

**TOWN OF WINTHROP  
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN: 2014-2021**



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This project was accomplished with assistance from the Town of Winthrop residents, Planning Board, Town Council, and the Town Grants Administrator. The project was conducted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) with funds from the District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program administered by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Community Development. MAPC wishes to express our thanks to the Governor and the members of the Legislature for their continued support and funding of the DLTA program.

## **METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL**

### **Officers**

President	Michelle Ciccolo, Town of Hudson
Vice President	Lynn Duncan, City of Salem
Secretary	Marilyn Contreas, MA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Treasurer	Taber Keally, Town of Milton

### **Executive Director**

Director of Land Use	Marc D. Draisen
Project Manager	Mark G. Racicot
GIS Services	Joan Blaustein
	Susan Brunton

## **TOWN OF WINTHROP**

### **Town Administrator**

James M. McKenna

### **Town Grants Manager**

Joseph Domelowicz

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section I	Plan Summary	1
Section II	Introduction	3
Section III	Community Setting	5
Section IV	Environmental Inventory and Analysis	23
Section V	Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest	35
Section VI	Community Vision	55
Section VII	Analysis of Needs	57
Section VIII	Goals and Objectives	65
Section IX	Seven-Year Action Plan	67
Section X	Implementation	81
Section XI	Public Comments	83
Section XII	References	89
Appendix A	Public Meeting Flyers	90
Appendix B	Notes from the Public Meetings	93
Appendix C	Section 504 Self-Evaluation	96
Appendix D	Maps	109
	1 Regional Context	
	2 Environmental Justice Populations	
	3 Census Tracts	
	4 Zoning	
	5 Soils and Geologic Features	
	6 Unique Features	
	7 Water Resources	
	8 Open Space and Recreation Inventory	
	9 Seven Year Action Plan	

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	Meetings	4
2	Total Population	9
3	Age Distribution: 2000 and 2010	9
4	Household Characteristics	10
5	Racial Composition of the 2007-2011 Population	11
6	Language Spoken at Home	11
7	Population Density	12
8	Population Projections for Current Trends and <i>MetroFuture</i>	13
9	Population Projections by Age Group: 2010-2030	14
10	Percent of Total Employment by Industry	15
11	2011 Average Employment and Wages by Industry	16
12	Major Employers in Winthrop	16
13	Housing Units: 2010	17
14	Housing Tenure 2010	17
15	Age of the Housing Stock	18
16	Zoning Districts	20
17	Buildout Impacts	21
18	Soils in Winthrop	23
19	2005 Land Use	25
20	Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species	29
21	Historic Resources	30
22	Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities	39
23	Chapter 91 Licenses	51
24	Accomplishments from the 2001 Open Space and Recreation Plan	67
25	Seven-Year Action Plan	71
26	Facilities Inventory/Transition Plan	97

## **SECTION I – PLAN SUMMARY**

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of the 2014-2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan is to provide the Town of Winthrop with a blueprint for ensuring that current and future residents of the town have ample opportunities for recreation and access to open space despite financial constraints and dense development.

### **COMMUNITY GOALS**

The Town of Winthrop has developed nine goals on which the open space and recreation plan is based.

Goal #1: Protect and enhance the quality and integrity of all conservation land and open space for public use and enjoyment.

Goal #2: Provide ample recreational opportunities for all residents of the town.

Goal #3: Preserve the scenic quality of the town.

Goal #4: Promote public awareness of conservation and recreation, use of recreation areas and programs offered.

Goal #5: Coordinate Winthrop's recreation and open space planning activities with those of neighboring communities, as well as regional, state and federal activities.

Goal #6: Protect coastal areas.

Goal #7: Protect wildlife and wild plants to preserve the diversity and health of natural community ecosystems.

Goal #8: Promote cooperation between Town boards with jurisdiction over open space and recreational areas and work towards implementation of this plan.

Goal #9: Develop a walking and biking network linking public open space, and civic and commercial resources.



## **SECTION II- INTRODUCTION**

### **A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of the 2014-2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan is to provide the Town of Winthrop with a blueprint for ensuring that current and future residents of the town have ample opportunities for recreation and access to open space despite financial constraints and dense development. In addition to the usual goals of an open space and recreation plan, this plan also considers how Winthrop can encourage day visitors to come to Winthrop as a tool for economic development. The plan is based on a careful analysis of the town's remaining open land as well as redevelopment opportunities and also considers open space and recreation from the perspective of environmental justice and equity. This reflects a new policy direction of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The plan is comprehensive in its approach and tries to balance the needs of the community against the fiscal reality of limited funds.

### **B. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY**

Since 2002, EOEEA has been implementing an Environmental Justice Policy to help ensure that all Massachusetts residents experience equal protection and meaningful involvement with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits. This policy was instituted recognizing that communities across the Commonwealth, particularly those densely populated urban neighborhoods in and around the state's older industrial areas, are facing many environmental challenges associated with Massachusetts' industrial legacy. Residents in these predominantly low-income and minority communities – nearly 29% of the state population – lack open space and recreational resources and often live side-by-side numerous existing large and small sources of pollution and old abandoned, contaminated sites, which can pose risks to public health and the environment.

Critical to advancing environmental justice (EJ) in the Commonwealth is the equitable distribution of environmental assets such as parks, open space, and recreation. Toward this end, and where applicable, municipalities shall identify and prioritize open space sites in their Open Space and Recreation Plans that are socially, recreationally, and ecologically important to EJ populations within the community.

### **C. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

MAPC prepared this plan under the direction of the Town Grants Administrator. The project was funded under the state's District Local Technical Assistance program. MAPC held a series of meetings with various town departments and other interested parties. These meetings are listed in Table 1 below.

<b>Table 1 Meetings</b>	
<b>Person/Organization</b>	<b>Date</b>
First Public meeting	June 20, 2013
Conservation Commission	September 5, 2013
Harbor Master	September 5, 2013
Public meeting on the Harborwalk Project	September 5, 2013
Recreation Director	September 12, 2013
Second Public Meeting	November 21, 2013

### **Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation**

The state considers a community to be an environmental justice community if it meets one or more of the following criteria: 25% of the households earn 65% or less of the statewide household median income; or 25% or more of the residents are minority; or 25% or more of the residents are foreign-born; or 25% or more of the residents are lacking English language proficiency. This is based on the 2010 Census block data and is depicted in Figure 2: Environmental Justice Populations which can be found in Appendix D. Winthrop meets the criteria for lacking English language proficiency in one block group representing 5% (876 people) of the population. Table 6 indicates that approximately 1,194 people speak other Indo-European languages at home but this statistic did not provide enough detail to determine which languages are spoken and whether it would be valuable to translate public meeting notices into other languages.

The public meeting for input to the plan was held on June 20, 2013. The meeting was publicized with a notice in the local newspaper, posted in Town Hall and on the town's web page as well as distributed through e-mail lists. A flyer announcing the meeting was developed for distribution in a variety of ways. A copy of this flyer can be found in Appendix A.

## SECTION III- COMMUNITY SETTING

### A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

**1. Overview of Regional Context** – Winthrop is a small community of only 1.64 square miles. It is located on a peninsula that separates Boston Harbor and Logan Airport to the west from Massachusetts Bay to the east. Please refer to Figure 1: Regional Context which can be found in Appendix D. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council ([MAPC](#)) classifies Winthrop as a Streetcar Suburb. These communities comprise village and transit-oriented residential neighborhoods with a mix of single family homes, 2-4 family houses and mid-sized multifamily housing. New growth generally occurs through limited redevelopment and infill and expansion of existing structures. More affluent than the Metro Core, the population is moderately diverse and stable, with a growing share of school-age children.

The center of Winthrop is approximately 4.3 miles from downtown Boston, a drive which generally takes 15 minutes. Logan Airport lies between Winthrop and Boston and the runways are only 1,000 feet from the southwestern shore of the town. Because it is a peninsula, Winthrop is isolated and the only links to the mainland are via marsh, beaches and a causeway to Revere to the north and the Belle Isle Bridge to East Boston.

### 2. Regional Planning Context

**MAPC** –Winthrop is one of 101 municipalities that are served by MAPC. Created by an act of the Legislature in 1963, MAPC serves as a forum for state and local officials to address issues of regional importance. Council membership consists of community representatives, gubernatorial appointees and city and state agencies that collaborate in the development of comprehensive plans and recommendations in areas of population and employment, transportation, economic development, regional growth and the environment. The Council’s professional planners, GIS specialists, demographers and others also provide technical assistance to its member communities.

**[The Inner Core Committee](#)** –Winthrop is also a member of the Inner Core Committee (ICC), one of eight subregions within the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. The Inner Core Committee is a group of twenty municipalities (Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Newton, Quincy, Revere, Saugus, Somerville, Waltham, Watertown and Winthrop) that meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest. The ICC is an excellent forum for discussing regional open space issues and opportunities.

**[MetroFuture](#)** – *MetroFuture* is the official regional plan for Greater Boston, adopted consistent with the requirements of MGL. The plan includes goals and objectives as well as thirteen detailed implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. The plan’s relevant goals include the protection of 139,000 acres of developable land identified as a high priority by the State Land Conservation Plan. The plan also envisions at least 1,800 acres of new urban parks and community gardens. The implementation strategies can be viewed by visiting the web site.

**3. Regional Open Space Resources** – There are a number of significant regional open space resources in and around Winthrop.

**Revere Beach Reservation** - Revere Beach is owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and is the oldest public beach in America. It celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1996. Today, this beach boasts miles of shoreline which welcomes throngs of visitors every summer. Along the boulevard there is a bandstand for summer concerts, a bathhouse and many shade shelters. Revere Beach is very accessible by public transportation which makes it a popular spot for people from all around metro Boston. Revere Beach is north of Winthrop.

**Belle Isle Marsh** – The Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, under the jurisdiction of DCR, preserves 152 acres of the 241-acre Belle Isle Marsh, Boston’s last remaining salt marsh. Belle Isle Marsh is included within the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern. A unique place to explore, the reservation exemplifies the type of wetlands that once lined the Massachusetts Bay shore. Centuries of flourishing plant life have made the marsh more fertile than the richest farm land. Its protected waters are nurseries to fish and shellfish and are critical habitat to many saltmarsh plants and wildlife rare to the metropolitan area. In addition to the preservation of the natural areas of the marsh, the DCR manages 28 acres of landscaped park with pathways, benches and an observation tower.

**Rumney Marsh** – Rumney Marsh, is a 600+ acre reservation located within the rich Saugus and Pines River estuary. This expansive saltmarsh provides habitat for an array of wildlife including migratory birds and marine life. The reservation also provides recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, walking, and bird watching. It is designated as an “Area of Critical Environmental Concern”. An ACEC is a state-designated critical resource area. The objectives of the ACEC program are: to identify and designate critical resource areas, to ensure that actions by state agencies protect and enhance the resources; and to support local and regional actions for the long-term stewardship of ACECs. The state’s definition of an ACEC is “an area containing concentrations of highly significant environmental resources that has been formally designated by the Commonwealth’s Secretary of Environmental Affairs”. ACECs may be nominated by citizens groups, municipal officials, regional or state agencies or by a legislator. The Rumney Marshes ACEC also includes the Belle Isle Marsh although the two marshes are not contiguous.

**Deer Island** – Deer Island is one of 34 islands included within the National Park Services’ Boston Harbor Islands unit. The Boston Harbor Islands became a unit of the National Park System in November 1996. The islands are managed through a unique partnership. Deer Island is managed by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) which maintains the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Facility. The island has a 2.6-mile shoreline path and 2 miles of trails through the hills of the island. Deer Island’s 60 acres of parkland make it ideal for walking, jogging, biking, rollerblading, dog walking (on a leash), sightseeing, picnicking, and fishing.

#### **4. Local and Regional Open Space Initiatives and Plans**

**Walk Winthrop: A Plan for a More Walkable & Bikeable Town** – This report was prepared in 2010 by The Conway School of Landscape Design for the town based on the town’s interest in creating a more bikeable and walkable community. The report recommended developing a network of walking and cycling routes throughout the town that would connect commercial districts, municipal services, natural resources and transportation hubs.

**Walk Winthrop: A Greenway Action Plan** – In 2011, MAPC prepared a greenway action plan for Winthrop. The purpose of the plan was to advance the concepts first identified in the Walk Winthrop plan of 2010. The vision of the Walk Winthrop Greenway is a network of signed and marked urban trails that connect the town’s natural resources, including its beaches, views, and parks with transportation systems and civic and business districts. A key tourism potential resides in the proposed Boston Harbor to Winthrop Loop where one could take the MBTA to Maverick Station, hop on a bicycle and ride along the East Boston Greenway to Constitution Beach, continue into Winthrop, head down Winthrop Shore Drive and Yirrell Beach to Point Shirley, circle Deer Island and return to the ferry terminal to head back to Rowes Wharf in Boston.

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Planning** - To improve the connectivity of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, MAPC is undertaking an effort to assist numerous communities within the Sustainable Communities Consortium with pedestrian and bicycle planning efforts. MAPC is assisting Chelsea, Everett, Revere, Malden, Saugus and Lynn. Although Winthrop is not directly included in this effort, the work done in Revere will be of relevance to Winthrop.

**Revere Open Space and Recreation Plan** - MAPC prepared an Open Space and Recreation Plan for the City of Revere in 2010. While Winthrop and Revere are adjacent, none of the action recommendations directly relate to the border that these two communities share.

**[Boston Open Space and Recreation Plan](#)** - The current open space plan for the City of Boston is the Open Space Plan 2009-2014. This plan is broken down into neighborhoods and there is a separate section for East Boston, the neighborhood closest to Winthrop which includes Orient Heights. The East Boston [neighborhood plan](#) can be found on the city web site. The Seven Year Action Plan for East Boston includes a number of recommendations related to the East Boston Greenway and Belle Isle Marsh which can be considered regional resources that Winthrop residents can use.

#### **A. HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY**

Winthrop had a long and varied history as a Native American encampment; a colonial farming community; an industrial center; a nineteenth-century summer resort; and in the twentieth-century, a thriving, year-round community (Historical Commission). Throughout its known history, residents and visitors alike have made abundant use of Winthrop’s scenic and natural resources.

The town was settled in 1630 by English Puritan colonists as Pullen Poynt. In 1775, residents of what is now Winthrop, Revere, and Chelsea played a key role in the Battle of Chelsea Creek of the American Revolutionary War. It was officially incorporated in 1852. It is one of the four municipalities in Suffolk County. It is located on a peninsula, at the beginning of the North Shore, with seven miles (11 km) of shoreline that provides views of the ocean to the east and of the Boston skyline to the west.

Originally part of an area called Winnisimmet by the Native Massachusetts tribe, the peninsula was annexed by Boston in 1632 and within five years became the grazing area for farm animals of the rapidly growing Boston colony. In 1637 it was divided into 15 parcels of land that were given by Governor John Winthrop to prominent men in Boston with the stipulation that each must erect a building on his land within two years. Few, if any, of these men ever lived here, but their farms prospered. One of these early houses, built initially during the first half of the 17th century, and rebuilt in 1675, was the home of Governor Winthrop's youngest son, Deane Winthrop, who lived there until his death in 1703. This house is still standing and is maintained, for public viewing, by the Winthrop Improvement and Historical Association.

In 1739, what is now Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop withdrew from Boston due to governmental control disputes and became the Town of Chelsea. Again the desire for more local control resulted in Revere and Winthrop seceding from Chelsea in 1846 to become North Chelsea. Shortly thereafter, in 1852, Winthrop was incorporated as a town in its own right with a Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting form of government. In 1920, Winthrop was the second town in the Commonwealth to apply for and receive a Charter for a Representative Town Meeting, which continued to 2006.

Winthrop adopted a home rule charter in 2005 with a council-manager form of government and is no longer governed by a representative town meeting. It is now classified as a town with a city form of government. The new Town Charter, which took effect in 2006, was passed in a special election. The Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting were abolished, and legislative powers were vested in an elected Town Council. Executive power, largely ceremonial, resides in the Council President, who is popularly elected. An appointed Town Manager serves as the head of administrative services. Deer Island, though within the city limits of Boston, is located in Winthrop Bay. It ceased to be an island in the 1930s when Shirley Gut, which separated it from Winthrop, was filled in.

## **POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

**Total population** – The most recent (2010) U.S. Census shows a population of 17, 497. This represents a 4.4 % decrease from 2000.

<b>Table 2</b>	
<b>Total Population</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>
1990	18,127
2000	18,303
2010	17,497

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau.*

**Age Distribution** – The median age in 2010 was 43.7 years. Twenty percent of the population was under 18 years and sixteen percent was 65 years and older.

<b>Table 3</b>				
<b>Age Distribution: 2000 and 2010</b>				
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>2000 Number</b>	<b>2000 Percentage</b>	<b>2010 Number</b>	<b>2010 Percentage</b>
Under 5 years	906	4.95	886	5.06
5 to 9 years	947	5.17	850	4.85
10 to 14 years	1,020	5.57	871	4.97
15 to 19 years	900	4.92	893	5.10
20 to 24 years	970	5.30	894	5.10
25 to 34 years	2,820	15.41	2,150	12.27
35 to 44 years	3,248	17.75	2,551	14.56
45 to 54 years	2,697	14.74	2,974	16.98
55 to 59 years	1,029	5.62	1,300	7.42
60 to 64 years	742	4.05	1,234	7.04
65 to 74 years	1,443	7.88	1,518	8.67
75 to 84 years	1,140	6.23	987	5.63
85 years and over	441	2.41	409	2.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,303</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>17,517</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: U.S. Census*

**Household composition** – There were 7,783 households in Winthrop in 2010. The average household size was 2.24 people. Families made up 57 percent of the households in Winthrop. Of these, 72% were married couple families.

<b>Table 4: Household Characteristics</b>	
<b>Household Type</b>	<b>Number 2010</b>
<b>Total households</b>	7,783
<b>Family households (families)</b>	4,431
With own children under 18 years	1,732
Married-couple family	3,194
With own children under 18 years	1,231
Male householder, no wife present, family	350
With own children under 18 years	117
Female householder, no husband present, family	887
With own children under 18 years	384
<b>Non-family households</b>	3,352
Householder living alone	2,680
Male	1,132
65 years and over	292
Female	1,548
65 years and over	680
Households with individuals under 18 years	1,861
Households with individuals 65 years and older	2,235
Average household size	2.24
Average family size	2.93
<b>Source: U.S. Census</b>	

**Income** – According to the 2007-2011 American Community Survey prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, the median family income was \$81,647. The average family size was 2.93. The median household income was \$61,744 and the per capita income was \$36,624. The survey also found that 8.3% of families had incomes below the poverty level.

**Environmental Justice criteria** – The state considers a community to be an environmental justice community if it meets one or more of the following criteria: 25% of the households earn 65% or less of the statewide household median income; or 25% or more of the residents are minority; or 25% or more of the residents are foreign-born; or 25% or more of the residents are lacking English language proficiency. This is based on the 2010 Census block data. Winthrop meets the criteria for lacking English language proficiency in one block group representing 5% of the population. The census block group that meets the environmental justice criteria is shown on Figure 2 in Appendix. Although

Winthrop only meets one of the criteria for environmental justice, there are other measures of diversity in Winthrop’s population. Tables 5 and 6 display some information related to diversity in Winthrop.

<b>Table 5 Racial Composition of the 2007-2011 Population</b>		
<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total Population	17,430	100%
One Race	16,554	95%
White	15,616	89.6%
Black or African American	276	1.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	13	0.1%
Asian	135	0.8%
Asian Indian	51	0.3%
Chinese	27	0.2%
Filipino	0	0.0%
Japanese	0	0.0%
Korean	13	0.1%
Vietnamese	44	0.3%
Other Asian	0	0.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	15	0.1%
Some Other Race	499	2.9%
Two or More Races	876	5.0%
<b>Source: U.S. Census; American Community Survey 2007-2011</b>		

<b>Table 6 Language Spoken At Home</b>		
<b>Language</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Population 5 years and older	16,488	100%
English only	14,212	86.2%
Language other than English	2,276	13.8%
Speak English less than “very well”	1,186	7.2%
Spanish	611	3.7%
Speak English less than “very well”	309	1.9%
Other Indo-European languages	1,194	7.2%
Speak English less than “very well”	562	3.4%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	12	0.1%
Speak English less than “very well”	0	0.0%
Other languages	459	2.8%

Table 6 Language Spoken At Home		
Language	Number	Percent
Speak English less than “very well”		
<i>Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2007-2011</i>		

**Population Density** – There are seven census tracts in Winthrop including one which represents Snake Island and one which represents the Winthrop portion of Logan Airport. These are shown on Figure 3: Census Tracts which can be found in Appendix D. Table 7 includes information on the area, population and density of each tract. Population densities vary from a low of 7,795 persons per square mile in the tract which includes Lewis Lake and the golf course to a high of 12,943 persons per square mile in the Point Shirley neighborhood.

Table 7 Population Density			
Census Tract Number/Neighborhood	Tract Area (Square miles)	2010 Population	Persons per square mile
180101 (Winthrop Highlands)	0.44	4,776	10,854
180200 (Downtown, Ingleside Park, Belle Isle Marsh)	0.41	4,109	10,021
180301 (Cottage Park, Court Park)	0.27	3,024	11,200
180400 (Metcalf Square, Lewis Lake)	0.22	1,715	7,795
180500 (Point Shirley)	0.30	3,883	12,943
981300 (Small portion in Winthrop: Logan Airport)	NA	NA	NA
990101 (Snake Island)	NA	NA	NA
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau</i>			

### **Projected Population**

In May 2008, MAPC released *MetroFuture: Making a Greater Boston Region*, a new plan for growth and development in Metro Boston from now to 2030. In order to support the MetroFuture planning process, MAPC prepared two sets of population and employment projections: a “current trends” projection and a “MetroFuture” projection.

The **current trends** or baseline projection estimates the number of people and jobs likely to exist in each community if current patterns of growth and development continued to 2030. The **MetroFuture projection** estimates the number of people and jobs for each community if the recommendations contained in the MetroFuture plan are followed. Under MetroFuture, more

growth is directed to areas that are already developed, such as town centers and urban areas. Table 8 shows the population projections for Winthrop for both the current trends and the MetroFuture scenario. Winthrop is projected to grow under both scenarios. Under current trends growth from 2010-2030 would be 417 people and under the MetroFuture scenario, growth would be 182 people.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Table 8</b>  <b>Population Projections for</b>  <b>Current Trends and MetroFuture</b></p>					
2010 Current Trends	2010 MetroFuture	2020 Current Trends	2020 MetroFuture	2030 Current Trends	2030 MetroFuture
18,638	18,124	18,888	18,230	19,055	18,306
<p><i>Source: MAPC Data Center</i></p>					

Another important consideration is the growth or decline in certain age groups. Table 9 shows population projections by age groups for the period 2010-2030. The projections show an aging population with the greatest increases in the population aged 55-79. This would indicate a need to plan for more passive recreational opportunities for older adults.

**Recreational Needs by Age Group**

Under the age of five, most recreation is done with parental supervision. This recreation tends to be close to home due to the difficulties of traveling with children. This age group also needs structured preschool programs that focus on teaching basic skills. For older children, adults seek places to take their children for walks. Adults with older children also seek out programs for their children that provide family recreational opportunities.

Adolescents are a difficult age group to serve because they do not like to participate in traditional programs that are structured or involve adult supervision. They prefer programs where they are more actively involved in determining the activities. Programs that work well for adolescents include rock climbing, adventure programs, skateboarding, hiking, band concerts, cook outs, dances and sports.

The needs of elderly residents are divided between the younger, more active senior citizens and the frail elderly. The frail elderly generally require therapeutic recreational services. More active seniors tend to enjoy walking, golf, tennis and swimming.

The Winthrop Council on Aging – The Winthrop Council on Aging offers a wide variety of recreational programs at the Senior Center including aerobics, yoga, Tai Chi and Zumba. In the past year, the Senior Center built a community garden in the back yard of the center. This is the first community garden in Winthrop.

The needs of residents with disabilities also vary. Some residents with disabilities can participate in regular recreational programs without any modifications while others may need some assistance. The Recreation Director stated that there are two children in wheelchairs who participate in the after-school programs run by the Recreation Department. He stated that the department does not run any special programs but makes adjustments to their programs as necessary to handle individuals with disabilities. Ingleside Park is the best location for wheelchair users. Depending on the degree of disability, there may also be a need for specific programs geared for that population but this is not currently the situation in Winthrop. Physical barriers are a key factor and will need to be evaluated through the American Disabilities Act Section 504 process and eliminated in a systematic fashion. Programmatic changes may also be necessary, including training staff on how to work with disabled residents.

<b>Age Range</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>Change 2010- 2020</b>
00-04	884	896	909	+12
05-09	880	838	889	-42
10-14	978	892	905	-86
15-19	949	835	763	-114
20-24	1,109	1,043	921	-66
25-29	1,194	1,344	1,187	+150
30-34	1,120	1,280	1,222	+160
35-39	1,355	1,285	1,477	-70
40-44	1,534	1,231	1,412	-303
45-49	1,487	1,158	1,082	-329
50-54	1,479	1,383	1,115	-96
55-59	1,154	1,289	986	+135
60-64	926	1,069	952	+143
65-69	752	994	1,094	+242
70-74	607	919	1,063	+312
75-79	570	687	911	+117
80-85	505	449	687	-56
85+	642	638	731	-4

<b>Table 9 Population Projections by Age Group: 2010-2030</b>				
<b>Age Range</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>Change 2010- 2020</b>
Total				
<i>Source: MAPC Data Center.</i> Note: These projections reflect the Metro Future scenario.				

**Economic data** - The following information is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey for 2007-2011.

<b>Table 10 Percent of Total Employment by Industry</b>	
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Percent of Employment</b>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining	0.0
Construction	6.81
Manufacturing	4.15
Wholesale trade	4.12
Retail trade	7.05
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	7.55
Information	2.23
Finance, real estate, insurance	9.93
Professional, scientific, management, administrative	13.33
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	24.11
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food service	9.9
Other services except public administration	4.26
Public administration	6.56
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau</i>	

<b>Table 11</b>			
<b>2011 Average Employment and Wages by Industry</b>			
<b>Industry</b>	<b># of Establishments</b>	<b>Average Monthly Employment</b>	<b>Average Weekly Wage</b>
<b>Total, all industries</b>	306	1,798	\$656
Construction	41	134	\$792
Manufacturing	3	14	\$193
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	3	13	\$170
Wholesale Trade	9	28	\$1,056
Retail Trade	32	186	\$445
Finance and Insurance	14	98	\$1,253
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10	16	\$582
Professional and Technical	21	38	\$1,449
Administrative and Waste Services	9	23	\$440
Health Care and Social Assistance	26	192	\$500
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	12	75	\$317
Accommodation and Food Services	29	239	\$259
Other Services, Except Public Administration	71	159	\$353
<b>Source: MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development</b>			

Major employers are listed in Table 12. The state collects data on major employers but uses a range of employees to give an order of magnitude of each employer rather than an exact number, which can fluctuate. In addition to the employers below, the Town of Winthrop is also a major employer.

<b>Table 12</b>	
<b>Major Employers in Winthrop</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Employees</b>
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority	1,000-4,999
Deer Island Treatment Plant	250-499
A T Cummings School	50-99
CVS Pharmacy	50-99
Fort Banks Elementary School	50-99
Governor Winthrop Nursing Center	50-99
<b>Source: Mass.gov; Division of Labor and Workforce</b>	

## Housing Characteristics

According to the 2010 Census, there were 8,076 housing units in Winthrop. Of these, 51.8 % were owner-occupied and 41.8 6% were renter-occupied and 6.5% were vacant.

<b>Table 13 Housing Units: 2010</b>		
<b>Units in Structure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1 unit detached	2,535	31.39
1 unit attached	195	2.41
2 units	2,335	28.91
3 or 4 units	1,335	16.53
5 to 9 units	403	4.99
10 to 19 units	229	2.84
20 or more units	1,033	12.79
Mobile home	0	0.0
Boat, RV, van, etc.	11	0.14
<b>Total housing units</b>	<b>8,076</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Source: U.S. Census</i>		

<b>Table 14 Housing Tenure 2010</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>% Of Total Units</b>
Owner-Occupied	4,307	51.7
Renter-Occupied	3,476	41.80
Vacant Units	537	6.45
<b>Total Occupied Units</b>	<b>7,783</b>	
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>8,320</b>	
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau</i>		

<b>Table 15 Age of the Housing Stock</b>		
<b>Year built</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Total housing units</b>	8,076	100
Built 2005 or later	83	1.03
Built 2000 to 2004	111	1.37
Built 1990 to 1999	117	1.45
Built 1980 to 1989	311	3.85
Built 1970 to 1979	988	12.23
Built 1960 to 1969	354	4.38
Built 1950 to 1959	800	9.91
Built 1940 to 1949	499	6.18
Built 1939 or earlier	4,813	59.60
<i>Source: US Census Bureau</i>		

## **D. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS**

### **Patterns and Trends**

Winthrop is a small community of only 1.64 square miles. It is located on a peninsula that separates Boston Harbor and Logan Airport to the west from Massachusetts Bay to the east. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council ([MAPC](#)) classifies Winthrop as a Streetcar Suburb. These communities comprise village and transit-oriented residential neighborhoods with a mix of single family homes, 2-4 family houses and mid-sized multifamily housing. New growth generally occurs through limited redevelopment and infill and expansion of existing structures. More affluent than the Metro Core, the population is moderately diverse and stable, with a growing share of school-age children.

The 2005 Open Space Plan noted that Winthrop has the lowest percentage of developable land in the metropolitan area.

### **Infrastructure**

Transportation – The only state highway serving Winthrop is State Route 145 which connects Winthrop with Revere. Although it is adjacent to Boston and close to the regional highway network

(The Mass Pike, Route 128, I-93, Route 1 and Route 1A) Winthrop is a peninsula and lacks quick access to the regional highway network.

In 2013 Winthrop began offering ferry service which runs through the middle of October. The boat, The JS Kennedy departs from the Norman F. Siefert Ferry Terminal at the Winthrop Town Landing and docks at Rowers Wharf in Boston. The service is offered under a licensing agreement between Captain Tim Grover and the town. The service can accommodate up to 49 passengers. Although the service currently primarily serves commuters, the town partnered with the Boston Harbor Island Alliance to begin weekend service during the summer to Spectacle Island.

Bus service in Winthrop is provided by Paul Revere Bus, under agreement with the MBTA. There are two routes which operate between Point Shirley and the Orient Heights MBTA station. Route 712 operates from Point Shirley via Winthrop Highlands and Route 713 operates via Winthrop Center. The principal stops are Point Shirley, Winthrop Beach, Governor's Park, the Winthrop Police Station and Orient Heights with other stops available upon request. Service runs from 5:00 AM through 1:30 AM Monday through Friday with more limited service on the weekends.

Water supply – The town obtains its water from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). However, the supply side is only one part of the equation. The water division maintains an extensive distribution system. In the past year the town repaired 25 service leaks and relayed 86 old lead and partial lead services with new copper pipe. They also replaced 17 fire hydrants and repaired two others. The division also maintains and services valves and meters and responded to four water main breaks. The division also replaced over 3,000 feet of aged water mains and all associated valves, hydrants and service lines as part of the completion of the Nahant/Bellevue/Somerset Road infrastructure project.

Sewer - Winthrop residents are acutely aware of the sewage disposal system servicing the Town. As a member community, Winthrop is serviced by the MWRA collection system. Disposal of treated sewerage for the MWRA system is handled at the Deer Island Treatment Plant, which was upgraded as part of a \$3.8 billion program to clean up Boston Harbor. Deer Island comprises 210 acres, two thirds of which are taken up by the wastewater treatment plant. The rest of Deer Island is used for recreation totaling about 60 acres of public open space including a trails system. Due to the proximity of the plant and its impacts on Winthrop, the community has an above average understanding of the problems associated with large metropolitan disposal systems as well as its benefits.

Solid waste – The DPW manages the town's curbside solid waste and recycling contract. The town recently entered into a new seven - year trash contract with Capital Waste Services. Town trash pick- up and disposal is limited to 1,2 and 3 family residences only. Trash disposal from 4+ family, condos, hotels and businesses is the responsibility of the owner. Pick up of bulk items like appliances require the purchase of a sticker. The town has single-stream curbside recycling as well. The town collected 86.24 tons of solid waste while the contractor collected 6,227.8 tons.

**Long-Term Development Patterns** – The town’s long-term development is largely a function of the economy, the zoning bylaw and the amount of remaining, buildable land. The layout of the town reflects its location as a peninsula and the early influence of the railroads.

**Zoning** – The Town of Winthrop is divided into eight zoning districts. Residential densities range from 7,500-20,000 square foot lots. These districts are shown on Figure 4: Zoning which can be found in Appendix D.

<b>Table 16 Zoning Districts</b>		
<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>District Name/Description</b>	<b>Minimum Lot Size</b>
RA	Residential A	7,500-10,000 sf
RB	Residential B	20,000 sf
RC	Residential C	20,000 sf
CB	Center Business	5,000 sf
BA	Business A	7,500 sf
LM	Light Manufacturing	43,560 sf
C	Conservation District	NA
WF	Waterfront	20,000 sf
<i>Source: PC/Codebook Town of Winthrop web site</i>		

**Subdivisions and Development Activity** – Because there is virtually no undeveloped land available, there have been no subdivisions in recent years. In 2012 the Winthrop Planning Board approved three Special Permits for new development under the Special Development Overlay District as follows:

- Adaptive reuse of Winthrop Hospital as a 90 unit assisted living facility (market rate).
- Adaptive reuse of Temple Tifereth Israel as affordable, 40 unit elder housing development.

- Adaptive reuse of former Dalrymple School as affordable 27 unit elder housing development.

**Buildout** – In 2000, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, under contract to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) prepared a buildout analysis for every community in the Boston region. A buildout analysis is a tool to help communities understand the potential impacts of future growth that might occur given the amount of land remaining and how that land is zoned.

The table below summarizes the results of that buildout analysis. The analysis starts with available land in each zoning district and makes projections of additional housing units as well as commercial/industrial space according to each district’s minimum lot size and other regulations. The projections only account for as of right development and do not include development by special or comprehensive permit that may increase the amount of development. These buildout projections were combined with 2000 Census and other data to create a profile of each community at buildout according to its current zoning. Please note that the buildout analysis is now 13 years old. These results should be used as a way to generate discussion about zoning and future development, rather than as hard statistics.

<b>Table 17 Buildout Impacts</b>	
Additional residents	190
Additional school children	24
Additional residential units	0
Additional developable land area (acres)	3.07
Additional commercial/industrial buildable floor area (sq. ft.)	0
Additional water demand at buildout (gallons per day)	14,255
Residential	14,255
Commercial and industrial	0
Additional solid waste (tons/year)	69
Non-recyclable	69
Recyclable	0
Additional roadway at buildout (miles)	0
<i>Source: MAPC. Data is from 2000.</i>	



**SECTION IV- ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS**

**A. GEOLOGY, SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

**Geology** – The surficial geology of Winthrop is shown on Map 5. The geology includes sand and gravel deposits, till or bedrock, sandy till over sand, end moraine, large sand deposits, fine-grained deposits and floodplain alluvium.

Winthrop Beach is not a state classified barrier beach. However, it was geologically formed as a typical barrier beach, as a tombolo spanning between the drumlins at Winthrop Highlands and Cottage Hill. This is also indicated in the topography, which was originally (before the seawall) a dune gently sloping west to the salt marsh which is now the area now known as Crystal Lake and the golf course.

**Soils-** The soils data layer available from Mass GIS shows that Winthrop includes the following soil types:

Table 18 Soils in Winthrop		
Soil Type	Description	Suitability for development and recreation
Beaches	Areas of sand and gravel along the shoreline of Massachusetts. These areas are subject to wave action and, in some places, tidal flooding. They consist of deep marine deposits of sand derived from granite. Most areas of beaches do not have vegetation.	These areas are in intensive use for summer bathing and related kinds of recreation. Beaches are generally not suitable for most other uses.
Urban land complex	This map unit consists of areas where 75 percent or more of the land is covered with impervious surfaces, such as buildings, pavement, industrial parks, and railroad yards.	Nearly all rainfall runs off and a storm drainage system is needed to control this excessive runoff. These areas would be more suited for playgrounds than larger parks.
Dumps	Not listed in the soil survey.	No information available.
Mucky peat	This is a very poorly drained, nearly level soil in tidal marshes and estuaries on Massachusetts	This soil is very poorly suited to most uses because of flooding, wetness, low strength and salt

	Bay. The soil is subject to tidal flooding twice daily.	content. It is well suited to habitat for wetland wildlife, such as fish, shellfish, and waterfowl.
Udorthents, sandy	This map units consists of nearly level to steep areas where the original soils have been removed for use as road fill, concrete aggregate, or landfill. Typically, udorthents, sandy, are the remaining substratum material from Canton, Hinckley, Merrimac, and Windsor soils. Most areas are stratified sand and gravel to a depth of 60 inches or more.	These areas have moderate to very rapid permeability and little water capacity. These soils are generally well suited to use as building sites but are not suitable for septic systems. These soils are very droughty and are poorly suited to use as sites for lawns, landscaping, and vegetable gardens. For parks purposes, these areas would be difficult to keep watered and maintained.
Udorthents, wet substratum	This map unit consists of filled areas that were previously tidal marshes, river flood plains, bays, harbors and swamps. The fill consists of rubble, refuse and mixed soil material.	Permeability is moderate or slow and available water capacity is low or moderate. Runoff is slow and water tends to pond after heavy rain. If these areas are to be used as building sites, extensive onsite investigation is needed and pilings are usually necessary for foundations. Plantings such as might be found in a park would require site testing and possibly soil remediation.
Source: Soil Survey of Norfolk and Suffolk Counties, MA, Peragallo, 1989 N Esoil.com		

*Topography* – Winthrop’s terrain is fairly level except for some slight elevations up to about 50 feet in the northeastern part of the Town (i.e. Cottage Hill and the Highlands sections). Winthrop has a tidal shoreline of 8.3 miles that borders the Belle Isle Marsh. On the south, west and east, it is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean. More information on soils and geologic features are depicted on Figure 5 which can be found in Appendix D.

*Climate* – Winthrop’s weather varies sufficiently during the year to include conditions typical of all four seasons. The mean temperature in January is 28.6 degrees while the mean for July is 73.5 degrees. The normal precipitation is 41.5 inches annually. The area receives an average of 40-60 inches of snow during a typical winter.

## B. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The most recent year for which land use data is available is 2005. The table below paints a picture of land use in the Town of Winthrop. Approximately 48% of Winthrop is residential.

**Table 19**  
**2005 Land Use**

<b>Land Use Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>% of Total Acres</b>
Brushland/Successional	6.62	0.45
Cemetery	15.77	1.08
Commercial	71.56	4.91
Forest	2.10	0.14
Forested Wetland	0.23	0.02
Golf Course	52.04	3.57
High Density Residential	340.25	23.35
Industrial	2.19	0.15
Marina	16.91	1.16
Multi-Family Residential	371.95	25.53
Non-Forested Wetland	6.46	0.44
Nursery	0.27	0.02
Open Land	42.14	2.89
Participation Recreation	43.18	2.96
Saltwater Sandy Beach	133.70	9.18
Saltwater Wetland	106.93	7.34
Transportation	199.45	13.69
Urban Public/Institutional	34.96	2.40
Waste Disposal	2.32	0.16
Water	7.87	0.54
	1456.89	99.99

As a peninsula with a tidal shore line of 8.3 miles and bounded by the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, the last remaining salt marsh in the metropolitan area, Winthrop's character is determined in a large part by its surroundings. The Belle Isle reservation preserves 152 of the 241 acre marsh and the species that live within it. Magnificent views of the marsh, the Atlantic Ocean and the City of Boston abound from nearly every spot along the shoreline in Winthrop.

The cliff on which Fort Heath Park is situated overlooks the Belle Isle Marsh and also offers a breathtaking view to the north and east. Cottage Hill, site of the landmark red, white and blue water tower, affords views in all directions. Belle Isle Marsh Reservation is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This ecological treasure has approximately 1,000 acres of salt marsh, shallow subtidal channels and tidal flats.

In 1988, a portion of Winthrop was included within the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) along with portions of Boston, Lynn, Revere and Saugus.

### **C. WATER RESOURCES**

Winthrop is located within the Mystic River Watershed and within the Boston Harbor Subbasin. The Mystic River Watershed is a densely populated and very urban watershed with a long history of industrial development and pollution. Water quality issues stem from a variety of sources including stormwater runoff, point source pollution, contaminated sediments in the river due to industrial uses, lack of access to open space as well as invasive species. A large number of community organizations as well as New England EPA and the Mystic River Watershed Association are actively working to improve water quality and access to open space.

There are no rivers or streams within the town. The only body of surface water is Lewis Lake. Belle Isle Inlet to the north forms the boundary between Boston and Winthrop. Therefore, the major water quality issue in Winthrop is the health of Boston Harbor and its impact on the cleanliness of the beaches.

**Winthrop Beaches-** Water quality at Winthrop beaches has improved remarkably due to the clean-up of Boston Harbor and the changes affected by the operation of the Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant. The organization “Save the Harbor/Save the Bay” monitors water quality and releases a water quality report card on the region’s public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket. Winthrop Beach scored 100% in 2012. The score means Winthrop Beach is one of the cleanest and safest to swim at during the summer months. 2012 was a good year for most of the Boston Harbor region’s public beaches, with more than half earning either an A or an A plus due to dry conditions. Bacterial pollution is often caused by storm water discharges that accompany summer showers, squalls and storms, so less rain means cleaner water.

During the summer, the Board of Health takes bathing water samples from the five town beaches (Donovan’s, Grandview, Halford, Pico, and Yirriell). The samples are analyzed by the MWRA at their laboratory and the results of the tests are posted on the Town’s website and on Winthrop Cable Access Television.

**Belle Isle Inlet-** The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) maintains water quality monitoring stations throughout the watershed. Site BEI093 is one of the fifteen Mystic Baseline Monitoring Sites in the Mystic River Watershed. This site is one of five saltwater sites that was initiated in 2008-2009. Belle Isle was chosen as a site as it carries significant runoff from the City of

Revere, City of Boston, Town of Winthrop and Suffolk Downs. The site is important due to the value of the marsh system and potential degraded shellfish because of water quality issues. The findings for multiple years reflected the significant inputs of sewage from City of Revere and from Suffolk Downs. Both of these institutions are now under federal consent decrees that mandate infrastructure improvements. Suffolk Downs has completed the majority of that work and Revere is halfway through a 10-12 year effort to improve infrastructure. The key indicator that is measured is the level of enterococcus found in the monthly water sample. Enterococcus is just one group of bacteria but is a proxy or representative of the other pathogens that are released in sewage or even horse manure. Massachusetts has numerical standards for bacteria levels that allows for enforcement to clean up a site. To meet the standard for primary contact (swimming) the level is 104 CFU/100ml and for secondary contact (boating) that standard is 350 for an individual sample. With the improvements that Suffolk Downs has made, MyRWA believes that water quality is improving in Belle Isle Inlet.

**Lewis Lake** –Lewis Lake receives stormwater runoff from approximately 1/3 of the town. The lake is only a few inches deep because of siltation from run-off. The upper lake is freshwater and the lower lake is brackish water and saltwater. The edge of the lake is very weedy with phragmites. There is a manually operated tidal gate. The lake needs to be dredged or it will eventually fill in and be unable to hold and absorb stormwater runoff. The lake is currently a breeding ground for mosquitoes as well. The town is investigating installing a closed drainage pipe in the existing culvert and swale along Veterans Road as well as installation of an automatic tide gate.

Flood Hazard Areas – Flood hazard areas are described in detail on Page 35.

Wetlands – The major areas of wetlands are all coastal including the tidal flats associated with Belle Isle Marsh, wetlands along Pleasant Street by the beaches, the tidal flats from Short Beach all along Winthrop Beach and Yirell Beach and down to Deer Island. There are also tidal wetlands surrounding Coughlin Park, and essentially along the entire shoreline.

Vernal Pools – Vernal pools are small, shallow ponds that do not support fish and that have annual or semi-annual periods of dryness. Vernal pools are very important to a variety of wildlife species. Some amphibians breed exclusively in vernal pools while others spend their entire life cycles in such pools. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has a program by which vernal pools can be certified. Certified vernal pools are protected if they fall under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act regulations. They are also protected under other state programs. There are currently no certified vernal pools in Winthrop.

Aquifer recharge areas – Winthrop is a densely developed urban community which relies on water from the MWRA. There are no aquifer recharge areas in Winthrop.

#### **D. VEGETATION**

Vegetation in the town, as in most of the surrounding area, has been extensively altered by human activity. As a fully developed urban community there is very little that could be considered natural

vegetative areas. The vegetation that remains includes street trees, parks and the salt marshes. Some of the vegetation, such as phragmites surrounding Lewis Lake, is invasive.

Table 19 above shows land use by acre for a number of standard land use categories. The three categories that relate to vegetation (brushland/successional, forest and forested wetland) amount to 8.95 acres which is 0.6% of the town's area.

The DPW has a tree staff which continued to make progress on the backlog of work by removing 30 dead or dangerous trees, 60 stumps and pruning 150 trees. The DPW also planted 60 new trees. The DPW responded to damage due to Hurricane Irene which felled 15 trees and many more branches. Despite the difficult economy residents continued to participate in the "resident-purchase-a-street-tree" program which enabled the town to plant 3 times more trees than were removed. The town received a 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive Tree City designation. The town also maintains a tree fund which is supported by residents with the mission of purchasing trees to improve Winthrop's green infrastructure. This fund received \$3,500 in donations during FY 12.

## **E. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

Common wildlife such as ducks and geese favor the Lewis Lake area. Belle Isle Marsh is a critical stopover on the Atlantic Flyway and many birds depend on its existence for successful migration. Some of the migratory birds seen at Belle Isle March in general include glossy ibis, red-breasted merganser, greater yellow-legs, black-bellied plover, mallard, snowy egret, great blue heron, loon, marsh hawk, semipalmated sandpiper and green-winger teal. Other rare species that have been documented in the Town of Winthrop include the piping plover, upland sandpiper, common tern and least tern. According to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program "the best remaining wildlife habitats in town are on the "Boston Harbor Islands: Snake Island has a nice salt marsh, with adjacent sand bar and mud flats that are used by resident and migrating shorebirds. Unfortunately, the aggressive invader Common Reed, has taken over portions of the salt marsh and mud flats and it should be controlled where it is taking over the best remaining biodiversity areas in Winthrop."

BioMap 2 – The Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, through the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), and the Nature Conservancy's Massachusetts Program developed BioMap 2 to protect the state's biodiversity in the context of climate change. Protection and stewardship of BioMap 2 Core Habitat and Critical natural Landscape is considered critical to safeguard the diversity of species. The BioMap 2 report for Winthrop can be found on the NHESP website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/land-protection-and-management/biomap2/biomap2-town-reports.html>.

According to this report there are 284 acres of Core Habitat in Winthrop but only 16 acres are protected. There are also 76 acres designated as Critical Natural Landscape but only 35 acres are protected. Table 18 contains a list of the birds that are listed as threatened or endangered or of

special concern. The priority natural community that is listed for Winthrop is the Estuarine Intertidal: Salt Marsh and other BioMap 2 components are coastal adaptation areas and tern foraging areas. These areas are mapped and described in detail in the BioMap 2 report.

Shellfish – According to the Conservation Commission, there are not a lot of shellfish beds in Winthrop. The Harbor Master indicated that there are approximately 13 individual shell fish operators in Winthrop. These operators would take their catch to the Town Landing and meet up with a truck that operates out of Revere who would transport shell fish to the purification plant in Newburyport. This past year these operators were not active and there is some concern that clam beds may have been impacted by a spill of de-icing fluids at the airport.

Mammals - Winthrop has the typical collection of urban mammals such as squirrels, rabbits and raccoons.

Wildlife Corridors - There are no large swaths of uninterrupted open space which can function as wildlife corridors because Winthrop’s open spaces are primarily small, urban parks and playgrounds. For marine life, the ocean and the beaches function as a wildlife corridor.

Rare and Endangered Species – The following table lists all of the rare, threatened and endangered species that appear in the Natural Heritage Programs’ database for Winthrop.

<b>Table 20 Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species</b>		
<b>Common name</b>	<b>State rank</b>	<b>Most recent observation</b>
Piping Plover	Threatened	2010
Common Tern	Special Concern	2007
Least Tern	Special Concern	2010
Barn Owl	Special Concern	NA
Grasshopper Sparrow	Special Concern	NA
Upland Sandpiper	Endangered	NA
Seabeach Needlegrass	Threatened	1882
<b>Source: MA Natural Heritage Program Website</b>		

“Endangered” (E) species are native species which are in danger of extinction throughout all or part of their range, or which are in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts, as documented by biological research and inventory.

“Threatened” (T) species are native species which are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, or which are declining or rare as determined by biological research and inventory.

“Special concern” (SC) species are native species which have been documented by biological research or inventory to have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked, or which occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become threatened within Massachusetts.

**F. SCENIC RESOURCES, UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS AND HISTORICAL AREAS**

As a peninsula with a tidal shore line of 8.3 miles and bounded by the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, Winthrop’s character is determined in large part by coastal resources and views. Belle Isle Marsh Reservation is the last remaining salt marsh in the metropolitan area. Magnificent views of the marsh, the Atlantic Ocean and the City of Boston abound from nearly every spot along the shoreline in Winthrop.

The cliff on which Fort Heath Park is situated overlooks the Belle Isle Marsh and also offers a breathtaking view to the north and east. Cottage Hill, site of the “landmark” red, white and blue water tower, affords views in all directions. Belle Isle Marsh is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Winthrop Beach is not a state classified barrier beach. However, it was geologically formed as a typical barrier beach, as a tombolo spanning between the drumlins at Winthrop Highlands and Cottage Hill. This is also indicated in the topography, which was originally (before the seawall) a dune gently sloping west to the salt marsh which is now the area now known as Lewis Lake and the golf course.

There are ten entries for Winthrop in the State Register of Historic Places 2012. Some of these historic resources are related to the Boston Harbor Islands Archaeological District and the Metropolitan Park System historic resource. Additionally, Winthrop has remnants of historic railroad lines such as the Crystal Cove jetty.

These areas are depicted on Figure 6: Unique Features, which can be found in Appendix D.

<b>Table 21 Historic Resources</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b># of Properties</b>
Boston Harbor Islands Archaeological District (Winthrop and 5 other	NRDIS	21

<b>Table 21 Historic Resources</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b># of Properties</b>
communities)		
First Period Buildings of Eastern MA Thematic Resource Area (113 properties in 46 towns)	NRTRA	2
Fort Banks Mortar Battery – Kennedy Drive	NRIND	8
Frost Public Library – 2 Metcalf Sq.	NRDIS	1
Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston – Multiple Property Submission	NRMPS	NA
Edward B. Newton School – 45 Pauline Street	NRIND	2
U.S. Post Office – Winthrop Main Branch 3 Metcalf Square	NRDOE, NRDIS	1
Winthrop Center – Metcalf Square Historic District	NRDIS	143
Winthrop Shore Drive – Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston – Multiple Property Submission	NRMPS, NRDIS	3
Deane Winthrop House – 40 Shirley St.	NRIND, NRTRA	2

NRDIS: National Register District  
NRTRA: National Register Thematic Resource Area  
NRIND: National Register Individual Property  
NRMPS: National Register Multiple Property Submission  
NRDOE: National Register Determination of Eligibility

## **G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

Hazardous Waste Sites – As with most urban communities, Winthrop has a number of hazardous waste disposal sites. Most of these sites are considered non-priority by DEP and are being cleaned up by the private sector under Chapter 21E of the Massachusetts General Laws. There are currently 67 sites listed in the states' database. A database of these sites can be accessed at: <http://public.dep.state.ma.us/SearchableSites/Search.asp>. None of these sites directly impact any of the parks.

Landfills – There are no landfills currently operating in the Town of Winthrop. All solid waste is collected and taken out of the town.

Erosion – Erosion in the town is primarily due to wave action along the beaches and to a much lesser extent from new construction activity. There is erosion at Coughlin Park which is causing a walking path to narrow and poses a hazard for walkers.

Chronic Flooding – In 2012 the Metropolitan Area Planning Council prepared an update of the natural hazards mitigation plan first completed in 2005. During the planning process, town staff identified the following flood hazard areas:

1. Yirrel Beach: coastal surge and flooding during storm events.
2. Shirley Street Neighborhood: low-lying street area and adjacent sea wall experience waves overtopping and flooding during storms. The town has been approved for a \$500,000 Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant but needs to appropriate matching funds to receive the grant. The grant will allow the installation of new drainage pipes to alleviate the problem of waves over-topping the sea wall.
3. Lewis Lake: Serves as drainage area for a large part of the downtown. The lake overflows during storms and causes flooding in adjacent areas. The town is investigating the possibility of dredging the lake and doing stormwater improvements.
4. Ingleside Park: Backup and flooding due to lack of storm water storage capacity and undersized drains. Floods during high tides coinciding with high precipitation of greater than one inch.
5. Lower Nahant Avenue: coastal surge, high tide and high precipitation all cause backup in undersize drain lines and flooding within the adjacent neighborhoods.
6. Woodside seawall and headwall on Boston Harbor: coastal surge flooding during storms.
7. Somerset seawall and headwall on Boston Harbor: coastal surge flooding during storms.
8. Sargent Street seawall and headwall on Boston Harbor: coastal surge flooding during storms.

9. Cottage Park seawall and headwall on Boston Harbor: coastal surge flooding during storms.
10. Coughlin Park: coastal erosion and flooding during higher northwest winds and coastal storms.
11. Bayou Street neighborhood: flooding due to undersized drainage line that backs up in high precipitation storms.

Sedimentation – Sedimentation is primarily caused by road runoff and construction related earth disturbances. These can be minimized by adherence to environmental regulations. Sedimentation is a major concern at Lewis Lake because the lake receives run-off from roughly one-third of the town.

Development impacts – There is very little developable land remaining in Winthrop so development impacts are limited to redevelopment projects where the original development has already resulted in land disturbance. Redevelopment of sites is done under existing environmental regulations which means that the newer development has to adhere to higher standards than that which it is replacing. Existing development patterns also pose an environmental challenge. Stormwater runoff due to high levels of impervious surface is one such challenge. Lewis Lake receives stormwater runoff from approximately 1/3 of the town. The lake is only a few inches deep because of siltation from run-off. The lake needs to be dredged or it will eventually fill in and be unable to hold and absorb stormwater runoff.

Ground and surface water pollution (point and non-point) – The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) maintains water quality monitoring stations throughout the watershed. Site BEI093 is one of the fifteen Mystic Baseline Monitoring Sites in the Mystic River Watershed. This site is one of five saltwater sites that was initiated in 2008-2009. Belle Isle was chosen as a site as it carries significant runoff from the City of Revere, City of Boston, Town of Winthrop and Suffolk Downs. The site is important due to the value of the marsh system and potential degraded shellfish because of water quality issues. The findings for multiple years reflected the significant inputs of sewage from City of Revere and from Suffolk Downs. Both of these institutions are now under federal consent decrees that mandate infrastructure improvements. Suffolk Downs has completed the majority of that work and Revere is halfway through a 10-12 year effort to improve infrastructure. The key indicator that is measured is the level of enterococcus found in the monthly water sample. Enterococcus is just one group of bacteria but is a proxy or representative of the other pathogens that are released in sewage or even horse manure. Massachusetts has numerical standards for bacteria levels that allows for enforcement to clean up a site. To meet the standard for primary contact (swimming) the level is 104 CFU/100ml and for secondary contact (boating) that standard is 350 for an individual sample. With the improvements that Suffolk Downs has made, MyRWA believes that water quality is improving in Belle Isle Inlet.

Forestry issues – There are no significant forested areas in the town and forestry issues are limited to maintaining the town’s street trees. The state’s 2005 land use data layer (Table 19) shows only 2.1 acres of forested land in Winthrop.

Invasive Species - The major invasive species in Winthrop is phragmites. Phragmites is a perennial grass found throughout the state. It grows in upland and wetland habitats and can overwhelm wetlands by forming huge, dense stands. The edges of Lewis Lake are overgrown with phragmites and the Conservation Commission is investigating ways to manage this problem. The Common Reed has taken over portions of the salt marsh and mud flats and needs to be controlled.

Environmental equity - Environmental justice populations are depicted on Figure 2 which can be found in Appendix D. It shows the census block groups that meet the criteria for percentage foreign-born. This information is super-imposed on the map of parks and open space so that the reader can easily see which neighborhoods lack open spaces and parks. Within this environmental justice area are the open spaces of the Winthrop Cemetery, Belle Isle Marsh Reservation and the Fort Banks School and Playground. Immediately adjacent to the neighborhood is the Crest Avenue Playground. Due to the lack of available land it is unlikely that any additional open space and recreational resources could be developed in this immediate area. However, due to the small size of the town, this neighborhood has relatively easy access to other parks and open spaces in town.

## SECTION V- OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS

The first step in being able to make decisions about future needs for open space and recreation is to have an accurate accounting of existing lands. Table 20 is an inventory of all conservation, open space and recreation lands, both publicly and privately owned. Information on ownership, management responsibility, level of protection and a brief description of the property are part of this inventory. The areas shown in Table 20 are depicted on Figure 8 which can be found in Appendix D.

### **What is Open Space?**

Open space has many different definitions and can mean different things to different people. What is considered open space in a suburban or rural community can be very different from what is considered open space in an urban community. The Open Space and Recreation Planners Workbook defines open space as “conservation land, forested land, recreation land, agricultural land, corridor parks and amenities such as small parks, green buffers along roadways or any open area that is owned by an agency or organization dedicated to conservation”. A broader definition of open space can and should include undeveloped land with conservation or recreation potential. Another very important way of looking at and defining open space relates to its status as protected or unprotected. The definition of open space used in this plan is the broader definition.

Open space and parks are critical to the quality of life in a community and provide a wide range of benefits. Access to parks can contribute to public health, enhanced property values, and improved environmental quality including air quality, water quality and the mitigation of urban heat island effects. Public health benefits include reducing the incidence of childhood obesity by providing safe places for kids to be active. They can also serve as important meeting places for neighbors to get to know one another.

**How the Inventory and Map was Developed** – In 1993 Mass GIS began the process of mapping and inventorying all protected open space and outdoor recreation sites in the state. Volunteers in each community were asked to draw parcels onto a base map and provide attribute information on these sites. Because this was a volunteer effort the resulting data were variable in their accuracy and completeness.

As a first step, MAPC reviewed the mapped data from Mass GIS as well as the attribute data. In order to improve the accuracy of the mapped parcels and to update the map with parcels added since 1993, MAPC obtained a full tax assessment parcel database from the town and built the map up from that database. The tax parcels that were relevant to the open space and recreation inventory were overlaid on an orthophotograph so that parcel boundaries could be adjusted to

reflect the actual area devoted to a particular park and not just the acreage of a particular parcel. Information on zoning was obtained from the parcel database as well.

The information in Table 20 was taken from a variety of sources: conversations with town staff, the Mass GIS database, the tax assessment parcel database and field observations. Town staff reviewed the information for accuracy but no additional research into the legal record of ownership or review of deeds was undertaken.

### **Levels of Protection**

For planning purposes, it is important to be aware of the degree of protection for each parcel. Knowing the level of protection (or lack thereof) will point out how easily some properties we assume to be open space can be developed. This knowledge will help in identifying those open space and recreation areas that need additional effort for their preservation and protection.

In order for the inventory to be included as an update to the Mass GIS database, the following designations regarding level of protection will be used.

**Protected in Perpetuity** – Mass GIS considers a parcel to be protected “In Perpetuity” if it is recorded in a deed or other official document. Land is considered protected in perpetuity if it is owned by the conservation commission, if it is subject to a conservation restriction in perpetuity, if it is owned by one of the state’s conservation agencies (thereby covered by Article 97); if it is owned by a non-profit land trust or if the municipality received federal or state assistance for the purchase or improvement of the property. Land that is dedicated to park and recreation purposes is also protected under Article 97. Private land is considered protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity or a conservation restriction has been placed on it. The Division of Conservation Services “Open Space and Recreation Planner’s Workbook” also includes in this category land that is owned by the Parks and Recreation Department.

According to the Mass GIS open space database, most of the properties in Winthrop are listed as being protected in perpetuity but there is no definitive information available on their legal status. Therefore, the action plan recommends that additional research be done to determine the legal status of these properties.

**Temporary Protection** – The Mass GIS definition is land that is legally protected for less than perpetuity (i.e. short term conservation restriction) or temporarily protected through an existing functional use. These lands could be developed for other uses when their temporary protection expires or when their functional use is no longer necessary. In general, this includes all land owned by other municipal departments or commissions including school properties and lands managed by the town for non-recreational purposes.

**Limited** – The Mass GIS definition of limited protection includes land that is protected by legal mechanisms other than those listed above or protected through functional or traditional uses. These lands might be protected by a requirement of a majority municipal vote for any change in

status. This designation also includes lands that are likely to remain open space for other reasons (e.g. cemeteries and municipal golf course).

**None** – This category includes land that is totally unprotected by any legal or functional means. This land is usually privately owned and could be sold without restriction at any time for another use.

### **Overview of Open Space**

There are many ways to categorize open space; by protection status, by ownership and by type. This information is all included in Table 20. This brief overview looks at the type of open space and recreation available in Winthrop.

***Coastal Resources*** – Because Winthrop is a coastal community, the marshes and beaches are a primary conservation and recreation resource. The 45.7 acre Belle Isle Marsh is a prominent feature and is owned partly by the Town and partly by DCR. There are five town beaches totaling 7.5 acres and one beach owned by DCR which is 23.5 acres for a total of 31 acres of beach property. Other coastal resources include Snake Island, Fishermen’s Bend, the Public Landing and Crystal Cove jetty.

***Parks, Playgrounds and Specialized Facilities*** – This category includes city-wide parks such as Ingleside Park as well as neighborhood playgrounds and more specialized facilities such as basketball courts, the ice rink and the golf course. These facilities total 81.5 acres.

***School Facilities*** – School-based recreational facilities accounts for an additional 23.9 acres.

***Roadway-related open land*** – In a densely developed community such as Winthrop, the small open spaces found in traffic circles and median strips, add green space which is visually pleasing to the community. These small parcels amount to 1.7 acres.

***Private Recreation*** – Winthrop is home to two private yacht clubs: the Cottage Park Yacht Club and the Winthrop Yacht Club.

***Chapters 61, 61A and 61B*** - There are no lands enrolled in these tax assessment programs in Winthrop because the town is densely built-out and has no active farms or forested areas. The one golf course is municipally owned but is leased to a private operator.

***Agricultural Preservation Restrictions*** – There are no agricultural preservation restrictions in Winthrop because there are no active farms.

***Conservation Restrictions*** – A portion of Coughlin Park is under a conservation restriction.

***Other Conservation and Recreation Lands*** – The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) maintains the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Facility which is in Boston, just south of the Winthrop border. The island has a 2.6-mile shoreline path and 2 miles of trails through the hills of the island. Deer Island’s 60 acres of parkland make it ideal for walking, jogging, biking, rollerblading,

dog walking (on a leash), sightseeing, picnicking, and fishing and is heavily used by Winthrop residents.

**Table 22  
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
<b>Beaches</b>											
Point Shirley Beach	Point Shirley	Town	BOS	5.3	Town Budget	Res. A	Perp.	Yes	No additional rec. facilities needed.	Clean up of Boston Harbor has helped.	Good
Yirrell Beach	Nerious St. at Brewster Ave.	Town	BOS	1	Town Budget	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	No additional rec. facilities needed.	Newly renovated and handicapped accessible.	Good
Halford Beach	Sewall Ave.	Town	BOS	0.3	Town Budget	Res. A	Perp.	Yes	No additional rec. facilities needed.	Small rocky beach.	Good

<sup>1</sup> Zoning information was taken from a map titled “Street and Zoning Plan – Town of Winthrop Revised December 2006. Although Town Property is not a zoning district it is shown as a separate category on this map.

<sup>2</sup> Most of the properties in Winthrop are listed as being Protected in Perpetuity but there is no definitive information available on their legal status. Therefore, the action plan recommends that additional research should be done to determine the legal status of these properties.

<sup>3</sup> A “Yes” in this column indicates that the property is legally accessible to the public. Physical access may be limited by topography or other environmental constraints or lack of parking or signage. This table does not include an assessment of accessibility issues as per the Americans with Disabilities Act. These issues are covered in Table 24.

**Table 22**  
**Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
Pico Playground and Beach	Corinha Beach Road	Town	Town Council Rec.	0.6	Recently funded through town and fundraising	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Already fully developed as a park.	Neighborhood playground and beach.	Good
Donovan's Beach	Circuit Road	Town	Town Council	0.3	Town Budget	Res. A	Perp.	Yes	No additional rec. facilities needed.	Small neighborhood beach.	Good
Winthrop Shore Drive Beach and Cliffwalk	Winthrop Shore Drive and Trident Avenue	DCR	DCR	23.5	DCR is completing this project now	Res. A	Perp.	Yes	No additional rec. facilities needed.	Largest beach in Winthrop. Control by DCR- due for \$7M renovation.	Good
<b>Other Coastal Resources</b>											
Snake Island	Off of the Inner Harbor	Town	Cons. Comm	8	Town and Federal	Cons. Property	Perp.	Yes	Passive rec. only	Small island off shore in Inner Harbor.	Natural state
Fishermen's Bend	Sunnyside and Corinha.	Town	Cons. Comm	1.19	Town Budget	Cons. Property	Perp.	Yes	Passive rec. only	Combination marsh and other land recently acquired by Town.	Good

**Table 22  
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
Public Landing	Shirley Street	Town	Town Council	4.3	Town Budget and State Division of Fisheries and Wildlife	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Fishing, boating, passive rec. No additional rec. facilities needed.	Publicly owned boat landing with benches and scenic view.	Good
Crystal Cove Jetty	Washington Avenue at Shirley St.	Town	Town Council	0.7	Seaport Advisory Council, DCR, MassWorks	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Plan for primarily passive rec. facilities.	Old Narrow Gauge Railroad Bed. Planning is currently underway for improvements.	Fair
Belle Isle Marsh	Belle Isle Marsh	DCR	DCR	1.8	Some funding has been provided in the FY'15 Transportation Bond Bill, may pursue higher ed. investment	Cons. Property	Perp.	Yes	Passive only; some potential for trails.	ACEC- Tidal marsh- last urban estuary in Metro Boston area.	Natural state
Belle Isle	Belle Isle	DCR	DCR	23.4	DCR, CZM,	Cons.	Perp.	Yes	Passive	Conservation and	Natural state

**Table 22  
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
Marsh	Marsh				EOEA				only; some potential for trails.	passive recreation.	
Belle Isle Marsh	Belle Isle Marsh	Town	Town	20.5	Funding has been provided in the FY'15 Bond Bill	Cons.	Perp.	Yes	Passive only; some potential for trails.		Natural state
<b>Parks, Playgrounds and Special Facilities</b>											
Coughlin Playground	Bay View Avenue	Town	BOS	9.8	EEA, Our Backyards Grant and local funds through Town Council	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Rec. facilities need to be upgraded.	In need of rehabilitation. Erosion at waters' edge path.	Poor
Coughlin Park (Restricted)	Bay View Avenue	Town	Cons. Comm.	1.2	DCR Rec. Trails program, MWRA mitigation payments	Town Property	Perp.	No	Passive rec. trail use.	Restricted access.	Poor
Ingleside Park	Walden St. @ Lincoln St.	Town	BOS & Rec.	11.2	PARC, Town Budget	Town Property	Perp.	Yes.	Already fully developed	Large park with ball field and playground.	Good

**Table 22**  
**Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
									as a park.		
Massa Playground	Hillside Avenue and Beacon Street	Town	BOS & Rec.	0.6	USH PARC	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Already fully developed as a park.	Small playground and tot lot recently renovated.	Good
Crest Avenue Playground	Crest Avenue and Highland	Town	BOS & Rec.	1.3	DCR mitigation for Winthrop Beach project	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Already fully developed as a park.	Small playground.	Good
Pond Street Playground	Highland Avenue	Town	BOS & Rec.	1.0	Town Budget and local donations	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Facilities to be upgraded in 2014.	Park & basketball court. Slated for renovations in 2014.	Poor
Daw Playground	Veterans Road and Cutler (Lewis Lake)	Town	BOS & Rec.	1.0	Town Budget, and local donations	Cons. Property	Perp.	Yes	Already fully developed as a park.	Small playground.	Good

**Table 22**  
**Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
Walden Street Basketball Courts	Walden St.	Town	BOS & Rec.	0.4	Town Budget	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Already fully developed as a park.	Basketball courts with lights & bleachers.	Good
Winthrop Golf Club	453 Main St.	Town	BOS	48.0	Golf Club through lease agreement with town	Cons. Property	Perp.	Members only	Already fully developed as a golf course.	Private golf course on land leased from Town.	Good
Larsen Skating Rink	45 Pauline Street	Town	Town	1.4	Local fundraising, Town Budget, and possible corporate funding	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Town is phasing in new rec. uses.	Skating rink and indoor rec. center.	Good
Fort Heath Park	Highland Ave. and Pond St.	Town	BOS	3.6	Town Budget & EOE A	Cons. Property	Perp.	Yes	Potential for trails, additional seating.	Passive park.	Good
Little League Field	Veterans Road at Shirley Street	Town	BOS	2.0	Possible PARC grant application	Cons. Property	Perp.	Yes	Already fully developed as a sports field.	Baseball field.	Good

**Table 22  
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
<b>School Facilities</b>											
Fort Banks School Playground	Kennedy Drive	Town	BOS & Rec.	9.3	School Budget and PTA fundraising	Town Property	?	Yes	Possible dog park or trails.	Large multi-use area.	Good
Veterans Field	Cross Street @ Franklin St.	Town	School Dept.	7.4	New School Building Project	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Additional facilities would need to be studied.	Adjacent to high school - multi uses.	Good
Miller's Field	Cross Street @ Main St.	Town	School Dept.	5.3	Possible PARC grant application	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Primary use is for football but area in need of upgrades.	Athletic fields and track and field	Poor
Cummings School Park	Hermon St.	Town	School Dept.	1.9	New School Building Project	Town Property	Perp.	Yes.	Used for active rec. Small area would not allow additional uses.	Small school playground in need of renovation.	Poor

**Table 22**  
**Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
<b>Roadway Related Green Spaces</b>											
Egleton Park	Egleton Park at Bartlett Rd.	Town	BOS	0.2	Town Budget	Res. A	Perp.	Yes	None	Green space on cul-de-sac.	Good
Beach Road	Beach Road	Town	DPW	0.1	Town Budget	Res. A	Perp.	Yes	None	Traffic island.	Good
Summit Avenue Green	Summit Ave.	Town	BOS	0.8	Town Budget	Res. A	Perp.	Yes.	None	Center strip in road.	Good
Thornton Park	Thornton Park (grassy area)	Town	BOS	0.3	Town Budget	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Passive rec.	Grassy median with trees, a path and a few benches. Flat.	Good
Woodside Park	Cottage Park Road at Bartlett	Town	DPW	0.1	Town Budget	Res. A	Perp.	Yes.	None	Grassy median strip.	Good
Lewis Terrace	Lewis Terrace	Town	BOS	0.2	Town Budget	Town Property	Perp.	Yes.	None	Small green space in median of road.	Good
<b>Total Roadway Open Space</b>				<b>1.7</b>							

**Table 22  
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
<b>Other Municipal Properties</b>											
Water Tower	Faunbar Ave.	Town	BOS	0.6	Town Budget	Res. A	Perp.	No	None	Town Stand Pipe	Good
Terrace Avenue Gardens	Terrace Avenue	Town	BOS	0.3	Town Budget	Town Property	Perp.	Limited to members.	Passive rec.	Embankment on west side of Cottage Hill drumlin.	Good
Belle Isle Cemetery Annex	Kennedy Drive	Town	Cem. Dept.	27.9	Town Budget and Bond Bill	Town Property	Limited	Yes	Passive rec. with potential for trails.	Cemetery.	Good
Lewis Lake	Washington Ave. at Veterans Road	Town	BOS & Cons.	24.7	Town Budget, Major Bond Issue or State Infrastructure grant	Res. A	Perp.	Yes	Passive recreation and no potential for active rec.	Tidal inlet abutting golf course.	Good
Railroad ROW off Sea View Avenue	Seaview Ave. @ Winthrop St.	Town	BOS	1.5	Town Budget, DCR Rec.		Limited	No	Potential for passive rec.	Old Narrow Gauge Railroad bed.	Fair

**Table 22**  
**Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
					Trails Program						
Fort Banks bunkers	Kennedy Drive	Town	Town	<acre	Town Budget, MPPF, or grants	Town Property	Perp.	Yes but not developed access	Historic use	Sealed WW II era fortification-potential for recreation/historical uses.	Good
French Square	Woodside @ Jefferson	Town	BOS	0.1	Town Budget, local fundraising	Center Bus.	Perp.	Yes	Not appropriate for additional dev.	Small revitalized park in center of business district.	Good
Main Winthrop Cemetery	Cross St. @ River road	Town	Cemetery Dept.	12.1	Town Budget	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Passive	Cemetery.	Good
Winthrop Common/Met calf Square	Hermon Street @Pauline	Town	BOS	0.1	Town Budget	Res. A	Perp.	Yes	Passive	Small green space across from Town Hall.	Good
Brookfield	Brookfield @ Wheelock Street	Town	BOS	1.8	Town Budget	Town Property	Perp.	Yes	Yes	Enclosed drainage ditch adjacent to Ingleside Park.	Good

**Table 22  
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
<b>Land with conservation/recreation potential</b>											
George Street Parcel	George Street	Town	Town	<1	Town Budget	Res. A			Potential for a pocket park.	Parking lot with recreation potential for pocket park.	Good
Harborside Realty Ch.91	49 Main Street	Private	Private	NA	Private	WD	Limited	Yes per Chapter 91.	Passive	Required to construct and maintain publicly accessible wharf, pathways, benches and one publicly accessible restroom with signage indicating public facilities.	NA
Pleasant Court	18 Amelia Ave.	DiFlumeri	Private	1.4	NA	Bus.	None	None	Passive	Underdeveloped natural site adjacent to the Belle Isle March. Owner has sought zoning change to subdivide land for residential dev.	NA
Morton Street	One Seal	Bonacorso	Private	1.9	NA	Light	None	None	Passive	Undeveloped filled	NA

**Table 22**  
**Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities**

Name of Site	Address	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used/Type of Grant	Zoning <sup>1</sup>	Degree <sup>2</sup> of Prot.	Public Access <sup>3</sup>	Rec. Potential	Current Use/General Description	Condition
	Harbor Rd.					man.				area adjacent to Belle Isle Marsh. Currently used for open storage. Owner has proposed rezoning for residential use. State has considered purchase.	
Banks Street	Banks Street	Duval	Private	1.2	NA	Light man.	None	None	Passive	Partially developed area adjacent to Belle Isle March.	NA



**Chapter 91 Licenses** – Chapter 91 is the legislation known as the Public Waterfront Act. The purpose of these regulations is:

- To ensure tidelands are utilized for water-dependent uses or otherwise serve a proper public purpose
- To protect public health, safety & general welfare
- To revitalize urban waterfront properties
- To promote public use and enjoyment of the water

The following activities require a Chapter 91 license:

- Construction, maintenance, reconstruction of unauthorized fill or structures
- Existing or proposed use
- Existing or proposed structure or fill
- Change in Use or Structural Alteration
- Permit for dredge, beach nourishment and lowering of Great Pond water level

Chapter 91 licenses are a good way to ensure public access to tidal areas and to obtain public open space amenities. Table 21 lists the Chapter 91 licenses in Winthrop that involve public access. These licenses differ in the type of public access that is required. Those that are deemed to be on Commonwealth Tidelands have the following language included:

“The licensee shall not restrict the public’s right to use and to pass freely for any lawful purpose, upon lands lying seaward of the low water mark. Said lands are held in trust by the Commonwealth for the benefit of the public.”

Licenses given where private tidelands are involved include the following language:

“The licensee shall allow the public to use and to pass freely upon the area of the subject property lying between high and low water marks for the purpose of fishing, fowling and navigation.”

In the case of non water-dependent uses, Chapter 91 requires public access and each license spells out what is required.

<b>Table 23 Chapter 91 Licenses</b>			
<b>Licensee</b>	<b>License #</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Public Access and Amenities</b>
DiCenso	10047	Court Road	Private tidelands: Must allow public right of passage on area below high water mark.
Winthrop Yacht Club	10158	Shirley Street	Private tidelands: Must allow public right of passage on area lying between high and low water marks.

**Table 23  
Chapter 91 Licenses**

<b>Licensee</b>	<b>License #</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Public Access and Amenities</b>
Ricupero	12538	Pleasant St.	Private and Commonwealth tidelands: Must allow public right of passage below high water mark.
Vigliotta	12539	Pleasant St.	Private and Commonwealth tidelands: Must allow public right of passage below high water mark.
Pleasant Park Yacht Club	12532	Pleasant St.	Private tidelands: Must allow public right of passage on area below high water mark.
Town of Winthrop	12842	Town Landing-Shirley St.	Commonwealth Tidelands: The public has the right to use and to pass freely for any lawful purpose, upon lands lying seaward of the low water mark.
Dept. of Conservation and Recreation	11732	Winthrop Shore Drive north of Locust St.	Private and Commonwealth tidelands: Must allow public right of passage below high water mark.
Court Road Condo Trust	12218	Court Road	Private tidelands: Must allow public right of passage on area lying between high and low water marks.
Town of Winthrop	12561	Town Landing-Shirley St.	Commonwealth Tidelands: The public has the right to use and to pass freely for any lawful purpose, upon lands lying seaward of the low water mark.
Biggio	10344	Cottage Park Yacht Club	Private tidelands: Must allow public right of passage on area below high water mark.
Town of Winthrop	10460	Town Landing	Private and Commonwealth tidelands: Must allow public right of passage below high water mark.
Harborside Realty LLC	13341	Main Street	Required to construct and maintain publicly accessible wharf, pathways, benches and one publicly accessible restroom with signage indicating public facilities.

**Source: Department of Environmental Protection**

**Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest** – There is an additional 4.5 acres of land that have been identified as lands of conservation and recreation interest where future parks or open space preservation is a possibility.

**Parks and Recreation Department** – The Parks and Recreation Department is run by a director, assistant director and a program coordinator. It sponsors a full range of programs for children, teens and adults. Special events include an Easter egg hunt and day trips to Foxwoods Casino. Adult programs include dog training classes and a financial aid seminar for parents. The department runs a cheerleading camp, summer day camp, baseball league, basketball, a running club, floor hockey and lacrosse. The department also provides guitar lessons and CPR training. In addition, there is an after school program for children in grades K-6. The program takes place at the Recreation Dept in the rear of the middle school. Transportation is provided from the Fort Banks and Cummings school to the site. With the recent purchase of a rubberized floor that can be laid down over the ice rink surface the Recreation Department will be able to utilize the rink as an indoor venue for programs during the off-season. Some recreation programs are also run out of the EB Newton Cultural Center.

### **Environmental Justice and the Distribution of Parks and Open Spaces**

Environmental justice populations are depicted on Figure 2 which can be found in Appendix D. It shows the census block groups that meet the criteria for percentage foreign-born. This information is super-imposed on the map of parks and open space so that the reader can easily see which neighborhoods lack open spaces and parks. Within this environmental justice area are the open spaces of the Winthrop Cemetery, Belle Isle Marsh Reservation and the Fort Banks School and Playground. Immediately adjacent to the neighborhood is the Crest Avenue Playground. Due to the lack of available land it is unlikely that any additional open space and recreational resources could be developed in this immediate area. However, due to the small size of the town, this neighborhood has relatively easy access to other parks and open spaces in town.

### **Handicapped Accessibility**

**Accessibility Requirements** - The Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook states that all municipal property and programs must be accessible to people with disabilities. Furthermore, all municipal park and conservation areas and programs must be evaluated as part of the process of preparing an open space and recreation plan. This section gives an overview of accessibility issues in Winthrop. The complete facilities inventory and transition plan is contained in Appendix C.

**Town of Winthrop Commission on Disabilities** – The Commission was created in 1987 with the goal of being a resource on matters affecting persons with disabilities. The Commission works with the Mass. Architectural Access Board on issues related to building access. The Commission is funded through handicapped parking fines. In the recent past, some of this funding went to purchase two adaptive swings for the disabled which are located at Ingleside Park and Daw Playground.

**Physical facilities** – It can be difficult to determine what standards apply because the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Architectural Access Board (AAB) and DCR all have different standards. Many of the playgrounds and tot lots utilize a wood chip surface. Wood chips are

considered acceptable by the ADA and AAB but they are not ideal for a number of reasons and must be maintained. Proper maintenance in the form of leveling and smoothing is required to maintain the proper ground height at access transfer platforms. People with small children also noted that toddlers and young children are prone to putting the wood chips in their mouths and that sharp objects and other foreign material can become trapped under the chips and thereby, posing a safety hazard. Most of the wood chip surfaces are completely surrounded by raised or sunken railroad ties which are a barrier to pushing a wheelchair onto the surface. It is unfortunately not possible to overlay rubber mats over wood chips because the resulting surface is bumpy.

**Program evaluation**– The Recreation Director stated that the town does not have any special programs for children with disabilities but that specific programs are adjusted as needed to accommodate special needs. There are two children who use wheelchairs and participate in the after-school program run by the Recreation Department. He further stated that Ingleside Park is the park that is most desirable for wheelchair users.

## **SECTION VI – COMMUNITY VISION**

### **A. Description of Process**

The community vision and associated goals and objectives were developed after reviewing previous plans and studies, meetings with town staff and after consideration of comments received at the June public meeting. Although turnout at the public meeting was low, useful information was provided by the residents who attended.

### **B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals**

The Town of Winthrop is committed to ensuring that current and future residents of the town have ample opportunities for recreation and access to open space despite financial constraints, dense development and changing demographics. The town will continue to take steps to improve and enhance its existing parks and to add facilities to meet specific needs in a fiscally responsible manner. Improving recreational opportunities to ensure the health of its citizens will be a guiding principle.

#### **TOWN OF WINTHROP OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN 2013-2020 GOALS**

Goal #1: Protect and enhance the quality and integrity of all conservation land and open space for public use and enjoyment.

Goal #2: Provide ample recreational opportunities for all residents of the town.

Goal #3: Preserve the scenic quality of the town.

Goal #4: Promote public awareness of conservation and recreation, use of recreation areas and programs offered.

Goal #5: Coordinate Winthrop's recreation and open space planning activities with those of neighboring communities, as well as regional, state and federal activities.

Goal #6: Protect coastal areas.

Goal #7: Protect wildlife and wild plants to preserve the diversity and health of natural community ecosystems.

Goal #8: Promote cooperation between Town boards with jurisdiction over open space and recreational areas and work towards implementation of this plan.

Goal #9: Develop a walking and biking network linking public open space, and civic and commercial resources.



## SECTION VII – ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

### A. OVERVIEW OF NEEDS ANALYSIS

The identification of community needs and subsequently, potential action items for the Seven-Year Action Plan, was accomplished in three ways:

- Review of previous planning studies
- Meetings with town staff and community organizations
- Two public meetings: June 20, 2013 and November 21, 2013

A list of all the meetings conducted during the course of this planning project can be found on page 4.

### B. REVIEW OF PLANNING STUDIES

There are several planning studies and reports that have been done recently that were reviewed to help identify community needs and to develop the Seven-Year Action Plan. These include the following:

- **Town of Winthrop Open Space and Recreation Plan January 2005** – This plan expired in 2010 but it contains a wealth of information on open space and recreation and was the basis for the new plan update.
- **Walk Winthrop: A Plan for a More Walkable & Bikeable Town** – This report was prepared in 2010 by The Conway School of Landscape Design for the town based on the town's interest in creating a more bikeable and walkable community. The report recommended developing a network of walking and cycling routes throughout the town that would connect commercial districts, municipal services, natural resources and transportation hubs.
- **Walk Winthrop: A Greenway Action Plan** – In 2011, MAPC prepared a greenway action plan for Winthrop. The purpose of the plan was to advance the concepts first identified in the Walk Winthrop plan of 2010. The vision of the Walk Winthrop Greenway is a network of signed and marked urban trails that connect the town's natural resources, including its beaches, views, and parks with transportation systems and civic and business districts. A key tourism potential resides in the proposed Boston Harbor to Winthrop Loop where one could take the MBTA to Maverick Station, hop on a bicycle and ride along the East Boston Greenway to Constitution Beach, continue into Winthrop, head down Winthrop Shore Drive and Yirrell Beach to Point Shirley, circle Deer Island and return to the ferry terminal to head back to Rowes Wharf in Boston.

### **C. SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS**

Although Winthrop is a densely developed community there are still a fair number of resource protection needs. One of the most important is sea level rise due to climate change. While this is an important issue it is also a longer-range issue and one which is not easily addressed through an open space and recreation plan. Beach re-sanding is another issue which is currently being addressed but is an on-going concern. Sedimentation has led to reduced water depth at Lewis Lake. The lake needs to be dredged to maintain its depth and ability to store water. The lake is also overgrown with phragmites which needs to be controlled. Residents would like to see more attention paid to tree planting. There are numerous areas of chronic flooding throughout the town and erosion at Coughlin Park.

### **D. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY'S NEEDS**

The residents who attended the two public meetings identified a number of improvements they would like to see including community gardens, more walking paths and bike trails and the creation of a dog park. Improving Miller Field was a major concern as well as the need for additional playing fields. There was interest in a community sailing program and the construction of an indoor swimming pool. Residents thought that Halford Beach needed improvements and that Yrillel Beach needed additional parking and a permanent restroom facility.

The needs of elderly residents are divided between the younger, more active senior citizens and the frail elderly. The frail elderly generally require therapeutic recreational services. More active seniors tend to enjoy walking, golf, tennis and swimming. The Winthrop Council on Aging offers a wide variety of recreational programs at the Senior Center including aerobics, yoga, Tai Chi and Zumba. In the past year, the Senior Center built a community garden in the back yard of the center. This is the first community garden in Winthrop.

The needs of residents with disabilities also vary. Some residents with disabilities can participate in regular recreational programs without any modifications while others may need some assistance. The Recreation Director stated that there are two children in wheelchairs who participate in the after-school programs run by the Recreation Department. He stated that the department does not run any special programs but makes adjustments to their programs as necessary to handle individuals with disabilities. Ingleside Park is the best location for wheelchair users. Depending on the degree of disability, there may also be a need for specific programs geared for that population but this is not currently the situation in Winthrop. Physical barriers are a key factor and will need to be evaluated through the American Disabilities Act Section 504 process and eliminated in a systematic fashion. Programmatic changes may also be necessary, including training staff on how to work with disabled residents.

## E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at the Gorman-Fort Banks Elementary School on June 20, 2013. A summary of the comments can be found in Appendix A. The major needs identified were:

- Manage encroachment at Fishermen’s Bend and the land along Washington Street adjacent to the marsh.
- Expand the community gardens program beyond just the garden at the Senior Center.
- Increase bike and trail connectivity especially for families with children.
- Activate ferry terminal with more things to attract visitors and residents.
- Bring the Community Preservation Act back for a vote.
- The beaches need to be re-sanded.
- Halford Beach is in need of improvements
- Increase parking and install a permanent restroom at Yrillel Beach.
- Establish a community sailing program
- Indoor swimming pool.
- Establish a dog park.
- Improve Miller Field.

Additional comments were received from the public at the November 21, 2013 meeting at which the draft Seven Year Action Plan was presented.

- The town should consider creating a walking path from the parking lot at the end of Winthrop Street through Governors’ Park to the Gorman/Fort Banks School.
- There is a need for additional playing fields.
- Improve the Larson Rink and upgrade the locker rooms.
- Preserve the gymnasium in the Middle School next to the Larson Rink and turn into an athletic center.
- The concept of additional parking at Yrillel Beach may not be well-received by abutters but may be necessary because people are parking at the town landing to use the beach.
- The residents of the town need to carefully consider how much tourism/day visitation they want; it might impact residents who like the town the way it is.

At this meeting, residents were asked to identify additional action recommendations and to “vote” for their priorities among all the action recommendations presented. Although this identification of priorities was limited to those in attendance they are included in Table 24 as a reflection of what interested residents feel should be given a higher priority.

## **F. MANAGEMENT NEEDS**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) plays a major role in providing support for open space and recreation resources in the town. The recently completed Nahant, Bellevue, Somerset Roadway and Infrastructure project included restoration of two shoreline public access ways at Halford Beach and at Somerset Extension. The DPW collects trash from Yirrell and Winthrop Shore beaches, Snake Island and Belle Ile Marsh. They also maintain and plant street trees.

There is a Parks and Grounds division of the DPW. The parks and grounds division faces serious labor needs. The current staffing for all of the building grounds, cemeteries, parks, beaches and public ways is approximately 150 person hours per week spread over twelve parks as well as other town buildings. The DPW is committed to working closely with the Parks and Recreation Department to improve efficiencies wherever possible. The DPW has a bench and trash barrel sponsorship program which has successfully enhanced many of the town's public spaces.

## **G. NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION STANDARDS**

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has developed the most widely used standards for park and recreation land. The often cited standard was that a local park system should, at a minimum, be composed of a "core" system of parklands with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed, "close-to-home" open space per 1,000 population. The local park system should include mini-parks, neighborhood parks and larger community parks. Based on this standard, Winthrop should have between 109-183 acres of developed open space for parks and recreation areas. Winthrop's total dedicated acreage for public active and passive parks and school facilities is approximately 166 acres, which is within the range of the national standards. While DCR owns a considerable amount of this land, only a portion of it is available for active recreation since much of it is marsh and has limited opportunities for active recreation.

These standards are frequently updated as approaches to park planning change. The NRPA is in the process of converting to an online database that will provide guidance on the issue of standards but this database is not yet available. Regardless of the standards, land acquisition and park development is hindered by budgetary constraints and by the fact that the town is densely developed with very little vacant land. The town is therefore not in a position to plan based on national standards.

## **H. SCORP RELATIONSHIP**

The SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) is the state's equivalent of a municipal open space plan. SCORP plans are developed by individual states to be eligible for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants. The current plan was prepared in 2012 by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. During the planning process, the state conducted public meetings as well as an internet survey and phone survey. There was a special effort made to survey youth as well as adults. The plan has four major goals:

1. Increase the availability of all types of trails for recreation.
2. Increase the availability of water-based recreation.
3. Invest in recreation and conservation areas that are close to home for short visits.
4. Invest in racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhoods given their projected increase in participation in outdoor recreation.

The research done for the plan found that the major obstacle residents face in their participation in outdoor recreation was lack of time and other commitments. This is an important finding that points to the need to have close-to-home facilities. Other key findings include:

- Running, walking and jogging are the top activities reported by adults and youth.
- Gardening, road biking and hiking were mentioned by more than 20% of all respondents to the survey.
- Swimming, canoeing, and kayaking, and several winter sports are ranked higher in the youth survey than in the adult survey, whereas gardening, golf, and bird and wildlife watching are ranked higher in the adult survey.
- 38% of survey respondents reported that they expected an increase in outdoor recreation activity in the next five years.

Of particular relevance to the Winthrop plan is the finding that nearly 73% of residents spent at least a day at the Massachusetts coast in the past year and more than one-third spent more than a week at the coast. The plan also highlighted the importance of tourism to the Massachusetts economy which is in line with the goals of the Winthrop plan for advancing economic development through increased visitation to Winthrop's parks and open spaces.

## **I. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION AS A CATALYST FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Town of Winthrop has expressed an interest in using open space and recreation as a catalyst for spurring economic development. The marketing of Winthrop's open spaces and beaches to visitors from outside the town could provide additional customers for existing businesses and if successful, could also provide a customer base for additional recreation-oriented businesses and services. While this is not usually a component of an open space and recreation plan, many communities understand that there can be a stronger link between open space and recreation and the economic vitality of the community.

There are three main components to spurring economic development through open space development. The first is to make use of the Winthrop Greenway walking trail to encourage more foot traffic for local businesses. The second component would be to capitalize on transient boaters who might be enticed to spend on goods and services as they dock at the Town Landing. The third would be to actively market the town's open space resources to day visitors who might visit for a day.

Specific recommendations for economic development have been included under Goal 9 in the Seven Year Action Plan.

### **1. Use open space and recreation to increase foot traffic for local businesses**

Local businesses depend on foot traffic and because of Winthrop's small size, it is likely that most businesses in the Shirley Street area have a stable but static customer base. Any new visitors to Winthrop can potentially add to their income. The Shirley Street commercial district has a healthy mix of retail and service establishments. Some of these such as restaurants, convenience stores, and marine services are more likely to be used by visitors than others. A business directory at key locations such as the Town Landing would help visitors find businesses they may want to patronize. One thing that is missing from the retail mix in the Shirley Street business district is a place to buy fresh food and produce.

*a) Develop a business directory at the Town Landing* – This would provide information on businesses within walking distance of the Town Landing to ensure that visitors can find the goods and services that they need.

*b) Encourage retailers who carry groceries to stock fresh food and produce* – For day visitors who want to picnic during the course of their stay in Winthrop this would fill in a gap in the range of foods available for purchase.

*c) Improve the streetscape on Shirley Street* – Basic improvements such as tree planting, flower planters and improved sidewalks would make it more enticing for pedestrians to walk down Shirley Street.

### **2. Improve resources for transient boaters**

The Harbor Master identified a number of issues related to elevating the status of Winthrop as a viable harbor for transient boaters. Marketing is one issue and providing a higher level of facilities and services is another.

***Improving services and facilities*** – This is the first step towards attracting more transient boaters. Without an appropriate level of services and facilities, it will be hard to attract more boaters. Shirley Street and Washington Streets are the marine center of Winthrop with a marine hardware store and two businesses offering fuel.

Most of the moorings are permanent. The town maintains transient slips for up to 5 boats. These slips have water and electric. There are also three moorings available for short term rental. These require an anchor, ring and a dinghy to get to land. Larger yachts require higher amp service so service would need to be upgraded in order to attract these types of yachts.

a) *Pursue grants to expand commercial dockage and increase capacity for transient boaters* – The grants administrator has begun to seek out such grants.

**Information and marketing** – It is important to ensure that visitors have up-to-date information on what Winthrop has to offer as a harbor and as a community. This includes waterway guides, phone apps, the town’s website and social media. Research shows that boaters travel to destinations that have restaurants, gift shops but that a critical mass of destinations is needed to lure boaters. The eventual location of a casino in the Boston area represents another opportunity to enhance Winthrop Harbor as a destination.

a) *Ensure that Winthrop data is included in the popular “Navionics” phone application and waterway guide* – Navionics is one of the most widely-used waterway guide that also includes a phone application. The app includes points of interest for each harbor. Winthrop should work to be sure that it is well-represented in this information source.

b) *Keep the town’s web site up-to-date* - Information on moorings, boater services and local attractions needs to be well-presented on the town’s web site as this is another likely source for potential out-of-town visitors.

c) *Create a Facebook page for Winthrop Harbor* - This can be another source for information but more importantly, for marketing the harbor and local events and spreading the word about local attractions.

### **3. Market the town’s open space and recreation resources to day visitors**

**Establish a visitor gateway at the Town landing** – This gateway would serve as a jumping off point for a number of Winthrop’s key open space and recreational resources that would appeal to day visitors including Yrillel Beach, Winthrop Shore Reservation, Crystal Cove Jetty, Coughlin Playground, Massa Playground, Lewis Lake and the facilities at Deer Island. The Town Landing already serves as a point of entry for the ferry and recreational boaters and provides basic services such as restrooms, showers, a water fountain, picnic tables and information related to boating. For those who are not coming by boat, there is also ample parking. Building on this base could involve the following enhancements:

- Information kiosk to orient visitors.
- Bicycle rentals or bike share kiosk.
- Public art related to the ocean.
- Signage to direct visitors to different parks and open spaces. Signage could also include approximate walking times to various locations as well as a directory of local businesses.

Local businesses would be encouraged to help fund improvements to this gateway. In addition to a bike rental/share station, the use of the Peter Pan bus and the addition of a visitor trolley or other forms of transportation like pedicabs, would provide additional ways to get around. In order to attract day visitors, the weekend ferry schedule would need to be enhanced.

***Market special events to the region, not just Winthrop residents-*** Special events such as concerts, music or food festivals, heritage days, walking tours, etc. can draw people to communities they might not have otherwise visited. Events that are of general interest rather than strictly local, can be easier to publicize in the newspapers. While such events require a real commitment of time and money on the part of the organizers, they can bring people into the downtown and can increase business for restaurants and local shops. Start by marketing existing events such as Old Fashioned Family Day at the Beach and the Fourth of July fireworks. Marketing can be done through traditional methods such as print media and radio but should be expanded to include social media (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter) and smartphone apps.

## SECTION VIII- GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

These goals and objectives were developed after reviewing previous plans and studies, meetings with town staff and comments received at the public meeting held on June 20, 2013.

Goal #1: Protect and enhance the quality and integrity of all conservation land and open space for public use and enjoyment.

Objective 1.1: Ensure that all conservation and open land is maintained according to a land management plan.

Objective 1.2: Provide adequate facilities for the public in order to ensure that the open spaces can be used without negative impacts.

Goal #2: Provide ample recreational opportunities for all residents of the town.

Objective 2.1: Ensure that recreational opportunities exist for all age groups.

Objective 2.2: Ensure that all facilities are accessible to individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Goal #3: Preserve the scenic quality of the town.

Objective 3.1: Ensure that new development is compatible with existing buildings and neighborhoods.

Objective 3.2: Ensure that coastal resources are maintained.

Goal #4: Promote public awareness of conservation and recreation, use of recreation areas and programs offered.

Objective 4.1: Use the town's website and social media to educate the public about available resources and programs.

Objective 4.2: Improve mapping and signage so that all residents and visitors can easily find the town's open spaces.

Objective 4.3: Link visitors with the town's commercial businesses.

Goal #5: Coordinate Winthrop's recreation and open space planning activities with those of neighboring communities, as well as regional, state and federal activities.

Objective 5.1: Continue to participate in the Inner Core Committee subregion of MAPC.

Objective 5.2: Continue to work on regional greenway and trails initiatives.

Goal #6: Protect coastal areas.

Objective 6.1: Stay abreast of the latest information on planning for sea level rise.

Objective 6.2: Take advantage of programs for strengthening sea walls and for natural beach protection.

Goal #7: Protect wildlife and wild plants to preserve the diversity and health of natural community ecosystems.

Objective 7.1: Reduce the prevalence of invasive species throughout town.

Objective 7.2: Take measures to protect coastal ecosystems such as salt marshes.

Goal #8: Promote cooperation between Town boards with jurisdiction over open space and recreational areas and work towards implementation of this plan.

Objective 8.1: Determine if there are any gaps or overlaps in jurisdiction and reduce these.

Objective 8.2: Develop a mechanism to oversee implementation of the plan.

Goal #9: Develop a walking and biking network linking public open space, and civic and commercial resources.

Objective 9.1: Implement the recommendations of the Walk Winthrop study.

Objective 9.2: Use walking and biking trails as a way to link open space with town businesses as a tool for economic development.

## SECTION IX –SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Seven Year Action Plan is the most important section in any open space and recreation plan. The following recommendations are meant to bridge the gap between the existing open space and recreation resources identified in Section 5, the goals and objectives identified in Section 8 and the needs and desires of the residents of Winthrop as detailed in Section 7. The designation of a target year is meant as a guide only. It is more important to be flexible and take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Many items will need to occur over several years. In each case, a primary responsible party or parties is identified. Figure 9 is a map illustrating the action plan recommendations and can be found in Appendix D.

The Seven-Year Action Plan was developed by first reviewing the action plan from the 2005 Plan. All completed actions were removed from the list unless they are on-going. The remaining action items were reviewed by various town departments to determine if they were still desirable and new ones were added. Additional action items were added based on citizen input from the public meeting.

### A. ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2005-2010 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

The Town of Winthrop made considerable progress on the items identified in The Five Year Action Plan. These are highlighted in Table 22 below.

<b>Table 24 Accomplishments from the 2005-2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan</b>	
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Status</b>
Establish a Park Facilities Improvement Program.	Planned improvements have been on-going.
Keep findings of ADA Transition Plan up-to-date.	On-going.
Investigate funding mechanisms to acquire undeveloped privately owned properties for preservation.	This is an on-going need since Winthrop failed to pass the Community Preservation Act in 2001.
Develop plans and investigate funding sources for a Harborwalk to include Shirley Street Trestle.	Project is in the design phase.
Initiate planning on the construction of a nature walk around the perimeter of Belle Isle Marsh abutting the cemetery.	Planning is on-going.
Initiate beach maintenance program.	Beach maintenance is on-going.
Continue working with the Winthrop Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce clean up committee and other town groups.	On-going.

**Table 24**  
**Accomplishments from the 2005-2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Status</b>
Review findings of Coastal Access Study and begin application for additional funds from DEM next year.	On-going.
Continue planning for an in-line skating park and dog park.	On-going.
Commence improvements and upgrades at Massa Playground.	Improvements were completed in 2007.
Begin planning for improvements to Daw and Pico Playgrounds.	Improvements completed.
Rebuild basketball court at Crest Avenue Playground.	Completed.
Develop program of park improvements and restoration.	Several park improvement projects have been completed and plans are underway for additional projects at Coughlin and Pond Street.

**B. ON-GOING INITIATIVES**

There are a number of on-going initiatives which need to be mentioned and described. The completion of these projects will be referenced in the Seven Year Action Plan table but details are provided in this section.

***Fishermen’s Bend Trail Project***—The Town of Winthrop has received a grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Recreational Trails Program. The grant will be used to make improvements at the Fishermen’s Bend Trail, located off of Sunnyside Avenue and Corinha Beach Road behind Pleasant Street. The Fishermen’s Bend Path is used somewhat but it has become overgrown and beaten down and the DCR funds will help the town purchase supplies such as stone dust for the path, the equipment needed to clear the trails, and signage for the paths. The lot on Sunnyside Avenue opens up to the street and will be developed as a trail head with bike racks and trash receptacles.

***Improvements to the Edward Rowe Snow Path*** – Improvements to this path will also be paid for out of the DCR Recreational Trails grant. This path connects the end of the Shore Drive rotary around Cottage Hill to Yirrell Beach.

***Harbor Management Committee Public Access Plan*** – The Town Manager’s office has been working with the Harbor Management Committee on a Public Access plan to restore stairways and public

access to the waterfront. The most recent success of this effort was the restoration of the seawall at 235 Court Road.

***Ingleside Park Improvements*** - The DPW will install rubber surfaces at the two playgrounds in Ingleside Park and is undertaking substantial drainage improvements.

### **C. THE 2013-2020 SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN**

**Organization of the Action Plan** – Table 24 is a complete listing of all the action plan items in the format required by the Division of Conservation Services. The action items are grouped under the goal which they most directly contribute to. In many cases, an action item will contribute to more than one goal but will be listed only once.

#### **Priority Action Items**

The nine goals were not ranked in priority order by the town but were selected because they all contribute to the vision for open space and recreation that the town has articulated. Priorities for the various action items were identified by a preference polling exercise conducted at the second public meeting. Those action items that received the highest number of “votes” during this exercise can be considered priorities. These are listed below along with the number of “votes” they received in parentheses.

- Create a connection between the terminus of the Kilmartin pathway at Belle Isle Marsh and town land near Gorman Elementary School. **(10)**
- Upgrade Miller Field with a turf field and new, lighted track. **(6)**
- Create a walking path from the parking lot at the end of Winthrop Street through Governors’ Park to the Gorman/Fort Banks School. **(5)**
- Complete the Fishermen’s Bend trail project. **(4)**
- Expand recreational programs at the beaches including swimming and kayaking. **(4)**
- Complete the Fishermen’s Bend trail project. **(4)**
- Continue to collaborate with Boston and Revere on regional trails. **(3)**
- Investigate the feasibility of locating a bike share Hubway station in Winthrop Town Center and the Winthrop Ferry terminal. **(3)**

**Note on funding sources:** The entries in the column “funding sources” are intended to give the reader some ideas on possible funding sources. Each grant program has its own eligibility requirements and it is generally difficult to determine if an action is fundable until the project is more clearly defined. The table also cannot take into account new grant programs or funding sources that might become available over the seven years of the plan.

- PARC stands for the Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Program formerly known as the Urban Self-Help Program.

- LWCF stands for Land and Water Conservation Fund
- GC stands for the Gateway Cities Initiative.
- CDBG stands for Community Development Block Grants.
- LAND stands for Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity, (formerly known as the Self-Help Program).
- TE stands for the Transportation Enhancements Program.
- RTGP stands for the Recreational Trails Grant Program.

**Table 25  
Seven-Year Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>
<b>Goal #1: Protect and enhance the quality and integrity of all conservation land and open space for public use and enjoyment.</b>									
Develop the underutilized space between the street and the sea wall at Yrillel Beach to provide beach parking. <b>(2)</b> <sup>1</sup>	Rec. Dept, Cons., DPW	Town							
Develop a parking area at the rear of Coughlin Playground using pervious pavement to protect the environment.	Rec. Dept, Cons., DPW	Town							
Develop a permanent restroom facility at Yrillel Beach. <b>(2)</b>	Rec. Dept, Cons., DPW	Town							
Research the legal protection status of all parks and	Town Counsel	Town							

<sup>1</sup> A number in parentheses indicates the number of “votes” that an action recommendation received during the preference polling conducted at the November 21 public meeting.

**Table 25  
Seven-Year Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>
conservation lands to determine if they are permanently protected.									
Continue to evaluate locations for a dog park. <b>(1)</b>	Rec. dept, DPW	Town							
<b>Goal #2: Provide ample recreational opportunities for all residents of the town.</b>									
Expand recreational programs at the beaches including swimming and kayaking. <b>(4)</b>	Rec. Dept.	Town							
Investigate the possibility of having lifeguards at Yrillel Beach.	Rec. Dept., Cons.	Town							
Undertake renovations at Coughlin Playground.	Rec. Dept.	Private, state, town							
Undertake renovations at Pond Street Playground.	Rec. Dept.	Private, state, town							
Complete planned	Rec. Dept.	Town							

**Table 25  
Seven-Year Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>
improvements (rubber playground surfaces and drainage upgrades) at Ingleside Park.	DPW								
Upgrade Miller Field with a turf field and new, lighted track. <b>(6)</b>	School Dept, Rec. Dept.	State, local							
Complete the design/permitting of the Harborwalk on the Crystal Cove Jetty. <b>(2)</b>	Town administrator	Local, state							
Develop additional playing fields. <b>(1)</b>	Rec. Dept.	Local, state							
Upgrade the locker rooms at the Larson Rink and preserve the Middle School gymnasium as an athletic center. <b>(2)</b>	Rec. Dept.	Local, state							
<b>Goal #3: Preserve the scenic quality of the town.</b>									
Continue tree maintenance and planting program. <b>(2)</b>	DPW	Town and private							

**Table 25  
Seven-Year Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>
		donations							
Ensure that design of the Harborwalk at Crystal Cove Jetty maximizes opportunities for scenic views. <b>(1)</b>	Town, consultant	State, local							
<b>Goal #4: Promote public awareness of conservation and recreation, use of recreation areas and programs offered.</b>									
Conduct an educational campaign regarding the benefits of adopting the Community Preservation Act.	Cons. Comm, Rec. Dept.	Town							
Use social media to publicize recreation opportunities and open space areas. <b>(1)</b>	Cons. Comm, Rec. Dept.	Town							
Upgrade the conservation and recreation pages on the town's website.	Cons. Comm, Rec. Dept.	Town							
Work with MAPC to include Winthrop information in the Boston Green map. <b>(1)</b>	Grants administrator	Town							

**Table 25  
Seven-Year Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>
application.									
<b>Goal #5: Coordinate Winthrop’s recreation and open space planning activities with those of neighboring communities, as well as regional, state and federal activities.</b>									
Continue to collaborate with Boston and Revere on regional trails. <b>(3)</b>	Grants administrator	Town							
Continue to participate in the Inner Core Committee.	MAPC rep.	Town							
<b>Goal #6: Protect coastal areas.</b>									
Develop and implement a management plan for the tidal pool at the base of Cottage Hill.	Cons. Comm.	Town							
Evaluate ways to halt the erosion of the walking path at Coughlin Playground.	Cons. Comm.	Town							
Continue to implement the recommendations of the	Harbor Mgt. Committee;	Town, state							

**Table 25  
Seven-Year Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>
Harbor Management Committee's Public Access Plan to restore stairways and public access to the waterfront. <b>(2)</b>	DPW								
Complete the Fishermen's Bend trail project. <b>(4)</b>	Cons. Comm. DPW	RTGP (State) Town							
Work with DCR to ensure completion of the Winthrop Beach re-nourishment project.	DCR	State							
<b>Goal #7: Protect wildlife and wild plants to preserve the diversity and health of natural community ecosystems.</b>									
Dredge Lewis Lake to improve the storage capacity of the lake and aid in mosquito control. <b>(1)</b>	Cons. Comm.	Local and state							
Develop and implement a plan for reducing phragmites at Lewis Lake. <b>(1)</b>	Cons. Comm.	Town							
Identify unprotected parcels	Cons. Comm.	Town							

**Table 25  
Seven-Year Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>
of BioMap 2 Core Habitat and Critical natural Landscape for protection efforts.									
Protect additional acres of BioMap 2 core habitat and critical natural landscapes.	Cons. Comm.	Town, state, federal.							
<b>Goal #8: Promote cooperation between Town boards with jurisdiction over open space and recreational areas and work towards implementation of this plan.</b>									
Convene a quarterly meeting of all town departments, boards and commissions to discuss progress on projects. <b>(1)</b>	Town Administrator	Town							
Initiate update of plan in Year 6.	Town Administrator	Town							
<b>Goal #9: Develop a walking and biking network linking public open space, and civic and commercial resources.<sup>1</sup></b>									
Complete improvements to	Cons.	State and							

<sup>1</sup> This goal includes recommendations related to fostering economic development through promotion of open space resources.

**Table 25  
Seven-Year Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>
the Edward Rowe Snow Path. <b>(2)</b>	Comm/Grants Administrator	town							
Create a connection between the terminus of the Kilmartin pathway at Belle Isle Marsh and town land near Gorman Elementary School. <b>(10)</b>	Cons. Comm/DCR/Grants Administrator	Town							
Stripe a bike lane on Veterans Road. <b>(1)</b>	DPW	Town							
Investigate the feasibility of locating a bike share Hubway station in Winthrop Town Center and the Winthrop Ferry terminal. <b>(3)</b>	Town Administrator	Town							
Create a walking path from the parking lot at the end of Winthrop Street through Governors' Park to the Gorman/Fort Banks School. <b>(5)</b>	Town Administrator, DPW	Town							
Begin the process of	Town	Town,							

**Table 25  
Seven-Year Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>
identifying funds for a bike share system including private donations and public revenue sources. <b>(1)</b>	administrator	private sources							
Work with MAPC, the City of Boston, and Alta Bike Share to implement Hubway.	Town administrator, MAPC	Public and private							
Complete the missing segments of the Ocean Route portion of the regional greenway. <sup>1</sup>	Grants administrator, DPW	Town							
<b>Recommendations related to economic development</b>									
Develop a business directory at the Town Landing.	Chamber of Commerce, Town Administrator	Private							
Improve the streetscape on Shirley Street.	DPW, Town Administrator	Public and private							
Ensure that Winthrop data is	Harbor Master	Town and							

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Ocean Route please refer to pages 10-12 of the report titled “Walk Winthrop: A Greenway Action Plan” prepared by MAPC.

**Table 25  
Seven-Year Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>
included in the Navionics Waterway Guide and phone app.		private							
Keep the town's web site up-to-date.	Town Administrator	Town							
Create a Facebook page for Winthrop Harbor.	Town Administrator	Town							
Establish a visitor gateway at the Town Landing. <b>(1)</b>	Town Administrator, Chamber of Commerce	Town and private							
Market special events regionally.	Chamber of Commerce, Town	Town and private							

## SECTION X – IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of this section is to make decision-makers and town residents aware of the many different ways to preserve and/or acquire open space and recreation land. Some of the methods and programs have already been utilized by the town. Other methods have not been employed but could be in the future.

### A. STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity - The LAND Program (formerly the Self-Help Program) was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions acquiring land for natural resource and passive outdoor recreation purposes. Lands acquired may include wildlife, habitat, trails, unique natural, historic or cultural resources, water resources, forest, and farm land. Compatible passive outdoor recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, bird observation and the like are encouraged. Access by the general public is required. This state program pays for the acquisition of land, or a partial interest (such as a conservation restriction), and associated acquisition costs such as appraisal reports and closing costs.

#### Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Program

The PARC Program (formerly the Urban Self-Help Program) was established in 1977 to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Any town with a population of 35,000 or more year-round residents, or any city regardless of size, that has an authorized park /recreation commission is eligible to participate in the program. Communities that do not meet the population criteria listed above may still qualify under the "small town," "regional," or "statewide" project provisions of the program.

Only projects that are to be developed for suitable outdoor recreation purposes, whether active or passive in nature, shall be considered for funding. Grants are available for the acquisition of land and the construction, or renovation of park and outdoor recreation facilities, such as swimming pools, zoos, athletic play fields, playgrounds and game courts. Access by the general public is required.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund— This is a federal program administered by the State Division of Conservation Services for the acquisition and development or renovation of park, recreation and conservation land. The Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (P.L. 88-578) provides up to 50% of the total project cost for the acquisition, development and renovation of park, recreation or conservation areas. Municipalities, special districts and state agencies are eligible to apply. Nearly 4000 acres have been acquired and hundreds of parks renovated using the \$95.6 million that Massachusetts has received from the state side portion of the federal program since 1965. DCS administers the state side Land & Water Conservation Fund program in Massachusetts. Access by the general public is required.

Recreational Trails Grant Program - The Recreational Trails Program provides grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000 on a reimbursement basis for a variety of trail protection, construction, and stewardship projects throughout Massachusetts. It is part of the national Recreational Trails Program, which is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Funds are disbursed to each state to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. In Massachusetts, funds are administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), in partnership with the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board. Winthrop is currently using this grant source to complete two trails projects.

Community Preservation Act- The idea of a real estate transfer tax was signed into law on September 14, 2000 as the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The CPA is a tool for communities to preserve open space, historic sites, and affordable housing. The Community Preservation Act is statewide enabling legislation that allows cities and towns to exercise control over local planning decisions by providing a new funding source which can be used to address three core community concerns:

- Acquisition and preservation of open space
- Creation and support of affordable housing
- Acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes

A minimum of 10% of the annual revenues of the fund must be used for each three core community concerns. The remaining 70% can be allocated for any combination of the allowed uses. This gives each community the opportunity to determine its priorities, plan for its future, and have the funds to make those plans happen. More information on the CPA can be found at <http://www.communitypreservation.org>

Winthrop placed adoption of the CPA on the ballot in 2001 but it failed to pass at Town Meeting.

**SECTION XI – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Planning Board letter**

**Board of Selectmen letter**

**Regional Planning Agency letter**

## Conservation Commission letter



## **SECTION XII – REFERENCES**

Town of Winthrop, Annual Town Report 2012

Town of Winthrop Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012 Update prepared by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, March 2012.

Walk Winthrop: A Greenway Action Plan prepared for the Town of Winthrop by MAPC November 2011.

Walk Winthrop: A Plan for a More Walkable and Bikeable Town prepared by the Conway School of Landscape Design, Winter 2010.

Winthrop Harbor Assessment and Plan prepared by the Cecil Group, April 2005.

Town of Winthrop Open Space and Recreation Plan January 2005 prepared by McGregor & Associates.

## **APPENDIX A: PUBLIC MEETING FLYERS**

# **Please Join Us for a Discussion on Open Space and Recreation in Winthrop**



**Thursday, June 20, 2013 7:00-9:00 PM  
Gorman-Fort Banks Elementary School  
101 Kennedy Drive Winthrop, MA**

The Town of Winthrop is in the process of preparing a new open space and recreation plan. The Town wants to hear your views on:

- Goals for open space and recreation for the next seven years
- Connecting points of interest with trails and paths
- Conservation and open lands
- Parks, playing fields and playgrounds
- Beaches and boating

This meeting is being sponsored by the Town of Winthrop and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). For more information on this meeting or if you need any special accommodations such as language interpretation, assistive listening devices or meeting materials in alternate formats or other assistance during the meeting, please contact Joan Blaustein, MAPC, at (617) 933-0755 or [jblaustein@mapc.org](mailto:jblaustein@mapc.org). We would appreciate notice at least one week in advance.

# **Please Join Us to Discuss the new Open Space and Recreation Plan for Winthrop**



**Tuesday, November 19, 2013 7:00-9:00 PM**  
***Gorman-Fort Banks Elementary School ??***  
***101 Kennedy Drive Winthrop, MA ??***

The Town of Winthrop has been working on a new open space and recreation plan. The plan is now in draft form and the Town wants to share the draft recommendations with residents. Please join us to discuss recommendations relating to:

- Connecting points of interest with trails and paths
- Conservation and open lands
- Parks, playing fields and playgrounds
- Beaches and boating
- Promoting economic development and tourism by promoting open space resources

This meeting is being sponsored by the Town of Winthrop and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). For more information on this meeting or if you need any special accommodations such as language interpretation, assistive listening devices or meeting materials in alternate formats or other assistance during the meeting, please contact Joan Blaustein, MAPC, at (617) 933-0755 or [jblaustein@mapc.org](mailto:jblaustein@mapc.org). We would appreciate notice at least one week in advance.

## **APPENDIX B: NOTES FROM THE PUBLIC MEETINGS**

### **Notes from the June 20, 2013 Public Meeting**

#### **OSRP Goals**

- #2 and #4 could be merged.
- Less is more – consider merging and creating broader goals.
- Add #11.
- In plan, include information to educate about regulations (citizens)
- In plan, recommendations of better signage and signs indicating what the regulations are (on a map).
- Maintain resources to promote visitorship (vs. tourism) (building on assets of Winthrop Beach and Ferry terminal)
- Expand #3 – include urban gardening initiative, support larger urban agricultural movement.

#### **Conservation and Open Lands**

- Fishermen's Bend often squeezed by encroachment. Needs a good map and signage.
- Need real surveying work to be done.
- Washington Street near the marsh – also subject to encroachment.
- Belle Isle – (see map)
- Signage for education as well
- Community gardens

#### **Trails and Connected Open Space**

- Increasing bike and trail connectivity especially for families with children.
- Activate ferry terminal with more things to attract visitors and residents.
- Add bike rental to ferry terminal. Maybe pedicabs? Including Hubway or similar like Salem Cycle program.
- Explore other models including kayaks and canoe rentals. Ownership of land may restrict what is possible.
- Pleasant, Washington Street, Shore Drive, Revere and Main – connectivity by means of a bike lane? Pauline as cut-through?
- Bike lane from Washington Street to Shore Drive to Revere Street to encourage bike to school.
- Community Preservation Act – bring back for vote?

#### **Water-Based Recreation**

- Resanding beaches.

- Increasing accessibility to Pico Beach – handicapped access.
- Halford Beach – improvements
- Yirrell Beach – more parking and a permanent restroom needed.
- Winter Hill Art Association – installations in parks. Kinetic sculpture/solar energy?
- Good marketing of events like Family Fun Day – can draw people from outside of Winthrop.
- Community sailing program
- Promoting fishing.

### **Parks, Playgrounds and Playing Fields**

- Community gardens – more.
- Senior Center gardens – no access for public plots available to town residents.
  - Near Crest Avenue playground.
  - Identify suitable sites including roof of new high school.
- Need information on regulations/parameters for whether gardens are allowed on municipal properties including parks.
- Major projects for composting and gardening in the schools?
- Idea of parks with different options and for diverse ages.
- Fitness park, water park, “natural” park (no equipment).
- Fundraise for installing more rubber (versus mulch) in the parks. Would contribute to making parks more accessible.
- Plan for funding park maintenance including school parks.
- Indoor swimming pool.
- Dog park.
- New athletic complex would be nice but not eligible under school improvement plan.
- Multipurpose field
- Improve Miller Field.
- Could attract outside users to generate revenue.
- Replace bocce court.
- Pond Street park – more natural? Garden?

### **Notes from the November 19, 2013 Public Meeting**

- The town should consider creating a walking path from the parking lot at the end of Winthrop Street through Governors’ Park to the Gorman/Fort Banks School.
- There is a need for additional playing fields.
- Improve the Larson Rink and upgrade the locker rooms.
- Preserve the gymnasium in the Middle School next to the Larson Rink and turn into an athletic center.

- The concept of additional parking at Yrillel Beach may not be well-received by abutters but may be necessary because people are parking at the town landing to use the beach.
- The residents of the town need to carefully consider how much tourism/day visitation they want; it might impact residents who like the town the way it is.

**Appendix C**  
**Section 504 Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan**

**Part I: Administrative Requirements**

1. Designation of an ADA Coordinator – Attach official designation of employee responsible for ADA coordination with name and position title, and signed by the chief municipal officer.
  
2. Grievance Procedures – This is a procedure for the general public to follow in the event that a complaint must be made.
  
3. Public Notification Requirements - Employees and the public must be notified that the community does not discriminate on the basis of disability. Notification must be in a format that is accessible such as large print, simple language and in an auditory form. An “EOE” clause must also be included in any recruitment materials for publications. Please submit copies of these documents and evidence that notices were also made for the visual and learning impaired.
  
4. Participation of individuals with disabilities or organizations representing persons with disabilities

**Part II: Program Accessibility** –Part II, the Program Accessibility, is an inventory and transition plan that includes the buildings, recreation facilities and equipment (swimming areas, tot lots, etc.), programs and services under the jurisdiction of the conservation commission or recreation department. This also includes lessees or concessionaires.

Facility Inventory – Complete a separate inventory for each facility under the jurisdiction of the recreation department or conservation commission. The Facility Inventory is included in Table 26.

Transition Plan – The Transition Plan can be found in Table 26.

**Table 26  
Facility Inventory/Transition Plan**

<b>Table 26 Facility Inventory/Transition Plan</b>						
<b>Facility Inventory</b>				<b>Transition Plan</b>		
<b>Name of Park</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Playing Surface</b>	<b>Physical Obstacles</b>	<b>Recommended Improvements</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
Donovan Beach	Benches without sides or backs; two stairway entrances; two ramps with handrails; one bike rack. No parking. Ramps 3.8%-8% slope. Ramp width is 45 inches.	Sand.	There is a slight lip where the sidewalk meets the ramp on both sides as well as where the ramp meets the sand. No designated parking lot. Nearest curb cut is a private driveway. No accessible path of travel across the sand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add/replace current benches with benches that have sides and backs.</li> <li>• Eliminate the lip between the sidewalk and the ramp.</li> <li>• Install an accessible path of travel to the water.</li> </ul>	2018	DPW
<b>Ingleside Park</b>						
<i>Gazebo</i>	There is a ramp leading to the gazebo on one side but there is a lip at the end of the ramp.	NA	Lip at ends of the ramp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate the lip between the ramp and gazebo.</li> </ul>	2015	DPW
<i>Tot lot</i>	Neither entrance has a gate. Entrances are 48 inches wide. Two bucket swings with no sides or backs. Equipment is rusty. There are three benches; no sides. Some shade trees.	Shredded rubber tires.	Uneven lip at entrance to the tot lot. Shredded tire surface may be hard to navigate in a wheel chair.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate the lip at the entrance to the tot lot.</li> <li>• Upgrade rubber surface with more firm material.</li> <li>• Add one handicapped accessible swing.</li> </ul>	2015	DPW
<i>Playground</i>	Neither entrance has	Shredded	None.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace one or more</li> </ul>	2015	DPW

**Table 26  
Facility Inventory/Transition Plan**

Facility Inventory				Transition Plan		
Name of Park	Facilities	Playing Surface	Physical Obstacles	Recommended Improvements	Year	Responsible Party
	a gate. Entrances are 48" wide. There are 3 sling swings; one is handicapped accessible. The transfer platform is 10" high but rusty with bolts missing. There are two benches with backs but no sides and one bench with no back.	rubber tires.		<p>benches with a bench with a back and a side.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade rubber surface with a more firm material.</li> </ul>		
Other facilities	<p>There are five picnic tables and one is wheelchair accessible on a level path but there is no shade. Some of the tables are up the hill and one needs repair because of exposed metal supports.</p> <p>The entrance to Ingleside Park is between two widely spaced stone pillars. There are benches with backs but no arms. The path into and through the park has a variable width and parts of the path</p>	NA	None.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower the latches to the tennis courts (52 inches is too high).</li> <li>• Replace some of the benches with benches that have sides and backs.</li> </ul>	2015	DPW

**Table 26  
Facility Inventory/Transition Plan**

<b>Facility Inventory</b>							<b>Transition Plan</b>		
<b>Name of Park</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Playing Surface</b>	<b>Physical Obstacles</b>		<b>Recommended Improvements</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>		
	are dirt/mud. Path is generally 41 inches wide and mostly level. There are two tennis courts with a gated entrance. The latch opens with a closed fist. There is no dedicated parking lot. There is a paved square with hockey goals and two gated entrances but no latches on the gates. There is also a baseball field.								
Walden Street basketball courts	Bike rack; 20 striped parking space in parking lot; two handicapped spaces. 4 hoops, lighting, 8 benches with no backs or sides. There is a ramp leading to and from the courts from the school with a slope of 5% or less. Ramp has handrails at 18 inches high and 32 inches high.	Asphalt.	HP parking signs are faded and the stencil on the ground is also faded. The bottom of the HP parking signs is 46 inches high.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace HP parking signs.</li> <li>• Re-paint the stencil on the ground.</li> </ul>	2014	DPW		
Coughlin	5 off street parking	Rubber tiles;	No accessible		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-paint the HP stencil</li> </ul>	2015	DPW		

**Table 26  
Facility Inventory/Transition Plan**

<b>Table 26 Facility Inventory/Transition Plan</b>						
<b>Facility Inventory</b>				<b>Transition Plan</b>		
<b>Name of Park</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Playing Surface</b>	<b>Physical Obstacles</b>	<b>Recommended Improvements</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
Playground	spaces including 1 HP space. Bike rack; wooden benches in disrepair. 8 swings; none are accessible. Transfer platform is 10 inches high but rusty and peeling. Two rusty teeter-totters. Wide entrances without gates. 1 tennis court. Two basketball hoops. 5 picnic tables in disrepair. Baseball field. Dirt path at far end of park.	very bumpy.	path of travel throughout the park. HP space; sign is too low and stencil is faded. No accessible swing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on the ground and raise the sign.</li> <li>• Replace benches with ones with backs and sides.</li> <li>• Install one accessible swing.</li> <li>• Replace the uneven rubber tiles with a firmer surface.</li> <li>• Replace rusty equipment.</li> </ul>		
Town landing	Large parking lot with 6 HP spaces. Three picnic tables that are accessible. Six benches with backs and sides overlooking Boston. Ferry service.	NA	None	None	NA	NA
Massa Playground	Lighting, bike racks, nicely landscaped. 4 basketball hoops; hopscotch courts. Two picnic tables including one	Rubber	Lips between sidewalk and park entrances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regrade/repave lips between sidewalk and park.</li> </ul>	2016	DPW

**Table 26  
Facility Inventory/Transition Plan**

<b>Table 26 Facility Inventory/Transition Plan</b>						
<b>Facility Inventory</b>				<b>Transition Plan</b>		
<b>Name of Park</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Playing Surface</b>	<b>Physical Obstacles</b>	<b>Recommended Improvements</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
	<p>accessible table on asphalt. Tot lot has four swings but none handicapped accessible. Three play structures at tot lot. Benches have sides and backs.</p> <p>Playground for older kids has 10 inch high transfer platforms. Entrances to the park don't have gates and are wide enough but there are some lips at the transition areas.</p>					
Pico Park	Basketball hoop; shelter with one bench, hockey court, one teeter-totter, two play structures, landscaping, swings. No designated parking.	Woodchips.	There is a drop from the path to the wood chips that a wheelchair would not be able to negotiate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a ramp from the path into the woodchip playing surface.</li> <li>• Add one accessible swing.</li> </ul>	2014	DPW
Yrillel Beach	2 HP parking spaces but otherwise on-street parking only. Bike racks in the sand.	Sandy beach.	No accessible path of travel onto the beach; stairs only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a ramp to access the beach and an accessible path of travel (rubber mat?) to the waters edge.</li> </ul>	2016	DPW

**Table 26  
Facility Inventory/Transition Plan**

<b>Table 26 Facility Inventory/Transition Plan</b>						
<b>Facility Inventory</b>				<b>Transition Plan</b>		
<b>Name of Park</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Playing Surface</b>	<b>Physical Obstacles</b>	<b>Recommended Improvements</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
Pond Street	Off-street gravel/dirt parking lot but not striped so unclear how many spaces; none HP. Four basketball hoops; bike rack; two benches with arms and backs facing basketball court. Grassy area. Sand box. 6 sling swings over sand. Two wooden benches in poor condition. One bouncy horse with a broken handle. Old style metal jungle gym, slide, teeter-totter. 6 more swings of assorted types. Picnic table in poor shape. No accessible path of travel from street.	Sand	Equipment is out of date and in poor repair. Lot is flat but there is no accessible path of travel.	This park is slated for improvements at which time the entire park will be redesigned.	2014-2016	DPW
Crest Avenue Park	Two HP spaces in the adjacent municipal parking lot that has about 40 spaces. Bike rack; Wooden benches with backs but no side. Both	Wood chips.	The wood chip surface is depressed with concrete pavers around it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install a ramp to make the transition from the path to the wood chip playing surface.</li> </ul>	2016	DPW

**Table 26  
Facility Inventory/Transition Plan**

<b>Facility Inventory</b>							<b>Transition Plan</b>		
<b>Name of Park</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Playing Surface</b>	<b>Physical Obstacles</b>		<b>Recommended Improvements</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>		
	transfer platforms on playground equipment are at 10 inches high. Level, paved paths are wide and tree-lined. Gate to playground is hard to open but there is no latch; 38 inch wide opening. Adjacent to the playground is a grassy area with trees, benches and a landscaped flagpole,								
Norman Daw Playground	Swings (including one handicapped swing), playground equipment, benches, bike racks, metal slide and teeter totter, off-street angled parking. No gates but fence openings are sufficiently wide for a wheelchair.	Grass	None		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pave two handicapped spaces closest to one of the fence openings.</li> </ul>	2018	DPW		
Larson Rink	Locker rooms, skate shop concession, snack bar concession and ice rink. Rink parking lot has two	During the off season, new rubber mats cover the rink	None of the four locker rooms is accessible. The hooks on the walls are 48		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The locker rooms and restrooms should be re-done and made fully accessible. As an interim measure some of the</li> </ul>	2018	DPW		

**Table 26  
Facility Inventory/Transition Plan**

<b>Facility Inventory</b>							<b>Transition Plan</b>		
<b>Name of Park</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Playing Surface</b>	<b>Physical Obstacles</b>		<b>Recommended Improvements</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>		
	HP spaces.	surface for indoor recreational use.	inches high and the storage cubbies are 68” high. The bathrooms are not accessible. There is a high threshold blocking access to the shower area.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>hooks on the wall and the storage cubbies should be lowered.</li> <li>The town should review the terms of its contract with the two concessions to ensure that they include appropriate language regarding accessibility.</li> </ul>				
Point Shirley Beach	On-street parking only.	NA	Stairs over the sea wall not accessible to people with mobility problems.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the possibility of creating a ramp over the sea wall.</li> </ul>	2017	DPW		
Fishermen’s Bend	Parking spaces, gravel paths.	NA	Paths may be difficult for a wheelchair to negotiate.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that paths are tightly packed and maintained.</li> </ul>	2014	Cons. Comm/DPW		
Halford Beach	Local neighborhood beach; no improvements.	NA	This is an unimproved beach that serves the immediate neighborhood.		None	NA	NA		
Miller Field	Historically this field has been utilized as	Natural turf infield and	These facilities have been		The entire facility needs to be upgraded, and the town is	2015	Town Council and School		

**Table 26  
Facility Inventory/Transition Plan**

<b>Table 26 Facility Inventory/Transition Plan</b>						
<b>Facility Inventory</b>				<b>Transition Plan</b>		
<b>Name of Park</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Playing Surface</b>	<b>Physical Obstacles</b>	<b>Recommended Improvements</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
	athletic track and fields for high school sports programs	paved track around outside of field, with field events facilities adjacent to the playing surface	unimproved for several decades. The field, track and other athletics related facilities are in need of major repair and the stands, restroom facilities and snack stand are also in need of replacement	determining how best to undertake this project in phases. The town would like to undertake immediate improvement of the playing fields by replacing them with an artificial turf playing surface to serve all local athletics group, and replace the now abandoned track with a competition certified track facility that would allow the town to host outdoor track meets		Department
Fort Heath Park	Parking lot and paved paths leading to an overlook. Passive recreation only.	NA	None	None	NA	NA
Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	None.	NA	Area is undeveloped marsh land.	None required.		
Lewis Lake	Unimproved dirt walking paths around the lake.	NA	None specifically; paths could be difficult to negotiate in a wheelchair.	None required.		
Metcalf Square	The commons in front of the town hall	NA	The benches are located on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove the concrete pads or relocate the benches.</li> </ul>	2014	DPW

**Table 26  
Facility Inventory/Transition Plan**

<b>Facility Inventory</b>				<b>Transition Plan</b>		
<b>Name of Park</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Playing Surface</b>	<b>Physical Obstacles</b>	<b>Recommended Improvements</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
	and library has a paved path and several benches.		concrete pads that cannot be accessed from a wheelchair or by persons with other mobility impairments.			

## ADA GRIEVANCE POLICY – TOWN OF WINTHROP

The Winthrop Board of Selectmen have adopted and instituted this grievance policy in order to fulfill the community's obligations under Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. This policy establishes a process that is open to any individual who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in employment practices and policies, or the provision of services, programs, activities, or public events, by the Town of Winthrop.

### *The Making of a Complaint*

Complaints against the Town or any of its officers, employees, agents or service contractors, should be submitted in writing. Alternative means of filing a complaint, including but not limited to a confidential interview, a tape recorded description of the complaint, or an affidavit prepared on behalf of an aggrieved party are available to persons with disabilities upon request.

Complaints shall be filed by the aggrieved party and/or his or her representative within 60 calendar days of an alleged violation, and they shall be directed to the attention of:

Mr. Lawrence S. Holmes  
ADA Coordinator  
Town Hall  
1 Metcalf Square  
Winthrop, MA 02152

### *How the Complaint Will Be Handled*

Within 15 calendar days after receiving a complaint, the ADA Coordinator will meet with the aggrieved individual to discuss the complaint and possible ways of resolving it, including mediation services. During this meeting, the ADA Coordinator will attempt to obtain sufficient information to answer the complaint as provided below if mediation is declined by either the aggrieved party of the individual(s) against whom a complaint has been made. This is to ensure that handling the complaint is not unduly delayed.

The decision to utilize mediation will first be made by the aggrieved party, who may accept or reject the same within 5 calendar days of meeting with the ADA Coordinator. It is the Coordinator's responsibility to then notify the Town officer, employee, agent, or services contractor of both the complaint and the aggrieved party's request for mediation. The Town officer, employee, agent or services contractor will then have 5 calendar days from the date of notification by the ADA Coordinator to decide whether to participate in mediation. The ADA Coordinator will arrange for qualified mediation services when both parties agree to utilize this mechanism for complaint resolution.

If either the aggrieved party or the individual(s) against whom a complaint has been made declines mediation, then the complaint will be handled through the following process. This process remains available if mediation is attempted and fails to produce a mutually acceptable resolution. Mediation is not mandatory and the decision to forego it will not in any way influence how the ADA Compliance Coordinator evaluates and decides to resolve the complaint.

No later than 30 calendar days after receipt of the initial complaint (or after receipt of notification that mediation failed to produce a mutually acceptable resolution), the ADA Compliance Coordinator will respond to the aggrieved party in writing or, where appropriate, in an accessible format requested by that party. The ADA Compliance Coordinator's response will offer one or more options to resolve the complaint and explain how and why those options were chosen.

*Appeal of the ADA Compliance Coordinator's Response*

If the ADA Compliance Coordinator's response does not satisfactorily answer the complaint, the aggrieved party and/or representative may appeal the decision to the Board of Selectmen or their authorized designee, within 15 calendar days after receiving the ADA Coordinator's response.

Within 15 calendar days after receiving the appeal, the Board of Selectmen or their designee, will meet with the aggrieved party to hear the complaint and consider ways of resolving it. No later than 15 days after this meeting, the Board of Selectmen, or their designee, will make a written response to the aggrieved party. They will make their response in an accessible format where appropriate.

Records of all written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator and any subsequent appeals shall be retained by the Town of Winthrop for at least three years from the date of the last action on a complaint.

**Town of Winthrop – Board of Selectmen  
Policy of Nondiscrimination Against Persons With Disabilities**

The Town of Winthrop does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to or operations of its programs, services or activities. The Town of Winthrop does not discriminate on the basis of disability in their hiring or employment practices.

This Notice is intended to meet a requirement of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Questions, concerns, complaints or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be conveyed to the Town of Winthrop's ADA Coordinator.

Mr. Lawrence S. Holmes  
ADA Coordinator  
Town Hall  
1 Metcalf Square  
Winthrop, MA 02152  
617-846-3065

Individuals who need auxiliary aids in order to effectively communicate and participate in programs and services of the Town of Winthrop are welcome to make their needs known by contacting the ADA Coordinator.

This notice is available in large print, on audiotape and in Braille from the ADA Coordinator.

Appendix D Maps

- 1 Regional Context
- 2 Environmental Justice Populations
- 3 Census Tracts
- 4 Zoning
- 5 Soils and Geologic Features
- 6 Unique Features
- 7 Water Resources
- 8 Open Space and Recreation Inventory
- 9 Seven Year Action Plan

# Winthrop, MA Open Space Plan Update

Figure 1: Regional Context



Date: 12/11/2013  
 Data Sources:  
 Parcels: Town of Winthrop, MassGIS  
 Roads and Train Tracks: MassDOT, MassGIS  
 Wetlands: MADEP  
 Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

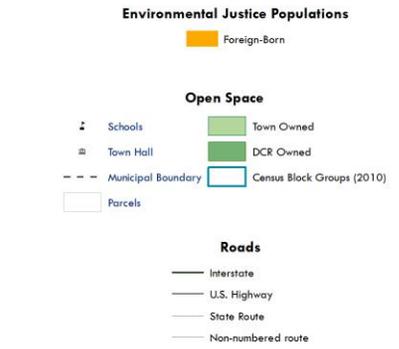
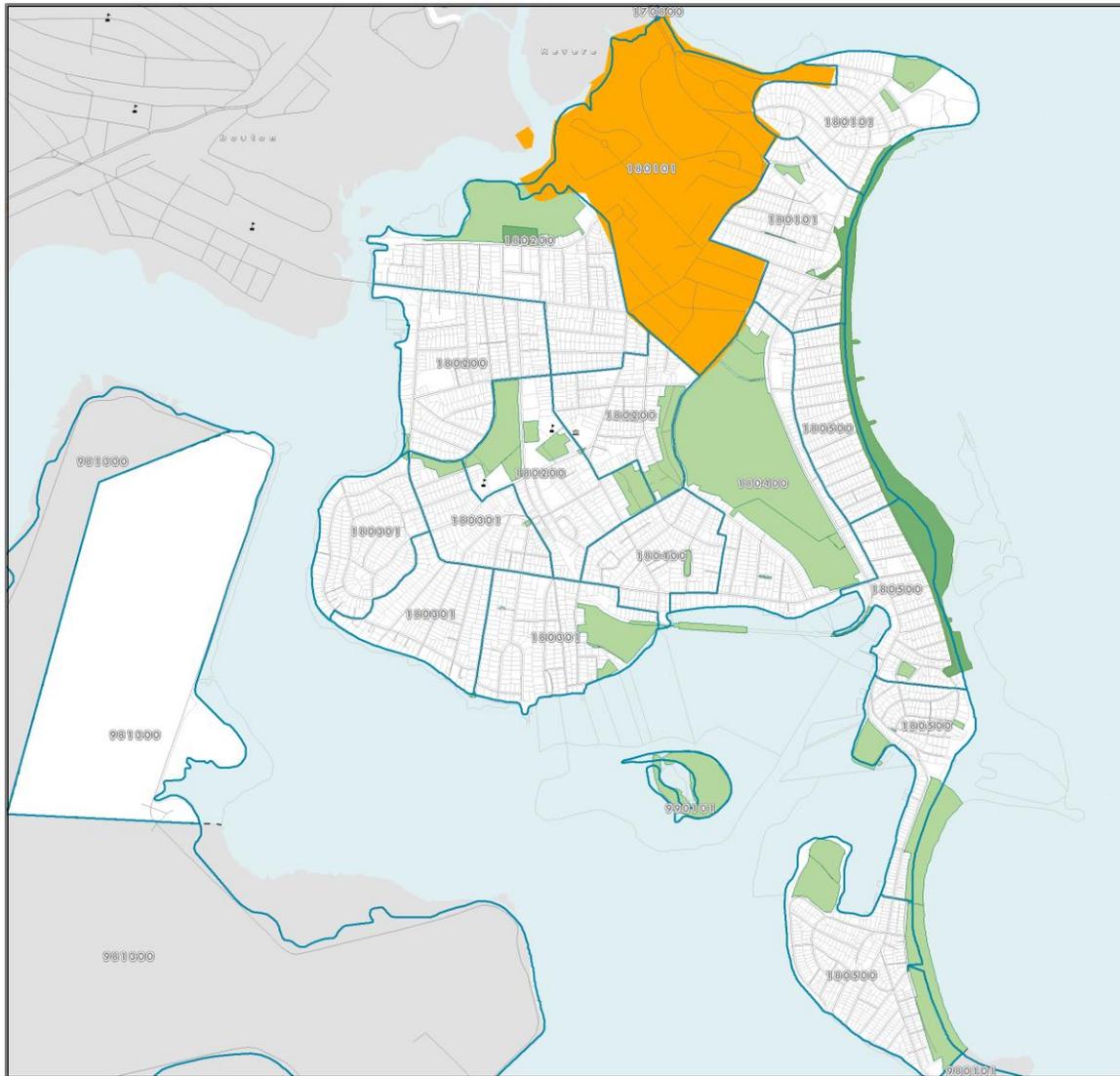
N  
 0 1,000  
 Feet

MAPC 50 YEARS  
 METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL  
 SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

K:\Data\new\Project\Concur\_2\2013\OpenSpace\_Plan\Winthrop\Winthrop\_RegionalContext.mxd

## Winthrop, MA Open Space Plan Update

Figure 2: Environmental Justice Populations



Date: 12/11/2013  
 Data Sources:  
 Parcels: Town of Winthrop/MassGIS  
 Roads and Train Tracks: MassDOT, MassGIS  
 Wetlands: MADEP  
 Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)



K:\Data\Internal\Projects\Current\_Projects\OpenSpace\_Plan\Winthrop\Winthrop\_OpenSpace\_Encl2.mxd

## Winthrop, MA Open Space Plan Update

Figure 3: Census Tracts



**Open Space**

Census Tracts (2010)     ——— Roads      Town Owned  
● Schools     - - - Municipal Boundary      DCR Owned  
▲ Town Hall      Parcels

ID	Name	Owner
1	Main Winthrop Cemetery	Town of Winthrop
2	Cemetery	Town of Winthrop
3	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	DCR
4	Winthrop Shore Reservation	DCR
5	Winthrop Shore Reservation	DCR
6	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	DCR
7	Norman F. Daw Playground	Town of Winthrop
8	Larson Rink	Town of Winthrop
9	Thornton Park	Town of Winthrop
10	Metcalf Square	Town of Winthrop
11	Lewis Lake	Town of Winthrop
12	Crystal Cove Jetty	Town of Winthrop
13	Crest Ave Playground	Town of Winthrop
14	Point Shirley Beach	Town of Winthrop
15	Cummings School	Town of Winthrop
16	Ingleside Park	Town of Winthrop
17	Summit Ave Park	Town of Winthrop
18	Beach Road	Town of Winthrop
19	Miller Field	Town of Winthrop
20	Harold French Square	Town of Winthrop
21	Fort Banks Playground	Town of Winthrop
22	Egleton Park	Town of Winthrop
23	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	Town of Winthrop
24	Lewis Terrace	Town of Winthrop
25	Terrace Avenue Gardens	Town of Winthrop
26	Donovan Beach	Town of Winthrop
27	Veterans Field	Town of Winthrop
28	Railroad Right-of-Way	Town of Winthrop
29	Public Landing	Town of Winthrop
30	Walden St Basketball Courts	Town of Winthrop
31	Snake Island	Town of Winthrop
32	Pico Playground & Beach	Town of Winthrop
33	Little League Field	Town of Winthrop
34	Water Tower	Town of Winthrop
35	Winthrop Golf Club	Town of Winthrop
36	Coughlin Park - Restricted	Town of Winthrop
37	Yirrell Beach	Town of Winthrop
38	Coughlin Park	Town of Winthrop
39	Woodside Park	Town of Winthrop
40	Pond St Playground	Town of Winthrop
41	Fort Heath Park	Town of Winthrop
42	Massa Playground	Town of Winthrop
43	Brook Field	Town of Winthrop
44	Halford Beach	Town of Winthrop
45	Fisherman's Bend	Town of Winthrop



Date: 12/11/2013

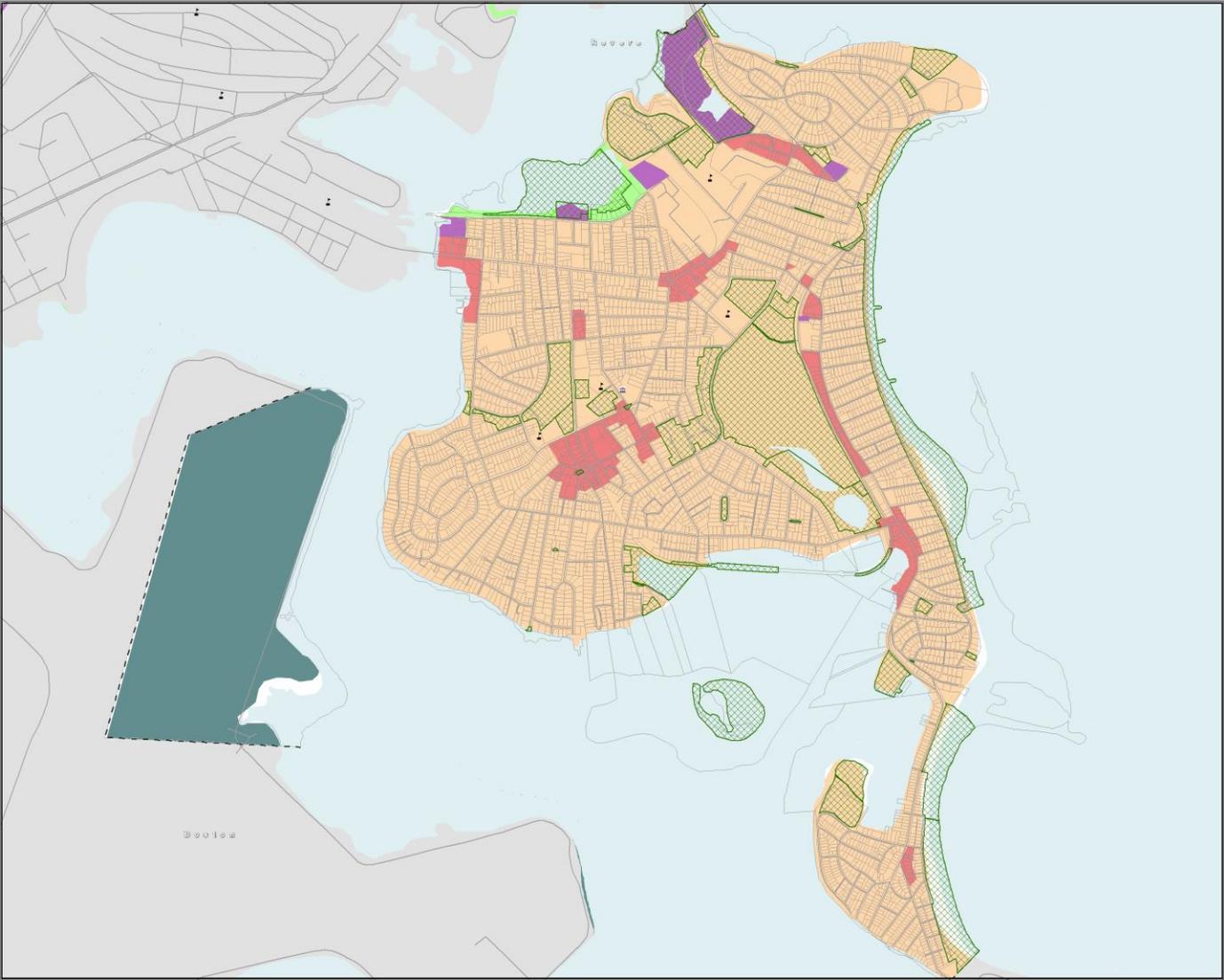
Data Sources:  
 Parcels: Town of Winthrop/MassGIS  
 Roads and Train Tracks: MassDOT, MassGIS  
 Wetlands: MADEP  
 Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)



1848 DEW'S ARS STUDIO | CONSULTANTS | D:\Data\Annual\Projects\Current\Projects\OpenSpace\_Plan\Winthrop\Winthrop\_OpenSpace\_Census.mxd

# Winthrop, MA Open Space Plan Update

Figure 4: Zoning



- Zoning by General Use**
- Residential
  - Commercial
  - Industrial
  - Conservation
  - Other
- 
- Schools
  - Town Hall
  - Roads
  - - - Municipal Boundary
  - Parcels
  - Water
  - Open Space
  - MA Towns (polygons)

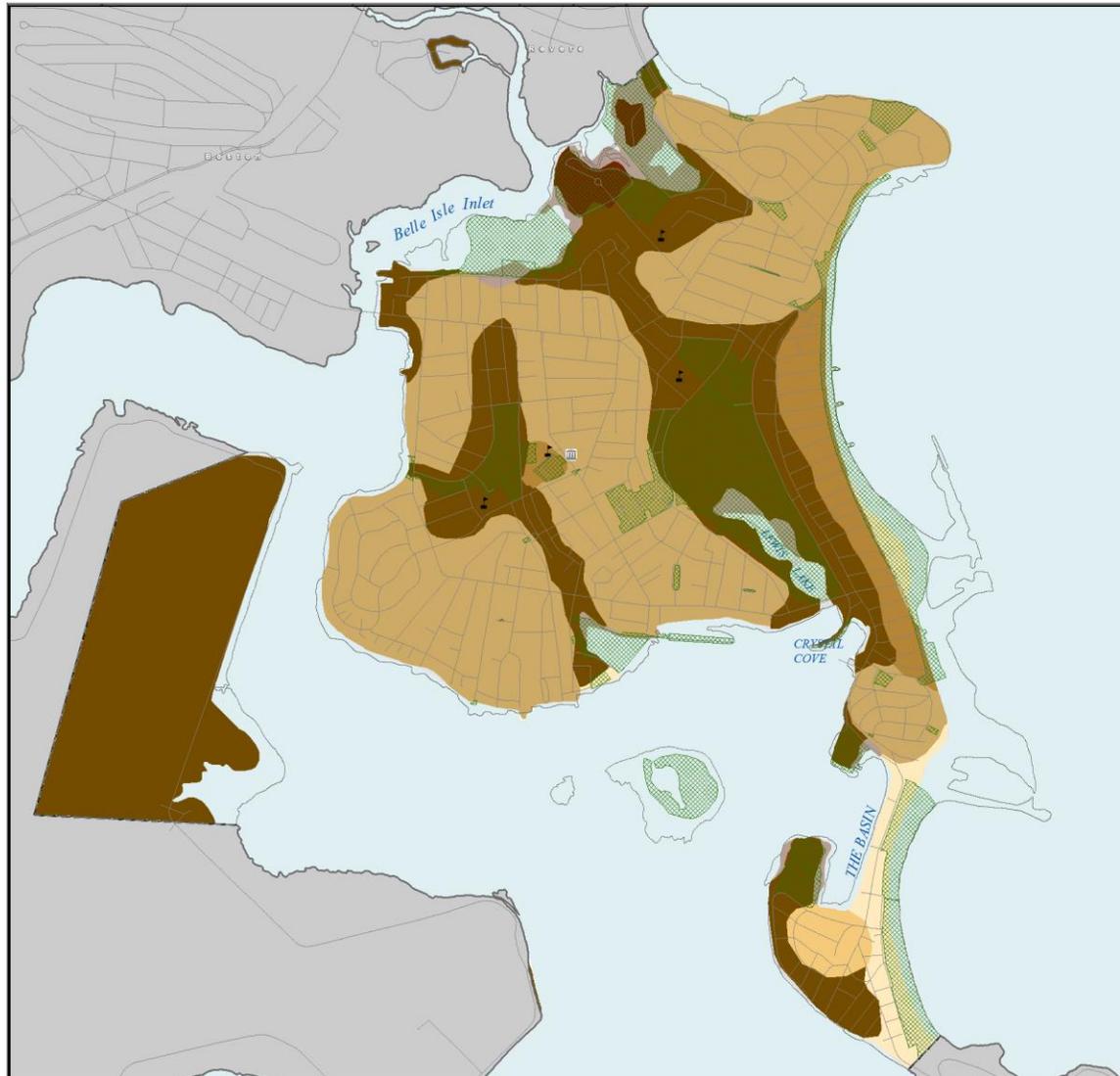
N  
0 1,000 Feet

**MAPC 50 YEARS**  
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL  
DATE: 12/11/2013  
Data Sources:  
Zoning: MassGIS (1999)  
Parcels: Town of Winthrop/MassGIS  
Roads and Train Tracks: MassDOT/MassGIS  
Wetlands: MADEP  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

© [Data Source] \Projects\Current\_Projects\OpenSpace\_Plan\Winthrop\Winthrop\_OpenSpace\_Zoning.mxd

## Winthrop, MA Open Space Plan Update

Figure 5: Soils and Geological Features



### Open Space / Recreation

Open Space

### Soils (SSURGO)

- Beaches
- Fine Sandy Loam
- Urban Land Complex
- Dumps
- Mucky Peat
- Udorthents, sandy
- Udorthents, wet substratum

Schools

Town Hall

### Roads

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Route
- Non-numbered route



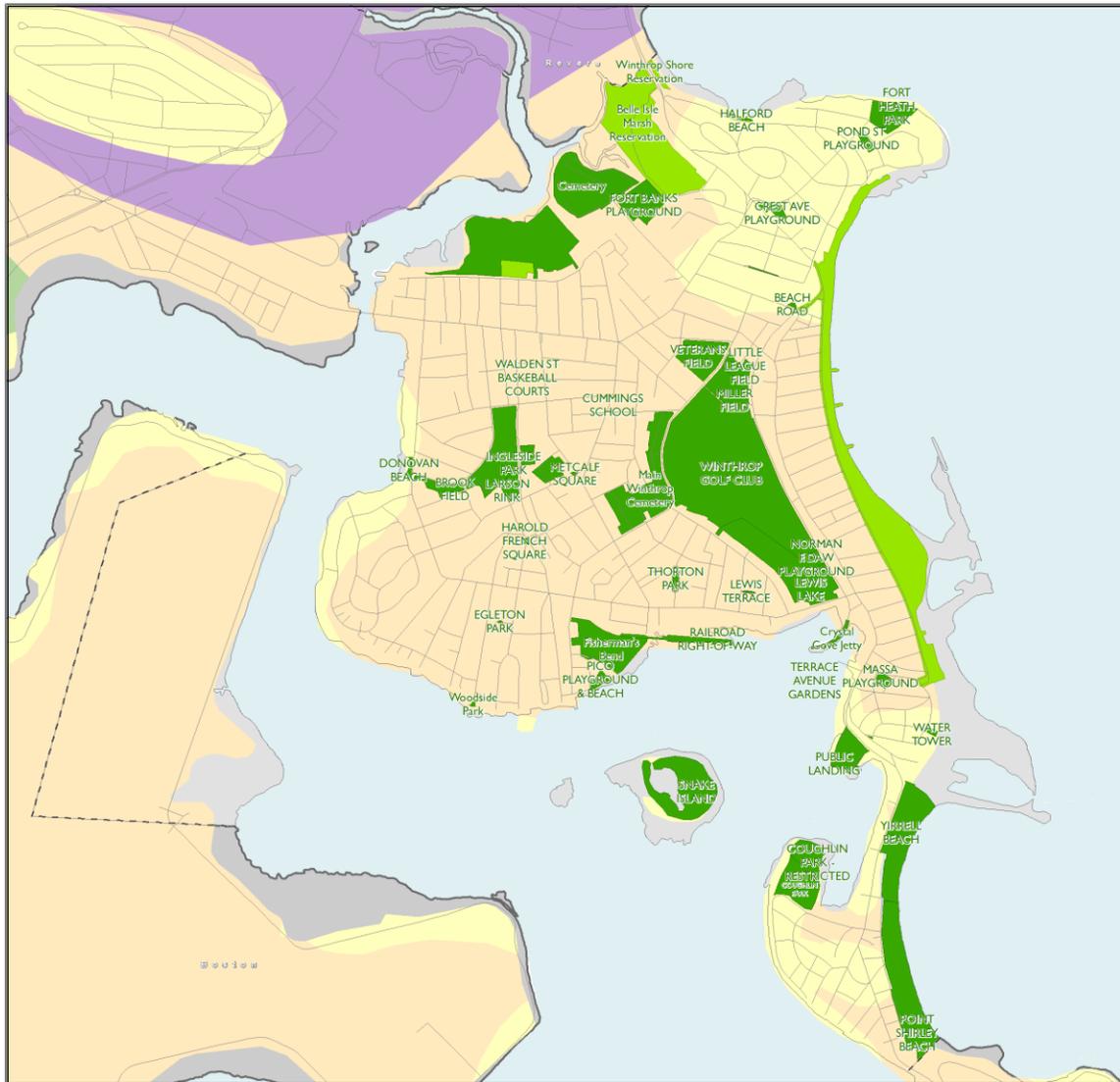
Date: 4/15/2014

Data Sources:  
 Parcels: Town of Winthrop, MassGIS  
 Roads and Train Tracks: MassDOT, MassGIS  
 Soils: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
 Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

K:\Data\GIS\Parcel\Current\OpenSpace\_Plan\Winthrop\_Soils.mxd

## Winthrop, MA Open Space Plan Update

Figure 5: Soils and Geological Features

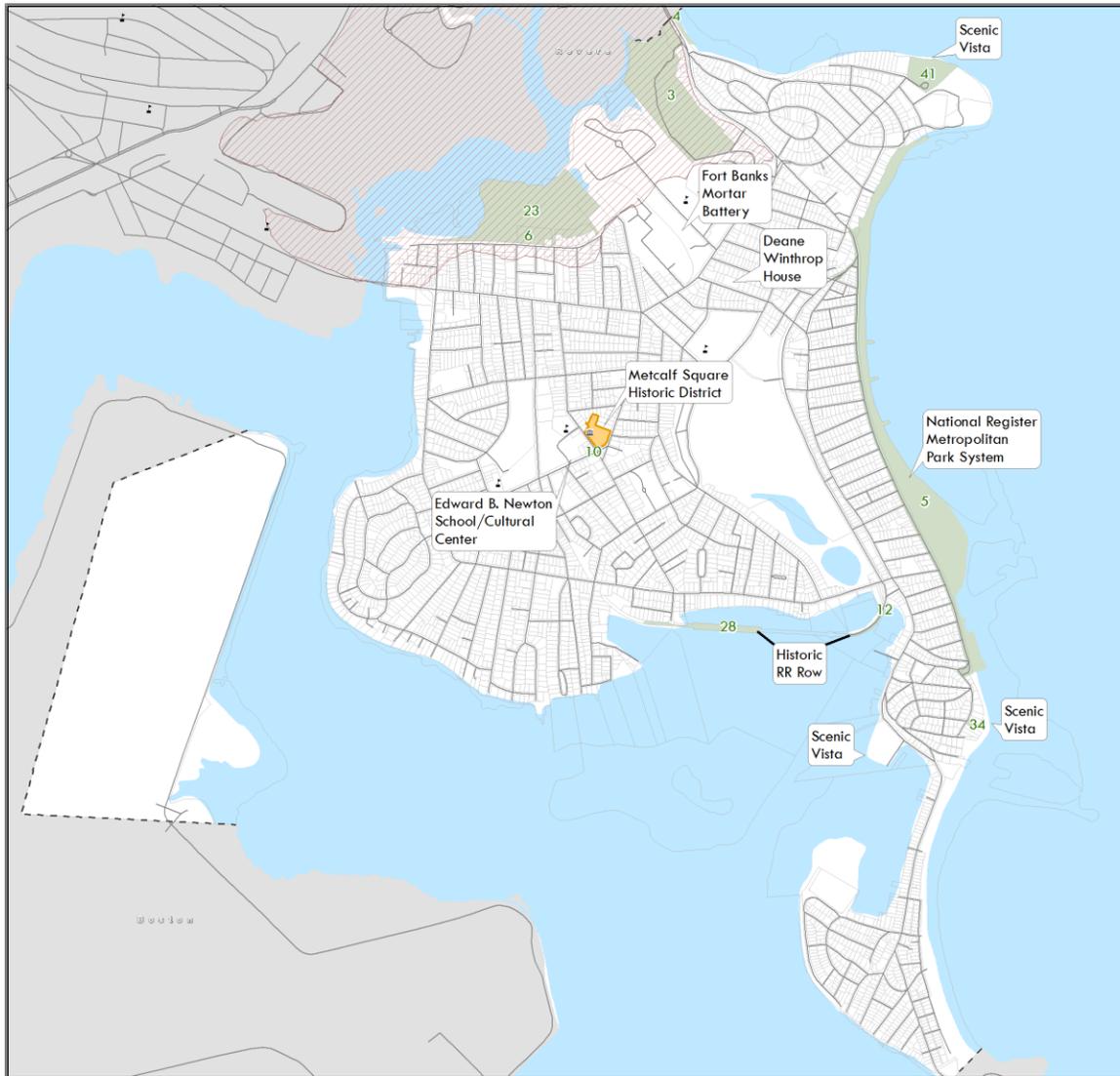


**MAPC 50 YEARS**  
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL  
1961 • 2011 • 2013

Date: 12/12/2013  
Data Sources:  
Parcels: Town of Winthrop, MassGIS  
Roads and Train Tracks: MassDOT, MassGIS  
Wetlands: MADEF  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)  
©:DataService/Projects/Current\_Projects/OpenSpace\_Plan/Winthrop/Winthrop\_Soilsand

## Winthrop, MA Open Space Plan Update

Figure 6: Unique Features



- Schools
- Town Hall
- Roads
- Municipal Boundary
- Open Space
- Parcels
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Metcalf Square Historic District

ID	Name	Owner
3	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	DCR
4	Winthrop Shore Reservation	DCR
5	Winthrop Shore Reservation	DCR
6	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	DCR
10	Metcalf Square Historic District	Town of Winthrop
12	Crystal Cove Jetty	Town of Winthrop
23	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	Town of Winthrop
28	Railroad Right-of-Way	Town of Winthrop
34	Water Tower	Town of Winthrop
41	Fort Heath Park	Town of Winthrop

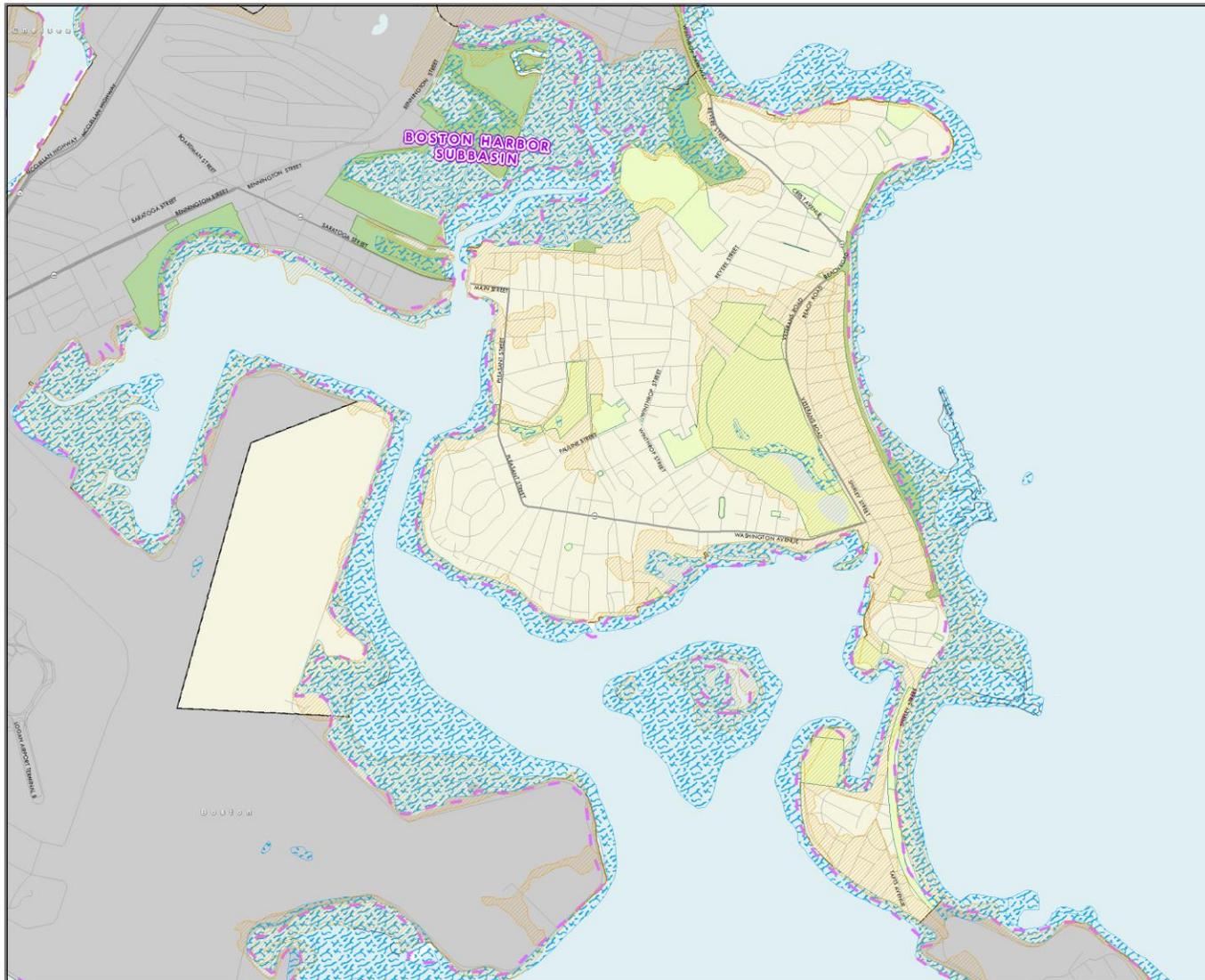


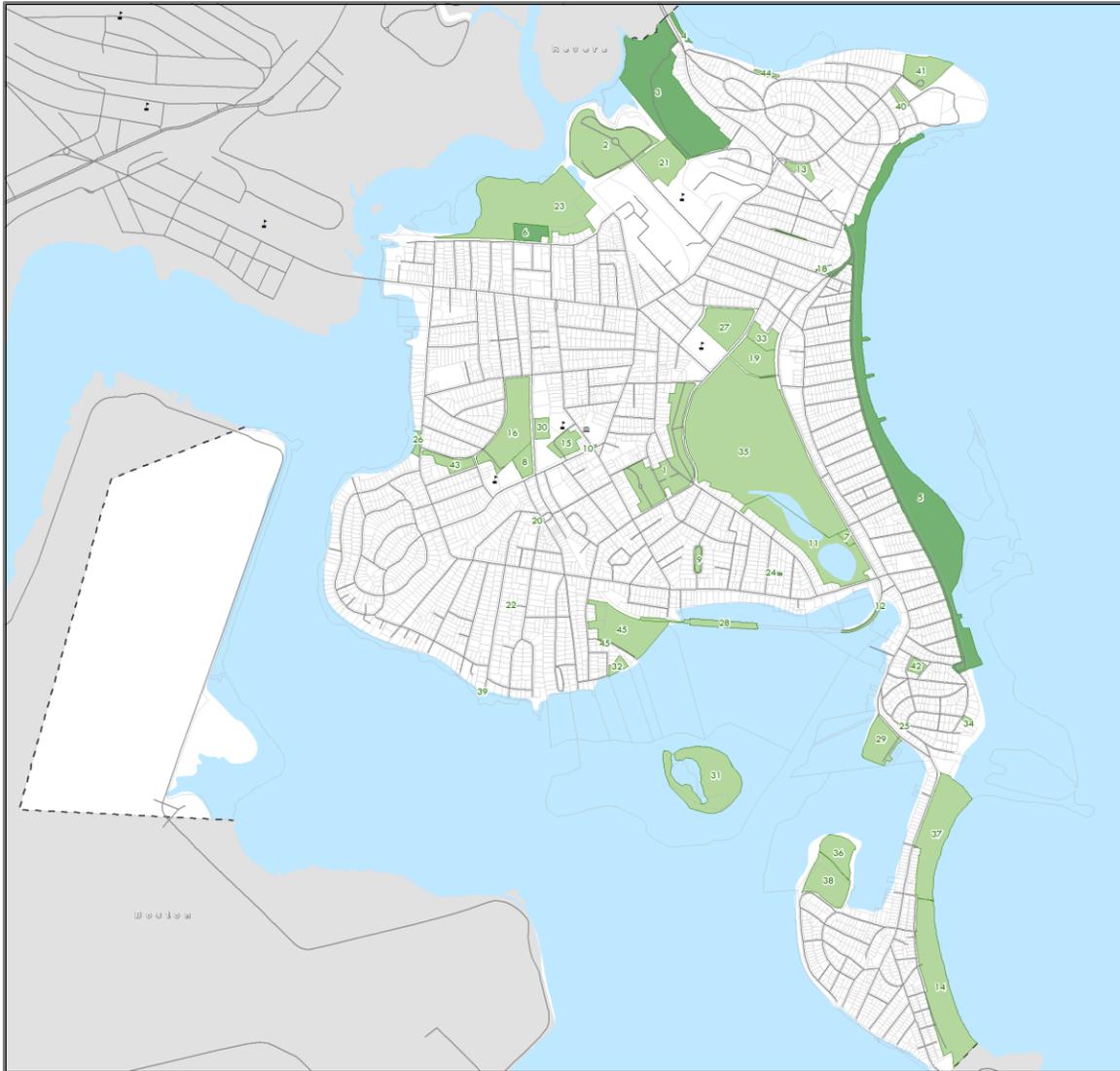
Date: 12/12/2013  
 Data Sources:  
 Parcels: Town of Winthrop, MassGIS  
 Roads and Train Tracks: MassDOT, MassGIS  
 Wetlands: MADEP  
 Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

K:\Data\Projects\Current\_Projects\OpenSpace\_Plan\Winthrop\Winthrop\_OpenSpace\_UniqueFeatures.mxd

# Winthrop, MA Open Space Plan Update

Figure 7: Water Resources





## Winthrop, MA Open Space Plan Update

Figure 8: Open Space and Recreation Inventory

### Open Space

- 📍 Schools      ——— Roads      🟩 Town Owned
- 🏛️ Town Hall    - - - Municipal Boundary    🟩 DCR Owned
- ▭ Parcels

ID	Name	Owner
1	Main Winthrop Cemetery	Town of Winthrop
2	Cemetery	Town of Winthrop
3	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	DCR
4	Winthrop Shore Reservation	DCR
5	Winthrop Shore Reservation	DCR
6	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	DCR
7	Norman F. Daw Playground	Town of Winthrop
8	Larson Rink	Town of Winthrop
9	Thornton Park	Town of Winthrop
10	Metcalf Square	Town of Winthrop
11	Lewis Lake	Town of Winthrop
12	Crystal Cove Jetty	Town of Winthrop
13	Crest Ave Playground	Town of Winthrop
14	Point Shirley Beach	Town of Winthrop
15	Cummings School	Town of Winthrop
16	Ingleside Park	Town of Winthrop
17	Summit Ave Park	Town of Winthrop
18	Beach Road	Town of Winthrop
19	Miller Field	Town of Winthrop
20	Harold French Square	Town of Winthrop
21	Fort Banks Playground	Town of Winthrop
22	Egleton Park	Town of Winthrop
23	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	Town of Winthrop
24	Lewis Terrace	Town of Winthrop
25	Terrace Avenue Gardens	Town of Winthrop
26	Donovan Beach	Town of Winthrop
27	Veterans Field	Town of Winthrop
28	Railroad Right-of-Way	Town of Winthrop
29	Public Landing	Town of Winthrop
30	Walden St Basketball Courts	Town of Winthrop
31	Snake Island	Town of Winthrop
32	Pica Playground & Beach	Town of Winthrop
33	Little League Field	Town of Winthrop
34	Water Tower	Town of Winthrop
35	Winthrop Golf Club	Town of Winthrop
36	Coughlin Park - Restricted	Town of Winthrop
37	Yirrell Beach	Town of Winthrop
38	Coughlin Park	Town of Winthrop
39	Woodside Park	Town of Winthrop
40	Pond St Playground	Town of Winthrop
41	Fort Heath Park	Town of Winthrop
42	Massa Playground	Town of Winthrop
43	Brook Field	Town of Winthrop
44	Halford Beach	Town of Winthrop
45	Fisherman's Bend	Town of Winthrop



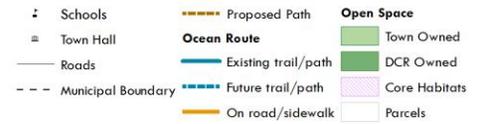
Date: 12/12/2013  
 Data Sources:  
 Parcels: Town of Winthrop/MassGIS  
 Roads and Train Tracks: MassDOT, MassGIS  
 Wetlands: MADEP  
 Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

**MAPC 50 YEARS**  
 METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL  
 1964 • NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS



## Winthrop, MA

Figure 9: Seven Year Action Plan



ID	Name	Owner
1	Main Winthrop Cemetery	Town of Winthrop
2	Cemetery	Town of Winthrop
3	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	DCR
4	Winthrop Shore Reservation	DCR
5	Winthrop Shore Reservation	DCR
6	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	DCR
7	Norman F. Daw Playground	Town of Winthrop
8	Larson Rink	Town of Winthrop
9	Thornton Park	Town of Winthrop
10	Metcalf Square	Town of Winthrop
11	Lewis Lake	Town of Winthrop
12	Crystal Cove Jetty	Town of Winthrop
13	Crest Ave Playground	Town of Winthrop
14	Paint Shirley Beach	Town of Winthrop
15	Cummings School	Town of Winthrop
16	Ingleside Park	Town of Winthrop
17	Summit Ave Park	Town of Winthrop
18	Beach Road	Town of Winthrop
19	Miller Field	Town of Winthrop
20	Harold French Square	Town of Winthrop
21	Fort Banks Playground	Town of Winthrop
22	Egleton Park	Town of Winthrop
23	Belle Isle Marsh Reservation	Town of Winthrop
24	Lewis Terrace	Town of Winthrop
25	Terrace Avenue Gardens	Town of Winthrop
26	Donovan Beach	Town of Winthrop
27	Veterans Field	Town of Winthrop
28	Railroad Right-of-Way	Town of Winthrop
29	Public Landing	Town of Winthrop
30	Walden St Basketball Courts	Town of Winthrop
31	Snake Island	Town of Winthrop
32	Pico Playground & Beach	Town of Winthrop
33	Little League Field	Town of Winthrop
34	Water Tower	Town of Winthrop
35	Winthrop Golf Club	Town of Winthrop
36	Coughlin Park - Restricted	Town of Winthrop
37	Yirrell Beach	Town of Winthrop
38	Coughlin Park	Town of Winthrop
39	Woodside Park	Town of Winthrop
40	Pond St Playground	Town of Winthrop
41	Fort Heath Park	Town of Winthrop
42	Mass Playground	Town of Winthrop
43	Brook Field	Town of Winthrop
44	Halford Beach	Town of Winthrop
45	Fisherman's Bend	Town of Winthrop



Date: 12/12/2013



Data Sources:  
 Parcels: Town of Winthrop, MassGIS  
 Roads and Train Tracks: MassDOT, MassGIS  
 Wetlands: MADEP  
 Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

K:\Data\Bentley\Project\Current\_2\Assets\OpenSpace\_Plan\Winthrop\_OpenSpace\_ActionPlan.mxd