

III. Priority Areas of Protection

1. Reliable Truss



Reliable Truss site is located on River Road along the Acushnet River. This 2.5-acre site has been in commercial and manufacturing use since 1924. The most recent occupant was Reliable Truss Company, a manufacturer of wooden trusses. In 1999, the site was vacated and the buildings were demolished in June 2001. The EPA then utilized the vacant site as a staging area for the cleanup of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site. Since that time the site remains vacant.

The City completed a Phase II Comprehensive Site Assessment for the site in the summer of 2007. Currently a Supplemental Phase II Assessment is being performed to evaluate potential ecological risk to the surface water and

sediment of the Acushnet River. The Environmental Protection Agency awarded the City the Brownfield's Cleanup Grant to perform cleanup of the site.

Once the site has finished the remediation process by the fall of 2009, the City would like to reclaim the former industrial area as open space. This would include restoring a large salt marsh on filled tideland and create walking trails, interpretative signs, picnic area, play area, lawn and parking for visitors and residents to enjoy. Currently a walking/biking trail is being realized from Reliable Truss south to the Hicks Logan Site, not only will this recreate a connection to the Acushnet River and the Town of Acushnet but north south passage as well. The 2007 Regional Transportation Plan recommended bicycle connections that enhance the City of New Bedford's plan. (See proposed Riverwalk/Bike Trail)

2. Proposed Barrier Walk

The City of New Bedford enjoys its reputation as a "safe harbor" thanks to the Hurricane Barrier, built in the 1960s by the Army Corps of Engineers. The barrier is the largest stone structure on the east coast. The stone and steel barrier extends across the mouth of the New Bedford Harbor to the Fairhaven side near Fort Phoenix. More than 3½ miles in length, its 440-ton gates protect the port from storms. These gates can be closed during storm surges or strong tides to protect the inner harbor. The top of the barrier provides a walkway for recreational

activities. One can watch the boat traffic and spectacular views of the harbor and Buzzards Bay from this vantage point. The city has recently received grant funding that will support the engineering of a paved boardwalk along portions of the barrier, enhancing its public accessibility.

Proposed Barrier Walk

<p><i>Protected Parcels</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hurricane Barrier</i> <p><i>Historic Sites</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<p><i>Water Resource</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New Bedford Harbor</i>
<p><i>Natural Resource Protection Areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Priority Habitat</i> 	<p><i>Soils</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bedrock</i>
<p><i>Zoning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No zoning</i> <p><i>Development Area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hurricane Barrier</i> 	<p><i>Possible Use/Reuse</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Walk/Bike Path</i> • <i>Scenic vista</i>

3. *Proposed Riverwalk/Bike Trail*

The proposed Riverwalk and Bike Trail will follow the Acushnet River from Cove Street north to Reliable Trust, a city owned property.. (For more information see the Reliable Truss site)



4 *Riverside Park*

A 10-acre park is located on a natural estuary where the Acushnet River meets the upper harbor. The proposed Riverwalk/Bike Trail will connect the Reliable Truss site to Riverside Park and continue on to Hick’s, Logan & Sawyer site and the downtown historic district with numerous pocket parks located in between.

The park is generally passive with extensive areas of marsh restoration and upland areas. Grassy berms and large, open picnic areas offer expansive waterfront views. The active recreational area is located in the northern part of the park where a hockey rink, basketball courts, skateboard area, and a large, artificial turf soccer field exist. A small amphitheater, gazebo, toddler playground and water

feature are located in the center of the park. A walk/bike path connects all the areas of the park together. (For more information see Riverside Park)

Proposed Riverwalk/Bike Trail

<p><i>Protected Parcels</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Riverside Park</i> <p><i>Historic Sites</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mill Structures</i> 	<p><i>Water Resource</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acushnet River</i> • <i>Medium Yield Aquifer</i> • <i>500 & 100-year Floodplain</i> • <i>Wetlands</i> • <i>Salt marsh</i>
<p><i>Natural Resource Protection Areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Priority Habitat</i> 	<p><i>Soils</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Till or Bedrock</i> • <i>Sand & Gravel</i>
<p><i>Zoning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Residential</i> • <i>Industrial</i> 	<p><i>Possible Use/Reuse</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recreational</i> <p><i>Municipal Water/ Sewer</i></p>

5. ***Clark’s Cove***

Clarks Cove is a deep embayment surrounded by a highly urbanized watershed. It contains one of the most significant quahog fisheries in Buzzard Bay. Due to efforts from the City of New Bedford to eliminate dry weather discharges from CSOs the cove has been reopened to shellfishing. Two public beaches New Bedford’s West Beach and Dartmouth’s Jones Beach are a comforting relief to local area residents offering spectacular views.



Clark's Cove

<p>Protected Parcels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>West Beach</i> • <i>Hazelwood Park</i> • <i>Fort Rodman</i> <p>Historic Sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mill structures</i> 	<p>Water Resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clark's Cove</i>
<p>Natural Resource Protection Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Priority Habitat</i> 	<p>Soils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sand & Gravel</i> • <i>Benthic</i>
<p>Zoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No zoning</i> <p>Development Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cove Road</i> • <i>W Rodney French</i> 	<p>Possible Use/Reuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Walk/Bike Path</i> • <i>Scenic vista</i>

6. City of New Bedford Parks

The City of New Bedford included the city parks in the priority protection area for many reasons: renewal of the historic and cultural aspects the individual park offers the city residents and for the opportunity to redesign and restructure the uses available in the future.

6a. Brooklawn Park

Brooklawn Park is located in the north end of the City of New Bedford, with Route 18 as the western boundary, Brooklawn Avenue to the north, Irvington Street to the south and Acushnet Avenue to the east. The park is one of the largest in the city with a total of 82-acres of varying outdoor recreational interest. Since 1992 the city has been making upgrades including the rehabilitation of the warming house that is currently serving as a senior center.



The Irvington Street facility is presently the site of the Recreation Special Needs Program with restored tennis courts, basketball courts and a new street hockey area. Additionally the Whaling City Youth Baseball League, the Bay State Girls Softball league, and the Greater New Bedford Pony League have all made improvements. In addition to the various recreational opportunities available the park is also boasts farmer's market. Plans to improve the park incorporate improving the drainage

problems potentially removing the soccer fields to create more passive open space area and upgrading the playground equipment.

6b. Riverside Park
(See Priority Protection #4 Riverside Park)

6c. Victory Park

Victory Park is located in the south end of the City of New Bedford along Brock Avenue and consists of nearly 6-acres of open space for area residents to enjoy. The park is a mix of both passive and active recreation and contains a soccer field, flooded dry pond for ice-skating in the winter, and a warming house. The warming house was used for skaters in the winter and as a headquarters for the Low Tide Yacht Club. The park has been used over the years for activities such as horseshoes, volleyball, golf practice, baseball, soccer and kite flying. It also has a wooded area that provides habitat for birds and wildlife and a trail that is use by neighborhood children to go to and from school.

A “Corrective Plan of Subdivision of Poor Farm Land in New Bedford, Massachusetts” was created in 1970. The city plans to continue to improve the park and offer more passive recreational opportunities for the residents. Currently, a group of local volunteers are working to create a community garden.

(Source: Planning Department, City of New Bedford)

6d. Clasky Common-Park

Composed of approximately seven acres, Clasky Common Park is located just north of the downtown, at the edge of the urban core of the City of New Bedford in a dense residential /commercial community. Clasky Common Park is historically significant as it was the first park built in New Bedford to serve as a public meeting space prior to the city’s incorporation and before the construction of a town hall. The park also contains one of the earliest Civil War monuments erected in the North. The Soldier’s and sailor’s Monument was dedicated in 1866 and is a centerpiece of the park.

Since its conception in 1822, the park has gone through numerous transformations, from rural pasture to urban retreat. A phased master plan and rehabilitation in 1999-2001 restored many elements of the park’s original design as a public garden while accommodating current uses.

Today Clasky Common serves as a major open space for area residents, businesses, and schoolchildren. It hosts community events, celebrations, recreational activities, and outdoor classes. Due to its location and topography, the park retains one of the best vistas of the city’s inner and outer harbors. Beside open passive space and gardens, there are children play areas, a spray fountain, and basketball courts.

6e. Hazelwood Park

Hazelwood Park is located in the South End, on a bluff, overlooking scenic Clark's Cove and West Beach. Access to the park is between Brock Avenue and West Rodney French Boulevard. The 23-acre park is comprised of both passive and active recreation areas including tennis courts, basketball courts, children's playground, open lawns for picnics and a gazebo, and several memorials. Public beaches and an historic bathhouse and pavilion are located across the Boulevard. There is a historic bowling green, for the unique game of Bowls, or bowling on the green similar to bocce. Once part of a large estate, the grounds contain ornamental trees, groves, expansive lawns, stonewalls and three historic structures. One of the historic structures has been rehabilitated for re-use as a senior community center. The park hosts an annual festival each year on the first weekend in June.

(Source: Planning Department, City of New Bedford)

6f. Pine Hill Park

Pine Hill Park is located in the north end of the city and was rebuilt in 1993 including two basketball courts. The park is in the Sassaquin Pond area and is considered a passive park for area residents. The 18-acre parcel protects wooded habitat established in 1973.

(Source: Planning Department, City of New Bedford)

6g. Pulaski Park

Pulaski Park is located in the north end of New Bedford consisting of 14 acres. It is a neighborhood park, containing playground equipment, and a basketball court. The city's current Open Space and Recreation Plan (2008-2013) as an objective has identified an opportunity to create an outdoor classroom and trails for area school children to learn about their natural environment.

(Source: Planning Department, City of New Bedford)

6h. Washington Square

The Washington Square neighborhood is an historic gateway to the South Central District of New Bedford. It is a relatively quiet residential area, a few blocks south of the downtown district. Included in the area are a number of historic and architecturally significant properties from the nineteenth century with notable tree lined streets. At least 95% of the housing in the neighborhood is deemed historic.

Unfortunately this neighborhood has suffered neglect. Though the residents take pride in their neighborhood and efforts are underway to create a Neighborhood Action Plan has been developed for revitalization of this locale. Implementation of this plan will be the first steps to improving the quality of life for the residents of Washington Square.

(Source: Office of Community Development, City of New Bedford)

6i. Ashley Park

Ashley Park is located in the southern section of the City of New Bedford near the DeValles School along River Street. The park consists of 5.1 acres surrounding a true mixed-use neighborhood, with shops, ethnic restaurants, bakeries, a school and a library. The land is permanently protected and home to a senior center, playground, basketball and volleyball courts, softball field, public gardens and park benches.

(Source: Planning Department, City of New Bedford)

7. National Historic Register Districts

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. These areas are authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Properties listed in the register include districts but also sites, buildings, structures and objects that are significant in American history. The National Park Service oversees the National Register, which is apart of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The City of New Bedford included National Historic Register Districts in the priority protection area for many reasons: renewal of the historic and cultural aspects the individual parks, mills and passive recreational areas offer the city the opportunity to redesign and restructure the uses available in the future. Below is a list of such unique places identified by the City as priorities.

7a. Fort Rodman Historical Register

Locally known as Fort Rodman, Fort Taber is located on the southern most tip of the City of New Bedford and Clarks Point is located to the west of the park. This beautiful waterfront park consists of 50-acres of open space that provides over a mile of ocean frontage. This was originally an important historical military site, particularly the Civil War. The reconstruction of this park took place in the late 1990s and transformed the vacant military site into the centerpiece of the city's park system. The park is multi-faceted and now offers playgrounds, a military museum, bike paths, walking trails, lawn and meadow areas, beaches, refreshment stands and sweeping views of the Elizabethan Islands.

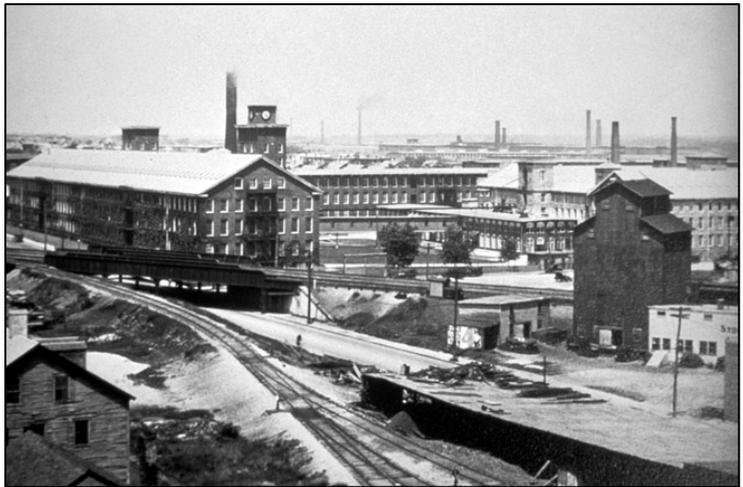
The park incorporates the historic military fort with interpretive signage and a military museum. There is over one mile of walking, jogging or biking paths, natural areas, a beach for bathing, a pier for fishing., a playground, community boating, a youth summer camp, and picnic areas offering panoramic views. The park is handicap accessible including a newly installed Braille trail. A large multi-purpose lawn allows for cultural programming, such as military reenactments and public concerts.

The park incorporates the new waterfront treatment plant, veiled berms and landscaping, as well as the UMass Center for Marine Sciences situated on the western portion of the park.

There is potential to develop wind power at the City of New Bedford's wastewater treatment facility. A feasibility study would need to be conducted to alleviate the power the city purchases to operate the water and wastewater facilities. Other potential locations include Fish Island and Energy Park. Energy Park would service New Bedford Industrial Park.

7b. Wamsutta National Historic District and Logan Pond

The Wamsutta Company textile mill was founded along the banks of the Acushnet River by Thomas Bennett in 1846. It was one of the first textile mills in New Bedford. This was one of many mills that gradually replaced the whaling industry and by the 1870s became more important to the local economy. By 1892, Wamsutta Company was the largest weaving plant in the world employing nearing 2000 workers.



Currently, the Wamsutta Mill structure is in the process of being converted into over 700 units of upscale loft condominiums and apartments with many amenities. Combined with Logan Pond, which is located within the Hick's Logan Redevelopment site behind the Wamsutta mill redevelopment project. The City of New Bedford envisions a formal park setting surrounding the pond.

(For more information concerning the Wamsutta National Historic District and Logan Pond see Priority Development/Redevelopment, 2.) Hicks/Logan/Sawyer Redevelopment Area)

7c. Buttonwood Park Zoo & Arboretum

Buttonwood Park Zoo

The entrance to the Buttonwood Park Zoo is located off Hawthorn Street in the southwestern portion of the City of New Bedford. The Zoo opened in the summer of 1894 at its present location and was designed by the renowned Fredrick Law Olmsted an American landscape architect. The collection of animals began with native species such as black bear, white-tailed deer, raccoon and foxes. Over the years the collection expanded to include domestic and exotic species as well, never replacing the native species.

The zoo currently features more than 150 animals. The Berkshires to the Sea exhibit showcases native species and habitats from the Berkshire Mountains to Buzzards Bay. This exhibit includes mountain lions, black bears, bald eagles, river otter and much more.

Many improvements have been made to the zoo over the past 15 years including: the gardens returned, aerators were installed in the pond, the greenhouse reopened, a walking path was installed along Brownell Avenue, the zoo exhibits and facilities have been modernized. The city would like to continue to upgrade and improve the Buttonwood Park Zoo for future enjoyment for the residents and tourist alike.

Buttonwood Park Urban Tree Farm

The Friends of Buttonwood Park has been in existence since 1987 and stand out as one of the leading nonprofit urban park organizations in the State of Massachusetts. They have carried on the partnership legacy begun with the Commonwealth's innovative Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program. The Friends have actively planned and developed communications, education and outreach programs the focus on the care of the park, making the connection between the people of New Bedford and the historic landscape they live in.

Among a number of efforts, the Friends have created an In Our Park and Tree Keeper programs. This program has involved over 700 elementary students and teachers by having them participate in guided field walks to discuss horticulture, ecology and the historic value of trees. Not to mention forty Tree Keepers associated with the Friends, tend to all new trees planted. The City of New Bedford values the tree-lined streets for not only traffic calming purposes but also it creates an esthetically pleasing streetscape. Recreating the old Buttonwood Park Arboretum has real prospective for creating a way to replace old tree lined streets.

7d. *Palmer's Island Restoration*

Immediately inside the Hurricane Barrier is the Palmer Island Lighthouse Station. Palmer Island Light Station is located on the northern point of Palmer's Island in the Acushnet River at the entrance to New Bedford Harbor. The lighthouse is named after one of the first settlers of Dartmouth, William Palmer. Ship traffic within New Bedford Harbor during the early 1800s made it necessary to aid in navigation into the harbor. Charles M. Pierce designed the lighthouse station. Most of the other dwellings located on the island were destroyed in the 1938, Hurricane.



The City of New Bedford currently owns the Palmer Island Light and began preservation efforts back in 1989, and in 1999 the city once again illuminated the Palmer Island Light Station as an aid to navigation. Generally the lighthouse is closed to the public, but allows access for inspection on island clean-up days. The city is considering allowing more passive recreational opportunities for the public while offering a potential tourist attraction.