

2012



OPEN SPACE
AND
RECREATION PLAN

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW

Town of Longmeadow Open Space and Recreation Plan

2012 -2019

Prepared for: Town of Longmeadow

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Longmeadow Open Space and Recreation Plan

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SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

The purpose of this open space and recreation plan is to establish a seven-year plan of action for the protection of open spaces, to preserve wildlife and natural resources, and to provide recreational opportunities for all residents. The plan also identifies strategies to provide a range of recreational opportunities for residents of all ages at well-maintained and managed parks, recreational facilities, and conservation areas.

Goal #1 - Town owned parks and conservation areas are used for their appropriately designated uses and well-cared for.

Objectives:

- Local rules and regulations for each town owned park and/or conservation area are well-known by users and applied.
- Maintenance plans for town-owned parks and conservation areas are developed and implemented, and updated as needed.
- Town-wide tree belt is healthy and sustained for future generations.

Goal #2 – Adequate youth athletic facilities exist for the Town of Longmeadow

Objectives:

- Existing athletic facilities are well-maintained and support peak seasonal use
- A sufficient number of fields exist for each sport such that an appropriate period of field rotation can be applied to ensure the long-term health of the recreational facility.

Goal #3 – Core of community volunteers is actively engaged in maintenance of local parks and conservation areas.

Objectives:

- Community volunteers support the Town of Longmeadow's efforts to maintain and police local parks and conservation areas.
- Participation in community volunteer core promotes community pride and respect for community resources.

Goal #4 – The Connecticut River and its floodplain are protected as a wildlife corridor and used for passive recreation.

Objectives:

- Access to the river for passive recreation is available to Town residents on town owned land.
- The floodplain is permanently protected for ecological value.

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Purpose

This is a revision of Longmeadow's 2002 Open Space and Recreation Plan prepared by the Longmeadow Conservation Commission. The plan evaluates all Town owned open space and recreational facilities managed by the School Committee, the Department of Public Works, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Conservation Commission. The Plan also recognizes the availability of certain privately owned lands that are made available for public use.

The organization of this plan is outlined in the Table of Contents and follows the guidelines established by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

The Planning process was lead by the Longmeadow Department of Parks and Recreation with technical assistance provided by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. A project Advisory Committee was formed to further inform the development of this plan and consisted of representation from various town boards and committees. The Committee met five times between March and October, 2011.

Peter Bouvier, Tree Committee
Edward K. Dzielenski, President, Fannie Stebbins Memorial Wildlife Refuge Trustees
Walter Gunn, Planning Board
Bari Jarvis, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Jennifer Jester, School Committee
Jim Russell, Vice Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission
Chris Reed, Town Engineer, Department of Public Works
Jim Simon, Conservation Commission

To solicit broader community input and public participation, a community survey and a public visioning session were held. The survey was posted online at Survey Monkey and was also available in paper format at town offices. The survey received 77 responses, the results of which are discussed in detail in Section 6 Community Vision.

A public visioning session workshop was held at the Longmeadow Community House on Thursday, May 26, 2011 from 7-9 PM. The workshop was advertised in the *Longmeadow News*, on the town website, and posted at Town Hall and the Parks and Recreation Department. Due to the beautiful evening and the high school prom, the event wasn't well attended. However, thoughtful comment and feedback was gathered, most of which strongly supported the survey results. A summary of the visioning session workshop is also provided in Section 6 Community Vision.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

A. Regional Context

Longmeadow is 91 miles southwest of Boston, 23 miles north of Hartford, Connecticut, and 133 miles north of New York City. The Town is located on the eastern shore of the Connecticut River between Enfield, Connecticut to the south and Springfield, Massachusetts to the north. The town of East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, borders it to the east. Longmeadow is part of the Pioneer Valley in Southwestern Massachusetts, also known as the Connecticut River Valley. The total area of Longmeadow is 9.50 square miles. The western portion of the town consisting of approximately 1,700 acres (commonly referred to as the “Meadows”) is located in the Connecticut River floodplain. The remainder, and larger area of town, is located 200 feet above sea level on the uplands east of the Meadows.

The City of Springfield provides drinking water for Longmeadow from Cobble Mountain Reservoir. Protection of the Springfield source watershed and its Cobble Mountain reservoir is of concern to the Town. Other regional cooperative arrangements with nearby municipalities include a recycling program for hazardous materials with East Longmeadow, Hampden, and Wilbraham. Longmeadow has a population density of 1,730 residents per square mile as of 2010. The Town is primarily a residential suburban community with much need for both passive and active recreational space.

B. History of the Community

The following excerpt has been provided by the Longmeadow Historical Society

William Pynchon, a Puritan leader and Treasurer of the Massachusetts Bay Company, led an expedition of men up the Connecticut River hoping to establish a trading post and Puritan “plantation.” The year was 1636. They came upon meadow land near the Agawam and Connecticut Rivers that appeared to be ideally suited for farming and grazing. More important, the land was rich in beaver. At that time in Europe beaver pelts were much in demand and commanded large sums of money. Pynchon drew up an agreement with the Agawam Indians to purchase this land, known to the Indians as “Masacksic” or “the long meddowe.”

Until 1645 the long meadow was in use as a common pasture, to be shared equally by all residents. At this time the land was divided into lots and given to specific families. Copies of a map showing these land grants are displayed in various places around town, including at Town Hall and in the Storrs House. Some land was used to attract settlers with specific skills or talents needed by the developing community. A road from Springfield to the meadows was completed, making it easier to move supplies and beaver pelts between Springfield and Pynchon’s warehouse downriver at what is now Warehouse Point, CT.

The first house was built in the meadows about 1649. Most of the landowners already had homes in Springfield. Indeed, what we today call “Longmeadow” remained part of

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Springfield until the early 1700's. Residents of the meadows conducted most of their business in Springfield, where they also traveled several times a week to attend church services. A terrible flood in the meadows in 1695 caused residents to realize the need to move their settlement to higher ground. In 1703 permission was granted to settle on "the hill" (our current Longmeadow Street) and to begin to establish a community separate from Springfield. By 1714 several houses had been built around a common green, a new meetinghouse was under construction on the Green itself and the search was on to employ a minister. The young Rev. Stephen Williams was soon hired. Already widely known as a captive after the Deerfield massacre, Rev. Williams served as the first minister of First Church from 1716 until his death in 1782.

In the years that followed Longmeadow slowly grew. More houses cropped up around the Green and farms were built up and down Longmeadow Street. By the 1750's houses appeared in the eastern part of Longmeadow in the area we now know as East Longmeadow. Still predominately a farming community, small shops and businesses were established around and on the Green. By 1767 the town realized a need for a larger meetinghouse and a "raising" was held to replace the original. Like most communities large and small in the colonies, Longmeadow was touched by the ever-louder calls for Revolution. April 21, 1775 saw farmers from Longmeadow joining with Minutemen from Springfield's militia to rush to assist fellow colonists in Lexington and Concord. The impending war divided citizens here, as elsewhere, neighbor against neighbor, Patriot against Tory. On October 17, 1783, Longmeadow was incorporated as the first community in the newly formed Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Paperwork had been filed for incorporation before the Revolution, but with the outbreak of war it was shuffled aside.

The "East Village" section of Longmeadow split off from the "West Village" in 1894 to form the separate town now called East Longmeadow. At that time the population of East Longmeadow numbered about 1600, leaving what we now think of as the town of Longmeadow with a population of about 570. East Longmeadow by this time was an economically and ethnically diverse community with many businesses and industries, a busy railroad yard and a dozen operational red sandstone quarries. A map of Longmeadow from that year shows approximately 100 homes, most concentrated up and down Longmeadow Street.

The arrival of the trolley line in 1896 linking Springfield to Connecticut via Longmeadow Street created rapid growth. Longmeadow was now officially a "streetcar suburb." "South Park Estates" was the first of many new subdivisions to be built within easy access to the trolley. It was soon joined by "The Elms", Crescent Road, "Greenwood Manor," Colony Hills, etc., etc. By mid-century Longmeadow had become a town with charming town buildings, an elegant Community House, several schools and a population approaching 15,000.

The Indians were very accurate when they named their land "Masacksic" or "long meddowe." The long meadow provided a source of food, livelihood and safe haven for those early Puritan pioneers. Today, of course, Longmeadow is much changed and probably would be unrecognizable to its earliest inhabitants. However, with a brief ride into the Meadows of today, and a little imagination, one can easily conjure up visions of the land that first attracted William Pynchon's expedition so long ago.

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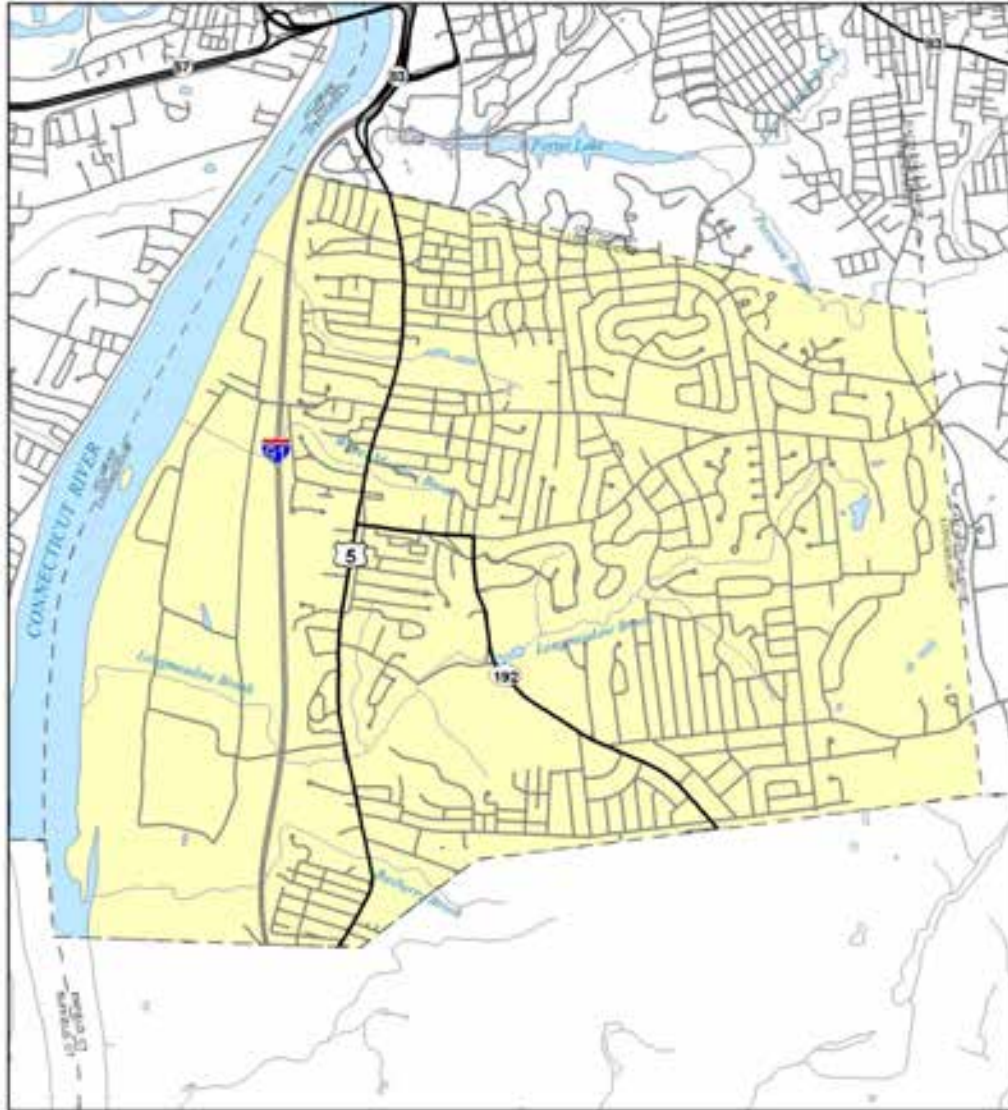
The town was originally farmland within the limits of the City of Springfield. It remained relatively pastoral until the street railway was built about 1910, when the population tripled over a fifteen-year period. After Interstate 91 was built in the wetlands on the west side of town, population tripled again between 1960 and 1975.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, Longmeadow was best known as the site from which Longmeadow brownstone was mined. Several famous American buildings, including Princeton University's Neo-Gothic library are made of Longmeadow brownstone. In 1894, the more populous and industrialized "East Village" portion of the town containing the brownstone quarries split off to become the Town of East Longmeadow.

History of the Parks and Recreation Department

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jim Russell provided a history of the Parks and Recreation Department from 1897 to 1980 that was presented to the community as a three part public series published in the Longmeadow News in 2006 in celebration of 100 years of parks and recreation in Longmeadow.

Longmeadow, Massachusetts 2011 Open Space Plan



C. Population Characteristics

While settled in 1644, Longmeadow experienced the largest gain in population from 1945 through 1960. This population trend is consistent with national trends of suburban development occurring through the 1950s.

Population Trends

YEAR	POPULATION	PERCENT CHANGE
1945	6,411	N/A
1950	6,508	1.5
1960	13,565	108
1970	15,630	15.2
1980	16,309	4.3
1990	15,467	-5.2
2000	15,633	1.1
2010	15,784	1.0

The population saw dramatic growth from 1950 to 1960, up 108%, more than doubling from 6,508 in 1950 to 13,565 in 1960. The population peaked in 1980 at 16,309. Longmeadow saw a decrease in population of approximately 850 residents between 1980 and 1990.

Since the 1970 census Longmeadow's population has been steady; within about 500 residents of 16,000. This may be due in part to the fact that the buildable area in Longmeadow is saturated. There are very few lots available to construct homes. Given the small amount of available buildable land the Town recognizes the benefit of preserving open spaces.

Building Permits and Trends 1990-2009

YEAR	ALL UNITS	SINGLE FAMILY UNITS
2000	12	12
2001	5	5
2002	8	8
2003	2	2
2004	7	7
2005	6	6
2006	4	4
2007	12	8
2008	5	5
2009	2	1
2010	10	8

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Town Assessors Office

Household Income, Poverty, and Environmental Justice

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The median household income was over \$100,000 during years 2005-2009. During those same years less than two percent of the population was living under the federal poverty line. Environmental Justice Communities are areas that have a need for protection from environmental pollution because the area is home to a large percentage of poor, foreign born, minority, or foreign language speakers. Longmeadow is not an Environmental Justice Community. The population density of Longmeadow is 1,730 people per square mile. This fact coupled with the fact that most property in Longmeadow is build out and privately owned shows that public open space and preserved land should be protected.

Major Employers and Employment Trends

Longmeadow is largely a “bedroom community” and has consistently opposed the development of large-scale retail or industrial development within the town’s borders. Existing non-residential zones are limited in area and nearly built-out, but are not developed to their maximum potential in some cases. Longmeadow has a sizeable local economy that includes nearly 450 businesses.¹ The town’s largest industries in terms of employment have been health care and social services and educational services. The largest employers in Longmeadow are Leavitt Family Services, JGS Senior Care, Longmeadow High School, Bay Path College, and Twin Hills Country Club. All five employers have over 100 employees and have campuses. The Town recognizes that because many employers have large private campuses that the town needs to maintain its public open space for public use.

Although Longmeadow has a relatively small commercial tax base, retail trade is also a significant local industry supported by the large residential community. The Town’s resident population also spends far more on retail goods and services than is necessary to support existing store space. If the Town was to take action to make it more feasible to develop or expand existing commercial, retail or office space, there is a high probability that the private sector would respond.

Employment and Payroll Trends 1990-2010

Year	Total Payroll	Avg. Annual Wage	Total # of Employers	Total Employees
1990	\$58,903,961	\$19,511	284	3019
1995	\$60,916,047	\$21,740	277	2802
2000	\$85,939,469	\$25,971	291	3309
2005	\$104,227,077	\$32,500	313	3206
2010	\$116,909,976	\$34,580	329	3383

Labor Force 1990-2010

Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
1990	7908	7607	301	3.8%
1995	7448	7169	279	3.7%
2000	7927	7761	166	2.1%
2005	7845	7575	270	3.4%
2010	7672	7202	470	6.1%

Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

¹ Longmeadow Long Range Plan, April 2004, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc.

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Schools

The Longmeadow schools are highly regarded. Based upon current data, 95.3% of students in Longmeadow attend public schools. Approximately 96% of students at Longmeadow High School continue to a four-year college. The town of Longmeadow recently approved constructing a new High School on the same grounds as the current school. As of 2010 a total of 3,013 students attended Longmeadow public schools. As of 2010, there is one Pre-school, three Elementary schools, two Middle schools, and one High school. The schools and enrollment are shown below:

School	Year										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Blueberry Hill School	307	305	314	495	517	522	517	492	501	508	497
Center School	546	579	593	551	506	463	425	429	421	394	386
Wolf Swamp Road School	317	325	323	467	469	442	416	423	412	384	359
Glenbrook Middle School	542	547	538	416	398	394	401	383	365	353	353
Williams Middle School	444	447	466	376	384	392	392	370	366	385	379
Longmeadow High School	1044	1069	1046	1051	1062	1050	1024	1019	1020	1025	989
Pre K (currently housed at Center School)	35	43	49	38	44	59	51	42	50	53	50
Total	3235	3315	3329	3394	3380	3322	3226	3158	3135	3102	3013

School aged students are heavy users of parks, open space, and recreation facilities. Many students are involved with organized sports both with the school and with private institutions. The primary areas for organized sports to be played include school grounds and on athletic fields within town parks.

Population by Age

Longmeadow has a large population of children under age 19. Approximately 28 percent of Longmeadow resident are under age 19. This demographic is often a heavy user of parks, open space, and recreational amenities.

Total Population by Age

2010	Total	Percent of Population
Total population	15,784	100
Under 5 years	735	4.7
5 to 9 years	1,145	7.3
10 to 14 years	1,293	8.2
15 to 19 years	1,269	8
20 to 24 years	646	4.1
25 to 29 years	333	2.1
30 to 34 years	453	2.9
35 to 39 years	808	5.1
40 to 44 years	1,110	7
45 to 49 years	1,370	8.7
50 to 54 years	1,314	8.3
55 to 59 years	1,227	7.8
60 to 64 years	1,090	6.9

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65 to 69 years	758	4.8
70 to 74 years	589	3.7
75 to 79 years	497	3.1
80 to 84 years	481	3
85 years and over	666	4.2

Elderly

The Adult Center formerly known as The Longmeadow Council on Aging maintains a center in a former school building. The Adult Center is the hub of programs and services for adult residents and caregivers who face the challenges and opportunities brought on by the reality of aging. The Adult Center's overall function is to focus on those desires, interests, and needs. Adult Center programs and services including Caregiver information, Education, Humanities, arts, and recreational programs, In-home service, Information and assistance, Intergenerational programs, Lunch and homebound meals, Outreach service, Transportation, Volunteer opportunities, Wellness centers

The adult center serves the 25 percent of Longmeadow that is over age 60 as of 2010. Approximately 2,000 individuals made 40,000 visits to the Adult Center in 2010. Many of the seniors in Longmeadow are in good health and enjoy passive recreation in town parks and open spaces. Preserving open space will keep the quality of life for the 25 percent of resident who are over age 60.

D. Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns and Trends

History

Longmeadow has changed from a farming community to a residential suburb with its population almost completely located on the uplands. The original Native American settlements and early colonial activity was centered on the Western end of town along the banks of the Connecticut River. The Community experienced a residential building boom in the 1950s. Much of the public infrastructure and development patterns date from this era of development

Current Character

Longmeadow is suburban residential community. Approximately 2,700 acres of the approximately 6,000 acres of town are in residential use. Over 70 percent of all residential development is on lots sized between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre. Longmeadow's 129 acres of major parks are spread though out the community. Besides the parks, three Country Clubs, Longmeadow in the South West, Twin Hills in the South East and Franconia just to the North East offer large tracks of open space. The density of development and heavy demand placed on just 129 acres of parks makes maintenance and upkeep of public open space an important consideration for Longmeadow.

Infrastructure

Transportation System

Longmeadow is serviced by the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority. The Green G5 route provides regularly scheduled bus service from Dickinson Street in north of town in Springfield, across Converse Street and along Longmeadow Street, to the state border with Enfield, Connecticut. The route passes The Jewish Geriatric Services, The Genesis House, Town Library, Town Hall, and Bay Path College among other private and public institutions.

Two principal north-south highways parallel the Connecticut River: Route 5 on the upland, and Interstate 91 in the Meadows. State Route 5 is known locally as Longmeadow Street and passes by the Town Green. Interstate 91 has one exit and entrance south of the town in Enfield CT and one exit and entrance north of the town in Springfield MA. Rout 192 travels from the Town Green south east into Connecticut. The route is locally known as Shaker Road Other main arteries connect Longmeadow with Enfield CT in the south, East Longmeadow in the east, and Springfield in the north.

Longmeadow has an extensive sidewalk infrastructure. In particular roads near schools and the major east-west thoroughfares of Converse Street, Bliss Road, Williams Street, and Maple Road have sidewalks. The major north-south roads of Longmeadow Street, Laurel Street and Frank Smith Road have sidewalks.

Water Supply System

The vast majority of the Town is serviced by a public water system, as opposed to private wells, provided by the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission. In fiscal year 2010, the Town consumed 765,117,179 gallons of water. The DPW is conducting an inventory of all fire hydrants and marking them for GIS use. In 2010, 4,500 linear feet of water main were replaced.

Sewer Service

The vast majority of the Town is serviced by a public sewer system that is pumped to Bondi's Island Water Treatment Center in West Springfield. The DPW is in the midst of a multi year effort to video inspect all sanitary sewers to identify problem areas and improve service. Thus far they have inspected over 55,000 feet of sanitary sewer. Deficiencies have been corrected as they are identified resulting in fewer blockages and backups. Annually about 3,000 linear feet of sewer line is chemically treated to eliminate the intrusion of roots into the sewer lines. Roots collect solids which lead to blocked sewer mains and potential backups.

Long-Term Development Patterns

Potential Development

According to the Town Assessor Longmeadow is virtually built-out. There are very few parcels that would conform to local zoning requirements left for development. However, as noted above, residents spend far more on retail goods and services than is needed to support local business, thus indicating there is a potential market for expanded retail, commercial or office space if the town were to support zoning changes to allow for this.

Local Zoning

Longmeadow's growth and development is guided by a set of zoning bylaws. The bylaws are intended to protect the health, safety, convenience, and welfare of Longmeadow residents. From time to time as need arises the zoning bylaws are amended by a vote at Annual Town Meeting. Because of the long history of occupation and changing zoning regulations many structures are non-conforming with existing regulations. The town has eight zoning districts listed below. Each district is meant to protect the residents while providing standards for use.

- Residence A-2 Zone
- Residence A-I Zone
- Agricultural Zone
- Business Zone
- Professional Zone
- Elderly Residential Zone
- Residential Condominium Reuse Zone
- Elderly Congregate Residential Zone

Recent and Proposed Developments and Infrastructure

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Since 2008 just 12 building permits have been issued. Permits included a new parish center at Saint Mary's Church, a new accessory building at Twin Hills Country Club, and a new residential unit at Emerson Manor Nursing Home. The most likely new development continues to be renovations and additions to existing buildings. There are no subdivisions scheduled to be built or in the permitting process.

Maximum Build-out Scenario

Longmeadow is nearing maximum build out. As the town approaches this new reality it will become increasingly important to identify unused parcels that may be ideal for use as open space or recreation.

SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. Geology, Soils and Topography

Longmeadow's topography is flat and low along the Connecticut River, but eventually rises to approximately 200 feet above sea level in the eastern part of town. This upland area consists of relatively flat land and gentle rolling hills. Between these two plains many wooded gullies and ravines exist. These locations while stable are subject to erosion and localized flooding during extreme weather or when soil is disturbed.

Soils are mostly sandy throughout town, well drained and supporting a variety of flora. There are some small areas of concentrated clay dispersed throughout. Corridors along small ponds and streams have richer soils. There are no unusual geologic features recognized in Longmeadow.

The town lies in the humid continental climate zone marked by four distinct seasons with precipitation throughout the year. The average low and high temperatures in January are 17 and 34 degrees Fahrenheit. The average low and high temperatures in July are 62 and 83 degrees Fahrenheit. The normal annual precipitation is 42.3 inches (data from National Climatic Data Center, Springfield Station). Growing season length (which is measured in days above 32 degrees F.) will range from 160 to 197.

The proximity of the low western end of town to the Connecticut River has made it susceptible to flooding. This has prevented large scale development and has allowed much of the land to remain undeveloped and preserved as open space. The few locations in Longmeadow where the soil contains clay deposits have allowed water to accumulate. Likewise the vegetated corridors surrounding streams are ideal locations to preserve the land in the natural state. The four season climate allows for diverse recreation opportunities all year around.

B. Landscape Character

Unique Features

Longmeadow's principal unique feature is its nearly 1,700 acre Connecticut River floodplain, which is comprised of prime agricultural land, the privately owned Fannie Stebbins Memorial Wildlife Refuge, 474 acres of municipal conservation land, a small number of privately owned year-round residences and several undeveloped parcels. This floodplain is host to threatened or endangered species of plants that have been identified by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Besides the large floodplain, Longmeadow is home to many smaller natural areas and unique features. One such feature is the north-south wooded escarpment separating the floodplain from the uplands. Longmeadow Brook, Wheelmeadow Brook, Raspberry Brook, and Cooley Brook all run through town and constitute unique landscapes. These

brooks and their tributaries provide “green belts” between residential properties. A number of valleys and dingles as well as isolated wetlands are also scattered throughout. Substantial acreage owned by individuals has not been developed and exists in a natural state with some gardens, orchards, and woodlands. The City of Springfield owns 48 acres of land in the northeast corner of Longmeadow as part of the public Franconia Golf Course. Two other Country Clubs, Longmeadow Country Club in the south west and Twin Hills Country Club in the south east offer large tracts of open space. The City of Springfield also controls 10 acres on the northern border of Longmeadow as part of Forest Park.

The Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife has identified areas within Longmeadow as unique environments. The entire Meadows section to the west of Interstate 91 is categorized as a Critical Natural Landscape. These Critical Natural Landscapes serve to buffer wetlands and aquatic areas. This area is also considered Core Habitat. Core Habitats are high quality habitat for rare, vulnerable, or uncommon birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrate, and plant species. Two other Core Habitat areas are identified in Longmeadow: The Pomeroy Plot (located east of Route 5, south of Nevins Avenue and northwest of the border with Connecticut), and Wolf Swamp Park Conservation Area.

Land Acquisition

The Town of Longmeadow has supported a land acquisition program for 40 years. Currently, the Conservation Commission has responsibility for 625 acres. Approximately 475 of those acres are in The Meadows.

The Conservation Commission used a cash donation from the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Authority, as well as others, to acquire the 110-acre Gasek Farm in the Meadows in 1993. The total amount of conservation land in the Meadows is now 474 acres. The purchase of this land was made possible by a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to the Town of Longmeadow through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. Per this agreement, the purchase of the Gasek Property though owned by the Town of Longmeadow, was to be restricted from development as part of the Connecticut River Greenway State Park. Ownership of this land was transferred to the Longmeadow Conservation Commission.

All of the floodplain Meadows and portions of the four major brook valleys are in the Connecticut River flood zone, and numerous isolated wetlands exist throughout the Town. All of these come under the jurisdiction of the State's Wetlands Protection Act and the Longmeadow Wetlands Bylaw.

Acreage Utilization

As a suburban residential community Longmeadow's top two land uses are a combination of all residential uses and forest. Longmeadow has very few acres dedicated to commercial or industrial use. The third and fourth largest land uses are recreation and water. These locations provide valuable opportunities for both active and passive recreation. MassGIS categorizes Longmeadow land use in the year 2005 as follows:

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Use Classification	Acres
Residential	2,674.67
Forest & Forested Wetland	1982.52
Recreation	345.57
Water	305.11
Non Forested Wetland	263.85
Active Agriculture	220.95
Park, Urban Open, Cemetary	129.73
Transportation	89.87
Commercial	56.44
Industrial	5.78

Source: MassGIS, 2005

Longmeadow recognizes the value of parkland, public open space, and undeveloped areas. The town is nearing 100% build out and keeping these lands protected from development will be important in maintaining the current suburban residential character of Longmeadow.

C. Water Resources

Watershed

Longmeadow is within the Connecticut River watershed. Portions of land on the southeastern edge of town lie just outside the Scantic River watershed, a tributary to the Connecticut River, joining the Connecticut River in Windsor, Connecticut.

The Connecticut River is used for many types of recreation including boating and fishing. During dry weather, the river is generally clean enough for swimming. The presence of *E. coli* bacteria in the water often makes the river unsuitable for swimming after storm events. Bacteria reaches the river through combined sewer overflows (CSOs) north of Longmeadow on the Connecticut River in Chicopee, Holyoke and Springfield, and stormwater runoff.

Surface Water

In addition to the Connecticut River which borders the entire western edge of Longmeadow, four major brooks and their tributaries flow through Longmeadow: Longmeadow Brook, Wheelmeadow Brook, Raspberry Brook, and Cooley Brook. These rivers serve as important wildlife corridors where little other undeveloped land exists. There are also four ponds: Laurel Pond in Laurel Park, Turner Pond in Turner Park, Twin Hills Pond in Twin Hills Country Club, and Country Club Pond in Longmeadow Country Club. These ponds are generally used only for passive recreation such as bird watching; no boating or swimming occurs on them.

Aquifer Recharge Area

As with most land in the Connecticut River valley, Longmeadow has predominantly sandy soils, excellent for aquifer recharge. However, due to the urbanized nature of the community, residents are serviced by a municipal surface water supply (Springfield Water and Sewer Commission), not public or private wells. Concerns about potentially harmful land uses within a Zone II are not relevant. However, nationally, nitrogen and phosphorus contamination of aquifers from landscape practices continues to be a growing problem, contaminating drinking water supplies and surface water resources. Longmeadow should be mindful of such practices and respectful of aquifer resources in their community whether used for public water supplies or not.

Flood Hazard Area

The Connecticut River is the longest river east of the Mississippi River, draining 410 miles from its source at the Canadian border to Long Island Sound where it joins the Atlantic Ocean. Water levels rise and fall on a seasonal and daily basis. The Meadows section of Longmeadow comprises the majority of the Flood Hazard areas in town. The flood zone follows along a narrow path from the Connecticut River eastward along Longmeadow Brook. Longmeadow recognizes the importance of protecting these flood hazard areas in order to preserve the flood water storage capacity.

Wetlands

According to MassGIS approximately 720 acres of wetland (forested and non-forested) exist throughout Longmeadow. Two of the larger areas of contiguous wetlands are in The Meadows and in Wolf Swamp Park and Conservation Area. There are numerous smaller wetland areas along the named and unnamed streams and the ponds of Longmeadow. There are thirty-five potential vernal pools and five certified vernal pools according to NHESP, four in the Meadows and one at the corner of Dwight and Chestnut Streets.

D. Vegetation

General Inventory

The most common types of vegetation in Longmeadow are plants common to suburban New England. Most homeowners have a lawn of short grass with hedges or small shrubs. A few homeowners have a naturalistic landscape. Public trees in Longmeadow are cared for by an arborist subcontracted by the Department of Public Works. Longmeadow also has several areas where the landscape is not groomed for or by humans. These areas can be found near streams, in the Wolf Swamp Conservation Area, and in the Meadows section of town. These areas serve as important wildlife corridors and should be maintained in their natural condition. Healthy and diverse vegetation is also important to the quality of life in Longmeadow.

Forest Land

Longmeadow has 1,982 acres of forested land and forested wetland according to MassGIS 2005 data. The uplands are largely residential with combinations of mixed hardwoods such as oak, maple, and beech and native soft woods such as pine, spruce,

and hemlock. The floodplain supports a variety of native hardwoods. Silver Maple and Willows are common in the Meadows. A wooded escarpment leading to the uplands borders the Meadows to the east. Several corridors of wooded land run through town on either side of the four streams. Wolf Swamp Conservation Area in the Southwest corner of town contains acres of forested land as does the Pomeroy Plot, a triangle of wooded land located between Route 5, the state line, and Nevins Avenue.

Public Shade Trees

Longmeadow was awarded Tree City USA status in 2010. This is in recognition of the high quality of tree care and programs the town provides. 2010 was the 9th year Longmeadow qualified. A full time Tree Warden is responsible for all street trees and shade trees on public property in the town. In 2010 the town removed approximately 120 trees that were compromised by disease or other damage caused by the 2010 ice storm. Despite this recent expansive tree removal effort, Longmeadow remains well shaded and has an extensive and healthy tree canopy.

Agricultural Lands

According to MassGIS, Longmeadow has 220 acres of active agricultural land in the Meadows. The DPW conducts a leaf composting program for municipal and residential leaves and yard waste. The compost program is conducted in the Meadows section of town. The DPW performs annual water quality tests around the compost fields and reports this information, as well as the elevation of the compost piles, to the Conservation Commission.

Wetland Vegetation

As of 2005, according to MassGIS, Longmeadow had approximately 460 acres of forested wetland and approximately 260 acres of non-forested wetland. Wetlands comprise over 720 acres of land in Longmeadow. These areas and the associated vegetation are important resources for wildlife. The vegetation provides food, nesting material, and cover to many species of animals.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species of Flora

According to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program listing, the following 9 vascular plant species are endangered or threatened in Longmeadow. All nine plants on the 2010 list were also on the list at the time of the last OSRP.

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Common Name	Last Observation
Endangered Species	
Winged Monkey-flower	2007
Narrow-leaved Spring Beauty	2003
Many-fruited False Loosestrife	1985
Threatened Species	
Adder's-tounge Fern	1932
Swamp Dock	2008
Gray's Sedge	2008
Green Dragon	1993
Special Concern Species	
Philidelphia Panic Grass	1997
Frank's Lovegrass	1987

Unique Natural Resources

The Connecticut River flood plain is home to many species of plants and constitutes a unique environment. There are four Certified Vernal Pools in this area as well as a fifth at the intersection of Dwight Road and Converse Street. Thirty-five Potential Vernal Pools exist in town. These bodies of water are important in the life cycle of many plants and animals. Protecting vernal pools is a priority for Longmeadow.

The four wooded stream corridors provide many ecosystem services. They provide a visual buffer between neighborhoods, filter water and runoff before it enters the stream, and provide habitat for many plants and animals.

The wooded escarpment that separates the uplands from the lowlands is a unique natural resource. This sliver of land filters water from the developed portion of town before it reaches the wetlands and river. It also serves as a natural wildlife corridor and place of refuge. The wooded escarpment is vulnerable to erosion and efforts should be made to preserve the integrity of the soils.

Vegetation Mapping Projects

MassGIS has completed mapping major land use types across the state. MassGIS has identified approximately 2,000 acres of forest in Longmeadow.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Inventory

Within the Town boundaries there are a wide variety of wildlife, partly migratory and partly resident year-round. Hunting is not permitted within the Town.

Mammals include the mouse, mole, vole, chipmunk, red and gray squirrel, a black mutant of the gray squirrel, mink, muskrat, beaver, raccoon, cotton-tail rabbit, red and gray fox, eastern coyote, and white-tail deer. For a complete list of observed mammals, see Exhibit D in the Appendix. The floodplain and its wetlands also attract a wide variety of resident and migratory birds.

Vernal Pools

Vernal pools play a valuable role in the lifecycle of several animals. Longmeadow has five certified vernal pools: four in the Meadows, and one at the corner of Dwight and Converse Streets. There are also thirty-five potential vernal pools located in the Meadows and the Wolf Swamp Park and Conservation Area.

Corridors

The Connecticut River Valley is a major north-south migration corridor for mammals, waterfowl, and other birds and part of the Atlantic Flyway. The wooded escarpment that separates the uplands from the lowlands is a natural north-south corridor separated from the majority of town by Route 5. However, it is far from an ideal pathway since it is nestled between Interstate 91 and Route 5. The towns wooded stream corridors also provide important wildlife habitat.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species of Fauna

The table below provides a list of the twelve rare, threatened, endangered and unique species in Longmeadow as provided by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. No new species have been listed since the 2002 OSRP.

Common Name	Taxonomic Group	Last Observation
Endangered Species		
Riverine Clubtail	Dragonfly	2005
Bald Eagle	Bird	2005
Shortnose Sturgeon	Fish	1998
Sedge Wren	Bird	1937
Least Bittern	Bird	1937
Short-eared Owl	Bird	1935
Golden-winged Warbler	Bird	1934
American Bittern	Bird	Historic
Threatened Species		
Arrow Clubtail	Dragonfly	2005
Eastern Worm Snake	Reptile	2005
Special Concern Species		
Burbot	Fish	1987
Common Moorhen	Bird	1984

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Scenic Landscapes

There are many scenic landscapes in Longmeadow, some of which were designed by the Olmsted Brothers landscape architectural firm, the premier landscape architects of the early 1900s responsible for the famous Emerald Necklace in Boston and New York City's Central Park. The Olmsted designed landscapes in Longmeadow include:

- Laurel Park, a 38-acre parcel of undeveloped land that has been improved to reference the original Olmsted design.
- Glen Arden, a Longmeadow neighborhood that includes three roads adjacent to the Longmeadow Country Club. In Glen Arden, the landscape architects preserved the naturalistic features of the landscape while seamlessly incorporating man-made and introduced elements. The Glen Arden Realty Trust was formed in 1990 to assume title to the common lands in the neighborhood. The original plans for the design of Glen Arden can be found in the archives of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts.
- Colony Hills, a 109-household neighborhood, proposed for the National Historic Register.

The Town Green and center of town are a traditional New England village. The Historic District along Route 5 passes by many large Victorian homes. Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge and much of the Meadows have a panoramic view of the waterfront and the Connecticut River.

Major Characteristics

A prominent feature of Longmeadow is the Connecticut River waterfront. The Longmeadow Green is a unique resource. Both of these locations are at least partially protected. Longmeadow recognizes the importance of providing full protection to the landscapes that give our town its special identity.

Cultural, Archeological, and Historic Areas

The Town has preserved many unique resources, which contribute to the community's character. According to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the following areas are listed on the State Register of Historic Places:

- Captain Simon and Major Luther Colton House at 787 Longmeadow Street
- The North Historic District Longmeadow Street, bounded by Longmeadow Street, the Springfield City Line, Westmoreland Avenue and Cooley Drive
- The Town Green at Longmeadow Street and Williams Street
- Forest Park, which, although located in neighboring Springfield, borders the northern edge of Longmeadow and provides significant open space along the town border
- The Town Center Historic District: Longmeadow has had an active Historic District Commission for many years, which is concerned with preserving the quality and appearance of 53 buildings and residences alongside of and adjacent to Longmeadow Street and the Town Green. Some of these residences date back into the early 1700s. The Historic Society maintains a genealogical treasure chest of documents, the diary of Steven Williams (the "Boy Captive of Old Deerfield") and is widely recognized as one of the prime historical references.
- The Longmeadow Cemetery, dating back to the late 1600s and having a number of period types of tombstones, is also significant.

Unique Environments

As of 2010 Longmeadow contained no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern as defined by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. A few unique environments within Longmeadow include the Connecticut River Floodplain and The Meadows, the wooded escarpment to the West of Route 5, Wolf Swamp Park and Conservation Area, the five vernal pools, and Turner Pond.

G. Environmental Challenges

Hazardous Waste and Brownfields

According to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection², the following reported release remains open in Longmeadow:

- 1730 Longmeadow Street – State Line Mobil (RTN 1-0000770) Tier 2 leaking underground storage tank (UST)

² <http://db.state.ma.us/dep/cleanup/sites/SearchResults.asp>

There are 121 other reported releases of oil and/or hazardous materials, all of which have received a Release Outcome Abatement (RAO) by DEP which means cleanup of the release has met compliance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan.

Landfills

Longmeadow has a closed but capped landfill in the Meadows on the southwest corner of Tina Lane railroad crossing. There is also closed but not capped stump and wood waste dump on the southeast corner of the Tina Lane railroad crossing.

The town contracts with Allied Waste to have solid waste transferred to a landfill out of town. The DPW collects leaves and yard waste to be composted at a DPW facility in the Meadows. The DPW monitors water quality near the compost fields twice annually as a best management practice to ensure the composting operation is not contributing nutrient runoff to the river and/or surrounding area.

Longmeadow residents recycle approximately 127 pounds per person per year. The material recycled in 2010 was sold for over \$75,000. A recycling initiative in the schools has reduced trash production by up to 50 percent.

Erosion and Sedimentation

Exposed soils, unpaved roads and construction sites contribute tons of silt and sediment to ponds, wetlands and rivers each year. The settling basin at Longmeadow Country Club collects about 1,000 cubic yards per year. Erosion is impacting all of the ponds and waterways in Longmeadow, particularly the pond at Laurel Park. Sedimentation interferes with the natural processes and life cycles of many fish and aquatic species. Soil and debris enter the pond after heavy rains. In addition, the many dingles, ravines, and small streams have steep banks prone to erosion. In 2007, the stream bank in Laurel Park was stabilized to mitigate existing erosion. Occasional major road and bank failures, such as the collapse of Captain Road, account for some of the sediment source. According to the Conservation Commission, tree growth patterns suggest that even including these large collapses, dingle formation proceeds at an average rate of about one foot per year. One foot per year is consistent with the headwaters of Longmeadow Brook moving back about five miles since the last glaciation.

Chronic Flooding

The floodplain and wetlands of Longmeadow are the critical resources to protect against flooding and experience regular season flooding. Flooding at Bliss Park has been problematic, interfering with the use of the athletic fields and scheduled programming.

New Development

Longmeadow is nearly built out with very little land available for development. Potential new development does not pose a large risk to the natural environment.

Ground Water and Surface Water Pollution

Longmeadow is a densely populated, affluent residential town. Extensive use of lawn chemicals and agricultural fertilizers present an ongoing concern. The Longmeadow Department of Public Works monitors water quality in the Meadows at the leaf composting facility twice annually and provides the data to the Conservation Commission. The local golf course managers limit their use of chemicals to avoid pollution. Their approach is to use only spot spraying in problem areas, to develop a healthier turf that will not require the use of chemicals and avoid runoff, and to use milder chemicals on the course.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission monitors E. coli bacteria levels in the Connecticut River at the Longmeadow Yacht Club weekly from June through September since 2008. Data is posted at <http://www.umass.edu/tei/mwwp/ctrivemonitoring.html> . Although bacteria levels at this monitoring location are generally low during dry weather, wet weather events trigger CSO discharges in Springfield, Holyoke and Chicopee causing elevated bacteria levels in this section of the river. Additionally, stormwater runoff from urban and suburban areas can contribute nutrients, bacteria and hazardous materials such as oil and grease from general land uses including roads, parking lots and chemically treated lawns.

The Town of Longmeadow participates in the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, a regional coalition of twelve municipalities tasked with education and outreach about stormwater pollution, as required under the NPDES MS4 Permit. To learn more about the education campaign visit www.ThinkBlueMA.org .

Impaired Water Bodies

All wastewater discharges in Longmeadow are regulated under the TMDL for the Long Island Sound. However, because Longmeadow does not have its own wastewater treatment plant, there are no NPDES permitted municipally owned and operated facilities.

Stormwater runoff tends to be the biggest source of impairment to surface waters. Laurel Pond has noted erosion and sedimentation issues. Water flowing from the streets collects chemicals from automobiles and other sources and flows eventually into the four streams and into the Connecticut River. Pet waste, which can be a source of E. coli and other pollutants including nutrients, can be washed into water bodies near popular recreation areas.

Invasive Species

Many species of invasive species thrive in disturbed or degraded environments in Longmeadow. These species provide little or no benefit to the native plants and animals. Invasive species are often more aggressive and exploit conditions in the environment to out compete native plants. Managing invasive species is important for the health of the native plant and animal community, as well as human enjoyment and experience of the landscape.

Environmental Equity Issues

Longmeadow has no Environmental Justice populations. The many parks and parcels of open space ensure that all residents have access to recreation lands. Additionally, the extensive sidewalk network offers safe pedestrian access to all of the municipally owned parks and conservation areas in town. All new facilities built or substantially remodeled by the Town of Longmeadow are compliant with the American with Disabilities Act.

SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION INTEREST

Open space as discussed throughout this plan is land either left to its natural condition, or managed to maintain a particular type of ecological habitat such as a meadow or forest, or function such as wildlife corridor. The term open space is also used to describe expanses of undeveloped land utilized for recreational purposes such as golf courses, ball fields, and park lawns. These areas although altered to such an extent that they no longer attain high ecological integrity, do provide other environmental benefits such as potential aquifer recharge areas, stormwater filtration, scenic vistas, and select habitats for some species. Open space also makes an important contribution to quality of life. Public recreation areas and open space provide a focus for community life and promote an identifiable community character.

For the purposes of this plan and the map titled “Recreational and Protected Open Space”, “protected” open space is defined as follows:

- **In Perpetuity (P)**- Legally protected in perpetuity and recorded as such in a deed or other official document. Land is considered protected in perpetuity if it is owned by the town’s conservation commission or, sometimes, by the water department; if a town has a conservation restriction on the property in perpetuity; if it is owned by one of the state’s conservation agencies (thereby covered by article 97); if it is owned by a non-profit land trust; or if the town received federal or state assistance for the purchase or improvement of the property. Private land is considered protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity, if an Agriculture Preservation Restriction has been placed on it, or a Conservation Restriction has been placed on it.
- **Temporary (T)** - Legally protected for less than perpetuity (e.g. short term conservation restriction or Chap61 lands), or temporarily protected through an existing functional use. For example, some water district lands are only temporarily protected while water resource protection is their primary use. These lands could be developed for other uses at the end of their temporary protection or when their functional use is no longer necessary. These lands will revert to unprotected status at a given date unless protection status is extended.
- **Limited (L)** - Protected by legal mechanisms other than those above, or protected through functional or traditional use. These lands might be protected by a requirement of a majority municipal vote for any change in status. This designation also includes lands that are likely to remain open space for other reasons (e.g. cemeteries and municipal golf courses).
- **None (N)** - Totally unprotected by any legal or functional means. This land is usually privately owned and could be sold without restriction at any time for another use (e.g. scout camps, private golf course, and private woodland).

A detailed table of conservation and recreation lands in Longmeadow is included in the Appendices.

A. Private Parcels

Tax Exempt

Tax exempt properties within Longmeadow include those held by the Town of Longmeadow, four churches, and Bay Path College. Bay Path College opens its facilities to the public for musical events, permits use of its fitness center and sponsors Town wide public meetings in its Blake Student Center Commons. Bay Path College also recently acquired additional property to be used for athletic fields.

Fannie Stebbins Memorial Wildlife Refuge

This Wildlife Refuge, privately owned by the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, Massachusetts, is listed by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, along with other Town conservation land in the Meadows, as the 152nd site to be included in the Registry of National Landmarks. Such a listing designates this land as a nationally significant natural area. To be nationally significant, it must be one of the best examples of a type of biotic community of geologic feature in its physiographic province, such as terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The Refuge is comprised of approximately 338 acres of prime riverine forest, wet meadows, wetlands and brooks with a number of walking trails and numerous plants and wildlife. It is host to a number of uncommon, rare, and several threatened and endangered species. It is open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and wildlife observation, as well as educational programs.

Both the Longmeadow Country Club and The Twin Hills Country Club were in Chapter 61B in previous years. As of 2010 only the Longmeadow Country Club renewed the status. In 2011, no properties are utilizing the Chapter 61, 61A or 61B tax programs.

B. Public and Nonprofit Parcels

The Town has prepared an inventory of all open space/recreation areas utilizing records contained at the Town Assessor's office as of January 1, 2010 (see Appendices). The Longmeadow Parks & Recreation Department operates a high quality year-round schedule with approximately 14 employees, and 106 seasonal park-time employees. Five main park locations (two with outdoor swimming pools), numerous playing fields, tennis courts, playground facilities, and two ponds, plus facilities for indoor activities at the Community House, Greenwood Center, and the indoor swimming pool at the High School, all combine to provide a diverse program for all ages.

The Parks and Recreation Department runs several very popular programs. Over 4,000 children participate in organized sports, the sport and day camp served over 1,500 campers, the he state licensed daycare facility serves over 235 families, the learn to swim program taught 144 children, 218 adults participated in a cultural programs and 300 guest attended The Summer Concert Series. The Parks & Recreation Department controls approximately 210 acres of open space.

According to the Longmeadow Parks Commission's Master Plan, issued by the Parks and Recreation Department, the available public land within the community is held as follows:

Parks and Playgrounds

Park and recreation facilities include the following:

- Blinn Memorial Tennis Courts: 12 hard surfaced lighted outdoor courts.
- Bliss Park: Predominantly wooded land totaling 45 acres, with 14 acres developed with playfields, 4 clay tennis courts, a pool, one basketball court, playground equipment, utility building, animal exercise trails, and two gravel parking lots.
- Community House: A brick structure located within the Historic District, having 15,727 square feet of space on three levels with 65% of its space available for various town or social functions.
- Greenwood Center: A single level former elementary school, having 20,500 square feet of space. It is currently used by both the Parks & Recreation Department and the Council on Aging.
- Greenwood Park: Ten acres of near fully developed parkland, with a wooded buffer area on the south and southwest side of approximately 3 acres. Facilities include a pool, playfield area, two hard surface tennis courts, a utility building, playground equipment, and a wooded area available for group outings.
- Wolf Swamp Road Playing Fields: 18 acres of graded playing fields used for adult softball, youth soccer, and special events. Facilities include a utility building with a concession stand and restrooms.
- Turner Park: 84 acres of wooded terrain and sandy marginal soil, with an 8-acre spring-fed pond. 95% of the area is undeveloped, although it does contain one playing field on its northerly side bordering Williams Street.
- Laurel Park: 38 acres of wooded undeveloped land containing a 2-acre stream-fed pond that is the site of the Town-sponsored Fishing Derby. It contains walking and dog exercise trails, as well as picnic locations.
- Storrs Park: A developed park land consisting of two playing fields and a concession stand.
- 3 acres of conservation land on Anthony Road provides public access to the Connecticut River.

Other Recreation and Conservation Areas

In addition to Town-owned property residents of Longmeadow use the ponds and hills at the privately-held Longmeadow Country Club, Twin Hills Country Club, and the Field Club during winter months for skating, sliding, snow shoeing, and cross-country skiing. Longmeadow Country Club regularly grooms trails for cross-country skiing. Fannie Stebbins Memorial Wildlife Refuge is a popular destination for hiking and bird watching. The Jewish Geriatric Community Center and the private tennis and golf clubs provide additional year-round recreational services.

About 170 acres of land in the floodplain are cleared and used for commercial agricultural use and leaf composting. The land is leased under a contract administered by the Department of Public Works. Crops are grown from spring through fall. Leaf composting begins in mid October and lasts for approximately 8 weeks.

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The Conservation Commission also makes conservation land available for vegetable garden plots for interested residents in the southern end of the Town. There currently exist approximately 25 plots that are available in the spring. The program is coordinated by volunteers and the garden plots are available free of charge.

SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION

A. Description of Process

The Planning process was lead by the Longmeadow Department of Parks and Recreation with technical assistance provided by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. A project Advisory Committee was formed to further inform the development of this plan and consisted of representation from various town boards and committees. The Committee met five times between March and October, 2011 and included the following members:

Peter Bouvier, Tree Committee
Edward K. Dzielenski, President, Fannie Stebbins Memorial Wildlife Refuge Trustees
Walter Gunn, Planning Board
Bari Jarvis, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Jennifer Jester, School Committee
Jim Russell, Vice Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission
Chris Reed, Town Engineer, Department of Public Works
Jim Simon, Conservation Commission

To solicit broader community input and public participation, a community survey and a public visioning session were held. The survey was posted online at Survey Monkey and was also available in paper format at town offices. The survey received 77 responses, the results of which are discussed in detail in Section 6 Community Vision.

A public visioning session workshop was held at the Longmeadow Community House on Thursday, May 26, 2011 from 7-9 PM. Due to the beautiful evening and the high school prom, the event wasn't well attended. However, thoughtful comment and feedback was gathered, most of which strongly supported the survey results.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Opportunities for a range of recreational activities exist for residents of all ages at well-maintained and managed parks, recreational facilities, and conservation areas.

SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

As a community at or very close to build out, there are few areas that remain in their natural condition, kept explicitly for wildlife habitat. The 1,700 acre Meadows at the western edge of town along the Connecticut River is used for farming, the Fannie Stebbins Memorial Wildlife Refuge, a few municipal conservation properties owned by the Conservation Commission, and a few smaller residential parcels. Although the Meadows remain a scenic landscape, they are plagued by illegal dumping and ATV use. Town-owned lands are posted to inform the public that these activities are not allowed however, the illegal uses continue. A Town Bylaw also exists stating no motorized use (ATVs and snowmobiles) on all town-owned properties and conservation areas however it is not enforced.

Two opposing opinions about the future of the Meadows were evident at the public forum and in the community survey results. Some residents believe that the town owned land should be evaluated for possible use as athletic fields for youth sports. Other residents and the Conservation Commission maintain that the land should remain in its most natural state and/or used for agricultural purposes. According to a Conservation Restriction (CR) identified through the development of this plan, the 111.25 acres of town owned land known formerly as the Gasek property must remain in its natural state but for certain agricultural activities, trails, and passive recreation, as listed in the CR³. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management is the holder of the Conservation Restriction. A copy of the CR and deed are included in the Appendices. The restriction was placed on the land as part of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant requirement. The Town of Longmeadow sought a LWCF grant in the amount of \$100,000 to acquire the property from Mr. Gasek. The transaction was completed in 1994.

Other resource protection needs include management of the extensive tree beltway throughout town. Residents have clearly identified the large old trees lining most town roads as an important component of the town's character, one to be cherished and protected. The tree beltway requires extensive leaf removal each fall which is expensive and time consuming for the Department of Public Works. Likewise, management of diseased trees for Ash Borer and Asian Longhorn beetle is expensive and time consuming. The Town has not been re-planting removed trees due to cost to maintain the tree belt.

Pet waste from dogs also ranks high on the list of resource protection concerns for residents. Pet waste specifically at Turner and Bliss Parks were noted as not being picked up. This is both aesthetically unpleasant and source of stormwater pollution.

As required by MA Department of Conservation Services, municipal Open Space and Recreation Plans must include information from the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor

³ Conservation Restriction, West Road, Longmeadow. Book 8424, Page 145-162 Hampden County Registry of Deeds, dated February 16, 1993.

Recreation Plan (SCORP)⁴ and how it relates to the community. The SCORP performed a recreation and open space needs assessment by region to inform an understanding of what people want most and what they are willing to support. In the SCORP, a distinctive pattern emerges in the Connecticut Valley Region. Hiking (10.7%) and playground activity (11.3%) ranked high with swimming and road biking, but also hiking, mountain biking (10.3%) and cross country skiing (4.1%) are ranked higher than in any other region. Thus, the region's expanses of open space attract residents that enjoy outdoor sports suited to their backyards. Notably consistent with Longmeadow, parks and golf courses receive the highest level of use for recreational areas in the Connecticut Valley (62.1%). This pattern is logical in light of the substantial urban concentration surrounding Longmeadow and the mostly built-out condition of the community.

B. Summary of Community's Needs

As noted above, a lack of athletic fields has been noted in the public survey and visioning session, particularly during peak season for baseball and lacrosse. There was also an expressed interest in additional soccer fields possibly at Bliss Park or the Wolf Swamp fields. Existing athletic fields are over-used and in poor condition. The fields are maintained by the DPW but the heavy use prevents proper care (i.e. aeration, rotation, etc.). There is an interest in exploring synthetic turf as a way to continue to utilize the fields at maximum capacity but not have to manage live turf grass.

Litter in Laurel Park is of great concern, as well as in other parks. There has been interest in restoring the original Olmsted plan for the park, or at the very least some level of beautification and restoration.

Despite the fact that dogs are not allowed on town-owned athletic facilities, fields, and town parks, people continue to allow dogs to run off-leash everywhere even with posted signage citing the town by law prohibiting this.

Many town parks have some sort of specific use such as tennis courts. Given the largely suburban nature of the community, residents would like better access to a range of uses within their own neighborhoods. Residents seek the closest park/open space for their daily use but the rules often prohibit use of the space for those activities such as dog walking or skateboarding. Some residents are interested in alternative recreational opportunities such as a dog park and skate park.

C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

Enforcement of rules and regulations at the Meadows and parks is needed. Park managers will need to develop new strategies for doing this as there isn't enough staff or local police to constantly monitor use violations. Likewise, funding for maintenance of parks and recreational facilities is greatly needed. Any consideration for a new recreational facility or renovation of an old one must be matched with funding options.

An alternative use analysis for the Bliss tennis courts has been recommended due to their poor condition. Assessment and feasibility study for utilizing synthetic turf for

⁴ *Massachusetts Outdoors 2006: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

athletic fields is also warranted given the maximum capacity of existing fields and the growing involvement in youth athletic sports in the community.

SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal #1 - Town owned parks and conservation areas are used for their appropriately designated uses and well-cared for.

Objectives:

- Local rules and regulations for each town owned park and/or conservation area are well-known by users and applied.
- Maintenance plans for town-owned parks and conservation areas are developed and implemented, and updated as needed.
- Town-wide tree belt is healthy and sustained for future generations.

Actions:

- Promote/post current rules and regulations at town parks and conservation lands and at edge of abutting property where access is observed.
- Identify funding sources for maintenance of town recreation facilities and conservation areas.
- Seek funding for maintenance of town recreation facilities.
- Identify funding for management of diseased trees.
- Develop plan for management of tree belt including an updated tree inventory.
- Identify a location for a dog park.
- Explore relationships with abutting towns for expansion of recreation connectivity and open space corridors.

Goal #2 – Adequate youth athletic facilities exist for the Town of Longmeadow

Objectives:

- Existing athletic facilities are well-maintained and support peak seasonal use
- A sufficient number of fields exist for each sport such that an appropriate period of field rotation can be applied to ensure the long-term health of the recreational facility.

Action:

- Identify properties for the development of new athletic fields (soccer, football, lacrosse).
- Seek funding for the acquisition of new properties.
- Develop long-term operation and maintenance plans for the new facilities including integration of use with other community athletic facilities.
- Initiate synthetic turf feasibility study to determine if this type of facility will better meet the needs of the Longmeadow youth athletics community.
- Investigate shared athletic facilities with neighboring towns and Bay Path College.

Goal #3 – Core of community volunteers is actively engaged in maintenance of local parks and conservation areas.

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Objectives:

- Community volunteers support the Town of Longmeadow's efforts to maintain and police local parks and conservation areas.
- Participation in community volunteer core promotes community pride and respect for community resources.

Actions:

- Designate volunteer core for each park and conservation area and "swear them in"
- Maintain seasonal list of activities for volunteer core
- Recognize volunteer activities in the local media and the accomplishments of their work.
- Develop "ticketing" system implemented by volunteer core for local park rule violators (i.e. not picking up after your dog)
- Implement storm drain stenciling program – "No trash in the drain"

Goal #4 – The Connecticut River and its floodplain are protected as a wildlife corridor and used for passive recreation.

Objectives:

- Access to the river for passive recreation is available to Town residents on town owned land.
- The floodplain is permanently protected for ecological value.

Actions:

- Develop improved access to the Connecticut River for canoeing and kayaking.
- Enforce against illegal dumping in the "the meadows".
- Enhance trail system on town-owned land in "the meadows" for passive recreational activities including hiking and bird-watching.
- Seek permanent protection of privately owned parcels abutting the river.
- Support stormwater management and pollution abatement including pet waste, landscape chemicals, and litter.

SECTION 9: SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

2011 Longmeadow Open Space & Recreation Plan

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	TIMELINE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE
<i>Goal #1 - Town owned parks and conservation areas are used appropriately (for designated purpose) and well-cared for.</i>			
Promote/post rules and regulations at facility and at edge of abutting property where access is observed.	Con Comm, DPW, Parks and Rec. Dept.	2012-2019	
Identify funding sources for maintenance of town facilities	Con Comm, DPW, Parks and Rec. Dept.	2012-2015	
Seek funding for maintenance of town facilities	Con Comm, DPW, Parks and Rec. Dept.	2013-2019	
Identify funding for management of diseased trees	Tree Committee	2012-2013	CPA
Develop plan for management of tree belt	Tree Committee	2012-2016	CPA
Explore relationships with abutting towns for expansion of recreation connectivity and open space corridors	Con Comm, DPW, Parks and Rec. Dept.	2013-2015	
Identify location for dog park	Con Comm, DPW, Parks and Rec. Dept.	2012-2013	
<i>Goal #2 – Adequate youth athletic facilities exist for the Town of Longmeadow</i>			
Identify properties for the development of new athletic fields (soccer, football, lacrosse).	Parks and Rec. Dept., School Committee	2012-2015	
Develop long-term operation and maintenance plans for the new facilities including integration of	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept., School Committee	2015-2019	

2011 Longmeadow Open Space & Recreation Plan

use with other community athletic facilities.			
Investigate shared athletic facilities with neighboring towns and Bay Path College.	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept., School Committee	2012-2013	
Initiate synthetic turf feasibility study to determine if this type of facility will better meet the needs of the Longmeadow youth athletics community.	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept., School Committee	2012-2013	
Seek funding for the acquisition of new properties.	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept., School Committee	2015	
<i>Goal #3 – Core of community volunteers is actively engaged in maintenance of local parks and conservation areas.</i>			
Designate volunteer corps for each park and conservation area and “swear them in”	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept.,	2012-2019	
Maintain seasonal list of activities for volunteer corps	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept.,	2012-2019	
Recognize volunteer activities in the local media and the accomplishments of their work.	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept.,	2012-2019	
Develop “ticketing” system implemented by volunteer corps for local park rule violators (i.e. not picking up after your dog)	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept.,	2012-2019	
<i>Goal #4 – The Connecticut River and its floodplain are protected as a wildlife corridor and used for passive recreation.</i>			
Develop improved access to the Connecticut River for canoeing and kayaking.	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept., Con Comm	2013-2019	
Enforce against illegal dumping in the “the	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept., Con	2012-2019	

2011 Longmeadow Open Space & Recreation Plan

meadows”.	Comm, Police Department		
Seek permanent protection of privately owned parcels abutting the river.	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept., Con Comm	2013-2019	
Enhance trail system on town-owned land in “the meadows” for passive recreational activities including hiking and bird-watching.	DPW, Parks and Rec Dept., Con Comm	2013-2019	

SECTION 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Longmeadow Open Space and Recreation Survey April – May 2011

Longmeadow OSRP Visioning Workshop Summary, May 26, 2011

Letters of Endorsement

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Longmeadow Select Board

Longmeadow Conservation Commission

Longmeadow Planning Board

SECTION 11: REFERENCES

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- Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, 2011. *Route Maps*.
- Reference USA, 2008. *Longmeadow Massachusetts Largest Employers*.
- Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, 2010. *Annual Statistics Report*.

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SECTION 12: APPENDIX

Recreational and Protected Open Space Map Definitions

Recreational and Open Space Lands Spreadsheets

Maps

Recreational and Protected Open Space

Soils

Natural Lands

Zoning Districts

Action Plan

ADA Report

Longmeadow Open Space and Recreation Survey April – May 2011

Notes

1. Bliss Park
 - a. Need better maintenance and enforcement on dog waste.
 - b. Parking and access in need of improvement; better directional guidance for traffic and re-grade annually.
2. Create a dog park
 - a. Potential for fenced in area at Laurel Park?
3. Trails/bike paths–
 - a. Create bike path connecting to trail in East Longmeadow. Roads are challenging to ride on; question safety of road riding.
 - b. Create hiking trail in *The Meadows* along the Connecticut River with signage
 - c. Need better trail markers in *Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Area*
 - d. *Bark Haul Road* – could be used for recreation but cars travel very fast on this road. Need enforcement.
4. Open spaces should be geared for people of all ages, not just children/youth sports –
 - a. Temper concerns about being sued on town owned lands. Post “use at your own risk” signs at passive recreational facilities to encourage greater use.
 - b. Concerns about safety related to hunting and motorized trail usage in this suburban community.
5. Laurel Park–
 - a. Fix tennis clay courts (Laurel Park). Used to be great resource, now in disrepair.
6. Connecticut River Access
 - a. Free public access to the Connecticut River would be great; include rentals for boats, etc. Longmeadow Yacht Club is a private establishment for members only.
7. Youth Sports Needs –
 - a. Skateboard park is needed.
 - b. Soccer fields –not able to hold home games due to limited field space. (Bliss Park of Wolf Swamp Fields options??)
 - c. Create multi-use space instead of single sport type facilities (baseball only or tennis only)

Top priorities for improving and/or expanding upon existing facilities based on responses to question #6 and comments:

1. Laurel Park
2. Bliss Park
3. The Meadows
4. Fanny Stebbins Wildlife Refuge
5. Wolf Swamp Road Fields

Do you think there is a need for open space to be protected in the town?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		94.8%	73
No		5.2%	4
answered question			77
skipped question			0

2011 Longmeadow Open Space/Recreation Survey

How important is the preservation and protection of open space in town to you?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very important		77.9%	60
Important		19.5%	15
Somewhat important		2.6%	2
Not important at all		1.3%	1
answered question			77
skipped question			0

What is your street name?

Response
Count

72

answered question

72

skipped question

5

Q3. What is your street name?

1	academey drive [Street Name Reponses]	May 5, 2011 7:46 AM
2	Academy Dr [Street Name Reponses]	May 5, 2011 7:43 AM
3	Longmeadow St [Street Name Reponses]	May 3, 2011 7:54 AM
4	converse st [Street Name Reponses]	May 3, 2011 7:49 AM
5	Ferncroft St [Street Name Reponses]	May 3, 2011 7:40 AM
6	vance [Street Name Reponses]	May 3, 2011 7:13 AM
7	Ferncroft [Street Name Reponses]	May 2, 2011 1:01 PM
8	Warwick Street [Street Name Reponses]	May 1, 2011 1:04 PM
9	Branch Street [Street Name Reponses]	May 1, 2011 12:59 PM
10	Farmington Road [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 29, 2011 7:28 PM
11	stirling [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 27, 2011 6:45 AM
12	eton road [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 26, 2011 4:45 PM
13	Edgewood ave. [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 26, 2011 10:42 AM
14	Pinewood Drive [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 26, 2011 10:32 AM
15	Westmoreland [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 25, 2011 6:24 AM
16	russell rd [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 24, 2011 3:37 PM
17	Tecumseh Drive [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 24, 2011 7:05 AM
18	Glenwood Cir [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 23, 2011 7:42 PM
19	Bliss Rd [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 23, 2011 11:55 AM
20	Green Hill Rd [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 23, 2011 6:32 AM
21	prynnwood [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 22, 2011 3:45 PM
22	Greenacre Ave [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 22, 2011 1:10 PM
23	Hazelwood Avenue [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 22, 2011 11:53 AM
24	Meadowbrook Road [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 22, 2011 9:49 AM
25	Wild Grove Lane [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 22, 2011 7:41 AM
26	Birchwood [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 22, 2011 6:46 AM
27	Ardsley [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 22, 2011 6:28 AM
28	Longview Drive [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 22, 2011 5:58 AM
29	Wheelmeadow Drive [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 20, 2011 6:08 AM

Q3. What is your street name?

30	Knollwood Drive [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 19, 2011 12:51 PM
31	Hopkins [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 19, 2011 10:36 AM
32	Whitmun Road [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 17, 2011 11:33 AM
33	SHAKER ROAD [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 17, 2011 7:25 AM
34	Riverview [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 13, 2011 5:11 PM
35	Annawan road [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 13, 2011 1:28 PM
36	Lawnwood Ave [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 12, 2011 6:52 PM
37	Ellington St [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 12, 2011 6:41 PM
38	Bel-Alr Dr [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 11, 2011 1:46 PM
39	Berkeley [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 11, 2011 11:33 AM
40	Lincoln Rd. [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 11, 2011 9:51 AM
41	Shady Side Drive [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 9, 2011 6:20 AM
42	Elm Ave [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 8, 2011 10:04 AM
43	Pleasantview Ave [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 8, 2011 9:41 AM
44	Frank Smith Road [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 7, 2011 7:49 PM
45	longmeadow [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 6, 2011 1:32 PM
46	Elizabeth circle [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 5, 2011 7:08 PM
47	Ferncroft [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 5, 2011 5:06 PM
48	pinewood [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 5, 2011 1:50 PM
49	colony [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 5, 2011 10:03 AM
50	Maple Road [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 5, 2011 7:47 AM
51	Riverview Avenue [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 5, 2011 7:38 AM
52	Inverness [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 5, 2011 5:04 AM
53	Hawthorn [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 5, 2011 1:25 AM
54	Edgewood [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 4, 2011 4:41 PM
55	windsor [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 4, 2011 1:37 PM
56	Dover Road [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 4, 2011 9:31 AM
57	Pleasantview Ave [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 4, 2011 7:46 AM
58	Caravelle [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 4, 2011 5:50 AM

Q3. What is your street name?

59	Ashford [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 4, 2011 4:54 AM
60	Eton Road [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 3, 2011 7:12 PM
61	Homestead Blvd [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 3, 2011 7:11 PM
62	Willett Dr [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 3, 2011 1:53 PM
63	colton place [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 3, 2011 1:04 PM
64	Cheshire [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 3, 2011 11:53 AM
65	Glenbrook Lane [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 3, 2011 11:11 AM
66	Greenacre Ave [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 3, 2011 10:25 AM
67	Lawnwood Avenue [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 3, 2011 9:53 AM
68	Northfield Rd [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 3, 2011 9:16 AM
69	converse street [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 3, 2011 5:44 AM
70	briarcliff [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 2, 2011 5:54 PM
71	pinewood [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 1, 2011 6:51 PM
72	HOMESTEAD BLVD [Street Name Reponses]	Apr 1, 2011 10:02 AM

2011 Longmeadow Open Space/Recreation Survey

Please indicate how important you think the protection of open space in Longmeadow is for the following functions.

	Very Important	Somewhat important	Somewhat unimportant	Very Unimportant	Response Count
Natural Resource Protection	80.3% (61)	14.5% (11)	2.6% (2)	2.6% (2)	76
Drinking Water Protection	76.7% (56)	12.3% (9)	6.8% (5)	4.1% (3)	73
Aesthetic/Scenic Quality	75.0% (57)	23.7% (18)	0.0% (0)	1.3% (1)	76
Rural Character	46.1% (35)	34.2% (26)	15.8% (12)	3.9% (3)	76
Passive Recreation	62.3% (48)	32.5% (25)	2.6% (2)	2.6% (2)	77
Active Recreation	60.8% (45)	29.7% (22)	8.1% (6)	1.4% (1)	74
Wildlife habitat	72.0% (54)	20.0% (15)	8.0% (6)	0.0% (0)	75
Agriculture/Forestry	41.1% (30)	37.0% (27)	17.8% (13)	4.1% (3)	73
answered question					77
skipped question					0

2011 Longmeadow Open Space/Recreation Survey

For each activity listed below, indicate the ones in which you participate regularly and whether there are adequate places in Longmeadow to them (yes or no)

Do regularly

	Yes	No	Response Count
Hiking	57.6% (38)	42.4% (28)	66
Biking	74.6% (50)	25.4% (17)	67
Jogging	41.7% (25)	58.3% (35)	60
Walking	97.3% (72)	2.7% (2)	74
Horseback	0.0% (0)	100.0% (55)	55
Tennis	41.0% (25)	59.0% (36)	61
Birding	25.0% (14)	75.0% (42)	56
Nature study	32.8% (19)	67.2% (39)	58
Swimming	45.8% (27)	54.2% (32)	59
Snowmobiling	0.0% (0)	100.0% (55)	55
Cross country skiing	32.8% (19)	67.2% (39)	58
Boating/canoing	35.6% (21)	64.4% (38)	59
Camping	21.8% (12)	78.2% (43)	55
Picnicking	53.3% (32)	46.7% (28)	60
Hunting	1.9% (1)	98.1% (53)	54
Fishing	16.4% (9)	83.6% (46)	55
Exercise class	36.8% (21)	63.2% (36)	57
Adult team sports	20.4% (11)	79.6% (43)	54
Youth team sports	40.4% (23)	59.6% (34)	57

Golf	37.5% (21)	62.5% (35)	56
Skateboard Park	3.6% (2)	96.4% (53)	55
Dog Park	34.5% (20)	65.5% (38)	58
Volleyball	14.3% (8)	85.7% (48)	56

Adequate space

	Yes	No	Response Count
Hiking	48.3% (28)	51.7% (30)	58
Biking	61.8% (34)	38.2% (21)	55
Jogging	82.2% (37)	17.8% (8)	45
Walking	93.8% (60)	6.3% (4)	64
Horseback	10.8% (4)	89.2% (33)	37
Tennis	63.3% (31)	36.7% (18)	49
Birding	87.5% (35)	12.5% (5)	40
Nature study	77.3% (34)	22.7% (10)	44
Swimming	84.4% (38)	15.6% (7)	45
Snowmobiling	11.1% (4)	88.9% (32)	36
Cross country skiing	50.0% (22)	50.0% (22)	44
Boating/canoing	41.9% (18)	58.1% (25)	43
Camping	10.0% (4)	90.0% (36)	40
Picnicking	68.8% (33)	31.3% (15)	48
Hunting	13.5% (5)	86.5% (32)	37
Fishing	43.9% (18)	56.1% (23)	41
Exercise class	65.9% (27)	34.1% (14)	41
Adult team sports	59.5% (22)	40.5% (15)	37

Youth team sports	73.2% (30)	26.8% (11)	41
Golf	82.1% (32)	17.9% (7)	39
Skateboard Park	15.8% (6)	84.2% (32)	38
Dog Park	34.0% (16)	66.0% (31)	47
Volleyball	47.4% (18)	52.6% (20)	38

Would you participate if adequate space was available?

	Yes	No	Response Count
Hiking	82.6% (38)	17.4% (8)	46
Biking	89.7% (35)	10.3% (4)	39
Jogging	45.2% (14)	54.8% (17)	31
Walking	91.2% (31)	8.8% (3)	34
Horseback	30.2% (13)	69.8% (30)	43
Tennis	57.6% (19)	42.4% (14)	33
Birding	41.9% (13)	58.1% (18)	31
Nature study	48.4% (15)	51.6% (16)	31
Swimming	54.5% (18)	45.5% (15)	33
Snowmobiling	12.8% (5)	87.2% (34)	39
Cross country skiing	46.3% (19)	53.7% (22)	41
Boating/canoing	59.5% (22)	40.5% (15)	37
Camping	31.6% (12)	68.4% (26)	38
Picnicking	67.6% (25)	32.4% (12)	37
Hunting	8.3% (3)	91.7% (33)	36
Fishing	32.4% (11)	67.6% (23)	34
Exercise class	40.6% (13)	59.4% (19)	32

Adult team sports	40.0% (12)	60.0% (18)	30
Youth team sports	50.0% (15)	50.0% (15)	30
Golf	39.3% (11)	60.7% (17)	28
Skateboard Park	17.1% (6)	82.9% (29)	35
Dog Park	62.0% (31)	38.0% (19)	50
Volleyball	36.7% (11)	63.3% (19)	30

Comments/Other (please specify)	19
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answered question	75
skipped question	2

Q5. For each activity listed below, indicate the ones in which you participate regularly and whether there are adequate places in Longmeadow to them (yes or no)

1	open spaces should be geared for all people not just children	May 3, 2011 7:49 AM
2	Target shooting I beleive Longmeadow needs to be citizen-friendly. INsteadof building houses; why don't e build a museum and improve the town's seemilgly boring status? We have nothing we are known for. We need to fix that.	May 2, 2011 1:01 PM
3	The area in Bliss Park used for dog walking is turning into a sewer due to owners failure to clean up after their dogs. Greater enforcement of existing rules/bylaws would be beneficial. Also, the parking area/access road off Bliss Street is in need of improvements, such as fencing to direct traffic and control parking and a program to regrade yearly.	Apr 29, 2011 7:28 PM
4	A bike/walking/skating trail to perhaps connect to the new one in ELong. I bike, but don't feel safe on the streets anymore. Make sure it's safe to walk in our existing wooded areas(Turner etc) Fix the clay tennis courts, I remember when they were so busy there was a wait to get on to play. Public(free) access to the Ct River would be wonderful. Not everyone can afford to join the " Yatch Club!" Perhaps a rental option on town owed kayaks & canoes. We have to get back to "at your own risk" activities, where towns aren't afraid to offer these things for fear of being sued. I saw a stainless steel skateboard park in the middle of Rotterdamn,Netherlands. Kids had so much fun, were safe & there was minimal upkeep. Our kids would use it & they need the exercise too!	Apr 23, 2011 6:32 AM
5	of all these, ones easily developed for little \$\$ are a dog park, x-country trails by the river with trail markers, and better hiking trail markers in the stebbins area. better boating access would be nice.	Apr 22, 2011 3:45 PM
6	It would be nice to see the tennis courts at Laurel Park refurbished and reopened !!!	Apr 22, 2011 9:49 AM
7	Prefer not allow hunting or snowmobiling, not safe sports, not safe for limited terrain such as Longmeadow	Apr 22, 2011 6:28 AM
8	Bark Haul and the Meadows could be a huge activity hub - trail running, biking, hiking - if trails were maintained. Even Bark Haul road could be a great place to ride bikes, rollerblade, etc., but many cars speed on that road. An elevated sidewalk would be nice (concrete may not work because of the water problems). It's also not very aesthetic down there and is loaded with poison ivy. But it has such great potential. We would love to have long trails to jog and bike on instead of on sidewalks and streets. We also need soccer fields in the spring. Longmeadow can not have home-field games in the spring because there is not enough room. It seems like something could be done at either Bliss Park or Wolf Swamp Fields.	Apr 20, 2011 6:08 AM
9	WE GO TO THE FENCED IN DOG PARK IN GRANBY CT AND ITS WONDERFUL. I THINK LONGMEADOW SHOULD CREATE SUCH A PLACE. ITS GREAT FOR THE DOGS TO GET THEIR EXERCISE	Apr 17, 2011 7:25 AM
10	Access to at least 2 dedicated dog parks is essential for local quality of life and safe and healthy preservation of the other open spaces	Apr 12, 2011 6:41 PM
11	needs to be more things to do in the town	Apr 9, 2011 3:22 PM
12	What makes Longmeadow such a great town is this exists in abundance for such small town	Apr 8, 2011 10:04 AM

Q5. For each activity listed below, indicate the ones in which you participate regularly and whether there are adequate places in Longmeadow to them (yes or no)

13	It is very important that our residents, Youth Sports teams especially, have large areas that are safe and well maintained. It is unacceptable that a majority of the field space in town is single use (baseball only or tennis only)	Apr 5, 2011 1:50 PM
14	Though I would not participate it would be nice for kids to have a skate park. Dog park also a nice idea.	Apr 5, 2011 10:03 AM
15	I would support a dog park area fro dogs to run unleashed and friends and neighbors to gather. I think Longmeadow has adequate recreational space and plenty of opportunities for swimming and tennis whenter public or private.	Apr 5, 2011 7:38 AM
16	We desperately need a dogpark.	Apr 5, 2011 5:04 AM
17	Laurel park often acts as a dog park with many people allowing their dogs to run free in the section next to route 5. Eveyrone does a good job of keeping pets under control and cleaning up after them. It would be nice to more fully fence this section of the park to protect the animals from straying too far.	Apr 4, 2011 4:41 PM
18	Would love to have a fenced in dog park in town	Apr 3, 2011 1:04 PM
19	There needs to be facilities for Spring Soccer for kids. We are loosing kids from Longmeadow Program b/c there are no fields available for spring soccer.	Apr 1, 2011 6:51 PM

2011 Longmeadow Open Space/Recreation Survey

Please indicate how often in the past year YOU or YOUR FAMILY have visited and/or used the following public open space areas in Longmeadow?

	Often	Sometimes	Never	Response Count
Blinn Memorial Tennis Courts	13.9% (10)	31.9% (23)	54.2% (39)	72
Bliss Park	52.0% (39)	40.0% (30)	8.0% (6)	75
Community House	13.9% (10)	59.7% (43)	26.4% (19)	72
Greenwood Park	24.3% (18)	35.1% (26)	40.5% (30)	74
Greenwood Center	20.5% (15)	28.8% (21)	50.7% (37)	73
Wolf Swamp Road Fields	25.4% (18)	28.2% (20)	47.9% (34)	71
Turner Park	23.3% (17)	31.5% (23)	47.9% (35)	73
Laurel Park	23.6% (17)	58.3% (42)	19.4% (14)	72
Fanny Stebbins Wildlife Refuge	30.1% (22)	38.4% (28)	31.5% (23)	73
The Meadows	30.6% (22)	41.7% (30)	27.8% (20)	72
Town Green	31.1% (23)	60.8% (45)	10.8% (8)	74
answered question				76
skipped question				1

Please feel free to share your comments and suggestions.

Response
Count

21

answered question

21

skipped question

56

Q7. Please feel free to share your comments and suggestions.

1	This rich town looks filthy and poor. Very unkept appearances particularly to Green Park and the Center. The green and roads. There is no excuse for disheveled. The green should have a gazebo and quality grass and plantings. Forget the christmas tree lights at Christmas-child like town employees need to roll-up thier sleeves and work. The taxes we pay to live here would make one think it is pleasant view-however there is nothing prestine to look at. Forget more Athletic fields. Beautify what we already have.Bring in more tax paying businesses. How much does a volleyball net cost, set one up in each park. It may encourage our pompus hi teck kidds to activally play together and have fun without all of the "better than"attitude. Have police enforce simple ordancies such as trash and litter. Tall grass, peeling paint. What good soes it do to tidy up my trash when everyone lets theirs blow away to my yard. Dead trees-get rid of them. Fancy light posts for every street. This town has no curb appeal.Repairs that are paid for to our schools need to be Kept up. Why do nails at the wolf swamp gym ceiling show and leak. Oh most b the birds that get in. There is \$\$here. Be commonsensical.	May 3, 2011 7:40 AM
2	I hope as much space as possible will be preserved as forest and its natural growths, with paths for walking. Trees help to make Longmeadow a beautiful and oleasant plce to live, They improve our climate, giving off oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide. They cool us in summer and moderate us in winter. Let's keep as many trees as we can, where we can.	May 3, 2011 7:13 AM
3	Why isn;t somethign done about the traffic problems on Route 5 and Converse Street? Fix he potholes while you're at it. Why is there no school volunteer program to mentor and tutor the struggling students? Why isn't the school day longer? Quality of the school's edu system is pure hype as the quality of living here in town. No wonder it has the nickname LONG GHETTO! Stop letting homeowners rent and subdivide thier homes to rent.	May 2, 2011 1:01 PM
4	Fanny Stebbins WR and The Meadows are in need of infrastructure improvements (trail creation/maintenance, trail signage, interpretive signage, habitat improvement and wildlife management [specifically beaver control]). If a visitor center and above improvements were implemented, those areas could become passive recreation destinations which could translate into increased economic activity for local store owners and improved rating for Longmeadow as a whole. More open space land purchases needs to be done with Preservation Funds. There are also federal and state grants available for open space improvements and infrastructure upgrades. These funding sources should be actively pursued by local officials. Example, Massachusetts DCR has grant money available for purchase of trees. Town agrees to plant and maintain trees. Town efforts are evaluated and if in compliance more grant money can be obtained. This would be a great way to replant the tree cover, at almost no cost to town, that is being lost through hazardous tree removal programs and overzealous property owners. If unfamiliar with those programs I can be reached for details at pscarnah1@aol.com.	Apr 29, 2011 7:28 PM
5	We are new to town and didn't know about some of these parks. We will visit them now that we know about them!	Apr 22, 2011 11:53 AM

Q7. Please feel free to share your comments and suggestions.

6	It is wonderful to hear that there is going to be a Longmeadow Community Wide Campfire, May the 21st on the Green. Please make sure there is adequate information put out to the Longmeadow Community. It would be so nice to have Placards placed at either end of the town letting people know of the time and place in association with the Longmeadow Days. Along with having the placards, they should be placed well in advance (at least two weeks) before the Longmeadow Days Weekend so that families can make plans to reserve that night for the festivities !!! Thanks so much!	Apr 22, 2011 9:49 AM
7	Preserve LongMeadows (wildlife reserve) at all costs, limit use to foot traffic, have more wildlife tours, educ. trips. Natural terrain one of greatest town assets	Apr 22, 2011 6:28 AM
8	In order to find large areas to trail run and bike we have to pack up our car and drive elsewhere. We have great meadows, woods and river areas that could be a recreational hub for this town. Get people out of their homes and exercise or enjoy nature locally by working on these areas. We go to the meadows but have to be very careful of the poison ivy in the summer. So then we'll stay on Bark Haul - which is dangerous with kids because of the speeding cars. I can see that some trails have been worked on and we appreciate that. It could be so much more pretty down there (such as trimming back the growth, which I see done in some areas). It could also be more useful if trails were not underwater or covered in poison ivy.	Apr 20, 2011 6:08 AM
9	take the dogs for walks all the time at the parks, bring back tennies courts at Bliss	Apr 13, 2011 1:28 PM
10	I would like to see better canoe access to Turner Pond and the CT River.	Apr 11, 2011 11:33 AM
11	What makes Longmeadow such a great town is this exists in abundance for such small town	Apr 8, 2011 10:04 AM
12	Bliss tennis courts are a disgrace to Longmeadow. have school tennis teams helpout summer helpers parks did it for years.	Apr 8, 2011 9:41 AM
13	I think it would be helpful to let new residents know about public areas that are available. Some areas that I learn about second-hand at first are not clearly open for public use. While I do not want to trespass, I would like to be aware of additional areas that we can explore as a family.	Apr 5, 2011 5:06 PM
14	Wolf Swamp fields are in terrible condition with uneven surfaces, holes, and dead grass. The fields are used by a large number of youth in town, yet are very poorly maintained. They are not even aerated, despite the DPW owning an aerator that they use on the high school fields. An investment to enlarge, re-grade, and irrigate these fields would be a great benefit to the citizens of Longmeadow.	Apr 5, 2011 1:50 PM
15	I think there is potential at the Greenwood Park/Center area for development of a nice recreational facility with adjoining Senior Center..perhaps partially funded by BayPath or at least leased to them by the Town for indoor recreation space.	Apr 5, 2011 7:38 AM
16	Trails should be better maintained at Stebbins/Meadows. Older trails are out of use due to fallen trees that were never removed, overgrowth, etc. This area is a gem, and should be treated as such.	Apr 4, 2011 5:50 AM
17	Turner park should have better access to the pond & benches & picnic tables should be put in there. Longmeadow doesn't use it to it's fullest potential.	Apr 3, 2011 5:45 PM

Q7. Please feel free to share your comments and suggestions.

18	Would love to have horseshoes area somewhere in Longmeadow.	Apr 3, 2011 1:53 PM
19	Potentially, there could some space used in the Longmeadow Flats section.	Apr 3, 2011 11:11 AM
20	I would particularly appreciate better maintenance/improvement of passive recreation areas such as the meadows. Replacement of clay court is needed. Also, feel that attention should be given to the upkeep of tree belts especially on our major thoroughfare-Longmeadow Street and replacement of dying or fallen trees/stump removal.	Apr 3, 2011 9:53 AM
21	Parks are very nice for kids in Longmeadow, except they don't have the restrooms, which they need at any moment.(restroom in swimming pools are most of time closed) . I will really appericiate if somebody comes some idea about this problem. Thanks!!	Apr 1, 2011 4:38 PM

Longmeadow Open Space and Recreation Plan Visioning Session Workshop

Thursday, May 26, 2011 7-9 PM

Summary

Community Strengths:

Local parks – Especially Turner Park and Laurel Park

Recreational facilities

The Meadows and Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Conservation Area – undisturbed, natural area

Tennis Courts (Bliss Courts – important part of recreational history of Longmeadow)

Town pool

Youth in the community

Seniors/Council on Aging/Senior Center

Town-wide sidewalk system – 94% coverage on town roads; most ADA compliant

Community House – historic structure; great venue for community functions

Town Green – scenic, functional, open space

Tree belt in local road right-of-ways – trees are both historic and natural resources

Community Weaknesses:

Lack of athletic fields during peak season for baseball and lacrosse

Litter in Laurel Park; in need of beautification project; desire to restore original Olmsted plan for the park.

Pet waste at Turner and Bliss Parks not picked up – both aesthetically unpleasant and source of stormwater pollution.

Dogs are not allowed at all town-owned athletic facilities/fields/town parks; however, people allow dogs to run off-leash everywhere despite posted signage.

The Meadows are abused – illegal dumping; ATVs do not respect posted signage.

Town Bylaw exists stating no motorized use (ATVs and snowmobiles) on all town-owned properties and conservation areas.

Many town parks have some sort of specific use (tennis courts). Can be a conflict of use – “wild” versus “active” use.

Large tree beltway requires extensive leaf removal each fall – expensive and time consuming for DPW.

Likewise, management of diseased trees for Ash Borer and Asian Longhorn beetle is expensive and time consuming. Town not re-planting removed trees due to cost to maintain the tree belt.

Existing athletic fields are over-used and in poor condition. Maintained by the DPW but the heavy use prevents proper care (i.e. aeration, rotation, etc.)

Lack of alternative recreational opportunities such as a dog park and skate park. People seek the closest park/open space for their daily use but the rules often prohibit use of the space for those activities (dog walking, for example)

Community Needs:

Dog park

Better use of existing land (more land, but at build out)

Youth recreation fields

Enforcement of rules and regulations at meadows and parks; need new strategies for doing this, just isn't enough town staff for the job.

Funding for maintenance of parks and recreational facilities; big concern when considering building new facilities.

Bliss tennis courts – poor condition; alternative use analysis.

Need funding for – enforcement of rules, signage, land acquisition.

Assessment and feasibility study for utilizing synthetic turf

Goals/Objectives/Actions:

Goal #1 - Town owned parks and conservation areas are used appropriately (for designated purpose) and well-cared for.

Objectives:

- Local rules and regulations for each town owned park and/or conservation area are well-known by users and applied.
- Maintenance plans for town-owned parks and conservation area are developed and implemented.
- Town-wide tree belt is healthy and sustained for future generations.

Actions:

- Develop rules and regulations for town parks and “the meadows”.
- Promote/post rules and regulations at facility and at edge of abutting property where access is observed.
- Identify funding sources for maintenance of town facilities
- Seek funding for maintenance of town facilities
- Identify funding for management of diseased trees
- Develop plan for management of tree belt

Goal #2 – Adequate youth athletic facilities exist for the Town of Longmeadow

Objectives:

- Existing athletic facilities are well-maintained and support peak seasonal use
- A sufficient number of fields exist for each sport such that an appropriate period of field rotation can be applied to ensure the long-term health of the recreational facility.

Action:

- Identify properties for the development of new athletic fields (soccer, football).
- Seek funding for the acquisition of new properties.
- Develop long-term operation and maintenance plans for the new facilities including integration of use with other community athletic facilities.
- Initiate synthetic turf feasibility study to determine if this type of facility will better meet the needs of the Longmeadow youth athletics community.
- Investigate shared athletic facilities with neighboring towns and Elms College.

Goal #3 – Core of community volunteers is actively engaged in maintenance of local parks and conservation areas.

Objectives:

- Community volunteers support the Town of Longmeadow's efforts to maintain and police local parks and conservation areas.
- Participation in community volunteer core promotes community pride and respect for community resources.

Actions:

- Designate volunteer core for each park and conservation area and "swear them in"
- Maintain seasonal list of activities for volunteer core
- Recognize volunteer activities in the local media and the accomplishments of their work.
- Develop "ticketing" system implemented by volunteer core for local park rule violators (i.e. not picking up after your dog)

Goal #4 – The Connecticut River and its floodplain are protected as a wildlife corridor and used for passive recreation.

Objectives:

- Access to the river for passive recreation is available to Town residents on town owned land.
- The floodplain is permanently protected for ecological value.

Actions:

- Develop improved access to the Connecticut River for canoeing and kayaking.
- Enforce against illegal dumping in the "the meadows".
- Enhance trail system on town-owned land in "the meadows" for passive recreational activities including hiking and bird-watching.
- Seek permanent protection of privately owned parcels abutting the river.



Catalyst for Regional Progress

PVPC

Timothy W. Brennan Executive Director

December 5, 2012

Melissa Cryan
EOEEA – DCS
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Goshen 2012-2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) has reviewed the draft Longmeadow Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The PVPC provided technical assistance to the town in developing this plan update.

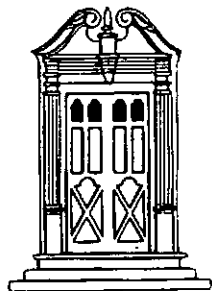
Longmeadow's update to their 2002 OSRP recognizes the challenges of supporting healthy, stable ecosystems and accommodating the recreational needs of residents within a mostly built-out community. The Plan addresses the importance of meeting the recreational needs of residents of all ages in organized sports as well as through passive recreation in the town's conservation areas. Maintenance of existing facilities and enforcement of town laws and regulations is of utmost importance for the long-term health and stability of both the ecology of the natural areas as well as the infrastructure that exists in these places to accommodate the many residents that utilize them. The plan is also cognizant of Longmeadow's importance regionally as a town bordering the Connecticut River, an important greenway spanning four states.

The PVPC will continue to offer assistance to the Town of Longmeadow to implement the Action Plan as well as other community planning efforts.

Sincerely,

Timothy Brennan, Executive Director

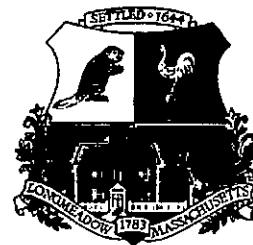
cc: Mark Gold, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Walter Gunn, PVPC Commissioner
Bari Jarvis, Director, Parks and Recreation Department



TOWN MANAGER
ROBIN CROSBIE

Town of
Longmeadow, Massachusetts
20 Williams Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106

Tel. (413) 565-4110 • Fax (413) 565-4112 • E-mail townhall@longmeadow.org



SELECT BOARD

MARK P. GOLD, CHAIR
CHRISTINE L. SWANSON, VICE-CHAIR
MARIE ANGELIDES, CLERK
PALMERINO P. SANTANIELLO
ROBERT H. ASELTINE, JR.

October 7, 2011

Mr. Ian Bowles, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

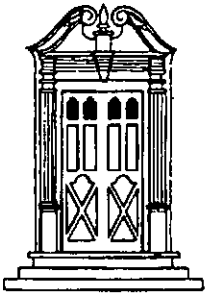
Dear Secretary Bowles:

On behalf of the Longmeadow Select Board, I am pleased to affirm that the Select Board voted to approve the 2012 Longmeadow Open Space Plan as presented on 10/6/11 and the minutes documenting this respective approval are attached. We feel this plan is a result of extensive involvement by the Town's elected and appointed officials, boards, governing bodies, town department employees and citizens. It reflects commitment and devotion of the citizens of Longmeadow to the town's preservation and protection of open spaces, respect for wildlife and national resources and protection of our wildlife corridors.

This plan was prepared according to the guidelines that were issued by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and contains all requirements set forth. We look forward to your review of the plan and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Gold, Chair
Longmeadow Select Board



town of
LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS
incorporated 1783 01106



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

20 Williams St.
Longmeadow, MA
Dec. 21, 2011

Ms. Anne Capra, Principal Planner
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
60 Congress St.
Springfield, MA 01104

Dear Ms. Capra:

The Longmeadow Conservation Commission approved the 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan at its meeting on Dec. 14, 2011. This comprehensive plan contains extensive data about Longmeadow, its natural resources and its plans to enhance the community by preserving open space and to provide for the recreation needs of its residents. Two members of the Conservation Commission served on the planning committee which along with the review process provided the opportunity for our input to be ably presented.

We commend you, Bari Jarvis and the Open Space and Recreation Plan committee for the excellent plan that was prepared.

Sincerely,
Albert V. Laakso
Albert V. Laakso
Conservation Commission Chair

cc: Bari Jarvis



PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF LONGMEADOW
20 Williams St.
Longmeadow MA 01106

Walter Gunn, Chair
Bruce Colton
Gerard Nolet
Ken Taylor
Roy Johansen

December 19, 2011

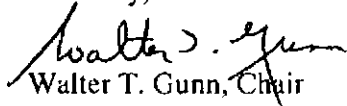
Mr. Ian Bowles, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Bowles,

On behalf of the Longmeadow Planning Board, I am pleased to affirm that the Planning Board reviewed and voted to approve the 2012 Longmeadow Open Space Plan as presented on November 9, 2011. The minutes documenting this approval are attached. It is the Board's observation that this Plan is the result of extensive involvement by the Town's elected and appointed officials, boards, governing bodies, town department employees and citizens. It reflects commitment and devotion of the citizens of Longmeadow to the town's preservation and protection of open spaces, respect for wildlife and natural resources and protection of our wildlife corridors.

This plan was prepared according to the guidelines that were issued by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and contains all requirements set forth. We look forward to your review of the plan and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,


Walter T. Gunn, Chair

Longmeadow Planning Board

**Planning Board
Regular Meeting
Wednesday November 16, 2011
Police Station Community Room
7:00 pm**

At 7:04 pm the Regular Meeting was called to order.

Present: Walter Gunn, Roy Johansen and Gerard Nolet

Absent: Bruce Colton and Ken Taylor

Present at the meeting (as signed in): Harry Auerbach

ANR Applications – None this evening.

Old Business

- 1. *Sign By-Law Enforcement*** - The Board discussed whose responsibility it is to enforce the sign by-laws in Town. Ultimately the Board agrees that it is the Select Board's responsibility to instruct the Police Department enforce the by-law.
- 2. *Long Range Plan*** – Mr. Nolet provided a copy of the Long Range Plan Status to the Board dated November 2010. Mr. Nolet will be reviewing the 85 action steps with Mr. Morey, who has volunteered his time, to determine completion or the stage of completion of each one. He will report back to the Planning Board with his findings at the February 1st meeting. He will contact Mr. Gunn with any questions if they rise.
- 3.** After a brief discussion, Mr. Johansen made a motion to endorse the Open Space Recreation Plan Dated October 3, 2011, as presented by the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Gunn seconded the motion. The motion passed 3:0; Mr. Colton and Mr. Taylor were absent.

New Business

The Planning Board Meetings have been scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm at the Police Station Community Room through June 2012.

December 7, 2011
January 4, 2012
February 1, 2012

March 7, 2012
April 4, 2012

May 2, 2012
June 6, 2012

Fred Astaire Dance Studio – Located at 10 Bliss Street – 7:04pm- Mr. Auerbach from Agnoli Sign made a brief presentation to the Board proposing to move the existing illuminated box over the door for # 10 Bliss Street; removing the existing Fred Astaire sign; and insert the new sign into the box. The new sign will conform to the 40 square foot by-law requirements. Mr. Jack Rothweiler, owner Fred Astaire Dance Studio was also present. They were advised to attend the December 7th meeting as they Planning Board did not have a quorum to vote this evening.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Mr. Nolet made a motion to accept the October 5, 2011 Meeting Minutes as amended. Mr. Johansen seconded the motion and it carried 3:0; Mr. Colton and Mr. Taylor were absent.

Correspondence- Mr. Healy, the Building Inspector, has received complaints that the Pride Station has been staying open until midnight. The Planning Board decided after a brief discussion to inform him that this requires no action by the Planning Board as they are not an enforcement body. The Police need to be notified if the establishment is breaking the Town's by-laws.

CPA Update- None this evening.

PVPC Update – *Discuss Board endorsement of PVPC Valley vision III-* Mr. Gunn will request hard copies of this document as Mr. Colton was unable to download it. Discussion of the endorsement is being tabled until the December meeting.

Planning Board Reports – Mr. Johansen suggested having Mr. Healy conduct an audit of commercial properties to determine if they are in compliance with current zoning and sign by-laws. The Board will invite Mr. Healy to a meeting to have these discussions.

Mr. Johansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Nolet seconded the motion and it carried 3:0; The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Wieners
Recording Secretary

Recreational and Protected Open Space Map

Definitions

"Level of Protection"

In Perpetuity (P)- Legally protected in perpetuity and recorded as such in a deed or other official document. Land is considered protected in perpetuity if it is owned by the town's conservation commission or, sometimes, by the water department; if a town has a conservation restriction on the property in perpetuity; if it is owned by one of the state's conservation agencies (thereby covered by article 97); if it is owned by a non-profit land trust; or if the town received federal or state assistance for the purchase or improvement of the property.

Private land is considered protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity, if an Agriculture Preservation Restriction has been placed on it, or a Conservation Restriction has been placed on it.

Temporary (T) - Legally protected for less than perpetuity (e.g. short term conservation restriction or Chap61 lands), or temporarily protected through an existing functional use. For example, some water district lands are only temporarily protected while water resource protection is their primary use.

These lands could be developed for other uses at the end of their temporary protection or when their functional use is no longer necessary. These lands will revert to unprotected status at a given date unless protection status is extended.

Limited (L) - Protected by legal mechanisms other than those above, or protected through functional or traditional use.

These lands might be protected by a requirement of a majority municipal vote for any change in status. This designation also includes lands that are likely to remain open space for other reasons (e.g. cemeteries and municipal golf courses).

None (N) - Totally unprotected by any legal or functional means. This land is usually privately owned and could be sold without restriction at any time for another use (e.g. scout camps, private golf course, and private woodland).

Where the level of protection is unknown, a polygon will be coded as X for this field.

"Public Access"

Y – Yes (open to public)

N – No (not open to public)

L – Limited (membership only)

X - Unknown

"Primary Purpose"

R – Recreation (Activities are facility based)

C – Conservation (activities are non-facility based)

B – Recreation and Conservation
H – Historical and Cultural
A – Agriculture
W – Water Supply Protection
S – Scenic (official designation only)
F – Flood Control
Q – Habitat Protection
U – Site is underwater
O – Other (explain)
X - Unknown

“Owner Type”

F- Federal
S - State
C - County
M - Municipal
N - Private Nonprofit
P - Private for profit
B - Public Nonprofit
L - Land Trust
G - Conservation Organization
O - Other / None of the above (e.g. joint ownership)
X - Unknown
I – In-holding (a piece of unprotected property surrounded on all sides by a protected property or a recreational facility)
Unconfirmed:
1 - EOEAA or alternate state agencies
2 - EOEAA or non-profit
3 - EOEAA or municipality
4 - EOEAA or private landowner

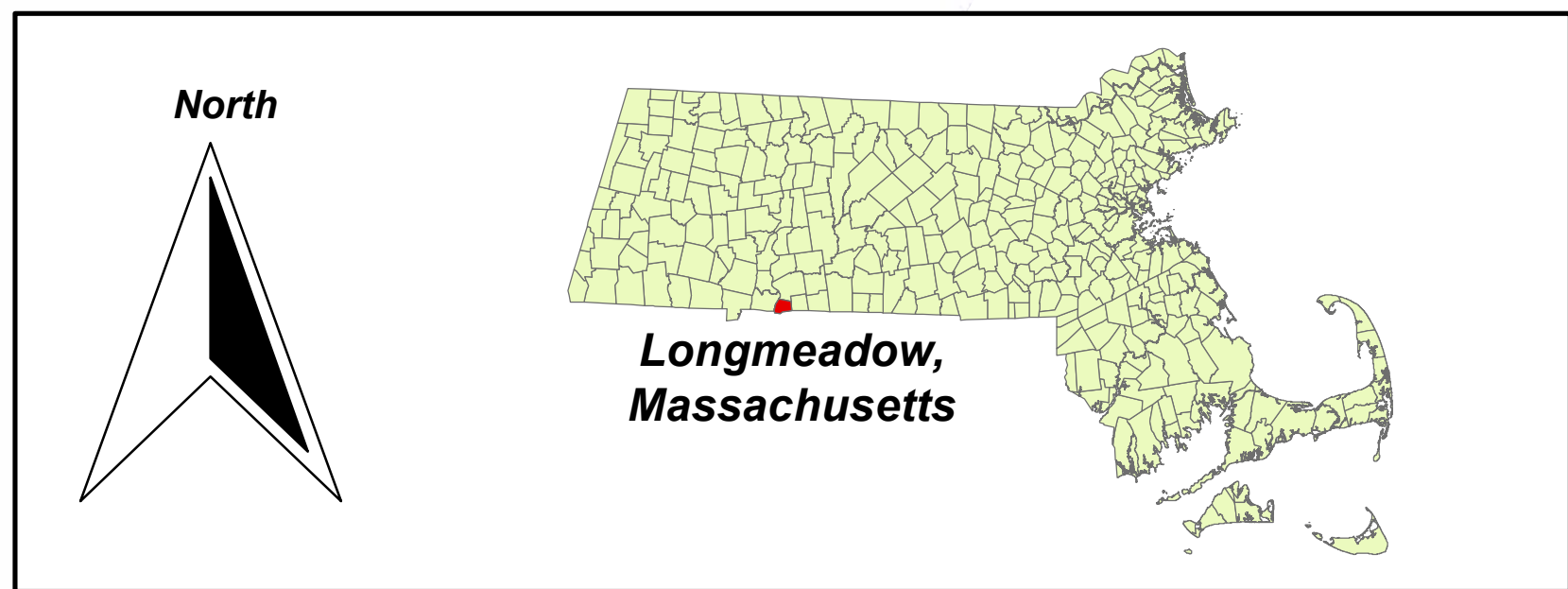
SITE_NAME	FEE_OWNER	OWNER_TYPE	MANAGER	PRIM_PURP	PUB_ACCESS	LEV_PROT	GIS_ACRES	CONDITION	GRANT for PURCHASE	ZONING
Greenwood Park	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	0.50	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.24	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	17.68	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Floodplain Conservation Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	5.04	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Floodplain Conservation Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	5.68	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	3.02	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Pomeroy Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	6.81	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Pomeroy Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	6.50	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Greenwood Park	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	0.18	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Greenwood Park	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	0.26	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Pomeroy Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	12.22	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Greenwood Park	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	4.39	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Greenwood Park	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	9.57	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Fanny Stebbins Mem Wldlf Refg	Fanny Stebbins Mem Wldlf Refg	N	Allen Bird Club	B	Y	P	4.62	Good	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	3.06	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Fanny Stebbins Mem Wldlf Refg	Fanny Stebbins Mem Wldlf Refg	N	Allen Bird Club	B	Y	P	106.76	Good	N/A	Agriculture
Barnard Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.67	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	1.05	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	6.81	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Wolf Swamp Park & Cons Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	C	Y	P	33.57	Fair	N/A	Res A-2
Barnard Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	5.30	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	12.13	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	1.81	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	3.66	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Barnard Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	5.07	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Wolf Swamp Park & Cons Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	B	Y	P	39.17	Fair	N/A	Res A-2
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	29.83	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	6.41	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	11.30	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Wolf Swamp Elementary School	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow School Department	R	Y	L	9.29	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Cemetery	Longmeadow Cemetery Association	N	Cemetery Commission	H	Y	P	9.65	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	24.40	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
The Field Club	The Field Club	P	The Field Club	R	Y	N	12.73	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	22.16	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Glenbrook Middle School	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow School Department	R	Y	L	0.66	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Longmeadow Country Club	Longmeadow Country Club	P	Longmeadow Country Club	R	Y	N	214.74	Good	N/A	Res A-1
	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Water Department	C	Y	P	1.27	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Water Department	W	N	P	46.48	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Water Department	W	N	P	16.17	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Water Department	W	N	P	11.16	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Glenbrook Middle School	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow School Department	R	Y	L	20.67	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
	Town of Longmeadow	M	unknown	C	Y	P	1.18	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	20.14	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Franconia Golf Course	City of Springfield	M	City Of Springfield Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	8.90	Fair	N/A	Res A-2
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	3.80	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.16	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Twin Hills Country Club	Twin Hills Country Club	P	Twin Hills Country Club	R	Y	N	133.33	Good	N/A	Res A-2
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.66	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Open Space	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	2.76	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Fanny Stebbins Mem Wldlf Refg	Fanny Stebbins Mem Wldlf Refg	N	Allen Bird Club	B	Y	P	38.61	Good	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Open Space	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	1.67	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Williams Street Playground	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	11.62	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	46.80	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Open Space	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	1.54	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Floodplain Conservation Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.51	Fair	N/A	Agriculture

Floodplain Conservation Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.49	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	2.38	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Floodplain Conservation Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.58	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Fanny Stebbins Mem Wldlf Refg	Fanny Stebbins Mem Wldlf Refg	N	Allen Bird Club	C	Y	P	204.94	Good	N/A	Agriculture
Williams Middle School	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow School Department	R	Y	L	16.64	Fair	N/A	Res A-2
Floodplain Conservation Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	1.13	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Open Space	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	2.37	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Longmeadow High School	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow School Department	R	Y	L	31.67	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Floodplain Conservation Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	50.12	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Turner Park	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	81.21	Fair	N/A	Res A-2
Floodplain Conservation Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	14.84	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Bliss Tennis Courts	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	3.74	Poor	N/A	Res A-1
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	2.20	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Floodplain Conservation Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	8.82	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	29.40	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
	Town of Longmeadow	M	unknown	C	Y	P	13.58	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
High School Athletic Fields	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow School Department	R	Y	L	12.89	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Floodplain Conservation Parcel	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	9.69	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	1.29	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Blueberry Hill Elementary Sch	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow School Department	R	Y	L	10.02	Fair	N/A	Res A-1
Connecticut River Greenway State Park	Town of Longmeadow	P	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	0.87	Fair	Land and Water Fund	Agriculture
Laurel Park	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	74.15	Good	N/A	Res A-1
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.33	Good	N/A	Res A-1
Franconia Golf Course	City of Springfield	M	City Of Springfield Parks And Recreation Department	R	Y	L	48.32	Fair	N/A	Res A-2
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.43	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	9.50	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	0.56	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	2.54	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.26	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
	Town of Longmeadow	M	unknown	R	Y	L	1.33	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Forest Park	City of Springfield	M	City Of Springfield Parks And Recreation Department	B	Y	L	8.68	Good	N/A	Res A-1
Forest Park	City of Springfield	M	City Of Springfield Parks And Recreation Department	B	Y	L	0.92	Good	N/A	Res A-1
Connecticut River Greenway State Park	Town of Longmeadow	P	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	176.80	Fair	Land and Water Fund	Agriculture
Conservation Area	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	14.86	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Center Elementary School	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow School Department	R	Y	L	2.34	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	0.18	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	0.34	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Town Green	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Parks And Recreation Department	H	Y	L	7.82	Good	N/A	Historic Distric/ Res A-1
	Town of Longmeadow	M	unknown	R	Y	L	0.28	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.28	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.97	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	1.11	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.93	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.15	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	C	Y	P	0.07	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	3.12	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	1.14	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	1.27	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	0.21	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	2.13	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	0.51	Fair	N/A	Agriculture
Conservation Land	Town of Longmeadow	M	Town Of Longmeadow Conservation Commission	B	Y	P	0.50	Fair	N/A	Agriculture

Longmeadow, Massachusetts

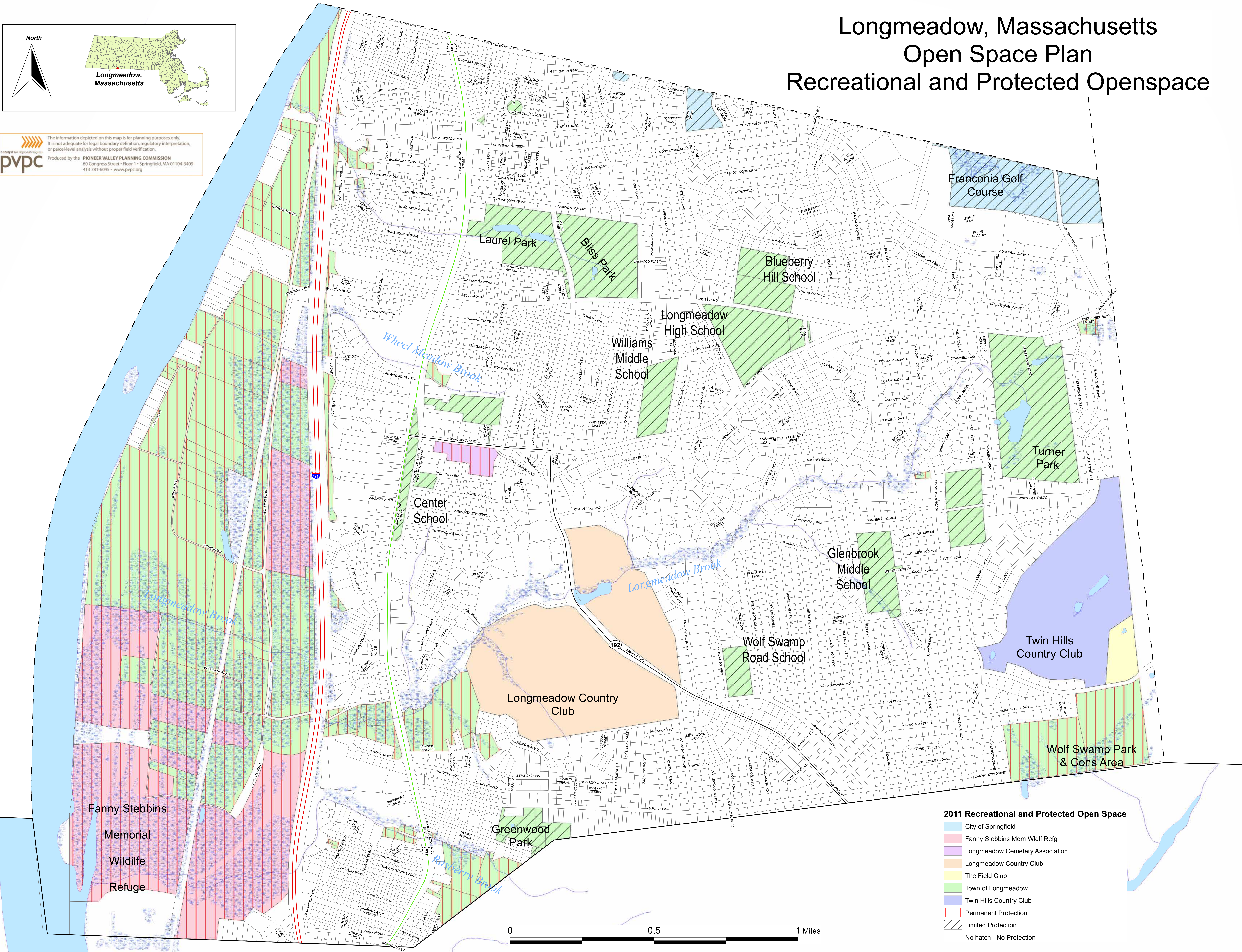
Open Space Plan

Recreational and Protected Openspace



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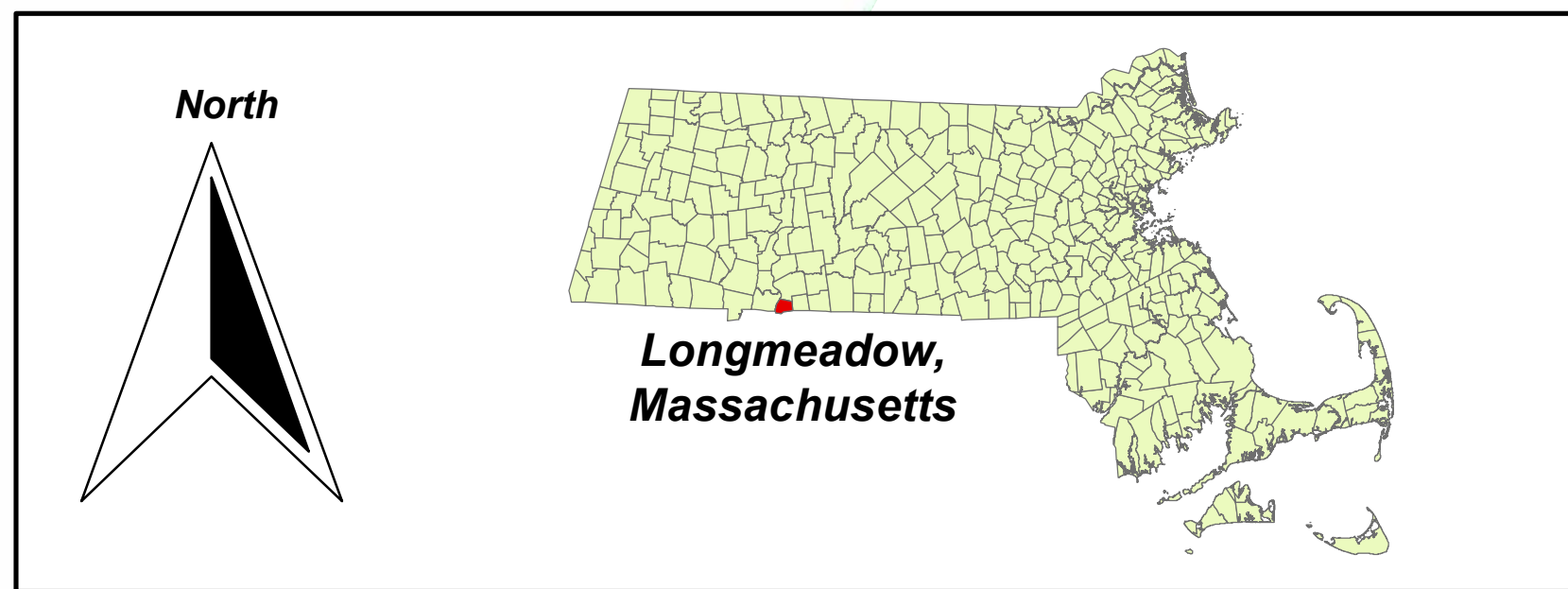
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2011 Recreational and Protected Open Space

- City of Springfield
- Fanny Stebbins Mem Wildf Refg
- Longmeadow Cemetery Association
- Longmeadow Country Club
- The Field Club
- Town of Longmeadow
- Twin Hills Country Club
- Permanent Protection
- Limited Protection
- No hatch - No Protection

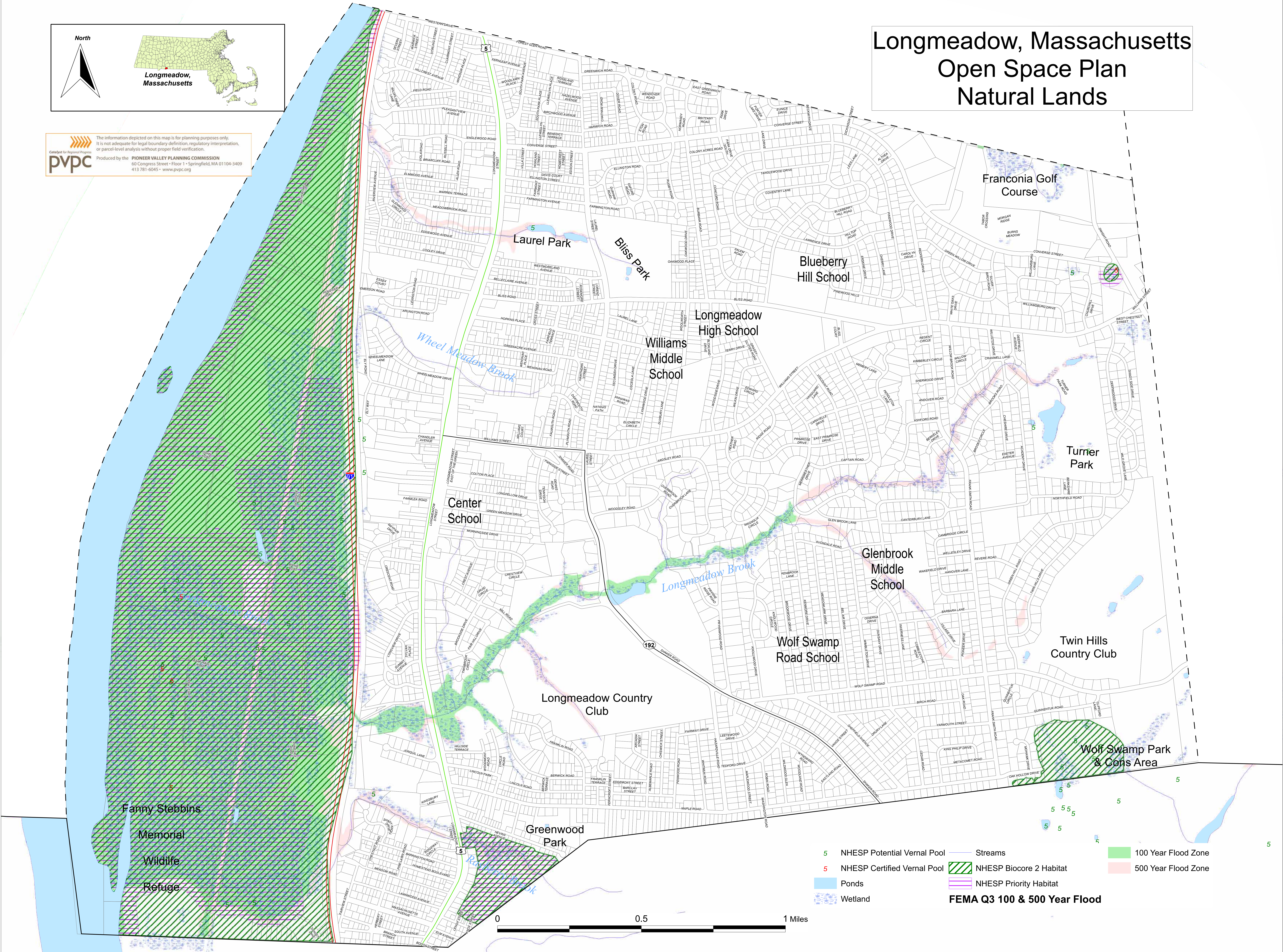
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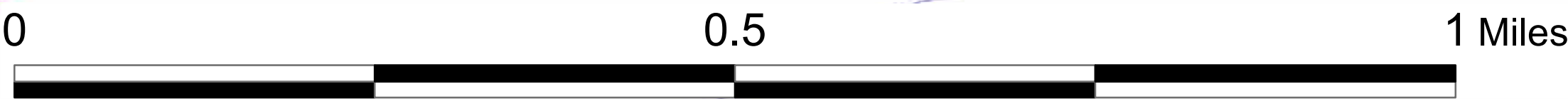
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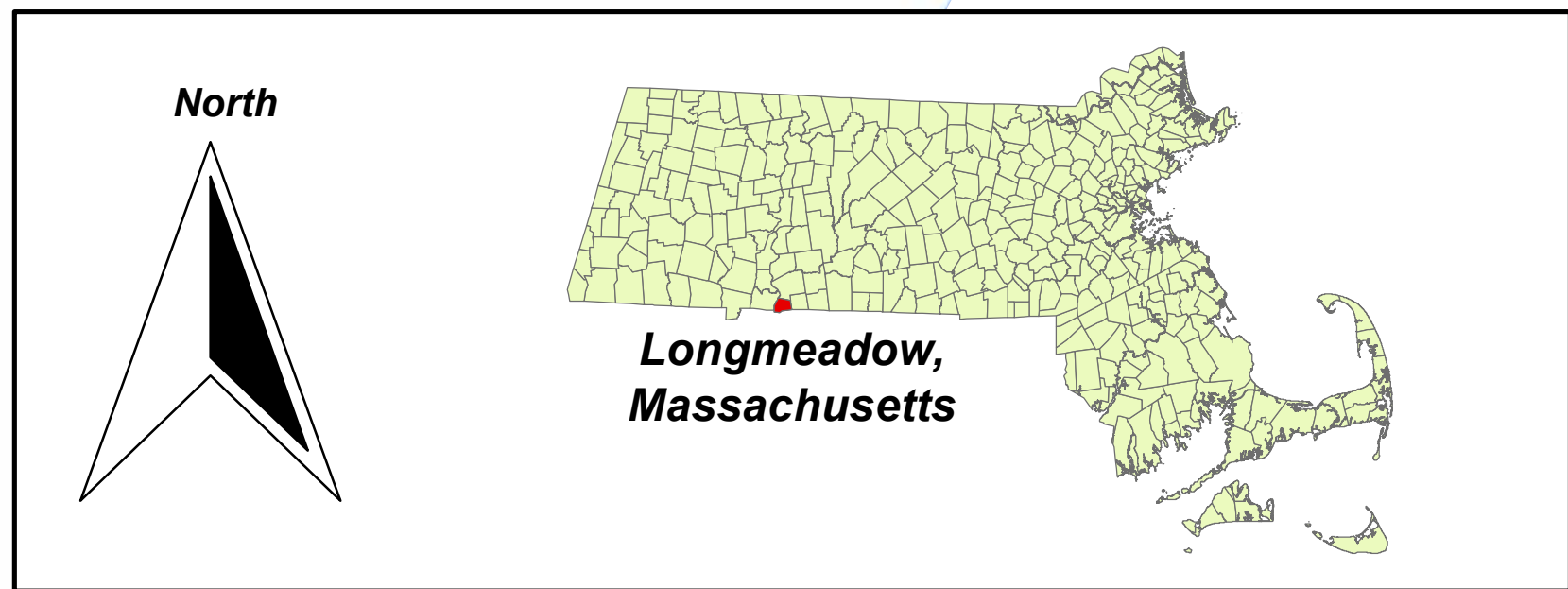
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Longmeadow, Massachusetts Open Space Plan Natural Lands



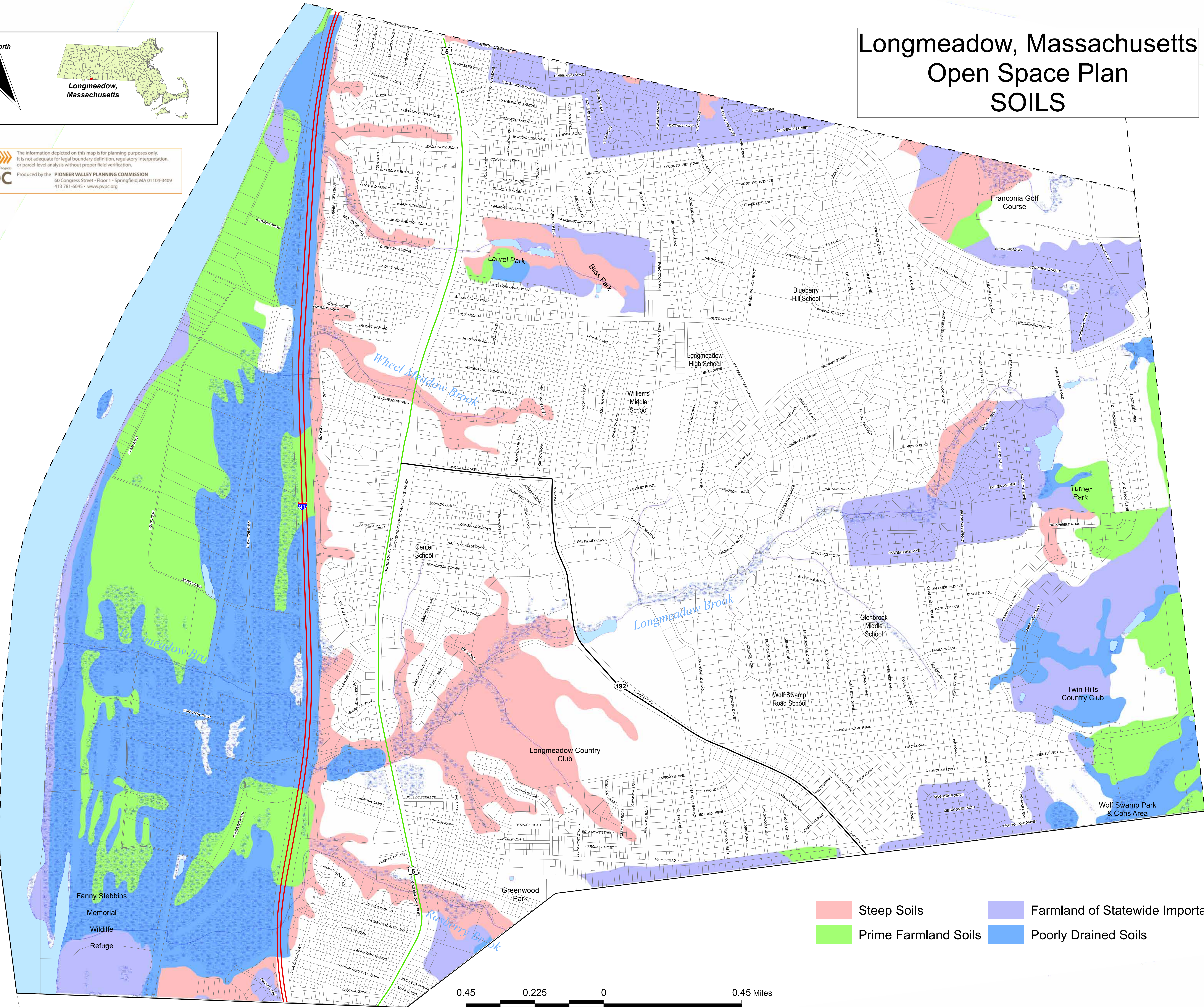
- 5 NHESP Potential Vernal Pool
 - 5 NHESP Certified Vernal Pool
 - Ponds
 - Wetland
 - Streams
 - NHESP Biocore 2 Habitat
 - NHESP Priority Habitat
 - 100 Year Flood Zone
 - 500 Year Flood Zone
- FEMA Q3 100 & 500 Year Flood**





pvpc Catalyst for Regional Progress
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Longmeadow, Massachusetts Open Space Plan SOILS



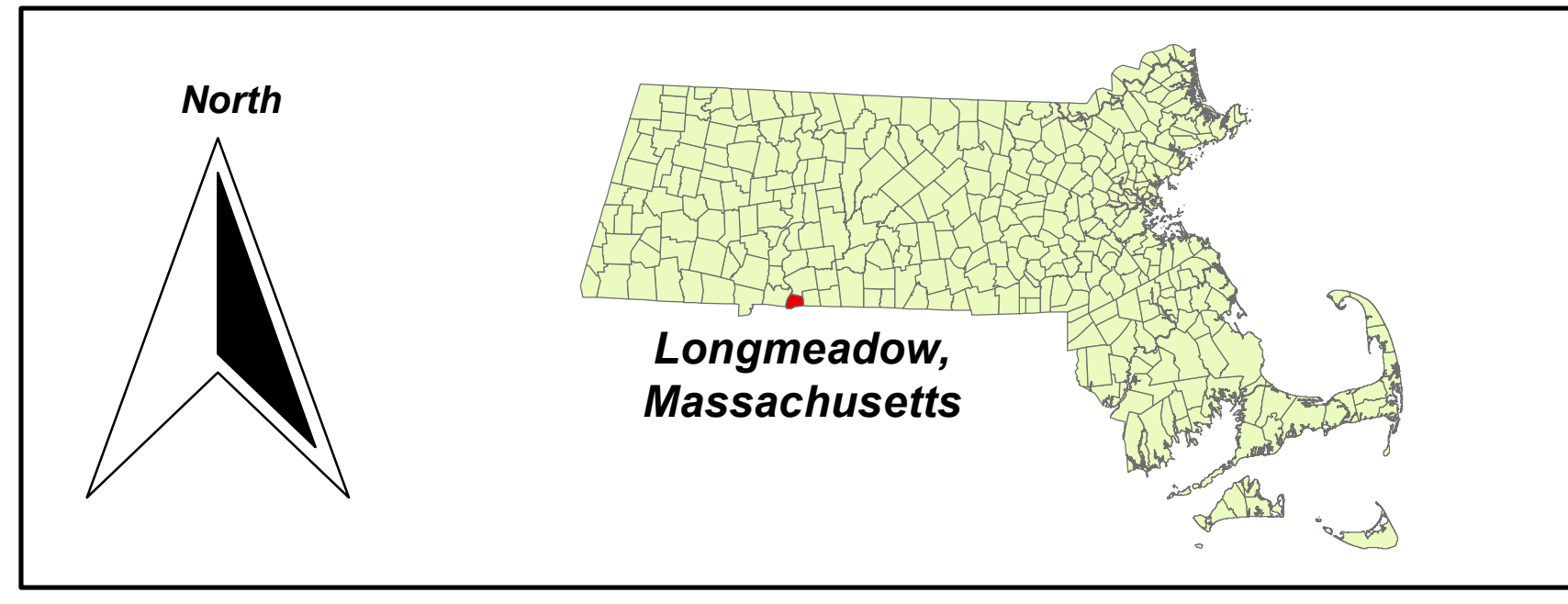
- Steep Soils
- Prime Farmland Soils
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Poorly Drained Soils



Longmeadow, Massachusetts

Open Space Plan

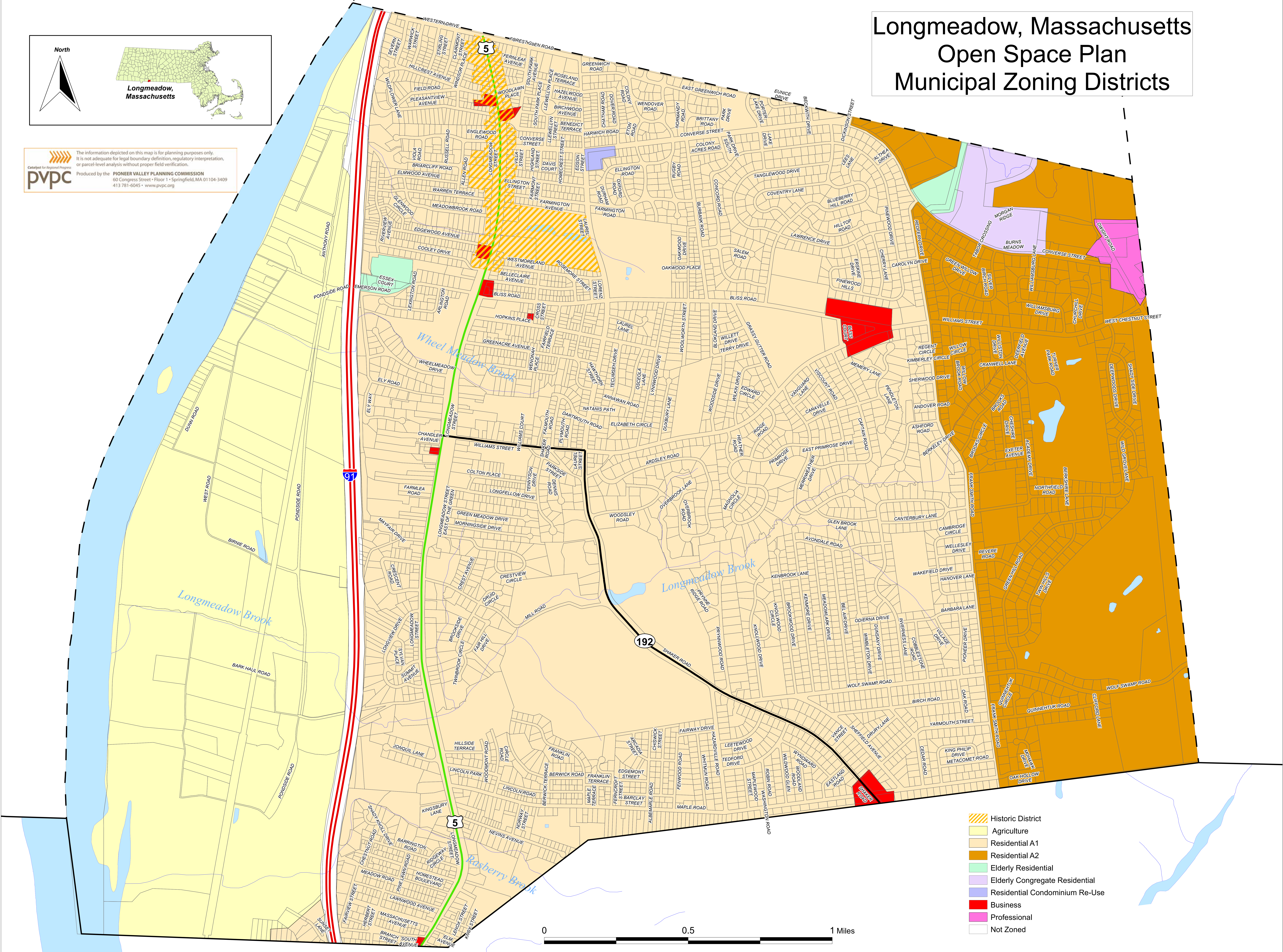
Municipal Zoning Districts



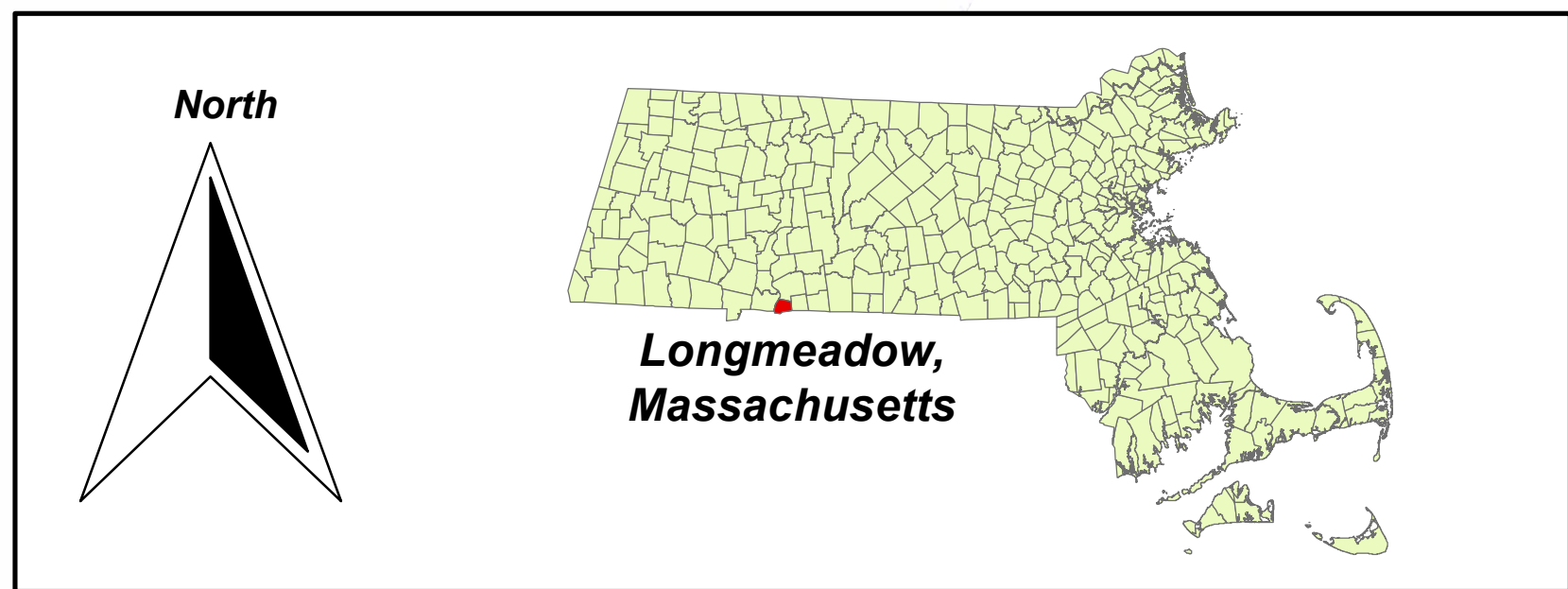
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- Historic District
- Agriculture
- Residential A1
- Residential A2
- Elderly Residential
- Elderly Congregate Residential
- Residential Condominium Re-Use
- Business
- Professional
- Not Zoned



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Enforce existing laws against illegal dumping.

Enhance passive recreational trail system in Meadows.

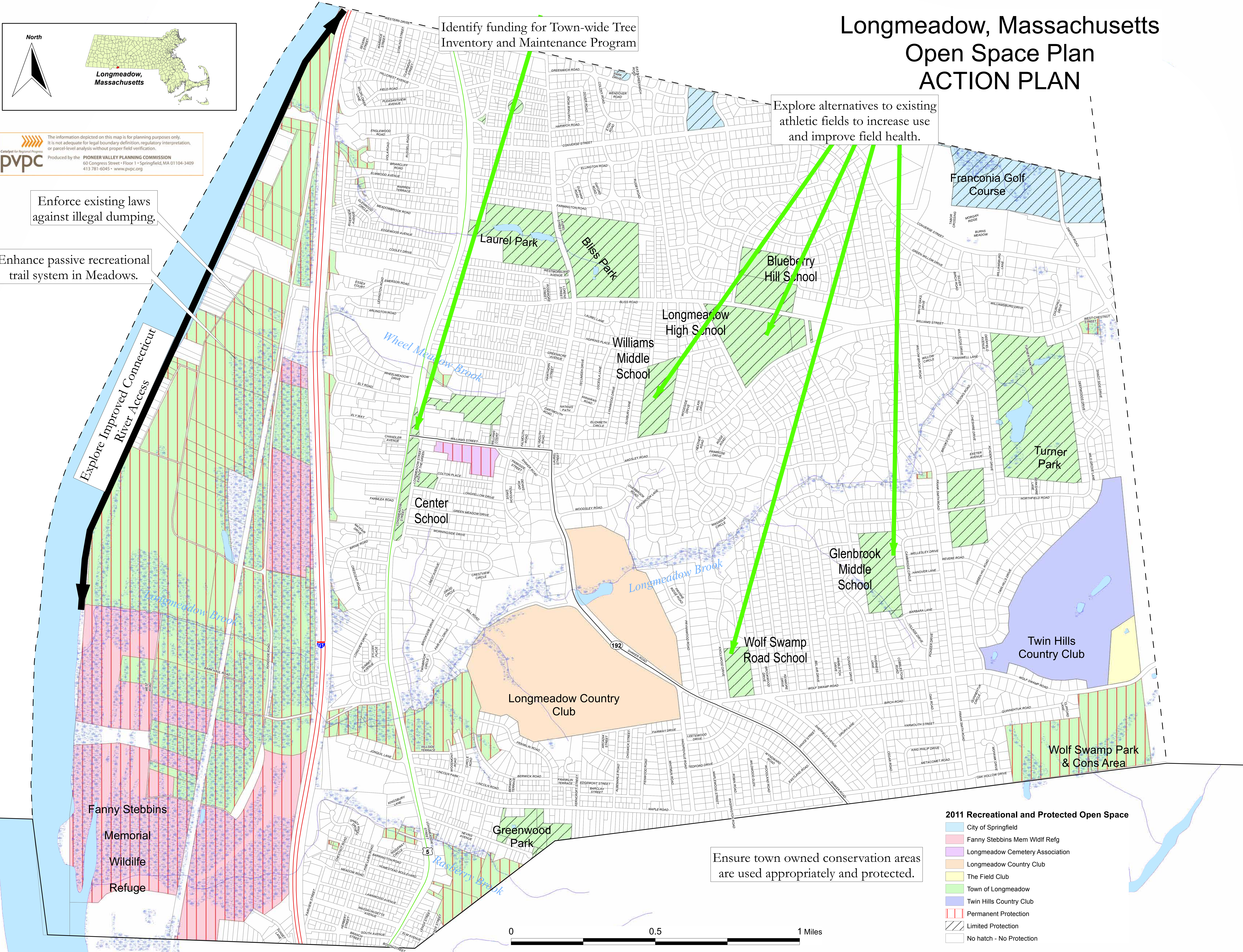
Explore Improved Connecticut River Access

Identify funding for Town-wide Tree Inventory and Maintenance Program

Explore alternatives to existing athletic fields to increase use and improve field health.

Ensure town owned conservation areas are used appropriately and protected.

Longmeadow, Massachusetts Open Space Plan ACTION PLAN



- 2011 Recreational and Protected Open Space**
- City of Springfield
 - Fanny Stebbins Mem Wildf Refg
 - Longmeadow Cemetery Association
 - Longmeadow Country Club
 - The Field Club
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