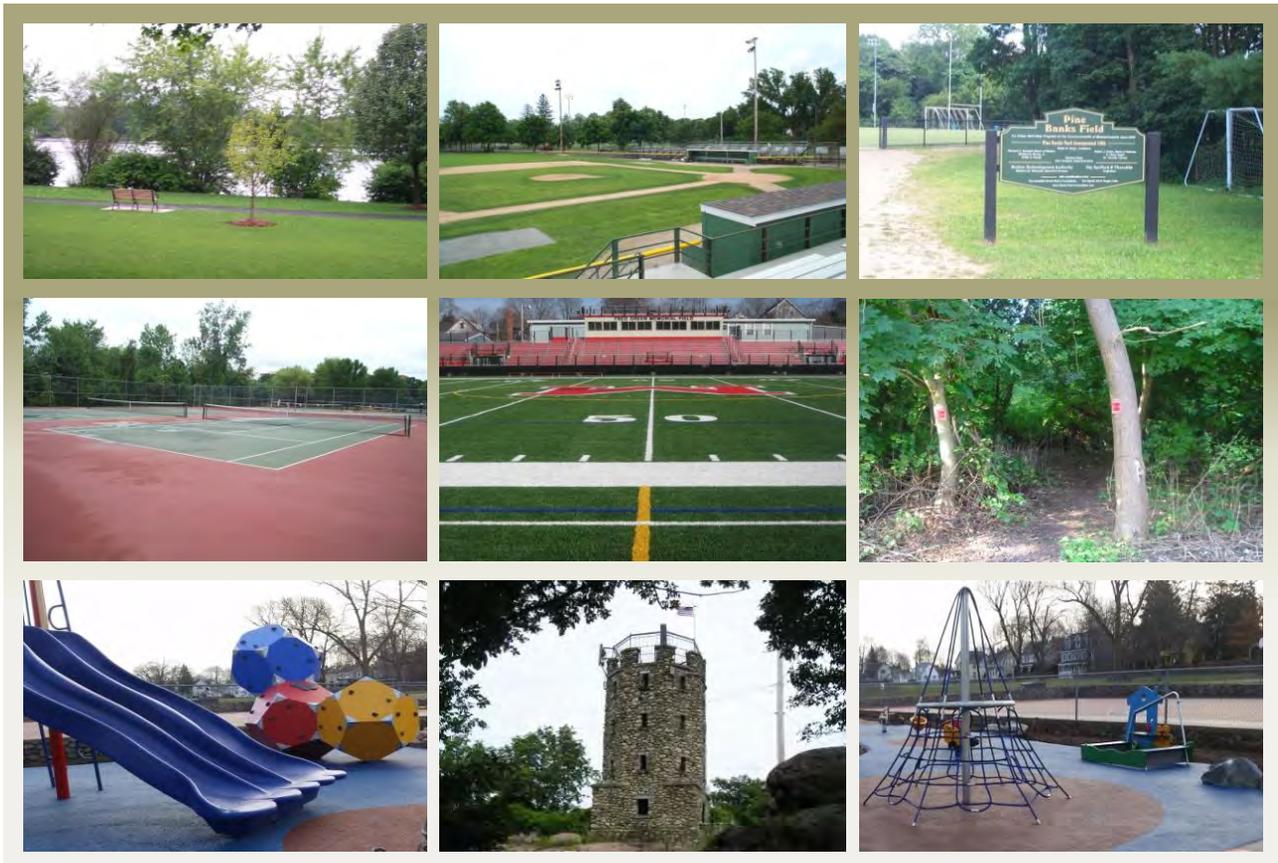


2015 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN



City of Melrose

Office of Planning & Community Development

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Section 1: Plan Summary

The 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan provides a seven-year framework for the preservation, maintenance, and improvement of open space and recreation areas in the City of Melrose. This plan is an update to the 2007 Open Space Plan and the 2010 Updated Action Plan. Initially, a revised inventory of open space was drafted through input gathered from a Working Group comprised of representatives from the Board of Aldermen, Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works, Mayor's Office, Office of Planning and Community Development, Park Department, Recreation Department, and School Department. Comments from the general public and other stakeholder groups were solicited so that the goals of the Open Space and Recreation Plan would reflect those of the community as a whole. This 2015 Open Space Plan has also been submitted to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

This plan explores a variety of tools, programs, and outlets for the preservation and enhancement of recreation and open space. Access to natural resources promotes a higher quality of life; thus, we need to create opportunities that allow residents to interact with their environment and their community. The primary function of this plan is to develop a framework that satisfies the recreation needs of the City's current and future residents, improves and maintains existing facilities, encourages public participation in enhancement efforts, preserves open space and scenic areas, protects water resources, generates new and innovative ways to fund park and open space maintenance, promotes sustainability, and develops facilities for bicycle and pedestrian use. Each individual objective fulfills the larger goals of increased community cohesion and sustainable development. The Seven-Year Action Plan, provided in Section 9, describes the specific tasks required to meet these goals.

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Section 2: Introduction

A. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to identify the open space and recreation goals for the City of Melrose as well as to steer planning and implementation efforts. This plan has been created to provide guidance for the expansion, enhancement, and preservation of open space and recreation opportunities in the City of Melrose. The plan examines the condition of existing park resources and protected open spaces. The plan offers specific goals, recommendations, and a policy framework for preserving our existing natural and recreation assets. A Seven-Year Action Plan was produced that reflects the City's future open space and recreation initiatives. This plan builds upon the City's previous open space planning efforts and has been updated to meet the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' *Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements*.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

The 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan was prepared by the City of Melrose Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD). To prepare the 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the OPCD began by reviewing the 2007 version of the Plan. The format of this Plan follows the format of the 2007 plan which is consistent with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' 2008 *Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements*.

The OPCD staff convened a number of meetings with City Staff, including representatives from the Board of Aldermen, the Conservation Commission, the Park Department, the Recreation Department, the Department of Public Works, the School Department, and the Office of the Mayor. During these meetings, the Seven-Year Action Plan was reviewed in depth and revised accordingly based on the past accomplishments as well as thoughts about future goals and objectives. The community needs analysis was augmented by the *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*, which clearly outlines recreation needs in the metropolitan Boston area based on extensive surveys and inventories of existing facilities. The resultant data was combined with information and suggestions gathered from Melrose's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance efforts.

The Seven-Year Action Plan was made available for comment on January 13, 2015, and public meeting held at the Milano Senior Center was scheduled for January 21, 2015. Comments were requested and the public meeting was advertised in direct mailings and emails to stakeholders, on the City's website, via the Mayor's blog and Twitter account, and in the two local newspapers, the Melrose Free Press and The Melrose Weekly. Through these methods, the public and specific stakeholder groups were invited to the public meeting, where attendees were asked to provide input on the Seven-Year Action Plan. Comments and suggestions from the public and stakeholder groups were incorporated in the draft document. The draft of the 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan was also provided to the Planning Board, the Mayor, and the Conservation Commission. Following the public process, the draft document was provided to the Metropolitan

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Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the Division of Conservation Services. Letters of review from both agencies are attached to this document.

As described further in Section 3, there are two areas designated as Environmental Justice populations where the household income is lower than the median household income in the City of Melrose. It is possible that the Environmental Justice populations may be explained by the presence of senior housing complexes in both areas. The Division of Conservation Services requires enhanced outreach as part of the planning process to Environmental Justice populations. As such, notice of the public meeting was provided to the Council on Aging and the Senior Center. Further, holding the public meeting at the Senior Center, a venue that may be familiar to the senior population, would potentially encourage senior participation at the public meeting. Finally, the Senior Center is located in one of the two designated areas in Melrose making it easily accessible by this population.

C. Accomplishments

Since developing the last Open Space and Recreation Plan, the City of Melrose, working in conjunction with various volunteer organizations, sport associations, and neighboring municipalities, has accomplished a wide range of open space and recreation-related objectives which are highlighted below.

The 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan identified the shortage of field and recreation space as a serious community need. Perhaps even more critical than the shortage of field and recreation space was the condition of the existing playing fields. The 2007 Plan called for major renovations of these existing facilities, which were completed in the past seven years. These renovations include improvements at the following playing fields:

- Hesseltine Field, completed in 2007;
- Pine Banks Park, completed in 2007 and 2012
- West Knoll Soccer Field, completed in 2009;
- Lincoln School Little League Field, completed in 2010;
- Morelli Field, completed in 2011;
- Fred Green Field, completed in 2011;
- Conant Park, completed in 2011;
- East Knoll Soccer Field, completed in 2013;
- Messengers Field, completed in 2013; and
- Lewis Monk Field, completed in 2014.



Fred Green Field

New facilities have been added to Melrose's inventory of recreation facilities since 2007. The Melrose Dog Park, located at the Knoll, opened in 2012. The Melrose Skate Park, located between the Lewis Monk Field and the Lawrence W. Lloyd Memorial Swimming Pool, opened in 2008. In addition, at Pine Banks Park, the cities of Malden and Melrose continued to work cooperatively and invest in new facilities, including a regulation sized track with an interior multi-use field, new softball field, and parking to service the entire park. Also in 2011, the High School Athletic Complex underwent a 4.5 million dollar investment which resulted in a reconstructed Morelli Baseball Field and a reconstructed Free Green Field. The Fred Green Field

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is the City's first synthetic turf field built to support football, soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse, with seating for 1,767 spectators, and a new field house.

Important school playground renovations have been addressed by public-private partnerships at the Roosevelt School, the Lincoln School, and the Horace Mann School. In 2013, the Roosevelt School Playground was renovated with new accessible equipment to replace the outdated items.



Roosevelt School Playground

Also in 2013, the Lincoln School Playground, renamed the Bingham Community Playground, was entirely replaced and added accessible playground equipment as a result of fundraising efforts by the Lincoln School community and beyond. Similarly, in 2014, the Horace Mann Playground at Hesseltine Field was entirely upgraded to include accessible equipment and rubber surfacing. Fundraising efforts for the playground at the Franklin Early Childhood Center are currently underway continuing this grassroots effort to upgrade and improve the City's playgrounds. With these projects, the level of

accessibility at Melrose parks and recreation areas has increased significantly since 2007.

Resources were dedicated to accessibility upgrades at a variety of other facilities throughout the City, including: the Athletic Field Complex – Morelli Field and Fred Green Field, Gooch Playground, and the Melrose Common.

Many other City parks and playgrounds were upgraded since 2007 including:

- Gooch Park, in 2007 and 2012;
- Lebanon Street Playground, in 2008;
- Cabbage Patch, in 2009;
- Foss Park, in 2009
- Franklin Field Playground, in 2009;
- Melrose Common Playground, in 2009 and 2014;
- Ell Pond Park, in 2009;
- Volunteer Park, in 2011;
- Hoover School Playground, in 2011; and
- World War I Memorial, in 2013.

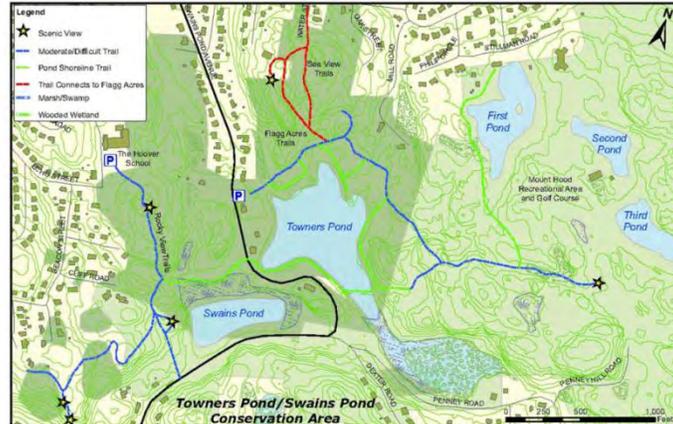
While a small community garden has been active at the Winthrop School for a number of years, many of the other elementary schools in Melrose have also added community gardens geared to the students. Four of the elementary schools added community gardens since 2007; Hoover School in 2009, Horace Mann School in 2012, and Lincoln School and Roosevelt School in 2014.

The Conservation Commission has been active in its pursuit to identify and acquire properties, which offer additional passive recreation opportunities for Melrose residents, and two properties were acquired in 2014. The Conservation Commission has continued to partner with other City Departments and Boards as well as nonprofit and community groups in maintaining and developing new features throughout its open space holdings. Maps of trails are available on the City's website, and letting residents know of these trail resources has been priority through outreach at citywide events such as the Victorian Fair and Healthy Melrose Fair. In the past year, the Conservation Commission, partnering with the Hoover Elementary School, developed an outdoor classroom adjacent to the school, for use by teachers and students. Related curriculum

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will be developed as a later phase of this project. Assisting the Commission is the Conservation Agent, a position that was funded beginning in 2008.

The City has continued to focus on the promotion of sustainability, which has manifested itself in various open space and recreation-related examples. From a connectivity perspective, trails have been constructed, improved, and marked to link Flagg Acres Conservation Land with Mount Hood, while provisions for bicycle accommodations are included in the current Franklin Street reconstruction and Lebanon Street reconstruction projects. The Planning Board has taken a strong stance in recent rezoning efforts to promote the development of open space and recreation facilities. Projects developed within the Smart Growth Zoning District, created in 2008 and amended in 2014, must meet a rigorous open space requirement including a monetary contribution to the Open Space Fund. Recent contributions to the Open Space Fund were used as matching funds for the renovation of the Melrose Common through the Our Common Backyards Grant in 2014. Similarly, the recently adopted Rail Corridor Overlay District requires projects to provide at least ten percent of the project site as open space, provide public amenities at the street level, and contribute to a Streetscape Improvement Fund, which funds the installation of street trees and other streetscape amenities. The Public Works Department continues to make a strong commitment to sustainability through its maintenance procedures and expanded recycling and composting programs.



Conservation Commission Trail Map

With these projects and objectives accomplished, the City set out to update its strategy for the future expansion, enhancement, and preservation of open space and recreation opportunities. In addition to a description of Melrose's history and character, the 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan provides an inventory of open space and recreation land, an analysis of open space and recreation needs, goals and objectives, and a revised Seven-Year Action Plan. The Action Plan describes strategies to continue the improvements already in progress, as well as additional actions that can be taken to build upon the existing open space and recreation opportunities in Melrose.

Appendix A lists each park and the major Conservation Commission area within the City of Melrose, describing each site's history, facilities, and current conditions along with details concerning suggested improvements. The ADA Accessibility Self-Evaluation is included in Appendix B. Appendix C includes the letters of review for this plan.

Section 3: Community Setting

A. Regional Context

The City of Melrose, located in eastern Massachusetts in the Metropolitan Boston area as shown on Figure 1, is bordered by the Towns of Stoneham, Wakefield, and Saugus, and by the Cities of Malden, Medford, and Revere. The City is approximately eight miles north of Boston with a geographical area of 4.76 square miles, 2 percent of which is covered by water. Melrose is an economically diverse residential community of approximately 27,000 residents that features an historic downtown and a wide range of local and regional open space and recreation options.

Since its settlement in the mid-18th century, Melrose has offered its residents a balance of both urban and suburban living. Vital to this condition is the notion of the Garden City, which highlights a commercial/institutional core surrounded by housing of varying density, interspersed with schools, small parks, and most importantly, a wide “greenbelt” buffering it from surrounding communities and providing ample opportunity for passive recreation. The Garden City has long been the model for development in Melrose, and for the most part, this model remains intact. Presently surrounded on three sides by major parks and conservation lands, including the Middlesex Fells Reservation to the west, Mount Hood to the east, and Pine Banks to the south, Melrose must take proactive measures to protect these areas.

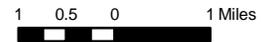
Geographically, Melrose is situated amidst the Middlesex Fells, a plateau high above the Boston Basin, whose surface is broken into numerous small hills, bowls, and vales. The Fells itself is comprised of two well-marked valleys, the result of glacial carving. The hills of the Fells have gradual slopes on their north sides and broken cliffs on the south. Melrose lacks direct access to any of Greater Boston’s major highways and is well served by public transit, particularly the MBTA commuter rail system, which has three stations within Melrose.

As noted, the topography generally consists of a valley running north-south through the middle portion of the city with moderate to steep slopes on either side. Elevations in the valley average approximately 50 feet, while the hilly areas to the east and west average 100 to 150 feet above sea level, with high points of rocky ledge reaching over 200 feet. In the central portion of the city is Ell Pond, a large scenic pond surrounded by a park and playing fields. Several smaller ponds, Swains Pond, Towner’s Pond, and Long Pond are located in the southeast. Centrally located in the Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course are three lesser ponds that act as collectors for irrigation.

Geographic conditions have influenced past growth in two significant ways. First, they have provided a definite break in development between the central core and the higher elevations to the east and west. Second, they have historically discouraged development in the southeastern section where topographic changes are generally characterized by ledge, large rock outcroppings, and three of the City’s major ponds and wetlands. As described in the 1930 Master Plan for the City of Melrose, the southeast alternates “between rocky, barren hills and level or swampy areas and would be admirable as reserved open space.” In response to this recommendation, Mount Hood Park was expanded, by the addition of a golf course, from 25 acres to the 230 acres it

Figure 1: Regional Context Map

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encompasses today. Immediately outside of this area, however, development has increased over recent years in the environmentally sensitive, southeast region of Melrose. Demand for more housing now threatens this area, despite the topographic challenges. A Slope Protection Ordinance, adopted in 2005, helps to protect against major alterations to sloped areas.

At the regional level, Melrose shares several open space and recreation resources with surrounding cities and towns. These include the Middlesex Fells Reservation, which is managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and is located in the communities of Medford, Winchester, Stoneham, Malden, and Melrose. Pine Banks Park, a 107.5-acre park with 78 acres in Melrose, features active and passive recreation facilities including athletic fields and a network of walking trails offering views of the Boston skyline and the Blue Hills. While Pine Banks Park is owned and managed by a Board of Trustees, the Cities of Melrose and Malden jointly provide for maintenance of the facilities. Melrose also has resources of regional significance entirely within the City: Mount Hood Golf Course & Memorial Park and Morelli Field, a regionally utilized, first-rate amateur baseball field, complete with lights, concession stand, press box, scoreboard, and seating for 267 spectators, which was completely reconstructed in 2011. Additionally, Melrose is a member of the MAPC Inner Core Committee and shares plans and ideas with many metro-Boston communities regarding open space planning, among other topics that affect the region's cities and towns.

B. History of the Community

In 1633, English colonists Ralph and Richard Sprague chose Melrose, then referred to as Pond Feilde, as a hospitable place to settle. Originally part of Charlestown, and later Malden, Melrose was incorporated as a separate town in 1850. Melrose was not to remain a small, rural, farming community for long. By 1845, the wood strap rails of the Boston and Maine cut through the town in its central lowland portion, parallel to and west of Main Street. Three train stops in Melrose aided its rapid development over the next half century and anchored the distinct commercial districts that exist to this day. Victorian Melrosians made it their aim to create a "well-designed city of homes," as opposed to a mere weekend escape from Boston. Thus, residential neighborhoods spread out from these small commercial areas, allowing residents easy access to their jobs in Boston by way of train. By 1900, Melrose had become incorporated as a city and the population had reached 12,000 inhabitants.



Courtesy of Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

The small industries established in the 1800's, which produced, among other things, boots, needles, and picture moldings, began to disappear from all but the railroad corridor. Gradually, many of the industrial and commercial activities, such as ice cutting on Ell Pond, were phased out. This shift made way for the Garden City, with a carefully planned mix of homes, businesses, and open space.

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The first park or dedicated open space in Melrose was established in 1856 when the Upham and Lynde farms, two of the City's earliest settled areas, were purchased and divided for house lots. An area was reserved as a park and named Melrose Common. This park would eventually



Ell Pond Park

become an important playground resource for the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Yet unlike other communities in the region, Melrose had not established a centrally located Common. In 1910, Ell Pond Park was dedicated to serve the needs of the higher-density downtown area. Many more parks were created in the following years, in part by Works Progress Administration (WPA) crews.

In the 1960s, Melrose was becoming to be known less as a desirable place to settle and more as a fine place for families leaving the City of Boston or other inner core suburbs to live for a few years on their way to a permanent home further out from Boston. However, just a decade later, the arrival of rapid transit in the mid-1970s by way of the Orange Line extension to Oak Grove Station in Malden brought with it the ultimate accessibility of Melrose as a suburb of Boston. New residents were drawn to Melrose not only for the Victorian architecture, but also the accessibility. During the 1970s, the population of Melrose peaked.

In the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s, revitalization of the downtown commercial district had taken hold and investments were made in Victorian streetlights, street and sidewalk improvements, and grants were given to replace signage and improve facades. Smaller neighborhood commercial districts, including those around the commuter rail stations, also received investment from the City.

Maintaining the high desirability of Melrose as a place to live, work, and recreate has been the goal of the City in the 2000s. Continuing a high level of investment in the downtown and neighborhood commercial districts by encouraging and providing methods for property owners to improve their properties is one way the City has been able to maintain its desirability. Providing high-quality public buildings and infrastructure ensures that the City can support the needs of the community. And part of meeting the needs of the community is providing high-quality recreation opportunities and parks. Through capital investments and the redevelopment of older parks, the City maintains its desirability as a community.

C. Population Characteristics

Melrose is a predominately residential community that has developed in a relatively dense pattern. Residents of the City tend to be economically balanced. According to the 2012 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, there is a correlation between income levels and the

City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan

ability to choose where a person recreates.¹ Therefore, a range of activities and facilities must be available within the City to accommodate the variety of resident household incomes.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Melrose has a population of 26,983. The population has remained relatively flat since 2000 when the population was reported to be 27,134 by the U.S. Census. The population density in Melrose averages 5,668 persons per square mile, which has been consistent for the last decade. The population has a median age of 42 years, and approximately 16 percent of the population is over the age of 65. The 2010 U.S. Census identifies 8.8 percent of Melrose residents as some other race other than white.

Melrose's population is well educated; 95.7 percent of the population has a high school diploma or higher and 54.1 percent of the population has a bachelor's degree or higher.² These figures are higher than the statewide average of 89.1 percent and 39 percent, respectively.³

The median household income of Melrose is also higher than the statewide median. For the 10,963 households, the median household income is \$84,599 compared to \$66,658 for all Massachusetts households.⁴ However, there are areas of Melrose that are designated Environmental Justice populations due to income as shown on Figure 2.

Households in these two areas, one located in the northwest corner of Melrose and the other located west of the commuter railroad, have significantly lower income than the median household income. In both areas, households earn approximately 60 percent less income than Melrose as a whole and represent approximately 7.5 percent of the population.⁵ The presence of these Environmental Justice populations may be explained by the presence of senior housing complexes including the Melrose Housing Authority's Julian Steele House on Greenwood Street and the Congregational Retirement Homes, a three building complex, located at the corner of West Foster and Cottage Streets.

Although Melrose households do earn more than Massachusetts overall, approximately one-third of the owner-occupied housing units and approximately 40 percent of the renter-occupied housing units are cost burdened.⁶ People who spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording other necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical treatment.⁷

1 Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2012. Prepared by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Submitted to the National Park Service, Land and Water Conservation Fund.

2 U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

3 *ibid.*

4 *ibid.*

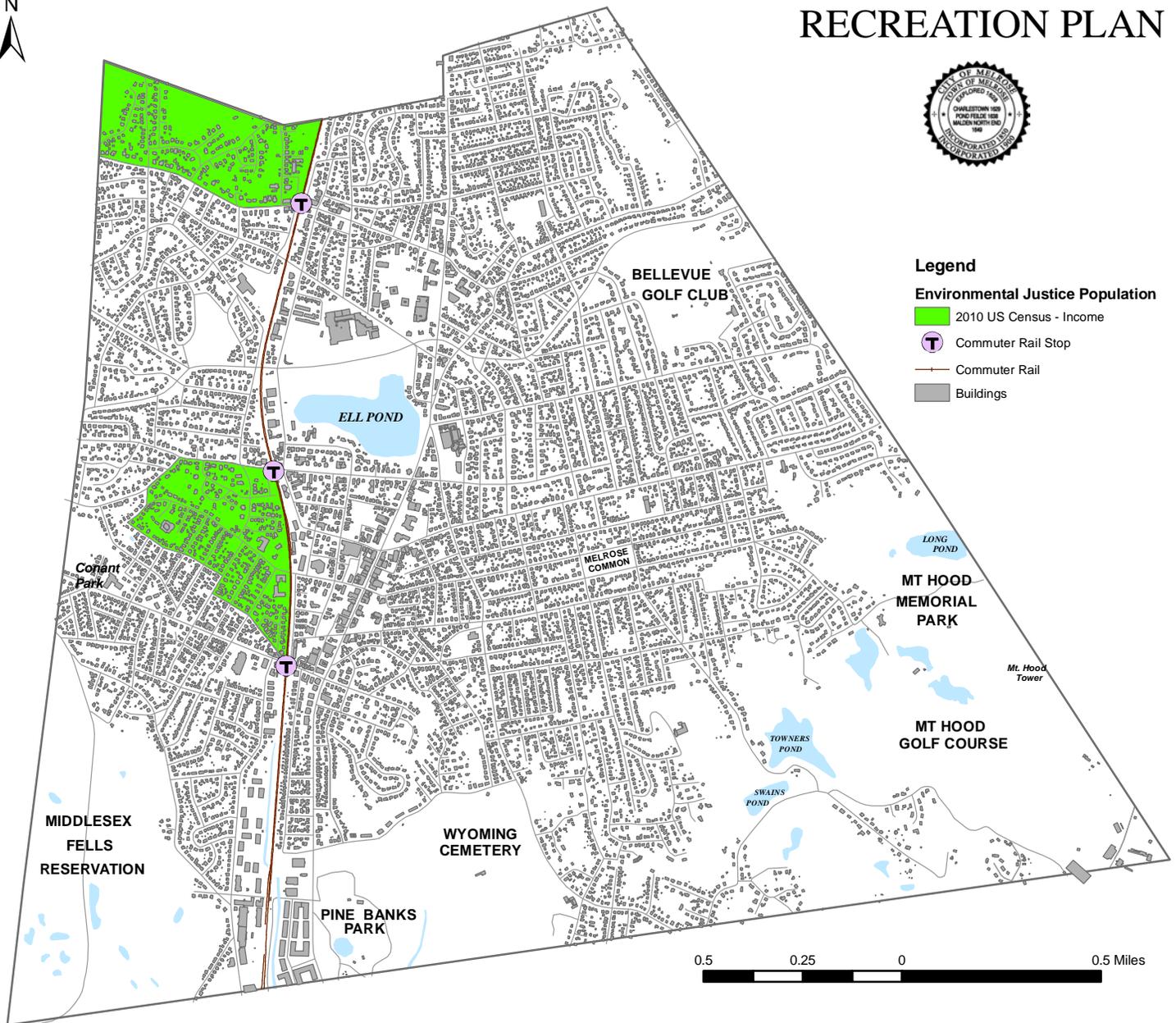
5 Massachusetts Office of Geographical Information Systems (MassGIS) Data. "Census 2010 – Environmental Justice." Available: <http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/it-serv-and-support/application-serv/office-of-geographic-information-massgis/datalayers/cen2010ej.html>. Accessed November 14, 2014.

6 U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

7 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. "Affordable Housing" Available: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/. Accessed November 14, 2014.

Figure 2: Environmental Justice Populations Map

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Other significant population characteristics are revealed by Census data and have implications for recreational and open space planning. While the population of young adults is decreasing, which is likely due to an out-migration of persons in their late teens and early twenties, there is a relatively high proportion of families with young children. Melrose is also attractive to elderly persons who have spent much of their lives in the City and find the compact neighborhoods and public transportation options amenable to their advanced lifestyles; the elderly are a significant demographic group in Melrose. Though Melrose is typical with respect to many suburban demographic patterns, these are noteworthy factors, and should not be overlooked when planning for open space or recreation. Table 1 provides a demographic breakdown of Melrose residents by age for the last five decennial U.S. Census compilations.

Table 1 Age Trends 1970-2010

Age Group	Population (%)				
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
< 5	2,634 (8)	1,645 (6)	1,706 (6)	1,810 (7)	1,598 (6)
5 – 14	6,639 (20)	4,424 (15)	3,112 (11)	3,243 (12)	3,360 (12)
15 – 19	2,903 (9)	2,633 (9)	1,656 (6)	1,326 (5)	1,378 (5)
20 – 64	16,757 (51)	16,823 (56)	16,934 (60)	16,322 (60)	16,387 (61)
> 65	4,247 (13)	4,530 (15)	4,742 (17)	4,433 (16)	4,260 (16)
Total	33,180	30,055	28,150	27,134	26,983

Source: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census

The age group from 5 to 14, which constitutes 75 percent of playground users, has a population of 3,360 or 12 percent citywide. This percentage has fallen 40 percent since the 1970s. Similarly, the 15 to 19 year-old age group has decreased (45 percent). MAPC projects the percentage of school age children will decrease between 2010 and 2030 as shown in Table 2. In contrast, the 65 year-old and over age group is anticipated to continue to increase and reach 24 percent of the City’s total population by 2030.

Table 2 Population by Age Group, 1990-2030

Age Group	Population (%)				
	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
0 – 19	6,511 (23)	6,379 (24)	6,336 (23)	5,678 (21)	5,171 (19)
20 – 44	11,374 (40)	9,746 (36)	8,501 (32)	8,051 (30)	7,994 (30)
45 – 64	5,541 (20)	6,576 (24)	7,886 (29)	7,661 (29)	6,954 (26)
> 65	4,724 (17)	4,433 (16)	4,260 (16)	5,365 (20)	6,500 (24)
Total	28,150	27,134	26,983	26,718	26,618

Source: MAPC Metro Boston Population and Housing Demand Projections, Status Quo Projection, January 2014

Current population projections seem to indicate that Melrose does not need to develop additional playgrounds for its youngest inhabitants. Instead, the projections imply that the City should focus its efforts on providing open space and recreation facilities that will serve the population aged 65

and over as they are projected to be approximately a quarter of the population in 2030, a dramatic increase from the current year. The City should not, however, stop improving existing tot lots, playgrounds, and active play spaces; rather, to serve a broader range of residents, different uses at these facilities can be combined. For instance, a playground with benches observing the play area can accommodate both childhood play and people with less mobility, who enjoy simply being in the park. Or, more active games like bocce courts and horseshoes, which predominately appeal to seniors, could be added to youth play spaces. Team sports, on the other hand, tend to encroach on free play and passive recreation areas. Protecting areas for free play and passive recreation should avert potential conflicts.

As illustrated in Table 1, the 20 to 65 year old age group has a population of 16,387, or 61 percent citywide. This subgroup demands ample active recreation resources such as tennis courts, softball fields, basketball courts and areas designated for jogging, mountain biking, and hiking. For those residents over 40, passive recreation in regional and neighborhood parks is popular, as are active pursuits such as tennis, bicycling, and golf. Research on recreation often cites that the needs of this age group, due to their high level of mobility, are accommodated by facilities external to the home city or town, such as state and national parks, ski areas, water fronts, golf courses, etc. However, as parents, this group also acts as an advocate for the provision of adequate city facilities for their children.

The 65 and over age group comprises 16 percent of the population. Yet few facilities in Melrose have been specifically designed for older persons. The need for passive facilities in convenient locations is clear. In the proposed designs for playground and neighborhood park renovations, quiet seating areas are included to serve this need. More active recreation options are available to this demographic at the Milano Senior Center, which has served as a gathering place for the City's seniors since 1995. Each month, approximately 750 to 900 senior citizens attend social, recreational, and educational programs offered through the senior center. Some of the regular programming includes weekday lunches, yoga classes, arts and crafts, and dancing lessons.

According to data released by the Executive Office for Labor and Workforce Development for 2013, the City of Melrose is home to 7 manufacturing establishments, 19 wholesalers, 52 retail establishments, and 440 service establishments.⁸ These businesses have served as partners in the improvement and expansion of open space and recreation. On a number of occasions, private businesses have joined with the City to raise funds for park and playground enhancements. Many also participate in the Adopt-a-Site Program, which helps beautify the City's public spaces.

Improving access to public and alternate transportation modes for those coming to and from Melrose for the workday supports sustainable development and the livability of the City. Approximately 84 percent of employed Melrosians work outside the City; consequently, over 12,000 people leave Melrose daily for jobs elsewhere.⁹ The most recent employment data shows that 5.5 percent of the city's population was unemployed in 2013.¹⁰ The largest employers in

8 Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. Melrose Municipal Employment Data. Available: http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_town.asp, Accessed: October 3, 2014.

9 U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

10 Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. Melrose Municipal Employment Data. Available: http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_town.asp, Accessed: October 3, 2014.

Melrose are the Melrose-Wakefield Hospital and the City of Melrose; combined, they employ just under 2,500 people. A breakdown of employment in the City by industry is illustrated in Table 3.

Table 3 Employment in the City of Melrose, 2013

Sector	No. of jobs
Health Care and Social Services	2,357
Accommodation, Food Services, Arts and Entertainment	577
Wholesale and Retail Trade	542
Other Services	447
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Information, and Management	374
Construction	268
Professional and Technical Services	255
Manufacturing	55
Total Average Employment	5,765

Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. Melrose Municipal Employment Data. Available: http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_town.asp, Accessed: October 3, 2014.

D. Growth and Development Patterns

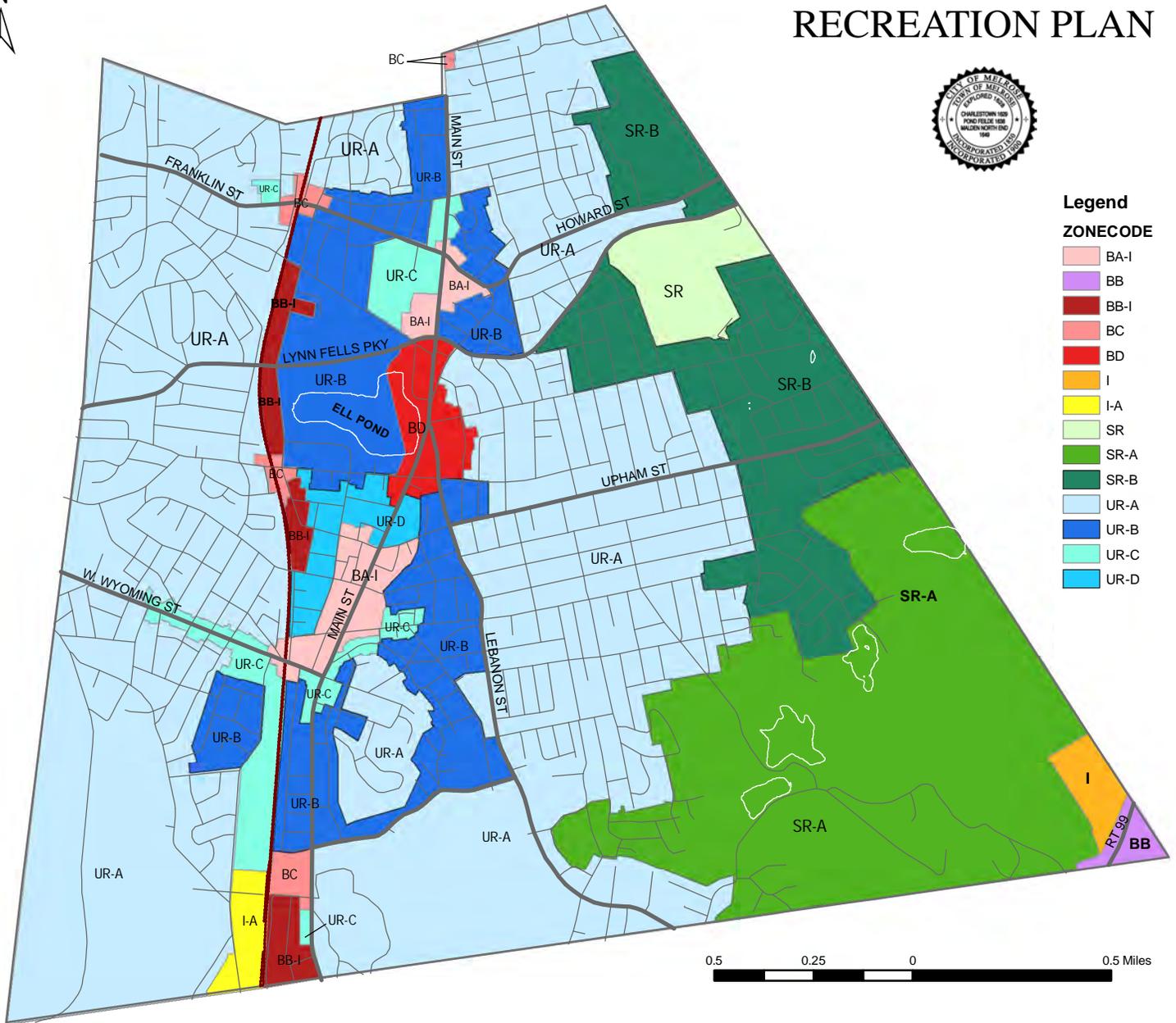
Melrose began as a relatively small rural farming community, with its center in a valley between two parallel ranges of hills. The advent of the railroad along the western side of the valley brought with it the development of small industry and a commercial Main Street. Residential development spread north, east, and west up the slopes of the adjacent hills. Several large ponds served as the most vital catalysts for the consolidation and protection of considerable areas of open space.

The general pattern of land use in Melrose has not changed significantly since 1960. The City still consists of a linear core extending along the Main Street axis, north to south as shown in Figure 3, as well as the railroad corridor, which also runs north to south and is parallel to Main Street. This core contains most of the commercial, industrial, and high-density residential development. Medium and low-density residential development surrounds the core, and is in turn surrounded by a large tract of permanent open space (the greenbelt). This open space provides a distinct boundary between the dense, urban development south toward Boston and the sprawling suburban character of the communities west and north of Melrose.

The majority of the city's land is used for residential purposes, with the greatest percentage being single-family in nature and that is reflected on the Zoning Map. A concentration of two-, three-, and four-family residences exists in the vicinity of Melrose's downtown and neighborhood business districts. Multiple-unit residential complexes are scattered throughout the City, but concentrated near transportation nodes such as the commuter rail stations and Oak Grove Station. Five percent of the city is commercial and industrial uses. Commercial uses are primarily centered in the downtown area and the neighborhood shopping areas. Larger commercial uses or

Figure 3: Zoning Map

**CITY OF MELROSE
OPEN SPACE AND
RECREATION PLAN**



Legend

ZONECODE

BA-I	BA-I
BB	BB
BB-I	BB-I
BC	BC
BD	BD
I	I
I-A	I-A
SR	SR
SR-A	SR-A
SR-B	SR-B
UR-A	UR-A
UR-B	UR-B
UR-C	UR-C
UR-D	UR-D

those requiring extensive floor space relative to employee and customer density are located along Routes 1 and 99 in the southeast corner, and along the railroad corridor. A quarry and former landfill are located in the southeast corner of the City. Since no highways run directly through the city and there are just three roads classified as major collectors (Main Street, Franklin Street, and Lynn Fells Parkway), Melrose is unattractive to industries that require immediate access to highway transportation. Overall, there is little available undeveloped land for major new residential or commercial construction, so redevelopment of underutilized property is the focus of future growth in Melrose.

The only significant portion of the city that remains undeveloped is in the southeastern corner of the City between Mt. Hood Memorial Park and Pine Banks Park. In the 1990's, a few, small subdivisions were approved scattered throughout Melrose: a nine-lot subdivision on Indian Hill Lane, a five-lot subdivision on Cedarwood Lane, a six-lot subdivision on Clover Circle, a seven-lot subdivision on Penny Road, and a nine-lot subdivision off Maple Terrace and Hillside Park. More recently, a three-lot subdivision off of Penny Road was approved in 2004, a two-lot subdivision off Dexter Road was approved in 2005, and a five-lot subdivision off of Forest Street was approved in 2006. As the only area within the City with developable land, the southeast corner is particularly vulnerable to development pressures. Much of this land, which functions as open space and creates the unique natural feel of the area, is privately owned and therefore at risk of being developed.

With the exception of the development pressure in the southeast corner of the City, there has generally been little change in the City's development pattern because Melrose is essentially built-out. Consequently, the only major opportunity for change is in redevelopment. The City has seen a number of redevelopment projects in recent years. Most notably, these projects include Oak Grove Village and Alta Stone Place which are located in close proximity to the MBTA's Oak Grove Station. Oak Grove Village includes 400 new rental units, 17,000 square feet of retail space, and the creation of parks and walking paths along a nearby canal. Alta Stone Place is the redevelopment of the former Boston Rubber Shoe mill complex and will have at final completion 300 new rental units in a mix of new buildings and rehabilitated mill buildings. Nearby, 2 Washington Street is under construction and will feature 94 units and 2,200 square feet of retail space. The City has also recently approved several smaller redevelopment projects (fewer than 30 units) throughout the city.

As a densely-developed community, Melrose has established infrastructure present throughout the City. Melrose's infrastructure, such as water, sewer, drainage, and roadways, has been the subject of many capital improvements in the last decade. The quality of the infrastructure has dramatically improved with these investments and it results in a well-supported City. The City continues to follow a maintenance schedule as well as make coordinated and targeted improvements to correct infrastructure issues. Having well-maintained infrastructure makes the community a desirable place to live, and intensifies the development pressures in the undeveloped areas of the City where the City's largest open space holdings are present.

The developed land in Melrose is completely served by public water and sewer. Both systems are operated by the city's Public Works Department and are connected to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) systems. The City also operates a stormwater drainage system,

where Ell Pond functions as main receiver of runoff. Stormwater runoff from Melrose eventually outflows to the Mystic River. National Grid provides electric service, which, with the exception of Main Street and newer developments, is transmitted through aerial lines. National Grid also provides natural gas to all developed areas.

There are approximately 90 miles of roadway within the Melrose, with the large majority of the roads being the responsibility of the Department of Public Works. The major collectors are Main Street, Franklin Street, and Lynn Fells Parkway, which receive the largest amount of traffic in the City. Roadways are inventoried for necessary improvements, and improvements are coordinated with other work, such as water, sewer, or drainage improvements. Pedestrians and bicyclists are accommodated for in the City along the 90 miles of roadway. Sidewalks are present on most streets within the City, particularly in the densely developed areas of the City. Although new subdivisions are rare in Melrose, new streets typically have a sidewalk installed on at least one side of the street. As part of roadway construction projects, sidewalks are also typically rehabilitated if there are defects or do not have accessible ramps. The City also completes repairs as needed. In recent roadway projects such as the reconstruction of Lebanon Street and Franklin Street, bicycle accommodations have been included, typically in the form of sharrows, which is a street marking that indicates that road is shared between vehicles and bicycles. In the fall of 2014, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) painted bike lanes from the Stoneham municipal boundary to Tremont Street on the Lynn Fells Parkway following repaving the road. The Melrose Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee is active in advocating for increased pedestrian and bicycle accommodations throughout the City, and particularly on the major collector roadways.

Although Melrose does not have immediate access to highway transportation, Melrose is a well-connected City due to the available public transportation networks. Just south of the City limits, in the City Malden, is Oak Grove Station, the northern terminus of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) Orange Line. Traveling south on the Orange Line, commuters are in downtown Boston in less than 30 minutes. Additionally, Melrose has the benefit of three commuter rail stations on the MBTA's Haverhill Line. North to south, these stations include Melrose Highlands, Cedar Park, and Wyoming Hill Stations. Commuting via the Haverhill Line brings commuters to Boston's North Station in a half-hour or less as well. Spanning out from these transportation nodes are four bus routes. Two routes travel north-south on Main Street, connecting Melrose with points south in Malden and north in Wakefield and Reading. A third route completes a local loop on the east side of Melrose. The fourth route connects the west side of Melrose with Stoneham and Oak Grove Station. Being accessible to downtown Boston via public transportation contributes to what makes Melrose a desirable community.

The anticipated long-term development patterns are redevelopment of the developed areas of Melrose and pressure on the undeveloped areas in the southeastern corner of the City where large open space areas are present. Infrastructure exists throughout Melrose, so availability is not a deterrent to future development. Being a residential city, the existing zoning is primarily residential in nature. Business districts are located along Main Street and the commuter rail, with additional commercial hubs around the commuter rail stations and Melrose-Wakefield Hospital. Older industrial districts are present on lower Washington Street and along Route 99. The

existing zoning districts create distinct residential, commercial, and industrial areas within the City, although in certain instances and through recent amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, mixed-use developments have been encouraged.

To encourage long-term redevelopment opportunities, during 2014, the City completed a rezoning effort of the commuter rail corridor along Tremont and Essex Streets. The goal of these rezoning efforts is to encourage transit-oriented development. Taking advantage of Melrose's accessibility, the City created the Rail Corridor Overlay District, which represents the community's vision for the area - a mix of residential and commercial/office developments, which are built on a pedestrian scale, take advantage of the proximity to mass transit and downtown, and minimize negative impacts on the neighborhood and the City at large. Through another phase of this effort, the commuter rail station areas will be rezoned to create vibrant streetscapes and new hubs of commercial activity. These rezoning efforts took cues from the successful Smart Growth Overlay District located on Lower Washington Street, which has been successfully redeveloped.

In the southeastern corner of Melrose, and in some other locations scattered throughout the City, there is the potential for subdivisions to be proposed as there are large tracts of undeveloped land that are privately held. One such subdivision is being considered by the Planning Board at this time off of Dexter Road, and inquiries have been made in City Hall regarding the development potential of other properties. It should be noted that most of the undeveloped land in Melrose, even these larger tracts of land, are marginal properties that will be difficult to develop due to site conditions, particularly topography and the presence of ledge. Acknowledging this condition, in 2005, the Slope Protection Ordinance was passed to require specialized review for these properties and to encourage the preservation of steep slopes. Much of the undeveloped land in Melrose would be subject to the Slope Protection Ordinance and the current zoning allows for primarily single-family and small-scale multifamily residential development.

Currently, Melrose has few development opportunities available. With the focus on redevelopment, new projects will be concentrated along the commuter rail corridor and at the station areas. While there is the potential for subdivisions to create new house lots in the southeastern corner of Melrose, the number of new homes would still be very small. Should more development be focused in this corner of Melrose, there would be a loss of privately-held open space reducing the amount of perceived open space as well as wildlife habitat within the City.

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Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

A. Geology, Soils and Topography

The highest elevations in Melrose, those 200 feet or more above sea level, constitute the most significant topography in the city. As shown in Figure 4, these elevations are typically located along the southern boundary of the city, especially in the southeastern section from Mt. Hood to an area just west of Swains Pond at the top of Beacon Street, and in the southwestern corner at Black and Melrose Rocks. A smaller area of land over 200 feet in elevation is located in the northwestern corner of the city at High Rock. The peaks of these hills reach an elevation of over 250 feet.

The vast majority of land in Melrose is less than 200 feet in elevation and has generally been developed along the historical transportation corridor running north-south through the western half of the city. Ell Pond and much of the land along Main Street and West Wyoming Avenue are located at the site of the lowest elevations, those under 50 feet.

The most significant geological feature is the igneous bedrock with prominent outcrops, especially in the higher elevations. The southeastern, southwestern and western boundary areas all consist of igneous bedrock at or near the surface. Construction costs for foundations, roads, and other utilities are comparatively high in such areas. A historically interesting fact derived from the 1924 Surficial Geology Map is the large amount of wetland soils once evident. Muck and peat in stream bottoms long since culverted, and in old lake beds and swamps filled in since 1924 are identified. The Spot Pond-Ell Pond drainage system along the commuter rail corridor and beyond was classified as meadow or flood plain just fifty years ago. Only those ponds and wetlands encompassed by public open space have remained intact over the years.

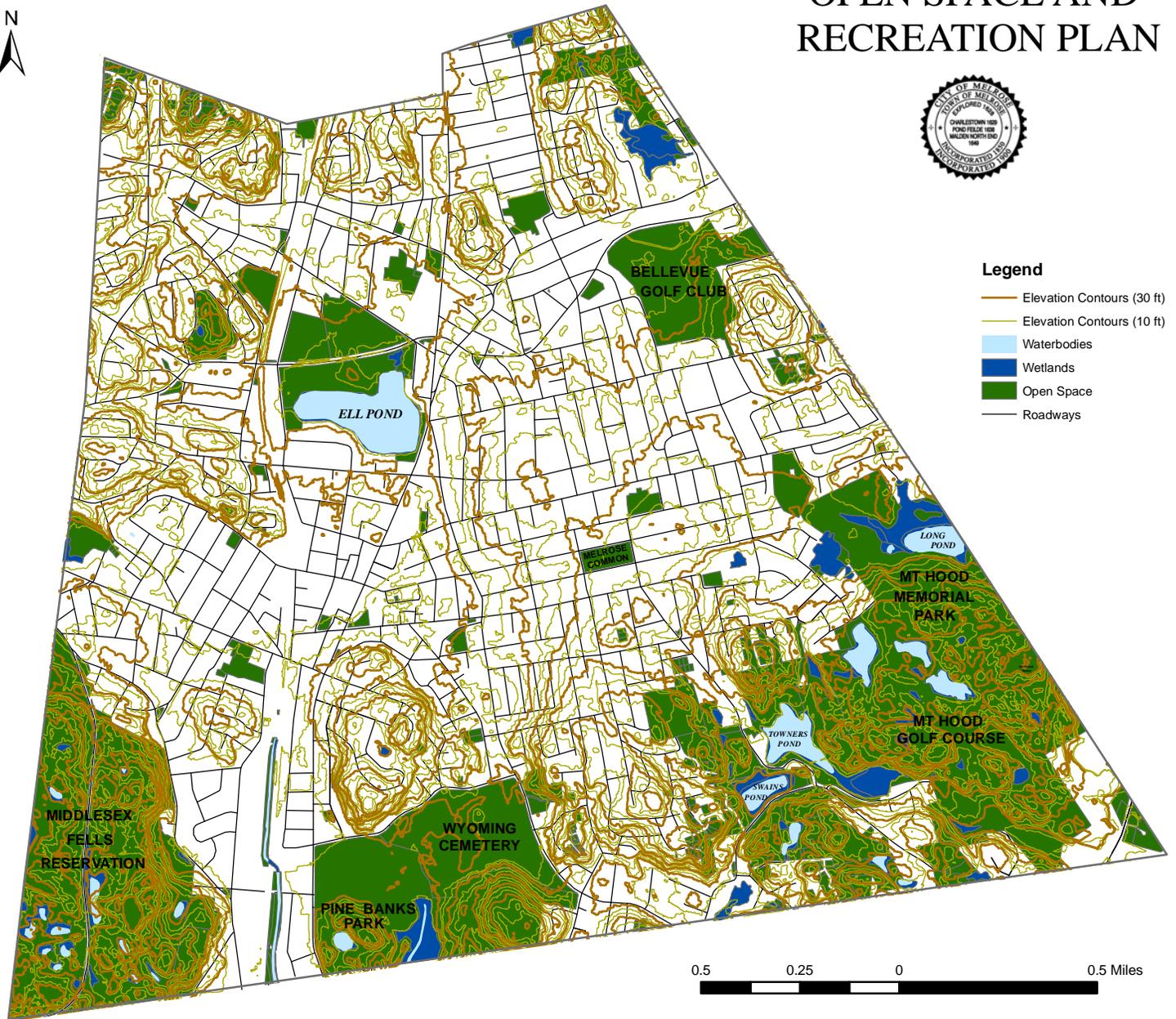
The other geological categories plotted on the 1924 Soil Survey and Map of Middlesex County are glacial land forms such as upland till with better drainage characteristics than the thin till associated with the igneous bedrock, outwash terrace, which is composed of stratified beds of sands and gravels. A few kame formations, which, like the outwash terrace, exhibit excellent drainage characteristics, are also present in Melrose. These landforms comprise the majority of the area of the city and are virtually built out.

B. Landscape Character

The City of Melrose is situated in an attractive landscape. The exceptional natural qualities of the region were noted upon its settlement, and to a large extent, have been preserved in the Middlesex Fells Reservation – a widespread system of rolling hills, ponds and waterways, forest, meadows, wetlands, and rocky outcroppings. It is interesting to note that if one surveys the city's territory from its highest points, the view is one of unbroken woodlands – the buildings of Main Street and the surrounding area disappear under dense foliage. The combination of hilly woodland and sizable ponds lend a pastoral quality to the city's outlying areas. In these areas, it is surprising to realize that the bustle of Main Street and the rapid transit stations are less than five minutes away. It is this particular quality, when appreciated for its passive recreation

Figure 4: Geologic Features

CITY OF MELROSE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN



potential, which makes the city an attractive place to live and consequently, raises concerns about protection and conservation.

The concept of a greenbelt is to link existing open spaces as a development buffer, wildlife corridor, and recreation resource. Melrose already boasts an attractive greenbelt around much of its perimeter. Since its establishment in 1967, the Conservation Commission has been actively pursuing the completion of this greenbelt between Mt. Hood in the east and Pine Banks Park on the southern boundary of the city. In its 48-year history, the Commission has filed a series of proposals with the Board of Aldermen requesting the transfer of tax title land in the southeastern section of the city, several of which have resulted in a transfer of land to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission.

The vast majority of land in Melrose, however, is not in its natural state. With the exception of the downtown and other commercial nodes, the city is characterized by a tight network of quiet streets lined with sidewalks, trees, and single-family homes ranging from modest post-war ranch-style houses to stately Victorian mansions. A generous provision of open space makes the very dense pattern of development in Melrose comfortable and appealing. Schools, tot lots, playgrounds, neighborhood parks, and playing fields punctuate this pattern. Recreation and open space resources deserve close attention due to their vital role in enhancing quality of life.

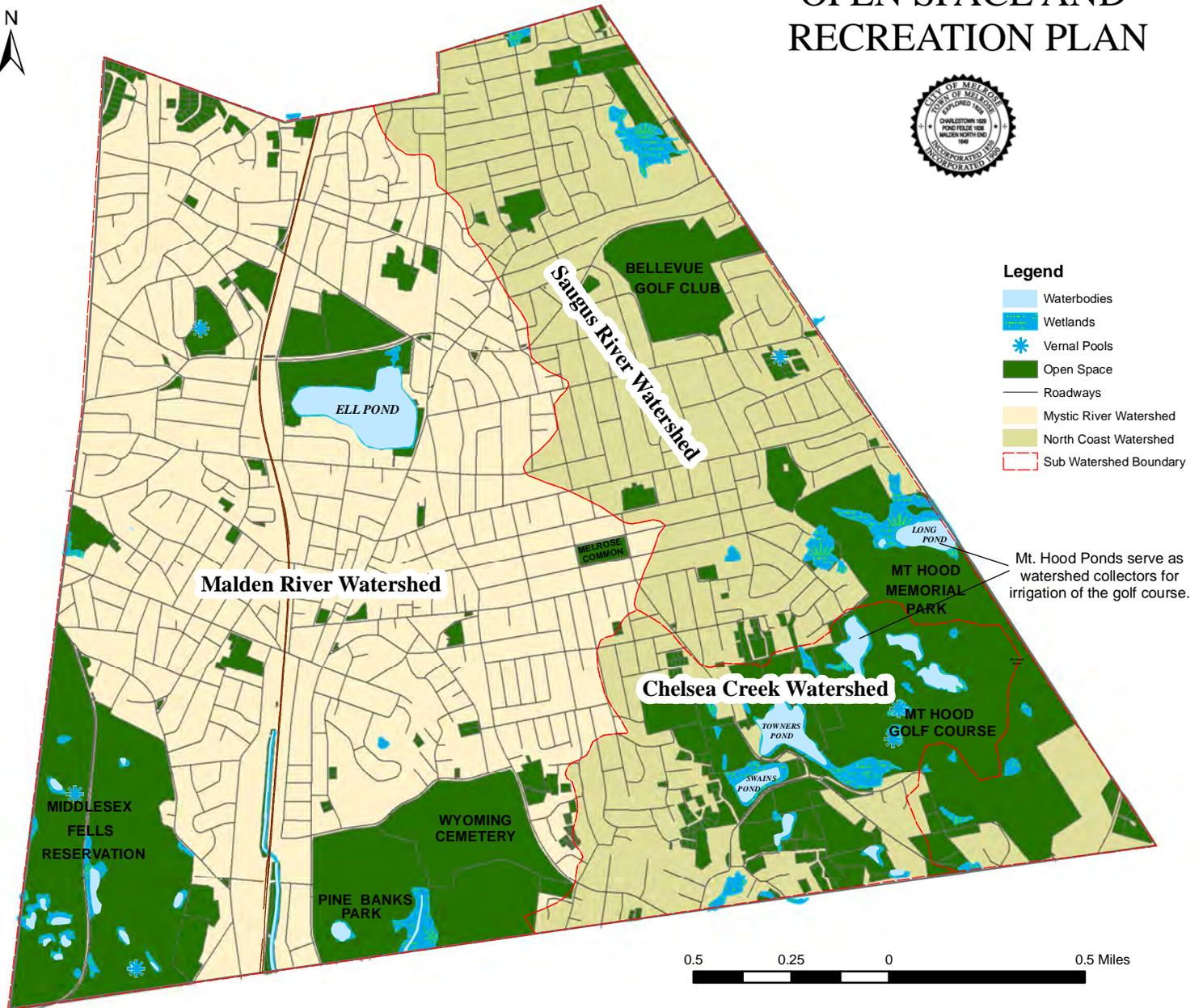
Open space resources may be threatened by neglect and deterioration as well as by development. Several initiatives by both small neighborhood groups and larger public organizations have proven successful in maintaining and enhancing existing open space and recreation facilities in the city. A volunteer group, Ell Pond Improvement Council (EPIC), continues to be proactive in their efforts to enhance the park areas surrounding Ell Pond as well as the quality of the pond itself. EPIC has worked closely with the Melrose Office of Planning and Community Development and other organizations to secure funding for park improvements that have included everything from shrub and tree planting to field drainage and water quality studies. Another volunteer organization, Friends of the Fells, has actively advocated for the preservation of the Fells and has organized multiple volunteer clean-up days to clear trails of branches and debris. The Park Department has also made significant investment in playground and tot lot facilities throughout the City, including the Melrose Common, Pine Banks Park, the Athletic Complex, and the Mount Hood Memorial Golf Course. The Conservation Commission has continued to maintain five major trail networks that run throughout the City.

C. Water Resources

The City of Melrose sits along the drainage divide between the Malden River Watershed and the Saugus River Watershed. The western two-thirds of the City drain to the Malden River and form part of the headwaters of that river, while the eastern portion of the City drains to the Saugus River through a number of small tributary streams. The Malden River watershed portion of the City is densely developed and contains most of the City's commercial areas as well as a small portion of the Middlesex Fells. The Saugus River side is primarily residential and contains much of the City's open space, including two golf courses and the City's most extensive conservation landholdings around Towners and Swains Ponds. The City's water resources are illustrated on Figure 5 and described in detail below.

Figure 5: Water Resources

**CITY OF MELROSE
OPEN SPACE AND
RECREATION PLAN**



City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan

Ponds

The most visible water resources in the City are its ponds, many of which are owned and maintained by the City under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission (Towners and Swains Ponds) or Park Commission (Ell Pond and several ponds at the Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course).

Ell Pond is the largest pond in the City. It is a highly visible landmark that borders Main Street and is adjacent to the High School and Middle School. Ell Pond is located next to the Knoll Soccer Complex, the Lyons Tennis Courts and Crystal Street Tennis Courts, and Lewis Monk Field that feature soccer and softball fields, tennis courts, and walking trails. The pond is a site for fishing and limited boating. Previously, a swimming beach existed at Ell Pond, but it has been closed since the 1950s. The pond is also home to a surprising variety of wildlife, including snapping turtles and large mouth bass. Its resident swans are beloved by the City. Nearly the entire watershed of Ell Pond is very densely developed. The historic wetlands adjacent to Ell Pond were long ago converted to playing fields. Flooding in the Ell Pond flood plain is one of the most serious natural hazards in the City, and the City has completed capital improvement projects in the area of Ell Pond and elsewhere to mitigate the flooding hazard.



Towners Pond

Towners Pond and Swains Pond serve as passive recreation areas, surrounded by the City's trail network and favorite areas for hiking, shoreline fishing, and picnicking. Public boating is not permitted on Towners Pond under the terms of the City's purchase of the property. Swimming is prohibited in both ponds for health reasons.

First Pond and Long Pond are among several smaller ponds at the Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course. These ponds serve as collectors for the golf course irrigation system but also are sites for passive recreation, fishing, and ice skating in the winter.

Throughout the City, the ponds are affected by nutrient enrichment and nuisance vegetation. Being a dense, urban City, the ponds receive nutrient loading from the adjacent land uses, which has led to rapid eutrophication. Towners Pond and Swains Pond were hydro-raked several years ago and are treated on an annual basis for nuisance vegetation. Ell Pond is treated yearly for algae blooms, and in recent years, has had specific nuisance vegetation hand-pulled from the pond. The ponds within Mount Hood are also routinely treated for nuisance vegetation. This ongoing issue is regularly addressed by the Conservation Commission and Park Commission with support from the City.

Rivers and Streams

The Malden River originates in the southern end of Melrose where the river has been straightened and channeled into a concrete bed and the riverbank lined with chain link fences. Tributary streams leading from Ell Pond to the Malden River have been culverted underground,

City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan

as have all but a small portion of the streams feeding Ell Pond. Spot Pond Brook leads from Spot Pond in neighboring Stoneham through the Middlesex Fells into Melrose, where it remains an open stream for some distance before it is culverted and joins the Malden River.

A striking feature in the Middlesex Fells is the Cascades waterfall, located off Washington Street in Melrose. A major draw for hikers, it is particularly impressive after a heavy rain.

On the Saugus River watershed side of the City, Bennets Pond Brook flows through the Bellevue golf course and along the Lynn Fells Parkway into Saugus. This stream is culverted underground until it reaches the golf course; the open portion is heavily impacted by sediment. This area of the City is also subject to flooding. A small number of open streams flow through the conservation areas, golf course, and undeveloped areas in the southeast of the City, but most others have been culverted underground.

Wetlands

The City's historic wetlands have been heavily impacted by development. The last remaining white cedar swamp is located next to Towners Pond in the Towners and Swains Pond Conservation Areas. Other substantial wetland areas include wetlands bordering Spot Pond Brook near Conant Park, bordering Long Pond in the Mount Hood/Slayton Road area, and east of Cranmore Lane and Carlida Road. There are also small wetland areas scattered around the City that appear to be the remnants of the wetlands filled for development. One of the more visible of these is located on the site of Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School. This particular wetland has been expanded as mitigation for drainage work in connection with the school construction.



Wetlands at a Mount Hood Pond

Flood Hazard Areas

Flood hazards are a major concern in Melrose and are recognized as the greatest natural hazard facing the City. The two largest floodplains in the City, associated with Ell Pond and with the historic Bennets Pond Brook area near Howard Street, are heavily developed and impacted by flooding on a regular basis. Smaller floodplains bordering Long Pond and Towners and Swains Ponds are primarily contained on City-owned park and conservation land that include multiple areas of localized flooding. In order to alleviate localized flooding in densely developed areas, the City completed an ambitious capital improvement program to improve drainage to the extent possible in these areas.

Aquifer Recharge Areas

There are three aquifer recharge areas in Melrose, the largest of which is located in the area surrounding Ell Pond. A smaller area is located along the Lynn Fells Parkway in the area of the Bellevue Country Club where Bennets Pond Brook is located. The third aquifer recharge area,

which is along a stretch of the daylighted Spot Pond Brook at the Malden municipal boundary, extends from Washington Street across the railroad track to Pine Banks Park. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) identifies these three areas as having a medium yield of 100 to 300 gallons of water per minute. MassDEP also recognizes these areas as non-potential drinking water sources due to the high density and urban land cover of Melrose.

D. Vegetation

The distribution of vegetation closely mirrors topographical and geographical patterns. The three major areas of “non-urban land cover” in order of size are: (1) the southeastern section of the City from Long Pond on the Saugus line west to beyond Towners Pond and Swains Pond, (2) the southwestern corner of the City east to Washington Street (part of the Middlesex Fells Reservation), and (3) the Pine Banks Park area north to Boston Rock. Sewall Woods Park and the northwestern corner of Melrose are also mapped as vegetation. In all, there is considerably more area classified as urban land with developed uses than as non-urban land cover.

The City’s vegetation resources consist primarily of Northern hardwoods, with oak as the predominate species. The largest area of softwoods is located in Pine Banks, where the white pine and hemlock provide a welcomed contrast to the deciduous hardwood forests.

The other significant non-urban land cover is marsh and wetland vegetation. Marsh and wetland vegetation is present in areas of Melrose that are still undeveloped. A large wetland complex surrounding Towners Pond and Swains Pond is present in the southeastern corner of Melrose featuring a cedar swamp. Within Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course, a large wooded swamp borders Long Pond and is present at scattered sites within the park and golf course. A cattail marsh is located east of Cranmore Lane and Carlida Road in the northeastern section of the City. Smaller areas of marsh vegetation are found near Conant Park.

There are three vascular plants that have been listed in Melrose as either threatened or endangered since the turn of the last century. They are commonly known as Green Rock-Cress, Shining Wedgegrass, and the Tiny-Flowered Buttercup.¹¹ The Middlesex Fells is identified as Core Habitat for the Lesser Snakeroot, an endangered plant species.¹² Core Habitats are specific areas necessary for the persistence of rare species, Species of Special Concern, exemplary natural communities, and intact ecosystems.

In the developed areas of Melrose, public trees provide shade and habitat. Two of Melrose’s most traveled corridors, Main Street and the Lynn Fells Parkway, are mostly tree-lined, enhancing the character of this urban area. A street tree planting program assesses existing street trees for health and potential locations for new street trees. Mature tree canopies are present in many City parks and particularly within the Wyoming Cemetery and Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course. These mature canopies provide shade for visitors to parks and recreation sites as well as habitat for wildlife.

11 Massachusetts Endangered Species Act List. Available: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/town-species-viewer.html>. Accessed November 17, 2014.

12 BioMap 2: Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World. Melrose Fact Sheet. Available: http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap/pdf/town_core/Melrose.pdf. Accessed November 17, 2014.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Wildlife in Melrose is typical of Eastern Massachusetts. The Audubon Society recorded sightings of over ninety-one different species in and around the City's parks and conservation areas. In recent years, a bald eagle visited Ell Pond on a number of occasions and a red-tail hawk also chose Melrose as its hunting ground. Forested areas in Melrose are natural settings for a variety of wildlife including raccoons, pheasants, rabbits, owls, and foxes. The City's ponds support aquatic life such as eels, bass, red perch, sunfish, oriental carp, hornpout, bullfrogs, snakes, and turtles. Canada geese and mallards can also be found near the water. The geese in particular have become troublesome in the Ell Pond area, and the City has worked to control geese landings at Ell Pond.



Canada Geese at Knoll Fields

Wild turkeys have been spotted in and around Melrose. It has been speculated that a recent rabies epidemic sufficiently lowered the raccoon population, a major predator of the turkey, to allow this previously endangered species to make a comeback. Consequently, wild turkeys have been thriving in this relatively urban region once again. A contributing factor to their current visibility may also be that development of formerly natural areas has displaced wild turkeys and other animals from their natural habitat. As a result, turkeys have been increasingly feeding outside downtown restaurants.

Within the Middlesex Fells, predators are present.¹³ Although illusive, coyotes are present in the Middlesex Fells and have been documented by sightings. Fishers have also been documented in the Middlesex Fells. These predators are venturing into the developed areas of Melrose; sightings of coyotes have been reported in Melrose's neighborhoods that border larger open spaces.

There are six certified vernal pools in Melrose and a number of potential vernal pools. These pools are an important resource as they serve as a breeding ground for amphibians and invertebrate animals. During the summer months, vernal pools can completely dry out, thus no fish population inhabits them. Without their natural predators, amphibians flourish in vernal pools.

There are no current records of endangered fish or wildlife species within Melrose. Several moths and beetles are listed on the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act List as threatened or of special concern. These common-named species include: Orange Swallow Moth, Gerhard's Underwing (a moth), Eastern Red-Bellied Tiger Beetle, and Cow Path Tiger Beetle.¹⁴ These species prefer the steep terrain and dry, wooded areas commonly found in the Fells. In fact, the

13 Resource Management Plan: Middlesex Fells Planning Unit Including Middlesex Fells Reservation. Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Planning and Resource Protection, Resource Management Planning Program. January 2012.

14 Massachusetts Endangered Species Act List. Available: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/town-species-viewer.html>. Accessed November 17, 2014.

Middlesex Fells is identified as Core Habitat for the Orange Swallow Moth, a species of special concern.¹⁵

Wildlife corridors are present on the western edge and the eastern edge of Melrose, but there are few corridors that cross east to west within Melrose. In addition, the railroad corridor is a wildlife corridor through Melrose for small urban animals as it is rarely disturbed by humans. Larger animals, such as the predators that have been spotted in Melrose, travel throughout the Middlesex Fells entering Melrose on the western side of the City. On the eastern side of the City, wildlife can travel throughout the Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course, the Swains Pond and Towners Pond Conservation Area, and the numerous undeveloped City-owned and privately-owned open space parcels. However, wildlife corridors that span out from these areas are limited as the surrounding areas are densely developed.

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

The ponds and wetlands, igneous bedrock with outcrops, the surrounding greenbelt, and uplands form the major scenic resources of the City of Melrose. These critical areas form the backbone of the remaining substantial natural environments in an otherwise man-made landscape. These scenic resources are accessible by Conservation Commission and Park Commission trails, as well as in the Middlesex Fells. Although primarily located within the Towns of Wakefield and Saugus, the Golden Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern represents a unique environment within the City of Melrose. Scenic resources and unique environments are illustrated on Figure 6.

As for scenic quality, the ponds, wetlands, forestlands, and golf courses provide the most visual variety and relief from an otherwise built-up landscape. The ponds, hills, wetlands and golf courses, as well as the more open areas of Pine Banks Park, offer unobstructed scenic views. Several promontories, such as those at Mt. Hood Tower, Rocky View Trail, and Sea View Trail offer panoramic views of Melrose, surrounding communities, the Boston skyline and the Atlantic Ocean. In the summer, Melrose, as seen from these vantage points, appears predominantly green, due to the City's many trees.



Boston from Sea View Trail

Within the Middlesex Fells, there are also a few scenic overlooks providing expansive views of Melrose and beyond. Perhaps even more interesting, is the Cascade in the Middlesex Fells, one of the few natural waterfalls in the metro-Boston region. Visiting the Cascade is popular year-round, particularly during the winter for its ice climbing opportunities.

15 BioMap 2: Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World. Melrose Fact Sheet. Available: http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap/pdf/town_core/Melrose.pdf. Accessed November 17, 2014.

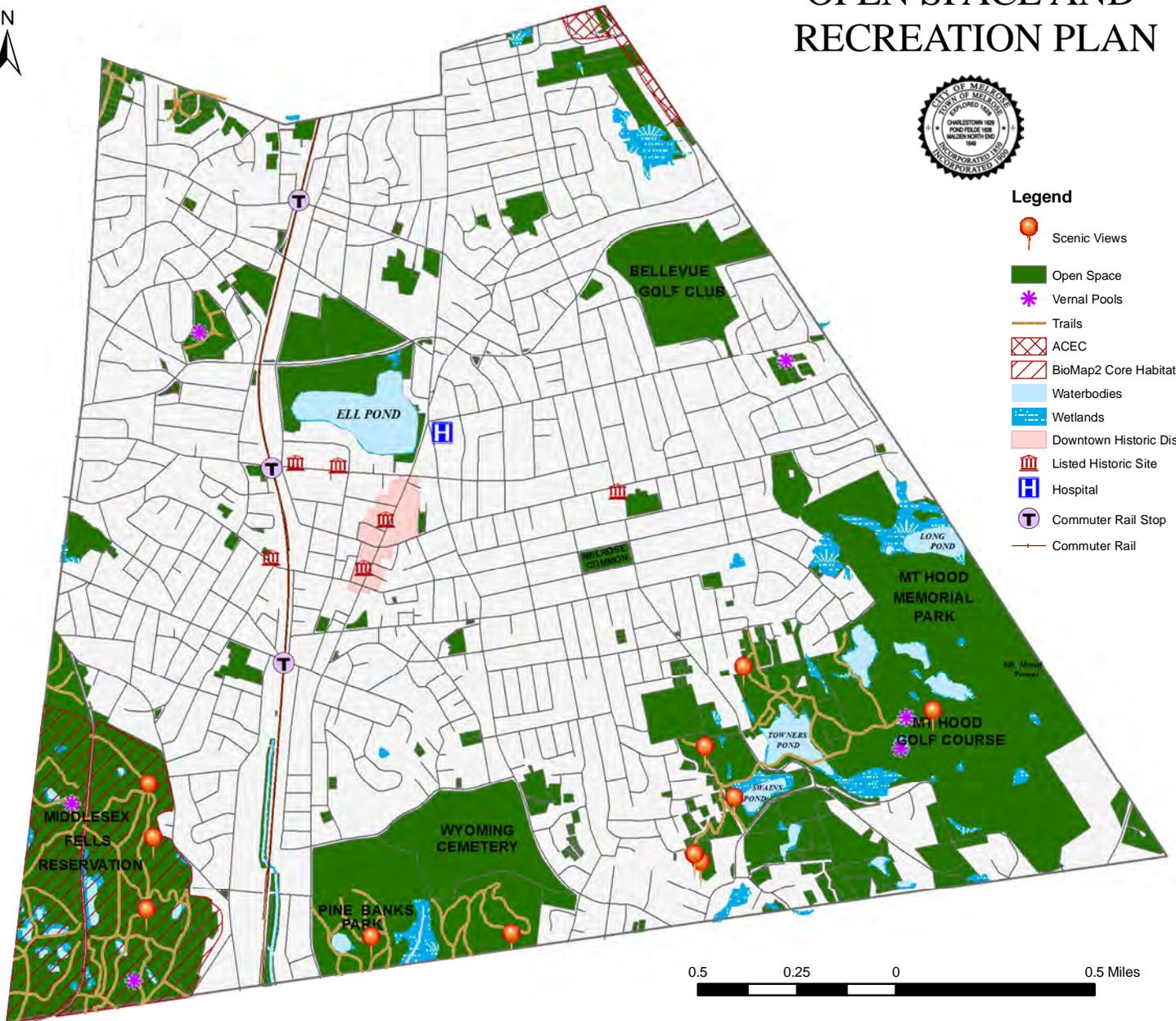
Figure 6: Unique Features Map

**CITY OF MELROSE
OPEN SPACE AND
RECREATION PLAN**



Legend

-  Scenic Views
-  Open Space
-  Vernal Pools
-  Trails
-  ACEC
-  BioMap2 Core Habitat
-  Waterbodies
-  Wetlands
-  Downtown Historic District
-  Listed Historic Site
-  Hospital
-  Commuter Rail Stop
-  Commuter Rail



The Golden Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern is mostly located in the Towns of Wakefield and Saugus, but a small area is located in the northeastern corner of Melrose, along Windsor Street and continuing north to Bay State Road between Ledge Street and the municipal boundary. Golden Hills contains an unusual blend of residential and open space resources in a heavily developed area. In the Melrose portion of Golden Hill, the terrain is very hilly, which slopes down to three ponds and wetlands in Saugus and Wakefield. Interestingly, the shoreline of the three ponds is residential in nature. The Area of Critical Environmental Concern designation is a tool that can be used by communities to protect and manage areas that have natural or cultural significance on regional or statewide level.

Aside from these major scenic resources and unique environments on the City's periphery, it should also be noted that Melrose's historic downtown, defined by the Main Street commercial corridor from Wyoming Avenue to Ell Pond, serves as a focus of community life as well as a site for passive recreation. Several small and moderate-sized green spaces such as Mary Foley Park, Milano Park, and Ell Pond Park, provide stopping points along a route of wide, tree-lined sidewalks which pass shops, offices, restaurants, and civic buildings. Extensive use of red brick and cloth awnings, coupled with wrought-iron Victorian lampposts and a predominance of carved wooden shop signs lend a quaint, historical sense to the downtown, which serves as an everyday promenade and as a venue for annual events such as the Victorian Fair. The core of the downtown comprises the Melrose Downtown Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The scenic downtown area culminates at Ell Pond Park, which features an expansive view of the pond, benches and paths, as well as a gazebo for outdoor performances.

G. Environmental Challenges

Environmental challenges facing Melrose are related to the urban nature of the community. Demand for housing in the region has grown while the supply of available land in the city has decreased; thus, developers seek to build on land that is not inherently suitable for development, such as near wetlands, greatly sloped land, and extremely rocky terrain. Developing these marginal lands causes challenges such as erosion and sedimentation. Other issues facing Melrose include illegal dumping of household waste, comingling of stormwater runoff and sewage overflow, and flooding, all of which relate to the urban nature of the community. Finally, having little undeveloped City-owned land leads to limited development of new open space and recreation facilities affecting the distribution of these spaces throughout the City.

The undeveloped forested ridges and ponds with associated wetland vegetation are vital resources that provide protection against erosion and sedimentation of water resources. Soil maintenance and preservation of vegetation is particularly important on the steep slopes associated with the higher rocky elevations. Without plants and soil, the runoff of surface water down the hillsides of igneous bedrock would become erosive and destructive. Moreover, the ponds in the southeastern section of Melrose located near the areas of outcropping bedrock and steep slopes are susceptible to any pollutants carried down the impermeable sides of these hills. Water pollution has already caused these ponds to be closed to swimmers, but has not advanced to the point of precluding fishing and other water-related recreation.

City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan

Developing these marginal or difficult properties is potentially detrimental to the environment and should be strictly regulated. The City's local wetland protection ordinance has strengthened the Conservation Commission's ability to protect wetland resources. The Slope Protection Ordinance, passed in 2005, allows the Planning Board to regulate the manipulation of topography, which often results in an alteration of the natural landscape, a reduction in vegetation, an upheaval of existing drainage patterns, and can result in a change in the community's character.

Since the City of Melrose is almost fully developed, environmental concerns largely exist in areas of previous development and include such issues as the improper disposal of waste. While there are specific locations known to be used as landfill, these locations have since been redeveloped. There are no active landfills that operate in Melrose today, although the Conservation Commission has identified the dumping of household waste on open space as a problem. The dumping of household waste not only creates unsightly conditions, it also contributes to pollution through stormwater runoff and can impact wildlife. Raising public awareness and more vigilant oversight of these lands are possible remedies to the problem of illegal dumping.

The City of Melrose offers sewer and water service citywide and therefore does not generally need to address problems caused by septic systems. However, the Department of Public Works continues to research and identify solutions to address any commingling of stormwater runoff and sewage overflow, particularly in the inflows to Ell Pond. In 2014, the Department of Public Works received a grant to review the tributaries north of Ell Pond. The grant will allow the Department of Public Works to investigate conditions that may be contributing to decreased water quality within Ell Pond and identify steps to correct these problems. The City should continue to support addressing these water quality issues particularly as a result of the research being started by the Department of Public Works.

The City of Melrose, through the Department of Public Works, has invested in addressing flood concerns during the last decade. In addition to preparing a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Department of Public Works has completed a number of capital projects that address areas of flooding throughout the City. The Department continues to identify locations prone to flooding and investigate solutions. The City continues to maintain its drainage system, protect local wetlands, and monitor new development to ensure that adequate drainage systems are installed. The Site Plan Review process allows the City to thoroughly review drainage systems of commercial, industrial, and residential developments of more than four units and requires a maintenance plan for cleaning catch basins.

Although the environmental challenges facing Melrose are not unique to urban communities, the lack of developable City-owned land creates its own challenge when siting new open space and recreation facilities, particularly new parks, playgrounds, and playing fields. There is an excellent variety of open space and recreation facilities in Melrose that is convenient to many of the residents because Melrose is a relatively small City in terms of land area so the environmental equity is moderate. However, in the southeast, northeast, and southwest corners of the City, while open space properties are nearby, parks, playgrounds, and playing fields are limited in these areas. As noted above, the developable land in Melrose is marginal, and would

City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan

no better support recreation facilities than it would new housing. Therefore, the City focuses on redeveloping older facilities, expanding open space holdings, and encouraging private developers to include open spaces within new developments.

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Section 5: Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Land

The term *open space* as used in this plan denotes any medium or large parcel of undeveloped land, and all land (developed or not) that is managed primarily for preservation or recreation purposes. *Protected open space* refers to open space owned by a municipality, a state or federal agency, a non-profit land protection agency, or private entities, and managed primarily for conservation, recreation, or environmental protection. Protected open space is sheltered from development, although there is sometimes the chance that the use of these areas will be changed.¹⁶ Ordinary open space is often NOT protected; for instance, land owned by the school or public works department and privately owned parcels are often relatively easy to develop, even if they have been maintained as open space for a number of years.

Open space makes an important contribution to quality of life. Public recreation areas and open space provide a focus for community life and promote a unique and identifiable community character. Open space can also be an oasis for quiet reflection or a location to increase physical activity and health. In relatively high-density cities like Melrose, parks and open space greatly enhance the quality of residential life.¹⁷

Open space also has important economic benefits. It protects and enhances the property values of nearby land.¹⁸ Open space also attracts business and investment. Research on this topic suggests that the proximity to recreation and open space amenities as being the most important factors in choosing the location of a small business, while quality of life ranks as an important factor in choosing the location of a large business.¹⁹

Additionally, conservation land serves important environmental functions in a city, providing natural rainwater storage and corridors for wildlife. Even small pockets of green space may serve an important function for migratory birds and butterflies.²⁰ Open space can also reduce runoff and diminish the frequency and severity of flooding.²¹ Wooded open space helps to cool the city and improves air quality.²²

A proximity to downtown Boston, convenient rail service to the central city, beautiful old homes and a historic district, and excellent schools all make Melrose an attractive residential area and popular commuter suburb. These features also put land at a premium. Melrose is fortunate to have some open

16 This definition of open space is similar to that used in the Metropolitan (Boston) Area Planning Council's Report on Urban Open Space. *MetroGreen*. MAPC, 1994.

17 Harnik, Peter and Ben Welle. "Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System." The Trust for Public Lands. 2009.

18 *ibid.*

19 Crompton, John L. "Competitiveness: Parks and Open Space as Factors Shaping a Location's Success in Attracting Companies, Labor Supplies, and Retirees. In *The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation*. Constance T.F. de Brun, Ed. Trust for Public Lands. 2007.

20 Kane, Richard P. "The Ecological and Biological Benefits of Open Space." *The Benefits of Open Space*. Leonard Hamilton, Ed. New Vernon, NJ: Great Swamp Watershed Assoc. 1997.

21 Harnik, Peter and Ben Welle. "Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System." The Trust for Public Lands. 2009.

22 *ibid.*

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space in the city preserved through the Conservation Commission, Park Department, and various state agencies. This open space, in addition to both the formal and informal activities it supports, contributes to the high quality of life enjoyed by the community. Although Melrose is almost fully developed, it retains a relatively large amount of open space; 30 percent of the land in Melrose is parks and open space, and an additional 3 percent is vacant or undeveloped as illustrated in Table 4.

Table 4 Land Use in Melrose

Land Use	Percent
Residential	57%
Commercial and Industrial	5%
Parks and Open Space	30%
Municipal & Institutional	5%
Vacant land	3%
Total	100%

Source: City of Melrose

The City currently owns approximately 577 acres of protected open space. This figure includes land controlled and managed by the Park Department, the School Department, the Public Works Department, and the Conservation Commission. The Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Bellevue Golf Club also have significant open space holdings in Melrose. Table 5 provides a breakdown of open space by ownership and type.

Table 5 Open Space Categorized by Owner and Protection Status

Protected Parcels	Total Acreage
City of Melrose	577.2
Parks and Playgrounds	429.2
Cemetery	49.0
Conservation Commission	99.0
Commonwealth/DCR	157.5
Private (cemetery)	6.2
Total Protected	740.9
Unprotected Parcels	
City of Melrose (Squares, Schools, and Undeveloped Land)	31.4
MBTA/DCR Right-of-Way	2.2
Private Recreation (Bellevue Golf Club and Incarnation Church)	53.4
Other Private	69.2
Total Unprotected	156.2

Source: City of Melrose

A. Protected Public and Nonprofit Parcels

As noted above, “protected” open space and recreation facilities shall refer to all nonprofit, state, or municipally owned lands that are either legally precluded from development or highly unlikely to develop in the future. The City of Melrose has a variety of open space and recreation facilities under its management. These facilities are distributed throughout the city and vary in size from 251 acres to less than 1/4 of an acre. The Park Department and the Conservation Commission generally serve as the managing bodies for municipally owned open space and recreation resources.

The Park Department maintains the neighborhood playgrounds, school playgrounds, and parks highlighted in Table 6, which comprise approximately 453 acres of recreation space. Included in the inventory presented in Table 6 are school properties and playgrounds, which are not necessarily protected, but are open to public use during non-school hours. Use of the athletic fields at the High School and Middle School Complex and at the Ell Pond Memorial Park by Adult and Youth Sport Leagues do require a permit for use, as does field use at Pine Banks Park which is managed under a different entity.

Table 6 Park Department Inventory

Park	Location	Description of Facilities
Athletic Fields (Fred Green Field, Morelli Field, Cabbage Patch)	High School and Middle School Complex – Lynn Fells Parkway	Football Field, Baseball Field, Practice Field
Beebe School Play Yard	West Foster Street	School Play Yard
Bingham Community Playground	W. Wyoming St. & Cottage St.	Tot Lot
Bowden Park	W. Emerson St. & Vinton St.	Passive Park
Burnett Park	Burnett St.	Wooded Undeveloped Land
Colby Park	Lynn Fells Parkway and Larchmont Rd.	Passive Park
Conant Park	Baxter St. & Conant Rd.	Baseball Field, Tot Lot
Drinkwater Tot Lot	East End of Porter St	Small Tot Lot
Dunton Park	Franklin St. & Pratt St.	Small Park with Tot Lot
Ell Pond Memorial Park (Knoll Fields, Lewis Monk Field, Crystal Street Tennis Courts, Lyons Memorial Tennis Courts, Dog Park, Skate Park)	Lynn Fells Parkway	2 Soccer Fields, Junior Soccer Field, Little League Field, 8 Tennis Courts, Dog Park, Skate Park, Passive Recreation Areas
Ell Pond Park	700 Main St.	Passive Park with Gazebo
Foss Park	Lynde St. & Malvern St.	Softball Field, Tot Lot, Basketball Court
Franklin Field	Greenleaf Place	Two Soccer Fields, Tot Lot
Franklin Early Childhood Center Tot Lot	Main St. & Franklin St.	School Tot Lot
Gooch Park	Maple St. and Florence St.	Park with Basketball Court, Tot Lot
Hesseltine Field	Ruggles St. adjacent to Horace Mann School	Baseball Field, Basketball Court, Multipurpose Field, Tot Lot
Hoover School Playground	Glendower St.	School Tot Lot
Lebanon Street Playground	Lebanon St. across from Wyoming Cemetery	Softball Field, Tot Lot, Basketball Court
Lincoln Playground	Pleasant Street behind Lincoln School	Baseball Field, Tot Lot, Basketball Court
Mary A. Livermore Memorial Park	Upham Street & Felton Place	Tot Lot and Basketball Court

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Park	Location	Description of Facilities
Mary Foley Park	Grove St. & Myrtle St.	Small Passive Park with Benches
Melrose Common	East Foster, Sixth, Laurel, & Larrabee St.	2 Softball Fields, Tot Lot, Basketball Court, Riding Track
Messengers Field	Brunswick Park at Roosevelt School	Softball Field, Tot Lot, Basketball Court
Milano Park	Main St. & Grove St.	Small Passive Park with Benches
Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course	Slayton Rd.	Golf Course, Tot Lot, Trails
Ripley School Play Yard	Lebanon St. & Forest St.	School Tot Lot
Sewall Woods Park	Lynn Fells Parkway & Sewall Woods Rd.	Passive Park with Trails
Volunteer Park	Warren St. & Melrose St.	Park with Tot Lot
Winthrop School Playground	First St. at Winthrop School	School Tot Lot

Source: City of Melrose

The parks and playgrounds listed above are typically less than three acres in size. The largest City-owned park is the 251-acre Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course, which includes an



Mount Hood Golf Course

eighteen-hole golf course, function facility, walking trails, and a tot lot. The Park Department is responsible for maintenance of this facility, which is carried out through the use of the Park Commission's Enterprise Funds. Additionally, the Athletic Complex and the Ell Pond Memorial Park, located along Lynn Fells Parkway, totaling approximately 33 acres, serve the community's need for athletic fields. The Recreation Department offers innovative programming at several of the City's parks. Activities include: softball, basketball, volleyball, t-ball, arts and crafts, chess lessons, yoga, board games, and storytelling.

The Conservation Commission manages approximately 99 acres of undeveloped land primarily located in the southeast and northeast corners of the City, described in Table 7.

Table 7 Primary Conservation Areas

Conservation Area	Location	Description
Towners Pond and Swains Pond Conservation Area including:	Swains Pond Avenue	Wooded conservation land surrounding the two ponds
Flagg Acres Trail	Swains Pond Avenue	Main trail network around Towners Pond with connections to Mt. Hood Park Trails
Knox Memorial Trail	Swains Pond Avenue	Trail around perimeter of Swains Pond with connections to Rocky Hill Trail
Rocky View Trail	Glendower Road	Trail through wooded areas with rocky ledges leading from the Hoover School to Swains Pond including an outdoor classroom

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Conservation Area	Location	Description
Seaview Trail	Beech Street	Trail connects neighborhood on Beech/Water Streets to conservation area
Ferdinand Woods	Ferdinand Street	Woodland with informal trails and connections to Stoneham and Wakefield
High Rock Trail	West Hill Terrace	Sparsely wooded hilltop with ledge outcrops and views to Boston

Source: City of Melrose

The Conservation Commission also owns numerous smaller parcels distributed around the city. Many of these were abandoned to the City in tax title proceedings in the 1930s and 1940s as land of little value due to steep slopes and presence of wetlands, and were subsequently transferred to Conservation jurisdiction. These areas serve to protect the natural landscape of Melrose at a time when development pressures have led to proposals to develop ledges and wetlands previously considered unbuildable. These conservation lands provide precious naturally wooded areas in densely developed neighborhoods.

Pine Banks Park, 78 acres of which is located in Melrose, is a recreational facility that has been jointly maintained by the cities of Melrose and Malden since 1905. Pine Banks was established as a result of a gift of 107.5 acres in Melrose and Malden by Colonel Harry E. Converse, on behalf of himself and sisters as heirs of Elizabeth S. Converse. The gift was made on the condition that the Cities of Malden and Melrose would bear the expense of upkeep. Recently, a new sports field, track, softball field, and parking were added to the park. The new field is used by soccer, rugby, football, and field hockey teams and has alleviated the field-shortages being felt in both communities. The project was realized through the combined efforts of Malden and Melrose, the nonprofit Board of Trustees, various local organizations, and funding from several Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grants (PARC Grants, formerly known as Urban Self-Help Grants).



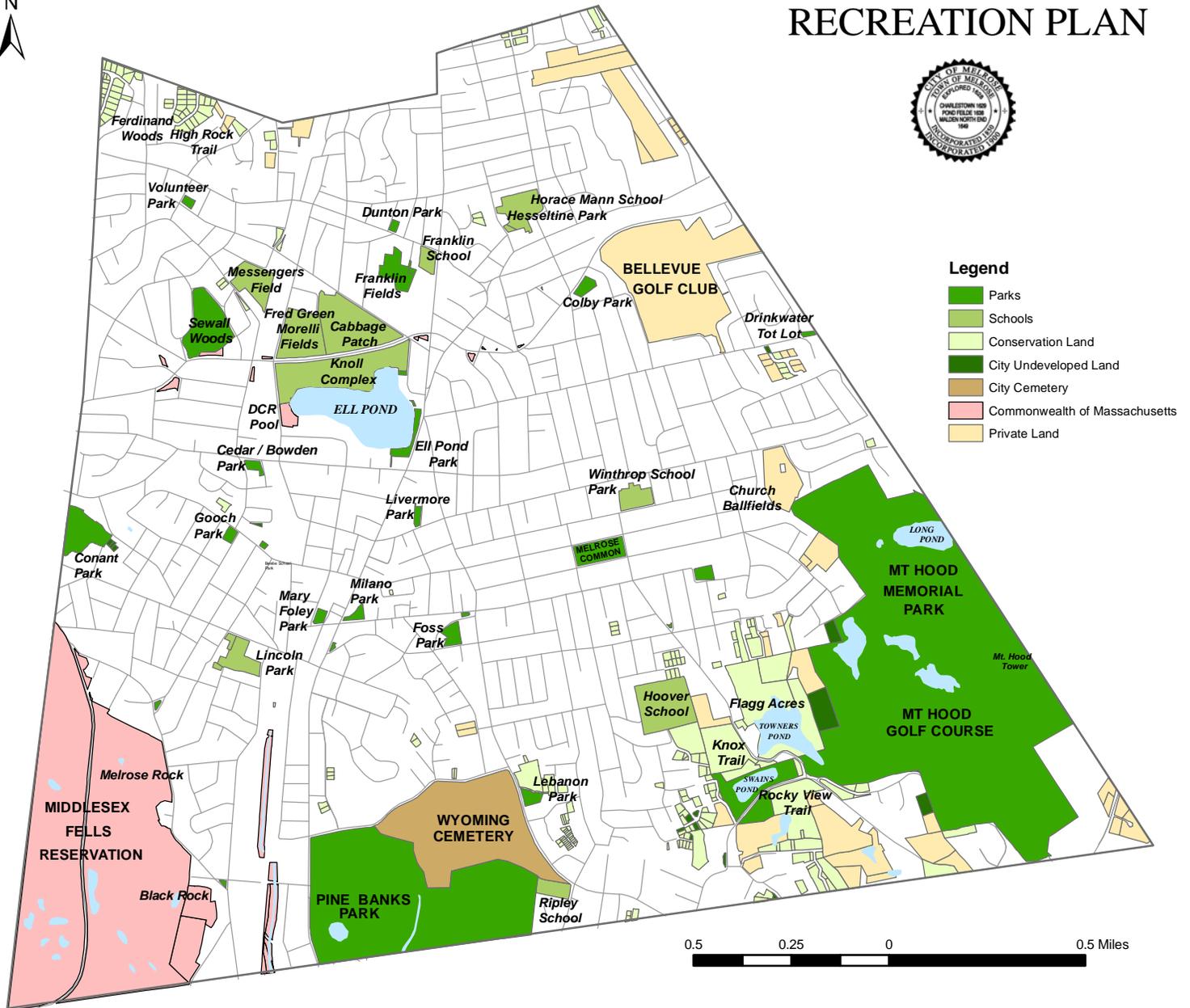
Track at Pine Banks Park

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts owns approximately 160 acres of open space in the City through the following agencies: the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), and Massachusetts Flood Control. By far the most significant state holding is the 150-acre portion of the Middlesex Fells Reservation that lies within city limits. Additionally, the DCR operates the Lawrence W. Lloyd Memorial Swimming Pool, located on Tremont Street, during the summer months. Much of the remaining land is held as part of the Lynn Fells Parkway, which passes through the City.

The Middlesex Fells Reservation, in addition to the land surrounding Towners and Swains Pond, are the City's largest tracts of land protected in perpetuity, though several smaller sites are scattered throughout Melrose. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Conservation Commission are responsible for the bulk of these protected parcels. Figure 7 demarcates these legally protected areas.

Figure 7: Open Space and Recreation Inventory Map

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B. Open Space and Recreation Availability in Melrose

Activities and uses of open space areas differ depending on their size, accessibility, and facilities. There are a number of different types and sizes of open space and recreation facilities scattered throughout Melrose making a variety of options accessible to a large portion of the City. The areas that are lacking recreational facilities the most are those in the southeast area of the City and the northeast area of the City. The southwest area of the City is also lacking parks and playgrounds but access to the Middlesex Fells Reservation. Similarly, the southeast area of the City has access is available to the large Conservation Commission land holdings around Towners and Swains Ponds. In general, Melrose is well served by the existing open space and recreation options within the community.

Open space and recreation facilities can be divided into a few general categories depending on the size, accessibility, and facilities. These include: citywide and regional parks; playing fields; neighborhood parks and playgrounds; tot lots and elementary school play yards. The variety of amenities at a recreational facility can fulfill the needs of differing populations but be accessible to a wider population.

Citywide and regional parks serve not only larger geographical areas than neighborhood parks, but also more active types of recreational uses, such as bicycling and organized sports. There are three such parks in Melrose. Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course is 251 acres in size and is under the jurisdiction of the Park Department. Pine Banks Park, as previously described, is a 107.5-acre park owned and managed by a Board of Trustees with representation from the Cities of Melrose and Malden. It features walking and bicycling trails and extensive playing fields. Both of these facilities draw people from Melrose and beyond due to the amenities available at each park and the events that are held throughout the year at these locations. Certainly the Middlesex Fells Reservation could be considered a regional park, and the portion of the property that falls in Melrose includes popular hiking trails through woodlands within the southwest corner of the City.

Playing fields, locally and regionally, provide space for organized, active recreational activities such as baseball and soccer. These facilities are larger with multiple fields available for concurrent activities. Aside from several full-sized athletic fields and facilities utilized primarily by the schools



Morelli Field

and youth and adult leagues of Melrose, there are two regional athletic facilities in the City. The first is Pine Banks Park, which has available five fields utilized by organized teams from both Melrose and Malden. The second is Morelli Field, which is a 267-person capacity baseball field adjacent to the Fred Green Field at the Melrose High School and Middle School complex. In 2013, the Melrose Americans, a baseball team part of the Boston Intercity League, began playing their home games at Morelli Field attracting regional fans to the games. The Athletic Complex,

Ell Pond Memorial Park, Melrose Common, Messengers Field, Hesseltine Field, Pine Banks Park, and Conant Field are examples of playing fields that are utilized by the schools and local youth and

adult sport leagues. These fields are centrally located and are accessible by a large percentage of the community.

Neighborhood parks and playgrounds tend to provide relief from the built environment, and can provide passive or active recreation options. These types of neighborhood parks and playgrounds have a quarter-mile service radius making them accessible by foot or bicycle without substantial barriers. Although Melrose has significantly fewer neighborhood parks, the City's small area and relative density means that many parks are close together and highly accessible. The Melrose Common is one example of a neighborhood park within the City of Melrose which has opportunities for passive and active recreation.



Horace Mann Playground

The programmed and unprogrammed activities that occur throughout the year at this park draw residents from throughout the City, not just those living within a quarter-mile. Although there is a lack of neighborhood parks in the southeastern section of the city, it should be noted that the Conservation Commission has jurisdiction over much land in that area which is currently utilized for passive recreation. The northeast portion of the City is further than most areas of the City from a neighborhood park and playground; the closest being Hesseltine Field, which includes the Horace Mann Playground, located at the elementary school serving this area of Melrose.

There are nineteen tot lots in Melrose located throughout the City, some of which are located at the City's elementary schools. Tot lot and elementary school play yards typically serve the active needs of neighborhood and school children, from age eighteen months to eight years of age. Therefore, site selection should take into account a number of safety considerations. Access should be free from hazards such as heavily traveled streets, railroad tracks, and busy intersections. In the event that proximity to such potential dangers cannot be avoided, the tot lot should be fenced. Tot lot locations should also be clearly separate from other recreational facilities as well as from the recreation activities of older children. Design guidelines for tot lots should allow for creative, colorful, and challenging equipment, which is both durable and accessible. Sitting areas that facilitate direct supervision of children from multiple viewing points should also be included. Playgrounds are distributed fairly evenly throughout the city; for this reason, future efforts should be directed toward improvement of existing facilities rather than new construction.

C. Unprotected and Private Parcels

The largest area of privately held open space is the 49-acre Bellevue Country Club. The Club offers a 9-hole golf course, tennis courts, and swimming facilities to its members. Though it is not legally protected, this area is highly unlikely to develop in the future. However, there are a number of scattered areas throughout Melrose that are more susceptible to development. Many of these parcels are adjacent to existing conservation areas and, as such, should be considered a focus of efforts for future protection. A brief description of each is provided in Table 8.

Table 8 Private Unprotected Parcels

Location	Description
Mill Road	Three and a half acre parcel wedged between Mount Hood Memorial Park and the Towners Pond Conservation Area. The existing single family house on the site has been abandoned. The parcel contains a large wetlands area and the streams connecting First Pond (at Mount Hood) and Towners Pond. Acquisition of this parcel would provide increased access and connectivity of conservation land.
Off Beech Avenue and Highland Street	These three parcels abut paper streets and the Seaview Trails.
Slayton Road	The 3.9-acres area is a large swampy low land, which contains a culverted stream. The property is within flood plain and abuts the Mt. Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course. Protecting this property will protect the Bow Street bowl area from further impact due to flooding.
Off Porter Street (East Rock Park, Bowdoin, Indian Hill Lane)	This natural wooded area is the only open wooded area on the eastern boundary of Melrose and it serves as part of the greenbelt. Several paper streets bisect these seven parcels and wetlands are present. Conservation restrictions should be pursued as part of any development.
Windsor Street	Power lines transverse this 20.5-acre area, which is vegetated and serves as part of the greenbelt on the northeast side of the City.
Greenwood Street	Area is swampy and historic drainage problems are a serious concern.
Woodland Avenue	Land connects conservation land on Woodland Avenue to Summit Avenue. The area serves as part of the greenbelt on the northwest side of the City.
Swains Pond Avenue, Penney Road and Dexter Road	Several undeveloped or underdeveloped parcels in this area are surrounded by conservation land and contain streams, steep slopes and even small ponds. This environmentally sensitive area is under increasing development pressure and is a priority area for possible conservation land acquisition.
Bellevue Golf Course	One-hundred-year-old private golf course and pool and tennis club located at 320 Porter Street. This parcel is unlikely to be developed but the property has no legal conservation restrictions.
Incarnation Parish Fields	The Incarnation Parish is located at 425 Upham Street on a parcel that exceeds 8 acres. There are three baseball fields located at the rear of the property used for the church’s league and other youth leagues. This parcel is unlikely to be developed and disposing of church-owned property can be a lengthy process but the property has no legal conservation restrictions.

Source: City of Melrose

Tables 9 through 17 provide a breakdown of the inventory of open space and recreation land in the City of Melrose, including protected and unprotected land. Appendix A contains a more detailed inventory.

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Table 9 Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Land: City of Melrose Parks

Name	Location	Owner	Managing Agency	Size (acres)	Zoning ¹	Type	Condition	Public Access ²	Recreation Potential	Protection Status	Grants Received
Bowden Park	Vinton Street	City	Park Dept.	0.62	UR-A	Neighborhood Park	Good	Yes	Medium	Perpetuity	None
Burnett Park	Burnett Street	City	Park Dept.	1.02	SR-B	Undeveloped Land	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Colby Park	Lynn Fells Parkway	City	Park Dept.	0.89	SR-B	Neighborhood Park	Good	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Conant Park	Baxter Street	City	Park Dept.	5.64	UR-A	City-wide Park, Playfields, Neighborhood Park	Excellent	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Drinkwater Tot Lot	Porter Street	City	Park Dept.	0.24	SR-B	Tot Lot	Good	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Dunton Park	Franklin Street	City	Park Dept.	0.34	UR-B	Neighborhood Park, Tot Lot	Good	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Ell Pond	Main Street	City	Park Dept.	24	UR-B	Water	Pond	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	
Ell Pond Park	Main Street	City	Park Dept.	1.51	BD	City-wide Park	Good	Yes	Medium	Perpetuity	None
Foss Park	Lynde Street & Malvern Street	City	Park Dept.	1.37	UR-B	Neighborhood Playground, Tot Lot	Good	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Franklin Field	Greenleaf Place	City	Park Dept.	4.89	UR-C	Playfields, Tot Lot	Good	Yes	High	None	None
Gooch Park	Florence Street	City	Park Dept.	0.64	UR-A	Neighborhood Playground, Tot Lot	Excellent	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Lebanon Street Playground	Lebanon Street	City	Park Dept.	0.97	UR-A	Neighborhood Playground, Tot Lot	Fair	Yes	Medium	Perpetuity	None
Mary A. Livermore Memorial Park	Upham Street	City	Park Dept.	0.53	UR-B	Neighborhood Playground, Tot Lot	Fair	Yes	Medium	Perpetuity	None
Mary Foley Park	Grove Street	City	Park Dept.	0.61	BA-1	Neighborhood Park	Very Good	Yes	Medium	Perpetuity	None
Melrose Common	East Foster Street	City	Park Dept.	4.03	UR-A	Neighborhood Playground, Tot Lot	Excellent	Yes	High	Perpetuity	Our Common Backyards (2014)
Milano Park	Main Street	City	Park Dept.	0.03	BA-1	Neighborhood Park	Excellent	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course	Stillman Road	City	Park Dept.	251	SR-A	Regional Park	Good	Yes	High	Perpetuity	Urban Self Help (1997; 1999)
Pine Banks Park	Main Street	Melrose & Malden	Pine Banks	78	UR-A	Regional Park	Excellent	Yes	High	Perpetuity	Urban Self Help (2003; 2007); Gateway City Parks Initiative (2012)
Sewall Woods Park	Lynn Fells Parkway	City	Park Dept.	9	UR-A	Neighborhood Park	Good	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Swains Pond	Swains Pond Avenue	City	Park Dept.	11.2	SR-A	City-wide Park	Pond	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Volunteer Park	Warren Street	City	Park Dept.	0.43	UR-A	Neighborhood Park, Tot Lot	Excellent	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None

SUBTOTAL (PROTECTED) 392.1
SUBTOTAL (UNPROTECTED) 4.89
TOTAL (PARKS) 396.9

Source: City of Melrose

Notes:

1 Zoning information taken from the Zoning Map of the City of Melrose, Massachusetts, Revised May 7, 2014, Order 2014-95.

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

Table 10 Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Land: City of Melrose School Parks and Playgrounds

Name	Location	Owner	Managing Agency	Size (acres)	Zoning ¹	Type	Condition	Public Access ²	Recreation Potential	Protection Status	Grants Received
Athletic Fields	Lynn Fells Parkway	City	Park Dept.	7.8	UR-B	Playfield	Excellent	Yes	High	Perpetuity	LWCF (1986)
Beebe School Play Yard	West Foster Street	City	Park Dept.	0.18	UR-A	School Play Yard	Excellent	Yes	Medium	None	None
Bingham Community Playground	West Wyoming Avenue	City	Park Dept.	0.40	UR-C	Tot Lot	Excellent	Yes	High	None	None
Cabbage Patch	Lynn Fells Parkway	City	School/ Park	1.19	UR-B	Playfields	Excellent	Yes	Medium	None	None
Ell Pond Memorial Park	Lynn Fells Parkway	City	School/ Park	25.13	UR-B	City-wide Park	Very Good	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Franklin Early Childhood Center Tot Lot	Main Street	City	School/ Park	0.19	UR-C	School Play Yard	Fair	Yes	Low	None	None
Hesseltine Field and Horace Mann Playground	Damon Avenue and Hesseltine Avenue	City	School/ Park	3.42	UR-A	Playfields, School Play Yard, Tot Lot	Excellent	Yes	High	None	None
Hoover School Play Yard	Glendower Road	City	School/ Park	10.75	SR-A	School Play Yard, Tot Lot	Good	Yes	High	None	None
Lincoln School Playground	Pleasant Street and West Wyoming Avenue	City	Park Dept.	1.71	UR-C	Playfields, School Play Yard, Tot Lot	Excellent	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Messengers Field – Roosevelt School Playground	Brunswick Park	City	Park Dept.	2.53	UR-A	Playfields, School Play Yard, Tot Lot	Excellent	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Ripley School Play Yard	Lebanon Street	City	School/ Park	1.38	UR-A	School Play Yard, Tot Lot	Fair	Yes	Low	None	None
Winthrop School Playground	First Street	City	School/ Park	1.72	UR-A	School Play Yard, Tot Lot	Good	Yes	High	None	None

SUBTOTAL (PROTECTED) 37.16
SUBTOTAL (UNPROTECTED) 19.23
TOTAL (SCHOOLS) 56.4

Source: City of Melrose

Notes:

1 Zoning information taken from the Zoning Map of the City of Melrose, Massachusetts, Revised May 7, 2014, Order 2014-95.

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

Table 11 Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Land: City of Melrose Cemetery

Name	Location	Owner	Managing Agency	Size (acres)	Zoning ¹	Type	Condition	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Degree of Protection	Grants Received
Wyoming Cemetery	Sylvan Street	City	Cemetery Dept.	49	UR-A	Cemetery	Excellent	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None

TOTAL (CEMETERY - PROTECTED) 49

Source: City of Melrose

Notes:

1 Zoning information taken from the Zoning Map of the City of Melrose, Massachusetts, Revised May 7, 2014, Order 2014-95.

Table 12 Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Land: City of Melrose Conservation Commission

Name	Location	Owner	Managing Agency	Size (acres)	Zoning ¹	Type	Condition	Public Access ²	Recreation Potential	Degree of Protection	Grants Received
Ferdinand Woods Trail	Ferdinand Street and Columbus Avenue	City	Con Com	4.81	UR-A	Trail, Undeveloped	Good	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
High Rock Trail	West Hill Terrace and Chaska Avenue	City	Con Com	5.03	UR-A	Trail, Undeveloped	Fair	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Mill Road	Mill Road	City	Con Com	0.48	SR-B	Road, Undeveloped	Fair	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Swains Pond and Towners Pond Conservation Area	Swains Pond Avenue	City	Con Com	41.97	SR-A	Trail, Undeveloped	Good	Yes	High	Perpetuity	LWCF (1976) ; Self Help (unknown)
Unnamed	Bowdoin Road	City	Con Com	0.69	SR-B	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Limited	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Cliff Road	City	Con Com	0.30	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	East Rock Park	City	Con Com	0.22	SR-B	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Limited	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Fern Street	City	Con Com	0.49	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Greenwood Street	City	Con Com	0.26	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Hawthorne Street	City	Con Com	0.45	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Limited	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Lake Road	City	Con Com	0.49	SR-A	Trail, Undeveloped	Fair	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Summit Street	City	Con Com	1.02	SR-A	Trail, Undeveloped	Fair	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Swains Pond Avenue	City	Con Com	2.14	SR-A	Trail, Undeveloped	Fair	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Walnut Avenue	City	Con Com	0.42	SR-A	Trail, Undeveloped	Fair	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
TOTAL (COSERVATION COMMISSION - PROTECTED)				58.77							

Source: City of Melrose

Notes:

1 Zoning information taken from the Zoning Map of the City of Melrose, Massachusetts, Revised May 7, 2014, Order 2014-95.

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

Table 13 Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Land: City of Melrose Conservation Commission Tax Title Lands

Name	Location	Owner	Managing Agency	Size (acres)	Zoning ¹	Type	Condition	Public Access ²	Recreation Potential	Degree of Protection	Grants Received
Swains Pond and Towners Pond Conservation Area	Swains Pond Avenue	City	Con Com	6.29	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	LWCF (1976) ; Self Help (unknown)
Unnamed	Altamont Avenue	City	Con Com	0.25	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Bay State Road	City	Con Com	0.08	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Beacon Street	City	Con Com	0.17	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Beacon Street, Prescott Street, & Summit Street	City	Con Com	1.24	SR-A	Trail, Undeveloped	Fair	Yes	High	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Beaumont Street	City	Con Com	0.35	UR-B	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Belmont Place	City	Con Com	0.58	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Bennett Street, Evelyn Street, and Oxford Street	City	Con Com	1.32	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Cliff Road & Fern Street	City	Con Com	0.37	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None

City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan

Name	Location	Owner	Managing Agency	Size (acres)	Zoning ¹	Type	Condition	Public Access ²	Recreation Potential	Degree of Protection	Grants Received
Unnamed	Corner Street & Mount Zion Road	City	Con Com	0.78	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Dana Street, Fairfield Avenue, and Lebanon Street	City	Con Com	4.36	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Dexter Road	City	Con Com	1.65	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	No	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Florence Avenue	City	Con Com	0.45	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Granite Street	City	Con Com	0.22	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Greenwood Street	City	Con Com	0.41	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Harold Street & Hickory Street	City	Con Com	1.61	SR-A & UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Hawley Road	City	Con Com	1.01	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Hillside Park & Miller Street	City	Con Com	10.49	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Limited	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Hunnewell Street	City	Con Com	0.15	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Leonard Street	City	Con Com	0.07	UR-B	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Maple Street	City	Con Com	0.39	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	No	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Maple Terrace	City	Con Com	0.62	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Mount Vernon Avenue	City	Con Com	0.32	UR-B	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Mount Vernon Avenue	City	Con Com	0.33	UR-B	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Naples Road	City	Con Com	0.28	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Olive Avenue	City	Con Com	0.36	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	No	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Penney Road	City	Con Com	3.94	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Pleasant Street	City	Con Com	0.04	UR-C	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	No	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Reading Hill Avenue	City	Con Com	0.47	UR-B	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Steffins Terrace	City	Con Com	0.47	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	No	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Stowcroft Road	City	Con Com	0.01	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Sylvan Street	City	Con Com	0.18	UR-B	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Upland Road	City	Con Com	0.19	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Vinton Street	City	Con Com	0.35	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None
Unnamed	Woodland Avenue	City	Con Com	0.51	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	Perpetuity	None

TOTAL (TAX TITLE – PROTECTED) 40.31

Source: City of Melrose

Notes:

1 Zoning information taken from the Zoning Map of the City of Melrose, Massachusetts, Revised May 7, 2014, Order 2014-95.

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

Table 14 Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Land: City of Melrose Other

Name	Location	Owner	Managing Agency	Size (acres)	Zoning ¹	Type	Condition	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Degree of Protection	Grants Received
Bishop Square	Washington Street	City	DPW	0.14	UR-A	Square	Excellent	Yes	Low	None	None
Dimontier Square	Lynde Street & Grove Street	City	DPW	0.12	UR-B	Square	Excellent	Yes	Low	None	None
Lloyd Square	Swains Pond Avenue	City	DPW	0.05	UR-A	Square	Excellent	Yes	Low	None	None
Stone Place Island	Pleasant Street	City	DPW	0.11	UR-A	Square	Excellent	Yes	Low	None	None
Thompson Square	Lynde Street & Main Street	City	DPW	0.11	UR-C	Square	Excellent	Yes	Low	None	None
Unnamed	Beacon Street	City	Park Dept.	0.10	SR-A	Undeveloped, Trail	Fair	Yes	High	None	None
Unnamed	Fern Street	City	Park Dept.	0.19	SR-A	Undeveloped, Trail	Fair	Yes	High	None	None
Unnamed	Maple Terrace	City	Park Dept.	0.09	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	None	None
Unnamed	Mill Road	City	Park Dept.	3.30	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Limited	Medium	None	None
Unnamed	Penney Road	City	Park Dept.	0.03	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	None	None
Unnamed	Penney Road	City	Park Dept.	1.00	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Limited	Low	None	None
Unnamed	Porter Street	City	Park Dept.	0.12	SR-B	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	None	None
Unnamed	Prescott Street	City	Park Dept.	0.07	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Limited	Medium	None	None
Unnamed	Sibley Street	City	Park Dept.	0.34	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Limited	Medium	None	None
Unnamed	South High Street	City	Park Dept.	0.09	UR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	None	None
Unnamed	Stillman Road	City	Park Dept.	1.00	SR-B	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	High	None	None
Unnamed	Summit Street	City	Park Dept.	0.14	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Medium	None	None
Unnamed	Swains Pond Road	City	Park Dept.	0.17	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Low	None	None
Unnamed	Walnut Avenue	City	Park Dept.	0.09	SR-A	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Yes	Medium	None	None

TOTAL (OTHER – UNPROTECTED) 7.26

Source: City of Melrose

Notes:

¹ Zoning information taken from the Zoning Map of the City of Melrose, Massachusetts, Revised May 7, 2014, Order 2014-95.

Table 15 Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Land: Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Name	Location	Owner	Managing Agency	Size (acres)	Zoning ¹	Type	Condition	Public Access	Degree of Protection
Flood Control	Washington Street	Massachusetts	None	2.76	BB-1	Undeveloped land for flood control	Unknown	No	High
Lawrence W. Lloyd Memorial Swimming Pool	Tremont Street	Massachusetts	DCR	1.25	UR-B	City-wide Park	Excellent	Yes	Perpetuity
Middlesex Fells Reservation	Brazil Street, Fellsway East, & Washington Street	Massachusetts	DCR	149.09	UR-A	Regional Park	Excellent	Yes	Perpetuity
Spot Pond Brook	Washington Street	Massachusetts	DCR	4.37	BC & UR-C	Open and culverted water	Unknown	No	High
Unnamed	Banks Place & MBTA	Massachusetts	MBTA	0.30	BB-1	Roadway	Fair	Yes	None
Unnamed	Lynn Fells Parkway & Youle Street	Massachusetts	DCR	0.54	UR-A	Roadway	Fair	Yes	None
Unnamed	Youle Street	Massachusetts	DCR	0.21	UR-A	Roadway	Fair	Yes	None
Unnamed	Lynn Fells Parkway & Vinton Street	Massachusetts	DCR	0.27	BB-1	Roadway	Fair	Yes	None
Unnamed	Lynn Fells Parkway & Sewall Woods Road	Massachusetts	DCR	0.44	UR-A	Roadway	Fair	Yes	None

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Name	Location	Owner	Managing Agency	Size (acres)	Zoning ¹	Type	Condition	Public Access	Degree of Protection
Unnamed	Lynn Fells Parkway & Bellvue Avenue	Massachusetts	DCR	0.04	UR-B	Roadway	Fair	Yes	None
Unnamed	Lynn Fells Parkway & Bellvue Avenue	Massachusetts	DCR	0.15	UR-A	Roadway	Fair	Yes	None
Unnamed	Lynn Fells Parkway	Massachusetts	DCR	0.003	UR-B	Roadway	Fair	Yes	None
Unnamed	Lynn Fells Parkway, Melrose Street, & Main Street	Massachusetts	DCR	0.19	BD	Roadway	Fair	Yes	None
Unnamed	Lynn Fells Parkway & Elm Street	Massachusetts	DCR	0.03	UR-A	Roadway	Fair	Yes	None
SUBTOTAL (COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PROTECTED)				157.47					
SUBTOTAL (COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – UNPROTECTED)				2.17					
TOTAL (COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS)				159.64					

Source: City of Melrose

Notes:

1 Zoning information taken from the Zoning Map of the City of Melrose, Massachusetts, Revised May 7, 2014, Order 2014-95.

Table 16 Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Land: Private Parks and Cemeteries

Name	Location	Owner	Managing Agency	Size (acres)	Zoning ¹	Type	Condition	Public Access	Degree of Protection
Agudas Achim Cemetery	Newburyport Turnpike	Agudas Achim, CWM Corp.	JCAM	1.00	BB	Cemetery	Excellent	Limited	High
Bellevue Golf Club	320 Porter Street	Bellevue Golf	Private	49.00	SR	Golf Course	Excellent	Yes	None
Congregation Hadrath Cemetery	Newburyport Turnpike	Congregation Hadrath	JCAM	1.46	BB	Cemetery	Excellent	Limited	High
Vilkomir Cemetery	Newburyport Turnpike	Ind Wilkomir Cemetery Corp.	JCAM	1.00	BB	Cemetery	Excellent	Limited	High
Incarnation Church Fields	Upham Street	Archdiocese of Boston	Private	4.38	SR-B	Church	Excellent	Yes	None
Netherlands Cemetery	Linwood Avenue	Netherlands Cemetery	JCAM	1.04	UR-B	Cemetery	Excellent	Limited	High
United Brothers Onikchty Cemetery	Newburyport Turnpike	United Brothers Onichty Cemetery	JCAM	0.99	BB	Cemetery	Excellent	Limited	High
Workmen’s Circle Cemetery	Newburyport Turnpike	Workmen’s Circle Cemetery Assn.	JCAM	0.67	BB	Cemetery	Excellent	Limited	High
SUBTOTAL (PRIVATE – PROTECTED)				6.16					
SUBTOTAL (PRIVATE – UNPROTECTED)				53.38					
TOTAL (PRIVATE)				59.54					

Source: City of Melrose and Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts (www.jcam.org)

Notes:

1 Zoning information taken from the Zoning Map of the City of Melrose, Massachusetts, Revised May 7, 2014, Order 2014-95.

Table 17 Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Land: Other Private Land

Name	Location	Owner	Managing Agency	Size (acres)	Zoning ¹	Type	Condition	Public Access	Degree of Protection
Private Utility	Heywood Avenue, Howard Street, & Windsor Street	Utility Company	Utility Company	20.47	SR-B & UR-A	Transmission Lines	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Beech Avenue & Highland Street	A. Sousa	Private	0.35	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	
Unnamed	Dexter Road	Stanley Family Trust	Private	5.30	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Dexter Road	J. Fish	Private	0.81	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Dexter Road	G. Connell	Private	1.83	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Dexter Road	P. Brandano Trust	Private	7.84	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Dexter Road & Penney Road	J. McDermott	Private	1.31	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	
Unnamed	Dexter Road & Swains Pond Road	Kennedy Dev Group, Inc.	Private	7.48	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Dexter Road	A. Contreas	Private	6.05	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	East Rock Park & Bowdoin Road	Kennworthy & Kendall	Private	1.00	SR-B	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	
Unnamed	Elmcrest Circle	P. Hook	Private	0.51	SR-B	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	
Unnamed	Greenwood Street	R. Pelham	Private	0.54	UR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	
Unnamed	Highland Street	S. Longmuir	Private	0.73	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Mill Road	A. Perry	Private	3.51	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Messenger Court	P. O'Connor	Private	1.80	UR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Porter Street	G. Lynch	Private	0.85	SR-B	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Slayton Road	J. Confalone	Private	0.36	SR-B	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Slayton Road	E. Nicholson	Private	3.53	SR-B	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Swains Pond Avenue	L. Muise	Private	2.68	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Summit Avenue	G. Warren	Private	0.89	UR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
Unnamed	Walnut Avenue & Swains Pond Avenue	EMARC	Private	1.40	SR-A	Undeveloped	Unknown	None	None
TOTAL (OTHER – UNPROTECTED)				69.24					

Source: City of Melrose

Notes:

1 Zoning information taken from the Zoning Map of the City of Melrose, Massachusetts, Revised May 7, 2014, Order 2014-95.

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Section 6: Community Vision

A. Description of the Process

To develop the 2015 City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Office of Planning and Community Development worked with representatives from the Board of Aldermen, Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works, Mayor's Office, Park Department, Recreation Department, and School Department to accurately update the Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Land from the 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Once an accurate assessment of open space and recreational facilities was made, the goals and objectives were reviewed and a draft Seven-Year Action Plan was incorporated into the first draft of the plan. Input and feedback were gathered from volunteer commissions, task forces, and boards as well as city officials and other citizens involved in the management of open space and recreation facilities and activities. The Seven-Year Action Plan was revised based on the input and feedback received. This plan was submitted to the Commonwealth and to MAPC, who reviewed the plan and offered suggestions.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Open space is an important resource, particularly in urban areas. Open space, sports, and recreation facilities serve to enhance biodiversity and air quality, offer opportunities for social interaction and community cohesion, and promote healthy lifestyles. Overall, these networks lead to more sustainable development by integrating the natural and built environments. The City of Melrose hopes to recognize the importance of natural and recreational resources by creating this plan and carrying out its objectives.

The high quality of life enjoyed by Melrose residents is due in part to its abundance of recreational opportunities, open spaces, and conservation lands, which account for roughly a quarter of the City's total land area. Overall, our community's goal is to ensure that there is a deliberate mix of land devoted to natural conservation, passive recreation use, and active recreation use, which is distributed around and throughout the City for a variety of users. A corollary to these goals is to ensure that these resources are adequately developed and well maintained.

Additionally, the City hopes to expand not just the physical attributes of its open space and recreational facilities, but also to expand the programming that these special places offer to the community. The Recreation Department and Senior Center should continue to be supported so that they can provide activities based on our recreational and natural resources. More programming through the Conservation Commission, Beebe Estate, Memorial Hall, and Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course, and the City's numerous volunteer organizations should also be proactively encouraged.

Over the past five years, the City made a significant investment in open space and recreation facilities in the community including investing five million dollars in a complete overhaul of the High School Athletic Complex and new facilities at Pine Banks Park. Public-private partnerships

have been developed between school groups and the City to redevelop existing playgrounds. With many new and improved facilities, the City looks to improve the stewardship of these properties. Through education and signage, establishing a volunteer corps, and fostering more public-private partnerships, the City hopes to instill a level of ownership of and responsibility for open space and recreation facilities in its citizens.

Melrose seeks to plan for and preserve sufficient land resources to meet the needs of both current and future residents. A network of high quality open space and recreation areas is fundamental to protecting and enhancing the character of Melrose. Seeking out new and innovative ways to fund and develop open space and recreation areas is necessary for future planning and acquisitions. Promoting alliances at the sub-regional level and continuing to make our green space accessible by many different modes of transportation are also components of the community's vision for an equitable, accessible, and enjoyable environment.

C. Coordination with Municipal and Regional Goals

The goals outlined in this Open Space and Recreation Plan are consistent with and expand upon the goals outlined in the City of Melrose's 2004 Master Plan. The Master Plan focuses on the redevelopment and improvement of existing facilities rather than developing new facilities in order to extend the longevity of these facilities and the ability to provide multiple activities for a variety of users at once. Redevelopment also reduces the pressure on the existing open space in Melrose, which forms a greenbelt around the City and gives Melrose its unique character.

The City's goals for protecting open space, particularly the preservation of critical land resources and promotion of a sense of unique community identity, are aligned with the goals of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's (MAPC) MetroFuture Regional Plan. In addition, the goals identified in this Open Space and Recreation Plan relative to working with neighboring communities and utilizing innovative planning techniques to achieve conservation goals are consistent with the MetroFuture Plan goal to create a regionally-minded metropolitan Boston.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Melrose has a long history of participating in regional efforts to protect conservation land and provide opportunities for residents to enjoy. In the late 1800's, the towns of Melrose, Malden, Medford, Winchester, and Stoneham joined together to create the Middlesex Fells Reservation, the first protected reservation to provide unprecedented passive and active recreational opportunities in the greater Boston region. Regional planning for the protection of natural resources continues to the present day as evidenced by the investment made by the cities of Malden and Melrose in Pine Banks Park over the last decade. Relationships with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Friends of the Fells should continue to be strengthened in order to work together on conservation efforts as well as publicizing the availability of the Middlesex Fells and events that occur within the Reservation. In addition, to enhance Melrose's greenbelt, working with the neighboring communities is important to develop and preserve sensitive land that crosses municipal boundaries.

The Melrose Conservation Commission acknowledges several conservation needs in the city. They stress the need to continue to protect wetlands and other marginal land from development by linking green areas and buffering city ponds. Members of the Commission identified two areas that are especially in need of protection: the southeast region of the City and the City's ponds. Both areas are ecologically diverse and serve as valuable recreational resources. Because of their benefits to both the environment and the community, the southeast corner and the City's ponds require protections from future and existing development. Certain parcels located in the southeast region of the City identified by the Conservation Commission were included as Priority Preservation Areas in the MetroNorth Land Use Priority Plan released by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development in 2014. These Priority Preservation Areas deserve protection as there are sensitive environmental resources due to the presence of wetlands and are also contiguous to existing open space where opportunities to increase access could be achieved.

To protect these valuable resources, the Conservation Commission needs to pursue grant and funding opportunities and consider other innovative ways to pursue protection of these resources. Several innovative proposals to accomplish such a goal include the creation of an overlay conservation district or outright acquisition of land in these areas. The Conservation Commission should formalize an inventory of sensitive areas that may potentially be purchased or placed under a conservation restriction, if the opportunity presents itself in the future or with the assistance of outside agencies that specialize in property acquisition and funding. In order to accomplish these goals, the Conservation Commission must work with other City Boards, such as the Planning Board and the Board of Aldermen, as well as non-profit groups such as the Ell Pond Improvement Council. The Ell Pond Improvement Council is particularly important to sustaining the health of Ell Pond, and the Conservation Commission and the City should continue to reinforce each other's efforts to improve the water quality and hence the recreation potential of this resource.

B. Summary of Recreation Needs

Melrose currently has a total of approximately 900 acres of protected and unprotected land for roughly 27,000 citizens, or 30 acres per 1,000 population, which surpasses the often cited National Recreation and Park Association's standard of between 6.25 and 10.5 acres of open space per 1,000 population.²³ These basic calculations should not be regarded as the authority on the adequacy of the City's park system. Rather, the City's unique geographic, socioeconomic, and demographic characteristics should determine the community's open space and recreation needs, which is consistent the National Recreation and Park Association's current view on assessing the adequacy of a park system. As such, planning for future park development must incorporate the specific interests of Melrose citizens and municipal representatives. Change in the use of private land to parkland, or vice versa, should closely weigh the benefits to the community and the environment when being implemented, rather than a population to acreage basis.

Over the last decade, the City of Melrose has made significant investment in the City's playing fields as well as our neighborhood parks and playgrounds. Investment is generally focused on maintaining and improving existing open space and recreation facilities since the availability of land for new facilities is limited. One exception is Pine Banks Park where the cities of Melrose and Malden completed the construction of new baseball fields, multipurpose fields, and a regulation-sized track. Significant redevelopment projects in Melrose completed in the past nine years include:

- Reconstruction of the High School Athletic Complex including Fred Green Field and Morelli Field;
- Conversion of Hesseltine Field to a multi-purpose athletic facility;
- Improvement of Ell Pond Memorial Park, including the Knoll Fields, Lewis Monk Little League Field, tennis courts, Melrose Dog Park, and Skate Park;
- Improvement of the drainage issues at the Knoll Fields, Conant Park, and Messengers Field;
- Renovation of Conant Park;
- Installation of a new floor at Marcoux Gym;
- Renovation of Gooch basketball court;
- Improvements at Lebanon Field; and
- Repairs to amenities at select parks and fields.



New Dog Park in Melrose

With the completion of these strategic investments, the City should consider where new investment is needed. There is a desire, for example, to investigate the feasibility and desirability of converting certain grass fields to turf fields in order to improve the longevity of these fields, reduce maintenance costs, and provide more opportunities for field usage. Improving the functionality of the play fields through a review of existing facilities should also be considered. Continual investment will keep these facilities up-to-date and available for future generations. Similarly, several parks and playgrounds throughout the City have received investment in recent years through grants and public-private partnerships with the school communities. Along with

23 National Recreation and Park Association. *Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. 1981.

assessing the existing play fields, the City should also assess the existing parks and playgrounds, especially those that do not have an established community to support them as the school playgrounds and tot lots do.

Because yard space is often limited in this densely settled city, some residents have expressed interest in exploring areas for community gardens. Community gardens foster social interaction while creating outdoor recreation opportunities. Several elementary schools have community



Winthrop School Community Garden

gardens that serve the school community and beyond, but are located on school property which limits access availability. In the past year, the Melrose Community Garden Group was established and is currently assessing options for a garden site that would be available for the whole community of Melrose. Similarly, the Sally Frank's Farmers' Market has operated at Bowden Park since 2012 during the warmer months after a number of years of looking for a permanent location.

Access to the existing park system and open spaces is important to provide. If residents cannot or do not know how to access the existing park system, it will be underutilized. Although Melrose is a small city and much of the park system is within walking distance, not every roadway provides the same degree of access. Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations need to be evaluated and upgrades identified. Safe routes to popular locations of the park system should be established allowing people of all abilities to safely access the park system.

The City of Melrose recognizes that its residents have needs that extend beyond physical updates to its park system. Melrosians have always been creative in their recreational endeavors; as such, the community needs to continue to support innovative recreational programming. For instance, there are verbal accounts of school children who once ice-skated along streets and sidewalks, or attempted the ski jumps that were once located at Mount Hood. Melrose is today home to the Melrose Americans, a baseball team in the Intercity League, which plays at Morelli Field. Similarly unique recreational pastimes include summer jazz concerts and outdoor movies in the restored Beebe Estate Gardens. Mount Hood hosts an annual Fourth of July outdoor concert as well as other community events throughout the year, particularly those for seniors. Volunteer groups, such as the Friends of the Fells and the Ell Pond Improvement Council, conduct walking tours through the City's open spaces. The Recreation Department also offers a diverse range of activities, including summer recreation activities, field sports clinics, and arts and crafts classes. These activities appeal to a broad cross-section of residents. Our goal is to continue this tradition of providing interesting active and passive recreation opportunities.

An excellent and equitable park system must also be accessible to everyone. Regardless of physical or mental abilities, the special needs of people with disabilities have been closely considered. The City seeks to meet these needs by retrofitting older facilities to enhance their accessibility, while working to increase the overall number of accessible facilities. In particular,

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certain features of each facility may be accessible, but overall the facility is not accessible. All recreation facilities improvements and new construction include provisions to ensure that disabled and special needs persons will have access to the recreational opportunities provided by the City. Through the elimination of physical barriers and the development of organized recreational activities, the City provides opportunities for special needs and disabled persons to participate in a variety of recreational experiences and is committed to continuing these improvements.

In 1980, a play area specifically designed for special education students was built in the Franklin School playground. In 1992, a handicapped accessible playground improvement program was launched that funded on a matching basis improvements to the Lincoln School Playground, Roosevelt School Playground, Gooch Park Playground, Horace Mann Playground, and Ripley School Playground. During the early 2000s, the Winthrop School Tot Lot and Messengers Playground were made handicap accessible along with the Lincoln School Playground. More recently, Gooch Park, the Bingham Community Playground, Roosevelt School Playground, and



Accessible Equipment at the Melrose Common

the Horace Mann Playground were upgraded with new accessible equipment and the Melrose Common Playground was made accessible. Not only have the playgrounds and parks in the City been improved to meet ADA standards, access challenges at the Mount Hood Golf Course and Park and the Athletic Complex was corrected through renovations at Mount Hood and the total reconstruction of the Athletic Complex.

The Melrose School Department has a program for youth with special needs as per State Chapter 766 and Federal Chapter 94142. An adaptive Physical Education Instructor develops recreation programs for special needs students. Chapter I of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act provides similar programs for disadvantaged students in the schools. Starting in 1984, two elementary schools provided enrichment programs through Chapter I. These programs continue today. Outdoor facilities at each of these schools are used as a part of the Chapter I program, but the positive impact of Chapter I is largely derived from the personnel, parental involvement, and programming, rather than the facilities. As Melrose provides improved playgrounds and facilities, a by-product will be a wider range of opportunities for those organizations serving the special needs population.

Additional information on the City's efforts to meet the needs of people with disabilities is included in the Section 504 Report, an appendix to this document.

The community's needs closely relate to the 2012 Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP suggests that the Commonwealth should invest in recreation and conservation areas that are close to home for short visits as well as invest in

racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhoods given their projected increase in participation in outdoor recreation.²⁴ The City is committed to providing high-quality and diverse recreation and conservation opportunities throughout the City which are available to and accessible by a diverse population. Melrose recognizes the changing needs of the community and strives to accommodate these needs throughout the community at the recreation and conservation areas. Providing accessible equipment at tot lots, establishing a community garden, and upgrading pedestrian and bicycle accommodations are examples of how the community's needs are related to the goals of the SCORP.

C. Management Needs and Potential Change of Use

The City's publicly owned parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces are maintained by three entities: the Park Department, the Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Conservation Commission. In addition, the Recreation Department provides recreational opportunities at several facilities in the community. The Recreation Department has grown substantially since the last Open Space and Recreation Plan and has expanded the amount and diversity of recreation programs offered to the community. The City now funds a full-time Director and two staff positions, and is in a position to continue supporting the Recreation Department. These organizations have partnered on a number of occasions to enhance the open space and recreation opportunities within the City. In continuing this tradition, and by expanding the involvement of both private businesses and citizens, we can ensure that the quality of life we enjoy today will continue for future generations.

Several opportunities for potential management changes were identified during the course of our planning. The Conservation Commission properties have historically had little upkeep; a management strategy specific to these lands should be created. The Conservation Commission is a volunteer board and the staff position is part-time. To supplement the management of conservation lands, a volunteer corps should be established to regularly assist in the trail development and maintenance.

Similarly, the volunteer corps could be used in park development and maintenance. By establishing a volunteer corps, the City may be able to instill a sense of ownership of the park system by the community and foster stewardship of the park system. Also, by incorporating education on environmental stewardship through the School Department and hosting events geared to the youth, the City can instill ownership of and responsibility for open space and recreation facilities in the youngest generations.

Another means of increasing community involvement in the City's open spaces is through the adoption and implementation of the Community Preservation Act (CPA). Cities and towns that participate in the CPA have the ability to adopt a property tax surcharge up to 3 percent in an effort fund open space, historic preservation and affordable housing initiatives. The CPA is a means of coordinating what are often seen as opposing forces: conservationists, affordable

24 Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2012. Prepared by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Submitted to the National Park Service, Land and Water Conservation Fund.

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housing advocates, and historic preservationists. Together, their objectives strengthen those resources that make Melrose a desirable place to live. The CPA's goal of preserving the special parts of a community's natural and built environment complement the identified goals of this Open Space and Recreation Plan and the City's 2004 Master Plan.

In the area of sustainability, the City of Melrose can continue to provide leadership by choosing low impact development techniques, native plants that require less irrigation, and green products for cleaning. Expanding the use of these techniques will improve the quality of the park system, promote sustainability, and enhance the environment. Private developers should be encouraged to adopt sustainable practices as well.

Section 8: Goals and Objectives

Based on the previously outlined Community Vision and Needs Analysis, we have identified the following open space and recreation goals and objectives, which will improve the quality of life for residents at the neighborhood, city, and regional level.

Open Space and Recreation Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Satisfy the active and passive recreation needs of present and future residents.

- Ensure that a variety of recreational activities are available throughout the City and that they can be enjoyed by a broad cross-section of residents, regardless of age, gender, ability, or interests.
- Focus location of new facilities to provide even distribution of services.
- Ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; strive to undertake improvements that advance handicap accessibility.
- Ensure that the need for both regional/citywide facilities and neighborhood facilities is addressed.

Goal 2: Improve, repair, and maintain existing park and playground facilities.

- Continue the on-going maintenance program.
- Redevelop existing playing fields and parks to increase usability and longevity.
- Improve opportunities for trail use.

Goal 3: Involve community members and businesses in park and playground improvement and beautification efforts.

- Develop an ongoing citizen participation process that involves groups and residents in the design, development, and planning of park improvements.
- Continue citywide cleanup efforts and trail maintenance, where residents can get involved in hands-on park and beautification improvements.
- Continue public awareness programs that promote Melrose's open space and recreation facilities.

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Goal 4: Preserve existing open space, scenic areas, and environmentally sensitive lands.

- Protect existing conservation lands.
- Provide consistent maintenance of conservation areas including trimming of brush and replacement of signage to ensure trails remain open and safe for public use.

Goal 5: Increase Open Space holdings to enhance biodiversity by creating wildlife corridors.

- Develop an identification system and acquisition program for remaining undeveloped parcels in greenbelt areas.
- Acquire critical unprotected parcels.

Goal 6: Protect and improve water resources, including Ell Pond, Swains Pond, Towners Pond, and the ponds at Mt. Hood.

- Assess and improve water quality at City ponds.
- Develop measures to protect against eutrophication at City ponds.
- Increase educational and recreational opportunities at City ponds.

Goal 7: Promote sustainable development.

- Increase transportation options by increasing facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.
- Continue to link trails and greenways, creating natural corridors.
- Generate new and innovative ways to finance open space and recreation development and maintenance.
- Use sustainable practices in development and maintenance of new growth within the City.
- Protect and improve the urban tree canopy.

Section 9: Seven-Year Action Plan

The City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan links its goals to future implementation by identifying a range of strategies and recommended actions. The strategies of this plan strive to address the physical planning of open space and recreation facilities as well as the programming that allows residents to partake in these facilities’ offerings. The Action Plan outlined in this section provides a schedule by which the City hopes to attain each of these objectives. Strategies are defined as either short-term (S) for 0 to 3 years, medium-term (M) for 3 to 5 years, long-term (L) for 5 to 7 years, or as ongoing (O). Those departments or entities responsible for an objective’s implementation are also listed. Figure 8 at the end of this section provides an illustration of the Seven-Year Action Plan.

Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
GOAL 1: SATISFY THE ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION NEEDS OF PRESENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS				
Objective A: Ensure that a variety of recreational activities are available throughout the City and that they can be enjoyed by a broad cross-section of residents, regardless of age, gender, ability, or interests.	➤ Continue City support, through funding or public recognition, of existing recreational programming at the Senior Center, Mount Hood, and through the Recreation Department.	O	Office of the Mayor, Recreation Department, Office of Planning and Community Development, Park Department, Council on Aging, and Mount Hood Park Association	City
	➤ Continue youth and adult programs and activities, such as the Winter Festival, Red Sox Game Night, and sports clinics.	O	Recreation Department, Friends of the Fells, and Melrose YMCA	City
	➤ Continue to support teen and youth oriented programs.	O	Office of the Mayor and Recreation Department	City
	➤ Continue to support events at the Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course.	O	Office of the Mayor, Park Department, and Mount Hood Park Association	City
	➤ Establish a community garden, where residents of all ages and abilities can enjoy its natural attributes.	S	Office of the Mayor, Office of Planning and Community Development, Melrose Community Garden, and Public Works	City, Grants, Private Sources
Objective B: Focus location of new	➤ Ensure new development is served by adequate park space.	O	Planning Board and Conservation Commission	City Staff

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Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
facilities to provide even distribution of services.	➤ Locate new recreational facilities, programming, and open space in close proximity to public transportation.	O	Park Department, Recreation Department, Conservation Commission, and Office of Planning and Community Development	City
	➤ Continue to advocate for funding for Park’s projects through the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and grant opportunities.	O	Park Department, Public Works, and Office of Planning and Community Development	City Staff
Objective C: Ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; strive to undertake improvements that advance handicap accessibility.	➤ Continue on-going ADA improvements to City parks.	O	Public Works and Park Department	City
	➤ Add curb cuts to all sidewalks to make them accessible to the disabled, seniors, and those with strollers.	O	Public Works and Office of Planning and Community Development	City
	➤ Enhance the City’s open space and recreation facilities by adding improvements for the hearing and visually impaired.	O	Park Department and Public Works	City, Grants
	➤ Establish partnerships with community organizations that promote inclusive programs and activities for individuals with disabilities.	O	Recreation Department and EMARC	City Staff
	➤ Add pavement markings to the road to Slayton Tower at Mount Hood to better delineate the roadway for vehicles and pedestrians.	S	Park Department and Public Works	City
Objective D: Ensure that the need for both regional/citywide facilities and neighborhood facilities is addressed.	➤ Enhance partnerships with other municipalities in the region to plan for and create recreational facilities and protect conservation lands. (Examples of such inter-border partnerships include that of Malden and Melrose at Pine Banks Park and the common geographical ownership of the Middlesex Fells by five local cities and towns.)	O	Park Department, Conservation Commission, Office of the Mayor, and Office of Planning and Community Development	City Staff
	➤ Enhance partnerships with the Friends of the Fells and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to showcase the Middlesex Fells Reservation in Melrose.	O	Department of Conservation and Recreation, Friends of the Fells, and Office of the Mayor	City Staff

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Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
	➤ Update the Open Space and Recreation Plan for the City of Melrose on a regular basis to assess whether the recreation needs of both regional and local citizens are being met.	O	Office of Planning and Community Development	City Staff
	➤ Prepare the Open Space and Recreation Plan for the City of Melrose that is consistent with the goals, objectives, and strategies of MAPC’s MetroFuture Regional Plan.	O	Office of Planning and Community Development	City Staff
GOAL 2: IMPROVE, REPAIR, AND MAINTAIN EXISTING PARK, PLAYGROUND, AND TRAIL FACILITIES				
Objective A: Continue the on-going maintenance program.	➤ Periodically evaluate maintenance performed by the DPW and review contracts with private companies for adequacy.	O	Public Works and Park Department	City Staff
	➤ Continue partnership with the Ell Pond Improvement Council (EPIC) to work on tree and park maintenance at Ell Pond.	O	Park Department, Public Works, and Ell Pond Improvement Council	City, Grants
	➤ Assess the availability, usage, and signage of trash and recycling receptacles at the City’s open space and recreation facilities, and address any inadequacies.	S	Park Department, Melrose Recycling Committee, and Public Works	City
	➤ Develop an “Adopt a Recycling Bin” program to fund the purchase and installation of recycling receptacles at city parks and open spaces.	S	Chamber of Commerce, Park Department, Public Works, and Office of the Mayor	City, Private Sources
Objective B: Redevelop existing playing fields and parks to increase usability and longevity.	➤ Evaluate the desirability and feasibility of converting existing grass fields to turf fields (i.e., the Cabbage Patch, West Knoll Field, interior of Pine Banks track).	M	Park Department, School Department, and Public Works	City, Grants
	➤ Evaluate and prioritize necessary improvements at existing fields and parks.	O	Park Department and Public Works	City
	➤ Enhance the existing Skateboard Park with new equipment.	S	Park Department and Public Works	City, Grants, Private Sources

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Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
	➤ Enhance the Dog Park with benches for visitors placed outside of the fence.	S	Melrose Dog Society, Park Department, and Public Works	City, Grants, Private Sources
	➤ Install bocce ball and horseshoe courts at appropriate locations, such as at the Senior Center or Mount Hood.	S	Park Department, Council on Aging, Mount Hood Park Association, and Public Works	City, Grants, Private Sources
	➤ Evaluate the addition of spray equipment at a City park.	S	Park Department and Public Works	City
	➤ Install new equipment at the following playgrounds: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New equipment at the Franklin Early Childhood Center Playground. 2. Renovate Mary A. Livermore Memorial Park. 3. Renovate Lebanon Street Playground. 4. Swings at Conant Park. 5. New equipment at Dunton Park. 6. New equipment at Foss Park. 	S S M M M L	Park Department and Public Works	City, Grants, Private Sources
	➤ Improve the functionality of playing fields including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Double wide visitor’s gate at Fred Green Field. 2. Better lighting at entrance to Fred Green Field. 3. Construct a storage facility at Fred Green Field. 4. Padding on Fred Green Field endzone fences. 5. Padding on irrigation cabinet at Cabbage Patch. 6. Extended nets behind Fred Green Field goal posts. 	S S S M M M	Park Department, School Department, and Public Works	City, Grants, Private Sources

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Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to address and improve drainage problems at park facilities. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knoll Field East 2. Messengers Field 3. Conant Park 	O	Public Works and Park Department	City, Grants
Objective C: Improve opportunities for trail use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to develop existing trails for multi-use at Mount Hood. 	O	Park Department	City, Grants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop a program for routine evaluation and maintenance of existing trails for improvements to be completed by the City and/or a volunteer corps. 	S	Conservation Commission, Park Department, and Public Works	City
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evaluate trails for opportunities for improved connections to City-owned facilities, such as connections between the Hoover School and adjacent land owned by the Conservation Commission. 	M	Conservation Commission	City, Grants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Publicize the availability of the Mount Hood trails for passive recreation opportunities. 	O	Park Department and Conservation Commission	City
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhance access and entry points to trails City-wide, including signage and parking improvements. 	M	Park Department, Conservation Commission, and Public Works	City
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with adjacent communities to create trail connections across municipal boundaries. 	O	Conservation Commission, Park Department, and Office of Planning and Community Development	City
GOAL 3: INVOLVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND BUSINESSES IN OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS AND BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS				
Objective A: Develop an ongoing citizen participation process that involves groups and residents in the development and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to provide opportunities for the public to participate in park and recreation planning efforts. 	O	Recreation Department, Park Department, Office of the Mayor, and Office of Planning and Community Development	City Staff
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish a volunteer corps to assist in park and open space improvements. 	S	Park Department and Conservation Commission	City Staff

City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan

Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
planning of park improvements.	➤ Create new outreach programs that invite City stakeholders to visit and enjoy their open spaces.	S	Park Department, Conservation Commission, Recreation Department, Friends of the Fells, and Ell Pond Improvement Council	City
	➤ Foster public/private partnerships to develop and plan park improvements.	O	Office of the Mayor, Park Department, and Conservation Commission	City, Private Sources
Objective B: Continue citywide cleanup efforts and trail maintenance, where residents can get involved in hands-on park and beautification efforts.	➤ Publicize the benefits of the Adopt-A-Site Program on local television stations, the city website, and area newspapers.	O	Office of the Mayor, Office for Planning and Community Development, and Park Department	City
	➤ Raise public awareness of City cleanup programs at events such as “DPW Day” and the Victorian Fair.	O	Public Works, Park Department, Conservation Commission, and Office of the Mayor	City
	➤ Establish an annual event involving community members and volunteer corps to clean and clear trails, parks, and playgrounds.	S	Park Department, Conservation Commission, and Office of the Mayor	City
Objective C: Continue public awareness programs that promote Melrose’s open space and recreation facilities.	➤ Publish community events focused on open space and recreation on the City website.	O	Park Department, Recreation Department, Conservation Commission, and Office of the Mayor	City Staff
	➤ Centralize mapping and information for all City parks, recreation facilities, and trails on the City’s website.	S	Park Department, Conservation Commission, Recreation Department, and IT Department	City Staff
	➤ Continue to clearly mark trails and parks.	O	Conservation Commission and Park Department	City
	➤ Educate the community about conservation land and passive recreational opportunities.	O	Recreation Department, Conservation Commission, and Park Department	City Staff
	➤ Make community service opportunities at open space and recreation facilities available to High School students.	O	Recreational Department, Park Department, Conservation Commission, and School Department	City Staff
	➤ Use kiosks at open space and recreation facilities to post information on events and volunteer opportunities, as well as educational materials.	O	Park Department, Conservation Commission, and Recreation Department	City Staff

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Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
GOAL 4: PRESERVE EXISTING OPEN SPACE, SCENIC AREAS, AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS				
Objective A: Protect existing conservation lands.	➤ Educate the public about the value of and benefits of protecting conservation land.	O	Conservation Commission and Public Works	City Staff
	➤ Carefully regulate development and uses of areas surrounding conservation lands to protect against the transfer of pollutants.	O	Conservation Commission and Planning Board	City Staff
	➤ Send property owners abutting conservation properties educational information on why dumping yard waste on conservation land is detrimental to conservation land.	S	Conservation Commission	City
Objective B: Provide consistent maintenance of conservation areas including trimming of brush and replacement of signage to ensure trails remain open and safe for public use.	➤ Establish a volunteer corps to assist in maintenance of conservation land. Additional community service programs should be encouraged.	O	Conservation Commission, Friends of the Fells, Ell Pond Improvement Council, Office of Planning and Community Development, and Office of the Mayor	City Staff
	➤ Continue the dedicated funding through the City budget for clean up and maintenance of conservation land.	S	Conservation Commission, Office of the Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen	City
	➤ Continue to maintain Conservation land and wetlands within park areas in cooperation with Public Works and the Park Department.	O	Public Works, Conservation Commission, and Park Department	City
GOAL 5: INCREASE OPEN SPACE HOLDINGS TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY BY CREATING WILDLIFE CORRIDORS				
Objective A: Develop an identification system and acquisition program for remaining undeveloped parcels in the greenbelt areas.	➤ Utilize the City’s Geographical Information System (GIS) to identify what parcels are potentially available for possible acquisition.	S	Office of Planning and Community Development and Conservation Commission	City Staff
	➤ Compile a prioritized list of environmentally sensitive properties that can be proactively pursued and establish procedures for timely acquisition of threatened parcels in case such sites were to become available, possibly through the use of Conservation Restrictions.	S	Conservation Commission	City Staff

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Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explore other means of protecting remaining undeveloped parcels in the southeast area of the City, such as a Conservation Overlay District or conservation easements. 	M	Office of the Mayor, Office of Planning and Community Development, and Conservation Commission	City, Grants
Objective B: Acquire critical unprotected parcels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Acquire and protect the following properties identified in the MetroNorth Land Use Priority Plan published by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slayton Road Property (Parcels G7-0-62A and G7-0-62B) 2. Hoover School Addition Property (Parcel F5-0-54) 3. Flagg Acres Addition Property (Parcel G6-0-68) 	L	Conservation Commission, Board of Aldermen, and the Office of the Mayor	City, Grants, Private Sources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Acquire and protect critical unprotected properties including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contreas Property off Penney Road (Parcels H3-0-7, I3-0-1, and I3-0-2) 2. Kendal/Kenworthy Properties off Porter Street (Parcels G10-0-57, G10-0-84E, G10-0-84F, G10-0-84G, and G10-0-84H) 3. Colluci Estate off Swains Pond Avenue and Hillside Park (Parcels G3-0-36 and G3-0-36A) 4. Messengers Court Property (Parcel C13-0-1) 5. EMARC Property on Swains Pond Road (Parcel G4-0-1-3) 6. Dexter Road Properties (Parcels H3-0-12, H3-0-14, H3-0-16, H3-0-17, H4-0-5, and H4-0-6D) 7. Rotondi Properties off Grove Street (Parcels F7-0-107, G7-0-111, and G7-0-112) 	L	Conservation Commission, Board of Aldermen, and the Office of the Mayor	City, Grants, Private Sources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pursue grant and funding opportunities to acquire unprotected land in the City. 	L	Conservation Commission and Office of Planning and Community Development	City

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Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
	➤ Contact property owners of critical unprotected properties with educational information on the benefits of land donation.	S	Conservation Commission	City
GOAL 6: PROTECT AND IMPROVE WATER RESOURCES, INCLUDING ELL POND, SWAINS POND, TOWNER’S POND, AND THE PONDS AT MOUNT HOOD				
Objective A: Assess water quality at City ponds.	➤ Continue to fund water quality testing at Ell Pond and other City ponds as well as expand the testing program.	O	Conservation Commission and Public Works	City, Grants
	➤ Continue to manage Canada Geese at Ell Pond area and Mount Hood area.	O	Public Works, Park Department, and Health Department	City
	➤ Update the Ell Pond Master Plan to create a vision for the pond and address the area’s environmental and recreation needs.	M	Office of Planning and Community Development, Conservation Commission, and Ell Pond Improvement Council	City, Grants
Objective B: Develop measures to protect against eutrophication at City ponds.	➤ Establish strong nonpoint source reduction programs (i.e., fertilizer reduction, pet waste cleanup, animal waste reduction) to reduce nutrient inputs to ponds.	M	Conservation Commission, Public Works, and Park Commission	City, Grants
	➤ Explore opportunities for water quality treatment retrofits to the existing drainage infrastructure.	L	Conservation Commission and Public Works	City, Grants
	➤ Continue programs to identify and eliminate sanitary sewer cross-connections and overflows that result in nutrient (and other pollutant) loadings to ponds.	O	Conservation Commission and Public Works	City, Grants
	➤ Continue to manage nuisance and invasive vegetation at City ponds.	O	Conservation Commission, Public Works, and Park Department	City
Objective C: Increase educational and recreational opportunities at City ponds.	➤ Post signage on acceptable activities at City Ponds.	S	Park Department, Conservation Commission, and Public Works	City
	➤ Explore opportunities for special events such as fishing derbies and boating activities at City Ponds.	M	Recreation Department and Park Department	City

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Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
	➤ Continue to improve ice skating conditions of the ponds at Mount Hood.	O	Park Department and Public Works	City
	➤ Establish a Youth Stewardship Program and events for children to learn about environmental stewardship through monitoring of water quality and conducting plant/animal species inventory.	S	Recreation Department, School Department, Conservation Commission, and Office of the Mayor	City
GOAL 7: PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
Objective A: Increase recreation options by increasing facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.	➤ Prepare a Bicycle Master Plan.	S	Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee	City Staff
	➤ Require any reconstruction of main roads in the City to include bicycle accommodations where feasible.	O	Office of Planning and Community Development, Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Public Works	City, State
	➤ Evaluate Main Street for opportunities to add bike accommodations and/or “Share the Road” signage.	S	Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, Traffic Commission, and Public Works	City
	➤ Continue to purchase and install bicycle racks throughout the City.	S	Health Department, Public Works, Park Department, Office of Planning and Community Development, and Office of the Mayor	City, Grants
	➤ Explore the possibility of creating bike trails within the City that could connect to other existing bike trails outside of the City.	L	Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, Office of the Mayor, Public Works, and Office of Planning and Community Development	City, Grants
	➤ Require sidewalks in new subdivisions where appropriate.	O	Planning Board	Private Sources
	➤ Evaluate existing roadways for opportunities to add sidewalks where sidewalks are currently unavailable and create a priority list of new sidewalk opportunities.	O	Public Works, Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Office of the Mayor	City

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Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
	➤ Create safe routes to popular destinations for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages that include well-defined street crossings, sidewalks in good condition, and locations for rest.	S	Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Melrose Running Club, and Office of Planning and Community Development	City
	➤ Adopt a Complete Streets Ordinance.	S	Office of the Mayor, Office of Planning and Community Development, Public Works, and the Board of Aldermen	City Staff
Objective B: Continue to link trails and greenways, creating natural corridors.	➤ Whenever possible, conservation lands and parks should be connected by means of a walking or bicycle trail. New acquisitions should establish appropriate connections.	O	Conservation Commission and Park Commission	City, Grants
Objective C: Generate new and innovative ways to finance open space and recreation development and maintenance.	➤ Propose adoption of the Community Preservation Act.	S	Office of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen	City Staff
	➤ Evaluate fees for use of municipally owned fields and parks on a regular basis.	O	Park Department	City Staff
	➤ Explore creative ways for new development to contribute to the Open Space Fund and the Streetscape Improvement Fund.	M	Planning Board and Office of Planning and Community Development.	City Staff
Objective D: Use sustainable practices in development and maintenance of new growth within the City.	➤ Implement low impact development (LID) techniques to control stormwater for use in private and public projects.	O	Park Department, School Department, Public Works, and Planning Board	City, Grants
	➤ Use native plants which require less irrigation and maintenance for landscaping for use in private and public projects.	O	Park Department, Conservation Commission, School Department, Public Works, and Planning Board	City, Grants
	➤ Choose green products in maintenance procedures.	O	Park Department, Conservation Commission, School Department, and Public Works	City

City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan

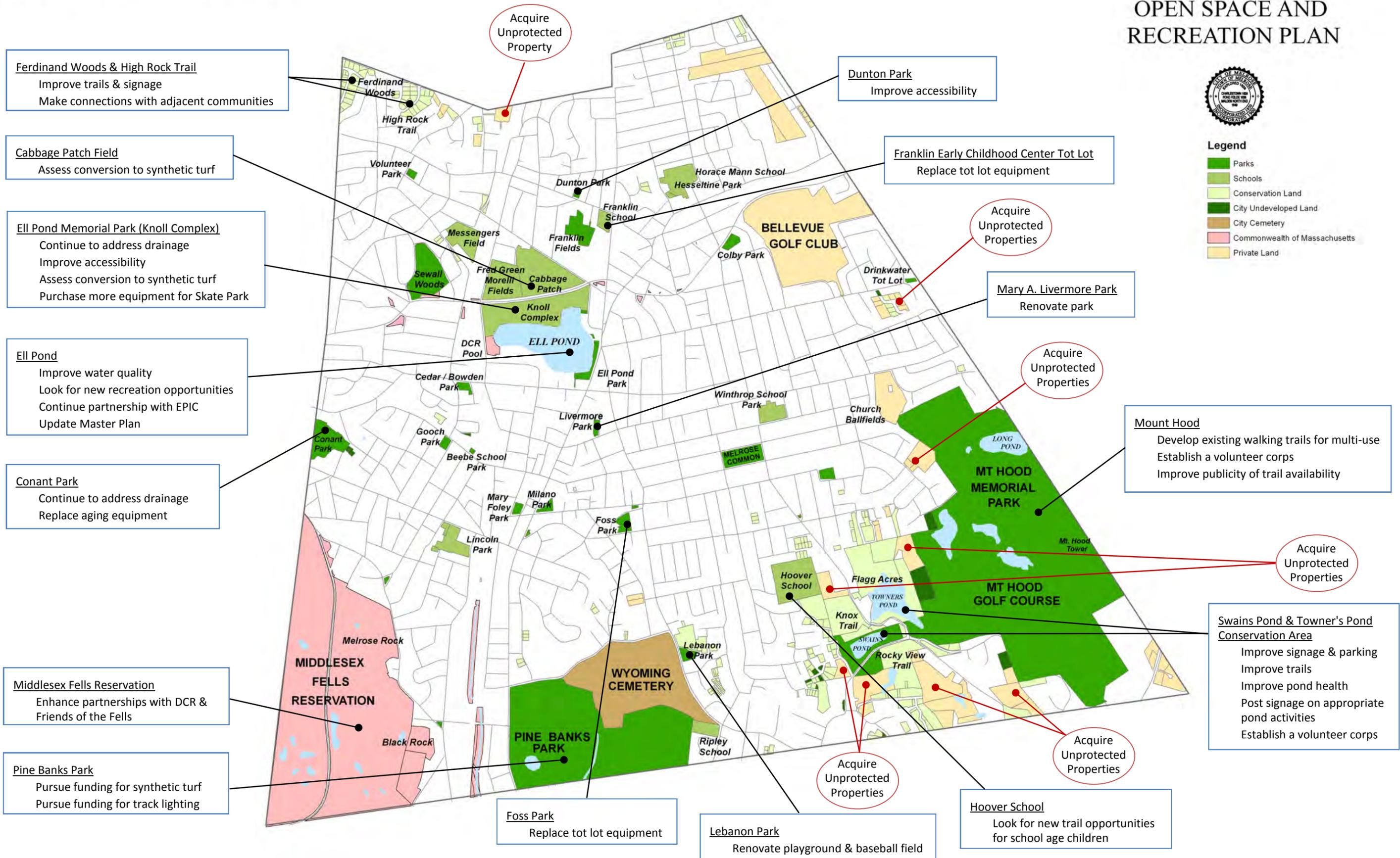
Goals and Objectives	Action Recommended	Time Table	Responsibility	Funding Source
	➤ Incorporate sustainable design and construction practices as governed by Energy Star and WaterSense Programs in new buildings or renovated buildings.	O	Park Department, School Department, Public Works, and Planning Board	City
Objective E: Protect and improve the urban tree canopy.	➤ Fund a Tree Warden position, exploring the possibility of a shared employee for Melrose and neighboring municipalities.	S	Office of the Mayor, Board of Aldermen, and Public Works	City
	➤ Continue the street tree planting program using diverse species native to New England.	O	Public Works	City
	➤ Explore opportunities for tree planting on City property and private property.	O	Public Works, Park Department, Planning Board, and the Office of the Mayor	City
	➤ Evaluate adopting a tree preservation ordinance.	M	Planning Board and Office of Planning and Community Development	City Staff

Figure 8: Seven Year Action Plan

**CITY OF MELROSE
OPEN SPACE AND
RECREATION PLAN**



- Legend**
- Parks
 - Schools
 - Conservation Land
 - City Undeveloped Land
 - City Cemetery
 - Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 - Private Land



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Section 10: Public Comments

The draft City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan was circulated to stakeholders and posted on the City's website on January 13, 2015. Members of the Board of Aldermen, the Conservation Commission, the Park Commission, and the Planning Board, as well as the Mayor received a copy of the draft plan and a request for comments. Other stakeholders were emailed directly with a link to the draft plan with a request for comments.²⁵ The Mayor noted the availability of the draft plan on his blog, which has approximately 500 subscribers, and on Twitter, which has approximately 1,500 followers. A copy of the draft Plan was made available for review at the Melrose Public Library as well.

A public meeting was held on January 21, 2015 to discuss the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan. The evening meeting was well-attended by a variety of people from the community, including representatives from the Conservation Commission, the Melrose Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Mount Hood Park Association, and the Melrose Recycling Committee, among others. The Melrose Free Press, the local newspaper, printed an article summarizing the public meeting and the planning process on January 29, 2015. The public was invited to submit comments to the Office of Planning and Community Development. The Office of Planning and Community Development continued to accept comments until final approval was issued by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services.

Comments received on the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan included specific user group comments as well as more general comments. Comments from specific user groups ranged from adding a specific piece of equipment to an existing park, such as adding benches to the Melrose Dog Park and adding bike lanes to Main Street, to developing new facilities, such as a Community Garden. Many of these suggestions were added to the Seven-Year Action Plan (as the recommendations were valuable by providing specificity regarding the community's wants and needs).

More general comments were received as well. For example, a commentator indicated that the trails in Melrose are underutilized and another commentator indicated that the City should continue to improve the sidewalks throughout Melrose. These general comments were woven into the narrative to give added perspective. Additionally, in cases where the Seven-Year Action Plan had not provided concrete actions related to these more general comments, new action items were added to the Seven-Year Action Plan.

25 The other stakeholders contacted include the Ell Pond Improvement Council, Friends of the Fells, Melrose Health Department, Melrose Council on Aging, Sustainable Melrose Coalition, the Melrose Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Melrose Dog Society, the Mount Hood Park Association, the YMCA, EMARC, Melrose Youth Soccer, Melrose Youth Softball, Incarnation Baseball League, Melrose National Little League, Churchill American Little League, Melrose Youth Lacrosse, Melrose Babe Ruth, Melrose Youth Football, Melrose Sharks, Melrose Youth Hockey, Melrose United Soccer, Men's Good Guys Soccer League, Pop Warner Football, and Melrose Americans Baseball.

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Letters of review were solicited from the following: the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Melrose Conservation Commission, the Melrose Planning Board, and the Mayor of Melrose, Robert J. Dolan. These letters of review can be found in Appendix C of this document. The following people attended the public meeting and/or submitted written comments:

- Gosia Symons (Melrose Community Garden)
- Dennis McCarthy
- Lucy (Melrose Dog Park user)
- Ellen Katz
- Myron Dittmer (Mount Hood Park Association)
- Melrose Recycling Committee
- Janice Meckstroth
- Bob Bell
- Julie DeLillo
- Conor McGuire
- Joe Pelrine
- Alderman Monica Medeiros
- George Stubbs
- Dave Dickerson
- Clark Kerry
- Tom Mohan
- Dana Jewell
- Richard Doucette (Conservation Commission)
- Michael Paiewonsky (Conservation Commission)
- Forrest Tiedeman
- Jeana McNeil

Section 11: References

Principal Authors of the 2015 City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan are:

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The following City staff and representatives participated in the Working Group and provided valuable information:

Joan Bell, Park Department
Jaclyn Lavender Bird, Alderman-at-Large, Board of Aldermen
Kathy Morgan, Conservation Commission
Michael Lindstrom, Office of the Mayor
Peter Pietrantonio, Department of Public Works
Frank Olivieri, Recreation Department
Patricia Ruggiero, School Department

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Appendix A: Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Lands

The following is a general history of the parks and recreation lands in Melrose, followed by an inventory sheet describing the size, history, facilities, existing conditions, and suggested improvements for each of the parks, school playgrounds, and major conservation commission properties in the City.

History of Parks and Recreation in the City of Melrose

Melrose, unlike other neighboring early New England towns, did not establish a traditional town common that was centrally located and accessible to all. Initial recreational development took place outside and away from the downtown area; i.e. Melrose Common, 1856, and Sewall Woods Park, 1892. Up until the establishment of these formal recreation spaces, the children of Melrose utilized vacant lots that were rapidly disappearing by the late 1800's.

Since 1900, Ell Pond has traditionally served as the focal point for community recreational activity. A popular swimming facility up until its closing by the Board of Health in 1951, the pond has continually provided summer and winter recreation for thousands each year.

Situated between the north banks of Ell Pond and Lynn Fells Parkway is Ell Pond Park, which was dedicated in 1910. Submerged under water for a fifty-year period ending in 1862, the land comprising the park was a "compound of peat, underlying mud, and quicksand." Constant filling and draining of this swampy land provided today's city with this recreational facility.

On December 20, 1904, at a meeting of the Malden Aldermen, Colonel Harry E. Converse, on behalf of himself and sisters as heirs of Elizabeth S. Converse, offered the 107.5 acres of Pine Banks Park to the Cities of Malden and Melrose if they would bear the expense of upkeep. On January 31, 1905, a joint committee from the two cities accepted the offer.

Since its inception in 1855, the Park Commission has stressed the need for various recreational facilities throughout the City. Future locations for neighborhood parks and playgrounds have followed these guidelines. In 1915, the land situated on the corner of Grove and Myrtle Streets was turned over to the Park Commission for the express purpose of creating a passive, park-like recreation space. As a result, Horace Mann Park, now Mary Foley Park, was dedicated the following year and still remains as a popular place for citizens to sit and relax. The Honorable Charles Cox donated Land for the Messengers Meadow Playground at the Roosevelt School and the Lincoln Playground to the City in 1917. Both sites are still actively used and make significant contributions to the City's active recreational needs. Bowden Park, initiated in 1925 and constructed from plans drawn up by Olmstead Brothers Associates, was developed and utilized as a passive recreation space. Another passive, ornamental, neighborhood-type park was initiated in 1929 on the plot of land at the corner of Lynde, Grove, and Lebanon Streets.

Prior to 1924, there were no enclosed baseball or football fields in Melrose on which organized high school teams could play. As a result, local citizen groups, headed by the Melrose Rotary Club, formed an association and raised monies to build an athletic facility on a tract of land located on the corner of the Lynn Fells Parkway and Tremont Street. This land, which previously had been an unsightly dumping ground, was converted into today's recreational site. In 1939, this facility was turned over to the Park Department for maintenance and upkeep.

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The Park Commission cooperated with the School Committee to develop playgrounds adjacent to existing, or to be constructed, school buildings. This joint cooperation has led to the establishment of the following school playgrounds: Ripley School Playground, 1926; Hesseltine Playground, 1932; Gooch and Beebe School Playground, 1942; Hoover School Playground, 1954. The dual purpose of these recreational spaces is to provide recreation not only for school children but neighborhood residents as well.

From 1931 to 1940, numerous projects were accomplished under the Federal Government's Work Progress Administration (WPA) program. Under the direction of the Park Department, the eighteen-hole golf course and memorial park at Mount Hood was initiated in 1931 and completed in 1938. Mount Hood is a facility that is enjoyed all year round. Summer activities include golf, hiking, fishing, and picnicking, as well as passive recreational enjoyment. Winter activities include tobogganing, skiing, sledding, and ice skating at the three ponds at Mount Hood. Winter carnivals and yearly golf tournaments centered around the beautiful clubhouse have provided area residents with year-round recreation throughout the years.

WPA crews, under the direction of the Park Department, began the clearing of land in 1941 for the Lebanon Street Playground. Work was finally completed four years later. The playground provides space for year-round active recreation. Also constructed by WPA crews was Colby Park, which is located off the Lynn Fells Parkway between Lincoln Street and Larchmont Road. This park was constructed in 1941 and is another fine example of the ornamental, passive parks that were so prevalent during that time period.

Due in part to wartime conditions, the Park Department followed a policy of general up-keep and maintenance rather than a policy of expansion and growth during the 1940's. Some general improvements were made on existing park property, but expanded growth did not occur again until the early 1950's. Construction started in 1950 for the development of the Conant Road Playground. Although the site required fill and lacked proper drainage, it is now another example of an active recreational facility that is enjoyed by area residents. After the old Gooch School was demolished in 1957, a tot lot and small recreation space was developed on the vacant lot. Neighborhood children use the Gooch Park extensively. The landscaping of the former Whittier School site in 1967 led to the formulation of a neighborhood tot lot at that site. Now called Dunton Park, this space provides active tot-age recreation.

During 1951, the Melrose Board of Health banned swimming in Ell Pond. Annual attendance figures throughout the years had averaged between 35,000 and 50,000 people. The closing left a void in the swimming recreational needs of Melrose citizens. To help alleviate this need, the busing of Melrose children to neighboring MDC pools was carried out. In 1970, the MDC pool was constructed on the old Tremont Street ice skating rink in order to provide swimming facilities within the City's borders. Due to state government guidelines, the land north of Ell Pond was transferred to the School Department in 1972. The Park Department manages these facilities year round.

In more recent decades, the City Departments and Boards have worked collectively to operate, maintain, and develop new open space and recreation facilities. Major projects include redevelopment of the High School Athletic Complex, Ell Pond Memorial Park, Mount Hood Golf Course and Park, and Pine Banks Park. The Conservation Commission has developed and marked trails through the large land holdings. Smaller neighborhood parks have received attention in the last few decades, where ADA improvements have been made through public-private partnerships. The focus is on redeveloping parks and playgrounds that are deficient to improve the longevity and reduce maintenance costs.

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Inventory of Individual Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Areas

The following pages provide a summary of the history, facilities, existing conditions, and suggested improvements at the following City's park and conservation areas:

Conservation Commission Lands:

- Ferdinand Woods Trail
- High Rock Trail
- Swains Pond and Towners Pond Conservation Area (Flagg Acres Trail, Knox Memorial Trail, Rocky View Trail, and Seaview Trails)

Department of Conservation and Recreation:

- Melrose and Black Rock Trails
- Lawrence W. Lloyd Memorial Swimming Pool

Parks and School Playgrounds:

- Athletic Fields (Fred Green Field, Morelli Field and Clarence De Mar Track)
- Beebe School Play Yard
- Bingham Community Playground
- Bowden Park
- Burnett Street Park
- Colby Park
- Conant Park
- Drinkwater Tot Lot
- Dunton Park
- Ell Pond Memorial Park
- Ell Pond Park
- Foss Park
- Franklin Field and Tot Lot
- Franklin Early Childhood Center Play Yard
- Gooch Park
- Hesseltine Park
- Hoover School Playground
- Lebanon Street Playground
- Lincoln Playground
- Mary Foley Park
- Mary A. Livermore Memorial Park (Coolidge School Neighborhood Playground)
- Melrose Common
- Messengers Field – Roosevelt School Playground
- Milano Park
- Mt. Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course
- Pine Banks Park
- Ripley School Play Yard
- Sewall Woods Park
- Volunteer Park
- Winthrop School Playground

CONSERVATION LAND: Ferdinand Woods Trail

Manager: Melrose Conservation Commission
Size: 209,638 square feet (4.81 acres)
Identification: Map: A13, Parcels: 97-99; Map: A14, Parcels: 1-14, 23, 32, 35-39
Location: Ferdinand Street

History

Established in 1918-19 by the acquisition of tax title land, this woodland area was augmented in 1968 by land deeded from Trinity Church. Trails have existed on the site since the early 1900's.

Facilities

- Trail.
- Limited on-street parking available.

Existing Conditions

This land is in good condition. The area is predominantly woodland that is generally free of debris. The paths appear to be well used. The wide main trail runs from Melrose into Stoneham and Wakefield, and a number of thinner trails travel north and south off of the main trail.

Suggested Improvements

- The site should remain as a passive recreational nature area and wildlife habitat.
- A new Conservation Commission sign is needed at the Melrose trail head.

CONSERVATION LAND: High Rock Trail

Manager: Melrose Conservation Commission
Size: 219,670 square feet (5.03 acres)
Identification: Map: A13, Parcels: 56-57; Map: B13, Parcels: 7-14; Map A14, Parcels: 49-50; Map B14, Parcels 3-13
Location: West Hill Terrace and Chaska Avenue

History

Land was taken as tax title land in 1970 and devoted to conservation and open space preservation. Trails were established and marked in spring 1993.

Facilities

Facilities are as follows:

- Trail
- Limited on-street parking

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Existing Conditions

This land is in fair condition. The trail is distinguishable but not very wide. The area is a sparsely wooded hilltop that offers opportunities for passive recreation. It has numerous exposed bedrock outcroppings and offers views toward the Boston skyline.

Suggested Improvements

- The site should remain as a passive recreation and nature area and wildlife habitat.
- A new Conservation Commission sign is needed at the Melrose trail head.
- Signage directing visitors to Wakefield and the scenic overlook are needed.

CONSERVATION LAND: Swains Pond and Towners Pond Conservation Area

Manager: Melrose Conservation Commission
Size: 2,482,740 square feet (56.93 acres)
Identification: Map: F4, Parcels 108-111; Map: F5, Parcel: 56; Map: G4, Parcels: 4, 6+8, 7, 11, and 13-15; Map: G5, Parcels: 2, 11C, and 12; Map: G6, Parcels: 8, 9, 17-28, 29, 30, 33-36, and 37
Location: Swains Pond Avenue

History

The Swains Pond and Towners Pond Conservation Area is comprised of multiple parcels surrounding Swains Pond and Towners Pond and hosts a large trail network in Melrose: the Flagg Acres Trail, Knox Memorial Trail, the Rocky View Trail, and the Seaview Trail.

Swains Pond, a natural formation, was identified and mapped as early as 1795 before Melrose was incorporated as a City. Like many of the ponds in Melrose, Swains Pond was used early on for ice production. Easy accessibility to Malden and points south suggests that residents in the area, and the related commercial ice operation, were originally dependent on the colonial economy of Malden. In contrast to the long history of Swains Pond, Towners Pond is a relatively recent addition to Melrose. Mapping by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in 1903 shows a small stream where, today, Towners Pond is located northeast of Swains Pond. USGS mapping in 1946 shows Towners Pond in existence at its present location. At some point in the early 1900s, Towners Pond was created and used in for the purposes of ice harvesting, and is also believed to have been a quarry at one time resulting in its unknown water depth.

In the early 1930s, the land north and west of Swains Pond operated as the City's dump. In 1977, the Conservation Commission acquired the large parcels that are now known as Flagg Acres, Rocky View Trail, and Knox Memorial Trail. Other smaller parcels were acquired via tax title and transferred to the Conservation Commission during the late 1970s and 1980s.

Facilities

The Swains Pond and Towners Pond Conservation Area hosts a large trail network including the Flagg Acres Trail, Knox Memorial Trail, Rocky View Trail, and Seaview Trail.

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Flagg Acres Trail

The Flagg Acres Trail is a wooded, passive recreation area for amateur hikers, environmental study, and scenic observation. The highest elevation at 220 feet offers panoramic views of lowland Melrose, the Mt. Hood Tower, Lynn Harbor, and the Boston skyline. The facilities are as follows:

- Three trails include the Red Trail which connects to the Seaview Trail System, the Blue Trail, which leads to Mount Hood, and the Green Trail which follows the shoreline of Towners Pond.
- Fishing and skating on Towners Pond.
- A gravel parking area is located at the entrance to the trail system on Swains Pond Avenue.

Knox Memorial Trail

The Knox Memorial Trail was originally known as Pond View Glen. It was renamed in 1979 for Charles Knox, a former long-time member of the Conservation Commission. Canadian geese and mallards can be seen on the pond, among the cattails that border the pond. A muskrat has built its home of mud and vegetation at the northern edge of the pond bordering the marsh grass; it diets on water plants as well as fish. This park is a home to a variety of wildlife from raccoons, pheasants, and rabbits to owls and an occasional fox. The entrance to the park is north of Towners Pond on Swains Pond Avenue. Trails run westerly along the outer perimeter of the pond then in a southerly direction. Some of the features include:

- A connection to Rocky View Trail.
- Easy to follow trails in a variety of widths.
- A large rock outcropping on the western edge of the pond offering a terrific scenic view of the pond and the surrounding natural setting.
- Autumn foliage offering a kaleidoscope of color.
- Natural springs in the pond.
- Habitat of eels, bass, red perch, sunfish, oriental carp, and horn pout, as well as bullfrogs, snakes and turtles.

Rocky View Trail

The Rocky View Trail begins about 150 feet south of the Hoover School. The blue-marked trail follows a southerly course down to Swains Pond with a connection to the Knox Memorial Trail. The landscape surrounding the trail largely consists of hills and low shrubs. The climax offers panoramic views of the Boston skyline. In 2014, the Conservation Commission installed an outdoor classroom near the trail head of the Rocky View Trail for use by the Hoover School teachers and students. In the future, a curriculum will be developed for use by the teachers. Parking is available at the Hoover School.

Seaview Trails

The trail begins at the end of Water Street off Beech Street. The area is a sparsely wooded hilltop and is used for a passive recreation and as a nature area. The trail is marked with red markers and has connections to Flagg Acres.

Existing Conditions

All of the trails within the Swains Pond and Towners Pond Conservation Area are in good condition.

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Suggested Improvements

The Swains Pond and Towners Pond Conservation Area will remain as a passive recreational nature area and wildlife habitat. All of the trails should be maintained more frequently to clear overgrowth and litter, particularly along the roads adjacent to the ponds. Specific improvements include:

- Post brochures or plaques providing seasonal nature information at Flagg Acres Trail and Rocky View Trail.
- Gravel parking lot at Flagg Acres Trail needs to be repaved.
- Trail markings need to be improved, particularly at trail crossings.
- A child-friendly trail should be added between the Hoover School and Swains Pond.
- Curbing on Swains Pond Avenue and Penny Road needs to be stabilized to prevent further erosion of the pond bank.

CONSERVATION LAND: Melrose and Black Rock Trails

Manager: Department of Conservation and Recreation

Location: East Fellsway Parkway

History

The trail begins at Gate 49 on the East Fellsway Parkway. This extensive trail system is part of the Middlesex Fells Reservation. The trails provide lookout areas for viewing Melrose, Malden, and the Boston skyline.

Facilities

- None.

Existing Conditions

Trails tend to be fairly level.

Suggested Improvements

- None.

NAME OF PARK: Lawrence W. Lloyd Memorial Swimming Pool

Manager: Department of Conservation and Recreation

Size: 54,400 square feet (1.25 acres)

Identification: Map: B9, Parcel: 112

Location: 49 Tremont Street

History

The Tremont Street Pool was built in the early 1970s by the former Metropolitan District Commission (MDC; a predecessor to the Department of Conservation and Recreation) utilizing Land and Water Conservation Fund monies. Given the high cost of operation and maintenance, the MDC gave the pool to the City of Melrose in 1986. After running the pool for one summer in 1987 it became clear that the leakage of the pool was so significant it would make operating costs prohibitive without substantial

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renovation to correct the leakage issues. The Mayor's Youth Activities undertook a study of the pool in early 1992. This study concluded that it was not financially feasible to renovate and operate the pool. The study further concluded that even if money could be found to renovate the pool, the cost of operation could not be justified given the short 10-week season the pool would be operated.

In 1993, the City of Melrose returned the pool complex to the MDC. The MDC proceeded to renovate the complex and reopened it for public use in 1994. In 2014, the Department of Conservation and Recreation converted the timber framed deck structure to a concrete deck structure and replaced the decking around the pool. It continues to be a popular destination during summer months.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Bathhouse with showers, rest rooms, and two small offices
- Pool
- Bike Rack

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition.

Suggested Improvements

- None.

NAME OF PARK: Athletic Fields (Fred Green Field, Morelli Field, and Cabbage Patch)

Manager: Park Department
Size: 391,768 square feet (8.9 acres)
Identification: Map: C10 Parcel: 2 & 3
Location: Lynn Fells Parkway and Tremont Street

History

The Athletic Fields were originally built in 1924, and has had significant investment over the last nine decades. In 2011, the Athletic Fields were entirely rebuilt.

- 1924 - Monies raised to build athletic facility.
- 1939 - Athletic Field turned over to Park Department.
- 1946 - Rebuilding of Athletic Field including 2 football fields, 1 baseball field, and 1 cinder track. All adjacent areas graded, loamed and seeded.
- 1947 - Electric scoreboard erected.
- 1952 - New storage building erected.
- 1962 - Complete renovation of football field.
- 1964 - Underground watering system installed.
- 1985-93- The Morelli Field Project was undertaken, including a baseball field, bleachers, scoreboard, press box, field house, and night lighting. Over these years, the football field was upgraded, including new lighting, a sprinkler system, the installation of the Clarence De Mar Track surrounding the football field, and new fencing.
- 1997 - Press box installed on bleachers. Concession was repainted and brought up to code.

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- 1998 - Public address system installed.
- 2000 - ADA compliant bathrooms installed in the field house.
- 2009 - Minor upgrades were completed including replacing 23 of the 54 lights at Morelli Field, a new scoreboard was donated by the Melrose Babe Ruth League, and the restrooms were upgraded with a new water heater and backflow device. The Cabbage Patch was also upgraded.
- 2011 - The Athletic Fields were entirely rebuilt. This project included the installation of a new multi-purpose synthetic athletic field and a new natural grass baseball stadium. As a result, the track was removed. At both fields, new ADA-accessible grandstand seating was installed to accommodate over 2,000 spectators. Both fields also received ADA-accessible press boxes. Further, the following project elements were also completed: a permanent restroom facility was constructed; a MUSCO lighting system was installed; two wireless multi-sport score boards were installed; new PA systems were installed for both press boxes; a concession building with team room was constructed; storage was provided under the bleachers; a new walking track around the perimeter of the facility was construction; a new brick entrance was installed at the corner of Tremont Street and the Lynn Fells Parkway; and a new underdrain was installed.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Fred Green Field, including a multi-use field with bleachers, press box, restrooms, concession building, lights, PA system, and scoreboard.
- Morelli Baseball Field, including stadium seating, press box, PA system, dugouts, scoreboard, and storage systems.
- Cabbage Patch, grass practice field.

Existing Conditions

This park is in excellent condition. The recent renovation project resulted in a well-equipped, state-of-the-art facility. The renovation project addressed the undersized facilities and significant drainage problems that existed in the area.

Suggested Improvements

- Installation of a security system.
- Extended nets behind both football goal posts.

NAME OF PARK: Beebe School Play Yard

Manager: School Department
Size: 8,000 square feet (0.18 acres)
Identification: Map: B7, Parcel: 116A
Location: West Foster Street

History

The SEEM Collaborative has operated at the school since 2011. To the east of the school building in an open grassed area, a fenced in swing set was added in 2013, which is ADA compliant.

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Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Swings

Existing Conditions

This park is in excellent condition.

Suggested Improvements

- None

NAME OF PARK: Bingham Community Playground (formerly Lincoln School Playground)

Manager: School Department
Size: 17,210 square feet (0.4 acres)
Identification: Map: B6, Parcel: 87
Location: 92 West Wyoming Avenue

History

The playground, located off West Wyoming Avenue, between Pleasant and Cottage Streets, is utilized by neighborhood residents of all ages, as well as by the kindergarten through sixth grade students attending the adjacent Lincoln Elementary School. The playground was updated to be handicap accessible in the mid-2000s. In 2013, all of the playground equipment was replaced as a result of fundraising efforts and renamed the Bingham Community Playground.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Tot lot equipment
- 4 benches
- Four recycled plastic multipurpose play structures including a jeep, a playhouse, 4 swings, 2 toddler swings, 2 ADA swings, and an enclosed slide

Existing Conditions

This park is in excellent condition.

Suggested Improvements

- None.

NAME OF PARK: Bowden Park

Manager: Park Department
Size: 26,954 square feet (0.62 acres)
Identification: Map: B8, Parcel: 49
Location: Vinton Street

History

Located across from commuter rail station on the corner of West Emerson and Cedar Park, this ornamental park is situated on land donated to the City by Mr. Frederick P. Bowden in 1924, and is today used mostly for passive recreation. The park was laid out in 1925 from plans drawn by Olmstead Brothers, Landscape Architects. It requires extensive maintenance during the early spring months. In 1956, two new walks were installed. Three decorative benches were recently installed.

More recently, in 2012, the irrigation system was upgraded. The electrical system was upgraded to support the Victorian-period lighting which was installed. New sidewalks were installed as well. In 2014, a wind sculpture donated by the Melrose Arts Society was installed as well as bench dedicated to Melrose artist Tom Sutherland.

Since 2012, the Sally Frank’s Farmers’ Market has been held at Bowden Park every Thursday from June through October.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- 1 trash receptacle
- 3 benches
- Bike racks

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition. The park should be maintained as a passive, ornamental park.

Suggested Improvements

- New plantings, particularly in open areas to discourage active play.
- Landscaping of overgrown areas.
- Needs irrigation backflow system.
- Night lighting.

NAME OF PARK: Colby Park

Manager: Park Department
Size: 38,962 square feet (0.89 acres)
Identification: Map: E11, Parcel: 101
Location: Lynn Fells Parkway

History

Located off the Lynn Fells Parkway between Lincoln Street and Larchmont Road, this park was constructed in 1941 by Works Progress Administration (WPA) crews under the direction of the Park Department. It is a good example of the ornamental, passive recreation parks of that era.

Facilities

- None.

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition.

Suggested Improvements

- New plantings.
- Night lighting.
- Improve visibility from the street.
- Construct curb cuts where appropriate.

NAME OF PARK: Conant Park

Manager: Park Department
Size: 245,759 square feet (5.64 acres)
Identification: Map: A8, Parcel: 65A
Location: Baxter Street

History

The playground was constructed from 1950 to 1952. The basketball court was added in 1968. The ADA accessible tot lot and softball field with new fencing and infield were installed in 1997. A batting cage and new basketball rims were installed in 2005. All age groups utilize this neighborhood playground and organized Citywide baseball teams use the existing ball fields.

In 2011, the softball field was upgraded. The upgrades included improving the infield and outfield. The clay infield was tilled to remove vegetation and new clay was added to eliminate all low spots allowing the field to drain properly. Clay bricks were installed under home plate and the pitching mound to prevent degradation of these high-stress areas. The transition from the infield to the outfield was regraded and new sod was installed. Permanent foul lines (non-skid surface) were installed.

In 2012, a water line was installed from the street to the concession trailer.

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The condition of the basketball court had deteriorated due to non-use and it was removed in 2014. The removal of the basketball court resulted in needing to address drainage issues at Conant Park, which are still being addressed.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- 1 baseball field with benches and small bleachers
- Equipment storage lockers
- ADA accessible tot lot
- Updated irrigation system
- Concession trailer
- Batting cages
- Open field in southwest section

Existing Conditions

This park is generally in excellent condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Updated backflow prevention system.
- Convert to a multi-use facility by removal of existing permanent fencing and replacement with temporary fencing. The playing field could then be used by soccer, field hockey and lacrosse teams.

NAME OF PARK: Drinkwater Tot Lot

Manager: Park Department
Size: 10,629 square feet (0.24 acres)
Identification: Map: G10, Parcel: 48-49
Location: Porter Street

History

This neighborhood tot lot, built in 1985-1986 in memory of Fred Drinkwater, is situated at the end of Porter Street. The land was acquired by the City of Melrose through eminent domain. In 2000, accessible playground equipment was installed, pea stone excavated, and wood carpet put in.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- 1 large tot swing set with tire swing.
- 1 climbing apparatus.

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition.

Suggested Improvements

- None.

NAME OF PARK: Dunton Park

Manager: Park Department
Size: 15,000 square feet (0.34 acres)
Identification: Map: D12, Parcel: 1
Location: 143 Franklin Street

History

Located on the corner of Franklin and Pratt Streets, this small, enclosed park is situated in a residential neighborhood and is utilized by preschoolers and K-6 from the neighborhood. During summer months all groups, particularly the elderly, use the park as a passive recreational site. Lt. J.G. Dunton Park was constructed in 1969. Additional tot lot equipment was added in 1975. This playground has become more as the Swiss Cheese Park due to a piece of equipment that resembles Swiss cheese.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Enclosed by 4-foot chain link fence
- 1 jungle gym
- 2 trash receptacles
- 4 wooden benches

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Accessible play equipment needed
- Night security lights
- New fences
- Improved seating areas/benches/chess tables

NAME OF PARK: Ell Pond Memorial Park (Knoll/Lewis Monk Fields, Crystal St. Tennis Courts, Lyons Memorial Tennis Courts, Dog Park, and Skate Park)

Manager: School Department
Size: 1,094,605 square feet (25.1 acres)
Identification: Map: C10, Parcel: 1; Map: D10, Parcel 5
Location: Lynn Fells Parkway and Tremont Street

History

Ell Pond Park was dedicated in 1921. Since 1900, Ell Pond has served as the focal point for the City's recreational needs. Once a popular swimming facility until its closing by the Board of Health in 1951, the pond has continued to provide summer and winter recreation for thousands. In 1937, 36,500 swimmers utilized Ell Pond.

- 1897 - Aldermen vote to purchase 23 acres to the north and west of Ell Pond.
- 1902 - John Slayton and James McGuire purchase Littlefield Ice House and present it to the City, providing the land for the present small park on Main Street.
- 1910 - Bathhouse constructed.
- 1912 - Road around Knoll built.
- 1920 - Bathhouse condemned by Board of Health. A hockey rink was built.
- 1921 - Area to the north of Ell Pond dedicated as a memorial park.
- 1922 - A second outdoor hockey rink built.
- 1923 - New bathhouse opened.
- 1927 - Rebuilding of the southeasterly end of Ell Pond.
- 1928 - Ice hockey rink located on the Lynn Fells Parkway and close to the pond was increased in size.
- 1929 - Large area bordering the Lynn Fells Parkway and along western side of bathhouse filled in.
- 1931 - Large area between Knoll and Tremont Street graded and seeded.
- 1940 - Four tennis courts constructed near Lynn Fells Parkway.
- 1954 - Hockey rink on Tremont Street partially filled in and a new rink excavated on a site near the Knoll.
- 1957 - Existing swampland bordering the parkway and Tremont Street reclaimed.
- 1958 - Tremont Street ball field laid out.
- 1962 - Complete renovation of Little League field on Tremont Street.
- 1964 - Extensive renovation of existing tennis courts at parkway and construction of two new ones. The Bandstand at the Knoll was removed.
- 1966 - Grading and reclaiming of swampland east of Knoll.
- 1972 - The School Department obtained jurisdiction over 5.6 acres of Ell Pond recreation land from September 1 to June 15 every year for use as High School athletic/recreation complex. The City transferred a 3,300-square foot parcel to the Metropolitan District Commission for new municipal swimming pool.
- 1983 - A Diagnostic/Feasibility Study funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering was completed.
- 1984-93- Between the years 1984 and 1993, few improvements were made including refurbishing the Crystal Street Tennis Courts, installing new exercise equipment, and improving the Little League Field.
- 1995 - The Ell Pond Master Plan was prepared by Levy, Eldrege, & Wagner Associates, Inc. The Tremont Street basketball court was reconstructed.

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- 1997 - The West Knoll Field was stripped, filled, regraded, and resodded. The irrigation system was updated.
- 2000 - The Crystal Street Tennis Courts were pulverized and completely replaced.
- 2003 - Lewis Monk Field was reconstructed with new dugouts and fencing. An irrigation system and backflow device was also installed.
- 2005 - The West Knoll Field was reconstructed.
- 2006 - The Middle School drain was replaced. The Lyons Memorial Tennis Courts were resurfaced.
- 2008 - The Skate Park was constructed adjacent to Lewis Monk Field on Tremont Street.
- 2010 - Benches were added to the Lyons Memorial Tennis Courts and the Crystal Street Tennis Courts for tournament viewing.
- 2011 - Implemented a Canadian Geese control program with support from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture.
- 2012 - The Melrose Dog Park was constructed on the eastern side of the Knoll.
- 2013 - Three catch basins were added to the East Knoll Field to draw water off of the field. A new irrigation system was installed as well to support the newly sodded East Knoll Field. At the West Knoll Field, soccer lights with a MUSCO system were installed. The World War I Memorial at the Knoll was rededicated.
- 2014 - The infield of the Lewis Monk Field was renovated.
- 2015 - Lyons Memorial Tennis Courts are planned for renovation.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Eight tennis courts
- East and West soccer fields, one lighted for night play
- Junior soccer field, lighted for night play
- Little League field
- Dog Park
- Skate Park
- Six wooden benches
- World War I Memorial with four flag poles

Existing Conditions

This park is in very good condition. Drainage on the West and East Knoll fields was recently alleviated when the fields were reconstructed. The Canadian geese control program implemented in 2011 has resulted in a dramatic decrease of the number of birds landing at Ell Pond.

Suggested Improvements

- Add new equipment to the Skate Park.
- Night lighting for tennis courts and basketball court, including electrical outlets.
- Develop seating arrangements near Ell Pond shore for winter skaters.
- Examine feasibility of a boathouse.
- Improve handicapped accessibility to the trails and game areas.
- Asphalt drive around knoll needs to be pulverized and paved.
- Perimeter fencing needs to be replaced along all the Knoll Fields.

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- Continue to manage Canadian Geese at Ell Pond.

NAME OF PARK: Ell Pond Park

Manager: Park Department
Size: 65,799 square feet (1.51 acres)
Identification: Map: D9, Parcels: 1A and 3
Location: Main Street

History

This park is located on the southeasterly shore of Ell Pond, between the pond and Main Street. It is an ornamental, passive recreation area utilized by downtown shoppers, residents, patrons of the Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, and area employees. The park as it exists today was dedicated in 1921. A Victorian gazebo was installed in 1984. The park area was completely renovated with Community Development Revolving funds in 1988. Benches were rebuilt and the Park Department repaired the irrigation system in 1998. Again in 2009, the park was refurbished.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- 6 wooden benches
- 2 trash receptacles
- Victorian gazebo
- 2 electrical outlets

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition. A deteriorating retaining wall on the southeast corner of the pond was repaired in 1988. Drainage improvements occurring in 2013 in the vicinity of the park included further repair to the retaining wall and installation of a gate to control the water level of Ell Pond.

Suggested Improvements

- New plantings.
- Night security lighting.
- Growth around pond unchecked, needs tree removal and riprap wall reconstruction.
- Continue to manage Canadian Geese at Ell Pond.

NAME OF PARK: Foss Park (formerly Washington Playground)

Manager: Park Department
Size: 59,535 square feet (1.37 acres)
Identification: Map: D6, Parcel: 29
Location: Lynde Street and Malvern Street

History

This neighborhood playground was constructed in 1925. The Planning Office, in conjunction with citizen advisory committees, playground users, and neighbors, carried out an extensive redesign in the early 1980s. New ADA accessible tot lot was installed in 1997 by the Park Department. An irrigation system was installed in 1999.

In November 2005, the park was dedicated to Ken L. Foss, who served on the Board of Alderman from 1980 to 1990 and on the Park Commission from 2002 to 2005.

Improvements were made in 2006 with the replacement of the rumble slide and in 2007 with the resurfacing of the basketball court. Further improvements were made in 2009. In 2012, a flag pole was added to the Little League Field.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Baseball backstop
- Basketball court
- One 250 watt vapor night-light
- Tot lot
- 4 benches

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Replace backstop.
- Install drinking fountain and lighting.
- Baseball diamond should be rebuilt: graded, loamed, sodded/seeded.
- Perimeter fencing should be replaced.
- Asphalt parking area should be pulverized, graded, and paved.
- Benches in tot lot should be replaced.
- Improve ADA accessibility.

NAME OF PARK: Franklin Field

Manager: Park Department
Size: 213,277 square feet (4.89 acres)
Identification: Map: D11, Parcels: 2 and 6
Location: Greenleaf Place

History

Franklin Field was built in 1976 as part of the new High School recreation complex, this play area features two soccer fields and a sprinkler system. Electricity is available at the fields since 2014.

The tot lot was built in 1985 as a relocation of a previous school playground displaced by construction in 1975-1977 of a new elderly housing complex next to the Franklin School. The tot lot was refurbished in 2000 and again in 2009.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Two soccer fields
- Electric outlet at fields
- Tot lot equipment
- 4 benches at tot lot
- Four foot fence around tot lot

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition.

Suggested Improvements

- None.

NAME OF PARK: Franklin Early Childhood Center Play Yard

Manager: School Department
Size: 8,400 square feet (0.19 acres)
Identification: Map: D11, Parcel: 0
Location: Main Street

History

The Franklin Early Childhood Center play yard is adjacent to the school at the corner of Franklin Street and Main Street. The play yard is a fenced-in play yard with a few pieces of tot lot equipment. A large tree provides shade and some landscaping is located inside the fence at the intersection.

The Parent-Teacher Organization is currently fundraising in order to replace the play yard equipment. The goal is to replace the equipment in 2015.

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Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Tot lot equipment
- Fence
- Benches

Existing Conditions

This park is in fair condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Replace tot lot equipment (work in progress).

NAME OF PARK: Gooch Park

Manager: Park Department
Size: 27,815 square feet (0.64 acres)
Identification: Map: B7, Parcel: 55
Location: Florence Street and West Foster Street

History

This small playground serves the surrounding neighborhood as well as Beebe Elementary School. It was constructed in 1957 on the site of the old Gooch School. A basketball court was added later. Eight lights were added in 1975. An ADA-accessible tot lot was installed in 1999, along with sod and irrigation upgrades.

In 2012, Gooch Playground was refurbished. The basketball court was resurfaced and repainted, and the tot lot was upgraded with ADA-accessible equipment.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Basketball court with 8 GE 250-watt mercury vapor floodlights mounted on four 35-foot wooden poles
- Play structure with slide and overhead climber designed for 5-12 year olds
- Bubble climber
- Swings consisting of one toddler swing, 1 intermediate swing, and 1 tire swing
- 3 trash receptacles
- field with irrigation system
- 2 benches
- Flag pole

Existing Conditions

This park is in excellent condition.

Suggested Improvements

- A second basketball court should be constructed here.
- Lighting needs to be upgraded and reconfigured.
- Fencing should be replaced.

NAME OF PARK: Hesseltine Field

Manager: School Department – Park Department
Size: 148,890 square feet (3.42 acres)
Identification: Map: E12, Parcels: 3 and 107
Location: Ruggles Street, Damon and Hesseltine Avenue

History

Hesseltine Field is open space adjacent to the Horace Mann School, including the Horace Mann Playground. Since 2007, the City has invested in improving the field for a variety of activities. In 2007, a new baseball field and multipurpose turf field were installed and the basketball court was resurfaced. The remainder of the field was dedicated to passive recreation. In 2009, the playground received a facelift. In 2014, as a result of fundraising efforts by the Horace Mann School community as well as the community-at-large, the playground was entirely replaced and rubber surfacing was installed.

In 2012, a school community garden was established, fenced, and irrigation access was provided. The irrigation access for the community garden was also improved in 2014.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Baseball diamond
- Multipurpose turf field
- Playground
- Irrigation system
- Basketball court
- Community garden
- Passive recreation area

Existing Conditions

This park is in excellent condition.

Suggested Improvements

- None.

NAME OF PARK: Hoover School Playground

Manager: School Department
Size: 468,270 square feet (10.75 acres)
Identification: Map: F5, Parcel: 55
Location: Glendower Road

History

Located on Glendower Road adjacent to Hoover Elementary School, this playground is utilized by kindergarten through sixth grade students, as well as by neighborhood residents of all ages. The playground, like the school, was built in 1966. A basketball court was added in 1967. New playground equipment was added in 1986. A new tot lot was constructed in 2001, and an ADA swing was added in 2010.

In 2011, a number of improvements to the playground were completed. The asphalt area around the playground was resurfaced and the grass areas were resodded. The rail road ties delineating the play areas were replaced, and the retaining wall was rebuilt. The irrigation system was upgraded as well. The basketball court posts, backboards, and rims were replaced, as was the Toss & Score.

The Hoover School has a school community garden, which was established in 2009. A water spigot was added in 2013 for the community garden.

In 2014, the Conversation Commission established an outdoor classroom on land adjacent to the Hoover School.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Basketball Court
- Playground
- Open play area
- Community garden
- Benches

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Continue to explore additional recreation opportunities on abutting City property.

NAME OF PARK: Lebanon Street Playground

Manager: Park Department
Size: 42,253 square feet (0.97 acres)
Identification: Map: E4, Parcel: 5
Location: Lebanon Street

History

All age groups in the neighborhood utilize this playground, which is located off Lebanon Street and across from the Wyoming Cemetery. It was constructed by WPA crews in 1944. A basketball court was added in 1961, and an ADA tot lot was installed by Park Department in 1997. In 1999, the Park Department added an irrigation system.

In 2008, the softball field and basketball court were improved. For the softball field, new loam, topsoil, clay, and sod were installed as well as a new backstop. The half-basketball court was entirely replaced. Additionally, new sidewalks, fencing, and timbers around the perimeter of the tot lot were installed.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Half basketball court
- Softball diamond
- Tot lot
- Equipment locker
- Trash receptacles
- Benches
- Flag pole
- Backflow prevention system, irrigation system

Existing Conditions

This park is in fair condition. The steep topography of the site limits the play area and results in conflicts over use of the space. A sewer easement bisects the playground. The playground itself is handicapped accessible by way of a driveway.

Suggested Improvements

- Parking should be better accommodated.
- Night security lights.
- Construct curb cuts where appropriate.
- Improve ADA accessibility.
- Tot lot could be relocated to the back of the facility to allow for construction of off-street parking and conversion to a T-ball park.

NAME OF PARK: Lincoln Playground

Manager: Park Department
Size: 74,303 square feet (1.71 acres)
Identification: Map: B6, Parcels: 86 and 126
Location: Crescent Avenue and West Wyoming Avenue

History

The Lincoln School was constructed in 1917 on land donated by the Honorable Charles Cox. Tennis courts, basketball court, and ball field were added at a later date. The tot lot was renovated by the Office of Planning and Community Development in the early 1980s, and again in 1992 by the Lincoln School Community Playground Projects neighborhood group. The baseball infield was rebuilt by the Park Department in 1997.

The new Lincoln School opened in September 2000. During construction of the new school, the tennis courts were demolished to accommodate a new teacher and staff parking lot. (These tennis courts were replaced by the Crystal Street Courts at Ell Pond Memorial Park.) A basketball court/hard surface play area is located near the south face of the new addition to Lincoln School.

Minor upgrades were made since the opening of the new school. In 2004, new basketball court rims were installed and an ADA accessible swing was added to the tot lot. In 2010, a 50-foot backstop was installed at the baseball field and new fencing was installed along the outfield, backstop, and dug outs.

A community garden was added in 2014.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Basketball court
- Baseball field
- 2 wood benches
- 6 trash receptacles
- Tot lot
- Community garden

Existing Conditions

This park is in excellent condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Baseball field needs grading and reseeding and general infield improvements.
- Benches are needed adjacent to the tot lot.

NAME OF PARK: Mary A. Livermore Memorial Park

Manager: Park Department
Size: 23,248 square feet (0.53 acres)
Identification: Map: D8, Parcel: 128
Location: 46 Upham Street

History

This neighborhood playground, sited between Upham Street and Main Street, was completely renovated in 1980. Park Department installed an ADA accessible tot lot in early 1998, along with three more benches, a sandbox, and night lighting. It serves all age groups, but is favored by children ages one through 12.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Basketball Court
- ADA accessible tot lot
- Benches

Existing Conditions

This park is in fair condition. The playground itself is ADA accessible.

Suggested Improvements

- Clean up of graffiti.
- New equipment.
- Backflow prevention irrigation system.
- Water fountain.
- Basketball court needs to be pulverized, graded, paved, and painted.

NAME OF PARK: Mary Foley Memorial Park

Manager: Park Department
Size: 26,361 square feet (0.61 acres)
Identification: Map: C6, Parcel: 41
Location: Grove Street

History

Located on the corner of Myrtle and Grove Streets, this passive ornamental park, which is primarily utilized during hot summer months, was constructed in 1915 on the old Horace Mann School site. The park was refurbished in 1927 and regraded in 1945. In 1986, it was again refurbished, this time by private donation. Benches were recently scraped and repainted, four new trees were planted, and the irrigation system was updated.

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Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- 6 benches
- 2 trash receptacles
- Mary Foley Memorial Monument
- Internal walkways
- Flag pole

Existing Conditions

This park is in very good condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Irrigation was recently updated, but the park still needs a backflow prevention system.

NAME OF PARK: Melrose Common

Manager: Park Department
Size: 175,547 square feet (4.03 acres)
Identification: Map: E7, Parcel: 125
Location: East Foster Street

History

This park was initiated as a public garden in 1856 from land that was part of Lynde and Upham farms. Subsequently, the following improvements have been made: a baseball diamond in 1917, a tot lot in 1924, tennis courts in 1929, baseball diamond rebuilt in 1932, more tennis courts in 1940 by WPA, courts resurfaced in 1959, a basketball court in 1965, night lighting for tennis and basketball in 1975, a new tot lot in 1977, and a plaque for Vietnam Veteran Scott Andresen in 1985. Since then, the tot lot equipment has been replaced and the tennis courts removed. The park was totally renovated by the Park Department in 1997, with the addition of new tot lots, two new softball fields, new basketball court, fences, equipment boxes, irrigation with backflow prevention, sidewalks, and ten new trees.

In 2009, the former tennis courts were reused as a riding track. The area was resurfaced with an acrylic surface system. A figure-eight riding track was created on this surface, as were hopscotch and four square games. Two large “M” for Melrose were added to the middle. More recently, in 2010, the softball complex was renovated. Base lines were reestablished following realigning home plate and the pitcher’s mound. Base paths and the infield to outfield transition were restored to proper grades. New sod was installed at the transition lines. Stone dust was replaced around the dug outs.

In 2014, the playground at the corner of East Foster Street and Larrabee Street was entirely replaced in 2014. New equipment and safety surface were installed and the entry plaza was reconstructed with the aid of an Our Common Backyard Grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. New plantings will be completed in the Spring of 2015.

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Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- 2 softball fields
- 1 basketball court
- Enclosed asphalt area (old tennis courts)
- 5 benches
- 6 trash receptacles
- ADA accessible tot lots

Existing Conditions

This park is in excellent condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Drainage issue near the tot lot should be corrected.
- Upgrades to the sidewalks around perimeter of the park are needed.

NAME OF PARK: Messengers Field – Roosevelt School Playground

Manager: Park Department
Size: 110,000 square feet (2.5 acres)
Identification: Map: B11, Parcels: 54, 54A
Location: Brunswick Park

History

Located between Vinton Street and Brunswick Park, this playground is used jointly by the neighborhood and the Roosevelt Elementary School. The playground was constructed in 1917 on land donated by the Honorable Charles Cox. Two tennis courts were removed in 1965 to make room for an addition to the Roosevelt School. A new baseball infield (Messengers Field), additional irrigation, and new wood carpeting in the tot lot were installed in 1998 by the Park Department.

The Roosevelt School Playground was completely replaced in 2002 with construction of the new school. The playground was replaced again in 2013 due to the collective efforts of the City, the Roosevelt School Parent-Teacher Organization, and community fundraising.

A community garden was added in 2014.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Basketball court
- Softball field with 2 new player benches
- ADA accessible tot lot
- Community garden

Existing Conditions

This park is in excellent condition; however, the softball field functions as a detention basin as per the design of the new school which limits the availability of the field following storm events. Due to the design limitations, the field should be converted to an all-purpose field.

Suggested Improvements

- None.

NAME OF PARK: Milano Park

Manager: Park Department
Size: 1,500 square feet (0.03 acres)
Identification: Map: C6, Parcel: 53-83
Location: Main Street

History

Located at the corner of Main and Grove Streets, this urban park was developed in 1981 as a passive recreation facility under a Community Development program. A flag and flag pole was donated by Papa Gino's, an establishment adjacent to the site. Since the passing of Mayor Milano in 2011, this park has become an Adopt-a-Site.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- 3 benches
- 1 trash receptacle
- 2 Victorian street lamps
- 1 flagpole with large American flag

Existing Conditions

This park is in excellent condition.

Suggested Improvements

- None.

NAME OF PARK: Mount Hood Memorial Park & Golf Course

Manager: Park Department
Size: 10,933,560 square feet (251 acres)
Identification: Map: H6, Parcel: 0
Location: Stillman Road

History

Mt. Hood, once known as Bear Hill, is situated in the southeastern part of the City near the Saugus line. The park and golf course are utilized all year round as a multi-purposed recreation facility. Summer activities include golf, hiking, fishing, picnicking, and passive recreation. Winter activities include skating, sledding and cross country skiing. The fieldstone clubhouse plays host to a wide variety of social functions year round.

The site was originally a signal station of the Wampanoag Indians, whose “fires could be seen as far away as Mount Wachusett.”

John C. F. Slayton purchased 25 acres of land from Wendall P. Hood in 1907. He immediately built a road to the summit and constructed an observation tower, which later burned down. Mr. Slayton then donated this tract of land to the City. The City purchased an additional 210 acres and began making plans in 1931 to develop a park and golf course on the site.

- 1934 - A nature trail was established. The 40-foot stone tower was constructed with an overall high of 322 feet above mean sea level. The Board of Aldermen authorized the City to “lay out, construct and maintain, and operate a municipal golf course.” The City utilized WPA labor for this project.
- 1935 - The first nine holes of golf course completed; second nine begun. Additionally, the fieldstone clubhouse began construction, the fieldstone garage was completed, and the toboggan chute erected.
- 1936 - The second nine holes were completed and the ski jump was opened.
- 1937 - The fieldstone clubhouse was dedicated. At this time, the toboggan chute became a maintenance problem.
- 1950 - New ski rope tow put into operation.
- 1951 - A feasibility study for a new ten meter ski jump was initiated.
- 1973 - Due to increased vandalism, a security patrol initiated.
- 1974 - The rope tow was vandalized.
- 1975 - The Park Commission approves a two year lease of land for antenna facilities to be installed by the Federal Aviation Administration (To date, the lease continues to be renewed.) A special public meeting was held regarding a recreational facility at Mt. Hood. The proposed facility would include a hockey rink, baseball diamond, and tennis courts. After the meeting, the Park Commission voted to abandon the project.
- 1976 - Fireplaces repaired by the Regional Vocational School.
- 1984 - The golf course is leased to Massachusetts Golf Association on 10 year lease.
- 1986 - The Park Commission undertakes preliminary site preparation for field development. Repairs are made to the tower including to the stone work, grates, and door.
- 1987 - A land swap of 4,800 sq. ft. for 6,639 sq. ft. contiguous to Mt. Hood plus \$40,000 is completed.

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- 1984-93 - The golf course irrigation system continues to be upgraded and tees maintained, under terms of the lease. A request for proposals is released for a selection of a Management Entity to operate the facility when current lease ended in 1994.
- 1995 - A Master Plan written by Camp, Dresser, & McKee is prepared: “The intent of this project was to explore design, technical, environmental and cost feasibility of new improvements that will enhance the quality and use potential of the overall site. This goal was a first tier priority in the five year Action Plan of the 1993 Open Space and Recreation Plan for the City of Melrose and this document serves as a basis for proposed capital improvements to the site. The attached information in this Master Plan will also be used to solicit Federal and State Grant Assistance.”
- 1996-98 - A new ADA compliant tot lot was installed. The parking lot was rebuilt and expanded to ADA requirements, with accessible parking spots and curb cuts. New parking area also featured traffic islands and tree plantings. Continued improvements to course drainage and fairway occurred. A new road was built through course, with drainage systems. Cross-country skiing is encouraged, since hilly terrain is ideal.
- 2000 - A trail system was developed to connect the Park with adjacent Flagg Acres Conservation Land.
- 2001 - A new field built behind the 11th green and the 12th hole was reconstructed.
- 2002 - The clubhouse bathrooms renovated. Beginning in 2002, the cart paths were repaved and expanded.
- 2004 - Handicapped accessible entrances were added to the Pro Shop and function hall in the Clubhouse. GMC was authorized by the Park Commission to run skating parties on the pond during the winter months. The maintenance building demolished. The Clubhouse’s Carr Room was renovated.
- 2005 - Clubhouse roof was replaced and a new heating system was installed.
- 2006 - A new storage building was constructed. A bar was added to the Carr Room.
- 2007 - The Slayton garage was repointed. A stone parapet was reconstructed. The Clubhouse chimney was rebuilt.
- 2009 - The 19th Hole Snack Bar roof was replaced. Granite-engraved distance markers were added to all eighteen holes. A new irrigation system was installed on the back nine holes.
- 2010 - Air conditioning was added to the Clubhouse, Pro Shop, and Park Office. First Pond was hydroraked and a lighted fountain was installed. A “Welcome to Mt. Hood” carved sign on granite posts was added to the property.
- 2011 - The Weston Memorial was added to the 8th hole near the Mt. Hood Tower. Trail markers were added on all trails.
- 2012 - The renovation of the 19th Hole Snack Bar was completed including new kitchen equipment, accessible entrances, new doors and windows, and a walk-in cooler. The First Pond trail loops were completed.
- 2013 - The Clubhouse serving and bar areas were renovated to be more efficient. The stone parapet over the 19th Hole Snack Bar was rebuilt. Accessible ramps were added to the entrances at the Snack Bar. A granite bench donation program was implemented, and four benches were installed throughout the park.
- 2014 - Interior and exterior renovations at the Clubhouse were completed. Extensive tree work was completed throughout the park.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- 18 hole golf course
- Club house

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- 2 Garages
- Pump House
- Tower
- Picnic area
- When sufficient snow is on the ground, 300-400 sledders are accommodated daily, primarily on the first fairway. A police officer is provided at such times to monitor parking safety.
- ADA compliant tot lot
- Cart storage area
- Practice Field

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Develop regulations for sledding safety and post rules during winter months.
- Picnic area and tower should be refurbished.
- Ongoing well exploration; recently a spring was discovered with flow of 75 gallons/minute.

NAME OF PARK: Pine Banks Park

Manager: Pine Banks Board of Trustees
Size: 3,397,860 square feet (78 acres) in Melrose
Identification: Map: C3, Parcel: 0
Location: Main Street and Sylvan Street

History

Pine Banks Park consists of a total of 107.5 acres, which were donated to the Melrose and neighboring Malden by former Mayor Elisha S. Converse in 1905. Today, Pine Banks is a multi-purposed recreational facility that includes playing fields, a regulation sized track, a tot playground, trails, and picnic grounds. A Board of Trustees makes policy and planning decisions regarding the park. Meanwhile, administrative and maintenance tasks are implemented by the park superintendent and his staff through shared funding from the Cities of Melrose and Malden.

Organized summer activities of Pine Banks include softball, soccer, baseball, football, rugby, and track and field. Up to 200 teams play in the park each year. Installation of a multi-purpose, synthetic field was completed in the fall of 2003 with the aid of an Urban Self-Help Grant (now known as Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant). This field requires little maintenance and has stood up well to heavy use. In 2007, a baseball field was added also through the assistance of a PARC Grant. Finally, in 2012, a regulation-sized track, interior multi-purpose field, and softball field were constructed. The Audubon Society visits the park yearly and has recorded sightings of over 91 different species.

Winter activities include skating and sledding. The park's pond is kept clear of snow for ice skaters.

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- 1905 - Joint committee from Malden and Melrose accept gift of 107.5 acres from Colonel Harry E. Converse, made of behalf of himself and his sisters as heirs of Elizabeth S. Converse.
- 1906 - One softball field and one baseball field constructed.
- 1908 - Tot play equipment incorporated.
- 1909 - Bleachers erected near ball field. Approximately, 7,000 sq. ft. of lowland south of Pine Banks Road filled and seeded. Park zoo established.
- 1915 - High school football and baseball teams play at park. Four acres utilized for victory gardens.
- 1925 - Tourist camp established.
- 1937 - New baseball field constructed.
- 1938 - Tourist camp destroyed by hurricane.
- 1940 - Approximately 75,000 people visited park.
- 1947 - Trustees voted to replace existing victory gardens with softball and baseball fields in their place. These fields were ready for use in the spring of 1949. Fireplace and log cabin built at park.
- 1949 - Second wood burning fireplace built.
- 1950 - New field house built on ball fields. Sylvan Street corner filled.
- 1954 - Two new charcoal burning fireplaces built.
- 1955 - New Little League fields graded and seeded at corner of Main Street and Sylvan Street.
- 1956 - Approximately 100,000 people visited park.
- 1957 - 58 lights of 1,500 watts each added to north softball field.
- 1959 - Little League baseball fields and softball fields rebuilt with new loam.
- 1960 - Replaced two of original six fireplaces and added four additional ones. Approximately 250,000 people visited park.
- 1962 - Chain link fence installed along ball fields.
- 1964 - New storage house built at ball field.
- 1965 - Log cabin torn down.
- 1969 - Three permanent animal pens built.
- 1970 - Ball fields utilized by local skimobilers during winter.
- 1972 - New tot lot equipment added.
- 1973 - Proposed master plan developed by landscape architect Frank McHugh.
- 1976 - Melrose Rotary Club repaired and painted bleachers.
- 1980s - Community group developed small car derby track.
- 1990 - Earth Day celebration.
- 1997 - A 150 gal/min well drilled for irrigation system.
- 1999 - Major league baseball field reconstructed with lights. Restrooms made handicapped accessible, handicapped accessible parking constructed. ADA accessible tot lot installed. Irrigation systems updated.
- 2003 - Installation of a multi-purpose, synthetic field was completed in the fall with the aid of an Urban Self-Help Grant, now known as PARC Grant.
- 2007 - Installation of new baseball/multi-purpose synthetic field with the aid of an Urban Self-Help Grant, now known as PARC Grant.
- 2012 - Completion of a regulation-sized track, a multi-purpose field interior to the track, a softball field, field lighting, and additional parking with funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as part of the Gateway City Parks Initiative.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Picnic grounds
- Multi-purpose, synthetic field

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- Baseball Field with multi-purpose, synthetic field
- Regulated-size track with interior multi-purpose field
- Softball Fields
- Trails
- ADA accessible tot lot
- ADA accessible restrooms
- ADA accessible parking spaces

Existing Conditions

This park is in excellent condition.

Suggested Improvements

- An irrigation system with backflow prevention.

NAME OF PARK: Ripley School Play Yard

Manager: School Department
Size: 60,000 square feet (1.38 acres)
Identification: Map: E3, Parcel: 1
Location: Lebanon Street and Forest Street

History

This playground was built with the school in 1925. Additions to the school in 1930 and 1965 combined with restrictive topographic conditions have resulted in limited play space. A small tot lot was added in 1989. An additional larger tot lot was constructed in 2001. The original tot lot has been abandoned for safety concerns. The SEEM Collaborative has operated at the school since 2008, and has replaced pieces of equipment in the play yard.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Tot lot equipment
- 1 basketball stanchions
- Benches
- Trash receptacle

Existing Conditions

This park is in fair condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Resurface playground.

NAME OF PARK: Sewall Woods Park

Manager: Park Department
Size: 392,040 square feet (9.0 acres)
Identification: Map: B20, Parcel: 17
Location: Lynn Fells Parkway

History

Located in the northwest corner of the City, this passive recreation park was created from the former Sewall Estate in 1892. Improvements were limited by the deed of gift. In 1930, 1,000 pine trees were planted, trees trimmed, and some cleaning done. Perimeter vegetation was cut back in 1998.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Trails.

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Although deed restrictions limit any general improvements, some carefully situated seating should be introduced.
- Additional tree planting.
- Improved handicapped accessibility.
- New signage is needed to identify the trail heads.

NAME OF PARK: Volunteer Park (Formerly Warren Street Park)

Manager: Park Department
Size: 18,572 square feet (0.43 acres)
Identification: Map: B12, Parcel: 32
Location: Warren Street

History

This park, which includes a neighborhood tot lot, is situated on the old Warren School site. The tot lot was installed in 1971 and within two months was vandalized and destroyed by neighborhood children that had previously used the site as a ball field. In 1985, new tot lot equipment was added, based on community design. The site is too small to accommodate a baseball diamond. New ADA accessible tot lot was installed in 1997. New sod and irrigation system, and water fountain was also installed in 1997 by the Park Department.

In 2011, the park was renovated and rededicated at Volunteer Park.

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Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- ADA accessible tot lot, with wood carpet
- 2 benches
- 3.5-foot chain link fence
- Irrigation with backflow prevention

Existing Conditions

This park is in excellent condition.

Suggested Improvements

- None.

NAME OF PARK: Winthrop School Playground

Manager: School Department
Size: 75,000 square feet (1.72 acres)
Identification: Map: F8, Parcel: 10
Location: First Street

History

This site is located next to the Winthrop School in a residential neighborhood at the corner of the First Street and Ashcroft Road. It consists of a small grassy area in front of the school and a large paved area in the rear. The school was built in 1926 with an addition in 1956. Tot lot equipment was added in 1975 by the PTO. In 1977, the Planning Office in conjunction with the area users and Winthrop School officials planned a new tot lot that was implemented in 1977. In 1991, more tot lot equipment was added. A new tot lot was constructed in 2003 to replace equipment damaged by fire.

Facilities

Facilities in the park are as follows:

- Tot lot equipment
- Basketball court
- Community garden

Existing Conditions

This park is in good condition.

Suggested Improvements

- Resurface playground.
- Refurbish existing cast iron fence.

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Appendix B: ADA Self-Evaluation Report

As part of the open space and recreation planning process, the City of Melrose is required to complete an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) self-evaluation to determine how accessible the City's conservation and recreation programs and properties are to people with disabilities. There are three required elements of a self-evaluation: Administrative Requirements; Program Accessibility; and Employment Practices. The results of the self-evaluation as described below.

PART I: ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

This section reviews the City's general efforts to address the needs of people with disabilities which include the following: appointing an ADA Coordinator, advertising City efforts to provide reasonable accommodations, involving people with disabilities in the planning process, and responding to concerns regarding the provision of services to people with disabilities. This section also makes general recommendations about how the City could more successfully communicate its desire to serve people of all abilities, including advertising the accessibility of public meeting spaces as well as incorporating its non-discrimination policy in employment advertisements.

1. Designation of an ADA Coordinator

Mr. Paul Johnson, Building Commissioner, has been designated as the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator for the City of Melrose.

2. Grievance Procedures

A sense that one has been discriminated against may be extremely painful. Accordingly, the City offers several avenues for the public to pursue a discrimination complaint. Members of the public are encouraged to voice their concerns in the way that they feel comfortable.

Formal Complaints

Any member of the public who wishes to file a formal complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability is asked to submit a written complaint to the City's ADA Coordinator. The complaint should include relevant information about the alleged discrimination such as the name, address, and phone number of the complainant as well as the location, date, and description of the problem. Reasonable accommodations, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities who are unable to submit a written complaint. The complaint may be submitted either by the grievant or by his/her designee. It should be submitted no later than 60 days after the alleged violation.

Within 20 calendar days of receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 20 days of this meeting, the ADA Coordinator will respond in writing, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as an audiotape. The response will explain the position of the City of Melrose and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint. The ADA Coordinator will notify the Board of Aldermen or their designee of complaints received within 5 calendar days.

If the response of the ADA Coordinator does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the ADA Coordinator to the Board of Aldermen or their designee within 20 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Board of Aldermen or their designee.

Within 20 days after receipt of the appeal, the Board of Aldermen, or their designee, will then meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 20 calendar days after the meeting, the Board of Aldermen, or their designee, will respond in writing and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as audiotape, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, appeals to the Board of Aldermen or their designee, and response from the ADA Coordinator and the Board of Alderman or their designee, will be kept by the City of Melrose for at least three years.

Informal Complaints

If they prefer to do so, members of the public are welcome to contact the Park Superintendent, the Recreation Department Director, or the Conservation Commission Chair, explain their concern, and ask the Department Head to address their concerns verbally or in writing. Residents are also welcome to express concerns to the Aldermen or to the Mayor of Melrose. The Mayor and Members of the Board of Aldermen personally respond to verbal and written discrimination complaints received by their offices. If a citizen chooses to pursue a complaint in this way, the Mayor and other City officials have discretion in resolving the issue. Raising a concern in this way does not preclude filing a formal complaint.

Employee Grievances

Union Employees

City employees who belong to a union (firefighters, patrolmen, police superior officers, library employees, clerical employees, public works employees, and traffic supervisors) are governed by the grievance procedures negotiated under their contract. Note that the timeframes vary depending on the specific contract. In general, the procedure is:

STEP 1: Employee submits a written grievance to his/her supervisor, or directly to the Department Head, within seven days of the incident. The Head or Supervisor has five to seven days to respond to respond.

STEP 2: If the Supervisor does not respond satisfactorily and the Head has not been notified, the Head is notified and must respond.

STEP 3: If the Head does not respond satisfactorily, the Mayor may be notified. (S)he must respond within ten days.

STEP 4: If the responses of the supervisor, Head, and/or Mayor do not resolve the grievance, then the issue is submitted to arbitration. Arbitration proceedings are conducted in accord with the Voluntary Labor Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association.

Non-Union Employees

Non-union employees are governed by the procedures contained in the City of Melrose Employee Handbook. Grievance proceedings for non-union employees are similar to the general procedures outlined for Union Employees, except that no arbitration is stipulated. Instead, the Board of Aldermen adjudicates complaints, as they do for the general public.

3. Public Notification Requirements

Current Policies

The City strives to provide accommodations that will make its services accessible to people of all abilities. A statement of non-discrimination is posted in the City's Human Resources Office, along with a list of resources available to people with disabilities. City Hall is accessible to people with disabilities.

Every job description issued by the City of Melrose includes a list of physical requirements and the statement that reasonable accommodations to the requirements will be made for qualifying individuals. The Human Resources Department as well as all City Departments, are also directed to provide printed materials such as job descriptions in alternative formats for those who request them, and to provide written copies of verbal information for those who request them. The City's employment advertisements (as in the local paper) currently include a statement of the City's policy on non-discrimination.

The City's Human Resources Department manages policies with respect to diversity in the workplace. Equal Opportunity and Reasonable Accommodations Policies include specific assurances regarding:

- Integration of people with and without disabilities in City programs and services;
- Reasonable modifications;
- Absence of surcharges for accommodations;
- Absence of discrimination in programs supported by the City;
- Availability of accessible City transportation;
- Accessibility of commonly-used community referral agencies;
- Adequate training of City employees regarding accommodations and adaptive devices;
- Availability of TTY/TDD devices;
- Availability of alternative formats and interpreters; and
- Provision of assistive listening devices.

These policies also provide standard procedures regarding how and when to request program accommodations and alternative formats.

4. Participation of Individuals with Disabilities or Organizations Representing that Community

The City of Melrose routinely works with individuals with disabilities and organizations representing those with disabilities to plan for and make improvements to City facilities to increase accessibility.

PART II: PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY

This section reviews the accessibility of City recreation facilities and programs, recommends ways in which the programs could become more accessible, and discusses a transition plan for necessary structural changes. Table 1 completes this section, showing the facilities and accessibility of every City-managed Park and Conservation site.

In general, the Conservation Commission promotes passive recreation; their sites are unimproved and, although not accessible to ADA standards, many have curb cuts and benches that invite quiet contemplation by people of all abilities. The Park Department and Recreation Department focus on active recreation, and provide services and facilities for organized sports. The Park Department and Recreation Department also utilizes school facilities for some of their programs. Although some of these properties are not protected open space, the Park Department typically maintains these facilities. However, the School Department does have a separate transition plan and is working to make all its facilities accessible.

Concessions are available at Fred Green Field, Morelli Field, Lewis Monk Field, and Conant Field. With the exception of Fred Green Field, these concessions are run by volunteers with all the profits going to the leagues. The management entity at Mt. Hood is responsible for operating the sales concessions at the clubhouse with a small percentage paid to the Park Department. All these concessionaires offer outdoor, counter-service food and beverages only. All are substantially accessible to people with disabilities. (Some counters are too high for wheelchair users, but service at an alternate counter is always available).

Facilities

This inventory considers facilities owned and/or managed by the City's Park Department and the Conservation Commission. Please refer to Table 1 for a list of each site and its amenities. This chart was completed using standard accessibility surveys supplied by the EOEA; where a facility is indicated as accessible it complies with relevant ADA standards.

Conservation Commission Lands

The Melrose Conservation Commission manages three primary sites: Ferdinand Woods, High Rock Trail, and the Towners Pond and Swains Pond Conservation Area, which includes Flagg Acres, Seaview Trail, Knox Memorial Trail, and Rocky View Trail. Ferdinand Woods offer three moderately difficult wooded trails, Flagg Acres provides a system of trails of varying difficulty around Towner's Pond, and High Rock Trail, Seaview Trail, Knox Memorial Trail, and the Rocky Hill Trail are all moderate-to-difficult trails leading to scenic viewpoints. None of

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these sites are accessible by ADA standards. They are not improved beyond primitive (unpaved and sometimes steep and narrow) trails, and parking is offered only at Flagg Acres and the Rocky View Trail. There are no plans to significantly alter these trails to conform to ADA standards because this would require the construction of switch-backed ramps, handrails, and boardwalks in otherwise unimproved areas. These changes would significantly alter the character of the sites.

Although none of the Conservation Commission sites are physically accessible according to ADA standards, the Conservation Commission does make an effort to allow the sites to be as easy to reach as possible. The Commission publishes a brochure describing natural areas in the City of Melrose. The trails marked green (easy) on the map are accessible to some people with physical disabilities. The Conservation Commission office, located in City Hall, is accessible.

City Parks

The City's parks fare well with respect to accessibility. Five playgrounds were renovated in the past two years and the renovations included equipment and surfaces that meet a high standard of accessibility. Many parks and playgrounds have also received improvements to equipment accessibility in the past five years. Dunton Park currently only features inaccessible equipment, and the Lebanon Street Playground, Mary A. Livermore Memorial Park, as well as Foss Park feature aging accessible equipment. The Athletic Fields, including Fred Green Field and Morelli Field, were entirely rebuilt to accommodate accessibility standards including the grandstand, the field house, restrooms, and the announcer's booth. While some features of the City's parks and playgrounds are accessible, access to and through each park and playground needs improvement and the next section discusses that further.

The accessibility at the Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course has been improved. The 19th Hole Snack Bar and the Clubhouse have been made significantly more accessible through the addition of ramps at entrances and improvements to the serving areas of the Snack Bar and Clubhouse. A transition plan for improving Mt. Hood is included in the next section.

The Park Department office is located at Mt. Hood Golf Course Clubhouse, which is not currently accessible, but all public administrative services are also available at City Hall, which is accessible. Public meetings regarding issues of parks and open space are held in an accessible location, usually City Hall.

City Recreation Programs

Parks Department Programs--Community Recreation

The Melrose Recreation Department strives to create high quality recreational programs and events that are affordable and safe for citizens of all ages and abilities. With dedicated leadership and pride, we offer resources and opportunities to strengthen our community while striving to increase the social, cultural, and physical well-being of its residents and visitors.

Annually, the Recreation Department runs community events, programs, and leagues for over 12,000 participants ranging in ages and abilities. Many of the recreation activities offered are

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also accessible or adaptable to a person who may have a disability. The program registration forms allow parents to note any special needs or considerations for their child (i.e., cognitive/developmental issues, dietary restrictions, physical limitations, and health issues such as asthma, epilepsy, and diabetes). It is the City's policy to make reasonable accommodations to these programs, as it is for all City services.

The Recreation Department has a strong partnership with the Eastern Massachusetts Association for Retarded Citizens (EMARC). EMARC also offers local recreation programs and events for youth with special needs. These programs and events are completely accessible and include field trips and organized recreational opportunities. The Melrose Recreation Department supports EMARC each year with a \$3,600 contribution so that Melrose youth with special needs can participate in their programs.

Transition Plan

This section summarizes the City's plans to make physical improvements to their facilities to provide for ADA accessibility.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission does not have any facilities that could reasonably be made accessible to ADA standards. The Commission's only improved facilities are some trails that are naturally steep and rough. These trails could not be brought up to code without boardwalks, railings, and switchbacks which would be very expensive and which would substantially alter the natural features of the sites. However, the Conservation Commission makes an effort to serve people of all abilities through accessible sites for passive recreation, accessible (though non-ADA) trails, and through interpretive programs, still in the planning stages, that take issues of accessibility into account.

Parks and Recreation Transition Plan

Small-scale improvements are needed at four City parks with inaccessible and aging accessible facilities. As noted above, equipment or certain features within parks and playgrounds may be accessible, but often the path of travel internal to the park is inaccessible. These improvements will be undertaken subject to funding or in conjunction with large properties. Small-scale improvements have been accomplished at other parks and are relatively easy to complete but improvements tend to be piecemeal due to funding availability.

Larger improvements are needed at the City's Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course. The City's General ADA Compliance Report and Transition Plan, produced in 1996, included a transition plan for the Mount Hood Golf Course, and are discussed in the next section.

Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course

The golf course itself is already accessible; much of the course can be accessed by golf carts that are for rent at the clubhouse. The Clubhouse building, the Snack Bar, the Pro Shop, restrooms,

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and function rooms are accessible, while the office remains inaccessible. Between 2012 and 2014, interior and exterior renovations at the Clubhouse and Snack Bar were completed and inaccessibility concerns were addressed including:

- A sign was posted at the base of the access road to direct vehicles to the accessible parking spaces.
- An accessible parking space was added to the observation tower parking lot. The sign and pavement markings were added to delineate the accessible space.
- The Clubhouse porch floor was raised to be level with the threshold of the two entry doors.
- A 36-inch wide ramp with a slope no greater than 12:1 was added to provide access to the porch. The ramp has accessible mounted rails on each side.
- The two entry doors on the Clubhouse porch were modified so that the doors open with less than 5 pounds of force and take at least three seconds to close.
- The two entry doors on the Clubhouse porch received door handles that could be operated with a closed fist.
- All doors on the accessible paths of travel were received door handles that could be operated with a closed fist.
- A ramp with a slope no greater than 12:1 from the Snack Bar to the main function hall was installed. The ramp is as wide as the door and has raised edges.
- The door to the women's restroom in the Clubhouse was widened to 36 inches.
- The privacy partition in the women's restroom was removed to allow at least 36-inches of passage.

The following changes are still needed to comply with ADA guidelines at the Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course:

- At the picnic area, provide at least one accessible parking space adjacent to the picnic area. Regrade and pave the space, as well as mark the space with pavement markings and a sign.
- Grade and hard-pack a path between the grill and picnic table.
- Modify the picnic table so that the top surface is no greater than 34 inches with at least 17 inches under the table at a height of at least 29 inches.
- Lower a portion of the service counter to 36 inches for a length of at least 36 inches.
- Inaccessible entrances to the building should receive signage directing visitors to the accessible entry doors.
- All doormats should be fixed to the floors.
- A ramp should be constructed to provide access from the macadam path to the platform outside the Office on the basement level. The ramp shall be of a slope no greater than 12:1, be at least 36 inches wide, with accessibly mounted railings on each side.

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Table 1 ADA Accessibility Self-Evaluation

Name	Location	Parking Spaces	Ramps/Curb Cuts	Passenger Unloading	Public Phones	Drinking Fountains	Elevators	Toilet Facilities	Picnic Areas	Trails	Swimming Pools	Play Areas	Game Areas	Boat Docks	Fishing Facilities	Improved to Standard	Funding Date
Conservation Commission																	
Ferdinand Woods	Fedinand Street	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	No	-
Flagg Acres Trail	Swains Pond Avenue	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	No	-
High Rock Trail	West Hill Terrace	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	No	-
Knox Memorial Trail	Swains Pond Avenue	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	No	-
Rocky View Trail	Glendower Street	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	No	-
Seaview Trail	Beech Street	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	No	-
Park Department																	
Athletic Fields	Lynn Fells Parkway	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
Beebe School Play Yard	West Foster Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	Yes	-
Bingham Community Playground	West Wyoming Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	Yes	-
Bowden Park	Vinton Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-
Colby Park	Lynn Fells Parkway	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	Pending Funds
Conant Park	Baxter Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
Drinkwater Tot Lot	Porter Street	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	No	Pending Funds
Dunton Park	Franklin Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	-	-	-	No	Pending Funds
Ell Pond Memorial Park	Lynn Fells Parkway	Yes	No	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	No	-	-	No	-	-	No	Pending Funds
Ell Pond Park	Main Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-
Foss Park	Lynde Street & Malvern Street	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	No	-	-	No	Pending Funds
Franklin Field	Greenleaf Place	No	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	No	-	-	No	Pending Funds
Franklin Early Childhood Center Tot Lot	Main Street & Franklin Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	-	-	-	No	2015
Gooch Park	Florence Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
Hesseltine Field	Hesseltine Avenue	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
Hoover School Playground	Glendower Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
Lebanon Street Playground	Lebanon Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	No	-	-	No	Pending Funds
Lincoln Playground	Pleasant Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
Mary A. Livermore Memorial Park	Upham Street	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	No	-	-	No	Pending Funds
Mary Foley Park	Grove Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-
Melrose Common	East Foster Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Partial	-	-	No	Pending Funds
Milano Park	Main Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-
Mount Hood Memorial Park and Golf Course	Stillman Road	Yes	Yes	No	No	-	-	Yes	No	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	No	Pending Funds
Ripley School Play Yard	Lebanon Street	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	Pending Funds
Sewall Woods Park	Lynn Fells Parkway	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	No	-
Volunteer Park	Warren Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	Yes	-
Winthrop School Playground	First Street	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	Yes	-

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SECTION III: EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

The City's Employee Manual clearly states, "The City of Melrose is committed to the fundamental principles of equal employment opportunity for all current and prospective employees. The City's policies, procedures, and practices are intended to prohibit discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, physical handicap, marital status, national origin, Vietnam veteran status, or sexual orientation" With regard to the Americans with Disabilities Act, it also notes that:

The City of Melrose does not discriminate on the basis of disability. Program applicants, participants, members of the general public, employees, job applicants, and other area entitled to participate in and benefit from all agency programs, activities, and services without regard to disability.

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that no other qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from employment at the City of Melrose. Employment review and hiring will be based on the employee/prospective employee's ability to perform what the City of Melrose determines to be the essential functions a job. Further, it is the policy of the City of Melrose that reasonable accommodations will be made for an otherwise qualified applicant or employee with a disability, unless the City of Melrose can demonstrate that the accommodation imposes an undue financial or administrative hardship on the operation of its programs.

1. Recruitment

A. Job announcements

Job descriptions and announcements are available in the City Human Resources Office, City Hall, an accessible location, and available on the City's website. They are also available in auditory form; Human Resources personnel will read them aloud, or by request, make them available on tape. Both job descriptions and job advertisements contain the City's non-discrimination statement. A copy of a sample job description and a memo regarding the inclusion of non-discrimination statement in job advertisements is included at the end of this document.

B. Interviews

Interviews only address job qualifications, and Department Heads are aware of their obligation not to inquire about any disability (visible or not) or other unlawful inquiries.

2. Personnel Actions

The hiring and promotion policies of the City of Melrose are described in union contracts and in the Employee Handbook. The City adheres to these policies regardless of the disability status of the employee.

The City does not compile statistics regarding employees with disabilities, nor does the City require or request that employees divulge their disability status. Anecdotal evidence (from

employees who voluntarily reveal their disability status) indicates that people with disabilities work in a variety of City jobs.

3. Leave Administration

Policies for granting leave are the same for all employees regardless of disability, and do not function so as to discriminate against people with disabilities.

4. Training

Training programs allow equal participation by people of all abilities.

5. Tests

The City of Melrose does not use tests to make employment or promotion decisions.

6. Medical Examinations / Questionnaires

The City of Melrose uses medical examinations only after conditional offers of employment and only to determine fitness for essential job responsibilities (i.e., fire fighting).

7. Social / Recreation Programs

The City of Melrose does not sponsor any social / recreation programs for its employees.

8. Fringe Benefits

Fringe benefits are the same for all employees, regardless of their disability status.

9. Collective Bargaining Agreements

The City's collective bargaining agreements do not contain any provisions that could be construed as limiting the participation of employees with disabilities.

10. Wage and Salary Administration

Each City job is assigned a level of pay consistent with the responsibilities, qualifications, and experience required for that job. This level of pay is consistent regardless of the employee who holds the job.

List of Attachments to ADA Self-Evaluation Report

- Letter from Mayor to Certify ADA Coordinator
- Public Notice: Americans with Disabilities Act
- City of Melrose ADA Grievance Procedure

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CITY OF MELROSE

ROBERT J. DOLAN
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4440
Fax - (781) 662-2182

January 7, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

This certifies that Mr. Paul Johnson, Building Commissioner, has been designated as the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator for the City of Melrose.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dolan
Mayor

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The City of Melrose does not discriminate on the basis of disability. Program applicants, participants, members of the general public, employees, job applicants, and others are entitled to participate in and benefit from all agency programs, activities, and services without regard to disability.

Copies of this notice are available upon request, in alternate print formats (large print, audiotape, Braille, computer disc, etc.) Our grievance procedure, self-evaluation, as well as ADA policies, practices and procedures are available upon request. This notice is posted prominently at all our sites, and on all our program brochures and manuals.

The City of Melrose has designated the following person to coordinate its efforts to comply with the ADA. Inquiries, requests, and complaints should be directed to:

ADA Coordinator: Paul Johnson
Building Commissioner
562 Main Street
Melrose, Ma. 02176
(781) 979-4137 (Voice/TTY)
(781) 662-3450 (Fax)
E mail: pjohnson@cityofmelrose.org



ADA GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The following Grievance procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in employment practices and policies or the provision of service, activities, programs and benefits by the city of Melrose.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Reasonable accommodations, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities who are unable to submit a written complaint.

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

ADA Coordinator: Paul Johnson
Building Commissioner
562 Main Street
Melrose, Ma. 02176
(781) 979-4137 (Voice/TTY)
(781) 662-3450 (Fax)
E mail: pjohnson@cityofmelrose.org

Within 20 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator will meet the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolution. Within 20 calendar days after the meeting, the ADA Coordinator will respond in writing, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as audiotape. The response will explain the position of the City of Melrose and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint. (AD Coordinator will notify the Board of Alderman or their designee of complaints received within 5 calendar days.)

If the response by the ADA Coordinator does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the ADA Coordinator within 20 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Bard of Aldermen or their designee.



Within 20 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Board of Aldermen, or their designee, will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 20 calendar days after the meeting, the Board of Aldermen, or their designee, will respond in writing and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as audiotape, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, appeals to the Board of Aldermen or their designee, and response from the ADA Coordinator and the Board of Aldermen or their designee, will be kept by the City of Melrose for at least three years.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT REASONABLE ACCOMODATION POLICY

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that no other qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from employment at the City of Melrose. Employment review and hiring will be based on the employee/prospective employee's ability to perform what the City of Melrose determines to be the essential functions of a job.

Further, it is the policy of the City of Melrose that reasonable accommodations will be made for an otherwise qualified applicant or employee with a disability, unless the City of Melrose can demonstrate that the accommodation imposes an undue financial or administrative hardship on the operation of its programs.

Notice of the availability of reasonable accommodations for the job applicants will be included in postings and advertisements and will be made available upon request to applicants with disabilities during the pre-employment process if necessary to provide equal opportunity to secure employment at the City of Melrose.

All prospective employees will be informed at the initial interview that the City of Melrose does not discriminate on the basis of disability and that requests for reasonable accommodations needed for the performance of essential job functions or for the enjoyment of other benefits of employment should be made by the prospective employees following receipt of a conditional offer of employment, preferably at the post employment offer meeting.

People with disabilities employed by the City of Melrose may request reasonable accommodations from their immediate supervisor or from the ADA Coordinator.



Requests for reasonable accommodations should be made verbally and/or in writing describing the nature and purpose of the requested accommodation.

Assistance will be made available upon request to any individual who needs assistance in identifying or documenting the reasonable accommodation needed. A decision regarding a reasonable accommodation request will be made within five business days of the request and any supporting documentation required by the City of Melrose. The effectiveness of the accommodation and need for modifications or additional accommodations will be assessed during the first month of use of the accommodation.

Current employees seeking reasonable accommodations should make requests to their immediate supervisor, who will inform the ADA Coordinator and the Director of Human Resources. Requests for accommodations can be made at any time when they become necessary to the performance of essential job functions or the enjoyment of benefits of employment.

A decision regarding the requested accommodation will be made within ten working days of the submission of the request and any supporting documentation required. If the accommodation cannot be provided within ten working days of the request, the supervisor will issue a memo to the employee or applicant explaining why. If the substitute accommodation is being offered to the employee, this will also be explained verbally and in writing.

These policies will be modified when necessary by the ADA Coordinator. The final decision concerning any requested accommodation that may represent an undue financial or administrative hardship will be made by the Mayor. Applicants or employees have the right to appeal the denial of any accommodation request using the ADA Grievance procedure. In the case of a denial based on undue hardship by the Mayor, the employee or applicant may appeal in writing to the Board of Alderman.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT EMPLOYMENT TRAINING ASSURANCE

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that staff training and development activities provided by city personnel and volunteers include information about rights and obligations under TITLE I of the ADA. Our employee training and orientation manual includes a full explanation of our ADA policies, procedures, and practices regarding employment.



All materials include information on reasonable accommodations, grievance procedures, essential vs., nonessential job functions, permissible and impermissible inquires. Training will be conducted annually, and all new employees are trained, as per our employee orientation procedures, on all of the above requirements. The ADA Coordinator is the employee responsible for seeing that this is done.

Details of disability are kept separate from other employment information. Employee's right to confidentiality (whenever confidential information regarding disability, etc. is divulged) will be assured.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NON – DISCRIMINATORY OPERATION

A. Equal Opportunity Policy

No qualified person with a disability shall be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of the City of Melrose's programs or activities.

In providing its services, programs, and activities, the City of Melrose will not:

- 1.) Deny a qualified individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in, or benefit from, a benefit, service, or activity.
- 2.) Deny qualified individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in, or benefit from, any aid benefit, or service that is not equal to that afforded to others.
- 3.) Deny a qualified individual with a disability the opportunity to participate as a member of planning or advisory boards, commissions, or any other entity of the City of Melrose.
- 4.) Otherwise limit a qualified individual with a disability the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity enjoyed by other qualified individuals receiving the aid, benefit, or service.
- 5.) As earlier stated, it is the policy of City of Melrose to ensure that persons with disabilities are provided maximum opportunity to participate in and benefit from



programs, services, and activities. Moreover, it is our goal that such participation be in the same manner as those of nondisabled persons and in fully integrated settings.

B. Reasonable Modification Policy

The City of Melrose will make reasonable modifications to policies and procedures necessary to accommodate the needs of a person with a disability when ever an otherwise qualified person with a disability requests such modification, unless it can be demonstrated that such an accommodation would impose an undue burden or fundamental alteration to the program.

The City of Melrose is committed to making reasonable modifications when they are needed to afford persons with disabilities access toe services and programs. The final decision concerning whether a request for a modification is reasonable (or is a fundamental alteration of the program) is made by the Mayor and Director of Human Resources in discussion with the ADA Coordinator, and, if necessary, the Board of Aldermen. Aggrieved employees or applicants have the right to appeal as per our grievance procedure.

The City of Melrose will comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations relative to the use of assistive equipment and trained assistive animals. In addition, no arbitrary restrictions or limitations will be placed on the type of assistive equipment or trained assistance animals that consumers bring with them to City of Melrose facilities.

Persons requesting a particular modification may be asked to furnish documentation to support the need for the modification. Aggrieved individuals have the right to appeal as per our written appeals process. This policy will be modified when necessary to make our program accessible to people with disabilities.

C. Eligibility Requirements Assurance

Any prohibitions or limits on the eligibility of qualified individuals with disabilities to receive services or practice any occupation or profession are not allowed under this policy. Eligibility requirements have been reviewed by the ADA Coordinator and updated as necessary to comply with the requirements of the ADA. Whenever programs formulate new eligibility policies or new programs are developed, policies will be reviewed with the ADA Coordinator to ensure compliance.



All safety requirements are similarly reviewed and it has been determined that there are no discriminatory requirements. The determination of the existence of a direct threat must be based on objective factual evidence and not stereotypes or misconceptions about a person's disability. If any new criteria are developed, their impact on persons with disabilities will be reviewed by the Director of Human Resources and the ADA Coordinator, and all employees will be informed on any changes in eligibility requirements that may arise.

D. Assurance Regarding Surcharges

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that surcharges will not be charged to persons with disabilities, their family members or organizations representing them for the provision of reasonable accommodations, reasonable modifications to policies and procedures, auxiliary aids and services, or other costs related to the participation of a person with a disability.

E. Integrated Services Assurance

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that all of our services, programs, and activities are provided in the most integrated setting possible. People with disabilities will not be required to participate in separate programs even if separate programs specifically designed to meet the need of persons with disabilities are offered.

Services will not be provided to any person with a disability in a manner or at a location different from that available to other service recipients unless the potential for removal of architectural barriers, or the use of assistive devices and equipment, have been found to be inadequate or inappropriate to the needs of the individual. In all cases, the affected individuals, (family members and other representative when appropriate) will be fully involved in the consideration and decision-making process.

F. Significant Assistance

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that programs to whom we provide significant support (or contract with) may not discriminate against people with disabilities. All contracts and program sites are regularly assessed to ensure nondiscrimination against people with disabilities. The City of Melrose will not knowingly contract with any entity that discriminates.



G. Accessible Transportation Policy

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that Melrose Public school transportation services are accessible to students in our programs regardless of disability. Transportation vehicles are leased and vans equipped with wheelchair lifts are used for students requiring them.

Individuals in need of accessible transportation should make their requests in writing to the Melrose Public schools' Transportation Coordinator, Carol Taurasi at (78) 979-2140. Requests must be made at least three days (3) in advance. As with all our transportation services, all requests are subject to the availability of space. When a request cannot be met, notice will be given as soon as possible and at least one (1) day before the requested date of the trip.

H. Community Referral Policy

Whenever the City of Melrose participates in other programs and services as a condition of participation or makes reference to other programs, it is our policy that such programs and services must be accessible. The City of Melrose will make every attempt to obtain information regarding which of the programs (to which it may refer people) are accessible, and which are not. Please note that there is at least one accessible provider in each of the categories of services in which we make referrals.

I. Training Assurance Policy Regarding Non-discriminatory Operations

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that staff training and other staff development activities provided by city and school personnel and volunteers include information about ADA requirements. Our programs operate in such a manner that does not discriminate against people with disabilities. As stated in our staff training and orientation handbook, such training includes a full explanation of our ADA policies, procedures, and practices. Training will be done on an annual basis, and the ADA coordinator has the overall responsibility for ensuring that all staff are trained, including new employees.



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**

A. Effective Communications Policy

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that auxiliary aids and services will be provided when necessary to ensure effective communication with persons whose disabilities effect communication. Persons with communications disabilities will be given the opportunity to request the aid or service that they prefer and the requested aid or service will be given primary consideration by the City of Melrose and will be provided unless doing so would impose an undue hardship or burden or an effective alternative is available.

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that all documents and publications are available, upon request, in accessible formats. These include large print, audiotape, Braille, and computer disc.

The procedure for anyone who requests accessible formats (or any type of effective communication) is:

- 1.) To specify his/her accessible format either in person, over the phone, or in writing to the ADA Coordinator at least 30 days in advance of the event.
- 2.) Within four (4) business days, the City of Melrose will provide the format to the requester at no charge.

The Human Resources Director is the person who makes undue burden determinations as per our procedures. When we decide what type of aid or service to provide, primary consideration is given to the type of aid or service preferred by the person with the disability.

All flyers, posters, etc advertising school and city events will include the following phrase:

Are reasonable accommodations required? If so call Paul Johnson, ADA Coordinator at (781) 979-4137 (Voice/TTY).

B. TTY/TDD Assurance

TTY machines are available at the Melrose Public schools (781) 662-2000 administrative offices and at the Nurse Leaders office in the Horace Mann School (781) 665-6865 and the 911 Emergency Response. TTY training will be provided for appropriate employees



and updated on an annual basis. The TTY is printed on all documents and mailings that contain the city and schools' voice telephone number.

C. Alternative Format Policy and Procedures

It is the policy of the City of Melrose to make all documents, publications, and materials used in the city and school programs available to persons with disabilities who need them in alternate formats. Procedures have been established for the provision of alternative formats include large print, audiotape, Braille, and computer diskettes. Braille materials are purchased through Massachusetts Association for the Blind telephone # (617) 738-5110.

Large print, short audiotapes and computer diskettes in ASCII formats will be prepared by or under the direction of the ADA Coordinator. Preparation of long audiotapes will be purchased through Massachusetts Association for the Blind telephone # (617) 738-5110.

The procedure for requesting alternate formats is:

1. The person making the request should identify the materials desired and specify his/her preferred alternate format to the ADA Coordinator either in person, by telephone, or in writing at least ten (10) days in advance of the event or activity for which the material is needed.
2. The materials will be provided in the requested format at no charge. (Every attempt will be made to meet requests made less than 10 days before an event or activity.)
3. If, after primary consideration has been given to the preferred format, the request cannot be met, an alternative effective format will be offered. If a request cannot be met, the person making the request will be informed as soon as possible but at least 2 days in advance of the event or activity.

We use the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, Braille Department, 200 Ivy Street, Brookline, Ma. 02146, telephone # (800) 682-9200.

The Director of Human Resources is the person who makes the undue burden determination as per our procedures. When we decide what type of aid or service to provide, primary consideration will be given to the type of aid or service preferred by the person with the disability.



D. Interpreter Services Policy

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that sign language interpreters will be provided, upon request, to any person needing interpreter services in order to participate in any meeting, program, or activity of the agency. Requests should be made 10 days in advance of the scheduled event or meeting. (Every reasonable effort will be made to meet requests made with less than 10 days.) Requests should be made either in person, over the phone, or in writing to the ADA Coordinator, or Program director.

Within 24 hours of receipt of the request, the ADA Coordinator, or other responsible employee, will contact the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at (617) 695-7500 to schedule the interpreter service. In addition, the MCDHH, the International Institute of Greater Lawrence, Inc., which maintains a list of names and phone numbers to at least 3 qualified freelance language interpreters working in the Greater Lawrence area, will be contacted for interpreter services.

If an interpreter service cannot be obtained, the ADA coordinator or other member of the staff will offer the option of an alternative effective form of communication or the opportunity to postpone the meeting until such time as an interpreter can be scheduled.

E. Assistive Listening Device Assurance

It is the policy of the City of Melrose that assistive listening devices will be provided, upon request, to persons needing such devices to participate in programs, services, and activities of the city. The City of Melrose owns assistive listening devices for use by staff or at public meetings. If necessary, arrangements would be made for them through ADCare Educational Institute (ADC) (1-800-345-3552) or Hanley Audio Systems (1-617-661-1520).

The procedure for requesting an assistive listening device is for the person needing the device (or his/her representative) to identify his or her need for a device in person, by telephone, or in writing to the ADA Coordinator or other program director at least 4 business days prior to the scheduled event or activity will take place.

The ADA Coordinator or Program Director, or other responsible staff member will contact ADC within 24 hours of receipt of the request and arrange for rental and timely delivery of the device by express mail. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet requests made with less than 4 days notice.



F. Video Assurance

It is the policy of the City of Melrose to provide captioned versions of videotapes when such captioning is available in order to ensure that presentations are accessible to all individuals with disabilities.

G. Effective Communication Training Assurance

Training on all aspects of effective communication is conducted at least annually, and all new staff are trained, as per our staff orientation procedures, on all of the above requirements. All staff are familiar with, and have a copy of the City of Melrose's entire ADA Policies, Procedures, and Practices and this information is provided to all school employees also.

Appendix C: Letters of Review

A draft version of the City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan was submitted to the Mayor of Melrose, the Melrose Planning Board, the Melrose Conservation Commission, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for review and comment. Those letters are attached.

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CITY OF MELROSE

ROBERT J. DOLAN
Mayor

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4440
Fax - (781) 662-2182

February 20, 2015

Denise Gaffey, Director
Office of Planning and Community Development
City Hall
562 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176

Dear Denise:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan for the City. I am impressed with thoroughness of the document and level of collaboration that was necessary to prepare this report. It is quite a testament to your department, as well as the Committee, to see the number of projects that have been addressed since the 2007 Open Space Plan was released.

Protection of the City's opens spaces and the development of new playing fields has been a major priority for the City over the past several years. Looking ahead, the Open Space and Recreation Plan provides a strong framework for continuing these efforts.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dolan
Mayor

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CITY OF MELROSE

PLANNING BOARD

CARLA MORELLI
Chairwoman

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4190
Fax - (781) 979-4290

March 4, 2015

Denise Gaffey, Director & City Planner
Office of Planning and Community Development
City of Melrose
562 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176

RE: 2015 City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Denise,

Thank you for providing the Planning Board with a draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan for review and comment by the Planning Board. Melrose is fortunate to have a wide range of recreational opportunities and significant areas of open space which contribute to the high quality of life enjoyed by the community. Through thoughtful planning and active stewardship, open space, critical plant and animal habitats, neighborhood parks, and quality outdoor recreation facilities will remain a crucial part of the City's landscape. Over the past seven years, the City of Melrose has accomplished many of the goals set out in the previous open space and recreation planning efforts. Included in recent accomplishments are efforts by the Planning Board such as adopting the Slope Protection Ordinance and the Rail Corridor Overlay District as well as establishing the Open Space Fund and the Streetscape Improvement Fund.

The 2015 City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan is a complete assessment of the City's open space and recreational needs and resources. The Planning Board is pleased to endorse this plan in recognition of the important contribution open space and recreation areas make to the character of Melrose and the quality of life of its residents. In a community that is as densely settled as Melrose, open space and recreational facilities are invaluable resources which must be protected, maintained, and enhanced regularly. We are confident that the 2015 City of Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan will be an important planning tool for the City.

Very truly yours,

Carla Morelli
Chairwoman

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CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4312
Fax - (781) 979-4290

February 6, 2015

Erin Heacock Zwirko
Melrose Asst. Planning Director
City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose MA 02176

Dear Erin:

The Melrose Conservation Commission appreciates the opportunity to work with the Melrose Planning Department, in the development of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Our input and comments have been incorporated, as have the comments of various other stakeholders. We feel the document provides the City with a good plan as we move ahead to provide for the residents open space and recreation needs.

We look forward to the implementation of the Plan.

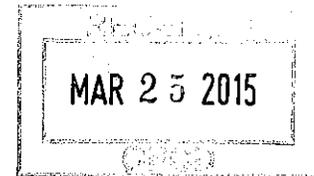
Sincerely,

Richard P. Doucette, Vice Chair
Melrose Conservation Commission

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SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION



March 23, 2015

Denise Gaffey
Director and City Planner
Office of Planning and Community Development
562 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176

Dear Ms. Gaffey:

Thank you for submitting the "City of Melrose 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan" to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans must be submitted to the regional planning agency for review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While DCS reviews open space plans for compliance with their guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

MetroFuture – We are pleased to see that the Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan includes a discussion of *MetroFuture*.

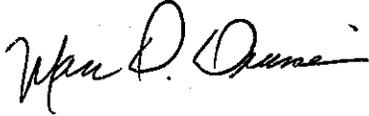
Community Preservation Act - Adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a key strategy recommended by *MetroFuture*. We note that Melrose has not adopted the CPA but we are encouraged to see that the CPA is included in the Action Plan.

Reforms to the program were passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2012. These reforms include broadened eligibility of recreational facilities, the option to exempt up to the first \$100,000 of commercial property value from the CPA surcharge, and the ability to use additional municipal revenue to qualify for state matching funds. Additionally, provisions in the last two state budgets have transferred funding to the CPA Trust Fund; \$25 million in the Fall of 2013 and \$11.4 million in the Fall of 2014. The current state CPA match is approximately 31%. More detailed information on all of these changes can be found at <http://www.communitypreservation.org> or by contacting MAPC's Government Affairs staff.

Duration of the Plan - The Division of Conservation Services now allows open space and recreation plans to be good for seven years if a seven year action plan is submitted. If you add two more years' worth of activities to your action plan it will extend the life of the plan.

The Melrose Open Space and Recreation Plan is very thorough and it should serve the city well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space and provide for the recreational needs of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc D. Draisen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M".

Sincerely,

Marc D. Draisen
Executive Director

Cc: Robert J. Dolan, MAPC Representative, City of Melrose
Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Resources