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BARNSTABLE

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN



Dowses Beach, Credit: BSC Group

Draft | January 2026



Korean War Memorial, Credit: BSC Group

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The Town of Barnstable hired BSC Group as its consultant to oversee the development of its 2025 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) update. The Town would like to thank the residents, stakeholders, and partners who helped shape this Plan Update.

The 2025 OSRP is a guide for the protection and enhancement of the town's natural resources, open spaces, and recreational facilities, emphasizing environmental justice, climate resiliency, and equitable access. Aligned with the *Massachusetts Open Space and Recreation Planners Workbook (2025)*, the update integrates long-term strategies, leveraging grant eligibility under the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs guidelines.



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01 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



01 Executive Summary

The 2025 OSRP serves as a strategic guide for the Town's decision makers in identifying and prioritizing the Town's most important conservation and recreation needs. In addition, the plan maintains the Town's eligibility for state funding assistance for open space and recreation acquisitions and improvements. Together, these roles ensure that the Town's future investments, policies, and regulations effectively protect and enhance its open space and recreation resources.

The goals of the OSRP have been developed based on community input, an analysis of environmental challenges facing the town, and an assessment of the community's open space and recreation needs.

The goals of the OSRP are to:

Open Space & Wildlife Habitat

- **Goal 1:** Protect and maintain the maximum feasible amount of open space to enhance environmental quality, expand recreational opportunities, and preserve community character.
- **Goal 2:** Promote policy and regulatory measures to protect open space.
- **Goal 3:** Promote stewardship of protected open spaces through volunteer engagement and partnerships with community organizations.

- **Goal 4:** Continue and expand ongoing maintenance of conservation areas.
- **Goal 5:** Coordinate open space protection measures with efforts to protect wildlife habitat and augment the Town's green corridors and spaces.

Recreation Facilities & Amenities

- **Goal 6:** Provide diverse recreational opportunities and equitable access throughout Barnstable to meet current and future needs of all user groups.
- **Goal 7:** Prioritize opportunities to protect land for farming and community gardens while balancing groundwater protection and supporting locally grown produce.

Water Resources

- **Goal 8:** Coordinate open space protection efforts with initiatives to protect freshwater and marine wetlands, and surface waters.
- **Goal 9:** Plan and develop strategies to mitigate effects of climate change as it relates to open space.
- **Goal 10:** Pursue opportunities to enhance coastal and freshwater access.

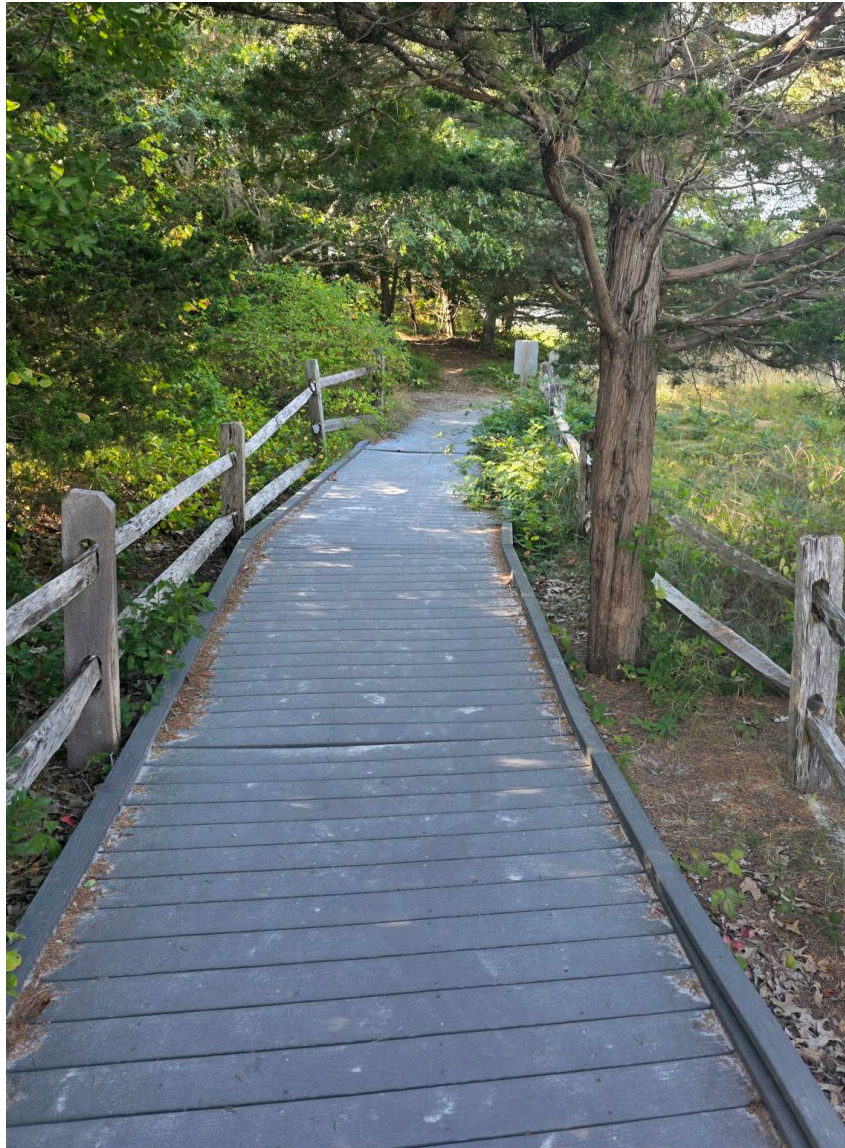
Connectivity & Accessibility

- **Goal 11:** Coordinate planning for the Town's greenway network to maximize opportunities for trailways, bikeways, Cape Cod Pathways, and connections between open spaces.
- **Goal 12:** Identify and implement priority Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements.

Communication & Marketing

- **Goal 13:** Promote coordination and communication on community open space and recreation needs within Town government and among stakeholder groups.
- **Goal 14:** Promote public awareness of and support for open space protection and enhancement of recreation resources.

These goals establish the outcomes the OSRP seeks to achieve. The plan includes a ten-year action plan that identifies potential funding sources, responsible parties, priority levels, and a time frame for tracking progress.



Long Beach Conservation Area, Credit: BSC Group

02 INTRODUCTION



02 Introduction

The American parks movement finds its origins in the 18th-century English landscape tradition, especially through Capability Brown, whose sweeping pastoral estates emphasized natural beauty, recreation, and contemplative leisure as essential to health and well-being. These ideals seeded the Rural Cemetery Movement in the United States, where early cemeteries such as Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts (1831) were designed not just as burial grounds, but as public retreats for walking, picnicking, and passive recreation, providing the first landscaped green space accessible to all. This notion of open space for public benefit evolved into more active recreation ideals with conservationist Benton MacKaye, whose 1921 proposal for the Appalachian Trail envisioned a continuous American recreational corridor for hiking, renewal, and social connectivity across the Eastern United States.

Simultaneously, the founding of The Trustees of Reservations in Massachusetts in 1891, the first organization of its kind in the United States, mirrored the values of the British National Trust, protecting land not just for its scenic or historic value, but explicitly for public enjoyment, recreation, and play. Across all these examples, from designed landscapes to rugged trails, the parks movement has been deeply intertwined with the idea that access to open space and nature is fundamental to human health, civic identity, and joyful participation in public life.

In the mid-1800s, the urban parks movement emerged largely as a public-health response to the overcrowded,

unsanitary conditions of rapidly industrializing cities. Diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and tuberculosis were rampant, prompting reformers to advocate for “lungs of the city,” green spaces that offered clean air, sunlight, and moral uplift. Early examples included the Boston Common (expanded as a healthful promenade), Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park (protecting the city’s water supply), and New York’s Central Park, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in 1858. Central Park’s creation famously displaced “Pigsville” and “Seneca Village,” poor and working-class communities, in an effort to create a pastoral refuge thought to counter urban vice and disease through exposure to nature.

Historically, Cape Cod serves as an elixir to city life; an agrarian and marine focused ideal. Thoreau’s famous “Walking Cape Cod”, in 1849, was the beginning of the burgeoning environmental movement and public realization that human hands have massive impact on landscape. Today, parks across the United States serve as vital cultural, nature based, community anchors, which offer spaces for public gathering, celebration, and expression in a bucolic setting - as evidenced in the Cape Cod ‘ideal’. According to the Trust for Public Land (TPL), 93% of Americans say it is important to have access to nature close to home, and parks are often the most accessible and equitable way to achieve that goal (TPL, 2023). Parks host cultural festivals, local performances, and community events that reflect and strengthen local identity, heritage, and cohesion. They also foster social connections across age, income, and racial groups, helping to reduce social isolation and build stronger,

more resilient communities (TPL, "The Power of Parks to Strengthen Community").

During the COVID-19 pandemic, open space proved to be a critical public health resource, offering safe, accessible places for physical activity, mental health relief, and socially distanced gathering. As indoor facilities closed and social restrictions intensified, parks, trails, and greenways became essential sanctuaries, particularly in urban and densely populated areas where private outdoor access is limited. Studies by the Trust for Public Land found park usage surged nationwide, with some cities reporting a 50–200% increase in visitation during the height of lockdowns (TPL, 2021).

Moreover, the pandemic highlighted deep inequities in access to green space, with low-income and communities of color often living in areas with less parkland or overcrowded facilities. TPL's ParkServe data revealed over 100 million people in the United States did not have a park within a 10-minute walk of home, disproportionately affecting marginalized populations (TPL ParkServe).

As illustrated in the early 19th century, the 2020 pandemic thus reinforced the urgent need to prioritize open space as essential infrastructure, not just for recreation, but for resilience, equity, and public well-being in times of crisis; we have come full circle, health and open space.

A. Statement of Purpose

For several decades, Barnstable has demonstrated a strong commitment to preserving and enhancing its open space resources. The Town has advanced this goal through a series of OSRPs, land acquisition efforts, regulatory and policy updates that promote resource protection, and ongoing management of its open space and recreation inventory.

This plan reviews progress made since the 2018 OSRP, identifies new issues or changing conditions, and assesses future needs based on community dynamics. It also outlines a realistic ten-year action plan with potential funding sources to address challenges and opportunities in meeting the community's open space and recreation needs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources and open space. A current approved plan is required for municipalities to remain eligible for various grant programs administered by the EEA. These grants support the acquisition, preservation, and development of parks, trails, and conservation lands.

This updated OSRP includes an inventory of Barnstable's existing open space and recreational assets, integrates climate considerations, and incorporates principles of environmental justice and equity. In doing so, it identifies and addresses the needs of Environmental Justice populations and ensures that all residents have equitable access to safe, welcoming, and well-maintained open spaces and

recreational opportunities. Barnstable's previous open space planning efforts include:

- A Plan for Open Space: Barnstable, MA (1973)
- Goals and Policies for the Town of Barnstable (1983)
- The Town of Barnstable Open Space & Recreation Plan (1984, 1987, 1997, 2005, 2010, and 2018)

B. Planning Process & Public Participation

Barnstable implemented a Public Involvement Plan to ensure that the OSRP decision-making reflects inclusive community input.

Public Participation

Public participation occurred in four ways during the process of updating the OSRP: 1.) community survey, 2.) open house style meeting, 3.) stakeholder interviews, and 4.) community meeting and public comment period. The survey, open house, and stakeholder interviews provided input on the community's current needs relative to the town's open space and recreation areas. The public comment period offered residents an opportunity to review a draft of the updated plan. The community meetings (open house and public comment period) and community survey were promoted through the following outreach and communication efforts:

- Advertised on the Town's municipal website, e-newsletters, Barnstable's podcast and notification app, a press release, and Town Manager communications.

- Advertised through flyers in frequently visited areas including the Town libraries, Hyannis Youth & Community Center, Barnstable Adult Community Center, and the West Barnstable Village Festival.
- Advertised through a social media post on the Town's Facebook page.
- Advertised through emails to external organizations, community groups, and partners including the Town of Barnstable recreation email distribution list, Barnstable Public Schools, Barnstable Land Trust, Civic Associations, the Brazilian Resource Center, and various boards and committees.



Figure 2-1: Social Media Post

Community Survey

The community survey was made available on July 21, 2025, and closed on August 17, 2025. The survey was conducted to understand the needs and concerns of Barnstable’s residents related to open space and recreation. The community survey received a total of 293 responses. A summary of key findings is included in Section 6: Analysis of Needs, with full results available in Appendix B: Survey & Public Engagement Results.

Community Open House

The Town held an open house style meeting on August 28, 2025. Participants provided input on display maps, dot activity boards, and completed a “Build Your Own Park Upgrade Plan” activity to share their recreational preferences and priorities. A summary of the activities and results are included in Section 6: Analysis of Needs.



Open House on August 28, 2025, Credit: BSC Group

Stakeholder Interviews

BSC Group conducted stakeholder interviews on September 4, 2025, to collect community perspectives on recreation, conservation, and water resources. The purpose was to better understand the strengths, challenges and barriers, emerging interests and needs, and future opportunities related to Barnstable’s recreation system, conservation lands, and water resources.

Community Meeting & Public Comment Period

The Town held a public presentation with an open mic session for comments on November 19, 2025. In addition, the OSRP draft was posted on the municipal website for open comment from November 5 to November 26, 2025.

C. Enhanced Outreach & Public Participation

According to the most recent U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, Barnstable has 47,015 residents ages 5 years and older. Approximately 3.4% of this population (an estimated 1,588 individuals) speak Spanish at home. Among those Spanish speakers, 32.7% (519 individuals) reported speaking English less than “very well.” Portuguese has been identified as another commonly spoken language in the community. As a result, the Town ensured the OSRP survey and outreach materials were translated into both Spanish and Portuguese and advertised in EJ neighborhoods to encourage and maximize community participation. To further support inclusive participation, live interpretation in both Spanish and Portuguese languages was provided for each of the community meetings.

03 COMMUNITY SETTING



John F. Kennedy Memorial Fountain, Credit: BSC Group

03 Community Setting

A. Regional Context

The Town of Barnstable is a “Mid-Cape” community located about 20 miles east of the Cape Cod Canal and 50 miles west of Provincetown. It is the largest town on Cape Cod by land area (59.9 square miles) and population (49,232 year-round residents), bordered by Mashpee and Sandwich to the west, Yarmouth to the east, Cape Cod Bay to the north, and Nantucket Sound to the south. With over 100 miles of shoreline, Barnstable is both a coastal and regional hub for commerce, culture, and recreation.

Barnstable is made up of seven villages: Barnstable, West Barnstable, Centerville, Cotuit, Hyannis, Marstons Mills, and Osterville. Each of these villages has distinct needs for preservation and growth management. Hyannis, the largest of the villages, serves as Cape Cod’s commercial and service center. It is home to Cape Cod Hospital, the Cape Cod Gateway Airport, the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority, and ferry service to Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard. Barnstable also contains major retail centers, cultural institutions, county government offices, and Cape Cod Community College, making the town a destination for residents across the Cape.

Barnstable participates actively in regional planning and governance through the Cape Cod Commission, Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority, and county-level services. Collaborative initiatives include water quality planning for shared estuaries such as Lewis Bay (Barnstable and Yarmouth), Three Bays and Popponesset Bay (Barnstable,

Mashpee, Sandwich), and broader nitrogen reduction efforts across Cape Cod watersheds.

Barnstable’s open space system connects directly to regional conservation and recreation networks. The Barnstable Land Trust works with the Cape Cod Compact of Conservation Trusts and statewide groups such as Mass Audubon and The Trustees of Reservations to protect land across municipal boundaries.

The town is also part of Cape Cod’s regional trail and recreation network. Efforts are currently being coordinated to extend the Cape Cod Rail Trail (CCRT) through the Town of Barnstable to the Sandwich town line. Its harbors, beaches, and boat ramps connect to regional water trails along Nantucket Sound, Cape Cod Bay, and Barnstable Harbor, all of which are used by residents and visitors throughout the Cape.

B. Population Characteristics

The demographic information presented in this section is based on the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2023 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates), unless otherwise noted. These estimates represent the most current data available at the time of writing.

Population Trends

Barnstable has an age profile that points to diverse recreational needs. Roughly 25% of residents are aged 65 or older, which is higher than the statewide average. This aging

population highlights a growing demand for low-impact, age-friendly facilities, including accessible walking paths, beaches, and safe sidewalks. At the same time, around 18% of residents are under age 20, underscoring the continued importance of youth-oriented recreation such as athletic fields, playgrounds, and structured programs. Population projections suggest Barnstable’s year-round population will gradually decline to about 40,000 residents by 2050, reflecting broader regional trends of outmigration and aging demographics. These changes indicate that while the Town must continue to provide diverse recreation opportunities, future planning should also account for a shrinking and older base of year-round users.

Table 3-1: Population Projections

Year	Population
2000	47,854
2010	45,193
2020	48,916
2025	48,364
2030	47,381
2035	45,851
2040	43,942
2045	41,909
2050	40,008

Economic characteristics also influence recreation needs. The median household income is about \$97,300, but income levels vary widely. While many families have comfortable earnings, nearly 12% of households earn less than \$35,000 annually,

Source: UMass Donahue Institute

making affordability a critical consideration. Free or low-cost opportunities, such as public beaches, playgrounds, and accessible community centers, are especially important to ensure all residents, regardless of income, can participate in recreation and benefit from the town’s open spaces.

Population and Housing Density

Barnstable has a population density of 821.5 people per square mile, with development patterns that vary between suburban neighborhoods, rural coastal areas, and compact development in areas supported by infrastructure. Approximately 25% of all units in town are rentals. However, in and around Hyannis, there are higher concentrations of multi-family and renter-occupied housing, which create greater reliance on public parks, playgrounds, and walkable open spaces given limited access to private yards. In these areas, neighborhood-scale recreation facilities are especially important to provide equitable access to outdoor opportunities close to home.

By contrast, the other 75% of housing units in Barnstable are owner-occupied, and nearly four out of five homes are single-family detached structures. These lower-density neighborhoods and rural sections of town are characterized by larger tracts of open space and strong connections to regional recreation resources, including beaches, conservation lands, and trail networks. Together, Barnstable’s housing and population distribution call for a balanced approach: enhancing small-scale, walkable facilities in denser neighborhoods while protecting and stewarding the town’s larger natural landscapes for passive and regional recreation.

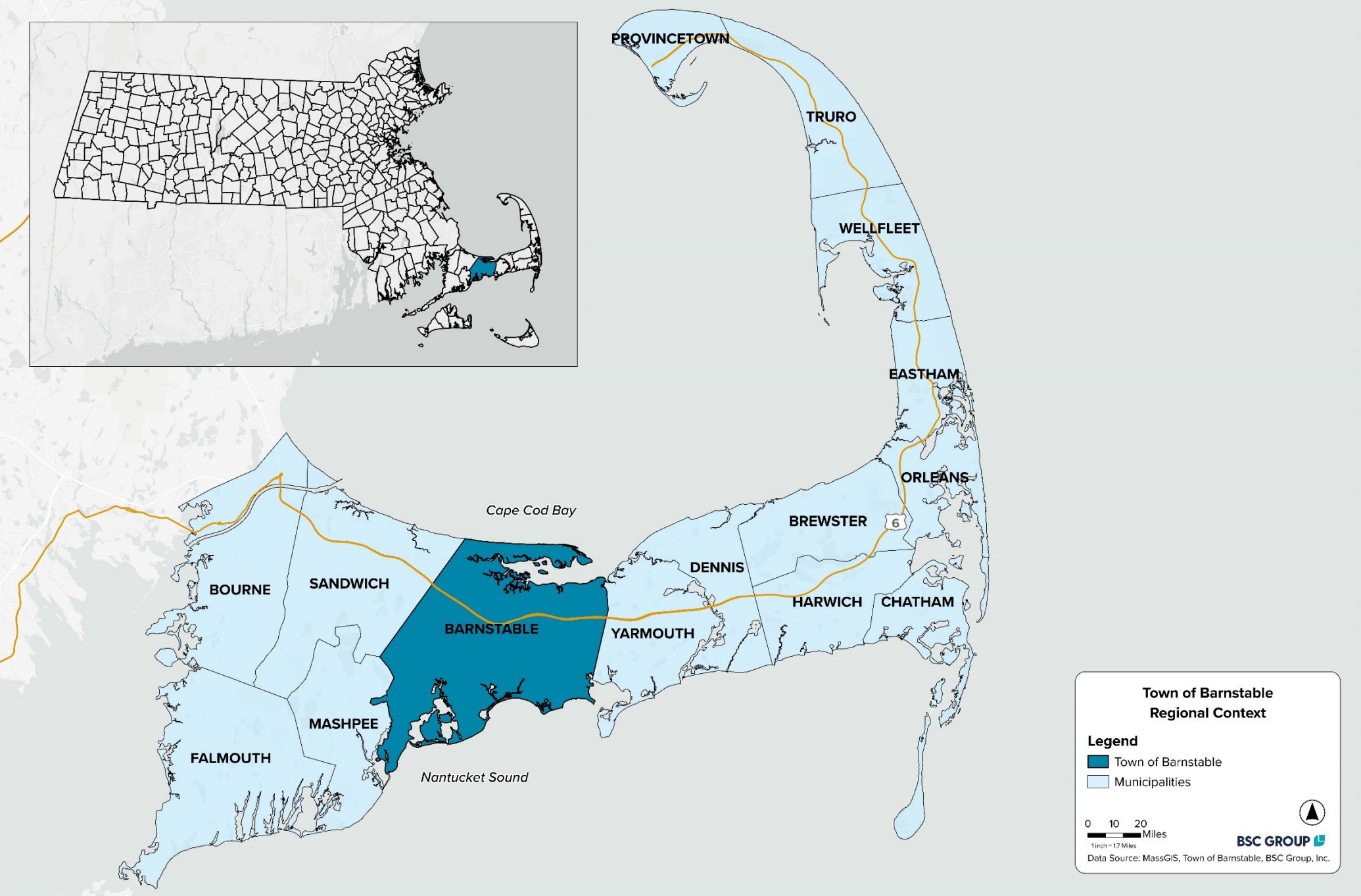


Figure 3-1: Regional Context Map

Environmental Justice Communities

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) defines Environmental Justice (EJ) as the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment regardless of race, color, national origin, income, or English language proficiency. Environmental Justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people and communities with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of energy, climate change, and environmental laws, regulations, and policies, and the equitable distribution of energy and environmental benefits and burdens.

A neighborhood within a community is defined as an EJ population if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- The annual median household income is 65% or less of the statewide annual median household income.
- Minorities comprise 40% or more of the population.
- 25% or more of households lack English language proficiency.
- Minorities comprise 25% or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150% of the statewide annual median household income.

In Barnstable, 12 of the 38 block groups (31.6%) meet EJ criteria, with nearly one-third of residents (32.4%) living in EJ neighborhoods. Concentrated mainly in Hyannis, they are designated as Minority, Minority and Income, Minority and English Isolation, or Minority, Income, and English Isolation. Barnstable's population of children under 18 comprises 17% overall but has higher shares in EJ areas, while seniors make up 25% townwide, yet are less concentrated in these neighborhoods. This contrast highlights the need for more youth-focused recreation in EJ areas and senior-friendly facilities community-wide.

Although Barnstable is about 85% White, EJ neighborhoods have higher proportions of Black, Hispanic/Latino, and multiracial residents, reinforcing the need for inclusive programming and outreach. The town's median household income is about \$92,000, but EJ areas fall well below this, with poverty levels above the townwide rate of 9%. Language isolation is also more common in EJ neighborhoods than the 7 to 8% townwide average, underscoring the importance of multilingual communication. Roughly 24% of households are renters, and they are disproportionately in EJ areas, where limited private yard space increases reliance on public parks and playgrounds.

EJ populations also face greater health risks such as asthma and cardiovascular disease. Parks, shaded green spaces, and safe pedestrian routes can address these vulnerabilities while supporting climate resilience in denser neighborhoods. Equitable investment in affordable, accessible recreation, particularly in Hyannis, is essential to ensure all residents, regardless of income, race, or language, benefit from Barnstable's open space and recreational resources.

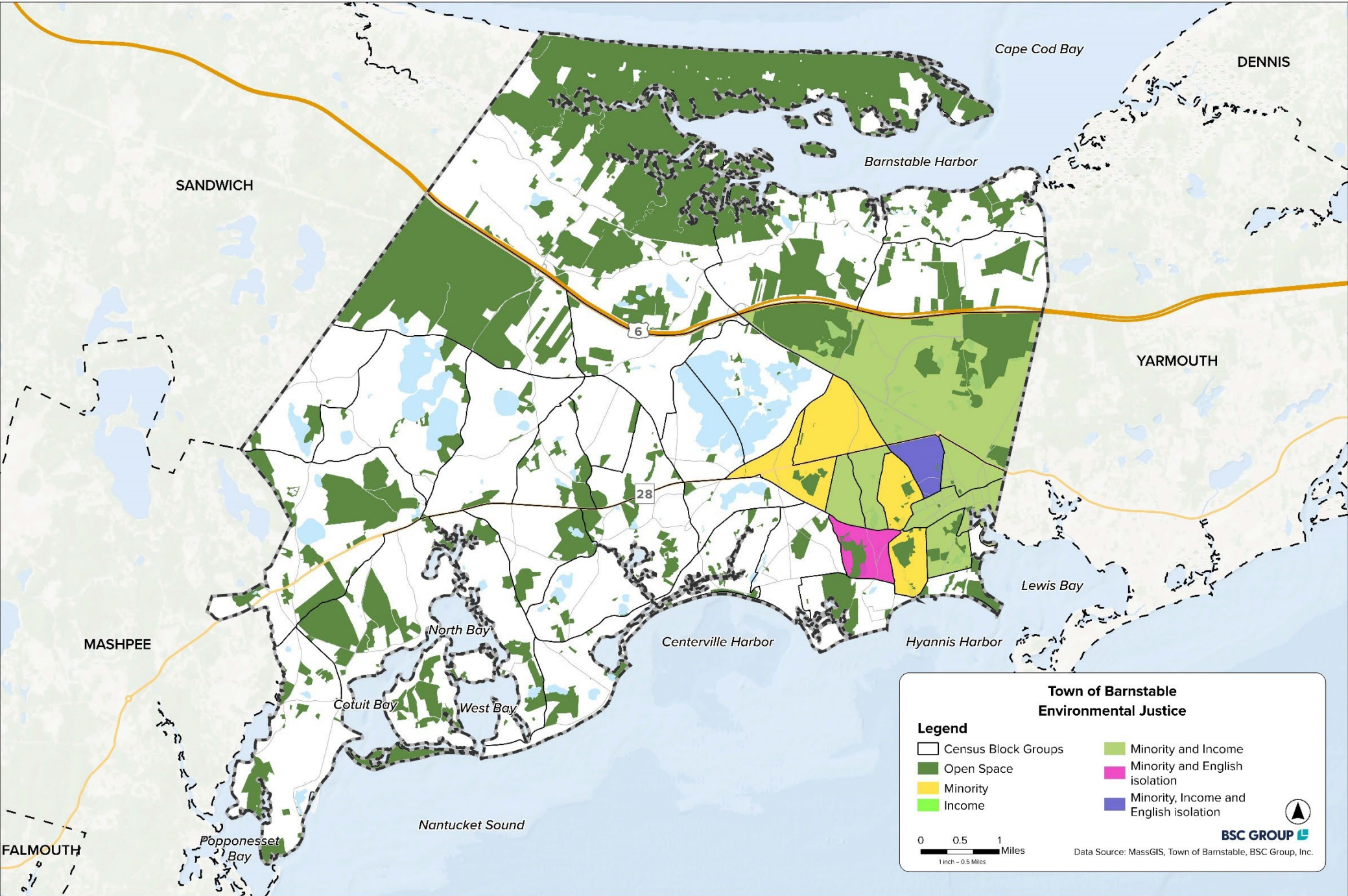


Figure 3-2: Environmental Justice Map

C. Growth & Development Patterns

The community's growth and development patterns play a critical role in shaping how residents and visitors access and enjoy the town's open spaces and recreation resources. Understanding the relationship between land use, infrastructure, and natural systems is essential to balancing development pressures with long-term resource protection and community well-being.

Open Space-Based Infrastructure

Barnstable's network of open spaces, trails, sidewalks, and water resources provides a foundation for both recreation and alternative transportation. The Town's existing infrastructure includes a system of multi-use trails and sidewalks, many of which are concentrated in the villages and near recreation assets.

There is a desire to strengthen these connections to create a continuous, community-wide network linking parks, village centers, conservation lands, and trailheads. Such a network could serve dual purposes: improving recreational opportunities while also offering safe, non-motorized routes for daily travel between the seven villages.

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities, including the Cape Cod Rail Trail extension currently under construction, and locally managed trail networks, provide key connections but remain fragmented. Strengthening links between villages through sidewalks, greenways, and dedicated bike lanes has the potential to create a transportation system that reduces reliance on automobiles while enhancing access to

recreation (see Figure 3-3: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Map for additional details).

In addition, Barnstable's extensive shoreline, ponds, and harbors represent a significant form of open space-based infrastructure. These water systems are critical for drinking water supply and ecological health, yet they also function as community recreation assets, offering opportunities for boating, fishing, and paddling. Where watershed protection lands are preserved and open to the public, they provide additional passive recreation opportunities, such as walking trails, birdwatching, and nature study.

Long-Term Development Patterns

Barnstable's growth and land use have long been shaped by its zoning framework, which designates residential, commercial, office, industrial, and open space districts across the town's seven historic villages (see Figure 3-6: Zoning Districts Map and Figure 3-7: Zoning Overlay Districts Map). While zoning has provided structure to development, ecological impacts and land use conflicts remain significant concerns. In some areas, zoning does not align with environmental protection priorities, for example, some wellhead protection zones and critical habitat areas are still designated for industrial or other high-intensity uses, placing drinking water supplies and sensitive ecosystems at risk. Likewise, low-density residential zoning has contributed to dispersed development patterns, increasing automobile dependence, fragmenting wildlife habitat, and consuming open space.

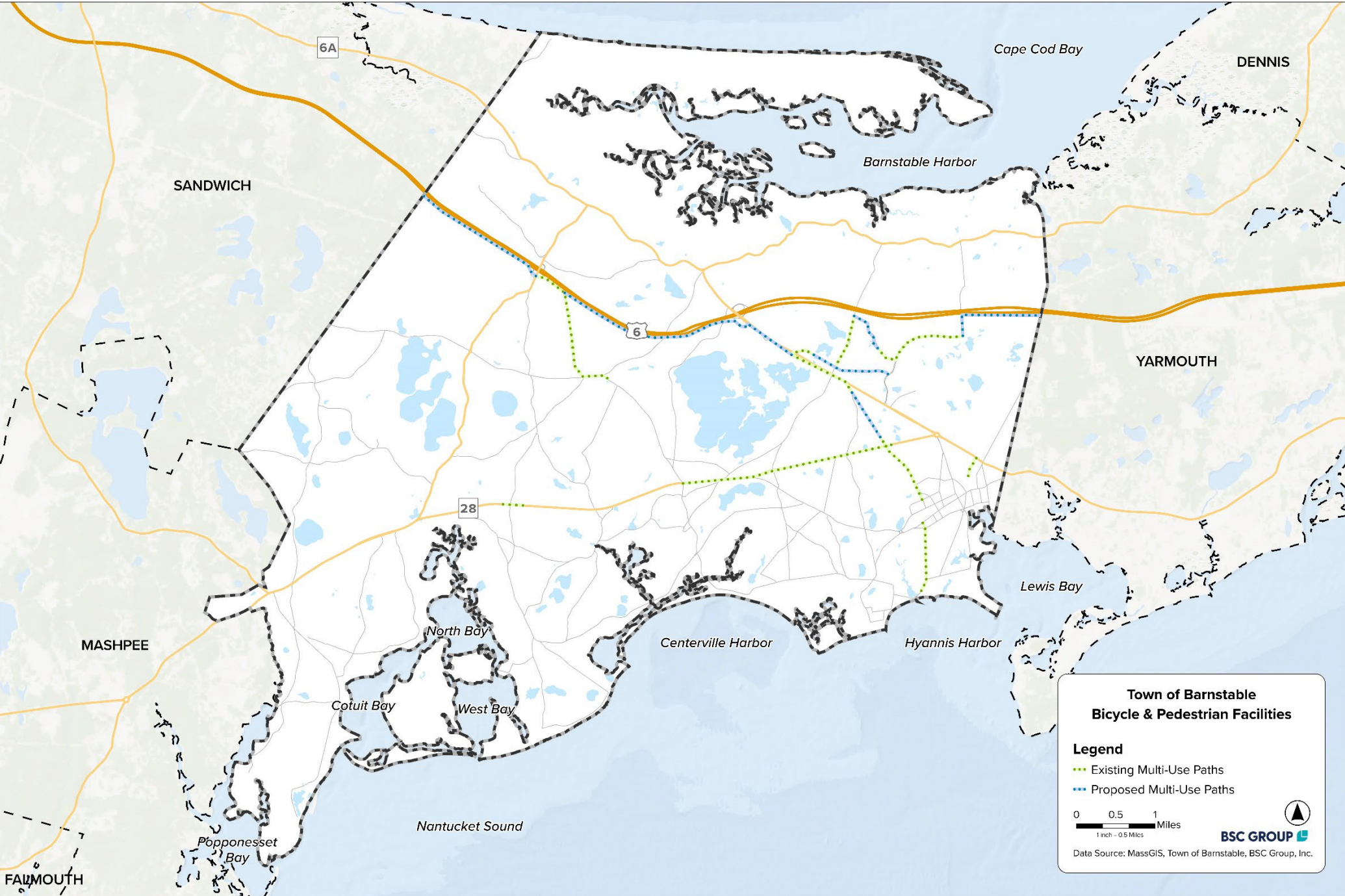


Figure 3-3: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Map

Looking ahead, Barnstable faces the ongoing challenge of balancing development pressures with the protection of its natural resources, water quality, and community character. Although the town's population is projected to decline slightly in the coming decades, demand for housing and economic activity will continue to place pressure on water resources, open space, and recreation lands. In response, the Town's long-term planning emphasizes strategically guiding growth toward areas with existing infrastructure and services, while protecting resource-sensitive lands through conservation zoning, overlay districts, and strategic land acquisition. The Downtown Hyannis Growth Incentive Zone (GIZ) is the primary area in town designated for growth, including residential, commercial and redevelopment. The intent of a Growth Incentive Zone is to encourage development in geographically defined economic centers supported by community amenities and appropriate infrastructure, and away from sensitive environmental areas.

Future development should be aligned with Complete Streets principles, integrating safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and improving connectivity between homes, shops, workplaces, and recreation areas. Investment in the public realm, including streetscapes, street trees for shade, small pocket parks, and plazas, can further support recreation and quality of life by ensuring most residents have access to open space within a 10-minute walk of their homes.

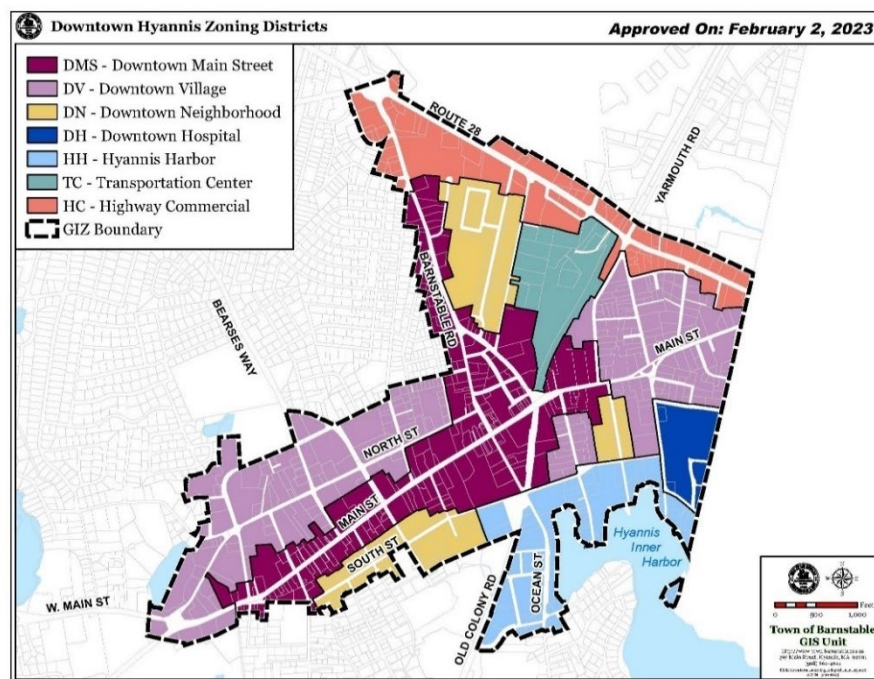


Figure 3-4: Downtown Hyannis Growth Incentive Zone

Waterfront areas present unique opportunities and challenges. As sea-level rise and coastal hazards intensify, Barnstable must balance the protection of its working harbors, public waterfront access, and coastal ecosystems with the realities of climate adaptation. Focusing new growth and redevelopment on maritime-supportive uses such as marine trades, fishing, and recreation, can sustain the town's maritime economy and heritage. At the same time, vulnerable areas should be retrofitted or elevated to withstand future flood risks, and non-resilient uses should be steered away from high-hazard coastal zones.

Outside of core growth areas, Barnstable’s approach emphasizes conservation-oriented development that preserves natural landscapes, protects water supply recharge areas, and minimizes habitat fragmentation. Techniques such as conservation subdivisions, low-impact design (LID), and nature-based stormwater management can reduce impervious cover, enhance groundwater recharge, and maintain ecological functions. Limiting the extension of roads and utilities into undeveloped areas is also critical to curbing sprawl and protecting wildlife corridors. The Town’s Resource Protection Overlay District (RPOD) was designed to protect groundwater quality, reduce nitrogen contamination, and reduce development potential to be more in line with infrastructure capacity by requiring a minimum lot size of two acres. The RPOD covers most areas of Barnstable encompassing 30,408.9 acres or 77.9% of the community.

In natural areas and water supply recharge zones, the Town prioritizes resource protection above all else. Recreation uses in these locations should be carefully designed to be compatible with conservation objectives, emphasizing passive activities such as hiking, birdwatching, and nature study that have minimal ecological impact.

Through coordinated zoning, strategic land use planning, and targeted investments in infrastructure and public spaces, Barnstable can shape a future growth pattern that supports community needs while preserving the town’s extraordinary natural and cultural assets. This integrated approach of balancing growth with conservation, resilience, and recreation access will be critical to achieving the Town’s long-term goals for open space preservation, water protection, and equitable access to outdoor resources.

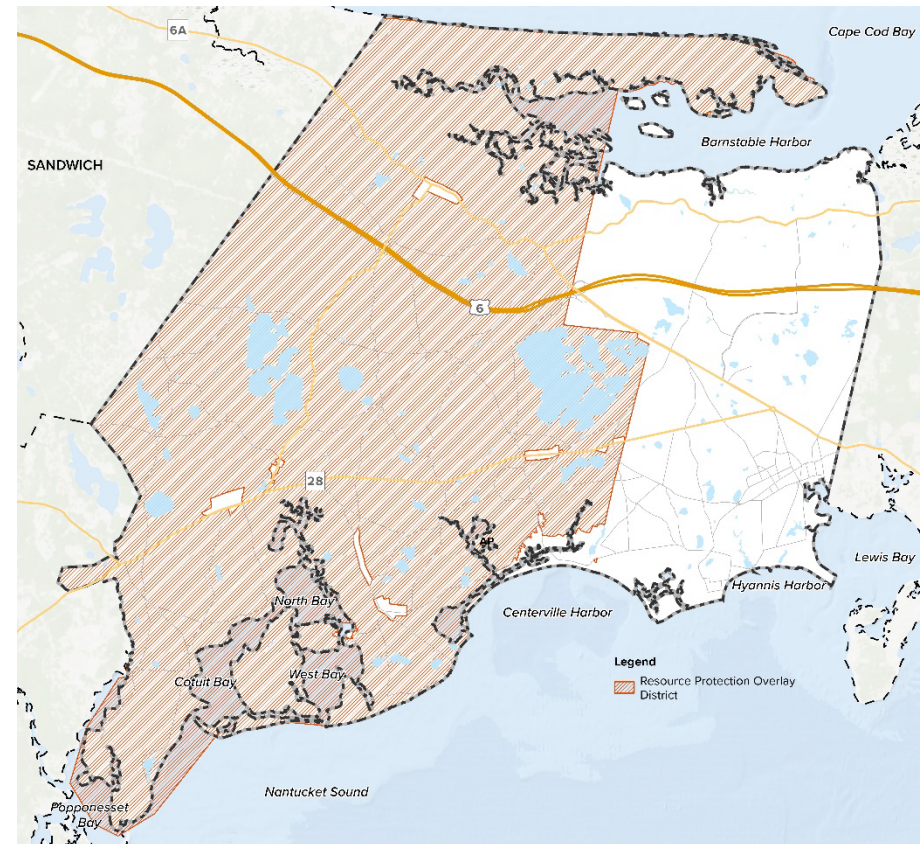


Figure 3-5: Resource Protection Overlay District

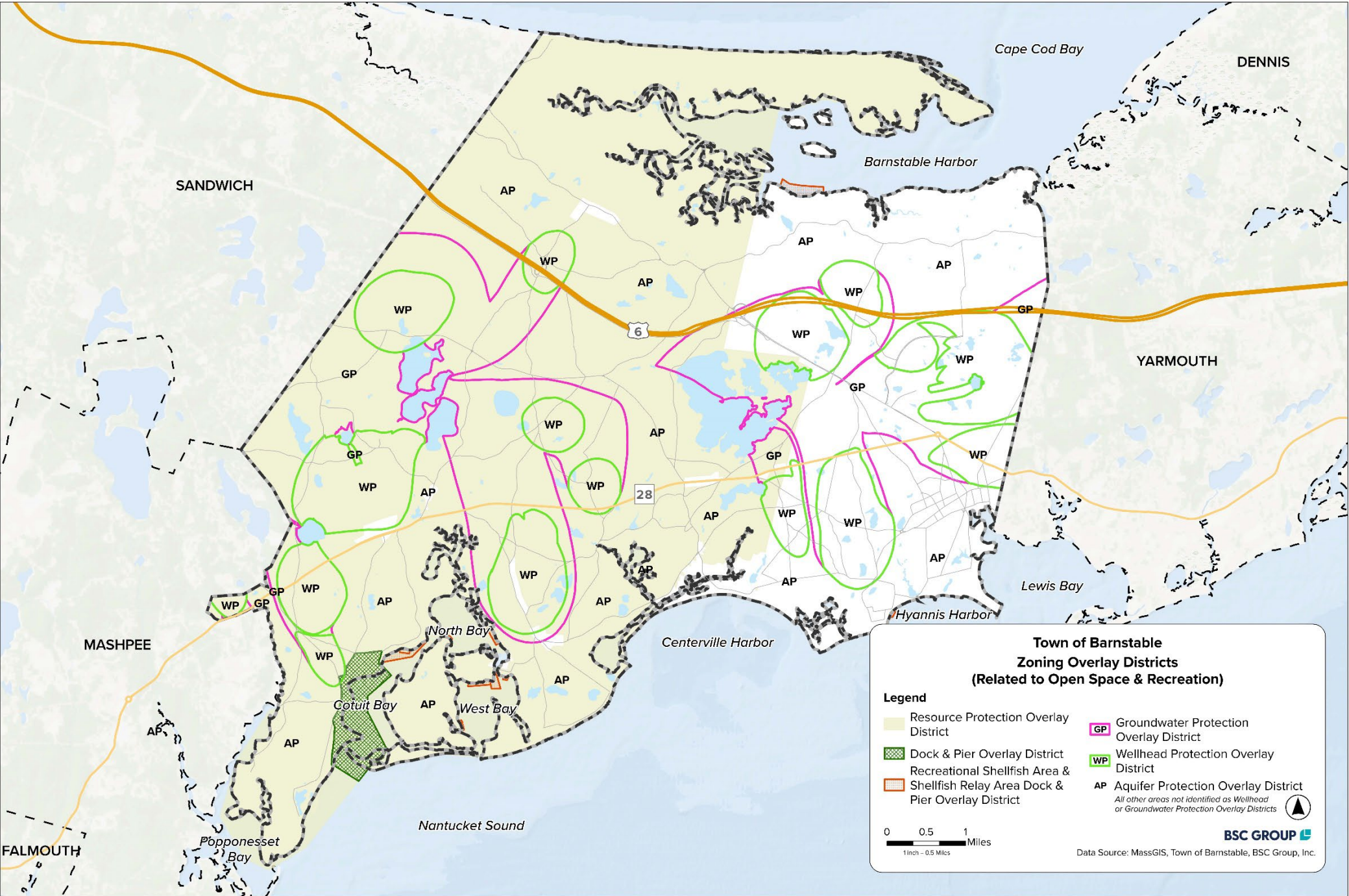


Figure 3-7: Zoning Overlay Districts Map

04 ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS



04 Environmental Inventory & Analysis

Barnstable's landscape reflects a unique balance between its coastal setting, historic village centers, and expansive natural resources. Shaped by its location on Cape Cod, the town is defined by sandy soils, pine and oak woodlands, extensive wetlands, and 170 miles of shoreline along Nantucket Sound, Cape Cod Bay, and Barnstable Harbor. These natural systems not only provide critical wildlife habitat and water resources, but also frame the town's cultural and scenic identity, from maritime heritage to agricultural landscapes. Barnstable's environmental features, ranging from barrier beaches and estuaries to kettle ponds and salt marshes, contribute to its rich ecological diversity, recreational opportunities, and coastal resilience. Together, these natural and built characteristics form the foundation for protecting open space and guiding sustainable land use in the face of development pressures and climate change.

A. Soils and Topography

The town's soils and topography reflect its glacial origins and coastal setting, shaping both ecological function and patterns of development. Barnstable is generally characterized by gently rolling terrain with localized steep slopes, kettle ponds, and low-lying wetland areas. Elevations are as high as 230 feet above sea level in the interior portions of town, gradually descending toward the extensive shoreline along Cape Cod Bay, Nantucket Sound, and Barnstable Harbor. This topographic variation influences drainage, vegetation, and suitability for both recreation and development.

Barnstable's soils are predominantly sandy and well-drained, typical of Cape Cod, which support both groundwater recharge and residential development dependent on private wells and septic systems. As can be seen in Figure 4-1: Soils Map, extensive areas of excessively and well-drained soils are found across the southern portion of town in villages such as Centerville, Osterville, and Cotuit, as well as near Route 6. These soils are highly permeable and critical for protecting the town's sole-source aquifer. While favorable for development, they also raise concerns for groundwater contamination from septic systems and fertilizer use, underscoring the importance of land protection strategies around wellhead and recharge areas.

In contrast, poorly-drained soils, including peats and mucks, occur throughout Barnstable, most notably in the north just west of Barnstable Harbor, along the low-lying coastal fringes of Lewis Bay and Centerville Harbor, and in inland depressions in Marstons Mills and Centerville. While the wetlands and marshes that form in these areas help absorb floodwaters and improve water quality, the underlying soils remain highly susceptible to flooding, nutrient loading, and habitat disturbance when altered or developed. Under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, these areas are afforded regulatory protection for their ecological services, including flood control, water supply protection, and wildlife habitat. Their presence limits intensive recreational development but provides opportunities for low-impact uses such as trails, birdwatching, and environmental education.

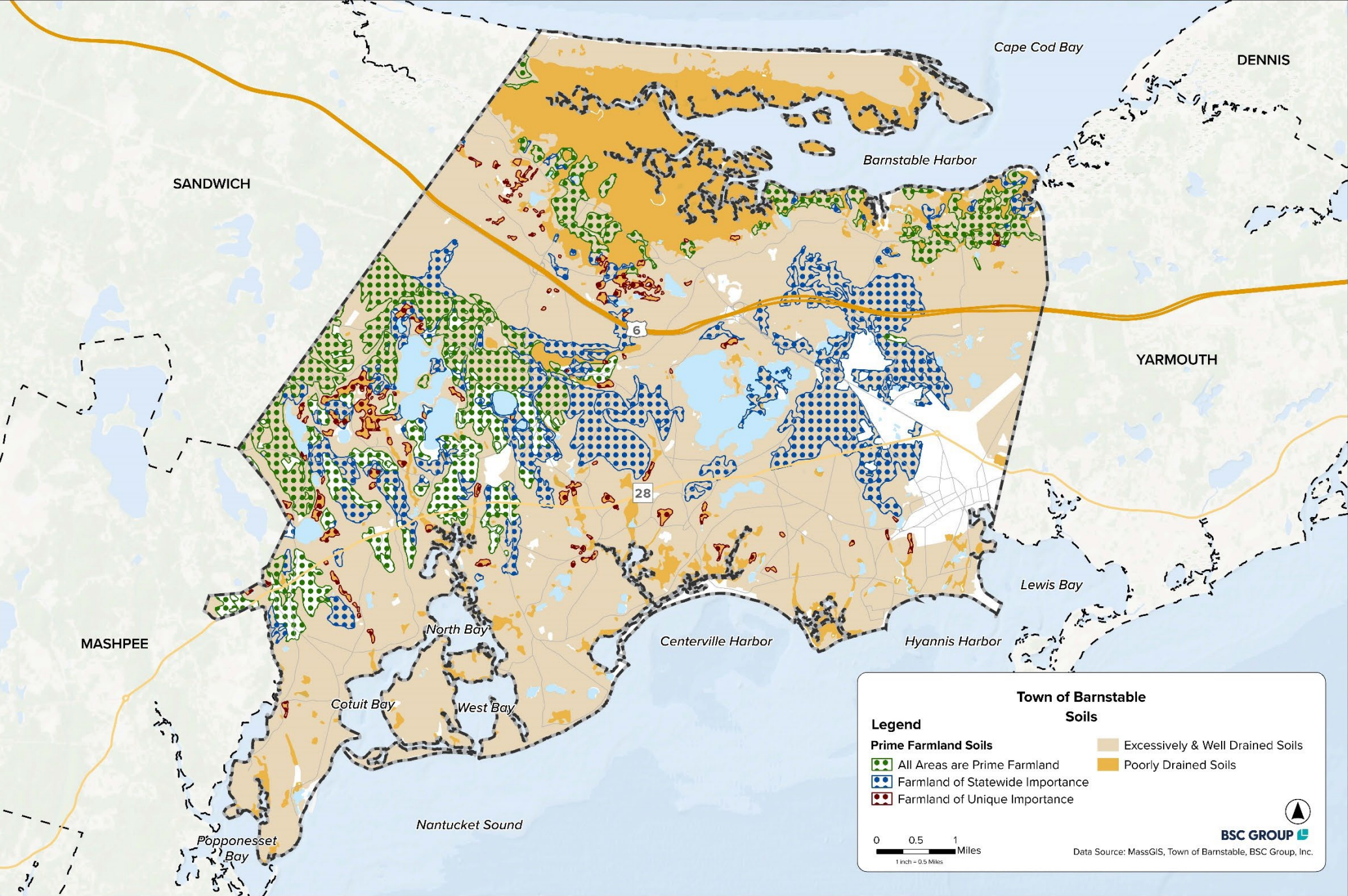


Figure 4-1: Soils Map

As noted in the 2018 OSRP, 10,482 acres of land in Barnstable are classified as prime farmland soils, as well as soils of statewide and local importance, according to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) criteria. These soil types are scattered across Barnstable, concentrated in areas such as West Barnstable, Marstons Mills, and Barnstable Village. These soils provide an important resource for sustaining agricultural activity, community gardens, and local food systems. Protecting these areas from encroaching development preserves both agricultural heritage and open space character. The distribution of prime and important farmland soils will be a key factor in prioritizing land conservation and guiding policies that balance agricultural viability with development pressures.

Together, Barnstable's soils and topography play a defining role in determining future land use, conservation priorities, and recreational opportunities. Well-drained soils highlight the need for careful management of water quality and aquifer protection; poorly-drained soils emphasize the value of wetlands and floodplain conservation; and farmland soils elevate the importance of sustaining working landscapes.

B. Water Resources

Barnstable's extensive system of water resources is central to its identity, providing ecological value, drinking water supply, and recreational opportunities. The town's bays, harbors, ponds, and wetlands support boating, fishing, shellfishing, and passive recreation, while also sustaining critical wildlife habitat.

However, water quality degradation from nutrient loading, stormwater runoff, and development pressures has created challenges that affect both ecological health and recreational uses.

Watersheds

Barnstable lies within the Cape Cod watershed system, with numerous sub-watersheds draining to major coastal embayments such as Barnstable Harbor, Cotuit Bay, and Centerville Harbor.

Figure 4-2: Water Resources Map highlights the importance of these watershed divides, as surface water flow and groundwater recharge areas dictate both ecological function and drinking water protection. The Three Bays system (Cotuit, North, and West Bays) and Hyannis Harbor are particularly vulnerable due to high nutrient loading, limiting their recreational potential.



Barnstable Harbor, Credit: Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce

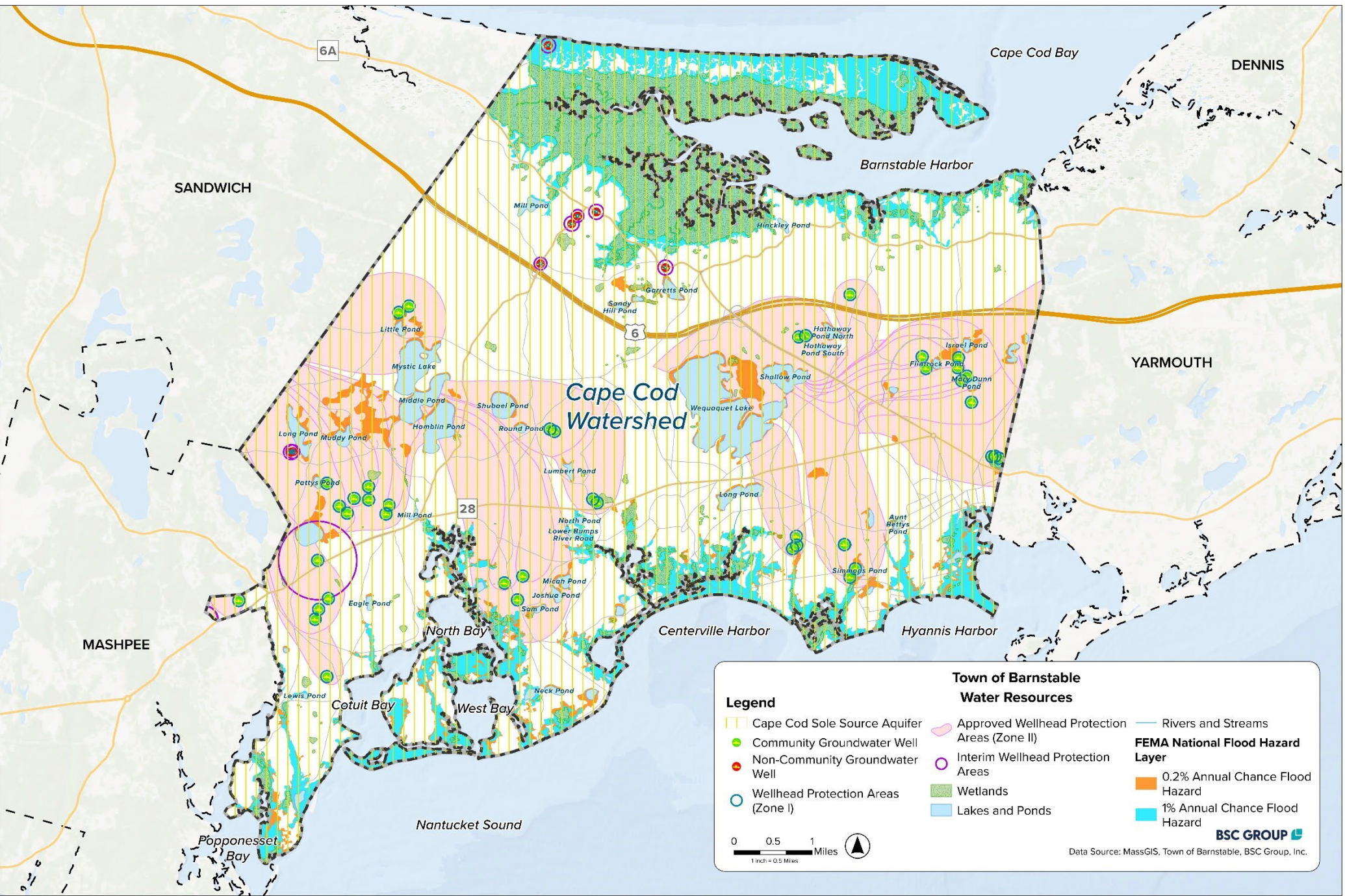


Figure 4-2: Water Resources Map

Surface Water

The town is defined by its diverse surface water resources, which include:

- Coastal waters such as Barnstable Harbor on Cape Cod Bay and Centerville, Hyannis, and Cotuit Bays along Nantucket Sound. These areas support shellfishing, swimming, boating, and scenic enjoyment, but are impaired by nitrogen enrichment from septic systems and stormwater.
- Freshwater ponds scattered throughout the town, including Wequaquet Lake, Shubael Pond, and Hathaway's Pond, which provide freshwater swimming, fishing, and passive recreation.
- Rivers and streams such as the Centerville River and Marstons Mills River that connect ponds to bays, supporting ecological corridors and limited paddling opportunities.

Many of these waterbodies are impaired by nutrient pollution, algal blooms, or invasive species, which can limit safe recreational access.

Barnstable County has partnered with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), a local non-profit environmental organization, to proactively monitor Cape Cod's ponds for cyanobacteria and, more specifically, the toxins they sometimes produce. More specifics regarding the particulars of the monitoring program and identified impacted water bodies can be found on [APCC's cyanobacteria monitoring web page](#).

Aquifer Recharge Areas

Barnstable relies solely on a groundwater aquifer for its drinking water supply. The Water Resources Map shows extensive Wellhead Protection Areas in the eastern and western portions of town, where approved and interim protection zones surround community and non-community wells. Protecting these recharge areas is vital, as they overlay sand and gravel deposits that are highly permeable and vulnerable to contamination. Land conservation in these recharge areas provides dual benefits of safeguarding public water supply while preserving open space.

Flood Hazard Areas

The FEMA National Flood Hazard layer identifies extensive 1% and 0.2% annual chance flood hazard zones along Barnstable Harbor, Cape Cod Bay, and the Nantucket Sound coastline, as well as along river corridors. With climate change driving sea level rise and increased storm intensity, these areas face growing risk. While flood-prone, these lands offer opportunities for passive parkland acquisition, providing flood storage, coastal resilience, and low-impact recreational uses such as trails, birdwatching, and scenic overlooks. The Cape Cod Commission's [Coastal Floodplain Data Viewer](#) serves as a resource for information on potential future flooding in flood hazard areas.

Wetlands

Barnstable contains extensive forested and non-forested wetlands, including salt marshes, freshwater swamps, and bogs. These wetlands are shown prominently on the Water

Resources Map in low-lying coastal and inland areas. They provide flood control, water filtration, and essential habitat for fish and wildlife. Wetlands also serve as key features of the town's open space network, offering opportunities for nature study, birdwatching, and boardwalk access (such as in Barnstable Harbor marshes). However, encroachment and hydrologic alteration threaten their ecological and recreational value.

C. Vegetation

Barnstable's vegetation reflects its coastal Cape Cod setting, encompassing extensive pine-oak forests, mixed hardwood stands, freshwater pond shore communities, salt marshes, and cranberry bog landscapes. Large areas of pitch pine and scrub oak dominate the uplands, with pockets of white pine, red oak, and hickory providing structure and scenic beauty. These woodlands protect air and water quality, reduce erosion, and frame many of the town's recreational landscapes such as trails, conservation lands, and scenic byways.¹ Coastal plain pond shores, a globally rare habitat, supports distinct grasses, wildflowers and rare plants and amphibians. Collectively, these vegetative communities contribute significantly to the town's rural character and recreational appeal.

Public Shade Trees

Public shade trees are important to Barnstable's character and quality of life. Oaks, maples, elms, lindens, and ornamental flowering species provide shade in

neighborhoods, along roadways, and in civic spaces. Trees located at village greens, cemeteries, and public commons offer both cultural and scenic value while moderating heat, improving air quality, and providing stormwater benefits. In 2023, the Town received a grant through the state's Greening the Gateway Cities Grant program to increase tree canopy by planting 1,100 trees within Environmental Justice neighborhoods, predominately within Hyannis. All properties within the defined Planting Zone are eligible for free trees. By increasing tree canopy the community will realize numerous benefits including, but not limited to, beautification of neighborhoods, schools, and public places, improved air quality, increased wildlife habitat, reduced noise, and increased shade.

Rare Species

Barnstable is home to several state and federally listed rare plants under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) associated with pond shores, wetlands, and coastal habitats. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) identifies significant Priority Habitats of Rare Species within the town, particularly around Barnstable Harbor, West Barnstable Conservation Area, Cape Cod Bay, and the Nantucket Sound. Coastal plain pond vegetation supports species such as Plymouth Gentian and Slender Marsh Pink, while salt marshes provide vital habitat for other rare plants such as Saltpond Pennywort and American Seablite. Protection of these habitats is critical to maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health.

¹ Town of Barnstable Local Comprehensive Plan 2025.
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Table 4-1: Plant Species of Conservation Concern

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Sandplain Gerardia	<i>Agalinis acuta</i>	Endangered	2019
Slender Marsh Pink	<i>Sabatia campanulata</i>	Endangered	2019
Torrey's Beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora torreyana</i>	Endangered	2019
Cespitose Prickly-Pear	<i>Opuntia cespitosa</i>	Endangered	2017
Papillose Nut Sedge	<i>Scleria pauciflora</i>	Endangered	1986
Crane-fly Orchid	<i>Tipularia discolor</i>	Endangered	1983
Maryland Meadow-beauty	<i>Rhexia mariana</i>	Endangered	1967
Heartleaf Twayblade	<i>Neottia cordata</i>	Endangered	1916
Velvet Panic-grass	<i>Dichanthelium scoparium</i>	Endangered	1903
Resupinate Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia resupinata</i>	Threatened	2021
Grass-leaved Ladies'-tresses	<i>Spiranthes vernalis</i>	Threatened	2019
Short-beaked Beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora nitens</i>	Threatened	2017
Dwarf Bulrush	<i>Lipocarpa micrantha</i>	Threatened	2012
Swamp Oats	<i>Sphenopholis pensylvanica</i>	Threatened	1988
Mitchell's Sedge	<i>Carex mitchelliana</i>	Threatened	1988
Stiff Yellow Flax	<i>Linum medium var. texanum</i>	Threatened	1983
Adder's Tongue Fern	<i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i>	Threatened	1960s
Purple Needlegrass	<i>Aristida purpurascens</i>	Threatened	1916
Pondshore Smartweed	<i>Persicaria puritanorum</i>	Special Concern	2024
Plymouth Gentian	<i>Sabatia kennedyana</i>	Special Concern	2023
Wright's Rosette-grass	<i>Dichanthelium wrightianum</i>	Special Concern	2023
New England Blazing Star	<i>Liatris novae-angliae</i>	Special Concern	2022

Table 4-1: Plant Species of Conservation Concern (Continued)

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Bristly Foxtail	<i>Setaria parviflora</i>	Special Concern	2021
Redroot	<i>Lachnanthes caroliniana</i>	Special Concern	2021
Sea-beach Knotweed	<i>Polygonum glaucum</i>	Special Concern	2021
Terete Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria teres</i>	Special Concern	2021
Long-beaked Beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora scirpoides</i>	Special Concern	2021
Philadelphia Panic-grass	<i>Panicum philadelphicum ssp. philadelphicum</i>	Special Concern	1989
Commons' Rosette-grass	<i>Dichanthelium commonsianum</i>	Special Concern	1986
Wild Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Special Concern	1934
Slender Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia subulata</i>	Special Concern	1918

Source: MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Agricultural Land

Though limited in scale compared to forest or wetland resources, Barnstable's agricultural lands, particularly active and former cranberry bogs, contribute scenic value, maintain local heritage, and provide important open space buffers. Some bogs are being restored to natural wetlands, such as the one in Marstons Mills, which enhances water quality and wildlife habitat while offering new opportunities for environmental education and passive recreation.² Farmland and open fields also link habitat areas.

² Town of Barnstable Local Comprehensive Plan 2025.

Restoration of Habitats for Biodiversity

Barnstable contains an extraordinary range of ecosystems, from coastal dunes and salt marshes to pine-oak woodlands, vernal pools, and freshwater ponds, all of which provide vital habitat for a diversity of species. Efforts to restore and manage these habitats are central to maintaining the town's ecological integrity and resilience in the face of climate change. Restoration initiatives have included controlled burns for grassland regeneration, removal of invasive and dead vegetation, and reestablishment of native plant communities to improve wildlife habitat and reduce wildfire risk. The Conservation Division maintains over 30 acres of open fields at Seabury Farms, West Barnstable, and Bridge Creek Conservation Areas for wildlife habitat and fire management, while prescribed burns at sites such as

Crocker Neck and Old Jail Lane have improved ecological diversity and reduced fuel loads. These measures not only sustain native grasslands and pollinator habitats, but also help protect rare and endangered species that rely on early successional landscapes.

In addition to upland restoration, the Town has prioritized the rehabilitation of aquatic and wetland environments, recognizing their importance for both biodiversity and climate adaptation. Projects such as cranberry bog restoration and the Great Marsh salt marsh revitalization improve water quality, enhance natural filtration, and restore hydrological function while creating habitat for migratory birds, amphibians, and fish. The Natural Resources Division and partner organizations, including Mass Audubon and the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition, have also undertaken herring run restorations through culvert replacements and fish ladder improvements, reconnecting critical aquatic corridors. These habitat restoration projects reflect Barnstable's holistic approach to biodiversity conservation: blending ecological management, land acquisition, and stewardship practices to promote resilient, interconnected natural systems that support both wildlife and community well-being.

Wetland Vegetation

Wetland vegetation, including salt marsh grasses, Atlantic white cedar swamps, and red maple wetlands, form some of Barnstable's most valuable ecological systems. These

habitats buffer storm surges, filter pollutants, and provide breeding grounds for fish and waterfowl. They are also highly valued for recreation, offering opportunities for birdwatching, nature study, hunting, and scenic enjoyment. The town's 14,000+ acres of wetlands (marsh, pond/lake, beach, and wooded wetlands) are critical for maintaining ecosystem services and climate resilience.³

BioMap Information

According to BioMap (2023), Barnstable contains 11,880.8 acres of Core Habitat areas, including pond shores, salt marshes, and barrier beaches critical for rare species persistence. The town also lies within large Critical Natural Landscapes that enhance ecological connectivity across Cape Cod. These areas are essential for sustaining biodiversity, adapting to sea-level rise, and maintaining recreational and scenic landscapes. Local BioMap components highlight freshwater ponds such as Wequaquet Lake and Mystic Lake, as well as coastal resources such as Barnstable Harbor and the Three Bays system, as key conservation priorities. Table 4-2 defines data for BioMap Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape, as well as Local and Regional Components of the region's unique biodiversity extracted from the "at-a-glance" BioMap report for Barnstable (44,329 acres) which can be found at: www.mass.gov/infodetails/biomap-town-report-barnstable. For a visual reference of BioMap Core Habitat and Natural Landscape areas in Barnstable, please see Figure 4-3:

³ Town of Barnstable Local Comprehensive Plan 2025.

Natural Resources Map.

Table 4-2: BioMap Town Report

BioMap Area	% of Barnstable Covered	% Protected
BioMap Core Habitat	26.8%	16.3%
BioMap Critical Natural Landscape	32.4%	13.2%
BioMap Local Components	10.4%	8.1%
BioMap Regional Components	9.2%	3.8%

Local Components are additions to Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape assessed from the perspective of each city and town to inform municipalities and others when making local decisions. Local Components include Local Landscapes, Local Wetland and Local Wetland Buffer, Local Rare Species, Local Aquatic Habitat and Local Aquatic Habitat Buffer, and Local Vernal Pools.

Regional Components are additions to BioMap that are of particular importance for conservation from the perspective of the Northeastern United States. Regional Connectivity shows areas that are particularly important for maintaining sub-continental connections among habitats, which will support the shifting ranges of native species. Regional Rare Species areas identify habitats within the state that support highly vulnerable and imperiled species which are at high risk regionally, nationally, or globally due to factors such as restricted ranges, few populations or occurrences, history of decline, and high threat levels.

D. Fisheries and Wildlife

Barnstable's extensive coastline, freshwater ponds, estuaries, and conservation lands support an exceptionally diverse array of fish and wildlife resources. These natural communities are central to the town's character, providing residents and visitors with opportunities for recreation and appreciation of the region's unique biodiversity.

Inventory

The town supports a wide range of species due to its mix of habitats, salt marshes, dunes, freshwater wetlands, ponds, upland forests, and extensive coastal waters. Mammals commonly include white-tailed deer, coyote, red fox, raccoon, and rabbit. Aquatic and semi-aquatic species such as river otter and muskrat are also present in the town's wetlands and ponds. Birds are especially abundant, with coastal shorebirds such as piping plover and least tern nesting along sandy beaches, and osprey which have returned in greater numbers due to conservation efforts. Waterfowl such as black duck, bufflehead, and Canada goose use the town's estuaries and ponds, and songbirds thrive in upland and forested habitats.

Reptiles in Barnstable include painted turtle, snapping turtle, and spotted turtle, along with amphibians such as spring peeper, green frog, and spotted salamander. Vernal pools across the town provide critical breeding habitat for amphibian populations. Fisheries resources are also abundant both inland and along Barnstable's coasts. Freshwater ponds support bass, pickerel, sunfish, and trout. Marine waters host commercially and recreationally important species such as bluefish, striped bass, shellfish, and horseshoe crab.⁴

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors in Barnstable link core habitats and provide pathways for species movement across the landscape. These corridors are most prominent along rivers and streams such as the Marstons Mills River and Santuit River, as well as along the shores of Barnstable Harbor, the Three Bays system, and Centerville River. Large blocks of protected open space, including the West Barnstable Conservation Area, Bridge Creek Conservation Area, and Crocker Neck Conservation Area, anchor many of these corridors.

According to Figure 4-3: Natural Resources Map, BioMap Core Habitats and Critical Natural Landscapes are concentrated in north Barnstable (around Barnstable Harbor), south Barnstable's Three Bays estuaries, and Cotuit Bay. NHESP-identified potential and certified vernal pools further strengthen connectivity by supporting amphibians and reptiles. Maintaining these corridors is essential not only for wildlife survival, but also for guiding open space acquisitions

and siting new recreational facilities so as not to fragment critical habitats.



Barnstable Harbor Marshes, Credit: Anna Braswell

⁴ Town of Barnstable Open Space and Recreation Plan 2018.
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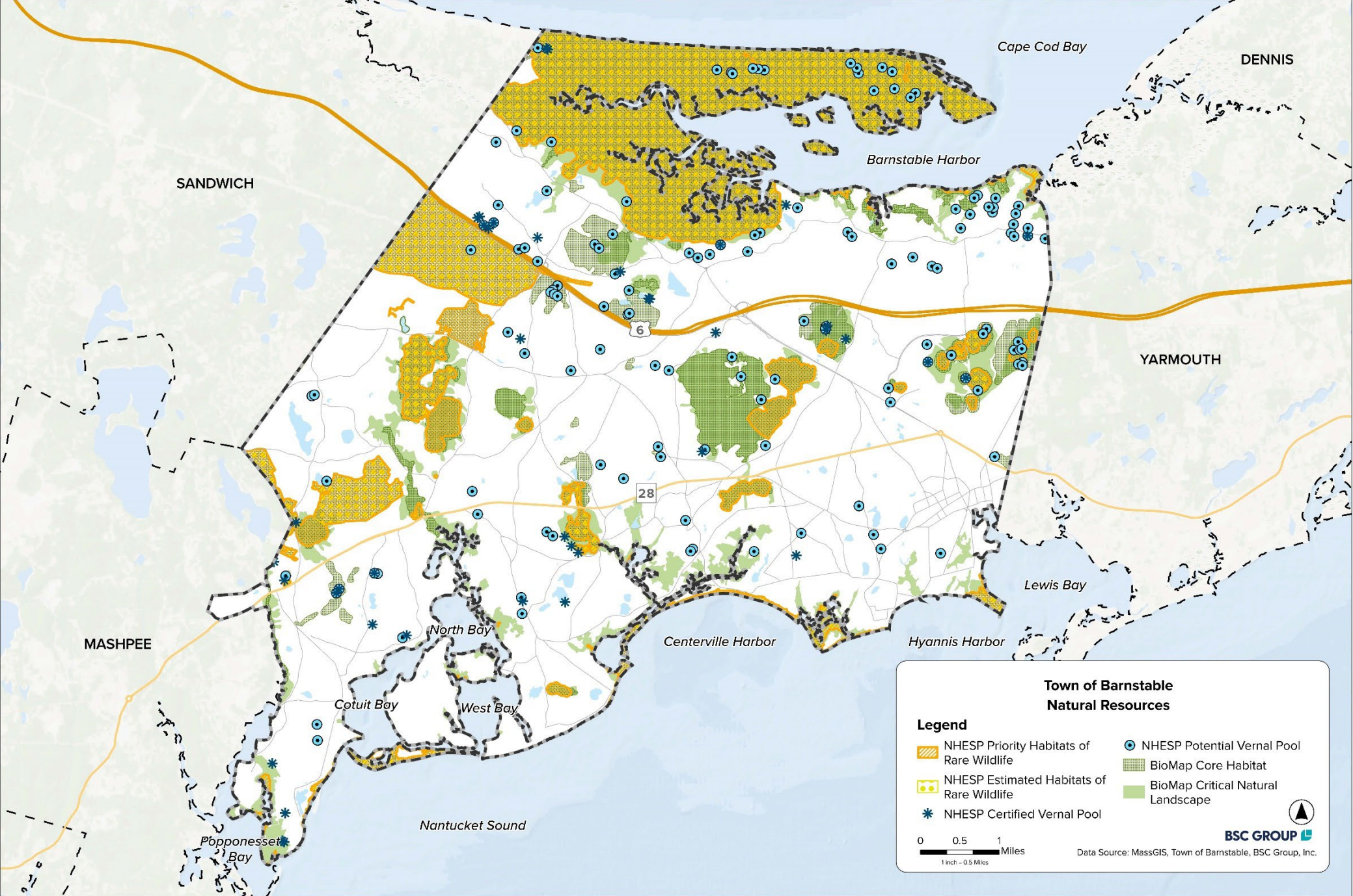


Figure 4-3: Natural Resources Map

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

Barnstable is also home to several state- and federally-listed species under MESA. Piping Plover (threatened) and Least Tern (special concern) nest on the town's barrier beaches. Roseate Tern, federally endangered, is also known in the region. Eastern Box Turtle are of special concern.⁵ Vernal pools provide habitat for marbled salamander and other obligate species. Rare moths and freshwater mussels (e.g. the Tidewater Mucket) have also been recorded in Barnstable. Please see Table 4-3: Fish & Wildlife Species of Conservation Concern for a complete species and status listing.

Protecting these species requires careful management of recreation access, particularly on barrier beaches, dunes, and marshes, where seasonal restrictions (such as beach closures for plover nesting) have already proven effective.

E. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

The Town of Barnstable is defined by a remarkable collection of scenic resources and unique environments that shape its community character, enhance recreational opportunities, and distinguish it from neighboring Cape Cod towns. These landscapes, ranging from historic scenic byways to ecologically significant coastal environments, are central to the town's identity as both a year-round community and a seasonal destination. For reference to these various scenic resources and unique environments within Barnstable, please see Figure 4-4: Unique Features

Map.

Scenic Landscapes

Barnstable's scenic landscapes are a defining element of its open space network. The town features a diversity of visual experiences: panoramic views across Cape Cod Bay from Sandy Neck and Barnstable Harbor; sweeping coastal meadows and salt marshes in West Barnstable and Cotuit; and the rolling inland terrain of Marstons Mills and Centerville. Scenic roads, including Route 6A (Old King's Highway), contribute significantly to Barnstable's charm. This nationally recognized byway is lined with historic homes, mature trees, stone walls, and views of open fields and harbors. Additional scenic roads include Craigville Beach Road, Main Street in Cotuit, and Route 149 in West Barnstable. Collectively, these resources provide valued opportunities for passive recreation such as walking, bicycling, and scenic driving, while reinforcing the community's rural and maritime character.

Geologic Features and Natural Landforms

While Barnstable's topography is less dramatic than that of inland Massachusetts communities, it contains notable geologic features created by glacial activity. Low hills such as Scorton Hill, Shootflying Hill, and Clay Hill rise above surrounding wetlands and forests, offering subtle relief and vantage points. Sandy Neck, a six-mile-long barrier beach and dune system, is one of the most distinctive landforms on

⁵ Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Rare Species Viewer.
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Cape Cod. It provides dramatic vistas, critical wildlife habitat, and extensive opportunities for recreation including hiking, beachcombing, and off-road vehicle use. Cranberry bogs, both active and retired, also contribute to the town's scenic and cultural landscape, providing open vistas, seasonal color, and opportunities for environmental education.

Cultural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources

Barnstable's scenic and cultural environments are deeply intertwined. The town contains two local historic districts and multiple National Register properties, particularly along Route 6A, each with unique architecture and landscapes. Historic cemeteries, colonial-era homes, and maritime landmarks such as Hyannis Harbor and Osterville's Grand Island evoke Barnstable's layered history as a governmental center, maritime hub, and resort community. Archaeological evidence also documents Indigenous habitation for over 10,000 years, reinforcing the importance of protecting landscapes that hold cultural as well as natural value.⁶ These historic and cultural resources enrich recreational experiences, from heritage tourism to village walking tours, while reinforcing Barnstable's distinctive identity.



First Responder Drill at Sandy Neck, Credit: Town of Barnstable Marine & Environmental Affairs

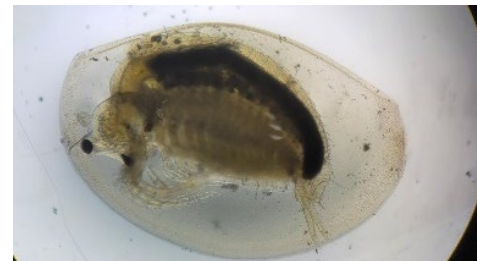
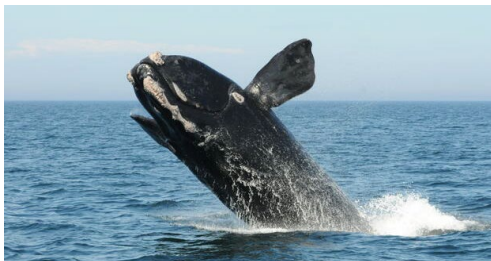


Hyannis Harbor, Credit: Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

⁶ Town of Barnstable Open Space and Recreation Plan 2018.
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Table 4-3: Fish & Wildlife Species of Conservation Concern

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Threatened	2024
Scarlet Bluet	<i>Enallagma pictum</i>	Threatened	2021
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Threatened	2020
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin	<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i>	Threatened	2020
Eastern Spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	Threatened	2020
Water-willow Stem Borer	<i>Papaipema sulphurata</i>	Threatened	2015
Pine Barrens Bluet	<i>Enallagma recurvatum</i>	Threatened	2009
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Threatened	1993
Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>	Threatened	1989
Chain Fern Borer	<i>Papaipema stenocelis</i>	Threatened	1950
Mustard White	<i>Pieris oleracea</i>	Threatened	1949
Northern Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Endangered	2018
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Endangered	2012
North Atlantic Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Endangered	2010
Agassiz's Clam Shrimp	<i>Eulimnadia agassizii</i>	Endangered	2009



North Atlantic Right Whale by New England Aquarium-Canadian Whale Institute (left), **Northern Long-eared Bat** by Ryan Hodnett (left center), **Bald Eagle** by Bill Byrne (right center), **Agassiz's Clam Shrimp** by Steve Johnson (right center)

Source: MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Table 4-3: Fish & Wildlife Species of Conservation Concern (Continued)

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	Special Concern	2024
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Special Concern	2021
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Special Concern	2020
Purple Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela purpurea</i>	Special Concern	2018
Bridle Shiner	<i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>	Special Concern	2017
Frosted Elfin	<i>Callophrys irus</i>	Special Concern	2012
Eastern Pondmussel	<i>Ligumia nasuta</i>	Special Concern	2010
Tidewater Mucket	<i>Leptodea ochracea</i>	Special Concern	2011
Buck Moth	<i>Hemileuca maia</i>	Special Concern	1994
Coastal Heathland Cutworm	<i>Abagrotis benjamini</i>	Special Concern	1982
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Special Concern	1978
Pine Barrens Macaria	<i>Macaria exonerata</i>	Special Concern	1968
Chain Dot Geometer	<i>Cingilia catenaria</i>	Special Concern	1954
Pine Barrens Zale	<i>Zale lunifera</i>	Special Concern	1951
Tule Bluet	<i>Enallagma carunculatum</i>	Special Concern	1941
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Special Concern	1901



Common Tern by Bill Byrne (left), **Eastern Box Turtle** by L.L. Willey (left center), **Buck Moth** by M.W. Nelson (right center), **Long-eared Owl** by Ben Keen (right)

Source: MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
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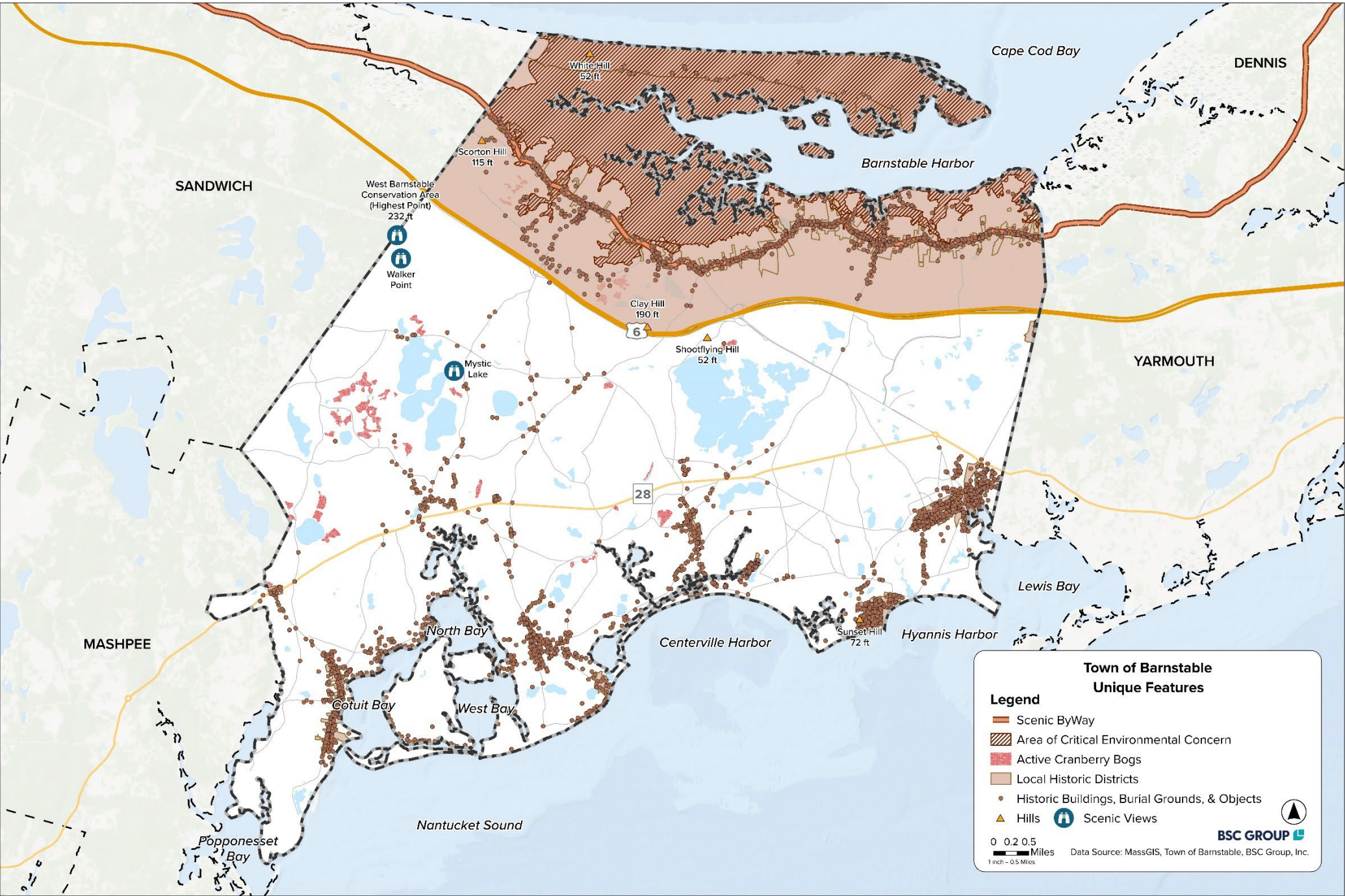


Figure 4-4: Unique Features Map

Unique Environments and Critical Natural Areas

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) are places in Massachusetts that receive special recognition because of the quality, uniqueness, and significance of their natural and cultural resources. These areas are identified and nominated at the community level, and are reviewed and designated by the state's EEA Secretary. ACEC designation creates a framework for local and regional stewardship of these critical resource areas and ecosystems. ACEC designation also requires stricter environmental review of certain kinds of proposed development under state jurisdiction within the ACEC boundaries. To reference the locations of these ACECs within Barnstable, please see Figure 4-4: Unique Features Map.

Barnstable is home to some of the Cape's most significant ecological environments. The Sandy Neck/Barnstable Harbor ACEC protects a mosaic of barrier dunes, tidal flats, salt marshes, and shellfish beds that are essential for rare species habitat, storm buffering, and recreation. The Three Bays estuarine system (Cotuit, North Bay, and West Bay), Centerville River, and Lewis Bay support diverse ecosystems while providing popular venues for boating, shellfishing, and birdwatching. State Natural Heritage mapping identifies multiple Priority Habitats for rare species, underscoring the ecological value of these lands.⁷ Barnstable's freshwater ponds and kettlehole wetlands also offer unique ecological and recreational opportunities, from paddling and fishing to wildlife viewing.

⁷ Town of Barnstable Open Space and Recreation Plan 2018.
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F. Climate Change Impacts

The Town of Barnstable is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to its location on Cape Cod, extensive coastline, and reliance on sensitive natural systems. Open space and recreation resources in Barnstable provide critical ecosystem services, recreational opportunities, and social benefits, but these are increasingly threatened by sea level rise, intensifying storms, extreme heat, and shifting ecological conditions. Protecting, enhancing, and strategically managing these resources will be essential for the Town's resilience.

Coastal and Flooding Risks

Barnstable's 170 miles of coastline make it particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surge, and coastal erosion. The Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan highlights significant risks to harbor facilities, beaches, and low-lying neighborhoods that support recreation and access to the coast.⁸ Areas mapped as "least resilient" in Figure 4-6: Climate Change Map overlap with coastal open spaces and tidal habitats, underscoring the need to prioritize land protection and restoration that enhance natural buffers. Salt marshes, barrier beaches, and dunes protect infrastructure while supporting recreational and wildlife habitat.

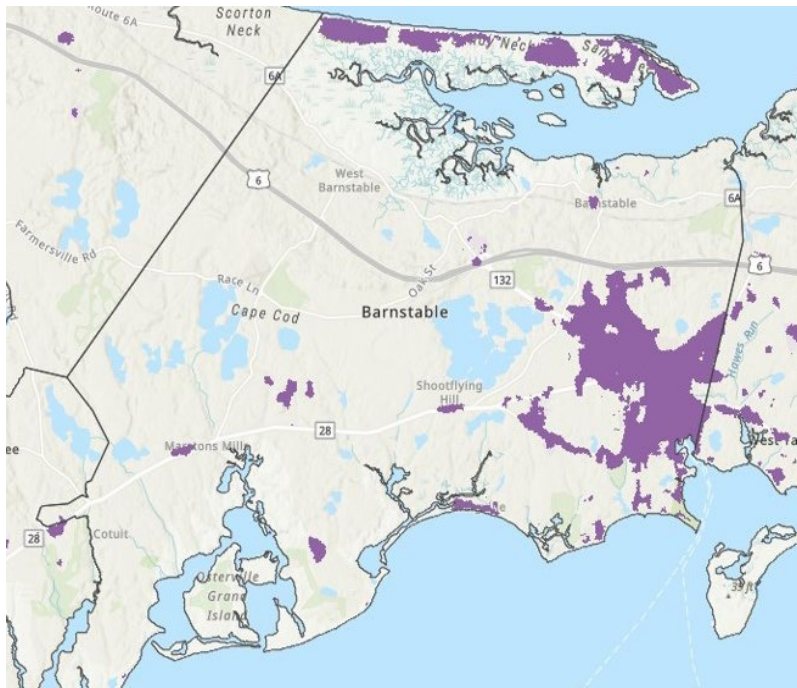
Inland and Heat Impacts

Climate projections show rising average temperatures and more frequent extreme heat events. Barnstable's Municipal

⁸ Town of Barnstable Local Comprehensive Plan 2025.

Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) planning process identified heat stress, particularly in densely developed Hyannis and other Barnstable Environmental Justice neighborhoods, as a major concern. Impervious surfaces and limited tree canopy create “heat islands” that reduce livability and recreational comfort. The Massachusetts EOEEA Land Surface Temperature (LST) Index highlights hot spots in downtown Hyannis and other developed areas are strong candidates for new or improved parks with shade trees, splash pads, and other cooling features.

Figure 4-5: Hot Spots (Land Surface Temperature)



Source: MassEOEEA Statewide Land Surface Temperature (LST) Index

MVP Planning Process

In 2019, Barnstable completed its first MVP Planning process, which resulted in an Action Plan organized under three categories: infrastructure, societal, and environmental. Several recommendations are directly related to open space and recreation:

- Environmental: Expand land conservation and wetland protection to improve flood storage and habitat resilience. Prioritize acquisitions in migration corridors for tidal wetlands and resilient lands identified by The Nature Conservancy’s Resilient Lands Mapping Tool.
- Societal: Increase shaded recreational spaces and enhance tree planting programs, particularly in EJ neighborhoods, to address extreme heat and health disparities.
- Infrastructure: Integrate green infrastructure such as rain gardens and bioswales into existing and future parks to reduce localized flooding while enhancing recreational landscapes.⁹

Land Protection and Climate-Resilient Open Space

Land protection and strategic park development are among Barnstable’s most powerful tools for climate resilience. The Nature Conservancy’s Resilient Lands Mapping Tool shows Barnstable contains large areas of “most resilient” and “more resilient” lands, particularly in Sandy Neck, West Barnstable, and around Barnstable Harbor (see Figure 4-5: Climate

⁹ Town of Barnstable Local Comprehensive Plan 2025.
04 Environmental Inventory & Analysis

Change Map). Protecting these areas ensures biodiversity, habitat migration, and continued ecosystem services. Conversely, “least resilient” lands, often low-lying developed

areas, require different strategies, such as managed retreat or redevelopment into green infrastructure.



West Barnstable Great Marsh, Credit: Daniel Piraino

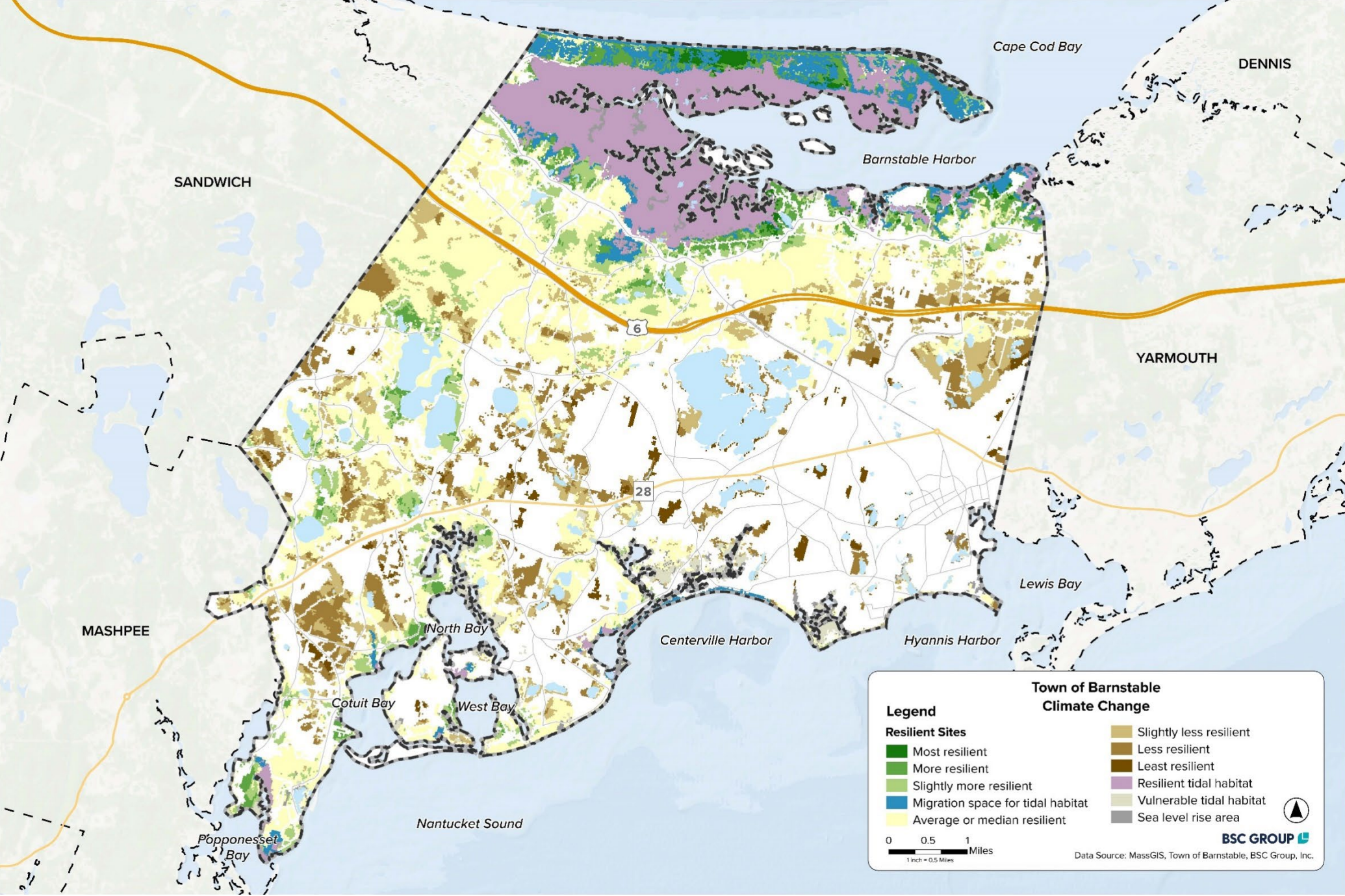


Figure 4-6: Climate Change Map

05 CONSERVATION & RECREATION LAND INVENTORY

05 Conservation & Recreation Land Inventory

Importance of Protecting Open Space



Veterans Park Beach, Credit: BSC Group

Open space protection is an important and multi-faceted community planning goal in Barnstable. Protecting open space enhances community character by preserving scenic views, landscapes, and vistas. It also provides opportunities for both passive and active recreation, such as trails, parks, and fields.

Beyond community character and recreation, open space serves critical ecological functions. These include groundwater recharge, stormwater management, pollution attenuation, erosion control, and habitat for diverse species. If lost or degraded, these functions would be difficult and costly to replicate.

By providing these natural services, protected open space can reduce the need for expensive infrastructure

improvements. Open space protection also limits development in sensitive resource areas, helping avoid environmental impacts. It also plays an important role in offsetting climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, particularly in forests and salt marshes.

The Trust for Public Land's analysis in *Parks Investment and Economic Vitality* reveals that operations and capital spending by public park agencies across the United States generated over \$201 billion in economic activity, supported approximately 1.1 million jobs, and boosted \$63 billion in labor income in a single year (2021). According to a 2023 report by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, the Cape Cod outdoor recreation economy generated over \$2.7 billion in revenue and created over 14,000 jobs. These findings highlight parks and open space not only as sources of direct public amenity value, but also as strategic assets that cities invest in to attract and retain residents, talent, and businesses, helping cultivate better quality of life and fiscal growth.

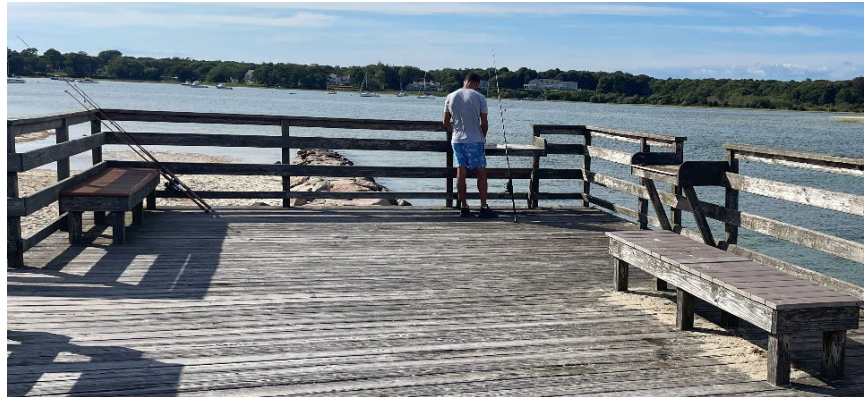
Another often-overlooked aspect of parks and open space is the role they place in public safety and community trust-building. Well-designed and well-used parks can reduce crime by increasing "eyes on the street," a concept popularized by urbanist Jane Jacobs. When parks are activated with regular foot traffic, programming, and maintenance, they become safer by design, discouraging illicit activities through natural surveillance and community presence.

Research supported by the Trust for Public Land and various academic institutions has shown investments in parks, particularly in underserved neighborhoods, are linked to reductions in violent crime. A study in Philadelphia found greening vacant lots and improving park infrastructure led to significant decreases in gun violence and vandalism in surrounding areas (Branas et al., 2018). Furthermore, accessible parks promote positive youth engagement, offering alternatives to risky behaviors and fostering a sense of belonging and shared stewardship. In this way, parks quietly but effectively serve as tools for crime prevention, trauma reduction, and community stabilization.

From Setha Low's book, *Why Public Space Matters*, "even fleeting moments of visibility and encounter in these spaces tend to foster a broader worldview and our willingness to accept difference." These experiences enhance flexible thinking, creativity and inclusiveness, and determine both social life and community identity.

Definition of Protection

According to the 2025 Open Space & Recreation Planner's Workbook, open space is conservation land, forested land, recreation land, agricultural land, and amenities such as green buffers along roadways or any other predominantly undeveloped area that is owned by an agency or organization dedicated to conservation or recreation. The term can also refer to undeveloped land with conservation or recreation potential. This includes vacant lots and brownfields that can be redeveloped into recreational areas or community green spaces.



Dowses Beach, Credit: BSC Group

Open space can be used for passive recreation, outdoor activities that require little physical exertion and cause minimal disturbance to the natural environment, providing opportunities for the quiet enjoyment of nature. Passive recreation can include walking, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, hunting, and nature study. Land can also be used for active recreation. Active recreation is defined as outdoor recreation that occurs in parks and requires significant alteration of the natural landscape to provide playground or active sports facilities or equipment, including soccer, tennis, and baseball.

The protection of open space ensures that land remains available for conservation and recreation rather than being developed for other uses. The degree of protection afforded to a parcel depends on many factors, including applicable laws and regulations, use, ownership, management, funding sources, and the circumstances for its acquisition and improvement. As a result, open space lands can have varying levels of long-term protection.

The levels of protection described in this 2025 OSRP generally adhere to the MassGIS Protected and Recreational Open Space criteria:

- **Protected:** Land that is legally protected in perpetuity, as recorded in a deed or other official document. This includes land owned by the Town's Conservation Commission and/or Water Department; land with a conservation restriction held in perpetuity; land owned by state conservation agencies (under Article 97 protection, more information can be found at this link for the state's Article 97 Natural Resource Site Evaluation Tool: <https://mass-eoeaa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fd578f40c0974a11883420ac848f0442>); land owned by non-profit land trusts; or where the Town has received federal or state assistance for purchase or improvement. Private land is also considered protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity, an Agriculture Preservation Restriction (APR), or a Conservation Restriction (CR) in place.
- **Temporary:** Land that is legally protected for a limited time (e.g. short-term conservation restriction) or temporarily protected due to its functional use. For example, some water district lands are only temporarily protected if they serve a water resource protection function.
- **Limited:** Land that is protected by legal mechanisms

other than those above or protected through functional or traditional use. This category also includes land that is likely to remain open space for other reasons, such as cemeteries.

- **None:** Land that is not protected. This land is usually privately owned and could be sold without restriction at any time for another use (e.g., scout camps, private golf courses, and private woodlands).

Land dedicated to park and recreation purposes in its deed is also protected open space.

Chapter 61 Lands

An additional opportunity for protection of open space is through the state's Chapter 61 tax program. The program provides tax breaks to landowners who commit to keeping their land undeveloped for a set period of time. There are three categories, Chapter 61 (forest), Chapter 61A (agriculture), and Chapter 61B (open space and recreation), each with specific criteria for minimum acreage and period of time for protection. If any land under Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B is intended to be converted to a non-chapter use (either sold or retained in the same ownership) while enrolled or within one fiscal year of being removed from the program, the Town has the option to match a bona fide offer to purchase the property pursuant to a defined process and associated timeline.

Table 5-1: Summary of Open Space and Recreation Land by Village (Acres)

Village	Barnstable	Centerville	Cotuit	Hyannis	Marstons Mills	Osterville	West Barnstable	Total Acreage
Protected Open Space								
Conservation Land	2,814.81	111.30	158.46	39.38	151.82	55.72	3,425.74	6,757.23
Land Bank/CPA	335.26	39.31	51.28	9.96	180.83	24.38	375.70	1,016.72
Land Trusts	374.14	68.22	408.91	8.72	85.60	193.05	277.76	1,416.39
Barnstable County	89.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	89.74
State Land	358.30	24.75	-	7.69	0.40	-	34.60	425.74
Conservation Restriction Only Town	17.26	5.17	2.00	9.87	54.29	139.72	-	228.32
Conservation Restriction Only Private	95.66	5.77	23.03	0.69	67.56	37.47	45.94	276.12
Municipal Water District	157.02	-	-	99.22	-	-	-	256.24
Non-Municipal Water Districts	207.17	67.88	247.48	8.84	390.29	66.26	166.05	1,153.97
Total Protected Acres	4,449.35	322.40	891.17	184.38	930.79	516.60	4,325.78	11,620.47
Unprotected Open Space								
Cemeteries	13.69	19.58	78.04	23.61	5.85	12.09	22.13	175.00
Town Recreation Land & Facilities	42.05	25.86	1.33	13.04	30.79	0.33	-	113.40
Beaches & Public Landings	5.23	2.13	3.09	1.12	1.35	1.48	0.94	15.34
Municipal Use	115.38	23.49	28.77	203.74	174.67	82.38	243.65	872.08
Schools	31.34	12.83	-	128.72	36.60	35.94	-	245.42
Private Open Space	113.16	6.23	-	187.95	-	149.11	9.55	466.00
Barnstable County	40.65	-	-	-	-	-	-	40.65
State Land	156.80	-	-	27.24	-	1.32	35.32	220.69
Federal Land	-	-	-	1.10	-	-	-	1.10
Total Unprotected Open Space	518.29	90.13	111.23	586.54	249.26	282.64	311.59	2,149.68

Source: Town of Barnstable Planning & Development Department and GIS Department

A. Municipally Owned Conservation & Recreation Properties

Summary of Town Owned Parks & Recreation Facilities and Conservation Areas

Barnstable's Recreation Division is responsible for the management of the following parks, playgrounds, and recreational fields:

- Barnstable Hollow Playground & Field
- Bay Lane Softball Fields
- Bay Lane Tennis Courts
- Burgess Park
- Cape Cod Collaborative Athletic Fields
- Centerville Community Building
- Centerville Recreation Building & Playground
- Cotuit Kettleers Ballfield/Lowell Park
- Cotuit Tennis Courts
- John F. Kennedy and Korean Memorial
- Lombard Field
- Lopes Field
- Luke's Love Playground
- Marstons Mills Pickleball and Tennis Courts
- McBarron Field
- McKeon Park
- Osterville Tennis Courts and Softball Field
- Ridgewood Park Playground
- Veterans Park Playground
- West Barnstable Community Building & Lombard Field

Beaches managed by the Recreation Division include:

- Craigville Beach
- Dowses Beach
- Eugenia Fortes Beach
- Hamblin's Pond Beach
- Hathaway's Pond Recreation Area

- Joshua's Pond Beach
- Kalmus Beach Park
- Keyes Beach
- Loop Beach
- Veterans Park Beach

Since the 2018 OSRP was written, the Town has utilized Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding for the acquisition and improvement of several Town managed recreation and conservation areas.

In 2018, the Town used \$700,000 in CPA funds to make improvements at Judy Walden Scarafie Field at McKeon Park.

In 2019, CPA funds (\$162,180) were used to rehabilitate the underutilized baseball field at Barnstable Hollows Playground & Field, transforming it into a multi-use green space. In 2021, the project continued with a \$125,000 funding allocation used to replace ADA-compliant playground equipment, walkways, and surfaces, as well as the installation of new seating with shade and water bottle filling stations.

In 2021, the Town approved \$816,793 in CPA funds to renovate the Centerville Recreation Playground. At the time of writing (2025), the project is under construction and will include ADA-compliant playground equipment and surfaces, as well as ADA accessibility from the parking lot. The Town also used \$522,569 in CPA funds to rehabilitate existing

tennis courts in Marstons Mills, creating 10 new pickleball courts and 2 dual-purpose courts with both tennis and pickleball lines.



Centerville Recreation Playground Rendering

Source: Town of Barnstable



Centerville Recreation Playground Under Construction

Credit: BSC Group



Marstons Mills Pickleball Courts, Credit: BSC Group

In 2023, the Town approved \$999,755 in CPA funds to create the Osterville Recreation Playground, which will replace an outdated playground with ADA-compliant playground equipment. The new playground will feature a shade structure, benches, patio, accessible surfaces and pathways, a retaining wall, landscaping, and water bottle filling station.



Osterville Recreation Playground Rendering

Source: Town of Barnstable



Future Home of Osterville Recreation Playground, Credit: BSC Group





Sandy Neck Preserve



Source: The Nature Conservancy



Barnstable's Conservation Commission is responsible for several conservation areas, the largest and most notable of which is the Sandy Neck Beach Conservation Area, part of the Sandy Neck Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Since the 2018 OSRP was written, the Town has utilized Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to place conservation restrictions on several parcels. Presently, there are no agricultural preservation restrictions in town.



Table 5-2 provides a complete list of recreation and conservation areas managed by the Town’s Recreation Division and the Conservation Commission; properties with a conservation restriction are denoted with an asterisk (*). Please note that the information in Table 5-2, Potential Improvements, was developed based on priorities outlined in the ADA Self-Evaluation and on feedback and information gathered from the community during the planning process, including open house comments, stakeholder interviews, and site visits.



Table 5-2: Municipally Owned Recreation & Conservation Properties



Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
Recreation Properties			
Barnstable Pickleball & Tennis Courts (Marstons Mills) 	Ten pickleball courts and two tennis courts	N/A	Open to all
Barnstable Hollows Playground & Field (Barnstable Village) 	Playground and picnic table	Designate accessible parking spaces, complete surface repairs, and reduce the slope of the exterior access route. Provide accessible routes connecting the playground, picnic table, and seating areas.	Open to all




Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
<p>Burgess Park (Marstons Mills)</p> 	Disc golf	<p>Enhance accessibility and install ADA-compliant swings.</p> <p>Install a volleyball court.</p> <p>Add amenities such as drinking fountains, benches, and picnic tables.</p>	Open to all
<p>Centerville Playground (Centerville)</p> 	New playground, parking lot, and field adjacent to the Centerville Recreation Building	A new playground is currently being constructed.	Open to all

Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
<p>Cotuit Kettleers Ballfield/Lowell Park (Cotuit)</p> 	<p>Ballfield, parking lot, concession stands, kitchen, and press box</p> <p><i>The Cotuit Kettleers play at the ballfield.</i></p>	<p>Provide accessible routes to dugouts, picnic tables, and sports activity.</p>	<p>Open to all</p>
<p>Cotuit Memorial Park (Cotuit)</p> 	<p>Memorial Park</p>	<p>Connect the library, waterfront, adjacent playground, and post office.</p> <p>Improve drainage and lighting.</p>	<p>Open to all</p>



Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
<p>Craigville Beach (Centerville)</p> 	<p>Changing rooms, outdoor showers, volleyball court, outdoor library/exchange box, parking lot</p>	<p>Install benches on accessible route with arms and backrest.</p> <p>Extend the beach access routes to lifeguard stations.</p>	<p>Open to all</p>
<p>Dowses Beach (Osterville)</p> 	<p>Bathhouse, wooden walkways, and nine beach routes</p>	<p>Extend the beach access routes to lifeguard stations.</p>	<p>Open to all</p>


Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
<div>Eugenia Fortes Beach (Hyannis)</div> <div></div>	Beach	N/A	Open to all
<div>Hamblin's Pond Beach (Marstons Mills)</div> <div></div>	Bathhouse, beach area, picnic table, bathrooms	Provide accessible routes to beach area and picnic table. Install shade trees.	Open to all

Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
<p>Hathaway's Pond Recreation Area & Dog Park (Hyannis)</p> 	<p>Dog park, drinking fountain, benches, and beach at the pond</p>	<p>Provide accessible route to dog waste bags and reduce cross slope at dog park entrance.</p> <p>Provide accessible routes to beach area and picnic table. Install shade trees.</p> <p>Evaluate Hathaway Pond for ropes course or adventure course area.</p>	<p>Open to all</p>
<p>John F. Kennedy, Korean War Memorials, and Veterans Park Beach (Hyannis)</p> 	<p>Souvenir shop, memorial fountain, playground with accessible swings, benches, picnic area and grills, volleyball area, and bathhouse</p>	<p>Install an accessible route around the playground and to the volleyball area.</p> <p>Evaluate as a potential site for a splash pad or for water play features.</p>	<p>Open to all</p>

Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
<p>Joshua's Pond Beach (Osterville)</p> 	Bathhouse, pond, outdoor shower, and picnic tables	Provide an accessible route to the pond and picnic tables.	Open to all
<p>Kalmus Beach Park (Hyannis)</p> 	Pavilion, snack bar, bathhouse, outdoor showers, and parking lot	Provide beach mat for an accessible route to the beach at the southeast side.	Open to all
<p>Keyes Beach (Hyannis)</p> 	Picnic area, bathhouse, volleyball area, outdoor shower	<p>Provide an accessible route to the beach and volleyball area.</p> <p>Install benches with back and arm rests.</p>	Open to all

Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
<p>Lombard Field (West Barnstable)</p>  <p>Source: Town of Barnstable</p>	Baseball field, team seating, bleachers, and announcement box	Install ADA accessible spaces for team seating.	Open to all
<p>Long Beach (Centerville)</p> 	Beach area with limited amount of parking (for residents only)	Provide accessible route to the beach area.	Open to all
<p>Loop's Beach (Cotuit)</p> 	Drinking fountain, lifeguard shack, bike rack, benches, and path to the beach	Provide an accessible route to the beach area and bike racks.	Open to all

Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
<p>McKeon Park (Hyannis)</p>  <p>Source: Cape Cod Times</p>	<p>Ballpark, dugout and spectator seating</p> <p><i>The Hyannis Harbor Hawks of the Cape Cod Baseball League (CCBL) play their home games at Judy Walden Scarafile Baseball Field.</i></p>	<p>Provide accessible routes to seating platforms.</p>	<p>Open to all</p>
<p>Osterville Playground (Osterville)</p> 	<p>Proposed playground</p>	<p>A new playground has been designed and anticipated to be constructed in 2026.</p>	<p>Open to all</p>

Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
Ridgewood Park (Hyannis) 	Playground with swings and open space	Install ADA-compliant swings and shade trees. Evaluate Ridgewood Park as a potential site for a splash pad or water play.	Open to all
Conservation Properties			
Aunt Hatch Lane Conservation Area (Barnstable)	Multi-use trail	Trail improvements	Yes
Bay Lane Conservation Area (Centerville)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Beech Leaf Island Road Conservation Area (Centerville)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Boat Cove Creek Conservation Area (West Barnstable)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Crocker Neck Conservation Area (Cotuit)	Trails, hiking, observation deck, picnic tables	Trail improvements	Yes
Crosby Creek Conservation Area	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Fern Property	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
George Property (West Barnstable)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Great Marshes Conservation Area (West Barnstable)	Trails, horseback riding	Trail improvements	Yes
Hathaway's Pond Conservation Area (Barnstable)	Trails, hiking, swimming, boating, and fishing	Trail improvements	Yes
Hunter Hill Conservation Area (Marstons Mills)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes

Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
Johnson Property	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Jules Island (Barnstable)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
King's Grant Conservation Area (Cotuit)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Kuhn Property (West Barnstable)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Lake View Heights Conservation Area (Barnstable)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Little River Conservation Area (Cotuit)	Trails, fishing, kayaking, dog walking, ice skating	Trail improvements	Yes
Long Pond Conservation Area (Marstons Mills)	Trails, community gardens, fishing, observation deck	Trail improvements	Yes
Lovell's Lane Conservation Area (Marstons Mills)	Multi-use trail	Trail improvements	Yes
Lowrance Property (West Barnstable)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Marsh Lane Conservation Area (West Barnstable)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
McLoughlin/Ruhan Property (Centerville)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Mill Pond Conservation Area (Marstons Mills)*	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Morze Property (Hyannis)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Nyes Neck Road Conservation Area (Centerville)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Old Jail Lane Conservation Area (Barnstable)	Trails, horseback riding	Trail improvements	Yes
Old Neck Lane Conservation Area (Barnstable)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Old Oyster Road Conservation Area (Cotuit)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Old Stage Road Conservation Area (Marstons Mills)	Powerline path	Trail improvements	Yes
Old Strawberry Hill (Hyannis)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes

Property Name	Current Use	Potential Improvements	Public Access
Otis Atwood Conservation Area (West Barnstable)	Otis Atwood Loop Trail	Trail improvements	Yes
Ritzman Property (West Barnstable)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
River Road Conservation Area (West Barnstable)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Sandy Neck Beach Conservation Area (West Barnstable)	Trails through dunes, marsh, beach walking	Trail improvements	Yes
Santuit Road Conservation Area (Marstons Mills)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
School Street Conservation Area (Marstons Mills)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Shootflying Hill Lot (Centerville)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Spruce Pond Conservation Area (West Barnstable)	Multi-use trail	Trail improvements	Yes
Trojano Property (Barnstable)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Waterman Farm Road Conservation Area (Centerville)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
Weathervane Way Conservation Area (Marstons Mills)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes
West Barnstable Conservation Area (West Barnstable)	20 miles of multi-use trails, wildlife, hiking, biking, hunting	Trail improvements	Yes
West Terrace Conservation Area (Centerville)	No recreational amenities	N/A	Yes

B. Public Properties Providing Conservation & Recreation Amenities

The public properties listed in Table 5-3 provide conservation or recreational amenities but are not held by the municipal conservation or recreation division; properties with a conservation restriction are denoted with an asterisk (*).

Table 5-3: Public Properties Providing Recreation and/or Conservation Amenities

Property Name	Owner	Current Use
Aaron S. Crosby Park (Centerville)	Town of Barnstable	Green space with a bench, picnic area
Andrews Property and Coombs Bogs (Centerville)	Barnstable Land Trust & Town of Barnstable	Parking, trails, conservation area
Armstrong-Kelley Park (Osterville)	The Trustees of Reservations	Trails, picnic tables, benches
Bansfield Meadow (Osterville)	Barnstable Land Trust	Trail, conservation area
Barnstable Community Innovation School (Hyannis)	Town of Barnstable	Playground
Barnstable Great Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary (Barnstable)	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Wildlife sanctuary, wildlife viewing
Barnstable Harbor Access/Millway Beach (Barnstable)	MA Department of Fish and Game	Beach area, shoreline access
Barnstable Intermediate School (Hyannis)	Town of Barnstable	Tennis courts, playground, soccer field, baseball/softball fields, football stadium, running track, multi-purpose fields
Barnstable State Forest (Barnstable)	MA Division of State Parks and Recreation	Forest land
Bearse Pond WMA (Centerville)	MA Department of Fish and Game	Wildlife management area
Beechwood Cemetery (Cotuit)	Town of Barnstable	Conservation area
Bismore Memorial Park (Hyannis)	Town of Barnstable	Artist shanties, harbor master's office, bathhouse, welcome center, benches, picnic tables

Property Name	Owner	Current Use
Cape Cod Community College (West Barnstable)	Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Barnstable Land Trust, & Town of Barnstable	Trails, parking, conservation area
Cotuit Highground (Cotuit)	Barnstable Land Trust	Community golf, parking
Crocker Park Cemetery (West Barnstable)	Town of Barnstable	Cemetery
David H Simser Island Sanctuary (Centerville)	Orenda Wildlife Land Trust	Sanctuary
Eagle Pond & Little River Sanctuary	Barnstable Land Trust	Trails, fishing, canoe/kayaking, parking, conservation area
Fire District Land	Town of Barnstable	Water supply land
Fuller Farm	Barnstable Land Trust	Parking, trails, conservation area
Goodspeed's Hill Conservation Area (Barnstable)	Town of Barnstable	Conservation area
Great Marshes Conservation Area (West Barnstable)	Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts	Conservation area
Hillside Cemetery (Osterville)	Town of Barnstable	Cemetery
Hyannis Ponds WMA (Hyannis)	MA Department of Fish and Game	Wildlife Management Area
Hyannis Green (Hyannis)	Town of Barnstable	Benches, memorials, artists shanties, visitor information center, and community events including movie nights, exercise classes and live music performances
Hyannis West Elementary School (Hyannis)	Town of Barnstable	Playground
Hyannis Youth & Community Center (Hyannis)	Town of Barnstable	Skate park, skating rink, ice rink
John Jenkins Forestry and Wildlife Reservation (West Barnstable)	Town of Barnstable	Wildlife reservation
Lindsey Counsell Wildlife Sanctuary (Centerville)	Orenda Wildlife Land Trust	Wildlife sanctuary
Long Lot Conservation Area (Centerville)	Native Land Conservancy	Sanctuary
Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary (Barnstable)	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Wildlife sanctuary
Lothrop Hill Cemetery (Barnstable)	Town of Barnstable	Cemetery

Property Name	Owner	Current Use
Lowell Park Woodlands (Cotuit)*	Barnstable Land Trust	Trail, conservation area
Luke's Love Boundless Playground (West Barnstable)	Town of Barnstable	Toddler play, children's play area, accessible play equipment, ADA swings, climbing wall, little library, and picnic tables
Lumbert Mill Road Conservation Area (Centerville)	Town of Barnstable	Conservation area
Maraspin Creek Wildlife Sanctuary (Barnstable)	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Wildlife sanctuary
Marstons Mills Cemetery (Marstons Mills)	Town of Barnstable	Cemetery
McBarron Recreation Facility (Marstons Mills)	Town of Barnstable	Sports fields and courts
Meadow Lane Conservation Area (West Barnstable)	Orenda Wildlife Land Trust	Conservation area
Michael K Aselton Memorial Park (Hyannis)	Town of Barnstable	Picnics and local events such as festivals, markets, and yoga classes
Mosswood Cemetery (Cotuit)	Town of Barnstable	Cemetery
Mother's Park (Centerville)	Town of Barnstable	Open space with seating and benches
Municipal Landing	Town of Barnstable	Water access
Mystic Lake and Middle Pond Boat Launch (Marstons Mills)	Town of Barnstable	Boat launch, water access
Nyes Neck Road Recreational Area (Centerville)	Town of Barnstable	Open fields
Oak Grove Cemetery (Hyannis)	Town of Barnstable	Cemetery
Oak Neck Cemetery (Hyannis)	Town of Barnstable	Cemetery
Orenda Wildlife Land Trust Conservation Restriction (West Barnstable)	Orenda Wildlife Land Trust	Conservation area
Old Stage Road Conservation Area (Centerville)	Town of Barnstable	Conservation area
Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds Golf Course (Marstons Mills)	Town of Barnstable	Golf

Property Name	Owner	Current Use
Pogorelc Sanctuary (West Barnstable)	Barnstable Land Trust	Trail, parking, pond overlook, conservation area
Prince Cove Marina (Marstons Mills)	Town of Barnstable	Docking area used for boats and occasional fishing
Rendezvous Salt Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary (West Barnstable)	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Wildlife Sanctuary, marsh
Retired Cranberry Bog	Barnstable Clean Water Coalition	Bog
Ropes Field (Cotuit)	Barnstable Land Trust	Open field, conservation area
Sampsons Island Conservation Area (Cotuit)	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Conservation area
Sandy Street Cemetery (West Barnstable)	Town of Barnstable	Cemetery
Santuit Pond WCE (Marstons Mills)	Town of Barnstable	Pond
Scudder Bay Sanctuary (Centerville)	Orenda Wildlife Land Trust	Sanctuary
Shaws Lane Trail (West Barnstable)	Barnstable Land Trust	Trail, conservation area
Shubael Pond Access (Marstons Mills)	MA Department of Fish and Game	Pond access
Silvia Family-Rita Sparks Bearse Park (Centerville)	Town of Barnstable	Park
Skunknett River Wildlife Sanctuary (Centerville)	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Sanctuary
Smith's Dock Sanctuary (West Barnstable)	Orenda Wildlife Land Trust	Sanctuary, dock
South Street Cemetery (Hyannis)	Town of Barnstable	Cemetery
Water Supply Land	Town of Barnstable	Water supply protection
West Barnstable Cemetery (West Barnstable)	Town of Barnstable	Cemetery
Wianno Head Conservation Area (Osterville)	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Conservation area
William and Hilma Danforth Recreation Area (West Barnstable)	Town of Barnstable	Marstons Mills airfield

The Town also has several properties with conservation restrictions that are not open to the public and do not provide recreational or conservation amenities. These include Barnstable Land Trust conservation restrictions such as Bayview I and II,

which are used for wetland protection, and Santuit Woodlands, which is used for water supply protection. The Town of Barnstable also holds conservation restrictions including the Falcon Road Conservation Restriction and the Furman Conservation Restriction, both used for wetland protection, as well as the COMMWC/BLT Conservation Restriction, which is used for water supply protection. Barnstable County additionally holds a conservation restriction on the Barnstable County Farm for agricultural use.

C. Protected Private Parcels

Private protected lands include private forested lands (Chapter 61 classified), agricultural lands (Chapter 61A classified), recreation lands (Chapter 61B classified), and private lands under a conservation restriction. Presently, there are no agricultural preservation restrictions in town.

Table 5-4: Protected Private Parcels

Property Address	Parcel ID	Duration of Easement	Current Use
Chapter 61 Lands			
0 Navigation Road (West Barnstable)	156-025	Term-limited	Chapter 61
1411 Main Street (Cotuit)	017-010	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Main Street (Cotuit)	018-097	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Main Street (Cotuit)	0181-21	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
29 Pine Road (Cotuit)	0181-250	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
611 Santuit-Newtown Road (Marstons Mills)	029-007	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Falmouth Road/Rte 28 (Cotuit)	040-001	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
330 Olde Homestead Drive (Marstons Mills)	044-009	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Santuit-Newtown Road (Marstons Mills)	044-012	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
951 River Road (Marstons Mills)	044-014	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
710 River Road (Marstons Mills)	044-027	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
N/A (Marstons Mills)	044-027-001	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
N/A (Marstons Mills)	044-027-002	Term-limited	Chapter 61A

Property Address	Parcel ID	Duration of Easement	Current Use
N/A (Marstons Mills)	044-027-003	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
N/A (Marstons Mills)	044-027-004	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
N/A (Marstons Mills)	044-027-005	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
141 Bog Road (Marstons Mills)	045-016-003	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
110 Bog Road (Marstons Mills)	045-017	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
99 Hi River Road (Marstons Mills)	060-033	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
87 Hi River Road (Marstons Mills)	060-034	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
71 Hi River Road (Marstons Mills)	060-035	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
53 Hi River Road (Marstons Mills)	060-036	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
505 Whistleberry Drive (Marstons Mills)	061-059	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Whistleberry Drive (Marstons Mills)	062-054	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
110 Hollidge Hill Lane (Marstons Mills)	081-005	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
1968 Main Street (Marstons Mills)	099-028-002	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Route 149 (Marstons Mills)	102-186	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
290 Flint Street (Marstons Mills)	124-002-001	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
260 Flint Street (Marstons Mills)	124-002-002	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
240 Flint Street (Marstons Mills)	124-003	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
1525 Ost.-W.Barn. Rd (Marstons Mills)	127-037	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
625 Willow Street (West Barnstable)	130-032	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
60 Widgeon Lane (West Barnstable)	132-007	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Bumps River Road (Osterville)	144-010-002	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
820 Main St./Rte 6A (West Barnstable)	156-017	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
1095 Old Stage Road (Centerville)	173-086-002	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
471 Parker Road (West Barnstable)	175-010	Term-limited	Chapter 61A

Property Address	Parcel ID	Duration of Easement	Current Use
110 Shaws Lane (West Barnstable)	176-002-002	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
301 Parker Road (West Barnstable)	176-019	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Bumps River Road (Centerville)	188-076	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
27 Falcon Road (West Barnstable)	196-032	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Pleasant Pines Ave (Barnstable)	234-018b-00	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Pleasant Pines Ave (Barnstable)	234-018t-00	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Pleasant Pines Ave (Barnstable)	234-018-W00	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
2199 Main St./Rte 6A (Barnstable)	236-008	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
0 Indian Trail (Barnstable)	318-025-004	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
4093 Main St./Rte 6A (Barnstable)	335-026	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
178 Stoney Point Road (Barnstable)	336-098	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
140 Stoney Point Road (Barnstable)	336-099	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
156 Stoney Point Road (Barnstable)	336-100	Term-limited	Chapter 61A
36 Bailey Road (Cotuit)	003-003	Term-limited	Chapter 61B
42 Bailey Road (Cotuit)	003-004	Term-limited	Chapter 61B
129 Brittany Drive (Cotuit)	026-006	Term-limited	Chapter 61B
145 Grand Island Drive (Osterville)	071-004	Term-limited	Chapter 61B
225 Old Falmouth Road (Marstons Mills)	099-058	Term-limited	Chapter 61B
379 Parker Road (Osterville)	115-022	Term-limited	Chapter 61B
1800 Old Stage Road (West Barnstable)	152-003	Term-limited	Chapter 61B
2320 Meetinghouse Way/Rte 149 (West Barnstable)	155-032	Term-limited	Chapter 61B
742 Main St./Rte 6A (West Barnstable)	156-015	Term-limited	Chapter 61B
2 Irving Avenue (Hyannis)	266-031	Term-limited	Chapter 61B
35 Marstons Lane (Barnstable)	350-001	Term-limited	Chapter 61B

Property Name	Parcel ID	Duration of Easement	Current Use
Conservation Restrictions			
Beale Way Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	279-015, 279-061-002, 279-061-003, 279-061-004	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Brazelton Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	318-025-002, 318-025-006, 318-025-007, 318-025-001, 318-025-005	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Burnes Conservation Restriction (Marstons Mills)	097-022-001, 098-024-002	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Calves Pasture Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	259-002, 259-003, 259-004, 259-004-001, 259-007-001	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Conover Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	070-017-002, 070-018, 070-022, 071-024	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Cotuit Landing Conservation Restriction (Cotuit)	040-003-C00, 040-003-T00, 041-025, 058-006, 058-039-001, 058-040	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Dillingham Properties LLC Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	318-025-004, 318-055, 319-132, 319-145-002, 319-146, 318-025-008, 318-025-002, 318-025-010, 318-025-009, 318-025-007, 318-025-001, 318-025-011, 318-025-012	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Eben H Carruthers Woodlot Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	236-013	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Egg Island Builders Conservation Restriction (Hyannis)	259-001-002, 259-004	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction

Property Name	Parcel ID	Duration of Easement	Current Use
Enos-Frazier Patch Conservation Restriction (Cotuit)	010-043	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Hinckley Pond Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	258-012, 258-011	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Jones Conservation Restriction (West Barnstable)	153-007-001, 177-001	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Jones Property/Sandy Neck Conservation Restriction (West Barnstable)	263-001, 303-006, 303-007	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Knott Tree Farm Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	236-008	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
LeBlanc Conservation Restriction (Marstons Mills)	115-025-001, 115-025-002, 138-001	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Lloyd Cotuit Trust Conservation Restriction (Cotuit)	015-002	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Long Pasture Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	352-026, 352-067	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Lowell Conservation Restriction (Cotuit)	318-024, 319-146, 318-025-001	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Marstons Mills River Conservation Restriction (Marstons Mills)	059-004, 076-004, 076-005, 076-008, 076-011, 076-012, 076-013, 076-016, 076-017, 076-018, 076-019, 076-020, 076-064, 077-008, 077-037-001, 077-037-002, 077-039, 077-041, 077-042, 077-044, 077-048, 077-049, 078-001, 078-007-002	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
McHenry Conservation Restriction (Cotuit)	080-008, 080-009	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Meadow Point Conservation Restriction (Cotuit)	015-006-001, 015-006-002, 015-006-003, 015-006-004	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Miceli Conservation Restriction (Cotuit)	024-003, 024-076	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction

Property Name	Parcel ID	Duration of Easement	Current Use
Mill Pond Conservation Restriction (Marstons Mills)	058-011, 058-011-001, 058-011-002, 058-011-003, 058-011-004, 058-011-005, 058-011-006, 058-011-007, 168-005, 168-009	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Old Gorham Farm Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	350-006, 350-049	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Onion Acre Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	258-024	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Oyster Harbors Club Conservation Restriction (Osterville)	071-004-001	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Seabury Farm Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	258-002-001	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Seaside Park Conservation Restriction (Hyannis)	245-098-003	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Shubael Pond Conservation Restriction (Marstons Mills)	125-002, 125-034, 125-035, 125-036	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Simpkins Conservation Restriction (Marstons Mills)	258-024	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Small Conservation Restriction (Marstons Mills)	169-093-003	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Smiths Creek Conservation Restriction (West Barnstable)	157-002, 157-004-001, 157-004-004, 158-006, 158-007	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Tonela Lane Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	336-023	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Village at Barnstable Conservation Restriction (Barnstable)	314-036	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Wakeby Estates Conservation Restriction (Marstons Mills)	028-054	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Warrens Cove Conservation Restriction (Marstons Mills)	098-023-004	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction
Wheeler Realty Trust Conservation Restriction (Marstons Mills)	103-109-002	In perpetuity	Conservation restriction

D. Park & Open Space Equity

One important goal for the 2025 OSRP is to ensure that the Town's open space and recreational facilities and programs are accessible to all populations in all areas in town.

Barnstable is a large, socially and geographically varied community. Its seven villages each have a unique character, development, and vary in the type and amount of open space and recreation they provide. The town has a diverse population, including families with small children, young adults, older adults, people with limited mobility, and people with varying socio-economic needs.

As previously described in Section 3, approximately 32% of the total population in Barnstable resides within census block groups designated as Environmental Justice (EJ) areas. These EJ populations are primarily concentrated in Hyannis.

Barnstable provides just 4.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (calculated using parks and playgrounds managed by Barnstable's Recreation Division), compared to the national average of 10.2 acres reported by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). Results from the 2025 community survey emphasized the importance of adding playgrounds in underserved areas such as Hyannis, as well as improving the maintenance of existing recreation spaces. (See Figure 5-1: Inventory of Open Space Map and Appendix A.) Hyannis is also identified as a "very high priority" area for new parks by the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) ParkServe data.

The EJ areas in Hyannis have also been identified by the

¹⁰ www.tpl.org/the-heat-is-on.

EEA as hot spots that would benefit from new parks and other heat mitigation strategies. These local needs reflect broader national disparities in park access documented by the Trust for Public Land's report, *The Heat is On*, which found that parks serving most communities of color, on average, are only half the size of those serving predominantly white communities.¹⁰ Similarly, parks in low-income household neighborhoods are just one-quarter the size of parks in higher income neighborhoods. Predominantly low-income and minority communities often lack open space and recreational resources. Targeted investment in green spaces can help address inequities by expanding accessibility, supporting biodiversity, protecting water and air quality, improving flood resilience, and mitigating the urban heat island effect.

Nationwide, parks that serve majority nonwhite populations are, on average, half as large, 45 acres compared to 87 acres, and nearly five times as crowded as parks that serve majority-white populations.

The Heat is On - a special report by Trust for Public Land

Hyannis also has a high level of social vulnerability. Socially vulnerable populations are adversely affected by factors such as socioeconomic status, household characteristics, racial and ethnic minority status, age, disability, housing type, and lack of access to transportation. Older adults and individuals with disabilities also face limited mobility and health conditions that increase their vulnerability during extreme weather events.¹¹ Over 25% of residents in

¹¹ www.epa.gov.

Barnstable are aged 65 and older. Approximately 12% of all residents have a disability. The needs of socially vulnerable populations are frequently overlooked, yet they are critical to advancing the equitable distribution of environmental assets. Therefore, open space upgrades should prioritize universal design, accessible pathways, and adaptive play equipment to ensure they meet the needs of Barnstable's diverse population.

To ensure open space equity among town villages, the 2025 OSRP evaluates open space and recreation needs and opportunities, and priority projects, in all seven villages. The Town is actively taking steps to make sure environmental justice and socially vulnerable populations experience the full benefits of open space and community recreation.

Hyannis is the most densely developed of Barnstable's villages and sufficient park and recreation space is needed to support additional growth and accommodate residents, employees, and visitors. In 2024, the Town was awarded a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant from EEA to develop a Master Plan for Hyannis Harbor. The plan aimed to better understand the current and future challenges and opportunities of the recreational waterfront, and to create a cohesive strategy for the mix of land uses the Town desired to attract to better activate the harbor area. In addition, the plan sought to address growing pressures around Hyannis Harbor, align current zoning with today's needs, and improve the area's resilience against the impacts of climate change.



Veterans Memorial Park Playground with View of Hyannis Harbor,
Credit: BSC Group

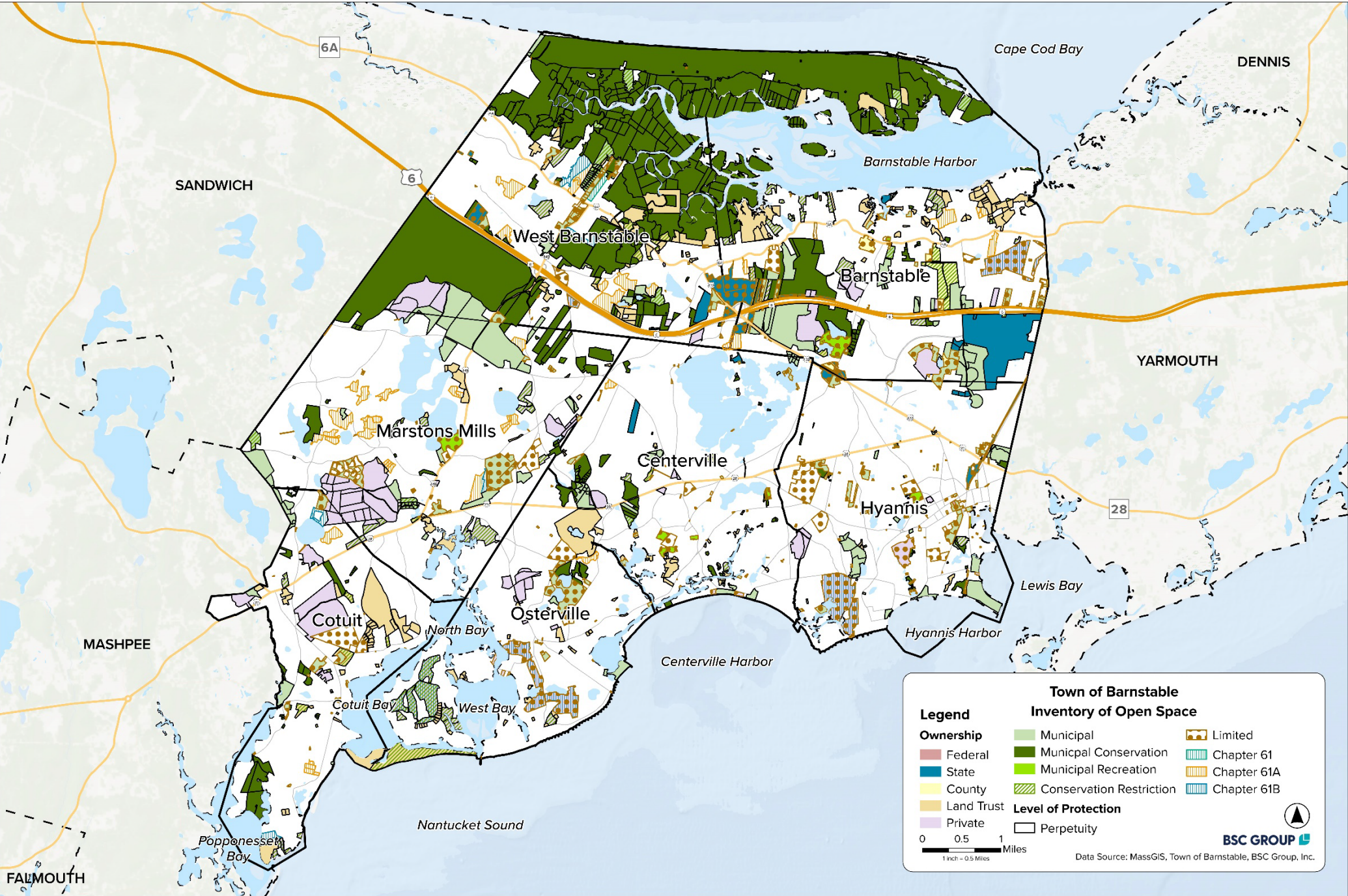


Figure 5-1: Inventory of Open Space Map

Note: Definitions for the various levels of protection are provided on pages 50-51. Areas shown in white are not protected.

Accessibility of Open Space and Recreation Lands

The 2025 community survey indicated that while residents are generally satisfied with the availability of recreational facilities and programs, many raised concerns about physical access and proximity, including the need for more sidewalks, bike lanes, and improved trailhead signage. Over 57% of respondents reported it takes them more than 10 minutes to walk to the nearest park or recreation facility.

Areas within a 10-minute walk of a park are as much as 6 degrees cooler than areas outside that range.

The Heat is On - a special report by the Trust for Public Land

Sidewalk conditions and other infrastructure limitations can restrict accessibility to parks and recreation areas. In 2021, Barnstable was awarded a grant by the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) to develop a self-evaluation and transition plan for the town. The Institute for Human Centered Design completed a comprehensive review of facilities located in Barnstable including several beaches, parks, and playgrounds with key accessibility issues, order of magnitude costs, and best practices for inclusive design. The Town's ADA Self-Evaluation includes a list of issues and physical barriers at beaches, parks, and playgrounds with priority for barrier removal.

The Self-Evaluation also includes an ADA assessment of the town's sidewalks and walkways. This survey covered approximately seven miles of sidewalks. Key accessibility issues include excessive cross slopes, deteriorated and uneven surfaces, inaccessible benches, improper signage at accessible parking spaces, and a lack of curb ramps. Best practices and inclusive design recommendations include installing detectable warnings at all intersections, providing marked pedestrian crossings, and ensuring clear floor space adjacent to benches to enhance accessibility and improve the user experience for all.



Sidewalk at Cotuit Memorial Park, Credit: BSC Group

06 ANALYSIS OF NEEDS



06 Analysis of Needs

A. Summary of Natural Resource Protection Needs

During the public participation process, which included a community survey, an open house, and stakeholder interviews, Barnstable's community emphasized that the protection of natural resources is central to its identity and quality of life. The Town has successfully conserved thousands of acres through the Community Preservation Act and land trust partnerships, yet significant needs remain. Continued strategic conservation efforts will be essential to maintain the ecological integrity of Barnstable's landscapes and sustain the town's recreational and economic vitality in the face of a changing climate.

Stakeholders identified Barnstable's most pressing environmental challenges including nutrient loading, contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), invasive species, and wildfire risk which are directly linked to land management and water quality. Protecting upland forests, wetlands, coastal buffers, and freshwater pond watersheds is necessary both to preserve habitat and drinking water supplies. Coordinated management actions, informed by science and community priorities, will strengthen the town's resilience and ensure its natural systems continue to provide essential ecosystem services for future generations. The full community survey results and a summary of the open house results from the public participation process are available in Appendix B: Survey & Public Engagement Results.



Open House on August 28, 2025, Credit: BSC Group

Protecting Land, Water, and Ecological Integrity

Survey results showed strong resident support for protecting water quality, endangered habitats, and rare plant communities. Specific ponds and estuaries such as the Indian Ponds, Shubael Pond, and Three Bays watershed remain vulnerable to phosphorus inputs, stormwater runoff, and septic system leaching. The community also underscored the need to preserve open space as a tool for climate resilience, including marsh systems such as Sandy Neck and Great Marsh, which buffer the coastline and provide essential habitat.

Connectivity, Wildlife Corridors, and Habitat Management

Barnstable's open spaces are numerous but fragmented. Survey respondents highlighted the need to build a more connected network of protected lands, trails, and greenways that link upland and riparian habitats. The BioMap report identifies large core habitats and critical natural landscapes across Barnstable that, if linked, would help sustain biodiversity and climate adaptation. Future efforts should prioritize filling gaps in wildlife corridors, extending greenway systems, restoring degraded habitats and converting abandoned cranberry bogs into natural areas such as functional wetlands and trails.

Forest health also requires active management. Invasive plants, beech leaf disease, and the Southern Pine Beetle threaten local ecosystems. Residents and stakeholders supported the expanded use of prescribed burns and vegetation management to maintain healthy grasslands and reduce fire risk.



Coombs Bog (Former Cranberry Bog), Source: Barnstable Land Trust

Equitable Access to Open Space and Recreation

While Barnstable contains extensive open space, access is uneven across its villages. Hyannis, in particular, lacks adequate nearby conservation land and trails, leaving EJ communities with limited exposure to nature. Residents and stakeholders called for new acquisitions and pocket parks in underserved areas, including opportunities such as the Twin Brooks property and Dunns Pond conservation area.

Trails and facilities also lack accessibility features for older adults, families, and people with disabilities. Community input emphasized the need for accessible paths, seating areas, and inclusive recreation amenities across multiple sites.

Public feedback also highlighted safety and usability concerns that limit recreation, including poorly marked trailheads, unsafe conditions at certain facilities, and insufficient parking or signage. These barriers discourage broader use of Barnstable's open spaces and should be addressed through investments in wayfinding, security, and maintenance. Please refer to Figure 3-2: Environmental Justice Map, which provides context for the locations of EJ communities and open space.

Balancing Growth, Housing, and Conservation

Barnstable faces mounting development pressure as remaining large parcels become scarce. Stakeholders noted balancing housing needs with the community's commitment to conservation will be a central challenge moving forward. Land acquisition strategies must be nimble, protecting both large core parcels and small infill lots that can serve as pocket parks or groundwater recharge areas. Creative tools, such as conservation restrictions, transfer of development rights, and redevelopment of underutilized sites into open space, will be critical to achieving these goals.

Key Protection Needs Moving Forward

The following priorities summarize the most pressing natural resource protection needs identified through community input and stakeholder engagement:

- **Water Quality & Watershed Protection** – Prioritize land acquisition and management in pond watersheds, coastal estuaries, and wellhead recharge areas to reduce nutrient loading, mitigate PFAS contamination, and stormwater impacts.
- **Habitat Connectivity** – Protect large core habitats and link smaller parcels to strengthen wildlife corridors and trail networks.
- **Forest & Habitat Management** – Expand invasive species control, reduce fire risk, and advance ecological restoration (e.g., bog-to-wetland conversions).

- **Equity & Access** – Increase conservation and recreation opportunities in Hyannis and other underserved areas, and ensure all trails, seating, and facilities are ADA-compliant and inclusive.
- **Maintenance & Safety** – Invest in signage, parking, lighting, and routine upkeep to ensure safe and welcoming use of existing open spaces.
- **Balancing Growth Pressures** – Apply regulatory tools and innovative land management strategies to secure remaining parcels for long-term conservation and recreation. The Town's vision for balancing these needs through land-use practices is articulated in the Town of Barnstable Local Comprehensive Plan that was approved in 2025.

B. Summary of Community's Outdoor Recreation Needs

The Town of Barnstable has a robust system of beaches, ponds, trails, athletic fields, and conservation areas that provide diverse recreational opportunities. The community consistently recognizes these amenities as critical to community identity and quality of life. However, public participation during the planning process revealed several unmet needs and gaps in access. Many community members emphasized the importance of balancing recreational improvements with protection of natural resources, particularly water quality, habitats, and scenic landscapes.

The following section summarizes the community's outdoor recreation needs as expressed through the survey, open houses, and stakeholder interviews, supplemented by

priorities outlined in the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Figure 6-1: Most Popular Activities in Barnstable’s Parks & Recreation



General Recreation and Facility Needs

Barnstable’s community expressed a strong desire for enhanced recreational opportunities balanced with the protection of natural resources. Public engagement identified unmet needs for indoor pools, splash pads, dog-friendly spaces, kayak launches, and additional sports fields. While beaches and golf courses remain economic drivers and central components to the Town’s recreation system, gaps persist in accessible playgrounds, trail connectivity, and year-round facilities for youth and families.

Maintenance of existing parks and facilities was among the most frequently mentioned priorities. The community consistently cited the need for trail maintenance and upkeep, improved lighting, drainage, restroom facilities, and clear signage. Without addressing these foundational infrastructure needs, the Town risks underutilization of

otherwise valuable recreational assets.

Special Open Space and Recreation Needs

Barnstable’s size and village structure create unique challenges in meeting community-wide needs equitably. Hyannis, in particular, was identified as underserved in terms of conservation trails and accessible open space. Residents and conservation stakeholders highlighted opportunities such as the Twin Brooks Golf Course property, which could provide a neighborhood-scale open space and trails within an EJ area.

Older adults expressed a need for flat, accessible walking paths with rest areas and shade. Families requested playgrounds and recreational facilities within walking distance of dense neighborhoods, while teenagers identified a lack of safe, structured recreation opportunities, especially during winter months. People with disabilities continue to face barriers in accessing beaches, bathhouses, and play equipment, underscoring the need for ADA-compliant restrooms, boardwalks, and adaptive recreation amenities.

Dog owners highlighted the lack of year-round dog-friendly beaches and parks, and trail users called for expanded mountain biking and e-bike opportunities. Stakeholders also emphasized the importance of sidewalk and multi-use path networks as heavily used recreation resources that require continued expansion and better connections, particularly along Route 28 and 132.

Balancing Resource Protection with Recreation

Community input underscored the need to carefully balance recreational improvements with environmental protection. Water quality concerns are pressing, particularly at ponds facing cyanobacteria and nutrient loading. In many cases, community members requested expanded swimming or boating opportunities in locations where water quality constraints currently prevent safe access. Stakeholders stressed future recreation planning should be integrated with pond restoration, stormwater management, and wastewater improvements.

Invasive species, habitat fragmentation, and wildfire risks were identified as ongoing management challenges. The community expressed support for strategies such as controlled burns, invasive removal, and volunteer stewardship programs to maintain conservation lands. Stakeholders also emphasized land acquisition should prioritize smaller parcels in village centers for pocket parks and trail connections, as large undeveloped parcels are increasingly scarce.

Figure 6-3: Top Three Priorities for Acquiring New Land

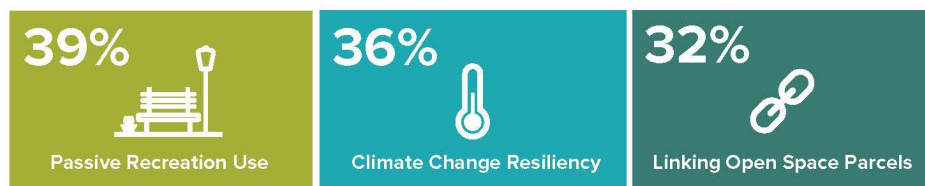


Figure 6-2: Top Three Recreational Needs



Alignment with Statewide Priorities

The Massachusetts SCORP emphasizes improving equitable access to neighborhood parks, expanding trail connections, increasing water-based recreation opportunities, and supporting climate resilience through open space design. These priorities align directly with Barnstable's identified needs:

- **Equity:** Acquire or enhance small parks and conservation areas within Environmental Justice neighborhoods, particularly in Hyannis.
- **Connectivity:** Develop a continuous and safe network of trails, sidewalks, and bikeways linking villages and major recreation areas.
- **Water-Based Recreation:** Expand access to beaches, boat ramps, and freshwater ponds while integrating water quality protection.
- **Climate Resilience:** Utilize open space acquisitions and park design to mitigate flooding, erosion, and heat, while protecting habitat.

Key Takeaways

The following key takeaways highlight the most pressing recreation needs across Barnstable, reflecting both public input and alignment with state priorities:

- High priority for indoor pools, splash pads, dog parks, accessible playgrounds, and youth/family recreation spaces.
- Ongoing need for maintenance upgrades, including lighting, signage, drainage, restrooms, and parking, across existing facilities.
- Addressing equity gaps in Hyannis and other Environmental Justice neighborhoods, with accessibility improvements needed for older adults and residents with disabilities.
- Coordinating recreational improvements with water quality protection and habitat management.
- Alignment with SCORP priorities reinforces Barnstable's needs for connectivity, equity, and resilience, strengthening the Town's position for grant funding.

C. Management Needs

The Town of Barnstable has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to land conservation and recreation planning, yet the growing diversity, increased development pressures, and climate-driven environmental change underscore the need for an evolved, coordinated management approach. Public input and stakeholder discussions emphasized the

need for improved interdepartmental coordination, enhanced maintenance of existing resources, greater accessibility and equity in recreational opportunities, and a proactive strategy to address environmental threats and community expectations.

Coordination and Communication

A recurring theme among stakeholders was the need for stronger coordination across municipal departments and boards, including Community Services, the Department of Public Works, the Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Committee, and the School Department. Fragmented management of open space parcels by multiple departments limits efficiency and consistency in maintenance, signage, and public communication. Stakeholders noted the value of unified data and mapping systems, shared maintenance schedules, and clearer communication between departments when public facilities, school grounds, or conservation areas overlap. For example, improved notification protocols during construction projects could prevent unintended damage to adjacent parks or trails.

The Town's existing network of boards, committees, and commissions, such as the Open Space Committee and Community Preservation Committee, remain critical to achieving OSRP goals. Participants emphasized the need for streamlined decision-making and greater public transparency. Enhanced public awareness and communication tools, such as integrated online mapping, printed trail guides, and multi-language signage, were cited as essential improvements for outreach and engagement.

CHOOSE ONE PARKS & RECREATION FACILITY

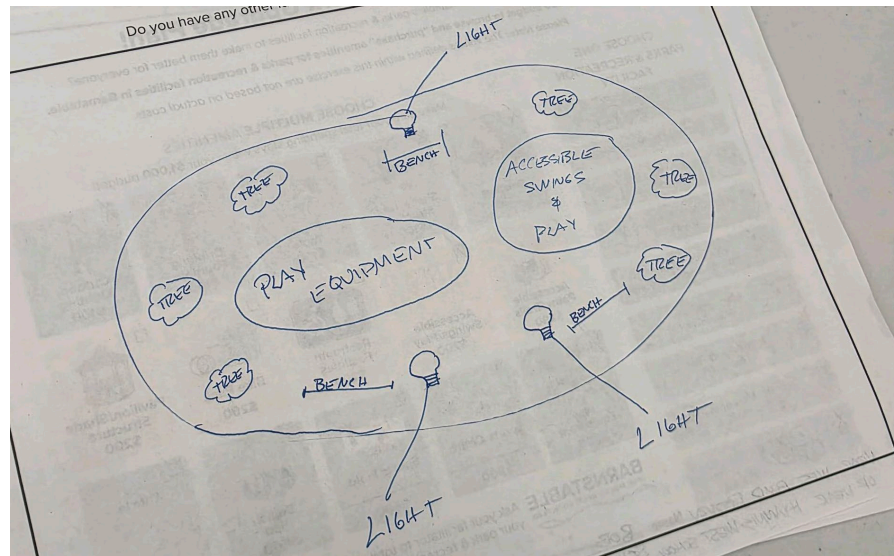
- ☐ Burgess Park (Marstons Mills)
- ☐ Cotuit Memorial Park
- ☒ Hamblin Pond Rec Area (Marstons Mills)
- ☐ Hathaway's Pond Rec Area (Hyannis)
- ☐ Hyannis Youth & Community Center Grounds
- ☐ Marstons Mills Pickleball Courts
- ☐ Ridgewood Park (Hyannis)
- ☐ Veterans Memorial Park (Hyannis)
- ☐ Write In:

CHOOSE MULTIPLE AMENITIES
Make sure your total spending stays within your **\$1,000** budget!

<input type="checkbox"/> Benches \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Shade Tree/Structure \$100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Picnic Table \$100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drinking Fountain \$100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Lighting \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Accessible Paths/Trails \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> Accessible Swings/Play \$200	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restroom Facilities \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> Bike Rack \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavilion/Shade Structure \$200
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Play Equipment \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports Court \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports Field \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Splash Pad \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Write In: \$500

BARNSTABLE SUPER SPACE & RECREATION PLAN
Ask your facilitator to total up the cost of your park & recreation facilities upgrade. **TOTAL COST:** \$1000

Name: _____ Email: _____ Turn page to draw your ideas!



Build Your Own Park Upgrade Plan Activities, Credit: BSC Group

Maintenance and Stewardship

Maintenance is a defining factor in the success and perception of public spaces. Effective governance models establish clear accountability, whether through municipal parks departments, conservancy partnerships, or hybrid oversight committees. Barnstable's open space system is extensive, but maintenance capacity has not kept pace with its expansion. Survey respondents frequently cited poor trailhead signage, inconsistent parking, and safety concerns such as unleashed dogs, litter, and encampments as deterrents to park use.

Volunteer groups, including mountain biking associations and land trusts, represent opportunities to supplement municipal capacity. Establishing a coordinated volunteer stewardship program could address routine maintenance, invasive species removal, and trail monitoring. Conservation Division staff also identified a need for additional staff and trained burn bosses to manage fire risk and ecological restoration through prescribed burns at sites such as Crocker Neck and West Barnstable Conservation Area.

Sustaining open space requires diversified funding mechanisms. Traditional sources, municipal budgets, state grants, and bond measures, are often supplemented by innovative tools such as Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, and public-private partnerships. Endowments and revolving maintenance funds ensure longevity, while revenue-generating programs, such as event permits, concessions, or

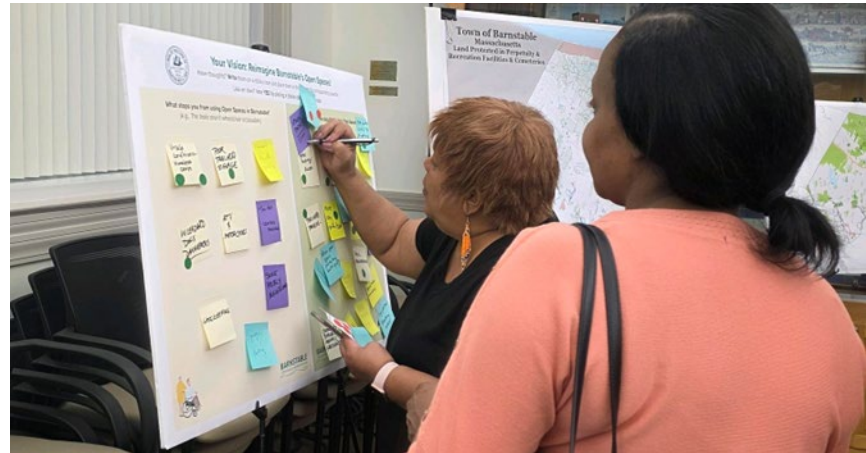
green infrastructure credits, create recurring income streams.

“Friends of” groups can also play a vital role in maintenance of open space by mobilizing volunteer labor, philanthropic contributions, and advocacy. These civic partners often serve as intermediaries between residents and government, fundraising for amenities, organizing stewardship days, and advocating for budget allocations. The partnership model exemplified by organizations like the New York Central Park Conservancy has become a national template, blending private initiative with public oversight to achieve superior maintenance outcomes.

Accessibility, Equity, and Facility Gaps

Feedback from the public and the Recreation Division identified significant disparities in recreational access, particularly in and around Hyannis, where few conservation trails or public green spaces exist. Stakeholders and residents supported the creation of new conservation lands and all-person trails to serve underserved neighborhoods and older adults.

Accessible paths, shade structures, restrooms, and inclusive playgrounds were among the top requested amenities in the Build Your Own Park Upgrade Plan Open House activity. Expanding access through universal design and ADA-compliant upgrades, especially at beaches and pond recreation areas, will be critical to meeting the needs of all residents.



Open House Vision Boards, August 28, 2025, Credit: BSC Group

Environmental Management and Land Protection

Environmental management concerns include invasive species, erosion, and water quality degradation, particularly from nutrient loading and phosphorus in freshwater ponds such as the Indian Ponds in Marstons Mills. Cross-department collaboration among the Department of Public Works, Conservation Division, and local fire districts is necessary to integrate land management and water resource protection.

The Town's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan and efforts by the Barnstable Land Trust and Clean Water Coalition highlights the opportunity for open space preservation to function as a tool for nutrient reduction and stormwater control.

Land acquisition remains a priority, especially for protecting drinking water supplies and preserving small urban parcels in dense areas such as downtown Hyannis for pocket parks or community gardens. Continued coordination among the Town boards, committees, and commissions, and conservation partners, will ensure strategic prioritization of limited funding.

To meet its community vision, Barnstable must pursue a modernized and unified management framework for open space and recreation. This includes improved interdepartmental coordination, expanded maintenance and volunteer stewardship, equitable access and facility enhancement, and continued land protection for both environmental and recreational benefit. Establishing clear communication channels among boards, committees,

commissions, staff, and the public, supported by consistent mapping, data-sharing, and cross-training, will be foundational to sustaining the town's open space and recreation network for future generations.



Hathaway's Pond Recreation Area, Credit: BSC Group

07 ACTION PLAN



07 Ten-Year Action Plan

The Ten-Year Action Plan provides a comprehensive framework to guide Barnstable's efforts to protect and enhance its natural, cultural, and recreational resources over the coming decade. Rooted in the community's vision and informed by current land use patterns, environmental challenges, and recreation needs, the Action Plan outlines a prioritized set of strategies to balance growth with conservation, expand access to open space, and improve recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike. By defining clear goals, timelines, and implementation partners, the Action Plan serves as both a roadmap for decision-makers and a living document that can adapt to evolving community needs, ensuring Barnstable continues to preserve its unique character while fostering a healthy, vibrant, and resilient future.

Responsible Parties

Specific parties are identified for each action, but effective implementation requires all Town departments, boards, committees, and commissions to collaborate and communicate closely to advance Open Space and Recreation Plan goals and other Town priorities.

Potential Funding Sources

The Town has maintained a balanced budget while continuing to provide essential services for its residents. To remain fiscally responsible, it must continue to evaluate expenditures, even for amenities that contribute to residents'

quality of life. As a result, the Town will need to pursue additional funding for many of the following actions.

In addition to the Town's general fund, potential funding sources for park and open space improvements include:

- **MA Community Compact Cabinet (CCC)** Best Practices Compact
- **MA Community One Stop for Growth (One Stop)** (includes MassWorks)
- **Community Preservation Act (CPA)**
- **MA Cooling Corridors Grant Program (CCGP)**
- **MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)** MassTrails Grant Program, Urban and Community Forestry Challenge
- **MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning, Water Utility Resilience Program, Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- **MA Department of Fish and Game (DF&G)** Community Biodiversity Grant
- **MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT)** Chapter 90 Program, Transportation Improvement Program, Complete Streets Program
- **District Improvement Financing (DIF)** is a Massachusetts program that allows municipalities to designate a specific district and capture the new tax revenue generated by growth and redevelopment within that area. This dedicated revenue stream can then be used to finance public infrastructure

improvements, such as streetscapes, utilities, and parks, that further encourage private investment and economic development in the same district. In 2024 the Town of Barnstable adopted a Hyannis District Improvement Financing District, which will provide a potential new funding stream for open space improvements in downtown Hyannis.

- **MA Division of Conservation Services (DCS)** Conservation Partnership Grant, Community Forest Program, Local Acquisitions of Natural Diversity Grant, Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, DCS Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant, Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program, Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program
- **MA Division of Ecological Restoration (DER)** Streamflow Restoration Programs, Dam Removal Program, Urban River Revitalization Program, Wetlands Restoration Program, Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program
- **MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)** Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP), Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program, Environmental Trust General Grant, EEA Planning Assistance Grant

- **MA Gateway Cities (GC)** Parks Program, Greening the Gateway Cities Program
- **MA Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR)** Inclusive and Accessible Events Grants Program
- **MA Office on Disability (MOD)** Municipal ADA Improvement Grant
- **MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program (MHMGP)**
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)** New England Forests and Rivers Fund, National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF), America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (AERI)
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** Community Development Block Grant Funding (CDBG)
- **U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)**
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act / Inflation Reduction Act (IIJA / IRA) / Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Ten-Year Schedule

The Town of Barnstable understands that most projects are not completed within short time frames. Most of the actions identified under each goal have multi-year projections, and in some cases, a pre-planning phase is followed by a one- or two-year break while funding is secured.

Table 7-1: Ten-Year Action Plan

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Open Space & Wildlife Habitat													
Goal 1: Protect and maintain the maximum amount of open space to enhance environmental quality, expand recreational opportunities, and preserve community character.													
1.1. Develop and implement a policy across Town entities with defined criteria to evaluate and prioritize acquisition of private land for conservation restriction. The criteria shall include but not be limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Opportunities to enhance public access and remove barriers to accessibility.▪ Within proximity to groundwater protection areas.▪ Meets regulatory buffer standards for wells within MassDEP Zone I areas.▪ Protects drinking-water recharge areas, water quality, and future well fields.	High	Planning & Development, Community Preservation Committee, and Open Space Committee	Not applicable	X	X	X							

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserves future marsh habitat and allows dunes and beaches to migrate naturally. Connects upland wildlife corridors, with priority given to parcels in Hyannis and near marshes and ponds. Adjacent to anadromous fish runs. Enhances floodplain management and/or potential for managed retreat. Adjacent to coastal resource areas for public access and resource protection. Potential to provide connections to existing public pathways. 													
1.2. Update an inventory of all the Town's recreation and open space areas and amenities defining existing status and priority improvements.	Medium	Recreation Division	Not applicable								X	X	X
1.3. Create a public database of properties in Barnstable with conservation restrictions and promote the state's Article 97 Natural Resource Site Evaluation map application.	Medium	Planning & Development and GIS	Not applicable		X	X	X						

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.4. Develop a policy for the Town to exercise right of first refusal for acquisition of land under Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B that is intended to be converted to a non-chapter use.	High	Planning & Development and Town Attorney	Not applicable	X	X								
1.5. Require all town-owned land purchased for or used for conservation or recreation be protected with a conservation restriction.	Medium	Community Preservation Committee and Town Attorney	Not applicable	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 2: Promote policy and regulatory measures to protect open space.													
2.1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Town's Open Space Residential Development ("cluster") ordinance in preserving open space and develop recommendations for its improvement or revision.	Low	Planning & Development and Open Space Committee	Not applicable				X	X					
2.2. Develop Nature Guidelines to provide a consistent framework with best practices related to integrating native plant communities, stormwater management, habitat connectivity, and climate adaptation for public and private properties.	Medium	Planning & Development	Not applicable	X	X	X							
2.3. Amend the regulatory agreement process to require donation of public open space either through on-site accommodation or a transfer of development rights agreement.	Medium	Planning & Development	Not applicable						X	X	X		

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Goal 3: Promote stewardship of protected open spaces through volunteer engagement and partnerships with community organizations.													
3.1. Host inclusive volunteer cleanup and stewardship events at trailheads and beaches, paired with educational signage and recycling initiatives to promote cleanliness.	Medium	Open Space Committee	Not applicable	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.2. Pursue coordinated efforts to eliminate litter in open space areas through partnerships with business and non-profit organizations, such as a “adopt a trail” or “adopt a conservation area” programs.	Medium	Open Space Committee and Communications	Not applicable			X	X	X					
Goal 4: Continue and expand ongoing maintenance of conservation areas.													
4.1. Update the Town’s Wildland Fire Preparedness Plan to include the entire Town and implement recommendations with specific emphasis on habitat restoration.	Medium	Conservation Division	MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program			X	X	X	X				
4.2. Provide maintenance on any historic ancient ways that provide public access to trails and conservation areas, and seek to re-establish any ancient ways with public access rights.	Medium	Department of Public Works	Community Preservation Act	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Goal 5: Coordinate open space protection measures with efforts to protect wildlife habitat and augment the Town’s green corridors and spaces.													
5.1. Continue to develop and prioritize sites for green infrastructure strategies to enhance climate resiliency.	Medium	Planning & Development and Department of Public Works	MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program and Town Budget	X	X	X	X						
5.2. Enhance environmental practices at town golf courses to support habitat and wildlife through sustainable water use, habitat restoration efforts, planting of drought-resistant native vegetation, and elimination of chemical applications.	Medium	Community Services	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Community Preservation Act, and Town Budget			X	X	X					
5.3. Prioritize tree planting and park greening by continuing the Town’s Greening the Gateway Cities Grant program within greater Hyannis and collaborate with the Town’s Tree Warden to plant trees throughout Town with a focus on high-use open space and recreation sites, and sites along roadways and multi-use paths.	High	Planning & Development and Tree Warden	MA Greening the Gateway Cities and Town Budget	X	X	X							

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Recreation Facilities & Amenities													
Goal 6: Provide diverse recreational opportunities and equitable access throughout Barnstable to meet current and future needs of all user groups.													
6.1. Plan, design, and construct new or upgraded recreation amenities such as splash pads, indoor and outdoor pools, playgrounds, basketball courts, and soccer cages at strategic sites to meet year-round demand, including the Hyannis Youth & Community Center grounds, Hamblin Pond, Veterans Memorial Park, Hathaway’s Pond, Former Marstons Mills Elementary School Site, Ridgewood Park, and potential new acquisitions.	High	Community Services and Department of Public Works	Community Preservation Act, MA Division of Conservation Services and Town Budget	X	X	X	X						
6.2. Develop a playground plan for the town that includes all seven villages. This plan should document existing conditions and needs for each village and include a list of potential projects to increase and/or upgrade playgrounds.	High	Recreation Commission and Planning Department	Community Preservation Act		X	X	X	X	X				
6.3. Assess the availability of recreational facilities and programs in areas with significant Environmental Justice populations and determine whether additional or modified programs and facilities are needed.	Medium	Community Services and Planning & Development	Not applicable			X	X	X					

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.4. Create more outdoor recreation activities for seniors at the Barnstable Adult Community Center site such as bocce courts, shuffle boards, or lawn bowling.	Medium	Community Services	Community Preservation Act, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, and MA Office of Disability		X	X	X	X					
6.5. Develop parks and open space for Hyannis to support the Growth Incentive Zone land use objectives.	High	Community Services and Planning & Development	Community Preservation Act, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Town Budget	X	X	X	X	X					
6.6. Implement open space and recreation goals identified through public engagement and design of the former Marstons Mills Elementary School site.	Medium	Community Services and Planning & Development	Community Preservation Act and MA Department of Conservation and Services		X	X	X	X	X				
6.7. Enhance amenities at the Town's existing dog park and explore opportunities for an additional dog park.	Medium	Planning & Development and Department of Public Works	Community Preservation Act, MA Department of Conservation and Services, and Town Budget	X	X	X	X	X	X				

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.8. Develop youth-oriented mountain biking loops and ropes or adventure course areas at Hathaway's Pond and/or the Marstons Mills Pickleball Courts area to diversify recreation opportunities and engage teens.	Medium	Community Services and Planning & Development	Community Preservation Act, MA Department of Conservation and Services, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Town Budget				X	X	X	X	X		
6.9. Attract and support the development of an indoor recreational facility through completion of a feasibility study for an indoor recreation facility to obtain project costs and identify possible locations.	Low	Planning & Development and Community Services	MA Department of Conservation and Services								X	X	X
6.10. Identify locations for new multi-use recreation field in downtown Hyannis that is open to the public and/or seek upgrades at the field located at 116 High School Road.	Medium	Planning & Development, Community Services, and Department of Public Works	Community Preservation Act		X	X	X						
6.11. Enhance and expand existing park area at Kalmus Beach including a new walking trail.	Medium	Planning & Development and Department of Public Works	Community Preservation Act and MA Department of Conservation and Recreation		X	X	X						

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.12. Upgrade and maintain the trail system, bathhouse, and picnic area at Hathaway's Pond.	Medium	Department of Public Works	Community Preservation Act, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Town Budget						X	X	X		
6.13. Restore Lovells Beach in Cotuit through environmentally sensitive vegetative management as a recreational asset to residents.	Medium	Department of Public Works and Community Services	Community Preservation Act								X	X	X
6.14. Install new outdoor basketball courts in locations that are easily accessible by the public (not on school grounds).	Medium	Department of Public Works and Community Services	Community Preservation Act								X	X	X
Goal 7: Prioritize opportunities to protect land for farming and community gardens while balancing groundwater protection and supporting locally grown produce.													
7.1. Explore the impact of adopting a Right to Farm bylaw.	Low	Planning & Development	Not applicable						X	X	X		
7.2. Work with Barnstable County Cooperative Extension to support farmers markets.	Low	Planning & Development	Not applicable	X	X								
7.3. Expand opportunities for horticulture, including by increasing the number of community garden plots available to the public, particularly in Environmental Justice communities.	Medium	Planning & Development	Community Preservation Act			X	X	X	X				

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.4. Promote and support measures to protect agricultural land in perpetuity, including the use of Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) programs that offer financial incentives to farmers for preserving farmland.	Low	Open Space Committee and Communications	Not applicable				X	X	X				
Water Resources													
Goal 8: Coordinate open space protection efforts with initiatives to protect freshwater, marine wetlands, groundwater, and surface waters.													
8.1. Support the strict enforcement of regulations that protect coastal and freshwater wetlands, including no build and no disturb buffer zone requirements.	High	Conservation Division	Not applicable	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8.2. Protect Town-owned land surrounding Joshua's Pond and Micah's Pond in Osterville with a permanent conservation restriction and enhance existing trails.	High	Planning & Development and Town Attorney	Community Preservation Act		X	X	X						
8.3. Maximize the ecological health of the Town's five herring runs. Identify and map obstructions along the herring runs.	Medium	Department of Public Works and Marine & Environmental Affairs	MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program, MA Division of Ecological Restoration, and Town Budget								X	X	X

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.4. Continue to update water treatment technology to address regulatory mandates and emerging and known contaminants.	High	Department of Public Works	MA Department of Environmental Protection and Town Budget	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8.5. Continue to research the feasibility and strategic options for the Hyannis Water District to increase ownership and control of Zone I areas.	High	Department of Public Works	Not applicable	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8.6. Evaluate and, if necessary, amend the Town's Groundwater Protection Overlay District to strengthen the protection of the zones contributing to public water supplies.	High	Planning & Development and Department of Public Works	Not applicable		X	X	X						
8.7. Create new pathways on wellhead protection areas to increase natural surveillance by responsible public users.	Medium	Water Districts and Department of Public Works	MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Community Preservation Act, and Town Budget				X	X	X				
8.8. Encourage water districts to explore graduated billing rates that charge higher rates to high-water users, such as was established by the Cotuit Water District.	Medium	Water Districts	Not applicable							X	X	X	

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.9. Explore opportunities to acquire open space along the Hyannis waterfront in order to provide more public access and support the working waterfront.	Medium	Planning & Development and Community Preservation Committee	Community Preservation Act				X	X	X				
8.10. Explore opportunities to acquire cranberry bogs in key locations in order to implement nitrogen reduction efforts for neighboring water resources.	Medium	Natural Resources and Community Preservation Committee	Community Preservation Act						X	X	X		
Goal 9: Plan and develop strategies to mitigate effects of climate change as it relates to open space.													
9.1. Continue to study sea level rise and prioritize implementation of coastal resilience actions defined within recent planning efforts including the Hyannis Harbor Master Plan and the Town's Hazard Mitigation.	High	Planning & Development and Department of Public Works	MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and Town Budget	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9.2. Evaluate the status of completed tidal restoration projects and use findings to develop best practices for future tidal restoration.	High	Marine & Environmental Affairs, Department of Public Works, and Conservation Division	MA Division of Ecological Restoration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9.3. Explore opportunities to enhance existing water bodies with self-sustaining improvements, such as a Coastal Mitigation Nursery.	Medium	Marine & Environmental Affairs and Conservation Division	MA Department of Environmental Protection and Town Budget					X	X				

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Goal 10: Pursue opportunities to enhance coastal and freshwater access.													
10.1. Maintain Town Ways to Water, including clarifying deeds and titles, improvements and maintenance, identifying grant opportunities, enhancing parking facilities, and pursuing new public access opportunities.	Medium	Asset Management, Planning & Development, and Department of Public Works	MA Division of Conservation Services and Town Budget				X	X	X	X			
10.2. Increase water access for paddlers by identifying, designing, and implementing new or improved kayak and canoe launches with adequate parking, signage, storage racks, and shoreline protection.	Medium	Department of Public Works and Community Services	Community Preservation Act, MA Division of Conservation Services, and Town Budget				X	X	X				
10.3. Inventory and analyze boat ramps and parking areas for retrofits that include nature-based solutions and stormwater best management practices to protect ponds and estuaries, and incorporate Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) -compliant dock and ramp upgrades.	Medium	Department of Public Works and Marine & Environmental Affairs	MA Office on Disability and Town Budget					X	X	X			
10.4. Support public shellfish propagation programs and maintain public access to designated Shellfish Recreation Areas.	High	Marine & Environmental Affairs	Not applicable	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Connectivity & Accessibility													
Goal 11: Coordinate planning for the Town’s greenway network to maximize opportunities for trailways, bikeways, Cape Cod Pathways, and connections between open spaces.													
11.1. Examine the Town’s existing bikeway network plan and identify priority projects in coordination with the Town’s Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.	Medium	Department of Public Works	MA Department of Transportation, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Town Budget	X	X	X	X	X	X				
11.2. Conduct research regarding public access rights at key connecting locations and lost ancient ways in order to complete trail connections, including for the Cape Cod Pathways program.	Medium	Planning & Development and Town Attorney	Not applicable		X	X	X	X					
11.3. Continue planning and design for a connection to the regional bikeway network through the Cape Cod Rail Trail Phase 4 project into Sandwich, and a connection between the Hyannis Transportation Center and the Cape Cod Rail Trail.	High	Department of Public Works	Community Preservation Act and MassTrails	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11.4. Connect villages, parks, and trailheads through a continuous network of sidewalks and shared use paths linking open spaces through coordination with Barnstable's Complete Streets initiative, including routes to Hathaway's Pond, Ridgewood Park, Burgess Park, Veterans Memorial Park, and Hamblin Pond.	High	Planning & Development and Department of Public Works	MA Department of Transportation, MassWorks, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All, and Town Budget	X	X	X	X	X					
11.5. Add bike infrastructure at open space destinations by installing secure bike racks, shade structures, signage, and wayfinding at major trailheads and beaches to encourage non-motorized access.	Medium	Planning & Development and Department of Public Works	Community Preservation Act, MA Division of Conservation Services, and Town Budget		X		X		X		X		
11.6. Improve pedestrian safety and comfort near parks and beaches by adding sidewalks, crosswalks, benches, shade structures, and refill stations at major access points.	Medium	Department of Public Works	MA Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All, and Town Budget		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11.7. Implement a coordinated Trailhead Safety and Management Program, including routine inspections for encampments, clearer enforcement of regulations, and enhanced lighting where feasible.	Medium	Police and Department of Public Works	Not applicable			X	X	X					
11.8 Prioritize sidewalks amenities during road construction projects and implement new sidewalks where feasible.	High	Department of Public Works	MA Department of Transportation, MassWorks, U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All, and Town Budget								X	X	X
Goal 12: Identify and implement priority Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements.													
12.1. Evaluate the Town's ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan and identify priority accessibility improvements among the Town's beaches, parks, playgrounds, municipal golf courses, and recreational facilities.	High	Community Services and Disability Commission	MA Office on Disability and Town Budget	X	X	X							
12.2. Develop and prioritize a list of accessibility improvements at Ways to Water sites and major conservation and recreation areas.	High	Disability Commission	Not applicable	X	X	X							

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.3. Pursue Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other funding sources to support accessibility improvements.	High	Planning & Development and Department of Public Works	Community Development Block Grant & MA Office on Disability	X	X								
12.4. Identify new locations for adaptive mountain bike trails.	Medium	Community Services and Open Space Committee	Not applicable								X	X	X
12.5. Upgrade parking and access at priority open spaces and water access points by designing and constructing expanded or reconfigured parking areas that include ADA spaces, bicycle racks, and stormwater best management practices.	High	Planning & Development and Department of Public Works	MA Office on Disability, MA Division of Conservation Services, and Town Budget			X	X	X					
Communication & Marketing													
Goal 13: Promote coordination and communication on community open space and recreation needs within Town government and among stakeholder groups.													
13.1. Coordinate implementation through the Planning & Development Department, engaging municipal departments, boards, and private stakeholder groups in developing annual action plans and reporting progress.	High	Planning & Development	Not applicable	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13.2. Convene regular meetings with the water and fire districts, conservation commission, and private land trusts to review land management, acquisition, and protection priorities.	Medium	Planning & Development	Not applicable	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13.3. Continue to work on mapping trails in conservation areas to inform public safety efforts, and add waypoints and/or trail signage where appropriate.	Medium	GIS	Not applicable	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13.4. Coordinate an annual review of the Open Space Plan by the Open Space Committee to review and report on progress of action plan.	High	Planning & Development and Open Space Committee	Not applicable	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 14: Promote public awareness of and support for open space protection and enhancement of recreation resources.													
14.1. Educate and engage the community through local media, outreach, and public forums to communicate the environmental, aesthetic, and economic value of open space protection.	High	Planning & Development and Open Space Committee, and Communications	Not applicable	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
14.2. Develop a comprehensive, user-friendly web portal and printed maps showing all open spaces, amenities, rules, and accessibility features, and update them annually.	High	Planning & Development	Not applicable	X	X	X							

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.3. Provide public information to landowners regarding opportunities to preserve open spaces with natural and scenic value through conservation restrictions or Chapter 61 designations.	High	Planning & Development	Not applicable		X	X	X						
14.4. Develop an outreach and communications plan to ensure Environmental Justice populations are aware of open space and recreational facilities located throughout town.	High	Community Services and Communications	Not applicable	X	X	X							
14.5. Install new signage along roadways at walking trails to increase visibility and awareness of town's open spaces.	High	Planning & Development and Department of Public Works	Community Preservation Act and Town Budget	X	X	X							
14.6. Develop an online reporting form, accessible via QR code signage at parks and playgrounds townwide, to allow residents to report maintenance, safety, or accessibility concerns directly to the Town staff.	Medium	Community Services and IT	Not applicable					X	X	X			
14.7. Implement a townwide pond protection toolkit including vegetated buffer standards, access management, cyanobacteria response, and public education with information for near-term projects.	Medium	Department of Public Works and Conservation Division	Not applicable			X	X	X					

Objectives	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source	Timeframe									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.8. Develop strategies to distribute the Cape Cod Commission's Cape Cod Freshwater Pond Buffer Guide to property owners abutting water bodies to encourage best practices for environmentally-friendly property maintenance.	Medium	Department of Public Works, Conservation Division, and Communications	Not applicable			X	X	X	X	X			
14.9. Install signage for parking areas associated with recreation resources to promote public awareness.	Medium	Department of Public Works	Community Preservation Act and Town Budget			X	X	X					
14.10. Develop educational materials for safe operation of e-bikes.	Low	Community Services and Communications	Not applicable								X	X	X
14.11. Create mailings to be sent directly to residents with information on town open space and recreation resources.	Low	Community Services	Not applicable			X			X			X	
14.12. Create a 'walk library' on the Town website to serve as a database of self-guided walks.	Medium	Planning & Development	Not applicable		X	X	X						

08 LETTERS OF SUPPORT



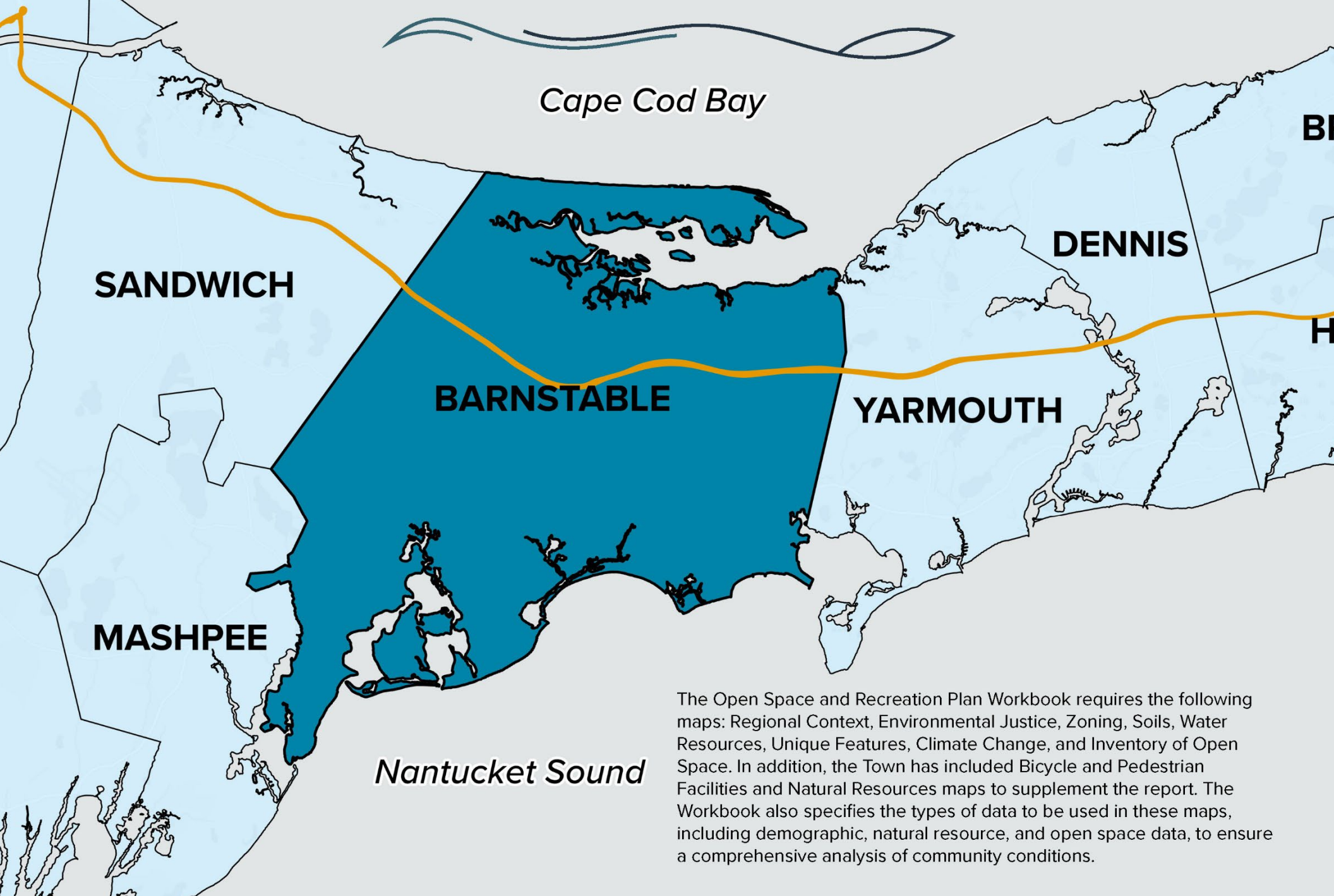
08 Letters of Support

09 References

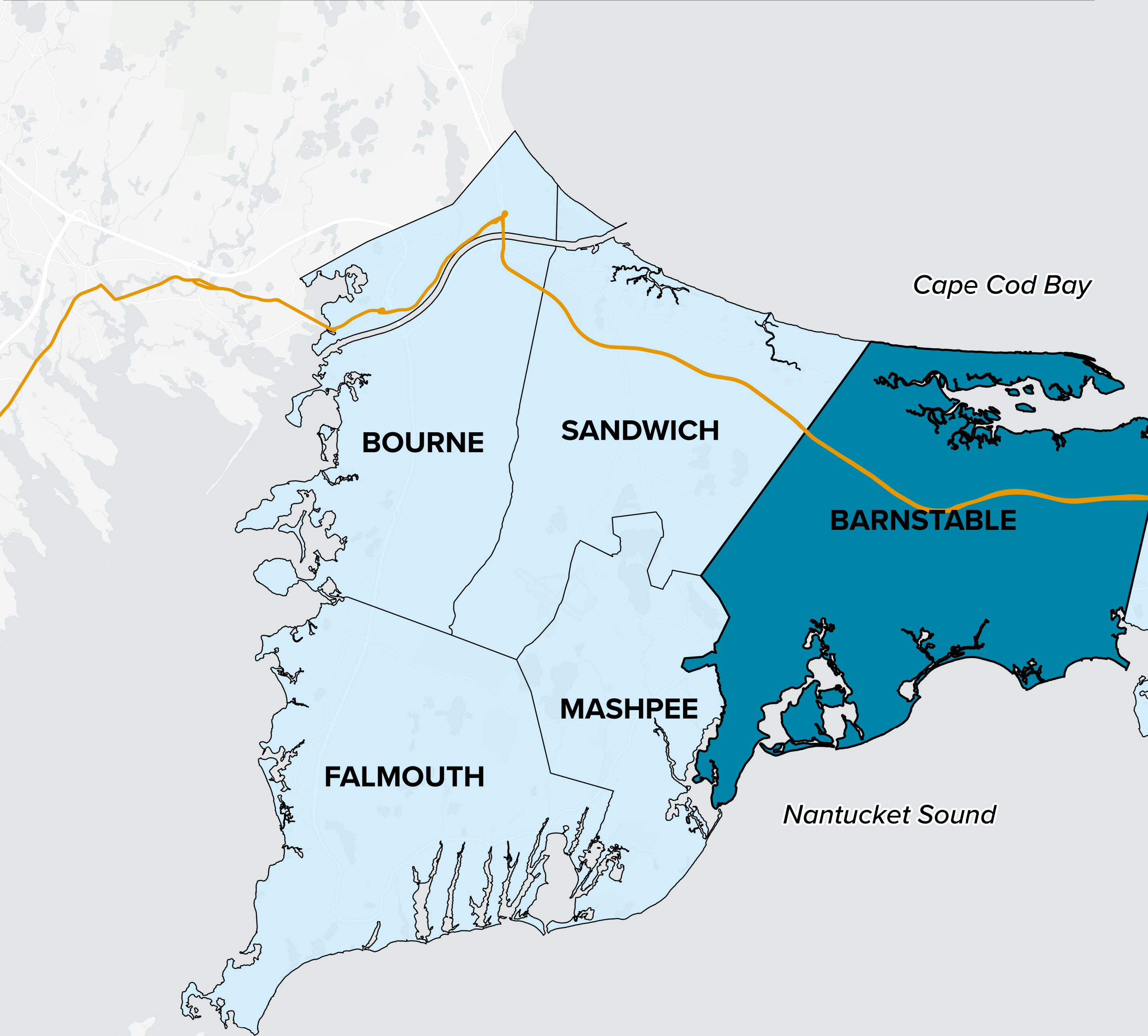
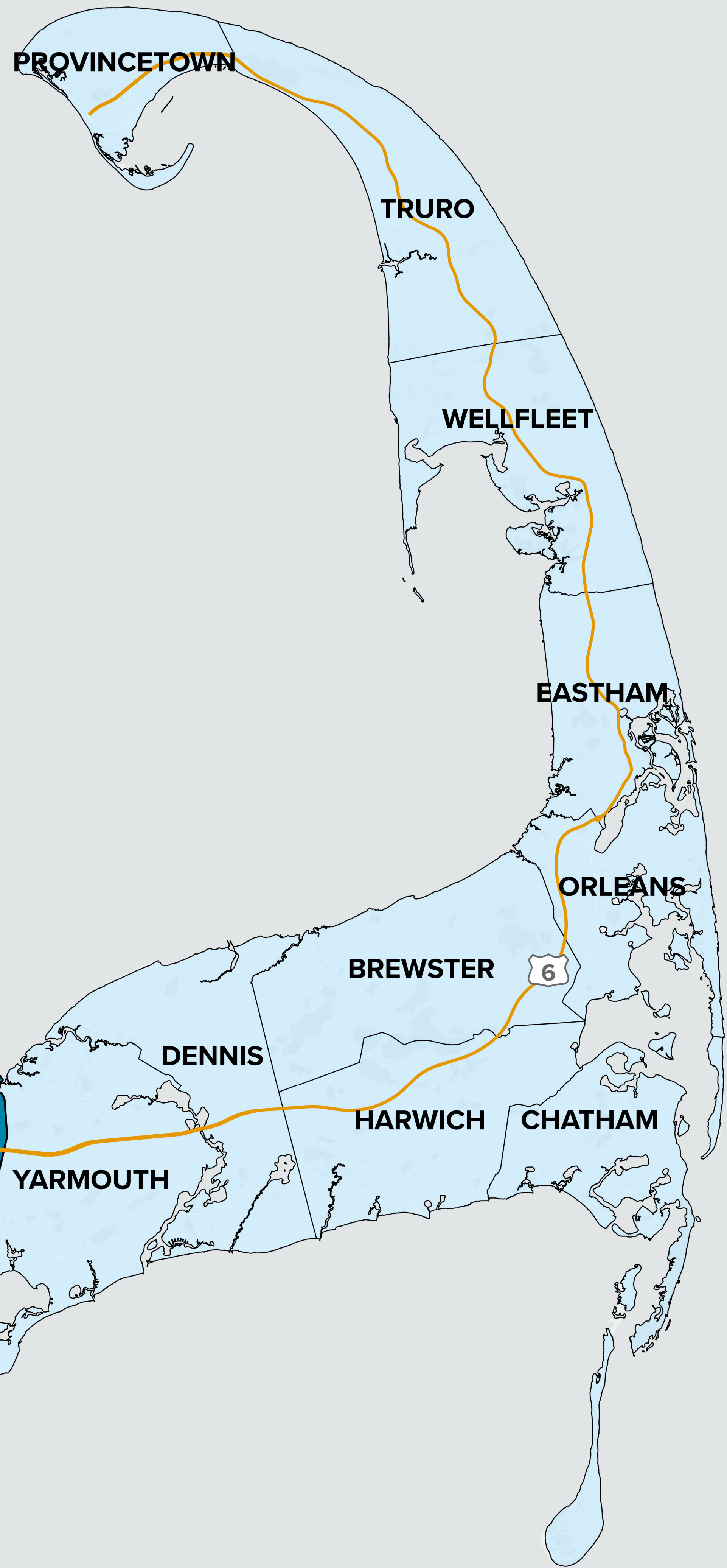
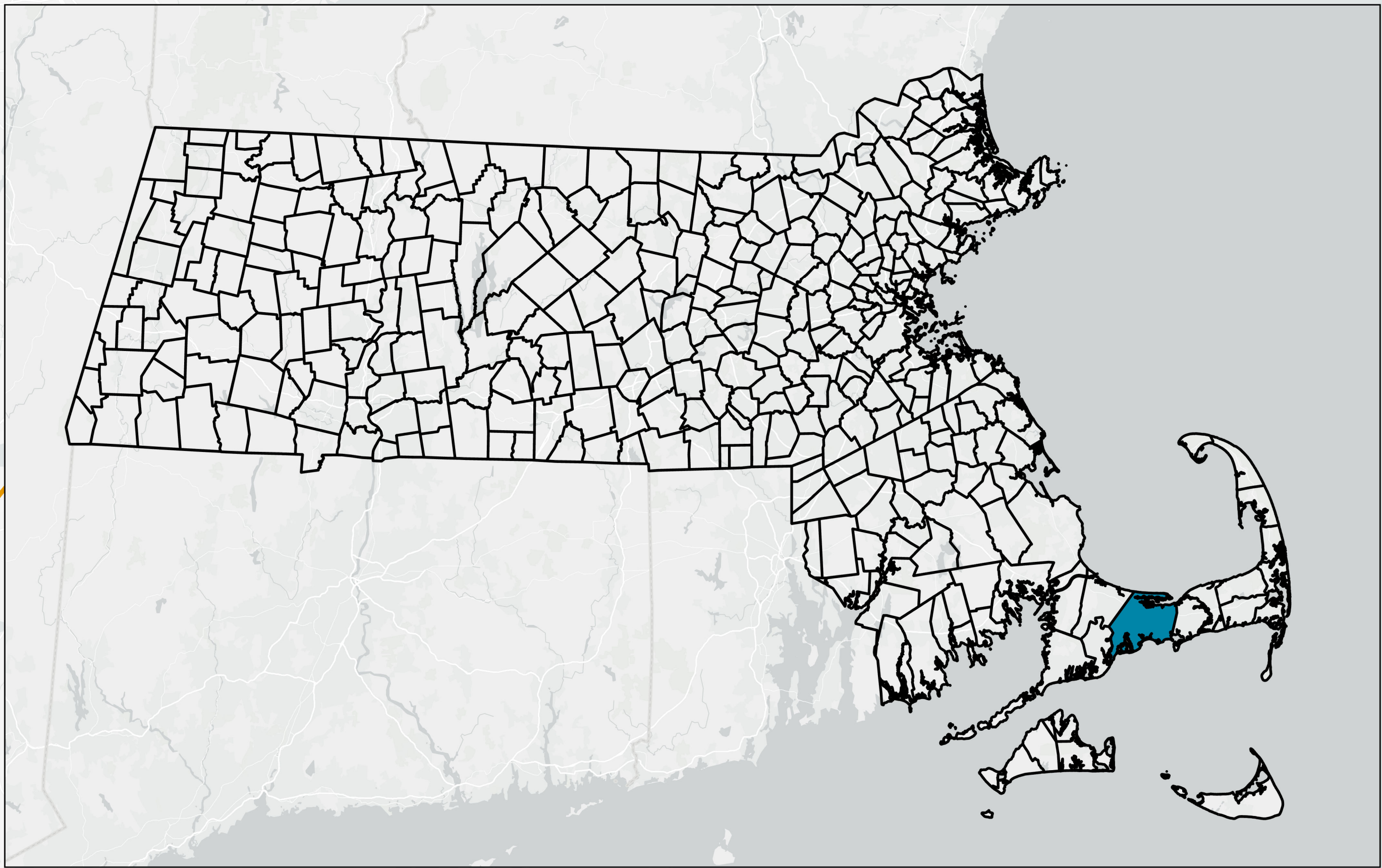
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APPENDIX A: MAPS



The Open Space and Recreation Plan Workbook requires the following maps: Regional Context, Environmental Justice, Zoning, Soils, Water Resources, Unique Features, Climate Change, and Inventory of Open Space. In addition, the Town has included Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities and Natural Resources maps to supplement the report. The Workbook also specifies the types of data to be used in these maps, including demographic, natural resource, and open space data, to ensure a comprehensive analysis of community conditions.



**Town of Barnstable
Regional Context**

Legend

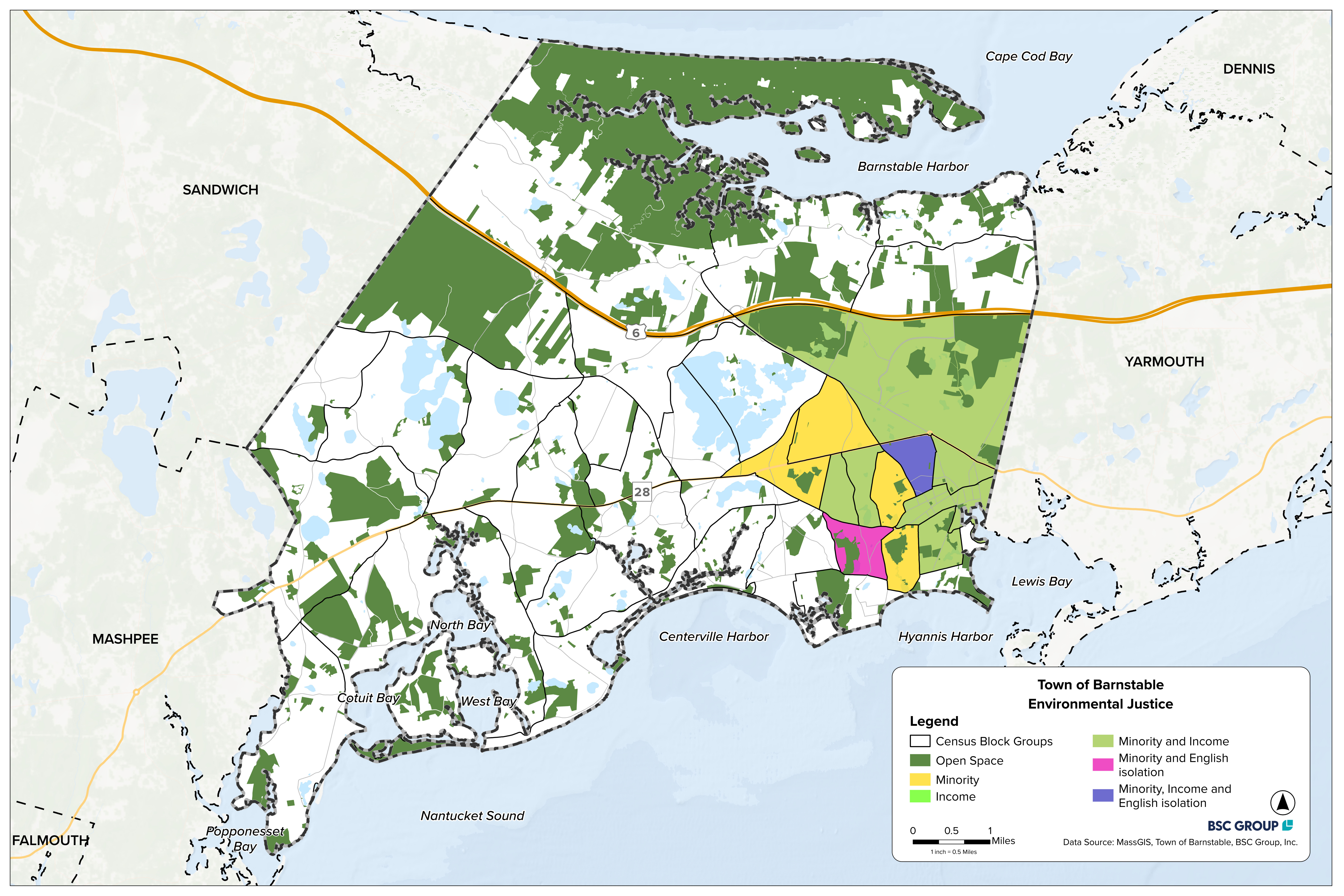
-  Town of Barnstable
-  Municipalities

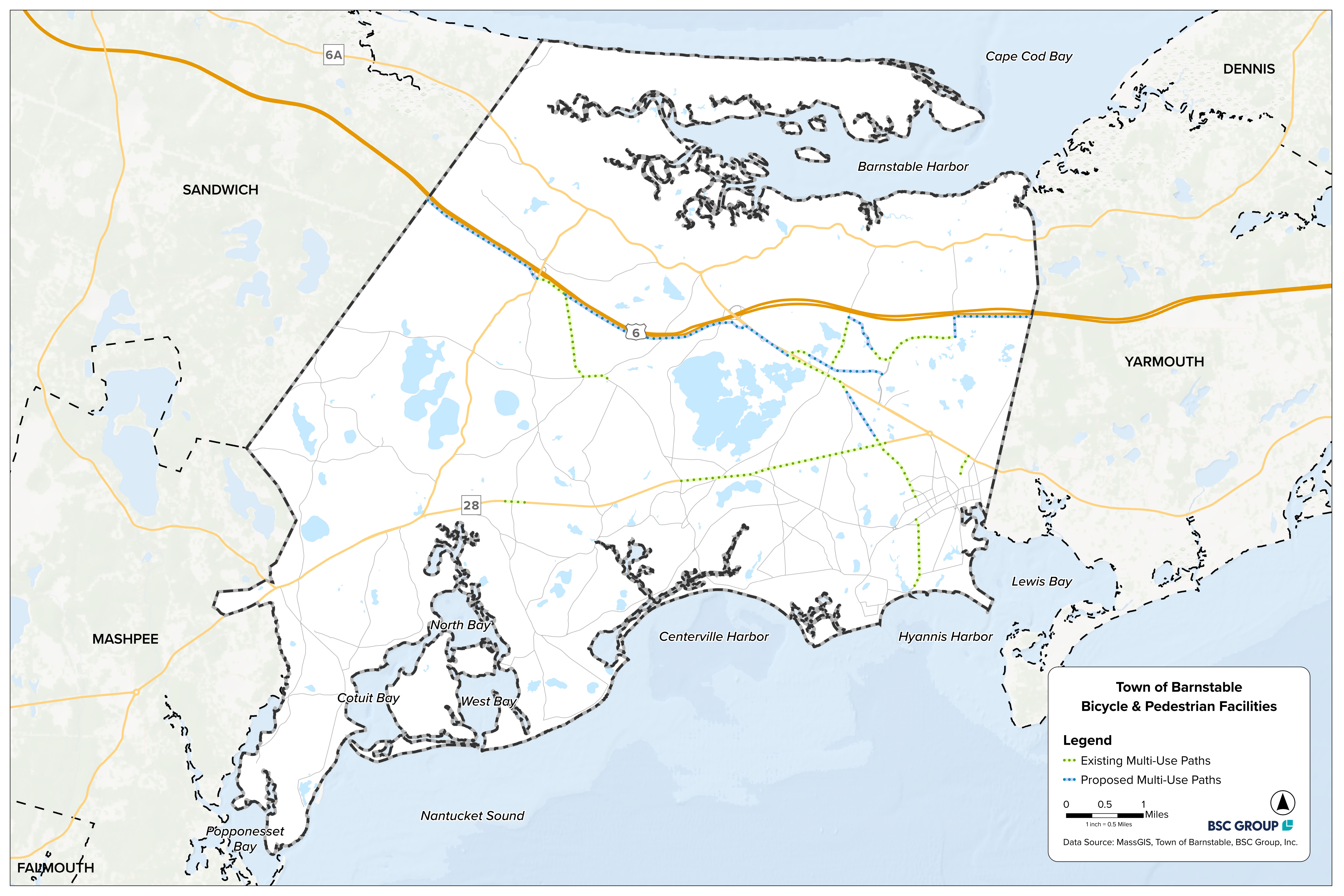
0 10 20
Miles
1 inch = 1.7 Miles

Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Barnstable, BSC Group, Inc.



BSC GROUP 





**Town of Barnstable
Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities**

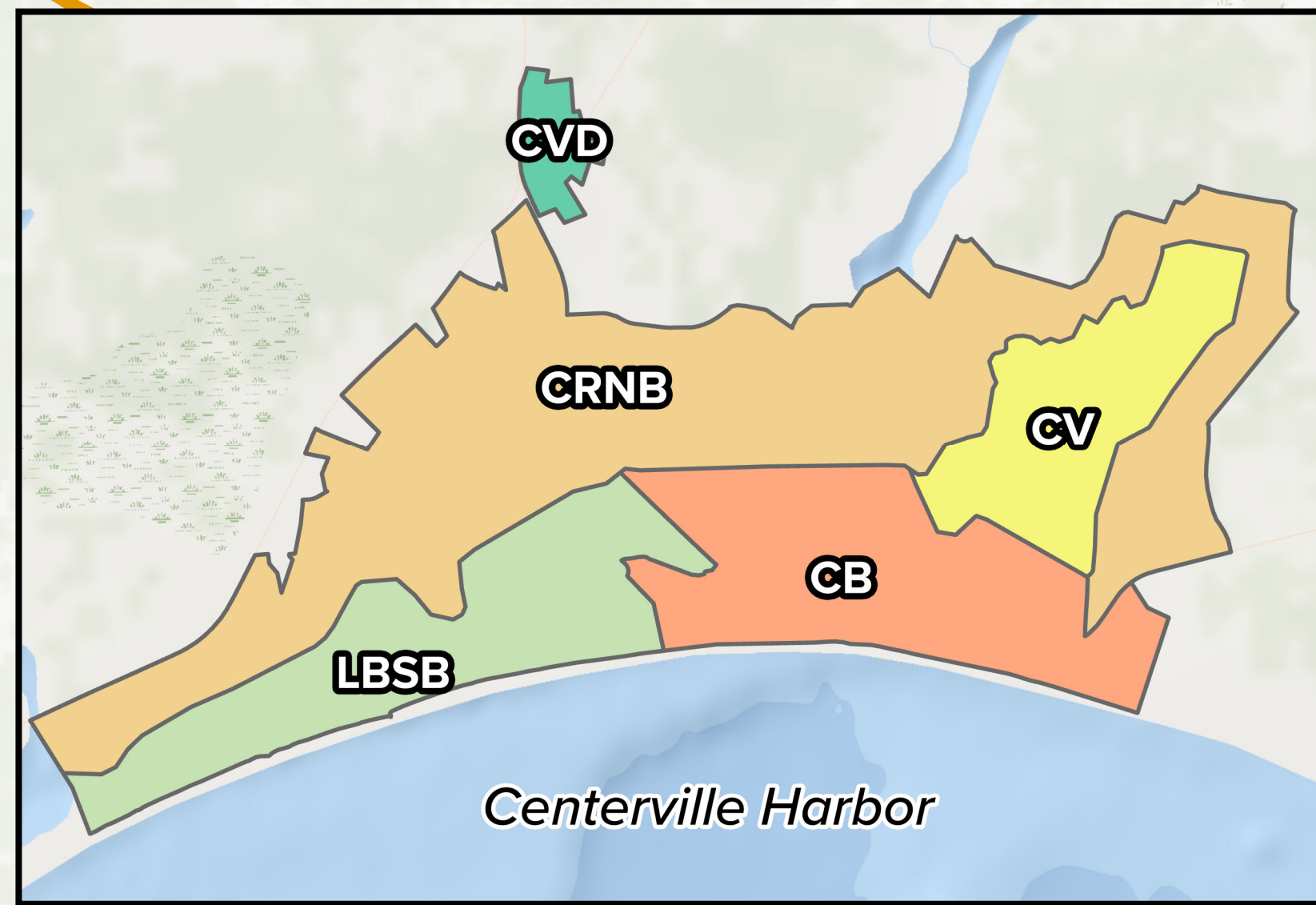
Legend

- Existing Multi-Use Paths
- Proposed Multi-Use Paths

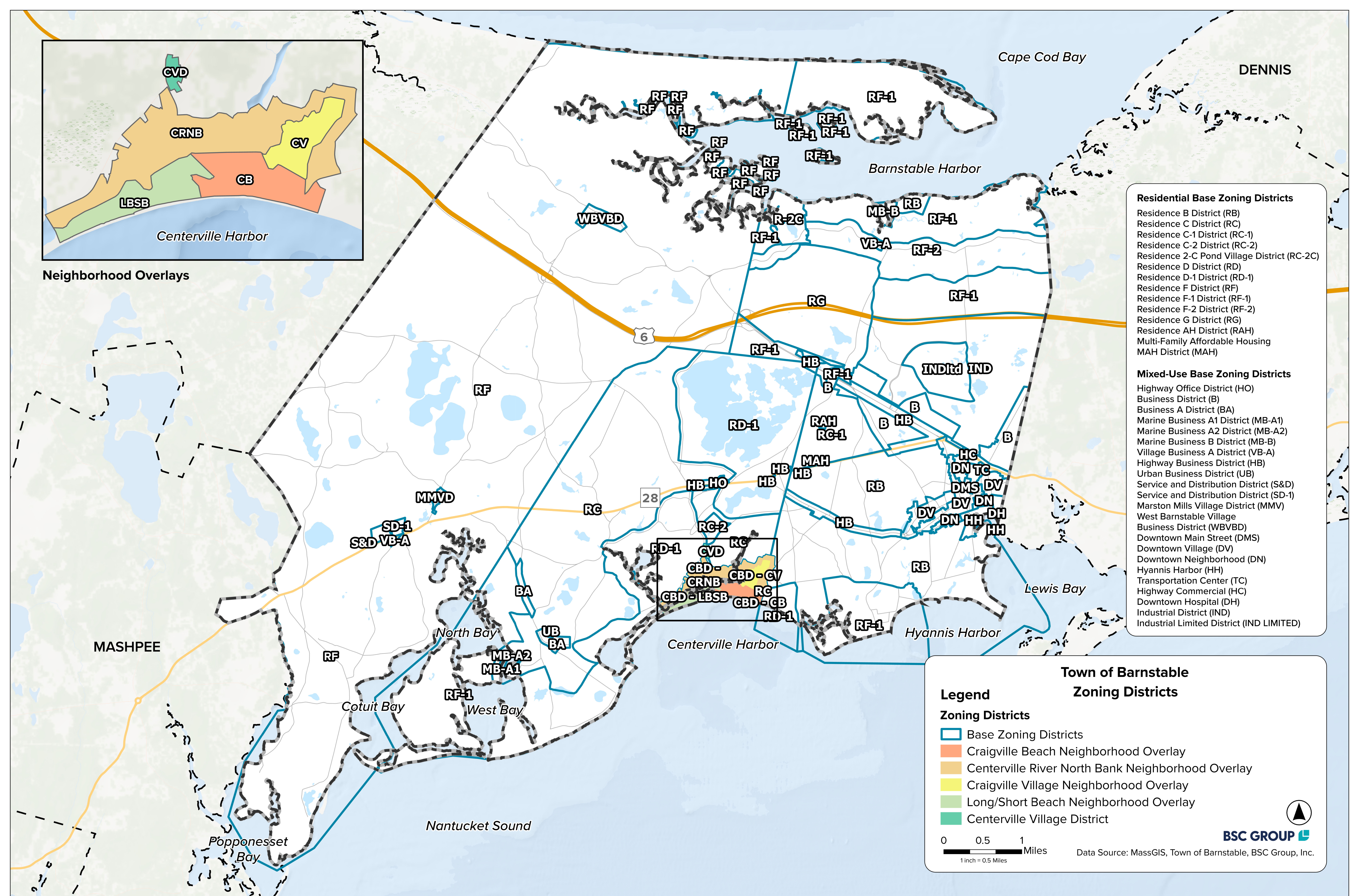
0 0.5 1 Miles
1 inch = 0.5 Miles

Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Barnstable, BSC Group, Inc.

BSC GROUP



Neighborhood Overlays



Residential Base Zoning Districts

- Residence B District (RB)
- Residence C District (RC)
- Residence C-1 District (RC-1)
- Residence C-2 District (RC-2)
- Residence 2-C Pond Village District (RC-2C)
- Residence D District (RD)
- Residence D-1 District (RD-1)
- Residence F District (RF)
- Residence F-1 District (RF-1)
- Residence F-2 District (RF-2)
- Residence G District (RG)
- Residence AH District (RAH)
- Multi-Family Affordable Housing MAH District (MAH)

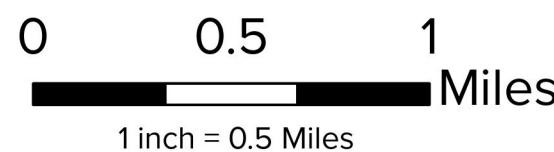
Mixed-Use Base Zoning Districts

- Highway Office District (HO)
- Business District (B)
- Business A District (BA)
- Marine Business A1 District (MB-A1)
- Marine Business A2 District (MB-A2)
- Marine Business B District (MB-B)
- Village Business A District (VB-A)
- Highway Business District (HB)
- Urban Business District (UB)
- Service and Distribution District (S&D)
- Service and Distribution District (SD-1)
- Marston Mills Village District (MMV)
- West Barnstable Village Business District (WBVBD)
- Downtown Main Street (DMS)
- Downtown Village (DV)
- Downtown Neighborhood (DN)
- Hyannis Harbor (HH)
- Transportation Center (TC)
- Highway Commercial (HC)
- Downtown Hospital (DH)
- Industrial District (IND)
- Industrial Limited District (IND LIMITED)

Legend

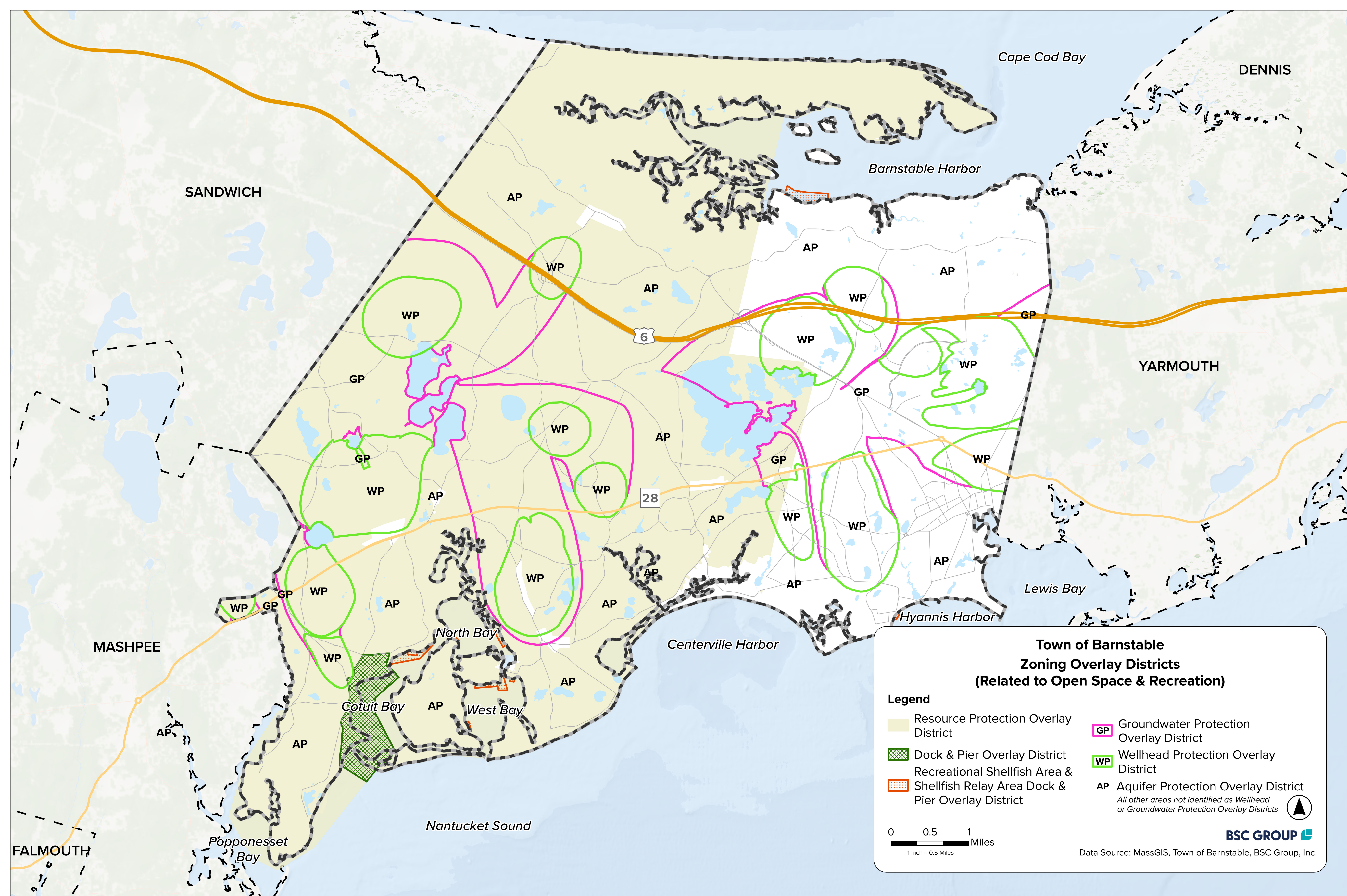
Zoning Districts

- Base Zoning Districts
- Craigville Beach Neighborhood Overlay
- Centerville River North Bank Neighborhood Overlay
- Craigville Village Neighborhood Overlay
- Long/Short Beach Neighborhood Overlay
- Centerville Village District









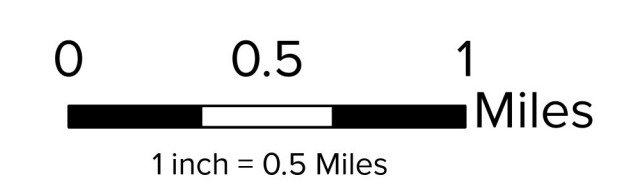
Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Barnstable, BSC Group, Inc.





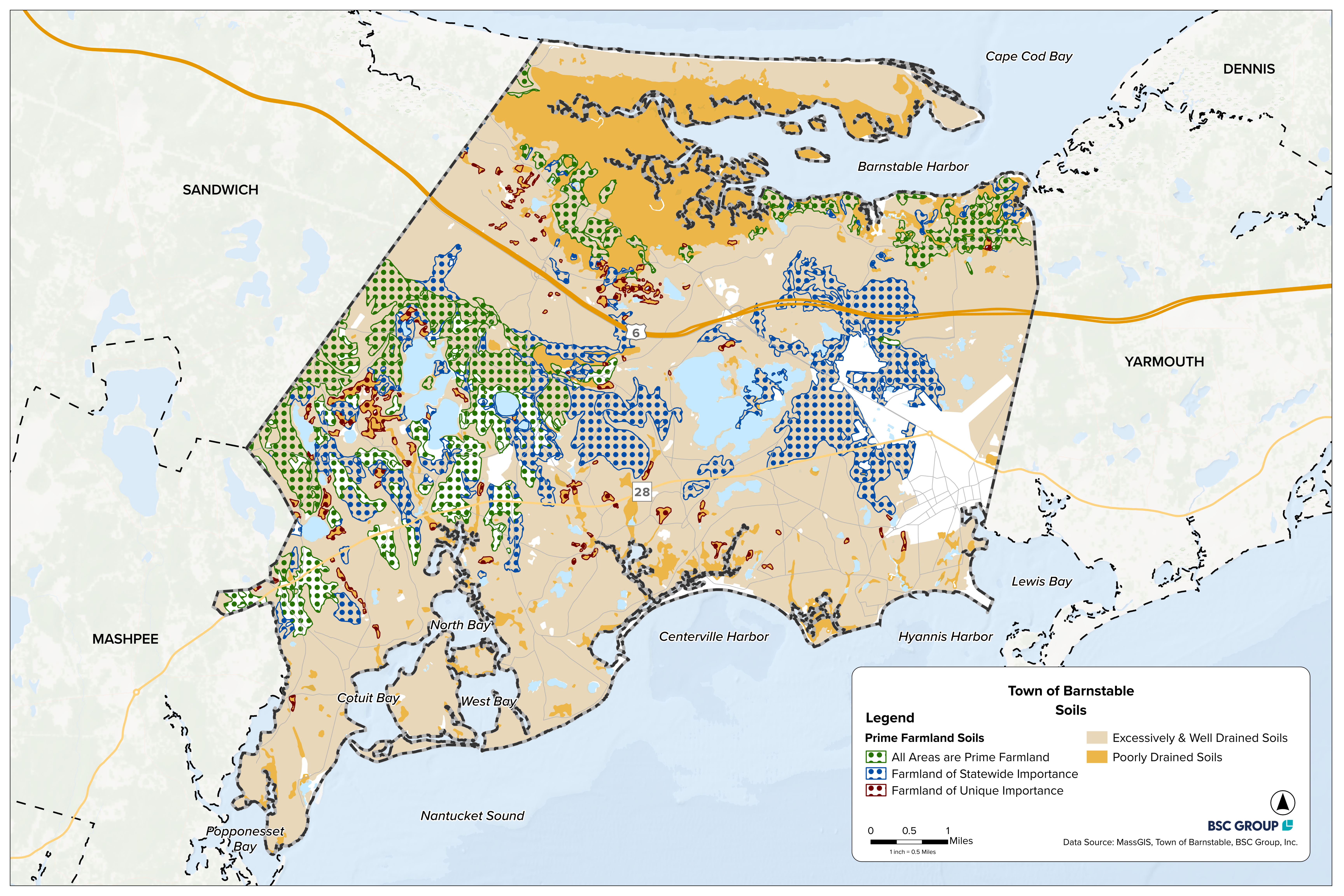
**Town of Barnstable
Zoning Overlay Districts
(Related to Open Space & Recreation)**

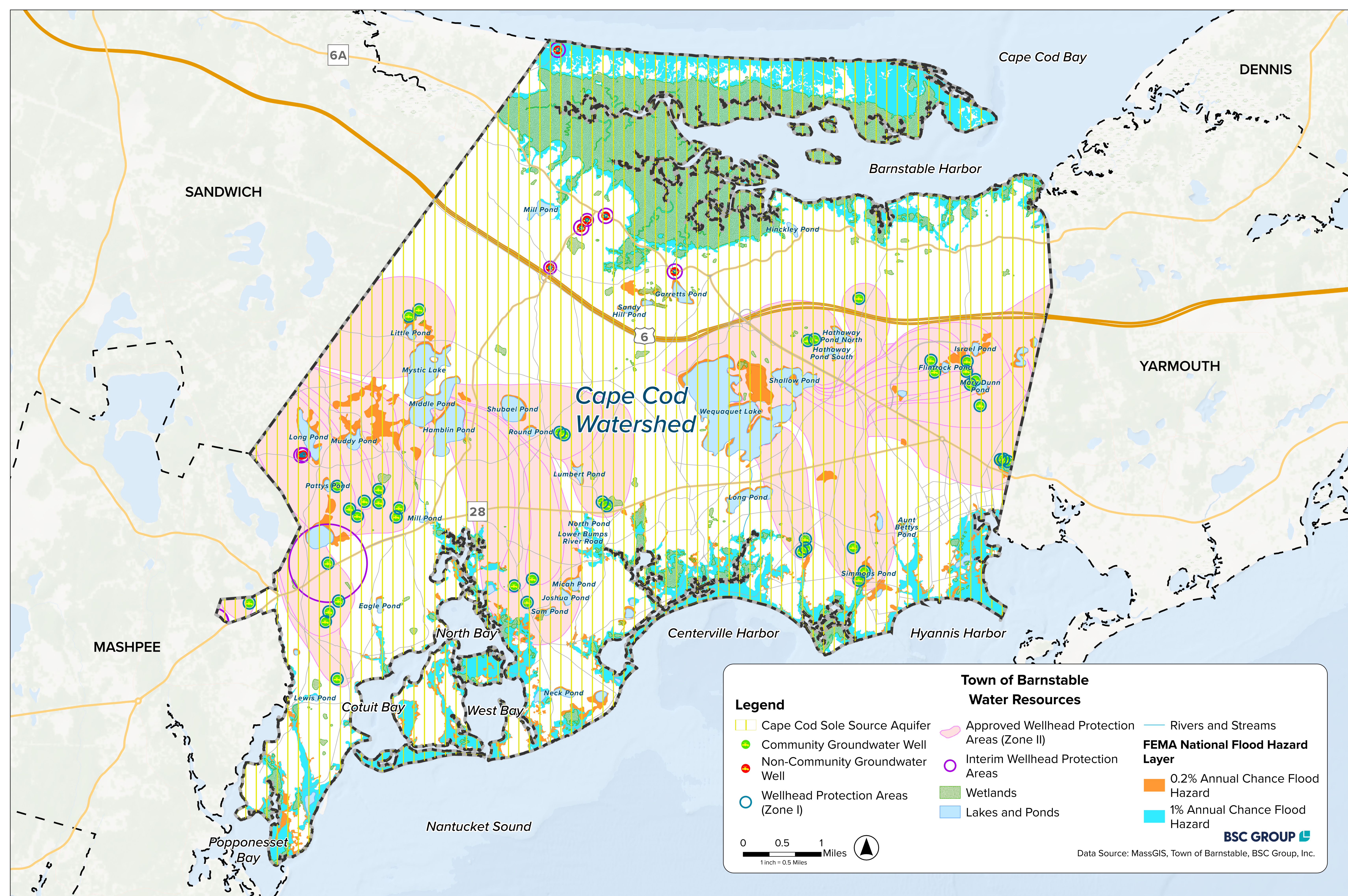
- Legend**
- | | |
|---|---|
|  Resource Protection Overlay District |  Groundwater Protection Overlay District |
|  Dock & Pier Overlay District |  Wellhead Protection Overlay District |
|  Shellfish Relay Area Dock & Pier Overlay District |  AP Aquifer Protection Overlay District |
| | <small>All other areas not identified as Wellhead or Groundwater Protection Overlay Districts</small> |

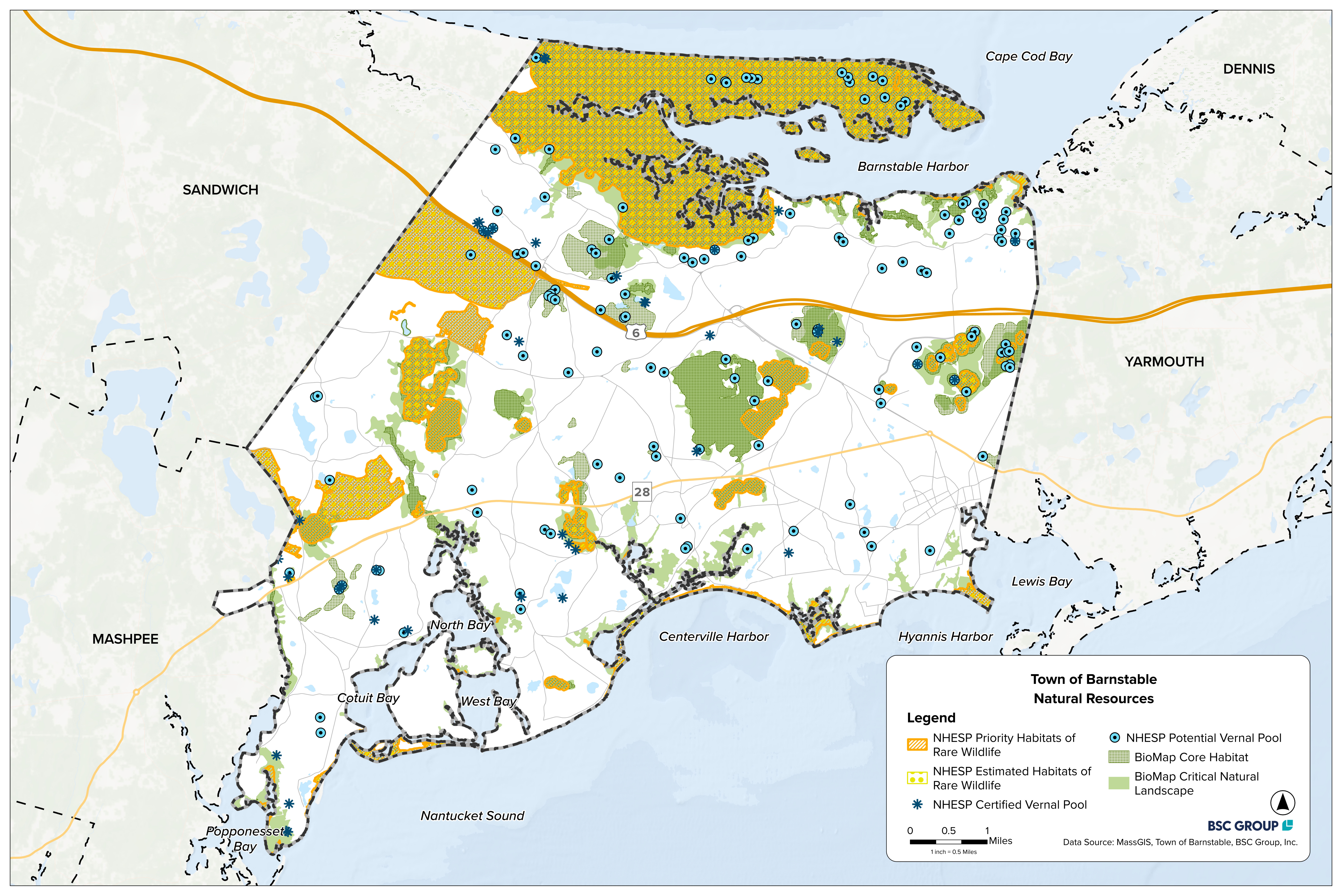


BSC GROUP 

Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Barnstable, BSC Group, Inc.







Cape Cod Bay

DENNIS

SANDWICH

Barnstable Harbor

YARMOUTH

Lewis Bay

MASHPEE

North Bay

Centerville Harbor

Hyannis Harbor

Cotuit Bay

West Bay

Nantucket Sound

Popponesset Bay

Town of Barnstable Natural Resources

Legend

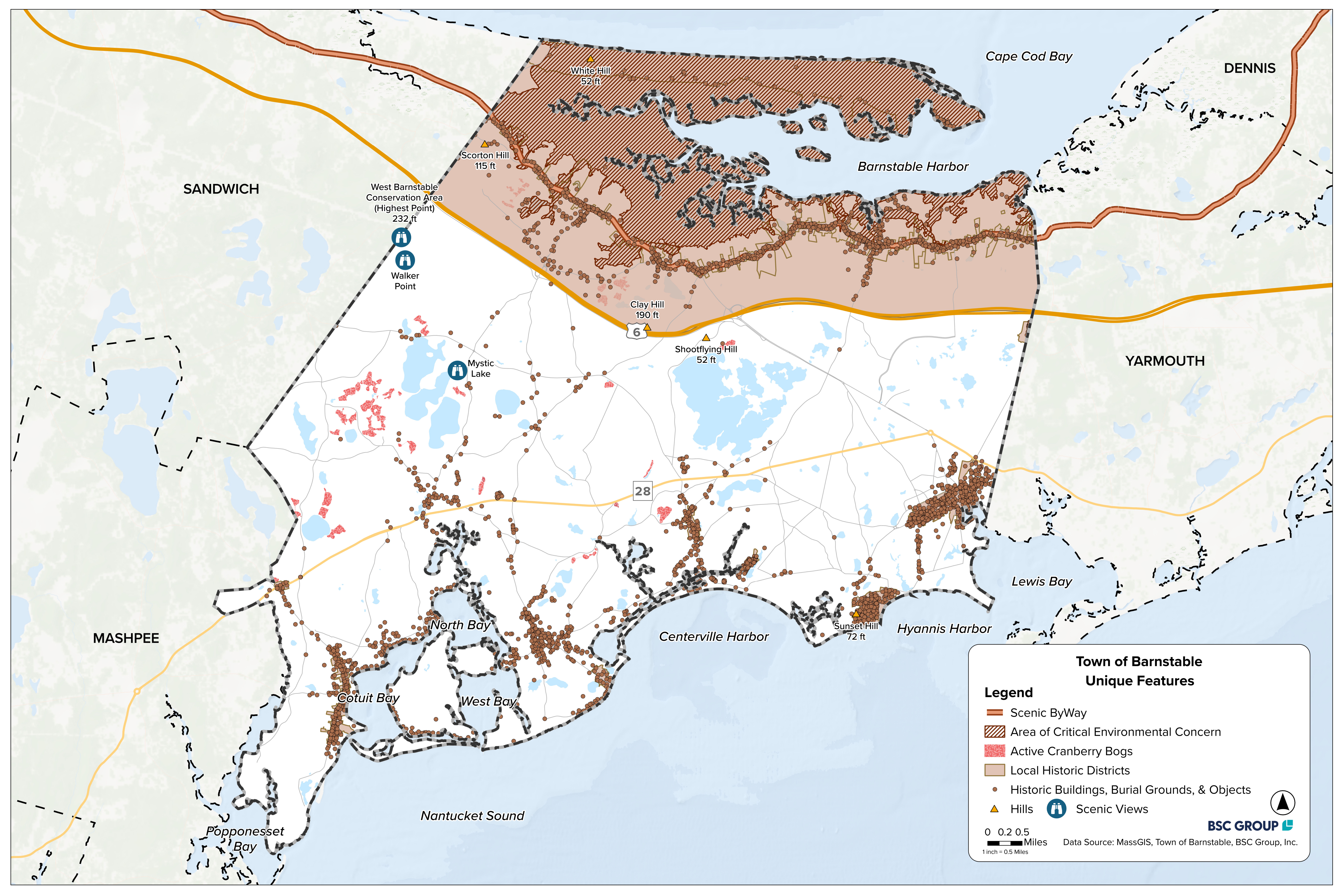
- NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Wildlife
- NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife
- NHESP Certified Vernal Pool

- NHESP Potential Vernal Pool
- BioMap Core Habitat
- BioMap Critical Natural Landscape

0 0.5 1 Miles
1 inch = 0.5 Miles

Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Barnstable, BSC Group, Inc.

BSC GROUP



SANDWICH

DENNIS

YARMOUTH

MASHPEE

Cape Cod Bay

Barnstable Harbor

Lewis Bay

Centerville Harbor

Hyannis Harbor

Nantucket Sound

Popponesset Bay

West Barnstable
Conservation Area
(Highest Point)
232 ft



Walker
Point



Mystic
Lake

6

28

North Bay

Cotuit Bay

West Bay

Sunset Hill
72 ft

White Hill
52 ft

Scorton Hill
115 ft

Clay Hill
190 ft

Shootflying Hill
52 ft

Town of Barnstable Unique Features

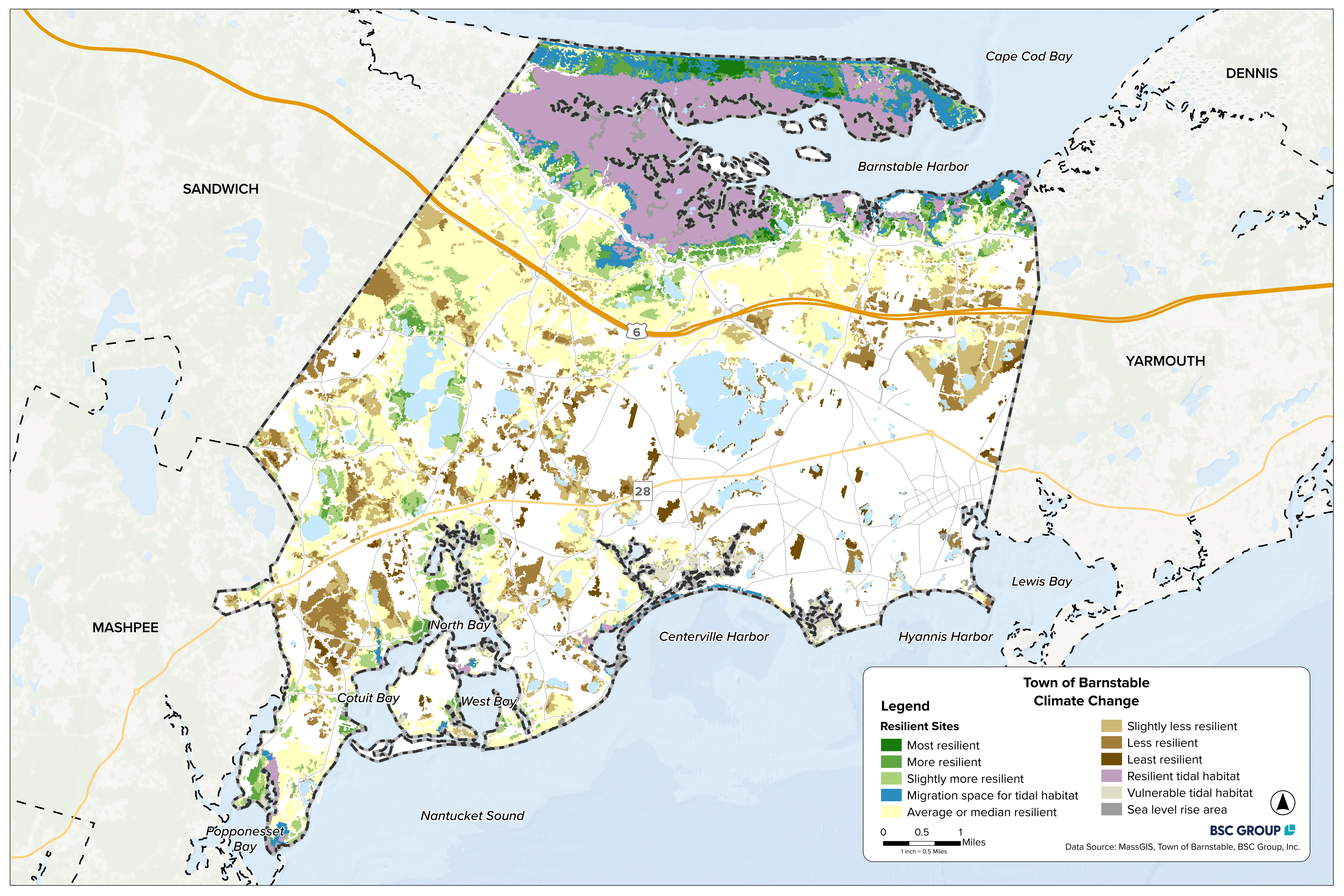
Legend

- Scenic ByWay
- Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Active Cranberry Bogs
- Local Historic Districts
- Historic Buildings, Burial Grounds, & Objects
- Hills
- Scenic Views

0 0.2 0.5
Miles
1 inch = 0.5 Miles

Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Barnstable, BSC Group, Inc.

BSC GROUP



SANDWICH

DENNIS

YARMOUTH

MASHPEE

Cape Cod Bay

Barnstable Harbor

Lewis Bay

Centerville Harbor

Hyannis Harbor

North Bay

Cotuit Bay

West Bay

Nantucket Sound

Popponesset Bay

6

28

Legend

Resilient Sites

- Most resilient
- More resilient
- Slightly more resilient
- Migration space for tidal habitat
- Average or median resilient

- Slightly less resilient
- Less resilient
- Least resilient
- Resilient tidal habitat
- Vulnerable tidal habitat
- Sea level rise area

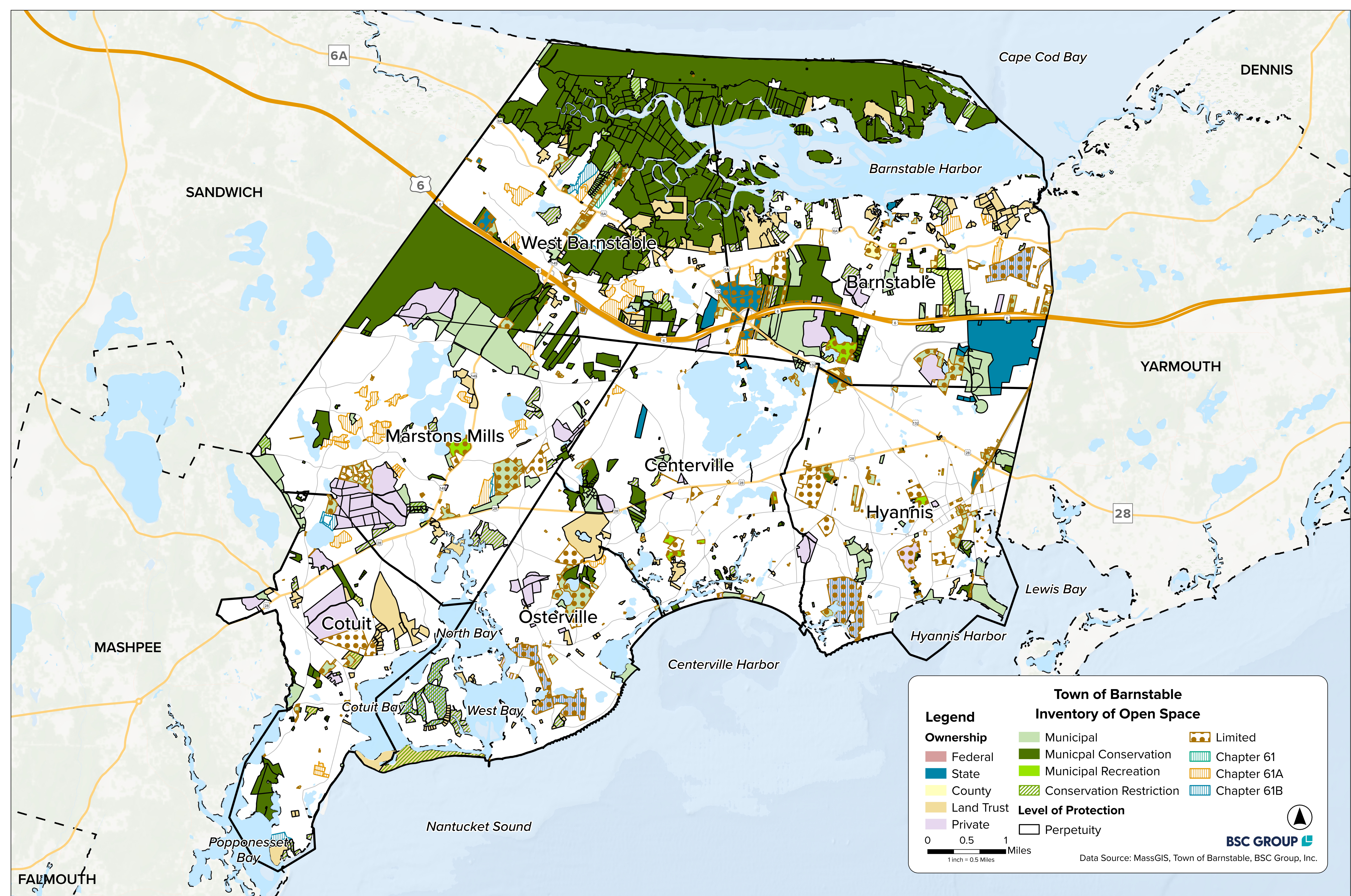
0 0.5 1 Miles
1 inch = 0.5 Miles

**Town of Barnstable
Climate Change**



BSC GROUP

Data Source: MassGIS, Town of Barnstable, BSC Group, Inc.



APPENDIX B: SURVEY & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

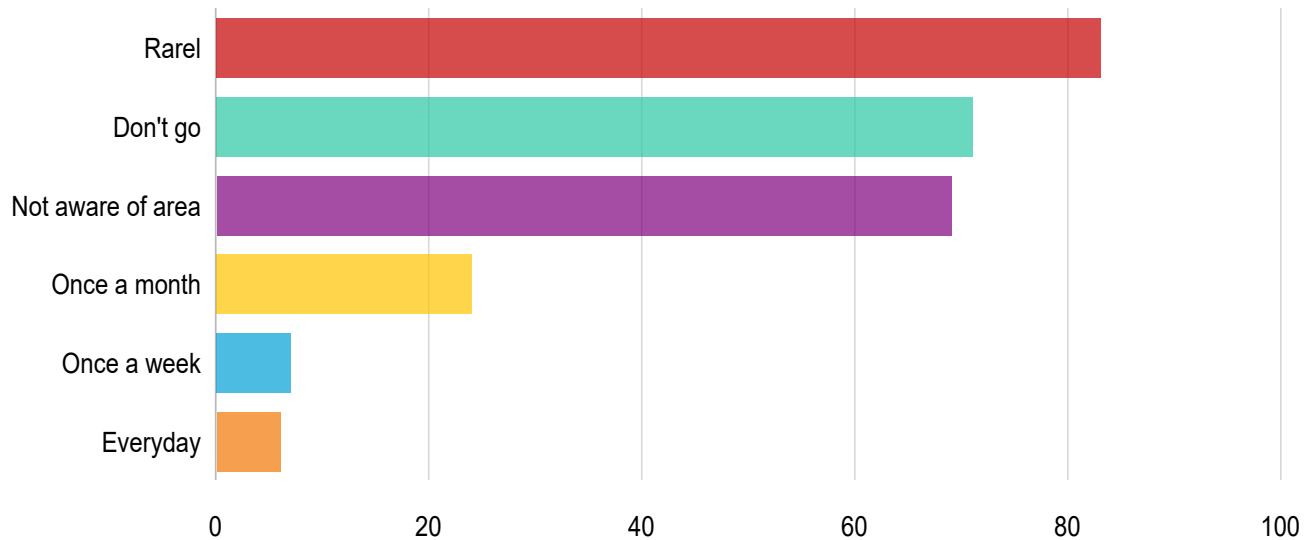


2025 Barnstable Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

Open Space & Recreation

Open Space & Recreation > 1. How often do you visit the following town owned parks and recreational facilities (managed by the recreation division) in Barnstable?

○ ○ Burgess Park

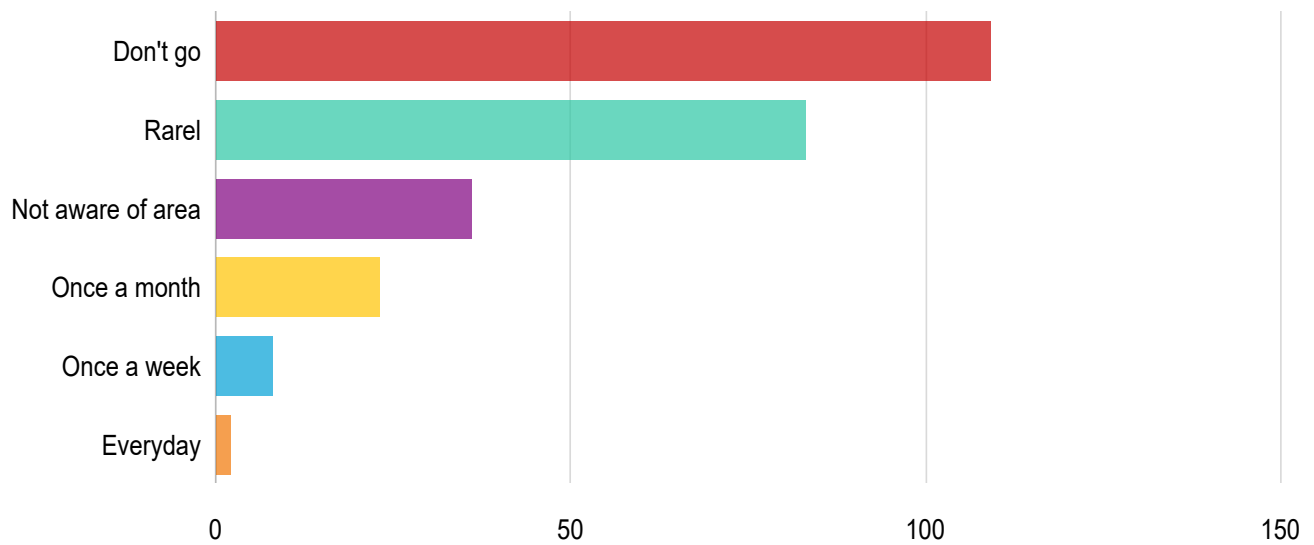


Answers	Count	Percentage
---------	-------	------------

Rarely	83	28.33%
Don't go	71	24.23%
Not aware of area	69	23.55%
Once a month	24	8.19%
Once a week	7	2.39%
Everyday	6	2.05%

Answered: 260 Skipped: 33

○ ○ Centerville Recreation Building

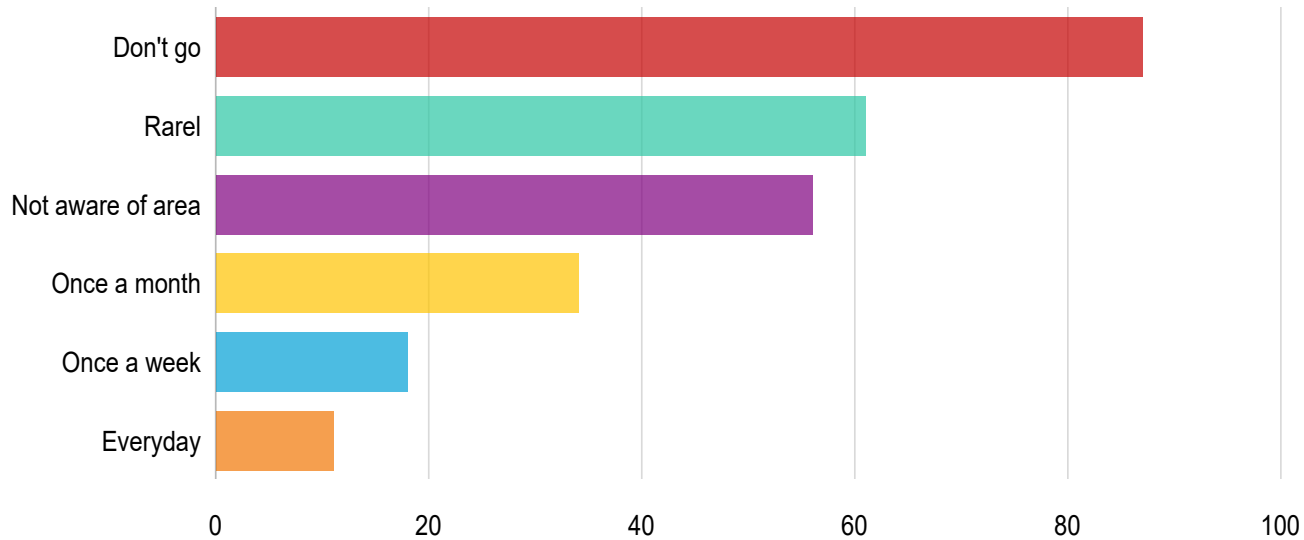


Answers	Count	Percentage
---------	-------	------------

Don't go	109	37.2%
Rarely	83	28.33%
Not aware of area	36	12.29%
Once a month	23	7.85%
Once a week	8	2.73%
Everyday	2	0.68%

Answered: 261 Skipped: 32

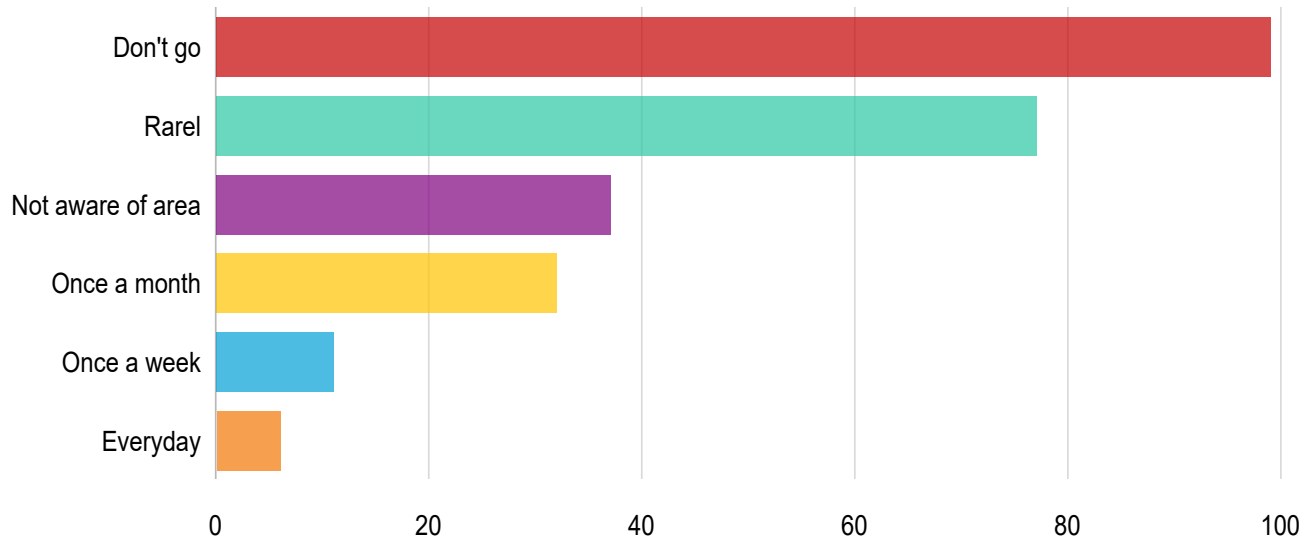
○ ○ Cotuit Memorial Park



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	87	29.69%
Rarely	61	20.82%
Not aware of area	56	19.11%
Once a month	34	11.6%
Once a week	18	6.14%
Everyday	11	3.75%

Answered: 267 Skipped: 26

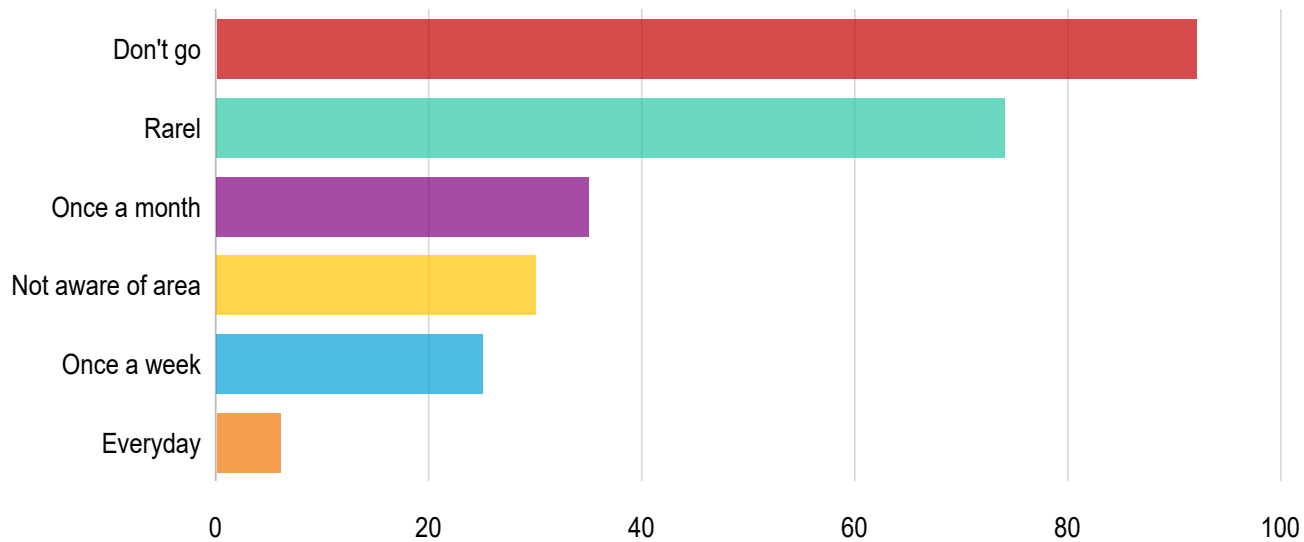
◦ ◦ Hamblin Pond Recreation Area



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	99	33.79%
Rarely	77	26.28%
Not aware of area	37	12.63%
Once a month	32	10.92%
Once a week	11	3.75%
Everyday	6	2.05%

Answered: 262 Skipped: 31

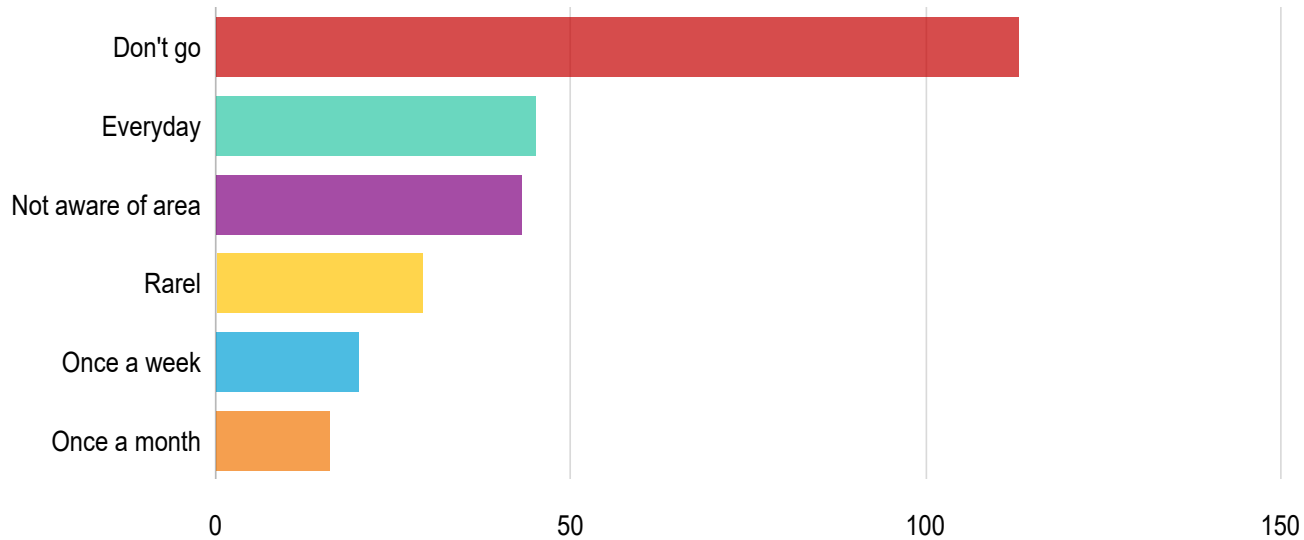
☐ ☐ Hathaway's Pond Recreation Area



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	92	31.4%
Rarely	74	25.26%
Once a month	35	11.95%
Not aware of area	30	10.24%
Once a week	25	8.53%
Everyday	6	2.05%

Answered: 263 Skipped: 30

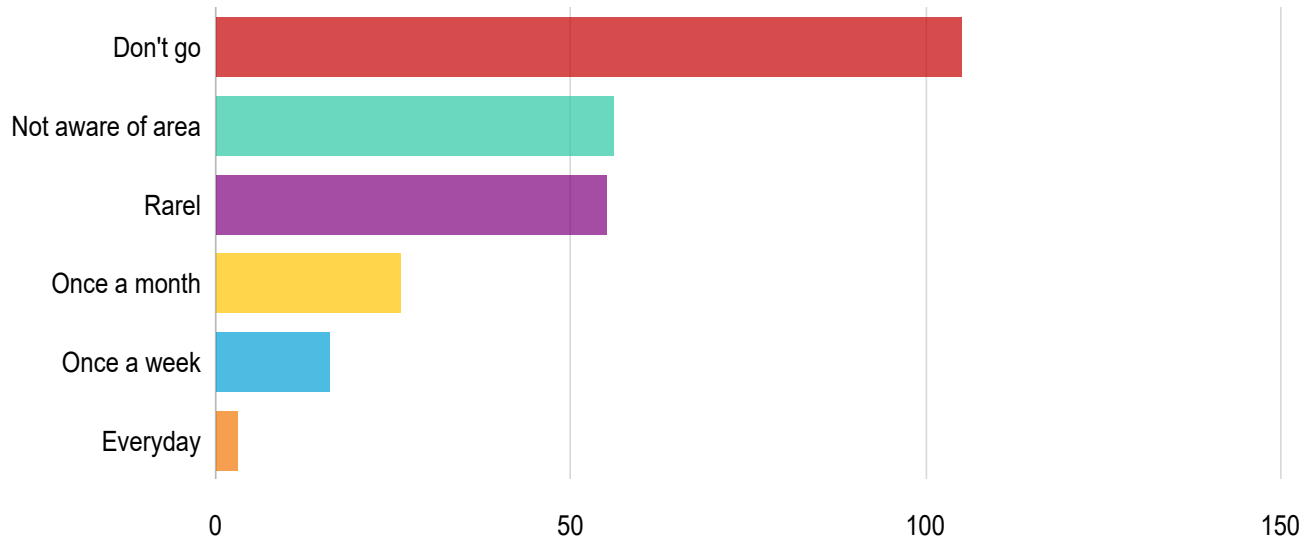
○ ○ Marstons Mills Pickleball Courts



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	113	38.57%
Everyday	45	15.36%
Not aware of area	43	14.68%
Rarely	29	9.9%
Once a week	20	6.83%
Once a month	16	5.46%

Answered: 266 Skipped: 27

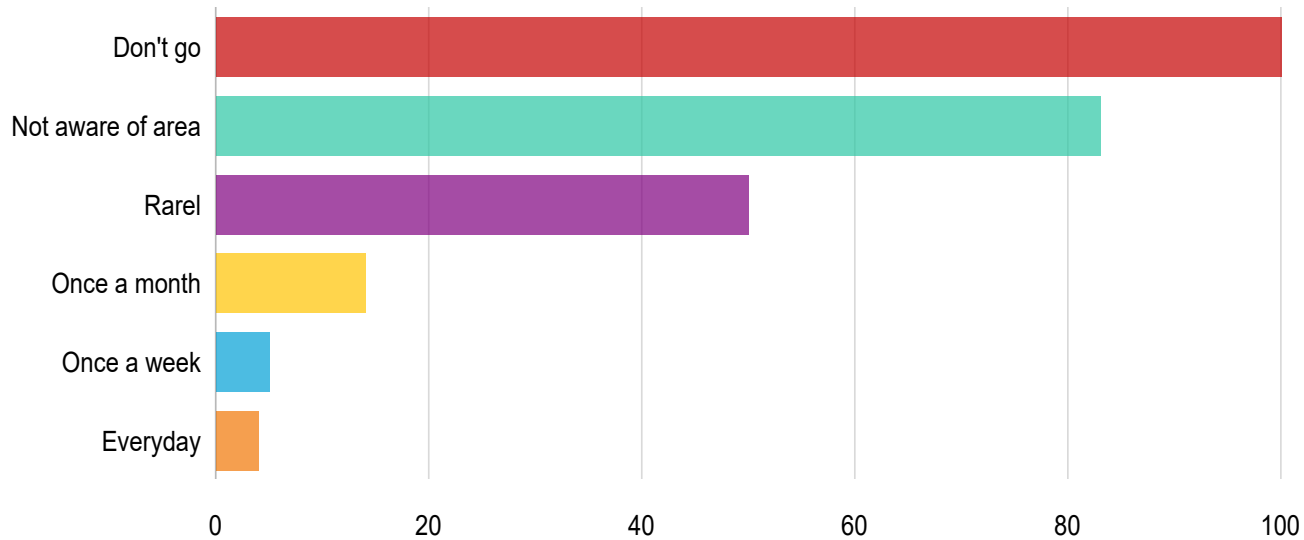
○ ○ Mill Pond



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	105	35.84%
Not aware of area	56	19.11%
Rarely	55	18.77%
Once a month	26	8.87%
Once a week	16	5.46%
Everyday	3	1.02%

Answered: 262 Skipped: 31

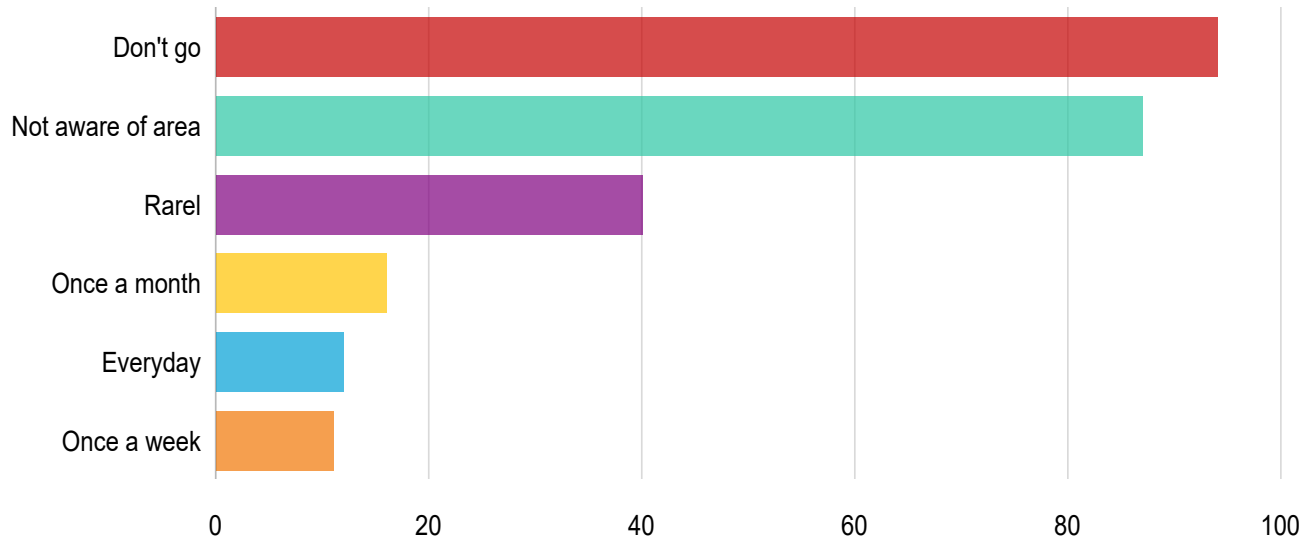
○ ○ Monument Park



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	100	34.13%
Not aware of area	83	28.33%
Rarely	50	17.06%
Once a month	14	4.78%
Once a week	5	1.71%
Everyday	4	1.37%

Answered: 257 Skipped: 36

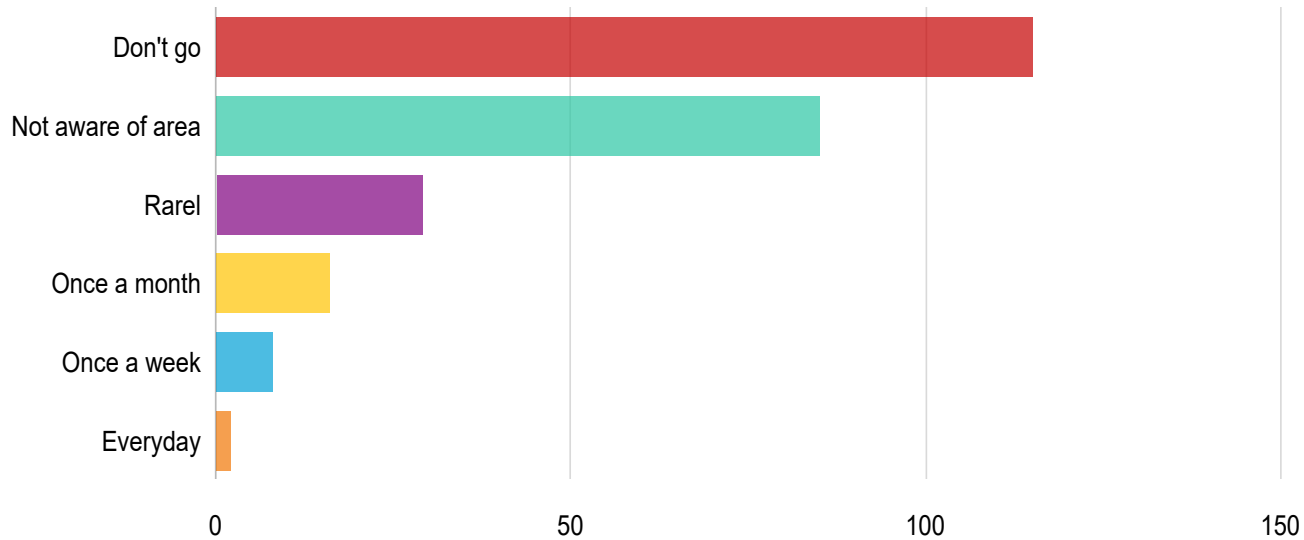
○ ○ Mother's Park



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	94	32.08%
Not aware of area	87	29.69%
Rarely	40	13.65%
Once a month	16	5.46%
Everyday	12	4.1%
Once a week	11	3.75%

Answered: 260 Skipped: 33

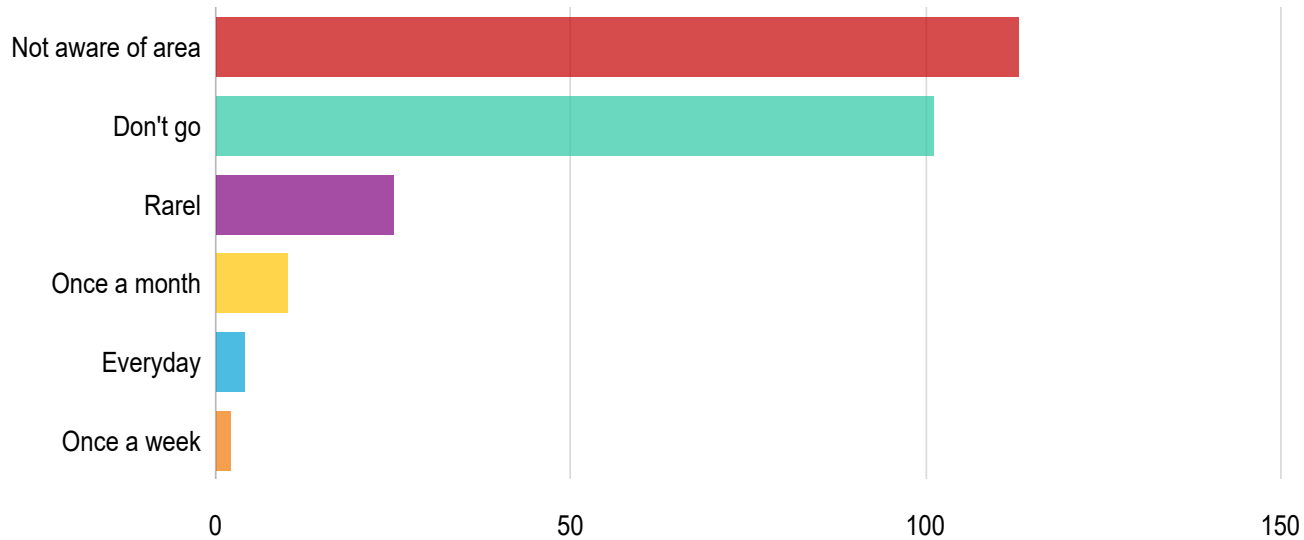
○ ○ Osterville Bay Court



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	115	39.25%
Not aware of area	85	29.01%
Rarely	29	9.9%
Once a month	16	5.46%
Once a week	8	2.73%
Everyday	2	0.68%

Answered: 255 Skipped: 38

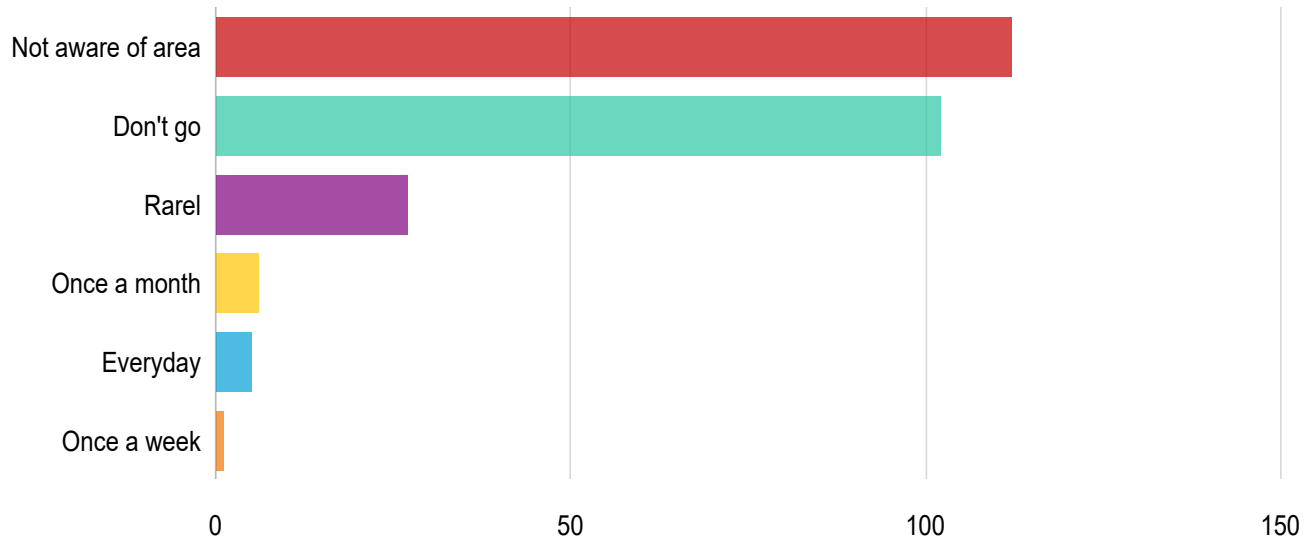
○ ○ Pleasant Street Park



Answers	Count	Percentage
Not aware of area	113	38.57%
Don't go	101	34.47%
Rarely	25	8.53%
Once a month	10	3.41%
Everyday	4	1.37%
Once a week	2	0.68%

Answered: 255 Skipped: 38

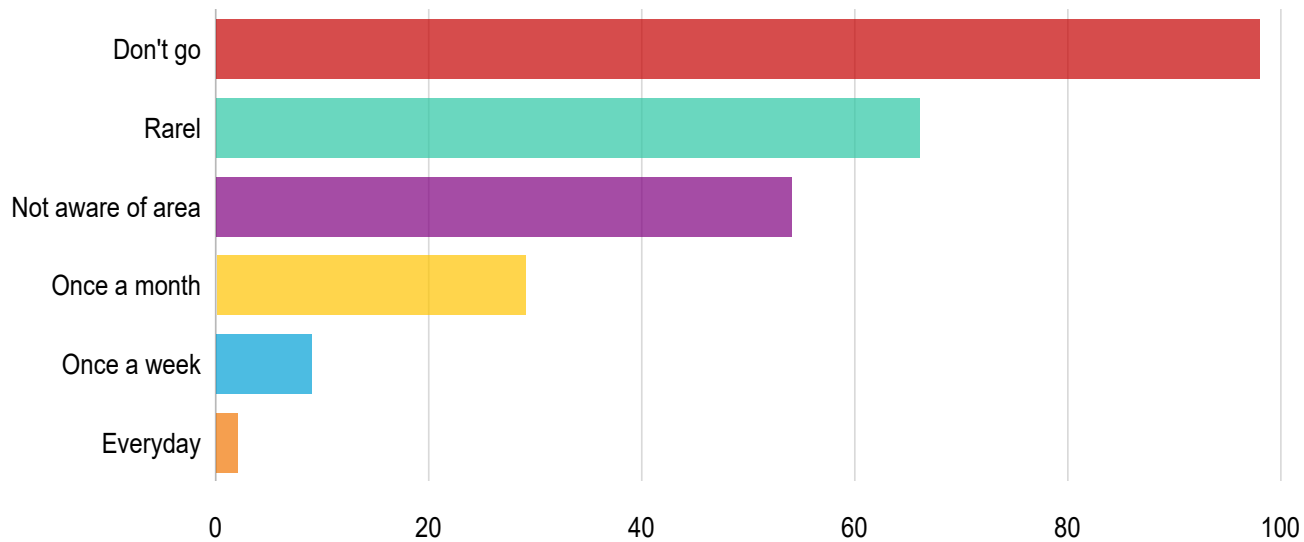
○ ○ Ridgewood Park



Answers	Count	Percentage
Not aware of area	112	38.23%
Don't go	102	34.81%
Rarely	27	9.22%
Once a month	6	2.05%
Everyday	5	1.71%
Once a week	1	0.34%

Answered: 253 Skipped: 40

West Barnstable Community Building

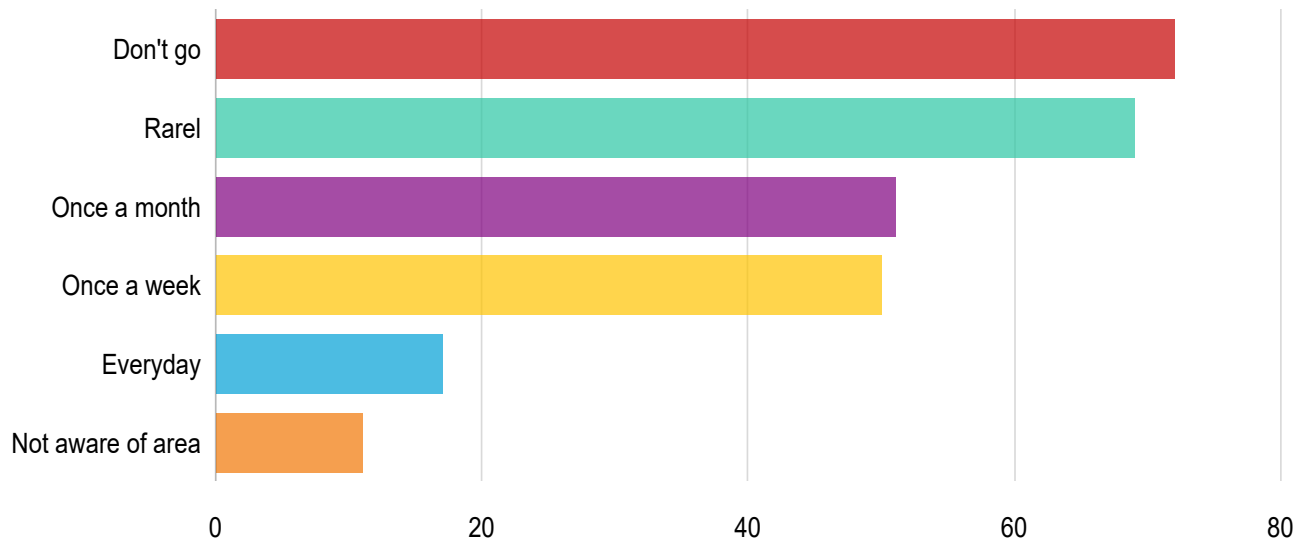


Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	98	33.45%
Rarely	66	22.53%
Not aware of area	54	18.43%
Once a month	29	9.9%
Once a week	9	3.07%
Everyday	2	0.68%

Answered: 258 Skipped: 35

Open Space & Recreation > 2. How often do you visit the following town owned beach facilities (managed by the recreation division) in Barnstable?

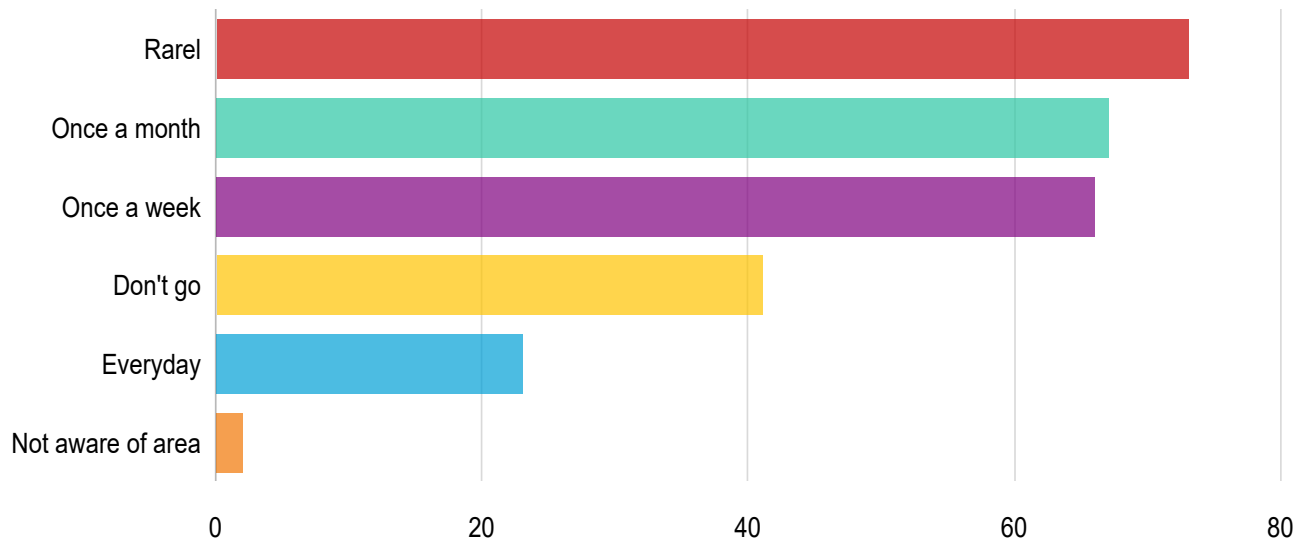
○ ○ **Covell's Beach**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	72	24.57%
Rarely	69	23.55%
Once a month	51	17.41%
Once a week	50	17.06%
Everyday	17	5.8%
Not aware of area	11	3.75%

Answered: 271 Skipped: 22

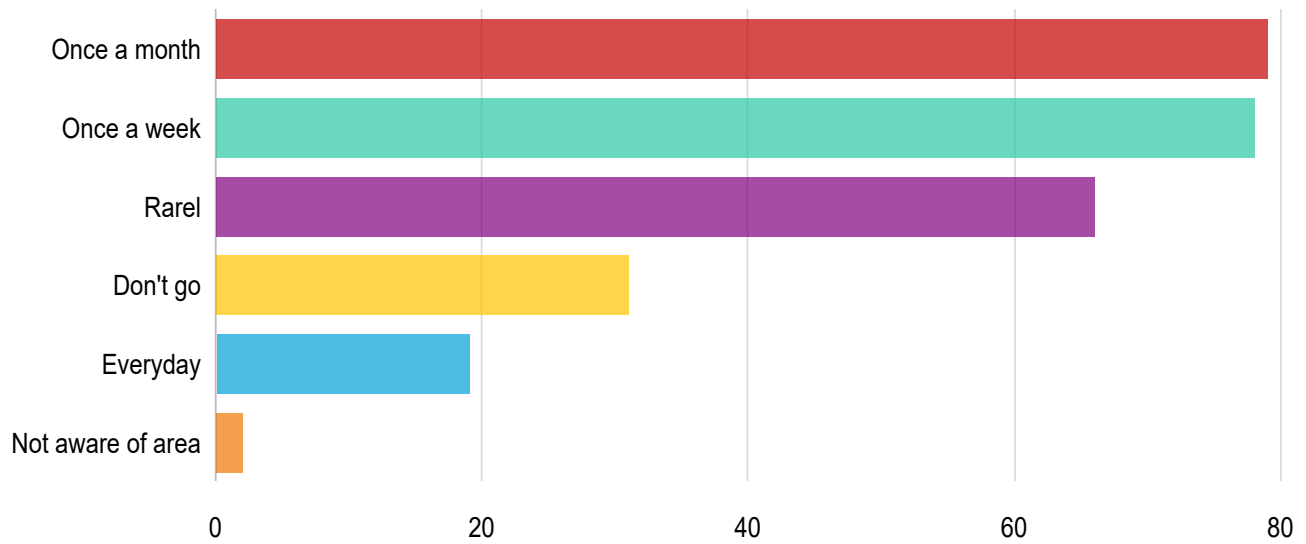
◦ ◦ Craigville Beach



Answers	Count	Percentage
Rarely	73	24.91%
Once a month	67	22.87%
Once a week	66	22.53%
Don't go	41	13.99%
Everyday	23	7.85%
Not aware of area	2	0.68%

Answered: 273 Skipped: 20

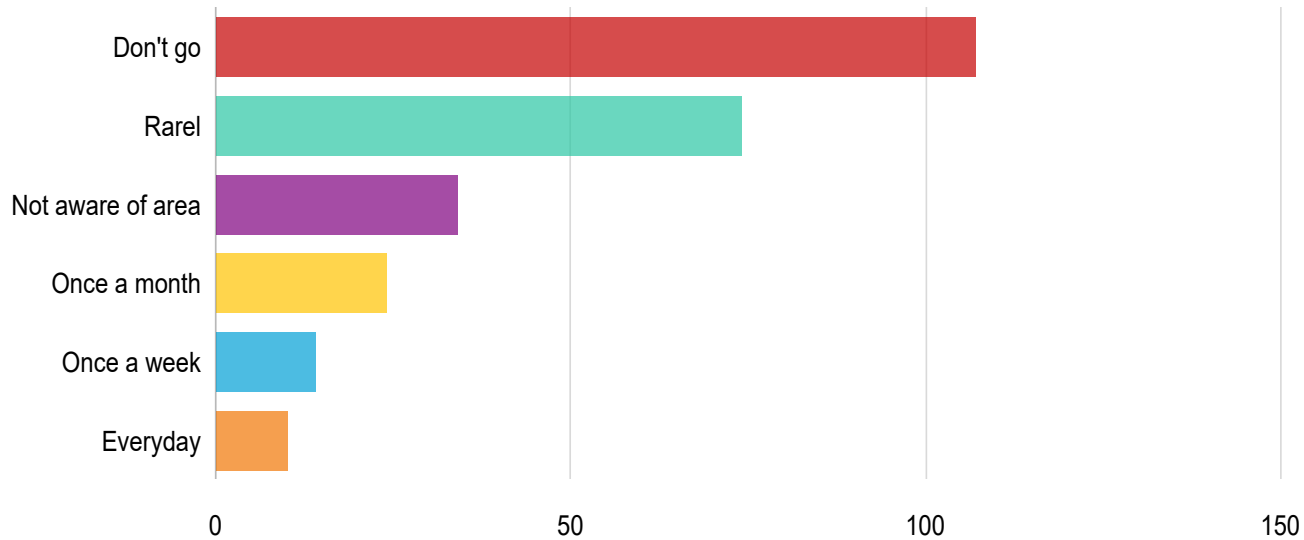
○ ○ Dowses Beach



Answers	Count	Percentage
Once a month	79	26.96%
Once a week	78	26.62%
Rarely	66	22.53%
Don't go	31	10.58%
Everyday	19	6.48%
Not aware of area	2	0.68%

Answered: 276 Skipped: 17

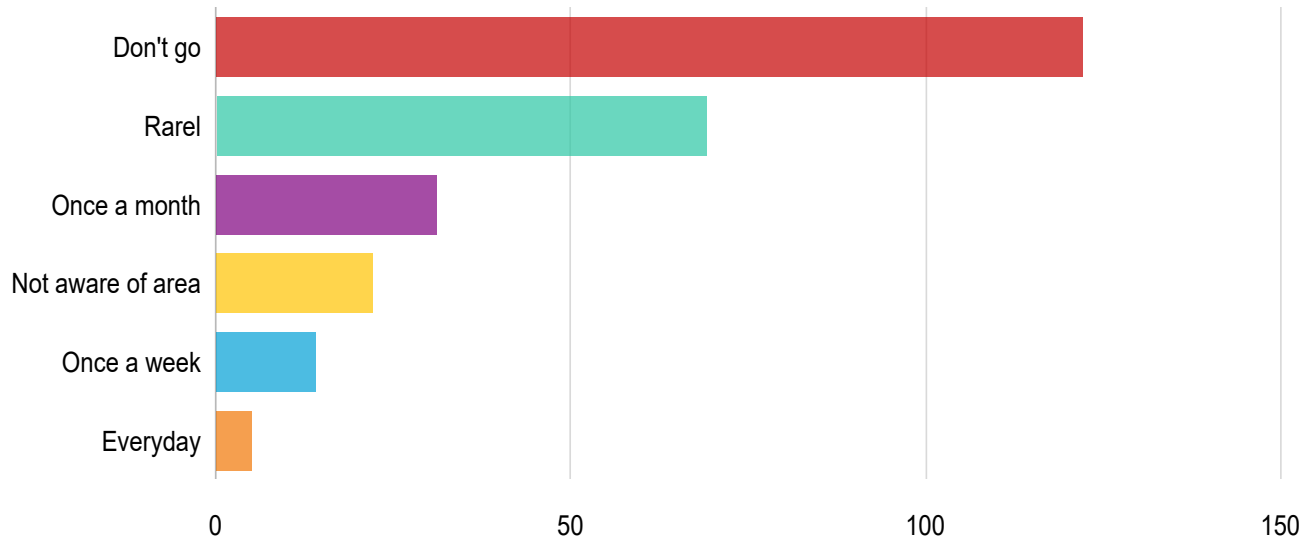
◦ ◦ Eugenia Fortes Beach



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	107	36.52%
Rarely	74	25.26%
Not aware of area	34	11.6%
Once a month	24	8.19%
Once a week	14	4.78%
Everyday	10	3.41%

Answered: 264 Skipped: 29

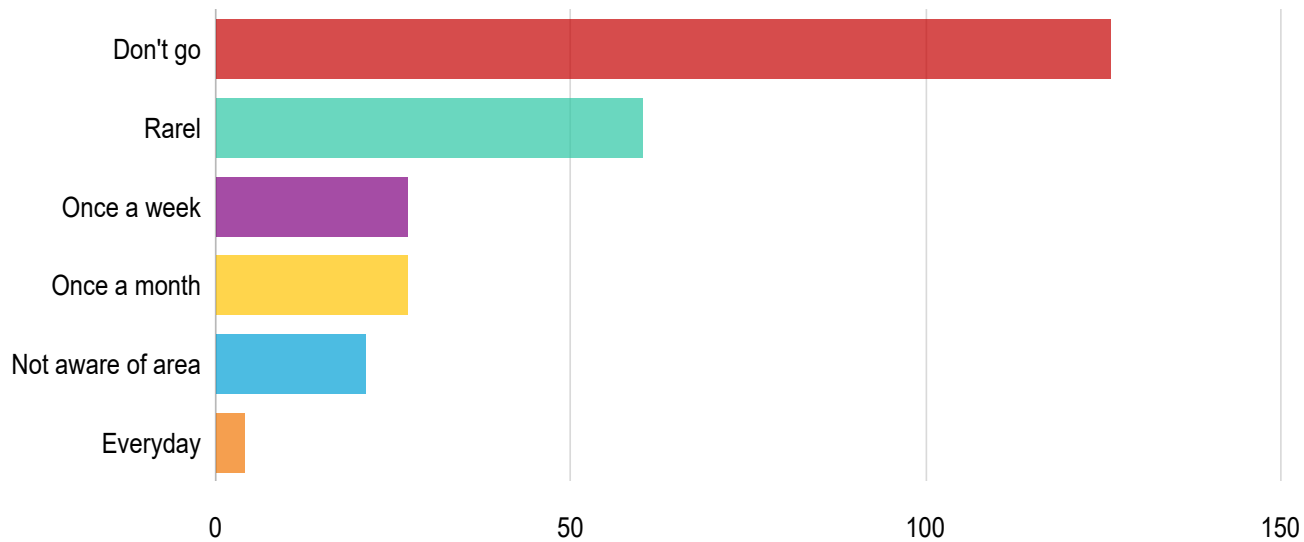
◦ ◦ Hamblin Pond



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	122	41.64%
Rarely	69	23.55%
Once a month	31	10.58%
Not aware of area	22	7.51%
Once a week	14	4.78%
Everyday	5	1.71%

Answered: 263 Skipped: 30

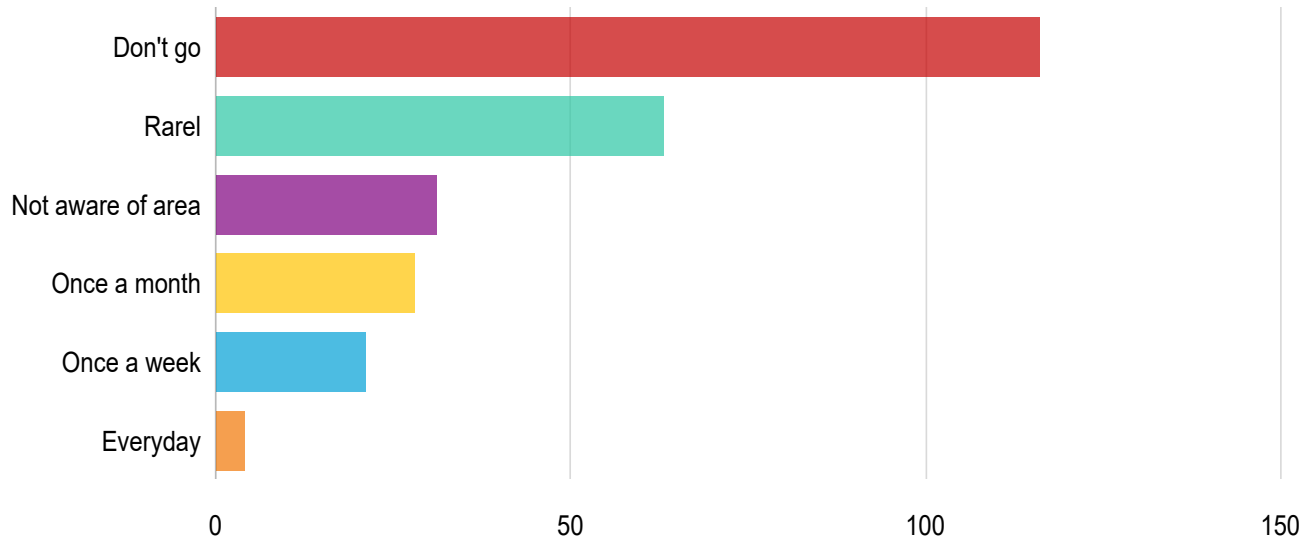
○ ○ Hathaway’s Pond



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	126	43%
Rarely	60	20.48%
Once a week	27	9.22%
Once a month	27	9.22%
Not aware of area	21	7.17%
Everyday	4	1.37%

Answered: 265 Skipped: 28

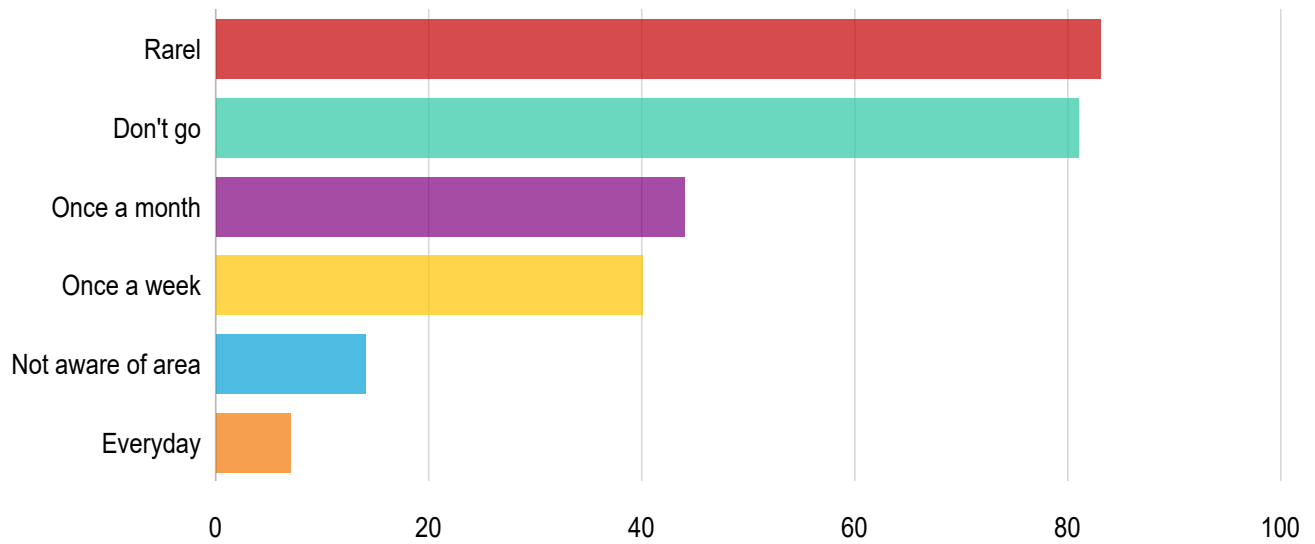
○ ○ Joshua’s Pond



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	116	39.59%
Rarely	63	21.5%
Not aware of area	31	10.58%
Once a month	28	9.56%
Once a week	21	7.17%
Everyday	4	1.37%

Answered: 264 Skipped: 29

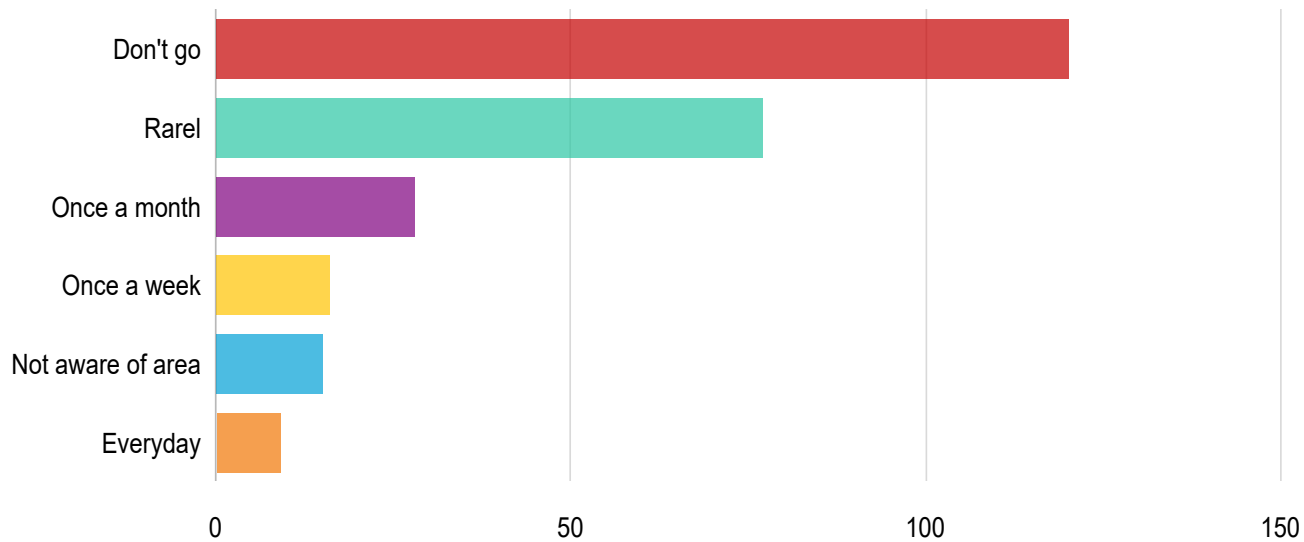
◦ ◦ Kalmus Beach



Answers	Count	Percentage
Rarely	83	28.33%
Don't go	81	27.65%
Once a month	44	15.02%
Once a week	40	13.65%
Not aware of area	14	4.78%
Everyday	7	2.39%

Answered: 269 Skipped: 24

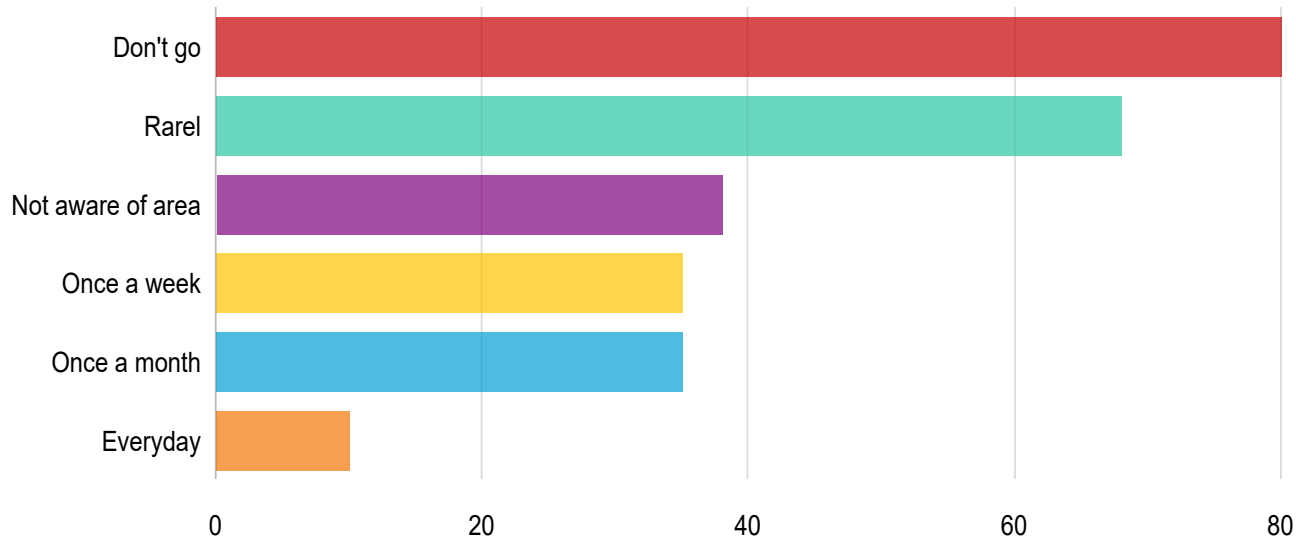
○ ○ Keyes Memorial Beach/Ocean Avenue Beach



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	120	40.96%
Rarely	77	26.28%
Once a month	28	9.56%
Once a week	16	5.46%
Not aware of area	15	5.12%
Everyday	9	3.07%

Answered: 266 Skipped: 27

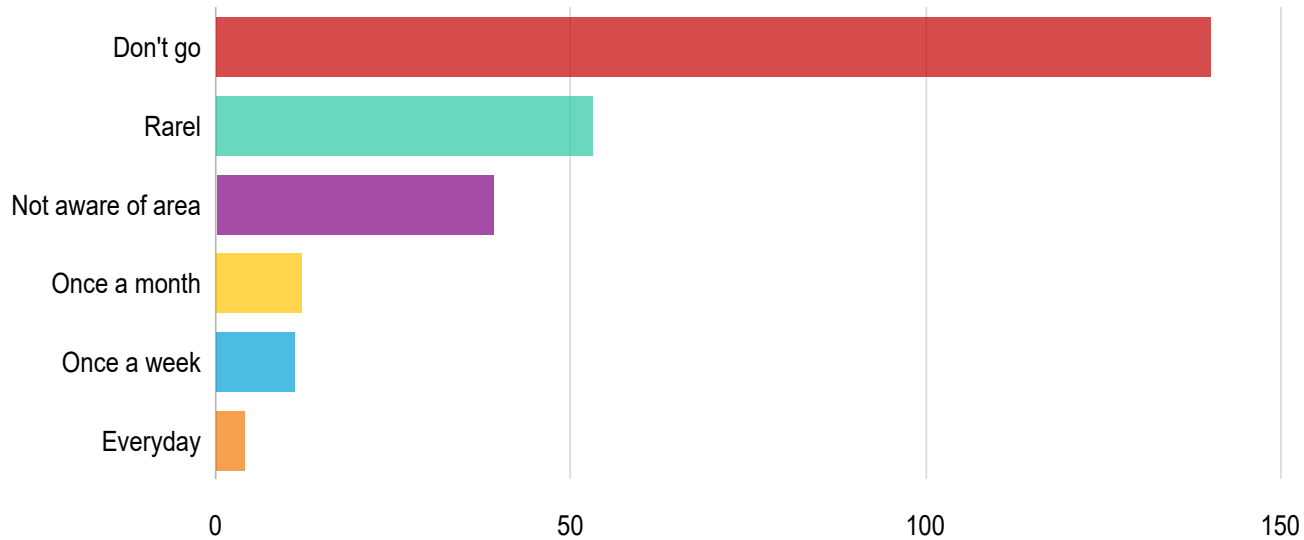
◦ ◦ Loop Beach



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	80	27.3%
Rarely	68	23.21%
Not aware of area	38	12.97%
Once a week	35	11.95%
Once a month	35	11.95%
Everyday	10	3.41%

Answered: 266 Skipped: 27

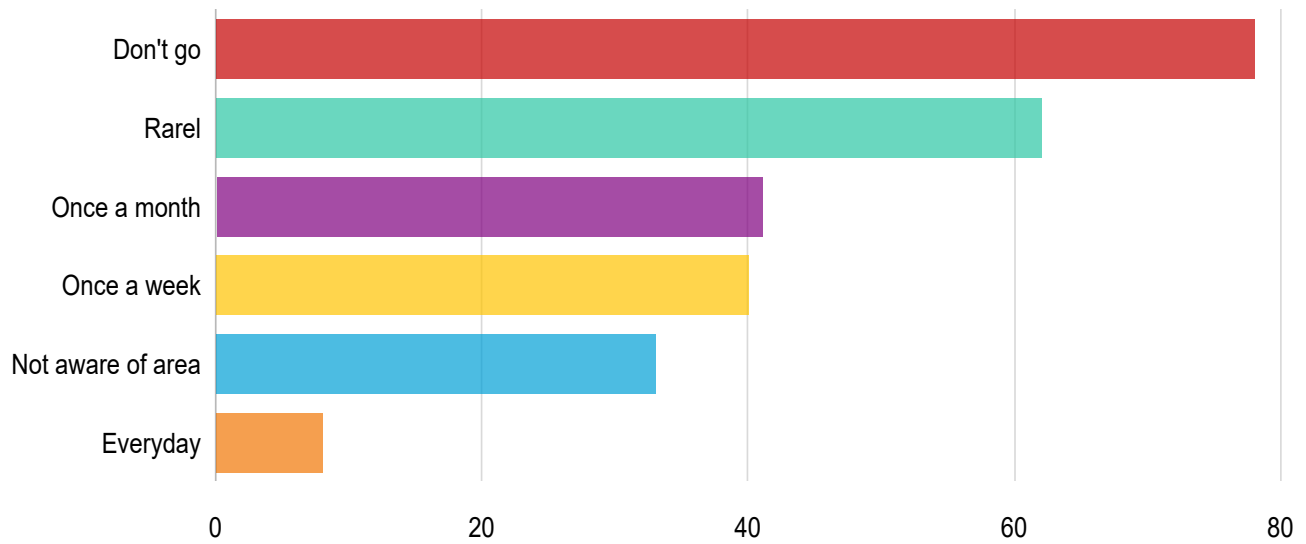
◦ ◦ Lovell's



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	140	47.78%
Rarely	53	18.09%
Not aware of area	39	13.31%
Once a month	12	4.1%
Once a week	11	3.75%
Everyday	4	1.37%

Answered: 259 Skipped: 34

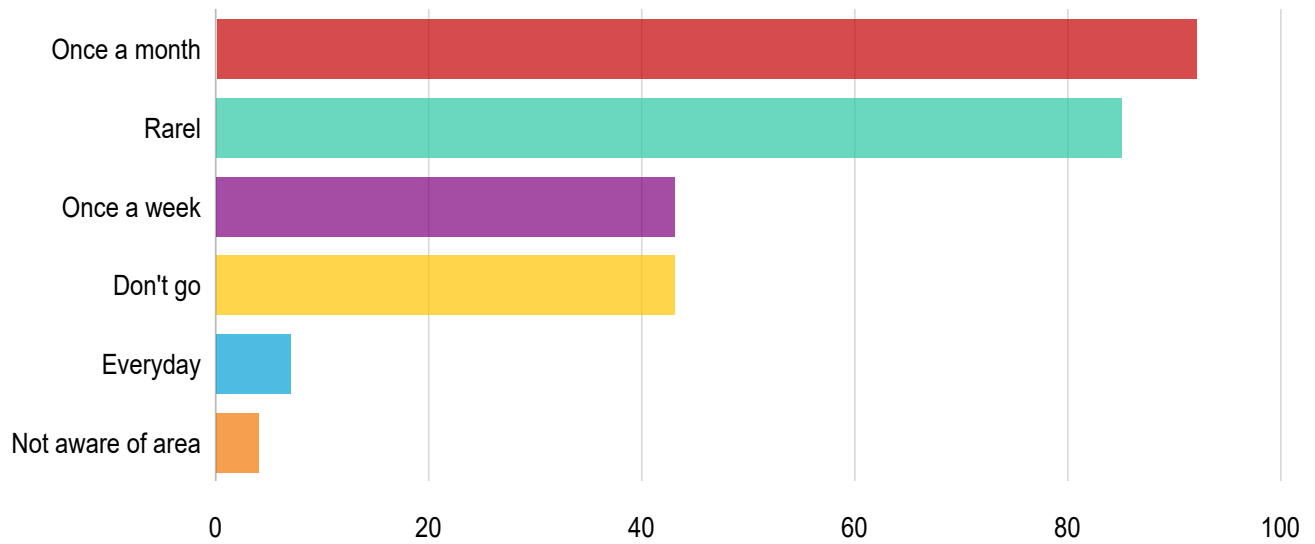
○ ○ Millway Beach



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	78	26.62%
Rarely	62	21.16%
Once a month	41	13.99%
Once a week	40	13.65%
Not aware of area	33	11.26%
Everyday	8	2.73%

Answered: 262 Skipped: 31

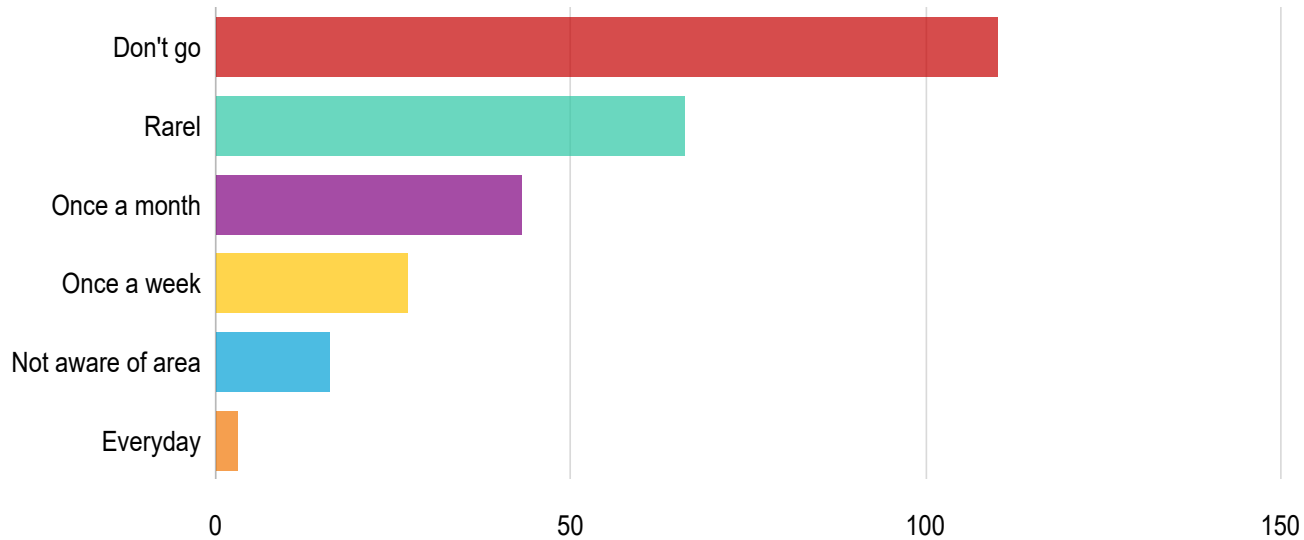
○ ○ Sandy Neck Beach



Answers	Count	Percentage
Once a month	92	31.4%
Rarely	85	29.01%
Once a week	43	14.68%
Don't go	43	14.68%
Everyday	7	2.39%
Not aware of area	4	1.37%

Answered: 274 Skipped: 19

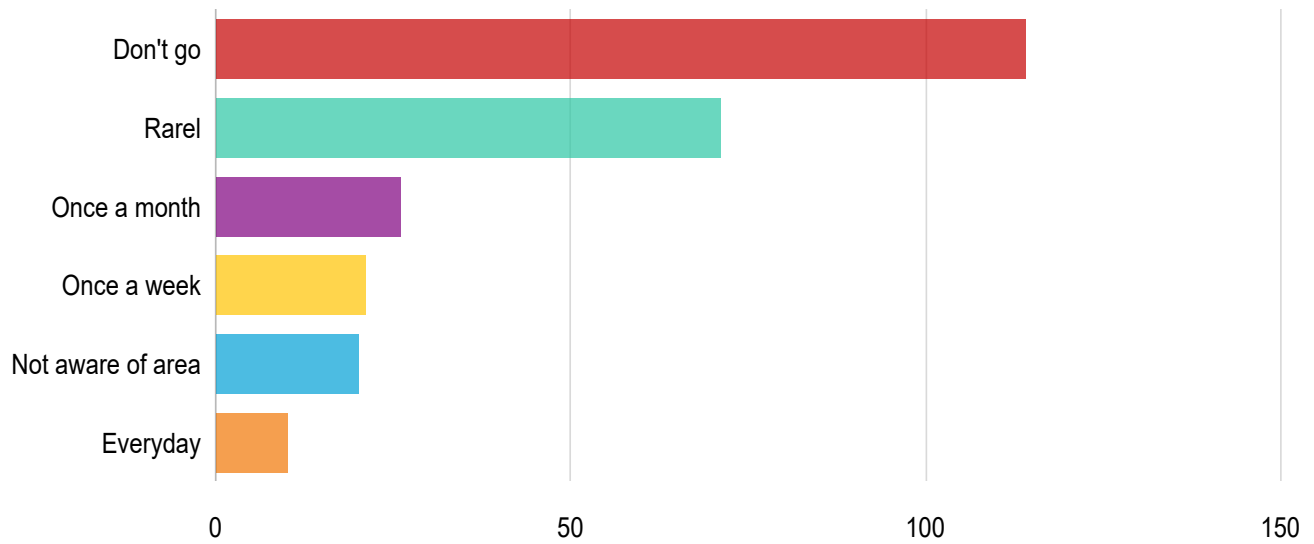
o o Veteran’s Beach



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	110	37.54%
Rarely	66	22.53%
Once a month	43	14.68%
Once a week	27	9.22%
Not aware of area	16	5.46%
Everyday	3	1.02%

Answered: 265 Skipped: 28

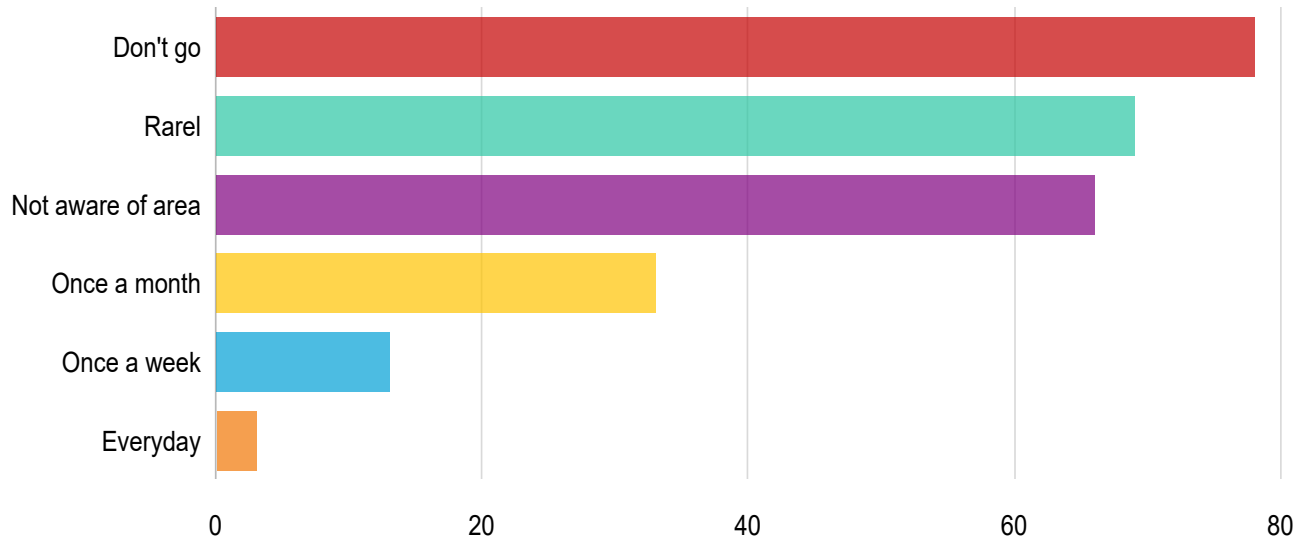
◦ ◦ Wequaquet Lake



Answered: 263 Skipped: 30

Open Space & Recreation > 3. How often do you visit the following town owned conservation areas (managed by the conservation department) in Barnstable?

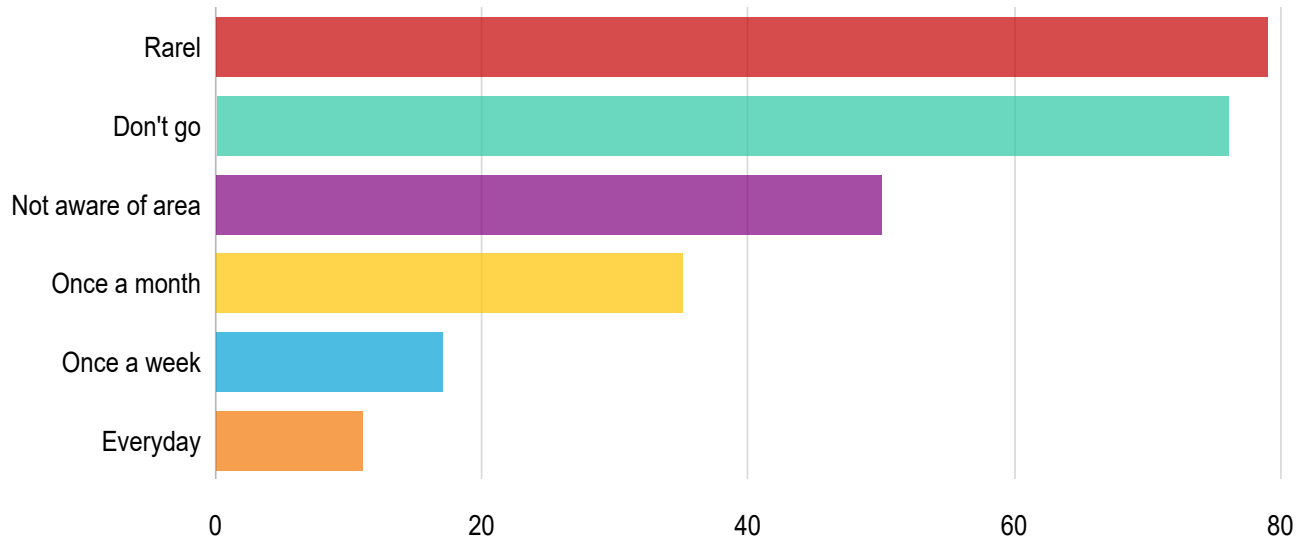
- ○ Bridge Creek Conservation Area (West Barnstable)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	78	26.62%
Rarely	69	23.55%
Not aware of area	66	22.53%
Once a month	33	11.26%
Once a week	13	4.44%
Everyday	3	1.02%

Answered: 262 Skipped: 31

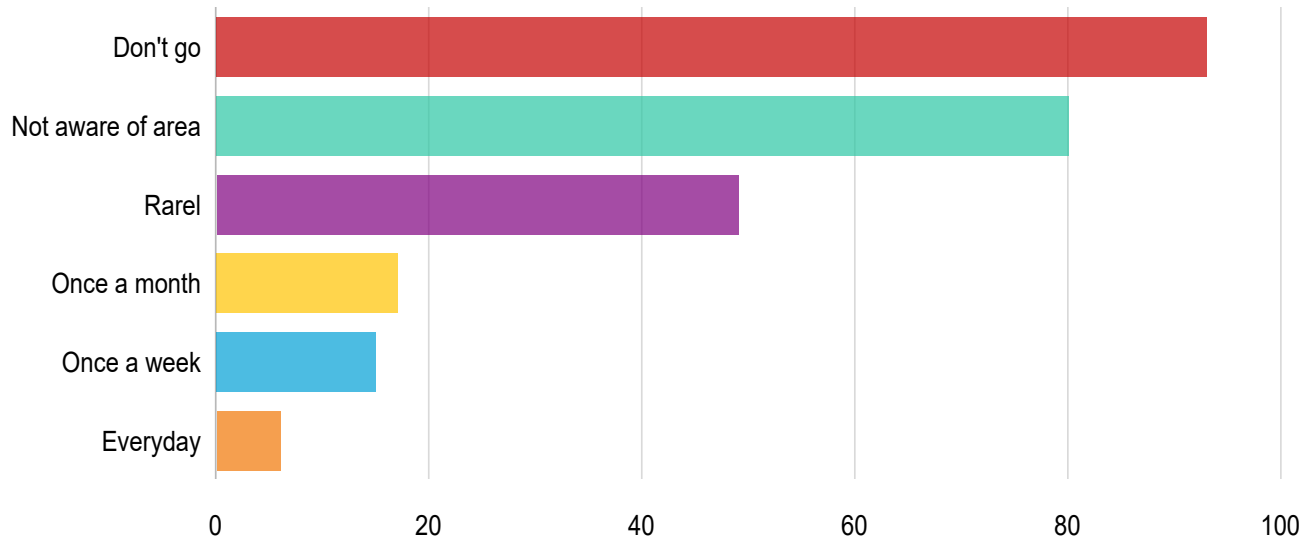
○ ○ Crocker Neck Conservation Area (Cotuit)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Rarely	79	26.96%
Don't go	76	25.94%
Not aware of area	50	17.06%
Once a month	35	11.95%
Once a week	17	5.8%
Everyday	11	3.75%

Answered: 268 Skipped: 25

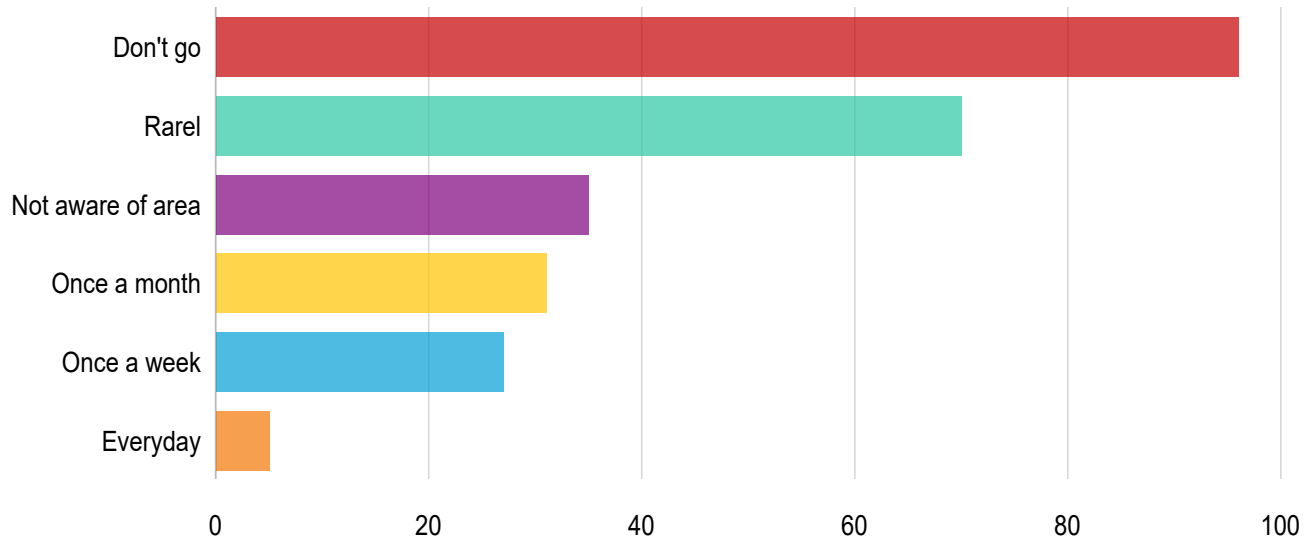
○ ○ Danforth Recreation Area (Marstons Mills)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	93	31.74%
Not aware of area	80	27.3%
Rarely	49	16.72%
Once a month	17	5.8%
Once a week	15	5.12%
Everyday	6	2.05%

Answered: 261 Skipped: 32

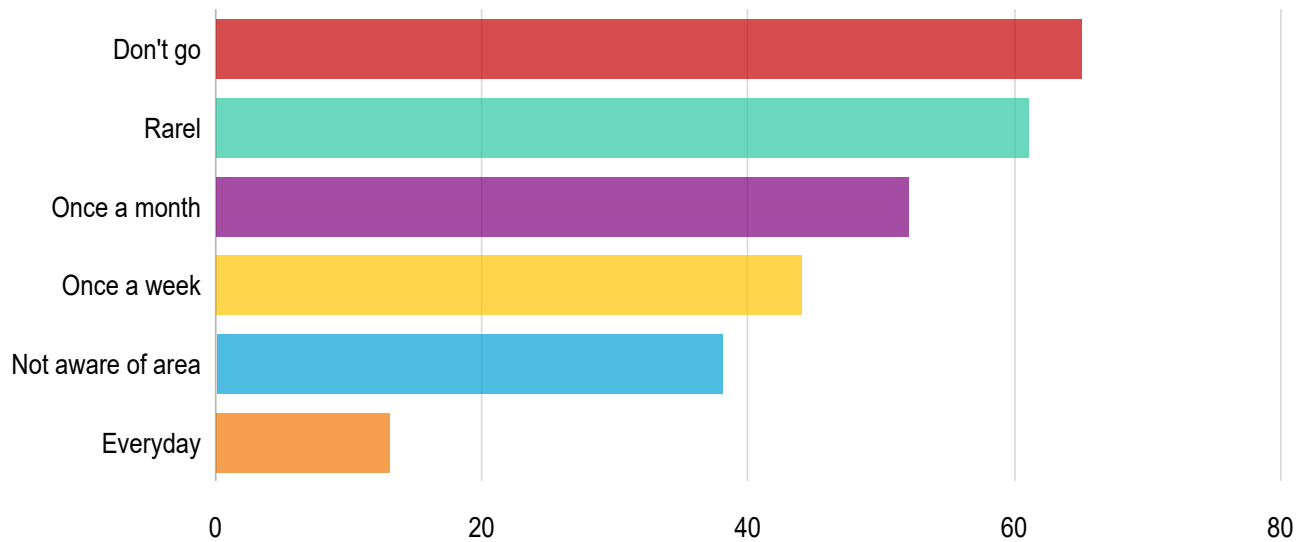
☐ ☐ Hathaway's Pond Conservation Area (Hyannis)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	96	32.76%
Rarely	70	23.89%
Not aware of area	35	11.95%
Once a month	31	10.58%
Once a week	27	9.22%
Everyday	5	1.71%

Answered: 264 Skipped: 29

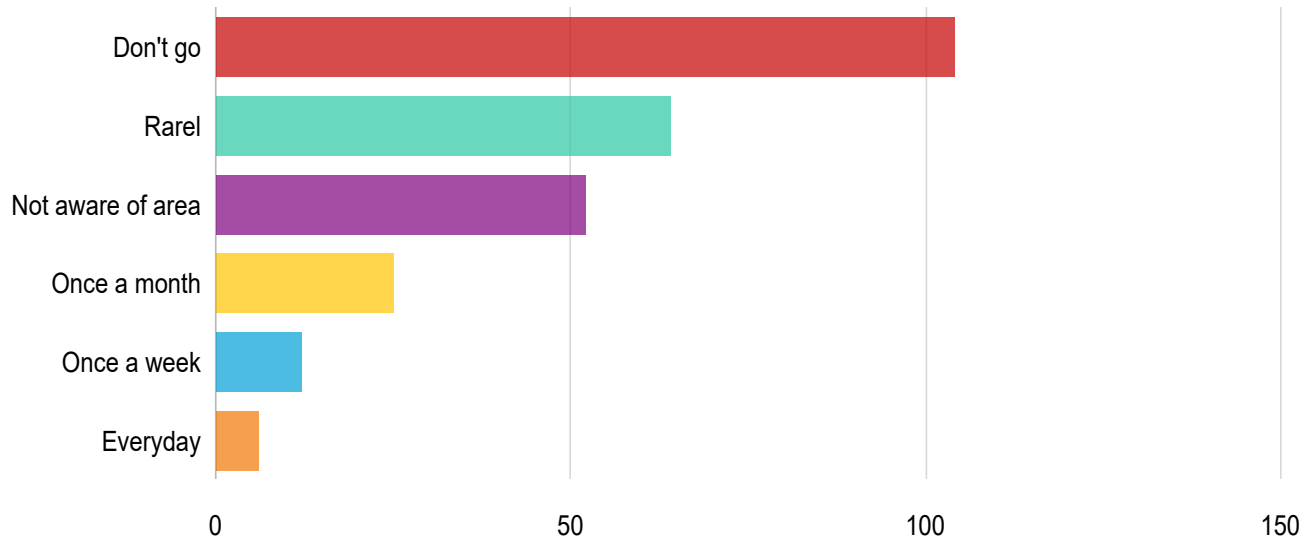
○ ○ Long Beach Conservation Area (Centerville)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	65	22.18%
Rarely	61	20.82%
Once a month	52	17.75%
Once a week	44	15.02%
Not aware of area	38	12.97%
Everyday	13	4.44%

Answered: 274 Skipped: 19

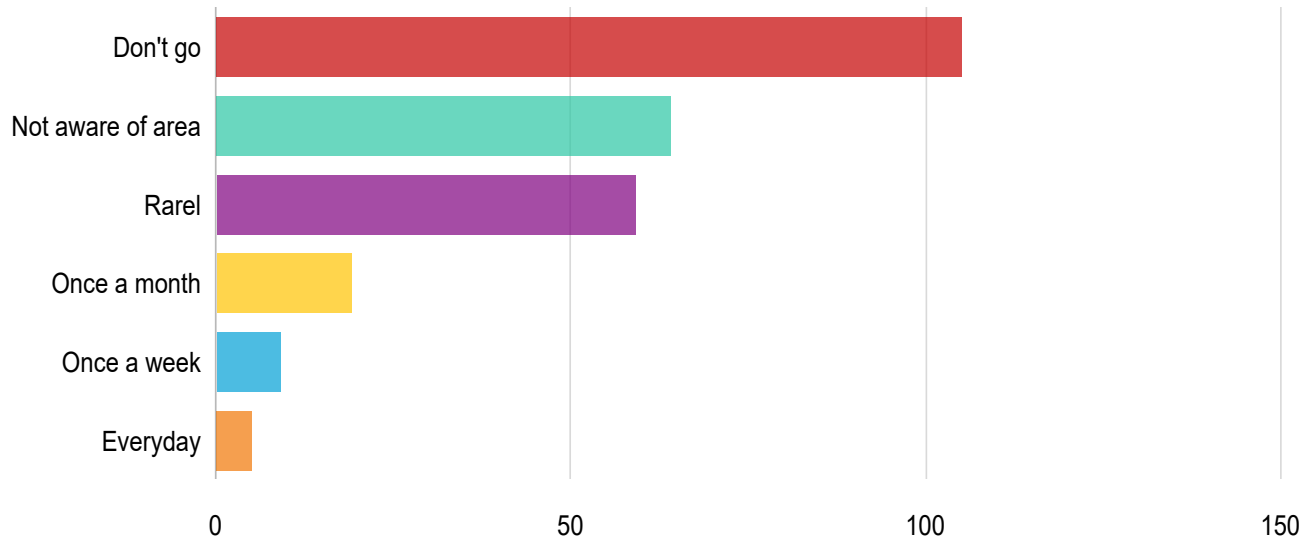
○ ○ Long Pond Conservation Area (Marstons Mills)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	104	35.49%
Rarely	64	21.84%
Not aware of area	52	17.75%
Once a month	25	8.53%
Once a week	12	4.1%
Everyday	6	2.05%

Answered: 263 Skipped: 30

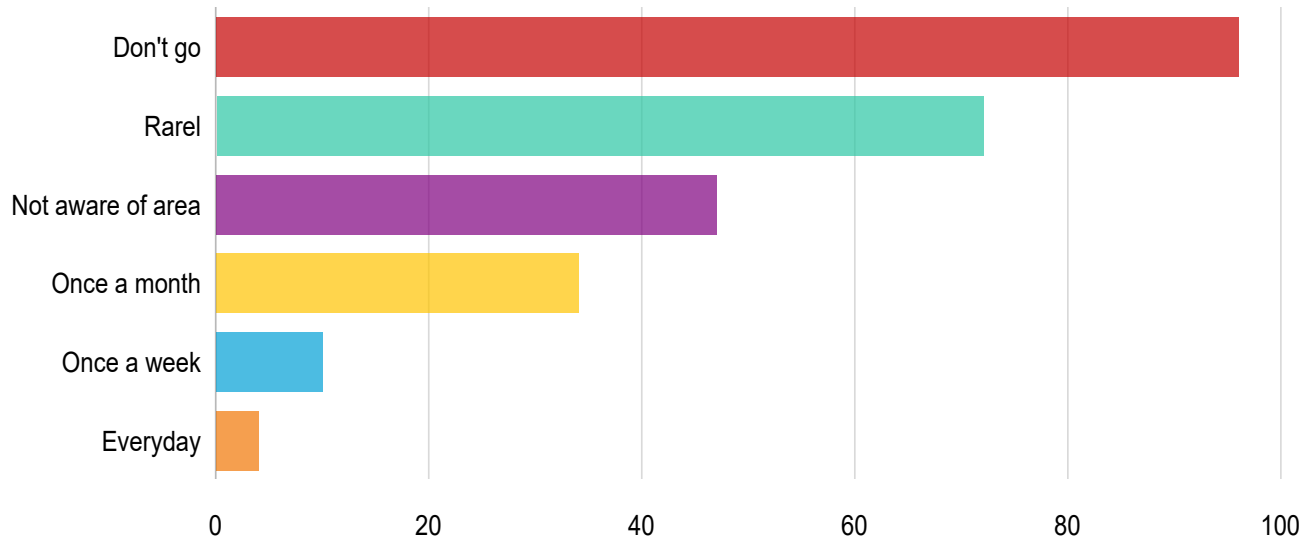
◦ ◦ Lumbert Pond Conservation Area



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	105	35.84%
Not aware of area	64	21.84%
Rarely	59	20.14%
Once a month	19	6.48%
Once a week	9	3.07%
Everyday	5	1.71%

Answered: 261 Skipped: 32

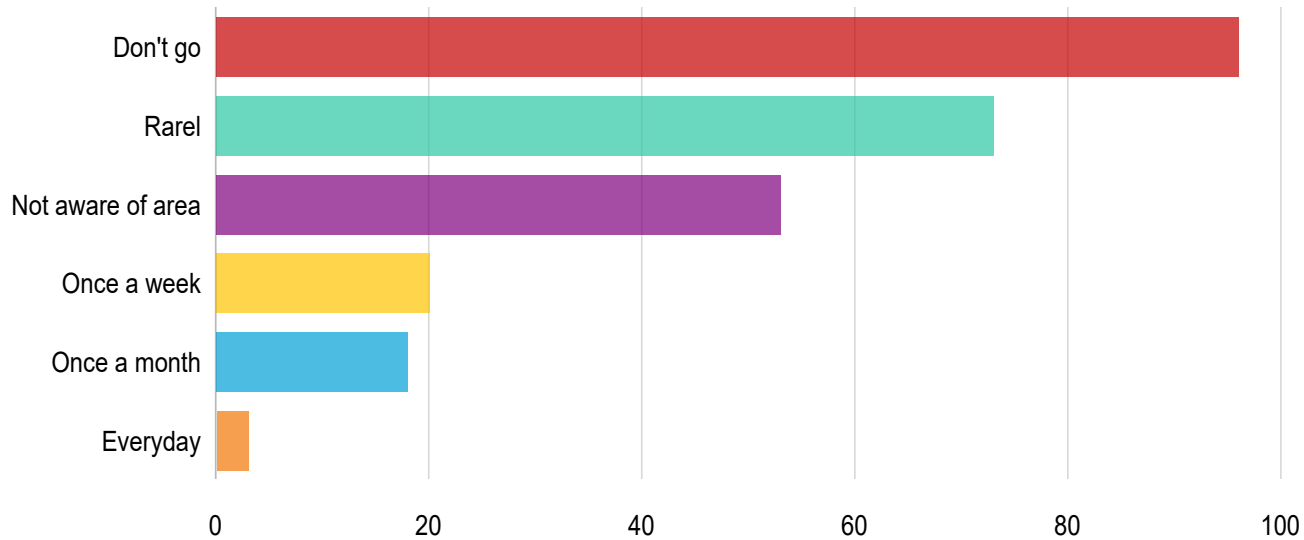
○ ○ Meetinghouse Farm Conservation Area (West Barnstable)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	96	32.76%
Rarely	72	24.57%
Not aware of area	47	16.04%
Once a month	34	11.6%
Once a week	10	3.41%
Everyday	4	1.37%

Answered: 263 Skipped: 30

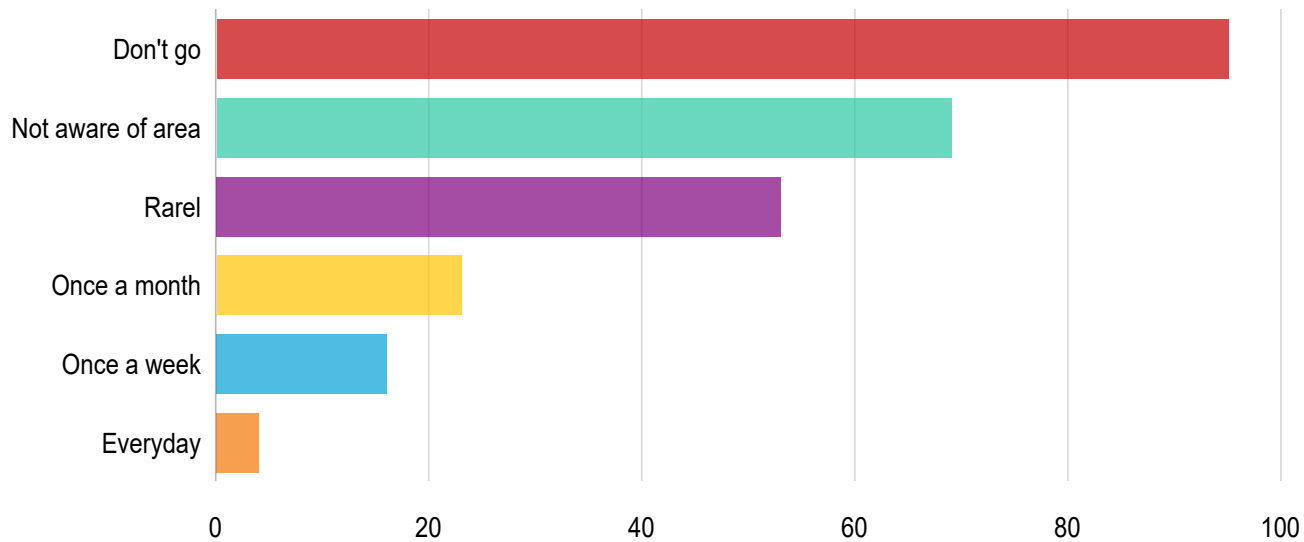
Old Jail Lane Conservation Area (Barnstable)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	96	32.76%
Rarely	73	24.91%
Not aware of area	53	18.09%
Once a week	20	6.83%
Once a month	18	6.14%
Everyday	3	1.02%

Answered: 264 Skipped: 29

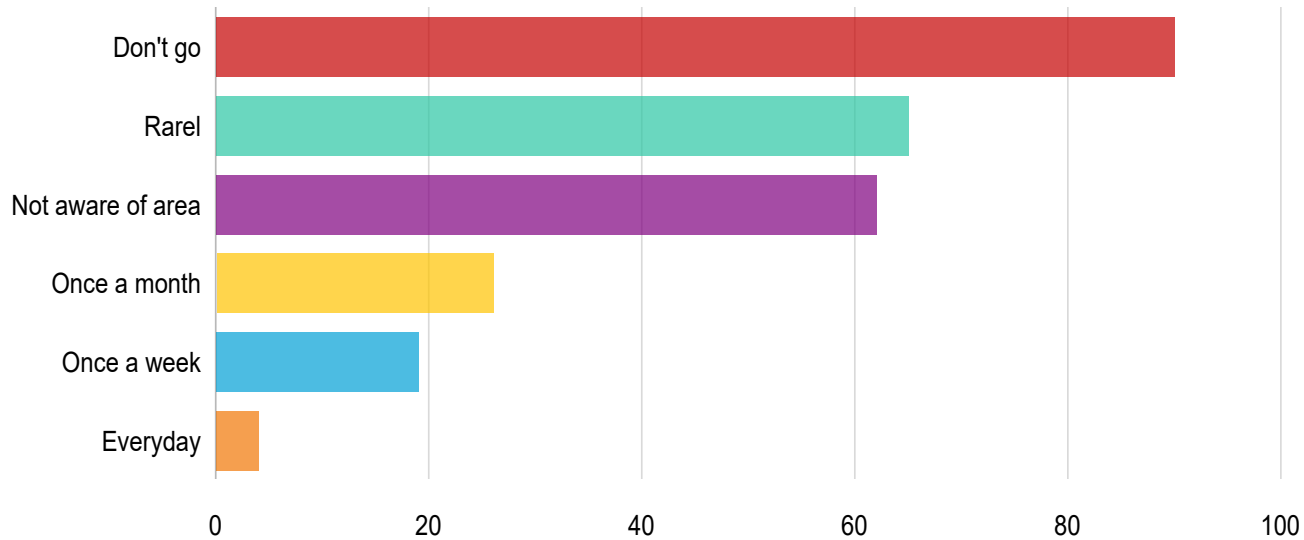
○ ○ Otis Atwood Conservation Area (West Barnstable)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	95	32.42%
Not aware of area	69	23.55%
Rarely	53	18.09%
Once a month	23	7.85%
Once a week	16	5.46%
Everyday	4	1.37%

Answered: 261 Skipped: 32

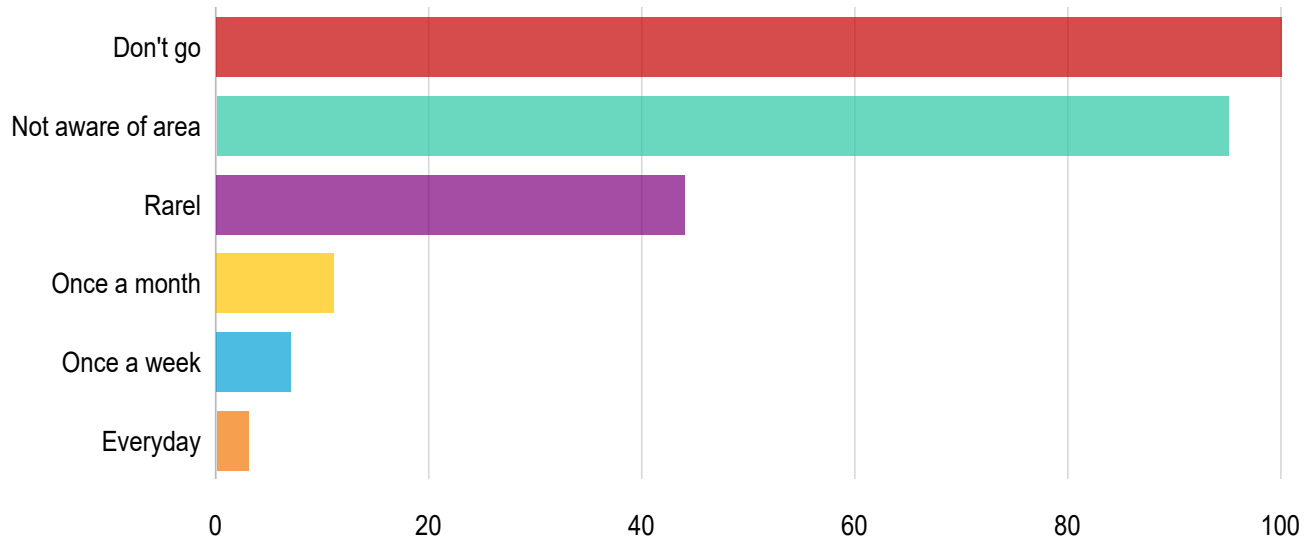
○ Santuit River Conservation Area (Cotuit)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	90	30.72%
Rarely	65	22.18%
Not aware of area	62	21.16%
Once a month	26	8.87%
Once a week	19	6.48%
Everyday	4	1.37%

Answered: 266 Skipped: 27

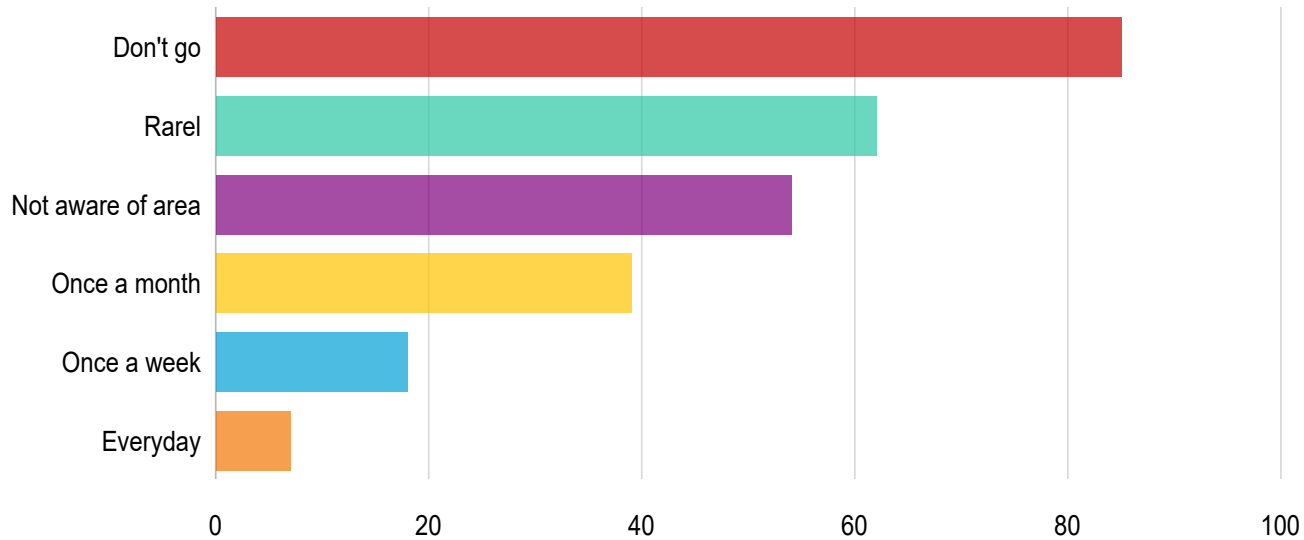
○ ○ Seabury Farm Conservation Area (Barnstable)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	100	34.13%
Not aware of area	95	32.42%
Rarely	44	15.02%
Once a month	11	3.75%
Once a week	7	2.39%
Everyday	3	1.02%

Answered: 260 Skipped: 33

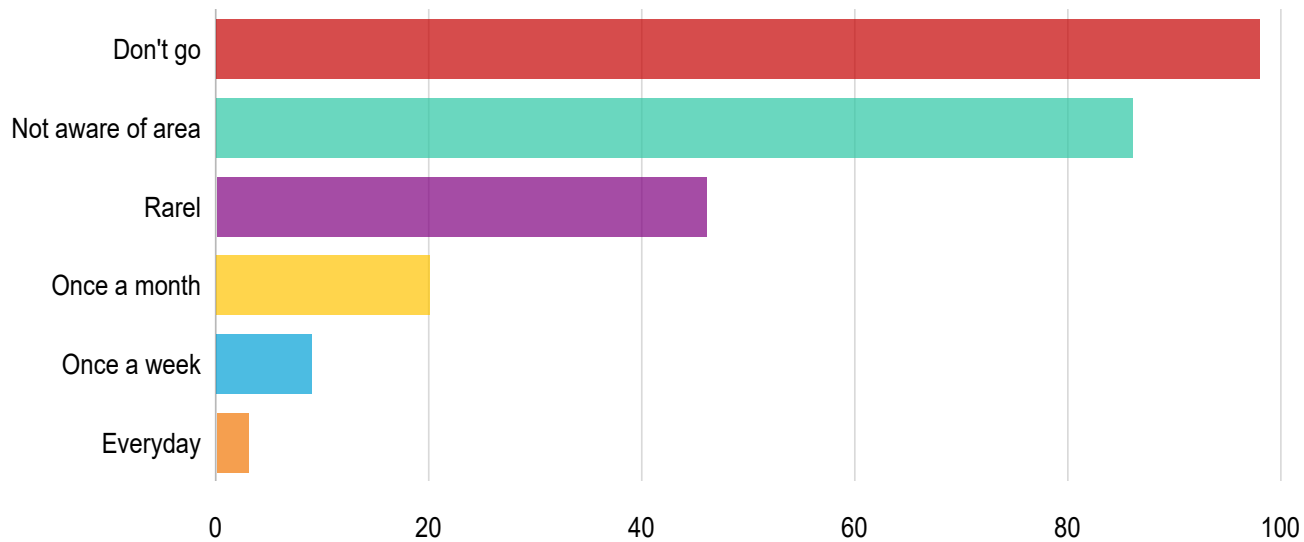
West Barnstable Conservation Area



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	85	29.01%
Rarely	62	21.16%
Not aware of area	54	18.43%
Once a month	39	13.31%
Once a week	18	6.14%
Everyday	7	2.39%

Answered: 265 Skipped: 28

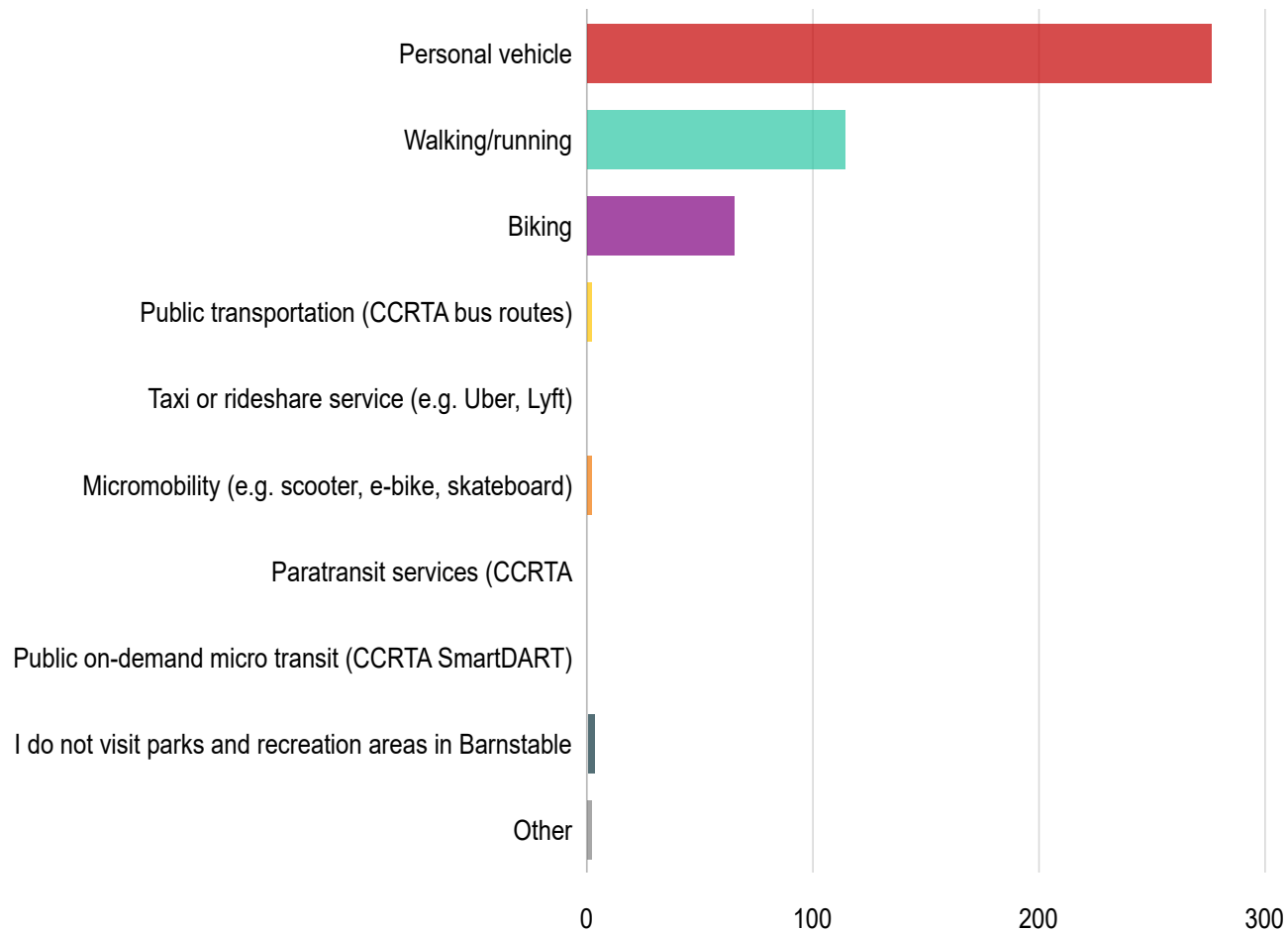
◦ ◦ Whelan Conservation Area (West Barnstable)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Don't go	98	33.45%
Not aware of area	86	29.35%
Rarely	46	15.7%
Once a month	20	6.83%
Once a week	9	3.07%
Everyday	3	1.02%

Answered: 263 Skipped: 30

4. How do you typically travel to parks and recreation facilities in Barnstable?



Answers	Count	Percentage
Personal vehicle	276	94.2%
Walking/running	114	38.91%
Biking	65	22.18%
Public transportation (CCRTA bus routes)	2	0.68%
Taxi or rideshare service (e.g. Uber, Lyft)	0	0%
Micromobility (e.g. scooter, e-bike, skateboard)	2	0.68%
Paratransit services (CCRTA DART)	0	0%
Public on-demand micro transit (CCRTA SmartDART)	0	0%
I do not visit parks and recreation areas in Barnstable	3	1.02%

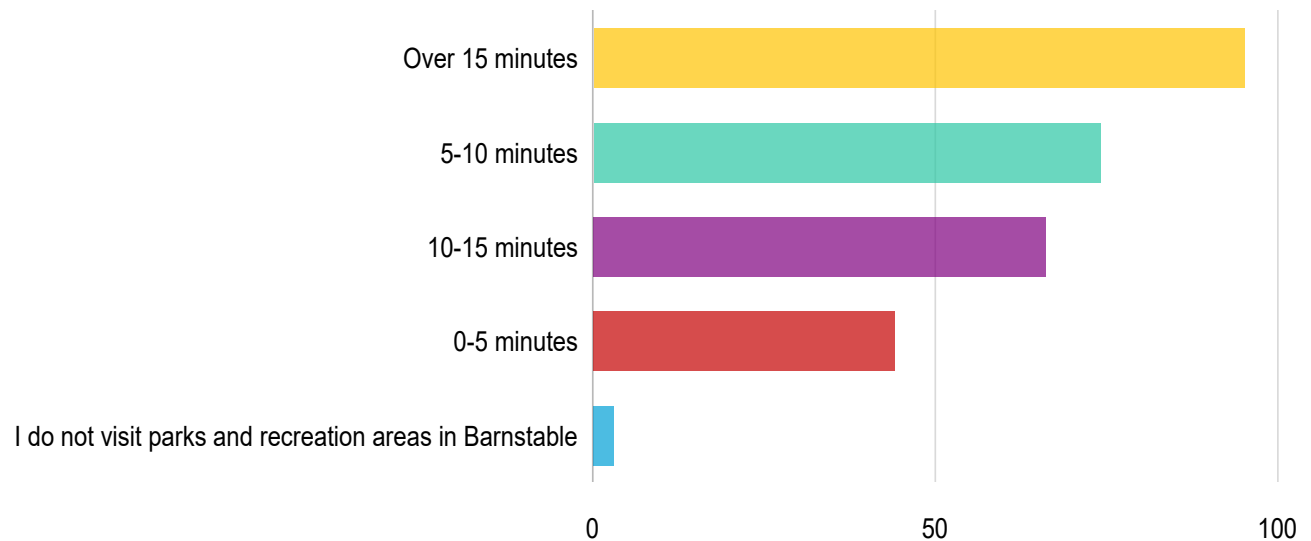
Other

2

0.68%

Answered: 285 Skipped: 8

5. On average, how long does it take you to walk to a park or recreation...



Answers

Count

Percentage

Over 15 minutes

95

32.42%

5-10 minutes

74

25.26%

10-15 minutes

66

22.53%

0-5 minutes

44

15.02%

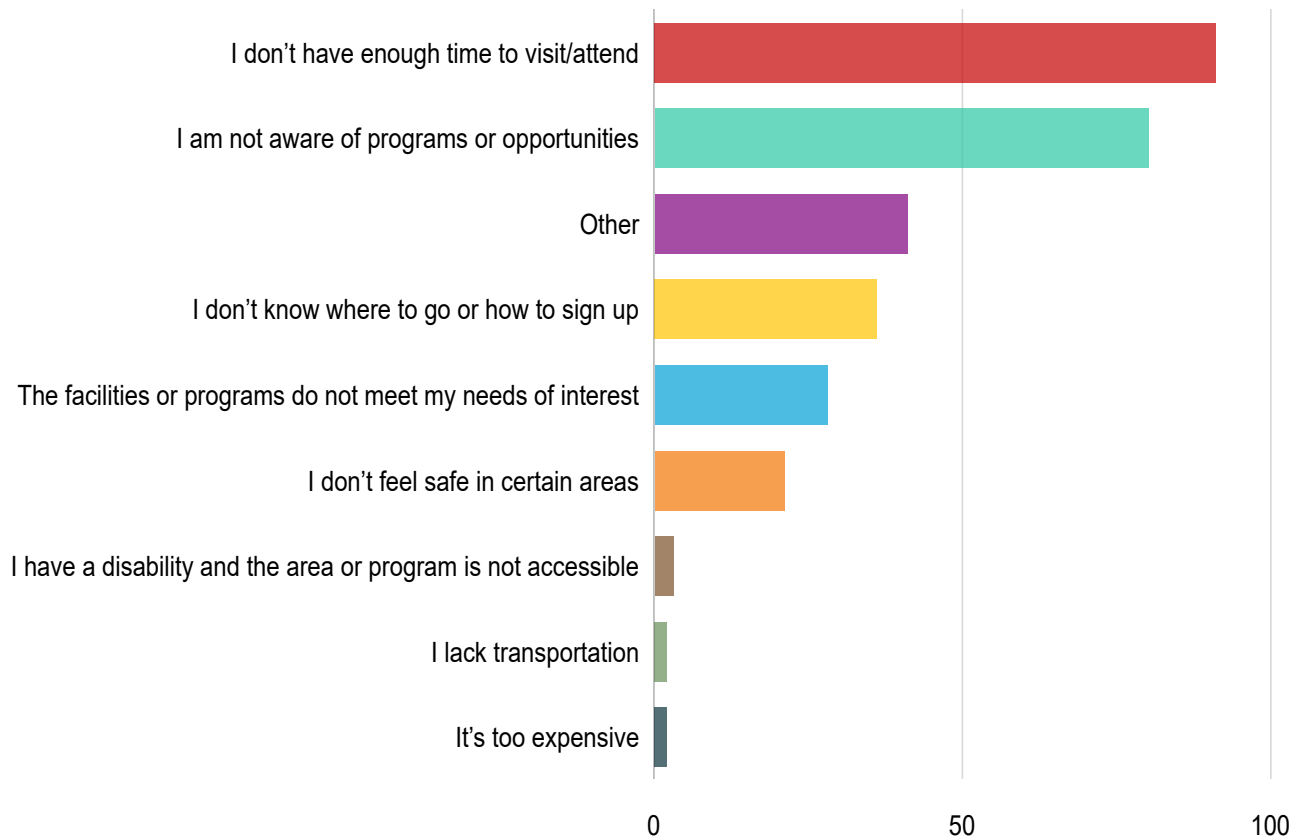
I do not visit parks and recreation areas in Barnstable

3

1.02%

Answered: 282 Skipped: 11

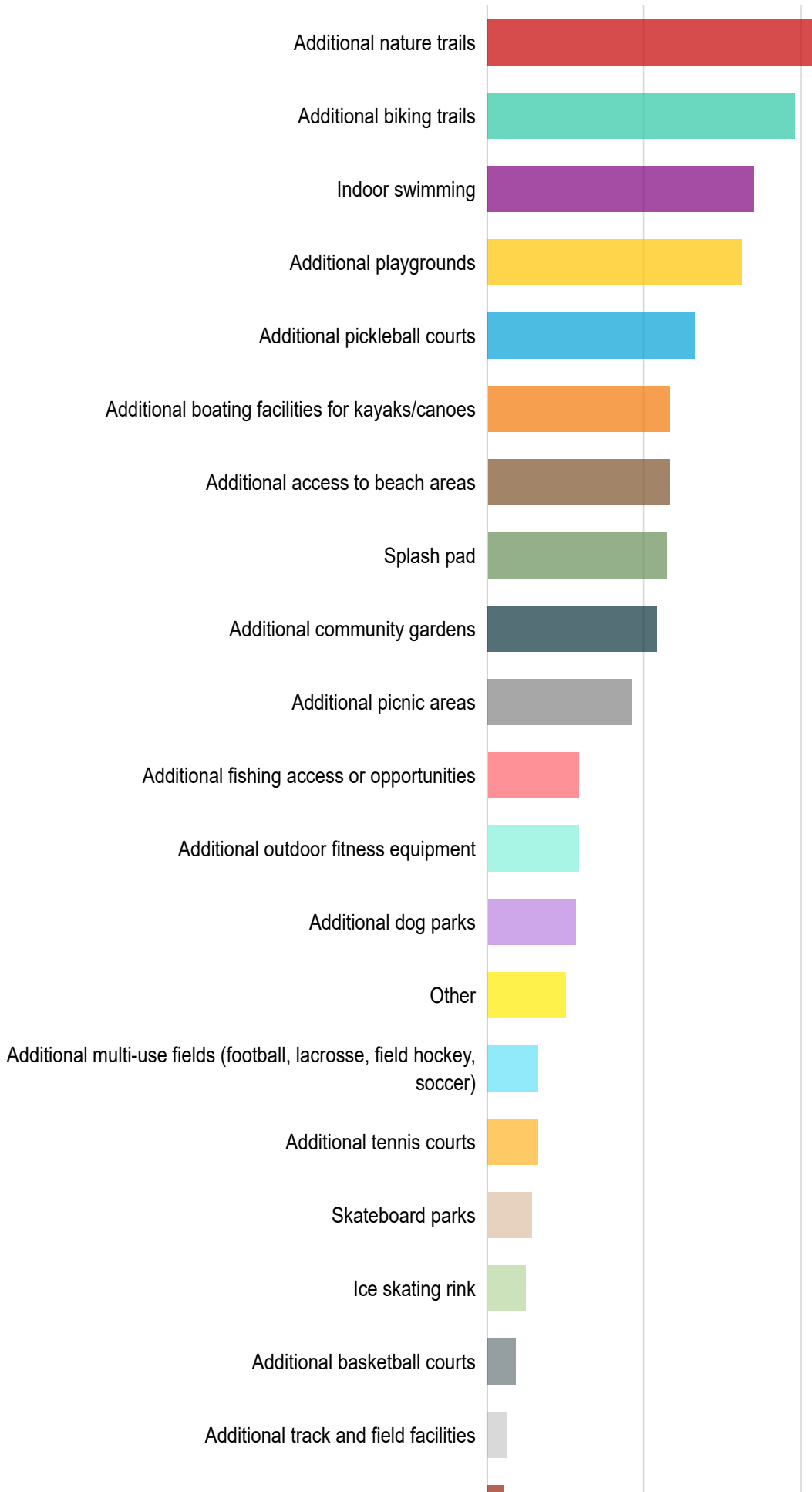
6. Is there anything that keeps you from using recreation or conservation areas, or...



Answers	Count	Percentage
I don't have enough time to visit/attend	91	31.06%
I am not aware of programs or opportunities	80	27.3%
Other	41	13.99%
I don't know where to go or how to sign up	36	12.29%
The facilities or programs do not meet my needs of interest	28	9.56%
I don't feel safe in certain areas	21	7.17%
I have a disability and the area or program is not accessible	3	1.02%
I lack transportation	2	0.68%
It's too expensive	2	0.68%

Answered: 210 Skipped: 83

- 7. Please select what you consider to be the biggest unmet open space needs in...



Additional softball field/baseball field



Answers

Count

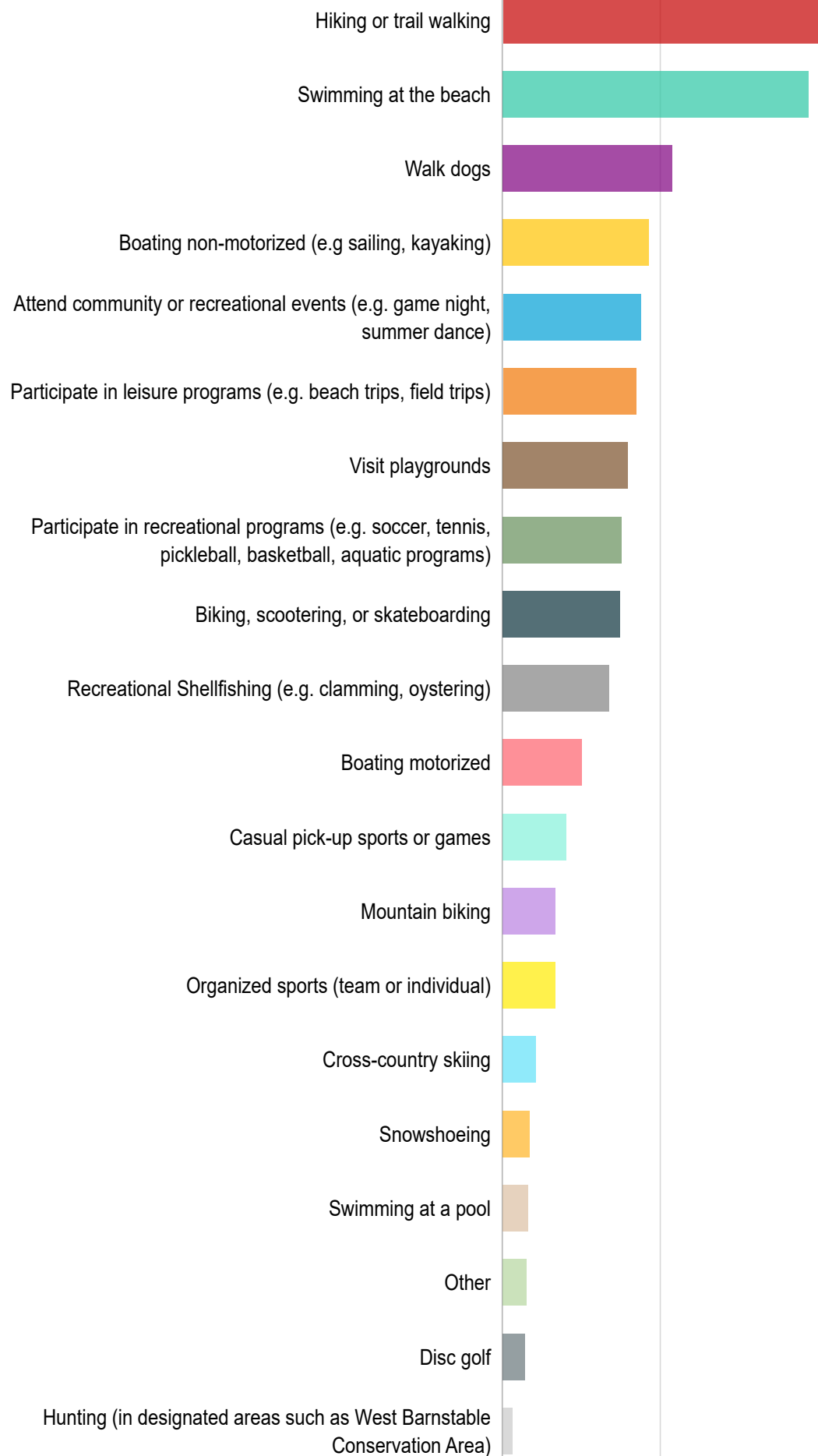
Percentage

Additional nature trails	106	36.18%
Additional biking trails	98	33.45%
Indoor swimming	85	29.01%
Additional playgrounds	81	27.65%
Additional pickleball courts	66	22.53%
Additional boating facilities for kayaks/canoes	58	19.8%
Additional access to beach areas	58	19.8%
Splash pad	57	19.45%
Additional community gardens	54	18.43%
Additional picnic areas	46	15.7%
Additional fishing access or opportunities	29	9.9%
Additional outdoor fitness equipment	29	9.9%
Additional dog parks	28	9.56%
Other	25	8.53%
Additional multi-use fields (football, lacrosse, field hockey, soccer)	16	5.46%
Additional tennis courts	16	5.46%
Skateboard parks	14	4.78%
Ice skating rink	12	4.1%
Additional basketball courts	9	3.07%

Additional track and field facilities	6	2.05%
Additional softball field/baseball field	5	1.71%

Answered: 280 Skipped: 13

8. What activities do you participate in when visiting parks and recreation facilities in...





Answers	Count	Percentage
Hiking or trail walking	203	69.28%
Swimming at the beach	193	65.87%
Walk dogs	107	36.52%
Boating non-motorized (e.g sailing, kayaking)	92	31.4%
Attend community or recreational events (e.g. game night, summer dance)	87	29.69%
Participate in leisure programs (e.g. beach trips, field trips)	84	28.67%
Visit playgrounds	79	26.96%
Participate in recreational programs (e.g. soccer, tennis, pickleball, basketball, aquatic programs)	75	25.6%
Biking, scootering, or skateboarding	74	25.26%
Recreational Shellfishing (e.g. clamming, oystering)	67	22.87%
Boating motorized	50	17.06%
Casual pick-up sports or games	40	13.65%
Mountain biking	33	11.26%
Organized sports (team or individual)	33	11.26%
Cross-country skiing	21	7.17%
Snowshoeing	17	5.8%
Swimming at a pool	16	5.46%

Yes, Brewster dog park is well maintained. Playgrounds & splashpads in Yarmouth & Mashpee. We only have 3 non-school playgrounds with all others removed because they were not maintained. The time it takes to replace a playground is disgraceful. Osterville community building is gone. Town needs to Maintain what we own a Lot better.	1
Yes!!!!!! Yarmouth, has a wonderful splash park/ playground. It was so busy the day I visited with my grandkids. I left thinking " why doesn't Barnstable - a bigger town- have this. We need one!!! Please visit the Yarmouth one and see for yourself!!!!	1
Yes Wellfleet, Eastham, P-Town for additional hiking trails and beaches	1
Yes to other towns like Yarmouth, and mashpee because they actually have playgrounds	1
Yes for Mountain biking and hiking and nature appreciation.	1
Yes - Scorton Creek, Yarmouth, Eastham - nature trails for dog walking	1
Yarmouth splash pad/playground. Cape Cod Academy outdoor pool.	1
Yarmouth Splash Pad	1
Yarmouth playgrounds - Sandy Pond Rex, Johnny Kelly Park	1
Yarmouth pickleball	1
Yarmouth - Callery-Darling Nature Trails, Botanic Trails Harwich - Bell's Neck Brewster - Wing Island Wellfleet, Truro, Provincetown for beaches and nature trails	1
white cedar swamp ,cape cod rail trail, shellfishing	1
Wellfleet Eastham and cbatham	1
We visit various trails in Sandwich and Mashpee.	1
We travel to open and more undisturbed areas frequently, like the national seashore areas, and several cape beach areas.	1
We kayak and hike throughout the Cape	1
we go to National Seashore beaches occasionally	1
We frequently have to travel to use alternate fields for sport events due to the expense/conditions of the Barnstable fields.	1
Water park in Mashpee Playgrounds at various schools in Falmouth	1

Walking trails in other Cape towns	1
Walking at the Canal. it's flat and wide	1
Walk at the canal Sandwich	1
Visit Barnstable land trust properties	1
Trail systems in Sandwich and Falmouth	1
To pickleball courts all over the cape	1
Thomsem Field Harwich to walk dog	1
There are good trails in Provincetown (National Seashore), but also in in Yarmouth, in Dennis - we visit as many walking/hiking trails as we can throughout the year.	1
The knob in woods hole, walking trails at South Cape beach in Mashpee	1
The dog parks in Yarmouth and Brewster are so nice! Even Mashpee's is nothing fancy but still good. Then you come back to Barnstable and it's just.. demoralizing. But those others are far enough away that it's not part of my routine.	1
The canal walk way from Sandwich to Bourne	1
Talbot's Point & Scorton Creek in Sandwich, Lowell Holly & South Cape Beach in Mashpee.	1
spalsh pad, playgrounds	1
Shining Sea Bike Trail. National Seashore.	1
Scorton Creek in Sandwich is my go-to place. I live in West Barnstable so this is the closest and nicest area for walking, biking and taking my dog.	1
Sandwich, Baseball Fields, Playgrounds, Outdoor roller blade (street hockey) court.	1
Sandwich HS-swimming Peter hormer park for bike/scooter Johnny Kelly park Adventureland playground	1
Sandwich has great playgrounds. Mashpee has a splash pad.	1
Sandwich for pickleball because a group member is a resident and can reserve a court. Mashpee for pickleball when Barnstable courts are full or have league play. Also Yarmouth flax pond and Dennis Wixon pickleball. Barnstable open play gets overcrowded with visitors and residents from other towns, especially the South Shore towns for some reason.	1

Sandwich	1
Pools in friends' private communities Canal walking/bike path Falmouth Shining Sea walking/bike path Mashpee Fitness pool until membership became too costly	1
Pickleball in Sandwich because the Mills is way too busy	1
Pickleball in marstons mills but in prime season too busy	1
Osterville Armstrong Kelley Park for the kid play area (in the shade!), Dennis birth side beaches for swimming, heritage gardens for garden walks and kid outdoor play area.	1
Orleans, Eastham, wellfleet.	1
Occasionally to other beaches or bike trails	1
Occasionally go to White Pines area in National Seashore	1
Noted in the selection options in the previous questions.	1
New Splash pad in yarmouth is great for kids	1
National Seashore, Eastham, Waquoit seashore	1
N/A	1
My tennis friends went to Centerville high school to play tennis. At one time these courts were very playable. The tennis courts at Centerville high school needs lots of repair.why not improve places that are run down. Very dedicated adults were teaching young people. how to place tennis. Could be from recreation department.	1
Mother's Park, nearby beaches: Long Beach, Craigville Beach, Covell's Beach, Dowse's.	1
Meetinghouse Farm, Bridge Creek Conservation Area, West Barnstable Community Building	1
Mashpee. Yarmouth	1
MASHPEE- SPLASH PAD	1
Mashpee pickleball, falmouth hunting, sandwich pickleball	1
Marstons Mills pickleball courts	1
Maple Swamp Recreation area, Sandwich Francis Crane WMA, Falmouth Bell's Neck Conservation Area, Harwich	1

MA Audubon Wellfleet	1
Long Pond	1
Long Beach Conservation Area Jenkins Cranberry Bog Dowses Beach Craigville Beach Covill Beach	1
Local beaches provide me recreational opportunities	1
Joshuas pond. Covell's beach.	1
Joshua's pond for dog walking	1
Johnny Kelley Recreation Area in Dennis; Cape Cod Rail Trail.	1
John Kelley Park in Dennis is awesome; it has picnic areas, dog friendly (it seems people respect the leash law), a huge pavillion, fitness stations, fields, braille walk, restrooms-people seem to gather and meet up in the community, music sometimes.	1
I will walk the trails in Eastham and Wellfleet	1
I ride the Cape Cod Rail trail and the Shining Sea bikeway.	1
I love to walk around the former Jenkins Bog on Bumps River road in Centerville.	1
I love the West Barnstable Conservation area.	1
I like to walk but have to drive to get to walking spots. I live on race lane & there is no walking path or biking path. There is also nothing on 149 Osterville Barnstable rd. Or route 28 nothing really on 6A. Kind of weird how cape could be connected by paths to villages but it isn't plus everyone drives too fast so it is scary for walking / biking on roads. It shouldn't be, every place I visit has better walking paths/sidewalks.	1
I drive daily to park and recreation areas. Sometimes I drive to another villages post office and walk around the neighborhood. You don't need activities to enjoy open space.	1
Hiking and biking on the trails in Yarmouth, Mashpee, Harwich and in Nickerson State Park and Cape Cod National Seashore.	1
Heritage Gardens, Sandwich	1
Hathaway's pond for dog trail walking, swimming, and dog park. Old jail Lane trails for dog trail walking.	1
Grays Beach, CC Canal, Dennis beaches	1

From time to time, I explore other Cape Cod conservation areas	1
Falmouth for music events. Cotuit Center for the Arts all the time!!!	1
Falmouth	1
Eastham - clean and safe trails. Bass River - trail.	1
East beach in Hyannis Port to walk my dog.	1
Eagle pond, drummer boy park	1
Drive a car at loop beach. The seaweed should be raked. Seaweed is so thick it covers you if you swim. It embarrassing to bring relatives to the beach.	1
Dowses Beach, Keys Memorial Beach, Eugenia Fortes Beach, Covell's Beach, Joshua's Pond and trails, Long Pastures Audubon National Refuge.	1
Dowes in Ostrerville	1
Dickerson state park, rail trail, shining seas bike trail.	1
Conservation lands in Yarmouth, Dennis and Sandwich. Nickerson Park and Nat'l Seashore.	1
Centerville playground - it's a crime it's not open for the children of and visiting our community. You're destroying memories for our children. Bay lane tennis court - turn it back to tennis - put up the nets and it will be used. Bay lane ball field - paint the dugouts. These are used by our children and they serve it to be spruced up. And it's pathetic - it's sad it's so run down. What's the deal with beach parking - not prioritizing tax paying and fee paying residents. We're left in Line so you can grab the \$25 from out of towners. If you don't have funding or resources to fix our facilities. up, people in the community will pitch in and do it. It's a disgrace. Sewer project has taken ultimate priority over anything that's logical. And pickleball has taken precedence over tennis lovers. I think that's enough for now.	1
Centerville cranberry bog owned by James Jenkins estate on Bumps River Rd. and the subject of litigation for the last 4 years.	1
Cape Cod Rail Trail, Shining Sea Bikeway to Woods Hole, Wing Island, Brewster	1
Cape cod rail trail accessed from Dennis and Harwich. Dennis beaches. Barnstable is too honky-tonk, over populated. There's nothing g "old Cape Cod" about Barnstable/Hyannis anymore.	1

Cape Cod National Seashore South Cape Beach, Mashpee Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge Maple Swamp Conservation Area, Sandwich Boyden Farm, Sandwich Bell's Neck, Harwich Cold Brook Preserve, Harwich	1
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Cape Cod National Seashore Grays Beach Bray Farm Mashpee Woodlands	1
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Cape Cod National Seashore- trails	1
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Cape Cod National Seashore walking trails (Cedar Seamp)	1
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Cape Cod Canal Trail, Shining Sea Trail, Rail Trail. Luke's Love playground	1
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Canal bike paths CC rail trail	1
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Canal	1
-------	---

Brewster: Punkhorn Park, Drummer Boy Park	1
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Boardwalk in Sandwich and Dennis The Nob in Falmouth Shell fishing at Scudder Lane The Canal Walk in Sandwich Long Pasture Audubon	1
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Bike trails Also dog beaches Playgrounds-splash pads	1
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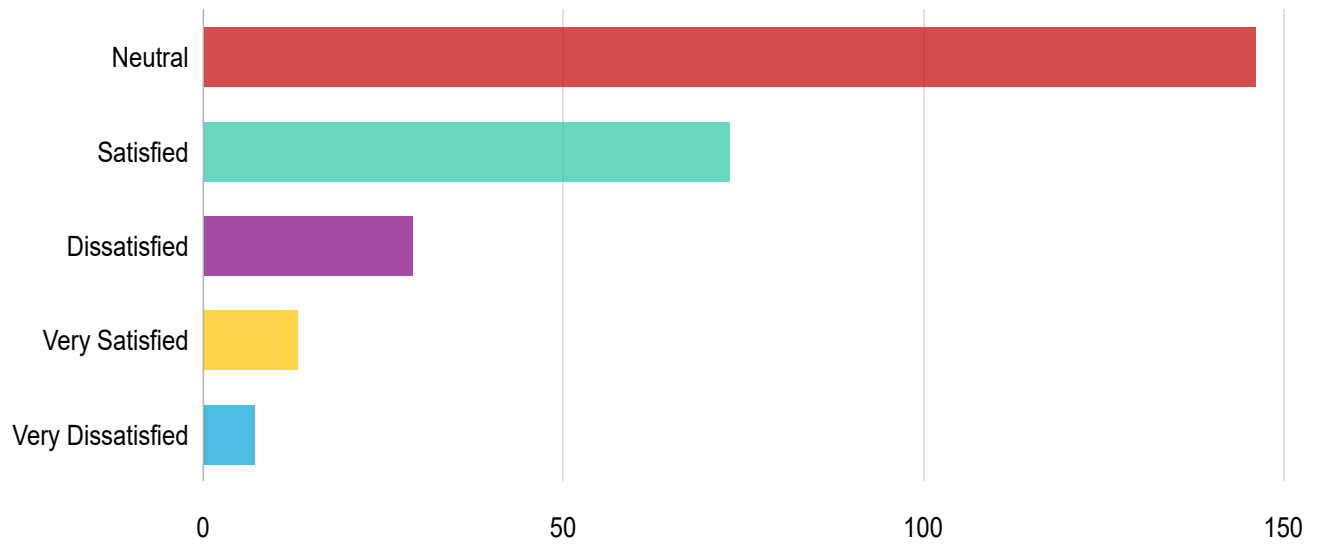
Barnstable Pickleball Clamming in Cotuit Biking in Cotuit Hiking at Eagle Pond Samson's by boat but not much beach left	1
---	---

Almost never as we are seasonal.	1
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Answered: 115 Skipped: 178

Open Space & Recreation > 9. How satisfied are you with the current state of parks and recreational opportunities in Barnstable?

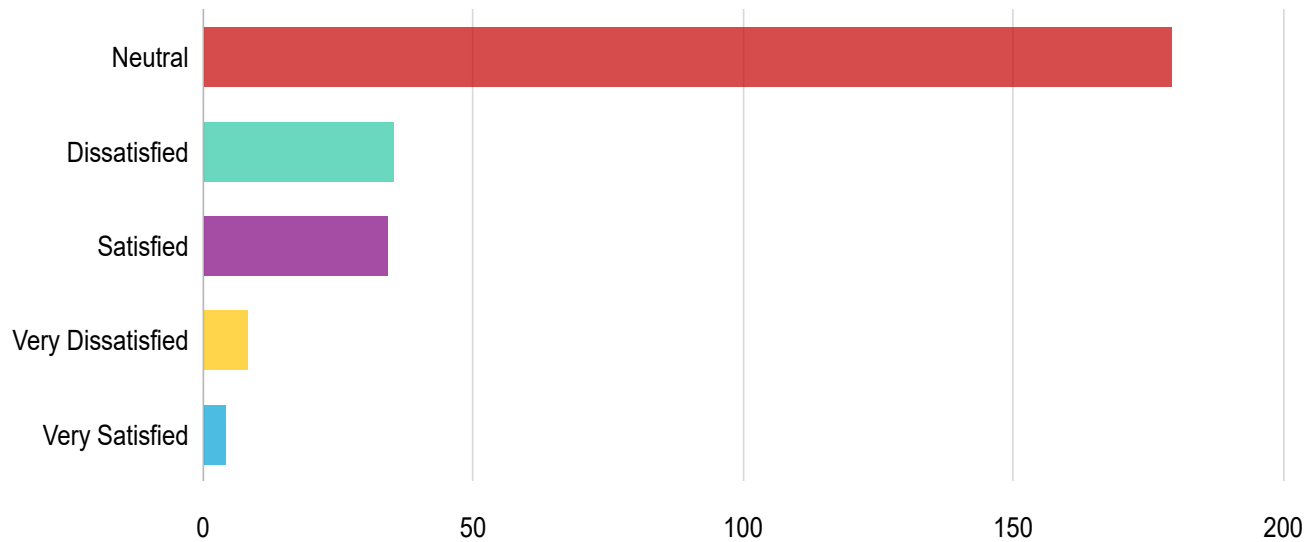
○ ○ Availability of existing recreational programs/opportunities for children



Answers	Count	Percentage
Neutral	146	49.83%
Satisfied	73	24.91%
Dissatisfied	29	9.9%
Very Satisfied	13	4.44%
Very Dissatisfied	7	2.39%

Answered: 268 Skipped: 25

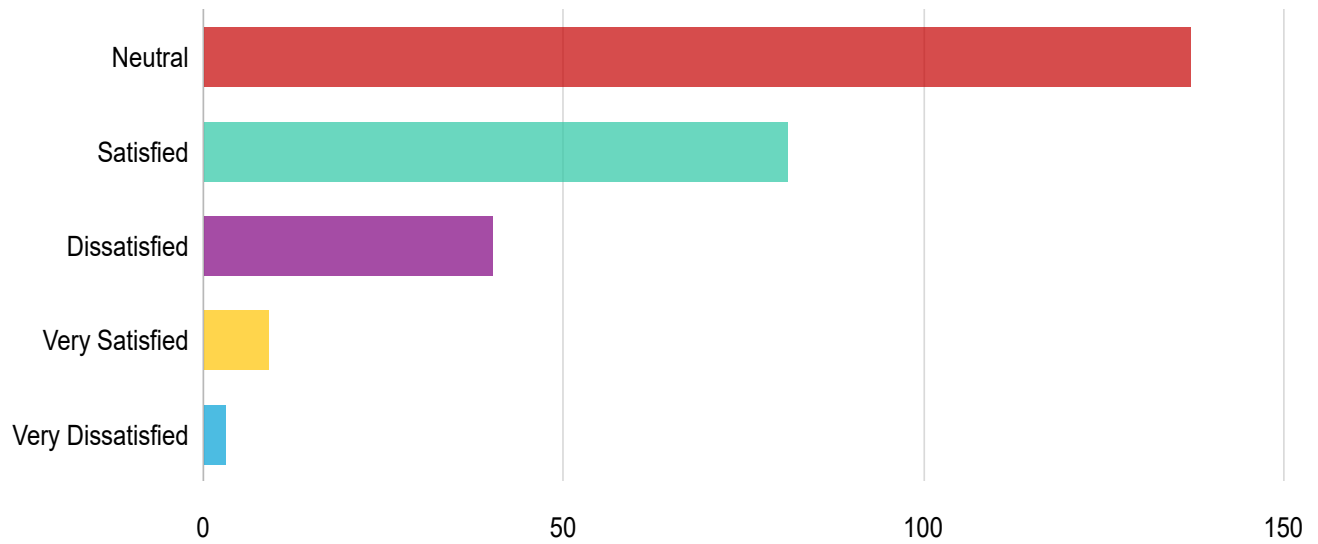
○ ○ Availability of existing recreational programs/opportunities for teens



Answers	Count	Percentage
Neutral	179	61.09%
Dissatisfied	35	11.95%
Satisfied	34	11.6%
Very Dissatisfied	8	2.73%
Very Satisfied	4	1.37%

Answered: 260 Skipped: 33

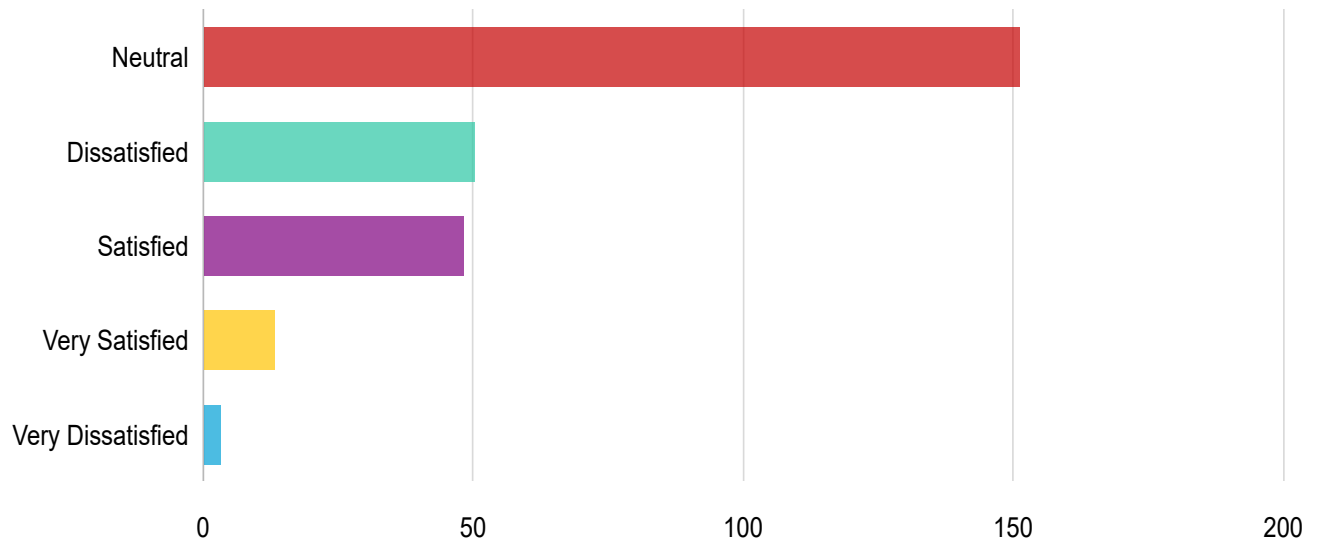
○ ○ Availability of existing recreational programs/opportunities for adults



Answers	Count	Percentage
Neutral	137	46.76%
Satisfied	81	27.65%
Dissatisfied	40	13.65%
Very Satisfied	9	3.07%
Very Dissatisfied	3	1.02%

Answered: 270 Skipped: 23

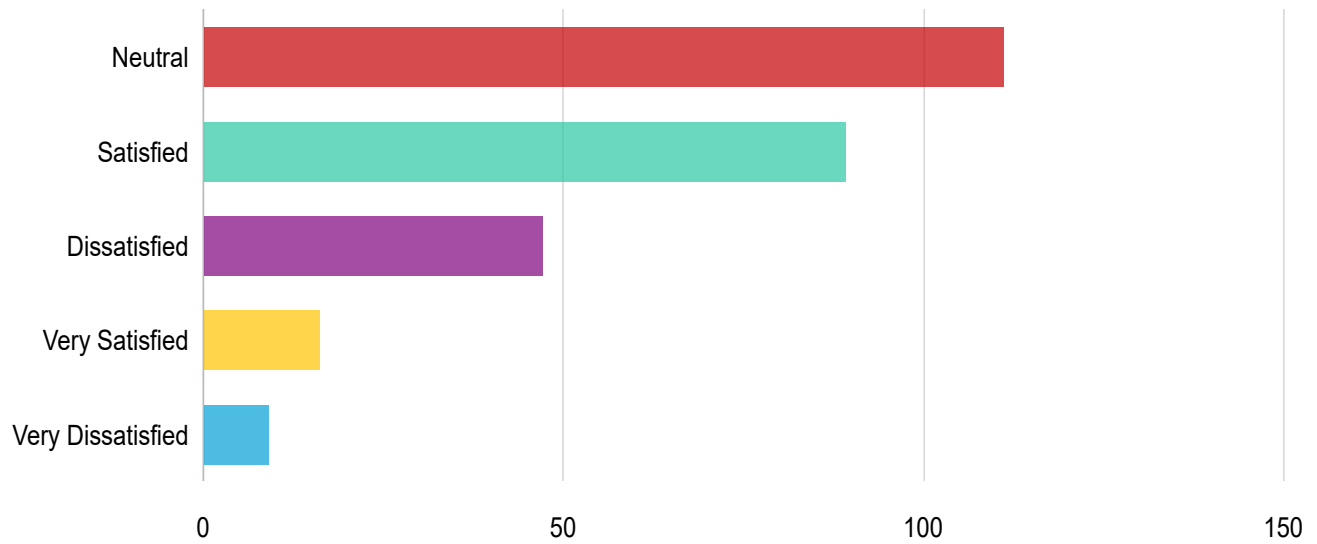
○ ○ Availability of existing recreational programs/opportunities for aging...



Answers	Count	Percentage
Neutral	151	51.54%
Dissatisfied	50	17.06%
Satisfied	48	16.38%
Very Satisfied	13	4.44%
Very Dissatisfied	3	1.02%

Answered: 265 Skipped: 28

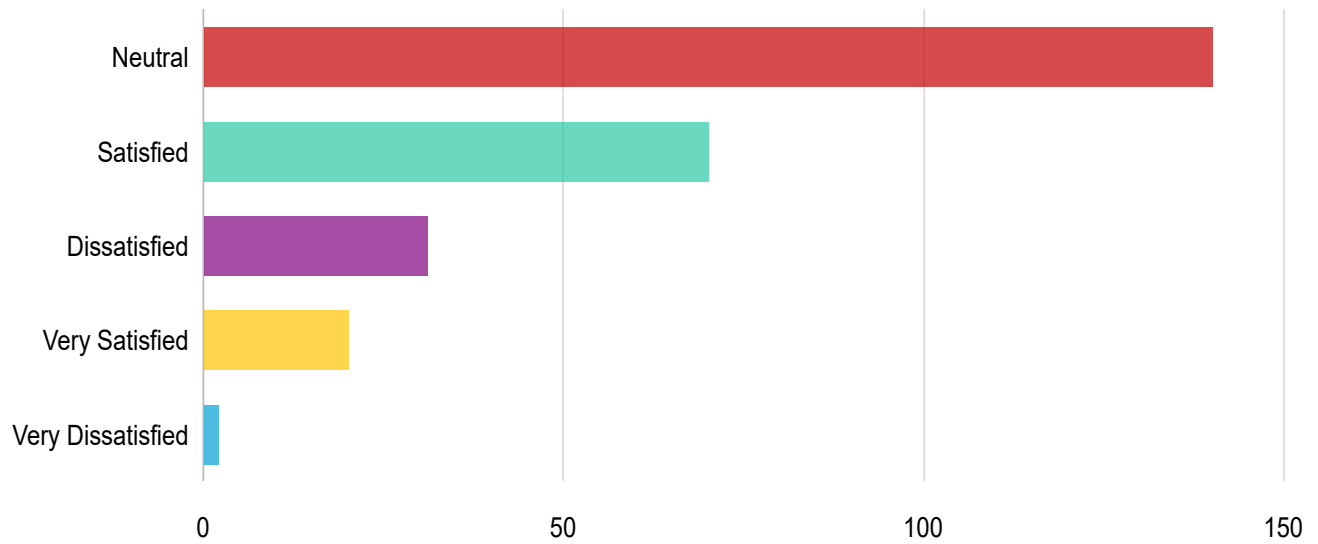
○ ○ Availability of existing hiking and biking opportunities



Answers	Count	Percentage
Neutral	111	37.88%
Satisfied	89	30.38%
Dissatisfied	47	16.04%
Very Satisfied	16	5.46%
Very Dissatisfied	9	3.07%

Answered: 272 Skipped: 21

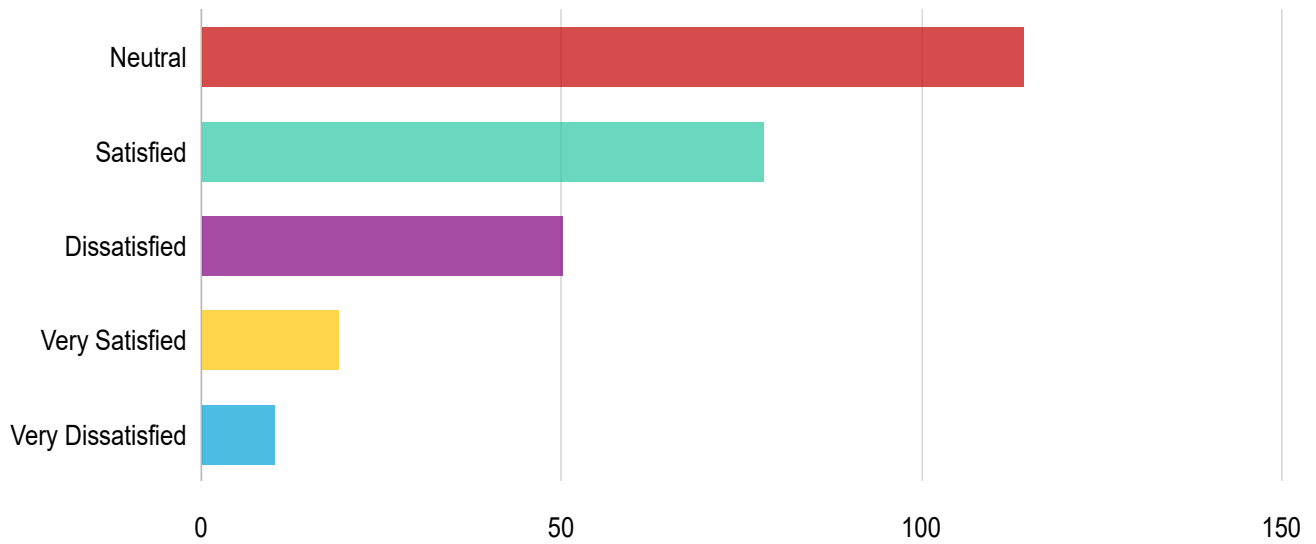
○ ○ Accessibility of recreational facilities (physical access and proximity)



Answers	Count	Percentage
Neutral	140	47.78%
Satisfied	70	23.89%
Dissatisfied	31	10.58%
Very Satisfied	20	6.83%
Very Dissatisfied	2	0.68%

Answered: 263 Skipped: 30

○ ○ Condition and maintenance of existing outdoor recreational facilities

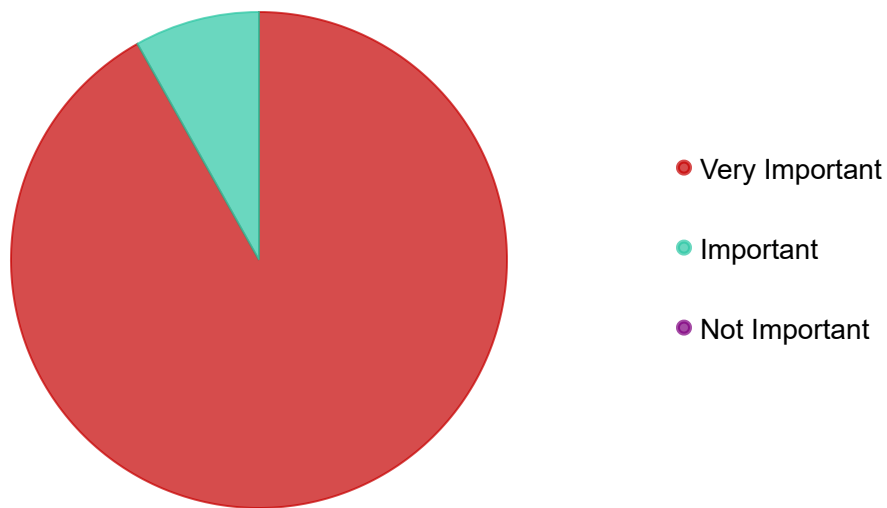


Answers	Count	Percentage
Neutral	114	38.91%
Satisfied	78	26.62%
Dissatisfied	50	17.06%
Very Satisfied	19	6.48%
Very Dissatisfied	10	3.41%

Answered: 271 Skipped: 22

Open Space & Recreation > 10. How important is it to you to preserve and protect the following in Barnstable?

☐ ☐ Drinking water supplies



Answers

Count

Percentage

Very Important

259

88.4%

Important

23

7.85%

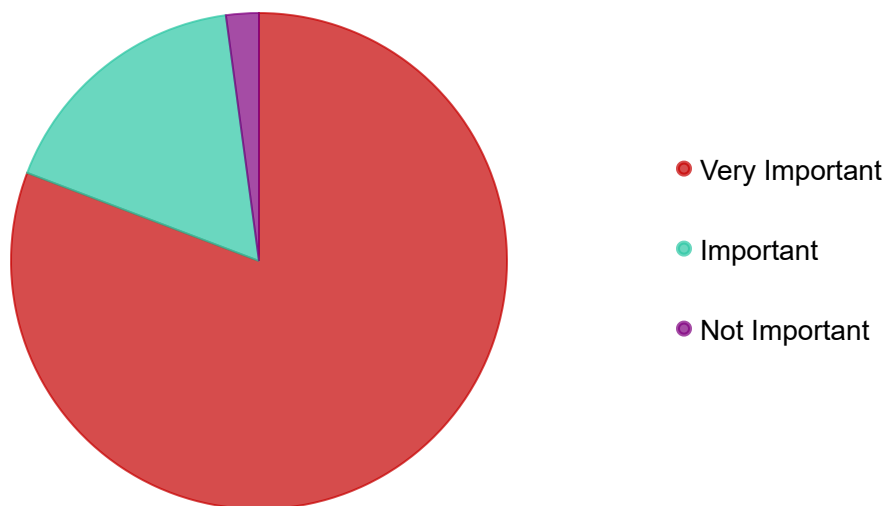
Not Important

0

0%

Answered: 282 Skipped: 11

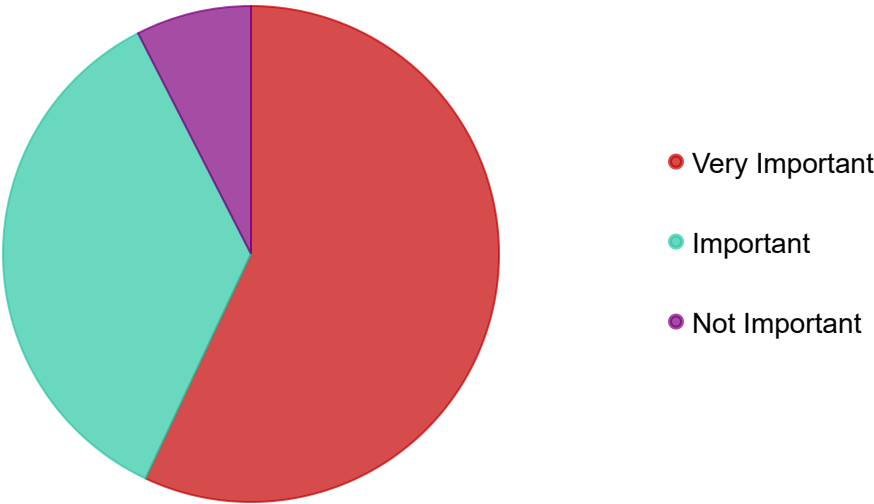
○ ○ **Wildlife habitat and biodiversity**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Very Important	227	77.47%
Important	48	16.38%
Not Important	6	2.05%

Answered: 281 Skipped: 12

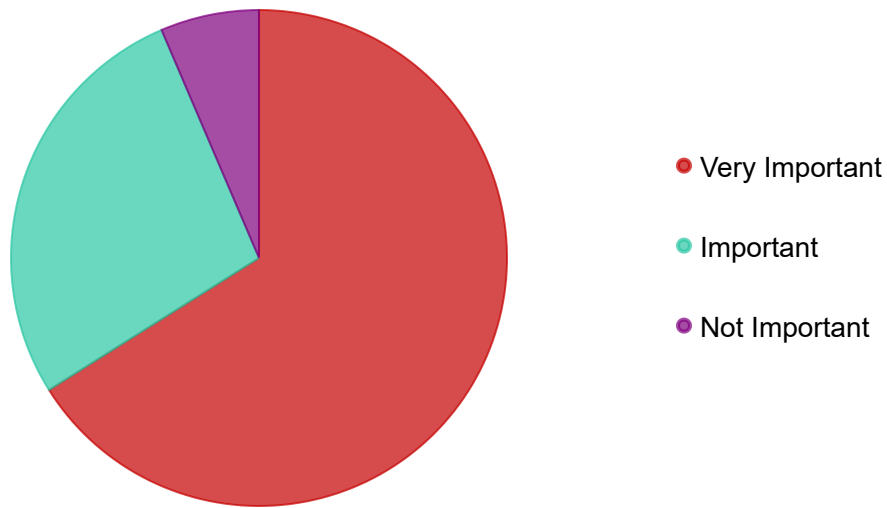
○ ○ Agricultural land



Answers	Count	Percentage
Very Important	159	54.27%
Important	99	33.79%
Not Important	21	7.17%

Answered: 279 Skipped: 14

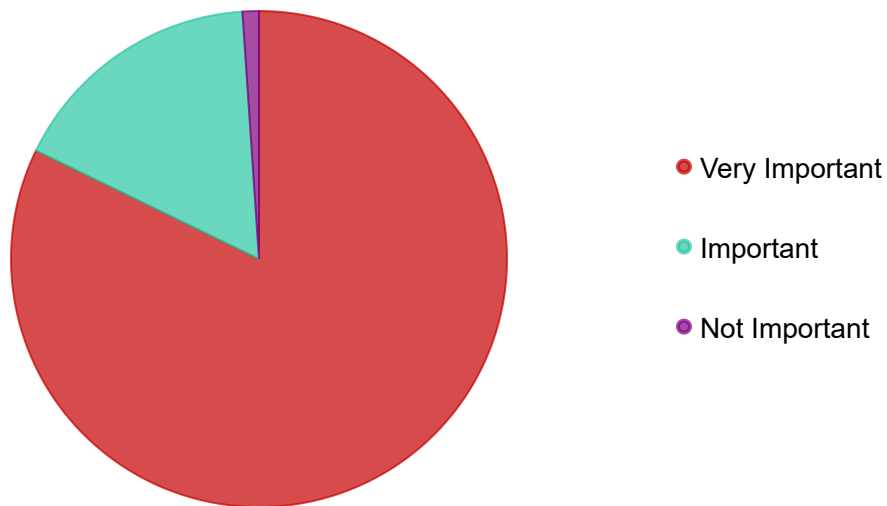
○ ○ Shellfishing



Answers	Count	Percentage
Very Important	185	63.14%
Important	77	26.28%
Not Important	18	6.14%

Answered: 280 Skipped: 13

○ ○ Water bodies and wetlands



Answers**Count****Percentage**

Very Important

231

78.84%

Important

47

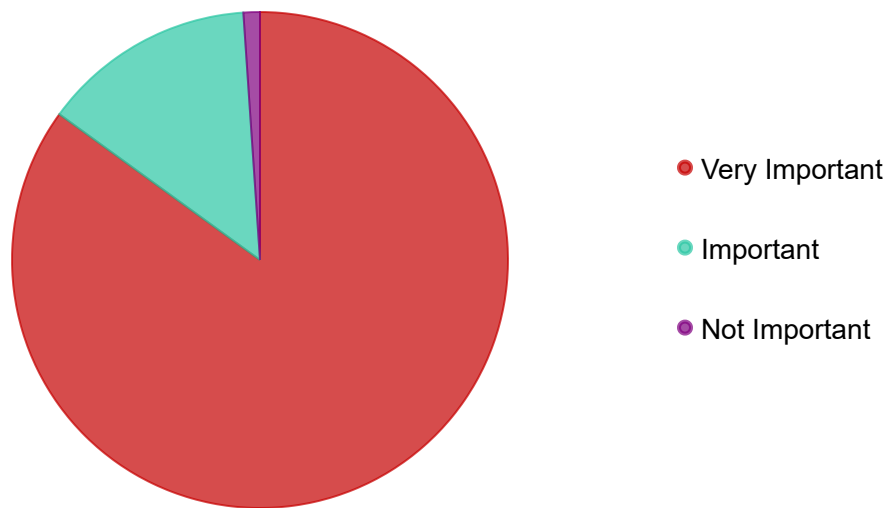
16.04%

Not Important

3

1.02%

Answered: 281 Skipped: 12

Waterfront and beach areas**Answers****Count****Percentage**

Very Important

238

81.23%

Important

39

13.31%

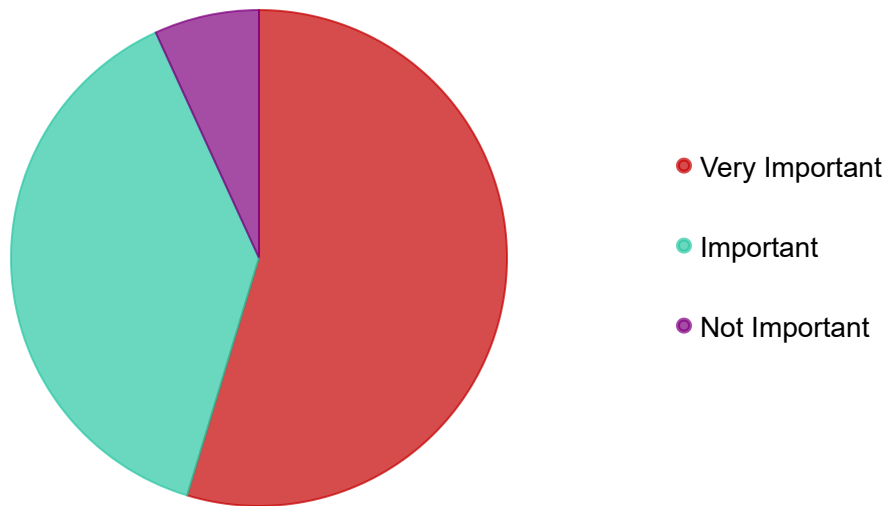
Not Important

3

1.02%

Answered: 280 Skipped: 13

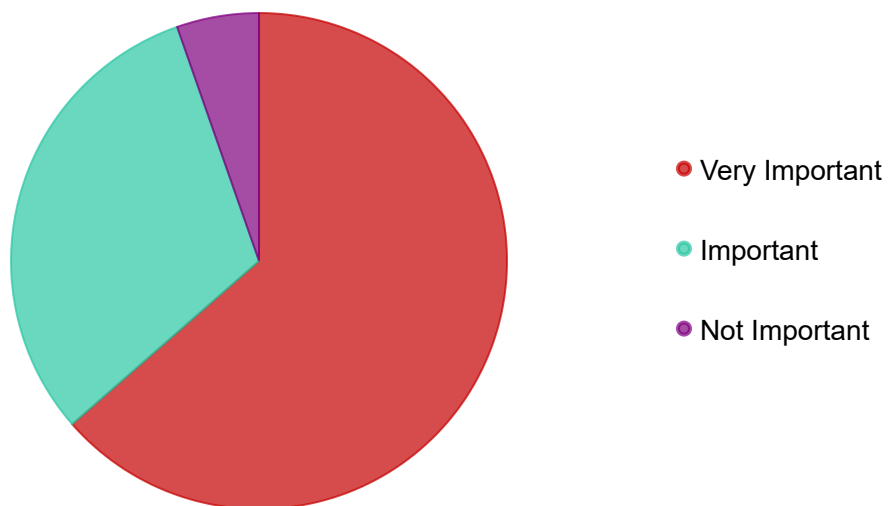
Historic and cultural resources



Answers	Count	Percentage
Very Important	152	51.88%
Important	107	36.52%
Not Important	19	6.48%

Answered: 278 Skipped: 15

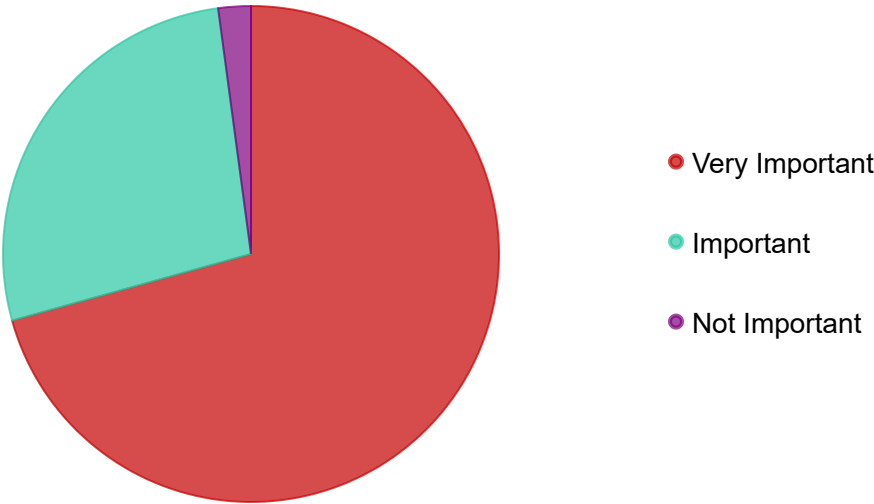
○ ○ Shade trees/street trees



Answers	Count	Percentage
Very Important	178	60.75%
Important	87	29.69%
Not Important	15	5.12%

Answered: 280 Skipped: 13

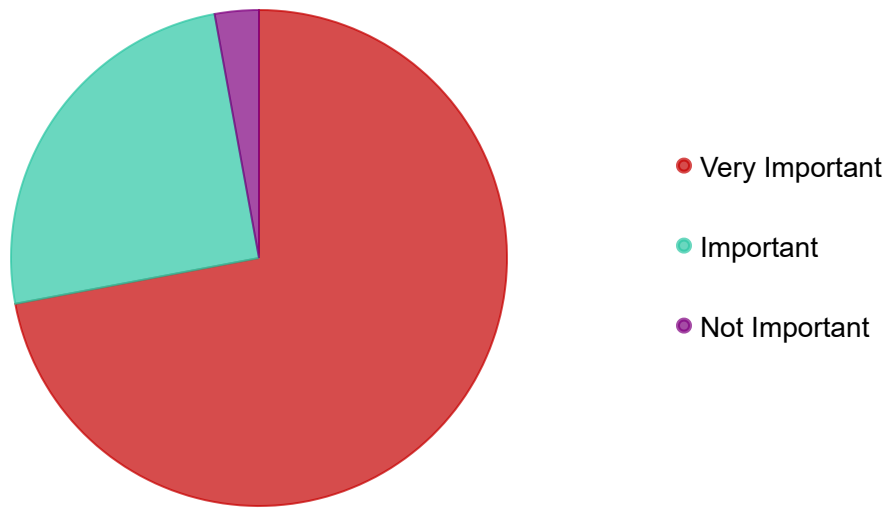
○ ○ Town-owned parks, playgrounds, and/or recreational facilities



Answers	Count	Percentage
Very Important	200	68.26%
Important	77	26.28%
Not Important	6	2.05%

Answered: 283 Skipped: 10

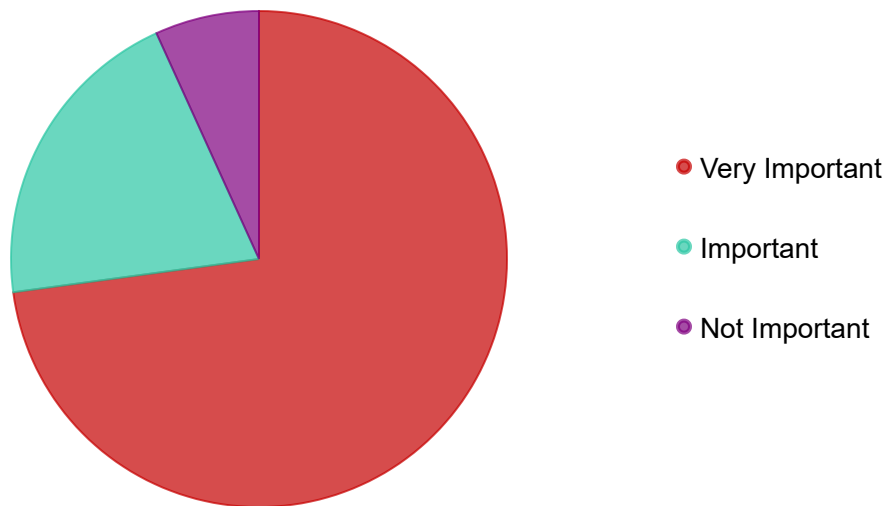
○ ○ Hiking, biking, and walking trails



Answers	Count	Percentage
Very Important	201	68.6%
Important	70	23.89%
Not Important	8	2.73%

Answered: 279 Skipped: 14

○ ○ Preserving land from development



Answers**Count****Percentage**

Very Important

204

69.62%

Important

57

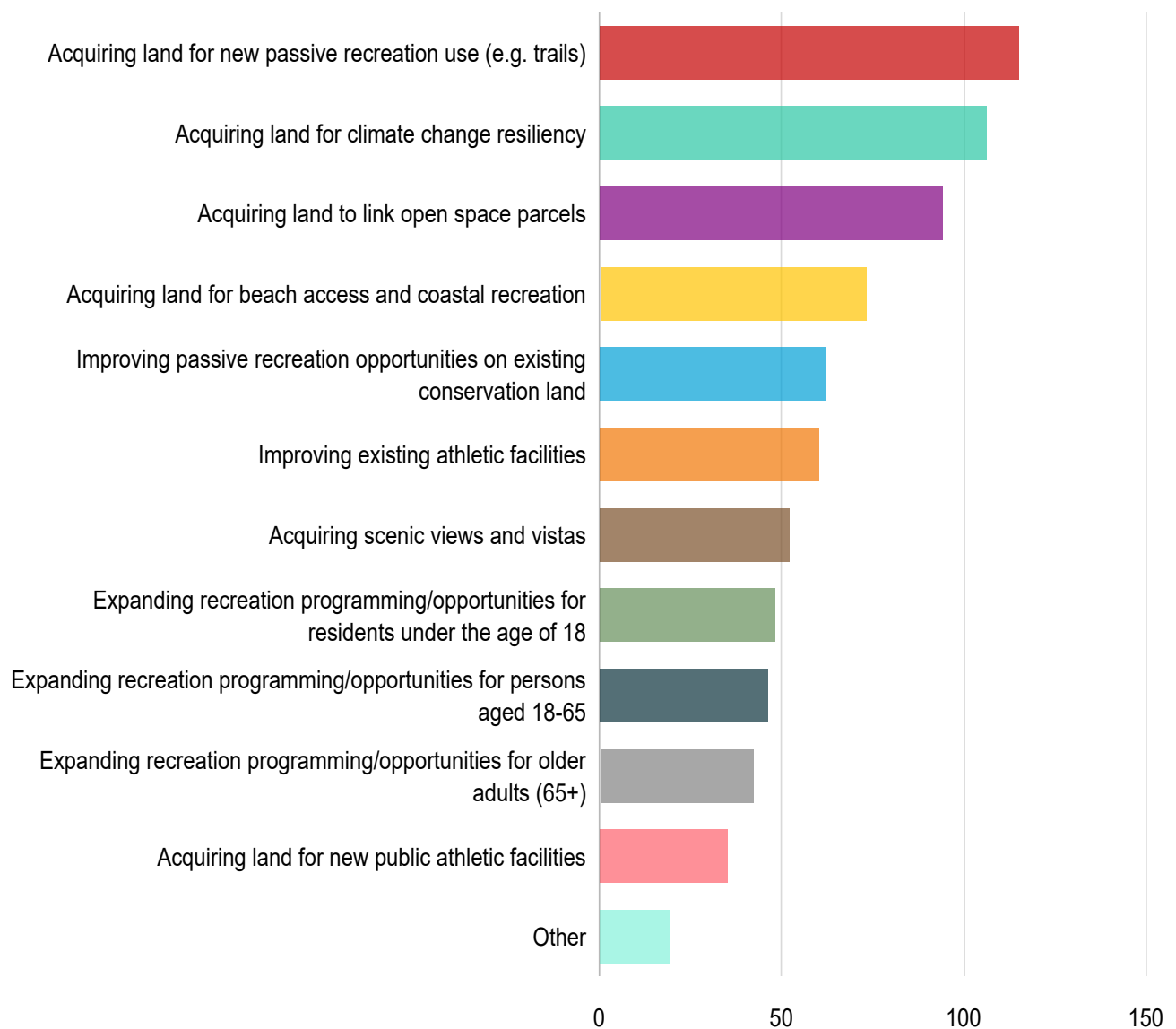
19.45%

Not Important

19

6.48%

Answered: 280 Skipped: 13

11. What should Barnstable's priorities be for open space and recreational...

Answers	Count	Percentage
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Acquiring land for new passive recreation use (e.g. trails)	115	39.25%
---	-----	--------

Acquiring land for climate change resiliency	106	36.18%
--	-----	--------

Acquiring land to link open space parcels	94	32.08%
---	----	--------

Acquiring land for beach access and coastal recreation	73	24.91%
--	----	--------

Improving passive recreation opportunities on existing conservation land	62	21.16%
--	----	--------

Improving existing athletic facilities	60	20.48%
--	----	--------

Acquiring scenic views and vistas	52	17.75%
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Expanding recreation programming/opportunities for residents under the age of 18	48	16.38%
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Expanding recreation programming/opportunities for persons aged 18-65	46	15.7%
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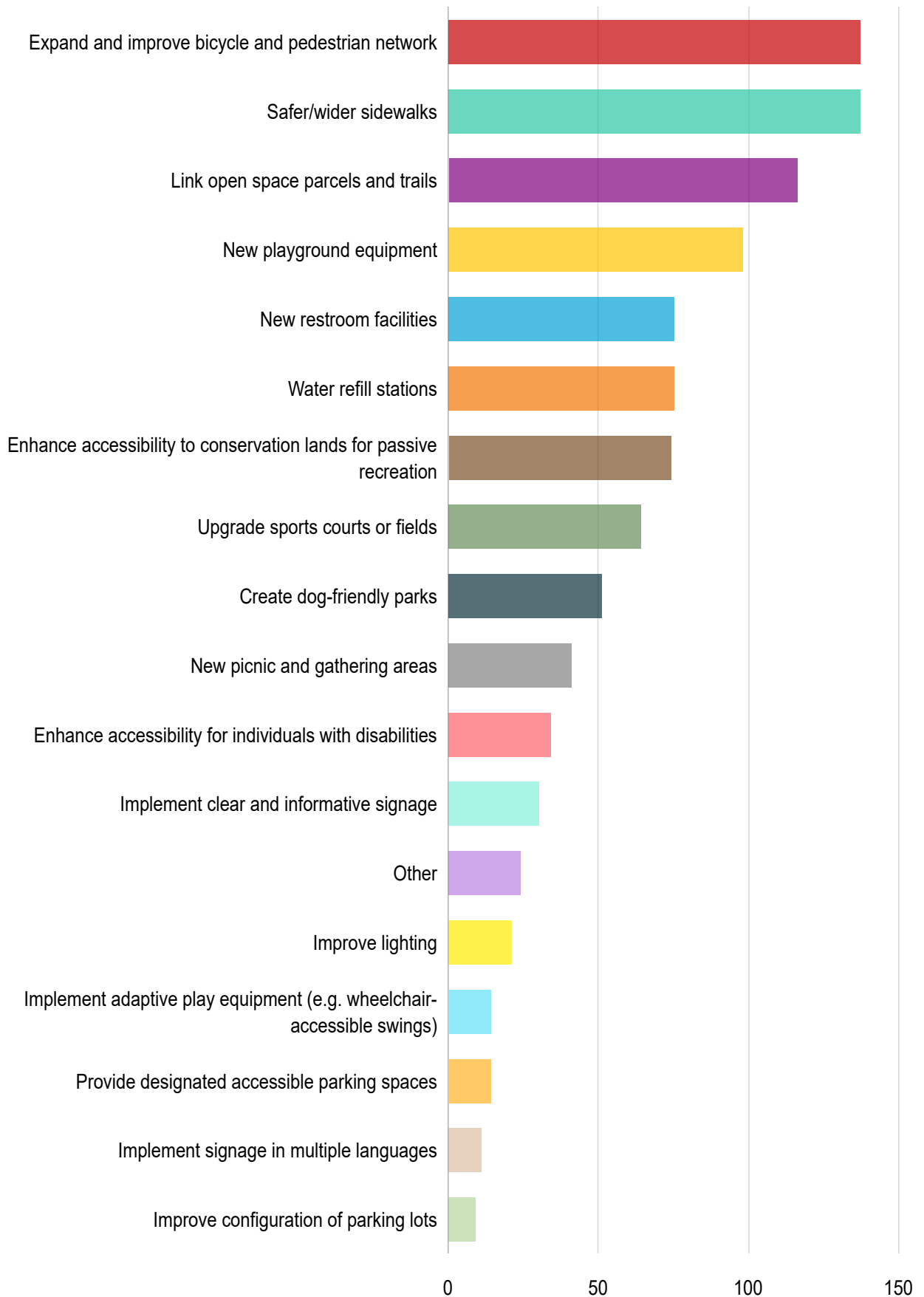
Expanding recreation programming/opportunities for older adults (65+)	42	14.33%
---	----	--------

Acquiring land for new public athletic facilities	35	11.95%
---	----	--------

Other	19	6.48%
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Answered: 283
 Skipped: 10

12. Please select your top desired improvements for existing parks and recreation...



Answers	Count	Percentage
Expand and improve bicycle and pedestrian network	137	46.76%
Safer/wider sidewalks	137	46.76%
Link open space parcels and trails	116	39.59%
New playground equipment	98	33.45%
New restroom facilities	75	25.6%
Water refill stations	75	25.6%
Enhance accessibility to conservation lands for passive recreation	74	25.26%
Upgrade sports courts or fields	64	21.84%
Create dog-friendly parks	51	17.41%
New picnic and gathering areas	41	13.99%
Enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities	34	11.6%
Implement clear and informative signage	30	10.24%
Other	24	8.19%
Improve lighting	21	7.17%
Implement adaptive play equipment (e.g. wheelchair-accessible swings)	14	4.78%
Provide designated accessible parking spaces	14	4.78%
Implement signage in multiple languages	11	3.75%
Improve configuration of parking lots	9	3.07%

Answered: 279 Skipped: 14

Why did you place a pin here?



Response	Count
N/A	3
You cannot enter Aselton Park if you are using many mobility aids and it is too far from any public restrooms if you have chronic illness, or the restroom locations are unclear.	1
We need rail trail and safe streets for walking	1
We live here and its the closest beach but its not that great for kids or swimming. We instead go to Kalmus	1
Viewing platform has stairs which limit accessibility. Adaptive mountain bikers are unable to enjoy the view. Work with Cape Cod NEMBA (original deck builders) to update the access.	1
This playground was an integral part of the community and should be fully accessible when restored	1
This intersection is very dangerous. There are no crosswalks or any lights for pedestrians or any with disabilities. Car speed all the time and there are local shops with family patrons coming to and from the beach. Please fix this ASAP.	1
The old MM school is perfect for a park for ALL people-it could be a cornerstone for adaptive recreation, accessible for disabilities as it is flat for the most part, parking on main street end close to area.	1
The horrendous noise and intrusion on neighborhood homes by the pickleball courts	1
Sandy Neck is large enough to have frequent use of adaptive equipment	1

Ridgewood Park is a quiet park in a quiet neighborhood largely forgotten by the town (based on the neglect of the existing facilities) and the small playground is in need of updating and improvement. I think this makes it a fantastic opportunity to give the park a specific unique purpose (accessibility) that can make it a destination park for many families. It is already in need of renovation so why not renovate with a purpose.	1
Parking is difficult here and the terrain can be difficult to maneuver	1
One that is convenient for all of Barnstable and has a shady area.	1
NA	1
Mobi mat to bench under shade umbrella.	1
Living and working here	1
JFK memorial park Or near an elementary school	1
It would be good to have this enhanced.	1
In season that parking area is minute.	1
I'd like to see the Centerville playground revamped for ADA requirements as I understand is underway currently. Adults on the cape with disabilities also need safe well lit and accessible outdoor and recreational spaces. The intersection near four seas ice cream and Main Street Centerville needs a crosswalk, safe and widened walking path or sidewalk and walking/don't walk signals. All pedestrians and bicyclists need that specific intersection to be closely looked at for increased accessibility and safety.	1
I selected Centerville playground near the centerville recreation building. Why has it taken so long to rebuild!	1
I don't know of a specific place or area. I think improvement in any area is a good thing for the Cape.	1
I couldn't get it to work on my phone. Tried for Kalmus	1
I	1
Hyannis there is not a single place where people can bring young children to play. Hyannis being over populated with lots of families the town should have a place where families can bring small children to a safe place. Not all children go to a daycare	1
Hyannis is the area in town with the least open space and shellfishing opportunities.	1

Close to home	2
Work with Barnstable Water Company to allow creation of an off-road unpaved trail that would attract walking/running/biking off of Old Jail Lane	1
West Main Street - All of West Main Street and the connecting roads to the schools, grocery stores, playgrounds and beaches should be improved for walking and biking.	1
We live in Centerville with children and need to walk strollers on the side of the road for family walks (which can be nervewracking during the day and not something we're willing to do at night). Improving access to sidewalks and bike lanes would help our family live a more active lifestyle and allow us to reach more recreational opportunities by walking/biking and reduce having to drive to reach these places.	1
Traffic volume is high, pedestrians and bicyclists need access to Craigville beach area	1
This pin represents Old Stage and the general area. I would love to bike with my son to places like the new playground, Craigville Beach, or the library, but there is not a single bike lane in the area and sidewalks are inconsistent, narrow, and overgrown. (And I think it's illegal for me to bike on a sidewalk?) Old Stage feels tremendously unsafe and our alternative is a winding set of backroads that makes the trip much longer and still has 0 bike safety infrastructure, just less traffic	1
This natural wetland area that drains to the ocean, formerly known as the Jenkins Cranberry bog has been an open walking space for many decades up until a few years ago. Its current owner was allowed by the town of Centerville to barricade the area with no trespassing signs and an ugly chain link fence. Much of the wildlife including frogs, turtles, ducks, herons, swans and fireflies are now gone. The town should allow the Land Trust to acquire this property and restore public access and allow conservationists to help restore the lost wildlife.	1
This intersection is extremely unsafe, as are the roadways in this area. This makes it nearly impossible to walk or bike between Marstons Mills and Cotuit	1
This bridge was recently replaced and rebuilt without adding any pedestrian or bicycle facilities which is absurd. This could easily link west Barnstable conservation area to bridge creek.	1
This area has bad access from race Lane bottom out our vehicles entering and leaving also bathroom no bathroom facilities the pavement is crumbling	1
These trails around the ponds don't connect to one another, and it's difficult to make a circular route from parking and back to parking.	1

There is no sidewalk connecting Lowell Ave/Park or along Putnam leading to the cemetery and Bell Farm. It is a busy road. In the summer in particular kids are frequent along Putnam from the Coop to Lowell in particular but also to Old Post. Walkers and runners are frequent and have to share the busy road.	1
The trails are not user-friendly for people with mobility problems.	1
the town has allowed too many trees to be cut down and land paved to the point of creating no drainage in lots of areas having more natural open spaces connected would help	1
The sidewalks along Route 6A are dangerous and not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It is unsafe for a pedestrian to cross the intersection of Route 6A and Route 132, and a roundabout should be constructed.	1
The sidewalk on Kidd's Hill Road NEEDS to be extended to connect to Phinney's Lane. With all the people now living at Hanover it is very dangerous to have people walking to Hathaways or into the villlage along Kidd's Hill	1
The sidewalk does not continue along the entire street. With cars speeding along the street the sidewalk ends at a curve in the road. The sidewalk near Mother's Park does not continue to the end of the street and it is at a curve in the road.	1
The most used and practical area within the Town of Barnstable.	1
The map disappeared, so I can't place the pin, but I wish there were a better connection between Eagle Pond and Little River Sanctuary and the Conservation Area on the other side of Putnam Ave	1
The Baxters Boat House property is important - it could provide a link to a larger, more contiguous waterfront park in Hyannis - ideally, one day, a walking trail from Veterans Beach all the way to the town Pier at the end of School Street, including the Shanty Shacks, Aselton Park, etc. I think expanding the waterfront park in Hyannis should be an important long-term goal for the Town. We are getting there - but the Baxters Property at the end of Pleasant St would be a glorious addition!	1
Sidewalk/pathway along Putnam Avenue to safely walk or bike to Main Street Cotuit would encourage non-vehicle travel to town services, beaches, Lowell Park.	1
See above	1
Safe passage throughout this area for commuting bikers and foot traffic.	1
Rte 149 needs bicycle access. There are no roads around that are safe to ride a bike on.	1

Rt 6A is disconnected from the Rail trail and all points south by the highway. Even when the rail trail makes it over to Mary Dunn, it will be dangerous to get to it from N of US6.	1
Really need a sidewalk through here	1
Rail trail and safe sidewalks on service road	1
publicize connecting hiking trails that we already have and get a Cape-wide network	1
Please acquire the Jenkins cranberry bog! For years, it has been a beautiful trail to walk your dog and see lots of wildlife. Now that ugly tall fence mars the view and prevents you from walking all the way around —as we've done for years and years.	1
Pin is at 1246 Bumps River Road, Centerville, MA. For many years this property was the Jenkins Cranberry Bog with an open space allowing people to walk around the bog. This is natural wetlands, and sadly is no longer the habitat for the many different types of wildlife such as ducks, ospreys, great blue heron, red tail hawk, swans, turtles and frogs. Families and individuals loved walking around the bog, often with their dogs, safe from the road. It was also a place for photographers and artists to come and enjoy the different seasons with their cameras/paint brushes. The "regulars" could often be seen gathering and chatting and really enjoying the recreational aspects of the property. Presently this property has a chain link fence and no trespassing signs prohibiting the public from using it. It seems like the perfect piece of property for the Land Trust to take over and make it accessible to the public and to conservationists to help bring back the wildlife and the people.	1
Our Hyannis community needs safe access to transportation routs to open space and recreational opportunities.	1
Need sidewalks on Putnam Ave in Cotuit	1
Need open space & tennis courts. The existing tennis courts at tge middle school complex should be converted to all pickleball.	1
Need a boardwalk to access veterans park beach	1
N/a.	1
Many people ride bikes between Osterville and Centerville on Main Street. A bike lane would improve the safety along this route.	1
It's where we live.	1
Its too hard to ride or walk to the community center and BCIS school with kids.	1

Ideal to acquire Lowell and connect to Bowles on Commerce for habitat preservation and walking trails. No dogs	1
I'd line to see ToFB link to cape bike trail and use historic Hyannis, Centerville Osterville along shore to do this not the north side of Barnstable where it's less populated	1
I'd like to see the rail trail through Barnstable connected to the existing trail that ends in West Yarmouth. I'd like to see bike lanes added to main roads in Barnstable.	1
I'm not aware of any biking trails in Barnstable.	1
I'm new to cape, but other than rail trail, idk a safe place to take my kids biking.	1
I would like to see a multi-use path along Phinney's Lane - the whole length. When the sewer lines were put in place the town missed a great opportunity to put in a sidewalk/multi-use path. Countless people walk and bike this busy road every day, including children.	1
I would like to be able to get into the trails from cummaquid heights so that I don't need to drive. I would like a safe place to walk where I am not at risk of being hit by a car.	1
I want barnstable to connect to the cape cod railtrail system. The biking in barnstable is poor and dangerous.	1
I live south of 28. It's important to be able to safely cross 28 on foot and by bike. My kids are trapped bc it's not safe to cross 28 in centerville. Cars should not have to stop. We need a pedestrian and bike bridge over 28 in centerville. Link north to south. Also I can't believe all the work on Phinney's and shoot flying hill and no bike path or side walk was built.	1
I did	1
I can't move the pin. I would place it in Cotuit	1
I bike a lot in Hyannis and I would appreciate safer bike options to get to other villages	1
Home	1
heavy traffic use but no walkways	1
Hard to ride a bike o Main Street in Centerville and between Centerville and Osterville. The road is so narrow.	1
Good locations	1

Formerly a stunning sea of cranberries during the Fall harvest, it is now an eyesore because the current absentee owners have done nothing but decrease the visual appearance of the location. A black chain link fence surrounds the majority of the space even though there is nothing to protect because they are allowing the bog to wilt away. The property is unkept and a blight on the area plus neighbors are prohibited from a safe easy walking space around the bog which was a staple of the neighborhood while it was Jenkins Bog. The town should allow the Land Trust to buy the property and restore public access.	1
For over 75 years, this land, previously Jenkins Cranberry Bog, was open to the public for leisurely walking and enjoying many species of wildlife. It was a place where neighbors would meet, converse, and walk their dogs throughout the daylight hours. Our grandchildren marveled in the wildlife of newborn frogs, ducks, turtles, and deer appeared each year. A few years ago, the land was sold to a developer without proper vetting by the town. A 6-7 ft. iron chain link fence has been installed around 2/3 of the perimeter of the bog with multiple private property/No Trespassing signs posted. This eyesore serves no purpose considering 1/3 of access to the area is wide open. The Town should permit the Land Trust to acquire this serene open space as it could have prior to the sale. Restoring this natural habitat will induce wildlife that have left to return, and preserve the beauty of this open space to the benefit the Town's citizens.	1
finish Cape Cod Rail Trail in Barnstable Work on the western end now.	1
Extend the rail trail	1
Cotuit	1
Continue construction of the Cape Cod Rail Trail Phase 4 construction to Sandwich.	1
Connecting the trails from West Barnstable conservation and the trails near the RC airplane park.	1
Connect bike path from Hyannis to Dennis	1
Close to home and possibly underutilized area as long as drinking water sources are protected.	1
Centerville/Hyannis Line. Expand bike path	1
Centerville -proximity to location & availability of dog walking	1
Busy street with lots of truck traffic	1
Busy road, lots of curves, no safe passage for bikes and pedestrians from Burgess Park to ponds and Trail of Tears farther down 149	1
Burke Family farm could connect bridge creek, meetinghouse farm	1

Bike lanes and better side walks could accommodate people cycling or walking to Craigville/Covells Beaches with improved safety. So many of our "Bike friendly" roads end suddenly and don't connect people to popular destinations. Making Barnstable more Bike and Pedestrian safe would encourage active transportation AND recreation- improving both health and the economy- good for seasonal visitors AND residents! I will attach a powerpoint report by a recent summer intern graduate.

1

Better bike access would be nice.

1

Because we have lived here for 25 years, raised kids and people drive too fast and we can walk or ride bikes we have to drive everywhere to walk or drive bike.

1

Avangrid promised the town to build a new bathhouse at Covell's Beach. Still waiting for that.

1

All of the neighborhoods and roads that lead towards schools should be bike and pedestrian friendly so that our children can walk and bike to school safely.

1

Access to beaches for views, finish building bike trail from where it currently exists all the way through to Sandwich.

1

149 is dangerous to walk or bike on. a paved path alongside 149 and Race Lanes in this area will greatly improve pedestrian safety and pedestrian access to town recreational properties

1

1246 Bumps River Road This natural wetland area that drains to the ocean formerly known as the Jenkins Cranberry bog has been an open walking space for many decades up until a few years ago. Its current owner was allowed by the Town of Barnstable to barricade the area with No Trespassing signs and an ugly chain link fence. Much of the wildlife including frogs, turtles, ducks, herons, swans and fireflies are now gone. The town should allow the Land Trust to acquire this property and restore public access and allow conservationists to help restore the lost wildlife.

1

1246 Bumps River Road This natural wetland area that drains to the ocean formerly known as the Jenkins Cranberry bog has been an open walking space for many decades up until a few years ago. Its current owner was allowed by the Town of Barnstable to barricade the area with No Trespassing signs and an ugly chain link fence. Much of the wildlife including frogs, turtles, ducks, herons, swans and fireflies are now gone. The town should allow the Land Trust to acquire this property and restore public access and allow conservationists to help restore the lost wildlife.

1

Answered: 83 Skipped: 210

o Why did you place a pin here?



Response	Count
Why not have a public playground (not at the schools) in the mills?	1
we've been waiting years for the centerville playground project to start	1
West Barnstable ball field on Lombard Ave was rebuilt and promised to be a Regulation design form tournaments and it wasn't... Please fix	1
We need to drive to the majority of th towns playgrounds from our home in Centerville - it would be wonderful to have closer locations! We are very excited for the Centerville playground to be rebuilt! It would also be wonderful to have outdoor exercise equipment to be installed for both kids and adult at some local beaches.	1
We need a place for youngsters to learn how to relate to children their same age	1
Track behind West Barnstable elementary	1
This would be a fun place for a playground!	1
This school has poorly maintained track and field space, that could serve the community better if improved. The field closest to Osterville- W. Barnstable could also use some attention.	1
This parking lot is atrocious. Let's limit the amount of space for cars and add in spaces for recreation use, playground, exercise, equipment, or anything else better than cars, zooming around and hitting pedestrians and beachgoers.	1
This area is perfect for new fields. Easily accessible and plenty of space	1

There is a need for a playground at Hathaways Pond.	1
The tennis courts are in really bad shape at the High School	1
The skatepark needs improvements and is not safe for skaters because of loose boards, nails, and screws.	1
The playground at Centerville rec center has been under construction for years. It has taken far too long.	1
The playground area in Cotuit needs updating and more play equipment for children.	1
The horrendous noise and intrusion on neighborhood homes by the pickleball courts	1
The Centerville playground has been closed for years. The playground needs to be upgraded and open.	1
Tennis Courts Public, Bay Lane Centerville MA Resurface courts for public use of additional pickleball and tennis courts.	1
Tennis courts at BHS need serious work and repair	1
Sound barriers need to be put up to lessen the noise from the Marstons Mills pickle ball courts. Also, police should drive by to discourage people from playing at night. This has happened often this summer.	1
skatepark is completely unmaintained- no budget for repairs- lack of use because of this yet there is a desire to use	1
Room for expansion on old courts already there, or new courts	1
Ridgewood Park is a quiet park in a quiet neighborhood largely forgotten by the town (based on the neglect of the existing facilities) and the small playground is in need of updating and improvement.	1
Redesign tennis courts from pickleball facility into 6-8 additional pickleball courts and build tennis courts at adult center. Pickleball Courts should all stay together so social aspects of game doesn't get disrupted by two locations	1
Rebuild Handicapped accessible playground in Centerville.	1
Put a playground here. There is just grass. Main street has no play spots	1
Pickleball courts where the tennis courts are. Keep some tennis courts. They are near the senior center.	1

Open space	1
Old Mills Elem property perfect place for playground, field to play and dog friendly area	1
No public playground in Cotuit, sports courts and fields are not maintained particularly well	1
New lifeguard and bath facilities at loop beach are needed	1
needs shade at this location. we've seen multiple times families leaving due to heat	1
N/A	1
My children and I live here	1
Marstons Mills picklball courts. https://www.clearspan.com/ad-words-pickleball/?utm_term=indoor%20pickleball%20court%20construction&utm_campaign=CS+-+Pickleball+Search&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&hsa_acc=4415742330&hsa_cam=22831167962&hsa_grp=184489276682&hsa_ad=765766797739&hsa_src=g&hsa_tgt=kwd-850304243518&hsa_kw=indoor%20pickleball%20court%20construction&hsa_mt=b&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_ver=3&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22831167962&gbraid=0AAAAADnZWHbco5zm6MZBHuoXdnr-M6rAa&gclid=CjwKCAjwwNbEBhBpEiwAFYLTGJpUvS-_quwLC5CGlqGyThCZcZVixLVEVLIVts6nzL6J1RclQSwAfBoCDpsQAvD_BwE	1
Many of our playgrounds are in poor shape. There definitely should be a few splash pads	1
Let's get Centerville playground done! Thanks!	1
Keep PB courts in good shar	1
Improve pickleball courts in Marston Mills by providing rest rooms and drinking water station	1
Improve and expand the playground equipment in the Hollow. Area is infested with bees and not maintained so kids can't even use the space. The play equipment that is there should be expanded so children of all ages have choices.	1
I tried to pin Cotuit	1
I couldn't pin the location but The recreation Property at the old Elementary School needs a large playground. No playground in cotuit. Every village should have a large playgrounds. Burgess park or old elementary school needs a playground for Marstons Mills. Hyannis should have 2 playgrounds. These are wry expensive now.	1
I am astonished at how long the Centerville playground has taken to renovate.	1

Hyannis is a very neglected village. There are a lot of kids who live here with two elementary schools but the playgrounds are lacking. This is also an area that services the most tourists. Having an updated playground for our town residents as well for tourists were served our community and encourage for traffic to local businesses.	1
Hyannis area with more designated pickleball courts and more access to indoor pickleball courts, e.g. at the HYCC	1
Hyannis - we need more pocket parks with basketball and skateboard parks.	1
Great location and needs work. I think there is something already being done, but it is a great spot.	1
General proximity to my house.	1
For over a year this playground has been closed. Need to know why, are there dangers to our children in the soil? Can this be remediated?	1
Fix the playground on Main St Centerville!	1
Each area of town should be evaluated for distance to a playground. I am not sure which area has the least access as I have not had young kids in a number of years.	1
Cotuit, behind old school. Needs a playground and improvements to field. There is no public accessible playground in Cotuit. The nursery school playground has a very limited age range. Many people with children visitor this area!	1
Cotuit Memorial Park playground needs to be replaced - underlying land ownership needs to be resolved.	1
Cotuit	1
Centrally located and a significant amount of open space with some fields well managed but many in need of improvement.	1
Centerville rec building playground. The old Marstons mills elementary school field could be repurposed as multi use athletic facility. The old Waldorf school in Cotuit needs a purpose.	1
Centerville playground	1
Burgess Park	1
Awful undeveloped open space.	1

When I went to Hathaway Pond, I found there was more garbage than I wanted to see. The main problem with trash is that the town has given up on its responsibility as a municipality to provide bins year-round by trails and beaches.	1
We tend to avoid the narrower trails in the summer due to the risk of ticks, but love these trails in the winter!	1
We recently visited the Hyannis Recreation Center on a weekend with our grandchildren to learn more about it. Unfortunately, the clientele occupying the Game Room were less than desirable. While the basketball courts were open and full of activity, we realized this is not an environment we deem safe or appropriate for 8 and 10 year old children.	1
W. Barnstable area off of RT 149/ service road due to inadequate signage on trails. Burgess Park sometimes due to feeling unsafe.	1
Tick fears on trails	1
Tick Fear only use rec areas w wide well maintained trails	1
There is a stretch of sidewalk along Rt 132 that is lovely, in that it is shaded and a bit removed from the road, with trees that buffer the road. Unfortunately, it also feels unsafe as there are homeless camps beyond the chain link fence (which has been cut through). I used to walk and/or run along that sidewalk but haven't for quite a while due to various encounters that made me feel unsafe.	1
The ponds and lakes due to risk of Cyanobacteria and naked migrants who swim in their underwear and think cape ponds is south beach. Every beach or playground in Hyannis due to risks of needles and presence of homeless population.	1
The frisbee park, frequent smoking that I do not want to expose my child to.	1
The area of the old shooting range needs a wicked cleanup. So many shell casings and TONS of broken glass. It's not safe.	1
The area JP School and the Ocean street docks - too many homeless people. Lots of trash and not safe area.	1
Some areas because of coyote activity	1
Santuit pond, the building/bathrooms there are really run down and sketchy.	1
Sandy Neck in Greenhead season.	1
Sandy beach bc of the green heads	1

Poison ivy	1
Places where hunting is allowed (west Barnstable conservation)	1
overgrown trails in the summer	1
Otis Atwood, Long Pond Marstons Mills and West Barnstable Conservation during hunting season.	1
Not sure if I would go to Hathaway's Pond by myself.	1
Not really. Some are very small - so not worth the walk.	1
Not on purpose, out of not knowing.	1
Nons	1
None.	1
None	1
No. But I heard of issues with some of the ponds.	1
No, need information about where these areas are and what they offer.	1
No I enjoy them all	1
N/A	1
Long Beach. Very small, tight overcrowded parking lots. Unenforced parking violations, i.e., parking outside of designated areas. Beach itself is an eyesore with "No Trespassing" signs every 10 feet. I counted some 20 signs recently as you walk from the beach head trail out onto the beach. Who has allowed these to proliferate? Same problem at Snow's Creek jetties (far end of Covell's beach). A sudden proliferation of "No Trespassing" signs. I counted 4 signs recently in an area I have been swimming in for 30 years (beach access to creek and channel).	1
Long Beach Conservation Area. It is too small; there are far too many people who use it or use it to access other areas; there are no public facilities within a mile of the area so people who are there to go to the beach for the day use the dunes and wooded areas as a bathroom; there is inadequate parking available (there are 2 parking lots within 200 yards of the conservation area entrance, both lots may be able to park 12 cars total).	1
just ticks and poison ivy on hiking trails. Treating that is worse than not.	1

I used to walk around Hathaways but am afraid of loose dogs and creepy people. I have stopped walking Long Beach due to aggressive unleashed dogs jumping on me and attacking my leashed dogs. I stopped walking in all wooded areas due to ticks but there are few sidewalks anywhere and no beaches allow dogs for 5 months a year. Where can I swim with my dog when it's not winter?	1
I love hiking the Hathaways loop, but I now avoid going alone after being chased and yelled at by a man who appeared to be living there.	1
I don't avoid it, but there is evidence of homeless camping around Hathaways South	1
I do not like to walk alone around Hathaway's Pond. I have seen homeless people hanging around that area.	1
I avoid Hathaways because I've always run into off leash dogs there when walking my dogs!!	1
Hyannis. Homeless population is rampant and it's unsafe with my family.	1
Hathaways-remoteness-crime	1
Hathaways.	1
Hathaways ...cigarette butts, not as clean..often site of trouble	1
Hathaways - too many problems and trash	1
Hathaway's. Dangerous.	1
Hathaway. Unsafe. It's a magnet for dirtbags for some reason.	1
Hathaway Pond area where I do not feel safe.	1
Hathaway Pond and the nearby dog park because I do not feel that I, or my dog, are safe there.	1
Eagle Pond. Too many dogs.	1
Eagle Pond -- too many unleashed dogs	1
downtown hyannis might as well be downtown brockton or lawrence . . its dirty, unsafe and needs a facelift.	1
dog parks because we should have enough natural spaces that you could walk dog parks are for cities that have to create a space that's not concrete town has allowed large track of land to be cleared to create a urban area	1

Covell's Beach is my beach (closest to my house). I was very unhappy when cables were laid under the beach (Yarmouth said no), so I avoid going there because of unknown negative consequences to physical health. Also, sign there says it provides electricity to 400,000 Massachusetts homes, which is not true. I avoid hiking trails, unfortunately, because I'm concerned about mosquito and tick-related illnesses. Nothing you can do about it.

Burgess Park used to be a lovely park until the disc golf people took over. I've had many assaults regarding my presence in walking through the park while people playing disc golf, verbal yelling telling me to get out of the way-stating "this is course not a walking trail, I need to get out of the way." I've been hit with a disc on purpose. The drinking and smoking pot going on is crazy-no police presence. Barrels are full of beer and other alcoholic beverages. That they cash in for themselves. the poor gardens Mrs. Burgess had been once so beautiful and maintained now you can't recognize where they were. Picnic tables are for the players-there should be some for residents who want to have a nice outdoor place. I do not feel safe there, I was assaulted by two guys who told me to stay out of their park-sadly since police do not even sit in the parking lot let alone walk down back near the pond where the parties are I had to take this precious sanctuary off me list for my own safety.

areas in Hyannis that are unsafe at night - Town Green - Veterans" Park 1

area that are heavily wooded due to tick concerns 1

Any where dogs are not leashed and there is no enforcement of rules. 1

Any that do have and do not enforce leash rules. Unleashed dogs are a common problem and owners don't care. 1

1246 Bumps River Road that used to be a Jenkins family cranberry bog. As stated earlier the property was inappropriately allowed to be sold by Town Manager Mark Ells. A local open space organization stated they were willing to buy and maintain the property but Mark Ells never advised the organization as he was supposed to have done. The Town's legal department acknowledged the mistake and initially attempted to rectify it. But for unknown reason(s) the Town ceased their pursuit of correcting Ells' illegal action. And now there is a fence (that does not meet the specifications as approved by the DEP) that prohibits what used to be a great neighborhood walking area. 1

Answered: 72 Skipped: 221

o 17. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions related to open...

We have great spaces. They should be kept open. We have enough tennis courts etc short drive to the high school or west villages. It would be nice Mayne to have a pool. People come here and live here for the beauty.	1
Trailhead signs will make it easier for those unfamiliar with the trails in conservation areas in the Town of Barnstable, particularly those Barnstable residents from other villages.	1
Track behind West Barnstable elementary needs to be updated.	1
There's nothing that connects our towns w/out driving. The roads are so small there's not even a walking shoulder near us in Marstons Mills and everyone is driving too fast. You feel like you're gonna get run down. I would walk and ride my bike probably every day right from my house and I use my car instead, if things were connected better because the cape is actually pretty small. Plus all these people come here on vacation and they're used to being able to walk around cities and we have nothing like that here except in the villages. Additionally There needs to be more indoor recreation activities for young people in the winter months. We have the HYCC but I think we need more than that, maybe some indoor fields, a workout facilities, swimming pool or something that will keep them occupied. I'm writing this from my phone sorry if I made any mistakes. Happy to speak with you further about this if you'd like. Joe 508 274-9730 Thank you!	1
There's plenty available. The best use of open space is a sidewalk and bike path to safely get from place to place. Especially for youth. Also we need more trees and shade. Don't cut down more trees on Centerville Main Street or mothers park.	1
The town should protect as much land as possible.	1
The town should correct their error of allowing a developer to purchase a neighborhood bog. Please return Jenkins Bog to its historical use and purpose.	1
The playground at the Hollow was slated to be done over and has not been. There are not many playgrounds available during school hours and I think these are important	1
The pickleball courts at marstons mills are ridiculously busy. There should be resident only times to play each day.	1
The horrendous noise and intrusion on neighborhood homes by the pickleball courts	1
The beach parking lots need to be opened at 7 am in the summer months	1
Thanks for sending this out, I look forward to the meeting in August	1
Thanks for asking.	1

Thank you for rejecting apartment complex at Twin Brooks and accepting River View - much better use all around. Please make environment a priority. I am for renewable energy, but against wind projects unless they are safe access, not digging up every beautiful beach here and Main St. Centerville. Thank you, Jane Carlson 415-515-4078.	1
Thank you for conducting this survey and seeking input from town residents!	1
Thank you	1
Stop the use of pesticides. Inform DPW what plants are native and which are not, so they don't cut down jewelweed and leave Japanese knotweed to grow freely.	1
Stop building	1
Stop building apartments and LOWER costs of current apt buildings/renovate old houses/abandoned properties for low income housing instead of selling out Barnstable to the highest bidder. We DONT NEED more 3 story apt complexes, we need lower costs of what's already out there. A better homeless shelter and another one to accomodate families and veterans when necessary. More mental health, less selling of land to big real estate	1
Sidewalks are crucial. Drivers are irresponsible- both tourists and locals without the capacity to hold folks accountable. The lack of painted and designated bike lanes, particularly in Centerville and south of rte 28 is VERY dangerous. There are lots of bicyclists with very low margins between high speed passing cars. The minimum passing distance is NEVER adhered to.	1
See #16	1
Residents should be able to vote for any land purchases for open space so they have a say in what happens with taxpayer monies.	1
Repave Craigville Beach parking lot	1
Recreation, open space, and parks needs and requirements are very much influenced by Cape population levels. We need to slow, stop, or reverse population growth on the Cape if it is to retain the qualities that make it a unique and desirable place to be. Expanding public/conservation areas serves this purpose. Stopping commercial growth is another.	1
Recommend obtaining any open space areas when they become available for the future generations.	1
Protect as much open space as possible for the environment, quality of life and water protection. Do not turnover open space to housing!!	1

Please sell the Paine Black House in West Barnstable located on the Meeting House Farm property Rte 149. Do a little research to educate yourselves as to how much tax money has been spent on this town owned property over years & years and the investments now need to be repeated at of course more expense. Put this property ON THE TAX ROLL!	1
Please build a splash pad/ playground for the very young!!!!	1
Please acquire all land that is available, there is not much left-once it is gone its gone. Housing is important but there are plenty of buildings to refurbish even outside Hyannis-thank you	1
Pickleball continues to explode all over the country. The courts at Marstons Mills are fantastic but in the summer, we have well over a hundred people trying to play. There is a lot of frustration and wait time. We really need either a dozen or more pickleball courts like over in Hathaways Pond or transition the existing tennis courts to pickleball courts.	1
Our open space and recreation areas are one of the wonderful things about our town. We need to keep them up and accessible, acquire new areas when possible, and ensure that development doesn't spoil our existing ones or happen where land should be saved..	1
Open space should be the priority. There is too much development and sprawl across the town. And not enough public beaches.	1
O am not aware of most spaces mentioned in this subway. We need more information about available recreation space distributed to residents in form of flyers or road signage or list and descriptions on the website	1
Number one priority should be a splash pad and an indoor and/or outdoor community pool at the HYCC.	1
Nothing at this time.	1
Need to balance open space with the town's housing needs. We already have plenty of ball fields and playgrounds in town. We don't need to build more ball fields and playgrounds, just improve/routine maintenance to keep them functional.	1
Need more attended spaces (lifeguards).	1
My priority is to acquire privately held open space from property owners that may serve as a future water supply area before there are no areas to buy to satisfy the drinking water requirements.	1

Motor bikes are an issue at Hathaway's pond. It can be scary to walk with my dog. Hathaway's is a great spot because it has the dog park, trail, swimming and picnicking; however it is super run down including the parking lot, picnic area, and facilities. It would be great to have an off leash walking trail or field/water area for my dogs to run around and swim in all year long.	1
More! The areas we do have are not very well connected. Especially for those in Centerville. Any ways to connect to larger trail system is inadequate. The sidewalks are not well kept in the cars speed often. Crosswalks and pedestrian safety. Crossing areas are lacking.	1
More sidewalks and bike trails would help us integrate non-motorized forms of our transportation into our daily life (it feels unsafe to walk/bike in many areas of town without sidewalks or bike lanes). We love living in Barnstable and are excited for the potential of more accessible recreational opportunities!	1
More places for kiddos-playgrounds, splash pads, weekend programs, DOG friendly places!!! Please! I would love a summer dog beach!!! Fenced in area-off leash for dogs to enjoy the beach! We miss this so, so, so much!!!	1
More pickleball courts	1
More open spaces in Hyannis need walkways and parks. Many wetlands are inaccessible. Hyannis deserves these areas as much everywhere else.	1
More open space protection from development. We do not have the natural resources to support the people living here now, we cannot handle increased population. Protect what we have.	1
More is better bc the population, winter and summer, is likely to increase.....though the road conditions might affect people wanting to live/visit here.	1
More dog parks are needed year round! And not mud holes!! There are too many restrictions during the high tourist months.	1
More dog friendly areas. Playgrounds, shade!	1
Many beaches are in need of raking. When picking up trash sometimes needles are picked up. Trash isn't always visible. Maintenance is in need everywhere. S the cost to maintain is a lot less than replacement.	1
Loop beach has so much seaweed we can't swim in the water.	1
Let's create foraging trails where people can harvest wild beach plums and blueberries etc	1
Lack of organized recreation options in Cotuit	1

Keep up the great work!! Lots of places here that I have completely forgotten!!	1
Keep Ropes beach better	1
Just because I selected rarely, doesn't mean that those spaces are not important to me. My time is very limited.	1
Insect populations are declining worldwide at an alarming rate (UN report). Roughly 90% of flowering plants need animals (mostly insects) to reproduce, and about 90% of all plants are flowering plants. 35% of food crops are insect pollinated. A pair of chickadees feeds one clutch of chicks 4,000-9,000 caterpillars in the few weeks before fledging. When was the last time you had a windshield full of bugs? Invasive species need to be controlled so that native plants can provide the resources insects need. The Conservation Commission(?) should be actively involved in mosquito control decisions with an eye to reducing this destructive practice. The Town should aim to be a Dark Sky town, as is Flagstaff AZ. All plantings done by the Town should be native species.	1
Increase waterside access, invest money in areas that support maritime community, focus on cleaning up existing facilities to be inviting (lit, clean, nice grass).	1
Ideally Barnstable and most of the county in general would improve transportation options and accessibility in general, but it would likely not be feasible to do more than what has been implemented in terms of CCRTA access and bus stops/routes just due to the nature of how the cape naturally is configured. My main issue lies more so with infrastructure complaints and particular areas and intersections where adults using the bus who may have a disability get off and traverse on foot. Many of them are unsafe and pose a risk to the community oversill.	1
I would love to see more investment in Hyannis	1
I wish the town would do more to enforce the bans on dirt bikes and other motorized vehicles. They're dangerous and the people who illegally ride them on town land are aggressive and hostile.	1
I wasn't aware of most of the recreational facilities and programs listed in this survey. I need to learn more.	1
I often hike or walk my dog in conservation areas and the one thing I would like to see if better trail markings. It is easy to get lost in some areas. Overall, I'm pleased with our conservation areas, which are well maintained and safe.	1
I love how many hiking trails there are in Barnstable.	1
I hope that centerville playground will have bathrooms as it will be the only town playground accessible (no harsh ocean weather in the winter) for young children and caregivers, some coming from 15 min away in Hyannis.	1

I have heard there may be a childrens park built in Osterville. If indeed the location is to be between the Verizon Bldg and the tennis courts I consider that a horrible area to build in. The better idea would be to expand the existing playground, adding new and adaptive play things. The tennis courts in Osterville need benches around the perimeter so people can relax near the courts. Somehow there needs to be some way to keep people from using the courts as their own personal dog park - with dogs pooping and peeing on the courts.	1
I cannot understand what in the world has taken this town so long to update the Centerville playground. It's absolutely inexcusable. Yarmouth put an entire playground and splash pad in faster than Barnstable could even answer a damn email. If Patti Machado was still in charge this would have been done years ago. People are tired of the excuses about Covid and manufacturing delays. Complete that project and put in another playground for the kids in this town.	1
I appreciate that the tennis courts have been refurbished along with pickleball courts. Please keep tennis courts, even as pickleball becomes increasingly popular.	1
I am great full for what we have especially our pickleball courts. Our group does an excellent job... very organized and pleasant people.	1
I am glad to see that work has begun on the playground in Centerville. AT ALL COST we need to preserve our public recreation and open space areas from development from offshore wind.	1
https://www.clearspan.com/ad-words-pickleball/?utm_term=indoor%20pickleball%20court%20construction&utm_campaign=CS+-+Pickleball+Search&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&hsa_acc=4415742330&hsa_cam=22831167962&hsa_grp=184489276682&hsa_ad=765766797739&hsa_src=g&hsa_tgt=kwd-850304243518&hsa_kw=indoor%20pickleball%20court%20construction&hsa_mt=b&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_ver=3&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22831167962&gbraid=0AAAAADnZWHbco5zm6MZBHuoXdnr-M6rAa&gclid=CjwKCAjwwNbEBhBpEiwaFYLTGJpUvS-_quwLC5CGlqGyThCZcZvixLVEVLIVts6nzL6J1RcIQSwAfBoCDpsQAvD_BwE	1
Help BLT meet their mission.	1
Have restrooms available year round or at least the shoulder seasons. Pick up of trash bins year round where they are placed for dog waste.	1
Dog free beaches please so residents can enjoy the beach. No enforcement for dog owners who don't follow the rules.	1
Convert tennis courts at high school to pickleball	1
Consider what other area towns have done with pickleball courts regarding residency requirements and court reservations.	1

Concerned about real estate tax increases when discussing acquiring land. We had a substantial increase this year.	1
Cleared paths to avoid ticks and poison I y	1
Clean up Barnstable - homeless people are a risk to everyone. Increase the policing, and enforcement of existing laws to create a safer environment to enjoy the parks and recreation. People doing drugs on the beaches is scary and not acceptable.	1
Bike-locking infrastructure in parking lots would make me more likely to bike places.	1
Bike path and corresponding parking lots connecting to either Yarmouth Rail Trail or Shining Sea bikepath Falmouth or the creation of any bike path in Barnstable.	1
Better signage and trail maintenance for walkers, maintenance of restrooms at beaches, maintain and improve water quality of fresh water ponds.	1
Barnstable is destroying the old Cape Cod features people come to the Cape for. Hyannis is becoming an overpopulated, dirty (blowing around trash in parking lots), empty buildings, but keep taking open space for new buildings city. We will soon be like Long Island.	1
Barnstable continues to allow anyone to play pickleball without paying a fee resulting in terribly overcrowded courts. The tow should build a minimum of 20 additional courts to meet demand. It would also be nice to have bike trails	1
ASELTON PARK IS A GEM!!	1
Am very concerned about lack of bike and pedestrian safety on Main St. in Cummaquid and on Mary Dunn now and when rail trail access is complete. Overgrowth has reduced area to walk, increasing number of cars and trucks, and dangerous speeds. Police could monitor from Althea, especially with school starting soon.	1
Allow Hyannis water system wells at bridge creek!	1
address the littering problem from public and business don't expect people who live here to clean up ahead of tourist season while the town has the ability to fine people and businesses that continue to litter their parking lots are full of trash and corporate knows the town will do nothing about it would you like a list of the businesses I have contacted regarding trash it would also help if conservation commision did anything about complaints	1
Add more bike parking and maybe more people will bike. If I bike to the beach I should have a spot to park my bike that isn't in 1 foot of sand.	1

Acquisition of additional properties linking Town-owned (or other Conservation-owned) parcels should be a long-term goal, especially spanning wetlands or other coastal areas. That serves multiple interests!

1

Acquire more land for environmental, wildlife, and water protection, coastal resiliency, and passive recreation. Don't build anything! Barnstable is overbuilt.

1

Access to public swimming pool available year round would be great. Possibly more pickleball courts.

1

A minority of residents make much use of the public areas. 100% of residents see our roadsides every single day. I strongly feel that public expenditures on keeping them free of litter should be greatly increased - a 5-fold increase could not be excessive and would deliver enormous benefits to the entire community

1

1265 Bumps River Rd, Centerville, MA, 02632 This natural wetland area that drains to the ocean, formerly known as the Jenkins Cranberry bog has been an open walking space for many decades up until a few years ago. Its current owner was allowed by the town of Centerville to barricade the area with no trespassing signs and an ugly chain link fence. Much of the wildlife including frogs, turtles, ducks, herons, swans and fireflies are now gone. The town should allow the Land Trust to acquire this property and restore public access and allow conservationists to help restore the lost wildlife.

1

Implementing the goals of Barnstable's Complete Streets policy (2022) and the Vision Zero recommendations from the Cape Cod Commission's 2024 citizen advisory panel and consultant review would most effectively address the issues in this survey. Communities with seasonal economies like Cape Cod—such as the Outer Banks—report a 10:1 economic return on investments that make them more bike-friendly, benefiting year-round residents, workers, and visitors. <https://itre.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/OBX-EIS-Tech-Rprt-Full.pdf> Learn more: Draft Cape Cod Vision Zero Action Plan: www.capecodcommission.org/vision-zero Barnstable Complete Streets: www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/barnstable-complete-streets Bike Barnstable.pdf

1

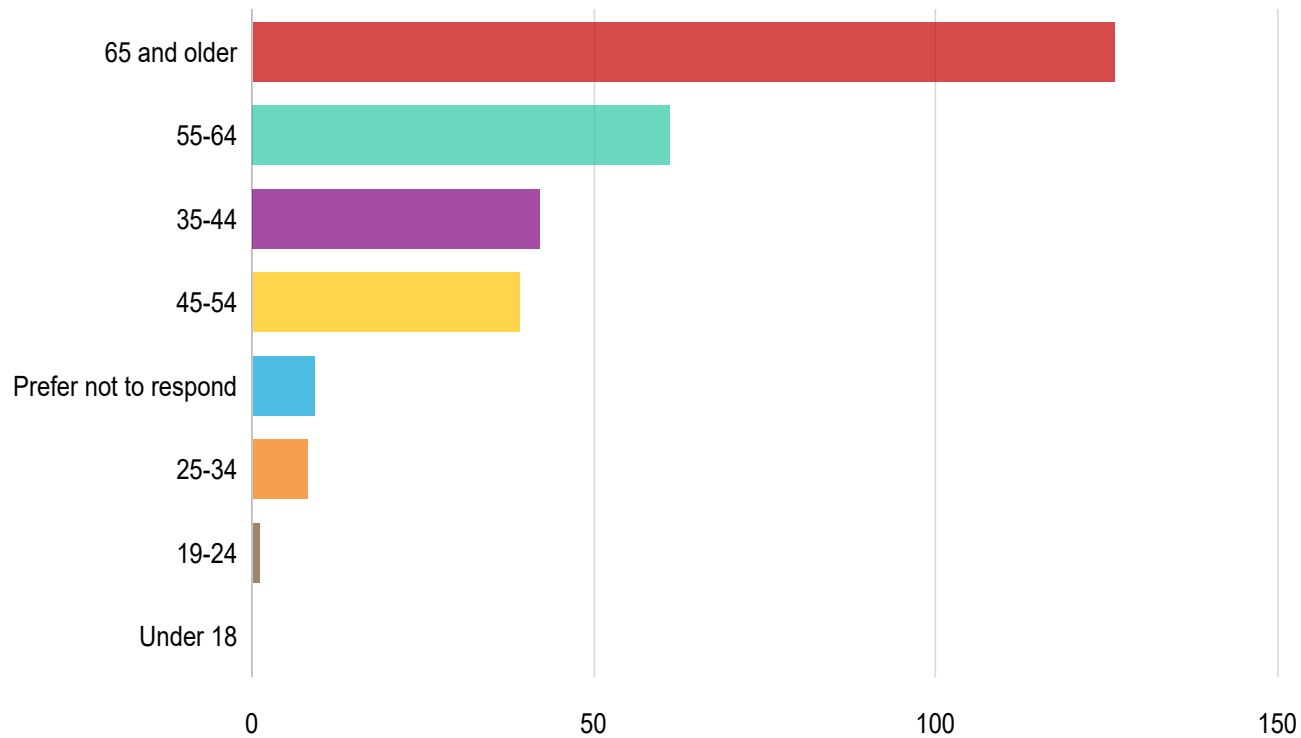
It is unclear who in town is responsible for the upkeep of parks (DPW or Parks & Rec or someone else) so it is difficult to communicate concerns. I would recommend creating a system for reporting safety and maintenance concerns to the town. I would recommend an online form that can be accessed via QR Code and place signs with the QR code at the parks.

1

Answered: 106 Skipped: 187

Demographics

1. What is your age group?



Answers

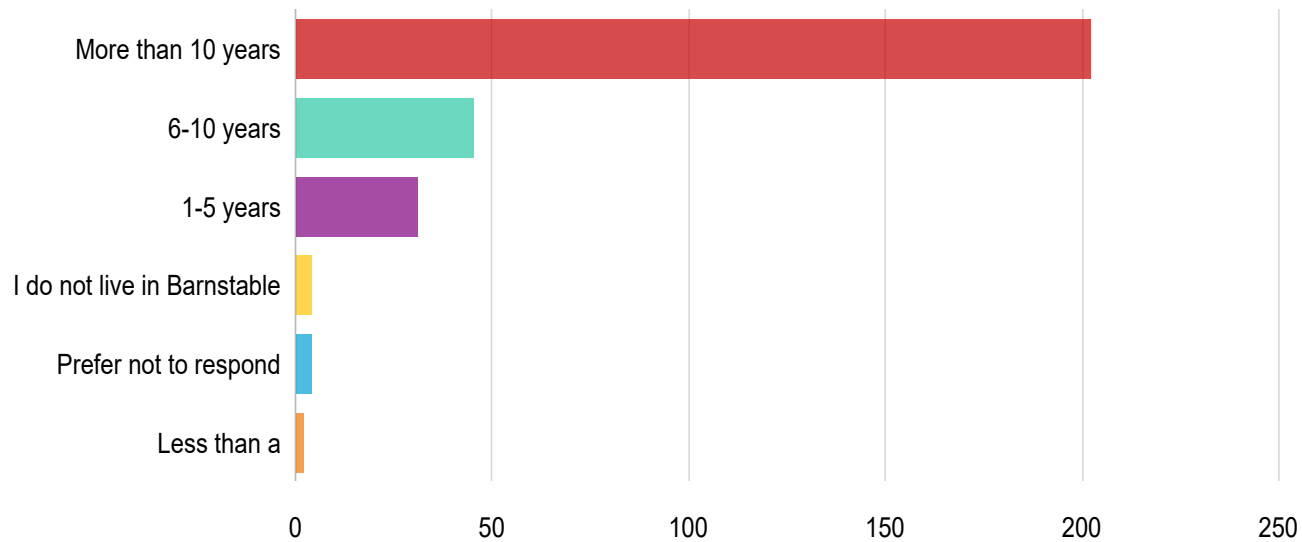
Count

Percentage

65 and older	126	43%
55-64	61	20.82%
35-44	42	14.33%
45-54	39	13.31%
Prefer not to respond	9	3.07%
25-34	8	2.73%
19-24	1	0.34%
Under 18	0	0%

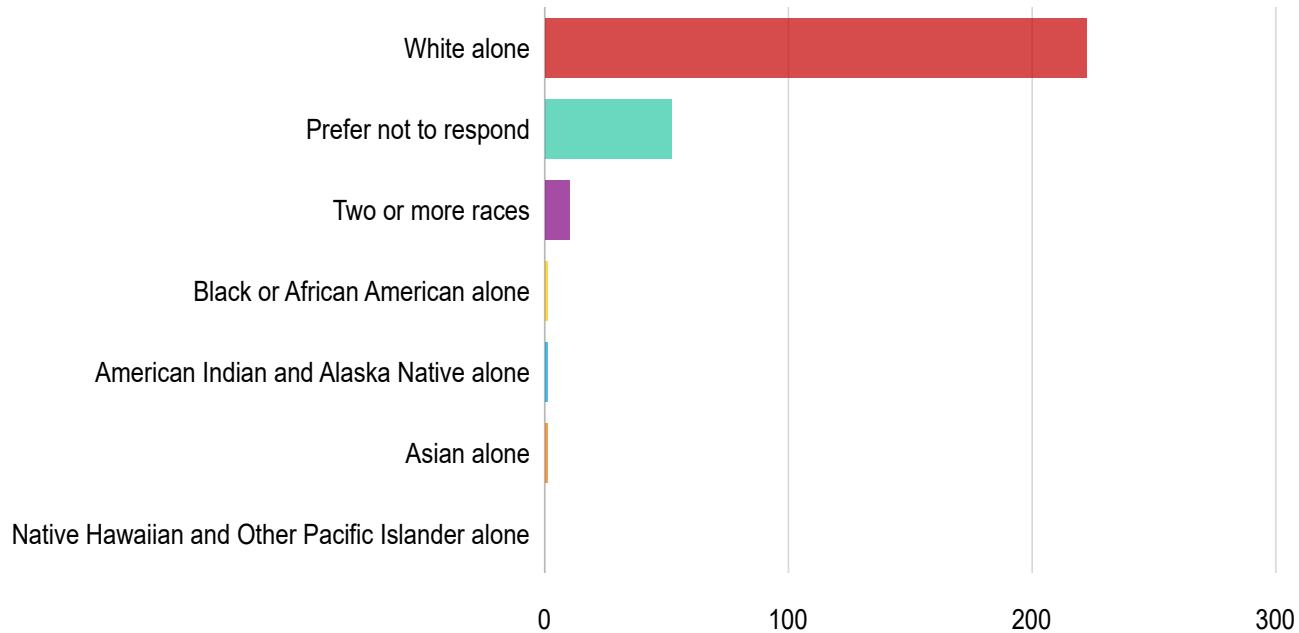
Answered: 286 Skipped: 7

2. How long have you lived in Barnstable?



Answered: 288 Skipped: 5

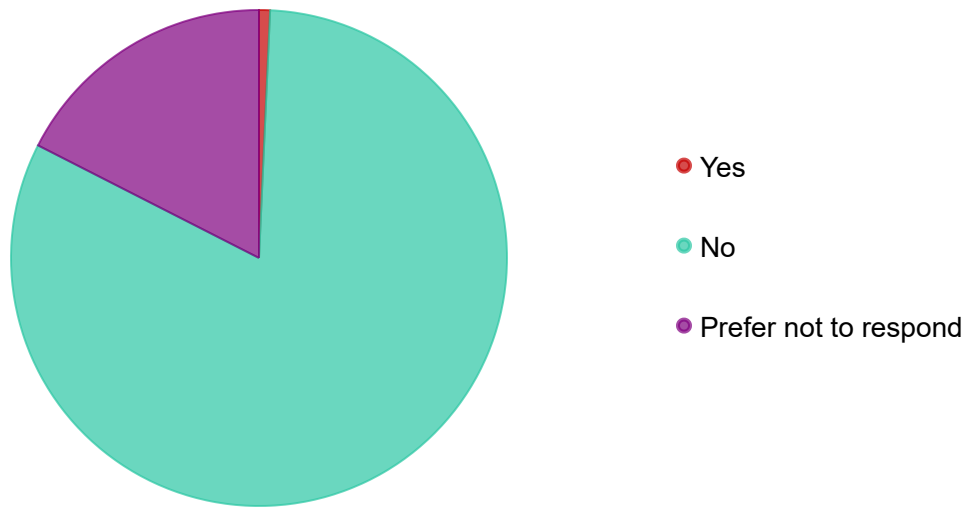
3. What is your race? (Options are based on U.S. Census Race and Hispa...



Answers	Count	Percentage
White alone	222	75.77%
Prefer not to respond	52	17.75%
Two or more races	10	3.41%
Black or African American alone	1	0.34%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1	0.34%
Asian alone	1	0.34%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0%

Answered: 287 Skipped: 6

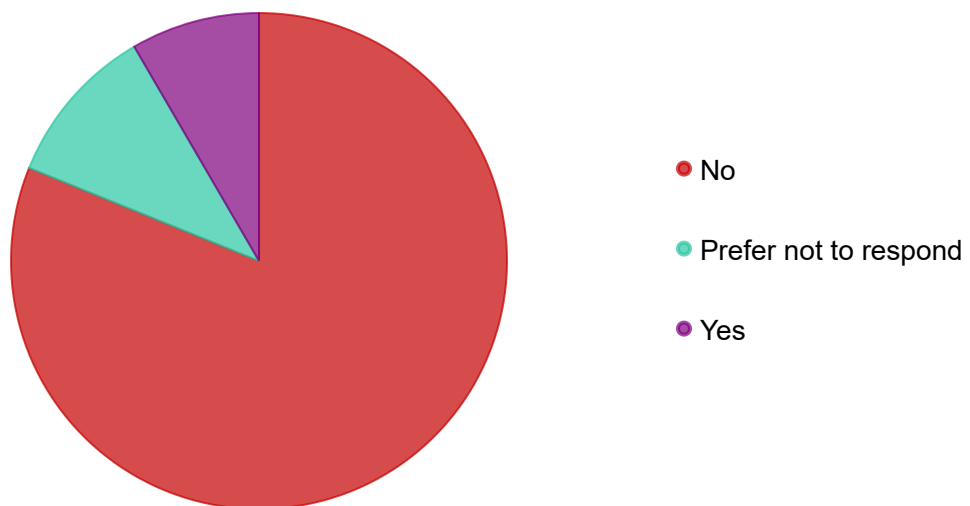
○ 4. Are you Hispanic or Latino?



Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	2	0.68%
No	229	78.16%
Prefer not to respond	49	16.72%

Answered: 280 Skipped: 13

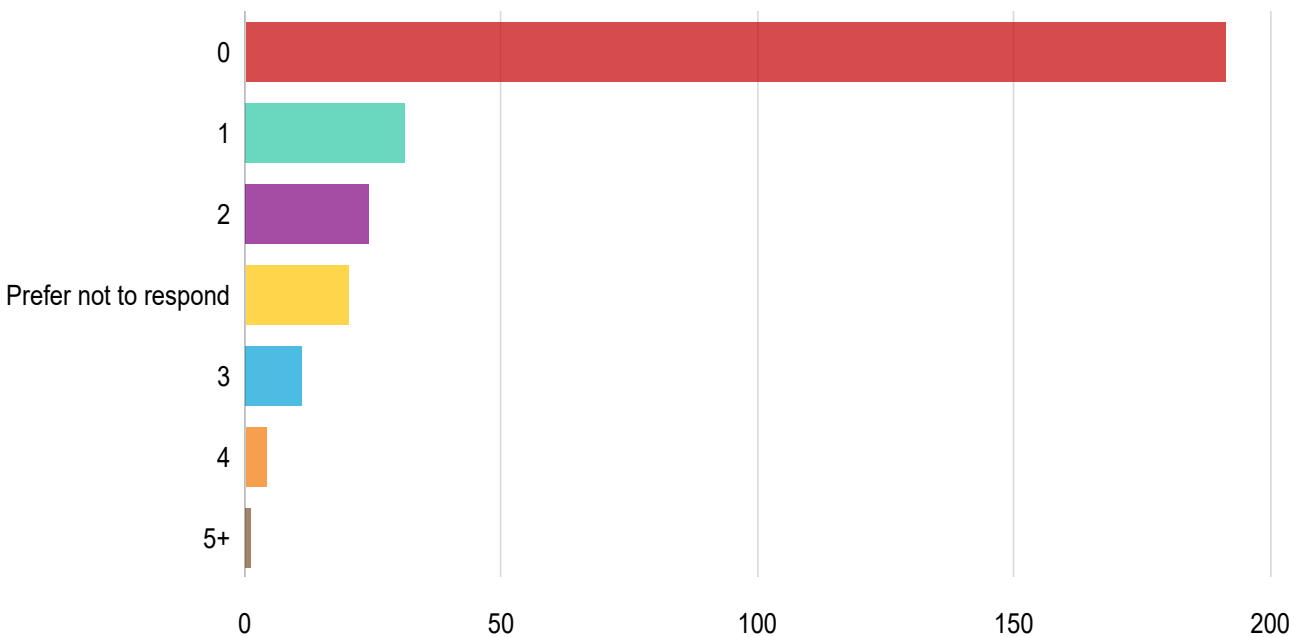
5. Does a person with a physical disability live in your household?



Answers	Count	Percentage
No	232	79.18%
Prefer not to respond	30	10.24%
Yes	24	8.19%

Answered: 286 Skipped: 7

6. How many children under 18 live in your household?



Answers	Count	Percentage
0	191	65.19%
1	31	10.58%
2	24	8.19%
Prefer not to respond	20	6.83%
3	11	3.75%
4	4	1.37%

5+

1

0.34%

Answered: 282 Skipped: 11

Barnstable Open Space and Recreation Plan

Open House Public Engagement Board Comments

August 28, 2025

Your Vision: Reimagine Barnstable's Open Spaces!

Have thoughts? Write them on a sticky note and place them in the box with the corresponding question.
Like an idea? Vote YES by placing a sticker dot on the sticky note!

What stops you from using Open Spaces in Barnstable?
(e.g., The trails aren't wheelchair accessible.)

What is better about Barnstable's Open Spaces?
(e.g., We need more dog friendly parks.)

Comments:

- Unsafe conditions - Homeless camps
- POOR TRAILHEAD SIGNAGE
- (concrete) Adequate parking
- INCREASED DOGS - DANGEROUS
- ATV & MOTORCYCLES
- Too Hot - LIMITED PARKING
- GATE KEEPING
- SOME POORLY MAINTAINED
- Signage / Parking
- SPLASH PADS!!! Yay!!
- SPLASH PADS
- Better Parking / Access
- Need Map at Parks!
- On Site Maps provided for walking trails
- More dog parks / beach
- Improved Signage / Parking
- More dog friendly parks / beach
- More open spaces protecting water quality
- TRAIL MAINTENANCE
- More "Responsible" users in deter not responsible people
- website listing space and amenities
- More trails for E-bikes
- Sign posted Hunting areas
- More water access for kayaking
- More Mountain Bike Trails
- Mountain Bike Trails - Need more
- Into Seas of Ducks + Regs. (No Dogs, No Motorcycles, No Firearms, etc...)
- Controlled Browsing to Mountain Grasslands

BARNSTABLE
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Your Vision: Reimagine Barnstable's Open Spaces!

Have thoughts? Write them on a sticky note and place them in the box with the corresponding question.
Like an idea? Vote YES by placing a sticker dot on the sticky note!

What do you like about Barnstable's Open Spaces?
(e.g., It's close to my home and easy to walk to.)

How do you use Barnstable's Open Spaces?
(e.g., I play soccer and take my kids to the playground.)

Comments:

- PROTECT ENDANGERED HABITATS & RARE PLANTS
- Good Trail Maps
- PROTECT WATER QUALITY
- STREETS LEADING TO THE WOODLAND TRAILS
- OPEN (REAL VIEWS AREA)
- GREENS
- High on trail
- Beautiful numerous spacious
- Access to many use paths
- Some Views
- Beautiful Beaches and Views
- Hiking - XC Skiing Snow shoe
- Dog Walking
- Hiking - XC Skiing Biking Snow
- Hike / Walk
- Bring Kids
- playground dog walks beaches
- Family Friendly + Barbecue

BARNSTABLE
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

NOTE: For the boards above, each sticky note is counted as one (1) vote, and each dot is counted as one (1) vote.

Question	Votes
What stops you from using Open Spaces in Barnstable?	Unsafe Conditions - Homeless Camps (3) Poor Trailhead Signage (2) Unleashed Dogs Dangerous (2) Too Hot • Limited Parking (2) Some Poorly Maintained (2) (Sometimes) Adequate Parking (1) ATV & Motorcycles (1) Gatekeeping (1) Signage/Parking (1)
What could be better about Barnstable's Open Spaces?	Indoor Pool (4) Better Parking/Access (3) More Water Access For Kayaking (3) More Playgrounds (3) Trail Maintenance (2) Splash Pads! (2) Need Map of Parks! (2) On Site Maps Provided For Walking Trails (2) Trailhead Parking (2) More Dog Parks/Beach (2) Info Signs Of Rules & Regs. (No Dogs, Kids Toys, Motorized Vs. Passive, Etc.) (2) More Trails For E-Bikes (2) More Mountain Bike Trails (1) Mountain Bike Trails – Need More (1) Improved Signage & Parking (1) Bike Racks Near Trailheads (1) More Open Space Protecting Water Quality (1) Controlled Burning To Maintain Grasslands (1) More “Responsible” Users To Deter Non Responsible Users (1) Website Listing Space And Amenities (1) Sign Posted Hunting Areas (1)

Question	Votes
What do you like about Barnstable's Open Spaces?	Protect Endangered Habitats & Rare Plants (3) Good Trail Maps (3) Protect Water Quality (3) Beautiful Numerous Spacious (3) Scenic Vistas (2) Sidewalks Leading To The Woodland Trails (1) Open (Clear View Of Area) • Green • H2O On Sight (1) Beautiful Beaches And Views (1) *Variety! (1) Access To Multiuse Paths (1)
How do you use Barnstable's Open Spaces?	Hiking (4) Hiking, XC Skiing, Biking, Swim (3) Playgrounds, Dog Walks, Beaches (3) Hiking – X-C Skiing – Snow Shoe (2) Hike, Bike, Swim, XC Skiing (2) Hike/Walk • Bring Kids (2) Dog Walking (2) Mountain Biking (2) Geocaching (1) Family Gathering & Barbecue (1)

Barnstable Open Space and Recreation Plan

Build Your Own Park Upgrade Plan Activity Comments

Park Name	Votes
Hyannis Youth & Community Center Grounds	Sports Field (3) Picnic Table (3) Outdoor Lighting (2) Shade Tree/Structure (1) Accessible Paths/Trails (1) Restroom Facilities (1) Bike Rack (1) Play Equipment (1) Sports Court (1) Sports Field (1) Splash Pad (1) Indoor Pool (1) Skate Park (1)
Hamblin Pond Recreation Area (Marstons Mills)	Picnic Table (4) Drinking Fountain (3) Play Equipment (3) Outdoor Lighting (2) Restroom Facilities (2) Pavilion/Shade Structure (2) Benches (1) Shade Tree/Structure (1) Splash Pad (1) Cameras (1) Other Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We use the space to swim, playgrounds, and would love a splash pad ▪ A kayak launch area would be nice ▪ I would love a dog off-leash year-round beach. We had one in Chicago and it was one of our favorite places. More dog friendly places for sure.

Park Name	Votes
Veterans Memorial Park (Hyannis)	<p>Drinking Fountain (2) Splash Pad (2) Benches (1) Shade Tree/Structure (1) Picnic Table (1) Outdoor Lighting (1) Accessible Paths/Trails (1) Accessible Swings/Play (1) Restroom Facilities (1) Bike Rack (1) Play Equipment (1) Sports Court (1)</p> <p>Other Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We use the space to swim, playgrounds, and would love a splash pad ▪ I would love a dog off-leash year-round beach. We had one in Chicago and it was one of our favorite places. More dog friendly places for sure. ▪ Skate Park with places to perform tricks with scooters
Hathaway's Pond Recreation Area (Hyannis)	<p>Shade Tree/Structure (4) Accessible Paths/Trails (4) Play Equipment (3) Outdoor Lighting (3) Accessible Swings/Play (3) Bike Rack (2) Picnic Table (2) Benches (1) Drinking Fountain (1) Restroom Facilities (1) Accessible Swings/Play (1) Bike Trail (1) Trailhead Signs (1) Youth Mountain Biking Area (1)</p> <p>Other Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bathroom near dog park ▪ I would love to see some money to fix up Hathaway's Pond ▪ I like the idea of a mountain biking trail here and a campground

Park Name	Votes
Cotuit Memorial Park	<p>Outdoor Lighting (9) Benches (3) Shade Tree/Structure (1)</p> <p>Other Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the playground already there (Cotuit Nursery) (2) Re-do walkways (2) Add lighting (like Bearses Way in Hyannis) Improve drainage down by Memorial stone Leave the area mainly open space
Marstons Mills Pickleball Courts	<p>Drinking Fountain (2) Restroom Facilities (2) Pavilion/Shade Structure (2) Benches (1) Picnic Table (1) Accessible Paths/Trails (1) Accessible Swings/Play (1) Bike Rack (1) Sports Field (1) More Pickleball (1) Ropes Course (1) Dog Park (1)</p>
Burgess Park (Marstons Mills)	<p>Picnic Table (3) Benches (2) Shade Tree/Structure (2) Drinking Fountain (2) Restroom Facilities (2) Outdoor Lighting (2) Accessible Paths/Trails (2) Accessible Swings/Play (1) Pavilion/Shade Structure (1) Bike Rack (1) Upgrade Disc Golf Course (1)</p> <p>Other Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please consider removal of Disc Golf Course as only 4.78% responded use it. Make it open space, trails, paths, ADA compliant.

Park Name	Votes
Ridgewood Park (Hyannis)	Accessible Paths/Trails (2) Accessible Swings/Play (2) Benches (1) Drinking Fountain (1) Outdoor Lighting (1) Bike Rack (1) Pavilion/Shade Structure (1) Play Equipment (1) Sports Court (1) Splash Pad (1)
Cotuit Old School and Fields	Restroom Facilities (2) Sports Court (2) Sports Field (2) Other Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mow the field ▪ Re-do baseball field (2) ▪ Add restrooms (2) ▪ Resurface tennis courts and sidewalks (2)
Former Marstons Mills Elementary School Site	Benches (2) Splash Pad (2) Drinking Fountain (1) Pavilion/Shade Structure (1) Indoor Pool (1) Other comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perhaps parts of the site could contain a playground, koi pond, walking paths, duck pond, splash pad, parking, and some housing
Near West End Rotary of Near Hyannis West School	Benches (1) Shade Tree/Structure (1) Outdoor Lighting (1) Accessible Swings/Play (1) Play Equipment (1)

Park Name	Votes
Luke's Love, West Barnstable	Shade Tree/Structure (1) Drinking Fountain (1) Outdoor Lighting (1) Restroom Facilities (1) Sports Field (Soccer) (1) Other Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could use more outdoor seating, picnic tables. Lots of kids and families. ▪ Library next door ▪ General Store opening soon, people need a spot to stop and eat food with their kids/family ▪ Me and my friends used to eat our lunch in the grass there
Centerville Community Building and Field	Sports Field (1) Other Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outdoor/Indoor sports complex – soccer/football/lacrosse
Potential New Acquisition	Sports Field (2) Splash Pad (1) Indoor Pool (1) New Water Sources (1) Adult Ballfields (1) Other Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I've always wanted to have indoor fields. There used to be one in Plymouth but it closed, and now there is nowhere to play soccer in winter. I know it would be a very expensive investment, but it would be a great space for the kids of Barnstable.

APPENDIX C: STAKEHOLDER RECOGNITION



The Town would like to thank the following individuals who participated in the stakeholder interviews.

Recreation Resources Stakeholder Interview

- Chris Gonnella, Director of Community Services
- Doug Payson, Open Space Committee
- John Gleason, Director of Recreation
- Kris Clark, Vice President, Town Council
- Krissanne Caron, Assistant Director of Community Services
- Lauren Barker, Vice President of Strategy & Government Relations, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
- Lev Malakhoff, Chair, Open Space Committee
- Marty Bruemmel, President and CEO, Greater Hyannis Chamber of Commerce
- Patty Ericson, Vice Chair, Disability Commission
- Paul Logan, Chair, Disability Commission
- Stephen Robichaud, Chair, Planning Board & Community Preservation Committee
- Susanne Conley, Golf Committee
- Tammy Cunningham, Deputy Director of Human Resources & ADA Coordinator
- Tom Coyle, Council on Aging
- Tony Lapolla, Vice Chair, Recreation Commission

Conservation Resources Stakeholder Interview

- Andrew Gottlieb, Executive Director, Association to Preserve Cape Cod
- Angela Tangney, Conservation Commission
- Bill Hearn, Conservation Commission
- Ed Hoopes, Conservation Administrator
- Janet Milkman, Executive Director, Barnstable Land Trust
- Jessica Rempel, Natural Resources Analyst, Cape Cod Commission
- Kris Clark, Vice President, Town Council
- Lindsey Counsell, Chair, Community Preservation Committee

Water Resources Stakeholder Interview

- Brian Morrison, Deputy Fire Chief, West Barnstable Fire Department
- Brian Taylor, Harbormaster
- David Churbuck, Cotuit Board of Water Commissioner
- David Paananen, Fire Chief, West Barnstable Fire Department
- Derek Lawson, Director, Marine & Environmental Affairs
- Doug Crook, Shellfish Committee
- Griffin Beaudoin, Town Engineer
- John Townes, President, Barnstable Association for Recreational Shellfishing
- Peter Burke, Fire Chief, Hyannis Fire Department
- Rob Steen, Assistant Director, Department of Public Works
- Sam Wilson, Chair, Barnstable Municipal Water Supply Board
- Scott Horsley, Cotuit Board of Water Commissioner
- Sean Anderson, Barnstable Fire District Water Department
- Tony O'Neill, Chair, Sandy Neck Board
- Wayne Miller, West Barnstable Water Commissioner

