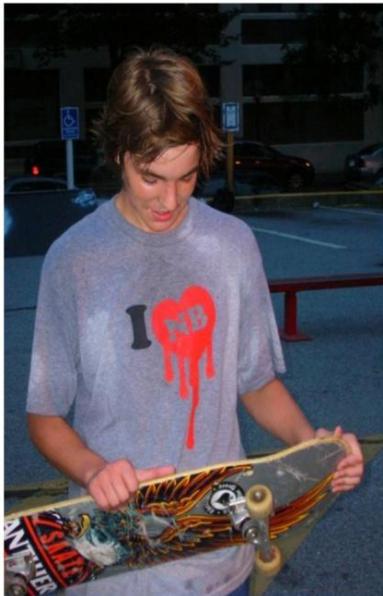




2014 - 2021



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN



CITY OF
NEW
BEDFORD

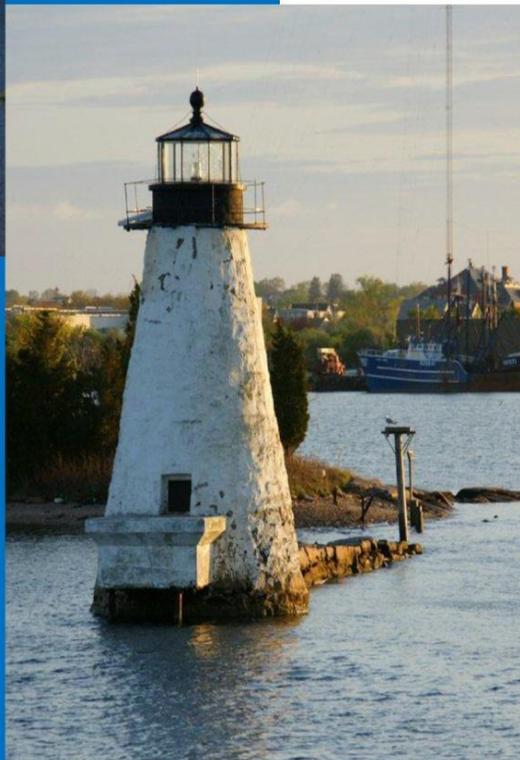


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Section 1: Plan Summary

In review of the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) goals and objectives and the City of New Bedford's recreational and open space inventories, the Open Space and Recreational Committee has determined that many of the critical needs of our citizens would be better met if more efficient planning, management and maintenance of the city's parks and playgrounds existed. This was evident throughout the public process where citizens at each neighborhood group meeting noted that the city needed better maintenance and budget plans for each park, playground and preservation area. The citizens and the Committee feel that New Bedford has plenty of active and passive recreational opportunities to be enjoyed by everyone, from toddlers to seniors; we simply need to be better harness our assets to ensure that they are utilized to their fullest potential.

Previously, the one outstanding recreational item that the community felt was missing was a greenway/bicycle trail along the Acushnet River and Clark's Cove, linking New Bedford to Fairhaven and Dartmouth. Over the past five years, the City has strived to acquire the necessary land easements and other permits to construct a multi-use trail. This continues to be an on-going initiative as we pursue the Riverwalk along the Acushnet River; bicycle lanes/paths on streets chosen in cooperation with the recently formed New Bedford Bike Committee; and the Harborwalk—a multiuse path on top of the hurricane barrier—which construction will begin on this spring through funding provided through the Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant program offered through the state.

The City of New Bedford is committed to fulfilling the goals of the revised 2014 OSRP. The City is invested in the creation and/or update of management plans for the five citywide parks, the Sassaquin Pond area and the Acushnet Cedar Swamp, the establishment of maintenance plans for playgrounds and sport fields, and the creation of yearly budgets for the maintenance of our parks and playgrounds.

Section 2: Introduction

A. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the update and revision of the Open Space & Recreation Plan is to take an extensive inventory of what exists in New Bedford today, determine which goals and objectives were met and which need improvement or amending. The OSRP has the potential to be an efficient tool that the City can wield when doing short-range planning, such as permitting subdivisions and mill overlay districts or long-range planning, in the forms of a city master plan, water resource protection or neighborhood planning. The OSRP serves as a compass to ensure that all City departments are working in the same direction with the same focus for the future of our city. This update of the 2008 OSRP is an analysis of what exists on the ground today and what assets the city has to offer, and in turn, must protect to ensure our sustainability.

The following accomplishments demonstrate the goals that have been brought to fruition or taken to a new level over the last five years. As many had hoped, the addition of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, covering 33-acres, has acted as catalyst in the rehabilitation of the city's downtown. UMASS Dartmouth and Bristol Community Colleges have rehabilitated buildings in the downtown area for satellite campus locations. Wings Court, a pocket park located off Union Street, creates green space to be enjoyed by workers on their lunch hour and tourists passing the day, while maintaining a farmers market every Thursday afternoon, in season, consisting of locally grown produce. The second Thursday of the month is "AHA Night". AHA (Arts, History & Architecture) is a nonprofit group, established in 1999, whose mission is to provide opportunities for the public to enjoy our museums, galleries, art organizations, merchants and restaurants. Each night has a different theme illustrating different aspects of New Bedford's arts, history and architecture. Their success can be measured by the growing artists community located here, including the renovation of the Ropeworks factory, located on the Acushnet River, into artist's live/work lofts. Other efforts to reclaim some of the city's historic character are ongoing. The City of New Bedford joined forces with the Preservation Society in a campaign to replant 2000 elm trees across the city by the year 2020. The first mill overlay district was approved to be placed over the Wamsutta Mills block in 2004, leading to the approval of three additional districts and subsequent mill renovations leading to the permitting of six hundred proposed dwelling units. Not only do these mill renovations and the mill overlay district ensure that New Bedford's textile heritage is preserved by reclaiming brownfields and creating clean living structures, they will provide green spaces and recreational opportunities consisting of boating and kayaking, and walking and bicycle trails along the Acushnet River and the harbor. Elsewhere, the city is enjoying the benefits of the remodeled Buttonwood Park Zoo and the park, pier and walking trails at Fort Taber. Neighborhood renewal efforts have been realized in the restoration of Clasky Common, located in the Acushnet Heights district. The park boasts historic lighting, benches, new plantings, improved handicap accessibility, memorials and walkways. During the summer months, a farmers market is held every Saturday, offering locally grown fruits and vegetables. The newly built Riverside Park, a brownfield Superfund site left over from the former Pierce Mill, was reclaimed by the City and expanded into a 10.8 acre park on the Acushnet River. The expansion of the park, aided by an Urban Self-Help Grant in 2004, allowed the City to make vast improvements on the site that are now enjoyed by people of all ages, while protecting natural resources and providing greenways and streetscape enhancements. Riverside Park now features the following: an interactive multiple jet water play system that allows users to activate the water only when using the facility, conserving water while providing a dynamic play activity replaced the older sprinkler play facility, older play equipment was replaced with updated equipment that complies with the current safety standards, the skate park and hockey rink remain, the two smaller basketball courts were

combined into one full size, lighted court and the well used soccer field was replaced with an artificial youth sized field, walkways and jogging paths were created, a gazebo was constructed and offers a place to relax and enjoy the water views, picnic tables and benches were installed along with a natural lawn amphitheater around a small paved plaza for community events. The park also provides for a small parking area and restroom facilities, making it one of the most user-friendly community areas in the City's park system. Other forms of passive recreation include guided walking tours thru the New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park, New Bedford's working waterfront, the Preservation Society's summer tours thru our 19th century neighborhoods and harbor tours aboard motor boats thru the historical New Bedford/Fairhaven Harbor, including the Palmer's Island Lighthouse, the largest Hurricane Barrier on the East Coast and the working waterfront.

The Open Space Committee has worked to ensure that this revision takes a serious look at where New Bedford is today, where we want to be in seven years and how we are realistically going to get there. Contained in this plan are the goals and objectives to achieve this vision. The Committee is devoted to implementing the actions necessary to see this vision realized for New Bedford.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

The Open Space & Recreation Committee was appointed by Mayor Jon F. Mitchell and consists of the following members:

Patrick Sullivan, Director of Planning, Housing & Community Development

Jill Maclean, City Planner

Kenneth Blanchard, Superintendent of the Department of Facilities & Fleet Management

Ronald Labelle, Commissioner of the Department of Public Infrastructure

Michele Paul, Director of Environmental Stewardship

Sarah Porter, Conservation Agent

Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches

Jeffrey Stieb, Director of Harbor Development Commission

Cynthia Wallquist, Director of Community Services

The Mitchell Administration is in the process of recruiting community members to serve on the Open Space Committee.

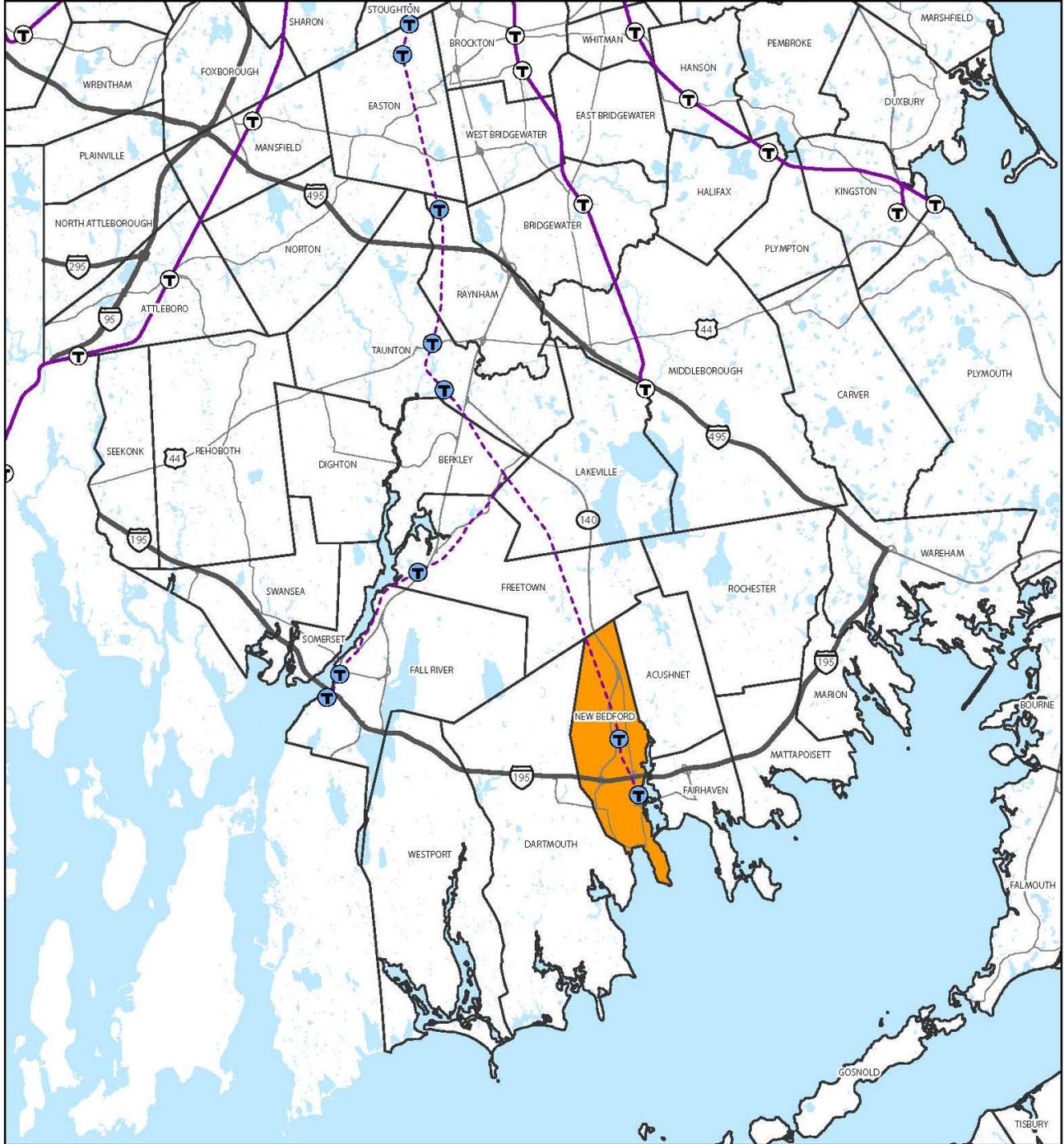
In January 2013, the public process began with neighborhood group meetings scheduled throughout the months of January and February by the City of New Bedford's Office of Planning in coordination with the Department of Community Services to engage the citizens of New Bedford in brainstorming events to elicit their ideas, concerns and visions for the future of the city to be incorporated into the OSRP. The neighborhood meetings were well attended by the public and painted a picture of the different aspects that each ward lends to the planning process.

The OSRP was presented at the following Neighborhood Group meetings and dates: Brooklawn Neighborhood Association - February 5th, 2013. Bullard Street Neighborhood Association - January 24th, 2013. Clarks Point Neighborhood Association - January 16th, 2013. Cove Street Neighborhood Association - January 7th, 2013. Far North End Neighborhood Association - January 8th, 2013. Goulart Square Neighborhood Association - January 31st, 2013. Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Association - January 30th, 2013. South Central Neighborhood Association - January 28th, 2013. Notice of the neighborhood meetings were distributed in the Neighborhood and Community Newsletter, a publication by the Neighborhood and Community Outreach unit of the Community Services Department. Neighborhood

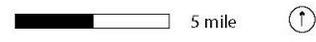
group meetings were chosen as the best way to solicit input from a variety of residents because they each represent a distinct area of the City, have regular attendance, and are held at a meeting space within the respective neighborhood. Neighborhood group meetings are held within identified Environmental Justice neighborhoods and are facilitated by members of the community. Also included in the OSRP as Attachment A, are surveys of the city parks and their compatibility with ADA accessibility conducted by the Office of Community Services.

The Open Space & Recreation Committee held several meetings in March and April 2013 to analyze the goals and objectives from the 2008 Open Space & Recreation Plan and to review the input provided by the public thru the neighborhood group meetings. The Committee assessed the status of each goal and its objectives to determine which had been met and which had not. Next, the Committee agreed upon the goals that remain relevant and how the city should strive to accomplish them. The Committee determined the necessary actions to accomplish each objective and formed a timeline for the completion of these actions. The OSRP will be submitted to the Park Board for their approval in May 2013, and will then be submitted to the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for approval.

Map: Regional Context



City of New Bedford: Open Space



Regional Context Map

- City of New Bedford
- Municipal Boundaries
- Water
- T MBTA Proposed Stations
- MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
- T MBTA Active Commuter Rail Line
- MBTA Active Commuter Stations
- Interstates
- Arterials and Collectors
- Local Roads

Section 3: Community Setting

The City of New Bedford is located in Bristol County, in Southeastern Massachusetts and consists of approximately 19.3 square miles. It is bordered by Dartmouth on the west, Freetown on the north, and Acushnet and Fairhaven on the east. The southern portion of the city is encompassed by Buzzards Bay, resulting in a peninsula with almost three miles of coastline. It is 56 miles from Boston, 33 miles from Providence, Rhode Island and 208 miles from New York City.

A. Regional Context

New Bedford is an urban center of the South Coast. Recently completed innovative land development strategies and progressive community-based planning reflect shared values and strengthen our connection to the water. Future initiatives to shape land use and development must continue to strengthen downtown, protect neighborhoods, support the needs of emerging economic development sectors, encourage the adaptive reuse of historic mills, and require sustainable design standards for all development. New Bedford has a number of transportation assets that contribute to its accessibility by land, sea and air. The transportation infrastructure in New Bedford includes an interstate highway, local airport, water ferry service, freight rail, and regional and interstate bus service. Furthermore, the South Coast Rail project outlines Governor Patrick's plan to return commuter rail service to the South Coast region.

New Bedford Regional Airport is conveniently located nearby Interstate 195 and Route 140 in the heart of the South Coast region of Southern Massachusetts - minutes from the beaches, marinas, recreational and cultural attractions of the historic South Coast - and also convenient to the business and industrial centers of the area. Frequently scheduled passenger service is provided to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard by Cape Air which includes cargo service. In addition, the airport provides an extensive range of general aviation and corporate jet services including aircraft maintenance facilities and flight instruction. New Bedford Regional Airport is a towered airport offering two 5,000 foot runways and a precision instrument landing system. Increasingly air travelers are discovering that New Bedford is a fast and convenient connection to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

The Harbor Development Council (HDC) is the governing body for New Bedford's harbor and city-owned waterfront properties. It is chaired by the Mayor of New Bedford with six other members. The role of the HDC is to support the Port of New Bedford by continually upgrading port resources; preserving its spot as the #1 U.S. fishing port; and expanding the New Bedford economy.

The HDC oversees all the commercial and recreational vessel activity within New Bedford city limits, incorporating the city's entire coastline and harbor. The HDC manages all municipal property on the waterfront, including multiple wharves and a 198-slip recreational marina at Pope's Island. The Commission also assigns moorings within city waters and issues permits for harbor events and use of city-owned waterfront facilities.

New Bedford boasts an abundance of recreational opportunities including: six major parks; 15 neighborhood parks; more than 12 miles of trails and bikeways; 26 acres of beaches; and numerous public and private baseball, football, and soccer fields. The city is also a member of Tree City USA. Included in our system of open space and recreational assets are the Whaling City Golf Course and the Buttonwood Park Zoo, which has been called "one of the finest small zoos in the United States" by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Additionally, in 2009, the City partnered with Community Rowing Inc. in order to provide rowing to public school children and adults in New Bedford. An extensive, well-located, and diverse open space and recreational system is essential to our success and sustainability. A well-planned parks and trails system ensures quality of life for residents, improving community health, increasing property values, and making our city appealing to visitors and businesses.

New Bedford is also home to the 1,100-acre Acushnet Cedar Swamp State Reservation, dedicated as a National Natural Landmark in 1972, which borders the city on the west. It is one the state's largest, wildest and most impenetrable swamps and contains a diversity of conditions and species in the glaciated section of the oak-chestnut forest type and is considered a Unique Resource Zone. Apponagansett Swamp, located south of the New Bedford Airport, is home to the spotted turtle, a species of special concern, and also a threatened plant - swamp oat - so rare in Massachusetts that only three other remaining locations are known, all on Cape Cod. Both swamps are headwater areas of the Paskamansett River, which supports a fish run and feeds an aquifer providing public water supply to the town of Dartmouth.

B. History of the Community

Since the eighteenth century, New Bedford has been a commercial center for Southeastern New England. Since the era of whaling, followed by textiles and currently fish processing, industry has located on the shores of New Bedford Harbor; primarily because of its deep-water port, strategic location and solid workforce. New Bedford, located on the west side of the harbor, reflects both its current and past industries. The waterfront is lined with docks, storage and repair facilities, fish processing and packaging plants, large brick buildings that were formerly textile mills, and other commercial buildings.

Native Americans initially inhabited this area and took advantage of the plentiful resources. They hunted in the wooded inland areas, planted crops on the flat land along the coast, and utilized the abundant marine resources found in the harbor. In 1652, Wampanoag Indian Chief Massasoit and his son Wamsutta, deeded to a group of Plymouth Colonists, a large tract of land that included present day New Bedford.

Clearing of the trees and farming was the principle vocation of the early settlers. By the middle of the 18th century a series of large farms with water frontage, trended up the hillside on the western bank of the Acushnet River within the present area of downtown. New Bedford was incorporated as a city in 1847. By 1857, it's preeminence as a seaport evolved into its title as the whaling capital of the world eventually hosting a fleet of 329 ships. Per capita, New Bedford was one of the richest cities in the world. This fame was further solidified when Herman Melville's literary classic, "Moby Dick," was published having been inspired by Melville's own journey aboard the whaling ship Acushnet launched out of New Bedford.

As the whaling industry began to decline after the discovery of petroleum in 1859, a thriving textile industry slowly replaced it. As the labor-intensive textile industry expanded, New Bedford's population increased dramatically, from about 27,000 in 1880, when there were two mills, to about 121,000 in 1920 when there were 31 mills. After the turn of the century, eleven more mills were built, with construction ceasing in 1910. New Bedford became one of the largest producers of cotton yarns and textiles in the country. About 1920, at the height of prosperity, there were twenty-eight cotton establishments, operating seventy mills and employing 41,380 workers.

Besides cotton manufacturing New Bedford was also characterized for many years by large-scale factory operations producing a variety of goods including rubber, metal and glass and a growing fishing industry, one that continues to prosper to this day. During this period these major industries attracted great wealth and a diverse immigrant population; which led to intense residential construction activity around the turn of the century until World War II providing housing for the large numbers of immigrants drawn to work in the growing textile and manufacturing industries. Those three to six family structures, still predominant in so many of the city's neighborhoods today represent over 30 percent of the city's total housing units.

The post-textile period was characterized by high unemployment and a decline in population as workers left the city in search of jobs. With textiles no longer dominating the economic marketplace, diverse forms of alternate industries began to recognize New Bedford's assets. Large, empty mill spaces, a large capable workforce and a low pay scale attracted rubber, metal, glass manufacturers and others. In 1955, an 800-acre Industrial Park opened in the northern part of the city.

Contrasting the prosperity it had previously enjoyed, New Bedford's economic health staggered through the latter half of the twentieth century. As is true of so many communities, New Bedford's manufacturing base suffered both from the exodus of an industrial shift to the south as well as from the weight of major shifts in domestic and world economies. Within the last decade alone, such factors have led to the loss of thousands of manufacturing jobs in the city. Since 2001, almost 2,000 manufacturing jobs were lost.

During this same period, New Bedford also renewed its connection to the ocean. Commercial fishing began its expansion to becoming the city's next major industry. In 1965, the Army Corps of Engineers completed the construction of a multi-million dollar hurricane barrier across the harbor entrance in order to protect the inner harbor from storm damage. This barrier resulted in New Bedford having one of the safest harbors in the east coast.

In the 1960's the New Bedford Redevelopment Authority developed the North and South Terminal projects along the waterfront. This development rehabilitated existing wharves and piers and funded the construction of a new bulkhead. Nineteen acres of new waterfront land was created and modern fish processing plants were established in these locations. The port of New Bedford became a major fish-processing center on the east coast and is currently ranked #1 in the nation based on dollar value of landings.

Ironically, labeled as the nation's greatest fishing port, the New Bedford harbor is closed to all fishing and shell fishing. This is due to the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). This carcinogenic chemical was discharged into the harbor by two waterfront-manufacturing plants for approximately 30 years until the EPA banned the use of PCBs in 1978. In 1982, the New Bedford harbor was listed as a priority Superfund Site. The EPA, along with the Army Corps of Engineers has been conducting remedial dredging in the upper and lower harbor. The entire dredging operation may take up to thirty years to complete.

Despite these environmental challenges, New Bedford's geographic coastal location is an asset that the city continuously leverages. The Port of New Bedford has shaped the identity and economy of the city for over 150 years. The waterfront continues to be an important economic, cultural, and recreational resource--extending from the beaches on the peninsula, throughout the harbor and to the Acushnet

River. It continues to be one of the nation's premier working waterfronts built around the fishing and seafood industries. Ocean shipping, ferry services, cruise and charter vessels, and recreational boats are bringing new activity to the waterfront and jobs to the region. The economy of New Bedford has diversified in recent years to include industries related to marine science technology, health care, medical devices, services and transportation.

New Bedford continues to capitalize on the rich diversity of its population and history, evident in the variety of public and private initiatives undertaken throughout the community including a recent \$10 million expansion of the world-renown Whaling Museum, the Federal designation of 34 acres within the downtown historic district as a National Park, and the millions of dollars invested in the community for improved parks, schools, public safety and infrastructure. New Bedford's movement into the future is spurred by the development of the University of Massachusetts in the city's downtown and the introduction of high-speed ferry service to Martha's Vineyard from New Bedford's waterfront.

New Bedford has evolved from the whaling center of the world, into the leading cotton manufacturing center, and finally into a historic revitalized community with an authentic working waterfront that enchants visitors as well as inhabitants. New Bedford's seaport location, diverse neighborhoods, rich history, outstanding architecture, vast cultural resources and a growing arts community makes it an appealing place to live, work and raise a family.

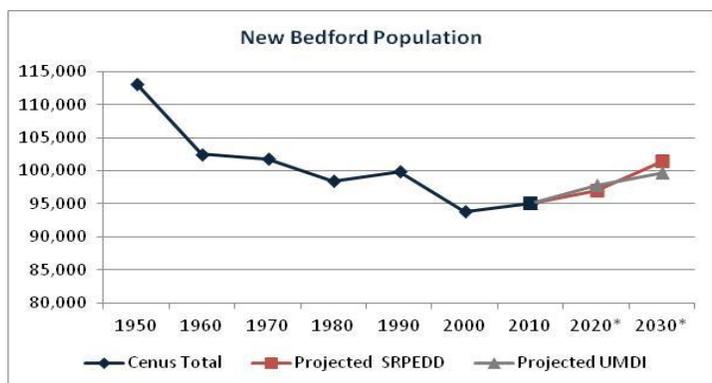
C. Population Characteristics

Population Growth, Density and Projections

The City of New Bedford is the sixth largest city in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a population of 95,072 in 2010; this is an increase from 93,726 in 2000. New Bedford has a population density of 4,730 persons per square mile.

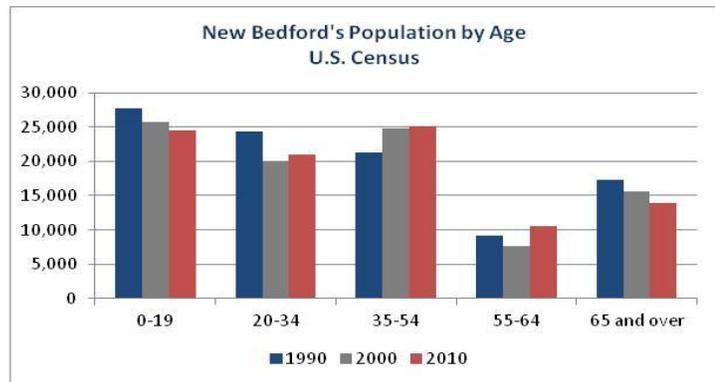
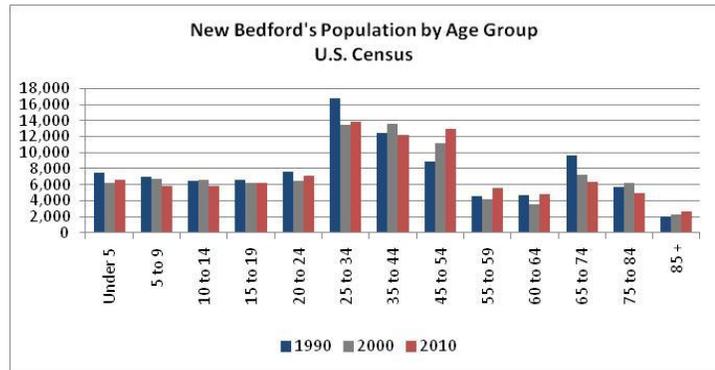
New Bedford's projected population growth

New Bedford had experienced a downward trend in population for a long period of time; however as of the latest Census (2010) the population has experienced small growth. The population increased 1% from 93,726 (in 2000) to 95,072 (in 2010). There is indication that the New Bedford population is stabilizing and potentially will increase in the near future. The most recent projections by both the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) and University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute (UMDI) predict 5%-7% growth over the next 20 year period. These projections were reached by separate methodologies and yet both predict a change toward growth rather than decline for New Bedford's population.



New Bedford's population is young and aging

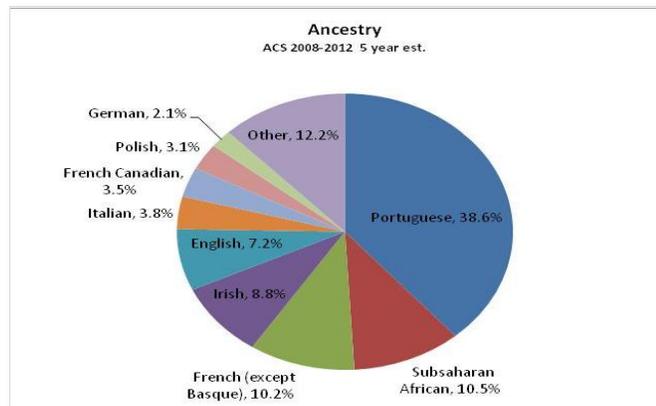
New Bedford generally has a youthful population with a Census 2010 median age of 36.6 compared to the State (39.1) and U.S. (37.2). The majority (61%) of New Bedford's population as of 2010 was under the age of 45. Children and youth ages 19 and under represent 26% of New Bedford's population. As of Census 2010 the young adults population actually grew. Population ages 20-24 were up 9% and ages 25-34 were up 3%; cumulatively those aged 20-34 grew 5% in the 10 year period. However, it's important to note another major segment of New Bedford's population is aging. The baby boomers generation (aged 46-64, as of 2010) alone represents almost a quarter of New Bedford's population. With average life expectancy's reaching 84-86 according to the Social Security Administration, the baby boomer generation will continue to age into the future and the needs for this aging population should be considered.



Diversity of heritage and growing minority populations

New Bedford continues to have a diverse mix of cultural heritages and has a growing minority population. Over a third of New Bedford's residents are of Portuguese descent (38.6%¹); there is a significant Sub-Saharan African population in addition to French/French Canadian, English, Irish, Polish and Italian communities within the city.

Almost a quarter of the New Bedford population was born outside of the United States (23.9%). 37.3% of the population speaks a language other than English at home, and 16.6% of the population speaks English less than very well. This percentage of foreign language speakers in New Bedford (percentage of population who speaks a language other than English at home) is higher than the U.S.(20%) and in Massachusetts (21.7%). The percentage of the New Bedford population who speak English less than very well (16.6%) is nearly double the U.S. (8.7%) and State (8.8%) populations. Notably, the Hispanic population in New Bedford has grown 66% since 2000; from 9,576 to 15,916 as of the 2010 Census. 16.7% of New Bedford's population now



1 2008-2012 ACS-5year estimate

identifies as Hispanic. Since the 2000 census the population of individuals identifying as Black or African American has also increased from 6.8% to 9.6% of New Bedford’s population as of the 2010 Census².

Income and Poverty

New Bedford family median and mean incomes are lower than the U.S. and State. The median (which represents the point where 50% of incomes are above and 50% are below) for New Bedford is \$45,188; compared to the State at \$64,585 and the U.S. at \$84,380. The average/mean income of a family in New Bedford is \$56,430, which is 52% less than the national average and 49% less than the State average for families.

Family Income			
	New Bedford	Massachusetts	United States
Median	\$45,188	\$64,585	\$84,380
Mean	\$56,430	\$85,065	\$108,062
Source: ACS 2008-2012 5yr estimates			

New Bedford has a high percentage of families below the poverty level compared to the U.S. and State. 18.2% of New Bedford families fall below the poverty level; which is more than double the State percentage (7.7%), and also higher than the U.S. (10.9%). The percentage of families with children below the poverty level in New Bedford is 27.1%; again which is more than double the State percentage (12%), and also higher than the U.S. (17.2%).

The Characteristics of Poverty

- Elderly, children, female head of household and minority families experience higher levels of poverty than the population as a whole which in turn leads to greater needs for community services and housing assistance among those populations;
- Categorized by race, 17 percent of all white residents have incomes below poverty level while 34 percent of all black residents fall below the poverty level. Approximately 44 percent of all Hispanic residents report income below the poverty level.

The “working poor” constitute a significant segment of the City’s population.

- While 23 percent of residents are officially poor, an additional 17 percent earn incomes that fall somewhere in the 100 to 200 percent of poverty range;
- These people work but earn very low incomes. Policymakers often term this type of resident as “working poor”;
- The working poor and their families rely on essential services such as childcare and healthcare provided by local public and private social service agencies.

Poverty rates are particularly high for the City’s minority residents.

While African Americans and Latinos still make up the largest number of residents living in poverty, statistics are showing that the two ethnicities are gaining ground in the struggle for economic equality, but still fall substantially below the white population in terms of income.

- Income inequality between white and African-American and Latino residents declined slightly in the last ten years; however, African Americans living in New Bedford still earn only 72 percent of whites, and the per capita income of Latino residents is also 72 percent of white residents (based on household income).

² Census- Race alone or in combination with one or more other races

Almost a third (32 percent) of African-American and nearly half (44 percent) of all Latino residents were living below the poverty level in 2009.

Educational Attainment

Low wages earned by workers in New Bedford are associated with low levels of educational attainment. According to ACS 2008-2012 5 year estimates only 68.8% of the city’s residents over age 25 have at least graduated from high school or earned a GED. While the city saw some improvement during the last ten years with high school graduation rates, the rate contrasts sharply with the national rate of 85.7% and the statewide rate of over 89% of adults having attained high school diplomas. Additionally, the proportion of residents with bachelor’s degrees or higher is also noticeably lower than the state or national percentages, see table below.

Educational Attainment (pop. 25 year or over)			
	New Bedford	Massachusetts	United States
Percent high school graduate or higher	68.8%	89%	85.7%
Percent bachelor’s degree or higher	14.8%	39%	28.5%

Source: ACS 2008-2012 5yr estimates

Households & Housing

Among New Bedford residents, little gain in homeownership rates was made throughout the 1990s. Only 44 percent of residents own their own homes, 18 percentage points below the statewide homeownership rate. The majority of residents rent their homes. These households are severely rent burdened - 39 percent spend over 30 percent of their income on rent - 20 percent spend more than half. What makes these figures particularly alarming is that they come from data collected before New Bedford experienced rapid appreciation. Recent evidence suggests that rents along with housing prices are escalating rapidly in the city.

Both household size and the number of households are increasing.

- The total number of households in the City of New Bedford increased by one percent between 2000 and 2009. The number of “non-family” households increased at an even faster rate of 15 percent during this past decade;
- The ratio of family households in New Bedford to all households declined from 63 percent in 2000 to 58 percent in 2009, which was much less than indicated statewide (64 percent);
- The average household size fell from 2.40 persons per household in 2000 to a level of 2.32 in 2009. This drop occurred despite a large influx of Hispanic and Latino families with relatively large households. Such a trend suggests, to some extent, an aging population coupled with an increase in nontraditional families.

New Bedford has a significantly high number of female head of households and an increasing number of non-traditional families.

There are large numbers of children being raised by single parents and nontraditional families within New Bedford, not unlike most urban areas across the country today.

New Bedford Households by type	
	percentage
Family households (families)	60%
Nonfamily households	40%

Source: Census 2010

Percentage of Households with own children under 18 years	
n=11,003	percent
Husband-wife	46%
Male Householder, no wife present	10%
Female Householder, no husband present	44%

Source: 2010 Census

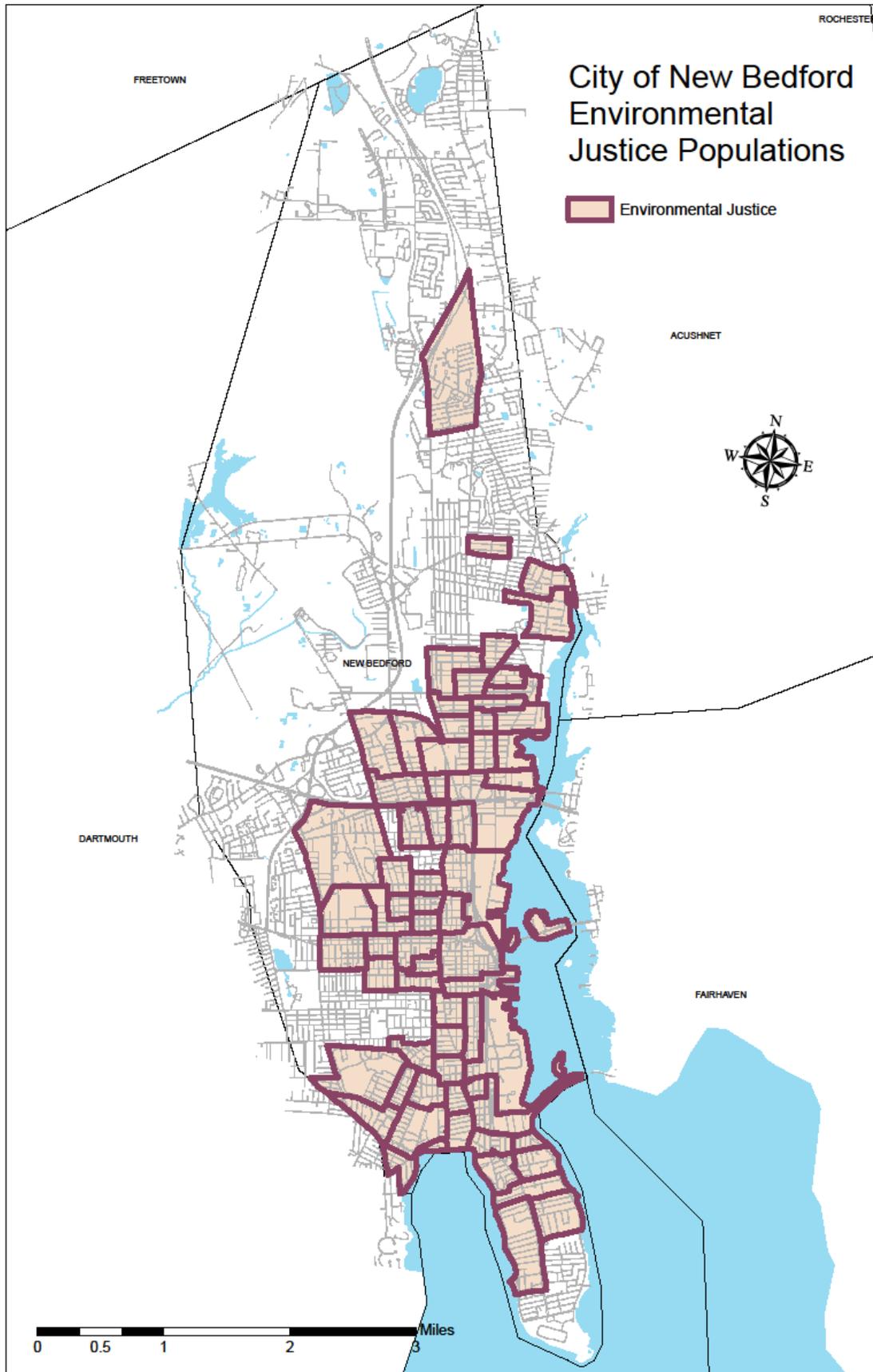
- 44 percent of family households with children under 18 are headed by single-mothers in New Bedford while only 24 percent of households with children under 18 statewide are headed by single-women with children;
- While the 2010 Census reports that in Massachusetts 70 percent of all children under 18 live within a two-parent household, 46 percent of all children under 18 in New Bedford live in a two-parent household.

Nationwide there is a growing segment of the population described, as “nontraditional families” such as is the case with grandparents raising their grandchildren. New Bedford has a large number of families in the city in which grandparents are the primary caregivers.

Major industries, employment trends

New Bedford’s annual unemployment rate according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics has hovered between 10%-11% since 2009. New Bedford’s low educational attainment levels are tied to the high percentages of unemployment and low wages for residents in the city. The fastest growing occupations require at least an Associate’s Degree, while 31.2% of the New Bedford population 25 year or above have less than a high school diploma. According to a Market & Economic Analysis report by HR&A Advisors, the fastest growing sectors for employment in the area are Professional, Technical, and Business Services and Health and Education Services. And, the largest business sectors in the city remain to be fishing, manufacturing, and a growing healthcare industry. Additionally, important to note is that half (50%) of city residents commute to work in other areas outside the city. According to the report by HR&A the top employers in New Bedford are Southcoast Hospital Group, Acushnet Company, City of New Bedford, Joseph Abboud manufacturing, Lifestream Inc., AFC Cable Systems, Tremblay’s Bus Company LLC, and Depuy Orthopaedics LLC.

Map: Environmental Justice Map



D. Growth and Development Patterns

These profiles provide a detailed summary of New Bedford's social landscape. It relies on Census data to help leaders throughout the city think about how to measure progress, set benchmarks and target investment.

It is important to note that these data were collected in 2000. In general, Census 2000 captured an image of America at the height of the longest economic expansion in U.S. history. For New Bedford, however, the Census came during difficult times. In the 1990's the city was ravaged by a de-industrialization wave in which thousands of jobs were lost. While signs on the horizon indicate a brighter future for New Bedford, the data are a timely reminder of the challenges the rebuilding process will entail.

Patterns and Trends

The City of New Bedford was separated from Dartmouth in 1787. The development of the area grew in many directions mainly from the east to the west due to the thriving seaport. Since the entire land area of the city is considered very small it was developed quickly. Residential lots are modest in size as compared to those in other communities, which were not settled or developed until later years. Because of this type of development, the issues of open space and recreational areas are extremely important to a community like New Bedford.

Land use patterns throughout the city have not altered dramatically since the 2001-2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan, which described single family housing and condominium development in the north end of the city, as well as some housing growth in the west end and the downtown area. There has not been a substantial amount of housing development in the city for several years. As in every city and town in the nation, the economy has had a dramatic effect on the area's production of new housing stock.

The land area of New Bedford is really quite developed. Vacant parcels are scarce but are still available throughout the city. It will be in the best interest of New Bedford residents if developers are made aware of the need for upgrading or improving existing recreational facilities. If it is determined that an area needs upgrading or if an acquisition is needed for recreational harmony, potential developers could share in or absorb the costs of improving neighborhood recreational amenities.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 5,192 more housing units in the city than there were in 1970, even though today's population is a bit lower. A greater percentage of the population is living in single person households, and fewer households have five or more people. There has also been a small but steady increase in the percentage of owner occupied units since 1970 when there were 36,568 as compared to today, 41,760.

Infrastructure

Transportation System

New Bedford is served by a highway system traveling its length. Route 18 (J.F.K. Memorial Highway) runs north/south, from Coggeshall Street in the north end to Cove Street in the south end. At the point where Route 18 terminates at Cove Street, Rodney French Boulevard continues vehicular access to the city's peninsula beach/park area. In the north end, Acushnet Avenue and Ashley Boulevard provide direct access to points north in the city and to Route 140. Interstate I-195 and Route 6 make the city accessible from Cape Cod to the east and Providence to the west.

Route 18 Improvements

Phase I of the Route 18/JFK Highway reconstruction project was completed in the 2013. The JFK Highway Improvement Project is a planned initiative to link downtown New Bedford to the working waterfront with a pedestrian-friendly boulevard replacing the current highway system. The rehabbing of Route 18 into a cross between boulevard and highway is the first of a three phase project—Phase II is from Walnut Street to Cove Street; and Phase III is from Elm Street to Coggeshall Street. State officials did not have a time frame for when the second phase will begin.

The “Octopus”

Utilizing the technical assistance provided through the South Coast Rail (SCR) project, the City worked to create concepts for the redesign of the “Octopus”: the intersection of Route 6, Kempton Street, Mill Street, Pleasant Street and Foster Street. The streetscape connections between the Clasky Common neighborhood, Quest Center/Armory District, downtown, and the proposed Whale’s Tooth Multimodal Station were studied, public input was sought, and two final concepts are awaiting further engineering. This intersection is a major gateway entrance for the city as you approach from the New Bedford/Fairhaven Bridge, and is noted as such in the city master plan. The City intends to further the engineering of this gateway in 2014.

Water System

New Bedford’s drinking water comes entirely from surface water sources in a watershed that extends over 50 square miles. The principal streams and storage areas are the Little Quittacas, Great Quittacas, Pocksha, Assawompset and Long Ponds, located to the north of the city in the Towns of Lakeville, Rochester, Middleboro, and Freetown. The water is treated at the Quittacas Water Treatment Plant and pumped to the High Hill Reservoir; from there it is piped into houses and businesses in New Bedford.

New Bedford’s water supply, which has been under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Water Management Act since January 1988, is sufficient to meet present usage demands. In addition to supplying its own needs, the City also supplies water in varying degrees to the four neighboring Towns of Fairhaven, Dartmouth, Acushnet, and Freetown. In 1998, the water department distributed 4.9 gallons of water to Greater New Bedford customers. Two separate systems presently serve these needs; the Lakeville Pond complex and the Acushnet River.

Test results from 1998 indicate the water supplied by the New Bedford Water Department met or exceeded all state and federal requirements, with the exception of lead. Although the water supplied by the New Bedford Water Department is virtually free of lead, some older home plumbing systems leach lead into the water. Twenty out of 100 homes sampled had lead levels that exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Action Level”. The New Bedford Water Department ensures that the drinking water remains safe by regular monitoring and testing.

In past years, the system has benefited from several improvements, which were implemented to meet the area’s future water demands. A Waterworks Improvement Plan was conducted by consulting engineers to ensure the adequate supply and distribution of the city’s water needs to the year 2020. The plan assesses groundwater supply sources in the wetlands located in the northeast part of the city and will enable the city to establish policy decisions regarding the protection and ultimate use of these wetlands and groundwater supplies. The city has begun examining the potential of gaining water rights to fresh water bodies to the north of the city in order to meet the area’s water demand beyond the year 2020.

Waste Water Collection and Treatment System

New Bedford's waste water system currently serves about 60% of the city's area, and approximately 95% of the population. In addition, the system receives flow from approximately 600 dwelling units in the Town of Dartmouth and 60 units in Acushnet. The system also receives and treats a limited amount of septage, which is pumped from septic systems in the unanswered areas of New Bedford, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, and Mattapoisett.

The system consists of approximately 128 miles of older combined sewer in the south and central parts of the city, plus about 76 miles of separate sewers in the north end and 23 pump stations. Wastewater is collected by a series of local sewers and conveyed by interceptor sewers, to the Secondary Treatment Plant at Fort Rodman. The wastewater and associated pollutants received at the New Bedford treatment facility originate from a wide variety of complex sources, which include domestic wastewater from residential activities and non-domestic wastewater from commercial, industrial, and other business activities in the service area. In addition, the facilities receive extraneous water through cracks, which have occurred due to the age, condition, and location of more than 204 miles of sewer pipe tributary to the treatment system. During rainstorms, the system receives combined sewage flow that results from mixing of sewage and urban runoff.

The New Bedford Water Pollution Control Facility, located at the extreme South End of the city at Fort Rodman, is a conventional activated sludge treatment process. The facility has a design flow of 30 MGD (Million Gallons per Day) with a peak flow capacity of 75 MGD. Construction of the treatment facility, designed by Camp Dresser and McKee, began in February 1993 and was completed (and on line) on August 22, 1996. The average flow of 24 MGD discharges through a 3,300-foot outfall pipe into Buzzards Bay. The facility, operated by Professional Services Group, meets all National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

At one time a critical element of New Bedford's wastewater collection and treatment system - the 30 MGD water pollution control facility - was in violation of the Clean Water Act. In 1987, the City entered into a consent decree with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Conservation Law Foundation to begin planning, design, and construction of a new water pollution control facility to provide both primary and secondary treatment. The consent decree specifically mandated that the City improve its wastewater collection and treatment systems, and included a court-enforceable schedule.

The successful start-up of the water pollution control facility on August 22, 1996 was a critical milestone in the process to improve the city's treatment systems. Through the realization of this project, the City has significantly improved water quality in Buzzards Bay for beachgoers, clammers, and sailors. Since operation of the new facility started, conventional pollutant facility discharges are substantially cleaner than that from the old facility; and for the first time in decades, there is unrestricted public access to the southernmost peninsula. As both a tribute to its heritage and in recognition of its resources for the future, the City is reinvesting in its waterfront area. New public recreation facilities are being created which will include some 4 miles of coastal recreational trails as well as over one mile of newly added waterfront public access. The City of New Bedford is proud to be taking part in protecting the bay and preserving its future.

Long-Term Development Patterns

Land development in New Bedford reflects a variety of uses as identified in the following table:

Table 2: Land Use in Acres, 1971 to 1985

	1971	1985	%Change
Agriculture	188	191	1.6%
Forest, Wetlands, Open Space	4,715	4,383	-7.0%
Recreation	574	575	0.2%
Urban	7,340	7,672	4.5%
Water	-----	122	-----

(Source: University of Massachusetts, Department of Forestry & Wildlife Management, Remote Sensing)

Comparative land use statistics show that certain sections of the city have experienced both residential and commercial sprawl. Significant amounts of land in the northwest have been used for the development of single-family detached dwellings as well as commercial and office space development relocated from the downtown area.

Despite this sprawl, population projections imply that future residential growth will spread slowly. Conservation data confirms that large vacant tracts of residentially zoned land possess significant development limitations. Thus recreation policy need not anticipate significant residential growth in undeveloped sections of the city. Rather, policies should be directed toward adequately serving existing neighborhoods. Further, in an effort to abate development on lands designated by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service as having serious development limitations, conservation and zoning policies should be directed at preserving unique or fragile areas in the city's far north and west sections.

Zoning

The City's Zoning Ordinance is a very simple document. It primarily governs dimensions, parking, and location of uses (through zoning districts). Almost any usage is allowed in the business districts. There are few standards regarding design, lot coverage, environmental impact or relation to broader planning objectives. In sum, this is a zoning ordinance that provides general guidelines to protect residential neighborhoods from noxious business uses, and distinguishes generally between light and heavy industry. Beyond that, the private market is left to decide what should occur where.

This situation is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, New Bedford offers few regulatory hurdles, and this is very attractive in these days of intense regulating. On the other hand, this approach sets few standards to encourage high quality development. Continued low quality development will eventually catch up with a community, decrease property values, and make the area less attractive to newly formed businesses. A low regulation, low standards strategy ultimately attracts older, low profit margin businesses that cannot invest heavily in a property, and nor do they wish to.

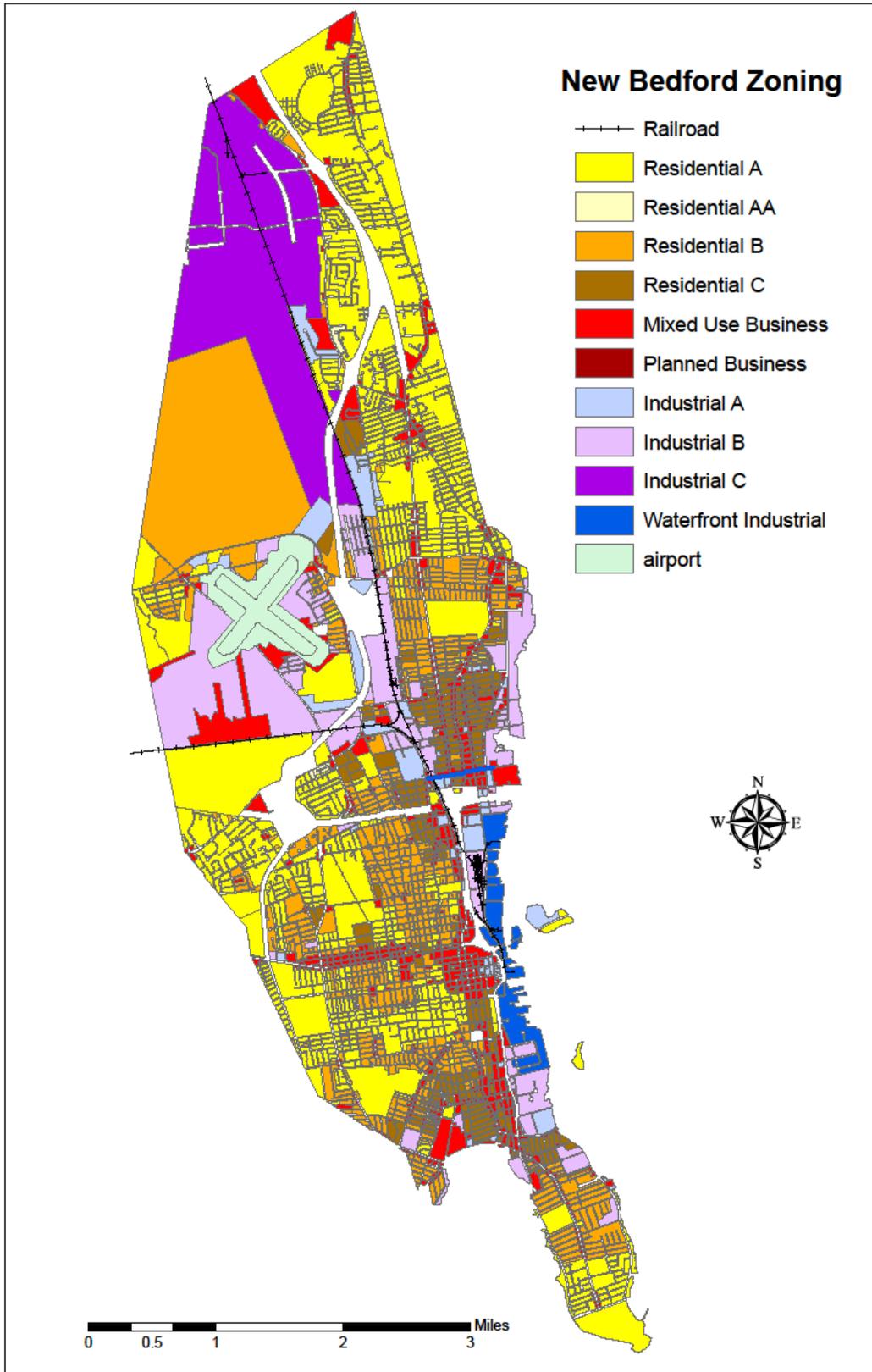
Development Impacts: Buildout Study

As part of its Community Preservation Initiative, the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs recently performed buildout analysis for all municipalities in Massachusetts. According to the projections for New Bedford, if buildout were to be reached under current zoning, the city could expect to have an additional 12,682 residents, which would create a total city population of 112,609. Along with these new residents would come 4,370 additional housing units and 3,936 additional children entering the school system. The new residential growth would increase the demand and for water by 950,385 gallons per day.

According to the study, commercial and industrial growth would consume another 539 acres and require 1,761,051 additional gallons of water per day. Municipal solid waste issues would also be of concern. At buildout, 10,898 new tons per year of non-recyclable solid waste would be produced, as well as 2,915 tons per year of recyclable solid wastes. All of this new growth would require the creation of 33 more miles of roadways throughout the city.

Additional growth will put increased pressure on the remaining open spaces and historic sites in the city. In an effort to alleviate some of the growth pressures being experienced in many Massachusetts communities the Community Preservation Act was recently passed. This legislation allows Massachusetts communities to adopt by referendum a 1% - 3% surcharge on property taxes, which goes into a Community Preservation Fund. Of the money raised from this surcharge, 10% must be set aside to buy open space, 10% to create affordable housing, and 10% to do historic preservation work. The remaining 70% can be used on any of the three categories.

Map: Zoning Map



Section 4: Environmental Inventory Analysis

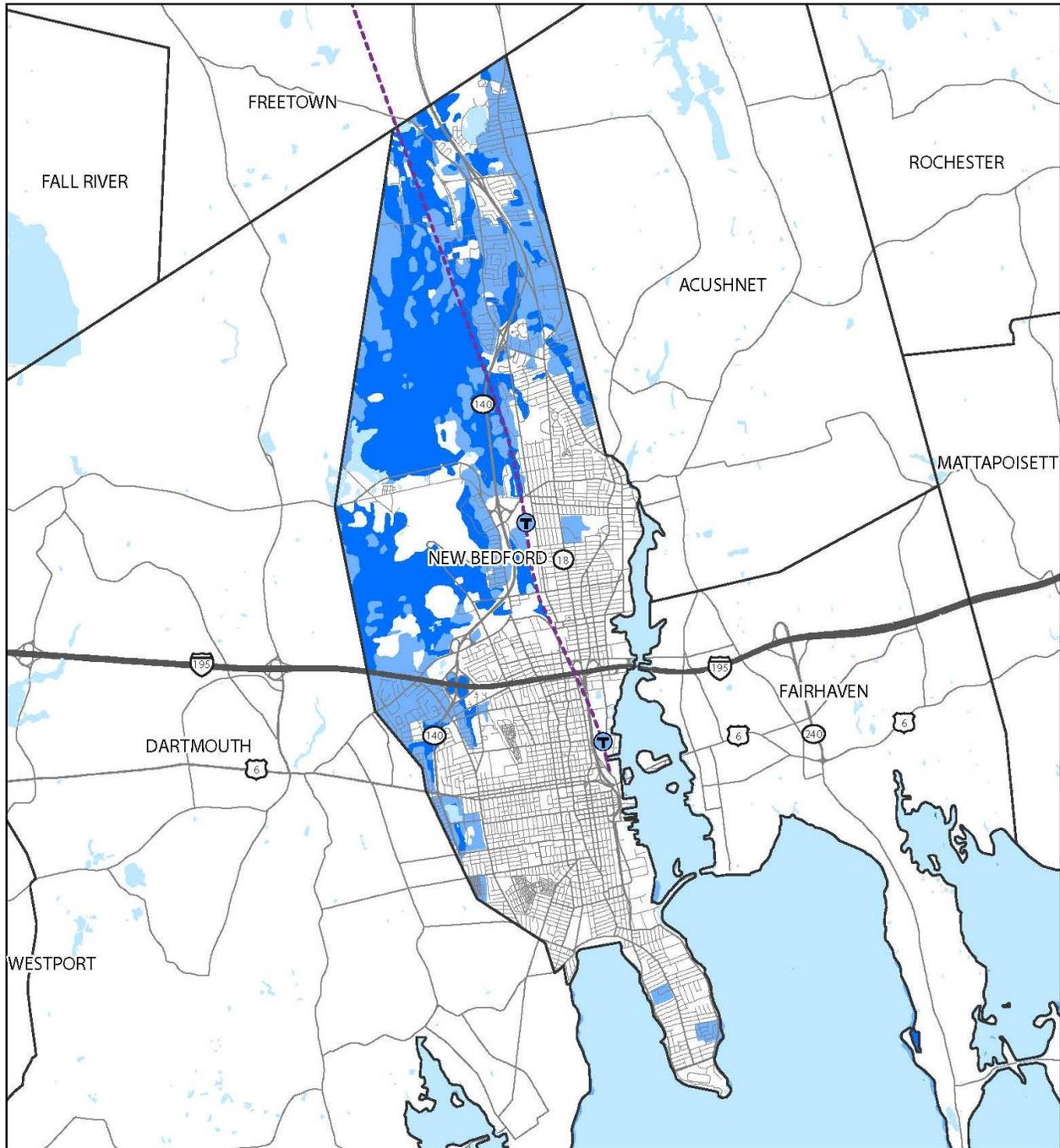
A. Geology, Soils, and Topography

The City of New Bedford, incorporated in 1847, is roughly rectangular being 12 miles long and having a maximum breadth of three miles. The city is located on the Acushnet River and has a nine-mile waterfront protected by a hurricane barrier. The general topography of New Bedford is gently rolling terrain, most prominent in the mid-western part of the city, and gradually sloping eastward towards the Acushnet River. Slopes are generally less than three percent, excepting the aforementioned mid-western section, where slopes approach five to seven percent. Natural drainage patterns in New Bedford consist of a series of swamps connected by several narrow streams whose irregular patterns reflect glacial events. Generally, the city's topography presents no limitations to recreational activity with the exception of canoeing and hiking; due to the absence of well-defined rivers and the swampy condition of most vacant land in the northwest section of the city.

Generally, soil composition in the New Bedford area is classified as Paxton-Woodbridge-Whitman association. Characteristics of these soils indicate nearly level to moderately steep soils that are well drained, moderately well drained, and very poorly drained; on glacial uplands. The stoniness associated with these soils generally limits farming and active, open field recreational activity. In those areas where stones have been removed, however, the soils have few limitations for recreational activities of any type.

The soils in the northern section of the city pose significant limitations for residential and commercial development due to excessive wetness and ponding. The majority of the upper-central part of New Bedford is comprised of the Acushnet Cedar Swamp, a large wetland area owned by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Map: Soils and Geologic Features Map 1



City of New Bedford: Open Space

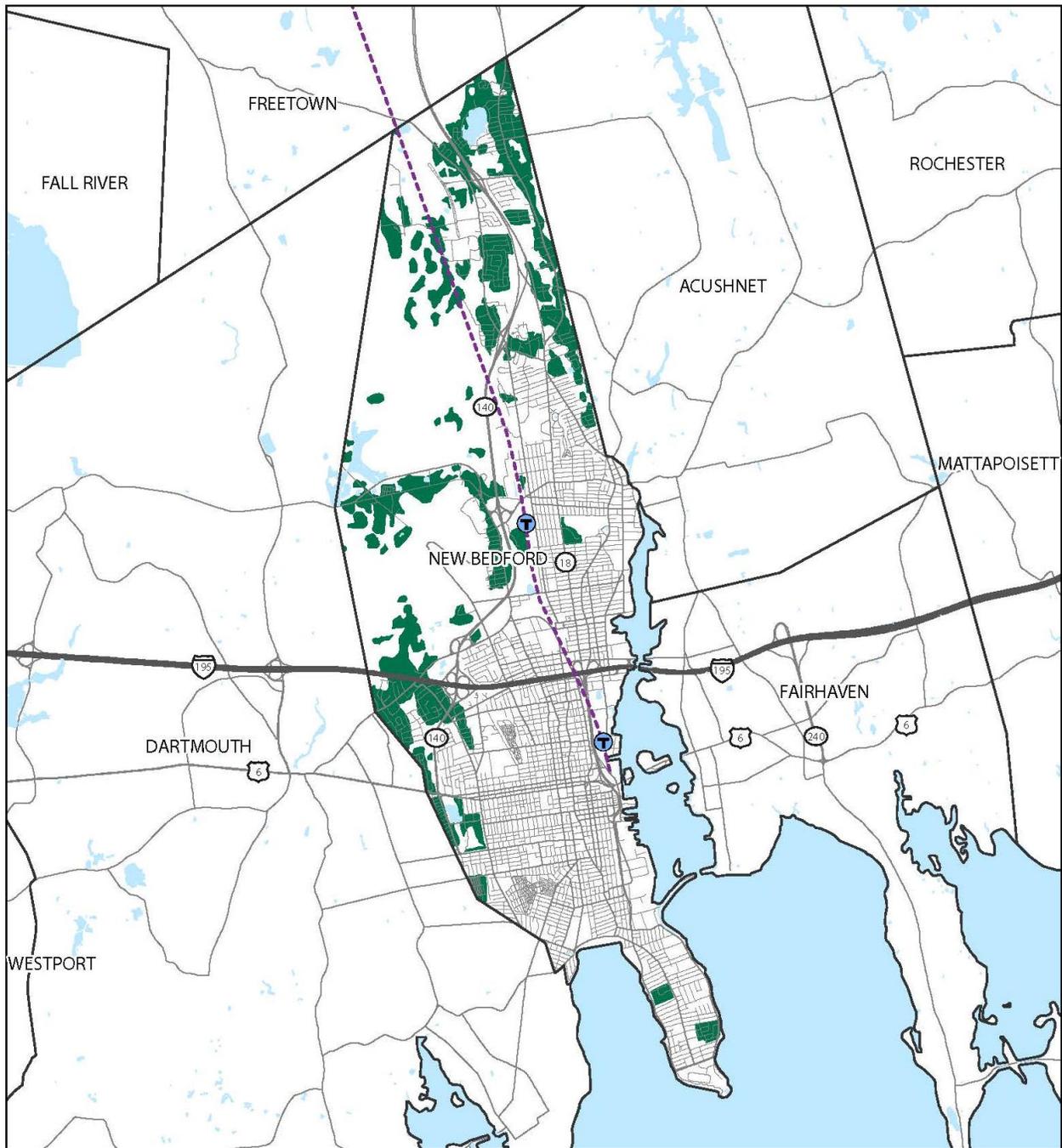
NRCS SSURGO-Certified Soils - Hydric

1 mile



- All Hydric
- Partially Hydric
- Water
- Municipal Boundaries
- T MBTA Proposed Stations
- MBTA Proposed Rail Lines
- Interstates
- Arterials and Collectors
- Local Roads

Map: Soils and Geologic Features Map 2



City of New Bedford: Open Space

NRCS SSURGO-Certified Soils - All Prime and Statewide Significance

1 mile



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ■ All Prime and Statewide Significance | Municipal Boundaries | Interstates |
| ■ Water | Ⓧ MBTA Proposed Stations | Arterials and Collectors |
| | - - - MBTA Proposed Rail Lines | Local Roads |

Table 3: Soil Types in New Bedford That Pose Limitations to Development

symbol	Soil Name	Septic Tank Absorption Fields	Sewage Lagoon Areas	Home Sites	Small Commercial Buildings	Local Roads
CtB	Charlton-Paxton fine sandy loams, rocky, 3-8% slopes	Slight	Severe (seepage)	Slight	Moderate slope	Slight
CtC	Charlton-Paxton fine sandy loams, rocky, 8-15% slopes	Moderate (slope)	Severe (seepage)	Moderate (slope)	Severe (slope)	Moderate (slope)
CuC	Charlton-Rock outcrop-Paxton complex, 3-15% slopes	Moderate (slope)	Severe (seepage, slope)	Moderate (slope)	Severe (slope)	Moderate (slope)
DeA	Deerfield loamy sand, 0-5% slopes	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Moderate (wetness)	Moderate (wetness)
Fm	Freetown Muck	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)
Fp	Freetown muck, ponded	Severe (ponding)	Severe (ponding)	Severe (ponding)	Severe (ponding)	Severe (ponding)
GcB	Gloucester-Hinkley complex, undulating	Severe (poor filter)	Severe (seepage)	Moderate (large stones)	Moderate (large stones)	Moderate (large stones)
GhB	Gloucester-Hinkley complex, very stony, undulating	Severe (poor filter)	Severe (seepage)	Moderate (large stones)	Moderate (large stones, slope)	Moderate (large stones)
HgA	Hinkley gravelly fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	Severe (poor filter)	Severe (seepage)	Slight	Slight	Slight
HgB	Hinkley gravelly fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	Severe (poor filter)	Severe (seepage)	Slight	Moderate (slope)	Slight
HgC	Hinkley gravelly fine sandy loam, 8-15% slopes	Severe (poor filter)	Severe (seepage, slope)	Moderate (slope)	Severe (slope)	Moderate (slope)
MeA	Merrimac fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	Severe (poor filter)	Severe (seepage)	Slight	Slight	Slight
MeB	Merrimac fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	Severe (poor filter)	Severe (seepage)	Slight	Moderate (slope)	Slight
NgA	Ninigret fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	Severe (wetness, poor filter)	Severe (wetness, seepage)	Severe (wetness)	Moderate (wetness)	Moderate (wetness)
PfB	Paxton fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	Severe (percs slowly)	Moderate (slope)	Moderate (wetness)	Moderate (slope, wetness)	Moderate (wetness)
PfC	Paxton fine sandy loam, 8-15% slopes	Severe (percs slowly)	Severe (slope)	Moderate (slope, wetness)	Severe (slope)	Moderate (slope, wetness)
PgB	Paxton very stony fine sandy loam, 0-8% slopes	Severe (percs slowly)	Moderate (slope)	Moderate (wetness)	Moderate (slope, wetness)	Moderate (wetness)

Symbol	Soil Name	Septic Tank Absorption Fields	Sewage Lagoon Areas	Home Sites	Small Commercial Buildings	Local Roads
PgC	Paxton very stony fine sandy loam, 8-15% slopes	Severe (percs slowly)	Severe (slope)	Moderate (slope, wetness)	Severe (slope)	Moderate (slope, wetness)
PhB	Paxton extremely stony fine sandy loam, 0-8% slopes	Severe (percs slowly)	Moderate (slope)	Moderate (wetness)	Moderate (slope, wetness)	Moderate (wetness)
PhC	Paxton extremely stony fine sandy loam, 8-15% slopes	Severe (percs slowly)	Severe (slope)	Moderate (slope, wetness)	Severe (slope)	Moderate (slope, wetness)
PoA	Pipestone loamy sand, 0-3% slopes	Severe (wetness, poor filter)	Severe (wetness, seepage)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)
RdA	Ridgebury fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	Severe (percs slowly, wetness)	Slight	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)
ReA	Ridgebury extremely stony fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	Severe (percs slowly, wetness)	Slight	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)
ReB	Ridgebury extremely stony fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	Severe (percs slowly, wetness)	Moderate (slope)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)
Sc	Scarboro muck	Severe (ponding, poor filter)	Severe (seepage, wetness)	Severe (ponding)	Severe (ponding)	Severe (ponding)
SdA	Sudbury fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	Severe (wetness, poor filter)	Severe (wetness, seepage)	Moderate (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Moderate (wetness)
SdB	Sudbury fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	Severe (wetness, poor filter)	Severe (wetness, seepage)	Severe (wetness)	Moderate (slope, wetness)	Moderate (wetness, frost action)
Ss	Swansea course sand	Severe (ponding, poor filter)	Severe (wetness, seepage)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)
Sw	Swansea muck	Severe (wetness, poor filter)	Severe (wetness, seepage)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)	Severe (wetness)
WgA	Whitman fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	Severe (percs slowly, ponding)	Slight	Severe (ponding)	Severe (ponding)	Severe (ponding)
WhA	Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	Severe (percs slowly, ponding)	Slight	Severe (ponding)	Severe (ponding)	Severe (ponding)
WnB	Windsor loamy sand, 3-8% slopes	Severe (poor filter)	Severe (seepage)	Slight	Moderate (slope)	Slight

Symbol	Soil Name	Septic Tank Absorption Fields	Sewage Lagoon Areas	Home Sites	Small Commercial Buildings	Local Roads
WnC	Windsor loamy sand, 8-20% slopes	Severe (poor filter)	Severe (slope, seepage)	Moderate (slope)	Severe (slope)	Moderate (slope)
WrA	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	Severe (percs slowly, wetness)	Slight	Severe (wetness)	Moderate (wetness)	Severe (frost action)
WrB	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	Severe (percs slowly, wetness)	Moderate (slope)	Severe (wetness)	Moderate (slope, wetness)	Severe (frost action)
WsB	Woodbridge very stony fine sandy loam, 0-8% slopes	Severe (percs slowly, wetness)	Moderate (slope)	Severe (wetness)	Moderate (slope, wetness)	Severe (frost action)
WtB	Woodbridge extremely stony fine sandy loam, 0-8% slopes	Severe (percs slowly, wetness)	Moderate (slope)	Severe (wetness)	Moderate (slope, wetness)	Severe (frost action)

B. Landscape Character

The natural land character of the New Bedford area was formed thousands of years ago by the actions of glaciers. Smoothed by erosion and plant life, it is peppered with human settlements that in places enhance the natural landforms and in other places degrades them. For instance, downtown New Bedford is made all the more quaint by the historic architecture and cobblestone streets. On the other hand, Route 18 cuts a swath through the city, creating a physical barrier to the city's working waterfront. Following are the major natural and man-made characteristics of the New Bedford landscape.

New Bedford Harbor

The Acushnet River originates at the New Bedford Reservoir in the Town of Acushnet and winds its way south through Acushnet and New Bedford, opening up at Buzzards Bay and forming New Bedford Harbor.

The Port of New Bedford is the home port for sea harvesters: scallop & lobster boats, trawlers, clambers, longliners and gil netters. New Bedford's fishing roots span three centuries. We celebrate both our heritage and our current status: From the #1 whaling port in the 1800s to America's #1 fishing port since the start of the 21st century.

The Port of New Bedford is a deepwater commercial port with easy access to the maritime corridor from the Massachusetts coast, located on the northwestern side of Buzzard's Bay approximately nine nautical miles from the Cape Cod shipping canal, 83 miles south of Boston and 166 miles north of New York.

The harbor also provides recreational opportunities to residents of New Bedford and Fairhaven, as well as visitors. The Whaling City Rowing Club allows its members to have the unique experience of rowing through the harbor in authentic reproduction whaleboats. Additionally, Pope's Island Marina provides services to recreational boaters with their own vessels, as well as park facilities for local and regional visitors.

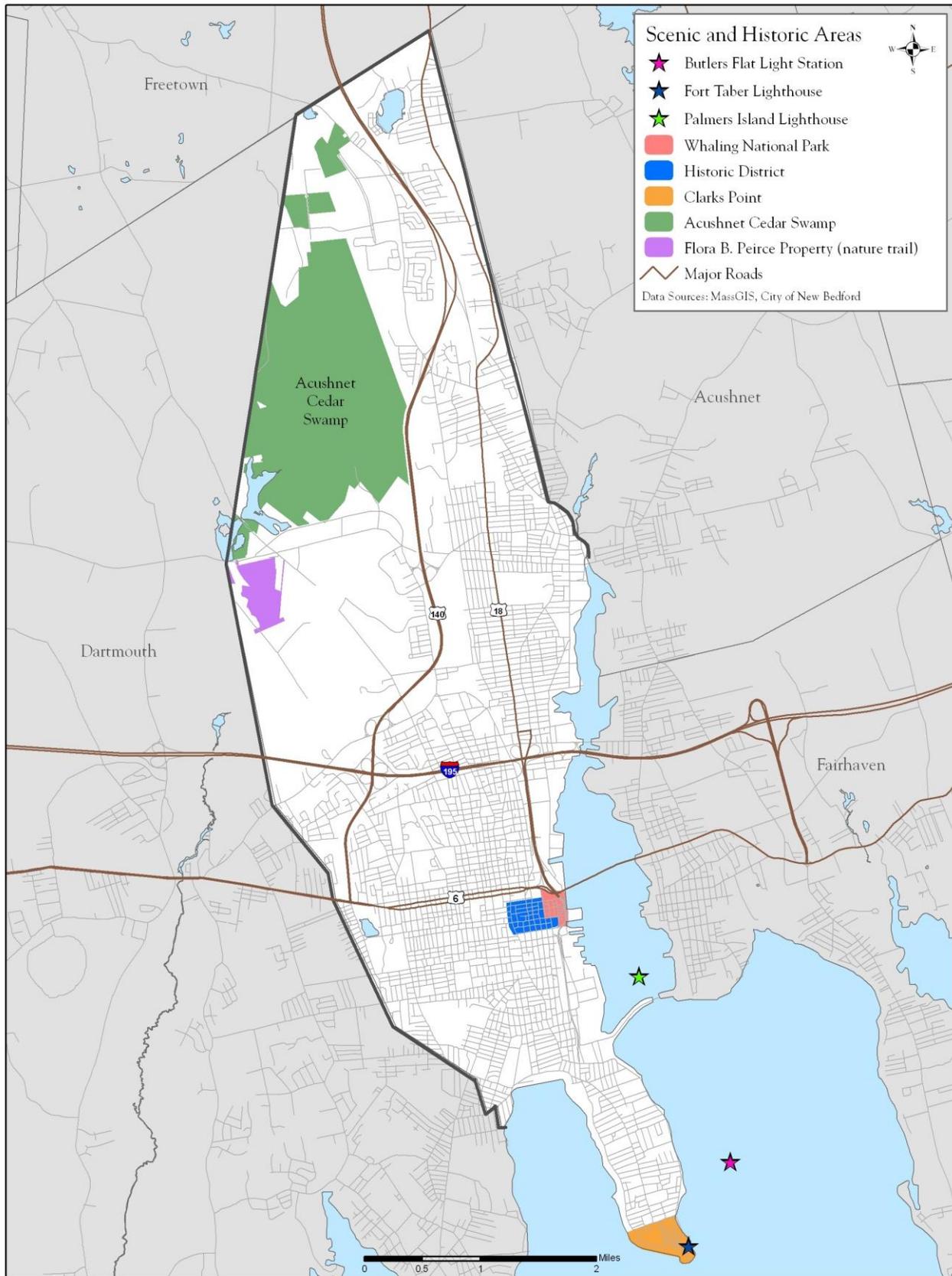
Hurricane Barrier

New Bedford Harbor is well sheltered by a hurricane barrier that stretches 3.5 miles along the South-End of New Bedford to the Town of Fairhaven. The hurricane barrier was built to protect the harbor from devastating hurricanes, such as those of 1953 (Carol) and 1955 (Dianne). Taking two years to complete and costing \$18.2 million, it is the largest stone structure in the eastern United States. Standing 26 feet above mean high tide, only a few waves have managed to splash over the top. Spanning 150 feet, each of the two massive gates into the harbor weighs 40.5 tons, and can clamp shut in 12 minutes.

Acushnet Cedar Swamp

The Acushnet Cedar Swamp is a 1,800-acre area in the northern part of the city. The land was acquired by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1971 and is often referred to as "one of Massachusetts' largest, wildest, and most impenetrable swamps". It contains areas of upland forest adjacent to a large wetland system comprised of bogs, swamps, and a pond. This wetland and some of the species it supports is discussed further in "Wetlands" under the Water Resources section of this plan.

Map: Unique & Scenic Features Map



Map prepared by: Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, 2870 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham, MA 02538. February 2007.

C. Water Resources

There are five major bodies of water in the city, with the Acushnet River/New Bedford Harbor system being, by far, the largest. The city is also home to the Paskamansett River and three ponds: Sassaquin, Turners, and the Buttonwood Park pond.

For the majority of its length, the Paskamansett River is an acidic, low gradient swamp stream. It begins as an outlet to Turners Pond, a man-made pond that is fed by the Acushnet Cedar Swamp. The river flows for 10 miles until it reaches the Slocums River in Dartmouth. The Paskamansett mainly supports warm water fish communities, although according to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, some coldwater pockets may exist. It also acts as a run for river herring during their annual migration.

Turners Pond is a 55 to 62 acre impoundment at the head of the Paskamansett River. The maximum depth of the pond is 20 feet, but the average depth is 4 feet. The pond is very acidic and heavily vegetated with a mud bottom. It is home to several species of fish, such as black crappie, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed sunfish, yellow perch, red fin pickerel, chain pickerel, and American eel. However, due to contamination from heavy metals, the consumption of fish from this pond is prohibited. In the 1970s the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stocked Turners Pond on two occasions; in 1972 with 13 chain pickerel and in 1973 with 75 largemouth bass. No further stocking has occurred due to the contamination. The pond is still used by people for recreational fishing and boating.

Sassaquin Pond is a 34-acre, warm water pond that is moderately deep (about 7 feet average) and clear. It is a kettle pond located within the Taunton River Watershed. The bottom consists of sand and muck with minor rock outcroppings and scant vegetation. The pond is located north of the city and is easily accessible from the pond's south end. Residents heavily utilize it, with many cottages along its shores. In the pond's history, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) have stocked it with more than 76,600 fish; between 1914 and 1950. Fish species in the pond include black crappie, white perch, yellow perch, pumpkinseed sunfish, brown bullhead, and shiners. It is used for recreational fishing but is not able to support game fish such as bass and pickerel. The City of New Bedford Health Department banned recreational swimming in 2004 due to bacterial contamination.

The Buttonwood Park Pond is located in an urban park, next to the new Buttonwood Park Zoo. It has long been popular with children and adults who enjoy feeding the ducks and swans even though this practice further deteriorates the water quality of the pond. The pond is very shallow and receives large amounts of nutrients from stormwater runoff, waterfowl and decomposing food left from well-meaning residents. The excessive nutrients have resulted in high levels of plant growth and decreases in oxygen levels. In August, 1995 and May of 2004 fish kills occurred and were investigated by the DFW. The DFW noted that fish kills could be expected to occur during the warm summer months and that it may be necessary to install fountains or other aerating devices. The fish kill which occurred in the spring of 2004 was due to a bacterial infection likely brought on by combination of stressors such as the spawning season combined with a rise in water temperature.

Acushnet River/Inner New Bedford Harbor Watershed

The Acushnet River watershed encompasses 11,497 acres and covers six principal municipalities, including New Bedford, Fairhaven, Acushnet, Rochester, Freetown, and Lakeville. According to the 2003 Coalition for Buzzards Bay State of the Bay Report 24.5% of the watershed is developed, 7.3% is protected open space and 68.2% is undeveloped unprotected open space.

The northern section of the watershed is comprised mainly of forests and land in agricultural uses. The heavily urbanized areas lie to the south. Included within the watershed is the New Bedford Reservoir. The reservoir is located in the Town of Acushnet, but is owned by the City. It is not currently used for water supply but remains as an emergency reserve.

Nitrogen Loading Evaluation

In New Bedford Harbor, as in most coastal waters around Buzzards Bay, nitrogen is the nutrient that usually limits the growth of algae. Algae include macro algae or “seaweeds”, and micro algae such as phytoplankton, which form the base of many marine food webs. Increased supplies of nitrogen threaten the harbor by stimulating blooms of both. Long-term exposure of coastal waters to excessive nitrogen gradually alters coastal ecosystems, causing scallop and eelgrass populations to be replaced by floating algae or macroalgae.

In addition, decay of macroalgae causes unpleasant odors and depletes oxygen in the water. Severe oxygen depletion can kill fish and shellfish. There is also evidence that nutrient loading promotes (directly and indirectly) the survival of coliform bacteria, which contributes to closures of shellfish areas. Algae blooms and accumulation of macroalgae may also cause aesthetic problems and inhibit typical recreational uses of the water such as swimming and boating. Overall, nitrogen loading is one of the most serious long-term problems threatening many embayments around Buzzards Bay.

The Acushnet River suffers from excessive nitrogen loading from its surrounding watershed. Residential development in Acushnet and East Freetown, discharges from the Fairhaven sewage treatment plant, and combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges from the New Bedford sewer system account for the majority of the loadings to the harbor. In 1994, the Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program released a nitrogen loading study for all Buzzards Bay embayments entitled *A Buzzards Bay Embayment Subwatershed Evaluation: Establishing Priorities for Nitrogen Management Actions*. According to the data in this report, the Acushnet River has already exceeded its recommended nitrogen-loading limit by 103%. Additionally, eight years of water quality data collected by the Coalition for Buzzards Bay indicates that the harbor is one of the most eutrophic sites in all of Buzzards Bay.

Elimination of CSO dry and wet weather flows may result in improved water quality, however, recommended nitrogen loading goals can never be achieved without including nitrogen removal capacity in the Fairhaven sewage treatment plant, which contributes more than 10 times the nitrogen than the CSOs.

Aquifer Recharge Areas

Groundwater supply sources exist in the wetland areas located in the northwest area of the city. However, these areas are not currently used for public drinking water, as New Bedford’s water supply comes from Little Quittacas, Great Quittacas, Pocksha, Assawompset and Long Ponds, located to the north of the city in the Towns of Lakeville, Rochester, Middleboro, and Freetown. These surface water sources are sufficient to meet current local and regional demands. The City, in addition to taking care of its own needs, supplies water to varying degrees to the neighboring Towns of Fairhaven, Dartmouth, Acushnet, and Freetown.

Flood Hazards Areas

Flood plain is a term used to describe the areas adjoining lakes, rivers, streams, oceans and bays which, during the past, have been covered, or can be expected to be covered, by flood waters. A river channel and the immediate adjacent lands form what is termed a floodway. Floodways are high velocity areas,

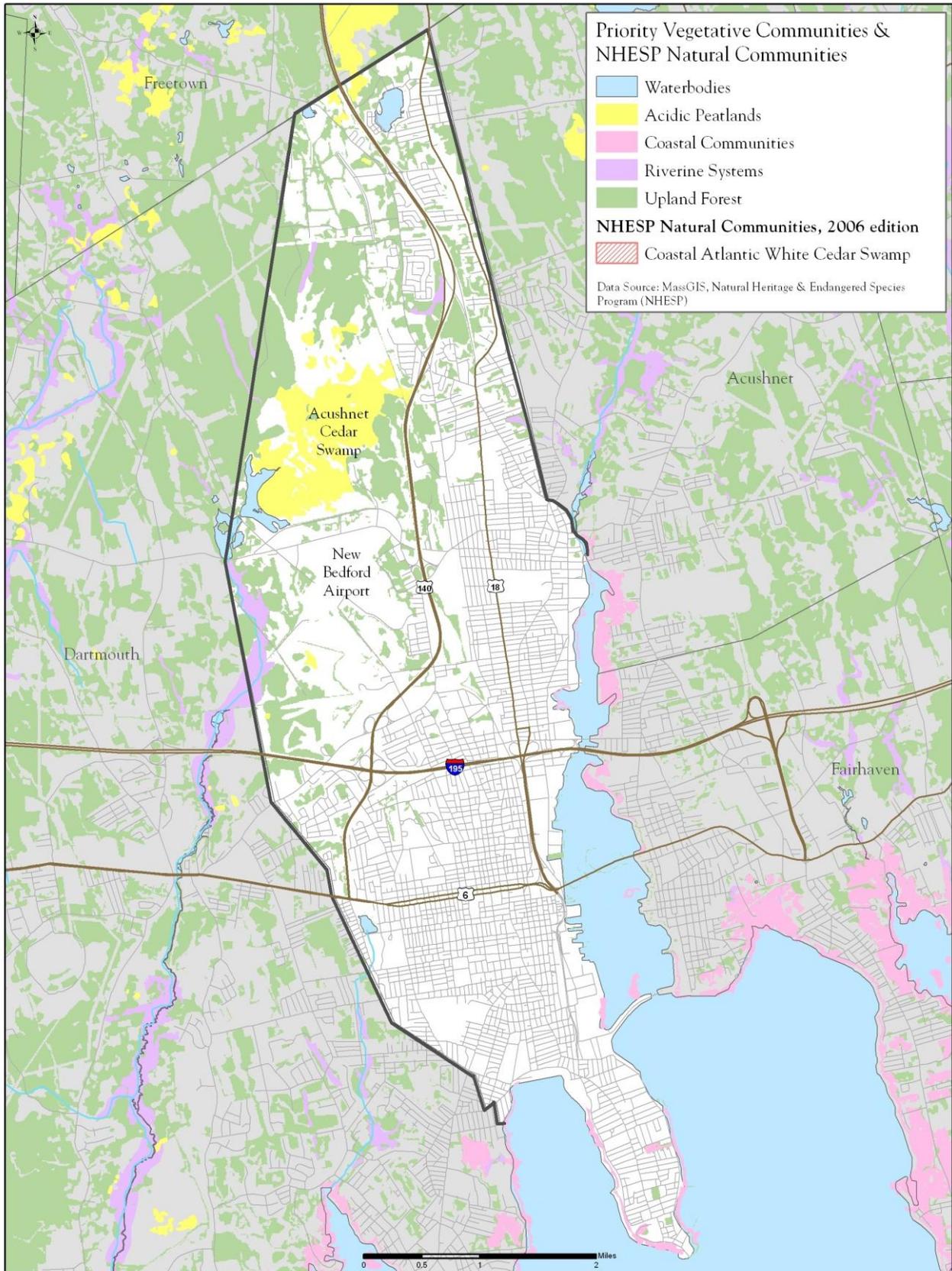
which convey flood discharges. Another term, floodway fringe, is generally applied to the outermost area of the floodway, also subject to flooding, but having less of a role in the routing of flood discharges (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

The importance of the floodplain lies in its ability to store and route stormwater. Although the entire floodplain is rarely covered, periods of intense storm of short duration and seasonal storms will induce a river or stream system into some degree of floodplain encroachment (somewhat regularly, on average, every 1-3 years)(FEMA). Portions of the city fall within the 100-year flood zone (A Zone) and between the 100-year flood from storm surges and waves by the hurricane barrier, which was constructed in 1966. However the areas of the city, which lie outside the barrier (along Rodney French Boulevard down to Clark's Point) fall within the Velocity Zone. Velocity Zone refers to those areas subject to 100-year coastal flooding with velocity (wave action). The FEMA flood zone delineations within the city are shown on the FEMA Flood Zone Designations map within this Plan.

Wetlands

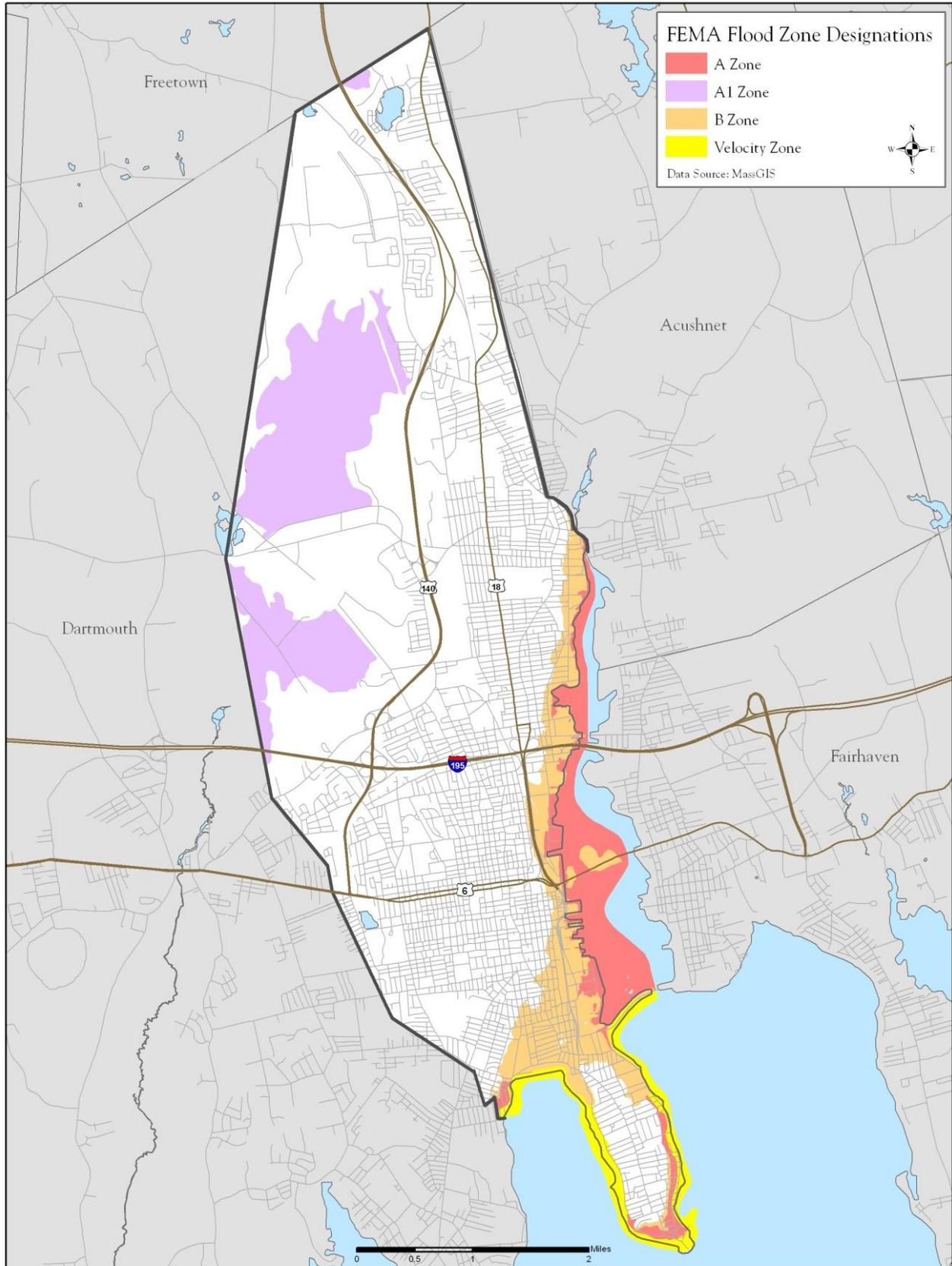
One of Massachusetts' largest, wildest, and most impenetrable swamps, the Acushnet Cedar Swamp, lies mostly within the confines of the City of New Bedford. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the Acushnet Saw Mill Company acquired the Acushnet Cedar Swamp in 1971 for the preservation, enjoyment, and education of the public. In this 1,800 acre area stands an upland forest adjacent to a wetland complex of swamps, bogs, and a pond. About half of the swamp portion is dominated by Atlantic white cedar, ranging in age from 25 to 175 years old. Other species in the swamp include red maple, American holly, mountain laurel, and hemlock. A 70 acre mill pond dammed around 1787 covers very large stumps believed to be the remains of the pre-settlement forest. Adjoining the pond is a bog of about 60 acres where large expanses of leather leaf are separated by swales of sedges and grasses. Small islands of high ground within the swamp add to the diversity of the area. The swamp is located along the northwest side of the city, north of the municipal airport, and west of Route 140 at elevations ranging from 65 feet to about 170 feet.

Map: Water Resources Map



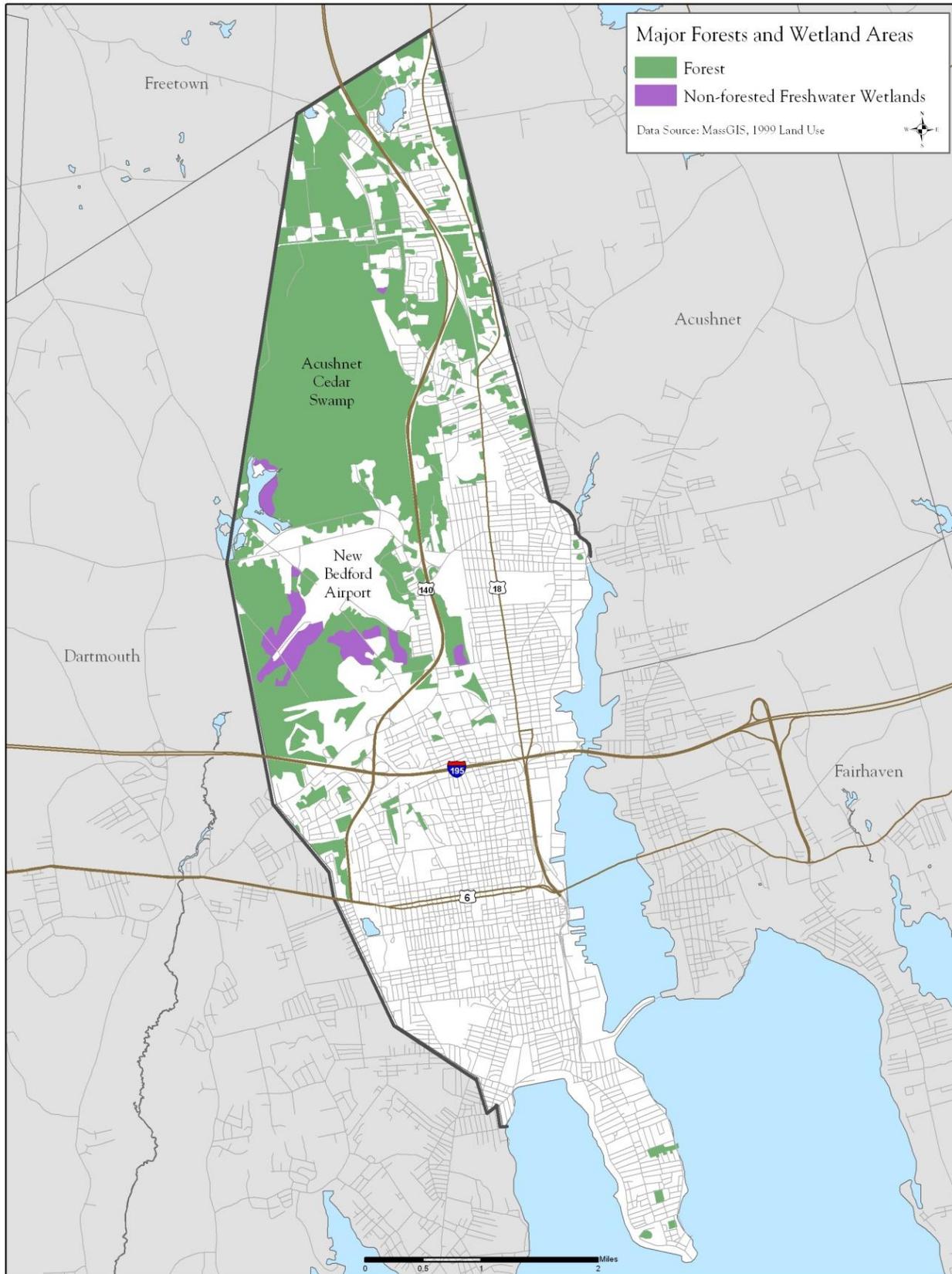
Map prepared by: Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, 2870 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham, MA 02538. April 2007.

Map: FEMA Flood Zones Map



Map prepared by: Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, 2870 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham, MA 02538. February 2007.

Map: Forests and Wetland Areas Map



Map prepared by: Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, 2870 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham, MA 02538. February 2007.

D. Vegetation

While most of the city's land area has been developed, large forested wetland areas remain in the northwestern reaches of the city. These areas are composed mainly of second and third-growth hardwoods with numerous pockets of white pine and several cedar swamps.

The Acushnet Cedar Swamp provides extensive habitat for Atlantic white cedars, which according to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program "have limited distribution in New England and are a priority natural community for protection in Massachusetts". Atlantic white cedar swamps are forested wetland communities with a dense, primarily evergreen canopy, a deciduous shrub layer, and a sparse herb layer dominated by mosses (Atlantic White Cedar Swamps, NHESP, 1998). In addition to Atlantic white cedar, red maple, American holly, mountain laurel, hemlock, high-bush blueberry, swamp azalea, and species of sphagnum moss also exist in the swamp.

On the edge of the Acushnet Cedar Swamp is an acidic shrub fen community, the Turner Pond Bog, which is also a priority community for protection in Massachusetts. The Turner Pond Bog is approximately 60 acres in size, and according to the NHESP one of less than 10 high quality acidic shrub fens in the state. An acidic shrub fen is a non-forested acidic peat land. "Acidic peat lands form on poorly drained sites in areas with cool moist summers, where precipitation exceeds evapotranspiration. The combination of cool temperatures and low amounts of dissolved oxygen and nutrients in the water limits the decomposition of organic matter by microorganisms. Consequently, dead vegetation builds up forming a layer of peat. Acidic shrub fens most often occur along pond margins, slow-moving streams, and along the outlet streams of stream headwater peat lands. They are composed primarily of low-growing, interwoven shrubs with patches of sphagnum moss growing at the shrub bases. Both evergreen and deciduous shrubs occur; typical species include leatherleaf, water-willow, sweet-gale, meadow-sweet, sweet-pepperbush, and alder (Non-forested Acidic Peat lands, NHESP, 1998).

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has identified the Acushnet Cedar Swamp, the Apponagansett Swamp, and the eastern portion of the Hobomock swamp, as "priority habitats of rare species". This designation refers to species protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act regulations (321 CMR 10). The City should make concerted efforts to protect buffer areas around these critically important forested wetlands. Habitat fragmentation must be avoided if the species within these areas are to survive.

Several vascular plant species in New Bedford have been identified by the NHESP as endangered. They include the purple cudweed (*Gamochaeta purpurea*), heartleaf twayblade (*Listera cordata*), lesser snakeroot (*Eupatorium aromaticum*), and bead pinweed (*Lachea pulchella* var.). In addition, the following are considered threatened species: narrow-leaved spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), rigid flax (*Linum medium* var. *texanum*), adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum pusillum*), pale green orchid (*Platanthera flava* var. *herbiola*), Canadian sanicle (*Sanicula canadensis*), and swamp oats (*Sphenopholis pennsylvanica*). Climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*) and Plymouth gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*) are included in the listing of Species of Special Concern.

Street Trees and City Managed Trees

Knowing the importance of trees to urban environments the City continues to expand its share of tree coverage in the city. The City has planted approximately 200 trees in the last several years and has a goal to add an additional five hundred (500) trees per year over the next five years to the city landscape. Street trees are planned to be planted beginning with the Downtown area, radiating outward from Downtown, and then onto main street arteries. Plantings are also planned in New Bedford's cemeteries

and parks. Species known to succeed in urban environments including ginkos, red maples, red oaks, tulip trees, zelkovas, tupelos, plane trees, and elms have been chosen for upcoming plantings. The City hopes to purchase native evergreens such as junipers and pitch pines in the future, which may help in high wind locations along the peninsula. The City also hopes this ambitious initiative will help to revive a renewed spirit in the Adopt-A-Tree program.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Fisheries

A huge seasonal recreational fin fishery exists along New Bedford’s shores. Residents as well as people from as far away as New York and Canada come to fish for scup, flounder, bluefish, and striped bass. Unfortunately, due to high PCB and heavy metal levels, fin fishing; shell fishing and lobstering have been prohibited within New Bedford Harbor since 1979. However, it is important to note that fishing for home consumption may still occur, despite an aggressive trilingual campaign by EPA to educate fisherman about the closure and potential effects of eating contaminated fish or lobsters. A list of seasonally available fish is presented in the table below. The Division of Marine Fisheries and Environmental Law Enforcement regulate some of these fish species as to size and season.

Table 4: Seasonally Available Saltwater Finfish in New Bedford

Species	Season
Tautog	Spring and Fall (common)
Mackeral	Spring (rare)
Flounder (winter)	Spring (rare)
Herring	Spring (reports of good runs started in 1999)
Striped Bass	Spring, Summer, and Fall (schoolies abundant)
Bluefish	Spring, Summer, and Fall (common)
Scup	Summer and Fall (common)
Eel	Spring, Summer, and Fall (populations low to date)
Fluke	Summer and early Fall (rare)
Bonito	Late Summer and early Fall (rare)

New Bedford is also home to several fresh water-fishing areas, including Turners Pond, Sassaquin Pond, and the Paskamansett River. The Paskamansett River begins as an outlet to Turners Pond and winds its way all the way to the Slocums River in Dartmouth. Consumption of fish from Turners Pond is prohibited due to heavy metal contamination. Sassaquin Pond is the most accessible and is heavily utilized by residents. All three water bodies support warm water fish species such as: black crappie, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed sunfish, yellow perch, white perch, red fin pickerel, chain pickerel, American eel, and shiners.

Herring Runs

Anadromous species, such as alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), together known as river herring, have declined dramatically in rivers around Buzzards Bay during the

past couple of centuries. Annually, these fish leave the open ocean to return to the freshwater rivers they were born in to spawn. Historically, these fish were an important human food fishery. Today they are not heavily used for human consumption but are still an important food species for many larger fish, whales, and coastal birds. Currently, the primary human use of herring harvested from Buzzards Bay tributaries is lobster bait.

Most herring runs in Buzzards Bay are not supporting their historical maximum number of fish. One of the primary reasons is that obstructions to migration are stopping or inhibiting the passage of fish upstream to their spawning areas. Other possible reasons certain runs are not producing fish at their historic level are over-fishing or poor water quality. Herring migrate annually up the Acushnet River all the way to the New Bedford Reservoir in the Town of Acushnet.

In 1998, the New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council awarded \$600,000 to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) to construct fish ladders at three dams located in Acushnet that are inhibiting herring migration. The dams are located at Saw Mill Pond, Hailin Mill Pond, and the New Bedford Reservoir. After a year of designing systems for each dam, the Division of Marine Fisheries recently decided that complete removal of both mill pond dams might be the best solution. Installation of a state-of-the-art fish ladder has been constructed at the reservoir. A feasibility study will be necessary to determine if dam removal is appropriate for these sites.

To date, no fish counts have ever been conducted on the number of river herring migrating up the Acushnet River. As part of DMF's plan to improve fish passage in the river, a fish counter will be installed in the Saw Mill Pond in the Town of Acushnet.

Shellfisheries

The history of water quality in New Bedford has been marred by misunderstanding, misuse and an overall belief that things could not change. The turn of the century marked the institution of wastewater management by the development of a collection system that enabled people to control their domestic waste inside their own homes. Regrettably, the waste found its way to the river, harbor and cove via combined sewer overflow (CSO) pipes and the Clark's Cove Pumping Station. Untreated wastewater was also discharge one-half mile off Clark's Point into Buzzards Bay.

According to historic records provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Commissioners of Inland Fisheries and Game, the Department of Environmental Quality and Engineering and the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), portions of Clark's Cove had been classified as prohibited or restricted to the harvest of shellfish since the early 1900's because of the discharge of raw sewerage into the cove.

Between 1900 and 1903 there were 565 cases of Typhoid Fever, which included 93 deaths, documented among the families of shell fisherman and individuals that consumed quahogs in New Bedford. The State Department of Health conducted an investigation of the water quality in the shellfish waters around the city and determined that large quantities of sewerage entered into New Bedford waters. On July 21, 1904 the MA Department of Health requested the Commissioners of Inland Fisheries and Game to prohibit the taking of shellfish from Clark's Cove and portions of the Acushnet River. This was the beginning of the shellfish closures in New Bedford, which has led the City and the Town of Dartmouth to petition the State over sixty times to reopen portions of Clark's Cove to shellfishing (DMF Germano: Sanitary Survey 1992).

A primary wastewater treatment plant was built in the early 1970's and placed on-line in 1973. This facility did little to reduce the water pollution problems in New Bedford, as the CSOs were still a major contributor in the pollution of the harbor and cove. In 1982, New Bedford began to set goals for the reinstatement of an inshore shellfishery. The Shellfish Division collected water samples on a regular basis and delivered them to the Health Department for bacterial testing. Reports were sent to various applicable state agencies and throughout the 1980s and early 1990s pollution sources and problems in the wastewater collection system were located and corrected by the City. A successful sanitary survey of Clark's Cove began in 1990 and concluded with the opening of 700 acres in 1992. New Bedford's Wastewater Division continued to correct the problems exposed by water testing in the cove and the outer harbor, resulting in the opening of additional areas of shellfishing in the cove.

A new wastewater treatment plant was placed on-line in 1996. The improvement of the water quality in Buzzards Bay has resulted in approximately 575 acres of shellfishing area opening in the Bay and 300 acres opening in the Outer Harbor. The opening of shellfishing in Clark's Cove required Dartmouth and New Bedford to establish a regional shellfish management plan and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the DMF; The agreement and the MOU are still functioning and kept on file in the City's shellfish office. As a result in this effort, the New Bedford shellfish industry now has an approximate value of \$250,000 landed value record in 1999. The landed value in 1982 was \$16,000. The value of shellfish in New Bedford after the application of the 4.5% economic multiplier is one million dollars.

Between the 1940s and the 1970s, New Bedford Harbor was also contaminated with PCBs and heavy metals released from manufacturing companies located along the Acushnet River and the harbor. As a result of a settlement between the federal government, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the companies responsible for the contamination, a \$21 million dollar resource restoration fund was established. This fund, governed by the New Bedford Harbor Trustees Council (HTC), is distributed in several grant rounds for environmental restoration projects in the harbor and surrounding areas.

In its first grant round, the HTC awarded a one-year budget of \$298,000 for the restoration and management of shellfish to the Regional Shellfish Restoration Committee (RSRC). The RSRC is comprised of representatives from New Bedford, Dartmouth and Fairhaven. The committee was established at the request of the HTC due to the fact that all of the community's requests for shellfish restoration projects contained similar goals and initiatives. The RSRC was also awarded funding for shellfish restoration projects in the second round. The RSRC requested a two-year budget as suggested by the HTC.

The funding allowed the New Bedford Shellfish Division to accomplish the following initiatives:

- Contaminated shellfish relay programs
- Juvenile shellfish seeding projects
- Clean shellfish relays
- Development of shellfish management plan
- Increased enforcement coverage during the funding cycle

The harvesting of aquatic resources both along the shoreline and offshore is a relatively new concept for New Bedford. In the past, New Bedford residents would purchase Non-Resident Family Permits from other coastal communities, often paying five times as much as local residents. For the first time, our residents had the ability to shellfish in their own community. Although it should be noted that fin fishing and lobstering are still prohibited in certain areas, quahog harvesting is permitted. Family permit sales in New Bedford exceeded 250 in 2004.

Although New Bedford has deep ties to the sea, there has long been a perception that the water environment is less than desirable. Over the last few years this perception has slowly been changing. The restoration of Fort Taber continues to attract many people, and there is an increase in the use of the city's East and West Beaches along Clark's Cove. The residents of New Bedford are now enjoying the many years of persistence and hard work to clean up our harbor, Clark's Cove and the Acushnet River.

Wildlife

The very large, connected forest and wetland areas in northern New Bedford provide habitat for a large number of species, including a few rare species. Some of the more common species include grouse, deer, rabbits, gray squirrels, raccoons, foxes, skunk, and several species of rodents, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

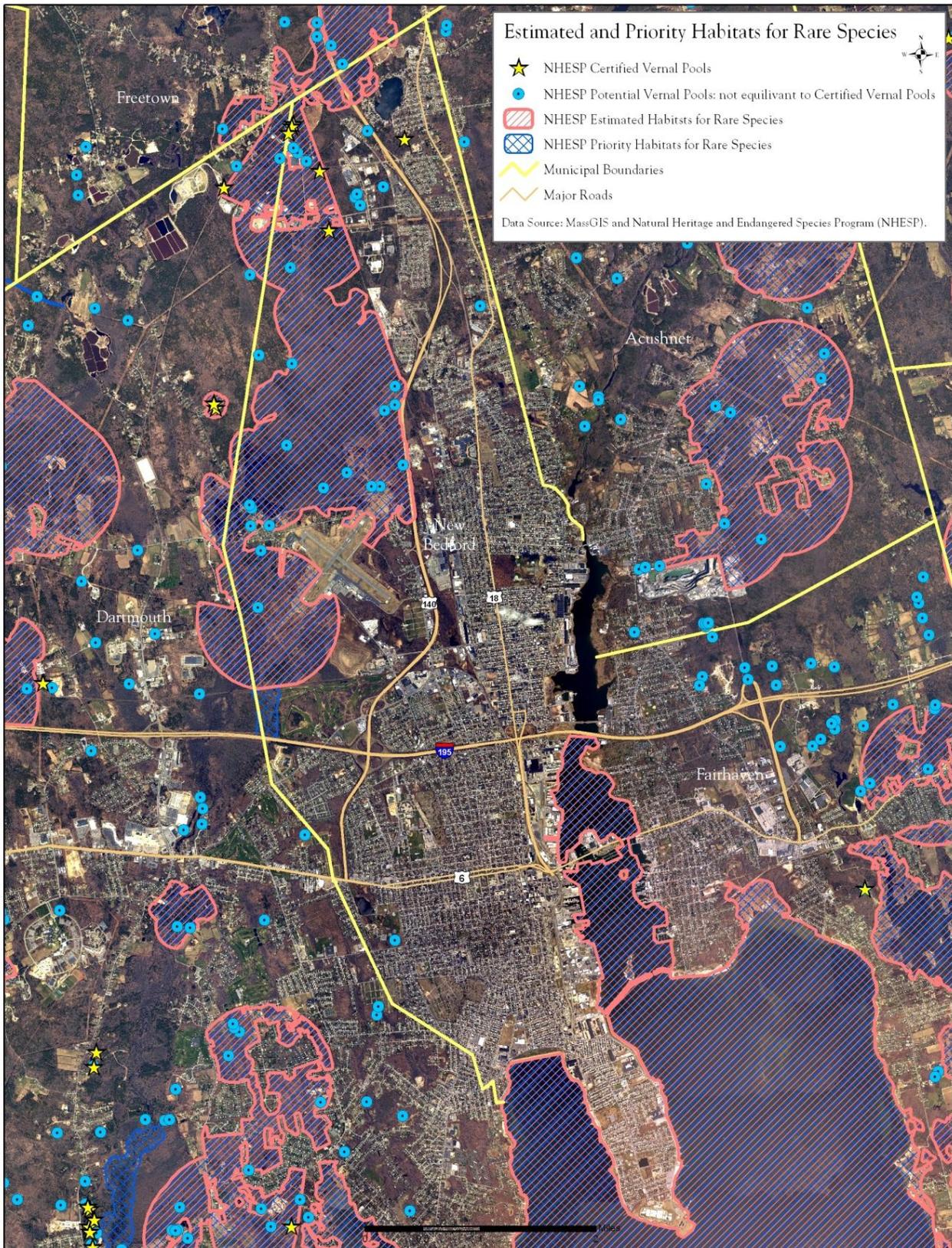
New Bedford also has numerous vernal pools, 5 of which have been certified by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, a division of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Certified vernal pools are provided protection under several state and federal laws, such as the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Title 5, Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, and the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Practices Act.

Vernal pools consist of small, shallow temporary pools that are most evident in the springtime. These pools often dry up in the summer and are therefore unable to support fish communities. However, vernal pools are critical to the survival of a variety of wildlife species, including some salamanders, which breed exclusively in these pools. These salamanders travel in mass migrations during the spring to return and breed in the vernal pool they were born in. A few organisms, such as fairy shrimp, spend their entire life cycle within a single vernal pool. They lay drought-resistant eggs, which hatch when the pool fills with water in the spring. Other wildlife species are attracted to vernal pools because of the abundant prey available. Some of these species include spotted turtles, Blanding's turtles, great blue herons, green herons, and garter snakes.

Rare and Endangered Species

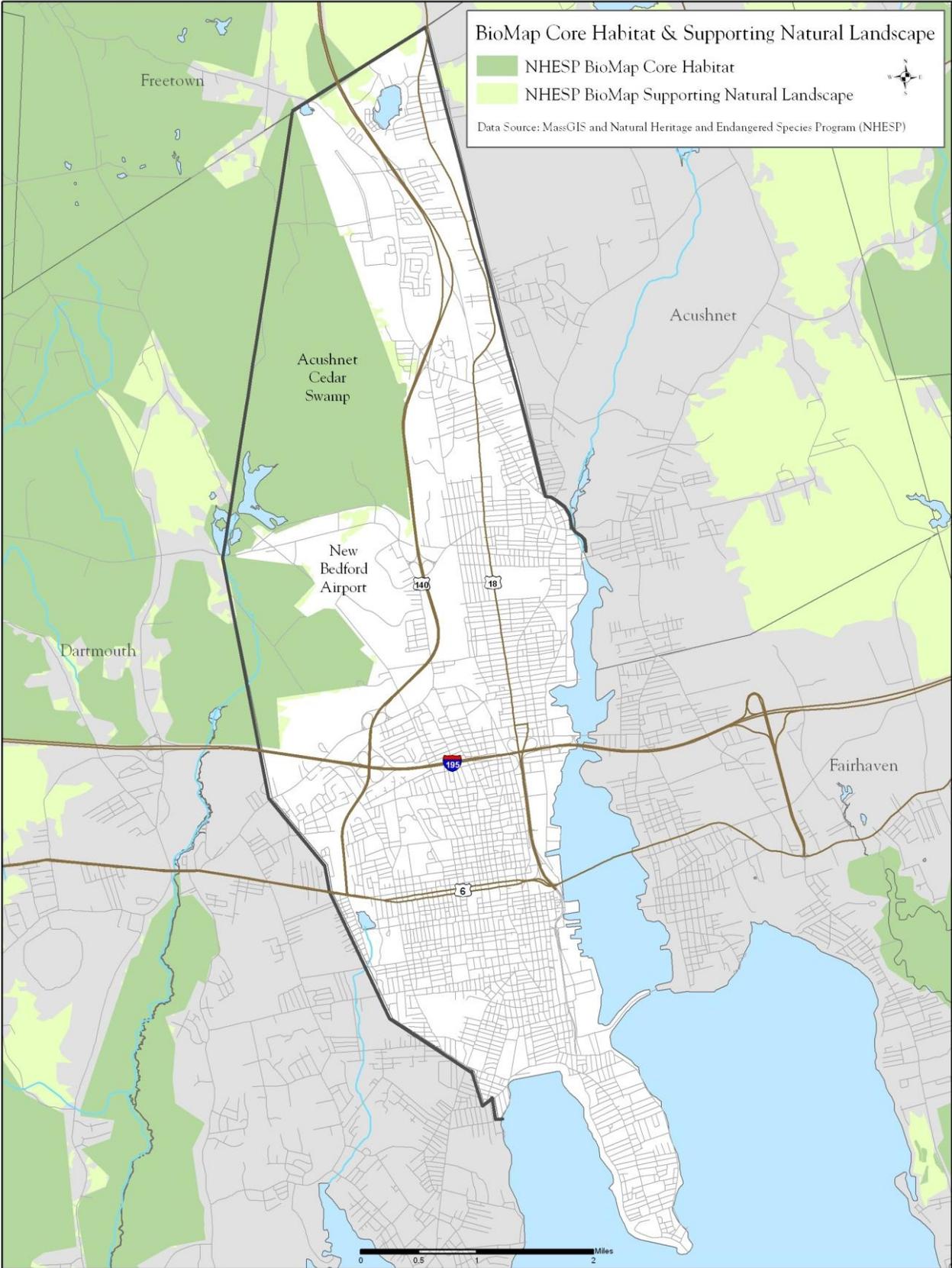
The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has identified several species considered to be Threatened in New Bedford; including the marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*), the Northern Parula (*Parula americana*), the chain fern borer moth (*Papaipema stenocelis*) and the water-willow stem borer (*Papaipema sulphurata*). There are also Species of Special Concern including the least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), Mystic Valley amphipod (*Crangonyx aberrans*), attenuated bluet (*Enallagma daeckii*), American clam shrimp (*Limnadia lenticularis*), pale green pinion moth (*Lithophane viridipallens*).

Map: Estimated and Priority Habitats for Rare Species



Map prepared by: Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, 2870 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham, MA 02538. April 2007.

Map: Core Habitat & Supporting Natural Landscapes



Map prepared by: Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, 2870 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham, MA 02538. April 2007.

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Scenic Landscapes

Clark's Point, a large peninsula in the city's south end, provides panoramic views of Buzzards Bay and the Elizabeth Islands. Clark's Point is surrounded by over 13 acres of beaches. At the eastern tip of this point exists a unique environment including several tidal pools with shoreline vegetation. Tidal pools only exist in very limited numbers on New Bedford's shore. This area would make an excellent spot for an educational area and should be considered for protection.

A notable natural feature, located in the northwestern section of the city, is a large wetland-forest area. The area contains several marshes and cedar swamps, providing an ideal habitat for waterfowl and other species of birds, animals, and plants. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation owns a large section of the Acushnet Cedar Swamp. The City owns conservation land south of the Acushnet Cedar Swamp (known as the Apponagansett Swamp), which runs along the Paskamansett River. The Flora B. Peirce Nature Trail winds for over a mile on the City's land, allowing people the opportunity to observe and enjoy nature.

Major Characteristics or Unusual Geologic Features

New Bedford's major characteristics exist primarily in the coastal and historic nature of the city. Scenic water views and access to the waterfront are important components for New Bedford, while maintaining an active working waterfront. Places of historical significance also play important roles in cultural and recreational enjoyments throughout the city. Given the mostly urban nature of New Bedford, the Acushnet Cedar Swap area is an unusual feature for a city to have.

Cultural and Historic areas

New Bedford is rich in culture and history. On November 12, 1996, the National Park Service designated a section of downtown New Bedford as the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. This 13 block, 33-acre area of the city is one of the newest of the nation's 378 National Park Service areas and commemorates the history and heritage of New Bedford as the world's leading port for the whaling industry. The legislation protecting the park directs the National Park Service to "preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States certain districts, structures, and relics associated with the history of whaling and related social and economic themes in America".

New Bedford was the world capital of the whaling industry during the decades leading up to the Civil War. The whaling merchants of New Bedford operated a complex business network of finance, shipbuilding, barrel making, insurance, ship supply, and rope and sail making. The sponsors and agents of the ships earned huge profits and for a time New Bedford was considered the "richest city in the world".

The National Historical Park and the adjacent National Register Historical Districts embody the historical and cultural resources associated with New Bedford's role as the whaling capital of the world during the mid-19th century. The park includes a broad array of businesses, residential and institutional structures exemplifying the Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate and Victorian styles of architecture; museums; historical exhibits, and records, which convey the importance, diversity, and financial power of the whaling era.

New Bedford's many historic lighthouses have become a great draw for tourists. Because of the preservation effort underway, the city was included in the June 1998 tour of New England Lighthouses given by the United States Lighthouse Society, and in 2002, New Bedford hosted the American Lighthouse Foundation's national conference. Interest groups from six or seven countries came to the city to view the restoration work that was done on the Butlers Flat and Palmer Island Lighthouses.

The Butler's Flat Light Station was built in 1849 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The light has been fully restored, and on April 30, 1998 New Bedford celebrated the Centennial of the Butler Flat Light during a relighting ceremony held 100 years to the hour of its first lighting.

Also on the National Registry of Historic Places are the Palmer's Island Light, Fort Taber Light, and the Lightship New Bedford. The Palmer's Island light was built in 1849 and is the central element of the City Seal. The City's motto "Lucem Diffundo" (I diffuse light) alludes to this lighthouse and to New Bedford's fame as the whale oil capital of the world. A year after the Butler Flat Light Centennial celebration, the Palmers Island Lighthouse celebrated its 105th anniversary with its own relighting ceremony. Palmer Island Light now features a new solar-powered beacon.

The Fort Taber Light was built atop Fort Rodman in the 1880s and replaced an existing lighthouse named the Clark's Point Light. This light, along with the Lightship New Bedford will also be restored in the near future. The Fort Taber Light has been featured in Lighthouse Digest, an international lighthouse magazine.

New Bedford is also the homeport to the official vessel of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The 105-year-old Ernestina ex Effie M. Morrissey, a 156 foot Essex-built Grand Banks fishing schooner was launched in 1894. Ernestina is a National Historic Landmark with a remarkable past as a fisherman, arctic explorer and Cape Verdean packet. She now brings to life maritime history and education to students of all ages and is open to the public for tours or day sails.

Source: National Park Service and New Bedford Office of Tourism and Marketing

Unique Environments

As mentioned previously, New Bedford is home to the 1,100-acre Acushnet Cedar Swamp State Reservation, dedicated as a National Natural Landmark in 1972, which borders the city on the west. It is one the state's largest, wildest and most impenetrable swamps and contains a diversity of conditions and species in the glaciated section of the oak-chestnut forest type and is considered a Unique Resource Zone. Apponagansett Swamp, located south of the New Bedford Airport, is home to the spotted turtle, a species of special concern, and also a threatened plant - swamp oat - so rare in Massachusetts that only three other remaining locations are known, all on Cape Cod.

G. Environmental Challenges

While New Bedford has a rich and prosperous history as the one time whaling capital of the world, it has also seen the abuses and pressures that have historically accompanied residential and industrial growth - loss of open space and natural areas, filling of wetlands and salt marshes, and contamination of land and water. The following section highlights some of New Bedford's primary environmental concerns.

Hazardous waste and brownfield sites

Superfund Sites

New Bedford has two Superfund sites on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List: New Bedford Harbor and Sullivan's Ledge. The National Priorities List (NPL) is a published list of hazardous waste sites in the country that are eligible for extensive, long-term cleanup under the Superfund program.

New Bedford Harbor

From the 1940s to the late 1970s, two electrical capacitor-manufacturing companies improperly disposed of PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) and heavy metal laden wastes, resulting in the contamination of New Bedford Harbor from the upper Acushnet River to Buzzards Bay. Ambient air, surface water, ground water, soils, sediments, and the food chain were all contaminated, as well as the industrial plant sites.

In 1983, New Bedford Harbor was designated a Superfund site, eligible for Federal clean-up action, or remediation. In addition, Massachusetts designated the harbor as the Commonwealth's priority Superfund site. EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers completed Phase I of the remediation effort in 1995, which involved dredging the "hot spots" in the river containing over 4,000 ppm (parts per million) of PCBs. From April 1994 to September 1995, 14,000 cubic yards of sediment from 5-acres of the most heavily contaminated sediment was dredged and disposed in an off-site permitted landfill. The remaining contaminated areas of the harbor are planned to be dredged. EPA's current remedy calls for shoreline containment of contaminated sediment in three combined disposal facilities (CDFs) and in an off-site permitted landfill. To date, dredged material has been disposed off-site and construction of CDFs has not commenced and EPA's schedule for constructing the CDFs is uncertain. However, once completed, the CDFs will be available for a beneficial shoreline reuse.

Because of the extensive nature of the contamination and the fact that it affects the harbor, this Superfund site has negatively impacted New Bedford's environment, economy, and recreational potential. The years of exposure to PCBs has destroyed or severely degraded natural resources north of the hurricane barrier. Recreation uses, other than boating, are not allowed and all fishing is prohibited. Nonetheless, the City is maximizing recreational opportunities that are compatible with water and sediment quality in the harbor. Some recent examples include the completion of the new Riverside Park, which offers users views of the harbor but restricts access to shoreline sediment, and recent efforts to introduce competitive rowing on New Bedford Harbor. Both examples help demonstrate that while significant work remains until cleanup is complete, recreational opportunities exist for residents to safely enjoy this resource.

Sullivan's Ledge

Sullivan's Ledge was an abandoned granite quarry about 12 acres in size, in the northwest corner of New Bedford. The site, owned and operated by the City, was used for decades as an industrial dump. In 1982, the EPA detected high levels of PCBs in ambient air and soil. EPA investigations in the spring of 1983

found significant levels of PCBs, vinyl chloride, and chlorinated industrial solvents in soil and ground water. An unnamed stream was located adjacent to the site. Wetlands bordered the stream, which flowed into a 13-acre wooded wetland (Middle Marsh). The stream and Middle Marsh were also impacted by contamination from Sullivan’s Ledge.

To remediate the site, contaminated sediment was excavated and placed on the 12 acres that comprised the former gravel pit. The unnamed stream was lined and the site was capped. A groundwater treatment system was constructed to pump and treat contaminated groundwater. Wetlands impacted by contaminated soil excavation were restored, including the Middle Marsh. All components of the remediation, including the cap, groundwater treatment plant, and restored wetland, are actively maintained and monitored.

Contaminated Sites

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) maintains a list of sites where reported releases of oil or hazardous wastes have occurred. As of March 2007, there are 466 sites in New Bedford. DEP lists these sites by categories shown in Table 5.

Sites are usually Tier Classified using a Numerical Ranking System (NRS). The NRS scores sites on a point system based on a variety of factors. These include the site’s complexity, the type of contamination, and the potential for human or environmental exposure to the contamination. In addition, some sites are automatically classified as Tier 1 sites, DEP’s highest priority, if they pose an imminent hazard, affect public water supplies, or miss regulatory deadlines (Tier 1D). New Bedford has two Tier 1A sites: New Bedford Harbor and Sullivan’s Ledge.

Source: Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup

Table 5: Department of Environmental Protection Reportable Releases in New Bedford

Category	Number of sites in New Bedford
ADREG (Adequately Regulated): A site/release where response actions are deemed adequately regulated under another DEP program or by another government agency	70
DEP Not a Disposal Site - DEP has determined that these locations did not need to be reported and are not disposal sites.	1
DEP No Further Action -Response actions were conducted and DEP determined that no further action was needed at the site.	12
Down gradient Property Status (DPS) - A site where a DPS Submittal to DEP has stated that contamination on the property is coming from an up gradient property.	6
Invalid Submittal - An RAO Statement that was submitted for the site has been determined to be invalid by DEP	1
LSP No Further Action - Response actions were conducted and a Licensed Site Professional has determined that no further action was needed for the site.	2
Pending No Further Action - A document was submitted to DEP asserting that a site assessment had determined that no further action was required. These submittals are considered pending until DEP audits them.	2

RAO (Response Action Outcome) - A site/release where an RAO Statement was submitted. An RAO Statement asserts that response actions were sufficient to achieve a level of no significant risk or at least ensure that all substantial hazards are eliminated.	256
Remedy Operation Status - A site where a remedial system, which relies upon Active Operation and Maintenance, is being operated for the purpose of achieving a Permanent Solution.	7
Remedy Operation Status Terminated – A site where a remedy operation status has been terminated.	1
RTN Closed - Future response actions addressing the release associated with this Release Tracking Number (RTN) will be conducted as part of the response actions planned for the site under the “primary” RTN.	25
Special Project - The site has Special Project status.	2
Statement Retracted - An RAO Statement that had been submitted for the site has been retracted.	1
TCLASS (Tier Classification) - A site/release where a Tier Classification Submittal was received, but the classification type has not been confirmed by DEP.	2
Tier 1A: A site/release receiving a total Numerical Ranking System (NRS) score equal to or greater than 550. These sites/releases require a permit and the person undertaking response actions must do so under direct DEP supervision.	2
Tier 1B: A site/release receiving a total Numerical Ranking System (NRS) score of less than 550 and equal to or greater than 450. These sites/releases also require a permit, but response actions may be performed under the supervision of a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) without prior DEP approval.	6
Tier 1C: A site/release receiving a total Numerical Ranking System (NRS) score of less than 450 and equal to or greater than 350. A site receiving a total score of less than 350, but which meets any of the Tier 1 Inclusionary Criteria specified in 310 CMR 40.0520(2)(a), is also classified as a Tier 1C. These sites/releases also require a permit, but response actions may be performed under the supervision of a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) without prior DEP approval.	1
Tier 1D - A site/release where the responsible party fails to provide a required submittal to DEP by a specified deadline.	29
Tier 2: A site/release receiving a total Numerical Ranking System (NRS) score of less than 350, unless the site meets any of the Tier 1 Inclusionary Criteria (see above). Permits are not required at Tier 2 sites/releases and response actions may be performed under the supervision of a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) without prior DEP approval. All pre-1993 transition sites that have accepted waivers are categorically Tier 2 sites.	21
UNCLASSIFIED - A release that has not reached its Tier Classification deadline (usually one year after it was reported), and where an RAO Statement, DPS Submittal, or Tier Classification Submittal has not been received by DEP.	12
Utility-Related Abatement Measure – A site where a measure is conducted in response to contamination discovered during the installation, repair, replacement or decommissioning of underground utilities such as sanitary sewerage, water, or drainage systems, steam lines and natural gas pipelines.	5
WCSPRM - A Waiver Completion Statement has been submitted to DEP.	2

Landfills-Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste from New Bedford is transported to the Crapo Hill Landfill, which is located in the Town of Dartmouth and operated by the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District. The District is composed of the City of New Bedford and the Town of Dartmouth. Recyclable materials are transported to various local markets including A.W. Martin (New Bedford), Mid City Scrap (Westport), AAA Recycling (New Bedford) and BFI Recyclery (Brockton). Leaf and yard waste is transported to the Crapo Hill Landfill for composting and is reused around the landfill site. In addition, the Solid Waste Division operates a Solid Waste Transfer Station for processing the recyclables as well as a drop-off recycling center, which accepts a large variety of items on a daily basis.

Erosion

New Bedford shoreline is protected by the Hurricane Barrier built by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1966. The Hurricane Barrier protects the harbor from tidal impacts and storm surges. The Hurricane Barrier coupled with the primarily gently sloped land contributes to very little concern for erosion along the coastal areas of the city.

Chronic flooding and Sedimentation

Flood Hazard and Sedimentation areas; Due to incremental development over time, there are at least two places within the city that are known to flood although they may not be within a designated FEMA floodplains.

A flood study was completed in 9/2007 for an area of New Bedford located in the northeast portion of the city from Stratford Street northerly to Acushnet Ave. The severe flooding impacts to this neighborhood, from even small storm events has been evaluated in a Report Titled: *City of New Bedford Stratford Street and Barnum Street drainage Report (CDM, Inc 9/2007)*. Past residential development within low lying areas, random piping of streams and intermittent channels and a lack of stormwater management contribute to this problem. The lack of stormwater management also contributes to the sedimentation of the remaining fragments of wetlands in that watershed.

The Upper Buttonwood Brook watershed floods frequently with the brook overtopping the Banks and flooding CVS parking lot (at the corner of Route 6 and Route 140) and Buttonwood Park and Court Street. The increase in impervious area in the upper watershed and lack of detention facilities contribute to this flooding. The flooding can also cause sedimentation of Buttonwood Pond if it is laden with street runoff. Recently more vigilant street sweeping may be helping to minimize this impact.

Ground and surface water pollution Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)

Much of the city's sewer system is a combined system, the function of which is to collect sewage and stormwater runoff and convey them to an interceptor system. Combined flow in excess of the interceptor capacity is discharged directly into the harbor and Buzzards Bay by the regulators through Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) outlets. The city presently has 27 CSOs, a number of which can activate in wet weather, dependent upon the intensity and duration of the rainfall event.

The City has been actively addressing CSOs since 1989. The frequency and severity of overflows has declined in the past six years as the result of the Waste Water Division's efforts to improve maintenance of the collection system and complete capital projects that have increased conveyance capacity. Although current data is not available on either the total volume of CSO discharges or the frequency of

overflows, one indication supporting this contention is that the city's efforts have resulted in the reopening of two large shellfish beds that have been closed for over 30 years. Shell fishing areas are particularly sensitive to the adverse impacts of CSO discharges and reopening of the beds is indicative of the fact that these impacts are being mitigated. Mitigation of CSOs is a costly and time-consuming process. It will take several years to separate the system and it is estimated that it will cost upwards of \$200 million.

Fairhaven's Waste Water Treatment Facility

Treated sewage from Fairhaven's Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) is discharged directly into inner New Bedford Harbor from a discharge pipe off South Street in Fairhaven. On average, the WWTF discharges 2.2 million gallons per day (mgd) of secondarily treated sewage from homes mainly located on the western side of Fairhaven. However, the facility also services an increasing number of homes in other areas of the town, as well as homes in the Town of Mattapoisett.

Wastewater from the treatment facility, as well as the CSOs discussed above, contribute a significant amount of nitrogen (as well as other contaminants) to New Bedford Harbor. Nitrogen, in excess, compromises water quality and living resources in the harbor by contributing to eutrophication. These pollution issues are further compounded by the presence of the hurricane barrier. Constructed in the 1960s, the hurricane barrier significantly reduces the amount of flushing with clean water from the outer harbor and Buzzards Bay. The lack of adequate tidal exchange has resulted in a concentration of pollutants within the inner harbor, leading to the complete eradication of eelgrass and benthic animal communities. The inner harbor is one of the most eutrophic embayments in Buzzards Bay.

The Fairhaven WWTF has a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which allows the facility to discharge up to 5.0 mgd of nitrogen.

Environmental Equity Issues

The City of New Bedford is acutely aware of environmental equity issues as it is home to the largest environmental justice population in southeastern Massachusetts, and where a majority of the EJ population meet all three criteria (income, minority, and low income). As demonstrated above, the city has experienced a long history of environmental challenges which have resulted in the loss of land and access to water resources due to contamination and almost complete build out. In addition to the health impacts of these challenges, environmental concerns have contributed to a loss of commercial investment and reduced property values in significant portions of the city. For these reasons the City takes very seriously the concerns for EJ populations and actively advocates for the continued progress to remediate past misuse in order to increase access to healthy open space and water resources for its residents.

Section 5: Inventory of Land of Conservation and Recreation Interest

The protection of open space is especially significant in urban areas, such as New Bedford. Open space is not just a priority for the sake of preservation – it is also important in the revitalization of urban areas. City parks, protected nature reserves, community gardens and greenways create a quality of life that people want in their communities, which stimulates economic growth by attracting businesses. Open space helps revitalize urban areas when it is utilized to attract residents and visitors for outdoor recreational pursuits. In older industrial cities, open space balances the hardscapes created by mill buildings, such as those predominantly located along the Acushnet River. By creating greenways and riverwalks, we have the opportunity to once again open the waterfront for public use, providing flood protection and enhancing the views of the river, harbor and bay.

A. Protected Lands

Land is considered protected if it falls into one or more of the following categories:

- State land purchased with the use of federal funds, therefore covered by PL 88-578
- State land owned by a state conservation agency, therefore covered by Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution
- City land owned by or under the jurisdiction of:
 - Conservation Commission
 - Water Department
 - Any city department if dedicated to open space/conservation by a permanent deed restriction
- Private land:
 - Owned by a nonprofit organization dedicated to land conservation (i.e. land trust)
 - Protected in perpetuity by a conservation or deed restriction
 - Protected by the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program
 - Protected by a conservation restriction under the DEP's Wetland Restriction Program

Conservation Restrictions

Massachusetts General Laws chapter 184, sections 31-33, established Conservation restrictions as a legal method of preserving open space. A conservation restriction is an enforceable agreement between landowners and a government body by which the owners agree to keep their land in the same state as it is at the time of agreement, reserving the right to conduct farming, forestry, or other designated uses. The restriction runs with the land, binding subsequent owners, and is enforceable in perpetuity. The title to the property remains with the owner and the public gains no rights to enter the property without permission. Conservation restrictions are recorded with the deed in a public restriction tract index in the Registry of Deeds and are subject to approval by the local selectmen and the Secretary of Environmental Affairs through the Division of Conservation Services. Because the land is encumbered the full and fair market value of the property is reduced.

Farmland, wetlands, forestland, golf courses, and campgrounds, qualify for conservation restrictions under the state guidelines. By restricting their land, owners forfeit the right to develop house lots. The community benefits by preserving open space without the expenses of purchase, insurance or maintenance, or outright loss of all tax revenue. New Bedford has a Conservation Restriction on one parcel that was deeded to the City of New Bedford as open space with the Conservation Restriction held by the Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Preservation Trust. Additionally the Conservation Commission will soon

be holding two Conservation Restrictions on parcels of land owned by the Greater New Bedford Industrial Foundation.

Key to Parcel Inventory Codes:

Ownership/Manager

CNB City of New Bedford
NBHA New Bedford Housing Authority
COM Commonwealth of Massachusetts
PRV Private
PRB Parks, Recreation & Beaches
NBHA New Bedford Housing Authority
NBSD New Bedford School Department
DCR Department of Conservation and Recreation
CNB City of New Bedford
DPI Department of Public Infrastructure
HDC Harbor Development Commission
CC Conservation Commission
PRV Private

Recreation Potential

Limited – limited by physical features and/or not a promoted use
Existing – recreational uses present
Potential – potential future recreational uses

Public Access

Free – Free and open to the public
Fee- Open to the public, usage fee

Zoning

RA Residence A
RB Residence B
RC Residence C
MUB Mixed Use Business
IA Industrial A
IB Industrial B
IC Industrial C
WI Waterfront Industrial

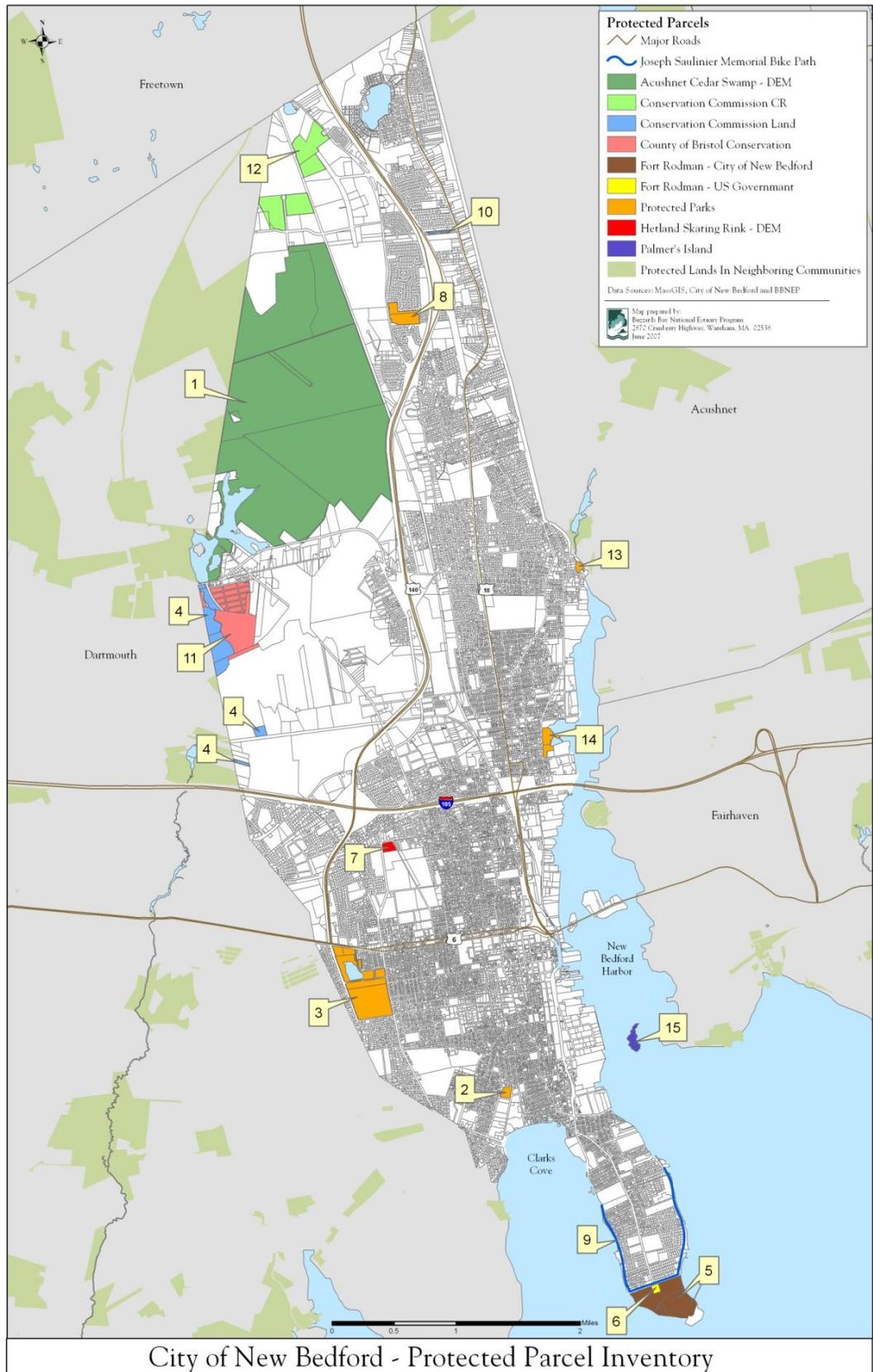
Table: Inventory of Protected Parcels

#	Property Name	Acres	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Grants Used
1	Acushnet Cedar Swamp	1,250	COM	DCR	Wetlands, Open Space	Good	Limited	Limited	RB	State Owned Conservation Land	N/A
2	Ashley Park	5.1	CNB	PRB	Park-Playground, Recreation Fields, Splash Pad, Walking, Senior Center	Good	Existing	Free	RA	Protected	Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds
3	Buttonwood Park	97	CNB	PRB	Park-Playground, Recreation Fields, Tennis & Basketball Courts, Walking Path, Nature Path, Pond, Greenhouse, Sensory Garden, Library, Zoo	Excellent	Existing	Free	RA	Protected	Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds; Urban Self Help
4	Flora B. Peirce Nature Trail	148	CNB	CC	Nature Trails within Acushnet Cedar Swamp	Excellent	Existing	Free	RB	State Owned Conservation Land	N/A
5	Fort Rodman/ Fort Taber	40	CNB	PRB, DPI	Park, Playground, Beaches & Bathhouse, Walking/ Biking/ Skating/Nature paths, Picnic areas, Community Center, Site Museum	Good	Existing	Free	RA	Protected	Urban Self-Help
6	Fort Rodman/ Fort Taber	1.5	COM	PRB, DPI	(see above)	Excellent	Existing	Free	RA	Protected	Urban Self-Help
7	Hetland Skating Rink	4.6	COM	DCR	Ice Skating Rink	Good	Existing	Fee	RA	Protected	N/A
8	Pine Hill Park	18	CNB	PRB	Park-Walking, Playground, Basketball Courts	Poor	Existing	Free	RB	Protected	Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Grant (1973)

#	Property Name	Acres	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Grants Used
9	Joseph Saulnier Memorial Bike Path	N/A	CNB	PRB	Bicycle/Walking Path	Excellent	Existing	Free	RA, RB	Protected	DCR Grant
10	Conservation Land	2.07	CNB	CNB	Conservation Land	Excellent	N/A	None	RA	Conservation Restriction	—
11	County of Bristol Conservation Land	—	BC	CC	Conservation Land	Excellent	Existing	Free	RB	Protected Conservation Land	N/A
12	Industrial Park CRs	—	—	—	Conservation Land	Excellent	Limited	None	IC	Conservation Restriction	N/A
13	River's End Park		CNB	CNB	Nature Explorer Park (in development)	Excellent	Potential	Free	RA	Protected	Urban Self Help
14	Riverside Park	22.3	CNB	PRB	Park- Playground, Turf Soccer Field, Skate park, Water feature	Good	Existing	Free	IB	Protected	Urban Self Help
15	Palmer's Island	5.6	CNB	CNB	Historic Lighthouse	Poor	Limited	Limited	RA	Protected	Harbor Trustees Funds

Map: Protected Parcels Map

#	Parcel Name
1	Acushnet Cedar Swamp
2	Ashley Park
3	Buttonwood Park
4	Flora B. Peirce Nature Trail
5	Fort Rodman/ Fort Taber
6	Fort Rodman/ Fort Taber
7	Hetland Skating Rink
8	Pine Hill Park
9	Joseph Saulnier Memorial Bike Path
10	Conservation Land
11	County of Bristol Conservation Land
12	Industrial Park CRs
13	(Former) Reliable Truss Property
14	Riverside Park
15	Palmer's Island



City of New Bedford - Protected Parcel Inventory

B. Unprotected Lands

The inventory of Unprotected Parcels includes recreational areas, such as parks and greens, and other lands which are under the jurisdiction of the Park Department, School Department facilities, cemeteries (which are often used for walking), and private recreational areas.

Land is considered unprotected if it falls into one or more of the following categories:

- Unrestricted federal land
- Unrestricted state land
- City land:
 - Not owned by the Conservation Commission or otherwise restricted
 - Tax title properties
- MGL Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B lands
- Selected unrestricted privately owned open space

Chapter 61, 61A & 61B

Chapter 61 (Forestland Taxation Act) is administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for properties of contiguous forestland of ten acres or more. It is designed to give favorable tax treatment to a landowner interested in keeping forestland undeveloped and in wood production. Land, which is certified under Chapter 61, is assessed at 5% of fair market value or at \$10 per acre, whichever is greater. An 8% wood products tax is paid at the time of harvest. Chapter 61 defers payment of a portion of the property taxes until timber is cut and income is realized. Landowners wishing to qualify for the program must have a 10 year DCS approved forestry management plan, which may include activities such as harvesting or timber stand improvements. The City of New Bedford has only one parcel of land enrolled in Chapter 61 program.

Chapter 61A (Farmland Assessment Act) is designed primarily for lands used for agricultural or horticultural purposes, and can cover both farmlands and woodlands of a single farmer. The property owner must have at least 5 acres of land in farm use, and must demonstrate minimum yearly gross sales of farm products, based on the number of acres requested for application. Required annual sales must be \$500. for the first 5 acres, and for each acre above the first five: \$5.00 for farmland and \$.50 for woodland. There is usually an 80% reduction in assessed value under the Chapter 61A program. Presently, there are no parcels enrolled in this program in New Bedford.

Chapter 61B (Open Space/Recreation Act) is designed to preserve open space and promote recreational uses, such as golf courses and hunting clubs. Property owners must have at least 5 contiguous acres to qualify and the land must be maintained in one of the following ways: 1) the land must be kept in a natural, wild or open condition and does not have to be open to the public or, 2) it must be used for recreational purposes and must be open to the public or to the members of a non-profit organization. The tax on the land is based on the commercial tax rate for that fiscal year applied to the value of the land for recreational purposes, rather than its fair market value. Parcels open to the public may be used for hiking, camping, or nature study. New Bedford has no Chapter 61B parcels.

All of the Chapter 61 statutes allow landowners to withdraw their property from classification at the end of the 10-year period. However, if removal is done before the end of the 10 year period or, if during the ten year period, the land is not maintained as it was classified, the landowner must either pay a conveyance tax or a rollback tax for that time period, whichever is higher. It also grants the town the right of first refusal on lands being sold for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes. The town

must match a bona fide offer for conversion of the property from its forest, agricultural, or recreational use.

Key to Unprotected Parcel Inventory Codes:

Owner/Manager

CNB City of New Bedford
CC Conservation Commission
COM Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DPI Department of Public Infrastructure
HDC Harbor Development Commission
PRV Private
PRB Parks, Recreation & Beaches
NBHA New Bedford Housing Authority
NBSD New Bedford School Department
DCR Department of Conservation and Recreation

Recreational Potential

Existing – recreational uses present
Limited - Not formally promoted, or needs improvements
Potential – potential future recreational uses

Public Access

Unofficial - Public usage at non-dedicated school times possible; Access to housing authority property by non-residents is possible but not formally promoted.

Protected

UP – Unprotected
P – Protected

Zoning

RA Residence A
RB Residence B
RC Residence C
B Business
IA Industrial A
IB Industrial B
IC Industrial C
WI Waterfront Industrial

Table: Inventory of Unprotected Parcels

#	Property Name	Acres	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Grants Used
1	Ashley School	3.8	CNB	NBSD	School Yard	Excellent	Limited	Free	RB	UP	N/A
2	Baby Kenny's Tot Lot	0.3	CNB	PRB	Playground, Walking	Good	Existing	Free	RC	UP	N/A
3	Beauregard/Pina Park & Playground	1.0	CNB	PRB	Playground, Walking	Good	Existing	Free	MUB	UP	N/A
4	Bedford Village	1.2	PRV	PRV	Lawns, Playground Equipment	Good	Existing	Unofficial	MUB	UP	N/A
5	Belleville Ave. Playground	1.0	CNB	PRB	Basketball Court	Fair	Existing	Free	IB	UP	N/A
	Ben Rose Field	7.0	CNB	PRB	Recreation Fields, Splash Pad, Playground	Excellent	Existing	Free	WI	UP	N/A
6	Blue Meadow Housing Project	8.5	NBHA	NBHA	Lawns	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RC	UP	N/A
7	Bonney Street Tot Lot	0.5	CNB	PRB	Playground, Walking	Fair	Existing	Free	RC	UP	N/A
8	Brickewood Housing Project	20.7	CNB	NBHA	Lawns, Basketball Court	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RC	UP	N/A
9	Brooklawn Park	82.0	CNB	PRB	Park- Walking, Tennis & Basketball Courts, Recreation Fields, Coops, Community Center, Nature Paths, Splash Pad, Playground, Duck Pond	Good	Existing	Free	RA	UP	N/A

#	Property Name	Acres	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Grants Used
	Camara Field	1.75	CNB	PRB	Recreational Fields	Good	Existing	Free	MUB	UP	N/A
10	Carter Brooks School	10.0	CNB	NBSD	Lawn/ Recreational Field	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RB	UP	N/A
11	Campbell School	8.4	CNB	NBSD	Lawn/ Recreational Field	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RB	UP	N/A
12	Carney Academy School	4.8	CNB	NBSD	Playground, Lawn, Basketball Court, Wall-Ball Court	Good	Limited	Unofficial	MUB	UP	N/A
13	Clasky-Common Park	7.0	CNB	PRB	Walking Paths, Basketball Court, Playground, Splash Pad	Excellent	Existing	Free	RA	UP	N/A
14	Clegg Field/ Lot 13	8.0	CNB	PRB	Recreational Fields, Club house	Good	Existing	Free	RA	UP	N/A
15	Roberto Clemente Park	0.6	CNB	PRB	Basketball Courts, Covered Pavilion, Picnic areas	Good	Existing	Free	MUB	UP	N/A
16	Congdon School	1.3	CNB	NBSD	Lawn, Parking Lot-Pavement Games (Four Square, hopscotch etc.)	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RC	UP	N/A
17	County Street School	2.5	CNB	NBSD	School Administration Building	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RA	UP	N/A
18	Custom House Square	0.2	CNB	CNB	Grassy Knolls, Walking Paths	Excellent	Existing	Free	IA	UP	N/A
19	Dias Field	9.3	CNB	PRB	Recreational Fields, Club house, Basketball Court, Playground	Good	Existing	Free, Limited-Rec.Fields	RB	UP	N/A
20	Dunbar School	4.3	CNB	NBSD	Parking Lot-Pavement Games (four square, hopscotch etc)	Good	Limited	Unofficial	MUB	UP	N/A

#	Property Name	Acres	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Grants Used
21	Duncan Dottin Place	9.5	NBHA	NBHA	Lawns, Walking Paths	Good	Limited	Unofficial	MUB	UP	N/A
22	East Beach	13.6	CNB	PRB	Beach, Beach Volleyball Court	Fair	Existing	Free	RA	UP	N/A
23	Francis Field	1.8	CNB	PRB	Open Space-Lawn	Good	Existing	Free	N/A	UP	N/A
24	Alfred Gomes School/ Park	9.0	CNB	NBSD	Walking Paths, Basketball Court, Recreational Fields, Playground	Good	Limited	Unofficial	MUB	UP	N/A
25	Harrington Playground (Hathaway School)	1.5	CNB	PRB	Basketball Courts, Playground	Good	Existing	Free	RB	UP	N/A
26	Hawes' Chapter 61 Land	29.7	PRV	PRV	Gravel Pit, Wetland Forest, Atlantic White Cedar present	Excellent	Limited	None	RA	UP	N/A
27	Hayden-McFadden School	4.1	CNB	NBSD	Basketball Court, Lawns, Playground	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RC	UP	N/A
28	Hazelwood Park/ Townley Beach	23.1	CNB	PRB	Walking, Basketball Courts, Senior Center, Lawn Bowling fields, Gazebo	Fair	Existing	Free	RA	UP	N/A
29	Edward James Playground	1.0	CNB	PRB	Basketball Court, Playground, Covered Picnic Area	Good	Existing	Free	IA	UP	N/A
30	Keith Middle	11.2	CNB	NBSD	Lawn, Gymnasium	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RB	UP	N/A

#	Property Name	Acres	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Grants Used
31	Kempton School	1.6	CNB	NBSD	Pavement Basketball Court, Grass Lawn Area	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RB	UP	N/A
32	Lincoln School	4.5	CNB	NBSD	Synthetic playfield, Playground, Gymnasium	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RB	UP	N/A
	Loretta Bourque Park	0.2	CNB		Neighborhood Pocket Park-Walking Path	Excellent	Existing	Free	RC	UP	N/A
33	Magnett Park	1.5	CNB	PRB	Basketball Courts, Playground, Splash Pad	Excellent	Existing	Free	RB	UP	N/A
34	Marine Park/ Prince Henry the Navigator Park	9.7	CNB	PRB, HDC	Viewing Areas, Playground (abuts Pope's Island Marina-220 Slips)	Good	Existing	Free	RB	UP	N/A
35	Andrea McCoy Recreation Center	2.8	CNB	PRB	Gymnasium, Stage area, Recreation Center	Excellent	Existing	Free/ Fee for some programs	RA	UP	Economic Development Incentive Grants, CDBG
36	Monte Playground	0.7	CNB	PRB	Basketball Courts, Splash Pad, Playground	Excellent	Existing	Free	RC	UP	N/A
37	Morton Ave. Soccer Field	12.1	CNB	PRB	Soccer Field	Good	Existing	Free	RA	UP	N/A

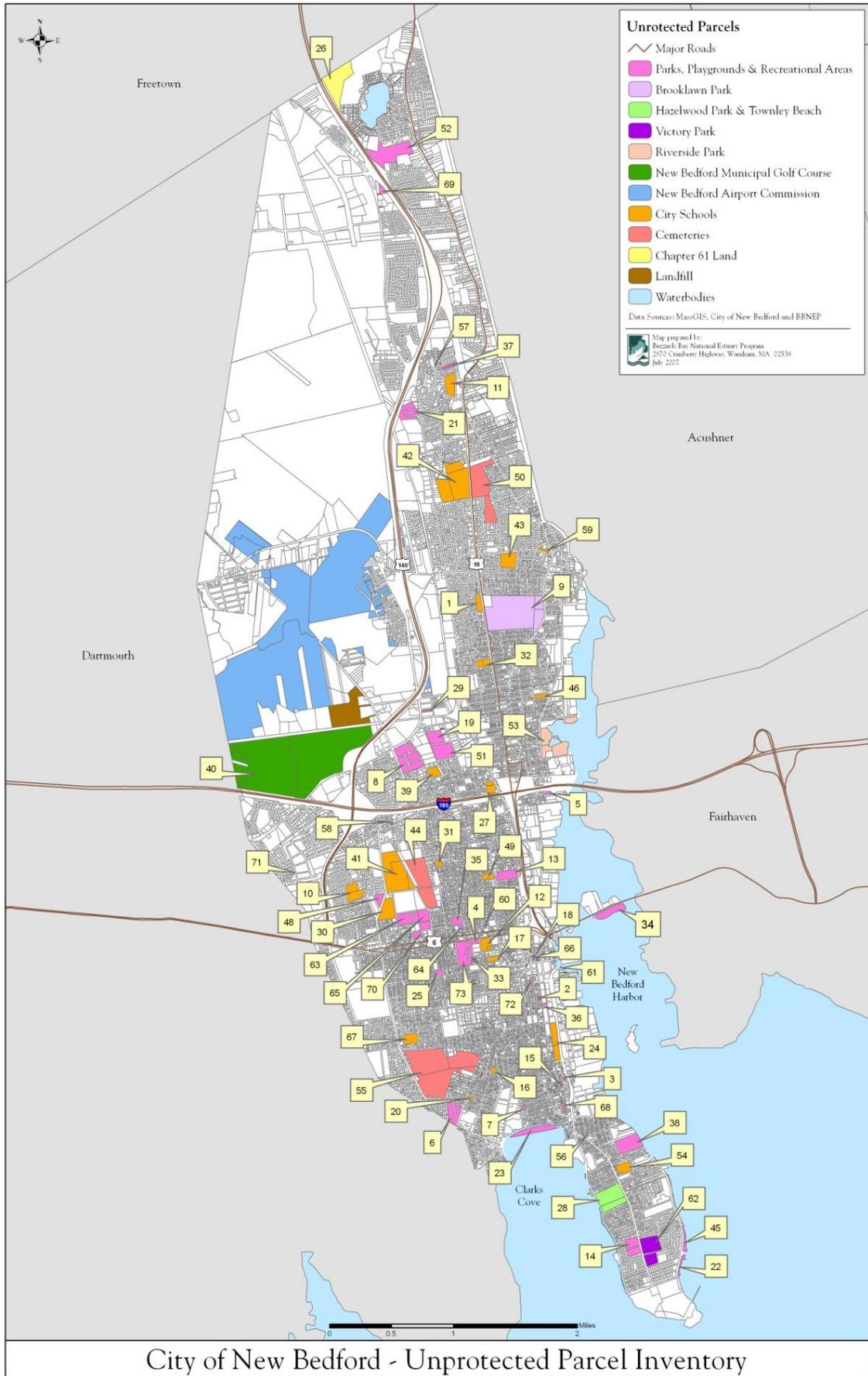
#	Property Name	Acres	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Grants Used
38			PRV	PRV	Open Space			None		UP	N/A
39	Mt. Pleasant School/ Carlos Pacheco School	4.5	CNB	NBSD	Baseball Field, Basketball Court, Playground	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RB	UP	N/A
40	Municipal Golf Course	275.0	CNB		18-Hole Public Course	Good	Existing	Fee	RB	UP	N/A
41	New Bedford High School	34.6	CNB	NBSD	Recreational Fields, Tennis Courts, (see Paul Walsh Field- abutting property used for High school athletics)	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RC	UP	N/A
42	Greater NB Regional Voc-Tech High School	49.0	CNB	NBSD	Recreational Fields, Track and Field	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RC	UP	N/A
43	Normandin Jr. HS	9.7	CNB	NBSD	Synthetic Turf Soccer Field, Track, Walking Paths, Lawn	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RB	UP	N/A
44	Oak Grove Cemetery	39.0	CNB	DPI	Cemetery	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RA	UP	N/A
45	Dr. John O'Toole Memorial Playground	0.3	CNB	PRB	Scenic View/Walking Path	Good	Existing	Free	RA	UP	N/A

#	Property Name	Acres	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Grants Used
46	Ottiwell School (Alma Del Mar Charter School)	2.4	CNB	NBSD	Playground	Excellent	Limited	Unofficial	RC	UP	N/A
47	PRV		PRV	PRV	Open Space	n/a	n/a	None	PRV	UP	N/A
48	Parkdale Housing Project	6.5	NBHA						RC	UP	N/A
49	Parker Street School	2.5	CNB	NBSD	Pavement Area-Basketball Court	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RA	UP	N/A
50	Pine Grove Cemetery	34.0	CNB	DPI	Cemetery	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RA	UP	N/A
51	Presidential Heights Housing Project	11.7	NBHA	NBHA	Lawns, walking paths (across from Dias Field)	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RC	UP	N/A
52	Pulaski Park	14.0	CNB	PRB	Walking, Nature Trails	Fair	Potential	Free	RA	UP	N/A
54	Roosevelt Middle School	5.5	CNB	NBSD	Soccer Field, Enclosed Courtyard	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RB	UP	N/A
55	Rural Cemetery	91.3	CNB	DPI	Cemetery	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RA	UP	N/A

#	Property Name	Acres	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Grants Used
56	Ruth Street Neighborhood Common	0.2	CNB	PRB	Playground	Excellent	Existing	Free	RC	UP	N/A
57	Satellite Village Housing Development	20.0	NBHA	NBHA	Lawns	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RA	UP	N/A
58	Shawmut Village Housing Development	21.4	NBHA	NBHA	Lawns, Walking Paths	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RB	UP	N/A
59	Swift School	1.4	CNB	NBSD	Pavement Games (Four Square, Hopscotch etc.), Basketball Court, Ball Catcher, Mulched Area Swing set and Playground Equipment	Good	Limited	Unofficial	MUB	UP	N/A
60	Mother Teresa	0.1	CNB	PRB	Playground	Good	Existing	Free	RB	UP	N/A
61	Rasmus Tonnesson Park	0.1	CNB	DPI	Plaza, Scenic Overlook - Fishing Pier/Working Waterfront	Good	Existing	Free	MUB	UP	N/A
62	Victory Park	17.0	CNB	PRB	Recreational Field, Ice Skating Pond, Warming House, Children's Garden, Fruit Tree Orchard	Good	Existing	Free	RA	UP	N/A
63	Walsh Athletic Field	24.9	CNB	NBSD	Recreational Fields (Baseball, Football, Track and Field), Tennis Courts	Excellent	Existing	Unofficial	RA	UP	N/A

#	Property Name	Acres	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Grants Used
64	West End Playground	0.7	CNB	PRB	Basketball Court, Playground	Good	Existing	Free	RA	UP	N/A
65	Westlawn Housing Project	10.6	NBHA	NBHA	Lawns, Walking Paths (abuts Walsh Fields)	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RC	UP	N/A
66	Wing's Court	0.4	CNB	PRB	Pocket Park-Courtyard, Stage, Chess board tables, Farmer's Markets	Good	Existing	Free	MUB	UP	Gateway Cities Park Grant
67	Winslow School	5.6	CNB	NBSD	Lawns, Pavement Games (Four Square, Hopscotch etc.) Basketball Court, Small Baseball field	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RA	UP	N/A
68	Dennison Memorial	4.2	PRV	PRV	Gymnasium, Playground, Youth Programs	Good	Existing	Fee	RC	UP	N/A
69	Lord Phillip's Apartments	15.6	PRV	PRV	Lawns	Good	Limited	Unofficial	MUB	UP	N/A
70	New Bedford Boy's and Girl's Club	4.4	PRV	PRV	Gymnasium, Basketball Courts, Recreational Field, Youth Programs	Good	Existing	Fee	RB	UP	N/A
71	Rockdale West	2.1	PRV	PRV	Playground Equipment, Lawns	Good	Limited	Unofficial	RB	UP	N/A
72	Salvation Army Play Area	0.7	PRV	PRV	Open Space	Poor	Existing	Free	RC	UP	N/A
73	Temple Landing (former UFH)	11.2	PRV	PRV	Lawns, Walking Paths (across from Magnet Park)	Fair	Limited	Unofficial	MUB	UP	N/A

Map: Unprotected Parcels Map



#	Parcel Name
1	Ashley School
2	Baby Kenny's Tot Lot
3	Beauregard/Pina Park & Playground
4	Bedford Village
5	Belleville Ave. Playground
6	Blue Meadow Housing Project
7	Bonney Street Tot Lot
8	Brickenwood Housing Project
9	Brooklawn Park
10	Carter Brooks School
11	Campbell School
12	Carney Academy School
13	Clasky-Common Park
14	Clegg Field/Lot 13
15	Roberto Clemente Park
16	Congdon School
17	County Street School
18	Custom House Square
19	Dias Field
20	Dunbar School
21	Duncan Dottin Place
22	East Beach
23	Francis Playground/Field
24	Alfred Gomes School
25	Harrington Playground (Hathaway School)
26	Hawes' Chapter 61 Land
27	Hayden-McFadden School
28	Hazelwood Park/Townley Beach
29	Edward James Playground
30	Keith Middle High School
31	Kempton School
32	Lincoln School
33	Magnett Park
34	Marine Park/ Prince Henry the Navigator Park
35	McCoy/Bernard Gym

#	Parcel Name
36	Monte Playground
37	Morton Ave. Soccer Field
39	Mt. Pleasant School
40	Municipal Golf Course
41	New Bedford High School
42	Greater NB Regional Voc-Tech High School
43	Normandin Jr. HS
44	Oak Grove Cemetery
45	Dr. John O'Toole Memorial Playground
46	Ottiwell School
48	Parkdale Housing Project
49	Parker Street School
50	Pine Grove Cemetery
51	Presidential Heights Housing Project
52	Pulaski Park
53	Riverside Park
54	Roosevelt Junior HS
55	Rural Cemetery
56	Ruth Street Neighborhood Common
57	Satellite Village Housing Development
58	Shawmut Village Housing Development
59	Swift School
60	Mother Teresa
61	Rasmus Tonnesson Park
62	Victory Park
63	Walsh Athletic Field
64	West End Playground
65	Westlawn Housing Project
66	Wing's Court
67	Winslow School
68	Dennison Memorial
69	Lord Phillip's Apartments
70	New Bedford Boy's and Girl's Club
71	Rockdale West
72	Salvation Army Play Area
73	United Front Homes

Section 6: Community Vision

A. Description of Process

Mayor Jon Mitchell appointed the New Bedford Open Space & Recreation Committee with a charge to revise and update the 2008 Open Space & Recreation Plan. The members of the Committee reviewed the status of the goals and objectives and the informational material from the previous plan to determine which portions required updating. The Committee gathered information and feedback from city departments. The Committee also held several meetings to discuss the goals and objectives from the 2008 plan. The status of each goal, including each objective and action item, were discussed and determined if they had been accomplished, their relevancy and status, which the city should continue to pursue, and which should be removed, revised or added.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

This OSRP is a continuation of the goals and objectives set forth by the previous plans from 2001 and 2008. The Committee, weighing strongly the citizen input received through neighborhood group meetings, has identified the need to plan and secure funding for the maintenance of our parks and playgrounds, the preservation of our open space, and the protection of our water resources. These goals will continue to be the predominant aspect of our plan.

The Committee realizes the need for the city to become more preservation minded and therefore sets out stronger objectives in the 2014 Plan to attain watershed protection and land conservation by modifying zoning to increase lot sizes, while decreasing the amount of impervious surfaces and runoff allowed on each lot. At the same time, it is evident that funding must be secured yearly to maintain our parks and playgrounds, and develop management plans for parks, play areas, and sporting fields.

The Committee is also dedicated to educating the public and City officials on the importance of our green space and is adamant that New Bedford maintain its status as one of the “Top Ten Green Cities” in the United States and as a “Tree City USA”. The Committee is mindful that enhancing our maritime and textile heritage and nurturing and maintaining a strong arts community is vital to the sustainability of our city. This revision of the OSRP sets out to firmly ensure that the city of New Bedford’s maritime, textile and artistic heritage will not be lost for future generations to enjoy.

Lastly, the Committee recognizes that interdepartmental communication and organization is vital to the success of the OSRP and the sustainability of our open spaces.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

New Bedford's waterfront was developed many years ago to support the whaling industry, which was later replaced by the industrial waterfront we have today. The Acushnet River is still a vital natural resource—although contaminated by PCB's which limits public contact—the river, including the harbor, is considered "essential fish habitat" for 20 species of fish. Essential Fish Habitat is defined as "those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth maturity" under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery & Conservation Act. The Acushnet River also supports four diadromous fish species (alewife, American shad, Blueback herring and rainbow smelt). The continued clean up of the PCB's in the Acushnet River by the EPA will improve the habitat in the river. Future needs involve the restoration of degraded landscapes along the waterfront so that they not only continue to support industry and residential development but also to develop a greenway along the immediate waterfront for public access.

Clark's Cove is a recovering resource, which supports commercial and family shellfishing, sailing, and swimming. The Conservation Commission and Harbor Development Commission continue working together with the residents to ensure that this water body continues to support recreational opportunities while also protecting and restoring the habitat. The elimination of the CSO's discharging into the Cove by the City went far in eliminating the pollution sources. Future protection needs for this resource could involve the development of a comprehensive management plan for the cove in both New Bedford and Dartmouth.

The northern portion of New Bedford supports the Acushnet Cedar Swamp State Reservation which is linked to County & Local conservation open space parcels which combine to make a valuable and somewhat little known natural resource for New Bedford. These open space parcels are of extraordinary value for biodiversity as indicated by the MA Natural Heritage & Endangered Species program. Future needs involve acquiring private undeveloped property abutting the existing open space, to expand the natural area.

Sassaquin Pond, located in the far north end, has deteriorated in water quality over the past few years. The Board of Health closed the area for swimming in 2004 due to high bacterial pollution following rain events. A comprehensive plan is needed for this densely developed residential area, which could involve the development of a watershed overlay district, and the implementation of storm water Best Management Devices. The Conservation Commission and other city departments are in the process of developing a watershed overlay district; proposing an increase in minimum lot size; and are undertaking outreach to better educate the neighborhoods of the pond to encourage better stewards of this natural resource.

The Buttonwood Brook/Pond Watershed is listed by the State as an impaired resource due to bacterial contamination. The Coalition for Buzzards Bay and the Conservation Commissions for the City of New Bedford and the Town of Dartmouth are working together to tackle this important pollution problem. Buttonwood Pond & Brook within the Buttonwood Park receive stormwater runoff from major roadways (Routes 6 & 140) and large nutrient & bacterial inputs from the waterfowl fed by visitors to the park.

The loss of resources in the harbor combined with the fact that the southern part of the city's land area has been consumed by residential and commercial development leaves only the northern, wetland section remaining as open space. While a significant portion of this northern section is permanently protected by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (Acushnet Cedar Swamp), the Conservation Commission and the County of Bristol Conservation District; much of the remaining open space is fragmented, of little environmental significance, or is threatened by development impacts.

B. Summary of Community's Needs

The purpose of this section is to evaluate New Bedford's success in meeting the recreational needs of its citizens, as well as the needs of the region; and how it will continue to meet these needs in the future.

The 2010 population data used in this assessment is 95,072. According to the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)'s projections, New Bedford's population in 2020 will be 97,228 and for the purpose of estimating needs for the next thirteen years, this figure will be used in this evaluation.

The National Recreation and Park Association established a set of standards for assessing how communities compare in providing recreational opportunities to their citizens (see Table 8). According to these standards, New Bedford's largest deficiencies are in court games, swimming areas, family play areas, and hiking trails.

Hiking trails are being replenished by the addition of walking paths around and through major parks such as Fort Taber, Brooklawn Park, Buttonwood Park and Clasky Common Park. The construction of the Harborwalk on top of the New Bedford hurricane barrier will provide a unique multi-use path for walking, biking, and skating.

The city also has amenities that are available to those with disabilities, including skateboarding, swimming, and basketball. Buttonwood Park now boasts a sensory garden and a handicap accessible playground.

Table 8: City of New Bedford Recreation Facilities, Needs and Supply

FACILITY	NPS STANDARD	PUBLIC SUPPLY	PRIVATE SUPPLY	DCR AND 2000 (pop. 93,768)	DCR AND 2020 (est. pop. 97,228)
Trails	(miles)	(miles)	(miles)	(miles)	(miles)
Nature/Hiking	1 per 2,500	8	Unknown	40	43
Equestrian	1 per 6,250	0	Unknown	16	17
Bicycle	1 per 2,000	4.5	Unknown	50	54
Family Play	(areas)	(areas)	(areas)	(areas)	(areas)
Playgrounds, Tot Lots	1 per 1,000	53	0	100	108
Skateboarding	No standards available	1	0	N/A	N/A
Rollerblading	No standards available	1	0	N/A	N/A
Picnic Areas	1 table per 300	275	Unknown	333	362
Court Games	(courts)	(courts)	(courts)	(courts)	(courts)
Tennis	1 per 1,500	22	Unknown	67	72
Basketball	1 per 1,000	37	Unknown	100	108
Volleyball	1 per 3,000	8	Unknown	33	36
Diamond Sports	(fields)	(fields)	(fields)	(fields)	(fields)
Baseball, Softball	1 per 3,000	27	Unknown	33	36
Ice Arena	1 per 10,000	1	0	10	11
Field Sports	(fields)	(fields)	(fields)	(fields)	(fields)
Soccer	1 per 10,000	10	Unknown	10	11
Football	1 per 20,000	8	Unknown	5	5
Golf Course	(holes)	(holes)	(holes)	(holes)	(holes)
NPS Standard	18 per 12,500	18	0	8	9
Swimming	(facility)	(facility)	(facility)	(facility)	(facility)
Pools	1 per 20,000	1	1	5	5
Beaches	50 sq. ft. per person	26 acres	0	115 acres	125 acres

C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

Proper management and maintenance of the city's outdoor sporting facilities has, at times, conflicted with the desires of the public. All too often, non-school funded recreational leagues will unintentionally damage ball fields when they are used at inappropriate times, such as during or after rainy weather.

Under Goal 1, Objective 2 (Seven-Year Action & Policy Plan, outlined in the following pages) which states, "Increase the number and availability, and improve the conditions of, sporting facilities for city residents", the City will be undertaking a management plan which will guide the use, maintenance and future development of outdoor sports areas throughout the city. The Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Department will coordinate to ensure that management and best use practices (no play after foul weather, overuse on turf, etc.) of public play fields are instituted to ensure future accessibility.

Section 8: Goals and Objectives

The Open Space and Recreation Committee worked to ensure that this plan encompasses both recreational, preservation, and environmental considerations. The Goals and Objectives of this plan were devised through Committee deliberations and neighborhood group meetings.

SEVEN-YEAR ACTION & POLICY PLAN – GOALS & OBJECTIVES	
<p>Goal 1: Expand Outdoor Recreational and Open Space Opportunities for all New Bedford Residents, Regardless of Age or Ability</p>	<p>Objective 1: Construct city-wide multi-use trail system</p> <p>Objective 2: Enhance and improve the conditions of recreational and sporting facilities for city residents.</p> <p>Objective 3: Improve and enhance the public’s access to the waterfront</p>
<p>Goal 2: Restore & Enhance New Bedford’s Park System’s Historical & Cultural Characteristics</p>	<p>Objective 1: Celebrate New Bedford’s Historic and Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>Goal 3: Enhance the Quality and Appeal of New Bedford’s Streetscapes</p>	<p>Objective 1: Develop, implement, and fund street tree planting on city streets</p> <p>Objective 2: Replace degraded sidewalks and develop design standards</p>
<p>Goal 4: Protect Natural Resources and Create New Greenways Through Urban New Bedford</p>	<p>Objective 1: Develop a greenways implementation strategy</p> <p>Objective 2: Restore threatened and degraded natural resources in New Bedford</p> <p>Objective 3: Support preservation of private open space in New Bedford</p> <p>Objective 4: Create community gardens and natural wildlife refuges within the city</p>
<p>Goal 5: Initiate Implementation and Funding Mechanisms to Support Open Space & Recreation Needs</p>	<p>Objective 1: Create a permanent Open Space Committee to oversee implementation and funding of the New Bedford Open Space and Recreation Plan</p>

Section 9: Seven-Year Action and Policy Plan

SEVEN-YEAR ACTION & POLICY PLAN			
Goal 1: Expand Outdoor Recreational and Open Space Opportunities for all New Bedford Residents, Regardless of Age or Ability			
Objective 1: Construct city-wide multi-use trail system			
Policies	P1-1.a. Include compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements as part of all park and recreation improvements in New Bedford, to the greatest extent possible.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DCS, CCWD, PRB	1-7	N/A
	P1-1.b. Involve representatives of disabled and elderly community in planning for park improvements.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD, DCS, PRB	1-7	N/A
Actions	A1-1.a. Fund, design, and construction of a multi-use, handicapped accessible path connecting neighboring communities and the waterfront, i.e. Harborwalk and Riverwalk.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD, ES, PRB, HDC	1-7	Harbor Trustee Funds; HDC funds; State Grants (i.e. PARC or Gateway Cities Program)
	A1-1.b. Develop trail systems throughout the city, such as the SoCo Blueways, Flora B. Pierce property, Acushnet River, Acushnet Cedar Swamp access, Brooklawn Park trail system, the Greater New Bedford Business Park.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	ConCom, PRB, DPHCD, CCWD, BBC, WHA	1-7	Boy Scouts; Volunteers
	A1-1.c. Construct the Harborwalk along the hurricane barrier.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI, DPHCD, PRB, ACE	1-7	PARC FY'13 & FY'15; DCR Trail Grant
	A1-1.d. Increase access to beaches and make improvements to beach amenities, i.e. lifeguard stations, showers, bathrooms.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	PRB, DFFM	1-7	N/A
	A1-1.e. Develop bicycling operations manual and expand existing bicycle path/routes.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	PRB, DPHCD, SRPEDD, NBBC, MIM	1-2	SRPEDD Technical Assistance
A1-1.e. Fund construction of user-friendly walkways, handicap access to buildings and new play areas that could be utilized by a wider range of physical abilities.			
Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)	
PRB, DFFM, DPI, CCWD, DPHCD	1-7	DCR grants; CDBG (eligible areas); HDC funds	

	A1-1.f. Develop outdoor recreational programs with the school system using existing and future trail systems, i.e. Pulaski Trail and Safe Routes to Schools.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	MIM, DPHCD, ConCom, SD, PRB	2-4	Safe Routes to School
	A1-1.g. Conduct and implement a transit analysis to facilitate access to destinations; i.e. bike/pedestrian, vehicular, public transit		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD, PRB, DCS	2-4	SRPEDD; SRTA; Safe Routes to School; UMD Urban Initiative
	A1-1.h. Develop a Braille trail.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	PRB, DCS, City Solicitor's	1-3	Urban River Visions program; Public Access Board
Objective 2: Enhance and improve the conditions of recreational and sporting facilities for city residents.			
Actions	A1-2.a. Conduct and implement a needs analysis for each major park and any city facilities that are sport/playfield specific.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	PRB, DCS, City Solicitor's	1-2	N/A
	A1-2.b. Develop and/or revise master plans for all major parks and the waterfront, including facilities improvements, maintenance, staffing, management and summer programs.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	PRB, DFFM, DPHCD, HDC	1-3	SRPEDD; Seaport Advisory Council; DMF
	A1-2.c. Investigate the need for additional recreational and sporting activities, such as soccer fields, skate parks, dog park, walking trails, recreational boating.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	PRB, DPHCD, HDC	1-2	DMF
	A1-2.d. Locate and construct soccer facilities for all youth and adult leagues throughout the city.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	PRB, DPHCD	1-7	PRB, OHCD
	A1-2.e. Create operation & maintenance plans and develop and implement use guidelines for all existing playfields.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	PRB	1-2	N/A
A1-2.f. Investigate the feasibility of creating a permanent fairground site to protect the city's parks from damage resulting from annual festivals.			
Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)	
PRB, DPHCD	2-3	N/A	

Objective 3: Improve and enhance the public's access to the waterfront			
Policies	P1-3.a. Link Recreation and Open Space Master Plan to other relevant plans both locally and regionally.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD, PRB	1-7	N/A
Actions	A1-3.a. Make waterfront more accessible and attractive to recreational users, including projects like the Harborwalk, enhancements to Palmer's Island, and increasing recreational boating opportunities		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	HDC, DPHCD, PRB, NBEDC, NBWNHP	1-7	HDC; Seaport Advisory Council; Planning assistance-MassDevelopment; PWED: NPS Funding for trailblazer project

Goal 2: Restore & Enhance New Bedford's Park System's Historical & Cultural Characteristics			
Objective 1: Celebrate New Bedford's Historic and Cultural Heritage			
Policies	P2-1.a. Work with the National Park Service to enhance the city's Whaling National Historical Park.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	CNB, NBWNHP	1-7	N/A
Actions	A2-1.a. Develop an identification process for historic landscapes and view corridors.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD	2-3	n/a
	A2-1.b. Develop a historic trail system through the city highlighting the city's important cultural and historic aspects.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	OTM, DPHCD	2-3	New Bedford Preservation Society; WHALE; NBWNHP; New Bedford Historical Society
	A2-1.c. Work with local arts and culture groups to further support and manage community based events.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DCS, OTM, PRB	1-7	Mass Cultural Grants
	A2-1.d. Acquire copies of all Olmsted New Bedford projects/documents on file with the National Park Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation and at the New Bedford library.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD, FBP	1-2	N/A
	A2-1.e. Review and implement where possible original Olmsted landscape plans, specifically at Buttonwood Park and Brooklawn Park.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	PRB, DPHCD, FBP	1-7	In-kind resources

Goal 3: Enhance the Quality and Appeal of New Bedford's Streetscapes			
Objective 1: Develop, implement, and fund street tree planting on city streets			
Actions	A3-1.a. Fund, on a yearly basis, an Urban Arborist to oversee tree planting master plan and maintenance.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI	1-7	DPI
	A3-1.b. Prepare a citywide tree planting master plan, tree inventory, identifying locations and appropriate tree species for planting to restore the city's tree-lined boulevards and side streets.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI, PRB, CCWD, DPHCD	2-3	DPI
	A3-1.c. Prepare a street tree care and management plan for the city.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI, PRB	2-3	DPI
	A3-1.d. Aim to acquire 200-400 new trees in each year through public and private entities.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI, PRB	1-7	DPI/DFFM funds; New Bedford Preservation Society Re-Leaf Program
	A3-1.e. Activate vacant lots through the Side-Yard Sale program.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD, City Solicitor's	1-7	N/A
	A3-1.f. Investigate feasibility of developing a tree farm on city-owned land to provide a supply of trees at a reduced cost for city parks and streets.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI, PRB	2-7	N/A
	A3-1.g. Establish a Street Tree Endowment (based on Providence, RI model) to provide sustainable source of public/private funding for street trees.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI, PRB	2-3	N/A
A3-1.h. Develop an urban forestry program coordinated by existing support groups.			
Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)	
DPI, PRB	3-7	N/A	
A3-1.i. Create a Tree Ordinance to preserve historically significant trees.			
Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)	
DPHCD, ConCom, City Solicitor's	1-2	N/A	
Objective 2: Replace degraded sidewalks and develop design standards			
Policies	P3-2.a. Support City policy and funding to require reconstruction of concrete sidewalks whenever possible.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI, DPHCD	1-7	PWED
Actions	A3-2.a. Develop and implement streetscape design standards.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD, DPI	1-7	N/A

	A3-2.b. Repair, replace, and expand the number of curb cuts so as to provide easier and safer mobility for the disabled and families with strollers.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI	1-7	N/A
Objective 3: Incorporate green space and environmental concerns in commercial and utility development			
Actions	A3-3.a. Develop review process for utility easements on public open space and parks.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI, DPHCD, PRB	1-2	N/A
	A3-3.b. Require underground utilities whenever possible on existing streets and new developments when roads are completely reconstructed. Work with local utilities to develop yearly goals.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD, DPI	1-7	N/A

Goal 4: Protect Natural Resources and Create New Greenways Through Urban New Bedford			
Objective 1: Develop a greenways implementation strategy			
Actions	A4-1.a. Develop a plan for implementing a protected greenway through New Bedford.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	PRB, DPHCD, ConCom, BBC	1-7	EPA; Public Access Board
	A4-1.b. Establish a regional cooperation with neighboring communities on conservation issues.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	ConCom, ES, PRB, DPHCD	1-7	N/A
Objective 2: Restore threatened and degraded natural resources in New Bedford			
Policies	P4-2.a. Support efforts to obtain funding to remediate Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) impairing water quality.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI, HDC	1-7	Seaport Advisory Council; EPA; HDC funds; DPI funds
	P4-2.b. Support efforts to restore shellfish resources in New Bedford for recreational harvest.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPI, HDC, BBC	1-7	Harbor Trust; EPA
	P4-2.c. Improve ability of the Conservation Commission to protect wetlands (expand training for members, increase staff, etc.).		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	ConCom	1-7	N/A
	P4-2.d. Cooperate with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to protect the Acushnet Cedar Swamp.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
ConCom, NHESP	1-7	N/A	

Actions	A4-2.a. Investigate opportunities for restoration of degraded wetland resources.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	ConCom	1-7	EPA wetlands dev. Program grants (CFDA 66.641); BBNEP Grants
	A4-2.b. Develop and implement a watershed management study and plan for the Sassaquin Pond area.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	ConCom, DPI, DPHCD	1-2	DEP 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant; 319 Non-Point Source funding
	A4-2.c. Remediate and restore Buttonwood Park Pond.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	ConCom, DPI, PRB	1-7	EPA 319 NPS Grants, EPA Wetland Program Dev. Grants
Objective 3: Support preservation of private open space in New Bedford			
Actions	P4-3.a. Encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites, as well as, the continued use of existing historic mill buildings.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD	1-7	MassDevelopment planning assistance; Garfiled Foundation planning assistance; NBEDC; EPA; DEP; other State agencies
	P4-3.b. Support the efforts of area land trusts to acquire and protect critical open space parcels, specifically the Haskell Property.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD, PRB, ConCom	1-7	N/A
	P4-3.c. Support conservation and protection of an open space corridor along the Paskamansett River.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	ConCom, PRB	1-7	BBNEP open space grants
Objective 4: Create community gardens and natural wildlife refuges within the city			
Actions	P4-4.a. Develop operation and maintenance plans for all community garden, orchards, urban tree farms, and wildlife sites.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	PRB, DPI	1-2	N/A
	P4-4.b. Identify areas within the city that would be suitable and well received by neighbors as sites for community gardens, orchards, and urban tree farms.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD, PRB, CCWD	1-7	N/A
	P4-4.c. Identify areas within the city that would be suitable and well received by neighbors as natural sites which would be planted with vegetation that is attractive to butterflies and other species.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	DPHCD, PRB, ConCom	1-7	N/A

Goal 5: Initiate Implementation and Funding Mechanisms to Support Open Space and Recreation Needs			
Objective 1: Create a permanent Open Space Committee to oversee implementation and funding of the New Bedford Open Space and Recreation Plan			
Policies	P5-1.a. Cooperate with surrounding communities to maximize leveraging of funds to further acquire and develop open space.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	Open Space Comm., CNB	1-7	MassDevelopment; SRPEDD
Actions	A5-1.a. Appoint a standing committee with representatives from City Departments, neighborhood organizations, nonprofits, to meet on a quarterly basis to steward the OSRP, make further recommendations to the Plan.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	Mayor’s Office	1	N/A
	A5-1.b. Maximize use of state, federal, and private funds, programs and grants to implement goals.		
	Responsible Party	Year(s)	Funding Source(s)
	Open Space Comm., CNB, HDC	1-7	MassDevelopment; SRPEDD

Acronym Key for Seven-Year Action & Policy Plan:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ACE-Army Corps of Engineers | OTM-Office of Tourism & Marketing |
| BBC-Buzzards Bay Coalition | PRB- Parks, Recreation & Beaches |
| CCWD - Commission for Citizens with Disabilities | SD-School Department |
| City Solicitor’s –City Solicitor’s Office | SRPEDD-Southeastern Regional Planning & Development District |
| CNB- City of New Bedford | WHA- Whaling History Alliance |
| ConCom-Conservation Commission | |
| DCS – Department of Community Services | |
| DFFM-Department of Facilities and Fleet Management | |
| DPHCD-Department of Planning, Housing & Community Development | |
| DPI-Department of Public Infrastructure | |
| ES- Environmental Stewardship | |
| FBP-Friends of Buttonwood Park | |
| HDC- Harbor Development Commission | |
| MIM-Mass in Motion | |
| NBBC-New Bedford Bike Committee | |
| NBEDC-New Bedford Economic Development Council | |
| NBWNHP – New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park | |

Section 10: Public Comments

A. Resident Comments Regarding Open Space & Recreational Matters

The following is a compilation of issues related to open space and recreational opportunities that were introduced by residents at the neighborhood group meetings held in 2013 and a survey (see Attachment B) that participants were asked to submit:

- Determine chain of command for park maintenance/enhancement/budget
- Develop master plans for each of the major parks including Fort Taber, Hazelwood, Buttonwood, Brooklawn, Riverside
- Create management plans for the above mentioned parks, including a permanent budget for the maintenance and enhancement of each existing park
- Include a yearly maintenance schedule for each of the above mentioned parks and other park areas, play lots, and city-owned vacant lots
- Preserve existing and create more passive green spaces for the public
- Improve beaches and utilize them as a community asset
- Preserve scenic landscapes and views
- Assist neighbors in creating a “Friends” group for each of the major parks modeled on the Friends of Buttonwood Park
- Locate a new (possibly rotating) site for the Whaling City Festival
- Ensure that prior to new parks/playgrounds coming online, a budget is set aside for maintenance
- Hire an Urban Forester and/or Arborist
- Create a Code Enforcement Division within Parks, Recreation & Beaches
 - Sole responsibility is enforcement of quality of life issues i.e. litter, park & beach patrols, maintenance of vacant city lots
- Determine the appropriateness of “land stewards” for each park, playground, tot lot, vacant city lot
 - Responsible for pick up of litter, light maintenance i.e. weeding
 - Notify their city contact with issues i.e. broken facilities, illegal dumping, suspicious/illegal behavior
 - “Eyes & Ears” for the city
- “Adopt a Park” program for local businesses
- Create community centers at the schools after hours/weekends, especially in winter
 - i.e. far north end has no Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, etc.
- Restroom facilities at every major park

Section 11: References

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Section 12: ADA Compliance and Transition Plan ADA

The following self-evaluation and transition plans were developed in accordance with the protocol presented in Appendix H of the state's Open Space and Recreation Planner's Handbook (Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, rev. March 2008). A written summary of comments from the inventory sheets is contained in the Transition Plan for each site. Implementation of these Transition Plans is the responsibility of the controlling commission or department. In some instances, such as where the city has Management Agreements in place with the state, the planning, scheduling, and implementation of site transition plans will be conducted on a partnership basis.

EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN for APPLICABLE FACILITIES

Park/ Facility	Description	Activities	Transition Plan
Ashley Park	Ashley Park is a 5.1 acre public area with accessible walkways throughout. The park contains a common area/public gardens, ball fields, volleyball courts, picnic tables, benches, a play area with equipment, and a Community Center that is completely accessible, including restrooms.	Play equipment Baseball field Softball field Volleyball Picnic tables Benches Trees Common area Community Center Public gardens	There is currently no defined handicap parking onsite, and should be addressed. Accessible parking spaces should also be provided on Orchard Street, and curb cuts need to be assessed and redesigned around the entirety of the park. The sidewalks on the Bonney Street side of the park should be rebuilt. Play equipment should be replaced with accessible as needed. Accessible picnic tables should be added by the play unit and in the common area by the Community Center. A minor modification should be made to lower the coat hooks in the bathroom stalls in the Community Center; transfer seats could also be added in the bathroom stalls (could be provided by the Committee for People with Concerns). To improve accessibility in the kitchen area of the Community Center, the sink could be lowered and the cabinet obstruction (below) removed. The baseball and softball fields should incorporate handicap access/seating areas in the bleachers.
Brooklawn Park	Brooklawn Park is an 82 acre public area with accessible walkways into and around the park. The park is adjacent to a Senior Center which is completely accessible, including restrooms and defined parking. The park also contains a large lawn area and a play area with equipment, picnic area and tennis area. The play area is ADA compliant and includes an accessible, covered picnic area.	Play equipment Tennis courts Senior Center Baseball fields Softball fields Soccer field Street hockey area Basketball courts Picnic Sites Trees Benches Parking Facilities Pond area	Provide more defined accessible parking around tennis, picnic, and play areas. Provide improved/accessible viewing areas for social and public events held at the park. Make improvements to the walkways leading to the play and recreation areas as needed/required. Replace any benches that are not accessible at present. Make all trash cans/waste disposal containers accessible. Repair transition areas between pavement and lawn/grassed areas where ruts or drop-offs occur. Address the need for shade trees where necessary.
Buttonwood Park	Buttonwood Park is a 97 acre public area encompassing a significant piece of land between Brownell Street and Rockdale Avenue, south of Route 6. The park is not only a local asset, but a regional and statewide asset as well. The zoo remains a very popular attraction as does the viewing area around the pond. The park is also an urban recreation center with its two	Zoo/ Lawn/ Event Area Trees Pond area /brook Fully accessible play equipment Sensory Garden Picnic Sites Parking Facilities	Walkways leading to the basketball courts and the rear of the tennis courts need to be refurbished. Curb cuts need to be refined at the Fisherman’s Monument and at the public library adjacent to the park. Curb cuts also need to be refined at the crossing of Rockdale Avenue and Court Street. The baseball diamonds should incorporate handicap viewing areas, both the bleachers and behind the backstops. While the warming house is currently accessible, when remodeling, the restrooms should be brought up to current standards and the access to picnic tables along the pond, next to the warming house, should be improved.

	<p>baseball fields, a softball field, three basketball courts, and ten tennis courts. The walkways in and around the park are all accessible and there are defined, accessible parking areas by the warming house and on the west side of the park by the pond viewing area. Play areas and equipment, benches and trash disposal features are fully accessible. The zoo and the public facilities therein are also fully accessible.</p>	<p>Basketball courts Tennis courts Warming house Out-buildings Baseball fields Softball field Greenhouse Public Library</p>	
<p>Clasky Common</p>	<p>Clasky Common is a 7 acre public area located in the Pleasant/Purchase Street area in. A phased reconstruction project led to the upper park being transformed into a model facility for accessibility. Pathways, seating areas, and a wide range of choices allow a disabled individual to experience the full measure of the opportunities that the upper park has to offer.</p>	<p>Play equipment Passive recreation Benches Walkways/Pathways Water Fountain Swings Parking area</p>	<p>The lower portion of the park is largely inaccessible. Issues exist with play equipment, swings, parking, curb cuts and pathways in the lower park. Phase II of the reconstruction will address all of the remaining accessibility issues. It is also recommended that an accessible parking space be designated across from an entry either on Pearl Street or Pope Street.</p>
<p>Fort Taber</p>	<p>Fort Taber is part of a 40 acre public area including Fort Rodman. Fort Taber is a model facility for accessibility. Accessible parking, pathways, seating areas, overlooks (with accessible telescopes by approach and height), play areas, picnic areas, beaches, and a wide range of choices allows an individual to experience the entirety of the amenities offered at this facility.</p>	<p>Port-a-johns (one accessible) Swings Parking Facilities Picnic areas/grilles Play areas Bathhouse Viewing areas Pathways Water fountain Beaches Community Center Site museum Multimodal paths</p>	<p>A Braille trail is planned in a coming construction phase.</p>

<p>Hazelwood Park & Townley Beach</p>	<p>Hazelwood Park is a 23.1 acre public area containing many amenities including a beach, picnic and play areas, basketball and tennis courts, a Senior Center, band shell, and a connection to the local bike path segment. Walkways in and around the park are accessible. Recent improvements have made the play equipment and underlying material compliant and accessible.</p>	<p>Play equipment Tennis courts Band shell/concert and event area Swings Benches Senior Center Walkways Beach Bathhouse Bike path Picnic areas Basketball courts</p>	<p>Walkways need to be installed leading to the band shell/concert area. Signage is needed for disabled/accessible parking at the Senior Center. Additional spaces are also needed at the courts and picnic areas. Benches should be made accessible throughout the park (some currently are). There should be accessible picnic tables in treed areas. Access/viewing areas should be provided to festival/lawn and band shell features (including access to vendors, food, events, and restrooms). The transition areas from blacktop to grass also need repair in spots.</p>
<p>Baby Kenny's Tot Lot</p>	<p>Baby Kenny's Tot Lot is a 0.3 acre public area containing swings, play equipment, and benches. This facility is on the west side of Acushnet Avenue where there is no parking permitted.</p>	<p>Play equipment Swings Benches</p>	<p>A curb cut should be placed at the entry of the park in order to facilitate accessible drop-off. Swings, benches, and play equipment should be made completely accessible when replaced.</p>
<p>Beauregard-Pina Park & Playground</p>	<p>Beauregard-Pina Park & Playground is a 1.0 acre public area on South First Street. There are accessible walkways into the park and spray area. There is no defined handicap parking in the area but there are curb cuts at the corners at the park location.</p>	<p>Playground equipment Benches Spray pad</p>	<p>The play equipment is currently not accessible but the viewing areas are accessible. The equipment should be made completely accessible when replaced. There should be an effort made to add defined, accessible parking, where permissible, adjacent to the park.</p>
<p>Bonney Street Tot Lot</p>	<p>Playground</p>	<p>Playground equipment Benches</p>	<p>Bonney Street Tot Lot is a 0.5 acre public area containing playground equipment and benches. There is no dedicated parking, curb cut, or accessible walkways at this site. The site challenges include non-level surfaces leading to the playground features. The play equipment should be made accessible as should the pathways leading to the features. The benches should also be made accessible and necessary curb cuts should be made for drop-off.</p>
<p>Dias Fields</p>	<p>Dias Fields represent a 9.3 acre public area containing three (3) Little League fields, a snack bar/concession area, a basketball court, play equipment and open play areas.</p>	<p>Little League fields Concession stand Basketball Court Play equipment Parking Facilities Open play areas</p>	<p>Defined, accessible parking and accessible restrooms are needed at this site. As part of the site access solution, a curb cut is needed on the south side of the park at Van Buren Street. Accessibility should be provided to the snack bar/concession stand and any other service areas. There is a paved pathway from the parking lot to one of the fields; paved pathways should be extended to all of the fields, including all viewing and access areas. Accessible benches are needed at the play areas.</p>

		Bleachers and benches	
East Beach	East Beach is a 13.5 acre public area on East Rodney French Blvd. containing a sandy beach, a volleyball area, a pier, and a concession/snack bar area with restrooms (that is scheduled to be removed and replaced). The site also contained play equipment that was recently removed. The site also contains sixteen (16) accessible benches on the pier. There are accessible paved walkways leading from the parking area to the pier, but no accessible paths to the beach or volleyball areas.	Beach Snack bar Volley ball area Restrooms/outdoor shower	Accessible paths should be constructed from the existing curb cuts to the volleyball and beach areas. Accessible benches should be added to the volleyball area. Handicap signage should be placed in the parking area.
Flora B. Pierce Trail	This is a 148 acre protected public conservation area with a trail system. This is a passive recreation area - walking, nature observation, etc.	Conservation area Trail system Viewing areas	The site needs defined accessible parking spaces. Plans should be made to make the trail system and viewing areas accessible.
Magnett Park	Magnett Park is a 1.5 acre public area that contains play equipment, benches, picnic tables, and a basketball court. The existing walkways are not accessible and there is no defined handicap parking on site. The play equipment and surfaces are not accessible, and the five picnic tables are not accessible by the path or by their design.	Picnic tables Play equipment Basketball court	There is a need to provide accessible parking spaces on site, and curb cuts at the entrances to the park. Play equipment and surfaces should be made completely accessible when replaced. Provide accessibility to the picnic benches and make at least one accessible by design. Provide accessibility to the benches.
Marine Park/ Prince Henry the Navigator Park	This is a 9.7 acre public area/facility on the waterfront that provides views, a playground, and water based recreational opportunities (boating and beach). There is no marked accessible parking in relation to the play area. There is also no solid surface or paved access to the play equipment. The ten (10) benches on site are inaccessible (no curb cuts).	220 slip marina Play equipment Benches Viewing areas	Curb cuts should be made in order to make the site accessible. A solid surface path should be installed in order to access the play area. An accessible surface media should be installed at the play unit. There is a need for designated parking spaces (2) and associated curb cuts. Accessible benches and a drinking fountain should also be placed near the play area.

Monte Park	<p>This is a 0.7 acre public area with play equipment, basketball, a spray area, benches and picnic shelters. While many of the features in the park are accessible, there is no defined accessible parking and no curb cuts into the park from the street. The play area surface is not accessible.</p>	<p>Play equipment Spray area Benches Picnic shelters Basketball court Swings</p>	<p>Provide accessible parking and a curb cut at the entry to the park. A curb cut and an accessible surface are necessary in order to transition easily into the play area.</p>
Mother Theresa's Park	<p>This small (0.1 acre) public area contains a children's play unit and benches to view the play area. The interior walkway, containing several benches, allows for accessible seating to view the play area. There is available parking on the surrounding street, but no defined accessible parking spots for the park. There is a curb cut on the corner of the sidewalk in front of the park.</p>	<p>Large play system (varied elements/unit) Benches</p>	<p>Add specifically defined accessible parking on the streets along with the appropriate signage and curb cuts.</p>
Pine Hill Park	<p>Pine Hill is an older, 18 acre public area containing basketball courts, play equipment, and swings. There are no accessible walkways or clearly defined paths of travel. The site lacks defined accessible parking, benches, or accessible play equipment. Overall, this site is in disrepair and in need of updating/renovation.</p>	<p>Play equipment Basketball courts Swings</p>	<p>There is a lot of work to be done at this facility in order to make it accessible, specifically: provide accessible parking spaces; provide paved access to play areas; provide access to the basketball courts; provide accessible play equipment and swings; provide accessible benches; provide accessible walkways that delineate a clear path of travel in and around the park.</p>
Pulaski Park	<p>Pulaski Park is a 14 acre public area with basketball courts, play equipment, and walkways. The site is in overall disrepair with inaccessible walkways, no defined accessible parking, no benches, and inaccessible basketball courts and play equipment.</p>	<p>Play equipment Basketball courts Walkways</p>	<p>There is a lot of work to be done at this facility in order to make it accessible, specifically: provide accessible parking spaces; provide paved access to the play areas; provide access to the basketball courts; provide accessible play equipment; provide accessible benches; bring the walkways in and around the park up to accessible standards.</p>

<p>Riverside Park</p>	<p>This 10.8 acre public area provides some of the most accessible and varied recreation experiences in the city and the region. The park also provides water views of the Acushnet River, with accessible benches and picnic areas. Walkways are all accessible and there are defined accessible parking spaces. The skate park and jet spray play system (with water conservation features) are very popular.</p>	<p>Jet water spray play system Basketball court Restrooms Youth soccer field Picnic tables Benches Water views Gazebo Walkways and Jogging paths Skate park/inline Natural lawn amphitheater around a small paved plaza</p>	<p>Few improvements need to be considered at this site in order to promote greater accessibility. Amongst the needs identified are: add more accessible parking spaces; curb cuts are needed at the Sawyer Street entrance on the south side of the park; provide improved access to the inline skate/hockey rink; provide improved access to the play area; signage is needed on the accessible bathroom on the north side of the park.</p>
<p>Roberto Clemente Park</p>	<p>This is a 0.6 acre public area that contains two (2) basketball courts, a volleyball court, and a covered pavilion area with picnic tables. There are two (2) accessible benches adjacent to the basketball courts. The walkways are paved providing access to the basketball courts. There are no defined accessible parking spaces and no curb cuts leading into the park.</p>	<p>Basketball courts Volleyball court Picnic tables Covered pavilion Benches</p>	<p>Provide defined accessible parking spaces and a curb cut at the entrance to the park. Provide accessibility to at least one picnic bench.</p>
<p>Victory Park</p>	<p>This is a 17 acre public area containing a soccer field and a pond/viewing area that has been used for winter ice skating. There is an old warming house adjacent to the pond that is no longer available to/used by the public. There are no defined accessible parking spaces or accessible walkways at this site.</p>	<p>Soccer field Pond/viewing area Ice skating area Warming house (no longer used by public)</p>	<p>Provide defined accessible parking spaces and paved access to the viewing area.</p>
<p>Washburn Street Park</p>	<p>Basketball court</p>	<p>Basketball court</p>	<p>Bellville Avenue Park is a 1.0 acre public area containing a basketball court. There is no dedicated parking or walkways/paths to the court other than the existing sidewalk. There is a need for dedicated parking spaces, curb cuts and signage, as well as paths to the court and benches, in order to make this facility accessible.</p>

West Beach	This is a public beach area located on West Rodney French Blvd. that provides beach/water access and contains a fully accessible covered pavilion /picnic area. The walkways on site are accessible and there is defined accessible parking. There are appropriate curb cuts leading into the site as well. The beach is accessible, but access to the water is a challenge.	Beach Covered pavilion Picnic shelter Restrooms/outdoor shower	Provide accessible walkways to the water.
West End Playground	This is a 0.7 acre public area containing a basketball court, play equipment, and benches. There are no paved/appropriate media walkways by which to access the play area and there is no defined accessible parking at this site. The play equipment and benches in the playground viewing area are also not accessible.	Basketball court Play equipment Benches	Provide defined accessible parking spaces and paved access to the play area. Provide accessible and a picnic area.

Attachment A: ADA Information and Procedures

Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

The Commission is staffed by the City's Department of Community Services and was established by the City Council in 1983. It consists of a 9-member body appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. All members serve three-year terms and at least five members shall be persons with a disability. The Executive Director, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, carries out the administrative functions of the Commission. The current Executive Director is Cynthia Wallquist, the City's Director of Community Services.

The Commission is charged with exploring issues relating to citizens with disabilities, providing information, referral, technical assistance, and taking action to ensure the equal status of persons with disabilities. The Commission supports a variety of programs, including: Home Aid (snow removal for disabled homeowners), Meals on Wheels for *NON*-elderly persons with disabilities, Out-of-school time activities for youth with disabilities, Sunset Social (evening supper for persons with disabilities).



City of New Bedford ADA Grievance Procedure

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in employment practices and policies or the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the City of New Bedford.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of Complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Debra Lee, ADA Coordinator
181 Hillman Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
Debra.lee@newbedford-ma.gov
508-991-6251

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator Debra Lee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, Debra Lee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the City of New Bedford and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Debra Lee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the ADA Coordinator within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to Eric Cohen, Asst. City Solicitor.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Asst. City Solicitor will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Asst. City Solicitor will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by ADA Coordinator Debra Lee, appeals to the Asst. City Solicitor and responses from Debra Lee and the Asst. City Solicitor will be kept by the City of New Bedford for a minimum of three years.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball/softball | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird watching | <input type="checkbox"/> Jogging/walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating/canoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Road Biking | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> | | |

7. Of the choices listed below, which five do you feel are the most important to protect or acquire? Please designate the most important with 1=most important, and 5=least important.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to rivers, streams, ponds, and port | <input type="checkbox"/> Buffer zones between different land use areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Areas for active outdoor recreation (team sports) | <input type="checkbox"/> "Green belts: along streams, rivers and ponds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Areas for outdoor education (study areas, field trips, nature trails, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Land to preserve scenic views |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Areas of historical worth | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfront lands (i.e. on ponds & rivers) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Areas of passive outdoor recreation (walking, picnicking, playgrounds, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific sites: <input type="text"/> | |

8. Using the scale below, please indicate how important the following activities are to you, according to your typical use of open space:

Activity	Rating			
	Very important	Important	Less important	Not important
Social interaction-picnics, group events, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Active sports-baseball, soccer, basketball, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aerobic exercise-jogging, running, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gentle exercise-walking, tai chi, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds and young child activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog walking/dog recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reading, relaxation, or contemplation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community gardening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boating, Kayaking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Ice skating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skateboarding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Do you think the City should encourage more community activities and recreation programs in your neighborhood park(s)?

- Yes No

10. If so, please list any particular community activities or recreation programs that you would like the City to offer in the future:

11. Do you feel town bylaws should be drafted to encourage more open space in new residential subdivisions and commercial developments?

- Yes No Unsure

12. Do you favor the creation of a protected “greenbelt” (a system of varied contiguous, undeveloped area of conservation land)?

- Yes No Unsure

13. Do you favor the creation of more connecting, city-wide paved multi-use paths for walking, biking, jogging, etc.?

- Yes No

14. How accessible and useful do you find open spaces and recreational facilities in New Bedford are to those in the community with disabilities? (Example: difficulty walking, seeing, hearing, etc.)

- Very accessible and very useful Don't know what people with disabilities need
- Somewhat accessible and somewhat useful
- Not accessible and not useful

15. Which of the following recreational facilities do we need more of: Do any need upgrading and/or repair?

- | More | Satisfactory | Upgrade | Don't Know | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Baseball fields/softball |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Basketball courts |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Beaches/beach Access |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Bike paths/trails |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Boat ramps |

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Fishing area access |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Golf courses |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Gyms |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Ice Skating rinks |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Nature/hiking trails |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Outdoor education facilities |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Outdoor fitness course |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Permanently protected open space w/ public access |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Picnic areas |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Playgrounds |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Soccer fields |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Swimming pools |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Teen/recreation center |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Tennis courts |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Wildlife habitat |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Access to public facilities for people with disabilities |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Other <input style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |

16. Of the facilities listed in question 6, which five need attention most? Please list in order of importance, 1=most important, 5=least important.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball fields/softball | <input type="checkbox"/> Gyms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Skating rinks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaches/beach Access | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature/hiking trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike paths/trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor education facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat ramps | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor fitness course |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing area access | <input type="checkbox"/> Permanently protected open space w/
public access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf courses | |

- Picnic areas
- Playgrounds
- Soccer fields
- Swimming pools
- Teen/recreation center
- Other
- Tennis courts
- Wildlife habitat
- Access to public facilities for people with disabilities

17. How would you rate the overall quality of maintenance of the City's parks and open spaces?

- Excellent
- Satisfactory
- Poor
- Good
- Fair

18. Using the scale below, please indicate how important each of the following City priorities is to you:

Activity	Rating			
	<i>Very important</i>	Important	Less important	Not important
Cleaning and routine maintenance of parks and open spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing more parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Renovating existing parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing more non-programmed green space (i.e., lawn, meadow)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing the City's tree canopy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing the number of Off-Leash Recreation Areas (dog parks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adopting more environmentally responsible building and maintenance practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Converting industrial parcels (i.e., brownfields) to parks and open spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing opportunities for increased public feedback	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing more playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving existing playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adding community gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extending/Adding to the Community Paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing park access for people with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing spaces for outdoor sports programs (e.g., playing fields)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Providing places for cultural programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing security in parks and open spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encouraging open space as part of public/private development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. What is the ZIP code for your primary residence? _____

20. Are you a New Bedford resident?

- Yes No

21. If you are a New Bedford resident, for how long have you lived in the City?

- 0-5 years 6-15 years More than 15 years

22. If you live in New Bedford, what neighborhood do you live in?

- Fort West End Sassaquin
 South End Downtown I don't know
 South Central Acushnet Heights
 North End

23. Including you, how many people reside in your household? _____

24. How many children do you have under age 18?

- None 2 4 or more
 1 3

25. What is your age?

- 18-34 50-64 75+
 35-49 65-74

Attachment C: Letters of Support



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

April 14, 2014

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

RE: City of New Bedford, Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

As Mayor of the City of New Bedford, I submit the *2014 to 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan* (OSRP) to the Department of Conservation Services. This plan is the product of public outreach and input, research and staff time, that details a comprehensive approach to open and recreational planning and policies, which ensure that New Bedford's recreational and natural resources, so critical to our city, our port, and to the south coast region, will be well-maintained and utilized for future generations.

New Bedford is urban community that has long valued access to open space. At the turn of century, New Bedford's city planners' participated in the City Beautiful national movement and in 1892, strived to create a municipal park system beginning with the purchase of land for Buttonwood Park. Today, New Bedford boasts an abundance of recreational opportunities including: 6 major parks, 15 secondary parks, 12-plus miles of trails and bikeways, 26 acres of beaches, numerous public and private baseball, football and soccer fields, and is a member of Tree City USA.

The *2014 to 2021 OSRP* is consistent with the city's goals and objectives and meets the open space and recreation plan requirements. I enthusiastically approve the *2014 to 2021 OSRP*, and commit to accomplishing the objectives set forth to improve the quality of life for the residents of New Bedford.

Sincerely,

Jon Mitchell



PLANNING BOARD

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

April 10, 2014

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

RE: City of New Bedford, Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The New Bedford Planning Board has recently completed a review of the City of New Bedford's update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The plan is consistent with the city's goals and objectives and in general compliance with the Department of Conservation Services open space and recreation plan requirements. The Seven Year Action and Policy Plan represents community needs and issues of concern discussed at public outreach sessions, and identifies relevant departments and potential funding sources.

City departments work with federal, state, local and regional partners, such as local land trusts, conservation groups, watershed, and trails advocates, as well as neighboring communities, to promote long-range planning, including: regional recreational opportunities; conservation and land use planning, including habitat restoration, water resource protection; and protection of the New Bedford's cultural and historical resources that are valuable to the region and the Commonwealth as a whole.

We respectfully ask that the certification of the New Bedford Open Space and Recreation Plan be approved.

Sincerely,

Colleen Dawicki, Chair
New Bedford Planning Board



Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District

◀ 88 Broadway ▼ Phone (508)824-1367 ▼ FAX (508)823-1803 ▼ ssmith@srpedd.org ▼ Taunton, MA 02780 ▶

January 24, 2014

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

RE: City of New Bedford, Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District's (SRPEDD) planning staff has recently completed a review of the City of New Bedford's update of their Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The plan is consistent with SRPEDD's regional goals and objectives and in general compliance with DCS's Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. The plan also reflects the time, effort and research put into it by the City's officials, volunteers, and planning staff. The Seven Year Action Plan accurately presents community needs and issues of concern discussed at public visioning sessions. The City's planning and conservation staff continue to work with federal, state, local and regional partners, such as local land trusts, conservation groups, watershed, and trails advocates, as well as neighboring communities, to promote long-range planning, including: regional recreational opportunities and climate change/sea level rise issues; responsible conservation and land use planning, including habitat restoration, water resource protection, and; protection of the City's cultural and historical resources that are so important not only to the city, but to the region and the Commonwealth as a whole.

In addition to the above comments, we would also like to commend the Planning Department and Open Space Committee for again producing a lean, direct, and easy to read plan that should have much more utility as a participatory public planning document.

SRPEDD supports the certification of the New Bedford Open Space and Recreation Plan, as revised. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact Bill Napolitano, our Environmental Program Director.

Respectfully,

Stephen C. Smith
Executive Director



Deval Patrick
GOVERNOR

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.
SECRETARY

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

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

May 19, 2014

Jill Maclean
Planning Department
133 William Street, Room 303
New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Maclean:

Thank you for submitting New Bedford's Open Space and Recreation Plan to this office for review for compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I am pleased to write that the plan is approved. This final approval will allow New Bedford to participate in DCS grant rounds through June 2020.

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

Sincerely,

Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager