

TOWN OF SPENCER OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN



2012

Acknowledgements

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Cover: *All photos used in the cover of the 2012 Spencer Open Space Plan were taken by Virginia “Ginny” Scarlet, former Wetland/Soil Specialist for the Town of Spencer. Ms. Scarlet currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Common Ground Land Trust. Cover design by Spencer Town Planner, Michelle Buck.*

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About the Open Space Plan Maps

The Maps in this Open Space and Recreation Plan are for illustration purposes only. They were created, from Town of Spencer and MassGIS data by Spencer Office of Development and Inspectional Services, specifically for the Plan use. They may not be used for regulatory purposes of any kind and should not be represented a “official” in any sense other than as graphics for the 2012 Spencer Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Section 1: Plan Summary

The Town of Spencer has a multitude of scenic places, recreational areas, and open spaces. Some highlights include Luther Hill Park and Howe State Park. Both of these parks have swimming areas and Howe State Park has many hiking trails. They attract many visitors during the summer months. O’Gara Park is home for many sporting events, such as softball and Pop Warner Football. There are plenty of hiking opportunities including Buck Hill, the Mid-State Trail, Ralph Warren Park, and Four Chimneys Wildlife Management Area. Spencer also has conservation land such as the Audubon land and the St. Joseph’s Abbey property.

The Town, through the Parks and Recreation Commission, has worked hard to maintain recreational facilities (including upgrades to improve accessibility to the disabled) despite limited staffing and resources. Likewise, the Town has worked to protect environmental resources and open spaces. For example, with the help of a Self Help grant from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services, Spencer purchased a conservation restriction to permanently protect approximately 60 acres abutting Burncoat Pond in 2005. Mass Audubon has since purchased the rest of the interest (the fee interest) in the property. This property is managed by Mass Audubon as a wildlife sanctuary and provides protection for the wetlands, waterways, and scenic character of this area of town. However, despite the Town’s successes, Spencer continues to face financial and staffing challenges to address long-term recreational and open space needs.

The Town of Spencer last completed an Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2001. A draft plan was prepared and nearly completed in 2007, but the progress was slowed considerably due to changes in staff. In 2009, the Town conducted a survey to gain insight into residents’ preferences related to open space and recreation priorities. In early 2010, the process re-started to complete the plan, particularly updating the inventory, maps, and required ADA inventory. The plan includes an updated inventory of open space and recreation lands and an analysis of Spencer’s open space and recreation needs. As a result of this planning process, the following five primary goals were developed:

- GOAL 1: Protect valuable water resources from adverse impacts.
- GOAL 2: Retain Spencer’s rural, small-town character.
- GOAL 3: Enhance recreation opportunities for Town residents & visitors
- GOAL 4: Preserve Spencer’s open spaces and natural heritage.
- GOAL 5: Establish a continuous open space planning process

Section 2: Introduction

A: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Open Space Plan was created to help preserve Spencer's small-town character, enhance the attractiveness of the community, and encourage compatible growth for the future. The Open Space and Recreation Plan will be an integral part of the Town's Master Plan. The development of the Open Space and Recreation Plan has been a very long process. In 1998 a committee was formed to complete the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Public participation was solicited through a survey and in 2001 we were able to complete the Plan through the help of the Worcester County Conservation District. As part of the recent update process, the community initiated another Open Space Survey in 2009 to understand residents' needs and desires and to solicit ideas for improving open space and recreation opportunities in Spencer. Completion of the Plan will make the Town eligible for matching funds for open space acquisition and park improvements. With an outstanding natural resource base and high development pressure that threatens loss of open space, this Plan provides a thoughtful strategy for guiding investment in land and park facilities in the light of limited municipal finances.

B: PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This Open Space and Recreation Plan is the result of work over the last several years. A draft plan was completed in 2007 with public input, but the process stalled due to staffing changes. The town also had difficulty establishing a specific Open Space and Recreation Committee despite repeated efforts, so the Conservation Commission and the Town's Wetland/Soils Specialist took over primary responsibility, with assistance from the Town Planner. When the process to complete the plan resumed, an Open Space & Recreation survey was distributed to all households in 2009. The process continued to progress amid additional staff changes in 2010 and 2011. Sections of the draft plan were sent to the Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission throughout the process for input and comment throughout the process.

A completely revised draft incorporating all previous input was released in June 2011 for public review and comment. The Open Space & Recreation Plan was presented at a public forum hosted by the Conservation Commission on July 6, 2011. The plan was also discussed at a Planning Board meeting on July 19, 2011. Public notification of these meetings included advertisement in the Spencer New Leader, posting on the web, and posting on the message signboard in front of Town Hall (located at the prominent intersection of Rte. 9 and Rte. 31). Flyers related to the Conservation Commission public forum were also posted in Town Hall and at the Richard Sugden Library. Copies of the draft plan were available online, and at Town Hall and the Richard Sugden Library. Copies were also provided to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, and Common Ground Land Trust, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) for review and comment. The final 2012 Plan addresses all comments received from the general public and various Boards and agencies.

Section 3: Community Setting

A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

The 21,592 rolling acres of Spencer are located 12 miles west of Worcester and 40 miles east of Springfield, in Worcester County and are bounded by Oakham, Paxton, Leicester, Charlton, East Brookfield, and North Brookfield. The Town center is located where Route 9, a major Massachusetts east-west highway intersects Route 31, the major north-south road through Town. Route 49 connects Spencer to Sturbridge, Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Spencer remains the major trade center in the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) northwest sub-region. This position is challenged by commercial growth in Sturbridge in the southwest CMRPC sub-region. While many Spencer residents travel each day to work outside town, some local firms, notably Flexcon and New England Auto Gateway, provide employment for townspeople and for residents of surrounding communities. Many of the region's large employers are in Worcester.

Spencer waters are tributary to and lie in the headwaters of the Chicopee and French River watersheds. Spencer is a state & regional destination for outdoor recreation. Spencer's seven major ponds (Brooks Pond, Browning Pond, Cranberry Meadow Lake, Sugden Reservoir, Stiles Reservoir, Thompson Pond, and Lake Whittemore) are a significant resource and draw people and economic activity to the town. Spencer shares its water resources with neighboring towns. The Town's emergency supply, Shaw Pond, is in Leicester and can provide 300,000 gallons of water per day. In addition, many waterbodies are shared with adjacent towns. These include Brooks Pond (North Brookfield, New Braintree and Oakham), Browning Pond (Oakham), Burncoat Pond (Leicester), Cranberry Meadow Pond and Jones Pond (Charlton), and Stiles Reservoir (Leicester). The watershed feeding Thompson Pond lies largely in Paxton.

Hunting is permitted in Spencer State Forest, in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife's Wildlife Management Areas (Four Chimneys and Moose Hill), as well as on many private lands. Trout fishing is feasible and sometimes rewarding. The Midstate Trail passes through Spencer and St. Joseph's Abbey occupies a significant portion of North Spencer.

Spencer often is a regional hub of activity. The Spencer Fair is a major agricultural exposition. O'Gara Park and the Little League's Small Park are athletic facilities utilized regionally and with ample parking. Similarly Howe State Park, Camp Marshall, and Buck Hill Center are regional recreation resources. Lastly, the Spencer-East Brookfield school district enables people from other towns to enjoy the athletic facilities at David Prouty High School and Knox Trail Junior High.

B. HISTORY

Spencer's history began in 1686 as an eight square mile tract of land purchased from the Native Americans, named Leicester and established as a proprietorship by men from Boston. Approval from the colonial authorities was contingent upon settlement but settlement was slow, at first delayed for a generation by struggles with the natives. Eventually, in 1717, Nathaniel Wood purchased 100 acres for a homestead. In 1721, Samuel Bemis of Watertown bought land adjacent to Nathaniel Wood's property near Seven Mile River and erected the first frame house in the area that later became the Town of Spencer. The Bemis Monument on Route 9 marks the site of this house.

In 1741, frustrated by Leicester's refusal to provide roads, a church, and schools in the district, the settlers petitioned the General Court and received approval to separate from Leicester but the change was vetoed by the Royal Governor. In 1753, after continued effort, the request was finally granted. The new Town hardly had its affairs in order when the War of Independence broke out. Spencer had a few Tories, but in 1775 Captain Ebenezer Mason led 65 Minutemen to Cambridge to aid the cause of the colonies.

The main livelihood in town was farming, until 1812 saw the start of two industries, boot (later to be shoes) and wire making. Josiah Green established his boot shop in this year, while Elliott Prouty began a small wire business in the section of Town later known as Wire Village. Steel was available locally, made from bog iron at a forge in North Brookfield on the Five Mile River. The growth of the boot and wire businesses reached its climax in the late 1800s, represented by Isaac Prouty & Company and the Spencer Wire Company respectively.

The Town had several village centers in the 1800s, based on the distribution of suitable locations to dam streams for water power. The Upper Village had the meeting house and a small group of houses, including the Pope Mansion. The Lower Village included three taverns and other buildings. One tavern was the Mason House (which was located in southwest corner of the present parking lot of Price Chopper). The other taverns were the Jenks House (the Massasoit Hotel was later built on this site) and the tavern owned by James Livermore, at the corner of Main Street and High Street. There was a post office and a peg factory in North Spencer. The growth of industry led to growth of population and needs that were previously overlooked. The first Town Hall was built in 1839. Eighteen years later the Town's first high school, Denny Hall, was erected.

The outbreak of the Civil War, in which 319 Spencer men served, opened an era of growth and expansion. At the start of the war, Spencer's population was 2,800; ten years later it was 4,000; and twenty years later it was 7,500. With this rapid growth came steam power, railroads, street lighting, a newspaper in 1872, water works in 1882, and a gas works in 1886. In 1888, Spencer's prosperity was demonstrated when three citizens - David Prouty, Richard Sugden and Luther Hill - respectively gave the Town a new high school, a library and a public park. The Town re-centered around mills on Muzzy Brook and the rail line connecting Boston with Albany, NY. Elias Howe, inventor & sewing machine pioneer, was born in Spencer in 1819 and grew up on his family's farm where

there was a gristmill. Howe Park is named for the family and is at the location of the farm.

In the early 1890s, Spencer experienced a series of setbacks: a labor dispute in its shoe factories, an economic recession and a disastrous fire that leveled six acres of property in the Wall Street area near where Rt. 31 now crosses Route 9. The boom ended. Shifting economic conditions made recovery slow. The advent of automobiles in the early 1900s weakened the influence of railroad transportation; water power was replaced by petroleum based power sources. Wire making and the shoe industry have gone, along with a number of small cotton and woolen plants. Currently, the largest manufacturer is Flexcon and others include Dienes Industries and Swiss Precision. Mercury Wire insulates wire and manufactures cables. During revision of zoning in 2005-6 the Town opted to eliminate a proposed industrial zone along Routes 9 and 49; thus, there has been no significant increase in area zoned for industrial use since the mid-1980s. Spencer now relies economically on service businesses, trades, and the new industry, tourism.

Spencer's culture and mind set is changing as the population grows. The attendant transitions are not without tensions. The Town is still governed by an open Town Meeting and is adjusting from being almost entirely dependent on volunteers and unpaid officials to a system with the elected officials steering a professional staff. The first Town Administrator was hired in 1999 and the first Town Planner in 2005. New methods of communication among residents are being developed. Local access cable and televised Selectmen's meetings were initiated around 1999. The Spencer website, www.spencerma.gov, went online in 2005.

C. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The characteristics of Spencer's population are important in planning for the recreation and open space needs of Town residents. Statistics in this section were compiled from several sources including the U.S. Federal Census, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Massachusetts Division of Employment and Training.

Population – Table 1 shows the population statistics for Spencer from 1920 to 2035. 1920-2010 are US Census figures, and 2020 and 2035 are projections from CMRPC (2011). Figure 1 shows population for 1920 - 2010 while Figure 2 shows the rate of growth.

**Table 1:
Spencer's Population: 1920-2035**

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Ann % Chg</u>
Actual*	1920	5,930			
	1930	6,272	342	5.8%	0.6%
	1940	6,641	369	5.9%	0.6%
	1950	7,027	386	5.8%	0.6%
	1960	7,838	811	11.5%	1.2%
	1970	8,779	941	12.0%	1.2%
	1980	10,774	1,995	22.7%	2.3%
	1990	11,645	871	8.1%	0.8%
	2000	11,691	46	0.4%	0.0%
	2010	11,688	-3	-.03%	0.0%
	Projections**	2020	12580	100	7.6%
2035		13,790	100	9.6%	0.6%

* U.S. Census
 ** CMRPC, 2011 (not yet updated to reflect 2010 Census data)

*Figure 1:
Spencer Population 1920 to 2035*

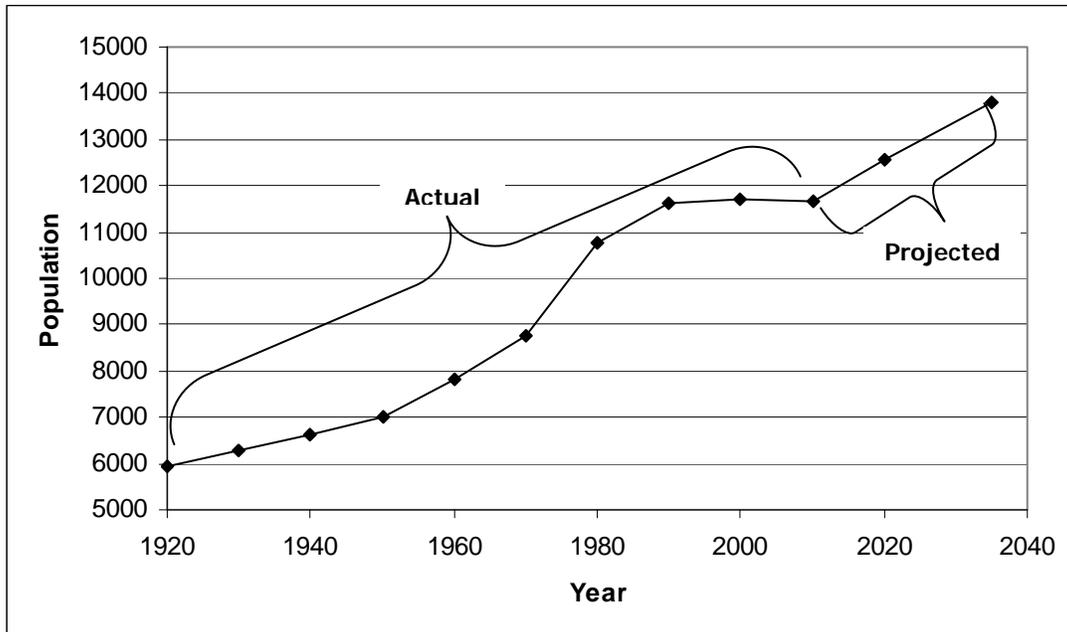
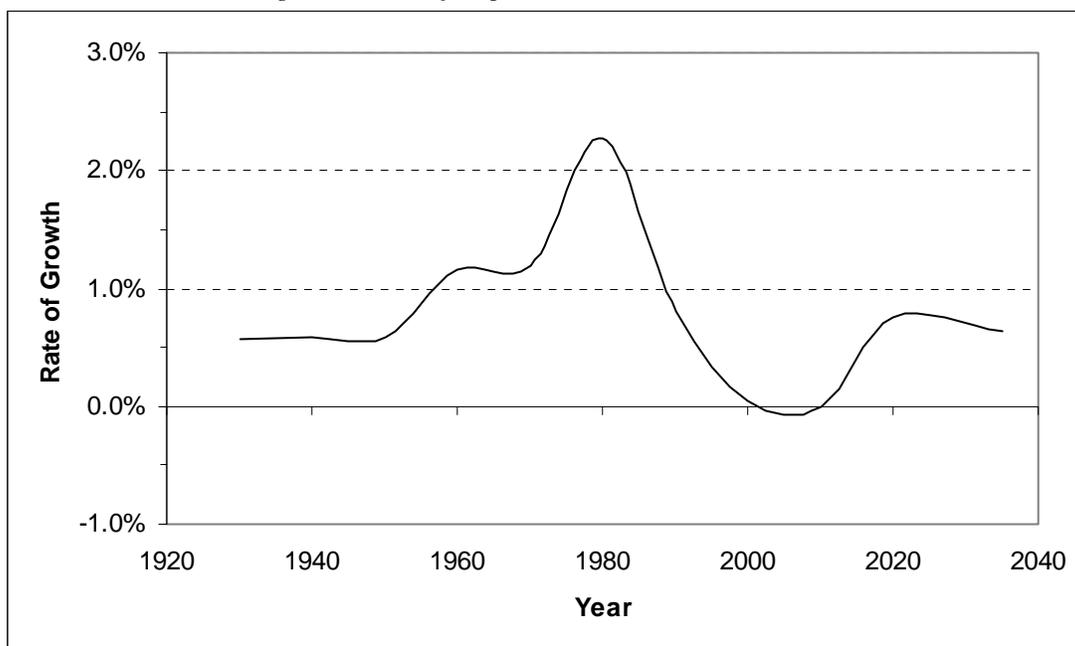
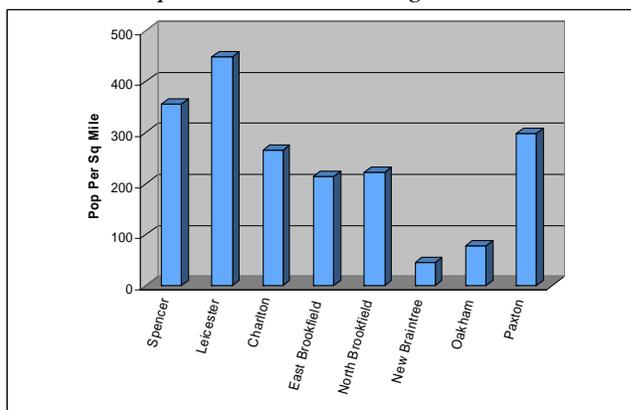


Figure 2: Rate of Population Growth, 1930 – 2035



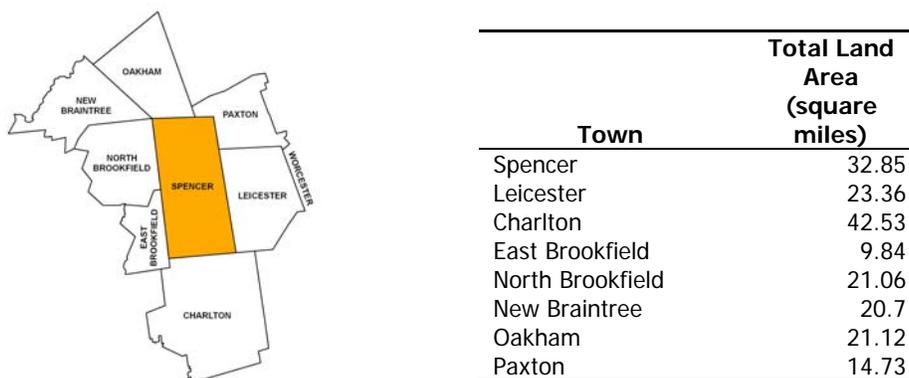
These two graphs show that Spencer had stable growth at less than 1% per year through the early decades of this period; then during the 1960's and 70's the growth rate doubled and then nearly doubled again in the boom years of the 1980's. By the time the 1990 Census was taken, the recession of the late 1980's had taken its toll on growth, again slowing the rate to less than 1% per year. During the 1990's the population remained stable with almost no growth at all. This trend continued through 2010, with a very small decline in population (from 11,691 to 11,688) between 1990 and 2000. CMRPC projections through 2035 show a continued modest rate of growth for the town.

Figure 3: Population Density
Spencer & Surrounding Towns



Compared with surrounding towns, as of the 2000 Census, Spencer had the second highest population density (number of people per square mile), and the highest population of this sub-region. As Figure 3 illustrates, New Braintree and Oakham have low population densities, and Leicester has the highest population density (likely a result of the town's proximity to Worcester).

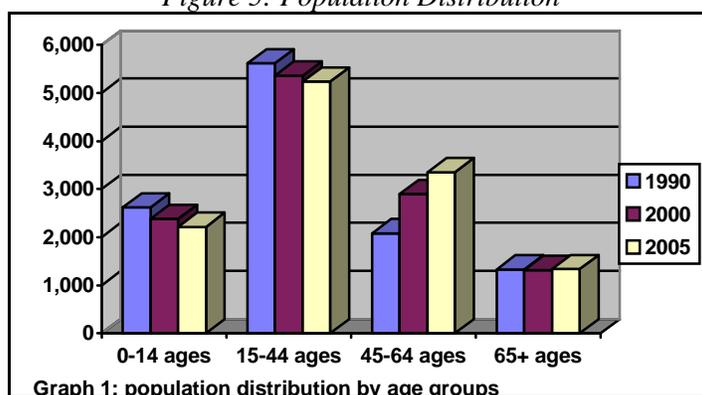
Figure 4: Total Land Area, Spencer & Surrounding Towns



Spencer has the second largest land area in the Sub-region. Spencer has 18% of the total land area in the Sub-region but holds 25% of the total population.

Population projections for Spencer indicate the town’s population could grow by 2,100 people by the year 2035. Given the higher housing prices in the greater Boston Metropolitan area (including towns in the eastern most portions of the Central Mass region), it can be expected that Spencer’s population will increase over the next few decades and the amount of open space in the town will decrease as more land is developed.

Figure 5: Population Distribution

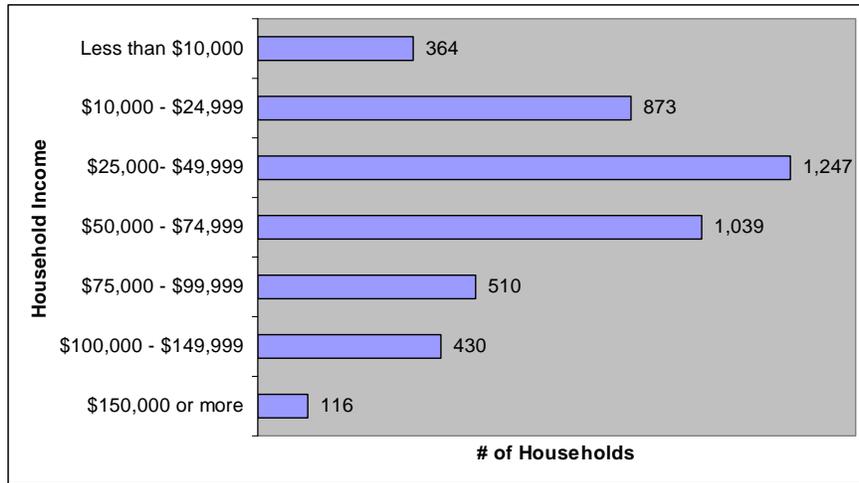


Age – Until 2000 the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research (MISER) published population forecasts for cities and towns across the state. Graph 1 shows the MISER forecasts for Spencer. Interpretation of the MISER forecasts for Spencer’s population suggested the following trends between 1990 and 2005:

- children under age 15 were likely to decrease in number;
- Town residents between 15 - 45 years of age were expected to decline slightly;
- residents between 45 - 65 years of age were likely to increase by 60%; and
- residents older than 65 years of age would remain about 11% of Spencer’s population.

Income – The 2000 Federal Census data show the median income for all Spencer households was \$46,598. The distribution of income for all 4,579 households (as of 1999) is shown in Figure 6, below:

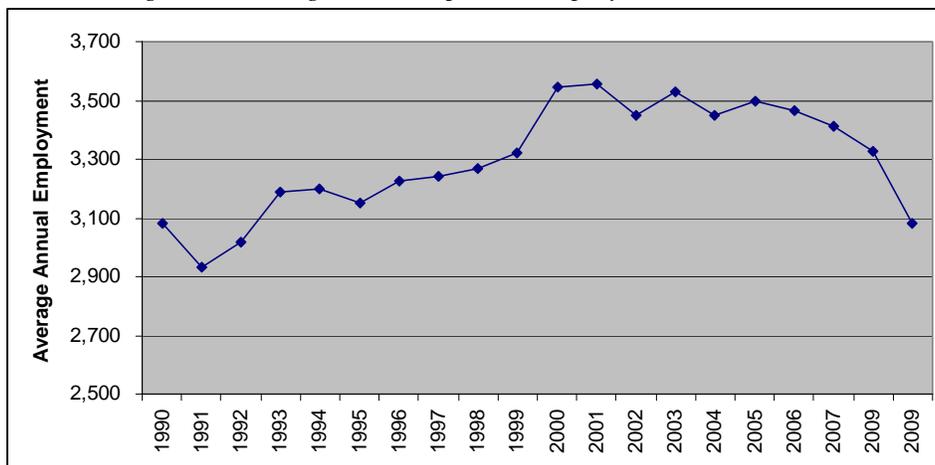
Figure 6: Household Income Distribution, 1999



The 2000 Census also indicates that there were 182 families with incomes below the poverty level, with 1,001 individuals. Ten percent (10%) of those were over age 65, a decrease since the previous decennial census. However, with more than half of the households in Spencer earning less than \$50,000 per year, it is likely that many people cannot afford to spend much of their income on recreation. Thus, free or low cost recreation is an important component of a community’s services, which may link to a healthier population as well.

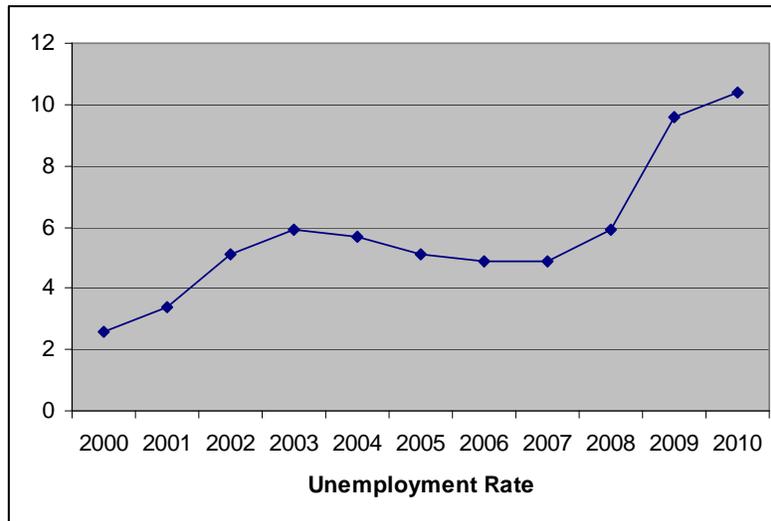
Employment - Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD, formerly the Division of Employment & Training) data, shown in Figure 7 below, indicate an increase in employees working in Spencer between 1990 and 1999, then a decline between 1999 and 2009. The number of establishments in Spencer has fluctuated between 228 and 268 during this same time period.

Figure 7: Average Annual Spencer Employment, 1990 - 2009



Data for 1990 show the Town’s 6,093 person labor force had a 6.2% unemployment rate. Spencer’s unemployment rate rose to 10% in 1991, and declined to 2.8 in 2000. As shown in Figure 7, the unemployment rate remained between 5% and 6% between 2002 and 2008, and then rose sharply in 2009. Spencer had a total of 6,032 people in the labor force in 2010, declining from 6,409 in 2006.

Figure 8: Spencer Unemployment Rate, 2000 - 2010



Federal Census data for 2000 show that 95% of Spencer workers commuted to work by car; 4.8% walked, had other transportation arrangements, or worked at home; less than one half of one percent used public transportation. These figures show slight increases in commuting by car and walking or working at home, and a significant decrease in use of public transportation. The mean travel time to work had increased from 25 minutes in 1990 to 27.8 in 2000. Table 2, below, shows estimated employed population by industry.

Table 2:
Estimated Spencer Employment by Industry, 2005-2009
 (Civilian Employed Population 16 years and Over)

Industry	#	%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting & Mining	13	0.2%
Construction	789	12.8%
Manufacturing	641	10.4%
Wholesale Trade	263	4.3%
Retail Trade	626	10.1%
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	368	6.0%
Information	100	1.6%
Finance & Insurance, and Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	487	7.9%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Admin. & Waste Mgmt Services	444	7.2%
Educational Services, Health and Social Assistance	1,561	25.3%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation, Accommodation & Food Services	485	7.9%
Other Services, ex. Public Administration	238	3.9%
Public Administration	153	2.5%
Total	6,168	100.0%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2005-2009

Spencer's largest employers include manufacturers, retail establishments, and local government (schools and Fire Department). - See Table 3.

**Table 3:
Largest 25 Employers in Spencer, 2011**

Company Name	Address	# of employees	NAICS* Code	NAICS Category
FLEX Con Corp	S Spencer Rd	500-999	3222	Converted Paper Product Manufacturing
Big Y Foods Inc	W Main St	100-249	4451	Grocery Stores
David Prouty High School	Main St	50-99	6111	Elementary and Secondary Schools
Klem's Tractor & Auto Parts	W Main St	50-99	4413	Auto Parts, Accessories, & Tire Stores
McDonald's	W Main St	50-99	7222	Limited-Service Eating Places
Mercury Wire Products Inc	Mercury Dr	50-99	3314	Metal Production & Processing
St Joseph's Abbey Monastery	N Spencer Rd	50-99	8131	Religious Organizations
Swift Transportation	Podunk Pike	50-99	4842	Specialized Freight Trucking
Wire Village School	Paxton Rd	50-99	6111	Elementary and Secondary Schools
Worcester County 4-H	McCormick Rd	50-99	7212	RV Parks and Recreational Camps
Ahearn Equipment Inc	Main St	20-49	4442	Lawn & Garden Equipment Stores
CVS Pharmacy	Main St	20-49	4461	Health and Personal Care Stores
Dienes Corp	W Main St	20-49	3322	Cutlery and Handtool Manufacturing
Dunkin' Donuts	W Main St	20-49	7222	Limited-Service Eating Places
ERA Key Realty	Main St	20-49	5312	Real Estate Agents and Brokers
Knox Trail Junior High School	Ash St	20-49	6111	Elementary and Secondary Schools
Lake Street School	Lake St	20-49	6111	Elementary and Secondary Schools
Maple Street School	Maple St	20-49	6111	Elementary and Secondary Schools
Northeast Vehicle Svc LLC	Podunk Pike	20-49	5419	Professional & Technical Services
Passports Inc	Main St # 1	20-49	5615	Travel Arrangement Services
Private Family Home Care Inc	Main St	20-49	6213	Offices of Other Health Practitioners
Spencer Fire Dept	W Main St	20-49	9221	Justice, Public Order & Safety Activities
Spencer Savings Bank	Main St	20-49	5221	Depository Credit Intermediation
Todd Vitkos Plastering Inc	Bacon Hill Rd	20-49	2383	Building Finishing Contractors
Zukas Hilltop Barn	Smithville Rd	20-49	7223	Special Food Services

*North American Industry Classification System

Source: Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD)

Environmental Justice Neighborhoods - Map 2 displays the Town's "Environmental Justice" (EJ) neighborhoods, which occur in Census Tract 7262, Block Groups 3 and 5 in Spencer Center. EJ neighborhoods represent areas based upon 2000 Census data with high minority, non-English speaking, low income, or foreign-born populations. A neighborhood may qualify if a block group meets one or more of the following criteria: has a minority population of 25% or greater, a median household income below 65% of the state median, an English proficiency where less than 75% of households speak English very well, or 25% or more of the population is foreign born. The Spencer EJ

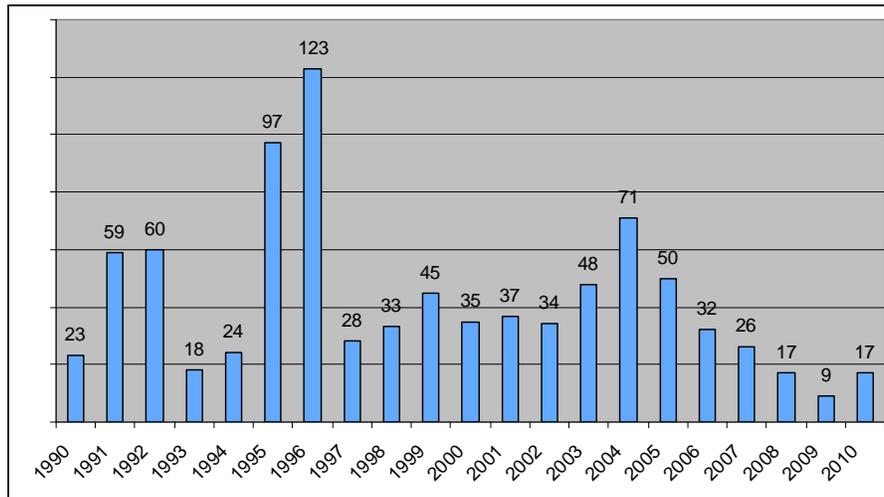
neighborhoods qualify because their median household income is below 65% of the statewide median.

D. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

By automobile, Spencer is 20 minutes west of Worcester and 45 minutes east of Springfield. Largely residential, the Town has been a supplier of workers for nearly every industry in the greater Worcester area, Fitchburg-Leominster, Springfield and Amherst. In addition to a small commercial airfield on Paxton Road, the Town is less than twenty minutes from the Worcester Regional Airport. The Worcester Airport offers limited commercial passenger service as well as cargo services.

The region's population has steadily grown over the past half century, with the largest gain during the 1980s. Regional growth has spread out from Worcester to surrounding suburban and rural towns. Spencer saw rapid growth in the 1970s. While the population remained nearly unchanged between 1980 and 2010, the population today is 33% larger than it was in 1970. Although Spencer's population grew very little in the last decade, building permits were issued for 886 housing units from 2000 through 2010, as shown in Figure 9, below.

Figure 9: Annual Number of Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits, 2000 - 2010



Source: Spencer Annual Reports

While a percentage of these authorized units may not have been constructed, the number of new housing units has increased despite stagnant population growth, reflecting a general trend in smaller household sizes. These new homes are replacing agricultural and forest lands. Also, despite the general decline in the housing market in the last couple years, demand for additional housing in Spencer is anticipated to increase when the economy improves. Low taxes and relatively low housing costs are attracting new residents to the Town. Much of the new development is projected to take place near major roads that enable people to commute to jobs in the greater Worcester area and points east, the Providence or Hartford areas, and the Fitchburg area.

Spencer has adopted other bylaws to manage its growth. These include zoning (including groundwater protection, flood zone protection, and OSRD), subdivision control, and site plan regulations. Current zoning districts include: Commercial, Industrial, Town Center Mixed Use, Village Residential, Suburban Residential, and Rural Residential.

Until recently, Spencer's Zoning Bylaw did not allow any type of cluster development, although some developers managed to design multi-family projects that preserved significant portions of their tracts as open space. In November 2006, the Town adopted a revised Zoning Bylaw that includes Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) as well as an increase in the minimum lot size requirement for lots in the Rural Residential district (which covers most of the town). While the increased minimum lot size can be seen as a step toward more sprawl, the incentives offered in the OSRD are anticipated to more than offset such sprawl. Of course, there is little the Town can do to alleviate the negative impacts on the rural character wrought by the Approval Not Required (ANR) process permitted by state law. (The ANR process refers to lots that are permitted along existing roads without Town review). Nevertheless, it is hoped that most new housing will be developed using the OSRD provisions, protecting valuable open space.

The cluster of historic buildings in Spencer Center helps anchor the core and define the town's visual character. Spencer's roads and infrastructure follow the streams and ridgelines where the original footpaths and cart paths were located as the Town was settled. The Zoning Map (**Map 3**) shows the current zoning which mimics the existing land use pattern. It clearly shows how that the densest development is in the center of town, with much of the town remaining rural. Development patterns around the lakes and ponds are primarily of a higher density, a vestige of old summer cottage colonies.

Infrastructure - Federal Census data show 60% of the total 4,770 housing units in 1990 were served by the Town's water supply. Nearly all other housing units were supplied by drilled or dug wells. 1990 Census data also report 55% of housing units were served by public sewer. These utilities are located in the Town center and along major roads leading from the center. The 2000 Census did not collect such data, but the Spencer water and sewer departments report no significant additions to their systems since 1990. The availability of water and sewer service is another factor that will foster growth in the years ahead. With that in mind, the town is researching the feasibility of establishing a "high growth area" or "economic development zone" which will delineate the areas of town that are the most favorable for concentrating future growth, to plan for future expansions of the wastewater treatment plant and to preserve more open space.

Spencer has easy access to the Massachusetts Turnpike via Route 49. Most of Spencer's residents are highly dependent on motor vehicles. In 2010, there were 13,046 vehicles (excluding trailers and boats) registered to Spencer owners, more than 1 per person (MA Department of Revenue). Still, the core area has bus service to Worcester and provides living situations and employment for persons unable to drive a motor vehicle. The 2000 US Census reported 305 households without access to a motor vehicle. The Town Center Mixed Use and Village Residential Districts provide only modest support for pedestrian

travel. Some streets are narrow and lack sidewalks in areas without available alternate pedestrian routes.

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

A. GEOLOGY, SOILS & TOPOGRAPHY

The geology of Spencer is the primary structure on which the community is based. Bedrock and materials sculpted or deposited by ice age glaciers were then weathered, eroded and relocated to form Spencer's topography of hills, valleys and today's soils. The soils determine the kinds of vegetation that grow and the limitations or suitability for land uses. Together geology, soils, and topography determine how surface water and ground water systems function together. (See **Map 4a** and **Map 4b**)

In Spencer the bedrock formations are metamorphic or igneous rock with a north-south alignment. Glaciers reformed the bedrock reinforcing the north-south alignment, created the current surficial geology, the soils, and directed Spencer's river and stream courses. The type and structure of the surficial deposits strongly influences the movement of ground water through the soil layers.

Soils

Most of Spencer is now covered by till soils made up of unsorted rocks, stones, sands and finer particles. These soils are generally found on ridges and side slopes. Many of the till soils have layers with low permeability limiting their suitability for septic systems. Their position on slopes makes them easily subject to erosion. When on milder slopes they are often suitable for agriculture. The great majority of Spencer's prime agricultural soils are of this type. (**Map 5b**) A significant fraction of the prime agricultural soils have already been developed irreversibly for other uses. Prime agricultural soils are of statewide significance.

In the valleys extensive sand and gravel banks were left where glaciers melted. Depressions and valleys carved out by the glaciers are today's ponds, bogs, wetlands, and stream. Wind and water erosion continue to add deposits in low areas, and flood plains. These soils lie largely along the Seven Mile and Cranberry Rivers. They are very permeable to water and carry large quantities of groundwater to the Big Meadow and Cranberry Meadow municipal wells. At several locations, these soils are mined in "gravel pits" for construction materials. The gravel is an economically valuable resource but its extraction is not a sustainable use. The ease with which water moves in these soils makes them suitable for septic systems. Where exposed, these soils are easily contaminated, and water movement through them can transport pollutants comparatively rapidly. When used for septic fields, their poor filtering capacity makes careful design essential.

In 1998 USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service published a Soils Report for all of Southern Worcester County. The report has extensive details of the soil composition of Spencer. Soils information can now be found online at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>.

Topography –Spencer has many named hills with steep grades dipping to winding valleys of small rivers. Large, low-lying areas are found along the floodplains of the Seven Mile River, the Cranberry River and in the large wetland systems of Alder Meadow and Morgan Swamp. Elevations in Town range from 620 feet to 1,063 above sea level. Eight to fifteen percent (8-15%) slopes predominate but slopes range up to 35%. Slopes greater than 15% are more susceptible to erosion and have severe limitations for septic suitability and buildings. **Map 4c**, Limitations, displays the extensive constraints for development in Spencer including many steeply sloping areas.

B. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Spencer's structure of rolling hills and small valleys led to the use of water power during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Villages developed where water mills clustered where streams converged. Then at the village closest to the post road (Route 9), and later the railroad, development focused in the center of the town's area. Yet, in "downtown" Spencer, hills open the field of view relieving the density of development. Some hills offer views of Mount Wachusett and Boston, Bacon Hill offers prospects to the south, and views from Northwest road cross the valley of the Five Mile River to the west.

Spencer's ponds (lakes), which were created or enlarged for water power, became attractions for recreation. Summer camps and seasonal homes sprang up to later turn into communities of urban density, with a growing percentage of year-round homes. The landscape now alternates between the clusters of density and the open spaces left in between, the agricultural land and forest to the north and south of the central village and between the ponds.

St. Joseph's Abbey in the northwest corner of Town is a privately owned open space with 1,754 acres of well-maintained agriculture, wildlife and forest land. Undeveloped land such as Scout camps, Wildlife Management Areas, Spencer State Forest and Howe Park together with the fields and pastures of the remaining farmed land contribute to Spencer's rural character in spite of the gradual accumulation of suburban style residences along the existing roads. As yet, Spencer has only a few truly suburban subdivisions that are not close to the central village or near a pond.

C. WATER RESOURCES

Spencer's surface drainage network of streams, ponds and wetlands is the direct result of its topography and soils. These surface waters are important to consider in open space planning. They connect ponds, wetlands, wildlife habitats, rich flood plain soils, historic sites and other important community resources. Roadways have followed stream and river valleys or hill ridge ways. (See **Map 6a**)

This network is divided into drainage basins, also known as watersheds. A watershed is the land from which rain or snow melt flows to a waterway. Drainage basins can be subdivided into smaller and smaller sub-watersheds for the tributaries of a larger river system. Two of the state-defined 27 major river basins receive water draining from Spencer. Most of the town lies within the Chicopee River Watershed with the remainder in the French River Watershed.

The small brooks in Spencer are at the headwaters of each of these major basins. Brooks in the northwest corner of Town flow into the Five Mile River in North Brookfield. Further east water is collected to the Seven Mile River, which joins with Turkey Hill Brook and flows through the Town center. After its confluence with the Cranberry River, the Seven Mile flows to Quaboag Pond in East Brookfield. The Quaboag River begins at Quaboag Pond, flowing westward until it combines with the Swift and Ware Rivers to form the Chicopee River.

In southeast Spencer brooks flow to Burncoat Pond and Stiles Reservoir, thence to Town Meadow Brook in Leicester, then the French River. A small area on the south margin of town drains to the Quinebaug River which joins the French River in Connecticut.

There are eleven lakes, ponds, and reservoirs in Town, most created by dams. This discussion follows New England custom and calls all these open water bodies “ponds” when referring to them collectively. Ponds wholly in Spencer include Buck Hill Pond, Howe Pond, Lake Whittemore, Sugden Reservoir and Thompson Pond. Brooks Pond, Browning Pond, Burncoat Pond, Cranberry Meadow Pond, Jones Pond, Moose Hill Reservoir, and Stiles Reservoir are shared with neighboring towns. Moose Hill Reservoir is an 81.6 acre flood control pond constructed too recently to appear on the most recent USGS topographic quadrangle maps. Browning Pond is the only pond recognized as a Great Pond. These open waters are valued open space and have been popular recreation and scenic amenities for generations of town residents. They also draw people from the region and tourists who contribute to the Town’s economy.

There is boat access open to the public at Brooks Pond, Browning Pond, and Sugden Reservoir. The public has access to Howe Pond, Lake Whittemore, and Buck Hill Pond by car (with limited parking), but there are no boat ramps. There is access to Burncoat Pond, Moose Hill Reservoir, Thompson Pond on foot through land owned by the State, town or a non-profit organization with trails open to the public.

Not all of the Spencer’s waterbodies meet state and federal water quality standards. Most have not been assessed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection including Cranberry Meadow Pond, Howe Pond, Moose Hill Reservoir, Burncoat Pond, and Stiles Reservoir. Brooks Pond and Thompson’s Pond are identified as impaired by exotic weeds rather than pollutants. Browning Pond is impaired by low oxygen levels in warm weather, high phosphorus levels, weeds, and exotic weeds. Sugden Reservoir is impaired by high phosphorus. The Seven Mile River from Browning Pond until it flows out of Spencer to East Brookfield at the town line is listed as impaired by pathogens.

The DEP Division of Watershed Management has published “Total Maximum Daily Load” reports for Browning Pond, Jones Pond and Sugden Reservoir giving estimates of current phosphorus inputs and target phosphorus loads in kilograms/hectare/year. Grant money is available to aid projects which help achieve target phosphorus loads. The lake associations could seek that funding.

Land use and development patterns determine the quality of waters that flow out of Spencer, and affect the health of rivers, ponds and water supplies in downstream communities. Now that the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs has abandoned the “Watershed Teams” which provided information and expertise to help the town prevent damage to its water resources, Spencer must take responsibility for guarding these resources. Spencer is fortunate to have lake and pond associations for many of the ponds.

Flood Hazards - The 100 year flood plain areas, designated as Zone A by FEMA flood insurance maps, occur in wetlands and along many streams and ponds in Spencer (see **Map 6a** and **Map 6b**). The most extensive flood plain areas are found along the Seven Mile and Cranberry Rivers. Widths of flood plains vary according to topography. Change in the types of land uses in Town will influence the size of the flood plains. Careful review of drainage controls for proposed developments will be necessary to avoid increasing flood problems.

Wetlands - There are about 480 acres of wetlands throughout the Town (**Map 6a**). Two of the largest are the Big Meadow area along Seven Mile River, and Alder Meadow northwest of Stiles Reservoir. All wetlands are important for water purification, groundwater recharge, flood control, and wildlife habitat.

Water Supply - Spencer’s town water supply comes from groundwater. Sand and gravel deposits underlying local rivers can produce high yields of water. The town’s primary wells are in the Big Meadow area and a secondary source is near the Cranberry River. The Big Meadow well has an expected yield of 2 million gallons per day. Large areas adjacent to Town wells are delineated as Zone II protection districts. (A Zone II is the area that contributes to the recharge of a public groundwater supply.)

Shaw Pond in Leicester is an emergency backup water supply for the Town of Spencer but its use is not currently contemplated. Shaw Pond is identified as “attains some uses, others not assessed” by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management Division of Watershed Management 303(d) List. For use as drinking water, Shaw Pond water would require some treatment. Over time, surface activities influence the water quality in even the deepest wells.

Town residents living outside the central area rely on their own wells and yields vary. The average residential well is around 100 to 150 feet deep, although well depths can be much deeper if low yields require additional storage capacity. Some of Spencer’s bedrock is soft and can break down into clays that hold water tightly making it less available to residential wells though adequate water is available in most locations for residential development

D. VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND HABITATS

The variation in soils, topography and landscape uses support a variety of habitats, each with attendant plants and animals. The patchy distribution of these creates many edges between habitats which increases the diversity of plants and animals. An abundance of

well-distributed habitat types with a lot of vegetative diversity improves the chances that all of the habitat requirements for various species are met. The patchy distribution gives people access to all the habitats allowing a diversity of lifestyles and recreation. Proximity to them makes affordable outdoor recreation readily available.

Connections between habitats, providing wildlife corridors, are also important. Habitats that overlap into abutting towns, especially to the less developed north and west, allow movement of the larger animals which need relatively large ranges. Spencer has several large tracts of open space (with a range of protection levels) including the Spencer State Forest, Four Chimneys Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Moose Hill WMA, Burncoat Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, and St. Joseph's Abbey property. In addition, Seven Mile River, Turkey Hill Brook, Alder Meadow and Morgan swamp provide significant areas of wildlife habitat. These properties provide wildlife corridors within the Town of Spencer. The developed Route 9 corridor severs the north and south ends of town. Nonetheless, bear and moose occasionally cross and coyotes regularly manage to cross. The river and wetland systems allow the spread of smaller animals across the divide.

Spencer lacks old growth forest habitat, natural dry grassland, and bare, dry, stony hill tops. The existing habitats, listed in order of increasing human domination, are: wetlands (forested swamp, shrub swamp, marsh, wet meadows), forest, abandoned agricultural fields, vernal pools, active agricultural fields, streams & rivers (riparian), ponds (lacustrine), suburban, and urban. Invasive species have moved in, primarily in disturbed areas. The more frequent the disturbance, the more invasive species. Many animals utilize more than one of the habitat types. Migrating birds rest and re-fuel in Spencer habitats. Bald eagle, osprey, loon, hooded mergansers, various grebes, and a wide array of warblers have been recently recorded.

Spencer does not have a public shade tree program. However, developers of new subdivision roads are required to plant shade trees within the right-of-way (two to three trees per lot depending on the zoning district).

Spencer has approximately 480 acres of wetlands. The locations of rare species habitats mapped by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) correlate strongly with wetlands, **Map 6a**. The largest contiguous mapped wetland area is located along Seven Mile River. In addition to specialized habitats, the wetlands provide flood control, storm damage prevention, and recharge to water supplies, services of essential value for human occupation. Some of the wetlands have large areas of open water allowing access for small boats and hunting for waterfowl.

Spencer's rare, threatened, and endangered species are shown in Table 4 on the following page.

**Table 4,
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species, Spencer**

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status*	Most Recent Observation
Amphibian	Ambystoma laterale	Blue-spotted Salamander	SC	1991
Bird	Ammodramus savannarum	Grasshopper Sparrow	T	2008
Bird	Botaurus lentiginosus	American Bittern	E	1996
Bird	Podilymbus podiceps	Pied-billed Grebe	E	2005
Fish	Notropis bifrenatus	Bridle Shiner	SC	2007
Mussel	Alasmidonta undulata	Triangle Floater	SC	1999
Mussel	Strophitus undulatus	Creeper	SC	1999
Reptile	Emydoidea blandingii	Blanding's Turtle	T	1993
Reptile	Glyptemys insculpta	Wood Turtle	SC	2009
Reptile	Terrapene carolina	Eastern Box Turtle	SC	1985
Vascular Plant	Ophioglossum pusillum	Adder's-tongue Fern	T	1890
Vascular Plant	Ranunculus pensylvanicus	Bristly Buttercup	SC	2006

E = Endangered T = Threatened SC = Special Concern

* Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. There currently are no Federally Listed Species in Spencer.

Source: *MassWildlife* (http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/species_home.htm)

NHESP recently published a BioMap (**Map 5c**), and an accompanying report designating Core Habitats and Critical Natural Landscapes of statewide significance. As with NHESP habitats, the mapped areas Core Habitat locations correlate strongly with wetlands but these include connected dry lands as well. The report states that “Protection and stewardship of *BioMap2* Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape is essential to safeguard the diversity of species and their habitats, intact ecosystems, and resilient natural landscapes across Massachusetts.” More information about BioMap and Core Habitat map can be found at <http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap2.htm>; and the Summary Report at: http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/land_protection/biomap/biomap_home.htm.

The habitats in streams, rivers and ponds support fisheries. Browning Pond, Seven Mile River, Turkey Hill Brook, Sugden Reservoir, and Howe Pond are stocked by the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Brook trout can be found in the smaller streams, and breed in some. Wetland waterfowl are hunted; beaver, otter, and muskrat are trapped. Kayaks run sections of Turkey Hill Brook during high flow periods. Canoes travel sections of the Sevenmile River.

The larger ponds, though largely surrounded by houses, are heavily used for fishing, ice fishing, and snowmobiling. The larger ponds are popular for a wide variety of water craft, water skiing, and swimming. The ponds in themselves are scenic open space, providing a light, airy feel for the home enjoying a water view. Some natural shoreline persists at each pond (the least at Stiles and Sugden Reservoirs, the most at Brooks and Browning Ponds). All the waters help create viable habitat for local businesses selling equipment for fishing, swimming and boating.

Spencer's forests are largely second growth forest. These forests are an economic resource. Even the State Forests, State Park, and Wildlife Management Areas have subject to periodic timbering. Since Spencer completed its last Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2001, the DCR Forestry Cutting Program has issued permits for harvest of 19,376,000 board feet, 15,741 cords and 1,065 tons of pulp wood. Additional wood products were harvested during land clearing for development and for private owner personal use. DCR does not track the actual amount harvested.

Recreational uses of the forests include camps run by non-profit organizations, hunting, trapping, and use of trails for hiking, snowmobiles, horseback riding, trail bikes, and cross country skiing. Trapping takes fisher, raccoon, bobcat, and coyote. Recreational hunting is primarily for deer and turkey.

Abandoned field habitat is decreasing as forest re-grows. The persisting agricultural habitats are largely used for corn, hay or pasture. There are a few nurseries. These lands are mostly private property but provide a variety of habitats and uniquely provide for grassland birds such as grasshopper sparrow, bobolink. Since most of these lands are privately owned, working with their owners is essential to sustaining these resources. Some of these lands are open to hunting if the hunter obtains specific permission from the landowner.

Vernal pools are a unique habitat that supports a number of rare animals. Enthusiasts are aware that Spencer has many vernal pools, but only one has been certified. NHESP has published a map of Potential Vernal Pools based on examination of aerial photos. NHESP depends on volunteers to collect confirming information, recreational activity for the volunteers.

The densely populated central village supports some habitats along sections of undeveloped land. These habitats in the central village are along the West side of Hastings Road, around the east end of Lake Whittemore, along the rail trail from South Spencer to Chestnut Street, up from the Sevenmile River along Muzzy Brook through Muzzy Meadow, and from south of the high school and water tower to Knox Trail Junior High School on down to the east end of Muzzy Pond. The last two routes almost connect up Valley Street. The human habitat is visited by a wide variety of birds, raccoon, coyote, skunk, possum, and fox. These co-exist with the normal array of animals which associate with urban humans, feral cats, rats, mice, house finches and English sparrows. Even in town, wildlife viewing can be exciting when touring bear or moose have turned up.

F. SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

Working with Spencer residents, DCR produced a Heritage Landscape Report about Spencer. The residents identified the Green Property on Main Street and Schoolhouse #3, Sibley Farm/Wendy Warner Farm, Wilson Farm, Wire Village and Turkey Hill Brook, and St. Joseph's Abbey as the highest priority Heritage Landscapes (see **Map 6**). These properties are a priority for long-term protection. Other heritage landscapes

identified by Spencer residents are listed in Appendix A of the Heritage Landscapes Report which is available at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services (ODIS) and on the web at

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/histland/reconReports/spencer.pdf>

Spencer's ponds are not unique in Massachusetts, but they are highly valued for their scenic and recreational aspects. The lands held by camps such as Treasure Valley, Camp Laurelwood, Camp Marshall are irreplaceable recreational and educational facilities in this densely populated state. The Core and Supporting Natural Landscape & NHESP Rare Species Habitats identified by DFW as lands for which there is no substitute are worthy of preservation.

Spencer's historic districts, monuments, and buildings, likewise deserve preservation. These have been identified by the Historic Commission and should be mapped for easy reference and publication. Archeological sites, such as the dams of the defunct Spencer Wire Company along Turkey Hill Brook and the remnants of Waite Road, likewise need to be accurately located, inventoried, and mapped. Spencer lacks a stone wall map. There are unidentified stone foundations and dam remains which bear investigation and might be correlated with the written histories of Spencer.

The Town is not known to have unusual geologic features, except perhaps for Polar Spring. This local spring water source was the original water source for Polar Beverages, which used Spencer's Polar Spring both for bottled spring water and for flavored soft drinks.

The Town's character is strongly influenced by views from the roads over the patchwork landscape where a road runs along a ridge, along the side of a valley, or reaches a drumlin hilltop. Spencer has listed designated scenic roads, including Buteau Road, Borkum Road, William Casey Road, East Charlton Road (from Bacon Hill Road to the Charlton town line) and Briarcliff Lane (formerly Cranberry Meadow Road). These roads have not been re-evaluated since their designation as scenic roads in 1977. There are several other roads that have scenic value that have not been officially designated as scenic roads, including Hastings Road, McCormick Road, Howe Road, Upper Wire Village Rd (along Turkey Hill Brook), Northwest Road, Brooks Pond Cross Road, Tom Casey Road, and the south end of South Spencer Road.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Planning needs to address both the unfortunate side effects of historic development and prevent adverse effects now and in the future. Secure preservation of open spaces is an ongoing process. Even on preserved lands, vandalism, careless use of off road vehicles, and littering present a challenge.

There are a number of environmental concerns that affect water resources in Spencer. These include the solid waste disposal area (capped landfill) adjacent to Cranberry River which is near the Cranberry Meadow municipal well. The landfill has been capped but

will require monitoring into the future. In addition, gravel mining, which occurs in very porous soils, removes filtering layers thus leaving the underlying groundwater very vulnerable to contamination unless restored with topsoil and active restoration at the new surface. Most of the gravel operations in Spencer have yet to attempt restoration. One restoration is in progress. It is expected to set a good example and demonstrate the feasibility of such projects.

Spencer has retired the town-owned underground storage tanks and the Spencer Fire Department supervises privately owned tanks. New fuel and chemical storage tanks over the water supply aquifer are now required to have secondary containment structures for backup. Education about these requirements and the boundary lines of the Aquifer Zone is a constant responsibility.

The known hazardous waste sites have been or are being addressed. An inventory of existing land uses to identify risky activities in the aquifer zone, followed by site inspection and education has not been tackled for lack of budget for the necessary person-hours.

In the most densely populated center of Town, the availability of water and sewer service generally reduces impacts to water quality. Unfortunately the sewer and water infrastructure is old and maintenance has been repeatedly deferred due to financial constraints. The sewer and drainage systems have not been accurately mapped which will increase the cost of maintenance. Seepage from the old pipes affects ground and surface water quality.

The water quality impairments in Spencer's rivers and ponds need to be addressed. There is no sewer service around the ponds in spite of the urbanized density of development. Eventually the impact of pond-side septic systems will need evaluation, as will nutrient inputs from lawn fertilizer and impervious surfaces. Sediment from construction, unpaved private roads, and winter sanding are problems when they reach the waters. Aggregation of impervious surfaces causes rainwater, with whatever it picks up, to rush directly to the waters unless managed carefully. Careful management includes limiting what the rain runoff can pick up or removing contaminants, sediment, and debris before the runoff finally reaches a wetland, stream or water body.

Erosion and sedimentation related to new development has been an ongoing challenge. While the Town has taken steps to improve the situation through a more comprehensive evaluation of these issues through permitting processes (particularly for larger projects), there continue to be problems with long-term oversight and maintenance. Also, the Town struggles to address erosion and sedimentation issues that are the result of projects stalled or abandoned during the recent downturn in the economy. There are several sites that have been abandoned by developers after extensive land clearing has been done.

Flooding is also an environmental challenge. According to the Town's Flood Hazard Plan (2012):

There are no FEMA-identified repetitive loss structures for the Town, and no critical facilities located in the 100-year flood plain. However, there are 3 High Hazard dams in this community, one of which is in the downtown area near the intersection of the two main roads in town (the north-south running State Route 31 and the east-west running State Route 9).

This plan recommends development and implementation of minor flood control projects and/or drainage improvements to relieve flooding at the following locations:

- Pine Acres Road.
- McCormick Road, as well as GH Wilson Road and Chickering Road, which are downstream of Alder Meadow, west of Stiles Reservoir.
- Clark Road, west and north of Stiles Reservoir and where it crosses Stiles Reservoir.
- The brook north of Northwest Road, near its intersection with Route 31 and Northwest Road brook crossing culvert near the Oakham town line.
- Cranberry Meadow Road, north of Cranberry Meadow Pond dam; and Highland Street west of Whittemore Dam.
- North Spencer Road (Route 31) between Alta Crest Road and Hastings Road; and south of Thompson Pond Road.
- Ash Street, near Morgan Swamp; Greenville Street, near Kingsbury Road; Smithville Cross Road; and Charlton Road (Route 31) near Howe Road.
- Cider Millpond and its tributaries; and within the culverted brook in the Cherry St neighborhood

Beaver contribute to the water quality and flooding concerns. Beaver are interesting and their ponds can provide benefits, such as groundwater recharge and wetlands habitats. However, beaver activity sometimes floods roadways, septic systems, and basements, and damages valued landscape plants and trees. Beaver also transmit *Giardia*, which is a health concern near water supplies.

Co-existence of human and wildlife habitats will be an ongoing challenge. As population growth and development proceeds, the Town can encourage early informal review of projects for all kinds of impact and forestall foreseen problems using Low Impact Development (LID) principles. Development without coordinated review (ANR lots) presents a particular challenge. Early review of effects on water quality, of increased need for recreational space and facilities, of need for preservation of rare species via referral to NHESP and the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) process would smooth the path for desirable projects. If informal conversation identifies the information required for complete formal review, regulatory processes are expedited.

The well-connected open space areas appear to be largely in the northern part of town. **MAP 7**, Open Space Inventory, shows that the rest of the protected open space areas are scattered. Size and continuity of open space is particularly important for supporting wildlife populations. Conservation protection of land linking scattered open space, with buffers included, would enhance the viability of the scattered areas. Such linking is both a challenge and an opportunity. Recreational trails could run along the links but ensuring

dual purpose connections would require careful layout. Creation of long term formal agreements or easements would be necessary.

As development proceeds trails now used by permission or, less formally, by user discretion are being cut off, restricting recreational use. The various trail uses (wildlife-watching, walking, hiking, running, biking, snowmobiling, and skiing) are enjoyed by the widest range of people from children to senior citizens. These activities can be done on a daily basis and several of them done in each season. How Spencer meets the challenge of linking and preserving trails for the future will have a strong influence on the recreational opportunity available locally.

The Town of Spencer has not undertaken a comprehensive evaluation of forestry issues such as low canopy cover, number of high hazard trees, ratio of tree removal to plantings, or invasive species. Trees along roadways that are identified as hazardous are removed as necessary. Invasive species are challenge. Multiflora rose is common in many old farm fields. Norway maple seedlings are prominent in the downtown area. Asian bittersweet has invaded many field/wood transitions and competes with trees but hasn't moved into the forests. Barberry, multi-flora rose and eponymous are present in openings created by forestry operations. Developments that have stalled due to the economy have created ideal conditions for invasive species where tree cutting/clearing took place before the projects were abandoned.

Currently, Spencer has no way to address clearing and grubbing of land for development done before application for development permits. In such circumstances, ignorance of the presence of rare species or unique habitats can lead to their destruction. For example, vernal pool habitat is often obliterated unintentionally. An effort to identify and certify these pools now, based upon the mapped potential vernal pool locations and local knowledge, could prevent the destruction of pools without the need for further regulation. Any known vernal pool is automatically within the jurisdiction of the local wetlands bylaw. The challenge lies in mustering the person-power to locate, certify, and map the pools.

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

This section provides an overview of Spencer’s open space. Open space includes larger parcels of undeveloped or partially developed land, as well as conservation and recreation land. Open space is important to the Town of Spencer for several reasons. Open space improves the quality of life for residents, providing recreational opportunities, scenic views, and places to simply enjoy the outdoors. Parks can provide health benefits by providing places for active recreation, as well as providing places for social gathering. Open spaces also provide valuable wildlife habitat, helps to protect water resources, and provides natural stormwater storage. Protection of open space is an important Town priority. As described in more detail later in this section, Spencer’s open space resources have various levels of protection.

The Open Space Inventory Map (**Map 7**) shows the open space lands of conservation or recreation interest with their associated level of protection. All lots of greater than 5 acres whether partially developed or not are included. The map also includes smaller lots currently developed for recreation or used for conservation. Open spaces on the Inventory Map are categorized as Permanently Protected, having Limited Protection, Temporarily Protected or Unprotected.

The table below summarizes the status lands of conservation or recreation interest categorized by level of protection. **Appendix C** has a complete listing of these lands. Currently nearly half of Spencer’s land is of conservation or recreation interest, but only 30% of this land is permanently protected; the rest is vulnerable to change.

**Table 5:
Inventory of Spencer Lands of Conservation or Recreation Interest Summary**

Protection Level*	Acres	%
PERMANENT	3,056.6	29%
LIMITED	2,919.7	28%
TEMPORARY	4,299.2	41%
UNKNOWN	230.8	2%
NONE	84.0	1%
TOTAL LAND OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST	10,590.4	100%

Total Assessor Acres in Spencer: 15,813 (this total does not include the acres taken up by waterbodies and transportation rights of way).

***Protection Levels:**

- Permanent:** permanent protection lands have the maximum legal protection
- Limited:** limited protection lands are protected only by the owner’s decision and philosophy. The owner can change his mind at any time with no penalty.

- Temporary:** represents protected lands which have a legal protection of a set term, or with conditions for conversion to other uses but which may be converted at any time. The conditions generally provide an opportunity for the Town to purchase the property.
- Unknown:** unknown indicates that no information has been found. The most likely protection level is “none”
- None:** refers to land known to be unprotected by owner or legal means.

Fully protected lands are permanently restricted to conservation or recreation uses by Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, a Conservation Restriction such as an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, or ownership by a non-profit Land Trust. Other areas may have only limited or temporary protection.

In 2007, with the help of a Self Help grant from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services, Spencer purchased a conservation restriction to permanently protect approximately 60 acres abutting Burncoat Pond. Mass Audubon has since successfully raised funds and purchased the rest of the interest (the fee interest) in the property. This property extends a large natural area and trail system. It will connect to 160 acres to be set aside as open space on the Sibley Farm subdivision and is managed by Mass Audubon as a wildlife sanctuary. The Annual Town Meeting in 2007 approved the purchase of a Conservation Restriction on an additional 4.2 acres on Greenville Street within this area, providing further protection for the wetlands, waterways, wildlife habitat, and scenic character of this area of town.

Temporary Protection is afforded by Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B of the Massachusetts General Laws. Many private landowners participate in one of these voluntary Chapter 61 tax assessment programs that benefit forestry, agriculture or open space uses. Owners of ten acres or more acres who manage their land for forestry uses can enroll in Chapter 61, which allows a 95% reduction in property taxes. There are no Chapter 61 lands left in Spencer. Owners of five or more acres used for commercial agriculture can enroll in Chapter 61A. Land used for open space/recreation purposes and is open to the public it can be enrolled in Chapter 61B. The Chapter 61A and 61B programs allow a reduction of about 75% in property taxes. The Town has the right of first refusal on Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B lands if owners sell or convert to residential, commercial or industrial uses (unless it is a residential use for a family member).

This kind of private stewardship currently preserves open fields and hilltops, productive forests and scenic stream valleys throughout the Town. Often, Chapter 61 lands have been owned by families for generations and have important places in Spencer’s history. The Town’s right of first refusal on Chapter 61 properties is an important conservation and recreation opportunity. To be prepared, the Town should have a policy and a well-defined process for working with a Chapter 61 landowner who decides to divest the property.

Limited Protection depends only on the philosophy and financial condition of the owner; there is no legal duty to allow the Town to intervene in a conversion of use. Much of the

open space in Spencer is owned and managed by the State and state agencies, or by a non-profit organization. The majority of these lands have only Limited Protection. Spencer State Forest, Howe State Park, and Buck Hill Conservation Center are among the most recreation popular facilities open to the public. The Buck Hill area offers a pond, buildings for 4-H activities, equestrian programs and trails Howe Park includes Howe Pond, a section of Cranberry Brook, and two smaller ponds that supply fishing, picnicking, hiking and swimming opportunities for Town residents and visitors, however the swimming area has been closed in recent years for lack of funding for DCR staff. Survey respondents noted that facilities at Howe Park and Buck Hill need better maintenance.

Treasure Valley, Camp Laurel, and Camp Bement are not deed restricted to open space use. The owning organizations can change the use of the land or sell all or part to support the purposes of the organization.

Many of the Town owned open space lands are also in this Limited Protection category and the Town can divert these for any municipal purpose at any time. Town schools and parks are popular for recreation activities. Athletic facilities at David Prouty High School are frequently used and the soccer field here offers a panoramic view from the top of Little Moose Hill. Survey results indicate the picnic, and water facilities at Luther Hill Park, and the facilities at Knox Trail Junior High School are also frequently used areas. Over half of survey respondents noted that Spencer's recreation facilities can be improved, and common suggestions included improved maintenance, better lighting and parking facilities.

Most private open space lands are Unprotected and not open to the public. Some private land owners, however, do grant permission for a trail to cross their property. The great majority of these permissions are informal. They can and often are withdrawn by the owner at any time.

Town schools and parks are popular for recreation activities. Athletic facilities at David Prouty High School were the most frequently used by 1999 Open Space Survey respondents; the soccer field there offers a panoramic view from the top of Little Moose Hill. 1999 survey results also indicated the picnic, tennis and water facilities at Luther Hill Park, and the facilities at Knox Trail Junior High School are frequently used areas. [Note: the 2009 survey did not include a similar question.] According to 2009 survey respondents, 32.7% were satisfied with the overall condition of existing facilities (30.3 % were not satisfied; 30.1% were not sure).

In 2010, a Town volunteer produced an Open Space and Recreation Brochure with detailed information about the Town's open space and recreational resources, including maps. However, the Town has had no funding to print it and not enough capacity on the Town's website to publicly post the brochure.

Section 6: Community Vision

A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

This planning process continues a long-standing commitment to the conservation and recreation needs of Town residents. The Conservation Commission prepared Conservation Plans in 1979, 1986 and 2001. Community surveys were conducted in 1986 and 1999 to assess needs and concerns of Spencer's citizens. For this 2012 update of Spencer's Open Space Plan a new survey questionnaire was mailed to all households in Town in 2009. Residents completed a total of 511 surveys. **Appendix B** contains a copy of the 2009 survey and compiled data.

Over the years the open space goals have not changed. The recent questionnaire results have ratified them again. The Objectives and the new Seven Year Action Plan presented in this 2012 update of the Open Space Plan have been changed to reflect the progress made since 2001 and to lay out a path forward toward those fundamental goals. This Plan was drafted under the auspices of the Conservation Commission by the Wetland/Soil Specialist in consultation with Recreation Commission and the other town departments involved carrying out the action items. Public attention has been directed to the update process by notifications at meetings of the Board of Selectmen which are televised on the local access channel. The 2011 draft plan was posted on www.spencerma.gov and made available at Town Hall and Sugden Library. Copies were also provided to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, and Common Ground Land Trust. Two public meetings were held in July 2011. Public comments and comments from EOEa and CMRPC were incorporated into the final plan.

B. STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

A pastoral landscape of rolling forests and fields combined with a peaceful small-town character and affordable housing make Spencer very attractive for both new and long term residents. Most respondents to open space surveys clearly agree that conservation issues are important. Results also show townspeople feel it is essential to ensure open spaces for water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation, as well as preserve historic features and farmlands. Added to this is the Town's wealth of ponds, reservoirs and streams that are especially valued by residents.

The open space planning process and community input identified five broad goals for ensuring the Town's open spaces and recreation uses in the future:

- GOAL 1: Protect valuable water resources from adverse impacts.
- GOAL 2: Retain Spencer's rural, small-town character.
- GOAL 3: Enhance recreation opportunities for Town residents & visitors
- GOAL 4: Preserve Spencer's open spaces and natural heritage.
- GOAL 5: Establish a continuous open space planning process

Work toward these goals must be reached within the constraints of what is possible. Therefore, it is intended that all the actions in this plan be carried out with three principles in mind:

1. Always stretch dollars as far as possible,
2. Use all regulatory tools available, and

3. The Town of Spencer should acquire the minimum interest in land that gives the needed protection or public access.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

A. RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS

Water Quality

Preservation of open spaces for water quality protection is most important to Town residents. This conservation strategy also protects adjacent wetlands, wildlife habitats and flood plains, as well as downstream ponds and water supplies. To address this priority, the Town will enforce the Rivers Protection Act and acquire lands beside waterways. Vegetated “riparian corridors” (i.e. land along rivers and streams) serve to reduce pollution and keep streams cooler - thus sustaining oxygen levels and more diverse ecosystems. The health and abundance of fish is directly related to the presence of these stream buffers. Amphibians and mammals also need undisturbed riparian corridors to travel through their home territories, migrate seasonally and reproduce successfully. Many people highly value brooks and streams as beautiful areas that are especially popular for outdoor activities. Trail systems on land along waterways can link large open spaces, such as Worcester County 4-H Center (made up of Camp Marshal and Buck Hill Conservation Area), with Town parks, ponds and reservoirs.

The Cranberry River (as designated on USGS topographic maps; known locally as Cranberry Meadow Brook) is an excellent example of a riparian corridor that is largely protected (by Spencer State Forest). Only a few small additional areas need to be protected to provide a continuous buffer from its headwaters to its confluence with the Seven Mile River. The additions would include Cranberry Meadow and wetlands near Casey Hill that provide habitats for endangered wildlife. The Depot Trail provides a corridor from Chestnut Street to South Spencer Road. When opportunities arise, other trail links should be established to Spencer State Forest and on to Cranberry Meadow Pond.

The Seven Mile River connects with Cranberry River and can extend a natural link to Ralph Warren Park, Buck Hill Conservation Center, St. Joseph’s Abbey and the Moose Hill Wildlife Area. A trail system along Turkey Hill Brook can link Small Ballpark to Sugden Reservoir, Eames Pond and Thompson Pond. Preservation of Seven Mile River lands will protect important wetlands and endangered wildlife habitats, as well as maintain the quality of water flowing into Great Meadows where Spencer’s primary municipal well field is located. Linking the Cranberry and Seven Mile river front areas can extend a valuable recreation and wildlife corridor from the Town’s borders with Oakham on the north to Charlton on the south.

A third priority is preserving Alder Meadow which links Stiles Reservoir with endangered habitats off G.H. Wilson Road and R. Jones Road. Connecting Spencer State Forest and this stream belt can establish an east-west corridor from Leicester to East Brookfield and protect the water flowing into Stiles Reservoir.

The Town's large ponds and reservoirs have weed problems due to nutrient loading from urban density housing, exotic aquatic plant infestation, runoff from poorly maintained private roads and related causes. As with many lakes and ponds in Massachusetts, the shoreline of most of Spencer's waterbodies were developed decades ago; originally as summer cottage colonies and since redeveloped into year-round neighborhoods. Encouragement, education, of and coordination with the lake and pond associations is essential to the health of the ponds. The creation of a management plan for each of these waterbodies defining problems, remedies, roles, and responsibilities would be beneficial. Cooperation between the Town and associations would increase the opportunities for grant funding.

In 2007, Spencer upgraded the Aquifer Protection section of the Zoning Bylaw. It now meets the Public Water Supply Protection regulatory requirements.

Agricultural and Forest

Spencer has lost approximately 365 acres of Chapter 61A land since 2001 largely because the cost of acquisition was deemed excessive or the town couldn't respond within the 120 day period during which it had the option to purchase. The town needs to develop a coherent policy for rapid response when land in these programs comes up for release. In addition, the Town needs to work with non-profit organizations owning tax exempt land e.g. St. Joseph's Abbey, Camp Laurelwood, Camp Marshall, and Treasure Valley, to establish more permanent protection of these valuable open spaces.

When land is under consideration for acquisition, the following criteria should be considered and a scoring system developed based on the criteria. Land meeting multiple criteria would be deemed worthwhile. Such a system could result in objective evaluation of the public value of purchase and give a rapid pre-crisis established rational justification for expenditure of funds. The following criteria are proposed:

1. The presence of Prime Agricultural Soil (an irreplaceable resource).
2. The land sits over Zone II of a public water supply well.
3. The land is a link in a stream/river corridor.
4. The land or an easement thereon provides a trail link.
5. The land is part of a lake/pond watershed and needed for water quality protection.
6. The land contains rare species habitat, or has another identified eco-service value.
7. The land has potential for development of active recreation (e.g. level and suitable soil for a soccer field) or enhances an existing facility e.g. space for parking, pedestrian access, handicapped access etc.).
8. Lake/pond public access.
9. Suitable space for a needed water quality management structure.
10. Lake/pond shore/bank protection.
11. Scenic view or other aesthetic value.
12. Historic significance.
13. Preservation of a significant archeological site.

During completion of the development of this 2007 Open Space Plan, and as an ongoing part of the process for future Open Space Plans, the criteria should be reviewed and amended to match Spencer's needs.

B. COMMUNITY NEEDS

General Community Needs

As Spencer absorbs development it will be important to provide for continued and expanded public access to trails and water resources now used by custom. Access to some water bodies historically used, such as the Cranberry Meadow Lake where many residents remember being able to swim and fish, has been cut off by the assertion of private ownership rights. Clarification of responsibility for dam maintenance is also a current challenge.

Trails are good value, providing a range of recreational opportunities: walking, hiking, running, biking, cross country skiing, bird watching and in appropriate locations snowmobile or ATV riding. These recreational activities can be enjoyed by a wide range of ages and abilities.

The legal status of each park and piece of municipal land needs to be researched because the purpose stated when the Town Meeting voted for acquisition affects the allowable uses. Choosing appropriate sites for expanded recreational use, especially for facilities, will be influenced by legalities. Specific park improvement needs are detailed in **Section D., Park Improvement Needs.**

Careful planning of recreation facilities on areas important for resource protection can help attract visitors to Town. Tourism is one of the largest sectors of the Massachusetts economy. The availability of open spaces and recreation can create greater opportunities for small retail stores, recreation and agricultural businesses which survey results showed as the top three needs for new businesses. It is important to carefully maintain the resources and their functions as uses intensify with the growth of the resident and visiting populations. Keeping this balance will require constant effort from staff, volunteers, and citizen-users.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Massachusetts Outdoors 2006, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), is a comprehensive plan for Massachusetts outdoor recreation. The SCORP identifies swimming as the activity most engaged in by residents of Central Massachusetts (61%); walking, sightseeing, hiking, fishing, picnicking, and playground activity are also popular. Central Massachusetts also has the strongest participation rate in boating, especially non-motorized. SCORP findings indicate that golf courses, neighborhood playgrounds, and tot lots are available locally, but may be over capacity, under maintained, or both. In terms of facility needs, the SCORP states:

When asked what new facilities would most benefit them, residents of the Central Region showed the highest interest in facilities for walking (16.4%), swimming (17.0%), hiking (14.4%, the strongest interest in the state), road biking (12.1%), and playground activity (10.2%) [p.77]

2009 Survey Results

The 2009 Survey Results are provided in **Appendix B**. The perception of Spencer is changing (question 1). While nearly half of the respondents (48.7%) view the Town as Rural, 26.0% view the Town as a Growing Community, and 15.3% identify the Town as a Worcester Suburb. As development reduces the open character in outlying areas, Spencer can retain rural character through selective purchases of open space and growth management tools to minimize the impact of suburbanization. In fact, an overwhelming majority of respondents (81.6%) believe “there is a need to preserve land for open space” (question 2).

Residents seem less certain about the need for new recreation facilities; 41.9% of respondents feel there are insufficient recreation facilities for children (question 3), and 46.8% feel such facilities are inadequate for adults (question 4). This may indicate a need to enhance the utility of existing recreation facilities to meet growing needs for recreation among both children and adults before acquiring land or developing new areas for such purposes.

Question 5 asked respondents to rank their preferences for various types of recreation activities. Table 3 below shows the results.

**Table 6:
Preference for Recreation Facilities**

Activity	Rank	(%)	Activity	Rank	%
Hike/Bike Trails	1	67.1%	Public Beaches	5	26.2%
Youth Center	2	46.4%	Tennis / BBall Courts	6	24.9%
Neighborhood Parks	3	43.1%	Ski/Snowmobile Trails	7	19.0%
Children’s Play Areas	4	35.6%	Ball Fields	8	17.8%

Hiking and bicycling trails are desired by over two-thirds of the respondents. The development of the Depot Trail has gone a long way to meet this need. The survey also points to the need to expand the trail network in Spencer; by starting to interconnect existing trails, long distance routes will provide varied terrain to satisfy a range of skill levels. The second greatest need respondents identified is for a Youth Center. Such a facility can provide year-round recreation facilities for youth and help to instill values of team work, fair play, and community service.

The survey shows a lack of consensus regarding the condition of existing facilities, as roughly equal numbers indicated they were satisfied, not satisfied, or unsure about the

condition of facilities. The results indicate that further research will be necessary to identify more clearly those facilities that residents feel are inadequate and should be improved.

In Question 7, respondents ranked various items in order of priority. From 1-5, with one the highest priority, respondents favored protection of water supply above all others.

1. Protect water resources (aquifer, lakes, ponds, streams)
2. Repair roads and infrastructure (water, sewer, drainage)
3. Improve the Downtown appearance and function
4. Renovate existing buildings and recreation areas and facilities
5. Acquire open space to increase protection of rural character and add recreation opportunities

2009 survey results indicated the best methods for the Town acquire additional land for open space, in order of preference, are: gifts, grants, land trusts, outright purchase, tax title, zoning bylaws, real estate transfer tax, and easements.

Accessibility Needs

Spencer completed its Americans with Disabilities Act “Transition Plan” in 1997 and promptly implemented an extensive list of improvements to make all of its facilities and services accessible to individuals with disabilities. For purposes of this Open Space & Recreation Plan, Spencer examined its parks and conservation lands to identify barriers that prevent those with disabilities from fully participating in community programs and services. School facilities and privately-owned sites are not a part of this analysis. As a result of the 1997 Plan, Spencer made the following improvements:

O’Gara Park

1. Provided the grandstand with designated disabled seating and proper signage. Modified the ramp leading to the seating area for proper slope, hand rails and landing.
2. Marked and designated disabled parking spaces, and established a policy to permit the disabled to drive to the grandstand.
3. Modified the restrooms for disabled persons.
4. Prepared disability sensitivity training for all park personnel including any new employees.

Luther Hill Park

1. Updated restrooms to ADA standards.
2. Designated handicapped parking spaces with proper signage near the beach.
3. Constructed a ramp for access to the beach.
4. Purchased a wheelchair and mat to allow access over the sandy beach to the water for aquatic recreational programs.

5. The concession stand is currently used for storage, and as such did not have to be modified for compliance. Should it ever again be used as a concession stand, then the counter must be lowered to a maximum height of 36”.

The Spencer Fairgrounds is owned by the Town but managed by the Spencer Agricultural Association, a non-profit organization of 40 volunteers for the purpose of promoting agriculture. The Spencer Agricultural Association has worked diligently to implement measures to increase accessibility, including adding paved walkways, accessible bathrooms, a lift to access a two-story structure, and wheelchair accessible spaces at grandstands.

The Town of Spencer has been proactive in working on improving accessibility in all park and recreational facilities. See **Appendix F** for ADA Access Self-Evaluation.

C. MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Spencer has limited financial resources. Identification of funding sources remains a key element for acquisition of open spaces and improvement of recreation facilities. The Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committee need to be drawn into and more regularly involved in the Open Space Planning process.

In 2003 the Town adopted a Master Plan and planning and inspectional services were consolidated in 2005 into one department, the Office of Development and Inspectional Services. The Town hired its first Town Planner, who was also the Director of ODIS. This helped foster better communication among the Town’s boards. In 2010, the Town Planner position was reduced to part-time, limiting the ability of the Town to undertake long-term planning and resource protection efforts. Also since 2001, the Town has established part-time positions: a Wetland/Soil Specialist supporting the Conservation Commission and a Recreation Director supporting the consolidated Parks and Recreation Commission. Along with their other responsibilities, these personnel and their respective Commissions cooperate on implementation of the Open Space Plan and continue to seek grants to address Spencer’s open space and recreation needs. However, some programs will still require a participation fee.

The 2001 Open Space Plan identified development of a schedule for maintenance and improvements of recreation areas as an important need. That has been accomplished along with a significant portion of the maintenance identified. Improvements at O’Gara Park, Luther Hill Park, and Powdermill Park listed in Objective 3.2 of this plan are needed continuations of that effort.

Adoption of the Community Preservation Act might provide some funding but Spencer residents have, so far, been averse to consideration of a “new tax.”

D. PARK IMPROVEMENT NEEDS

In 2008, Spencer’s Facilities Maintenance & Repair Committee completed a study of all Town buildings and facilities. The charge of the Committee was to determine the amount of funding needed to adequately maintain buildings and facilities in good repair and to set priorities for improvements by establishing an objective scoring system. For purposes of

this OSRP, the Committee evaluated O’Gara Park, Luther Hill Park, and Powder Mill Park. The Plan provides a detailed analysis of the facilities. Some improvements have already been completed. The 2011 Capital Needs Assessment and Schedule of Maintenance, prepared by the Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission, updated the 2008 study and outline all capital and maintenance needs. Below is a summary of the park improvement needs.

O’Gara Park

The grandstands have recently been updated to better accommodate persons with disabilities. The structure has also been repainted recently, and requires only routine maintenance.

The park does not currently have a permanently functioning restroom building; porta-potties are currently rented. The concession building is outdated and the equipment has not been enhanced in recent memory. The Park commission recommends the construction of a new modernized accessible concession /restroom building which would enhance both the public enjoyment of and the ability of local groups and the town to hold larger recreational events at O’Gara Park. The estimated cost of this project is \$178,000.00.

The park has no paved parking areas. To provide paved parking for approximately 100 spaces would cost approximately \$33,000.00 (2007 estimate for approximately 40,000 square feet).

Vandalism is a major issue causing maintenance costs at O’Gara Park. To deter vandalism or to at least help town officials hold vandals responsible for the damage the cause, the Park commissioners recommend the installation of an 8 camera system which would be connected to the Police Department to be viewed in real time and film for police to retrieve to use as evidence when needed. The estimated cost of this system is \$46,000.00.

Items that require an annual set aside of funds:

- Grandstand repairs and maintenance
- Field maintenance, reseeding, and refurbishment

Other issues which need to be addressed include fencing repair/replacement, field refurbishment, walking track upgrades, sprinkler system repairs, lighting upgrades, and connection of the Rail Trail to the O’Gara Parking Lot.

Luther Hill Park

New pavement for the main drive was completed in 2007. Providing of accessible parking spaces across from the accessible ramp to the beach has been addressed. They need to be repainted each year.

There are three small buildings on the grounds which require routine general maintenance. The old bath house is in need of minor interior demolition of unused facilities and patch work to the floor and walls in order to be used for storage.

2008 Estimated Costs:

Repair or Replacement Cost: \$214,720
Annual Maintenance Cost: \$11,501

Vandalism is also a major issue causing maintenance costs at Luther Hill Park. To deter vandalism or to at least help town officials hold vandals responsible for the damage the cause, the Park commissioners recommend the installation of an 8 camera system which would be connected to the Police Department to be viewed in real time and film for police to retrieve to use as evidence when needed. The estimated cost of this system is \$42,000.00.

To enhance the experience of families using the beach area, the Park commission recommends the upgrade and improvement of the playground area at Luther Hill Park. This upgrade would include some equipment similar to that now used at Powdermill Park which has been well received by the public. The approximate costs of this playground upgrade/expansion project would be \$15,000-\$20,000.

In order to restore some events which are documented to have historically occurred at Luther Hill Park (such as concerts), the Park commission recommends re-creation of the historic pavilion at Luther Hill Park with accompanying landscaping work. The estimated cost of this project is \$100,000 for the pavilion and \$5,000.00 for landscaping work.

Restoration of the stone walls at Luther Hill Park would help retain the historical nature of the park. Luther Hill Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The cost of restoration work would be approximately \$40,000.00.

Other projects include adding of paddle boats and a fishing /boating dock at the approximate cost of \$6,000.00. The addition of grills, replacement of skateboard park fencing, refurbishing of picnic tables, repainting of benches and picnic tables, reconstruction of lifeguard stand, purchase of new rescue boat, boathouse repairs, tree work, refurbishment of old bath house for parking attendant station use/storage, and addition of new signage/trash cans are other issues which will need to be addressed.

There are three small buildings on the grounds which require routine general maintenance. The old bath house is in need of minor interior demolition of unused facilities and patch work to the floor and walls in order to be used for storage.

2008 Estimated Costs:

Repair or Replacement Cost: \$214,720
Annual Maintenance Cost: \$11,501

Items at Luther Hill Park that require an annual set aside of funds:

- Weed control/treatment
- Water testing

- Beach preparation each summer, including sand replenishment

Powder Mill Park

Vandalism is also a consistent issue at Powdermill Park. Vandalism causes the need to repair or replace playground equipment. To help deter vandalism and to help the police hold the vandals accountable for the damages they cause, the Park Commissioners recommend that a 4 camera security system which would be directly linked to the Police Department for viewing in real time and would provide film for needed evidence. The estimated cost of this system is \$14,000.00

The addition of more paved parking spaces near the road has been recommended. The estimated cost of this paving project is \$25,000.00. To ensure access for the disabled to the playground equipment, the safety fiber needs to be replaced every 3 years at an approximate cost of \$3,000.00 (this was recently completed). This currently needs to be completed. Fencing repair/replacement work needs to be completed. Some playground equipment needs to be replaced and an annual sum should be set aside each year for this purpose. The grass area needs to be treated in an environmentally friendly manner and refurbished due to grub damage. An annual sum of money needs to be set aside for the following items:

- porta-potty rentals to provide meet the restroom needs of the visiting public
- maintenance of grass when refurbished

Depot Trail

The Rail Trail has suffered some erosion and damage due to certain areas being washed out. The drainage system in certain areas of the trail needs to be repaired or improved to lessen potential damage from rain. The pond and dam area need to be assessed and work potentially done to help preserve the pond environment and ecosystem.

To improve public use and enjoyment of the Rail Trail, the Park commission recommends the addition of more benches at appropriate spots along the trail. To encourage the use of the rail trail for exercise purposes, the Park Commissioners recommend the purchase of Wellness Stations to promote stretching. The Park Commissioner would also like to explore the creation of a handicapped-accessible fishing area at the pond along the Rail Trail.

The Park commission will work with the Spencer Conservation Commission and the local snowmobile group to obtain funding and volunteer support to help preserve, maintain, and improve the Rail Trail.

Monument Refurbishment and Repairs

The Park Commission has oversight over various monuments within our parks. These include the Bemis Monument at Bemis Park, the monument at Powdermill Park, and the

Soldier's Monument at Prouty Park. No one has recently brought in any consultant to evaluate the conditions of these monuments, identify needed repairs or maintenance steps, or estimated costs for long term preservation of these historically important monuments. The Park Commission has requested \$5,000.00 to survey these monuments, identify needed repairs or preservation measures with cost estimates, and begin some repairs identified as needed.

Pet Waste Disposal Dispenser Solution System

To help pet owners who utilize park facilities where pets are permitted to clean up after their pets, we have in past capital plans proposed the purchase of eight pet waste disposal dispensers. The cost of purchase and installation in 2008 was \$ 3,632.00.

Dog Park at Ralph Warren Park

In prior capital plans, the Park Commission has identified a desire to establish a dog park at Ralph Warren Park. Further investigation of the feasibility, design, and costs of this endeavor needs to be conducted.

Section 8: Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: Protect valuable water resources from adverse impacts.

- Objective 1.1 - Protect the Town's water supply.
- Objective 1.2 - Preserve watersheds of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.
- Objective 1.3 - Preserve the lands beside rivers and streams.

GOAL 2: Retain Spencer's rural, small-town character.

- Objective 2.1 - Manage land uses along major roads (Routes 31 & 9).
- Objective 2.2 - Preserve and enhance Town center.
- Objective 2.3 - Develop tools to manage Town growth.

GOAL 3: Enhance recreation opportunities for Town residents & visitors

- Objective 3.1 - Increase awareness and enjoyment of recreation facilities and programs
- Objective 3.2 - Provide for maintenance of existing Town recreation facilities
- Objective 3.3 - Improve water quality in Lake Whittemore
- Objective 3.4 - Enhance Spencer's trail network to provide access to existing parks, historic sites, and conservation lands
- Objective 3.5 - Develop financial plan to support expansion of recreation opportunities

GOAL 4: Preserve Spencer's open spaces and natural heritage.

- Objective 4.1 - Protect open spaces for wildlife habitats.
- Objective 4.2 - Preserve farmlands and forest lands.
- Objective 4.3 - Enhance and increase conservation lands.

GOAL 5: Establish a continuous open space planning process

Section 9: Seven-Year Action Plan

A. STRATEGY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION

There are many activities outside this Seven-Year Action Plan which are continuous and ongoing functions. The Seven Year Open Space and Recreation Plan represents only part of the work necessary to protect the natural resources and provide recreation opportunities for the citizens of Spencer.

Ongoing Activities

Ongoing activities and legal responsibilities are important and necessary to carry out this Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Some of these activities are:

- The Conservation Commission administers and enforces the Rivers Protection Act, Wetlands Protection Act, and Spencer Wetlands Bylaw.
- The Conservation Commission reviews forest cutting plans.
- The Development Services team proactively assists real estate agents, land developers, and civil engineers to preserve and maintain health of wetlands, riparian corridors, and other important habitats.
- The Selectmen and the Development Services team (using the new Town Center, and Village Residential zoning adopted Nov. 2006) encourages small retail stores and recreation businesses to locate in the Town Center to revitalize the neighborhood and reduce pressure for commercial services on open land.
- The Planning Board proposes amendments to zoning and other bylaws to implement the Master Plan.
- The Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission apply for state and federal grants for facilities development and land acquisition.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission runs recreation programs and works with community groups (e.g. Boy Scouts, 4-H Club, Sportsmens' Club) to improve and maintain Town parks. All Town officials and boards seek state and federal assistance to enhance parks to increase access and enjoyment.

Land Protection Prioritization Strategy

When land is under consideration for acquisition to implement this plan, the following criteria should be considered and a scoring system developed based on the criteria. Land meeting multiple criteria would be deemed worthwhile. Such a system could result in objective evaluation of the public value of purchase and give a rapid pre-crisis established rational justification for expenditure of funds. The following criteria are proposed:

- The presence of Prime Agricultural Soil (an irreplaceable resource).
- The land sits over Zone II of a public water supply well.
- The land is a link in a stream/river corridor.
- The land or an easement thereon provide or preserve a trail link.

- The land is part of a lake/pond watershed and needed for water quality protection.
- The land contains rare species habitat, or has another identified eco-service value.
- The land has potential for development of active recreation (e.g. level and suitable soil for a soccer field) or enhances an existing facility e.g. space for parking, pedestrian access, handicapped access etc.).
- Lake/pond public access.
- Suitable space for a needed water quality management structure.
- Lake/pond shore/bank protection.
- Scenic view or other aesthetic value.
- Historic significance.
- Preservation of a significant archeological site.

During completion of the development of this 2012 Open Space Plan, and as an on-going part of the process for future Open Space Plans, the criteria and their priority should be reviewed and amended to match Spencer’s needs.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

The 2012 Open Space Plan Committee proposes the following set of actions to address Spencer’s open space and recreation needs. While each action is shown below under a specific objective outlined in Section 8, a proposed action will often serve to benefit multiple objectives. **Map 8**, Action Plan Map, highlights general areas that are a focus for some of the key actions.

Implementation of this Action Plan is necessarily subject to constraints of the staff, volunteers, and budget. The Plan provides a map which can guide those resources available directly to action. With such pre-existing map, timely response to opportunities which arise is possible. Many of the action items in the Plan aim at strengthening and expanding the framework. This is a route map but the speed of travel is not guaranteed.

The proposed actions are organized by Goals and their corresponding Objectives. The accompanying chart is intended to emphasize the sequence through time of the actions. The schedule should be reviewed annually, and modified as needed, to respond to special opportunities or resources available for implementation.

In the Action Plan Text and Schedule Chart the involved staff, boards, committees, and departments for action are identified and the project lead agency is in **bold** type. The abbreviations used for these entities are:

ADA-C = Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator	SC = Sewer Commission
BoH = Board of Health	SD = Sewer Department
BoS = Board of Selectmen	TA = Town Administrator
CC = Conservation Commission	TP = Town Planner
HistC = Historic Commission	WC = Water Commission
ODIS = Office of Development and Inspectional Services	WD = Water Dept
OSPC = Open Space Planning Committee	WSS = Wetland Soil Specialist
PB = Planning Board	U&F = Department of Utilities and Facilities
RC = Recreation Commission	ZBA = Zoning Board of Appeals.
RCT = River Corridor and Trails Committee	

Communication in Support of All Goals and Objectives

Town officials will communicate with residents, community groups, other municipal boards, and regional, state, and federal agencies. Communication has been hindered by p capacity and funding constraints for website, printing documents and signs. For example, as of March 2011, Spencer had an Open Space and Recreation Brochure with maps but no funding to print it and not enough capacity on the website to post it.

With respect to open space and recreation town officials should, where feasible:

- C1. Publicize, post on the Town website, and distribute this Plan to all Town boards. (CC, **OSPC**, Year 1)
- C2. Continue environmental education – work with news media and distribute information about conservation and recreation matters to community groups, landowners, businesses and Town residents. (CC, Years 2 - 7)
- C3. Publicize and celebrate each milestone, e.g. Division of Conservation Services acceptance of this Plan, votes to acquire land rights, upgrades in recreation facilities or programs, etc. (OSPC, WSS, BoS, & TA, Years 1 - 7)
- C4. Install signs identifying Town trails, parks, and conservation lands. (CC, Year 3)
- C5. Compile & maintain contact information covering open space related community groups. (WSS, Year 1 - 7)
- C6. Enhance Conservation Commission webpage. (WSS, Year 1)
- C7. Enhance the Recreation Commission webpage, including the addition of the Open Space and Recreation Brochure (RC, Year 1)

GOAL 1: Protect valuable water resources from adverse impacts

Objective 1.1 - Protect the Town's water supply:

- 1.1a. Inventory land use and ownership of aquifer lands supplying the Town's wellfields. (CC, ODIS, WC, and WD, Years 1- 2)
- 1.1b. Identify priorities and methods to acquire targeted aquifer recharge areas. (WC, WD, CC, ODIS, Years 3 - 4)
- 1.1c. Continue the storm drain stenciling project. Focus on discharges into the Aquifer Protection Zone. (U&F, Years 1)
- 1.1d. Produce and post two public education material products about the location and value of Spencer water resources each year (WD, CC, WSS Years 1-7)

Objective 1.2 - Preserve watersheds of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs:

- 1.2a. Clarify ownership of dams and land under water where unknown. (TA, BoS, Year 1)

- 1.2b. Identify stakeholders for each water body and determine roles and responsibilities. (WSS, Year 2)
- 1.2c. Resolve issues where private road drainage is adversely affecting water bodies. (TP, PB, TA, BoS, and CC, years 2 &3.)
- 1.2d. Delineate & publish the contributing watershed for each water body. (WSS, Year 2)
- 1.2e. Complete sewer and water planning to assist in designation of a high service area. (WD & WC., SD. & SC, TP, Year 2)
- 1.2f. Work with identified pond stakeholders using guidance from the state Lakes & Ponds Program to improve waterbody management. (CC, WSS, Years 2 – 5)
- 1.2g. Develop management plans for Town owned-water bodies. (WSS, pond stakeholders, Years 2 - 7)

Objective 1.3 - Preserve the lands beside rivers and streams:

- 1.3a. Identify protection gaps & consider acquiring rights in land to address needs. (WSS, TP, U&F, Years 2 - 4)
- 1.3b. Develop upgraded inspection and enforcement for Spencer’s water protection regulations. (WSS, PB, TP, U&F, Years 2)
- 1.3c. Improve coordination of permit reviews by ZBA, BoH, CC, U&F and PB, TP, Year 1)
- 1.3d. Establish an ad-hoc River Corridor and Trails Committee. (CC, Year 1)
- 1.3e. Identify priorities and methods to protect Cranberry River, Seven Mile River/Turkey Hill Brook corridors, and Alder Meadow. (CC, RCT, Years 2 - 3)
- 1.3f. Identify priorities and methods to develop an open space corridor linking Stiles Reservoir with the Cranberry River. (CC, RCT, Years 4 - 7)

GOAL 2: Preserve Spencer’s rural, small-town character

Objective 2.1 - Manage land uses along major roads:

- 2.1a. Compile a list of historic resources, Heritage Landscapes and their locations for use by the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Commission during development review and planning activities. (HistC, Year 1)
- 2.1b. Enter the historic resources into Spencer’s GIS. (WSS, Year 2)
- 2.1c. Inventory scenic resources and views. (HistC, OSPC, Years 3 - 4)
- 2.1d. Review priorities and methods to protect scenic and historic resources. (HC, OSPC, Years 4 - 7)

- 2.1e. Reconsider adopting the Community Preservation Act as a source of funding (TP, TA, **BoS**, CC, HistC, Year 5-7.)

Objective 2.2 - Preserve and enhance the Town Center:

- 2.2a. Map and plan for development of safe pedestrian routes through and around the Town center. (**RCT**, TP, U&F; Years 4-5)
- 2.2b. Encourage development and re-development of commercial and residential uses in the Town Center (as opposed to outlying areas) to concentrate development in previously-developed areas rather than in undeveloped land of open space or recreational value. Consider use of the Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District Act, (M.G.L. Chapter 40R, for this purpose. (**TP**, PB Years 3 - 4)
- 2.2c. Consider creating pocket parks on the small Town owned miscellaneous lots (TP, CC, RecC, Year 5-6)
- 2.2d. Improve landscaping on Town Properties using Low Impact Development (LID) techniques such as rain gardens and native plants. (**CC**, U&F, volunteers Years 1-7.)
- 2.2e. Develop a “Spencer Looks Good” annual contest for local business to encourage maintenance and appearance upgrades. (TP, PB, **BoS** & volunteers. Years 2-7, evaluate in year 6.)

Objective 2.3 - Develop tools to manage Town growth:

- 2.3a. Periodically assess and adopt new tools, as appropriate, such as Transfer of Development Rights. (TP, WSS, CC, **PB**, Years 2-3 & 6-7)
- 2.3b. Encourage donation of land or conservation restrictions. Distribute information about options for landowners. (**TP**, CC, Years 3-7)
- 2.3c. Annually assess possibility of strategic land acquisition (see criteria above and map). A single land acquisition project may advance multiple action plan’s goals and objectives .(**CC**, TP, PB, & BoS, Years 1-7)

GOAL 3: Enhance recreation opportunities for Town residents & visitors

Objective 3.1 - Increase awareness and enjoyment of recreation facilities and programs:

- 3.1a. Prepare, post on the web, and publicize a guide to Town conservation and recreation lands. (WSS, **CC**, RC, Year 1)
- 3.1b. Ensure access to recreation for all demographic groups. (ADA Coordinator, **RC**, CC, Years 1 - 2)
- 3.1c. Seek funding for a Director of Recreation to coordinate programs, oversee staff, obtain grant funding, develop new programming, and interact with the public. (**RC**, Year 2)

- 3.1d. Seek stable funding for lifeguards, swimming instructors, Summer Adventure Program staff, and parking attendants (**RC**, Years 1-7)
- 3.1e. Develop partnerships with local schools, town departments, and community groups to enhance park facilities and recreational programming (**RC**, Years 1-7)
- 3.1f. Continue to improve ADA accessibility of all Town recreational facilities and programs (**RC**, ADA-C, Years 1-7)
- 3.1g. Consider establishment of dog park at Ralph Warren Park or other location as appropriate (**RC**), Year 3

Objective 3.2 - Provide for maintenance of existing Town recreation facilities:

- 3.2a. Provide permanent restroom facility at Powder Mill Park playground. (**RC**, U&F, Year 2)
- 3.2b. Renovate restrooms and concession stand at O’Gara Park. (**RC**, U&F, Year 3)
- 3.2c. Expand use of Luther Hill Park by adding an open pavilion for events and programs, which can serve residents from a wide age range, including concerts, summer movies, and rainy day picnics. (**RC**, BoS, TA, Years 4 - 5)
- 3.2d. Conduct regular site visits of park facilities to determine maintenance needs (**RC**, U&F, Years 1-7)
- 3.2e. Develop coordinated maintenance task list which is revisited at least on an annual basis (**RC**, Years 1-7)
- 3.2f. Seek funding for additional staff through either Parks & Recreation Department or Utilities & Facilities Department to have dedicated park maintenance staff. (**RC**, U&F, Year 3)
- 3.2g. Review park capital/facility needs on at least an annual basis (BoS, **RC**, U&F, Years 1-7)
- 3.2h. Plan for and seek funding for both maintenance and capital needs (**RC**, U&F, Years 1-7)

Objective 3.3 - Improve water quality in Lake Whittemore:

- 3.3a. Monitor water quality of Lake Whittemore (including regular testing during the summer season) and identify sources of contamination. Enforce local wetland and stormwater regulations where applicable to identified sources. (BoH, CC, **WSS**, Years 2 – 4)
- 3.3b. Seek funding, including application for state funds, to remove sources of contamination at Lake Whittemore. (CC, **WSS**, Years 5 – 7)

Objective 3.4 - Enhance Spencer’s trail network to provide access to existing parks, historic sites, and conservation lands:

- 3.4a. Establish a Corridor and Trails Committee (See also objective (RC, BoS, CC, PB, TA, Year 2)

- 3.4b. Map the location of the Mid-State Trail with accurate GPS giving .private lands and threatened sections priority (WSS and **RCT**, Year 1-2)
- 3.4c. Recruit local trail groups and users to map existing trails with and without formal rights to pass. Identify stewards e.g. Spencer Snowbirds for snowmobile trails. (**RCT**, Years 3- 4)
- 3.4d. Identify Midstate Trail locations in private ownership and susceptible to development. Work with landowners to obtain permanent easements for the Midstate Trail through its entire length in Spencer. (**RCT**, TP, Years 3 – 7)
- 3.4e. Create a master trail map with a key to level of access protection. (**CC**, **RC**, TP, and **RCT**, Years 4-6.).

Objective 3.5 - Develop financial plan to support expansion of recreation opportunities:

- 3.5a. Conduct public survey and other outreach to determine recreation needs and interests (**RC**, Year 1)
- 3.5b. Research programs offered by other communities (**RC**, Years 1-7)
- 3.5c. As part of capital planning process (see 3.2 above) identify park improvements that would enhance recreational opportunities (**RC**, U&F, Years 1-7)
- 3.5d. Seek grant and Town funding to expand programming (**RC**, Years 1-7)
- 3.5e. Develop community partnerships that would enhance recreational opportunities (**RC**, Years 1-7)

GOAL 4: Preserve Spencer’s open spaces and natural heritage.

Objective 4.1 - Protect open spaces for wildlife habitats:

- 4.1a. Provide information about Spencer’s rare habitats to all Town departments reviewing projects likely to impact habitat. (**WSS**, **CC**, Year 1)
- 4.1b. Publicize MESA regulations. Link to Spencer website if possible. (**CC**, **WSS**, Years 2)
- 4.1c. Overlay Priority & Estimated Habitat Map with parcel data. Post overlay map on **CC** website & at Town Hall. (**WSS**, Year 2)
- 4.1d. Work with MA Natural Heritage Program to preserve habitats of rare wildlife and plants. (**CC**, **WSS**, Years 3 - 7)
- 4.1e. Recruit volunteers to certify vernal pools (an important habitat).(WSS, **CC**, Years 1-3)

Objective 4.2 - Preserve farmlands and forest lands:

- 4.2a. Establish an Agricultural Commission. (**TA**, **BoS**, **CC**, Year 1)

- 4.2b. Publicize benefits and support applications for Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, Conservation Restrictions, and Chapter 61 programs. (CC, WSS, Years 2 & 5)
- 4.2c. Distribute information to assist private stewardship by large landowners, such as St. Joseph's Abbey. (CC, Worcester Conservation District, regional land trusts, Years 3 -& 6)
- 4.2d. Develop policy and process for working with landowners when the Town has the right of first refusal on Chapter 61 lands. (BoS, TA, CC, and Assessors. Year 1-2)
- 4.2e. Monitor forest management policies and practices of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) regarding state-owned or managed forests in Spencer. (CC, PB, Years 1-7)

Objective 4.3 - Enhance and increase conservation lands:

- 4.3a. Develop a management plan for all Conservation lands. (CC, WSS, Year 3)
- 4.3b. Foster and support a local Land Trust (OSPC Years 1-7)
- 4.3c. Preserve corridors linking protected lands wherever feasible. (OSPC, CC, RC, RCT, HistC, Years 1 – 7)
- 4.3d. Develop a Conservation Fund as authorized by MGLCh.40 §8C and appropriate funds annually (CC, TA, BoS, Year 2.)
- 4.3e. Establish community gardens in Spencer (CC, ODIS), Year 4
- 4.3f. Publicize available tax-deductible charitable contributions to Town funds for open space and recreation purposes (ODIS, TA), Years 1-7

Objective 4.4 – Protect and enhance lands available for hunting and fishing

- 4.4a. Prepare map of lands available for hunting and fishing (ODIS, OSPC), Year 1
- 4.4b. Work to ensure that hunting and fishing is included in discussions of land protection (ODIS, OSPC), Years 1-7

GOAL 5: Establish a continuous open space planning process

Planning is like driving down a winding road. It is necessary to adjust the steering often.

5.0: Annually

Annually report on what got done for Goals 1-4 in the Conservation Commission section of the Town Annual Report and post it on the Conservation Commission and Planning Board pages on the web. (TP, PB, CC, WSS, Years 1-7).

5.1: Year One

- 5.1a. Re-establish Open Space Plan Committee or other mechanism to ensure oversight of implementation and foster and monitor proposed actions. (**TA**, **TP**, **RC**, **WSS**)
- 5.1b. Re-establish funding for a full-time Town Planner to assist with plan implementation (**BoS**)

5.2: Year Two

- 5.2a. Identify who contacts landowners and who negotiates. (**TP**, **TA**, **WSS**, **OSPC**, **CC**)
- 5.2b. Identify more potential partners for land preservation projects. (**CC**, **OSPC**)

5.3: Year Three

- 5.3a. Solicit regional input from CMRPC, abutting towns, and watershed groups. (**OSPC**, **WSS**)
- 5.3b. Schedule and hold a meeting among Town boards, state agencies, and conservation groups to review progress and coordinate implementation of the OSRP. (**OSPC**, **TA**)

5.4: Year Four

- 5.4a. Assemble information and data available from within the Town and from state and federal agencies. (**WSS**, **OSPC**)
- 5.4b. Review 2010 Census data for implications on recreation services. (**TP**)

5.5: Year Five

- 5.5a. Obtain current DCS requirements for Open Space Plans to identify changes for the next update. (**TP**, **WSS**)
- 5.5b. Develop and distribute a new survey for public input. Tabulate and review returned surveys. (**TP**, **OSPC**)

5.6: Year Six

- 5.6a. Review capabilities of staff, boards and departments and budgets realistically available for Plan Implementation. (**TP**, **TA**, **OSPC**)
- 5.6b. Complete revised Draft Plan and circulate among departments for comments. (**OSPC**, **TP**, **WSS**)
- 5.6c. Hold public meetings for community input on Draft Plan and incorporate comments (**OSPC**, **PB**, **TP**, **CC**, **WSS**)
- 5.6d. Submit Draft Plan to DCS for review. Make corrections needed to obtain approval. (**TP**, **WSS**, **OSPC**)

5.7: *Year Seven*

- 5.7a. Hold second public meetings. (**OSPC**, CC, RC)
- 5.7b. Incorporate public comments. Complete final version of the updated OSRP. (TP, OSPC)
- 5.7c. Adopt and publish the new plan. (OSPC, CC, WSS, **PB**, RC)
- 5.7d. Submit Final Plan to the DCS. (**TP**)

Take a deep breath. Start over with year 1.

Note: Plan Years shall run from one Annual Town Meeting to the next Annual Town Meeting.

C. ACTION TASK CHART & SCHEDULE

Objective	Task	Agency ¹	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Year							
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
C.1	Publicize, Post, and Distribute this OSRP	CC, OSPC	n/a	Medium								
C.2	Continue Environmental Education	CC	Town	Med								
C.3	Publicize successes	OSPC, WSS, BoS, TA	n/a	High								
C.4	Install identification signs	CC	Town or grant	Medium								
C.5	Compile contact data	WSS	Staff Time	Low								
C.6	Enhance Conservation Commission webpage	WSS	Staff Time	Low								
C.7	Enhance Recreation Commission Webpage	RC	Staff Time	Medium								
1.1a	Inventory aquifer land use & ownership	CC, WC,WD, WSS	Staff Time	High								
1.1b	Identify priorities for land acquisition in aquifer recharge areas	WD, CC, ODIS	Staff Time	High								
1.1c	Continue Storm drain stenciling	U&F	Staff time & volunteers	Medium								
1.1d	Produce/post two water resource value materials annually	WD, CC, WSS,	Town Budget & Staff Time	Medium								
1.2a	Clarify ownership of dams & land under water	BOS, TA	Staff time	High								
1.2b	Identify water body stakeholders and determine responsibilities	WSS	Staff time	High								

¹ Acronyms: CC – Conservation Commission; HC – Historical Commission; RC – Recreation Commission, OSPC – Open Space Plan Committee; WSS – Wetlands/ Soils Specialist, ODIS – Office of Development and Inspectional Services; TA – Town Administrator; U&F – Department of Utilities and Facilities; TP – Town Planner, PB – Planning Board; BOS – Board of Selectmen; SD – Sewer Dept.; WD - Water Dept.; CDC – Community Development Committee

Objective	Task	Agency ¹	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Year							
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.2c	Resolve private road drainage issues	TP, PB , TA, BoS, CC	Staff time	Medium								
1.2d	Delineate watersheds for all water bodies	WSS	Staff Supervised Volunteers	Medium								
1.2e	Define high service area	WD, WC, SD, SC, TP	Staff time	Medium								
1.2f	Improve lake management with stakeholders	WSS	Staff Supervised Volunteers	Medium								
1.2g	Develop management plans for ponds	Pond volunteers, WSS	Staff Supervised Volunteers	Medium								
1.3a	Identify specific land protection gaps	WSS, TP	Staff Time	Low								
1.3b	Upgrade water protection inspection & enforcement	PB,TP, U&F, WSS	Staff Time	Low								
1.3c	Improve coordination of permit reviews	BoH, PB, TP , U&F, WSS, ZBA	Staff Time	Medium								
1.3d	Establish River Corridor & Trails Committee	CC	Staff Supervised Volunteers	Low								
1.3e	Identify priorities and methods to protect river corridors	CC, RCT	Staff Supervised Volunteers	Low								
1.3f	Develop Stiles Reservoir to Cranberry River link	CC, RCT	Staff Supervised Volunteers	Medium								
2.1a	Compile list of historic resources	HistC	None, volunteers only	Low								
2.1b	Put historic resources into GIS	WSS	Town Budget or grants	Medium								
2.1c	Inventory scenic resources & views	HistC, OSPC	Grants and/or Staff Time	Low								
2.1d	Assess methods to protect historic & scenic resources	HistC, OSPC	Staff & Supervised Volunteers	Low								

Objective	Task	Agency ¹	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Year							
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2.1e	Reconsider CPA adoption for funding	TP, BoS , CC, HistC	Staff Time	Medium								
2.2a	Map/plan Town Center pedestrian routes	RTC , TP, U&F	Town Budget	Medium								
2.2b	Encourage development in the Town Center/Consider Smart Growth Zoning	ODIS , BOS	Staff Time	Low								
2.2c	Consider pocket parks in Town Center	CC. TP , RC	Town Budget or Grants (possibly CDBG)	Low								
2.2d	LID landscaping on Town properties	CC , U&F, volunteers	Grant and/or staff time	Medium								
2.2e	Develop "Spencer Looks Good" contest	TP, PB, BoS , volunteers	Staff Time	Low								
2.3a	Periodically assess & adopt new growth management tools	PB , TP	Staff Time/CMRPC assistance	Low								
2.3b	Encourage CR or fee land donation by distributing info on options & benefits to landowners	CC, PB, TP	Staff Time	Low								
2.3c	Annually consider strategic land acquisition projects	CC . BoS, TP, PB	Staff Time	Medium								
3.1a	Prepare & publicize a guide to Town conservation and recreation lands	CC , RC, WSS	Staff Time, Town Budget	Medium								
3.1b	Ensure open recreation access for all demographic groups	RC, ADA Coordinator	Staff Time	High								
3.1c	Seek funding for Director of Recreation	RC	Town Budget	Medium								

Objective	Task	Agency ¹	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Year							
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
3.1d	See stable funding for seasonal recreation employees	RC	Town Budget	High								
3.1e	Develop partnerships to enhance park facilities and recreational programming	RC	Volunteered time	Medium								
3.1f	Continue to improve ADA accessibility of Town recreational facilities/programs	RC, ADA-C	Town Budget, Grants	High								
3.1g	Consider establishment of Town dog park	RC	Town budget	Low								
3.2a	Provide permanent restroom facility at Powder Mill Park	RC, U&F	Town Budget, Grants	Medium								
3.2b	Renovate O'Gara Park rest & concession facilities	RC, U&F	Town Budget, Grants	Medium								
3.2c	Construct Luther Hill Park pavilion	RC, BOS, TA, U&F	Town Budget, Private Fundraising	Medium								
3.2d	Conduct regular site visits to evaluate park facilities	RC, U&F	Staff Time	High								
3.2e	Develop coordinated maintenance list	RC	Volunteered time	High								
3.2f	Seek funding for dedicated park maintenance staff	RC, U&F	Volunteered time	High								
3.2g	Review capital needs annually	BoS, RC, U&F	Staff Time	High								
3.2h	Plan for and seek funding for maintenance and capital needs	RC, U&F	Staff Time	High								
3.3a	Monitor water quality of Lake Whittemore	BoH, CC, WSS	Staff Time	Low								

Objective	Task	Agency ¹	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Year							
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
3.3b	Remove sources of pollution at Lake Whittemore (seek grants)	CC, WSS	Staff Time	Low								
3.4a	Establish a Trails Committee	RC, CC, PB, TA	Staff Time	Medium								
3.4b	Map location & ownership of Mid-State Trail	RTC, WSS	Staff Supervised Volunteers	Medium								
3.4c	Recruit trail volunteers to map existing trails and identify stewards	RTC	Staff Supervised Volunteers	Medium								
3.4d	Obtain permanent easements along the entire length of the Mid-State Trail	RTC, TP	Staff Time and Grants	Medium								
3.4e	Create a master trail map	CC, RC, TP, RCT	Staff Supervised Volunteers	Low								
3.5a	Conduct public survey and other outreach to determine recreation needs and interests	RC	RC Chairperson Time	Medium								
3.5b	Research recreational programs offered by other communities	RC	Volunteers	Low								
3.5c	Identify park improvements that would enhance recreational opportunities	RC, U&F	Staff, RC & Volunteer Time	Medium								
3.5d	Seek grant & Town funding to expand programming	RC	Staff, RC & Volunteer Time	High								
3.5e	Develop community partnerships to enhance recreational opportunities	RC	Staff, RC & Volunteer Time	High								
4.1a	Distribute habitat info to other boards	CC, WSS	Staff Time	Medium								
4.1b	Publicize/web post MESA regulations	CC, WSS	Staff Time	Low								

Objective	Task	Agency ¹	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Year							
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
4.1c	Overlay parcels with MESA; Publish map	WSS	Supervised Volunteer	Medium								
4.1d	Consult NHESP to refine protection priorities	CC, WSS	Staff Time	Medium								
4.1e	Identify & certify vernal pools	CC, WSS	Supervised Volunteers	Medium								
4.2a	Establish an Agricultural Commission	BoS, TA, CC	Staff Time	High								
4.2b	Publicize and support use of land protection techniques (APR, CR, Ch.61)	CC, WSS	Staff Time & Town Budget	High								
4.2c	Distribute information to assist stewardship by large private landowners	CC, WSS, Land Trusts, Conservation District	Land Trusts	High								
4.2d	Develop policy and process for acting on Chapter 61 "right of first refusal" actions	CC, BOS, TA	Staff Time	Medium								
4.2e	Monitor DCR forest management policies and practices of the regarding state-owned or managed forests in Spencer.	CC, PB	Staff Time	Medium								
4.3a	Develop a management plan for all Conservation Commission lands	CC, WSS	Staff Supervised Volunteers	High								
4.3b	Foster and support a Spencer Land Trust	OSPC	Staff time & private donations	Medium								
4.3c	Preserve corridors linking protected lands wherever feasible	CC, HC, OSPC, RC, RCT	Staff Time & Grants	Low								
4.3d	Start a Conservation Fund	BoS, TA, CC	Staff Time	Low								
4.3e	Establish Community Gardens	CC, ODIS	Staff Time	Low								

Objective	Task	Agency ¹	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Year							
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
4.3d	Publicize benefits of donations to Town open space & recreation funds	ODIS, TA	Staff Time	Medium								
4.4a	Prepare map of hunting & fishing land	OSPC, ODIS	Staff Time	Medium								
4.4b	Include hunting & fishing as a priority in open space discussions	OSPC, ODIS	Staff time	Medium								
5.0	Annually publish status of OSRP & progress	TA, TP	Staff Time	High								
5.1a	Re-establish Open Space Plan Committee	BoS, TA, TP, RC, CC	Staff Time	High								
5.1b	Re-establish Full-time Town Planer	BOS	Town Budget	Medium								
5.2a	Identify who contacts/negotiates with landowners. Begin outreach efforts.	CC, OSPC, PB, BOS, TA, TP, WSS	Staff Time	Low								
5.2b	Identify potential partners for land preservation	CC, OSPC	Staff Time	Medium								
5.3a	Solicit regional input from CMRPC, abutting towns, etc.	OSPC, WSS	Staff Time	Low								
5.3b	Schedule OSRP meeting of Town officials	OSPC, TA	Staff Time	Medium								
5.4a	Assemble info and data from Town depts. and state agencies	OSPC, WSS	Staff Time & Town Budget (consider hiring consultant)	Medium								
5.4b	Analyze 2010 Census data	TP	Staff Time	Medium								
5.5a	Obtain OSRP requirements from DCS	TP, WSS	Staff Time	Medium								

Objective	Task	Agency ¹	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Year							
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5.5b	Develop and distribute new survey	TP, OPSC	Town Budget, CMRPC Technical Assistance	Medium								
5.6a	Review implementation resources	TP, TA, OSPC	Staff Time	Medium								
5.6b	Complete draft Plan for internal review	TP , OSPC, WSS	Staff Time	Medium								
5.6c	Hold public meeting for community input on draft Plan. Incorporate comments.	CC, OSPC , WSS, PB	Staff Time and Town Budget (consider consultant to assist with data collection & public outreach)	High								
5.6d	Submit draft Plan to DCS for review. Make necessary corrections.	TP , WSS, OSPC	Staff Time	High								
5.7a	Hold second public meeting	CC, OSPC , RC	Staff Time	High								
5.7b	Incorporate public comments and finalize OSRP	TP , OSPC	Staff Time	High								
5.7c	Adopt & publish the new OSRP	CC, OSPC, RC, PB	Staff Time	High								
5.7d	Submit final OSRP to DCS	TP	Staff Time	High								

Section 10 Public Comments

A draft Open Space & Recreation Plan was released in June 2011 for public review and comment. The Open Space & Recreation Plan was presented at a public forum hosted by the Conservation Commission on July 6, 2011. The plan was also discussed at a Planning Board meeting on July 19, 2011. Public notification of these meetings included advertisement in the Spencer New Leader, posting on the web, and posting on the message signboard in front of Town Hall (located at the prominent intersection of Rte. 9 and Rte. 31). Flyers related to the Conservation Commission public forum were also posted in Town Hall and at the Richard Sugden Library. Copies of the draft plan were available online, and at Town Hall and the Richard Sugden Library. Copies were also provided to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, and the Common Ground Land Trust for review and comment.

Comments from the above Boards, Departments, Committees and the general public, as well as comments from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), have been incorporated into the final plan

See **Appendix A** for copies of comment letters.

Section 11: References

American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2005-2009 (Estimated Spencer Employment by Industry, 2005-2009)

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, 2000. Development Framework: 2020 Growth Strategy for Central Massachusetts

Conservation Plan for the Town of Spencer, 1980 – 85, Spencer Conservation Commission, July 1979

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, Buildout Analysis, Spencer, Massachusetts, 2001

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Division of Conservation Services, “Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements,” March, 2008

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Division of Conservation Services, Open Space and Recreation Planner’s Workbook, March, 2008

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Geographic Information Services, (MassGIS), many GIS layers included in the Maps in this Plan

Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (Labor Force & Employment data)

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Total Maximum Daily Loads of Phosphorus for Selected Chicopee Basin Lakes, Jan. 4, 2002. Available from DEP’s home page on the World Wide Web at: <<http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/dep/brp/wm/wmpubs.htm>>.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, DRAFT Total Maximum Daily Loads of Total Phosphorus for Quaboag Pond & Quacumquasit Pond. May 9, 2005 Available from DEP’s home page on the World Wide Web at: <<http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/dep/brp/wm/wmpubs.htm>>

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection: Division of Watershed Management, Watershed Planning Program, Worcester, Massachusetts, Massachusetts Year 2006 Integrated List of Waters, Proposed listing of the condition of Massachusetts’ waters pursuant to Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act. April, 2006.

Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, No date. Community Profile Web Page: Spencer, Worcester County, MA <www.state.ma.us/dhcd/iprofile/140.htm>.

MassWildlife (http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/species_info/species_home.htm) (rare & endangered species)

National Cooperative Soil Survey, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
Soil Survey of Worcester County, MA, Southern Part, Worcester County
Conservation District, Holden, MA., 1998
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Spencer Open Space and Recreation Plan, Spencer Conservation Commission, July 2001

Spencer Facilities Maintenance and Repair, Facilities Maintenance and Repair Committee, February 2008,

Spencer Flood Hazard Plan, Utilities & Facilities Department, January 2012

Spencer Open Space and Recreation Plan, Spencer Open Space Planning Committee, May 1998

Spencer Town Center Revitalization Planning Project, The Cecil Group, Inc., FXM Associates, BETA Group, December 2009

U.S. Census Bureau Tables. 2000. Selected Social, Labor Force, Income, Housing and Population Characteristics: Spencer town, Worcester County, MA.

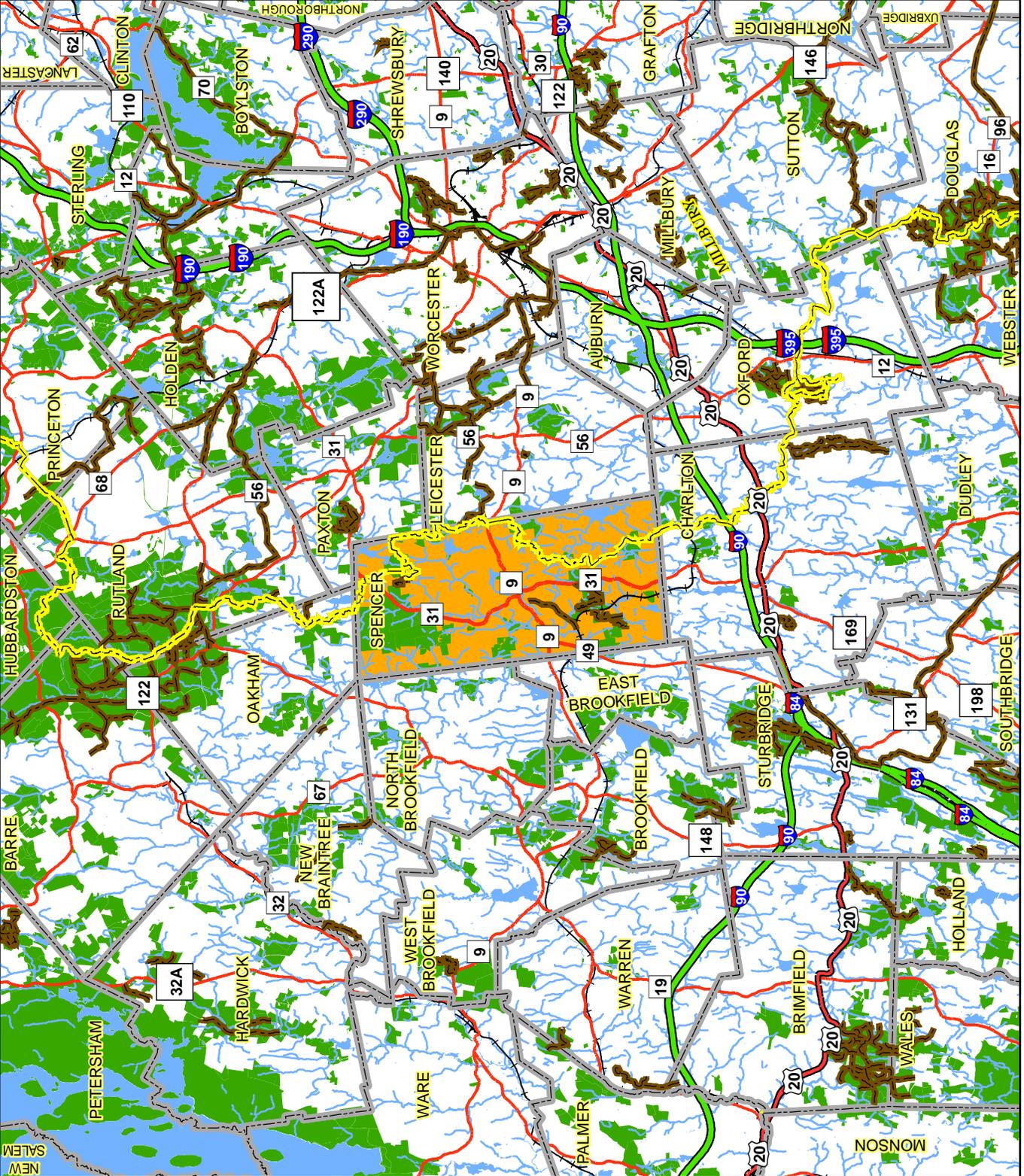
<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html? lang=en>

MAPS

- Map 1: Regional Context
- Map 2: Environmental Justice Neighborhoods
- Map 3: Zoning Map
- Map 4a: Surface Geology & Topology
- Map 4b: Limitations
- Map 5a: Priority Heritage Landscapes.
- Map 5b. Unique Features
- Map 5c. BioMap 2, Spencer
- Map 6a. Water Resources
- Map 6b. Floodplains and Watershed Boundaries
- Map 7: Open Space Inventory
- Map 8: Action Plan Map

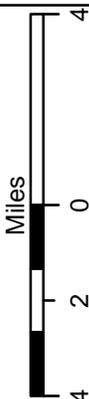
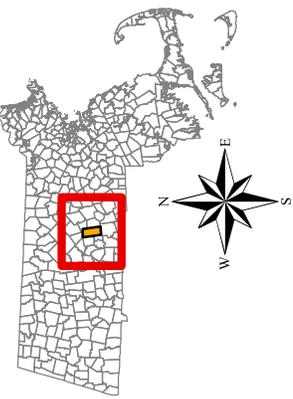
REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP

Town of Spencer, Mass. - Open Space and Recreation Plan



Legend

- Town Boundary
- Active Railroad
- Roads
- Interstate
- U.S. Route
- State Route
- Permanently Protected
- Open Space
- Existing Trails
- Mid-State Trail



1 in = 4 miles

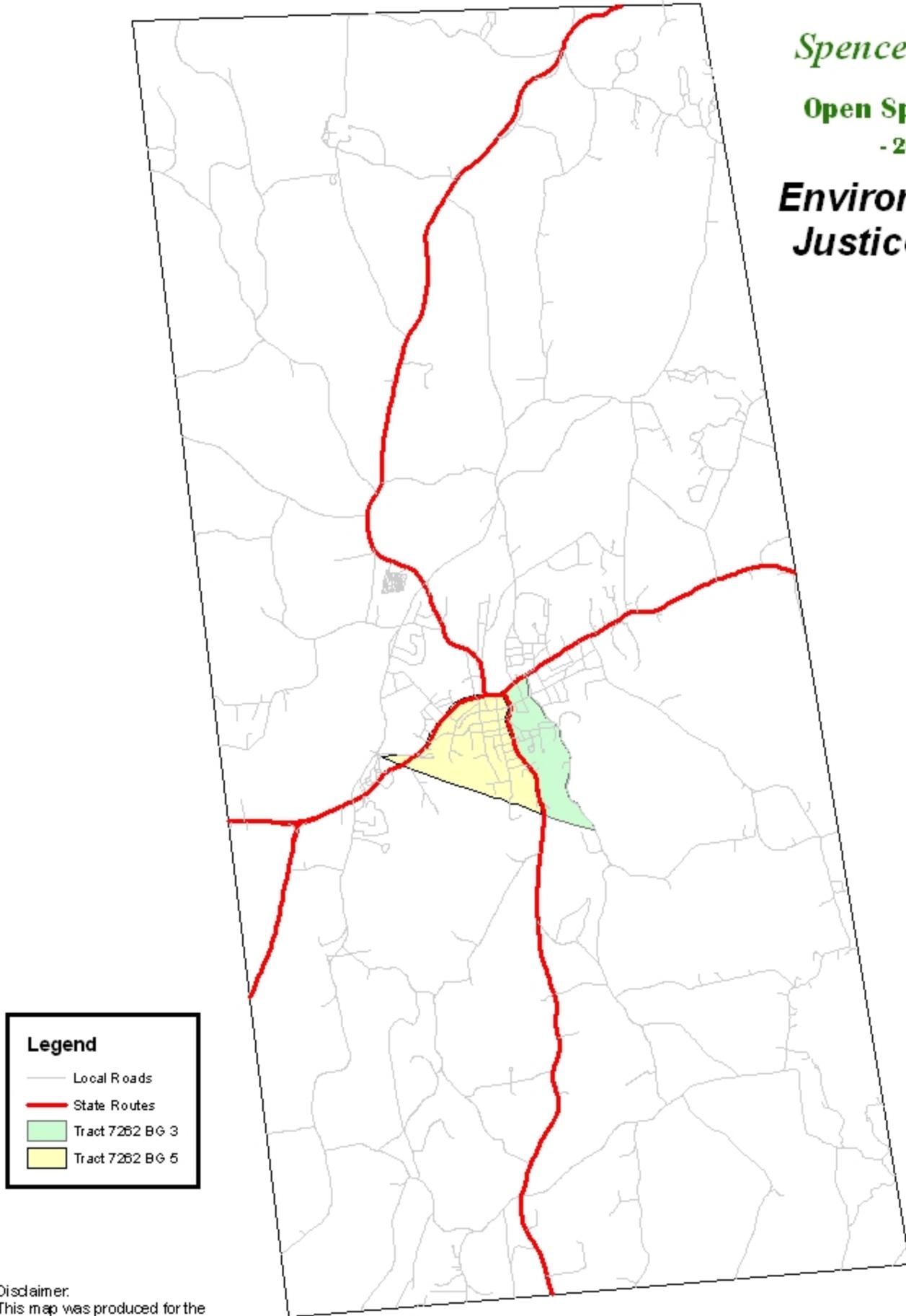
Source: Data provided by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT, and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

Produced by
CMRPC
 Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
 2 Washington Square, Union Station
 Worcester, MA 01604-4016

Edited May 31 2011 Path - H:\Projects\DR2011\SpencerSRP_Locus_8_5x11.mxd

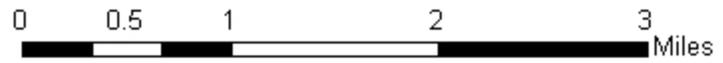
**Environmental
Justice Areas**



Legend

- Local Roads
- State Routes
- Tract 7262 BG 3
- Tract 7262 BG 5

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Spencer 
Open Space Plan
 - 2011 -

ZONING DISTRICTS

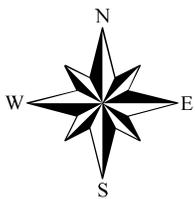
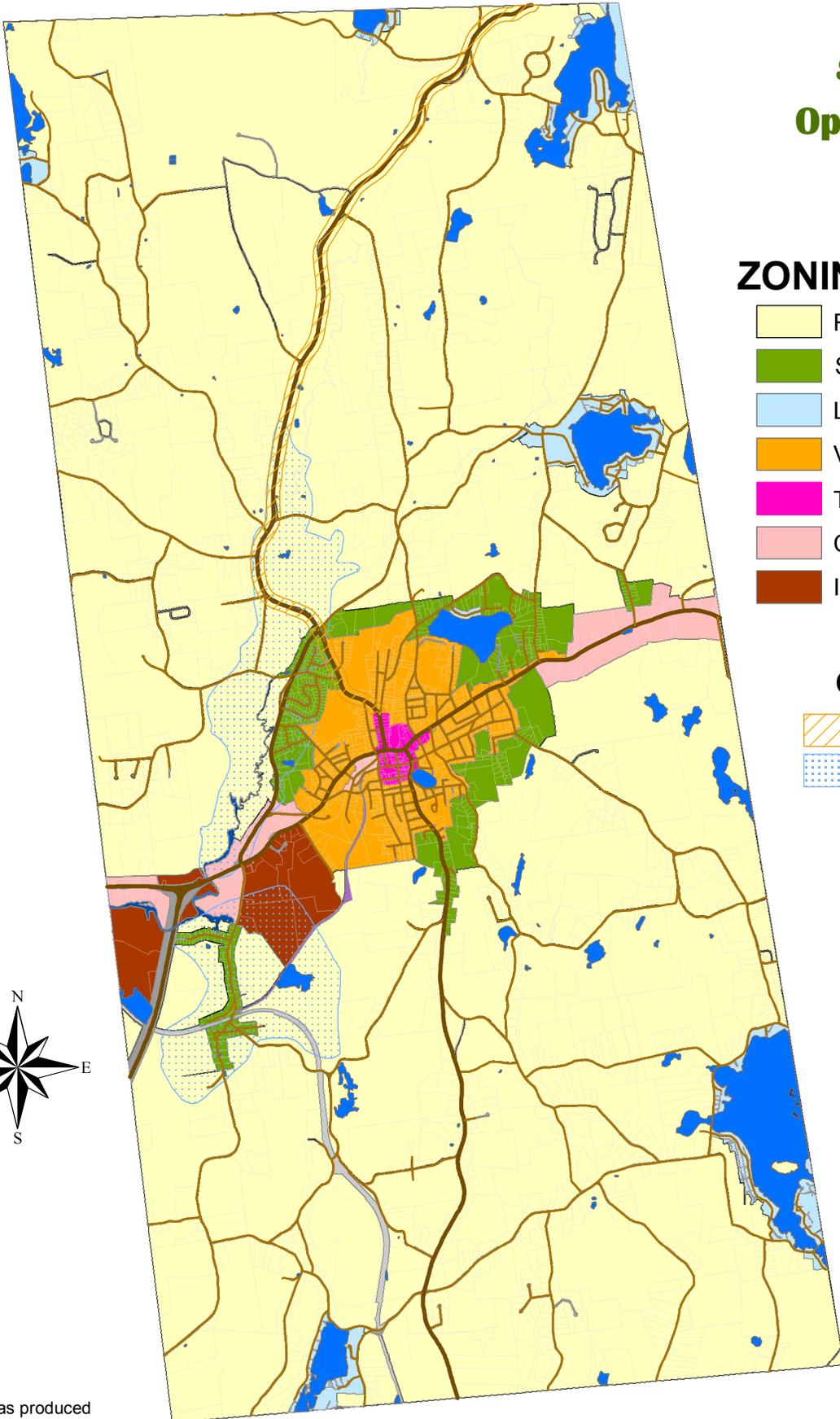
-  Rural Residential
-  Suburban Residential
-  Lake Residential
-  Village Residential
-  Town Center Mixed Use
-  Commercial
-  Industrial

Overlay Districts

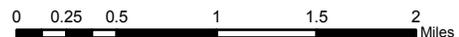
-  Residential Business
-  Aquifer Protection

Other Features

-  Right-of-Way
-  Railroad
-  Depot Trail
-  water



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 2011:
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 of the Open Space Plan.



Spencer



Open Space Plan

- 2011 -

SURFICIAL GEOLOGY & TOPOLOGY

Legend

ELEV_M

-  195
-  210
-  225
-  240
-  255
-  270
-  285
-  300
-  315
-  330

 stream

 road

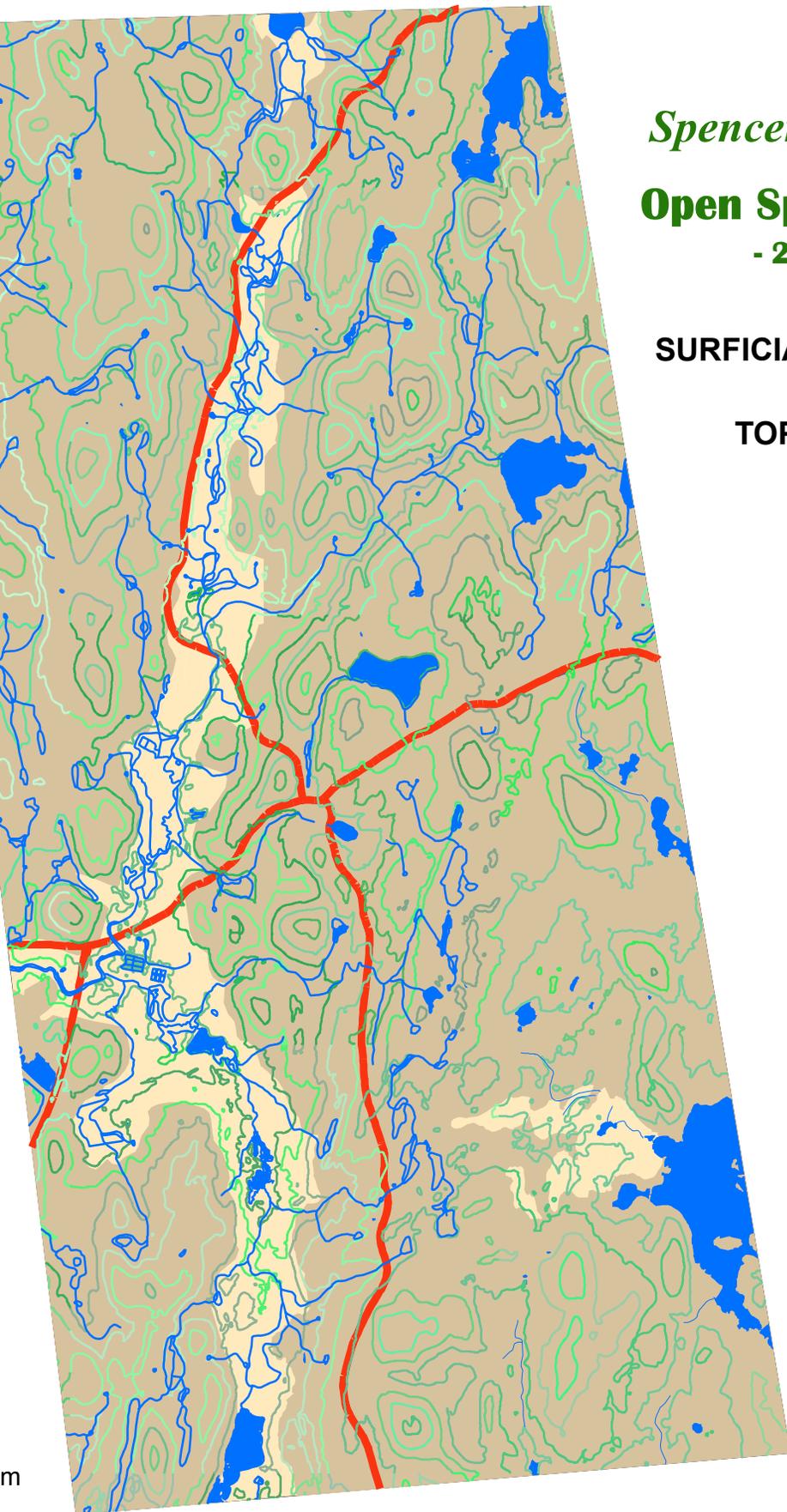
 water

General Soil Type

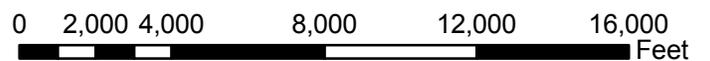
 sand & gravels

 till or bedrock

 flood plain alluvium



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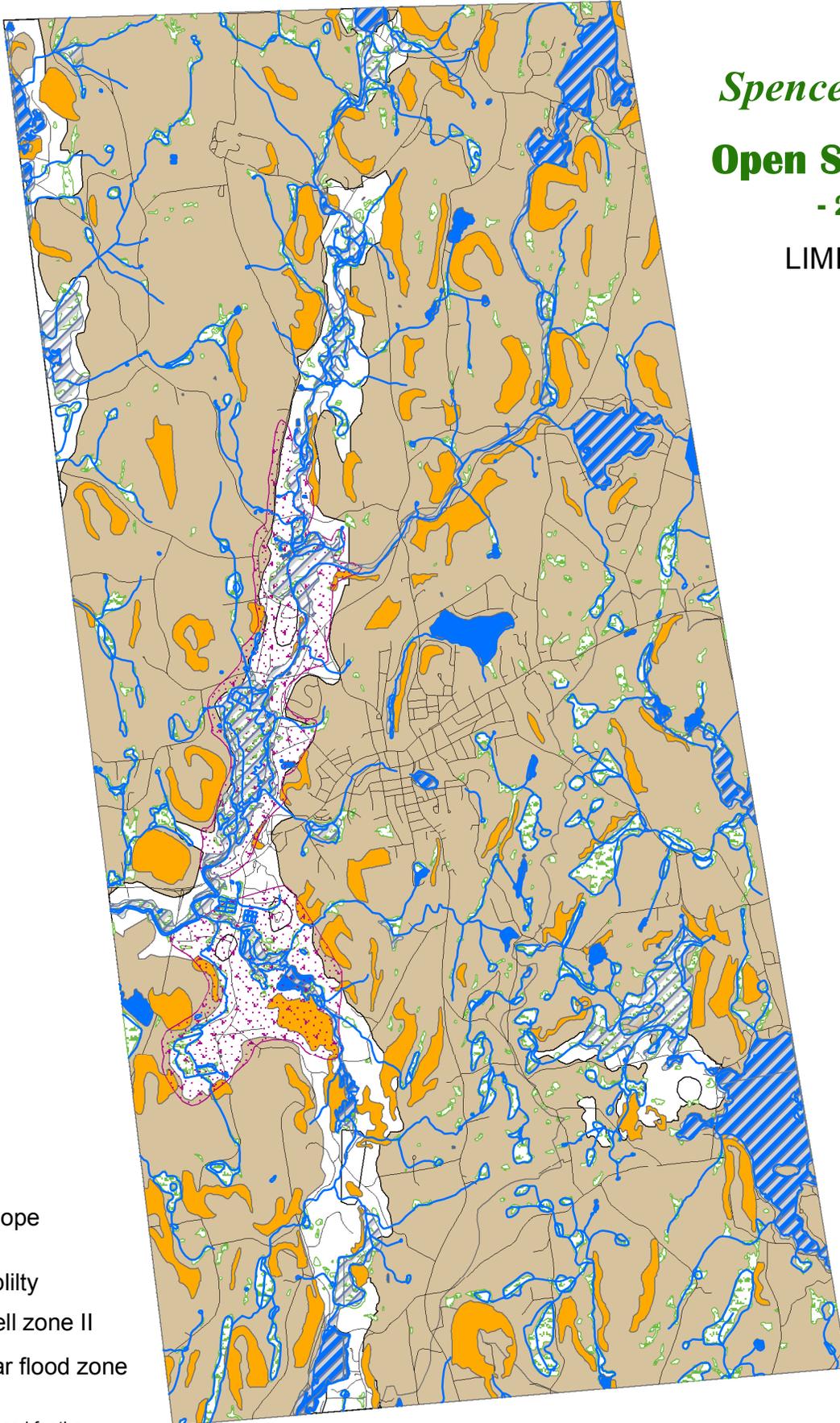
Spencer



Open Space Plan

- 2011 -

LIMITATIONS

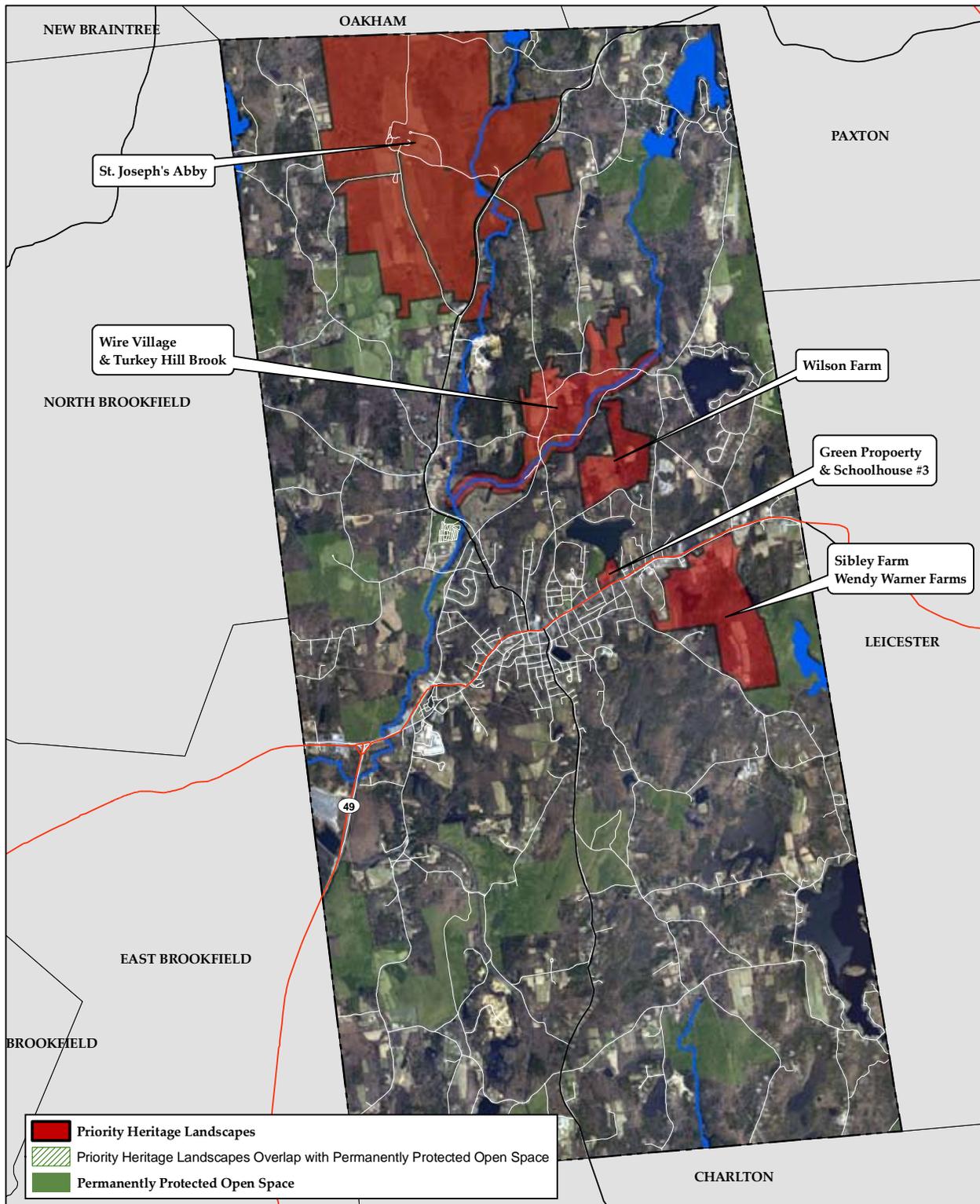


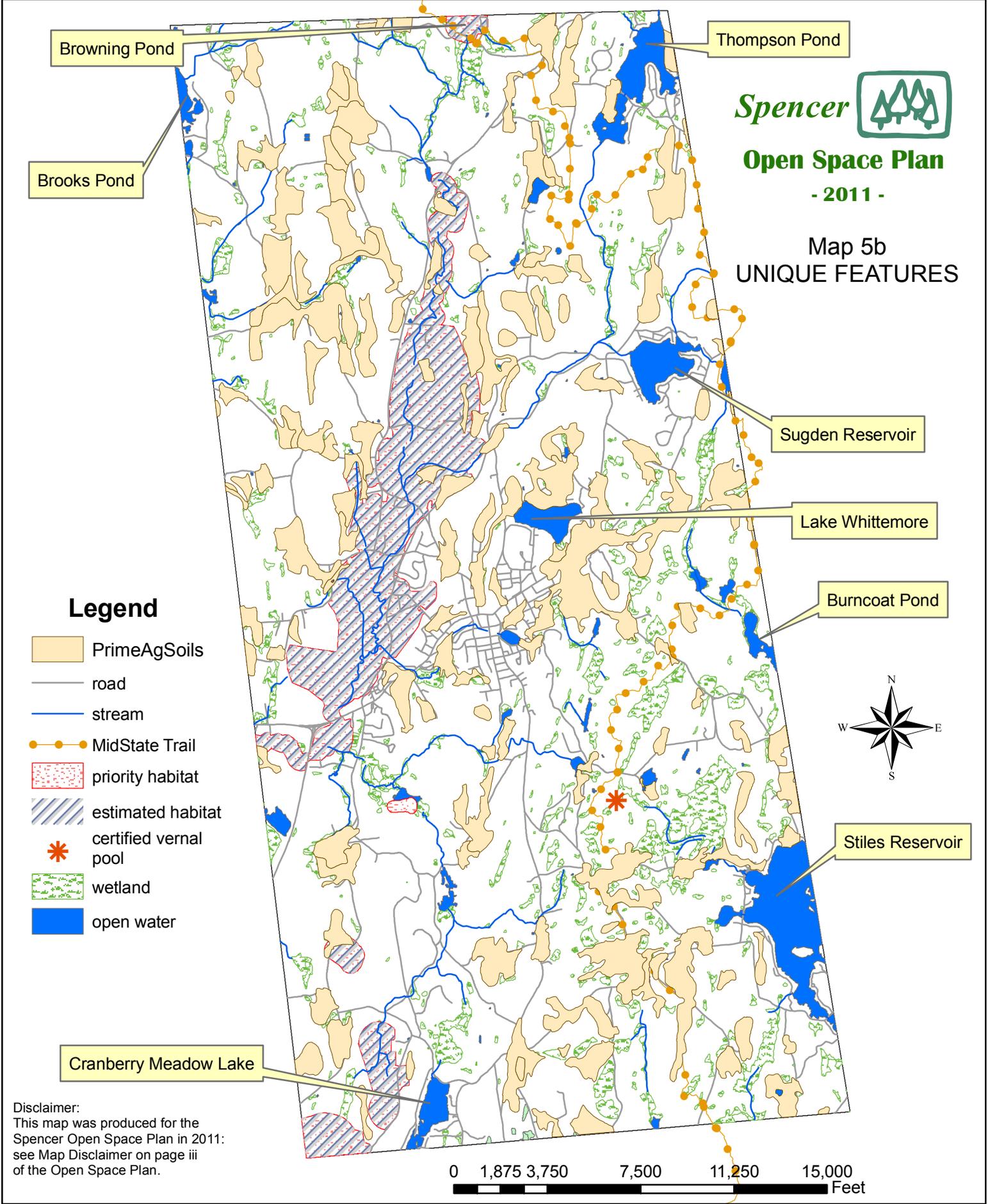
Legend

-  roads
-  water
-  wetland
-  steep slope
-  low soil permeability
-  town well zone II
-  100 year flood zone

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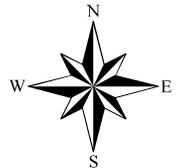




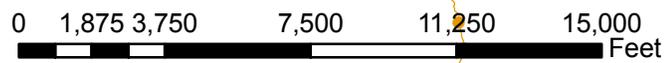


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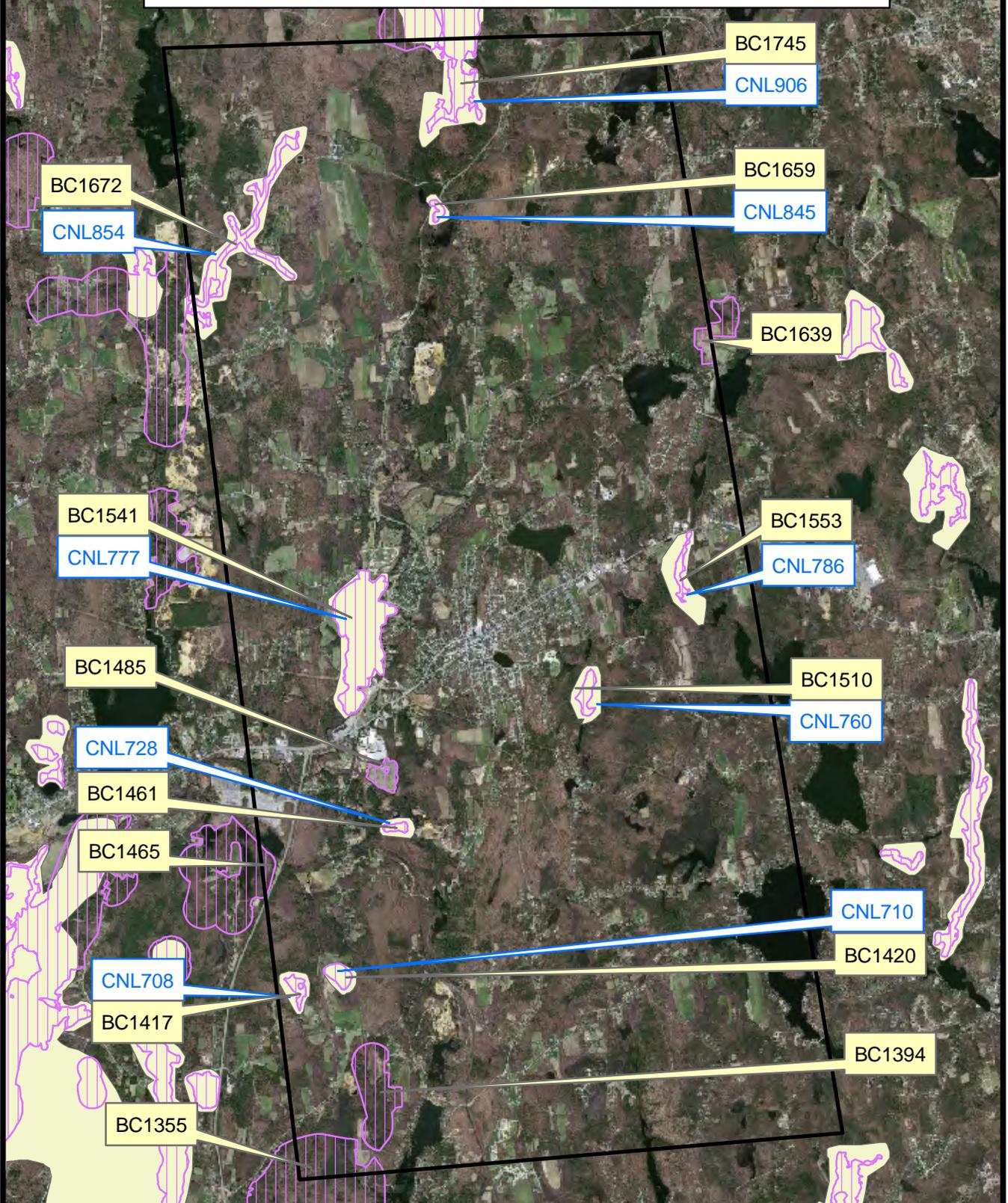
-  PrimeAgSoils
-  road
-  stream
-  MidState Trail
-  priority habitat
-  estimated habitat
-  certified vernal pool
-  wetland
-  open water



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BioMap2 Spencer



Legend



BM2_Core_habitat



BM2_Critical_natural_landscape



Spencer



Open Space Plan

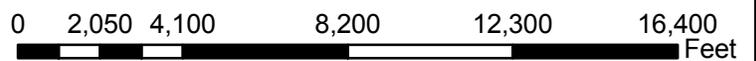
- 2011 -

**Map 6a
WATER RESOURCES**

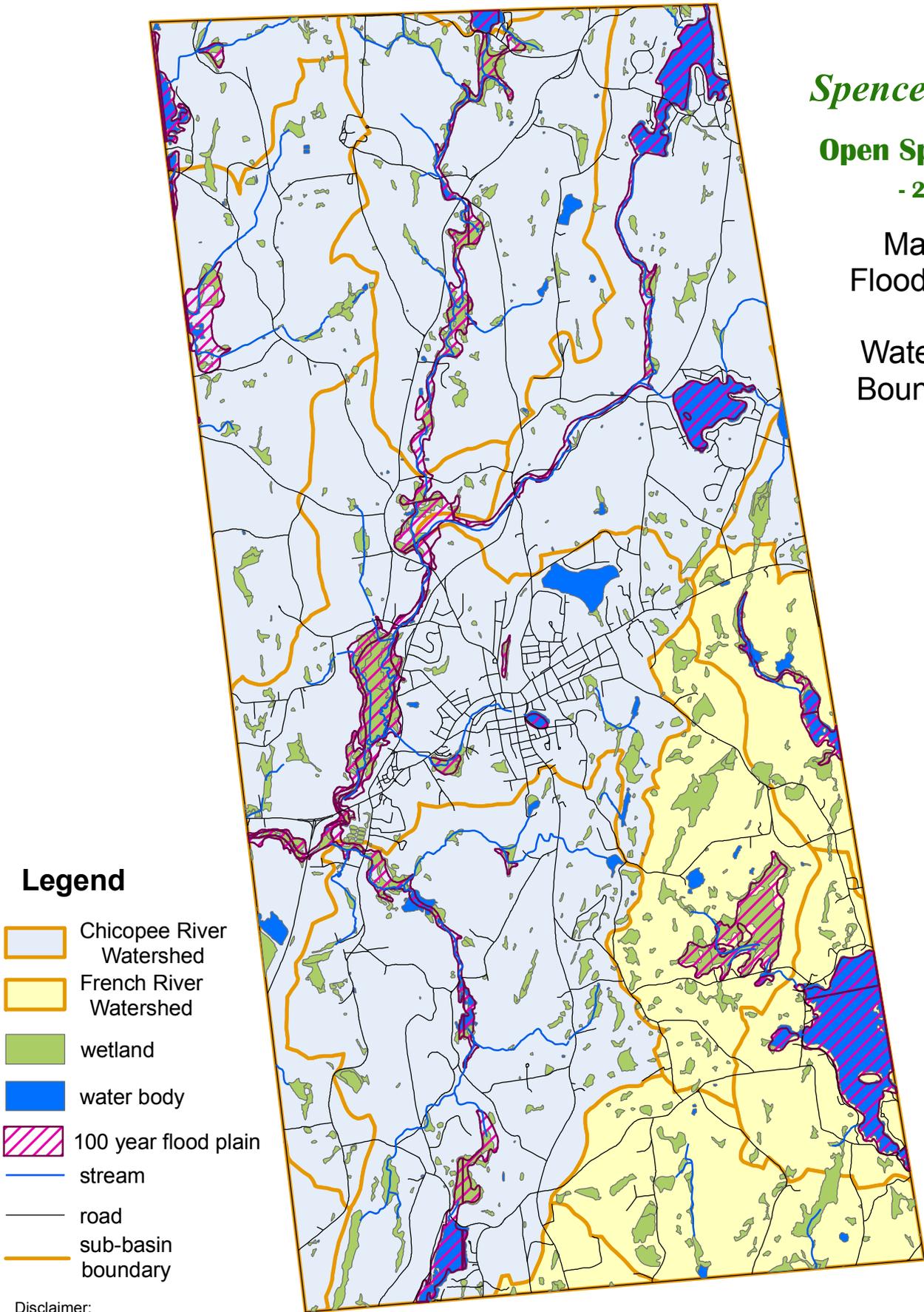
Legend

-  wetland
-  Aquifer
-  waterbody
-  stream
-  intermittent stream
-  road

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of the Open Space Plan.



Map 6b
Flood Plains
&
Watershed
Boundaries

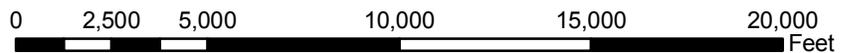


Legend

-  Chicopee River Watershed
-  French River Watershed
-  wetland
-  water body
-  100 year flood plain
-  stream
-  road
-  sub-basin boundary



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Spencer



Open Space Plan

- 2011 -

Map 7 Open Space Inventory

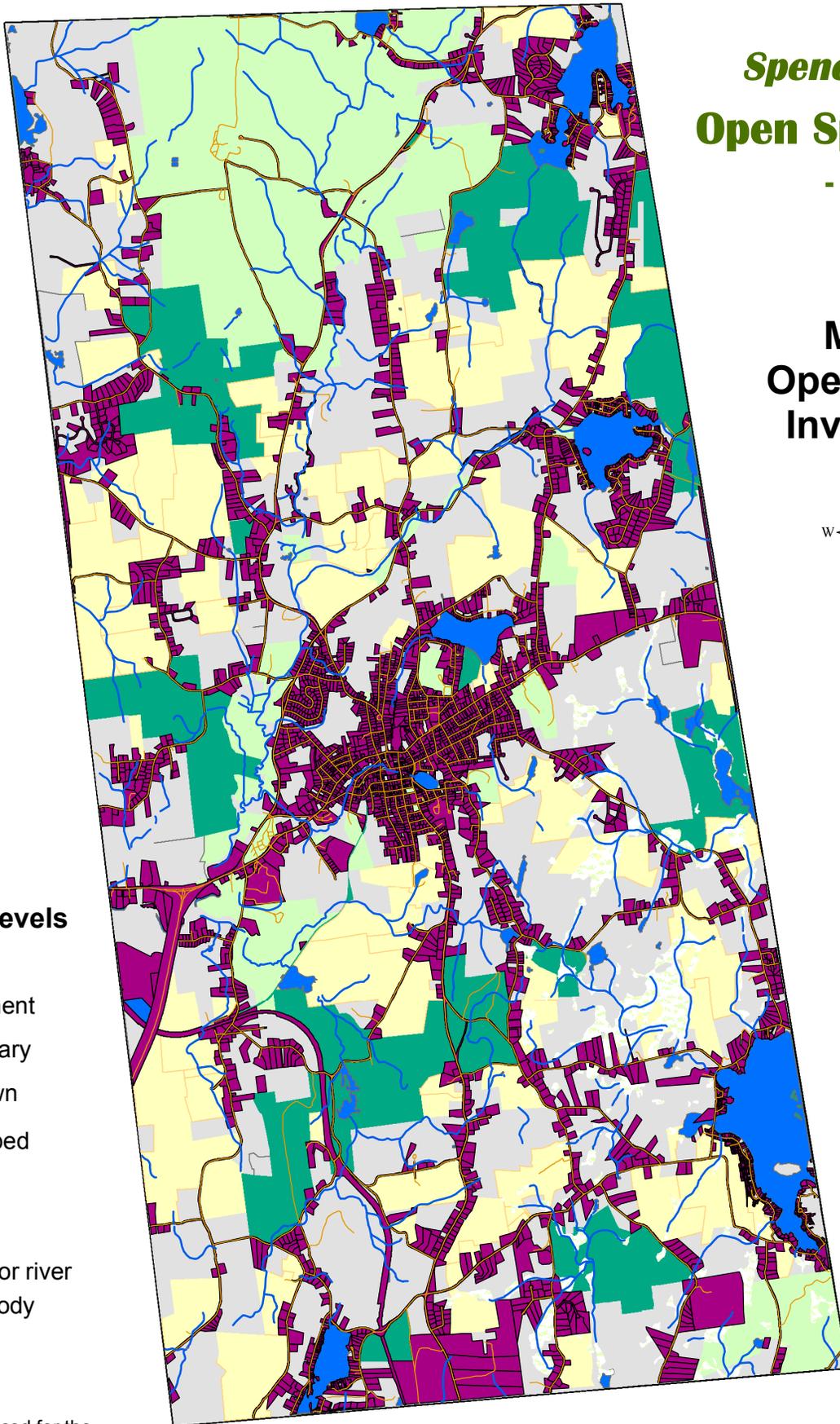


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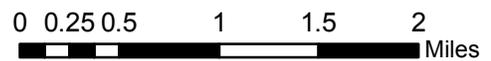
Protecton Levels

-  Limited
-  Permanent
-  Temporary
-  Unknown
-  Developed

-  roads
-  stream or river
-  water body

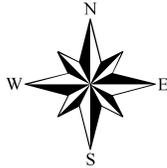


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Spencer 
Open Space Plan
 - 2011 -

Map 8
Open Space
Action Plan



Protect Heritage Landscape

3.4d
Protect unprotected trail routes

1.1a
Inventory Aquifer landuses

3.2a
Construct a restroom

3.3a Monitor lake water quality

1.3a
Identify land protection gaps

1.3e
Prioritize river corridors

3.2c Construct a Luther Hill Park pavilion

1.1c Stencil storm drains

2.2a
Create & map pedestrian routes

2.2c
Create pocket parks

1.2e Define water & sewer high service area

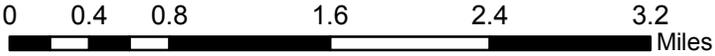
1.2d Determine pond watersheds

Legend

-  roads
-  aquifer
-  water body
-  unprotected trail route
-  permanently protected open space

Disclaimer:
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4.3a
Develop conservation land management plan



Appendix A: Public Comment Letters



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Deval Patrick
GOVERNOR

Timothy Murray
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181

June 13, 2012

Michelle Buck
Office of Development and Inspection Services
Memorial Town Hall
157 Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Buck:

Thank you for submitting Spencer's Open Space and Recreation Plan to this office for review for compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I am pleased to write that the plan is approved. This final approval will allow Spencer to participate in DCS grant rounds through October 2018.

Congratulations on a great job. Please call me at (617) 626-1171 if you have any questions or concerns about the plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Cryan".

Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager

May 9, 2012

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan;

RE: Spencer, Massachusetts 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is writing this letter in support of the Town of Spencer and its recently completed 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Town and its various boards commissions, and staff are to be commended for its hard work completing this Plan started in 2009.

The Committee has done a very thorough job and the final document appears fully compliant with the standards for such plans as promulgated by your office. Spencer has active and informed residents working to improve and enhance the connections to the multitude of scenic places and conservation areas, the trails and wildlife corridors, its productive agricultural lands, historic and cultural resources, and its recreation opportunities. Overall the town demonstrates with this plan an eagerness to move forward in very positive and strategic directions both in the short and long term. Spencer's 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan will provide the Town with the needed guidance toward many thoughtful action items.

Please consider this letter to be a demonstration of CMRPC's support for the Plan and the process used to develop it. We find Spencer's Plan to be fully consistent with CMRPC's Regional Open Space & Recreation Plan as well as the conservation priorities outlined in our 2020 Growth Strategy for Central Massachusetts.

The Town of Spencer will be well served by having a State-approved up-to-date Plan for the provision of recreation facilities and programs, as well as the preservation and protection of its valuable open spaces and natural resources.

Sincerely,



Trish Settles
Principal Planner

Cc: Spencer Town Planner, Michelle Buck

TOWN OF SPENCER
Office of Development & Inspectional Services

*Planning Board
Zoning Board of Appeals
Conservation Commission
Board of Health*

*Town Planner
Inspector of Buildings
Health Agent
Wetland/Soil Specialist*



*Memorial Town Hall
157 Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562*

*Tel: 508-885-7500 ext. 180
Fax: 508-885-7519*

May 29, 2012

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

RE: 2012 Spencer Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Spencer Planning Board is pleased to support the recently completed Spencer Open Space & Recreation Plan. This plan is the result of a very long process including a survey, public forums, and dedicated staff and volunteer work. When the draft plan was released for public comment last year, the Board reviewed the draft and hosted one of two public forums. The Board is pleased to see that comments from the public and other Boards and Departments have been incorporated into the final plan.

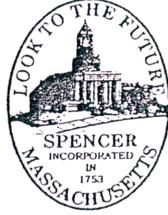
Planning for the future of the Town's open spaces and recreational facilities is a high priority of the Planning Board. The Board looks forward to seeing the goals of the Open Space & Recreation Plan implemented over the years to come.

Sincerely,

Shirley Shiver, Chair
Spencer Planning Board

TOWN OF SPENCER
MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

ANTHONY D. PEPE
GARY E. WOODBURY
JOHN F. STEVENS
ROBERT O. "BO" FRITZE, JR.
DONALD R. BERTHIAUME, JR.



MEMORIAL TOWN HALL
157 MAIN STREET
SPENCER, MA 01562
TEL: 508-885-7500 X155
FAX: 508-885-7528
TTY: 508-885-7503
www.spencerma.gov

May 15, 2012

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

RE: 2012 Spencer Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan;

Please accept this correspondence as formal support undertaken by the Spencer Board of Selectmen on behalf of our recently completed 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Town has completed a comprehensive process involving a survey, workshops, and staff analysis in order to devise an Action Plan assigned to meet the goals and objectives of the community in terms of open space preservation and recreation.

We are grateful for all the efforts of our dedicated staff, community volunteers, and citizens-at-large that contributed to the 2012 plan. We are very proud of this document and are excited to meet the challenges that have been laid out before us.

We respectfully request that you help us with adoption of this plan so that we may get to work on addressing the open space and recreation needs of the Town of Spencer.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 508.885.7500, ext. 155.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam D. Gaudette".

Adam D. Gaudette
Town Administrator

Cc: Spencer Town Planner, Michelle Buck ✓

Michelle Buck

From: Trish Settles <tsettles@cmrpc.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2011 12:32 AM
To: Michelle Buck
Subject: OSRP

Hi Michelle

I have a few questions regarding the Spencer Open Space Plan, particularly related to the comments from DCR in their letter dated October 2011.

2. Spencers largest employers

http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/Top_employer_list.asp?gstfips=25&areatype=05&gCountyCode=000517

Company Name	Address	City	State	Number of employees	NAICS Code
FLEX Con Corp	S Spencer Rd	Spencer	MA	500-999	3222
Big Y Foods Inc	W Main St	Spencer	MA	100-249	4451
David Prouty High School	Main St	Spencer	MA	50-99	6111
Klem's Tractor & Auto Parts	W Main St	Spencer	MA	50-99	4413
Mc Donald's	W Main St	Spencer	MA	50-99	7222
Mercury Wire Products Inc	Mercury Dr	Spencer	MA	50-99	3314
St Joseph's Abbey Monastery	N Spencer Rd	Spencer	MA	50-99	8131
Swift Transportation	Podunk Pike	Spencer	MA	50-99	4842
Wire Village School	Paxton Rd	Spencer	MA	50-99	6111
Worcester County 4-H	Mccormick Rd	Spencer	MA	50-99	7212
Ahearn Equipment Inc	Main St	Spencer	MA	20-49	4442
CVS Pharmacy	Main St	Spencer	MA	20-49	4461
Dienes Corp	W Main St	Spencer	MA	20-49	3322
Dunkin' Donuts	W Main St	Spencer	MA	20-49	7222
ERA Key Realty	Main St	Spencer	MA	20-49	5312
Knox Trail Junior High School	Ash St	Spencer	MA	20-49	6111
Lake Street School	Lake St	Spencer	MA	20-49	6111
Maple Street School	Maple St	Spencer	MA	20-49	6111
Northeast Vehicle Svc LLC	Podunk Pike	Spencer	MA	20-49	5419
Passports Inc	Main St # 1	Spencer	MA	20-49	5615
Private Family Home Care Inc	Main St	Spencer	MA	20-49	6213
Spencer Fire Dept	W Main St	Spencer	MA	20-49	9221
Spencer Savings Bank	Main St	Spencer	MA	20-49	5221
Todd Vitkos Plastering Inc	Bacon Hill Rd	Spencer	MA	20-49	2383
Zukas Hilltop Barn	Smithville Rd	Spencer	MA	20-49	7223

7. Condition, recreation potential and grant are often difficult to assess, but even an estimate might be a worthy exercise. And it will go a ways to satisfying DCS.

10. The action plan is very impressive. I think you might consider adding a column regarding resources/funding, even if it is the unlikely town budget, volunteer resources, etc

11. I believe DCS requires letters from the **select board**, planning board and us. In Appendix A you only indicate CMRPC and the planning board.

I have drafted a preliminary letter of support and look forward to finalizing it when you complete the incorporation of the comments received from the public meetings. A very nice effort given a process with fits and starts.

Just give me a shout if I can be of any assistance.

I'll be away for few weeks with limited access to email, but happy to help.

Best of luck and Happy Holidays.

Trish

Trish Settles, AICP

Principal Planner

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)

2 Washington Square - Union Station

Worcester, MA 01604-4016

www.cmrpc.org

508 459 3320 t

508 792 6818 f



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Original

Deval Patrick
GOVERNOR

Timothy Murray
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181

October 5, 2011

Michelle R. Buck, AICP
Office of Development & Inspectional Services
Memorial Town Hall
157 Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Buck:

Thank you for submitting the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan for Spencer to this office for review and compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. This plan has been conditionally approved through October 2018. Conditional approval will allow the town to participate in DCS grant rounds through October 2018, and a grant award may be offered to the town. However, no final grant payments will be made until the plan is completed.

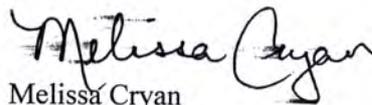
Once the following items are addressed, your plan will receive final approval:

1. Introduction – the Planning Process and Public Participation section should describe how the public meetings were advertised. Also, the enhanced outreach that was performed in the Environmental Justice neighborhoods should be discussed.
2. Population Characteristics – the town's industries should be discussed.
3. Vegetation – information on public shade trees is needed, as well as a listing of the town's rare, threatened, and endangered species.
4. Fisheries and Wildlife – any wildlife corridors should be included, as well as a listing of the town's rare, threatened, and endangered species
5. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments – any unusual geologic features should be listed here.
6. Environmental Challenges – additional information on erosion, chronic flooding, sedimentation, and forestry issues should be included.
7. Section 5 – this section should begin with an introductory paragraph describing the importance of open space. The appendix table that lists town-owned conservation and recreation property must also include column headings on current use, condition, recreation potential, type of grant (if any) used to purchase or renovate the property, public access, and zoning. Any Conservation Restrictions and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions should be included.
8. Community Goals – the 1999 surveys do not need to be discussed since a new public participation process must be undertaken for each plan.

9. Analysis of Needs – the Community Needs section should not discuss the results of the 1999 survey as those are not relevant to this plan. This section should also include information on the SCORP and how it pertains to Spencer. It can be found online at <http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/eea/dcs/massoutdoor2006.pdf>. The needs of special groups, such as the elderly and the handicapped, should be addressed in this section as well.
10. Seven-Year Action Plan – each objective should have a potential funding source included and be prioritized.
11. Letters of review from the regional planning agency, planning board, and chief municipal officer must be included.

Congratulations on undertaking such an important task. Please contact me at (617) 626-1171 or melissa.cryan@state.ma.us if you have any questions or concerns, and I look forward to reviewing your final plan.

Sincerely,



Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager

Michelle Buck

From: William Shemeth <youthcommission2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2011 9:57 AM
To: Ginny Scarlet; Ginny Scarlet; Michelle Buck
Cc: B Shemeth; Anthony Toscano; Lynne Porretti
Subject: Open Space Plan Draft Input for Parks and Recreation

Ginny and Michelle:

First on behalf of the Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission, I would like to thank you for working with us to include a comprehensive description of our needs and plans into the Open Space and Recreation Plan. I have reviewed the draft and have some further items which I would request be added to the plan.

In the Park Improvements Need section:

1. On page 33 ,please substitute the following sentence for the similar one currently in the opening paragraph, " The 2011 Capital Needs Assessment and Schedule of Maintenance, prepared by the Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission, updated the 2008 study and outlined all capital and maintenance needs."

2. O'Gara Park Needs;

- a. please discuss the vandalism issues with the language used in the Luther Hill Park need section and note the Park Commission request for an 8 camera system linked to the Police Department at the cost of \$46,000.00
- b. please add the need to set aside an annual sum of money to cover the cost of porta potty rentals until a new restroom/concession stand building is constructed
- c. please add the need to set aside an annual sum of money for grandstand repairs and maintenance
- d. please add the need to set aside an annual sum of money for field maintenance, reseeding, and refurbishment

3. Luther Hill Park Needs

- a. please add the need to set aside an annual sum of money for weed control/treatment
- b. please add the need to set aside an annual sum of money for required water testing
- c. please add the need to set aside an annual sum of money to replenish sand and prepare beach for summer season

4. PowderMill Park

- a. please add the need to set aside an annual sum of money for maintenance of grass when refurbished
- b. the safety fiber replacement has been completed

In the Goals section please add to Goal 3 Objective 3.1d parking attendants.

I thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this regard. I will see you at the Conservation Commission hearing tonight.

Bill Shemeth
Co-Chairman
Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission

Michelle Buck

From: scitechmarketing@charter.net
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 11:59 AM
To: Margaret Washburn; Virginia Scarlet; vscarlet@spencerma; Michelle Buck
Subject: Sibley Farms Open Space Plan Meeting & Forest Futures Visioning Process

Hello Margaret & Michele,

I'm unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a schedule conflict with work.

Please use the following as comments and input to take to your respective meetings. I'd like to know what each Board elects to do to fill the SC vacancy discussed below. Thanks in advance for your review.

Please add my email to any future correspondence.

First--Under "Other Business", kindly find my request to have both town's Planning and Conservation Boards review and submit comments for the Forest Futures Visioning Process which runs through August 24th.

Second-- Stewardship Council Seat Vacancy That's Been Left Unfilled--since both towns sit astride 3 combined watershed basin headwaters in some of the most environmentally sensitive areas in the Commonwealth, its imperative we have representation, (as the law requires), by filling the vacancy on the Stewardship Council overseeing DCR's strategy during this critical land designation process. As Forest Futures Visioning Process (FFVP) surveys proved, Worcester County possesses the highest number of towns responding to the survey indicating they had public lands under DCR, WMA, DFW, DWMA. The seat has gone unfilled for several years leaving Worcester County without representation.

Third-Stewardship Council Seat Vacancy IMPACT--Multi-Town Alliance Needed To Send Message To Governor's Office. Under the FFVP, our sections of Worcester County are ideal sites already under existing conservation restrictions easily capable of being designated one of several large 15,000 acre tracts of conservation corridors as proposed in FFVP. Doing so follows the existing public desire for establishing the corridors in both towns as well as our neighboring towns in Paxton, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, Charlton, and Sturbridge. It builds upon plans already implimented as well. However, our Worcester County representation on the Stewardship Council that would provide DCR input on such matters is unfilled.

Therefore--I request neighboring towns also be contacted, and, request they send additional correspondence to the Governor's office demanding the designated seat be filled immediately from a list of candidates familiar with public land, water quality, wildlife management, OHV Working Group Proposal, DCR Friends Groups Volunteer Policy, and FFVP issues.

This would further the public's desired uses detailed in DCR's public comments received when the FFVP draft notice was published.

They include:

---The need to make all three land designations throughout the State.

(Presently, most all of Worcester County is designated Woodland-which disregards existing potential for DCR's proposed larger 15,000 acre tracts.)

---Patch Reserves--support for establishment of them ---Local involvement with municipal officials ---Trails construction and tourism development

Forth---currently most designations in FFVP do not address specific species nor were they used. The land designations were formed based upon, elevation and soils and overlaid with a limited Biomap input.

No review of new Massachusetts Species Law hcnages were reviewed. This should be considered by each town's Boards.

Fifth ---in the Sibley Master Plan there are several issues which I'll address in the order of their listing in the document.

The Master Plan's holistic approach missed a key component with the omission of the 5 year Chicopee Basin Watershed Action plan (segmented below). The review should incorporate several items

Section 1: Plan
Summary.....1
Section 2:
Introduction.....2
A: Statement of Purpose.....2
B: Planning Process and Public Participation.....2
Section 3: Community
Setting.....3
A. Regional Context.....3
B. History.....4
C. Population Characteristics.....5
D. Environmental Justice Neighborhoods.....10
E. Growth and Development Patterns.....11
Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis.....13
A. Geology, Soils & Topography.....13
B. Landscape Character.....14
C. Water Resources.....14

Spencer missed referencing 2005-2010 and should reference 5 year watershed Action plan 2005-2010 Acti#29790 which include:

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

Based on overall public input, it is believed that implementation of actions on the local level will be the most effective way to address environmental issues within the Basin. Particular interest should focus toward the reduction of non-point source pollution, collection of additional information to fill data gaps, and the organization of environmental resources. Moreover, effective public education will be critical to ensure the sustainable future of the Chicopee River basin and therefore should be encouraged as a component of all priority actions within the Basin.

2.1 Goal: Protect and Improve Water Quality

2.1.2 Objectives and Priority Actions

2.2 Goal: Protect Aquatic Resources and Freshwater Biodiversity

2.2.1 Key Assessment Findings Impairments(e.g. Sevenmile River Source, outlet Browning Pond to confluence with Cranberry • PathogensLake Whittemore Spencer • Turbidity

2.2.2 Objectives and Priority Actions

2.3 Goal: Increase Environmental Knowledge and Access to Environmental Resources

2.3.1 Key Assessment Findings Sustainable management of the Chicopee River Basin (Blackstone and French headwaters) would greatly benefit from a central basin-wide environmental information system that could store environmental reports and data.

This system would also serve as a great resource for municipalities, planning organizations, state and federal agencies, and interested citizens, as it would provide a wealth of knowledge conveniently at their fingertips. An information system would also be an ideal location to promote and provide guidance with regard to standardized collection of environmental data. This would ensure that municipalities, watershed/lake organizations, and concerned citizens collect data in a consistent manner; thus, it would enable the maximum utilization of this information and increase its value toward environmental management decisions. Moreover, the creation of such a system would facilitate and encourage stakeholders to work together to achieve common goals and would facilitate networking among groups and interested residents.

2.3.2 Objectives and Priority Actions Increase public outreach and education knowledge and access to environmental resources within the Chicopee River basin. Based on overall public input, an information system should be developed for the entire Basin to house environmental data, environmental reports, and to make this information readily available to the public. Objectives:

- Facilitate the structuring and access to environmental information
- Reduce data gaps through increased environmental monitoring and consistency of data collection
- Increase public outreach and education

Priority Actions:

- Develop an environmental information system for the Chicopee River Basin to house environmental reports, data, and data collection standards. This system could start as a pilot project within select communities and then be gradually expanded throughout the Basin.
- Existing data collection efforts should continue and new efforts should be initiated to reduce data gaps through increased environmental monitoring. Efforts should also be made to increase the quality of data collection through adopting and distributing standards to those collecting environmental information throughout the Basin.
- Continue with efforts to educate the public e.g., “Do more outreach, more frequently and to more people” (EOEA, 2003). For example, interviews with representatives from the Basin on public cable networks as well as local newspapers would be an effective way to reach people and to educate them on the Basin’s ecology, environmental issues, activities that are taking place, and how citizens can participate.
- The state and municipalities should be encouraged to educate their employees on environmental management practices through peer workshops.

For example, members of the public believe that greater “buy-in value” would be achieved among departments of public works and highway departments if they were educated by their peers through peer workshops rather than receiving training from outside entities.

2.4 Goal: Build Stakeholder Capacity

2.4.1 Key Assessment Findings

2.4.2 Objectives and Priority Actions Based on overall public input, building the capacity of local organizations is essential to preserve and improve the health of the Basin. Objectives:

- Increase the capacity municipalities and local organizations in assessing the Basin’s environmental condition and needs
- Priority Actions:
- Build capacity of local conservation commissions to educate, monitor, and enforce public works and highway maintenance activities
 - Build capacity of lake and watershed associations to enable them to effectively collect, monitor, and report environmental information and to educate the public on their efforts.
 - Encourage the start-up of new lake and watershed associations
 - Provide municipalities with environmental education, model bylaws and regulations, and resources for protecting water supplies, recreational land and biological resources
 - Increase opportunities for student involvement in assessing the Basin’s environmental condition and needs
- Encourage local organizations to work together to achieve basin-wide goals
- Establish an incident response and reporting procedure to enable residents to report environmental problems to the appropriate authorities

2.6 Goal: Improve Quality of Recreational Areas

2.6.1 Key Assessment Findings The abundance freshwater resources and the large areas of protected open space within the Chicopee River basin provide excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation. ...Moreover, other areas within the Basin, including smaller areas of protected space, also provide recreational opportunities of great value (EOEA, 2003). Outdoor recreation often serves as an interface between people and the environment. The existence of quality

outdoor recreational opportunities has the potential to develop environmental knowledge and promote environmental stewardship.

2.6.2 Objectives and Priority Actions The following is a list of objectives and priority actions focusing on the goal of improving the quality of recreation areas within the Chicopee River Basin. Based on overall public input, people believe that the quantity of recreational opportunities is adequate; however, the quality of some of these opportunities could be improved. Objectives:

- Increase educational opportunities associated with recreation
- Increase law enforcement of misuse

Priority Actions:

- Increase quantity and quality of interpretative materials in recreational areas
- Increase enforcement of motorized watercraft and ATV violations and misuse
- Investigate and designate appropriate roads/trails as scenic areas

2.6.2 Objectives and Priority Actions

3.0 Action Matrix 4.0 Potential Funding Sources

Section 3: Community Setting

B. HISTORY ~~~~~ Corrections Page 9

During revision of zoning in 2005-6 the Town opted to eliminate a proposed industrial zone along Routes 9 and 49; thus, there has been no significant increase in area zoned for industrial use since the mid-1980s. Spencer now relies economically on service businesses, trades, and the new industry, tourism.

COMMENT-----The land on South Spencer Road at the Fire Training Center is incorrectly marked as Industrial Zone. It was voted down at the town meeting.

Spencer's culture and mind set is changing... New methods of communication among residents are being developed. Local access cable and televised Selectmen's meetings were initiated in 1997. The Spencer website, www.spencerma.gov, went online in 2005.

COMMENT--- The Master Plan needs to take into account the plans to offset excessive nutrient loads caused by local residents and neighboring towns. Following on with Paxton/Leicester our mutual use of a light department and town planners, all departments should work on their SW4 Permits outreach compliance collectively by distributing messages about how nutrient loads are choking the life out of treasured aquatic resources—simply as a result of overapplications of fertilizers and excessive chemical loads. This was called for originally in the Chicopee River Watershed Action Plan for 2005-2010, as well as suggested for the SW4 compliance with the TM previously.

- The Master Plan needs to take into account the fact that DCR was mandated to conduct resource management plans for the past 2 administrations and has failed to meet the mandates. Instead, they've engaged in a process called Forest Futures Visioning Process, which is a circumventing the Resource Management Plans for Spencer State Forest as well as contiguous assets owned by the Town of Spencer. FFVP has stated intent of commercial use of State Forests as well as extensive harvesting. In addition, the Wind Energy siting bill would circumvent Spencer's authority once the Wind Energy Committee issues a permit. This has potential for major impacts to Spencer's property values as well as wooded area assets. The Sibley Master Plan needs to address this issue.

In addition, the Sibley Master Plan discusses Endangered Species.

However, no mention has been made of the recent changes proposed for the MESA Vernal pool certification, allowable takes, and other potential species impacted by the proposed changes. Spencer's Master Plan needs to address the threats and put in comments during the allowed comment period.

- FFVP calls for harvesting Spencer State Forest as woodlands designation. However, the review cycle is set for a 10 year period between reviews--before its reviewed again-- has serious danger for a town such as Spencer. If an Asian Long Horned Beetle (ALB) outbreak occurs and a harvest is necessary- there is no mechanism in place to prevent another commercial harvest from occurring in town once its been given approval. Both MESA and FFVP have extensive periods before any review is conducted.

COMMENT-Correction---• OHV Laws- The Spencer Master Plan (page 35 mentions trails as ideal for ATV use. This is a blaring error since the State laws are clearly against any such use other than as snowmobile trails. ATV's could be seized

and fined extensively under the new regulations. The Friends Networks as members of the OHV working group have drafted and submitted proposals to DCR that are in review and have been developed over 4 years. Local Spencer Boards have already had extensive time spent and citizens have clearly indicated they desire limited access to ATV noise on private lands. Any facility proposed would need to address these concerns as well as enforcement issues.

At present, Spencer Police have little desire nor resources to become involved in ATV enforcement. And, the Massachusetts Environmental Police are facing further budget reductions restricting available enforcement to a minimum. The towns of Brookfield, Northborough Ashburnham Templeton and Westminster have all struggled with illegal OHV damage.

Any plan for Sibley Farms needs to address the issue of OHV intrusion and how it will be dealt with in an effective manner.

“Trails are good value, providing a range of recreational opportunities:

walking, hiking, running, biking, cross country skiing, bird watching and in appropriate locations snowmobile or ATV riding. These recreational activities can be enjoyed by a wide range of ages and abilities.” Such misuse would be a danger and has proven so in numerous communities in other states.

- No discussion of Spencer's Open Space and Agricultural heritage and educational tie-in, should be complete without a reference to Nathan Augustus Cobb. This self taught individual is a local inspiration on what self incentive is all about. Sibley Farms is more than likely an area Cobb knew very well and adds to the facility's historic value.

Cordially,

Michael Toomey

Friends Of Howe Park in Spencer State Forest Friends Of Massachusetts State Forest & Parks, Network Facilitator
www.networkingfriends.net/friendslinks.html

Cobb Background (<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=9626>)

Cobb's listed on the US Agriculture Departments site as the "Father of Nematology in the United States" (56), was a Renaissance man and a man of humble beginnings. His early life experiences instilled in him the creativity, fortitude, and self reliance that were needed to raise himself alone from age 14, to complete college with little formal pre-college education, receive his Ph.D. in Germany, and go on to found a new discipline of science called "Nematology". His scientific and technical accomplishments were impressive, as indicated by the over 250 first-authored manuscripts he produced during his career. He identified over 1000 species of nematodes, including animal parasitic, plant parasitic, free-living, fresh water, and marine forms. He made many innovative technical contributions to Nematology, including: (a) fixation and preservation methods; (b) the Cobb metal mounting slide; (c) adaptation of photographic equipment, light filters, and improvements in the camera lucida for microscopic use with nematodes; and (d) development of the first flotation device for removing nematodes from soil. A self-taught and gifted artist, his illustrations were of the highest quality. He made great contributions in many other areas of science, such as botany and plant pathology, and to the cotton industry as well. Nathan Augustus Cobb was born on June 30, 1859, in Spencer, Massachusetts. He was an only child. His father, a jack-of-all-trades, moved the family from place to place as various jobs became available.

This disruptive lifestyle, instead of being detrimental, gave Cobb the opportunity to learn many skills that would be carried over into his future life. His early responsibilities ranged from working the night shift at a shingles mill when he was eight years old to running a 150-acre farm alone for weeks in the absence of his father. His formal education was spotty, with only an occasional winter term available that did not interfere with his work responsibilities. When Cobb was fourteen, his father died and his mother could no longer support him. He took a job as groundskeeper and stableboy for Mr. Charles Prouty in Spencer, Massachusetts. He was fascinated by an advertisement for a microscope in a magazine sold by N. Waldstein, New York, and managed to save the \$25.00 needed for its purchase, one third of his total yearly income.

Entranced by what he could see with the microscope, he shared his observations with Mr. Prouty's children. Mr. Prouty, impressed with this young man's self-taught knowledge, encouraged Cobb to take the local teacher's examination, aware that he had little formal schooling. Cobb easily passed the examination and within a year was headmaster, in charge of a small school with 65 students of ages 11-18 years.

Historic photograph showing schoolhouse #3 with the Green Home in the background Schoolhouse #3 Built by the Green family in 1857, Schoolhouse

#3 is located on 3/4 acre that the Green family subdivided out of their farmland. It was purchased by the Town and operated as a school until it was sold back to Green family in 1924 when the schools were consolidated. From that time until the present, the Green family has maintained the property and it has had a variety of uses including serving as an emergency hospital, in case of air raids, during WWII. During this time a friendship developed with Fred Proctor and Joseph H. Greenwood, who introduced Cobb to drawing and painting and who eventually gained fame as a New England landscape artist. This exposure to sketching and drawing would give more than pleasure to Cobb: it was to serve at times as a means of livelihood and was invaluable in his scientific illustrations. When Cobb started his early school teaching career, he moved in with the Proctor family whose daughter, Alice, would eventually become his wife. She, too, was a teacher and very interested in botany. They spent much time together studying plants and sketching their findings. They married four years after they met and over the years had seven children.

Resources:

Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation Forest Futures Visioning Process Draft/Final.

Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Draft Policy Changes Chicopee River 5 Year Watershed Action Plan 2005-2010

Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program Spencer Reconnaissance Report Massachusetts Solid Waste Siting Board Policy and Recommendations Massachusetts Wind Energy Siting Board Proposed Legislation Massachusetts Department Of Energy Forest WMA Lands Recreation PDF

Appendix B: 2009 Open Space Plan Survey

The Town of Spencer is in the process of updating its 2001 Open Space & Recreation Plan. Having a current plan enables the Town to qualify for State funding to acquire conservation and recreation lands. A survey is necessary to understand the needs and concerns of Town residents regarding open space and recreation.

1. How do you view Spencer: 48.7% Rural town 26.0% Growing Community
 (please circle one of the following) 5.5% Agriculture town 15.3% Worcester Suburb

2. Do you feel there is a need to preserve land for open space? Yes No Not sure
 (please circle one of the following) 81.6% 10.0% 7.4%

3. Are there enough places for children/youth to play and recreate? Yes No Not sure
 (please circle one of the following) 36.8% 41.9% 21.3%

4. Are there enough places for adults to use for recreation? Yes No Not sure
 (please circle one of the following) 30.9% 46.8% 20.9%

5. Please check the following types of recreation you feel are needed in Town.

	<u>Rank</u>	<u>(%)</u>		<u>Rank</u>	<u>%</u>
Hike/Bike Trails	1	67.1%	Public Beaches	5	26.2%
Youth Center	2	46.4%	Tennis / BBall Courts	6	24.9%
Neighborhood Parks	3	43.1%	Ski/Snow Mobile Trails	7	19.0%
Children's Play Areas	4	35.6%	Ball Fields	8	17.8%

6. Are you satisfied with the overall condition of existing facilities? Yes No Not sure
 (please circle one of the following) 32.7% 30.3% 30.1%

7. Please rank (from 1-5) what you feel should be the Town's priorities:

- 5 Acquire open space to increase protection of rural character and add recreation opportunities
- 1 Protect water resources (aquifer, lakes, ponds, streams)
- 4 Renovate existing buildings and recreation areas and facilities
- 2 Repair roads and infrastructure (water, sewer, drainage)
- 3 Improve the Downtown appearance and function

8. Please check the following methods the Town should use to acquire additional land for open space.

	<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>		<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>
Gifts from Landowners	1	331	Tax Title	5	101
State Grants	2	311	Zoning Bylaws	6	68
Land Trusts	3	195	Real Estate Transfer Tax	7	55
Outright Purchase	4	184	Easements	8	51

9. If you moved here within the last 5 years, please write in reasons that attracted you to Spencer:

Appendix C: Inventory of Open Space

INVENTORY OF LAND OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST

TOWN LAND WITH CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST														
MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	Pro-tection	#	Street	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Grant Used to Purchase	CR or APR?
U33	41	Sugden Dam	6.2	L		PAXTON RD	Dept. of Utilities & Facilities	Dam	good	fishing	pedestrian	LR	no	no
R37	17	by Turkey Hill Bk S side	2.1	L		WIRE VILLAGE RD	Board of Selectmen	open space	natural	hike and fish	yes	RR	no	no
R37	18	by Turkey Hill Brook	6.0	L		HASTINGS RD	Board of Selectmen	open space	natural	hike and fish	yes	RR	no	no
U01	2	abuts Depot Trail S side	12.0	L		LANGEVIN ST OFF	Board of Selectmen	open space	natural	hiking, hunting	pedestrian	VR	no	no
U38	18	potential Thompson Pond lake access	0.2	L		WEST AVE	Board of Selectmen	vacant lot	natural	lake access	via private road	LR	no	no
R37	34	Ralph Warren Park	9.4	L		WIRE VILLAGE RD	Recreation Commission	unimproved park	natural	passive recreation	passive recreation	LR	no	no
U11	8	Hwy Dept & river at east end Muzzy Pond,	13.0	L	7	MEADOW RD	Dept. of Utilities & Facilities	general municipal	vacant lot	none	no	I	no	no
U07	155	Fishing	0.6	L		CLARK ST	Dept. of Utilities & Facilities	shore & under pond	unimproved urban	fishing	yes	VR	no	no
R29	24	Bemis park	1.0	L		W MAIN ST	Recreation Commission	historic marker	good	passive recreation	yes	I	no	no
R32	28	Spencer Fair Ground	8.0	L		SMITHVILLE RD	Spencer Fair Assoc by lease	fairground	good	active recreation/fair	yes	RR	no	no
R35	16-1	Wire Village School	33.5	L	60	PAXTON RD	School Committee	school	good	active recreation/athletics	yes	RR	no	no
U08	104	O'Garra Park	9.5	L		VALLEY ST	Recreation Commission	ball park	poor	active recreation	yes	VR	no	no
U23	6	Powdermill Park land-locked in Spencer	4.2	L		MEADOW RD	Recreation Commission	playground	fair, needs rest rooms	active recreation	yes	RR	no	no
R55	5	State Forest	1.0	L		MCCORMICK RD OFF	Board of Selectmen	municipal	natural	passive recreation	pedestrian	RR	no	no
U37	20	Thompson Pond access possible?	0.1	L	25	LAKESHORE DR	Board of Selectmen	vacant lot	natural	lake access	via private road	LR	no	no
U37	49	Thompson Pond access extends Depot Trail into town	0.2	L		LAKESHORE DR	Board of Selectmen	vacant lot	natural	lake access	via private road	LR	no	no
U08	34		0.5	L		PEARL ST	Board of Selectmen	unused	urban untended	none	no	VR	no	no
U20	57	retired school	1.3	L	54	PLEASANT ST	Board of Selectmen	boarded up school	hazardous	none	no	VR	no	no
R22	3	east of Transfer station	23.0	L		SO SPENCER RD	Board of Selectmen	general municipal	natural	passive recreation	pedestrian	I	no	no
R30	2	water supply protection	16.0	L		MEADOW RD	Dept. of Utilities & Facilities	water supply protectio	natural	canoeing	via river	RR	no	no
R38	35-1	water supply protection & possible well location	18.4	L		COONEY RD	Dept. of Utilities & Facilities	water supply protectio	natural	none	no	RR	no	no
U21	58	fair ground parking annually, otherwise water supply protection	1.4	L		SMITHVILLE RD	Board of Selectmen	water supply protectio	mowed	fair parking	yes	RR	no	no
U23	5	water dept building and water supply protection	3.1	L		OLD MEADOW RD	Dept. of Utilities & Facilities	water department	good	none	no	RR	no	no

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	Pro-tection	#	Street	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Grant Used to Purchase	CR or APR?
U23	7	water supply	56.0	L		SMITHVILLE RD	Dept. of Utilities & Facilities	water supply protectio	excellent	canoeing	via river to office only	RR	no	no
U23	2-1	water dept	7.7	L	3	OLD MEADOW RD	Dept. of Utilities & Facilities	water department	good	none		RR	no	no
U24	17	Muzzy Bk Meadow St to 7 Mile R	6.0	L		MEADOW RD	Board of Selectmen	natural	poor, old dump	passive, after clean up	yes	RR	no	no
U24	21	water supply protection	7.0	L		MEADOW RD	Dept. of Utilities & Facilities	water supply protectio	natural	canoeing	via river	RR	no	no
R22	2	abuts Depot Trail	114.0	L	17	SO SPENCER RD	Board of Selectmen	natural	good	passive	yes	RR	no	no
R22	2	Transfer station, landfill & Cranberry well	114.0	L	17	SO SPENCER RD	Dept. of Utilities & Facilities	transfer station, capped landfill & municipal well	good	none	no			
R29	1	sewer plant	35.3	L	69	W MAIN ST	Sewer Commission	sewer plant	fair, needs rest rooms	snow mobile trail	limited	C	no	no
R02	6	wood lot 2, Conservation Land	24.1	P		CRANBERRY MEADOW RD	Conservation Commission	woodland, conservation	good	passive only	yes	RR	no	no
R02	7	wood lot 1, Conservation Land	14.0	P		BRIARCLIFF LANE	Conservation Commission	woodland, conservation	good	passive only	yes	RR	no	no
U08	94	Depot Trail	16.0	P		CHESTNUT ST	Recreation Commission	rail trail	fair, needs washouts repaired, improved drainage	walking, biking etc.	yes	RR & VR	no	no
U15	30	Luther Hill Park	14.0	P		LUTHER HILL PARK	Recreation Commission	lakeside park	good	swimming, playground, frisbe golf. Shelter needed	yes	VR & RR	no	no
U07	12	corner lot, unknown interest	0.4	X	46-48	CHESTNUT ST	Board of Selectmen	municipal	urban untended	possible pocket park	yes	VR	no	no

PERMANENT	68.1
LIMITED	510.7
TEMPORARY	0.0
UNKNOWN	0.4
NONE	0.0
TOTAL TOWN LAND OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST	579.1

OTHER TOWN LAND

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	Pro-tection	#	Street	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Grant Used to Purchase	CR or APR?
U14	1	town hall, no open space interest	1.2	L	157	MAIN ST	Board of Selectmen	town hall, parking	good	none	yes	TC	no	no
U09	14	fire station	1.1	L	9	W MAIN ST	Fire Department	fire station	good	none	office only	I	no	no
U08	3	tiny mid town lot, no frontage. Purpose?	0.0	L		MAIN ST	Board of Selectmen	vacant municipal	untended urban, tiny lot, no frontage	maybe pocket park	none	TC	no	no
U07	27-1	by Muzzy Brook	0.1	L		WALL ST	Board of Selectmen	municipal parking	fair	none	yes	TC	no	no
U07	54	Retired Fire Station	0.1	L	11	CHERRY ST	Board of Selectmen	closed fire station	poor, historic bldg, closed	none	none	TC	no	no
U02	6	maple st school	1.0	L	68	MAPLE ST	School Committee	elementary school	fair	playground	limited	VR	no	no

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	Pro-tection	#	Street	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Grant Used to Purchase	CR or APR?
U09	6-1	east side, undeveloped, town purpose unknown, housing?	3.2	L	15	BIXBY RD	Board of Selectmen	vacant municipal	natural	none	yes	VR	no	no
U10	4-1	next to Flexcon	0.0	L		W MAIN ST	Board of Selectmen	municipal utility	poor	none	none	I	no	no
		PERMANENT	0											
		LIMITED	6.8											
		TEMPORARY	0.0											
		UNKNOWN	0.0											
		NONE	0.0											
		TOTAL OTHER TOWN	6.8											

NON-PROFIT OWNED LAND										
MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	protection	#	Street	Owner	Manager	Interest	
R56	16	Thompson Pond Beach	0	L		NOTTINGHAM CIRCLE	SHERWOOD FOREST BEACH ASS TRUST	BEACH ASSOCIATION	FEE	
R32	3-1	no name	1.3	L	43	SMITHVILLE RD	Spencer Agricultural Assoc.	OWNER	FEE	
R05	10	Girl Scout camp	50.0	L		BUTEAU RD	Montachusets Girl Scouts	OWNER	FEE	
R32	3-5	no name	1.0	L	53	SMITHVILLE RD	Spencer Agricultural Assoc.	OWNER	FEE	
R32	3-2	no name	1.5	L	45	SMITHVILLE RD	Spencer Agricultural Assoc.	OWNER	FEE	
R32	3-4	no name	1.1	L	51	SMITHVILLE RD	Spencer Agricultural Assoc.	OWNER	FEE	
R05	6	Girl Scout camp	47.5	L	34	BUTEAU RD	Montachusets Girl Scouts	OWNER	FEE	
R57	51	Boy Scout Camp	0.8	L		BARCLAY RD	Mohegan Council, Inc. BSA	MOHEGAN COUNCIL INC. B.S.O.A.	FEE	
R05	7	Girl Scout camp	131.4	L		BUTEAU RD	Montachusets Girl Scouts	OWNER	FEE	
R54	6	Camp Marshall	134.0	L	75	MCCORMICK RD	Worcester County 4H	Owner	FEE	
R57	15	Boy Scout Camp	62.4	L		BROWNING POND RD	Mohegan Council, Inc. BSA	MOHEGAN COUNCIL INC. B.S.O.A.	FEE	
R57	23	Boy Scout Camp	33.0	L		BROWNING POND RD	INST OF TRUST	MOHEGAN COUNCIL INC. B.S.O.A.	FEE	
R57	21	Boy Scout Camp	0.7	L		BROWNING POND RD	HORNE ARCHIE J	MOHEGAN COUNCIL INC. B.S.O.A.	FEE	
R57	25	Boy Scout Camp	13.0	L		BROWNING POND RD	Mohegan Council, Inc. BSA	MOHEGAN COUNCIL INC. B.S.O.A.	FEE	
R57	35	Boy Scout Camp	0.2	L		BROWNING POND CIRCLE	Mohegan Council, Inc. BSA	MOHEGAN COUNCIL INC. B.S.O.A.	FEE	
R57	40	Boy Scout Camp	84.1	L		BROWNING POND RD	Mohegan Council, Inc. BSA	MOHEGAN COUNCIL INC. B.S.O.A.	FEE	
R57	18	Boy Scout Camp	1.0	L		BROWNING POND RD	Mohegan Council, Inc. BSA	MOHEGAN COUNCIL INC. B.S.O.A.	FEE	
R57	19	Boy Scout Camp	10.0	L	69	BROWNING POND RD	HORNE ARCHIE	MOHEGAN COUNCIL INC. B.S.O.A.	FEE	
R48	5	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	12.0	L		NO SPENCER RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R48	10	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	22.0	L		NO SPENCER RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R48	10	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	22.0	L		NO SPENCER RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R54	3	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	63.5	L		NO SPENCER RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R63	1	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	13.0	L		BROWNING POND RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R53	5	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	41.1	L		NO SPENCER RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R59	1	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	918.0	L	167	NO SPENCER RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R63	2	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	0.6	L		BROWNING POND RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
U11	11	Catholic Cemetary	15.0	L	18	W MAIN ST	Holy Rosary Cemetary	OWNER	FEE	
U07	249	open lot	1.0	L	46	MAPLE ST	St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church	OWNER	FEE	
R49	1	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	3.6	L		ALTA CREST RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R52	6	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	279.8	L		ALTA CREST RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R53	2	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	120.8	L		NO SPENCER RD	Cistercian Abbey of Spencer, Inc.	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R53	3	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	8.6	L		NO SPENCER RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R59	2	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	158.0	L	167	NO SPENCER RD	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R54	4	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	79.9	L		HASTINGS RD	Cistercian Abbey of Spencer, Inc.	Abbot & monks	FEE	
R57	1	ST JOSEPHS ABBEY	5.0	L		NO SPENCER RD	Cistercian Abbey of Spencer, Inc.	Abbot & monks	FEE	
U07	24-1	BY MUZZY Brook	0.2	L		LLOYD DYER DR	Spencer Housing Authority	OWNER	FEE	
U05	5	Prouty High School	44.0	L	302	MAIN ST	SPENCER-E. BROOKFIELD SCHOOL DIST	OWNER	FEE	

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	protection	#	Street	Owner	Manager	Interest
R04	8	Camp	81.0	N		BORKUM RD	DIocese of West Mass	OWNER	FEE
R26	8	Burcoat sanctuary - part	2.1	P		GREENVILLE ST	MASS AUDUBON SOCIETY INC	OWNER	FEE
R54	1	Camp Marshall	1.8	P		NO SPENCER RD	WORC COUNTY 4H CENTER INC	Worcester County 4-H	FEE
R26	7	Burcoat Sanctuary - part	2.1	P		GREENVILLE ST	MASS AUDUBON SOCIETY INC	OWNER	FEE
R54	8	Camp Marshall	125.0	P		MCCORMICK RD	WORC COUNTY 4H CENTER INC	Worcester County 4-H	FEE
R26	2	Burcoat Sanctuary - part	126.6	P		GREENVILLE ST OFF	MASS AUDUBON SOCIETY	OWNER	FEE
R26	6	Burcoat Sanctuary - part	59.5	P		GREENVILLE ST	MASS AUDUBON SOCIETY INC	OWNER	FEE
R47	15	Camp Marshall	5.5	P		MCCORMICK RD	WORCESTER 4-H CENTER INC	Worcester County 4-H	FEE
R54	2	retreat house	4.8	X	186	NO SPENCER RD	MARY HOUSE INC	OWNER	FEE
R34	8-1	HILLSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	15.0	X	472	E MAIN ST	HILLSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	OWNER	FEE
R32	26-4	Fair parking	6.0	X		SMITHVILLE CROSS RD	Spencer Agricultural Assoc.	OWNER	FEE
R54	5	part of Camp Marshall	19.0	X		MCCORMICK RD OFF	WORCESTER 4H	OWNER	FEE
PERMANENT			322.6						
LIMITED			2,381.3						
TEMPORARY			-						
UNKNOWN			44.8						
NONE			81.0						
TOTAL NON-PROFIT			2,829.7						

STATE-OWNED LAND

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	Protection	#	Street	Owner	Manager	Interest
R29	25	behind Big Y along 7Mile R	20.9	L		W MAIN ST	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	unknown	FEE
U35	70	Thompson Pond Island 2	0.1	P		THOMPSON POND RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
U35	69	Thompson Pond Island	0.3	P		THOMPSON POND RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
R55	3	Spencer State Forest	200.0	P	92	MCCORMICK RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
R36	12	Moose Hill WMA	38.5	P		DONNELLY CROSS RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DFW	FEE
R12	11	Spencer State Forest	2.9	P		GRANBERRY MEADOW RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DFW	FEE
R07	25	Four Chimneys WMA	213.0	P	30	BORKUM RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DFW	FEE
R45	2	Moose Hill WMA	157.0	P		DONNELLY CROSS RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DFW	FEE
R46	4	Moose Hill WMA	44.0	P		PAXTON RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DFW	FEE
R18	6	Spencer State Forest	13.0	P		CHARLTON RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
R12	5	Spencer State Forest	1.1	P		GRANBERRY MEADOW RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
R12	12	Spencer State Forest	7.8	P		GRANBERRY MEADOW RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
R12	1	Howe State Park	201.0	P	51	HOWE RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
R10	2	Spencer State Forest	176.0	P		HEBERT RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	protection	#	Street	Owner	Manager	Interest
R18	7	Spencer State Forest	51.8	P		CHARLTON RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
R18	8	Spencer State Forest	21.3	P		CHARLTON RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
R24	12	Spencer State Forest	42.0	P		R JONES RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
R19	12	Howe State Park	93.0	P		HOWE RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
R18	1	Spencer State Forest	79.0	P		E CHARLTON RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	DCR	FEE
R29	23	N. of Rt 9, W of Big Y	56.3	X		W MAIN ST	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	unknown	FEE
R29	6	E of Rt 49 ROW, S of Rt 9	5.4	X		W MAIN ST	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	Mass DOT	FEE
R21	42	pond S of NE Gateway, W of Rt 49	13.6	X		PODUNK PIKE	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	Mass DOT	FEE
R20	28	land abutting Rt 49 to the west	10.6	X		PODUNK PIKE	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	Mass DOT	FEE
R50	1	not named	99.8	X		KITTREDGE RD	COMMONWEALTH OF MA	unknown	FEE
			1341.8						
			20.9						
			0.0						
			185.6						
			0.0						
			1548.3						

PERMANENT	1341.8
LIMITED	20.9
TEMPORARY	0.0
UNKNOWN	185.6
NONE	0.0
TOTAL STATE-OWNED	1548.3

PRIVATE CHAPTER 61A & 61B LAND

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	protection	#	Street	Owner	Manager	Interest
R30	1	61A/Zukas Farm	110.1	P	89	SMITHVILLE RD	ZUKAS PETER W & LYNNA		FEE
R30	1	Zukas Farm	110.1	P		SMITHVILLE RD	COMMONWEALTH		APR
R42	8	61A	6.4	P			BIGLOW NURSERIES		FEE
R42	9	61A	6.4	P			COMMONWEALTH		APR
R39	39	61A	14.8	P		NORTHWEST RD	KEITH ROGER		FEE
R39	39		14.8	P			COMMONWEALTH		APR
R31	3	61A	142.0	P			BIGLOW?		FEE
R31	3		142.0	P			COMMONWEALTH		APR
R32	14	61A	19.7	P			KEITH ROGER E		FEE
R32	14		19.7	P			COMMONWEALTH		APR
R42	12	61A	142.7	P		BROOKS POND RD	BIGLOW NURSERIES		FEE
R42	12		142.7	P			COMMONWEALTH		APR
R50	7	61A	17.7	P			BIGLOW NURSERIES		FEE
R50	7		17.7	P			COMMONWEALTH		APR

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	protection	#	Street	Owner	Manager	Interest
R49	2	61A	93.8	P			BIGELOW NURSERIES		FEE
R49	2		93.8	P			COMMONWEALTH		APR
R42	6	61A	47.7	P			BIGELOW NURSERIES		FEE
R42	6		47.7	P			COMMONWEALTH		APR
R42	11	61A	40.4	P			BIGELOW NURSERIES		FEE
R23	40	61B / Spencer Fish and Game Club	27.6	T	155	MECHANIC ST	SPENCER FISH & GAME CLUB		FEE
R39	14	61B	34.3	T		NO BROOKFIELD RD	FOLEY JOSEPH R		FEE
R03	13	61B	42.6	T		BACON HILL RD	KINNE HELEN C		FEE
R04	3	61B	39.4	T		E CHARLTON RD	JENESE MICHAEL C		FEE
R08	24	61B	7.3	T		BACON HILL RD	KNK REALTY TRUST		FEE
U27	73	61B	10.7	T		CLARK RD	WILLIAMSON RALPH J		FEE
R08	10	61B	50.5	T		BACON HILL RD	KNK REALTY TRUST		FEE
R46	5	61B	19.9	T		PAXTON RD	ANDREWS GREGG E		FEE
R28	11	61B	98.5	T		GREENVILLE ST	SIELIS ALBIN A		FEE
U36	13	61B	9.5	T	61	THOMPSON POND RD	MAKYNEN JOHN M		FEE
R13	25	61B	17.9	T	182	CHARLTON RD	LACROIX WILLIAM E		FEE
R28	7	61B	14.7	T	101	GREENVILLE ST	STANDRING NEIL R		FEE
R38	30	61B	38.2	T	32	COONEY RD	BAKER PETER & GARRETT TRUSTEES		FEE
R12	9	61B	10.7	T	10	MARTIN RD	BIRD WILLIAM E		FEE
R08	38	61B	10.5	T	16	GAUTHIER RD	SMALL GLADYS		FEE
R14	53	61B	43.1	T	38	E CHARLTON RD	BROWER ARNOLD E		FEE
R30	57	61B	12.0	T	6	TREADWELL DR	DLUGASZ EDWARD B		FEE
R08	23	61B	8.3	T	33	BACON HILL RD	KENNEDY JOSEPH & DONNA		FEE
R17	1	61B	27.5	T	169	ASH ST	FARNHAM PAUL S		FEE
R41	3	61B	23.3	T	71	NO BROOKFIELD RD	CZAJKOWSKI FAMILY IRR TRUST		FEE
R23	27	61B	19.9	T	14	HOWE RD	ALLAN JUDITH E		FEE
R25	3	61B	13.4	T	183	GREENVILLE ST	RAMSEY WARREN H		FEE
R47	12	61B	34.8	T	35	MCCORMICK RD	LAPRADE ROBERT T		FEE
R10	19	61B	8.6	T	12	JOLICOEUR RD	MCCOMAS WILLIAM W		FEE
R40	1	61B	32.1	T	37	WOODSIDE RD	NOWAK BERNARD JR		FEE
R27	7	61B	96.4	T	140	GREENVILLE ST	SIMONOVITCH KEITH R		FEE
U03	17	61B	10.7	T	101	ASH ST	PECTEAU ROBERT J		FEE
R43	16-2	61B	16.6	T	59	HASTINGS RD	ADAMS RICHARD H		FEE
R38	23	61B	8.16	T			CHALIFOUX JANET C		FEE
R21	1	61B	37.5	T			CHARPENTIER, JOHN A		FEE
R17	7	61B	35.6	T			LUSSIER NORMAN D		FEE
R13	26	61B	11.9	T			LACROIX WILLIAM E		FEE
R43	13	61B	48.4	T			CHALIFOUX JANET C		FEE

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	protection	#	Street	Owner	Manager	Interest
R46	4-1	61B	12.8	T		PAXTON RD	ANDREWS GREGG E		FEE
R11	4	61A	56.1	T		TOM CASEY RD	PLOURDE ROGER P JR		FEE
R08	28-2	61A	7.0	T		BACON HILL RD	KURLAND CAROL		FEE
R08	28-1	61A	4.8	T	67	BACON HILL RD	STOCKS GORDON E		FEE
R18	14	61A	65.2	T		HOWE RD	MOSCHINI ROBERT H		FEE
R47	6-2	61A	18.3	T		HASTINGS RD	FANNING VIRGINIA A		FEE
R01	18	61A	114.7	T		WM CASEY RD	BEDROSIAN REALTY TRUST		FEE
R11	5	61A	202.2	T		TOM CASEY RD	PLOURDE ROGER P JR		FEE
R44	36	61A	38.2	T		GOLD NUGGET RD	BRUSO PAUL R		FEE
R23	41	61A	38.3	T		MAPLE ST	MOSCHINI ROBERT H		FEE
R23	31	61A	71.8	T		DUFAULT RD	MOSCHINI ROBERT		FEE
R41	10	61A	33.5	T		NO BROOKFIELD RD	BEMIS DOROTHY B		FEE
R40	9	61A	20.2	T		NO BROOKFIELD RD	BEMIS FAMILY LIMITED		FEE
U19	13	61A	12.4	T	73	LINCOLN ST	BOOTH CLAUDE R		FEE
R56	3	61A	52.1	T		NO SPENCER RD	SCUDDER DOUGLAS W		FEE
R38	33	61A	19.7	T		COONEY RD	SMITH CAMERON T		FEE
R08	50	61A	77.2	T	17	SUNBERG RD	GOULD PHILIP M & MARY		FEE
R16	1	61A	104.5	T	65	GH WILSON RD	PUALWAN FAWZI		FEE
R20	21	61A	7.6	T	94	SO SPENCER RD	DAVIS SHERYLE M		FEE
R34	3	61A	24.6	T	22	POLAR SPRINGS RD	MAINVILLE KIRK D TRUSTEE		FEE
R56	2	61A	9.3	T	243	NO SPENCER RD	SCUDDER DOUGLAS W		FEE
R10	18	61A	41.0	T	6	LEONARD RD	THOMAS ROGER O		FEE
R45	10	61A	52.2	T	170	PAXTON RD	ANDREWS NANCY A TRUSTEE		FEE
R44	10	61A	166.3	T	20	MCCORMICK RD	ATGALINAS GEORGE		FEE
R44	9	61A	69.6	T	17	MCCORMICK RD	STANDISH RICHARD A		FEE
R50	5	61A	50.0	T	85	NORTHWEST RD	RICHARDSON NANCY A		FEE
R35	16	61A	74.1	T	59	DONNELLY RD	SIMONIS DAVID		FEE
R01	13	61A	69.5	T	182	SO SPENCER RD	HOOGASIAN JOHN S		FEE
R21	3	61A	11.3	T	62	SO SPENCER RD	MCGEE SHARON S		FEE
R51	16	61A	8.1	T	26	BROOKS POND CROSS RD	HARTSHORN BRUCE E		FEE
R20	23	61A	42.1	T	84	SO SPENCER RD	FOLEY JOHN A		FEE
R39	27	61A/Bemis Farm	126.7	T	32	NO BROOKFIELD RD	BEMIS FAMILY LIMITED		FEE
R23	25	61A	154.3	T	30	HOWE RD	MOSCHINI ROBERT H		FEE
R06	1	61A	33.8	T	2	CHICKERING RD	WATSON GEORGE W & CLARA J LE		FEE
R37	26	61A/Wilson Farm	147.6	T	115	WILSON ST	WILSON CARL H SR		FEE
R20	20	61A	39.4	T	8	GALE DR	NORDQUIST KURT A		FEE
R25	38	61A	12.5	T	25	KINGSBURY RD	PILLING LEONARD T		FEE
R38	20	61A	87.6	T	3	WIRE VILLAGE RD	DOWNEY ELEANOR S		FEE
R40	7	61A	88.0	T	22	NORCROSS RD	GAUCHER PETER		FEE

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	protection	#	Street	Owner	Manager	Interest
R43	10	61A	42.3	T	15	COONEY RD	SMITH CAMERON T		FEE
R39	26	61A	80.1	T	38	NO BROOKFIELD RD	BEMIS WARREN S LE		FEE
R42	26	61A	8.5	T	81	NO SPENCER RD	DILEO ANN F		FEE
R42	30	61A	36.4	T	91	NO SPENCER RD	THIBAUT EDWARD M		FEE
R49	3	61A	6.4	T	82	NORTHWEST RD	WOODIS STEVEN R		FEE
R32	26	61A	28.6	T	16	TERKANIAN DR	TERKANIAN BENJAMIN J		FEE
R14	47	61A	74.6	T	76	E CHARLTON RD	KURLAND CAROL		FEE
R01	17	61A	4.8	T		OFF WM CASEY	BEDROSIAN REALTY TRUST		FEE
R43	3	61A	7.5	T			THIBAUT EDWARD M		FEE
R06	9	61A	70.5	T			GEORGE W WATSON		FEE
R47	18	61A	26.0	T		MCCORMICK RD	ATGALINAS GEORGE		FEE
R51	2	61A	39.9	T		BROOKS POND RD	DOWNEY ELEANOR S		FEE
R15	3	61A	9.3	T			WATSON GEORGE W & CLARA J LE		FEE
R40	4	61A	87.4	T			GAUCHER PETER		FEE
R51	15	61A	16.0	T		BROOKS POND CROSS RD	HARTSHORN BRUCE E		FEE
U29	110	61A	9.4	T		CLARK RD	WATSON GEORGE W & CLARA J LE		FEE
U27	1	61A	15.1	T			WATSON GEORGE W & CLARA J LE		FEE
R31	4	61A	55.1	T			PETER ZUKAS		FEE
R43	4	61A	10.3	T			THIBAUT EDWARD M		FEE
R07	11	61A	83.1	T			GEORGE W WATSON		FEE
R51	19	61A	8.8	T		OFF BROOK POND RD	DOWNEY ELEANOR S		FEE
R35	17	61A	22.0	T			SIMONIS DAVID		FEE
U15	46-2	61A	10.8	T		MAIN STREET	FECTEAI ROBERT J		FEE
U15	46-2		10.8	T		MAIN STREET	CONSERVATION COM	CONSERVATION COM	CR
R39	17	61A	5.8	T			BEMIS FAMILY TRUST		FEE
R42	25	61A	10.9	T			THIBAUT EDWARD M		FEE
R25	16	61A	108.0	T		KINGSBURY RD	LEONARD PILLING		FEE
R26	4	61A	39.0	T		GREENVILLE ST	GREEN DAVID H		FEE
R45	7	61A	164.0	T		PAXTON RD	ANDREWS NANCY A TRUSTEE		FEE
R60	38	61A	23.1	T		BROOKS POND CROSS RD	HARTSHORN BRUCE E		FEE

PERMANENT	1230.2
LIMITED	0.0
TEMPORARY	4299.2
UNKNOWN	0.0
NONE	0.0
TOTAL 61A/61B	5529.5

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	protection	#	Street	Owner	Manager	Interest
WATERBODIES									
MAP	Parcel	Description	GIS Acres	Protection	#	Address	Owner	Manager	Interest
R04		Jones Pond		X		Jones Pond	no assessors data		?
U18		Lake Whittemore		X		Lake Whittemore	TOWN OF SPENCER - MAYBE	Owner	?
U25		Cranberry Meadow Lake		X		Cranberry Meadow Lake	Unknown	Owner	?
R57		Browning Pond		P		Browning Pond	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Owner	?
U07		Muzzy Pond		P		Muzzy Pond	TOWN OF SPENCER	Department of Utilities & Facilities	?
U35		Thompson Pond, South half		P		Thompson Pond, South half	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Lake Association	?
U37		Thompson Pond, North half		P		Thompson Pond, North half	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Lake Association	?
U28		Stiles Reservoir		X		Stiles Reservoir	Stiles Water District	Owner	?
U31		Suggden Reservoir		P		Suggden Reservoir	Dam owned by Town of Spencer	Lake Association	?
R26		Burncoat Pond		X		Burncoat Pond	no assessors data	Owner	?
R60		Brooks Pond		P		Brooks Pond	Brooks Pond Conservation Association	Owner	?
R48		Sevenmile River		X		Sevenmile River	no assessors data		?
R29		Sevenmile River		X		Sevenmile River	no assessors data		?
R21		Sevenmile River		X		Sevenmile River	no assessors data		?

6	PROTECTED
8	UNKNOWN PROTECTION LEVEL

MAP	Parcel	Description	Acres	protection	#	Street	Owner	Manager	Interest
OTHER LAND OF CONSERVATION INTEREST									
MAP	Parcel	Description	GIS Acres	Protection	#	Address	Owner	Manager	Interest
R16	1	Pualwan Property	3	N	65	GH WILSON ROAD	FAWZI PUALLWAN	Owner	Fee
R16	1	Pualwan Property	94	P	65	GH WILSON ROAD	Trustees of the Reservations	Fee Owner	CR

PERMANENT	94
LIMITED	0
TEMPORARY	0
UNKNOWN	0
NONE	3
TOTAL OTHER LAND	97

GRAND TOTAL FOR LANDS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST

PERMANENT	3,056.6	29%
LIMITED	2,919.7	28%
TEMPORARY	4,299.2	41%
UNKNOWN	230.8	2%
NONE	84.0	1%
ALL LANDS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION INTEREST	10,590.4	100%

TOTAL OTHER ASSESSOR RECORDED ACRES	5222.6
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Appendix D: Parks & Recreation Capital and Maintenance Plans



Capital Needs of Spencer Park and Recreation Department

Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:55 AM

From: "William Shemeth" <youthcommission2000@yahoo.com>
 To: "Adam Gaudette" <agaudette@SPENCERMA.GOV>
 Cc: "Laura Torti" <ltorti@SPENCERMA.GOV>, "Anthony Pepe" <tpep1@charter.net>, "Anthony Toscano" <aftelectric@gmail.com>, "Lynne Porretti" <lporretti@SPENCERMA.GOV>, "Betty Bruley" <brubett@charter.net>
 6 Files (14 MB)



Adam;

Commissioners have been working diligently to identify various capital needs and projects of the various park facilities under the oversight of the Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission. Some of the smaller items were already identified and presented to you as part of our budget request. I will expand on that list in this communication.

1. Camera/Security System to Help Monitor , Deter, and Followup on Vandalism Issues at Various Park Facilitites

Powdermill Park has experienced various issues of vandalism to the playground equipment over the past few years. Playground equipment has had to be repaired and replaced at a financial cost due to these vandalism issues.

Luther Hill Park has also experienced vandalism issues over the past few years. This has included vandalism to the handicapped access ramp at the beach, vanadlism to the fence and ramps at the skateboard park, and vandalism to the outside of the beachouse. While the intensity of these issues has decreased at Luther Hill Park, vandalism continues to present financial and clean-up challenges at Luther Hill Park.

O'Gara Park has experienced by far the greatest level of major and consistent vandalism over the past few years. We have experienced vandalism to the grandstands, field, concession building, and fence. this results in substantial repair challenges each spring.

In order to systematically address the vandalism, the Park commission wishes to install a security camera system with tie-in to the Police Department which can be viewed in real time by police department staff as well as provide film for investigation of vandalism issues.

The cost of this system by park would be

O'Gara Park 8 cameras with underground piping	- \$46,000.00
Powdermill Park 4 cameras	- \$14,000.00
Luther Hill Park 8 cameras	- \$42,000.00
Total Cost of Security Camera Systems	\$102,000.00

I will ask Tony Toscano to provide further specifics on the nature of the security system.

2. New Restroom/ Concession Building for O'Gara Park

O'Gara Park is currently lacking a permanent functioning restroom facility. In addition, the concession

building is outdated and deteriorating. The Park commission currently with the leagues using the field pay for porta potties to meet the immediate restroom need. In order for O'Gara Park to be usable for tournaments to generate more revenue and to secure long term commitments from the youth football and softball leagues the updating of the restroom and concession facilities is long overdue. It is more cost effective to build a new building than to attempt to repair the existing buildings.

Costs

Septic System and Design -	\$42,000.00
Electrical Work-	\$46,000.00
Plumbing Work-	\$26,000.00
Concrete Work	\$14,000.00
Interior Petitions-	\$25,000.00
Site Work-	\$25,000.00

Total Projected Cost \$178,000.00

A rough hand drawn sketch is attached.

3. Fencing Work/ Replacement at Luther Hill Park, Powdermill Park, and O'Gara Park

Through deterioration and vandalism , fencing damage has occurred at the skateboard park at Luther Hill Park, Powdermill Mill Park, and O'Gara Park. At O'Gara Park the fence needs to be replaced or repaired along the rail trail and O'Gara Park. It is also recommended that a gate be installed in between the rail trail and O'Gara Park. The fence gate at Powdermill Park needs to be repaired or replaced. Fence work at O'Gara Park needs to be undertaken for portions of the fence along the field perimeter as well. The fence at the skateboard park at Luther Hill Park needs substantial work. I have asked Tony toscano to contact Morrison Fence to make site visits and provide cost estimates for the work needed broken down by park facilities. I will forward use the cost estimates when I receive them.

4. Paving of O'Gara Parking Lot

O'Gara Park's parking lot has been unpaved for as long as anyone can remember. To become a more modern and user friendly facility it is recommended that the parking area be paved at some point in the future. This would most likely be a major expense. Tony Toscano did receive a estimate which he believes Lynn now has. I will follow up with her on this issue. When I receive the cost estimate I will forward the figure to you. The facility and maintenance committee report suggests a cost of \$31,000.00 .

5. Paving of Additional Parking Spaces at Powdermill Park

In reviewing the Facilities Maintenance and Repair committee recommendations for Powdermill Park, one recommendation was for providing more paved parking area along the edge of the road. The figure provided by the committee report is \$6,500.00.

6. Installation of Safety Fiber for Powdermill Park Playground

In order to meet requirements to maintain handicapped access for the playground at Powdermill Park , the safety fiber needs to be replenished every few years. this work is slightly overdue at Powdermill Park. We have requested \$3,000.00 for this project.

7. Various Smaller Luther Hill Park Projects

The lifeguard stand at Luther Hill Park is currently not constructed to code. The benches were refurbished with new wood but still need to be painted. Various picnic tables need to be refurbished with new wood and repainted. We recommend that new grills and trash cans be installed to encourage more family use of Luther Hill Park. The lifeguard rescue boat is no longer functioning and needs to be replaced. Some interior patching and shelving work needs to be completed inside the boathouse. Also some interior demolition and repair work to the old restroom for a parking attendant station and storage needs to be undertaken. There may be various

dead or dying trees or trees which require trimming along the roadway in Luther Hill Park. The Park commission will work with the tree warden and Utilities and Facilities Department to develop a plan to address this issue. These last three projects will require further investigation to develop plans and cost estimates.

Costs

LHP Grills and Installation \$2,150.00
 LHP Rescue Boat \$3,000.00
 LHP Picnic Tables/Benches/Trash Cans \$2,000.00
 LHP Lifeguard Stand/Platform \$2,000.00

Total Cost \$9150.00

8. Monument Refurbishment and Repairs

The Park Commission has oversight over various monuments within our parks. these include the Bemis Monument at Bemis Park, the monument at Powdermill Park, and the Soldier's Monument at Prouty Park. No one has recently brought in any consultant to evaluate the conditions of these monuments, identify needed repairs or maintenance steps, or estimated costs for long term preservation of these historically important monuments. The Park Commission has requested \$5,000.00 to survey these monuments, identify needed repairs or preservation measures with cost estimates, and begin some repairs identified as needed.

9. Office Computer

The computer and printer in the Park and Recreation office is very old and potentially outdated. With the park department becoming increasingly relaint on computer software and use to plan and implement programming, we have requested \$1,000.00 to update the omputer in our office.

10. O'Gara Park Site Visit Issues Identified

In the joint site visit conducted by Tony Toscano, Park Commission Co-Chairman and Eben Butler, Highway Foreman, the following issues were identified. While we are exploring volunteer options to address these issues, we will also obtain cost estimates for these repair/replacement issues. The railings on the handicapped ramps near the grandstand have been broken off and need to be replaced. The netting on the backstop needs to be replaced. The roof on the dugout has rotted through and needs to be replaced. the sprinkler system has several breaks in it which need to be repaired. The field needs to be limes, seeded and fertilized. 12 lamps on the tall light poles will need to be replaced . To accomplish this, we hope to coordinate with the Utilities and Facilities Department to obtain use of a lift to reach the lights for replacement. The walking track at O'Gara Park needs to be refurbished. The dirt parking lot will also need some work after the heavy storage of snow during this past winter season. We hope to get Highway Department and private contractor donated help for this project. The maintenance committee report also noted that the small eletrical shed needed a new roof. I will forward cost estimates for these items when I receive them,

10. Powdermill Park Issues

The joint site visit of Mr. Toscano and Mr. Butler identified some playground equipment specifically the slide roof which needs replacement. I will further investigate the costs of these items and forward you the figure when I obtain it.

The field portion of Powdermill Park has been destroyed by grubs. The Commission will need to find an approved way of dealing with the grubs that meets the requirements of protecting the nearby watershed. The field will then need to be relimed, seeded, and fertilized. I will forward cost estimates for this project when I have recieved them .

11. Rail Trail Issues

There are some areas of the rail trail which have been washed out and some additional drainage work is required on the trail. some work may also be required long term to assess the pond and dam area on how to preserve these resources. I have been informed by Ginny Scarlet that the Conservation Commission has obtained some figures for these items. I will follow up with her on these issues. There is also a desire to construct a handicapped accessible fishing pier in an area near the Rail Trail Pond. This was to be a Eagle

Scout project originally . I will seek cost figures from Ginny on this project. The Park commission has also identified the creation of a HP accessible path from O'Gara Park parking area to the Rail Trail as a needed project in prior capital plans. I will forward cost figures for these various projects when I have obtained them.

The Park Commission has proposed the purchase of additional heavy benches to be placed strategically along the Rail Trail. We have also proposed the purchase of Wellness Stations along the Rail Trail in prior capital plans. The last time this was proposed in 2008, the cost at that time was estimated at \$7034.00. Supporting documentation attached.

12. Pet Waste Disposal Dispenser Solution System

To help pet owners who utilize park facilities where pets are permitted to clean up after their pets, we have in past capital plans proposed the purchase of eight pet waste disposal dispensers. The cost of purchase and installation in 2008 was \$ 3,632.00.

13. Luther Hill Park Playground System

In order to encourage more family use of Luther Hill Park , the Park Commission in prior capital plans has requested the purchase of a small beach friendly playground system including a challenger play system, rockblocks rock wall, two spring mates riding models and installation. the cost for this package in 2008 was \$15,706.00. I will seek updated prices and forward them to you upon receipt. Supporting documentation attached.

14. Luther Hill Park Pavilion

The Park commission has submitted plans to reconstruct the pavilion that existed in earlier times at Luther Hill Park. The pavilion was the site for many community events and activities in years past. A prefabricated standard pavilion would cost approximately \$20,398.00 To reconstruct a historically accurate pavilion would cost \$100,000.00. Landscaping would cost approximately \$5,000.00. Supporting documentation attached.

15. Luther Hill Park Stone Wall Restoration

The Park Commission has in the past capital plans and grant requests sought funds to restore the stone walls at Luther Hill Park to a historically accurate condition. Luther Hill Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2008, the estimated cost of this project was \$40,000.00.

16. Paddleboat/ Fishing Dock

In past capital plan, the Park commission has requested funds for paddleboats and a fishing/boat dock at Luther Hill Park. In 2008, the estimated cost of these items 5,732.40. Your comments about concerns regarding fishing and boating access at Luther hill Park show that this is still a current public issue.

17. Dog Park at Ralph Warren Park

In prior capital plans, the Park Commission has identified a desire to establish a dog park at Ralph Warren Park. Further investigation of the feasibility , design, and costs of this endeavor needs to be conducted.

The identification and development of the capital needs of the various park facilities under the oversight of the Park and Recreation Commission is still a ongoing work in progress. We will continue to provide you with updated information as we obtain it. I have prepared this preliminary report to put forth the various capital needs of the Park Commission to meet your request. The co-chair of the Park Commission made a joint site visit to the various parks with the Highway Department foreman to identify issues as per your recommendation. The information obtained from this joint site visit is incorporated in this report. I have also reviewed the reports of the facilities and maintenance committee of a few years ago, prior capital plan and grant submissions as regarding unfunded items, and my own knowledge of recent capital issue needs which have arisen to help draft this preliminary report. Various supporting documentation is attached to this e-mail. I hope you find this helpful. I

will continue to provide you with further information as the Commission researches or locates it.

Bill Shemeth
Co-chairman
Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission

Town of Spencer Parks & Recreation Department Maintenance Guidelines

This is a general Maintenance guideline for the Park grounds. These are rough timelines listed here and are flexible. There will be many “projects” or “special issues” that will arise and be added to these general guidelines. Many of the projects /tasks will require the request of assistance from the Spencer Utilities and Facilities Department by the Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission. Assistance may be sought from some of the following sources. Some of these projects/tasks at O’Gara Park will be completed by volunteers from the softball leagues and youth football league in preparation for, during, and after their respective playing seasons in exchange for waiving of per team playing fees. Volunteer days will also be organized for cleanup and small project work at various park facilities (i.e. Spencer Pride Day). The Spencer Park and Recreation Commission will work actively with the Spencer Conservation Commission and the snowmobile club to help maintain and improve the Rail Trail. The Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission will on occasion request use of community service from the Worcester County Sheriff’s Department to complete some of the needed tasks/projects. Assistance will also on occasion be requested through the senior tax work-off program, the community service program at David Prouty High School, Scout groups including potential Eagle Scout projects, and through the vocational programs at Bay Path Vocational High School. All volunteers will complete the required waiver of liability forms through the Commission. In the fall/spring of each year and on an as needed basis throughout the year, the Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission will review and make adjustments to this set of maintenance guidelines. At least once a year, representatives of the Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission will make a joint inspection of park facilities with U&F personnel and make any needed recommendations based on their site visit.

LUTHER HILL PARK:

March:

Annual joint inspection of park facilities by Park Commissioner/s and U&F representatives. List of recommendations will be prepared from results of site visit.

April:

- Inspect and repair docks if needed
- Collect any debris that has collected over the winter months such as leaves, paper and other trash
- Inspect beach and road for branches and limbs and remove
- Clean roads of debris with blower
- Inspect and repair handicap walkway/ramp
- Inspect and schedule if needed repainting of HP parking spaces, crosswalk areas, and other needed items on roadway/paved parking areas
- Inspect inside and outside of boathouse and restrooms – list any needed repairs
- Inspect skate park for damage/debris/graffiti and correct or clean up

May:

- turn on water at park for bathrooms
- contact plumber to perform needed tasks to make bathrooms functional
- inspect and clean inside of restrooms in preparation for use – restock
- move materials from various storage areas to the boathouse (materials for Summer Adventure Program)
- inspect boathouse and clean in preparation for use
- clean any debris – empty trash
- uncover septic tank and check for maintenance – have cleaned if necessary – done at least once every three years or as requested
- rake sand on beach area – add new sand only if necessary
- clean handicap ramp and inspect for damage or repairs
- inspect skate park – remove debris/graffiti/ trash
- evaluate status of roadway/paved areas and arrange for any needed work

June:

- need docks and rafts put in water before / by 3rd week in June
- re-check bathrooms and make sure operational, clean and stocked
- trash barrels emptied, debris picked up
- put up volleyball net on sand court
- inspect skate park – clean debris empty trash
- inspect pump structure for damage / report if any and repairs if necessary
- weed whacking of brush on Frisbee golf course
- Designated beach staff to clean and restock restrooms if needed on a daily basis during summer season.

- Beach staff to report any repair issues which arise to commissioners who will contact U&F Department or other appropriate town department or private contractor if necessary for assistance

July:

- maintain grass areas as needed
- trash / debris maintained
- inspect skate park for trash / graffiti and maintain
- inspect ramp / pump house areas – report anything and repair as needed
- Designated beach staff to clean and restock restrooms if needed on a daily basis during summer season.
- Beach staff to report any repair issues which arise to commissioners who will contact U&F Department or other appropriate town department or private contractor if necessary for assistance

August:

- maintain all areas as needed including skate park area
- trash emptied
- end of August remove docks and rafts from water at the close of beach
- inspect all and list parts/repairs needed if any to docks/rafts
- Waterfront Director to note any needed repairs, issues, and recommendations for physical improvements or changes to park facilities, equipment, and other related issues in his/her end of the season written report.
- Docks/rafts stored on grassy areas; polls, pads and wheels are stored in the boathouse. Also the ladders from rafts.
- Boat placed in boathouse at end of summer
- Designated beach staff to clean and restock restrooms if needed on a daily basis during summer season.
- Secure boat house
- Store summer adventure materials here
- Weed whacking of brush on Frisbee golf course
- Beach staff to report any repair issues which arise to commissioners who will contact U&F Department or other appropriate town department or private contractor if necessary for assistance

September/October:

- remove volleyball net from court
- check and maintain skate park and area – clean leaves and trash
- Check restrooms – shut off water and prepare for winter through contacting of plumber to perform needed services.
- Check boathouse and secure for winter.

O'GARA PARK:

March:

- do a soil test and have it sent for results
- Inspection of O'Gara Parking lot after winter snow storage season, coordination of any needed repairs with U&F personnel with assistance from approved snow removal storage parties.
- Annual joint inspection of park facilities by Park commissioner/s and U&F personnel. List of recommendations will be prepared from results of site visit.
- Communication with Softball representatives both men's league and women's league re facility needs, signing of lease, and volunteer waiver forms.
- Arrange for performance of annual preventative maintenance and servicing on lawnmowers and similar equipment before opening of softball season.
- check equipment for seasonal operations – get repairs done now

April:

- collect any debris that has collected over the winter months such as leaves, branches, paper and other trash – including the parking lot area
- Arrange for delivery of porta-potties
- Aerate entire field using a core aerator – make sure irrigation heads are clearly marked/flagged so damage doesn't occur.
- Over seed field after aeration then drag field (old chain link fence or drag mat works well) fertilize with a starter with some type of preemergent crabgrass control (Siduron -Tupersan only)
- Mow as needed cutting height of 2 to 3 inches
- Drag infields filling in any low spots
- Inspect Grandstands and other buildings for damage and report
- Position bleachers in proper places for softball
- Empty trash barrels
- Paint lines in outfields for softball games when they begin
- Set up diamonds for games in they begin – see schedules
- Check lights and see how many need repair – report
- Foul line poles need to be replaced

May:

- check irrigation system and start-up system to inspect to make sure it is properly working and if repairs are needed report and repair
- collect any debris in and outside of park and areas (parking lot)
- empty trash barrels
- inspect Grandstands and other buildings for damage – report and repair
- mow as needed at 2 to 3 inches in height
- Make sure supplies are purchased and placed in maintenance buildings i.e.: paint or lines, lime for infield lines etc...
- set up diamonds for games according to the schedules supplied

- maintain infield(s) for play – dragging them before setting up
- inspect the outfield for holes divots and fill in as needed
- end of May – fertilize field again
- make sure all equipment is put away and stored properly

June and July:

- inspect Grandstands and building for damage – report and repair
- Communication with youth football league regarding signing of lease, facility needs, and signing of volunteer waiver forms.
- collect any debris in and outside of park
- empty trash barrels
- mow as needed at 2 to 3 inches in height
- irrigate when needed – do not over water field (remember Mother Nature does not water all the time)
- Set up diamonds according to schedules – drag fields, line etc...
- check for holes or divots in outfields and fill in as needed
- spray along fences to keep growth from taking over
- make sure equipment is stored properly and secure
- check for any insect damage in turf and treat if signs are present

August:

- late in month after softball the football field is set up with goal posts and lines
- arrange for delivery of additional porta-potties for football season if needed
- aerate lightly (one to three passes only) and drag to break up cores
- mow as needed
- trash emptied areas inspected
- inspect buildings and Grandstands for damage if any
- move bleachers to proper locations for football (late)

September/October:

- mid September to mid October – aerate lightly (one pass) and lightly over seed with turf type perennial ryegrass every other week during the fall playing season – fertilize
- maintain lines on field, fill in any divots / ruts or holes on field
- maintain trash and debris pickup
- end of October – blow out irrigation lines and prepare system for winter

November/December:

- at close of season, aerate several different directions – make sure heads have been marked and protected
- lime field if necessary
- put away bleachers
- put away and secure all equipment
- prepare buildings and equipment for winter storage

- **Joint meeting at O’Gara Park of Conservation Commission/Agent representative, Park commissioner, and U&F personnel re winter snow removal storage placement, concerns, and procedure**
- **Designation of Approved List of Snow Removal Storage Parties**
- **Removal of Porta-Potties for Winter Season**

RAIL TRAIL:

March:

Joint inspection of park facilities will be conducted by Park commissioner/s, Conservation Commission agent/members, and U&F personnel. List of recommendations will be prepared from results of site visit.

April:

- **inspect and remove debris from stone drains/culverts**
- **remove tree limbs / branches from path**
- **clean path with blower removing leaves**
- **repair any washed out areas**
- **clean parking areas – replace any signs as needed**
- **empty trash barrels in parking areas and on trail**
- **April/May the culvert work/project is scheduled to be started and completed.**

May/June/July/August:

- **inspect trail for any damage, report and fix if not a major repair**
- **inspect parking areas for trash and damage – empty and repair**
- **empty trash as needed**
- **check culvert for blockages/flow and report if problem (visual check)**
- **fill in and fix any ruts/divots in trail to keep it handicap accessible**

September/October:

- **maintain debris off trail and keep control of trash**
- **Inspect culvert/spillway and clean debris away before freezing of pond occurs.**

On-going cooperation will occur between Spencer Conservation commission/agent, Spencer Snowmobile club, Spencer U&F Department, and Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission regarding identification of, planning for, and completion of work regarding physical maintenance and repair needs of Rail Trail. Particular attention will be given to monitoring condition of trail after heavy rain/flooding events.

POWDER MILL PARK:

March:

Joint inspection of park facilities by Park commissioner/s and U&F personnel will be conducted. List of recommendations will be prepared from results of site visit.

April:

- collect any debris that has collected over winter months such as leaves, branches, tree limbs, paper and other trash
- Porta-potty scheduled to be delivered.
- inspect equipment for damage and needed repairs – make repairs that for safety hazards right away, other repairs report first
- inspect pavilion for damage or needed repairs
- mow areas as needed

May/June/July/August:

- empty trash as needed
- mow as needed
- inspect equipment and pavilion areas for damage – report and repair as needed
- inspect safety wood fiber and make sure areas are properly covered
- inspect fences and gates and repair as needed
- Trim brush/ shrubs in park and around outside.

September/October/November:

- maintain trash pick up
- inspect equipment
- Do a fall clean up of leaves and debris.
- Porta-potty scheduled to be picked up for winter season

OTHER PARKS – BEMIS, RALPH WARREN, ISSAC PROUTY:

March:

Joint inspection of park facilities will be conducted by Park commissioner/s and U&F personnel. List of recommendations will be prepared from results of site visit.

April:

- collect any debris that has collected over winter months such as leaves, branches, paper and other trash

May thru August:

- mow areas as needed
- trash barrels emptied as needed
- pick up debris as needed
- inspect for any damage to areas – report and repair

September/November:

- weather permitting – do a fall clean up of all areas in these parks

RALPH WARREN PARK:

March:

Joint inspection of park facilities will be conducted by Park commissioner/s and U&F personnel. List of recommendations will be prepared from results of site visit.

April:

- must secure cover on well and fill in culvert area with stone for drainage

May thru August:

- **mow areas as needed**
- **Trash barrels emptied as needed**
- **pick up debris as needed**
- **inspect for any damage to areas – report and repair**

September/November:

- **weather permitting – do a fall cleanup of all areas in this park**

Appendix E: Town Resource Brochures

SPENCER MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS & RECREATION GUIDE

Seven Mile River. It contains playgrounds, picnic tables, and cookout facilities.

RALPH WARREN PARK



Ralph Warren Park is a small nature preserve featuring woodland trails. Located on Wire Village Road, across from the

Seven Mile River and historic mill sites, the park was named for former Conservation Commissioner Ralph Warren. It was dedicated in 1978 by the U.S. Young Adult Conservation Corps.

VIETNAM MEMORIAL PARK

Vietnam Memorial Park, located on South Spencer Road beside the South Spencer School, was the first of its kind in the nation. Dedicated on April 27, 1975, it pays tribute to the three Spencer men who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

RIVERS & STREAMS

TURKEY HILL BROOK

Turkey Hill Brook flows from Paxton into Spencer in the northeast corner of town. Dams were erected along the brook to power the wire mills that dotted this area, but the only remaining dam is the one that forms Thompson Pond. The brook joins the Seven Mile River northeast of Pine Grove Cemetery.

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2008

play ground, skateboard park, and disc golf course (donated and installed by the Spencer Lions Club). Named for judge, businessman, and civic leader Luther Hill, who donated the land to the town in 1888, the park is located at the end of Park Street off of Route 9. Parking fees apply during the summer months.

MOOSE HILL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Moose Hill Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Commonwealth Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, is a 560-acre property that straddles the towns of Paxton, Leicester, and Spencer. There is a levy (crossed by the Midstate Trail) and a small reservoir created in the 1960s for flood control. Spencer access is on Moose Hill Road. From Route 9, follow Donnelly Road to Donnelly Cross Road.

O'GARA PARK



O'gara Park originated in 1886, when the Spencer Baseball Association leased approximately eight acres at the end of Water Street for a baseball park. Eight years later, businessman and civic leader John O'Gara purchased the property for use as baseball and circus grounds. The town purchased the property in 1934, and many baseball, softball, and youth football teams play there today. The park's historic wooden grandstand, constructed in 1931, is one of only three in the nation.

POWDER MILL PARK



Powder Mill Park, on the southwest corner of Meadow Street (Route 31) and Smithville Road, takes its name from mills that made gunpowder along the nearby



ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS IN SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS

Spencer, Massachusetts, is located twelve miles west of Worcester on Route 9. Once a thriving farming and industrial community, Spencer retains its identity as a vibrant and prosperous small town. The downtown area boasts antiques and other specialty shops, the historic district contains houses dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, and the town's parks, waterways, and woodlands offer plentiful opportunities for outdoor recreation.



Spencer is well known for its annual agricultural fair during Labor Day weekend. It is also rich in natural resources and man-made facilities that make for an enjoyable out-of-doors experience year round. Residents and visitors are encouraged to explore Spencer's recreational treasures and experience for themselves the beautiful outdoors in Spencer, Massachusetts.

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PARKS

BEMIS MEMORIAL PARK



Bemis Memorial Park, located on a knoll on the north side of Route 9 just west of the Seven Mile River, commemorates

Samuel Bemis, the first permanent European settler of Spencer, and Captain Edmund Bemis, who served in the French and Indian War. Designated a state roadside rest area, the small park contains monuments and two Parrott guns (cannons) used in the Civil War.

BUCK HILL CONSERVATION CENTER

Buck Hill Conservation Center consists of 128 acres of the Camp Marshall 4-H Center. Located in north Spencer on McCormick Road, Buck Hill features nature trails and a 10-acre fish pond.

BURNCOAT POND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Burncoat Pond Wildlife Sanctuary is a 64-acre parcel purchased by the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 2006. It includes woods, a small pond, and trails. It is accessible from Greenville Street and also from the Midstate Trail near the Leicester line.

CAMP MARSHALL WORCESTER COUNTY 4-H CENTER

Camp Marshall Worcester County 4-H Center, located at 92 McCormick Road, encompasses approximately three hundred acres of pastures, woods, and ponds. Established on the site of the former Civilian Conservation Corps and National Youth Administration camp in 1945, Camp Marshall is a traditional camp featuring swimming, fishing, horseback riding, and barnyard and nature programs.

FOUR CHIMNEYS RECREATION AREA

Four Chimneys Recreation Area is a 400-acre wildlife management area managed by the Commonwealth Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Located on Borkum Road, a designated scenic road, Four Chimneys is traversed by a section of the Midstate Trail.

HOWE STATE PARK

Howe State Park, also known as Spencer State Forest, is a scenic 965-acre recreational area offering hiking, canoeing, fishing, and picnicking, as well as cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the winter. It contains a fieldstone monument marking the birthplace of Elias Howe (inventor of the sewing machine) and the original stone doorsteps of the house. There are picnic tables and barbeque pits. The park is located on Howe Pond Road, off Route 31 south of Route 9.

ISAAC PROUTY PARK



Isaac Prouty Park, located on Main Street near the old David Prouty High School, was a gift to the town from

Isaac Lothrop Prouty, a nephew of Isaac Prouty, a prominent boot manufacturer. The park was presented to the town in 1905 and laid out with walkways, trees, and shrubs. On Patriot's Day in 1911, the town honored the 319 Spencer men who had served in the Civil War by erecting a Soldiers Monument in the park.

LUTHER HILL PARK



Luther Hill Park, which borders Lake Whittemore in the center of town, is a 14-acre recreational area with a pine grove, public beach, picnic tables,

LAKES & PONDS

BROOKS POND

Brooks Pond, located primarily in North Brookfield, was created by damming the Five Mile River. A favorite with canoeists and kayakers, the pond has a small beach that is open to the public but not staffed by lifeguards. It is located on Brooks Pond Road, which forks off Northwest Road off Route 31.

BROWNING POND

Browning Pond, created to power a nearby sawmill, is located on Browning Pond Road off Route 31. It offers boating and fishing.

CRANBERRY MEADOW POND

Cranberry Meadow Pond, created to power a nearby shoe peg factory and gristmill, is located on Cranberry Meadow Road. There is limited fishing from the shore.

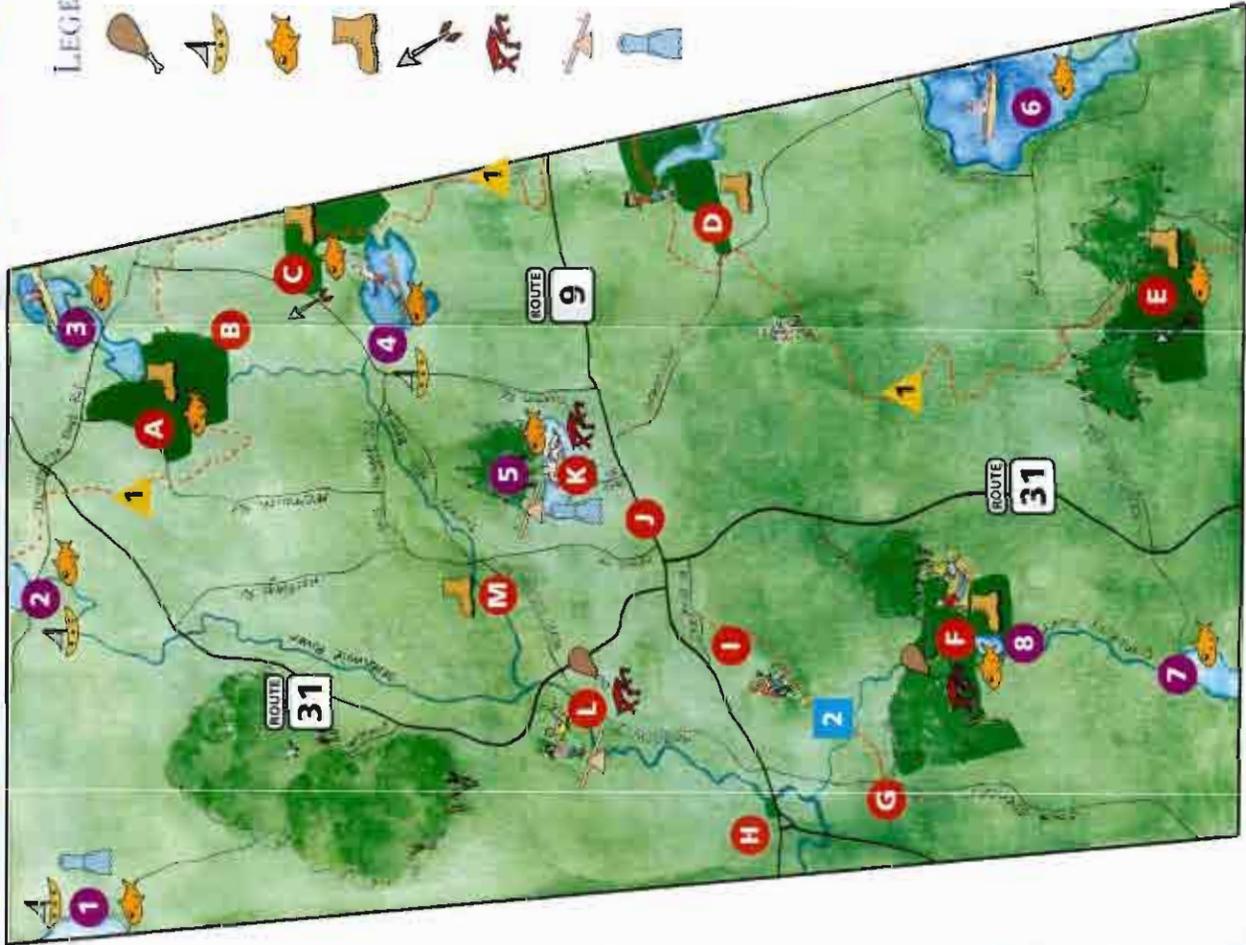
HOWE POND

Howe Pond in Howe State Park was created to provide water power for the mills of the Howe family. In recent years it has become unsuitable for swimming, but fishing is still allowed. It is located on Howe Park Road off Route 31.



LEGEND

-  Barbeque Facilities
-  Boating
-  Fishing
-  Hiking
-  Hunting
-  Picnic Tables
-  Playground
-  Swimming



PARKS

A Buck Hill Conservation Center

LAKES & PONDS

1 Brooks Pond

- B** Camp Marshall Worcester County 4-H Center
- C** Moose Hill Wildlife Management Area
- D** Burncoat Pond Wildlife Sanctuary
- E** Four Chimneys Recreation Area
- F** Howe State Park
- G** Vietnam Memorial Park
- H** Bemis Memorial Park
- I** O'Gara Park
- J** Isaac Prouty Park
- K** Luther Hill Park
- L** Powder Mill Park
- M** Ralph Warren Park

- 2** Browning Pond
- 3** Thompson Pond
- 4** Sugden Reservoir
- 5** Lake Whittemore
- 6** Stiles Reservoir
- 7** Cranberry Meadow Pond
- 8** Howe Pond

TRAILS

- 1** Midstate Trail
- 2** The South Spencer Rail Trail

THE SEVEN MILE RIVER

The Seven Mile River originates in Rutland and was dammed to form Browning Pond. It merges with Turkey Hill Brook and connects to the Quaboag River in East Brookfield. Seven miles from Brookfield, the river served as a landmark when Brookfield was the only settlement between Worcester and the Connecticut Valley.

CRANBERRY RIVER

Cranberry River flows from Charlton and was dammed to form Cranberry Meadow Pond in the southeast corner of town and dammed again to form Howe Pond at Howe State Park. It joins the Seven Mile River near Route 9.

TRAILS

THE MIDSTATE TRAIL

The Midstate Trail is a scenic footpath extending 92 miles across central Massachusetts,

from the New Hampshire border on Mt. Watatic to the Rhode Island border in Douglas State Park. Marked with yellow triangles, the trail enters Spencer from Oakham above the western shore of Browning Pond, just past a well-known landmark known as Sampson's Pebble. The trail exits into Charlton through the Four Chimneys Recreation Area on Borkum Road.

THE SPENCER SNOWBIRDS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

The Spencer Snowbirds Snowmobile Club, a private organization, maintains a network of snowmobile trails throughout the town, crossing both public and private property.

THE SOUTH SPENCER RAIL TRAIL

The South Spencer Rail Trail is a 2 1/2-mile walking trail along an abandoned railroad bed. It runs from South Spencer Road to Chestnut Street, with parking on South Spencer Road.

STILES RESERVOIR

Stiles Reservoir was created to provide water power for the mills at Rochdale and North Oxford. Located on Chickering Road, there is limited fishing from the shore.

SUGDEN RESERVOIR

Sugden Reservoir, located off of Paxton Road, was created to provide a "reserve" water supply for the wire mills of Richard Sugden, a Spencer industrialist and philanthropist. While most of the shoreline is privately owned, shore access is available near the dam. Small boats can be launched from a gravel ramp off Donnelly Cross Road at the northeast corner of the lake. From Route 9, follow Donnelly Road to Donnelly Cross Road.



THOMPSON POND

Thompson Pond was originally created to run a sawmill and later expanded by Richard Sugden for his wire mills in Upper and Lower Wire Village. It is located on Thompson Pond Road and offers limited fishing from the shore.

LAKE WHITTEMORE

Lake Whittemore, Spencer's only natural lake, borders the north end of Luther Hill Park. The Town Beach is accessed through the park, where there are lifeguards and swimming lessons in the summer. There is no public boat access, but fishing is permitted from along the shore.

What makes a Scenic Road?

Any road, other than a numbered route or state highway may be designated as a scenic road by the town. However, a numbered route may only be designated if its entire length is contained within the boundaries of the town, and no part of it is owned or maintained by the commonwealth.

When & How

A request from the Historical Commission of Spencer to have the following roads designated as scenic roads passed with a vote from the town residents during a town meeting held on May 19, 1977.

- Borkum Road
- Buteau Road
- Wm Casey Road
- E. Charlton Road
- Cranberry Meadow Road

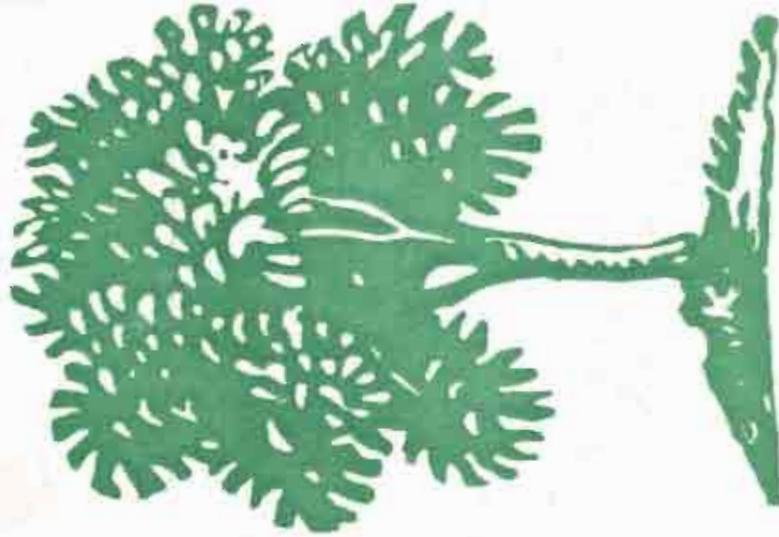
Improvements

Any work done in the public right of way of a scenic road shall not involve or include cutting or removal of trees or tearing down or destruction of stone walls, or portions thereof, without prior written consent from the Planning Board, after a public hearing.

Fines

Violations of Chapter 40 Section 15C of the General Laws of Massachusetts shall be punished by a fine not to exceed three hundred dollars.

Dedicated to
Ms. Anna Marie Hughes



A DRIVING TOUR



of SPENCER, MASS.

For questions about designation:
Spencer Historical Commission
at 508-885-7500 x 186

For questions about public hearings:
Office of Development & Inspectional
Services at 508-885-7500 x 180



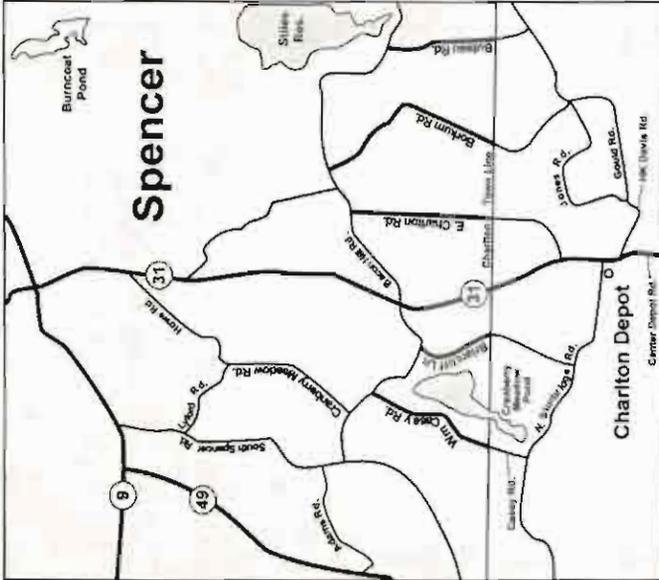
Little is known about the people who once lived and worked in these areas but.... Most were farmers, all hard working and by their efforts contributed to the growth and development of their town.

WM CASEY ROAD -

William Casey, a farmer, was named Commissioner of Agriculture in 1937 by Governor Charles E. Hurley. He also served 8 years as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and as a local selectman for 13 years. Mr. Casey died on October 11, 1954, at the age of 69. He is buried in Holy Rosary and St. Mary's Cemetery on Rte 9 in Spencer.

BRIARCLIFF LANE -

During a special town meeting in October of 1987 the town voted to change the name of Cranberry Meadow Road, which runs from the railroad bridge southwesterly to the Charlton Town line, to Briarcliff Lane.



BORKUM ROAD -

Named after Sigmund Boaken who was born in Russia on January 1, 1876. Mr. Boaken died at the age of 63 in February 1939. Years ago the name got lost in translation and the road is now called Borkum Road.

BUTEAU ROAD -

Named after farmer Theophile Buteau who came to the U.S. from Canada with his wife Aldia and family in 1899. He settled in Southbridge then moved to Spencer where he lived on Charlton Road. Mr. Buteau died on May 21, 1944, at the age of 83.

EAST CHARLTON ROAD -

The approximate 6,000 ft road was used for travel to and from the Town of Charlton.

ZUKAS HILLTOP BARN

Zukas Hilltop Barn is a banquet and function facility, nestled in a country setting at the Zukas homestead. Formerly a dairy farm, the

estate has been transformed into a first-class wedding and function facility. Scenic views and a swan pond surround the property, offering a dramatic background for your wedding and family photos. 89 Smithville Road - (508) 885-5320



HOWE STATE PARK AND MONUMENT

Spencer State Forest, also known as Howe State Park, is 965 acres providing hiking, swimming, and picnicking facilities on



Howe Pond. (The MidState Trail runs close to this area.) Other activities include fishing, canoeing, Nordic skiing and snowmobiling. The park honors Elias Howe, Jr. and his two uncles, William and Tyler Howe who were all born in Spencer. Elias Howe (1819) is credited with developing and securing the first patent for a sewing machine in 1846. William Howe (1803) conceived the idea for the "Howe Truss", which is one of four or five basic types of construction used in covered bridges. Tyler Howe (1800) is credited with the invention of the spring bed. A monument, located on Route 9 in the West Main Street Schoolyard, was dedicated May 19, 1920, to honor the three inventors.

BUCK HILL

Located in north Spencer, this natural area has a trail system that was originally developed by the Youth Conservation Core. Trails and trail signs have themes explaining natural attractions. The Mid-State Trail crosses through the area.

OAKWOOD FARM CHRISTMAS BARN

Located on Route 31 (North) two miles from Spencer center, this shop is "Out of the way? Perhaps! Out of the ordinary? Definitely!" The

Christmas Barn is open every day at 10 a.m. May through December and is a unique destination, a shopper's delight. The 150-year-old barn was full of Rhode Island Red Chickens in the '40s and '50s, but now is full of holiday treasures. The shop not only offers Christmas decorations, but a great selection of Halloween and Americana and also boasts a fine collection of Irish ornaments, too. Thousands of ornaments and collectibles are offered at this must-see on your visit to Central Massachusetts. Mention this brochure for a free ornament.

(508) 885-3558 - www.christmas-barn.com



SPENCER FAIR

The Spencer Fair is one of the oldest agricultural fairs in the state, with humble beginnings on the dining room table of a Spencer

family in 1883. Each year on Labor Day weekend, a legacy - from the days when farming was big business - takes the spotlight. The Spencer Agricultural Association organizes agricultural and commercial exhibits, stage shows, a midway, crafts and a farmer's market.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March** • Chinese New Year Celebration at Chef Sau
- May** • International Church Bazaar at Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish
- July** • Christmas in July at Oakwood Farm Christmas Barn
- August** • Worcester County 4-H Fair at Camp Marshall
- The Annual Spencer Fair at Spencer Fairgrounds, Labor Day Weekend (Thurs. - Mon.)

SPENCER MASSACHUSETTS

TOURIST GUIDE & MAP





A BRIEF HISTORY OF SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS

From its humble beginnings as part of Leicester, Spencer has grown to become a picture of small-town charm that is rich in history. Settled in 1717 by Nathaniel Wood, Spencer was incorporated as a town in 1753. The new community received its name from

Lt. Gov. Spencer Phipps, who signed the order establishing the separate district.



A major stopping place along the old Boston Post Road – which drew George Washington to town – Spencer was once home to numerous wire and woolen mills, as well as boot and shoe factories.

Today, most residents commute to their jobs outside of town, but choose Spencer for their home because of its small-town character. Although the shoe business has dissolved and only a few wire mills remain, Spencer's historic district serves as a reminder of what the town once was. Visitors are encouraged to experience Spencer – which was also the home of Elias Howe Jr., inventor of the sewing machine – and to enjoy historical self-guided tours, scenic views of the autumn season, an annual agricultural fair, beautiful churches, monuments, and numerous parks and trails for hiking, biking and picnicking.

Spencer welcomes you!

SAINT JOSEPH'S ABBEY



Saint Joseph's Abbey belongs to the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (popularly known as

"Trappists"). They occupy and maintain their own community of more than 2,000 acres, of which 1,752 acres are within

Spencer's boundaries. Those who seek admission to the abbey are expected to commit a lifetime to solitude, prayer and communal living. Trappist Preserves are made and packed by the monks of Saint Joseph's Abbey as part of a long tradition of

excellence and hospitality. For more than 1,500 years, monks following the Rule of St. Benedict have prayed and worked in common and lived by the labor of their hands. Hospitality has always been a special work of monks, who for centuries have preserved food products with conscientious care in order to have a tasty treat to present to their guests. Trappist Preserves offer a wide selection of fruit and wine jellies, jams and marmalades.

CAMP MARSHALL



4-H Camp Marshall is a traditional camp featuring swimming, fishing, barnyard and nature programs. At

Horse Camp, youths can choose to have their own horses participate in the program. Horse Lovers Camp provides boys and girls with an opportunity to learn about managing these animals. 92 McCormick Road - (508)885-4891
www.campmarshall.org

ANTIQUE ALLEY

Several antique shops exist on Mechanic Street. Follow Mechanic to the intersection of Cherry Street. Go right at the stop sign, go right again onto Wall Street and check out the corner of Wall and Main Street.



VIETNAM MEMORIAL PARK

The park was dedicated on April 27, 1975, and it was the first of its kind in the nation.

The park honors three Spencer men who lost their lives in Vietnam: Paul Berthiaume, David Blough, and Kenneth Benjamin.



CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS MONUMENT AT ISAAC LOTHROP PROUTY PARK

Isaac Lothrop Prouty became president of the Prouty Shoe Company in 1894.

The park was presented to the town in 1905 by his heirs. The monument was dedicated on Patriots Day,

April 19, 1911, to honor 319 men from Spencer who served in the Civil War. The statue at the top is a woman who

wears the laurel leaf of victory and symbolizes the Republic. She holds

an olive branch indicating her desire for peace, as well as a shield showing her readiness to defend herself. "The Picket Guard" soldiers, cast in relief on the base, reflect a defensive posture and are meant to show a country that is not aggressive, but willing to defend itself.



KENWOOD DINER



Located at 97 Main Street, this is a Worcester Lunch Car Co. Diner-circa 1937. They serve breakfast and lunch 6 days a week. This dining

experience features homemade cooking and plenty of hospitality. Eat in/take out.

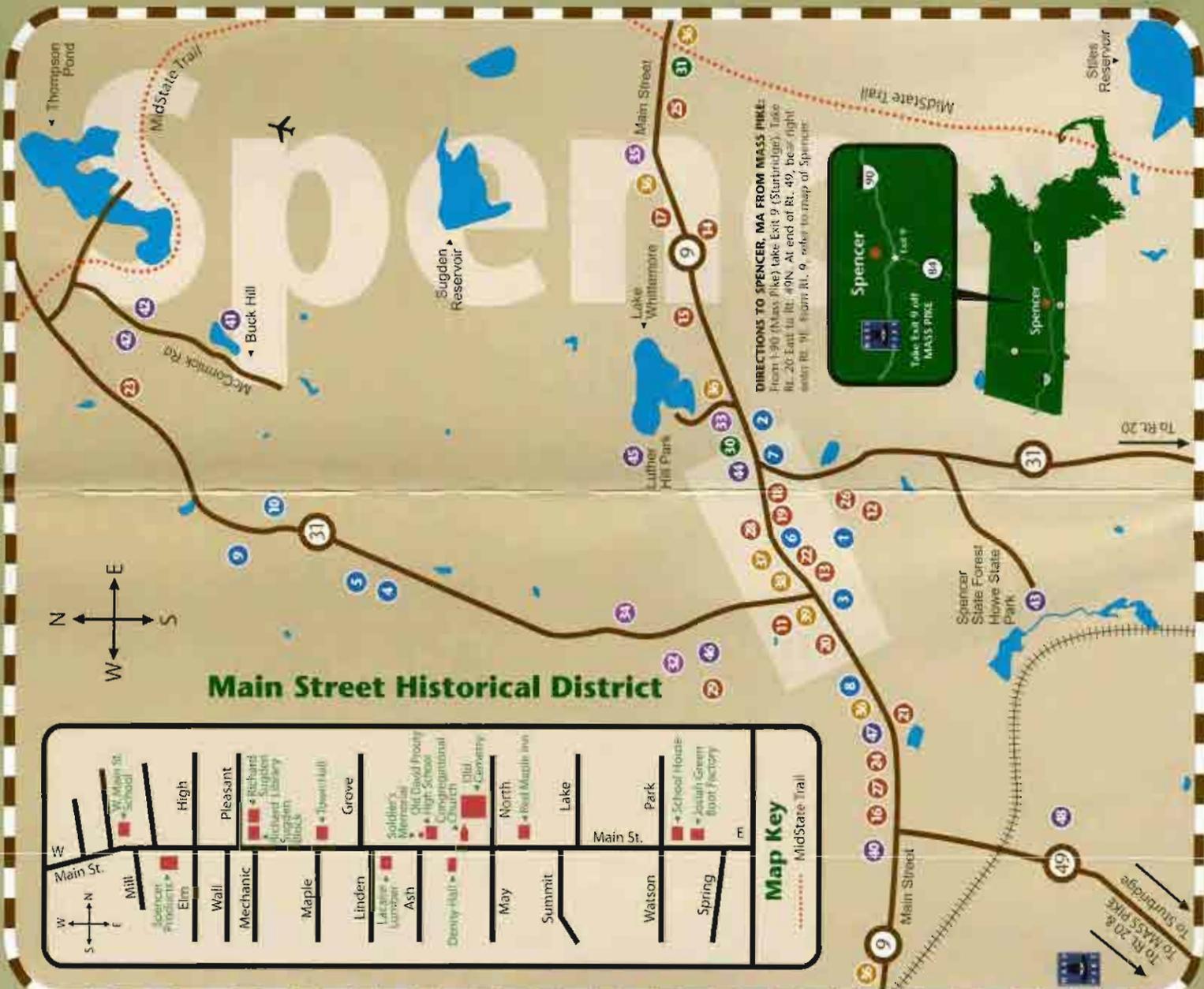
97 Main Street – (508) 885-6596 or (508) 885-4745



Main Street Historical District

W Main St.	High	Pleasant	Maple	Linden	May	Summit	Watson	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> W Main St. School High Pleasant Maple Linden May Summit Watson Spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Suggden Richard Suggden Library Richard Suggden Block Richard Suggden Block Soldier's Memorial Old David Proctor High School Congregational Church Old Cemetery North Lake Park School House Joan Green float factory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Pleasant Maple Linden May Summit Watson Spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Pleasant Maple Linden May Summit Watson Spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Pleasant Maple Linden May Summit Watson Spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Pleasant Maple Linden May Summit Watson Spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Pleasant Maple Linden May Summit Watson Spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Pleasant Maple Linden May Summit Watson Spring 	

Map Key
 - - - - - MidState Trail



DIRECTIONS TO SPENCER, MA FROM MASS PIKE:
 From I-90 (Mass Pike) take Exit 9 (Sturbridge). Take Rt. 20 East to Rt. 49N. At end of Rt. 49, bear right onto Rt. 9. From Rt. 9, refer to map of Spencer.



BEMIS MEMORIAL PARK

The Bemis Memorial Park was dedicated on October 29, 1901. The park honors both Samuel Bemis, the first permanent settler of Spencer, and Captain Edmund Bemis, who served in the French and Indian War. Samuel Bemis built the first frame house in Spencer in 1726. Captain Edmund Bemis is famous for discovering a method to use spiked cannons at the capture of Louisburg during the French and Indian War. To spike a cannon was to render it useless by driving a piece of steel or "spike" into the gun's vent or touchhole.



BEMIS FARMS NURSERY

Bemis Farms Nursery is a delightful retail nursery and garden center nestled among shady pines and oaks. In the spring and summer, attractive garden displays showcase colorful annuals, dazzling container gardens, vigorous perennials, beautiful flowering shrubs and lush trees. Harvest hayrides, through a former apple orchard turned into forest, run weekends in the fall. During the holidays, watch wreaths and one-of-a-kind decorations hand-crafted on site. The nursery is also home of the television gardening program *Bloomin' with the Bemis*. 29 North Brookfield Road - (508) 885-4247.



THE RED MAPLE INN & CONFERENCE CENTER

The inn is a federal-style colonial (circa 1780) listed on the National Register of Historic Places, featuring six deluxe guest rooms and two dining rooms. It offers a unique setting for an overnight stay, company meeting or retreat weekend. The



Shops

- 1 **Antique Alley**
(508) 885-4271
- 2 **Gifted Hands**
(508) 885-4271
- 3 **Massasoit Art Guild at Cormier Jewelers**
(508) 885-3385
- 4 **Oakwood Farm Christmas Barn**
(508) 885-3558
- 5 **Primitive Thymes**
(508) 885-1958
- 6 **Some Enchanted Evening**
(508) 885-2050
- 7 **Spencer Flower and Gift Shoppe**
(508) 885-2355
- 8 **The Thomas Kinkadee Gallery at Spencer Furniture**
(508) 885-3678
- 9 **Saint Joseph's Abbey Gift Shop and Bookstore**
(508) 885-8720
- 10 **Thibault's Country Store**
(508) 885-3959

Food

- 11 **Arlon's**
(508) 885-7705
- 12 **Artie's Restaurant**
(508) 885-2272
- 13 **Chef Sau**
(508) 885-3995
- 14 **Cozy Corner Diner**
(508) 885-3339
- 15 **Dairy Queen**
(508) 885-2748
- 16 **Dunkin' Donuts West**
(508) 885-6637
- 17 **Dunkin' Donuts East**
(508) 885-6692
- 18 **John's Pizza**
(508) 885-6936

Historical Markers

- 36 **Franklin Mile Markers**
The red stone mile markers were erected in 1753 at the direction of Ben Franklin to indicate the distance, in miles, to Boston, our state capital.
- 37 **General Henry Knox Marker**
This marker designates the route taken by General Henry Knox in the winter of 1775-1776. Knox passed through Spencer when he delivered the guns and ammunition, captured at Fort Ticonderoga, to George Washington in Cambridge.
- 38 **George Washington Highway Marker**
This marker was dedicated on June 2, 1932, and designates this section of road, between Boston and Springfield, as the George Washington Memorial Highway.
- 39 **George Washington Marker**
This marker was dedicated on July 1, 1914, by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, to mark the route taken by George Washington when he came to Cambridge to take command of the Continental Army in 1775.

Parks, Fairs & Memorials

- 40 **Bemis Memorial Park**
- 41 **Buck Hill Conservation Center**
Provides opportunities for hiking, fishing and other recreation uses.
- 42 **Camp Marshall**
- 43 **Howe State Park and Monument**
- 44 **Issac Lothrop Prouty Park**
- 45 **Luther Hill**
Named after Judge Luther Hill, in 1887, the park is located at the end of Park Street.
- 46 **Spencer Fair**
- 47 **The George White Memorial Garden "Pray For Us"**
- 48 **Vietnam Memorial Park**

Lodging

- 30 **The Red Maple Inn & Conference Center**
(508) 885-9205
- 31 **Spencer Country Inn**
(508) 885-9036

Nurseries

- 32 **Bemis Farms Nursery**
(508) 885-4247
- 33 **Green the Florist**
(508) 885-2274
- 34 **Spencer Greenery**
(508) 885-7142
- 35 **Village Garden Center**
(508) 885-3560

"DELIVER US FROM EVIL" SPENCER'S HIDDEN SECRET

Authors: *Linda K. Bouillette & Marilyn J. Burdett*
The Prouty-Hammond mystery has been talked about for almost a century throughout New England. The case concerns six mysterious deaths that took place in Spencer, Massachusetts, in January 1899. After six years of intense investigative effort during the 1900s, the author's findings



present the most accurate exposé, to date, of what actually happened. The mystery is undoubtedly one of a kind. The story is intriguing, and the facts surrounding the case are historically significant. The book can be purchased at Boston Road Antiques & Gallery, Some Enchanted Evening, The Red Maple Inn, Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com, and Tatnuck Booksellers.

estate is surrounded by majestic pines, as well as perennial gardens. All accommodations include color cable TV, private bath, A/C, and a full country breakfast, as well as use of the outdoor hot tub in the courtyard. 217 Main Street - (508) 885-9205
www.TheRedMapleInn.com

SPENCER COUNTRY INN



The Spencer Country Inn is primarily a banquet facility for weddings and other events. The Inn is located on a hillside with scenic views and offers splendid landscapes for weddings and other photos. Featuring standard American cuisine, the inn is open for lunch and dinner, Wednesday through Sunday. Brunch is served on Sunday. 500 Main Street - (508) 885-9036

THE GEORGE WHITE MEMORIAL GARDEN "PRAY FOR US"



The George White Memorial Garden at Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish Cemetery is a beautiful natural hedge spelling out the words "Pray for Us." This was the work of George White, the caretaker for the cemetery, and Our Lady of the Rosary Church for some 62 years. Mr. White planted the original hedges in the 1920s. He dug a hole and planted a seedling and continued the process until the words were formed by the seedlings. The shrubs have graced the lawn of the cemetery since then.



www.quaboag.com



Tourist brochure was made possible by a grant from the Mass Turnpike Authority.

visit us online at
www.spencerma.info

Appendix F: ADA Access Self-Evaluation

**Town of Spencer
ADA Self-Evaluation Report**

PART I: ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

1. Designation of ADA Coordinator

The ADA Coordinator for municipal employees is Bernadine Wachewski, Human Resources and Benefits Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator for the general public and Spencer residents is William Klansek, Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer (see attached memo).

2. Grievance Procedures

Grievance procedures were adopted by the Board of Selectmen on January 24, 2011 (copy attached).

3. Public Notification Requirements

The Town of Spencer publicly posts that the Town does not discriminate on the basis of disability. Notice is posted in all Town Hall offices and buildings as part of a general notice of all required postings and is updated regularly (cover sheet and relevant pages attached).

4. Participation of Individuals with Disabilities or Organizations Representing the Disabled Community

The Town of Spencer has worked regularly with the Disability Commission to plan for and make improvements to Town facilities to increase accessibility.

PART II: PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY

Facility Inventory & Transition Plan - Attached

PART III: EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

The Town of Spencer's employment practices are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act with regard to Recruitment, Personnel Actions, Leave Administration, Training, Tests, Medical Exams/Questionnaires, Social & Recreational Programs, Fringe Benefits, Collective Bargaining Agreements, and Wage & Salary Administration. See attached statement from the ADA Coordinator.

MEMORANDUM – HUMAN RESOURCE & BENEFITS

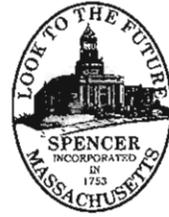
TO: Michelle Buck, Town Planner
FROM: Bernadine Wachewski, HR & Benefits Coordinator
RE: ADA Coordinator Statement for Open Space Plan
DATE: December 14, 2010



The Town of Spencer abides by the Americans With Disabilities Act with respect to Recruitment, Personnel Actions, Leave Administration, Training, Tests, Medical Exams/Questionnaires, Social and Recreational Programs, Fringe Benefits, Collective Bargaining Agreements and Wage and Salary Administrations.

Bernadine Wachewski, HR & Benefits Coordinator

MEMORANDUM – OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR



TO: Michelle Buck, Town Planner

FROM: Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator

DATE: MAY 4, 2011

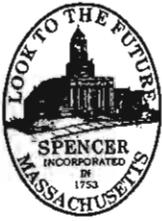
SUBJECT: ADA Coordinator Statement for Open Space Plan

The ADA Coordinator for the general public and Spencer residents is William Klansek, Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer.

The ADA Coordinator for municipal employees is Bernadine Wachewski, Human Resources and Benefits Coordinator.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Gaudette", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator



TOWN OF SPENCER BOARD OF SELECTMEN POLICY

Policy for ADA Grievances (Equal Access to Town Facilities and Activities)

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to ensure that maximum opportunity will be made available to receive citizen comments, complaints and/or to resolve grievances or inquiries regarding equal access to Town facilities and activities.

Administration: This policy shall remain in effect until rescinded or revised by the Board of Selectman ("BoS") pursuant to the Town "Policy on Policies". This policy shall be implemented through the Town Administrator.

Policy:

STEP 1:

The Town Administrator will be available to meet with citizens and employees during business hours.

When a complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification is received either in writing or through a meeting or telephone call, every effort will be made to create a record regarding the name, address, and telephone number of the person making the complaint, grievance, program policy interpretation or clarification. If the person desires to remain anonymous, he or she may.

A complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification will be responded to within ten (10) working days (if the person making the complaint is identified) in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient, (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc).

Copies of the complaint, grievance, or request for program policy interpretation or clarification and response will be forwarded to the appropriate Town agency (i.e. Parks & Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission). If the grievance is not resolved at this level it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 2:

A written grievance will be submitted to the Town Administrator. Assistance in writing the grievance will be available to all individuals. All written grievances will be responded to within ten (10) working days by the Town Administrator in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc). If the

grievance is not resolved at this level it will be progressed to the next level.

STEP 3:

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, citizens will be informed of the opportunity to meet and speak with the BoS, with whom local authority for final grievance resolution lies.

Adopted:

1/24/11
[Signature]
Gay Wood
[Signature]
[Signature]

Date:

1/24/11

Board of Selectmen
Town of Spencer

**FEDERAL
AND
MASSACHUSETTS
LABOR LAW
POSTING
REQUIREMENTS
2010**

Equal Employment Opportunity is **THE LAW**

Private Employers, State and Local Governments, Educational Institutions, Employment Agencies and Labor Organizations

Applicants to and employees of most private employers, state and local governments, educational institutions, employment agencies and labor organizations are protected under Federal law from discrimination on the following bases:

RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, protects applicants and employees from discrimination in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), or national origin. Religious discrimination includes failing to reasonably accommodate an employee's religious practices where the accommodation does not impose undue hardship.

DISABILITY

Title I and Title V of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, protect qualified individuals from discrimination on the basis of disability in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment. Disability discrimination includes not making reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee, barring undue hardship.

AGE

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, protects applicants and employees 40 years of age or older from discrimination based on age in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment.

SEX (WAGES)

In addition to sex discrimination prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, as amended, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended, prohibits sex discrimination in the payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work, in jobs that require equal skill, effort, and responsibility, under similar working conditions, in the same establishment.

GENETICS

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 protects applicants and employees from discrimination based on genetic information in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment. GINA also restricts employers' acquisition of genetic information and strictly limits disclosure of genetic information. Genetic information includes information about genetic tests of applicants, employees, or their family members; the manifestation of diseases or disorders in family members (family medical history); and requests for or receipt of genetic services by applicants, employees, or their family members.

RETALIATION

All of these Federal laws prohibit covered entities from retaliating against a person who files a charge of discrimination, participates in a discrimination proceeding, or otherwise opposes an unlawful employment practice.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU BELIEVE DISCRIMINATION HAS OCCURRED

There are strict time limits for filing charges of employment discrimination. To preserve the ability of EEOC to act on your behalf and to protect your right to file a private lawsuit, should you ultimately need to, you should contact EEOC promptly when discrimination is suspected:

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), 1-800-669-4000 (toll-free) or 1-800-669-6820 (toll-free TTY number for individuals with hearing impairments). EEOC field office information is available at www.eeoc.gov or in most telephone directories in the U.S. Government or Federal Government section. Additional information about EEOC, including information about charge filing, is available at www.eeoc.gov.

Employers Holding Federal Contracts or Subcontracts

Applicants to and employees of companies with a Federal government contract or subcontract are protected under Federal law from discrimination on the following bases:

RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN

Executive Order 11246, as amended, prohibits job discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, and requires affirmative action to ensure equality of opportunity in all aspects of employment.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, protects qualified individuals from discrimination on the basis of disability in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment. Disability discrimination includes not making reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee, barring undue hardship. Section 503 also requires that Federal contractors take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities at all levels of employment, including the executive level.

DISABLED, RECENTLY SEPARATED, OTHER PROTECTED, AND ARMED FORCES SERVICE MEDAL VETERANS

The Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, 38 U.S.C. 4212, prohibits job discrimination and requires affirmative action to employ and advance in employment disabled veterans, recently separated veterans (within

three years of discharge or release from active duty), other protected veterans (veterans who served during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized), and Armed Forces service medal veterans (veterans who, while on active duty, participated in a U.S. military operation for which an Armed Forces service medal was awarded).

RETALIATION

Retaliation is prohibited against a person who files a complaint of discrimination, participates in an OFCCP proceeding, or otherwise opposes discrimination under these Federal laws.

Any person who believes a contractor has violated its nondiscrimination or affirmative action obligations under the authorities above should contact immediately.

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210, 1-800-397-6251 (toll-free) or (202) 693-1337 (TTY). OFCCP may also be contacted by e-mail at OFCCP-Public@dol.gov, or by calling an OFCCP regional or district office, listed in most telephone directories under U.S. Government, Department of Labor.

Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance

RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX

In addition to the protections of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination is covered by Title VI if the primary objective of the financial assistance is provision of employment, or where employment discrimination causes or may cause discrimination in providing services under such programs. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities which receive Federal financial assistance.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity which receives Federal financial assistance. Discrimination is prohibited in all aspects of employment against persons with disabilities who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in a program of any institution which receives Federal financial assistance, you should immediately contact the Federal agency providing such assistance.

FOR ADDIDTIONAL INFORMATION
A MORE DETAILED POSTER
IS LOCATED ON THE
BULLETIN BOARD NEXT TO
THE HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
LOWER LEVEL OF THE TOWN HALL
OR CONTACT
BERNADINE WACHEWSKI
HR & BENEFITS COORDINATOR
508-885-7500 ext.130

ADA Facility Inventory, Spencer

The Town of Spencer has made accessibility of parks and recreation areas a high priority. The Town has made steady improvements at all facilities as funds are available and re-evaluates facilities on a regular basis. Inventory forms were completed by Spencer Town Planner Michelle R. Buck, based on site visits during December 2010 and June 2011, supplemented with information from the 2008 Transition Plan, 1999 Open Space & Recreation Plan and information provided by the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Spencer Agricultural Association. To reduce paper used in the preparation of this inventory, the standard forms were modified by deleting any sections inapplicable to a particular facility. Nine properties were evaluated as part of this inventory, as follows:

1. O'Gara Park	6. Vietnam Memorial Park
2. Luther Hill Park	7. Bemis Memorial Park
3. Powder Mill Park	8. Isaac Prouty Park
4. Ralph Warren Park	9. Spencer Fairgrounds
5. Depot Trail	



Accessible parking, O'Gara Park



Accessible Grandstands, O'Gara Park

LOCATION #1: O'Gara Park

95 Valley St (end of Valley St.). Map U08-Parcel 104

PARKING				
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		Accessible Spaces Provided	
Fewer than 76*	3		3	
*The parking area only partially paved and spaces are not marked. Most of the parking area is dirt. One accessible space is marked with a sign. Paving of the parking area is included in the 2011 Capital Plan.				
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes	
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X			

Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft			N/A
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle	X		There are 3 spaces; 2 inside the gate.
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slopes of less than 1:20, 5%	X		3 rd space outside gate may exceed 5%
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			N/A
Curbcut is a minimum of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or yellow paint			
RAMPS		X	No ramp provided
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly spaced or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)	X		From accessible space inside gate to grandstand is level.
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2"			
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using cane			
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
RESTROOMS O'Gara Park does not currently have a permanent restroom building available to the public. It is no longer used due to disrepair. The site is served by portable toilets, including an accessible portable toilet.			
NOTES			

A Building Evaluation Study was completed in 2008, which included O’Gara Park. That report noted the following information relevant to ADA access:

The park has no paved parking areas. The grandstands have recently been updated to better accommodate persons with disabilities. The structure has also been repainted recently. It appears the grandstand only requires routine maintenance.

The concession building is outdated and not used at this time. The Park Commission in their 2011 Capital Plan recommended the construction of a new modernized accessible concession/restroom building.

There are no applicable drinking fountains, telephones, swimming pools, shower rooms, or picnic facilities at O’Gara Park.

O’Gara Park is used for baseball, softball, and youth football.

LOCATION #2: Luther Hill Park

[end of Park Street. Map U15-Parcel 30]

PARKING				
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		Accessible Spaces Provided	
Unable to determine exact number; appears to be less than 75*	3		3	
Parking spaces other than accessible spaces are not marked.				
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>	
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		One space directly across from accessible ramp to beach; the other two are a short distance away	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft			N/A	
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		One space conforms to this requirement; remaining 2 spaces appear to be less than 13’	
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle	X		One van-accessible space	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	Xe			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X			
Surface slopes of less than 1:20, 5%	X	X	2 spaces further from ramp appear to exceed 5% slope	
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X			
Curbscut is a minimum of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed	X			

1:12, and textured or yellow paint			
RAMPS	Wooden accessible ramp to beach from parking lot.		
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly spaced or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		Ramp
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2"	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using cane			N/A
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	X		
RESTROOMS			
NOTES			
Restrooms locked at time of site visit. One small restroom building with 2 restrooms (male/female); both are accessible bathrooms.			
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
PICNICKING			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access		X	Picnic tables do not appear to be fully accessible.
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	X		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slipresistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions		X	
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			N/A

NOTES:

Luther Hill Park has a public beach as well as picnic areas and playground equipment. The Town provides recreational programs at Luther Hill Park each summer, including swimming lessons and summer camp programs. The main drive has been repaved since 2007. Accessible parking spaces across from the accessible ramp to the beach have been provided.

The playground equipment does not appear to be fully accessible.

There are no telephones, drinking fountains, shower rooms, or other facilities at Luther Hill Park.



Powder Mill Park Bathroom and Picnic Table

LOCATION#3, Powder Mill Park

[Intersection of Smithville Road and Meadow Road (entrance on Smithville)/Assessors Map U23, Parcel 6]

PARKING			
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		Accessible Spaces Provided
Less than 25*	1		1
*parking is unpaved and unmarked along edge of road, except for paved accessible space immediately adjacent to the entrance to park			
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft			N/A
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle	X		Approximately 13 feet
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		

Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slopes of less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbscut is a minimum of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or yellow paint	X		
RAMPS		X	N/A
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly spaced or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2"	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A

LOCATION

RESTROOMS – Powder Mill Park is served by an accessible portable toilet.			
PICNICKING			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access	X		
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.	X		
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	X		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around	X		

the table must be stable, firm and slipresistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	X		

NOTES

Powder Mill Park contains playground equipment, picnic facilities, and a gazebo. To ensure access to the playground equipment, the safety fiber needs to be replaced every 3 years at an approximate cost of \$3,000.

There are no stairs, doors, drinking fountains, telephones, swimming pools, or shower rooms.



Ralph Warren Park

LOCATION #4: Ralph Warren Park

55 Wire Village Road/Assessors Map R37, Parcel 34

PARKING			
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		Accessible Spaces Provided
Less than 25*	1		0
*parking is unpaved and unmarked along edge of road			
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
No paved parking. Park contains gently sloped mowed grass area with picnic tables.			
PICNICKING			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access		X	Picnic areas are not fully accessible, but grass area is level and edge of pavement area is not raised.
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.		X	
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	X		

Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slipresistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions		X	
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	X		
<p>NOTES Ralph Warren Park is a small nature preserve featuring woodland trails and picnic tables.</p> <p>There are no stairs, buildings, restrooms, water fountains, telephones, or other facilities at Ralph Warren Park.</p>			



Depot Trail Sign



Depot Trail Parking Sign

LOCATION #5: Depot Trail

South Spencer Road (just south of 63 South Spencer Road)/Assessors Map 22, between parcels 6 & 7

PARKING				
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		Accessible Spaces Provided	
6-8 (approximate)*	1		1	
*The parking area is smooth stone dust; spaces are not marked. There is one marked accessible parking space.				
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes	
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X			
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft			N/A	
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X			
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle	X		Not marked, but adequate room for a van.	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X			

Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		Parking is smooth hard-packed stone dust
Surface slopes of less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbscut is a minimum of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or yellow paint	X		
RAMPS			Not applicable
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly spaced or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		The parking area leads directly to the trail. See notes below for more detail on the trail.
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
See notes at end for more detail			

NOTES:

The surface of Depot trail is currently rolled stonedust, and while not fully ADA compliant the trail is useable by people in wheelchairs. Maintenance of the surface, particularly after heavy rain events, will be crucial to ensuring this level of accessibility is sustained.

The trail was conceived as, and grant money approved for, a multi-use trail which includes horses and snowmobiles in addition to pedestrians, bicyclists, and disabled people. This creates some challenges in regard to the surface, and the surface should be monitored and maintained.

The parking lot at the South Spencer Road end of the trail is fully ADA compliant, and wheelchair access is accommodated at this time. Maintenance of the parking area to ensure striping is visible will be required. The Chestnut Street end of the trail has no parking at this time, although sidewalks in the town center area connect to it. Currently people can park vehicles at O’Gara Park and walk on the roads and sidewalks to the beginning of the trail.

The Town’s long-range plan is create an ADA compliant connector trail from the O’Gara Park parking lot to the trail. This will be located to the north and west sides of the fields, and would connect to the trail behind the grandstand. The cost to construct this nearly 1,000 foot long connector was estimated at \$13,000 for labor and materials in 2006.

There are no applicable entrances, restroom, floors, stairs, doors, drinking fountains, Telephones, Signs, Signals, and Switches, Swimming pools, shower rooms, or picnicking facilities at Depot Trail.



Vietnam Memorial Park



Vietnam Memorial Park, Picnic Area

LOCATION #6: Vietnam Memorial Park

[South Spencer Road. Map 25 Parcel 25 and/or 27]

PARKING				
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		Accessible Spaces Provided	
Approximately 5*	1		1	
*parking spaces are not marked				
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes	
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X			
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X			
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle		X		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		Sign faded	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X			
Surface slopes of less than 1:20, 5%	X			
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			n/a	
Curbscut is a minimum of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or yellow paint			n/a	

PICNICKING			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			Only one picnic table, on smooth paved surface. Short distance over fairly level grass area from parking lot.
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			Not evaluated
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	X		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slipresistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	X		
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	X		
NOTES			
Vietnam Memorial Park is located on South Spencer Road adjacent to the South Spencer School. Dedicated in 1975, it pays tribute to the three Spencer men who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. It consists of a monument, cannon, and picnic table. There are no other facilities at this park.			



Parking, Bemis Memorial Park



Bemis Memorial Park Monument

LOCATION #7: Bemis Memorial Park [Route 9, northeast of intersection with Route 49]

PARKING		
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces	Accessible Spaces Provided
Approximately 12-15	1	None specifically marked

*Parking spaces are not marked. Parking is along access drive.			
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			No specifically designated space. Memorials are visible from ;paved parking area
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			n/a
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle			n/a
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		No sign
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slopes of less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Path of travel			
Stairs required to access rear memorials.			
NOTES			
The site consists of a group of memorials on a grass field. The field is accessible via a staircase from the access drive. All memorials are visible from the access drive. This park is a designated state roadside rest area. There are no designated picnic areas.			
There are no restrooms, structures, or other facilities on site.			



Isaac Prouty Park

LOCATION #8: Isaac Prouty Park [Main Street – near 293]

PARKING
There are no designated parking spaces for this park.
NOTES

This park is located on Main Street near the old David Prouty High School. The park was presented to the Town in 1905 and laid out with pathways, trees and shrubs. The park currently consists of an open, partially wooded area with a large monument. There are no restrooms, structures, or other facilities on site. The site does not appear to be accessible. Relatively steep slopes would impede improvements.

LOCATION #9: Spencer Fairgrounds

46 Smithville Road (Assessors Map 32, Parcel 28)

PARKING			
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		Accessible Spaces Provided
Several hundred*	Unable to determine		8 van spaces, plus a couple dozen unmarked accessible spaces in the same vicinity
* Most parking for the general public is on grass fields. Spaces are not marked. There are 8 marked accessible spaces for vans. Additional accessible parking is on a level grassed area just off of a paved driveway. There is room for roughly 15 cars in this area, with additional handicapped parking nearby (on gravel track).			
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Minimum width of 13ft includes 8ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle			See notes above
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			Van spaces marked; others not marked.
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slopes of less than 1:20, 5%	X		
RAMPS			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Slope Maximum 1:12	X		Small Ramp to information building was only ramp noted on site visit
Non-slip surface	X		
Level platforms (4ft x 4ft) at every 30ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction		X	
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		

Surface evenly spaced or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50)	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2"	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	X		
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	X		
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	X		
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)	X		
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	X		
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	X		
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space	X		
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	X		
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			Not evaluated during site visit
STAIRS AND DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stairs The only stairs are stairs to a 2 nd story of one building (all other structures are single-story). The staircase was not reviewed in detail. The 2 nd floor is also accessible by a wheelchair lift.			
Doors Doors were not evaluated in detail, but all doors have clear, with level thresholds and are of sufficient width to accommodate wheelchairs.			
RESTROOMS There is an accessible bathroom in the Exhibit Hall. There is a permanent freestanding bathroom building that was constructed less than 10 years ago; it contains a total of 5 accessible toilet stalls (3 ladies/2 men). Portable toilets, including accessible portable toilets, are used during the annual Spencer Fair. Accessible portable hand-washing stations are also provided.			
LOCATION			
FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>

<i>Floors</i>			
Non-slip surface	X		
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			No carpeting
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	X		
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor	X		No obvious projections
SHOWER ROOMS - Showers are wheelchair accessible			
NOTES			
<p>The Spencer Fairgrounds are owned by the Town of Spencer, but managed by the Spencer Agricultural Association (SPA). The site is used for the annual Spencer Fair, held each year on Labor Day weekend. The site is only occasionally used at other times of the year. The Exhibit Hall is the only 2-story structure; the 2nd floor is accessible by a chair lift. All other structures are single-story. All permanent structures have been built since the 1980s and all level with the ground with wide entrances and smooth, concrete floors. The grandstands are handicapped accessible.</p>			



Chairlift, Spencer Fairgrounds



Accessible Bathroom Building, Spencer Fairgrounds



Accessible Grandstands, Spencer Fairgrounds



Accessible Grandstands, Spencer Fairgrounds