

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements i

Table of Contents iii

Section 1: Plan Summary 1

Section 2: Introduction 2

 A. Definitions of Open Space Terminology Used in This Plan 2

 B. Statement of Purpose 2

 C. Planning Process and Public Participation 3

 D. Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation 6

 E. Summary of Accomplishments Since the Previous Plan 9

Section 3: Community Setting 10

 A. Regional Context 10

 B. History of the Community 11

 C. Population Characteristics 16

 D. Growth and Development Patterns 28

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis 42

 A. Geology, Soils and Topography 42

 B. Landscape Character 45

 C. Water Resources 51

 D. Native Vegetation and the Urban Forest 60

 E. Fish and Wildlife Habitat 62

 F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments 66

 G. Open Space Resources of Regional Significance 68

 H. Historic Preservation 69

 I. Environmental Challenges 71

 J. Summary 76

Section 5: Inventory of Lands 77

 A. Introduction to the Open Space System 77

 B. Introduction to the Open Space Inventory 80

 C. Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Lands 83

Section 6: Community Vision 132

 A. Description of the Process 132

 B. Results of Public Surveys 132

 C. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals Based on Community Input 135

Section 7: Analysis of Needs 136

 A. Introduction 136

 B. Summary of Resource Protection Needs 136

 C. Summary of Community’s Needs 140

 D. Summary of Management Needs 144

 E. Distilling Community Needs and Translating Them into Goals 146

Section 8: Goals and Objectives147

 A. Introduction147

 B. Goals147

 C. Objectives149

Section 9: Seven Year Action Plan151

 A. Introduction151

 B. Goals, Objectives, and Actions.....152

 C. Objectives with Lead Party, Timeframe, Funding Source, and Priority166

Section 10: Public Comment168

 A. Introduction168

 B. Online Surveys168

 C. First Community Working Session174

 D. Second Community Working Session176

 E. Public Comment Period176

Section 11: References 179 -181

Appendices

Appendix A: OSRP Accomplishments Since 2014.....182

 A. Land Acquisitions, Facility and Program Improvements since 2014182

 B. Conservation Commission Accomplishments, by Conservation Area182

 C. Parks, Recreation, and Culture Accomplishments, by Village183

Appendix B: ADA Access Self-Evaluation.....186

 A. Commitment to Equal Access186

 B. Required Elements of an ADA Self Evaluation Report186

 C. Parks, Recreation, and Culture Accessibility Assessment.....189

 D. Conservation Commission Accessibility Progress Report195

 E. PRC and Conservation Commission Facility Inventories.....196

Appendix C: Letters of Support 206-212

Appendix D: Full ADA Facility Inventory for Parks, Recreation and Culture 213-310

Tables

Table 1. OSRP Advisory Committee Members4

Table 2. Estimated Daily Traffic on Newton’s Freeways31

Table 3. Water Quality Impairments of Assessed Waterbodies72

Table 4. Natural and Recreational Open Space in Newton: A Summary81

Table 5. Conservation Restrictions, APRs, and Conservation Easements85

Table 6. Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Controlled Land89

Table 7. Newton Conservation Commission Controlled Land.....102

Table 8. Newton School Department Controlled Land105

Table 9. Newton General Municipal Controlled Land107

Table 10. Cochituate Aqueduct109

Table 11. Sudbury Aqueduct	112
Table 12. Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Restriction Controlled Land	114
Table 13. Other Municipal, State, and Federal Land	119
Table 14. Privately Owned Golf Courses	121
Table 15. Private Cemeteries.....	122
Table 16. Tax-Exempt Land with Significant Open Space.....	124
Table 17. Private, Unprotected Land with Significant Open Space.....	127
Table 18. Trails Inventory	129
Table 19. Parks, Recreation and Culture Managed ADA Facility Inventory	196
Table 20. Conservation Commission ADA Facility Inventory.....	203

Figures (* indicates map required by DCS, † indicates recommended by DCS)

Figure 1. Environmental Justice Areas*	7
Figure 2. Regional Context: The Charles River Watershed*	12
Figure 3. Railroads and Development	14
Figure 4. Villages and Historic Districts†	15
Figure 5. Newton’s Projected Population 1930 to 2030†	16
Figure 6. Households with Residents Over 65 Years of Age†	18
Figure 7. Median Household Income†	19
Figure 8. Country of Origin for Asian Residents in 2017†	20
Figure 9. Languages Spoken at Home and Limited English-Speaking Households in Newton†	21
Figure 10. Environmental Justice Communities and Open Space Access*	21
Figure 11. Environmental Justice Communities and Heat Islands*	24
Figure 12. Housing Developments and Public Transit.....	27
Figure 13. Land Cover	29
Figure 14. Land Use†	30
Figure 15. Active Transportation & Safety Improvement Recommendations (<i>Newton in Motion</i>)†	34
Figure 16. Storm Drain System†	36
Figure 17. Current Zoning (2020)*	38
Figure 18. Proposed Zoning.....	39
Figure 19. Comparison of Existing and Proposed Zoning.....	40
Figure 20. Geologic Features: Bedrock Lithology and Unique Features*	43
Figure 21. Slope and Soils (by quality of drainage)*	46
Figure 22. Athletic Fields and Historical Wetlands.....	47
Figure 23. Topography and Development.....	48
Figure 24. Unique Features, Scenic Roads, and Heritage Landscapes*	50
Figure 25. Floodplains and Wetlands*	52
Figure 26. Aquifers and Drainage Basins*	53

Figure 27. Charles River Public Access.....54

Figure 28. MWRA Water Supply System58

Figure 29. Surface Aqueducts.....59

Figure 30. Tree Cover and Gas Leaks (and Potential Street Tree Planting Plan).....61

Figure 31. BioMap2: Core Habitat†64

Figure 32. Vernal Pools.....65

Figure 33. Scenic Roads67

Figure 34. Open Space by Ownership and Level of Protection*78

Figure 35. Pubic Open Space (Acres per 1000 Residents).....82

Figure 36. Lands Protected by Deed Restrictions.....84

Figure 37. Publicly Owned Open Space by Ownership*87

Figure 38. Playing Fields and Courts.....97

Figure 39. Playgrounds, Tot Lots, and Dog Parks98

Figure 40. Aquatic Recreation Facilities99

Figure 41. Other Recreational Resources.....100

Figure 42. Privately Owned Open Space (Lands of Conservation or Recreation Interest)*.....120

Figure 43. Community Survey: Open Space Resources in Greatest Demand134

Figure 44. Community Survey: Importance of Open Space Resources.....134

Figure 45. Youth Survey: Desired Open Space Improvements.....135

Figure 46. Action Plan: Goal 2: Maintenance and Improvement*156

Figure 47. Action Plan: Goal 3: Accessibility*158

Figure 48. Action Plan: Goal 4: Minimized Gaps*160

Figure 49. Action Plan: Goal 5: Connectivity*163

Figure 50. Action Plan: Goal 6: Protection*165

Figure 51. Open Space Resource Use in Newton169

Figure 52. Open Space Resource Quality in Newton.....169

Figure 53. Priorities for Open Space Protection in Newton170

Figure 54. Impediments and Inconveniences Accessing Open Space171

Figure 55. Policies to Support Open Space Acquisition.....171

Figure 56. In what ways do you use Newton’s open space resources?172

Figure 57. What do you value about Newton’s open space resources.....172

Figure 58. What don’t you like about Newton’s open space resources?.....173

Figure 59. How could Newton improve its open spaces?173

Figure 60. What can Newton do to make Newton more accessible for students who walk/bike?174

Figure 61. Individual Attendee Values.....174

Figure 62. Areas of Success for Newton’s Open Space Resources.....175

Figure 63. Top Public Concerns Regarding Open Space Resources in Newton.....176