TOWN OF ROYALSTON
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

2010 – 2016

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Additional comments were received at public hearings and in writing from Paul Daniello, Deanna and Al Deacon, Elizabeth Farnsworth, Marie-Claire and Pierre Humblet, and Kate Collins. Fifty-eight individuals responded to the Open Space & Recreation Survey, sent to all households in Royalston.

TOWN OF ROYALSTON OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Aaron Ellison (2007-2010), Chair
Christine Long (2008-2011), Clerk
Patti Carrier (2008-2011)
Paul Montero (2009-2010)
Jack Morse (2009-2012)
Tom Musco (2007-2010)
Glenn Freden (2007-2010)
Kimberly MacPhee (2008-2011)

1. SUMMARY

The quality of life in Royalston is enriched by the quality of the open space in our town and in the North Quabbin Region. This Open Space & Recreation Plan reflects our desire to protect, maintain, and diversify the open space and recreation opportunities available to Royalston residents and to members of surrounding communities. We acknowledge the aesthetic value of our open spaces; the ecosystem services they provide, including clean air and water, and a "carbon sink"; their importance for individual and community welfare; their recreational and tourism opportunities; and their potential role in economic activity. At the same time, we recognize the need to maintain lands in active use, and to balance local fiscal needs with the need to conserve and preserve open spaces.

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In this second Open Space & Recreation Plan, we build on the accomplishments of the last five years and identify new goals and initiatives to further enhance the open space and recreational opportunities in Royalston. We provide an overview of Royalston's history, physical development, and environmental characteristics. The 2008 Open Space & Recreation Plan Requirements guided the plan's development for compliance with Self-Help Grants administered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services and the Open Space Planners' Workbook. This Open Space & Recreation Plan's acceptance by the State Division of Conservation Services makes Royalston eligible to compete for such funds, which the Town can use for land acquisition and improvement of parks and other open spaces. In conjunction with other plans and inventories, this Open Space & Recreation Plan is also useful as a community information resource and as a guide for planning by Royalston's governance bodies, town officers, and elected and appointed committees.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of Open Space

In this Plan, the term "open space" is defined as "all parks, forests, trails, playgrounds, and fields of significant size owned and managed for recreation, agriculture, or conservation uses."

2.2 Statement of Purpose

Open space in Royalston provides many recreation opportunities for residents and visitors, valuable habitat for flora and fauna, ecosystem services that protect and enhance public health, and aesthetic enjoyment. The purpose of this plan is threefold:

1. To increase awareness concerning the open space and recreation opportunities and needs in Royalston;
2. To encourage thoughtful planning and a sustained commitment to open space protection, stewardship, and enhancement;
3. To outline a seven-year plan of action for the community and the boards and committees that govern the town to protect, steward, and enhance open space resources in Royalston.

This document includes some of the elements of a physical plan (*i.e.,* an inventory of existing and proposed properties, facilities, and infrastructure), an organizational plan (*i.e.,* a description of the formal and informal organizational structures the Town has for maintenance, management, and overall decision-making related to open space and recreation), and information (*i.e.,* inventory and description of open space and recreational resources, and enumeration of past successes and present challenges).

It is hoped and expected that this Plan will be a "living document" to guide the Town of Royalston, that it will be consulted regularly by citizens and decision-makers, and that it will be evaluated and updated periodically. See **§9** for associated action items.

2.3 Planning Process and Public Participation

This Plan represents the second Open Space & Recreation Plan (the "Plan") for Royalston. Following the 2008 Requirements for Open Space & Recreation Plans (the "Requirements"), the Royalston Open Space & Recreation Committee spent six months in 2009 updating the Town's 2004-2009 Open Space & Recreation Plan. Mapping support was provided by the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership (NQRLP).

Public participation in the planning processes included the following components:

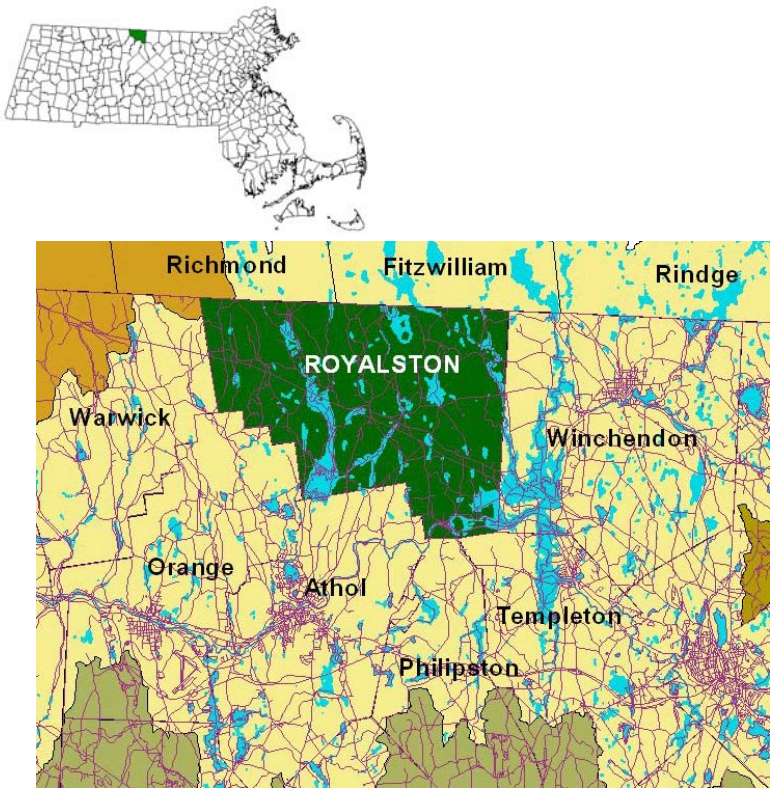
1. *Open Space & Recreation Committee (OSRC).* Following adoption of the first Plan in 2004, the Board of Selectmen appointed a standing committee to implement the Plan. This Open Space & Recreation Committee (the "Committee") consists of seven members who meet monthly in open, public sessions. Minutes are recorded and posted on the

Committee's web-site (http://www.royalston-ma.gov/OSRC/indexopen.htm). The Committee has followed the 2008 Requirements for updating the Plan.

2. *Open Space Survey.* The Committee used the same survey instrument (**Appendix A**) as was used to solicit input in 2003 for the first Plan. This repeat survey allowed the Committee not only to assess community ideas relevant to open space planning, but also to determine changes in attitudes about open space and recreation over the last five years. The survey was sent out in February 2009 to all Royalston households as an insert to the *Royalston Community Newsletter*. Surveys were returned through early March 2009, and results were tabulated for use by the Committee and the public when formulating the needs (**§7**), goals and objectives (**§8**), and action plan (**§9**) of this Plan. Of 560 surveys mailed, 59 (11%) were returned. Survey results are summarized in **§10**.
3. *Public meetings*. The Committee hosted two open meetings to solicit input on the new Plan. Meetings were advertised in the Royalston Community Newsletter, in a mass emailing to town residents, and in an article in the local newspaper (the Athol Daily News). The first meeting was on April 9 at Royalston's Town Hall. At this meeting, the Committee presented the results of the survey and defined the goals and objectives for the Plan. In addition to the Committee, two Royalston residents, a representative from Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (MGLCT) and two out-of-town observers attended the first meeting. The second meeting was on May 14 in Royalston's Town Hall. At this meeting, the Committee finalized the goals and objectives for the Plan and presented a draft version of the plan for public comment. The draft was available for 30 days of public comment on the Committee's web-site and in printed form at the Library. The penultimate version was given to the Royalston Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board, and to the Montachusset Regional Planning Commission for further comments and approval.
4. *Ancillary meetings*. In 2008, three open meetings were held as part of the initiative to pass the Community Preservation Act (CPA), one additional meeting about the CPA was held at the Royalston Fish & Game Club, and one open meeting was held while developing Royalston's Heritage Landscape Inventory. Community input from all five of these meetings was also used to develop goals and objectives for this Open Space & Recreation Plan.

3. COMMUNITY SETTING

3.1 Regional Context



Map 1. Regional context of Royalston, Massachusetts.

The Town of Royalston is located in Worcester County and is part of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission region. Royalston is accessible by State Route 68, which cuts through the town from West Royalston to Phillipston and State Route 32, which runs north south through the town from Richmond, New Hampshire to Athol, Massachusetts. To the east lies Winchendon; to the south are Templeton, Phillipston, and Athol; and to the west are the towns of Orange and Warwick. Nearby regional cities include Gardner (18 miles), Fitchburg (29 miles) and Worcester (43 miles), all to the southeast of Royalston. Greenfield, MA (30 miles) and Keene, NH (20 miles) lie to the west and north. Royalston is 74 miles from Boston (**Map 1**).

Encompassing 42.55 square miles, Royalston is one of the largest towns in Massachusetts. Royalston is in the Millers River Watershed, which includes approximately 200,000 acres in Massachusetts and another 50,000 in New Hampshire. Major local and regional water bodies include the Millers River, Tully River, Tully Lake, Lawrence Brook, Stockwell Brook, and dozens of smaller brooks and ponds.

The Royalston State Forest, the Millers River Wildlife Management Area, the Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area, and parts of the Fish Brook Wildlife Management Area are all located in Royalston. A number of other significant local and regional open space properties and recreational resources are located in the Town, including parts of the Tully Loop Trail, private conservation land, three scenic waterfalls, and land managed by the Army Corps of Engineers for campground, recreation, and flood control purposes.

3.2 History of the Community[1]

Royalston was settled by six families in 1762 and established as the town of Royalston on February 19, 1765. The town was named after the Honorable Isaac Royal, a Tory who had donated money and land for the settling of Royalston.

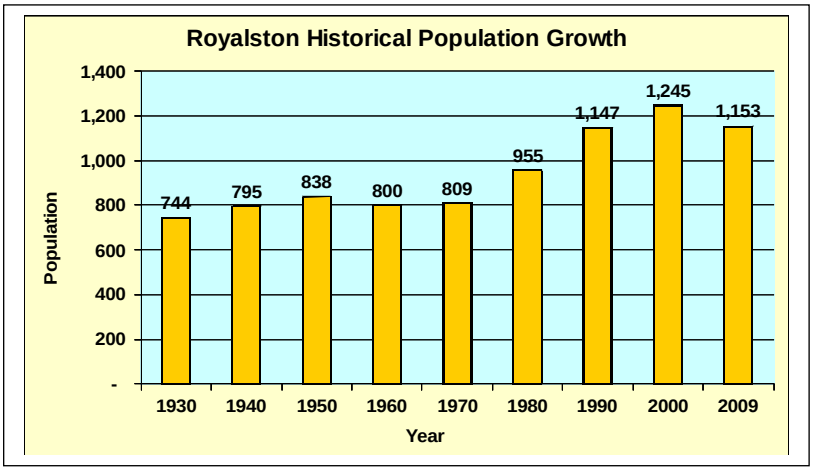
Royalston underwent considerable economic growth from 1776 to 1800 as the harnessing of waterpower made possible the establishment of local tanneries, grist and saw mills. The population grew during those years from 617 in 1776 to 1,243 in 1800. Agriculture and raising sheep were the main means of earning a living for many Royalston residents.

In the early 1800s Royalston had two centers of population. Royalston Center, also called Royalston Common, was the geographic center of the town; gristmills, brick yards, tanneries, a hattery, and cabinet shops stretched from the Common southwest to Doane's Falls. Shoppers came from miles around to do their business in Royalston Common.

The village of South Royalston, situated 4.2 miles to the south of the Common, was established from parts of Athol and Gerry (now called Phillipston). By 1813 its own mills and small businesses were developing separately from those in Royalston Center. A cotton and woolen mill was built along the Millers River, furniture shops sprang up, and palm leaf businesses, mainly making Panama hats, thrived there.

In the 1840s, Irish immigrants who had worked on the railroads bought farms in South Royalston or worked in the mills there. A wave of Finnish immigrants came to South Royalston between 1880 and 1920 to work in the mills, and today, many of their descendants still live in South Royalston.

The population peaked in Royalston in 1840 with 1,667 residents, but by the late 1800s Royalston's decline as an industrial center had begun. Some businesses were destroyed by fire, while others fizzled naturally. The loss of population due to westward migration and disease, as well as the loss of two banks to more commercial towns, were also factors in Royalston's industrial decline. The population had decreased to 998 by 1900; South Royalston had by then lost all of its industries, and became the residential village it is today.



[1] As reported by Tom Musco

3.3 Population Characteristics

In 1790, the year of the first federal decennial census, Royalston had a population of 1,127.[2] By 1930 the population had fallen to 744, and it climbed steadily to a peak in 2000. As of April 1, 2009, Royalston's population was 1,153 persons, and includes 836 active voters, 36 inactive voters, and 281 non-voters.[3] Although Royalston is comparatively large in area, its population density, 27 people per square mile, is very low by state standards.

Based on data from the 2000 census, 29% of Royalston's population was under the age of 18, somewhat higher than the proportion for Worcester county as a whole (25.6%) or for Massachusetts overall (23.6%). At the same time, Royalston's percentage of residents over 65 (9.8%) was lower than the corresponding figures for the county and state (13.0% and 13.5%, respectively). Thus, while Royalston's median age of 38.0 was slightly higher than that for either the county (36.3) or the state overall (36.5), in some respects the Town's population is actually younger. This pattern is most likely indicative of a large number of families with children living here, and relatively few younger adults in the 20-34-year-old group. The 2000 census figures indicate that 38.5% of the households in Town have children under 18, compared with lower figures of 35.9% and 32.9% for Worcester county and the entire state.

More complete data from the 2000 U.S. census are provided in **Appendix D**, including data on race and ethnicity, age distribution, educational attainment, employment, income, and home ownership and housing.

3.4 Growth and Development Patterns

Historically, growth and development in Royalston have been limited to agricultural and forestry operations, and residential development clustered around the village centers of West, Central, and South Royalston or spread along existing roads. A great deal of the land area in Roylaston has been acquired for permanent open space preservation through the efforts of public and private groups. As shown in **Map 2** and detailed in **§5**, approximately 41% of the Town (11,049 acres) is designated as permanently protected open space. Twenty-six percent (7,024 acres) is managed for forestry, agriculture, or wildlife conservation under Massachusetts Chapter 61.[4] In addition, much of the remaining un-built land consists of wetlands, poorly draining soils, steep slopes, or land otherwise unsuitable for new development.

Nonetheless, due to the large size of the town and the relatively low level of current development, a great deal of theoretically developable land remains. According to the 2002 build-out analysis conducted by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, of the nearly 42 square miles (26,805 acres) in the town, approximately 64.5% (17,299 acres) was determined

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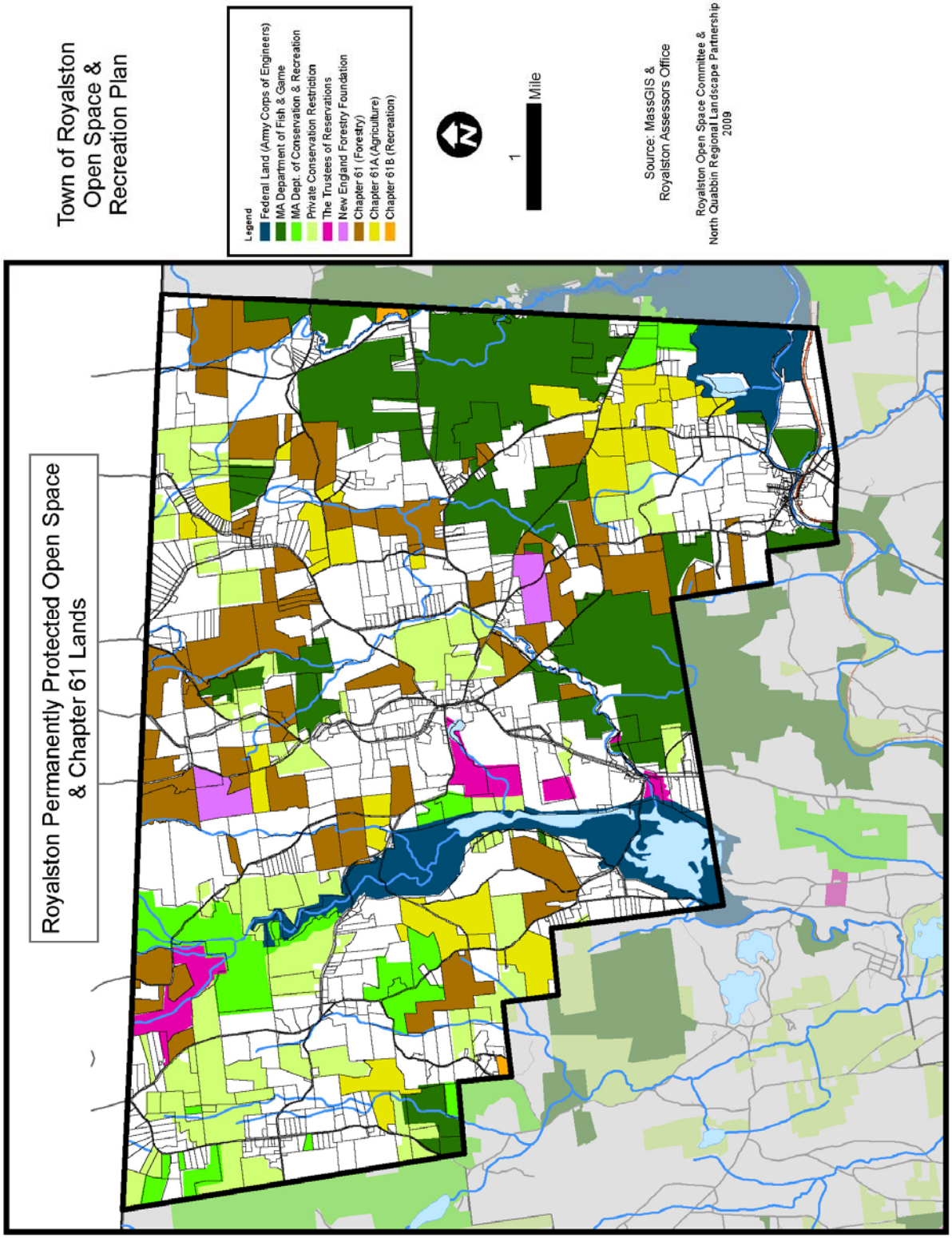
[2] 1790 Census figures courtesy of Ann's Royalston, MA Genealogy & History page [http://home.att.net/~menschfamily/worcester.htm], based on review of microfilm; 2000 figure from U.S. Census.

[3] 2009 population figures from Town of Royalston Annual Report for 2007-2008.

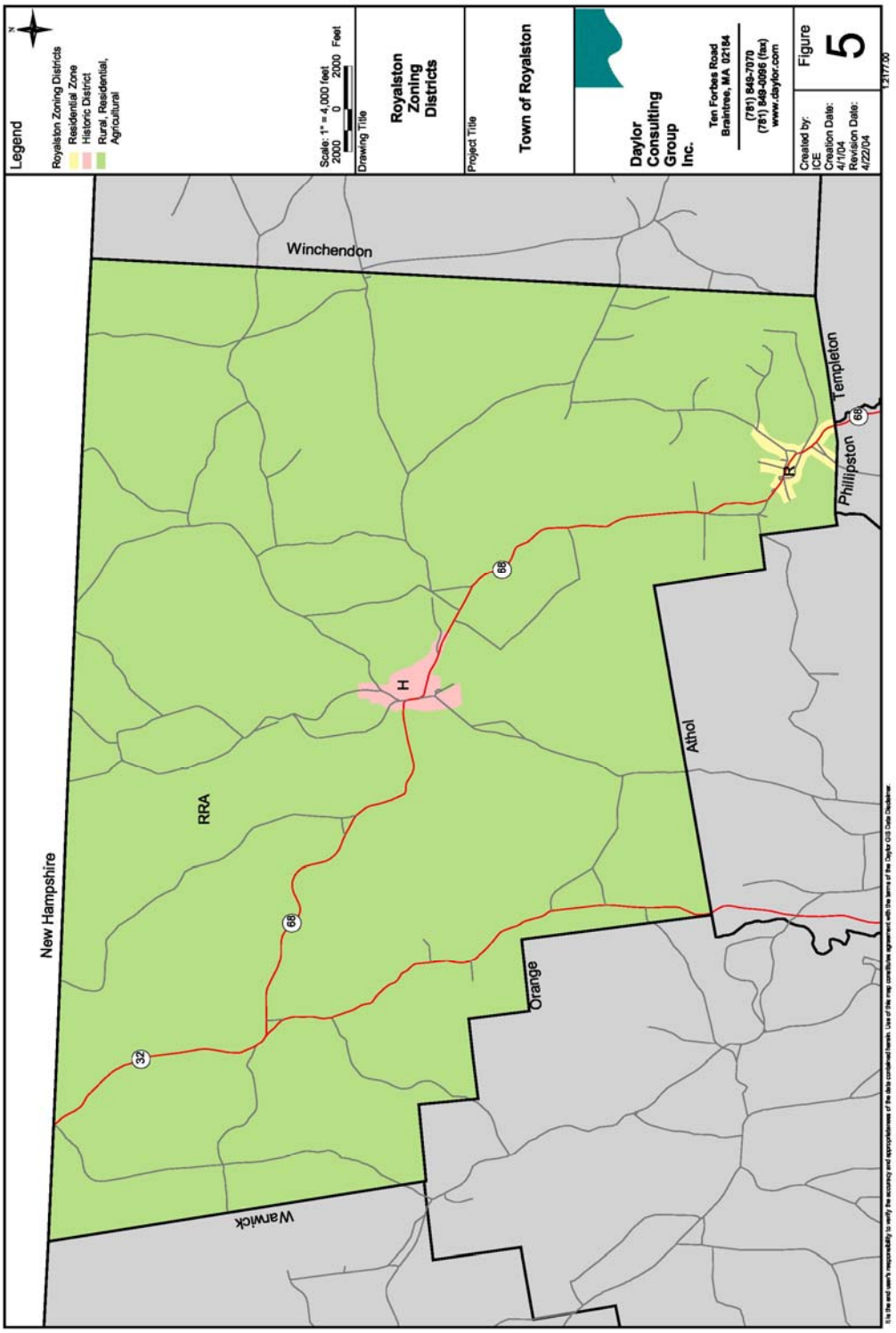
[4] Data from MassGIS, Royalston Board of Assessors, and the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership. Because these data were acquired after MRPC completed its build-out analysis in 2002, these data are not part of the MRPC's Buildout Analysis.

to be developable under current zoning (**Map 3**) and land use regulations. If developed under the current zoning to its maximum build-out levels, these 17,299 acres could be converted to 4,784 new house lots with a total of 5,223 new units and approximately 14,250 new residents.[5] The full EOEA/MRPC build-out data and maps are presented in **Appendix E.**

[5] Great caution should be exercised in interpreting these figures. They present only a snapshot of existing land use and development potential so that the town can consider these factors in future planning decisions. As with any build-out analysis, the figures are purely theoretical – what could be built on existing land under current zoning, with no consideration of economic or market factors, or assumptions regarding how long such a build-out would take. In theory, the Town might not realistically reach this build-out level for hundreds of years, or ever. In all likelihood, the Town can expect to see continued slow development over the next 10-20 years consistent with historical levels of about 50 new units per decade.



Map 2 – Protected open space and Chapter 61 lands in Royalston



Map 3 – Zoning districts of Royalston

4. ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Geology, Soils, and Topography

The land area of Royalston is just less than 42 square miles (27,000 acres). The terrain is rugged, with elevations reaching 1,340 feet in the west and 1,000 feet in the east (**Map 4**). Soils are predominantly rough and stony with some areas of loam; the most prevalent type of surficial geology is glacial till or bedrock. Sand and gravel deposits are plentiful in floodplain alluvial areas in stream valleys and surround the many brooks, ponds and lakes in Royalston.

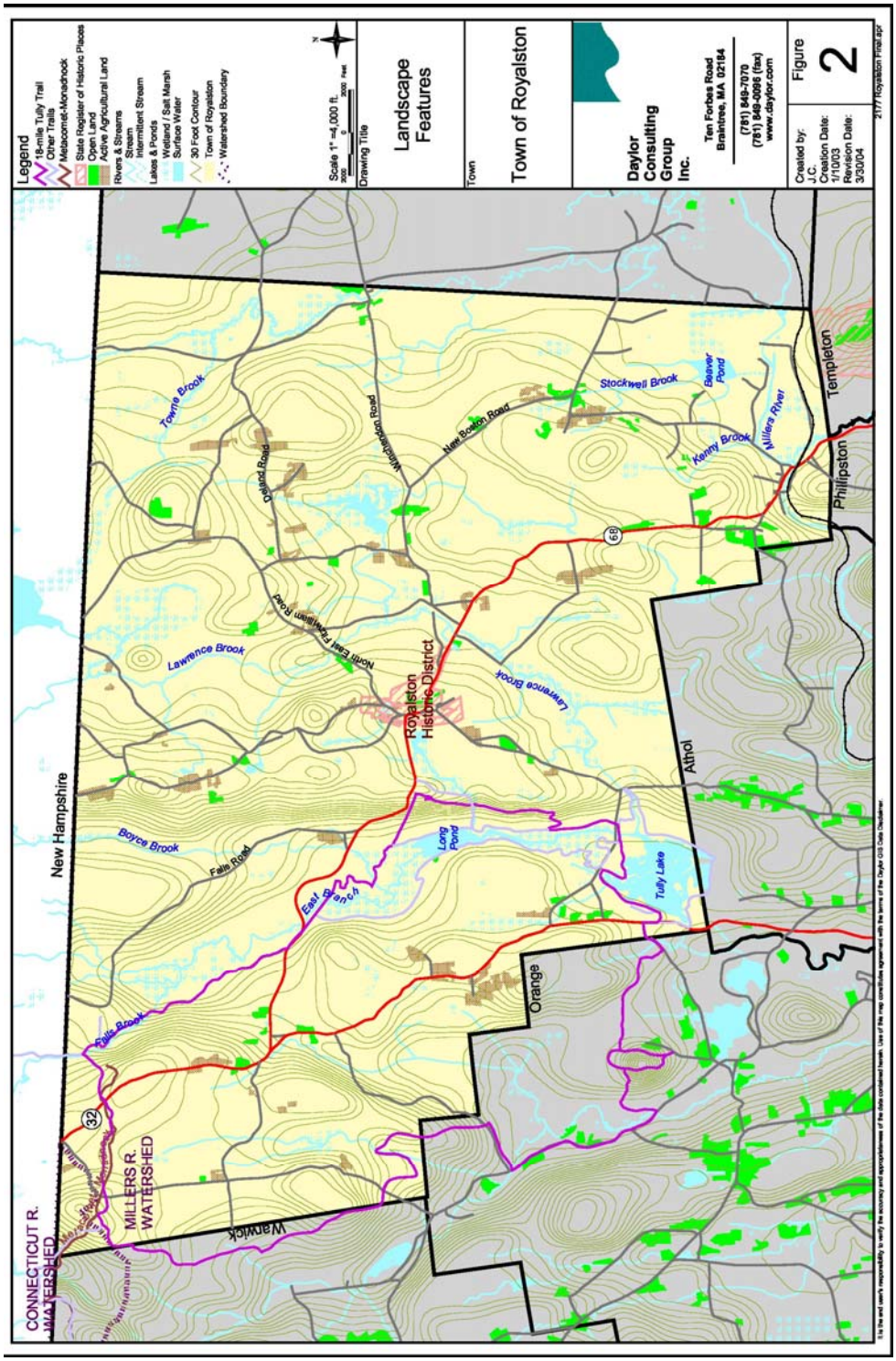
Principal soil types in Royalston include the following[6]:

- *Tunbridge Lyman Berkshire Association* – Well-drained, rolling, extensively stony soil that is poor for farming or development because of numerous surface stones
- *Berkshire Marlow Association* – Well-drained, steep, and extremely stony soil type from which water is removed, but not at a rapid pace. Difficult to work with heavy equipment.
- *Becket Skerry Association* – Rolling, extremely stony, well-drained soil with seasonally high water tables. It is difficult to work with heavy equipment.
- *Peru Marlow Association* – Extremely stony and well-drained with seasonally high water tables. Difficult to work with heavy equipment.
- *Bucksport and Wonsqueack Mucks* – Very poorly drained soil from which water is removed slowly and free water remains near the surface. Common in wetlands.
- *Lyman Tunbridge Berkshire Association* – Steep and very rocky, well-drained soil. The water table is normally six feet below the surface.
- *Croghan Loamy Fine Sand* – A soil with shallow slopes (0-8%) from which water can be slow to drain resulting in seasonally high water tables.

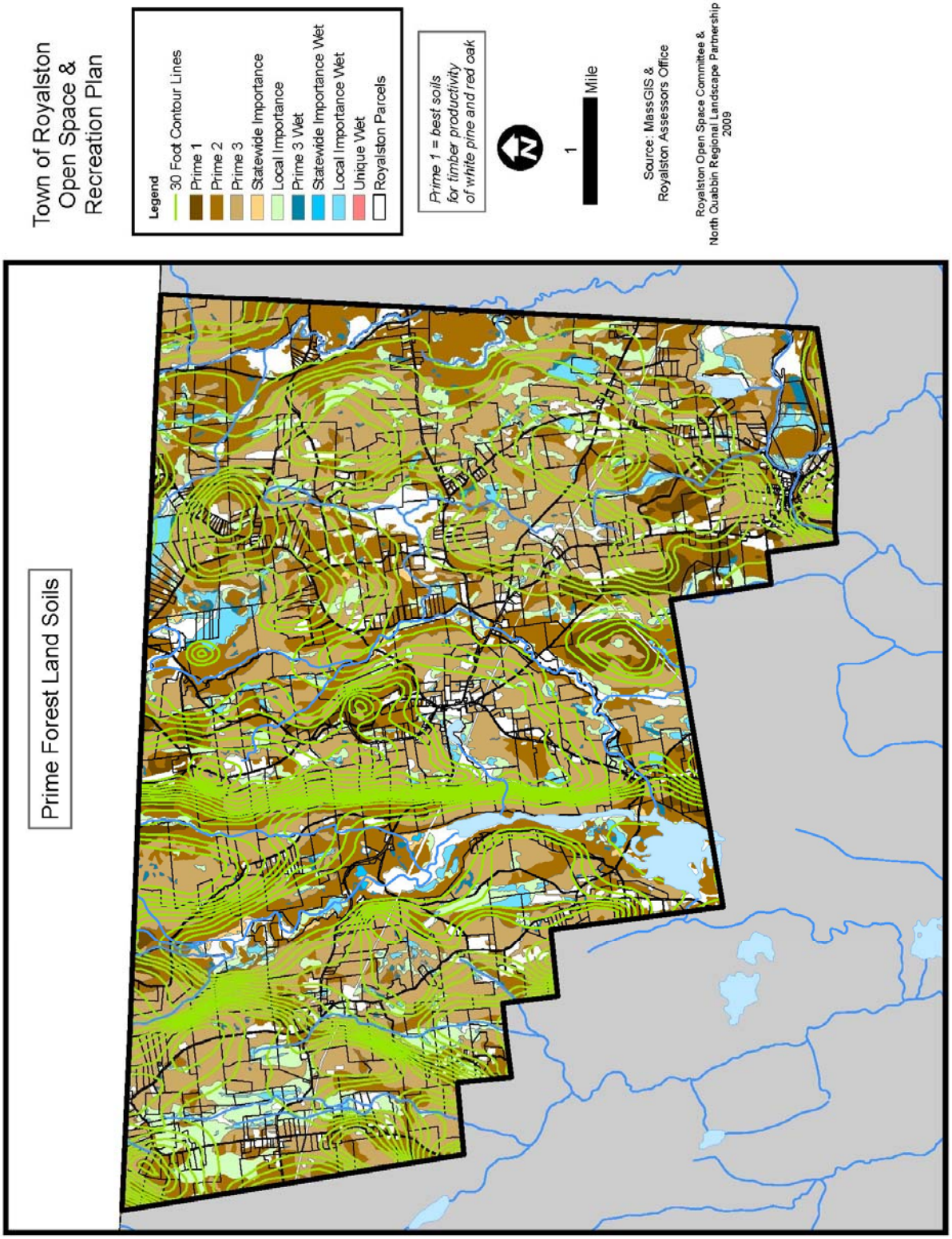
Most soils in Royalston are generally of good quality for timber production (**Map 5**), but there also are small patches of prime agricultural soils (**Map 6**).

The topography of Royalston includes glacially-derived features including scoured rock outcrops, mountains, waterfalls, and rapids (**Map 4**). A ridge of ledgy hills extends through the middle of town from north to south into adjoining Athol. Lawrence Brook travels through the hills from east to west. The Royalston Common stands on this ridge. Some of the highest peaks in town are Harrington Hill (1,212 feet) in the eastern part of town, Gale Hill (1,053 feet) in the southwest, Bliss Hill (1,255 feet) in the northwest, and Prospect Hill (1,333 feet) and Tory Hill (1,167 feet) in the north-central part of town. Due to the rocky, steep and sloping nature of Royalston, the land was not well-suited for farming or development. Many early settlers and residents left in the early days of settlement for employment elsewhere in woolen mills and in search of land that would be more suitable for agriculture and animal husbandry.

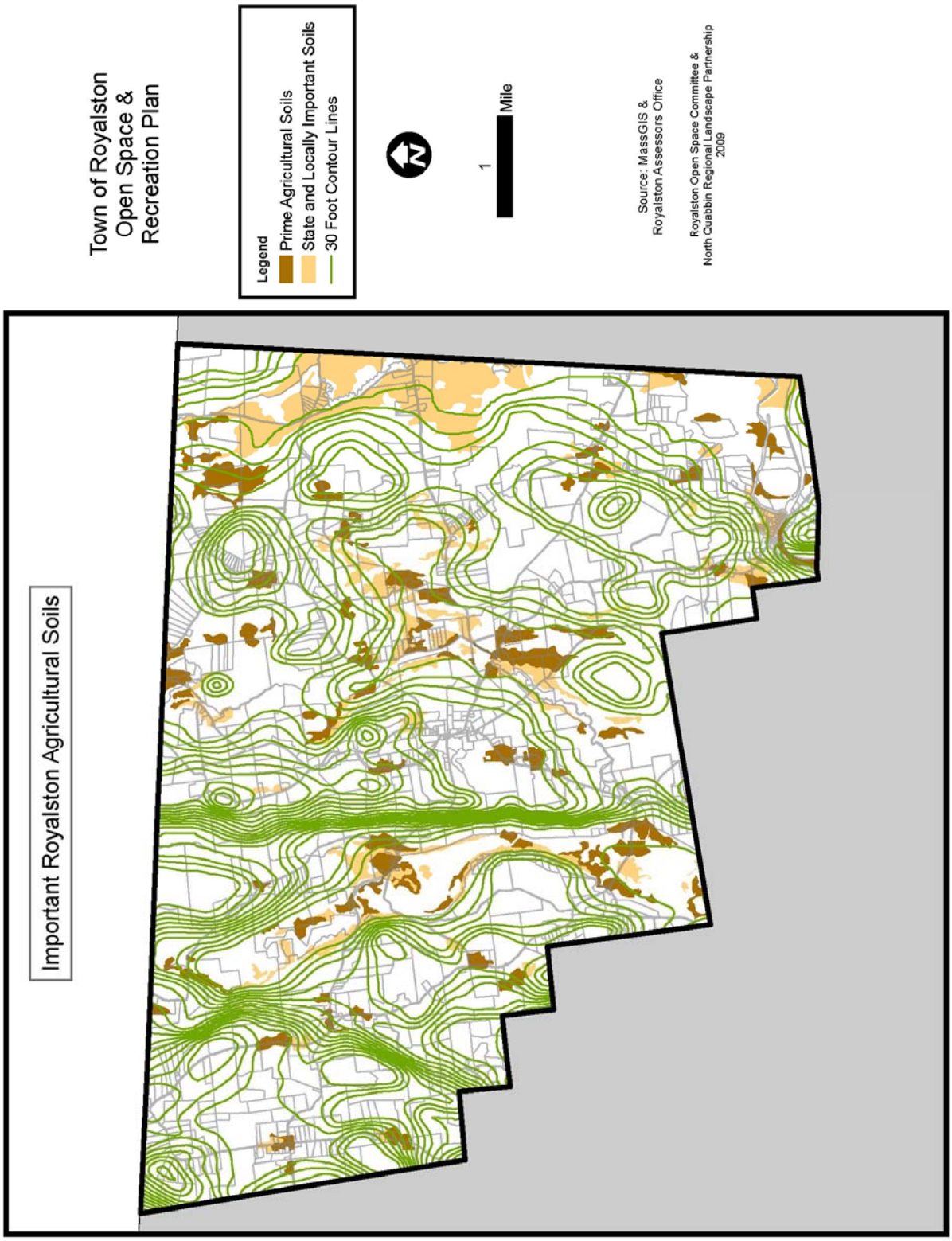
[6] Data on soils from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/) and MassGIS (http://www.mass.gov/mgis/soi.htm). Data are current to 2007.



Map 4 – Topography and landscape features of Royalston



Map 5 – Prime forest soils of Royalston



Map 6 – Prime agricultural soils of Royalston

4.2 Landscape Character

Within the town boundaries, Royalston has three waterfalls (Doane's Falls, Spirit Falls, and Royalston Falls), state forests, and thousands of acres of conservation land that together provide a diversity of recreational opportunities to townspeople and visitors. Royalston is a wonderful place for camping, canoeing, hiking, and experiencing scenic views of spectacular natural landscapes. Like many other communities in the North Quabbin region and throughout Massachusetts, Royalston also has a local historic district that contains the Town Hall, the Post Office, the Congregational Church, and many beautiful private homes. The Town Common is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In the early 1800s, the population centers of Royalston Common and South Royalston supported grist mills, tanneries, cabinet makers and furniture shops, and woolen mills. Most of this pre-industrial and early industrial commerce disappeared by the early 1900s as businesses closed and people left town for more lucrative opportunities elsewhere. Today, Royalston Center is a historic district consisting of 45 buildings. The majority of historic buildings are private homes built by the mill owners. A former governor of Massachusetts built one of the homes in Royalston Center as a summer residence. South Royalston has a general store, a restaurant, and Whitney Hall (a former school), in which many town offices are located.

The inventory, protection and long-term preservation of our abundance of natural, cultural and scenic resources all have been a focus of many of Royalston's planning activities, including a recent Heritage Landscape Inventory.[7]

4.3 Water Resources

4.3.1 *Watersheds, rivers, streams, and ponds*

Water features in Royalston include rivers, streams, waterfalls, rapids, brooks, ponds and wetlands (**Map 7**). Royalston is one of 17 communities located in the Millers River Watershed, a watershed that drains an area of approximately 392 square miles. Located primarily in north central Massachusetts, the Millers River originates in New Hampshire and flows westward through Massachusetts, eventually joining the Connecticut River. The Millers River has abrupt elevation drops, whitewater rapids, and beautiful waterfalls. However, the river was not always so inviting to Royalston and other surrounding communities. During the 1950s, pollution had so contaminated the river that fishing and recreational activities were limited and discouraged. During the 1970s, the Millers River Watershed Council began a cleanup effort that was so successful that in 1983, sport fish were reintroduced to the river. Today, the Millers River provides ample recreational opportunities like camping, hiking and viewing scenic vistas and is a water resource for many communities. Improving accessibility to the Millers River where it flows through South Royalston is a high priority of this seven-year Open Space & Recreation Plan.

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[7] The Heritage Landscape Inventory was completed in summer 2008. The full report can be downloaded from http://www.royalston-ma.gov/OSRC/royalston_heritage_inventory.pdf, and more details about the Heritage Landscape Inventory program are available at: http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/histland/Inventoryprog.htm.

Downstream of Royalston, major pollution discharges have plagued the Millers River from various wastewater treatment plants that have been constructed over time. PCBs, chlorination, heavy metals, erosion, landfill leachate, storm-water runoff, and acid rain are all pollution sources that decrease water quality throughout the entire Millers River watershed. The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, as a way to help guide future actions and identify areas of concern, completed in 2002 a non-point source pollution assessment of the Millers River. This document led to the first five-year Millers River Action Plan, completed in 2004.[8]

In addition to the Millers River, its waterfalls, larger tributaries, and other major resources described below under "Scenic Resources & Unique Environments," Royalston has the following smaller water resources:

- *Paine Swamp, Dunham Brook, and Beaver Brook* – These three main tributaries of Lawrence Brook are located in the southeast part of Royalston.
- *Little Pond* – This 12-acre pond is just to the west of the Town Common. It drains westward through extensive wetlands until it reaches Jacob's Ridge. It is the source of Spirit Falls. The west side of Little Pond, Jacob's Ridge, and Spirit Falls are part of the Jacob's Ladder Reservation of The Trustees of Reservations. The east side of the pond is in private ownership; development of the pond shore would be difficult but not impossible, and this area is a priority for protection.
- *Scott Brook* – This brook flows out of wetlands in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, through the northeast corner of Royalston. It joins Towne Brook to form Priest Brook, which in turn is a major tributary of the Millers River. The Scott Brook watershed is Natural Heritage Priority Habitat for state-listed endangered species (**see Map 8**).
- *Lawrence Brook* – This brook drains the entire central region of Royalston and is the source of flow for Doane's Falls, which in turn empties into Tully Lake. Coddings Meadow is located along Lawrence Brook. Doane's Falls and Coddings Meadow are owned and protected by The Trustees of Reservations. The headwaters of Lawrence Brook are on private land protected by a permanent conservation restriction.

4.3.2 *Flood control structures*

Tully Dam is located on the eastern branch of the Tully River in Royalston and is part of a network of flood control dams along the Connecticut River and its tributaries. The purpose of the dam is to reduce flood stages in Athol, Orange and other towns through which the Millers River passes. It was constructed from 1947-1949 and was first successfully operated in a 1949 storm that occurred before the official completion of the dam. The total capacity of the dam is nearly 7 billion gallons of water. In 1966, Tully Lake was created behind the dam as a "summer recreation pool" for local residents. Over 700 acres of Royalston's wetlands are in the watershed that drains into Tully Lake.

[8] Millers River 5-year Watershed Action Plan 2004-2009. Available on-line from http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/eea/water/wap_millers_2004.pdf.

Birch Hill Dam is located on the Millers River in South Royalston. It is also a part of the flood control dam network on tributaries of the Connecticut River. This dam was completed in 1941 to help prevent the towns of Athol and Orange from sustaining damage similar to that caused by the floods of 1936 and 1938. Birch Hill Dam has four times the storage capacity (16.3 billion gallons) of Tully Dam. Birch Hill is also a reservoir area that provides 4,500 acres of land for many recreational uses.

4.3.3 *Wetlands and floodplains*

Forested and non-forested wetlands, vernal pools, and floodplains are common throughout Royalston. Water and wetlands account for 6% of the land area of Royalston. All state-listed threatened and endangered species occur in association with wetlands – swamps, bogs, vernal pools, rivers and lakes; most of these areas are defined as Living Water Critical Supporting Watershed area by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (**Map 8**). Significant wetland resource areas and critical supporting watershed areas are found around Tully Lake, Long Pond, and Beaver Pond, and along the shores of Falls Brook, Lawrence Brook, Millers River, Boyce Brook and Towne Brook. Royalston also has 34 certified vernal pools and nearly one hundred potential vernal pools (**Map 8**).

4.3.4 *Aquifers*

Royalston does not have any known major aquifers, but the floodplain alluvium and sand and gravel deposits (both potential aquifer materials) near the East Branch of the Tully River, Lawrence Brook, Millers River and Priest Brook were identified in the first Open Space & Recreation Plan (2004) as aquifer or potential aquifer areas. These areas should be protected for their contribution to the water bodies they surround and wetland areas throughout Royalston.

4.3.5 *Water and sewer systems*

The overall water and sewer system in Royalston is fairly typical of a small town. In 2000, a total of 449 households existed with an average size of 2.79 persons per household. The number of total housing units (an actual physical structure) was 526, and the vacancy rate for those units was minimal, less than 2%. Royalston has not seen the growth that other nearby communities have been dealing with in the past decade, and for the most part, Royalston's water and sewer services remain adequate for the town's needs with capacities that have yet to be reached.

The South Royalston Improvement Corporation, a nonprofit organization, has been active since 1938 and provides water to 54 houses in South Royalston. In addition to serving private homes, this system also serves one restaurant and the Royalston Country Store. Many users find that having public water is convenient and cost-effective at only $216 annually. The water system was upgraded between 1995 and 1999 when a new 130,000-gallon water tank was built. All other homes and businesses in Royalston use their own private wells for water.

The Town of Royalston Wastewater Treatment Facility is also located in South Royalston and serves 63 houses with a total of 93 toilets. Homes not connected to this small treatment facility have private septic systems. The annual cost of sewer service ranges from $260 to $290, which for some people is more affordable than purchasing and maintaining a private septic system. Royalston contracts out the Plant Operator position but remains responsible for any repairs or expenses that may occur. This system has been in operation since 1971; the most recent extension occurred in 1997 when 12 homes were added for service. Another feasibility study, completed in 2000, indicated that the sewer treatment facility has additional capacity but the study concluded that town cannot finance the cost of another extension.

4.4 Vegetation[9]

4.4.1 *Natural vegetation*

The dominant land cover in Royalston is forest (87%). Royalston is located in the Northern / Transition Hemlock – White Pine forest zone of Massachusetts. Three official state forests, Royalston State Forest, Otter River State Forest, and Warwick State Forest are located in the town. The most frequently observed tree species in Royalston's forests include the hardwoods beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), grey birch (*Betula populifolia*), paper (or white) birch (*Betula papyrifera*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and the conifers white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). Elm (*Ulmus americanus*), basswood (*Tilia americana*) and chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) are uncommon.

Floodplain forests occur along riversides; floodplain trees include ash (*Fraxinus nigra* and *F. americana*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), and larger white pine (*Pinus strobus*) on ridges. Small patches of very old forests – stands that have been forested continuously since at least 1830 – still persist in Royalston (**Map 9**). The National Heritage and Endangered Species program indicates that floodplain forests are the most significant, endangered forested wetland type in all of New England. A 2008 survey by Elizabeth Farnsworth and Matt Hickler found a new community type for Massachusetts, the "Alluvial Hardwood Flat."[10] This uncommon but recurring type of floodplain forest occurs adjacent to small rivers where high-energy flooding occasionally occurs. Identified in the Tully basin, Alluvial Hardwood Flats are likely to occur on other of the small rivers in northern Royalston.

In addition to many varieties of common wildlife and vegetation, there are 11 plant species in Royalston that are tracked by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (**Table 1**).

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[9] Information on vegetation types, natural community types, and state-listed sensitive species provided by Patricia Swain, Ecologist with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, in a letter to the Open Space & Recreation Committee dated 8 May 2009.

[10] Farnsworth, E. J. and M. Hickler. 2008. Natural resources of Royalston Falls Reservation. Report to The Trustees of Reservations, Leominster, Massachusetts.

Table 1. *Plant species tracked by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and regulated under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA).*

Scientific name	Common name	MESA Status	Last reported
Nuphar microphylla	Tiny cow-lily	Endangered	1950
Boechera laevigata	Smooth rock-cress	Threatened	2004
Ophioglossum pusillum	Adder's-tongue fern	Threatened	1909
Potamogeton confervoides	Algae-like pondweed	Threatened	1950
Rhododendon maximum	Great laurel	Threatened	1919
Viola adunca	Sand violet	Special Concern	2008
Bidens beckii	Water marigold	Watch-listed	no data
Gentiana linearis	Narrow-leaved gentian	Watch-listed	no data
Linnaea borealis ssp. *americana*	Twinflower	Watch-listed	
Maianthemum trifolium	Three-leaved Solomon's seal	Watch-listed	2008
Sparganium fluctuans	Floating bur-reed	Watch-listed	no data

Royalston also has a variety of high-quality natural communities. Within the prevailing forest are cliffs and wetlands that provide habitat to a diversity of common and uncommon plants and animals. State-ranked natural communities that occur in Royalston include Black Ash Swamp (rank S2); Acidic Graminoid Fen, Acidic Shrub Fen, Kettlehole Level Bog; Level Bog; Spruce-Fir Boreal Swamp (all rank S3); Acidic Rock Cliff Community; Forest Seep Community; Hemlock-Hardwood Swamp; Inland Acidic Pondshore/Lakeshore; Low-energy Riverbank; Shallow Emergent Marsh (all rank S4); and Shrub Swamp (rank S5). Two new community types, the Alluvial Hardwood Flat described above (**§4.4**) and a spillway fen, were identified in Royalston in 2008, but have not yet been formally described or mapped. Spillway fens are artifacts of spillway creation, and they are maintained by management activities along the spillway. **Map 10** shows priority natural community types in Royalston.

4.4.2 *Shade trees and town plantings*

In recent years the town has witnessed the decline of a number of specimen sugar maple trees in the Center, leading to the removal of about a dozen; more will likely have to be cut down in the near future, both in the Center and continuing north along Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd. Both the Planning Board and residents in general have expressed interest in removing the stumps and planting new trees in the Center, an initiative in keeping with the 2008 Royalston Reconnaissance Report and one that presents a possible project for the Community Preservation Fund. Shade trees along other roadways are generally healthy specimens of native species, primarily oaks.

4.4.3 *Invasive plants*

Invasive plant species are generally uncommon in Royalston's forests, but glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) is ubiquitous at low densities in a variety of natural habitats including forest understories and wetlands. Other invasive plants are abundant around the Royalston Common and in South Royalston. In these two locations, with their comparatively

dense housing and planted landscapes, Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), non-native honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastris orbiculatus*), and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) are common. These plantings also can serve as a seed source for the spread of these plants to other locations in Royalston. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) increasingly is seen growing along roadsides and in old orchards throughout town. An effort to eradicate invasive plants throughout Royalston could reduce the rate of spread of these unwanted plant species, but such an effort would require the cooperation of many landowners and a commitment of several years to accomplish.

4.5 Fisheries and Wildlife

4.5.1 *Wildlife management areas*

In 2001, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife acquired four habitat areas in Royalston that will be protected and conserved for wildlife habitat and recreation activities. Birch Hill State Forest (140 acres; part of the 7,400-acre Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area), Fish Brook (111 acres), Lawrence Brook (327 acres) and Millers River (52 acres) are now considered to be Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and together, these added more than 600 acres to protected land in Royalston. Located partially in Royalston and Athol is another portion of the Millers River designated as a WMA. Approximately 45 other habitat areas in Massachusetts were also protected in 2001 through both Wildlands Stamp fees and Open Space bond funds.

- *Fish Brook WMA* consists mostly of moderate to steep hillsides. Access is possible via Butterworth Road and forestland owned by the Department of Environmental Management. Hardwood and conifer forest trees are dispersed throughout this land along with small portions of marsh habitat. Fish Brook, a stream that is home to brook trout, runs in a north to south direction providing a water resource for native grouse, deer, hare, coyote, waterfowl and non-game species.
- *Lawrence Brook WMA* comprises two parcels of hilly land with access from North Fitzwilliam Road. The area has a similar vegetation makeup to Fish Brook. A portion of Lawrence Brook, stocked with trout, and portions of several other brooks run through the area. The same types of animal species frequent this area as do Fish Brook.
- *Millers River WMA* (including the area partially in Athol and Phillipston) contains eight parcels of hilly forest with extremely steep slopes and marshland. A mix of hardwood and conifer forest along with wooded and shrub swamp make up the habitat here. Consisting of 2,600 acres, the Millers River WMA also protects portions of smaller brooks in Royalston. Like Lawrence Brook, the Millers River is stocked with brook trout. In addition to the common wildlife that resides in this area, a number of pheasant are also stocked for hunting during the season.
- *Birch Hill WMA* is another multi-parcel piece of land totaling 7,431 acres. MassWildlife owns 3,210, acres and the US Army Corps of Engineers leases the remaining 4,221 acres from the DEP. Because the area is so large, many habitats are represented. A general classification of it would be a conifer hardwood forest with open fields, brush lands and marshes throughout. The Otter and Millers Rivers flow in some portion of the WMA and

both are stocked trout waters. Smaller cold-water streams have native trout living in them. In addition to stocked pheasant, wild hare, deer, waterfowl, red and gray foxes and turkey, there are also blue heron and raptors that live there.

4.5.2 *Animal species of special concern*

Many different animal species live throughout Royalston. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts tracks nine rare animal species in Royalston (**Table 2**).

Table 2. *Animal species tracked by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and regulated under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act* (MESA).

Scientific name	Common name	MESA Status	Last reported
Botaurus lentiginosus	American bittern (bird)	Endangered	2008
Gomphus abbreviatus	Spine-crowned clubtail (dragonfly)	Endangered	2008
Ambystoma laterale	Blue-spotted salamander	Special Concern	2008
Glyptemys insculpta	Wood turtle	Special Concern	2008
Alasmidonta undulata	Triangle floater (freshwater mussel)	Special Concern	1997
Enallagma laterale	New England bluet (damselfly)	Special Concern	2008
Psectraglaea carnosa	Pink sallow (moth)	Special Concern	2008
Somatochlora elongata	Ski-tipped emerald (dragonfly)	Special Concern	2008
Strophitus undulatus	Creeper (freshwater mussel)	Special Concern	1997

The spring salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*), last seen in Royalston in 1992, and the beaverpond clubtail dragonfly (*Gomphus borealis*), last seen in Royalston in 2003, have been de-listed by the Commonwealth's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

4.5.3 *Wildlife corridors*

The large amount of permanently protected open space and lands currently in Chapter 61 in Royalston (**Map 2**) provide significant wildlife corridors. Most notable among these is the Tully Lake/Long Pond area owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which runs from the Athol-Royalston border in the south to within a mile of the New Hampshire border. North of Long Pond, this corridor continues in Roylaston State Forest (owned by DCR) and in Royalston Falls Reservation (owned by The Trustees of Reservations). (This north-south corridor also can be seen on **Map 11**). Tully Lake also forms the terminus of an east-to-west corridor begun on the Royalston-Winchendon Line in Birch Hill WMA that continues westward through a large parcel owned by the New England Forestry Foundation, Doane's Falls Reservation (owned by The Trustees of Reservations),and the Millers River WMA (**Map 2**).

4.6 Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

The Town of Royalston is fortunate to have multiple distinctive scenic spots that help give the town character and appeal. Its historical center surrounded by a breathtaking natural landscape makes Royalston's rural quality enviable. The highest peaks in town offer panoramic

views of the local region and of mountains in New Hampshire and Vermont. Notable scenic environments and unique properties in Royalston are listed below.

4.6.1 *The Trustees of Reservations* (*TTOR*) *properties*

- *Doane's Falls/Coddings Meadow*: When the waters of Lawrence Brook reach Doane's Falls, they tumble in a sequence of dramatic waterfalls. Along the way, large boulders in the streambed, small-forested islands, and flat rock slabs divide the fast-rushing stream before it empties into Tully Lake. On the southern bank of Lawrence Brook, three-quarters of a mile upstream from the falls, is the 14-acre Coddings Meadow, a little-known clearing in the woods that offers views of the quiet waters of Lawrence Brook and is an excellent launch site for exploring the brook by canoe or kayak. Further upstream, beaver dams dot the brook as it meanders through a wide red maple swamp. A half-mile trail leads down both sides of the stream. Doane's Falls is a link in the Tully Trail. According to TTOR, swimming, diving, and wading at Doane's Falls have led to fatalities and serious injuries over the years. Following the latest fatality in August 2002, TTOR placed a temporary ban on all swimming, diving, and wading and began an immediate policy review. The ban on swimming has not set well with Royalston residents, and a high priority of this Open Space & Recreation Plan is to identify locations for public swimming in town. Seasonal hunting is permitted at Coddings Meadow subject to all state and town laws.
- *Royalston Falls*: Concealed within a dense forest that provides significant connectivity to surrounding state forest lands, the rushing waters of Royalston Falls have carved a deep gorge out of granite. Falls Brook plunges forty-five feet into a basin. In summer, ferns cling to the chasm's walls; in winter, freezing spray creates a fantastic landscape of ice. Upstream, the swirling brook has carved potholes in the bedrock. The wild and undisturbed appearance of the area today belies the landscape's history.[11] For many years, the land was cleared and farmed. A farmer named Calvin Forbes owned the property in the 1840s, and, for a number of years, the cascade was known as Forbes Falls. During the 19th century, Royalston Falls was also the site of town picnics and gatherings in the summer months. Picnic tables, swings, and a staircase leading to the base of Royalston Falls once graced the area. Histories of the area record the existence of a casino building at the top of the falls, where bands played music for dancers. Like Doane's Falls, Royalston Falls is part of the Tully Trail and the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail. There is an overnight camping shelter just north of the Royalston Falls. Seasonal hunting is permitted at this property subject to all state and town laws.
- *Jacob's Hill/The Ledges/Spirit Falls*: Two miles of trails closely track the ridgeline of Jacobs Hill, passing through a forest of beech, maple, ash, and birch, and connecting two westward overlooks from exposed ledges. Both trails take in spectacular views of the forested slopes of Tully Mountain, Mount Grace, and the Berkshire Hills. Below the trail are Long Pond and the East Branch of the Tully River, which winds slowly toward Tully Lake. Further south along the trail, a stream tumbles over the ridgeline, creating the dramatic Spirit Falls. At the eastern edge of the Reservation lies Little Pond, the source of

[11] Described by TTOR: http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/362_royalston_falls.cfm.

Spirit Falls. Little Pond is a classic northern bog in which concentric rings of black spruce and tamarack surround open water and a mat of sphagnum moss. The Reservation is another link in the Tully Trail. Seasonal hunting is permitted at this property, subject to all state and town laws.

For more information on Trustees of Reservation properties, visit http://www.thetrustees.org/.

4.6.2 *Army Corps of Engineer properties*

- *Tully Lake/Tully Dam and Recreation Area*: This 1,300-acre reservation surrounding Tully Lake offers hiking, mountain biking, fishing, swimming, camping, bird watching, and kayaking/canoeing. Tully Lake is also located on the Tully Trail, linking with other local and regional open space, recreation, and wildlife areas. At the Tully Lake Campground, managed by The Trustees of Reservations, there are 35 tent-only campsites (including 15 waterfront sites) and two handicapped accessible (ADA-compliant) sites all large enough for two or three tents. A picnic table, fireplace and cooking grill, public bathhouse with toilet, shower, drinking water and ice are amenities included with the campsite rental. Other features include a full-time ranger during camping season, canoe and kayak rentals, firewood for sale nearby, a volleyball court, and a horseshoe pit.
- *Birch Hill Dam*: This 4,500-acre park on the Millers River offers hiking, fishing, swimming, camping, bird watching, and kayaking/canoeing, as well as cross-country skiing, ice fishing, snowshoeing, and dog sledding in the winter. Birch Hill has two campgrounds, Lake Dennison (150 sites) and Otter River State Forest (100 sites), both operated by the state.

For more information on Army Corps of Engineer properties, see http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/.

4.6.3 *Regional trails*

- *Tully Trail*: This 18-mile loop trail circles through the western half of Royalston, and dips into Warwick and Orange as well. The trail is managed by the Trustees of Reservations, and connects Tully Lake, the Tully Flood Control Area, Royalston State Forest, Royalston Falls, Warwick State Forest (in Warwick), the Fish Brook Wildlife Management Area, Orange State Forest, Tully Mountain Wildlife Management Area (in Orange), and the Tully Dam. To the north the Trail connects with the Mattabesset-Metacomet-Monadnock Trail. The trail was completed in 2001 as the first project of the recently formed North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership. For more information, visit http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/37_tully_trail.cfm.
- *Mattabessett-Metacomet-Monadnock Trail***:** This 117-mile trail connects the Metacomet Trail in Connecticut with Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire, crossing briefly through the northwest corner of Royalston (**Map 12**). The trail is maintained by the Appalachian Mountain Club's Berkshire Chapter. In 2009, the MMM Trail was designated as the New

England National Scenic Trail by the United States Congress.[12] For more information, visit http://www.newenglandnst.org/.

4.6.4 *Other local scenic areas and unique environments*

In 2008, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Central Massachusetts regional planning commission, the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, and the Royalston Open Space and Recreation Committee completed a Heritage Landscape Inventory of the town and produced a Reconnaissance Report.[13] Heritage landscapes identified as high priority for protection and preservation included the following:

- Royalston Common, with its historic homes, Town Hall, Library, and Post Office (see **§3.2**);
- South Royalston, with its history of manufacturing, its proximity to the Millers River, Whitney Hall, and the King Street Bridge;
- Tully Lake and the Tully Trail (see **§4.6.2** and **§4.6.3**);
- The rural and scenic roads throughout town – Royalston has designated all roads in Town, with the exception of Routes 32 and 68, as scenic roads under a local bylaw.
- The stone walls and other stone structures – Under state law, stone walls along roads and boundary walls cannot be removed. Alteration to stone walls along roads for driveway access must be permitted by the Conservation Commission.

Additional unique features include the following:

- Beaver meadows
- Historic cemeteries – Gale Gates Cemetery, Newton Cemetery, Old Center Cemetery, Riverside Cemetery, Maple Cemetery, Lawrence Brook Cemetery, Butterworth Cemetery, Under-the-Hill Cemetery, Jonas Alliene Cemetery, and Hillside Cemetery.
- Ehrich Forest – One of two forests in town owned and managed by the New England Forestry Foundation. This 126-acre forest is located on Prospect Hill in North Royalston.
- Chase Memorial Forest – One of two forests in town owned and managed by the New England Forestry Foundation. This 114-acre forest is located in South Royalston. Both Ehrich Forest and Chase Memorial Forest produce timber and firewood and also provide many habitats for wildlife.
- Royalston Academy Conservation Land – A parcel of approximately 80 acres on Northeast Fitzwilliam Road just north of the Royalston Common. The Academy sold their development rights to the Commonwealth, but still manages the land. Walking, hiking, and horseback-riding trails are maintained by volunteers for the use of local residents and visitors.

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[12] H.R. 1528; S. 923, signed March 30, 2009 as Public Law 111-11 (Section 5202). See: http://www.newenglandnst.org/

[13] The complete report can be found at http://www.royalston-ma.gov/OSRC/royalston_heritage_inventory.pdf.

- Scenic vistas (**Map 13**) - Especially notable at Jacob's Hill, the Ledges, the Royalston Bridges, the Fish Brook Wildlife Management Area, Coddings Meadow, the various waterfall trails, and the historic areas mentioned above.

4.7 Environmental Challenges

The town of Royalston can improve the condition and management of our natural resources. The Heritage Landscape Inventory identified challenges and opportunities for managing and improving the Common, South Royalston, Tully Lake, our scenic roads, and our stone walls. Details can be found in that report. Five other challenges warrant additional discussion here.

4.7.1 *Non-point pollution*

Non-point source pollution (NPS) is runoff that has been altered and contaminated by sources such as salt and sand from de-icing of the roads in winter, failing septic systems, underground storage tanks, landfills, abandoned gas stations, agricultural runoff, and fertilizer from lawns and other areas. These pollutants generally leach directly into water bodies, although some can also become suspended in the atmosphere and redeposited in rain or snow. Non-point source pollution continues to degrade the water quality of the Millers River.[14]

There are many ways to control and reduce the effects of NPS. In Royalston, primary attention should be paid to: minimizing to the extent possible the amount of salt and sand used in winter, encouraging all residents in town to pump and inspect septic systems every 2-3 years, maintaining culverts and storm drains clear of debris, and performing regular maintenance of the sewage treatment plant in South Royalston.

4.7.2 *Flooding, sedimentation, and erosion*

Large floods are less common in Royalston since the construction of the Tully and Birch Hill Dams over 70 years ago. Streams still flood during heavy rains, leading to minor erosion of stream banks and sedimentation plumes downstream. Landowners and foresters in town practice best management practices, which reduce erosion and sedimentation during and after forestry operations. The Conservation Commission reviews all forest management plans to ensure their compliance with state wetland regulations.

Beaver activity continues to increase throughout the town, creating localized flooding. Beaver populations have recovered from over-hunting and in the absence of wolves (their native predator) and with state-wide restrictions on hunting and trapping, the beaver are rapidly increasing their numbers. Beavers themselves are protected by the Division of Fisheries and

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[14] A detailed evaluation of NPS in the Millers River Watershed can be found in a report completed in July 2002 for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission and the Franklin County Council of Governments, entitled "Assessment of potential Non-Point Source Pollution for the Millers River in Massachusetts".

Wildlife; their habitat – wetlands or perennial streams – are protected locally by Conservation Commissions and statewide by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Managing flooding due to beavers is difficult given existing regulations. Management strategies should be implemented before problems occur; appropriate activities include proper design of roadways near water crossings with large culverts or "beaver deceivers." Town employees and residents need additional education about beavers, their ecology, and their effects on land.

4.7.3 *Forestry*

Forestry is an integral part of the rural economy of Royalston. As noted in **§3.4**, 26% of the town land is in Chapter 61 (see **Table 4** in **§5** for tabulation of Chapter 61 lands in Royalston). Town residents are generally supportive of sound forest management, and in the last decade, only one parcel has been withdrawn from Chapter 61. On the advice of the Open Space & Recreation Committee, the Town exercised its right of first refusal and transferred that right to the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, which purchased the property in fee and placed a permanent conservation restriction on it. Subsequently, Mount Grace transferred ownership of this parcel – the Page Lot – to DFW.

4.7.4 *Hazardous waste/brownfields and environmental justice populations*

Brownfields are "abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination."[15] The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for keeping a database and enforcing the cleanup of sites that are contaminated with toxic or hazardous waste. As of April 1, 2009, Royalston had no sites on this list, but Royalston could have undiscovered hazardous waste sites. It is important to regularly re-assess brownfield and hazardous waste sites in town.

Environmental justice populations are neighborhoods with high minority, non-English speaking, low-income, and foreign-born populations that may be exposed to a disproportionate share of environmental burdens.[16] Royalston has no known environmental justice populations or environmental equity issues (**Map 14**).[17]

4.7.5 *Solid waste disposal*

In August of 2003, the Royalston landfill (approximately four acres), located on Town Dump Road just southwest of the Royalston Common, was officially capped and closed. Since 1999, the site has been operating as a transfer station. The transfer station is surrounded by town-

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[15] http://epa.gov/brownfields/glossary.htm.

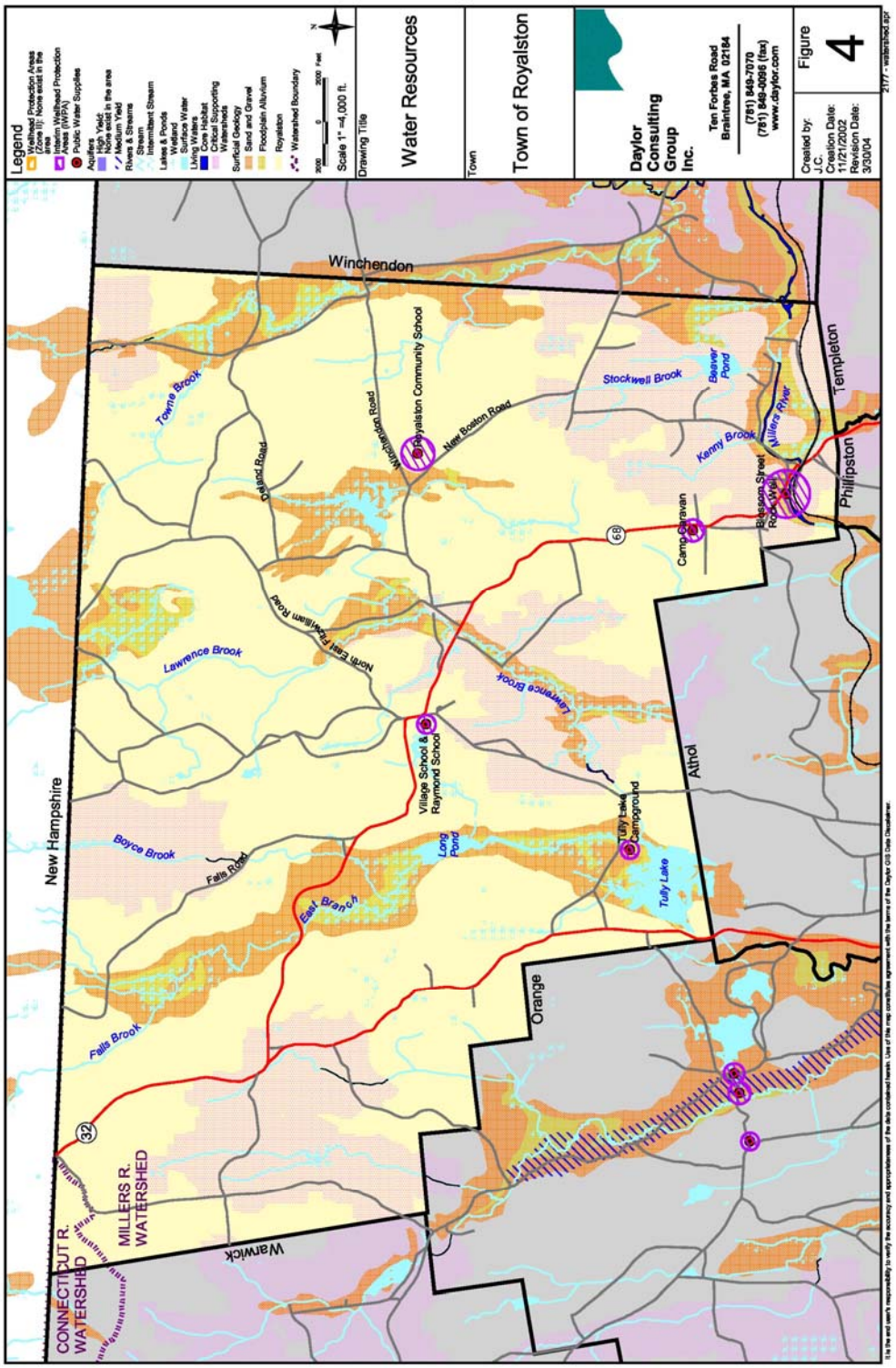
[16] http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeeaterminal&L=2&L0=Home&L1=Grants+%26+Technical+Assistance&sid=Eoeea&b=terminalcontent&f=eea_sgse_env_equity&csid=Eoeea.

[17] Based on 2000 census data: http://www.mass.gov/mgis/cen2000_ej.htm.

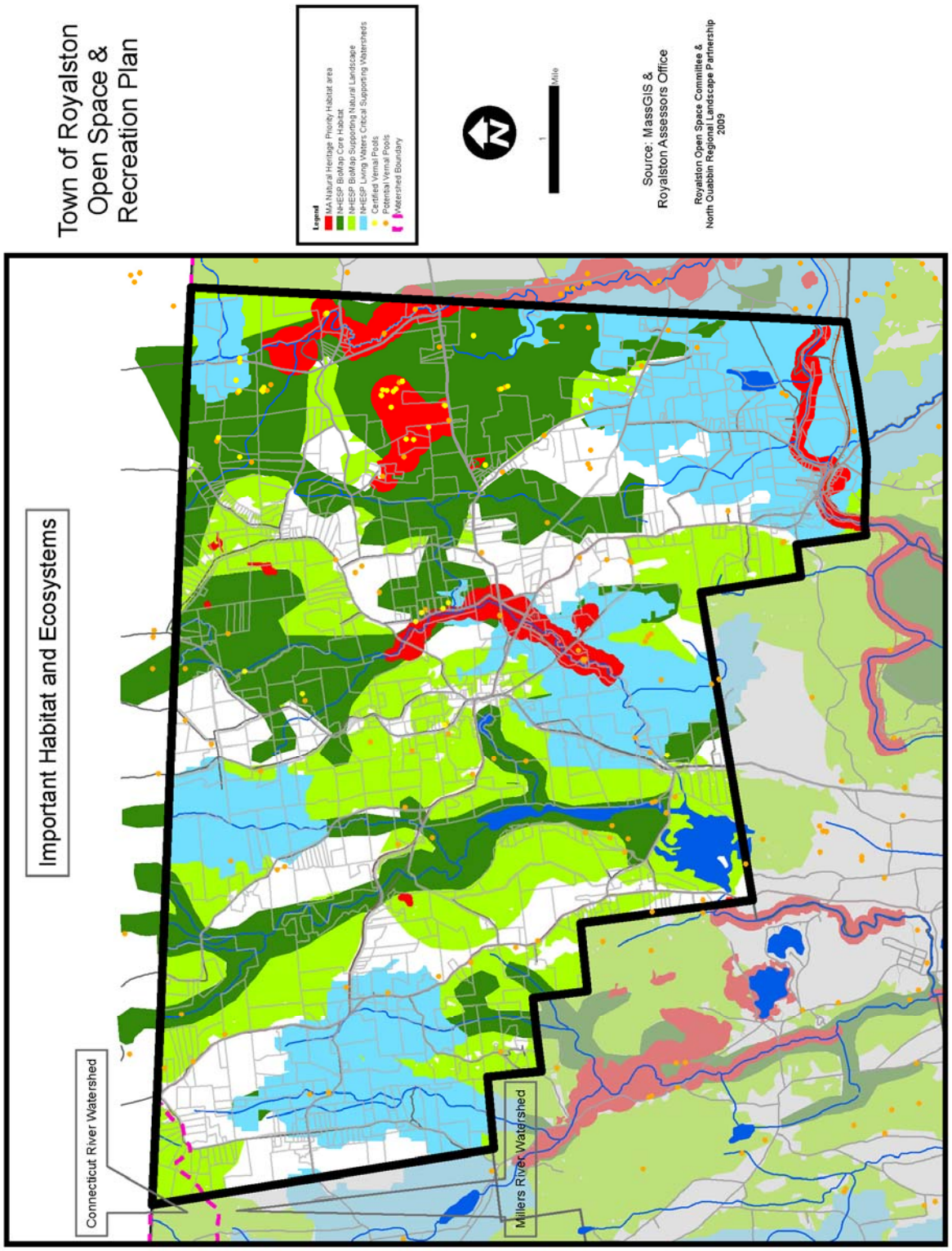
owned land on all sides and it is managed by the Board of Health. The Board of Health is responsible for continuing to maintain the vegetative cover on the capped landfill and for managing the active transfer and recycling center. There is one part-time employee who oversees operations and helps residents recycle and dispose of materials when the station is open. Residents are responsible for delivering their trash and recycling to the transfer station where it is then shipped to one of several facilities nearby. Metal waste goes to a Greenfield facility, demolition waste to the Chicopee landfill, solid waste to the Gardener landfill, paper waste to Fitchburg and bottles and cans to a facility in Springfield. No environmental problems currently are known to occur at this site but it is regularly monitored by the Board of Health.

4.7.6 *Building human capacity to manage open space*

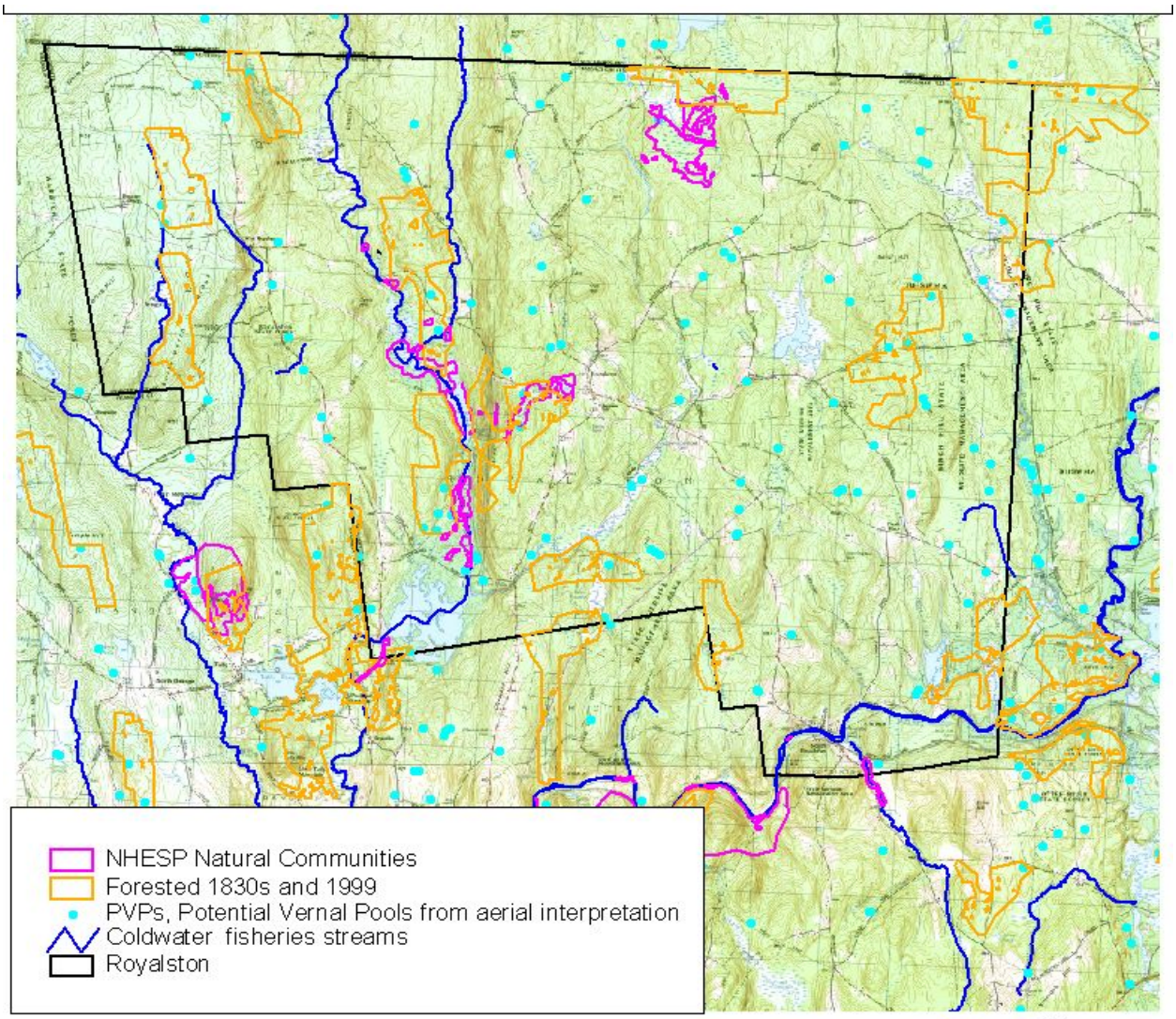
We value highly the natural resources that are so abundant in Royalston, and town residents regularly report a strong desire to protect these resources. Our surveys in 2004 and 2009 indicate that many residents are seriously concerned about water and air quality and the preservation of "rural small town character" and "scenic views," as well as a desire to maintain wildlife and endangered species habitats (see **§6**). With the economy in decline, there is less concern in 2009 than there was in 2004 about the overall increase in the pace of development in Royalston. Nevertheless, as surrounding towns and suburbs become more crowded and built out, the push for home and land ownership continues to move further into the western part of the state. The oversight and management of open space in Royalston is done entirely by volunteers for the Conservation Commission, the Open Space and Recreation Committee, and the Community Preservation Committee. Because only a small number of town residents participate in town governance and serve on town boards, the work of implementing this and other plans (such as the Heritage Landscape Inventory) fall to only a few individuals. Sustained assessment and implementation of management plans would be facilitated by higher levels of participation in town governance.



Map 7 – Water resources of Royalston

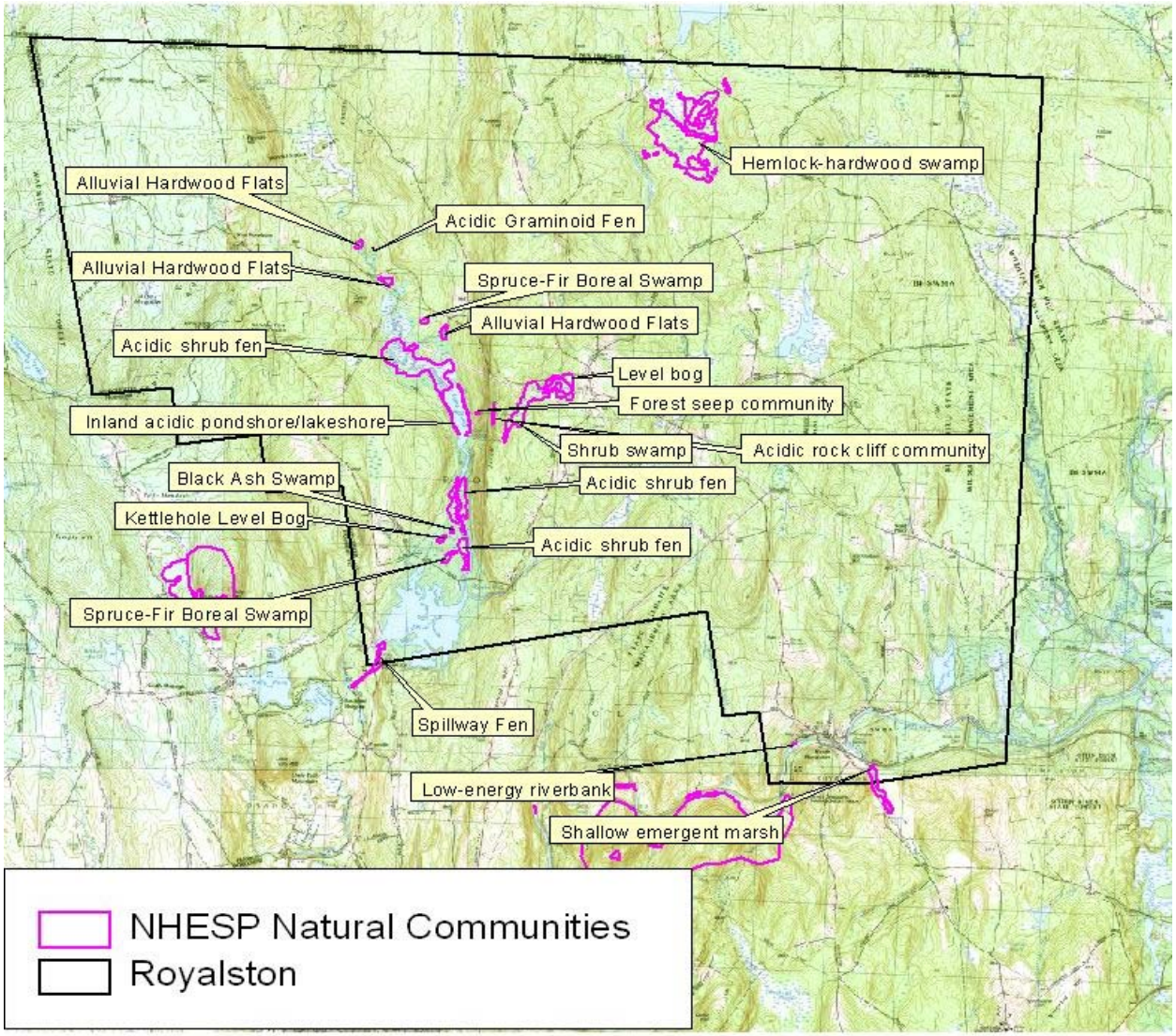


Map 8 – Endangered species habitat, BioMap and Living Waters core and supporting habitat, and certified vernal pools in Royalston.



Data Source:
NHESP, DFW, MassGIS, Harvard Forest
Map created: May 1, 2009

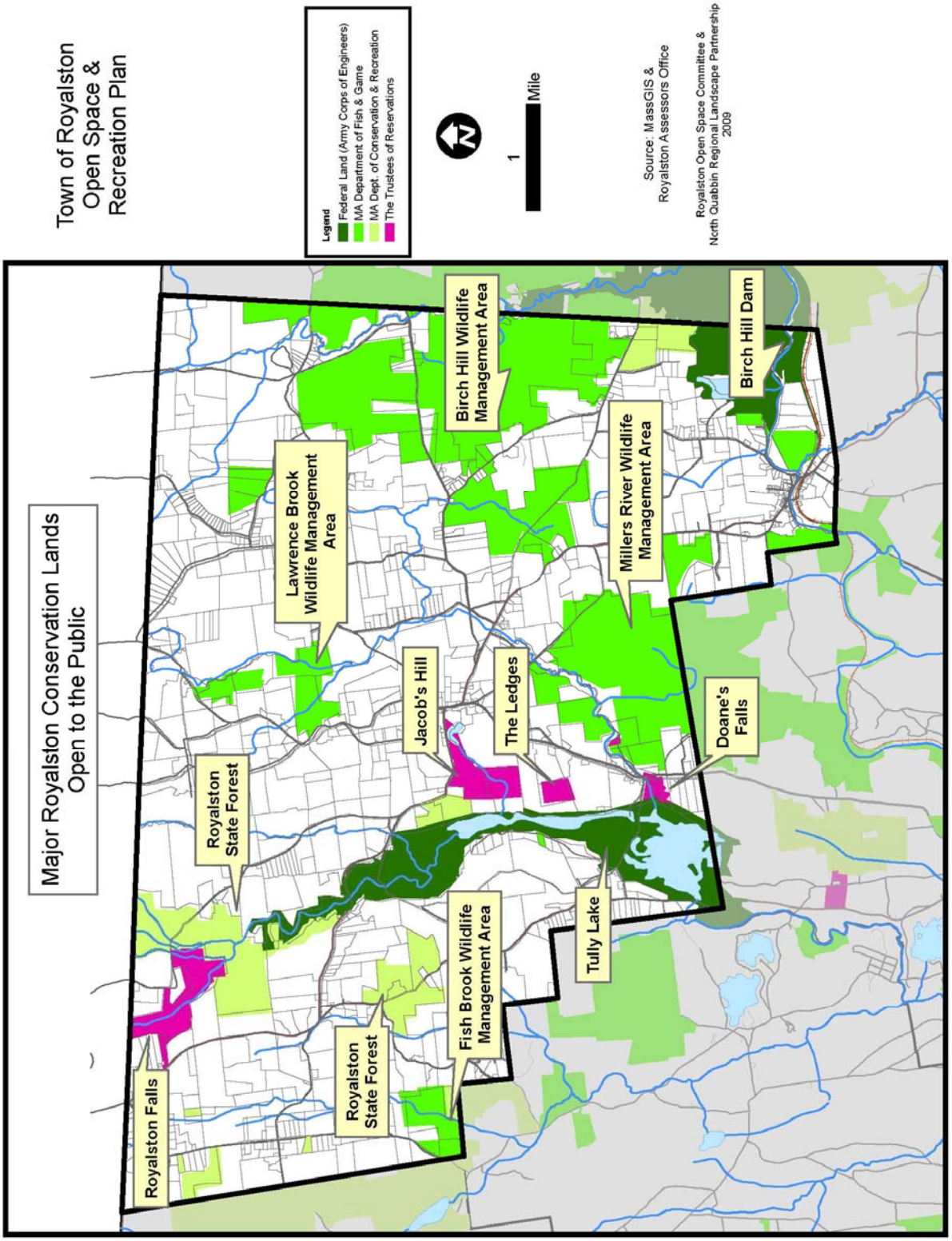
Map 9 – Patches of forests that have been wooded at least since 1830. Also shown are boundaries of priority natural communities (see also Map 7), potential vernal pools (see also Map 5), and streams and rivers supporting cold water fisheries.



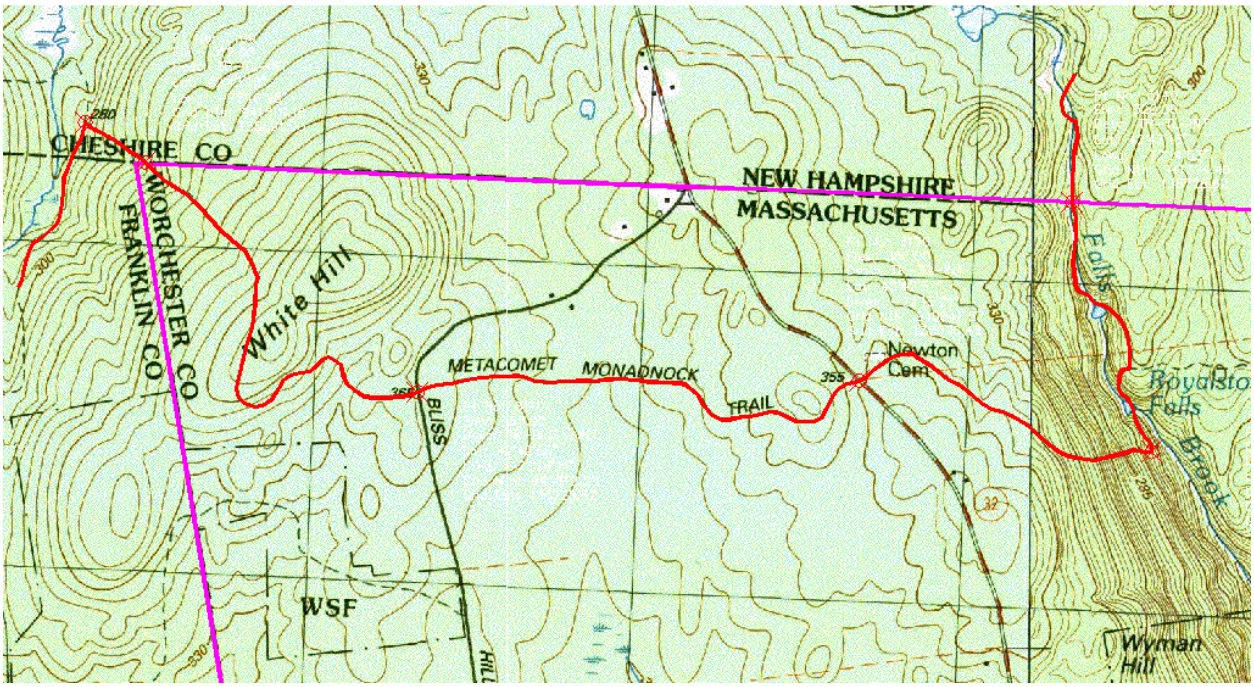
Data Source: NHESP, MassGIS
Background: MassGIS USGS Topographic map
Map created May 6, 2009

N

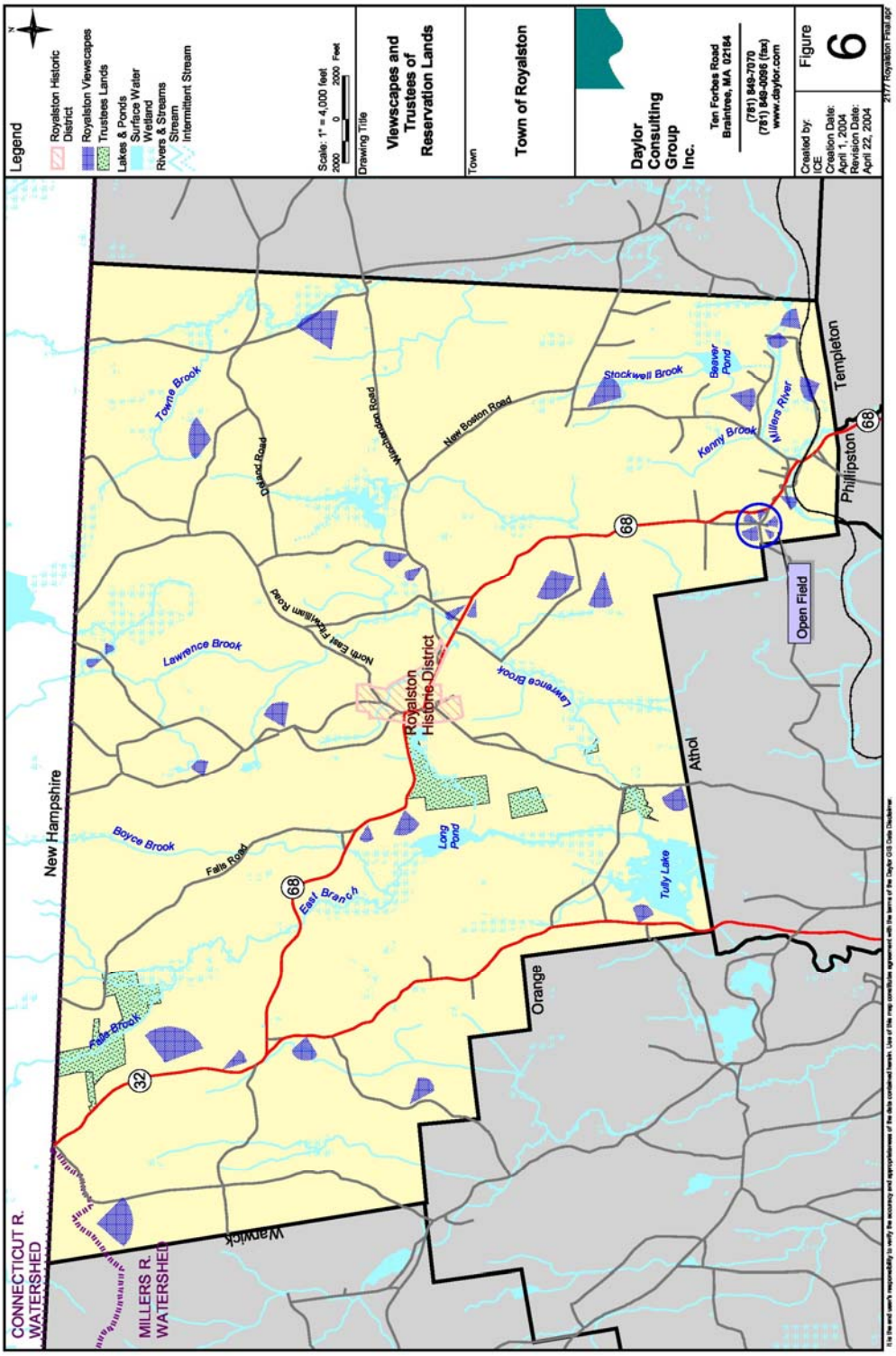
Map 10 – Priority natural community types of Royalston



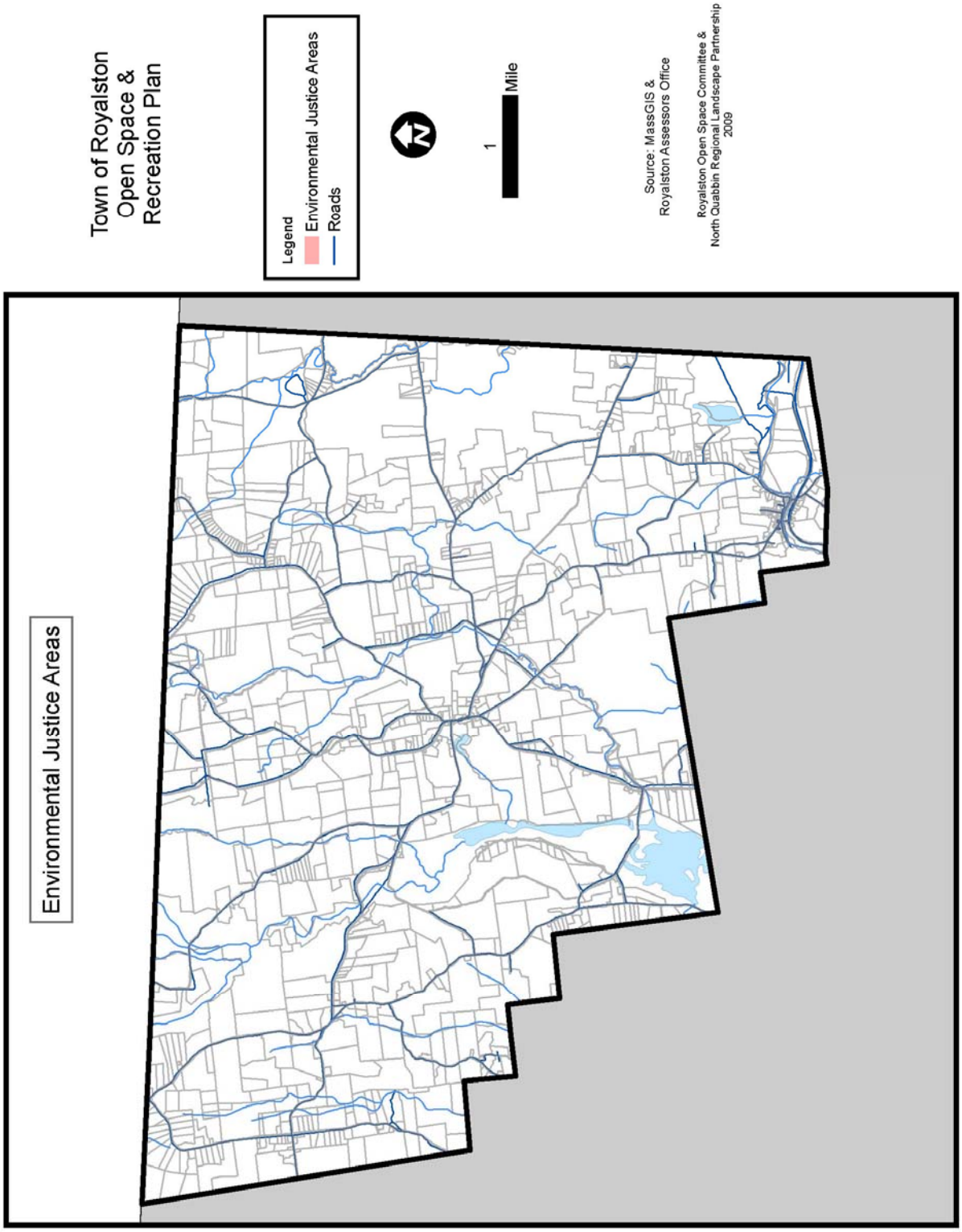
Map 11 – Major recreation areas with public access in Roylaston



Map 12 – Approximate location of the Mattabessett-Metacomet-Monadnock Trail / New England National Scenic Trail in Royalston



Map 13 – Viewscapes of Royalston



Map 14 – Environmental justice populations of Royalston

5. Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreational Interest

The quality of life in Royalston is enriched by the quality of the open space in our town and in the North Quabbin Region. Town residents, and elected and appointed town officials all strongly support the continued protection, maintenance, and diversification of open space and its attendant recreational opportunities for Royalston residents and members of surrounding towns. Open space is of significant aesthetic value and both forest management and woodland recreation yield substantial economic gains for the town and the region. Open space also provides important "ecosystem services," including clean air and water.

This section provides an inventory of current open space in Royalston. The tables and maps include parks, forests, wildlife management areas, conservation lands, and significant other open space parcels drawn from data provided by the Royalston Board of Assessors, MassGIS, MRPC, the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, and the Mt. Grace Land Trust.

The base table of permanently protected open space (**Table 3**) was created by the McGregor & Associates for the 2004 Open Space & Recreation Plan; only two additional parcels have been added since 2004. Data in the table include a site name, acreage, owner, agency or department responsible for maintenance and management, current and potential uses, zoning, and whether or not public access is permitted. Federal sites are at least partially ADA accessible. No grants have been used to purchase or renovate any of the protected properties.

The open space map (**Map 2**) also includes lands in Chapter 61 (forestry), 61A (agriculture), and 61B (recreation/conservation). Approximately 26% of Royalston's land is currently under the MGL Chapter 61 Forestland Tax Law. Chapter 61 allows landowners to significantly reduce the tax levy on their woodlands if they agree to leave the land undeveloped and in wood production in accordance with an approved forest management plan. Preserving and promoting forestry and forestry management in Royalston as an activity would not only increase the level of awareness of using and protecting forests as a resource, but it could also potentially add to the land in Chapter 61 programs. When landowners decide to withdraw from Chapter 61, the Town has statutory authority to recover tax benefits accrued while the land was in Chapter 61, and also has the right of first refusal on the property if it is to be sold for non-forestry (Chapter 61), agriculture (61A), or recreation/conservation (61B) uses. The Board of Selectmen in Royalston has designated the Open Space & Recreation Committee as the point of contact to initiate any discussions regarding withdrawal from Chapter 61/61A/61B and the Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen as to whether or not the Town should exercise its right of first refusal. For more information on the Chapter 61 program, see http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/gl-61-toc.htm, http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/service/fortax.htm, and http://www.masswoods.net/index.php/landowner-programs/ch61programs.

5.1 Different Types of Protection

Open space within a Town, whether publicly or privately owned, can be protected against development in a number of different ways. The following are all forms of permanent open space

protection employed (or potentially employed) in Royalston. Of these types of protection, only protection through deed restrictions or funding through the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) or Self-Help programs (often requiring the placement of a deed restriction) are considered by the Division of Conservation Services to be protected "in perpetuity."

- *Land & Water Conservation Fund Protection/Self-Help Funding Protection*: In the case of potential acquisitions of land by the town for protection, the receipt of funding from these grant programs affords these parcels protection as parklands, essentially in perpetuity. Note that for these properties the protection of Article 97 (below) would apply as well.
- *Article 97 Protection*: A codification of the "Public Trust Doctrine," Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution protects all publicly owned lands used for conservation or recreation purposes. Before these properties can be sold, transferred, or even converted to a different use, this amendment requires a vote of the Town as well as a roll-call vote of the State House of Representatives and Senate.
- *Protection through Ownership (Protection "in fee")*: In most cases in Royalston, the open space in question has been acquired in its entirety ("in fee") by a public or private conservation interest – a State or Federal agency, or nonprofit organization such as the Trustees of Reservations or the New England Forestry Foundation. In many cases, such ownership will trigger other forms of protection, such as Article 97. If the owner is a nonprofit organization, the land could in theory be sold and/or developed, but doing so could contradict the group's conservation purpose.
- *Protection through Conservation Restrictions, Easements, or other Deed Instruments*: Due to the high costs of acquiring land, it has become increasingly popular to acquire conservation restrictions limiting future development. Similarly, access easements can provide permanent public access to a property. In certain situations, deed restrictions or easements may be granted by a private party as part of a development approval process. As with any matters involving real property, care must be taken in the drafting of the restrictions to ensure the rights and interests of all parties are represented and clearly documented. A new challenge for conservation restrictions and other deed instruments is to ensure that subsequent generations or new landowners are clearly aware of the restrictions and provisions of any deed instrument. Conservation Restrictions must be approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services.
- *Chapter 61*: As discussed above, placing land in Chapter 61 represents a commitment by the landowner to manage the land for forestry, agriculture, or recreation (**Table 4**). Because a landowner can withdraw from Chapter 61 programs, they do not afford permanent protection of a parcel from development.

Table 3. *Inventory of parcels of conservation and recreation interest.*

Site Name	Acres	Owner	Mgmt. Agency (CR Holder)	Level of Protection	Public Access	Current Use	Potential Use	Zoning
Federal Lands (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)								
Tully Lake	1257.87	ACOE	ACOE	Permanently Protected - Federal	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Tully Lake	380.99	ACOE	ACOE	Permanently Protected - Federal	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Tully Lake	69.76	ACOE	ACOE	Permanently Protected - Federal	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Subtotal:	**1708.62**							
State Lands (Department of Environmental Management)								
Otter River State Forest	52.55	DEM	DEM	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Otter River State Forest	87.99	DEM	DEM	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Royalston State Forest	482.46	DEM	DEM	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Royalston State Forest	61.55	DEM	DEM	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Royalston State Forest	0.77	DEM	DEM	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Royalston State Forest	174.24	DEM	DEM	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Warwick State Forest	35.38	DEM	DEM	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Warwick State Forest	64.16	DEM	DEM	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Warwick State Forest	27.58	DEM	DEM	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Tully Initiative Land	174.00	DEM	DEM	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Subtotal:	**1160.68**							

State Lands (Department of Fisheries and Wildlife)								
Birch Hill WMA	513.78	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Birch Hill WMA	116.78	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Birch Hill WMA	43.70	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Birch Hill WMA	1118.62	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Birch Hill WMA	0.19	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Birch Hill WMA	419.25	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Birch Hill WMA	102.46	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Birch Hill WMA	5.75	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Birch Hill WMA	42.17	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Birch Hill WMA	17.41	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Birch Hill WMA	4.11	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Birch Hill WMA	78.68	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Flood Control; Recreation	N/A	RRA
Fish Brook WMA	121.83	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Fish Brook WMA	41.02	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Lawrence Brook WMA	82.33	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Lawrence Brook WMA	187.66	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Miller River WMA	8.20	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Miller River WMA	227.17	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA

Miller River WMA	10.00	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Miller River WMA	398.48	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Miller River WMA	101.44	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Miller River WMA	134.65	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Miller River WMA	100.69	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Miller River WMA	66.20	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Miller River WMA	7.28	DFW	DFW	Permanently Protected - State	Open	Recreation; Wildlife mgmt.	N/A	RRA
Page Lot	25.00	DFW	DFW	Permanently-Protected - State	Open	Conservation; recreation	Forestry	RRA
Tully Initiative Lands	248.80	DFW	DFW	Permanently-Protected - State	Open	Conservation; recreation	Forestry	RRA
Subtotal:	**4223.65**							
Lands of The Town of Royalston								
Town Dump Land	80	Town of Royalston	Town of Royalston	None	Open	Forestry	Development	RRA
Deland Road Parcel	10.9	Town of Royalston	Town of Royalston	None	Open	None	Development	RRA
Map 10, Lots 30 & 36	153.1	Town of Royalston	Town of Royalston	Permanently Protected - Town	Open	None	Recreation	RRA
Subtotal:	**244.0**							
Lands of The Trustees of Reservations								
Coddings Meadow	4.25	TTOR	TTOR	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	N/A	RRA
Doane's Falls	1.43	TTOR	TTOR	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	N/A	RRA
Doane's Falls	28.77	TTOR	TTOR	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	N/A	RRA
Jacobs Hill Reservation	156.12	TTOR	TTOR	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	N/A	RRA

Royalston Falls	198.82	TTOR	TTOR	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	N/A	RRA
Royalston Falls	12.01	TTOR	TTOR	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	N/A	RRA
The Ledges	37.64	TTOR	TTOR	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	N/A	RRA
Subtotal:	**439.04**							
Privately-held Open Space								
Anderson	48.00	Anderson	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Andreliunas	43.00	Andreliunas	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Beals	754.00	Beals	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Bliss	32.00	Bliss	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Bowler	7.00	Bowler	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Bundschuh	33.00	Bundschuh	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Byers	86.00	Byers	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Chase Memorial Forest	48.08	NEFF	NEFF	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Chase Memorial Forest	64.22	NEFF	NEFF	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Cook	14.00	Cook	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Corser	30.00	Corser	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Corser	75.00	Corser	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Coyle	11.00	Coyle	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #1	0.93	Dysert	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #1	4.46	Dysert	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #1	0.60	Hopps-Sullivan	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA

CR #1	5.30	Hopps-Sullivan	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #1	0.62	Mitchell	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #1	4.74	Mitchell	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #2	1.06	Drazen	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #2	5.08	Drazen	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #2	1.44	Hurley	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #2	7.65	Hurley	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #2	0.22	Lldg Realty Trust	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #2	1.51	Lldg Realty Trust	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #2	0.22	Sauls Family Trust	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #2	6.61	Sauls Family Trust	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
CR #2	0.02	Sauls Family Trust	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Draper	79.00	Draper	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Dysert/Anderson	6.00	Dysert / Anderson	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Ehrich Forest	25.16	NEFF	NEFF	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Ehrich Forest	97.13	NEFF	NEFF	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Ellison/Farnsworth	104.00	Ellison / Farnsworth	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Freden	8.00	Freden	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Funsch	80.00	Funsch	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Graves	59.00	Graves	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Hamlett II	117.00	Hamlett II	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA

Hardie	20.00	Hardie	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Harrington	120.00	Harrington	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Hurley	9.00	Hurley	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Jackson	71.00	Jackson	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lawrence Brook	15.83	Draper	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lawrence Brook	58.65	Draper	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lawrence Brook	4.68	Draper	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lawrence Brook	6.63	Freden	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lawrence Brook	1.14	Freden	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lawrence Brook	15.13	Hardie	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lawrence Brook	3.43	Hardie	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lawrence Brook	0.16	Hardie	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lawrence Brook	0.09	Hardie	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Closed	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lawrence Brook	48.87	Jackson	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lawrence Brook	23.00	Jackson	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lee-Loy	12.00	Lee-Loy	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Leger	27.00	Leger	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Leonard	44.00	Leonard	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Long	61.00	Long	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Lyons	23.00	Lyons	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
McCahon	66.00	McCahon	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
McGowan	10.00	McGowan	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA

Michaud	14.00	Michaud	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Miller River	22.90	Musco	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Miller River	25.41	Musco	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Miller River	13.09	Rabinowitz	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Miller River	3.87	Rabinowitz	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Musco	52.00	Musco	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Musco	45.00	Musco	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Otto	155.00	Otto	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Parisi	16.00	Parisi	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Plourde	127.73	Plourde	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Rabinowitz	18.00	Rabinowitz	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Royalston Academy	120.00	Royalston Academy	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Shady Brook Trust	70.00	Shady Brook Trust	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Sils	42.00	Sils	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Simmington	8.00	Simmington	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Stockwell	7.00	Stockwell	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Tall Timbers	40.24	Harvard Forest	Harvard University	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Taylor	30.00	Taylor	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Tishler	64.77	Tishler	Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust	Permanently Protected – Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Wachtel	20.00	Wachtel	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Wallace	8.00	Wallace	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA

Weiner	90.00	Weiner	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Willhite	87.00	Willhite	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Willis	16.00	Willis	DEM	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Young	20.00	Young	DFW	Permanently Protected - Private	Open	Recreation	Forestry	RRA
Subtotal:	**6223.15**							
GRAND TOTAL	**11049.00**							

Table 4. *Parcels in Royalston that are temporarily protected under Chapters 61, 61-A, and 61-B.*

Owner	Parcel Address	Parcel Size (Acres)	Acres in Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B	Acres excluded
Lands in Chapter 61			**4911.91**	**188.87**
BEALS TRUST, GEORGE C	WARWICK RD.	74	74	0
BEALS TRUST, GEORGE C	FALLS RD.	70.5	70.5	0
BEALS TRUST, GEORGE C.	ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	61	61	0
BLASCO, MAUREEN, DOOLEY FAIRCH	13 WARD HILL RD.	14	6.25	7.75
BODMAN, GEORGE H.	ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	90	90	0
BODMAN, GEORGE H.	STOCKWELL RD.	37	37	0
BODMAN, GEORGE H.	NORCROSS RD.	12.75	12.75	0
BODMAN, GEORGE H.	NORCROSS RD.	10.16	10.16	0
BOSSE, HERVE	FALLS RD.	31	31	0
BOSSE, HERVE J.	FALLS RD.	3	3	0
BYERS, FRANK HUGH	69 BUTTERWORTH ROAD	10.6	7.6	3
BYERS, FRANK HUGH	52 ATHOL RD.	17.1	14.1	3
CARBONE, MARIO R.	PIKE RD.	125.5	125.5	0
COOPER, ANTHONY	PROSPECT HILL RD.	18	18	0
COOPER, ANTHONY	NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	3.5	3.5	0
COOPER, ANTHONY	NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	48.5	48.5	0
COOPER, ANTHONY	19 NE FITZWILLIAM RD.	87.6	87.6	0
CORSER, RICHARD G.	TURNPIKE RD.	24	24	0
COWLS INC., W. D.	DAVIS HILL RD.	10	10	0
DELACOSTE,PHILIPPE J. TRUSTEE	BLISS HILL RD.	94	94	0

DESMARAIS, HARVEY	ADAMS RD.	18	18	0
DESMARAIS, HARVEY A.	PROSPECT HILL RD.	17.7	17.7	0
DESMARAIS, HARVEY A.	PROSPECT HILL RD.	3.5	3.5	0
DESMARAIS, HARVEY A.	NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	24	24	0
DESMARAIS, HARVEY A.	NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	10	10	0
DIVOLL, JOHN M.	SO.ROYALSTON RD.	79.1	79.1	0
DIVOLL, RANDY S.	TAFT HILL RD.	10.3	10.3	0
DIVOLL, RANDY S.	ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	168.9	168.9	0
DRAPER, JAMES L.	WARWICK RD.	30	30	0
DRAPER, JAMES L.	FALLS RD.	31.5	31.5	0
DRAPER, JAMES L.	WARWICK RD.	58.7	58.7	0
ELDER, MARY E.	89 NE FITZWILLIAM RD.	13.5	10.5	3
FAGAL REVOCABLE TRUST, HAROLD	BLISS HILL RD	32	32	0
FAGAL REVOCABLE TRUST, HAROLD	ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	17	17	0
FAGAL REVOCABLE TRUST, HAROLD	BLISS HILL RD.	6.1	6.1	0
FAGAL REVOCABLE TRUST, HAROLD	ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	51	51	0
FANTOZZI, JOSEPH	NE FITZWILLIAM RD.	2	2	0
FANTOZZI, JOSEPH	NE FITZWILIAM RD.	10.82	10.82	0
FANTOZZI, JOSEPH A	NE FITZWILLIAM RD.	8.9	8.9	0
FANTOZZI, JOSEPH A	95 DELAND RD.	62.4	62.4	0
FANTOZZI, JOSEPH A.	NE FITZWILLIAM RD.	50	50	0
FREUDENHEIM, TOM L.	26 STEWART RD.	144	132	12
FREUDENHEIM, TOM L.	4 DICKLEY RD.	48.5	41.5	7
FUNSCH, ROBERT W.	PIKE RD.	49.3	49.3	0
FUNSCH, ROBERT W.	NE FITZWILLIAM RD.	30	30	0
FUNSCH, ROBERT W.	LAUREL LAKE RD.	38.7	38.7	0
GRAVES, DONALD E.	TAFT HILL RD.	15	15	0
HARDIE, JON H.	WARWICK RD	58.1	58.1	0
HARTSHORN, SALLY Q.	TAFT HILL RD.	16.15	16.15	0
HOOD, WILLIAM E.	176 NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	206	203	3
HOOD, WILLIAM E.	107 NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	17	14	3
JACKSON, MARY ELIOT	SO.ROYALSTON RD.	44.6	40	4.6
JACKSON, MARY ELIOT	21 SO.ROYALSTON RD.	60	48	12
KOLIMAGA, EUGENE W.	DAVIS HILL RD.	224.5	224.5	0

LEBOEUF, THOMAS J.	TURNPIKE RD.	102	102	0
LEBOEUF, THOMAS J.	TAFT HILL RD.	25	25	0
LEBOEUF, THOMAS J.	WARWICK RD.	2.1	2.1	0
LEBOEUF, THOMAS J.	WARWICK RD.	118	118	0
LEBOEUF, THOMAS J.	FALLS RD.	188	188	0
LEGER, PHILIP	FALLS RD.	19.5	19.5	0
LEGER, PHILIP D.	FALLS RD.	75	75	0
LONG, CLYDE B	SO.ROYALSTON RD.	31.8	31.8	0
LONGSWORTH, CHARLES R.	TURNPIKE RD.	8.5	8.5	0
MAGEE, ROSEMARY	122 NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	35.6	30.6	5
MARY E. ELDER	175 NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	62.5	59.5	3
MCPHEE REALTY TRUST	169 NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	8	5	3
MIKSIS, EDWARD	19 PROSPECT HILL RD.	86	66	20
MILLERS RIVER BEAGLE CLUB	SO.ROYALSTON RD.	52	52	0
MOREY, KENNETH H.	TAFT HILL RD.	100	100	0
MOREY, KENNETH H.	2 NEALE PLACE	89	73	16
MOREY, KENNETH H.	5 STOCKWELL RD.	175	144	31
MUSCO, THOMAS G.	ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	105	105	0
MUSCO, THOMAS G.	ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	11.5	11.5	0
MUSCO, THOMAS G.	32 PROSPECT HILL RD.	43.8	34.8	9
NASH, ANGUS MCCLAY	ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	77	77	0
NEALE, THEODORE WESLEY	PROSPECT HILL RD.	27.25	25	2.25
NEALE, THEODORE WESLEY	178 NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	12	9	3
NEALE, THEODORE WESLEY	MILLYARD RD.	40	38.25	1.75
NORTHROP, GEORGE N.	SINIVUORI RD.	30	30	0
NORTHROP, GEORGE N.	SO.ROYALSTON RD.	16.44	16.44	0
NORTHROP, GEORGE N.	SO.ROYALSTON RD.	8	8	0
O`CONNOR, MARK	FALLS RD.	20	20	0
O'CONNOR, MARK	FALLS RD.	9	9	0
OTTO IV, LUTHER M.	NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	4	4	0
OTTO IV, LUTHER M.	NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	17	17	0
PAGE, ALAN C.	TAFT HILL RD.	38.7	38.7	0
PARNANEN, LISA LEIGH	71 PROSPECT HILL RD.	105	102	3
PERKINS, RICHARD F.	ATHOL RD.	3.96	1.96	2

PERKINS, RICHARD F.	7 OLD WINCHENDON RD	3.1	2.23	0.87
PERKINS, RICHARD F.	ATHOL RD.	60	50	10
PERKINS, RICHARD F.	4 PROSPECT HILL RD.	7	3.8	3.2
PIED FAMILY TRUST	350 ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	30	25.6	4.4
PIED FAMILY TRUST	118 FALLS RD.	18.2	14.2	4
PLOURDE, ROGER JR	TAFT HILL RD.	28.7	28.7	0
PUTNEY, DAVID C.	BLISS HILL RD.	61	61	0
PUTNEY, DAVID C.	ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	13	13	0
PUTNEY, JAMES	BLISS HILL RD	85	85	0
PUTNEY, ROGER A. & SON	SO.ROYALSTON RD.	35	35	0
PUTNEY, ROGER A. & SON	ATHOL RD.	56	56	0
RABINOWITZ, PHILIP W.	68 PROSPECT HILL RD.	40	37	3
ROYALSTON ACADEMY INC.	PROSPECT HILL RD.	60	60	0
SHAW, JUDITH M.	NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	10.5	6	4.5
SOLINAS, JAMES	34 SO.ROYALSTON RD.	14	14	0
SOLINAS, JAMES	7 OLD WINCHENDON RD	22.248	20.7	1.548
SOLINAS, JAMES A.	MILLYARD RD.	20	20	0
STEIM, JOSEPH M.& DAWN M. STEIM,	DICKLEY RD.	4.8	4.8	0
TURNBULL, EDITH	WINCHENDON RD.	44.5	44.5	0
WARNER, WENDY	TURNPIKE RD.	49	49	0
WARNER, WENDY L.	TURNPIKE RD.	142.8	142.8	0
WETMORE, JR. ROBERT D.	FALLS RD.	26.8	26.8	0
WINCHENDON ROD & GUN CLUB	SO.ROYALSTON RD.	23	23	0
Lands in Chapter 61-A			**1930.66**	**76.57**
ANDRELIUNAS, VYTO L.	ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	6	6	0
ANDRELIUNAS, VYTO L.	BROWN ROAD	48.87	48.87	0
ANDRELIUNAS, VYTO L.	WINCHENDON RD.	23.61	23.61	0
BEALS ESTATE, GEORGE C.	LAUREL LAKE RD.	15.1	15.1	0
BEALS ESTATE, GEORGE C.	WARWICK RD.	102.69	102.69	0
BEALS TRUST, GEORGE C	LAUREL LAKE RD.	27	27	0
BEALS TRUST, GEORGE C	NE FITZWILLIAM RD.	12.6	12.6	0
BEALS TRUST, GEORGE C.	LAUREL LAKE RD.	75	75	0
BEALS TRUST, GEORGE C.	WARWICK RD.	59.3	59.3	0

BEALS TRUST, GEORGE C.	DELAND RD.	40	40	0
BEALS TRUST, GEORGE C.	16 STONE RD.	3	3	0
BEALS TRUST, GEORGE C.	159 ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	163	160	3
BEALS TRUST, GEORGE C.	FALLS RD.	35.3	31.3	4
BOLDUC, PAUL C.	9 TONEY RD.	90	87	3
COHEN, STUART J.	NEALE RD.	18.85	18.85	0
COHEN, STUART J.	NEALE RD.	32.9	32.9	0
FELTMAN, NEAL G	20 LAUREL LAKE RD.	54	36	18
FOOTE, GEORGE	STONE RD.	11.76	11.76	0
FOOTE, LISA HARRINGTON	DELAND RD.	82.4	82.4	0
FOOTE, LISA HARRINGTON	BERYL HILL	12	12	0
FOOTE, LISA HARRINGTON	WINCHENDON RD.	137	137	0
HARRIS, ROBERT	67 NEW BOSTON RD.	84	84	0
HARRIS, ROBERT J.	JARVENPAA RD.	20.5	20.5	0
HARRIS, ROBERT J.	JARVENPAA RD.	4.7	4.7	0
HOAG, MARY S.	NEALE RD.	47.6	47.6	0
HOFFMAN, ANN	BERYL HILL RD.	25	25	0
HOFFMAN, ANNE	LAUREL LAKE RD.	40	40	0
HOFFMAN, ANNE	WARWICK RD	52.8	52.8	0
HOFFMAN, ANNE	BLISS HILL RD.	40	40	0
HOFFMAN, ANNE	DELAND HILL RD.	56	56	0
JACKSON, MARY ELIOT	119 NO.FITZWILLIAM RD.	24.7	19	5.7
JACKSON, MARY ELIOT	43 LAUREL LAKE RD.	24.25	19.75	4.5
LAFOND, MICHAEL J.	NEW BOSTON RD.	62	54.92	7.08
LONGSWORTH, CHARLES R.	8 BERYL HILL RD.	8	5	3
MACPHAIL, J. LINDA	25 PROSPECT HILL RD.	41	38	3
MAGEE, ROSEMARY	ATHOL-RICHMOND RD.	12.13	4.5	7.63
MONETTE, SCOTT S.	4 ELM ST.	78	75	3
MOREY, KENNETH H.	PROSPECT HILL RD.	30.25	30.25	0
NORMAN, JR., DONALD E.	NEALE RD.	41.9	38.74	3.16
NUNES, JOSEPH K.	STONE RD.	5.3	5.3	0
PETERSON, ROBERT S.	NEALE RD.	56.2	56.2	0
PETRACCO, ANDREW	27 DELAND HILL RD.	43.7	41.1	2.6
RABINOWITZ, PHILIP W.	1 NEALE PLACE	12.2	11.7	0.5

SIEGEL, LARRY	NEALE RD.	65	65	0
SIEGEL, LARRY	16 JARVENPAA RD.	4.62	4.62	0
STEIM, JOSEPH M.	15 DELAND HILL RD.	19.8	16.8	3
STEIM, JOSEPH M. & DAWN M. STEIM	46 TAFT HILL RD.	12.4	10	2.4
WEST, STEPHEN R.	NEALE RD.	7.8	7.8	0
WILLHITE, VALMORE E	11 FALLS RD.	37	34	3
Lands in Chapter 61-B			**181.8**	**3**
AHORANTA, MAILIS	BUTTERWORTH RD.	15	15	0
AHORANTA, MAILIS K.	177 WINCHENDON RD.	17	14	3
PERKINS, RICHARD F.	NE FITZWILLIAM RD.	152.8	152.8	0
Total Acreage in Chapters 61, 61-A, and 61-B			**7024.37**	

6. COMMUNITY VISION

6.1 Description of the Process

The development of this Plan caps nearly two years of planning efforts by the Open Space and Recreation Committee. These efforts included:

1. Discussion and passage of the Community Preservation Act in 2008 (which included many open meetings and public hearings);
2. Completion of a Heritage Landscape Inventory in 2008 (which included 3 open meetings);
3. A survey of town residents (**Appendix A**) to assess their attitudes and ideas for open space protection and recreational improvements;
4. Two open meetings to identify goals and objectives for this Plan.

In 2008, the Committee held three public forums to discuss general approaches and specific objectives for community preservation and recreation. At the first forum, Katherine Roth from the statewide CPA coalition gave a presentation on the Community Preservation Act and how it could affect planning and implementation of CPA-associated goals in Royalston. Two follow-up forums, one in South Royalston and one in Town Hall, were led by the Committee and focused on specific objectives for community preservation. A fourth meeting was held at the Royalston Fish and Game Club that specifically focused on recreational trail opportunities.

The Committee and others in town also participated in developing the Heritage Landscape Inventory in 2008. Development of the HLI included a visioning meeting and a follow-up tour through town to focus on particular landscapes of interest.

The survey was mailed to all town residents in February 2009. It was identical to the 2003 survey used to develop the initial Open Space & Recreation Plan, and we were able to assess changes in attitudes regarding open space and recreation priorities that have occurred in the last five years. A tabular summary of the results, along with additional comments provided by respondents, are given in **Appendices B and C**.

The vision for Royalston is little changed from that elicited in 2003: *Royalston is neither an urban community nor a suburban one, but is instead a special kind of place becoming increasingly rare in New England, a place where town and community are deeply connected to the natural landscape and the local history. Open space and recreational opportunities do not need to be artificially manufactured or enhanced, only enjoyed in their abundance. Given this unique character, this Plan presents an overall vision of acknowledging, preserving, and enhancing existing opportunities and resources, without undue emphasis on developing new open space resources.*

6.2 Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The CPA visioning process, the HLI, and the Open Space Survey collectively identify a group of *substantive goals* to improve open space and recreation in the Town, and a set of *organizational goals* to create the administrative structures necessary to achieve these ends. Note that the appearance of a goal or objective in these pages is not to imply that steps are not already being taken in this direction, but simply to stress the importance of continuing progress towards these ends.

6.2.1 *Substantive goals*

- Protect and preserve access to a clean environment, especially clean air and clean drinking water.
- Conserve the wildlife habitat, endangered species habitat, and wetland habitats – including lakes, streams, and ponds – present throughout the town.
- Maintain the rural, small-town character that *is* the Town of Royalston.
- Develop new recreational opportunities and facilities, including multiple-use, *non-motorized* trails (for skiing, hiking, and horseback riding); public swimming areas; and recreational facilities for our young people that include basketball courts, tennis courts, and skating areas.

6.2.2 *Organizational goals*

- Improve public information concerning trails and other outdoor opportunities.
- Encourage the Town of Royalston to accept land donated by outside parties.
- Engage in additional public-private cooperative protection efforts, including Town purchase of land, zoning reform, and encouraging residential developers to set aside open space.

7. ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

7.1 Resource Protection Needs

A detailed examination of the protected areas in Royalston (**Map 2**) along with NHESP priority habitats (**Map 8**) suggests that unprotected sections of land along the banks of the Millers River and the Tully River are primary targets for permanent protection through conservation easements or fee acquisitions. Other priority areas for permanent protection include large parcels that abut currently protected open space, especially those with vernal pools or other BioMap or Living Waters habitats, and large unfragmented forested parcels.

The results from the February 2009 town survey (**Appendices A-C**) revealed that people support specific town and state actions for the preservation of open space. In particular, there is strong support for public-private cooperative protection efforts, including town acceptance of donated land or development rights and encouragement of residential developers to set aside open space. Similarly, there is strong support for the Commonwealth's purchase of development rights and tax reduction programs for farm, forest and recreation land. However, when asked what they would personally do for open space protection, individuals themselves were not very supportive of selling or donating their land or money to the town or a land trust or rewriting their deed to limit future development. Likewise, support for fee purchases has declined since 2003.

Considering that 100% of respondents were property owners, clearly people attach a certain land value to their property, and they expect to be compensated in some form for any land they would relinquish for land conservation. Nonetheless, a vast majority feel that it is important to preserve clean drinking water and air quality, streams, lakes and ponds, and endangered species habitat. There is a clear disconnection between what individuals think is important to protect or preserve and what they are willing to pay to accomplish these goals.

Overall, residents of Royalston think that local open space, sense of community, rural character, the Town Common, the village character of South Royalston and recreational facilities and activities have remained the same while they have lived in town (86% of respondents have lived here for at least four years). Increased residential development is overwhelmingly identified as the primary threat to Royalston's sense of community and rural character, although there have been few new homes built in the last five years. Remarkably, in the last five years, there has been a 17% increase in the number of respondents who identify high property taxes as the primary threat to Royalston's community and character, despite the fact that Royalston has the second-lowest tax rate and one of the overall lowest tax levies of the 23 towns in the North Quabbin region (**Table 5**). And despite a large amount of planning by Town and State agencies in the last five years, there is also substantial concern about the lack of planning efforts to help manage the future development of Royalston. Current efforts underway by the Planning Board to revise Royalston's 25-year-old Zoning Bylaws will help address these concerns.

Table 5. *Average assessed value of single-family homes, tax bill, and tax rate in the 23 towns of the North Quabbin Region (i.e., those towns served by the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership). Data are for the 2008 tax year, provided by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services.*

Town Name	Average assessed value of single family homes	Average single family tax bill	Tax rate
Ashburnham	$249,590	$3,464	13.88
Athol	$175,849	$2,017	11.47
Barre	$231,185	$2,469	10.68
Bernardston	$223,569	$3,354	15.00
Erving	$185,926	$1,287	6.92
Gardner	$199,380	$2,606	13.07
Gill	$209,551	$2,728	13.02
Greenfield	$190,772	$3,339	17.50
Hardwick	$259,123	$2,462	9.50
Hubbardston	$287,856	$2,738	9.51
Leyden	$227,298	$3,728	16.40
Montague	$191,434	$2,736	14.29
New Salem	$238,043	$2,849	11.97
Northfield	$210,300	$2,782	13.23
Orange	$178,295	$2,289	12.84
Petersham	$265,315	$3,285	12.38
Phillipston	$226,131	$2,571	11.37
Royalston	**$213,547**	**$1,830**	**8.57**
Templeton	$215,199	$2,195	10.20
Warwick	$190,678	$2,870	15.05
Wendell	$157,723	$2,700	17.12
Westminister	$296,324	$3,852	13.00
Winchendon	$206,073	$2,500	12.13
Average	**$218,659**	**$2,724**	**12.57**

7.2 Land Acquisition

The 2003 Plan noted that at the time there was no internal mechanism in place to guide the process by which land protection decisions are made in Royalston. Thus, an initial project of the Open Space & Recreation Committee was to define criteria to assist the town in determining whether a parcel should be purchased. The two primary criteria now used by the Open Space & Recreation Committee are whether a parcel increases connections between already protected land ("connectivity") and whether a parcel is within BioMap or Living Waters Core Habitat.

These criteria have been applied in two instances: first, the Committee recommended, and the Board of Selectmen agreed, to exercise the Town's right of first refusal for a parcel on

Taft Hill Road that was in Chapter 61 (forestry). This parcel (the "Page lot") increased connectivity between existing protected lands and supported significant wetland habitat and resource areas. The Page lot was purchased in fee by the Division of Fish & Game in 2009.

Second, the Committee evaluated all parcels in town of unknown ownership ("U-Parcels"). In July 2005, the Committee presented a proposal to the Selectboard to begin tax takings on U-Parcels in town that met criteria for high priority protection (**see Appendix F**). The Selectboard approved this proposal and Town Meeting in 2006 appropriated funds for evaluation of these parcels by the Board of Assessors and the Tax Collector. As of June 2009, the evaluation of these parcels has not yet been completed.

The Committee is now the point-of-contact for initial discussions regarding whether or not the Town should exercise its right of first refusal for Chapter 61 lands. Now that Royalston has adopted the Community Preservation Act (as of November 2008), the appointed Community Preservation Committee will focus on developing additional criteria for prioritizing opportunities for land protection, conservation, and recreation.

7.3 Recreation and Community Needs

The 2009 survey also indicated that town residents support enhancing Royalston's recreational opportunities. The areas receiving the most support were development of additional non-motorized trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding; protection of wildlife and habitat conservation areas, presumably with opportunities for wildlife observation; development of a public swimming area (or re-opening of the Doane's Falls swimming area); development of an ice-skating pond (which is being investigated by the Open Space and Recreation Committee); and development of a cafe, pub, or other community gathering spot. Many individuals also commented on the need for restoration of existing basketball courts behind Town Hall and Whitney Hall to provide additional recreation opportunities for town youth.

Improving recreational opportunities will be facilitated through cooperation and coordination among the Open Space & Recreation Committee, the Royalston Cultural Council, the South Royalston Improvement Corporation, and the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

National standards suggest that municipalities should provide 6 – 10 acres of parklands or "developed" open space for every 1,000 persons. By this standard, Royalston is very well off (**Map 13**) and we could focus more on preservation, maintenance and protection of existing open space rather than on acquisition of new open space. However, we have few *formal* recreational facilities, and this is an area for additional focus. Furthermore, the existing recreation areas and playgrounds in town need to be substantially updated to come into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (see **Appendix G** for the current [2003] Town of Royalston Accessibility Plan). For example, several of the playgrounds and courts require resurfacing and parking upgrades, including lines, signs, and designated handicapped spots. Many sidewalks and curb ramps in the South Royalston area need upgrades because they are considered pedestrian travel ways. The Highway Department is responsible for doing this whenever sidewalks,

walkways or curbs are repaired or constructed or when curb cuts are required. Town Hall is fully accessible on the first floor but the second floor is not accessible, so significant modifications would be necessary for full compliance. Clear issues include lack of handicapped parking, access limitations including access to restrooms, and access to the second floor. Whitney Hall, a municipal office building, is not in ADA compliance, and the Town no longer holds public meetings there. Funds have been requested repeatedly from the Commonwealth to bring Whitney Hall up to ADA compliance, but the current economic climate appears to limit available funds.

7.3.1 *Field and court sports*

Listed below is a current inventory of all the courts and fields Royalston has available for recreational activities.

- **Golf courses** - There was once a private golf course on the Bullock Estate, although it is not maintained and is largely overgrown.
- **Playgrounds** - The town has playgrounds for children at Royalston Community School, the Village School/Raymond School, Tully Lake, and behind Whitney Hall (the latter is in disrepair).
- **Sports fields** – The town has baseball and softball fields at Bullock Park.
- **Swimming** is generally allowed at Tully Lake subject to the following policy of the Army Corps of Engineers:
    - Swimming, wading, snorkeling or scuba diving at one's own risk is permitted, except at launching sites, designated mooring points and public docks, or other areas so designated by the District Commander.
    - An international diver down, or inland diving flag must be displayed during underwater activities.
    - Diving, jumping or swinging from trees, bridges or other structures which cross or are adjacent to project waters is prohibited.
    - Swimming is prohibited at the Tully Lake boat ramp and near the dam's intake channel (behind log boom).
- Other regional swimming areas include Silver Lake in Athol and Lake Dennison State Park in Winchendon. The once-popular swimming hole at Doane’s Falls was closed in August 2002 by the Trustees of Reservations following a fatal accident.
- **Snowmobiling** trails exist throughout the Town, are open to the public, and maintained by private groups and users. The Open Space & Recreation Committee has met with the Birch Hill Rangers Snowmobiling Club to discuss development of additional trails and improvement of connections between regional snowmobile trails that currently terminate in Royalston. Unaddressed conflicts do exist between snowmobilers and non-motorized users of these trails; there is no forum to address such conflicts.
- **Passive recreation areas** that do not contain any buildings or formal recreation amenities that indicate their primary use include the Town Common, South Royalston Park, a number of small cemeteries, and discontinued roads.

7.3.2 *Linkages with regional and state assessments* (SCORP)

Planning for the protection of critical natural resource systems and recreational needs require coordination of regional and local planning efforts. The Commonwealth completed the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), *Massachusetts Outdoors 2006*.[18] SCORP plans are developed by individual states to be eligible for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants and serve as a tool for states to use in planning for future needs and uses of outdoor resources for public recreation and relaxation. The findings of the SCORP can help the Town of Royalston identify local recreation and land protection priorities.

The SCORP notes the significant role that forests and wildlife management areas have in the mosaic of protected land and the abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities in the Central Region (which includes Royalston and encompasses all of Worcester County). Among the major additions to the statewide open space inventory since the 2000 SCORP was issued is The Tully Initiative, which protected 10,000 acres of wetlands and uplands in Athol, Orange, Royalston and Warwick and linked thousands of acres of already protected open space in this highly valuable natural resource area. Much of the land protected during the Tully Initiative was selected to link together existing protected lands in the area, providing a protected core for the North Quabbin BioReserve,[19] an area of more than 55,000 acres of protected land stretching from Northfield to Winchendon. This BioReserve anchors the "Quabbin to Cardigan" initiative, which aims to conserve important forest resources from the Quabbin Reservoir to Mount Cardigan, New Hampshire.[20] The conservation restrictions used to protect land through The Tully Initiative were structured to allow people to continue to hunt and fish (recreation that is popular among many people in the region) and in most cases to continue to harvest timber on the property. The SCORP specifically mentions the Mount Tully Wildlife Management Area in Orange, which while not in Royalston, is part of the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership[21] and the Quabbin to Cardigan Region. Royalston's open space and recreational trails are integral to the ongoing success of these two conservation efforts.

The SCORP also provides information about the use of and demand for outdoor recreational resources in the Central Region that complement Royalston's open space and recreational planning efforts. Residents of the Central Region expressed a strong interest in the use of water resources, both in winter and summer. Residents also expressed the strongest participation rate statewide in boating, especially non-motorized. The following activities rated highest in the Central Region and highest among the six remaining regions in the SCORP although the absolute values are low: hockey (1.1%) and water skiing and jet skiing (3.1%). Participants in Central Massachusetts enjoyed ice-skating (2.2%) and camping (10.7%) at a rate that was the second highest among all the regions.

In the Central Region, swimming (61.4%) is the activity most widely engaged in by residents, even more so than in any other region of the state. Also highly popular in this region

[18] http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/eea/dcs/massoutdoor2006.pdf
[19] http://www.mass.gov/mgis/GISette_200302.pdf
[20] http://q2cpartnership.org/
[21] http://www.nqpartnership.org/

are walking, at 58.6% participation, and sightseeing, tours and events with 55.9% (highest in the state). These three activities dominate the recreation picture for Central Massachusetts. Also important, in terms of the number of individuals served, are those activities reporting between 25% to 50% participation rates, including hiking, fishing, picnicking, playground activity (the second highest of the regions at 31.8%), wildlife and nature study, and golfing (second highest rate statewide), in that order. These activities are also prized in Royalston (see above in **§7.3**, and data in **Appendix B**, responses to question **Q9**)

In Royalston, residents expressed support the development of additional non-motorized trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding; protection of wildlife and habitat conservation areas, presumably with opportunities for wildlife observation; development of a public swimming area (or re-opening of the Doane's Falls swimming area); development of an ice-skating pond (which is being investigated by the Open Space and Recreation Committee); and development of a cafe, pub, or other community gathering spot (which is being studied by the Community Preservation Committee). Many individuals also commented on the need for restoration of existing basketball courts behind Town Hall and Whitney Hall to provide additional recreation opportunities for town youth. Many of these local preferences are echoed in the SCORP with resource use in the region reported at the following levels: lakes and ponds (59.1%), and rivers and streams (39.4%%) rated high. Historic and cultural sites (51.6%) and forests (40.4%) are also in considerable demand (actual present use) in the Central Region, with mountains (37%), wildlife areas (36.2%), and trails and greenways (35.3%) having moderate usage. According to the SCORP, the highest frequency of use of forests is in the Central Region rather than the western regions.

When considering new recreational projects (and their eligibility for certain funding sources), the Town of Royalston may want to consider the following responses compiled from regional surveys conducted as part of the 2006 SCORP. When asked about future open space and recreational needs and interests, residents of the Central Region showed the highest interest in facilities for walking (16.4%), swimming (17.0%), hiking (14.4%, the strongest interest in the state), road biking (12.1%), and playground activity (10.2%). A second tier of facilities interest included mountain biking (8.5%), golfing (8.3%), picnicking (5.3%), camping (4.8%) and basketball (4.0%). Almost all categories, except off-road vehicle driving, football, sunbathing, photography and painting (all 0.0%), and sailing and pond ice-skating (both 0.3%), volleyball (0.4%), and pond hockey (0.7%) reported at least some respondent interest (more than 1%) in new facilities.

7.3.3 *Management needs*

Like most small towns, management of town activities in Royalston is done by volunteers. In the current economic climate, that is unlikely to change. The oversight and management of open space activities in Royalston is done entirely by volunteers for the Conservation Commission, the Open Space and Recreation Committee, and the Community Preservation Committee. Because only a small number of town residents participate in town governance and serve on town boards, the work of implementing this and other plans (such as the Heritage Landscape Inventory) fall to only a few individuals.

Three critical needs are apparent to improve management of open space and open space activities in town. First, we need to "build capacity" – increase the number of interested and qualified individuals participating in town governance. Second, we need to improve connections and communication among town boards and committees responsible for open space and recreation activities. Such coordination should not be done by appointing the same individual to multiple committees (as this leads to "burning out" individuals) but rather through improved communication, including the Royalston Community Newsletter, interactive internet systems (*e.g.*, wikis), and formal or informal gatherings. Finally, management plans for State- and Federally-owned lands in Royalston need to be developed, shared, and implemented by the appropriate agencies.

7.4 Implementation

Implementation of this plan, including recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting, are the responsibility of the Open Space and Recreation Committee. Beginning in 2009, these responsibilities will be shared with the Community Preservation Committee. Both Committees are appointed by the Board of Selectmen and their composition is specified in town by-laws.

8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In addition to the broad and overarching vision presented in **§6**, the Committee and residents also suggested a number of more specific goals for open space and recreation. These goals can be grouped into "substantive" goals to improve open space and recreation in the Town, and "organizational" goals to create the administrative structures necessary to achieve these ends. To meet each goal (bulleted), a set of objectives (numbered) is proposed. Note also that the appearance of a goal or objective in these pages is not to imply that steps are not already being taken in this direction, but simply to stress the importance of continuing progress towards these ends.

8.1 Substantive Goals and Objectives

- Preserve and maintain open fields and working landscapes
  1. Encourage private landowners to maintain open fields
  2. Work with public agencies to increase use of properties as open fields
  3. Review regulatory and other barriers to agricultural uses of land
  4. Use state legislation and local regulation to protect and enhance open space

- Selectively acquire additional properties for preservation and recreation where necessary and appropriate, with attention to the effects of preservation on municipal finances
  1. Work with regional land trusts to prioritize remaining desirable properties for watershed protection, habitat and trail networks, and other appropriate uses
  2. Research and explore alternatives to preservation that will maintain properties on the tax rolls, or provide payments in lieu of taxes

- Enhance the recreation facilities that do exist and commit to their upgrade and maintenance
  1. Promote the use of neighborhood recreation facilities like parks and courts
  2. In accordance with the 2003 ADA study (**Appendix G**), make recreation areas, facilities and programs more accessible to the public
  3. Where appropriate, link recreation opportunities together through sidewalks, trails or pathways

- Protect clean water and air
  1. Educate the public about ways to prevent pollution and improve local air and water quality
  2. Research ways to incorporate into local guidelines the enforcement of clean air and water practices by businesses and residents
  3. Consider putting into place penalties for littering and for polluting air and water
  4. Enforce the reduction of non-point source pollution

- Protect and preserve the small town character, scenic views, wildlife habitat and endangered species in Royalston

1. Work with local Conservation Commission on public education about the natural resources, environments and animals that need to be protected in Royalston
2. Continue to identify and protect new animal and plant species
3. Encourage local business development, local ownership, and reuse and redevelopment of existing infrastructure
4. Review Zoning Bylaws to determine if they are consistent with town character preservation and wildlife habitat goals and objectives; adjust accordingly

- Limit the amount and location of development to help address some town preservation concerns
  1. Review Zoning Bylaws to determine if they are consistent with town character preservation and wildlife habitat goals and objectives; adjust accordingly
  2. Target development into desired growth areas only
  3. Consider creating additional historic districts in Royalston
  4. Partner with other towns in the region to develop a regional preservation plan
  5. Research and implement new subdivision control and growth mechanisms

8.2 Organizational Goals

- Improve public information concerning trails and other outdoor opportunities
  1. Designate regional recreation liaison on the Open Space & Recreation Committee to coordinate information between Royalston, other towns, and regional organizations
  2. Prepare and distribute information in a variety of media and venues to build as wide a recreational constituency as possible
  3. Ensure access to all open space for all demographic groups
  4. Maintain and regularly update the Open Space website to include information about all trails and outdoor opportunities that would provide all necessary information for residents and visitors
  5. Work with other town and regional groups, including the Royalston Cultural Council, the Community Preservation Committee, North Quabbin Woods, and the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership to disseminate information about recreational opportunities in Royalston.

- Continue to provide top-quality recreational opportunities for our children and families
  1. Continue to maintain and manage existing facilities
  2. Promote existing recreational opportunities
  3. Periodically assess and evaluate recreational needs and resources

- Inventory and protect the Town's wildlife and habitat resources
  1. Continue to monitor health of existing species and habitats described in this Plan
  2. Monitor and safeguard water quality in the Millers River and tributaries
  3. Direct new development away from sensitive areas wherever possible
  4. Enhance and protect the living environment of wildlife and habitat resources that currently are in Royalston through public education and preservation

- Encourage the Town of Royalston to accept land donated by outside parties
  1. Perform education and outreach to the public letting them know that the Town of Royalston is interested in public-private partnerships for land protection
  2. Maintain and strengthen the relationship with local land trusts to assist Royalston in acquiring and preserving property
  3. Continue to work with the Board of Assessors and the Tax Collector to bring onto the tax rolls the parcels of unknown ownership
  4. Offer incentives to property owners who donate their land to the Town of Royalston

- Engage in additional public-private partnerships including town purchase of land and zoning changes to protect open space
  1. Use existing town regulations and create new town policy to protect and enhance open space
  2. Use regional resources like the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission and other neighboring towns to help garner regional support for the acquisition and protection of open space.

9. SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Royalston Open Space & Recreation Committee is proud of its success in fulfilling much of the action plan put forth in the Town's first five-year plan, issued in 2004. Specifically, the committee and other town entities completed the following actions:

- Created a permanent Open Space & Recreation Committee
- Established criteria for evaluating open space acquisitions
- Prioritized desirable parcels for watershed protection, habitat and trail networks, and other uses; set up a database of desired land parcels and who owns them
- Prepared educational materials regarding open space and natural resources in Town
- Conducted public outreach and education programs informing residents of the Town's desire to acquire and protect specific open space parcels
- Worked with the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Partnership to inventory and assess properties of historical and cultural interest and document their unique features and significance
- Developed a website[22] that provides information about the working of the Open Space & Recreation Committee and a link to the North Quabbin Woods website, with extensive information for residents and visitors about outdoor opportunities
- Via the town newsletter and the local newspaper, disseminated information about committee projects and open space issues
- Conducted a new public opinion survey and reviewed and updated the Open Space & Recreation Plan
- Spearheaded the successful campaign to adopt the Community Preservation Act.

As the Town moves forward with the new seven-year plan, it should continue to focus on the substantive issues of open space and recreation preservation, acquisition, enhancement, management, and maintenance. Three areas in particular are essential for any future progress towards meeting the goals of this Plan:

- Continuing to nurture "buy-in" from Town staff, boards and residents that open space is a central and lasting priority for the Town, while acknowledging that there are competing needs.
- Continuing to explore sources of funding and other support for open space and recreation activities and programs. The Town of Royalston is a small rural community with few municipal resources to achieve the goals of this Plan. Financial resources may be found in the Community Preservation Fund and in federal, state, and private grants. Such initiatives as local sponsorship, donated community labor, or park "adoption" could provide additional support.
- Build capacity in the Town of Royalston by engaging a greater proportion of town residents in Open Space and Recreation planning

[22] http://www.royalston-ma.gov/OSRC/indexopen.htm

In the following seven-year action plan for 2010-2016, the column marked “Priority” gives an indication of the weight given to this item in obtaining the overall goals and objectives of this plan (outlined in **§8**). Priority can be understood to relate to both the “level of importance” of items and the necessary sequencing of them (i.e., without completing the first priority items, it may be difficult to proceed to the latter ones). In the tables, 1=highest/first priority, 4 = lowest/last priority. Locations of key action plan items are highlighted on **Map 15**. Details of the target area where we will work to obtain trail easements for the Mattabesset-Metacomet-Monadnock / New England National Scenic Trail are shown on **Map 16**.

Year 1 (2010)

Action	Priority	Completion Deadline	Lead Agency*	Comments**
Establish a working relationship with the Community Preservation Committee	1	2010	OSRC	*Three members of the OSRC are already members of the Royalston CPC*
Follow up on town acquisition of U-parcels (parcels of unknown ownership identified in 2005)	1	2012	OSRC & BOS	
Begin research into old roads in town, in order to identify which are still public ways, which are abandoned, and which are discontinued	1	2015	OSRC & PB	
Conduct research into grant opportunities, particularly regarding creation and maintenance of trails and creation of a riverside part in South Royalston	1	ongoing	OSRC	
Continue to disseminate information in a variety of media to nurture knowledge of and support for open spaces	1	ongoing	OSRC	
Continue to maintain website	1	ongoing	OSRC	
Continue to monitor any changes in Chapter 61 status of land parcels in town	1	ongoing	OSRC & BOS	
Work in partnership with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and state and federal conservation agencies to protect open space in Royalston, particularly those parcels identified as priorities	1	ongoing	OSRC	*Also an HLI priority*
Work in partnership with National Scenic Trails Committee to prioritize actions for Metacomet-Monadnock National Scenic Trail section in Royalston	1	ongoing	OSRC & CPC	*National Scenic Trails Committee is new as of Oct. 2009*
Engage in the zoning review process and work with other town boards to gain acceptance of amendments	2	ongoing	PB, BOS, OSRC, CC	
Continue to maintain and manage existing facilities	3	ongoing	BOS	

*BOS: Board of Selectmen; CC: Conservation Commission; CPC: Community Preservation Committee; DPW: Department of Public Works; OSRC: Open Space & Recreation Committee; PB: Planning Board
**Some of these indicate overlap with recommendations and priorities of the Heritage Landscape Inventory (HLI).

Year 2 (2011)

Action	Priority	Completion Deadline	Lead Agency	Comments
Improve basketball courts at Town Hall and Whitney Hall	1	2012	OSRC & CPC	
Explore options for a Town swimming area	1	2012	OSRC	*Options include Tully Lake, Doane's Falls, and the Millers River; requires cooperation with owners*
Work with landowners whose land includes portions of the Metacomet-Monadnock National Scenic Trail to ensure trail access	1	2016	OSRC & CPC	
Continue to monitor any changes in Chapter 61 status of land parcels in town	1	ongoing	OSRC & BOS	
Explore the feasibility of creating trails to link the Town Common to Jacob's Hill Reservation and the associated ledges	2	2013	OSRC with TTOR	*HLI recommendation*
Complete inventory of town's stone walls and explore the possibility of enacting a bylaw to protect internal stone walls	2	2016 and ongoing*	OSRC & PB	*Roadside walls already are protected*
Organize field trips to the town's public lands	2	ongoing	OSRC	*Coordinate with Royalston Cultural Council and Athol Bird and Nature Club*
Continue to explore access to the Millers River in South Royalston, with the goal of creating a riverside park, improving the appearance of the discontinued bridge, linking trails to the state's Wildlife Management Area, and possibly creating a swimming area	2	ongoing	OSRC	*Coordinate with South Royalston Improvement Corporation*
Continue to maintain and manage existing facilities	3	ongoing	BOS	

*Royalston resident Larry Siegel is working on an inventory and map of all stone walls in town. The OSRC will work with him to convert it to digital form

Year 3 (2012)

Action	Priority	Completion Deadline	Lead Agency	Comments
Create a map of public lands and trails in Royalston	1	2015	OSRC	
Work with MassWildilife to prepare a plan for enhancing access to the river and celebrating its natural and cultural history	1	2016	OSRC	*HLI recommendation*
Work with landowners whose land includes portions of the Metacomet-Monadnock National Scenic Trail to ensure trail access	1	2016	OSRC & CPC	
Continue to monitor any changes in Chapter 61 status of land parcels in town	1	ongoing	OSRC & BOS	
In accordance with the 2003 ADA study, make recreation areas, facilities and programs more accessible to the public	1	ongoing	DPW/ADA Coordinator	*Requires new funds. Benefit concert (coordinate with Royalston Cultural Council?)*
Organize children's activities on public lands	2	ongoing	OSRC	
Continue to maintain and manage existing facilities	3	ongoing	BOS	
Periodically assess and evaluate recreational needs and resources	3	ongoing	OSRC	

Year 4 (2013)

Action	Priority	Completion Deadline	Lead Agency	Comments
Develop easements with landowners whose land includes portions of the Metacomet-Monadnock National Scenic Trail to ensure trail access	1	2016	OSRC & CPC	
Continue to monitor any changes in Chapter 61 status of land parcels in town	1	ongoing	OSRC & BOS	
Continue to maintain and manage existing facilities	1	ongoing	BOS/OSRC	
Periodically assess and evaluate recreational needs and resources	1	ongoing	OSRC	

Year 5 (2014)

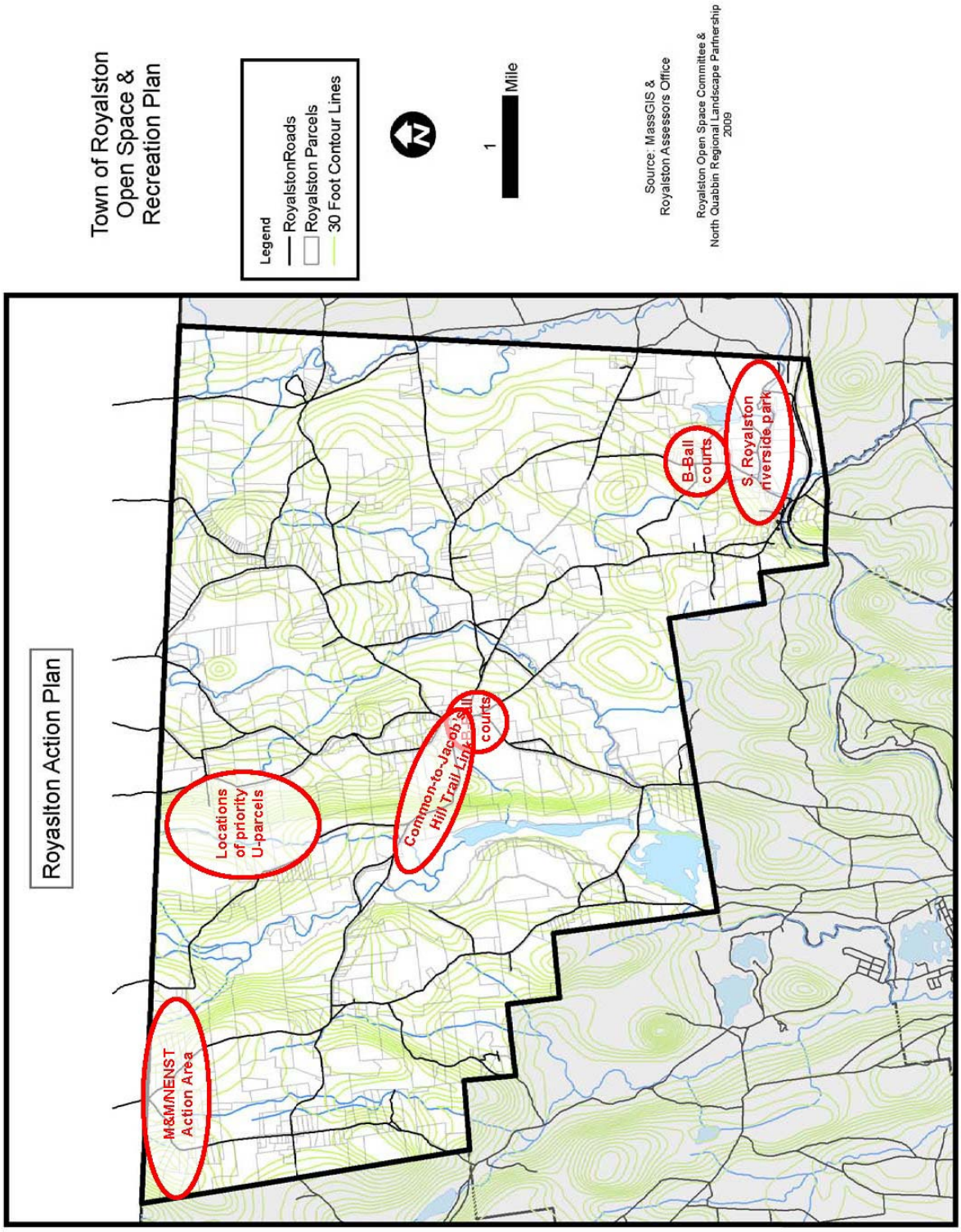
Action	Priority	Completion Deadline	Lead Agency	Comments
Continue to secure easements with landowners whose land includes portions of the Metacomet-Monadnock National Scenic Trail to ensure trail access	1	2016	OSRC & CPC	
Continue to monitor any changes in Chapter 61 status of land parcels in town	1	ongoing	OSRC & BOS	
Continue to maintain and manage existing facilities	1	ongoing	BOS/OSRC	
Periodically assess and evaluate recreational needs and resources	1	ongoing	OSRC	

Year 6 (2015)

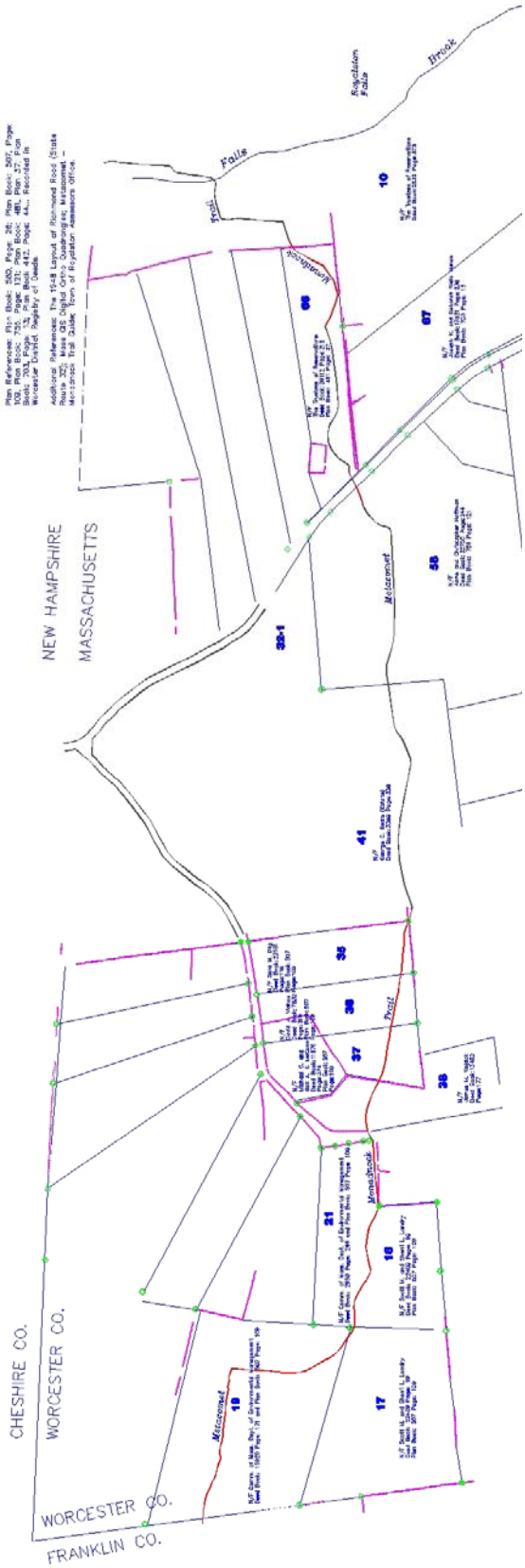
Action	Priority	Completion Deadline	Lead Agency	Comments
Finalize easements with landowners whose land includes portions of the Metacomet-Monadnock National Scenic Trail to ensure trail access	1	2016	OSRC & CPC	
Continue to monitor any changes in Chapter 61 status of land parcels in town	1	ongoing	OSRC & BOS	
Continue to maintain and manage existing facilities	1	ongoing	BOS/OSRC	
Periodically assess and evaluate recreational needs and resources	1	ongoing	OSRC	

Year 7 (2016)

Action	Priority	Completion Deadline	Lead Agency	Comments
Continue to monitor any changes in Chapter 61 status of land parcels in town	1	ongoing	OSRC & BOS	
Continue to maintain and manage existing facilities	1	ongoing	BOS/OSRC	
Periodically assess and evaluate recreational needs and resources	1	ongoing	OSRC	
Start the process for reviewing and updating the Open Space & Recreation Plan for when it expires	1	ongoing	OSRC	



Map 15 – Action Plan map. See Map 16 for additional detail on the Metacomet-Monadnock New England National Scenic Trail action area, and see Appendix F for additional detail on the U-parcels.



Map 16 – Detail of the northwest corner of Royalston crossed by the Mattabessett-Metacomet-Monadnock Trail / New England National Scenic Trail. Orange lines indicate well-surveyed portions of the trail with known access, and grey lines indicate poorly-surveyed portions with unknown access. It is a high priority of this plan to clearly survey and identify the entire portion of the trail in Royalston and to ensure trail easements across its entire length in Royalston

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The development of this Plan included input from many local residents and town staff, in open meetings and through completion of a survey. A full draft of the Plan was circulated for review to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission. The draft Plan was also made available to the general public at the town library and through the Open Space & Recreation Committee's web site. The public comment period ran for 30 days, from May 15 to June 14, 2009. Written comments were received from one town resident.

Why should I take the time to complete this survey?

- **Your answers are an essential part of our Town's effort to plan for future growth and to protect our natural, scenic and historic resources – all of the things that make Royalston a special place to live.**
- **Your answers will form the basis for the new Open Space & Recreation Plan for Royalston and help the Town as it develops future land use policies and priorities. The Open Space and Recreation Committee is updating the Town's Open Space & Recreation Plan. This update is required every five years.**
- **Your answers will remain anonymous and will be used for planning purposes only.**

What is Open Space?

- **Open space is public or privately owned, undeveloped lands that are important to Royalston residents for a variety of reasons, including: recreation, agriculture, forestry, wildlife habitat, or simply because of their scenic qualities and contribution to the overall character of our Town.**

What is an Open Space & Recreation Plan?

- **The Plan establishes goals and objectives to help guide our Town in decisions regarding land use, open space, and recreation.**
- **It is NOT a legally binding document.**
- **It will help Royalston qualify for federal and state funding for the purchase and protection of recreation and open space land (even in these fiscally lean times).**
- **It helps to preserve our heritage, protect our natural and scenic resources and ensure space for recreation while allowing growth and development to occur that maintains the character of our community.**

This survey was produced by the Open Space and Recreation Committee. We value your input, so please take the time to fill out this survey. When you have completed it, please fold the completed survey in thirds, tape it closed, and put one first-class stamp on it. For your convenience, the return address is already on the back of the last page.

If you have any questions about the survey, the Plan, or the Committee, you can:
visit us on the web at http://www.royalston-ma.gov/OSRC/indexopen.htm
email us at info@royalstonopenspace.org
or call: 978-249-6771

Q1. How important is it to you to preserve the following resources in Royalston? ***Please put an X in the columns to mark your choices.***

		Very Important	Important	Not Important	Not sure
a.	RURAL, SMALL-TOWN CHARACTER				
b.	HISTORIC STRUCTURES				
c.	HISTORIC CEMETERIES				
d.	OPEN FIELDS				
e.	SCENIC VIEWS				
f.	STONE WALLS				
g.	LARGE ROAD-SIDE TREES				
h.	DIRT ROADS				
i.	NARROW, WINDING ROADS				
j.	FORESTS				
k.	WORKING FORESTS (for logging, sugaring, etc.)				
l.	FARMLAND				
m.	LAKES /STREAMS/PONDS				
n.	WETLANDS				
o.	VERNAL POOLS				
p.	WILDLIFE HABITAT				
q.	ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT				
r.	GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS				
s.	RIDGES				
t.	CLEAN DRINKING WATER				
u.	CLEAN AIR				
v.	WALKING & HIKING TRAILS				
w.	SNOWMOBILING TRAILS				
x.	CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING TRAILS				
	OTHER (PLEASE LIST)				
y.					

Q2. If you own undeveloped land in Royalston, would you like more information on options for land conservation and open space protection and their <u>potential tax benefits</u>? These tools can help preserve the resources you considered <u>very important</u> (from Question 1). ***Please put an X in the columns to mark your choices.***

		Yes	No
a.	SELLING OR DONATING A CONSERVATION RESTRICTION TO PROTECT MY LAND FROM FUTURE DEVELOPMENT		
b.	REWRITING MY DEED TO LIMIT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MY LAND		
c.	CONTRIBUTING MY LAND TO THE TOWN, STATE OR A LAND TRUST		
d.	SELLING MY LAND TO THE TOWN OR A LAND TRUST		
e.	DONATING MONEY TO BUY LAND		
f.	VOTING FOR A TOWN-SUPPORTED LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM		
g.	OTHER (list)		

Q3. What <u>TOWN</u> actions do you support to preserve the resources you considered <u>very important</u> (from Question 1)? ***Please put an X in the columns to mark your choices.***

		Strongly Support	Support	Don't Support	Not sure
a.	TOWN PURCHASE OF LAND				
b.	TOWN PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS				
c.	ZONING CHANGES FOR OPEN SPACE PROTECTION (such as an Agricultural Land Preservation Overlay District, Back-Lot Development with Open Space Set-Aside Bylaw)				
d.	TOWN ACCEPTANCE OF DONATED LAND				
e.	TOWN ACCEPTANCE OF DONATED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS				
f.	COOPERATIVE PROTECTION EFFORTS BETWEEN THE TOWN AND THE STATE AND/OR NON-PROFIT GROUPS/LAND TRUSTS				
g.	MANDATORY DEDICATION OF OPEN SPACE BY DEVELOPERS OF LARGE PARCELS/MULTIPLE HOUSE LOTS				
h.	NO ADDITIONAL TOWN ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN				

Q4. What <u>STATE</u> actions do you support to preserve the resources you considered <u>very important</u> (from Question 1)? ***Please put an X in the columns to mark your choices.***

		Strongly Support	Support	Don't Support	Not Sure
a.	STATE PURCHASE OF LAND				
b.	STATE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS				
c.	PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION PROGRAMS FOR FARM, FOREST AND RECREATION LAND (like Chapter 61, 61A & 61B)				
d.	NO ADDITIONAL STATE ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN				

Q5. How has the quality of the following changed over time? ***Please put an X in the columns to mark your choices.***

		Changed for the Better	Changed for the Worse	Remained the Same	No Opinion
a.	LOCAL OPEN SPACE				
b.	SENSE OF COMMUNITY				
c.	ROYALSTON'S RURAL CHARACTER				
d.	TOWN COMMON				
e.	VILLAGE CHARACTER OF SOUTH ROYALSTON				
f.	RECREATIONAL FACILITIES				
g.	RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING				

Q6. In your opinion, what are the significant threats to Royalston's sense of community and rural character? ***Please rank from 1 - 5, with 1 being the most significant.***

- RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT_____
- LACK OF DIVERSE ECONOMIC TAX BASE_____
- LACK OF PLAN FOR MANAGING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN TOWN_____
- HIGH PROPERTY TAXES_____
- OTHER (please list)_____

Q7. Which of the following recreational activities do members of your household participate in or near Royalston? ***Please circle all of the activities that apply*****.**

		In Royalston?	In a nearby town (tell us which)
a.	BASKETBALL		
b.	BASEBALL		
c.	BICYCLING		
d.	BIRD WATCHING		
e.	BOATING		
f.	CAMPING		
g.	CANOEING/KAYAKING		
h.	CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING		
i.	DIRT BIKING (MOTOR)		
j.	FISHING		
k.	FOUR-WHEELING		
l.	GARDENING		
m.	GOLF		
n.	HIKING		
o.	HORSEBACK RIDING		
p.	HUNTING		
q.	ICE SKATING		
r.	JOGGING		
s.	PICNICKING		
t.	ROCK CLIMBING		
u.	ROLLERBLADING		
v.	SLEDDING		
w.	SNOWSHOEING		
x.	SNOWMOBILING		
y.	SOFTBALL		
z.	SWIMMING		
aa.	TENNIS		
bb.	WALKING		
cc.	OTHER:		

Q8. Do you have concerns about or ideas for improving the quality and/or quantity of the <u>EXISTING</u> recreational programs and facilities in Royalston (such as Bullock Field, Town Common, basketball court behind Town Hall, trails, swimming areas, etc.)? _____

_____

Q9. Please rank the <u>TOP FIVE</u> open space, recreational, and community-centered facilities/programs that you feel are needed for the residents of Royalston. ***Please rank from 1 – 5, with 1 as the most needed facility/program.***

_____Bike Trails
_____Picnic Areas
_____Hiking/Skiing/Horseback Riding Trails
_____Public Swimming Area
_____Wildlife/Habitat Conservation Areas
_____Arts/Music Gatherings
_____Basketball Court
_____Children's Play Areas
_____Ice Skating Rink/Pond
_____4-wheeling/Dirt Bike Trails
_____Tennis Courts
_____Soccer Field
_____Café/Pub/Community Gathering Spot
_____Baseball/Softball Field
_____Other (please list)_____

Q10. What is your age? ***Please circle the range of ages that includes your age.*** a. 0 – 19 YEARS OLD b. 20 – 39 YEARS OLD c. 40 – 59 YEARS OLD d. 60 – 79 YEARS OLD e. 80 YEARS OLD OR OLDER	**Q13. What is your gender?** ***Please circle one.*** a. MALE b. FEMALE
Q11. How many years have you lived in Royalston? ***Please circle one.*** a. LESS THAN 5 YEARS b. 5 TO 9 YEARS c. 10 TO 15 YEARS d. MORE THAN 15 YEARS	**Q14. Do you own your property?** ***Please circle one.*** a. YES b. NO
Q12. Please write the number of people in your household in each age group. a. ____ 0 – 19 YEARS OLD b. ____ 20 – 39 YEARS OLD c. ____ 40 – 59 YEARS OLD d. ____ 60 – 79 YEARS OLD e. ____ 80 YEARS OLD OR OLDER	**Q14a. If you own your property, how many acres do you own?** ***Please circle one.*** a. 0 - 3 ACRES b. 4 -10 ACRES c. 11 - 25 ACRES d. GREATER THAN 25 ACRES

Q15. Do you have any other comments or concerns about planning for future growth in Royalston, open space protection, and/or recreation that you would like to share?

APPENDIX B – SUMMARY RESULTS OF THE 2009 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN SURVEY

Format of the summary tables: In all tables, values given are percentages based on number of responses to that particular question. The numbers in **bold** are the percentages of 2009 respondents. The numbers in regular font are the change in the 2009 percentage compared with the 2004 survey; black numbers represent the percentage *increase* since 2004, whereas red numbers represent the percentage *decrease* since 2004. To help prioritize goals and objectives for 2009-2014, the responses are sorted in descending order on Column 2 ("Very important", "Yes", "Strongly support", *etc.*)

Q1. ***How important is it to preserve the following resources in Royalston*****?**

	Very important		Important		Somewhat important	
Clean drinking water	**91**	3	**5**	-6	**3**	3
Clean air	**88**	0	**9**	1	**3**	1
Lakes /streams/ponds	**84**	1	**12**	-5	**3**	3
Rural, small-town character	**77**	-6	**16**	2	**7**	5
Wildlife habitat	**74**	-2	**17**	-4	**7**	4
Endangered species habitat	**71**	6	**19**	5	**9**	3
Forests	**67**	-15	**26**	9	**7**	5
Farmland	**63**	-1	**28**	2	**7**	1
Scenic views	**62**	-8	**28**	4	**10**	10
Historic cemeteries	**60**	-4	**29**	0	**10**	4
Wetlands	**60**	-2	**24**	0	**14**	2
Historic structures	**59**	0	**31**	-2	**10**	2
Open fields	**56**	-11	**34**	11	**10**	7
Vernal pools	**54**	-1	**32**	5	**14**	8
Walking & hiking trails	**53**	-2	**32**	9	**14**	-1
Stone walls	**52**	-4	**29**	-1	**14**	3
Geological formations	**47**	-14	**36**	6	**14**	11
Ridges	**45**	-19	**33**	12	**17**	9
Large road-side trees	**44**	-3	**28**	-1	**26**	3
Working forests (used for logging, sugaring)	**41**	3	**41**	0	**16**	2
Dirt roads	**27**	-9	**18**	-9	**52**	23
Narrow, winding roads	**27**	-12	**24**	0	**47**	18
Cross country skiing trails	**23**	-7	**46**	7	**30**	7
Snowmobiling trails	**14**	-1	**26**	18	**55**	-15

Number of responses to this question: 58

Q2. ***What would you be willing to do to preserve the resources you consider very important?***

	Yes		No		No response	
Voting for a town supported land acquisition program	44	0	24	7	32	-7
Selling or donating a conservation restriction to protect my land from future development	32	2	27	-2	41	0
Rewriting my deed to limit future development	20	-6	36	7	44	-1
Donating money to buy land	20	-7	37	8	42	-2
Selling my land to the town or a land trust	17	-1	39	4	44	-3
Contributing my land to the town, state or a land trust	8	-6	46	7	46	-1

Number of responses to this question: 35

Q3. ***What town actions do you support to preserve the resources you consider very important?***

	Strongly support		Support		Do not support		Not sure	
Town acceptance of donated land	67	6	27	-2	4	4	2	-4
Town acceptance of donated development rights	56	8	25	8	11	3	9	-8
Cooperative protection efforts	52	0	25	1	18	10	5	-4
Mandatory dedication of open space by developers	50	6	18	-2	18	3	14	0
Zoning changes for open space protection	38	-4	29	3	25	16	8	-6
Town purchase of land	29	-7	36	1	31	17	4	-5
Town purchase of development rights	27	0	36	1	30	16	7	-11
No additional town actions should be taken	5	3	10	4	54	6	31	14

Number of responses to this question: 53

Q4. ***What state actions do you support to preserve the resources you consider very important?***

	Strongly support		Support		Do not support		Not sure	
Property tax reduction programs for farm, forest and recreation land	60	7	33	4	7	4	0	-11
State purchase of land	40	-1	25	2	24	10	11	-4
State purchase of development rights	31	4	24	3	35	15	11	-12
No additional state actions should be taken	8	2	13	7	45	3	34	14

Number of responses to this question: 55

Q5. ***How has the quality of the following changed since you've lived in Royalston?***

	Changed for the better		Changed for the worse		Remained the same		No opinion / Not sure	
Sense of community	25	-2	12	-5	42	9	21	7
Recreational facilities	21	-6	16	7	46	19	16	-7
Recreational programming	16	-5	16	11	37	10	32	-1
Local open space	13	-1	15	-6	56	24	16	-4
Village character of south Royalston	13	7	22	7	47	-3	18	-2
Town common	12	-9	9	6	65	10	14	2
Royalston's rural character	7	-5	16	-11	63	22	14	5

Number of responses to this question: 56

Q6. ***In your opinion what are the most significant threats to Royalston's sense of community and rural character?***

	Most								Least	
Residential development	55	-4	27	16	12	-2	4	1	2	-4
Lack of plan for managing future development in town	35	9	27	-3	18	-2	16	10	4	-2
Lack of diverse economic tax base	25	16	15	4	27	0	17	-3	17	9
High property taxes	25	17	17	2	15	-9	27	9	17	5

Number of responses to this question: 49

Q9. ***Please rank the top five facilities/programs needed for Royalston.***
Although this question asked individuals to choose 5, and rank the choices from 1 to 5 with 1 being the most needed and 5 being the least, the majority of respondents either did not rank their choices or chose more (or less) than 5. Therefore we have only tabulated the percentage of respondents who simply identified each facility/program as a need.

Hiking/skiing/horseback riding trails	58	14
Wildlife/habitat conservation areas	56	-3
Public swimming area	47	12
Café/pub/community gathering spot	42	4
Ice skating rink/pond	34	7
Bike trails	31	1
Children’s play areas	27	-3
Picnic areas	24	-9
Arts/music gatherings	22	-20
Baseball/softball field	20	2
Tennis courts	19	4
Soccer field	15	3
4 wheeling/dirt bike trails	14	-3
Basketball court	12	6

Number of responses to this question: 55

Demographic characteristics of survey respondents
(all values are percentages)

Age		
0-19 years	0	0
20-39	11	-7
40-59	58	8
60-79	27	3
80 or older	4	-1

Years lived in Royalston		
Less than 5 years	14	-10
5-9 years	20	3
10-15 years	18	7
More than 15 years	48	1

Number of people in household of age:		
0-19 years	28	2
20-39	17	1
40-59	35	-4
60-79	17	1
80 or older	2	-2

Gender of respondent		
Male	55	0
Female	45	1

Property owner?		
Yes	100	8
No	0	-5

Acres owned		
0-3 acres	44	11
4-10 acres	24	1
11-25 acres	15	4
More than 25 acres	18	-6

Total survey respondents: 59

APPENDIX C – ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS INCLUDED IN RESPONSES TO THE 2009 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN SURVEY

Q1. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO PRESERVE THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES IN ROYALSTON?

SURVEY ID	RESPONSE
3	Canoe/kayak launch areas
10	Right of tax-paying residents to use their land as they choose
14	Horseback riding trails
19	Monitoring and enforcing real estate border rules (such as trees & fences)
20	Bike/horse paths
24	Hunting land
29	Riverside cemetery is a disgrace
45	Lot size restrictions
49	Bike paths
55	ATV trails off-road
57	Beaver can be very destructive

Q2. WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO PRESERVE THE RESOURCES YOU CONSIDER VERY IMPORTANT?

SURVEY ID	RESPONSE
8	We have already placed our land under a CR w/the state
16	Already rewritten deed to limit future development
21	Assessors must be put in this loop or this is an empty promise

Q4. WHAT STATE ACTIONS DO YOU SUPPORT TO PRESERVE THE RESOURCES YOU CONSIDER VERY IMPORTANT?

SURVEY ID	RESPONSE
14	The state should not acquire more land or development rights unless reimbursing the town

Q5. HOW HAS THE QUALITY OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGED OVER TIME?

SURVEY ID	RESPONSE
29	Town Common preserved. More effort needed in the West/South areas

Q6. IN YOUR OPINION WHAT ARE THE SIGNIFICANT THREATS TO ROYALSTON'S SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL CHARACTER?

SURVEY ID	RESPONSE
1	Developers being allowed to build multi-family apartments or large housing development
3	Lack of a larger, statewide mandate protecting rural towns.
8	Apathy of local residents (poor attendance at town meetings, etc)
10	Rapid growth, influx of bargain hunters, voting by people (too many new at one time) before they've been here long enough to experience true character of Royalston
14	Lack of business, tourist money
21	Taxes are too low
29	Town Common pristine, south and west parts of town deplorable
44	Litter
52	A source of money to take the place of tax money lost because of state, Conservation Restrictions and Ch.61/61A land
53	Poor maintenance of town roads and structures
55	Development should be tightly restricted
58	unleashed and loud dogs, cats roaming and feral

Q8. DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT OR IDEAS FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND/OR QUANTITY OF THE EXISTING RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES IN ROYALSTON?

SURVEY ID	RESPONSE
2	Bullock Field is beginning to come to life again. Brush cutting has been done to clear and open the area. The court behind the Town Hall has been a great amenity until it was partially vandalized
3	Encourage more community involvement with existing events, facilities.
10	Find volunteers to do things like donate and maintain picnic tables, benches ball fields. Get the kids and their parents involved. Allow simple, less than city scale projects. Don't turn mole hills into mountains. Kids will survive if hoops aren'tlegal height, hot top isn't smooth - if picnic tables are mismatched. Leave places untouched - un"improved" so people can enjoy "discovering" a place
14	The town people should seek ways to engage residents in town sports groups to increase community spirit
19	Area needs some type of swimming area
21	Keep Doane’s open for swimming. Playground in S. Village w/summer recreation programs
23	I'd like to see the South Royalston playground maintained - swings are broken, ground is uneven and unsafe, basketball hoops are bent and missing parts, grass is infrequently mowed.
29	No services in south or west villages. Nor is there an effort to provide such
30	Reopen Doane’s Falls to swimming, better marking of hiking trails, better maintenance of dirt roads would help bicycling and walking. Could Monadnock Music give a concert at the Town Hall?
32	Would like to see Doane’s Falls open to swimming
34	Summer outdoor recreation activities are restricted by insects/flies/and ticks. We take our activities to a bug-free location. It would be nice if a small and shallow pond could be used by young & old for ice skating. It would require reasonable access from a road for safety purposes, and cleaning and clearing a section for skating

39	Due to the deficit of the state, and towns, I feel we should not take on any added expenses at this time
42	Keeping them up (Bullock Field, town Common, basketball court behind Town Hall, etc.) and maintenance and promotion
46	Perhaps the Metacomet/Monadnock Trail could be marked at its road crossings?
51	Don't close Doane's Falls!
54	Could use tennis court for community use
56	Find a way, somehow, to limit public access to Doane's Falls in order to prevent further injuries and deaths there.
57	A town swimming area would be terrific!
58	If we can maintain what already exists there is no shortage or need for improvement
59	Doane's Falls should not be off limits. Everyone is appraised of the danger and everyone should be responsible for his own actions!! The safety devices are fine
62	No concerns! Management ok.
63	Could use town/public swimming area and picnicing area
64	Plant hundreds (thousands?) of bulbs on the Common so the place is a carpet of flowers in the spring. More trees on the Common. Have a Master Planting Plan for the Common. Less asphalt, more green, landscaped areas. Line the roadways with trees on the Common. Use the Town Hall (and Church?) for public lectures, concerts, plays, particularly in the cold weather months. How about a Friday night or Sunday afternoon film series? Movies should be suitable for all ages, perhaps old and new "classics"
65	Don't have too many trails

Q9. PLEASE RANK THE TOP FIVE OPEN SPACE, RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY CENTERED PROGRAMS THAT YOU FEEL ARE NEEDED

SURVEY ID	RESPONSE
10	We have former & present schools, Tully & Birch Hill. Keep up Bullock Park and maybe some place near the Village and call it done
21	Work to save what we already have
25	Open mic nights-YES
34	No! No! to 4-wheeling/dirt bike trails
29	Enhancement of public buildings owned by the Town
36	Snowmobile trails
38	List of public properties
41	Keeping the Post Office in operation
44	Beautify Royalston by offering community programs to encourage flower, tree planting, cleaning up our streets
55	Should be more 4-wheeling/dirt bike trails
57	The library and Post Office should continue to receive community support
58	We don't need anything else

APPENDIX D – 2000 U.S. CENSUS DATA

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic area: Royalston town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent
Total population	**1,254**	**100.0**
SEX AND AGE		
Male	649	51.8
Female	605	48.2
Under 5 years	71	5.7
5 to 9 years	103	8.2
10 to 14 years	122	9.7
15 to 19 years	100	8.0
20 to 24 years	42	3.3
25 to 34 years	134	10.7
35 to 44 years	241	19.2
45 to 54 years	224	17.9
55 to 59 years	67	5.3
60 to 64 years	27	2.2
65 to 74 years	59	4.7
75 to 84 years	46	3.7
85 years and over	18	1.4
Median age (years)	38.0	(X)
18 years and over	889	70.9
Male	466	37.2
Female	423	33.7
21 years and over	849	67.7
62 years and over	139	11.1
65 years and over	123	9.8
Male	56	4.5
Female	67	5.3
RACE		
One race	1,247	99.4
White	1,237	98.6
Black or African American	1	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	-	-
Asian	7	0.6
Asian Indian	-	-
Chinese	-	-
Filipino	2	0.2
Japanese	-	-
Korean	-	-
Vietnamese	-	-
Other Asian [1]	5	0.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	-	-
Native Hawaiian	-	-
Guamanian or Chamorro	-	-
Samoan	-	-
Other Pacific Islander [2]	-	-
Some other race	2	0.2
Two or more races	7	0.6
Race alone or in combination with one or more other races: [3]		
White	1,244	99.2
Black or African American	1	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	1	0.1
Asian	8	0.6
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	-	-
Some other race	7	0.6

Subject	Number	Percent
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Total population	**1,254**	**100.0**
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	14	1.1
Mexican	5	0.4
Puerto Rican	8	0.6
Cuban	-	-
Other Hispanic or Latino	1	0.1
Not Hispanic or Latino	1,240	98.9
White alone	1,230	98.1
RELATIONSHIP		
Total population	**1,254**	**100.0**
In households	1,254	100.0
Householder	449	35.8
Spouse	277	22.1
Child	436	34.8
Own child under 18 years	346	27.6
Other relatives	36	2.9
Under 18 years	11	0.9
Nonrelatives	56	4.5
Unmarried partner	34	2.7
In group quarters	-	-
Institutionalized population	-	-
Noninstitutionalized population	-	-
HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Total households	**449**	**100.0**
Family households (families)	330	73.5
With own children under 18 years	162	36.1
Married-couple family	277	61.7
With own children under 18 years	137	30.5
Female householder, no husband present	32	7.1
With own children under 18 years	17	3.8
Nonfamily households	119	26.5
Householder living alone	92	20.5
Householder 65 years and over	32	7.1
Households with individuals under 18 years	173	38.5
Households with individuals 65 years and over	94	20.9
Average household size	2.79	(X)
Average family size	3.27	(X)
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	**526**	**100.0**
Occupied housing units	449	85.4
Vacant housing units	77	14.6
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	56	10.6
Homeowner vacancy rate (percent)	1.3	(X)
Rental vacancy rate (percent)	1.8	(X)
HOUSING TENURE		
Occupied housing units	**449**	**100.0**
Owner-occupied housing units	393	87.5
Renter-occupied housing units	56	12.5
Average household size of owner-occupied units	2.86	(X)
Average household size of renter-occupied units	2.34	(X)

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

[1] Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

[2] Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

[3] In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Table DP-2. Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000

Geographic area: Royalston town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[Data based on a sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT		
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	**352**	**100.0**
Nursery school, preschool	29	8.2
Kindergarten	11	3.1
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	163	46.3
High school (grades 9-12)	88	25.0
College or graduate school	61	17.3
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Population 25 years and over	**786**	**100.0**
Less than 9th grade	26	3.3
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	109	13.9
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	282	35.9
Some college, no degree	168	21.4
Associate degree	66	8.4
Bachelor's degree	75	9.5
Graduate or professional degree	60	7.6
Percent high school graduate or higher	82.8	(X)
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	17.2	(X)
MARITAL STATUS		
Population 15 years and over	**956**	**100.0**
Never married	252	26.4
Now married, except separated	500	52.3
Separated	13	1.4
Widowed	46	4.8
Female	44	4.6
Divorced	145	15.2
Female	46	4.8
GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS		
Grandparent living in household with one or more own grandchildren under 18 years	**24**	**100.0**
Grandparent responsible for grandchildren	3	12.5
VETERAN STATUS		
Civilian population 18 years and over	**888**	**100.0**
Civilian veterans	145	16.3
DISABILITY STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION		
Population 5 to 20 years	**297**	**100.0**
With a disability	41	13.8
Population 21 to 64 years	**716**	**100.0**
With a disability	107	14.9
Percent employed	43.9	(X)
No disability	609	85.1
Percent employed	82.9	(X)
Population 65 years and over	**124**	**100.0**
With a disability	53	42.7
RESIDENCE IN 1995		
Population 5 years and over	**1,137**	**100.0**
Same house in 1995	815	71.7
Different house in the U.S. in 1995	322	28.3
Same county	198	17.4
Different county	124	10.9
Same state	93	8.2
Different state	31	2.7
Elsewhere in 1995	-	-

Subject	Number	Percent
NATIVITY AND PLACE OF BIRTH		
Total population	**1,253**	**100.0**
Native	1,224	97.7
Born in United States	1,218	97.2
State of residence	1,007	80.4
Different state	211	16.8
Born outside United States	6	0.5
Foreign born	29	2.3
Entered 1990 to March 2000	2	0.2
Naturalized citizen	19	1.5
Not a citizen	10	0.8
REGION OF BIRTH OF FOREIGN BORN		
Total (excluding born at sea)	**29**	**100.0**
Europe	15	51.7
Asia	-	-
Africa	-	-
Oceania	-	-
Latin America	-	-
Northern America	14	48.3
LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME		
Population 5 years and over	**1,137**	**100.0**
English only	1,095	96.3
Language other than English	42	3.7
Speak English less than "very well"	6	0.5
Spanish	3	0.3
Speak English less than "very well"	-	-
Other Indo-European languages	19	1.7
Speak English less than "very well"	1	0.1
Asian and Pacific Island languages	-	-
Speak English less than "very well"	-	-
ANCESTRY (single or multiple)		
Total population	**1,253**	**100.0**
Total ancestries reported	*1,363*	*108.8*
Arab	2	0.2
Czech[1]	-	-
Danish	3	0.2
Dutch	-	-
English	209	16.7
French (except Basque)[1]	221	17.6
French Canadian[1]	104	8.3
German	55	4.4
Greek	2	0.2
Hungarian	-	-
Irish[1]	171	13.6
Italian	85	6.8
Lithuanian	35	2.8
Norwegian	11	0.9
Polish	48	3.8
Portuguese	4	0.3
Russian	13	1.0
Scotch-Irish	22	1.8
Scottish	69	5.5
Slovak	-	-
Subsaharan African	-	-
Swedish	37	3.0
Swiss	-	-
Ukrainian	4	0.3
United States or American	78	6.2
Welsh	-	-
West Indian (excluding Hispanic groups)	-	-
Other ancestries	190	15.2

-Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

[1]The data represent a combination of two ancestries shown separately in Summary File 3. Czech includes Czechoslovakian. French includes Alsatian. French Canadian includes Acadian/Cajun. Irish includes Celtic.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.

Table DP-3. Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic area: Royalston town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[Data based on a sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent
EMPLOYMENT STATUS		
Population 16 years and over	**921**	**100.0**
In labor force	628	68.2
Civilian labor force	628	68.2
Employed	600	65.1
Unemployed	28	3.0
Percent of civilian labor force	4.5	(X)
Armed Forces	-	-
Not in labor force	293	31.8
Females 16 years and over	**411**	**100.0**
In labor force	257	62.5
Civilian labor force	257	62.5
Employed	253	61.6
Own children under 6 years	**130**	**100.0**
All parents in family in labor force	74	56.9
COMMUTING TO WORK		
Workers 16 years and over	**577**	**100.0**
Car, truck, or van - - drove alone	448	77.6
Car, truck, or van - - carpooled	68	11.8
Public transportation (including taxicab)	2	0.3
Walked	13	2.3
Other means	7	1.2
Worked at home	39	6.8
Mean travel time to work (minutes)[1]	35.1	(X)
Employed civilian population 16 years and over	**600**	**100.0**
OCCUPATION		
Management, professional, and related occupations	175	29.2
Service occupations	104	17.3
Sales and office occupations	121	20.2
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	7	1.2
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	77	12.8
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	116	19.3
INDUSTRY		
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	20	3.3
Construction	52	8.7
Manufacturing	142	23.7
Wholesale trade	13	2.2
Retail trade	51	8.5
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	21	3.5
Information	24	4.0
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	18	3.0
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	23	3.8
Educational, health and social services	157	26.2
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	29	4.8
Other services (except public administration)	20	3.3
Public administration	30	5.0
CLASS OF WORKER		
Private wage and salary workers	410	68.3
Government workers	101	16.8
Self-employed workers in own not incorporated business	86	14.3
Unpaid family workers	3	0.5

Subject	Number	Percent
INCOME IN 1999		
Households	**428**	**100.0**
Less than $10,000	28	6.5
$10,000 to $14,999	12	2.8
$15,000 to $24,999	55	12.9
$25,000 to $34,999	61	14.3
$35,000 to $49,999	84	19.6
$50,000 to $74,999	110	25.7
$75,000 to $99,999	39	9.1
$100,000 to $149,999	26	6.1
$150,000 to $199,999	7	1.6
$200,000 or more	6	1.4
Median household income (dollars)	44,444	(X)
With earnings	364	85.0
Mean earnings (dollars)[1]	52,303	(X)
With Social Security income	107	25.0
Mean Social Security income (dollars)[1]	11,150	(X)
With Supplemental Security Income	17	4.0
Mean Supplemental Security Income (dollars)[1]	5,635	(X)
With public assistance income	15	3.5
Mean public assistance income (dollars)[1]	1,987	(X)
With retirement income	54	12.6
Mean retirement income (dollars)[1]	18,890	(X)
Families	**312**	**100.0**
Less than $10,000	9	2.9
$10,000 to $14,999	4	1.3
$15,000 to $24,999	31	9.9
$25,000 to $34,999	46	14.7
$35,000 to $49,999	58	18.6
$50,000 to $74,999	94	30.1
$75,000 to $99,999	35	11.2
$100,000 to $149,999	26	8.3
$150,000 to $199,999	5	1.6
$200,000 or more	4	1.3
Median family income (dollars)	51,818	(X)
Per capita income (dollars)[1]	18,297	(X)
Median earnings (dollars):		
Male full-time, year-round workers	36,328	(X)
Female full-time, year-round workers	27,361	(X)

Subject	Number below poverty level	Percent below poverty level
POVERTY STATUS IN 1999		
Families	**17**	**5.4**
With related children under 18 years	12	8.1
With related children under 5 years	8	14.8
Families with female householder, no husband present	**-**	**-**
With related children under 18 years	-	-
With related children under 5 years	-	-
Individuals	**109**	**8.7**
18 years and over	63	7.1
65 years and over	8	6.5
Related children under 18 years	35	10.1
Related children 5 to 17 years	23	9.9
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over	48	26.7

-Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

[1]If the denominator of a mean value or per capita value is less than 30, then that value is calculated using a rounded aggregate in the numerator. See text.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.

Table DP-4. Profile of Selected Housing Characteristics: 2000

Geographic area: Royalston town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[Data based on a sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent
Total housing units	**527**	**100.0**
UNITS IN STRUCTURE		
1-unit, detached	461	87.5
1-unit, attached	10	1.9
2 units	31	5.9
3 or 4 units	-	-
5 to 9 units	-	-
10 to 19 units	-	-
20 or more units	-	-
Mobile home	25	4.7
Boat, RV, van, etc	-	-
YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT		
1999 to March 2000	11	2.1
1995 to 1998	13	2.5
1990 to 1994	43	8.2
1980 to 1989	100	19.0
1970 to 1979	99	18.8
1960 to 1969	9	1.7
1940 to 1959	52	9.9
1939 or earlier	200	38.0
ROOMS		
1 room	5	0.9
2 rooms	9	1.7
3 rooms	18	3.4
4 rooms	65	12.3
5 rooms	94	17.8
6 rooms	119	22.6
7 rooms	68	12.9
8 rooms	61	11.6
9 or more rooms	88	16.7
Median (rooms)	6.1	(X)
Occupied housing units	**449**	**100.0**
YEAR HOUSEHOLDER MOVED INTO UNIT		
1999 to March 2000	43	9.6
1995 to 1998	95	21.2
1990 to 1994	68	15.1
1980 to 1989	115	25.6
1970 to 1979	70	15.6
1969 or earlier	58	12.9
VEHICLES AVAILABLE		
None	18	4.0
1	107	23.8
2	208	46.3
3 or more	116	25.8
HOUSE HEATING FUEL		
Utility gas	-	-
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	21	4.7
Electricity	19	4.2
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc	342	76.2
Coal or coke	2	0.4
Wood	63	14.0
Solar energy	-	-
Other fuel	2	0.4
No fuel used	-	-
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS		
Lacking complete plumbing facilities	9	2.0
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	6	1.3
No telephone service	5	1.1

Subject	Number	Percent
OCCUPANTS PER ROOM		
Occupied housing units	**449**	**100.0**
1.00 or less	437	97.3
1.01 to 1.50	10	2.2
1.51 or more	2	0.4
Specified owner-occupied units	**252**	**100.0**
VALUE		
Less than $50,000	9	3.6
$50,000 to $99,999	98	38.9
$100,000 to $149,999	102	40.5
$150,000 to $199,999	33	13.1
$200,000 to $299,999	6	2.4
$300,000 to $499,999	4	1.6
$500,000 to $999,999	-	-
$1,000,000 or more	-	-
Median (dollars)	107,100	(X)
MORTGAGE STATUS AND SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS		
With a mortgage	181	71.8
Less than $300	-	-
$300 to $499	19	7.5
$500 to $699	23	9.1
$700 to $999	70	27.8
$1,000 to $1,499	67	26.6
$1,500 to $1,999	2	0.8
$2,000 or more	-	-
Median (dollars)	917	(X)
Not mortgaged	71	28.2
Median (dollars)	284	(X)
SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1999		
Less than 15.0 percent	98	38.9
15.0 to 19.9 percent	38	15.1
20.0 to 24.9 percent	37	14.7
25.0 to 29.9 percent	34	13.5
30.0 to 34.9 percent	13	5.2
35.0 percent or more	30	11.9
Not computed	2	0.8
Specified renter-occupied units	**58**	**100.0**
GROSS RENT		
Less than $200	-	-
$200 to $299	-	-
$300 to $499	20	34.5
$500 to $749	14	24.1
$750 to $999	3	5.2
$1,000 to $1,499	4	6.9
$1,500 or more	-	-
No cash rent	17	29.3
Median (dollars)	505	(X)
GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1999		
Less than 15.0 percent	19	32.8
15.0 to 19.9 percent	7	12.1
20.0 to 24.9 percent	2	3.4
25.0 to 29.9 percent	3	5.2
30.0 to 34.9 percent	-	-
35.0 percent or more	10	17.2
Not computed	17	29.3

-Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.

APPENDIX E – BUILD-OUT ANALYSIS OF ROYALSTON

Mass.Gov ▸ Mass.Gov Home Page ▸ State Government ▸ State Online Services

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Ellen Roy Herzfelder, Secretary
Keyword Search: Web Site Map Glossary

Community Preservation Initiative

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What Is Community Preservation?
Buildout Maps and Analyses
Community Preservation Act
Community Development Plans
Community Preservation Institute
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Community Preservation Tools & Techniques
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Publications
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More about the Office for Commonwealth Development
Map Gallery
Community Preservation Action
Urban River Visions
Create your own regional buildout analysis
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Quabbin Region: Town of Royalston

Community Data Profile

This data profile includes summary statistics that are a component of a buildout map and analysis series. The analysis starts with available land in each zoning district and makes projections of additional housing units and commercial/industrial space according to each district's minimum lot size and other regulations. The projections only account for as of right development and do not include development by special or comprehensive permit that may increase the amount of development. These buildout projections were combined with 2000 Census and other data to create a profile of each community at buildout according to its current zoning.

Buildout Analysis Summary

Buildout completion date: 2001

Demographic Projections

Residents	
1990	1,147.00
Current	1,254.00
Buildout	15,512.00
Students (K-12)	
1990	231.00
Current	237.00
Buildout	2,901.00
Residential Units	
1990	404.00
Current	526.00
Buildout	5,749.00
Water Use (gallons/day)	
Current	17,052.00
Buildout	1,086,403.00

Buildout Impacts

Additional Residents	14,258.00
Additional Students (K-12)	2,664.00
Additional Residential Units	5,223.00
Additional Developable Land Area (sq ft)	753,565,464.00

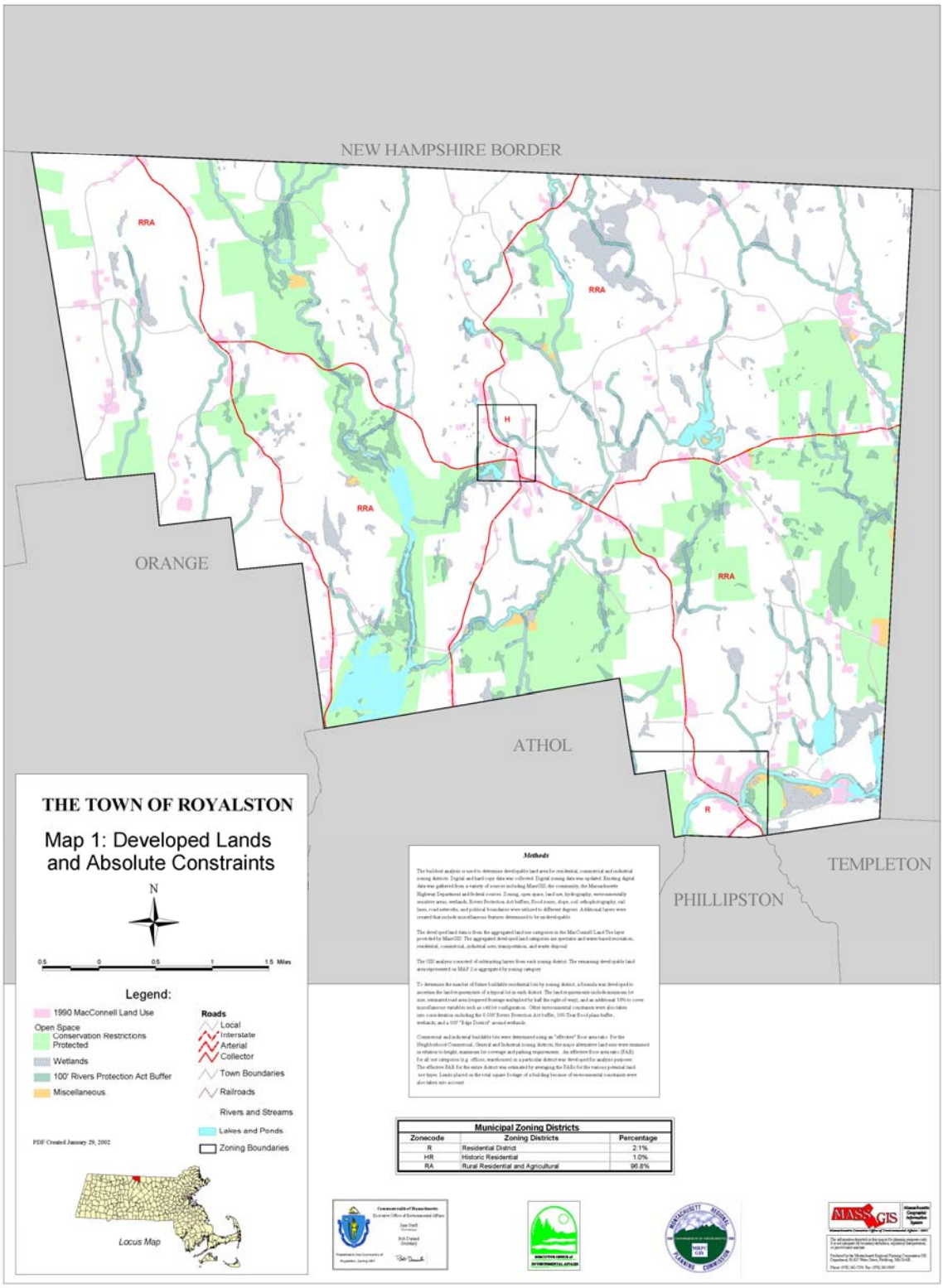
Con
Atho
Barr
Belch
Brim
Broo
Char
Dudl
East
Ervir
Hard
Holla
Hubt
Mons
New
New
Nortl
Oakh
Oran
Oxfo
Palm
Paxt
Pelha
Pete
Philli
Roya
Rutla
Shut
Sout
Sper
Sturl
Tem
Wale
Ware
Warr
Wary
Webs
Wen
West

Additional Developable Land Area (acres)	17,299.00
Additional Commercial/Industrial Buildable Floor Area (sq ft)	0.00
Additional Water Demand at Buildout (gallons/day)	1,069,351.00
Residential	1,069,351.00
Commercial and Industrial	0.00
Additional Solid Waste (tons/yr)	7,314.00
Non-Recyclable	5,201.00
Recyclable	2,113.00
Additional Roadway at Buildout (miles)	155.00

Printable Data Profile

Questions or comments regarding this site should be sent to community.preservation@state.

EOEA Home Privacy Policy Disclaimer


NEW HAMPSHIRE BORDER
RRA
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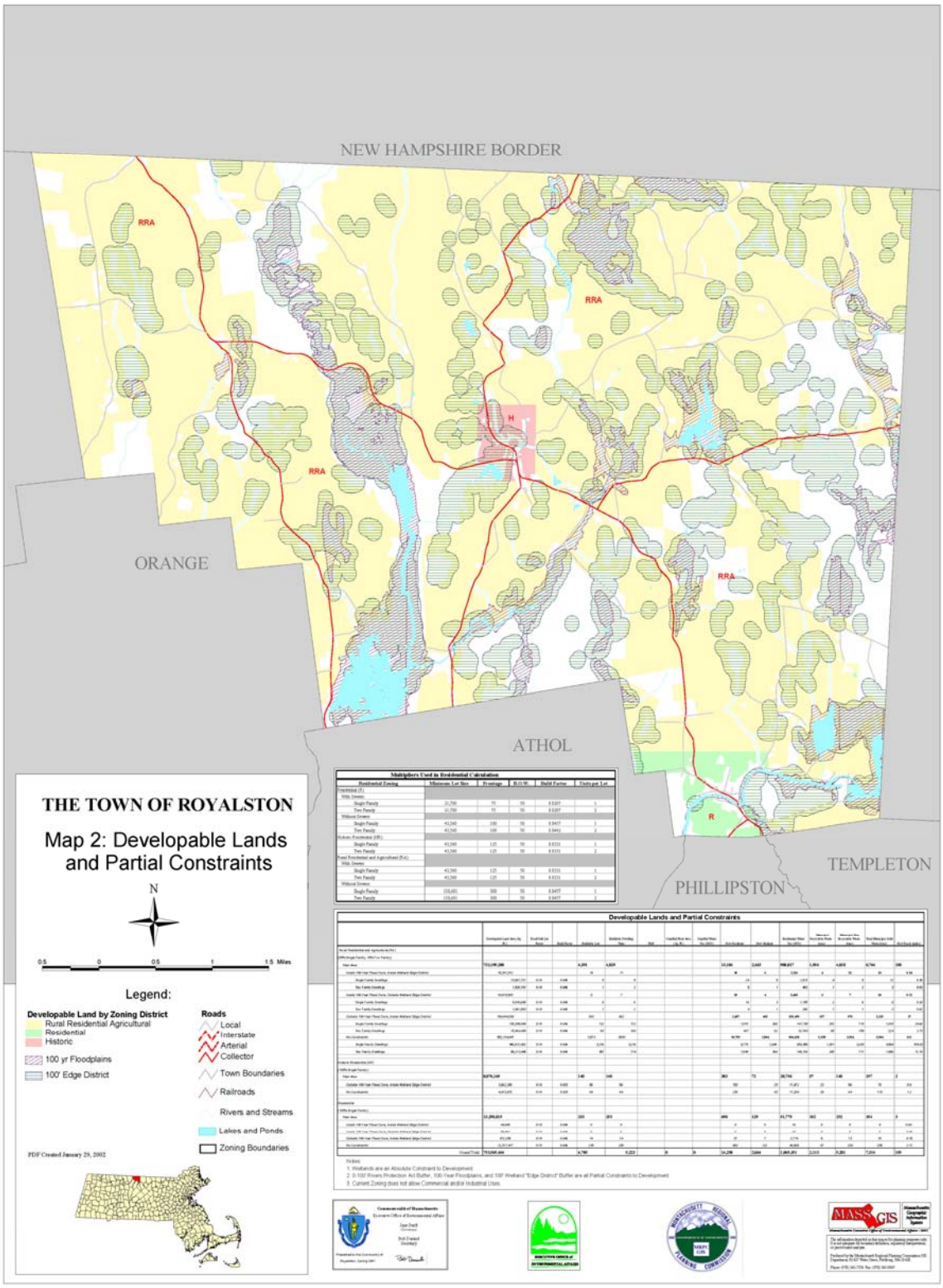
PHILLIPSTON
THE TOWN OF ROYALSTON
Map 1: Developed Lands and Absolute Constraints
N
0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles
Legend:
1990 MacConnell Land Use
Open Space
Conservation Restrictions
Protected
Wetlands
100' Rivers Protection Act Buffer
Miscellaneous
Roads
Local
Interstate
Arterial
Collector
Town Boundaries
Railroads
Rivers and Streams
Lakes and Ponds
Zoning Boundaries
PDF Created January 29, 2002
Locus Map
Methods
Municipal Zoning Districts
Zonecode | Zoning Districts | Percentage
R | Residential District | 2.1%
HR | Historic Residential | 1.0%
RA | Rural Residential and Agricultural | 96.8%


NEW HAMPSHIRE BORDER
RRA
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ORANGE
ATHOL
R
TEMPLETON
PHILLIPSTON
THE TOWN OF ROYALSTON
Map 2: Developable Lands and Partial Constraints
N
0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles
Legend:
Developable Land by Zoning District
Rural Residential Agricultural
Residential
Historic
100 yr Floodplains
100' Edge District
Roads
Local
Interstate
Arterial
Collector
Town Boundaries
Railroads
Rivers and Streams
Lakes and Ponds
Zoning Boundaries
PDF Created January 29, 2002
Multipliers Used in Residential Calculation
Developable Lands and Partial Constraints
Notes:
1. Wetlands are an Absolute Constraint to Development.
2. 0-100 Rivers Protection Act Buffer, 100-Year Floodplains, and 100' Wetland "Edge District" Buffer are all Partial Constraints to Development.
3. Current Zoning does not allow Commercial and/or Industrial Uses.

APPENDIX F
ANALYSIS OF UNCLAIMED PARCELS IN ROYALSTON (U-PARCEL REPORT)

From: Royalston Open Space & Recreation Committee
To: Royalston Board of Selectmen
Date: 5 July 2005
Re: Summary of unclaimed parcels that are priorities for conservation as open space and critical wildlife habitat in Royalston.

The Royalston Open Space & Recreation Committee has obtained from the Assessor's Office in Royalston a list of "unclaimed" parcels in town. These parcels are listed and briefly described below:

Map 8, Parcel 10 Deland Rd. 9.6 acres
Abuts 510 acres of Otter River State Forest (Map 8, Parcel 4)
Would give state forest frontage on Deland Rd.

Map 8, Parcel 15 Beryl Hill Rd. 11.3 acres
Appears landlocked (Beryl Hill Rd. ends before reaching parcel)
Abuts 510 acres of Otter River State Forest (Map 8, Parcel 4)

Map 1, Parcel 59 Warwick Rd. 19 acres
Appears landlocked

Map 2, Parcel 15-1 Falls Rd. 29.8 acres
On Greely Brook
Appears landlocked

Map 6, Parcel 54-1 Falls Rd. 42 acres
Appears landlocked
near Royalston State Forest, but not abutting
Abuts Parcel 56-1, below

Map 6, Parcel 56-1 Falls Rd. 53.6 acres
Appears landlocked
Near Royalston State Forest, but not abutting
Abuts parcel 54-1, above

Map 4, Parcel 25-1 Taft Hill Rd. 27 acres
Dominated by wetlands
Appears landlocked

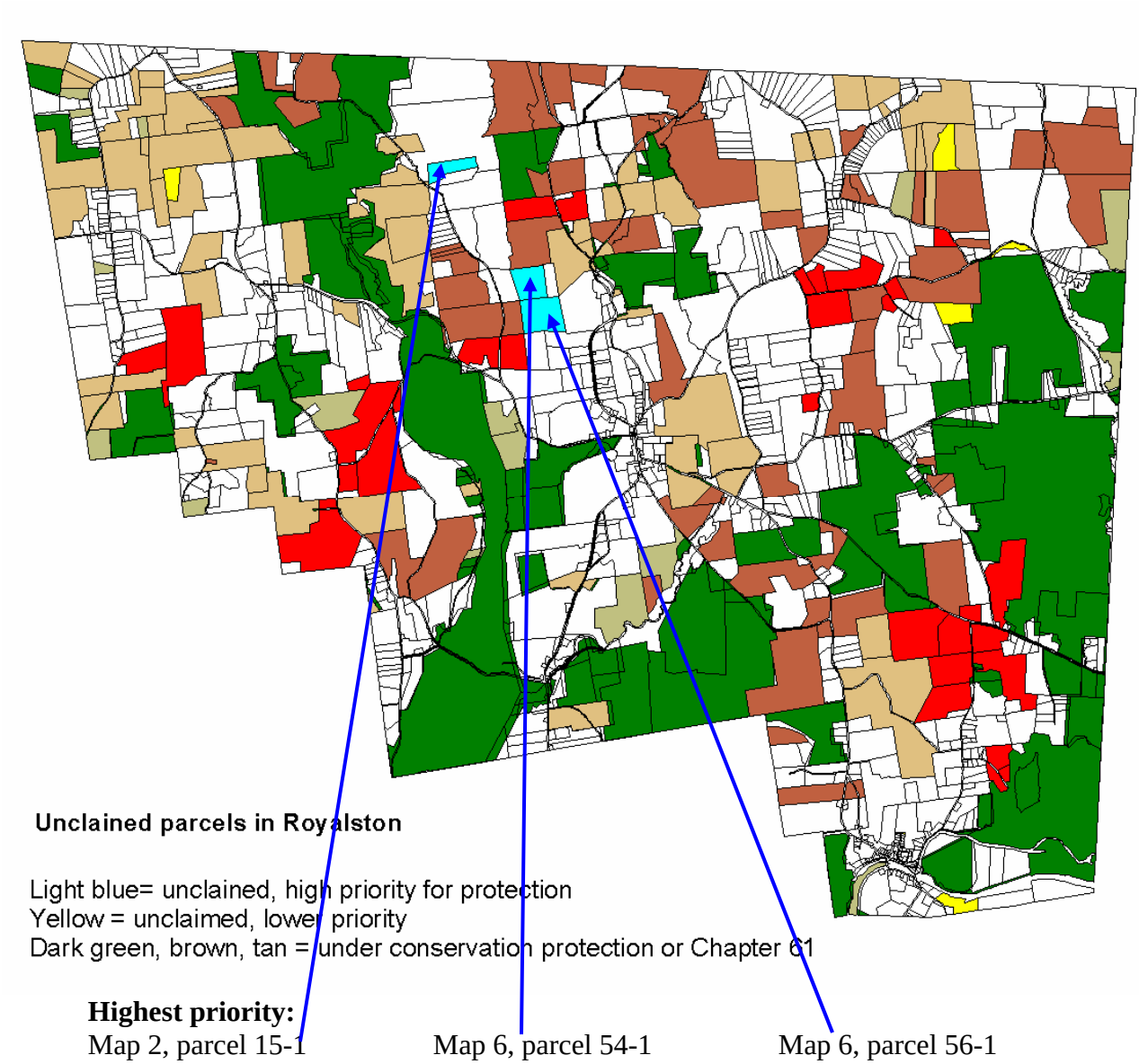
Map 17, Parcel 21 Baldwinville Rd. 15 acres
Half of parcel is in wetland, crossed by unnamed stream
Abuts B&M RR line and Templeton border

Map 22, Parcel 39 Main St.
Tiny triangle (145x145x45) at intersection of Main and School Sts, S. Royalston; suitable for public garden?

Map 20, Parcel 18 **Pleasant St.** 0.78 acre
Lying crosswise at end of street, St. Royalston

The map below shows parcel boundaries for the town (source: GIS shapefiles related to Open Space & Recreation Plan 2004-2009). Parcels colored in green, brown, red, and tan already are subject to some form of conservation protection via ownership in fee, existence of a conservation easement, or placement under Chapter 61. None of the unclaimed parcels currently have this type of protection.

The unclaimed parcels appear on the map below with either yellow or light blue shading. The Open Space & Recreation Committee has identified the three light blue-shaded parcels as particularly high priorities for conservation protection. These are discussed below.



Highest priority:
Map 2, parcel 15-1 Map 6, parcel 54-1 Map 6, parcel 56-1

All three parcels lie on or near Falls Road. Parcel 15-1 is the only parcel with potential road frontage (this needs to be checked with a field visit); the other two parcels have no direct road access. Parcels 54-1 and 56-1 (Map 6) are both larger than 40 acres, and provide excellent connections between areas of already protected land. This "connectivity" allows for movement of wildlife, and potential nesting areas for bird species that require large, unfragmented, and relatively undisturbed habitat areas. All three high-priority parcels are classified as "Living Waters supporting watershed" and "Biomap supporting habitat" by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and the eastern half of parcel 15-1 is recognized as "Biomap core habitat." That is, these parcels provide either critical habitat or buffers for known populations of state-listed animals or plants and/or help protect water quality for people and aquatic species. Aerial photos and topo maps (available from MassGIS) show that parcel 15-1 has at least two permanent streams and its northeast corner crosses Boyce Brook. Parcels 54-1 and 56-1 both encompass steep slopes on the western flank of Prospect ridge, which can provide excellent habitat for rare plants and possibly amphibians. They should be inventoried for their biological richness (see topographic map below).

Although all three parcels are largely "landlocked" from road access, development on Falls Road has become more frequent in recent years and is likely to accelerate in the near term, given trends in Massachusetts. Therefore, now is the time to take the opportunity to acquire and protect these unclaimed parcels. While we have emphasized three major parcels in this first proposal, others (especially the 9.6-acre parcel on Deland Road which provides road frontage at the north edge of Otter River State Forest) also merit consideration. We propose that the town of Royalston take steps to research ownership of these parcels (if information is available) and to acquire easements or fee title to the three high-priority parcels as soon as possible, and the other parcels as time and resources permit.

APPENDIX G – ROYALSTON ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

In September 2003, the *Town of Royalston Accessibility Plan* was completed through the combined efforts of the the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, the Board of Selectmen and other town boards, and James M. Mazik, Consultant. The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development administered funding for completion of the Accessibility Plan through a grant to the Town of Royalston from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program.

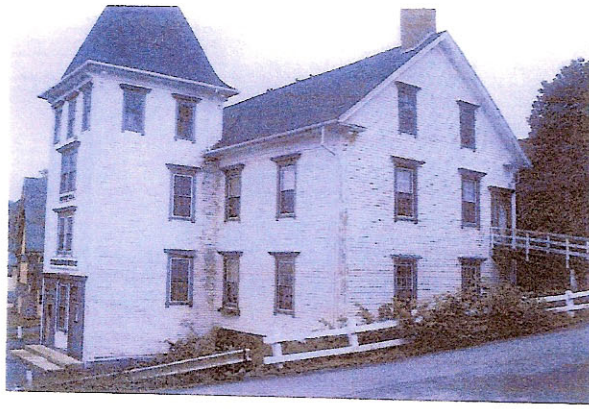
For the purposes of this Open Space & Recreation Plan, we include the relevant pages and sections of the Accessibility Plan that cover open space and recreational properties *in lieu of* redoing this inventory and accessibility assessment of properties in Royalston.

The 2004 Open Space & Recreation Plan included an evaluation of the administrative and employment practices, grievance procedures, effective communication policies, equal opportunity policies, and non-discrimination policies of the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and ADA Coordinator. The 2004 Plan also included a site-by-site inventory and comparison of all areas covered by the Accessibility Plan with then-current conditions. As no changes have been made to any of the practices, procedures, or policies, and no ADA updates have been made in town since 2002, this section of the current Open Space & Recreation Plan is identical to that included in the 2004 Plan. In 2009, the Open Space & Recreation Committee surveyed the three town-owned conservation and recreation properties. All properties remain non-compliant.

Also included in this section is a copy of the current appointment letter of Royalston's ADA Coordinator, Geoffrey Newton, signed by the Board of Selectmen. His term expires June 30, 2010.

Town of Royalston
Accessibility Plan

Self-evaluation ***Transition Plan*** ***Policies and Procedures***



September 2003

Town of Royalston Accessibility Plan
September 2003

Prepared by: *James M. Mazik, AICP*
Consulting Services
P.O. Box 333 – 130 Ruggles Hill Road
Hardwick, Massachusetts 01037
(413) 477-0914
jmazik14@comcast.net

Acknowledgements

The completion of this accessibility plan was accomplished through the combined efforts of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, Board of Selectmen, and the various town boards, commissions, and departments.

Prepared by James M. Mazik, AICP
for the Town of Royalston
September 2003

Funding for this accessibility plan has been through a grant to the Town of Royalston from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, using United States Department of Housing and Urban Development funds.

Active Recreation Areas and Playgrounds

General Description or Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access: The town has jurisdiction over two active playground areas, two basketball courts, and a ball field. With the exception of the Community School recreation area and playground, none of the areas are substantially developed. A more detailed description of each facility is provided below, followed by a general summary chart.

Description of Programs: Active and passive recreation facilities.

Accessibility Compliance Options: Initiate improvements and remove architectural barriers as specified.

Estimated Total Project Cost: $ 5,000

Projected Completion Date: December 2004

Bullock Park Ball Field: Bullock Park Ball Field is a minimally developed ball field consisting of benches for baseball/softball participants. Access to the field is through a narrow dirt trail. No parking, other than on-street is available.

Royalston Community School Play Area/Recreation Field: The Community School Recreation Area is located adjacent to the Royalston Community School and consists of a soccer/baseball field, basketball hoop, swings, slide, and "monkey bars". An accessible route of travel to the play areas and field does not exist. Handicapped parking is available (some modifications required) and is fully addressed as part of the assessment for the Community School Building.

Raymond School Playground: The Raymond School building and related facilities are leased by "The Village School" for use as a private school. Any and all required accessibility modifications are the shared responsibility of the lessee and the lessor, based on the lease contract terms. The minimally developed outside play area is used primarily by the children attending the school. Improvements and equipment include swings, a sandbox, "monkey bars", and two picnic tables. No designated accessible parking and related signage and striping exists. However, accessible parking created to serve the school building could also accommodate the recreation and play area.

Town Hall Basketball Court: A paved basketball court exists behind the Town Hall. No other facilities are provided. Accessible parking addressed under the Town Hall building assessment.

Whitney Hall Basketball Court and Playground: A paved basketball court and play equipment (swings and slide) exists behind the Whitney Hall . No other facilities are provided. Accessible parking addressed under the Whitney Hall building assessment. As the play area is located immediately adjacent to the paved parking area, compliance with providing an accessible route of travel is minimally met.

Name of Facility	Parking, Striping, Signage	Accessible Pathway to Facility	Accessible Picnic Table	Date of Completion	Estimated Cost
Bullock Park Ball Field	NA	NC	NA	07/04	$ 500
Royalston Community School Play Area/Recreation Field	*	NC	NA	09/04	$ 2,500
Raymond School Playground	*	NC	NC	11/04	$ 2,000
Town Hall Basketball Court	*	C	NA	NA	$ 0
Whitney Hall Basketball Court and Playground	*	C	NA	NA	$ 0
				Total	**$ 5,000**

NC = Non-compliant
NA = Not applicable
C = Compliant
* = Addressed as part of building assessment

Cemeteries, Green Spaces, and Public Ways: Cemeteries

Name/Location: Gale Gates Cemetery, Newton Cemetery, Old Center Cemetery, Riverside Cemetery, Maple Cemetery, Lawrence Brook Cemetery, Butterworth Cemetery, Under-the-Hill Cemetery, Jonas Alliene Cemetery, Hillside Cemetery.

Description of Facility: Primarily open space with gravesites.

Function: Cemetery/burial ground. **Responsible Party:** Cemetery Commission

General Description or Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access: Most cemeteries visually accessible by motor vehicle using main roads or through the use of interior existing access roads. Some of the older historic cemeteries have stone walls, stairs, or gates which do not meet accessible route of travel standards for those with mobility limiting disabilities. However, these cemeteries can be viewed from access roads, public ways or adjoining vantage points.

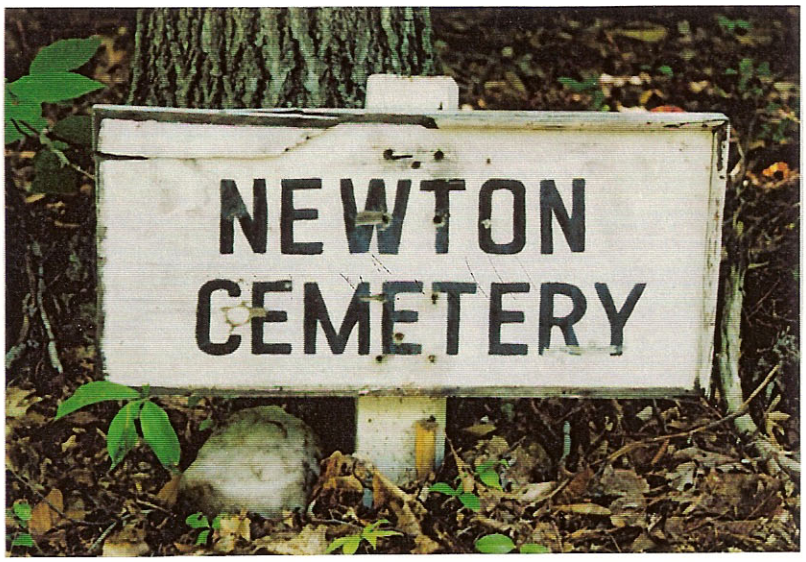
Description of Programs: None.

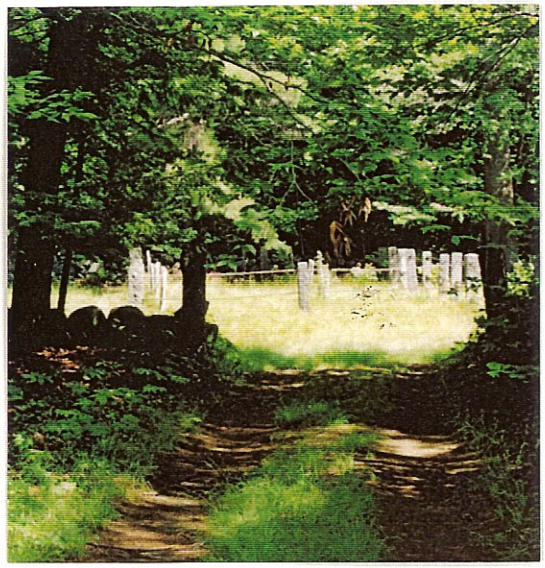
Accessibility Compliance Options: Not applicable.

Estimated Total Project Cost: $0.

Projected Completion Date: Not applicable.

It is "technically infeasible" to make these cemeteries accessible compliant. Through reasonable accommodations, all grave sites can be physically accessed or viewed with the use of a motor vehicle. No other action is required.





Cemeteries, Green Spaces, and Public Ways: Sidewalks and Curb Ramps

Name: Public sidewalks and curb ramps

Location: South St, Main St., South Royalston.

Description of Facility: Sidewalks and curb ramps.

Function: Pedestrian travel ways and street-crossing locations.

Responsible Party: Highway Department

General Description or Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access: Sidewalks within the town are limited to portions of South and Main Street in South Royalston. The town must comply according to the stricter of the ADAAG, 521 CMR, or Massachusetts Highway Department Wheelchair Ramp Standards, whichever is appropriate. In summary, these standards are generally as follows:

- Whenever sidewalks, walkways, or curbs on streets and ways are constructed, reconstructed, or repaired, curb cuts are required.
- Curb cuts shall occur whenever an accessible route crosses a curb.
- Curb cuts are required at each corner of an intersection and shall be perpendicular to the street. Single curb cuts serving two street crossings are not allowed.
- The maximum slope of a curb ramp shall be 1:12 (8.3%).
- The maximum cross slope of a curb ramp shall be 1:50 (2%).
- Transitions from curb cuts to walks, gutters, or streets shall be flush or free of changes I level greater than 1/2".
- The minimum width of a curb cut shall be 36", exclusive of flared sides.
- The maximum slope of a flared side shall be 10% (ADAAG, AAB), 8.3% (MHD).
- Clear width (36") and head room (80") requirements must be maintained on sidewalks and accessible routes.
- All sidewalks/accessible routes of travel must be maintained and kept in a good quality condition including being kept free of snow and ice or other debris which would restrict access.

The sidewalk on South Street is in varying states of extreme disrepair resulting in uneven, unstable and deteriorated surfaces resulting in non-compliance with accessibility standards. In addition, a portion of the sidewalk on South Street next to the convenience store is reduced to approximately 21" in width due to a set of concrete steps leading to a residential house which projects into the sidewalk. The sidewalks on Main Street were under reconstruction as part of the bridge construction project but appeared to be in compliance based on partial completion and -anticipated final construction.

Description of Programs: Public pedestrian travel way.

Accessibility Compliance Options: Remove architectural barriers by reconstructing all non-compliant sidewalks.

Estimated Total Project Cost: $ 6,500

Projected Completion Date: December 2005.

Cemeteries, Green Spaces, and Public Ways: Town Common

Name: Town Common

Location: The Common

Description of Facility: Historic town common.

Function: Town landmark, passive recreation, green space.

Responsible Party: Board of Selectmen

General Description or Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access: The common is predominately an unimproved grassed area in front of Town Hall which includes a veteran's monument. Any activities, services, or programs are readily available to all of the general public. Accessible parking is available at the adjacent town hall parking area.

Description of Programs: Passive recreation, open space.

Accessibility Compliance Options: None.

Estimated Total Project Cost: $ 0

Projected Completion Date: Not Applicable.

Cemeteries, Green Spaces, and Public Ways: South Royalston Park

Name: South Royalston Park

Location: Main Street

Description of Facility: Historic public green space..

Function: Town landmark, passive recreation, green space.

Responsible Party: Board of Selectmen

General Description or Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access: South Royalston Park is predominately an unimproved grassed area which includes a flag pole and modest shrubbery. No activities, services, or programs are offered at this location.

Description of Programs: Passive recreation, open space.

Accessibility Compliance Options: None.

Estimated Total Project Cost: $ 0

Projected Completion Date: Not Applicable.

Public Buildings and Facilities: Town Hall

Name: Town Hall

Location : The Common

Function: Office building for large meetings, groups, and general governmental services.

Responsible Party: Board of Selectman

General Descriptions or Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access: The building as a whole is minimally accessible, with a number of required modifications for full accessibilty compliance. This includes parking deficiencies, interior program access limitations, required bathroom modifications, and no second floor access. The "accessible" first floor level includes the Board of Selectman's Office an meeting room, a kitchen area and dining/community room, and partially accessible men's and women's bathrooms. None of the programs and services offered on the second floor are accessible to those with mobility limiting disabilities. Due to the overall lack of space within the building, few, f any options exist to accommodate individuals or provide all public services on the first floor. In order to achieve full accessibility compliance, required improvements will include those modifications s specified over the next few pages nd a 2-tory building adition which includes elevator access to the second floor. Total costs would most likely approach $250,000 inclusive of architectural fees and a 20% construction cost contingency.

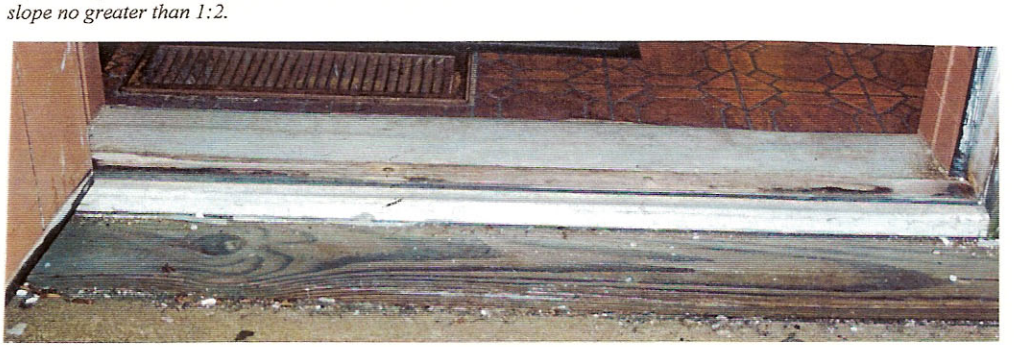
Description of Programs: General governmnt ervices (meetings), Council on aging weekly meetings and luncheons, civic group meetings, and operations and functions of the Board of Selectmen.

Accessibility Compliance Options: Initiate improvements and remove architectural barries as specified.

Estiated Total Project Cost: $178,000 (estimated at $245,000 w/architect fee, construction contingency).

Projected Completion Date: June 2006

Town Hall Building continued

General Description of Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access	Type of Action to be Taken	Priority	Feasibility	Cost Estimate
1. *Insufficient accessible parking and related striping. No signage noting accessible entrance (required if not the same as the main entrance).*	*No action to be taken pending accessibility modifications described further which would eliminate the accessible entrance into the kitchen area and create a rear accessible entrance and parking area, coupled with an addition with a vertical access.*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
2. *Access into building. Lower handrails on existing ramp are 22" a.f.f., which is greater than the allowed range of between 18" and 20". The upper handrails are 41" a.f.f which which is greater than the allowed range of between 34" and 38". The handrails do not extend the required 12" beyond the beginning/end of the ramp. A non-compliant 2 1/2" high threshold exists at the "accessible" door (maximum 1/2" beveled at 1:2 allowed). A floor grate exists on the interior of the entrance with 3/4" openings (1/2" allowed). Only 36" of clearance exists upon entry into the building due a wooden storage closet. As the accessible route of travel from the accessible entrance is through the kitchen area, maneuverability and practicality is severely compromised.*	*No action to be taken pending accessibility modifications described further which would eliminate the accessible entrance into the kitchen area and create a rear accessible entrance and parking area, coupled with an addition with a vertical access.*	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*
3. *Kitchen/Dining Room. The kitchen does not comply with height, clear space, hardware, clearances, fixtures and cooking unit requirements for non-commercial kitchens in public facilities and community rooms. Five folding tables used for meetings and dining provide only 26 1/2" of knee clearance space. The wooden floor surface of the room is not level and even throughout.*	*Modify kitchen area to comply with accessibility requirements. Modifications to be consistent with accessibility requirements as detailed on pages 21 through 23 of this document. These should include installation of compliant cabinetry hardware; lowering of wall cabinets to 51" at the bottom as feasible; creation of a counter space no higher than 34" a.f.f. and the modification of sink, cooking units, refrigeration unit, and controls as feasible. Modify one existing table to comply with required 27" knee clearance requirement. Undertake floor modifications as feasible.*	*4*	*3*	*$5,500*
4. *First Floor Hallway Between Front Entrance and Dining Room/Bathroom. Door hardware is knob-style and is non-compliant, however, door is kept open in a fixed position. The wooden threshold is approximately 3/4" high which exceeds the maximum 1/2" height threshold requirement.*	*Replace threshold with one that does not exceed 1/2" in height and is beveled on both sides with a slope no greater than 1:2.* 	*2*	*2*	*$250*

General Description of Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access	Type of Action to be Taken	Priority	Feasibility	Cost Estimate
5. *First Floor Men's Bathroom. The men's bathroom does not meet all required accessibility standards. Accessible signage not provided to identify men's bathroom. The maximum 15 lbs. of push/pull force appears to be exceeded. The toilet is located 21 1/2" o.c. from the nearest side wall instead of the required 18" o.c.. The rim height of the toilet is 19 3/4" which exceeds the 17" to 19" acceptable range. In addition, the toilet flush valve is located on the wall side instead of the required approach side. The urinal rim height of 23 3/4" exceeds the maximum height of 17". Pipes below sink not wrapped. Sink hardware is knob-style which does not comply with accessibility requirements.*	*Install "international symbol of accessibility" signage to identify men's bathroom. Sign location should be on the latch side of the door 60" o.c. a.f.f. Adjust door closer to comply with maximum push/pull force. Relocate and/or lower toilet and urinal to comply with height and setback requirements. If feasible, change water tank of toilet to meet flush valve requirements. All exposed hot water pipes, drain pipes, sharp edges, and abrasive surfaces below the sink must be wrapped. Replace faucets with ones that are operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist.*	*3*	*3*	*$750*
6. *First Floor Women's Bathroom. The women's bathroom does not meet all required accessibility standards. Accessible signage not provided to identify women's bathroom. The maximum 15 lbs. of push/pull force appears to be exceeded. In addition, the bathroom door closes from an open door position of 90 degrees to closure in approximately three seconds, which exceeds the six-second maximum threshold. The rim height of the toilet is 19 1/2" which exceeds the 17" to 19" acceptable range. In addition, the toilet flush valve is located on the wall side instead of the required approach side. Pipes below sink not wrapped. The side grab bar is approximately 31 1/2" a.f.f. which does not meet the acceptable range of 33" - 36" a.f.f.*	*Install "international symbol of accessibility" signage to identify women's bathroom. Sign location should be on the latch side of the door 60" o.c. a.f.f. Adjust door closer to comply with maximum push/pull force and closing speed requirements. Toilet rim height is within allowable 1/2" tolerance - no action required. If feasible, change water tank of toilet to meet flush valve requirements. All exposed hot water pipes, drain pipes, sharp edges, and abrasive surfaces below the sink must be wrapped. Raise side grab bar to comply with height range standards.*	*3*	*3*	*$300*
7. *First Floor Board of Selectmen's Office. Door hardware is knob-style and is non-compliant, however, door is kept open in a fixed position. The wooden threshold is approximately 3/4" high which exceeds the maximum 1/2" height threshold requirement. Wall mounted coat hooks are 67" a.f.f. o.c. which exceeds the maximum 54" a.f.f. for a side approach. The two folding tables used for meetings and BOS business provide only 26 1/2" of knee clearance space. The wooden floor surface of the room is not level and even throughout.*	*Replace threshold with one that does not exceed 1/2" in height and is beveled on both sides with a slope no greater than 1:2. Lower or install 2-3 coat hooks at a maximum height of 54" a.f.f. Modify one or both existing tables to comply with required 27" knee clearance requirement. Undertake floor modifications as feasible.*	*2*	*3*	*$450*

	General Description of Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access	Type of Action to be Taken	Priority	Feasibility	Cost Estimate
8.	*First Floor Foyer Area. A portable 57 1/2" coat rack a.f.f. o.c exceeds the maximum 54" a.f.f. for a side approach.*	*Provide an additional coat rack or coat hooks which do not exceed the maximum height of 54" a.f.f.*	4	2	$50
9.	*Access Between First and Second Floors. Vertical access on an accessible route of travel to second floor programs and services does not exist.*	*Construct a 2-story addition which houses a 2-stop elevator to the second floor. Provide electrical upgrades to support elevator as may be required. Create a compliant accessible route of travel to the new entrance. Provide required striping to create a formal parking space and access aisle. Signage and striping to designate space as "van accessible" (8' wide space with 8' wide access aisle). Relocate existing signage from front of the building to the head of the rear parking space at a height of between 5' and 8' and no more than 10' from parking space Install signage at front of building which notes that the accessible entrance is at the rear of the town hall.*	2	4	$150,000
10.	*Interior Stairs Between First Floor and Main Floor. The stair treads are not slip resistant. The stair treads vary in rise and run. Handrails are non-compliant due to inappropriate height, design, type and lack of proper extensions..*	*Modify stairs as feasible without impacting historical integrity of stairs. This would include the application of "friction strips" or similar material to create slip resistant stair treads. Apply for historic variance.*	2	2	$250
11.	*Second Floor Level - Entry Into Great Room. Accessible signage not provided to identify Great Room. The entryway to this room consists of a double-leaf doorway with two 29" doors each with only 27 1/2" clear width space. Existing door hardware is non-compliant. At least one leaf of a pair must have a 32" clear width opening. Door hardware is knob-style and is non-compliant. Hardware should be easily operable by one hand or a "closed fist". Existing 1" threshold exceeds the 1/2" height and beveled shape requirement.*	*The most cost effective design solution is to keep both doors open during public use. This may not be practical during the extreme winter and summer months when doors are typically kept shut to conserve heat or air conditioning. Thus, the construction alternative is to remove the existing double-leaf doors and replace with a single 34 " wide (minimum) door (32" clear opening) with compliant hardware and a fixed sidelight. Replace existing threshold with one that does not exceed 1/2" in height and is beveled on both sides with a slope no greater than 1:2.*	2	4	$2,400
12.	*Second Floor Level - Great Room. Stage area non accessible due to an approximately 32" high height differential with no vertical access. Existing set of stairs to stage do not comply with accessibility requirements due to lack of handrails on both sides of stairs. Entryways to rear of stage do not meet 32" minimum clear width requirements or door hardware requirements.*	*Install interior enclosed vertical access lift to stage. Install handrails as appropriate to comply with the intent of the accessibility requirements without detracting from the historic integrity of the building and stage. Widen entryways on stage area to comply with accessibility hardware and clear width space requirements.*	2	4	$18,500
13.	*A 32 1/4" x 32 1/4" floor register in the middle of the Great Room has grates with spacing approximately 1" x 1" which exceeds the maximum 1/2" space requirement.*	*Modify existing grates such that spacing is no greater than 1/2" wide in one direction.*	4	3	$350
					Total: $ 178,800

School Buildings: Royalston Community School

Name: Royalston Community School

Location: Winchendon Road

Function: Elementary School

Responsible Party: School Committee

General Description or Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access: The Royalston Community School is substantially compliant with current accessibility requirements. Recent state and federal changes have caused some areas to be non-compliant. If the school engages in substantial improvements, then these areas should be addressed. A number of relatively minor or easily correctable deficiencies were identified including insufficient knee clearance space under water fountains and tables, non-compliant setback or height requirements, or doors which close too fast or are too hard to push or pull open. The faculty room, which also serves as a mail distribution room, work room, and houses a copy machine is not accessible due to insufficient door width clearance. Overall, corrective costs should be relatively inexpensive and should not exceed $18,000.

Description of Programs: Public elementary school.

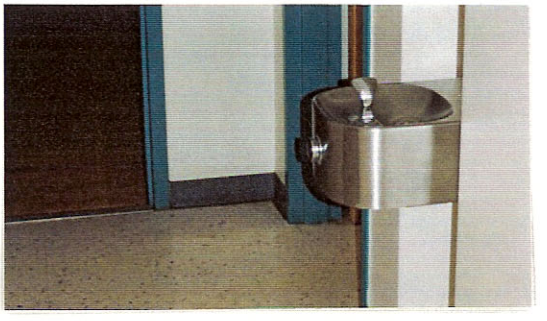
Accessibility Compliance Options: Initiate improvements and remove architectural barriers as specified.

Estimated Total Project Cost: $17,625

Projected Completion Date: December 2005

Royalston Community School continued

	General Description of Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access	Type of Action to be Taken	Priority	Feasibility	Cost Estimate
1.	*Insufficient accessible parking signage and related striping. Currently two 12' x 18' spaces exist with no access aisle.*	*Restripe existing accessible parking spaces such that the spaces are 8' wide with a shared *' wide access aisle. Relocate signage to the head of the parking space at a height of between 5' and 8' and no more than 10' from parking space. Signage and striping to designate one space as "van accessible"*	*1*	*2*	*$100*
2.	*There does not exist a "flush" surface from the parking lot to the edge of the concrete handicap curb ramp/walkway. A 1" unbeveled height differential occurs at this location.*	*Provide asphalt mix to transition the approach at the curb ramp such that no abrupt changes greater than 1/2" occur.*	*1*	*2*	*$50*
3.	*The entrance door may exceed the 15-lb. maximum pull-force requirement. In addition, the main door closes from an open position of 90 degrees to closure in four seconds, exceeding the minimum six second standard.*	*Adjust door opener to comply with push/pull force and closing speed requirements.*	*1*	*2*	*NA*
4.	*Six drinking fountains on both the first and second floor do not wholly comply with accessibility requirements. It appears none of these drinking fountains comply with the required 27" of knee clearance. The drinking fountain in the main foyer has a spigot height of 38", which exceeds the maximum height requirement of 36" by 2". Four of the drinking fountains (gymnasium, 2 first floor, 1 on second floor) protrude more than 4" into the hallway.*	*Modify drinking fountains to achieve required knee clearance and spigot height requirements. Construct wing walls which are at least 12" from wall and 27" high on both sides of drinking fountains (or provide similar detection device).* *Note: ADAAG and 521CMR do not address drinking fountain knee clearance specifically for children. If extrapolated for children's sink knee clearance minimum ht. of 25", then the drinking fountains would be considered compliant.*	*4*	*3*	*Up to $2,350*
5.	*Fire extinguishers project 5 1/4" into the hallway which exceeds the maximum 4" allowed for wall mounted objects with their leading edge between 27" and 80" a.f.f.*	*Lower fire extinguishers to a height below 27" a.f.f.*	*4*	*2*	*$50*
6.	*First Floor Level - Nurse's Office. Pipes below sink not wrapped. Paper towel dispenser located 67" a.f.f. which exceeds the maximum 42" height requirement.* *Nurse's Bathroom. Paper towel dispenser located 50" a.f.f. which exceeds the maximum 42" height requirement. Only 28 3/4" of knee clearance is provided below the sink, not the required 29" minimum. The toilet is located 17 1/2" o.c. from the nearest sidewall instead of the required 18" o.c.".*	*Nurse's Office - all exposed hot water pipes, drain pipes, sharp edges, and abrasive surfaces below the sink must be wrapped. Lower paper towel dispenser to 42" a.f.f.* *Nurses' Bathroom - Lower paper towel dispenser to 42" a.f.f. Sink knee clearance height within acceptable tolerances - no further action required. Toilet location from nearest side wall within acceptable tolerances - no further action required.*	*3*	*3*	*$50*
7.	*First Floor Level - Receptionist's Office. Portable 43" high counter exceeds maximum 36" high height standard..*	*Provide additional or replace existing counter or allow individuals to go around counter for access and service provision.*	*2*	*1*	*NA*

General Description of Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access	Type of Action to be Taken	Priority	Feasibility	Cost Estimate
8. *First Floor Level - Gymnasium. No accessibility signage provided to identify gymnasium.*	*Install accessible compliant signage on the wall space to the latch side of the door with appropriate finish and contrast and character height and proportions. Raised and Brailled characters should also be included. Signage should be mounted at 60" a.f.f. o.c. .*	*2*	*1*	*$150*
9. *First Floor Level - Elevator. No accessibility signage provided to identify elevator.*	*Install accessible compliant signage with appropriate finish and contrast and character height and proportions. Raised and Brailled characters should also be included. Signage should be mounted at 60" a.f.f. o.c. .*	*2*	*1*	*$150*
10. *First Floor Level - Girl's Bathroom (outside cafeteria). Towel dispenser located 51" a.f.f. which exceeds the reach requirements. The toilet is located 19" o.c. from the nearest sidewall instead of the required 18" o.c.. The flush valve is mounted on the wall side of the toilet and not the approach side as required. The toilet paper dispenser is located 21" a.f.f. which does not meet the minimum height requirement of 24" a.f.f. The bathroom door closes from an open door position of 90 degrees to closure in approximately four seconds, which exceeds the six-second maximum threshold. The coat hook in the bathroom stall is broken.*	*Lower towel dispenser to 42" a.f.f. If feasible, modify toilet to comply with 18" o.c. setback requirement and flush valve location requirement. Raise toilet paper dispenser to a minimum of 24" a.f.f. Adjust door closer to comply with push/pull force and closing speed requirements. Replace broken coat hook (s/b mounted no higher than 54" a.f.f.).* 	*3*	*2*	*$200*
11. *First Floor Level - Boy's Bathroom (outside cafeteria). Towel dispenser located 51" a.f.f. which exceeds the reach requirements. Soap dispenser located 43" a.f.f. instead of 42" a.f.f. The toilet is located 18 1/2" o.c. from the nearest sidewall instead of the required 18" o.c.*	*Lower towel dispenser to 42" a.f.f. Sidewall setback differential of 1/2" for toilet is within acceptable tolerances - no further action required. Lower soap dispenser 1" from 43" to 42" a.f.f.*	*3*	*2*	*$100*
12. *First Floor Level - Cafeteria Stage. Stage area non accessible from place of assembly. An accessible entrance is provided at the backstage. However, new regulations under 521 CMR, effective as of August 2002, require that "where access is provided to the stage from within the place of assembly, an accessible route, within the place of assembly, from the wheelchair seating locations, to the stage/performing area must be provided. In addition, an accessible route, that coincides with the route for performers must be provided in the backstage area".*	*Install interior enclosed vertical access lift to the stage from the general place of assembly.*	*2*	*4*	*$12,000*

General Description of Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access	Type of Action to be Taken	Priority	Feasibility	Cost Estimate
13. *First Floor Level - Ramp To/From Cafeteria. Handrails do not extend the required 12" beyond the base of the ramp.*	*Extend handrails as required.*	*2*	*3*	***$300***
14. *First Floor Level - Computer Lab. Pipes below sink not wrapped. Towel dispenser located 44" a.f.f. which exceeds the reach requirements. The computer tables provide only 23 1/2" knee clearance (with the keyboard tray).*	*All exposed hot water pipes, drain pipes, sharp edges, and abrasive surfaces below the sink must be wrapped. Lower towel dispenser to 42" a.f.f. Modify at least one table, as needed, to obtain minimum required 27" of knee clearance.*	*2,3*	*2*	***$200***
15. *Second Floor Level - Bathroom (outside media center). Towel dispenser located 50 1/2" a.f.f. which exceeds the reach requirements. The toilet is located only 16 1/2" o.c. from the nearest sidewall instead of the required 18" o.c.. The coat hook is 65" a.f.f. which exceeds the maximum 54" height.*	*Lower towel dispenser to 42" a.f.f. If feasible, modify toilet to comply with 18" o.c. setback requirement. Lower coat hook to a maximum height of 54" a.f.f.*	*3*	*2*	*$100*
16. *Second Floor Level - Girl's Bathroom. Towel dispenser located more than 42" a.f.f. which exceeds the reach requirements. The toilet is located 17 1/2" o.c. from the nearest sidewall instead of the required 18" o.c.. A coat hook is not provided at 54" a.f.f. The bathroom door closes from an open position of 90 degrees to closure in three seconds, exceeding the minimum six second standard.*	*Lower towel dispenser to 42" a.f.f. The toilet side wall setback is within the allowable 1/2" tolerance - no further action required. Install a coat hook at a maximum height of 54" a.f.f., Adjust door closer to comply with maximum closing speed requirements.*	*3*	*2*	*$50*
17. *Second Floor Level - Boy's Bathroom. Towel dispenser located more than 42" a.f.f. which exceeds the reach requirements. A coat hook is not provided at 54" a.f.f. The bathroom door closes from an open position of 90 degrees to closure in four seconds, exceeding the minimum six second standard. The toilet paper dispenser is located 37" from the rear wall and is 21" a.f.f.,, both of which do not meet height or setback requirements.*	*Lower towel dispenser to 42" a.f.f. Install a coat hook at a maximum height of 54" a.f.f., Adjust door closer to comply with maximum closing speed requirements. Relocate toilet paper dispenser such it is within 36" of the rear wall and is at least 24" a.f.f..*	*3*	*2*	*$75*
18. *Second Floor Level -Staff Lounge/Work Room. The doorway into the staff lounge/work room is not accessible due to only a 27 5/8" wide door and a 25" clear width opening. The sink and counter are both 35 1/2" a.f.f. which exceeds the maximum height of 30". The base of the wall cabinet is 54 1/2" a.f.f. instead of the required maximum 51" a.f.f..*	*Entryway should be widened and door replaced to provide a minimum 32" clear width opening. Sink, counters, and wall cabinets should be modified as required as a reasonable modification.*	*2*	*3*	*$1,500*

General Description of Obstacle Which Limits Mobility or Access	Type of Action to be Taken	Priority	Feasibility	Cost Estimate
19. *Second Floor Level - Computer Lab. Pipes below sink not wrapped. Towel dispenser located 48" a.f.f. which exceeds the reach requirements. The work tables provide only 25 1/4" knee clearance.*	*All exposed hot water pipes, drain pipes, sharp edges, and abrasive surfaces below the sink must be wrapped. Lower towel dispenser to 42" a.f.f. Modify at least one table, as needed, to obtain minimum required 27" of knee clearance.*	*2,3*	*2*	*$200*

Total: $ 17,625

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Based upon discussions with local officials, the town does not have formal policies and procedures pertaining to the ADA and program accessibility, employment, non-discrimination, grievances, equal opportunity, and communications. Neither the town's Personnel Bylaw or General Bylaws contain any language or references to the Americans with Disabilities Act, equal opportunity, or similar references to nondiscrimination on the basis of a handicap.

A number of model policies and procedures are provided as Appendices to address these areas, which can be adapted more specifically by the town for its own use. The adoption of these policies and procedures may also require specific actions by the town including developing partnerships with other agencies and organizations, employee training, implementation of specific practices, and the purchasing of equipment.

Most town positions (appointed and elected) have only very general job descriptions which do not contain specific language pertaining to physical performance or requirements and essential functions of a position. It should be noted that under the ADA, a person is considered a qualified individual with a disability if s/he can perform essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodation. Although the ADA does not require an employer to have job descriptions, they can be used as evidence of the essential functions of the job. Job descriptions should be up-to-date and should differentiate between the essential and the marginal duties of the position. Non-essential functions are those which are not absolutely necessary for the job, although they might be convenient for the employer. If a medical examination is required, it must be required of all entering employees for the same position. Medical examinations are prohibited until after a job offer has been made to an applicant. Employment can be conditioned on the results of the applicant's post-offer medical examination. Some sample job description language is provided in Appendix C.

Policy/Language	Appendix
Non Discrimination Policy	E
ADA Grievance Procedure	F
Employment/Pre-employment Criteria	G
Equal Opportunity Policy	H
Effective Communication	I

VI. SUMMARY

General

The Royalston Accessibility Plan is a planning document intended to comply with state and federal accessibility regulations. A primary goal of the plan is to provide an evaluation of the town's programs, services, and facilities to determine whether or not they are on the whole accessible to people with disabilities. This includes the identification of physical barriers to public buildings, sites and services owned or operated by the town. Recommendations on how to make services and facilities accessible are provided, as well as a general estimate of cost for the removal of architectural barriers. Sample policies and procedures as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act are also included as part of the overall plan.

Programs and Services

The active participation of the town's ADA Coordinator including monitoring, education, notification, and outreach is critical to the successful implementation of this accessibility plan. This includes assistance in the development of formal departmental practices and procedures to address the needs of the disabled. In order to insure equal access to town services and programs, alternative accessible formats and options must be readily available. It must also be assured that town facilities are regularly maintained to insure accessibility compliance.

Architectural Barriers

The removal of town-wide barriers to access public programs and services can be accomplished through a variety of means ranging from procedural and policy changes to the actual removal of architectural barriers on public property. The cost of barrier removal is summarized below.

Facility Type	Total Estimated Cost
Active Recreation Areas and Playgrounds	$5,000
Cemeteries, Green Spaces, and Public Ways	$6,500
School Buildings	$17,625
Public Buildings and Facilities	$358,650
Municipal-owned Buildings Leased for Public Accommodations	$64,300
Total	$452,075

Policies and Procedures

The town does not have formal separate policies and procedures pertaining to the ADA and program accessibility, employment, non-discrimination, grievances, equal opportunity, and communications. The town's Personnel Policy does contain an Equal Employment Opportunity Statement that includes a reference to nondiscrimination on the basis of a handicap. In addition, general language is included which refers to conformance to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, with no specifics provided as to how this shall be achieved. As part of this Accessibility Plan, model policies and procedures are provided to address these areas, which can be adapted more specifically by the town for its own use. The adoption of these policies and

procedures may also require specific actions by the town including developing partnerships with other agencies and organizations, employee training, implementation of specific practices, and the purchasing of equipment.

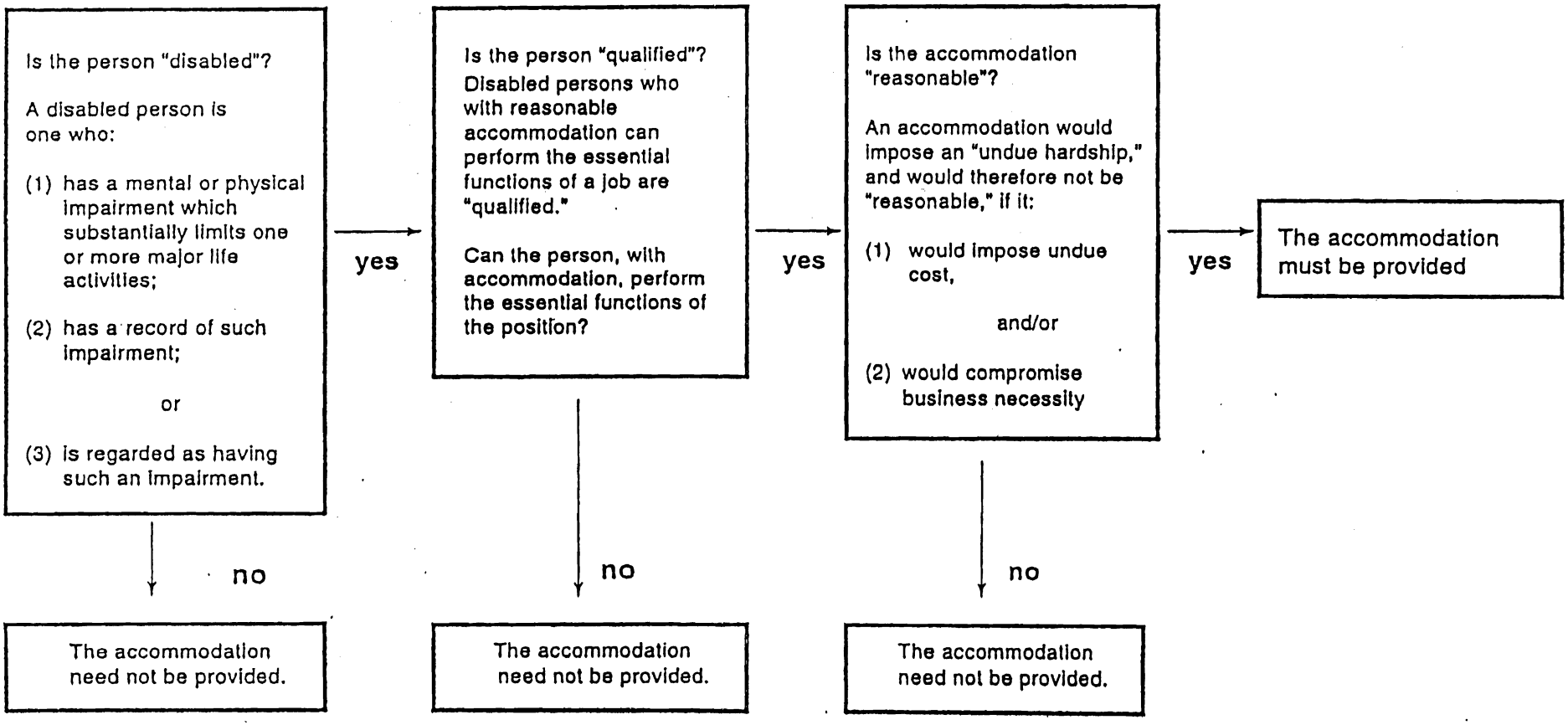
Recommendations

- Develop and adopt formal grievance procedures for the resolution of accessibility related complaints concerning employment, services, programs, and activities (See Appendix F).
- Develop formal job descriptions for each town employee position which clearly describe the essential functions of each position as well as any necessary physical requirements (See Appendix C).
- Adopt policies pertaining to non-discrimination, employment, equal opportunity, and effective communication (See Appendices E, G, H, and I).
- Formalize any "informal practices" pertaining to providing assistance or access to programs and services. This should include postings and the publication of the same in a written format. As a matter of practice, the town's ADA related procedures and policies should be published in the Town Annual Report.
- Purchase and install a teletypewriter (TTY) or telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) for use in the selectmen's office to allow a centralized communication point to town services (Estimated cost of $350).
- Purchase and install an assistive listening device (ASD) or a personal amplifier system to enable those with aural limitations to more effectively participate in public meetings (Estimated cost of $2,500).
- Remove architectural barriers as identified in Section IV of this Accessibility Plan (Estimated cost of $$452,075).

Appendix A: Accommodations Decision Chart

Accomodations Decisions Chart

If a request for accommodation is made, the following chart can assist the employer in the decision-making process regarding provision of the accommodation.



Appendix B: Self-evaluation Memo and Survey Form

MEMO

To: **Royalston Town Departments/Commissions/Boards**

From **James M. Mazik, AICP**

Date: **June 20, 2003**

Reference: **Royalston Self-evaluation and Transition Plan**

The Town of Royalston, through the efforts of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, has received grant funds to complete a self-evaluation and transition plan in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Through a competitive procurement process, I have been hired to undertake this effort. Over the years, I have been involved in preparing or overseeing a number of these documents. In addition, I have overseen numerous public facility accessibility construction projects.

The ADA was enacted in 1990 as a civil rights law that prohibits the exclusion of people with disabilities from the right of equal opportunity. Title II of the ADA mandates each local government to conduct a self-evaluation of its operations and develop a transition plan which identifies physical barriers to accessibility.

It is also a requirement of certain state and federal funding programs that a self-evaluation and transition plan be completed in order to be eligible to apply for grant funds. The town may be considering submitting grant applications in the near future to address accessibility needs for some its public facilities. The completion of this self-evaluation and transition plan will allow the town to secure such funding.

What is a self-evaluation?
A self-evaluation is an evaluation of municipal operations to determine whether or not they are "on the whole" accessible to people with disabilities. The four areas of self-evaluation are sites, services and programs, general communications, and employment practices.

What is a transition plan?
Public entities are also required to develop a transition plan in order to; (1) identify barriers to accessibility, (2) create a list of potential modifications, and (3) develop a timeline for removing the identified architectural barriers.

Your Cooperation is Needed !!!!!

Self-evaluation Survey Form
Each department or municipal provider of a service will be asked to complete the attached survey form. It will take only a few minutes to complete. Please return your completed survey form to me using the addressed, stamped envelope by Selectmen's Office by Monday, July 7th. After I review the surveys, I may be contacting some of you directly to clarify some of your responses or to ask a few additional questions.

Transition Plan
As part of this process, I will also need to physically inspect and assess all public facilities in Royalston. If you have jurisdiction over a certain building and I have already spoken to you, I will be contacting you directly within the next few weeks to arrange for a convenient time for me to undertake this assessment.

Again your cooperation is greatly appreciated and I look forward to working with each of you. If you have questions, please contact me at (413) 477-0914 (home phone #) or e-mail me at jmazik14@attbi.com.

Jim Mazik

Royalston Self-evaluation Survey

Department/Board/Commission: _____

1. Location of department/program (name of building, floor level, street address:

2. Describe the function of the department and any programs it offers or services that it provides.

- Are there any circumstances in which the participation of a person with a disability in any program or service offered by your department would be restricted or excluded?

- Are any of these exclusions or restrictions necessary to the operation of the program/department or to the safety of non-disabled persons?

- Are staff aware it may be necessary to modify program policies or practices to enable people with disabilities to participate in and benefit from the programs?

- Is the public informed that these programs/services are prepared to make reasonable modifications?

- Does the department/program have a formal or informal process for responding to requests for modifications?

- Briefly describe general office/service communications. Specifically, how is information disseminated and communicated? Are there assistive devices or auxilliary aids (ie. TTY, TDD, sign language interpreter) which are used or available?

- Are there any circumstances in which a person with a disability would be asked to pay a fee or meet any other requirements not imposed on other program/service participants? If yes, describe.

- Does the program/service provide any separate activities for people with disabilities? If yes, describe.

- Are there any circumstances in which a person with a disability would be prohibited from participating in regular activities because of the provision of separate activities?

3. Employment Practices.

- Please list the number of full- and part-time employees.

- Has any of these staff declared a disability? If yes, describe.

- Are there any required formal tests as a condition of employment? If yes, describe.

- Do any of the positions have formal job descriptions? If so, state which position and <u>attach a copy of the job description as well as a sample job ad</u>.

Appendix C: Sample Job Description Language

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
I-495 Technology Corridor Initiative

PURPOSE OF POSTION

Representatives of municipalities and the leading businesses in the I-495 Technology Corridor have been meeting for four years to set an action agenda and establish solutions to developing problems for this fast growing area on the edge of both the Boston and Worcester metropolitan regions. Based in Westborough, Massachusetts, the Executive Director position will provide oversight, direction, and support to this regional, broad-based organization that fosters collaborative solutions.

The Executive Director is responsible to the Board and Executive Committee of the I-495 Technology Corridor Initiative. Duties include: coordination of projects; technical assistance to task forces and individual members; organization of events that bring together the region's key stakeholders (local officials, corporate leaders, real estate developers, area chambers of commerce, advocacy groups, state agencies, state and federal leaders, the media and interested residents); management of the organization's finances; development of alternative funding sources, and general organizational support. Limited clerical support is available.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Coordinate all activities involving strategic planning of an organization that fosters a bottom-up approach to examining key issues. Perform project management, program development, contract development, contractual compliance, fiscal management, problem resolution, reporting, record-keeping, and other activities.

Oversee, coordinate, and monitor finances and implement fundraising activities; develop project budgets and institute budgetary changes as necessary; monitor sub-grantee fiscal systems; monitor project expenditures and review financial reports to ensure compliance with approved budget.

Manage strategic planning process; facilitate a multi-sector, multi-organization planning process; coordinate partnerships with organizational partners. Coordinate multi-media promotion of the efforts of the organization.

Provide liaison to all partnering organizations in the I-495 Technology Corridor Initiative, including municipalities; businesses; nongovernmental organizations; state, regional, and federal agencies; state legislators; and academic institutions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, Urban Planning, or related field; supplemented by four (4) years previous experience that includes professional project management, program development, grant solicitation, administration/coordination, financial management, budget administration, strategic planning, or a Juris Doctor degree, or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. A Master's degree in an appropriate field

may substitute for two years of previous experience. The position requires excellent written and oral communication skills, and the ability to work independently with a minimum of direction, and the ability to facilitate and mediate diverse groups with diverse perspectives.

PERFORMANCE APTITUDES

Data Utilization: Requires the ability to coordinate, manage, and/or correlate data. Includes exercising judgment in determining time, place and/or sequence of operations, referencing data analyses to determine necessity for revision of organizational components, and in the formulation of operational strategy.

Human Interaction: Requires the ability to apply principles of persuasion and/or influence over others in coordinating activities of a project, program, or designated area of responsibility.

Equipment, Machinery, Tools, and Materials Utilization: Requires the ability to operate, maneuver and/or control the actions of equipment, machinery, tools, and/or materials used in performing essential functions.

Verbal Aptitude: Requires the ability to utilize a wide variety of reference, descriptive, advisory and/or design data and information.

Mathematical Aptitude: Requires the ability to perform addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; ability to calculate decimals and percentages; may include ability to perform mathematical operations with fractions; may include ability to compute discount, interest, profit and loss, ratio and proportion; may include ability to calculate surface areas, volumes, weights, and measures.

Functional Reasoning: Requires the ability to apply principles of influence systems, such as motivation, incentive, and leadership, and to exercise independent judgment to apply facts and principles for developing approaches and techniques to resolve problems.

Situational Reasoning: Requires the ability to exercise judgment, decisiveness and creativity in situations involving evaluation of information against measurable or verifiable criteria.

ADA COMPLIANCE

Physical Ability: Tasks require the ability to exert light physical effort in sedentary to light work, but which may involve some lifting, carrying, pushing and/or pulling of objects and materials of light weight (5-10 pounds). Tasks may involve extended periods of time at a keyboard or work station.

Sensory Requirements: Some tasks require the ability to perceive and discriminate between visual cues or signals. Some tasks require the ability to communicate orally.

Environmental Factors: Essential functions are regularly performed without exposure to adverse environmental conditions.

The position is funded in part by a grant administered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) of Boston, Massachusetts, which is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the MAPC will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages both prospective and current employees to discuss potential accommodations with the employer.

Please send letter of interest and resume by Friday, July 26 to: Tom Hauenstein, Human Resources Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, 60 Temple Place, Boston, MA, 02111, or email to thauenstein@mapc.org

Sample Job Description Language for ADA Compliance

Physical Ability: Tasks require the ability to exert light physical effort in light work, but which may involve some lifting, carrying, pushing and/or pulling of objects and materials of light weight (5–10 pounds). Tasks may involve extended periods of time at a keyboard or work station.

Sensory Requirements: Some tasks require the ability to perceive and discriminate between visual cues or signals. Some tasks require the ability to communicate orally.

Environmental Factors: Essential functions are regularly performed without exposure to adverse environmental conditions.

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Physical Requirements: Frequent sitting, talking, walking, and mental concentration for prolonged periods required; frequent use of hands and fingers in operating using various office equipment; occasionally required to lift and/or move objects or books of up to 15 pounds; specific vision requirements include close vision for long periods of time and the ability to adjust and focus and color vision. Ability to use hands to finger, handle, feel or operate objects, tools, or controls and reach with hands and arms.

Must be able to communicate and be understood clearly, give presentations or participate in other public discourse situations. Requires the ability to conduct field visits to off-site premises of varying terrain and conditions.

Appendix E: Non Discrimination Policy

Non Discrimination Policy

The town of Royalston does not discriminate on the basis of disability. Program applicants, participants, members of the general public, employees, job applicants, and others who are entitled to have access to all town programs, activities, and services will not be discriminated against on the basis of disability.

Copies of this notice as well as other policies and procedures may be available, upon request, in standard or alternate print formats to include large print, audio tape, Braille, and computer disk. The town's grievance procedures, self-evaluation, transition plan and ADA policies, practices, and procedures, are readily available, upon request.

Appendix F: ADA Grievance Procedure

Town of Royalston Grievance Procedure

The following grievance procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in employment practices and policies or the provision of services, activities, programs and benefits by the Town of Royalston.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, telephone number of complainant and location, date and description of the problem. Reasonable accommodations, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complainant, will be made available for persons with disabilities who are unable to submit a written complaint.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to the Royalston ADA Coordinator, Municipal Office Building - 3 South Main Street, Royalston, MA 01366.

Within fifteen calendar after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the ADA Coordinator will respond in writing, and where appropriate in a format accessible to the complainant such as audiotape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Royalston and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the ADA Coordinator does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the ADA Coordinator within 15 days after receipt of the response to the Board of Selectmen or their designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Royalston Board of Selectmen or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting the Board of Selectmen or their designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate in a format accessible to the complainant such as audiotape, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, appeals to the Royalston Board of Selectmen or their designee and responses from the ADA Coordinator and the Royalston Board of Selectmen or their designee will be kept by the Town of Royalston for at least three years.

Appendix G: Employment/Pre-employment Criteria

Employment/Pre-employment Criteria

Reasonable Accommodation Policy
The town of Royalston strives to make employment opportunities and programs available to people from every race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status and does not discriminate against any person based on these "categories". The town is committed to supporting people of various needs and abilities and will make every effort to provide a healthy, caring environment for all staff and the public.

It is the policy of the town of Royalston that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from employment solely by reason of her/his disability.

It is understood that the obligation to comply with this policy is nit decreased by any state or local law or other requirement that, based on disability, imposes inconsistent or contradictory prohibition. Any prohibitions or limits upon the eligibility of qualified individuals with disabilities to practice any occupation or profession are not allowed under this policy.

It is the policy of the town that reasonable accommodations will be made for any qualified applicant or employee unless the town can demonstrate that the accommodation imposes an undue financial or administrative hardship on the operation of the town.

Notice of availability of reasonable accommodations for job applicants will be included in postings and advertisements and will be made available upon request to applicants with disabilities during the pre-employment process if necessary to provide equal opportunity to secure employment with the town of Royalston.

All prospective employees will be informed at the initial interview that the town of Royalston does not discriminate does not discriminate on the basis of disability and that requests for reasonable accommodations needed for the performance of essential job functions or for the enjoyment of other benefits of employment should be made by prospective employees following receipt of a conditional offer of employment.

Persons with a disability employed by the town of Royalston may request reasonable accommodations from their immediate supervisor or from the town's ADA Coordinator. Requests for accommodations can be made at any time as they become necessary to perform essential job functions, or utilize benefits enjoyed by employment. These requests must be made both verbally and in writing describing the nature and purpose of the requested accommodation. Assistance will be made available upon request to any individual who needs assistance in identifying or documenting the reasonable accommodation needed.

A decision regarding reasonable accommodation requests will be made within thirty (30) working days of the submission of the request. The effectiveness of the accommodation and need for modification will be assessed during the first month of use.

The final decision concerning any requested accommodation that may represent an undue financial or administrative hardship will be made by the ADA Coordinator. Applicants or employees have the right to appeal the denial of any accommodation request using the ADA Grievance Procedure. In the case of a denial on undue hardship by the ADA Coordinator, the employee or applicant may appeal in writing within thirty (30) working days to the Board of Selectmen.

Employment Testing and Pre-employment Inquiry
The town of Royalston shall not use any employment test or other selection criteria that screens out or tends to screen out individuals with disabilities.

The town shall not make any pre-employment inquiries or conduct a pre-employment medical examination of an applicant to determine whether the applicant is an individual with a disability or the nature or severity of the disability.

The town will ask no questions of applicants, before employment related to physical or mental impairment and no such questions shall appear on any written application form it may use. No medical examination shall be required for prospective employees unless it is a bonafide necessity for the position in question. No medical examination shall be required before a conditional offer of employment has been made. All pertinent medical information obtained in such instances shall be considered as confidential and shall be available only to supervisory personnel and certain others who have a legitimate need for the information. A written record of anyone inspecting the medical information in a personnel file will be maintained.

The town may make pre-employment inquiries to determine an applicants ability to perform job-related functions.

All job selection criteria and/or tests that may be utilized will be examined to ensure that they reflect only bonafide job related qualifications and do not tend to screen out otherwise qualified persons with disabilities. In making such determinations the input and assistance of persons with disabilities may be sought and engaged.

Employment Training Assistance
It is the policy of the town of Royalston that staff training and development activities provided will include information about the ADA employment requirements. All employees and volunteers will receive a briefing on the ADA and the town's ADA policies and procedures.

Appendix H: Equal Opportunity Policy

Equal Opportunity Policy

General Policy Statement

It is the policy of the town of Royalston to ensure that persons with disabilities are provided maximum opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs, services, and activities offered by the town. It is the town's goal that such participation as equal as possible to that of able-bodied persons. Therefore, the town's primary focus will be architectural modifications, assistive listening devices and equipment, and sign language interpreters upon request and availability. This approach may not always be feasible or sufficient to ensure equal access and benefit.

In providing its services, programs, and activities the town of Royalston shall not:

- Deny a qualified individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a benefit, service, or activity.
- Afford a qualified individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in or benefit from any aid, benefit, or service that is not equal to that offered to others.
- Deny a qualified individual with a disability the opportunity to participate as a member of planning or advisory boards, commissions, or any other entity of the town of Royalston.
- Limit a qualified individual with a disability the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity received by other individuals receiving the aid, benefit, or service.

It is the policy of the town of Royalston to ensure that persons with disabilities are provided maximum opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs, services, and activities. It is the goal that such participation is in the same manner as that of non-disabled persons. Toward achieving this, the town has a primary focus to identify barriers to access and remove or modify them to use assistive devises or procedures when necessary.

Reasonable Modifications Policy

The town of Royalston shall make a reasonable program or service modification whenever a person requests such an accommodation, unless it can be demonstrated by the town that such an accommodation would impose an undue burden or fundamental alteration to the program or service. Final decisions regarding requests for reasonable modifications will be made by the ADA Coordinator in a timely manner. These modifications shall be made within thirty (30) working days of the request or as soon as is reasonably possible. Individuals seeking to contest a denial of a request for reasonable modifications will be given a copy of the grievance procedure in the format appropriate for their needs.

The town will comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations relative to the use of assistive equipment, including trained assistance animals. In addition, no arbitrary restrictions or limitations will be placed on the type or number of assistive equipment items, including assistive animals, that people with disabilities may bring with them to town facilities.

Eligibility Requirements

Any prohibitions or limits upon the eligibility of qualified individuals with disabilities to receive services or practice any occupation or profession are not allowed under this policy.

Assurance Regarding Surcharges
It is the policy of the town of Royalston that surcharges are never charged to participants (nor any other interested party or person) for reasonable accommodations under any circumstances. Such accommodations include, but are not limited to: American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, Computer Aided Real Time (CART) translators, architectural accessibility, computer accessibility hardware or software, Braille material, listening devices, closed captioning, etc.

Integrated Services Assurance
The town of Royalston strives to ensure that all of its services, programs, and activities are provided in the most integrated setting possible. People with disabilities will not be required to participate in separate programs even if separate programs that are specifically designed to meet the need of persons with disabilities are offered.

Services will not be provided to any person with a disability in a manner or at a location different from that available to other service recipients unless the potential for removal of architectural barriers or the use of assistive devices and equipment have been found to be inadequate or inappropriate to the needs of the individual. In all cases, the affected individual will be fully involved in the consideration and decision-making process.

Significant Assistance Assurance
It is the policy of the town of Royalston that programs to whom the town provides significant support or who the town sponsors may not discriminate against people with disabilities.

Accessible Transportation Policy
It is the policy of the town that whenever transportation services are provided they will be accessible to participants in town programs regardless of disability. When transportation services are provided and an individual is in need of accessible transportation they should make their request in writing to the ADA Coordinator. Requests must be made at least five (5) days in advance of the need. As with all of the town's transportation services, all requests are subject to the availability of space. When a request can not be met, notice will be given as soon as possible and at least one (1) day before the requested date of service.

If a person needs a wheelchair van every effort will be made to accommodate this need. If the town is providing transportation for anyone to or from a particular event or service and someone requests wheelchair accessible transportation, then the town will be responsible for the arrangement and the cost of that transportation.

Community Referral Assurance
Whenever the town of Royalston participates in or funds programs or makes references to other programs or services, it is the policy that such programs and services must be accessible or usable by a person with a disability. The town will gather information regarding which of the programs or services that it refers people to are accessible, and those that are not. The town will make efforts to gather at least one accessible provider in each of the categories of service in which the town makes referrals.

Appendix I: Effective Communication

Effective Communication

Effective Communication
It is the policy of the town of Royalston that auxiliary aids and services will be provided when necessary to ensure effective communication with persons whose disabilities effect communication. Persons with communications disabilities will be given the opportunity to request the aid or service that they prefer and the requested aid or service will be given primary consideration by the town unless doing so would impose an undue burden or unless a fully effective alternative is available.

The town is making efforts to ensure that emergency alarm devices in all public areas are both visual and auditory. Emergency evacuation procedures have been developed for each facility which includes evacuation of people with disabilities. The individual responsible for coordinating training for emergency evacuation for each facility has been designated. Information on emergency evacuation procedures will be provided to people verbally, in written format, or in alternate format forms as needed.

TTY/TDD Assurance
The town of Royalston has TTY devices through its emergency response numbers in collaboration with the Massachusetts State Police Barracks. *(Note: It is being recommended that a TTY/TDD be purchased and installed at the Office of the Board of Selectmen for use by all Town Hall general government services. If done, the following should apply).* The town shall also be familiar with the New England Telephone VOICE/TTY Relay Service System at 800-439-2370. All telephone receptionists and primary staff will be trained on the use of the TTY. All publications of telephone numbers for town offices, employees, or services shall also list the TTY number or the relay system number as being available.

Alternative Format Policy and Procedure
It is the policy of the town of Royalston to make all documents, publications, and materials used in town business available to all persons who require them in alternate formats. Procedures have been established for the provision of alternate formats to include large prints, audiotape, Braille, and computer diskettes.

Large print, short audio tapes and computer diskette formats will be prepared by town employees who have been identified by the ADA Coordinator and trained in the necessary skills and procedures.

A request to the ADA Coordinator for alternative format documents should be made fourteen (14) days in advance of the event or activity whenever possible. If materials in Braille are being requested then the request must be made thirty (30) days in advance of the event. Every attempt will be made to meet the request. The materials will be provided at no charge. If the request can not be met, an alternative effective format will be offered. The person making the request will be informed as soon as possible but at least five (5) days in advance of the event or activity.

Materials describing the town services, programs, or upcoming events will be available in alternative formats such as large print or audio format. All materials will include the words "ASL interpreters upon request and availability".

Interpreter Services Policy
It is the policy of the town of Royalston that sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, readers, or scribes will be provided upon request to ensure equally effective communication. Requests should be made at least fourteen (14) days prior to the event, service, program or meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet the request. When an ASL interpreter is needed, the town will make every effort to provide one.

A request to the ADA Coordinator for interpreter services should be made fourteen (14) days in advance of the event or activity whenever possible. Every attempt will be made to meet the request. The service will be provided at no charge to the person needing the accommodation. If the request can not be met, an alternative effective format will be offered. The person making the request will be informed as soon as possible but at least five (5) days in advance of the event or activity.

Assistive Listening Device Assurance
The town of Royalston shall provide or obtain assistive listening devices when requested for either group or individual settings. This may be accomplished by using an available assistive equipment loan program. This may include amplified phone handsets and TV decoders or amplifiers etc.

Training Assurance
It is the policy of the town of Royalston that staff training and other staff development activities provided will include training on the use of a TTY/TDD if provided, the operator relay service, and other equipment necessary to ensure effective communication. Staff will receive training in procedures and policies on receiving and handling requests for auxiliary aids and services and for ensuring that primary consideration is given to the type of service or format preferred by the person with a disability. Training on effective communication is given during orientation and at a yearly staff refresher training.

COPY

Office of Selectmen

TOWN OF ROYALSTON

Date: June 23, 2009

This is to certify that we have this date appointed the following Officer or Committees for the year ensuing:

Position	Name	Starts	Expires
ADA Coordinator	Geoffrey L. Newton	7/1/2009	6/30/2010

***ALL FOR ONE YEAR UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

SELECTMEN OF ROYALSTON