
NORWELL OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

2010-2012

**Prepared by the
Norwell Open Space and Recreation Committee
for the Norwell Conservation Commission
Norwell, Massachusetts**

February 26, 2010

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Deborah Lenahan , chair	At large
Richard Barry	Beautification Committee
Dale Connor	Recreation Director
Abigail Hardy	Conservation Agent
Deborah Hill	Conservation Commission
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Norwell Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

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Five Year Action Plan Update

HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Town of Norwell has accomplished many goals identified in the 2005-2010 Open Space Plan. The attached documents provide more detail and outline progress that has been made since the 2005-2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan was written. Notable accomplishments include:

- Stetson Meadows (120+ acres on the North River) has been surveyed and will be recorded as Conservation Land.
- The Norwell Water Dept has partnered with the North and South River Watershed Association (NSWRA) to educate Norwell citizens on water conservation. A portion of the Water Department budget supports the work of the Greenscapes MA Coalition, a part of the Massachusetts Bays Estuary Association, through the North and South Rivers Watersheds Association. The Coalition has created guidance on mowing, pesticide alternatives, fertilizing alternatives, composting, lawn watering, automatic irrigation systems, planting beds, low maintenance plants, managing stormwater, rain gardens, and urban gardening. This guidance is placed into water bills and is published in a 20-page reference guide that is circulated through the Town.
- The Norwell Conservation Commission now has a full time Conservation Agent.
- The Town of Norwell coordinated with the NSRWA to conduct a seminar for the purpose of educating private and non-profit land owners about land protection strategies and tools. The Conservation Commission is planning to seek CPC funds for future seminars.
- Community Preservation Act contributions have continued at the original funding level (3%) for the last 5 years.
- Since 2005, Norwell Town Meeting has designated the following 17 Scenic Roads: Central Street, First Parish Road, High Street, Old Oaken Bucket Road, Prospect Street, River Street, Circuit Street, Green Street, Lincoln Street, Pine Street, Pleasant Street, Mt. Blue Street, Wildcat Lane, Winter Street, Summer Street, Forest Street and Cross Street. Norwell currently has 23 designated scenic roads in total.
- Norwell Town Meeting approved a Open Space & Recreation Residential Design (OSRD) Bylaw to promote new development that fits in with Norwell's semi-rural character. The first OSRD project is currently in the permitting process.
- Community Preservation Act funding was used to improve access to the North River at the Bridge Street & Chittenden Lane Landings. The Bridge Street Landing was completed in 2008, and offers a new ramp, a re-graded and resurfaced parking area and driveway, two benches that overlook the river, and trash receptacles. The Chittenden Lane

Landing was completed in 2009, which increased the parking from one space to four, added a new dock, access to the river, benches, and trash cans, and resurfaced and re-graded the driveway as well as restored an area of salt marsh with Spartina.

- The Norwell Planning Board appointed a Pathways Committee to design a bike path in Norwell. This Committee is in the process of designing the trail and has secured funding to hire engineering services to design a portion of this path.
- 20 new vernal pools were certified with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program between 2005-2009 (see appendices for map and list).
- Five properties totaling 27.68 acres were purchased for the purposes of conservation.

TOWN OF NORWELL LAND ACQUISITIONS SINCE 2005				
STREET	BLOCK	LOT	SALE DATE	ACRES
GROVE	3	29	5/1/06	3.68
LINCOLN	39	6	1/1/07	5.5
HAWTHORNE	38	75	4/3/08	4.82
SOUTH	53	45A	1/16/09	7.91
RIVER	77	75	8/25/05	5.77

In the following Action Plan, items that do not have updates below them are ongoing goals to be pursued in 2010-2011.

NORWELL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2010 – 2012

GOAL 1 Protect the Quality and Quantity of Norwell's Water Supply

OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE NUMBER	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME FRAME	ACTION UPDATE
A. Acquire Land to Protect Water Supply	A1. * \$	Identify areas for future potential well sites, as well as parcels for acquisition to protect the aquifer and/or are contiguous to Zones II and III.	Water Department Community Preservation Committee (CPC)	2010-ongoing	A) Successful pump test at potential well site between Washington St. & Jacobs Pond. B) Funds requested at 2010 Town Meeting for expenditure for further site investigations in Norwell for water supply sources. C) A 15-acre parcel on Prospect Street purchased for water protection.
	A2.	Adapt local bylaws to minimize impervious surfaces and nitrogen loading in the Aquifer Protection Overlay District.	Water Department Planning Board Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)	2011-2012	
	A3.	Determine lawful claim of all municipal properties with uncertain ownership to ascertain which parcels are protected for water supply purposes in perpetuity.	Water Department Board of Assessors Town Counsel Conservation Commission	2010-2012	
B. Promote Water Conservation	B1. * ❖ \$	Create and implement Public Outreach initiatives that promote using water conservation measures such as the NSRWA "GreenScapes" Program that teaches homeowners how to create beautiful landscapes while protecting water resources.	Water Department North and South Rivers Watershed Association (NSRWA)	Annually	Norwell Water Department has funded the Greenscapes program through the NSRWA and Mass Bays Estuary Program publishing guidance on water conservation measures, mowing, pesticide and fertilizing alternatives, composting, low maintenance plantings and managing stormwater using rain gardens by including it the town's water bills and circulating it throughout the town.
	B2.	Pass a bylaw limiting the square footage of lawns that can be installed in new construction.	Water Department Planning Board ZBA	2012	

KEY:

* Action is also outlined in the Draft Norwell Master Plan

❖ Action is also outlined in the South Coastal Regional Open Space Plan

❖ Action meets the goals of the MA Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Management Plan¹

\$ Funding Sources (see page 61)

NORWELL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2010 – 2012

GOAL 1 Cont. Protect the Quality and Quantity of Norwell's Water Supply

OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE NUMBER	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME FRAME	ACTION UPDATE
B. cont. Promote Water Conservation	B3.	Implement a permitting process for private irrigation wells.	Water Department Board of Health	Completed	Permit process implemented for private irrigation wells.
C. Protect Drinking Water Quality	C1. * ❖ \$	Distribute information on Best Management Practices for landowners within water supply areas.	Water Department NSRWA	Annually	Distribution of information on Best Management Practices for landowners within water supply areas is completed each year within the Consumer Confidence Reports mailed to each Norwell resident in June.
	C2.	Recommend Integrated Pest Management (IPM) planning tools to farms near well sites; post IPM information on town website.	Water Department	2010-2012	
	C3. \$	Approach Hanover and Hingham to develop a plan to protect groundwater resources that affect Norwell wells.	Water Department	Ongoing	A) The Norwell Water Department now has a combined Zone II with the Hanover Water Department at South St Norwell/Pond Street Hanover. B) The Grove Street Well field shares a Zone II with the Scotland Well Field in Hingham. Land use protections have been implemented to protect land in Hingham owned by the Hingham Conservation Commission within the Zone I & II of Norwell Well # 10.
	C4.	Amend the Aquifer Protection Overlay District to include the Aaron River Reservoir (Cohasset) and Tack Factory Pond (Scituate) watersheds.	Water Department Planning Department ZBA	2010	Aquifer Protection Overlay District will be presented at 2010 Town Meeting
	C5.	Display information on NPDES Phase II stormwater regulations " in the Town Hall, Library and website.	Highway Department Water Department Public Library	Completed	

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NORWELL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2010 – 2012

GOAL 2 Protect Natural Resources and Biodiversity

OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE NUMBER	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME FRAME	ACTION UPDATE
A. Wetlands Protection	A1. \$	Increase the Conservation Agent's position to full time in order to adequately enforce wetlands regulations and perform job duties.	Conservation Commission Board of Selectmen Advisory Board Town Manager	Completed	The Agent's position has been increased to full-time.
B. Acquire land or conservation restrictions to protect natural resources and biodiversity	B1. * ❖ \$	Acquire lands or conservation restrictions on parcels that are contiguous with existing open space, have unique environmental features, or will buffer sensitive ecological resources. Special priority should be placed on parcels that will contribute to the creation of the Draft Master Plan proposed "Greenways."	Conservation Commission Open Space and Recreation Committee (OS&R Committee) CPC	Ongoing	The town has acquired approximately 27 acres of conservation land since 2005. Update and/or create management plans for all conservation areas.
	B2.	Analyze and prioritize the 16 properties of Chapter 61 lands using criteria established for ranking open space & recreation lands for protection.	Conservation Commission Open Space and Recreation Committee (OS&R Committee)	2011	Chapter 61 land analysis and prioritization is in progress. GIS system has been purchased by the Conservation Commission with CPC funds.
	B3. \$	Determine lawful claim of all municipal properties with uncertain ownership to ascertain which parcels are protected for natural resource purposes in perpetuity.	Conservation Commission Board of Assessors Town Counsel	2010-2012	Stetson Meadows, 120 acres on the North River has been surveyed and will be recorded as Conservation land (Article 97) accordingly.
	B4.	Partner with Maxwell Conservation Trust, Ltd. in Scituate to expand its scope to act as a local private land trust for Norwell.	OS&R Committee Conservation Commission Maxwell Conservation Trust, Ltd.	2010-2012	

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GOAL 2 Cont. Protect Natural Resources and Biodiversity

NORWELL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2010 – 2012

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OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE NUMBER	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME FRAME	ACTION UPDATE
B. cont. Acquire land or conservation restrictions to protect natural resources and biodiversity	B5. ❖ \$	Partner with the North and South Rivers Watershed Association (NSRWA) to hold an annual informational seminar for private and non-profit landowners on land protection strategies and tools.	NSRWA OS&R Committee	2009-2012	An information seminar for private and non-profit landowners on land protection strategy tools was conducted by the North & South Rivers Watershed Association (NSRWA) and the town of Norwell in 2009. The town hopes to continue these seminars pending funding from CPC.
	B6. ❖ \$	Collaborate with Scituate to acquire parcels for habitat protection on First Herring Brook.	Conservation Commission Water Department OS&R Committee First Herring Brook Watershed Association	Ongoing	
	B7. ❖ \$	Collaborate with Hanover to acquire parcels for habitat protection on Third Herring Brook.	Conservation Commission Water Department OS&R Committee	Ongoing	One parcel has been acquired by the Town of Norwell on South Street along Third Herring Brook, just up-gradient of Route 3 north, which will have the effect of habitat protection.
	B8. ❖ \$	Create outreach materials for landowners that present possible options and benefits of land preservation.	OS & R Committee Conservation Committee	2010-2012	
C. Protect unique habitats	C1. ❖ \$	Synthesize existing information to prioritize lands for protection based on unique community habitats and species. Overlays should include the Natural Heritage (NHESP) BioMap, Living Waters, Potential Vernal Pools and Priority Habitats documents, the NSRWA North River mapping project and other relevant reports.	Conservation Commission OS&R Committee	2010-2012	GIS system has been purchased by the Conservation Commission for the purpose of prioritizing lands for protection.

NORWELL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2010 – 2012

GOAL 2 Cont. Protect Natural Resources and Biodiversity

OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE NUMBER	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME FRAME	ACTION UPDATE
C. cont. Protect unique habitats	C2. ❖ ❖ ❖ \$	Develop bioinventories of unique habitats and species, and create management plans for the following special feature areas: Third Herring Brook, Black Pond, areas abutting Wompatuck State Park, and the North River.	Conservation Commission Norwell schools Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences South Shore Natural Science Center (SSNSC) NSRWA	Ongoing	
	C3. * ❖ ❖ \$	Complete a town-wide survey to certify vernal pools.	Conservation Commission Norwell schools SSNSC	2010-2012	Twenty vernal pools have been certified since 2005. (See appendices). Town wide survey of potential vernal pools to be completed.

GOAL 3 Protect Norwell's Scenic Quality and Historic Resources

A. Acquire land or conservation restrictions to preserve rural character	A1. ❖	Continue to support the Community Preservation Act for the acquisition of open space as well as funding recreation, historical and affordable housing initiatives.	All Departments Citizens of Norwell	Ongoing	The town of Norwell has managed to keep the Community Preservation funding at the 3% level since its inception in 2004. It has an active committee of 9 members representing conservation, recreation, historical and affordable housing.
	A2. * ❖ ❖ \$	Identify priority areas for protection that preserve the scenic and rural qualities of the town especially along the North River and in the Historic Village District.	Historical Commission Historical Society OS&R Committee	2010-2012	The Board of Selectmen is looking into creating a study committee for establishing a Historic Village District in Norwell Center.
	A3. * ❖ ❖ \$	Protect remaining farms, heritage landscapes, fields, and bogs by purchasing outright or acquiring conservation restrictions (specifically the agricultural fields on Main Street and other Chapter 61 lands).	CPC, Conservation Commission Historic Commission Planning Board	Ongoing	Historical Restriction has been placed on the Loring Farm on Prospect Street. The Barstow fields on River Street have been placed under the Conservation Commission.

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NORWELL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2010 – 2012

GOAL 3 Cont. Protect Norwell's Scenic Quality and Historic Resources

OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE NUMBER	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME FRAME	ACTION UPDATE
B. Preserve historical areas and scenic roads	B1. ★ ⚡	Develop a management program and outreach materials for existing scenic roads, and work toward securing additional Scenic Road Designations.	Planning Board Conservation Commission Historical Commission Tree and Grounds Department	2010-2012	The following streets have been in Norwellsince 2005: Central Street, First Parish Road, High Street, Old Oak Road, High Street, Prospect Street, River Street, Circuit Street, Green Street Lincoln Street, Pine Street, Pleasant Street, Summer Street, Forest Street and Winter Street.
	B2. ★ ❖ \$	Create, improve, and maintain signage to improve awareness of Norwell's historical features.	Historical Commission	2010-2012	The Historic Commission has applied to the CPC for funding to create signs for all scenic roads in Norwell.
	C1. ★ ❖	Support the creation of an Conservation & Recreation Residential Design bylaw to promote new development that fits in Norwell's semi-rural character.	Planning Board	Completed	Town of Norwell approved an Open Space & Recreation Residential Design (OSRD) bylaw to promote new development that fits in with Norwell's semi-rural character. The first OSRD project is currently in the permitting process.

GOAL 4 Support and Enhance Passive and Active Recreation with little Impact

A. Acquire land or conservation restrictions for Recreation	A1. ❖ \$	Acquire lands or conservation restrictions on parcels to create the proposed Draft Master Plan "Greenways" that can accommodate a variety of open space and recreation use.	Conservation Commission OS&R Committee Recreation Commission CPC	2010-ongoing	Town acquired approximately 8 acres on South Street which is included in the Master Plan's Greenway.
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GOAL 4 Cont. Support and Enhance Passive and Active Recreation with little Impact

OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE NUMBER	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME FRAME	ACTION UPDATE
B. Improve public awareness of and involvement in recreational resources	B1. * ❖	Establish community groups to help maintain trails on town-owned conservation lands and for planning assistance for playgrounds and trails.	Conservation Commission OS&R Committee Recreation Commission	Ongoing	Vinal School PTO completed a preschool-age playground on site.
	B2. * ~ ❖ \$	Create a “Pathways Committee” to build upon the work already done by previous town bikeway and transportation committees to create a town-wide bicycle and pedestrian path system that links to the new Greenbush commuter rail station.	OS&R Committee Recreation Committee Planning Board Board of Selectmen	2010-2015	A Pathways Committee was created with representatives from the Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Planning Board all active on the committee.
	B3. \$	Create and distribute a map of town owned open space, recreation areas, trails, and public access to the North River.	Conservation Commission OS&R Committee CPC Committee	Semi-completed 2010-2012	Printable Trail maps were done by an Eagle Scout project for many Town-owned conservation areas with walking trails. These maps are available on the Town of Norwell’s website.
	B4. ❖	Develop management plans for Fogg Forest, ¹¹ Miller Woods, Hatch Lots, Cuffey Hill.	Conservation Commission OS&R Committee Graduate Students	2010-2015	
	B5. ❖ \$	Create, improve and maintain signage to increase awareness of and access to Conservation Lands.	Conservation Commission	2010-2015	Signage for Jacob’s Pond Recreation Area will be installed in the Spring 2010.
C. Enhance recreation opportunities	C1. ❖ \$	Improve and maintain existing playground and athletic fields including a long term capital budget.	Tree and Grounds Department, Recreation Commission, Athletic Fields Committee, Board of Selectmen	2010-2015	
	C2. ❖ \$	Build new or modify existing athletic fields to meet the needs demonstrated in the inventory completed for the “Norwell Schools 2000-2005” campaign. At present time, the town needs 3-4 additional playing fields to satisfy needs.	Recreation Commission Athletic Fields Committee	2010-2015	Middle School athletic fields now have irrigation system.

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NORWELL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2010 – 2012

GOAL 4 Cont. Support and Enhance Passive and Active Recreation with little Impact

OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE NUMBER	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME FRAME	ACTION UPDATE
C. Enhance recreation opportunities	C3.	Evaluate recreation needs for the community, specifically for the growing senior population.	Recreation Commission OS&R Committee Counsel on Aging	2010-2012	
D. Enhance North River	D1. ★ ~ ❖ ■ \$	Improve public access, parking and signage along the North River by acquiring land and promoting existing access points.	OS&R Committee Conservation Commission CPC, Recreation Commission Planning Board	Completed	Community Preservation Act funding was used to improve access to the North River at the Bridge Street & Chittenden Lane Landings. The Bridge Street Landing was completed in 2008, and offers a new ramp, a re-graded and resurfaced parking area and driveway, two benches that overlook the river, and trash receptacles. The Chittenden Lane Landing was completed in 2009, which increased the parking from one space to four, added a new dock, access to the river, benches, and trash cans, and resurfaced and re-graded the driveway as well as restored an area of salt marsh with Spartina.

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❖ Action meets the goals of the MA Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Management Planⁱⁱ

\$ Funding Sources (see page 61)

ⁱThe Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a broad planning document based on six priority areas: Resource Protection, Stewardship, Restoration and Enhancement; Education and Information; Partnerships; Funding; Access; and Maintenance. The Plan offers policy reports on each of those areas and many of the goals and objectives are similar to, if not the same as, this plan. SCORP is a state-wide document and has been written to be applicable to cities and towns across the Commonwealth. Therefore, while the SCORP does not call for the development of a management plan specifically for Fogg Forest in Norwell, it does call for developing "action plans for areas of multiple use to mitigate adverse impacts and avoid user conflicts."

ⁱⁱ The Clean Water Act authorizes the EPA and states to regulate point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. "Point sources" are generated from a variety of municipal and industrial operations, including treated wastewater, process water, cooling water, and storm water runoff from drainage systems. The NPDES Phase I Storm Water Program (in place since 1990) regulates cities and counties with populations of 100,000 that operate a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), specific industrial operations, and construction activities that disturb 5 or more acres of land. The Phase II Storm Water Program (effective March 2003) regulates MS4s located within "urbanized areas" as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau and construction activities that disturb between 1 and 5 acres.

List of Certified Vernal Pools (CVPs)

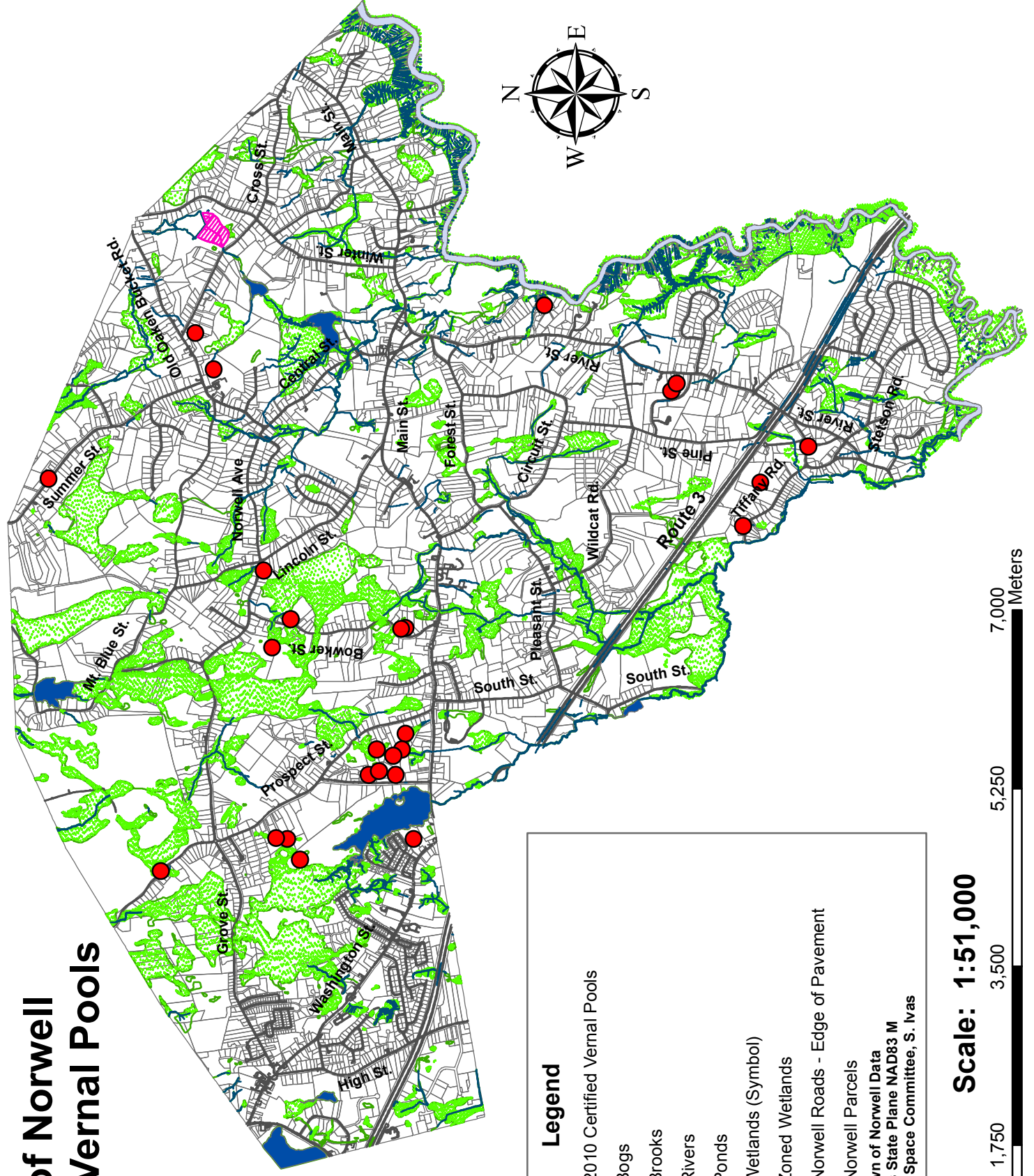
Norwell 2010

CVP #	SINCE 2005	LOCATION
1285	N	On Parcel 23-023, just southeast of CVP 1286, on Jacobs Pond Conservation Area property.
1286	N	On Parcel 23-023, just south of CVP 3544, on Jacobs Pond Conservation Area property.
1702	N	At northwest corner of South Shore Natural Science Center site.
2057	N	West of River Street, north of Tara Drive, on Parcel 70-67.
2506	N	Due south of intersection of Cross Street and Old Oaken Bucket Road.
2648	N	West of River Street, north of Tara Drive, just east of CVP 2057, on Parcel 70-13.
3208	Y	North of Tiffany Road, on Parcel 74-016, halfway between Tiffany Road and Route 3 Southbound.
3396	Y	At center of South Shore Natural Science Center site.
3394	Y	At southeast corner of South Shore Natural Science Center.
3395	Y	At northeast corner of South Shore Natural Science Center Site.
3397	Y	At westerly center of South Shore Natural Science Center Site.
3408	Y	Along north side of Summer Street, on Parcel 10-009.
3544	Y	On Parcel 23-043, south of intersection of Prospect Street and Jacobs Lane, on Jacobs Pond Conservation Area property.
3545	Y	West of Jacobs Pond and south of Jacobs Lakeshore subdivision.
3699	Y	Just north of Tiffany Road, on Parcel 74-36, about 200 meters east of Third Herring Brook.
3700	Y	Just east of Bowker Street, north of Main Street, on Parcel 40-006.
3701	Y	Just east of Bowker Street, north of Main Street, on Parcel 40-005.
3819	Y	At intersection of Lincoln St., Grove St., and Norwell Avenue, in small Intermittent Pond.
3970	Y	Adjacent to (and south of) #236 Bowker Street, east side of street in small pool, on Parcel 39-033.
4378	Y	Southwest of intersection of Common Street and Common Ave.
4379	Y	East of River Street, in freshwater marsh directly adjacent to North River tidal estuary marsh, at 15 Blackthorne Lane, Parcel 71-025.
4409	Y	On Lots 4 and 5, Birchwood Road subdivision, west of Bowker Street.
4665	Y	At southeast corner of South Shore Natural Science Center site.
4666	Y	At center-south of South Shore Natural Science Center site.
5256	Y	On northeast side of Vinal School property, south of Old Oaken Bucket Road.
5257	Y	Across from Parcel 01-029, in Wompatuck State Park, on east side of Prospect Street north of Grove Street.

NB: Locations of these Certified Vernal Pools on specific parcels have not been verified on site. These data are not to be used for permitting purposes without field verification.

Sources: MassGIS NHESP Certified Vernal Pools Data Layer, CVP_PT.exe, updated 17 Feb 10.
Norwell Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2005-2010, Estimated and Priority Habitats, Certified

Town of Norwell Certified Vernal Pools



Legend

- NHESP 2010 Certified Vernal Pools
- Norwell Bogs
- Norwell Brooks
- Norwell Rivers
- Norwell Ponds
- Norwell Wetlands (Symbol)
- Norwell Zoned Wetlands
- Town of Norwell Roads - Edge of Pavement
- Town of Norwell Parcels

MassGIS and Town of Norwell Data
Projection: Mass State Plane NAD83 M
18 Feb 10 - Open Space Committee, S. Ivas

Scale: 1:51,000

