

Town of Blandford

An Open Space & Recreation Plan

2003

Revised: Fall 2004

Prepared by the
Blandford Conservation Commission
and the
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

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and the
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs



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Source photographs used in this plan are courtesy of Robin Stevens, unless otherwise noted.

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BLANDFORD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY	2
SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION	3
A. <i>Statement of Purpose</i>	3
B. <i>Planning Process and Public Participation</i>	3
SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING	4
A. <i>Regional Context</i>	4
B. <i>History of the Community</i>	6
C. <i>Population Characteristics</i>	7
D. <i>Growth and Development Patterns</i>	8
SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS	11
A. <i>Geology, Soils and Topography</i>	11
B. <i>Landscape Character</i>	12
C. <i>Water Resources</i>	13
D. <i>Vegetation</i>	14
E. <i>Fisheries and Wildlife</i>	14
F. <i>Scenic Resources and Unique Environments</i>	17
G. <i>Environmental Challenges</i>	18
SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST	19
A. <i>Private Parcels</i>	19
B. <i>Public and Nonprofit Parcels</i>	19
SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION	22
A. <i>Description of Process</i>	22
B. <i>Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals</i>	23
SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS	25
A. <i>Summary of Resource Protection Needs</i>	25
B. <i>Summary of Community's Needs</i>	25
C. <i>Management Needs, Potential Change of Use</i>	25
SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	27
SECTION 9: FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN	29
SECTION 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS	32
SECTION 11: REFERENCES	33

SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

As we move into the 21st century and developmental pressures continue to increase across the region encompassing the hilltowns west of the Connecticut River valley, the protection of Blandford's open space is vitally important to the preservation of the Town's rural character, agriculture, forests, watersheds and wildlife habitat. All of these define the natural quality of life in Town.

This Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP) is an excellent tool for evaluating current resources, areas of concern and future objectives. Blandford is fortunate to have remained largely unscathed by the rapid development experienced by the overall region. We have a tremendous opportunity to preserve our large percentage of open space and become a model for environmental integrity. We are also fortunate to be able to take advantage of recent environmental research, which we hope will give us positive, well-informed direction in this endeavor. The OSRP condenses the available information into a reader-friendly, accessible format.

Blandford's original Open Space Plan was completed in 1983 and revised for the first time in 1988. Ideally the plan is to be reviewed and revised every five years. It is hoped that periodic review will keep the town aware of its natural and recreational resources and need to preserve them. This plan should also help the Town develop clear direction regarding recreational needs, areas where open space conservation is needed, and maintenance of these resources. Ultimately, the goal for the plan is to ensure that Blandford remains a clean and safe environment for its residents.

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

Statement of Purpose

The OSRP attempts to provide those interested in Blandford's environmental future with the information necessary to adequately visualize the Town's current resource structure, to identify areas and issues of special concern, and produce a methodology for protection of those areas.

The Planning Committee has also sought to include current environmental research and theory into the Plan and develop a progressive conservation philosophy which seeks to balance human needs with those of natural resource and wildlife protection in a regional (or macro) context as well as a local (or micro) context.

It should be noted that the OSRP is being worked on concurrently with Blandford's Community Development Plan, and we have noticed a considerable overlapping of issues between the two. The Committee trusts that environmental issues will continue to be a primary factor in planning the Town's future, and that the OSRP will be an excellent resource for the Planning Board to rely on to inform future planning and zoning issues.

Finally, the OSRP is a requirement for acquisition of certain State grants, such as Self-Help Funding, which would be a useful and appreciated tool to further protect parcels of interest and develop recreational opportunities.

Planning Process and Public Participation

The development of the original OSRP was instituted by the Blandford Conservation Commission. The Recreation Committee and the Planning Board were consulted during development, particularly with regard to the listing of Town goals and objectives.

For this revision, the Open Space Committee worked with the EO418 Community Development Committee to develop a survey that included Blandford's natural resources and open spaces. The survey was sent to all households in town over the summer period of 2002. The returned surveys were evaluated and results can be found in the Appendices. The committee then reviewed and revised the previous OSRP, utilizing the data from the survey results to note and record the current priorities of the Town residents. In order to solicit as many comments about the plan as possible, the Open Space Committee took part in a public hearing for the EO418 Community Development Plan on March 27, 2003, which included the community's strengths and weaknesses and the features the community felt made Blandford unique. On June 5, 2003, community residents took part in a workshop where they articulated goals and objectives for Blandford's open space and recreation future. The list is included in Section 6B of this plan.

In order to ensure continued progress on agreed-upon goals and objectives, the plan will be reviewed every two years by a three person committee, composed of one member each of the Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, and the Planning Board. This committee should review the plan and make recommendations of proposed changes to the residents at Town Meeting. The committee will also report on the progress of meeting the current goals and objectives.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING



Photo courtesy of Rosemary Arnold

Regional Context

SUMMARY: Blandford is located in Western Mass, and is a beautiful rural, mountaintop community. The Town has breathtaking views, a wide variety of hiking trails and natural recreational opportunities supported by an enormous range of flora and fauna. The Town of Blandford is considered a “hilltown” and also a part of the Highland Communities defined by the Trustees of Reservations. Blandford shares resources such as watersheds, public forestlands, and a regional middle and high school. Many business and cultural meccas such as Lenox, Stockbridge, Pittsfield, Lee, Westfield, Northampton, and Springfield surround it. It is a short commute to Hartford and Albany, and NYC is only 2-1/2 hrs away.

The Town of Blandford lies in the eastern foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, which originate in the Green Mountain Range in Vermont. The Town is a part of Hampden County in southwestern Massachusetts. Blandford is bordered by Chester on the north, Huntington on the northeast, Russell on the east, Granville and Tolland on the south and Otis and Becket on the west. The Town covers approximately 54 square miles and the 2000 Federal Census indicated a population of 1,214.

Blandford has its own elementary school, but as of 2001 houses only kindergarten and the Head Start Program. The Gateway Regional School System is building new facilities and updating its grammar schools. When renovations are complete, the Blandford Elementary School will service Kindergarten through fourth grade. However, Blandford students in fifth grade and above, along with children from Russell, Chester, Huntington, Montgomery, Worthington and Middlefield, are bussed to Gateway Regional School District in Huntington, MA.

By far, the most noteworthy unique feature of Blandford is its abundant supply of clean water. Most major brooks in Blandford drain into the Cobble Mountain Reservoir, which is the major source of water for the city of Springfield as well as several other surrounding cities and towns. The surface water quality

in this and all other water bodies in Blandford have been given an “AA” classification by the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control. In addition, the reservoir and its feeder streams are designated an anti-degradation segment, which constitutes an outstanding natural resource and requires that the water quality be maintained and protected. Also, the adjoining towns of Huntington and Russell own extensive watershed lands in Blandford.

Blandford’s public water supply is drawn from the Long Pond Reservoir that lies entirely within the town’s boundaries. The Town of Blandford purchased 229 acres of watershed land surrounding Long Pond in 1985 with the aid of Self Help Funding. This property provides protection of the Long Pond Reservoir and the land is ideal for passive recreation where hiking, cross-country skiing and bird watching are encouraged. Blandford plans to continue to protect our watershed and develop a corridor for wildlife by connecting the watersheds that exist within our town.

History of the Community

SUMMARY: Blandford is situated in the eastern foothills of the Berkshire Mountains and is criss-crossed by streams. It is a rural hill town on the historic western corridor between Connecticut and the Housatonic Valley located on an early route of travel from Springfield to Albany. This was an important military highway from New York during the revolution as is testified by the number of taverns that were recorded on the post road servicing travelers. The Town was originally cut up into lots and sold to Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who immigrated from Hopkinton and created an agricultural and grazing based economy. There were some early tanners, paper and cardboard mills, but the major emphasis in the 19th century was dairy farming. Blandford led the county in cheese production in 1845 and then again in 1870. Where the town once was a favored summer resort where people came to improve their health with the clean mountain air, now most of the summer homes have been converted into year round residences. The town continues to support a country club and a family oriented ski area.

Blandford was purchased in 1735 by Scotch-Irish settlers from Hopkinton and divided into lots known as the New Glasgow plantation. Uniform, rectangular houses were constructed along both sides of North Street and Haight/Sperry Road. The community began as an agricultural and grazing-based economy. In 1741, the name was changed from New Glasgow to Blandford and incorporated as a Town.

Blandford was located on a major east-west traveling route known as the General Knox - Otis Stage Road (Route 23). This route provided direct access to larger nearby communities such as Westfield, West Springfield and Springfield in Massachusetts and Albany in New York. Due to its location along this route, it was reported that there were an unusually high number of taverns for a town of this size. Russell Stage Road served as the primary route to the Westfield River in Russell from Blandford Center. Because of its location along these routes, the population grew dramatically in the late 18th century. From 1776 to 1790, the population nearly doubled from 772 to 1,416 and reached a peak in 1800 of 1,778.

The economy focused on agriculture, specifically livestock and dairy products. The production of crops was limited due to the lack of fertile lowlands. Blandford's woodlands also supported lumber operations. In 1807, a Connecticut merchant by the name of Amos Collins convinced the Blandford farmers to switch from the cultivation of wool to the manufacturing of butter and cheese. The Town's primary market was in Hartford, Connecticut and much of their business was with Connecticut communities. In 1845, Blandford reported the highest cheese production of any town in the county and, by 1865, was responsible for producing 30% of the county's cheese.

The first tannery was constructed in 1760 near Blandford Center. By 1837, there were a total of three tanneries whose production represented one quarter of all of the leather tanned in the county. A woolen factory that made satinets (a thin silk satin) was also constructed around this time. A small paper mill that manufactured coarse wrapping paper was established in 1832. A "card-board" (boards used for cleaning everything from cattle and horses to silk hats) factory was built in 1845, along with several turning mills and a bedstead factory. There was regular traffic between North Blandford and Chester to haul these products to the rail line.

In 1842, with the development of the Western Railroad (later to be known as the Boston & Albany railroad), travel primarily followed the Westfield River south of town. Blandford's population began to decline and, in 1870, it was reduced to 1026. During this period, however, the Town continued to excel in the tanning industry. There were now four tanneries and, in 1855, the production of these tanneries represented 27% of the county value for leather. By the 1870's the majority of the manufacturing

industries had left Town and Blandford was becoming known as a summer resort for people who lived in Springfield and Westfield.

In 1880, a layer of kaolin was discovered near the center of Town. This discovery led to the formation of the Blandford Brick and Tile Company. The clay was transported to the company's yard in Russell for processing. The amount of available kaolin appears to have been insufficient as the pit was closed by 1900.

Over the course of the two years from 1909 to 1910, the City of Springfield constructed a water supply source along the Blandford/Granville Town line. The reservoir was created on Borden Brook and subsequently named the "Borden Brook Reservoir". The City claimed large portions of the watershed by buying many structures along the brook's tributaries.

The population continued to decline, down to 623 in 1915. That year the Berkshire Street Railway constructed an interurban trolley line between Lee and Huntington, which passed through North Blandford. The trolley line had little impact on settlement and, consequently, was abandoned in 1918. Local roads were improved as auto routes, with the primary east-west route remaining Route 23, as it is currently known.

The City of Springfield constructed the Cobble Mountain Reservoir from 1928 to 1930 by damming the Little River. The reservoir flooded several farmsteads along the Little River valley and had a total capacity of 22.5 billion gallons. As with the construction of the Borden Brook Reservoir, the City again claimed large portions of the watershed.

Population Characteristics

Summary: Since the late 1970's the population in Blandford has seen only slight increase, from 1038 persons in 1980 to 1214 in 2000. Because of Blandford's rural setting and slow growth rate in recent years, it would seem that protecting open space while it is available and affordable should be a main focus of the open space plan. Joining watershed properties to other protected lands in town to ensure a healthy balance between humans and wildlife will be an important goal for the town.

Blandford's total area consists of 53.56 square miles with a land area of 51.75 square miles. The table below illustrates pertinent population data. For example, the population density is only 23.5 persons per square mile, compared with the much greater density statewide of 810 persons per square mile. Blandford remains a rural community with widely scattered population and large open spaces.

	Blandford	Massachusetts
2000 Population	1,214	6,349,097
Total households	456	2,443,000
Average Household Size	2.66	2.51
Population density	23.5 persons per sq. mile	810 persons per sq. mile

Blandford is a town with a strong environmental constituency. As a survey given to residents in 2002 reveals, many live here because of the high quality and significant quantity of natural environment. Although nearly half of Blandford is protected, the survey shows that approximately 90% of residents consider this "just right" or "not enough". Fewer than 10% feel that Blandford has "too much" protected open space. The three most important features to residents surveyed are: small town rural atmosphere, open spaces and forests. The most important town issue is the environment (67.6%). Seventy-two percent

would support new zoning to protect ridgelines, forests, waters and hillsides from adverse impacts of development.

Although Blandford is experiencing minimal population growth, residential development is on the increase. People moving into town are looking for a quiet country setting where they can raise their children and yet be within an easy commute to the surrounding cities and towns.

Growth and Development Patterns

Summary: Residential development is on the increase in Blandford. This new development is occurring along existing road frontage, on both agricultural and woodland properties. This results in the loss of unobstructed views and lost woodland.

Originally, Blandford developed along a trail from the New York border to Westfield and the towns of the Connecticut River valley. This was later known as the Albany Road and was traveled by General Knox and his troops on their journey from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston to deliver cannons to General Washington. Houses and taverns were built along this “highway”. Today, this road again sees the greatest amount of new home building. This development is in the form of frontage lots, often subdivided from larger parcels with no neighborhood clustering.

Blandford seems destined to grow in population. With land in Westfield and other parts of the Valley becoming increasingly scarce and more costly, and with people increasingly becoming disenchanted with city life, growth is heading toward the hill towns.

During the 90’s, Blandford experienced very slight growth. The first year of the new century saw a doubling of new home building permits and an even greater increase the next year. The implications of this are additional children in schools, increased need for water and new roads, and the impact such growth will have on the Town’s way of life.

Transportation

Blandford is a hilltown community where most people commute to surrounding areas for work. The principal highway serving Blandford is Route 23. All major roads are paved and in good condition, with some dirt roads maintained and in passable condition. The Massachusetts Turnpike runs through the town, but there is no exit available to town residents. The construction of a turnpike entrance, which is discussed periodically, would undoubtedly increase residential development.

Route 23, bisecting the town from east to west, is a state highway that connects with both Route 20 and Route 8. This heavily traveled road is a winding, mountainous travel route for residential traffic and tourists. It is a main route to Otis Reservoir, which supports a large recreational community. There are many curves along this route, which can be dangerous to those not familiar with the roadway.

Russell Stage Road, a rural country road, which connects Route 20 to the Springfield Ski Club, has seen a major increase in traffic since the closing of Mt Tom Ski Area. The Blandford Highway Dept. has proposed construction on this road to handle this increased volume of traffic. The Town Highway Dept. has a full-time staff, employing town people. Its budgetary needs are generally well-supported by town meeting.

There are many unpaved roads in town that are cherished by the townspeople. Most of these country roads are well-maintained by the highway department.

Water Supply

The Blandford Water Dept., overseen by a three member Board of Water Commissioners, is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water supply and distribution system including providing

adequate volume, pressure, high quality water and overall compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Long Pond, a surface water source, supplies the Blandford Water System. The source is located in the western part of Town. The capacity of the pond is 65 million gallons. The reservoir is approximately 1-mile long by 0.25 miles wide at its widest point with a surface area of 81 acres. Long Pond and its surrounding area are owned by the Town of Blandford. The reservoir is fed by two continuous flowing brooks and numerous intermittent streams and sheet run off from the surrounding drainage area. A masonry and earthen embankment dam (will be reconstructed by Fall 2004) on the northern shore discharges to Wheeler Brook. Wheeler Brook is part of the Cobble Mt Reservoir tributary watershed.

The Blandford Water Department has jurisdiction over the Long Pond Reservoir and the Blandford Conservation Commission has helped to protect the watershed by assisting the town in purchasing land surrounding the reservoir using self-help funding. The Water Department has recently replaced 1000 feet of pipes on North Blandford Road. The old pipes consisted of concrete asbestos and were degrading at a rapid rate, causing many breaks & water failures in town. They are now being replaced with both plastic and concrete-lined steel pipes. A holding tank and a portion of the distribution pipes are located on 69 acres recently purchased by the Town of Blandford. This property abuts Long Pond Conservation Land. The Town of Blandford purchased this property in 2001.

After failing several coliform tests a couple of years ago, the Town was mandated by Department of Environmental Protection to put in a new filtration system. Blandford has had to upgrade a major portion of the water distribution system.

Tighe & Bond did a feasibility study of projected water use for the Town of Blandford a few years ago. The following information reflects their findings:

Current day population statistics along with future projections were obtained from the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research (MISER). The planning period for this study is through the year 2020, but the population projections obtained from MISER only extend to the year 2010. MISER has projected a 6.4% increase in population from the year 2000 to the year 2010. A linear extrapolation of this growth trend (+6.4%) has been used to develop a population projection to the year 2020. (Actual numbers from the 2000 census show a lesser growth rate over the past 10 years than MISER predicted; however, the information on water use is still pertinent.)

These population projections indicate that moderate growth is expected in the community over the next 20 years. The 1990 Census established a total population for the Town of Blandford of 1,187 people. The MISER year 2010 projection of 1,410 people represents an increase of 18.8% from the 1990 figure. The population projection developed in this study for the year 2020 of 1,500 people represents a 26.4% increase from the 1990 figure. The projections which were developed along with the 1990 census data are summarized below.

Town of Blandford Population and Population Projections

Year	Town Population	Estimated Population Serviced by Water System
1990	1187(1)	633
2000	1214(1)	633
2010	1410(2)	705
2020	1500(3)	750

(1)Actual census data

(2)MISER projections

(3)Assumed population based on MISER growth rates

Sewer Service

The entire Town of Blandford, excluding East and Westbound McDonalds's franchises on the Mass Turnpike, is on privately owned septic systems. The McDonalds's facilities wastewater is pumped to the Russell Sewage Treatment Plant.

Long-Term Development Patterns

Summary: *Because of Blandford's steep landforms, protected watershed land, wetlands and somewhat remote location, the town's zoning has thus far been adequate. However, increasing population and growth trends indicate that new development is occurring on land previously thought to be "self protecting" and may pose a threat to the rural character of the town.*

Over 97% of Blandford is zoned agricultural, with a small area defined residential and a very small strip along Main Street zoned for business. The bylaws require a minimum of 2 acre lots with 300 feet of frontage along an accepted road for parcels in the agricultural zone. Lots in the residential district require a minimum of 30,000 square feet with 150 feet of road frontage. Subdivision regulations permit the creation of new frontage by road building, but the subdivision driveways may not be shared between units. Mobile homes are allowed by special permit on a temporary basis for 60 days while a home is under construction. Two family homes are allowed in both districts, but open space residential development is not permitted under current zoning.

Blandford also has 402 acres in the Long Pond Watershed Protection District.

The uses permitted in the residential/agricultural zones are extensive, though some require a special permit. No use, however, may create offensive odors, noise or unsightly appearance noticeable off the premises. Size and placement of signs are regulated.

The most recent amendment to the zoning by-law regulates the placement of telecommunication cell towers. While these structures cannot be banned in a town, control of their placement allows the town to preserve historic and scenic sites.

Blandford is not perceived as a prime location for industry or commerce on a scale that would be useful to the tax base. It is, however, suitable for residential development, and this is becoming increasingly evident by the growing number of building permits. During the 1990's, there was an average of two new home building permits issued per year. Already, this has doubled in the first year of the new century and tripled the following year. Were Blandford to grow from fewer than 600 homes in the year 2000 to the maximum build-out of over 6000 homes, much of the town's open space, fields, forests and scenic views would be destroyed. The impact on town services and resources is hard to imagine, and the lifestyle of current residents would certainly be altered. Conservation of landscapes that are elements of our community's character is essential.

SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Geology, Soils and Topography

Blandford is in the Berkshire Transition Zone, which ranges in elevation from 400 to 1400 feet. The majority of its slopes range from 8% to 15%, at 10,109 acres, although there 9,573 acres that are 15% or greater. A greater than 15% slope is a natural constraint to development.

Blandford is made up of four major soil associations:

Ridgebury-Muck-Whitman	5,069 acres	15%
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This general soil type is extremely stony, poorly drained, mineral soil with hardpans, and very poorly drained organic soil. This type is found in nearly level to gently sloping depressions and drainage channels. It consists of about 65% Ridgebury soils, 10% Muck, and 5% Whitman soils. The remaining 20% consists mainly of similar mineral soils without hardpans. The Ridgebury soils are poorly drained mineral soils that formed in extremely stony, compact glacial till. They have a hardpan within two feet of the surface. Muck consists of thoroughly decomposed organic deposits over mineral soil material. The depth of these deposits varies from 16 inches to more than three feet. Whitman soils are very poorly drained mineral soils that formed in materials similar to those at the Ridgebury soils.

This general soil type has severe limitations for commercial, industrial and residential development due to extreme wetness. Large areas have moderate to severe limitations for wetland wildlife habitat development, especially shallow water impoundments.

Lyman-Berkshire Association	6,690 acres	20%
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This soil type contains extremely rocky, shallow soils and extremely stony, deep soils without hardpan. It occurs on steep hills and ridges. It consists of about 76% Lyman soils and 20% Berkshire soils. The remaining 5% consists of small areas of other similar soils. Lyman soils are somewhat excessively drained loams. These soils developed in thin deposits of soil material over bedrock. Lyman is underlain by bedrock at a depth of about 20 inches. Bedrock outcrops range from less than 30 feet to 100 feet apart. Berkshire soils are well drained loams that developed in deep deposits of glacial till.

This soil type has severe limitations for most uses due to the steep slopes and shallow depth to bedrock.

Merrimac-Sudbury Association	290 acres	1%
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This soil type contains well drained and moderately well-drained, sand and gravelly soils. Most of this type occurs on gentle to moderate slopes on old gravelly terraces. It consists of about 40% Merrimac soils and 40% Sudbury soils. The remaining 20% consists of similar sandy and gravelly soils that are excessively drained to well-drained. Merrimac soils are well-drained, fine sandy loams and sandy loams. They are underlain by stratified sand and gravel deposits at depth of 24 to 30 inches. Sudbury soils are moderately well-drained and similar to Merrimac soils.

This soil area has moderate to severe limitations for commercial and industrial uses, and slight to moderate limitations for residential and farming uses. This area has severe limitations for wetland wildlife habitat development. Contamination of groundwater may be a problem in areas used for sewage disposal fields and sanitary landfills.

This soil type is extremely stony, moderately well-drained and well-drained glacial till with hardpans. This general soil type occurs on gently to moderately steep upland areas. It consists of about 55% Peru soils and 40% Marlow soils. The remaining 5% consists mostly of similar well-drained soils without hardpans. Peru soils are deep, moderately well-drained loams developed in compact, stony glacial till. They are underlain at a depth of about 18 to 30 inches by hardpan. Marlow soils are well-drained and are similar to Peru soils with hardpan at 24 to 36 inches.

This general soil area has moderate to severe limitations for most uses due to stones and slope.

The soils in Blandford occupy level to very steep slopes, ranging in gradient from 0% to more than 35%. Slope gradient can be a limiting factor for many uses. There is a relationship between slope and development costs of roads, homes or industrial parks. As the slope of the land increases, the development of necessary infrastructure also increases. Initial costs for grading and landscaping on steeper slopes are higher and establishment and maintenance of lawns is more difficult. This, as well as the presence of hardpan and bedrock so close to the land surface, constrain development in many areas of Blandford.

B. Landscape Character

Blandford has an elevation from 650 to over 1700 feet above sea level. It is in the Berkshire Transition Zone, which is characterized by forest types of transition (maple-beech-birch, oak-hickory) and northern (Hemlock-White Pine) hardwoods. Surface waters drain to the Westfield and Connecticut River basins.

Blandford has a rich agricultural history. In the early 19th century its dairy herds supported an important cheese making industry. The miles of old stone walls in today's forests testify to the vast areas of cultivated land that once supported families in Blandford. In comparison, in 1990, less than 4% of Blandford land was in agricultural use.

Today, the hillsides of Blandford support several blueberry farms. Blandford's acidic soils are ideally suited to this activity. Next in agricultural importance is the haying industry, which provides fodder to farm animals in Town and surrounding communities. Sheep farming is also visible in town. A sheep farm and woolen handcraft store are doing quite well at their Route 23 location.

Though Blandford is modest in terms of large-scale agricultural activity, there is still a great deal of farming on a small scale. Most households in town boast a small vegetable garden and some fruit trees. The numerous local exhibitors in the traditional Blandford Fair attest to the interest of residents in growing fruit produce, and flowers.

Since large parcels of Blandford are forested, there is a considerable amount of logging. Christmas tree farms are also visible throughout the town and maple sugaring continues to be practiced within the community.

Recently the Commonwealth of Massachusetts undertook a project to identify and map the areas of the Commonwealth most in need of protection to conserve biodiversity for future generations. The project, called BioMap, identifies 7,000 acres of core habitat in Blandford, as well as 16,968 acres of supporting landscape, 6,097 acres of riparian corridor land and 5,900 acres of natural lands within the riparian corridor.

Following is a table illustrating the distribution of land uses today. The table demonstrates the character of Blandford as a rural, forested community with rich water resources.

Land Use	Acreage
Forest	29,428
Intensive Agriculture	708
Open Water	1,139
Residential over ½ acre	674
Wetlands	748
Riparian Corridors	6,307
Flood Plain	2,434
Biomap Core Habitat	6,997
Potential Vernal Pools	44 locations
Outstanding resource water way	23,503
Chapter 61 Forestry	3,535
Chapter 61 Agriculture	559

C. Water Resources

Watersheds – Blandford’s position in the Westfield River watershed provides a reliable water supply for several communities besides its own. Approximately 40% of the town is in watershed properties. The city of Springfield owns in excess of 30% of the town in order to protect Cobble Mountain Reservoir. This reservoir supplies water to Springfield, Agawam, and East Longmeadow. The towns of Russell, Chester and Huntington also have watershed properties in Blandford.

The total Long Pond watershed area, which provides the water supply for the Town, consists of over 400 acres, of which more than 300 acres lie within the Town of Blandford and 88 acres lie within the Town of Otis. The entire Watershed Protection Area (WPA) Zone A falls within the Town of Blandford. A majority of the land within the WPA Zone A is owned by the City of Springfield (watershed land) or by the Town of Blandford (conservation land – open space funded).

Watershed Recharge Areas – Blandford is in the Westfield and Farmington river basins, with 32,692 acres draining to the Westfield and 1,535 acres draining to the Farmington. According to Mass. DEP, Blandford has 23,503 acres of Outstanding Resource Water.

Flood hazard areas – Because of Blandford’s steep terrain and largely uninterrupted drainage system of brooks, ponds and streams, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Flood Hazard Maps show relatively few areas of concern. Most areas prone to flooding are existing wetlands, and even in extreme circumstances provide little threat other than some light flooding of low-lying secondary roads. Cobble Mountain Reservoir has a virtually fail-safe spillway that limits the water level within the reservoir, so infrastructure and residential development closest to the reservoir are beyond the designated Zone A flood hazard zone.

D. Vegetation

As with most hilltowns, Blandford is primarily comprised of second-growth forest. The forest consists mostly of maple/beech/birch and oak/hickory hardwoods and northern evergreens like Hemlock and White Pine. With over 29,000 acres of forest, Blandford has the highest forest acreage in the entire Westfield River Watershed. Woodlands are economically important, providing resources for lumber operations, firewood, and maple sugaring. The woodlands are also vital scenic resources, providing recreation along official and private trails, including walking and hiking, cross-country skiing, bicycling and running.

Along with the woodlands are associated plants found on the forest floor, such as fringed gentian, ladyslipper, trillium, wild begonia, skunk cabbage, false Solomon's seal, goat's beard, goldenrod, mountain laurel, nightshade, and wood anemone. The Conservation Commission has a record of hundreds of occurrences of wildflowers that Harold Vermes published in March of 1978, for further reference.

As in most other towns, there have been occurrences of invasive species such as purple loosestrife, barberry, Asiatic bittersweet, and buckthorn. This issue is in both the forested areas and in the wetlands.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Blandford has a considerable amount of forest land, open fields and unpolluted ponds and streams, which support a diversity of fisheries and wildlife. Among animals increasing in numbers in recent years are the wild turkey (now common), black bear, beaver and coyote. Moose, Fishers, Mountain Lions, birds of prey, and Bobcats have also been spotted.

Massachusetts has a rich biological legacy and is home to a wide array of plants and animals, some of which are unique to our state, others that have their largest, most stable populations here, and yet others that are still relatively common. There are 190 species of vertebrate and invertebrate animals and 258 species of native plants that are officially listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern in Massachusetts and tracked by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. According to the National Heritage and Endangered Species data, Blandford has seven species that are either endangered, threatened or of special concern. They are listed below.

Scientific name	Common Name	State Rank	Federal Rank		Most Recent Observations	
*	Reptile	Clemmys insculpta	Wood Turtle	SC		1995
	Bird	Bartramia longicauda	Upland Sandpiper	E		1901
	Bird	Circus cyaneus	Northern Harrier	T		1923
*	Bird	Cistothorus platensis	Sedge Wren	E		1982
*	Vascular Plant	Gentiana andrewsii	Andrews' Bottle Gentian	E		1997

	Vascular Plant	Rhododendron maximum	Great Laurel	T		1946
	Vascular Plant	Sisyrinchium mucronatum	Slender Blue-Eyed Grass	T		1919

Much of the Blandford wildlife needs either tree canopy or low, dense leafy growth for hiding from predators, for roosting, and for food. Some require clearings for their shrubs with berries, or farmland with succulent grasses and grains. Many mammals common to inland New England, as well as native trout and salmon, inhabit Blandford. Some wildlife that can be found in Blandford is listed below.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>
Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>
Hairy-tailed Mole	<i>Parascalops breweri</i>
Star-nosed Mole	<i>Condylura cristata</i>
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>
Northern Long-eared bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>
Eastern Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i>
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
Snowshoe Hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>
Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>
Southern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>
American Beaver	<i>Castor Canadensis</i>
White-Footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>
Southern Black-footed Vole	<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>

Woodland Vole	<i>Microtus pinetorum</i>
Woodland Jumping Mouse	<i>Napaeozapus insignis</i>
Common Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Common Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>
Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
Common Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>
Ermine	<i>Mustela erminea</i>
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>
American Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>
Northern River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Hesperiphona vespertina</i>
Tree Sparrow	<i>Spizella arborea arborea</i>
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
Great Horned owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Hylatomus pileatus</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus villosus</i>
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus pubescens</i>
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Common Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>

Red-Breasted Nuthatch	<i>Hylocichia mustelina</i>
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
American Woodcock	<i>Philohela minor</i>
Redwinged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator leucura</i>
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Acciiter striatus</i>
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>
Black Rat Snake	<i>Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta</i>
Wood Turtle	<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>
Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentine</i>
Eastern Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta picta</i>
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>
Northern Two-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>
Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>
American Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>
Brook Trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

The Map of Unique Features that is part of this plan includes a variety of landscapes considered important by residents. They include: historic features such as the trolley line and old school house; facilities that contribute to the traditional rural town center such as the library, Watson Park, and the Congregational Church; scenic viewsheds such as several towards Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire; recreational resources such as Sanderson Brook Falls, Blandford Fairgrounds, the Blandford Club and the Blandford Ski Area; and scenic roads such as the one to Cobble Mountain Reservoir which has recently been closed by the State. These features are described further in this section and in Section 5, Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest.

The Lee to Huntington trolley line, which became known as the Huckleberry line during its first season of operation, was constructed by the Western Massachusetts Contracting Company for the Berkshire Street Railway in response to that demand from hilltowns, where farming operations were declining due to the inability to get goods efficiently to market. The hilltowns also hoped to increase tourism to their region. The line was constructed and ran for only two seasons, from 1917 to 1918. Tracks were torn up between 1921 and 1928. There are still remains of the line, including culverts, that can be located on the accompanying map of scenic resources.

The following roads were noted as particularly scenic by the Hampden County Natural Resources Technical Team. These indicate areas that could use current and future maintenance, such as brush cutting and zoning protection.

Chester and George Millard Roads and South Street offer excellent views of the valley and mountains. Nye Brook Road provides a cool, steep ride with numerous vistas of whitewater in the rocky bed of Gibbs Brook. Along Gibbs Road, motorists can see the valley and mountains with a foreground of farmland. Motorists riding along North Street by the Blandford Club are offered excellent views of the mountains to the east and the northeast. On a clear day, one see as far as Springfield. Blair Road provides vistas of the Blandford church steeple and Cobble Mountain Road offers many excellent views of the Cobble Mountain Reservoir.

The Hampden County Natural Resource Technical Team (NRTT) assessed several roadsides for their potential as rest areas. They identified eight sites as having potential: on Chester road near open farmland; the triangle at the junction of North Street and the Massachusetts Turnpike; the north side of Route 23 west of Pond Brook; General Knox Road near the junction of Birch Hill Road; a hilltop near Jackson Hill; Route 23 at the junction of Shephard Road; a large site off Route 23 between Pond Brook and Lloyd's Road; and a site off Cobble Mountain Road, with adequate park policing.

The NRTT also identified several sites that have access to recreational activities. These include: Sanderson and Beulah Land Roads, which provide access to the Chester/Blandford State Forest for hiking and hunting (with restrictions); John Knox Road, which also provides access to the Chester/Blandford State Forest for passive recreation; North Blandford Road, which provides access to the old trolley line right-of-way for hiking and horsebackriding; Jethro Jones Road, which is suitable for horsebackriding and hiking along Walnut Hill Ridge; Blair, Birch Hill, Hiram Blair and Hall Roads, which are suitable for hiking and horsebackriding; and Beech Hill Road, which provides access to trails leading to Pudding Hill; and Warfield Cemetery and edges of Cobble Mountain Reservoir, which are suitable for hiking and hunting with written permission. Some of these roads travel through private property, which should be respected.

G. Environmental Challenges

Blandford's current zoning by-laws favor residential development along existing roadways, making open land and lightly wooded areas along roads prime sites for development. In order to preserve a rural character, our priority would be to identify and attempt to preserve vistas and special properties along these roadways. A re-examination of current zoning bylaws might be helpful in preserving roadside vistas.

Increased homebuilding and commercial logging has the potential of changing the balance of land habitat types. An area in which the Great Blue Heron once nested has disappeared. Logging and building will also increase siltation of ponds and streams with the consequent loss of fish populations and loss of potential drinking supplies such as Gibbs Pond and Dunlap Pond. Siltation of Long Pond, Blandford's present source of drinking water, would present an almost insurmountable problem to town residents.

Blandford has installed a new water main and has had to replace water and sewer lines at a cost of \$6,000,000 because of asbestos issues. Currently, there are also road problems such as siltation and road salt, lack of adequate catch basins, and inadequate culverts. As Mass Highway has jurisdiction over Route 23, it is an area of future discussion to limit the use of road salt in order to protect the outstanding water supply.

SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST



Photo courtesy of Rosemary Arnold

This inventory describes ownership, management agency, current use, condition, recreation potential, public access, type of public grant accepted, zoning and degree of protection, for each parcel. This information is also included in map and matrix form with an accompanying narrative. All municipally owned conservation and recreation facilities and programs have been evaluated for accessibility to people with disabilities.

A. Private Parcels

The Town of Blandford is comprised of 34,228 acres of land, of which 4,249 acres, or 12.4%, are protected under Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B. These programs provide property tax relief to landowners who retain their land for farming, forestry, or recreation. The program taxes the properties for their use rather than their market value.

The Blandford Conservation Commission works with private landowners to place conservation restrictions on private parcels where possible, and will continue to do this as noted in the new action plan. The Conservation Commission also currently does and plans to continue to encourage land protection under the Commonwealth's APR and Chapter 61 programs. Of the privately owned lands, there are 3,535 acres protected under Chapter 61 for forestry, 559 acres protected under Chapter 61A for agriculture, and 155 acres protected under Chapter 61B for recreation. Additionally, there is a significant portion of protected lands that are privately owned. The City of Springfield owns in excess of 10,000 acres, the Town of Russell owns 2,755 acres, DEM owns 2,276 acres, Hull Forest Products owns 1,088 acres, and

the Town of Blandford owns more than 300 acres. Following are descriptions of private and public parcels of particular value to the Town.

Bedlam Brook, which drains into Cobble Mountain Reservoir, is a beautiful waterway with wetlands for wildlife habitat, alders, swale grass and some open water.

Blandford Ski Area, in operation since 1936, has a 465 foot elevation gain and contains 22 trails, three chairlifts, one surface lift, two lodges, a terrain park, and a half pipe. The ski area is open to nonmembers.

Blandford Club offers a nine-hole golf course and tennis courts that are accessible in the summer. Members are offered discounts, as well as access to a boathouse on Russell Pond.

B. Public and Nonprofit Parcels

Dover Trust Land – the Town of Blandford is in the process of acquiring this parcel from Springfield Water and Sewer and plans to use it and its accompanying building for appreciation of nature and wildlife.

The Chester/Blandford State Forest, located north of Chester Road, contains 2,297 acres of which 1,119 acres are located in Blandford. This forest is a very scenic, wooded area with moderate to steep sloping, rough, stony land. The forest offers stream fishing, hiking, horsebackriding, hunting, and woodland management. There are also very scenic streams and falls, a mica mine and a gold mine. One of the falls, called Sanderson Brook Falls, has breathtaking views of whitewater dropping over precipitous ledges in view of Sanderson Brook Road. This state forest has a few wheelchair-accessible roads, but no accessible trails.

An abandoned goldmine located on Goldmine Brook, one mile south of the Chester-Blandford State Forest access road, is suitable for geologic study. A 20-minute hike along Goldmine Brook is rather scenic, with frequent views of white water in the rocky streambed. The mine consists of a vent shaft with wood retaining wall, drill holes in the ledge, tailings, etc. A short distance downstream lie the remains of a foundation and a canal that were apparently connected with the mine. Also associated with the mine is an impoundment site on Goldmine Brook about 1 ½ miles upstream from the Chester Town line. This has the potential to become a 53-acre lake with a maximum depth of 18 feet at the dam. The Springfield Hiking Club has initiated many trips to this area in the past. This area is not accessible.

There are three Town owned parcels near Freeland Brook. The three parcels total 145 acres: parcel 28-68 acres, parcel 26- 57 acres, and parcel 25- 20 acres. Parcel 25 is privately owned and is landlocked because of the Massachusetts Turnpike. This 26 acre tract would be a nice addition to the land already owned by the Town.

This area is suited for passive recreation. There are forests of oak and hemlock, which surround the remains of an old dam once used for municipal water. One of the branches of Freeland Brook is rock lined with ledge outcropping and rock waterfalls, which makes a good setting for hiking, fishing and geology. Currently there are no accessible benches or trails.

Long Pond Conservation Area - In 1985, the Town of Blandford purchased 234 acres surrounding Long Pond Reservoir to protect drinking water. A beaver pond along the edge of North Blandford Road attracts an abundance of wildlife. In the past, the Boy Scouts have worked on trails around the beaver pond and have added wood duck boxes to this area. This parcel was purchased with assistance from a Self-Help Grant; therefore the public is encouraged to use the area for passive recreation such as hiking, ice skating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, birdwatching, photography, etc. In 1999, an additional 69 acres was purchased by the Town to continue efforts to protect the watershed and filtration plant. Currently there are no accessible trails.

The Town Common, located by the town garage and between two cemeteries, contains approximately nine acres of town-owned land. It is partially wooded with large, well-pruned white pines and oaks. This area is suitable for limited picnicking and hiking, and contains a Bicentennial Oak planted in 1935, along with a plaque marking the site of the first church in Town. It is a nicely landscaped public space with a circular rock planter in the center and a large shade tree; several raised perennial and shrub beds; paving stones; and a bench. Access is very easy for those with disabilities.

Watson Memorial Park, located north of Blandford Center on Blandford Road, is an excellently maintained 11-acre park with an extensive network of roads and paths, a tennis court, a horseshoe pit and a ball diamond. The park is well landscaped with many interesting flowers and shrubs, and has several picnic facilities, great views of the Connecticut and Westfield valleys, and roads suitable for jogging and hiking. It has an old-style metal playground w/ several swings, two slides, jungle gyms; little league ball field; several picnic tables w/ BBQ facilities; tennis court; extensive well-maintained, rolling open lawn area; single lane loop road (5mph) w/ some mature large Rhododendrons and miscellaneous other plantings and large shade trees; and a small gazebo in need of some repair; there are two historic barns on the property. Ice skating has been done in the past on a flooded winter rink. There are no curb issues and good access to all areas. The Blandford Historical Commission (BHC) is in the process of working with a professional arborists to identify, prune, and upgrade the trees, shrubs, and perennial flowerbeds. The BHC has been awarded grant money from the Highlands Communities Initiative to continue this project.

Veteran's Park at Town Common: (corner of Rt. 23 and N. Blandford Road - next to Highway Dept. Garage) contains five commemorative stones honoring veterans of the Civil, Spanish, WW1, WWII, Vietnam and Korean Wars; and seven flag poles. It is a memorial erected by the Commonwealth in 1927 to commemorate General Knox's march from Ft. Ticonderoga to Boston to fight the British. General Knox came through Blandford during the winter of 1775-76 carrying canons and arms that were used to liberate Boston. The park is very accessible.

Miller's Swamp, located partly on State Forest land and partly on private land, contains approximately 50 acres of hardwood swamp. The area has small patches of open water, ferns, blueberries and other natural shrubs. There has been limited development in the area, with five new residences along the road. The rest would be suitable for a conservation restriction.

Tolland State Forest, located in Otis on the border of Blandford, consists of approximately 870 acres of woodland and hardwood swamp land. South Otis Road and Otis Tolland Road provide access to the forest, which offers hiking, horsebackriding and hunting opportunities. The State Forest has accessible restrooms, but no accessible trails.

The Wigwam Brook Conservation Area – In May, 2003 the Valley Land Fund (VLF) assisted the Town of Blandford in purchasing 150 acres, located on the corner of Russell Road and Nye Brook Road, from the Letourneau family. This property has a conservation restriction on it. Wigwam Brook is a tributary of the Westfield River. This property has access through a deeded right of way which can be accessed by the driveway leading to the Letourneau farmhouse. The Blandford Conservation Commission is in the process of securing another entry to the parcel by way of Nye Brook Road. The area is open to the public for passive recreation. The VLF requests that this land not be logged, encouraging old growth. An old logging road helps hikers navigate the diverse property.

SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION



Description of Process

In 2002, Blandford began taking advantage of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Order 418, which provides \$30,000 of planning services to participating communities. With the assistance of PVPC, the Town looked at the four core elements of open space, housing, economic development, and transportation in order to improve quality of life and preserve community character. Representatives from PVPC presented the components and process of open space and recreation planning to prepare for the updating of Blandford's Open Space and Recreation Plan, which had not been done since 1988. The Trustees of Reservations also supported the OSRP update by funding a portion of it with their Highlands Community Initiative grant program.

As part of the development of the Community Development Plan, the Community Development Committee initiated a local survey in September 2002. The survey is included in the appendix. Many of the responses were related to open space and recreation. Almost 30% of respondents identified the Town's open space as a primary reason for living there. The same percentage felt that the town should set aside funds for the purchase or protection of open space in town, although a greater percentage (32.4%) thought collaborative funding between the Town and the state should be initiated to protect open space. Respondents overwhelmingly ranked the Town's forests (74.1%) and open spaces (76.3%) as key Town features. The most popular recreational activities in which respondents participated included walking

(64%), hiking (49%), bicycling (48%), bird watching (40%), swimming (37%), and fishing (36%). Other popular activities respondents mentioned included canoeing, kayaking, hunting, and cross-country skiing.

In early 2003, the Town began participation in a series of workshops related to each of the core elements of the Community Development Plan. On March 27th, 2003, residents identified strengths and weaknesses of the Town on flip charts and identified them spatially on maps provided by PVPC. Additionally, residents identified features unique to the Town. In June, residents prepared a wish list of future open space and recreation goals and activities, which is detailed further below. Concurrently with the Community Development Plan meetings, a committee devoted to open space and recreation planning met regularly with representatives from PVPC to review and discuss the OSRP update.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

On June 5, 2003, residents met at a workshop where they developed a “wishlist” of future open space and recreation goals. These issues stood out as the most vital for the future of open space and recreation for the Town. The OSRP committee will continue to work to develop these objectives.

- Farm preservation
- Scenic ridge protection
- Meeting or gathering place
- Re-establishing views and vistas
- Upgrade Watson Park, with bathrooms and soccer fields
- Maintain viability of fairgrounds (private owner now, Town wants first right of refusal)
- Comment on Environmental Impact Statement for Land Use Study of Bioreserve lands
- Noise abatement of I-90
- Action to reduce number of cell towers
- Re-establish activities within Town boundaries (as they were 12 years ago)
- Soccer
- T-Ball
- Ice skating
- Get parents back into participatory role
- Provide usable recreational fields, for intramural leagues and practice
- Investigate liability and feasibility issues for skate park
- Provide a Nature/Interpretive Center & Environmental Library
- Hiking trails-maintain existing trails, map trails, provide new trails
- Provide shared transport for cultural activities and field trips
- Promote a hunter safety & instructional course, especially for fishing and boating
- Provide activities for children, especially if the school week goes to 4 days
- Reinvigorate the 4-H program

- Preserve the historic town center
- Collaborate with The Nature Conservancy to identify and map target areas for prime habitat

Additionally, in 2005, the University of Massachusetts will complete the Biomap habitat project for Blandford. It will be a tool Blandford will use to focus protection efforts where they are most needed. Concurrently, the Blandford Historical Commission will be doing a vegetation inventory of Watson Park.

SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS



A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

According to many studies of wildlife science and ecology, including those done by Harvard University, the variety of existing species of wildlife and vegetation require different landscape patterns. These patterns include small and large patches of land that are ideally connected by corridors that wildlife can use to travel. Blandford does not currently have an environmental inventory for habitat and wildlife corridors. The Conservation Commission would like to collaborate with The Nature Conservancy to begin identifying and inventorying likely areas, as well as gathering data from the Biomap and State Greenway Plan for core habitat areas.

The recently tabulated survey results indicate that residents are very supportive of protecting the town's resources. Almost 30% of residents felt that the town should set aside funds for the purchase or protection of open space in town, although a greater percentage (32.4%) thought collaborative funding between the Town and the state should be initiated to protect open space. Respondents overwhelmingly ranked the Town's forests (74.1%) and open spaces (76.3%) as key town features.

B. Summary of Community's Needs

According to the *Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*, participation rates for communities in the region are highest for golfing (26.6%); playground activity (25.8%); picnicking (26.5%); sightseeing, tours, and events (54.9%); watching wildlife and nature study (29%); walking (44.5%); fishing (39.7%); swimming (52.7%); and hiking (41.9%). These responses suggest a market for trails, water-based recreation, playgrounds, and activities for the growing senior population.

Residents of the community feel that there is an issue with noise and light pollution; they wish to retain the rural character of Blandford. Currently there are conflicts with ATVs, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles.

There is not enough policing and a lack of adequate response from the environmental police. There is also limited recreation available for seniors and no transportation for them. There is a perceived need from the community for these types of programs and facilities.

C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

One of the present challenges to overcome is the lack of meeting space. Town hall and the post office are combined in one small building, which has only one meeting room. It is therefore impossible for more than one board or committee to meet on the same night. The old school building, which is currently used only for preschool, is an untapped resource for space. The Dover Trust property, in the process of being acquired, has an old colonial farmhouse that could be used as a meeting space.

Another issue is staffing of committees and communication between them. Staffing of the town offices has been sporadic. There has recently been more positive communication than in the past, but there is still a high turnover rate, so ongoing communication is difficult.

The Recreation Committee in particular is struggling, as there is no longer an elementary school to draw parents and children together for activities. This points to a need for a gathering place that draws adults and youth, as well as a potential resource in the form of the building that once housed the elementary school and is now underused.

Town finances are limited, and committees also struggle to find time to apply for grants. The regional school is taking up the majority of town funds.

A continuing issue is the great amount of land owned by the City of Springfield for their water supply. The land is a potential resource, but access is limited at present. Residents feel that there is a loss of control over resources that exist in the town. Residents are also concerned about the continuing viability of the fairgrounds, which are privately owned.

In 2002, many residents became concerned when the State's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs proposed opening several thousand acres of watershed protection lands for "passive" recreation, including hunting. An outside consultant (Epsilon Associates) was hired from the eastern part of the State and plans for the "Cobble Mountain Bioreserve" were drafted with minimal input or approval from Blandford residents. The plan lacked clarity in many respects, such as permitting hunting in core and supporting habitat areas without first requiring an environmental impact study or species inventories and providing no commitment for compensation to the Town for the increased costs of monitoring, policing or maintenance. The plan ultimately failed to pass the Legislature, but made many aware of the perceived value of Blandford's conservation lands to those involved in environmental politics. A strong sense of autonomy ensued with the emergent need for the Town to maintain control of its environmental destiny and see that any major change of use be allowed only after proper protocol is followed. [see Appendix for a detailed description of the Bioreserve issue].

SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Summary: the Open Space and Recreation Committee and town residents, in workshops and in survey results, have identified rural character, forestland, watersheds, scenic roads, wildlife habitat, recreation trail and activities, farmland, viewsheds, and wetlands as important aspects of their community. The community and its representatives will work towards these goals through a series of actions over the next five-year period.

The following goals elaborate on the summary, detailing the most important objectives identified by the Open Space and Recreation Committee in its meetings and workshops.

1. Protect public drinking water resources
2. Preserve the watersheds and purity of the drinking water supplies of the City of Springfield and the Towns of West Springfield, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Russell, and Huntington, as well as that of the Town of Blandford (including the Mass Turnpike facility restaurant, service station, maintenance area, etc.)
3. Monitor progress of filtration plant made necessary by the findings of high fecal coliform a few years ago. The plant and concomitant water distribution lines will service approximately 200 homes.
4. Protect water supplies from road salt; all of Route 23 should be a reduced salt area.
5. Preserve the natural environment of the Town in order to assure a rural atmosphere for future generations.
6. Encourage conservation easements, restrictions, or gifts of lands.
7. Establish roads in Blandford as “scenic roads” under MGL 40 ch. 15.
8. Maintain or improve certain scenic views in the Town.
9. Define and map priority habitat areas.
10. Provide a balanced recreation program with emphasis on integration of certain conservation and recreation activities.
11. Map and maintain existing trails for horsebackriding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and hiking.
12. Continue to collaborate with Russell on using and developing Russell Pond as an accessible swimming area.
13. Investigate trails of out-of-the-way sites in town of special interest.
14. Provide assistance in the area of conservation for various youth groups such as the scouts and 4-H Club.
15. Consider applying for the Community Forestry Program.
16. Maintain an active conservation education program for all citizens.

17. Establish center, possibly Dover Trust Nature Center, for appreciation of nature, wildlife, and historical matters.
18. Provide periodic talks, nature walks, slideshows, or the like by knowledgeable individuals on special topics in the area of natural history.
19. Integrate conservation projects with existing summertime recreational activities for children.
20. Maintain and expand the wildflower inventory.
21. Continue to exercise control over practices which alter Blandford's natural environment.
22. Vigorously enforce the Wetlands Protection Act and Regulations.
23. Collaborate with The Nature Conservancy to include more of Blandford in the Forest Legacy Program.
24. Review roadside cutting program through the Board of Selectmen with the Highway Department and the Tree Warden.
25. Encourage development of Blandford's limited good farmland for farming. (including blueberry, tree and horse farms)
26. Encourage and publicize the Agricultural Preservation Act.
27. Encourage good woodland management, and forestry practices that minimize erosion of soils into streams.
28. Map existing cultivated fields to monitor net loss of farmland.
29. Create a farmer's market in the center of town and encourage farmers to participate.
30. Protect farmland with proper zoning bylaws
31. Establish dialogue with State Fish and Game Department, PVPC, and UMass Extension to see what might be done to improve conditions for wildlife in town, to increase total numbers, and to encourage diverse species.
32. Work to overcome conflicts of use and ownership.
33. Consider effects of off-road vehicles, hunters, permits and trash.
34. Develop a conservation protocol which defines steps which must be taken before changes of use may occur.
35. Consider actually collecting stumpage fees to add to our conservation fund.

SECTION 9: FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

Goal	Responsible Committee	Timeframe
Preserve the watersheds and purity of the drinking water supplies of the City of Springfield and the Towns of West Springfield, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Russell, and Huntington, as well as that of our own Town of Blandford	Conservation Commission	ongoing
Monitor progress of filtration plant and water lines	Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission	Ongoing
Protect water supplies from road salt; all of Route 23 should be a reduced salt area.	Conservation Commission	2004-ongoing
Consider Beaver Pond on North Blandford Road for winter ice skating resource	Planning Board, Conservation Commission	2004-2005
Encourage conservation easements, restrictions, or gifts of lands	Conservation Commission	ongoing
Establish roads in Blandford as “scenic roads” under MGL 40 Ch. 15	Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2003
Maintain or improve certain scenic views	Planning Board, Conservation Commission	ongoing
Define and map priority habitat areas, using the Biomap tool being developed by UMass	Planning Board, Conservation Commission	2004-2005
Map and maintain existing trails for horsebackriding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and hiking	Planning Board	Ongoing
Continue to collaborate with Russell on using Russell Pond as an accessible swimming area	Board of Selectmen	2004-2006
Investigate trails of out-of-the-way sites in town of special interest.	Planning Board, Conservation Commission	Ongoing
Provide assistance in the area of conservation for various youth groups such as the scouts and 4-H Club	Conservation Commission	Ongoing
Consider the Community Forestry Program	Conservation Commission	2004
Establish center, possibly Dover Trust Nature Center, for appreciation of nature, wildlife, and historical matters	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission	2004-2005

Provide periodic talks, nature walks, slideshows, or the like by knowledgeable individuals on special topics in the area of natural history	Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee	Ongoing
Integrate conservation projects with existing summertime recreational activities for children	Recreation Committee	2004-2008
Maintain and expand the wildflower inventory	Conservation Commission	Ongoing
Vigorously enforce the Wetlands Protection Act and Regulations	Conservation Commission	Ongoing
Collaborate with The Nature Conservancy to include more of Blandford in the Forest Legacy Program	Planning Board, Conservation Commission	2004-2005
Review roadside cutting program through the Board of Selectmen with the Highway Department and the Tree Warden.	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen	2004
Encourage and publicize the Agricultural Preservation Act	Planning Board, Conservation Commission	Ongoing
Encourage good woodland management, and forestry practices that minimize erosion of soils into streams	Conservation Commission	Ongoing
Map existing cultivated fields to monitor net loss of farmland	Planning Board	2004-2005
Create a farmer's market in the center of town and encourage farmers to participate	Planning Board, Conservation Commission	2005-2007
Protect farmland with proper zoning bylaws	Planning Board	2004-2006
Establish dialogue with State Fish and Game Department, PVPC, and UMass Extension to see what might be done to improve conditions for wildlife in town, to increase total numbers, and to encourage diverse species	Conservation Commission	Ongoing
Consider effects of off-road vehicles, hunters, permits and trash	Board of Selectmen	2004-2009
Continue communication with Springfield Water and Sewer on access and enforcement for watershed lands (Article 97)	Planning Board, Conservation Commission	2004-2007
Consider collecting stumpage and water fees to use for conservation	Board of Selectmen	2004-2007
Educate residents to consider adoption of the Community Preservation Act	Board of Selectmen	2004-2005
Use Long Pond as an educational tool in order	Conservation Commission	ongoing

to further community knowledge of flora and fauna		
Regarding the needs of the elderly in Town, open discussion with the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2004-2008
Reestablish a Recreation Committee	Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee	2004-2006

SECTION 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS

SECTION 11: REFERENCES

Cardoza, James E., Gwilym S. Jones, and Thomas W. French, *MassWildlife's State Mammal List*, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement:
www.state.ma.us/dfwele

Cardoza, James E., Gwilym S. Jones, and Thomas W. French, *MassWildlife's State Reptiles and Amphibians List*, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement:
www.state.ma.us/dfwele

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Department of Environmental Management: www.state.ma.us/dem

Department of Environmental Protection: www.state.ma.us/dep

Forman, Richard T.T., *Land Mosaics: The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions*, Cambridge University Press, August, 1995

Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) available online at www.state.ma.us/envir.

The Open Space Planner's Workbook, www.state.ma.us/envir.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Information Center, *2000 Census of Population and Housing*

Swain, Patricia C. and Jennifer B. Kearsley, *Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts*, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Westborough, MA, www.state.ma.us/dfwele

Vermes, Harold J., *Wildflowers listed by Common and Scientific Names*, Blandford Conservation Commission, March 9, 1978.

APPENDICES

The Blandford Community Citizen Survey

1. How long have you lived in Blandford? (Please choose one).

- ☐ (a) less than 5 years
- ☐ (b) 5 – 15 years
- ☐ (c) more than 15 years
- ☐ (d) 2nd generation or more

2. In which of the following areas of Blandford do you live? (Please choose one)

- ☐ (a) Center
- ☐ (b) North Blandford
- ☐ (c) West End
- ☐ (d) North Street
- ☐ (e) A location not listed above

3. What is your primary reason for living in Blandford? (Please choose one.)

- ☐ (a) open space
- ☐ (b) affordable housing
- ☐ (c) small town atmosphere
- ☐ (d) low crime rate
- ☐ (e) other

4. Which of the following statements reflects most closely your feelings about our town? (Please choose one)

- ☐ (a) I would regret Blandford losing its rural, small town atmosphere.
- ☐ (b) I would not mind Blandford becoming larger and more suburban.
- ☐ (c) I would prefer to see Blandford grow and become a more suburban community.

5. Would you like to see new business development in town in order to create local jobs? (Please choose one)

- ☐ (a) yes
- ☐ (b) no
- ☐ (c) no opinion

6. Has the character of Blandford changed during your residence in town? (Please choose one)

- ☐ (a) changed for the better
- ☐ (b) changed for the worse
- ☐ (c) no change
- ☐ (d) no opinion

Please explain: _____

7. Based upon your experiences, how would you rate Blandford as a place to live? (Please choose one)

- ☐ (a) excellent
- ☐ (b) good
- ☐ (c) fair
- ☐ (d) not very good
- ☐ (e) no opinion

8. Indicate how you become informed about Town issues. (Choose all that apply).

- ☐ (b) attending public meetings
- ☐ (a) talking to other people
- ☐ (c) Westfield Evening News
- ☐ (d) Country Journal
- ☐ (e) Union News/Sunday Republican
- ☐ (f) information in mail
- ☐ (g) internet
- ☐ (h) other: _____

13. Rate the adequacy of each of the following community services and facilities in Blandford. (Please fill in one bubble for each item).

		Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	No Opinion
a	road maintenance	()	()	()	()
b	sidewalks	()	()	()	()
c	street lights	()	()	()	()
d	police services	()	()	()	()
e	vehicular speed control	()	()	()	()
f	snow removal	()	()	()	()
g	senior services	()	()	()	()
h	youth services	()	()	()	()
i	recreational facilities and services	()	()	()	()
j	community meeting space	()	()	()	()
k	town government	()	()	()	()
l	handicap access	()	()	()	()
m	transfer station (dump)	()	()	()	()
n	library	()	()	()	()
o	cemetery maintenance	()	()	()	()
p	public water service	()	()	()	()
q	regional school system	()	()	()	()
r	ambulance service	()	()	()	()
s	Watson Park	()	()	()	()
t		()	()	()	()
u		()	()	()	()

14. Would you support new zoning regulations to protect Blandford's ridgelines, forests, waters, and hillsides from the adverse environmental and aesthetic impacts of development? (Please choose one)

- ☐ (a) yes
☐ (b) no
☐ (c) no opinion

15. What economic opportunities do you feel Blandford should seek out or support in the future? (Please fill in one bubble for each item).

		Favor It	Oppose It	No Opinion
a	groceries	()	()	()
b	restaurant	()	()	()
c	medical/dental office	()	()	()
d	auto repair	()	()	()
e	gas station	()	()	()
f	videotape/dvd rental	()	()	()
g	legal/accounting services	()	()	()
h	equipment repair	()	()	()
i	clothing store	()	()	()
j	sale of alcoholic beverages (package store, not a bar)	()	()	()
k	drug store/pharmacy	()	()	()
l	dry cleaning/laundry	()	()	()
m	hardware store	()	()	()
n	construction services/builder	()	()	()
o	gifts	()	()	()
p	agriculture or farm support business	()	()	()
q	artisan & craftsman business	()	()	()
r	warehousing/distribution	()	()	()
s	light industry (non-polluting, light assembly, technology-based, etc)	()	()	()
t	tax exempt (religious, educational)	()	()	()
u	gardening/landscaping supplies	()	()	()
v	ATM machine (automated teller)	()	()	()

w	Home-based businesses	()	()	()
x	Small, centrally-located shops	()	()	()
y	Local tourism	()	()	()
z	Outdoor activities (hunting, snowmobiling, hiking, etc)	()	()	()
aa	Other: _____	()	()	()

16. Should the town pursue the construction of a Massachusetts Turnpike exit in Blandford? (Please choose one)

- ☐ (a) Yes
☐ (b) No
☐ (c) No Opinion

Comments: _____

17. Where do you work? (Please choose all that apply)

- ☐ (a) in Blandford
☐ (b) out of town
☐ (c) student
☐ (d) retired
☐ (e) in the home
☐ (f) other: _____

18. How important to you are the following features of Blandford? (Please fill in one bubble for each item).

		Very Important	Important	Not Important	No Opinion
a	Small town, rural atmosphere	()	()	()	()
b	Open spaces	()	()	()	()
c	forests	()	()	()	()
d	Town center	()	()	()	()
e	Historic buildings	()	()	()	()
f	Residential neighborhoods	()	()	()	()
g	Neighbors and friends	()	()	()	()
h	School system	()	()	()	()
i	Recreational opportunities	()	()	()	()
j	Farms and working landscapes	()	()	()	()
k	Other: _____	()	()	()	()
l		()	()	()	()
m		()	()	()	()
n		()	()	()	()

19. What types of recreation do you participate in? (**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY**)

	ACTIVITY		LOCATION	COMMENTS
a.	bicycling	()		
b.	mountain biking	()		
c.	bird watching	()		
d.	canoeing/kayaking/rowing	()		
e.	fishing	()		
f.	hiking	()		
g.	horse riding	()		
h.	hunting	()		
i.	motorboating/water skiing	()		
j.	sailing	()		
k.	snowmobiling	()		

L.	swimming	()		
m.	walking	()		
n.	cross country skiing	()		
o.	rollerblading/skateboarding	()		
p.	all-terrain vehicles	()		
q.	dancing	()		
r.	organized sports	()		
s.	ice skating	()		
t.	golf	()		
	Other (please list below)			
u.	_____	()		
v.	_____	()		

20. Please choose the statement that most closely reflects how you feel about the protection of open space in Blandford. (Please choose one)

- ☐ (a) There is **too much** protected open space in Blandford.
☐ (b) The amount of open space currently protected in Blandford is **just right**.
☐ (c) There is **not enough** protected open space in Blandford.

21. Should the town set aside local funds to purchase or protect open space in Blandford? (Please choose one)

- ☐ (a) Yes
☐ (b) Yes, but only if local funds would be matched by state or private funds.
☐ (c) No
☐ (d) Not now, but possibly in future years

22. Please choose the three town issues that are most important to you. (Please choose three)

- ☐ (a) Housing (affordability, type, range of choices, location)
☐ (b) Roads (road condition, pedestrian issues, transit)
☐ (c) Growth and Development (when, where, and how new growth occurs, population)
☐ (d) Historic Preservation (buildings and neighborhoods, historic views, cultural history)
☐ (e) Environment (water supply protection, wildlife habitat, air quality, streams/rivers, open space)
☐ (f) Public facilities & Infrastructure (public water & sewer, roads, public buildings/facilities)
☐ (g) Trails & Recreation (playgrounds, bike routes, hiking trails, athletic facilities)
☐ (h) Other: _____

23. What housing opportunities would you like to see in Blandford? (Please fill in one bubble for each item).

		Favor It	Oppose It	No Opinion
a	Young family/"starter" homes & affordable housing options	()	()	()
b	Housing within walking distance to town center	()	()	()
c	Accessory or "in-law" apartments	()	()	()
d	Homes for "empty-nesters" (children no longer in the home)	()	()	()
e	Upper income "estate" homes	()	()	()
f	Elder housing (congregate care, assisted living, nursing home)	()	()	()
g	Seasonal housing (3-season or summer homes)	()	()	()
h	Apartments (rental)	()	()	()
i	Multi-family (townhouse, duplex, etc.)	()	()	()
j	Other: _____	()	()	()
k	_____	()	()	()

24. Finish this sentence:

The most important thing the Town can do in the next ten years is _____

25. Please use the following space to share additional thoughts or comments regarding planning for Blandford's future: _____

Blandford Answers to open-ended questions

The most important thing the Town can do in the next 10 years is:

- Protect open space from being bought. Water Dept.- purchase open lands for preservation
- Put in place by-laws to protect & control growth. Subdivision by-laws, size of building by-laws, etc. in case there is a turnpike exit we have to take control of our Town. Stop letting other municipalities buy our land. We need to re-invest in ourselves
- Update to clean, safe, & reliable water system with adequate pressure to fulfill modern needs & expectations. Expanding the postal delivery system to all residents would be an asset. Opening a turnpike exit in Blandford would help to expose us to other larger communities thus making Blandford more appealing a place to live for maybe future limited expansions. Blandford should make public land more accessible to the public for recreational non-destructive uses such as picnic areas, camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, etc.
- Keep the small town atmosphere as it is.
- Tighten and improve zoning regulations to anticipate future development pressures. Create a panel to oversee and have involvement in SWSCs lands so the Blandford has an integral involvement in planning for any changes of use on these lands. Establish by laws to help preserve the town's relatively pristine condition and character.
- Fix water lines & town roads
- Keep sense of community- do not get too big that we lose the history
- Nothing, leave this town alone. It hasn't needed help in the past 200 years in development. This is not the city so leave it be. We need a non-development committee. No improvements to me would be an improvement
- Protect open space from land development. We would hate to see this beautiful small town with lots of county charm turn into Westfield or Southwick. Nature here in Blandford is abundant and comforting; new home developments and factories are not.
- Keep the small Hilltown way of life as best we can, while providing the necessary services needed, with limited growth and urban sprawl. Provide a town swimming pool Olympic size in Watson Park and /or a town beach on a river or pond/lake
- Preserve our quality of life
- Keep growth to a slow and steady pace and avoid all rapid housing developments where developers put up lots of houses in a short span of time.
- Have more recreational opportunities and activities for our children. They need to feel part of their community. Right now there is very little for the youth. We need more programs not just athletic programs but fun and interesting activities for example movie night or get together with theme-based activities. This will bring the children together as well as the adults.
- Insist that the state and Springfield center and sewer commission open cobble Mt. Road. This scenic drive was a major asset to the region. It was closed illegally by the state.
- Protect our beautiful, peaceful town from over development
- Increase the tax base while preserving the feel and atmosphere of the town. Small businesses, single family homes (not developments) would help this town. We need to get in better financial shape first and then concentrate on preserving the history and environment of this town
- Preserve and protect the rural character of the town and protect its open spaces and environment
- Bring back the small town attitude
- Preserve the small town atmosphere
- Any land we wish to protect, the town should buy it with local funds. Lets not rely on someone else to protect our water supplies and sewer system
- Reject the Cobble Mt. Biosphere management plan and send the state EDEA packing. Too much of Blandford's business is controlled by EDEA and the Springfield water and sewer commission.

- Complete the water project. Continue to keep Blandford small and historical. Purchase land to prevent fast growth and keep the town's rural appeal.
- Make a place for kids in the community to hangout and play sports
- Preserve the peaceful, quiet, open spaces and woodlands of our small town. Look to Westfield to develop housing, small businesses and remember that bigger is not better. Hunters, snowmobiles, and ATV's are noisy intrusions and should not be encouraged.
- Maintain and repair the water system. Strive to retain the small town atmosphere
- Maintain its rural environment
- Slow growth, control growth, fair tax rate, superior school system, fix the water system
- Maintain currently rural atmosphere
- More family recreation like movie theater, restaurant, craft fair. Balance growth with preserving the town character
- Fix water system and maintain the small town atmosphere
- Plan to follow up with zoning regulations with other bylaws to protect open space, historic properties, rural roads, and to control location of new building
- Keep out hunters and trappers and anything harmful to the flora and fauna in town. We would like to see the town become a farming community where applicable.
- Develop a plan to preserve the unique ecosystems existing in town. Develop programs to draw the community together
- Keep Blandford a small town community
- Keep Blandford's small town atmosphere but be open to new ideas
- Make town center more attractive so that people will want to come and spend money and time here. Quaint shops like Stockbridge with recreational connections- e.g. bike trails, horseback trails, overnight accommodations along with the existing ski areas (cross-county & downhill), with the campgrounds in the areas, the town can become a vacation destination (look at the rail trail on the cape).
- Protect open spaces, forests, natural environment
- To hold on to self-governing system through town meeting type government. Stop private land and homes from being taken over by public entities and reducing tax base. Maintain the clean, small town character. Hold onto the town as an incorporated body rather than letting it go totally to other public entities.
- Plan ahead to keep towns rural character. Accept the state's offer to purchase & protect the 5000 acres plus to prevent massive growth.
- Maintain small town character and country. Purchase available open space by the town without the use of federal and/or state funding
- Protect open spaces, especially scenic roadside drives, avoid building house with little setback from roads, preserve rural character
- Protect environment
- Maintain small, rural town character
- Maintain quiet country charm by preventing state from buying up land
- Encourage the commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission to create a large bioserve for passive recreation and preservation through the purchase of development rights.
- Events to promote town spirit
- Fix the water system
- Prevent Blandford from becoming like Westfield or any other well populated town.
- Leave Blandford with the beauty and ridgelines the way they are. Not to promote growth in population or development of any type
- Preserve as much land as possible
- Maintain its small town atmosphere with an emphasis on historical preservation and controlled growth
- Save its natural resources (land, water, natural habitat, wildlife) from being extinguished by development. Also preserve its historic buildings and heritage. Control development. Protect the citizens and our environment.

The Cobble Mountain Bioreserve Proposal of 2002 –

SWSC, the EOE, Politics and the Environment

In 2002, the Massachusetts EOE [Executive Office of Environmental Affairs] approached the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC) with a proposal to buy for a sum of \$1.7 million dollars, a Conservation Restriction (CR) on approximately half of its nearly 13,000 acres of currently restricted access watershed protection land in Blandford and Granville in order to open the land to public "passive" recreation. SWSC currently owns almost 10,000 acres in Blandford - about 28% of the town. The State proposal offered no compensation for the Town and did not commit to policing, clean-up and infrastructure.

Much of the land in question has been documented by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as core habitat and is currently restricted from general access for protection of the watershed.

The Blandford Conservation Commission requested that any final use or public access decision be delayed until completion of BioMap inventories (due 2004), to determine what level of human use might be appropriate for a given area.

The EOE's agenda, (via the Environmental bond Bill) was to protect vulnerable and unique parcels of open-space across the Commonwealth, which we applaud. In this case however, the campaign was in a sense *reducing* protection, because of the EOE's generic "one-size -fits-all" policy *requiring* public access on all lands purchased with Environmental Bond Bill funds.

Since the SWSC land is already protected under Article 97, some land conservation experts wondered why the funds were not being used to protect lands which were in imminent danger of development.

A report in the *Journal of the New England Water Works Association* (3/65, Vol. 79, #1) details that an earlier attempt to allow recreation in the Cobble Mountain watershed had deleterious consequences on water quality, and the watershed was closed again. SWSC is currently dealing with the negative effects of opening up the Ludlow Reservoir for recreation, including issues with the State's failure to provide promised reimbursement for the associated costs of monitoring, policing, emergency response and clean-up, as well as the obvious consequences to the water supply.

In reaction to the proposal, a group of concerned residents formed a citizen's group of 80 members (BCAC) to assist the Selectboard. A prominent Springfield law firm also offered *pro bono* assistance. Residents who had become stewards of the quiet watershed lands wondered what life would be like with increased traffic, trash, safety and noise concerns. Another concern was that the State could eventually change the status of the land with a resulting worse-case scenario of possible eventual development.

Many residents were relieved when the proposal did not pass the Legislature during the summer of 2002.

The event brought to light a new challenge for Blandford; the fact that as valuable open space disappears across the region, the land remaining may be coveted by forces outside the

community with potentially disastrous consequences to the local environmental and social balance.

The designers in this particular proposal were the Epsilon firm based in Maynard, Massachusetts, who appeared have very little familiarity with Blandford. This was apparent in some of their designs and by their vague or inaccurate responses to residents' questions at public meetings. It also became apparent that MA DEM intended to convert the land into a public recreational area. One proposal was to use the Bioreserve to physically link Chester-Blandford State Forest to the north with Tolland State Forest to the south. Also discussed was a snowmobile connection that would travel along residential roads. Some residents pointed to the State Forests as exactly what they *didn't* want the Bioreserve to resemble, with excess trash, campfire pits full of bottles and cans, and erosion caused by ATV's.

Concerns were heard from residents at special meetings held in June and July of 2002. It became apparent how strongly many residents felt about maintaining control of the Town's environmental destiny, or at least being substantially involved in the planning process, which many felt they were not in this case.

The Conservation Commission's research has found information which will hopefully be incorporated into future environmental policies, whether local, State or Federal. Although a "one-size-fits-all" approach may be a convenient and functional method for government to do the most good with the least effort, in some cases the consequence may be destructive and environmentally irresponsible.

The Open Space Committee believes that certain unique areas such as ours possess special features that must be identified and protected before opening them to generic human uses. Good examples are wildlife sanctuaries, which are oases where nature can exist without unwarranted interference. We urge that studies be made on individual sites before deciding future uses to see what may be worthy of protection. This is our ultimate responsibility.

Also at issue is who may have authority to change use and access policy on conservation lands; and whether changes can be made, the intent of Article 97. The deeper issue is *how much control the Town of Blandford has over lands within it's town lines*.

Many felt strongly that these types of issues deserved further investigation *before* a rush-to-action occurred. Apparently our Legislators, Congressmen and Representatives agreed, because the Bill was defeated in the Legislature. Many Blandford residents were relieved to know they had bought some time to further investigate and understand the implications of the event, and to hopefully establish a proactive policy to ensure Blandford's authority over its own environmental destiny.

The more research we do on ecology and conservation, the more we believe that residents' instincts were in the best long-term interests of the town. We already have a "Bioreserve" here, and its restricted access is largely responsible for its high environmental quality. Certain uses may turn out to be compatible, but we should err on the side of caution and not carelessness.

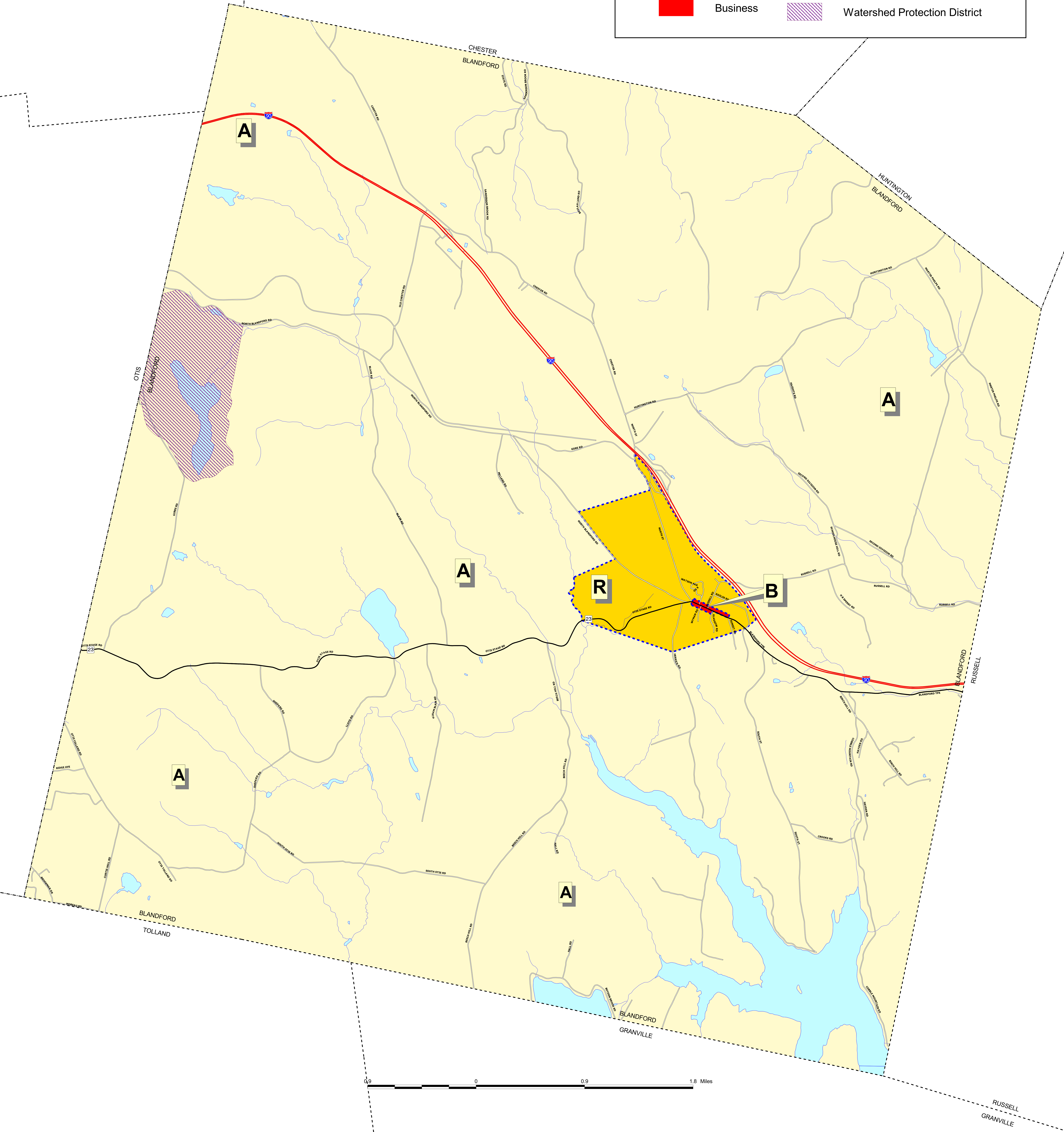
We will endeavor to establish a protocol that provides a framework for proceeding prudently when shaping Blandford's environmental issues. This should include methods for taking the time necessary to perform studies, involve experts, provide public forums for discussion, and work at a pace compatible with our rural way of life.

Blandford Municipal Zoning				
District	Code	Square Feet	Acres	Percent
Agricultural	A	1,456,544,458	33,437.7	97.69%
Business	B	408,112	9.4	0.03%
Residential	R	34,013,629	780.8	2.28%
Watershed Protection		17,506,764	401.9	-
	Totals:	1,490,966,199	34,227.9	100.00%

Executive Order 418
Community Development Plan Project

Blandford, Massachusetts
Municipal Zoning Districts

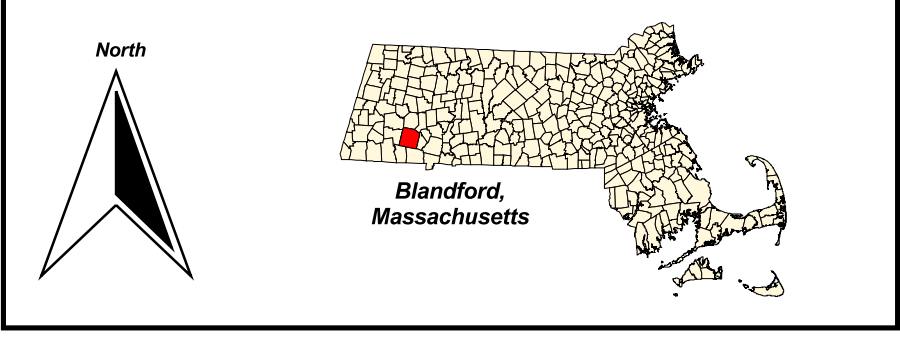
- Agriculture
- Residential
- Business
- Watershed Protection District

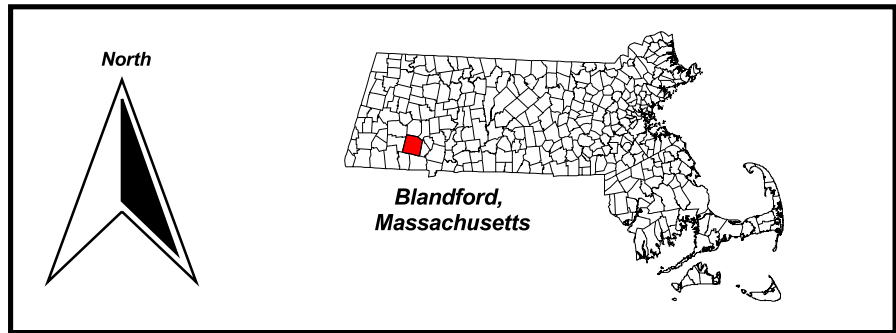


The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis.

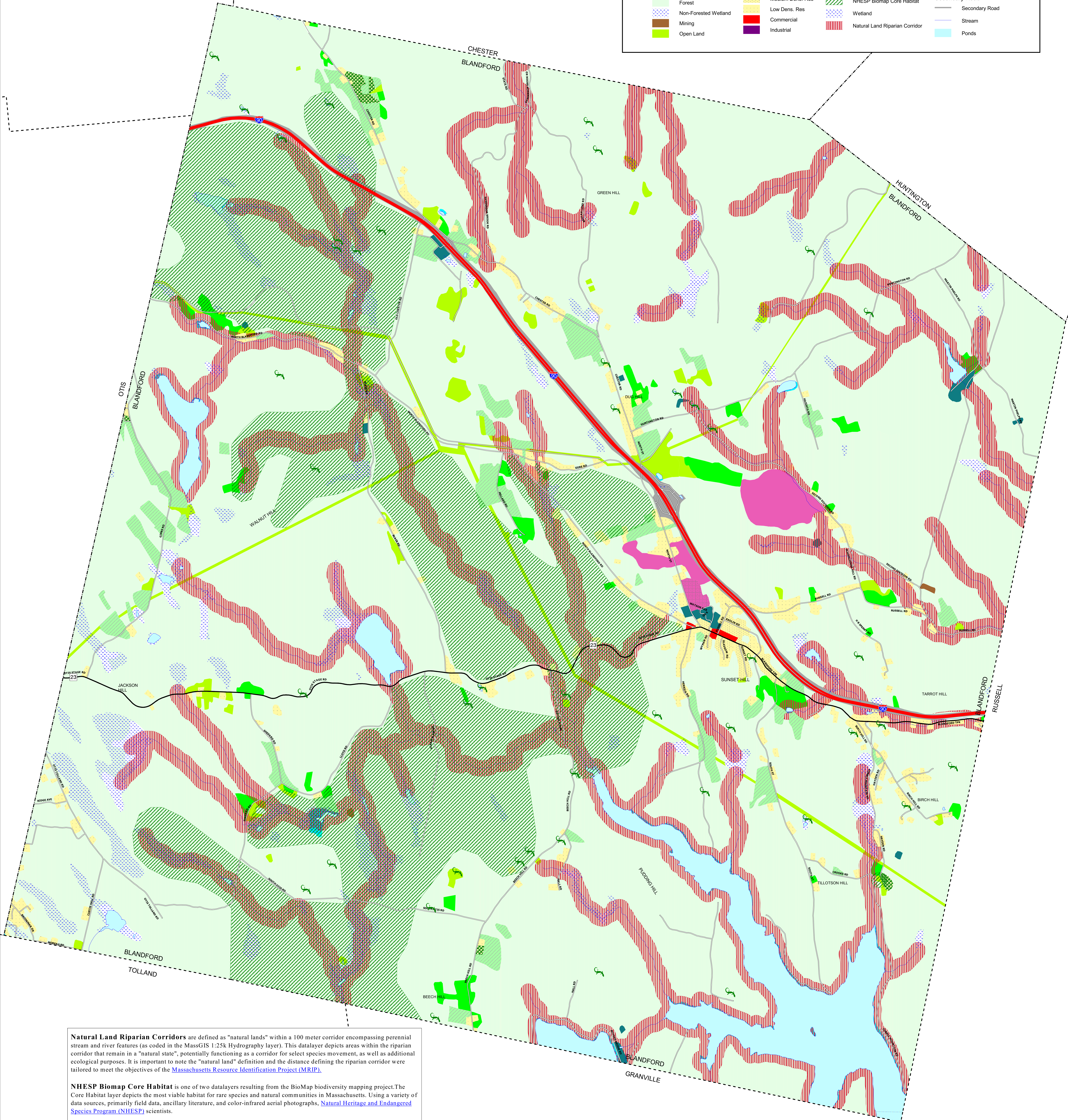
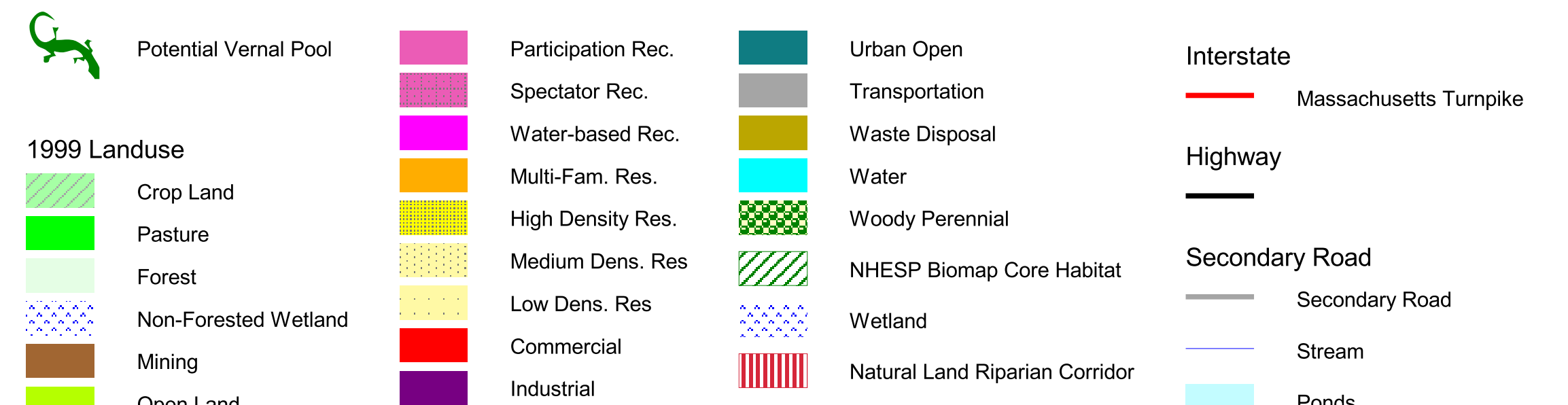
Produced by the PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
26 Central Street, West Springfield, MA 01089 • (413) 781-6045

MASS GIS
Massachusetts Geographic Information System
Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs - 2003





Executive Order 418
Community Development Project
and
Open Space Plan
Blandford, Massachusetts
Natural Environment



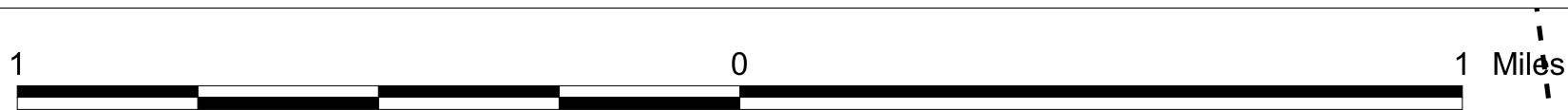
Natural Land Riparian Corridors are defined as "natural lands" within a 100 meter corridor encompassing perennial stream and river features (as coded in the MassGIS 1:25k Hydrography layer). This datalayer depicts areas within the riparian corridor that remain in a "natural state", potentially functioning as a corridor for select species movement, as well as additional ecological purposes. It is important to note the "natural land" definition and the distance defining the riparian corridor were tailored to meet the objectives of the [Massachusetts Resource Identification Project \(MRIP\)](#).

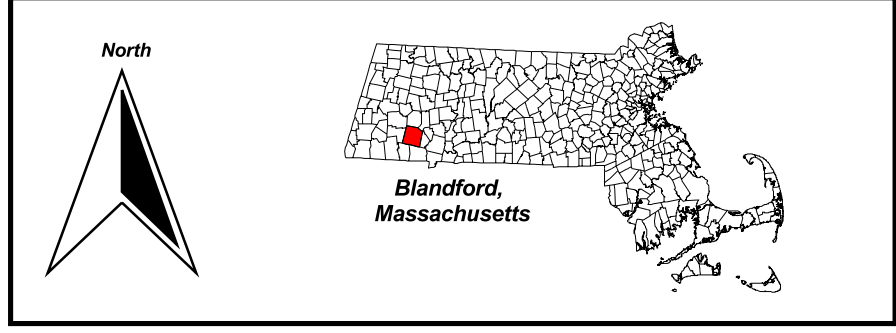
NHESP Biomap Core Habitat is one of two datalayers resulting from the BioMap biodiversity mapping project. The Core Habitat layer depicts the most viable habitat for rare species and natural communities in Massachusetts. Using a variety of data sources, primarily field data, ancillary literature, and color-infrared aerial photographs, [Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program \(NHESP\)](#) scientists.

Potential vernal pools visible on aerial photographs were interpreted and included in this layer. However, this datalayer does not include every vernal pool in Massachusetts. Many vernal pools have not been identified due to unfavorable conditions in the landscape topography, pool physiography and/or photograph quality. Furthermore, vernal pool habitats occur in a wide variety of landscape settings, including forested swamps, bogs, and other wetlands. Vernal pools within these settings were not typically interpreted, but are nonetheless legitimate and valuable vernal pools. Also, field verification of all potential vernal pools in this study will identify errors such as the inclusion of features that are not actually vernal pools.

Potential vernal pools identified in this survey are not to be confused with [Certified Vernal Pools](#). Data pursuant to the official "Guidelines for the Certification of Vernal Pool Habitat" must be collected in the field and presented to the Massachusetts [Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program](#) to obtain official certification for a vernal pool. Potential vernal pools identified in this survey do not receive protection under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.00), or under any other state or federal wetlands protection laws.

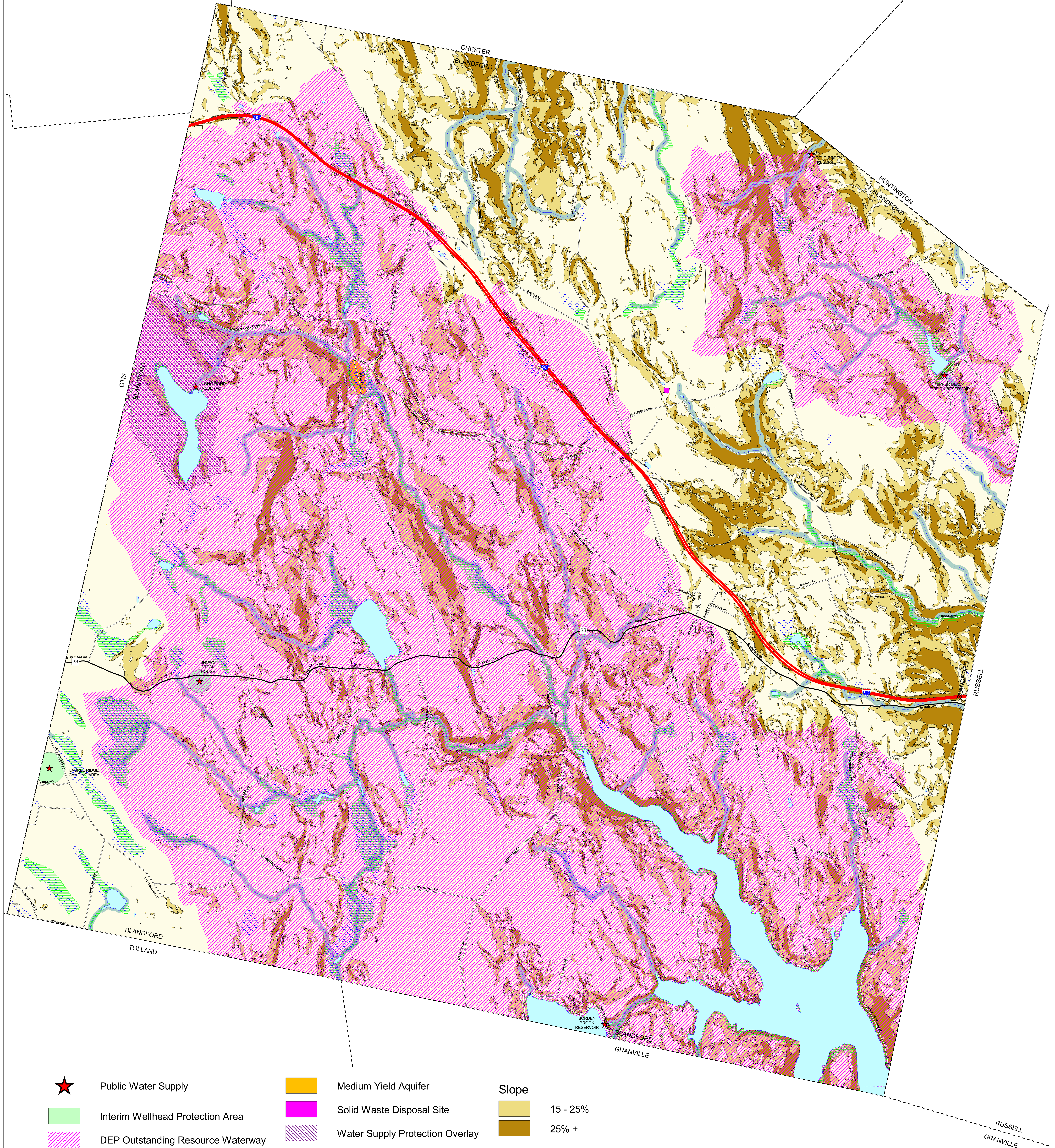
1999 Land Use Data was funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and several regional planning agencies. Photointerpretation and digitizing were completed by the UMASS-Amherst Department of Forestry Resource Mapping Project (RMP).





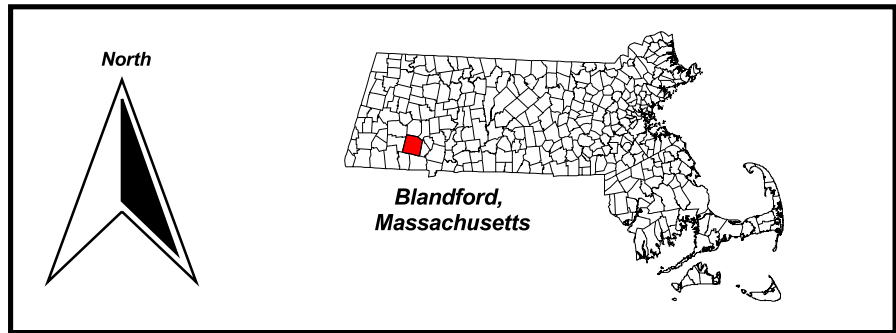
Executive Order 418
Community Development Project

Blandford, Massachusetts Topography & Water Resources



	Public Water Supply		Medium Yield Aquifer	Slope	
	Interim Wellhead Protection Area		Solid Waste Disposal Site		15 - 25%
	DEP Outstanding Resource Waterway		Water Supply Protection Overlay		25% +
	Flood Plain		Wetland		





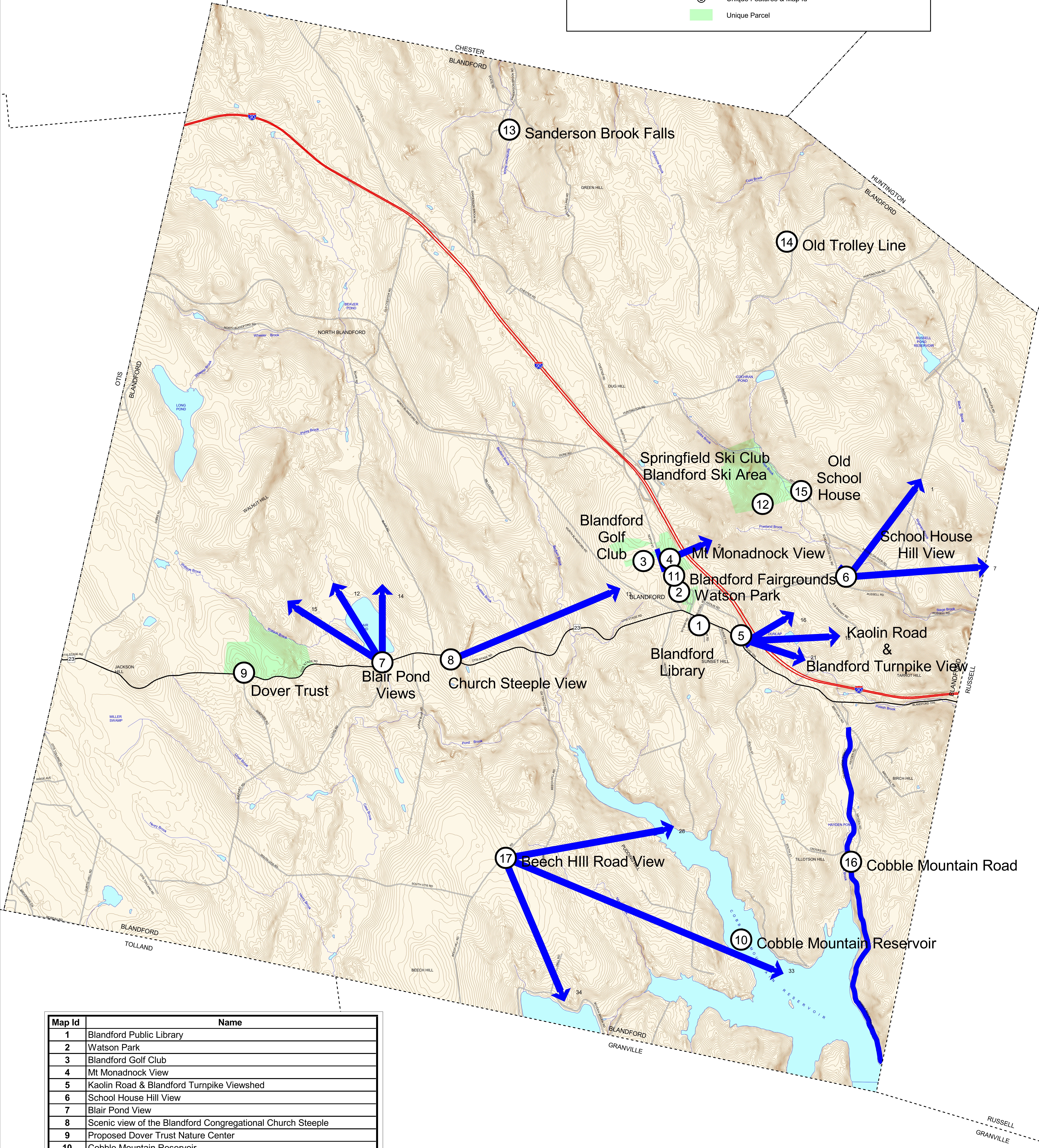
Executive Order 418
Community Development Project

Blandford, Massachusetts
Open Space Plan Unique Features

Viewshed Direction

Unique Features & Map Id

Unique Parcel



Map Id	Name
1	Blandford Public Library
2	Watson Park
3	Blandford Golf Club
4	Mt Monadnock View
5	Kaolin Road & Blandford Turnpike Viewshed
6	School House Hill View
7	Blair Pond View
8	Scenic view of the Blandford Congregational Church Steeple
9	Proposed Dover Trust Nature Center
10	Cobble Mountain Reservoir
11	Blandford Fairgrounds
12	Springfield Ski Club Blandford Ski Area
13	Sanderson Brook Falls
14	Old Trolley Line
15	Old School House
16	Cobble Mountain Road - Scenic Road
17	Beech Hill Road View

Blandford, Massachusetts Updated Chapter Lands & Protected & Recreational Open Space

Ownership

- Municipal
- Nonprofit
- Private
- State
- Federal

Level of Protection

- Limited
- None
- Permanent

Water Bodies

- Stream
- Highway
- Mass Pike
- Secondary Road
- Transmission Line

Chapters 61, 61A & 61B are all private and temporary level of protection.

Agriculture 61A
Recreation 61B
Forestry 61

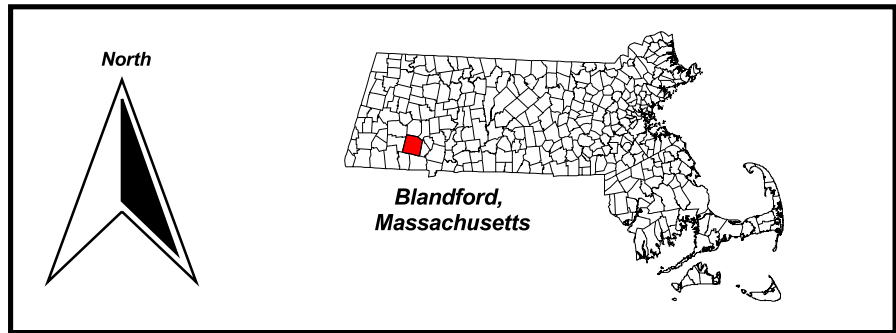
September 30, 2003

Chapter 61, 61A & 61B Lands

Parcel Id	Owner	Owner Type	Site Name	Calculated Acres	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level Of Protection	Chapter Program
101-6	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		47.3	F	X	T	F
102-11	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		4.5	F	X	T	F
105-1	BLANDFORD CLUB, THE	P	BLANDFORD COUNTRY CLUB	9.2	R	4	T	B
105-14	BLANDFORD CLUB, THE	P	BLANDFORD COUNTRY CLUB	3.5	R	4	T	B
105-16	BLANDFORD CLUB, THE	P	BLANDFORD COUNTRY CLUB	1.9	R	4	T	B
105-17	BLANDFORD CLUB, THE	P	BLANDFORD COUNTRY CLUB	4.4	R	4	T	B
105-3	BLANDFORD CLUB, THE	P	BLANDFORD COUNTRY CLUB	16.3	R	4	T	B
105-12	BLANDFORD CLUB, THE	P	BLANDFORD COUNTRY CLUB	13.8	R	4	T	B
106-4	BLANDFORD CLUB, THE	P	BLANDFORD COUNTRY CLUB	1.8	R	4	T	B
110-6	LOOMIS, SCOTT	P		4.4	F	X	T	F
111-32	LOOMIS, SCOTT	P		8.5	F	X	T	F
114-21	BERNIER, DAVID M	P		3.1	A	X	T	A
402-24	MAIKA, ANTHONY J	P		17.5	C	1	T	B
402-31	TEMPLEMAN, RITA	P		26.8	A	X	T	A
402-33	ROBART, GARY	P		7.1	A	X	T	A
402-30	OTTEN, RUSSELL J	P		6.9	A	X	T	A
402-31	OTTEN, RUSSELL J	P		21.9	A	X	T	A
402-32	OTTEN, RUSSELL J	P		43.1	F	X	T	F
402-32	OTTEN, RUSSELL J	P		46.4	F	X	T	F
402-43	BRENT, PHILIP D	P		106.0	F	X	T	F
402-6	TEMPLEMAN, JAMES G	P		27.7	F	X	T	A
402-7	TEMPLEMAN, JAMES G	P		14.8	A	X	T	A
402-8	PECK REALTY TRUST	P		28.0	F	X	T	F
403-1	LITZINGER, HENRY A	P	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	10.8	A	X	T	A
403-3	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		7.0	F	X	T	F
403-4	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	145.5	F	X	T	F
404-24	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	20.4	F	X	T	F
404-26	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	43.4	F	X	T	F
404-27	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	23.9	F	X	T	F
405-3	TERRY, HOWARD P & J	P		5.5	A	X	T	A
406-15-2	TERRY, HOWARD P & J	P		5.8	A	X	T	A
406-15-3	TERRY, HOWARD P & J	P		8.4	A	X	T	A
406-15-4	TERRY, HOWARD P & J	P		2.0	A	X	T	A
406-15-5	TERRY, HOWARD P & J	P		2.8	A	X	T	A
406-21.1	TERRY, HOWARD P & J	P		216.4	A	X	T	A
407-8	OLDGAK, ANDREW F JR	P		47.1	F	X	T	F
408-13	MATULEWICZ, CATHERIN	P		76.2	C	1	T	B
408-7	MARTIN, LLOYD JAMES	P		17.2	A	X	T	A
409-22	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		64.8	F	X	T	F
409-23	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		7.6	F	X	T	F
409-4	VAN WERKHOVEN, ANTH	P		10.3	A	X	T	A
409-41-2	VAN WERKHOVEN, ANTH	P		81.1	A	X	T	A
409-41-3	VAN WERKHOVEN, ANTH	P		4.2	A	X	T	A
409-47	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		204.4	F	X	T	F
409-5	VAN WERKHOVEN, ANTH	P		22.0	A	X	T	A
409-6	VAN WERKHOVEN, ANTH	P		35.9	A	X	T	A
409-9	LLOYD, LESTER W JR	P		166.6	F	X	T	F
412-12	RIPLEY, LEON K	P		186.4	F	X	T	F
412-3	RUSZALA, PETER A	P		273.3	F	X	T	F
412-7	RUSZALA, PETER	P		196.6	F	X	T	F
412-8	RUSZALA, PETER	P		57.7	F	X	T	F
413-8	RIPLEY, LEON K	P		28.7	A	X	T	A
414-1.1	KISTELL, ETTA M	P		135.8	F	X	T	F
416-16	SPRINGFIELD SKI CLUB	P	BLANDFORD SKI AREA	11.4	X	4	T	B
416-4	HAIGHT, JOHN M	P		46.5	F	X	T	F
416-2	OLESIK, ANDREW III	P		666.8	F	X	T	F
416-3	B & N LANDS, LLC	P		268.8	F	X	T	F
418-4	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		16.4	F	X	T	F
418-8	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		40.8	F	X	T	F
421-14	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		223.7	F	X	T	F
421-18	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		51.3	F	X	T	F
421-21	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		31.7	F	X	T	F
421-18	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		35.0	F	X	T	F
421-21	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		59.8	F	X	T	F
421-26	BOISSEAU ROBERT A &	P		59.8	F	X	T	F
421-39	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		72.2	F	X	T	F
421-43	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		1.2	F	X	T	F
421-53	PECK REALTY TRUST	P	BIRCH HILL ROAD	23.5	F	X	T	F
421-7	HULL FORESTLANDS, LP	P		43.2	F	X	T	F

Protected and/or Recreational Openspace							
Parcel Id	Owner	Owner Type	Site Name	Calculated Acres	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level Of Protection
107-3	NEFF	N	ARMS ACRES	60.3	B	1	P
107-5	NEFF	N	ARMS ACRES	13.2	B	1	P
108-5	UNION AGRICULTURAL S	N	BLANDFORD FAIR GROUNDS	17.0	R	1	N
109-11	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	TOWN COMMON	1.4	H	1	P
109-13	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	WATSON PARK	12.3	R	1	P
109-16	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	BLANDFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	2.9	R	1	L
109-2	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	TOWN COMMON	2.0	H	1	P
109-7	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	BLANDFORD HISTORICAL SOC. TOWN	4.0	H	1	P
109-8	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	HILL CEMETERY	3.1	H	1	P
110-21	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	OLD CEMETERY	0.4	H	1	P
110-22	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	TOWN COMMON	0.2	H	1	P
110-3	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	OLD CEMETERY	1.0	H	1	P
111-23	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	BLANDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY	0.5	G	1	L
401-4	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	1.3	W	X	P
401-46	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	BLANDFORD WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION DISTRICT	215.5	W	X	P
401-5	DEM	S	TOLLAND STATE FOREST	75.1	B	Y	P
401-14-3	DEM	S	TOLLAND STATE FOREST	5.1	B	Y	P
401-14-6	DEM	S	TOLLAND STATE FOREST	7.1	B	Y	P
402-2	TOWN OF BLANDFORD CC	M	DOVER TRUST ENVIRONMENTAL CENT	140.9	C	1	P
403-5	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	BLANDFORD WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION DISTRICT	333.4	W	X	P
403-7	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	198.7	W	X	P
404-1	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	271.1	W	X	P
404-25	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	20.5	W	X	P
404-26	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	NORTH BLANDFORD CEMETERY	2.6	H	X	P
404-30	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	98.3	W	X	P
404-30-1	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	0.6	X	X	P
404-30-3	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	106.5	W	X	P
404-40-1	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	72.1	C	1	P
404-41	TOWN OF BLANDFORD WFO	M	BLANDFORD WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION DISTRICT	12.9	W	X	P
405-1	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	1,187.0	W	X	P
405-7	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	30.9	W	X	P
406-18	STOWMATE FATHERS	N	HIGH FOLLY RETREAT	112.7	X	4	N
406-2	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	3.6	W	X	P
406-27	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	1.4	X	X	P
406-3	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	13.9	W	X	P
406-4	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	15.8	W	X	P
407-10	DEM	S	CHESTER-BLANDFORD STATE FOREST	870.3	B	Y	P
407-16-1	SPRINGFIELD BOYS CLUB	N	SPRINGFIELD BOYS CLUB	50.9	R	X	L
407-16	DEM	S	CHESTER-BLANDFORD STATE FOREST	207.4	B	Y	P
408-10	INHOULING	I		85.3	X	X	N
408-13	DEM	S	CHESTER-BLANDFORD STATE FOREST	166.9	W	X	P
408-40	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	32.0	W	X	P
408-40-1	DEM	S	CHESTER-BLANDFORD STATE FOREST	271.5	B	Y	P
408-40-2	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	8.4	W	X	P
408-48	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	69.3	W	X	P
410-1	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	1,017.8	W	X	P
410-12	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	352.0	W	X	P
411-10	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	347.4	W	X	P
411-7	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	691.7	W	X	P
411-8	INHOULING	I		67.8	I	X	N
412-17	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	211.4	W	X	P
412-4	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	9.4	W	X	P
412-5	INHOULING	I		21.8	X	X	N
412-6	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	128.0	W	X	P
412-9	INHOULING	I		33.4	I	X	N
412-10	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	7.1	W	X	P
414-12	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	38.2	W	X	P
414-13	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	4,084.5	W	X	P
415-12	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	5.1	C	1	P
415-4	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	21.2	W	X	P
415-5	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	42.4	W	X	P
416-28-3	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	TOWN DUMP / TRANSFER STATION	20.5	G	1	L
416-3	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	P	BLANDFORD SKI AREA	156.8	X	4	N
416-28	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	FREE LAND	19.6	X	X	X
416-28-2	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	FREE LAND	56.4	X	X	X
416-28	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	FREE LAND	67.5	X	X	X
417-2-01	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	FREE LAND	7.6	X	X	X
417-5	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	TOWN OF RUSSELL WATERSHED	561.7	W	X	P
417-4	TOWN OF RUSSELL	M	TOWN OF RUSSELL WATERSHED	57.3	W	X	P
417-6	TOWN OF RUSSELL	M	TOWN OF RUSSELL WATERSHED	2,139.2	W	X	P
417-4	INHOULING	I		15.2	I	X	N
418-1	DEM	S	CHESTER-BLANDFORD STATE FOREST	145.1	B	Y	P
418-2	TOWN OF HUNTINGTON	M	TOWN OF HUNTINGTON	4.0	W	X	P
420-18-3	TOWN OF RUSSELL	M	TOWN OF RUSSELL WATERSHED	8.2	W	X	P
420-114-01	VALLEY LAND FUND	N	INCONTINENT	4.5	C	1	P
420-3417-3	TOWN OF RUSSELL	M	TOWN OF RUSSELL WATERSHED	2.2	W	X	P
421-40	TOWN OF BLANDFORD	M	FREE LAND	0.8	X	X	X
421-5	VALLEY LAND FUND	N	INCONTINENT	186.9	C	1	P
422-1	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	2.9	W	X	P
422-14	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	16.8	W	X	P
422-16	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	17.0	W	X	P
422-17	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	4.9	W	X	P
422-18	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	50.9	W	X	P
422-19	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	4.4	W	X	P
422-2	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	1.6	W	X	P
422-20	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	12.8	W	X	P
422-3	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	4.1	W	X	P
422-34	CITY OF SPRINGFIELD	M	SPRINGFIELD WATER SUPPLY LAND	253.1	W	X	P
422-35	PIONEER VALLEY COUNCIL	N	MOSES SCOUT RESERVATION	53.1	R	4	N

STATUS, FEE, OWNER (Owner Type)			CODE DESCRIPTIONS FOR OPEN SPACE		PUBLIC ACCESS TYPE
F - Forest	N - Not open to public	P - Private	B - Recreation (activities and facility based)	C - Conservation (activities are non-facility based)	D - Recreation and Conservation
G - Cemetery	L - Limited (investments only)	M - Municipal	I - Recreation (activities are non-facility based)	J - Recreation (activities are non-facility based)	K - Recreation and Conservation
H - Historical/Cultural	L - Limited (investments only)	M - Municipal	K - Recreation (activities are non-facility based)	L - Limited (investments only)	M - Municipal
I - Recreation (activities are non-facility based)	L - Limited (investments only)	M - Municipal	L - Limited (investments only)	M - Municipal	N - Not open to public
J - Recreation (activities are non-facility based)	L - Limited (investments only)	M - Municipal	M - Municipal	N - Not open to public	P - Private
K - Recreation and Conservation	L - Limited (investments only)	M - Municipal	N - Not open to public	P - Private	R - Recreation (activities and facility based)
L - Limited (investments only)	M - Municipal	N - Not open to public	P - Private	R - Recreation (activities and facility based)	S - State
M - Municipal	N - Not open to public	P - Private	R - Recreation (activities and facility based)	S - State	T - Temporary (Chapter 61 A & B some cases)
N - Not open to public	P - Private	R - Recreation (activities and facility based)	S - State	T - Temporary (Chapter 61 A & B some cases)	U - Limited by something other than time
P - Private	R - Recreation (activities and facility based)	S - State	T - Temporary (Chapter 61 A & B some cases)	U - Limited by something other than time	V - Vacant
R - Recreation (activities and facility based)	S - State	T - Temporary (Chapter 61 A & B some cases)	U - Limited by something other than time	V - Vacant	W - Water (public waterworks)
S - State	T - Temporary (Chapter 61 A & B some cases)	U - Limited by something other than time	V - Vacant	W - Water (public waterworks)	X - Unknown
T - Temporary (Chapter 61 A & B some cases)	U - Limited by something other than time	V - Vacant	W - Water (public waterworks)	X - Unknown	Y - Water (private waterworks)
					Z - Other (unclassified)



Executive Order 418
Community Development Project

Blandford, Massachusetts
Open Space Action Plan

②

Action Plan Location

↑

Viewshed Directions

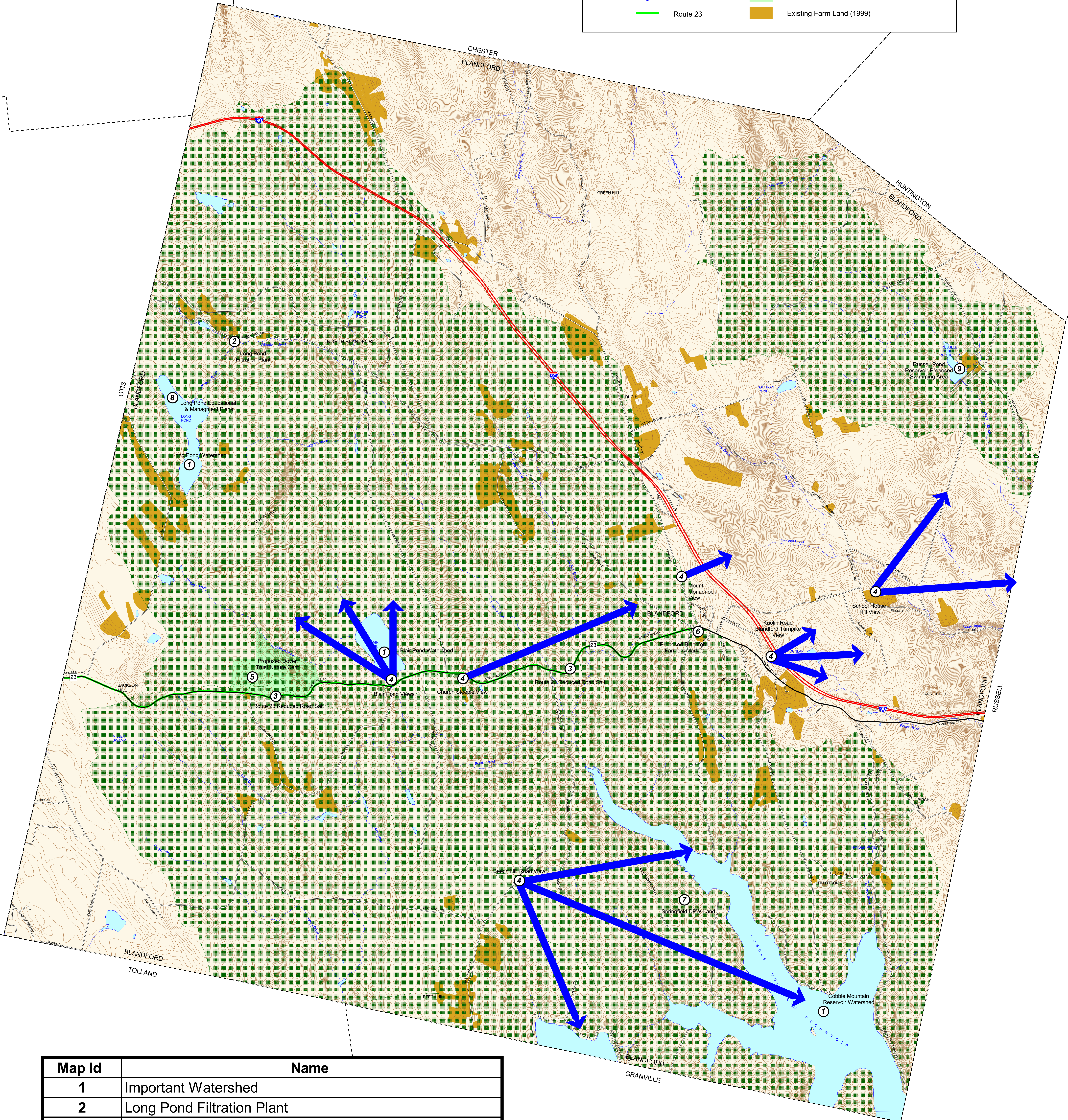
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Route 23

Outstanding Resource Watershed

Proposed Dover Trust Nature Center

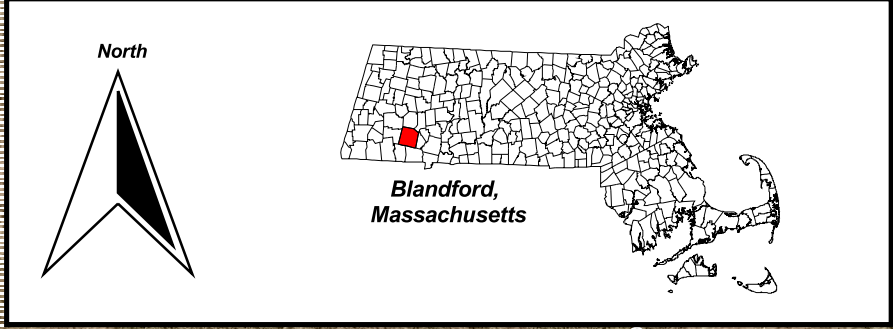
Existing Farm Land (1999)



Map Id	Name
1	Important Watershed
2	Long Pond Filtration Plant
3	Route 23 Reduced Road Salt
4	Important View Shed
5	Proposed Dover Trust Nature Center
6	Proposed Blandford Farmers Market
7	Springfield DPW Land
8	Long Pond Educational & Management Plans
9	Russell Pond Reservoir Proposed Swimming Area



Blandford, Massachusetts Color Orthophotos April, 2001



These medium resolution true color images are considered the new "basemap" for the Commonwealth by MassGIS and the [Executive Office of Environmental Affairs](#) (EOEA). MassGIS/EOEA and the [Massachusetts Highway Department](#) jointly funded the project. The photography was captured in April 2001 when deciduous trees were mostly bare and the ground was generally free of snow. Imagery is available for all of the state except the Elizabeth Islands, Marthas Vineyard, and Nantucket. For these areas [black and white ortho imagery](#) is available.

