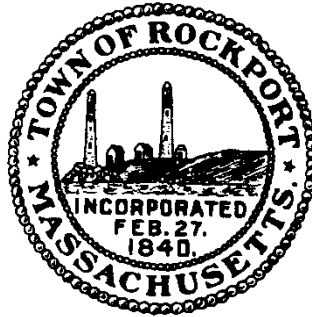


Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Rockport 2018

DRAFT SUBMISSION



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Maps produced by Peter Van Demark using Maptitude® GIS software

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SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

The objective of Rockport's 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan is to increase the residents' connection with the Town's invaluable natural resources and history. The Committee hopes to achieve this through communicating with the community and by implementing the Plan's nine goals:

GOAL 1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE DRINKING WATER SOURCES

GOAL 2: PROTECT AND MANAGE CRITICAL NATURAL RESOURCES

GOAL 3: PRESERVE SIGNIFICANT LAND FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

GOAL 4: ENHANCE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT

GOAL 5: ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES APPROPRIATE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AGE GROUPS AND PERSONS OF DISABILITY

GOAL 6: PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE EXISTING TRAIL NETWORK

GOAL 7: MAINTAIN A PERMANENT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

GOAL 8: ANALYZE ROCKPORT'S BYLAWS AND REGULATIONS TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OPEN SPACE PLAN

GOAL 9: PROMOTE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ABOUT OPEN SPACE

These nine goals, originally set in the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan (the Plan), remain priorities in the 2018 Plan. Over the past nine years, the Town of Rockport has made great strides toward the achievement of each of these goals. The town's vast network of trails is well on its way to being properly mapped. Priority parcels like Woodland Acres and the Cape Hedge overlook have been preserved through community partnerships. Protections have been put in place for our water supply. Access has been expanded for hikers, shore side anglers, bikers, and even Cape Ann Transit Authority riders. These are just a few of the many open space goals that have been met. It is the intention of this Plan to lay a course to renew the community's commitment to protect and enhance Rockport's open spaces by furthering the fulfillment of these nine goals.

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

2A. Statement of Purpose

The 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan was the Town's first approved plan since 1983. That Plan grew from a strong commitment by residents to protect our watershed and trails and to enhance recreational opportunities in Rockport's open space. In developing the 2009 Plan, the Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC), then advisory, relied heavily on community input. Additionally, the 2009 OSRC included extensive, well researched background information on all aspects of the Town of Rockport. It has served as a framework and a vision for open space protection and enhancement for over nine years. With such a strong plan in place, the current OSRC used the 2009 Plan as the starting point for the 2018 – 2025 renewal, making the Town of Rockport's OSRP a living document that grows and changes with the community's open space needs.

As was the case in 2009, Rockport continues to face the challenge of preserving its unique natural and community character while it provides adequate municipal services to residents, summer residents, and visitors. The OSRP can help the community meet that challenge. In the 2018 Plan development process, the OSRC again relied on the community. Beginning with the September 2017 Town Meeting, a survey, designed to determine Rockporters' open space and recreation priorities, was distributed throughout town. Hard copies of the form were available through October 19th at the Town Hall and several other sites throughout town. It was also available on line. Multiple notices advertising the survey were posted in the Gloucester Daily Times.

Over the many years since the Town adopted its first Open Space and Recreation Plan in 1983, Rockport has made some significant strides toward protecting its water supplies and open spaces. Implementation of a Watershed Protection Overlay District, first adopted in 1999, stands as an important accomplishment. Lengthy effort by the Watershed Protection Committee produced a report for the Department of Public Works identifying parcels considered of high priority for purchase to protect the municipal water supply. Several of those significant watershed lands have been purchased by the town. Most recently, the Town and Essex County Greenbelt have worked to protect several parcels of conservation land. Those include the Cape Hedge Beach overview at the foot of South Street; the Steve Johnson land and quarries on Pigeon Hill Street; land along the perimeter of Flat Ledge Quarry; a Right of Way protecting the fields and usage of the lane along Lane's Farm; and access to the Town's Deep Rocks Wells and Little Parker Pit. Of great open space and recreation significance is the recent preservation of a 47 acre parcel of land in Pigeon Cove, commonly known as "Woodland Acres." Working in partnership with the Town, Essex County Greenbelt Association (ECGA) purchased the parcel and then conveyed the property to the Town, subject to a Conservation Restriction held by ECGA. The land will be permanently preserved as open space with publicly accessible trails. The property contains vernal pools and has been designated as core habitat for rare species by the state's Natural Heritage Program. This parcel is a wonderful addition to Rockport's publicly accessible open spaces. Yet, despite this progress, significant work remains to extend protection of priority open space areas throughout the Town. An up to date OSRP to manage town-owned land is key to furthering these efforts.

The overriding goals of the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan remain closely related to those developed in the adopted Plan of 1983 and the state approved Plan of 2009. The people of Rockport, recognizing that the Town's quality-of-life and economic vigor are closely tied to the care of its natural

resources, have expressed strong support for the care of their woodland trails and shoreline, their wildlife and historic resources, and for enabling residents to fully enjoy these assets.¹

2B. Planning Process and Public Participation

1. The Committee

Rockport's 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan was developed and written entirely by the Rockport Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee, now known as the Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC), between April 2008 and September 2009. The 2018 Plan update was conducted by the current committee members listed below:

Lawrence Neal, Chair, Conservation Commission
Ted Tarr
Rob Claypool
Stephanie Cunningham
Peter Van Demark, Cartographer, Ad-hoc member
Tom Mikus, Right of Way Committee, Ad-hoc member

2. The Committee's Charge

Originally, the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee was given a charge by the Board of Selectmen to “formulate a draft Open Space Plan to provide the Board of Selectmen with recommendations for ways to protect present and future water supplies of the Town, to provide open space recreation opportunities for every segment of the community and in every region of the Town, to protect significant natural resource areas and to provide alternatives to land owners and Town agencies to protect open space. The plan is to be created using the former plans and drafts to build upon, and within the necessary framework for eventual submission to, and certification by, the Commonwealth.” A permanent OSRC was then adopted by the Board of Selectmen to continue carrying out this charge.

3. Meetings

The Committee meets monthly. Meetings are open to the public and were held at the Rockport Public Library or the Town Hall Annex on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Each meeting is advertised on the Notice Board in Town Hall and scheduled for two hours, with the first ten minutes devoted to questions and comments from the public. At most meetings members of the public were present and were always offered the opportunity to speak. The Committee routinely documents new information that pertains to the status of open space in Rockport. This information is summarized in meeting notes, available online on the Committee's web page. The information is also included in the Committee's Annual Report to the Town. This information has been included as part of the 2018 Plan and will be circulated for public review and comment. The new feedback from the public will added to this section as part of the final 2018 OSRP submitted to the Commonwealth.

4. Open Space and Recreation Survey

The Committee gathered input to establish community goals in several ways. A survey based on the 2008

¹ Securing Rockport's Water Supply prepared for the Rockport Watershed Protection Committee in 2008 by Community Investment Associates)

Rockport survey was designed to determine Rockporters' open space and recreation priorities. Following distribution at the September 2017 Town Meeting, survey forms were available through October 19th at Town Hall and on line at ([HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/6TYQ5W](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6TYQ5W)). Multiple notices advertising the survey were carried in the Gloucester Daily Times. The Committee received 250 responses compared to 296 in 2008, 152 in 1997 and 252 in 1983. Surveys completed on line were automatically tabulated using Survey Monkey while paper surveys were added manually.

The new survey showed that the goals in 2017 remained closely related to those developed in the adopted 1983 Plan and the state approved Plan of 2009. Respondents continued to feel that the Town's quality-of-life and economic vigor are strongly tied to the care of its natural resources.

5. Developing the 2018 Plan/Public Input Meetings

Since adoption and approval of the 2009 OSRP, the OSCRC has met held monthly meetings, advertised and open to the public. The Committee has also conducted routine reviews and updates of the 2009 Plan with current open space status and priorities. To begin the 2018 Plan update, OSCRC members volunteered to study sections of the 2009 report and make recommendations for updates and rewriting. Members assumed information gathering and writing responsibilities for various sections of the Plan and brought their work for review and comment by the group. In early 2018, the resultant draft will be circulated to town boards, committees, and departments for further review and comment. The 2018 plan revision will also include a public meeting process to garner comments and guidance from residents. Public meetings are tentatively planned for early 2018. Results of this process will be compared to the 2008 survey and will shape the Final Goals and Objectives and Seven-Year Action Plan included in the final drafts of the plan revision.

Following the public input meeting process, the revised draft will be finalized for submission to the Board of Selectmen. After review and comment by the Board of Selectmen, but before submission to the state for approval, the Plan will have one final circulation to other concerned boards.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

3A. Regional Context

Rockport is a coastal suburb located at the eastern terminus of MA Route 128 circling Boston. The extension of Route 128 in 1954 had a strong impact on Town development, bringing significantly increased population with its consequent effect on open space lands. A residential community bordered by the city of Gloucester and the Atlantic Ocean, Rockport includes a relatively large amount of open space. Historically, granite quarrying was the Town’s major industry. Now nearly devoid of manufacturing, many of Rockport businesses depend on tourism (short-term visitors and day-trippers year-round) as well as a significant influx of summer residents. The Chamber of Commerce works regionally and locally to promote these efforts. Hotels, restaurants, shops, and service businesses join construction and landscaping as principal elements of Rockport’s present economy. Many residents commute by train or car to neighboring communities and to Boston for jobs and services. A small but active fishing industry that is number three in lobster landings and its ancillary services still works out of the Town's harbors and piers. This industry has estimated annual revenues of over \$1 million/year. The three Rockport harbors also provide moorings for a very active pleasure boat fleet. The Inner Harbor includes a private yacht club.

Map 3A Regional Context



Rockport is regionally connected in several ways. A member of the North Shore Task Force, one of eight sub-regions of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, it is also part of the North Coastal Watershed, an area that stretches from southeastern New Hampshire to Cape Ann and encompasses small streams and watershed land. Many swamps and wetlands provide significant open space and feed into Rockport's water supply. Around 1930, a large piece of land on the west side of Rockport, adjacent to the Town's Millbrook and Squam Brook watersheds, was purchased by the City of Gloucester. Rockport's Watershed Overlay District now applies to the portion of this land within the Town's boundaries, with about thirteen and a half percent, equivalent to 48.7 acres, remaining under the control and protection of the City of Gloucester.

On the south side of Rockport, the shoreline zigzags into several small coves and beaches. The seasonal community of Long Beach stretches along a sandspit between the ocean and the tidal Saratoga Marsh. Long Beach itself belongs to Rockport. Its approximately 150 privately owned seasonal cottages occupy land leased from the town and use a combination of Rockport and Gloucester services.

A neighboring open space, the South Woods, is both publicly and privately owned and contains a network of trails and old roads, as well as important components of Rockport's water supply: pipelines, deep rock wells, and the large reservoir at Cape Pond. As a natural body of water of more than ten acres, Cape Pond is designated as a Great Pond of Massachusetts. The watershed lands in the South Woods adjoin an extensive stretch of undeveloped land, loosely referred to as "Greater Dogtown", that covers the interior of Cape Ann. Threaded with trails, old roads, and former quarrying routes, the area is now used for walking, biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Dogtown's woods, wetlands, and swamps not only afford pleasant surroundings for recreational users but also provide habitat for many species of plants and wildlife. A local coalition is currently working to get "Greater Dogtown" listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Historically, Rockport has designated open space for recreation and for watershed protection, recently adding minimum lot zoning in much of the town's undeveloped woodlands. Open Space Residential Design and a Watershed Protection Overlay District are also designed to protect open space. The committee has reviewed the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's MetroFuture document (www.metrofuture.org/) and finds the Town is generally in conformance with MetroFuture's applicable recommendations.

3B. History of the Community

Rockport is part of the Essex National Heritage Area, one of only 40 areas in the United States so designated by Congress. This designation places it with the other North Shore towns whose historic features and contributions to the nation's commerce and industry have attracted visitors from this country and abroad. Many of these well-traveled visitors have been so taken with the town that they have become property owners.

From prehistoric times until the arrival of European settlers in the 1600s, the coastal area that would first be named Cape Tragabigzanda by Captain John Smith in 1614 (later renamed Cape Ann by the Puritans) was occupied by people of the Pequot tribe, primarily during the summer. The Pequots, a subtribe of the Algonquians, were primarily hunter-gatherers but did some farming despite the hardscrabble terrain.

Around 1667 a few fishermen came to Cape Ann. They cut timber and hauled it to the small coves around Rockport for transport by boat to Boston. In 1690 Richard Tarr, the first permanent settler, arrived from Saco, Maine, at that time a part of Massachusetts. John Poole followed him in 1700. Both men became prosperous through cutting, milling and shipping wood to Boston.

Early settlers received land grants, cleared land and developed farms. From 1700 until around 1820 the population increased slowly in the settlements at Sandy Bay, later to become the center of Rockport, and spread north to Pigeon Cove as part of the City of Gloucester. Rockport was incorporated as a separate town in 1840. The major occupations at that time were farming, wood-coasting and shore fisheries. Rockport harbors, on the eastern side of Cape Ann, were too small and too exposed to the sea to allow extensive development of the offshore fishing and foreign trade that took place in Gloucester. These harbors continue to serve one and two-man lobster boats.

In the 1820's, the development of large-scale granite quarrying in Pigeon Cove and neighboring areas attracted large numbers of immigrant quarry workers from Sweden, Finland, Italy, Ireland and French Canada. In 1840, the citizens in Pigeon Cove and Sandy Bay voted to incorporate under the name of Rockport, ending their years since 1754 as Gloucester's Fifth Parish. The quarrying industry flourished, providing virtually all the granite for government installations in the Charlestown and Portsmouth Navy Yards and in Boston Harbor, as well as building projects in many regions of the country. By the 1920's, however, increasing labor and transportation costs, as well as the advent of concrete construction and the use of tar-macadam for paving streets, brought about the demise of the quarrying industry. Abandoned, the immense deep pits and smaller, privately-owned excavations (two man pits) filled with rain and ground water, providing wildlife and bird habitat, recreation, and water conservation.

Among the permanent marks left by the quarrying industry, many elegant granite buildings still accommodate Rockport residences and businesses. A beautiful example of keystone bridge-building carries Route 127 over an old railroad cut from Flat Ledge Quarry to Granite Pier. The Town's harbors, with hand cut granite breakwaters and piers formerly used to ship granite to other parts of the world, and now serve fishermen and recreational sailors.

Efforts were made from time to time to develop industries other than fishing, farming, and quarrying. From the 1830s to the 1920s the air bladders of hake were processed to make Isinglass, a gelatin-like product used to filter and settle beer. A cotton mill built in 1847 proved largely unsuccessful due to its reliance on expensive coal power. It finally burned down in 1883. Geographical location and a lack of waterpower prevented the Town from developing into a mill town, as did many other nineteenth century New England towns that did not have river access.

Beginning in 1885, Rockport attempted to attract more maritime business by creating a breakwater to provide a larger safe harbor in Sandy Bay, a "Harbor of Refuge." Rockporters hoped the harbor would become one "to which would come transatlantic ocean liners and there would be based the North Atlantic Fleet of the expanding U.S. Navy²." There were regular summer visits from minelayers, torpedo boats, cruisers and even battleships. Sporadic construction using huge granite blocks from the quarrying industry continued on the planned nine-thousand-foot breakwater until 1912, when Congress halted appropriations for the project, having by then spent \$1,941,500. Only about six thousand feet were completed and Sandy Bay never became the large, busy harbor originally envisioned.

In 1954, and again in 1965, the Town attempted to secure federal funds to repair decades of weather erosion at the Breakwater. The Army Corps of Engineers rejected these requests, and the Breakwater continues as a hazard for boaters.

By the 1840's, stagecoaches were running regularly from Boston to Pigeon Cove but, with the commencement of rail service between Boston and Rockport in 1861, the Town began to attract more summer visitors. Numerous private summer residences appeared in the outlying areas of the Town. Today tourism provides a major part of the economy. The opening of Route 128 in 1954 made the Town

² *Town on Sandy Bay, p. 137*

increasingly accessible and further accelerated residential development. Between 1980 and 2000, Rockport's population grew by almost 22% to about 7800. It declined in 2010 and currently numbers 6952 people year-round, with at least that many seasonal residents.

The last remaining sizable manufacturer in town, the Cape Ann Tool Company, began in the 1850s as Dyer Poole's blacksmith shop. By 1891, it had evolved into a thriving business located on the active fishing harbor at Pigeon Cove. By 1918, it was manufacturing a range of forgings for World War I. Production continued to be brisk through World War II, but dwindling business finally closed the company in 1983. A developer's plan to revitalize the Pigeon Cove property with condominiums, retail space, and public access to the waterfront was approved by the Town in 2007. Since then, several entities have proposed development plans, but none have been successful. The most recent developer began renovating the site in 2015, but all progress has halted.

Over the past twenty years a number of initiatives have been developed to protect the precious natural resources of Rockport. With its remarkable assets of woods and shoreline, the Town places a high value on its open spaces. In 1989 Town Meeting established the Rights of Way Committee to oversee the many miles of public footpaths, trails, and ways, including the Atlantic Path, which runs for nearly two miles along one of the longest stretches of public shoreline on the East Coast. Halibut Point Reservation and State Park on the northeast point of Cape Ann offers more than 50 acres of rocky headlands and paths, tidal pools, the former Babson Quarry, and a small visitor center and museum. The State Park is a very popular tourist destination and the parking lot is filled to capacity on most summer weekends.

In 2001 significant open space was added when the south end of Thacher Island and its twin lighthouses were deeded to the town by the United States Coast Guard. The island, just off Rockport's coast, is cared for by a seasonal lighthouse keeper and by Rockport's volunteer Thacher Island Association (TIA). The newly restored boat ramp allows access for kayakers, campers, bird watchers, and hikers. The TIA is in the process of restoring similar visitor access to nearby Straitsmouth Island.

Rockport continues its history as an active year-round art and music community. The Rockport Art Association, founded in 1921, serves as a gallery, museum and educational center for artists and photographers, and sponsors the annual community Christmas pageant. Since 1981 the Rockport Chamber Music Festival has presented a summer concert series of world-class musicians at the Art Association. In 2007 Rockport Music acquired the Haskins Building on Main Street for demolition and construction of the new Shalin Liu Performance Center, completed in 2010, which serves as the focus for an expanded program of musical activities.

In 2006 Rockport opened the Beyea Youth Center for programs administered jointly with the YMCA. Lights have also been installed on the adjacent Evans Field and at the school complex playing field, greatly expanding recreation opportunities for residents.

In recent years, Rockport has improved access for persons with disabilities by the installation of elevators and ramps at Town Hall and the Library. New ADA accessible toilet facilities were added at Front Beach, the main swimming area, and at T-Wharf in the center of Town. Accessible ramps have also been installed at Front Beach and Cape Hedge Beach. The Department of Public Works is also in the process of upgrading all sidewalk crossings with ADA compliant curb cuts and transition plates.

In 2009, after the Board of Selectmen appointed an Open Space and Advisory Committee, the Planning Board began the process of developing a complete master plan, which included the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan. A Master Plan for Downtown Rockport was completed in 2011. .

3C. Population Characteristics

1. Population Trends

The U.S. Census shows Rockport’s population grew rapidly in the 1970s and 1980s:

- From 5,636 in 1970
- To 6,345 in 1980 (up 12.6%)
- To 7,482 in 1990 (up 17.9%), then leveling off
- To 7,767 in 2000 (up 3.8%), then declining
- To 6,952 in 2010 (down 10.5%)

The 2011-2015 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau estimates a population of 7,111 for that five-year time period, rather than a count for a specific date.

As of June 1, 2016, the Rockport Town Census counted 6,916 residents, also indicating that the fulltime population has declined since 2000.

Historically Rockport has been a magnet for tourists, and the population varies tremendously with the seasons. Summer population may climb as high as 20,000 including significant numbers of part-time residents with second homes in Rockport. While no counts are comparable to those taken each decade by the Census Bureau, the seasonal change in taxable receipts reported to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue for the Meals Tax is a measure of the summer increase. The most recently available data are for 2014-15. The summer months from May to October accounted for 77% of the taxable receipts, while the period from November to April accounted for only 23%. The disparity is likely attributable to the summer’s population influx.

The population in the Town of Rockport is the oldest average age in Massachusetts. The 2011-2015 American Community Survey shows Rockport’s median age was 53.0, while for Essex County it was 40.6, for Massachusetts 39.3 and for the U.S 37.6. This is not a new trend. The Town of Rockport Planning Study Report 1967 noted that of the 115 Massachusetts urban areas studied only Plymouth (17.4) had a higher percentage of over 65 residence than Rockport (17.3)

In the 2011-2015 American Community Survey, only 609 (33%) of the 1,825 Rockport families had children under age 18. Enrollment in the Elementary and Middle Schools decreased between 2005 and 2013, while the Rockport High School enrollment increased, partly due to significant numbers of entering School Choice students, and then decreased again. In the last four years all schools have had some increase in enrollment.

School/Year	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Elementary	449	438	447	414	398	394	403	390	407	408	419
Middle	253	246	243	253	246	249	231	238	254	256	235
High	328	354	358	341	331	306	290	305	314	302	304

Compared to the county, state, and nation, the 2010 U.S. Census for Rockport showed a lower percentage of residents within the age range of 0-19, about half the national average of people aged 20-34, a slightly higher percentage at ages 35-54, and more than one and a half times the national average of people aged 55+.

Age Range	0-19	20-34	35-54	55+
Rockport	19%	11%	27%	43%
Essex	26%	17%	30%	27%
Mass	25%	20%	29%	26%
U.S.	27%	20%	28%	25%

The 2011-2015 American Community Survey shows basically the same percentages, with Rockport having less (22%) in the 35-54 range and more (47%) in the 55+ range.

Since the 1990 U.S. Census, the percentage of Rockporters aged 20-34 has dropped significantly, the percentage aged 35-54 has increased and then decreased, and the percentage aged 55+ has increased significantly:

Age Range	0-19	20-34	35-54	55+
1990 Census	21%	18%	29%	32%
2000 Census	23%	11%	34%	32%
2010 Census	19%	11%	27%	43%

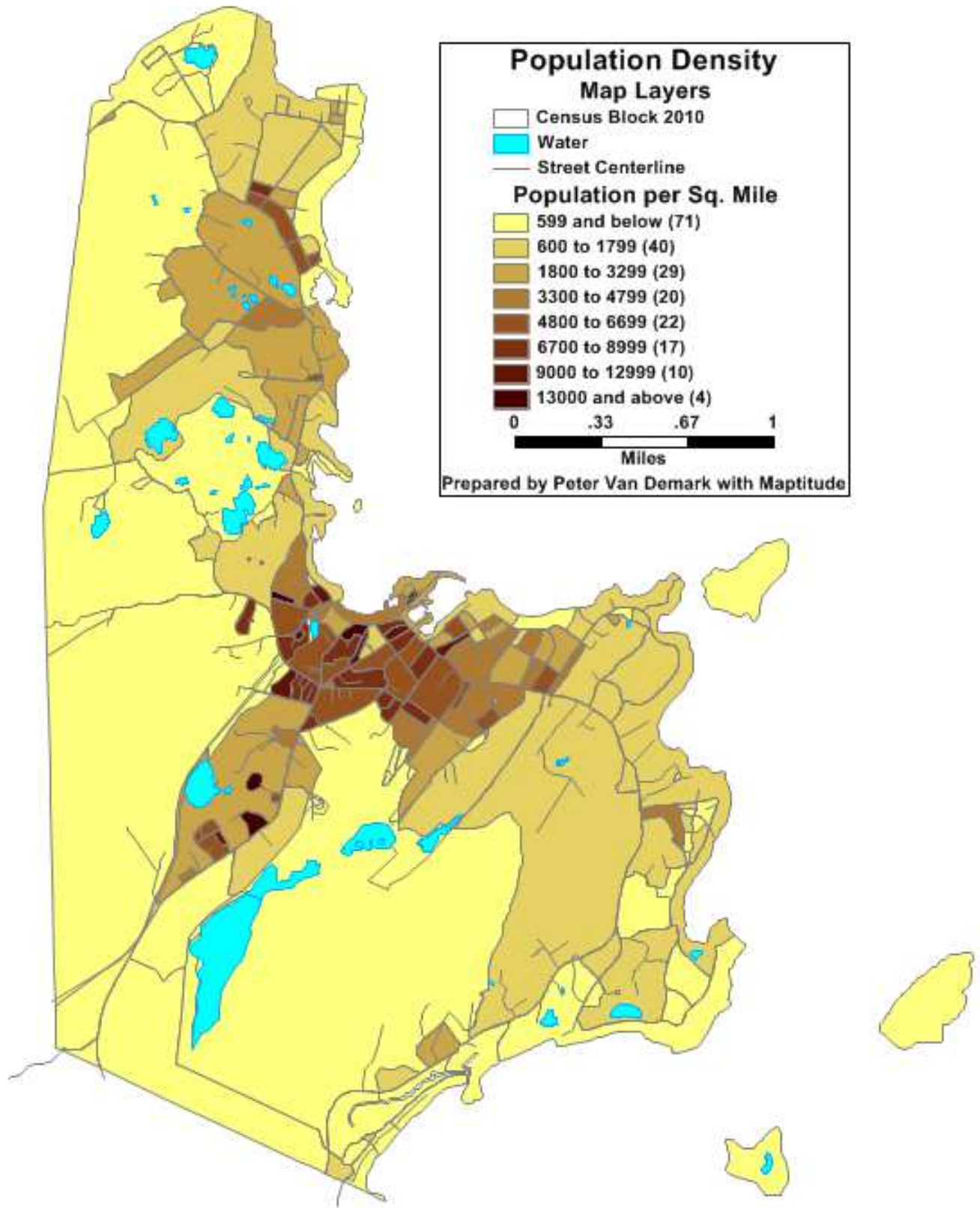
There are more males among those aged 0-19 and more females among those who are aged 55 and older. There are 949 women 65 and older in the 2010 U.S. Census, while there are only 659 men that old.

Age Range	0-19	20-34	35-54	55+
Males	22%	12%	27%	40%
Females	17%	10%	28%	45%

2. Population Density

The average population density in Rockport is 991 people per square mile (about 1.5 people per acre) but there is high variability. Three-quarters of the people live on one-quarter of the land with about half on just 10% of the land (.76 square miles). Population is concentrated in the Town center and along the main roads, Route 127 from Gloucester (Main Street) toward Folly Cove (Granite Street) and Route 127A (Thatcher Road and South Street) along the southern shore. Much of the area away from the shore is open space, with few roads and homes (see Map 3C), due in part to designated wetlands and the predominance of granite ledge. Lower density in the South End is related to a zoning requirement for larger minimum lot size. Downtown densities are larger primarily due to grandfathering and/or variances granted in the older town areas.

Map 3C Population Density



3. Employment Trends

Rockporters are well educated, according to the 2010-2014 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau. Among those aged 25 and older, 98% are at least high school graduates and 50% have at least a bachelor's degree. Over half (54%) of those 16 and older who are employed have a management, professional, or related occupation while 19% are in sales or office occupations, 11% are in service occupations, and 16% are in other occupations. The likelihood of attracting new industry has been small due to the large cost of building on Rockport's granite ledge and the relatively long distances from major populated areas. The emergence of cyberspace continues to improve possibilities for home employment.

4. Family Income

Rockport does not meet the definition of an Environmental Justice Population, defined as “a neighborhood whose annual median household income is equal to or less than 65 percent of the statewide median or whose population is made up of 25 percent Minority, Foreign Born, or Lacking English Language Proficiency.” The median household income in the 2010-2014 American Community Survey for Rockport was \$70,288, above the \$68,776 for Essex County and the \$67,846 statewide. This compares with \$50,661 for Rockport, \$51,576 for Essex County, and \$50,502 statewide in the 2000 U.S. Census.

Rockport's socioeconomic status, coupled with the high cost of living for the area, may help explain the high value and high usage given by residents to the Town's open space areas. The age of the town's population also supports the importance of protecting our open space for passive recreation. The Committee's 2008 and 2017 Survey results indicated that many residents use the Town's open space areas and give it very high value.

In the 2010-2014 American Community Survey Rockport had about 4% (221) non-white residents, 6% (405) foreign-born residents, and under 1% (39) lacking English language proficiency, all well under the 25% Environmental Justice threshold. Therefore, we have not included Required Map 2 showing EJ Populations.

3D. Growth and Development Patterns

1. Patterns and Trends

Rockport's demographics evolved from an early reliance on fishing, farming, and logging, to a booming quarry industry and an increasingly important tourist trade. After Route 128 opened in 1954 a wealthier commuting middle class emerged, as people discovered a town with relatively inexpensive seaside property only one hour from Boston. Today some new construction takes place in the outlying areas of town away from the densely settled downtown area. Development has moved into open space areas that were previously forest, meadow or scenic hilltops with beautiful ocean views. More and more, construction in town involves the demolition of smaller, older homes for the construction of much larger summer homes and the subdivision of larger lots into two or more parcels in a trend driven by the increased value of ocean views and seaside living. As a result, Rockport residents are increasingly concerned with identifying parcels for protection from development. The trend to an older population has brought an increased desire for sidewalks and an interest in preserving trails and open land for hiking.

2. Infrastructure

2a. Transportation Systems

Rockport is “at the end of the line” but has excellent connections to other locales with Route 128, the major loop around Boston, only 4 miles away and two major interstate highways I95 and I93 within 30 miles of Town. The Cape Ann Transit Authority provides bus service to Gloucester from Rockport and the MBTA provides rail service to Boston's North Station. Passenger and freight service is provided at Boston's Logan International Airport. Harbor facilities in Rockport are used exclusively for fishing and pleasure craft. A popular and heavily used bike route follows Rockport's coastline. Although dangerously narrow in some parts, the route is also used for 12K and 3K foot races. In 2013 Route 127 and Route 127A were designated as state scenic byways. Cape Ann Trail Stewards has become very active in Rockport. That group has worked with the CATA to add trail stops with interpretive information and maps to increase trail usage.

2b. Water Supply Systems

Map 3D1 shows the Watershed Overlay Districts in Rockport and the water connections in Town. Cape Pond and Carlson's Quarry Reservoirs are Rockport's main water supplies. Cape Pond Reservoir, located in the south of Town, is a natural water body that was contained by a dam in 1971. Raw water from Cape Pond is treated at a conventional treatment plant located on Great Hill.

The Mill Brook Well field, consisting of three eight-inch wells, has historically been the town's primary backup source of water. It is used to fill Cape Pond during the summer months when the tourist industry requires a large supply increase. The town has recently developed a Deep Rock Well. It has been permitted by the DEP and is used in the non-winter months to supply water to Cape Pond. The permit allows the Town to withdraw up to .36 million gallons a day from this source. A more detailed discussion of the water supply will be found in Section 4C.

2c. Sewer Service

Map 3D2 shows Rockport's sewer infrastructure. Approximately 60 per cent of households have sewer connections including a recent expansion on Marmion Way in the south side of Town. An administrative consent order issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to remediate the inflow and infiltration of storm and ground water into its sewer system and has imposed a moratorium on all new connections until remediation is accomplished and the Town is in compliance with its NPDES permit for one year was lifted in 2015. Since Rockport's topography and preponderance of granite make the alternative use of septic systems difficult, the town is now looking at a sewer overly district to control the number of sewer hook ups.

3. Long-Term Development Patterns

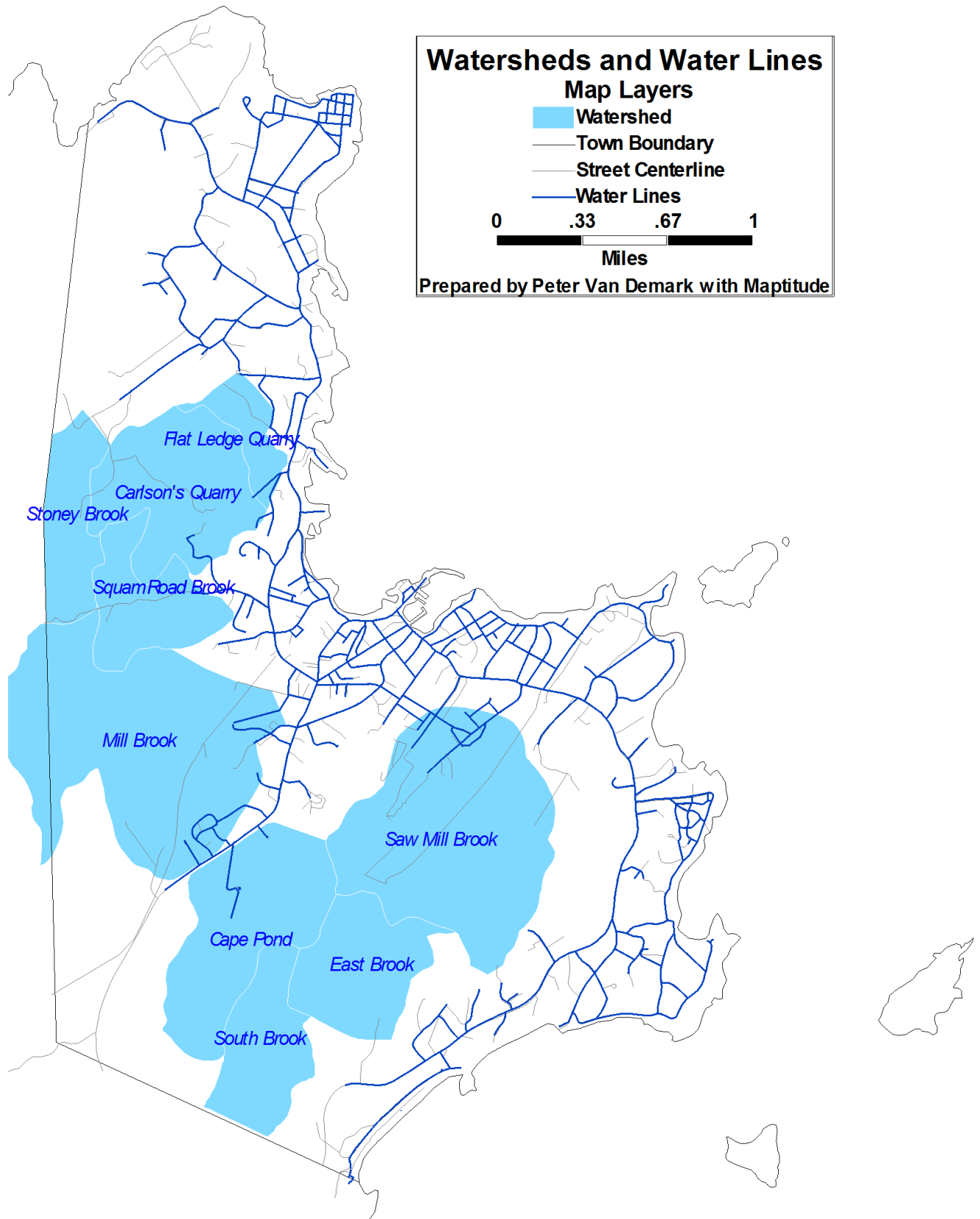
The Metropolitan Area Planning Council³ previously predicted that Rockport would experience some fulltime population growth, to 8515 persons in the year 2020 compared to 8182 in 2010 and 7767 in 2000. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council⁴ is now predicting that Rockport will experience much smaller fulltime population growth, to 7803 persons in the year 2020 compared to their estimate of 7715

³ Metropolitan Area Planning Council January 31, 2006 www.mapc.org

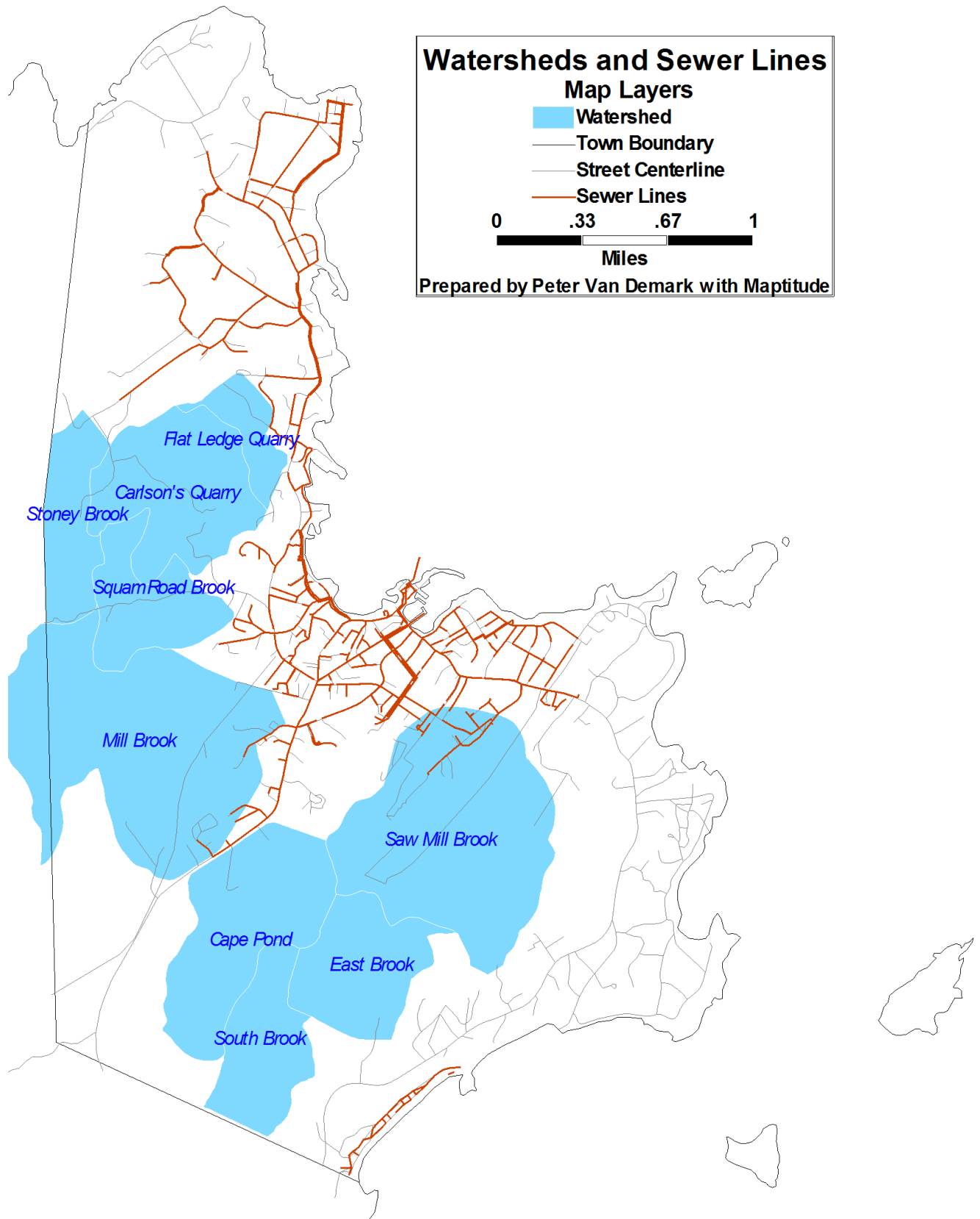
⁴ MetroFuture 2035 Update (March 2011) <http://www.mapc.org/data-services/available-data/projections>

in 2010, which is above the 6952 in the 2010 U.S. Census. However, because so much open space remains outside the watersheds, there is significant potential for future development of both year-round and seasonal residences as shown on Map 3D3: Composite Development, Town of Rockport. This map of current zoning and developable areas highlights the potential clash between open space and development. Today there are large swaths of open space in the west and south of the Town. Development in these areas is currently limited because of the lack of water and wastewater infrastructure and the resulting difficulty of accessing water and of building septic systems. However, if demand pressures increase, developers might well find it will be financially feasible to build “high tech” private sewage disposal systems with “green” technology. Map 3D4 depicts a somewhat lessened development impact because of wetland laws requiring 200-foot buffers in the watershed overlay districts.

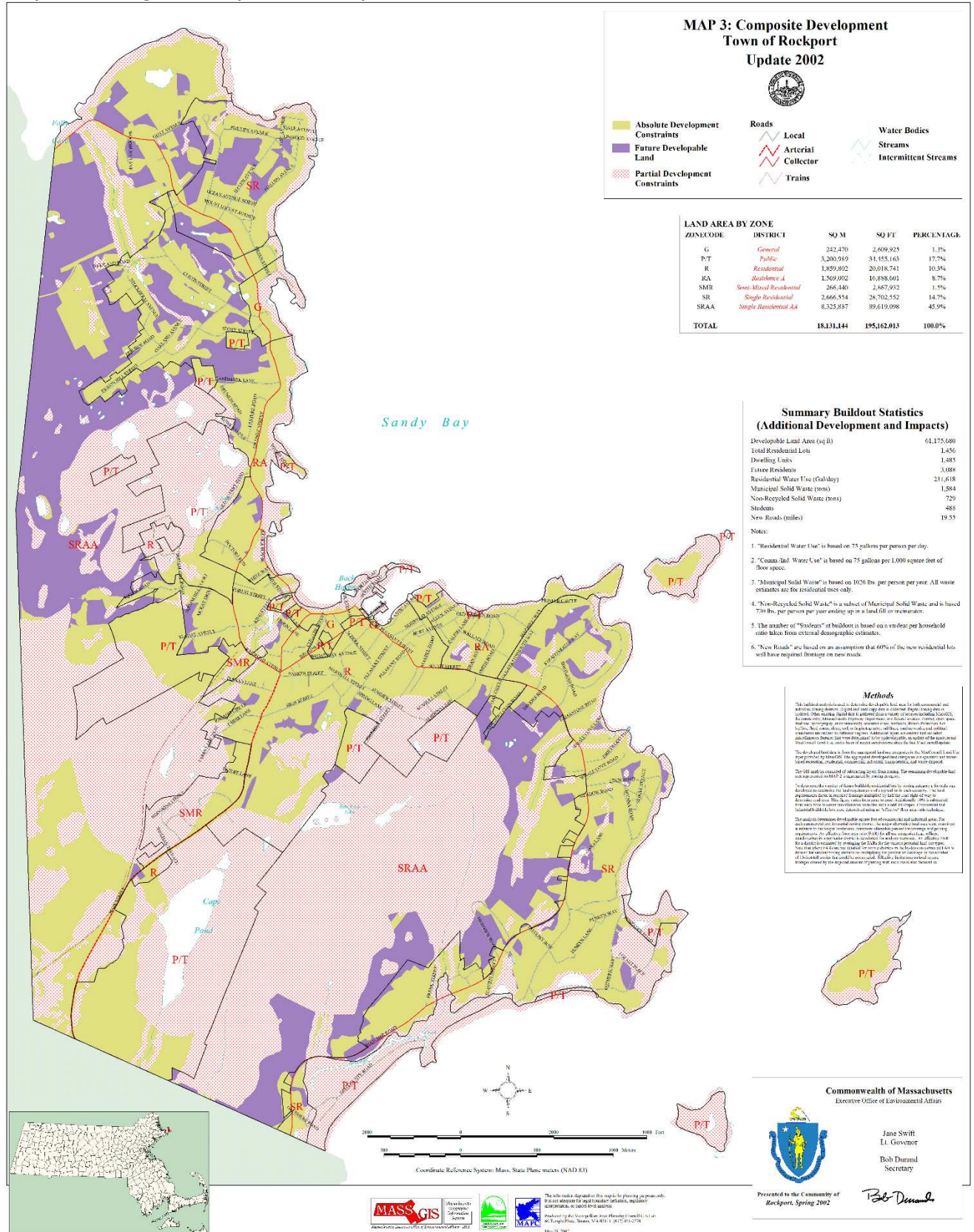
Map 3D1 Watersheds and Water Lines



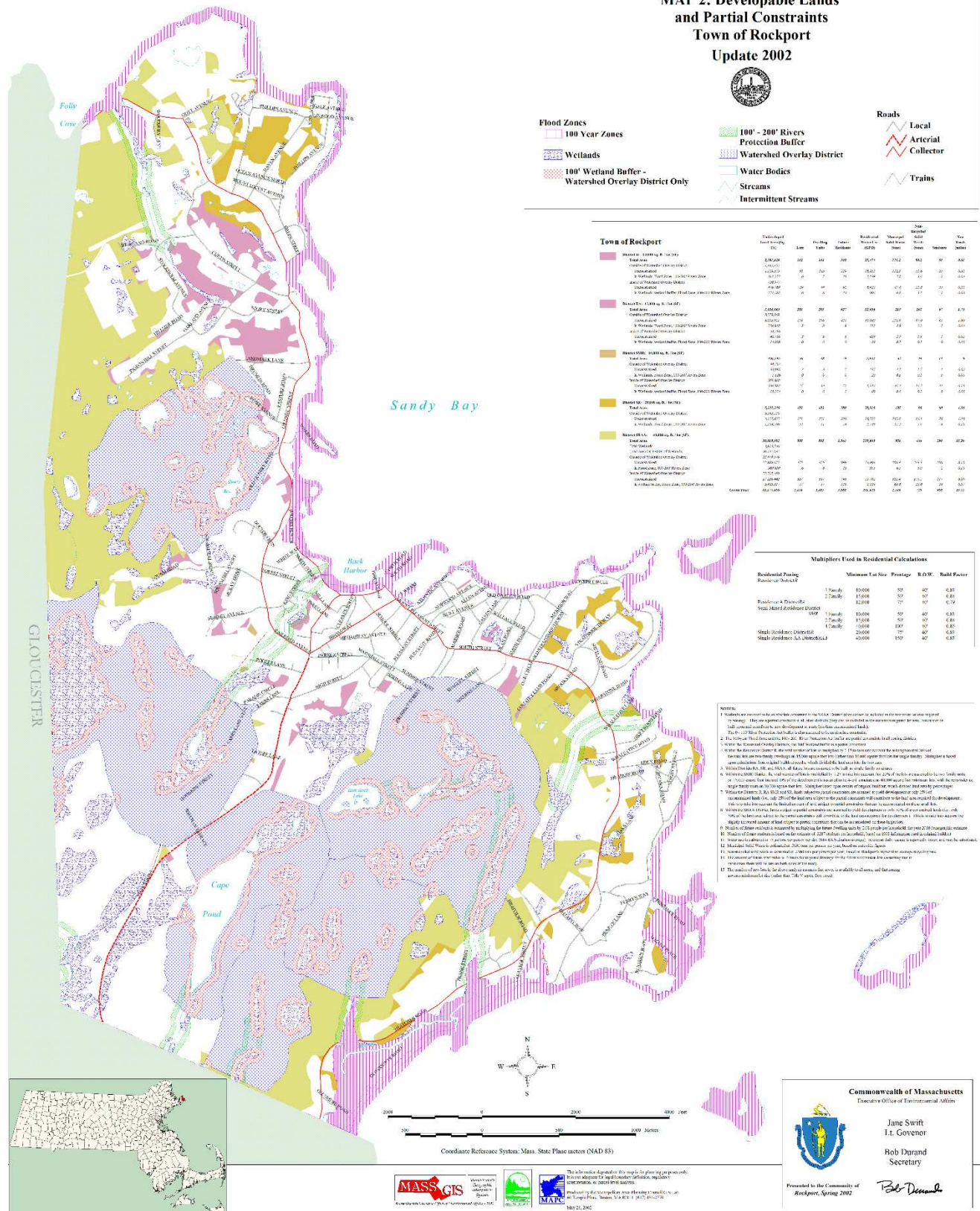
Map 3D2 Watersheds and Sewer Lines



Map 3D3 Zoning and Composite Development



Map 3D4 Developable Lands and Partial Constraints



Chapter 40B presents another challenge to towns like Rockport where a shortage of affordable housing exists. A recent court case in neighboring Gloucester allowed a Chapter 40B development to be built on a filled, and previously developed, wetland. The Commonwealth's Chapter 40B legislation is intended to encourage towns to provide affordable housing. It allows developers to apply for permitting through a single local gateway, rather than multiple agencies. This process can essentially relieve developers from compliance with local zoning bylaws and regulations that protect open space and wetlands. Rockport's shallow depth to bedrock may contribute to the shortage of affordable housing in Town by increasing construction costs.

Rockport incomes average about 12% lower than those for the Boston Metropolitan Statistical Area, which does not include Rockport. Rockport housing prices are somewhat above metropolitan averages. Relatively-affluent second home buyers are part of the reason for the cost gap. As the housing market continues to squeeze out all but those that are not relatively affluent, it threatens to change the nature of the community and to influence traditional uses of open space such as public rights-of-way to the sea and forests.

4. Current Projects

After the 2009 Open Space report was published, most of the development in town has been small subdivisions. They typically include separating single home larger lots so that two or three homes could be built. The original house is sometimes renovated, or relocated on the land, or taken down. Many of these have been built sometimes adding large two family homes. Examples are on South Street, Tarr's Lane West and High Street. There are three projects now under construction on Marmion Way where large Inns are renovated and become single family residence, the surrounding land subdivided which are then sold as single lots. There has in some cases open land like at Alpaca Ct where a field was subdivided and three houses were built in 2015. Other pieces of land that are extremely difficult to build on have become viable for construction with the increased value of a home.

There are a few larger projects being challenged by residents. A project for 12 residential townhouse units plus a commercial unit in a rehabilitated old machine shop building at the Cape Ann Tool Company property was begun in 2015; however, the project has not been completed and progress is at a standstill. A plan for a multi-unit complex on Granite Street at the site of the former Silva Brothers Greenhouse property is currently being challenged. Rockport's Planning Board began an update of the Town's Master Plan by creating a Downtown Master Plan, completed in 2011 The Town now has an agreement with the state to work using best practices to develop a town wide Master Plan.

5. Maximum Buildout

In 2002, as a step towards preserving its open space and small-town character, Rockport used an MAPC grant for a build-out analysis to show potential growth impacts under existing zoning.

Using fully built-out conditions, the study showed Rockport would look much different from what it does today. Although some areas of Town have long been considered unbuildable due to poor soil conditions for septic systems, alternatives allowed under revised Title Five regulations could allow development of prime tracts of open land.

Table 3D. Buildout Study Summary (see Map 3D4 Developable Lands and Partial Constraints)

Development Impact	2008	Full Buildout Addition	% Change
Developed land area	n/a	61,175,680 sq. ft	
Total residential lots	n/a	1456	
Dwelling lots	4202	1485	35.34
Future residents	7700	3088	40.10
Residential water use	606,000 gal/day	231,618 gal/day	38.22
Municipal solid waste	3724 tons	1584 tons	42.53
Non-recycled solid waste	2734 tons	729 tons	26.66
Students	1048	488	46.56
New roads		19.55 miles	

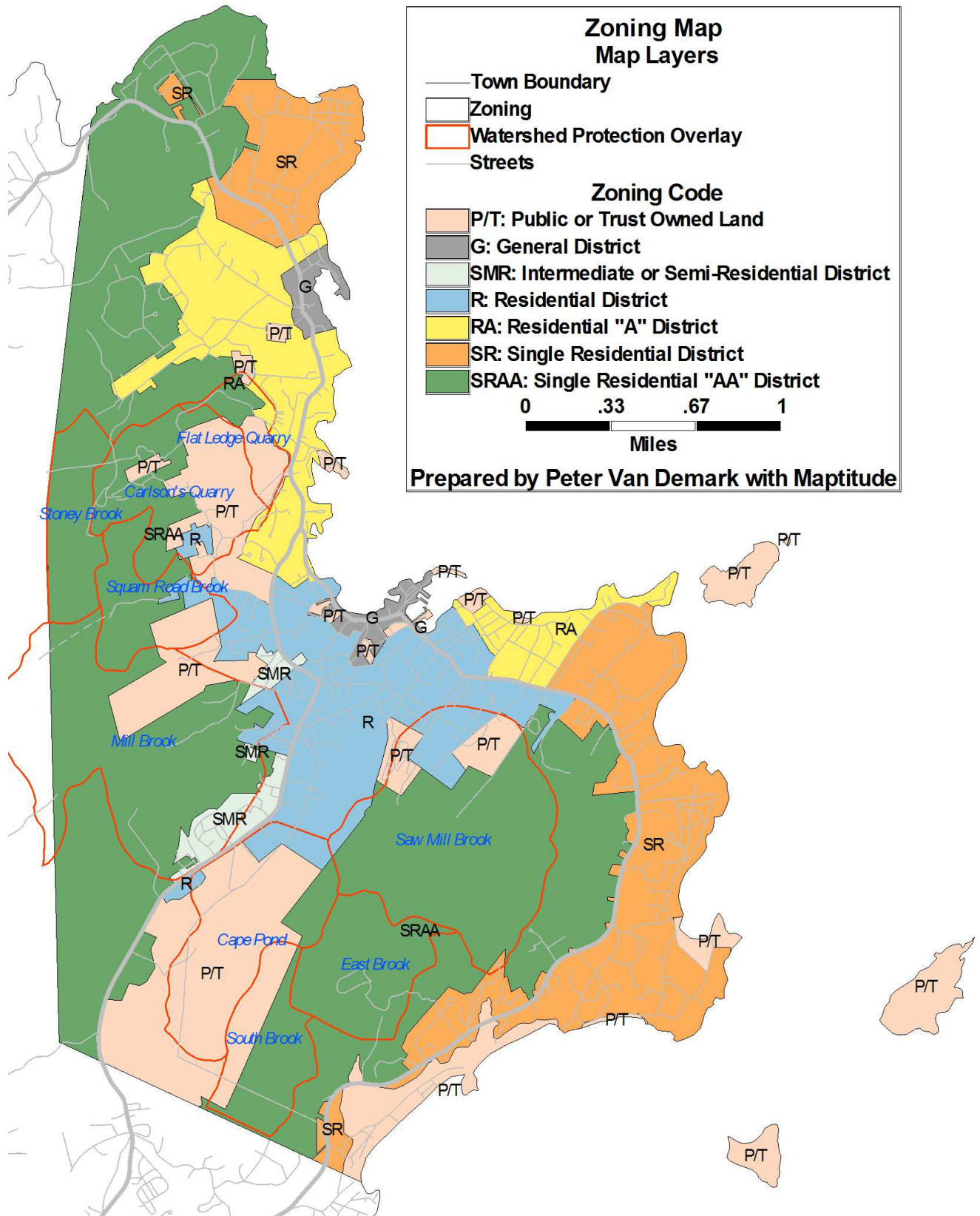
Source: DPW, 2007 *Town of Rockport Annual Report*

6. Implications of Potential Development

In 2000, responding to the MAPC study, the Planning Board added a new Zone SRAA, increasing the minimum lot size to a uniform one acre across much of the undeveloped area of Town. The Planning Board also introduced a new open space cluster option, Open Space Residential Design (OSRD) Zoning for parcels of more than 5 acres.

Zoning Map 3D5 shows that the SRAA area covers most of the open space in Rockport, a large portion of which is also watershed land. If the Town is to be successful in protecting its open space, it may need to consider further zoning changes in these vulnerable areas. Recommendations for possible changes are included in the 5-year action plan, Section 9, Goal 8.

Map 3D5 Zoning Map



SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

4A. Geology, Topography and Soils

1. Geology

Rockport, as the name suggests, is primarily characterized by prominent granite outcroppings and very shallow soils. Rockport is underlain by a type of granite known as Cape Ann Granite and small amounts of surface deposits of Squam granite. The granite crystallized at high temperatures, probably in excess of 800 degrees centigrade.⁵ The rocks of the Cape Ann peninsula are characterized by the occurrence of the same minerals but in different proportions. The granite is very close to the surface because retreating glaciers scraped away many millions of years of sedimentary rock. All this granite contributes to the external features of the landscape, outcropping regularly throughout the topography. Cape Ann is considered the third most active geological area in the United States. The largest earthquake known to have taken place in New England happened on Cape Ann in 1755.

Rockport granite was first used commercially in Boston about 1830, initially put into cellars of brick buildings, then used for posts on North and Market Streets. Actively quarried in Rockport between 1840 and 1929,⁶ the rock was easily worked into a durable commercial stone suitable for building and bridge work. The first building of hammered Rockport granite was built for Terie, How and Co. about 1846. The Beacon Hill reservoir, built a little later, was one of the more extensive undertakings. The granite's ability to be polished also made it desirable for interior construction and cemetery work.

2. Topography

The topography of Rockport owes its characteristic features to the work of the last glaciation period, which retreated approximately 14,000 years ago. Nearly the entire surface covering the bedrock is boulder-till capped with gravel of varying thickness. The latter was probably deposited from material incorporated in the base of the glacial ice that left tons of gravel when it melted.

A glacial moraine consisting of large, uniform, angular granite boulders occupies the higher elevations of Rockport.⁷ A moraine of an irregular wall of large boulders, some fifty feet in width, near the Beech Grove Cemetery, runs for nearly three hundred yards and is a striking feature of the landscape. This moraine marks a halting place of the great ice sheet as it retreated northward at the close of the glacial period.

The deposit of sand and gravel near the Rockport Railroad station (a serpent kame) marks the course of a subglacial stream that once flowed under the glacial ice cap on the surface of boulder till. Pigeon Hill, southwest of Pigeon Cove, is a typical drumlin of boulder till. Coastal lowland areas of Rockport such as Pebble Beach, Cape Hedge and Long Beach with their associated landforms were caused by Quaternary Period glacial processes. The retreat of the ice sheet left behind rounded hills that were formed by an irregular sheet of till between 50 -100 feet thick. Rockport's small surface size, relatively low elevations and the presence of so much boulder filled moraine/till on bedrock slowed the erosive action of streams. The deposition of marine clays, the barrier and pocket beaches, and the effects of sea driven forces on variously jointed rock still attest to the processes of glacial and marine erosion.

On Thacher Island, and at Whale Cove and Folly Point, gravel deposits may represent a partial end moraine, a brief pause during the retreat of the glacier. When marine clay and ground rock dust became

⁵ Bedrock Geological Map of Gloucester and Rockport Quadrangles, Essex County, Massachusetts by William H. Dennen, 1992

⁶ History of the Granite Industry of New England by Arthur Wellington Brayley, 1913

⁷ Draft of Rockport's Open Space Plan, 1997

compacted they formed layered deposits that can be found fifty feet or more above today's sea level, a result of isostatic rebound, the process of rising landmasses previously compressed by the huge weight of the glacier. Whale Cove exhibits clearly stratified marine clay deposits overlaid by later glaciofluvial deposits.

Evidence that sea level was higher than today can be found by examining the wave-cut benches at Loblolly Cove. These escarpments were probably cut 11,000 to 14,000 years ago after the ice sheet had retreated and isostatic rebound had been completed. Most of the sand for the pocket beaches of Front Beach, Back Beach, Old Garden Beach and Pebble Beach resulted from minor glaciofluvial deposits and bedrock headlands broken down by freeze-thaw action and marine erosion.

Most streams and valleys in Rockport are pre-glacial in origin. Without clay soils to hold it, most precipitation either runs off immediately from bedrock or penetrates deep into bedrock faults, from where it emerges very slowly. The Town has taken advantage of this by successfully drilling two bedrock wells, which if brought on line are intended to provide emergency drinking water resources⁸; see "Other Water Supply Areas" in Section 4C.

3. Soils⁸

The last glacial episodes produced the base for the mineral soils that are now found in Rockport. These are known as Inceptisols and occur throughout New England. In well-drained, undisturbed sites this topsoil averages between two and a half and eight inches deep. Due to their glacial origin, these soils also contain high densities of boulders and rocks.

The greater part of the Rockport land surface consists of low irregular hills and ridges. Commonly, there are bedrock exposures with small depressions of very poorly drained organic soils. The predominant soil is composed of Chatfield-Hollis rock outcrop association, representing 35% of the total (see Map 4A1). Characterized by stones and boulders on the surface, it is found on undulating ridges and hills. This soil made farming in Rockport an arduous enterprise and turned the economy to fishing, granite quarrying and tourism. The poor agricultural conditions, however, provide rich soil for species such as Northern Red Oak, Sugar Maple and White Ash, which dominate our woodlands.

4. Development

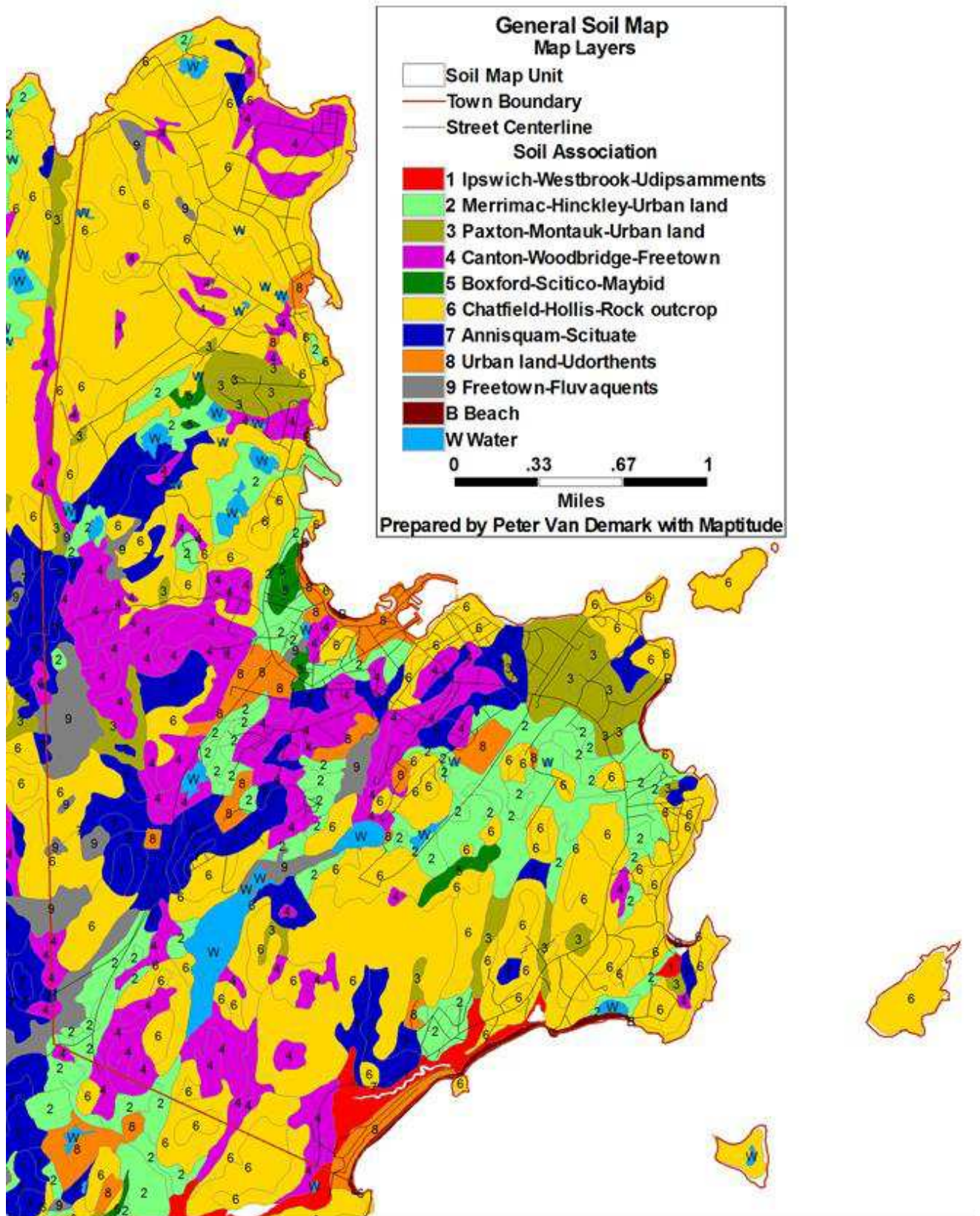
Undeveloped land comprises nearly two thirds of Rockport's land area, which is a very high percentage for a long-established community near a major metropolitan area. Because the exposed bedrock of the Chatfield-Hollis soil limits suitability for dwellings, commercial buildings, septic tank absorption fields or shallow excavations, development has progressed somewhat slowly. Developers have generally relied on Town water and sewer to avoid the difficulty of finding adequate percolation for septic systems and the high cost of blasting sewer lines through ledge. In response to a 1995 consent order with the Massachusetts Department of the Environment (MADEP), Rockport instituted a limited sewer moratorium as it undertakes a storm water and groundwater inflow and infiltration minimization program to mitigate excess flows to the sewage plant⁹ and overflows of raw sewage to the ocean. This restriction was lifted with the DEP issuing of the 2011 ACO. The Rockport is considering implementing a sewer overlay district to control sewer hook ups, but that is only in the planning stage now. With the increased desirability of Rockport, especially for summer and retirement homes, the economics and technology of development in bedrock areas could affect the rate of growth.

⁸ US Department of Agriculture: Soil Survey of Essex County, Massachusetts, Southern Part

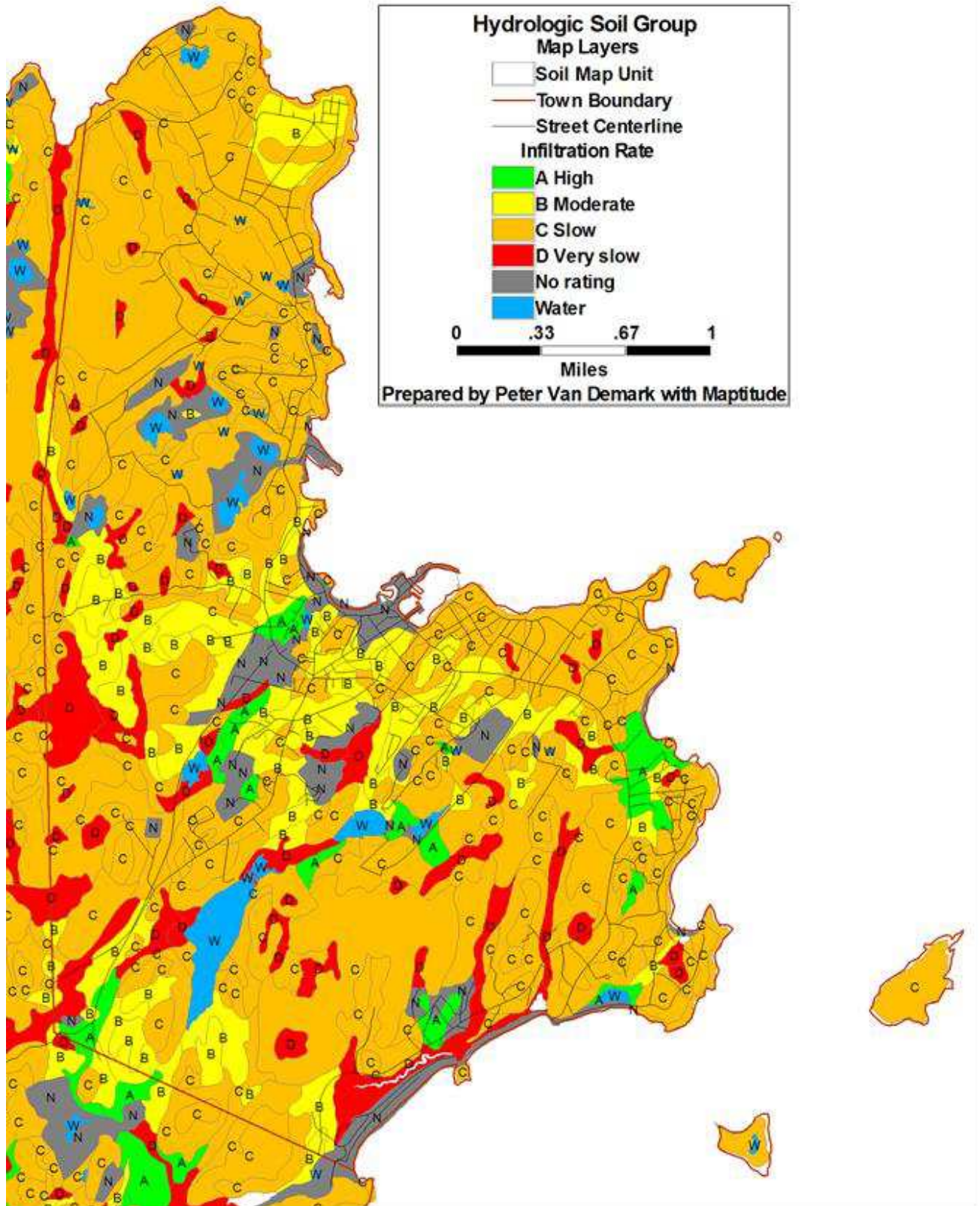
⁹ DEP Administrative Consent Order

¹⁰Securing Rockport's Water Supply prepared for the Rockport Watershed Protection Committee 2008 by Community Investment Associates

Map 4A1 General Soil Map



Map 4A2 Hydrologic Soil Group



5. Drinking Water and Wastewater Issues

Rockport has ten watershed areas defined by the Rockport Zoning Bylaw, of which two are key for the current water supply. Rockport's granite quarrying heritage created the Carlson Quarry, one of the two important sources of water for Rockport; the second source is the Cape Pond Reservoir. Lack of development in the watersheds has helped retain high water quality for Rockport. Section 9, the Seven-Year Action Plan, includes recommendations for protecting the water supply strongly based on the 2008 report of the Watershed Protection Committee¹⁰.

The Mill Brook well field and the Deep Rock well, consisting of a total of four tubular wells, are the permitted groundwater source of Rockport's water supply. The Mill Brook well field is closely linked to Loop Pond that is fed by Mill Brook and located immediately upstream of wells. The Deep Rock well is located in the Cape Pond water shed area. These wells collectively are permitted for approximately 50% of the total permitted capacity in Rockport, but on an annual basis provide around 40% or less of the water consumed.

The delineation of the Mill Brook watershed and very closely associated identified aquifer are located in the central west portion of the Town of Rockport, north of Route 127 and split by the commuter rail line. For all practical purposes, the Mill Brook watershed boundary as shown on the Town Zoning Map is that same delineation as the delineation for the Mill Brook aquifer. Mill Brook and its watershed and associated aquifer drain with water moving from the northwest to the southeast, moving from Briar Swamp through Loop Pond and over and through the well field. The size of the watershed and aquifer is approximately .6 square miles and the headwaters start in Gloucester.

The Mill Brook well field is located at the bottom of Applect Road. The wells are located in shallow, unconsolidated glacial deposits between Poole's Hill to the north and Great Hill to the south. The Deep Rock well is located a short distance to the SE side of Cape Pond. These deposits are typical of the Rockport region. Test drilling at the well field showed that there is 3-4 feet of fine sand and peat in the Mill Brook valley and likely over the length of the well field. This is underlain by sand and gravel for 6-7 feet, silt and clay deposits for a depth of 10-12 feet, followed by additional sand and gravel deposits. Bedrock is assumed to be at depths of 36 feet or more.

The majority of the Mill Brook and Cape Pond watersheds are undeveloped. According to records from the Rockport Assessors' office, there are a total of 224 parcels within the watershed boundary. The predominant land use in the watershed is forest cover, primarily on vacant parcels, but also a small part on some of the residential parcels. The watersheds contain numerous walking trails. There are also extensive wetlands, primarily associated with Briar Swamp and Loop Pond. More than 60% of the watershed is in protected open space in public or non-profit ownership. Having so much undeveloped and protected land within the watershed is beneficial to the protection of the water supply.

4B. Landscape Character

1. Heritage Landscape

Rockport possesses a heritage landscape because of its people's interactions with the natural environment (see Map 4B1). The dense local granite led to the creation of large numbers of commercial quarries and small backyard quarries locally known as motions. Throughout the Town are reminders of the era when Rockport exported granite all over the United States. Rockport's curbing and many of the home foundations are made of local granite blocks. The Keystone Bridge, under which trains, filled with granite, passed on their way to Granite Pier to be loaded onto ships, now carries traffic on its way around Cape Ann. Adjacent to the old railway is Flat Ledge Quarry, which is both a water resource for Rockport

and provides wonderful scenic vistas from nearby public trails. The most well-known of Rockport's quarries is at Halibut Point, which is now a state park and one of the few protected quarries in Rockport.

Major Trail Networks

- **Halibut Point Reservation** is a state park adjacent to a large area owned by the Trustees of Reservations and on the new Essex County Scenic Byway. The park area includes a visitor center and a large quarry from the former Babson Farm. The park is surrounded by trails over the rocks to the ocean, a wooded area, acres of rough blueberry fields, and a splendid lookout built on a massive pile of discarded quarry stone. Halibut Point is a notable bird watching site.
- With several footpaths leading to it from the street, the 1.25-mile **Atlantic Path** allows walkers to follow the rocky shore from Pigeon Cove to the northern end of Hoop Pole Cove. Like Halibut Point, the Atlantic Path is an ideal vantage point for spotting sea birds, especially in the winter. In both 2015 and 2016 the Town of Rockport received grant funding from the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries to cut brush and improve access along the path for recreational fishing. Shore access for recreational fishing is fairly limited in Massachusetts and the Atlantic Path supplies some of the best shore access in the area.
- The wooded area between Phillips and Haven Avenues in Pigeon Cove is called **Andrews Woods**. Although situated in a residential neighborhood, these woods are crisscrossed with paths and are well-used by walkers.
- A railway track that ran between Folly Cove in Gloucester and Pigeon Cove harbor once brought stone from the quarries to be exported by sea. A section of the railway bed leading west off Curtis Street was acquired by the Town, with some adjoining woods, as a conservation area. Trails lead through the woods around a small quarry, **Pine Pit**, and the old railway bed runs over wetlands that attract flocks of migratory birds. This area has had a public trail directory kiosk added at its head by Cape Ann Trails Stewards. It also connects directly to Woodland Acres. Trail improvements are underway for the connecting trails.
- **Woodland Acres** is a newly acquired parcel located adjacent to Pine Pit. Working in partnership with the Town, Essex County Greenbelt Association (ECGA) purchased the parcel and then conveyed the property to the Town, subject to a Conservation Restriction held by ECGA. The land is permanently preserved as open space with publicly accessible trails. The property contains vernal pools and has been designated as core habitat for rare species by the state's Natural Heritage Program. The parcel has an existing trail system and its connected to town land and the parking area at Pine Pit. Pine Pit is the starting point for access to the rail bed, which continues through the woods and connects with trail systems in the City of Gloucester. This parcel is a wonderful addition to Rockport's publicly accessible open spaces.
- **Pigeon Hill** is the site of one of the Town's three water towers. Fields below the tower afford excellent views of the ocean and the Town. The surrounding woods contain trails leading to the former Pingree School in Pigeon Cove and to Steel Derrick and Big Parker's quarries.
- Two large adjoining quarries, **Flat Ledge** and **Carlson's**, now form a major component of Rockport's water supply. The surrounding woods are threaded with trails that pass by smaller pits and remnants of the once-thriving quarry industry. These woods are notable for their many vernal pools and patches of lady slipper orchids.
- Entering the quarry system from the Granite Pier, a former quarry road passes under a keystone arch. This fine example of granite bridge construction, built in 1872, carries Route 127, the main road from Rockport center to Lanesville. In 2015 the former Rockport Granite Savings bank, just as it was to be

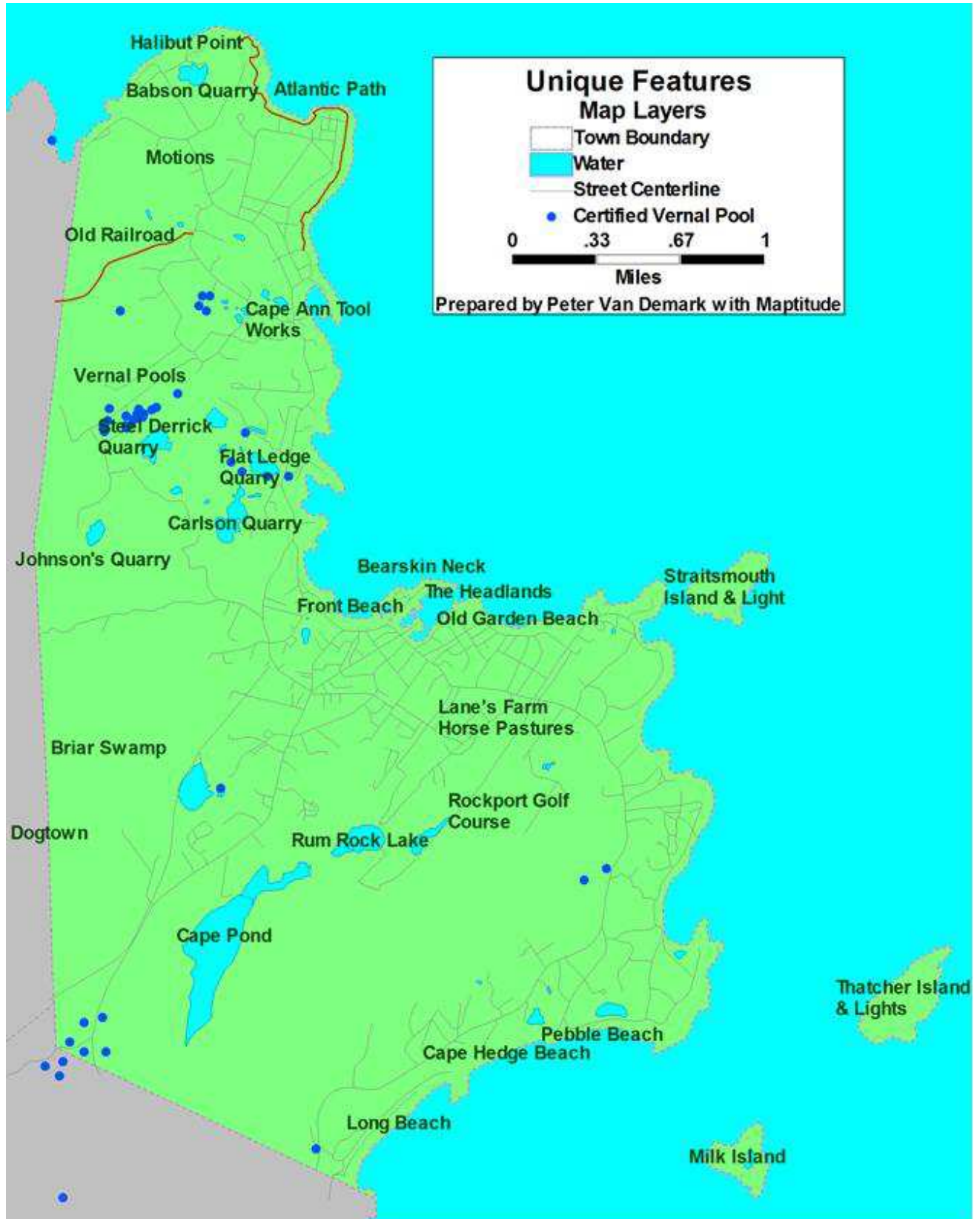
sold, sponsored a project to reduce the over growth in the area so that this very unique bridge is more visible to users of the trail.

- West of the quarries, Rockport woods extend both north and south to provide an almost unbroken wilderness area laced with trails and disused roads, blending along the western Town line with the Gloucester woods known as **Dogtown**.
- Rockport's **Town Forest** can be accessed from Summit Avenue and Squam Hill Road. In 2013 the Conservation Commission has purchased property at the top of Pigeon Hill Street that allows improved parking for the area. The property has three small granite quarries on it and trails that connect directly to Steel Derrick and Johnsons Quarry water shed. Also, existing trails on private land lead around a water tower into the Steel Derrick and Johnson's Quarry watershed, along a footbridge that spans the cranberry bogs and pitcher plants of **Briar Swamp**, and into the many wooded acres of Dogtown. Paths lead eastward to the recreation area of Evans Field.
- Beavers have flooded large areas of the woods near the commuter rail tracks and Route 127, the main road into Rockport. They maintain a lodge in the middle of **Loop Pond**, where a circumferential trail accommodates wildlife observers.
- Trails and a dirt surface fire road leading out of **Beech Grove Cemetery** take walkers into the Southern Woods. This very large undeveloped watershed area contains **Cape Pond**, Rockport's other main reservoir, and the brooks, streams, and deep-rock aquifers that feed into the Pond. The area is remarkable open woodlands not overgrown with invasive low growth, like much of the town's undeveloped area. Generous tracts of mountain laurel line the trails of the **South Woods**, and there are fine vistas from the high outcroppings and boulders. Walkers and horseback riders frequent these dense woods.
- On the eastern side of the South Woods, bordering the Rockport Golf Club and on the new Essex County Scenic Byway, the town owned meadows of **Waring Fields** are maintained as active agricultural land by the locale Lane Farm. The trails from there lead to the **Delamater Preserve** conservation area, which can also be accessed directly from South Street. Cape Ann Trail Stewards has added this as part of the CATA bus route trail head stop. They have added a trail map kiosk and trail stop sign directly on South Street (RT 127A) to increase public use of trails.
- Access to the ocean south of the center of Rockport is available along a chain of beaches, coves, and rocky ledges. Public footpaths lead in from the road to **Emerson Point, Flat Rock Point, Steep Bank Landing, and Cogswell Farm Landing**. There is limited parking at **Long Beach, Cape Hedge Beach, Pebble Beach, and Loblolly Cove**, but all these areas attract walkers as well as large numbers of swimmers, divers, surfers, fishermen, bird watchers, and picnickers year-round. In 2013 the owners donated to the town the spectacular property that directly overlooks Open Ocean, Cape Hedge and Pebble Beach. The land known as the Sandpiper Overlook was the site of an Inn that burnt down over 30 years ago. The land was encircled with a chain link fence and contained a collapsed foundation and old parking area. The site is being cleaned up and revitalized by the Rockport DPW and Conservation Commission with a natural landscape that contains a walking trail with a few viewing areas.
- Eden Road along the ocean looks out on **Thacher Island**, site of the twin lighthouses that have become a Town trademark and center the official Town seal. The island is approximately 52 acres. The southern 30 acres are owned by the Town of Rockport. The northern 22 acres are owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and are a National Wildlife Refuge. The island is accessible by boat for walkers, bird watchers, and fishermen.
- Closer to the center of town is the **Kieran Preserve**, named for the distinguished naturalist John Kieran, who summered in Rockport. The Preserve is a town-owned nature sanctuary with a circular path that features songbirds, mosses and ferns, and a spectacular display of trout lilies in spring.

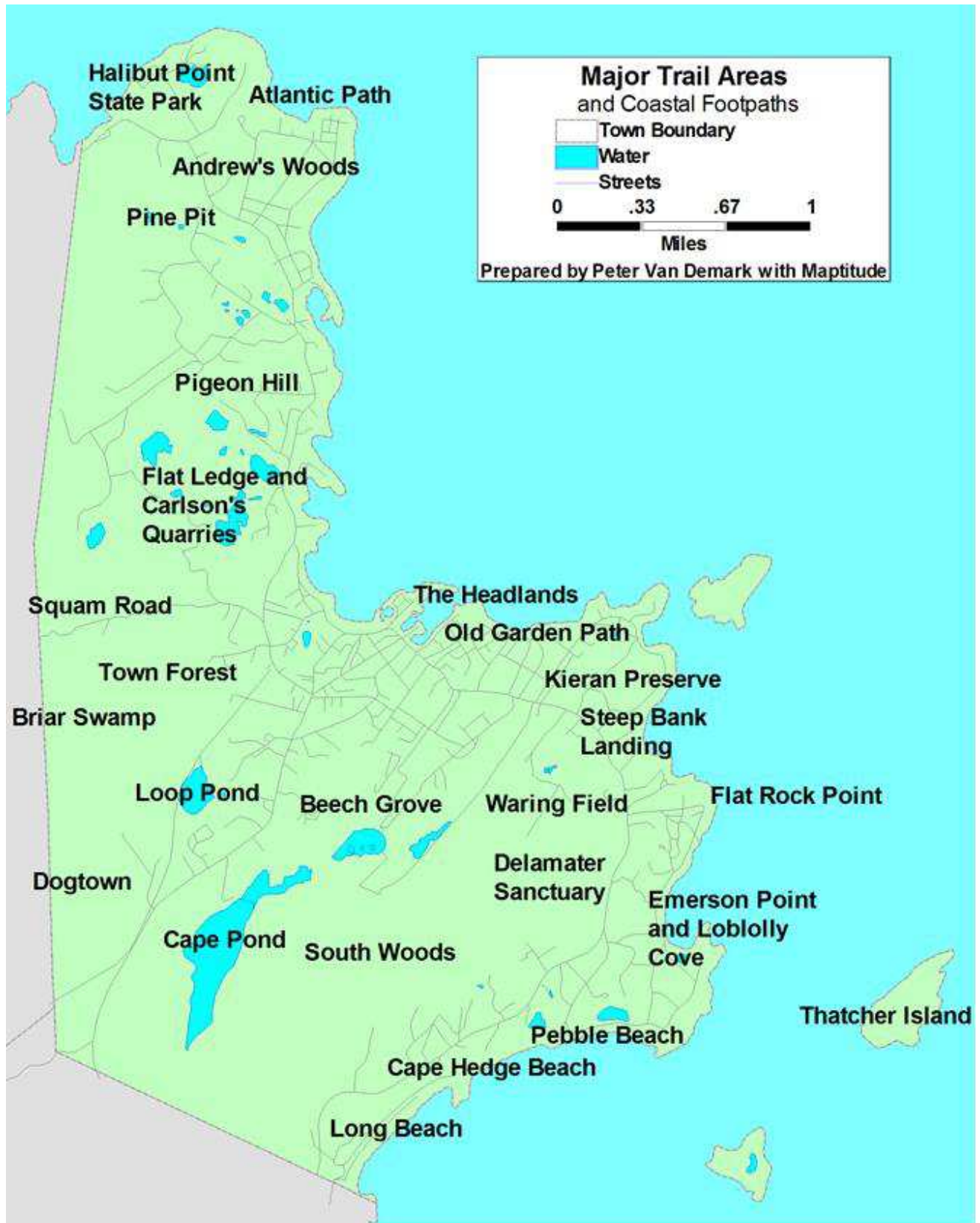
- The **Old Garden Path** is a relatively flat and smooth walkway along the ocean skirting Old Garden Beach and Davis Park, with superb views of birds, boats and sea.
- Just outside the center of Town, **The Headlands** is a large rocky area with pathways and benches where visitors can picnic and enjoy views of the ocean and harbor.

A series of public footpaths, lookouts, beaches, and pocket parks encircles the business center of Rockport, facilitating intimate and accessible contact with the sea that has played such a profound role in the history of the Town.

Map 4B1 Unique Features



Map 4B2 Major Trails Areas



2. Beaches

There are seven beaches in Rockport and all are accessible to the public (see Table 4B2). Two of these beaches are in Town, Front Beach and Back Beach. Old Garden Beach is within walking distance while Cape Hedge Beach, Pebble Beach, Loblolly Beach and Long Beach are at the South End.

Table 4B2. Rockport Beaches

Beach	Parking
Back Beach	Metered
Front Beach	Metered
Old Garden Beach	Resident only
Pebble Beach	Partially open
Cape Hedge Beach	Resident only
Long Beach	Resident only
Loblolly Beach	Resident only

3. Issues

There are many issues, which the Committee has addressed in the Seven-Year Action Plan recommendations in Section 9:

- Marking of trails, including kiosks
- Need for parking at certain trails and rights of way
- Preservation of public rights of way
- Paths and rights of way
- Permitted uses
- Maintenance of trails and rights of way
- Mapping of trails and rights of way
- ADA access
- Improving the level of protection of public trails
- Identification of priority parcels for protection

4C. Water Resources

There are extensive fresh and saltwater resources in Rockport, which play an important role in the social, economic and environmental fabric of the Town. For a variety of reasons, water resources are more important to Rockport than most municipalities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Due to the importance of Rockport's water resources, they need to be carefully considered as part of any open space planning and implementation process.

1. Drinking Water

In 2013, the Town contracted with Dewberry Engineers Inc. to provide the Town with a Water Needs Assessment of its water system supply and infrastructure. The Needs Assessment was completed in 2015 and can be found on the Town's DPW web page. This section has been updated with information from the 2015 report.

The Town of Rockport depends on both surface and groundwater supplies for its domestic water supply. Rockport does not have access to the water resources of the Metropolitan Water Resources Authority and

only limited ability exists to draw on Gloucester's water supply in the event of an emergency. The municipal water delivery system provides 3500 connections serving approximately 96% of the Town's population. In 2013, the average daily demand on the system was .57 million gallons per day (MGD). The Town historically experiences a seasonal increase of about 30% above its average daily water usage during the summer months due to it being a popular summer destination. Rockport's water system is registered under the Water Management Act to provide a maximum average daily withdrawal of 0.72 MGD from all sources over the course of the year. A summary of the current supply areas is outlined in Table 4C below and locations of the water supply areas can be found in Map 4C1.

Table 4C: Existing Water Supply Watersheds in Rockport

Water Source	Status	Permitted Withdrawal
Cape Pond Reservoir	Registered	.72 MGD includes Carlson's, Flat Ledge and Mill Brook Wellfield
Carlson's Quarry Reservoir	Registered	
Flat Ledge Quarry	Permitted as additional source - 2002	
Mill Brook Well field And Deep Rock well	Registered	Deep Rock added in 2013 .36 MGD
Saw Mill Brook	Emergency use only	
Steel Derrick Quarry Reservoir	Emergency use only	

Source: Water Supply Operations Plan for Rockport, Massachusetts. SEA Consultants. 2005

Cape Pond Reservoir Watershed

Cape Pond is Rockport's oldest source of public water and was first used as a reservoir in 1895. It is the largest area of surface water as can be seen on Map 4C1. In 2013, the reservoir currently supplied approximately 100.9 MG from Cape Pond, representing 47% of the total supply pumped. Water from other sources is sometimes diverted into Cape Pond for storage prior to being run through the water treatment system located next to Cape Pond. The Cape Pond watershed is approximately 216 acres; of this total about 86% of the land is in municipal control making this the most protected water supply in Rockport. Only a minor level of residential development exists on the western edge of the Cape Pond watershed. Within this watershed, the Deep Rock well was added in 2013 and is permitted for .36 MDG. It pumps directly into Cape Pond. It will be used primarily in the summer season to help compensate for Rockport large influx of summer residence and visitor. During the summer of 2016, a rare algae bloom developed in Cape Pond Reservoir due to unusual drought conditions combined with elevated daily temperatures. The bloom limited the Town's ability to draw from this source for a portion of the summer. Previous to that, the Town pumped 40.8 MG from the well to Cape Pond in 2015.

Carlson's Quarry and Flat Ledge Quarry Watersheds

The Carlson's and Flat Ledge quarry complex has been used for municipal water supply purposes since 1953. This watershed also includes Steel Derrick, Johnson's and many other smaller water bodies. Permits were issued to include additional water withdrawals from Flat Ledge Quarry as recently as 2002. Both quarries reach depths of approximately 100 feet. The Carlson's/Flat Ledge watershed is approximately 196 acres in size. Within this area Steel Derrick Quarry has often been used for emergency water supply. Water is transferred from Steel Derrick Quarry to Carlson's Quarry by gravity overland or through a pipe. This watershed is relatively undeveloped with approximately 24 residential properties contained within its boundaries. A number of these houses are serviced by on-site subsurface sewage disposal. However, only about 40% of this watershed is municipally owned with the remainder being primarily large privately owned and undeveloped lots.

The Town continues in 2016 to have authorization to expand the storage capacity of Flat Ledge Quarry with the construction of a large concrete dam at the eastern side of the quarry. In 2016 the town did purchase the last two parcels of land that bordered the quarry. With the addition of the deep rock well filling Cape Pond, the town does not feel this dam needs to be constructed at this time.

Saw Mill Brook Watershed

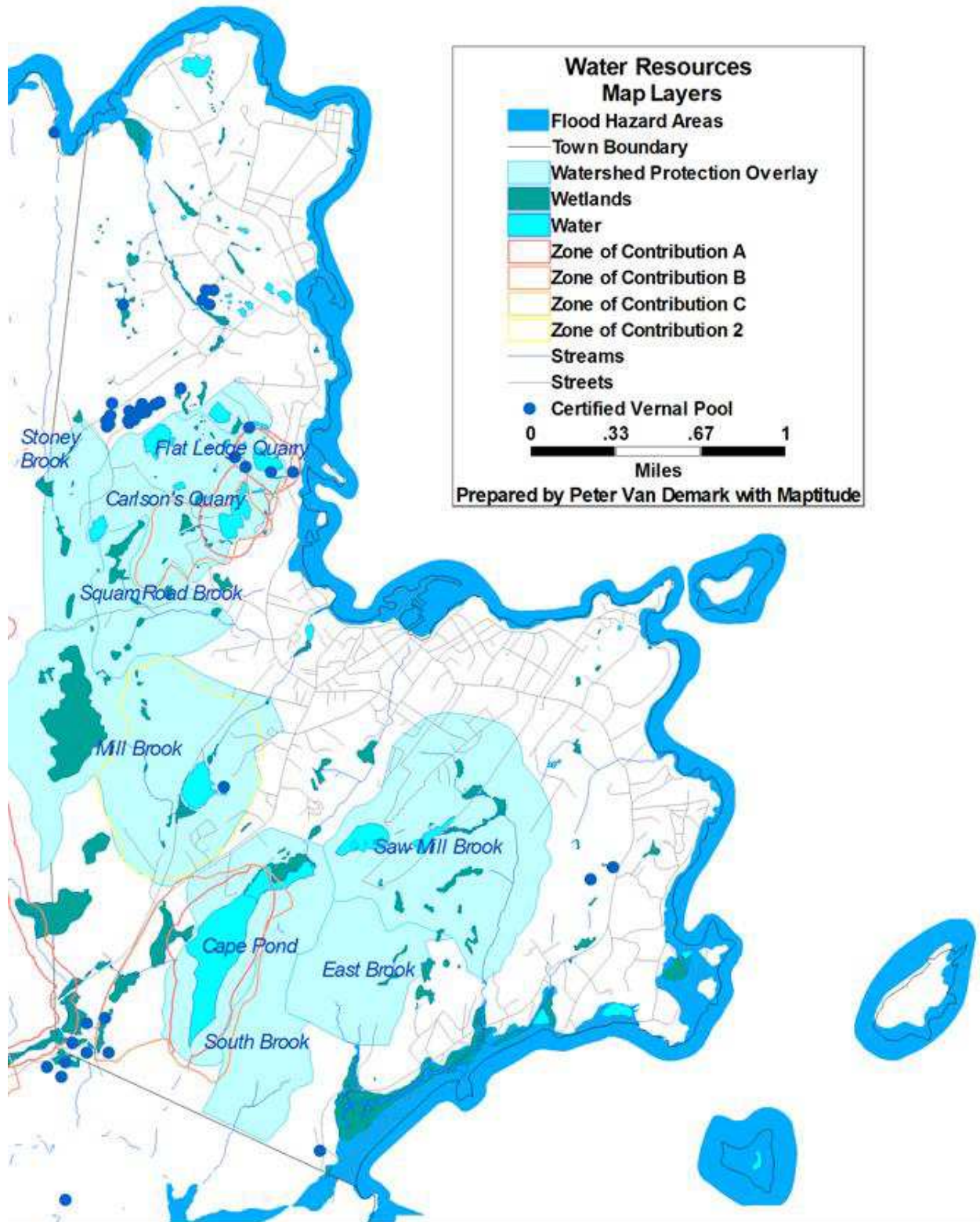
The Saw Mill Brook is located in the southeastern side of Rockport and drains a relatively large watershed of 378 acres. A long pipeline runs through the woods from the pumping station off Frank Street to Cape Pond. This water supply is used only for emergency purposes. Between 1990 and 2007, pumping took place only twice, in 2000 and 2002. The Saw Mill Brook watershed is the most developed and potentially most developable in the future. Only about 70 acres of this watershed is municipally owned and much of this is school property. There are many houses in this watershed that are still on privately owned septic systems. Many on-going subdivision and smaller development projects are being proposed within this watershed. This area's water quality is such that when it is pumped into Cape Pond it requires more extensive chemical processing to bring water quality to current standards. With the Deep Rock Well on line it will be very unlikely to be used.

Mill Brook Watershed

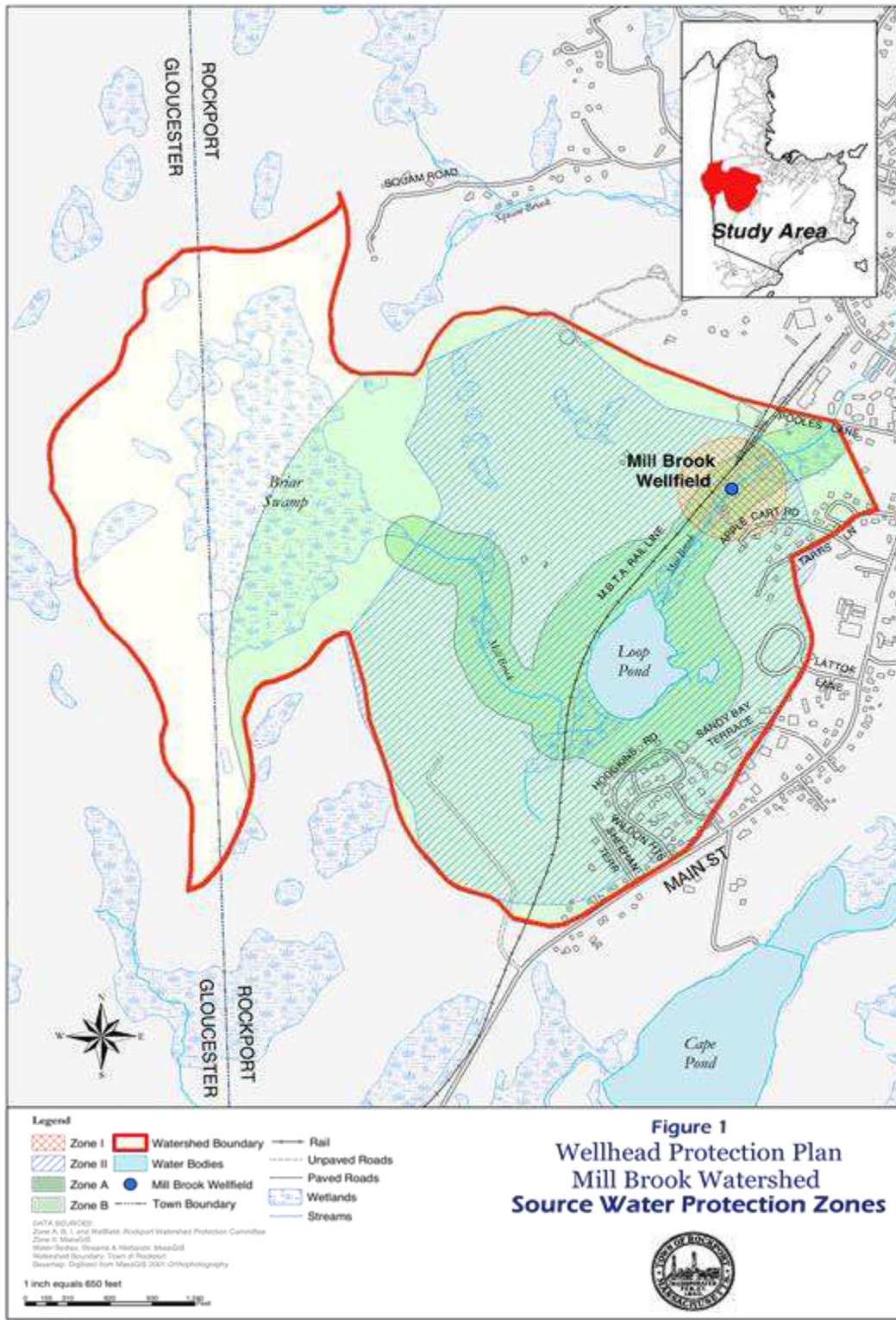
The Mill Brook watershed is located predominantly north of Route 127 and the brook. This brook begins in the middle of Cape Ann at Briar Swamp, traveling through both the manmade Loop Pond and Mill Pond before reaching the ocean to discharge on the western end of Front Beach. The well field is located at the base of Applecart Road and is comprised of three eight-inch wells that extend to just above bedrock (only 20-23 feet below the ground surface). These wells are permitted to supply up to .2 MGD or about 25% of the water demand in Rockport. For 2013, The Town pumped approximately 12.6 MG from the Mill Brook Well Field averaging .0345 MGD. Water is pumped from the wells to either Cape Pond or directly to the water treatment facility. (see Map 4C2 Millbrook Well field)

The Mill Brook watershed, above the well field, is approximately 450 acres. The Town of Rockport owns over 60%, 276 acres. This watershed has two clusters of medium density residential development, one in the Tarr's Lane area and the other in the Hodgkins Road area. In addition, a 13-unit subdivision was built on Lattof Lane in 2002. The greatest threat to this water resource is the presence of the MBTA commuter rail line, which runs for close to a mile through the watershed less than 100 feet from the actual wellhead locations.

Map 4C1 Water Resources



Map 4C2 Millbrook Well Field



Other Water Supply Areas

Based on current water consumption and approved withdrawals of the existing water supplies, the Town can meet present average day demands as well as short-term periods of maximum day demands under normal conditions. However, the Town has occasionally experienced supply problems, particularly when high demand periods have occurred concurrently with an extended drought. Even with the Deep Rock Well on line, the exceptional dry summer of 2016 has caused the town to implement water usage restrictions for the first time in several years. The DPW has taken a very proactive stance in requiring these restrictions to ensure that there will be sufficient water to carry us through the drought.

Stoney Brook, Squam Brook, East Brook and South Brook watersheds are not currently used for water supply purposes. They were added to the Rockport Watershed Protection Zoning Overlay District for their potential support for the municipal water system in the future.

2. Other Freshwater Resources

Rockport has numerous freshwater resources both within and outside the Watershed Overlay Zoning District, affording high recreational, flood attenuation, aesthetic and wildlife value. The wetlands can be seen in Map 4C1.

- Briar Swamp is located at the headwater of Mill Brook at the boundary between Rockport and Gloucester. It is the largest area on the wetlands map. This extensive sphagnum bog not only provides exceptional wildlife habitat, but also acts as a jumbo-size sponge, slowly releasing water to Mill Brook throughout even the longest droughts in Rockport, to keep water in the Mill Brook, Loop Pond and Mill Pond throughout the year.
- Mill Pond was created by the colonial era Mill Pond dam. This 1.5-acre pond is located adjacent to Mill Brook Park at the intersection of a number of public walkways, roads and trails. In addition to pure aesthetic value the pond is used for skating and fishing. The dam has been completely rebuilt in 2011 using federal and state grants. It should be noted that the Mill Pond was filling up with storm water sediments and has lost most of its original depth and has lost much of its recreational values. The town in 2016 approved usage of approximately 600K\$ of CPC money, and the dredging of 5000sf of the main pond and the nearby Frog pond was completed in 2017. Replanting of the two ponds continues.
- Halibut Point Quarry is a large abandoned granite quarry that is now part of the state park system.
- Steel Derrick, Big and Little Parker Pits are located within the Carlson Quarry watershed and are used as private swimming areas.
- Henry's Pond, sometimes referred to as Camborne Pond, is a small coastal pond with associated wetlands, separated from the ocean by only about 100 feet of coastal dunes. This area is well known for relatively safe winter skating due to its shallow depth, but it is also important as a freshwater stopover spot for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. The DPW has a project to restore the protective pebble dune and road that helps prevent the pond from filling with materials from the adjacent barrier beach. The project was challenged and an appeal was filed with DEP. DEP approved the project in 2017; however, the town has decided to forego repaving the access road located in a wetland resource area.
- Rockport has dozens of both certified and uncertified vernal pools (see Map 4C1 above) located throughout the undeveloped sections of Town. Many are in areas of abandoned granite quarries and are either seasonally or permanently filled with water.

3. Tidewater Resources

Salt Marshes

Rockport possesses just one large area of salt marsh wetlands, totaling about 64 acres, located behind Long and Cape Hedge beaches. These wetlands play a particularly important role in flood protection and wildlife habitat, notably as a foraging area for migratory birds. Coastal wetlands provide flood attenuation and are an important buffer from strong coastal storms. They also provide important foraging and spawning habitat for a wide variety of commercially and recreationally important marine species such as rainbow smelt, winter flounder and American eels. The town of Rockport has made numerous efforts in the past decade to increase protection and undertake restoration of this area of salt marsh.

Beaches

Rockport contains many relatively small but highly valuable public sandy beaches including Back, Front, Old Garden, Loblolly, Pebble, Cape Hedge, and Long Beach. Coastal water quality is an important attraction for both residents and tourists who visit Rockport's beaches. These are pocket beaches with the associated winter summer sand movement. The town has had the Long beach sand movement studied and it may consider a sand nourishment project there.

Rocky Coastal, Open and Sub-Tidal Water Resources and Recreation

Rockport has extensive rocky coastline, most of which is accessible for public use and enjoyment for swimming, walking, fishing and other shore-side activities.

Sub-tidal coastal water resources are some of the most important in this community. Many people in Rockport make their living from the lobster fishery that takes place in very close proximity to the shore. In addition, Rockport is one of the most popular scuba diving locations on the east coast of the United States and many people are attracted to the Town for the recreational fishing opportunities just off our shoreline. Many other recreational activities take place in the waters surrounding Rockport including sailing, kayaking, paddle boarding, surfing and boating.

4. Flood Protection and Watershed Management

A vast number of regulatory and non-regulatory management and protection tools, actions, committees and plans oversee fresh water and tidal water resources in Rockport. From a regulatory standpoint, construction-oriented activities in close proximity to water resources may come under the authority of any or all of the following: Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Health, Department of Public Works, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers. Rockport waterways come under many regulatory authorities because so much of the Town is located in coastal flood zones or in close proximity to streams, reservoirs, wetlands and other wetland resource areas. FEMA Flood Hazard Zones A and V can be viewed in Map 4C1.

Rockport is bordered by the sea and is subject to flooding in severe storms. FEMA indicates that the Old Harbor, Bearskin Neck and some properties seaward of Mount Pleasant Street on Rockport Harbor are areas that fall within the coastal floodplain and would be inundated by 100-year flooding with additional hazards from storm waves. The land along Main Street and Beach Street between the Old Harbor and Rowe Point falls within the floodplain, with the properties seaward of Main Street in the Old Harbor having the potential to be flooded to a depth of 1-3 feet. In 2015, the new FEMA maps were introduced.

Many of their zone levels had changed dramatically. The areas above, along with the Long Beach community, were the ones that the town felt were most affected. The Maps were officially challenged by the town. The town won and most of the FEMA lines were reverted back to the pre-2015 levels.

In addition to the regulatory approaches to water resource management, Rockport has a number of non-regulatory boards and committees that manage or provide advice on water related activities. These include the Watershed Protection Committee, Granite Pier Committee, Harbor Committee, Thatcher Island Committee and Rights of Way Committee. Non-profit organizations such as The Trustees of Reservations, Essex County Greenbelt Association and Massachusetts Audubon Society all own and manage land in Rockport.

4D. Vegetation

1. General Inventory

Red and white oaks dominate the forested mid-slope areas in Rockport, often in association with red maple and yellow, black, and gray birch. Where beech dominates the canopy, there are dense areas of mountain laurel and smaller numbers of witch hazel, hobblebush, and blueberry. On moister northern slopes, stands of pure hemlock provide cool, shady shelter for wildlife. On the low slopes and along the upland borders of Rockport's wetlands, the plant community begins to support more moisture tolerant species such as red oak, white ash and tupelo. Large stands of tupelo can be found near ponds and swamps throughout Rockport with smaller numbers of witch hazel, high bush blueberry, and arrow-wood.

Each of these communities supports a tremendous amount of herbaceous growth, including many species of ericas (heath), lilies and orchids. Common species of upland ferns include bracken, hay scented and Christmas ferns, as well as marginal wood fern.

In addition to the typical New England forest trees, Rockport supports extensive areas of coastal thicket and maritime forest. At Halibut Point, a forested area dominated by black locust, black cherry and honeysuckle gives way to an enormous and dense coastal shrub thicket of low bush blueberry, huckleberry, wind stunted black cherry and stag horn sumac, all protected by and interwoven with common greenbrier and poison ivy. Paths running through this area lead to the sea, providing access for blueberry pickers and sunbathers.

2. Forest Land and Shade Trees

Rockport's rugged upland topography has a variety of upland mixed forest and shrub land. On the drier hilltops and south facing slopes with thin soils, oak, red cedar and pitch pine dominate the low canopy, while healthy low shrubs such as huckleberry, low bush blueberry, and common juniper form a dense and impenetrable ground cover. Table 4D1 and Map 4D show the major public woodland tracts in Rockport.

Table 4D1 Rockport Public Woodland Tracts

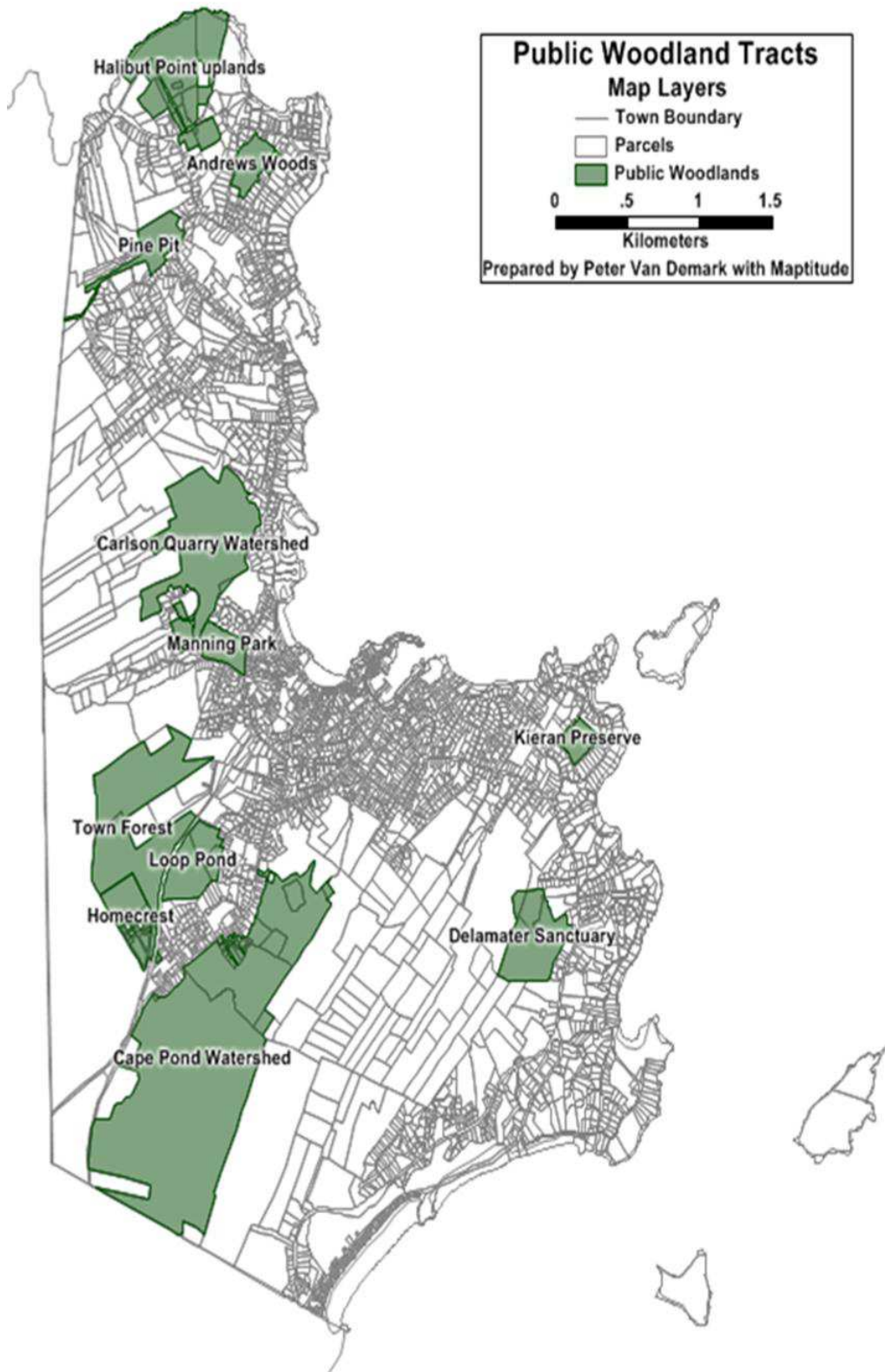
Woodland Tracts	Acreage	Recreational and Environmental Interest
Carlson Quarry Watershed	11.50	Walking, biking, vernal pond, cross country skiing & ecosystem protection
Pine Pit	18.63	Walking, cross country skiing, biking, ecosystem protection
Cape Pond Watershed	248.60	Walking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, biking, ecosystem protection
Town Forest	74.07	Walking, biking, ecosystem protection
Homecrest	12.99	Ecosystem protection
Loop Pond	32.56	Walking, ecosystem protection
Halibut Point uplands	12.00	Walking, sea access, ecosystem protection
Delamater Sanctuary	41.79	Walking, ecosystem protection
Kieran Preserve	10.43	Walking, ecosystem protection
Andrews Woods	15.00	Walking
Manning Park	15.34	Ecosystem protection
Woodland Acres	47.00	Walking, hiking, cross country skiing, ecosystem protection, vernal pool, & links to existing trail network

Table 4D1 shows the wide variety of Rockport's protected forested land, supporting a wide variety of native tree vegetation, including a large number and variety of shade trees. Particularly because Rockport maintains its own water supply, the watershed surrounding and providing that resource has always required special consideration and care. Table 4D1 shows the vast array of large and small acres protected for that valuable resource as well as many tracts used almost entirely for recreational activities.

In addition, with tourism a long-standing economic driver for the Town, many Rockporters understand the economic value of their tree vegetation. Most recently, as ecotourism has been a growing consideration, ecotourism with a small e has been a factor in the Town's economy. Visitors stay in conventional inns and hotels, but enjoy recreational activities on beaches, ocean, parks and nature trails. Just as there has been an effort to reinvigorate the use of our parks and water access areas; the long-neglected specific plan for the Town's shade trees should be revamped and acted on. Like many others, Rockport's main streets once were lined with large healthy shade trees, many of which disappeared during the years of rampant Dutch elm disease. The predominant tree in place now is Norway maple, an invasive species. Many of which are starting to reach their end of life, making them good candidates for replacement with native species. Today's widespread budget pressures prevent funding for an official shade tree program, including the lack of a Town Arborist who, in past years directed Rockport's shade tree care.

Section 4G9 describes the recent commitment from the Town's very active Garden Club to fund and supervise an expanding program to monitor and address the health of the many in-town shade trees. It appears these "privately" funded efforts will need to take responsibility while the public budget remains inadequate to do so. The Garden Club's addition of this program to its very full agenda of 13 public flower gardens shows the value placed on Rockport's tree inventory by its residents.

Map 4D Public Woodland Tracts



3. Wetland Vegetation

Rockport supports many wetlands, including red maple swamps, emergent scrub swamps, freshwater marshes, wet meadows, and even a couple of small cranberry bogs. In addition, old motions (former small granite quarries), shallow gravel pits and the naturally uneven topography in town provide numerous locations for vernal ponds, 40 of which have been documented.

Rockport has many areas of red maple swamp, including parts of Briar Swamp and Cape Pond. A beautiful example exists on the Delamater property on the south side of town adjacent to South Street. In addition to red maples, these communities are often characterized by an understory of densely growing high bush blueberry, winterberry, northern arrow-wood, shadbush, and spicebush. Herbaceous cover usually consists of cinnamon and sensitive fern, jewelweed, skunk cabbage, and sphagnum moss.

Shrub swamps also occur in Rockport in areas that are in transition between wet meadow and red maple swamp. These areas support some red maples, but are chiefly dominated by dense stands of speckled alder, pussy willow, silky dogwood, high bush blueberry, sweet pepper bush and numerous other wetland species. Herbaceous species found here are often the same or similar to those found in red maple swamps.

4. Freshwater Marsh Systems

Freshwater marsh systems can be found near Cape Pond, and in pockets both in the south end of town and in Dogtown. These areas are characterized and dominated by herbaceous plant species such as common and narrow leaved cattail, tussock sedge, bur-reed, and numerous rushes and sedges. Many of these areas are tremendously diverse, but in some places *Phragmites australis* (common reed) and *Lythium salicaria* (purple loosestrife) are taking over and out-competing the native species. Freshwater marshes naturally support the greatest plant diversity of any wetland, making protection particularly important.

5. Wet Meadow and Grassland Areas

Like freshwater marshes, Rockport's wet meadows are dominated by herbaceous plant species. Rushes and ferns can be found along with tussock sedge, purple loosestrife and many graminoid species. Finally, many tiny bogs may be found scattered throughout Rockport's open spaces, including an area on the Delamater property and at least one near Rockport's section of Dogtown. These small areas are generally covered with sphagnum moss and support cranberry, bog rosemary and several other bog species. High bush blueberry, sweet gale and winterberry mark the edges of these systems. Added to these naturally occurring wetland habitats, Rockport's quarrying history created many small ponds and vernal pools where motions and abandoned gravel pits returned to life as they filled with water over many years.

Rockport has a limited number of valuable grassland areas as well, including the Rowe Field, Waring Fields and the Loop Pond Area.

6. Salt Marsh

Saratoga Creek, at the South end of Town, is a protected saltwater marsh bounded by a quite densely developed upland, an extremely developed and seasonally inhabited area adjacent to Long Beach, the undeveloped Cape Hedge Beach, and the route to Gloucester, Thatcher Road. Many decades of storm drain sediment load had raised the marsh surface several feet by 1999, surrounding the storm water outfalls. In addition, a freshwater point source from storm drain outfalls promoted a vigorous stand of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) that was replacing the *Spartina patens* community. Since 1999 local officials have collaborated with state and federal funding agencies and local nonprofit organizations to undertake many salt marsh restoration projects.

7. Agricultural Land

There is only a small amount of agricultural land in Rockport. But the 200 plus year old Lane farm has been reinvigorated by its present generation of the Lane family. It participates in the very popular local farmers markets, raises grass feed beef and runs its own farm stand offering that and its organic vegetables. The farm leases and maintains the town owned Waring fields as agricultural land. The Bryant family has developed a farm plan that gained state approval for some of their property that has also been in agricultural use for centuries. Fortunately for Rockport, the Lane farm fields, Waring fields and Bryant fields, along with other privately-owned grazing areas, are all nearly adjacent to the Rockport Golf Club land. This matrix makes up a collective accessible open area of approximately 130 acres. This is largest area like this in town and it is very much appreciated by the walkers and hikers of Rockport.

8. Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MNHESP) has identified several plant species in Rockport which are state or federally classified as rare, endangered, or threatened. These are shown in Table 4D2. In addition, the MNHESP has identified instances of the Southern New England Rocky Headland Community (an “exemplary natural community”) in Rockport at Halibut and Emerson Points. There are also 75 certified vernal pools in town, and two areas specified as priority sites of rare species habitat, including Briar Swamp.

Table 4D2 Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

Taxonomic group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Federal Status	Most Recent Observation
Vascular Plant	<i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i>	Adder's tongue Fern	Threatened	Not Listed	1928
Vascular Plant	<i>Platanthera flava var. herbiola</i>	Pale green Orchids	Threatened	Not Listed	1921
Vascular Plant	<i>Rumex pallidus</i>	Sea beach Dock	Threatened	Not Listed	2008

4E. Fisheries and Wildlife

1. Wildlife

Wildlife is abundant and diverse in Rockport due to the Town's extensive woodland, wetland and coastal areas. Migrant and resident populations of birds, fish and mammals are typical of those found throughout much of Essex County, and the rocky intertidal and salt marsh habitats support a rich variety of species characteristic of the northeast coast. Table 4E2 shows the mammals and Table 4E3 shows the reptiles and amphibians found in Rockport.

Table 4E2 Mammals

Whitetail Deer	Red Fox	White-footed Mouse
Eastern Cottontail	Little Brown Bat	Red-backed Mole
North East Cottontail	Big Brown Bat	Meadow Vole
Striped Skunk	Eastern Long-eared Bat	Pine Vole
Short-tailed weasel	Eastern Mole	Muskrat
Long-tailed weasel	Star nose Mole	Meadow Jumping Mouse
Mink	Eastern Gray Squirrel	Woodland Jumping Mouse
Otter	Red Squirrel	Norway Rat
Fisher	Eastern Chipmunk	House Mouse
Raccoon	Woodchuck	Masked Shrew
Coyote	Beaver	Short tail Shrew
	Porcupine	

Table 4E3 Reptiles and Amphibians

Snakes	Turtles	Frogs & Toads	Salamanders
Common Garter	Eastern Box	Spring Peeper	Yellow-Spotted
Ring-Necked	Painted	Gray Tree	Four-Toed
Milk	Snapping	Pickerel	Two-Lined
Eastern Ribbon	Spotted	Leopard	Spring
Brown	Blandings*	Bullfrog	Red-Backed
Black Racer		Green	Eastern Red Spotted Newt
Northern Water		Wood	
		American Toad	

* State Status: Threatened⁵

2. Vernal Pools

As of 2009, according to the Natural Heritage website⁹, Rockport had 75 certified vernal pools. a few additional sites have been identified as potentially certifiable vernal pools in the National Heritage Atlas. A major focus of future open space efforts should be to gain certification for these vernal pools, particularly those on private property. Opportunities for enhancing property owner cooperation should be explored in order to make certification more viable. The Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team is a local non-profit organization that specifically focuses on protection and stewardship of the vernal ponds of Cape Ann.

3. Diadromous Fish¹⁰

Diadromous fish are fish which live part of their life in fresh water and part in salt water and are made up of both anadromous and catadromous fish. Anadromous fish live in the sea and spawn in fresh water. Since 2000, two rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) spawning habitats have been identified in Rockport, one in the Sawmill Brook and one in Mill Brook. Rainbow smelt, native between southern New England to the Arctic Ocean, are schooling fish that feed primarily on microscopic sea animals (zooplankton). Annual smelt spawning occurs in Massachusetts Bay from March through May. Smelt are popular with

⁹ National Heritage and Endangered Species Program, WWW.MASS.GOV/DFWELE/DFW/NHESP/NHESP.HTM

¹⁰ Rockport Municipal Harbor Plan, 2003, p.12

WWW.UHI.UMB.EDU/PDF_FILES/ROCKPORT_HARBOR_PLAN.PDF

recreational fishermen and form an important component of the food chain. Smelt eggs are adhesive and are typically deposited on the substrate of freshwater riffles just upstream of tidal influences.

A direct relationship exists between stream flows and smelt spawning. Discharge data and field observations from the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game indicate that the present minimum flow at both Rockport brooks is barely sufficient to attract spawning adults and protect the eggs. Withdrawals below this threshold could easily jeopardize the habitat, although further investigation is required before any definite characterizations can be made.

Catadromous American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) also live in most of the freshwater streams and larger water bodies that drain out of Rockport. These fish live most of their lives in fresh water and spawn in salt water. Mill Brook, and its upstream watershed, supports an active eel run. Since the Mill Brook dam's reconstruction was completed in 2014, a group of local volunteers has maintained an elver trap at the dam to document the strength of that run and to evaluate the effectiveness of the eel ramp mounted during the reconstruction. In 2015, the group recorded 603 elvers between April and October. During the same period in 2016, only 10 elvers were recorded. The large discrepancy between the two years is believed to be a factor of the record drought conditions in 2016. Summer rainfall amounts were so low that flows down the eel ramp stopped from late July through late September. The trap had to be disconnected for much of that time period. In 2017 with more normal precipitation, record numbers of eels were collected at the site. There were 1,924 elvers collected between March and October of that year. The majority of those were recorded in the final weeks of May 2017. Elver numbers this far in 2018 have been steady, but far below 2017's numbers. Only 91 elvers have been recorded as of July 1, 2018. Precipitation has also been below that experienced during the 2017 field season. The group plans to continue monitoring at the dam.

4. Freshwater Fish

Table 4E3 shows the freshwater fish that can be found in pools, ponds and streams in Rockport.

Table 4E3 Freshwater Fish

Yellow Perch	Bluegill Sunfish
White Perch	Banded Sunfish
Chain Pickerel	Orange Spotted Sunfish
Large Mouth Bass	Small Mouth Bass
Black Crappie	American Eel
Common Shiner	Golden Shiner
Yellow Bullhead	Brown Bullhead
Carp	White Sucker

5. Shellfish

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has responsibility for monitoring the water quality in shellfish bed areas and classifying shellfish beds.

The shellfish beds immediately offshore in Sandy Bay are classified as Management Closure by DMF using Federal Standards.¹¹ The Management Closure indicates the maximum area that could be directly impacted by a potential bacterial contamination caused by total failure of the sewage treatment process.

¹¹ *ibid* p. 27

The closure is in effect even if no contamination exists at the time and the Town meets current state standards. Recreational and commercial shell fishing is prohibited in a Closure area.

Anecdotal information exists that there is some recreational shell fishing of surf clams (*Spisula solidissima*) by divers off the coast of Rockport. Other shellfish resources in the area include surf clams, blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), sea scallops (*Placopecten magellanicus*), and ocean quahogs (*Arctica islandica*).

6. Birds

Rockport is home to an extraordinary diversity of bird species. The Halibut Point Reservation bird list numbers 235 species, including northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, American golden plover, snowy owl, redheaded woodpecker, northern and loggerhead shrikes, white-winged crossbill, and grasshopper sparrow. The list includes a full representation of regular spring and fall migrant birds as well as pelagic rarities such as northern fulmar, great skua, and ivory gull.

There were 77 species of birds found nesting in Rockport in the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2, carried out in 2007-2011 by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The species are listed in taxonomic order in Table 4E4.

Table 4E4 Birds Breeding in Rockport

Canada Goose	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown Thrasher
Mute Swan	Red-bellied Woodpecker	European Starling
Wood Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
American Black Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Pine Warbler
Common Eider	Eastern Phoebe	American Redstart
Ring-necked Pheasant	Great Crested Flycatcher	Ovenbird
Wild Turkey	Eastern Kingbird	Common Yellowthroat
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-eyed Vireo	Eastern Towhee
Green Heron	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Osprey	American Crow	Field Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Tree Swallow	Song Sparrow
Broad-winged Hawk	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Bank Swallow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Piping Plover	Barn Swallow	Bobolink
Killdeer	Black-capped Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
Willet	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle
Herring Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Great Black-backed Gull	Carolina Wren	Orchard Oriole
Common Tern	House Wren	Baltimore Oriole
Least Tern	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Purple Finch
Rock Pigeon	Eastern Bluebird	House Finch
Mourning Dove	Wood Thrush	Pine Siskin
Great Horned Owl	American Robin	American Goldfinch
Barred Owl	Gray Catbird	House Sparrow
Chimney Swift	Northern Mockingbird	

7. Wildlife Corridors

The fall migratory passage of seabirds along the coast of Rockport is spectacular, including flocks of Double-crested Cormorants, several species of scoters, and two species of Eiders. Strong northeastern storms in November frequently blow migrating species into near shore waters, sometimes in the hundreds or even thousands: Common and Red-throated Loons, Red-necked and Horned Grebes, Northern Gannets, two species of Cormorants, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Razorbills, Thick-billed Murres, and Black Guillemots. The ability to view these pelagic birds and other, rarer species from shore makes Rockport one of the most important shore birding locations in the state.

8. Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

The species listed in Table 4E5 have all been classified by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program as rare, threatened or endangered. All have been found in Rockport.

Table 4E5 Status of Threatened Species¹²

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Obs
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Chaetagnela cerata</i>	Waxed Sallow Moth	SC	2013
Reptile	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle	T	2015
Reptile	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	SC	1937
Bird	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	E	2001
Bird	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate Tern	E	1920
Bird	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	SC	1920

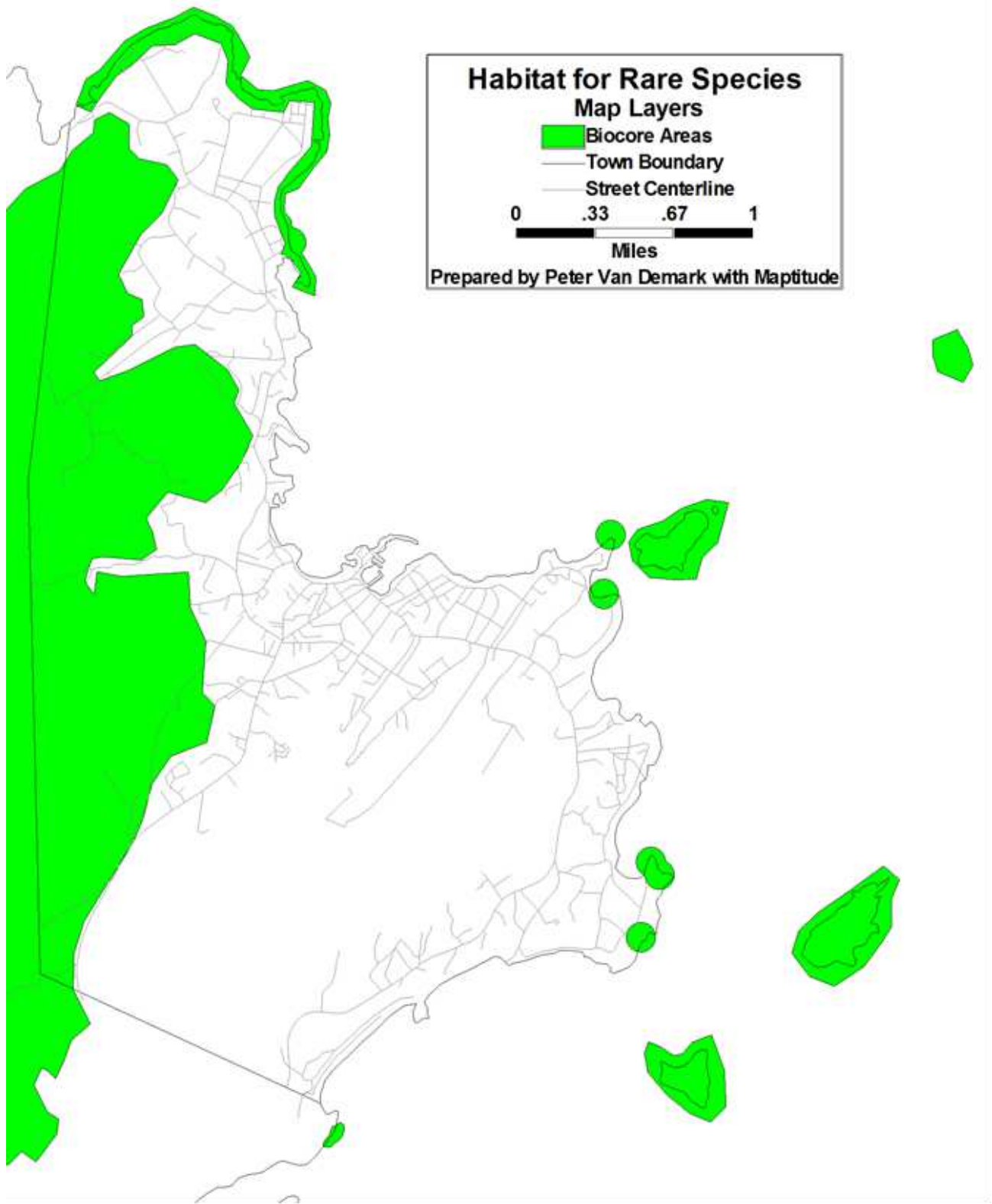
9. Open Space Priorities for Wildlife Habitat

When determining open space preservation priorities, the following factors should be considered to ensure that viable wildlife corridors and habitat varieties are conserved (see Map 4E). The targeted open space should help to:

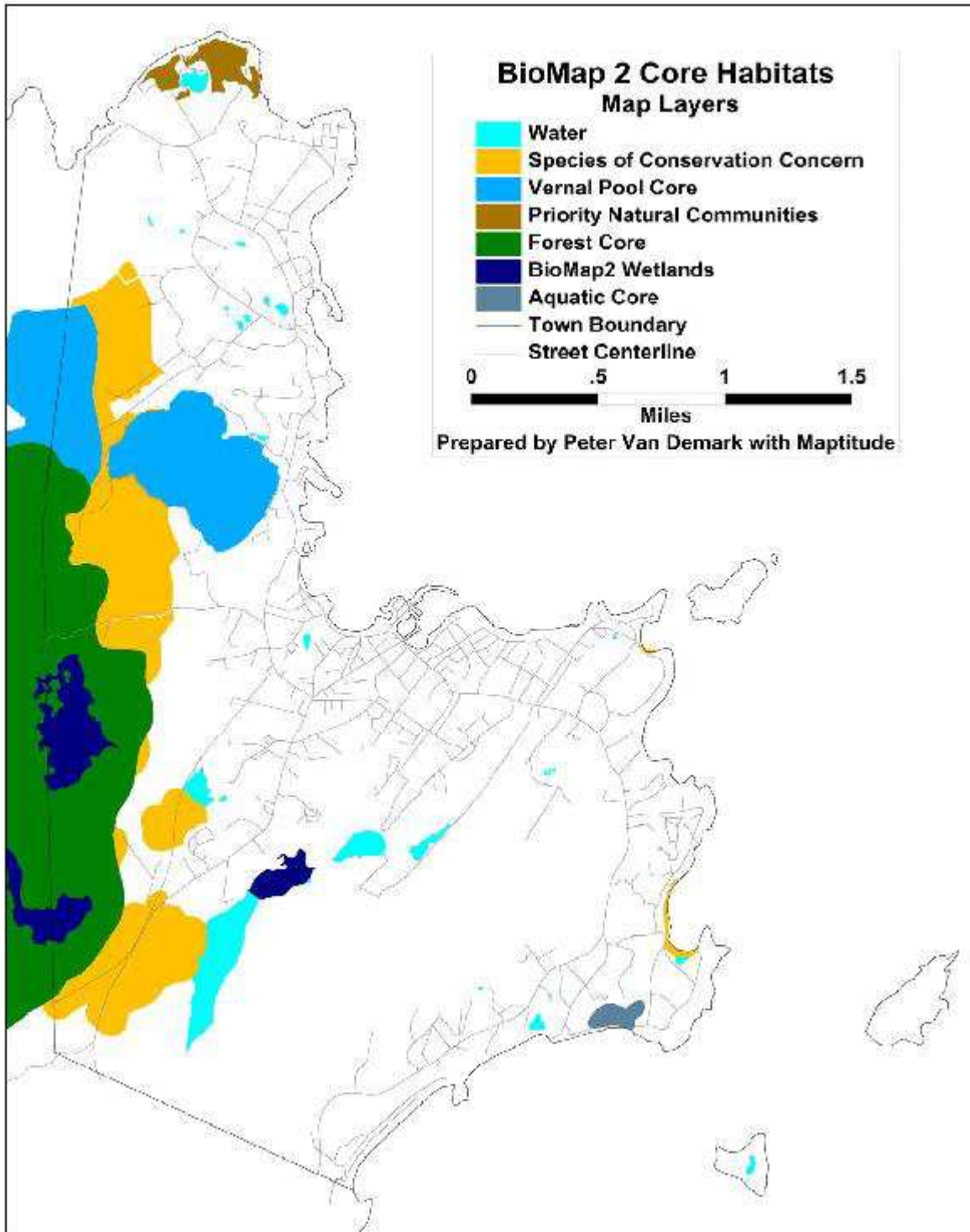
- Provide habitat for game and non-game animals, including those considered threatened, endangered, or of special concern
- Maintain biological diversity
- Maintain connectivity
- Contribute to ground water recharge and to improved water quality
- Represent high &/or outstanding examples of native plant communities, populations of state-listed rare plants or rare animal aggregations

¹² National Heritage and Endangered Species Program, 2008

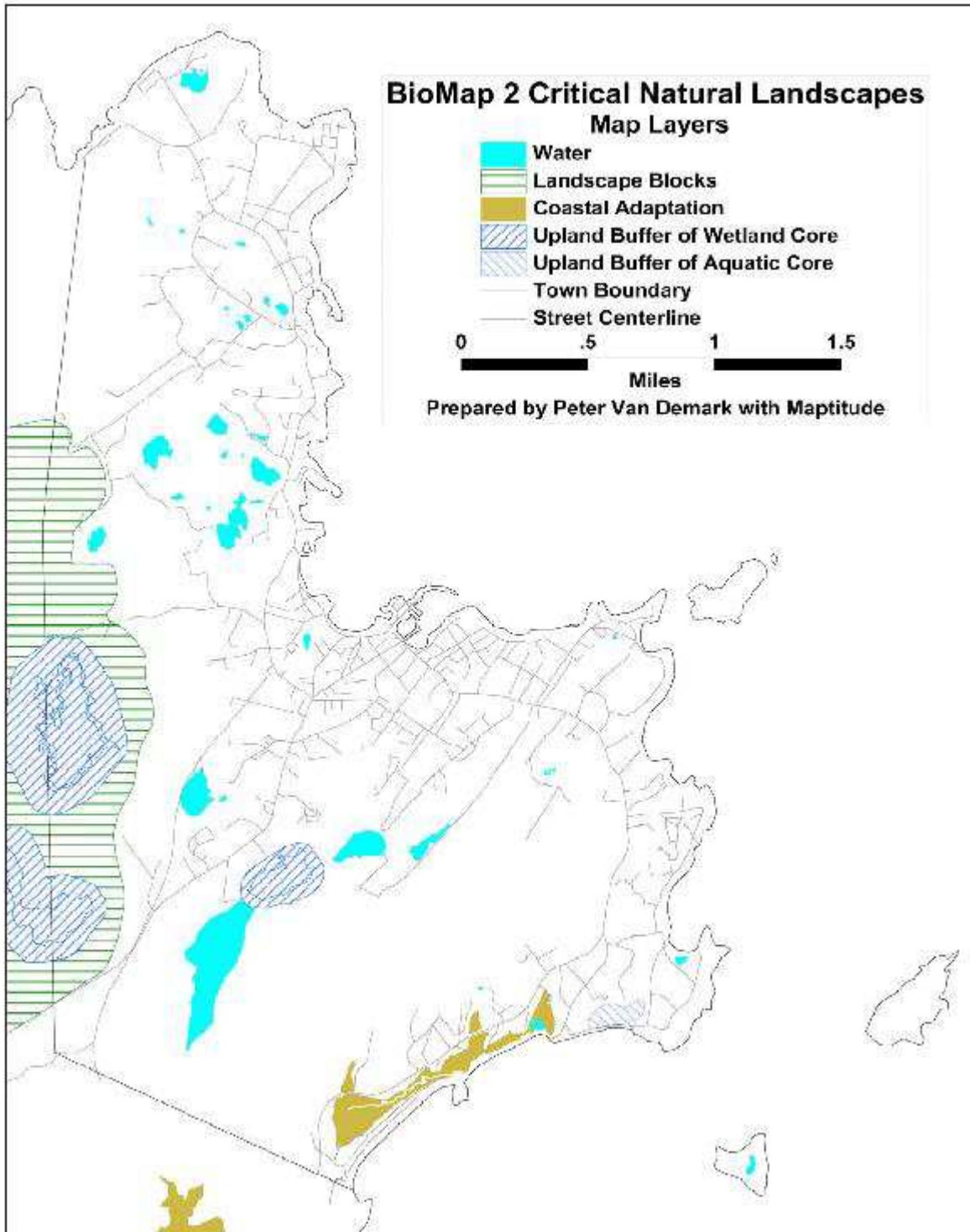
Map 4E Habitat for Rare Species



4E1 BioMap 2 Core Habitats



4E2 BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes



4F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

1. Scenic Resources

Rockport is blessed with the breathtaking beauty of its rocky shoreline, picturesque harbors, beaches and tranquil woodlands. Ocean views unfold from the border with Gloucester on the North side of Town all the way to Long Beach. RT-127A has been added as part of the new Essex County Scenic Coastal Byway. Rockport's inland open space can be enjoyed through access to trails through the woods, many of which border the tranquil waters of Cape Pond, Carlson's and Flat Ledge quarries. Along the trails are relics from the old quarrying days, mounds of tailings, cut stone ready for shipping, holes in large rocks ready to be split, steel ropes propped up by growing trees, and many anchor points for quarrying machinery (see Map 4B for unique features).

At the north end of Town, it is possible to walk from Folly Point, through Halibut State Park, and along the Atlantic Path to Andrews Point, with constant vistas across Ipswich Bay to Crane's Beach and Plum Island stretching to Mount Agamenticus in Maine and the Isles of Shoals in New Hampshire. Walking south on the Atlantic path there are long views over Sandy Bay to Straitsmouth lighthouse and the twin lights on Thacher Island. Rockport's shore is one of very few places where three lighthouses can be seen simultaneously. The Atlantic Path terminates in the quaint little fishing harbor of Pigeon Cove, one of the original Rockport settlements. Across Pigeon Cove Harbor are the remains of the remnants Cape Ann Tool Company. Plans are currently in court challenge to replace the old Tool Company with condominiums and stores, maintaining public access with a shorefront walkway and add some docking area. From Pigeon Cove, there are vistas of the Dry Salvages, three miles out on the Atlantic Ocean, immortalized by T. S. Elliot in the poem of the same name. Further south is Granite Pier, a busy place of summer boating activity and the starting point for many of the quarry trail walks.

Back Beach, a rocky beach near the center of Town, often hosts kayakers and scuba divers from throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. Continuing south is Front Beach, the main sandy beach for residents and visitors. As at all Rockport beaches, there is no charge for admission. Further down Main Street is Dock Square, the starting point of Bearskin Neck, one of the Town's most popular visitor attractions. Now a commercial area with shops located inside old lobster shacks, the many stores, galleries and restaurants are the hub of Rockport's tourist economy. Located on Rockport's central harbor is Motif #1, a picturesque restored fishing shack and a favorite subject for generations of artists. Facing Motif #1 is the Sandy Bay Yacht Club, a small informal structure, its high-masted yachts a contrast to the working harbor's fishing boats.

On the south side of Rockport Harbor a public viewing spot called The Headlands provides granite benches and wonderful views of downtown Rockport. From here visitors can see the northerly coast line from Andrews Point past the Cape Ann Tool Company to Pigeon Hill, continuing to the old quarry derrick and Johnson's quarry with its tall cell Tower. From the Headlands, the Old Garden Path Right of Way stretches south past Old Garden Beach and the old Coast Guard Station, providing views of Straitsmouth Island, a Massachusetts Audubon bird sanctuary. At the end of the island is a lighthouse. As the Old Garden Path continues, it provides wonderful views of the twin Thacher Island lighthouses and the Atlantic Ocean. Walkers can enjoy the scenic panorama as it stretches south along Rockport's coastline, on the road and via historic rights of way to the shore, arriving at three contiguous beaches, Pebble Beach, Cape Hedge Beach and Long Beach, the latter sandwiched between the sea and Saratoga Creek.

2. Major Characteristics or Unusual Geologic Features

The “rock” which gives Rockport its name is largely granite bedrock upon which the town is built. The land, scoured to bare rock during the most recent glacial episode, consists mostly of a very thin layer of soil over the bedrock. There are many enormous glacial erratic boulders and moraines, deposited throughout the landscape during the glacial retreat. The result is a rugged but strikingly beautiful landscape jutting out into the sea.

3. Cultural, Archaeological and Historic Areas

Granite was the Town's unrecognized treasure until 1820, when Nehemiah Knowlton learned by trial and error to split a piece of granite for a mooring stone, starting the business of shipping granite to Boston. In the nineteenth century, the population increased as workers from Sweden, Finland, Italy, Ireland, and French Canada arrived to work in the granite industry. Rockport granite was used all over the United States for paving blocks on city streets. More locally, much was used to construct the Custom House in Boston and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. The industry flourished until the 1920's when labor and transportation costs and the use of concrete contributed to its decline.

Summer visitors started to come to Rockport in the mid 1850's, and local residents began to take in guests. Ralph Waldo Emerson summered in Pigeon Cove in 1856. The painter, Gilbert Margeson, arrived in 1873 and was so impressed by the area's quality of light that he stayed permanently. Local artist Fitz Henry Lane painted many of his masterpieces on Cape Ann. Today the Town still has a large artistic community. Although this generation with many award winning prominent national recognized artist is passing away and because of the cost to buy or rent locale property is so high they may not be replacing at the rate that is needed to sustain that community's viability. Seldom when an artist gallery closes is it replaced by a new art gallery. The Rockport Art Association, founded in 1921, celebrated its 87th anniversary in 2008. The Sandy Bay Historical Society, founded in 1926, celebrated its 70th anniversary in 1996 with an addition to its headquarters on King Street. The Society's two buildings, the first-period “salt box” in Pigeon Cove (the Old Castle) and the Granite Sewall-Scripture House (1832) on King Street, contain historic exhibits, and the library boasts valuable records for researchers in our area. The Sandy Bay Yacht Club was founded in 1885 and continues to thrive at its headquarters on T Wharf in Rockport Harbor with a busy racing season each summer. Rockport's Music in nits new award-winning performance center continues to expand its offerings. Informal cultural activities in the Town include several choral singing groups, dramatic and dance events, painting and photography, book circles, and lecture series covering a wide variety of subjects.

4. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Rockport does not contain any state recognized “Areas of Critical Environmental Concern” (ACEC). However, the Town does contain many significant resource areas. These include:

- The Town's many wetlands, including Briar Swamp, which has been determined to contain rare species habitat
- The nine regulated watershed areas of Rockport: Flat Ledge Quarry, Carlson's Quarry, Stoney Brook, Squam Brook, Mill Brook, Cape Pond, East Brook, South Brook and Saw Mill Brook
- Saratoga Creek and the associated salt marsh system
- The Long Beach, Cape Hedge Beach and Pebble Beach barrier beach system
- Forty certified and many uncertified vernal pools
- The South Woods area
- The rocky intertidal ecosystem along town's entire coastline

4G. Environmental Challenges

1. Hazardous Waste Sites

Table 4G1 details the two hazardous waste sites that remain open, but both have “No Feature Data” available. It should be noted that a developer has planned construction on, or close to, the first site.

Table 4G1 Rockport's Hazardous Waste Sites¹³

Address	Tracking #	Site
18 Railroad Ave	3-0012207	Building Center Inc.
Upper Main St.	3-0000425	Rockport DPW

2. Spills in the Rockport Watersheds

In 1988 a gasoline spill occurred at the Rockport DPW garage, Cape Pond watershed.

In 1985 a 55-gallon drum of solvent cleaning solution was illegally dumped at Carlson's Quarry. Since that spill incident, gates have been erected at Carlson’s Quarry and Cape Pond reservoir. The water supply at Cape Pond and Mill Brook has been monitored for volatile organic contaminants.

3. Landfills

The Rockport landfill has been closed and capped and is monitored. It is now used as a parking area and bus shuttle stop for town visitors and will also continue to serve as the town's waste and recycling transfer station. The Town converted to “Pay as you Throw” only for residents in July 2018.

The parking lot has also been designated in 2016 as the Green community solar electric generation zone and that group is looking to add solar panels to the area

4. Erosion

Rockport has experienced erosion of coastal banks and barrier beaches due to winter storms at several locations. Penzance Road adjacent to Pebble Beach is often washed out or overblown by sand and boulders. The coastal banks just south of Old Garden Beach have slumped and eroded due to the migration of soils within the bank from wind and wave action. Both Bradley and T Wharf have shown signs of slumping and loss of structural integrity because of severe storms and rising sea level over the last twenty-five years. The breakwater and seawall at Pigeon Cove harbor has been rebuilt twice since 1978 due to storm action. The upper sea walls at the former Granite Company in Pigeon Cove Harbor have been rebuilt two times in the past 8 years. A cement seawall section was added on Beach Street at Back Beach to protect the street. The lowest portion of Marmion Way had protecting boulders replaced and the street repaired. The Bearskin Neck break water protecting the main harbor was completely rebuilt as an Army Corp Engineers project in 2015. Many homes and coastal properties have suffered from storm driven flooding and wave damage, particularly within the last 25 years.

¹³ Massachusetts DEP Cleanup Sites

5. Sedimentation

Mill Pond and Frog Pond located in downtown Millbrook Meadow, have both suffered from sedimentation problems and increased aquatic plant growth. This was probably the result of a combination of increased construction within the Mill Brook watershed over the last twenty years as well as winter road sanding. A neighborhood organization, the Millbrook Meadow Committee successfully worked with DPW and the CPC to create a master plan for Millbrook Meadow that included the dredging and replanting of both water bodies.

6. Development Impact

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) predicts a 2.8% increase in population for Rockport between 2008 and 2020. Rockport's population is estimated to double during the peak tourist season in the summer. In 2008 the percent of undeveloped land in Rockport was 61%. A high percentage of Rockport's watersheds are not developed areas. The town owns most of the Cape Pond watershed and a high percentage of the Carlson and Flat Ledge Quarry watersheds. Significantly, a high percentage of the East and South Brook watersheds are privately owned but not developed.

Although the town's projected rate of growth is moderate, development impacts, particularly nonpoint source pollution from additional construction, could come to have a negative impact on all of Rockport's water resources, including its coastal estuaries and bays. The existing rate of development has already strained the town's ability to provide road maintenance and proper drainage, which in turn has created runoff and nonpoint source pollution problems such as those seen at the Mill Pond. The town through CPC has appropriated money in 2015 and 2016 to dredge some of the pond as well as reduce invasive plants in the area.

Infiltration and inflow (I and I) problems had led to a consent order with DEP whereby the town sewage treatment plant was prohibited from accepting new sewer hookups at this time. The town had been conducting its own inflow and infiltration remediation program since late 1996. The DEP issued an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) in 2011 that lifted the no sewer hook ups restriction and they are now allowed. The Rockport DPW is considering developing a Sewer Overlay district to control sewer hook ups. At this point, this is only in the exploratory stage. Alternative septic treatment systems under the revised Title Five state septic code may allow development of Rockport lands that were once considered unbuildable or marginal. Although the Town does have a watershed protection overlay district, it should consider updating the regulations to provide better protection of watershed areas. It should also implement zoning changes and strengthen its wetlands bylaw to better protect critical natural resource areas. These recommendations will be included in Section 9.

7. Ground and Surface Water Issues

Rockport, in very dry years, has had difficulty meeting water demands in the summer months when demand more than doubles due to the large influx of summer residents. The town has worked to address its water supply shortage problems in several ways.

- Metering of individual water usage.
- Permitting to allow increased storage of water behind the proposed Flat Ledge Dam
- Development of deep rock wells
- Replacement of aging water tank at the top of Landmark Lane

The recent addition of the deep rock well near the Cape Pond Reservoir has increased the town's resiliency during dry summer months.

Any development in the watershed areas could potentially affect the town water supply, open space, wildlife habitat and overall character of the town. As noted above, nonpoint source pollution to all water resources in Rockport will increase as population rises. Even large lot development, if done without regard for reducing impervious surfaces or retaining natural drainage patterns, will have a cumulative impact. In 2008 the Planning Board adopted storm water runoff regulations to help prevent these impacts. Other indirect impacts to ground and surface water include excessive winter road sanding and illegal motor vehicle use in the Town's watershed areas. During the summer of 2016, for the first time, an extended drought has led the town to implement water usage restrictions. A significant issue that has arisen during this same period is an algae bloom in the town's primary reservoir, Cape Pond. Because the bloom has made Cape Pond unfit for use, it necessitated the town pump water directly from quarry storage areas and well fields. Additional pump capacity in the quarry storage areas is being pursued in order to better manage the town's freshwater resources during future emergency shortage situations.

8. Invasive Species

Rockport's most significant challenges with invasive plants have been alien plant species existing in its many freshwater and saltwater wetlands as well as in disturbed upland areas of fields and exposed soils. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) has long been particularly troublesome in the salt marsh habitat associated with Saratoga Creek, where tall dense stands dramatically out-compete native salt marsh vegetation.

Over the past decade, the Rockport Conservation Commission and Department of Public Works have cooperated in many wetland restoration projects, including enhancement of storm water treatment and enlargement of culverts to increase tidal flows through wetland areas. Although of limited success, the work has eradicated some areas of *Phragmites* from wetlands and has helped prevent further spread.

Purple loosestrife (*Lythium salicaria*) has also increasingly impacted many of Rockport's freshwater areas. Freshwater marshes naturally support the greatest plant diversity of any wetland, making protection of these environmental resources particularly important. The Town continues research to address its spread.

An example of current work followed Rockport's recent acquisition of the Rowe Parcel, an open acreage in the Saw Mill Brook watershed. In recent years, a pathway providing access had become so overgrown with multiflora rose and oriental bittersweet that these invasive plants increasingly threatened many of Rockport's nearby open grasslands. Working on this problem has raised residents' awareness of the Town's environmental concerns.

More recently, in 2010, following approval from the Town's Conservation Commission, Rockport's 200 plus member Garden Club began an ambitious new initiative, "The Invasive Plant Project." Choosing to focus its initial project year on Japanese Knotweed, the volunteers, at no cost to Rockport, collected a complete database of this invasive plant, mapping locations on both private and Town lands with symbols denoting the level of control activity.

In 2011, with guidance from the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, the New England Wildflower Society, and the Parker River Wildlife Refuge, the Rockport Garden Club will develop a list of appropriate and safe methods for eradication of local invasive plants. This handout will be available for residents to treat plants on their own property or to work with Garden Club volunteers for eradication.

To address invasives on Town lands, the Club will seek a grant to engage a licensed biologist to direct an eradication program, as required by law. In future years, the Garden Club plans to expand their pilot project with Japanese Knotweed to other invasives, including oriental bittersweet and multiflora roses. The Town of Rockport has also seen significant increases in the numbers and diversity of marine invasive species. Rockport Middle School students have been monitoring Front Beach in Rockport for several years and have over 5 years of data that documents invasive mollusks, crabs, alga, and anemones. Included in that list are the green crab, Asian shore crab, common periwinkle, purple anemone, red alga, and sheath tunicates. The Middle School plans to continue this valuable project as part of its science curriculum. More work is certainly needed around quantifying marine invasives in Rockport, their impacts on our native species and environments, and their control or eradication. A large body of data exists on marine invasives is available through the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and MIT Sea Grant's Marine Bioinvasions Programs.

MIT SEA GRANT <https://massbay.mit.edu/>

MA CZM <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm/program-areas/marine-invasive-species/>

9. Forestry Issues

Rockporters early discovered the impossibility of significant agricultural use of the granite-covered Rockport landscape, and the native forestry became the increasingly-valued landscape. Underlying granite deposited by ancient glaciers largely defined locations for native tree cover, and still serve to limit planting locations. Heavy shoreline winds have been another important factor for the health of Rockport's forestry.

Budget constraints in recent years have caused deep funding cuts for the care of Rockport's trees, to the detriment of their aesthetic value for the Town.

In 2009 the Rockport Garden Club offered to draw up and fund a pilot program for care of trees in town gardens under their care. Increased funding each year has paid for the work of a professional arborist and former Town tree warden, coordinated by Garden Club members with the DPW. This important program continues on and is now in its 9th year.

SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

Rockport is a small and relatively isolated community that has been favored by nature and its own history with a uniquely attractive environment. Its location, on a granite peninsula surrounded on three sides by the ocean, has given it commercial advantages - fishing and quarrying in the past, tourism in recent times - and made it a very desirable place for people to live. In a small area, the diversity of open space uses is unusual, from formal recreation areas and parks to rough woods trails, rocky shoreline walkways, and ocean settings for swimming, fishing, diving, and boating.

Although the natural features of the town aren't usually factored into its economic schemes, Rockport is entirely dependent on quarries and deep-rock wells for its water supply. Preservation and expansion of watershed lands is essential for this purpose alone. In addition, the town's open space constitutes a major attraction for visitors and year-round residents. All of the open space that isn't currently protected exists in a precarious balance with development and other encroachments of a rising demographic. Without public access to its woods, harbors, beaches, and parks, its scenic vistas and pollution-free air, Rockport could become either an expensive, privatized enclave or a suburb with a long commute.

Open Space is defined by the Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook as undeveloped land with a particular conservation or recreation interest. Rockport has many and varied open space resources including beaches, sea rocks, forests, ponds, quarries, vernal pools, wetlands, remnants of earlier development, parks, and recreational areas. Rockport has public access to about half its shoreline, with seven major beaches, the Atlantic Path, and many harbors and protected areas. It also has a major state park at Halibut Point. Table 5 shows that Rockport is in a fortunate position where 35.3% of the total acreage is owned by the Town, the state, or non-profit entities. Some of the open space in public and non-profit ownership is permanently protected because it is a public park such as Halibut Point. Beaches are also permanently protected, as are areas governed by Article 97, which is a state-administered deed restriction program that focuses on open space values. The major continuing challenge is to protect some of the remaining 26% of the Town's that is open space still in private hands.

Recreation

Currently, Rockport residents enjoy a multitude of passive and active recreation activities involving both water and land. Kayaking, rowing, sailing, swimming, surfing, canoeing, scuba diving, and snorkeling are popular active water-related recreational activities. Passive recreation on land includes hiking, walking, running, snow shoeing, bike riding, horseback riding and cross-country skiing.

Active recreation includes tennis, golf, baseball, softball, basketball, soccer, field hockey, skateboarding, Ultimate Frisbee, and volleyball.

There is strong organizational support for active recreation both by public and private organizations. The Recreation Committee sponsors several programs for all ages and abilities in the community. Tennis, playground activities, T ball, Ultimate Frisbee, and volleyball are low-cost town subsidized programs that the community participates in actively.

The school system sponsors many recreational programs, and there is a strong private sector that sponsors soccer, baseball and softball for a wide range of ages.

The 2008 Rockport Open Space Survey¹¹ indicated strong support for the addition of playing fields as well as for long-term protection of the existing trail network and for open space to be enjoyed for general passive recreational uses.

Community Open Space Distribution

The Town of Rockport is a relatively small land area, but it does have three distinct sections. They are Downtown Rockport and its adjoining neighborhoods, which is the physical and commercial center of the community, opening onto a fishing and recreational boating harbor. The northern section is the village of Pigeon Cove, which developed around its protected harbor, a focus for fishing and the former granite quarrying industry. The South End stretches along beaches and rocky shores, with a large inland wooded area. Rockport's 61.3% of open space is evenly distributed throughout the town. Each section of the town has places of public ocean access, acres of wooded uplands with trails, and recreational playing fields. From any point in Rockport, you are in open space or a short walk to open space. Map 5A1 Total Public, Non-profit and Private parcels, graphically displays the balanced open space distribution in Rockport.

Table 5 Open Space in Rockport

¹¹*Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee Open Space Survey by Peter Van Demark with Maptitude GIS*

Type of Open Space	Parcels	Acres	Percent of Town
Town, Public & Non-Profit	235	1639	35.3
Private	640	1201	26.0
Total Open Space in Rockport	875	2840	61.3

Note: The new numbers above reflect status change in parcels 3-35, 8-45N, 3-10 & 26-141. Also included in the numbers is an 8 acre section (9-62 and 9-172) of 188 Granite St as private open owner. Some details of arrangement including property lines are still being worked on and may become public open space. 24 May 2013

As seen in blue on Map 5A1, Rockport has several large, contiguous public open spaces in the west toward neighboring Gloucester. Adjacent to these areas are a large number of parcels in private hands, shown in green on map 5A and listed in tables 5A1 through 5A4. These were analyzed to see if they had more than three ecological and cultural values and therefore should be considered for protection. The 2009 Open Space Report incorporates many conclusions from the 2008 Watershed Protection Committee's (WPC) Report regarding protection of private parcels with open space. Of the 71 parcels of high interest for conservation identified in the WPC Report, all are in the watershed overlay districts. Coincidentally, they also have many historic trails and many include habitat for rare species, according to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MNHESP). The area on the western side of Rockport along the Gloucester border is a stretch of land with the most need for protection. This report also includes recommendations for open space outside these areas, much of which is in the South Woods.

5A. Private Parcels

The Committee has identified four distinct types of private parcels that are of interest:

1. Parcels with conservation easements and restrictions
2. Parcels of interest for obtaining conservation easements and or conservation restrictions
3. Private parcels that have three or more ecological and cultural values without a residence
4. "Orphan parcels" - land about which the assessor's office has no data on ownership and on which no taxes have been paid in recent times

Table 5A1 shows parcels that have conservation restrictions administered by the Conservation Commission. Table 5A2 shows private property that would be of interest for conservation. In the Committee's public forum several attendees voiced concern about possible development of the Rockport Golf Club, which borders four town-owned parcels - Waring Fields and the Delamater Sanctuary. Table 5A3 shows 56 private parcels that have three or more ecological and cultural values and no residence and are concentrated in the green areas shown on Map 5A1.

The final table, 5A4, shows a list of ten "orphan parcels" that have at least three ecological and cultural values. These parcels have no tax data and no record of private ownership. The Committee will recommend, in Section 9, that the Town research these properties with a view to confirming Town ownership and protection. Map 5A2 shows the four types of private parcels.

In all three tables, in the Habitat column "R" means Rare Habitat and "C" means Core Habitat.

Table 5A. CLASSIFICATION OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION LANDS PRIVATELY OWNED

Table 5A1 Private Parcels with Conservation Restrictions and Easements

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Ecological and Cultural Values						Managing Agency
				Water shed	Wet-land	Trail	Historic	Habitat	Connects to	
Johnson	3-34	0.23	SRAA	No	Yes	No	No	YesC	Johnson Rd	ConCom
Johnson	3-34A	1	SRAA	No	Yes	No	No	YesC	Johnson Rd	ConCom
Johnson	3-25	1	SRAA	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Johnson Rd	ConCom
Hooper	8-26	12.8	SRAA	No	No	Atlanti c Path	No	FlywayC	Halibut Point	Trustees of Reser- vations
Brackett	10-41A ,B,C	23.3	SRAA	Flat Ledge	Big Parker Quarr y	Yes	Motions	NoC	Yes	ConCom
Spiegel	22-145	0.3	RA	No	No	No	No	No	No	ConCom

Map 5A1 Total Public, Non-Profit and Private Parcels

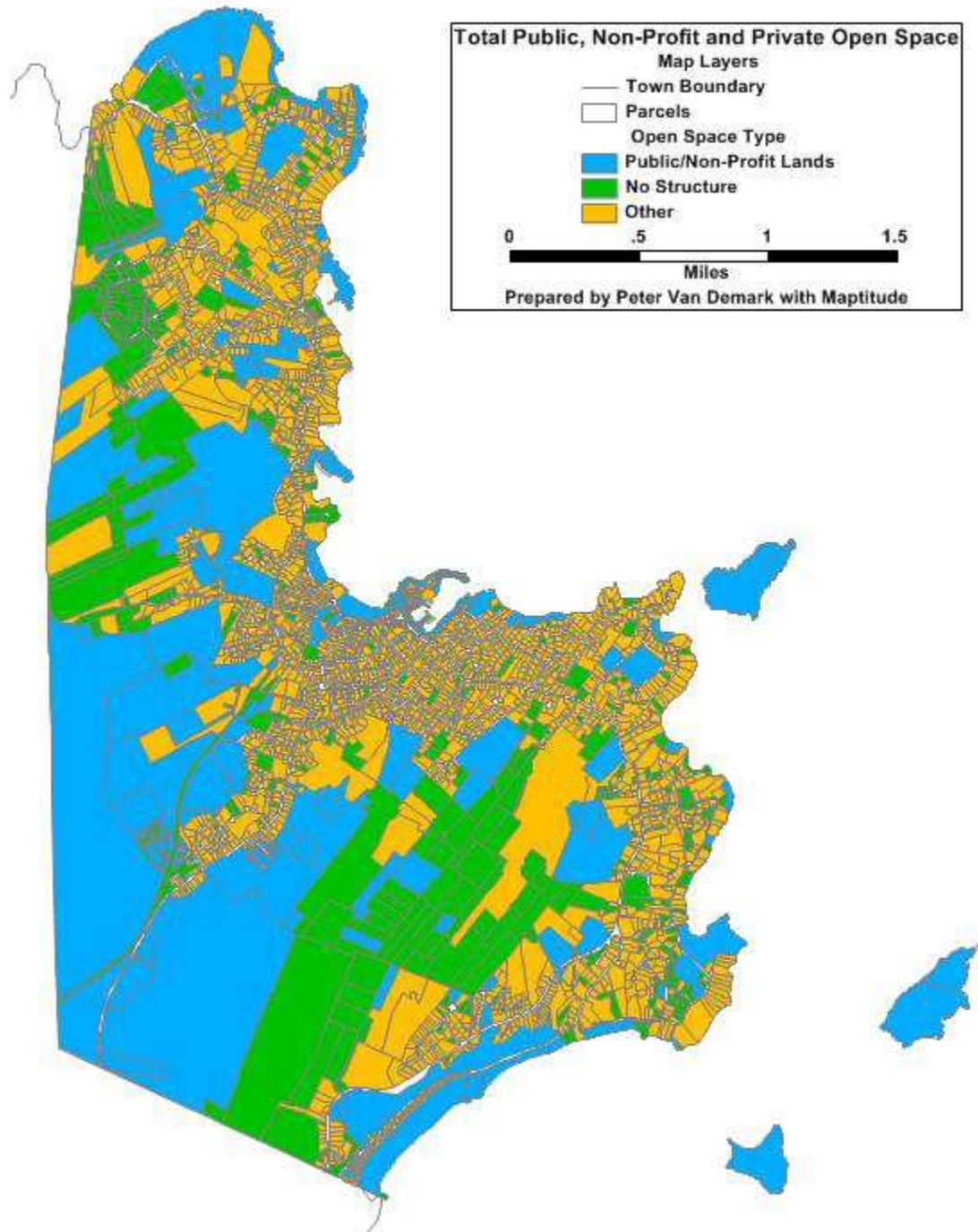


Table 5A2 Private Parcels of Interest for Conservation Restrictions and Easements

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Ecological and Cultural Values						
				Watershed	Wetlands	Trails	Historic	Habitat	Connects to	
Steel Derrick/ Pigeon Hill Quarry Assoc	3-40	28	SRAA	Carlson's	Yes	Old Quarry Road	Quarry/ Motions	R C	Old Quarry Road/Rowe Ave.	
Williams	19-93A	40	SRAA	Saw Mill		Rum Rock Lake			ECGB Land	
Rockport Golf Club	24-66	11.9	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes		Luce/ Horse- shoe		Town Land	
Rockport Golf Club	24-68	4.1	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes		Yes		Delamater/ Horseshoe	
Rockport Golf Club	24-69	4.2	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes		Horse- shoe			
Rockport Golf Club	27-35	83.65	SRAA	Saw Mill		Horseshoe/ Delamater	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Rockport Golf Club	27-38	4.4	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Woodlands	Trails	Historic	R	Connection

Table 5A3 Private Parcels That Have Three or More Values and No Residence

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Ecological and Cultural Values					
				Watershed	Wetland	Trails	Historic	Habitat	Connects to
Nickerson	2-9	4.55	SRAA	No	No	Yes		R C	Luce/ Railroad
Lakso	2-10A	0.9	SRAA	No	No			R C	Luce/ Railroad
Woodland Acres	2A-1-17 & 2A- 22-75	39.2	SRAA	No	Yes	Yes	Connects to quarry railway	C	ConComm land
Cleaves	3-45	7.5	SRAA	Carlson's	Yes	Old Quarry Road		R C	Town Land
Sherburne	4-7	2.7	SRAA	Carlson's		Old Quarry Road		R C	Orphan Parcel
Johnson	4-8	3.3	SRAA	Stoney Brook	Yes	Luce/ Johnson Rd		R C	
Stone	4-9	2.7	SRAA	Squam Brook	Yes			R C	Orphan Parcel
Johnson Trustees	4-10	32.34	SRAA	Carlson's	Yes	Yes	Quarry	R C	Sponge Bob trail
Johnson Trustees	4-10A	9	SRAA	Stoney Brook	Yes	Luce/ Johnson Road	Quarry	R C	
Johnson	4-13	7.2	SRAA	Squam Brook		Knowlton Swamp	Sponge Bob/ Squam/ Butman/ Quarry	R C	Old Quarry Rd/ Squam Rd/ Anne's Path
Sears, Gretchen	4-15	2	SRAA	Carlson's	Yes	Carlson's	Motion	R C	Orphan Parcel
Adams	4-18	5	SRAA	Stoney Brook	Yes	Johnson Circular	Quarry	R C	Old Quarry Rd/ Orphan

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Ecological and Cultural Values					
				Watershed	Wetland	Trails	Historic	Habitat	Connects to
Johnson	4-20	2.5	SRAA	Carlson's	Yes	Yes	Quarry	R C	
Johnson	4-21	5.9	SRAA	Stoney Brook	Yes	Sponge Bob		R C	
Sheilacres	19-93	47.57	SRAA	Saw Mill	Rum Rock Lake	Luce/Rum Rock/Pleasant St.	Walls		Adjacent to ECGA, Town Land
Poole	20-1	7.27	SRAA	East Brook	Yes	Lane's Rd Ext.	Joppa Rd.		
Rockport Nat'l Bank	20-2	6.85	SRAA	East Brook	Yes	Lane's Rd Ext.	Old Joppa Rd.		Adjacent to Town Land
Frost	20-4	10.96	SRAA	East Brook	Yes	Lane's Rd Ext.	Old Joppa Rd.		
Frost	20-6	3.23	SRAA	East Brook	No	Lane's Rd Ext.			Adjacent to Town Land/Pipe
Boy Scouts	20-9	3.85	SRAA	East Brook	No	Lane's Farm Rd.Ext/Luce	Old Joppa Rd.		Adjacent to Town Land
Casey	20-15	4.81	SRAA	East Brook	Yes	Lane's Rd Ext.	Old Joppa Rd.		Adjacent to Town Land
Casey Jr.	20-12	1.8	SRAA	Cape Pond	Yes	Yes			Adjacent to Town Land
Merrill	20-13	140	SRAA	Cape Pond	Yes	Yes	Rock Walls		Yes
Casey Jr.	20-14	12.6	SRAA	Cape Pond	Yes	Luce	Rock Walls		Pipeline Trail
Casey	20-16	4.4	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Yes	Rock Walls		Road to Gloucester
Frost	20-17	3.1	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Yes	Rock Walls		Road to Gloucester
Casey	20-18	5.4	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Lane's Farm Rd Ext.	Rock Walls		Adjacent to ECGA
Lane	23-9	1.18	SRAA	Saw Mill	No	Yes	Rock Walls		Road to Gloucester
Lane	23-10	2.6	SRAA	Saw Mill	No	Yes	Rock Walls		Road to Gloucester
Rosenberg	21-67	22.49	SRAA	South Brook	No				Thatcher Rd
Gale	21-72A	15.93	SRAA	East Brook	Yes	Lane's Farm Rd Ext			Old Joppa Rd.
Merrill	21-73	14.5	SRAA	East Brook	Yes				
Bryant	23-12	5.15	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Yes			.
Bryant	23-13	7	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Yes			Trail from Country Club Rd
Rockport Real Estate	23-14	7.7	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes		Rock Walls		

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Ecological and Cultural Values				
				Watershed	Wetland	Trails	Historic	Habitat
Byrd	23-15	6.36	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Yes	Rock Walls	Lane's Farm Rd Ext
Lane	23-16	4.91	SRAA	Saw Mill	No	Yes	Rock Walls	Lane's Farm Rd Ext
Poole	23-17	4.71	SRAA	Saw Mill	Pond	Yes	Rock Walls	Lane's Farm Rd Ext
French	23-18	6.66	SRAA	Saw Mill	Pond	Yes	Rock Walls	Lane's Farm Rd. Ext./Abuts Protected Land
Campbell	23-22	2	SRAA	Saw Mill	Stream	Yes	Rock Walls	Town Easement
Beaton Tr.	23-24		SRAA	Saw Mill	Rowe Pond	Yes	Rock Walls	Jerdens Lane Ext
Bryant	23-101	1.53	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Yes	Rock Walls	Country Club Rd Ext
Smith Trust	23-103	10.7	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Country Club Ext		
Douglas	24-67	12	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Luce/Horseshoe		
Kenney	23-69	4.2	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Horseshoe		
Rockport Real Estate	24-71	14.3	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Luce/Horseshoe		Pipeline
Douglas	24-75	7.4	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Horseshoe		ECGA Land
Smith	24-77	7.7	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes			ECGA Land
Rockport Real Estate	24-78	6.9	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes			ECGA/Pipeline
Rockport Real Estate	24-79	7.2	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Country Club Ext		Pipeline
Smith	24-80	7.9	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Country Club Ext		ECGA
Rockport Real Estate	24-81	8	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Country Club Ext.		Pipeline
Casey	24-84	9.9	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes	Ridgewood Rd/Horseshoe		Delamater
Casey	24-85	2.8	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes			Delamater
Bryant	27-37	7.52	SRAA	Saw Mill	Yes			
Coit	28-72		SRAA		No			
Holmes	28-77	5.5	SRAA		Yes	Horseshoe		Delamater

Map 5A2 Private Parcels

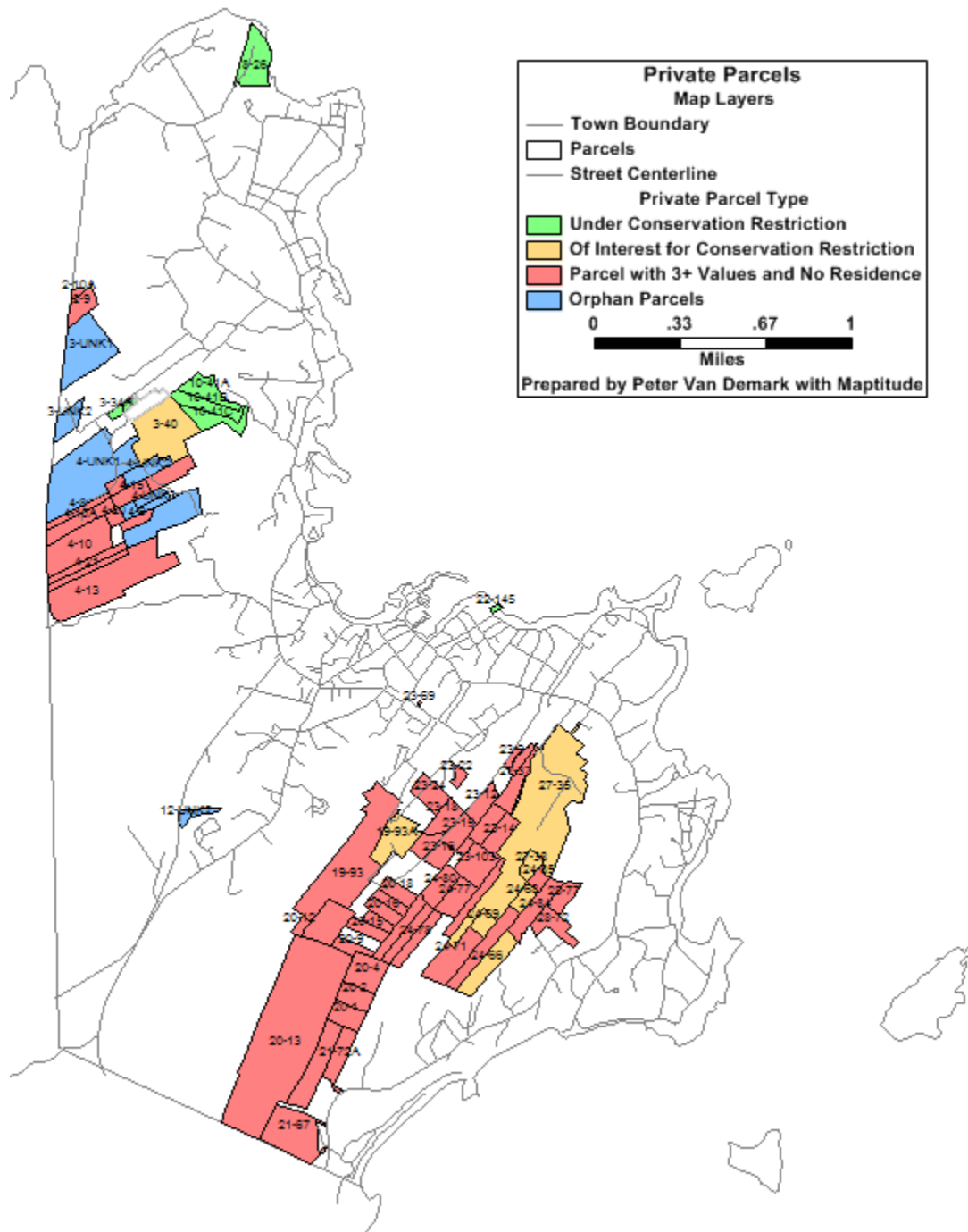


Table 5A4 Orphan Parcels

Location	Map/ Lot	Acres	Zone	Ecological and Cultural Values					
				Watershed	Wetlands	Trails	Historic	Rare Habitat	Connects to
Gloucester Line	3-A	27.63	SRA A	No	Yes	Luce, Blueberry		Yes	Rockport/ Gloucester
Gloucester Line	3-B	1	SRA A	Yes	Yes				
Old Quarry Road	4-A	50#	SRA A	Stoney Brook/ Carlson	Yes	Old Quarry Road	Motions	Yes	Luce/Anne's Path
Old Quarry Road	4-B	7.5#	SRA A	Carlson	Yes	Old Quarry Road	Motions	Yes	Steel Derrick Quarry
Old Quarry Road	4-C	2.1	SRA A	Carlson	Yes	Butman	Motions	Yes	Old Quarry Rd/ Squam Rd
Old Quarry Road	4-D	2.4	SRA A	Carlson	Yes	Butman	Motions	Yes	Old Quarry Rd/ Squam Rd
Johnson Road	4-E	2.7	SRA A	Carlson	Yes			Yes	
Old Quarry Road	4-F	15#	SRA A	Carlson	Yes	Old Quarry Rd	Yes	Yes, Lady Slipper	
Loop Pond	12-B	1.5	SRA A	Mill Brook	Yes	Yes		No	
Loop Pond	12-A	1.5	SRA A	Mill Brook	Yes	Yes		No	

5B. Public and Non-Profit Parcels

Rockport has a considerable amount of open space land owned by public and non-profit entities, as can be seen from both Map 5B and the inventory in Table 5B. Rockport has acquired most of its land through purchase, gifts, tax title proceedings and, more recently, with funds from the Community Preservation Act. There are many ways to classify open space. The committee decided to classify the data by management type:

- Coastal
- Conservation land
- Parks and Cemeteries
- Tax Title land
- Watersheds
- Other

The condition of the town-owned open space is good with the few exceptions outlined in the next paragraph. The parcels are generally well kept or undisturbed, and they are not in a degraded condition. The heaviest used parcels are our coastal lands, parks, cemeteries and recreation fields. All of these are regularly maintained by town departments, the managing agency, or the organizations that use them. The interior conservation parcels and watershed lands are much more lightly used, mostly by walkers, bikers, and horseback riders. Many of these users help maintain the trails and carry out their trash. Organizations periodically conduct area cleanups.

There are two areas of concern with land condition and the problem is heavy litter. The issue is not so much in specific parcels, but with the transportation corridor that passes near them. The first area is the MBTA railroad line. The litter is always extremely heavy, starting at the Rockport rail yard and tapering off to more a moderate level, as you travel along it towards Gloucester. The rail line litter spills over on watershed parcels, 12-19, 12-47, 12-73, 5-2 and conservation parcels 12-1 and 12-79B. The second area of concern is Route 127, a state road. The road comes into Rockport at the Gloucester line and then travels .6 miles along what is known as Nugent Stretch (Upper Main Street). The litter is regularly picked up from mid spring to early fall by people from the state and county but not during the balance of the year. Then it is typically heavily littered. The litter extends into bordering Watershed parcels 6-1, 13-2 and Conservation parcel 7-1, which includes active vernal pools.

The inventory indicates that the Town has a great diversity of open space that is used for various types of recreation. The Town is very fortunate to have public access to a considerable amount of the coast for walking, fishing, swimming, diving, sailing and kayaking. The Atlantic Path, which stretches from Halibut Point to Pigeon Cove, has many access points, which provide the public with the opportunity to walk a long stretch of the coastline. Rockport has seven main beach areas. Halibut Point State Park lies in the north of Town and draws visitors from all over the state, particularly for bird watching and walking. The state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has organized programs so that persons with disabilities can enjoy the magnificent sea views and quarries at this location. Since the last report was written in 1997, there has been an improvement in access and facilities both at Front Beach, the main beach area, and at T Wharf, the main tourist destination. Rockport also owns a considerable amount of forest and wetlands, almost all of which lie within the various watersheds. The City of Gloucester owns a large parcel in the southwestern part of town that protects the water supplies of both Gloucester and Rockport and provides opportunities for walkers, bikers, and horseback riders.

The definition of protected property is a controversial issue in Rockport. For example, many years ago, coastal land owned by the Trustees of Reservations adjacent to Halibut Point was sold to a private party. Many would have considered that type of land to be permanently protected. The Town of Rockport owns a significant amount of open space land, as detailed in Table 5B, but not all of this land is permanently protected. After spending considerable time trying to understand the nature of permanent protection, including consultations with Irene Del Bono at DCS, the Rockport Conservation Commission, and others, the Committee decided to take a very conservative approach in assigning the protected label to a parcel. In assessing protection status of open space, the Committee felt comfortable that the following types of land had protection:

- Land at Halibut Point administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
- Land Trust parcels such as those belonging to Essex County Greenbelt & Massachusetts Audubon
- Lands specified under article 97 including beaches, historic cemeteries and historic landings
- Lands protected by town meeting under article 97 and land within 100 feet of a drinking water source

The Committee has made recommendations in Section 9 to increase the amount of Town land placed under the protection of article 97. It is also recommending that all lands that have previously been granted Article 97 status by Town Meeting, or will be in the future, should be recorded at Salem Deeds.

TABLE 5B CLASSIFICATION OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION LANDS OWNED BY PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT ENTITIES

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Managing Agency	Use	Description	Public Access	ADA Access	Protection Status	Grant Type	Recreation Potential
Coastal											
Halibut Point State Park/Commonwealth	1-1,8-13,14,14B,15,19,22,31,8-45N	31.85 37	R1/SRA A	DCR	Bi,E,H,T,Sc	House/Fire Tower Trails/Scenic	Yes	Parking/Toilet/DCR programs	P	Art 97	T, Wa, Bi
Halibut Point/Mass Audubon	8-1	14.44	SRA A	Mass Audubon	Bi,E,T,S	Trails/Scenic	Yes	No	P	Statute	Wa, Bi
Halibut Point/TTOR	8-22,8-25	15.58	SRA A	TTOR	Bi,T,Sc	Trails/Scenic	Yes	No	P	Statute	T, Bi
Andrews Point/Town	15-4	3.6	SR	Town	Bi,F,T,Sc	Atlantic Path	Yes	No	P	Statute	Wa, Bi, F
Angling Point/Town	15-14	3.2	SR	Town	Bi,F,R	Atlantic Path	Yes	No	P	Statute	Wa, Bi, F
Cathedral Point/Town	15-33	1.22	RA	Town	Bi,R,S	Atlantic Path/Diving	Yes	No	P	Statute	Wa, Bi, D
Hoop Pole Cove/Town	15-119	15.01	SR	Town	Bi,T,F,Sc	Atlantic Path	Yes	No	P	Statute	Wa, Bi, F
Cove Ave/Town	15-126	0.83	SR	Town	Sc	Adjacent to Atlantic Path	Yes	No	No		Wa
Pigeon Cove/Town	16-25,26	13.49	G	Town	O	Good	Yes	Yes	No		N
Back Beach/Town	17-44	0.11	P, T	DPW	Sw, D, R, W t	Diving access	Yes	ramp	No		K, Sw, D, Bo, Wa
Back Beach/Town	17-54	5.0	P/T	DPW	Sw, D, R, W t	Diving access	Yes	ramp	P	Statute	K, Sw, D, Bo, Wa
Headlands/Town	22-139	3.62	RA	Town	Sc,T	Scenic/Benches	Yes	No	P	Statute	Wa
Granite Pier/Town	17-17,18,19,19B,20	8.34	P/T	Town	R	Boat Launch	Yes	Yes	No		Bo, K

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Managing Agency	Use	Description	Public Access	ADA Access	Protection Status	Grant Type	Recreation Potential
Coastal											
Old Garden Beach & Landing/Town	22-148 thru 150, 22-309	5.91	RA	DPW	Sw, D	Good diving access	Resident Parking	No	No		K, Sw, D
Cape Hedge Beach/Town	25-1,2	11.4	P/T	DPW	Sw, Wt	Good	Res, Parking	No	P	Statute	Sw
Long Beach/Town	25-3	29	P/T	DPW	Sw, Su, Wt	Surfing access	Yes	No	P	Statute	Sw, Wa, Su
Pebble Beach/Town	28-16	3.8	P/T	DPW	Sw, R	Good	Yes	No	P	Statute	K, Sw
Straitsmouth Light/Town	29-1	3.27	P/T	Town	O	Transferred from USA	Boat	No	No		Sc
Straitsmouth Cove/Town	30-40	1.67	SR	DPW	Sc	Good	Limited	No	P	Statute	Bi
Steep Bank Landing/Town	31-3	1.13	SR	DPW	Sc	Historic Landing	No	No	P	Statute	Sc
Paradise Rock/Town	31-31	2.05	SR	Town	Bi, Sc	Sea Rocks	Yes	No	P	Statute	Wa, Bi
Loblolly & Emerson Pt./Town	32-4	14.17	P/T	Town	Bi, T, Sc	Sea Rocks, Trails	Yes	No	P	Statute	Wa, Bi, T
Cogswell Farm Landing/Town	32-UNK1	1.75	SR	Town	Sc	Historic Landing	Right of Way	No	P	Statute	Sc
Pebble Beach/Town	32-19A	0.2	P/T	DPW	Sw, R	Good	Yes	No	P	Statute	K, Sw
Thacher Island/Town	34-1	48.36	P/T	Town	T, C	Good	Launch	No	No	Statute	C, Wa, Bi
Old Harbor/Town	35-1A, 6A	0.58	G	DPW	Sc, R	Moorings	Resident Parking	Yes	No		Bo
Pier Avenue/Town	35-18C	0.14	R	DPW	H	Historic Wharf	No	No	P	Statute	Sc

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Managing Agency	Use	Description	Public Access	ADA Access	Protection Status	Grant Type	Recreation Potential
Coastal											
Pier Avenue/Town	35-21	0.38	R	DPW	H	Water basin	No	No	P	Statute	Sc
Pier Avenue/Town	35-21C	0.09	R	DPW	H	Historic Wharf	No	No	P	Statute	Sc
Front Beach/Town	35-54	7.0	G	DPW	Sw, D,W t	Life Guard/Toilets	Yes	Accessible ramp, ADA toilets	P	Statute	Sw, K, Wa, D, Bo
Atlantic Avenue Mudflats/Town	36-1,2,3	2.42	R	Town	Sc	Muddy	No	No	P	Statute	Sc, Wa
T Wharf/Town	36-32, 33	0.84	P/T	DPW	H, R, Sc	Motif 1 Attraction, Working Wharf	Parking	ADA Access, Toilets	No		Sc
T Wharf Mudflats/Town	36-34,	0.3	R	Town	R, F, O	Muddy/Toilets	No	No	P	Statute	Sc, Bo, F
Motif No. 1/Town	36-67B	0.15	G	DPW	H, Sc	Tourist Attraction	Yes	No	No		Sc
Bearskin Neck Breakwater/Town	36-73C, 77	2.54		Town	O	Good	Yes	Parking	P	Statute	Wa, Sh
Bearskin Neck Breakwater/Town	36-78	0.35		Town	O	Good	Yes	Parking	No		Wa, Sh
Seawall & Rocks/Town	36-124	1.5	R	Town	O	Fair	Yes	No	No		Sc

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Managing Agency	Use	Description	Public Access	ADA Access	Protection Status	Grant Type	Recreation Potential
Conservation Land											
Nugent Stretch/Town	7-1	8.94	P/T	DPW	Sc, H, Wo	Watershed	No	No	P	SH/S Art 97	T
Granite St/ Mass. Audubon	8-1	14.44	SRA A	Mass Audubon	B,C	Scenic Vistas	Yes	No	P	Statute	T
Sea Rocks /Town	8-26A	7.03	SRA A	ConCom	T,S	Coastal trail to Atlantic Path	Yes	No	P	Statute	Wa
Pine Pit/Town	9-43	18.63	SRA A	ConCom	T	Woods/ Quarry	Parking	No	P	SH/S Art 97	T, Sw
Granite St., Mass. Audubon	9-48	0.73	SR	Mass Audubon	B,R	Woods	No	No	P	Statute	T
Liljas Pit/Town	9-105	6.97	RA	ConCom	C	Woods/ Quarry	Yes	No	P		T
Pigeon Hill St/Town	9-110	1.894	RA	ConCom	C	Wetlands	Yes	No	P		N
Pingree Trails/ Sandy Bay Historical Society	10-67, 68	12.78	RA	ECGB	R	Woods/ Trails	Yes	No	P		T
Waring/ Town	12-1	3.66	SRA A	ConCom	C	Field	Yes	No	P	SH/S Art 97	Trail
Mill Brook Watershed/ ECGB	12-79B	9.03	SRA A	ECGB	B	Woods	Trail	No	P	Statute	Wd
Rum Rock Lake/ ECGB	19-97C	7.7	SRA A	ECGB	C/R	Trail	Yes	No	P	Statute	Trail
Saratoga Creek Salt Marsh/ Town	21-27,53,57,60,60M,60P,61	45.44	P/T	Town	B	Wetlands	Parking	Parking/Rest Facility	P	Statute	Bi
Rowe Parcel/ Town	23-19	8.23		ECGB	R	Wetlands	Yes	No	P	In negotiation	T, Nature study
South Woods/ ECGB	24-76	2.5	SRA A	ECGB	C/R	Field/ Woods	No	No	P		Wd

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Managing Agency	Use	Description	Public Access	ADA Access	Protection Status	Grant Type	Recreation Potential
Conservation Land											
Rum Rock Lake/ECGB	24-82	7.7	SRA A	ECGB	C/R	Trail	Yes	No	P		Trail
Kieran Preserve/Town	26-90	10.87	SR	ConCom	T	Woods/Trail	Yes	No	P		T, Wildlife
Delamater Sanctuary/Town	27-18	31.03	SRA A	ConCom	T	Trail & ROW need maintenance	Limited Parking	No	P	Art97*	T, Flora, Wildlife
Waring Fields/Town	27-25,26,30	19.22	SRA A	ConCom	C	Field/Woods	Yes	No	P	Art97*	Bi
Straitsmouth Island/Mass. Audubon	29-2	32.76	P/T	Mass Audubon	H,B,C,S	Island/Bird Sanctuary	No	No	P		Bi
Eden Road/Town	31-36	0.80	SR	ConCom	S	Views	No	No	P		Wa
Penzance Road Marsh/Town	32-60	7.54	SR	ConCom	0	Wetlands	Limited	Limited	P		B, Wa
Milk Island/Commonwealth	33-1	24.83	P/T	DEM	B,C	Island/Bird Sanctuary	No	No	P		Bi
Old Harbor/Town	35-1	0.6	G	ConCom	H,C,F	Tourist/Moorings	Limited parking	Yes	P	SH/S	Bo, Sh
Star Island/Town	36-14,17	0.16	R	ECGB	S	Views	Limited	No	P	Book 6065 p234	Sc
Johnson Property	3-35	5.8		ConCom		Woods/Quarries	Parking area, existing trails/rail access	No			

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Managing Agency	Use	Description	Public Access	ADA Access	Protection Status	Grant Type	Recreation Potential
Parks & Cemeteries											
Pingree Park/Town	9-12	1.5	P/T	DPW/Little League	R	Baseball/Softball/Tennis/Basketball	Parking	Limited	P	Deed	Swings, Baseball
Manning Park/Town	11-9	15.34	P/T	DPW	T	Heavily Wooded	Parking	No	No		T
Millbrook Meadow/Town	18-325	1.56	P/T	DPW	R	Playground/Concert/Walks	Limited	Yes	P		Playground
Mill Pond Park/Town	18-319	2.56	R	DPW	S,H	Pond	Limited Parking	Yes	P		Wildlife
Evans Field/Town	11-22	10.4	RT	DPW/Little League	R	Baseball/Tball/Skate Park	Parking	Yes/toilets	P		Baseball, Skate Ramp, Youth center
Pigeon Hill/Town	10-106,107,108	4.76	P/T	DPW	S	Views of Thatcher Lights	Parking	Yes	No		Sc, Picnics
Harvey Park/Town	18-475	0.23		DPW	S	Tourist Meeting Place	Parking	Yes	No		Sc
Barletta Park/Town	18-513A	0.16	R	DPW	S	Tourist Meeting Place	Parking	Yes	No		Sc
Seafencibles/Town	35-3	0.72	P/T	DPW	S,H	Harbor View	Limited parking	Yes	No		Sh
Inner Harbor Park/Town	36-53	0.87	P/T	DPW	S	Scenic	Parking	Yes	No		Sc
Inner Harbor/Town	36-54	0.87	P/T	DPW	S	Scenic	Parking	Yes	No		N
Old Parish/Town	18-330	1.35	P/T	DPW	H	Neat	Yes	Yes	P		Wa

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Managing Agency	Use	Description	Public Access	ADA Access	Protection Status	Grant Type	Recreation Potential
Parks & Cemeteries											
Union Cemetery /Town	18-362	0.73	P/T	DPW	H	Neat	Yes	No	P		Sc
Beech Grove/ Town	19-91,92	20.7	P/T	DPW	H	Neat	Yes	Yes	P		Wa
Tax Title Land											
Granite Street/ Town	1-5	7.07	SRA A	Town	O	Habitat , rare Species	Street	No	No		Contiguous to Mass. Audubon
Highland Rd/Town	2-22	2.25	SRA A	Town	O	Habitat , rare species	No	No	No		Contiguous to Pine Pit
Hillside Rd/ Town	3-44	0.22	R	Town	O	Less than House Lot	Street	No	No		N
Woodbury Lane/ Town	8-50D	0.48	SRA A	Town	O	House Lot	Street	No	No		N
Woodbury Lane/ Town	8-50E	0.46	SRA A	Town	O	House Lot		No	No		N
Woodbury Lane/ Town	8-51F	0.14	SRA A	Town	O	Habitat Rare Species		No	No		Contiguous to 1-5
Off Granite St/Town	9-73	0.66	RA	Town	O	Land-locked above Old Railroad	No	No	No		N
Granite St/ Town	9-80A	0.10	G	Town	O	Originally Railroad Driveway	Street	No	No		N
Pigeon Hill St /Town	9-108	0.65	RA	Town	O	House Lot	Street	No	No		N
Phillips Avenue/ Town	15-92	15	SR	Town	O	Woods, Trails	Street	No	No		Conservation

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Managing Agency	Use	Description	Public Access	ADA Access	Protection Status	Grant Type	Recreation Potential
Tax Title Land											
Phillips Avenue/ Town	15-141	1.23	SR	Town	O	Island Lot	Street	No	No		N
Phillips Avenue/ Town	15-150	0.47	SR	Town	O	House Lot	Street	No	No		N
Pleasant Street/ Town	19-89	0.11	R	Town	O	Less than house lot	Street	No	No		N
South St Court/ Town	23-85	0.12	R	Town	O	Less than house lot	Street	No	No		N
LS 6 & 7/ Town *			SRAA	Town	O		No	No	No		Research
Highview Road/ Town	25-94	1.27	SR	Town	O		Street	No	No		T
Straitsmouth Way/ Town	26-81	3.15	SR	Town	O	Wetlands, opposite Kieran Preserve	Street	No	No		T
Thatcher Road/ Town	28-46	0.73	SR	Town	O		Street	No	No		N
Thatcher Road/ Town	28-74	0.04	SR	Town	O		Street	No	No		Contiguous town Owned 28-73
Penryn Way/ Town	32-24B	0.4	SR	Town	O	Less than SR zone for House Lot	Street	No	No		N
Ruthern Way/ Town	32-35A	0.89	SR	Town	O	Less than SR zone for House Lot	Street	No	No		N
Caleb's Lane/ Town	22-211	0.09	R		O		Street	No	No		Road

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Managing Agency	Use	Description	Public Access	ADA Access	Protection Status	Grant Type	Recreation Potential
Watershed											
MILLBROOK											
Pool Hill/Town	5-1	47.83	P/T	Town	Wt	Woods	Parking	Parking	No		T
Pool Hill Forest/Town	5-2	48.4	SRA A	Town of Rockport	Wt	Woods	Trail	No	P	Art 97 TM	T
Briar Swamp/City of Gloucester	6-1	299.8	SRA A	Gloucester DPW	Wt	Trails	No	No	P	Statute	T
Homecrest/Town	6-2	12.99	SRA A	Town of Rockport	Wt	Watershed/woods	Trail	No	No		N
Homecrest/Town	6-2A,B, C,D,E, F,G,H, J, 6-3, 6-12, 6-12A	6.96	SRA A	Town of Rockport	Wt	Woods	No	No	No		N
Homecrest/Town	6-4,5,7, 8,9,10, 14,15, 17	1.56	SRA A	Town	Wt	Woods	No	No	No		N
Town Forest/Town	11-23	30.14	SRA A	DPW	Wt	Watershed	Yes	Yes	No		T
Millbrook Pumping Station/Town	12-19	4.35		DPW	Wt	Watershed	Yes	No	P	Statute	
Loop Pond/Town	12-47, 48,73, 77	32.78	SRA A	DPW	Wt	Trails, woods	Yes	No	P	Statute	Wildlife, T, Sc
Main Street/Town	13-37, 37A-37E,38,43,46	1.68	R	Town	Wt	Woods	Parking	No	No		N
Main Street/Town	13-40	1.68	R	Town	Wt	Woods	No	No	P	Art 97 TM	N
Mill Brook Watershed/ Town	4-6	2.67	SRA A	Town	Wt	Watershed	No	No	P	Art 97 TM	Wd

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Managing Agency	Use	Description	Public Access	ADA Access	Protection Status	Grant Type	Recreation Potential
CAPE POND											
DPW, Police, Forest Fire/Town	13-1	43.07	SR	DPW	O	DPW, Police buildings	Parking	Parking, Toilets	No		N
Cape Pond Reservoir /Town	13-2	248.6	P/T	DPW	Wt	Woods/pond	Parking	No	P	Statute	T, Sc
Cape Pond/Town	20-11	2.8	SRA A	DPW	Wt	Watershed	No	No	P	At 97 TM	T
Pleasant St/Town	19-52C, 95	26	SRA A	DPW	Wt	Watershed	No	No	P		
Cape Pond/Town	13-11	0.09	SRA A	DPW	Wt	Watershed	No	No	P	Art 97 TM	N
Cape Pond/Town	13-21	0.34	SRA A	DPW	Wt	Watershed	No	No	P		N
Great Hill/Town	19-1,3, 3A,3B, 3C,3D, 3E,4,5, 6,7, 8,9,12, 13,14,15,16,17, 17A,17B, 18,31A, 31B,37,38,49	48.95	R	Town	Wt	Watershed	No	No	P		
Great Hill/Town	19-19, 19C	0.08	R	Town	Wt	Watershed	No	No	P	Art 97 TM	N
CARLSON'S QUARRY											
Carlson's Quarry/Town	10-32	129.3	P/T	DPW	Wt, R	Trails, woods	Limited parking	No	P	Statute	T
Carlson's Quarry/Town	11-3A, 74,87	129.3	P/T	DPW	Wt, R	Trails, woods	Limited parking	No	P		Wd

Property Name	Map/Lot	Acres	Zone	Managing Agency	Use	Description	Public Access	ADA Access	Protection Status	Grant Type	Recreation Potential
EAST BROOK											
East Brook/Town	20-3	4.6	SRA A	Town	Wt, R	Woods	No	No	P		Wd
East Brook/Town	20-7	1.1	SRA A	Town	Wt, R	Woods	No	No	Yes	Art 97 TM	Wd
East Brook/Town	20-8	4.7	SRA A	Town	Wt, R	Woods	No	No	P		Wd
SAW MILL BROOK											
Water Tower/Town	28-71	8.44	SRA A	DPW	R		No	No	No		Wd, TI
Saw Mill Brook Pump Station/Town	24-4F	1.24		DPW	R	Pond	Yes	No	No		T
Other											
Railroad Parking/Town	11-21B	0.86	P/T	DPW	O		Parking	Yes	No		N
South St./Town	28-36	0.08	G	Town	O		No	No	No		N
School/Town	23-21	21.45	P/T	DPW	R, E	Education/Fields	Parking	Toilets, Inclusive, Playground	No		Ball fields
Summer St./Town	23-27H	0.29	R	DPW	O		Parking	No	No		N
Thatcher Rd/Town	24-30	2.1	SR	Town	O	Woods	No	No	No		Wd
Thatcher Rd/Town	28-73	7.15	SR	Town	O	Woods	No	No	No		Wd

Keys

Management Agency

Abbr.	Name
DCR	Department of Conservation & Recreation
DPW	Rockport Department of Public Works
ECGB	Essex County Greenbelt
Town	Town of Rockport
TTOR	The Trustees of Reservations

Zoning

Code	Name	Minimum Lot Size
P/T	Public or Trust Owned	
G	General	7,500 sq ft
SMR	Intermediate or Semi-Residential	10,000 sq ft
R	Residential	10,000 sq ft
RA	Residence A	12,000 sq ft
SR	Single Residential	20,000 sq ft
SRAA	Single Residential AA	40,000 sq ft

Use and Recreation Potential

Code	Name
Bi	Bird Watching
Bo	Boat Landing
C	Camping
D	Diving
E	Education
F	Fishing
H	Historical Interest
K	Kayaking
N	None
O	Other
R	Recreation
Sc	Scenic
Sh	Shopping
Su	Surfing
Sw	Swimming
T	Trail
Wa	Walks
Wd	Woods
Wt	Watershed

Protection

Code	Name
P	Protected
L	Low level protection
No	No protection
*	Check vote for ConCom as manager

5C. ADA Access and Public Transportation to Open Space

Rockport has made great strides in the past decade to improve universal access. A prime Town attraction is Motif #1, which has long been a Rockport icon. Scenic views of Motif #1, the harbor and the coastal shoreline of Sandy Bay can all be enjoyed from town-owned T Wharf, which has ADA-accessible parking and rest rooms. Visitors and residents can use the sidewalks, all cut to ADA standards, to move to many waterfront access points and parks in the harbor area. There is much to be enjoyed from T Wharf to Bearskin Neck, another popular attraction, historically an area of lobster fishing shacks, the majority of which are now converted into shops and galleries. At the end of Bearskin Neck is the Breakwater where ADA parking provides some of the finest scenic views in Rockport. All of the sidewalks located in the downtown area now have ADA compliant curb cuts. The DPW has made a strong commitment to include ADA compliant curb cuts as they conduct road repaving throughout town. Over the past ten years, this has included sidewalks located beyond the town center that provide connectivity to outlying areas. These include playing fields at the school complex, visitor parking areas, the train station, beaches, and most water access areas.

The Town's main swimming beach, Front Beach, has an ADA-accessible ramp and restroom facilities. Across the street is Millbrook Park, site of the first settlers' encampment. It is now a beautifully maintained, quiet, natural area, accessible to all, with an open green meadow, stone dam and a brook.

Halibut Point State Park, near the northern boundary of Rockport, includes a granite quarry, extensive open natural shoreline and nature trails. The area has partial ADA accessibility, which the State continues to improve. Section 9 of this Report includes a recommendation to DCR for continued improvement of accessibility.

Rockport has excellent ADA-compliant public transportation, allowing accessibility to the Town's open space and recreation areas for those who cannot afford or choose not to use private transportation. In that way direct access is possible to areas for walking, swimming, sightseeing, fishing, playgrounds, wildlife watching, and sunbathing, activities found to be the most popular in the 2006 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Report.

The MBTA provides daily service to and from Boston, with the train station a 15-minute walk from public beaches, parks, the harbor, and rocky coastlines. Cape Ann Transportation Authority (CATA) provides bus service connecting the train station to these areas and other parts of Cape Ann. From mid-spring to mid-fall, CATA also operates a trolley service on weekends and holidays between the town center, the train station, and the main public parking area at the edge of Town. All CATA bus and trolley services will pick up and drop off passengers on request, at any spot on their regular routes.

At the Rockport school campus, the Town's tennis courts, softball, baseball and soccer fields are all accessible. In addition, in 2008 a new, fully ADA-equipped children's playground was opened at the school complex.

Viewed in its entirety, there is good ADA access to a substantial variety of open space and recreation areas in Rockport. Section 9 of this Report suggests actions in this area, especially for trail walking, the primary recreational activity found to be least universally accessible.

The ADA Access Self-Evaluation documentation can be found in Appendix 3.

SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION

6A. Description of Process

THIS SECTION WILL NOT BE FINALIZED UNTIL THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS, DESCRIBED BELOW, HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

The Committee gathered input to establish community goals in several ways. A survey based on the 2008 Rockport survey was designed to determine Rockporters' open space and recreation priorities. Following distribution at the September 2017 Town Meeting, survey forms were available through October 19th at Town Hall and on line at ([HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/6TYQ5W](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6TYQ5W)). Multiple notices advertising the survey were carried in the Gloucester Daily Times. The Committee received 250 responses compared to 296 in 2008, 152 in 1997 and 252 in 1983. Surveys completed on line were automatically tabulated using SurveyMonkey while paper surveys were added manually.

Results of the 2017 Survey were posted on the web site (see Appendix). These results will be discussed with the public at an advertised forum in the fall of 2018 [date1] at the Town library. A full presentation of the draft report will be done at that time. The forum will include a question and answer session that will allow the public to comment on the draft plan and contribute suggestions for the final plan. During the 2009 process, an enthusiastic group of 29 [number] Rockporters participated in a similar process, compared to 29 in 2008 and 15 in 1997. In addition to the public forum, a draft report will be circulated to town boards and posted on the Committee website. Input from town boards, and all other participants in the process, will be incorporated in the final document. Our findings will be included in the Analysis of Needs (Section 7) and the Community's Goals and Objectives (Section 8).

6B. Open Space and Recreation Goals

Rockport's 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan is intended to be a blueprint for improvement on current efforts to enhance quality of life for all Rockport residents. It considers both active and passive recreational needs as well as residents with disabilities, emphasizing expanded accessibility. Action items from the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan were integrated with results of the 2017 survey to determine current priorities.

2017 Survey responses, seen in Tables 6B1, 6B2 and 6B3, are extremely consistent with priorities articulated in past reports. Residents' major areas of concern led to the overarching primary goals as Rockporters envision the future:

- Protection of Water Resources
- Protection of open space and natural resources for recreational use, especially wooded areas and shoreline lands
- Meet recreational needs of all the Town's residents with emphasis on those with disabilities

Table 6B1 2017 SURVEY: Top Ten Recreational Activities in which Families Participate

- 93% Walking
- 84% Beach
- 79% Nature hikes
- 64% Swimming
- 54% Bicycling

- 47% Kayaking/canoeing/rowing/sailboarding
- 46% Birdwatching
- 40% Picnicking
- 35% Fishing
- 33% Cross-country skiing

Table 6B2 2008 SURVEY: Importance of Preservation by Category

- 84% Open space to protect groundwater and drinking water resources
- 76% Open space to protect wetlands and wildlife habitat
- 75% Open space for public coastal access
- 69% Forests and woodlands
- 66% Provide long-term protection of existing trail network
- 51% Contiguous/continuous open space areas
- 51% Historic/archeological sites
- 50% Provide bike paths/sidewalks

Clear priorities for these respondents are protection of water resources, wildlife habitats, forests, woodlands, coastal access and existing trails. This suggests an ideal Open Space and Recreation Plan would emphasize permanent protection and maintenance of public access to open space areas while adding more bike paths, trails and contiguous open space, all of which are highly ranked in Table 6B2.

Table 6B3 shows the seriousness of the community’s desire to protect open space with support for zoning law changes. This is strengthened by the fact that 51% of respondents would be willing to donate money and 19% would rewrite their deed to protect open space. It is clear that Rockporters have a strong desire to protect open space, reinforcing results seen in the previous survey.

Consistent priorities in the several studies as well as the accomplishment of goals from previous plans show the strength of residents’ commitment. Sections 8 and 9 of this report detail plans to address these ambitious goals.

Following the approval of this Plan, the Open Space and Recreation Committee will continue to encourage and support the Town entities assigned primary responsibility for the Action Plan in Section 9.

Table 6B3 2008 SURVEY: Ways to protect and add to Open Space

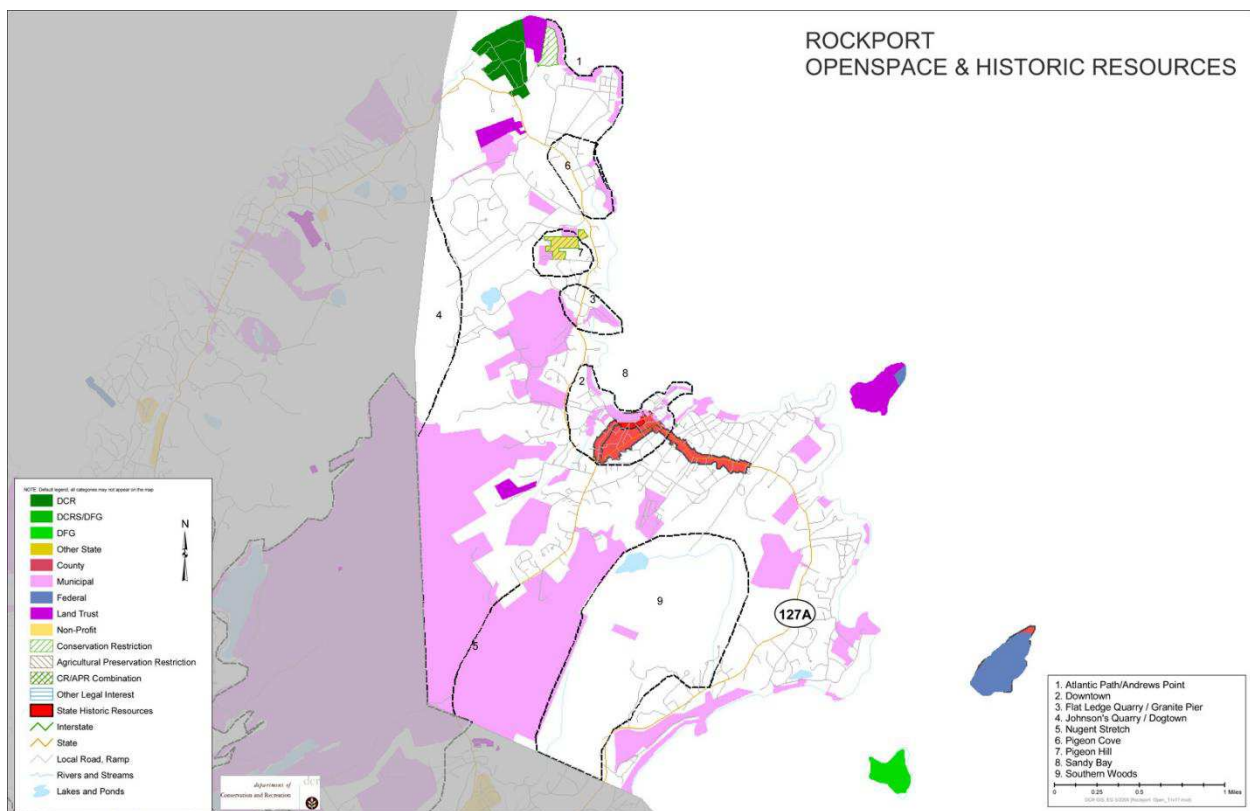
- 94% Vote to change zoning laws
- 51% Donate \$\$ to buy land
- 15% Rewrite your deed to limit future use of their land
- 8% Contribute land to the Town

SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

7A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Rockport appears to have considerable open space, although several areas of it are only perceived open space and are not yet protected. The environmental inventory shows that Rockport provides all of its own drinking water; thus, the Town needs to do more to protect its essential watershed areas. In our survey the community ranked preserving this resource highest, with 95% of the responders finding it Very Important or Moderately Important. The survey also supported the use of many methods to protect water resources, including zoning changes, purchases of land and updating watershed protection rules. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) updated the Essex County Landscape Inventory with the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program in 2005. That program produced the Rockport Reconnaissance Report in which some of these same properties are designated as Priority Landscapes (see [HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/FILES/DOCUMENTS/2016/08/SL/ROCKPORT-WITH-MAP.PDF](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/SL/ROCKPORT-WITH-MAP.PDF)). The report notes that protecting them could require a significant effort, because many have multiple owners or unclear titles. Map 7A is from that report.

Map 7A Rockport Open Space & Historic Resources



The Committee’s 2017 survey ranks protection of the Town’s existing extensive trail system as the residents’ top recreation concern, with 86% responders finding it Very Important or Moderately Important. Some of the existing trail network is on private land; those portions of the trails are at risk of being blocked at any time. The loss of access to historic rights of way has been a significant issue in the past ten years. Many parcels that are of interest for the protection of the water supply are also of interest for protection of trails, rare species habitat, wetlands, and vernal pools. Some of the same land is valued

for historic interest, especially in the quarry and agricultural areas. Much is adjacent to undeveloped land and thus at particular risk for change. Protecting those lands would also support the DCR's recommendation "to work towards protecting large core areas of open space, which keep or improve the community's ecological network".

The Committee ranks preserving open space for public coastal access at the same high level. With 85% of respondents considering it Very Important or Moderately Important. The 2017 survey's top five activities for participation by residence are, Walking, Beach, Nature Walks, Swimming and Boating/Canoeing/Kayaking. These local top areas of concern and participation coincide with what the state also outlines in the Massachusetts 2012 and 2017 Draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (see [HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/FILES/DRAFT-SCORP-2017.PDF](https://www.mass.gov/files/draft-scorp-2017.pdf)). It was developed using online surveys and a survey specialist company using a statistically developed phone sampling plan. From that information, they outlined goals to best serve the residents of Massachusetts. The 2017 plan update is in draft phase now. Their finalized 2012 report was also reviewed by our committee for this report. The 2012 plan lists four overall goals: 1) increase the availability of all types of trails for recreation, 2) increase availability of water-based recreation, 3) invest in recreation and conservation areas that are near communities' populated areas so they can be enjoyed with a short visit, and 4) invest in racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhoods, because of their projected increase in use of outdoor recreation.

The techniques used, locations surveyed and descriptions of activities by the three surveys creates some differences in results, but there is a clear message of what residents are participating in. The very top activities require access to trails for walking, hiking, jogging, and water access for swimming, boating, canoeing, and kayaking. Other high participation activities of note in the combined results are camping, dog walking, bicycling, and cross country skiing.

Our coastal access, open space, and trail system has been a strong concern of the townspeople of Rockport. It can never be taken for granted, as access can change with new development or new ownership. The DCR Rockport Reconnaissance Report singles out Andrew's Point and the Atlantic Path for ongoing attention.

As the character of our coastal wetlands continues to change, invasive species take greater hold making the work to eradicate those species an increasing concern included in Section 8.

7B. Summary of Community's Needs

The community, according to the Committee's survey, puts its highest priority on protecting the drinking water supply. Also highly ranked were protection and improvement of the trail system, working to preserve large tracts of open space, preservation of areas for passive recreation, and the protection of historic access and rights of ways. Lands of interest have been identified for protection in this report by comparing each parcel to a standard set of values.

The 2017 Draft SCORP was developed by conducting extensive research into the usage and needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth. The data are collected statewide, with Rockport included in the Metro North Regional Planning Area and the North Shore Task Force. In most cases the SCORP and the information developed from the Committee meetings, workshops and surveys are very similar.

Both the 2017 Draft SCORP and the 2017 Rockport survey show high participation in the passive recreation pursuits of walking, hiking, swimming, and fishing. Differences include our survey's much higher rank of power boating than the SCORP, which ranked non-motorized water craft very highly. In the Committee's survey bicycling is also very near the top at number six, with road bicycling number four and off road number twelve in the Draft 2017 SCORP. The 2012 SCORP report ranks good bikeways as

highest of the unmet needs statewide; similarly, Rockport's survey ranks this Very High. Goal 5 of this Report addresses this concern.

Participation rates for active recreation (those activities that require a facility) are similar for SCORP and our survey. Tennis, golf, baseball, and playgrounds rank high in both. As a reference, we reviewed Rockport's facilities for all activities using the National Recreation and Park Associations guidelines and standards. For our population size, Rockport facilities typically meet or exceed the service guidelines.

One area that did not meet them was baseball. The 2012 SCORP does not show regional statistics, but the 2006 SCORP found that Essex County has the largest baseball participation in the state and participation in baseball was also the highest field-based activity in the Committee's survey. The guidelines call for one full-size facility per 5000 residents. Rockport's little league/softball facilities meet the guidelines, but full size diamond usage should be reviewed. As the MBTA works to improve the facilities at its station they can affect the use of and access to Evans Field, one of our main lighted playing fields. The station's parking lot is currently used by athletes and the public in general during off peak train travel hours, which is when most playing field activity takes place. The parking area looks like one continuous MBTA parking area but sections of it are owned by the Town of Rockport. In 2017 and 2018 the MBTA and the Rockport DPW made many improvements to the area. The tracks that blocked the east side of Evans Field where relocated. A transformer building, that provides full electrical power to operate all functions on layover trains, has been built directly in front of the Little League field entrance. Drainage to the parking lot has been repaired, and the parking lot has all been paved along with a new paved pass through road. The lot is still open to the public without a fee. This project overall has been a positive change for the area. The Evans Field surface is six feet higher and separated by a granite reinforced retaining wall from the MBTA area. The town now has the opportunity to greatly improve access to field with stairs and ramps. This will be expensive and is just in the beginning stages of consideration.

There is an ever growing demand for more playing fields with many organizations vying for their use. There are currently four baseball diamonds, two soccer fields, and two sets of usable tennis courts. Tennis continues to grow in popularity, with over 200 adults and children participating in summer outdoor recreation programs.

More water activity programs, particularly swimming, could be offered by the Town, since Rockport is a seacoast community. The use of "self-powered watercraft" has moved to be one of the top recreation activities on Cape Ann, as it is for Massachusetts and New England. Rockport should consider improvements, including adding public launch/retrieve areas on our coast.

Rockport has narrow streets that can make biking and walking unsafe. In our 2009 report we recommended a needs assessment for both sidewalks and bike trails. In 2016 a committee was formed to look at improving biking. They have now created and published suggested routes in an available guide.

The skateboard park at Evans Field requires ongoing maintenance. When this plan was written in 2009, the Town did not maintain it, although it is on Town property. From 2010-2013 a collaboration between the Rockport DPW, Recreation Committee and the private Skateboard Park fund has made several improvements to the park. They include expanding area, resurfacing complete park, new fencing and an entry area. The Community Preservation Act has been changed so that it now allows spending on improvements to facilities not originally paid for with CPA funds. The Skate Park received CPA funding to expand its area and add new jump ramps. The park celebrated its 25-year anniversary in 2014.

Pingree Park in Pigeon Cove has tennis courts, a basketball court, a baseball diamond, and a playground. All had been in need of repair. A gift was given towards the repair of the tennis courts, basketball court and playground, and the Town of Rockport Recreation Department funded the rest of the work to make

all three areas serviceable. The baseball diamond and fencing at the park continue to be well maintained. Most of the town's recreation facilities would benefit from better parking. The work at Evans Field has been very successful for its users, as this is fully developed, it will enhance accessibility to the whole area.

Overall, the Town should undertake a detailed assessment focused on specific usage of, demand for, and efficiency of scheduling for its active recreation facilities.

Rockport has made great strides in the past decade to improve access to open space and recreation areas for people with disabilities. The DPW is continuing to add ADA access to our town's sidewalk network. Section 9 suggests recommendations for improved access.

Long Beach, the Town's seasonal beachfront community, offers a flat, three-quarter mile long sidewalk atop the seawall that separates shoreline cottages from the beach, but it is not easily accessible for people with some disabilities. Portions are owned by the City of Gloucester and by private landowners. ADA access to the whole walkway would require collaboration between Rockport and the other owners. In 2012 the town did extensive engineering work to determine the best approach to maintain the Long Beach seawall. If full replacement is done the cost is estimated at 14 million dollars. The town has financed a study to understand the sand movement on the beach and possible long-term effects of the rise in sea level. The Long Beach Association is also working on maintaining their community. The Association, citing a growing elderly population in the beach cottages, strongly supports improved access to the seawall. At the end of 2017 the Town formed a committee to review all current information about Long Beach and the surrounding area, in an effort to develop a plan for improvements to public structures, infrastructure and municipal systems.

The Committee recognized in 2009 that trail walking is a major recreational activity. Now with electronic mapping with its results common and they are readily available to anyone. The data still needed to be recorded and to be added. Members of the Rockport Rights of Way Committee, OSRC, DPW, Cape Ann Trails, and private citizens have worked continuously from 2009 to record and map trail locations. We recognize that trails are not fully ADA accessible and improvements can be made. Section 9 contained two action recommendations. The first was to the Commonwealth that an ADA trail be provided at Halibut Point with ADA accessible restroom facilities. ADA compliant restrooms have been installed. The second recommends a joint effort with the Rockport Conservation Commission to develop ADA accessibility wherever possible in woodland areas. Trail and open space access, including adjoining parking points and implementation of Cape Ann trail head public bus service, has improved but none of Town land trails meet the ADA standard. Also recommended is improvement of beach access at the Cape Hedge Beach entrance ramp on South Street. The ramp itself has not been improved, but significant work went into transferring ownership of the beach overlook area at the foot of South Street. The parcel was gifted to the Town. Conservation Commission and the DPW did landscape work that included major clean up, making the site safe, and adding native plants, accessible paths and benches. This area could allow visitors of all abilities to park a car and, with a couple steps on a level pathway, sit and enjoy one of the most spectacular views on Cape Ann. Unfortunately, the work was destroyed by a storm on March 1, 2018.

7C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

Rockport has many committees interested in Town land management, including its open space land. One of the results of the 2009 plan was that the Board of Selectmen changed the Open Space and Recreation Committee from temporary to regular committee status. One of its primary functions not being done by any of the existing committees is the regular review of all parcels in town to a standard, and from those reviews maintain a priority listing of what land is most actively in need of protection. The Open Space

and Recreation Committee now works directly with the Conservation Commission and their land protection person to insure they have the best information in protecting land. The Open Space and Recreation Committee works closely with Conservation Commission, Rights of Way Committee, IT and individual groups on related Town projects.

The DPW has responsibility for management of the Town's open space and recreation areas, including the Town-owned beaches, wharfs, rocky coastline, parks, cemeteries, fields, and woodlands. Many of this plan's actions, like those in the 2009 plan, will require DPW input, coordination, and labor. This Committee is available to work with the Planning Board as it updates its Master Plans, in which the Open Space Plan is considered a key component.

Rockport is fortunate to have benefited from the Community Preservation Act. With the Commonwealth's continued approval of this plan update, Rockport will continue to be eligible for Self-Help grants from the state. Maximizing use of these monies requires time-consuming effort as well as support from related boards and committees. Information and full understanding this plan and the most recent SCORP are critical to establishing the value of open space and recreation facilities to the people who live in and visit Rockport.

Not often considered is the value that open space and recreation bring to the community in actual revenue. The 2017 Draft SCORP cites tourism as one of the top industries in the state and as the third largest employer. Additionally, it states that outdoor recreational resources are cited as one of the top five reasons people visit the state. The report also found studies that show housing with dedicated open space was found to appreciate at a higher rate than conventional housing, and that a majority of people would choose a home near a park or open space over one that was not similarly located.

The advantages of open space were not only limited to the housing market. The 2012 SCORP final report states that "when potential employees are considering what company to work for, environmental quality of the state (they will be living in) is considered more frequently than housing, cost of living, or good schools". They also show the availability of quality open space and recreation resources in the state helps to attract businesses, and small-business decision makers rated park, recreation and open space amenities as being the most important factor to use when measuring quality of life.

SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES from 2009 Plan

THIS SECTION WILL NOT BE FINALIZED UNTIL THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED

The goals and objectives of the 2018 Open Space Plan will be compiled after analysis of the community's voice expressed through the Public Survey, the First Public Meeting, Input from town committees and boards, and analysis of the 2009 Open Space Report. The community's goals and objectives have remained very consistent over the past ten years, with primary emphasis on protecting and enhancing drinking water sources. The community is very interested in maintaining its fortunate combination of natural and manmade surroundings. The Committee has formulated nine key goals in 2009 and objectives listed below:

GOAL 1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE DRINKING WATER SOURCES

GOAL 2: PROTECT AND MANAGE CRITICAL NATURAL RESOURCES

GOAL 3: PRESERVE SIGNIFICANT LAND FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

GOAL 4: ENHANCE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT

GOAL 5: ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES APPROPRIATE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AGE GROUPS AND PERSONS OF DISABILITY

GOAL 6: PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE EXISTING TRAIL NETWORK

GOAL 7: ESTABLISH A PERMANENT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE WITH RESOURCES FROM TOWN COMMITTEES INVOLVED WITH LAND ISSUES

GOAL 8: ANALYZE ROCKPORT'S BYLAWS AND REGULATIONS TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OPEN SPACE PLAN

GOAL 9: PROMOTE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ABOUT OPEN SPACE

SECTION 9: SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN from 2009 plan

THIS SECTION WILL NOT BE FINALIZED UNTIL THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED

GOAL 1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE DRINKING WATER SOURCES

Action 1a) Enhance legal protection for Town-owned watershed property

Responsibility: WPC, PB, OSRC, TM, CONCOM, DPW

Action 1b) Purchase or enact conservation restrictions on key watershed land in Rockport

Responsibility: CONCOM, WPC, OSRC, TM, DPW

Action 1c) Upgrade Watershed Protection Overlay zoning bylaw to be consistent with MADEP guidelines

Responsibility: PB, OSRC, CONCOM, DPW, WPC, TM

Action 1d) Increase the restrictions within the SRAA zone district to provide increased protection within the Watershed Overlay District

Responsibility: OSRC, PB, TM

Action 1e) Assess the Watershed Overlay District boundaries and modify as necessary

Responsibility: OSRC, PB, DPW, WPC

Action 1f) Discourage special permits and variances which are contrary to the long term protection of drinking water resources

Responsibility: WPC, BOS, ZBA, PB, CC, BI

GOAL 2: PROTECT AND MANAGE CRITICAL NATURAL RESOURCES

Action 2a) Move towards identifying, certifying and monitoring all vernal pools in Rockport

Responsibility: CONCOM, OSRC

Action 2b) Develop a digital wetlands map for Rockport using the new Massachusetts Wetlands Conservancy Program aerial orthophoto maps and data from local sources and filings

Responsibility: CONCOM, OSRC

Action 2c) Encourage the eradication of invasive species.

Responsibility: CONCOM, OSRC

Action 2d) Evaluate, prioritize, and implement protection of current and potential agricultural land uses.

Responsibility: CONCOM, OSRC

GOAL 3: PRESERVE SIGNIFICANT LAND FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Action 3a) Establish and maintain an ongoing open space inventory for acquisition and conservation, including current status of all parcels, at least annually

Responsibility: OSRC, WPC

Action 3b) Identify town-owned open space and recreation parcels most in need of active management.

Responsibility: OSRC

Action 3c) Evaluate town-owned parcels and tax title land for appropriate municipal stewardship

Responsibility: OSRC, TM, BOS, CONCOM

Action 3d) Track and publicize funds accruing to the Town from the sale of tax title lands, Community Preservation allocations, grants, and other public and private sources when these funds could potentially be used for open space acquisition. Identify and monitor the disposition of money specifically designated as land bank funds

Responsibility: OSRC, BOS

Action 3e) Evaluate conservation easements and restrictions for all parcels of interest

Responsibility: OSRC, BOS, CONCOM

Action 3f) Prioritize the protection of all private parcels of interest with three or more ecological and cultural values

Responsibility: OSRC

Action 3g) Ascertain the status of all “Orphan parcels” in Rockport

Responsibility: OSRC

Action 3h) Identify and protect large contiguous areas that have significant ecological and cultural values

Responsibility: OSRC

Action 3i) Research, create and distribute grant opportunities for land protection and stewardship.

Responsibility: OSRC

GOAL 4: ENHANCE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT

Action 4a) Identify important trails and wildlife corridors and develop a plan to protect these resources

Responsibility: OSRC, ROW, CONCOM

Action 4b) Identify discontinuous trails and wildlife corridors and develop a plan for restoration

Responsibility: OSRC, ROW, CONCOM

GOAL 5: ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES APPROPRIATE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AGE GROUPS AND PERSONS OF DISABILITY

Action 5a) Undertake a needs assessment, including parking needs, for facilities in Rockport for active recreation such as tennis, basketball, skateboarding, baseball, and soccer

Responsibility: OSRC, REC, BOS

Action 5b) Ensure ADA accessibility to appropriate public land, recreational facilities, and related buildings as indicated in the facility inventory in Table 5B

Responsibility: OSRC, REC, BOS, CONCOM, DPW

Action 5c) Undertake a needs assessment for bicycle trails

Responsibility: OSRC, BOS, REC, CONCOM

Action 5d) Implement the ADA transition plan (see Appendix 3)

Responsibility: OSRC, BOS, Police, CONCOM, DPW

Action 5e) Undertake a needs analysis for improved access to the shore

Responsibility: OSRC, REC, DPW

GOAL 6: PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE EXISTING TRAIL NETWORK

Action 6a) Conduct a comprehensive trail and trail easement inventory and publish an official map of public trails

Responsibility: OSRC, ROW

Action 6b) Research undocumented rights of way

Responsibility: OSRC, ROW

Action 6c) Maintain the public trail network

Responsibility: OSRC, ROW, DPW

Action 6d) Encourage suitable parking at entrances to paths and footpaths

Responsibility: OSRC, ROW

GOAL 7: ESTABLISH A PERMANENT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE WITH RESOURCES FROM TOWN COMMITTEES INVOLVED WITH LAND ISSUES

Action 7a) Create a permanent Open Space and Recreation Committee with seven members to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the 2018 Action Plan; evaluate the seven-year plan annually and revise the Action Plan accordingly; consider unanticipated open space issues and make recommendations for action; update the 2018 Plan with a view to a submission of a revised plan in 2025; and establish a budget as needed

Responsibility: OSRC, BOS, TM

GOAL 8: ANALYZE ROCKPORT'S BYLAWS AND REGULATIONS TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OPEN SPACE PLAN

Action 8a) Promote increased communication and consistency among committees, boards, and commissions on any land disposition action, including watershed protection

Responsibility: All Town boards

Action 8b) Monitor license applications under Chapter 91 as they pertain to open space issues

Responsibility: OSRC, CONCOM, ROW, PB, Harbor Advisory Committee

GOAL 9: PROMOTE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ABOUT OPEN SPACE

Action 9a) Develop a plan to involve Rockport students in open space plan implementation and involve students in stewardship of the town's open space.

Responsibility: OSRC, Rockport High School

Action 9b) Promote public awareness and education about open space issues

Responsibility: OSRC

Action 9c) Educate the public about the network of local trails, publicize the availability of trail maps and improve trailhead signage

Responsibility: OSRC, ROW

Action 9d) Educate the public about Town recreation opportunities via brochures, maps, and signage, and make the materials available at the information booth, the shuttle parking lot, the train station, Town web site, and prominent spots in the local business areas

Responsibility: OSRC, REC

Action 9e) Brief the relevant Town staff, boards and committees and the public on the development and implementation of the 2018 Open Space Plan

Responsibility: OSRC

Action 9f) Designate Open Space Committee members as liaisons to other Town boards, committees and officials with action responsibilities and have them report back to the Open Space Committee on a regular basis

Responsibility: OSRC

First-Year Action Plan

The Action Plan for the first year was formulated by voting on the top ten actions, weighting those actions by their being easy, medium, or hard to implement, and creating a final list of 11 actions to be undertaken in the first year of the 2018 Open Space Plan.

Table 9-1 lists those actions from easiest to hardest to implement. Actions with the same weighted vote are listed in numerical order. Some action descriptions have been truncated; see above for the full description.

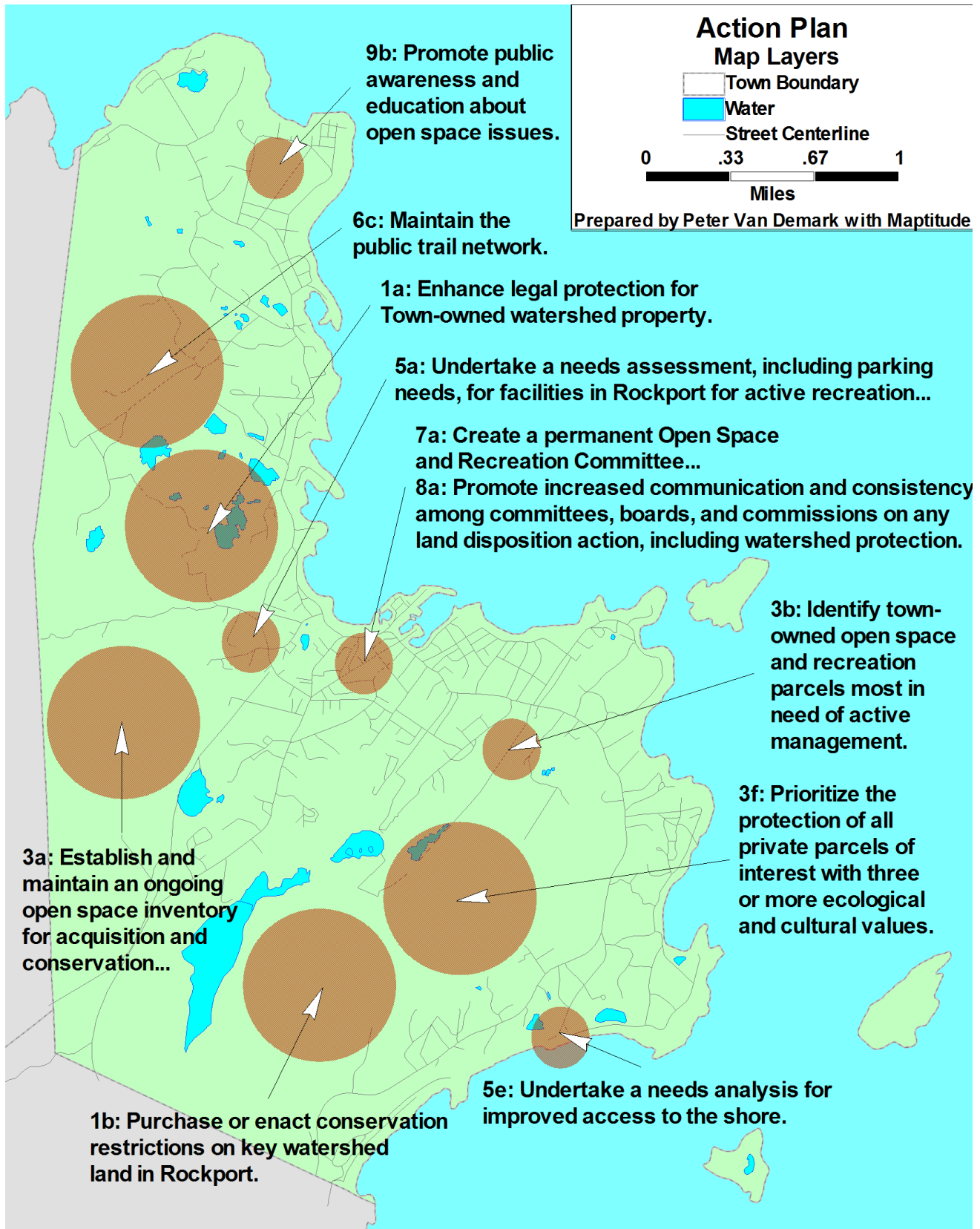
Table 9-1 First-Year Action Plan

Action	Description
7a	Create a permanent Open Space and Recreation Committee...
3f	Prioritize the protection of all private parcels of interest with three or more ecological and cultural values.
3a	Establish and maintain an ongoing open space inventory for acquisition and conservation...
1a	Enhance legal protection for Town-owned watershed property.
3b	Identify town-owned open space and recreation parcels most in need of active management.
8a	Promote increased communication and consistency among committees, boards, and commissions on any land disposition action, including watershed protection.
9b	Promote public awareness and education about open space issues.
5e	Undertake a needs analysis for improved access to the shore.
5a	Undertake a needs assessment, including parking needs, for facilities in Rockport for active recreation...
6d	Maintain the public trail network.
1b	Purchase or enact conservation restrictions on key watershed land in Rockport

Map 9: Action Plan shows the 11 actions in the First-Year Action Plan. Some actions are not specific to a place, and some actions are for many places, so the locations of the actions are representative of the places that will be affected by the actions.

OSRC will continually review progress on implementing the actions and will annually revise the Action Plan. Only the First-Year Action Plan has been presented here, but it is the intent of OSRC to address all of the current actions, and new actions that become priorities, within the seven years of the 2018 Open Space Plan.

Map 9: First-Year Action Plan



Action Plans for Years Two to Seven

The action plans for years two to seven were formulated by having each Committee member suggest years to start the actions not in the first-year plan, then discussing and agreeing on the starting year for each action. Many actions are already underway, and many actions will continue over the seven years of the plan.

Table 9-2 lists the actions for each year, in action code order, with suggested funding. Many actions require minimal or no funding, and can likely be covered within existing leads work and organization. These are indicated with an asterisk (*) after the organization name. Some action descriptions have been truncated; see the beginning of this section for the full description.

Table 9-2 Action Plans for Years Two to Seven

Year	Action	Description	Funding
2	1c	Upgrade Watershed Protection Overlay zoning bylaw to be consistent with MADEP guidelines	PB*,TM
	1f	Discourage special permits and variances which are contrary to the long-term protection of drinking water resources	OSRC*
	2a	Move towards identifying, certifying and monitoring all vernal pools in Rockport	CONCOM*
	2c	Encourage the eradication of invasive species	CONCOM*, Garden Club
	3i	Research, create and distribute grant opportunities for land protection and stewardship	CONCOM*
	4a	Identify important trails and wildlife corridors and develop a plan to protect these resources	CONCOM & ROW*
	6c	Maintain the public trail network	ROW & DPW*
	8b	Monitor license applications under Chapter 91 as they pertain to open space issues	CONCOM*, PB
	9d	Educate the public about Town recreation opportunities...	REC & Town funding
	9f	Designate Open Space Committee members as liaisons to other Town boards, committees and officials ...	OSRC*
3	1d	Increase the restrictions within the SRAA zone district to provide increased protection within the Watershed Overlay District	PB*
	1e	Assess the Watershed Overlay District boundaries and modify as necessary	WPC*
	2b	Develop a digital wetlands map for Rockport...	CONCOM & Town funding
	3e	Evaluate conservation easements and restrictions for all parcels of interest	CONCOM*
	5c	Undertake a needs assessment for bicycle trails	REC*
	6a	Conduct a comprehensive trail and trail easement inventory and publish an official map of public trails	ROW & Town funding
	9c	Educate the public about the network of local trails, publicize the availability of trail maps and improve trailhead signage	ROW*
	9e	Brief the relevant Town staff, boards and committees and the public on the development and implementation of the 2018 Open Space Plan	OSRC*

Year	Action	Description	Funding
4	3d	Track and publicize funds accruing to the Town...	Town Services & OSRC
	5d	Implement the ADA transition plan (see Appendix 3)	BOS, CPA funds & grants
	6b	Research undocumented rights of way	ROW & Town funding
5	3h	Identify and protect large contiguous areas that have significant ecological and cultural values	CONCOM, CPA funds & grants
	4b	Identify discontinuous trails and wildlife corridors and develop a plan for restoration	CONCOM & ROW*
	9a	Develop a plan to involve Rockport students in open space plan implementation and involve students in stewardship of the town's open space	OSRC*
6	3c	Evaluate town-owned parcels and tax title land for appropriate municipal stewardship	OSRC*
	5b	Ensure ADA accessibility to appropriate public land, recreational facilities, and related buildings...	BOS, CPA funds & grants
7	2d	Evaluate, prioritize, and implement protection of current and potential agricultural land uses	OSRC*
	3g	Ascertain the status of all "Orphan parcels" in Rockport	OSRC & Town funding

SECTION 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS

THIS SECTION WILL NOT BE FINALIZED UNTIL THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED

SECTION 11: RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

THIS SECTION WILL NOT BE FINALIZED UNTIL THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED

SECTION 12: APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Results of the Rockport Open Space Survey 2017

Rockport Open Space Survey 2017

1. How important is it to you for the town to preserve/acquire the following:

Choice in Order Asked	Very Important	Moderately Important	Less Important	Not Important	Response Count
Open space to protect groundwater and drinking water resources	83.87% (208)	10.89% (27)	1.61% (4)	3.63% (9)	248
Open space to protect wetlands and wildlife habitat	76.02% (187)	13.82% (34)	5.69% (14)	4.47% (11)	246
Forests and woodlands	69.11% (170)	19.51% (48)	6.91% (17)	4.47% (11)	246
Provide long term protection of existing trail network	65.99% (163)	20.24% (50)	8.50% (21)	5.26% (13)	247
Open space for public coastal access	75.00% (186)	15.73% (39)	5.65% (14)	3.63% (9)	248
Provide bike paths/sidewalks	49.80% (123)	24.70% (61)	17.00% (42)	8.50% (21)	247
Contiguous/continuous open space areas	50.62% (123)	28.40% (69)	13.17% (32)	7.82% (19)	243
Open space for passive recreational needs (hiking, XC skiing, horseback riding, etc.)	47.77% (118)	30.36% (75)	13.36% (33)	8.50% (21)	247
Buildings/places of historical or architectural interest	47.54% (116)	31.56% (77)	16.39% (40)	4.51% (11)	244
Historic/archeological sites	50.62% (123)	32.51% (79)	12.35% (30)	4.53% (11)	243
Open space for active recreational needs (baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis etc.)	35.77% (88)	38.21% (94)	18.70% (46)	7.32% (18)	246
Add to the trail network	33.33% (82)	32.93% (81)	23.17% (57)	10.57% (26)	246
Open space to preserve real estate values	34.96% (86)	33.33% (82)	18.29% (45)	13.41% (33)	246

Choice in Importance Order	Very Important	Moderately Important	Less Important	Not Important	Response Count
Open space to protect groundwater and drinking water resources	83.87% (208)	10.89% (27)	1.61% (4)	3.63% (9)	248
Open space to protect wetlands and wildlife habitat	76.02% (187)	13.82% (34)	5.69% (14)	4.47% (11)	246
Open space for public coastal access	75.00% (186)	15.73% (39)	5.65% (14)	3.63% (9)	248

Forests and woodlands	69.11% (170)	19.51% (48)	6.91% (17)	4.47% (11)	246
Provide long term protection of existing trail network	65.99% (163)	20.24% (50)	8.50% (21)	5.26% (13)	247
Contiguous/continuous open space areas	50.62% (123)	28.40% (69)	13.17% (32)	7.82% (19)	243
Historic/archeological sites	50.62% (123)	32.51% (79)	12.35% (30)	4.53% (11)	243

Choice in Importance Order	Very Important	Moderately Important	Less Important	Not Important	Response Count
Provide bike paths/sidewalks	49.80% (123)	24.70% (61)	17.00% (42)	8.50% (21)	247
Open space for passive recreational needs (hiking, XC skiing, horseback riding, etc.)	47.77% (118)	30.36% (75)	13.36% (33)	8.50% (21)	247
Buildings/places of historical or architectural interest	47.54% (116)	31.56% (77)	16.39% (40)	4.51% (11)	244
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Open space to preserve real estate values	34.96% (86)	33.33% (82)	18.29% (45)	13.41% (33)	246
Add to the trail network	33.33% (82)	32.93% (81)	23.17% (57)	10.57% (26)	246

Answered question: 249

Skipped question: 0

2. Indicate the recreational activities in which you or your family participate or would like to participate:

Choice in Response Order	Response Percent	Response Count
Walking	93.47%	229
Beach	84.49%	207
Nature hikes	78.78%	193
Swimming	64.08%	157
Bicycling	54.29%	133
Dog walking	48.57%	119
Kayaking/canoeing/rowing/sailboarding	46.94%	115
Birdwatching	45.71%	112
Picnicking	40.00%	98
Fishing	35.10%	86
Cross-country skiing	33.06%	81
Snowshoeing	27.76%	68
Sailing	27.35%	67
Plein air drawing/painting	26.12%	64
Jogging	25.71%	63
Tennis	24.49%	60
Power boating	22.04%	54
Golf	21.22%	52
Tot playground	21.22%	52
Ice skating/hockey/curling	20.41%	50
Mountain biking	19.18%	47
Soccer	14.29%	35
Horseback riding	14.29%	35
Baseball	13.88%	34
Outdoor basketball	13.06%	32
Surfing	10.20%	25
Other (please specify)	--	24
Indoor basketball	8.57%	21
Skateboarding	6.53%	16
Track	6.53%	16
Softball	6.12%	15

Choice in Response Order	Response Percent	Response Count
Football	5.31%	13
Lacrosse	3.67%	9
Snowmobiling	1.63%	4
Golf	0.00%	0
Bicycling	0.00%	0
Mountain biking	0.00%	0
Snowmobiling	0.00%	0
Tot playground	0.00%	0

Other:

plant I.D. mushroom picking, butterfly I.D.

Field hockey

Kickball

Dancing

Nature study, archaeology, concerts, performances, poetry readings

Comment: all are worthwhile

More free community concerts + education concerts at Shalin Liu by local classical and jazz musicians

Exercise classes

Mushrooming, enjoying scenic vistas, plant/wildflower I.D., butterfly I.D.

Visiting the seaside views, not only beach

Historical walking & hiking, Photography walks,

Instead of jogging, I walk.

Too old for many, but when younger participated in more

Farmers market, festivals, etc.

Keep ocean access and views for public

Hanging on my deck without being bothered

Hunting

Dog walking

Spaces left untouched to be a part of our environment

Outdoor Music, Sculpture, Gardens

Mushroom hunting, foraging

Scuba diving

Yoga

Pickle ball

Answered question: 245

Skipped question: 4

3. How important for you are the town’s recreational places for:

Choice in Order Asked	Very Important	Moderately Important	Less Important	Not Important	Response Count
Toddlers (up to age 4)	41.00% (98)	27.20% (65)	19.25% (46)	12.55% (30)	239
Young children (5 – 8)	51.67% (124)	26.67% (64)	12.08% (29)	9.58% (23)	240
Upper elementary (9 – 12)	55.19% (133)	24.07% (58)	12.03% (29)	8.71% (21)	241
Teenagers (13 – 18)	54.13% (131)	25.21% (61)	13.22% (32)	7.44% (18)	242
Adults	65.56% (158)	22.41% (54)	9.96% (24)	2.07% (5)	241
Handicapped	55.46% (132)	28.99% (69)	12.18% (29)	3.36% (8)	238
Senior citizens	62.40% (151)	25.21% (61)	9.92% (24)	2.48% (6)	242

Choice in Response Order	Very Important	Moderately Important	Less Important	Not Important	Response Count
Teenagers (13 – 18)	54.13% (131)	25.21% (61)	13.22% (32)	7.44% (18)	242
Senior citizens	62.40% (151)	25.21% (61)	9.92% (24)	2.48% (6)	242
Upper elementary (9 – 12)	55.19% (133)	24.07% (58)	12.03% (29)	8.71% (21)	241
Adults	65.56% (158)	22.41% (54)	9.96% (24)	2.07% (5)	241
Young children (5 – 8)	51.67% (124)	26.67% (64)	12.08% (29)	9.58% (23)	240
Toddlers (up to age 4)	41.00% (98)	27.20% (65)	19.25% (46)	12.55% (30)	239
Handicapped	55.46% (132)	28.99% (69)	12.18% (29)	3.36% (8)	238

Answered question: 245

Skipped question: 4

4. Describe specific parcels in Rockport you would like the town to acquire for open space and what makes them unique for prioritization:

Group	Response
1: Andrews Woods	Please work with the Conservation Commission to obtain a conservation restriction of Andrews Woods - Pigeon Cove's central park & community space.
1: Andrews Woods	Conservation restrictions for Andrews Woods. The only open space in the avenues area that is consistently used for: walking, hiking, dog-walking, XC skiing, biking jogging, full of birds, turkeys, hawks, fox, rabbits, etc.
1: Andrews Woods	access to the rocks on Andrews Point - make sure those paths to them are kept available from Phillips Ave.
1: Andrews Woods	Pigeon Cove and woods
1: Andrews Woods	Preserve the already acquired Andrews Woods.
1: Andrews Woods	Conserve Andrews Woods
1&6: Andrews/Tool	Property that protects the flyways of birds/animals, property abutting dog town, Tool and Dye Company property, Waring Field, Andrews Woods
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnson's Quarry and surrounds
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnson Rd - Top of Pigeon Hill St. No sewer extension!
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnson Property from Johnson Road to Squam Hill
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnson's Quarry: trail hub
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnson Quarry
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnson Road. Protected wetlands, birds, wildlife. Stop any building from happening. Woodland Acres
2: Johnson's Quarry	Steve Johnson land on Pigeon Hill. An additional housing development in that location would only add to Pigeon Hill congestion, especially the high (and dangerous) traffic volume we are now experiencing. We also have serious concerns about potential impact on the water table. Acquisition of this area would also add to existing hiking and walking in our part of town and, we believe, enhance the value and attractiveness of our area.
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnsons Quarry and any other wooded big lots as well as anything historical
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnson's Quarry: this is urgent before development overtakes it. It is archaeologically unique, particular to Rockport's history, and ecologically critical.
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnsons Quarry, Trails and expand abutting protected land. All unbuilt Private parcels in South Woods, trails, expand abutting protected land, water shed
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnson's Quarry - abuts trail system, provides contiguous wildlife habitat, representative of the town's quarrying history
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnson's Quarry: adjacent to other public land

Group	Response
2: Johnson's Quarry	Woodland Acres and Johnson Quarry. Both core habitat areas that expand large protected areas.
2: Johnson's Quarry	Johnson's Quarry because it has historic, cultural, recreational, and environmental value.
2&3: Johnson's/South	South Woods + land near Johnson's Quarry
2&4: Johnson's/Dogtown	I would like to protect the top of Pigeon Hill St from further development specifically the Johnson's Quarry/Rd area. It is important for wildlife conservation as well as keeping existing hiking/walking/mountain biking trails/access to Whale's Jaw/Prof. Norton's/Dogtown open.
2&4: Johnson's/Dogtown	Johnson's Quarry area because it is at the heart of connecting Rockport to the Dogtown trail network.
3: South Woods	South Woods - Relatively undisturbed but potentially 110's of house lots
3: South Woods	Waring Field -> location accessible to South Rockport
3: South Woods	I don't know what parcels are available. I love the South Woods trails but get lost. Would love a map also feel that room on 127 for bikes is important as it is dangerous. So this is an area where the town would need to take space from homeowners to expand road width. The new park at Cape Hedge is looking great!
3: South Woods	Remaining parcels needed to turn South Woods fire road into a bike path
3: South Woods	I'm not aware of parcels we should acquire but if there are extensive southern woods and/or watershed parcels at risk for development, I would like the town to prioritize these for purchase. I would also like to retain existing, owned, parcels.
3: South Woods	From what I understand Stan Poole owns about 60 acres in the Southern woods. There is an old road or fire road that crosses his property, I believe. I would like to see this natural area preserved for future generations.
3: South Woods	Areas along the east side of South Street/Thatcher that have not been developed.
3: South Woods	anything along the Marmion way Old Garden Beach area. South woods.
3: South Woods	South Woods
3&4: South/Dogtown	any woods abutting South Woods or Dogtown
3&4: South/Dogtown	Any open space that protects contiguous land between south woods and Dogtown.
3&4: South/Dogtown	Important to secure all open space adjacent to South Woods, Dogtown and North Woods to prevent these areas from being developed
3&8: South/Atlantic	Atlantic Pathway, South End Woods
4: Dogtown	Areas of Dogtown to be made more accessible to people.
5: Tax Title Land	tax title land that can be accessed via Phillips Ave and Haven Ave; it is an asset to the town. Any open space should be preserved for the benefit of the town residents and the environmental health of our community.
6: Tool Company	Tool Company
6: Tool Company	Tool factory, suggest removing and replacing with a park. Coastal property to preserve the coastline for all the people
6: Tool Company	Tool Company parcel
6: Tool Company	Cape Ann Tool Company - access to water and charming Pigeon Cove Harbor.
6: Tool Company	The tool factory. Location.
6&7: Tool/Quarries	1. Steel Derrick - so all Rockport residents can enjoy the quarry; 2. Pigeon Cove Tool Company site - to get rid of the eyesore and to put in place a harbor side park for residents.
7: Quarries	I do not know what parcels are currently owned by Rockport and which are not, but much of the open space and woodlands that I currently walk and hike in should be preserved for the purpose, Sadly, much of the Quarry lands are becoming private property owned by transplants from out of town that have no intention of allowing public access to their lands.
7: Quarries	Quarries for water
7: Quarries	quarries for public swimming

Group	Response
7: Quarries	The end of Pigeon Hill Street. would be a beautiful park. lovely quarry.
7: Quarries	quarries unique to Rockport
8: Atlantic Path	Maintain the entire length of the Atlantic Path.
8: Atlantic Path	assure access to Atlantic path and ocean front; concern that new developers slowly taking over public right of ways to oceanfront. NB: Cathedral Ave (public)but owner of house has put sign that private & no trespassing...not appear that town caring for road; Road by Henry's Pond & Pebble Beach needs to remain open and passable to public. Maintain/acquire open accessible spaces
8: Atlantic Path	I think the number of parcels the town has are impressive. I do not feel the parcels are kept up appropriately, specifically the Atlantic path, it is covered in poison ivy in many places. I think all parcels should have well signed, easy access and PARKING. Waring Field is a lovely spot, but the gate is closed most of the time.
8: Atlantic Path	Hoop's Pole portion of Atlantic Path (now in private hands)
8: Atlantic Path	anything left on Atlantic paths to restrict further building
8: Atlantic Path	Any parcels that would improve access to and continuity of the Atlantic Path
9: Other	None
9: Other	All existing open land
9: Other	No opinion
9: Other	Rockport's "green jewel" the Mill Pond and Meadow
9: Other	Now I do not know re specific parcels
9: Other	Harbors for more slips & moorings
9: Other	Fields behind Lane's Farm
9: Other	None. We need to utilize open space for housing etc.
9: Other	No more
9: Other	None
9: Other	We need more housing!
9: Other	none
9: Other	None
9: Other	End of Normanstone
9: Other	not aware of any specific parcels
9: Other	No specific parcel in mind. Nevertheless, it is very important to the quality of life in the town to lessen the density in the undeveloped areas of the town. With current technology, a septic system can be installed on parcels that were previously unbuildable. Consequently, more and more land is being sold for development and more houses, mostly large, are being constructed. The town may want to look at its zoning for the less developed areas, such as in the south end. Also, more building means destruction of more wildlife and bird habitat and less natural beauty for the residents to enjoy. All of these things are interrelated.
9: Other	Doesn't it make a difference because millionaires will come in and buy it and put up mega mansions and Rockport continues to allow it this town government is destroying this beautiful little piece of heaven
9: Other	I don't have any specific parcels in mind but I would like to buy land for a place people can bury their pets. Proceeds can go back to the town. This would give people a chance to put their sentiments on a stone and visit their beloved pet. I know it sounds crazy but people are crazy about their animals.
9: Other	Any and all -- the town is losing its rural character
9: Other	Firehouse Trust Building -never used in current state and should be an active building that the public can use and fixed up on the outside.
9: Other	Too new to town to identify.
9: Other	Unsure

Group	Response
9: Other	Stop all the McMansion building and keep ocean access/views for the public. We are becoming an empty town in the winter with nothing much to see. The train noise is awful. Day trippers who come for sports don't spend anything and add nothing but traffic.
9: Other	Sea side of Eden Road, Current land on Ruthern Way, pond side of Pebble Beach - all beautiful views with important bird, bug, plant habitats. All current parks and open space in Rockport - Halibut Point area.
9: Other	I would like ALL current open spaces to remain AS IS.
9: Other	Keep all we have and add any that are available if there is any CPA money left!
9: Other	Vast area on main street going out of town.
9: Other	No specific but when purchased signage should indicate the public's right to use and parking should be provided. Several purchases by the town appear to be gifts to neighbors vs a real public use.
9: Other	Big open lot by Old Garden beach between two residences
9: Other	More parks & fields for sports
9: Other	None we own too much now!!!
9: Other	Coastal and woodland areas.
9: Other	Please provide a list of options to choose from.
9: Other	none
9: Other	Anything along the water.
9: Other	Keep all we have and add any that are available if there is any CPA money left!
9: Other	If the town wants to attract young people in needs to take serious efforts to make this happen. Buy property in the downtown and turn into park for children.
9: Other	To have porter potties on the beaches
9: Other	Do not know of specific parcels, but properties that seem to become more commercial and overused should be restored to more open and environmentally sound.
9: Other	Sandpiper Point....location near the beach
9: Other	I'm opposed to the Town acquiring additional land parcels.
9: Other	Upkeep current areas such as Sandpiper Park - South Street
9: Other	Coastal paths accessibility makes Rockport a special place to live.
9: Other	5a Marmion Way. A building there would be a big mistake. Too dense.
9: Other	anything that facilitates a walkway between Studio Crepe/Train Station to Millbrook Park. A pedestrian/bike/nature path from RR Ave. to the beach following the Mill Brook would amplify our attractiveness on a million levels (nature, recreation, disabled access, day tripper access...)
9: Other	No specific areas but a few quarries would be nice.
9: Other	None we own too much now
9: Other	[empty]
9: Other	Keiran Preserve trail
9: Other	Lloyd B. Waring Preserve. As of December 26, 1990 by 2/3rds vote at annual town meeting may vote to change use.
9: Other	No specific parcels in mind but I think it's important to keep a nice mix of different types of areas. I would love to see sidewalks all around Town; when the town put sidewalks in, they left off the last mile of the south end; which is a very busy part of town as the footbridge is there, the beaches are there, there are several families, dog walkers, visitors, beach-goers, etc. and in addition to open space being important, it's critical that people be able to access them safely. My family never ever went bike riding and it was because that end of town is not conducive to walking, bicycling, or attempting to get anywhere safely....a real shame. Equally important is a bike path all along town. So, the space is important, but ACCESS to the sites is important. Mass in Motion provides monies to help facilitate things like this; the Committee should look into these monies for sure.
9: Other	8-26 to expand Halibut Point State Park; 19-93 to control Rumrock Lake

Answered question: 112

Skipped question: 137

5: How many:

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	Response Count
Reside in your household?	0	38	117	30	37	8	2	232
Are 18 years or younger?	150	17	29	4	5	0	0	205

Answered question: 234

Skipped question: 15

7: What do you like MOST about living in Rockport? (indicate the top THREE):

Choice in Order Asked	First	Second	Third	Response Count
Ocean environment	134	35	8	177
Small town character	24	59	25	108
Very walkable town	5	22	46	73
Sense of community	13	19	16	48
Open space	15	34	22	71
Art & cultural activities	2	21	30	53
Town parks & beaches	12	11	22	45
Access to Boston	8	3	12	23
Friendly people	3	3	11	17
Schools	6	2	1	9
Local businesses rather than chain stores	6	4	16	26
Recreational opportunities	1	9	8	18

Choice in Response Count Order	First	Second	Third	Response Count
Ocean environment	134	35	8	177
Small town character	24	59	25	108
Very walkable town	5	22	46	73
Open space	15	34	22	71
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Recreational opportunities	1	9	8	18
Friendly people	3	3	11	17
Schools	6	2	1	9

Other:

Also checked: Sense of community; Town parks & beaches; Friendly people; Schools; Local businesses rather than chain stores; and Recreational opportunities

Comment: all of the above

Also checked: All other choices

Interesting residents

Also checked: Sense of community; Art & cultural activities; Town parks & beaches; Access to Boston; Friendly people; Local businesses rather than chain stores; and Recreational opportunities. Comment: All checked are most important!

Comment: this is hard!

Other:

Also checked: Sense of community; Art & cultural activities; Town parks & beaches; and Recreational opportunities

Also checked: Art & cultural activities; Town parks & beaches

Also checked: Sense of community; Open space; Art & cultural activities; Town parks & beaches; Friendly people; Schools; Local businesses rather than chain stores; and Recreational opportunities

Also checked: Open space; Town parks & beaches; Access to Boston; Local businesses rather than chain stores; and Recreational opportunities

Also checked: Recreational opportunities

Also checked: Open space; Art & cultural activities; Town parks & beaches; Schools; Local businesses rather than chain stores; and Recreational opportunities

Also checked: Town parks & beaches and Recreational opportunities

Recreational power boating

Hiking Trails

Retains some historical and rural character

Really absolutely everything on this list PLUS the Historic Architecture!

#4. Winter, when the tourists are gone and we own our town.

Ocean and beaches the same feel for me, as is the open space and recreation

Rockport's special history and importance in the country's infrastructure.

I honestly cannot answer because everything that I loved about this town is getting destroyed the town of Rockport allows these wealthy people to come in and destroy our historic buildings tear down our fields and put up view blocking mansions

Love all the options

Sense of community is really high on the list but I think local business and art/culture are instrumental in creating that community.

Safe community (low crime etc.)

...and every other characteristic listed above.

All of the above are important, they are why I love living here

The walkable woods

Also love local businesses rather than chain stores, and single family homes NOT condos or gated communities

1--ocean environ. 2.town parks & beaches 3. recreational opportunities

Art and cultural is really tied for #3

Also #4 small town character.

Ocean front property

All of the above

Feel safe & secure - little or no crime

Commitment to recycling and reusing materials

Small size and lack of large developments

Like all of these things!

Three are not enough! sense of community and local businesses=small town character, town beaches=ocean environment=recreational opportunities

Abundance of hiking trails.

Volunteer participation in municipal government

Answered question: 231

Skipped question: 18

8: In 15- 20 years, how would you like to see Rockport’s mix of residential/business/open space (NUMBER 1 & 2)

Choice in Order Asked (& Response Count)	First	Second	Response Count
More protected open space	128	42	170
Same general mix as it is now	72	61	133
More business (thus more business/residential tax)	33	54	87
More housing	26	37	63
Build out into the woods	12	28	40
Less protected open space	9	26	35

Answered question: 226
 Skipped question: 23

Other:

- 1: Stable businesses--entice to establish w/ tax breaks
- Education/regulation to preserve rock that builders, developers, realtors are corrently blowing up to build
- Maintain & improve assets we already have
- Comment: Planning Board was correct
- More ethnic mix
- Please help prevent this: Build out into the woods
- More slips & moorings
- Rockport will become just another nondescript overcrowded suburb outside of Boston if measures aren't continued/increased to preserve the natural open and wooded spaces, history and small town charm of the town.
- Protect moderately priced housing; Prevent McMansions from being built
- Affordable housing-not mega mansions
- If more housing is needed and adaptive reuse is not possible, better to build into the woods than cram more houses onto small lots along the shore. The coast is what defines Rockport. Not the woods. Don't wreck the coast.
- Less development.
- Limit McMansions, height and spread
- Rockport could make better use of the residential/commercial areas that it has now, allowing for both better tax base expansion and protections of open spaces.
- Less bureaucracy small towns tend to have.
- Strategic waterfront development (Granite Pier etc.)
- This question #8 seems tilted towards development
- Encourage in-town food market and a few more dining spots.
- More business in existing spaces
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing needs to be addressed in a more thoughtful and better way than what is currentlt. Based on the average age of resident, the old pass away, then mcmansions are built. What about having a development of first time buyer homes, so the kids that grew up here can move back? A development from habitat for humanity?
- No additional multiple family housing - condos
- Don't care...most likely I'll be dead (need market, Dr's office, basics)
- 'Housing' in my answer means affordable
- Less traffic would be nice, so less building out.
- A better mix of small business on bearskin neck
- We must manage development intelligently or it will overtake us.

Terrible question - not answerable OR actionable! who WROTE this survey and who approved it?

Other:

Affordable housing!!!

More trails, paths, etc.

Less leased property (Long Beach)

9: To preserve/add open space in Town, would you (check any or all)

Choice in Order Asked (& Response Count)	Response Percent	Response Count
Vote to change zoning laws	93.88%	184
Donate \$\$ to buy land	50.51%	99
Rewrite your deed to limit future use of your land	19.39%	38
Contribute land to the Town	12.24%	24

Answered question: 196

Skipped question: 53

10: What methods of open space protection do you support (check any or all):

Choice in Order Asked (& Response Count)	Response Percent	Response Count
Protection through Town bylaws/zoning regulation	84.21%	176
Land acquisition by the Town	77.51%	162
Acquisition only thru donations or government grants	39.71%	83

Answered question: 209

Skipped question: 40