- Working with town officials, citizens, and the state to implement open space and recreation amenities.

The 2024 Plan built upon the efforts of the 2017 and 2006 OSRPs.

B. Planning Process and Participation

The 2017 Plan was developed in coordination with the New Marlborough Planning Board and this group was also tasked with updating the 2024 Plan. The Town contracted with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to provide technical assistance on the plan, assist with the public participation process, and to help define goals and objectives for the plan. Meetings with the Planning Board began with a January 24, 2024 presentation on the process, the importance of an updated Open Space and Recreation Plan, and a proposed timeline for the project. Additional meetings with the Planning Board were held on: 2/28/2024, 3/27/2024, 4/23/24, 8/13/2024, 9/10/2024, and 12/11/2024. Meeting agendas and minutes from those meetings are available both on the town's website and the New Marlborough 5 Village News.

A public Survey consisting of 18 questions was utilized to gain feedback from the townspeople and was advertised on the Town's website, in the New Marlborough 5 Village News, on flyers posted at the Library and on message boards at the Mill River General Store (see Figure 3)

The survey was open from May 1st to June 15th and received 119 responses, representing 298 members of the community. The survey included a variety of open response, multiple choice, and demographic questions. Residents were asked about preferred activities, frequency of visit and favorite sites in the town, attitudes and preferences for improvements, and underserved groups and residents.

Paper copies were available at the Town Hall and Library and were added to the electronic survey after the survey closed.

Two public forums were held to publicize the survey and the results of the survey. The forums were advertised on the town's website, using flyers posted at the Town Hall, the Library, and at several of the village general stores. The New Marlborough 5 Village News also advertised the events, attended, and reported on the events. The first public forum was held at the Monterey Public Library on 5/18/2024 and was focused on informing the public about the OSRP survey and process in general (see Figure 3). Several members of the public attended the meeting (including the Planning Board) and the President of the New Marlborough Land Trust. Another Public Forum was held at the Town Hall on 11/13/2024 and focused on the results of the survey and how those were used to generate goals and actions for the plan. This meeting was also attended by members of the public including Select Board members and the reporter for the New Marlborough 5 Village News. At both events, the public was invited to provide feedback using the interactive website Mentimeter. These results are included in Appendix H of the document.

Figure 3 Public Announcement of New Marlborough Open Space Survey and Forum



Section 3 Community Setting

A. Regional Context

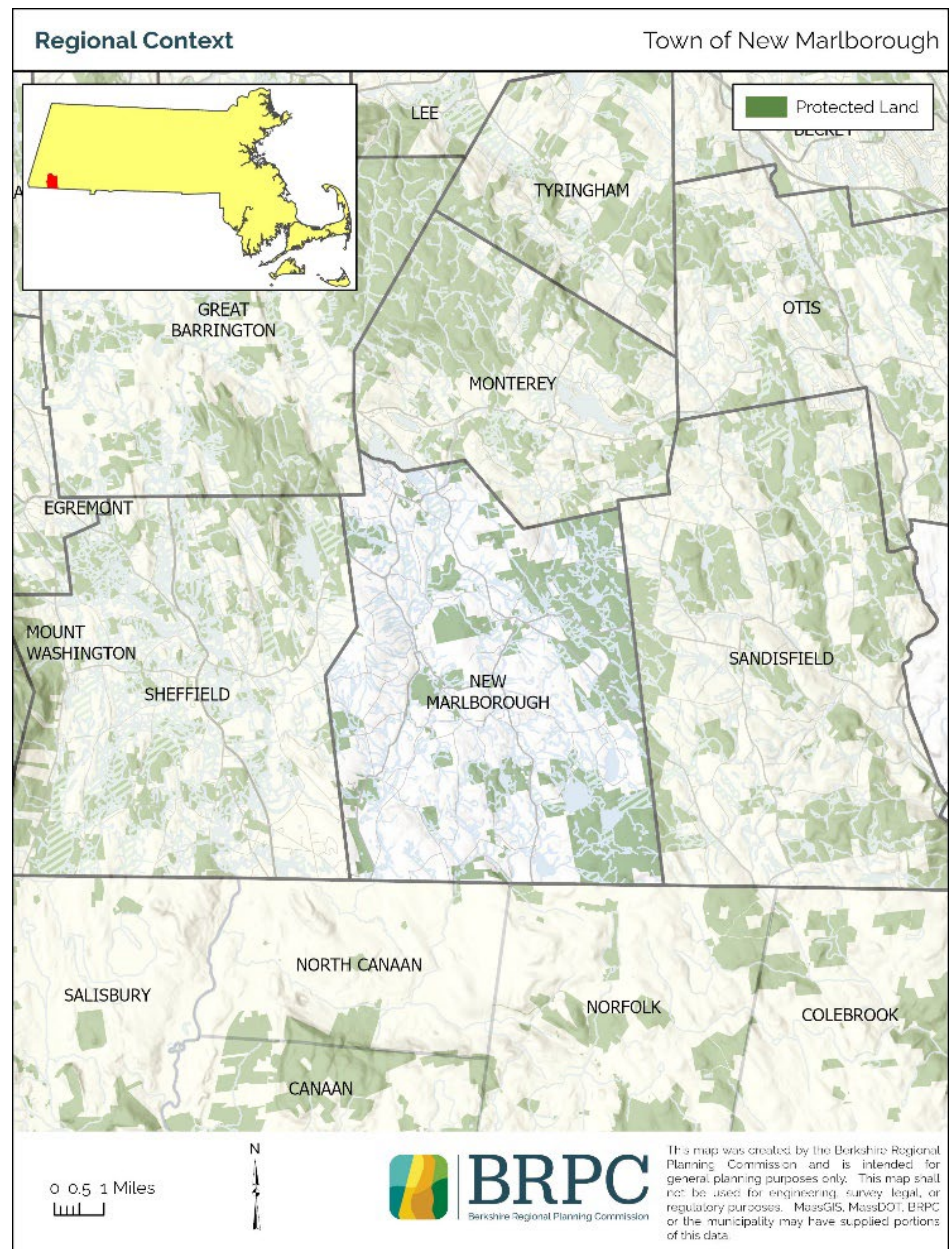
With its sweeping vistas, rural pastoral setting, and large unbroken tracts of forest, southern Berkshire County attracts visitors for its arts and culture, traditional farms, and classic New England charm. The villages of New Marlborough certainly have all these characteristics and more.

The five distinct historic village centers are:

- Hartsville
- New Marlborough
- Southfield
- Mill River
- Clayton (Konkapot, North Clayton, and Clayton)

The town's population of approximately 1,500 full-time residents increases during the summer and weekends when second homeowners come to the town. The town is approximately 10 miles southeast of Great Barrington, the population and employment center of the area (~7,200 residents.) The area of the town is 47.9 square miles or 32,656 acres. Population density in the town is 32 residents/square mile. Nearby communities include; Sheffield to the west, Sandisfield to the east, Monterey to the north, and the Connecticut border to the south, two Connecticut towns share a border with the town, North Canaan and Norfolk. Boston is 140 miles to the east and New York City is 125 miles to the southwest.

Figure 4 New Marlborough Context Map



The town has several rivers flowing from north to south, the Konkapot, the Whiting, and the Umpachene. Sections of these rivers are designated as prime cold-water fisheries and host native populations of trout. The Berkshire National Trout Hatchery is on the northern edge of town and supplies lake trout for the lower great lakes and native brook trout for stocking area rivers and lakes.

The town is also dotted with lakes and marshes. From Lake Buel on the border with Monterey, a 196 acre great pond to Windermere and Thousand Acre Swamp in the south.

The town is off the beaten path, with significant lapses in cell coverage making it easy for the visitor to get turned around and lost. Major roads in the town include State Road 183 connecting Great Barrington in the northwest to Colebrook Connecticut in the southeast. Highway 57 splits off of 183 near the Old Inn on the Green and connects the small community of Sandisfield to the east. The Berkshire Regional Transit Authority provides public transport in the area but the nearest fixed routes are in Great Barrington. In the past several years, the nearby towns of Monterey, Stockbridge, and Great Barrington have been served by an on-demand transit service called the Tritown Connector. The service offers weekday on-demand service for seniors in the town.

New Marlborough's children attend schools in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. The New Marlborough Central School, in the village of Mill River, serves approximately 80 students from pre-kindergarten through third grade from several of the surrounding communities. Middle and High School students attend Mount Everett Regional School in nearby Sheffield.

Several land trusts including the New Marlborough Land Trust, The Trustees of the Reservation, and Berkshire Natural Resources Council own and manage properties in the area.

History of the Community-

New Marlborough was first settled in 1739 and incorporated in 1759. The town has five distinct villages: Southfield, Mill River, Hartsville, New Marlborough Village, and Clayton. Each village contributes a separate history and set of unique characteristics to this New England town. The natural and cultural resources of the town are often cited as reasons residents choose to live in the community.

Begun as part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the township was established along with Tyringham, Sandisfield, and Beckett on June 24, 1737, with a grant whose purpose was to introduce settlers to the lands along the road established between Westfield and Sheffield, which was then the frontier. As the population grew, it was determined that the village of New Marlborough should become the location for a meeting house. The site was located and a deed secured for three acres of land on what is commonly known today as the Village Green. The meeting house, the Old Inn on the Green, and several older homes surrounding the green are part of the National Historic District of New Marlborough Village.

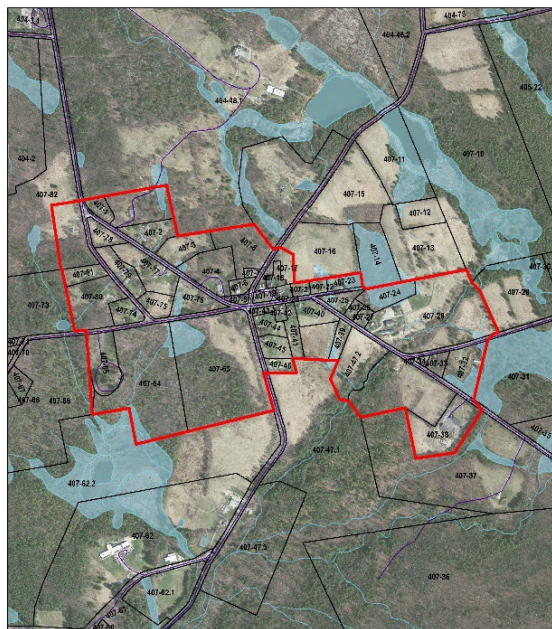
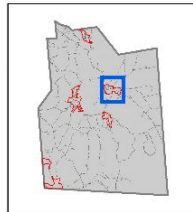
Although a blacksmith shop and brass foundry were located in this village, agriculture was the main occupation throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. During the late 1800's, a finishing school known as the Southern Berkshire Institute was located in New Marlborough Village. Led by Hildreth Kennedy Bloodgood of New York City, wealthier families began to purchase homes and land in order to vacation here. To this day, much of the preservation work of older homes continues to be accomplished

by “seasonal” residents, who contribute to the tax base but usually do not vote in town elections. In contrast to New Marlborough Village, the village of Mill River followed a more commercial path. Several

Figures 5 and 6 Village Boundaries for New Marlborough and Mill River

Village Boundary: Village of New Marlborough

Town of New Marlborough
Village Center District Boundaries
ACCEPTED AT TOWN MEETING DATED: MAY 6, 2019



Legend

- Town
- Village Boundary
- Parcels
- Roads

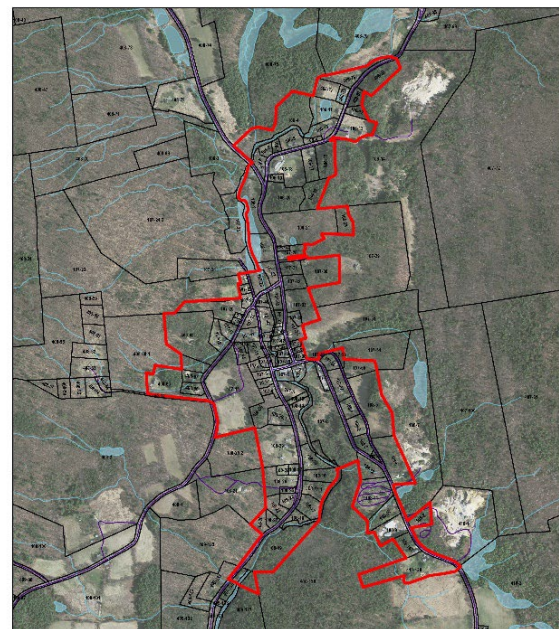
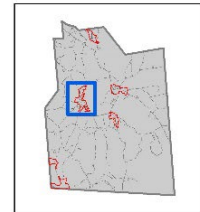
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Village Boundary: Village of Mill River

Town of New Marlborough
Village Center District Boundary
ACCEPTED AT TOWN MEETING DATED: MAY 6, 2019



Legend

- Town
- Village Boundary
- Parcels
- Roads

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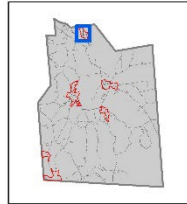
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paper mills were located along the Konkapot River during the mid-1800's and contributed to the economic growth and population boom of the time. The Town Hall, which is the seat of local government, is located in this village.

Figures 7 and 8 Village Boundaries for Hartsville and Southfield

Village Boundary: Village of Hartsville

Town of New Marlborough
Village Center District Boundaries
ACCEPTED AT TOWN MEETING DATED: MAY 6, 2019



Legend

- Town
- Village Boundary
- Parcels
- Roads

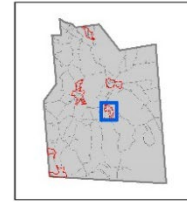
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Village Boundary: Village of Southfield

Town of New Marlborough
Village Center District Boundaries
ACCEPTED AT TOWN MEETING DATED: MAY 6, 2019



Legend

- Town
- Village Boundary
- Parcels
- Roads

0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet



This map was created by the Southfield Zoning Planning Commission and is intended for general planning purposes only. This map shall not be used for engineering, survey, legal, or regulatory purposes. No warranty, express or implied, is made by the Town of New Marlborough for the use of this map.

Clayton, south of Mill River, has its own industrial history. The Sheffield China Clay Works was founded in 1866. Throughout the late 1800's many of the clay products were exported around the world. Employing as many as seventy-five people, the clay works business declined in the early 1900's for the same reason the mills in Mill River closed-- costly railroad transportation.

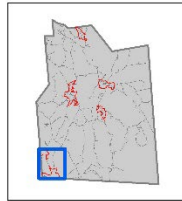
The village of Hartsville, once a center of agrarian and industrial pursuits where a sawmill still operates today, is located at the base of Lake Buel. Many summer cottages are located around the Lake. Under the Clean Lakes Act, the towns of New Marlborough and Monterey are working to reduce the level of eutrophication in the Lake and enhance its natural recreational attributes. In 1917, a fish hatchery was opened in Hartsville as part of a state environmental project to concentrate on trout and Atlantic salmon.

Southfield, home of the Town's volunteer fire department (established in 1930), was the site of New England's oldest continually operating tanning works, Turner and Cook, Inc. Located on the Umpachene River, the tannery building is now home to a crafts and retail center named the Whip Shop.

Figure 9 Village Boundary for Clayton

Village Boundary: Village of Clayton

Town of New Marlborough
Village Center District Boundaries
ACCEPTED AT TOWN MEETING DATED: MAY 6, 2019



Legend

- Town
- Village Boundary
- Parcels
- Roads

0 200 400 800 1,200 1,600 Feet



This map was created by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and is intended for informational purposes only. It is not a legal document and should not be used for legal or financial purposes. For more information, visit the MassDOT website at <http://www.mass.gov/dot>.

At one time, each village maintained its own post office and at least one schoolhouse. At present, post offices are located in Mill River and Southfield. New Marlborough Central School, located in Mill River, is part of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. All five villages are rural in nature and the town continues its tradition as a popular location for second home owners.

Historic preservation in the town is conducted principally through the efforts of the local Historical Society and Historical Commission, who work with the New Marlborough Land Trust and the Cultural Council. These groups operate in tandem to identify resources, respond to property-owner and resident requests for information on town history, and pursue grants to support projects to highlight and protect town historic resources. The designation of the Upper Housatonic River National Heritage Area, of which the town is a part, created an important new vehicle to organize and implement heritage projects in the town. To date, the town has four sites on the National Register of Historic Places: Mill River Historic District, New Marlborough Center Historic District, New Marlborough Congregational Church, and the Thomas Shepard House (MHC, 2016). In addition, informational walking tours of old mill sites along the Konkapot River and highlighting the thirteen cemeteries of the town have been created (NM

Comp. Plan 2010).

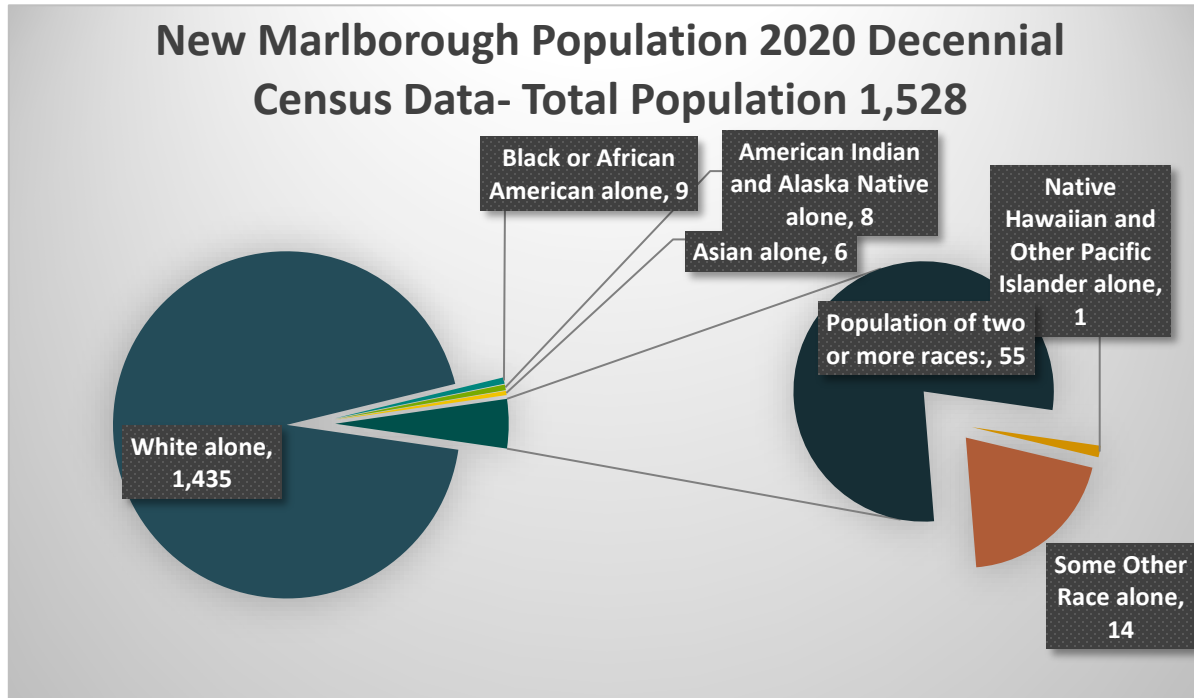
B. Population Characteristics

New Marlborough is a small rural community, with a year-round population of 1,528 for the year 2020 (220 Decennial Census Data). During the 1800's the town was larger with the 1850 census recording 1,847 residents and a zenith of 1,876 residents in 1880. The population in the town declined through the early 1900's. As recently as 1950, the town's population was under 1,000. The town then began growing to around 2000 when the population hovered around 1,500 residents. (see Table 1)

Table 1 New Marlborough Population 1900-2020

New Marlborough Population over Time				
1850	1900	1950	2000	2020
1,847	1,282	989	1,494	1,510

Figure 10 New Marlborough Population 2020 DCS



Much like the rest of Berkshire County, the population in the town is aging. Median age in the town has increased over the past two decades. Similar to the rest of Berkshire County, the population is becoming older with a median age of 47.8 (2020 Decennial Census Data.) Table 2 shows the 2020 median age in the country to be 39.7, slightly younger than Massachusetts at 39.9. New Marlborough has an older median age 54.7, which is similar to the median age the nearby communities of Monterey and Sheffield. Comparing the 2010 Decennial census numbers put the median age at 47.6, and 2000 numbers put the median age at 42.3.

The town has a population density of 32 residents per square mile.

Table 2 2020 Median Age, New Marlborough, Berkshire County towns, Massachusetts, United States

Median Age in Berkshire County 2020 Decennial Census Data	
New Marlborough	54.7
Monterey	54.8
Sheffield	52.1
Great Barrington	49.6
Berkshire County	47.8
Massachusetts	39.9
United States of America	39.7

The racial makeup of the town is homogenous with a majority of residents identifying as white alone, approximately 94%. About 1% each identify as Black, American Indian or Alaskan Native, and some other race alone. The remaining 4% identify as populations of two or more races. Figure 10 shows race data for New Marlborough.

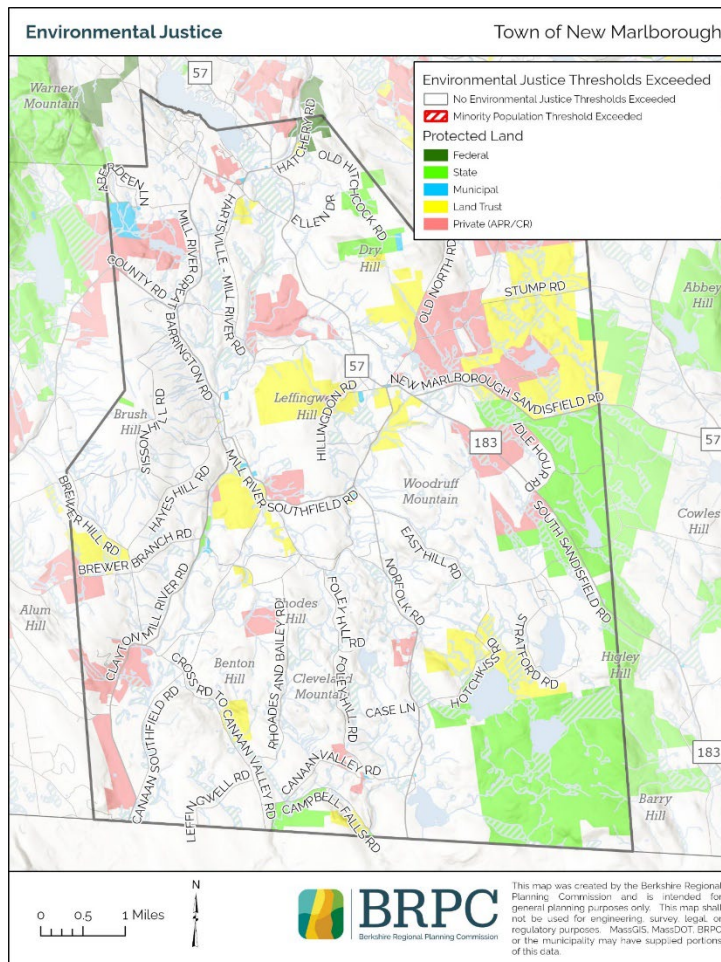
According to the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates which is the source for employment statistics in the town, there are approximately 762 individuals over 16 are employed in the town. Each of these categories is an estimation and should provide a general idea of employment in the town. Each category has a varying margin of error and therefore the total number of employees is larger than would be expected. The largest group, 62% are employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations. This is followed by 22% who work in education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations. Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations compose 6% of the population. Service occupations and Sales related occupations each are 9% of the employment in the town. Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations make up 10% of the employment. Lastly, production, transportation, and materials moving are about 11% of the employment in the town.

Environmental Justice Population

Conceptually, environmental justice (EJ) recognizes that some of the most highly polluted and undesirable areas to live have tended to contain populations of low-income, minority, foreign-born, and non-English speaking residents. Additionally, these populations have tended to have reduced or limited access to open space. In Massachusetts, these populations have been mapped in each municipality based on Census information. In the state, a neighborhood is defined as an environmental justice population if any of the following are true:

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

Figure 11 New Marlborough Environmental Justice Map



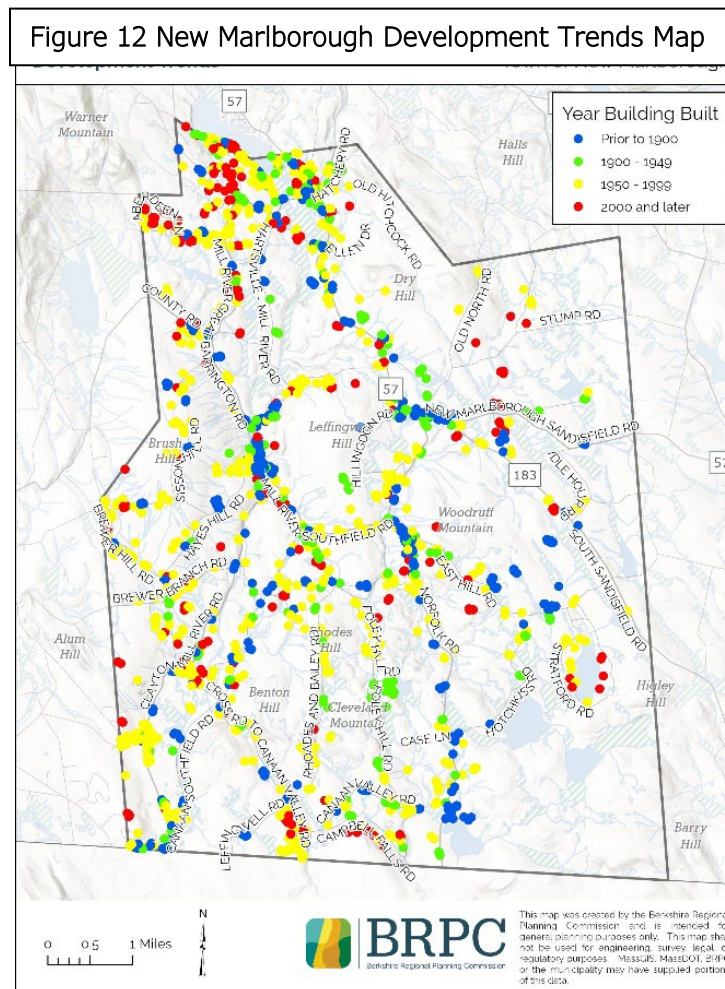
According to EEA mapping and using 2020 U.S. Census data (as of autumn 2023), there are no environmental justice populations located within the Town of New Marlborough using the state's criteria. There are no public housing projects or developments in the Town, and therefore any residents meeting any of the EJ criteria will be scattered throughout the Town. New Marlborough seniors on fixed incomes are likely the largest segment of the population meeting EJ criteria. See Figure 11 Environmental Justice map.

C. Growth and Development Patterns

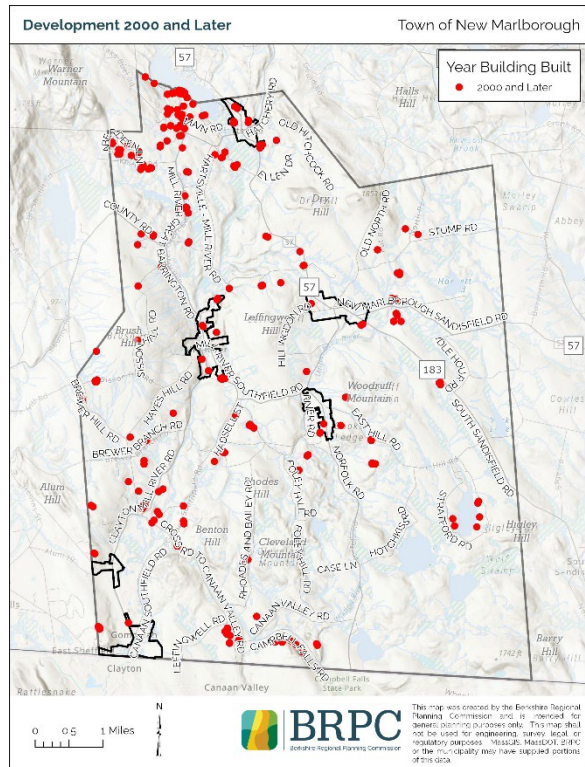
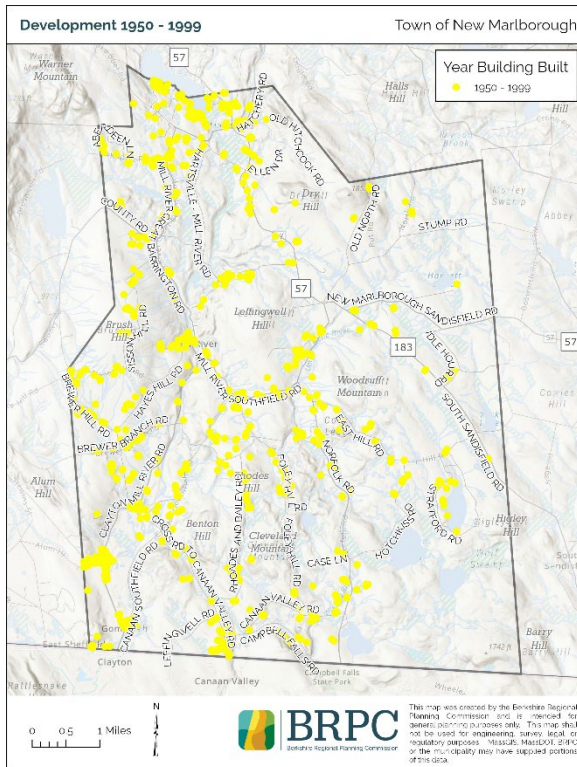
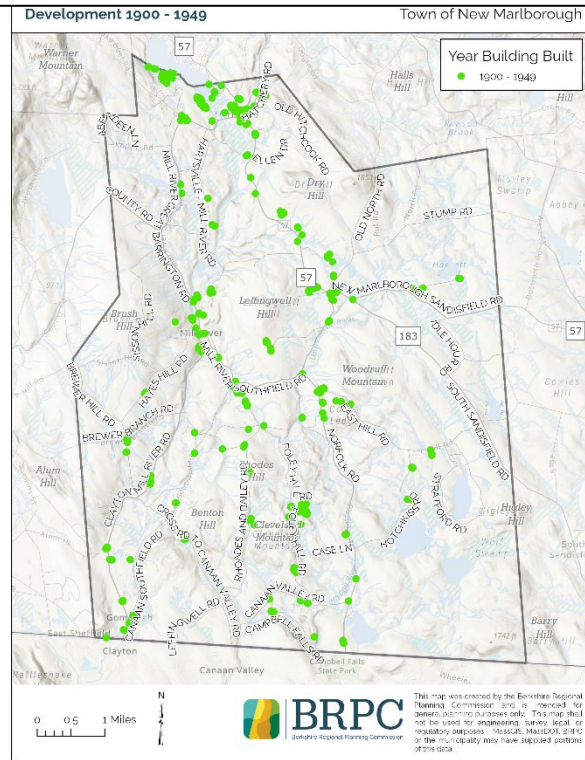
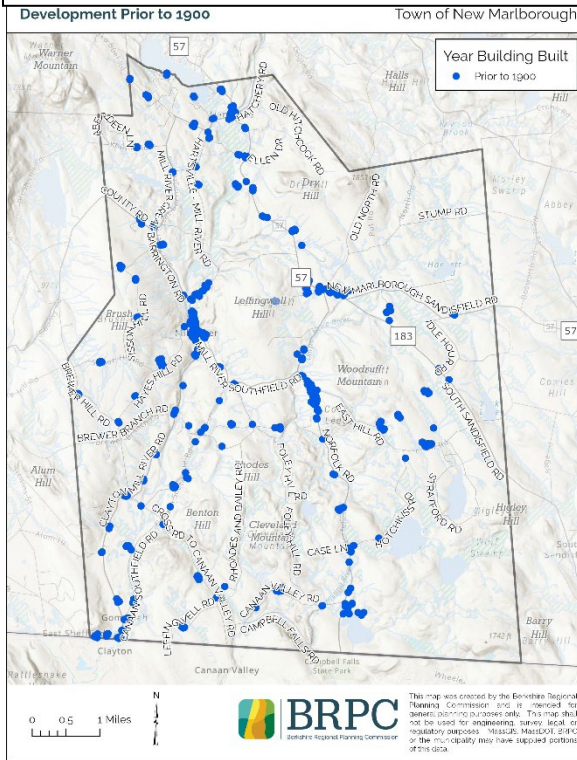
New Development in New Marlborough is dominated by residential housing, especially second homes for seasonal and weekend residents.

Figure 12 Features a composite image of development trends in the town shows building starts in the community from the colonial era to the present. Figures 13 through 16 show development trends in the town by specific era. Prior to 1900, housing was concentrated in the village centers and is featured in blue in Figure 13. Between 1900 and 1950, development in the town is shown with green dots (Figure 14) and is more concentrated in the village centers, especially Hartsville. Figure 15 shows development trends between 1950-1999 in yellow dots, Hartsville continued to be a development hotspot, especially around Lake Buel, but development also occurred along the peripheral roads in the more rural sections of the town.

The final development trends map, shown in Figure 16 features housing built in the town since 2000. This map has the village center districts overlain in black. Lake Buel was again a center of development but many other houses were built in the more rural parts of the town.



Figures 13-16 Development Maps over Time
Prior to 1900 (Blue dots), 1900-1949 (Green Dots), 1950-1999 (Yellow Dots), 2000-Present (Red Dots)

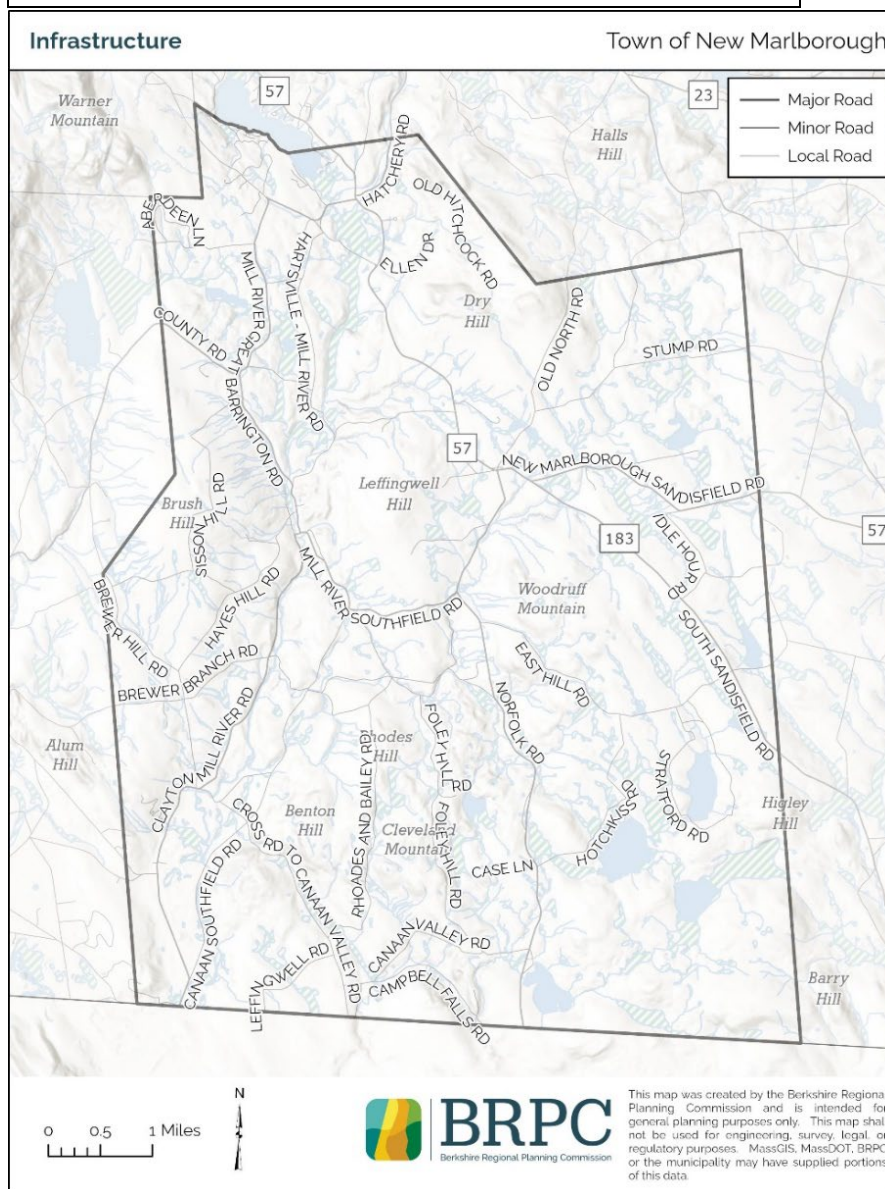


The town has a long history of agricultural production. The town's topography means that farms are generally smaller and focused on the production of specialty products. Loss of farmland continues to be a concern, both in the town and in Berkshire County as a whole. Since 2000, the town has lost many acres of farmland, primarily to residential development. Protection of farmland through temporary means, such as the Chapter 61 tax abatement program and permanent protections such as the Agricultural Protection Restriction and Conservation Restriction programs.

Transportation system

The town is served by three major roadways and a number of connector roads. The road network is shown in Figure 17. Route 57 or Hartsville Road connects Hartsville and Lake Buel to the southeast and Sandisfield to the east. Route 183 or Colebrook Road also connects Hartsville with South Sandisfield and Colebrook, Connecticut to the southeast.

Figure 17 New Marlborough Road Infrastructure Map



Route 272 or Norfolk Road transits the town from north to south and connects to Norfolk, Connecticut.

Interstate 90 is the closest major highway, approximately 20 miles north with access at the town of Lee. To the east Route 8 is a north/south connecting Winstead, Connecticut and Otis and Becket to the North. To the west, Route 7 is also a north/south corridor that connects the town to Sheffield, Great Barrington, and North Canaan Connecticut. According to 2023 ACS Data, the average commute in the community is 28 minutes indicating that many residents work in nearby communities such as Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, and Pittsfield to the north and Canaan and Hartford to the south. The COVID Pandemic enabled more residents to telecommute and has enabled many residents work remotely while still maintaining office space in nearby metropolitan areas such as Boston, New York City, and Hartford.

The town is not served by regularly scheduled public transit. A new service, the Tri-Town Connector offers limited on-demand service for seniors and individuals with disabilities. To access the service, residents need to call the dispatcher and schedule pickup and drop off locations.

Although there are currently no established multiuse paths or dedicated bike routes in the town, the circuitous, rural roads in the town lend themselves to use by cyclists. The faster road speeds and soft shoulders of the town's busier roadways are less conducive to cycling than the less used and often gravel roads that spiderweb throughout the rural town. The town is working with MASSDOT to install signage reminding drivers to give pedestrians and cyclists 4 foot minimum passing distance. Previous survey work conducted by the Planning Board indicated that residents would like to see additional pedestrian and cycling options in community.

The New Marlborough Land Trust has worked to connect residents to the history, ecology, and uniqueness of the various preserves, especially in the vicinity of the Village of New Marlborough. They continue to create and enhance the network of walking trails on their properties and encourage residents to get out and enjoy nature.

Water Supply System

Most New Marlborough residents get their drinking water from private individual wells on their own properties. The villages of Southfield and Mill River have private community water systems that provide potable water to village residents. In Mill River, the Mill River Water Takers Association serves about 150 customers in the summer and about 100 during the winter. The water company lists 31 service connections according the lasted information available on the Department of Environmental Protection's website. The water company has placed protections around the Zone 1 area of the well to reduce the possibility of contamination to the well.

The Southfield Water Company in Southfield serves 80 customers in the summer and about 60 in the winter. DEP's public water supplier site lists 36 service connections in the town.

Berkshire Springs Water Company is a private business that bottles spring water from an underground aquifer in the village of Southfield. The company has source protection through ownership of the land around the springs but also treats the water through micron filtration, ultraviolet sanitization, ozonation, and regular testing. The company is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. The company produces an average of 2 to 3 thousand different sizes of bottled water per day from a spring on the company's property.

Sewer Service and Septic

Properties in the town are served by private, onsite wastewater treatment (septic systems.) The Town's Board of Health inspects septic system installation and ensures the health and safety of residents.

State building and public health codes have been established to be protective of water quality and human health, but despite these efforts contamination can occur if septic systems are not designed or

maintained properly. Improperly functioning septic systems can contaminate groundwater and surface waters by leaching untreated nutrients and pathogens. Septic systems around Lake Buel have in the past been suspected of negatively impacting water quality, and an outreach program was established several years ago to educate property owners of the importance of proper maintenance of their systems.

Land Use and Long Term Development Patterns

While the year-round population remains constant at around 1,500 residents, the number of second homes in the community has also remained over 30% of the homes in the community. This is somewhat less than the nearby communities of Monterey and Otis, which have second homeowner rates greater than 50% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2024). The notable trend of land use in the town is the recent shift away from the development pattern that dominated for more than 200 years – that of distinct village centers surrounded by predominantly open rural land. This change can be observed through tracking the location of new development on the Development Trends Map, Figure 12. In 1987, 25% of all structures were located within one of the five village centers; by 1999 this had fallen to 20%. This shift was due to the fact that 83% of new development between 1987 and 1999 occurred in rural areas. During the same time period, the average lot size for residential development in rural areas increased by over 100%. In 1987, the average lot size of developed parcels was two acres. The average lot size of new homes developed between 1987 and 1999 more than doubled to nearly five acres per residence. New low-density residential development along roadways at the outskirts of village areas is blurring the edge between the villages and surrounding rural areas. This development pattern represents a fundamental shift from a sharper historic village-rural settlement pattern that residents wish to retain. As shown in the various Development maps, in 1987 the densest development was concentrated in the village centers and along major roads. By 1999 development had noticeably shifted to scattered rural sprawl. All new housing since 2000 was developed in rural areas outside of village centers (NM Comp. Plan 2010).

The town has a relatively homogenous (single-family) housing stock. In 2006, 94.5% of the town's 1,057 residential units were single-family residences. The multi-family housing that does exist (5.5% of all housing) is two to four units per dwelling. These multi-family units tend to blend with the single-family residences in that they are typically older homes that have been divided into apartments. While there have been fluctuations in the median sales price during the past eight years, the average annual price has increased by 7.6%. This is particularly notable given the national housing crisis has stagnated or reversed home value trends in other portions of the country and state in the past few years. In 2000, the median home sales price in New Marlborough was \$187,500 and the median household income was \$46,875. More than 30% of the town's homes were seasonal at that time. By 2007, the median home sales price had increased 94% to \$367,500 and further to \$371,900 by 2014 (ACS 2010-2015 5-yr est) while the median household income rose only 26% to \$56,800 in 2007 and to \$64,559 in 2014 (ACS).

Section 4 Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Geology, Soils, and Topography

The town sits on the western edge of the Berkshire Plateau on the eastern side of the Housatonic River valley. The topography is rolling hills dominated by Dry Hill (1,850 feet), Woodruff Mountain (1,727 feet), and Leffingwell Hill (1,470 feet). The western third of the town is cut by the Konkapot River flowing out of Monterey and Lake Buell to the north and intersects with the Umpachene River north of Benton Hill (1,410 feet.) Glaciation as recently as 13,000 years ago shaped the hills and river valleys and resulted in deposits of sand, gravel, and clays in the southern portion of the town. The southern third of the town also covered in a variety of lakes, wetlands, and marshes.

The lower elevations of the town are part of the Western New England Marble Valley ecoregion. The limestone/marble bedrock creates a basic soil chemistry and has resulted in a large percentage of state-listed plant and animal species. To the eastern portion of the town, the Berkshire Hills ecoregion extends northward to northern New England and Canada. These hills are composed of Gneissic and Schistose bedrock that are harder and more resistant to erosion and weathering, unlike the softer limestones and marbles which dominate the riverine areas of the town.

Surface Geology: Much of New Marlborough is covered by unconsolidated deposits left by continental glaciation which scoured bedrock and eroded material. Glacial till covers the land up to fifty feet thick in places and is notable for its yellow-brown sandy clay, pebbles, and boulders. Especially along the Konkapot and Umpachene Rivers, there are more recent deposits of alluvium (brownish gravel and fairly well sorted silt) and organic materials form the surface soils.

Of particular interest are the kames located along the Konkapot to the east of Mill River. These are sand and gravel mounds, some as much as fifty feet high, left behind by the streams that flowed from the glacial ice. Also along the Konkapot, Umpachene, and Whiting Rivers are closely-associated stream terrace deposits left from the glaciers.

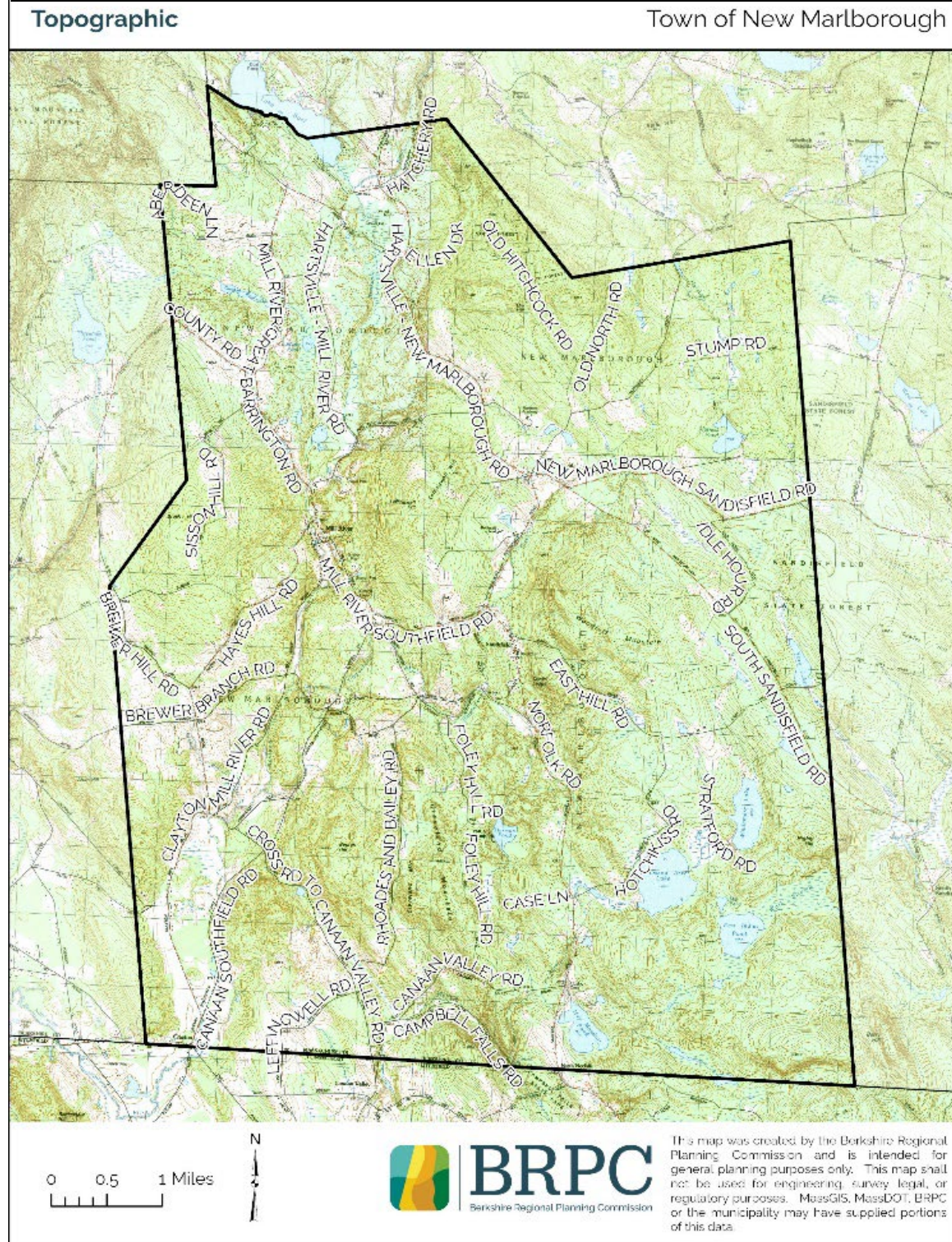
Aquifers located in association with the kames flow freely beneath the sand and gravel deposits. These deposits allow for rapid downward movement of water as well as superb upward movement of water for drinking supplies. These areas of excellent drainage are important to protect from development due to the high potential for groundwater contamination (Holmes and Newman, 1971).

Soils

Berkshire Marlow Association: These soils, formed in glacial till that had been derived from schistose rock, contain many fragments of mica schist. These are deep, well-drained, and very stony soils. In New Marlborough, these soils are found on steep slopes (15% to 45%), typically on Dry Hill, Leffingwell Hill, and along the Monterey border to the north.

Lyman-Tunbridge Association: Generally shallow to bedrock (usually less than twenty inches), this association also developed in glacial till derived from schistose rocks. Outcroppings of bedrock occur between the flat areas of Tunbridge soils and the extremely stony, shallow areas of Lyman soils. Large portions of town contain these soils, particularly Woodruff Mountain, the Benton Hill area, and much of the eastern half of town where steep slopes occur.

Figure 18 New Marlborough Topographic Map



Peru-Marlow Association: These, too, are soils developed in glacial till derived from schistose rocks. The Peru soils have a seasonally high water table, within eighteen to thirty inches of the surface for four months of the year. This is due to excess water seepage from other areas which then lies near the surface and is trapped by the hardpan, characteristic of Peru soils.

These soils are found throughout the town, particularly on Brush Hill, across most of the Thousand Acre Swamp region, and along the rolling (3% to 15%) slopes of the Sandisfield line.

Pillsbury-Whitman Association: Both deep and very poorly drained due to underlying hardpan, Pillsbury-Whitman soils contain many boulders and stones and are typically found at the base of slopes. This association is located mainly in the southeast corner of town.

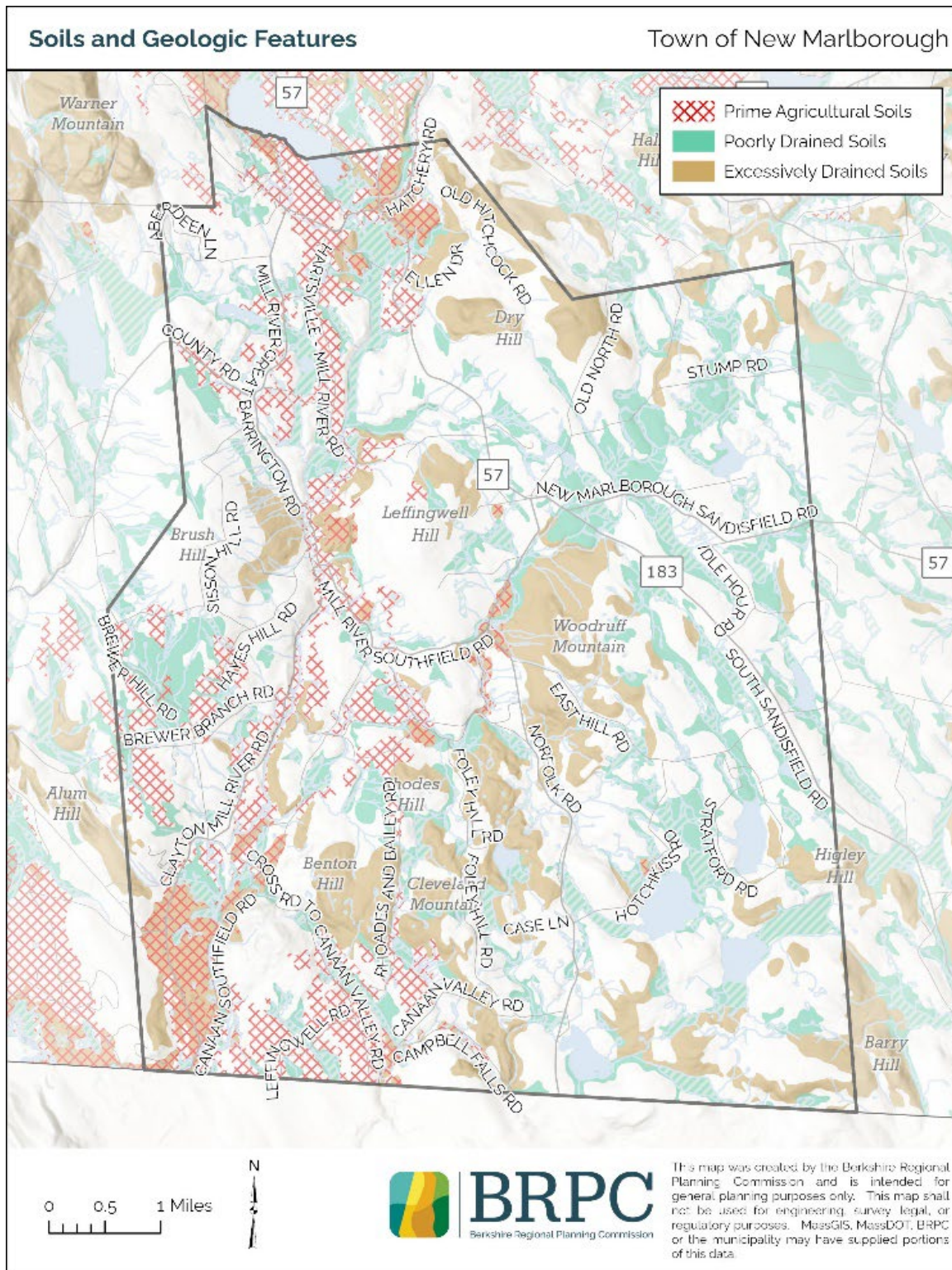
Amenia Series: Moderately well-drained soils developed in calcareous glacial till (resembling calcite or containing calcium), these soils contain limestone, schist and phyllite fragments. They are underlain by a silt loam hardpan and thus have slow permeability and high-water table for four months of the year. In New Marlborough, these soils are found along the Konkapot and along the Umpachene, and east of Lumbert Cross Road. Much of the southern slope of Brush Hill is covered with the Amenias series.

Prime Agricultural Soil: Few soils in New Marlborough are classified as “prime agricultural soil.” Classification is based on characteristics of soil composition, depth, fertility and drainage qualities. In New Marlborough, these soils include Amenias silt loam, Copake fine sandy loam, Hero loam, Merrimac loam, Pittsfield loam, and Winsooski silt loam. All but the very last were developed in glacial till derived from limestone, schistose and some phyllitic origins. All are found on gentle slopes of 1% to 8%, making them less susceptible to erosion. Their importance as a local and regional resource cannot be over stressed. They are exceptional soils that can be farmed continuously without degradation to the environment. These soils can produce the most food for the least effort and respond well to agricultural practices without leaching.

Typically, development occurs on prime soils because they are level, well-drained, and relatively free of stones. In New Marlborough these prime agricultural soils occupy a narrow strip of land all along the Konkapot River and along the Umpachene just north of Southfield. Scattered fields along the Whiting River also contain prime agricultural soils as do several open fields around Hartsville.

Because New Marlborough is primarily a hill town, the types of soils and slopes potentially limit the activities which require septic systems. Over 80% of the town has a theoretical limitation because of the characteristic shallow depth to bedrock of the Peru, Lyman, and Pillsbury soils. For example, limitations for septic systems exist around Lake Buel because of the potential for eutrophication of the lake due to excessive nutrient seepage. Slopes over 15% also limit development in much of the town. Since much of New Marlborough’s soil is sensitive to disturbance, activities that damage the vegetation and its capacity to stabilize soils need to be carefully sited to avoid damage (USDA NRCS, 1983, as noted in the New Marlborough Open Space Plan, 2006).

Figure 19 New Marlborough Soils and Geologic Features Map



Landscape Character

New Marlborough is predominantly forested (77.5% of land cover), with scattered waterbodies and wetlands covering approximately 9.7%, agricultural lands comprising 6.7% and other open lands covering another 6.1%. Residential development comprises 0.6% of land use cover and commercial/industrial lands are approximately 0.1%. The quiet and rural character of the town is one of its greatest assets and was frequently cited by survey respondents as the reason that they choose to live there.. Table 3 demonstrates Land Uses in the town.

Table 3 2016 New Marlborough Land Use Data

Land Use	Acres	Percentage
Agriculture	2056.4	6.7%
Bare Land	751.5	2.4%
Commercial	39.0	0.1%
Developed Open Space (Lawn)	668.0	2.2%
Forest	23833.2	77.5%
Industrial	1.3	0.0%
Mixed Use	4.1	0.0%
Recreation	0.1	0.0%
Residential	191.7	0.6%
Right-of-way	250.9	0.8%
Water	584.0	1.9%
Wetland	2390.5	7.8%

Forested peaks of Dry Hill, Leffingwell Hill, Benton Hill, Brush Hill, and Woodruff Mountain dominate the landscape. The peaks of these hills and mountains offer breathtaking views to the Berkshire foothills to the east, Mt. Everett to the west, and meandering valleys in between. Their hillsides are most clearly visible from the many scenic roads that wind through the valleys.

The remainder of town is characterized by rolling hills, rocky slopes, and smaller valleys, with babbling brooks, marshes, wetlands, and quiet ponds. Much of the landscape was previously cleared for charcoal making and farmland, but many of these former farmlands have been abandoned and secondary growth and mixed hardwood and softwood forests have reclaimed these areas. Isolated fields are still hayed periodically and the vistas they afford add enormously to the rural character of the town. Abandoned mill sites and extensive stone walls line the rivers and country lanes that weave through the landscape. The former fields and now dense forests offer attractive and valuable wildlife habitat as well as aesthetic appeal.

The reforested landscape of New Marlborough forms a large relatively unfragmented block of habitat, part of a large mosaic that reaches from the northern Appalachians through New England and upstate New York to Canada. This large block of habitat is critical to the biodiversity of the Northeast and beyond, providing wildlife habitat and travel corridors. These wild areas will become increasingly invaluable to some species as they migrate northward or to higher elevations to survive the seasonal shifts and temperature increases of climate change.

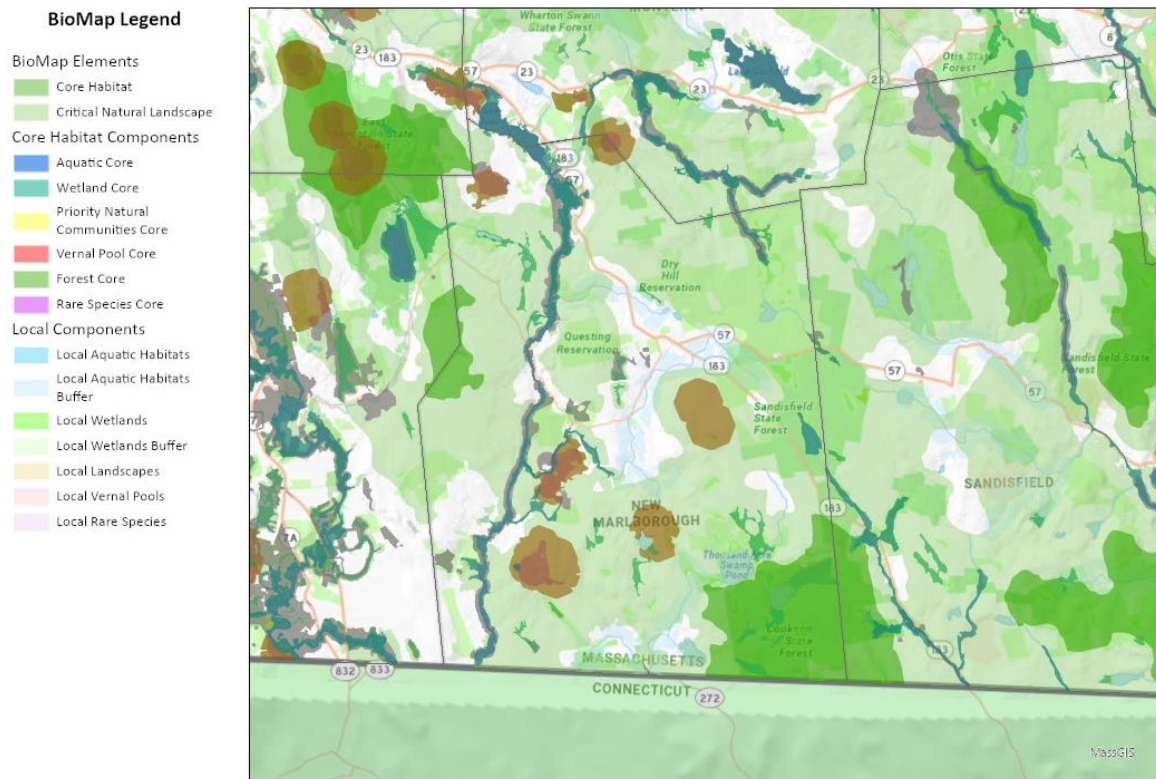
As noted by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), New Marlborough hosts more than 40 unique or uncommon species and the natural habitats that provide a niche for those organisms. Appendix C provides tables of rare and endangered plant and animal species along with the last recorded observation of those organisms in the town.

BioMap, The Future of Conservation in Massachusetts, New Marlborough (2024). The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts has developed Biomap to identify critical lands and waters in need of conservation (MassWildlife and The Nature Conservancy, 2024). The site offers the latest in scientific data to inform local governments about strategically important habitats and ecosystems for conservation of biodiversity. Areas of core habitat and critical natural landscapes are featured on Biomap and correspond to the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). Figure 11 shows these areas in New Marlborough and Table 4 defines those areas in the town. Due to the overlay of colors, areas indicated red (vernal pool core) appear brown on the map.

Table 4 2023 New Marlborough Biomap Statistics

Biomap Statistics for New Marlborough, MA	
Total Area	30,654 Acres
Core Habitat	6.822 Acres
Critical Natural Landscape	24,928
Local Components	3,504

Figure 20 Biomap GIS Overlay for New Marlborough



0 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 mi

ArcGIS Web Map

Produced from: Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife & The Nature Conservancy (2022). BioMap: The Future of Conservation in Massachusetts. <https://mass.gov/biomap>. These data layers are intended for conservation planning purposes only.

Produced on: 11/21/2024

The town has several core habitats worth highlighting, the Konkapot River from Lake Buell to the Connecticut border is considered an aquatic core and the Cookson State Forest is a mixture of wetland and forest core habitat with high levels of biodiversity.

Water Resources

Watersheds

The vast majority of New Marlborough lies within the Housatonic River Watershed, the largest watershed in Berkshire County. The Konkapot River is the main river flowing through the town, flowing through Hartsville, Mill River and Clayton. The Umpachene River is a major tributary of the Konkapot. The Whiting River with its source in Thousand Acre Swamp, in the southern portion of the town, joins the Housatonic River in Connecticut. Sandy Brook and York Lake, on the very eastern border of the town, are part of the Farmington River Watershed, the only waterways in the town that are not part of the Housatonic River Watershed. Refer to Figure 20, Water Resources, to see subwatershed boundaries.

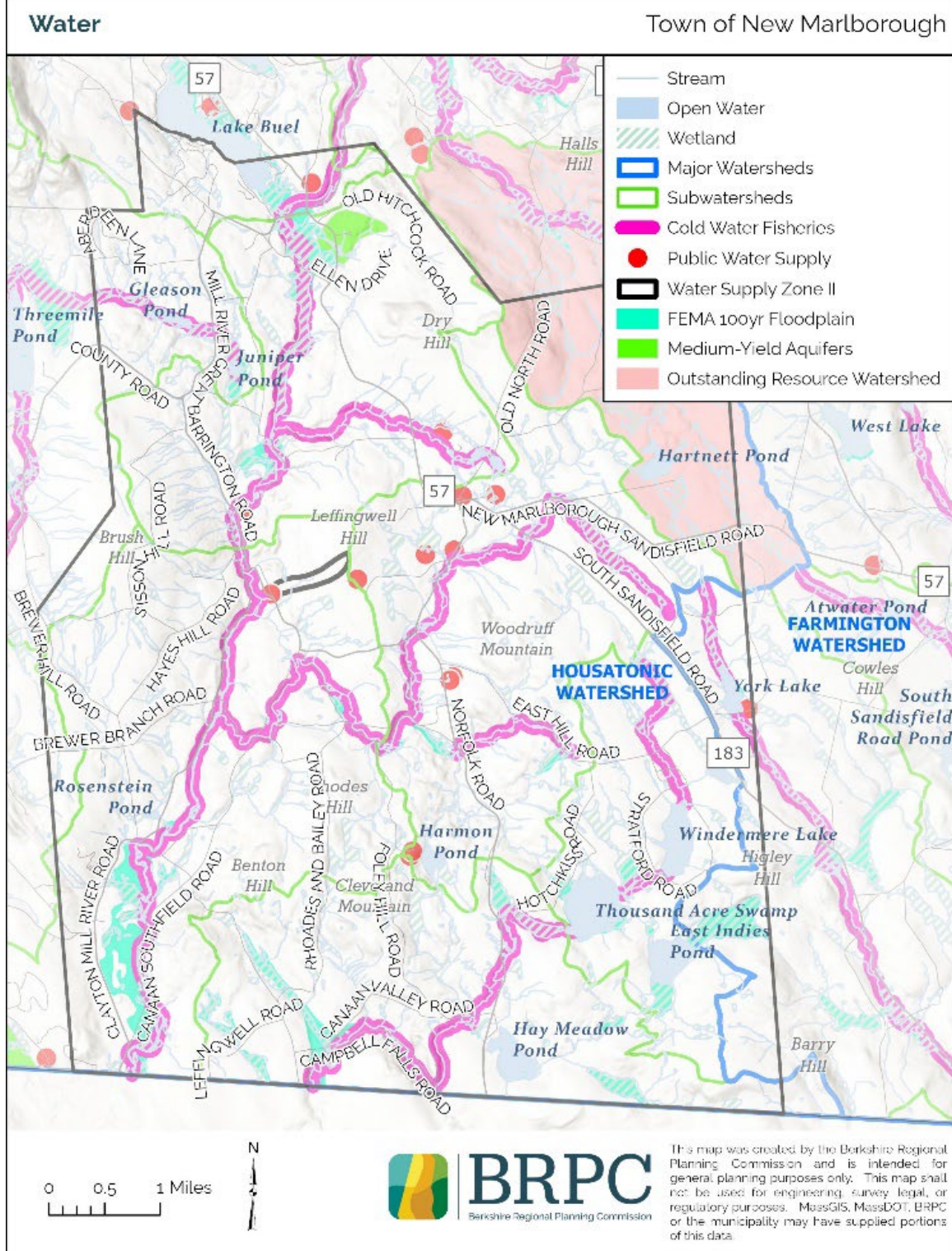
The town hosts several ponds, which provide important aquatic habitat for common and rare species. Lake Buel, which the town shares with Monterey to the north, is open to boating, fishing, and swimming, and is one of the most frequented sites in New Marlborough. York Lake, in the eastern part of town, is also a favorite recreation area for local residents. Privately owned Windemere Lake, a developed area in the southeast part of town, and Harmon Pond, part of Camp Wa WA Segowea are not open to public recreation.

Rivers and Streams

There are two main rivers in New Marlborough, the Konkapot and the Umpachene. The Konkapot River bisects New Marlborough along its north-south axis. The Konkapot drains Lake Garfield and Stedman pond, both located in the north-bordering town of Monterey and Lake Buel contributes to its fast flowing, narrow waters. In the central part of town, just south of the village of Mill River, the Konkapot is joined by the Umpachene River. Just before the confluence of these two rivers is a popular, easily accessible recreation area known as Umpachene Falls Park. These dramatic waterfalls tumble over stone steps through a beautifully vegetated gorge for a mile and a half. This six-acre, town-owned park is highly valued by residents for its scenic beauty as well as its recreational opportunities such as swimming, fishing, picnicking, and hiking.

Other significant rivers and streams such as Ironwork Brook, Whiting River and Rawson Brook offer fewer opportunities for recreation, due to limited access. All the major streams and rivers in New Marlborough have been designed by the Department of Fish and Game as Cold-Water Fisheries, a dwindling habitat that is the last bastion for the region's native brook trout and other cold-water species. Few other towns in Massachusetts can boast of having so many miles of cold-water habitat. It will be increasingly important to maintain forest cover along these waterways to provide shade to help maintain cold water temperatures climate change brings ever-warmer temperatures. Figure 20 shows the town's many water resources.

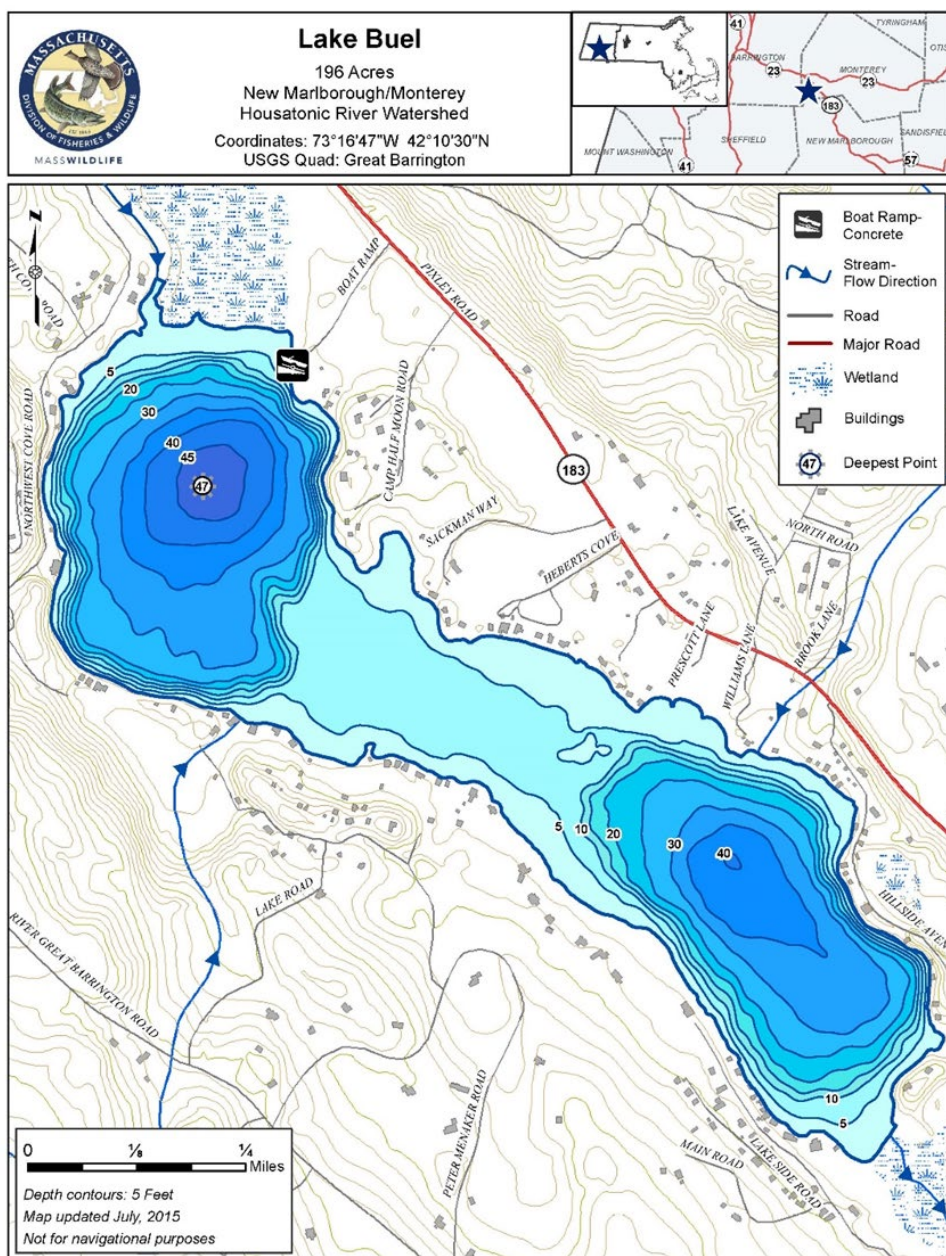
Figure 21 New Marlborough Water Resources Map



Surface Waters and Wetlands

New Marlborough hosts several open water lakes and ponds, many of which are open for public recreation. Lake Buel, shared with the town of Monterey, is a cold-water lake, which is unusual for Massachusetts. It is an area of great recreational opportunity for residents and visitors. Its well-populated southern shore front and southeastern bay form the northern border of New Marlborough. The lake covers approximately 195 acres with a maximum of 42 feet deep and an average depth of 20 feet (See Figure 22) The lake is accessible to the public via a paved boat launch located in Monterey. Long expanses of the shoreline are developed with residential homes.

Figure 22 Lake Buel Bathymetric Map



Juniper and Gleason Ponds flow through Ironwork Brook northwesternly out of the town and into Threemile Pond in neighboring Great Barrington. Harnett Pond is a privately owned, 33-acre pond located on Harmon Brook. Harmon Pond, located just east of Cleveland Mountain in the south-central part of town, is 23 acres in size and 15-33 feet deep. It is owned and used by Camp Wa Wa Segowea for summer camp activities and is not open to the general public.

The Whiting River watershed hosts four ponds. Windemere Lake, a privately owned man-made lake, has been partially developed as an exclusive private residential neighborhood. It is approximately 100 acres and drains into Thousand Acre Swamp. Classified as a pond and located in Cookson State Forest, Thousand Acre Swamp is a water body of high recreational value to local residents. It is 4 to 9 feet deep and 155 acres in size and offers great warm water habitat for bass. East Indies Pond, also located in Cookson State Forest, is more difficult to access and provides year-round fishing. Because of their location within the state forest, both these water bodies have shorelines that are undeveloped, offering a significant north/south wildlife corridor.

York Lake, part of the Farmington River Watershed, is 36 acres in size and approximately 6 to 16 feet deep. Located in the Sandisfield State Forest, it offers recreational opportunities such as non-motorized boating, fishing and swimming in the summer, and ice fishing and cross-country skiing in the winter. This lake is easily accessible from Routes 57 and 183.

Wetlands

There are relatively few acres of wetlands or floodplain to absorb storm flows during severe storm events. Fluvial Erosion is the process where the river undercuts a bank, usually on the outside bend of a meander, causing sloughing and collapse of the riverbank. Fluvial erosion of stream and riverbanks can creep towards the built environment and threaten to undercut and wash away buildings, roads, and bridges. Many roads throughout New Marlborough follow streams and rivers, having been laid in the floodplain or carved along the slopes above the bank. Fluvial erosion can also scour and downcut stream and river channels, threatening bridge pilings and abutments. This type of erosion often occurs in areas that are not part of a designated floodplain (MEMA, 2013).

Flood Hazard Areas

Flooding of properties and roadways occurs across New Marlborough, due to historic development within the floodplain, from floodwaters overtopping and eroding streambanks, and where bridges and culverts are undersized and restrict flow. Development is scattered across the Town, near the many lakes, ponds, wetlands, and a network of rivers and streams. Much of the Town's terrain is steeply sloped, with streams flowing through incised ravines. As such, the streams and rivers in New Marlborough has a flashy flow regime where peak flows built up quickly and bank erosion is common.

The major river system in the town is the Konkapot River, which flows southward through the central/western part of the town and has 100-year floodplain associated with it much of its length. The river is formed at the outlet from Lake Garfield, located in neighboring Monterey, meandering downstream almost a mile before it joins another brook formed by the outlet of Lake Buel. Just below the confluence of these two brooks, silt builds up and will cause water to backflow into Lake Buel. This causes extensive flooding and severe riverbank erosion, which threatens the bridge at Hartsville Mill River Road, just below the confluence. The severe bank erosion is washing away 4-5 feet of bank per year, moving the bank's edge close to the road. Downstream of the confluence with the Lake Buel outlet, the Konkapot River flows through the villages of Hartsville, Mill River and Clayton. The river causes repeated flooding along its entire length to the Connecticut state line, threatening Mill River Great Barrington Road and Clayton Mill River Road where bank erosion threatens road stability. The drainage system along the length of the Mill River Great Barrington Road needs an improved drainage system because there is only one catch basin at

the lower portion of the road and runoff in certain areas cross private residential properties before discharging into the waterway. Some landowners are losing land due to bank erosion, with one owner having lost almost 50 feet of property over the decades.

Stabilizing the bank of Konkapot River to protect Hartsville Mill River Road is a high priority. The Town partnered with Trout Unlimited to apply for grant funds to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Futures Fund for engineering design to stabilize the bank and work is currently underway.

Flooding of residences on Lake Buel flood often, due to water backing up in the outlet and sedimentation deposits at the site. Most of the flooding is to homes on the Monterey side of the lake where homes were built in low-lying land near the edge of the water; homes on the New Marlborough side of the lake tend to be on higher ground. However, one homeowner in New Marlborough suffered flooding during T.S. Irene in 2011.

According to the town's hazard mitigation plan, there are approximately 7 miles of roadway in the 100-year floodplain within the town. Flood hazard area maps indicate that 2,230 acres of 100-year floodplain are found in the town, constituting 7.3% of the town's land area. Approximately seven acres of floodplain are developed, or 0.3% of the town. Future development that occurs within the floodplain should obtain a wetlands permit for work within Land Subject to Flooding under the state Wetlands Protection Act. New Marlborough is one of only a few in Berkshire County that does not have a floodplain bylaw to restrict or guide development or to require flood storage compensation.

Aquifer Recharge Areas

Because of its varied geological conditions, New Marlborough's groundwater is found in widely differing conditions, depths, and quantities. The valleys of the Konkapot and Umpachene Rivers provide excellent examples of stratified, unconsolidated material from glacial times. Found in these pockets of coarse gravels within outwash deposits are sources of large quantities of water. The deposits underlay all of Mill River Village and follow roughly the thousand-foot contour at the western foot of Leffingwell Hill, and could yield as much as 40 gallons per minute (GPM). Similar yields may be available in the extensive outwash deposits which extend from Clayton to Konkapot. The area just southeast of Hartsville, however, may produce the most significant groundwater yields, well over 40 GPM. The gneissic bedrock beneath most of the town yields differing and significantly smaller amounts of water. Along fault lines and fractures, some successful wells have been developed. Higher yields have generally been reached in the limestone bedrock of the town's western section, where porous fractures have opened up by solution. These are areas of recharge where the aquifer receives replenishing surface waters in the gravel slopes along the Konkapot and Umpachene Rivers, in the wetlands in the southeast part of town, and probably in the area around Lake Buel (Holmes and Newman, 1971, as cited by Town Marlborough 2006).

There is only one known aquifer in the town and it is associated with the Upper Konkapot River watershed located just south of Hartsville Village. This information is based on a U.S. Geologic Survey hydrologic atlas series on groundwater favorability that was begun in the 1960s. According to this series this aquifer is a medium-yield aquifer with a yield of between 100-300 gallons per minute. As shown in the Soils Map of this plan the soils overlaying this aquifer are excessively draining soils, indicating that the aquifer could be vulnerable to contamination from surface or subsurface pollution, such as road runoff, fuel spills, septic systems or underground fuel storage tanks.

There are 7 non-residential public water supplies in town (see Water Resources Map), each with an Interim Wellhead Protection Area radius of at least 750 feet. These sites include restaurants, camps and schools. Additionally the Berkshire Mountain Spring Water company on Norfolk Road maintains a public water supply at which is bottles water for sale to commercial and residential customers. The company sells its water in bulk containers for use in water fountains and also in individual bottle sizes.

The Mill River Water Takers Association has a drinking water source with a Zone II Wellhead Protection Area, which is the area of an aquifer which contributes water to a well under the most severe pumping and recharge conditions that can reasonably be anticipated. There has been no hydro-geologic modeling study on the groundwater in New Marlborough. The sand and gravel deposits around the Konkapot and Umpachene Rivers, mentioned above, may contain aquifers but this has not been confirmed by a geologist or hydrologist.

Vegetation

The varied soil types across New Marlborough in conjunction with differences in elevation and historical land use have contributed to a wide diversity in plant communities. Most of the open space in New Marlborough is a mixture of northern hardwood and softwood forest with large agricultural openings and a few select open waters and wetlands. The large amount of forest cover in combination with scattered wetland and water systems create diverse areas of plant life, including 43 state-listed species, a variety of wildlife habitats, and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Maintaining land in forest or other vegetative cover helps to limit erosion and protect surface and groundwater quality.

Public Shade Trees

Public shade trees are defined as trees located along the roadways within the public right of way and are regulated by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87. This law outlines the authorities of the Town's Tree Warden, establishes procedures for cutting or removing public shade trees, and sets penalties for violations. The cutting and maintenance of trees along Town-owned roads can only occur by first holding a public hearing, or gaining approval from the Town's Select Board, or in the case of designated Scenic Roads, the Town's Planning Board. At this time there are no locally-designated scenic roads in New Marlborough.

Trees located along state highways are the jurisdiction of MassDOT, and do not require a public hearing to be cut, unless the cutting is part of a large improvement project.

Due to the large percentage of forested land in New Marlborough, most roadways are tree-lined and viewsheds are dominated by the forested landscape. The Town's park, at Umpachene Falls is forested through most of the property with a small field and playground along the river. The visitor experience could be enhanced in both parks by the planting of native shade trees, particularly if summer temperatures and the number of heat waves continue to rise in the coming decades due to climate change.

Priority Natural Communities

New Marlborough is fortunate to host a wide variety of natural resources, including forests, wetlands and cold water fisheries. This variety of habitats provide habitat for common plant assemblages and animals, as well as habitats that support over 40 different rare species. The town sits on the confluence of two Ecoregions defined by MassWildlife, the Berkshire-Vermont Upland Ecoregion and the Western New England Marble Valley Association of the Hudson Highlands Ecoregion. (See Figure 23)

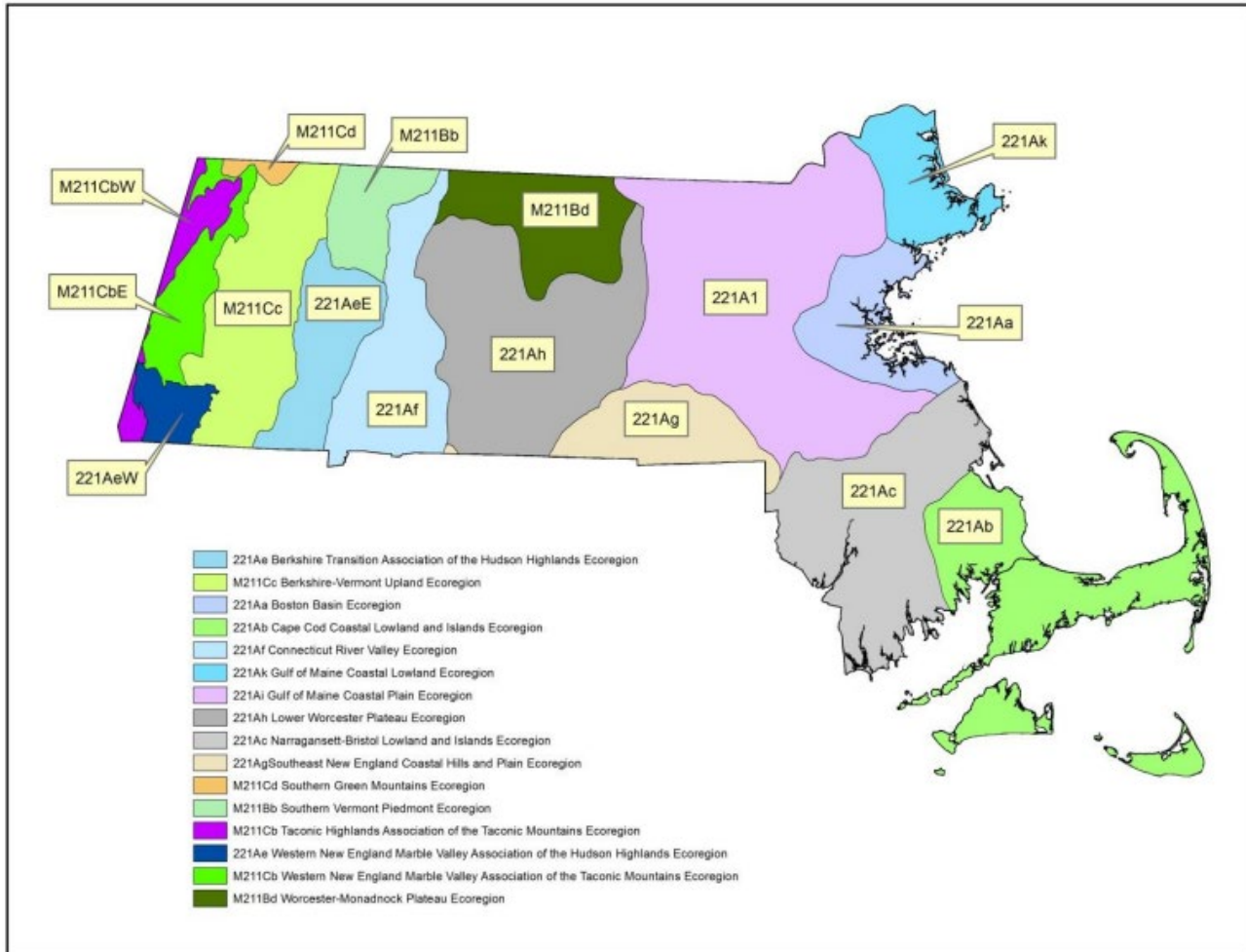
The floodplain and valley of the Housatonic River occupy a large portion of the Western New England Marble Valley Ecoregion (Association) of the Hudson Highlands (221AeW) with smaller areas of floodplain and outwash to the east. Low hills with limestone outcrops and soils formed in calcareous glacial till support species-rich communities in a prevailing transition hardwood forest

The Berkshire-Vermont Upland Ecoregion (M211Cc) has low mountains with steep slopes down to narrow river valleys. Acidic soils from acidic bedrock and glacially derived materials occur throughout.

Spruce mixes with northern hardwood forests in the higher northern areas, with transition forests to the south, where spruce is lacking even at higher elevations.

Figure 23 Massachusetts Eco Regions

(Swain, 2020)

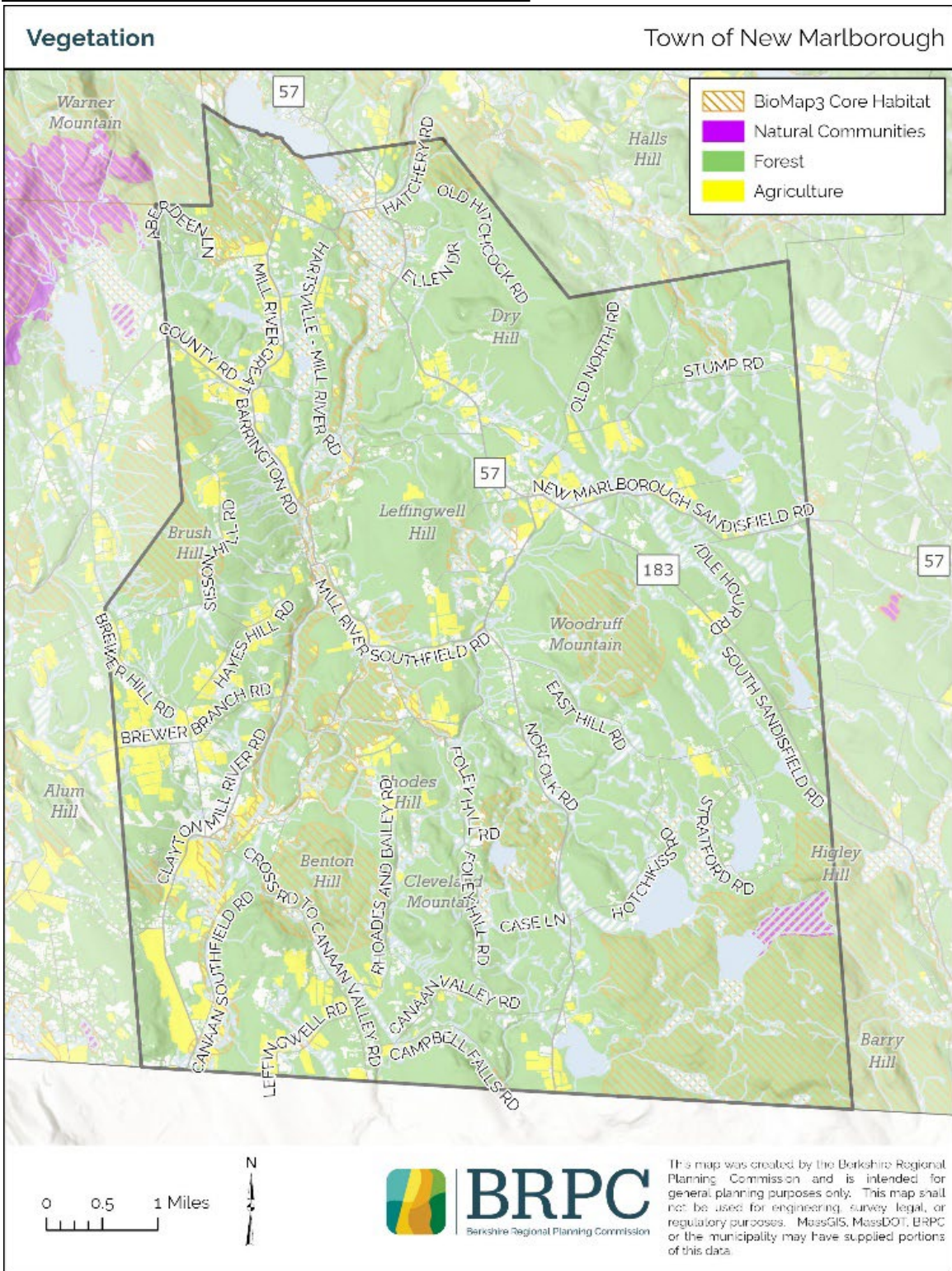


According to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), Natural Communities are recurring assemblages of plants and animals in similar chemical, moisture, geological, and topographic environments. Occurrences of uncommon types – called Priority Natural Communities – are considered to be priority for statewide conservation. Four Priority Natural Communities occur in New Marlborough and all of these are associated with the stream or wetland resources in town. (Frost, 2016).

Forest Land

The evergreen forest canopy consists primarily of white pine, hemlock, balsam fir, and above 1,200-foot elevation, red spruce. The deciduous components are mainly sugar maple, yellow and black birch, red oak, black cherry, hickory, beech, and white ash. Aspens and paper birches are also common, primarily along roads and field edges. Relatively pure stands of hemlock dominate the north-facing slopes and higher elevations. Mixed evergreen/deciduous forest increase as one moves into lower elevations.

Figure 24 New Marlborough Vegetation Map



The understory is generally sparse and consists primarily of striped maple, witch hazel, ironwood, and mountain laurel. The herbaceous layer, too, is rather sparse, especially when hemlock, spruce, and pine are abundant; plants include intermediate fern, blue-bead lily, painted trillium, and wood sorrel. Figure 24 features a vegetation map for New Marlborough.

Sandisfield State Forest and Cookson State Forest offer some hiking and off-road vehicle trails within their boundaries, but access is limited and their amenities are not widely known among residents or visitors.

Wetland Vegetation

Within New Marlborough there are three types of wetland, distinguished by their associated vegetation—marshes, shrub swamps, and tree swamps. Marshes have a year-round water depth of six inches to three feet; they contain hydrophilic grasses, sedges, horsetails, pond lilies, pickerel weed, and cattails. Shrub swamps, composed of silky dogwood, button bush, alders, and willows, are often dry in the summer and covered with up to one foot of water during flooding. Tree swamps succeed shrub swamps as silt and organic matter accumulate. They typically contain red maple, sourgum, and cottonwood, with an understory of swamp azalea, willows, spicebush, and winterberry. These wetlands experience seasonal flooding and their vegetation and soils function as sponges to absorb and slowly release excess floodwaters. They also function as pollution filters and groundwater protectors, and provide habitats for fish and wildlife.

The wetlands of New Marlborough are located extensively in the southeast part of town, as a part of the Whiting River watershed, and between the Konkapot River and Clayton in the lower Konkapot River watershed. Wolf Swamp, Thousand Acre Swamp, East Indies Pond, and Hay Meadow Pond are all part of the Whiting River watershed. The gorges of the Whiting, particularly Campbell's Falls, provide habitat to diverse flora normally found in more northern climates. Wolf Swamp is listed as Core habitat and is of particular importance for its valuable peatlands.

Bordering vegetated wetlands occupy extensive acreage along many of the streams in New Marlborough. An indication of the extent of wetlands can be obtained from a cursory study of the hydric soils. These soils, identified as the Pillsbury-Whitman Association, follow streambeds and low-lying areas between hills. While all areas of this soil do not function as wetlands, these soils will support wetland vegetation because of their high water table through many months of the year.

Wetlands bordering a perennial stream or at the headwaters of an intermittent stream are currently protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program conducted a survey showing 64 potential vernal pools within New Marlborough. Currently 22 vernal pools are certified and protected by the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act (Biological Resources Map). Vernal pools are temporary bodies of fresh water that provide critical habitat for many vertebrate and invertebrate wildlife.

Agricultural Land

Agricultural fields and pastures represent a small and shrinking percentage of the town's acreage, since dairy farming has decreased dramatically. The lower portions of the Konkapot and Whiting Rivers still meander through valleys of hay and corn; other remaining agricultural fields are generally in cultivation for silage for local livestock rather than grain. Some orchards persist and several small pastures for cattle and horses are currently maintained. There are post-agricultural fields in New Marlborough as well currently undergoing the process of secondary succession. This land has not been tilled for many years or may have been mowed occasionally, but the woody, perennial species like birches, aspens, dogwood, elderberry, and multiflora rose and larger herbaceous vegetation such as thistle, goldenrod and ragweed have taken over. Although residents would like to see full retention of the

remaining farms in town, farms and agricultural fields that enhance the rural character and provide scenic views are only temporarily protected under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 61A, currently 400 acres and 5 parcels are permanently protected through the APR program.

Rare Species

The National Heritage Inventory identifies 17 plant species and 15 animal species that have been documented in New Marlborough that are threatened, endangered, or of special concern. While these species are found in a mix of habitats, most rely on wetland resources and their adjacent uplands to survive and complete their life cycles. These include all of the bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, crustacean and dragonfly/damselfly species, and many of the vascular plant species. One of the rare bat species forages heavily on aquatic flying insects. It is therefore important that wetland resources and their surrounding landscapes be protected for the long-term survival of these populations.

Fisheries and Wildlife (See Figure 25)

Inventory

New Marlborough is home to a great variety of upland, aquatic, and wetland wildlife species, ranging from small invertebrates to large mammalian predators. These animals add to the rural character of the town, provide hunting and fishing opportunities for the residents, and act as indicators of the overall health of the ecosystems in New Marlborough.

The terrestrial upland species include white-tail deer, fishers, red squirrel, flying squirrel, owl, wild turkey, Cooper's hawk, ruffed grouse, fox, and snowshoe hare. Rodents range from voles to porcupines to weasels. Bobcats, coyotes, and black bears have all been sighted during the last several years as well. Songbirds include tanagers, siskins, grosbeaks, nuthatches, titmice and vireos.

The open upland meadows and pastures, particularly along hedgerows or where forest becomes field, are home to deer, red and grey fox, coyotes, woodchucks, cottontail rabbits, mice, voles, owls, hawks, garter and black racer snakes, and long-tailed shrew. These areas are home to numerous songbirds as well, including sparrows, warblers, finches, bobolinks, and meadowlarks.

Beavers, otters, Canada geese, herons, muskrats, minks, turtles and amphibian species inhabit the ponds and streams of New Marlborough. The diversity of wildlife species is greatly aided by the presence of a number of undeveloped areas where the animals and their habitats are relatively undisturbed. Between the protected areas are gaps that, if developed, will fragment habitats and interrupt or prevent the movement of species. New Marlborough hosts 15 animal species are listed by NHESP as endangered, threatened, of special concern or watch-listed.

Vernal Pools

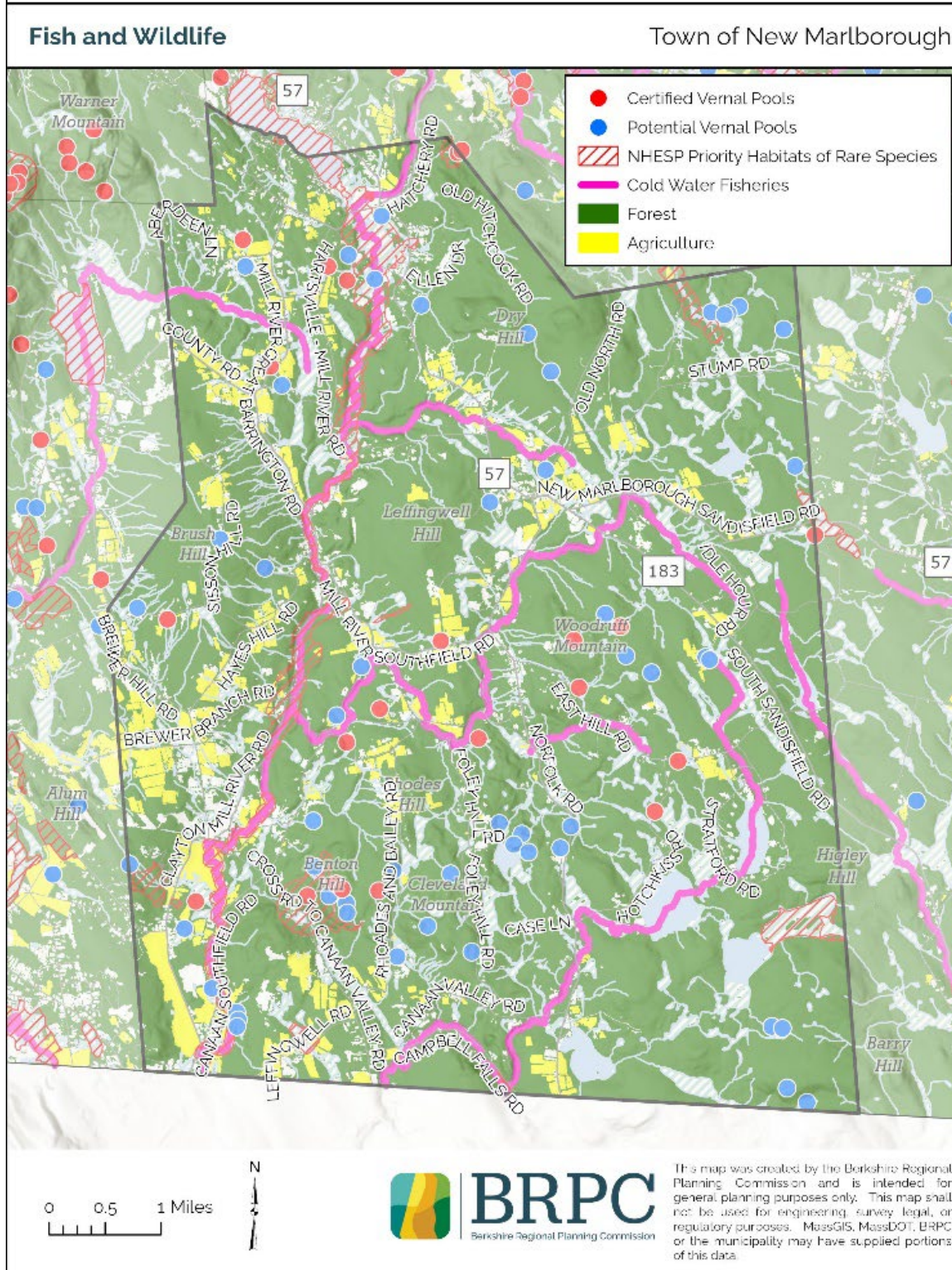
Vernal pools are ephemeral wetlands which fill annually from snowmelt, rain and the rising groundwaters of spring and early summer. Most years the pools completely dry out by mid-to-late summer. Because they are wet only a portion of the year, vernal pools often go unrecognized as important habitat and are filled in during development construction.

Some of the state's rarest amphibians are completely dependent upon vernal pools for their breeding grounds, including the mole salamanders (Jefferson, spotted, marbled salamanders) and some species of freshwater snails, clams and other invertebrates. For a rare species with a narrow or small distribution, a specific vernal pool may be the only place in the region or on earth that the creature is found. If that pool is destroyed, that specific population of creatures could become locally extinct. Because many of the

region's rarest amphibians rely completely on vernal pools, it is important to identify vernal pools and prioritize those known to support rare species for protection. The most effective way to protect vernal

pools is to study and certify them. The certification by NHESP provide the pools and their surrounding area some protection from development. Vernal pools that are associated with Wetland Resources are afforded some protection of the Mass. Wetland Protection Act. However, small isolated pools not associated with a Wetland Resource are not protected. According to NHESP, before wetland-associated vernal pools were incorporated into the Act in 1987, many of them were filled in for development. Because of the strong bond between amphibians and their natal

Figure 25 New Marlborough Fish and Wildlife Map



pools, many animals that were dependent on those pools were unable to breed, and the local populations became extinct.

There are 22 certified vernal pools in New Marlborough with another 64 sites that have been identified as potential vernal pools. Although a few potential vernal pools are located on lands that are permanently protected from development, the majority are located on lands that are unprotected or under the Chapter 61 and 61A program and are thus vulnerable to development. Two clusters of potential vernal pools are located on Chapter 61/61A lands along Cross Road / Canaan Valley Road.

Cold Water Fisheries

New Marlborough hosts several stream segments that considered important cold water habitat by the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (see Map 24). These streams are important for maintaining cold, clean water habitats on which brook trout and other aquatic species rely. It is important to maintain forested buffers along these streams where possible to maintain shade and filter inflowing sediments or contaminants. Road stream crossings should be evaluated to allow movement of fish, turtles, and other aquatic and semi-aquatic species. It is important to note that many of New Marlborough's cold water streams flow through rare species habitats, so protecting the streams and the lands along their corridors will protect both fisheries and other rare species that rely on these streams. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stock the Konkapot River and York Lake with trout in the spring.

Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Scenic Landscapes

Picturesque views can be found throughout New Marlborough along the roadways, from the lakesides and from hilltop viewpoints. Long range views of forested hillsides set a backdrop against lush roadside meadows along East Hill Road and New Marlborough Hill Road. The waterfalls at Umpachene Falls Park and Campbell Falls State Park are noted as among the best in the Berkshires. The 2024 Survey identified Umpachene Falls Park as the one single most important scenic or natural resource area in the town.

In 1982 the Mass. Department of Environmental Management (now known as Department of Conservation and Recreation, or DCR), inventoried the most scenic areas of the state. The southwestern portion of the town was designated as a "Noteworthy" area of important visual quality. The area is generally bound by Sisson Road to the north, Benton Hill and its sister ridges to the east, Clayton Village to the south and Alum Hill to the west.

Major Characteristics

New Marlborough's geologic past has left a unique setting. Steep hills running north to south plunge into valleys created by the rivers that run through them. As in many Berkshire towns where the rivers were once an important means of transport and production, roads and mill sites follow their winding ways through the hills. All five villages are connected by these unique and scenic paths. Pastoral open meadows are still found along local roads, a landscape that has largely been diminished by reforestation or residential housing in many other Berkshire County towns.

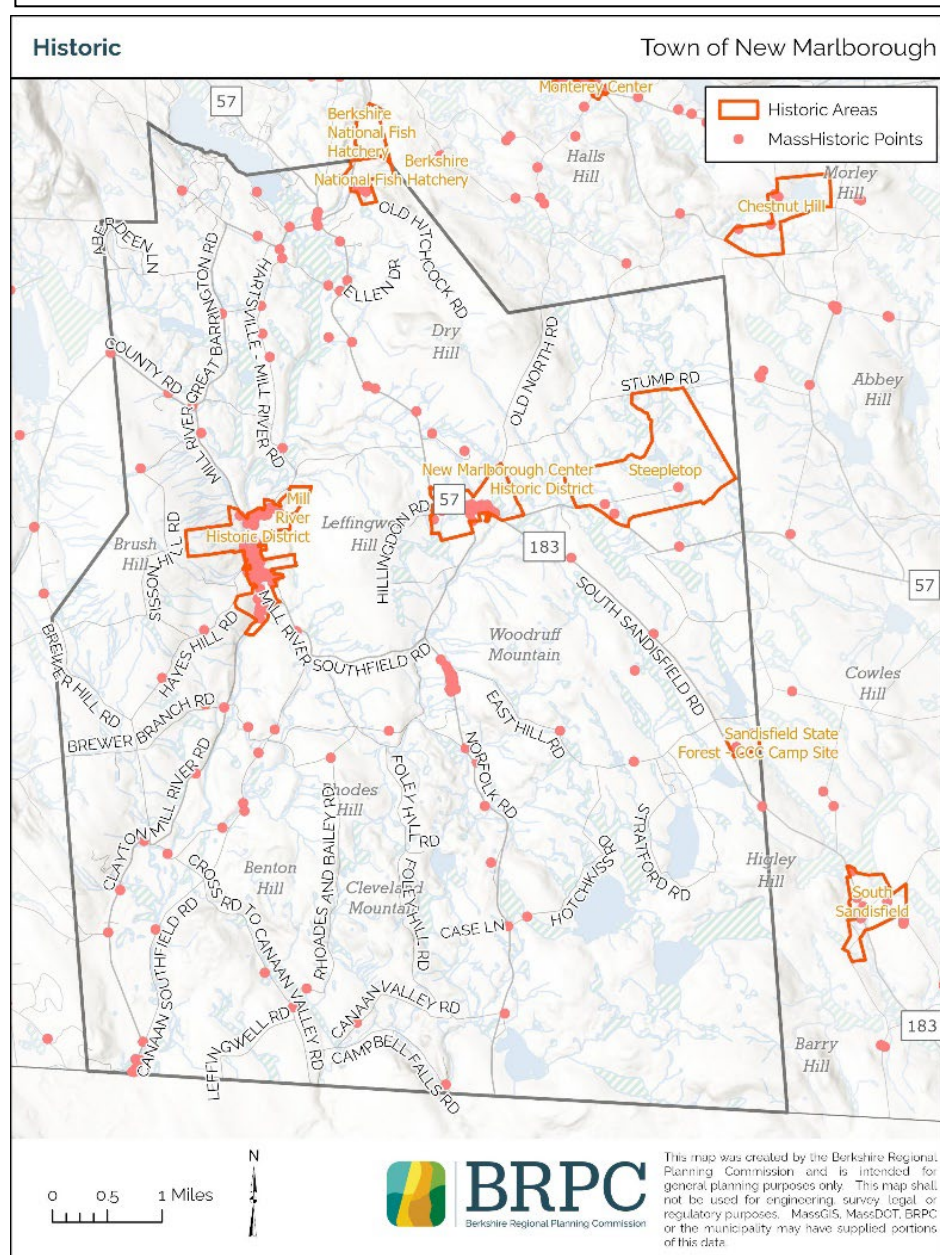
Small and large waterfalls and chutes cascade through narrow passages worn through vertical and slanting bedrock; at Umpachene Falls a waterfall plunges into a clear pool. Hidden gorges, full of native vegetation, offer a breathtaking experience to visitors.

Historic Areas

Many historic buildings and structures throughout New Marlborough add to its unique character and the residents' sense of place. The town hosts four National Register of Historic Places, the Mill River Historic District (Mill River), the New Marlborough Center Historic District (New Marlborough), the New Marlborough congregational Church (Southfield), and the Shepard Thomas House (Southfield) See Figure 26. In addition, several historic properties are found throughout the town and within each of the five villages. Historic sites, like the New Marlborough Village Green Meeting House, the Immaculate Conception Church (Our Lady of the Valley Rectory), the Native American burial ground, heritage landscape sites of the many mill foundations, old stagecoach lines, numerous stone walls, and several old cemeteries help to connect residents to the town's past. The general store and Town Hall, both located in

Figure 26 New Marlborough Historic Inventory

Mill River Village, are community institutions



that also help to establish the character of New Marlborough. Individual residents and organizations, like the New Marlborough Historical Commission, have worked to preserve and restore these unique features that link residents and visitors to the past.

Unique Environments (See Figure 27)

New Marlborough is recognized as having a diverse range of flora and fauna due to its varied and unfragmented landscape. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has designated several important core habitats that support this diversity, including Dry Hill and the land further east, most of Woodruff Mountain, Benton Hill, and parts of the Clayton valley. Although some of this core habitat is held in temporary protection under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 61, most remains in unprotected, private holdings.

Portions of the remaining space in New Marlborough have been identified by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as natural supporting habitat. These areas are mainly located in the southeast corner of town and are currently protected by the two state forests, Cookson and Sandisfield.

As with many small, once-agricultural communities, the fields are becoming overgrown and succeeding into woodlands. The land once valued for its agricultural capacity is now identified as prime real estate property. Unless some actions are put into place to maintain these pastures and fields, the rural character of New Marlborough could change significantly.

Priority Conservation Areas

In 2008-09 NHESP conducted field surveys to improve the agency's knowledge of the region's biodiversity resources in towns in the Housatonic River Watershed. Information collected during these surveys was added to NHESP's existing database, incorporated into BioMap Core Habitat and resulted in the creation of Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs). Town-specific planning reports were created for each of the communities within the watershed, with the intent of aiding local municipalities, land trusts and conservation organizations in prioritizing focus areas for conservation. In New Marlborough the PCAs follow the Konkapot River and Juniper Pond / Wahly Pond corridors, lands north and west of Cookson State Forest, and land along Cross Road / Canaan Valley Road. These areas are shown on Map 26, Unique Features.

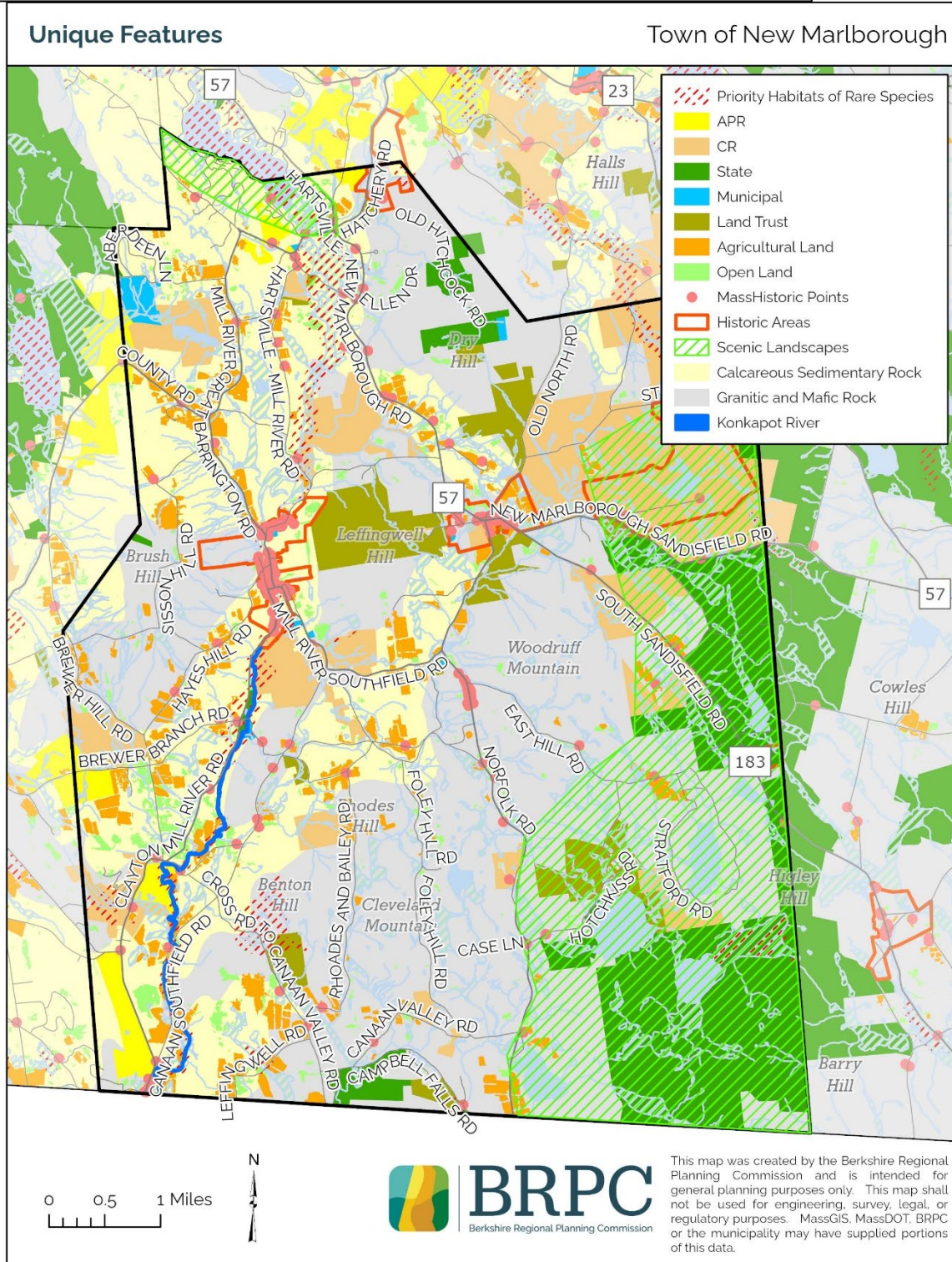
Corridors

New Marlborough is a relatively large town in physical size, with large tracts of unfragmented forest interspersed with streams, ponds and wetlands that open the forest canopy to different habitats. These forests can provide cover and travel corridors not only for rare species but also for a great variety of wildlife, including wide-ranging animals such as bear and moose. In order to maintain current wildlife populations, large contiguous and interconnecting tracts of land should be targeted for protection. Natural resource corridors across New Marlborough, along with those extending across town borders, should be considered for conservation.

New Marlborough is in the midst of an area referred to by state and regional conservation organizations as the Berkshire Wildlife Linkage, an area between the Green Mountains in VT and the Hudson Highlands in NY that contains large intact areas of forest and travel corridors between them. The linkage is a pathway for animals moving through the Appalachians to our south and the forests of Canada. Individual large animals may move through the linkage in a lifetime, while smaller animals may move over several generations. Ensuring that wildlife can safely move between habitats, including across the roads and through the priority areas shown below, will allow them to find food and habitat and to adapt their ranges to climate change. Key important linkages within the town generally encompass the highland areas along the eastern and western border, but also includes some areas in the interior for east-west

movement. A Priority Connectivity Area has been identified on the portion of South Sandisfield Road that would connect the protected lands of the Cookson and Sandisfield State Forest.

Figure 27 New Marlborough Unique Features Map



Select areas of the town have also been identified as Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) by the state Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. These areas of the town have been selected as priority areas for the protection and long-term survival of rare and uncommon species populations.

Environmental Challenges

Figure 28-32 Photos of Konkapot River Flooding,
Photos Courtesy of Erin Rodgers, Trout Unlimited



The steep topography in some areas of New Marlborough increases the potential for erosion of soils and stream channels. Accelerated runoff from paved roadways along streams, particularly during severe storm events, can increase bank erosion and may even threaten the integrity of the road due to undercutting of the road base. The town is working with Trout Unlimited to stabilize the banks of the Konkapot River near the Hartville Mill River Road at the intersection of Underwood Road. See Figures 28 through 32 for images of flooding and bank erosion at the site (July 2023, and December 2023). Due to permitting issues, this project has been postponed until Spring and Summer of 2025.

Hazardous Waste sites, and Landfills

One DEP Tier 2 hazardous waste site exists in the town, at the corner of Canann Valley Road and Norfolk Road which registered an unauthorized spill of gasoline 6/16/1995. The site is listed as satisfying state requirements as of 12/29/2004.

The town operates a Transfer Station for residential waste, recycling, and donations. Permits are required and two are available per residence. Permits are available July 1 to June 30. Recycling information is available on the town website. The town transfer station is owned by a private resident who reports that the landfill on the site was capped but no other records are available.

Erosion, Sedimentation, and Flooding

New Marlborough's streams and rivers are prone to flash-floods due to the town's hilly topography. There are numerous wetland areas dispersed throughout the Town that serve to retain heavy storm flows, but in general the town has few wetland complexes along its main stream and river segments to retain peak flows, resulting in streams that overflow their banks. Roadways and properties located within the floodplain areas of those streams can become inundated and possibly suffer erosion damage.

There are several areas in the town that flood at times during spring melt or heavy precipitation events. Ice jams and beaver activities can exacerbate these flooding events. According to the New Marlborough Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020, the Konkapot River causes repeated flooding along its entire length as it flows through the town. Other notable flood-prone areas include Hatchery Road, which is occasionally closed because of flood waters and damage to the road, and the Konkapot River at the Lake Buel outlet stream.

The 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan identified this area as of special concern (See Figures 27 through 31.)

This causes extensive flooding and severe riverbank erosion, which threatens the bridge at Hartsville Mill River Road, just below the confluence. The severe bank erosion is washing away 4-5 feet of bank per year, moving the bank's edge close to the road. (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 2020)

The New Marlborough-Southfield Road in the vicinity of New Marlborough Village also floods where the road comes close to the river, threatening the integrity of the road. Hadsell Street is a flooding concern as it runs adjacent to the Umpachene River. Undersized storm-drain systems create flooding along Easthill Road and Hotchkiss Road.

New Development

Development in town is projected to continue to occur as scattered large lot residential homes, dispersed along existing country roads. This type of development will continue to fragment forest and open field habitats and threaten the rural character of the town.

New Marlborough currently has two zoning districts, Village Center Districts that defines the 5 historic villages and the Rural Residential/Agricultural District that encompasses the remainder of the town: The Village Center Residential District was created to encourage infill development in the traditional village centers. Frontage and lot sizes in this zoning district are less than those in the Rural Residential/Agriculture District (See Table 4.)

Table 4 2016 New Marlborough Zoning Requirements

New Marlborough Zoning Requirements	Frontage	Minimum Lot Size
Rural Residential District	150 feet	1 Acre
Village Center Residential District	75 feet	1 Acre

Minimum requirements of 150 feet of road frontage and one acre of land has encouraged or at least supported the trend in New Marlborough to develop large parcels with single-family homes. If the trends of the last 30 years are replicated -- development occurring along existing rural roads, outside of the villages centers New Marlborough will look very different (see Development Patterns Figure 12). New roads and development along existing roads would effectively fragment the large open spaces and dramatically alter the rural nature of the community.

Large industrial solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays, encompassing several acres of land per site, are being established throughout Berkshire County, some in rural areas that supported agriculture and scenic landscapes. Some large solar arrays that have been developed in Great Barrington and Sheffield have raised concerns, as they are out of place with their surroundings, degrading the rural character of the area in which they are located. Balancing the benefits of green energy with the protection of the rural character of the community is important. The New Marlborough Planning Board has adopted a solar PV bylaw that guides the development of large arrays within the town in a way that would provide the dual benefits of generating renewable energy while protecting the town's rural landscapes and habitats.

Pollution and Impaired Waterbodies

In general, the waters in the surface water bodies in New Marlborough are of high quality, with cold clear mountain streams feeding lakes, ponds and wetlands. Many of the rare and uncommon species found in the town are aquatic or wetland species, which makes protecting water quality all the more important. However, the water quality and habitat value of some specific water ways are of concern. The full length of the Konkapot River as it flows through the town is listed by the state Department of Environmental Protection as being impaired due to mercury found in fish tissue. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health advises that children younger than 12 years of age, pregnant women, nursing mothers, women of childbearing age who may become pregnant should not eat any fish from the river and advise that the general public should limit consumption of all fish to two meals per month.

Lake Buel is listed as being impaired due to the presence of non-native invasive aquatic plants, low dissolved oxygen levels, and high total phosphorus levels. The availability of phosphorus, along with the irregular bottom and shallow depths in portion of the lake, facilitate the infestation and excessive aquatic plant growth Eurasian watermilfoil. The excessive volume of plant materials leads to depleted oxygen levels and diminishes the recreational enjoyment of the lake. Suspected sources of phosphorus include septic systems, lawn fertilizers and sediment input from roads and parking lots. Efforts to control plant growth include yearly milfoil harvesting.

Invasive Species

The spread of invasive plant species threatens not only the town's water bodies but also its wetlands and uplands.

In addition to invasive plants, the town's lakes and ponds are threatened by the possible introduction of the Zebra mussel. This mollusk has already been found in Laurel Lake in Lenox and in the outlet stream and the Housatonic River downstream of the lake. Extensive public awareness programs, coupled with monitoring of public boat launches across the state have so far been effective in containing the mussel to the Laurel Lake / Housatonic River area. Constant vigilance and education will need to continue if these efforts are to prohibit the movement of this species beyond its existing range.

Several invasive insects threatened the forests that cover the landscape. The Emerald Ash Borer threatens to annihilate the ash population in the region and is currently the insect of most concern because of its ability to fly and rapidly expand its range. Ash tree species are a hardwood species that is found throughout New Marlborough, making up a substantial proportion of the forest canopy. The loss of

this species would change the ecological makeup of the forest, opening up large patches of forest floor and making them vulnerable to invasive forb and shrub species whose locations are currently contained along roadsides and edges of fields. The further expansion of the wooly adelgid could threaten hemlock stands and the Asian longhorn beetle could threaten a number of tree species, including maples and elms whose individuals are already stressed by disease and climate change.

As noted above, Lake Buel is heavily infested with Eurasian watermilfoil. Fragments of the milfoil or other invasive plants from the lake can easily be transported to other waterbodies if sticking to the boat, paddles, trailer or other equipment. Insect species can be transported into or out of the town through movement of firewood or logs. Education of residents and visitors is key in the efforts to control the importation or movement of invasive species.

Environmental Equity Issues

There are no environmental justice populations in New Marlborough. However, with an estimated 3.7% of individual residents being below the poverty level, and with a rising elderly population, it may be prudent for the town to consider ways to improve outdoor recreational opportunities for those who may have limited access to a vehicle.

The Town is working with Construct Inc. an affordable housing developer to redevelop the Gilded Age Mansion at Cassillis Farm on Hartsville-New Marlborough Road. The estimated 6 Million dollar project is planned to bring 11 affordable units to the town, among the first affordable housing in the town. The location for the development is outside any of the traditional village centers in the town. The town has relatively few open spaces of its own, which include Umpachene Falls Park, the Elementary School, and the several cemeteries. However with the publicly available State, Land Trust, and other non-profit lands spread throughout the town, residents are able to access open spaces, provided they have their own transportation to get to the sites.

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Why is open space protection important to the town? Town residents told us in their own words. Some of the responses we heard in the town survey were:

- Beautiful landscape, farms for food in our community, and we have so many hiking trails
- Bucolic nature of our town. Limited number of business and non congested feel
- I live here for its rural beauty, wildlife, the quiet, and for the community. The restaurants, farms and small businesses are important. Love the history too.
- Less development than other towns is attractive. The presence of attractive scenery with ways to enjoy is a benefit. and My family has been coming since 1951 when I was too young to contribute to the decision!
- Open space. Beautiful open vistas, and spectacular views.

New Marlborough is fortunate to have open and natural spaces that are open for public recreation. Outdoor activities available within the town include:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Swimming | • Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing |
| • Boating | • Snowmobile |
| • Mountain Biking | • Hunting |
| • Fishing | • Camping |
| • Bird watching | • Picnicking |
| • Hiking | |

The following sections lists the various land parcels in the town 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, as 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, as 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, and to remove protection status of these lands for development would require a 2/3 vote within the state legislature. Although such a scenario could occur, the action would undoubtedly be contentious and likely garner a public uproar. 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 and agricultural restrictions.

Description of Protected and Unprotected Parcels Lands with Permanent Protection (See Figure 33)

State Conservation Lands

State lands in the town limits include the Blackberry River Flood Control Site, Campbell Falls State Park, Cookson State Forest, East Mountain State Forest, Konkapot River Access points, Sandisfield State Forest (York Lake), and Thousand Acre Swamp. These lands constitute a total of 3,490 Acres in the town. Table 5 details these state owned parcels. Lake Buel is a cold-water lake, shared with the town of Monterey to the north. This lake is 195 acres, and ranges from 18 to 46 feet in depth. Trout are stocked in these waters which also have a viable northern pike population. This is a very popular recreation area

for residents and visitors, with a state boat ramp at the northwest end of the lake. This is a paved boat ramp with trailer parking and is located in Monterey, it is owned and managed by the Public Access Board and the Division of Parks and Forests. Along its shores in New Marlborough and Monterey small, seasonal cottages were developed. These are currently being converted into year-round residential homes. The potential for surface and groundwater pollution exists in the lake itself and the Konkapot River that drains it.

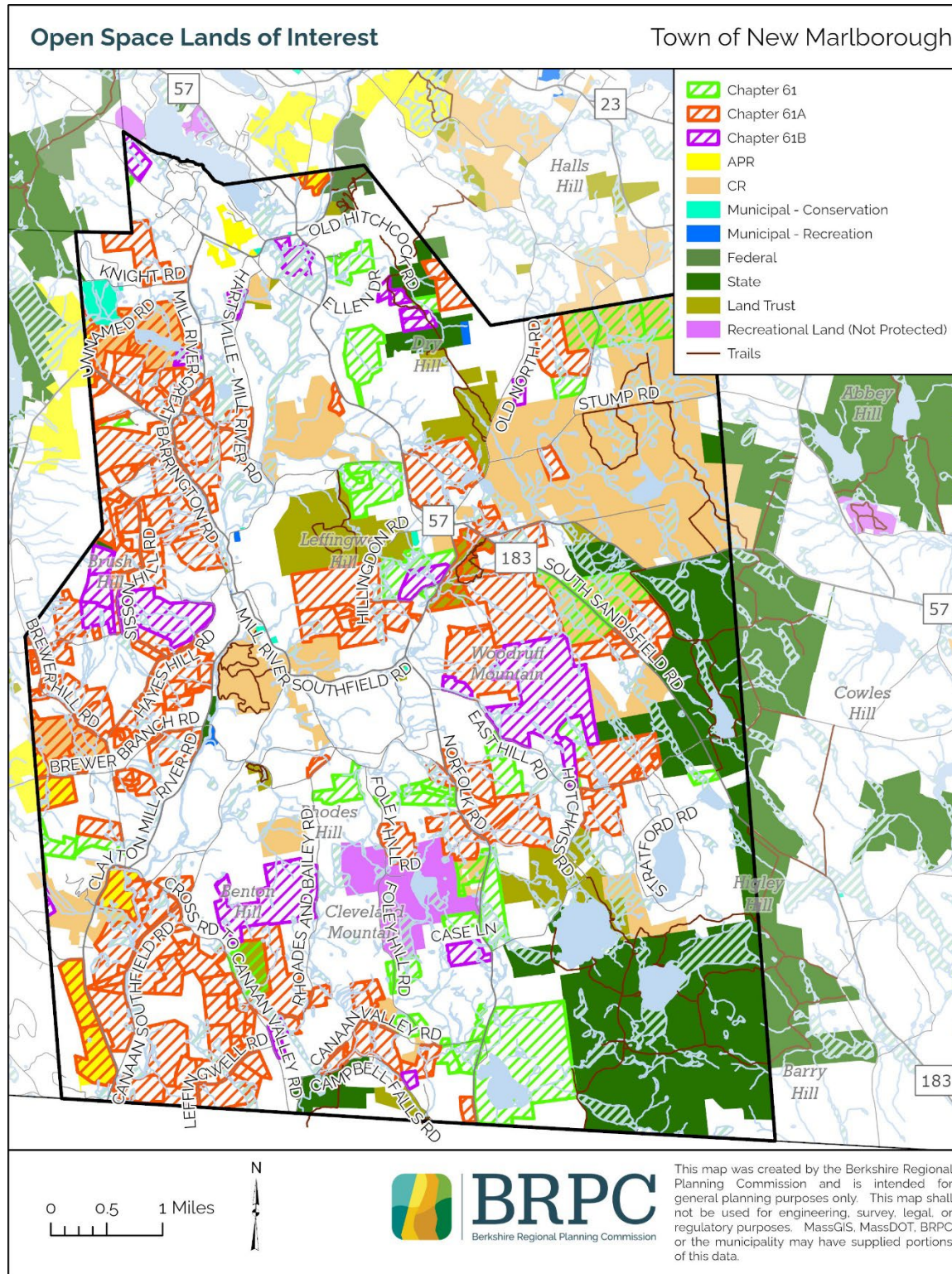
Table 5 New Marlborough State Lands

Site Name	Owner	Owner Type	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level of Protection	Acres
Blackberry River Flood Control Site	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Flood Control	Yes	Perpetuity	119.20
Blackberry River Flood Control Site	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Flood Control	Yes	Perpetuity	7.85
Campbell Falls State Park	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	2.35
Cookson State Foerst	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	31.52
Cookson State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	1832.35
Cookson State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	60.04
Cookson State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	56.67
Cookson State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	70.35
Cookson State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	0.00
Cookson State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	0.00
East Mountain State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	1.86
East Mountain State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	0.42
East Mountain State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	6.99
Konkapot River Access	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	8.43

2024 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

Konkapot River Access	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	7.03
Sandisfield State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	14.86
Sandisfield State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	67.61
Sandisfield State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	16.83
Sandisfield State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	31.37
Sandisfield State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	94.80
Sandisfield State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	162.13
Sandisfield State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	727.32
Sandisfield State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	47.08
Sandisfield State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	89.33
Sandisfield State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	0.12
Sandisfield State Forest	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	0.12
Thousand Acre Swamp DFG	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	State	Flood Control	Yes	Perpetuity	13.95
Thousand Acre Swamp DFG	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	State	Flood Control	Yes	Perpetuity	11.89
Thousand Acre Swamp DFG	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	State	Flood Control	Yes	Perpetuity	7.81
						3490.27

Figure 33 New Marlborough Open Space Lands of Special Interest



Federal Conservation Lands

The U.S. government owns and operates a fish hatchery on Hatchery Road in the northern portion of the town. This site is approximately 75 acres. Although the site has no permanent legal protection, it is unlikely that the federal government would sell the land for development without consulting with the state or the town.

Nonprofit Land Trusts – Ownership and Conservation Restrictions (CRs)

The town has a rich supply of conservation and recreation lands due to four active land trusts: Berkshire Natural Resources Council, New Marlborough Land Trust and The Trustees of Reservations (one parcel is owned by the Monterey Preservation Land Trust.) The more prominent public lands include Corn Warrior, Joffe Nature Sanctuary, Goodnow Preserve, Questing Reservation, Dry Hill, Steepletop Reservation and lands around Thousand Acre Swamp. Together these organizations own more than 2,900 acres. In addition to landownership, these organizations hold conservation restrictions on another 2000 acres of privately owned land, cumulatively conserving almost 5,000 acres of land for future generations. Additionally the New England Forestry Foundation holds a conservation restriction on 265 acres of land. The lands under the stewardship of land trusts are shown in Figure 32 and listed in detail in the following inventory tables.

Steepletop is BNRC's largest reserve totaling 1,230 acres, some of which extends into neighboring Sandsfield (1164 acres are found in New Marlborough.) This property is a critical link of protected land that is wedged between Sandisfield State Forest and several private conservation restrictions, providing protection for the expansive wetland habitats found within the property. This site has been used by local naturalist organizations to conduct wildlife tracking workshops and birdwatching hikes.

BNRC also owns Corn Warrior, a 38 acre parcel conservation parcel near Hartsville. The property permits hunting and visitors are cautioned to wear blaze orange during the hunting season. There are no trails on the property.

Whiting River, a 45 acre BNRC preserve along the Connecticut River is near Campbell Falls State Park and allows river access for fishing.

The New Marlborough Land Trust owns 885 acres of land in the town, of which 278 are located around Thousand Acre Swamp and offer access to the Cookson State Forest, picnic tables, and this historic foundations of former mill sites.. The Stebbins suspension bridge is ½ mile from the parking area. In 2013 the Land Trust dedicated its the Joffey Nature Sanctuary which features two easy loop trails and explores wetlands, a vernal pool, stands of mountain laurel, and a glacial erratic boulder left by the glacial retreat during the last ice ages. In 2016 it donated 8.4 acres of land to the town to meet its need for future cemetery space. Just east of the Town Green, the New Marlboro Preserve has a trail along the Umpachene River and Willow Creek. the 1.3 mile loop trail is moderately challenge but features overlooks, a picnic area, and a grove of black cherry trees. During the 1860's the site was home to a dairy farm and cheese factory that once produced 1,200 pounds of cheese daily. (Drew, 2020) The Lower Carroll Mill trail is only .2 miles long, but provides visitors a glimpse into the factory that once produced newsprint and manila paper for New York City during the mid to late 1800's. The last wagonload of paper left the factory in 1887 but foundations remain on the site, just south of Mill River. A bit further south, the Goodnow Preserve is over 300 acres and has several trails which traverse fields, forests, and accesses the Konkapot River. In addition to owning land outright, the land trust holds the primary conservation restriction on an additional 153 acres in the town. The New Marlborough Land Trust engages town residents through a variety of activities that include offering guided hikes, spearheading roadside cleanups and hosting public events.

North of New Marlborough village and the Town Green, the Trustees Dry Hill property boasts sweeping southeastern views of the South Berkshire foothills, supports woodland wildlife, and offers various

recreational activities, including bird watching, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Coupled with other Trustees properties in the region, such as Questing, Dry Hill offers residents and visitors a chance for outdoor exploration. Dry Hill consists of approximately 200 acres and features a 1.5-mile woodland trail that leads through stands of pitch pine, low-bush blueberry and mountain laurel. A loop trail encircles a shallow stream drainage area that contains vernal pools, a red maple swamp, and a diverse mixture of ferns and herbs, including trout lily, dwarf ginseng, miterwort, foamflower, and wood horsetail. Dry Hill is open year-round, from sunrise to sunset, and there is no entrance fee. Parking is at the entrance and will accommodate eight vehicles.

Between the villages of Mill River and New Marlborough, Questing includes 438 acres and is located on the flanks of Leffingwell Hill. Questing features extensive tracts of transitional hardwood forest, pockets of wetland, small streams, and vernal pools. A seventeen-acre upland field of native meadow wildflowers attracts a variety of dragonflies and butterflies, including giant green darners and monarchs. From the parking area, an old woods road leads steeply to the upland field. From there, mowed paths encircle the field and connect to a trail that links to a forest loop trail. Cellar holes and stone walls, many fascinating in their construction, tell the story of the 200-year-old settlement known as Leffingwell, where the first non-Native American children were born in Berkshire County. This settlement was abandoned in the late nineteenth century as farmers migrated to the Midwest. The upland field is encircled by a trail from which a two-mile woodland loop trail can be accessed by a moderate hike.

Agricultural Preservation Restrictions

The agricultural preservation restriction program makes it economically feasible for a property to remain permanently in agriculture when the State Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) purchases the development rights. Currently approximately 400 acres of land in New Marlborough are enrolled in the APR program with restrictions on five properties: Bluebird Hill, Elm Knoll Farm, Mackenzie, Wilcox Warren R, and Woodburn Farm.

Land with Various Levels of Protection

Town Conservation Lands

The Town of New Marlborough owns approximately 101 acres of land that could be considered usable for conservation or recreation. These lands include Umpachene Falls Park (6.5 ac.), a parcel of land adjacent to Sandisfield State Forest (9.75), nine cemeteries (totaling ~15.87 ac), and the New Marlborough Green and the New Marlborough Central School (~4 ac.). The town also owns a 9.75-acre parcel taken for nonpayment of taxes, which does not have any trails or other facilities. Umpachene Fall Park, a park at the confluence of the Konkapot and Umpachene Rivers, is the only town-owned park. It is maintained by the Town Department of Public Works. The park is located along the Clayton-Mill River Road just north of the confluence of the Konkapot and Umpachene Rivers, offering trails, picnic tables, swimming and fishing holes to residents. None of the town properties were acquired with state funding.

The New Marlborough Central School, part of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, was built in 1933 and is located on the northern edge of Mill River Village. It is situated on a four-acre parcel with parking, a playground, baseball field, and basketball court. This site is maintained by the regional school district.

The Village Green, in New Marlborough, is the site of the first meeting house in town. The structure, built in 1741 and since renovated, still stands today. The two-acre grounds are home to the New Marlborough Village Association fairs, the annual Elihu Burritt Day, and other seasonal recreational uses. The meeting

house, the Old Inn near it, and several older homes surrounding the green are part of the National Historic District of New Marlborough Village.

There are nine cemeteries throughout town which offer tranquil outdoor settings. One cemetery, in New Marlborough Village, is of particular interest. This historical site, with early settlement markers, is recognized as an Indian Burial Ground. It is a total of four acres and remains active as a cemetery. 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 town meeting vote that the lands are for conservation purposes, then it would take a special act of town meeting and the state legislature to take that 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 the town 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.

Other Town-Owned Land

The Town of New Marlborough owns few properties and they are small in size. The Town Hall, located in Mill River, sits on less than an acre of land, the majority of which consist of the building and the parking areas. The Fire House, located in the village of Southfield, was constructed in 1957 as a Fire Department Training Community Center. The meeting room and garage for emergency vehicles is on this two-acre parcel and much of the fund raising activities in town are held here. The Highway Department uses a 2.5-acre parcel on the south end of Mill River Village. The New Marlborough Free Public Library, in Mill River, was built on a half-acre parcel in 1920 with a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. The library houses both permanent collections of books as well as loans from the Western Regional Library System. This public library is of significant importance to the residents of the town.

2024 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

Table 6 New Marlborough Municipal Lands

Site Name	Owner	Owner Type	Management Agency	Primary Purpose	Current Use	Recreational Potential	Condition	Public Access	Level of Protection	Other Interest Organization and State Grants Used for Improvement	Zoning	Acres
None-Landlocked next to State land at Dry Hill	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Municipal	Conservation and Recreation	No Access	No Access	Unimproved, natural state	No	Limited	none	Rural/Agricultural District	9.74
Hartsville Mill River Road Property	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Municipal	Conservation	Limited- River Access	Improved river/fishing access	Unimproved, natural state	Yes	Limited	none	Rural/Agricultural District	2.33
Mill River Cemetery	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Cemetery Commission	Historic	Cemetery	None	Good, Cemetery	Yes	Limited	none	Village Center District	4.85
Carroll Cemetery	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Cemetery Commission	Historic	Cemetery	None	Good, Cemetery	Yes	Limited	none	Village Center District	1.97
Lee Memorial Cemetery	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Cemetery Commission	Historic	Cemetery	None	Good, Cemetery	Yes	Limited	none	Village Center District	1.72
New Marlborough Green	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Municipal	Historic	Town Green	Picnic Facilities	Fair, limited parking and resting places	Yes	Limited	none	Village Center District	0.8
New Marlborough Green	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Municipal	Historic	Town Green	Picnic Facilities	Fair, limited parking and resting places	Yes	Limited	none	Village Center District	0.56
Church Cemetery	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Cemetery Commission	Historic	Cemetery	None	Good, Cemetery	Yes	Limited	none	Village Center District	4.66
Clayton Cemetery	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Cemetery Commission	Historic	Cemetery	None	Good, Cemetery	Yes	Limited	none	Village Center District	0.16
Huxley Cemetery	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Cemetery Commission	Historic	Cemetery	None	Good, Cemetery	Yes	Limited	none	Rural/Agricultural District	0.55

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Konkapot River across from Library	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Municipal	Recreation	River Access	Improved river/fishing access	Unimproved, natural state	Yes	Limited	none	Village Center District	0.19
Umpachene Falls Park	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Umpachene Falls Park Commission	Recreation	Park, River Access, Playground	Parking, Playground, and Trail/Picnicking Improvements	Good, Playground and Parking adequate	Yes	Limited	none	Rural/Agricultural District	6.41
New Marlborough Elementary School	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Southern Berkshire Regional School District/Municipal	Recreation	School, Playground	Playground and Court Improvements	Limited Access, Good, Playground and Parking adequate	Limited	None	none	Village Center District	4.1
Mill River Cemetery	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Cemetery Commission	Historic	Cemetery	None	Good, Cemetery	Yes	Perpetuity	none	Village Center District	0.41
Palmer Cemetery	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Cemetery Commission	Historic	Cemetery	None	Good, Cemetery	Yes	Perpetuity	none	Rural/Agricultural District	0.99
Hartsville Cemetery	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Cemetery Commission	Historic	Cemetery	None	Good, Cemetery	Yes	Perpetuity	none	Rural/Agricultural District	0.57
Southfield Parcel	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Municipal	Conservation	River Access	Improved river/fishing access	Unimproved, natural state	Yes	Unknown	none	Rural/Agricultural District	8.4
Knight Road Parcel	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Municipal	Conservation	Conservation/Limited Access	Trails	Unimproved, natural state	Yes	Unknown	none	Rural/Agricultural District	19.468
Knight Road Parcel	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Municipal	Conservation	Conservation/Limited Access	Trails	Unimproved, natural state	Yes	Unknown	none	Rural/Agricultural District	61.29
												129.168

Lands with Temporary Protection

Lands Under Massachusetts Gen. Laws Ch. 61, 61A, and 61B

Currently the town has more than 9,600 acres of land enlisted under the three Massachusetts Chapter 61 tax abatement programs, which include Chapter 61 (forestland), Chapter 61A (agriculture) and Chapter 61B (recreation). The Chapter 61 tax abatement programs recognize the community benefits of undeveloped land and provides a financial incentive for landowners to continue their rural land uses, which helps to maintain the scenic and rustic landscape and can yield local commodities. Several property owners in New Marlborough have taken advantage of these programs, placing a total of 1144.95 acres under Chapter 61, 2566.74 under Chapter 61A, and 227.96 acres under Chapter 61B. This reflects a solid effort on the part of New Marlborough residents to preserve their natural resources and protect their valuable open space (See Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Interest Map).

Lands under the Chapter 61 Programs are not permanently protected from development. Property taxation occurs at a reduced rate as long as land remains in forest, agricultural or recreational management, or some combination of these. Requirements for eligibility differ with each program. A Chapter 61 landowner can sell the property and pass this management obligation to the next owner. Should the land use change to building development, however, a penalty must be paid for withdrawal from the tax abatement program. Often, the development value of the land outweighs the penalty to the owner.

If a landowner removes their property from Chapters 61 status and offers it for sale, the town has right of first refusal and may purchase it for fair market price. This could be an opportunity for the town to buy land it wishes to protect or utilize as recreational land. As the town has only 120 days to complete the transaction, it is necessary to have available funding on-hand if a scenario like this develops. Another alternative would be for the town to assign its options to a private land trust that may be able to complete the transaction quickly.

Unprotected Private Lands Important to the Town

The residents of New Marlborough have voiced their appreciation for the rural character of the town in numerous surveys taken during the public participation processes of past open space and comprehensive planning projects. As noted in the inventory of lands enrolled in the Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B Programs, there are currently more than 9,600 acres in the town whose owners have agreed to maintain their lands in an undeveloped state, working the land for its agricultural, forest or outdoor recreational benefits. As demonstrated on Figure 32 of this plan, large expanses of land are enrolled in the Chapter 61A program, supporting not only local agricultural operations but providing scenic landscapes and wildlife habitat. These lands are not protected in perpetuity and are vulnerable to development, which in recent years has been in the form of large lot housing development. Although the town has the right of first refusal to acquire the property if it were to be removed from the Chapter 61A program, it is unlikely that the town would be able to take advantage of its opportunity due to the capacity to act within the 120-day time period.

Windermere Lake is a large waterbody in the town that is inaccessible to the public. The entire lakeshore and land around the Lake has been subdivided into housing lots and to date approximately 7 lots have been developed. Surrounded by extensive wetland areas, Windermere Lake is located within a critical natural landscape. If the area is developed further to the east, the wildlife corridors between the two state forests will be permanently eliminated. Working with the current property owner, Windermere Lake Corporation to protect some portions of this 338 acre parcel would connect this important wildlife corridor.

Formerly a YMCA summer camp, Camp Wawa Segowea is now managed by a private non-profit, Smith Park of NY and MA, Incorporated. The 538-acre sleep-over camp located on and surrounding Harmon Pond, has a 100 year old lodge and 11 camp cabins. Campers, aged 8-17 come to the camp for both sleepover and day programming and the camp features a family camp for groups of families to use the camp facilities, as well as corporate events and weddings. Most of the camps in the Berkshire region are located on waterbodies, where they can provide a variety of water-based recreational opportunities and, while most continue to thrive, a few have been sold for housing and other uses. The camp has operated as a private non-profit since the mid 2010's.

Summary of Recreation Opportunities

The public recreational lands in New Marlborough offer a wide variety of opportunities for users of all abilities. Picnic areas can be found at Umpachene Falls Park and York Lake. The Central School hosts a playing field and a playground for families with children. Dry Hill, Questing and Steepletop offer hiking trails of generally moderate difficulty, while Steepletop also allows mountain biking and horseback riding. Swimming is available at York Lake and Umpachene Falls Park, although neither site has lifeguards. York Lake in the Sandisfield State Forest offers access to both the lake and the York Lake Loop Trail, an interpretive trail that is also a designated DCR Healthy Heart Trail to promote healthy outdoor recreation. The New Marlborough Land Trust offer very affordable group hikes on lands in New Marlborough throughout the year to help acquaint residents and visitors with the public lands that surround them. Hunting is allowed on all of the public recreational lands in town owned by the Commonwealth, the Berkshire Natural Resources Council and The Trustees of Reservations. Fishing is also widely available, with both the Konkapot River and York Lake stocked with trout each spring, and Lake Buel stocked both spring and fall.

On-road bicycling routes have been established and mapped by the Berkshire Bike Path Council in the neighboring towns of Great Barrington and Sheffield, but none have formally been established in New Marlborough. Despite the narrowness of the roadways and the absence of shoulders, bicyclists individually and in groups are frequently seen on town roads, often stopping at the Mill River and the Southfield Stores.

In winter residents take to open meadows trail systems for cross country skiing and snowshoeing. There are no formal or groomed trails for these sports, but it does not deter those who wish to enjoy the outdoor environment.

Section 6: Community Vision

Description of Process

The New Marlborough Planning Board used the 2017 Open Space & Recreation Plan as a foundation upon which to work. They also revisited relevant sections of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan, namely Chapter 6, Natural and Cultural Resources and Chapter 7, Open Space & Recreation. The Planning board reviewed the previous goals and actions from these two major planning documents, removing those that had been accomplished or were no longer relevant. They then combined the goals and actions from the two documents to form the revised goals and actions that should be pursued in the next ten years. The draft goals/actions were revised to reflect residents' comments and insight gained through the public surveys, individual interviews, the public meetings from May and November 2024 and the public survey.

Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

New Marlborough residents value its rural, wild, and cultural character. They recognize the importance of incorporating climate mitigation into planning models.. Residential development has trended toward second homes for nearby metropolitan areas. This development in the town has pushed home prices higher, pricing out many long-term residents, stressing town services, and decreasing habitat and the rural character of the town. Many residents have expressed a desire to temper development with conservation in the town.

During the planning process it became clear that there were areas within New Marlborough where conservation efforts should be focused to create conservation corridors for natural resources biodiversity and wildlife connections and movement. These corridors may be needed as sensitive plant and wildlife species may need to migrate to adapt to a shifting climate and environment.

Large portions of New Marlborough are owned by the State of Massachusetts (Sandisfield State Forest and Cookson State Forest) or conservation organizations such as New Marlborough Land Trust, Trustees of Reservations, and Berkshire Natural Resources Council. Because a large percentage of the remaining land in New Marlborough is privately owned, it is important to enlist and educate private citizens in land and natural resource conservation efforts. Many residents have stated through the public survey and during public forums that they would like to learn more about the world around them and what part they can play in preserving the town's natural communities. Many property owners state that they are interested in learning how to become better stewards of their land. It is important that these landowners are given the tools to succeed. Partnering with environmental conservation organizations and state agencies will be key in providing these educational tools.

Although residents are surrounded by nature, properties formally open for public recreation are somewhat limited and many are not well known. New outdoor recreational facilities must be designed for long-term sustainability and protection of natural resources. Publicizing New Marlborough's public outdoor spaces, including newly developed and updated sites, can help to facilitate residents' use of these properties. The Berkshire's Outside website and the New Marlborough Land trusts websites are local efforts to increase awareness of open space resources.

Considering public input provided through the public survey and the May and November 2024 public forums, the Planning Board developed goals for the protection of natural resources and enhancement of recreational opportunities. The Actions that have been developed during the planning process have been categorized under these overarching Goals. More than 42 actions have been identified.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

The analysis of needs is based upon the results of the public input process, including a community survey and two public forums, and on new demographic and natural resource data gathered as part of the resources update. This process also included a review of the 2006 and 2017 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plans and the 2010 New Marlborough Comprehensive Plan to ascertain if past goals and actions were still valid today and determine which of the unmet goals and actions should be carried forward.

Summary of Resource Protection Needs

New Marlborough's privately owned, unprotected land covers approximately 70% of the total land area. Under current zoning and traditional growth patterns, these lands are very susceptible to development. Resource protection needs to include the further protection of critical water resources, the preservation of critical habitat, and the creation of protected wildlife corridors to link with existing regional corridors.

Protecting and prioritizing the important natural resources of the Town of New Marlborough is essential for preserving the rural character the residents enjoy. At present, approximately 30% of the land is permanently protected. In survey responses citizens stated that they enjoy a variety of outdoor activities in the town including, 90% hiking and walking, 54% gardening, 39% birdwatching, 35% boating/canoeing/kayaking, 35% dog walking, 34% bicycling, and 34% swimming (See Figure 33.)

The survey asked residents specifically about groups that need more recreational opportunities in the town (Question 6.) Almost half of the respondents said youth (46%), while about 1/3 said adults (33%). Many of the respondents stated that they would like to see a Community Center that could serve the needs of all town residents, including teens and seniors (Question 11, 70% support from respondents.) The closest community facility is in nearby Great Barrington and offers programming for all ages, from preschoolers to senior citizens.

Views and Ridgelines

A series of ridges run from north to south through New Marlborough. This high elevation provides spectacular views to the east, looking toward the protected lands in the Town of Sandisfield, and to the west, to the dramatic views of Mt. Everett in the Town of Mt. Washington. Most of this land is privately owned without protection from development. In addition, agricultural fields and non-forested lands strung along country roadsides provide spectacular long-distance views of New Marlborough's forested hillsides. These long-distance views were specifically listed by the 2017 OSRP as being the one single most important scenic resource area that the town should protect

Drinking and Surface Water Resources

All drinking water in New Marlborough is groundwater. Currently, the town does not have a surficial geologic survey identifying aquifers and recharge areas. Because the town does not have such a map they must take extra precautions to protect the groundwater. Main threats to the ground and surface water are failing septic systems, old residential and farm dumps, and runoff from road salts. Management and monitoring strategies for these issues would alleviate common conditions and highlight major problems which can be properly addressed when funds are available. Informing the community and engaging residents in these clean-water issues are important to the long-term health of New Marlborough.

Berkshire Mountain Spring Water, established in 1970, is a water bottling company located on Northfolk Road in Southfield Village. The water is drawn from a confined aquifer, bottled at the site and distributed to homes and businesses throughout the region. The company owns approximately 300 acres

of land surrounding the spring site, most of which is forested. Of this land 220 acres are enlisted in the state Chapter 61A agricultural tax abatement program.

There are extensive wetland areas in New Marlborough, particularly in the southeast part of town, which are vulnerable to potential groundwater pollution. The steep slopes and erosive soils in New Marlborough, particularly around Dry Hill and Leffingwell Hill, are very susceptible to hillside erosion and stream and pond sedimentation. The water quality in specific rivers, streams, and ponds which are used for recreation need to be monitored to ensure healthy conditions for both wildlife and human use.

Critical Wildlife Habitat and Prime Agricultural Soil

The tracts of protected land in New Marlborough that extend into Sandisfield have few protected connections. Wildlife corridors between protected lands would benefit a diversity of species and connect the different protected lands throughout New Marlborough. Properly designed and maintained trails through these corridors would minimize the human disturbance and presence. These trails would also allow visitors and residents to explore the unique and special places without having to exit protected land. Agricultural lands are additional important wildlife areas because they provide habitat for species requiring open fields or edge habitat. Wetlands, farm meadows, and pasturelands are some of the critical spaces in New Marlborough offering these essential qualities.

There is very little prime agricultural soil in New Marlborough. Such soil occupies a narrow strip all along the Konkapot River and along the Umpachene River just north of Southfield Village. Scattered fields along the Whiting River also contain prime agricultural soils as do several open fields around the Village of Hartsville. Development around Lake Buel, in Hartsville, threatens to further reduce the availability of these soils. Also, growth and development expansion in Canaan and Norfolk, Connecticut, particularly with the construction of a new golf course in Canaan, may steer development toward the fertile valleys of Clayton and wetland areas west of Cookson State Forest. Without stringent regulation and careful monitoring of these areas, development will remove this valuable soil from potential food production and possibly cause problems with erosion along the Whiting and Konkapot Rivers.

Summary of Community Needs

From May 1st to June 15th the Planning Board conducted an Open Space and Recreation Survey as part of community outreach efforts. The 18 question survey received a total of 119 responses from both full time and seasonal residents. Two public forums were conducted to gain additional information from town residents, one during the survey on 5/18/24 at the New Marlborough Public Library to encourage survey participation and one on 11/13/24 at the Town Hall to announce the results of the survey and the proposed Goals and Actions of the draft plan. The draft plan of the OSRP was posted on the town's website from November 22 to December 23 of 2024. The public was asked to provide feedback on the draft document. The survey and public events were publicized in the New Marlborough 5 Villages News and Maggies List, a mailing list of town residents. The draft document received several comments from the public, Select Board, and Conservation Commission and the Planning Board wishes to thank the public for their contributions to the development of the OSRP.

Results of the Public Survey

The communitywide Survey was administered using SurveyMonkey and paper copies distributed at Town Hall, the New Marlborough Library, and by Planning Board members. The survey was advertised on the town's website, through email blasts, and in the New Marlborough 5 Village News.

The first question asked residents to describe what sets New Marlborough apart from other Berkshire County towns? Residents stated that the towns rivers, open spaces, rural wildness, and community were all reasons that they choose to live there.

The appendix to the document contains all open response answers, however several quotes are featured here:

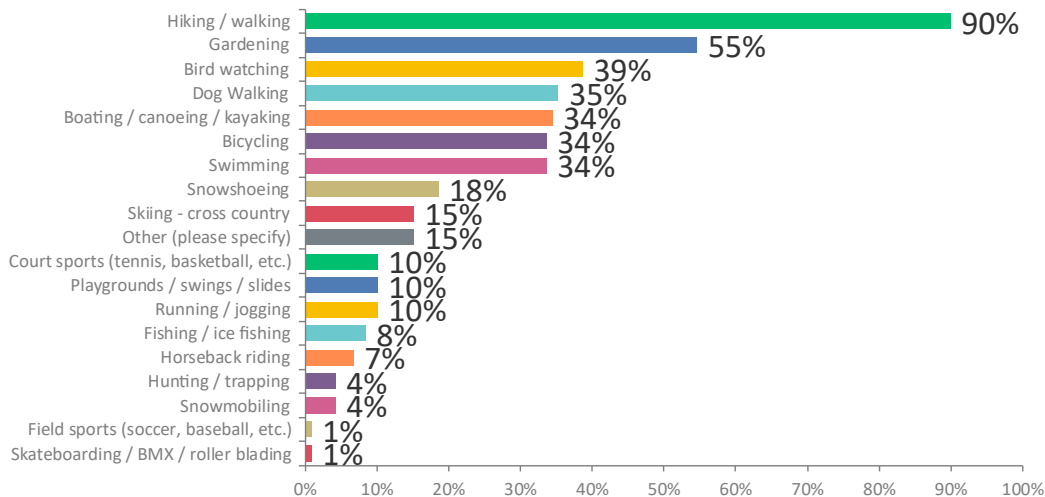
- A small town with a unique history in a beautiful, natural setting.
- Although civilization and friends are easily within reach, I feel as if I'm living in the woods
- I live here for the peace and quiet of the woods and beauty of wildlife.
- It was the rural nature of the town that attracted us so strongly 45 years ago. It doesn't feel as "rural" any more, so it's more important to preserve those features.
- The rural feeling and existence of real farms as well as the unique character of each village and of course the marvelous Konkapot River.
- The mixture of open lands in fields, mountains and rivers and lakes is unique. We are going to need more management of these lands so that the inevitable development does not destroy our rural character.

The second question asked residents to choose up to 5 activities they enjoy doing in New Marlborough. Hiking and walking was the overwhelming preference with 90% of the 119 respondents. Gardening was second with 55%. Bird watching, dog walking, and boating/canoeing/kayaking rounded out the top 5 responses with 39%, 35%, and 34% respectively. Bicycling and swimming also received 34% of the total. The full results are shown in Figure 34.

Figure 34-Favorite Outdoor Recreation Activities in New Marlborough

Q2: Choose up to five (5) activities that you enjoy doing in New Marlborough.

Answered: 119 Skipped: 0

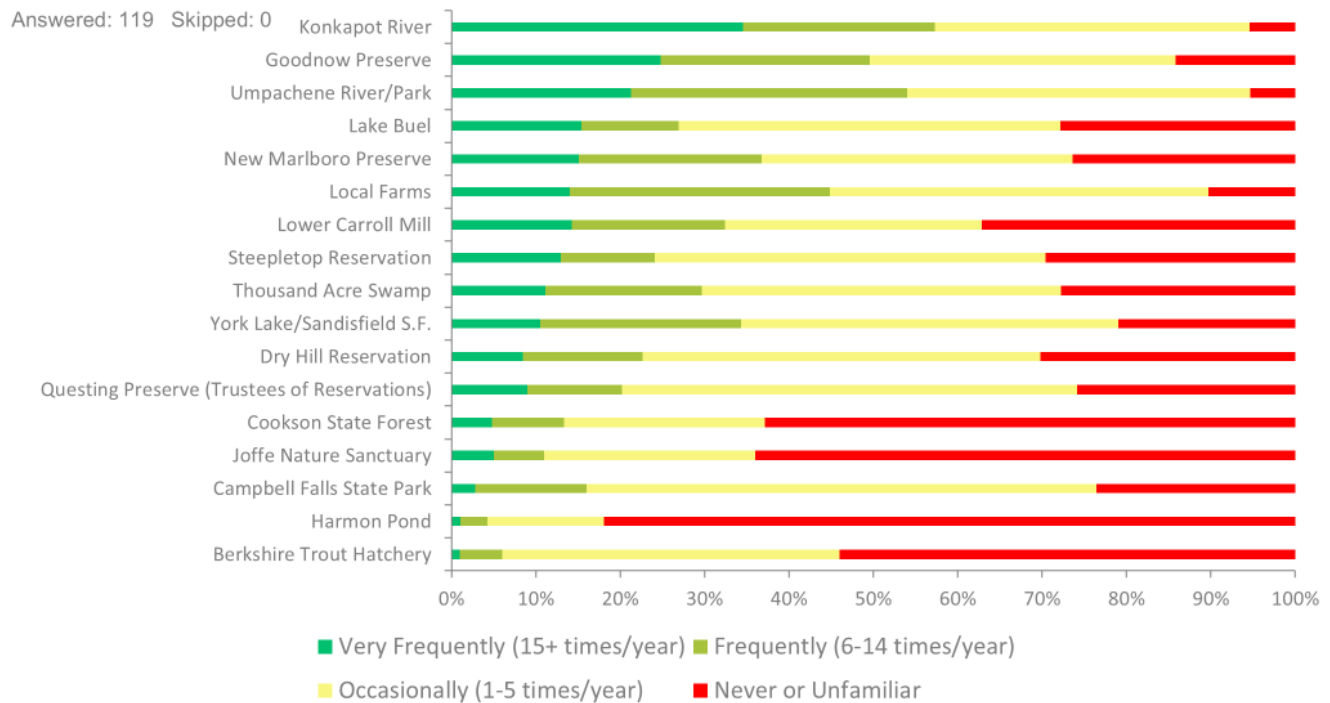


Powered by SurveyMonkey

Respondents were asked about their favorite outdoor recreation sites and how often they utilize those sites. The most frequently used sites were the Konkapot River, Goodnow Preserve, and Umpachene Park. The results of this question are presented in Figure 35.

Figure 35- Frequency of Visits to locations in New Marlborough

Q3: How often do you visit in a typical year, and which is your favorite New Marlborough location?



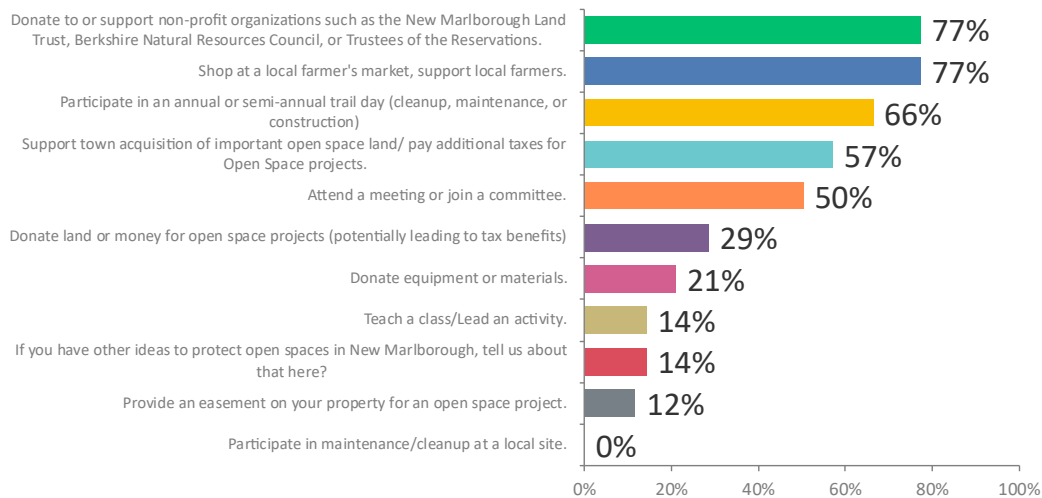
Powered by SurveyMonkey

When asked what activities they would be willing to participate in to improve Open Space in the town, residents responded that they would donate and support land trust organizations like the New Marlborough Land Trust with 77% of respondents, and that they would like to see a Farmer's Market in the town also with 77% of respondents. They also endorsed sponsoring an annual town cleanup day (66%) and supporting town acquisition of important open space lands (57%), attending a meeting or joining a town board or committee garnered (50%). Some residents even stated that they would be willing to provide an easement on their own property for a trail or other project (12%). Figure 36 shows the results of Question 5.

Figure 36 Activities Residents would participate in New Marlborough

Q5: Which of the following are activities you would be willing to participate in to improve Open Space/Recreation in New Marlborough? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 119 Skipped: 0



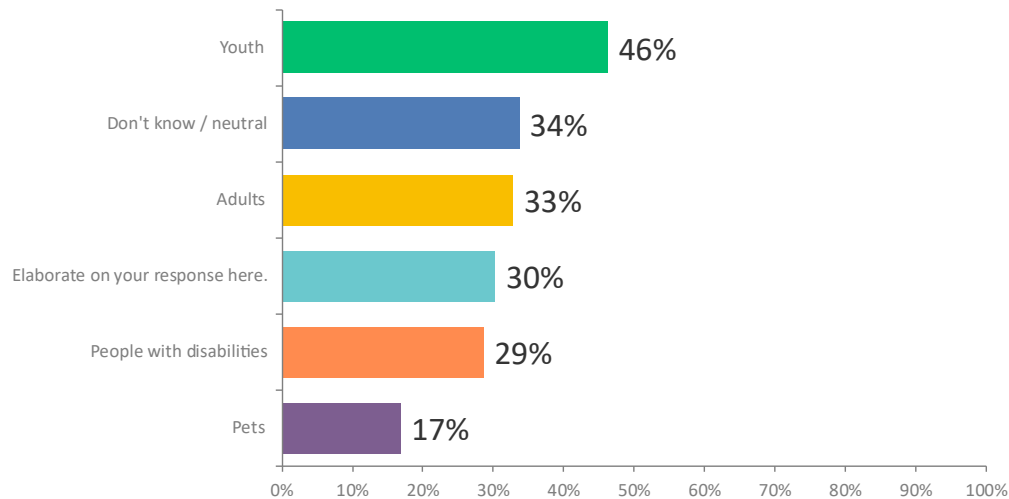
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Respondents were asked about which groups in town were underserved by current recreational offerings in Question 6. The largest group, 46% stated Youth, while 34% didn't know or were neutral, 33% said adults, 30% left specific comments and 29% said individuals with disabilities (See Figure 37).

Figure 37 Recreation Needs for Different New Marlborough Groups

**Q6: Does New Marlborough need more recreational opportunities for:
(check all that apply)**

Answered: 119 Skipped: 0



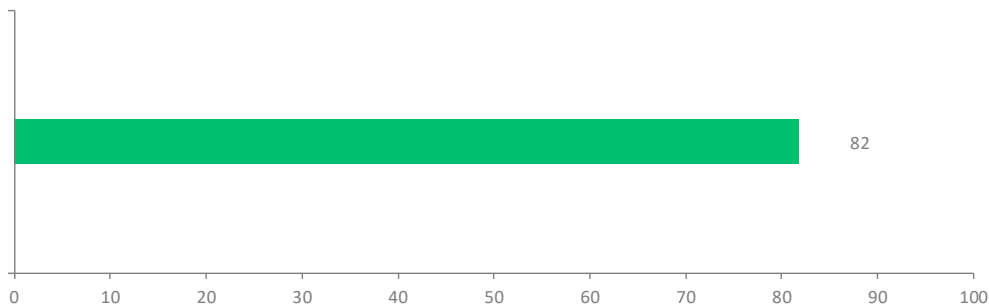
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Question 8 asked residents about protecting green corridors in the town. Organizations such as Berkshire Natural Resources Council have prioritized the conservation and linking of important conservation lands. Not only do these contiguous properties enable people access to nature, they allow the free movement of animals (and plants.) Residents voiced strong support for this initiative, with 82% of responses voicing support. During the development of an OSRP in nearby Monterey, residents were equally supportive of this concept with 80% of respondents supporting this idea. These efforts should be regional nature and coordination with contiguous communities will make these efforts more effective. The results of this question are presented in Figure 38.

Figure 38- Support for Green Corridors

Q8: Green Corridors are landscape scale, connected tracts of natural land (often forested lands or river systems) that enable organisms to move between areas to protect ecological and genetic diversity and allow organisms to adapt to climate change. Would you support the town partnering with other communities (Sheffield, Monterey, etc.) or non -profit organizations (BNRC, Trustees, etc.) to protect these corridors?

Answered: 115 Skipped: 4



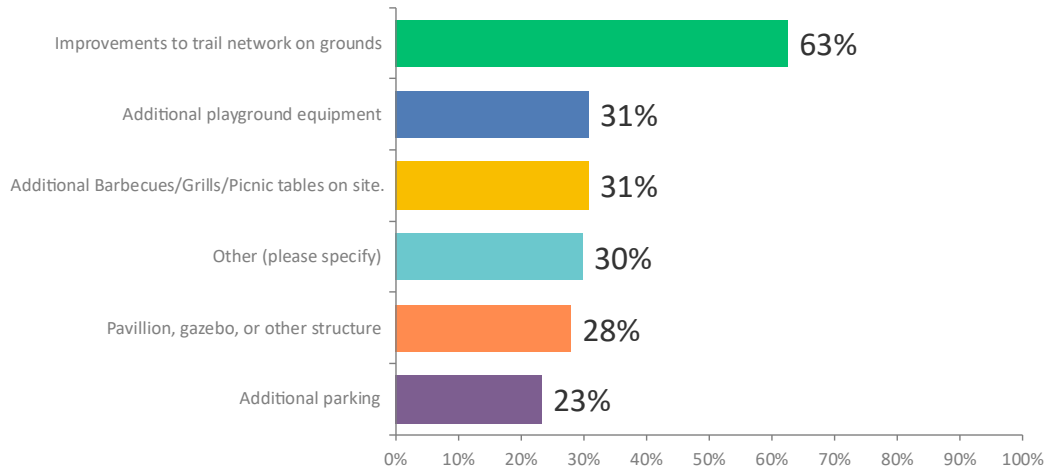
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The Umpachene Falls Park is the primary town owned park in the town and popular with town residents. Question 9 asked about improvements at the site. Respondents said that they would like to see additional trail improvements on the site (See Figure 39.)

Figure 39- Desired Improvements at Umpachene Falls Park

Q9: What improvements would you support at the Umpachene Falls and Town park?

Answered: 107 Skipped: 12



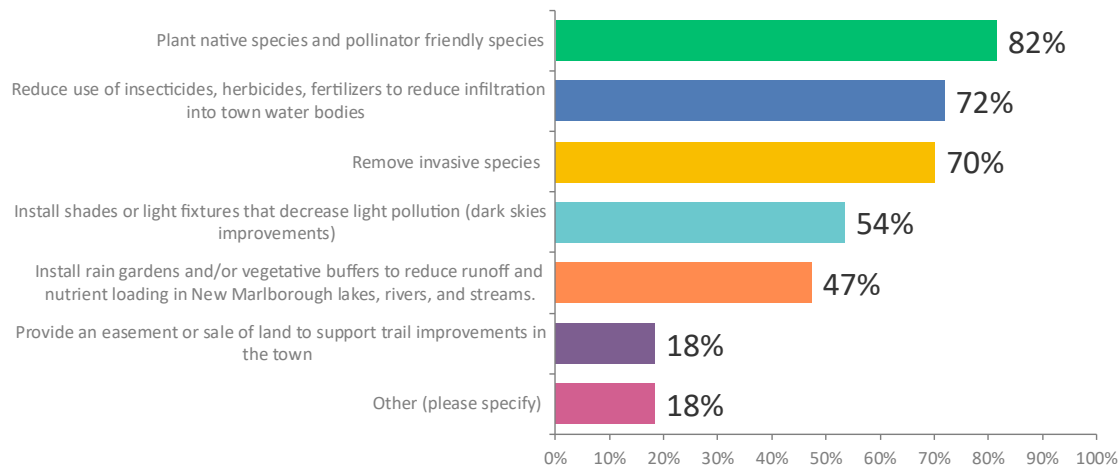
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Residents were also asked about conservation practices that they would be willing to institute on their own properties (Question 10.) The results of this question are shown in Figure 40.

Figure 40- Citizen Conservation Practices in New Marlborough

Q10: Which of the following conservation practices would you be willing to implement on your own property?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 5



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Although not within the purview of the OSRP, residents were asked about support for a community center similar to one in nearby Monterey. Information about this question can be found in the appendix where the full individual response results are presented.

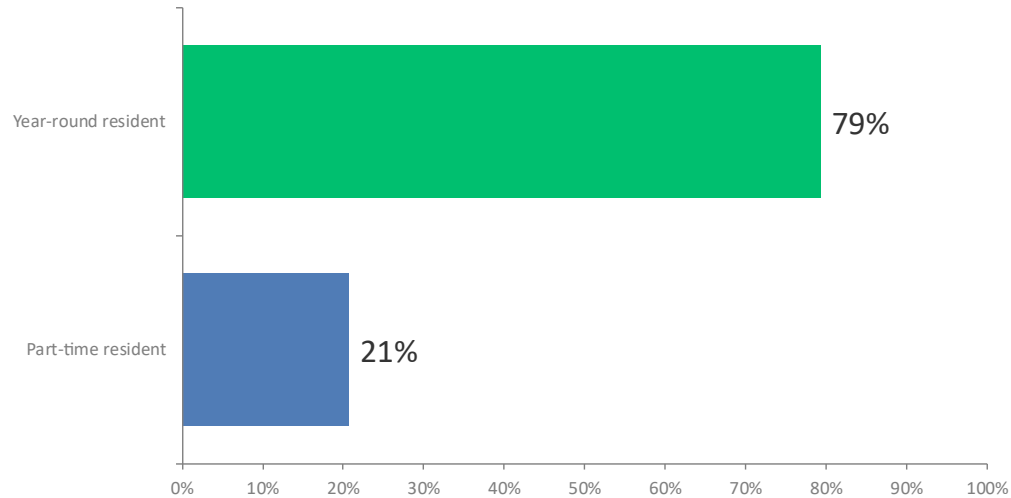
To ensure that the survey was representative of the town's population, the survey also asked several demographic questions.

The town is composed of a mixture of year-round and seasonal residents, question 15 asked respondents about their residency status. A majority of respondents stated that they were year-round (79%) with part-time residents accounting for the remaining 21% (see Figure 41)

Figure 41 New Marlborough Resident Status

Q15: Are you a year-round resident or part-time resident of New Marlborough?

Answered: 116 Skipped: 3

Powered by  SurveyMonkey

To understand the ages of respondents, Question 16 asked about household composition. Table 7 shows a breakdown of the age composition of respondents households. As can be seen in the table, responses came primarily from older residents in the town. More than 50% of respondents were in households ages 60 or older. This correlates with the median age of 54.1 in the town.

Table 7 Composition of Survey Respondent's Households

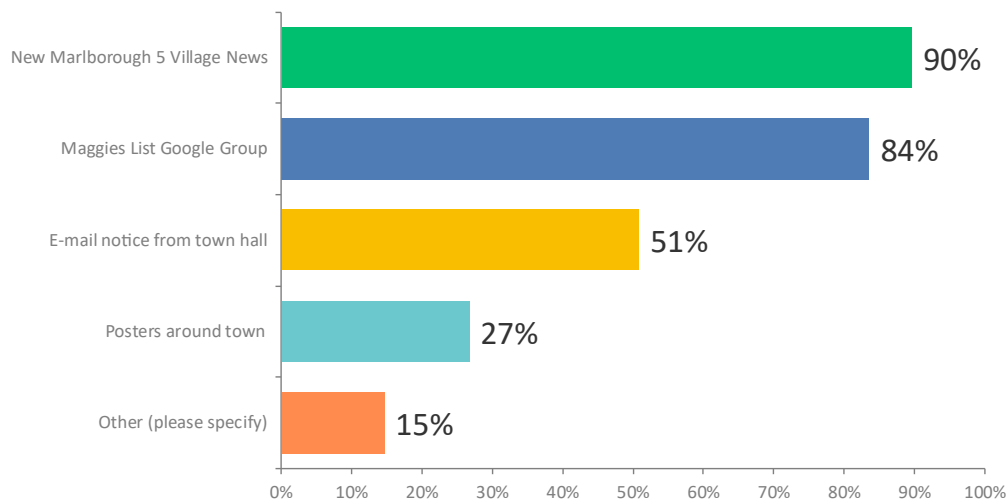
	One Person	Two People	Three People	Four People	Five People	Six People	Total	Percentage
under 10	4	7	2	0	0	0	24	8%
10-19	3	3	1	0	1	0	17	6%
20-29	10	4	1	0	1	0	26	9%
30-39	5	3	0	0	0	0	11	4%
40-49	10	5	0	0	0	0	20	7%
50-59	12	9	0	0	0	1	36	12%
60-69	24	19	0	0	0	0	62	21%
70+	27	23	2	2	0	1	93	32%
							289	Individuals represented by Survey responses.

The last question on the survey asked respondents about how they get their news in the town. A majority of respondents said that they use the New Marlborough 5 Village News or Maggies list (90% and 84% respectively.) This information is displayed in Figure 41.

Figure 42 Information Sources for New Marlborough Residents

Q17: How do you get information about open space issues in New Marlborough?

Answered: 116 Skipped: 3



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Massachusetts Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023

The Massachusetts Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023 (SCORP) provides Massachusetts residents with a framework to guide decision making in the coming five years. The plan is created by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA.) The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) authorized by the Land and Water Act, 1965 Section 6 (d) requires each state to analyze outdoor recreational opportunities. The LWCF Grant Program requires an updated Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every 5 years. The plan was developed using surveys of both municipalities and residents to determine areas of need and improvement.

Highlighted areas are relevant for New Marlborough.

- EEA Survey results from 4,895 responses from recreation users indicate that outdoor recreation is extremely important to them (95.1%)
 - Most popular activities included (in order of preference) hiking, walking or jogging, swimming at the beach, lake, or river, boating (canoe or kayak), birding or wildlife viewing, dog walking, and off-road cycling, visiting historic sites, on-road bicycling, and fishing.
 - 62% of respondents said that use of parks and conservation areas increased during the pandemic.
- EEA Survey results from Municipal Recreation Providers indicated that the following recreational activities have been increasing in the last 5-10 years.
 - Top results were (in order of preference) pickleball, walking or jogging, hiking, off-road bicycling, dog walking, mountain biking, birding/wildlife viewing, boating (canoe or kayak), and community gardening.
 - Decreases in popularity were seen in the following activities: baseball/softball, hunting/trapping, tennis, and football.
- Online Survey of households in the state, conducted by ERG.
 - 80% of respondents said that outdoor recreation was important to them.
 - Families with children are more likely to identify outdoor recreation as extremely important.
 - Walking, visiting the beach, and hiking were the top three favorite activities.
 - Walking and running were the most frequent activities.
 - 26% of respondents stated that they take advantage of outdoor areas and facilities.
 - 46% of respondents stated that they lived within 5 miles of a recreational facility.
 - When asked what outdoor recreational facilities they would like to see more of, respondents stated that they would like Beaches (10.6%), nature preserves or wildlife watching areas (8.1%), and hiking trails (7.4%)

The 2023 SCORP defines the following goals and objectives, defined by survey results.

1. Improve access to beaches and other water-based recreation facilities
2. Support Trail Projects
3. Create and Renovate Neighborhood parks, especially to benefit underserved communities.
 - a. All respondents said that they would like to see additional picnic facilities
 - b. African American and Hispanic respondents were more likely to live five to ten miles from the outdoor recreation facility they use the most.
 - c. African American respondents report visiting their favorite outdoor recreation areas more than once/week, the highest of any group.
4. Create opportunities for underserved populations to enjoy protected natural areas.

Projects identified in the Ten Year Action Plan for New Marlborough, including

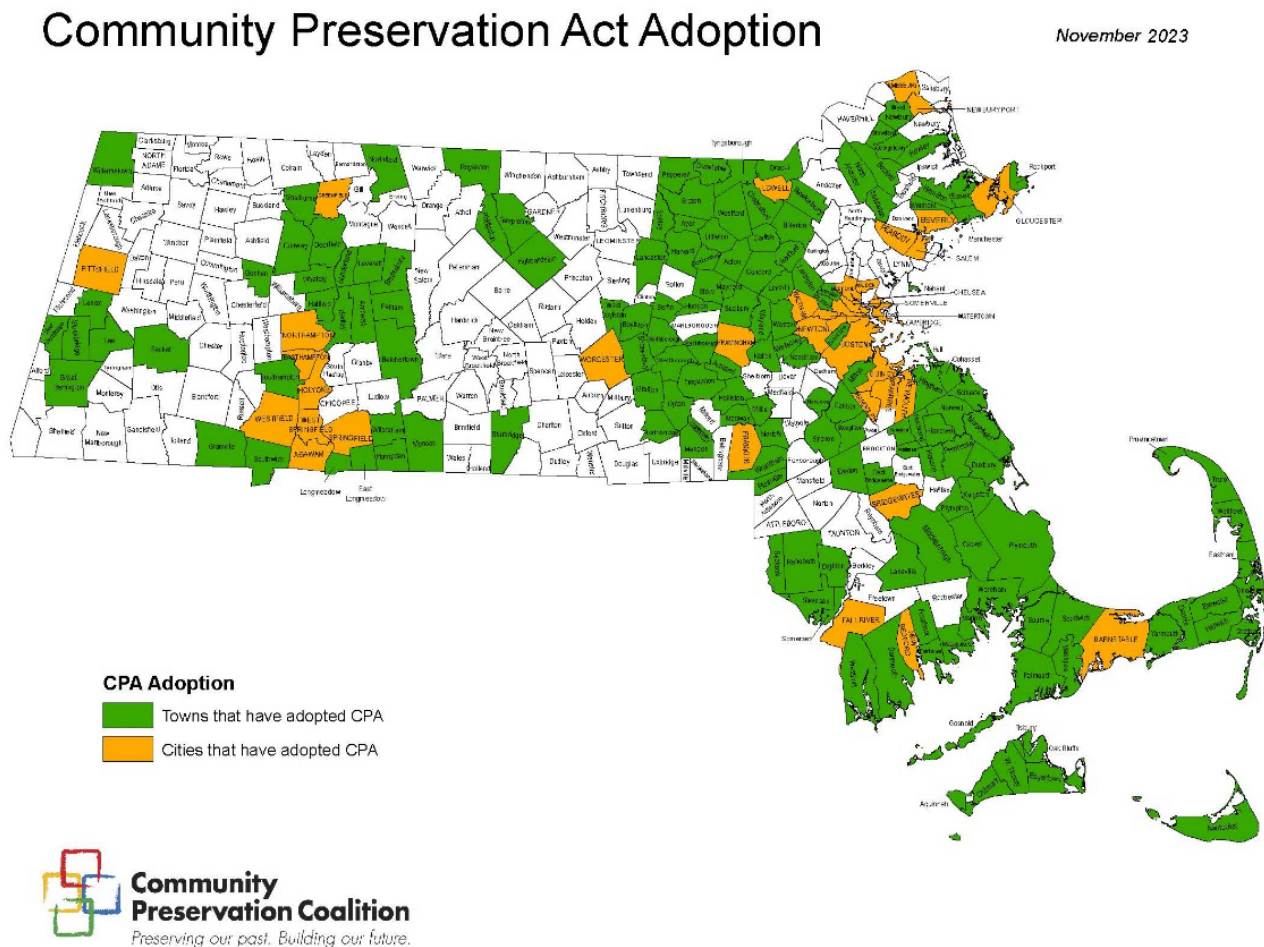
- Konkapot River bank stabilization and habitat improvement, river access
- linking of trail networks in town, and
- improvements to Umpachene Park

are all in line with the Massachusetts State SCORP plan and would be worthwhile projects to pursue with state funding.

Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

New Marlborough does not currently have sufficient tax money to protect open space through land acquisition or to create additional recreational facilities. Additional funds for open space and cultural resource protection could be obtained if the town were to pass the Community Preservation Act. The preservation of existing unprotected open space in New Marlborough depends on citizens organizing or using the services of existing land trusts and additional volunteer organizations for information and opportunities. See Figure 43 for a map of communities in Massachusetts that have passed the Community Preservation Act.

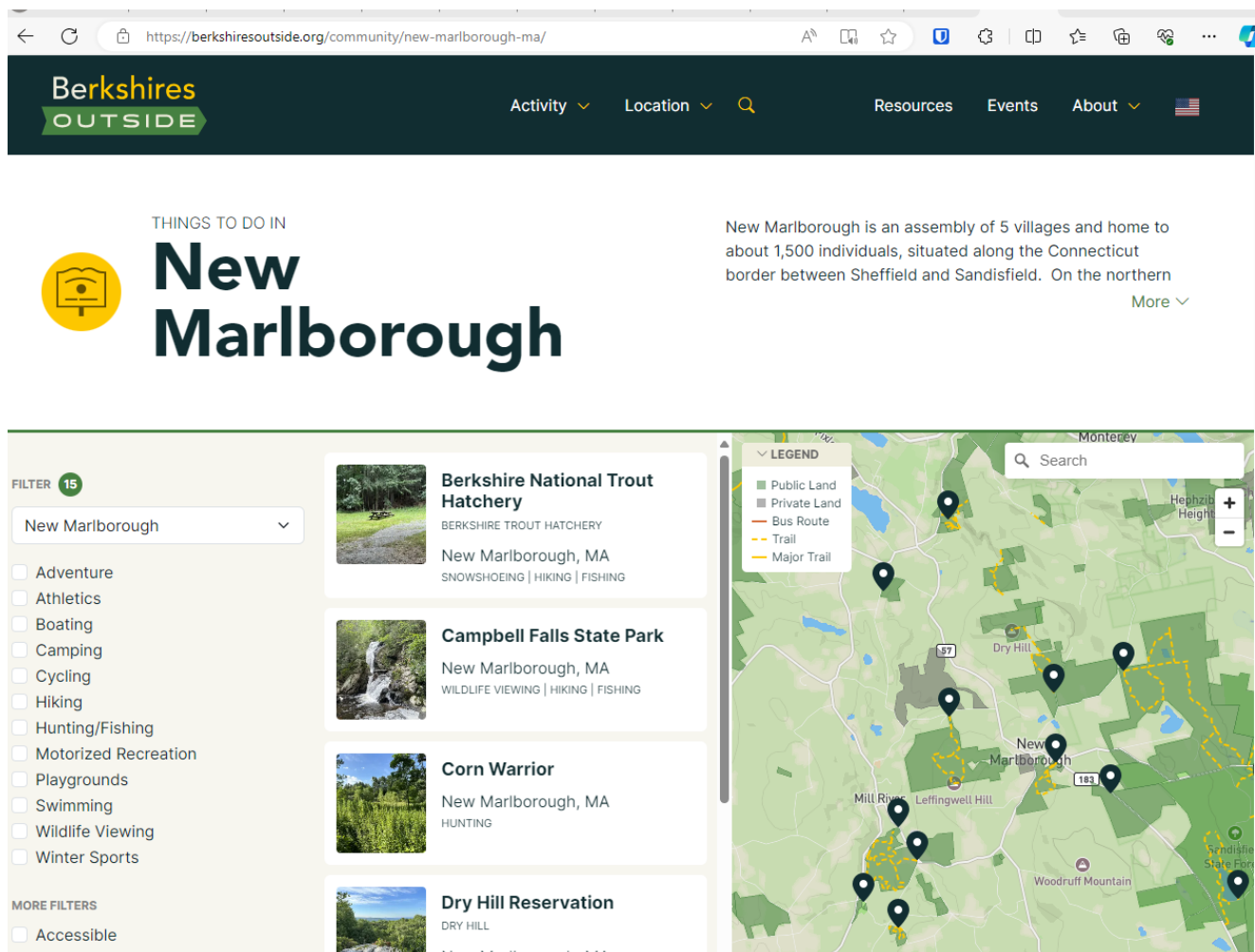
Figure 43 Massachusetts Community Preservation Act Communities- November 2023



Effective lines of communication among the State, Town, and citizens are needed if any of the open space and recreation goals are to be achieved. The town's success in planning for future development and economic growth depends on the involvement of dedicated, enthusiastic citizens who wish to play a role in the future of New Marlborough.

Within New Marlborough there are conflicting opinions on the most important issues of economic growth. One view holds that additional regulations or additional protection of open space will hurt the financial situation of the town. Another view is interested in exploring the economic benefits of open space and the cost of residential and/or commercial growth as it relates to environmental damage and strained infrastructure. Long-term planning will be difficult if cooperation and collaboration does not take place. Coordination between town agencies is needed to prevent additional development and the installation of septic systems within sensitive areas such as steep slopes and wetland areas.

Figure 44 The New Marlborough Page of Berkshires Outside Website



Resource Management

When asked about the condition of these properties, respondents of the 2016 survey indicated their overall satisfaction with them. Umpachene Falls Park received high marks, with 51.5% of respondents who chose to rate the property stated it was in good condition and, 47.5% rating it in fair condition. While residents viewed the park favorably, recommendations for improved access (including fixing the bridge), better enforcement of the residents-only rule, improved parking, reducing noise made by some visitors, and investigating the possibility of adding toilets. Only one respondent rated that the park was in poor condition, and the individual recommended more plantings as an improvement.

Likewise, 61% of respondents who chose to rate the Central School playing field and playground stated that the condition of the property was good, with only one respondent rating it poor. That individual stated that the “baseball field section always looks a little dilapidated – fencing etc.”

New Marlborough also owns and maintains nine cemeteries throughout the town. These properties offer a place of quiet reflection and provide a window to the town’s past. Like the town park and school grounds, the DPW maintain the grounds of the cemeteries.

Like other rural towns, finding volunteers to serve on New Marlborough boards and committees can be difficult. The town has civic-minded people who serve on multiple boards but this can lead to burnout. Attending workshops and trainings can help to support board members. Strategies for increasing the participation of residents in town government would help to sustain town participation. More volunteers on committees will bring more resources, experiences, and energies to the process of improving services in the town.

Agencies and boards have overlapping roles in ownership, management, and maintenance of town land. Handling trail maintenance, dealing with use and/or abuse, and negotiating with landowners for access across private land are just a few of the many situations needing management. Utilizing the managerial skills of regional Land Trust organizations would greatly assist with the task of land management. Private landowners interested in protecting open space must be willing to assist the town financially in order to obtain the services of the Land Trusts.

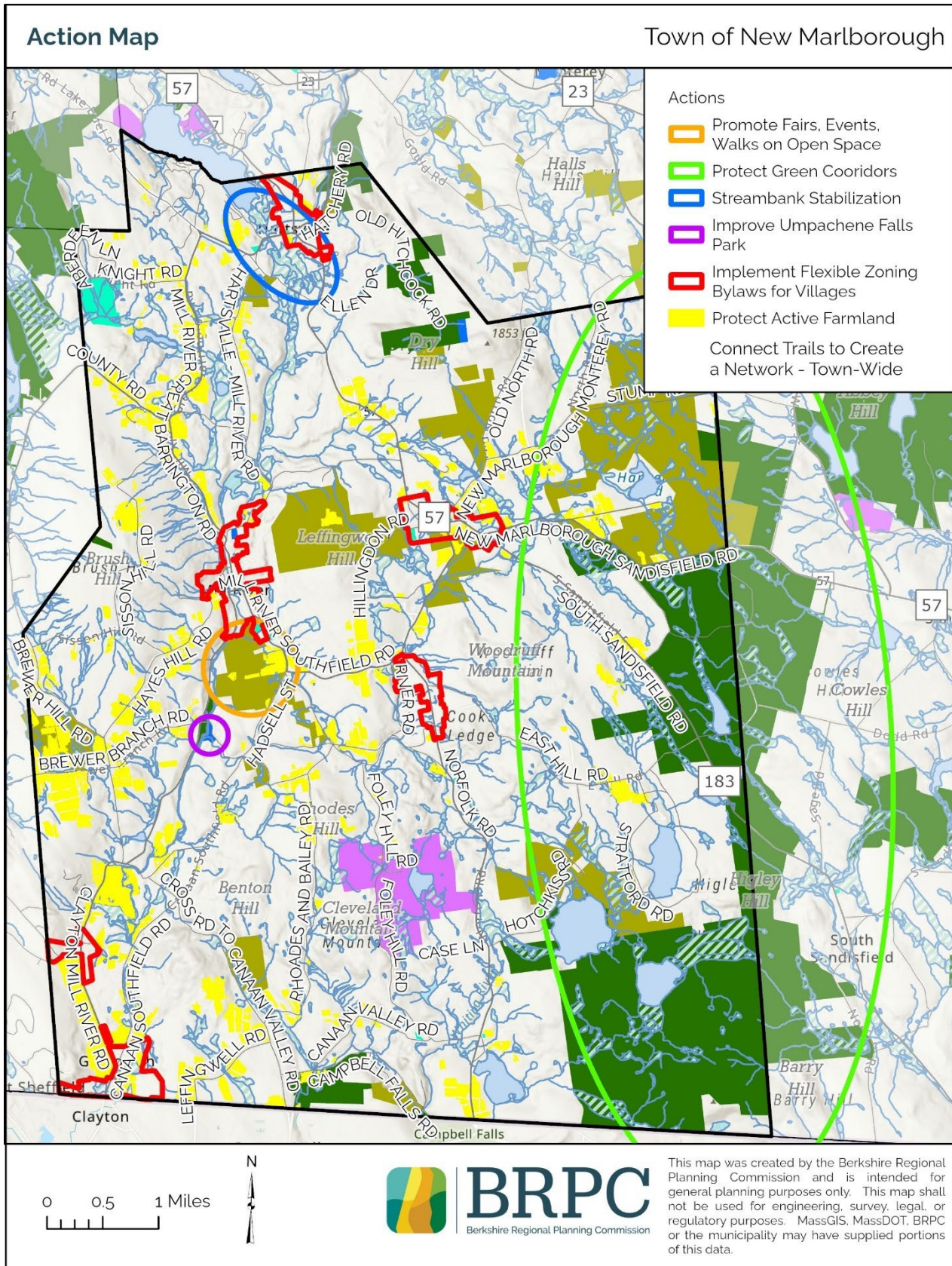
Section 8: Goals and Objectives

The following list of goals and objectives for the Town of New Marlborough was developed through information gathered via a town survey, two public forums, and many conversations with individuals and committees. Some of the goals and objectives are a continuation of those outlined in the 2006 and 2017 OSRP and some were adopted (See Figure 45.)

In developing goals and actions for this OSRP, the New Marlborough Planning Board/Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee revisited the 2009 Comprehensive Plan, the 2017 OSRP, and the 2020 New Marlborough Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan.

- Goal 1 Character of the villages remain intact.**
 - a. Coordinated long-term growth management planning and zoning achieves a healthy rural community.
 - b. Flexible building envelopes containing small business, light commerce, and residences exist in village centers.
 - c. Well-planned growth in village centers is cohesive, attractive, and welcoming.
- Goal 2 Diverse, accessible, and safe recreational opportunities are provided for residents of all ages without conflicting with the needs for protection of natural resources.**
 - d. Accessible gathering areas exist for all town residents.
 - e. Outdoor recreation coexists with the preservation of natural resources.
 - f. Children, teens, families, seniors and people with disabilities have access to recreational sites and activities.
- Goal 3 Healthy natural resources support both human and wildlife communities.**
 - g. Ground and surface waters are of excellent quality.
 - h. Diverse flora and fauna exist through town.
 - i. Wetlands and floodplains remain as diverse habitat.
- Goal 4 New Marlborough's historic integrity and scenic beauty are preserved.**
 - j. Historic resources are maintained as cultural landmarks.
 - k. Scenic views and unique natural resources are cherished by residents and visitors.
 - l. Local agriculture thrives amidst sustainable land use.
- Goal 5 State and Town Officials work with citizens and non-profits to determine and implement the management of open space and recreational facilities.**
 - m. Residents are involved in the promotion and maintenance of areas within town and state-owned properties.

Figure 45 2025 New Marlborough Action Map



Section 9: Ten Year Action Plan

Open Space and Recreation Seven Year Action Plan							
Task #	Priority		Activity	Responsible Party	Time Frame	Funding Source	Cost to the Town
O.1	Goal		Character of the villages remain intact.				
O.1.1	Objective		Coordinated long-term growth management planning and zoning achieves a healthy rural community.				
O.1.2	Objective		Flexible building envelopes containing small business, light commerce, and residences exist in village centers.				
O.1.3	Objective		Well-planned growth in village centers is cohesive, attractive, and welcoming.				
O.1.1.1	High	Action	Review zoning bylaws every five years in view of new developments to see if desired results of the zoning are occurring and revise accordingly.	Planning Board (all actions goal 1)	Periodic	Planning Assistance Grants, Community Planning Grant Program.	None
O.1.1.2	High	Action	Allow flexible zoning bylaw that allows smaller lot size, reduced road frontage and facilitate walking near the village centers. Allow up to four-unit structures by right to enable a greater diversity of housing types.	Review multifamily bylaw examples. Adopt NM version or other alternative zoning bylaw.	0-3 years	Planning Assistance Grants, Community Planning Grant Program, MA Downtown Initiative 2	None
O.1.1.3	High	Action	Continue to put a major focus on new development in town being affordable housing, ideally that minimally disturbs our natural environments	Work with NM Housing Committee to create NM Affordable Housing Trust.	3-7 years	Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Planning Assistance Grants	\$-\$
O.1.1.4	Medium	Action	Review village-specific bylaws that would protect the different villages in town.	Review Village Center bylaw examples. Adopt NM version to encourage appropriate infill development.	0-3 years	Planning Assistance Grants	None
O.1.1.5	Medium	Action	Assign Scenic Road Status to viewsheds and important road corridors to protect trees and stone walls in these corridors.	See Mass G.L. Chap. 40 Section 15C	2-5 years	Planning Assistance Grant, Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund	None
O.1.1.6	Medium	Action	Adopt Open Space Residential or Conservation Subdivision bylaw to allow additional housing development without compromising habitat and open space.	Review Conservation Subdivision Bylaw. Adopt NM version of bylaw.	0-3 years	Planning Assistance Grant	None
O.1.1.7	Medium	Action	Implement clearer zoning to support the preservation of open space while also encouraging a diverse set of community members to move to and enjoy New Marlborough.	Consider combining with 1.1.2 or 1.1.6		Planning Assistance Grants, Community Planning Grant Program	
O.1.1.8	Low	Action	Encourage the development of “street walls,” buildings and residences close to existing roads that limit encroachment into open spaces. Adopt design guidelines for village center developments.	Review Village Center bylaw examples. Adopt NM version to encourage appropriate infill development.	0-3 years	Planning Assistance Grants, Community Planning Grant	None
O.1.1.9	Low	Action	Create a usage table in the zoning ordinance to clarify permitted, special permit, and excluded uses in the various zoning districts.	Review usage tables in other Berkshire County Communities similar to NM. Adopt version for NM.	2-5 years	Planning Assistance Grants, Community Planning Grant	\$

2024 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

0.2	Goal	Diverse, accessible, and safe recreational opportunities are provided for residents of all ages without conflicting with the needs for protection of natural resources.					
0.2.1	Objective	Accessible gathering areas exist for all town residents.					
0.2.2	Objective	Outdoor recreation coexists with the preservation of natural resources.					
0.2.3	Objective	Children, teens, families, seniors and people with disabilities have access to recreational sites and activities.					
0.2.1.1	High	Action	Research funds for development of town parks to encourage local fairs, festivals, cookouts, concerts.	Mass. PARC Grant.	0-3 years	Mass PARC Grant	\$
0.2.1.2	High	Action	Continue work with private landowners to obtain trail easements to form connections between the large tracts of protected open spaces.	Local land owners, non-profits.	Ongoing	Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$\$\$
0.2.1.3	High	Action	Continue educational and recreational programs such as nature walks, canoe trips, and historic tours. Wherever possible address ADA standards and requirements for all residents, regardless of mobility issues.	Local land owners, non-profits.	Ongoing	Local Cultural Council Program, Big Yellow School Bus for Cultural Field Trips, Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Program	\$\$\$\$
0.2.1.4	Medium	Action	Gather community input and continue to improve Umpachene Falls Park.	Local land owners, Umpachene Falls Park Committee.	0-3 years	Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$\$\$
0.2.1.5	Medium	Action	Inform the public of existing local recreational opportunities to create awareness of local programs and facilities.	BNRC, Trustees of Reservations, NM Land Trust, others.	Ongoing	Various	None
0.2.1.6	Medium	Action	Research available state funds to improve parking, access and signage for Umpachene Falls Park and 1,000-Acre Swamp.	Mass PARC Grant.	Ongoing	Mass PARC Grant.	\$\$\$\$
0.2.1.7	Low	Action	Improve existing trails or create a new trail that features universal accessibility features for all residents. (Potentially partner with other agencies, non-profits, or land trust.)	Local land owners, non-profits.	Ongoing	MASSTRAILS Grant, Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund.	\$\$\$\$
0.2.1.8	Low	Action	Continue to work with Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to stock native species of fish and on game management programs that meet the needs of local residents and visitors.	Mass DFW	Ongoing	MassWildlife Trout Stocking Program,	None

2024 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

O.3	Goal		Healthy natural resources support both human and wildlife communities.					
O.3.1	Objective		Ground and surface waters are of excellent quality.					
O.3.2	Objective		Diverse flora and fauna exist through town.					
O.3.3	Objective		Wetlands and floodplains remain as diverse habitat.					
O.3.1.1	High	Action	Implement land-use strategies and water quality monitoring to protect aquifers and recharge zones identified in hydrologic study.	Nearby Communities, SB.	0-3 years	Water Quality Monitoring Grant, Federal 604b Water Quality Management Planning Grant Program, Statewide Water Management Act	\$-\$	
O.3.1.2	High	Action	Adopt Heritage Tree Protection Bylaw to protect mature tree cover. Define tree types and sizes to be protected.	Cons Com, Tree warden, NM Highway Department, Local residents	Ongoing	Planning Assitance Grants, Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grant Program	\$-\$	
O.3.1.3	High	Action	Safeguard local water bodies against aquatic invasive species, with a focus on preventing establishment of zebra mussels and educating lake users.	Cons Com, Lake Buel Preservation District, Local residents.	Ongoing	MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant, Community Forest Stewardship Grant Program	\$-\$	
O.3.1.4	High	Action	Sponsor informative sessions to educate landowners and town to stabilize erosive steep slopes and stream banks with native vegetation to prevent sedimentation in streams and water bodies.	Non-profits, local citizens.	Ongoing	Trout Unlimited Outreach Programs	\$-\$	
O.3.1.5	High	Action	Work with landowners and the Land Trust to keep undeveloped land protected	Local residents, NM Land Trust	Ongoing	Landscape Partnership Grant Program, Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant, Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$-\$-\$	
O.3.1.6	High	Action	Expedite the permitting process for work to stabilize erosive steep slopes and stream banks.	Cons Com, SB, local residents.	Ongoing	Planning Assistance Grants	\$-\$	
O.3.1.7	Medium	Action	Inform community about the Community Preservation Act and how the funds acquired could be used for acquisition of unprotected critical habitat, agricultural lands and open space. Relevant for parks, historical preservation, and affordable housing.	Local residents, CPA Coalition	0-3 years	Various	\$-\$	
O.3.1.8	Medium	Action	Inventory invasive species populations within the town, partnering with conservation organizations to train volunteers to conduct the inventories.	Local residents, Non-profits	Ongoing	Community Forest Stewardship Grant Program	\$-\$	
O.3.1.9	Medium	Action	Limit or restrict the use of salt on roads that traverse wetland areas.	NM Highway Department	Ongoing	DCR Salt Use Reduction Grants	\$	
O.3.1.10	Medium	Action	Seek the expertise of BRPC and State services to catalog and determine the health of habitats and species as indicators of water quality.	Mass DCR, non-profits, BRPC.	Ongoing	Statewide Water Management Act,	\$-\$	
O.3.1.11	Low	Action	Continue the "Adopt-A-Stream" program. Work with non-profits such as Trout Unlimited to implement bank stabilization or habitat improvements on the Konkapot River.	Trout Unlimited, Cons Com., SB.	Ongoing	Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund, Trout Unlimited	\$-\$	
O.3.1.12	Low	Action	Work to verify potential vernal pools as identified by the state or through local knowledge.	Local Residents, Mass. DCR	Ongoing	Various	\$	
O.3.1.13	Low	Action	Encourage landowners to employ various land protection strategies such as Conservation Restrictions, Chapter 61 programs, and the Agricultural Preservation Act, with a focus on protecting land in perpetuity.	MDAR, Local farmers, Non-profits, local residents.	Ongoing	Agriculture Preservation Restriction (APR) Program,	\$-\$	
O.3.1.14	Low	Action	Work with surrounding towns to conduct a detailed hydrologic study to identify aquifers and recharge areas.	Nearby Communities, SB.	0-3 years	Statewide Water Management Act	\$-\$-\$	
O.3.1.15	Low	Action	Create a pollinator club or committee to promote pollination and other conservation activities on private property.	Local residents, Cons Com, non-profits	Ongoing	Community Forest Stewardship Grant Program	\$-\$	

2024 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

0.4	Goal		New Marlborough's historic integrity and scenic beauty are preserved.				
0.4.1	Objective		Historic resources are maintained as cultural landmarks.				
0.4.2	Objective		Scenic views and unique natural resources are cherished by residents and visitors.				
0.4.3	Objective		Local agriculture thrives amidst sustainable land use.				
0.4.1.1	High	Action	Inventory abandoned historic sites for preservation or possible restoration, including heritage landscapes such as mill foundations.	NM Historic Committee, Mass. Historic Commission	Ongoing	Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grant Program	\$-\$\$
0.4.1.2	High	Action	Protect active farmland and educate the public on agriculture in New Marlborough. Post Right to Farm signage throughout the town.	SB, Highway Department, Local residents	Ongoing	Agriculture Preservation Restriction (APR) Program,	\$
0.4.1.3	Medium	Action	Keep as many unpaved roads as possible.	NM Highway Department	Ongoing	Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grant Program	\$
0.4.1.4	Medium	Action	Conduct a heritage tree inventory and a strategy for proactively replacing those that are unhealthy and are likely to be lost through disease or purposely removed for public safety.	Tree Warden, Cons Com, Local non-profits	Ongoing	Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grant Program, Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$-\$\$\$
0.4.1.5	Low	Action	Create an outreach program to work with local landowners, such as farmers and loggers, on Best Land Use Practices.	Local Farms, non-profits, MDAR	Ongoing	APR Improvement Program (AIP), \$ Agriculture Preservation Restriction (APR) Program	
0.5	Goal		State and Town Officials work with citizens and non-profits to determine and implement the management of open space and recreational facilities.				
0.5.1	Objective		Residents are involved in the promotion and maintenance of areas within town and state-owned properties.				
0.5.2	Objective		Ongoing dialogue occurs between state, town, and residents.				
0.5.1.1	High	Action	Continue roadside cleanup programs. Reach out to local school and civic groups as partners.	Local residents, Schools, Non-Profits	Ongoing	Various, Adopt a Highway Program	\$
0.5.1.2	High	Action	Annually review the Open Space & Recreation Plan to track implementation and to reflect changes that may have occurred during the past year.	Planning Board	Ongoing	None	None
0.5.1.3	Medium	Action	Work with state officials to develop management plans for both state forests.	Mass DCR, Local residents	0-3 years	DCR RMP	None
0.5.1.4	Medium	Action	Work with Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Trustees of Reservations, and the New Marlborough Land Trust to identify and protect important conservation lands in the town to strengthen wildlife corridors in the town.	BNRC, Trustees, NM Land Trust, Local residents	Ongoing	Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$-\$\$
0.5.1.5	Low	Action	Promote open space resources and activities on the town's website.	Town Manager, SB, Local residents	Ongoing	None	\$

Section 10: Public Comments

The 2017 Plan was developed in coordination with the New Marlborough Planning Board and this group was also tasked with updating the 2024 Plan. Meetings with the Planning Board began with a January 24, 2024 presentation on the process of developing the plan, the importance of an updated Open Space and Recreation Plan, and a proposed timeline for the project. Additional meetings with the Planning Board were held on: 2/28/2024, 3/27/2024, 4/23/24, 8/13/2024, 9/10/2024, and 12/11/2024. Meeting agendas and minutes from those meetings are available both on the town's website and the New Marlborough 5 Village News.

A public Survey consisting of 18 questions was utilized to gain feedback from the townspeople and was advertised on the Town's website, in the New Marlborough 5 Village News, on flyers posted at the Library and on message boards at the Mill River General Store (see Figure 3)

The survey was open from May 1st to June 15th and received 119 responses, representing 298 members of the community. The survey included a variety of open response, multiple choice, and demographic questions.

Two public forums were held to publicize the survey and the results of the survey. The first public forum was held at the Monterey Public Library on 5/18/2024 and was focused on informing the public about the OSRP survey and process in general. Several members of the public attended the meeting (including the Planning Board) and the President of the New Marlborough Land Trust. Another Public Forum was held at the Town Hall on 11/13/2024 and focused on the results of the survey and how those were used to generate goals and actions for the plan. This meeting was also attended by members of the public including Select Board members and the reporter for the New Marlborough 5 Village News. At both events, the public was invited to provide feedback using the interactive website Mentimeter. These results are included in Appendix H (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 12/17/2009) of the document.

The Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan was published on the town's website during the month of December, 2024. Articles regarding Planning Board and Select Board meetings were also featured in the New Marlborough 5 Village News. The Select Board was allowed to comment on the plan during their December 30, 2024 meeting. Comments were directed via email to BRPC. Several citizen comments were received and incorporated into the plan. A screenshot of the Town's website with announcements regarding the Open Space Plan are featured in Figures 46 and 47.

Figures 46 and 47: New Marlborough Website announcement of OSRP Public Review



Section 11: References

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(Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 2017)

Section 12: Appendices

Appendix A: Table of APR and CR Lands in New Marlborough

Site Name	Owner	Owner Type	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level of Protection	Acres
Donnelley CR	DONNELLEY STRACHAN AND VIVIAN	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	3.42
Donnelley CR	DONNELLEY STRACHAN AND VIVIAN	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	14.19
Donnelley CR	DONNELLEY STRACHAN AND VIVIAN	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	3.79
Donnelley CR	DONNELLEY STRACHAN AND VIVIAN	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	7.52
Donnelley CR	DONNELLEY STRACHAN AND VIVIAN	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	35.15
Donnelley CR	DONNELLEY STRACHAN AND VIVIAN	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	7.36
Donnelley CR	DONNELLEY STRACHAN AND VIVIAN	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	77.18
Donnelley CR	DONNELLEY STRACHAN AND VIVIAN	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	2.64
Walker CR	Walker Mark A and Tania	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	195.81
Devine CR	DEVINE LOUISE C	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	66.28
Devine CR	DEVINE LOUISE C	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	7.53
Devine CR	DEVINE LOUISE C	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	12.07
Devine CR	DEVINE LOUISE C	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	5.42
Devine CR	DEVINE LOUISE C	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	39.76
Devine CR	DEVINE LOUISE C	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	106.18
Devine CR	DEVINE LOUISE C	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	8.06

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Corn Warrior	Berkshire Natural Resources Council	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	11.70
Corn Warrior	Berkshire Natural Resources Council	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	16.70
Steepletop Reserve	Berkshire Natural Resources Council	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	245.32
Steepletop Reserve	Berkshire Natural Resources Council	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	327.97
Steepletop Reserve	Berkshire Natural Resources Council	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	51.93
Cookson State Forest	New Marlborough Land Preservation Trust	Land Trust	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity	108.71
Phillips CR	New Marlborough Land Preservation Trust	Land Trust	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	24.62
New Marlborough Hill CR	New Marlborough Hill LLC	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	243.89
New Marlborough Hill CR	New Marlborough Hill LLC	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	20.75
Rhoades CR	RHOADES BARBARA B	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	81.98
Donnelley CR	DONNELLEY STRACHAN AND VIVIAN	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	1.63
Taylor CR	TAYLOR ELIZABETH EYRE	Private	Conservation	Limited	Perpetuity	0.13
Gleason Pond CR	Crine Harold W	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	220.66
Smith-Alexander & Clark Farms	Ravine Falls Trust	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	65.46
Smith-Alexander & Clark Farms	Ravine Falls Trust	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	94.50
Smith-Alexander & Clark Farms	Ravine Falls Trust	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	148.79
Mills CR	MILLS SAMUEL W III	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	35.34
Schwarz CR	SCHWARZ	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	118.51
Taylor CR	TAYLOR ELIZABETH EYRE	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	36.40
Canaan Valley CR	HOBERMAN OWEN O TR OF DEANO REAL ESTATE NT	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	5.55

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Canaan Valley CR	HOBERMAN OWEN O TR OF DEANO REAL ESTATE NT	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	5.65
Canaan Valley CR	ZOULLAS NICOLAS B AND DEBORAH	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	23.99
Canaan Valley CR	HOBERMAN OWEN O TR OF DEANO REAL ESTATE NT	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	1.54
Gleason Pond CR	Crine Harold W	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	5.93
Smith-Alexander & Clark Farms	Ravine Falls Trust	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	0.37
Mills CR	MILLS SAMUEL W III	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	27.92
Taylor CR	TAYLOR ELIZABETH EYRE	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	7.49
Schreiber CR	Schreiber John R and Rebecca C	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	7.84
Schreiber CR	Schreiber John R and Rebecca C	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	0.00
Old North Road Scenic Corridor CR	Weinstein Sydney L and Jeane K	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	0.25
Old North Road Scenic Corridor CR	Weinstein Sydney L and Jeane K	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	3.64
Suter Farm Reserve	Berkshire Natural Resources Council	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	52.04
Suter Farm Reserve	Berkshire Natural Resources Council	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	92.38
Steepletop Reserve	Berkshire Natural Resources Council	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	359.3 0
Steepletop Reserve	Berkshire Natural Resources Council	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	155.5 7
Lumbert Cross Road Reserve	New Marlborough Land Preservation Trust	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	18.28
Lumbert Cross Road Reserve	New Marlborough Land Preservation Trust	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	3.12
Goodnow Preserve on the Konkapot	New Marlborough Land Trust	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	196.0 5
Lumbert Cross Road Reserve	New Marlborough Land Preservation Trust	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	1.90
Lumbert Cross Road Reserve	New Marlborough Land Preservation Trust	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	13.66

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Goodnow Preserve on the Konkapot	New Marlborough Land Trust	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	7.12
Suter Farm Reserve	Berkshire Natural Resources Council	Land Trust	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	0.21
Cannan Calley CR	Town of New Marlborough	Municipal	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	1.55
Phillips/Montgomery CR	MONTGOMERY ROBERT D JR	Private	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	198.40
Goodnow Preserve on the Konkapot	New Marlborough Land Trust	Private	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	11.76
Goodnow Preserve on the Konkapot	New Marlborough Land Trust	Private	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	95.57
Old Inn on the Green CR	Mills Dorothy S	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	9.87
Old Inn On The Green CR	Mills Dorthy S	Private	Conservation	No	Perpetuity	1.15
Woodburn Farm	Fenn Sheldon	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	4.72
Woodburn Farm	Fenn Sheldon	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	19.42
Bluebird Hill	Bluebird Hill Development LLC	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	6.72
Bluebird Hill	Bluebird Hill Development LLC	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	2.59
Bluebird Hill	Bluebird Hill Development LLC	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	3.97
Elm Knoll Farm	Jacquier David W V Jo Ann	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	68.25
Elm Knoll Farm	Jacquier David W and Jo Ann	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	5.44
Elm Knoll Farm	Jacquier David W and Jo Ann	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	82.21
Elm Knoll Farm	Jacquier David W and Jo Ann	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	68.50
Bluebird Hill	Bluebird Hill Development LLC	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	2.13
Bluebird Hill	Bluebird Hill Development LLC	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	2.90
Bluebird Hill	Bluebird Hill Development LLC	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	7.44
Bluebird Hill	Bluebird Hill Development LLC	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	0.29
Wilcox Warren R APR	Wilcox Warren R	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	54.60
Wilcox Warren R APR	Wilcox Warren R	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	14.29

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Wilcox Warren R APR	Wilcox Warren R	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	0.21
MacKenzie	MacKenzie, Scott	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	35.61
MacKenzie	MacKenzie, Scott	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	18.18
MacKenzie	MacKenzie, Scott	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	2.11
Umpachene River WCE	B AND N LANDS LLC	Private	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	132.7 5
Umpachene River WCE	B AND N LANDS LLC	Private	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity	123.2 6

Appendix B: Table of Chapter 61 Lands in New Marlborough

Parcel	Chapter 61 Status	Address	Owner	Acres
403_13_0	Chapter 61	69 CORSER HILL RD	SCHMEIZL HOURY	12.25
404_31_0	Chapter 61	732 HARTS-NEW MARLBOROUGH RD	PELL ANGELENE VARICK	92.67
405_11_0	Chapter 61	0 NORTH ROAD	RAVINE FALLS TRUST	65.46
405_9_0	Chapter 61	739 NORTH ROAD	BEKKEDAHN-PARENT MARY ANN	32.42
410_15.2_0	Chapter 61	333 EAST HILL RD	EISNER GILBERT	73.55
410_39_0	Chapter 61	0 NORFOLK RD	ALM CHRISTIAN ARTHUR	26.32
410_55_0	Chapter 61	132 FOLEY HILL RD	DEVRIES MEGHAN L	23.21
410_59_0	Chapter 61	146 RHOADES & BAILEY RD	RICHARDSON ROBIN J	4.18
411_2.2_0	Chapter 61	618 EAST HILL RD	HACKETT JOYCE A	44.60
413_17_0	Chapter 61	862 FOLEY HILL RD	KEELEY JAMES L	34.15
413_18_0	Chapter 61	887 FOLEY HILL RD	KEELEY JAMES L	7.08
413_2_0	Chapter 61	0 NORFOLK RD	QUINSON BRUNO A	85.97
413_21_0	Chapter 61	915 NORFOLK RD	WILKINSON TODD M	23.39
414_109_0	Chapter 61	0 BREWER HILL RD	FROHNE RONALD	29.66
414_110.2_0	Chapter 61	0 CLAYTON MILL RIVER RD	FROHNE RONALD	30.51
416_11_0	Chapter 61	123 CANAAN VALLEY RD	LAWRENCE STUART W	21.12
416_5_0	Chapter 61	1508-1584 NORFOLK RD	NORFOLK RD NOMINEE RE TRUST	493.54
416_9.2_0	Chapter 61	0 NORFOLK RD	NORFOLK RD NOMINEE RE TRUST	32.72
416_92_0	Chapter 61	1555 NORFOLK RD	NORFOLK RD NOMINEE RE TRUST	12.14
403_25_0	Chapter 61A	312 COUNTY RD	CRINE HAROLD W JR	220.76
403_31_0	Chapter 61A	92 COUNTY RD	STANTON JEREMY P	44.74
403_36_0	Chapter 61A	0 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	MACDOWELL EDWARD P	9.49

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403_37_0	Chapter 61A	779 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	MACDOWELL EDWARD	21.30
404_9.1_0	Chapter 61A	815 HARTS-NEW MARLBOROUGH RD	FELDMAN DAVID S	11.52
405_10_0	Chapter 61A	865 NORTH ROAD	FUKUI MEGUMI	109.52
406_13_0	Chapter 61A	621 N.M. SOUTH SANDISFIELD RD	BRAZIE M ANDREW	2.50
406_13.1_0	Chapter 61A	621 N.M. SOUTH SANDISFIELD RD	BRAZIE M ANDREW	37.13
406_13.2_0	Chapter 61A	727 SO SANDISFIELD RD	BRAZIE THOMAS M	15.20
407_58_0	Chapter 61A	151 NEW MARLBORO SOUTHFIELD RD	TRUMBULL DOUGLAS	37.45
407_61_0	Chapter 61A	0 TAMARIDGE RD	OLD SCHOOL FARM LLC	167.92
407_61.1_0	Chapter 61A	0 TAMARIDGE RD	OLD SCHOOL FARM LLC	7.88
407_61.4_0	Chapter 61A	0 TAMARIDGE RD	OLD SCHOOL FARM LLC	8.00
407_61.5_0	Chapter 61A	0 TAMARIDGE RD	OLD SCHOOL FARM LLC	122.08
408_30_0	Chapter 61A	551 SISSON HILL RD	MCDADE JARED C	32.16
408_35_0	Chapter 61A	337 SISSON HILL RD	ORMSBEE JOHN E	33.93
408_51_0	Chapter 61A	551 SISSON HILL RD	MCDADE JARED C	54.15
408_74_0	Chapter 61A	426-482 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	CLARK PAUL	47.11
409_130_0	Chapter 61A	499 CLAYTON MILL RIVER RD	GOEHRING DEBRA J	19.70
409_132_0	Chapter 61A	0 CLAYTON MILL RIVER RD	GILL PETER	24.30
409_40_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER HILL RD	PRISENDORF REVOCABLE TRUST	8.30
409_42_0	Chapter 61A	282 BREWER HILL RD	BREWER HILL ASSOCIATES LLC	17.70
409_42.1_0	Chapter 61A	282 BREWER HILL RD	BREWER HILL ASSOCIATES LLC	8.56
409_74.1_0	Chapter 61A	751-765 BREWER HILL RD	JOHNSTON MICHAEL C	2.33
409_81.2_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER HILL RD	TILLES ROGER, TRUSTEE	11.22
409_81.3_0	Chapter 61A	662 BREWER HILL RD	TILLES ROGER, TRUSTEE	62.02
409_84_0	Chapter 61A	0 HAYES HILL RD	TILLES ROGER, TRUSTEE	38.19
409_98_0	Chapter 61A	0 HAYES HILL RD	PELKEY JESSICA MAE	14.24
410_32_0	Chapter 61A	460 NORFOLK RD	BAKER JOBY	76.93
410_9_0	Chapter 61A	166 EAST HILL RD	BERLINGHOF REALTY TRUST	164.93
411_15_0	Chapter 61A	21 IDLE HOUR RD	BRAZIE MAURICE G	9.73
411_25_0	Chapter 61A	763 HOTCHKISS RD	ROSTON FAMILY PARTNERSHIP L.P	78.40
411_3_0	Chapter 61A	764 EAST HILL RD	ROSTON FAMILY PARTNERSHIP L.P.	154.70
413_25_0	Chapter 61A	707 NORFOLK RD	GRAHAM-JONES JANIS	79.21
413_28_0	Chapter 61A	294 FOLEY HILL RD	WILKINSON JOSEPH III	58.12

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			TRUSTEE	
414_111_0	Chapter 61A	141 BREWER HILL RD	CARMONA MICHAEL G	37.51
414_33_0	Chapter 61A	1779 CANAAN SOUTHFIELD RD	BLAIS WILLIAM L & ELLEN	145.10
415_19_0	Chapter 61A	2318 CANAAN SOUTHFIELD RD	POOR FARM REALTY TRUST LLC	58.94
415_3_0	Chapter 61A	128 LEFFINGWELL RD	LABSHERE LAYNE A	20.35
415_3.1_0	Chapter 61A	96 LEFFINGWELL RD	LAINÉ KRISTOPHER H	20.04
415_3.2_0	Chapter 61A	0 LEFFINGWELL RD	LABSHERE LAYNE A	71.66
415_4.3_0	Chapter 61A	181 LEFFINGWELL RD	LABSHERE JOSHUA	30.67
415_9_0	Chapter 61A	2320 CANAAN SOUTHFIELD RD	SAMBERG MITCHELL	106.31
416_12_0	Chapter 61A	155 CANAAN VALLEY RD	HOBERMAN OWEN O	15.66
416_57_0	Chapter 61A	1100 RHOADES & BAILEY RD	LEVIN BENJAMIN SMITH	156.48
416_63_0	Chapter 61A	0 RHOADES & BAILEY RD	LEVIN BENJAMIN SMITH	12.80
416_73_0	Chapter 61A	540 CANAAN VALLEY RD	MARSHALL STEVE H	4.75
416_77_0	Chapter 61A	356 CANAAN VALLEY RD	ETHAN S KLEPETAR, TR	30.80
416_78_0	Chapter 61A	404 CANAAN VALLEY RD	ETHAN S KLEPETAR, TR	24.82
416_8_0	Chapter 61A	1813 NORFOLK RD	NORFOLK RD NOMINEE RE TRUST	15.90
414_38.1_0	Chapter 61A	0 KONKAPOT RD	MAHANEY MARK RYAN	15.38
409_100_0	Chapter 61A	373 HAYES HILL RD	PELKEY JESSICA MAE	30.75
414_24.1_0	Chapter 61A	527 CROSS TO CANAAN VALLEY RD	STRELA VASILY	26.91
405_22_0	Chapter 61A	492 NORTH ROAD	WALKER MARK A	26.72
101_2_0	Chapter 61B	0 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	PARSONS JEAN F	33.47
403_39.2_0	Chapter 61B	931 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	CHASE FREDERICK G	17.25
403_50_0	Chapter 61B	138 CAULKINS CROSS RD	REED PAUL S	18.37
408_13_0	Chapter 61B	1141 SISSON HILL RD	SELANDER MARK	8.15
408_2_0	Chapter 61B	317 HAYES HILL RD	LIVETEN HELEN Z & BENJAMIN D	179.17
411_2_0	Chapter 61B	440 EAST HILL RD	WORTHINGTON NANCI MCCARTER	429.83
413_59.1_0	Chapter 61B	501 RHOADES & BAILEY RD	BENTON HILL LLC	232.94
416_23_0	Chapter 61B	240 CAMPBELL FALLS RD	KONEAZNY JAMES G	9.85
416_64_0	Chapter 61B	780 CROSS TO CANAAN VALLEY RD	HUMES JOHN J	24.38
402_31.2_0	Chapter 61A	165 KNIGHT RD	PALFINI JOHN C	113.78
403_19.1_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	KELLY JAMES WILSON	1.03
403_28_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	SHELDON DAVID WALTER	5.00
403_4_0	Chapter 61A	565 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	ANITA E COOK	142.39

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403_76_0	Chapter 61A	566 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	ANITA E COOK	2.73
404_48.1_0	Chapter 61A	223 STONE MANOR DR	MEPAL MANOR LLC	189.25
406_11_0	Chapter 61A	616 N.M. SOUTH SANDISFIELD RD	BRAZIE MARY E	90.05
407_28_0	Chapter 61A	34-36-38 HARTS-NEW MARLBOROUGH RD	WILLOW CREEK PARTNERS LLP	19.01
407_61.2_0	Chapter 61A	0 TAMARIDGE RD	OLD SCHOOL FARM INC	4.82
409_101_0	Chapter 61A	0 HAYES HILL RD	PELKEY JESSICA MAE	77.60
410_45_0	Chapter 61A	475 NORFOLK RD	BAKER JOBY	17.14
416_17_0	Chapter 61A	0 CANAAN VALLEY RD	ETHAN S KLEPETAR,TR	27.35
413_1_0	Chapter 61A	772 NORFOLK RD	BHSC REAL ESTATE LLC	104.11
404_75_0	Chapter 61B	0 OLD NORTH RD	DEMPSEY MARILYN E	14.27
407_62_0	Chapter 61B	327 NEW MARLBORO SOUTHFIELD RD	BRAZIE THOMAS M	46.74
415_71_0	Chapter 61A	0 CANAAN SOUTHFIELD RD	GRASSMARKET LLC	89.63
416_16_0	Chapter 61A	0 CANAAN VALLEY RD	ETHAN S KLEPETAR,TR	47.10
410_82_0	Chapter 61A	0 RHOADES & BAILEY RD	RICHARDSON ROBIN J	9.61
408_23_0	Chapter 61B	0 SISSON HILL RD	HILL ROAD NOMINEE TRUST	35.72
401_42_0	Chapter 61	0 RTE 57	PETTIT ROBERT E	16.43
401_60_0	Chapter 61	0 ARROYO WAY	MIELKE FREDERICK C & DEBORAH D	52.07
404_2_0	Chapter 61	0 NEW MARLBORO HILL RD	OC FARM AND FOREST LLC	93.98
404_2.1_0	Chapter 61	191 NEW MARLBORO HILL RD	CHAMBERLIN GLENDON G JR	27.40
405_12_0	Chapter 61	0 NORTH ROAD	RAVINE FALLS TRUST	0.37
405_13_0	Chapter 61	0 NORTH ROAD	RAVINE FALLS TRUST	94.50
405_14_0	Chapter 61	0 NORTH ROAD	RAVINE FALLS TRUST	148.79
406_10_0	Chapter 61	0 SO SANDISFIELD RD	HULL FORESTLANDS LP	132.74
406_14_0	Chapter 61	0 SO SANDISFIELD RD	HULL FORESTLANDS LP	123.26
407_62.1_0	Chapter 61	327 NEW MARLBORO SOUTHFIELD RD	BRAZIE THOMAS M	7.78
407_62.2_0	Chapter 61	327 NEW MARLBORO SOUTHFIELD RD	BRAZIE THOMAS M	76.54
410_40_0	Chapter 61	0 NORFOLK RD	ALM CHRISTIAN ARTHUR	8.92
410_41_0	Chapter 61	0 NORFOLK RD	ALM CHRISTIAN ARTHUR	12.06
410_42_0	Chapter 61	0 NORFOLK RD	ALM CHRISTIAN ARTHUR	0.44
410_43_0	Chapter 61	0 NORFOLK RD	ALM CHRISTIAN ARTHUR	0.69
410_62_0	Chapter 61	0 RHOADES & BAILEY RD	RICHARDSON ROBIN J	44.71
411_20.2_0	Chapter 61	0 NM SOUTH SANDISFIELD RD	SANTUCCI JOSEPH E JR	13.59
413_23_0	Chapter 61	0 NORFOLK RD	HENTSCHEL STEPHEN G	39.45

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414_110.1_0	Chapter 61	0 BREWER HILL RD	FROHNE RONALD	4.63
414_23_0	Chapter 61	0 CANAAN VALLEY RD	NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST	91.15
416_83_0	Chapter 61	0 FOLEY HILL RD	SAMTON PETER	14.60
416_85_0	Chapter 61	0 FOLEY HILL RD	SAMTON PETER	7.05
416_88_0	Chapter 61	0 CANAAN VALLEY RD	LAWRENCE STUART W	2.71
402_47.1_0	Chapter 61	0 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	HARRISON CHARLES	1.21
103_28_0	Chapter 61A	0 CORASHIRE RD	WOODBURN FARM PRESERVATION	19.42
403_24_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	CRINE HAROLD W JR	5.93
403_29_0	Chapter 61A	244 COUNTY RD	SHELDON DAVID WALTER	53.19
403_35_0	Chapter 61A	0 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	MACDOWELL EDWARD P	23.29
407_13_0	Chapter 61A	0 NORTH ROAD	WILLOW CREEK PARTNERS LLP	10.33
407_24_0	Chapter 61A	0 RTE 57	WILLOW CREEK PARTNERS LLP	2.99
408_10_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER HILL RD	JOHNSTON MICHAEL C	1.13
408_11_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER HILL RD	JOHNSTON MICHAEL C	0.25
408_48_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	ORMSBEE ANITA C	6.29
409_103_0	Chapter 61A	662 HAYES HILL RD	MINTZ DANIEL	0.98
409_106_0	Chapter 61A	0 HAYES HILL RD	MINTZ DANIEL	37.14
409_108_0	Chapter 61A	0 HAYES HILL RD	MCCREE DONALD III	16.88
409_109_0	Chapter 61A	0 HAYES HILL RD	MCCREE DONALD H III	8.60
409_111_0	Chapter 61A	0 HAYES HILL RD	ANDRUS KATHY J	5.97
409_60_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER BRANCH RD	ALLEN G MORVEN	54.57
409_64_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER HILL RD	BERKSHIRE NATURAL RESOURCES	52.04
409_65_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER HILL RD	BERKSHIRE NATURAL RESOURCES	92.21
409_74.2_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER HILL RD	JOHNSTON MICHAEL C	3.97
409_75_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER HILL RD	JOHNSTON MICHAEL C	2.66
414_28_0	Chapter 61A	0 CROSS TO CANAAN VALLEY RD	BLAIS WILLIAM L & ELLEN	41.70
414_42_0	Chapter 61A	0 CLAYTON MILL RIVER RD	ELM KNOLL FARM LLC	69.13
415_4.1_0	Chapter 61A	0 LEFFINGWELL RD	LABSHERE LAYNE A	75.09
415_4.4_0	Chapter 61A	0 LEFFINGWELL RD	LABSHERE LAYNE A	34.18
415_54_0	Chapter 61A	0 CLAYTON MILL RIVER RD	ELM KNOLL FARM LLC	82.21
415_56_0	Chapter 61A	0 CLAYTON MILL RIVER RD	ELM KNOLL FARM LLC	68.50
415_24.8_0	Chapter 61A	0 CROSS TO CANAAN VALLEY RD	WASSERMAN SARAH LINDSAY ETAL	3.52

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416_59_0	Chapter 61A	0 RHOADES & BAILEY RD	LEVIN BENJAMIN SMITH	17.75
408_73_0	Chapter 61A	0 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	CLARK PAUL	72.87
415_24.4_0	Chapter 61A	0 CROSS TO CANAAN VALLEY RD	WASSERMAN SARAH LINDSAY ETAL	7.38
415_24.5_0	Chapter 61A	0 LEFFINGWELL RD	WASSERMAN SARAH LINDSAY ETAL	6.88
415_24.7_0	Chapter 61A	0 LEFFINGWELL RD	WASSERMAN SARAH LINDSAY ETAL	6.47
415_24.6_0	Chapter 61A	0 LEFFINGWELL RD	WASSERMAN SARAH LINDSAY ETAL	6.43
415_24.2_0	Chapter 61A	0 LEFFINGWELL RD	WASSERMAN SARAH LINDSAY ETAL	64.71
415_24.3_0	Chapter 61A	0 CROSS TO CANAAN VALLEY RD	WASSERMAN SARAH LINDSAY ETAL	11.69
414_24_0	Chapter 61A	0 CROSS TO CANAAN VALLEY RD	WASSERMAN SARAH LINDSAY ETAL	60.16
403_17_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	BLUEBIRD HILL DEVELOPEMENT	2.13
403_19.2_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	KELLY JAMES WILSON	6.72
414_146_0	Chapter 61A	0 CANAAN SOUTHFIELD RD	BLAIS WILLIAM L	29.44
416_19_0	Chapter 61A	0 CANAAN VALLEY RD	MARSHALL STEVE H	14.93
403_69_0	Chapter 61A	734 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	ORMSBEE JOHN E	10.65
415_71.1_0	Chapter 61A	0 CANAAN SOUTHFIELD RD	BLAIS WILLIAM	10.60
414_160_0	Chapter 61A	0 CANAAN SOUTHFIELD RD	BLAIS WILLIAM L & ELLEN	10.75
107_24_0	Chapter 61A	35 HAYES HILL RD	ORMSBEE JOHN E	63.89
401_40_0	Chapter 61A	0 RTE 57	WEINSTEIN REALTY MANAGEMENT	16.72
401_41_0	Chapter 61A	0 RTE 57	THE FERN MOUNTAIN FARM NOMINEE	42.26
403_1_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	COOK ANITA E	14.61
403_14_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	ORMSBEE JOHN E	7.07
403_16_0	Chapter 61A	275 COUNTY RD	CRINE HAROLD W JR	13.41
403_20_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	BLUEBIRD HILL DEVELOPEMENT	2.59
403_21_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	BLUEBIRD HILL DEVELOPEMENT	3.97
403_22_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	BLUEBIRD HILL DEVELOPEMENT	7.44
403_23_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	BLUEBIRD HILL DEVELOPEMENT	0.29
403_34_0	Chapter 61A	779 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	MACDOWELL EDWARD P	7.74

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403_56_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	ORMSBEE JOHN E	32.21
403_73_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	ORMSBEE JOHN E	39.86
407_31_0	Chapter 61A	0 NEW MARLBORO SANDISFIELD RD	LILJENGREN ROSALIND S	47.58
407_36_0	Chapter 61A	0 SO SANDISFIELD RD	WEINSTEIN REALTY MANAGEMENT	252.93
407_47.1_0	Chapter 61A	338-346 NEW MARLBORO SOUTHFIELD RD	NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST INC	94.19
407_52_0	Chapter 61A	0 NEW MARLBORO SOUTHFIELD RD	WEINSTEIN REALTY MANAGEMENT	5.48
408_16_0	Chapter 61A	1073 SISSON HILL RD	HILL ROAD NOMINEE TRUST	53.02
408_20_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	HILL ROAD NOMINEE TRUST	4.47
408_24.1_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	MCDADE JARED C	15.10
408_38_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	ORMSBEE ANITA C	20.60
408_39_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	ORMSBEE JOHN B	23.32
408_40_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	ORMSBEE JOHN E	14.30
408_40.01_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	ORMSBEE JOHN E	0.19
408_42_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	COOK ANITA E.	17.40
408_70_0	Chapter 61A	0 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	ORMSBEE ANITA C	24.53
408_71_0	Chapter 61A	0 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	ORMSBEE ANITA C	32.33
409_131_0	Chapter 61A	0 CLAYTON MILL RIVER RD	GILL PETER	17.27
409_133_0	Chapter 61A	0 CLAYTON MILL RIVER RD	GILL PETER	2.47
409_37_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER BRANCH RD	GOLD CAROL R & JULIA S	72.91
409_80.1_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER HILL RD	TILES ROGER, TRUSTEE	23.60
416_13_0	Chapter 61A	0 CANAAN VALLEY RD	HOBERMAN OWEN O	20.68
403_75_0	Chapter 61A	0 MILL RIVER GT BARRINGTON RD	ANITA E COOK	83.97
408_51.1_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	ORMSBEE JOHN E	20.15
408_24.3_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	AP TSAMIS MANAGEMENT LLC	3.71
413_1.1_0	Chapter 61A	0 NORFOLK RD	BOSWORTH FAMILY PARTNERSHIP	64.04
407_47.3_0	Chapter 61A	338 NEW MARLBORO SOUTHFIELD RD	NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST INC	18.36
103_27_0	Chapter 61A	0 CORASHIRE RD	WOODBURN FARM PRESERVATION	4.72
403_68_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	MACDOWELL EDWARD	21.05
407_47.2_0	Chapter 61A	0 NEW MARLBOROUGH SOUTH RD	WILLOW CREEK PARTNERS LLP	5.97

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409_122_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER BRANCH RD	GOLD CAROL R & JULIA S	7.86
409_43_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER HILL RD	BREWER HILL ASSOCIATES LLC	6.40
409_72.1_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER HILL RD	TRAVIS DAVID H	6.21
416_19.1_0	Chapter 61A	0 CANAAN VALLEY RD	GWINN JENNIFER	4.85
403_18_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	BLUEBIRD HILL DEVELOPEMENT	2.90
403_70_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	ORMSBEE JOHN E	7.89
408_39.01_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	ORMSBEE JOHN B	0.37
408_47_0	Chapter 61A	0 SISSON HILL RD	ORMSBEE ANITA C	46.86
409_61_0	Chapter 61A	0 BREWER BRANCH RD	ALLEN G MORVEN	14.80
414_31_0	Chapter 61A	0 CANAAN SOUTHFIELD RD	BLAIS WILLIAM L	129.37
416_30_0	Chapter 61A	0 CAMPBELL FALLS RD	DECOTIS DEBORAH	1.06
403_74_0	Chapter 61A	0 COUNTY RD	ANITA E COOK	10.07
408_25_0	Chapter 61B	0 SISSON HILL RD	BRITTON LUCY ANN	40.81
408_28_0	Chapter 61B	0 SISSON HILL RD	BRITTON LUCY ANN	27.02
413_11_0	Chapter 61B	0 NORFOLK RD	GAINSBOROUGH REALTY TRUST	39.76
414_93_0	Chapter 61B	0 SHUNPIKE RD	YARDLEY PATRICIA & NICHOLAS	4.58
414_93.1_0	Chapter 61B	0 SHUNPIKE RD	YARDLEY PATRICIA & NICHOLAS	1.78
110_5_0	Chapter 61B	0 NORFOLK RD	TURNER COURTNEY K	18.75
401_18_0	Chapter 61B	0 HARTSVILLE MILL RIVER RD	MANDELL ERIK	42.43
401_43_0	Chapter 61B	0 RTE 57	FRIEDMAN WARNER G	11.38
401_44_0	Chapter 61B	0 RTE 57	FRIEDMAN WARNER G	9.65
404_52_0	Chapter 61B	0 RTE 57	FRIEDMAN WARNER G	20.57
404_54_0	Chapter 61B	0 RTE 57	FRIEDMAN WARNER G	11.23
Totals				9608.45

2024 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

Appendix C of Rare Plant and Animals in New Marlborough

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation	Town
Jefferson Salamander (complex)	Ambystoma jeffersonianum	Amphibian	Special Concern	2008	New Marlborough
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus	Bird	Endangered	2008	New Marlborough
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bird	Threatened	2019	New Marlborough
Piedmont Groundwater Amphipod	Stygobromus tenuis	Crustacean	Special Concern	1991	New Marlborough
Taconic Cave Amphipod	Stygobromus borealis	Crustacean	Endangered	1983	New Marlborough
Brook Snaketail	Ophiogomphus aspersus	Dragonfly/Damselfly	Special Concern	2009	New Marlborough
Riffle Snaketail	Ophiogomphus carolus	Dragonfly/Damselfly	Threatened	2018	New Marlborough
Bridle Shiner	Notropis bifrenatus	Fish	Special Concern	2017	New Marlborough
Longnose Sucker	Catostomus catostomus	Fish	Special Concern	2002	New Marlborough
Eastern Small-footed Bat	Myotis leibii	Mammal	Endangered	2019	New Marlborough
Little Brown Bat	Myotis lucifugus	Mammal	Endangered	2019	New Marlborough
Northern Long-eared Bat	Myotis septentrionalis	Mammal	Endangered	2000	New Marlborough
Rock Shrew	Sorex dispar	Mammal	Special Concern	1986	New Marlborough
Tricolored Bat	Perimyotis subflavus	Mammal	Endangered	2019	New Marlborough
Wood Turtle	Glyptemys insculpta	Reptile	Special Concern	2016	New Marlborough
American Twinflower	Linnaea borealis	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	Historic	New Marlborough
Appalachian Bristle-fern	Crepidomanes intricatum	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	2010	New Marlborough
Bailey's Sedge	Carex baileyi	Vascular Plant	Threatened	Historic	New Marlborough
Bristly Buttercup	Ranunculus pensylvanicus	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	1988	New Marlborough
Climbing Fumitory	Adlumia fungosa	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	2012	New Marlborough
Davis' Sedge	Carex davisii	Vascular Plant	Endangered	Historic	New Marlborough
Downy Agrimony	Agrimonia pubescens	Vascular Plant	Threatened	2007	New Marlborough
Dwarf Scouring Rush	Equisetum scirpoides	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	2020	New Marlborough
Eastern Dwarf Mistletoe	Arceuthobium pusillum	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	2009	New Marlborough
Few-flowered Sedge	Carex pauciflora	Vascular Plant	Endangered	1913	New Marlborough
Frank's Lovegrass	Eragrostis frankii	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	1987	New Marlborough
Fries' Pondweed	Potamogeton friesii	Vascular Plant	Endangered	Historic	New Marlborough
Hairy Beard-tongue	Penstemon hirsutus	Vascular Plant	Endangered	1919	New Marlborough
Hemlock-parsley	Conioselinum chinense	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	1988	New Marlborough
Large-bracted Tick-trefoil	Desmodium cuspidatum	Vascular Plant	Threatened	1989	New Marlborough
Michaux's Sandwort	Sabulina michauxii	Vascular Plant	Threatened	1900s	New Marlborough
Philadelphia Panic-grass	Panicum philadelphicum ssp.	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	1920	New Marlborough

2024 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

Appendix D: Paper Copy of Survey Questions

New Marlborough Open Space & Recreation Questionnaire

1. Introduction

The Town of New Marlborough is developing an update to the 2017 Open Space & Recreation Plan and needs your help! Your input will help guide the planning process and determine the future of recreation and open space in town.

The plan will make New Marlborough eligible for state reimbursement grant programs for the improvement of recreation areas within town and the protection of open spaces.

This questionnaire is open to year-round residents, seasonal residents, second homeowners, and renters. All responses will be confidential.

This questionnaire consists of 18 questions and should take about 10 minutes to complete. The survey will be open from May 1st at noon until June 13th at noon.

The following questions examine interest and opinions regarding the future preservation of open space in New Marlborough. Open space is defined as land that has not been developed for residential, commercial, or industrial uses and includes publicly and privately owned land. Areas with particular interest in conservation and recreation include:

1. Land that contributes to the public water supply;
2. Forests, fields, and agricultural lands;
3. Wetlands;
4. Rivers, streams, and lakes;
5. Parks and other recreation lands;
6. Wildlife or animal habitats; and
7. Land that preserves scenic views or town character.

Please answer all of the following questions. Thank you!

1. What feature sets New Marlborough apart from other Berkshire County towns? Or, Tell us why you choose to live here?

2. Choose up to five (5) activities that you enjoy doing in New Marlborough.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Bicycling | ☐ Horseback riding |
| ☐ Bird watching | ☐ Hunting / trapping |
| ☐ Rafting / canoeing / kayaking | ☐ Playgrounds / swings / slides |
| ☐ Court sports (tennis, basketball, etc.) | ☐ Biking / jogging |
| ☐ Field sports (soccer, baseball, etc.) | ☐ Skateboarding / BMX / roller blading |
| ☐ Snowmobiling | ☐ Skiing - cross country |
| ☐ Fishing / ice fishing | ☐ Snowshoeing |
| ☐ Gardening | ☐ Snowmobiling |
| ☐ Hiking / walking | ☐ Dog Walking |
| ☐ Other (please specify) | |

5. Which of the following are activities you would be willing to participate in to improve Open Space/Recreation in New Marlborough? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Donate equipment or materials.
- ☐ Trade a class and an activity.
- ☐ Donate land or money for open space projects (potentially leading to tax benefits).
- ☐ Provide an easement on your property for an open space project.
- ☐ Attend a meeting or join a committee.
- ☐ Support town acquisition of important open space land/ pay additional taxes for Open Space projects.
- ☐ Donate to or support non profit organizations such as the New Marlborough Land Trust, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, or Trustees of the Reservations.
- ☐ Shop at a local farmer's market, support local farmers.
- ☐ Participate in an annual or semi-annual trail day (cleanup, maintenance, or construction).
- ☐ If you have other ideas to protect open spaces in New Marlborough, tell us about that here?

6. Does New Marlborough need more recreational opportunities for: (check all that apply)

- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Adults
- ☐ People with disabilities
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Don't know / neutral
- ☐ Elaborate on your response here.

7. What do you think is the most important resource in New Marlborough to be conserved (note- this does not have to be your favorite)?

3. How often do you visit in a typical year, and which is your favorite New Marlborough location?

	Very Frequently (15+ times/year)	Frequently (6-14 times/year)	Occasionally (1-5 times/year)	Never or Unfamiliar
Konkapot River	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hammon Pond	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lake Had	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ungapicome River/Park	☐	☐	☐	☐
Campbell Ponds State Park	☐	☐	☐	☐
Steepletop Reservation	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dry Hill Reservation	☐	☐	☐	☐
Goodnow Preserve	☐	☐	☐	☐
York Lake/Sandisfield N.P.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cookson State Forest	☐	☐	☐	☐
Thousand Acre Swamp	☐	☐	☐	☐
Berkshire Trout Hatchery	☐	☐	☐	☐
Joffe Nature Sanctuary	☐	☐	☐	☐
Local Farms	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lower Carroll Mill	☐	☐	☐	☐
New Marlboro Preserve	☐	☐	☐	☐

Tell us about your favorite place in New Marlborough.

4. What suggestions do you have for improving your favorite places in New Marlborough?

8. Green Corridors are landscape scale, connected tracts of natural land (often forested lands or river systems) that enable organisms to move between areas to protect ecological and genetic diversity and allow organisms to adapt to climate change. Would you support the town partnering with other communities (Sheffield, Monterey, etc.) or non-profit organizations (DNRC, Trustees, etc.) to protect these corridors?

I would not support these efforts. ☐ I am unsure. ☐ I emphatically support these efforts. ☐

9. What improvements would you support at the Umpachene Falls and Town park?

- ☐ Improvements to trail network on grounds.
- ☐ Additional playground equipment.
- ☐ Additional parking.
- ☐ Pavilion, gazebo, or other structure.
- ☐ Additional barbecues/Gallop/Barbecue tables on site.
- ☐ Other (please specify)

10. Which of the following conservation practices would you be willing to implement on your own property?

- ☐ Install rain gardens and/or vegetative buffers to reduce runoff and nutrient loading in New Marlborough lakes, rivers, and streams.
- ☐ Install shades or light fixtures that decrease light pollution (dark skies improvements).
- ☐ Reduce use of insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers to reduce infiltration into town water bodies.
- ☐ Remove invasive species.
- ☐ Plant native species and pollinator friendly species.
- ☐ Provide an easement or side of land to support trail improvements in the town.
- ☐ Other (please specify)

11. Would you be interested in the creation of a New Marlborough Community Center similar to facilities in nearby communities?

I would not support this effort. ☐ I am undecided on this issue. ☐ I would emphatically support this effort. ☐

12. If you answered yes to the last question, what programming would you like to see for New Marlborough residents?

13. Use this space to tell us about something we missed or other concerns regarding open space in New Marlborough?

14. What do you see as New Marlborough's greatest threat/risk to open space and rural character over the next 10 years?

New Marlborough Open Space & Recreation Questionnaire

2. Demographics

Questions in this section are intended to gather basic demographic information about the questionnaire respondents.

15. Are you a year-round resident or part-time resident of New Marlborough?

- ☐ Year-round resident
- ☐ Part-time resident

16. If your answers represent other members of your household (one response per household), please indicate the number of people and their age (including yourself). For example, a household of two people, both are age 50-59 would select from column "2 people" and row "50-59". (Only one member of the household should reply to avoid double counting)

	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people
Under 10 years old	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10-19	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
20-29	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
30-39	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
40-49	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
50-59	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
60-69	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
70+	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

17. How do you get information about open space issues in New Marlborough?

- ☐ New Marlborough 5 Village News
- ☐ Mapples List Google Group
- ☐ E-mail notice from town aail
- ☐ Posters around town
- ☐ Other (please specify)

18. If you would like to receive information about how the Open Space and Recreation planning process is progressing and receive public announcements about the project, please provide your email address below.

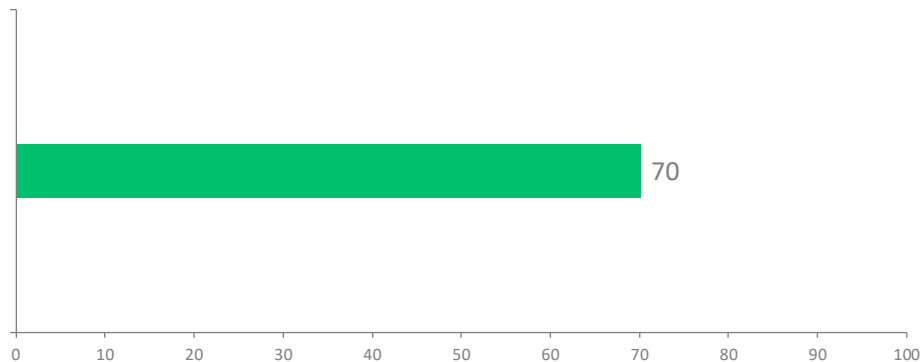
Appendix E:

New Marlborough OSRP Survey

Question 11 Results and Individual Response Data

Q11: Would you be interested in the creation of a New Marlborough Community Center similar to facilities in nearby communities?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 5



Powered by  SurveyMonkey

Question 1

What feature sets New Marlborough apart from other Berkshire County towns? Or, Tell us why you choose to live here?

- A sense of community, fostered in part by the Southfield and Mill River stores.
- A small town with a unique history in a beautiful, natural setting.
- all the rivers, amazing views on high ground, lots of farms and farm diversity, mix of old and new blood- surprisingly lots of new younger families
- Although civilization and friends are easily within reach, I feel as if I'm living in the woods
- Beautiful landscape, farms for food in our community, and we have so many hiking trails
- Because it is a wonderful place to be in.
- Because we found a country house to buy in 1992 in Southfield.
- Bought house 30 yrs ago. Had limited knowledge of other towns
- Bucolic nature of our town. Limited number of business and non congested feel
- calm, relative isolation, our land is ideal for us (solitude and privacy, not another houses in sight, solitude, nature and variety, proiirty to a broad rnite of actiities and events
- Charm, beauty, sense of history
- Combo of villages and open space/agricultural land

- Family
- Family
- Forests, ponds, Lakes, quiet
- Got married to a guy who lived in New Marlborough. When divorced, choose to stay in the "best" town ever.
- Hiking trails & welcoming community
- I couldn't find an affordable piece of land in SHEffield so I bought land in New Marlborough!
- I found my home here, 23 years ago. It is the beauty, community and quiet that brought me here.
- I grew up here, inherited my family home and returned during COVID. I have always loved the small town respect for independence while at the same time being a supportive community ready to lend a hand.
- I inherited a house here just before I retired. The "price was right". :-) I stayed because it is a beautiful place for an introvert who likes the outdoors and I could look in on my aging father on Long Island.
- I live here for its rural beauty, wildlife, the quiet, and for the community. The restaurants, farms and small businesses are important. Love the history too.
- I live here for the peace and quiet of the woods and beauty of wildlife.
- I live in New Marlborough because of the wonderful quality of life in the aggregate, the natural beauty of the surrounding forests, meadows and streams, and the character of our little villages.
- I love the natural beauty and community here.
- I love the remoteness coupled with a strong community.
- I love the varied topography: Campbell Falls, Mill River, the great biking roads, York Lake, Umpachene, and Thousand Acre Swamp. It is pretty rural and vast. And the folks here are friendly and welcoming
- I originally moved here because it was affordable and with a close proximity to work. I really enjoy the topographical diversity we have compared to any other town in the area. River valley's, rolling hills and higher elevations.
- I was raised in NM, so have a positive association with this town for that reason and have family here. It's hard for me to comment beyond that as to what sets the town apart from other towns.
- Inherited family house
- It has a unique outdoor environment consisting of farmland, hiking trails, rivers, and streams.
- It is quiet and people know their neighbors
- It is where I was born and raised
- It was the rural nature of the town that attracted us so strongly 45 years ago. It doesn't feel as "rural" any more, so it's more important to preserve those features.
- It's rural environment and beauty. New Marlborough also is a true community in the best sense where people are friendly and reach out to help when a friend or neighbor needs support.
- It's rural yet close to major cultural attractions and larger towns. Its educated sophisticated long time residents
- It's still rural character!!
- It's a fairly quiet place with many things going on. People are interested in their community. Agriculture. History. Art community. Nice places to eat.
- It's rural character, protected lands, hiking trails, the Konkapot and Umpachene rivers, Umpachene Falls, Lake Buel.

- Landtrust trails, quaint general store, great restaurant and inn, nice people, beautiful vistas, wildlife
- Less development than other towns is attractive. The presence of attractive scenery with ways to enjoy is a benefit. and My family has been coming since 1951 when I was too young to contribute to the decision!
- Lots of farmland and open fields, mixed with forested land.
- Love the area
- Low density, not commercialized, you can go 200 yards off a paved road and feel like you are somewhere else far away from civilization
- low population density, quiet rural area with no major highway cutting through it, access to nearby outdoor activities as well as cultural events
- More farmland, fewer people
- More rural feel than other towns, lower density and proximity to GB
- My great grandfathers lived there and I value its feeling of remoteness
- Natural beauty
- Natural beauty, low-key lifestyle: open farmland, woods, wetlands, unspoiled nature, walking trails, wildlife
- New Marlborough is unique Because it has five quintessential New England villages, each different from one another, but emanating a charm of their own. We are also unique because of our many rivers, waterways, and back roads.
- NM has much open space and is not yet too overdeveloped. There are views of forests, pastures, mountains, rivers and lakes. It is generally quiet. The people are friendly and helpful.
- Non commercial rural character
- Open space
- Open space, Forests.
- Open space, friendliness, proximity to culture.
- Open space. Beautiful open vistas, and spectacular views.
- Quality of people combined with natural spaces that are accessible
- Quiet and less developed
- Quiet, less traffic, work
- Quiet, low-density, open space and working farms.
- Quite with no central shopping/dining/entertainment destinations that attract crowds and traffic.
- Reason: there was a house that I liked and could afford.
- Rural area, community
- Rural area, unpaved roads. No Industrie.
- Rural character and access to nature.
- Rural character and natural beauty
- Rural character. Beautiful nature. Wildlife.
- Rural environment
- Rural feel and natural beauty - rivers, lakes, streams, swamps, forests, waterfalls, open fields, farm land.
- Rural feel with communal elements found in Mill River
- Rural low density
- Rural nature combined with town pride and community spirit just 15 minutes from Great Barrington
- Rural nature of the town. Low density.
- Rural, lack of development

- Rural, quiet, beautiful
- Small town feel. Not as congested as bigger towns. Slightly more rural than areas around Great Barrington and farther north.
- Small, quiet, beautiful and convenient
- Still has a rural feel
- Still has quiet Wildness
- Still retains a rural, bucolic nature. Beautiful open land and many wonderful hiking places
- The amount of green space, parks and lakes made it an attractive place to live.
- The blend of residents from affluent to middle class to lower we all have a connection and something to bring to the table. I love the amount of trails we have within our community to walk.
- The closeness to nature; the topography; rural versus urban or suburban
- the community of people who live and work here and the beauty of the land
- The community who fully appreciates living in a socioeconomic diverse rural area balanced with adjacency to the commercial and cultural resources of a small city.
- The Konkapot, Umpachene River and Falls, the hiking trails, the open semi agricultural (would like to see more) landscape, the hills and swamps, the dirt roads
- the Landscape and small community
- The many hiking/walking trails, river access, so much conservation land, and being around people that choose this as a priority as well.
- The mixture of open lands in fields, mountains and rivers and lakes is unique. We are going to need more management of these lands so that the inevitable development does not destroy our rural character.
- The natural beauty and rural feeling of the area.
- The natural features
- The rolling landscape interspersed with rivers and creeks. Woodlands and farms right up against each other. Pockets of houses forming mini villages within each village and other homes on large parcels so everyone can have the proximity to neighbors they choose. Our own schoolhouse!
- The rural feel of the town along with the cultural aspects.
- The rural feeling and existence of real farms as well as the unique character of each village and of course the marvelous Konkapot River.
- The rural nature. And the preponderance of interesting people who are committed to preserving our natural resources
- The scenic drives and roads. The small town feel. The sense of community.
- The town is kept up well. The proximity to great Barrington without being in great Barrington
- The varied landscape with many options for walking on and off trails. The strong sense of community. The sense, pride and ongoing restoration of its history
- Three rivers; unspoiled hills
- Tons of walking trails and hiking available. Nothing else to do! (A lot of the time.)
- True small town atmosphere and the presence of so much nature and farmland
- Varied topology with (still) largely clustered settlements and a great deal of public and private open land.
- We came for a year not planning to stay but fell in love with its rich variety of public lands, their sense of solitude tranquility and of being apart from the vicissitudes of modern life - and have been here ever since...
- We chose to live here because it's a small community where most people seem to value the environment.

- We live here because of the land, the beautiful hiking trails, and the community of people.
- We live in farm country
- We love living in the small town of New Marlborough. We love the rivers, woods, trails, dirt roads, library, community events,
- We love the beauty
- We love the rural feel of New Marlborough, yet it is close enough to Great Barrington, and Canaan, CT to have all of our needs met.
- We loved that York lake was so close and that we are bounded by state forest which gives us privacy

Question 3

Tell us about your favorite place in New Marlborough.

- 1000 acre
- all of them, depends upon the season
- Area around the suspension bridge
- coming up my road to get home.
- Dry Hill
- East Hill Rd., north road , York lake
- East Indies Pond
- Good now preserve
- Goodnow is delightful all year round - we are extremely fortunate to have access to this property
- Goodnow is near home and I love to walk there, but Dry Hill has a lovely view and run a close second.
- Goodnow Preserve
- Goodnow Preserve
- Goodnow Preserve and 1000 Acre Swamp
- Goodnow Preserve and Dry Hill
- Goodnow Preserve is a magical place that is perfect for quiet solitude. It is walkable for seniors like myself and husband (ages 74).
- Goodnow, the many remote dirt roads for walking with dog off leash.
- Has to be the Southfield Store Cafe.
- Home
- Home sweet home.
- I can't pick just one!
- I cherish Goodnow and Lower Carroll Mill
- I live near Brewer Branch, and love walking there
- I live year around in NM and have no idea how often I visit these places. I like them all.
- I love the Lower Carroll Mills trail for its history and beauty
- Konkapot river, many happy hours fishing in solitary joy
- Lake buel
- Lake Buel - I live here.
- Lake Buel if you are forcing us to select one.
- Love Umpachene the best, but it's too crowded on hot days.
- Lower Carroll Mill
- Mill River, Hartsville, Southfield, hiking, swimming
- My backyard
- My farm, 100 acres, is my escape from NY--I visit every week
- My favorite place in New Marlborough is down by Lower Carroll Mill near the ruins along the river.
- New Marlborough Preserve
- NM Preserve & Goodnow early in the morning when no one else is there
- NM Preserve (... and Dry Hill... and Konkopot River!!)
- Nm preserve -love the variety of nature there
- NOT HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
- Our favorite is Lake Buel, the location of our family cabin.
- Our favorite is Lake Buel, the location of our family cabin.

- Our house and land
- Questing which you should have listed
- Sitting on our dock on Lake Buel
- Steepletop
- The local farms that need vital community support
- The north road up to steeple top and then walk in preserve
- The top field at questing, the mill ruins- the konkapot. Goodnow.
- The top of the Pinnacle called by others Dry Hill
- The Umpachene Falls
- The view of Mt. Everett from Rhodes and Bailey Road. (Public access to that view would be great!)
- The walk to Lower Carroll Mill
- Thousand Acre Swamp
- Thousand acre swamp
- Thousand Acre Swamp is our favorite place. It's magical and we go there multiple times a week with our dog and our kids.
- Too difficult to do, as there are so many
- Too many to choose!
- Umpachene falls
- Umpachene Falls
- Umpachene Falls
- Umpachene falls
- Umpachene Falls is beautiful year round
- Umpachene Falls, especially when the falls freeze.
- Umpachene Falls. Water. Hiking. Playground area. Seating bench. Beautiful yet different every season
- Umpachene is our favorite place.
- Umpachene park
- Umpachene, by far.
- Umpachenee
- Umpechene
- Umpuchene Falls.
- Walking on the North Road, River Road, or visiting Umpachene park
- York Lake
- You missed Questing!

Question 4

What suggestions do you have for improving your favorite places in New Marlborough?

- Access to Umpachene Falls only for residents
- Allowing horses on trails? Adding a public tennis court.... Bringing back the sole to soul/right to roam project- walking trails between southfield, Mill river, and new marlborough.
- Clearer signage, trash facilities, signs with QR codes allowing donations for trail upkeep
- Conservation of more properties
- Continue researching the community as this survey represents. Consider a centralized communication vehicle for all these places to make the sum greater than the parts - Facebook group, website, app, or printed or posted materials at each site to encourage visitation, use, and enjoyment. Physical improvements to one place a year could help show impact of upgrades that may get overlooked if spread across multiple locations. The addition of an off leash dog park similar to Egremonts French Park would resolve an unmet need. A boardwalk trail to increase accessibility is also something I see elsewhere but not sure it's an unmet need for this community.
- Continue to keep them pristine and accessible
- Continuing to consider it's rural character
- Do not pave roads to get to them. They become more known via Google maps, and people from other towns and states use them and sometimes disrespect them. This is especially true of Umpachene Falls
- Donations to the land trust. Volunteering when possible.
- Don't fancy them up do they get overused. Don't advertise them to the larger public.

- Enforce existing dog leash laws as currently Goodnow is used as an unleashed dog park
- Enforcement of no littering and animals on leashes
- Enhance the NMC playground, as the town has such few parks- add a pavillion like Sheffield, Monterey, Egremont, etc. have so that the park is more versatile and can be used town meetings, events, etc.
- Fewer non-NM residents at Umpachene
- Fewer weeds in Lake Buel.
- Fewer weeds in Lake Buel.
- Fewer weeds in Lake Buel. Restrictions on watercraft noise and speed on Lake Buel. Easily accessible maps of the recreation areas, unless they exist and I have missed them!
- fix entrance road to York Lake
- fix the erosion on Konkapot river in Hartsville
- Go back to checking stickers? Although that's so unneighborly, I can't use the park when it's brimming with people and off leash dogs.
- Handicap parking, Trail for dogs, Hike and bike signage
- Having a noise ordinance imposed on the lakes . Loud music for long periods of times should not be allowed.
- I don't think I have any
- I don't have any suggestions at this time. I think our trails are well-maintained and I like that they're not too crowded!
- I hope the Select persons can continue to find grant money to help support our towns
- I really wish that folks would keep their dogs on leash (in places where leashes are required).
- I think they are maintained beautifully. There used to be guided walks which were very interesting. Those could be re-instituted
- i think they maintained well
- I think they're excellent as is. All I would say is trails probably need to be periodically maintained and re-cleared. But at the moment it's not really a problem
- I would like to keep our parks clean and for local resident use as much as possible. I know neither of those can be an easy task.
- I would like to see trails *designed* for mountainbiking. Perhaps NEMBA could be involved?
- I would love the roads to be more walker friendly so that we were all more inclined to walk to these wonderful spots rather than drive. It would be great if the road shoulders were wider and mowed frequently as well as having some kind of poison Ivy control. Lower speed limits or at least enforcing existing ones would be great too.
- I'd like to help maintain 1000 acre
- It would be great to have a raquets area with tennis and paddle tennis for the winter
- Keep all of them!
- Keep doing what you are doing. Trail maintenance, updating trail signs etc
- Keep in mind an aging population of seniors in addition to people of all ages with physical or mental restrictions.
- Keep them low key and do not overdevelop them for visitors
- Keep walkways maintained
- Keeping it clean
- Keeping the beach full of sand and controlling the geese. Keep the area clean.
- Keeping the walking paths groomed would be helpful. Especially the one to the right of the swings.
- Leaving them alone rather than trying to develop everything.

- maintaining/expanding trails; creating a public beach or access to Lake Buel
- Make me younger or stronger! Perhaps some benches along the trails for respite?
- MAKE THEM HANDICAP ACCESSABLE
- monitoring heavy use at some sites
- More / connected trails to hike off but near the roads
- More / repaired benches alongside the Konkapot at Umpachene park. Seating or repaired picnic tables at the suspension bridge at Thousand acre.
- More access
- More collaboration between the land trust, Trustees of Reservations and BNRC to plan on preservation and maintenance of open spaces
- more farms
- More parking, check-in stations at the trailheads
- More playgrounds for children. Now only playground is at New Marlborough School.
- More rest spaces like benches, history or science info about them, group activities/events.
- More signage
- More trash pick up. Most there is a lot of trash left at the falls but what is left never gets picked up.
- Move the 1000 Acre trailhead further down the road
- NA
- None
- None
- None at this time
- None.
- none. I just have to get out more....
- Our grandchildren visit Umpachene Falls with us many times a year. More playground equipment would be great there.
- Play areas for children
- Preserve river bank
- Recycling receptacles at Umpachene Falls
- Regular invasive species eradication by volunteers with NMLT
- Sidewalks on route 57 in NM Village. More footpaths connecting the villages and walkable lanes along our roads
- Signage about history and significance as protected spaces in town
- slightly better trail marking, also better river crossings
- Some oversight of spaces like we used to have. Especially umpachene
- Stations for dog waste; garbage removal;
- Stop cutting down so many trees. Keep the sides of the road more beautiful and cared for
- Tell me how crowded they are before I get there
- The bank at Umpachene is eroding fast. I would love to wade in the river but cant get in or out without possibly making it work. What I REALLY would like to see are a few tennis and pickleball courts! Couldn't we add this to land at the Central school in Mill River?
- The Preserve gets very muddy when it's rainy. It has boards over some of these parts, and that helps a lot. A few more spots could use that.
- There is a lot of variety in the places I visit. I accept them the way they are.
- They don't need improvement.
- Traffic speed control
- Trailhead trash receptacles
- Trying to keep them clean and free of vandalism. Maybe frequent volunteer clean up days?
- Umpachene falls park can benefit from better trails to access the river upstream

- We love Umpachene falls, but needs a few more picnic tables there and a slide/climbing structure, nothing huge, but something more to play on for kids. This seems the best place in the area to put something like that, and we need it. Also, we need signs posted about bikers, even a bike path somewhere would be amazing.
- we need to increase the offerings at our parks and create a community space that offers playgrounds/tennis/basketball, pickleball, and event space(pavilion)
- We should spend more money on improvements to Umpachene Falls Park. It looks shabby. Better tables. Better playground equipment. Maybe a wooden platform for viewing the falls better at the base.
- Winter access to the falls

Question 6

Does New Marlborough need more recreational opportunities for: (check all that apply)

- A good map highlighting recreational spaces.
- A rec space with a couple tennis courts and a couple paddle/platform tennis courts, with maybe a picnic pavilion could foster community
- Activities and transportation for 8-16 year olds
- Almost everywhere I go In do not see accommodation for people with disabilities.
- Almost nothing is handicap accessible. More public spaces for youth programs/sports. More safe walkable roads for adults w/ & w/o pets
- an aging population of seniors
- As elderly people choose to age in place they shouhave access to safe , walkable paths or sidewalks. Exercise is important for health and peace of mind for these people especially. Yet , there is no safe place to walk out the door in our village centers because there is so much traffic traveling at a high rate of speed.
- Could use a community center, esp. in winter. Did I mention pickleball?
- Courts for team play - ex Pickle Ball, tennis, basketball. Park area with pavilion
- Elaborate on your response here.
- Elderly
- Elderly population
- I feel based on the population there are plenty of outdoor spaces. We are also very close to other larger towns and can access their facilities.
- I feel that there are plenty of recreational opportunities in NM. And the ammeneties at each location are exactly what they should be. The NM Land Trust in particular does a great job of trail building/maintenance. DCR keeps the grounds at York Lake in good condition.
- I think there is a general lack of reacreational opportunities for these two groups in the Berkshires. Kids definitely need access to more positive activities/recreation spots
- I'd like to see tennis and pickle ball courts..
- If there were a designated place for people to let there dogs run/play off leash, maybe they'd be less likely to let their dogs off leash where prohibited.
- Indoor community pool for all
- It is rural countryside, not a playground or amusement park
- It seems like there are plenty already.
- Let people create their own adventurews. Don't hand it to them on a silver plate.
- Many of the open spaces are inaccessible to people with disabilities
- no
- No

- No
- perhaps a pet park for off-leash dogs, fenced in
- Pickleball, tennis, indoor space for winter exercise opportunities and we really can use yoga and tai chi classes for older adults on a regular schedule. What senior services are available?
- Playground
- Public tennis /pickleball cts
- Public tennis and pickleball courts
- Sidewalks. Proper stop signs , police in town before we discuss anything else. It is not safe for children to move about. People blaze through towns and kids cannot be safe
- Tennis and pickleball courts somewhere
- the elderly
- There is no reason why Umpachene Falls could not be made handicapped accessible.
- We have no courts tennis, basketball, no soccer nets/goals at the field. Unless you can put it in yourself e you have to go to another town. Everything here is hiking waking related excel in the summer
- We need a dog park and a community center for classes like yoga and exercise. A tennis court or two would be so amazing!
- Young families are moving here and the next generation of locals are having kids -- we need to keep them here!

Question 7

What do you think is the most important resource in New Marlborough to be conserved (note- this does not have to be your favorite)?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities to attract young families • All resources are important • As much open s • Campbell falls , Umpachene and Carroll mills inclusive if Konkapit • character • Clean air and water • Clean un polluted rivers/streams/lakes • clean water • Clean water, including watersheds. • Connecting the existing trails and land preserves • Conserved and restored the former dam at Konkapot and Sission. Would be a perfect spot for fishing and also protecting the Konkapot riverbank • Control development, but at the same time develop affordable housing. • Current open spaces. Future spaces should prohibit ATVs and snowmobiles. • Dark skies, fresh water, open land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirt roads • Dirt roads • Dirt roads -- it keeps traffic down and makes the town feel rural. • FARM LAND • Farm Land! Agricultural land should be Conserved but not limited. • Farm lands. • Farms • forest, agricultural land and waterways . • Goodnow Farm, and farmland for our many local farmers • Green space • Hiking trails • Hilltop- so no one can build in a view that everyone can see • Historic houses • I'd like to see all large parcels of farmland put into agricultural restrictions. There are a couple big ones for sale right now (Goodnow Farm and the one John Field purchased in Southfield) that could go |
|---|---|

into development and that would be a great loss for the town. And large swaths of forests near other conserved parcels must be protected to help enhance green corridors such as the Joffe/Kolburne property.

- It's concern for the various types of residents
- It's sense of rural community and feeling of 'wild'
- Its trails and health of its lakes
- Konkapot river
- Konkapot River
- Konkapot river
- land
- Land
- Land and water spaces
- land for public use
- Land, water, public spaces such as Goodnow
- Natural beauty, darkness at night, kindness to the environment
- open fields
- Open fields and hilltop views.
- Open land, lakes, forests
- Open land.
- open space
- Open space
- Open space
- Open space
- Open space and land trust properties
- Open space and working farm fields
- Open space for walking, hiking
- Open space that accesses waterways
- Open space, rural quality
- open space, too much building going on
- Open space, trees, and conservation land
- Open spaces
- Our forests and secluded natural areas
- Our riverfront property.
- Personal property
- Publicly accessible open land.
- Right now, housing
- River, farm land, forest
- Rivers
- Rural vistas and wildlife

- The abundance of water resources.
- The CCC Camp
- The forests
- The Konkapot and Umpachene Rivers
- The land
- The land, and to nurture it so that we support native plants and wildlife.
- The moving water ways- and no motorized boats on lake buel
- The natural resources and the landscape
- The New Marlborough Land Trust has done an absolutely wonderful job making open space available, accessible, and desirable. I salute their work. They need to be well supported. I don't have specific suggestions, but certainly our youth could use more facilities and or activities, particularly to get them outdoors
- The quite nature of the town
- the river and open spaces. everything.
- The rivers and farm land
- The villages
- The waterways and wildlife habitat.
- The wide-open spaces and forested spaces, such as Goodnow and Thousand Acre. These are treasures to our town.
- There are several
- There is not one, there are many. Maintaining open (ie. not developed) space is very important.
- Thoughtful, informed people who are willing to engage with the issues and are prepared to lend a hand.
- Umpachene
- Umpachene falls
- Umpachene Falls Park and surrounding picnic area.
- Umpachene Falls: protect yet expand access. Add tables. Improve playground area. Improve road access. Make trails safer and cleaned up.
- Undeveloped land
- Village character

- water
- Water
- Water becomes more important every year. Hard to select a specific resource but thinking the sources like the Konkapot and Lake Buel would be on top of the list.
- water quality
- Water resources
- water spots
- Water.
- Water. Trees. Even beavers. :)
Open space. Views along the roadside especially Rte 57
- waterways
- Wildlife
- Wildlife corridors
- Woods
- York Lake

Question 9

What improvements would you support at the Umpachene Falls and Town park?

- bathroom
- Better security
- Could existing signs be replaced with more attractive ones at Umpachene Falls and be just as effective
- Deck or platform at base of falls to make it handicapped accessible. It would also provide a safe place for viewing in the winter when the park is the most picturesque!
- do not use Lake Buel
- don't use enough to answer
- Enforce resident restrictions or charge those who do not live here a parking fee
- I don't know at this time.
- I wouldn't support things that would increase traffic to that area (like parking/tables/play equipment). Trail maintenance is important so that people don't go off trail but aside from that, I'd leave it alone.
- I'd love the Falls for locals only (like it used to be), but I understand why it's hard to enforce.
- Improve river access
- It is fine as is. We need people there to ensure that the area is not damaged or abused. Cameras and people watching like the Davis family did for years
- It's getting too crowded already. I would not add additional equipment or parking
- Keep them clean
- leave it as is
- leave it as it is. Make it too attractive and it will be spoiled
- Make it free to visit for residents and add an iron ranger for others.
- No further development of this delightful small town resource.
- No more furniture, swings, except maybe a total of three or four benches so older people can sit and enjoy the lovely place.

It's a small space and scale of human stuff to park is important.

- None of the above
- not much more it's often overcrowded w/ out of town cars
- Not sure
- Not sure. It's a small area, so can't do much with it.
- Obviate bank erosion
- Plant more trees along the river banks
- Please note that the above photo is not Lake Buel. I would support the use of residents of the Town of New Marlborough or invited guests, during the summer. Others from other towns or states can enjoy it on the off seasons
- Replace or spruce up the existing equipment
- slide
- Town residents only
- Upkeep of existing grills, picnic tables, equipment. Add recycling receptacles
- Use the trails to teach children then have a nice picnic.
- We need a park with playground equipment, pavilion, walking area, not sure it needs to be at Umpa

Question 10

Which of the following conservation practices would you be willing to implement on your own property?

- Already do many of these on my property
- Already do the first three
- already do these things
- Already have reduced pesticides, herbicides, etc.
- Anything reasonable.
- Clearing out older growth to allow younger growth
- I do all of the above. I do not have enough property for trails but I would support the town assessing abandoned pieces of property and then offering for the townspeople to purchase and rehab such land for open spaces to be used by all for

gardening, walking, sitting outside with neighbors.

- I find the assumption that people don't already consider all of the above a bit insulting. This town always assumes the worst instead is seeing what they actually have and how people already care for the town
- I'd also suggest reducing the use of lawnmowers and leaf blowers. In addition to the noise they create, these devices contribute to the decline of wildlife.
- I'd love to remove the bishops weed on our land but it's overwhelming
- I'm already trying to do the things that apply to my small property.
- most of these are already in place
- N.A.
- none
- None
- NONE OF THESE
- This is a very small lakeside property.
- we already do all of the above as well as have solar panels and battery storage
- We already have 100 acres in conservation restriction, do not use pesticides or herbicides do have outside lights have a gravel driveway to protect wetlands
- We already reduce light pollution, remove invasive species and planted pollinator friendly species.
- We don't use chemicals on our property.

schedule of events that the town of Monterey currently organizes throughout every week.

- Activities for elderly, an pre school children. Space for non-profits to hold classes and meetings
- Adult ed classes- yoga, knitting, etc.
- adult educational; exposure to local artists; education about nature
- But I would support development of opportunities for kids to have easy access to sledding and skating.
- Childcare services, programs for elderly residents, programs for kids
- classes
- Classes in computers and iPhones, games like bridge and other card games, most importantly, activities for children and young adults. I grew up in a small town that had teen dances every Saturday night with live music which were very fun.
- Community activities such as volleyball game, softball game, cards, community meals...
- Community meals (particularly for seniors) Art/cooking/ skill improvement classes.
- Education about our town
- Educational for all ages
- elder activities, youth programs
- Especially in any underutilized building! Kickball Sundays, soccer field, tennis courts and basketball courts for kiddos to play for free. After school programs for residents.
- Excercise classes
- exercise and art classes
- Exercise classes, game nights, community dinners, lectures
- Exercise classes, group fitness (organized hike or snowshoeing), Lecture space, card table storage and space for setup
- Family activities. Affinity groups for adults and young adults. Service opportunities
- Fitness center
- getting kids involved with the community. teaching the history of NM

Question 12

If you answered yes to the last question, what programming would you like to see for New Marlborough residents?

- A lot of community gatherings are supported by the library— but I'd love to see town hall be used for expressive arts— community dances, games, theater, and music performances. The meeting house has limitations because of columns and pews.
- A variety of programs, trips, exercise, etc. for senior citizens similar to the very full

- Group youth activities, educational activities on wildlife/biology, general group activities
- Gym, gathering space, music
- helping one person/family in need once a month either haul junk, clear land, make a garden space, build small structures, organize. maybe people could "apply" for this once a month hands on assistance. also, i think community dinners once a month are great things. or maybe we put on a play with all locals as a fundraiser (think a mid/summer's night dream) - proceeds going to an open space project or outdoor pavillion at goodnow preserve or otherwise
- Hiking, land stewardship, cemetery preservation, wildlife, invasive removal
- Historical; Physical Training
- I am undecided on this issue
- I answered that I was undecided, by which I mean, I would like to know with the community center would be structured to provide. I definitely think it should be a resource for our youth. And a physical place where knowledgeable individuals could educate us more deeply about maintaining our natural environment and caring for the wildlife in New Marlborough
- I want to see a community center that includes courts for tennis and pickle ball, indoor spaces for arts/crafts, yoga and tai chi classes, indoor space for senior activities and classes, space for square dancing/contra dancing, an adjacent area for outdoor music venue. This is long overdue! Our kids need a space, too, to develop their interests and give them a voice in this planning: Maybe theater, music, skateboarding, peer tutoring, etc.
- Indoor games, esp. for winter. Yoga, stretching, mindfulness classes. Senior services (e.g., lunch, blood pressure screenings). Stuff for kids, teens. Place for people to go in an emergency, such as an electrical blackout.
- Indoor recreation if the town hall is moved to the old school building on Tamaridge Way.
- Information on preserving nature. Information about nature.
- It depends on how it's done, of course, but it seems great as a place for old and young to interact, for classes (cooking, art, nature, culture, crafts...etc.)
- Let's first try to agree on a space And have an open forum. It seems that is the most difficult task.
- Monthly community pot lucks. I only gave a 7.5 to the enthusiasm as I think we have many great activities already going on at the library, fire house, Meeting House, and hopefully there will be some space at the new Town Hall. So, any Community Center might just need some dedicated space at existing buildings, and maybe even at the NM Village School.
- More for elderly
- N.A.
- N/A
- N/a
- Na
- Natural, native gardens and classes.
- Nature programs.
- No specific recommendations
- Not sure. But there has to be more ways to connect generations of the town together in a way similar to that of the library
- Offer space for VITA tax filing and other community service groups to meet with town residents. Programming for children after school. Repair workshops to help residents fix things.
- Oh my. The list is so big.
- Open court ideas and pavilion addressed above.
- Outdoor programming, community garden
- Ping pong
- Pottery classes, tennis courts, art classes
- Programs that bring the town together - for all ages. We have lost the feeling of a town center, a place for activities beyond municipal tasks such as voting.

- Senior programs, sports, board and card game groups for the winters, food pantry, drug/alcohol abuse programs
- Social area for seniors, organized and unorganized. Gathering space for town activities and meeting space for groups
- some land space to provide playground and adult/youth activities such as basketball hoops, tennis courts, running/walking track, etc.
- Sports, social
- Swimming pool, communal kitchen, community open space for multiple programs
- The library provides many wonderful community activities, (Thanks to the wonderful Deb) but it is limited. I would love to see community space included in our new town hall.
- There could be a lot of programs, for elderly and young people.
- Things to do with kids is always useful.
- Town hall with enough space to hold council on Aging activities. Additional playground equipment for children.
- Town wide social events and educational programs.
- Various
- Various, including conservation programs
- wellness programs, affordable community dinners, affordable programs, community projects...
- Yoga, meditation, writing/memoir workshops, cooking classes, book group and other community activities. Tennis courts.

construction. We should increase the setback and frontage requirements for building, and increase the minimum lot size.

- Ask Road Department to work with beavers and not remove and destroy their habitat. Also not to cut wild flowers alongside the roads
- Bench
- Better access to Lake Buell would be good. Place to store kayaks to use on a regular basis. Thousand acre swamp seems to be getting pretty weedy--is there something to be done there?
- Bike paths in the area and sidewalks in the villages.
- Don't allow the use of marijuana on any public area. Or any other drugs.
- Fewer structures, more land management
- funding methods to keep existing or new open space/recreational areas safe, clean, and maintained
- I applaud everyone who is involved in this project. Thank you very much for your time and effort.
- I think the community is doing a great job maintaining the trails
- I think you have done a wonderful job; can't add anything.
- I wish there was public access to lake buel from the south or east side.
- I would love to see an intra village trail system
- I've really enjoyed programs that the Land Trust runs. They are educational and entertaining. And I get to meet my neighbors!
- If you keep "improving" the open space there won't be any open space left Leave it wild
- It seems Lake Buel is only available to those who own property on the lake. I think that stinks. I recognize there is boat access but the ramp isn't in good shape. First, I ask that we be able to store our kayaks there so we can paddle regularly. Please add kayak storage. This is not expensive and older folks like me can have

Question 13

Use this space to tell us about something we missed or other concerns regarding open space in New Marlborough?

- Affordable housing is a primary concern. We need to develop clusters of housing in environmentally sound and aesthetically pleasing way,
- Although we love our neighbors, since the pandemic there is too much new

a regular exercise routine (I cannot pull my kayak off and on my car alone so I dont get to use my kayak often). ALSO: can't a swimming area be developed? Such a beautiful place and yet only available to so few.

- It would be great to have an official park, with a pavilion, playground equipment, field, walking, dogs allowed on leash with appropriate social behaviors, horse trails...
- It would be wonderful if New Marlborough had trails for the purpose of traveling from one point to another, where daily activities take place (e.g. NMCSchool to the Library or village to village).
- Maintaining a balance of protecting open space and creating affordable housing and land access seems really critical and really challenging
- More farming!
- More off road mountain biking trails
- n/a
- N/a
- NA
- NA
- New Marlborough is unique in that each village seems to have a unique character. I think this makes it difficult to have one central community center that is accessible to all, though I could imagine how that would be doable.
- no thoughts
- None
- None
- none
- not sure
- Not sure.
- not very important, but the picture after #8 is York Lake, not Buel. I would happily support a public beach at Lake Buel!
- Nothing comes to mind
- Online trail maps.
- open space gets a bad rep from people who say it makes their taxes go up. i think educating people about chapter land, how much land is in chapter in this town that is unjustified would be a real eye-opener for nay-sayers of conservation
- Our town is amazing.
- Outdoor communal baking oven
- Pickle ball court
- Please explain to residents the impact of the Chapter Programs and how they impact the tax revenue for the town; they are often confused with conservation efforts; vet the real impact of the Chapter Programs on the town
- Pond off the north road is just glorious. Meditative. Watching the beavers at work is fun. B. I am particularly interested in what is planted on the roadside. Too many long roadside protections to cut off the views. Understand privacy but the views are so beautiful and disappearing fast. A polite request to ask if people would keep evergreens lower along the side of the road. that are planted in long rows in our beautiful views
- So grateful to live in a community that cares about this. Thank you.
- Think about spaces for young people and their safety we need young people living in town not just old people trying to make the town their utopia and to save the planet
- We all know (if not accept) that our limited zoning regulations are ultimately going to harm the rural nature of this town.
- We are already gifted with large amounts of open space
- We need more affordable housing. It is bigger than all these questions. The town needs a thoughtful approach to what this should look like in town. We are becoming a more "exclusive" town and it is harder for younger people to move here. I moved here because it was affordable for me when I was younger. Not so much the case any more.
- We need to keep pressure on the State to fully operate York Lake Park. Staff the Park during the summer. Ensure the bathrooms are kept open in summer and the swimming area is well maintained.
- When trees are removed their stumps should also be removed because they are

unsightly - unless there is an ecological reason to keep them.

- Would like to see a garbage receptacle.
- You got it pretty well.

Question 14

What do you see as New Marlborough's greatest threat/risk to open space and rural character over the next 10 years?

- I don't see a current or future threat
- ?
- A lack of focus on buildings and existing areas, we have so many run down areas, rotted cars dumped alongside the river, barns collapsing, farms unable to support themselves,
- Air b n bs, construction on small lots
- Allowing solar fields and high traffic locations to be created in open spaces
- Ambiguous zoning
- BNB growth. Although there is a great need for affordable housing it has to be done in a way that keeps the character of the town
- buiding/development
- Clear-cutting of adjacent private land for development
- Cleary housing has been a problem and it's becoming a priority I hope in our town as well as other parts of the southern Berkshires. We need more affordable places for people to live. Pursuing that goal needs to be a priority, but one that acknowledges the importance of our open spaces and the rural character of NM
- climate change
- Climate change
- climate change, loss of wildlife habitat, invasive plant species
- Climate change.
- Commercial development
- Commercial private land use. Must support Planning Board for set back requirements for new homes built outside the Village Centers and for zoning for a range of living options for range of incomes
- commercialisation, increase in short term rentals and the like
- commercialization
- continued housing shortage which then contributes to declining enrollment in schools...conversely there is continued building of second homes which is a great threat to open space and contributes to an imbalance of people invested in local town affairs.
- Continued residential and business development; need to encourage local farms
- Corporate development
- creeping suburbanization
- Development
- Development
- Development and income extraction from development that does not enhance the community
- Development- large houses being built that require heavy duty roads and driveways and clearing of woodlands and sensitive ecosystems
- Development of trophy properties
- Doing nothing to preserve space!
- excessive building, painting houses inappropriate colors
- home buliding.
- Housing and land pressure
- Housing development, increased restriction for farmers on open land. Attracting visitors who don't share the respect and appreciation we have for our peaceful places.
- Housing.
- I do not think open space is threatened here
- I don't see a threat with all the money and time going into to protecting it.
- I don't know enough to say.
- I don't see much threat/risk coming to many elements except the potential for losing our farms, which would be a sin. We need to support them. One way is to support the Mill River store and their new restaurant and Tom Brazies store. It's very hard to make it work in farming here and we need to be willing to pay a little more.

- Inadequate zoning
- Increased residency thru excessive building and rentals.
- Infilling of 'wild' space with residential construction
- Influx of new homeowners from other towns and cities buying land and developing.
- Invasive species, global warming, and lack of affordable housing. If we don't act soon to provide workforce housing we will lose average families joining our community and thus lose young people who help keep our community vibrant. It takes a diverse and engaged population to KEEP these outdoor spaces and activities a top priority. Growth in our population of FULL TIME residents and new families is vital to this discussion of outdoor space needs.
- Invasive species: plants (e.g., knotweed); bugs.
- Isolation and lack of community involvement.
- Lack of affordable housing.
- Lack of planning for future needs.
- Land sales, runoff from roadways and yards into waterways and groundwater.
- Lethargy/inertia. Thinking what we have is good enough.
- Loosing local farms to private land owners
- Loss of farms
- Maintaining our network of dirt/gravel roads.
- McMansions and other over-sized houses, and lack of affordable housing.
- New construction
- New home building
- New luxury residential housing
- New York/investors development
- not caring about it
- Oh gosh. Humans and endless oversized septic systems.
- Over building
- Over building
- over building of huge homes that will only be used for second homes, they are eating up open space and contributing to overuse of natural resources and energy
- Over development
- Over development
- Over development and need to manage invasive species that kills trees and vegetation
- Over development and the loss of affordability to live in the town
- Over Development, invasive species
- Over development, more houses built and subsequent traffic
- Overbuilding
- Overdevelopment
- Overdevelopment. Loss of income diversity and available housing. Loss of gravel roads and wildlife habitat. I think we need to be innovative to support small business. I think mental health could be / is an issue especially for youth.
- Overpopulation
- Paved roads
- Paving the dirt roads.
- People building houses, especially on smaller lots
- People clearing too much land on properties they own. And climate change.
- population growth without conscious thought to preserving our natural resources - thinking of them as "commodities" rather than us being part of natural "whole". i think that poorly thought development is a problem, as well as unaffordability. My kids can't afford to make a life here and we are pretty well off.
- Population growth. Commercial use that destroys the character, like solar farms or quarries.
- Property development, road paving
- Real estate prices
- Residential development and "suburbanization."
- Residential development and solar fields
- Residential development.
- See the preceding answer.
- Speeding traffic on main roads
- sprawling development; lack of reuse of existing buildings

- Suburbanization of New Marlborough with "McMansions" and the lack of affordable housing to allow young people to stay.
- That the graveled and unpaved roads are disappearing
- The fact that the people moving in know nothing about nature and try to make it all look as they feel it should be which is not wild.
- There are a lot of new houses going up but so far they aren't threatening the rural character.
- Too many homes being built.
- Too many people and too many new homes.
- too much development
- Too much development/new home construction.
- Too much new building, particularly for houses that are used as short term rentals.
- We need to better articulate the value of protected lands to local homeowners. Also, we need a workforce housing plan that leverages what Construct has begun at Cassilis Farm.
- Wealthy people coming in who overbuild and clear land for views.

Question 16

The population in New Marlborough represented by Survey Response Data	
Under 10	24
10-19	12
20-29	26
30-39	11
40-49	20
50-59	36
60-69	62
70+	93
Total	284

Question 17

How do you get information about open space issues in New Marlborough?

- Berkshire Eagle
- Berkshire Eagle/Bersshire Edge
- Berkshire Edge
- Email list from Trustees, BNRC etc
- friend
- Land Trust
- My wife, who talks to everyone
- New Marlborough Land Trust
- NM Land Trust
- NM Landtrust
- Social media
- Talking with people and reading Berkshire newspaper
- The Berkshire Edge
- This survey
- We know where open spaces are
- Word of mouth- at Southfield and mill river stores, and the library.
- would like it if the town hall would send emails i've never received one and i am part of town government

Appendix F: Letters of Endorsement from Select Board, Planning Board, and Regional Planning Agency



BRPC
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

MALCOLM FICK, Chair
JOHN DUVAL, Vice-Chair
SHEILA IRVIN, Clerk
BUCK DONOVAN, Treasurer
THOMAS MATUSZKO,
Executive Director

January 31, 2025

Melissa Cryan, Grant Programs Supervisor
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Melissa:

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) has reviewed the *Town of New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan* (OSRP). The plan takes on several important components that are vital for the health of the town and region.

- Revision of the Town's zoning bylaw to protect historic village character and direct growth toward village centers.
- Partnering with the State of Massachusetts, nearby towns, and non-profits such as Berkshire Natural Resources Council to consolidate and protect important wildlife corridors in the town to bolster resilience to climate change.
- Work with organizations such as Trout Unlimited to stabilize stream banks on the Konkapot River and improve habitat for native trout populations.
- Providing additional amenities for town residents at Umpachene Park and improve recreational opportunities for all residents of all abilities and ages, from youth to seniors.
- Highlighting the long history of agriculture in the town through partnering with local producers, posting of Right to Farm signage, and educating the populace of Agricultural Protection Restrictions and the Chapter 61 Program.

BRPC endorses the plan as written and commends the Town of New Marlborough for its efforts to protect the region's natural resources, expand outdoor recreational opportunities and sustain a high quality of life.

Sincerely,

Cornelius Hoss, AICP
Community Planning and Development Program Manager

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



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD
807 Mill River Southfield Road, Mill River, MA 01244**

Phone: 413-229-8116 Fax: 413-229-8253
E-mail: nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov

William West, Chair
Tara B. White
Elizabeth Dean
Select Board

December 30, 2024

New Marlborough Select Board
New Marlborough Town Hall
807 Mill River Southfield Road
Mill River, MA 01244

Dear New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee,

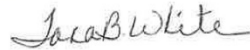
The New Marlborough Select Board commends the work that your committee has done to update the 2017 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) for review by the State of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. We appreciate the time and effort that all committee members have dedicated to developing the plan. It provides town boards, committees, and volunteers with actions that will protect town resources while improving recreational offerings. We would like to highlight the following actions identified by the plan:

1. Prioritizing the development of Affordable Housing in the town through zoning revisions and the development of a usage table in the zoning ordinance.
2. Facilitating connections between the villages through a trail network and additional public transit.
3. Improving Umpachene Falls Park with additional accessibility and playground features.
4. Increasing education and awareness of the causes and impacts of erosion on streambank stability in rivers and streams amongst town residents.

At today's meeting, December 30, the New Marlborough Select Board voted to endorse the New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan December, 2024. Thank you again for your hard work. We look forward to implementing the final plan.

Sincerely, 

Bill West, Select Board Chair



Tara B White, Select Board member



Beth Dean, Select Board member



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE PLANNING BOARD**
807 Mill River Southfield Road, Mill River, MA 01244

January 8, 2025

New Marlborough Planning Board

New Marlborough Town Hall

807 Mill River Southfield Road

Mill River, MA 01244

Dear New Marlborough Community,

The New Marlborough Planning Board would like to inform the community of its efforts to update the 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) for the town. The plan highlights the importance of protecting the town's recreation and conservation areas. The Planning Board recognizes the important role that they play in meeting the three goals of the plan: 1. Protecting the town's rural and natural landscape from overdevelopment, 2. Protecting the town's water resources, and 3. Providing recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities. It provides a Seven-Year Action Plan that protects town resources while improving recreational offerings.

At today's meeting, January 8th 2025, the New Marlborough Planning Board voted to endorse the New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2025.

Sincerely,

New Marlborough Planning Board

Robert W. Hartt, Co-Chair

Jonathan James

Jordan Archey

Christian Stovall

Becky Wilkinson

Appendix G: New Marlborough OSRP Forum Results, 5/18/25

New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Survey Forum

10:30 AM
May 18, 2024
New Marlborough Town Library



Open Spaces include:

- Lakes and Rivers
- State Parks
- Preserves and Land Trusts
- Town Lands- parks, cemeteries, beaches
- Farms
- Forests and wetlands
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Private land in Agriculture Preservation Restriction, Conservation Restriction, or tax abatement program (Chapter 61)

Open Space and Recreation Plans are...

- a tool communities use to plan for conservation and recreation needs.
- make the community eligible for state grant funding.
- reviewed and approved by the Division of Conservation Services.
- relevant for 7 years and then require updating.



What do we mean by open-space?

- Any land or area that...
- (1) conserve and enhance natural or scenic resources
- (2) protect streams or water supply
- (3) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches, or tidal marshes
- (4) enhances the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations
- (5) enhances recreation opportunities

New Marlborough residents value...

- Character of the historic villages,
- Diverse recreation offerings for residents of all ages and abilities,
- Healthy natural resources for both human and natural communities,
- Preservation of history and scenic beauty, and
- Partnering with the state and other groups to enhance open space facilities.

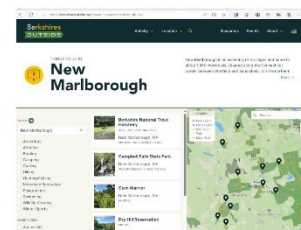


Open Spaces in New Marlborough include:

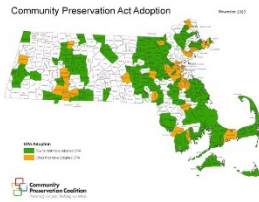
- Konkapot River
- Goodnow Preserve
- Umpachene River Park
- Lake Buel
- Steepletop Reservation
- Campbell Falls State Park
- Dry Hill and Questing Reservations
- York Lake/Sandisfield S.F.
- Cookson State Forest
- Thousand Acre Swamp
- Berkshire Trout Hatchery
- Harmon Pond

Timeline of the Process:

- Initial meeting of Planning Board to discuss project (January, 2024).
- Meet with stakeholders, develop Survey questions (February–March, 2024)
- Collect survey responses from community regarding Open Spaces in town (May–June, 2024)
- Update language in draft document (February–August, 2024)
- Use survey feedback to draft additional open space goals for town (July–August, 2024.)
- Present findings to community (September–October, 2024)
- Present Draft document for community review (October, 2024)
- Submit Draft document for state review (November, 2024)
- Incorporate edits from state reviewing agency, publish and submit to State (December, 2024)



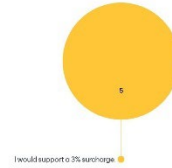
Berkshires Outside Website: <https://berkshiresoutside.org/>



Community Preservation Act (CPA)

- CPA property tax surcharge of up to 3%
- Annual matching funds from the state.

How likely would you support CPA adoption in New Marlborough?



CPA Example

Example: A home is assessed at \$380,000. After subtracting the first \$100,000 in residential property value (assuming the community has adopted this optional and very popular CPA exemption), the homeowner's net value to be surcharged equals \$280,000. After applying this sample municipality's tax rate of \$11.47 per \$1,000, the amount subject to the CPA surcharge would be about \$3,200. With a 15% CPA surcharge applied, the CPA surcharge for this homeowner would be approximately \$480 per year. This \$480 would be transferred to the community's Community Preservation fund by the City or Town Accountant or Tax Collector.



Place a pin on your favorite location in New Marlborough.



The Community Preservation Act

Allows communities to establish a dedicated fund for:



Open Space



Historic Preservation



Affordable Housing

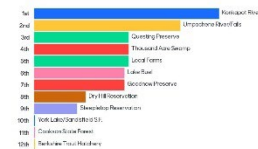
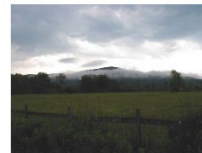


Basics of the Act

- Local adoption needed
- Establishes up to a 3% surcharge on local property taxes
- Requires 10% of monies to be spent on each of the 3 categories
- Allows flexibility for the remaining 70% in each of the 3 categories
- Establishes a Community Preservation Committee



What are your three (3) favorite open space sites in New Marlborough?



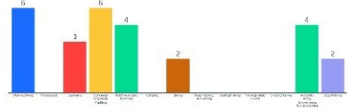
If your favorite site in New Marlborough was not listed, tell us about it here?
4 responses



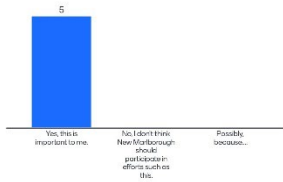
marlborough
dry hill
new
preserve

2024 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

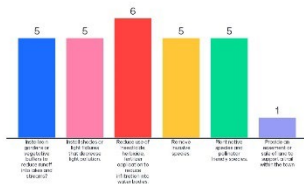
What five (5) outdoor recreation activities do you and your family most enjoy in New Marlborough?



Should New Marlborough partner with neighboring communities to create "Green Corridors" to support wildlife and ecological health?



Which of the following practices would you be willing to implement on your own property?



How would you like to be updated about Open Space Issues in New Marlborough?



What other improvements in open space or recreation would you like to see in New Marlborough?

Prioritizing conservation. Prioritize wildlife habitats. Providing more information and resources to encourage people to remove invasives and plant pollinators. Pollinator corridor.

For more information see...

- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-space-and-recreation-plan-workbook/download>
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NMOSRP>
- https://www.newmarlboroughma.gov/sites/g/files/vvhl4771/files/downloads/nmpb_osrp_draft.pdf
- <https://www.newmarlboroughma.gov/planning-board/files/images-1-4>
- <https://www.newmarlboroughma.gov/planning-board/files/images-5-8>
- <https://perkshiresoutside.org/community/new-marlborough-ma/>

Thank you for participating.
Questions from the audience?

0 questions
0 upvotes

Appendix H: Mentimeter Results of Public Forums

New Marlborough OSRP Goals and Actions Forum

November 13, 2024
New Marlborough Town Hall



Mentimeter

Goal 1 Protect the character of New Marlborough's villages.

- Review zoning bylaws every five years in view of new developments to see if desired results of the zoning are occurring
- Allow flexible zoning bylaw that allows smaller lot size, reduced road frontage and facilitate walking.
- Encourage the development of "street walls," buildings and residences close to existing roads that limit encroachment.
- Review village-specific bylaws that would protect the different villages in town.
- Assign Scenic Road Status to viewsheds and important road corridors to protect trees and stone walls in these corridors.



Mentimeter

Open Spaces include:

- Lakes and Rivers
- State Parks
- Preserves and Land Trusts
- Town Lands- parks, cemeteries, beaches
- Farms
- Forests and wetlands
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Private land in Agriculture Preservation Restriction, Conservation Restriction, or tax abatement program (Chapter 61)



Mentimeter

Goal 1 Protect the character of New Marlborough's villages (continued)

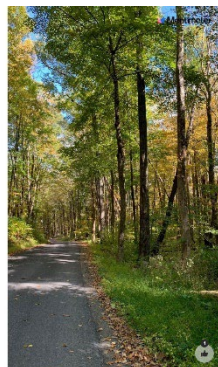
- Adapt Open Space Residential or Conservation Subdivision bylaw to allow additional housing development.
- Create a usage table in the zoning ordinance to clarify permitted, special permit, and excluded uses in the various zone
- Implement clearer zoning to support the preservation of open space while also encouraging a diverse community.
- Continue to put a major focus on new development in town being affordable housing



Mentimeter

New Marlborough Survey Results

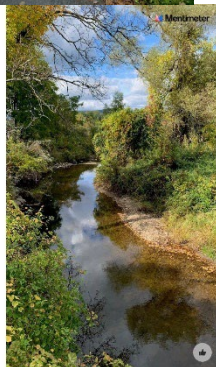
The survey was open from May 1 to June 15th. There was a public listening session at the New Marlborough Library on May 18. One hundred and nineteen residents responded to the survey.



Mentimeter

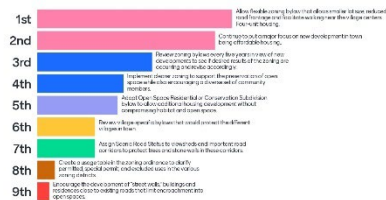
What residents told us in the survey.

- It is the beauty, community and quiet that brought me here
- It was the rural nature of the town that attracted us so strongly 45 years ago. It doesn't feel as "rural" anymore
- The New Marlborough Land Trust has done an absolutely wonderful job making open space available, accessible
- New Marlborough is a true community where people are friendly and reach out to help when a friend or neighbor needs support
- Losing local farms to private land owners
- Over development and the loss of affordability to live in the town



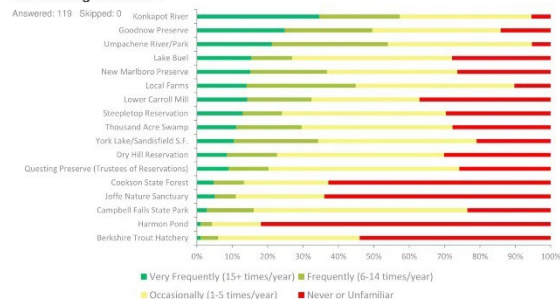
Mentimeter

Rank your preferred Actions from Goal 1: Protect the character of New Marlborough's Villages



Mentimeter

Q3: How often do you visit in a typical year, and which is your favorite New Marlborough location?



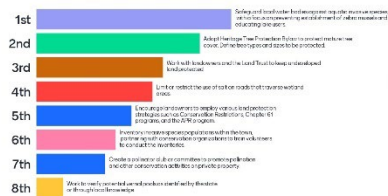
Powered by SurveyMonkey

Mentimeter

2024 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

Goal 2 Provide varied recreational opportunities for all New Marlborough residents.

- Research funding for development of town parks to encourage local fairs, festivals, cookouts, concerts
- Continue to work with Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to stock native species of fish and on game management
- Inform the public of existing local recreational opportunities to create awareness of local programs and facilities
- Continue work with private landowners to obtain trail easements to form connections between protected open space
- Continue educational and recreational programs such as nature walks, canoe trips, and historic tours
- Research available state funds to improve parking, access and signage for Umpachene Falls Park and 1,000-Acre Swamp
- Improve existing trails or create a new trail that features universal accessibility features for all residents
- Gather community input and continue to improve Umpachene Falls Park

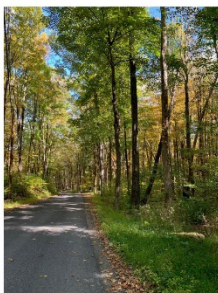


Rank your preferred actions from Goal 2: Provide varied recreational opportunities for all New Marlborough residents.



Goal 3- Protect New Marlborough's natural resources and habitats.

- Seek the expertise of BRPC and State services to catalog and determine the health of habitats
- Continue the "Adopt-A-Stream" program. Work with non-profits such as Trout Unlimited to implement bank stabilization
- Work with surrounding towns to conduct a detailed hydrologic study to identify aquifers and recharge areas
- Implement land-use strategies and water quality monitoring to protect aquifers and recharge zones
- Sponsor informative sessions to educate landowners and town to stabilize erosive steep slopes and stream banks
- Expedite the permitting process for work to stabilize erosive steep slopes and stream banks
- Inform community about the Community Preservation Act

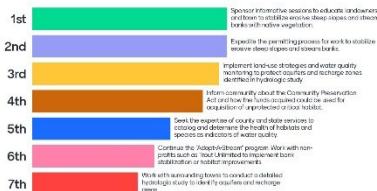


Goal 4 Preserve historic and scenic resources

- Inventory abandoned historic sites for preservation or possible restoration
- Keep as many unpaved roads as possible and use minimal salt
- Conduct a heritage tree inventory and a strategy for proactively replacing those that are unhealthy
- Create an outreach program to work with local landowners, such as farmers and loggers, on Best Land Use Practices
- Protect active farmland and educate the public on agriculture in New Marlborough: Post Right to Farm signage



Rank your preferred actions from Goal 3- Protect New Marlborough's natural resources and habitats. (1 of 2)



Rank your preferred actions from Goal 4: New Marlborough's historic integrity and scenic beauty are preserved.



Goal 5 Coordinate town efforts with State and Nonprofits

- Continue roadside cleanup programs. Reach out to local school and civic groups as partners
- Work with state officials to develop management plans for both state forests
- Promote open space resources and activities on the town's website
- Work with Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Trustees of Reservations, and the New Marlborough Land Trust
- Annually review the Open Space & Recreation Plan to track implementation



Mentimeter

Rank your preferred actions from Goal 5: State and Town Officials work with citizens and non-profits to manage open space in town.



Mentimeter

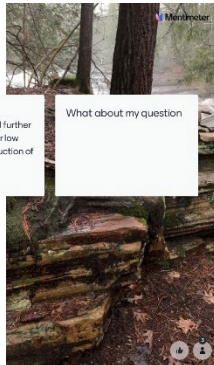
Tell us more.

Thank you for your interest and for participating tonight

Re-do the question that grouped unpaved roads and split on paved roads into two items

Caution on land use restrictions as it could further limit land available for low cost housing and reduction of land on tax role

What about my question



Mentimeter