



Lanesborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

June 2026



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Acknowledgments

Land Acknowledgment: It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Muhheaconneok or Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all."

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The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Planning Assistance Grant, the town of Lanesborough, and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided the funding to develop the plan.

Executive Summary

The 2026 Lanesborough Open Space and Recreation Plan is the blueprint for the town's conservation and recreation efforts for the next decade.

An eight-member committee consisting of volunteers with extensive knowledge and civic involvement in local parks and open spaces oversaw the plan's development and placed a high priority on robust community input. The committee worked extensively to ensure the goals and objectives are direct reflections of the community.

The plan's development included community surveying, discussions with stakeholders, and multiple community conversations. Additionally, students from Williams College's Environmental Planning class dedicated their fall semester to conducting outreach to land managers, analyzing concerns they heard, and reporting on solutions for consideration in the plan's development.

The committee reviewed data, maps, and historic documents carefully to inventory and assess the properties with conservation value and/or provide outdoor recreational opportunities. The committee met with regional agencies and neighboring community to discuss shared values.

Through the process, Lanesborough established three overarching goals, several objectives to achieve those goals, and dozens of specific action items stakeholders will take to preserve natural resources and enhance residents and visitors' outdoor experiences.

Goal 1: Create a park system that provides for a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

To support Goal 1, the town will work to safeguard Pontoosuc Lake and ensure that reactional potential and water quality is balanced; Expand recreational opportunities at William Laston Memorial Park and improve connectivity with neighboring assets; increase accessibility to outdoor spaces and activities; and increase awareness of spaces for different types of uses and re-invigorate underutilized spaces.

Goal 2: Increase the positive economic impact created by the outdoor recreational economy, both regionally and locally.

To support Goal 2, the town will maintain a strong, collaborative relationship with regional entities, state officials, and neighboring communities to maximize the economic impact of outdoor recreational assets; and encourage the growth of private outdoor recreation businesses.

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.

To support Goal 3, the town will Provide agricultural operators with technical assistance and regulatory safeguards; advance tree and forest management best practices; proactively mitigate anticipated climate change impacts; protect valuable assets; and reduce sprawl development.

By enacting the related action items to achieve the goals and objectives, Lanesborough can preserve its outdoor spaces and enhance the health, safety, and enjoyment of all residents and visitors.



Residents wrote down their ideas and priorities for conservation and outdoor recreation during a Community Conversation in January 2026.

Introduction

Statement of Purpose

The Open Space and Recreation Plan is a guidance document for the town's open space and recreation land use decisions. The purpose of the plan is to document the existing properties, evaluate the open space and recreational opportunities, and develop strategies and actions that protect and improve resources for future generations.

The plan includes a review of open lands owned by the Commonwealth, the town of Lanesborough, non-profit organizations, and private landowners enrolled in the state's Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B program.

Community members identified and developed actions that will preserve natural resources and address gaps in the recreational options for residents to enjoy.

Lanesborough recently completed the development of a new comprehensive plan to guide development during the next 20 years. The Open Space and Recreation Plan serves as a complement to that process by providing greater insight on natural and recreational resources.

Planning Process and Public Participation

The Select Board appointed Stacy Parsons, Linda Belanger, Lee Hauge, Mark Hawthorne, Jim Neureuther, Deanna Smith, Tom Voisin, and Leanne Yinger to serve on the Open Space and Recreation Committee tasked primarily with developing the plan. The membership represents a diversity of experience, expertise, and viewpoints. The members have experience serving on the Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, Tree and Forest Committee, Planning Board, as the Harbormaster, and professional experience in the private sector and with land trusts.

The Committee held monthly public meetings to oversee the plan's development, conducted a survey, and held two community meetings.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee conducted a significant amount of public outreach between October 2025 and May 2026 to gather the community's insights on the needs and desires for its parks and open spaces.

The primary source of feedback came from the Open Space and Recreation survey. The committee launched the survey on October 28, 2025 and closed it on December 12, 2025.

LANESBOROUGH OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION SURVEY

The town of Lanesborough is updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan to determine the future of its recreational assets and open spaces. Please take this short survey to share your opinions with the town!





www.surveymonkey.com/r/LanesboroughOSRP

Paper copies available at town hall.

A total of 285 people took the survey between October and December.

Committee members engaged with more than 175 people by canvassing at the town's recycling center, handed out fliers to dozens of people at both the town tree lighting and St. Luke's tree lighting, engaged with approximately 100 people at the annual Christmas Bazaar, posted fliers at three popular restaurants at outdoor recreational spaces and throughout town hall. The committee provided paper copies to the library and at town hall, both spaces put them prominently on display.

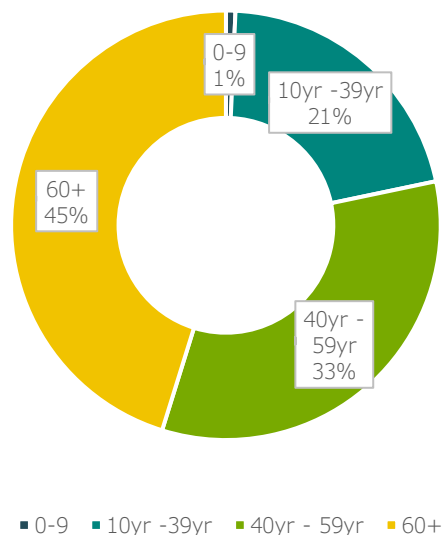
The committee sent eblasts to more than 250 people on the Friends of Pontoosuc mailing list, 50 who provided emails during the Master Plan process, all town committees, all of the town committees. The committee shared it with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Trout Unlimited, and the Audubon Society which in turn shared with their memberships. The elementary school shared the survey on its networks and youth sports coaches emailed it to parents. The town sent three e-newsletters with promotions for the survey.

The local news sources, the Berkshire Eagle and iBerkshires.com, both shared a press release on the survey in early December and town people shared it multiple times on social media.



The public outreach sessions welcomed participants from all demographics to engage in workshops.

Age of Survey Respondents



The survey reached all age brackets.

The efforts resulted in 285 total responses to the survey, representing 9.5% of the town's population of 3,038 people.

A total of 84% of survey takers are Lanesborough residents, 11% are people from neighboring communities who use Lanesborough's facilities, and 5% are from another area but visit Lanesborough.

Most of the survey respondents are full-time Lanesborough residents. A total of 7.5% of respondents are seasonal.

The survey takers spanned age demographics but skewed slightly older than Census data.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee held two public listening sessions to gather in-person feedback during the development of the plan.

On January 27, 2026, the committee held a public meeting to share the survey results and collect feedback.



When: Tuesday, January 27th, 2026 | 6:00pm

Where: Lanesborough Elementary School

The town of Lanesborough is updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan to determine the future of its recreational assets and open spaces.

Please join us for a community meeting to share your thoughts about the future of our open spaces and recreational opportunities.



The first of two community forums welcomed public participated on January 27 at Lanesborough Elementary School.

The committee promoted the event through local media, with both the Berkshire Eagle and iBerkshires.com running stories prior to the meeting, on social media, and through the Select Board meetings, which are recorded and aired by community television.

After a short presentation on the survey results, the public engaged in a workshop session in which they circulated among stations with questions asking for ideas and opinion. The questions asked about specific actions and needs in the future of the town's recreation and conservation efforts. The attendees also had stickers to place on items members of the public wrote down that they supported.

Students from Williams College interviewed property managers of 21 of the town's largest conservation and recreational properties to gather input on environmental concerns and opportunities.

The students prepared a research project and presented it to the committee at a public meeting on December 8.

Lastly, the committee met jointly with the Adams Open Space and Recreation Committee, which is concurrently developing its updated plan, the Cheshire Open Space and Recreation Committee, which recently adopted its plan, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The March 24 meeting at the Greylock Glen provided the groups to discuss their approach and priorities for shared resources, such as Mount Greylock and the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.

During the meeting, each community shared their goals and reported back on the community input they've received. The members discussed several shared goals and sought regional ways to support each other's needs identified by the outreach process.

Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation

The town of Lanesborough does not have any designated Environmental Justice Census Tracts. Recognizing that there are populations among the



A joint meeting with Cheshire, Adams, and representatives from the Department of Conservation and Recreation provided committee members an opportunity to discuss shared resources.

community, the Open Space and Recreation Committee introduced the project to several groups to invite feedback from all residents.

The effort included meeting with the Age-Friendly Park Committee, which oversees ensuring parks are accessible, and communicating with the Council on Aging, which maintained regular communication about the project with those it serves. The library served as a community space to take the survey and get information about the plan. The committee presented multiple times to the Select Board.

Mount Greylock Regional School District graciously utilized its communications network to share information about the project to invite additional comments.

The nearest Environmental Justice neighborhood is located in the city of Pittsfield. The committee met with the city's Parks and Recreation staff to discuss Lanesborough's Open Space and Recreation Plan and kept the city informed to ensure Lanesborough's efforts align with the needs of the city of Pittsfield and the neighboring Environmental Justice Community.



Lanesborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

Open House

Tuesday, May 26

5-7 p.m.

Laston Park

Share your thoughts on the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan!

The OSRP Committee has developed action items to guide its parks and open spaces for years to come. Come review and share your opinions



BRPC
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

The public had another opportunity to provide comments on the plan during an open house on Tuesday, May 26.



Lanesborough is one of five communities with land inside Mount Greylock State Reservation. Lanesborough is home to a primary road to the summit of Mount Greylock.

Community Setting

Regional Context

Berkshire County is located at the westernmost border of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This county is renowned for its scenic beauty, access to natural resources, and a variety of outdoor recreational activities. Berkshire County is acclaimed as a popular tourist destination providing visitors with world-class art and culture set in picturesque New England towns.

Characterized by its hilly landscape dotted with farmland, Lanesborough is located north of Pittsfield which is the heart of the Berkshire economy and government. Elevations on both the western and northeastern border peak at approximately 2,500 feet above sea level.

The town's natural resources span across these borders and include wildlife habitats, caves, hiking trails, lakes, rivers, camp sites, and hunting areas. Several operating farms contribute to the character, economy, and scenic beauty of the town, while providing access to healthy, local food. In recent years the county's leading economic development agency ¹Berkshire adopted economic

development plans focused on capitalizing on the outdoor recreational opportunities that will attract tourism and support the local community¹.

The county's ongoing effort to bolster its outdoor recreational resources not only supports economic growth and new opportunities, it encourages residents to engage in healthy activities. The economic plan forwards the Commonwealth's carbon sequestration and land conservation goals to combat climate change and protects the scenic beauty that makes the Berkshires a unique area of the Commonwealth.

By embracing the benefits of conservation and outdoor recreation, Lanesborough's advantageous location allows it to be a leader in the future of the Berkshires.

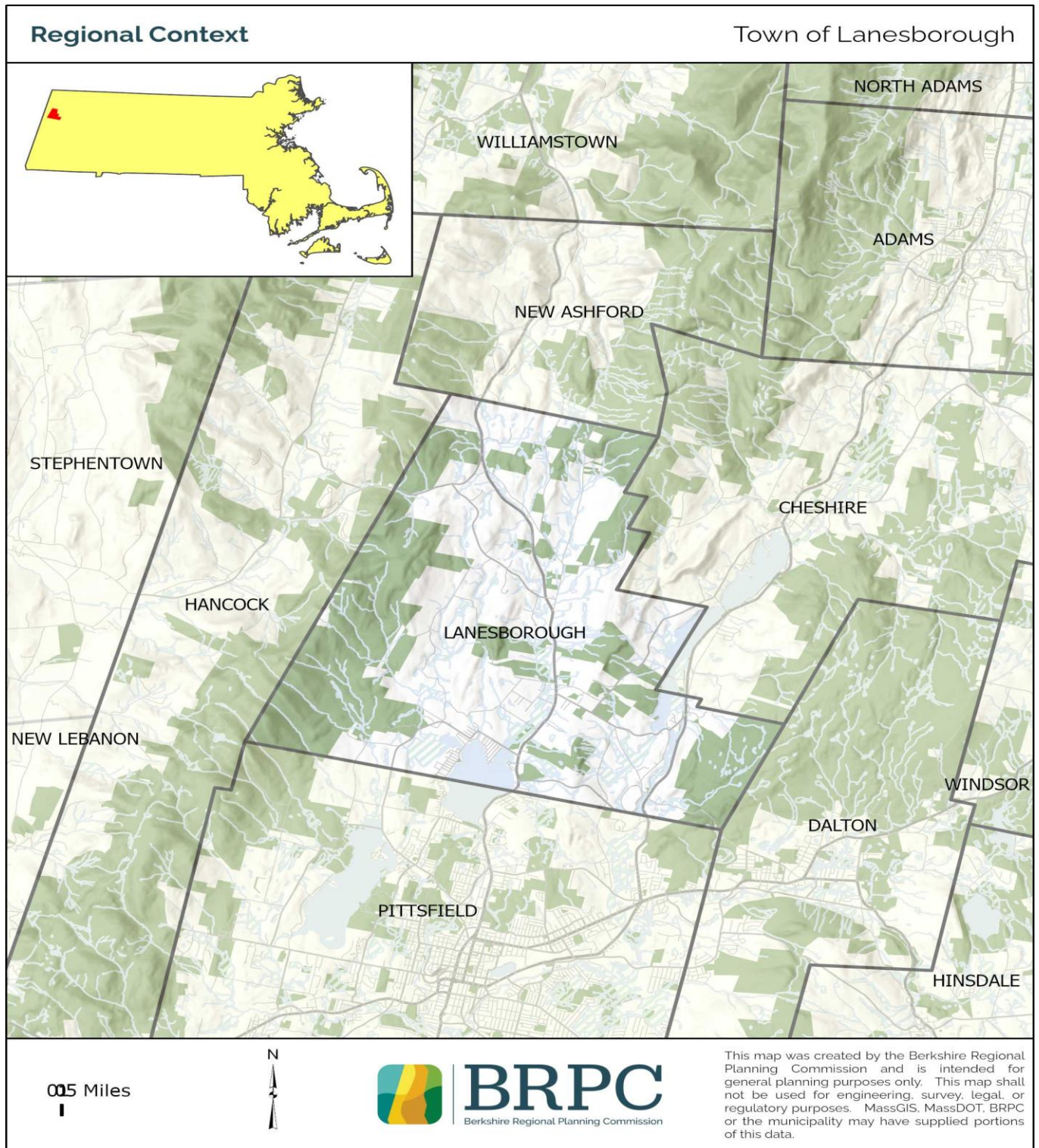
Features of the town include access to the highest mountain in the Commonwealth, two lakes, miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, caves, campgrounds, an outdoor adventure park, a 14-mile paved bike trail, hunting and fishing areas and close proximity to downhill ski resorts.

Additionally, world class museums and performing spaces are nearby.



Pontoosuc Lake spans into the neighboring city of Pittsfield.

¹ [Berkshire County Recreation Plan](#)



Located in the westernmost county in the Commonwealth, Lanesborough sits at the foothill of the state's tallest mountain. The rural region of Massachusetts is characterized by its rolling hills and a vast amount of natural resources. Lanesborough shares a border with the urbanized Pittsfield, the county's largest municipality, and the rural towns of Hancock, New Ashford, Cheshire, and Dalton.



The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail is a shared resource with neighboring communities.

Several properties in Lanesborough are managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Mount Greylock Reservation spans more than 12,500 acres. The primary access road to the Commonwealth's highest summit and visitor's center is located in Lanesborough.

Extending into the southwestern corner of Lanesborough is the 11,000-acre Pittsfield State Forest featuring Balance Rock, a rare geological formation.

The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail runs through eastern Lanesborough along the Cheshire Reservoir. The Lanesborough access point has a parking area and restroom facility.

Additionally, Lanesborough borders the 7,796-acre Chalet Wildlife Management Area with access to the Appalachian Trail and The Boulders.

Berkshire Natural Resources Council manages several key properties in Lanesborough.

Farnams Hill is a 178-acre site on Route 7, featuring fields, orchards, streams, and wetlands, with plans for hiking trails connecting to the High Road and the Ashuwillticook Trail.

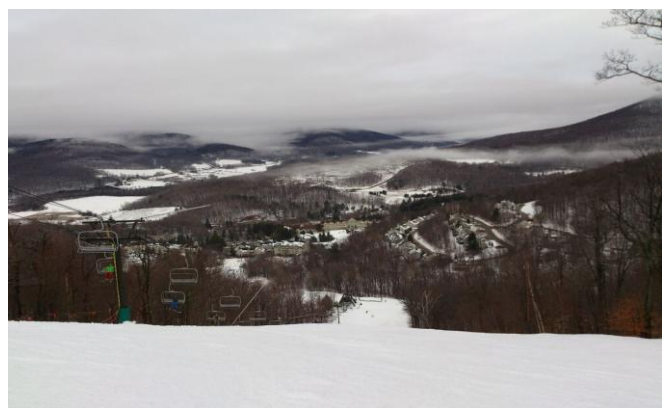
Constitution Hill offers easy-to-moderate trails through diverse habitats, wetlands, hayfields, and forest. Kessler Road Conservation Area is an undeveloped woodland ideal for exploring maples, oaks, and wildlife with opportunities for hunting. Widow White is a rugged 270-acre property known for its limestone and unique 19th-century graffiti.

There are two lakes in Lanesborough that provide fishing, boating and other water sport opportunities as well as habitats for a wide variety of wildlife. Cheshire Reservoir is located on Lanesborough's eastern border and Pontoosuc Lake is located on the southern border.

The hilly terrain of Lanesborough's western border contains three engaging outdoor recreation areas. Ramblewild is an outdoor obstacle and zip-course built with minimal impact on the environment. A partner of New England Mountain Bike Association, Shaker Ridge Trails is a mountain biking area with over 30 miles of trails.

The entrance to Jiminy Peak Ski Resort is minutes away from the Lanesborough border. The peak and other land parcels of Jiminy Peak are located in Lanesborough.

Lanesborough's 2025 Comprehensive Plan² identifies conservation and outdoor recreation as



The ski resort Jiminy Peak is located just minutes from Lanesborough's border.

² [Lanesborough Master Plan](#)

important to the town's sustainability, economic well-being, and reflects the needs and desires of the hundreds of respondents to the survey.

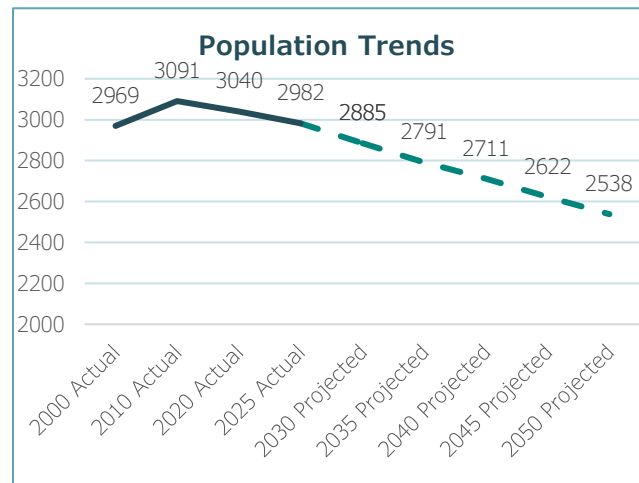
The town completed its last Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2006, which now requires an update to reflect the changes in the community in the last two decades. Lanesborough needs a strategic plan to establish goals and actions that capitalize upon existing natural resources and recreational opportunities that make it unique.

While the plan primarily focuses on Lanesborough's unique opportunities and challenges, the steering committee developed the plan in coordination with its neighbors.

The city of Pittsfield, which shares Pontoosuc Lake and the Pittsfield State Forest and the town of Adams, which shares the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and the Mount Greylock Reservation, are both in the process of developing Open Space and Recreation Plans. The town of Cheshire which shares the Cheshire Reservoir, the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, and the Mount Greylock Reservation, recently completed its OSRP.



Cheshire Reservoir is located in both Lanesborough and Cheshire.



The UMass Donohue Institute projects Lanesborough's population will decrease by approximately 16% in the next 25 years.

Population Characteristics

The 2020 Decennial Census³ estimates the town of Lanesborough's population to be 3,038 people. The UMass Donohue Institute⁴ projects Lanesborough's population will decline to 2,538 people by 2050. It is a rural community with an estimated density of 105 people per square mile. The projected decline in population is not unique to Lanesborough because Berkshire County is shrinking in population.

The greatest age demographic in Lanesborough is between 55 and 64, which aligns with both statewide and local trends of an aging population. The median age of a Lanesborough resident is 52 years old, which is older than the median age of 47.7 in 2010.

One-third of the population is over the age of 60 while school-age children represent 20%. Approximately 11% of the population reported to the Census as having a disability.

³ [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

⁴ [UMass Donohue Institute, Population Projections](#)



The Bridge Street Park is anticipated to be renovated into an age-friendly park in the future.

The aging trend is not unique to Lanesborough. Aging communities is both a local and a national trend and traditional parks and open space infrastructure is not designed to account for aging. Older adults also tend to develop medical conditions that limit their abilities at higher rates. The trends demonstrate a need for Lanesborough to ensure that its parks and open spaces supports the health of older adults and allows them to live in their homes later into life. Additionally, in rural areas, many older adults become isolated, which outdoor recreational opportunities can help address.

The most meaningful effort currently underway is to construct an age-friendly park on Bridge Street. In collaboration with the Council on Aging, a volunteer committee is developing plans to reconstruct the park with accessibility in mind, which is coupled with programming and transportation opportunities that allows older adults opportunities for exercise and socialization.

Concurrently, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is planning to extend sidewalks along Route 7, providing a safe walking and biking route all the way from Pontoosuc Lake Park in Pittsfield to Laston Park. The project will provide older adults with additional access to recreational opportunities.

Those immediate efforts will support the aging community and people with medical conditions or disabilities but the work should continue throughout the town's park system. ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plans identify the barriers and the town should continue to evaluate its park system for accessibility and make upgrades in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act at all of its parks to all older adults in the community have an accessible parks in close proximity to where they live.

Additionally, the town should work with Berkshire Natural Resources and state partners to identify a location and construct an accessible trail to provide older adults and people with medical conditions or disabilities with access to wilderness experiences.

With approximately 20% of the population being school aged children, fields for organized sports and pickup games are important for socialization and activity. Youth sports programs are oriented at Laston Park, which features several fields as well as a playground. A focus on maintaining and upgrading that park will support those activities.

The residents of Lanesborough are predominantly white. Approximately 96% of the town responded white as their race in the 2020 Census. The town has a greater median household income than most of its neighboring communities and approximately



William Laston Memorial Park features several sports fields and courts for youth sports.

95% of its residents graduated high school, outpacing the statewide and countywide numbers.

Environmental Justice Populations

The Massachusetts Office of Environmental Justice and Equity does not recognize any neighborhood in Lanesborough as an environmental justice community⁵.

An environmental justice community is a neighborhood that meets one or more of the following criteria: the annual median household income is less than 65% of the statewide median, 40% or more are historically marginalized racial or ethnic groups, 25% of households speak English less than “very well” or a combination of 25% of the population being a historically marginalized racial or ethnic groups and a median household income less than 150% of the statewide median.

While there are no recognized Environmental Justice Communities, 6.2% of Lanesborough’s population receives supplemental nutrition assistance, 5.6% are below poverty level, and a



Lanesborough shares a border with an Environmental Justice community in the city of Pittsfield.

large percentage of seniors are living on fixed income.

In recent years, property values and the cost of repairs and maintenance of homes rose dramatically, threatening the economic wellbeing of many residents. Approximately 31% of households reported paying more than 30% of their income for housing according to the 2024 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates.

The nearest environmental justice community is located in the city of Pittsfield. Census Tract 9011, located at the Lanesborough’s southeastern border is an environmental justice community because the median income is 39% of the statewide median income. Approximately 4.6% of the population speak a language other than English and approximately 1% speak limited English.

There are two areas that border Tract 9011 that provide outdoor recreational opportunities. One property is the Boulders, a 645-acre property spanning into Lanesborough and the neighboring town of Dalton. The property is already protected and provides hiking as an outdoor recreational opportunity.



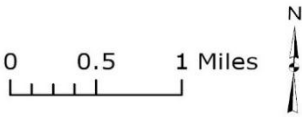
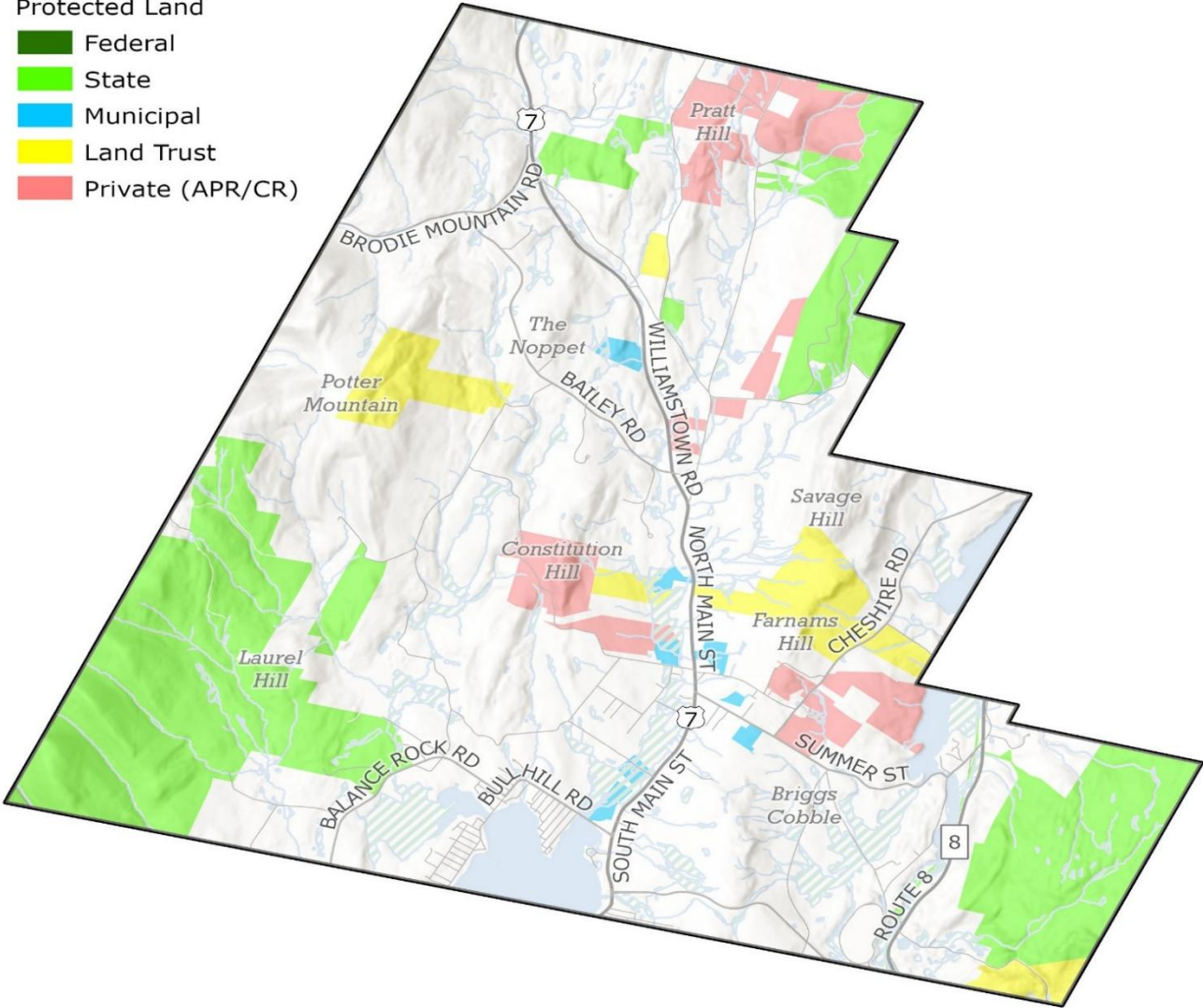
The town does not have an Environmental Justice population but does share a border with the urbanized city of Pittsfield, which does.

⁵ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-populations-in-massachusetts>

Environmental Justice

Town of Lanesborough

- Environmental Justice
Thresholds Exceeded
-  No Environmental Justice
Thresholds Exceeded
- Protected Land
-  Federal
 -  State
 -  Municipal
 -  Land Trust
 -  Private (APR/CR)



This map was created by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and is intended for general planning purposes only. This map shall not be used for engineering, survey, legal, or regulatory purposes. MassGIS, MassDOT, BRPC or the municipality may have supplied portions of this data.

The town of Lanesborough does not meet the criteria for an Environmental Justice Community. However, there are populations throughout town that fit the criteria.

The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail spans from Lanesborough and into the city of Pittsfield's 9011 Census Tract, providing residents in the environmental justice community with bicycling and walking options for transportation to the former Berkshire Mall property as well as recreational space.

The remaining properties bordering Census Tract 9011 are currently developed and in private ownership. Large swaths of land bordering the environmental justice community include the Berkshire County Jail and House of Correction, Unistress, and the former Berkshire Mall.

Census Tract 9004 is located in northwestern Pittsfield. The nearest point of the Census tract is approximately 1.3 miles from the Lanesborough border and approximately half of a mile from accessing Pontoosuc Lake from Pittsfield's properties.

Tract 9004 is an environmental justice community because 28% of the population is historically marginalized and the income is 59% of the statewide median household income. There are no abutting properties in Lanesborough.



Berkshire Village is one of two historic development areas.



The Route 7 corridor is one of two villages dating back to the town's early years. Since then, development expanded away from a dense pattern in the village to encroaching onto forest lands.

Growth and Development Patterns

Lanesborough's early development, from 1742 through 1900, centered in two distinct villages – Berkshire Village and North Main Street.

Formerly known as East Lanesborough, Berkshire Village was established in the late 1800s. Berkshire Glassworks, which employed more than 100 people by the end of the 19th Century and drove the development. Arnold Print Works, in the nearby town of Adams, provided additional employment. The neighborhood is compact and features a repurposed schoolhouse and church.

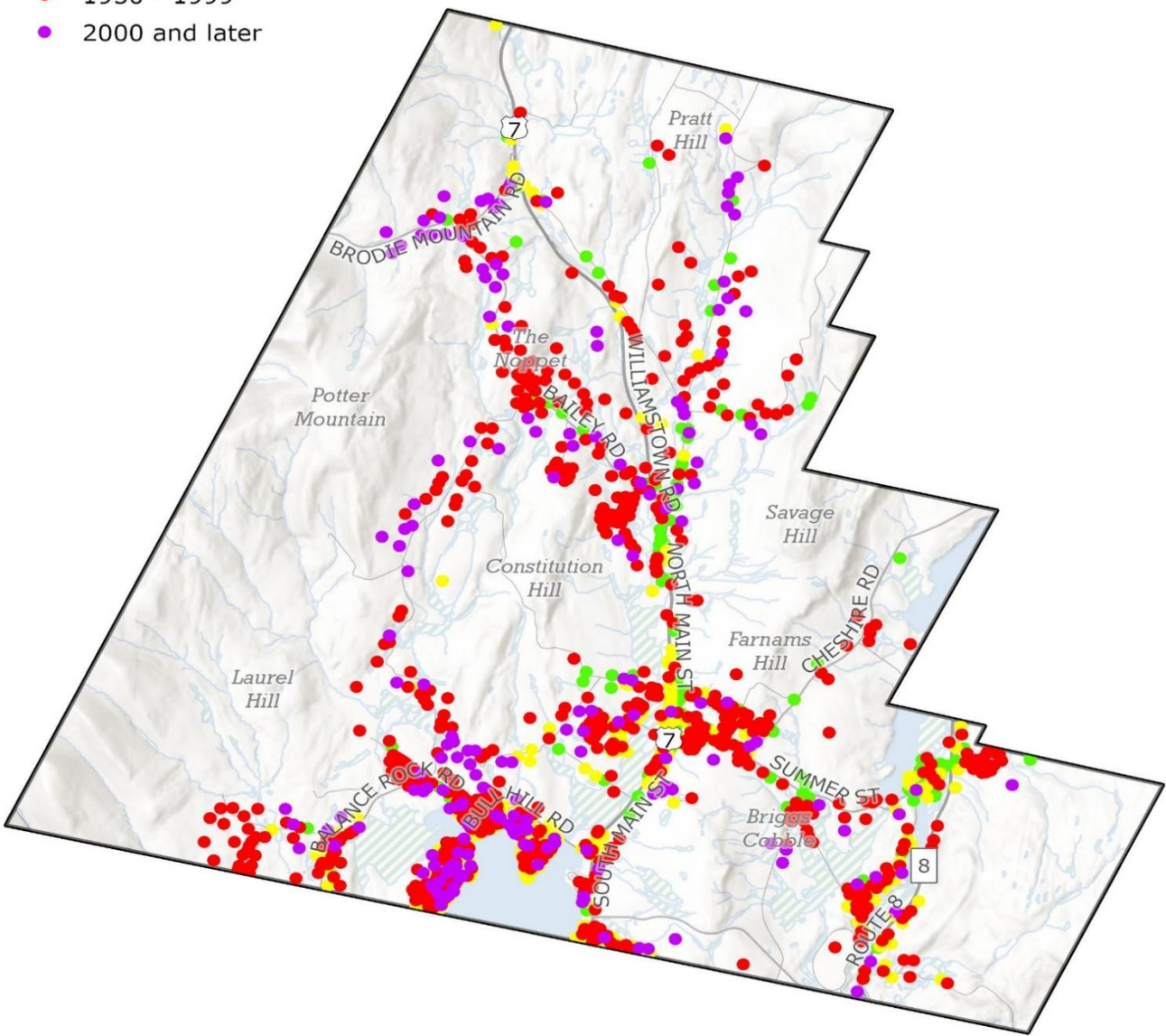
Route 8, also known as Cheshire Road, is one of two north-south thoroughfares in Lanesborough and is the primary transportation route in and out of Berkshire Village. There are several businesses along the two-lane highway, including the now shuttered Berkshire Mall.

The other thoroughfare is Route 7, also known as North Main Street, another of the town's historic villages. The majority of the town's current commercial activity is centralized along the Route 7.

Development Trends

Town of Lanesborough

- Year Building Built
- Prior to 1900
 - 1900 - 1949
 - 1950 - 1999
 - 2000 and later



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The development trends map illustrates the town’s growth over the years.

The North Main Street village houses the Town Hall, multi-family housing and historic properties.

From 1901-1950, development increased along Bull Hill Road in the southwestern corner of town, providing new homes with access to Pontoosuc Lake. The neighborhoods encircled the lake when Pontoosuc emerged as a hub of social and recreational activity. In the process, developers expanded into forest areas to create new roads

Except for a portion of Narragansett Avenue, the area does not have a connection to the town's sewer system and there are several small, dirt roads. The non-sewered properties must have septic system, which now pose an environmental threat to the lake's ecology because of potential failures leading to runoff seeping into the water, and runoff from the dirt roads brings sediment into the lake.

The Highway Department is making improvements to address dirt road runoff, and is paving/has paved many of the worst roads feeding sediments into the lake. More needs to be done, and when enough progress has can be made the town can resume its program of building first-runoff catch basins to reduce the quantity of high nutrient laden water discharged into the lake from the roads near or dead-ending into the lake. Much more of this critical work needs to be done.



The former registry of deeds is one of the town's earliest buildings.



Residential developments around the lake. Many of the roads surrounding the lake are dirt, which poses a threat to the lake's health.

From 1951-2000, development occurred throughout all residentially zoned areas and development expanded toward the Hancock and New Ashford borders. The development of Bailey Road, Silver Street, and Old Ore Bed Road, which had previously been mostly wooded areas, expanded in the late 20th Century. The area is mostly large-lot single-family homes. The Bailey Road developments sit in the foothills of Potter Mountain and Widows White Peak.

The post-World War II development pattern also created neighborhoods on both sides of Route 7 with the town building new roads to support subdivision and clustered, small single-family homes. In the 2000s, home development slowed dramatically. The emerging pattern shows a continuation of new home construction along Bailey Road, Brodie Mountain Road, and Silver Street, encircling Constitution Hill at the edge of Potter Mountain.

Open Space-based Infrastructure

In 2025, the town undertook a significant project extending and connecting sidewalks along Route 7 to create a walkable and bikeable route alongside



The sidewalk extends from Pontoosuc Lake Park into the town of Lanesborough, providing a bikeable and walkable route to the lake.

the lake to commercial recreational spaces along Route 7, including Baker's Golf and playgrounds located at Krispy Cone.

The sidewalks extend along the eastern side of the lake. The sidewalks are particularly beneficial for people living in Nonamie mobile home park, along Route 7, and some neighborhoods on Bull Hill Road.

Additionally, visitors staying at Bonnie Brae Campground, located in the neighboring city of Pittsfield, have an accessible pedestrian route into Lanesborough. The sidewalks extend to Summer Street, where another sidewalk provides access to the Lanesborough School property.

There are sports fields and a playground at Lanesborough Elementary School. However, the pathway is steep and is not accessible to people with mobility challenges and the sidewalks do not extend into Berkshire Village where there is access to Berkshire Pond, Cheshire Lake, and the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.

The sidewalk along Route 7 ends shortly after Town Hall. There is no sidewalk on Bridge Street connecting to the Bridge Street Park or Constitution Hill and it does not extend to Laston Memorial Park further north on Route 7. Laston Memorial Park, which is located outside of the

densely populated areas, is primarily accessed by automobile.

However, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation has plans to expand the sidewalk to both Laston and Bridge Street, along with bicycle lanes, in the future which will accommodate additional modes of transportation to the sites. Construction of the sidewalks is scheduled for 2028.

On the north and western side of the lake, which have the most housing density, there are two bridges which provide features including fishing access points, a kayak launch, and parking spaces. The bridges are located on Bull Hill Road, near Route 7, and on Narraganset Avenue.

However, there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood providing access elsewhere. In the same neighborhoods, there is Narragansett Park, which also does not feature a pedestrian route to access it but does have parking for those who want to use the ballpark or access the lake using the roadway on the south side of the park, which provides access to the lake shoreline.

In Berkshire Village, the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail provides pedestrian transportation northward into Cheshire and southward into Pittsfield. There are no sidewalks in the village and the safest way to



There is a sidewalk extends into the commercial area of town..

access Cheshire Reservoir is by using the Rail Trail.

Long-term Development Patterns

The town's current zoning bylaws⁶ direct future development. The bylaws create five distinct districts: residential, limited business, residential and agricultural, industrial, and mixed commercial.

The more densely developed neighborhoods along Pontoosuc Lake, Berkshire Village, and the neighborhoods west of the modern-day downtown are zoned for residential only, which restricts construction to just one or two-family homes. There is no permitted business use in those neighborhoods.

The business zone is concentrated in commercial centers along Route 7, spanning from the Pittsfield Line to slightly north of Bridge Street, and along Route 8 from the Pittsfield Line to just south of the intersection with Old Cheshire Road. The business zones are the least restrictive, allowing by-right use of up to four housing units and most types of commercial uses.

The limited business zone is the west side of Route 7 until Bridge Street, where the zone expands to both sides of the road until just north of Bailey Road.



Commercial buildings extend along Route 7 until just north of Bailey Road.



Ramblewild is located in the limited business zone. The area along Brodie Mountain road features several outdoor recreational opportunities.

Road. There is a second limited business zone on the North side of town along Brodie Mountain Road, which previously connected businesses such as Brodie Mountain in New Ashford to Jiminy Peak.

The Brodie Mountain Road area, spanning from Potter Mountain northward and encompassing Ramblewild and the future Shaker Ridge Trails, presents opportunities for the town to amend zoning to support outdoor recreational opportunities, commercial, nonprofit, and public.

The town's Planning Board expressed interest in pursuing policy changes that will support greater recreational and economic use in that corridor.

The limited business zone provides developers with the by-right ability to construct up to four housing units, agricultural use, and some commercial uses. The limited business district has greater provisions for developers to seek Zoning Board of Appeals or Planning Board approval for several other commercial uses than the residential zones.

The mixed commercial consists of the Berkshire Mall property, and the Industrial zone is the land between Swamp Road and Partridge Road to the North and West and on the eastern side of Route

⁶ <https://ecode360.com/LA3954>

8, next to the Unistress property. Unistress is one of the county's largest employers.

The former Berkshire Mall property is one of the largest development opportunities currently available in town. It is just steps away from the access point to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, bolstering the attraction for redeveloping the parcel.

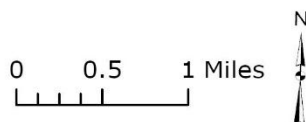
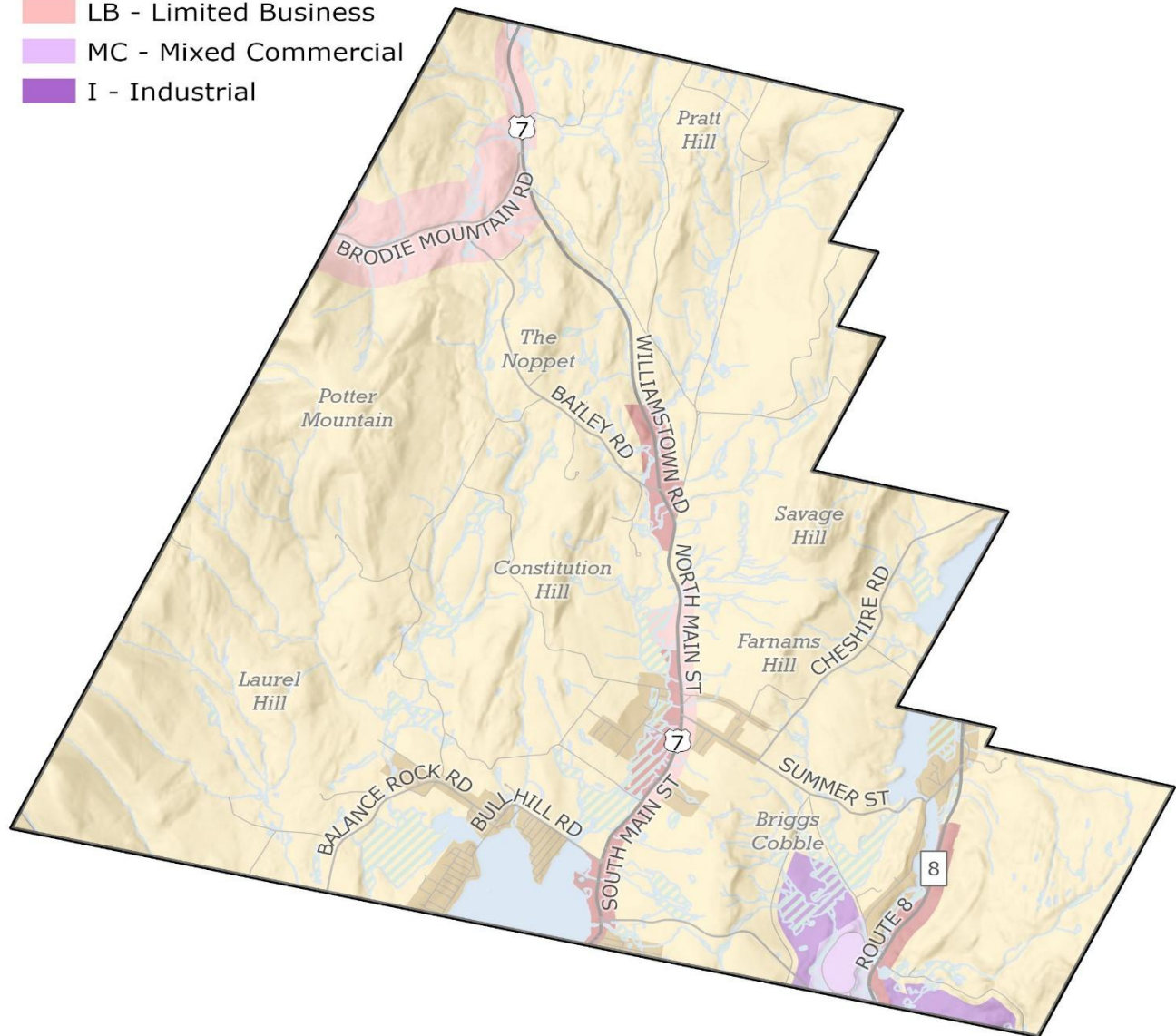
The town has demonstrated a careful approach to zoning and reserves most of its land for agricultural purposes and the large-scale industrial and mixed-use properties encompass existing large-scale developments.



The Route 7 corridor is one of two commercial centers.

Zoning**Town of Lanesborough**

- R - Residential
- R-A - Residential and Agriculture
- B - Business
- LB - Limited Business
- MC - Mixed Commercial
- I - Industrial



This map was created by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and is intended for general planning purposes only. This map shall not be used for engineering, survey, legal, or regulatory purposes. MassGIS, MassDOT, BRPC or the municipality may have supplied portions of this data.

The development trends map illustrates the town's growth over the years.



There are several scenic environments in Lanesborough.

Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Soils and Topography

The topography and soils in Lanesborough are a product of glacial movement during the ice age and the flow of the Housatonic and Hoosic River systems. The town's three separate ecoregions are comprised of the Taconic Mountain Range to the west, the Green Mountains and Berkshire Highlands to the east, and the Western New England Marble Valleys in the town's central are part of three separate ecoregions⁷.

The western border of the town is the hilliest, with an elevation reaching approximately 2,400 feet above sea level at Widow White's Peak, west of Silver Street on Potter Mountain. The soils are metamorphic bedrock consisting of schistose and phyllitic formations. The soils are of the Taconic-Macomber-Lanesborough association. They are shallow, moderately deep, well drained, and consist of slate, phyllite, and shale.

Most of the town's development along Route 7 is approximately 1,100 feet above sea level. The corridor, constructed to span northwest from the Pittsfield border in the middle of the surrounding hills, is primarily America-Pittsfield-Farmington soils. The soils are formed in glacial till and derived from limestone. Large portions of the town's prime agricultural land is located on the foothills of the Taconic and the developed downtown corridor.

The eastern portion of the town rises in elevation and steepness to elevations approximately 1,800 feet above sea level and the soils are mostly in the Tunbridge-Lyman-Peru soil association. The loamy soils are formed in glacial till and derive from schist, gneiss and granite. The soils can also be found on lower slopes of Mount Greylock.

Other soils with presence in Lanesborough are the Copake-Hero-Hoosic and Limerick-Saco-Winooski soils. The two soil types are found mostly along the town's water resources. Copake-Hero-Hoosic is located along Yukon Brook, Balance Rock Road, and the Cheshire Reservoir. The soils are in areas with gentle terrain and drain well.



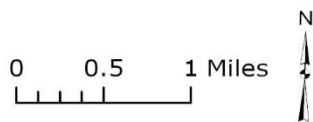
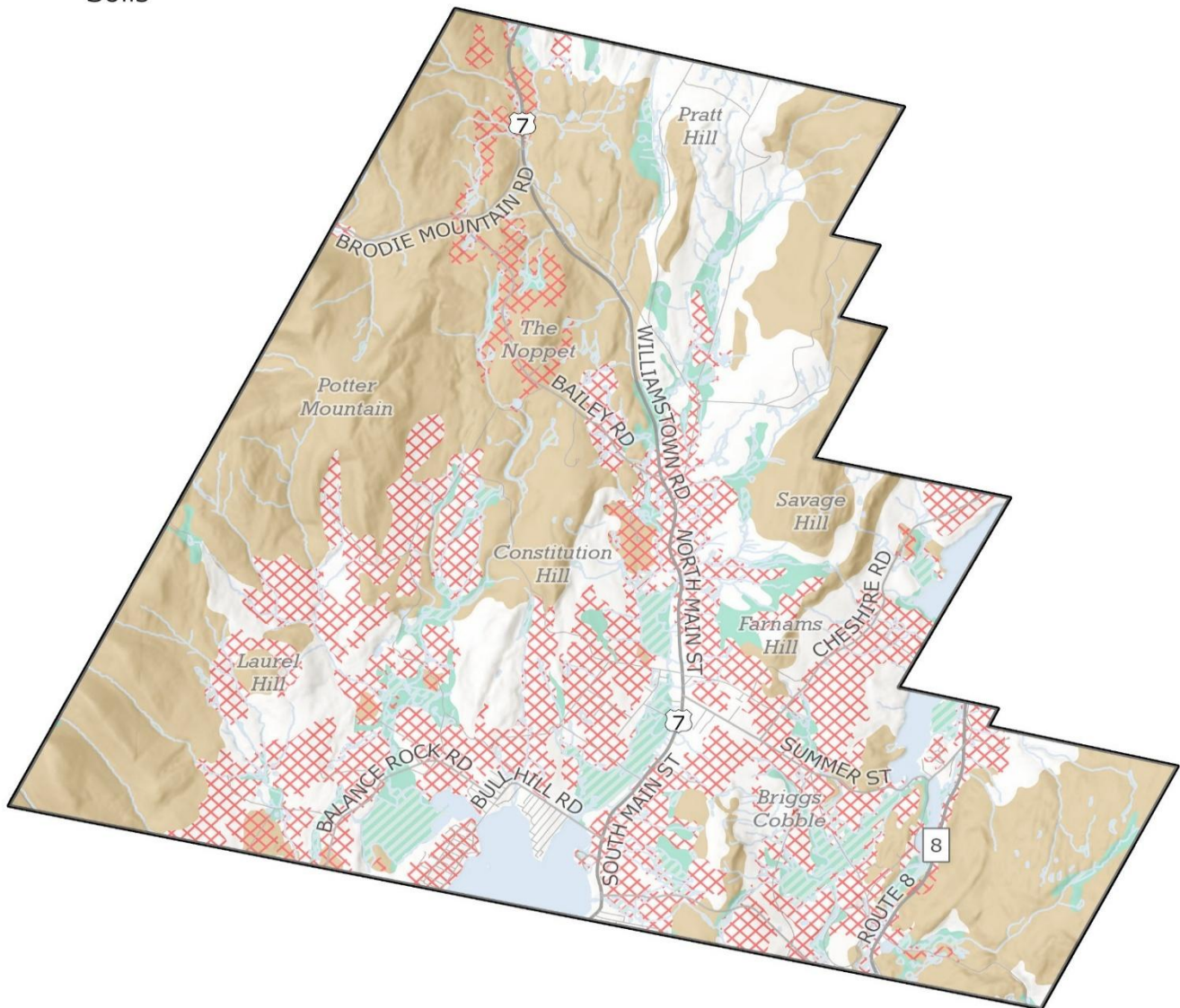
The town's landscape is defined by large tracts of prime farmland.

⁷<https://grownativemass.org/Ecoregions/Ecoregions-of-Massachusetts>

Soils

Town of Lanesborough

-  Prime Agricultural Soils
-  Poorly Drained Soils
-  Excessively Drained Soils



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There are several areas of prime agricultural soils located in the town of Lanesborough.



Pontoosuc Lake is filled by Secum, Hollow, and Town Brooks.

Limerick-Saco-Winooski soils are located in low lying areas and supporting wetland plants. The soils are mostly found along Town Brook, Yukon Brook, Pontoosuc Lake, Pettibone Brook, and Cheshire Reservoir. The soils drain poorly.

The topography leads to the recreational pattern that exists today. The higher elevations on the west side lend itself to more rigorous outdoor activities such as hiking and mountain biking. Ramblewild's adventure court, Shaker Ridge Trails, and nearby Jiminy Peak are utilizing those slopes to create unique experiences for people. The Commonwealth's tallest peak, Mount Greylock, provides trails for a variety of skillsets from difficult, steep climbs to gentler ones.

The low levels in the town's center create different experiences. Laston Park sits in a lower elevation. To the west is Constitution Hill, which is owned by Berkshire Natural Resources, which provides hiking on steeper lands. Laston is flatter and is developed into an active recreational park. On the east of Laston Park is another elevated, steep terrain, which will be provide opportunities for hiking. Additionally, Water sheds from higher elevations into Town Brook and Secum Brook toward Pontoosuc Lake. Wetlands surround the brooks, limiting active recreational opportunities, but provides fishing opportunities.

⁸ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-major-watersheds>

The wetlands along the brooks are beautiful natural environments. The town can explore opportunities to provide access for people to experience those lands but only through careful planning to ensure any recreational opportunity provided there does not interfere with, nor attract nuisance usage to, the natural environments.

Water Resources

Watersheds

Lanesborough is located in portions of the Kinderhook, Hoosic, and Housatonic watersheds⁸.

Brodie Mountain, mostly located in the neighboring towns of Hancock and New Ashford to the northwest, feeds Town Brook. The water flow moves throughout the center of the town and into Pontoosuc Lake. Churchill and Daniels Brook both bring water from the hilly areas of the Pittsfield State Forest. Secum and Hollow Brooks carry water from Potter Mountain to the lake. The water flows over the dam at the border with Pittsfield and enters the Housatonic River and moves southward to the Long Island Sound.



Pontoosuc Lake continues to be one of the town's most utilized outdoor recreational assets.

A small portion of the water from Potter Mountain sheds westerly into Bentley Brook and into the neighboring town of Hancock. Bentley Brook then empties into Kinderhook Creek and ultimately into the Hudson River.

The eastern border of Lanesborough, including Berkshire Village, is located in the Hoosic Watershed. The elevations on the eastern side bring water into the Cheshire Reservoir, which is the start of the southern branch of the Hoosic River. The Hoosic River flows northward from the town of Cheshire to Adams, North Adams, Williamstown, and into Vermont. The river ultimately connects with the Hudson River, which flows south to New York City and into the Atlantic Ocean.

The brooks are cold water fisheries as defined by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The fisheries support the habitats of a variety of fish including trout and smelt. The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife routinely stock Town Brook with trout.

Residents often use the bridges as fishing locations along Town Brook – located at Bull Hill, Miner, Putnam, and Bridge Streets - and Secum Brook flows under the Narragansett Avenue bridge.



Town Brook flows alongside Route 7 to Pontoosuc Lake and there are large wetlands complexes surrounding it.



Berkshire Pond is connected with Cheshire Reservoir.

Surface Water

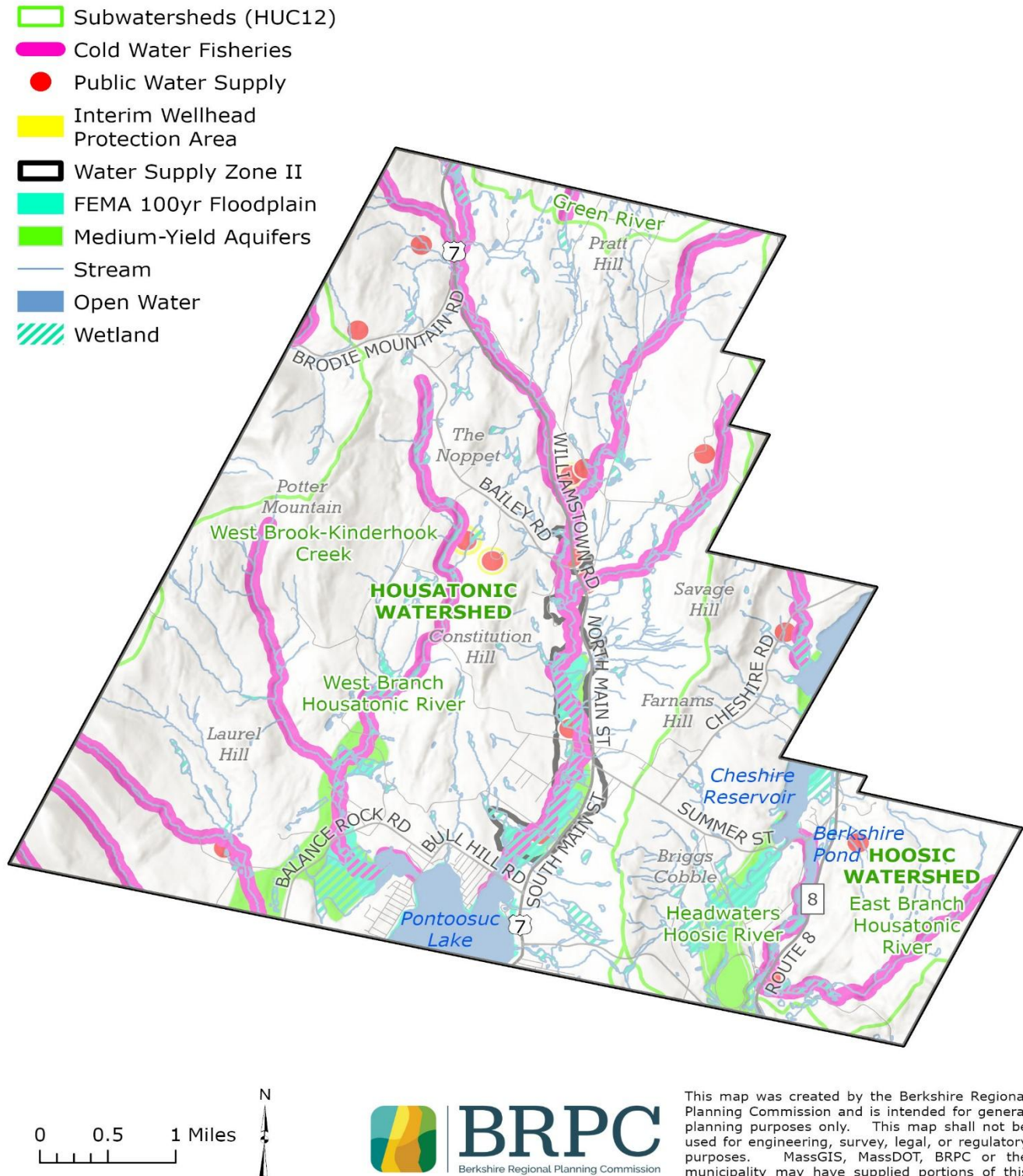
Pontoosuc Lake is third largest water body in Berkshire County. The great pond spans approximately 511-acres and is owned by the Commonwealth Division of Capital Asset Management. The main body of the lake is approximately 480 acres and half is in Lanesborough (northern half) and the other half is in the city of Pittsfield. The remaining 31 acres is in the two inlets (Town Brook and Secum Brook).

Pontoosuc Lake is a landmark location for human inhabitation throughout Berkshire County's history. The Mohican and Mohawk natives tribes originally inhabited the land. In the 18th century, European settlers formed their own settlements, which ultimately led to the incorporation of the city of Pittsfield. The lake and its tributaries and the Housatonic River powered much of early industry and mills.

Lanesborough's early development centered around the lake, which was created when a dam was installed and Town Brook flooded the existing farmland to create a water source for a grist mill and later lumber and textile factories. In the early 20th Century, Pontoosuc was a recreational hub for the county.

Water Features

Town of Lanesborough



The water features map demonstrates the location of the water resources in town.

However, the largest park properties are located in the city of Pittsfield. Pontoosuc Lake Park is divided into two sections, one along Hancock Road in Pittsfield and another across the road along Route 7. There are only a few public access points into the lake from Lanesborough.

From the Lanesborough side of the lake, the public can launch canoes and kayaks and fish from a small area next to the Narragansett Avenue bridge, swim at the Town Beach at the end of Sunrise Street and use the boat ramp near Memorial Park on Narragansett Avenue.

Lanesborough's Board of Selectmen appoints a harbormaster. The position is unpaid and the appointed person is responsible for overseeing a shared herbicide applications with the city of Pittsfield, conducting water quality assessments, coordinating with the Commonwealth and Pittsfield on the lake's management, issuing permits for floats and buoys, assisting residents in obtaining dock permits, and representing the interests of the lake and its stakeholders in the development of town initiatives related to the lake.

The Friends of Pontoosuc Lake Association is a volunteer organization advocating for and



Homes do not have access to a municipal sewer system along Pontoosuc Lake and failing septic systems pose a threat to the lake's ecology.

promoting the lake, which currently works closely with the Harbormaster on initiatives.

In collaboration with the state and the city of Pittsfield, Lanesborough supports efforts to manage the lake's health. Non-native lakeweeds, introduced by humans, remain an ongoing threat to the native macrophyte population and require ongoing monitoring and maintenance. Invasive species in the lake include Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pond weed, water chestnut, and spiny naiad. The town and city of Pittsfield contract a licenses contractor to administer herbicide treatments to control/eliminate the non-native invasive species and encourage the growth of the native (desirable) plant species, and improve habitat for native plants, fish, and wildlife.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation recently discovered DNA of the invasive Zebra Mussels in Pontoosuc⁹ indicating a likelihood of its presence in the water.

This is a significant concern, because if there is a pioneer infestation of this very aggressive invasive species action must be taken immediately if there is any hope of curtailing it.



There are several wildlife habitats located along the waterways in Lanesborough.

⁹ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/zebra-mussels>



Pontoosuc Lake is an important recreational resource for the town.

Continued eDNA sampling and search for pioneer mussels has not yielded any more evidence, but continued vigilance is required and is being taken by DCR personnel as well as volunteers from the Friends of Pontoosuc. Onota lake has also found evidence of a possible pioneer infestation of this invader and volunteers from Onota are helping/guiding the volunteers from Pontoosuc.

Additionally, Cyanobacteria blooms are an ongoing and growing concern. There have been blooms at a concentration which can be toxic to lake users. Dogs are especially susceptible, and children are more susceptible than adults because they ingest more water when using the lake. These bloom take two forms, Filamentacious green Algae in the water column, and/or scummy green mats on the surface. The town and the city of Pittsfield monitors for both these conditions in late summer when they are most likely to appear, and issues the following when needed

- Both the Town and the City health departments issue bulletins warning of the risk and suggesting precautions
- Public access points are posted: (Pittsfield park on Hancock Rd and on North St, and the two Lanesborough access points on Bull Hill and on Narragansett Ave.)
- Friends of Pontoosuc issues a bulletin to the 250 lake users on its contact list

The Department of Conservation and Recreation conducts an annual drawdown of Pontoosuc Lake to prevent scouring and ice damage to the dam while maintaining downstream flow rates in the Housatonic River.

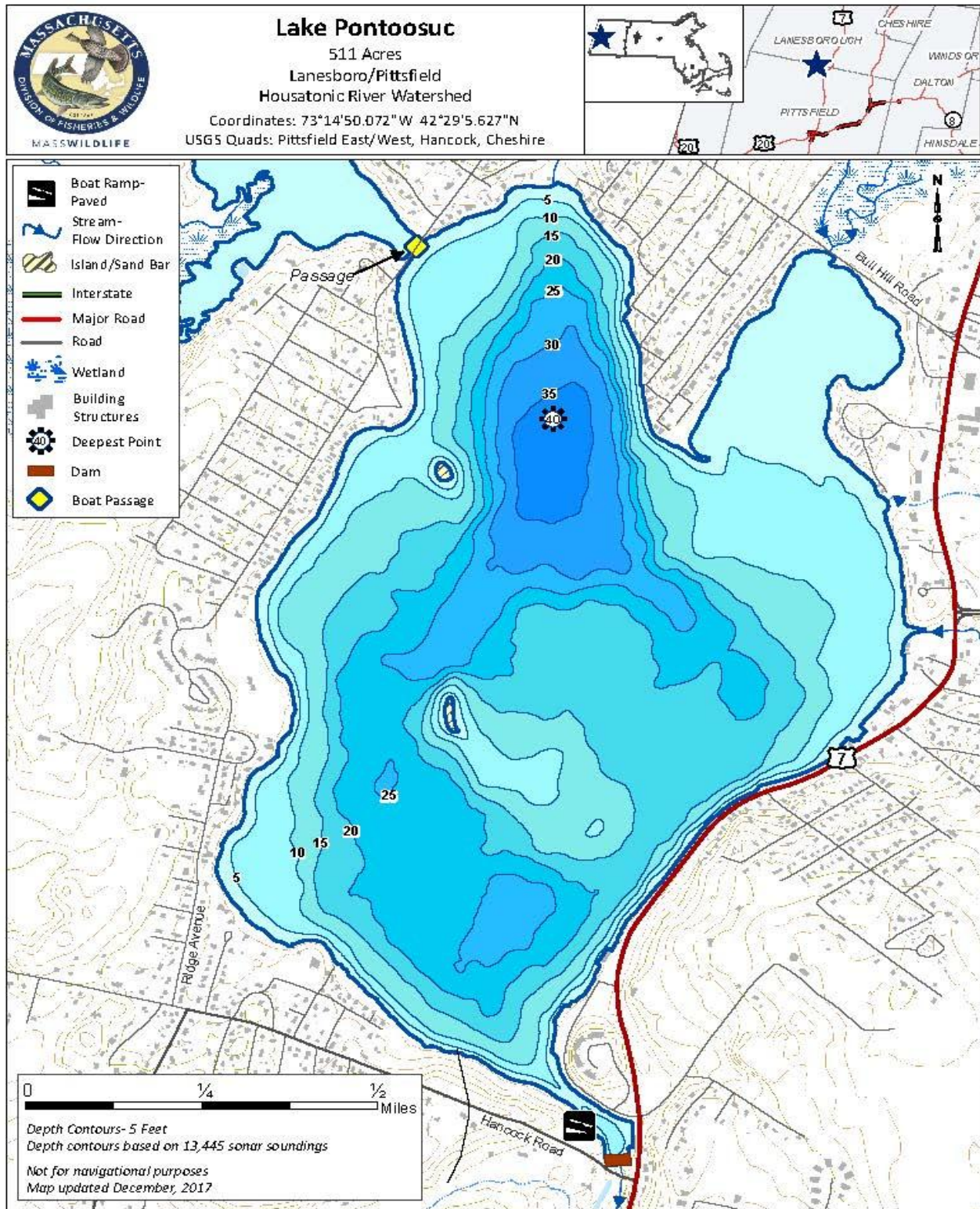
A small portion of the human-made Cheshire Reservoir, also known as Hoosac Lake, is in Lanesborough. There is limited pedestrian or boat access to the lake from the Lanesborough side. On Farnham's Road in Cheshire there is a park featuring fishing piers, a boat launch, and picnic areas.

The Reservoir consists of four interconnected waterbodies - Berkshire Pond, the South Basin, Middle Basin, and North Basin. Berkshire Pond, and portions of South Basin, and Middle Basin are located in Lanesborough. The waterbodies are primarily used for fishing, boating, and snowmobiling during the winter. The Reservoir is owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The North Basin, located in Cheshire, functions as the primary recreational location. The Hoosac Lake Recreation and Preservation District is a volunteer organization overseeing the management of the lake. Similar to the Friends of Pontoosuc, the water quality is impeded by Eurasian milfoil and curly pondweed. Cyanobacteria algae blooms also limit access.



The basins of Cheshire Lake faces similar issues as Pontoosuc.



The map of Pontoosuc demonstrates the depth and nearby infrastructure.



Farnams Road in Cheshire features a developed park with picnic areas, fishing piers, and a boat launch into Cheshire Reservoir.

Aquifer Recharge Areas

Water from the western hills of Lanesborough travels toward Pontoosuc Lake from several brooks. Water from Brodie Mountain flows into Town Brook. Water shedding north and easterly from Potter Mountain flows into Secum Brook. To the south, water shedding from Potter Mountain and water from the Pittsfield State Forest flow into Hollow Brook.

Secum and Hollow Brook meet near Olsen Road at an aquifer spanning from Old Ore Bed Road, on both sides of Secum Brook, past Olsen Road and expanding at the intersection with Balance Rock Road before flowing into the lake. The aquifer provides a medium yield, providing between 100 and 300 gallons per minute and defined by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. However, the owner of the property on Balance Rock Road, near Balance Rock Park, used PCB laden soil as fill and so the groundwater in that area is at risk of PCB contamination.

The Secum Brook aquifer drainage basin spans approximately six miles, mostly through forest land. The aquifer, however, passes through an old town landfill and a former General Electric

Company landfill rendering the water unsuitable for a public drinking water supply.

Town Brook leads into an aquifer located to the west of North Main Street, spanning Laston Memorial Field, behind town hall, and crossing into Pontoosuc Lake at Bull Hill Road. The aquifer is suitable for drinking water. The aquifer consists of several wetlands along the western side of Route 7.

A third aquifer is located near Cheshire Reservoir and Berkshire Pond. The high yield aquifer spans from the Summer Street area southward along Swamp Road, encompasses the former Berkshire Mall property, and continues into Pittsfield. The aquifer is approximately 230 acres in size. It previously provided approximately 50 homes with potable water but has since been decommissioned.

Flood Hazard Areas

There is approximately 1,265 acres of land located in the 100-year floodplain. There is little historic development in the floodplain, which extends along Town Brook and the accompanying wetlands and around the shores of Pontoosuc Lake.

A 2018 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan¹⁰ identified approximately four miles of roadway and



Berkshire Pond is ecologically important to the town of Lanesborough.

¹⁰ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2017-2018-mvp-planning-grant-report-lanesborough/download>

76 buildings – primarily located on the northern shore of Pontoosuc – in the floodplain.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has not updated its maps since the 1980s. The agency is currently in the process of creating new floodplain maps for the Hoosic and Housatonic watersheds and will likely significantly alter the boundaries of the 100-year floodplain.

Wetlands

A small percentage of the total land is wetlands. There are several wetlands, mostly concentrated along Town Brook, Pontoosuc Lake, Cheshire Reservoir, Muddy Brook, and Secum Brook.

The wetlands along Route 7 and Town Brook are part of the town's largest public water system. There are several larger areas of wetlands on the western side of North Main Street spanning from Laston Park to Bull Hill Road and ending at the shoreline of Pontoosuc Lake.

A third significant wetland area is bordered by Balance Rock Road and the Narragansett Avenue neighborhoods. The wetlands are located on the



The wetlands on Miner Road are located along Town Brook, which flows into Pontoosuc Lake to the south.

southwestern edges of the lake on the Narragansett Avenue bridge.

Another large area of wetlands is ordered by Partridge Road, Summer Street, and Old State Road. The wetlands expand southwesterly from Summer Street, spanning both sides of Swamp Road, and ending near the former Berkshire Mall property.

Vegetation

Approximately 75% of Lanesborough's total area is forest¹¹. There is more than 14,000 acres of forestland in Lanesborough, with the state controlling approximately 25% of those lands.

The developed portion of the town is surrounded by forest except for connections with Pittsfield at and around Pontoosuc Lake and at Cheshire Reservoir, which spans the northeastern corner. Roadways passing through to Hancock and Williamstown are surrounded by forest.

The forests provide for a diversity of wildlife habitats and passive recreational opportunities. Throughout the forest – as well as the wetlands –



Lanesborough has a vast amount of forest land.

11

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/133906b18fdc4b4fb724ef537ce91161?item=2>



Approximately three quarters of the town's land is forest.

there are several unique habitats that support rare and endangered specials.

There are three ecosystems in Lanesborough: the Taconic Mountains, the Marble Valley of the Housatonic River, and the Berkshire Highlands along the southeastern portion of town. The Taconic Mountains and Marble Valley are different from most of the Commonwealth because its composition supports a variety of plant communities limited elsewhere. The ecosystem shares similar characteristics with the Berkshire Highlands, which are characterized by oak and hickory at lower elevations, transitional hardwoods, and northern hardwoods at higher elevations. There are some spruce-fir forests at higher elevations¹².

The forests are challenged by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer and the fungal disease White Pine Needlecast, which defoliates White Pine Trees. The Department of Conservation and Recreation reports the presence of Emerald Ash Borer is impacting more than 900 acres of land throughout Lanesborough. The forests are also harmed by Beech Leaf Disease, which impacts American, European, Oriental, and Chinese Beech tree species.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation reports the presence of White Pine Needlecast near Barton's Ledge in the northern portion of town, a small section along Route 7 between Bailey Road and Brodie Mountain, and in the Pittsfield State Forest.

Lanesborough hosts several types of plant communities, ranging from the wetlands in the low-lying areas, to open fields and forests. Most of the forestland is relatively young. Inhabitants originally logged much of town's forest land to create farmland, timber, and charcoal, which is now growing back after agriculture operations began to decline during the late 19th century. The regenerated forests are typically northern hardwoods featuring birch-beech-maple forest types.

Although some areas might have been woodlots that were cut repeatedly and even used for pasture, the sites retain greater native biodiversity, including types of wildflowers. Lanesborough also has Eastern Hemlock forests, which provide important wildlife habitats and the dense canopies are cool refuge for animals. The forest features spruce, white pine, maples, beech, and birch trees. The largest High Elevation Spruce-fir Forest in the state occurs on Mount Greylock.



The forest landscapes are a defining feature of the town.

¹² <https://grownativemass.org/Our-Commonwealth/ecoregions>

Undeveloped forests at lower elevations provide a buffer around the rare high-elevation forest communities. Important areas of forest land include Mount Greylock, Potter Mountain, the Boulders, the tracts from Pittsfield State Forest north to widow White Reserve – a primary forest. The forests feature cold brooks that are habitats for salamanders and birds and feature numerous fern species including the maidenhair fern and fungi.

There is an abundance of ash, white pine, hemlock, sugar maple, black cherry, and spruce trees.

In addition to forested plant communities, Lanesborough hosts large open fields. Some of these fields continue to be used for crops or hay production, while others are used primarily for pasturing livestock. The agricultural fields support a variety of grasses and wildflowers, some of which are rare.

Public Shade Trees

The town's Tree and Forest Committee manages several trees recognized for their importance to the community. The most notable is King Elmer, the largest Elm tree in the Commonwealth. King Elmer, located on Summer Street, dates back to 1765.



King Elmer on Summer Street is the largest Elm tree in the state



The Tree and Forest Committee planted a dozen trees at Lanesborough Elementary School in recent years.

Additionally, there are also several different types of trees at Laton Memorial Park, Lanesborough Elementary School, and on other town properties.

The five-member Tree and Forest Committee works with the Tree Warden to maintain, promote, and improve the health of trees on public land, provide technical assistance and recommendations to contractors and other town boards and committee on the planting and replanting of public trees, and raise awareness of tree care in the community.

The Tree and Forest Committee's efforts are nationally recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation by designating Lanesborough as a Tree City USA every year since 2005.

The Tree and Forest Committee has planted 54 trees of 44 different species in Laton Park, creating an arboretum along an accessible walking path. The committee also planted approximately a dozen trees at Lanesborough Elementary School and seven at the historic building on Prospect Street.

A map of the public shade trees is available in appendix E.

Rare Plant Species

Throughout large tracts of undeveloped forest, wetlands, and water ways are the habitat of 22 endangered, threatened, or special concern plant species.

The Northern Prickly Rose, Schewinitz's Sedge, Straight-leaved Pondweed, and Whorled Water-milfoil all fall in the Commonwealth's highest concern as endangered. The state observed all four of the species surviving in Lanesborough within the last 25 years.

See the next page for a complete list of endangered, threatened, or species of special concern in the town of Lanesborough.

Agricultural Land

The town maintains a significant agricultural economy with active farms and family-operated agritourism operations. There are 1,359.9 acres of agricultural land in the town of Lanesborough, providing scenic landscapes, offering locally sourced food, and providing wildlife movement and habitats.

Farms are located throughout town, with the majority of the farmland concentrated located off North Main Street, at the base of Mount Greylock, and along Cheshire Road. Demonstrated in the Unique Features Map, many of the agricultural operations are located on scenic landscapes and near the Mount Greylock Scenic Byway.

According to the town's business directory¹³, there are 18 operating farms in town. The farms vary by type with some providing the public with the ability to pick their own strawberries to roadside farmstands to meat production to equestrian recreation.

¹³ https://www.lanesborough-ma.gov/business/business_directory/index.php

Operating Farms in Lanesborough

Name	Address
Echo Farm	996 North Main Street
Flores Farm	622 North Main Street
Four Seasons Stables	44 Ore Bed Road
Fugazi Farm	918 North Main Street
Heart and Soil Collective	50 Olsen Road
Hill Top Farm and Fiber Arts	1 Partridge Road
Lakeview Orchard	94 Old Cheshire Road
Mountainview Farm	45 Old Cheshire Road
Nick of Time Equine	44 Ore Bed Road
Olsen Farm LLC	50 Olsen Road
R & R Wirtes Grain Inc.	705 North Main Street
Red Shirt Farm	60 Williamstown Road
Salt Box Farm Flowers	14 Salt Box Farm Road
Square Roots Farm	95 Old Cheshire Road
Second Drop Farm	551 North Main St
Talus Wood Farm	450 Williamstown Road
Wedgewood Stable	705 North Main Street
Whispering Pines Farm, LLC	85 Miner Road

Rare and Endangered Plant Species			
Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Northern Prickly Rose	<i>Rosa acicularis</i> ssp. <i>sayi</i>	Endangered	2019
Schweinitz's Sedge	<i>Carex schweinitzii</i>	Endangered	2009
Straight-leaved Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton strictifolius</i>	Endangered	2003
Whorled Water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	Endangered	2013
Autumn Coral-root	<i>Corallorhiza odontorhiza</i>	Endangered	2020
Barren Strawberry	<i>Geum fragarioides</i>	S. Concern	2009
Bristly Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus pensylvanicus</i>	S. Concern	1916
Dwarf Scouring Rush	<i>Equisetum scirpoides</i>	S. Concern	1991
Fen Sedge	<i>Carex tetanica</i>	S. Concern	1988
Gattinger's Panic-grass	<i>Panicum philadelphicum</i> ssp. <i>gattingeri</i>	S. Concern	1915
Hitchcock's Sedge	<i>Carex hitchcockiana</i>	S. Concern	2021
Purple Clematis	<i>Clematis occidentalis</i>	S. Concern	2019
Adder's Tongue Fern	<i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i>	Threatened	1984
Bailey's Sedge	<i>Carex baileyi</i>	Threatened	2010
Bartram's Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier bartramiana</i>	Threatened	1980s
Clustered Sanicle	<i>Sanicula odorata</i>	Threatened	1990
Green Adder's-mouth	<i>Malaxis unifolia</i>	Threatened	1915
Leafy White Orchid	<i>Platanthera dilatata</i>	Threatened	1907
Matted Spike-sedge	<i>Eleocharis intermedia</i>	Threatened	1986
Showy Orchis	<i>Galearis spectabilis</i>	Threatened	2017
Wapato	<i>Sagittaria cuneata</i>	Threatened	1991
Woodland Millet	<i>Milium effusum</i>	Threatened	2021



The town has many large, operating farms.

Adding to the character of the Town are roadside farm stands, Community Supported Agricultural operations, and visible farm activity.

Approximately 90 acres of forest are horseback riders along the roadside and traffic slowed for tractors during hay season.

Lanesborough is a Right to Farm Community¹⁴ which protects agricultural operators from nuisance lawsuits and limits restrictions the town can impose through zoning or general ordinances on farms. Lanesborough voted to become a Right to Farm community to support local agriculture, protect farmland, and raise awareness of the role farms play in the community.

The town has an active Agricultural Commission. The five-member board provides guidance to the town, offers technical assistance to local farmers, and raises awareness of agricultural-related matters.

Additionally, the Conservation Commission led an effort to designate 20 additional soils throughout town as “soils of local importance,” providing agricultural operators greater access to United States Department of Agriculture programs.

The soils of local importance, located on the map in appendix A, identifies food-producing soils not classified by the federal government as “prime farmland.” Many farm owners reported that ownership of have been passed down through generations but often there is no succession plan in place for future generations.

The trends threaten the town’s farmland as retirees will soon look to sell property, at risk of the land being developed for non-agricultural uses. Only three farms have Agricultural Protection Restrictions on the properties.

The potential loss of farm land aligns with national trends. The United States Department of Agriculture reports¹⁵ that both the number and size of farms has steadily been declining.

Farm owners also reported challenges with climate change impacts – including droughts, heavy rain, and extreme wind. Additionally, invasive species management remains a challenge, often resulting in large numbers of fallen trees.

The wetlands in Lanesborough are primarily made up of four types of wetlands – shrub swamp,



The wetlands in Lanesborough are valuable habitats.

¹⁴ <https://ecode360.com/34365371>

¹⁵ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/chart-detail?chartId=58268>

wooded swamp deciduous, deep marsh, shallow marsh meadow¹⁶.

Shrub swamp is a common wetland in Massachusetts commonly featuring alders, meadowsweet, buttonbush, swamp azalea, silky dogwood, winterberry, arrowwood, and poison sumac at variable densities¹⁷. Wooded swamp deciduous predominately known for hosting Red Maple and oak and ash trees.

Wetland Vegetation

Deep marsh¹⁸ is typically flooded with as much as three feet of water and featuring cattails, reeds, phragmites, and other herbaceous vegetation. Shallow marsh typically exists alongside ponds and lakes featuring shallow levels of water and supporting short grasses, sedges, and broad-leaved herbaceous plants¹⁹.

The Black Ash/Red Maple/ Tamarack Calcareous Seepage Swamp is a rare plant community found in two locations in Lanesborough – along Town Brook and on the east side of Swamp Road. The wetlands are sensitive and should not be used for recreational purposes.

BioMap describes the Black Ash/Red Maple/ Tamarack Calcareous Seepage Swamp in Lanesborough as being in good condition with minimal invasive species present²⁰. The imperiled natural community features nutrient soils supporting a mixed deciduous-coniferous growth.

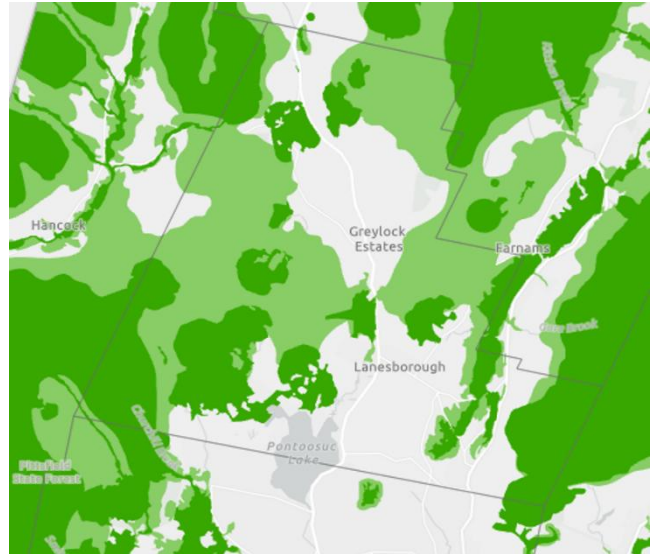
BioMap Information

¹⁶ <https://maps.massgis.digital.mass.gov/images/dep/omv/wetviewer.htm>

¹⁷ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/shrub-swamp-0/download>

¹⁸ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/deep-emergent-marsh-0/download>

¹⁹ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/shallow-emergent-marsh-0/download>



The dark green on the biomap represents core habitats and the light green represents critical natural landscapes.

The statewide Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program's statewide BioMap project²¹ delineates Core Habitats, Critical Natural Landscapes, and Priority Conservation Areas. The areas are identified in an effort to facilitate greater land protection and stewardship in areas with unique and important biodiversity. The program establishes as many as six Priority Conservation Areas in each city and town in the Commonwealth.

BioMap identifies 18 core habitats and four areas of critical natural landscape, which the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program used to delineate six areas in Lanesborough as Priority Conservation Areas:

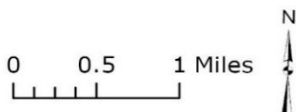
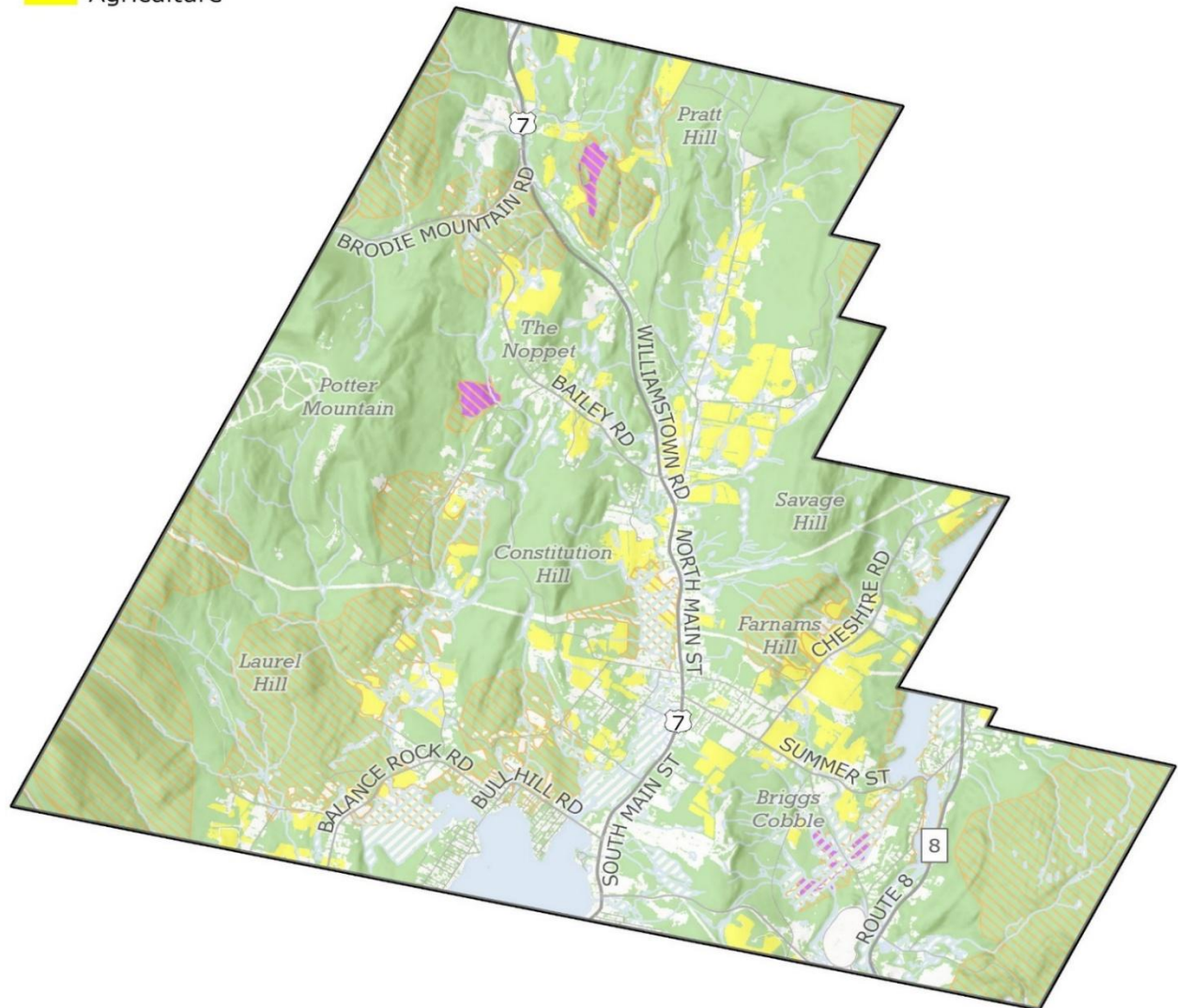
²⁰ <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/wi/lanesborough.pdf#:~:text=State-listed%20aquatic%20plants%20like%20the%20Cob%20Water-milfoil,the%20marble%20valleys%20or%20within%20the%20highlands>

²¹ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/biomap-town-report-lanesborough>

Vegetation

Town of Lanesborough

-  BioMap3 Core Habitat
-  Natural Communities
-  Forest
-  Agriculture



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Lanesborough's landscape features numerous farmlands, forests, and core habitats and natural communities.

Town PCA 1: This PCA is located in the southeast corner of Lanesborough. It includes BC2546 and its associated BioMap components, including over 700 acres of Forest Core and habitat for uncommon salamander species.

Town PCA 2: Lanesborough's second PCA is in southeast Lanesborough. It lies along South State Road to the north-east of the Berkshire Mall, and it includes and surrounds Berkshire Pond. The pond supports state-listed species of aquatic plants.

Town PCA 3: This PCA includes wetlands south of Cheshire Reservoir, just northwest of the Berkshire Mall. Although this area is intersected by Swamp Road and surrounded by rather densely developed lands, its wetlands support over ten acres of the Priority Natural Community called Black Ash-Red Maple-Tamarack Calcareous Seepage Swamp and contain a diversity of state-listed plant species.

Town PCA 4: Town PCA 4 includes a 27-acre area of Rich, Mesic Forest in north central Lanesborough and supports a variety of state-listed plant species and an Aquatic Core, all associated with BC2448.

Town PCA 5/Regional PCA 7: This Town PCA lies along the lower slopes of Mount Brodie and includes BioMap components of BC2979, including Aquatic Core along headwater tributaries to Kinderhook Creek and nearly 300 acres of Forest Core. Town PCA 5 is part of regional PCA 7, which includes over 20,000 acres in Hancock and in western Pittsfield and Lanesborough, as well as areas of extensive and relatively undisturbed forest habitat. PCA 7 also includes headwater streams of Kinderhook Creek and the West Branch Green River in Hancock, Onota Brook and the Southwest

Branch Housatonic River in Pittsfield, and Secum Brook in Lanesborough.

Town PCA 6/Regional PCA 7: Like Town PCA 5, Town PCA6 is part of Regional PCA 7. Town PCA 6 is the largest in western Lanesborough, and its boundaries match those of a large part of CNL1332. It includes Forest Core of BC2341 in southwest Lanesborough, as well as several locations that support vernal pools and breeding populations of the Jefferson Salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*).

Fisheries and Wildlife

Lanesborough's vast forestland, wetlands, brooks, streams, lakes and wetlands provide habitat for several animals. The land is home to white-tailed deer, red and grey foxes, woodchucks, rabbits, owls, black bears, wild turkeys, and the denser forestland are habitats for moose. It is common for residents to see coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, red-tailed hawks, and bald eagles.

Upland species also include fishers, red squirrel, flying squirrel, owl, wild turkey, Cooper's hawk, ruffed grouse, fox, and snowshoe hares. Rodents range from voles to porcupines to weasels. Songbirds include tanagers, siskins, grosbeaks, nuthatches, titmice and vireos.

Lanesborough is home to numerous songbirds as including sparrows, warblers, finches, bobolinks, and meadowlarks.

The waterways feature beavers, otters, Canada geese, herons, muskrats, minks, turtles and amphibian species.

In Lanesborough, the key corridors include the Cobbles on the southeastern border, Mount Greylock, and Brodie Mountain.

Mount Greylock features 20,575.1 acres of core forest habitat, 71% of which is already protected.

The recently purchased Farnams Road property, which is in the process of obtaining a conservation restriction, is another 174.83 acres of core forest habitat. Brodie Mountain features 6,250.8 acres of core forest habitat, but only 8% of it is currently protected. Additionally, thousands of acres in the Taconic Mountain Range are core forest habitats, much of which shared with neighboring communities along Lanesborough's western border.

The Commonwealth's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife identified 15 different fish species in Pontoosuc Lake²². The species are: largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, chain pickerel, common carp, yellow perch, white perch, black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, rock bass, common shiner. The Commonwealth stocks the

lake with brown trout on an annual basis. brown bullhead, yellow bullhead, white sucker, and

The northern pike is notable because it reproduces naturally and anglers can catch large ones in both the summer and the winter.

At Pontoosuc, there are fishing locations along the shoreline as well as at the bridges on Bull Hill Road and Narragansett Avenue.

Additionally, the Commonwealth stocks town brook, a tributary to the lake, with trout. Anglers use several locations along town brook, including on or under the bridges spanning Miner, Putnam, and Bridge Street. Cheshire Reservoir is another fishing location. The reservoir features largemouth bass, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, bluegill, rock bass, black crappie, brown bullhead, white sucker

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status	Year Seen
Little Brown Bat	Myotis lucifugus	Mammal	Endangered	2016
Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	Bird	Endangered	1946
Sedge Wren	Cistothorus platensis	Bird	Endangered	1948
Tricolored Bat	Perimyotis subflavus	Mammal	Endangered	1956
Bridle Shiner	Notropis bifrenatus	Fish	Special Concern	2013
Common Gallinule	Gallinula galeata	Bird	Special Concern	1967
Jefferson Salamander (complex)	Ambystoma jeffersonianum	Amphibian	Special Concern	2013
Mourning Warbler	Geothlypis philadelphia	Bird	Special Concern	2007
Wood Turtle	Glyptemys insculpta	Reptile	Special Concern	2017
King Rail	Rallus elegans	Bird	Threatened	1949

²² <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/pontoosuc-lake>

and golden shiner. The reservoir has an abundance of largemouth bass and yellow perch.

The developed fishing location on Cheshire Reservoir is located on Farnams Road in Cheshire. The Department of Conservation and Recreation constructed the accessible fishing pier and park space to provide greater access. The location includes park space, a boat launch, and parking. It is located along the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.

Berkshire Pond, which empties into Cheshire Reservoir, has shoreline access points people use for fishing on Old State Road. There are 10 known rare, threatened, or endangered species in Lanesborough.

Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Scenic Landscapes

The U.S. Department of Transportation recognizes the Mount Greylock Scenic Byway²³, which leads from the base of Mount Greylock in Lanesborough



The state recognizes more than half of the town's land as scenic resources.

²³

<https://housatonicheritage.org/places/mount->



Balance Rock in the Pittsfield State Forest is a unique geological occurrence.

to the summit and back down into North Adams, in its Scenic Byway Program.

The road features several lookout areas with panoramic views of Berkshire County. The Mount Greylock Visitor's Center serves as an information center and provides views of the landscape.

The Mount Greylock Scenic Byway is an economic driver for the region's tourism economy, drawing visitors to the mountain top for fall foliage viewing. Prior to entering the Mount Greylock Reservation property, North Main Street, Greylock Road, and Rockwell Road all features scenic views on and around Wirtes Farm, which is protected by an Agricultural Preservation.

Lanesborough is very scenic. Pontoosuc Lake features several impeccable views. At the town's southern gateway on Route 7, the road features a wide view of the lake with a mountainous backdrop, including the peak of Mount Greylock. There are also scenic views of Pontoosuc and Onota Lakes.

The Connector Road and Partridge Road both feature several locations with views of the scenic hilly landscape. The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail spans

greylock-state-reservation-scenic-byway-to-summit-lanesboroughma/



Pettibone Farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

throughout Lanesborough, with parking located near the entrance to the former Berkshire Mall. To the south, the trail provides scenic views of wetlands and wildlife habitats on its way into the city of Pittsfield. To the North, the trail provides several wildlife viewing areas and runs alongside Berkshire Pond and Cheshire Reservoir on its way into Cheshire.

Constitution Hill and Potter Mountain offer hiking trails with scenic views throughout Lanesborough into Hancock and Pittsfield. The mountains feature numerous vistas. Along Old Cheshire Road, there are several preserved farmlands providing scenic views in the Northeastern portion of town.

Collectively, nearly everywhere in town is or is very close to a scenic view of the town's landscape, wildlife, vegetation, and waterways.

Major Characteristic or Unusual Geologic Features

Balance Rock is one of Berkshire County's most known unusual geological feature. Formed by glacial deposits placed a 165-ton boulder resting upon a smaller one, appearing to balance on it. The feature is a prominent feature of the Pittsfield State Forest, which is managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Further north, there are several caves drawing the attention of spelunkers located in the Widow White's Peak area near Bailey Road, Silver Street, and along Secum Brook.

Cultural, archeological, and historic areas

The remnants of the early days of the town's 258-year history remain present, adding to the character and charm that attracts many families to move and stay in Lanesborough. The downtown area is home to many historic buildings and the farmland, which coalesces to create a bucolic setting.

Sites on the National Register

There are several properties in Lanesborough listed on the National Register of Historic Places²⁴.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church was built in 1836 in the rare Adam style of Gothic architectural style. As settlers from the New Haven, Conn. area moved northward into Lanesborough, the Episcopalian community grew prominently in the town's early formative years. The parish's records date back to 1767, when they were founded in the living room of William Bradley's farmhouse, which



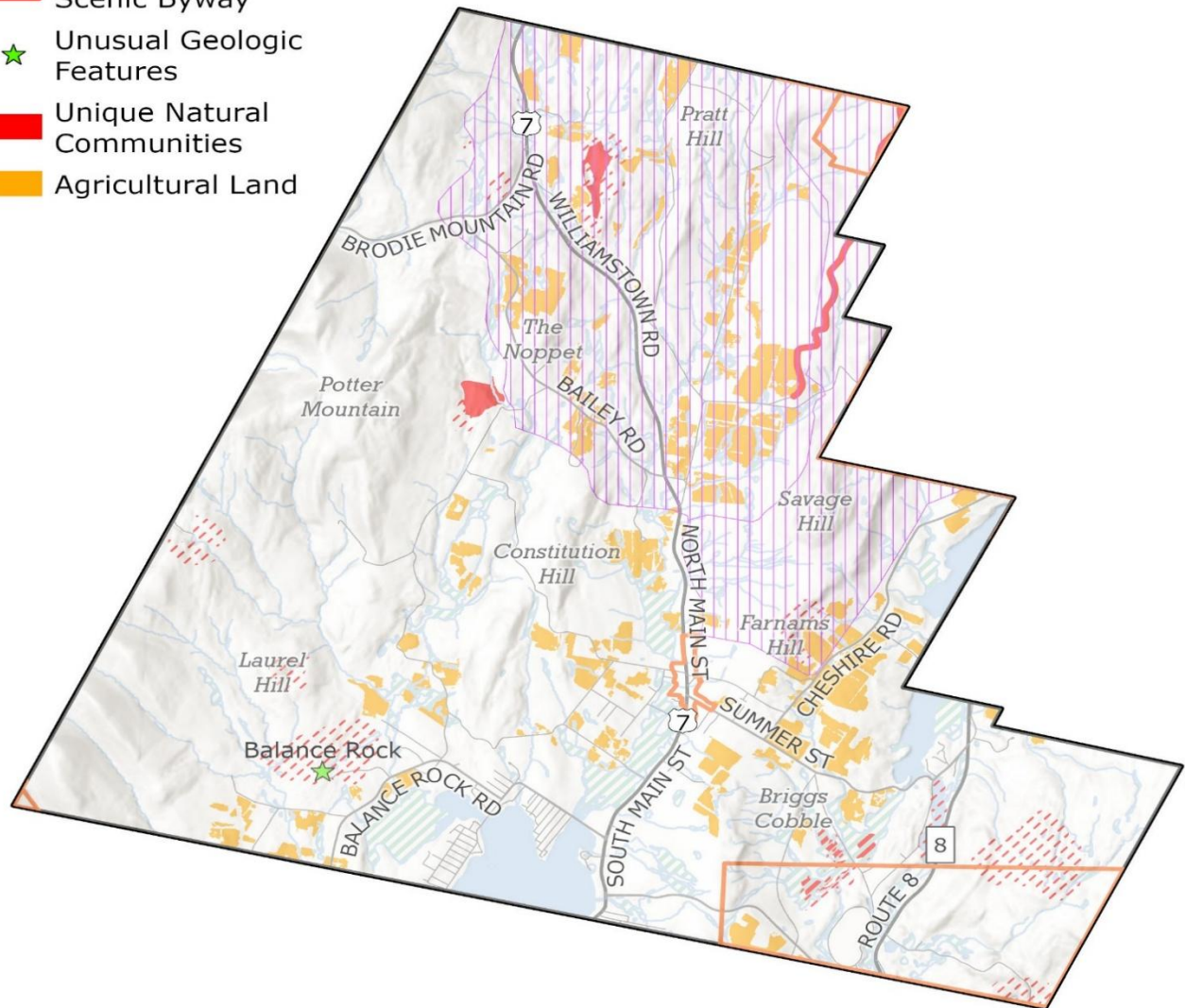
Known as the old stone church, St. Luke's is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

²⁴<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>

Unique Features

Town of Lanesborough

-  Historic Areas
-  Scenic Landscapes
-  Priority Habitats of Rare Species
-  Scenic Byway
-  Unusual Geologic Features
-  Unique Natural Communities
-  Agricultural Land



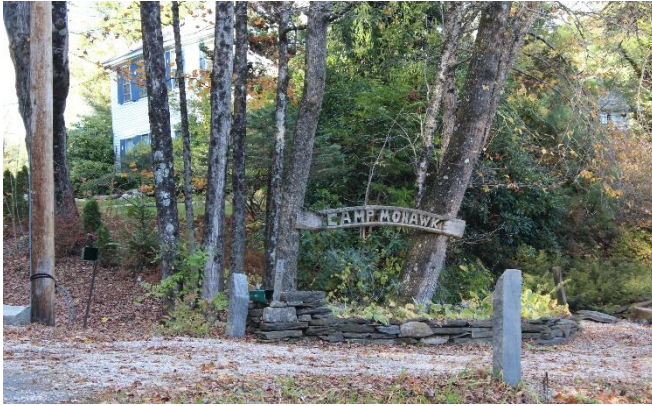
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BRPC
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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The unique features demonstrates the variety and location of several unique features, including rare species, a scenic byway, unique natural communities, agricultural land, and unusual geologic features.



Pettibone Farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

makes Lanesborough's parish the 11th oldest Episcopalian parish in Massachusetts. The parish also boasts of being the first church in New

England to host a Christmas tree inside the building. Shortly after construction, lightning struck the church tower, and for more than two centuries it leaned slightly. In 1898, the parish constructed St. Luke's Parish Hall and stopped using the stone church regularly.

In 2017, the parish celebrated its bicentennial anniversary and undertook a restoration project to preserve the windows and an 1862 Johnson Organ. In 2021, the Episcopal Church sold the building to a private entity and now known as Hinterland Hall is a bed and breakfast resort. The new owners reconstructed the historic bell tower. The building is the only one in town with a historic preservation restriction

Pettibone Farm is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The farm is located near the Cheshire border on Old Cheshire Road. The farm features a 1780 farmhouse, four period barns, cabins, and other outbuildings. Col. Jonathan Pettibone, who served as a lieutenant during the Revolutionary War, built the home between 1787 and 1789, and it stayed in the family for more than a century. The property, which over

time grew to encompass 350 acres, was farmed until the family sold it. In 1936, Frederick Westphal turned the property into Camp Mohawk. The change of use aligns with Berkshire County's transition from a farming community to a tourism-based economy.

The Schulman family acquired the property in 1946 and expanded Camp Mohawk and added cabins behind the main house. The Schulmans closed the camp in 2017 and in 2024 listed it for sale.

Unique Environments

The Commonwealth has not identified any areas in Lanesborough as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern²⁵ a designation for communities with unique and significant natural and cultural resources. The program recognizes significant ecosystems and fosters stewardship of those properties.

However, all of Lanesborough is part of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area. The federal recognition of 29 communities in western Massachusetts and northwestern Connecticut honors the distinctive history and geography. It is one of 23 heritage areas in the nation. The National Park Service provides technical assistance and support as well as access to federal grant programs.



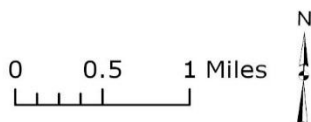
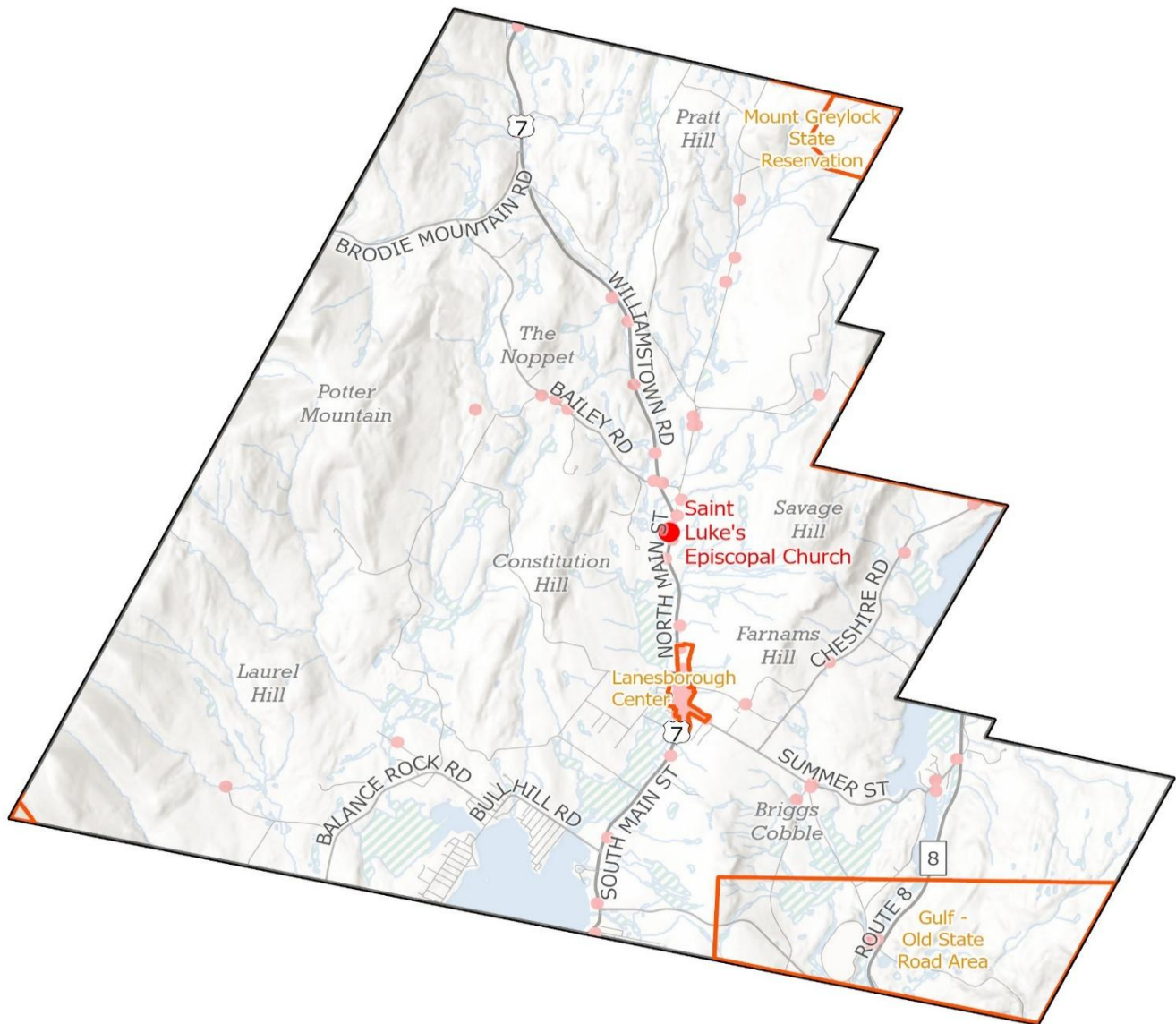
The wetlands spanning westward toward Constitution Hill is a priority habitat.

²⁵ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/acec-program-overview>

Historic Resources

Town of Lanesborough

- Historic Points
- ▭ Historic Areas
- MassHistoric Points



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Lanesborough's downtown corridor has several points of historic interest.



The National Heritage identifies the Balance Rock area as a priority habitat for rare species.

MassWildlife and the Nature Conservancy offer Biomap to assist communities in identifying unique environments. The map identifies 10,580.9 acres of land as critical natural landscapes specifically identifying scenic areas that development has not impacted. Critical natural landscapes represent 55.9% of the total land area. Biomap identifies 5,155.5 acres of core habitats; 4,990.1 acres of local components, and 10,585.5 acres of regional components.

The National Heritage identifies several areas of priority habitats for rare species in Lanesborough. There are four environments located in the Pittsfield State Forest spanning to Potter Mountain. The largest priority habitat is in Balance Rock. Two other areas are located to the east of Balance Rock Trail and there is another large environment at the peak of Potter Mountain Road.

Other priority habitats on the western side of town are located on Farnams Hill, overlapping with Fletcher Farm Conservation area, on the western side of Old Cheshire Road; in the wetlands along Town Brook, spanning from Bridge Street northward to just past Laston Field, and spanning westward toward Constitution Hill; and Widow's White's Peak, along Secum Brook on the western side of Silver Street.

Berkshire Pond, the wetlands to the northeast of the former Berkshire Mall Property, and a large section in the Chalet Wildlife Management Area to the east of Route 8 are all identified as priority habitats.

Other habitats are located on the northwestern side of Brodie Mountain Road, at Barton's Ledge, the wetlands near Pratt Hill, and a small sliver along Town Brook near the former Donnybrook Golf Course.

Climate Change Impacts

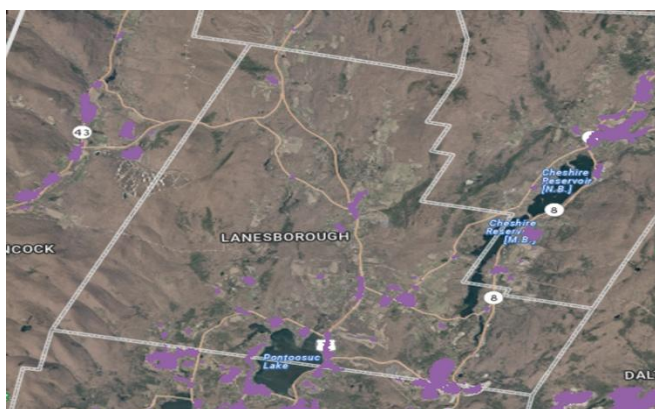
Climate change reflects a need for the town to adapt to the forecasted changes. ResilientMass provides projections demonstrating the changes in the town of Lanesborough in the next seven decades²⁶.

ResilientMass anticipates a 6.4% increase in total precipitation by 2030 and a 12.4% increase by 2090. The average temperature will rise by 9.9 degrees. ResilientMass anticipates an increased chance of severe storms, greater wind, and extreme temperatures. The town's 2018 Municipal Vulnerable Preparedness Plan identifies the top hazards as flooding, high winds, ice and snow, fire,



The Bridge Street Park is recognized as a hot spot.

²⁶ <https://resilientma-mapcenter-mass-eoea.hub.arcgis.com/#ClimateDashboard>



The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs maintains a statewide map of hot spots. There are several hot spots throughout the town of Lanesborough/

and extreme temperatures. The greatest area of concern is the watershed and recharge area for the Town Brook aquifer, the town's drinking water supply, and the developed area on the northern shore of Pontoosuc Lake.

The Town Brook aquifer is vulnerable to contamination from hazardous materials that are transported along Main Street/Route 7, which is one of two main north-south transportation routes in the county. Protecting the town's water supply emerged as a central theme in the development of its Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan. The developed properties north of the lake impact the water quality of the lake, are vulnerable to flooding, and the water lines are prone to freezing and bursting in winter.

The Lanesborough Water District, which supplies water to approximately 80% of town residents, is vulnerable to well contamination. The district identified an additional source, which is anticipated to begin operations in 2028. The new well is located in the floodplain west of the Bull Hill Road causeway. The well will be drilled through more than 450 feet of densely packed gravel into an underground aquifer in the limestone layer

underlying the surface. The new well will provide a large quantity of excellent water. Sedimentation from dirt roads and failing septic systems on the north shore of Pontoosuc Lake poses a water quality hazard are water quality concerns. Greater stormwater runoff related to climate change will increase the runoff into the lake.

Discharge from contamination on Route 7 pose a water quality hazard for both Town Brook and Pontoosuc Lake.

There are several locations the town can seek to add cooling measures. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' hot spot map identifies several locations where establishing parks with cooling measures are ideal²⁷. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs defines a hot spot as an area with the 5% highest land surface temperature index in the region²⁸.

Notably, the Bridge Street Park, which is currently underutilized, is in a hot spot location. The Age-Friendly Park Committee is currently developing plans to redevelop the parcel into a senior park.



The Bull Hill Road causeway is currently a flood prone area.

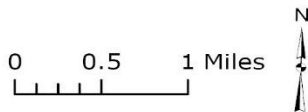
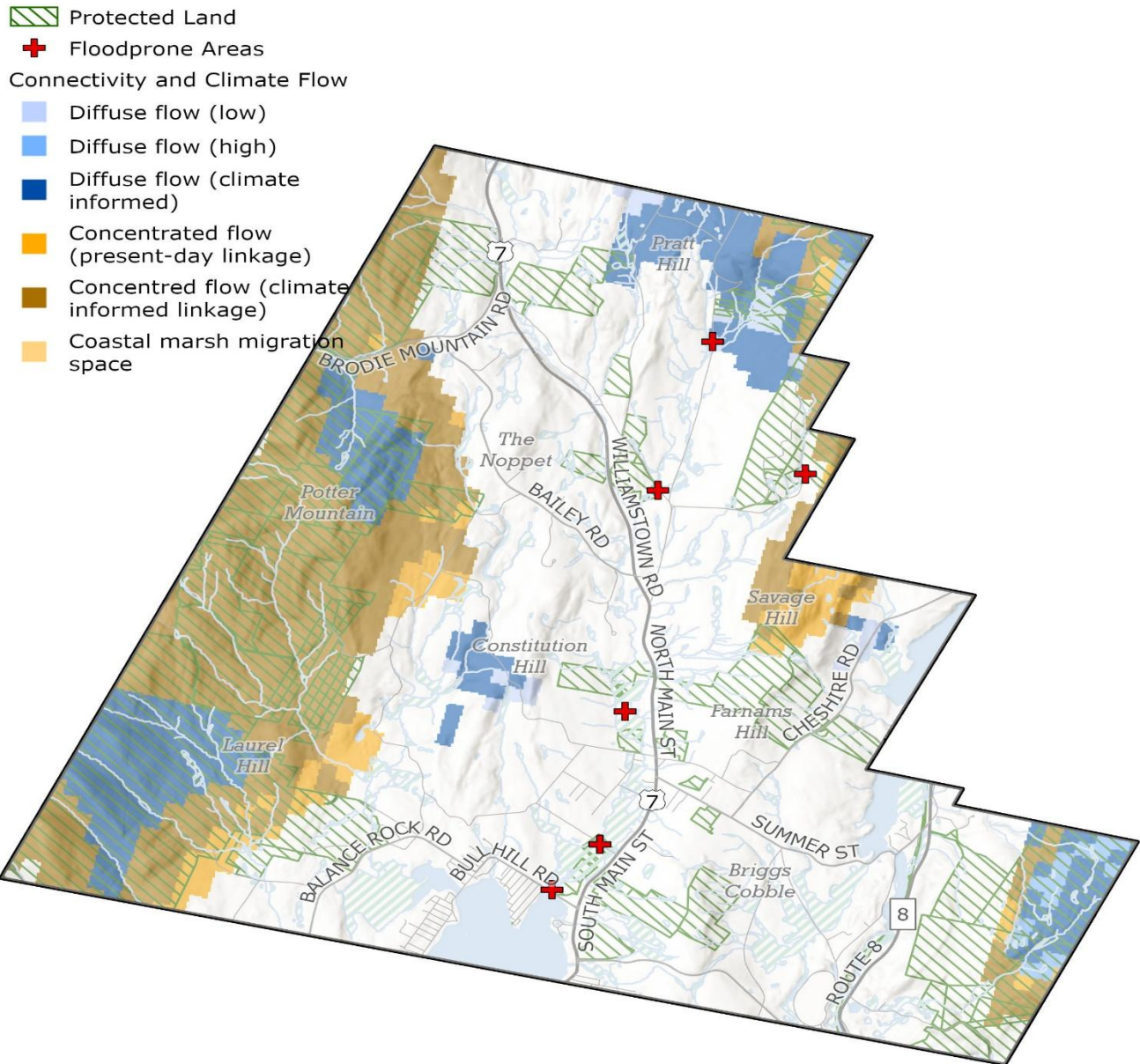
²⁷ <https://mass-eoea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?layers=6ef24687f7bf443085e22a1b65017354>

28

<https://resilient.mass.gov/gear/Guide/ViewGuide/EconomyxHeat>

Climate Change

Town of Lanesborough



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The town must be prepared for flooding, high winds, and more extreme weather.

Conservation and Recreation Lands Inventory

Open space is defined as conservation, forested, recreation, agricultural land and underdeveloped areas. The spaces provide opportunities for outdoor recreation located in natural settings and with minimum disturbance of the natural resources. Recreation lands provide active recreational opportunities, most traditionally recognized at parks, sports fields, and playgrounds.

Open space and recreational properties range from wetlands to forests to meadows to lakes, each of which provide valuable habitat and promote health benefits. A robust inventory of open spaces leads to better health outcomes, greater enjoyment of life, and preserves the community's air and water quality.

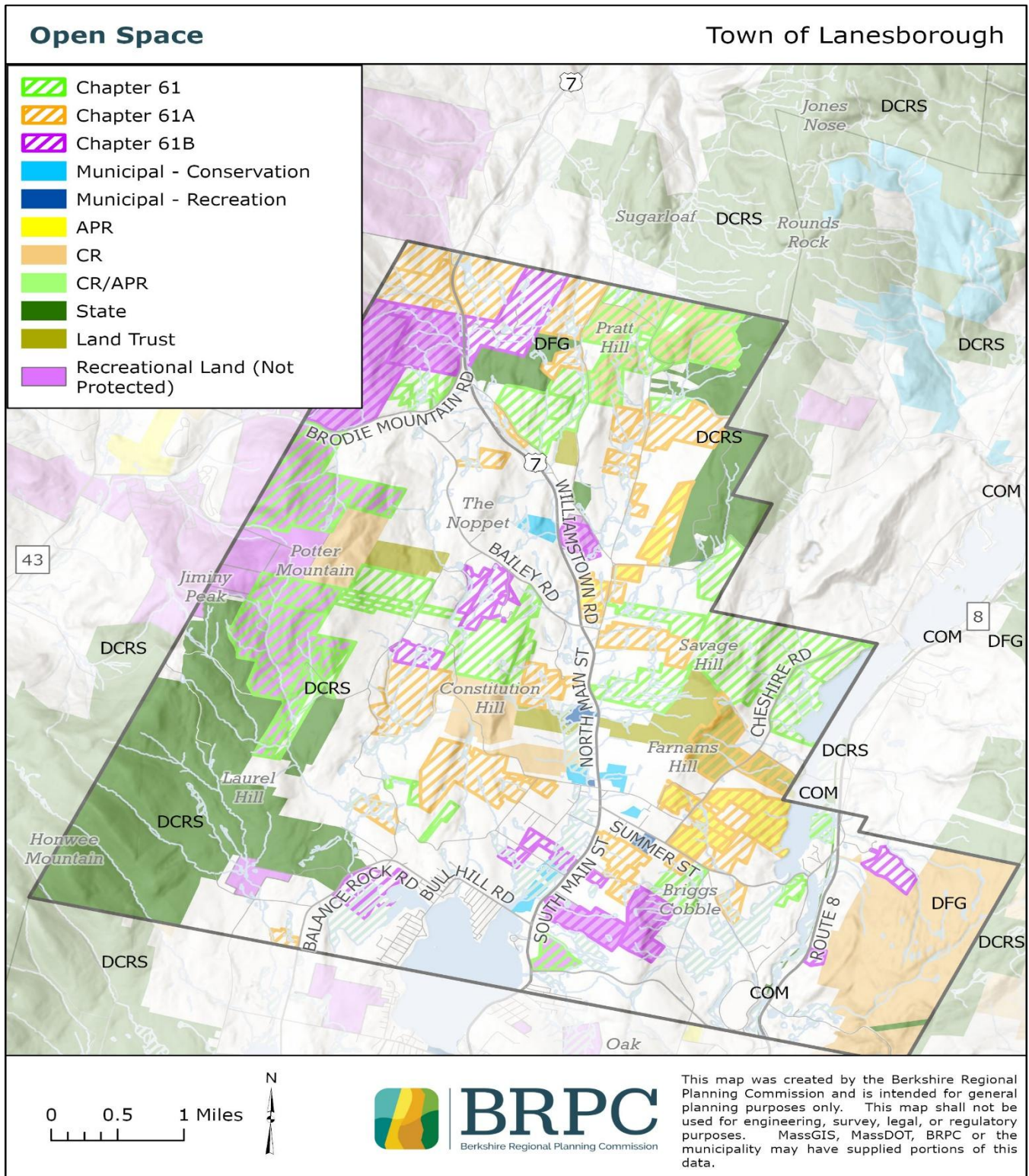
The Massachusetts Constitution guarantees people the “right to clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment.” The Commonwealth utilizes Article 97 to impose higher thresholds for the development of land dedicated to the protections afforded in the law. Land the Commonwealth designates as having Article 97 protections require a two-third vote from the Legislature for it to be disposed.

Subsequently, in 1998 the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs imposed a policy requiring the communities or the Commonwealth to replace any land that is removed from Article 97 designation and in 2022 the Legislature passed “An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth,” which codified several Article 97 provisions including that proponents seeking to remove Article 97 protections from land provide public notifications, inform the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary, provide alternative analysis, detail efforts to avoid or minimize the impact to land, and a detailed explanation of replacement land.

Collectively, Article 97 land is considered permanently protected from development.

The Commonwealth utilizes legal mechanisms to preserve open space under Article 97. Mass General Law c. 184 § 31-33 authorizes the Secretary of Energy and Environment Affairs to issue permanent restrictions on land it deems in the public interest. Public and private land owners may also seek other legal mechanisms to protect important agricultural, open space, and conservation land. The law provides a mechanism for protection of lands with importance for conservation, historic preservation, agricultural, watershed, and affordable housing. Each restriction permanently protects the land from future development in exchange for tax benefits. The restrictions are enforced the property deed and considered permanent protections. Conservation Restrictions and Agricultural Restrictions are considered by the Commonwealth as deed-restricted, permanent protections.

Further environmental land protections are outlined in Mass General Law c. 61, 61A, and 61B. Chapter 61 protects forest land; 61A protects agricultural land, and 61B protects recreation land. Known as “chapter lands,” the protections are temporary and provide landowners tax relief in exchange for land restrictions during a 10-year time. The three programs temporarily halt development and requires a land management plan. The Commonwealth places a lien on the landowner's property for the protections.



The Open Space map inventories all of the open space and recreational land in Lanesborough as well as noting the ownership of state properties.

Lanesborough has 17,598 acres of undeveloped land throughout town, nearly half of which have either temporary or permanent protections. There are 8,954.61 acres of protected land in the town of Lanesborough consisting of a mix of Conservation Protection, Agricultural Protection, and Chapter 61,61A and 61B.

Municipally-owned Conservation and Recreation Properties

William Laston Memorial Park is the town's primary town-owned outdoor recreational property. The 17.4-acre property located on North Main Street is a sporting complex featuring baseball and a softball fields, a football field, a basketball court, a playground, benches, access to Town Brook, and an ADA-compliant walking path. The property is bordered by Town Brook to the west – beyond which is the Constitution Hill Reserve owned by Berkshire Natural Resources Council. Community members expressed support for developing new trails that will connect the two properties.

Narragansett Park is a neighborhood park featuring a soccer field and basketball court. Located along Pontoosuc Lake, a town right of way provides access to the lake.

Prior to the development of Laston Memorial Park, the Bridge Street Park served as the primary location for youth sports. The park features a baseball field, basketball court, and access to Town Brook. Organized sports now use Laston and the park is currently unused. The Age-Friendly Park Committee is currently developing a plan to redevelop the park to primarily serve older adults.

Lanesborough Elementary School also features soccer fields, basketball court, and a playground. The Town Beach, located at the end of Sunrise Street, offers swimming opportunities.

The town does not have sufficient ADA accommodations in its park system. Collectively, the active outdoor recreation spaces provide opportunities for organized youth sports, but the parks themselves lack activities for adults, seniors, and people with disabilities.

The town owns the Zucker property, which is conserved land and provides passive recreational opportunities such as hiking and hunting. The property offers potential for greater recreational use.

Additionally, the town owns three cemeteries, the former Berkshire Spring, and protects 29.31 acres of land for its water supply. None of those properties offer recreational potential.

Municipally-owned Conservation and Recreation Properties

Property Name	Location	Size	Current Use	Recreation Potential	Condition	Public Access	Grant
Berkshire Spring	Summer Street	.6 acres	None	None	Poor	No	No
Bill Laston Memorial Field	315 North Main Street	Two parcels 17.4	Softball, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, football, walking and running, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, playground	Sports fields, outdoor fitness equipment, connection with hiking trails, fishing access, playgrounds, courts, dog park	Good	Yes	No
Mark Belanger Field	Bridge Street	2.9 acres including Town Hall building	Baseball field, basketball court, brook access	Senior park, youth sports, fishing access, dog park	Poor	Yes	No
Lanesborough Elementary School	188 Summer Street	13.1 including school	Sports fields, playground	Youth sports, playgrounds	Excellent	Yes	No
Lanesborough Water Supply	20 Bridge Street	29.31	Water supply	None	Excellent	No	No
Town Beach	Sunrise Street	.1	Beach, swimming	Beach, swimming, boat launch	Poor	Yes	No
Narragansett Park	Narragansett Avenue	1.1	Sports fields, benches, basketball court	Boat launch, fishing access, playgrounds, sports facilities, dog park	Good	Yes	No

Conservation and Recreation Lands Inventory

Center Cemetery	South Main Street	1.9	Cemetery	Cemetery	Good	Yes	No
Mountainview Cemetery	Off Summer Street	5.82	Cemetery	Cemetery	Good	Yes	No
Talcott Cemetery	North Main Street	1	Cemetery	Cemetery	Good	Yes	No
Pettibone Cemetery	Cheshire Road	.39	Cemetery	Cemetery	Average	Yes	No
Zucker Property	Williamstown Road	29.47	None	Hiking trails, wildlife refuge, birdwatching	Undeveloped	Yes	No

Public Properties Providing Conservation and Recreation Amenities

The Commonwealth owns the majority of acres in the town of Lanesborough for conservation and recreational purposes.

The Pittsfield State Forest is the largest tract of state-owned conservation land. There are more than 2,080 acres in the town of Lanesborough, including Balance Rock. The land is preserved and managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and provides numerous hiking trails, camping areas, scenic views, all terrain vehicle trails, and hunting opportunities.

The Mountain Greylock State Reservation spans more than 12,000 acres throughout Lanesborough and its neighboring communities. Approximately 553 acres of Mount Greylock are located in Lanesborough. The land is preserved and managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and provides numerous hiking trails, camping areas, scenic views, all terrain vehicle trails, and hunting opportunities.

The Ashuwillticook Trail is a popular multi-purpose trail spanning 14 miles from the city of Pittsfield to North Adams. Pontoosuc Lake is also owned by the Commonwealth. The Great Pond spans 480 acres split between Lanesborough and the city of Pittsfield.

Public Properties Providing Conservation and Recreation Amenities			
Property Name	Landowner	Current Use	Acres in Lanesborough
Pittsfield State Forest	Division of State Parks and Recreation	Hiking, Motorized Vehicle Trails, Mountain Biking	2080.98
Ashuwillticook Rail Trail	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Multi-use Trail	20.20
Barton's Ledge WMA	Department of Fish and Game	Hiking, birding, hunting, fishing	60.72
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	Hiking, birding, hunting, fishing, connected with Appalachian Trail	912.42
Lanesborough Natural Area	Department of Fish and Game	Hiking, birding, hunting, motorized vehicle trails	88.38

Pontoosuc Lake	Division of Capital Asset Management	Swimming, fishing, boating, waterskiing, diving, and more	272
Mount Greylock State Reservation	Division of State Parks and Recreation	Hiking, birding, hunting, motorized vehicle trails	553.21

Source: Lanesborough Assessor's Office.

Permanently Protected Private Parcels

Massachusetts General Law provides provisions for landowners to adopt in order to assist in meeting the state's goals of preserving important land for agricultural and conservation purposes. Conservation Restrictions and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions are legal agreements between state partners and private entities to permanently restrict development on parcels of public interest in exchange for tax relief.

The state also provides landowners of agricultural, recreational, and forestry land with tax incentives through Chapter 61.

Lanesborough has 8,197.05 acres of land in either one of the 61 programs, an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, or a Conservation Restriction. Details of each type of protection and the properties currently enrolled is available below.

Conservation Restrictions

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs administers a statewide Conservation Restriction program. The program intended to protect privately-owned areas of public conservation interest.

In Lanesborough, Berkshire Natural Resources; the American Chestnut Nominee Trust, and Hazel Holman utilized the program. Notable properties include Chalet Wildlife Management Area, which extends into Dalton and Cheshire near Gulf Road and connecting the Boulders; Constitution Hill at the top of Bridge Street; Widow White Peak near Silver Street; the Boulders, and Holman's property as part of the Mount Greylock State Reservation.

All properties in Conservation Restriction are fully accessible for the public the enjoy. A total of 1,808.39 acres are permanently protected with conservation restrictions.

Conservation Restrictions

Property Name	Owner	Ownership Type	Public Access	Acres
The Boulders	Berkshire Natural Resources	Land Trust	Full	41.21
The Boulders	Berkshire Natural Resources	Land Trust	Full	56.32
Mount Greylock State Reservation	Hazel M Holman	Private	Full	179.61
Mount Greylock State Reservation	Hazel M Holman	Private	Full	221.86
Widow White	Berkshire Natural Resources	Land Trust	Full	159.68
Constitution Hill	American Chestnut Nominee Trust	Private	Full	74.67
Constitution Hill	American Chestnut Nominee Trust	Private	Full	175.50
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Full	23.83
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Full	30.20
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Full	43.57
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Full	103.94
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Full	110.02
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Full	211.18
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Full	376.79

Agricultural Preservation Restrictions

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources recognizes that land values for developed land exceed that of agriculture. In an effort to supporting farmers from selling agricultural land to developers, the Commonwealth offers Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on properties to make up the difference in values.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources calculate the difference between the value of development and agricultural land and pays property owners the difference in exchange for a deed-restriction on the property that prevents the owner from selling it to a developer. The program additionally provides tax incentives.

Three farms enrolled in the program in Lanesborough. Wirtes Farm and Berkshire Harvest; Windy Ridge Farm; and the Collins N Tr APR on Old Cheshire Road. Combined, the farms account for 329.33 acres of land in Lanesborough with Agricultural Preservation Restrictions.

Agricultural Preservation Restrictions

Property Name	Location	Current Use	Acreage	Level of Protection
Wirtes Farm And Berkshire Harvest	North Main Street	Agriculture	55.81	Perpetuity
Wirtes Farm And Berkshire Harvest	North Main Street	Agriculture	56.29	Perpetuity
Wirtes Farm And Berkshire Harvest	North Main Street	Agriculture	116.01	Perpetuity
Windy Ridge Farm	Old Cheshire Road	Agriculture	28.97	Perpetuity
Collins N Tr APR	Old Cheshire Road	Agriculture	16.95	Perpetuity
Collins N Tr APR	Old Cheshire Road	Agriculture	26.35	Perpetuity
Collins N Tr APR	Old Cheshire Road	Agriculture	28.95	Perpetuity

61, 61A, and 61B Protections

Massachusetts General Law provides landowners with conservation and agricultural financial incentives without requiring permanent deed restrictions. Massachusetts' Chapter 61 and its subsequent 61A and 61B carve out provisions for landowners to receive financial assistance to maintain open space and recreationally important land.

Chapter 61A: Agriculture

Chapter 61A is a state law providing property tax relief for property owners growing agricultural or horticultural products such as fruits, vegetables, ornamental shrubs, timber, animals, and maple syrup.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation requires land owners to have more than five acres of land and be actively managing the property for agricultural use.

There are 1,981.85 acres of land on 86 parcels in Lanesborough under Chapter 61A status. The largest include 188 acres on Goodell Road owned by Yael Shamons; 149.69 acres on Ole Orebed Road owned by David Plaza; and 410.03 acres on Williamstown Road owned by Harley Phelps.

Chapter 61A: Agriculture

Map-Parcel	Owner	Acres
101 25	SCHULTZ JAMES J	9.78
101 40	FLORES ERICKA	90.99
102 18	GLADU MITCHELL A	4.83
102 19	KOZIARA WILLIAM	31.94
102 19.1	GLADU MITCHELL A	8.74
102 20	KOZIARA WILLIAM	20.97
105 51	WALSH RICHARD FRANCIS	11.87
107 37	WESLOWSKI MICHAEL J SR 1/2	56.29
201 1	PHELPS HARLEY P JR	53.78
201 2	PHELPS HARLEY P JR	3.04
201 3	PHELPS HARLEY P JR	140.03
205 5	ROSS MICHELLE C	27.75
205 7	PHELPS HARLEY P JR	104.31
206 5	PHELPS HARLEY P JR	104.29
206 5.1	ZIMMERMAN MARY JANE PHELPS	11.81
208 45	JAMES E GALUSHA 2003 REVOCABLE TRUST THE	23.55
209 14	DRESCHER WILLIAM M	8.56
209 15	DRESCHER WILLIAM M	3.00
210 1	CARMAN FAMILY FARM TRUST	16.32

210 3	GARRITY CHARLES E III	28.85
210 4	GARRITY CHARLES E III	21.00
210 7	GARRITY CHARLES E III	105.41
211 10	ZAKS GORDON E	8.55
211 5	CARMAN EDWARD C JR A/KA/	14.11
211 8	WALTON NEXT GENERATION FARM NOMINEE TRUST THE	6.10
217 91	WIRTES ROBERTJ	35.86
217 98	BAILEY LINDA J 1/2	10.96
218 18	WIRTES ROBERT J	16.95
218 3	WIRTES ROBERT J	73.58
223 31	PLAZA DAVID J	149.69
228 1	MANGIARDI WILLIAM	35.97
229 7.1	SHAMOS YAEL	2.75
229 7.2	SHAMOS YAEL	188.97
230 1	WESLOWSKI MICHAEL J SR	28.97
230 12	GALLAGHER TIMOTHY MICHAEL 1/2	50.50
230 17	KINNEY SHAWN D	116.01
230 18	KINNEY SHAWN D	31.86
230 7	GALLAGHER TIMOTHY MICHAEL 1/2	123.69
234 1	WESLOWSKI MICHAEL J SR 1/2	26.35
234 11	WHITNEY ERIC	26.70
234 27	MAYNARD DEAN G	11.98
234 29	CARTER JERRY L	27.74
234 3	WILSON DAVID WHITING	43.70
235 3	WILSON DAVID WHITING	48.40
240 11	KASUBA MICHAEL T	13.37
240 12	KASUBA MICHAEL	2.00

Chapter 61B

Chapter 61B is a state tax relief program to support recreational properties that do not interfere with the environmental benefits of the land such as hiking, camping, nature study, golfing, boating, hunting, skiing, swimming, and more.

A land owner must have five acres or more of land to enroll in the program. Unlike other Chapter programs, property owners in 61B are not required to have an active forest management plan.

Lanesborough has 16 properties in Chapter 61B status, accounting for 1,196.06 acres of land. The largest include Feronia Holdings' (Ramblewild) 295.61 acres of land on Brodie Mountain; 192.42 acres of land across from the former Donnybrook on Williamstown Road owned by Mark Brantly; and the 161.3 acres of land of the former Donnybrook Golf Course.

Chapter 61B: Open Space and Recreation

Map-Parcel	Owner	Acres
109 30	KESER AARON J	14.84
109 7	BOLOGNIA DANIEL A JR	33.97
122 1	TERPAK EVANGELA ANDREA	10.56
205 1	BRANTLY MARK LOUIS	192.42
206 4	DONNYBROOK INC	161.30
208 16	FERONIA HOLDINGS, LLC	295.61
212 36	MT GREYLOCK CAMPSITE PARK LLC	2.81
212 37	MT GREYLOCK CAMPSITE PARK LLC	38.14
217 59	GREYLOCK ESTATES HOMEOWNERS	61.84
217 73	NOBLE DIANA	27.65
223 26	ONE HAPPY ISLAND, LLC	37.73
233 19	FILKINS LAWRENCE R	48.64
235 4	KELLOGG JEFFREY	7.36
236 10	MESSER RICHARD J	85.35
242 11	SKYLINE ON SEVEN LLC	81.12
243 40	SKYLINE ON SEVEN LLC	96.72

Chapter 61

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation utilizes Chapter 61 to support property owners who are actively managing forestland. Land owners enrolling in the program receive property tax reductions each year as an incentive to preserve the Commonwealth's timber producing capacity.

A property owner must own at least 10 acres of forest land and have an active forest management plan.

Approximately 2,906.77 acres on 39 different parcels in Lanesborough is enrolled in Chapter 61. The largest areas of 62 forest land include 472 acres off of Silver Street on seven parcels owned by the Pittsfield Sportsmen's Club; 446 acres on two parcels at the end of North Main Street owned by Hazel Holman; more than 400 acres at the base of Mount Greylock on two parcels owned by the Farnams Goodlife Corp; and 299.11 acres on Brodie Mountain Road owned by Cricket Trails, LLC.

Chapter 61: Forestry

Map-Parcel	Owner	Acres
101 31.1	JOHNKE MARK B.	63.76
103 13	THAYER JAMES	111.75
116 2	BAKER'S GOLF, LLC	43.80
119 24	PATRIQUIN WILLIAM	23.71
120 47	SMITH-DENEALT NOMINEE TRUST	17.24

204 2	HODGSON THOMAS S	13.25
204 4	HOLMAN HAZEL M	252.97
204 5	HOLMAN HAZEL M	193.63
208 15	CRICKET TRAILS, LLC	299.11
208 19	BROWER LUCILLE R 1/3	43.78
208 19.1	PARIS RICHARD	14.65
208 22	GOLDMAN DEBORAH L	14.37
209 16	DRESCHER WILLIAM M	105.34
209 22	DRESCHER WILLIAM M	84.83
210 6.2	AMICK CARL G	28.25
213 1	CRICKET TRAILS, LLC	55.04
215 6	PITTSFIELD SPORTSMEN`S CLUB	96.08
216 19	KEELER BARBARA M	13.47
216 5.1	JOHNSON VICTORIA W	10.16
216 6	WOJTKOWSKI VICTORIA M	19.16
216 7	WOJTKOWSKI VICTORIA M	21.40
216 8	SADLOWSKI ROBERT A	83.36
217 1	YOST ELEANOR M L/E	30.70
217 3	YOST ELEANOR M L/E	187.86
218 10	CHILDS DAVID J	64.73
220 2	FARNAMS GOODLIFE CORP	352.11
220 5	FARNAMS GOODLIFE CORP	51.60
220 6	R & S SCHULMAN LLC	101.80
223 15	MARTYNOWICZ LYNN M	29.74
223 16	PITTSFIELD SPORTSMEN` S CLUB	9.44
223 17	PITTSFIELD SPORTSMEN` S CLUB	9.59
223 18	PITTSFIELD SPORTSMEN`S CLUB	9.47
223 19	MELLE DOUGLAS L L/E	11.71
224 7	PITTSFIELD SPORTSMEN`S CLUB	279.30
224 8	PITTSFIELD SPORTSMEN` S CLUB	36.61
224 9	PITTSFIELD SPORTSMEN` S CLUB	32.01
228 25	SMITH LAURIE A	14.94
234 25	GOLD KAREN R	63.00
236 54.4	KOZIARA SUSAN L	13.05

Open Space Equity

While Lanesborough does not have an Environmental Justice Community, it has a responsibility to ensure that all residents and visitors have equitable access to safe, well-maintained recreational opportunities.

The Shaker Ridge Trail project provides unique opportunity to provide equitable access to open spaces and nature. The plan for the property includes trails specifically designed to support adaptive mountain biking equipment. The trails will be free, providing an additional opportunity for people with medical conditions or disabilities and families with low incomes to experience the hilly landscape on Lanesborough's western border. The project is a high priority because it will provide a new opportunity for people to experience nature.

The current recreational landscape provides opportunities for the town to restore the underutilized neighborhood parks on Narragansett Avenue and Bridge Street. The parks are relatively small but provide access in close proximity to neighborhoods, which is of heightened importance because of the infrequency of public transportation available in Lanesborough. There is only a bus line that services Lanesborough and rideshare options are limited.

The town recently upgraded the Narragansett Avenue Park basketball court, but it lacks accessible routes to support people with medical conditions or disabilities. Bridge Street Park has been mostly unused since the construction of Laston Park and faces accessibility issues.

Both parks could offer free recreational access with no barriers of entry based on income and should be prioritized for improvements, such as the plan for an age-friendly park on Bridge Street. The parks both provide easily accessible locations to socialize and enjoy nature. While plans for Bridge Street are currently in motion, Narragansett is a blank canvas, allowing town officials to a community-based planning project to design the park to have the features that best support the neighborhood.

The town beach is small and there are access challenges associated with its location. The town's efforts in the next decade to put greater emphasis on it will provide free experience in Lanesborough that currently does not exist elsewhere in town. A sandy beach experience currently requires someone to travel, at a minimum, to Pittsfield's Onota Lake.

The state's project to extend a complete streets project to Laston Park is a priority because it provides full walking and bicycling infrastructure connecting the neighboring Environmental Justice Community in Pittsfield with Laston Park. The city of Pittsfield's Phase 2 restoration of Pontoosuc Lake Park will make more outdoor recreational experiences available to people who do not have cars or are financially limited from participating in fee-based services. The connectivity is important for Lanesborough residents to access additional spaces and recreational opportunities.

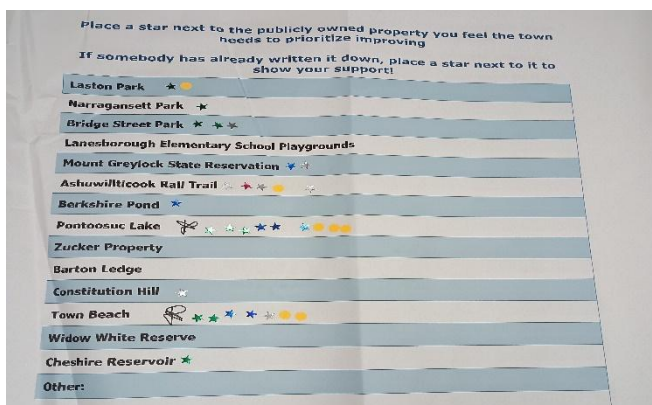
Analysis of Needs

Surveying, public outreach, and analysis of the existing outdoor recreation assets and natural resources identified several needs in Lanesborough to protect environmentally sensitive land, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and create outdoor recreational opportunities that support the resident health, wellbeing, and enjoyment.

Summary of Natural Resource Protection Needs

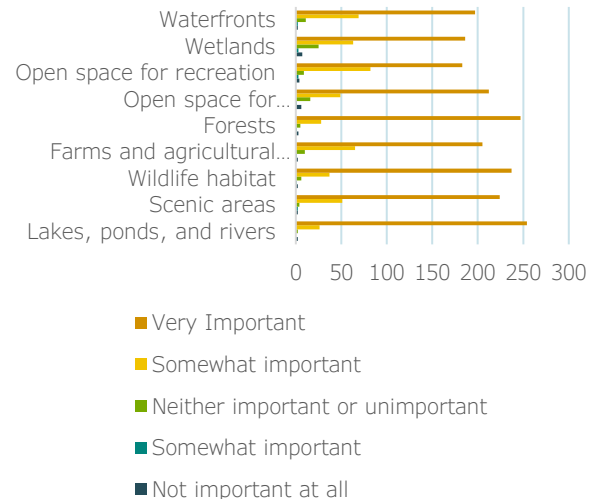
The lakes, ponds, and rivers are the top conservation priorities for the community. A total of 99% of survey respondents reported that those are important to conserve compared to 88% of survey respondents who listed conserving wetlands as important.

Both Pontoosuc and Cheshire Reservoir are not only priority recreational assets but vitally important wildlife habitats. Lanesborough will participate in a lake health study for Pontoosuc Lake with the Department of Environmental



Pontoosuc Lake and town beach are the properties residents said at a January community conversation that they want the town to prioritize with improvements.

How important is it for Lanesborough to preserve the following types of open spaces?



The community survey demonstrated a high priority on waterfronts.

Protection, which will provide greater detail on the conservation needs.

In recent years, the town has remained committed to reducing stormwater runoff into the lakes. The town should continue to examine opportunities to address runoff from the roads surrounding the lake. The homes along Bull Hill Road and the lakefront neighborhoods are not on a public sewer system and rely on septic, which could fail over time. The town established a long-term goal of working with the city of Pittsfield to expand the public infrastructure into the lake neighborhoods and, while it is a daunting task, the town should continue to pursue it.

Cheshire Reservoir is an important natural resource for the community and should be prioritized. The town needs to work with the town of Cheshire to protect the reservoir.

There are multiple areas in town that host rare plant communities. The wetland complex in the Swamp Road/Partridge Road area is particularly rare and sensitive and must be protected. The

“If we are to address invasive species it would help to define them, send bulletins/make a list available, and provide resources for dealing with them, whether funding, tools, or volunteers.” – Survey Respondent

town should ensure that any development in the area does not impact the wetlands.

Survey respondents also supported promoting low-impact development to reduce surface and groundwater pollution.

Examining the town’s land use policies to ensure that the town’s protections are protecting the environment should be an ongoing effort.

The survey takers particularly urge town officials to seek grants and partner with nonprofit partners to acquire environmentally important areas. A total of 89% of survey respondents supported it as a top tool to support conservation.

The large amount of forest land in the town of Lanesborough is significant compared to urban environments. However, the United States Forest Service estimates that approximately 7,006 acres of forest throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is developed into non-forest land each year. Seventy-seven percent of those who took the Lanesborough Open Space and Recreation survey cited the forests and mountains as what they value the most during outdoor recreational activities.

Protecting the forest’s health and promoting sustainable forestry practices is a highly supported need to preserve the ecosystem.

Lanesborough has ongoing project with Berkshire Natural Resources to expand protected areas and

increase outdoor recreational opportunities and continues to evaluate additional parcels for potential protection.

The loss of recent high value commercial property from the tax role stresses the town’s budget and revenues making it difficult for the town to make major investments in conservation land. Access to the state’s Land Acquisitions for Natural Diversity program helps provide access to capital to continue to build on the amount of protected land and provides the town the ability to quickly act if a property becomes available.

Additionally, the Community Preservation Act provides an additional revenue to support open space protection. During the development of the



The preservation of natural resources is not only important for the environment but also to support the town’s recreational needs. Survey takers overwhelmingly reported that they value natural beauty, forests, and water resources when participating in outdoor recreational activities.

town's recent Master Plan, 52.41% of survey respondents are in favor of pursuing the program.

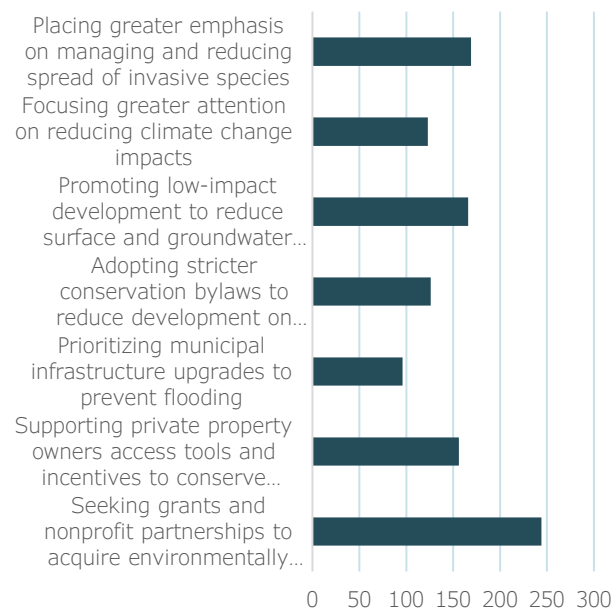
Identifying and pursuing revenue opportunities and partnerships is critical for the protection of natural resources.

Survey respondents ranked placing a greater emphasis on managing and reducing the spread of invasive species second among conservation tools at a 61% rate.

Invasive species is a prominent concern among property managers of large open space and recreational land. Among the 21 property owners Williams College students interviewed, eight reported consistent problems with invasive species.

Eight property owners specifically highlight Emerald Ash Border, five Oriental bittersweet, three multiflora rose, and two Japanese knotweed.

**What tools for land conservation
do you support the town utilizing?
(Pick your top five)**



The survey showed that the community is supportive of seeking grants to acquire property to protect natural resources.

“Improve education around the financial benefits of open space, conservation, and promotion of eco-tourism for town leadership and offices to understand how to leverage those resources.” – Survey Respondent

Other property owners mentioned beech leaf/bark disease. Invasive species are particularly harmful to the forest integrity. Property owners reported a significant problem with dead trees.

Additionally, Pontoosuc Lake is in constant invasive species removal. Each year, the Conservation Commissions in Lanesborough and Pittsfield authorize herbicide treatment to combat Eurasian milfoil, European naiad, curlyleaf pondweed, and water chestnut.

The prevalence of invasive species represents a significant threat to Lanesborough's natural resources and enhanced tree removal, invasive containment, and constant management is needed to protect the ecosystem.

The public outreach identified that there is a lack of knowledge among private land owners about how to address invasive species and property management. The town does not have an invasive species management plan nor a communication system in place to educate the public on invasive management.

The changing climate is an environmental threat to Lanesborough's ecosystem. Droughts, extreme weather events, and wind requires the town and property owners to take proactive steps to protect the environment.

The town is participating in a regional Municipal Vulnerability Plan to identify and prioritize ways to prepare for climate change and there is an urgent

"I would love to try more but as a wheelchair user my options are limited by the design of some activities. For example, I would kayak more if there was an adaptive boat launch." – Survey response

need for the town to implement the recommendations when complete.

Among the property managers responding to Williams College's questions, 52.4% affirmatively reported significant water and drainage issues. Addressing drainage and protecting important wetlands, waterways, and bodies of water is a need throughout town.

Lanesborough's 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan reported the existence of only two vernal pools and established a goal to certify more. Vernal pools are important habitats and lifecycles of amphibians and reptiles. The plan recognized 57 potential locations of vernal pools.

The efforts resulted in the certification of 39 additional vernal pools. The town should continue those efforts to identify, map, and certify vernal pools.

Lanesborough's landscape is dotted with large and small farms, most of which are protected with either an Agricultural Protection Restriction or in Chapter status. However, farmland throughout the nation continues to be developed. The town needs to take proactive steps to preserve farms and support the land owners.

Summary of Community's Outdoor Recreation Needs

The community survey asked respondents to list the outdoor activities they participate in. The top 10 outdoor activities are: hiking, dog walking, water activities, boating, bird watching, picnicking, using playgrounds, bicycling on the Rail Trail, downhill skiing/snowboarding, and field spots.

A separate question asked respondents to rate their overall satisfaction with the outdoor facilities in Lanesborough. Approximately 34% of respondents had positive satisfaction levels by indicating they are either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" on the survey.

Approximately 20% responded negatively by indicating they are either "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" on the survey. Most survey takers were indifferent, responding that they are neither

A designated fishing area at Bull Hill Rd, at the bridge, and limited designated parking... there are photographers, fishermen, and sightseers in this area so I believe there can be a happy medium between the needs of the watershed and the needs of residents of Lanesborough to enjoy this attraction safely" – Survey Respondent

satisfied nor dissatisfied.

In comparing those who have negative satisfaction levels by responding they are “very dissatisfied” or “dissatisfied,” those participating in water activities, boating, and fields sports “often or “very often” reported higher rates of negative views on the facilities. Among those listing boating, water activities, field sports, the rate of a negative respond increases to approximately 26%.

Conversely, those participating in bicycling on the Rail Trail and downhill skiing/snowboarding “often” or “very often” reported being “very satisfied” or “satisfied” at higher rates. For skiers and snowboards, 48% reported being “satisfied” or “dissatisfied” with the outdoor recreational facilities in Lanesborough and those who bicycle on the Rail Trail responded positively at a rate of 36%.

The disparities indicate that there is a need to improve access for swimming, boating, fishing, and other lake-based activities.

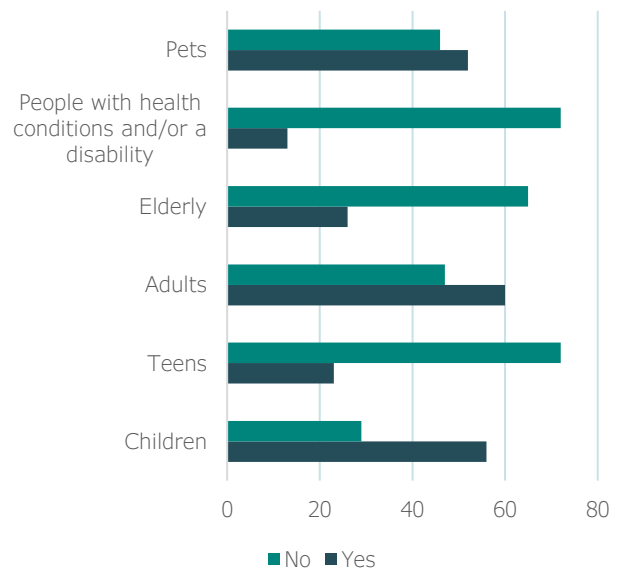
During the January 2026 community conversation, residents placed stars on a list of outdoor recreational properties they would like to see improved. The most stars were placed on Pontoosuc Lake and town beach, with at least one member of the public commenting that they were unaware there was a town beach.

The responses reinforce Pontoosuc as being a top recreational asset in Lanesborough and requiring improvements.

The most common comments from residents regarded the weeds in the lake, with residents reporting that it make it difficult for boating and swimming. The abundance of the comments regarding the weeds in the lake represents significant concern for the waterway and shows a greater need for enhanced focus on how the lake is managed.

Survey respondents indicated a high level of support for improving the hiking trails in the town of Lanesborough, which coincides with most survey takers reporting that they participate in hiking at

Are existing Outdoor recreational programs and facilities in Lanesborough adequate for the following groups?



Survey respondents reported that the town’s facilities are not adequate for people with health conditions or disabilities.

the highest rates. Approximately 90% of survey respondents supported improving hiking trails. Another 91% support investing in public parks; 88% swimming and lake access; 81% support kayaking and canoe launches among the most supportive improvements.

The most opposed improvement is motorized trails. However, 73% of survey respondents reported snowmobiling/ATVs/ and dirt biking are activities they “rarely or never” participate in. Among those who do participate in motorized spots, 27% responded negatively to their overall satisfaction level with outdoor recreational facilities.

Several discussions among trail users demonstrates a strong disconnect between ATV riders and hikers. Hikers advocated for banning ATV usage on the trails while ATV riders reported a lack of places they are allowed to ride. Residents reported uncertainty about where ATVs are allowed to ride, demonstrating a need for the town and its

“Laston Field was a big step forward and I feel like Lanesborough has good youth recreation and outdoor facilities.” – Survey respondent.

partners to work with ATV groups and identify and designate trails allowing ATV groups to operate on, making hikers aware that the trails are shared, and identifying areas where ATVs should not be allowed.

Accessibility remains a top priority for the town of Lanesborough. Currently only the playground at the Elementary School is accessible. The Age-Friendly Park Committee is currently in the planning and fundraising stages of creating an accessible park at the former Bridge Street Park location. The Age-Friendly Park Committee stemmed from the Council on Aging recognizing that there is a lack of accessible spaces for older adults experiencing medical conditions, limiting their recreational and social opportunities. Residents echoed that sentiment during public meetings, identifying the project as a major need to address.

When provided the opportunity to write in reasons they do not participate in outdoor recreational activities, survey takers routinely cited aging, health conditions, and physical limitations. In a question about whether the existing outdoor recreational programs and facilities are adequate for various groups, 84% of survey takers said they are not adequate for people with health conditions or disabilities.

In 2024, the town developed an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, which included identifying accessibility barriers in the park system. Addressing the items noted in the ADA

Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan is a need to achieve greater accessibility. The ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan is available in Appendix F.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Commonwealth routinely conducts significant amount of community outreach throughout the state and develops the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)²⁹.

The statewide priorities include: improving access to beaches and other water-based recreation facilities; supporting trail projects; creating and renovating neighborhood parks; and creating opportunities to enjoy protected natural areas.

Lanesborough’s needs and opportunities align with the SCORP’s stated goals.

According to the SCORP, “24% of the top 10 activities participated in over the past 12 months were water-based as are 25.3% of the top 10 activities that respondents hope to undertake in the next five years.” The SCORP cites beaches is the most desired outdoor recreation areas for Commonwealth residents and prioritizes acquiring land to increase access to beaches, supporting park development projects that include water-based recreation, and supporting the acquisition of land to protect water supply and be open for recreation.

Lanesborough residents cited water activities as a top priority and the historic and current recreational usage of Pontoosuc Lake remains a key asset in the town’s outdoor recreation portfolio.

Lanesborough residents expressed a significant desire to improve access to town beach and

²⁹ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-statewide-comprehensive-outdoor-recreation-plan-2023-scorp-2023/download>

protect the water quality of Pontoosuc Lake. Residents reported problems parking at town beach frequently. The beach is located at the end of a residential street and there is no parking allowed on the street. The town must establish a solution to provide greater access to the beach.

Concurrently, many residents were unaware that it had a town beach, demonstrating a need to raise awareness that it exists.

Statewide hiking remains popular and ranked in the top three types of outdoor recreational areas and facilities residents want to see more of when responding to the SCORP. Hiking trails align with the town of Lanesborough's survey responses, with hiking being the top priority locally.

Lanesborough has opportunities to expand hiking opportunities with support of its community partners, particularly with connecting Constitution Hill and among Farnum's Hill. There are additional properties on the hillsides of Lanesborough that could potentially be acquired by a land trust, private entity, or the town to develop additional hiking spaces.

Several community members commented to the Committee that it would like to see greater connectivity between hiking parcels. In particular, there is support from the community to connect Constitution Hill to Laston Field and then onto the Farnam's Road property. Community members additionally suggested connecting the Pittsfield State Forest Land and Brodie Mountain into a hiking system that connects all areas of the town.

Collectively, the comments and survey responses show that the residents need both a greater diversity of hiking experiences and opportunities to explore all areas of the town, which is currently lacking because of a shortage of establish networks.

The Commonwealth established an objective to acquire land that facilitates trail connections to local parks, creating new opportunities for trails or

walking paths, and constructing trails that are accessible to people with disabilities.

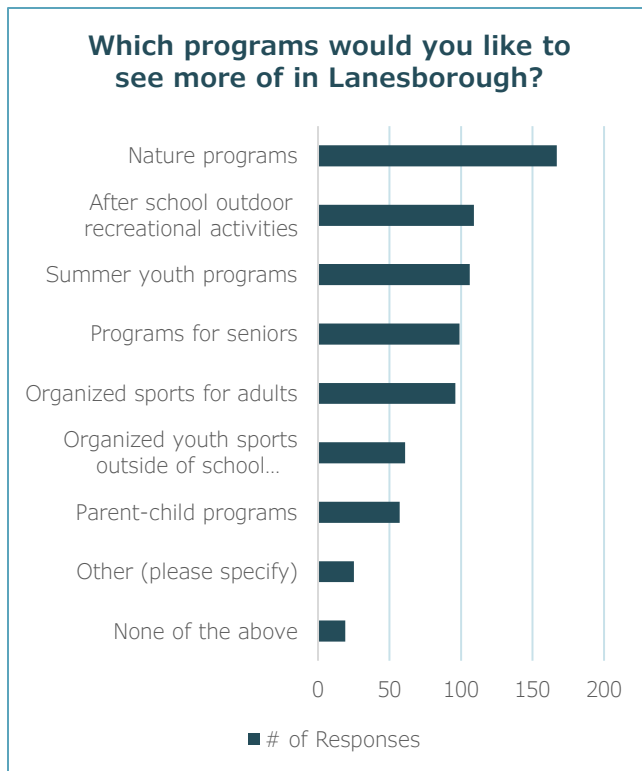
Lanesborough has an accessible walking path around Laston Field's arboretum but it does not have an accessible wilderness trail. There are several opportunities to work with partners in developing new trails and identifying an accessible trail will meet the community's desires to have greater accessibility.

The recent proposal to install an outdoor fitness station at Laston Park also aligns with the Commonwealth's goal to renovate neighborhood parks. According to the SCORP, "Thirty-seven percent of respondents reported participating in outdoor fitness classes more than once a week, making it the third most frequently participated in activity."

At community input sessions, a workout station was cited as a community want, which will also help address the needs of the aging population by providing them with a free place for exercise to support their health.

None of Lanesborough existing neighborhood parks are in or nearby an Environmental Justice Community, which is a priority for the Commonwealth. However, there is a lack of transportation options in Berkshire County and Lanesborough so enhancing neighborhood parks throughout the community will serve environmental justice populations located throughout the community.

The Commonwealth's goals of increasing opportunities for people to enjoy protected natural areas also aligns with Lanesborough's needs. The town has a significant amount of protected land, especially in Mount Greylock and the Pittsfield State Forest. Lanesborough does not have control of those parcels but are in a position to work closely with the land managers to increase opportunities and link them with the town's opportunities.



Survey respondents expressed a significant desire for nature programs.

The SCORP highlights the Department of Conservation and Recreation's work to expand trail networks in Mount Greylock State Reservation and the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail as successes, which Lanesborough can continue to support.

Programming Needs

Survey respondents are supportive of the town or partners creating nature programs in response to a question specifically asking what types of programs the community would like to see more of in Lanesborough. A total of 58% of the respondents said they want nature programs in town. There are private entities providing nature programming but residents are not well aware of those programs. There is a need to not only promote the activities more but to work closely with partners to ensure the activities are addressing the topics the community is interested in learning about.

After school outdoor recreational activities and summer youth programs ranked second and third among the programs residents would most like to see in town. The town has an active and well attended youth sports programming and a wintertime ski club. The town does not have places for youth to congregate indoors other than the school property. Organized youth programming utilizing the town's space is a solution to the gap in opportunities.

However, the programs are volunteer led and there is limited capacity to expand the type of programming among the current personnel levels. To address programming needs, the town will need to partner with organizations to provide or expand services in town, make town spaces available for additional programming offerings, and/or recruit volunteers to offer town-run programs.

Approximately a third of survey respondents feel there is a need for organized sports programs for adults. Adult sports programs are offered at a countywide level such as the Berkshire Adult Baseball League and men's hockey leagues. However, despite opportunities near by, the community's responses in advocating for sports leagues demonstrate either that there needs to be different opportunities to support people's hobbies or that there needs to be more awareness of the existing programs. The town can assist the nonprofit leagues by spreading awareness of the opportunities and connect Lanesborough residents with the programs.

Residents at public meetings expressed displeasure with the location of the playground at Laston Park. Youth using the playground must cross the parking lot and some of the equipment is dated. The outreach sessions demonstrated a significant need for the town to relocate and upgrade the playground equipment at Laston Park.

Management Needs

“There are so many children in this area that could use a park/playground/sports area, but the facilities are old and falling apart, and the field lacks substance..” – Survey respondent.

Lanesborough is dependent on volunteer support to manage all aspects of its open space and recreational offerings.

Various volunteer committee represent the range of needs among the outdoor recreational locations. The Recreation Committee provides oversight of the town’s recreational needs and parks management, including support youth baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, and football programs. The Harbormaster and Conservation Commission oversees management of Pontoosuc Lake, the Tree and Forest Committee focuses on forest land, the Age-Friendly Parks Committee on the development of Bridge Street Park, the Agricultural Commission advocates for farmland, the Cemetery Commission manages the cemeteries, and a Community Development Committee oversees community events such as the annual Lanesborough Day. Additionally, the Planning Board has taken an active role in developing zones to support open space and recreation and agricultural land.

Each group has limited capacity, and volunteers gravitate toward those groups with expertise in the specific fields associated with the committee. However, with several operating committees, it is easy for siloing.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee brought together representatives from each of those groups on a temporary basis to develop a plan that addressed the concerns of all groups. The exercise demonstrated a desire for all boards to work collaboratively on local and regional issues of shared concern.

Each board and committee serve vital roles in the open space and recreational landscape but could benefit from paid administrative support to ensure cohesive actions among each committee, pull together representatives for summits, and work with community partners.

The shared resources – Cheshire Reservoir, Pontoosuc Lake, Pittsfield State Forest, Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, and Mount Greylock – all have various stakeholders. Ensuring all stakeholders have a meaningful voice in the asset’s future is important.

The survey demonstrated a desire for accessible activities and places. The town does not currently have an active Commission on Disability, which can provide an important voice in the process. The commission should consist of people with lived experience.

The town has opportunities to invest in its own park system and/or purchase additional conservation property. However, the town is challenged financially. In order to ensure larger projects in the parks and open spaces will succeed, the town should create and maintain a long-term capital improvement plan for its assets and identify revenue for design and construction funds. Survey respondents showed interested in exploring the Community Preservation Act, which could provide a local revenue stream to support Open Space and Recreation projects.

The development of a Land Trust could also provide an additional avenue for sustainable management of conservation properties, the acquisition of additional properties, and fundraising.

Stakeholders reported a significant challenge with invasive species. The town should develop an invasive species management plan which identifies and maps known invasive species, explores the development of new technologies to address it, reviews case studies of similar communities in best

practices to address them, be mindful of the introduction of future invasives (i.e. Spotted Lanternfly) to be proactive with management strategies, and share information and technical expertise with landowners.

The town can also partner with organizations such as Berkshire Environmental Action Team to recruit and educate volunteers to actively address challenges.

Lanesborough has benefited from motorized vehicle recreational activities such as snowmobiles and dirt bikes.

However, there is a tension, as demonstrated in written survey responses, between lower impact usages such as hiking and birdwatching on some sites. The town would benefit by collaborating with motorized sports groups to identify, sign, and enforce restrictions on activities in areas.

Action Plan

Lanesborough will create achieve all of its open space and recreational goals by following the action plan detailed below. Each action item features a lead party responsible for overseeing its completion, a proposed timeline, and potential funding sources. In order to accomplish many of the large goals, Lanesborough will have to focus on its partnerships with the state, neighboring communities, and private and non-profit organizations.

The goals are organized from highest priority to lowest and within each goal, objectives are organized from highest to lowest priority. Within each objective, specific actions support the objective. The greatest priority is to utilize the town's existing open space and recreational infrastructure to greater support the residents and visitors in the near-term. The objectives are also in priority order, considering where the town has existing capacity to act quickly, the contemporary "hot topics," and where town officials and committees need to develop the capacity and funding to act.

Lanesborough has limited staff and relies on volunteers and funding opportunities. The timeline of accomplishing the goals may shift with availability of resources and volunteer capacity. Additionally, there are items that support lower priority goals and objectives that the town has the capability to address and should do so to complement the rest of the work in the document.

The plan is a living document and can be adjusted according to changes in the environment and people. To provide both implement the recommendations, serve as a clearinghouse of information for other volunteer committees and stakeholders, and then assess the progress and potential changes, the Open Space and Recreation Committee will be reconstituted as a regular committee.

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.1: Safeguard Pontoosuc Lake to ensure that recreational potential and water quality are balanced.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
A: Increase engagement with Friends of Pontoosuc Lake and other stakeholders to ensure lake users have an active voice in the decision-making process	Harbormaster Conservation Commission	Ongoing	DCR, Bass Fishermen Association, Mass Audubon, MassWildLife	Actions include: Adding resources to the lake management webpage Hosting annual meeting to review Lake Management Plan goals	Not applicable
B: Offer joint Conservation Commission with Pittsfield, lake users, and stakeholders meetings annually to support a cohesive approach to lake management	Conservation Commission	Annually	Conservation Commission, Friends of Pontoosuc, Pittsfield Lake Commission, Bass Fishermen's Association, DCR, Mass Audubon		Not applicable

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Objective 1.1: Safeguard Pontoosuc Lake to ensure that recreational potential and water quality are balanced.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
C: Research emerging technology and best practices utilized elsewhere to enhance lake management plans and activities	Harbormaster Conservation Commission	Ongoing	Department of Environmental Protection, local contribution, private grantors	Utilize Lake Management Plan to identify action items and goals	MassDEP Water Quality Monitoring Grant Program
D. Create and implement a Sunrise Beach Management Plan to expand access and utilization of Sunrise Beach	Harbormaster Recreation Committee	2026-2030	Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Recreation, local contribution	Technical assistance from Department of Public Works and Police Department Explore potential of Hill property as a second location Collaborate with the Pittsfield Parks Department on the Pontoosuc Lake Park rehabilitation project	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.1: Safeguard Pontoosuc Lake to ensure that recreational potential and water quality are balanced.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
E. Implement best practices to decrease sediment infiltration and nutrient loading from non-point sources in the lake to control weed growth and blue-green algae blooms	Department of Public Works Harbormaster	Ongoing	Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Recreation	Coordinate actions with MS4 Stormwater Management Plan, Municipal Vulnerability Plan, and Lake Management Plan, and West Branch Watershed Based Plan. Sample project: BRPC Culvert & Road Crossing Assessment project to assess the approximately 70 town managed culvert and stream crossings to prioritize action steps	Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant Program Community Compact

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.1: Safeguard Pontoosuc Lake to ensure that recreational potential and water quality are balanced.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
F: Increase the number of parcels surrounding the lake serviced by municipal sewer services to reduce reliance on septic systems in the area.	Pittsfield Department of Public Utilities Lanesborough Water District Town Administration Board of Health	Ongoing	Department of Environmental Protection and/or local contributions	Municipal sewer established from the Pittsfield line through Narragansett Ave, up Iroquois St, throughout No Namie Trailer Park, and current Berkshire Mall property Permitting support and technical assistance from the Board of Health Provide regular public education regarding the importance of maintaining septic systems in good working order.	Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.1: Safeguard Pontoosuc Lake to ensure that recreational potential and water quality are balanced.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
G: Proceed with plans to add space for fishing and kayaking launches with the replacement of culverts along the lake.	Department of Public Works Massachusetts Department of Transportation Conservation Commission	Timing to be established by DPW depending on priority and funding availability	MassDOT	Permitting support through Conservation Commission • Bull Hill Road Causeway (MA DOT project) • Old State Road Culvert Replacement • Narragansett Boat Launch (consult with Harbormaster, requires boat ramp monitoring program)	Not applicable

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.1: Safeguard Pontoosuc Lake to ensure that recreational potential and water quality are balanced.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
H. Participate in DEP lake eutrophication and water quality restoration planning project in collaboration with the city of Pittsfield to develop action steps for Pontoosuc Lake Management Plan	Conservation Commission Pittsfield Parks Department Harbormaster	2026-2028	Department of Environmental Protection	Develop action steps for Pontoosuc Lake Management Plan; coordinate funding to carry out goals with Department of Environmental Protection	MassDEP Watershed Planning Program
I. Develop a long-term management plan for Keeler Island	Recreation Committee Police Department Department of Conservation and Recreation	2027-2032	Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	Address access and safety planning for activities/access to the island and/or transfer of the property to Department of Conservation and Recreation or other land preservation organization	To be determined

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.2: Expand recreational opportunities at William Laston Memorial Park and improve connectivity with neighboring assets.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
A: Continue working with BNRC to develop hiking connections between Laston Park, Constitution Hill, and Farnams Hill Reserve	Conservation Commission Recreation Committee Berkshire Natural Resources Council	2026-2029	Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Mass Audubon, local contributions	Permitting support through Conservation Commission and Department of Environmental Protection	BNRC to determine
B: Explore and pursue the development of an outdoor exercise park.	Recreation Committee Finance Committee	2026-2028	National Fitness Campaign, health insurance, private donations, Department of Conservation and Recreation, local contributions	Finalize assessment of Laston Park for outdoor recreation park (2026-2027) Technical assistance from Finance Committee on funding options/coordination	National Fitness Campaign

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Objective 1.2: Expand recreational opportunities at William Laston Memorial Park and improve connectivity with neighboring assets.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
C: Develop a capital improvement plan for Laston Memorial Park that includes additional trails, push-button lighting, and relocating the playground	Recreation Committee Finance Committee	Ongoing	Department of Conservation and Recreation and/or local contributions	Permitting support from Conservation Commission for relocation of the playground (2026)	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program
D: Expand the walking path and create accessible areas for picnicking, birdwatching, and viewing of sporting events	Recreation Committee	2027-2036	Department of Conservation and Recreation, MA Audubon, and/or local contributions	Technical assistance and permitting support to advise on activities regarding Wetlands Protection Act and Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Priority Habitat restrictions	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program Massachusetts Office on Disability Municipal Improvement Grant
E: Identify regional sports fields needs and work with community partners to provide access to spaces at Laston	Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Not applicable	Regional network in place; continued regional collaboration to expand utilization and access for underserved age groups	Not applicable

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.2: Expand recreational opportunities at William Laston Memorial Park and improve connectivity with neighboring assets.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
F: Continue with plans to extend complete streets to Laston Park	Department of Public Works Massachusetts Department of Transportation	Estimated construction in 2028	MassDOT	Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, and Department of Public Works to provide input on design of shoulders, bike lanes, and crosswalks to provide accessibility to Laston Park	Not applicable
G: Assess viability of creating trail connection between Bull Hill Road Causeway/Miner Road, and Laston Park	Recreation Committee	2030-2035	Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Recreation, MA Audubon, and/or local contributions		Not applicable

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.3: Increase accessibility to outdoor spaces and activities

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grants
A: Updated ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan to ensure eligibility for Massachusetts Office on Disability funding opportunities	Town Administration	2028	Council on Aging BRPC	Integrate ADA Plan and accessibility goals into all action items and review plans for alignment with ADA recommendations	Massachusetts Office on Disability Municipal Improvement Grant
B: Implement the recommendations for parks and open spaces in the ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan	Department of Public Works	Ongoing	BRPC	Technical assistance to be provided by the Building Inspector	Massachusetts Office on Disabilities Municipal Improvement Grant
C: Form a Commission on Disabilities to inform the development of new construction projects and evaluate the accessibility of existing spaces	Town Administration	2026-2028	Council on Aging Age-Friendly Park Committee	Technical assistance to be provided by the Building Inspector	Not applicable

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.3: Increase accessibility to outdoor spaces and activities

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grants
D: Support the Age-Friendly Park initiative and the redevelopment of the Bridge Street Park	Recreation Committee Age-Friendly Park Committee	2026-2030	Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts Office on Disability, AARP, and/or local contributions	-Finalize Age-Friendly Park plan -Coordinate construction activities and purchasing (2027-2030) -Technical assistance by Finance Committee; permitting support from Conservation Commission -Activate resources available to "Age Friendly" designated communities	To be determined by Age-Friendly Park Committee

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.3: Increase accessibility to outdoor spaces and activities

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
E: Create a capital plan to add accessibility elements to parks that are currently not accessible	Recreation Committee Commission on Disabilities Finance Committee	2027/2028	Not applicable	ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan identifies action steps and prioritizes improvements Technical assistance provided by the Finance Committee	Not applicable
F: Seek partnerships and awareness opportunities to ensure people with health conditions or disabilities have access to assistive equipment and programming	Recreation Committee Town Administration Commission on Disabilities	Ongoing	Not applicable	Collaborate with resources on site at Shaker Ridge Trails; DCR Adaptive Equipment Program; United Cerebral Palsy, AdLib, Families Like Ours Develop collaboration with Berkshire Family YMCA or other non-profit to offer expanded programming	Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation Inclusive and Accessible Events Grants Program

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.3: Increase accessibility to outdoor spaces and activities

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
G: Work with BNRC and other partners to identify a location to construct an accessible hiking trail	Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation, Massachusetts Office on Disability, BNRC, Unpaved Trails for All, Department of Conservation and Recreation	Assess the availability of existing trail maps, where trail maps need to be created, and where wayfinding signage needs to be established/improved. Identify priorities to address: -language access and translation -individuals with visual/hearing impairments	To be determined by BNRC
H: Identify opportunities to purchase and make adaptive exercise equipment available to use	Recreation Committee Commission on Disabilities	Ongoing	Massachusetts Office on Disabilities	Collaborate with resources on site at Shaker Ridge Trails; DCR's Adaptive Equipment Program; UCP Identify location for sign in and out – library is a potential host	Massachusetts Office on Disabilities Municipal Improvement Grant Program

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.3: Increase accessibility to outdoor spaces and activities

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
I: Work with partners to make sure trail maps are available and trails have proper wayfinding signs.	Recreation Committee BNRC DCR Historical Commission	2026-2030	DCR, BRPC, MA Audubon, Berkshire Taconic Fund, and/or local contributions	Assess the availability of trail maps for existing properties, where trail maps need to be created, and where wayfinding signage needs to be established/improved. Create action plan to identify priorities to address: -language access and translation -individuals with visual/hearing impairments	To be determined

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.4: Increase awareness of spaces for different types of uses and re-invigorate underutilized spaces

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
A: Identify and designate snowmobile, UTV, ATV, and dirtbike trails	Town administration and partner organizations	2026-2030	Not applicable	Collaborate with Berkshire Snow Seekers, Patriots All Terrain ATV Club, and other user groups DCR properties allow use.	To be determined
B: Develop a marketing media kit to raise awareness of the recreational opportunities available in town, both privately owned and publicly owned	Town Administration Community Development Committee	Ongoing	Community Compact and/or local contributions	Expand awareness and utilization of www.berkshireoutside.org to promote local resources Review and utilize existing marketing materials created by former Economic Development Committee Work with 1Berkshire to promote small, local businesses supporting local recreation	To be determined

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.4: Increase awareness of spaces for different types of uses and re-invigorate underutilized spaces

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
C: Promote proper etiquette in outdoor recreational areas.	Recreation Committee DCR BNRC	Ongoing	Grant funding from BRPC, DCR, Berkshire Taconic or Town Budget process.	Create sign template to be installed at all Town owned properties using proper trail etiquette language used by BNRC and DCR. Develop educational signage to support public information of natural/historic resources to support preservation	To be determined
D: Identify usage needs and seek opportunities to create those spaces i.e. installing ice skating rink, pickleball courts, etc.	Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Department of Conservation and Recreation and/or local contributions	Evaluation underway to identify interest and coordinate park utilization Ensure usage needs and interests are integrated in the Recreation Committee Capital Improvement Plan Technical assistance to be provided by the Finance Committee	To be determined

Goal 1: Create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities and supports users of all ages and abilities without compromising natural resources or disrupting ecosystems.

Objective 1.4: Increase awareness of spaces for different types of uses and re-invigorate underutilized spaces

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
E: Undertake a planning process to determine the best use for Narragansett Park and pursue a redesign of the park.	Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Local contributions, grant funding		Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program
F: Consider adopting Community Preservation Act to provide local funding to maintain and expand the park system.	Planning Board Town Administrator Conservation Commission	2028-2032	Community Preservation Coalition		N/A
G: Develop long-term management and use plan for the Zucker Property	Recreation Committee	2028-2032	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs		Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program (if needed) Land Acquisition for Forest Reserves Grant Program (if needed)

Goal 2: Increase the positive impact created by the outdoor recreational economy, both regionally and locally.
Objective 2.1: Maintain a strong, collaborative relationship with regional entities, state officials, and neighboring communities to maximize the economic impact of outdoor recreational assets.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
A: Work with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, BNRC, and the town of Adams, the town of Cheshire, and the town of New Ashford to connect the Greylock Glen, Mount Greylock Reservation, and the town of Lanesborough to provide complementary opportunities for recreation and services on both sides of the mountain.	Open Space and Recreation Committee Recreation Committee BNRC Community Development Committee	2026-2030	Grant funding through DCR, MA Audubon, other regional funding or Town Budget process (absent other grant funding)	Support BNRC and other land managers in the development of trail easements Identify opportunities for regional events (i.e. Bike the Berkshires) Hold an annual collaboration meeting to review and discuss shared goals and opportunities to amplify the work underway in each community	To be determined
B: Support the expansion of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and seek opportunities to provide additional east-west connectivity.	Open Space and Recreation Committee	Ongoing	MassDOT Town Administrator		Small Town Road Improvements to Enhance Public Safety (Rural Development Fund)

Goal 2: Increase the positive impact created by the outdoor recreational economy, both regionally and locally.
Objective 2.1: Maintain a strong, collaborative relationship with regional entities, state officials, and neighboring communities to maximize the economic impact of outdoor recreational assets.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
C: Support efforts to connect hiking trails on Constitution Hill to the Taconic Crest Trail/Square Roots Farm/ BNRC High Road Trail Initiative	Open Space and Recreation Committee Conservation Commission BNRC DCR	Ongoing	Grant funding through BNRC, DCR, MA Audubon or Town Budget allocation if needed (absent other grant funding)	Includes section connecting Pittsfield State Forest, Town owned property and Constitution Hill	MassTrails Grant Program
D: Engage community partners to develop and provide outdoor recreation programming and other opportunities in Pittsfield State Forest, Constitution Hill, and Mount Greylock Reservation, and town parks	Open Space and Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Recreation Committee DCR BNRC Community Development Committee	Community partners include but are not limited to: • Appalachian Mountain Club • Hoffman Bird Club • BNRC • DCR	Collaborate grant funding; individual program funding; Town Budget process (absent other grant funds)

Goal 2: Increase the positive impact created by the outdoor recreational economy, both regionally and locally.

Objective 2.1: Maintain a strong, collaborative relationship with regional entities, state officials, and neighboring communities to maximize the economic impact of outdoor recreational assets.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
E: Work collaboratively with the town of Cheshire on the management of Cheshire Reservoir and determining future recreational opportunities	Open Space and Recreation Committee Conservation Commission	Ongoing	Grant funding from DEP, BRPC, DCR, or Town Budget process (absent other grant funds)	Participate with DEP Consultant study of Cheshire Lake to identify priority water quality initiatives	MassDEP Watershed Planning Program
F: Participate with the DEP Consultant to study Cheshire Lake and identify water quality initiatives.	Conservation Commission	Ongoing	Grant funding from DEP, DCR, or Town Budget process (absent other grant funds)	Participate with DEP Consultant study of Cheshire Lake to identify priority water quality initiatives	MassDEP Watershed Planning Program

Goal 2: Increase the positive impact created by the outdoor recreational economy, both regionally and locally.

Objective 2.1: Maintain a strong, collaborative relationship with regional entities, state officials, and neighboring communities to maximize the economic impact of outdoor recreational assets.

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
G: Partner with the town of Dalton to pursue a link between the Boulders and the Ashwillticook Trail	BNRC Recreation Committee	Ongoing	Town of Dalton, Grant funding from DCR, BRPC, or Town Budget (absent other grant funds if needed)	Support efforts currently underway to create formal, public access off Gulf Road, including additional parking. Potential collaborators include but are not limited to BNRC, Lanesborough DPW, and Brookhaus. Partner with MA DOT to address pedestrian crossing along Rt 8 DPW to provide technical assistance regarding Gulf Road accessibility and parking	Small Town Road Improvements to Enhance Public Safety (Rural Development Fund)
H: Partner with the town of New Ashford on the redevelopment of the former Brodie Mountain Ski Area and shared recreational access goals	Town Administration Recreation Committee BNRC	2026-2031	DCR, 1Berkshire	Coordinate with BNRC as liaison to identify shared recreation and preservation goals	Not applicable

Goal 2: Increase the positive economic impact created by the outdoor recreational economy, both regionally and locally.**Objective 2.2: Encourage the growth of private outdoor recreation businesses.**

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
A: Maintain strong communication with current economic anchors: Baker's Golf, Ramblewild, Jiminy Peak, local Farms, Shaker Ridge Trails, and Mount Greylock Campgrounds	Community Development Committee Town Administrator	Ongoing	1Berkshire, local contributions	Utilize previous work completed by the former Economic Development Committee as foundation to update and expand work Work collaboratively with the business community to create cross-marketing and collaboration opportunities	Not applicable
B: Support new outdoor recreation businesses seeking to complement the existing economic drivers such as the Under Canvas camping facility, Shaker Ridge mountain bike trails, and lakefront businesses	Planning Board Community Development Committee	Ongoing	Not applicable	Environmental permitting for Under Canvas and Shaker Ridge Trails is complete	Not applicable

Goal 2: Increase the positive economic impact created by the outdoor recreational economy, both regionally and locally.**Objective 2.2: Encourage the growth of private outdoor recreation businesses.**

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
C: Revise and expand current zoning bylaws to promote activities that support OSRP goals and objectives	Planning Board	2027-2030	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Planning Assistance Grant	Evaluate the existing Zoning Bylaws to identify priority areas to remove barriers to development of new outdoor opportunities Develop a zoning framework that supports existing outdoor and recreational activities and encourages the development of new projects	EEA Planning Assistance Grant
D: Evaluate local regulations and bylaws to ensure protection of open spaces, natural resources, scenic routes and protect vistas, farmland, and other important local areas from invasive developments	Planning Board	Ongoing	Not applicable	Evaluate existing regulations and bylaws for effectiveness in resource protection Propose new regulations/bylaws.	EEA Planning Assistance Grant

Goal 2: Increase the positive economic impact created by the outdoor recreational economy, both regionally and locally.**Objective 2.2: Encourage the growth of private outdoor recreation businesses.**

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
E: Proactively seek interested businesses to provide services that lowers the barrier to athletic participation i.e. equipment rentals, lessons	Community Development Committee	Ongoing	Not applicable	Utilize 1Berkshire as a community partner to promote business and nonprofit relationships that support outdoor activities	Not applicable

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.**Objective 3.1: Provide agricultural operators with technical assistance and regulatory safeguards**

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
A: Agricultural Commission to examine zoning bylaws and town ordinances to ensure modern usages, i.e. agrotourism, weddings, farmstands, are not overly restricted	Agriculture Commission Planning Board	Ongoing	Grant funding through BRPC or USDA and/or allocation through the Town Budget process (absent other grant funds).	Technical assistance to be provided by Conservation Commission regarding agricultural exemptions and regulations under the Wetlands Protection Act	To be determined
B: Assist generational farm owners with succession planning	Agricultural Commission	Ongoing	Grant funding through BRPC or USDA and/or allocation through the Town Budget process (absent other grant funds).	Work with the Community Development Committee to distribute educational materials	Farmland Action Plan and Partnership Program

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.**Objective 3.1: Provide agricultural operators with technical assistance and regulatory safeguards**

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
C: Work with all property owners to ensure strong representation on the Agricultural Commission and empower them to have a meaningful voice in government operations	Agricultural Commission Town Administrator	Ongoing	Not applicable	Expand education on the role of the Agricultural Committee Identify opportunists for joint meetings with other Boards/Committees around shared interests (Planning, Tree & Forest, etc.)	Farmland Action Plan and Partnership Program
D: Provide property owners information and assistance in obtaining Chapter 61, 61A, 61B, Conservation Restrictions and Agricultural Protection Restriction protections	Agricultural Commission Conservation Commission Assessor's Office/Tax Collector	Ongoing	Not applicable.	Develop Agricultural Committee webpage and provide information in the town newsletter, tax mailings	Farmland Action Plan and Partnership Program

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.**Objective 3.1: Provide agricultural operators with technical assistance and regulatory safeguards**

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
E: Review and expand agricultural definitions in zoning law to ensure modern farming practices are allowable	Planning Board Agricultural Commission	2027-2031	Grant funding through BRPC or USDA and/or allocation through the Town Budget process	Examine existing zoning law to identify barriers and opportunities to promote agriculture Technical assistance to be provided by the Planning Agent and Building Inspector	EEA's Planning Assistance Grant Program

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.**Objective 3.2: Advance tree and forest management best practices**

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
A: Continue investment in King Elmer and other "urban" trees that give the town its character	Tree & Forest Committee	Ongoing	Current Town Budget allocation; grant funding to address specific needs/goals as needed (BRPC, Arbor Day Foundation, MA Audubon)	Technical assistance to be provided by the Tree Warden Increase number of climate resilient trees planted on public land. Provide education to landowners on native, climate resilient species for their properties	Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.

Objective 3.2: Advance tree and forest management best practices

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
B: Develop Invasive Species Management Plan and share best practices and tools for public and private landowners to identify destructive invasive species	Conservation Commission Tree & Forest Committee Harbormaster DPW	2026-2028	Williams College	Establish a multi-sector committee to assess current conditions and develop a plan comprehensive of prevention, intervention, and remediation strategies Create and implement public education series on addressing invasive species (Emerald Ash Borer, etc) and response plans to address infestations.	MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.

Objective 3.2: Advance tree and forest management best practices

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
C: Promote sustainable forestry practices	Tree & Forest Committee Tree Warden	Ongoing	Current Town Budget allocation; grant funding to address specific needs/goals as needed (BRPC, Arbor Day Foundation, MA Audubon) Create mitigation fund to support replanting of trees on public land	Collaborate with DPW and DCR to address hazard trees on publicly owned properties Distribute information for landowners and lumber/tree companies	Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.**Objective 3.3 Proactively mitigate anticipated climate change impacts**

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
A: Prepare for and anticipate changes to the FEMA floodplain maps and educate property owners and developers on the potential impacts	Town Administrator Planning Board Conservation Commission	2026-2028		Update Floodplain Maps for use by town Boards/Committees Create one-pager to educate landowners and contractors about work within flood zones	MVP 2.0

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.

Objective 3.3 Proactively mitigate anticipated climate change impacts

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
B: Plant new climate resilient/"urban" trees in developed areas to reduce temperatures	Tree & Forest Committee Tree Warden	Ongoing	Current Town Budget allocation; grant funding to address specific needs/goals as needed (BRPC, Arbor Day Foundation, MA Audubon) Create mitigation fund to support replanting of trees on public land	Provide information to the Planning Board and Conservation Commission regarding recommended species and planting practices Identify areas to be prioritized with new plantings Establish a town policy regarding public trees and tree replacement	Cooling Corridors Grant Program Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.

Objective 3.3 Proactively mitigate anticipated climate change impacts

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
C: Implement recommendations from Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plans	Various	Ongoing			MVP 2.0

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.
Objective 3.4 Protect valuable assets

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
A: Improve bank stability and riparian area with replanting of native species at Laston Field	Recreation Committee	2028-2030	BNRC Tree Committee		To be determined
B: Identify specific parcels of conservation value	Planning Board Conservation Commission	Ongoing	Grant funding through the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs	Work with BNRC, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species BioMap Program to identify priority areas for conservation	Not applicable
C: Apply for LAND grant to purchase environmentally sensitive properties	Conservation Commission Town Administrator	Ongoing	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs	Technical assistance to be provided by the Finance Committee	Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant Program

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.
Objective 3.4 Protect valuable assets

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
D: Educate the public on native and pollinator friendly species	Conservation Commission Agricultural Commission	Ongoing		Activate resources available by designating the town a "Bee Friendly" Community Review Town mowing practices to identify areas where pollinator and bee friendly areas can be expanded. Establish a town policy on the use of herbicides and pesticides on town owned properties; create educational materials for property owners and landscapers	Massachusetts Community Biodiversity Grants

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.**Objective 3.4 Protect valuable assets**

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
E: Enroll volunteers to identify and certify vernal pools in town	Conservation Commission BNRC	2027-2029 2032-2034	DCR, USDA, or MA Audubon	Technical assistance to be provided by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Collaborate with the Assessor's Office regarding recording of vernal pool information	Not applicable
F: Establish a land trust	Town Administrator	Ongoing	BNRC, MA Audubon, MA Association of Conservation Commissions and/or Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for technical assistance/partnering opportunities.		Conservation Fund

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.
Objective 3.5 Reduce sprawl development

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
A: Protect the wetland complex in the Swamp Road/Partridge Road area by ensuring development does not negatively impact water quality or flow into the wetland	Conservation Commission Planning Board	Ongoing	Additional technical assistance to be provided by BOH agent and Building Inspector as needed.	Prioritize protection of water quality in project review. Establish town bylaw with project performance standards to address development in/near identified priority areas (i.e. additional setback distances, mitigation measure, required use of low impact development strategies)	Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant Program EEA Planning Assistance Grant
B: Adopt the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act	Planning Board Town Administrator Conservation Committee	2027-2032		Assess eligible land to determine if Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act or other preservation bylaw is most appropriate for local needs	BRPC District Local Technical Assistance Grant Program

Goal 3: Ensure the community's valued rural character, scenic vistas, agricultural, and natural resources are protected for generations to come.

Objective 3.5 Reduce sprawl development

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Additional Notes	Potential Grant
C: Research and recommend local conservation/wetland bylaws to protect sensitive and priority areas	Conservation Commission Planning Board	2028-2031	BRPC, DCR, MA Audubon	Utilize information from MA Association of Conservation Commissions and models from neighboring towns to address preservation needs not otherwise addressed by existing regulatory practices.	EEA Planning Assistance Grant

Public Comments

The public survey, community outreach meetings, and stakeholder interviews helped establish the goals, objectives, and action items. The committee opened a public comment section to report back to the community and ensure that it heard the community's wishes correctly.

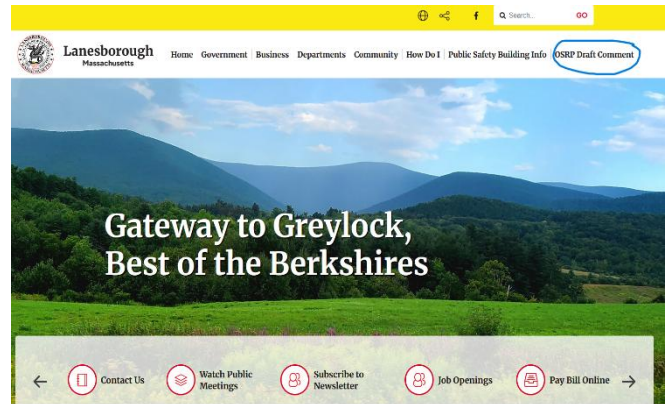
On May 12, 2026, the Committee voted to put the draft out for public comment. The town posted a draft on the town's website, with a link on the homepage directing people to review it and send comments to the committee. The Committee sent copies of the draft directly to the Town Manager, Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, and the regional planning agency, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

On May 26, 2026 the Committee held an open house meeting at Laston Field. Committee members had copies of the plan as well as presentation boards with the goals, objectives, and action items.

The outreach meeting revealed two areas of additional changes. The Committee heard praise for the efforts to plan new trees at Laston Park and the creation of an arboretum along the accessible walking path and an emphasis on long-term planning for Narragansett Park.

The Committee included more details on the tree planting in Laston Park in the text of the plan and raised the priority level for both it and long-term planning at Narragansett.

On June 1, 2026 the Committee met with the Conservation Commission in an open meeting and provided a presentation of the plan. The Conservation Commission approved the plan unanimously.



Circled in the top right, the town posted the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan on the homepage of its website to provide the public with another opportunity to provide feedback.

Immediately following that meeting, also on June 1, 2026 the Committee met with the Recreation Committee at a public meeting and provided a presentation of work and requested comments. The Recreation Committee also approved the plan unanimously.

On June 22, 2026 the Committee presented the plan to the Select Board. The Select Board also approved the plan unanimously.

On July 20, 2026, the Committee presented to the Planning Board in an open meeting. The Planning Board also approved the plan unanimously.

The public comment period closed on June 15, 2026. The Committee did not receive any electronic comments on the plan.

Below are letters of support from the Town Manager, Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Town Manager



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Lanesborough**

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DEBORAH A. MAYNARD, *Chair*
JULI A. BAKER, *Vice Chair*
MICHAEL P. MURPHY
JASON A. BREault
JEFF M. WALTER

GINA M. DARIO, *Town Administrator*

June 22, 2026

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee
Newton Memorial Town Hall
83 North Main Street
Lanesborough, MA 01237**

Dear Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee:

I would like to thank you for your committee's hard work to update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. I have thoroughly reviewed it and believe it serve as an important blueprint for the future of the town's conservation and recreation land.

I am particularly grateful for your community outreach efforts and collaboration with neighboring communities. The recommendations in the plan are reflective of significant feedback your committee heard during the development process and are actionable. Your work has already fostered significant regional coordination.

The plan's strategic approach to natural resources, supporting agriculture, and bolstering our outdoor recreational opportunities is greatly appreciated and I look forward to continuing to work with you to implement it.

Sincerely,

Gina Dario
Lanesborough Town Administrator

Select Board



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Lanesborough**

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JASON A. BREAUULT
JEFF M. WALTER

GINA M. DARIO, Town Administrator

June 22, 2026

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee
Newton Memorial Town Hall
83 North Main Street
Lanesborough, MA 01237**

Dear Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee:

The Lanesborough Select Board commends your committee's efforts in developing the town's updated Open Space and Recreation Plan. We believe this plan provides our community's residents, boards and commissions, and partners with actionable steps to protect our rural character and bolster our outdoor recreational opportunities. We are grateful for your careful consideration of the natural landscape, robust community engagement, and holistic view of the community and our region.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee has been routinely in communication with the Select Board throughout the process and we have reviewed the draft plan. At our June 22, 2026 meeting the board unanimously voted to endorse the plan.

The Select Board thanks the members of public for their feedback and guidance, the town's board and commissions for taking a collaborative approach to addressing our open space and recreational needs, and the consultants for facilitating a thorough and transparent process. We are looking forward to and are supportive of our community's efforts to achieve the goals articulated in this plan.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Maynard

Deborah Maynard, Chair

Lanesborough Select Board

Planning Board



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Lanesborough

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MICHAEL P. MURPHY
JASON A. BREAUT
JEFFERY M. WALTER

July 20, 2026
Lanesborough Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee
Newton Memorial Town Hall
83 North Main Street
Lanesborough, MA 01237

Dear Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee:

The Lanesborough Planning Board sincerely appreciates your committee's efforts in developing an updated Open Space and Recreation Plan. We thank you for the thoughtful consideration, community outreach efforts, and collaboration with town boards and committees.

In 2024, the Planning Board developed the town's Master Plan and during that process the town's recreational properties, scenic vistas, farmland, and natural resources are highly valued by the community. The Planning Board has made supporting open space and recreational opportunities as a top priority. This updated Open Space and Recreational Committee complements and enhances those efforts significantly through extensive research and community engagement.

After thorough review, the Planning Board voted on July 20, 2026, to formally endorse the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan's goals to expand the park system, embrace the outdoor recreation economy, and to protect the town's rural character and natural resources align with our priorities and reflects the community's values.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Lanesborough Planning Board

Conservation Commission



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Lanesborough**

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DEBORA
MICHAEL
JASON A

GINA M.
Town Ad

June 2, 2026

Lanesborough Conservation Commission

Newton Memorial Town Hall

83 North Main Street

Lanesborough, MA 01237

Dear Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee:

The Lanesborough Conservation Commission commends the work done to update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). We appreciate the time and effort that all members of the public, town committees, and consultants have dedicated to developing this plan. The Conservation Commission has been engaged throughout the process and has thoroughly reviewed the draft posted for public comment. We believe the plan provides town boards, committees, and volunteers with a series of actions to protect Lanesborough's rural character, natural resources, and enhances recreational opportunities.

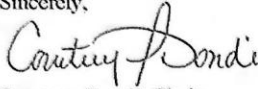
The Conservation Commission is grateful for the thoughtful consideration of the Committee as it relates to protecting the town's valuable natural resources and matters within the Conservation Commission's purview. The plan identifies several actions the Conservation Commission feels are high priorities including:

- Participate in DEP lake eutrophication and water quality restoration planning project in collaboration with the city of Pittsfield to develop action steps for Pontoosuc Lake Management Plan
- Increase engagement with Friends of Pontoosuc Lake and other stakeholders (DCR, Bass Fishermen Association, Mass Wildlife) to ensure lake users have an active voice in the decision-making process
- Improve bank stability and riparian area with replanting of native species at Laston Field
- Identify specific parcels for of conservation value and apply for LAND grant to purchase environmentally sensitive properties
- Protect the wetland complex in the Swamp Road/Partridge Road area
- Research and recommend local conservation/wetlands bylaws to protect sensitive and priority areas
- Prepare for anticipated changes to the FEMA floodplain maps and education property owners and developers on the potential impacts
- Support efforts to connect hiking trails on Constitution Hill to the Taconic Crest Trail/Square Roots Farm/BNRC High Road Trail Initiative

The Conservation Commission also greatly supports the regional collaboration the Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee fostered throughout the development of this plan. We look forward to working closely with citizens, other town boards and commissions, and neighboring communities to implement the recommendations described in this plan.

At our meeting on June 1, 2026, the Commission formally voted to approve and endorse Thank you again for all your hard work. We look forward to supporting future endeavors toward the implementation of the Lanesborough OSRP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Courtney Dondi', written in a cursive style.

Courtney Dondi, Chair

Lanesborough Conservation Commission

Recreation Committee

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DEBORAH A. MAYNARD, Chair Person
 MICHAEL P. MURPHY
 JASON A. BREAUULT

GINA M. DARIO
 Town Administrator

JUNE 1, 2026

Lanesborough Recreation Committee

Newton Memorial Town Hall

83 North Main Street

Lanesborough, MA 01237

Dear Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee:

The Lanesborough Recreation Committee would like to thank you for your work on the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Recreation Committee's mission is to design and offer all citizens quality recreational and leisurely activities. The Open Space and Recreation Plan enhances that mission and provides us with long-term goals and action items to help us achieve our mission.

The Recreation Committee is particularly supportive of the plan's goal to create a municipal park system that provides a diverse number of activities through expanding Landon Park and its connections with neighboring assets, developing new trail systems, increasing accessibility to outdoor spaces, raising awareness of recreational opportunities in Lanesborough, and fostering partnerships to provide additional programs in our spaces. We also believe the goals assigned to other parties and officials complement our mission greatly and will serve the community well now and in the future.

The Recreation Commission voted to formally endorse the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Jabari Powell, Chair

Lanesborough Recreation Committee

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission



MALCOLM FICK, Chair
BUCK DONOVAN, Vice-Chair
SHEILA IRVIN, Clerk
SAM HAUPT, Treasurer
LAURA BRENNAN, Executive Director

June 9, 2026

Melissa Cryan, Grant Programs Supervisor
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Melissa,

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has thoroughly reviewed the Lanesborough Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan establishes several goals and objectives that are cohesive with countywide preservation and recreational efforts and builds collaboration among communities and private partners. Some of the goals that support the region include:

- Collaborating with the city of Pittsfield to ensure Pontoosuc Lake has quality water and maximizes its recreational potential.
- Supporting the regional outdoor recreational economy.
- Preserving and creating regional connections of important natural resources.
- Building a cohesive approach and open communication among communities that border Mount Greylock.
- Protecting the Berkshire's agricultural, rural, and scenic landscapes.

BRPC endorses the plan as written and appreciates Lanesborough commitment to protecting the region's natural resources, expanding outdoor recreational opportunities, and supporting residents' health and wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Cornelius Hoss, AICP
Community Planning and Development Program Manager

1 Fenn St., Suite 201, Pittsfield, MA 01201
berkshireplanning.org

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TTY: 771 or 1(800) 439-2370

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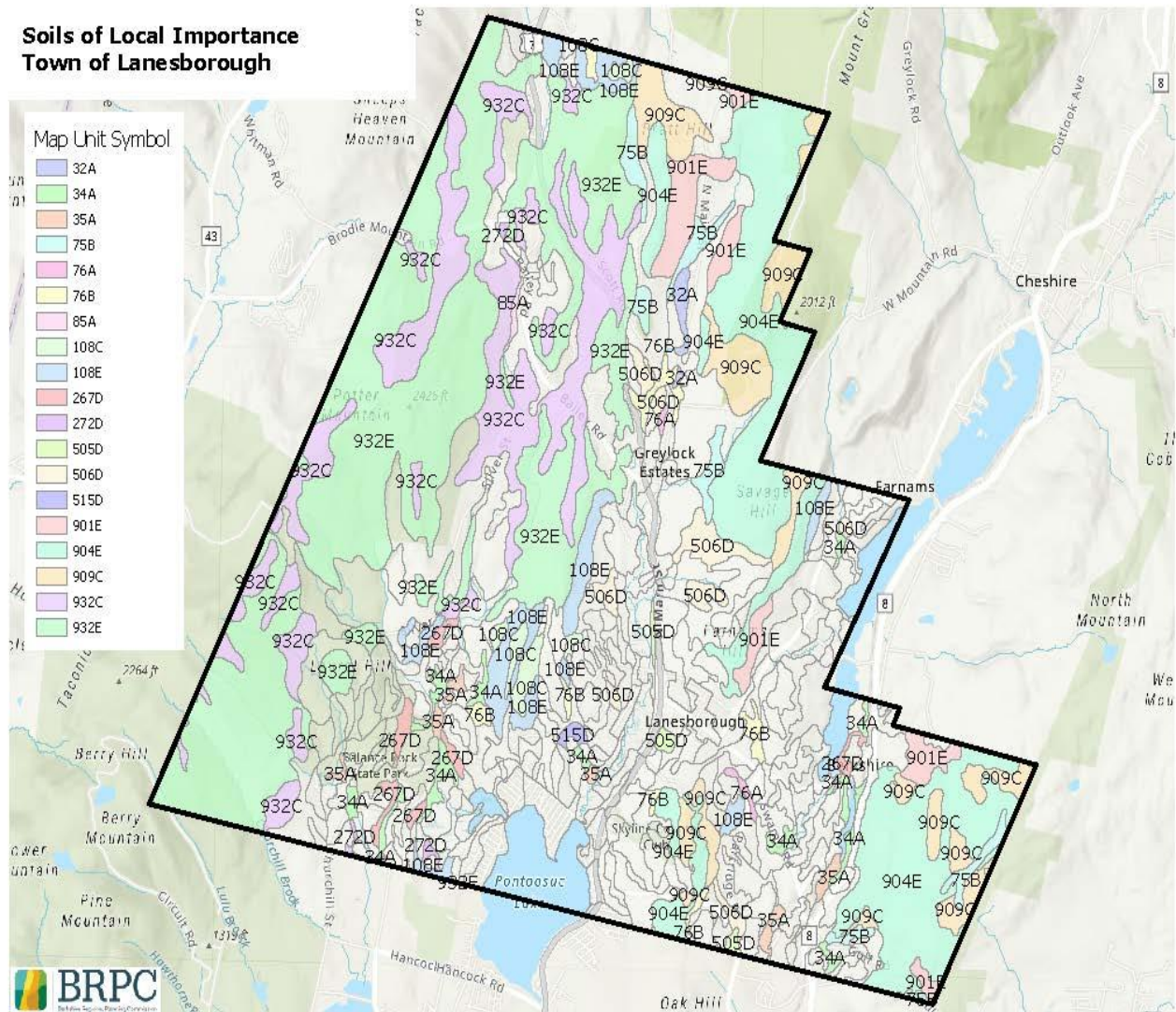
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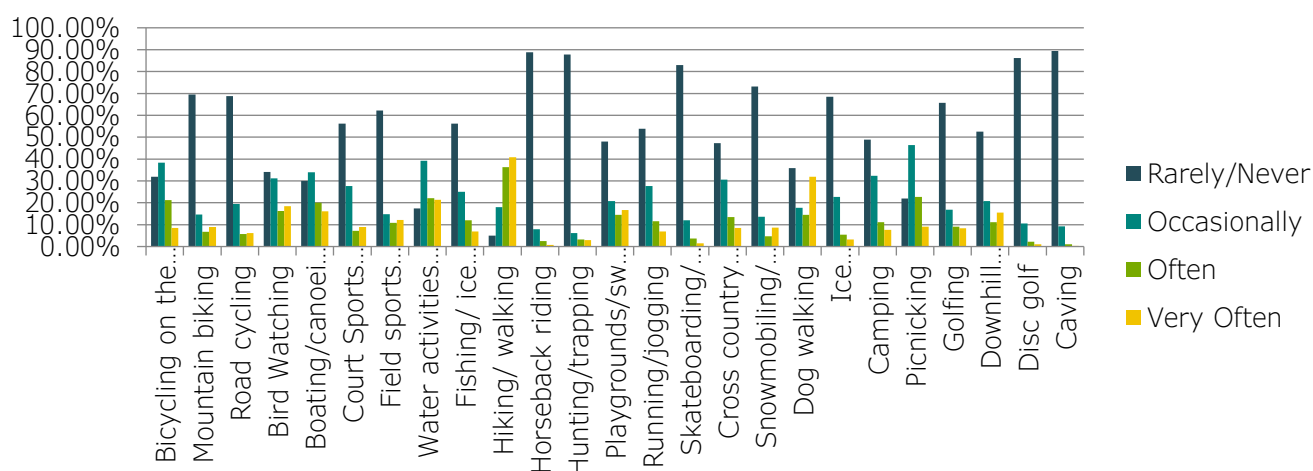
Appendix A – Soils of Local Importance Map



The town of Lanesborough designated several soils as soils of local importance.

Appendix B – Survey Results

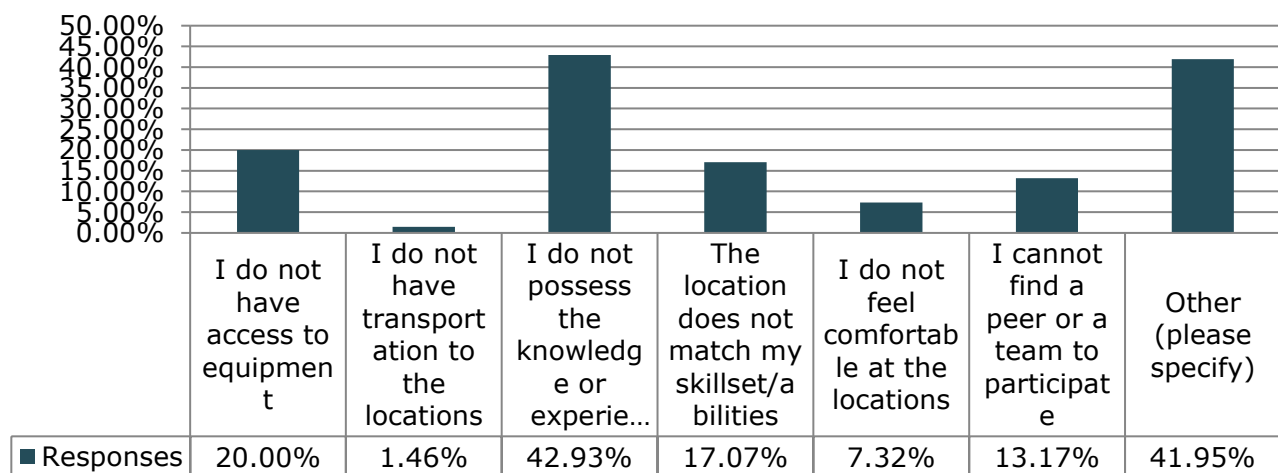
Question 1: How often do you participate in the following activities?



	Rarely/Never		Occasionally		Often		Very Often		Total
Bicycling on the rail trail	31.91%	90	38.30%	108	21.28%	60	8.51%	24	282
Mountain biking	69.53%	194	14.70%	41	6.81%	19	8.96%	25	279
Road cycling	68.71%	191	19.42%	54	5.76%	16	6.12%	17	278
Bird Watching	34.06%	94	31.16%	86	16.30%	45	18.48%	51	276
Boating/canoeing/kayaking	30.00%	84	33.93%	95	20.00%	56	16.07%	45	280
Court Sports (tennis, basketball, pickleball, etc.)	56.12%	156	27.70%	77	7.19%	20	8.99%	25	278
Field sports (soccer, baseball, etc.)	62.23%	173	14.75%	41	10.79%	30	12.23%	34	278
Water activities (swimming, wading, exploring, shorelines/creeks)	17.44%	49	39.15%	110	22.06%	62	21.35%	60	281
Fishing/ ice fishing	56.16%	155	25.00%	69	11.96%	33	6.88%	19	276
Hiking/ walking	4.93%	14	17.96%	51	36.27%	103	40.85%	116	284
Horseback riding	88.77%	245	7.97%	22	2.54%	7	0.72%	2	276

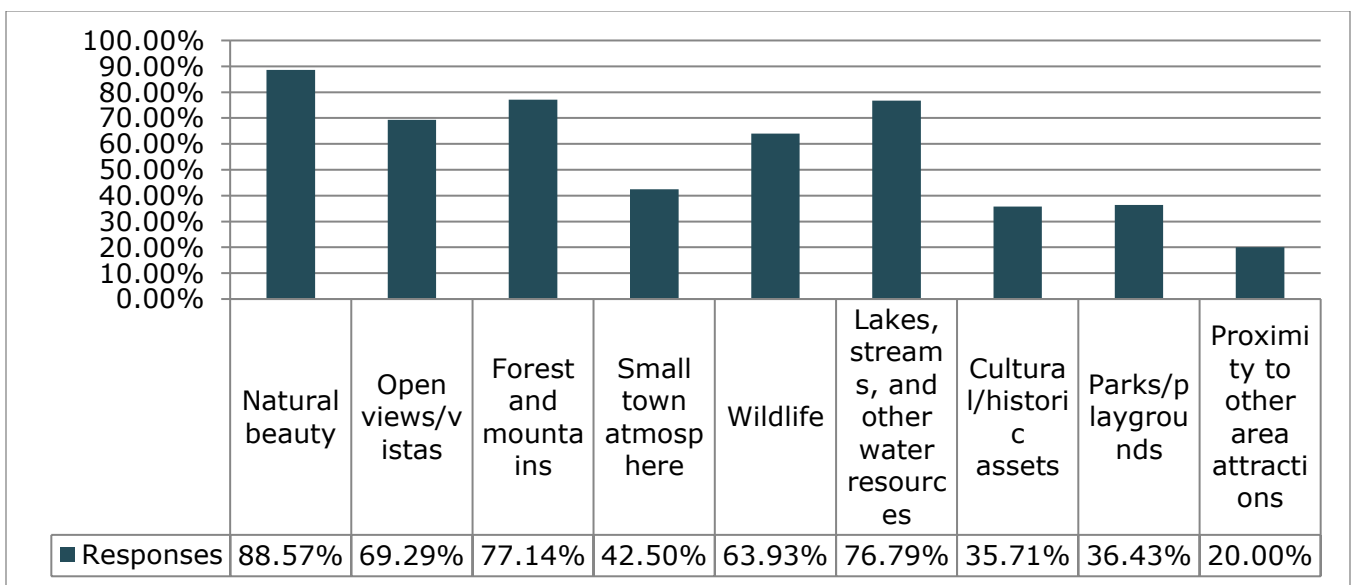
Hunting/trapping	87.77%	244	6.12%	17	3.24%	9	2.88%	8	278
Playgrounds/swings/slides	48.00%	132	20.73%	57	14.55%	40	16.73%	46	275
Running/jogging	53.82%	148	27.64%	76	11.64%	32	6.91%	19	275
Skateboarding/ BMX/ Rollerblading	82.97%	229	11.96%	33	3.62%	10	1.45%	4	276
Cross country skiing and Snowshoeing	47.33%	133	30.60%	86	13.52%	38	8.54%	24	281
Snowmobiling/ATVs/Dirt Biking	73.12%	204	13.62%	38	4.66%	13	8.60%	24	279
Dog walking	35.82%	101	17.73%	50	14.54%	41	31.91%	90	282
Ice Skating/hockey	68.50%	187	22.71%	62	5.49%	15	3.30%	9	273
Camping	48.92%	136	32.37%	90	11.15%	31	7.55%	21	278
Picnicking	21.90%	60	46.35%	127	22.63%	62	9.12%	25	274
Golfing	65.69%	180	16.79%	46	9.12%	25	8.39%	23	274
Downhill skiing/snowboarding	52.52%	146	20.86%	58	11.15%	31	15.47%	43	278
Disc golf	86.18%	237	10.55%	29	2.18%	6	1.09%	3	275
Caving	89.38%	244	9.16%	25	1.10%	3	0.37%	1	273

Question 2: Is there anything that prevents you from participating in any of the above activities?



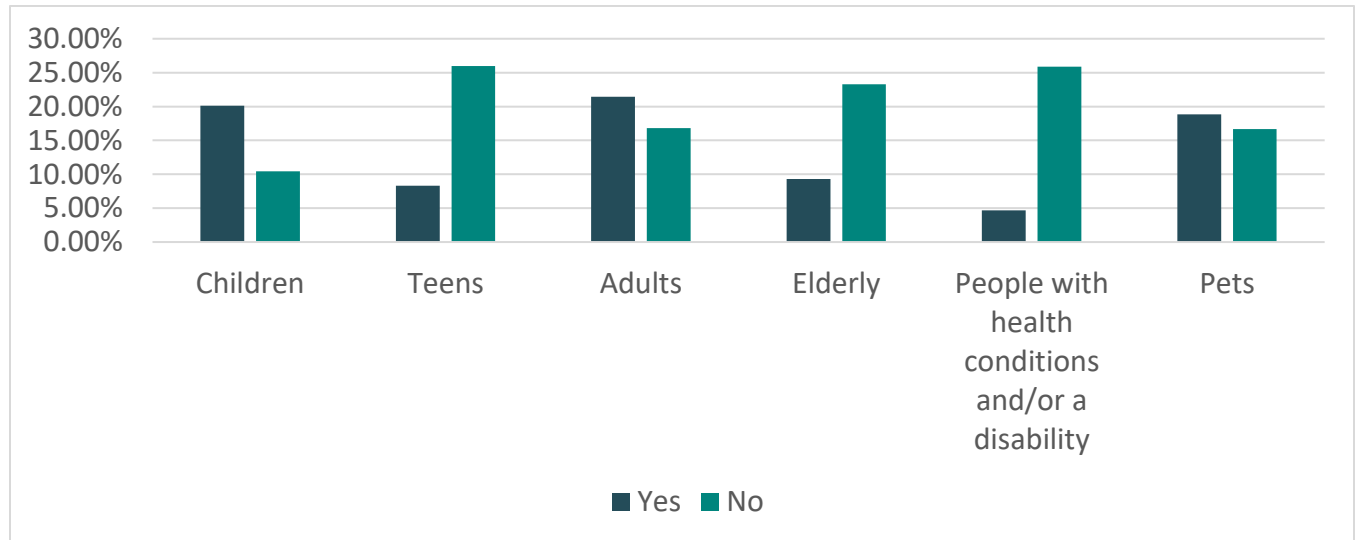
Answer Choices	Responses	
I do not have access to equipment	20.00%	41
I do not have transportation to the locations	1.46%	3
I do not possess the knowledge or experience to do the activity	42.93%	88
The location does not match my skillset/abilities	17.07%	35
I do not feel comfortable at the locations	7.32%	15
I cannot find a peer or a team to participate	13.17%	27
Other (please specify)	41.95%	86

Question 3: What do you value most during your recreational activities?



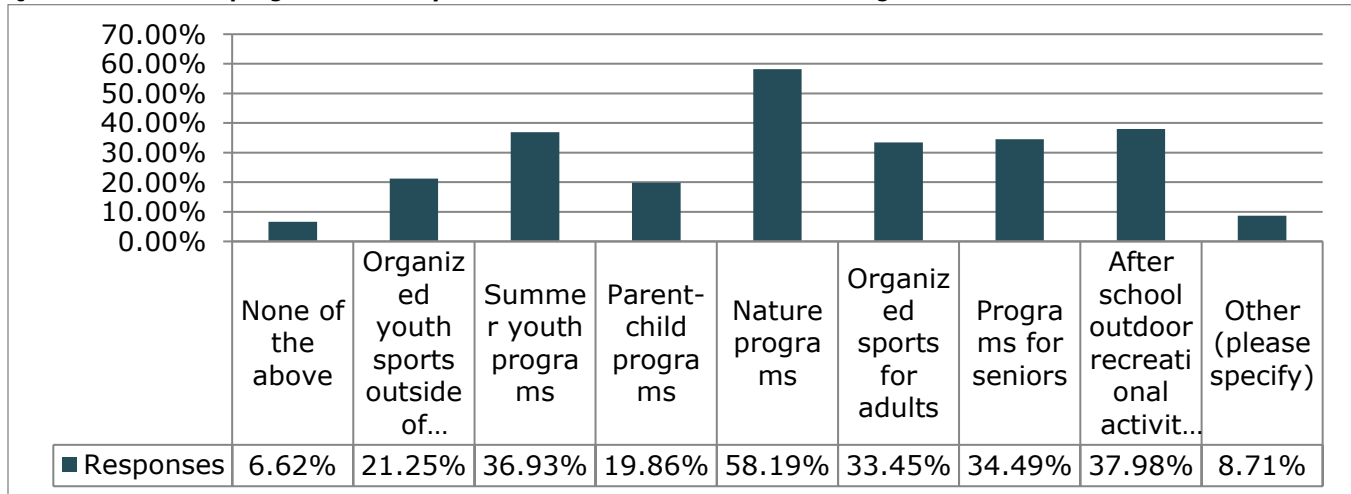
Answer Choices	Responses	
Natural beauty	88.57%	248
Open views/vistas	69.29%	194
Forest and mountains	77.14%	216
Small town atmosphere	42.50%	119
Wildlife	63.93%	179
Lakes, streams, and other water resources	76.79%	215
Cultural/historic assets	35.71%	100
Parks/playgrounds	36.43%	102
Proximity to other area attractions	20.00%	56
Other (please specify):		12

Question 4: Are existing Outdoor recreational programs and facilities in Lanesborough adequate for the following groups?



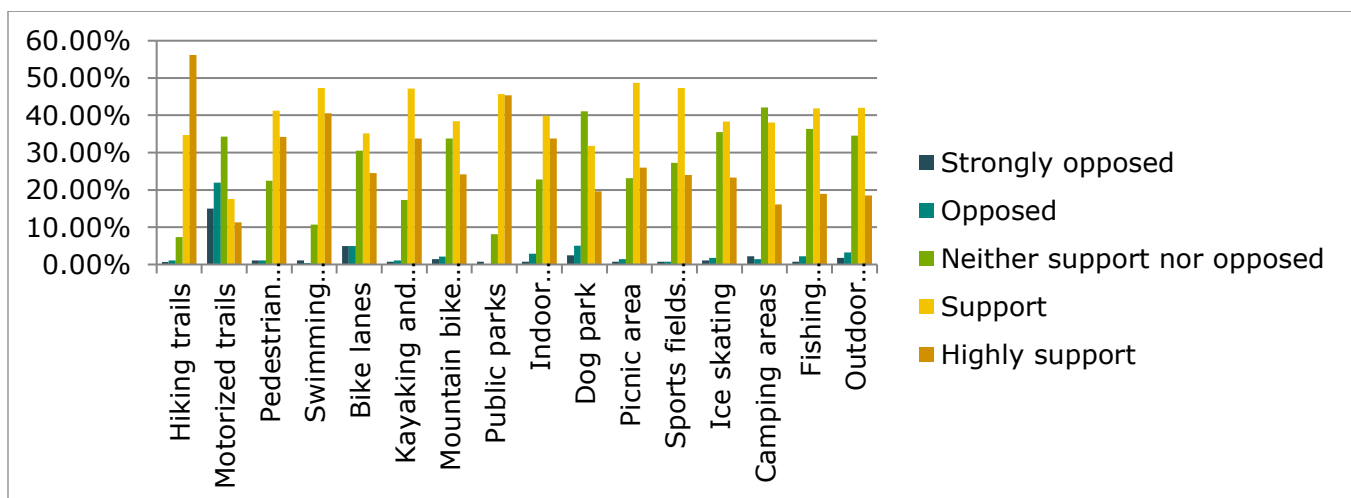
	Yes		Somewhat		No		Don't Know		Total	Weighted Average
Children	20.14%	56	40.29%	112	10.43%	29	29.14%	81	278	2.49
Teens	8.30%	23	28.88%	80	25.99%	72	36.82%	102	277	2.91
Adults	21.43%	60	46.79%	131	16.79%	47	15.00%	42	280	2.25
Elderly	9.32%	26	34.77%	97	23.30%	65	32.62%	91	279	2.79
People with health conditions and/or a disability	4.68%	13	28.42%	79	25.90%	72	41.01%	114	278	3.03
Pets	18.84%	52	36.59%	101	16.67%	46	27.90%	77	276	2.54

Question 5: Which programs would you like to see more of in Lanesborough?

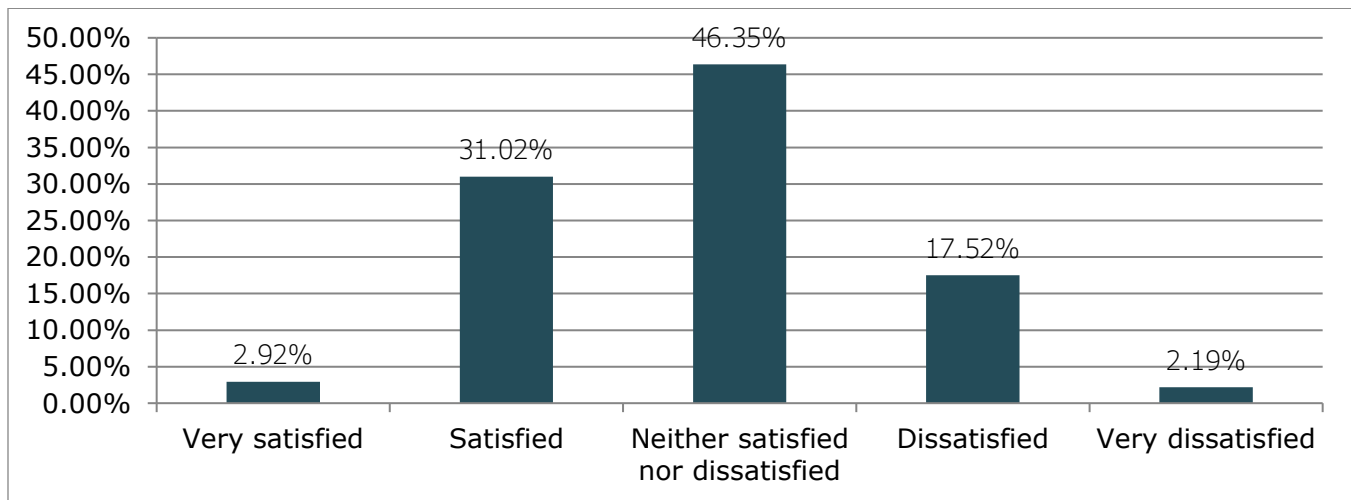


Answer Choices	Responses	
None of the above	6.62%	19
Organized youth sports outside of school programming	21.25%	61
Summer youth programs	36.93%	106
Parent-child programs	19.86%	57
Nature programs	58.19%	167
Organized sports for adults	33.45%	96
Programs for seniors	34.49%	99
After school outdoor recreational activities	37.98%	109
Other (please specify)	8.71%	25

Question 6: Please indicate your level of support for the following recreation improvements in Lanesborough



	Strongly opposed		Opposed		Neither support nor opposed		Support		Highly support		Total
Hiking trails	0.70%	2	1.05%	3	7.37%	21	34.74%	99	56.14%	160	285
Motorized trails	14.96%	41	21.90%	60	34.31%	94	17.52%	48	11.31%	31	274
Pedestrian crossings and sidewalks	1.07%	3	1.07%	3	22.42%	63	41.28%	116	34.16%	96	281
Swimming areas and lake access	1.07%	3	0.36%	1	10.68%	30	47.33%	133	40.57%	114	281
Bike lanes	4.96%	14	4.96%	14	30.50%	86	35.11%	99	24.47%	69	282
Kayaking and canoe launches	0.72%	2	1.08%	3	17.27%	48	47.12%	131	33.81%	94	278
Mountain bike trails	1.42%	4	2.14%	6	33.81%	95	38.43%	108	24.20%	68	281
Public parks	0.71%	2	0.00%	0	8.16%	23	45.74%	129	45.39%	128	282
Indoor recreational facility	0.71%	2	2.85%	8	22.78%	64	39.86%	112	33.81%	95	281
Dog park	2.50%	7	5.00%	14	41.07%	115	31.79%	89	19.64%	55	280
Picnic area	0.72%	2	1.44%	4	23.10%	64	48.74%	135	25.99%	72	277
Sports fields and courts	0.72%	2	0.72%	2	27.24%	76	47.31%	132	24.01%	67	279
Ice skating	1.08%	3	1.79%	5	35.48%	99	38.35%	107	23.30%	65	279
Camping areas	2.20%	6	1.47%	4	42.12%	115	38.10%	104	16.12%	44	273
Fishing piers/fishing access	0.73%	2	2.18%	6	36.36%	100	41.82%	115	18.91%	52	275
Outdoor fitness stations	1.78%	5	3.20%	9	34.52%	97	41.99%	118	18.51%	52	281

Question 7 - Please rate your overall satisfaction with the outdoor recreational facilities in Lanesborough.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Very satisfied	2.92%	8
Satisfied	31.02%	85
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	46.35%	127
Dissatisfied	17.52%	48
Very dissatisfied	2.19%	6

Question 8: Please tell us what outdoor spaces you would like to see improved or created to make your outdoor recreational experience more enjoyable.

- A dedicated space for a dog park would be nice.
- A designated fishing area at Bull Hill Rd, at the bridge, and limited designated parking as well. I realize this is a watershed but there are photographers, fishermen, and sightseers in this area so I believe there can be a happy medium between the needs of the watershed and the needs of residents of Lanesborough to enjoy this attraction safely, that being the bridge at the bottom of Bull Hill road.
- A dog park at the old driving range at skyline would be nice. Lighting at Narragansett park would be beneficial to get more use out of the basketball court.
- A playground that isn't located in a parking lot where parents can't see the kids. They dart back and forth across the parking lot to access family/friends also located in the park (at baseball, soccer or football events). -Playground is also poorly maintained with little wood chip depth, no fence and fills with water under the swings, etc. -playground needs young children (3-6 yo) and older children (6-12 yo) areas and handicap accessible features. -pavilion is unusable with the walls so open/exposed...and limited picnic tables/seating anyway so why bother with a pavilion. Maybe some partial walls coming down from the roof to limit how much rain/sun can enter the "covered" area below. -trees in Laston park are encroaching on the beautiful level playing fields...no more trees please! We could add more fields, games, courts, etc with fewer trees that will eventually take over...whyyyyyy did we fill up Laston with trees! -more community events at Laston...music, food trucks, seasonal events (Halloween trail or Fall Event, 4th of July Labor Day

or Memorial Day event) -Multi-use trails that connect from Laston to Constitution Hill would be amazing!!! -It's time for Actual flush toilets at Laston. -We need Pickleball and tennis courts at Laston or another town property.

- A space for teens to hang out and play activities such as skate parks or something like that.
- A town dog park would be a great asset. There would have to be a separation between small and large dogs. Kayak and canoe launches for older adults, as well as all others.
- Accessible hiking trails, dog park, outside fitness stations.
- Accessible trail on rt 7 side of town, more developed lake access, sidewalks around lake
- Accessible trails
- Additional bike trail in addition to the "A Trail."
- Adult sports leagues
- affordable boat slips for seasonal use
- All public facilities/parks could be improved.
- Allow dogs in Laston park
- An handicap accessible trail for nature walks would be nice. Also more effort in controlling invasive plants like the knotweed on Silver St and preserving local ecosystems
- Atv / utv trails and access
- Atv road access to trails. Parking & access for kayaking / canoeing
- Balance Rock Park trails are torn up by ATV use. Clear and maintain these trails.
- Bathrooms at Laston- Indoor recreation facility for teens/children during winter More Benches for the lacrosse/ soccer fields at Laston
- Better Playgrounds for kids. More trails for Bicycles, MT Bikes, ATVs, Dirtbikes. Rentable space for Kids b-day parties.
- Better. Are of the lake, weeds so you can boat or swim, parks cleaned and cared for
- Bike trails and roadways
- Bridge St Park could use some love. Pickle ball courts and bouche courts would be great there!
- Bridge Street Baseball Park
- Bridge Street Park
- Cant hunt or hike on kessler rd and north main st. without destroying vehicle. Access needs to be improved and maintained. Roads have been unmaintained for over a decade.
- Certified adaptive mountain bike trails in the Shaker Mountain Trails would be great. I spent several days at the Kingdom Trails in Burke VT with 20 aMTB users in September. I would love to invite that group to come to the Shaker Mountain trails
- CLEAN THAT SCUMMIE LAKE UP
- continue to manage our brooks, streams and ponds/lakes
- Cross country ski trail/ walking trail
- Designated dog walking off leash
- Develop/clean Berkshire Pond back into a swimming location
- Disc golf
- Dog park Keep as much open spaces as possible keep Lanesborough beautiful
- Dog park Tennis and pickle all courts
- Dog parks, adult focused recreational areas, better access to Pontoosuc Lake. Do not replicate what we already have available, i.e. Rail Trail, ATV trails, children's parks, etc.
- easier/safer transportation to these places
- Expand laston park maybe
- Flat hiking trails more seats on bike paths
- Get rid of lake weeds

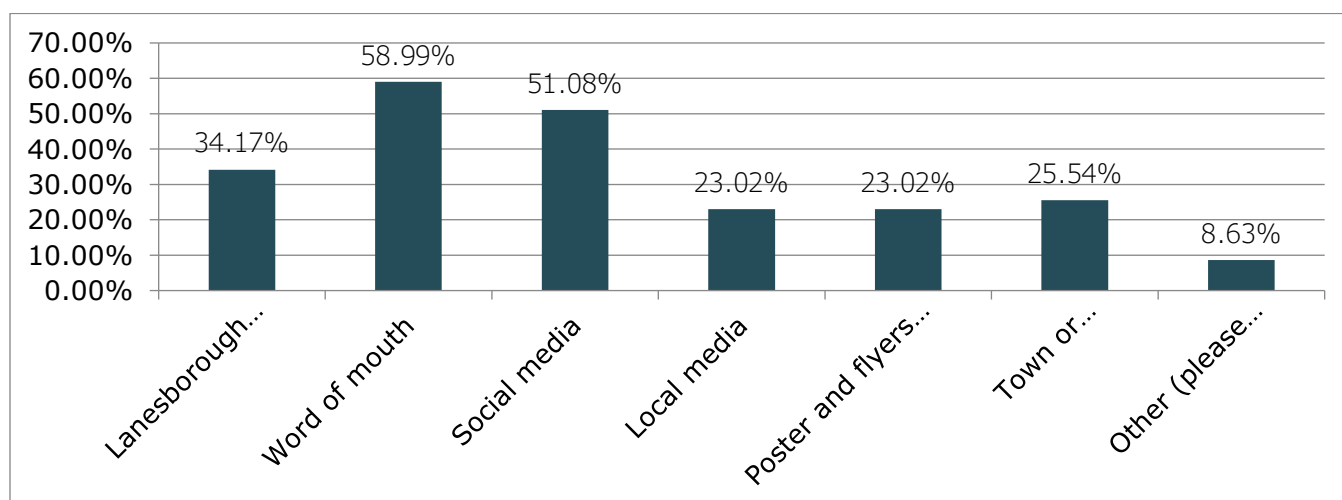
- Good for humans, poor for dogs
- have a pavilion and an outdoor stage for block parties
- Heated swimming pool
- Hiking Trails
- Hiking trails close to town center.
- I haven't taken enough advantage of current spaces to comment. More communication about the spaces & events would be welcomed.
- I need to learn more about what is currently available in order to answer this question. I have learned a lot from this survey
- I would like to see more wellness and fitness options for the community to include older age groups such as fitness stations at Laston Park
- I'd like to see the town focus on important funding in our town before we waste any money on these things.
- I'd love to play tennis (but also need to find people to play tennis with)
- Improve playground @ laston. Figure out better parking @ town beach.
- Improve the water quality of Pontoosuc
- improved swimming hiking trails protection of open spaces
- Improvement of boating and better maintenance of the lake. Needs weed control, specially in Gunn's Cove!
- Improvement to the lake,...weed control.
- It takes just one motorized vehicle to ruin a pedestrian area for years. We need to give these vehicles their own places to run free, so the rest of our spaces stay calm and untouched. And we need some solid, "self-policing" setups to keep motorized vehicles out of pedestrian zones—so it's not a fight, it's just the way the space naturally works.
- It would be neat to have an outdoor workout thing like Williamstown has
- It would be nice for all sport teams to have the same privileges, bathrooms Lights and access to the town equipment.
- Lake needs improvement; Need better control of invasive weeds.
- Lanesboro has the potential to be a tourist destination (which could generate much needed \$) while creating a much closer knit community. Why not encourage seasonal themes that would not only generate visitors from out of area, but encourage the community to come together. If we had a central area that contained a skating rink with a hot cocoa shack, a quaint gazebo For instance, we could use that as a central location for an open Christmas bazaar like they do in Germany. In the fall this area could be used for a Halloween themed celebration with a pumpkin contest, featuring local treats and crafts- a haunted house or hayride, etc. In the summer we could have antique vendors come in like they do in Brimfield only on a smaller scale. Lanesborough has a lot of potential, but we need an identity, and a very quaint "town center." This in addition to all the outdoor activities could make this area stand out. We are surrounded by other towns that have so much more personality and identity, and yet we possess things that many of these towns don't. We can do so much better!
- Lanesborough needs an off-leash dog park.
- Laston Field was a big step forward and I feel like Lanesborough has good youth recreation and outdoor facilities - we should now focus on bringing adult opportunities up to par.
- longer walking trails that are not paved
- looking forward to BNRC trails, porta potties, benches or picnic table near trails, easier access in terms of parking and signage
- Maybe a self fitness park on existing cleared land.

- More accessibility
- More adult activities at Laston Park pavilion
- MORE ATV/UTV trails!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- More basketball and tennis courts. More areas to swim
- More connections to get to trails - trailheads, pedestrian crossings, sidewalks. Example is Route 8, there are no additional pedestrian crossings from the Brookhaus / Swamp Road intersection all the way up to the crossing in Cheshire past Bedard Brothers / next to formal bass water grill (~5 miles). These crossings and additional connections into the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail would enable residents and businesses on Route 8 to safer and easier access to the rail trail. Another example would be connecting the rail trail with Brookhaus / Gulf Road and Gulf Road improvements - could get more cross traffic from Dalton residents and the Boulders / Appalachian Trail
- More courts,
- More garbage stations along the rail trail for dog waste.
- More lake access and better fishing areas
- more lake access points on Pontoosuc Lake (i know this is being addressed)
- more mountain bike trails
- More mountain bike trails! They are by nature multi use so benefit many.
- More mountain bike trails, a designated fishing area along bull hill causeway, outdoor fitness stations
- More playgrounds for kids. The elementary school is nice but it would be great to have another good option (bridge st or the Greylock welcome center?)
- More side walks and safer crosswalks as
- More signage indicating activity areas. More walking trails that are maintained.
- More trails and paths for safe walking, biking, hiking that are distributed so that most/all residents can reach at least one area without a car. Having benches periodically along these paths would be wonderful. I would love Lanesborough to be a much more walkable town! It would also, as I mentioned above, be wonderful if Laston could be expanded to have additional open recreation space, picnic/gathering areas, and maybe things like tennis/pickleball courts or a playground geared toward older kids.
- More walking trails — with benches
- More walking trails — with benches
- Mountain biking Swimming Cross country skiing
- Mountain biking and hunting
- Need pickleball courts. The plunking beach needs to be maintained with additional sand each year and needs to be for Lanesboro residents only (just like they do at Lee Beach for Lee residents) as the beach is often completely full of non residents.
- Neighborhood parks (Narragansett, Bridge, Town Beach) that are walkable for those who live nearby
- no comment
- None
- Not sure
- Not sure
- Only ones I know of are Langston Field and Constitution Hill
- Open-Ended Response
- outdoor facilities need to take into consideration the neighbors. the speakers at Laston Field project sound for over a mile

- Outdoor skating facility,
- Paddle ball court
- paint ball, trampoline park, town pool
- Park off of Naragansett could use a revamp, the playground equipment is outdated, benches and tables are old and rotting
- Parks. Pickleball/tennis courts
- PICKLE BALL COURTS , OUTDOOR FITNESS STATIONS, A TRACK,
- Pickleball and swimming area
- pickleball courts
- Pickleball courts. If the pavilion was stripped for pickleball it would be ideal as it would also provide shade.
- Playground at Laston. Would love a more designated swim location at a local lake.
- Playground equipment at Narragansett park Limited motorized vehicle to specific areas in balance rock park Accessible trails where possible
- Playground updates for children. Including more picnic areas to spend the day at a playground.
- Pontoosuc Lake
- Pontoosuc lake attracts so many people. Locals and tourists alike. The lake was almost unusable this year because of weeds. We need better management of this gem!
- Primitive area people can just go explore and learn
- private land owners open more land to atv/motorized vehicle traffic more public kayaking access
- Protected bike lanes.
- Public bathrooms
- Rail trail and hiking trails could use more publicity to encourage people to get outdoors more often.
- Restricting the use of ATVs / side by sides on the trail is a big bummer for our family. There is no where here to do this legally - we travel to VT
- Roller skating, skateboarding maybe pickle ball. Picnic areas
- senior and handicapped facilities and spaces
- Shaker Ridge Trail Network will be a boon to tourism in the Lanesborough area
- Sidewalks on narragansett
- Skate board park Flower gardens with benches and picnic area's
- Skating rink, something for teens to do
- Softball field at LES
- Something over in Berkshire Village would be nice. Clean up the pond - make it a viable swimming spot again. larger pond is great for ice skating and fishing
- Splash pad
- Sunrise beach- I have attempted once to make an effort to improve years ago, take back some of the land the owner next door has claimed as his own, clean it up and make it nice like it was in the 80s :)
- Support for the Shaker Ridge trail effort would be amazing!
- The bridge Street public field. There are so many children in this area that could use a park/playground/sports area, but the facilities are old and falling apart, and the field lacks substance.
- The Little League fields were supposed to be used for Pickle Ball courts and other recreation activities; I would like to see this happen
- The parking area across from balance rock park entrance leveled and cleaned up please.

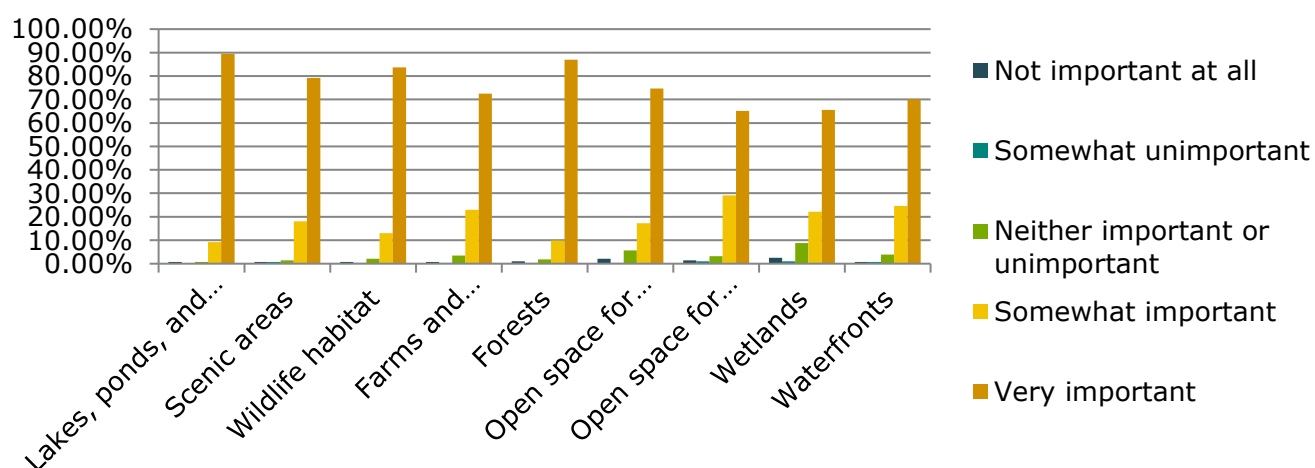
- The Town Brook is a huge asset that is currently rendered useless by beaver dams. I grew up on Monica Drive, and during the summer, we lived down at the brook, swimming, fishing from Miner Rd. all the way up to the Sunset Drive-In (Laston Park). The water was crystal clear, fast moving, and now it's sluggish, almost stagnant in some places, and so overgrown that you can't even get near it. I'm sure there are EPA regulations to adhere to, but there must be something that can be done to open it back up and return it to it's former status. I now live on Miner Rd., and every time I drive over the bridge, it makes me sick to see it's current condition.
- Trailhead parking and connections
- Unsure
- Update playground equipment at Narragansett park
- UTV access
- Walking trails ADA compliant outdoor benches along trails
- Walking trails around lakes and tributaries, safer bike lanes. Delighted to see Linda's ideas for the park be implemented.
- We need an indoor outdoor space for birthday venue and an area where young babies and tots along with their parents can go and hang out. Also as mentioned above indoor cost efficient pool
- weeds in the lake are bad
- While I understand the interest in using off-road vehicles on designated trails, there is a lot of abuse to walking/ biking trails, private property and town roads by dirt bikers and ATV users. The parks are getting ruined by off-road vehicles and lack of enforcement for both private and public property damage. I don't take my dogs into Balance Rock Park/ Pittsfield Forest anymore because of all the off road vehicles whipping around. Poaching is also an issue, illegal hunting on private (and POSTED) property as well as off-season poaching in the parks and public land. A few jerks ruining it for those who follow laws.
- Work with BNRC to build a pedestrian only bridge across Town Brook to connect Laston Park to Constitution Hill. Maintain Laston Park wrt dead trees & brush along the brook. Create a Town walking trail that would utilize sidewalks, parks, back roads and highlight some town places like King Elmer, historical locations, etc. Maybe a 2 mile loop from town center.
- Would like to see more local outdoor activities without having to leave the area

Question 9: How do you get information about recreational programs, facilities, and initiatives in Lanesborough?



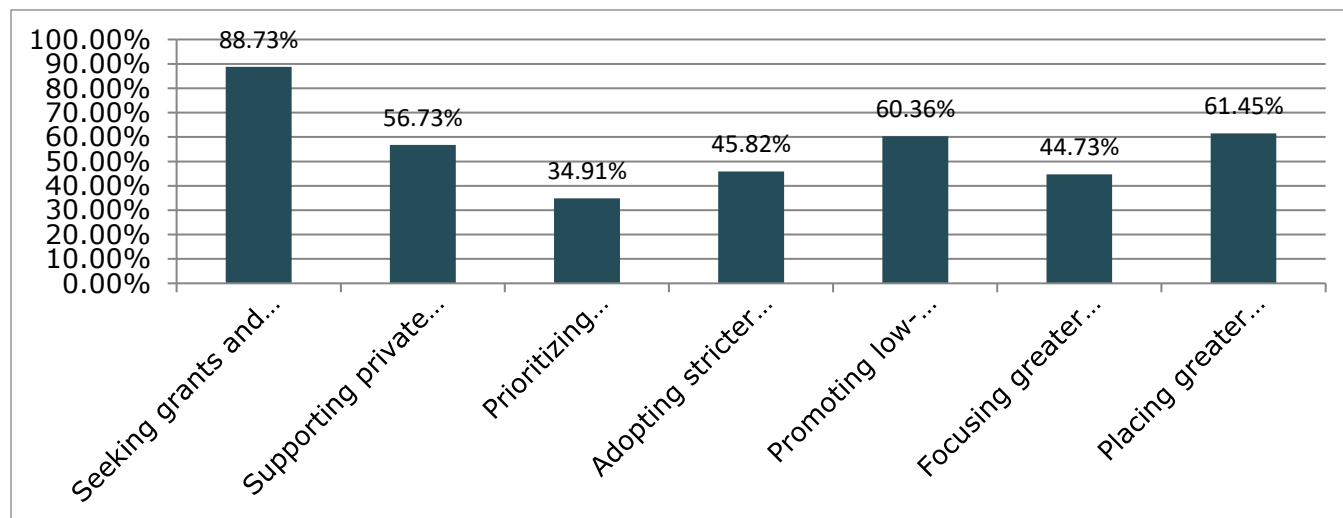
Answer Choices	Responses	
Lanesborough email newsletter	34.17%	95
Word of mouth	58.99%	164
Social media	51.08%	142
Local media	23.02%	64
Poster and flyers around town	23.02%	64
Town or organization webpages	25.54%	71
Other (please specify)	8.63%	24

Question 10: How important is it for Lanesborough to preserve the following types of open spaces?



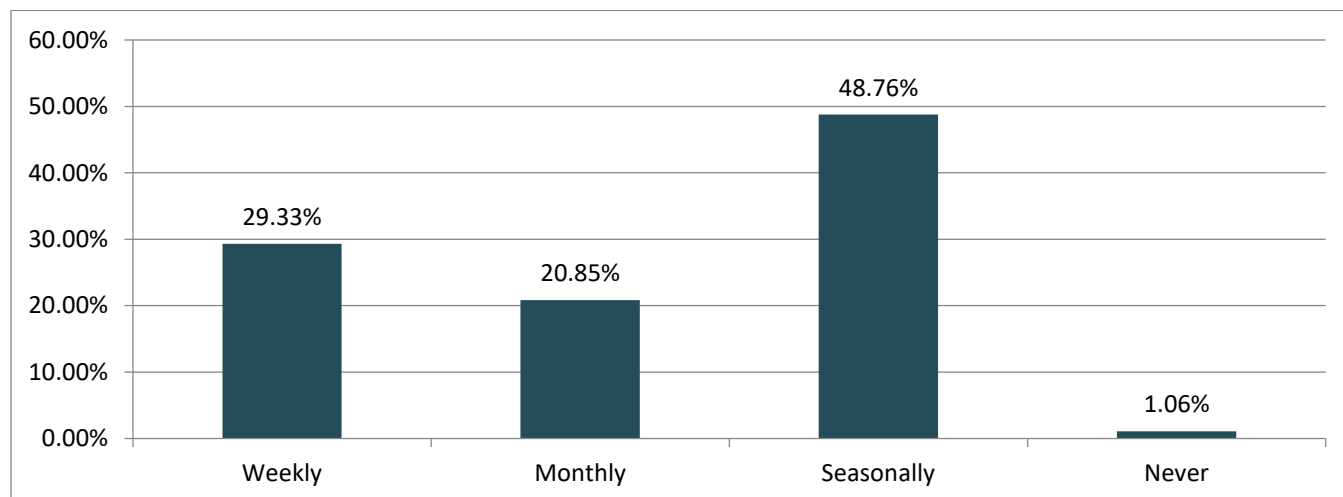
	Not important at all		Somewhat unimportant		Neither important or unimportant		Somewhat important		Very important		Total
Lakes, ponds, and rivers	0.70%	2	0.00%	0	0.70%	2	9.15%	26	89.44%	254	284
Scenic areas	0.71%	2	0.71%	2	1.41%	4	18.02%	51	79.15%	224	283
Wildlife habitat	0.71%	2	0.35%	1	2.12%	6	13.07%	37	83.75%	237	283
Farms and agricultural properties	0.71%	2	0.35%	1	3.53%	10	22.97%	65	72.44%	205	283
Forests	1.06%	3	0.35%	1	1.76%	5	9.86%	28	86.97%	247	284
Open space for conservation	2.11%	6	0.35%	1	5.63%	16	17.25%	49	74.65%	212	284
Open space for recreation	1.42%	4	1.07%	3	3.20%	9	29.18%	82	65.12%	183	281
Wetlands	2.46%	7	1.06%	3	8.80%	25	22.18%	63	65.49%	186	284
Waterfronts	0.71%	2	0.71%	2	3.91%	11	24.56%	69	70.11%	197	281

Question 11: What tools for land conservation do you support the town utilizing? (Pick your top five)



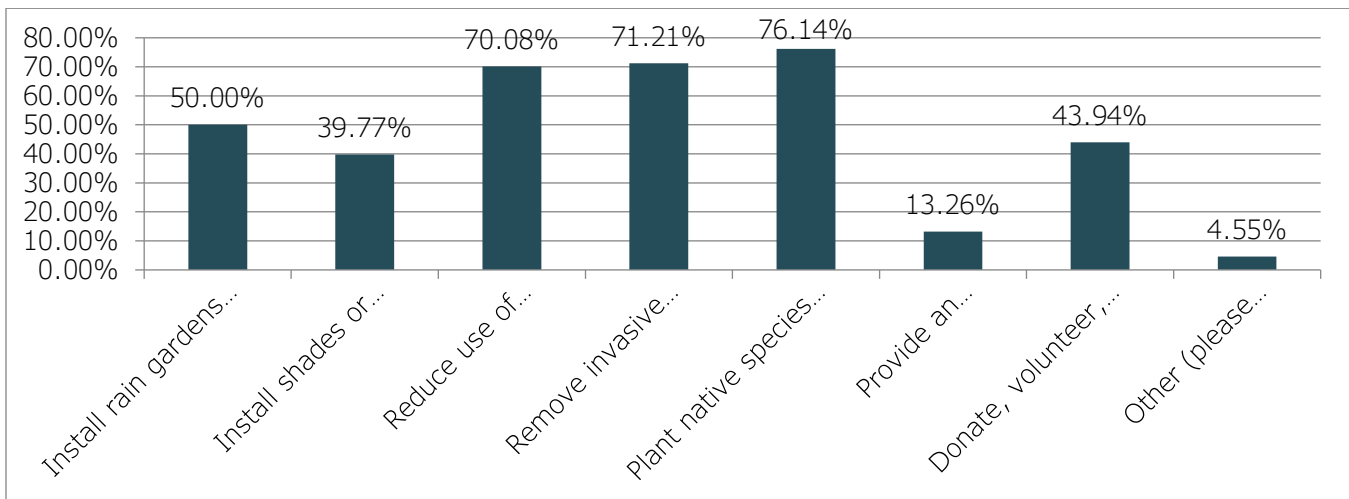
Answer Choices	Responses	
Seeking grants and nonprofit partnerships to acquire environmentally important areas	88.73%	244
Supporting private property owners access tools and incentives to conserve important properties	56.73%	156
Prioritizing municipal infrastructure upgrades to prevent flooding	34.91%	96
Adopting stricter conservation bylaws to reduce development on important lands	45.82%	126
Promoting low-impact development to reduce surface and groundwater pollution	60.36%	166
Focusing greater attention on reducing climate change impacts	44.73%	123
Placing greater emphasis on managing and reducing spread of invasive species	61.45%	169

Question 12: How often do you purchase items from local farms/orchards?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Weekly	29.33%	83
Monthly	20.85%	59
Seasonally	48.76%	138
Never	1.06%	3

Question 13: Which of the following conservation practices would you be willing to implement on your own property? (Check all that apply)



Answer Choices	Responses	
Install rain gardens and/or vegetative buffers to reduce runoff and nutrient loading in lakes, rivers, and streams.	50.00%	132
Install shades or light fixtures that decrease light pollution (dark skies improvements).	39.77%	105
Reduce use of insecticide, herbicide, fertilizers to reduce infiltration into water bodies.	70.08%	185
Remove invasive species.	71.21%	188
Plant native species and pollinator friendly species.	76.14%	201
Provide an easement or sell land to support recreational improvements in the town.	13.26%	35
Donate, volunteer, and otherwise support conservation organizations	43.94%	116
Other (please specify)	4.55%	12

Question 14: Use this space to tell us about something we missed or other concerns regarding conservation in Lanesborough.

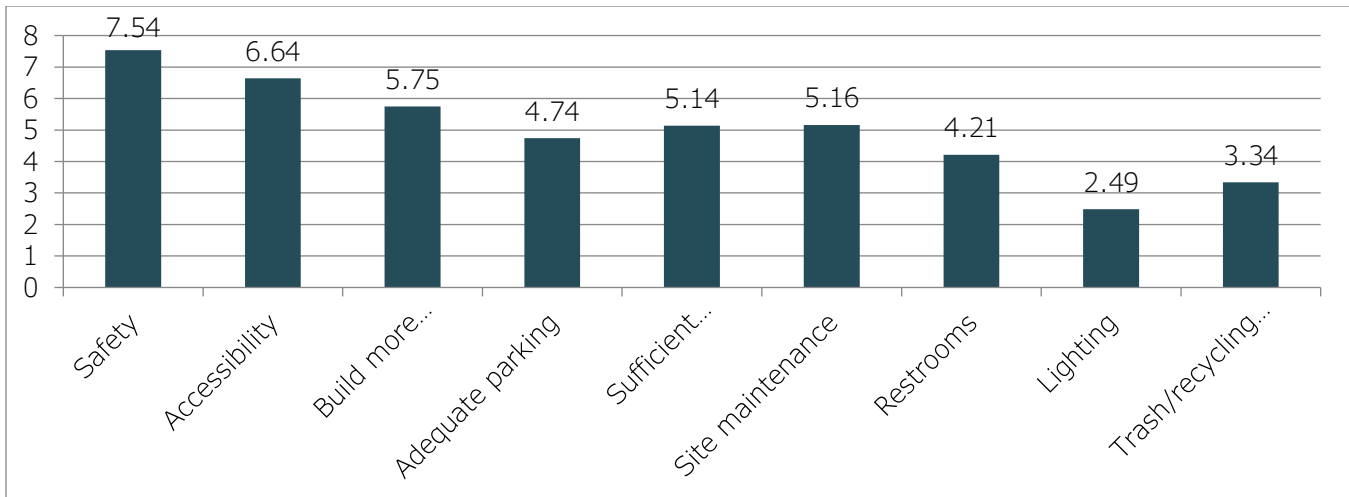
- Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90B, Sections 20-34 323 CMR 3.03. - M.G.L. c. 90B, Section 26(e). You may not operate an ATV on privately-owned property without specific permission. - Trespass Laws: Operating without permission also falls under the criminal

trespass statute, M.G.L. Chapter 266, Section 121A - Operating ATVs on public ways (roads, shoulders) is generally illegal, with limited exceptions. The primary statute is M.G.L. c. 90B, Section 25. - All ATVs operated in Massachusetts, on both public and private land, must be registered under M.G.L. c. 90B (unless used strictly for agricultural/forestry/construction purposes on private property). - Registration Display: Registration decals must be displayed on both sides of the vehicle (M.G.L. c. 90B, Section 22). - Helmets: All operators and riders must wear protective headgear conforming to Registrar of Motor Vehicles standards (M.G.L. c. 90B, Section 26(d)). - Environmental Protection: Operation is prohibited in a manner that harasses wildlife or causes damage to sensitive areas like wetlands, reforested areas, or public water supplies (M.G.L. c. 90B, Section 26(f)). -- Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and local historical commissions. Key statutes and regulations include the Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 9, §§ 26-27C, and Chapter 40C.

- Add more dates for disposing of electronic devices, paint cans, mowers, mattress/box-spring, appliances, etc. Adding a reduced fee compared to what commercial companies charge would be acceptable to many residents. These items are expensive to dispose of, and are showing up on the back-roads in town, and it's going to get worse.
- Ban use of pesticides along our lakes, rivers etc
- Consider selling public land to private owners but include agreement to minimize development.
- continue to reduce the smoke from wood burning stoves
- Education for those living around lakes streams etc about how use of peso and lawn treatments negatively impact health if the watershed
- Funny to talk about conservation but let the mall just fall apart and not make better use of that land
- How can town address problem of the many dead, dying, unsafe ash, beech, hemlock, etc trees caused by pests and blights that are affecting roadside trees and forests.
- I already do most of the changes listed in question 13. Would be great to have more local involvement.
- I appreciate the time you're spending doing this survey! I think an indoor recreation space for youth (or the town in general) would be incredibly beneficial for all! A space where children can hang out after school, on weekends and during the summer. Maybe with an indoor gym to promote physical activity when the weather outside does not allow for it.
- I think it's pertinent to recognize that conservation may mean different things to different people. For example, some people may think solar installations are not conserving open space, and yet harvesting the sun should be considered a form of agriculture. Solar projects could be a way to "conserve" open space rather than having it actually developed.
- I would like to know more about what is currently being done in this area
- If we are to address invasive species it would help to define them, send bulletins/make a list available, and provide resources for dealing with them, whether funding, tools, or volunteers.
- I'm so glad you are doing this! I moved away from town a year ago, but still think of it as home.
- Improve education around the financial benefits of open space, conservation, and promotion of eco-tourism for town leadership and offices to understand how to leverage those resources
- Indoor facility like a field house with basketball court and field/track would be great. Especially if this area could be rented for things like kid's bday parties
- Is there a tree cutting ordinance or an arborist on staff?
- Lake Pontoosuc is a valuable natural resource for the Town but the failure to control weed growth and eutrophication is threatening the natural and recreational value of the lake.

- Maintain Lanesboro as a quaint country town
- Maintaining Pontoosuc Lake by removing invasive weeds on a timely basis
- N/a
- Na
- None
- Not sure
- Not sure
- Open-Ended Response
- Promote, by a informational campaign, the use of lawn fertilizer on property abutting Pontoosuc Lake and other waterways.
- Protecting the natural resources we have is top priority, not letting farm land get sold and developed and making bylaws to protect the lakes and not allow people to use pesticides and fertilizers that are causing toxic algae bloom. Lanesborough is a 'Pollinator Friendly' town and 'Right To Farm' community but does next to nothing to uphold those status.
- Reduce authority of conservation commission to that of recommendations only. This Department does nothing but raise the cost of any improvements
- State and local regulatory agencies can all say no and veto any compromise actions which balance competing interests.
- The lake is really in bad shape. Something needs to be done to decrease the amount of weeds.
- The lake needs engaged town govt in managing and a long term plan. Too many instances of ignored regulations around the shoreline.
- Unknown
- Use this space to tell us about something we missed or other concerns regarding conservation in Lanesborough.
- Very concerned about the lake
- We should make sure industrial scale solar fields are located ONLY where they are not seen, do not spoil our lovely views, and do not reduce nearby home values.
- weeds in the lake
- when state shut down local spring in berkshire village and the locals continued to drink the water for 10 years the town should of been notified they were connected to the same supply that would help conserve health in our town
- Would love to see a sidewalk / walking path around Pontoosuc. Also need to treat weeds in the lake so it can be used for recreational activities.

Question 15: Please rank from one to 10, with one being the top priorities and 10 being the lowest, what you think the town's should prioritize to improve its outdoor recreational offerings and spaces.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	T ot al	S c o r e						
Safety	41.67%	115	23.19%	64	11.96%	33	9.06%	25	6.88%	19	2.54%	72.17%	617%	636%	17	276	7.54
Accessibility	14.86%	41	32.25%	89	15.94%	44	11.59%	32	7.61%	21	7.61%	213.99%	1135%	1281%	576	276	6.64
Build more recreational facilities	19.57%	54	10.87%	30	20.29%	56	9.78%	27	7.61%	21	7.61%	217.61%	2190%	813.77%	38	276	5.75
Adequate parking	0.72%	2	4.35%	12	12.68%	35	22.46%	62	18.48%	51	13.77%	3811.23%	3133%	311.23%	11	276	4.74
Sufficient information about outdoor recreation opportunities available	10.51%	29	9.06%	25	8.70%	24	14.13%	39	22.83%	63	8.33%	239.78%	2761%	219.06%	25	276	5.14
Site maintenance	4.35%	12	10.87%	30	11.59%	32	14.13%	39	12.68%	35	29.71%	8210.51%	299%	3117%	16	276	5.16
Restrooms	2.17	6	3.26%	9	9.06%	25	11.96	33	11.96	33	14.86	4132.61	9042	2671	413	27	4.2

	%						%		%		%		%		%		%		6	1
Lighting	0.36%	1	2.17%	6	2.54%	7	1.45%	4	5.80%	16	5.80%	16	10.87%	30	45.65%	126	25.36%	70	276	2.49
Trash/recycling collection	5.80%	16	3.99%	11	7.25%	20	5.43%	15	6.16%	17	9.78%	27	11.23%	31	12.68%	35	37.68%	104	276	3.34

Question 16: Including yourself, indicate the numbers and ages of people in your household.

	0-9 years old	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	To tal
My self	0.71% 2	0.71% 2	2.14% 6	18.15% 51	18.51% 52	14.59% 41	21.71% 61	18.51% 51	4.98% 14	281
Sec ond per son	2.47% 6	4.12% 10	2.88% 7	16.87% 41	20.16% 49	13.99% 34	19.34% 47	14.81% 36	5.35% 13	243
Thir d per son	35.54% 43	33.88% 41	13.22% 16	5.79% 7	3.31% 4	2.48% 3	0.83% 1	1.65% 2	3.31% 4	121
Fou rth per son	51.69% 46	23.60% 21	10.11% 9	5.62% 5	3.37% 3	1.12% 1	1.12% 1	1.12% 1	2.25% 2	89
Fift h per son	40.00% 10	40.00% 10	4.00% 1	8.00% 2	8.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	25
Sixt h per son	70.00% 7	20.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10
Sev ent h per son	66.67% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	3

Question 17: Are you a resident of Lanesborough, from another Berkshire County community, or visiting from another area?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Lanesborough resident	84.10%	238
A different Berkshire County community	10.95%	31
Area 3	0.00%	0
Visiting from another area	4.95%	14

Question 18: Are you a seasonal/part-time resident?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	7.53%	21
No	92.47%	258

Question 19: Please select your annual household income range

Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than \$49,999	7.89%	22
\$50,000 - \$99,999	25.09%	70
\$100,000 - \$149,999	19.00%	53
\$150,000 - \$199,999	11.83%	33
\$200,000 or more	13.62%	38
prefer not to say	22.58%	63

Appendix C – Williams College Report

Lanesborough's Open Space and Recreation Plan

Section 5: The Long-Awaited Sequel (Now With More Environmental Issues)



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Tackling Environmental Threats in Lanesborough: Reworking Section 5 of Lanesborough's

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Authors: Valentina Cohen, Morgan Eigel, Annaliese Fricke, Grace Irish

Client: Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Town of Lanesborough

Course: Environmental Planning Workshop, Fall 2025

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of Lanesborough, Massachusetts, is at a critical juncture in its planning efforts. With its most recent Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) dating back to 2006, the town is long overdue to update its approach to managing and protecting its substantial outdoor recreation and conservation assets. Despite the expiration of the 2006 plan nearly two decades ago, Lanesborough has maintained considerable land holdings, both publicly and privately owned, that support the community's recreational needs, agriculture, and ecological integrity.

This report represents the initial phase of work to develop Section 5 of the updated OSRP, which inventories lands of conservation and recreation interest. Through geographic information systems (GIS) mapping, stakeholder engagement, and comparative analysis with neighboring Berkshire municipalities, we have identified both the strengths of Lanesborough's open space network and the critical management challenges that demand immediate attention. This assessment serves as the foundation for targeted recommendations that balance conservation, recreation, agricultural preservation, and economic development while addressing emerging ecological threats.

1.1 Importance of Open Space and Recreation Plans

Lanesborough possesses substantial open space and recreation resources that, despite planning gaps, continue to serve the community and support regional tourism. These assets

include state-protected lands, municipal holdings, permanently protected private properties, and temporarily protected lands under Chapter 61 classifications. Open Space and Recreation Plans assist communities like Lanesborough to manage and maintain these lands into the future regardless of change in population, turnover of political positions, or shifts in community goals. According to Massachusetts' Department of Conservation Services' *Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook*, "[OSRPs] allow a municipality to maintain and enhance all the benefits of open space that together make up much of the character of the community and protect its open space and recreation resources."¹

They also serve economic functions, helping communities determine where and how to develop their land. Not only does an OSRP protect a community's vision of its open space resources, it ensures that no misguided decisions are made that would threaten the other infrastructure in the town, such as roads, sewage systems, and waterways. In a more tangible sense, OSRPs also earn Massachusetts communities the right to apply for grants programs through the Division of Conservation Services via the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.²

1.2 Key findings

Throughout the execution of this project we learned several things about the intricacies of small town planning, but they largely contributed to an overarching theme: bureaucracy depends on organization. The information we sought to find was often—but not always—concisely tabulated (despite the fact that it was outdated). However, it was in several disparate locations and difficult to navigate. The list of contacts we spoke to was compiled by our clients based on

¹ Mass DCS, "Introduction," in *Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook* (2025), p. 1.

² Mass DCS, "Introduction," p. 1.

their connections. It is important that input is received from a range of land owners, farmers, land managers and land-based businesses.

On top of that, we experienced a spectrum of participation. There were several recipients of our calls who were uninterested in speaking with us, however, we also attended a Scoping Board meeting that took well over two hours due to high levels of public engagement. Certainly it is important to note that the settings and contexts of these conversations were nearly opposite, but it also raises questions as to why there were two vastly different responses when both situations shared the same intention. To create a successful Open Space and Recreation Plan, several voices and backgrounds need to come together and be represented equally. While some landowners and/or property managers were happy to contribute, others expressed hesitations towards sharing their information. Ensuring that as many perspectives as possible were covered despite different levels of engagement was a challenge we explore further in Part 7.

2.0 CONTEXTUALIZING LANESBOROUGH

2.1 Regional setting

Lanesborough is a small town located in the northern Berkshires region of western Massachusetts, spanning approximately 18, 926 acres.³ The town is characterized by a mix of forested lands, agricultural areas, wetlands, and developed neighborhoods. The region benefits from proximity to significant recreational and cultural amenities, including Mount Greylock, Pontoosuc Lake, the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, and the natural beauty that draws regional and national tourism.

The Lanesborough area is home to established outdoor recreation enterprises such as Ramblewild (an adventure park) and lies near Jiminy Peak ski resort. These anchor businesses

³ Town of Lanesborough, Lanesborough Economic Development Committee, and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, “Town of Lanesborough Economic Development Plan” (2017), p.20.

underscore the economic importance of outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation to the town's future viability. Also, as corporate holdings, they function similarly to permanently protected private lands and are therefore valuable in our assessment of land management practices. Additionally, Lanesborough maintains a significant agricultural economy, with active farms and family-operated agritourism operations contributing to the local economy and community identity.

2.2 Protected lands in Lanesborough

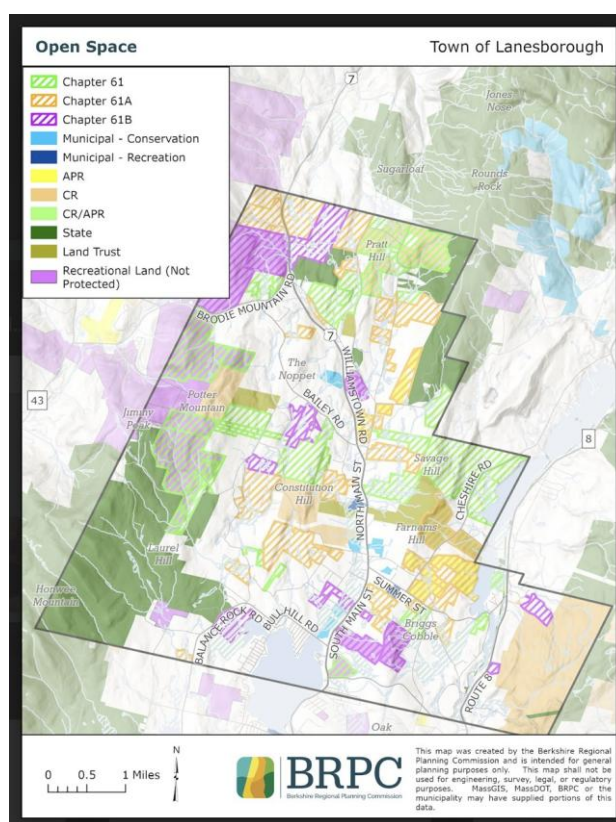


Figure 1: Open Space properties in Lanesborough.⁴

⁴Provided by Andy McKeever on behalf of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Section 5 of an OSRP, also known as the Conservation Lands Inventory, consists of an inventory of lands of conservation and recreational interest. There are three types of properties that are important to this section. The first are municipally owned conservation and recreation properties, such as town parks. In the same vein, public properties providing conservation and recreation amenities that are *not* held by municipal conservation or recreation departments, such as lands held by the National Park Service or USDA Forest Service Legacy Lands, are also relevant. The third category recognizes permanently and temporarily protected private parcels: Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B lands; properties protected by Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, Conservation Restrictions, or Watershed Preservation Restrictions; and estates, major institutional holdings, or corporate holdings.⁵ Of Lanesborough's 18,926 acres, approximately 17,598 acres are undeveloped⁶ and 8,954.61 acres—47% of the town's area—are defined by one of these three classifications. With such an enormous portion of the land in Lanesborough falling within these categories, it becomes evident that a plan for properly managing these properties, now and in the future, is necessary. Especially as climate change adds significant degrees of uncertainty to land management practices, there is an increased need for an understanding of challenges to land management.

- Municipally owned lands: These properties are protected by Article 97, an amendment to Massachusetts' Constitution, which requires a supermajority vote in each house of the state legislature to overturn the use of a municipal property that has been “acquired for natural resource purposes, broadly defined.”⁷ Cemeteries, as municipally owned properties, are also relevant to the mission of the OSRP.

⁵ Mass DCS, “Section 5 — Conservation and Recreation Lands Inventory,” in *Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook* (2025), pp. 20-22.

⁶ Town of Lanesborough, Lanesborough Economic Development Committee, and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, “Town of Lanesborough Economic Development Plan” (2017), p.20.

⁷McGregor Law, “Article 97,” [McGregor Law](#).

- *Conservation*: 105.91 acres
- *Recreation*: Laston Park (14.6 acres), Lanesborough Elementary School (13.1 acres), Mark Belanger Park (2.9 acres), Narragansett Park (1.1 acres)
- *Cemeteries*: Center Cemetery (1.9 acres), Mountain View Cemetery (5.76 acres), Pettibone Cemetery (0.39 acres), Talcott Cemetery (1 acre)
- State owned lands: 2,651.3 acres
- Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR): The town currently has three farms protected in perpetuity by being enrolled in the Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction program. Together, these farms have 372.61 acres of permanently protected agricultural land:
 - R & R Wirtes Grain and Berkshire Harvest: 228.11 acres
 - Windy Ridge Farm: 28.97 acres
 - Collins Farm: 72.25 acres

These properties represent the most secure form of agricultural protection, having sold development rights to the state through the APR program. However, the small number of enrolled farms suggests that many agricultural properties lack permanent protection and may be vulnerable to conversion or fragmentation.

- Conservation Restrictions (CR): These properties are legally enforced to limit development to ensure the protection of wildlife and natural scenery.⁸
 - *Land trusts*: 3 properties, 257.21 acres
 - *State-owned*: 7 properties, 899.53 acres
 - *Privately owned*: 4 properties, 651.64 acres

⁸ Community Preservation Coalition, “Conservation Restrictions 101: The Rules on Conservation Restrictions on CPA Acquired Land,” <https://www.communitypreservation.org/conservation-restrictions> (2021), accessed 30 October 2025.

Combined, there are 1,808.38 acres of land in Lanesborough that are protected in perpetuity by Conservation Restrictions. See Figure 1 to see these properties on a map of Lanesborough.

- Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B Lands: Massachusetts General Laws Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B provide temporary tax incentives for forest, agricultural, and recreational land use, respectively. These properties remain in private ownership but receive favorable tax treatment as long as they maintain their designated use. The assessment's records indicate significant holdings under these classifications:
 - *Chapter 61 (Forest Lands)*: 39 properties, approximately 2,093.77 acres, primarily under private ownership. These lands offer limited permanent protection; owners may remove land from Chapter 61 status and convert it to other uses if economic conditions change. These forests support timber production, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and recreation. The forests that comprise this resource are typical northern hardwood forests dominated by birch-beech-maple forest types. See Figure 1 to see these properties on a map of Lanesborough.
 - *Chapter 61A (Agricultural Lands)*: 46 properties, approximately 1,959.21 acres of agricultural land under favorable tax classification, supporting farming operations and agricultural heritage. See Figure 1 to see these properties on a map of Lanesborough.
 - *Chapter 61B (Open Space and Recreation)*: 16 properties, 1,196.06 acres of land maintained in wild, natural, or open condition. These have to be open to the public or members of a nonprofit organization and may be used for outdoor

activities as long as they do not conflict with the maintenance of the land. See

Figure 1 to see these properties on a map of Lanesborough.

Collectively, these Chapter lands represent approximately 5,249.04 acres of land that benefit from use-based tax incentives. While this is substantial, these lands offer only temporary protection. The absence of conservation easements or permanent deed restrictions means that these properties could be converted to other uses if tax advantages were no longer appealing to landowners or if the land were sold.

2.3 Infrastructure distribution inequities

Properties' access to public utilities is extremely limited: water and wastewater infrastructure exists only in a limited area in the southern part of the town, located largely within the business zoning district (see Figure 2). The town's limited public water supply has been cited by open space, agricultural, and forested property owners as a barrier to land management practices, forcing landowners to handle sewage on their own. This is specifically relevant to public properties with a large visitor population, such as parks and campgrounds.

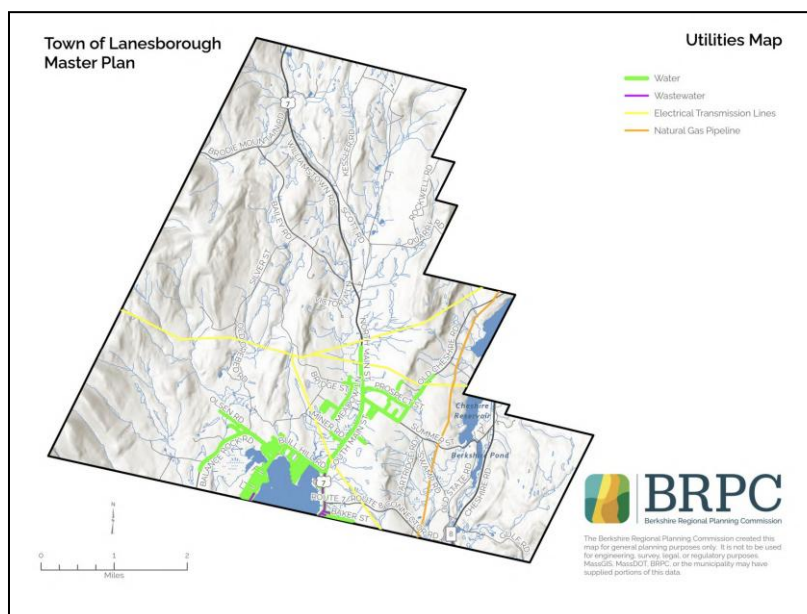


Figure 2: Utilities map of Lanesborough.⁹

Water and wastewater are represented by green and purple, respectively.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping and property identification

The foundation of this research began with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping to create a comprehensive inventory of lands of conservation and recreational interest in Lanesborough. Using current property data and assessor records, lands of conservation and recreational interest were identified and mapped, including publicly owned lands, privately owned conservation properties, agricultural holdings, recreational facilities, and forest parcels. This mapping process allowed for visualization of the spatial distribution of protected and unprotected lands across the town, understanding of existing protections (Chapter 61 classifications, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, conservation easements), and identification of properties warranting further investigation.

The GIS work revealed that Lanesborough's property inventory records were incomplete and outdated in the 2006 OSRP. This initial mapping exercise served as the foundation for determining which property owners and managers should be contacted for interviews.

3.2 Contact development and stakeholder identification

Once relevant properties were identified through GIS mapping, contact information for property owners, land managers, and operators was compiled. Contact information was gathered with guidance from BRPC.

3.3 Interview process and outreach

⁹ Provided by Andy McKeever on behalf of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

A targeted outreach campaign to property owners and managers was conducted between mid-October and early November. Interviews were conducted using a standardized semi-structured protocol designed to capture specific information while allowing for open-ended discussion of property-specific concerns. The interview methodology employed the following approach:

- Interview Framework and Questions: A set of structured interview questions was developed to capture both objective and subjective information about each property. Questions addressed:
 - *Objective Information*: acreage, land use, current ownership/ management, facilities, zoning, existing protections
 - *Subjective Information*: property condition, visitor counts/usage, environmental threats, management challenges, desired improvements, landowner willingness to consider conservation protections
- Outreach Method: Telephone interviews were conducted with all property owners and managers, except for Rebecca Belmont from R & R Wirtes Grain, Michael Gallagher from Square Roots Farm, Charles “Butch” Garrity from Brookside Farm, and Tom Voisin and Jim Neurether from the Town of Lanesborough Open Space Commission whose interviews were conducted in person. Between October 22, 2025 and November 20, 2025, 21 properties were successfully contacted and interviewed.
- Response Rate and Challenges: The outreach process yielded varied results. Some property owners provided detailed information, while others were reluctant to discuss their properties or environmental issues. Two properties proved particularly difficult to engage: one property owner was unwilling to discuss environmental concerns, and

another abruptly ended the call. These interaction patterns are further discussed in Part 7 (Limitations and Challenges).

3.4 Data organization and spreadsheet development

Interview responses were systematically recorded in a comprehensive spreadsheet that served as the central repository for all property information collected, including:

- Property basics (name, location, acreage, owner, management responsibility)
- Land use classifications and zoning
- Existing projections and designations
- Site descriptions and existing facilities
- Current condition assessments
- Recreational potential and public access status
- Environmental threats and challenges (as identified by property owners)
- Improvements needed and management recommendations
- Contact status and interview completion date

The spreadsheet allowed for cross-referencing of information across properties, identification of patterns in environmental threats, and organization of data for both the Section 5 property inventory and the threat analysis appendix.

3.5 Data analysis and pattern identification

Once interview data was compiled in the spreadsheet, a thematic analysis was conducted to identify recurring environmental threats and management challenges across properties. Environmental threat categories emerged inductively from interview responses and were organized into the following themes:

- Tree/forest management & invasive species

- Water management & drainage issues
- Human health & recreation impacts

This analysis forms the basis for the Appendix, which presents findings by threat category and connects local landowner observations with regional best practices and solutions used in comparable municipalities.

3.6 Comparative analysis and regional context

Planning documents and management strategies from neighboring Berkshire municipalities were reviewed to situate Lanesborough's findings within a broader context. Sources include the North Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan (2023) and regional invasive species management plans (Haverhill). This comparative approach informed both the property inventory format (discussed in Part 4) and recommendations for how Lanesborough might address identified environmental threats.

3.7 Timeline and project phases

- October 1–15, 2025: GIS mapping, property identification, contact development
- October 22–November 20: Property outreach and interviews
- October 26: Lanesborough Steering Committee introduction
- November–December: Data analysis, pattern identification, OSRP Section 5 formatting and completion, report development
- December 5, 2025: Final presentation (Lanesborough Scoping Board)

4.0 SECTION 5 DESIGN AND FORMAT UPDATE

4.1 Limitations of the 2006 Inventory

The 2006 Section 5 is notably brief—approximately five pages—and presents information organized entirely by property category (Agricultural Preservation Restrictions,

Chapter 61 forestry, Chapter 61A agriculture, Chapter 61B recreation, and state/municipal lands). Information for each property is presented in summary table format, with minimal information for each property: owner name, acreage, public access status (Y/N), and level of protection.

This categorical, aggregated approach to the inventory created several critical limitations for land use planning:

- **Absence of Individual Property Descriptions:** The 2006 format provides no individual property profiles or site-specific description. Each property appears as a single row in a table, with no opportunity to document property-specific conditions, challenges, or context. This means properties with vastly different characteristics or management situations appear identically in the inventory. For example, Shaker Ridge Trails (now a major recreational development and trail construction plan) and smaller forest parcels appear with equal detail and emphasis.
- **Lack of Environmental Threat Documentation:** The 2006 inventory does not contain a field for documenting environmental challenges at specific properties. While Section 4 (Environmental Inventory and Analysis) of the 2006 OSRP addressed environmental issues town-wide (water resources, vegetation, wildlife), Section 5 provided no mechanism for linking those environmental challenges to specific conservation properties where they occur. Properties facing invasive species problems, erosion, or other management challenges are not distinguished from those in stable condition. Properties like Pontoosuc Lake, which faces documented invasive species challenges, receive no specific notation or assessment in the 2006 Section 5.

- **Limited Management Information:** The 2006 format lists only property owners. It does not distinguish between ownership and active management or identify who is responsible for day-to-day land stewardship. For properties managed by nonprofit organizations, state agencies, volunteer groups, or in partnership arrangements, the 2006 inventory provides no framework for understanding these management relationships. The responsible parties and management contact information are absent.
- **Lacks Property Condition Evaluation:** The 2006 inventory includes no documentation of current facility or property condition. Whether a property's trails are well-maintained or degraded, whether facilities are in good repair or require significant investment, whether infrastructure is adequate or failing—none of this information appears in the inventory. This means Section 5 cannot serve as a baseline for monitoring changes in property conditions over time.
- **Insufficient Access and Recreation Detail:** The 2006 format marks public access simply as "Y" or "N," providing no information about access conditions, seasonal restrictions, fees, permits, or practical constraints. There is no information about whether or not the properties are ADA accessible. Recreation potential is not systematically assessed for each property. A reader cannot easily determine where specific recreational activities are available or what opportunities exist for expanded recreation use.

Dated Information Without Update Mechanism: The 2006 inventory was based on assessor records and municipal documentation available at that time. Without a systematic mechanism for collecting updated information directly from property owners and managers, the inventory became increasingly outdated as property ownerships changed, management relationships

evolved, and management practices were implemented. Nearly twenty years later, portions of the 2006 data no longer reflect on-the-ground reality.

4.2 Review of peer municipality approaches

To inform the development of the updated Section 5 format, our team conducted a comparative analysis of open space inventory methodologies employed by peer municipalities in the Berkshires and Massachusetts more broadly. This review examined the Massachusetts Open Space and Recreation Workbook, 2023 North Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan, the 2015 Great Barrington OSRP, and selected other recent municipal planning documents.

The North Adams 2023 OSRP Section 5 provided particularly valuable guidance (Figure 3). That plan’s approach employs a standardized “2023 Open Space Inventory Form” applied to each property individually. The form captures fourteen data fields for each site, presented in a clear, narrative format that allows both quantitative sorting and qualitative assessment. Key features of the North Adams approach include:

- Individual property profiles rather than categorical aggregation
- Standardized fields applied consistently across all properties
- Inclusion of condition assessments using clear rating categories
- Documentation of zoning and land use code context
- Explicit notation of recreation potential (rated as High/Medium/Low)
- Systematic documentation of improvements needed
- Integration of funding sources and financial context where applicable

The North Adams format demonstrated much more site-specific, individual property assessment. Its standardized templates allow for both individual property understanding and quantitative comparison and it shows the importance of condition assessment for monitoring and

adaptive management, as well as the utility of recreation potential ratings for supporting public decision-making about investment priorities.

2023 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY FORM	
	
SITE NAME:	Alicembright Athletic Field/Complex
LOCATION:	Protection Avenue (and New Street aka St. Pierre Way)
AREA (ACRES):	26.22
OWNER:	City of North Adams
MANAGEMENT:	Parks & Recreation Department
SITE DESCRIPTION:	Premiere multi-purpose athletic complex
USE:	Baseball, softball, soccer, T-ball, general recreation and passive recreation
EXISTING FACILITIES:	[formerly site] Baseball field with soccer overlay potential, lighting, dugouts, 2 upper-tier youth soccer fields, multi-purpose recreational building with restrooms, kitchen/concession, storage rooms and garage, scoreboard, net lot and parking lot. [formerly site] 2 softball fields (1 with lighting), dugouts, 2 T-ball fields, comfort station/concession stand, parking lot, and fencing throughout entire facility
CONDITION:	Excellent (Public Survey Rating - Very Good)
ZONING:	R-4 (Medium-High Density Residential)
FUNDS USED:	An approximate \$996,000 Phase I project was done with \$400,000 of FY 2005 FLWCF (Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund) grant money, along with the balance coming from other municipal sources, in which to conduct a major expansion project that included the clearing of many acres of new woodland on the westerly side of Protection Avenue, and minor clearing to the adjacent side. A new Facility Development Plan was created that
new this first phase being completed in the spring of 2006, which brought forth the new facilities as identified above. During 2007, a \$430,000 Phase II project (\$300,000 of State FY 2007 USH with \$130,000 local dollars) was secured that allowed water and sewer utilities being brought down to the future concession building site, new hot-let insulation, finished parking lots with lighting, finished T-ball fields, backstops, and underground conduit installations for future field lighting throughout. Another \$417,000 improvement campaign (\$291,900 of FY 2009 USH monies with \$125,100 of local funds) was done that installed professional sports lighting to one of the softball fields and to the baseball field, along with the installation of the new multi-purpose concession/storage building that was done in part with the students from the local McCain Technical High School.	
 Youth soccer fields renamed in honor of Kevin L. Beland, former local high school soccer standout at Drury Senior High School.	
 Girls' softball fields renamed in honor of Francis Millard, long time serving teacher, coach, Parks & Recreation Commissioner, and former Principal of the McCain Technical High School.	
 T-ball baseball fields for tots named in honor of John & Martha Gaudreau, local civic leaders and activists for youth sports and recreation.	
 Babe Ruth baseball field named in honor of Richard ("Dick") Lefebvre, local activist and youth baseball coach.	
North Adams Open Space & Recreation Plan - October 2023 Section 7 - Inventory of Landscapes of Conservation & Recreational Interest	
RECREATION POTENTIAL:	Medium
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Yes (no fee)
DEGREE OF PROTECTION:	Protected (the previous awards of both FLWCF and USH grant funds have enable this site in becoming <i>protected</i>)
IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED:	Another phase of work was completed in the summer of 2015 for various ADA accessible improvements that were previously identified as ADA regulations had changed at that time. The city successfully used funding from the its FY 2013 <i>Community Development Block Grant</i> program for handicap accessible pathways from parking lots to the various field venues. Other state funding from the Strategic Demolition Fund of the attorney general's office, coupled with local matching funds (\$40,000 total), saw the razing of a building at the corner of Protection Avenue and New Street that offers over-flow parking when the facility is in full use.
There is more work that had been previously identified for the complex. Sports lighting and dual scoreboards are still desired for the remaining softball field. A nature trail along the Hoosic River side of the complex, along with the integration of a canoe-launch site has been discussed since the renewal of the OSRP back in 2006. A canoe-launch would tie in nicely with the other canoe-launch site ["Joe Girardi Park" as highlighted as an inventory site] that is just downstream a bit. The expansion efforts of the future expansion of the Ashuwillticook Bike Path was seen as a higher priority with the last plan renewal in 2015, yet had lost favor from adjoining neighborhood residents. Alternative pathways have been explored since that time.	
ACCESS SURVEY:	This area is accessible, although an improved pathway to the baseball field is needed

Figure 3: Example of a property listed in section 5 of North Adams' OSRP.

Thus, Lanesborough’s updated Section 5 employs a standardized individual property profile template applied consistently across all conservation and recreational properties in Lanesborough similar to that of North Adams in order to reflect several core principles:

- **Consistency**: All properties are assessed using the same data fields, enabling systematic comparison and quantitative analysis across the inventory.
- **Comprehensiveness**: The template captures information across multiple dimensions (spatial, legal, physical, environmental, recreational) necessary for informed planning decisions.
- **Usability**: The template format is easy to navigate and enables quick information retrieval
- **Flexibility**: The template accommodates both standardized categorical information (e.g. “Yes/No” for public access) and narrative description necessary for capturing property-specific context and complexity.
- **Integration with Planning Objectives**: Template fields are organized to support the town’s core planning objectives: expanding recreational opportunity, protecting water resources, preserving wildlife habitat, addressing invasive species¹⁰, and maintaining community character.¹¹

4.3 Template fields and information categories

The standardized property profile template captures the following twelve primary data fields:

- **Field 1: Site Name.** Common name or official designation of the property
- **Field 2: Location.** Street address or geographic location reference

¹⁰ Invasive species prioritization identified through project stakeholder interviews (2025).

¹¹ Lanesborough Open Space and Recreation Committee and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, “Section 8: Goals and Objectives” from *Town of Lanesborough Open Space and Recreation Plan* (2006).

- **Field 3: Acreage.** Total acreage; for properties spanning multiple municipalities, total acreage and acreage within Lanesborough are noted separately
- **Field 4: Owner.** Legal property owner(s) as of 2025
- **Field 5: Management.** The entity or individual responsible for day-to-day land stewardship and management decisions; this may differ from the owner
- **Field 6: Public Access.** Current public access status (Yes/No/Restricted) with notation of any access restrictions, seasonal limitations, permits required, or fees
- **Field 7: Degree of Protection.** Legal protection status of the property: Permanent (conservation restriction, deed restriction, public ownership); Limited (Chapter 61/61A/61B temporary tax classification); None
- **Field 8: Site Description.** Narrative description of property characteristics: landscape features, developed vs. natural areas, notable facilities or structures, ecological features
- **Field 9: Use.** Current primary use(s) of the property and how the property functions within Lanesborough's conservation and recreation system
- **Field 10: Existing Facilities.** Inventory of existing infrastructure: trails, parking areas, restrooms, water access, buildings, recreational structures, etc.
- **Field 11: Condition.** Assessment of the property's current condition, including status of facilities and infrastructure
- **Field 12: Zoning/Land Use Code.** Municipal zoning designation and applicable land use code
- **Field 13: Recreation Potential.** Assessment of recreational opportunity and potential for expanded recreation use

- **Field 14: Improvements Needed.** Identification of specific improvements, maintenance needs, or capital projects prioritized by owner/manager
- **Field 15: Environmental Threats.** Identification of environmental challenges including invasive species, erosion, water quality concerns, wildlife habitat degradation, or other threats; includes assessment of threat severity and management approaches where applicable

4.4 Handling of missing or incomplete data

For properties where direct stakeholder contact was not established, data from the most authoritative available source was employed with notation that information was not verified through direct interview.

5.0 UPDATED SECTION 5 INVENTORY

5.1 Property list

The following properties were successfully contacted:¹²

Privately-owned properties: We surveyed the owners and managers of several private properties in Lanesborough, ranging from large ecotourism operations to family farms. These properties are all protected under Chapter 61/61A/61B, Conservation Restrictions, or Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, or they are significant property holdings that play a major role in the recreation opportunities of the town.

- *Brookside Farm and Echo Farm:* These farms are adjacent properties that are owned separately by three siblings: the youngest owns Echo Farm, while the two older siblings own Brookside Farm. These properties have been in the owners' family for generations.

¹² Some information has been excluded from this document due to its irrelevance for this particular report, but it can be found in the completed Lanesborough OSRP.

Together, these farms encompass a total of 267 acres of land, 118 acres at Brookside Farm and 158 acres at Echo Farm. Although the farms are separately owned, they are managed jointly by the wife of the owner of Brookside Farm. Of the combined acreage, 226 acres are dedicated to growing and bailing hay, and an additional 40 acres at Brookside Farm are used as pasture and boarding facilities for the farm's animals (primarily horses). Both properties are currently protected under 61A, and the owners are in the process of securing an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) to permanently protect the land from development. The property owners have observed invasive species on the land, including emerald ash borer and milkweed. They have also noticed increasingly common severe weather events such as droughts, heavy rain, and extreme wind storms. This information is from a conversation with Butch Garrity held on November 17th, 2025.

- *Donnybrook*: This 161-acre property was formerly a nine hole golf course. However, a glamping company called Under Canvas is currently seeking approval from the conservation commission to purchase the defunct golf course and transform it into a campground. Once purchased, the owners will most likely remove the property from Chapter 61B. If the new owners choose, they could add the property back to Chapter 61B since campsites are an acceptable land use. The property currently consists of the golf course, a clubhouse, an extensive irrigation system, and running water. Our stakeholder emphasized that the new campground project would have a much lower environmental impact than the golf course, which took significantly more energy and water to maintain. The new plan is significantly less environmentally destructive than golf course maintenance, and it includes plans to use only solar power, become dark sky certified,

limit pavement infrastructure, and build low-flow fixtures in tents to reduce water consumption. Under Canvas is an important connection with recreation in the Lanesborough area even though the old Donnybrook golf course may not remain under Chapter 61B because guests would embark on “adventures” that would be led by local third-party partners such as Jiminy Peak, Ramblewild, or the future Shaker Ridge mountain biking trails. This information is from a conversation with Reed Raskin held on October 29.

- *Jiminy Peak:* Jiminy Peak is a roughly 800-acre ski and snowboard resort with around 170 skiable acres, ski lodges, chairlifts, extensive snowmaking infrastructure, and enough lodging for about 3,000 guests. The CEO of the company that owns Jiminy Peak, the Fairbank Group, estimated that they receive about a quarter million visitors every year and employ about 100-150 year-round employees and nearly 1,000 in the winter season. Jiminy Peak is a crucial stakeholder in the creation of the OSRP due to their importance as a recreational hot spot, a tourist attraction, and a pillar of the local economy. The Fairbank CEO emphasized that the biggest threat to their business model is micro-weather trends of snowfall and temperature. He articulated that although he certainly believes the scientific evidence for climate change, he doesn’t foresee it impacting his business in the near future. He did say, though, that the past few winters have been shorter, milder, and thus much less profitable than past ski seasons. Importantly, he explained that the first cost to get cut when the winters are mild is the staff payroll. Jiminy Peak is a major employer for the Berkshire County and Albany region, so the weather has a large impact on local employment and economy. Additionally, the resort makes massive amounts of snow, using an average of 100-150

million gallons of water per year. When there isn't as much natural snow, they have to rely more on this economically and environmentally costly man-made snow. This information is from a conversation with Tyler Fairbank held on October 31.

- *Mt. Greylock Campsite Park:* Located on Scott Road, this property is a 47 acre recreational site enjoyed as a campground for locals and tourists alike. With several buildings including bathhouses, a rec center, and a welcome center, about 30 acres are developed while the rest have hiking trails. This property does not have a Conservation Restriction (CR) because the owner fears a CR would “tie her hands” in a disaster in which she may have to sell land.. Her decisions, she says, are in line with those of the CR. A portion of the campsite’s budget goes to providing recycling and composting services for the campers because the town does not otherwise supply those utilities. They also have to spend money on maintenance of the gravel roads, management of fallen trees, and sanitization of the grey- and blackwater from the campsites. Ticks were cited as a major issue for campers as well. This information is from a conversation with Patricia Hubbard held on October 25th, 2025.
- *Red Shirt Farm:* This property is a 10 acre family-owned and -operated farm located at the base of Mount Greylock. Because of the rolling terrain, they terrace farm small-scale vegetables as well as raise pastured animals. The property is too small to be eligible for an APR. Because of the location, they are not on Lanesborough’s limited water management system and therefore have their own well and septic system. The property owner mentioned being generally concerned about the effects of climate change on agriculture, and noted that the way the drainage was routed off of Mount Greylock caused flooding on their property, especially in the spring. They believed that increasing

precipitation would escalate the scale of this problem. This information is from a conversation with Jim Schultz held on October 25, 2025.

- *Second Drop Farm*: Second Drop Farm is a property currently in the process of developing their presence as an agro-tourism destination. They have about 13 acres of farmland (both tilled for agricultural use and pastured for animals) and several recreational opportunities on the remaining 4 acres of their property, including rental houses, a farm store, and a cafe. The owners of the farm hope to develop their business further by eventually developing a grocery store and a breakfast-and-lunch menu for their cafe. Although it doesn't necessarily have a huge impact on their property, the threat of invasive species such as the emerald ash borer was noted to be highly problematic for wooded areas. This information is from a conversation with Patrick Elliot held on October 25th, 2025.
- *Shaker Ridge Trails*: Located on Brodie Mountain Road, Shaker Ridge Trails is a 570-acre parcel of forested land that is currently being developed into a mountain biking destination through funding from Cricket Trails, LLC. Two hundred acres of this land are within the town of Lanesborough while the rest of the land is in Hancock. Cricket Trails plans to develop thirty miles of mountain biking trails which will eventually be free and open to the public with the goal of becoming a hub for mountain biking in the Northeast. This project ultimately aims to bolster local economies through revenue from tourism and to improve recreational opportunities for Lanesborough residents. One of the most pressing issues facing the forest on this property is the presence of invasive species, particularly hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer, and beech leaf disease. The warming climate exacerbates invasive species growth and increases the risk of intense

fire, flooding, storms, and erosion. These weather conditions are particularly alarming for the Shaker Ridge Trails project since they could erode mountain biking trails. The managers are working with a forester who has been handling timber management for the property before it was purchased by Cricket Trails in order to manage and continuously monitor the encroachment of invasive species. This information is from a conversation with Deanna Smith held on October 27.

- *Square Roots Farm:* Square Roots Farm encompasses 185 acres of land, 60 of which are dedicated to open pastures and 125 of which are managed forest land. The property is a livestock farm that raises animals and sells their meat products including chicken, pork, beef, and turkey. The farm sells all of their meat products locally through a small farm store on their property or at farmers markets in Lanesborough or surrounding towns. The farm raises, kills, and sells chicken products in the summer and turkey in the fall; beef and pork products are produced and sold year round. Square Roots Farm has noticed invasive species threats to their property including emerald ash borers killing ash trees and the rapid growth of the invasive plant multiflora rose. Additionally, the property has experienced increased droughts and extreme weather events, especially heat waves and severe wind storms. While the property owner has good relations with the town, he does not believe that the town will be useful in helping with management of environmental threats that the property faces since he manages the threats well on his own. This information is from a conversation with Michael Gallagher held on November 14th, 2025.
- *R & R Wirtes Grain:* The owner of Wirtes Farm grew up on the property and is dedicated to maintaining the farm's primary function as a producer of feed for livestock. Producing feed includes growing and harvesting hay and milling the hay to create feed, and

packaging it for sale from the farm. The property includes 6.6 acres of commercial land where a hay barn, grain mixer, feed mill, grain store, a horse barn, and several equipment storage sheds are located. Additionally, 65 acres of land are dedicated hay fields, 35.67 acres of land are pasture land for the property's horses, and 30 acres of land are unmanaged forest lands. While the owner of Wirtes Farm does not notice many environmental threats affecting her property, she struggles to manage bear and geese populations due to strict hunting regulations of these species. This information is from a conversation with Becky Wirtes held on November 12th, 2025.

Municipally-owned properties: The Town of Lanesborough has jurisdiction over several properties that are used for conservation and recreation and are therefore relevant to the development of a new OSRP. Properties of note include the cemeteries and parks of Lanesborough and Pontoosuc Lake.

- *Talcott, Pettibone, Center, and Mountain View Cemetery:* The municipal cemeteries in Lanesborough are located in disparate places across the town but, according to the Cemetery Chair, share similar characteristics. On the whole, they appear to lack any environmental issues relevant to our survey questions. However, she did note that the town regularly mows and sprays the lawns with pesticides and herbicides to maintain their aesthetic image. This information is from a conversation with Mary Reilly held on November 16th, 2025.
- *Bill Laston Memorial Park, Mark Belanger Park, and Narragansett Park and Lanesborough Elementary School:* Like the cemeteries, these public parks and recreation properties are spread out throughout Lanesborough so their environmental issues differ slightly, but they are individually each plagued with several invasive species threatening

native tree health, human health threats like ticks and mosquitoes, and changes in wildlife populations. Laston in particular is at a high risk of flooding because of its lowland location. This information is from a conversation with Tom Voisin and Jim Neurether held on November 19th, 2025.

- *Pontoosuc Lake:* Pontoosuc Lake is a 500-acre lake owned by the State of Massachusetts but managed collaboratively by the towns of Lanesborough and Pittsfield, whose border bisects the lake around the middle. The two towns split the burden of lake management and share the cost of its maintenance. There are several public access points to the lake, most of which are located in Pittsfield, but Lanesborough has a very small public beach that is voluntarily managed by the adjacent property owner who puts out swimming buoys. The lake is currently in very poor condition: the current presence of cyanobacteria has moved the harbormasters to issue statements preventing swimming because of the bacteria's toxicity to humans.¹³ In addition, invasive weed species are threatening native plants and wildlife, and pH levels have indicated the presence of zebra mussels—an invasive and highly destructive species¹⁴—despite the fact that they have not yet been spotted in the lake. There are several barriers to lake management, including restrictive herbicide rules and bureaucratic processes (because Lanesborough and Pittsfield manage the lake together, they must approve all actions through both towns' Conservation Commissions). This information is from a conversation with Lee Hauge held on October 25th, 2025 and an email from November 10th, 2025.

Properties held by the State of Massachusetts: There are several thousand acres of properties owned and managed by the State of Massachusetts through various agencies and departments,

¹³Communicated in an email sent by the Friends of Pontoosuc Listserv.

¹⁴USGS, "What are zebra mussels and why should we care about them?" (2025).

such as the Department of Natural Resources (MassDNR), the Department of Conservation and Recreation (MassDCR), and the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).¹⁵

- *Balance Rock State Park & Pittsfield State Forest:* MassDCR provided information about Balance Rock State Park and Pittsfield State Forest, an 11,000 acre forest that juts into the northwesternmost corner of Lanesborough. Balance Rock State Park is a smaller, 100 acre portion of Pittsfield State Forest. Because of their proximity, much of their characteristics are shared. Both are permanently protected recreation properties open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing and snowmobiling, mountain biking, and wildlife viewing. Pittsfield State Forest also has infrastructure for camping and swimming,¹⁶ and Balance Rock State Park allows hunting.¹⁷ Much of their environmental threats are equally overlapping: both face similar invasive plant and pest species, such as burning bush, Japanese barberry, garlic mustard, emerald ash borer, and beech bark disease, among other things. These invasives threaten native forest species' health as well as their aesthetic value. Recreation opportunities are also put at risk due to climate change, specifically those that are dependent on snowfall like snowshoeing and cross country skiing, and increased rainfall may negatively impact existing infrastructure (like gravel roads) that allow people to experience other activities that may not otherwise be directly affected. Also, notably, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s floodplain modeling does not take into account areas that will be affected by upticks in precipitation which means that MassDCR cannot accurately predict or account for these changes and areas that may be impacted the most may receive reactionary, rather than

¹⁵ AxisGIS, "[Lanesborough, MA.](#)"

¹⁶ BerkshiresOutside, "[Pittsfield State Forest.](#)"

¹⁷ BerkshiresOutside, "[Balance Rock State Park.](#)"

precautionary, treatment.¹⁸ This information is from an email from Mackenzie Greer sent on November 3rd, 2025.

- Mount Greylock State Reservation:* Mount Greylock State Reservation is a 13,887- acre state forest spanning six municipalities, with 556.49 acres located in Lanesborough. At 3,491 feet, Mount Greylock is the highest peak in Massachusetts and was established in 1898 as the state's first public land for forest preservation. The reservation is permanently protected and receives an estimated 250,000 visitors annually. The Lanesborough entrance provides access to the visitor center and the southern gateway to the Mount Greylock Scenic Byway, with approximately 2.6 miles of trails within town boundaries. The property offers hiking, camping, hunting, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, bird watching, fishing, and mountain biking. The Appalachian Trail passes through the reservation, with several shelters available for camping. According to Rebecca Barnes from the DCR, Mount Greylock faces environmental challenges from invasive species, with 14 known and 2 likely invasive plant species documented including garlic mustard, Japanese barberry, Japanese knotweed, multiflora rose, and Norway maple. The property has been under active invasive species management along the scenic byway since 2015. Invasive pests and pathogens also threaten forest health, with emerald ash borer being especially destructive. Heavy rain events and flooding pose hazards to park infrastructure, trails, and roads, potentially causing temporary closures. Climate change threatens the reservation's rare high-elevation spruce-fir forest communities, cold-water fish resources, and vernal pools, while potentially reducing snow-dependent recreation opportunities. As a designated reserve, the management philosophy emphasizes allowing natural ecological processes to occur with minimal human intervention where possible,

¹⁸ Mackenzie Greer at MassDCR provided us with this valuable information.

balancing visitor access with ecosystem preservation. This information is from a conversation with Becky Barnes held on November 19th, 2025.¹⁹

5.2 Section 5 Inventory example property formatting

Ultimately, we collected significant information on 21 open space and recreation properties in Lanesborough and categorically organized these into a functional Section 5 (Conservation and Recreation Lands Inventory) for the new OSRP. The full list will be linked in the appendix of this document, but here is a singular example of the formatting and information we embodied in the fully updated Section 5:

Site Name: Balance Rock State

Park Location: 104 Balance Rock

Road Acreage: 106

Owner: Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Management: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Public Access: Yes

Degree of Protection: Permanent (Article 97)

Site Description: Balance Rock State Park is a portion of the larger Pittsfield State Forest. The main attraction is a uniquely balanced rock structure, accessible by hiking trails.

Use: Hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, hunting, snowshoeing, wildlife viewing

Existing Facilities:

- Picnic tables

¹⁹ Barnes, Rebecca. Department of Conservation and Recreation. Personal interview. Nov 19, 2025

Condition: *Not answered.*

Zoning/Land Use Code: Residential / 9100

Recreation Potential: As precipitation levels continue to change as a result of climate change, opportunities for recreation will shift. There will be fewer opportunities for snowsports in the winter, but water sports will likely become more popular.

Improvements Needed: None.

Environmental Threats: The entrance to the park and the first 100 feet of trails are in FEMA's 0.1% to 0.2% chance flood zones. Flooding would result in temporary closure of the park and its trail systems. Forest health and ecological integrity is severely threatened by the presence of several invasive species, including but not limited to Japanese barberry, Norway maple, and Oriental bittersweet. There are also a number of present pests: emerald ash borer, butternut canker, beech scale insect (causes bark disease), and others. Vernal pool species are threatened by changes in climate as well as cold water fish. Snow-dependent sports (snowshoeing, cross country skiing, etc.) are negatively impacted by recent weather patterns such as warmer winters.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

Environmental threats, in this context, are defined as issues pertaining to natural processes that limit the effectiveness and efficacy of recreation opportunities. In our interviews, property owners consistently responded to the prompt “Have you noticed environmental threats on your property?” with answers that we were able to sort into three main categories: tree/forest management and invasive species, water management and drainage issues, and human health and recreation impacts.

6.1 Tree/forest management and invasive species

Several property owners mentioned invasive plant and pest species (such as beech leaf/bark disease, the emerald ash borer, and norway maples) outcompeting native species. Not only do invasive species cause harm to the natural ecosystems, they also threaten the integrity

and aesthetics of these wooded areas. Many property owners are dealing with tree death and removal, which is costly but dangerous if left alone. The lake also has several invasive species, such as Eurasian milfoil and zebra mussels, that threaten both native wildlife as well as human health by preventing natural water filtration processes from occurring.²⁰

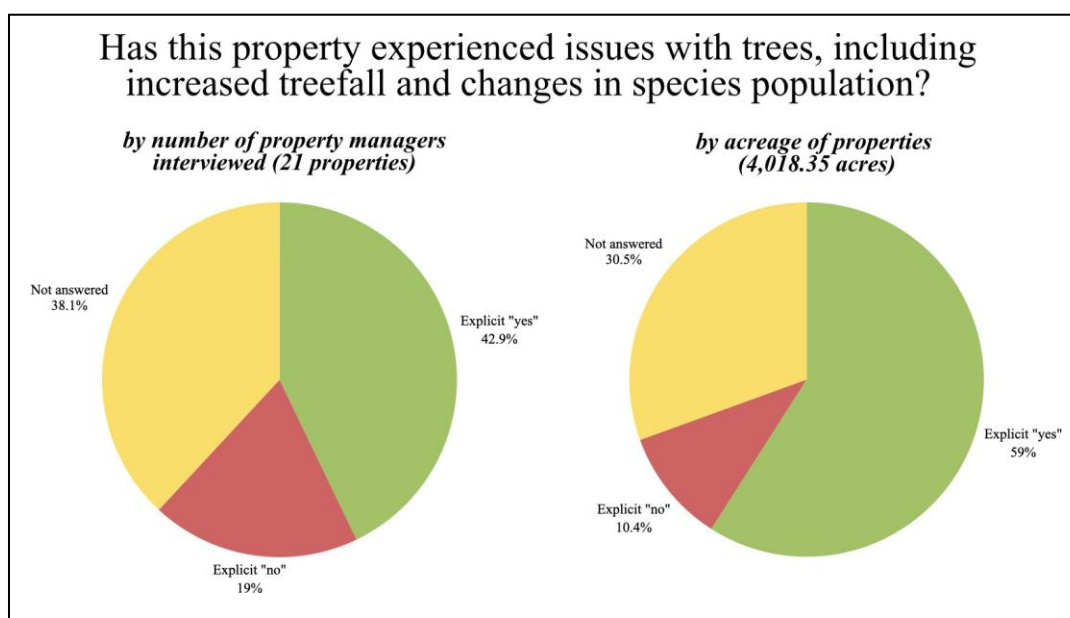


Figure 4: Results from the surveys of 21 open space and recreation properties in Lanesborough in regards to tree health.

²⁰ Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, "[Aquatic Invasive Species](#)."

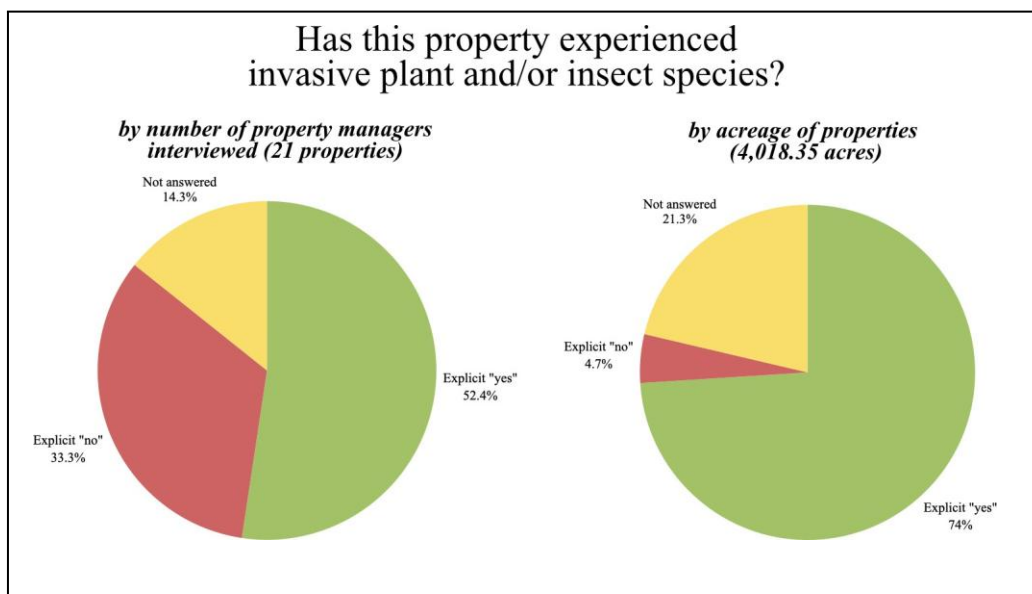


Figure 5: Results from the surveys of 21 open space and recreation properties in Lanesborough in regards to invasive species management.

- Balance Rock State Park:* Noted thirteen known invasive plant species, two likely invasive plant species, and seven invasive pests and pathogens. The observed species are likely to thrive under conditions created by climate change and are expected to continue to outcompete native species. This threatens forest health, creating unsafe conditions for visitors by weakening trees. It also changes the historical and culturally significant appearance of the forest.
- Bill Laston Memorial Park:* There are stands of dead or dying ash that are in various stages of removal—some have been taken down but there are some still standing. There are several groups of knotweed and multiflora rose across the park.
- Brookside Farm:* Noted ash tree deaths on the property due to the invasive populations of emerald ash borers. There is also a slight problem with milkweed management on the property's fields.

- *Center Cemetery*: There is a large dead tree in front of the property, but various conversations have yielded no result of removal.
- *Lanesborough Elementary School*: A fenced-in ravine on the elementary school's property is entirely filled with bittersweet.
- *Mark Belanger Park*: Overrun with knotweed, multiflora rose, and grapevine. There is a large tract of dead ash by the Town Hall parking lot that are liable to fall on cars. The multiflora rose helps stabilize the brook that would otherwise potentially be at risk of erosion.
- *Mount Greylock State Reservation*: Noted that invasive species may negatively impact both the ecological integrity and biodiversity of the property. Fourteen species are known and two likely invasive species exist on Mount Greylock, including goutweed, winged euonymus, common buckthorn, creeping buttercup, garlic mustard, Japanese barberry, Japanese knotweed, multiflora rose, Norway maple, oriental bittersweet, reed canary grass, autumn olive, wild chervil, exotic bush honeysuckle, coltsfoot, and cypress spurge. Active treatment and control of invasives has been ongoing along the Greylock byway since 2015 as directed by the Invasive Species Management plan from 2013. Invasive pests and pathogens threaten forest health, with several identified locally: emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, beech bark disease, beech leaf disease, and spongy moth. Invasive plant species may expand in population or otherwise be more successful due to climate change, thereby displacing native and rare flora.
- *Narragansett Park*: There is a small stand of bittersweet, but it could be cut out by anyone since it's not an infestation. There is also a single dead ash, which is not as easy

to remove because ash trees that have been affected by the emerald ash borer are structurally unsound and very unstable.

- *Pittsfield State Forest*: Mentioned five known invasive plant species, one likely invasive plant species, and six invasive pests and pathogens. Similar to Balance Rock State Park, these species are expected to increase their range and intensity as climate change continues. They put the forest's health at risk by killing trees and outcompeting native species, which creates unsafe conditions for visitors and changes the landscape.
- *Pontoosuc Lake*: Suffers from various invasive weed species transported by boats and wildlife, but has difficulty managing them because of strict municipal rules against herbicides. These species include Eurasian milfoil, European naiad, curlyleaf pondweed, and waterchestnut. They are very aggressive and will outcompete native plant species without proper intervention.
- *Second Drop Farm*: Did not note experiencing native species on this specific property, but mentioned that invasives were, in general, a threat to forest health and needed to be mitigated urgently.
- *Shaker Ridge Trails*: Several invasive species and expects such threats to increase with climate change. Commented that nearly all forests in the area are plagued with the same invasives, and the general status of forest health is in decline. Funding from the Community Preservation Act may assist in management of invasives.
- *Square Roots Farm*: Noted ash trees dying on the property due to increased emerald ash borer populations over the past several years. The property owner also has trouble with the overgrowth of multiflora rose bushes, particularly along the property's fence lines.

- *R & R Wirtes Grain Farm*: Notices more dead ash trees on property due to emerald ash borers. The property owner also notes an increased population of the invasive species, kudzu that interrupts wheat growth.

6.2 Water management and drainage issues

The category of water management and drainage issues includes erosion and slope instability, flooding and/or drought, increased rainfall, and aquatic ecosystem health. Property managers often linked precipitation patterns to their water management issues, citing heavy rains as a cause of gravel migration and erosion, flooding on their properties, and declining road conditions, such as potholes. These issues often require economically and physically taxing solutions.

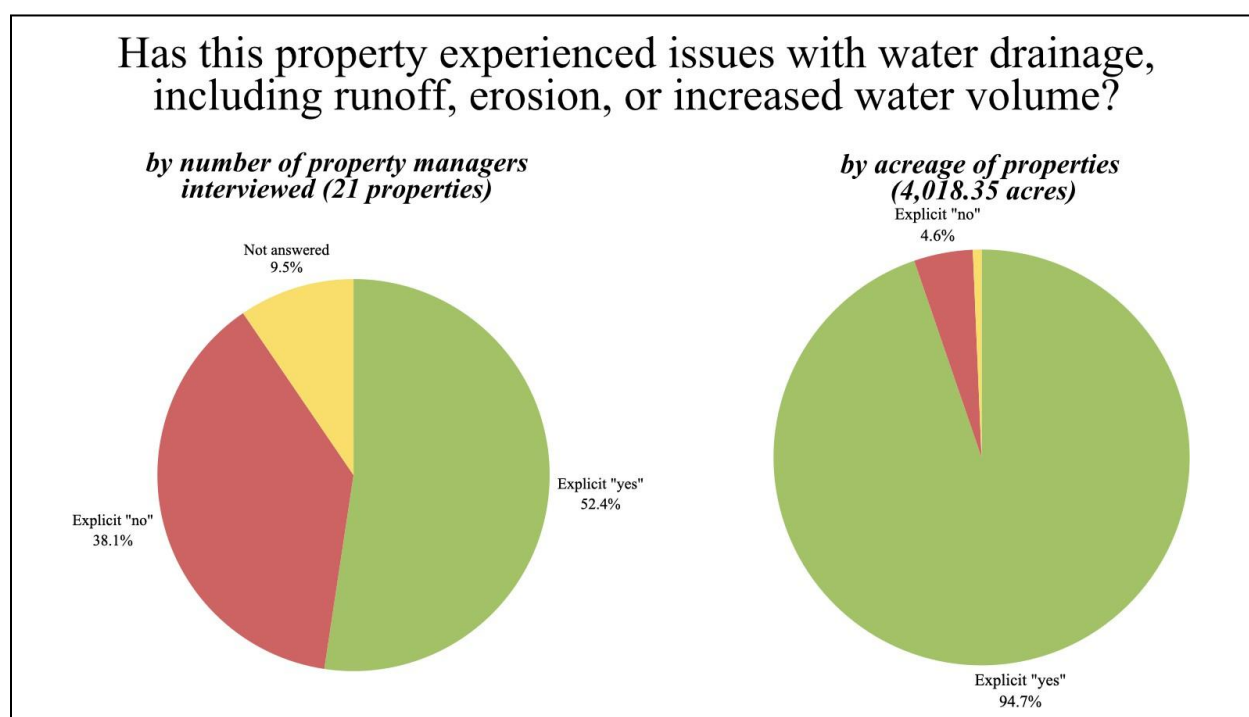


Figure 6: Results from the surveys of 21 open space and recreation properties in Lanesborough in regards to flooding and drainage issues.

- *Balance Rock State Park:* Aquatic species in the forest, including those in vernal ponds, are affected by changes in weather events and rainfall. Increased rainfall is not factored into FEMA's floodplain modeling which makes it difficult to predict what sites will be most at risk with increased precipitation. The parking area and trails are affected by erosion as a result of rain.
- *Belanger Park:* This property abuts Town Brook. A volunteer individual has secured the slope with sod to prevent erosion, but the presence of the invasive multiflora rose has actually contributed to this effort of stabilization. Also, a dam created by a fallen tree several years ago tends to back up the brook and flood the area when there are heavy rains; this has gotten worse over the years with sediment buildup.
- *Brookside Farm:* Notices increased water erosion that must be managed by spreading dry hay on sloped areas of the property. When trees fall over onto streams, they can divert water onto fields that are difficult to manage and can cause flooding.
- *Jiminy Peak:* Milder winters have necessitated the creation of manmade snow, which takes 100 to 150 million gallons of water to make every year.
- *Laston Park:* Laston is located in a floodplain; as a result, the opportunities to develop significant infrastructure is limited (see Part 6.1.2 Human Health and Recreation Impacts). In years past it has been too wet to plant trees and it is regularly too wet to mow in the spring, and in the summer there have been droughts so significant that plants can't be watered.
- *Mount Greylock Campsite Park:* Similar to Shaker Ridge Trails, the gravel roads on this property are eroded with heavy downpour. Their repair necessitates a frequent economic and physical burden.

- *Mount Greylock State Reservation*: Flooding and heavy rain events may damage park infrastructure and cultural/recreational resources on the property. Flooding may also impact agency operations and recreational activities. Flooding caused by heavy rain events could result in temporary closures of the park roads and trails, with 13.5 miles of Mount Greylock scenic byway and over 80 miles of trail at risk. Changes in precipitation and higher annual temperatures can lead to more frequent drought conditions. Greylock's cold-water fish resources, vernal pools, and vernal pool obligate species are at risk as annual temperatures rise and drought conditions persist.
- *Mountain View Cemetery*: When this property was being built, there was quite a bit of work done to ensure that drainage would not be an issue, including covering the dirt roads with millings to prevent erosion. As a result, the property and its roads are now in good shape and do not experience issues beyond the “regular wear and tear.” However, it was noted that the lawn is regularly treated with pesticides which raises concerns about runoff and nonpoint source pollution.
- *Pittsfield State Forest*: Pittsfield State Forest faces many of the same problems as Balance Rock State Park. The forest’s aquatic species are at risk due to an increase in unpredictable weather events.
- *Pontoosuc Lake*: Pontoosuc Lake is currently dealing with a bloom of cyanobacteria which causes hypoxia and kills native lake species. In large quantities, cyanobacteria are toxic to human health.²¹ There are regular communications with the Lanesborough community via email and physical signage around the lake warning people not to fish, swim, or boat.²² These blooms can be especially harmful to children and dogs who are

²¹ EPA, “[Learn about Harmful Algae, Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxins](#),” (2025).

²² Communicated in the Friends of Pontoosuc Lake Listserv, “Zebra Mussel Alert.” Sent on October 28, 2025 by Lee Hauge.

more likely to swallow large quantities of lakewater. The lake has also dealt with runoff from roads. There was, at one point, a project completed by the town that was intended to catch nutrient runoff from the roads in bioswales and allow the contaminated water to percolate into the ground, but these basins were clogged with sediment which rendered them ineffective. The riparian zones along the coast do create a successful buffer, but storms can cause flooding which overwhelm these areas and allow for increased runoff and contamination.

- *Shaker Ridge Trails*: Heavy storms cause erosion, especially on mountain biking trails. This erosion is also worsened by droughts which create dry soil.
- *Red Shirt Farm*: Deals with seasonal flooding due to the way water is routed off of Mount Greylock. The drainage ditch on North Main Street stops at the corner of this property and dumps water onto the field.
- *R & R Wirtes Grain Farm*: It was noted that a stream that used to fill a pond in the summer doesn't run anymore. Also, the owner mentioned that potholes in her driveway, likely caused by poor drainage or free-thaw cycles,²³ are hard to maintain.

6.3 Human health and recreation impacts

This final category is both a combination of the first two and an expansion on them. Tree deadfall as a result of disease from invasive pests can be dangerous for individuals in wooded areas; cyanobacteria in the lake can be toxic to people. However, those problems can exist without being threats to people. This category refers to threats in the form that most directly affects human health. Other issues that wouldn't fall into the first two categories but fit into this one include mosquitos and ticks, which aren't invasive but are dangerous, and building and

²³ This is an inference made by the authors of this report, not stated explicitly by the interviewee.

property maintenance issues that impact recreation enjoyment, such as more extreme temperatures in the summer and winter.

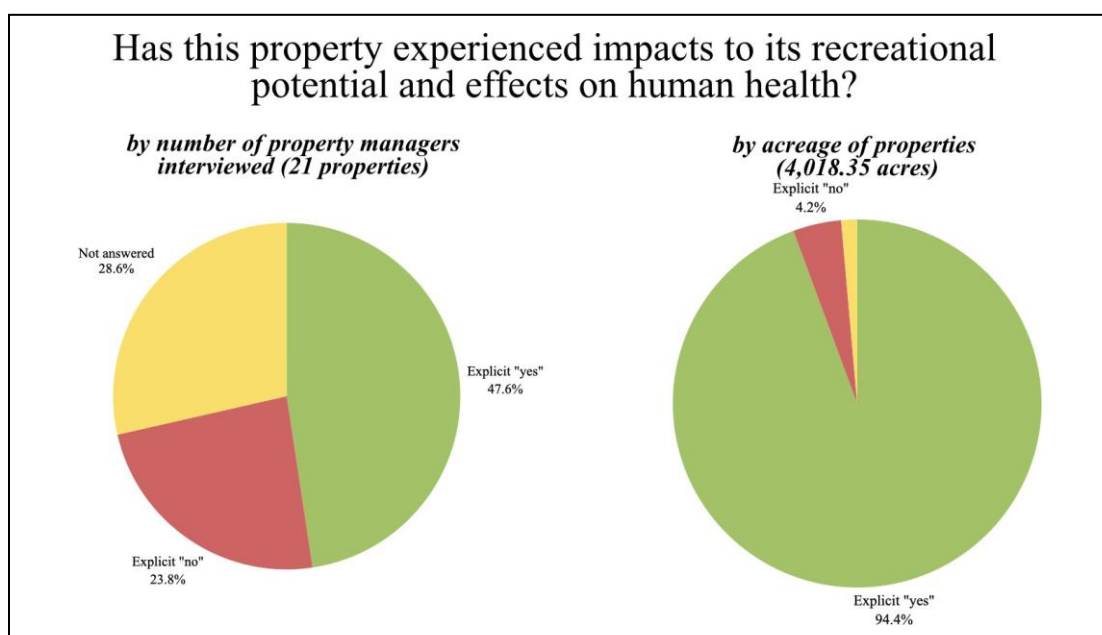


Figure 7: Results from the surveys of 21 open space and recreation properties in Lanesborough in regards to human and recreation impacts.

- Balance Rock State Park:* Beyond the impairments to recreation created by invasive species, the predicted decrease in snow will threaten many of Balance Rock State Park's winter recreation opportunities, including cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. Changes in species composition are likely to affect activities as well, such as hunting and wildlife viewing.
- Belanger Park:* There is a slopeside entirely filled with diseased ash that runs up against the Town Hall Parking Lot. The dead trees are dangerous because they may fall on cars.
- Bill Laston Memorial Park:* Because of its location in a floodplain, increased rain threatens this park's opportunities to build out infrastructure that citizens may use. For example, a paved path without a solid base (a way for the town to cut corners and save

money) is at risk of migrating and/or breaking up because of the lowland flooding, as has been observed with a recent paved addition.

- *Brookside Farm:* Notices a major increase in tick populations in recent years. The property owner also notices increasingly common droughts and heavy rain storms that impact crop and livestock health.
- *Jiminy Peak:* Cited microweather trends as a challenge to ski mountain operation. Despite recent data of shorter and milder winters, the owner is not particularly worried about the future of the property. The biggest problem associated with the change in weather is the way that it affects the staff that work at Jiminy Peak: less snow means fewer customers, and fewer customers means there is a decreased need for employees. Jiminy Peak hires a lot of people from the Albany and Berkshire County region, so this has impacts on the local economy.
- *Mount Greylock Campsite Park:* Ticks have been a huge issue for visitors.
- *Mount Greylock State Reservation:* Changes in temperature, precipitation, and more frequent and intense storm events can impact the natural, cultural, and recreational assets of the reservation. Changes in precipitation and higher annual temperature can lead to more frequent drought conditions and higher risk of forest fire. Natural resources that may be negatively impacted by climate change include five NHESP Priority Natural Communities. Mount Greylock is the state's best and most extensive occurrence of Priority Natural Community of High Elevation Spruce-Fir Forest. This high elevation sub-alpine forest is most vulnerable to climate change and warming temperatures. Recreation activities that may be negatively impacted from climate change include

snow-dependent sports such as cross-country skiing, back-country skiing, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing.

- *Pittsfield State Forest*: Recreation opportunities will be limited as precipitation patterns become more unpredictable. There is an expected decrease in activities dependent on snow, such as cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. Other seasons may see increased participation in water activities, such as swimming and fishing, but summer droughts may prevent these as well.
- *Pontoosuc Lake*: The town has received several complaints from fishermen about limited fish quantities in the lake. There are some native species, but the lake is also stocked with trout from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife because they cannot reproduce on their own due to high water temperatures. Data from lake temperatures is a “drastic demonstration of the reality and severity of climate change,”²⁴ showing historical warming trends via earlier ice-outs, later freezing, and warmer summer temperatures. These shifts threaten the survival of native species as well as human recreation opportunities.
- *Shaker Ridge Trails*: Droughts put this property at risk of fires.
- *Square Roots Farm*: Notes a major increase in tick populations on property. Intense severe weather events such as intense wind storms, droughts, and heat waves have threatened the safety of animals on the property.
- *R&R Wirtes Grain Farm*: The owner of this farm has had several issues with managing the wild animals on her property, notably bears and geese, as a result of expensive and difficult processes to receive permits necessary to reserve the right to hunt them. The

²⁴ Email from Lee Hauge.

geese especially are problematic, living in her pond and eating the fish, frogs, and tadpole populations in entirety.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The second component to our project in addition to Section 5 is an Appendix containing a detailed list of recommendations. **Part 9.0 of this report provides a link to access the complete Appendix including: purpose statement, recommendations, grants and funding, timeline, and works cited.** These recommendations will be used to inform Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's creation of the OSRP's Section 6, Analysis of Needs.

7.1 Purpose statement

Through our stakeholder interviews and property assessments, we identified significant environmental challenges facing Lanesborough's open space and recreation lands: invasive species threatening forest health, water drainage and erosion issues, and increasing risks to human health and recreation from ticks and cyanobacteria. However, we also discovered that the core problem is not a lack of expertise in how to address these threats. Professional land managers at state parks, conservation organizations, and larger private properties already possess the knowledge and experience to manage invasive species, implement drainage solutions, and address forest health concerns. The fundamental challenge in Lanesborough is fragmentation—both in information access and in coordinated action.

Private landowners often lack awareness of the resources, grant programs, and technical assistance available to them, while institutional land managers work largely in isolation from one another despite managing threats that operate at the landscape scale and cross property boundaries. Environmental challenges do not respect parcel lines; invasive species spread from property to property, water flows across multiple ownerships, and forest pests move through the

connected canopy regardless of who holds the deed. When each property addresses these issues independently, efforts are duplicated, resources are wasted, and the overall effectiveness of management is significantly reduced.

Lanesborough already has tremendous assets: experienced professionals managing thousands of acres of conservation and recreation land, active town commissions working on conservation and planning issues, engaged private landowners committed to land stewardship, and a network of regional organizations providing technical expertise. The missing piece is connection—mechanisms for sharing information, coordinating management efforts, and ensuring that all landowners, regardless of property size or institutional affiliation, have access to the knowledge and resources that already exist within the community.

Our appendix therefore does not prescribe specific management techniques for invasive species control or drainage solutions; those decisions are best left to the professionals and landowners who understand their properties intimately. Instead, we provide recommendations and resources for how the Town of Lanesborough can facilitate collaboration, break down information barriers, and support a landscape-scale approach to land management. The following pages include grant funding opportunities, contacts for professional organizations and technical assistance, models for inter-property coordination, and recommendations for town-facilitated initiatives that can connect the many people already working on these issues with those who would benefit from their expertise. By thinking beyond property boundaries and creating spaces for collaboration, Lanesborough can leverage its existing strengths to more effectively steward its remarkable open space and recreation resources for future generations.

7.2 Recommendations

As expounded upon in our purpose statement, we recognize that we are not in a position to give scientific recommendations to solve the environmental threats that are faced by the property owners in Lanesborough. As students engaged with this project over the course of a semester, the research we can do and the knowledge we can garner will pale in comparison to the understanding of environmental threat management practices that professional property managers embody. For this reason, our recommendations are not aimed towards solving the environmental threats on an individual level, they are general recommendations that seek to address the fragmentation that exists between property managers and municipal representatives.

7.2.1 Enhanced communication efforts

In the creation of the Section 5 Inventory, survey responses revealed that multiple landowners feel a sense of disconnection with or even distrust towards the Town of Lanesborough. Because the properties managed by these individuals are the very properties the Section 5 seeks to protect, it is crucial that there is an ongoing conversation between the town and the property owners to ensure that an amicable relationship is maintained so all shared goals can be achieved. We propose the following solutions to mitigate the sensation of isolation between property owners and the town.

1. Creation of a communication network between owners/managers of similar properties

- *Facebook groups or other online connections:* Social media allows individuals to discuss observations they've made on their properties, calling upon locals to solve local problems rather than working in isolation or putting a large burden on each individual to find solutions that others have already found.
- *Email listserv:* A regular communication where property owners can submit questions, information, or offers allows physical gaps between individuals to be

bridged. It also creates an unending dialogue that may be referred to at any point to trace the timeline and severity of threats.

- Successful example: Lee Hauge's Friends of Pontoosuc Lake listserv allows people to have access to regular updates about issues pertaining to the lake. It also alerts people to meetings they can take part in to share their perspective. Having something like this for other recreation properties would encourage higher levels of participation and interaction.

2. Develop a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) plan²⁵

Lanesborough does not currently have a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) plan. Creating one would provide critical benefits for addressing the environmental threats identified in this OSRP Section 5.

Benefits of a MVP plan:

- Elevates invasive species, forest health, and water management from individual property concerns to town-wide hazards
- Opens access to additional state funding sources beyond traditional OSRP programs (MVP Action Grant funding currently ranges from \$50,000-\$500,000 per project)
- Creates institutional recognition that these threats require coordinated, landscape-level responses
- Provides framework for town to actively support and incentivize management on town-owned and private properties

²⁵ Commonwealth of Massachusetts. "Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program." *Mass.gov*, <https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program>.

- Qualifies Lanesborough for future resilience and climate adaptation funding opportunities
- Creates community engagement process around environmental planning that brings diverse stakeholders together

What MVP planning includes:

- Community resilience-building workshop bringing together diverse stakeholders (property owners, town officials, emergency management, public works, residents)
- Identification of climate-related and environmental hazards (where invasive species, forest pests, flooding, erosion, and water quality issues would be documented)
- Assessment of vulnerable areas, populations, and infrastructure
- Development of priority actions for hazard mitigation
- Creation of implementation plan with specific projects and funding strategies
- Completion results in MVP designation for the town

Recommended actions for Lanesborough:

- Apply for MVP Planning Grant (\$25,000-\$50,000 for planning process, 100% state-funded with no local match required)
- Use MVP process to bring together all Section 5 stakeholders: property owners, DCR, BNRC, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, DPW, residents, emergency management

- Identify invasive species spread, emerald ash borer infestation, hemlock woolly adelgid, beech bark disease, water drainage/erosion issues, and cyanobacteria as specific climate-related hazards
- Document how these threats impact municipal infrastructure, public safety, water quality, recreation opportunities, and economic vitality (agriculture, tourism)
- Use MVP framework to justify town investments in coordination, education, and direct management
- Link MVP priorities to OSRP Section 5 to create unified environmental planning approach
- Once planning complete, apply for MVP Action Grants to fund priority implementation projects

How to apply:

- Application cycles typically twice per year (check Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs website for current deadlines)
- Town applies through Select Board or Town Administrator
- Planning grant is 100% state-funded (no local match required)
- Process takes approximately 6-12 months from application to workshop completion
- Technical assistance available from state MVP staff

MVP Connection to Land Management: The Town of Mount Washington (mentioned by BNRC's Doug Brown) used their hazard mitigation planning process to identify invasive species as a municipal vulnerability, which led to creation of an ad hoc invasive species

committee and coordination among major landowners. Lanesborough could follow this model, using MVP as the framework to institutionalize landscape-scale coordination.

3. Establish an ad hoc invasive species and land management coordination committee

Building on the model from Mount Washington described by BNRC's Doug Brown, Lanesborough should consider establishing an ad hoc committee through the Conservation Commission focused specifically on invasive species and land management coordination.

Committee structure:

- Point person to coordinate among large landholders
- Representatives from DCR (Mt. Greylock, Pittsfield State Forest, Balance Rock), BNRC, The Nature Conservancy, and other institutional landowners
- Private landowners managing significant acreage (farms, forest lands, recreation properties)
- Town representatives (Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, DPW, Tree Warden)
- Facilitated by town but led by technical experts

Committee functions:

- Share information on invasive species sightings and emerging threats (new pests, disease spread patterns)
- Coordinate treatment timing and methods across adjacent properties to maximize effectiveness
- Facilitate joint Notices of Intent to Conservation Commission for landscape-scale management activities

- Coordinate roadside mowing timing with DPW to prevent invasive seed spread
- Apply collaboratively for grants requiring multi-party participation (RCPP, coordinated EQIP applications)
- Build community buy-in for evidence-based management approaches, including appropriate herbicide use when necessary
- Share information on qualified contractors, costs, and treatment effectiveness
- Identify priority areas for coordinated action based on threat severity and landscape connectivity
- Monitor and report on beech leaf disease, emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, and other emerging forest health threats
- Coordinate with Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) on spotted lanternfly and other agricultural pest reporting
- Develop shared resources (equipment, expertise, volunteer coordination)
- Create educational materials for broader community about invasive species identification and management

Meeting schedule:

- Quarterly meetings at minimum
- Additional meetings as needed for urgent threats or coordinated projects
- Annual planning session to set priorities for coming year
- Site visits to properties with active management or significant challenges

Model example:

The Town of Mount Washington created an ad hoc invasive species committee that brought together all major landowners in town to coordinate management along road

frontage and shared boundaries. While the effort faced political challenges around herbicide use, the town-facilitated coordination mechanism proved valuable for breaking down property boundaries and enabling landscape-scale planning. The committee successfully developed a joint Notice of Intent for coordinated roadside invasive control, demonstrating the value of municipal facilitation.²⁶

Implementation steps:

1. Conservation Commission votes to establish ad hoc committee
 2. Town reaches out to major landowners and institutional managers to gauge interest
 3. Select point person/coordinator (could be volunteer, Conservation Commission member, or funded position)
 4. Hold initial organizing meeting to set priorities and structure
 5. Develop communication protocols (email list, shared document repository)
 6. Create terms of reference defining committee scope and authority
 7. Report regularly to Conservation Commission on activities and needs
4. Coordinate Department of Public Works (DPW) with conservation goals

Roads and trails serve as primary vectors for invasive species spread. Timing of roadside mowing can either limit or accelerate seed distribution of species like Japanese knotweed, Oriental bittersweet, and multiflora rose.²⁷

Recommended actions:

- Educate DPW staff about invasive species identification and spread mechanisms

²⁶ Brown, Doug. Director of Stewardship, Berkshire Natural Resources Council. Personal interview. December 1st, 2025.

²⁷ Christine Perron, “Best Management Practices for Roadside Invasive Plants,” New Hampshire Department of Transportation (2008).

- Develop roadside mowing schedule that limits seed distribution (mow before seed set in early summer or after dispersal in late fall)
- Coordinate DPW drainage and infrastructure work with property owners experiencing related impacts (like Red Shirt Farm flooding from Mt. Greylock drainage)
- Include DPW representative in land management coordination discussions and ad hoc committee
- Consider DPW as partner in grant applications for infrastructure-related environmental improvements
- Document locations of known invasive populations along roadsides for targeted management
- Explore whether DPW equipment or personnel could assist with invasive control on town properties (potentially grant-funded)

Example impact:

Several other towns have successfully reduced invasive spread by adjusting mowing timing, with no additional cost to the municipality.²⁸

Specific coordination needs:

- Address drainage pipe routing issues affecting properties like Red Shirt Farm
- Coordinate on culvert maintenance and erosion control at Town Brook and other water crossings

²⁸ Perron, Christine. "Best Management Practices for Roadside Invasive Plants." New Hampshire Department of Transportation, 2008.

- Share information on road salt impacts to roadside vegetation and adjacent properties
- Plan tree removal for ash mortality with consideration for traffic safety and habitat value

7.2.2 Restructured boards and commissions. Stemming from the same problem that drives the need for enhanced communication efforts among recreation properties in Lanesborough, a sense of distance between the town and its recreation property owners has decreased efficiency and created barriers to fighting problems using combined resources. For this reason, we deem it a logical step to rework some of the ways Lanesborough's various committees and commissions function.

1. Inclusion of Section 5 property owners on relevant town committees

We recommend that individuals with backgrounds relevant to Open Space and Recreation are encouraged to serve on the boards of committees or commissions that discuss these topics. This would ideally alleviate the assumption that they are being disregarded or left out of conversations.

For example, of Williamstown's Agricultural Commission's five members, four of them are farmers. Only one of Lanesborough's Agricultural Commission's four members is an agricultural professional.

Specific recommendations:

- *Conservation Commission:* Actively recruit at least one member with professional land management experience (forestry, agriculture, or conservation biology)
- *Agricultural Commission:* Ensure majority of members are actively engaged in agricultural operations in Lanesborough

- *Planning Board*: Include representation from open space and recreation stakeholders
- *Ad Hoc Committees*: Draw heavily from practitioners and property managers who have direct experience with the issues being addressed

2. Active board/commission expansion

We recognize that the lack of representation on the boards is not solely a problem with the way the town is appointing members. Attempts to get certain individuals on commissions are likely mottled by the preexisting expectations of time commitments, misunderstandings of what the role entails, fear of inexperience, and/or lack of interest. However, it is crucial that the town does everything in its power to ensure that it is encouraging its citizens to contribute their expertise to town planning efforts. This includes making an active effort to reach out to people who have important, unrecognized, and even contrarian perspectives, as well as ensuring that these people feel like they legitimately have a seat at the table.

One successful example comes from the experiences of a young woman in Durham, New Hampshire. She was sought out again and again to serve on her town's planning board and denied the request multiple times because it didn't work with her schedule, but when she found out that the town could give her some flexibility, she was more willing to join. After several meetings, she was able to provide this advice to towns looking for more engagement: be welcoming, and listen to what is shared. Especially if the individuals are asked to join to offer a perspective that is not already represented, it's important that they feel valued, understood, and helpful.²⁹

²⁹Sarah Wrightsman, "[How to Get Young People to Join a Board or Committee](#)," New Hampshire Municipal Organization (2019).

Best practices for recruitment:

- Make personal, repeated outreach to desired candidates (not just general announcements)
- Clearly explain time commitments and offer flexibility where possible (virtual attendance, adjusted meeting times)
- Emphasize that diverse perspectives, including critical ones, are valued and needed
- Ensure new members feel heard and that their input genuinely influences decisions
- Provide orientation and mentorship for members new to municipal governance
- Consider term limits to create regular opportunities for new voices
- Recognize that farmers and land managers have seasonal constraints on availability
- Allow for alternates or partial terms to make participation more feasible

Specific recruitment targets for Lanesborough:

- Active farmers from properties like Square Roots Farm, R&R Wirtes Grain, Brookside/Echo Farm, Red Shirt Farm, Second Drop Farm
- Private land managers from Shaker Ridge Trails, Mt. Greylock Campsite
- Representatives from younger generation involved in land management or agriculture
- Professionals from DCR or BNRC willing to serve in advisory capacity

3. Creation of a Bureaucratic Navigation Map

Many interviews revealed a consistent pattern: property owners directed their gripes towards the Town, a singular, esoteric entity that is unclear and inaccessible. If individuals feel as though they cannot connect with the town in a meaningful way but also cannot understand it, both issues may be relieved simultaneously if the labyrinth of bureaucracy is more clearly explained in detail. That way, property owners would be able to find a direct answer of who to talk to when they have an issue or a question rather than isolating themselves.

An example of a potential bridge between Lanesborough's current practices and a future navigable map can be found in Bedford, New York's model. The Bedford government website has a feature that allows you to key word search all the town meeting minutes.³⁰ As opposed to Lanesborough's website, in which a user must comb through each file individually, this feature makes the documents significantly more accessible to people who don't have background knowledge or would otherwise have difficulties navigating the information. We can picture a more robust map, perhaps a dichotomous key, than either Bedford or Lanesborough currently employs, but one start would be reducing the friction of inaccessibility.

Recommended components:

- Contact directory: create a clear guide showing who to call for specific issues
- Process Flowcharts: visual guides for common procedures
- Searchable Meeting Minutes/Records:
- FAQ Section: Common questions from landowners with direct answers:
- Resource Hub: Centralized location (web page) with links to:

³⁰Town of Bedford, "[Agenda Center](#)" (2025).

- Grant program information (with direct links to applications)
- Technical assistance providers (NRCS, MassWildlife, DCR, BNRC)
- Educational materials on invasive species, forest health, water quality
- Calendar of relevant meetings and workshops
- Contact information for all relevant town boards and commissions
- Links to regional resources (BRPC, Berkshire County organizations)

Implementation:

- Develop web-based navigation tool on town website with clear, intuitive design
- Create printable "quick reference" guide (one-page front and back) for those without internet access
- Distribute through town mailings, at town offices, Agricultural Commission, Conservation Commission meetings
- Include in welcome packets for new property owners
- Update regularly (at least annually) and solicit feedback from users
- Test with actual property owners to ensure it's truly helpful and easy to use

7.2.3 Engagement with younger audiences

Many of the privately owned and managed recreation properties in Lanesborough have been passed down through generations. It is rarer for people who aren't part of these generational inheritance trends to break into industries that are heavily based in these types of properties, such as agriculture. Not only does this create a systematic distancing between open space and recreation property owners and other townspeople, it also means that these properties, of which Lanesborough values deeply for their contributions to its image as a picturesque, rural community, are at risk of being abandoned or converted into other uses if their owners do not

have someone to pass it on to. This is especially exacerbated by the fact that only a few farms in Lanesborough are permanently protected with Agricultural Protection Restrictions.

1. Connect with Berkshire region youth outdoor/agriculture volunteering programs

There are plenty of programs that already exist in surrounding municipalities. They were implemented for various reasons both including and expanding on the problem listed above. Since they are already functional in other towns, to bring them into Lanesborough shouldn't be excessively challenging. Alternatively, a replica system could be created in Lanesborough.

- *Greenagers program* — At April Hill Farm in North Adams, teenagers are invited to explore the various aspects of farming, from planting seeds to understanding climate resilience.³¹ On the Appalachian Trail, teenagers can sign up for paid positions on the trail crew, learning how to maintain and build trails.³²
- *Pittsfield FFA and 4-H* — The local chapter of the Future Farmers of America is in Pittsfield. This national organization connects students that are interested in agricultural education and leadership by providing them with grants, scholarships, and opportunities for jobs. A similar organization with a parallel mission is 4-H. Farmers have the opportunity to get involved with these programs by providing the students that are engaged in agriculture with a place to learn and grow.

Specific opportunities in Lanesborough:

- Summer youth crews: Trail maintenance at Shaker Ridge Trails, invasive species control on town lands, farm work at participating properties

³¹ Greenagers, "[April Hill Farm](#)."

³² Greenagers, "[Seasonal Youth Trail Crews](#)."

- School partnerships: Field trips to working farms, outdoor classroom programs on conservation lands
- Mentorship programs: Pair young people interested in agriculture/conservation with experienced practitioners
- 4-H projects: Host animals, crops, forestry projects on Lanesborough farms
- FFA partnerships: Provide Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) sites for students

7.3 Grants and funding

Lanesborough is eligible for the following grants. More information on each grant can be found in the Section 5 Appendix which is linked in the appendix of this report.

- State grant programs:
 - MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program (MHMGP)
 - *Purpose:* Financial assistance to improve wildlife habitat, control invasive species, and promote outdoor recreation on conserved lands.
 - *Funding amount:* \$5,000 - \$75,000 per project. Grant covers partial costs; applicant must provide matching funds or in-kind contributions.
 - *Eligible activities:* Invasive species control (mechanical, chemical, prescribed burning); forest stand improvement; mowing, brush hogging, tree clearing; streambank restoration; seeding/planting of native species; wildlife habitat creation and management; prescribed burning; fencing for habitat protection

- *Eligibility:* Private or municipal owners of conserved lands in Massachusetts. Conserved land is further defined in the Appendix document, as are other relevant restrictions.
- *Application process, project timeline, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report's appendix.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - *Purpose:* Financial and technical assistance for agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concerns.
 - *Funding amount:* Varies; typically covers 50-75% of practice costs
 - *Eligible activities:* Invasive species management; forest stand improvement; erosion control; nutrient management; grazing management; wildlife habitat development; water conservation; prescribed burning; stream restoration; conservation planning
 - *Eligibility:* Agricultural producers (farmers, ranchers); non-industrial private forest landowners — must harvest less than 2,000 thousand board feet (mbf) per year; land trusts and conservation organizations eligible — must have established farm records with USDA Farm Service Agency
 - *Application process, project timeline, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report's appendix.
- Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds

- *Purpose:* Local funding for open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing, and outdoor recreation. Lanesborough must first adopt CPA locally through voter approval.
 - *Funding amount:* Varies by community; depends on local surcharge revenue and state match
 - *Eligible activities (if adopted):* Open space acquisition and protection; recreation facility development; historic preservation; land rehabilitation and restoration; conservation restriction purchases; trail development; park improvements
 - *Application process, project timeline, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report's appendix.
- DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants
 - *Purpose:* Build local capacity for urban and community forestry management, including tree planting, protection, and maintenance.
 - *Funding amount:* Varies; typically \$5,000 - \$50,000
 - *Eligible activities:* Community tree planting and care; tree inventories and management plans; tree warden training and professional development; developing tree ordinances and policies; building citizen forestry organizations; heritage tree care (trees over 32" diameter with cultural/historical significance); community wood banks; urban forest management planning

- *Eligibility:* Municipalities; non-profit organizations – projects must involve Tree Warden
 - *Application process, project timeline, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report's appendix.
- Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program (FSP)
 - *Purpose:* Support private forest landowners with management planning and cost-share for sustainable forestry.
 - *Funding:* Cost-share for Forest Stewardship management plans and cost-share for green certification management plan upgrades
 - *Eligible activities:* Development of forest management plans; Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) green certification; "Foresters for the Birds" habitat assessments; professional forestry consultation
 - *Eligibility:* Private forest landowners; landowners with FSP plans eligible for Chapter 61 Current Use program; can become FSC green certified with plan upgrade
 - *Application process, project timeline, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report's appendix.
- Federal grant programs:
 - USDA NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
 - *Purpose:* Partner-driven conservation addressing natural resource challenges through collaborative projects.

- *Funding:* Varies significantly; large-scale watershed or regional projects
 - *Eligible activities:* All EQIP-eligible practices; landscape-scale conservation; watershed restoration; multi-partner collaborative projects
 - *Eligibility:* Partners lead applications (conservation organizations, municipalities, etc.); individual landowners participate through partner organizations; agricultural producers and forest landowners
 - *Application process, project timeline, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report's appendix.
- USDA Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program
 - *Purpose:* Emergency recovery work after natural disasters affecting watersheds.
 - *Funding:* Varies based on emergency; covers significant portion of costs.
 - Cost share: flood prevention – 100% federal for engineering and construction; watershed protection – varies; floodplain easements – 100% federal for easement purchase
 - *Eligible activities:* Debris removal from stream channels; streambank stabilization; repair/replacement of damaged infrastructure; floodplain easement purchases; emergency measures to reduce imminent threats
 - *Eligibility:* Must have project sponsor (municipality, conservation district, tribe); damage from flood, fire, drought, windstorm, or other natural occurrence; imminent threat to life or property

- *Application process, project timeline, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report's appendix.
 - USDA Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)
 - *Purpose:* Support development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies.
 - *Funding:* National competition; awards range from \$50,000 to \$2,000,000
 - *Eligible activities:* Innovative conservation practices and technologies; pilot programs for new approaches; evaluation of innovative conservation methods; projects addressing water quality, air quality, soil health, wildlife habitat
 - *Eligibility:* Non-federal government entities; tribes; non-profit organizations; for-profit businesses; institutions of higher education
 - *Application process, project timeline, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report's appendix.
 - USDA Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program
 - *Purpose:* Protect and restore watersheds up to 250,000 acres through federal-state-local cooperation.
 - *Funding:* \$50,000 for feasibility studies; hundreds of thousands to millions for implementation
 - Cost share: flood prevention – 100% federal for engineering and construction; watershed protection – 100% federal for engineering;

varies for construction; other purposes: typically 50% federal cost share

- *Eligible activities:* Flood prevention infrastructure; watershed protection measures; erosion and sediment control; water quality improvement; public recreation (as secondary benefit); fish and wildlife habitat; water supply protection
 - *Eligibility:* Must have local project sponsor (municipality, conservation district); watershed up to 250,000 acres; agricultural benefits must be at least 20% of total benefits
 - *Application process, project timeline, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report's appendix.
- Private/utility grant programs
 - Eversource Partnership Challenge Grant
 - *Purpose:* Community tree planting and urban forestry capacity building in Eversource service territory.
 - *Funding:* Varies. Requires 25% local match.
 - *Eligible activities:* Community tree planting; urban forestry program development; tree care and maintenance; building local forestry capacity
 - *Eligibility:* Municipalities within Eversource service territory; must check if Lanesborough is in service area

- *Application process, project timeline, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report's appendix.
 - National Grid Partnership Challenge Grant
 - *Purpose:* Community tree replacement planting and urban forestry capacity building in National Grid service territory.
 - *Funding:* Varies. Match requirement also varies.
 - *Eligible activities:* Tree replacement planting; urban forestry management; building local capacity
 - *Eligibility:* Municipalities in National Grid service territory; must verify Lanesborough service area; Tree Warden involvement required
 - *Application process, project timeline, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report's appendix.
- Tax incentive programs (not grants, but financial benefits)
 - Chapter 61, 61A, 61B Current Use programs
 - *Purpose:* Purpose: Reduce property taxes for landowners who keep land in forestry (61), agriculture (61A), or recreation (61B) use.
 - *Benefits:* Significantly reduced property tax assessment; land taxed at current use value rather than development value
 - *Requirements:* Minimum acreage requirements; active management for designated use; must maintain use for duration of enrollment; right of first refusal if land is sold

- *Eligibility:* Private landowners – minimum 10 acres for Chapter 61 (forest), minimum 5 acres for Chapter 61A (agriculture), minimum 5 acres for Chapter 61B (recreation)
- *Application process, contact information, and other notes:* Accessible in the Appendix document linked in the report’s appendix.

The Appendix also has an expansive list of contacts and resources.

7.4 Timeline

This timeline is a framework, not a prescription. We do not know the actual logistics or capacity constraints of Lanesborough, and do not expect this to be followed step by step. Rather, it demonstrates how actions build upon one another. Early successes can create support for longer-term work. Our recommendations span both immediate opportunities and multi-year initiatives, allowing the town to prioritize based on local needs, resources, and community readiness.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (0-6 months) - Winter/Spring 2026

1. Convene Initial Property Managers Meeting

- Who: Conservation Commission to organize
- Purpose: Share OSRP Section 5 findings, discuss coordination interest, identify barriers and opportunities
- Outcome: Agreement on next steps

2. Research MVP Planning Grant Application

- Who: Town Administrator, Conservation Commission, Select Board with BRPC support
- Actions: Review MVP program requirements, identify workshop participants, begin drafting application using OSRP environmental threats data
- Note: This process may already be underway

3. Inventory Current Grant Participation

- Who: Conservation Commission with Agricultural Commission
- Actions: Survey current grant recipients, identify properties that could benefit, assess barriers to participation
- Outcome: Understanding of grant landscape and immediate opportunities

4. Establish Communication Infrastructure

- Actions: Launch email listserv, create social media group, compile key contacts, introduce coordination initiative

5. Begin Board/Commission Recruitment

- Actions: Identify and reach out to potential candidates (farmers, land managers, conservation professionals)

6. Host First "Conservation Resources" Workshop

- When: Spring 2026
- Content: Overview of grant programs, application processes, success stories, one-on-one consultations
- Outcome: Increased awareness and new grant applications initiated

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS (6-18 months) - Summer 2026 through Winter 2027

7. Form Ad Hoc Land Management Coordination Committee

- Who: Conservation Commission establishes; town facilitates
- Actions: Formal vote, recruit participants (DCR, BNRC, private landowners), establish meeting schedule and protocols
- Initial Focus: Map invasive locations, share contractor information, plan coordinated treatments

8. Coordinate with DPW

- Actions: Train staff on invasive identification, develop adjusted mowing schedule, establish communication protocols, address drainage concerns

9. Pursue MVP Planning Process

- Timeline: Submit application if not already done; complete planning process

- Key Elements: Community workshop identifying priority hazards (invasives, water management, forest health, climate impacts)
10. Begin Coordinated Grant Applications
 - Target Programs: MassWildlife (October deadline), EQIP (multiple ranking dates)
 - Strategy: Coordinate applications, share resources, identify landscape-scale benefits
 11. Develop Navigation Resources
 - Actions: Create contact directory, process flowcharts, FAQ section, resource hub
 - Distribution: Publish online and distribute to property owners
 12. Launch Youth Engagement
 - Actions: Partner with Greenagers, FFA, 4-H; identify properties willing to host programs; plan events
 13. Establish Reporting System
 - Actions: Create online form and hotline for invasive sightings and environmental threats; develop identification guides

MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS (18 months - 3 years) - 2027-2028

14. Continue Coordinated Grant Applications
 - Strategy: Multiple properties applying together, coordinated site visits, shared resources
15. Consider CPA Adoption Study (if community interest)
 - Timeline: 12-18 months from study to potential ballot
 - Process: Feasibility study, research neighboring towns, estimate revenue, public education
16. Develop Demonstration Sites
 - Actions: Use grant-funded projects as education opportunities, install signage, create educational materials
17. Build Monitoring and Data System
 - Actions: Create tracking system for invasives and management outcomes; compile annual "State of Open Space" report

18. Evaluate Coordination Effectiveness

- Actions: Survey participants, assess grant success rates, review communication effectiveness, adjust approaches

LONG-TERM ACTIONS (3-5 years) - 2028-2030

19. Update OSRP Section 5

- Timeline: By 2029 (establish 5-year update cycle)
- Content: Updated conditions, threat assessments, coordination outcomes, revised recommendations

20. Explore RCPP or Other Landscape-Scale Funding

- Prerequisites: Functioning coordination mechanisms, established partnerships, clear priorities
- Potential Focus: Watershed-scale invasive management, forest health across boundaries

21. Formalize Coordination Structures

- Options: Make Ad Hoc Committee permanent, create regional collaborative, integrate into commission responsibilities

22. Assess Long-Term Outcomes

- Questions: Has coordination improved management? Are more properties accessing resources? What's working and what needs adjustment?
- Use Results: Inform next OSRP update, share lessons with other communities

8.0 CONCLUSION

This project began with the practical goal of updating Section 5 of Lanesborough's Open Space and Recreation Plan which had not been revised in twenty years. That being said, the project developed beyond simply completing a revised inventory of conservation and recreation lands in Lanesborough. Over time, our work revealed how land management, environmental risks, and institutional coordination are intertwined in Lanesborough. With this, our work to

update Section 5 of the OSRP evolved into developing and understanding of how the town's open space functions across property lines, ownership structures, and management capacities, and how these dynamics shape the town's ability to respond to emerging environmental threats.

As we have discussed, Lanesborough's landscape is defined by an abundance of open space, as nearly half of the town's total land falls under a conservation, recreational, or agricultural classification that warrants different levels of land protection. While the town of Lanesborough benefits economically, ecologically, and socially from these protected lands, diversity in ownership and management creates complexity. Hence, when confronting environmental threats that span the landscape, management responses across properties are often fragmented, shaped by who owns the land, what resources they have access to, and levels of connection to municipal institutions.

This combination of extensive protected lands and fragmented management framework guided our efforts to update Section 5 of the OSRP, the original version of which treated every property as interchangeable rows in a table, offering little insight into important factors such as condition, management needs, or environmental vulnerability. With this, we aimed to update the document with site-specific information and descriptions, including an environmental threats section for each property. This shift transforms Section 5 from a static list into a working planning tool. It establishes a baseline that can be revisited, updated, and used to guide future decisions, funding applications, and management priorities.

The interview process of our project was central to developing this updated Section 5. Conversations with landowners, farmers, and municipal and state representatives revealed a consistent list of common environmental threats experienced across property types, and our main takeaways from these conversations are that invasive species are spreading, forest health is

declining, precipitation patterns are becoming more erratic, and climate-related risks to recreation and public health are increasing. Importantly, many property managers already possess the technical knowledge to address these issues, and we acknowledge that the core challenge with environmental threat management in Lanesborough is not expertise, but fragmentation due to limited communication, uneven access to resources, and a lack of coordination across the landscape.

Our conversations with property owners and managers about these environmental threats shaped the recommendations presented in this report. Rather than describing technical solutions, our recommendations focus on strengthening the institutional structures that allow effective land management to occur. Improved communication networks, development of a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plan, and the creation of collaborative forums for land managers are all examples of initiatives that we discuss that would help elevate environmental threats from isolated property-level concerns to shared municipal priorities. We recognize that in order to achieve these levels of collaboration, community involvement and trust is vital. We found that while some landowners were eager to participate, others were hesitant or difficult to reach, reflecting broader tensions between private land stewardship and municipal planning. These dynamics further underscore the need for ongoing, transparent communication and planning processes that emphasize collaboration rather than regulation.

Ultimately, the value of our project and the development of an updated Section 5 of the OSRP and subsequent recommendations lies in their use going forward. Section 5 and our recommendations should be treated as living documents that evolve as land ownership changes, environmental conditions shift, and new recreation opportunities emerge. By maintaining and updating these documents, Lanesborough can move toward more proactive, coordinated land

stewardship that reflects the interconnected nature of its open spaces. More broadly, this project demonstrates how relatively modest planning updates can have meaningful impacts in small towns facing limited capacity and increasing environmental pressures. By combining spatial analysis, stakeholder engagement, and standardized documentation, Lanesborough has laid the groundwork for a more resilient and adaptive approach to open space management.

8.1 Issues with methodology

The method of cold-calling landowners and managers for our initial conversations was inconvenient for our interviewees and led to confusion, mistrust, and, in some cases, a negative first impression of the project. Reaching out through email to schedule in-person interviews allowed for closer connections with stakeholders and yielded more in-depth responses. Showing up in person displays commitment to true engagement with stakeholders and allows for clearer communication. Due to the time constraints of our project and our limitations as college students, holding in-person interviews with every landowner would not be feasible; however, it is important to note that reaching out to landowners first instead of cold-calling them and prioritizing in-person meetings is the preferred approach.

Additionally, it was impossible to identify, procure contact information for, and engage in meaningful conversations with every single person with a stake in the issue of open space and recreation land management in Lanesborough over the span of three months. Thus, this project can be seen as an important beginning to a process of *continuous* public engagement effort by the Town of Lanesborough. These time constraints also led to issues with seasonality, as certain landowners and managers were busier during the harvest season.

Due to our time limitations, we prioritized the perspectives of land owners and managers since they have more direct experience dealing with environmental threats on their own

properties; however, this led to an underrepresentation of the important perspectives of Lanesborough residents who do not own land. Recreational access and environmental issues have a major impact on these residents' wellbeing, health, and job security, so it is inequitable to exclude their needs and concerns from the process of land use planning and environmental threat management. In the future, a more equitable method would be to prioritize reaching out to Lanesborough residents from all socioeconomic demographics so that the voices of lower-income and non-landowning residents aren't overlooked.

Another limitation of our methodology was our reliance on qualitative data from our interviews and our lack of quantitative data. Additionally, issues with town politics and dynamics limited our ability to get meaningful input from every stakeholder. The politicization of environmental issues such as climate change and mistrust of the government influenced some landowners to be more hesitant or even hostile to speaking with us. We also observed that more recently established "boutique" farms were more likely to speak with us—perhaps out of a desire for more publicity—while older farmers were more hesitant. This could lead to an overrepresentation of the perspectives of newer boutique farms.

8.2 Lessons learned

The challenges and successes of this project can inform the methods and approaches of similar projects in the future. Firstly, this project revealed that while community engagement can be difficult, it is vital to continually nurture close connections with stakeholders and center their input. Our positions as Williams students meant that we were outsiders who were unaware of the intricacies of the Lanesborough community, making having real discussions with local people challenging yet all the more vital. When we arranged to visit the properties of the landowners we interviewed in person, we had more generative, smooth conversations and were able to form

more positive connections than when we used the cold-calling method. Interviewees appreciated the commitment, face-to-face communication, and human interaction of in-person visits over the quicker yet more distant and impersonal phone calls. Environmental planning requires deeply engaging with local communities instead of taking the quick, easy, convenient route at the cost of true connection.

This project also taught us that sometimes the most beneficial and feasible solutions don't require inventing entirely new approaches to environmental issues but instead involve mobilizing the expertise and management practices that already exist in more effective, cohesive ways. Initially, we approached our recommendations more scientifically, attempting to find the best possible methods to tackle issues such as invasive species, erosion, and cyanobacteria. However, we quickly realized that we were much less equipped to find feasible and practical solutions to these issues than the land managers and experts who already manage these issues on a daily basis. As college students and non-Lanesborough residents, it was important for us to have humility, know our limitations, and recognize the pre-existing capabilities of the Lanesborough community. Thus, we learned that it was more helpful for us to focus on overcoming fragmentation and disorganization through fostering collaboration than for us to try to re-invent the wheel. This points to a broader lesson that localized knowledge is essential to address global environmental issues, as local people are the most knowledgeable experts of their own community's unique intricacies and needs.

9.0 DELIVERABLES

1. [Property inventory spreadsheet](#). This document was used to maintain organization for the properties we attempted to contact. It contains both successfully contacted properties and properties that are relevant to the OSRP that we were unable to communicate with.

2. [Lanesborough's 2025 Open Space and Recreation Plan Section 5: Conservation Lands Inventory](#). This is our formatted compilation of the properties we collected information on. This information will be included in this form or another in the final OSRP published by BPRC.
3. [Conservation and Recreation Lands Inventory Appendix](#). This document is the Appendix to our Section 5 inventory. It expands upon the “environmental threats” category in our Section 5, lists actionable recommendations, lists available grants and funding, and provides a timeline of action. The information in this Appendix will inform the creation of Section 6 of the OSRP, Analysis of Needs.
4. [Final presentation](#). This is the presentation we delivered to the Open Space and Recreation Planning Advisory Committee on December 8th, 2025.

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Appendix D – Lanesborough ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Town of Lanesborough, Massachusetts

ADA Self Evaluation & Transition Plan



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INTRODUCTION

Lanesborough, Massachusetts is an attractive small town located in central Berkshire County, first settled in 1753. With a population of approximately 3,038 people, the town offers a mix of rural and industrial characteristics, including a charming town center and small business district. Most of the town's public facilities are located in the town center, including the Lanesborough Town Hall at 83 North Main Street. The town's Police Station is located at 545 South Main Street.

Desiring to enhance services and inclusiveness for all its residents, the Town of Lanesborough seeks to increase and improve accessibility to its Town Hall, Police Station, Fire House, Parks, and Elementary School, and other facilities, by identifying barriers to accessibility and planning for future improvements. Over the course of several months, Town of Lanesborough officials worked with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) staff to develop the town's first Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. This evaluation only looks at municipally owned properties, including the town hall, police station, fire house, town garages and facilities, parks, and the Elementary School. Preparation of this report was funded a grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disabilities (MOD) to the Town of Lanesborough.

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act and its following 2008 amendment (ADA) requires that governments and businesses provide equal access under the law for citizens who require accommodations because of a disability. The ADA is first and foremost a civil rights law.

All federal, state, and local governments are required to have an ADA self-evaluation and transition plan on file that identifies all barriers to accessibility for programs, services, and activities offered to its citizens. This includes barriers to the built environment and the policies, training, and accommodations available by a government entity. The transition plan outlines how the Town will remove all identified barriers to accessibility, an order of priority for curative actions, and a timeline for removal. The Town plans to target both structural and non-structural barriers to accessibility.

This plan is important to the continued services that residents, workers, and visitors alike enjoy. The Town of Lanesborough acknowledges that without full access to programs, services, activities, and public rights-of-way, the Town is not meeting its obligations not only to those with disabilities,



but all members of its community who value human rights, diversity of experience, and equal opportunity.

Public Participation and Acknowledgements

A simplified public participation strategy was developed as part of this plan, including providing the Draft plan on the Town's website. BRPC consulted primarily with the Town Administrator, Gina Dario and Beth Carroll, Administrative Assistant. BRPC staff also met with the Lanesborough DPW Director, Charlie Durfee.

A draft of this plan will be available through the Lanesborough Town Administrator's office to those interested in providing comments on various physical aspects of the Town as relates to ADA compliance.



FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS

Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA)

The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) requires that buildings and facilities that are designed, constructed, or altered with Federal funds, or leased by a Federal agency, comply with Federal standards for physical accessibility. ABA requirements are limited to architectural standards in new and altered buildings and in newly leased facilities.

Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504 states that "no qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall be excluded from, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under" any program or activity that either receives Federal financial assistance or is conducted by any Executive agency or the United States Postal Service.

Each Federal agency has its own set of section 504 regulations that apply to its own programs. Agencies that provide Federal financial assistance also have section 504 regulations covering entities that receive Federal aid. Requirements common to these regulations include reasonable accommodation for employees with disabilities; program accessibility; effective communication with people who have hearing or vision disabilities; and accessible new construction and alterations.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

The ADA prohibits discrimination based on disability in employment, State and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications. It also applies to the United States Congress. There are four titles that outline ADA requirements for employment, state and local government activities including public transportation, public accommodations including historic properties, and telecommunications access.



Title II, one of five separate titles of the ADA, applies specifically to “public entities” and the programs, services, and activities they provide. This title outlines the requirements for the self-evaluation, Transition Plan and appointing an ADA coordinator.

In 1992, the U.S. Department of Justice issued 28 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 35, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Governmental Services, to implement Subtitle A of Title II. This regulation extended the prohibition of discrimination in federally assisted programs already established by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to all activities of state and local governments, including those that do not receive federal financial assistance.

THE 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN (ADA STANDARDS)

The ADA Standards outline the requirements necessary to make a building or other facility physically accessible to people with disabilities. The Standards are a comprehensive guide that identifies what features will need to be accessible and list the specifications required to make them compliant with the ADA.

Accessibility and Discrimination

Accessibility plays a significant role in the inclusion of people with disabilities. The first step toward encouraging full community participation and fulfilling the rights of people with disabilities is creating an accessible, barrier-free environment. Regulations require that structural barriers be removed in public areas of existing facilities when such removal is readily achievable. Barriers typically found in public areas include routes of travel requiring the use of stairs, non-ADA compliant ramps, door widths that cannot accommodate the passage of a wheelchair, and the location of door handles that are too high, among other elements.

Discrimination against individuals with disabilities occurs when a person is perceived differently, treated differently, and struggles to gain acceptance at a level experienced by their non-disabled peers. Often, physical barriers encountered by people with disabilities can be perceived as discrimination because they exclude that individual from reaching their desired destination or performing a specific task or action. According to the ADA, all state and local governments are



required to follow specific architectural standards in either the new construction or the alteration of existing buildings unless the corrective actions would result in undue financial or administrative burdens. To avoid discriminating against those with disabilities, public entities are required to make reasonable modifications. These modifications will provide equality of opportunity, but the county cannot guarantee equality of results.

Program Accessibility

Title II requires local governmental agencies to ensure that all their programs, services, and activities, when viewed in their entirety, are accessible to persons with disabilities. Program access is intended to remove physical barriers to the local governmental agency services, programs, and activities, but it generally does not require that the local governmental agency make each facility, or each part of any given facility, accessible. For example, every restroom in each facility does not need to be made accessible. However, signage directing persons with disabilities to the accessible features and spaces within that given facility must be provided.

Program accessibility may be achieved in a variety of ways. Local governmental agencies may choose to make structural changes or pursue alternatives to structural changes to achieve access. For example, the local governmental agency can move public meetings to accessible buildings and relocate services for individuals with disabilities to accessible levels or parts of a building. It should be noted that when choosing between possible methods of program accessibility, the local governmental agency must give priority to the choices that offer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting that is available and appropriate. Additionally, all newly constructed public facilities must be fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Undue Burden

A “grandfather clause” does not exist in the ADA; however, the law is flexible. Local government agencies must comply with Title II of the ADA and must provide program access for all individuals. With respect to complying with Title II, a local governmental agency does not have to take any action to make a feature compliant to ADA standards if that agency can demonstrate that the alteration will result in the creation of a fundamental alteration to the program or service or will



cause undue financial and/or administrative burden. The determination of an undue burden can only be made by the head of the local public agency (or a designee) and must be accompanied by a written statement outlining the reasons for reaching such a conclusion. In order to establish that an alteration of a feature will cause undue financial and/or administrative burden, an evaluation of all resources available for use in the program must be completed. The evaluation of these resources must include the amount of financial resources available, the effect on expenses and resources, the type and location of the facility, and the number of employees at the site.

If an alteration of a feature would result in a burden, the public entity must take any other action that would not result in an undue burden but would ensure that individuals with disabilities receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

Safe Harbor

Elements in facilities built or altered before March 15, 2012, that comply with the 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (1991 Standards) are not required to be modified to specifications in the 2010 Standards. For example, the 1991 Standards allow the maximum side reach control part of a paper towel dispenser to be 54 inches. The 2010 Standards lower that side reach range to 48 inches maximum. If a paper towel dispenser was installed prior to March 15, 2012, with its highest operating part at 54 inches, the paper towel dispenser does not need to be lowered to 48 inches. Since the dispenser complies with the 1991 Standards, that Standard provides a “safe harbor”.

Historic Properties

Exceptions to the ADA have been made for historic properties that are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places or a property designated as historic under state or local law. A public entity is not required to make alterations that would destroy or threaten the historical significance of an historic property. In such a case, alternative requirements may be used as discussed in 28 CFR 36.405 and ADAAG 4.1.7(3). An example of an alternative requirement would include providing displays and written information in a location where they can be seen by a seated person.

Curb Ramps

When streets and roads are either newly built or altered, ramps must be constructed whenever curbs or other physical barriers exist at the connection point between the roadway and a pedestrian walkway. Likewise, when new sidewalks or walkways are built or altered, they must also contain curb ramps or sloped areas wherever they intersect with a street or roadway. However, on existing roads and sidewalks that have not been altered, local governmental agencies may choose to construct curb ramps at every point where a pedestrian walkway intersects a curb, but they are not necessarily required to do so. Under program access, alternative routes to buildings that make use of existing curb ramps may be acceptable where persons with disabilities must only travel a marginally longer route.

ADA TITLE II SELF-EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

The self-evaluation plan helps determine the adequacy of ADA compliance in public buildings and to ensure that there is no discrimination in services, meetings, and programs provided by the Town. If the Town decides there is an undue burden in providing access or services, such as a fundamental alteration of a building or service provided or a financial burden, state and local governments must ensure that these decisions are made properly and expeditiously. Specific activities that should be evaluated relate to access, inclusion, communication, and safety. The self-evaluation needs to include the persons consulted, problem areas, and a description of any modifications that have been made.³⁰ The activities and requirements that should be evaluated are listed below.

Ensure Access to buildings, programs, meetings, and activities

- All physical barriers to accessibility should be removed
- Residents should have adequate access to public meetings
- Construction & Design standards should be met

³⁰ American with Disabilities Act Title II Regulations (2016) Part 35 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services. From: www.ada.gov/ada_reg_ta.htm

- Historic buildings include access for disabled where reasonable

Inclusion and Non-Discrimination of Disabled People

- Ensure program materials are not offensive to the disabled
- Ensure employment practices are not discriminatory to disabled
- Ensure programs, activities, and services are not exclusionary to those with disabilities and former drug users

Availability of Proper Alternative Communication Methods

- Communicate effectively with disabled by providing direct access for TDD's and TTY's.
- Have a method for including provisions for readers or interpreters for impaired people. If equipment is required, make sure it works properly and is maintained.
- Ensure employees are familiar with the policies and practices for the full participation of individuals with disabilities.

Proper Safety Procedures

- Evaluate procedures to evacuate individuals with disabilities during an emergency. Visual and audible warning signals, and procedures for assisting individuals from a facility during an emergency should all be included.

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHITECTURAL ACCESS BOARD – M.G.L. C. 22 SECTION 13A

The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) is a regulatory agency within the Massachusetts Office of Public Safety that develops and enforces regulations to make public building accessible to, functional for, and safe for use by persons with disabilities. MAAB regulations are outlined and enforceable as part of the Massachusetts Building Code.

Disability Rights are Civil Rights



THREE PRELIMINARY STEPS TO ADA COMPLIANCE

The following procedures and accompanying documentation are required as part of the ADA Title II Compliance:

Designation of an ADA Coordinator

Title II of the ADA applies to programs, services, and agencies of state and local governments, regardless of the size of the public entity. It is important for all municipalities to designate at least one municipal employee to take on the functional responsibilities as an ADA Coordinator. This position bears the full responsibility of implementing the ADA within a Title II entity.



The most important requirement of an ADA Coordinator is the ability to learn and understand all of the ADA regulations as it pertains to the municipality. It must be recognized that the ADA is a Civil Rights Law and not a building code. A person in this position should:

- Have knowledge of all municipal programs, services, and eligibility requirements.
- Be familiar with Human Resources as it applies to employment issues for policy changes, grievances, and effective accommodations.
- Have access to facilities personnel and local Building Inspectors for consultation on architectural accessibility concerns.
- Have knowledge of the municipal ADA Transition Plan and administration of the plan's compliance, amendments, and reviews.

Posting of an ADA Notice

The Town shall publicly post notice that the Town abides by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This notice shall be posted in perpetuity located in at least one prominent public area usually designated as a public information site. Publishing and publicizing the ADA notice is not a one-time requirement. State and local governments should provide the information on an ongoing basis, whenever necessary. If the Town the radio, newspaper, television, or mailings, then it will re-publish and re-broadcast the notice periodically.

The notice is required to include relevant information regarding Title II of the ADA, and how it applies to the programs, services, and activities of the public entity.

The notice should not be overwhelming. An effective notice states the basics of what the ADA requires of the state or local government without being too lengthy, legalistic, or complicated. It should include the name and contact information of the ADA Coordinator.

This chapter contains a model “Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act” created by the Department of Justice. It is a one-page document in a standard font, and includes brief statements about:

- Employment,
- Effective communication,
- Making reasonable modifications to policies and programs,

- Not placing surcharges on modifications or auxiliary aids and services, and
- Filing complaints.

Posting of General ADA Grievance Procedure

The Town shall publicly post the Town of Lanesborough's "Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act."

Local governments with 50 or more employees are required to adopt and publish procedures for resolving grievances arising under Title II of the ADA.³ Grievance procedures set out a system for resolving complaints of disability discrimination in a prompt and fair manner.

Neither Title II nor its implementing regulations describe what ADA grievance procedures must include. However, the Department of Justice has developed a model grievance procedure that is included at the end of this chapter.

The grievance procedure should include:

- A description of how and where a complaint under Title II may be filed with the government entity.
- If a written complaint is required, a statement notifying potential complainants that alternative means of filing will be available to people with disabilities who require such an alternative.
- A description of the time frames and processes to be followed by the complainant and the government entity.
- Information on how to appeal an adverse decision.
- A statement of how long complaint files will be retained.

SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

Self-Evaluation

The ADA Title II Self-Evaluation is an assessment of all programs, services, and activities provided by the Town. For the plan's self-evaluation, ADA compliance was evaluated for town policies,



accommodations, and trainings available to town employees who serve all residents and visitors. In addition, municipal buildings, and parks where services, programs, and activities provided by the Town are also evaluated. The self-evaluation of facilities then determined the existing level of accessibility, ranging from inaccessible to fully accessible, depending on the identified barriers. It is important to note that providing access includes the hearing and visually impaired, as well as those with mobility challenges.

Transition Plan

As for any community, transitioning into full ADA compliance is a long-term goal for the Town of Lanesborough. Full ADA compliance can only be achieved through evaluating the existing conditions that present barriers to accessibility, and then carefully planning and providing support for the required improvements. A transition to full compliance is not expected to be immediate; improvements should be planned as funding from various sources becomes available and coordinated to occur as other capital improvements are undertaken. A list of possible grants and funding sources is included at the conclusion of this Plan, in Appendix F.

EVALUATION OF TOWN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of policies and procedures that will have an impact on equal access to town services, programs, and activities is required under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Inadequate or non-existent policies and procedures can be a large non-structural barrier to equal access for people with disabilities. As a small local government, it is not unusual that Lanesborough has not yet had the opportunity to implement policies and procedures required under Title II of the ADA. Lanesborough is currently working towards drafting and posting a public notice of non-discrimination and an ADA grievance procedure. The Town has created the role of ADA Coordinator and will appoint a town hall staff member to serve in that capacity. It is important that this individual, as well as other key town staff, receive training in awareness of and response to the responsibilities of the position. With their recent efforts to implement projects that make town buildings more accessible, the Town has committed to implementing helpful and accommodating policies that will make them better aligned with Title II requirements.

BRPC staff worked with town staff to evaluate other town policies and procedures that may already be in place or should be in place to better accommodate people with disabilities. This includes department-specific trainings, policies or procedures, as well as emergency management, and access to voting, town departments, and town boards and commissions.

EVALUATION OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

The Town identified 21 boards and commissions that provide services to the public, which are summarized in the following table. The services that are provided include direct government services, activities that the public can participate in, and emergency services.

Depts.	Services	ADA Training	ADA Policy	Accommodations
Agricultural Commission	Supports the farming community within the town	No	No	None
ARPA Committee	Makes recommendations to the Select Board on the usage of these funds in accordance with approved spending guidelines.	No	No	None
Board of Assessors	Determines the full and fair cash valuation of all real property in the Town. Additional responsibilities include personal property assessments, property tax and motor vehicle abatements and personal exemptions..	No	No	None
Board of Health	Responsible for protecting public health and the environment. They are also responsible for disease control. Issues permits for wells and septic systems, inspects restaurants and motels, condemns dangerous or irreparable buildings, and works with the Visiting Nurses' Association to provide limited health services, including flu shots and screenings..	No	No	None
Board of Registrars	Responsible for voter registration, verifying signatures on petitions, and processing voters' address changes..	No	No	None
Cemetery Commission	Oversees the four cemeteries located in Lanesborough	No	No	None
Conservation Commission	Enforces the regulations of the Wetlands Protection Act. Individuals interested in doing work within 100 feet of a pond, intermittent stream, bordering vegetated wetland, certified vernal pool, lake, or within 200 feet of a river are required to file for a permit with the Conservation Commission	No	No	None
Council on Aging	Enhances the quality of life for seniors and the community by providing educational, informational, recreational, and cultural programs and activities.	No	No	None
Economic Development Committee	Helps coordinate economic development proposals, research, and issues, and assist applicants in understanding the approval process; advises the Select Board on funding	No	No	None

	opportunities, business research relative to economic development and the progress of potential business projects in the Town of Lanesborough; pursues the Goals as outlined in the Town of Lanesborough. Economic Development Plan of 2017			
Enterprise Fund Committees	Oversees the financial stability of the Ambulance Enterprise Fund. The Committee also reviews the overall Ambulance Enterprise budget and its viability for the future.	No	No	None
Finance Committee	Makes studied recommendations on all town financial matters and prepares a budget for the annual town meeting. The Committee also controls a Reserve Account that can be used for emergencies with its approval.	No	No	None
Fire Department Board of Engineers	Oversees the operations of the Lanesborough Volunteer Fire Department. They approve all expenditures and conduct the annual appointment of department officers.	No	No	None
Library Public Library Trustees	Library advocates and leaders in developing service willingly, responsibly, and creatively for all members of the public	No	No	None
Mount Greylock Regional School Committees	Responsible for: - Defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Mount Greylock School - Establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget - Hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent	No	No	None
Planning Board	Responsible for the upkeep of the Zoning By-Law and the generation of a Master Plan for the Town	No	No	None
Police Advisory Review Commission	Reviews any and all job applications in coordination with the Police Chief and provides the appropriate means for citizen participation in reviewing Police Department policies, members, practices, and procedures.	No	No	None
Police Safety Building Committee	Assesses the site locations and building plans for a new Police Station	No	No	None

Recreation Committee	design and offer quality recreational and leisurely activities for all citizens	No	No	None
Select Board	Play an important role in coordinating the Town's policy and its strategic direction	No	No	None
Tree and Forest Committee	Works in conjunction with the town Tree Warden to maintain, promote, and improve the health of trees on town land, and to increase awareness of the importance of trees and tree care within the community.	No	No	None
Zoning Board of Appeals	Reviews requests for special permits and variances related to construction and signage.	No	No	None

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

- The Town has provided the required administrative notices as follows: A Grievance Procedure under the ADA; A Notice of the Town's commitment to equal access to activities, programs, and facilities; A written notice of contact information for the ADA Coordinator. Copies of the draft Notices are included in Appendix E of this Plan.
- The Town should consider ADA training for multiple employees, and for representative of several town departments, including the Lanesborough ADA Coordinator, the Town Emergency Management Department, and the Police Department, the Fire Department and the Council on Aging; once these individuals are training in the current ADA requirements, they may then in turn help to inform and train other town employees.
- Various Town departments lack specific policies and procedures in addressing the needs of disabled community members and should establish an ADA Committee and/or Commission on Disabilities to work with the ADA Coordinator to draft such policies and procedures, including public input, for eventual adoption by the Town.
- The approach to the Town Hall building is facilitated by adequate parking and an accessible route. However, the Town Hall building itself, which includes the Library, was found to have limited accessibility, lacking adequate ADA Signage and push button automatic door openers, allowing the disabled to access the building and its services independently. In addition, on the interior of the building, the service counters are not



designed to accommodate wheelchair access. These obstacles, however, could be inexpensively remediated, as compared to many other similar buildings in other municipalities.

- The Highway Garage is not ADA accessible but is also infrequently accessed by the general public. Improvements here would potentially benefit town employees.
- In order to be prepared in case of natural or other disasters, it is extremely important that emergency management and other emergency services have had the training to accommodate persons with disabilities.
- The town has not yet implemented the use of TTY (text telephone) or any other equipment to accommodate persons with disabilities.
- In general, town personnel lack training and experience with making accommodations for people with disabilities including providing braille, American Sign Language (ASL), large text documents, or closed captioning video.
- Documents on the town website have not been provided in alternate formats other than pdf. There is no information on the website regarding provision of services to those with disabilities.
- It is important to have written policies in place formalizing responsibility for clearing handicapped parking areas and access walkways. For instance, the build-up of ice in parking lots and walkways leading to the Town Hall building could cause a slipping hazard during the winter.
- Handicapped parking, accessible paths and routes, and ADA informational signage needs to be installed at the Town's public parks.
- With the exception of the Lanesborough Town Hall and the Lanesborough Elementary School, all of the Town's public buildings and facilities have some need to improve accessibility, beyond simply establishing ADA-accessible parking.
- The Town should prioritize ADA improvements in the Town Hall and incorporate specific projects for the elimination of accessibility barriers into its annual capital budgets, with the goal of eliminating as many ADA architectural barriers as possible within the next 5 years.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

The ADA self-evaluation highlights that many of the town's facilities, including the town hall, police station and town parks, are quite aged, and certainly not built with accessibility in mind. The Town of Lanesborough is committed to ensuring that all town residents are treated equitably. This



includes providing the means for disabled persons cannot to independently access the main floor of town hall, where most town services are located. There are many other types of disabilities challenging the population, including sight and hearing impairments, and age-related arthritic conditions that may prevent an individual from using their hands to open doors, etc. Meeting the current ADA requirements now in effect will allow the town to address many of these situations.

Lanesborough looks forward to improving ADA accessibility in town facilities, as exemplified by the initiation of this Plan, but is currently hampered by the lack of formal policies, training, and accommodations for people with disabilities. While making buildings accessible is a priority, creating the framework to enhance awareness of ADA compliance will be important steps for the town. The town will begin this process by appointing an ADA Coordinator. Other recommended next steps include:

- 1.) The Town Administrator and/or ADA Coordinator should review the draft Self-evaluation and Transition Plan and consider including input from department heads regarding their views on preliminary priorities, and what transition and action plan items that can and should be incorporated into other town plans.
- 2.) Provide a copy of the draft Plan for public input. Public input can be solicited through posting the draft Plan on the town website for a specified period of time and providing a method for the collection of public input. This could also include holding an information meeting and/or input session, and otherwise working with community members to determine their interest and concerns.
- 3.) Present the draft Plan, including input from the public, and the Town Administrator's preliminary recommendation regarding prioritization of projects to the Lanesborough Select Board.
- 4.) The Select Board may choose to accept the Plan as is, and/or to consider creating an Advisory Committee and/or Commission on Disabilities to work with the ADA Coordinator and allow for regular public comment input as the town makes progress on first priorities.
- 5.) The town should move to immediately implement the highest priority projects, as per the Town Administrator's recommendations, especially those that are critical to public safety and/or have a low cost and important impact to town services.



6.) Provide ADA Accessibility Training for Town Employees: The Town should commit to providing any trainings available to town employees regarding Title II ADA Compliance, such as from the Massachusetts Office on Disability and/or the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

7.) The Town should incorporate projects for the elimination of accessibility barriers into its annual capital budgeting process. In addition, the town should seek funding and grants through the Massachusetts Office on Disability and other sources. The transition plan proposes timelines for projects on individual elements, once they can reasonably be undertaken, based on the size and complexity of the projects.

8.) Post Final Plan on the Web: Once all public input has been considered, town priorities have been determined, and the Lanesborough Select Board has accepted the Self-evaluation and Transition Plan, the Town Administrator should immediately post the Plan to the Town's Website. It should be recognized, however, that a Self-evaluation & Transition Plan is a living document and can and should be updated and augmented from time to time.

TOWN OWNED OR MANAGED PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES

Town facilities evaluated for this report:

- Town Hall & Library – 83 North Main Street
- Police Station – 543-545 South Main Street
- Lanesborough Elementary School – 188 Summer Street
- Fire House Bldg. #1 and #2 – 180 South Main Street
- American Legion Post – 144 Old State Road
- Garage Facilities – 18 Maple Court
- Historical Society Storage – North Main Street
- Narragansett Park – Narragansett Ave
- Laston Field – 315 North Main Street
- Town Sidewalks – Summer Street, Westview Dr, Longview Rd, and North Main Street

EVALUATION OF TOWN HALL – 83 North Main Street

Section 35.151(a), which provided that those facilities that are constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity shall be designed, constructed, or altered to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The path of travel requirements contained in the title III regulation are based on section 303(a)(2) of the ADA, 42 U.S.C 12183(a)(2), which provides that when an entity undertakes an alteration to a place of public accommodation or commercial facility that affects or could affect the usability of or access to an area that contains a primary function, the entity shall ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the restrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving it is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs.



Lanesborough Town Hall

Priorities for Accessibility

There are four priorities that are listed in the Department of Justice ADA Title regulations. These priorities are equally applicable to state and local government facilities.

Priority 1 – Accessible Approach and entrance

Priority 2 – Access to goods and services

Priority 3 – Access to public toilet rooms

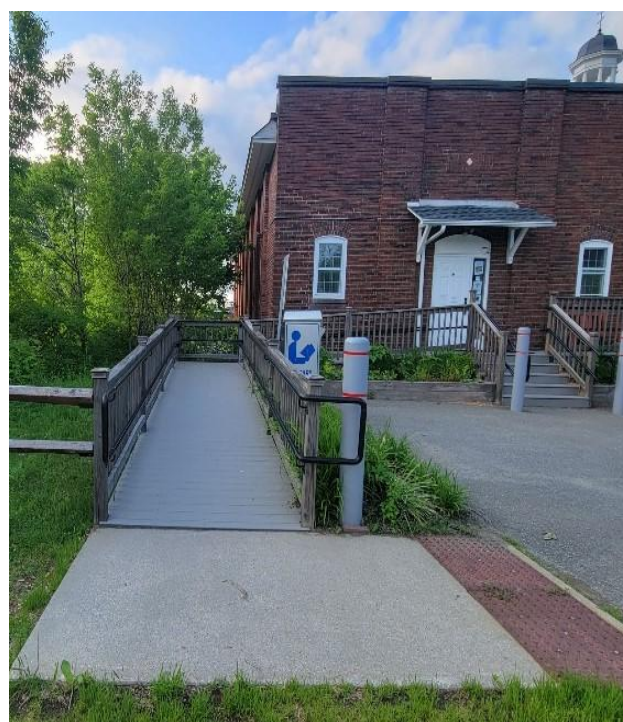
Priority 4 – Access to other items such as water fountains

PRIORITY 1 – ACCESSIBLE APPROACH & ENTRANCE: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2.1

- 1.1 Is there at least one route from site arrival points (parking, passenger loading zones, public sidewalks, and public transportation stops) that does not require the use of stairs? **YES**

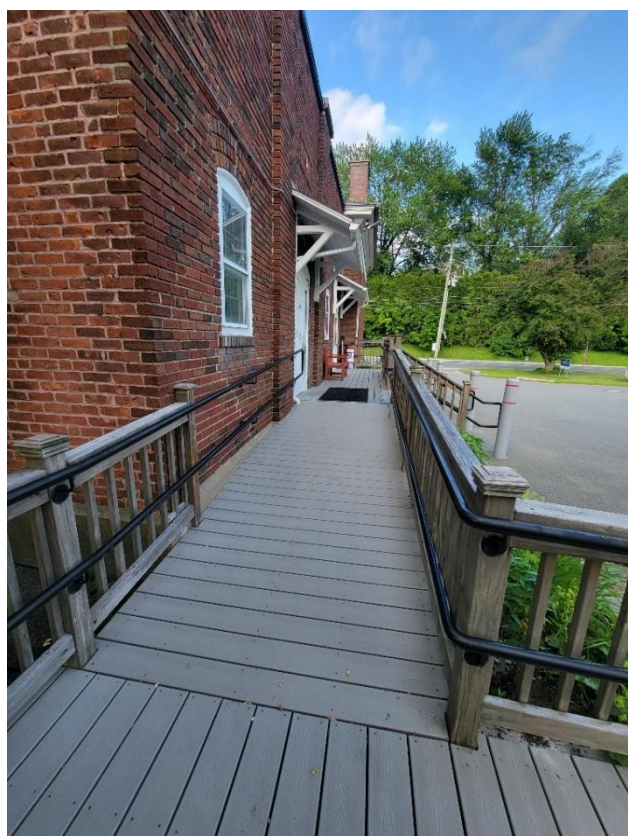


Main Entrance to the Town Hall



Ramp to Library and Town Hall Side Entrance

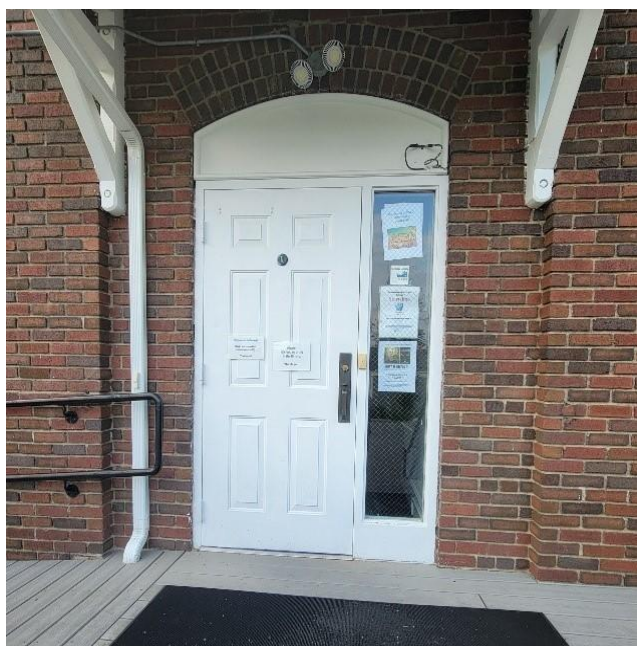
Neither entrances provide push button door openers



Ramp to Library and Town Hall Side Entrance



Library Door Entrance



Town Hall Side Door Entrance

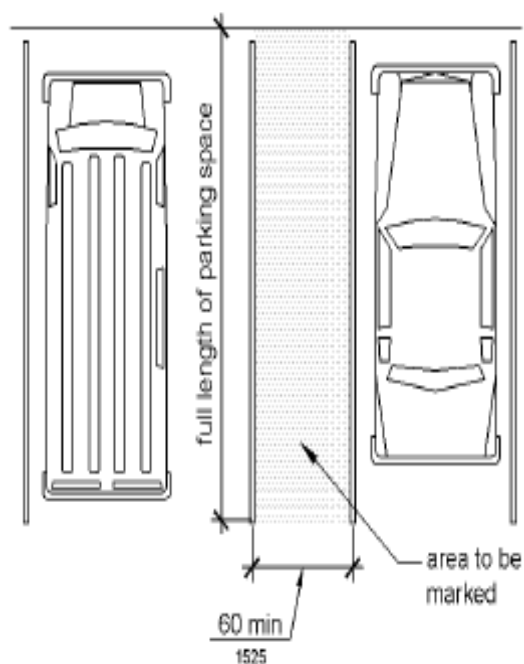


This note appears on all exterior doors to the Town Hall and Library, providing direction for individuals who may need assistance in accessing the building

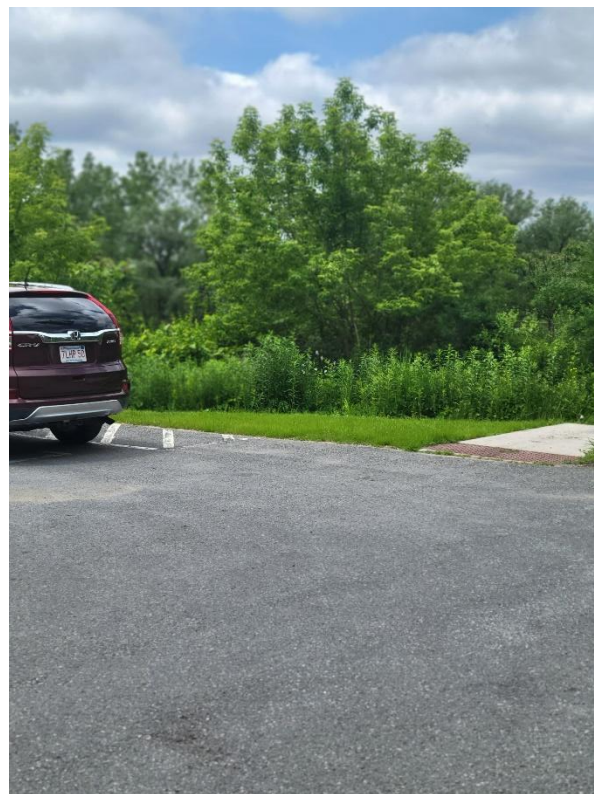
PARKING – 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN 208.2

1.2 Accessible parking spaces should be identified by size, access aisle, and signage. If parking is provided for the public, are an adequate number of accessible spaces provided? **YES**, An accessible parking space is assigned, and signage is installed. Spaces require an Access Aisle, as shown in the diagram below; see 2010 ADA 502.

1.3 Exterior Accessible Route – Is the route stable, firm, and slip-resistant? **YES**



Handicap Parking in the Right-Side Parking Lot

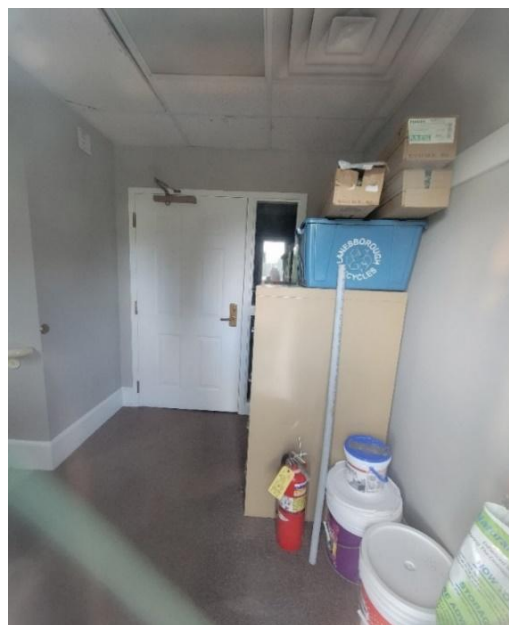


Handicap Parking in the Left Side Parking Lot

There are two Handicap Parking Spaces for the Town Hall and Library that meet accessibility requirements.

PRIORITY 2 – ACCESS TO PUBLIC: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.4

- 2.1 Does the accessible entrance provide direct access to the main floor, lobby, and elevator? **Yes**



Interior Entrance to the Town Hall

Service counters are not ADA / Wheelchair compliant. Can be easily adjusted to comply with ADA Standards



Town Clerk Service Counter



Tax Collector Service Counter

PRIORITY 3 – ACCESS TO PUBLIC TOILET ROOMS: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2.4

- 3.1 If toilet rooms are available to the public, is at least one toilet room accessible? (Either one for each sex, or one unisex.) **YES**



Entrance to Toilet Room



Entering the Toilet Room



Handicap Accessible Toilet



Handicap Accessible Sink

- 3.2 Are there signs at inaccessible toilet rooms that give directions to accessible toilet rooms? (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design – 216.8) **NO** (No Braille/ADA Signage)
- 3.3 Is there an accessible route to the accessible toilet room (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design – 206.2.4) **YES**

PRIORITY 4 – ADDITIONAL ACCESS: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2

- 4.1 Does at least one drinking fountain have a clear floor space at least 30 inches wide and at least 48 inches long, centered in front of it for a forward approach? **NA** (There are no drinking fountains located in the Town Hall)

EVALUATION OF LANESBOROUGH ELEMENTARY – 188 Summer Street

Section 35.151(a), which provided that those facilities that are constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity shall be designed, constructed, or altered to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The path of travel requirements contained in the title III regulation are based on section 303(a)(2) of the ADA, 42 U.S.C 12183(a)(2), which provides that when an entity undertakes an alteration to a place of public accommodation or commercial facility that affects or could affect the usability of or access to an area that contains a primary function, the entity shall ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the restrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving it is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs.



Lanesborough Elementary School

Priorities for Accessibility

There are the four priorities that are listed in the Department of Justice ADA Title regulations. These priorities are equally applicable to state and local government facilities.

Priority 1 – Accessible Approach and entrance

Priority 2 – Access to goods and services

Priority 3 – Access to public toilet rooms

Priority 4 – Access to other items such as water fountains

PRIORITY 1 – ACCESSIBLE APPROACH & ENTRANCE: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2.1

- 1.1 Is there at least one route from site arrival points (parking, passenger loading zones, public sidewalks, and public transportation stops) that does not require the use of stairs?

YES

Parking – 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design 208.2

- 1.2 Accessible parking spaces should be identified by size, access aisle, and signage. If parking is provided for the public, are an adequate number of accessible spaces provided? YES

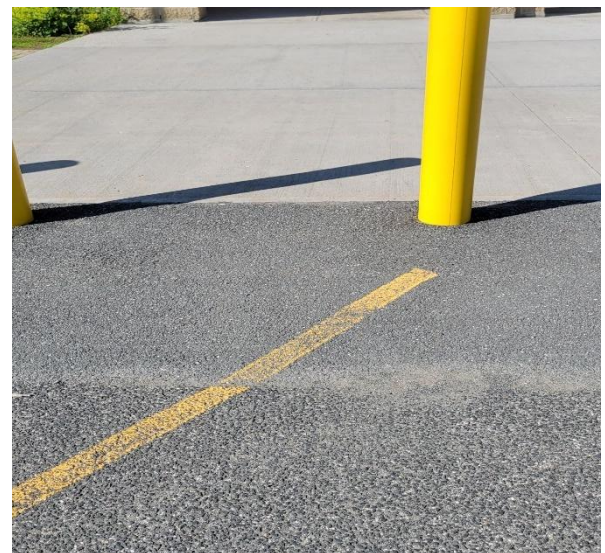




1.3 Exterior Accessible Route – Is the route stable, firm, and slip-resistant? No



Entering the Front of the School



Curb Ramp

PRIORITY 2 – ACCESS TO PUBLIC: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.4

- 2.2 Does the accessible entrance provide direct access to the main floor, lobby, and elevator? YES



Signage to enter the school



Front entry outside doors



Front entry inside set of doors

PRIORITY 3 – ACCESS TO PUBLIC TOILET ROOMS: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2.4

- 3.1 If toilet rooms are available to the public, is at least one toilet room accessible? (Either one for each sex or one unisex.) **YES**
- 3.2 Are there signs at inaccessible toilet rooms that give directions to accessible toilet rooms? (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design – 216.8) **NO**



- 3.3 Is there an accessible route to the accessible toilet room (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design – 206.2.4) **YES**



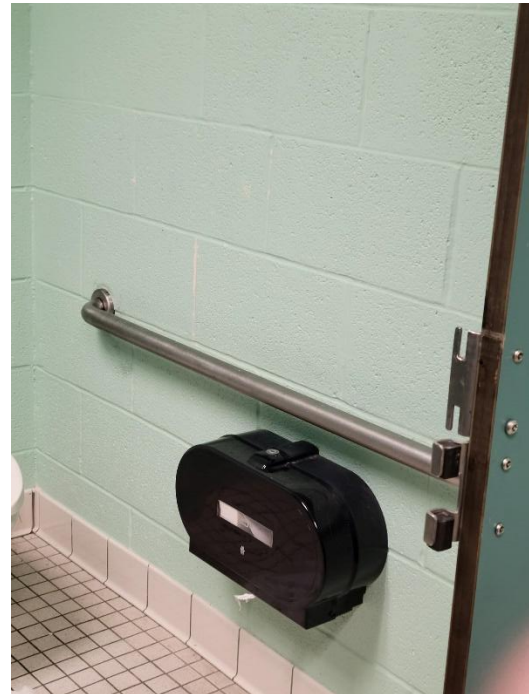
Entrance into the Toilet Room



Entrance to stall



Toilet



Access to Toilet Paper



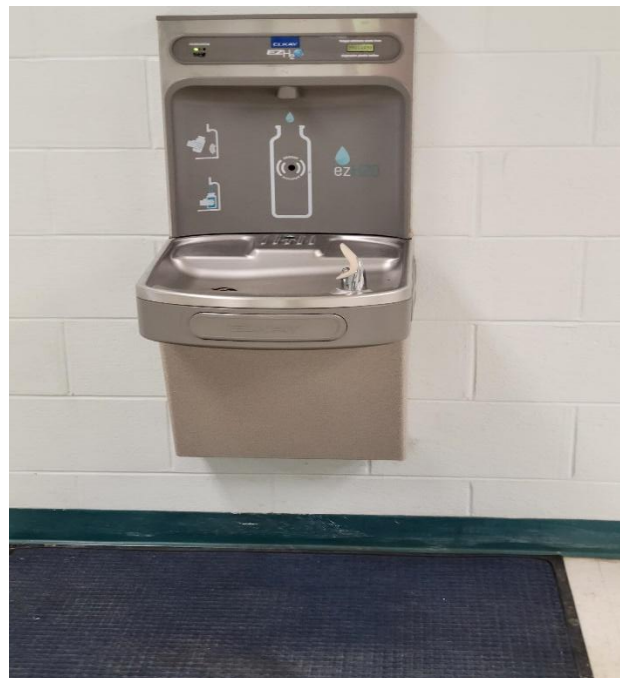
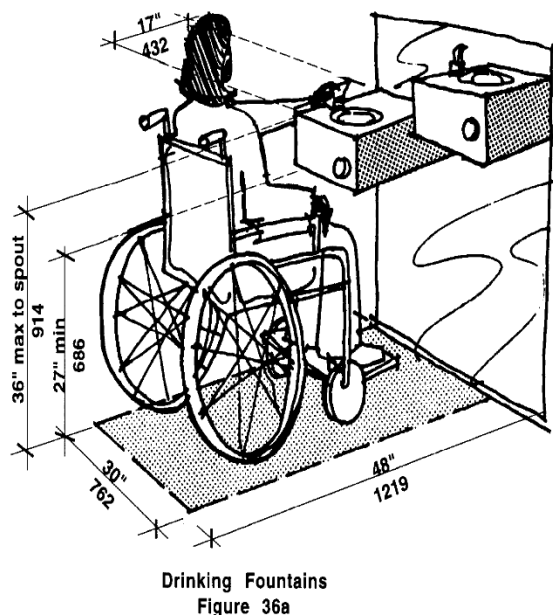
Access to sinks



Access to Towel Holder

PRIORITY 4 – ADDITIONAL ACCESS: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2

- 4.1 Does at least one drinking fountain have clear floor space at least 30 inches wide and at least 48 inches long, centered in front of it for a forward approach? YES



The 1991 Standards in section 4.1.1(3) and the 2010 Standards in section 203.9, require employee work areas in new construction and alterations only to be designed and constructed so that individuals with disabilities can approach, enter, and exit the areas. Section 206.2.8 of the 2010 Standards requires accessible common use circulation paths within employee work areas unless they are subject to exceptions in sections 206.2.8, 403.5, 405.5, and 405.8.

EVALUATION OF POLICE STATION – 543-545 South Main Street

Section 35.151(a), which provided that those facilities that are constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity shall be designed, constructed, or altered to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The path of travel requirements contained in the title III regulation are based on section 303(a)(2) of the ADA, 42 U.S.C 12183(a)(2), which provides that when an entity undertakes an alteration to a place of public accommodation or commercial facility that affects or could affect the usability of or access to an area that contains a primary function, the entity shall ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the restrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving it is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs.

Approach to Police Station Entry is not fully ADA compliant. Parking, ADA Ramp, as discussed previously are inadequate and not ADA compliant. Door lacks handicap push button access.



Lanesborough Police Station

Priorities for Accessibility

There are the four priorities that are listed in the Department of Justice ADA Title regulations. These priorities are equally applicable to state and local government facilities.

Priority 1 – Accessible Approach and entrance

Priority 2 – Access to goods and services

Priority 3 – Access to public toilet rooms

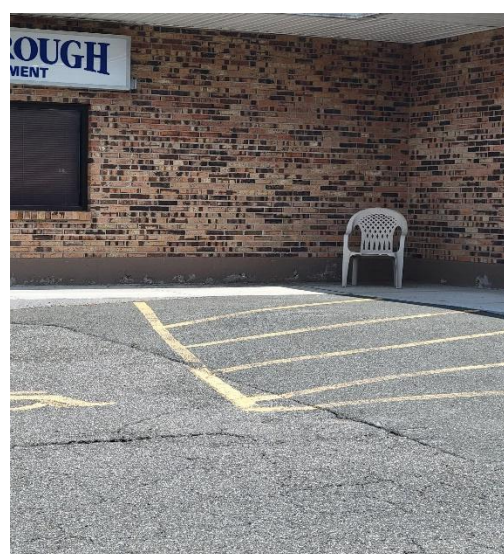
Priority 4 – Access to other items such as water fountains

PRIORITY 1 – ACCESSIBLE APPROACH & ENTRANCE: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2.1

1.1 Is there at least one route from site arrival points (parking, passenger loading zones, public sidewalks, and public transportation stops) that does not require the use of stairs? **YES**

Parking – 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design 208.2

1.2 Accessible parking spaces should be identified by size, access aisle, and signage. If parking is provided for the public, are an adequate number of accessible spaces provided? **YES**



- 1.3 Exterior Accessible Route – Is the route stable, firm, and slip-resistant? **No**

HC Ramp to enter Police Station lacks slip resistant surface

PRIORITY 2 – ACCESS TO PUBLIC: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.4

- 2.3 Does the accessible entrance provide direct access to the main floor, lobby, and elevator? **YES**

PRIORITY 3 – ACCESS TO PUBLIC TOILET ROOMS: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2.4

- 3.1 If toilet rooms are available to the public, is at least one toilet room accessible? (Either one for each sex or one unisex.) **NO**
- 3.4 Are there signs at inaccessible toilet rooms that give directions to accessible toilet rooms? (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design – 216.8) **NO**
- 3.5 Is there an accessible route to the accessible toilet room (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design – 206.2.4) **NO**

PRIORITY 4 – ADDITIONAL ACCESS: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2

- 4.2 Does at least one drinking fountain have clear floor space at least 30 inches wide and at least 48 inches long, centered in front of it for a forward approach? **NA**

The 1991 Standards in section 4.1.1(3) and the 2010 Standards in section 203.9, require employee work areas in new construction and alterations only to be designed and constructed so that individuals with disabilities can approach, enter, and exit the areas. Section 206.2.8 of the 2010 Standards requires accessible common use circulation paths within employee work areas unless they are subject to exceptions in sections 206.2.8, 403.5, 405.5, and 405.8.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES:

A Police Station must ADA accessible for the following purposes:

- Receiving Citizen Complaints
- Interrogating witness
- Arresting, booking and holding suspects
- Operating telephone (911) emergency centers
- Providing emergency medical services
- Enforcing laws
- Other duties

Currently, at the Lanesborough Police Station There are no accessible service counters, waiting areas or restrooms for members of the general public.

EVALUATION OF FIRE HOUSE – 180 South Main Street

Section 35.151(a), which provided that those facilities that are constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity shall be designed, constructed, or altered to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The path of travel requirements contained in the title III regulation are based on section 303(a)(2) of the ADA, 42 U.S.C 12183(a)(2), which provides that when an entity undertakes an alteration to a place of public accommodation or commercial facility that affects or could affect the usability of or access to an area that contains a primary function, the entity shall ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the restrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving it is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs.



Lanesborough Fire House

PRIORITY 1 – ACCESSIBLE APPROACH & ENTRANCE: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2.1

- 1.1 Is there at least one route from site arrival points (parking, passenger loading zones, public sidewalks, and public transportation stops) that does not require the use of stairs? **YES**

Parking – 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design 208.2

- 1.2 Accessible parking spaces should be identified by size, access aisle, and signage. If parking is provided for the public, are an adequate number of accessible spaces provided? **NO**



No Handicap Parking and signage

PRIORITY 2 – ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.4

- 2.1 Does the accessible entrance provide direct access to the main floor, lobby, and elevator? **YES**

PRIORITY 3 – ACCESS TO PUBLIC TOILET ROOMS: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2.4

- 3.1 If toilet rooms are available to the public, is at least one toilet room accessible? (Either one for each sex or one unisex.) **NO**
- 3.2 Are there signs at inaccessible toilet rooms that give directions to accessible toilet rooms? (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design – 216.8) **NA**
- 3.3 Is there an accessible route to the accessible toilet room (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design – 206.2.4) **NA**

PRIORITY 4 – ADDITIONAL ACCESS: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2

- 4.1 Does at least one drinking fountain have clear floor space at least 30 inches wide and at least 48 inches long, centered in front of it for a forward approach? **NA**

The 1991 Standards in section 4.1.1(3), and the 2010 Standards in section 203.9, require employee work areas in new construction and alterations only to be designed and constructed so that individuals with disabilities can approach, enter, and exit the areas. Section 206.2.8 of the 2010 Standards requires accessible common-use circulation paths within employee work areas unless they are subject to exceptions in sections 206.2.8, 403.5, 405.5, and 405.8.

The Senior Center has accessible routes into the common areas, and all circulation paths in the employee work areas and accessible routes are at least 36 inches wide. The toilet facilities, access to services, and signage comply with section 213 of the 2010 ADA Standards. There are areas that need to be maintained and ADA routes that must be clear and not blocked.

EVALUATION OF TOWN GARAGE, SALT SHED and STORAGE SHED – 10 Maple Court

Section 35.151(a) provided that those facilities that are constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity shall be designed, constructed, or altered to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The path of travel requirements contained in the title III regulation is based on section 303(a)(2) of the ADA, 42 U.S.C 12183(a)(2), which provides that when an entity undertakes an alteration to a place of public accommodation or commercial facility that affects or could affect the usability of or access to an area that contains a primary function, the entity shall ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the restrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving it is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs.



Town Garage

Priorities for Accessibility

There are four priorities that are listed in the Department of Justice ADA Title regulations. These priorities are equally applicable to state and local government facilities.

Priority 1 – Accessible Approach and entrance

Priority 2 – Access to goods and services

Priority 3 – Access to public toilet rooms

Priority 4 – Access to other items such as water fountains

PRIORITY 1 – ACCESSIBLE APPROACH & ENTRANCE: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2.1

- 1.1 Is there at least one route from site arrival points (parking, passenger loading zones, public sidewalks, and public transportation stops) that does not require the use of stairs? **YES**

Parking – 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design 208.2

- 1.2 Accessible parking spaces should be identified by size, access aisle, and signage. If parking is provided for the public, are an adequate number of accessible spaces provided? **No accessible parking spaces are assigned, and signage is not installed.**

- 1.3 Exterior Accessible Route – Is the route stable, firm, and slip-resistant? **YES**

PRIORITY 2 – ACCESS TO PUBLIC: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.4

- 2.1 Does the accessible entrance provide direct access to the main floor, lobby, and elevator? **YES**

PRIORITY 3 – ACCESS TO PUBLIC TOILET ROOMS: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2.4

- 3.1 If toilet rooms are available to the public, is at least one toilet room accessible? (Either one for each sex or one unisex.) **NO**
- 3.2 Are there signs at inaccessible toilet rooms that give directions to accessible toilet rooms? (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design – 216.8) **NO**
- 3.4 Is there an accessible route to the accessible toilet room (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design – 206.2.4) **NO**



Restroom in Town Garage

PRIORITY 4 – ADDITIONAL ACCESS: 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN – 206.2

- 4.2 Does at least one drinking fountain have clear floor space at least 30 inches wide and at least 48 inches long, centered in front of it for a forward approach? **NA**

APPENDIX A:

Parks and Playgrounds - ADA Assessment

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS ADA ASSESSMENT PLAYGROUNDS ADA ACCESS

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Providing ADA access to parks and playgrounds is based on the general principle that both disabled and able-bodied users should have access to the same experience at each facility. One of the most basic features of ADA access is the accessible route. An accessible route is a pathway that links various park elements so that a user in a wheelchair can move throughout the facility. Accessible routes must have an accessible surface, such as asphalt or concrete. Grass and turf are not considered accessible surfaces. The accessible route must also meet requirements related to the grade, as wheelchairs cannot easily traverse steep areas.

Playground surfaces must also be accessible while simultaneously providing safety from potential falls. Only two materials meet the requirements for both wheelchair accessibility and fall protection. These are poured-in-place rubber and engineered wood fiber mulch. Engineered wood fiber mulch is able to be compacted much more efficiently than commonly used wood chips, which allows it to be used as an accessible surface. However, like with wood chips, it requires regular maintenance to ensure consistent depth and even surfaces. The poured-in-place rubber surfacing is much more expensive than engineered wood fiber mulch. However, it requires little maintenance once in place. Some playgrounds use a combination of poured-in-place rubber and engineered wood fiber to reduce costs. This usually includes rubber at high-wear locations such as underneath swings or the bottom of slides.

Modern play equipment is built with safety in mind. Potential falls are mitigated by safety railings and safety surfacing. Play equipment usually includes both elevated (slides, etc.) and on-ground elements (swings, diggers, etc.). Elevated equipment is typically accessed via what is called a transfer station or system. This allows someone who can leave their wheelchair to access the equipment. Providing ramps to access elevated play equipment is still the gold standard. On playgrounds with fewer than 20 elevated components, components must be connected by ramps or transfer systems; however, ramps are not mandatory.

GENERAL ISSUES THROUGHOUT LANESBOROUGH PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Lack of Accessible Routes

Lanesborough's parks and playgrounds lack accessible routes by which disabled persons may access and enjoy the facilities. Park components and facilities are connected by gravel, lawn, and turf, which are not considered accessible surfaces.

Safety Surfacing Needs Attention and Regular Maintenance

All play components lack any safety surfacing.

No Accessible Benches or Tables

Benches and tables throughout parks and play areas are not accessible. Five percent (5%) of the tables or at least one (if less than 20 are provided) must be accessible. Accessible benches are usually a standard park bench with a minimum 5'x5' space adjacent to the bench for a wheelchair to pull up beside. Accessible picnic tables are designed to give knee clearance to a person using a wheelchair. There are a variety of types available that can provide side, single-end, or double-end access. Accessible tables should be located on an accessible route and an accessible surface.

PARK AND PLAYGROUND ASSESSMENT

Laston Field – Main Street

Elements: Playground equipment, playing field, concession stand, picnic tables

Issue: There are no accessible routes to the concession.

Solution: Create an accessible parking space that can be used to access the park.

Issue: There is no accessible route to any of the park elements.

Solution: Install an accessible route to each of the major park elements (playground equipment, baseball field, or concession stand).

Issue: Playground surface material needs maintenance. Equipment lacks any safety surfacing at all.

Solution: Rake safety surface to ensure consistent and sufficient depth. Replace it with new material, as necessary. Install new safety surfacing beneath equipment.



Entrance to Laston Field – no ADA parking



Concession Stand – no accessible route



Limited Access to the Basketball Court



Limited Access to Basketball Court



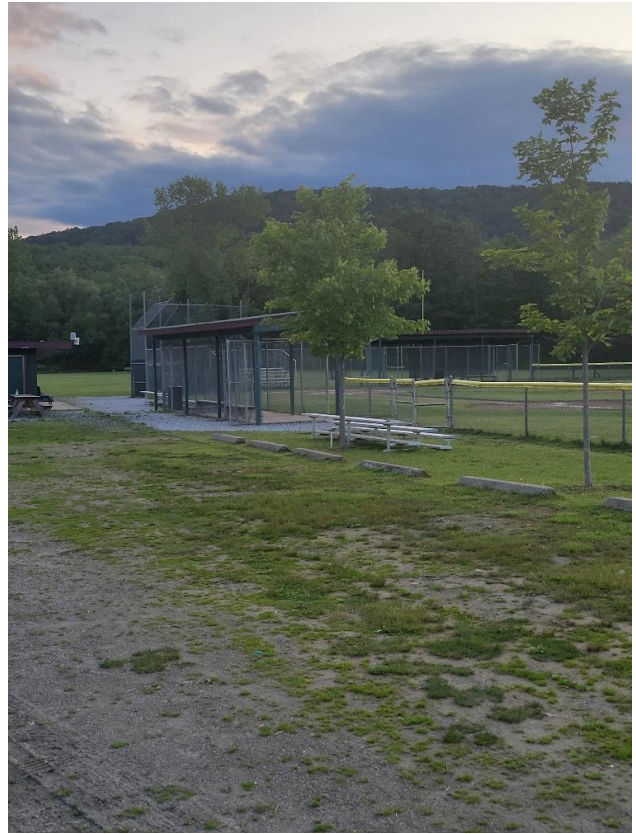
Limited Access to the Bleachers



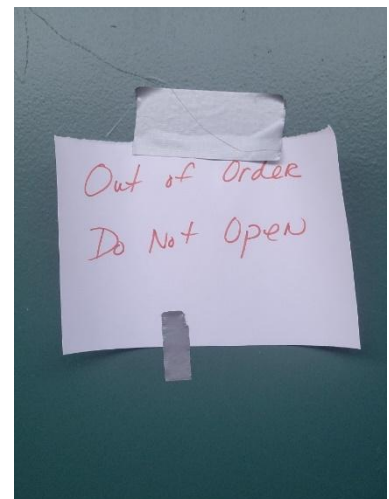
Limited Access to the Football Field



Playground Area



Baseball Field to the left of Concession Stand



Restroom Entrances lack proper signage and accessibility.

Narragansett Park – High Street, Lanesborough, MA

Elements: Playground equipment, benches, picnic tables

Issue: There is no accessible parking adjacent to the park and playground

Solution: Create an accessible parking space that can be used to access the park.

Issue: There is no accessible route to any of the park elements.

Solution: Install an accessible route to each of the major park elements

Issue: No playground safety surface

Solution: Install safety surfacing.

Issue: Benches are not wheelchair accessible and not located on an accessible route.

Solution: Install at least one accessible bench



Entrance to the Park



Another Entrance to the Park



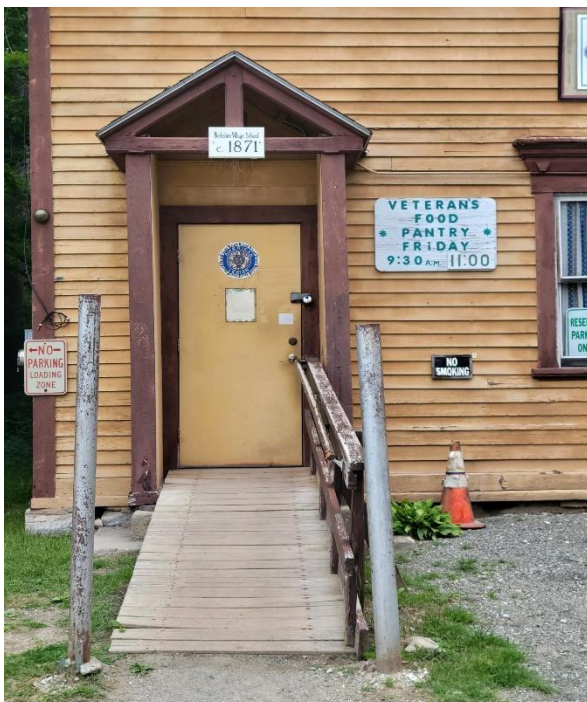
Basketball Court



Playground

APPENDIX B:

American Legion Post 445



Ramp is not ADA compliant



No HC Parking

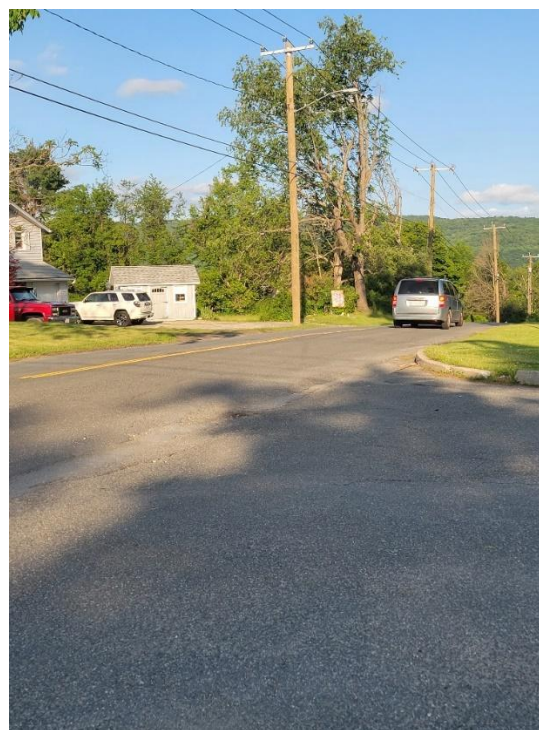
APPENDIX C:

Sidewalks – ADA Assessment

The center of Lanesborough is graced with a network of sidewalks that serve to connect visitors and residents to its small commercial district, town services, recreational facilities, and residential areas. Many small, rural communities have no sidewalks at all. While Lanesborough's sidewalk system is in need of upgrading to meet current ADA standards, the existing system greatly contributes to the warm and inviting atmosphere and walkability of the town. Most segments of sidewalk represented here do require ADA upgrades, general maintenance, and improvement. However, it is commendable that the connectivity provided by Lanesborough's sidewalks, and the commitment to maintain them, has remained a priority to the Town.



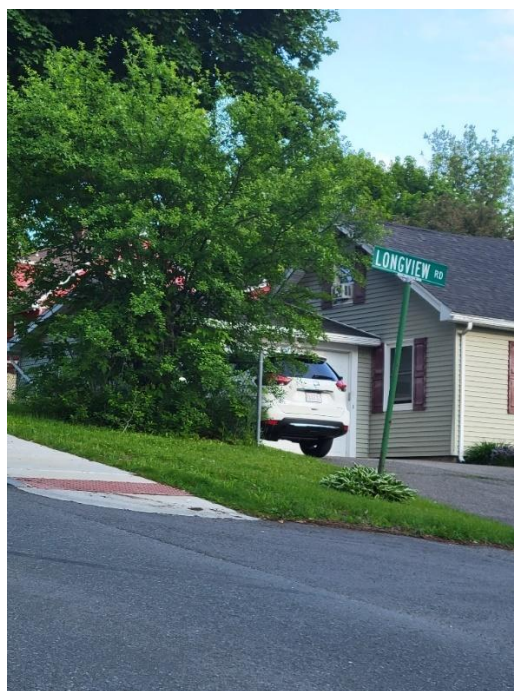
Summer Street – Elementary School



Summer Street turning right from
Elementary School no sidewalk



Summer St / Westview Drive



Summer St / Longview Rd

Lanesborough evaluation	ADA	Sidewalk				
Street	From Street	To Street	Rating (1= bad, 4= good)	Priority/ Barrier	Time Frame	Suggested Action
Summer Street			4	Low	10 - 15 years	Monitor and Maintain
Summer Street	Summer St.	Westview Dr.	4	Low	5-10 years	Monitor and Maintain
Notes: (1) Sidewalks on MassDOT maintained roadways were not evaluated. (2) The Federal Code of Regulations, 28 CFR Part 35, Section 35.151 requires that newly constructed or altered street level pedestrian walkways must contain curb ramps or other sloped areas at intersections to streets, roads, or highways.						

Checklist for Accessible Sidewalks and Street Crossings

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that new and altered facilities be accessible. Title II of the ADA covers sidewalk and street construction and transit accessibility, referencing the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) or the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) for new construction and alterations undertaken by or on behalf of a state or local government. The Department of Justice (DOJ) title II regulation specifically requires that curb ramps be provided when sidewalks or streets are newly constructed or altered. (Requirements for **existing** pedestrian networks not otherwise being altered are also included in the DOJ regulation, available online at www.ada.gov/reg2.html). The ADA Accessibility Guidelines (www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm) include standards for site development applicable to **new construction and alterations** in the public right-of-way.

CURB RAMPS

- A curb ramp or other sloped area is required wherever a new or altered pedestrian walkway crosses a curb or other barrier to a street, road, or highway. Similarly, a curb ramp is required wherever a new or altered street intersects a pedestrian walkway. A curb ramp may be perpendicular to the curb it cuts or parallel with the sidewalk. Other designs may also comply, including sidewalks that ramp down to a lesser curb height, with a short perpendicular curb ramp to the street, blended or at-grade connections, or raised crossings that connect at sidewalk level.
- The running slope of a new curb ramp should not exceed 1 in 12 (8.33%). Steeper ramps are not usable by many pedestrians in wheelchairs and scooters. Cross slope should be limited to 1:48 (2%).
- A level landing should be provided at the top of a perpendicular curb ramp. A curb ramp must connect at the top to a level landing that is at least 48 inches (1220 mm) deep with a cross slope of no more than 1:48 (2%). The side flares of

a curb ramp are not intended for accessible travel (the slope of a side flare is limited so that it will not present a tripping hazard to pedestrians).

- **The foot of a curb ramp should be contained within the crosswalk markings.** Pedestrians who use wheelchairs should not be directed outside the crosswalk or into an active travel lane in order to cross stopped traffic. If a diagonal ramp is used, a 48-inch long (1220 mm) bottom landing must be provided in the space between the curb radius and curb line extensions.
- **The transition from curb ramp to the gutter should be flush.** Lips are not permitted. Gutter counter slope in the line of travel should not exceed 1 in 20 (5%) and should connect smoothly with other elements of the pedestrian network.
- **The boundary between the sidewalk and street should be detectable underfoot.** A 24-inch strip of truncated dome (detectable warning) material should be provided the full width of the ramp or other uncurbed connection to the crosswalk so that pedestrians do not inadvertently travel into the street.

SIDEWALKS

- **A new sidewalk should be wider than the minimum accessible travel width of 36 inches (915 mm).** Additional maneuvering space is necessary for a pedestrian using a wheelchair to turn, to pass by other pedestrians, to operate and pass through an entrance door, to use a sidewalk telephone or to activate a pedestrian crossing button. A 60-inch (1525-mm) minimum width can accommodate turns and passing space and is recommended for sidewalks adjacent to curbs in order to provide travel width away from the drop-off at street edge; a 48-inch width can accommodate side-by-side travel with a service animal.
- **The cross slope of a sidewalk should not exceed 1:48 (2%).** Excessive cross slope requires additional energy to counteract and tends to direct wheelchair users into the street, particularly when it is wet, icy, or snowy underfoot. At driveways there should be a minimum 36-inch (915 mm) wide passage with a cross slope of no more than 1:48 (2%). Corners at intersections should comply

- in both directions, since the running slope of one walkway will be the cross slope of another.
- **Street furniture, plantings, and other fixed items should not protrude into travel routes.** Pedestrians with vision impairments can detect objects mounted on walls or posts if they are installed so that the leading edge is less than 27 inches (685 mm) above the sidewalk. Items mounted above this height should not project more than 4 inches (100 mm) into any circulation route. Particular care should be taken to locate temporary signage so that it does not impede pedestrian travel.

STREET CROSSINGS

- **Consider the information needs of blind and low-vision pedestrians at intersections.** When pedestrian signals are provided, their crossing and timing information should be available to all users. The audible and vibrotactile information delivered at the pedestrian button of an accessible pedestrian signal (APS) can identify pedestrian signal phases and provide other nonvisual information about the nature of a crossing.
- **Insufficient crossing time may be a barrier for some pedestrians.** Every pedestrian cohort should be expected to contain some walkers whose rate of travel is less than 3.5 feet per second. Some jurisdictions add additional time using video technology; others employ a pedbutton to call for a longer crossing cycle.

TEMPORARY WORK

- **Temporary work should be accessible.** Where construction blocks a public sidewalk for more than a short time, an alternate accessible route should be provided that is cane detectable. Sidewalk barriers should be continuous and cane detectable as well. Temporary events and facilities should also meet accessibility criteria.

OTHER PEDESTRIAN FEATURES

- **Pedestrian facilities on and along sidewalks must be accessible.** Signal actuating buttons, drinking fountains, telephones, kiosks, and other pedestrian elements should meet accessibility criteria for approach and maneuvering space, reach range, and operation.

The development of additional rights-of-way guidelines is underway and can be monitored on the U.S. Access Board's website at www.access-board.gov. The Board also maintains a toll-free technical assistance line at 800/872-2253 (V); 800/993-2822 (TTY).

APPENDIX D:

Reasonable Accommodations at Town meetings



MEMORANDUM: Reasonable Accommodations at Town Meetings

**Guidance on legal obligations for Massachusetts towns
for Boards of Selectmen, Town Managers, and municipal ADA Coordinators**

Towns have an obligation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to:

1. Make their Town Meetings [1] accessible to people with disabilities and
2. Respond to requests for reasonable accommodations at Town Meetings.

Making Town Meetings accessible to people with disabilities

Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination based on disability in state and local government services, programs, and activities. 42 USC § 12132. Practically, this means that towns must make their Town Meetings accessible to people with disabilities by providing accessible meeting spaces and proactively considering what accessibility features may be necessary to allow people with disabilities to meaningfully participate in the meeting. [2]

Responding to requests for reasonable accommodations

Towns must make reasonable modifications to policies, practices and procedures related to Town Meeting when the modifications are necessary to provide equal access to individuals with disabilities, unless the town can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the Town Meeting. [3]

Read our [full memorandum](#) for detailed guidance on these obligations.

Questions about this memorandum

Please contact the Massachusetts Office on Disability:

Online: www.mass.gov/MOD/contactus

Phone: 617-727-7440

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1. When we refer to Town Meetings in this memo, we are referring to both Open Town Meetings under M.G. L. c. 39, § 9 and Representative Town Meetings under M.G.L. c. 43A.
 2. See, 28 CFR 35.130(a); 28 CFR 35.149; 28 CFR 35.150(a); 28 CFR 35.150(b)(1).
 3. 28 CFR 35.130(b).

APPENDIX E:

Required Draft Notices

DRAFT

Town of Lanesborough, Massachusetts,

Grievance Procedure under The Americans with Disabilities Act

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Lanesborough. The Town's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

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

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to Ms. Gina Dario, ADA Coordinator, 83 North Main Street, Lanesborough, MA 01237, (413) 442-1167 ext. 121.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Gina Dario or her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, Mrs. Dario or her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Gina Dario, or her designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Select Board or their designee.

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

All written complaints received by Ms. Gina Dario or her designee, appeals to the Select Board or their designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Town for at least three years.

DRAFT ADA Notice

Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Town of Lanesborough will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in the Town's services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Town does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Effective Communication: The Town will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Town's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Town will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all Town programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in Town offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a Town program, service, or activity, should contact Ms. Gina Dario, ADA Coordinator, 83 North Main Street, Lanesborough, MA 01237, (413) 442-1167 ext. 121, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Town to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a Town program, service, or activity is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Ms. Gina Dario, ADA Coordinator, 83 North Main Street, Lanesborough, MA 01237, (413) 442-1167 ext. 121.

The Town will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

DRAFT ADA Coordinator Designation

Designing a Responsible Employee

ADA Coordinator Designation Form

ADA Coordinator Name: Gina Dario

Name of City/Town Department that ADA Coordinator Works: Town of Lanesborough

Job Title: Town Administrator

E-Mail: town.administrator@lanesborough-ma.gov

Phone: 413-442-1167 ext. 121

Address: 83 North Main Street, Lanesborough, MA 01237

Date Appointed:

Is this Appointment: Permanent

Does this ADA Coordinator report directly to the appointing authority? Yes

ADA Coordinator Duties: Part Time

Direct Supervisor (Name and Title):

Appointing Authority Signature:

Date:

ADA Coordinator Signature:

Date:

Please send a copy of the completed form to The Massachusetts Office on Disability, 1 Ashburn Place,

Room 13055 or email to mod-info@state.ma.us, or fax to 617 727-0965

APPENDIX F:

References and Resources



Organizations

- Adaptive Environments, 374 Congress Street, Suite 310, Boston, MA 02210. (800) 949-4232 (v/tty); <http://www.adaptenv.org/>.
- American National Standards Institute, 1819 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. (202) 293.8020; Fax: (202) 293.9287; <http://www.ansi.org/>.
- The Access Board, 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. (202) 272-5434 (v), (202) 272-5449 (tty), (202) 272-5447 (fax). Federal standards: <http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm>.
- Massachusetts Architectural Access Board, One Ashburton Place, Room 1310, Boston, MA 02108. (617) 727-0660 (v and tty), (617) 727-0665 (fax). State standards: http://www.state.ma.us/aab/aab_regs.htm.
- Massachusetts Office on Disability, One Ashburton Place, Room 1305, Boston, MA 02108. (617) 727-7440 or (800) 322-2020 (voice and TTY); <http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/mod>.
- National Center on Accessibility, Indiana University, 2805 East 10th St, Suite 190, Bloomington, IN 47408-2698. (812) 856-4422 (Voice), (812) 856-4421 (tty), (812) 856-4480 (Fax); <http://www.ncaonline.org/>.
- U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board ("The Access Board"), 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. (800) 872-2253, (800) 993-2822 (tty), (202) 272-5447 (fax). Online at <http://www.access-board.gov>.

Publications

- *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design*; The Department of Justice
- *ADA Guide for Small Towns*; U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
- *36 CFR Part 1191: Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines; Recreation Facilities*. U.S.

- *Architecture and Transportation Compliance Board*. Federal Register (July 9, 1999). Washington, D.C.
- *36 CFR Part 1191: Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines; Play Areas*. U.S. Architecture and Transportation Compliance Board. Federal Register (April 30, 1998). Washington, D.C.
- *ADA Transition Plan Workbook*. State House Bookstore, State House, Room 116, Boston, MA 02133.
- *Americans With Disabilities Act Resource Guide for Park, Recreation, and Leisure Service Agencies, First Edition*. Lynn M. Casciotti, Editor. National Recreation and Park Association, Arlington VA, 1992.
- *Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 226, 101st Congress*. U.S. Government Printing Office, July 26, 1990.
- *Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access: Review of Existing Guidelines and Practices*. Barbara McMillen (editor). U.S. Department of Transportation, 1999.
- *Everyone's Nature: Designing Interpretation to Include All*. Carol Hunter. Falcon Press Publishing Co., Inc., Helena, Montana, 1994.
- *Play for All Guidelines: Planning, Designing and Management of Outdoor Play Settings for All Children*. Robin Moore et al. MIG Communications, 1992.
- *Reasonable Accommodation: Profitable Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act*. Jay W. Spechler. St. Lucie Press, Delray Beach FL, 1996.
- *The Americans with Disabilities Act: A Review of Best Practices*. Timothy Jones. American Management Association Membership Publications Division, New York, 1993.
- *Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation: A Design Guide*. PLAE, Inc., Berkeley CA, 1993.
- *Universal Trail Assessment Coordinator Training Guide*. P. Axelson et al. Pax Press, Santa Cruz, 1997.

Potential Funding Sources for Implementation

- Massachusetts Office on Disability: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-on-disability>
- United States Department of Agriculture: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/community-facilities-programs>
- Community Development Block Grant – Architectural Barrier Removal: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/12/04/Architectural%20Barrier%20Removal.pdf>
- Complete Streets: <https://www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program>
- MassWorks: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massworks>

APPENDIX G:

2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

Appendix E – Public Shade Tree Map

