

# **TOWN OF SHELBURNE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN 2024 – 2031**

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Prepared by the



**Town of Shelburne  
Open Space Committee**

**June 14, 2024**

With assistance from the

**FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

*This project was funded by a grant from the Woodlands Partnership of Northwestern Massachusetts and a Direct Local Technical Assistance Grant provided by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities*

**TOWN OF SHELBURNE**  
**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**  
**2024-2031**



**Prepared by the Shelburne Open Space Committee**

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*This project was funded by a grant from the Woodlands Partnership of Northwestern Massachusetts and a Direct Local Technical Assistance Grant provided by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities*

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June 17, 2024

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Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Donlon:

Thank you for submitting the Open Space and Recreation Plan for Shelburne to this office for review and compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I'm pleased to write that the plan has received final approval and the town is eligible to apply for DCS grants through January 2031. Please contact me [melissa.cryan@mass.gov](mailto:melissa.cryan@mass.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Cryan*

Melissa Cryan  
Grant Programs Supervisor





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LaPierre barn (Joan LaPierre)

# 1 Plan Summary

The purpose of the Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is to provide a framework for decisions dealing with land use, natural systems, and the lands that contain unique forest, agricultural, historical, recreational and scenic values. It documents current natural, historic, and recreational resources in town, and identifies priorities for protecting, maintaining, or improving these resources, as well as community preferences for the creation of new resources.

The 2024 Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan is based on community members' collective understanding of the interdependence of rivers, wetlands and aquifers, ridgelines and contiguous forests, recreational trails and access, agricultural fields, scenic views, and significant historical structures and landscapes with each other and with the town's rural character as a whole. The Open Space and Recreation Plan also illustrates the role that all undeveloped lands have in providing wildlife habitat, in ensuring the integrity of drinking water supplies, in providing for climate resiliency, and at least in part, in providing for residents' livelihoods.

The Plan highlights the town's natural, historical, and recreational resources, including:

- Prime farmland and working agricultural businesses;
- Critically important surface waters;
- Large blocks of contiguous forest;
- The Deerfield River and its tributaries;
- Trail systems on private and public lands;
- Rare habitats;

- Parks, playgrounds, and recreational programming; and,
- Significant historical sites and buildings in Shelburne.

The Seven-Year Action Plan provides direction to a myriad of local boards, commissions, and committees about how to implement the goals and objectives that were developed in part from the results of the 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey, input at the October 2023 Public Forum, and other recent planning efforts undertaken by the town.

A digital version of this updated OSRP can be found online on the Open Space Committee's web page: <https://townofshelburne.com/g/47/Open-Space-Committee>



*Outside Cowell Gymnasium (Diana Hardina)*

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to provide a foundation for decision-making based upon the short-term and long-term needs of Shelburne residents regarding the protection and/or enhancement of priority natural, cultural and recreational resources. Specifically, it is designed to help residents and Town officials decide which conservation opportunities they should act upon. In addition, this plan represents the collective will of many residents who are committed to understanding and solving complex environmental challenges e.g., high water tables, flooding, water demands, and environmental pollution. This OSRP represents consensus on the most important recreational, scenic and natural resource-related needs in town and on the best solutions for addressing these needs. The Seven-Year Action plan, when carried out by Town boards, commissions and committees, will implement the Town's open space and recreation goals and objectives (*see Section 8*) as well as provide residents with meaningful experiences in the stewardship of their whole community.

### 2.2. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### 2.2.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The Town of Shelburne's open space and recreation goals and objectives were developed through a public survey, a public forum, and a series of meetings of the Open Space Committee between May 2022 and December 2023. In October of 2023, an open space and recreation public forum was held to gain input from residents on the Seven-Year Action Plan. The forum was advertised on the Town



website, through a press release in the *Greenfield Recorder* printed the weekend before, and through an invitation to town boards and committee members to attend. Flyers were also posted at Town Hall and other locations in town. Attendance at the meeting was 18.

In November 2022, a public survey was developed by the Open Space Committee and Recreation Committee. Postcards with a link to the survey were mailed to all postal customers in Shelburne, including post office box holders. The electronic survey was available through Survey Monkey, and paper surveys were available at the two libraries and at Town Hall. A total of 252 responses were received. The survey responses were used to help the Open Space and Recreation Committees focus on the development of Section 7: Analysis of Community Needs, Section 8: Goals and Objectives, and Section 9: Seven-Year Action Plan.

From May 2022 and December 2023, the Shelburne Open Space Committee met monthly in public meetings. During these meetings, Committee members discussed open space and recreation goals and objectives and their opinions on the most critical environmental problems in Deerfield. In addition, they reviewed and discussed draft sections of the Shelburne OSRP. Agendas and minutes from these meetings are included in the Appendices. The Shelburne Recreation Committee and Planning Board reviewed relevant sections and provided input on draft language.

A public review period was held between October 10 and November 10, 2023, during which time the draft sections of the 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan were available for review on the town website. Comments received during the public review period are included in Section 10: Public Comment.

Outreach to the environmental justice areas of Shelburne included making paper copies of the public survey and the draft maps available at the Arms Library, which is located in the environmental justice area (Shelburne Falls village). By sending out the survey postcard to all postal customers, notification of the survey reached all residents, whether they own property or rent housing in Shelburne. Posters about the survey and the OSRP planning effort were posted all around the village, including a bulletin board at the Cowell Gym and at the senior affordable housing complex in Shelburne Falls. An announcement of the community survey was posted on a popular public Facebook page called “Shelburne Falls in a Nutshell.” Postings on this page are visible even to those without Facebook accounts.





Bridge of Flowers (Andrea Donlon)

## 3 Community Setting

The information provided in this section, *Community Setting*, inventories and assesses the human and land use components of the landscape, moving from the present, to the past, and then to the future based on current development trends. *Regional Context* provides a snapshot of Shelburne today, and identifies the ways in which the location of the Town within the region has affected its growth and quality of open space and recreational resources. *History of the Community* looks back at the manner in which human inhabitants settled and developed the landscape. Next, using statistical information and analysis, *Population Characteristics* describes who the people of Shelburne are today and how population and economic trends may affect the town in the future. Finally, *Growth and Development Patterns* describes how the town of Shelburne has developed over time and potential impacts that the current zoning could have on open space, drinking water supplies, and municipal services.

### 3.1. REGIONAL CONTEXT

#### 3.1.1 TOWN OF SHELBURNE

The town of Shelburne is an agricultural, light manufacturing, and residential community located in the hilltowns of Franklin County in northwestern Massachusetts. Shelburne is bordered by Colrain on the north; Greenfield on the east; Deerfield and Conway on the southeast and south; and Buckland and Charlemont on the west and northwest (see the **Context Map** at the end of Section 3).

Shelburne is entirely within the Deerfield River basin. The town boundaries with Charlemont, Buckland, and Conway are the lower North River and the Deerfield River. Rising above and parallel to the

Deerfield River is a ridge of mountains called Massaemett Mountain and the High Ledges. An historic stone fire tower on the peak and other trails to this area and the High Ledges offer magnificent views of the area. Two cellular transmission towers have been erected along this ridge. In the northern section of the town is the Patten district, which is a high elevation flat area with deep agricultural roots.

In 1914, the Mohawk Trail (Route 2) was opened as an auto-touring route, thus transforming Shelburne into a tourist destination and stopover. Route 2 is a significant east-west travel corridor that pre-dates the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) to the south. Though an east-west corridor, Route 2 in Shelburne takes several turns to maintain lower elevations between Massaemett Mountain, Dragon Hill, and Greenfield Mountain. Tourism continues to be a dominant driver of the town's economy, as people visit the region for recreational and cultural opportunities.

On the western edge of Shelburne is the village of Shelburne Falls, which has dense village street housing and a small but picturesque downtown. The village area spans the Deerfield River and also lies in the Town of Buckland. The Bridge of Flowers, a former trolley bridge that is now a pedestrian bridge, is planted with trees and flowers and is an attraction for visitors and local residents. The Iron Bridge is the main travel route across the river in Shelburne Falls village. Shelburne Falls village has been used as several movie and television series settings in the last ten years. Shelburne Center is close to the geographic center of town and has a library and a cluster of housing in this rural residential setting. The rest of the town is much less densely developed, with much of it in forest and farmland. The Route 2 travel corridor is zoned for commercial use along its length, which has facilitated the development of several commercial spaces in Shelburne.

During the mid 1850's, the Deerfield River was used to power mill buildings along Mill Street, which began an era of manufacturing in Shelburne Falls. In 1912, the Deerfield River was harnessed for hydropower, providing electricity to the area as well as giving a major boost to several Shelburne Falls manufacturers, including cutlery manufacturer Lamson and Goodnow (located on the Buckland side of the river). Deerfield No. 3 Dam (owned by Great River Hydro LLC), Gardner Falls Dam (owned by Central Rivers Power MA, LLC), and Deerfield No. 2 Dam (owned by Great River Hydro LLC) all span the Deerfield River shared by Shelburne on one side. The powerhouses for these dams lie on the Buckland side of the river.

Between 1998 and 2001, Shelburne experienced a significant loss in manufacturing jobs due to the closure of businesses. During the last decade, the Industrial zoning district located along Route 112 north of the village has been subdivided and occupied by Ashfield Stone, a landscaping company, a cabinetmaker business, and a rental storage building. Service jobs and schools account for other employment in town. Agriculture continues to be important to the local economy, with agricultural land accounting for roughly 16 percent of the town's total area. Finally, the area is attractive to artists and artisans, who are helping to grow the creative economy in the region.

Like many of the communities in the western and eastern edges of Franklin County, there has not been the same level of pressure to develop the open spaces of Shelburne for residential development as compared to communities along the Interstate 91 corridor. Shelburne's population has been slightly declining over the past 20 years. If recreational tourism related to the Deerfield River and other natural and cultural amenities in the region grows, the increased influx of tourists could lead to demand for

more businesses in town that support tourism. Though western Massachusetts communities have lower property values than in eastern Massachusetts, real estate prices have risen sharply since 2020 when people began shifting priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic and moving out to rural communities where they can work remotely, often paying more than the asking price for a home.

In order to plan for the protection of open space and natural resources and the provision of recreational opportunities in the town of Shelburne, residents should consider the role natural resources play across the region. The character of the landscape is dominated by the Deerfield River; large blocks of forest and farmland on rolling hills and in the Patten District, an area of higher elevation farm and forestland. Each of these characteristic landscapes is discussed in detail in Chapter 4, Environmental Inventory and Analysis. The presence and relatedness of these significant resources present both opportunities and challenges to open space and recreation planning for Shelburne. In addition, these landscapes have shaped the historical development of Shelburne and the surrounding region.

### 3.1.2 REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CONTEXT

In 2013, a Sustainable Communities Consortium including Community Action, Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), North Quabbin Community Coalition (NQCC), Franklin County Community Development Corporation (FCCDC), and the towns of Greenfield, Deerfield, Montague, and Orange completed a plan *Sustainable Franklin County: Franklin County's Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD)*. The RPSD is a long-term guide for Franklin County municipal governments, regional organizations, businesses, non-profits, and individuals. Through extensive public participation, individual residents and representatives of many organizations contributed to the creation of the plan. The plan identifies issues and constraints, goals, and recommendations and strategies. The overall sustainable development goals that came out of the public participation process are as follows:

- Increase and improve the housing stock, while focusing on affordability;
- Provide additional options for alternative transportation;
- Encourage economic development, by redeveloping vacant sites;
- Promote energy conservation and efficiency;
- Protect natural resources, including farmland and drinking supplies;
- Foster the growth of arts and culture;
- Concentrate new growth near town centers and focus on infill development; and
- Improve infrastructure, particularly high-speed internet.

The RPSD identified Shelburne Falls Village Center as a Priority Development Area.<sup>1</sup> Shelburne Falls Village straddles the Deerfield River and is located partially in Shelburne and partially in Buckland. The goals for all of the priority development areas are to redevelop vacant or underutilized structures and properties, locate new businesses in town centers or near transit services, and to coordinate new development in areas that have existing public transportation and water and sewer infrastructure. Shelburne Falls is easily accessible to Route 2, is on a Franklin Regional Transportation Authority (FRTA) bus route, and the village area is served by public water and public sewer. Shelburne Falls has a small

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<sup>1</sup> A Priority Development Area is defined as an existing or emerging regional employment center. More information about Redevelopment/Infill Development projects for the Shelburne Falls Village Center is available in the RPSD: <https://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Sustainable-Franklin-County-2013-Plan.pdf>

downtown with a mix of retail stores, including grocery stores, restaurants, artists' studios, a library, and a candlepin bowling alley, and very small park spaces (two private and one public). The village draws tourists to the Bridge of Flowers and Salmon Falls with its river pothole viewing area, both with views of mountains and the Deerfield River their background. Tourists are frequently drawn to outdoor recreation offerings in western Franklin County and come to Shelburne Falls for food and shopping.

## 3.2 HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

The early history of Shelburne was centered around the area of Shelburne Falls. The falls were an important fishing site for Indigenous peoples, which around the time of European contact included the Mahican, Nipmuc, and Pocumtuck people (or tribes). After colonial settlement, Salmon Falls was the site of extensive fishing. A 1743 statute designated twenty acres of land along the Deerfield River as a public fishing area. This land was sold to a private landowner later in the 18th Century. The uplands of Shelburne were first used as pastureland by colonials prior to residential settlement.

Permanent colonial settlement of Shelburne began in the vicinity of Shelburne Falls, c.1760, by five families. Sixteen years later the non-indigenous population had risen to 575, with most of the settlement occurring east of Shelburne Falls. By 1790 the population increased by 105%, and essentially remained the same for the next forty years. Shelburne was established as the Shelburne District of the town of Deerfield in 1768. In c. 1770, Shelburne's first meetinghouse was built in the area of the Hill Cemetery, initiating colonial settlement into this area. The rich soils of the uplands, used both for crops and grazing, provided the early residents of Shelburne with their economic base. Lumbering also took place at this time, but on a smaller scale. By 1790, the population increased by 105% to 1,183. The majority of these early settlers were Presbyterian Scotch Irish who migrated from New Hampshire. Shelburne was established as the Shelburne District of the Town of Deerfield in 1768.

Shelburne was incorporated as a town in 1768. Between 1775 and 1830, sawmills and gristmills were built along the river to take advantage of the waterfalls. However, agriculture continued to be the primary commercial activity.

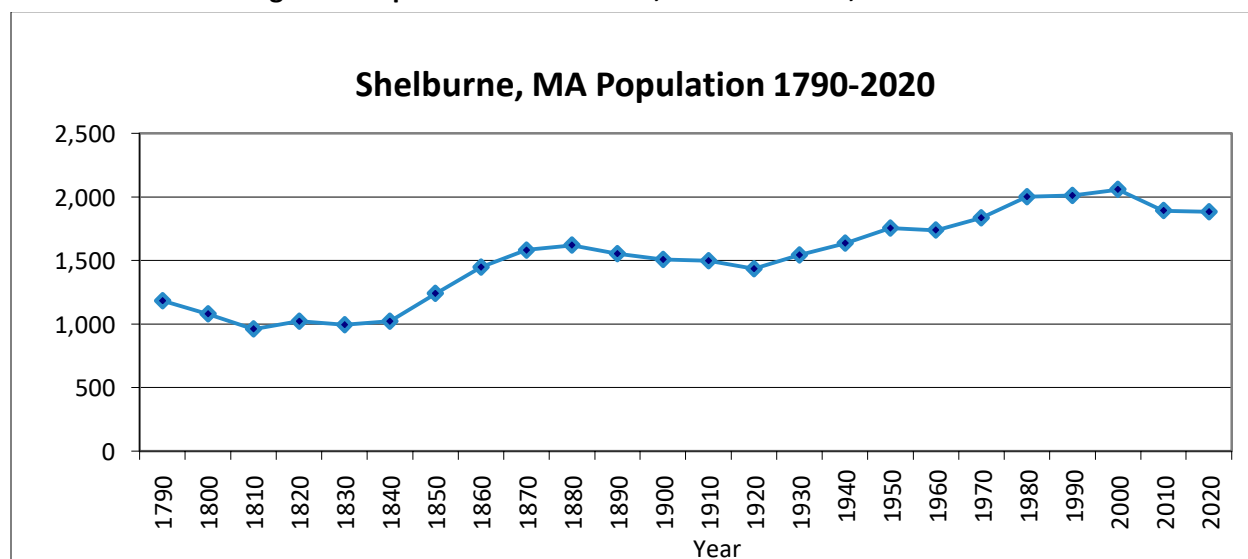
During the Early Industrial Period (1830 – 1870), the population in Shelburne grew by 59 percent, reaching 1,582 by 1870. Although Shelburne remained predominantly an agricultural community, manufacturing grew in the village with the establishment of the snath and cutlery company, Lamson and Goodnow, in 1837. Shelburne Falls soon became home to many small tool manufacturing shops, catering to the needs of farmers and ranchers. Two fabric mills were also established. In addition to manufacturing, the production and export of butter and cheese, maple syrup, and apples contributed to the economic prosperity in Shelburne. This prosperity resulted in an expansion of a residential district along Water Street and the construction of commercial blocks along Bridge Street. The civic center of the town was moved from Village Hill in central Shelburne south to Shelburne Center along Greenfield Road (Route 2).

Manufacturing continued to thrive in Shelburne during the period 1870-1915 with a row of factories lining Mill Street, at the end of Deerfield Street, along the river and sharing an aqueduct for water

power.<sup>2</sup> Contributing to this growth were the arrival of the Troy & Greenfield Railroad in 1867, the Shelburne Falls and Colrain Street Railway in 1896, and the introduction of hydroelectricity in 1912. In addition to Lamson and Goodnow, Shelburne's industry consisted of hardware manufacturers, box makers, a silk manufacturer and knitting mills. Agriculture also continued to prosper. By the 1880s, Shelburne was considered the leading milk producer in Franklin County and was third in the production of cheese. With its location on the rail line, dairy farmers in Shelburne also began selling to milk distributors for markets in Boston, Springfield and Northampton. During the 1870's, Shelburne's economy was focused in the village area rather than the rural areas outside of Shelburne Falls, and the town's commercial district along Bridge Street expanded.

Between 1915 and 1920, Shelburne's population declined below 1,500 and then increased 10 percent over the next twenty years to 1,636. The trolley system closed in 1927, yet Shelburne Falls continued to grow as the center of both commercial and industrial activity in town. In 1914, the Mohawk Trail (Route 2), which was designed as a scenic tourist route, brought tourism-related commercial development to that portion of Shelburne along the highway. The major industry during this period was the Mayhew Steel Products Company, which manufactured a variety of forged tools and employed approximately 200 people in 1930. Dairy farming, along with other farm products such as apples and maple syrup, continued as the primary agricultural activities in the uplands of Shelburne.

**Figure 1: Population in Shelburne, Massachusetts, 1790 to 2020**



Since the early 20th century, there has been a shift from manufacturing to tourist-related businesses such as restaurants, retail establishments, bed and breakfasts, etc. Shelburne Falls has a strong artistic community, which is evident with the many art galleries and studios located in the village. Agriculture

<sup>2</sup> Mill Street is located at the end of Deerfield Street, and most of these factories no longer exist, except for the Mayhew Steel Quonset hut and the Mole Hollow candle factory building, which was recently converted to condominium apartments.



still plays an important role and several farms and orchards continue to operate. A map of Shelburne's farms and other agricultural-based activities was created for this plan update (see Section 4).

Shelburne's significant historic resources are its village and agricultural land use. The living history of productive fields, pastures and old farmsteads also contributes to the town's special character. The architecture in this working landscape represents what the rest of New England once looked like.

Important historic resources that relate to open space and recreation in Shelburne include the following:

- The Shelburne Falls National Historic District (NHD), established in 1988, encompasses approximately 163 acres, spanning the entire village in Shelburne, as well as a portion of the village on the Buckland side of the river. The district was expanded from the commercial core of the village to include the surrounding predominantly residential areas in 2010. The commercial core of the Shelburne Falls NHD, located ½ mile from Route 2, contains many contributing commercial, civic, and religious buildings located primarily to the north and south of Bridge Street in Shelburne and on State Street in Buckland. Within the NHD are the Salmon Falls Potholes located in the Deerfield River, just below the Deerfield No. 3 dam. There are 360 historical "resources" (features) in the expanded district, with only 25 of these built after 1960.
- "The Residences at Mill Falls," a condominium development, and the "Salmon Falls Potholes," within the Salmon Falls on the Deerfield River, are both considered historically significant landscapes. Many potholes were formed as the Deerfield River eroded its channel as Lake Hitchcock, formed by the glaciers, drained. The formation of potholes, which continues today, is caused by smaller rocks spinning and carving out rounded holes into the gneiss rock. The Residences at Mill Falls is located off Deerfield Avenue with a view to the dam and potholes. The building is a historic structure that formerly housed Mole Hollow Candles, was vacant for over a decade, and has been converted to residential space. In 2022, the public gained full, legal access to the overlook of the falls, dam, and potholes, but lost the parking areas that had been open to visitor use.
- Historically significant buildings in Shelburne Center.
- Historically significant structures scattered throughout the town from the Deerfield Town Line North to Smead Road on the Colrain border. The only visible pattern to these structures is their association with both historic landscapes and scenic roads.
- Historically significant landscapes. Many of these landscapes are tied to the agricultural history of Shelburne and remain an important asset, though greatly reduced following the rise and fall of sheep grazing in the 1800's.
- In 2018, the public gained temporary, legal and physical access via a hiking trail from the village to the Shelburne State Forest Stone Fire Tower on Massaemett Mountain. The fire tower was constructed of stone in 1909 and is still used today as a fire lookout. Hikers regularly use the trails leading to the Fire Tower and climb the stone tower for views of the region.

- The intermittent Mohican – Mohawk Recreation Hiking Trail follows the corridor of the historic indigenous people’s footpath along the Deerfield River as it passes through Shelburne.

For more information on the town’s historic resources, please see the expanded discussion in Section 4 under Scenic Resources and Unique Environments and the Cultural Resources Map at the end of Section 4.

### 3.3 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Understanding Shelburne’s population characteristics can help the Town plan for its future open space and recreational needs and to maximize the use of its open space resources. The following discussion will provide information about Shelburne’s population characteristics and an analysis of how the Town’s open space and recreation planning can respond to those demographics.

#### 3.3.1 GENERAL POPULATION

The Town of Shelburne is one of several municipalities in Franklin County with a total population that hovers around 2,000. As indicated below in Table 3-1, Shelburne’s population has been slightly declining each decade since 2000.

**Table 1: Total Population, 1990-2020**

Geography	U.S. Census Population			
	1990	2000	2010	2020
<b>Shelburne</b>	2,012	2,058	1,900	1,884
<b>Franklin County</b>	70,092	71,535	71,372	71,029
<b>Massachusetts</b>	6,016,425	6,649,097	6,547,629	7,029,917

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau – Decennial Census of Population and Housing 1990, 2000, 2010; U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census PL 94-171 Redistricting data.<sup>3</sup>

Overall, this trend aligns with population growth and decline across Franklin County, but contrasts with the trend for Massachusetts as a whole, where the population grew by 7% between 2010 and 2020.

Shelburne’s median age is 58.7, the second oldest median age of all the 26 towns in Franklin County. A third of the town’s population is aged 65 and above, and only 10% of the population is under 18 years of age. Shelburne is a predominantly White community. Approximately 7% of the town’s population identify as being Latino/a or Hispanic.

<sup>3</sup> The PL 94-171 dataset is the Redistricting Data File created by the United States Census Bureau based on the decennial census. It was created for use by the states in redistricting. When the final 2020 Census dataset is released, there could be some minor variations to Shelburne’s population from the redistricting data.

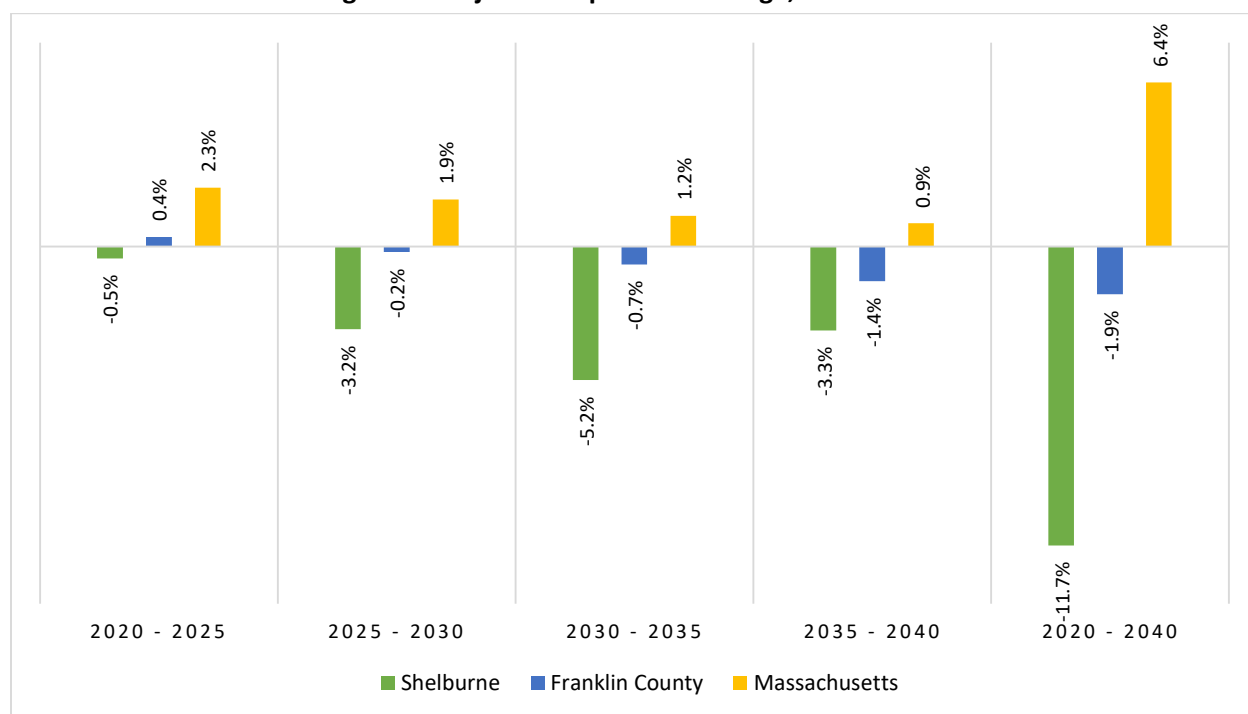
**Table 2: Demographic Summary for Shelburne**

Demographic Indicator	In Shelburne
Population	1,436
Median age	58.7
% Under 18 years old	9.5%
% Age 65 and older	33.9%
% White	89.8%
% Black/African American	0.8%
% Native American	0.0%
% Asian	0.7%
% Other/Multiple races	7.7%
% Latino/Hispanic (any race)	6.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021, Table DP-05

### 3.3.2 FUTURE PROJECTIONS

The University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute (UMDI) has produced a set of population projections for all Massachusetts municipalities at 5-year intervals to 2040. This estimate, completed in 2018, projects that the population of Shelburne will decrease by 12% between 2020 and 2040 (Figure 2). Comparatively, the county's population is expected to decrease by 2% and the state's population is expected to increase by 6% over the same period. The modeling did not consider the range of social and economic factors that may influence population trends (e.g., climate, broadband, recession, Covid-19), and it should be stressed that the modeled projections are meant to serve as reference points for planners and researchers, and they do not claim to be able to predict the future.

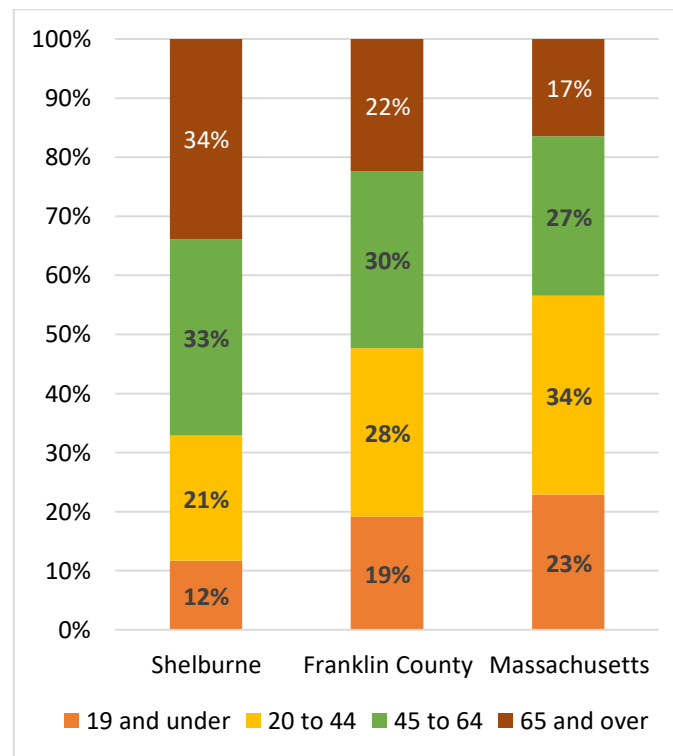
**Figure 2: Projected Population Change, 2020 – 2040**

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and UMass Donahue Institute Vintage 2018 Population Projections.

A large amount of Shelburne’s land area is devoted to agriculture and forested open space, resulting in a relatively low population density of 60 persons per square mile. Shelburne is characterized by mixed-use development and high-density single-family homes in Shelburne Falls, and by single-family houses distributed at low density along main arteries, especially in Shelburne Center. Currently, projections for total population do not indicate major development impacts from population change in Shelburne, but it will be important for the Town to continue to monitor these trends as more data becomes available, to ensure that farmlands, forests, and ridgelines are protected from fragmentation.<sup>4</sup>

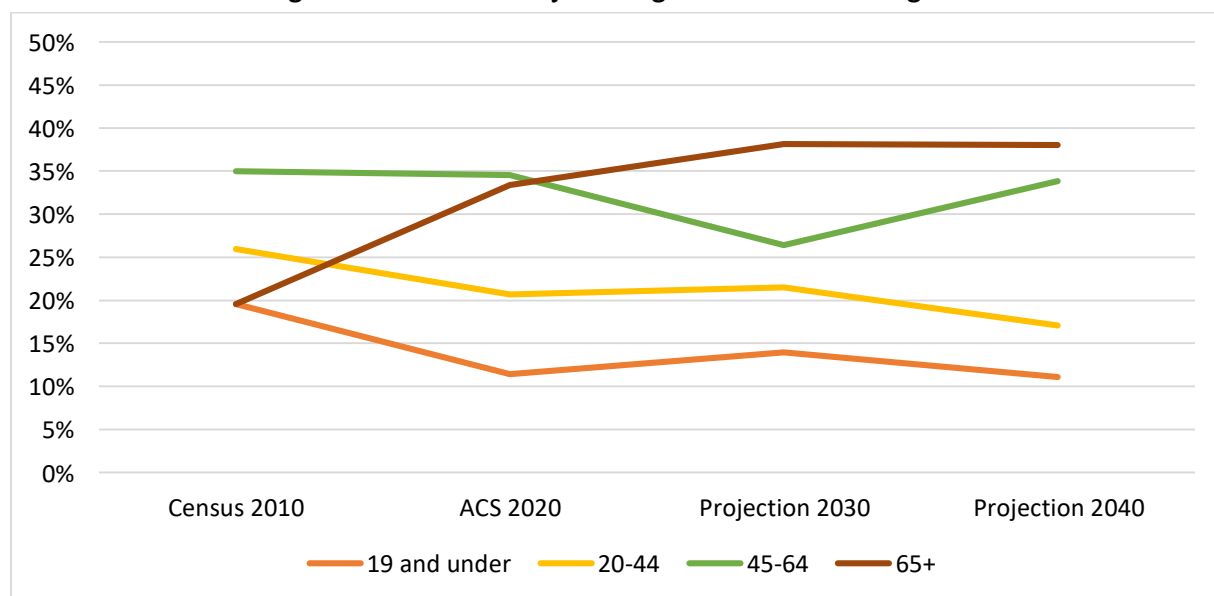
To determine how the recent and projected population change in Shelburne translates into demand for open space and recreational resources, it is necessary to look at the age distribution of the current and projected population. According to the 2021 American Community Survey, shown in Figure 3 below, Shelburne has a higher percentage of people 65 and older than Franklin County and nearly twice as much as Massachusetts as a whole. As with the oldest residents, Shelburne also has proportionately more adults from 45-64 years of age than the county or state. It follows that the inverse is true in regards to younger residents: the population of residents between the ages of 0 and 44 (31% in all) is significantly smaller than that of the county (47%) and the state (57%).

<sup>4</sup> Wildlife corridors, for example, are impacted by fragmenting forest and farmland.

**Figure 3: Age Distribution, Shelburne, Franklin County and Massachusetts**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

If the relatively large cohort of elderly residents (65 and over) continues to reside in Shelburne, it will result in a significant increase in the population of individuals in the oldest age cohorts in ten to twenty years. As shown in Figure 4, population projections estimate that by 2040, roughly 38% of Shelburne's population will be over the age of 65, compared to 20% in 2010.

**Figure 4: Shelburne Projected Age Distribution through 2040**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, and UMass Donahue Institute Vintage 2018 Population Projections.

Overall, Shelburne's population is stable, but slowly aging. Given present uncertainty on the direction and speed of population change, Shelburne should plan for multiple possible futures. Evaluating the town's current recreation opportunities and how they meet the needs of a changing population, particularly in terms of facilities that are accessible and age-friendly, is key to developing recreational programming in the coming years that will be attractive to the older residents currently present in the community. That said, providing facilities and programs appropriate for all ages will remain an important recreational goal for the Town in the future, and should be a top priority if a broad demographic range in the town's population is desired.

### **3.3.3 ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY**

Measures of income levels of Shelburne's residents as compared to the county and state are helpful in assessing the ability of citizens to support recreational resources and programs, and for access to open space. The 2021 ACS 5-year survey estimated Shelburne's per capita income was \$47,442, which is higher than the county per capita income, but lower than the state figure (Table 3-2). The median household income for Shelburne was estimated to be \$72,236 in 2020, which is again higher than the county but lower than the state estimates. Shelburne's poverty rate of 10.8% is equivalent to Franklin County and a little higher than Massachusetts as a whole.

**Table 3-2: Income and Poverty, 2021**

Geography	Per Capita Income Estimate	Median Household Income Estimate	Percent of Individuals Below Poverty Level*
Shelburne	\$47,442	\$72,236	10.8%
Franklin County	\$37,740	\$64,949	10.6%
Massachusetts	\$48,617	\$89,026	9.9%

\* For whom poverty status was determined.

Source: American Community Survey 2017-2021 Five-Year Estimates. Five-year estimate of income for the past 12 months and reported in 2019 dollars.

### 3.3.3.1 Environmental Justice Populations

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts defines an Environmental Justice (EJ) Community if any of the following conditions are met:

- Block group whose annual median household income is equal to or less than 65% of the statewide median; or
- 40% or more of the residents identifying as minority; or
- 25% or more of households lack English language proficiency; or

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.

According to these criteria, the Shelburne portion of the Shelburne Falls village area meets the income threshold and is considered an EJ community. Please refer to the **Environmental Justice Map** at the end of this section. According to MassGIS, this section of Shelburne has a population of 828 in 335 households and the median household income is \$49,063, which is 58.1% of the statewide median household income. According to Massachusetts Municipal statistics, 43.9% of the population of Shelburne is included within this EJ community. EJ populations will bear a disproportionate burden of the adverse health outcomes due to climate change.<sup>5</sup> In terms of this Open Space and Recreation Plan, it is important to consider how to ensure EJ populations will continue to have access to open spaces, clean air, clean water, and places to safely enjoy recreational activities.

### 3.3.3.2 Employment characteristics

The labor force is defined as the pool of individuals who are 16 years of age and over, and are either employed or who are actively seeking employment. Persons not actively seeking employment, such as some enrolled students, retirees, or stay-at-home parents, are excluded from the labor force. In October 2022, Shelburne had an estimated labor force of 1,170 with 1,140 residents employed and 30 residents

<sup>5</sup> People Who Are Vulnerable to Climate Change. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. [https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/programs/climatechange/health\\_impacts/vulnerable\\_people/index.cfm](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/programs/climatechange/health_impacts/vulnerable_people/index.cfm)

unemployed (Table 3-3). Shelburne experienced a 2.6% rate of unemployment, slightly lower than the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' rate of 3.0%.

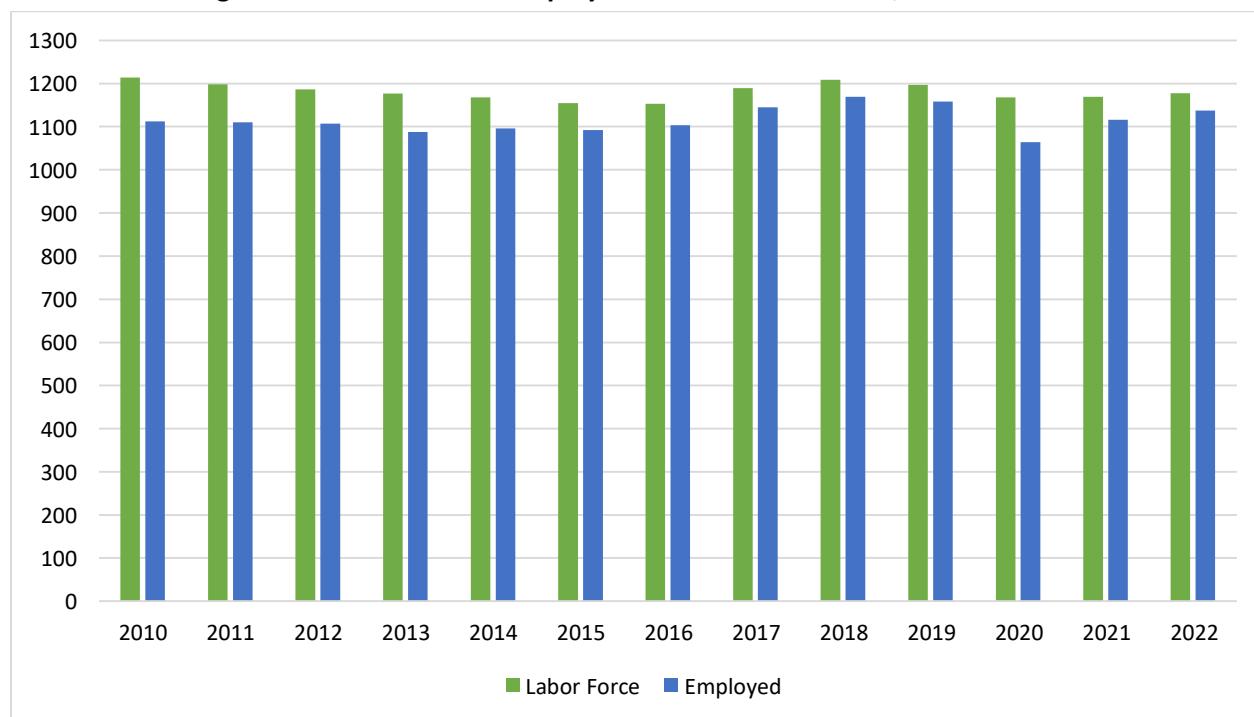
**Table 3: Labor Force and Unemployment Data, Average for 2022**

Geography	Labor Force	Employed Persons	Unemployed Persons	Unemployment Rate
Shelburne	1,178	1,137	41	3.5%
Franklin County	40,138	38,784	1,354	3.4%
Massachusetts	3,743,924	3,603,172	140,752	3.8%

Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, LAUS Data.

As Figure 5 demonstrates, the size of Shelburne's labor force fluctuated slightly between 2010 and 2022, though it has been stable for the past three years. Often increases in the labor force are attributed to recent population growth or changes in labor force characteristics, such as people re-entering the workforce due to economic need. Decreases in the labor force are frequently attributed to population decline or individuals ceasing to be counted in the active workforce due to being discouraged from pursuing active employment, or due to pursuing educational opportunities instead.

**Figure 5: Labor Force and Employed Persons in Shelburne, 2010 to 2022<sup>6</sup>**

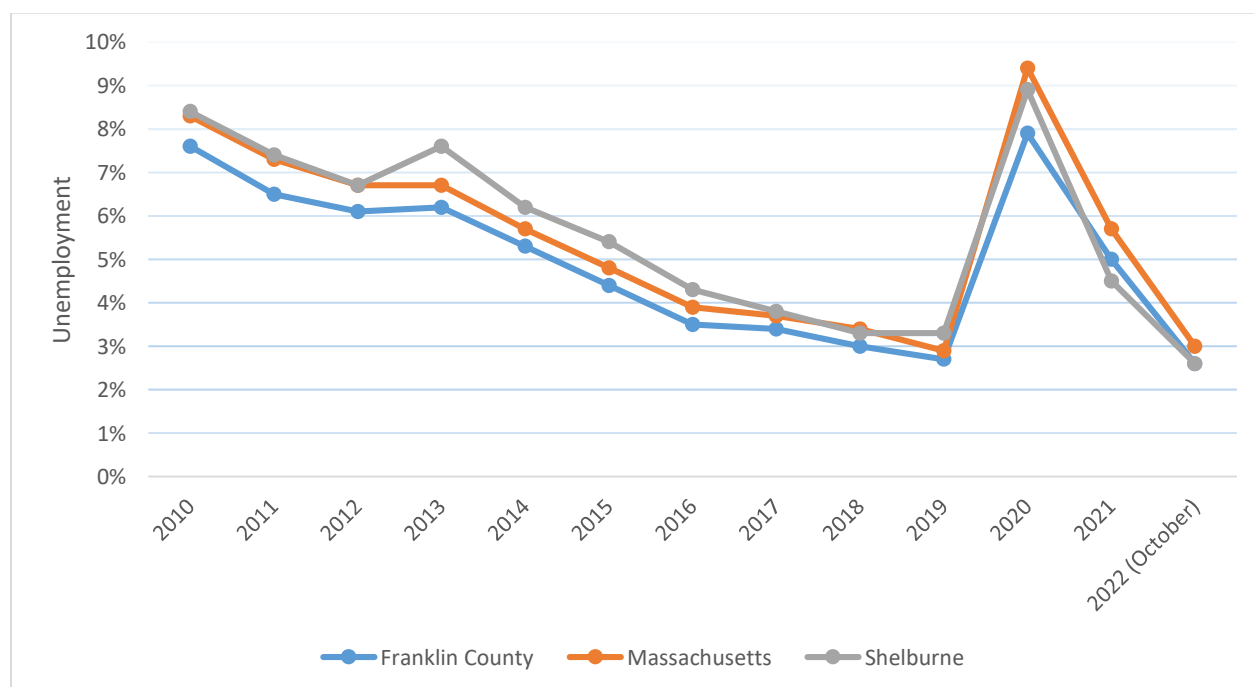


Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, LAUS Data.

<sup>6</sup> Employment data from before 2010 are not shown because the methodology to estimate the labor force size changed in January 2010. Beginning in 2010, Census total population count data are used to develop labor force estimates.

The town experienced the same fluctuations in unemployment as the county and state over the course of the last ten years, demonstrating that Shelburne's labor pool and employment opportunities are influenced by the greater economy (Figure 6). Massachusetts workers faced the highest rates of unemployment in the nation during the Covid-19 pandemic,<sup>7</sup> but in 2022 Shelburne's unemployment rate returned to its pre-pandemic low, ending up slightly lower than the state's rate.

**Figure 6: Unemployment Rates, 2010 – October 2022**



Source: Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Over time, the economic base of Shelburne has shifted away from manufacturing and agriculture. Table 3-4 shows the number of workers and the percentage of total workers in each industry sector for residents of Shelburne in 2021: the largest type of employment for residents is the educational services, health care and social assistance industry, followed by manufacturing, retail trade and professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management. Educational services, health care, and social assistance, and manufacturing are more important industries in Shelburne than in Franklin County as a whole.

<sup>7</sup> Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

**Table 4: Top Industries for Shelburne Residents, 2021**

Industry	Percentage of Total Shelburne	Percentage of Total Franklin County
<b>Total civilian employed population 16 years and over</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>36,176</b>
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	39%	33%
Manufacturing	14%	11%
Retail trade	11%	11%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	8%	8%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	6%	7%
Public administration	5%	4%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	5%	4%
Other services, except public administration	4%	4%
Construction	4%	7%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	2%	2%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	2%	4%
Information	1%	2%
Wholesale trade	0%	2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2017-2021

### 3.3.3.3 Travel to work

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, of Shelburne's workers who travel to work, 91% use a car, truck, or van; 8% walk; 1% use a taxi, motorcycle, or bicycle, and 0% use public transportation. The average commute time in Massachusetts is 30 minutes; 66% of Shelburne's commuters have a commute that is under 30 minutes.<sup>8</sup> One result of the pandemic is that more people are working from home, and the location of an employer is becoming less important than having access to high-speed internet.

### 3.3.4 ANALYSIS

Although Shelburne's population has been relatively stable over the last 40 years, population projections indicate the town may need to accommodate shifting age demographics in the next couple of decades. The median age in Shelburne is 58.7, compared with a state average of under 40, and the percentage of residents over the age of 65 is expected to rise to 35% by 2040. The region recognizes that a declining and aging population presents a major challenge because it affects all aspects of life and the economy.

<sup>8</sup> American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2016-2020, Table B08134.

Shelburne is wealthier than Franklin County on average, but it does have one EJ community based on income level, in the village area (see subsection C.3.1). Shelburne's location near Greenfield and a major transportation corridor, along with its scenic village and proximity to natural areas, gives Shelburne an economic advantage.

The overall character of Shelburne could be affected by a number of other potential changes in the near future. The impacts of climate change could begin to push populations away from the coast, resulting in increased residential development in Shelburne. Diminishing supplies of fossil fuels – and their potential rising costs – may lead Shelburne residents to seek alternate sources of locally produced energy sources, such as wood and solar, which could impact Shelburne's woodlands and open spaces. Potential increases in fossil fuel costs could result in increased costs for shipping foods and other products. This could result in an even greater demand for locally-grown and processed food, potentially helping to ensure economic viability of farmland in Shelburne. The Northern Tier passenger rail study, if continued to implementation, would expand train service from Boston to Greenfield to North Adams. This would result in an easier commute to Boston and eastern Massachusetts, and thus may result in increased population in western Massachusetts. This would have a number of social and economic impacts, including increased residential and commercial development. Planning for growth before it happens will help to protect open space and recreation resources into the future while providing a livable community for people of all ages.

## 3.4 GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

### 3.4.1 PATTERNS AND TRENDS

Although the Deerfield River along the border of present-day Shelburne was at one time important for fishing for Indigenous communities, it is not known to have been an area of settlement at the time the Europeans began to populate the area. When Europeans arrived in the area that is now Shelburne Falls village, permanent settlement began along the Deerfield River on the town's western boundary with Buckland. The village continued to grow throughout the colonial and industrial periods, fueled by manufacturing development in the vicinity of the falls. Even as manufacturing began to decline in 1915, Shelburne Falls village continued to grow in population as the area shifted to a tourism-based economy. Shelburne Falls has maintained itself as the commercial heart of Shelburne until the present day.

Settlement outside of Shelburne Falls village began predominantly east of Shelburne Falls in the area around Hill Cemetery on Old Village Road. Very rich upland soils lent themselves to farming, as forested lands were cleared for agriculture. In the mid-1800s, Shelburne Center, along Greenfield Road (Route 2), became the Town's civic center and today maintains the highest concentration of residential buildings outside of Shelburne Falls village. Today, 13% percent<sup>9</sup> of Shelburne is unforested open space used primarily for agriculture; a higher percentage than many of Shelburne's upland neighbors. Approximately 1,329 acres of farmland are permanently protected by Agricultural Preservation Reservation Restrictions and over 4,690 acres are partially protected under Chapter 61.

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<sup>9</sup> An estimate based on the MassGIS 2016 Land Cover/Land Use dataset, which shows 12% of Shelburne in pasture/hay and 1% in cultivation.



There are two large areas of contiguous undeveloped forestland: one along the steep slopes of the eastern border with Greenfield, and the other covering the Massaemett Mountain-Patten Hill complex, which lies just east of Shelburne Falls. This area is the largest protected area within town and includes the Mass Audubon High Ledges Wildlife Sanctuary.

Route 2 is the primary road artery through Shelburne, bisecting the town east – west. The Route 2 corridor is now zoned for commercial use. Since the promotion of Route 2 as an auto-touring route in the early 1900s, much of Route 2 has been commercially developed along its 7.5-mile stretch with a variety of craft, food, and other businesses and services.

Approximately one new home has been built in Shelburne per year on average over the last decade. According to the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program, a total of 15 new single-family homes were built in the 12 years between 2010 and 2022, and one single-family home was converted to a two-family, as shown in Table 3-6. All but one new home was in the Rural Residential/Agricultural zone of town, east of the Shelburne Police Station on Route 2.

**Table 5: New Homes Permitted in Shelburne by Year, 2010-2021**

Year	Single-family	Multi-family	Accessory Apartment	Single to two-family
2010	0	0	0	1
2011	1	0	0	0
2012	2	0	0	0
2013	1	0	0	0
2014	3	0	0	0
2015	1	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	0
2017	1	0	0	0
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	2	0	0	0
2020	2	0	0	0
2021	2	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Source: Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program

The following land cover table is based on a new land cover/land use dataset provided by MassGIS and released in May 2019 (Table 3-7). This statewide dataset contains a combination of land cover mapping from 2016 aerial and satellite imagery, LiDAR, and other data sources. Land use data is derived from standardized assessor parcel information for Massachusetts. This dataset does not conform to the classification schemes or polygon delineation of previous land use data from MassGIS (1951-1999; 2005) so comparisons of land use change over time can't be made using this current data.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <https://docs.digital.mass.gov/dataset/massgis-data-2016-land-coverland-use>

**Table 6: Shelburne 2016 MassGIS Land Cover Data**

Land Use	Acres	%*
Evergreen Forest	6623.99	44%
Deciduous Forest	4566.29	30%
Pasture/Hay	1799.51	12%
Grassland	498.12	3%
Impervious	389.64	3%
Developed Open Space	362.18	2%
Wetland	245.62	2%
Cultivated	210.00	1%
Water	174.19	1%
Scrub/Shrub	76.77	1%
Bare Land	27.01	0%

\*Calculations based on a total of 14,973 acres of land in Shelburne. Source: MassGIS

Nearly 75% of Shelburne is forest or scrub, with an additional 16% as pasture, hay, cultivated crops, and grassland, and 3% wetland and water. Impervious cover and developed open space constitute 5% of Shelburne's land cover. Although residential, commercial, and industrial impervious cover is currently a small fraction of Shelburne's total land area, these uses together constitute 48% of Shelburne's potential land use meaning existing parcels that are currently forested, but also zoned rural residential, could be further divided and converted from forest or farmland.

In 2013, the Town was a founding partner in the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership (now the Woodland Partnership of Northwestern Massachusetts) designed to work on strategies to advance sustainable and productive woodlands, land conservation, and economic development in the region.

Although the change has been gradual, the conversion of forest and agricultural land to building sites for single-family homes has been the dominant land use change in Shelburne over the last century. When thinking about providing quality, affordable housing to the Shelburne community, it is also important to understand the impacts of development, especially large-lot housing development, on livelihoods, the environment, and municipal finances. The more fragmented farmland becomes from development, the more expensive it becomes to farm, based on additional time and fuel costs. In the same way, fragmentation of the landscape affects the viability of forest management operations. When subdivision fragments a block of forest, the resulting parcels associated with single-family homes are often too small to manage individually for forestry purposes. Fragmented forest and unforested open space reduces the habitat available for wildlife and natural plant communities. Finally, the most inefficient method of providing municipal services such as police, fire, sewer, water, waste disposal, and plowing is associated with a fragmented landscape in which residential development is spread sparsely across the town. Therefore, establishing open space zoning bylaws that seek to limit the fragmentation of open spaces would help maintain the consolidation of farmland, preserve larger blocks of forest for wildlife and forestry management, and improve efficiency of public services. One such bylaw that could allow for smaller lot sizes in existing Village Residential (VR) zone should be proposed. A second zoning

bylaw could explicitly state the Town's preference for preserving open space, especially that which is connected to other open spaces, or has been designated as a wildlife corridor, farmland of importance, or contiguous forest.

Use of Shelburne's open space development zoning provision is an important tool for protecting significant natural, cultural, and historic features, but it is important that land conserved under open space development is generally connected to other open space, not fragmented. Shelburne's forest and agricultural land open spaces, its trails and sidewalks, the Bridge of Flowers, and scenic river and mountain views are what help to draw tourists to the town. Protecting these key elements from excessive development are crucial to supporting Shelburne's livability as a community and its tourism economy.

There is additional need for affordable housing in Shelburne. Massachusetts's Affordable Housing Law was enacted with the goal of making at least 10% of every community's housing affordable. In communities with little affordable housing (less than 10% of its year-round housing), developers are able to appeal an adverse local decision. Only 5.2% of Shelburne's year-round housing qualifies as affordable, meaning the Town must maintain a housing production plan and meet other short-term production goals in order to receive one- or two-year exemptions from state appeals.<sup>11</sup> In 2022, the Town approved the Community Preservation Act which will provide additional resources for developing affordable housing, protecting open space and preserving historical structures.

Highland Village, developed for and owned by the town, was merged with the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) in 2022. It has 46 housing units for income-eligible seniors and handicapped residents. Developing more affordable housing in Shelburne for multiple ages would not only benefit the community, but it would also put Shelburne in a better position to determine where affordable housing is developed.

Shelburne completed a Housing Plan in 2018. The plan identified the types of housing that Shelburne considers most desirable and appropriate given its housing needs, current housing mix and natural, scenic, and historic resources include the following:

- Infill housing in the Village Residential and Village Commercial zoning districts that is consistent with the historic development pattern and character;
- Reuse of existing buildings for housing;
- Mixed-use development/housing on the upper floors of commercial buildings in the village;
- Starter home/cottage developments on smaller lot sizes;
- Senior housing options including accessible units, congregate living, and assisted living;
- Accessory apartments or conversion of single-family homes to two-family or multi-family homes; and

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<sup>11</sup> Department of Housing and Community Development (now Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities): Chapter 40B Subsidized Housing Inventory, December 2020.

- Open Space Development which allows for the grouping of homes on part of a development site in order to preserve natural features, prime farmland soils, and open spaces on the rest of the site.

The Town attempted some zoning changes in 2019 to create more infill housing in the village, but these measures were not approved at town meeting. Given the water and sewer infrastructure available in town, revised attempts may be worth pursuing. Allowing denser housing in some areas that have the infrastructure or soil types to support density can spare other areas from development. Additionally, Shelburne's Open Space Development provision in the zoning bylaws are an option for subdivision development. Shelburne could decide to make Open Space Development a requirement for subdivisions.

### 3.4.2 INFRASTRUCTURE

#### 3.4.2.1 Transportation

##### ROADS

Route 2 is the dominant transportation corridor that links Shelburne with towns to the west and Greenfield and Interstate 91 to the east. Route 112 north connects Shelburne with Colrain and communities in Vermont (Route 112 south goes through Buckland). Both routes are state-designated scenic byways. The Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway (Route 2 and Route 2A), was designated a scenic byway in 1953, and is one of the earliest scenic byways in New England. Route 112 was designated as a scenic byway in 2004. Corridor management plans have been completed for both byways, making them eligible for National Scenic Byway funding for various projects along the roadway, including open space protection and recreational facilities. There are no park and ride facilities in Shelburne, however, there is a facility just over the town line on Route 2 in Charlemont

About 10 miles (17 percent) of Shelburne's roads are gravel. The town has a total of 58 miles of State and Town maintained roads.<sup>12</sup>

##### PUBLIC TRANSIT

Shelburne's public transit is limited. The Town is served by the Franklin Regional Transit Authority's (FRTA's) Route 41 that runs between Greenfield and Charlemont, stopping across from the Arms Library in Shelburne Falls on the corner of Main and Bridge Streets. The FRTA has four scheduled weekday trips between Greenfield and Charlemont. FRTA also has weekly demand response door-to-door transit service for seniors and the disabled for a small fee. There is no weekend service of this bus route. For a period of time, Peter Pan bus lines ran a daily service between Springfield, Northampton, North Adams, Williamstown, and Albany NY, however this service was terminated as of October 1, 2018.

##### RAIL

Shelburne has no access to passenger rail. Amtrak passenger rail to destinations north and south is available nearby in Greenfield. Freight rail service on the Buckland side of Shelburne Falls is available

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<sup>12</sup> Massachusetts Department of Transportation, 2017 Road Inventory File.

from Pan Am Rail Systems. This rail line is one of the most important east/west freight rail lines in New England, transporting up to 5 million tons annually of freight between eastern Massachusetts and eastern New York (near Albany).<sup>13</sup>

#### ▪ SIDEWALKS

Shelburne is not a Complete Streets community<sup>14</sup>, and therefore has no prioritized set of goals for making the community more walkable. Residents of Shelburne Falls village regularly walk to destinations in town. Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School, preschool to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, is nestled in the village and there are many staff and students who live on either side of the river who regularly walk or bike to school.

#### ▪ BIKEWAYS

There are no bike paths or signed bikeways in Shelburne. Two Franklin County bikeways run through parts of Shelburne. The Shelburne – Vermont Connector runs north on Route 112 out of Shelburne Falls village. The West County – Greenfield Connector runs from Bardwells Ferry Road to Taylor Road between Conway and Greenfield. Bikeway maps are available online at <https://frcog.org/program-services/transportation-planning/>. Neither of these two routes have end-to-end dedicated bike lanes, so bikes and vehicles must use caution.

For residents who may wish to commute by bicycle into Shelburne Falls or Greenfield, there is no easy and safe route. The back roads are very hilly, and state roads like Routes 112 and 2 leave bicyclists vulnerable if a fast-moving vehicle strays into the breakdown lane.

### 3.4.2.2 Water Supply

Parts of the Town of Shelburne are served by one community public water system, the Shelburne Falls Fire District, which lies in the North River valley of the town of Colrain. The Shelburne Falls Fire District is a Class II-D system serving about 1,975 people via 806 Service connections in Shelburne and the Buckland sides of the Village of Shelburne Falls. The water system is supplied by two wells with a combined capacity of 456 gpm. The Fox Brook Reservoir, located in the Town of Colrain, is available as an emergency source with MassDEP approval. The wells are located between 120 and 165 feet from the banks of the North River. Farmland on the west side of the North River and within the Interim Wellhead Protection Area is protected through the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program. Fox Brook Reservoir has a surface area of approximately 3 acres and a total storage capacity of 12 million gallons. The Shelburne Falls Fire District owns land in Shelburne as part of the recharge area for Fox Brook Reservoir (called a Zone II Recharge Area).

Water is treated prior to entering the distribution system at the water treatment facility located on Call Road in Colrain. Treated water is pumped through a two-mile transmission main, installed in 1912, from

<sup>13</sup> Pan Am Rail Systems was sold to CSX Corporation on November 30, 2020. The sale is still pending as of February 2022.

<sup>14</sup> Complete Streets are streets designed and operated to enable safe use and support mobility for all users. The term is used by the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the federal program is implemented at the state level. For more information, go to MassDOT's website at <https://gis.massdot.state.ma.us/completestreets>.

the treatment facility on Call Road to the Shelburne water storage tank and down to Shelburne Falls on the Shelburne side.

The District has a MassDEP authorized water withdrawal of 0.23 million gallons per day (MGD) while average daily use is around 0.14 MGD. Approximately 61% of the total supply is currently being utilized, with about 0.09 MGD available for future growth. Approximately half of the water consumed was by Buckland residents and businesses and half by Shelburne's. The Shelburne Falls Fire District also serves fifty residents in Colrain.

One of the issues facing the Shelburne Falls Fire District is the protection of the water source. To date, development around the water sources has been moderate, and the municipal public water supply, which is closely monitored, has not suffered from contamination. The Fire District has already acquired some land around the water supplies in Colrain. However, this is an expensive and time-consuming strategy.

The remainder of the Town of Shelburne's population is serviced by private wells.

### **3.4.2.3 Wastewater**

The Shelburne Falls Wastewater District provides municipal sewage treatment to the village of Shelburne Falls which in most cases is coincident with the water system. The plant has a total design capacity to treat 0.25 million gallons of wastewater per day, and currently treats roughly 0.175 million gallons per day<sup>15</sup> (approximately 70 percent of design capacity). Sewage is pumped across the Iron Bridge to the Buckland side, where it is gravity fed to the wastewater treatment plant on Gardner Falls Road. The district is focusing its efforts on reducing inflow and infiltration to lower the number of gallons of groundwater and stormwater treated by the plant. The collection system is over 100 years old, and is therefore susceptible to leakage into the system through old pipes. The Town of Shelburne has applied for and received grants over the last 20 years to replace deteriorating pipes with new piping that will reduce the amount of infiltration into the system.

Other areas of Shelburne are serviced by private septic systems. In areas served by septic systems and wells, typically at least an acre is needed for a single-family home in order to accommodate these systems, depending on how well the soil percolates.

### **3.4.2.4 Internet and Cell Service Communications**

Many parts of Shelburne have cell service, as there are two cell towers on the ridge of Massaemett Mountain above Shelburne Falls village and Route 2, and multiple towers on Great Hill that sits above Greenfield and Deerfield. Shelburne has 100% availability. Most residents have or can choose to receive broadband from Comcast (96%) and the remaining 4% can get their broadband through Colrain's fiber network.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Franklin County Water and Wastewater Study, conducted by Tighe & Bond, published by FRCOG, dated June 2022.

<sup>16</sup> Personal communication with Michael Duffy, Chair of Shelburne's Technology and Cable Advisory Committee, March 2023.



### 3.4.3 ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Shelburne has five zoning districts, which are shown on the **Zoning Map** at the end of Section 3:

- Rural Residential / Agricultural (RA)
- Village Residential (VR)
- Village Commercial (VC)
- Commercial (C)
- Industrial (I)

Zoning bylaws<sup>17</sup> proactively determine land use by regulating the built environment. The zoning of Shelburne Falls and the area of Main Street north of the village is predominantly Village Residential, with two Village Commercial districts bordering the river in the village, one Industrial district bordering the river in the village, and one Industrial district along Main Street/Route 112 north of the village. Outside of Shelburne Falls village and the Main Street Corridor, zoning is primarily Rural Residential/Commercial. The Route 2 corridor is designated Commercial between Shelburne Falls village and the Greenfield line, with the exception of the Shelburne Center area.

In addition to the five districts, Shelburne has a Floodplain Overlay District that regulates development within the 100-year floodplain in town.

Single-family, two-family, and accessory apartments are permitted by right in Shelburne everywhere except in the Industrial District. Multi-family dwellings, mobile home parks, and conversions to multi-family units are allowed by special permit. This means that Shelburne's zoning currently provides for a diversity of housing and also encourages the use of the existing building stock to create new housing. Other residential uses allowed in Shelburne include nursing homes (by special permit) and congregate housing, which is allowed by-right in the Village Commercial and Commercial Districts and by special permit in the Rural Residential/Agricultural and Village Residential Districts.

In addition to regulating housing type, the zoning bylaw regulates the minimum lot size and dimensions needed to build a new structure or establish a new use (Table 3-6). Whether a lot is served by municipal water and sewer is important. If no water or sewer is available, a lot needs to be large enough to safely accommodate a drinking water well and a septic system, typically at least an acre (43,560 feet), depending on soil conditions and the size of the septic system. Shelburne's water and sewer infrastructure is described earlier in this section.

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<sup>17</sup> Shelburne's Zoning Bylaws are linked on the Planning Board's web page at <https://townofshelburne.com/g/48/Planning-Board>.

**Table 7: Shelburne Zoning Dimensional Requirements**

Zoning District	Minimum Lot Area (sq ft)	Minimum Lot Frontage (ft)	Front Yard Setback (ft)	Side Yard Setback (ft)	Rear Yard Setback (ft)	Maximum Height of Buildings (ft)
Rural Residential / Agricultural (RA)	86,000	250	25	20	20	35
Village Residential (VR)	20,000	100	20	10	20	35
Village Commercial (VC)	20,000	100	20	10	20	35
Commercial (C)	86,000	250	30	30	30	35
Industrial (I)	86,000	250	50	30	30	35

Source: Town of Shelburne Zoning Bylaw, June 12, 2021.

Shelburne's minimum lot size in the Rural Residential/Agricultural district is 86,000 sq. ft., or 2 acres. This is on the higher end of the range for Franklin County towns: many communities permit building of single-family homes in 40,000 sq. ft. (~1 acre) and 60,000 sq. ft. (~1.5 acre) lots. While minimum lot requirements are designed to protect health and safety by keeping septic systems and wells adequately distanced, larger minimum lot sizes tend promote sprawl, drive up housing costs, and often increase the cost to taxpayers for municipal services.

The 20,000 sq. ft. minimum lot area for the Village Residential and Village Commercial zones, where public water and sewer are available, is larger than the majority of existing lots in those districts. In 2019, the Shelburne Planning Board proposed a warrant article at the Annual Town Meeting to decrease the minimum lot size and frontage requirements in the Village Residential and Village Commercial zones. That warrant article was rejected. At the 2023 Shelburne Annual Town Meeting, the Planning Board proposed a warrant article to allow smaller lot size and frontage requirements for Town-owned properties to be sold for development as Affordable Housing in all zones *except* Industrial. That warrant article passed in May of 2023, and awaits final approval from the Attorney General's Office.

Shelburne revised its Open Space Development (OSD) bylaw in 2016 to include flexibility in housing types and development design while protecting significant natural resources. OSD is a development option for both Approval Not Required (ANR) development and new subdivisions. OSD is allowed by-right as long as requirements of the bylaw and subdivision regulations (when applicable) are met, including a minimum parcel size of 6 acres and the permanent protection of at least 50% of the parcel as open space. Single-family, two-family, multi-family (up to 4 units), and congregate senior housing are allowed in an OSD. There are no minimum lot or frontage requirements. The total number of dwelling units is determined by dividing the net developable acreage of the parcel by the minimum lot size of the zoning district. Density bonuses, not to exceed 25% of the initial allowable dwelling units, can be obtained for providing a congregate senior housing unit for 6-12 seniors; separate senior housing units (restricted to 55+, with 2 or fewer bedrooms, and handicap accessible); and affordable dwelling units that can be counted toward the Town's Subsidized Housing Inventory.

A number of other specific zoning provisions protect natural and cultural resources in Shelburne. Large scale industrial and commercial facilities are allowed only in the limited industrial zone by special

permit, and are supposed to minimize impacts to the natural environment and existing neighborhood character. No marijuana establishments are allowed by right. All marijuana establishments, where allowed in a district, require a Special Permit. Zoning bylaw provisions also exist that regulate wind energy and large-scale ground-mounted solar-electric generating installations (1-20 acres).

Subdivision regulations control how land is divided up and the road that serves subdivided land. Shelburne's regulations require conformity to a Development Guidelines and Low Impact Development (LID) Site Planning and Design checklist and asks for due regard to be shown for natural and cultural features.

Design guidelines are advisory design parameters aimed at preserving the desired character of existing neighborhoods. The Shelburne Falls Design Guidelines promote the protection of historic character and distinctive architectural features for the village.

These land use controls direct commercial and industrial development to appropriate areas of Shelburne, protect some critical water resources, and provide options to minimize the negative effects of development on the character of the town. Nonetheless, because such a large percentage of the town is located in the Rural Residential / Agricultural district, this is where further residential development is likely to occur. This district includes most of the farmland and forestland that defines Shelburne's rural/agricultural character. Without a concerted effort to direct development to appropriate locations and protect critical resources, ecologically and culturally significant land may be developed.

#### **3.4.3.1 Zoning and Trail Development in Shelburne**

Section 4.3 of Shelburne's Zoning Bylaw, the Table of Use Restrictions, contains an unusual provision that requires any "municipal or non-profit trail" to go through the special permit process with the Zoning Board of Appeals. A Municipal or Non-Profit Trail is defined in the bylaw as "any trail, walkway or pathway open to the general public and intended for nonmotorized, except mobility assisting devices used by handicapped persons, recreational use. Such trails shall have barriers at the start and finish, and shall be designed to avoid private lands and return users to public ways. The Trail shall have appropriate signage indicating the beginning and ending of the Trail and directing users away from private lands near the Trail." This provision in the zoning bylaws makes it more difficult to make trails on town or nonprofit land. The community survey done as part of this OSRP update showed a high degree of interest in more trails among residents in town. Hiking is one of the most popular activities that survey respondents participate in: 77% of survey respondents reported that someone in their household hikes in or near Shelburne. The Shelburne Planning Board intends to discuss this bylaw provision at upcoming meetings to look at possible changes it can propose at the next Annual Town Meeting (in 2024).

### **3.5 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

Since the last update to the Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Town has completed land surveys for a River Trail on town-owned land, developed the Wooded Loop Trail system on privately owned land, has cleared invasive plants on some trails, has published a brochure of town trails and walking routes, has received grants from the Woodland Partnership, and has led guided hikes on trails.

In 2022, Shelburne passed the Community Preservation Act (CPA). In the near future, Shelburne will have a source of funding for open space, recreation, historic preservation, and community housing projects. This Open Space and Recreation Plan can provide the foundation for project ideas that will be implemented with CPA money.

With a state-wide emphasis on providing more housing, it will be important for residents to carefully plan where that might happen, without impacting large forest and agricultural properties that have defined the town since its inception.

Future oriented planning in Shelburne should assess ways to protect land, encourage development in a targeted manner, and make the town's current recreational resources and open spaces accessible to the public. As demonstrated in the Community Survey completed in January 2023, Shelburne residents enjoy walking and hiking in the area and want increased access to the Deerfield River and adjacent land deeded to the town by Lillian Davenport for recreational purposes. Continuing to develop these connections such as completing the Mohican-Mohawk Trail system through thoughtful land conservation, trail enhancements, and wayfinding will promote a hikeable Shelburne. Bike lanes and trails, as well as increased access to the Deerfield River are unmet needs that should be considered as future projects.



# Town of Shelburne

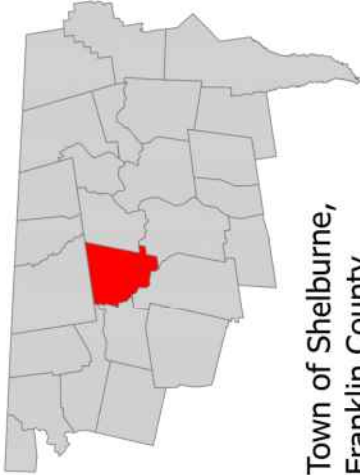
## Open Space & Recreation Plan

### 2024

### Context Map

- Forest\*
- Water
- Stream/River
- Interstate
- State Route
- Road
- Transmission Line
- Building Structure

\*National Land Cover Database (NLCD) 2018 provided by USGS  
<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/eros/science/national-land-cover-database>



Sources: Map produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department. GIS data sources include MassDOT, MassGIS and FRCOG. Depicted boundaries are approximate and are intended for planning purposes only, not to be used for survey.



Franklin Regional  
Council of Governments





# Town of Shelburne

## Open Space & Recreation Plan 2024

### Environmental Justice

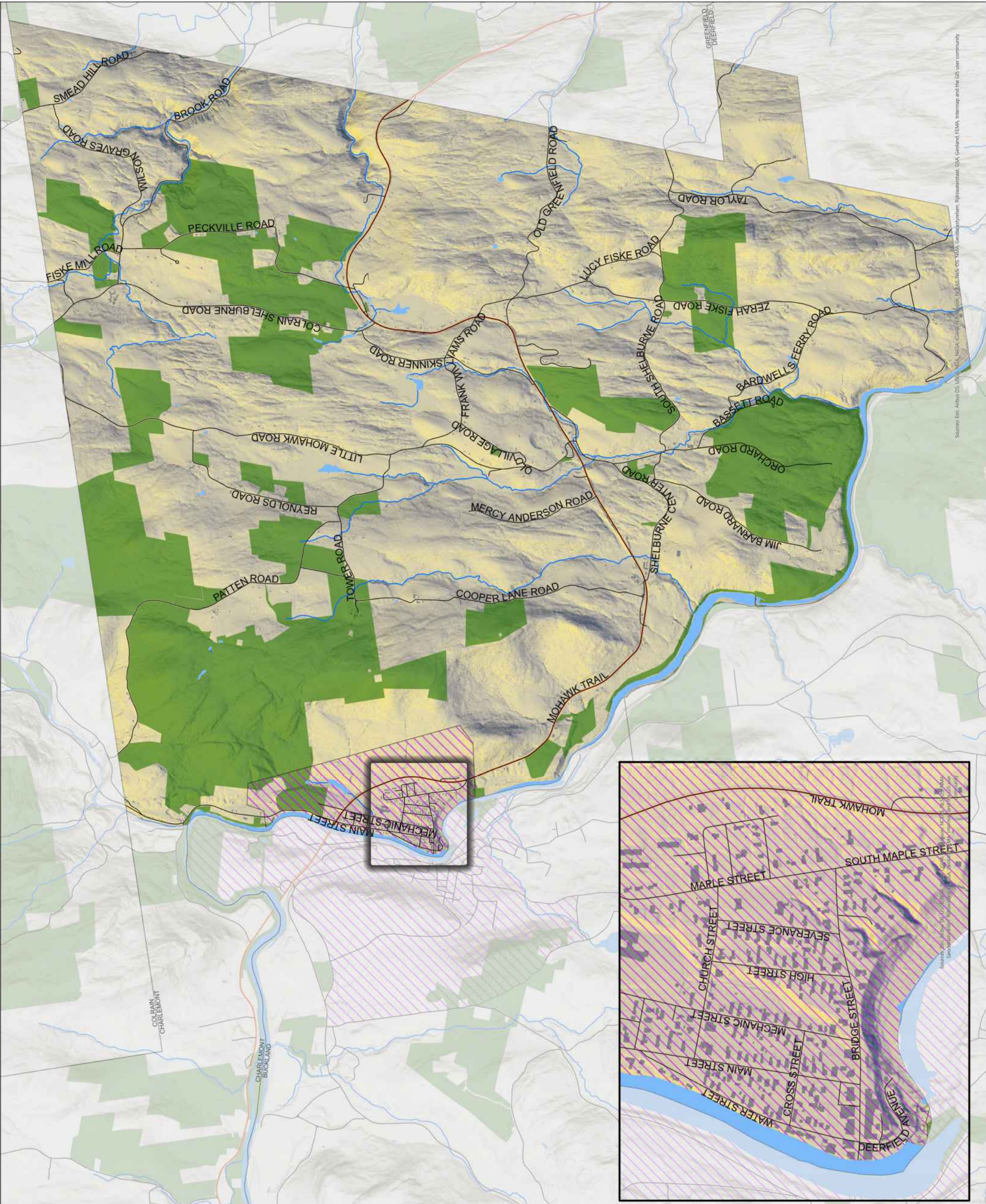
- Permanently Protected Open Space
- ▨ Environmental Justice  
Population - Income



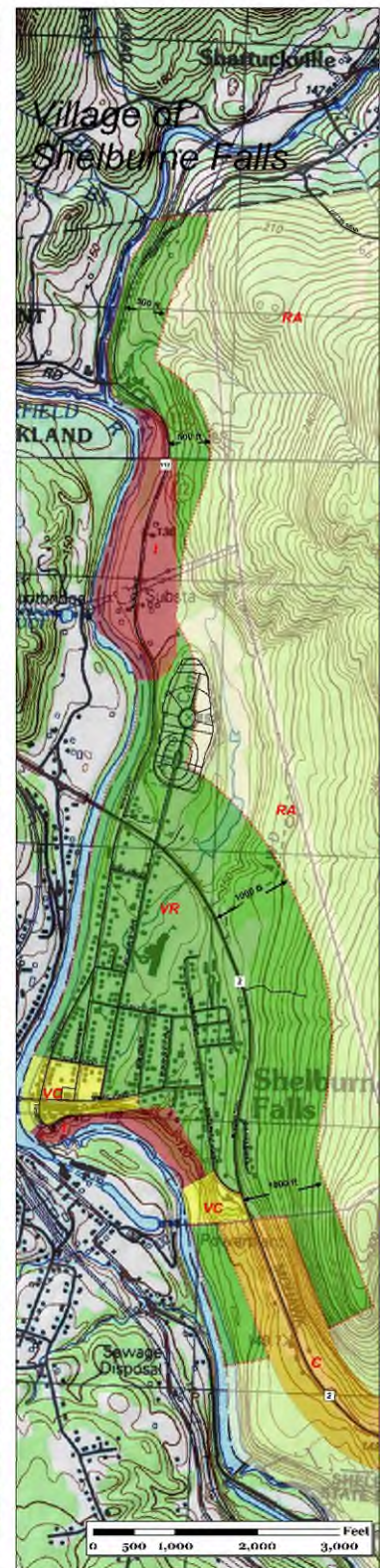
Sources: Map produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department. GIS data sources include MassDOT, MassGIS and FRCOG. Depicted boundaries are approximate and are intended for planning purposes only, not to be used for survey.



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*Deerfield River (Jim Perry)*

## 4 Environmental Inventory and Analysis

This section of the Open Space and Recreation Plan provides a comprehensive inventory of Shelburne's significant natural and cultural resources. The inventory identifies and qualifies geology and soils, special landscape features, water resources, vegetation, fisheries and wildlife, scenic resources and unique environments and scenic landscapes. Finally, environmental challenges in town are described. The Environmental Inventory and Analysis provides the Town with information about existing natural and cultural resources and its relationship to people that is important to understand in order to make informed land use decisions that affect the Town's natural and open areas.

### 4.1 GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND TOPOGRAPHY

Good decisions on open space and recreation planning take into consideration the inherent suitability of a site for different uses. Topography, geology, and soils are essential in determining potential sites for future residential, commercial and industrial development as well as for new parks, hiking trails, and open space.

#### 4.1.1 GEOLOGY

The region around Shelburne as we know it today is the result of millions of years of geologic history: continents moving and colliding, great upheavals of the earth's crust and volcanic activity, and the sculpting power of moving water, ice and wind. This distinctive physical base has determined the distribution of the town's water bodies, its soils and vegetation and its settlement patterns, both prior to and since colonial times.

As continents moved, the pressure of mountain building folded the earth, created faults, and produced the layers of metamorphosed rock typically found in New England. Collision stress melted large areas of rock, which cooled and hardened into the granites that are found in some of the hill towns in Massachusetts today. Preceding the collisions, lines of volcanoes formed, and Franklin County (including Shelburne) shows evidence of this in bands of dark rock, called schist, that metamorphosed from lava flows and volcanic ash, formed 350-500 million years ago.

Approximately two million years ago, accumulated snow and ice in glaciers to the far north began advancing under their own weight. A series of glaciations, or “ice ages,” followed, eroding mountains and displacing huge amounts of rock and sediment. The final advance, known as the Wisconsin Glacial Period, completely covered New England before it began to recede about 13,000 years ago, and left the landforms that are in place today. The areas of Shelburne approximately upland of Route 2 represent sculpted areas of former volcanoes and mountains.

As the glacier receded as it melted, it picked up, mixed, disintegrated, transported and deposited material in its retreat. Material deposited by the ice is known as *glacial till*. Material transported by water, separated by size and deposited in layers is called *stratified drift*. These areas are well drained and are often the location of groundwater aquifers. The glacier left gravel and sand deposits in the lowlands and along stream terraces.

Glacial melting also led to the formation of a large, linear lake around the present Connecticut River, called Lake Hitchcock. In Shelburne at approximately the location of the State Police Barracks and Wilcox Hollow, the land level at Route 2 is about 430 feet above sea level and represents the level of the Deerfield River’s delta complex built into Lake Hitchcock. After Lake Hitchcock drained 14,000 years ago, the Deerfield River started to erode through the delta deposits.<sup>18</sup> The parts of Shelburne that lie between this level and the present river level represent floodplain materials.

The Shelburne Falls potholes are river-cut features that formed as the Deerfield River eroded its channel, exposing gneiss. The gneiss is former magma chamber granite that has been metamorphosed, folded, uplifted and eroded.<sup>19</sup> Contrary to local lore, the potholes were not formed by glaciers.

#### 4.1.2 SOILS

Soils have the following five basic characteristics that make them appropriate or inappropriate for different land uses:

- their depth to bedrock;
- the speed at which they allow water to percolate into the ground;
- their slope;
- the amount of surface water that exists in the area;
- and the amount of boulders and stones present on the surface and just below.

<sup>18</sup> Personal communication between Tamsin Flanders (FRCOG staff) and Richard Little (Professor Emeritus at Greenfield Community College) dated April 7, 2023.

<sup>19</sup> Little, Richard D. “Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents: The Geology of the Connecticut River Valley,” 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2003. Published by Earth View, LLC, Easthampton, MA.

Soils are classified and grouped into associations that are commonly found together. The soils of Shelburne are predominantly of the Westminster-Colrain-Buckland association. These soils are generally well-drained and range from fine sandy loams to rocky loams, and are found in the rolling to steep hills and narrow valleys in town. Minor soils in this association are the well-drained Shelburne soils and the poorly drained Cabot soils. The Westminster-Colrain-Buckland soils support dairy farming and apple orchards, as well as the production of maple syrup.

As Shelburne plans for the long-term use of its land, residents can ask:

- Which soils constrain development given current technologies?
- Which soils are particularly suited for recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat? and
- Which soils are best for agriculture?

The answers to these questions help lay a foundation for open space and recreation planning in Shelburne. The following sub-section provides a description of the soils in Shelburne based on their impact on drinking water issues, wastewater issues, recreation opportunities, erosion, wildlife habitat, and agriculture.

#### **4.1.2.1 Soils Constraining Development Given Current Technologies**

The Westminster soils are found on the moderate to steep slopes in Shelburne. They consist of well-drained, shallow, rocky loams, which developed in deposits of glacial material. Depth to bedrock is generally eighteen inches, but can range from bare outcrop to a depth of more than two feet in some places. The Colrain soils can be found on gently sloping to very steep slopes, but are limited in use due to their extreme stoniness. They are well-drained soils that formed in glacial deposits. The Colrain soils have a moderate to high moisture holding capacity. The Buckland soils, which formed in compact glacial deposits, are found in nearly level to moderately steep slopes. They consist of moderately well drained fine sandy loams and have a hard layer at a depth of approximately twenty inches. Although water passes through the surface layer and subsoil of the Buckland soils somewhat readily except when saturated, they are considered wet as water moves slowly through the dense substratum.

In general, wet and shallow soils do not provide for adequate filtration of wastewater pollutants associated with private septic systems, and rarely meet the percolation standards of the Title V regulations. Shallow soils are often associated with steep slopes or hilltops while wet soils are often found along floodplains and wetland systems.

#### **4.1.2.2 Soils Suited for Recreational Activities and/or Wildlife Habitat and Woodlands**

Outside of flat areas for sports fields, the soils best suited for rural recreational purposes are the same as those that provide upland wildlife habitat. Different recreational uses are constrained by different soil and topographical characteristics. Sports fields require well-drained soils and level topography, whereas lands with slopes greater than 25 percent are attractive to mountain biking and hiking enthusiasts.

Erodibility of soils has important implications for the impact of recreational uses. Erodible soils include those that are shallow, wet, sandy, or sloped, or those with a combination of these characteristics.

Unless trails are constructed correctly and there is provision to adequately maintain them in the future; hikers, mountain bikers and ATVs can create and exacerbate erosion on steep slopes and in sandy soils.

There is a positive correlation between soils that support wildlife habitat and soils that present the most constraints to development. These soils include the extremely rocky loam type soils of the Westminster and Colrain series found on moderate to steep slopes.

#### 4.1.2.3 Soils Suitable for Agriculture

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is responsible for classification of soils according to their suitability for agriculture. NRCS maintains detailed information on soils and maps of where they are located.

##### **What is Prime Farmland?**

According to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Prime Farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and that is available for these uses. It has the combination of soil properties, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops in an economic manner if managed with acceptable farming methods.

In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, an acceptable level of acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable content of salt or sodium, and few or no rocks. Its soils are permeable to water and air. Prime farmland is not excessively eroded or saturated with water for long periods of time, and it either does not flood frequently during the growing season or is protected from flooding.

Information on soils presented in this plan is based on 1967 USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) paper mapping for Franklin County. New digital soils data was recently released by NRCS and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments is currently working to integrate it into their database for Franklin County. This 1967 information is useful as a general indicator of town-wide soils. Especially under forest cover, however, mapped soil type over large areas can have inclusions of other types too small to differentiate. Therefore, mapped soils data are inaccurate indicators of potential development limitations.

Designated farmland soils are comprised of three classes of soils that have been identified by the NRCS:

- Prime Farmland
- Unique Farmland, and
- Farmland of statewide or local importance.

These soil classes have been identified as contributing to the agricultural productivity of the country and should be protected from conversion to non-agricultural uses. Unique farmland is defined as “land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high value food and fiber crops,” with such crops defined by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Farmland of statewide or local importance is defined as “farmland, other than prime or unique farmland, that is of statewide or local importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, or oilseed crops.” Only soils with the Prime Farmland designation are shown on the maps for this Open Space and Recreation Plan. This data was hand digitized from the 1967 NRCS mapping.

Agricultural soils are a finite resource. If the soil is removed, or the land is converted to another use, the capacity for food and fiber production is lost. Prime farmland soils have contributed to the town's economic stability throughout its history. The more common soils that constitute these prime agricultural lands include the Colrain, Buckland, and Shelburne soils. The Colrain soils are deep and well-drained, and are found in gently sloping to moderately steep areas. The Buckland soils are moderately well-drained, fine sandy loams found in nearly level to moderately steep slopes. Shelburne soils are well-drained stony loams found in gently sloping to steep areas. In Shelburne, prime farmland soils are located throughout the town where slopes are not too steep.

The characteristics that make prime farmland soils suitable for agricultural also make them easy to develop. Large tracts of level, well-drained farmland are attractive to developers because the cost of installing roads and other infrastructure is relatively low. Residents interested in helping to conserve the town's agricultural landscapes should consider all farmland soils to be rare, valuable, and vulnerable to development.

At the end of Section 4, please also refer to the **Soils Map**.

#### 4.1.3 TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of the Town of Shelburne consists of steep and rolling hills, high elevation plateau, open fields, numerous streams, and the Deerfield River, which forms the town's western boundary. The Deerfield River enters Shelburne in the northwestern corner of the town and flows southeastward to its eventual confluence with the Connecticut River in the town of Deerfield. Shelburne's highest point is Massaemett Mountain, at 1,588 feet, located in the western section of town.

### 4.2 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Shelburne's landscape distinguishes it from surrounding communities. The town is one of steep forested hills, open hilltop views, agricultural fields, large active farms, numerous streams, and abundant wildlife. The Deerfield River, which flows southeastward, forms the town's western boundary. To the east of the Deerfield River lies a long, broad ridge line, Massaemett Mountain, with an elevation of 1,588 ft. The ridge extends approximately from Route 2 to Patten Hill. The Patten Hill area, also of significant elevation, is home to many agricultural landscapes including pastures, orchards and cultivated fields. Patten Hill offers magnificent distant views to the north and northeast. Many of the other agricultural lands can be found in the eastern two-thirds of the town and within the floodplains of its streams. The town has two villages, Shelburne Falls located along the Deerfield River and Shelburne Center, located south of the Mohawk Trail. Shelburne Falls is comprised of a mix of residential, business and commercial development within a compact village landscape. The village of Shelburne Falls spans the Deerfield River and joins the towns of Buckland and Shelburne, linked by the Iron Bridge and the iconic Bridge of Flowers. The Town of Shelburne also has a considerable number of retail and service businesses within its commercially zoned area along Route 2, a transportation corridor, which bisects the town. The views from Bardwells Ferry Road from Shelburne Center to Bardwells Ferry Bridge encompass both intimate glimpses of farm life and vast long-range views of rolling hills and tree-crested hill tops.



### 4.2.1. DOCUMENTING AND MAPPING ECOSYSTEMS

Just as the town of Shelburne contains multiple and varied ecosystems, the state of Massachusetts, while relatively small, has many diverse ecosystems and habitats. Documentation and mapping of such ecosystems and habitats – and their contributions to biodiversity and climate change resilience – can be a first step toward protecting and preserving these resources.

Shelburne Town officials and residents can use this Open Space and Recreation Plan as a reference tool when making land use decisions. Ideally, land conservation projects will help protect the town’s scenic value and natural resources in the face of potential development, changes in land use, and climate change impacts, while recognizing that people need places to live, learn, work and play. Development—when sited in unsettled areas rather than as infill—can require infrastructure such as roads, power, water, and wastewater systems. These collective needs, in turn, depend upon and affect critical natural systems.

Proactive conservation decisions based on a scientific assessment of conservation value can maximize the value of limited resources. On the statewide level, mapping Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscapes helps to guide strategic conservation to protect those areas that are most critical to the long-term survival and persistence of rare and other native species and their related habitats and ecosystems. On the local level, Shelburne can use this information to better understand where the Town’s ecosystems and habitats fit into the bigger picture. For example, a seemingly insignificant parcel of land could be a key link to two larger, intact ecosystems. Mapping ecosystems and prioritizing areas for land protection is a useful strategy for Shelburne which may have the opportunity to acquire key parcels under the right of first refusal provision of the Chapter 61 Programs (see Section 5 for more information on this program). Shelburne has a policy in place outlining how the Town processes the transfer of a property under the Chapters.<sup>20</sup>

The University of Massachusetts’s Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment manages a clearinghouse of land conservation information sources and tools developed by a variety of organizations that are available to guide the decision making of Massachusetts land conservation practitioners. The “Land Conservation Tools” website links to commonly used tools such as BioMap, Audubon’s Mapping and Prioritizing Parcels for Resilience, and The Nature Conservancy’s Resilient and Connected Landscapes, among others, that help decision-makers identify important criteria for prioritization and filter open space parcels through those criteria. The clearinghouse can be found at <https://ag.umass.edu/resources/land-conservation-tools>.

For the purposes of identifying areas in Shelburne that could be considered for protection during the Open Space & Recreation planning process, a brief analysis was conducted using data from BioMap and

#### About BioMap

BioMap combines NHESP’s 40-plus years of rare species and natural community documentation records with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). It also integrates The Nature Conservancy’s assessment of ecosystem and habitat connections across the State and incorporates ecosystem resilience in the face of anticipated impacts from climate change.

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Chap\\_61\\_Review\\_Procedure.pdf](https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Chap_61_Review_Procedure.pdf)

the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). A summary of findings for each data set follows.

#### 4.2.1.1 BioMap

In 2022, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy launched the newly updated *BioMap: The Future of Conservation in Massachusetts*.<sup>21</sup> This project, produced by the state's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), is a comprehensive biodiversity conservation plan for Massachusetts. BioMap3 attempts to protect the state's biodiversity in the context of projected effects of climate change.

BioMap data focus primarily on state-listed rare species and exemplary natural communities. It was developed to guide strategic biodiversity conservation throughout the state by focusing on land protection and stewardship efforts. Core Habitat areas include the most viable habitat for rare plants and rare animals and exemplary natural communities. Critical Natural Landscapes include buffer areas around the Core Habitats, large undeveloped patches of vegetation, large "roadless" areas, and undeveloped watersheds. The Core Habitat areas were identified, through field surveys, as supporting viable populations of rare plant and animal species while the Critical Natural Landscape areas were determined through analyses using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping programs. BioMap Core Habitat and NHESP Priority Habitats for Rare & Endangered Species are shown on the *Plant & Wildlife Habitat Map*.

NHESP BioMap Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscapes (CNL) in Shelburne can be summarized as follows and are displayed on the *Plant & Wildlife Habitat map* in this section:

- 1,774.4 acres of the land classified as BioMap Core Habitat in Shelburne is protected.
- 2,675.6 acres of the land classified as BioMap Critical Natural Landscape in Shelburne is protected.
- The largest sections of BioMap Core Habitat in Shelburne are located along the entirety of the Deerfield River, with two large patches in the northwestern corner (High Ledges) and the southeastern corner (on Shingle Hill).
- The majority of BioMap Critical Natural Landscape areas are located in overlapping areas of the Core Habitat, along the Deerfield River and its tributaries. BioMap Critical Natural Landscape does not overlap with the two patches mentioned above, however.
- The length of the Deerfield River represents a stretch of Aquatic Core habitat. Smaller patches of Aquatic Core habitat are located in Dragon Brook, Great Brook, and Sluice Brook. Other areas of Aquatic Core habitat overlap with the large section of Core Habitat in the northwestern and southeastern corners of town.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/biomap-the-future-of-conservation-in-massachusetts>

#### 4.2.1.2 NHESP Natural Heritage Atlas

The 15th edition of the NHESP Natural Heritage Atlas (effective August 2021) displays the boundaries of Priority Habitat of Rare Species for the entire Town of Shelburne. A Priority Habitat is an area where plant and animal species that are protected by the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act regulations may occur.<sup>22</sup>

According to the 2021 Atlas, NHESP Priority Habitats in Shelburne are located:

- Along much of the extent of the Deerfield River within town boundaries, along Hinsdale and Dragon Brooks
- In High Ledges Wildlife Sanctuary
- Within and around a pond located in the northern section of town between Little Mohawk and Reynolds Road

These areas are shown on the *Plant & Wildlife Habitat* map.

#### 4.2.1.3 Mass Audubon's Mapping and Prioritizing Parcels for Resilience (MAPPR)

Mass Audubon, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and LandVest, developed MAPPR to allow Massachusetts conservationists to rapidly identify specific parcels that, if protected, could contribute the most to achieving land protection goals. MAPPR compiles the previous work of BioMap (Biomap2) and TNC's Resilient Sites, along with other digital parcel information into one online mapping tool.<sup>23</sup> MAPPR allows land conservationists to identify the parcels within an area of interest that are the highest priorities for protection based on habitat quality, climate change resilience, and other metrics such as parcel size and adjacency to existing protected parcels.

In Shelburne, parcels of land identified as a priority for protection are primarily only temporarily protected with tools such as Chapter 61 (Figure 7). Areas along the Deerfield River in the southwestern corner of Shelburne and along the Dragon and Allen Brooks were identified as a conservation priority. Some are permanently protected, but some are in temporary protection programs. The majority of the parcels identified as a high or medium priority for conservation have a status of temporarily protected, through one of the Chapter 61 programs. Shelburne Town officials could use the MassAudubon MAPPR data to

##### About the NHESP Program

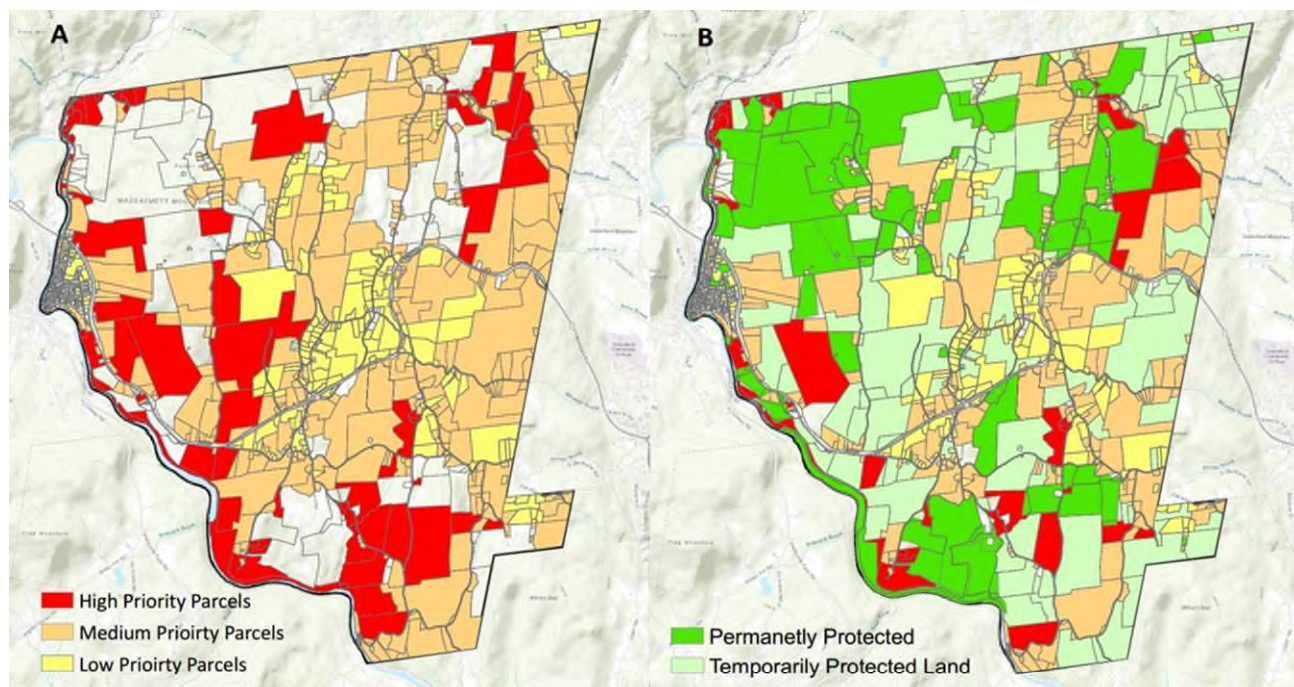
Priority and Estimated Habitats is a program administered by NHESP. Identification and mapping of Priority and Estimated Habitats is based on the known geographical extent of habitat for all state-listed rare or endangered species, both plants and animals, and is codified under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). Habitat alteration within Priority Habitats is subject to regulatory review by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. Priority Habitat maps are used for determining whether or not a

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/regulatory-maps-priority-estimated-habitats>. Accessed on December 2022.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/advocacy/shaping-the-future-of-your-community/current-projects/mappr-project>. Accessed on April 2023.

determine which parcels should be their highest priority for permanently protecting, if one of the parcels is put up for sale.

**Figure 7: A) Parcels of land identified as a priority for protection in Shelburne by the Mass Audubon MAPPR analysis.<sup>24</sup> And B) Permanently and temporarily protected parcels in Shelburne overlaid on MAPPR data.**



Sources: Shelburne Assessor's Office, MassGIS, Mass Audubon.

### 4.3. WATER RESOURCES

Shelburne is rich in water resources, including a river, brooks, streams, vernal pools, wetlands, and aquifers (See the **Water Resources Map** at the end of Section 4). Most of the land in Shelburne drains into the Deerfield River mainstem, which forms the western and southern boundaries of Shelburne, and is an important sub-watershed within the Connecticut River watershed. This section focuses on waters within Shelburne, but it is important to keep in mind that improvement in water quality in the Deerfield River and the other brooks and streams in town have impacts beyond town borders.

#### 4.3.1 WATERSHEDS

As described in Section 3, Shelburne lies entirely within the Deerfield River watershed. The majority of the town lies in the Deerfield River mainstem watershed, and other parts of towns are part of the Green

<sup>24</sup> The "Balanced Model" was used to develop the maps above. The Balanced Model combines the TNC Resilience, UMass Critical Linkages, BioMap2 Core Habitat, BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape, Parcel size, Block size, Adjacent to existing protection, and Under-represented settings values together. They are all equally weighted. More information about each of these sources is available on the MAPPR Project website, linked above.

River and North River watersheds, which are tributaries to the Deerfield River. All three are described in further detail below.

#### 4.3.1.1 Deerfield River Mainstem Watershed

The Deerfield River is a major tributary of the Connecticut River; the Deerfield basin drains approximately 665 square miles of the southern Green Mountains in Vermont and the northern Berkshires in Massachusetts. Three hundred and forty-seven square miles of this land is located in all or part of 20 western Massachusetts towns. From its headwaters at Stratton Mountain in Vermont, the Deerfield River flows southeastward for approximately seventy (70.2) miles through the steep terrain of the Berkshires to its confluence with the Connecticut River. The northern portion of the watershed, from Somerset, Vermont to Route 2 in Charlemont, Massachusetts, is primarily forested and steep, and accounts for approximately 78 percent of the total watershed area. Much of the land along the remaining length of the river, from Charlemont to the confluence with the Connecticut River, is open fields and agricultural land.

Although the Deerfield River watershed is rural and sparsely developed, decades of natural and human-caused disturbances, such as land clearing and channel modification, have made streams and rivers highly unstable and prone to frequent flooding and erosion. Climate change and continued development in the floodplain also contribute to significant stress on the river systems of the watershed.<sup>25</sup>

In 2017 FRCOG released *The Deerfield River Watershed-Based Plan*,<sup>26</sup> which outlines evidence-based recommendations to protect watershed health, restore impaired water bodies, and increase the watershed's resiliency to climate change. This plan focused on ways that towns can become more resilient by working across municipal boundaries to address shared issues and implement mutually beneficial solutions at watershed scale. The plan outlines a wide range of stewardship and management recommendations for public and privately owned forests and agricultural land. Many of these recommendations are relevant to, and in support of goals and action items identified in this OSRP. They include the following recommendations:

- Update and align land use regulations across the 14 watershed towns, with a focus on mapping and managing the river corridor;
- Identify sediment storage, water quality protection and conservation opportunities in the upland areas of the watersheds; and
- Conduct conservation and restoration projects that protect green infrastructure, improve flood resiliency and reduce sediment inputs to streams and rivers.

The plan also outlines specific landscape scale recommendations for conservation and protection of the river corridor and floodplain. These projects could be implemented throughout the Deerfield River

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<sup>25</sup> *A Framework for Resilience: Responding to Climate Change in the Deerfield River Watershed*. Franklin Regional Council of Governments, January 2019.

<sup>26</sup> *A Watershed-Based Plan to Maintain the Health and Improve the Resiliency of the Deerfield River Watershed*, 15-04/319. Franklin Regional Council of Governments. 2017.



watershed and may involve many towns in the watershed and a variety of stakeholders. The projects are designed to engage and educate watershed residents.

#### **4.3.1.2 Green River Watershed**

The Green River Watershed is located in southern Vermont and northwestern Massachusetts. It has a drainage area of 89.9 square miles, which includes portions of Shelburne, Colrain, Leyden, Bernardston and Greenfield, as well as five communities in Vermont. The total length of the Green River is 28.3 miles, 16.3 miles of which are in Massachusetts. The river itself originates in southeastern Vermont on the south side of the Mt. Olga-Hogback Ridge in the town of Marlboro, Vermont. The Green River enters Massachusetts in the town of Colrain and forms the town's eastern border with the town of Leyden. It flows south and east through a steep, narrow valley for much of its length. As it enters the town of Greenfield the gradient lessens and the floodplain widens. The Green River boasts an undeveloped river corridor, in part due to its steep terrain and geologic features. Most roads in the watershed remain unpaved, with minimal riverside development. Most of the watershed is forested, although along the Massachusetts section, agricultural and open land can be found as well. Only as the river and its tributaries reach the town of Greenfield does it begin to flow through some areas of urban development.

The northeast corner of Shelburne is in the Green River watershed, including the Colrain-Shelburne Road, Peckville Road, and Route 2 east of Colrain-Shelburne Rd.

#### **4.3.1.3 North River Watershed**

The North River Watershed is located in northwestern Massachusetts and southern Vermont, draining 94.2 square miles. It is formed by the confluence of the East Branch and the West Branch. Below this confluence, the North River is impounded by a dam that diverts water to the Barnhardt water supply (in 2023, this nonwoven cotton mill has closed). The North River flows south and west, paralleling Route 112. Forests predominate the upland slopes of the watershed while the floodplain areas in the valley are mostly agricultural. Residential and industrial development in the watershed is primarily concentrated within the river floodplain. The floodplain narrows as the North River flows toward its confluence with the Deerfield River, just south of North River Road at the Shelburne, Charlemont and Buckland town lines.

Only a small portion of the North River watershed in Shelburne. This area is located near the Buckland/Charlemont border and along parts of lower Patten Road.

### **4.3.2 SURFACE WATER**

The following inventory describes Shelburne's rivers, streams, and ponds and focuses on water quality issues and the public access and recreational value of these waters. The Massachusetts 2018/2020 Integrated List of Waters prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), the draft 2022 Integrated List (not yet finalized and approved by EPA, but included here because there were new assessments for the Deerfield watershed) and the BioMap Shelburne Town Report, were used as source

documents for all listed surface waters within the Town of Shelburne.<sup>27</sup> Not all water bodies in Shelburne have been assessed by the DEP for water quality impairments.

The Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS) (314 CMR 4) assign all inland and coastal and marine waters to classes according to the intended beneficial uses of those waters.<sup>28</sup> For example Class A waters are designated as the source of public water supplies and, where compatible with this use, should also be suitable for supporting aquatic life, recreational uses such as swimming and boating, and fish consumption. Class B waters are designated for all uses cited above for Class A, except for drinking water supplies. Class C waters are defined but there are no Class C waters in Massachusetts.

Under the Massachusetts SWQS, a coldwater fishery is defined as waters in which the mean of the maximum daily temperature over a seven day period generally does not exceed 68°F (20°C) and, when other ecological factors are favorable (such as habitat), are capable of supporting a year-round population of cold water-dependent aquatic life, such as brook trout.

When water quality is considered impaired by a pollutant, MassDEP is required to prepare a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for that waterbody. A TMDL is the greatest amount of a pollutant that a water body can accept and still meet water quality standards for protecting public health and maintaining the designated beneficial uses of those waters for drinking, swimming, recreation, and fishing. MassDEP has a TMDL program that identifies the steps and technologies needed to reduce the pollutant or source of impairment for each impaired water body in Massachusetts to reduce pollution from both point and nonpoint sources in order to meet water quality standards.<sup>29</sup> No TMDLs have been prepared for any waterbody in the Deerfield River watershed as of early 2023.

Many of Shelburne's surface waters are classified as coldwater fish resources (CFRs) by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife). According to MassWildlife, cold water fish resources are particularly sensitive habitats. Changes in land and water use can reduce the ability of these waters to support trout and other kinds of coldwater fish. Identification of CFRs are based on fish samples collected annually by staff biologists and technicians. MassWildlife updates the list of CFRs in the state on an annual basis and maintains an interactive map online.<sup>30</sup> Conservation commissions, planning boards, land trusts, regional planning agencies, and open space committees can refer to the list and map of CFRs to better inform conservation planning.

Coldwater fish resources are particularly vulnerable to warming temperatures and changing precipitation patterns due to climate change, placing increased importance on protecting these resources today. As temperatures rise, species adapted to cool water temperatures will be increasingly stressed. Tree cover in stream riparian areas and around ponds is particularly important for regulating

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<sup>27</sup> Under the Clean Water Act, each state is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess water quality (305b list) and identify water bodies that are not expected to meet surface water quality standards (303d list). Massachusetts does this through a document that integrates both listings, thus the name "Integrated List of Waters." Water bodies may contain other pollutants, but the Integrated List of Waters only includes the results of evaluations upon which MassDEP has performed some measure of quality control.

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/314-CMR-4-the-massachusetts-surface-water-quality-standards>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/total-maximum-daily-loads-tmdls> . Accessed on April 2023.

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/coldwater-fish-resources>. Accessed on April 2023.



water temperatures. According to MassWildlife’s Climate Action Tool, maintaining a forested buffer of at least 100 feet along a stream is ideal, however, even a narrow strip of trees can provide vital shade for coldwater streams. Landowners can help by maintaining forested buffers or planting trees along open stream banks or allowing these areas to return to forest.

According to Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, all streams and rivers in Shelburne are CFRs and should support coldwater habitat.

MassGIS’s 2016 land cover data for the Town of Shelburne identified 809.45 acres of surface waters covering 5.4% of the surface area of the Town, consisting of a number of rivers and streams. A number of these waterbodies have habitat for rare and endangered species that are affected by nonpoint source pollution and can be protected through good open space management and acquisition of lands where these species exist.

The following table includes listings for waterbodies in the 2018/2020 Integrated List of Waters and the draft 2022 Integrated List. The Integrated List notes that surface waters that have never been assessed do not appear in these tables and are considered Category 3 waters by default. Assessment Unit Categories are defined in the following ways:<sup>31</sup>

Category 1 – “Waters attaining all designated uses”

Category 2 – “Attaining some uses; other uses not assessed”

Category 3 – “No uses assessed”

Category 4a – “All TMDLs are completed”

Category 4b – “Impairment controlled by alternative pollution control requirements”

Category 4c – “Impairment not caused by a pollutant – TMDL not required”

Category 5 – “Waters requiring one or more TMDL(s)” (i.e., the 303(d) List)

Category 5a – “303(d)-listed waters for which Alternative Restoration Plans have been completed”

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<sup>31</sup> Page 19 of the Massachusetts 2018/2020 Integrated List of Waters prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

**Table 8: Assessment Unit Categories for Waterbodies in Shelburne According to the Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters**

Waterbody	AU_ID	Description	2018/2020 Assessment Unit Category	2022 Assessment Unit Category	Impairment
<b>Deerfield River watershed</b>					
Deerfield River	MA33-03	Confluence with North River, Charlemont / Shelburne to confluence with Green River, Greenfield	5	2	Escherichia coli (E. coli) For 2022: new data indicates water quality standard is attained
Dragon Brook	MA33-20	Headwaters, perennial portion north of Patten Rd, Shelburne to confluence with Deerfield River, Shelburne	5	5	Temperature
Great Brook	MA33-54	Headwaters, perennial portion west of Zerah Fiske Rd, Shelburne to confluence with Hawkes Brook Shelburne	--	2	None
Hawkes Brook	MA33-112	Headwaters east of Zerah Fisk Rd, Shelburne to confluence with Dragon Brook, Shelburne	--	2	None
Sheldon Brook	MA33-81	Headwaters, south of Old Albany Rd, Shelburne to confluence with Deerfield River, Deerfield/Greenfield	--	2	None

Waterbody	AU_ID	Description	2018/2020 Assessment Unit Category	2022 Assessment Unit Category	Impairment
Shingle Brook	MA33-22	Headwaters north of Guy Manners Rd, Shelburne to confluence with Deerfield River, Deerfield	--	2	None
Sluice Brook	MA33-83	Headwaters, north of Tower Road, Shelburne to confluence with Deerfield River, Shelburne	--	2	None
<b>Green River watershed</b>					
Allen Brook	MA33-34	Headwaters, east of Shelburne Colrain Rd/Route 2 intersection to confluence with Green River, Greenfield	Not listed	2	None
Hinsdale Brook	MA33-21	Headwaters east of Fiske Mill Rd, Shelburne to confluence with Punch Brook, Greenfield	5	5	E. coli, Temperature (temperature impairment is new in 2022 listing based on new data)
Punch Brook	MA33-100	Headwaters, perennial portion east of Smead Rd, Shelburne to confluence with Green River, Greenfield	--	2	None

Waterbody	AU_ID	Description	2018/2020 Assessment Unit Category	2022 Assessment Unit Category	Impairment
Unnamed tributary	MA33-103	Unnamed tributary to Hinsdale Brook, perennial portion east of Little Mohawk Rd, Shelburne to confluence with Hinsdale Brook, Shelburne	--	2	None
Unnamed tributary	MA33-104	Unnamed tributary to an unnamed tributary to Hinsdale Brook from Shearer Pond Dam, Colrain to confluence with unnamed tributary to Hinsdale Brook, Shelburne	--	2	None
<b>North River watershed</b>					
North River	MA33-06	From confluence of east and west branches of the North River, Colrain to confluence with Deerfield River, Shelburne/Colrain	2	5	Lack of a Coldwater Assemblage, Temperature (pollutants impairments added due to new data/assessment)

#### 4.3.2.1 Deerfield River

According to the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, the Deerfield River from the confluence with the North River to the confluence with the Connecticut River is a Class B warm water body. MassWildlife classifies the Deerfield to be a *coldwater fish resource*, and therefore it is protected

as a coldwater fish resource.<sup>32</sup> Hawkes Brook is listed as a *Class B coldwater waterbody*. No other tributaries to the Deerfield River in Shelburne are specifically listed in Table 8 of 314 CMR 4.06.

As shown above in Table 4-1, most of the streams in the Deerfield watershed are only partially assessed, but are meeting water quality standards. DEP has determined that Dragon Brook not meeting either the temperature or dissolved oxygen (or both) coldwater standards. According to Appendix 9 of the draft 2022 Integrated list, this impairment is due to agricultural practices, including loss of riparian habitat. Reestablishing a forested buffer along the river may help Dragon Brook meet water quality standards for a coldwater fishery. The Deerfield mainstem is currently designated as *impaired* due to bacterial levels. Recent data from the Deerfield River in the vicinity of the town of Deerfield indicates that bacterial counts have dropped, and as a result MassDEP is proposing to eliminate the bacteria impairment for the mainstem Deerfield River.

The Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA) has been monitoring the Deerfield River and several of its tributaries in Massachusetts for water quality periodically since 1990. In 2020, DRWA collected samples at “Sunburn Beach, at the confluence of the North River with the Deerfield River at the border of Charlemont and Shelburne. All four samples had low levels of E. coli bacteria in both wet and dry weather conditions. Currently DRWA does not have any water quality monitoring sites in Shelburne.

#### 4.3.2.2 Green River

The Green River, from the Green River water supply intake (near the covered bridge) to the Greenfield wastewater treatment plant’s former discharge (near the site of the current wastewater treatment plant), is listed in Table 8 of the Surface Water Quality Standards as a Class B Cold Water fishery with a designation of *High Quality Water*.. This reach of the river includes the tributaries that flow through Shelburne on their way to the Green River. Hinsdale Brook, a tributary to the Green River, is listed as a *Class B Cold Water Fishery*.

As shown above in Table 4-1, Hinsdale Brook is considered water quality *impaired* by MassDEP. The impairments are listed as E. coli bacteria and, for the draft 2022 Integrated List, MassDEP is proposing a temperature impairment. Notes in Appendix 9 of the draft 2022 of the Integrated List recommend additional bacteria sampling to determine if the bacteria impairment is still relevant. The temperature impairment was documented in 2012 by MassWildlife fisheries biologists. Improved riparian health and tree shading is recommended for the temperature impairment.

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<sup>32</sup> According to 314 CMR 4.06(1)(d)(7), “Certain waters not designated as cold water in 314 CMR 4.00 may contain habitat that supports a cold water fish population and, in such cases, the cold water fish population and habitat shall be protected and maintained as existing uses. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is responsible for identifying cold water fish populations that meet their protocol, regardless of whether or not the water meets the cold water criteria in 314 CMR 4.00. Where a cold water fish population has been identified by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife as meeting their protocol, but the water has not been documented to meet the cold water criteria in 314 CMR 4.00, the Department will protect the existing cold water fish population and its habitat as an existing use.”

#### 4.3.2.3 North River

The North River is listed in Table 8 of the State Surface Water Quality Standards as a *Class B Cold Water Fishery* from the treatment works discharge in Colrain (Barnhardt factory) to the confluence with the Deerfield River. This segment is proposed to be listed as *impaired* due to temperature and lack of a coldwater assemblage in the draft 2022 Integrated List of Waters based on biological assessment. Appendix 9 recommends targeted attempts to improve riparian health.

#### 4.3.3 FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

Water levels in Shelburne's rivers, streams, and wetlands rise and fall seasonally and during high rainfall events. High water levels are typical in spring, due to snowmelt and ground thaw. This is the period when flood hazards are normally expected. Low water levels occur in summer due to high evaporation and plant uptake (transpiration). At any time, heavy rainfall may create conditions that raise water levels in rivers and streams above bank full stage causing them to overflow adjacent lands.

Flooding along rivers is a natural occurrence. Floods happen when the flow in the river exceeds the carrying capacity of the channel. Some areas along rivers flood every year during the spring, other areas flood during years when spring runoff is especially high, or following severe storm events. The term "floodplain" refers to the land affected by flooding from a storm predicted to occur at a particular interval. For example, the "100-year floodplain," is the area predicted to flood as the result of a very severe storm that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. Similarly, the 500-year floodplain is the area predicted to flood in a catastrophic storm with a 1 in 500 chance of occurring in any year.

The 100- and 500-year floodplains are mapped by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) after study of waterways. The 100-year floodplain is used for regulatory purposes. According to the NFIP maps effective 1980, 100-year floodplains in Shelburne occur along the following waterbodies:

- The entire length of the Deerfield River in Shelburne;
- From Davenport Pond downstream along the unnamed tributary to the Deerfield River;
- A section of Sluice Brook upstream and downstream of Shelburne Center Road.
- Dragon Brook for a segment that runs parallel to the upper section of Mercy Anderson Road;
- Dragon Brook just downstream of Route 2 and Shelburne Center Road to a point on Bardwells Ferry Road near Bassett Road;
- Great Brook upstream and downstream of South Shelburne Road;
- Hawkes Brook from the intersection with Great Brook to Bardwells Ferry Road;
- Shingle Brook for approximately 2,300 ft. upstream of the Deerfield town line;
- Allen Brook in the wetland complex upstream of North-South Road to a point just downstream of that road.
- Hinsdale Brook from the Colrain town line to the brook's intersection with Brook Road; and

- Hinsdale Brook approximately 4,400 ft upstream of the Greenfield town line to the town line.

The 100-year floodplain is shown on the Natural Resources Inventory Map at the end of this section.

If any of the storage hydropower dams upstream on the Deerfield River, including Somerset Dam, Harriman Dam, Sherman Dam, or Bear Swamp Reservoir, were to fail, the Town of Shelburne would be impacted dramatically, including parts of the densely populated village of Shelburne Falls. Shelburne's 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan describes inundation scenarios for dam failures at these upstream locations, as well as a description of the Davenport Dam. See Table 4-3 in the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan for a prioritized action plan that includes steps to prepare for catastrophic flooding events. An update to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain maps are long overdue in Franklin County. Whenever updated maps become available for Shelburne, the hazard mitigation action plan can be finalized.

Flood hazard areas include the rivers, streams and adjacent low-lying areas subject to periodic flooding. These flood-prone areas are classified as 100-year 500-year floodplains. The 100-year floodplain has a one percent chance of being flooded in any given year, while areas in the 500-year floodplain have a .2% chance of being flooded in any given year. Due to the effects of climate change on precipitation patterns, the chances of Shelburne experiencing a 100-year or 500-year flood is higher than previously predicted. The updated FEMA maps will reflect these changes.

The Town of Shelburne's Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021 identifies two streams in Shelburne with the potential to cause localized flooding, including:

- Bardwells Ferry Road at Allen Road - Dragon Brook periodically overruns the road, and does not currently align with existing box culverts.
- Brook Road – Flooding of Hinsdale Brook causes frequent erosion, landslides, slumping, and the road is periodically closed due to these conditions. This is a concern as Brook Road is a designated evacuation route for the northeast section of town.

Shelburne's Hazard Mitigation Plan also recognizes beaver dams as a potential concern in various locations throughout town. The Hazard Mitigation Plan indicates no beaver dams currently pose a threat, and the town has installed beaver deceivers in some locations. They also acknowledge that when a dam is a safety concern, a controlled breach may be needed. Otherwise, beavers provide many ecological benefits at a fraction of the price of contractors, and should be left undisturbed.

The Town's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan fully details past flood events and the extent of the damage incurred. The plan can be referenced here: [https://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Final-Shelburne-2021-HMP\\_compressed.pdf](https://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Final-Shelburne-2021-HMP_compressed.pdf)

#### **4.3.4 RIVER CORRIDOR MAPPING AND MANAGEMENT**

Rivers and streams are dynamic systems in a constant state of change. Fluvial erosion is a natural process of wearing away of soil, vegetation, sediment, and rock through the movement of water in rivers and streams. While erosion is a natural process, the rate of erosion is affected by human



alterations of river channels or adjacent land as well as a changing climate. Some buildings and roads are located close to river banks and areas of active river processes, placing them at risk to erosive forces while at the same time increasing the rate of erosion within the river corridor due to loss of flood storage in the floodplain.

In 2019, FRCOG released *The River Corridor Management Toolkit*, which developed and piloted innovative practices for delineating river corridors using a scientifically defensible mapping protocol. The toolkit outlines two management tools to accompany the mapping: a River Corridor Protection Overlay Zoning District Bylaw and a River Corridor Easement Restriction. The goal of the River Corridor Management Toolkit is to equip communities and landowners with proactive strategies for river restoration and protection, climate resilient land use, and the reduction of harm to land, water, habitat, people and infrastructure caused by increasingly severe and frequent flood events. In Franklin County, the Green River, North River, Sawmill River, Fall River, and South River have mapped river corridors.

Mapping river corridor areas in the Town helps guide planning efforts involving flood resilience and land conservation, which may foster opportunities to meet some of the Town's priority recreational objectives, such as increasing access to waterways.

#### 4.3.5 AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS

The Shelburne Falls Fire and Water District supplies drinking water for residents in the Shelburne Falls village. As described in Section 2, the Water District system has two wells located in Colrain, and there is a surface water reservoir that is a backup supply. There is protected land for the water supply in the northwest corner of town, northeast of High Ledges. Residents outside of the village rely on private wells as their water source. Private systems in town include springs and groundwater wells. Groundwater systems collect water underground in layers of sand and gravel called aquifers. Rain permeating through layers of soil can reach groundwater to replace water within an aquifer.

Ideally, wells are placed to take advantage of aquifers. Shelburne's surficial geology has characteristics that support low yield aquifers. A low-yield aquifer provides between 0 and 50 gallons per minute (gpm). MassGIS data indicates a small area of medium-yield aquifer (50-200 gpm) underlies the village area between Bridge Street and Route 2, and between Mechanic and Severence Streets.

#### 4.3.6 WETLANDS

According to the 2016 MassGIS land use data, 809.45 acres of surface waters covering 5.4% of the surface area of the Town of Shelburne, are classified as wetlands (*see the Water Resources map at the end of this section*). Wetlands are located in the upper Sluice Brook, Dragon Brook, Allen Brook watersheds. The largest wetlands in town are off Little Mohawk Road (part of Dragon Brook watershed) and off Route 2 near Blackmer Insurance (part of Allen Brook watershed). There are no significant ponds or lakes located within Shelburne.

Wetlands are transitional areas where land-based and water-based ecosystems overlap. Inland wetlands are commonly referred to as swamps, marshes and bogs. Technically, wetlands are places

where the water table is at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Sometimes, the term wetland is used to refer to any type of surface water.

Wetlands perform a variety of extremely important ecological functions. Wetlands represent unique and special habitats that help to maintain biological diversity and support approximately 43% of the nation's threatened and endangered species (Kinne, 1999). Inland wetlands provide flood storage and control, pollution filtration, and habitat for fish and wildlife. Wetlands have economic significance related to their ecological functions: it is far more cost-effective to maintain wetlands than build treatment facilities to manage stormwater and purify drinking water, and wetlands are essential to supporting lucrative outdoor recreation industries including hunting, fishing and bird-watching. Since they are commonly recharge zones for groundwater sources, it is important that Shelburne identify and protect its wetlands.

In recognition of the ecological and economic importance of wetlands, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act is designed to protect eight "interests" related to their function: public and private water supply, ground water supply, flood control, storm damage prevention, prevention of pollution, land containing shellfish, fisheries, and wildlife habitat. To this end, the law defines and protects "wetland resource areas," including banks of rivers, lakes, ponds and streams, wetlands bordering the banks, land under rivers, lakes and ponds, land subject to flooding, and "riverfront areas" within 200 feet of any stream that runs all year. Local Conservation Commissions are responsible for administering the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations (310 CMR 10).

The Wetlands Protection Act requires a permit for any alteration of wetland areas or for any landscape disturbance within 100 feet of wetlands bordering a river or stream, or within 100 feet of isolated wetlands larger than one quarter of an acre. Permits are also required for landscape alterations within 200 feet of rivers and perennial streams. The conversion of wetlands is a serious problem with high-priced consequences. Watersheds with degraded or destroyed wetlands experience substantially higher flood peaks. Moreover, wetlands replicated with engineered solutions do not function nearly as well ecologically as undisturbed natural wetland systems, or wetlands created by beavers. The protection of all Shelburne's wetlands is a high priority.<sup>33</sup>

## 4.4 VEGETATION

### 4.4.1 GENERAL INVENTORY

The soils and water resources in Shelburne create ecosystems that support a broad range of types of vegetation. The plants that are a critical component of these ecosystems convert solar energy into food, which supports all animal life. Plants cycle energy through the ecosystem by decaying, by removing carbon from the atmosphere and by shedding oxygen. Plants help moderate temperatures and act as shelter and feeding surfaces for herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores.

<sup>33</sup> See MassDEP's online wetland viewer at <https://maps.massgis.digital.mass.gov/images/dep/omv/wetviewer.htm> or the National Wetlands Inventory at <https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>

Plants and animals together make up *natural communities*, defined as interacting groups of plants and animals that share a common environment and occur together in different places on the landscape. Over the past decade, ecologists and conservationists in Massachusetts have devoted increasing effort to studying and protecting these natural communities, rather than focusing on individual species. This section and the following section will address both natural communities and their component species. Please also refer to the **Plant and Wildlife Habitat Map** at the end of Section 4.

#### 4.4.2 FOREST

Shelburne is fortunate to have forested open space and conservation lands located throughout the Town. Approximately 74% of Shelburne is forested.<sup>34</sup> According to MassGIS, much of Shelburne is considered Prime Forestland, which is based on potential average timber productivity of white pine and red oak.

Forests in Shelburne are classified as Transition Hardwood Forests (USDA; 1992). The Transition Hardwood Forest consists of northern hardwoods such as yellow and paper birch, American beech, and sugar and red maple. On the drier sites, the Hardwood Forest consisting of oaks and hickories can be found, with red oak being the most abundant deciduous species. Hemlock occurs in the moist cool valleys, north and east slopes, and sides of ravines of Shelburne. White pine is characteristic of the well-drained sandy sites. In the understory, it is common to find mountain laurel and northern hardwood species such as beech, hobblebush, and striped maple. These forest types commonly occur up to an elevation of one thousand five hundred feet (1,500 ft.) above sea level in upland central Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire, northward through the Connecticut Valley.

Rich, mesic forests are one type of unusual natural community known to occur in the Town of Shelburne. The rich, mesic forest is nutrient-rich, moderately moist (mesic) variant of the northern hardwood forest. It is found in areas of calcium-rich bedrock and alkaline groundwater. In the Northeast, these forests occur at low to moderate elevations below 2,400 feet and usually on the north or east-facing, concave, middle to lower slopes. Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts only a limited number of rich, mesic forests can be found. Sugar maple and/or basswood are the dominant species of this forest. White ash, yellow birch, bitternut hickory, and sweet birch also occur in small numbers.

##### 4.4.2.1 Forests and Climate Change

The second highest natural resource goal in the *Franklin County 2013 Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD)* is to protect forests. Unfragmented forests, old-growth forests, and forests that support rare and endangered plant and animal species are especially ecologically valuable, especially in the face of accelerating climate change impacts. Forests along rivers and streams are also a priority to protect for their important habitat, water recharge functions, shading, and bank stabilization. The plan lists several potential impacts on forests due to climate change, including decline of maple syrup production, the deterioration of the Eastern hemlock, and the spread of invasive insect species.

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<sup>34</sup> 2016 MassGIS Land Use Land Cover Data

Forests play a critical role in mitigating future climate change. The Massachusetts Attorney General's Energy and Environment Bureau has been promoting that role, stressing that unfragmented forests play a critical role in protecting our climate and our citizen's public health. The Attorney General's office points to recent research funded by the Harvard Forest that illustrates that allowing forests to remain intact increases carbon sequestration and long-term carbon storage in U.S. Forests.<sup>35</sup> The study, *Intact Forests in the United States: Proforestation Mitigates Climate Change and Serves the Greatest Good*, finds that "Intact forests—largely free from human intervention except primarily for trails and hazard removals—are the most carbon-dense and biodiverse terrestrial ecosystems, with additional benefits to society and the economy."

Intact forests sequester and store carbon in tree roots, stems, branches and leaves, and in forest soils. Trees continue to sequester carbon for as long as they live. Young trees can grow quickly but older trees store more carbon. In Massachusetts, it is estimated that forests sequester 14% of the state's gross annual carbon emissions.<sup>36</sup> According to Mass Audubon, "Keeping forest as forest avoids carbon emissions from land use conversion."

Climate change impacts forests in many ways. A longer growing season and increasing temperatures are shifting habitat conditions for trees northward and to higher elevations. Over time, the birch-beech-maple forests typical of New England will decline while oak-hickory forests more typical in areas south of New England will thrive. An expected increase in periods of drought between intense precipitation events may weaken some trees, leaving them more susceptible to insects and diseases, while it may improve conditions for other trees.

Maintaining healthy forests well into the future will necessitate addressing stressors such as human disturbance, logging, and, invasive plant and insect species in an effort to increase forest resiliency. Forest resiliency is the capacity of a forest to respond to a disturbance by resisting damage or stress and recovering quickly. Depending on the forest type, location, history, and surrounding landscape, forests will have varying degrees of vulnerability and resiliency.

The 2016 publication "Increasing Forest Resiliency for an Uncertain Future" by researchers from UMass Amherst, the University of Vermont, and the U.S. Forest Service focuses on addressing the impacts of various stressors on New England's forests and offers recommendations for foresters, conservation groups, landowners, and municipal officials on how to increase forest resiliency in an uncertain future.<sup>37</sup> The main stressors highlighted in the report include forest conversion, invasive plants, invasive insects and disease, over-browsing from deer, and climate change. These stressors interact with one another to increase their negative impacts, making it all the more important to address them as part of a larger whole.

Landowners who manage their forests for carbon storage can sell a product called "carbon offsets" or carbon credits—one credit is equal to the amount of carbon in one metric ton of carbon dioxide. Mass

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2019.00027/full#B58>. Accessed on December 2022.

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/ecological-management/habitat-management/capturing-carbon>. Accessed on December 2022.

<sup>37</sup> *Increasing Forest Resiliency for an Uncertain Future*. Catanzaro, Paul, Anthony D'Amato, and Emily Silver Huff. 2016. <https://masswoods.org/sites/masswoods.net/files/Forest-Resiliency.pdf>. Accessed on December 2022.

Audubon and Massachusetts DCR have put together a publication to help municipalities understand and evaluate whether selling carbon offsets make sense.<sup>38</sup>

#### 4.4.2.2 Street Trees

Street trees are essential infrastructure, and some of the benefits they provide the town and its residents include the following:<sup>39</sup>

- Air quality improvement
- Water quality improvement (including improved stormwater management)
- Cooler air temperatures
- Carbon storage and sequestration
- Building energy conservation
- Noise reduction
- Wildlife habitat
- Social/psychological benefits
- Human health benefit
- Beautification

Public shade trees are located throughout the town, along its roads, and although not legally public shade trees, the trees on town-owned land, in town cemeteries and in Shelburne Falls, have the perception of being “owned” by the citizens. In a Town as heavily forested as Shelburne, preserving public shade trees may seem unnecessary; however, loss of trees along rural roads and in public spaces can significantly change the character of a town. Some methods a town can use to protect shade trees include adopting a Scenic Roads Bylaw, limiting the amount of salt used on roads during the winter, and developing a plan and dedicating funding to the care and replacement of trees in public spaces. Shelburne’s Tree Warden is responsible for the town’s Public Shade Trees. A Public Hearing must be held (except in certain circumstances), pursuant to state law, before any cutting, trimming, or removal of a Public Shade Tree may take place. Many communities have found that a Tree Committee can work effectively with their Tree Wardens to improve the management, maintenance and public support for Public Shade Trees. For example, a Tree Committee could advocate for measures that mitigate the loss of these trees, which are public assets, such as the town requiring the applicant to plant replacement trees in the affected area at the Tree Warden’s direction or requiring the applicant to provide a donation to the Town’s tree planting fund.

When planting additional street streets, it is important to choose native species that are adapted to urban growing conditions. Invasive species have the ability to spread rapidly displacing native species and destroying local ecosystems. Planting native street trees along the Town’s transportation corridors will promote a more pedestrian-friendly environment as well as create wildlife habitat opportunities for songbirds, moths, butterflies and other species.

<sup>38</sup> Freedberg, W. and S. Smith. 2021. Forest Carbon Market Solutions: A Guide for Massachusetts Municipalities. Massachusetts Audubon Society, In

<sup>39</sup> Rick W. Harper, Ext. Assist. Professor-Urban and Community Forestry, UMass, “Realizing the Benefits of our Urban Trees,” *3rd Annual Massachusetts Clean Energy Conference: Helping Communities with Renewables and Efficiency*; 2016. Accessed on December 2022.

In 2018, the Open Space Committee established “A Walking Tour of Shelburne Falls” which included a brochure with “Village Trees of Note” and a map of the tree locations. Each tree has an Identification Tag with information on the type of tree and explaining a bit about that tree species. Walking Tour brochures are available at the Shelburne Falls Visitor Information Center.

#### 4.4.3 AGRICULTURAL LAND

In 2016, agricultural land use in Shelburne comprised 17 percent of the town's total land area, or 2,500 acres, including pasture land, crop land and orchards (MassGIS; 2016). According to MassGIS, there are 1,329 acres of farmland in Shelburne in the Agricultural Preservation Program. Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs) permanently protect 701 acres within Shelburne, with an additional 2,942 acres temporarily protected by the Chapter 61A program (note that this exceeds the amount determined to be in use as agricultural land in 2016). The amount of land currently in use for agriculture has not changed much since the 1980's.

In 2015, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) published the *Franklin County Farm and Food System Project* report. The project summarizes the needs of Franklin County farmers to increase food production, as well as how to make more local food accessible to Franklin County residents, particularly low and moderate-income people. Results of a survey of farmers showed a need for access to more farmland, and that farmland is currently too expensive. The report includes recommendations for increasing farmers' access to land, such as through land matching and leasing as well as by making public-owned land available for farming, where appropriate. Other land recommendations from the report include increasing the amount of farmland under permanent protection, and preventing land from being converted from farming to other uses, in part by offering farmers more technical assistance with farm transition and estate planning. Ensuring that good farmland – and the farm buildings and housing on it – remains available and affordable for farming will help continue to support the growth of this important part of the region's rural economy. These land recommendations are also supportive of open space and recreational planning.

Climate change makes farmland protection even more vital. Locally grown and harvested products allow communities to be more self-sufficient and to contribute to the reduction of pollution and use of fossil fuels associated with industrial agriculture. Purchasing locally grown food and farm products also supports the continued viability of farming and food related jobs in the region, and therefore helps protect farmland from conversion to other uses. Many farmers in Franklin County sell their produce locally, either directly on the farm, through farmers markets and community supported agriculture (CSAs), or through stores that are committed to purchasing from local farms.

#### 4.4.4 WETLAND VEGETATION

Wetland resources present in Shelburne include open waters, rivers and streams, banks, marshes, wet meadows, forested wetlands, swamps, isolated wetlands, and vernal pools. The majority of the wetland vegetation consists of shrub swamp, marshes, meadows and forested wetlands. Wetlands in Shelburne can be seen on the Plant & Wildlife Habitat map.



#### 4.4.5 FLOODPLAIN FORESTS

Because flood flows on the Deerfield River are largely attenuated and eliminated by storage hydropower reservoirs upstream, Shelburne has little to no floodplain forests along the Deerfield River.

#### 4.4.6 RARE, THREATENED, AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has identified 259 native plant species that are protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, and a number of rare plants have been documented in the Town of Shelburne. These plants occur in some of the Priority Habitats identified in the *Documenting and Mapping Ecosystems* section of this chapter. Plants (and animals) listed as *endangered* are at risk of extinction (total disappearance) or extirpation (disappearance of a distinct interbreeding population in a particular area). *Threatened* species are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. *Species of special concern* have been documented to have suffered a decline that could result in their becoming threatened, or occur in very small numbers and/or have very specialized habitat, the loss of which could result in their becoming threatened (NHESP, 2021). Rare plant species in the Town of Shelburne are listed in Table 4-2.

**Table 9: Plant Species in Shelburne Listed as Special Concern, Threatened, or Endangered**

Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status*	Most Recent Observation
<i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i>	Adder's Tongue Fern	T	1980's
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	American Bittersweet	T	2021
<i>Corallorhiza odontorhiza</i>	Autumn Coral-root	SC	2019
<i>Geum fragarioides</i>	Barren Strawberry	SC	2014
<i>Adlumia fungosa</i>	Climbing Fumitory	SC	2014
<i>Goodyera repens</i>	Dwarf Rattlesnake-plantain	E	1996
<i>Equisetum scirpoides</i>	Dwarf Scouring Rush	SC	2019
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Great Laurel	T	2020
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Hairy Beard-tongue	E	1931
<i>Platanthera dilatata</i>	Leafy White Orchid	T	1932
<i>Alnus viridis ssp. crispa</i>	Mountain Alder	SC	2017
<i>Mimulus moschatus</i>	Muskflower	T	2012
<i>Trisetum spicatum</i>	Narrow False Oats	E	2010
<i>Platanthera flava var. herbiola</i>	Pale Green Orchid	T	1921
<i>Clematis occidentalis</i>	Purple Clematis	SC	2012
<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	Round-leaved Shadbush	SC	2011
<i>Symphotrichum tradescantii</i>	Tradescant's Aster	T	2000

\*SC – Special Concern; T - Threatened; E – Endangered.

**Source:** Massachusetts NHESP, Town Species Viewer: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rare-species-viewer> .

Any Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) listed species with a most recent observation date within the past 25 years is considered to be current. Older dates may be species that have not been recently inventoried, or they may be lost from Shelburne as land use has changed and water quality has changed. Fact Sheets describing many of the MESA listed species and their habitats are available from the state’s Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) website.<sup>40</sup>

## 4.5 FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Shelburne’s upland forests, rivers, wetlands, and open farmland provide habitat for a variety of common and rare wildlife species. This section discusses wildlife species and their habitats from the perspective of natural communities, individual species, and patterns of wildlife distribution and movement across the landscape.

Please also refer to the **Plant and Wildlife Habitat Map** at the end of Section 4.

### 4.5.1 GENERAL INVENTORY

The combination of the varied and diverse habitats found in Shelburne help promote the numerous wildlife and fisheries populations that live in the area. Shelburne is home to a vast array of wildlife, both permanent and migratory.

#### 4.5.1.1 Fish

The Deerfield River forms the entirety of the southern and western boundaries (with the exception of less than 0.5 mile in the northwestern corner) of the Town of Shelburne. The lower part of the river is habitat for several anadromous fish species (those that are born in fresh water, migrate to salt water where they mature and then return to freshwater to spawn) including sea lamprey and American shad. Shortnose sturgeon, a federally endangered species, spawn and winter over near the confluence of the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers, and so may make forays into the lower Deerfield. It is unlikely they reach the waters in Shelburne. American eel is a catadromous species, born in the ocean and move to freshwater during their juvenile and adult life stages. Migratory fish species have no means of passing further upstream into Shelburne because of the presence of the Deerfield No. 2 Dam. Resident fish species include walleye, channel catfish, northern pike, small and largemouth bass, and trout. The Deerfield is also the most intensively fished and managed trout fishery in Massachusetts because the river has relatively clean water, is accessible, and there are a variety of fish habitats along its length. MassWildlife stocks the Deerfield River with rainbow and brown trout.

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/list-of-plants>. Accessed on December 2022.

#### 4.5.1.2 Mammals

Shelburne is home to all of the mammals common in western Massachusetts: Eastern cottontail, Eastern chipmunk, gray squirrel, red squirrel, northern flying squirrel, little brown myotis (a bat species), muskrat, long-tail weasel, otter, raccoon, smaller rodents, beaver, porcupine, Virginia opossum, and white-tailed deer, among others. Terrestrial upland species that require large home ranges also frequent Shelburne, including coyote, gray and red fox, fisher, black bear, moose, striped skunk, and bobcat.

#### 4.5.1.3 Birds

According to the popular bird sightings website eBird, 119 species of birds have been identified at the High Ledges Wildlife Sanctuary in Shelburne, owned by MassAudubon. At the Bridge of Flowers, 80 bird species have been identified. At the High Ledges location, the most commonly reported species are the black-capped chickadee, white-throated sparrow, chipping sparrow, red-eyed vireo, and oven bird. At the Bridge of Flowers location, the most commonly reported species are the European starling (non-native), rock pigeon, American goldfinch, chimney swift, and Canada goose. Along the Deerfield River and other open water areas, a number of duck species and belted kingfisher can be found. Common wetland birds are red-wing blackbird and great blue heron. Common birds of prey or scavengers found include numerous hawk and owl species, bald eagle, American kestrel, peregrine falcon, and turkey vulture. Wild turkey are frequently spotted in Shelburne fields and forest. Dozens of other bird species migrate through, nest, or live year-round in Shelburne.

#### 4.5.1.4 Reptiles and Amphibians

Shelburne is home to a number of snake species, including the Eastern garter snake, Eastern ribbon snake, Eastern milk snake, and Northern black racer. Turtles found in Shelburne include wood turtle, Eastern painted turtle, and common snapping turtle. A welcome sign of spring in Shelburne is the sound of Northern spring peepers in wetland areas. Other amphibians common to Shelburne include American toad, bullfrog, wood frog, green frog, leopard frog, red-spotted newt, red-backed salamander, and marbled salamander.

### 4.5.2 RARE, THREATENED, AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SPECIES

The Massachusetts, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has identified 173 species of animals in Massachusetts that are protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). Table 4-3 displays MESA-protected species that have been observed in Shelburne, and that may be found in the NHESP Priority Habitat areas identified in the 15th edition of the Natural Heritage Atlas (effective August 1, 2021). Animals listed as *endangered* are at risk of extinction (total disappearance) or extirpation (disappearance of a distinct interbreeding population in a particular area). *Threatened* species are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. *Species of special concern* have been documented to have suffered a decline that could result in their becoming threatened, or occur in very small numbers and/or have very specialized habitat, the loss of which could result in their becoming threatened (NHESP, 2021).

**Table 10: Animal Species in Shelburne Listed as Special Concern, Threatened, or Endangered**

<b>Taxonomic Group</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>MESA Status</b>	<b>Most Recent Observation</b>
Amphibian	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Jefferson Salamander (complex)	SC	2013
Bird	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Upland Sandpiper	E	1908
Bird	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	E	2001
Bird	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	E	2001
Bird	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	T	2019
Crustacean	<i>Limnadia lenticularis</i>	American Clam Shrimp	SC	1994
Dragonfly/Damselfly	<i>Boyeria grafiana</i>	Ocellated Darner	SC	2004
Dragonfly/Damselfly	<i>Ophiogomphus carolus</i>	Riffle Snaketail	T	2004

T= Threatened, SC = Special Concern; E = Endangered.

Source: Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Rare Species by Town Viewer:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rare-species-viewer>

State-listed rare species and Priority Habitat areas are regulated by the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. Projects resulting in a "take" of state-listed rare species and disturbing two or more acres of Priority Habitat of Rare Species may require the filing of an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) with the State.

Climate change is expected to alter species distributions. As species move to adjust to changing conditions, Federal, state and local agencies and entities involved in land conservation need a way to prioritize strategic land conservation that will conserve the maximum amount of biological diversity despite shifting species distribution patterns.

According to Mass Audubon's *State of the Birds* report, 30% of breeding bird species in Massachusetts are already declining and need conservation action.<sup>41</sup> Climate change will increase stress on many of those species, as well as additional species, and will do so in both predicted and unpredicted ways. For example, increasing temperatures can shift the timing of important events, such as leaf and insect emergence. Those changes in phenology can cause declines in long-distance migrant birds as their arrival on their breeding grounds may miss the periods of peak food abundance. MassAudubon's climate change projections estimate that 43% of the breeding species evaluated as a part of their study are

<sup>41</sup> *State of the Birds*. Mass Audubon, September 2019.

[https://www.massaudubon.org/content/download/21633/304821/file/mass-audubon\\_state-of-the-birds-2017-report.pdf](https://www.massaudubon.org/content/download/21633/304821/file/mass-audubon_state-of-the-birds-2017-report.pdf) . Accessed on December 2022.

highly vulnerable to climate change by the year 2050. Mass Audubon's full report can be found at the link below for projected impacts on specific species.

### 4.5.3 WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Permanently protected wildlife corridors are particularly critical in a landscape that is experiencing development pressure, and need protection to ensure that animals have the ability to travel across vegetated areas between large blocks of habitat. Connections between bodies of water and sub-watersheds are also important for wildlife and fisheries species. Many species of wildlife in Shelburne have home ranges greater than fifty acres in size. Even those species with smaller home ranges move across the landscape between sources of shelter, water, food and mating areas. Some animals, including white-tailed deer and black bear, seek both interior forest habitat and wetland edges where food sources may be more abundant.

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program considers the riparian areas along the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers as critical habitats. These rivers play a dual role for the region's wildlife. Riparian corridors often contain a greater degree of species diversity than any other portion of the landscape. The rivers also serve as important regional migration corridors for anadromous fisheries as well as for mammals like the bobcat that may use the riparian forests to move between habitat areas. River corridors are also major migration routes for many species of migratory birds. The Connecticut River is located in the "Atlantic Flyway" where waterfowl migrate north and south each year. Lands along this route provide direction, nesting and feeding areas for this great migration. Some of the more common animals that use river and stream corridors are beaver, muskrat, raccoon, green heron, kingfish, snapping turtle, and many species of ducks, amphibians, and fish. Floodplain forests also provide sheltered riverside corridors for deer and migratory songbirds.

The forested hills in north and northwest Shelburne contain large blocks of contiguous forestland, and provide interior forest habitats for a variety of birds and mammals. The High Ledges Wildlife Sanctuary and surrounding protected land, contain large contiguous forest patches along steep ridges parallel to the Deerfield River floodplain, which biologists believe are used as travel corridors by wildlife. The forest/field interface and the extensive network of hedgerows provides extensive opportunities for both edge species, predatory activity by birds and mammals, as well as travel lanes from one contiguous forest to another. Large expanses of open farmland are important to species such as the Northern Harrier, turkey vultures, hawks, and flocks of migratory birds.

#### 4.5.3.1 Pollinator Corridors

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a rich diversity of native wild pollinators, including an estimated 380 species of bees and 120 species of butterflies. In recent decades, however, both managed, agricultural pollinators and wild, native pollinators nationwide have been experiencing significant challenges in their ability to survive and flourish. In the 2017 *Massachusetts Pollinator Protection Plan*, The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) identified the need to evaluate, sustain and enhance pollinator populations in the state.<sup>42</sup> This urgent task is not only important to protect biodiversity and natural resources, it is also linked to the climate resiliency and

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/06/zw/pollinator-plan.pdf> . Accessed on December 2022.



sustainability of our local farms and food systems. Local agriculture is important to the character and economy of Shelburne and is a key industry sector of Franklin County.

Waterways, including wetlands, streams, and rivers, are critically important to pollinators. Not only are they home to high concentrations of flowering aquatic plants that feed native specialist and generalist pollinators, waterways are vital corridors that connect entire ecosystems and greater land areas, from uplands to wetlands. Wetland areas typically represent permanently protected open space where human activity is regulated under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131: Wetlands Protection Act (WPA).

In 2021, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments prepared a *Regional Pollinator Action Plan for Franklin County*, the first of its kind in Massachusetts. The plan documents specific actions towns can take to support pollinator habitats, and provides an implementation toolkit for interested town officials or residents hoping to expand pollinator habitat on their property. As a part of the planning process, FRCOG supported eight communities with identifying specific areas that already support pollinator habitat, and areas that could be managed to provide suitable habitat and/or provide linkages to habitats in neighboring towns. In 2021, the FRCOG completed a Pollinator Action Plan for the Town of Shelburne. Copies of the *Regional Pollinator Plan for Franklin County*, the *Regional Pollinator Habitat Corridor Implementation Toolkit*, and the Action Plans for the eight participating communities can be found here: <https://frcog.org/franklin-county-regional-pollinator-plan/>.

#### 4.5.4 VERNAL POOLS

Vernal pools are temporary bodies of freshwater that provide critical habitat for many vertebrate and invertebrate wildlife species. Vernal pools are found across the landscape; anywhere that small woodland depressions, swales or kettle holes collect spring runoff or intercept seasonally high groundwater tables. Certified Vernal Pools (those that meet the criteria established by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program) are protected to some extent by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and are protected by additional state and federal regulations. The Town of Shelburne has four certified vernal pools; all are identified on the *Plant & Wildlife Habitat* map.

Shelburne has the potential to have many more pools certified.<sup>43</sup> Vernal pools that are certified have the added protection of Massachusetts law, providing a 100-foot buffer and preventing alterations provided that the vernal pools fall within wetland resource areas as defined by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

#### 4.5.5 ANALYSIS OF SHELBURNE'S WATER RESOURCES, VEGETATION, AND WILDLIFE

From this inventory of Shelburne's water resources, vegetation, and fisheries and wildlife, it is clear that Shelburne contains a diverse array of natural areas that have been utilized in the development of the community and for the enjoyment of its citizens since the Town's establishment. These resources are

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<sup>43</sup> According to data from MassGIS, there are 24 potential vernal pools within Shelburne's borders. Mapping resources can be accessed at: <https://maps.massgis.digital.mass.gov/MassMapper/MassMapper.html>

also all interconnected, and maintaining the health of all the Town's natural areas will help ensure vegetation and wildlife will continue to thrive.

Plants and animals are both critical, inter-related components of the ecosystem in Shelburne. Plants convert solar energy into food. This food supports all animal life. Plants cycle energy through the ecosystem by decaying, by removing carbon, and by shedding oxygen. Plants help moderate temperatures. Plants act as shelter and as food for herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores. Fields, a maintained stage of human-caused vegetation, are important wildlife habitat for many species.

The information provided throughout this section emphasizes the importance of forests in Shelburne:

- they protect aquifers, shade streams, and provide edge and interior habitats as well as movement corridors and food for wildlife;
- they clean the air and cleanse the water; and
- they can provide materials, food, and medicines to support our human community.

Forests also provide habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that have the potential to disappear with the loss of forestland due to encroaching development, or due to forest succession to the point where a majority of forest land reaches the Climax Forest stage. Forests sequester and store carbon, which is essential to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The greatest threat to forests is the permanent conversion of forest land to development. Habitat is fragmented and migration corridors are broken by the conversion of forest land to buildings, asphalt, noise, people, pets, and traffic.

While old growth timber and reaching the climax forest stage is good for carbon sequestration and certain wildlife species, creating and maintaining a diverse forest can benefit many plant and wildlife species by providing the varying habitat types certain species need during their life cycle.<sup>44</sup> Many wildlife species, in particular, are dependent on a variety of tree, shrub, and forb species; age classes; and size classes. For example, in Massachusetts, there is a profound lack of early successional stage forest land and the habitat it provides for many species of plants and animals. Responsible forest management is the primary tool for restoring and maintaining a variety of habitat types. Therefore, the multiple values of the forest should be considered in land use decisions with a goal of maintaining a variety of habitat types and as much unbroken and interconnected forestland protected from development, as possible.

The common element between wetlands, streams and brooks, ponds, and groundwater wells is obvious; it is water. Keeping that water clean everywhere in Shelburne is critical to residents. The permanent protection of forests from development and invasive species will do much towards ensuring that brooks and streams will continue to be home to a diverse array of plants and animals and that the associated

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<sup>44</sup> See "Increasing Forest Resiliency for an Uncertain Future" by Paul Catanzaro, Anthony D'Amato, and Emily Silver Huff, 2016. Online at <https://masswoods.org/sites/masswoods.net/files/Forest-Resiliency.pdf>.

wetlands will continue to exist to help slow floodwater energy. Shelburne's water bodies also contain special natural communities important to the region's biodiversity and climate resilience.

The spread of invasive plant species is threatening the diversity of Shelburne's plant community. Japanese knotweed, Oriental bittersweet, and multiflora rose are taking over riparian land, forest edge habitat, and to some extent forest land and agricultural fields. Education about spreading invasive species and attempts to pull or kill plants can help minimize the spread.

Warming temperatures and changes in precipitation due to climate change, including heavier precipitation events and more rain in the winter, pose threats to Shelburne's water resources and road infrastructure. Conserving, and in some cases restoring, natural areas is key to maintaining the quantity and quality of Shelburne's water resources and built infrastructure into the future. This may be accomplished through a combination of strategic land conservation and management, resident and landowner education, and revisions to Shelburne's land use regulations appropriate.

The most important areas to protect within Shelburne include those identified on the *Plant & Wildlife Map* as Priority Habitats for Rare & Endangered Species and BioMap Core Habitat. These regions include a broader area than site specific locations where rare, threatened, and wildlife species have been located, as they are a wider habitat area that supports such species. Any major land use activities should include consideration of the identified locations of these species as well as their surrounding habitat that is crucial to support continued survival.

## 4.6 SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

The characteristics that allow a visitor to distinguish Shelburne from other towns in the region may be different than the unique qualities and special places with which residents are familiar. This section identifies the scenic resources and unique environments that most Shelburne residents would agree represent the essence of Shelburne's character. In many ways the history of Shelburne--how people came to settle the land, use its resources, and enjoy its forests, streams, and bodies of water--can be seen in the landscapes that have retained a sense of the past. The unique environments in Shelburne play a very important role in providing residents with a sense of place. Brooks, mountains, wetlands, and villages provide markers on the landscape within which we navigate our lives.

Scenic landscapes often derive their importance from location relative to other landscape features.

Much of Shelburne's landscape is classified as Distinctive or Noteworthy by the Massachusetts Scenic Landscape Inventory report published by the Department of Environmental Management in 1982.<sup>45</sup>

The purpose of inventorying scenic resources and unique natural environments in Shelburne is to provide a basis for setting resource protection priorities. To this end, this section includes information about the different values associated with each scenic resource and natural environment, and indicates

<sup>45</sup> The DEM is now the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The report is available from the Historic Landscape Preservation Initiative program and the mapping is now available from MassGIS. <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/> Contact Wendy Pearl [wendy.pearl@state.ma.us](mailto:wendy.pearl@state.ma.us)

areas where multiple values are represented in one landscape (See Table 11 and the **Scenic Resources & Unique Environments Map** at the end of Section 4). Those landscapes that contain, for example, scenic, wildlife, and cultural values may be given higher priority for protection than a landscape that contains only one value.

**Table 11: Significant Scenic/Historic/Natural Landscapes/Environments in Shelburne**

Scenic Resources and Unique Environments	Description	Ecological Value	Recreational Value	Historical / Cultural Value
<b>Scenic Landscapes</b> <i>Note: This table identifies the scenic resources and unique environments that most Shelburne residents would agree represent the essence of Shelburne's character. While Shelburne's parks and open space are described in Section 5, this table summarizes some of these most notable scenic landscapes, and includes areas not otherwise mentioned in this plan.</i>				
High Ledges	Off of Patten Rd, MA Audubon's High Ledge Sanctuary offers numerous hiking trails and a panoramic view of the Deerfield River Valley and Mt Greylock.	X	X	X
Massaemett Mountain Fire Tower Trail	Begin at the culvert at Rt. 2 and Halligan Avenue, just north of the South Maple Street entrance to Shelburne Falls. The strenuous trail climbs 1.25 miles to the stone fire tower at the top of Massaemett Mountain, which is located within the Shelburne State Forest. The fire tower provides 360 degree scenic views of the surrounding landscape.	X	X	X
The Ridge Trail	Connects Audubon's High Ledges to the Fire Tower and the Fire Tower Trail. Public access allowed on the trail across private property and connects the scenic Shelburne State Forest fire tower with the scenic Audubon property.	X	X	X
Wilcox Hollow	Located off Route 2, Wilcox Hollow, under the management of two power companies and the State DCR, provides recreational access to the Deerfield River for swimming, angling, hiking, and boating, and scenic views of rock, forest, and water.	X	X	X
Mohican-Mohawk Trail	Conveniently accessed from Wilcox Hollow and Franklin Land Trust property off Rt. 2, provides enjoyable hiking with dramatic views of the Deerfield River. Note: access to a continuous trail along the river from Deerfield to Shelburne Falls is constrained by private landowners who limit access to their property along the river.	X	X	X
Shelburne Wooded Loop Trail	Along Old Greenfield Road, this is a privately owned property with three public hiking loops and provides interpretation of forest management practices visible along the hike.	X	X	X

Scenic Resources and Unique Environments	Description	Ecological Value	Recreational Value	Historical / Cultural Value
Shelburne State Forest	Managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and considered to comprise a historical recreation/conservation landscape on the top of Massaemett Mountain.	X	X	X
The Patten	The Patten is an area of Shelburne that contains long loops of connecting paved and dirt roads with spectacular views of mountains and farmland. Many people drive to the corner of Little Mohawk and Reynolds Rd where they park and then walk and ride bikes on these scenic country roads.		X	X
Bardwell's Ferry Bridge	Bardwell's Ferry Bridge and the surrounding area in Shelburne contain scenic views of surrounding farm landscapes as well as the Deerfield River from the historic lenticular truss bridge, and a number of roads in town that provide scenic views of mostly agricultural landscapes.	X	X	X
Wells Forest	55-acre parcel owned by the New England Forestry Foundation off Barnard Road.		X	
Agricultural Landscapes	Many agricultural landscapes are not only some of the most scenic areas in town, they are also considered to be of significant historical value. These significant historical agricultural landscapes are found along the following roads: Cooper Lane, Tower Road, Patten Road, Carpenter Road, Reynolds Road, Bardwell's Ferry Road, Williams Road, Fisk Mill Road, Zerah Fiske Road, Old Greenfield Road, and Peckville Road.		X	X
<b>Archeological, Historic or Cultural Areas</b> <i>Note: A complete list of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places is available at <a href="http://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm">www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm</a></i>				
Shelburne Falls National Historic District	To the north and south of Bridge Street, a historically significant Village Center business district located primarily in Shelburne.		X	X
Bridge of Flowers	Connecting Water St in Shelburne to State St in Buckland, this abandoned trolley bridge was transformed into a very popular garden walkway across the Deerfield River in 1929.		X	X
Salmon Falls	This area is in the same location as the Potholes within the Deerfield River. It was an important indigenous fishing site.	X		X



Scenic Resources and Unique Environments	Description	Ecological Value	Recreational Value	Historical / Cultural Value
<b>Unusual Geologic Features</b>				
Potholes	Holes in the rock below the falls, located in the Deerfield River. Potholes were formed by river flow after the last ice age. The Deerfield No. 3 Dam sits at the top of the falls.			X
<b>Unique Environments</b>				
Deerfield River	Kayaking and canoeing; fishing; swimming; hiking; BioMap3 Core Habitat, Priority Habitat for Rare & Endangered Species.	X	X	X
Prime Agricultural Soils	Prime agricultural soils are located throughout Shelburne.	X		X
Rich, Mesic Forests	The rich, mesic forest is nutrient-rich, moderately moist ( <i>mesic</i> ) variant of the northern hardwood forest. It is found in areas of calcium-rich bedrock and alkaline groundwater. In the Northeast, these forests occur at low to moderate elevations below 2,400 feet and usually on the north or east-facing, concave, middle to lower slopes. Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts only a limited number of rich, mesic forests can be found. Sugar maple ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> ) and/or basswood ( <i>Tilia americana</i> ) are the dominant species of this forest. White ash ( <i>Fraxinus americana</i> ), yellow birch ( <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i> ), bitternut hickory ( <i>Carya cordiformis</i> ), and sweet birch ( <i>B. lenta</i> ) also occur in small numbers. Autumn Coralroot ( <i>Corallorhiza odontorhiza</i> ) and Barren Strawberry ( <i>Waldsteinia fragariodes</i> ) are two species of special concern identified by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) that may be found in this forest type in Shelburne.	X	X	
Riverside Rock Outcrop Community	Riverside Rock Outcrop Communities occur on flood scoured bedrock along rivers. The outcrops may be low or steep on the river's edge, or may extend into the river channel. Vegetation is that of sparse, mostly low and scattered herbaceous vegetation limited to crevices where soil accumulates. In Shelburne, the NHESP has identified two rare plants that utilize this outcrop community. Tradescant's aster ( <i>Symphyodtrichum tradescantii</i> ) is a threatened species and Roundleaf Shadbush ( <i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i> ) is a species of special concern.	X		

## 4.7 ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

An overarching environmental challenge for Shelburne’s community is climate change, as discussed throughout this section. Temperature changes and precipitation changes are anticipated to impact the Town’s water resources, forests, farms, and wildlife in a myriad of ways. In addition to this significant challenge, there are several other environmental challenges identified by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services to address in this Open Space and Recreation Plan. These challenges are described in this section along with efforts that the Town either has already implemented or may want to consider in order to address these issues.

### 4.7.1 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

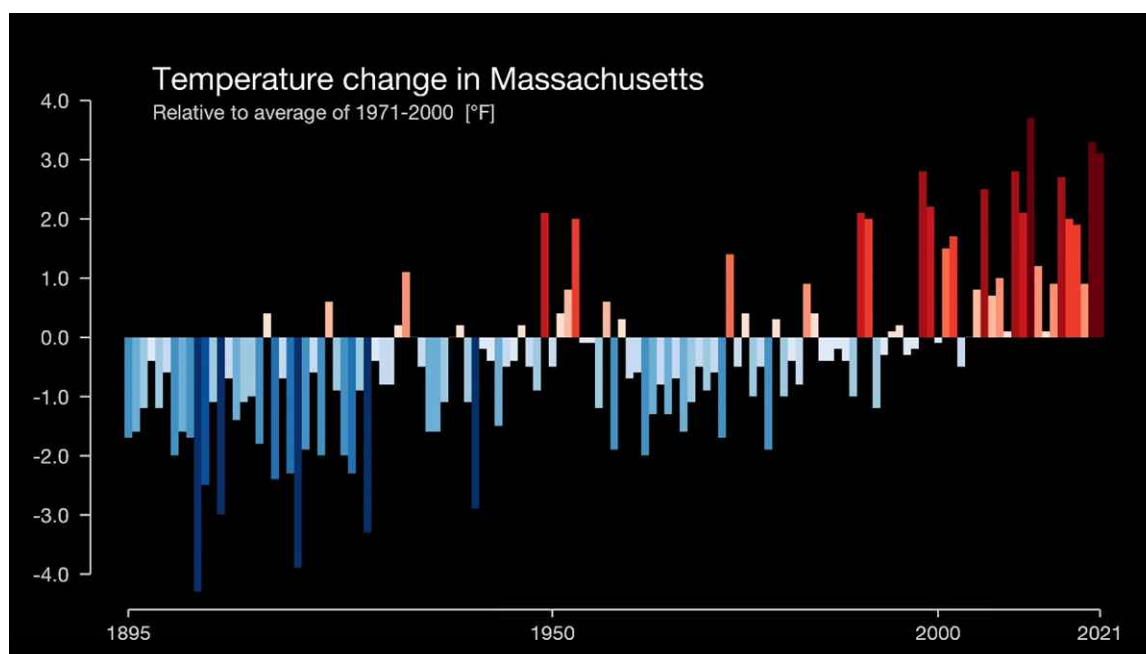
Natural resources, including water, woodlands, wildlife and habitats, as well as urban forests, are being affected by a changing climate in Massachusetts, and will continue to be impacted as temperatures rise and precipitation amounts and intensity change over the coming decades. According to the Massachusetts Wildlife Climate Action Tool, warming is occurring in all seasons, with the greatest changes in winter, at higher latitudes, and potentially at higher elevations.<sup>46</sup> Seasonal warming is extending the growing season, particularly with more frost-free days occurring earlier in spring. Precipitation amounts are increasing, especially in winter. Warmer winters are also resulting in more precipitation falling as rain instead of snow, leading to reduced snowpacks - though stronger blizzards may lead to locally higher snowpacks in Massachusetts and New England. In the summer, heavier downpours combined with longer dry periods are expected, increasing the risk of both droughts and floods.

Natural resources play an important role in mitigating future climate change, but are also vulnerable to its impacts. Local decisions about how natural resources are managed and conserved will play an important role in the ability of people, habitats, and wildlife species to cope with future climate changes. This subsection provides an overview of the two major impacts of climate change for Massachusetts and Shelburne -- changes in temperature and precipitation. More information about specific climate change vulnerabilities due to these impacts as well as adaptation strategies are incorporated into each section of the Environmental Inventory and Analysis.

As this OSRP was being prepared, Shelburne was also going through a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) project. The Summary of Findings of the Community Resilience Building exercise was published in December 2023 and is posted on the town’s website.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>46</sup> <http://climateactiontool.org/content/learning-about-climate-change>

<sup>47</sup> [https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/ResilientShelburne\\_MVP\\_Plan\\_2023\\_Final.pdf](https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/ResilientShelburne_MVP_Plan_2023_Final.pdf)

**Figure 8. Temperature Change in Massachusetts, 1895-2021**

Source: University of Reading, #ShowYourStripes. Online at  
<https://showyourstripes.info/c/northamerica/usa/massachusetts>

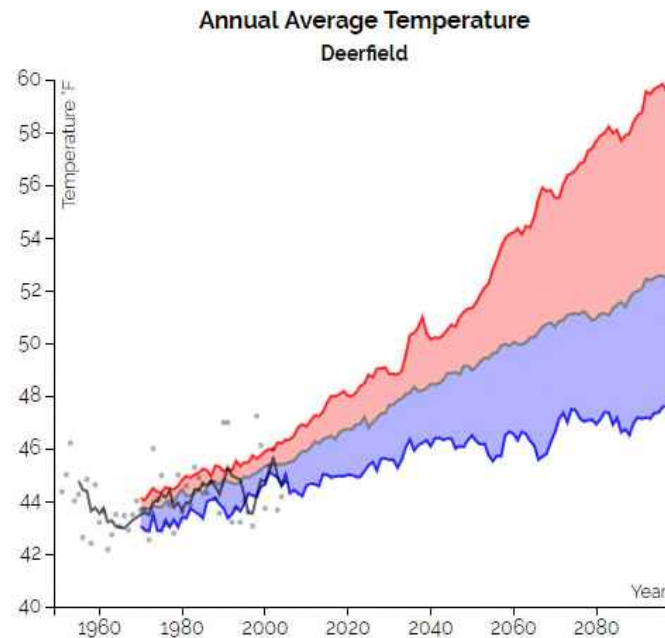
#### 4.7.1.1 Temperature Changes

The northeast United States has experienced an increase in annual temperatures of 1.6°F over the last century, with the greatest warming happening in the winter.<sup>48</sup> Depending on future global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions scenarios, average annual temperatures in Massachusetts are expected to be 2.8°F to 6.2°F warmer by 2050 than in the past several decades (when the average annual temperature was observed to be 47.5°F). By 2090, the average annual temperature in the state is expected to increase by 3.8°F to 10.8°F, depending on varying emissions scenarios.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>48</sup> Massachusetts Wildlife Climate Action Tool, <http://climateactiontool.org/content/temperature-changes>.

<sup>49</sup> Resilient MA: Climate Change Clearinghouse for the Commonwealth, <https://resilientma.mass.gov/home.html>. Accessed on December 2022.

**Figure 9: Observed and Predicted Change in Annual Average Temperature in the Deerfield River Watershed, 1971-2090**



*Note: The blue line represents the modeled minimum annual average temperature, the grey line represents the modeled median, and the red line represents the modeled maximum. Source: Resilient MA: Climate Change Clearinghouse for the Commonwealth.*

In the Deerfield River Watershed, where all of Shelburne lies, annual temperatures in the watershed are expected to increase between 4.5°F and 8.1°F by 2050 depending on future GHG emissions levels (Figure 9). By 2090, average annual temperatures in the watershed could increase by 7.2°F to as much as 13.5°F depending on global emissions.<sup>50</sup> In addition to overall warming temperatures, it is expected that an increase in extreme high temperatures will occur. For example, in the Deerfield River Watershed, it is expected that by 2050, there will be anywhere from 16 to 58 more days with temperatures over 90°F. From 1970 to the mid-2000s, the watershed averaged less than 5 days per year when temperatures reached over 90°F.<sup>51</sup> Conversely, the watershed is expected to experience fewer days when temperatures drop below freezing (32°F). Many fruits, such as apples and blueberries, require a minimum number of “chill hours” (hours below 45 degrees) in the winter to produce optimum fruit. If the number of chill hours is inadequate, bloom and leaf development can be late and erratic.

#### 4.7.1.2 Precipitation Changes

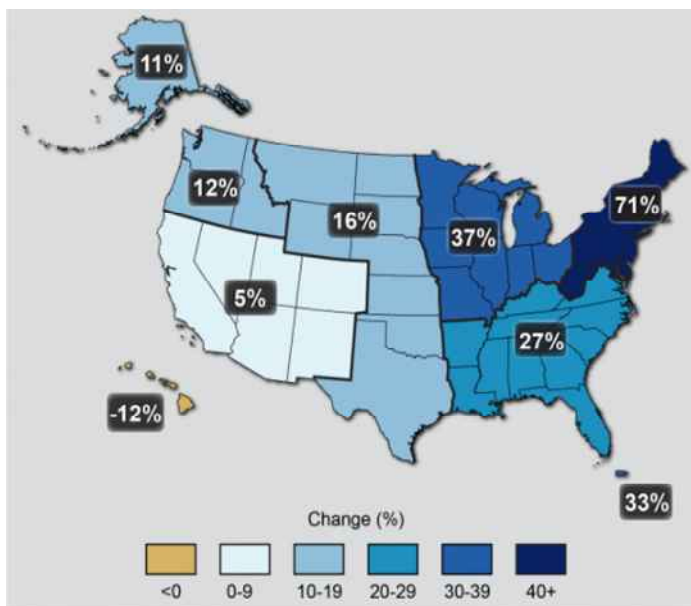
In Massachusetts, annual precipitation amounts have increased at a rate of over 1 inch per decade since the late 1800s, and are projected to continue to increase largely due to more intense precipitation

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> <https://resilientma.org/map/>. Accessed on the Climate Dashboard, April, 2023.

events. The Northeast has experienced a greater increase in extreme precipitation events than the rest of the U.S. in the past several decades (Figure 10).

**Figure 10: Observed Change in Very Heavy Precipitation, 1958-2012**



Source: updated from Karl et al. 2009, Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States.

Observed annual precipitation in Massachusetts for the last three decades was 47 inches. Total annual precipitation in Massachusetts is expected to increase between 2% to 13% by 2050, or by roughly 1 to 6 inches. In the Deerfield River Watershed, annual precipitation has averaged around 45 inches in recent decades. By 2050, the annual average could remain relatively the same (but occur in more heavy, short intervals) or increase by up to 12 inches a year under a high greenhouse gas emissions scenario. In general, precipitation projections are more uncertain than temperature projections.<sup>52</sup>

Although overall precipitation is only expected to slightly increase, a primary concern is that the Northeast will receive more precipitation during heavy, concentrated events, followed by periods of drought. Changes in precipitation patterns, especially prolonged periods of drought, can negatively affect agriculture, forests, and natural ecosystems. The flash flooding experienced twice in July of 2023, coming on the heels of a drought in 2022, provide a good example of this pattern of disturbance.

#### 4.7.1.3 Effects of Climate Change

Climate change is already altering natural habitats and impacting communities in various ways. Ecosystems that are expected to be particularly vulnerable to climate change include coldwater streams and fisheries, spruce-fir forests, hemlock forests, northern hardwood forests, vernal pools and street trees in town and city centers. Warming temperatures and changes in precipitation will push plant and animal species northward or to higher elevations. Higher temperatures, along with changes in stream flow, will degrade water quality. Coldwater aquatic fish species will decline, while an increase in stronger

<sup>52</sup> <https://resilientma.org/map/>. Accessed December 2022.



storms will lead to more flooding and erosion. A shift to winter rains instead of snow will potentially lead to more runoff, flooding, and greater storm damage along with less spring groundwater recharge.

An increase in extreme weather events, including heavy rains, ice storms, microbursts and hurricanes, will affect natural resources and human communities. Damage to roads, bridges, culverts, buildings, farmland and crops are a few impacts that have already been experienced in the region from increased extreme weather. Sea level rise and more extreme storms on the coast may not directly affect Shelburne, but may begin to push some of the millions of people living along the North Atlantic seaboard to move inland, placing development pressure on rural areas. Climate migration away from extremely hot and/or dry areas will also be a factor affecting land use in Massachusetts.<sup>53</sup>

While climate change will continue to be a major challenge globally, local efforts and decisions have real and lasting impacts on mitigating and adapting to future climate change. One of the most effective and least costly strategies is to preserve existing natural areas and manage them for increased resilience to climate change.

#### 4.7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental Justice (EJ) is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment. The Environmental Justice Executive Order No. 552 requires EEA agencies to take action in promoting environmental justice. The Executive Order requires new environmental justice strategies that promote positive impacts in environmental justice communities and focus on several environmental justice initiatives.

EJ communities are defined as being low income, having a high minority population, and/or to have a high rate of English language isolation, based on data derived from the 2016-2020 American Community Survey and based upon demographic data developed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.<sup>54</sup>

According to the MassGIS Environmental Justice Viewer, Shelburne has one Census block group that is considered an EJ population based on income; Shelburne's EJ community comprises the Shelburne side of the village of Shelburne Falls. Equitable access and use of the Town's open space and recreation facilities for residents of all ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, ethnicities, and physical abilities is an important part of meeting the open space and recreation needs of the community.

In Shelburne, the town's established recreation areas are located primarily in and near the village center in Shelburne Falls. There are several other small neighborhoods in town such as Shelburne Center, but none is big enough to warrant its own recreational facilities like a basketball court or ball fields.

The Recreation Committee continues to be conscious of access issues to its facilities, including access to facilities and programs by special needs groups, such as the elderly and the disabled. Cowell Gym

<sup>53</sup> "The Great Climate Migration," *New York Times Magazine*, July 23, 2020 and Pro Publica dated September 15, 2020: <https://www.propublica.org/article/climate-change-will-force-a-new-american-migration>

<sup>54</sup> More information about how EJ Populations are designated is available here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-populations-in-massachusetts>

became more accessible with the installation of an elevator in 2004. Programming for children involves no fees, and the basement of the Gym has hosted a food pantry since 2014 and a clothes closet since 2015 or 2016. The Recreation Committee will be addressing the high interest in expanding facilities for additional hiking trails from the village, picnic/park areas, and water access as well as activities such as nature walks, guided hikes, and adult education classes.

Natural open space and recreation areas are distributed throughout town. Residents may hike, hunt, snowmobile, fish, and ride horseback with the permission of private landowners in many areas of town. Although the Town has much open space, much of it is in private ownership, and access to properties can be limited, such as access to the Mohican-Mohawk Trail along the Deerfield River. A concerted effort to work with private landowners to increase availability of land for passive recreation, and funding from Commonwealth and private sources to purchase recreation easements, could increase open space equity in Shelburne.

#### 4.7.3 FLOODING, EROSION, AND SEDIMENTATION

As previously outlined in the *Flood Hazard Areas* section of this chapter, the Town's 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan outlines numerous areas where flooding is an issue. The majority of the flooding occurs along the Deerfield River, Dragon Brook, and the Hinsdale Brook. In Shelburne, the 100-year floodplain covers about 333 acres, or approximately 2 percent of the town, including an estimated 8 acres of developed residential land.<sup>55</sup>

Shelburne's 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan has several flooding-related recommendations. One is to identify and document locations, and calls for hiring a consultant to explore options for mitigating flooding at Bardwells Ferry Road and Allen Road, including implementing an upstream flood mitigation project to keep water within the channel and floodplain. It also recommends expanding and updating the Vulnerability Assessment for properties located within the 100-year floodplain, when new floodplain maps are available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Changes in the intensity and frequency of storms due to climate change will also be a challenge for Shelburne, as a "100 year" storm, which once had a 1% chance of occurring in any given year, will likely occur more frequently in the future. Flooding from Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 provided a glimpse of what can happen when a large amount of rain falls on the region within a short period of time. The Town and the entire region will need to work on how to best mitigate damages to existing infrastructure and property from such flooding, and how to allow this flooding to occur naturally without exacerbating it with new development. The fact that this will need to be a regional, watershed-wide effort cannot be understated. What happens upstream of Shelburne can greatly influence the impact of flooding in Shelburne. Looking at a watershed holistically, and ensuring there are outlets for floodwaters upstream, will help minimize the overall impact downstream.

Shelburne's rivers and streams are plentiful throughout town and add considerably to the beauty of the landscape. During storms and spring freshet, they can swell and flood. Because of the nature of the soils, high velocity flow can cause a great deal of erosion. High flow events have undermined roadways

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<sup>55</sup> 2016 MassGIS land use data.

or buried roads in gravelly silt. As a result, future development near rivers, streams, and brooks should be carefully evaluated to minimize erosion and sedimentation during construction and ensure that storm water runoff is properly managed. Siltation from eroding banks can compromise habitat for fish and aquatic life, particularly during low flow conditions. Other siltation comes from road sand and loose soil in roadside swales.

#### **4.7.4 GROUND AND SURFACE WATER POLLUTION**

Nonpoint source pollution occurs when pollutants are generated not by a single source like an outflow pipe from a factory, but from multiple or diffuse sources across a landscape. For example, nutrients applied to farm fields or lawns can run off the land during precipitation events to pollute lakes and streams. For example, Long Island Sound has a “dead zone” or anoxic (low oxygen) zone caused by excessive nitrogen inputs from the Long Island Sound watershed. The Connecticut River, of which the Deerfield River is a tributary, is the largest freshwater tributary to Long Island Sound. Nutrient runoff from fields and yards in Shelburne, therefore, can contribute to a pollution problem as far away as Long Island Sound.

Sources of pollution thought to be of greatest concern to residents include the improper use and disposal of hazardous chemicals, heavy use of road salt, siltation of streams from gravel roads and road sand, bacterial contamination in rivers and streams, nitrogen fertilizers and insecticides on lawns, and use of herbicides along utility rights-of-way. Pesticide use on farmland is also a concern, as there are farms in Shelburne that use fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides. These chemicals can migrate to groundwater supplies used for drinking, or to the Deerfield River.

There is a direct link between land use and water quality. Impervious surfaces, such as building roofs and asphalt parking lots, and other forms of development reduce the infiltration of water into the ground. Impervious surfaces often contribute to higher storm water runoff, greater sediment yields, and increased pollutant loads, all of which can degrade water quality. Normally, as a community grows, the amount of impervious surfaces increases. The figure below shows the relationship between percent impervious surface in a watershed and water quality. In a natural system, water infiltrates through the soil, and pollutants are stored in the soil layers. In 2011 and 2012, the USGS, in partnership with multiple agencies in Massachusetts, published two papers that were the technical basis for the Sustainable Watershed Management Initiative.<sup>56</sup> Statistical analyses of fisheries data from across the state demonstrates that as the percent impervious cover and groundwater withdrawals increases, the relative abundance and species richness of fluvial fish decreases.

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<sup>56</sup> See <https://www.mass.gov/guides/sustainable-water-management-initiative-swmi-technical-resources> for more information.

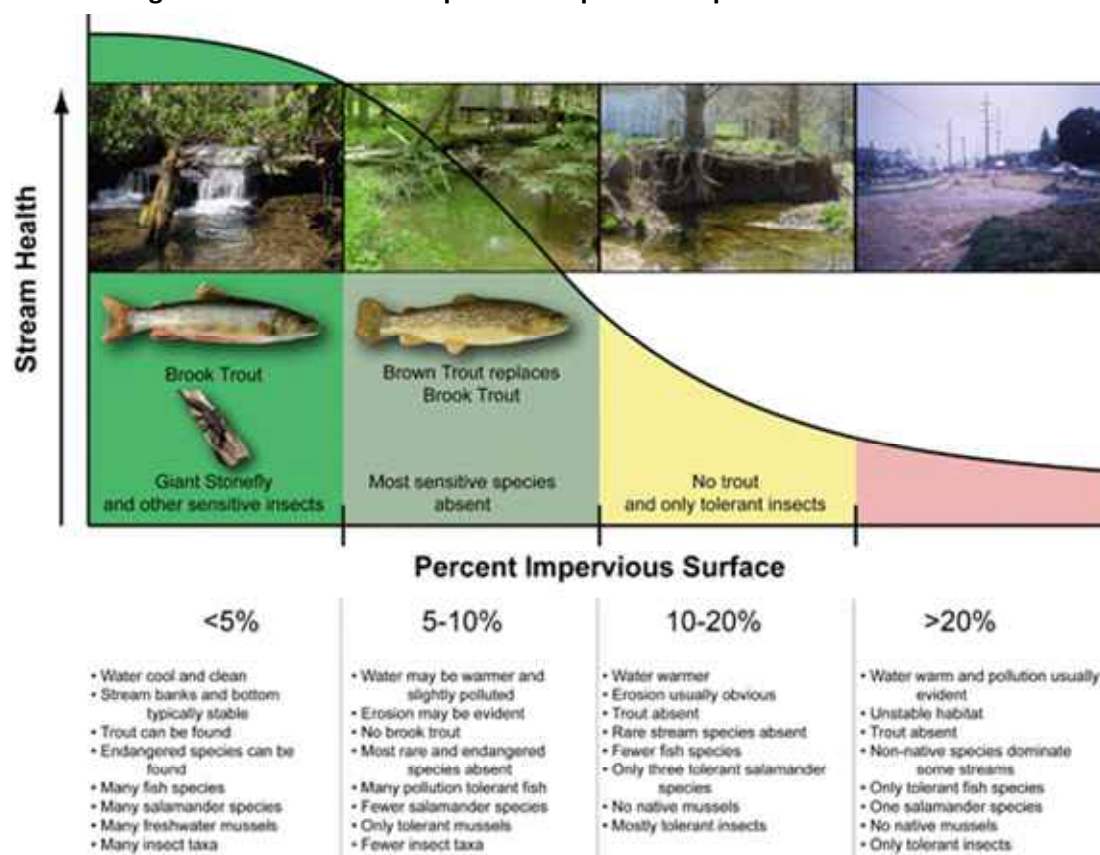
**Figure 11: The relationship between percent impervious surface and stream health**

Figure courtesy of Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

As described in previous sections, available water quality data for Shelburne is not extensive. The known impairments in town are from bacteria and elevated temperatures that don't meet the criteria for coldwater streams. The cause of elevated river temperatures is often the lack of shading of streams. Private landowners can help restore coldwater habitat by allowing a buffer of vegetation to grow around any wetland, pond, or stream on their property.

More information about impaired waterbodies in Shelburne can be found in the 2018/2020 Integrated List of Waters published by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental protection, and displayed graphically by pulling up the "DEP 2018 Integrated List Rivers" layer online in MassGIS's online mapping tool.<sup>57,58</sup> The 2022 Integrated List has also been finalized in 2023.

#### 4.7.5 HAZARDOUS WASTE AND BROWNFIELD SITES

As defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Brownfields" are properties that the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of may be complicated by the actual presence or perceived potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. A Phase I Environmental Site

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/final-massachusetts-integrated-list-of-waters-for-the-clean-water-act-20182020-reporting-cycle/download>. Accessed on December 2022.

<sup>58</sup> <https://maps.massgis.digital.mass.gov/MassMapper/MassMapper.html>. Accessed on December 2022.

Assessment report assesses a site's potential contamination by conducting historical research and reconnaissance of the site. If needed, follow up reports, such as Phase II, will be conducted to assess the impact of potential contamination through sampling and laboratory analysis of soil, groundwater, or building materials. A Phase III report will be conducted if contamination is found in sufficient concentrations such that action should be undertaken. Phase III is a remediation plan that outlines how a clean-up should be conducted.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) maintains a list of brownfield sites where known contamination has occurred. In Shelburne, 16 sites have been reported to the DEP as of December 2022, all of which have been cleaned up or determined to pose no significant risk to public health.<sup>59</sup>

#### 4.7.6 IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT

Development over the last 40 years in Shelburne has included new commercial properties along Route 2, some new single-family detached houses scattered around town, and industrial businesses on Route 112 north of Shelburne Falls. Much of this development has taken place on former farm or forest lands. Agricultural and forested lands contribute to the town's rural character. The future uses of larger tracts of private land should be considered as part of open space planning.

Land disturbance during construction can contribute to nonpoint source pollution. During a storm event, rainwater traveling over land can erode soil if measures are not taken to stabilize or capture sediment. After construction, stormwater runoff from seeded and fertilized soils can load nearby streams and wetlands with excessive nitrogen and phosphorus. In Massachusetts, any land disturbance of one acre of land or greater requires a Notice of Intent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Construction General Permit. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan is required as part of the Construction General Permit.<sup>60</sup> Some best management practices (BMPs) during construction include phased grading, seeding of stockpiles, vegetation of open space, mulching, silt fencing and wattles, cross-grading, and sediment detention swales and basins; these can help to reduce runoff and improve water quality. After construction, other BMPs can help manage stormwater runoff using features such as pervious driveway surfaces, landscape plantings, reduced roadway widths, roadside swales, detention swales and a cul-de-sac detention basin. The Massachusetts DEP provides ample erosion and sediment control guidelines via their website.<sup>61</sup>

#### 4.7.7 LANDFILLS

According to the Mass DEP Bureau of Waste Prevention, Shelburne has four inactive landfills, two of which have been capped and require no environmental monitoring. The Shelburne Landfill on Shelburne Falls Road in Conway is an unlined landfill that was capped in 1979. The Shelburne Stump Dump on Little Mohawk Road in Shelburne is closed and was capped in 1987. There are two dump sites on private

<sup>59</sup> The full list of sites can be found by searching the DEP database at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite>. Accessed on December 2022.

<sup>60</sup> See <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/npdes-stormwater-permit-program-new-england#construction>.

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/stormwtr/files/esfull.pdf>



property located on Bardwell's Ferry Road whose closure status is Incomplete, according to the MassDEP's *Inactive/Closed Landfills & Dumping Grounds List, June 2013*.<sup>62</sup>

Although the information available from the DEP website indicates that there are no environmental problems associated with these landfills, the status of the closure of the construction and demolition dumping sites on private property should be further investigated by the Board of Health.

#### 4.7.8 WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Over the past 50 years, municipal wastewater treatment in the region has helped to reduce the level of pollution in many rivers. Where private septic systems are in use, the concern for the impacts of failing septic systems is a driving force behind maintaining large minimum lot sizes in areas without access to public sewer, especially in soils that constrain proper treatment of on-site wastewater. It is important for the Town to support the Board of Health (BOH) in its enforcement of percolation (perc) tests and in its siting of new homes in only those areas that have passed a perc test. In addition, the BOH should continue to identify on-site septic systems needing upgrades. The main motivation for this level of inspection is to ensure that groundwater, wetlands, surface waters, and drinking water supplies are free from contamination by untreated wastewater and, that homeowners do not become needlessly overburdened by failing on-site septic systems.

#### 4.7.9 INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species, or exotics, are plants that are 'non-native' to our local ecosystem. These plants have the ability to spread rapidly and displace native species. In some cases they can cause extinction but generally they decrease biodiversity of native species, alter habitats, and limit resources. Once they invade an ecosystem, it creates the need for time consuming and expensive weed management.

Climate models project rising temperatures and increased precipitation in the Northeastern United States in coming years, which is likely to impact local forests as well other vegetation and public health partially as a result of related impacts on pests, pathogens, and nuisance species. Periods of rapid climate change, such as we are presently experiencing, are especially favorable for rapidly reproducing species such as insects and diseases and promote conditions that can enhance the spread of problematic species. By contrast species with longer life cycles, such as trees, are inherently less well equipped to adapt to rapid climate change.

The following is a list of invasive species that are widespread across Franklin County:

- Aegopodium podagraria L. (Bishop's goutweed; bishop's weed; goutweed)
- Alliaria petiolata (Bieb.) Cavara & Grande (Garlic mustard)
- Berberis thunbergii DC. (Japanese barberry)
- Celastrus orbiculatus Thunb. (Oriental bittersweet; Asian or Asiatic bittersweet)
- Elaeagnus umbellata Thunb. (Autumn olive)
- Euonymus alatus (Thunb.) Sieb. (Winged euonymus; Burning bush)

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/list-of-inactiveclosed-landfills-dumping-grounds-in-massachusetts-june-2023/download>. Accessed on July 2023.

*Frangula alnus* P. Mill. (European buckthorn; glossy buckthorn)  
*Iris pseudacorus* L. (Yellow iris)  
*Lonicera spp.* (several non-native honeysuckle species)  
*Lythrum salicaria* L. (Purple loosestrife)  
*Polygonum cuspidatum* Sieb. & Zucc. (Japanese knotweed; Japanese or Mexican Bamboo)  
*Rhamnus cathartica* L. (Common buckthorn)  
*Robinia pseudoacacia* L. (Black locust)  
*Rosa multiflora* Thunb. (Multiflora rose)

All of these species can be troublesome and difficult to control once planted or they invade an area. Along Interstate 91 and Route 2, Oriental bittersweet vines are visibly taking over the forested edge along the roadway. Species such as bittersweet are not allowed to be sold and the Town should ensure that nobody sells ornamental wreaths with bittersweet, as this spreads the seeds and causes new problem areas.<sup>63</sup> Japanese knotweed has invaded much of the areas along the river's edge of the Deerfield River, which impacts riparian habitat and crowds out native floodplain vegetation.

Invasive pests such as the hemlock wooly adelgid, beech bark disease, and the emerald ash borer also pose a threat to Shelburne's forests. Die-offs due to these species have already been reported in towns in Franklin County. The emerald ash borer is likely to eliminate ashes as major forest trees from Massachusetts in the next few decades.<sup>64</sup>

While it's difficult to eradicate well established invasive species, some organizations track new invasives that are moving into an area and have not yet been established. Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources (MDAR) has an "Invasive Pest Dashboard" and currently track beech leaf disease, three insects (Asian longhorned beetle, box tree moth, emerald ash borer, spotted lanternfly) and three plants (giant hogweed, kudzu, and mile-a-minute vine).<sup>65</sup> Of these, emerald ash borer was first found in Shelburne in 2021. Beech leaf disease was reported in Deerfield in 2022 and Buckland and Colrain in 2023. Mile-a-minute vine has experienced outbreaks in nearby towns, but have not yet been reported in Shelburne.

Many gardeners and property owners in Franklin County have recently reported observation of an Asian worm called jumping worms (*Amyntas spp.*) on their properties. Although all or most earth worms in North America are believed to be non-native, jumping worms pose an additional risk to forests and landscapes through their ability to alter the soil structure and chemistry. They are able to quickly consume a critical layer of organic matter that supplies nutrients vital for other wildlife, particularly in forests. UMASS Extension recommends taking precautions not to spread them to new locations.<sup>66</sup>

Shelburne's Hazard Mitigation Plan recommends several action items related to invasive plant species. The Town would be wise to take a proactive approach to environmental problems related to the spread of invasive species, and stay abreast of the latest information about related problems that may impact

<sup>63</sup> The MA Department of Agriculture publishes and updates a Prohibited Plant List of plant species that can't be sold in Massachusetts. See <https://www.mass.gov/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list>

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/guides/emerald-ash-borer-in-massachusetts>

<sup>65</sup> <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a25afa4466a54313b21dd45abc34b62d/page/Page-2/>

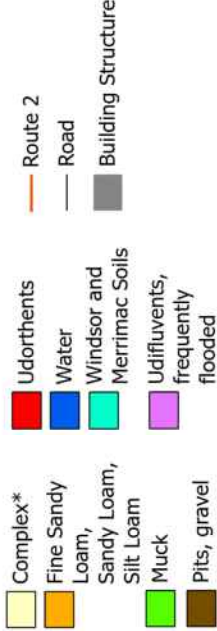
<sup>66</sup> <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/jumpingcrazysnake-worms-amynthas-spp>

local vegetation, agriculture, forestry wildlife, and public health, as well as related strategies for sustainable management. Such efforts will require cooperation with state and regional efforts and may involve several town boards and departments including the Open Space Committee, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission, as well.



# Open Space & Recreation Plan 2024

## Soil Classification



Sources: Map produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department. GIS data sources include MassDOT, MassGIS and FRCOG. Depicted boundaries are approximate and are intended for planning purposes only, not to be used for survey.



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# Town of Shelburne

## Open Space & Recreation Plan 2024

## Water Resources

### Public Water Supply

- Community
- Groundwater Source
- Non-Community
- Groundwater Source

### Public Water

#### Supply Protection Area

- DEP Approved Zone II
- Interim Wellhead Protection Area

- Building Structure
- 100 Year Flood Zone\*
- Watershed Boundary

- Gravel Road
- Route 2
- Paved Road
- Stream/River

- Aquifer
- Wetland
- Water Body

- Localized Flooding

- Dam

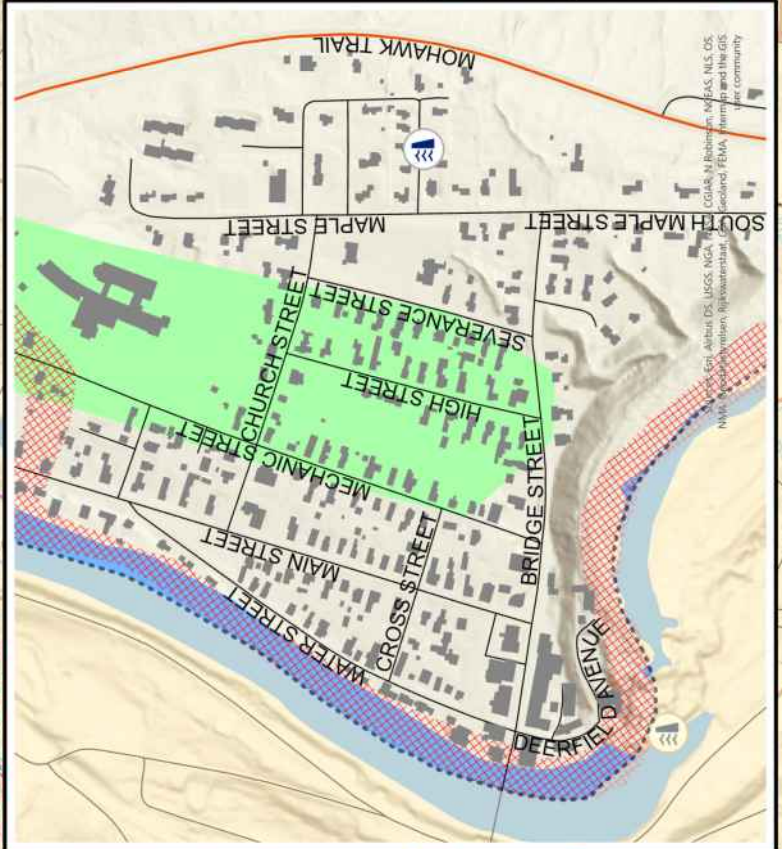
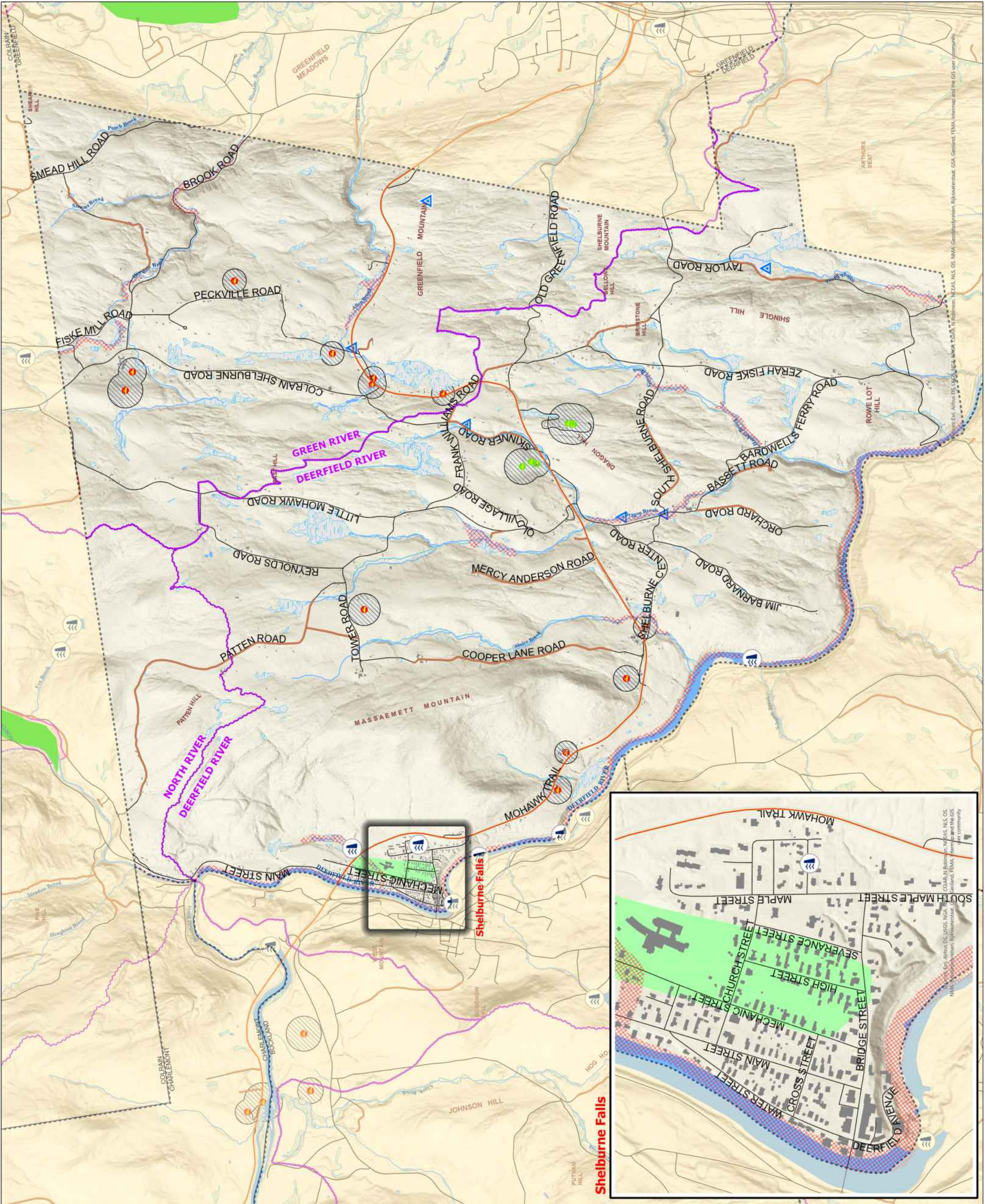


0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Sources: Map produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department. GIS data sources include VassDOT, MassGIS and FRCOG. Depicted boundaries are approximate and are intended for planning purposes only, not to be used for survey.



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# Town of Shelburne

## Open Space & Recreation Plan 2024

### Plant & Wildlife Habitat

- Road
- Route 2
- Stream/River
- Wetland
- Water
- Building Structure
- Coldwater Fisheries
- Priority Habitat of Rare Species\*
- Certified Vernal Pool\*
- BioMap 3 Core Habitat
- BioMap 3 Critical Supporting Natural Landscape

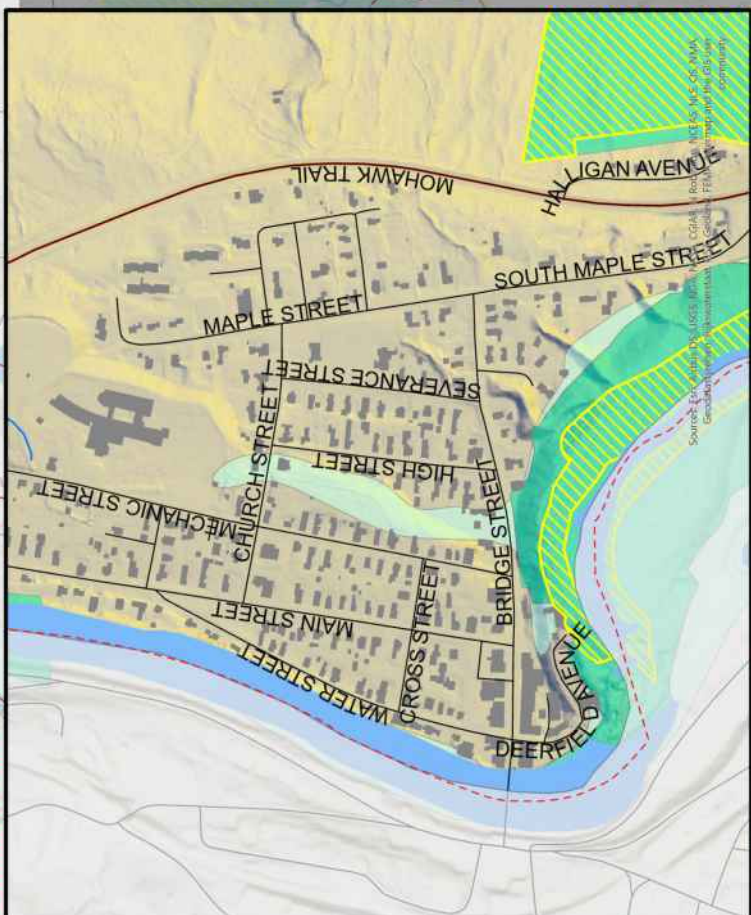
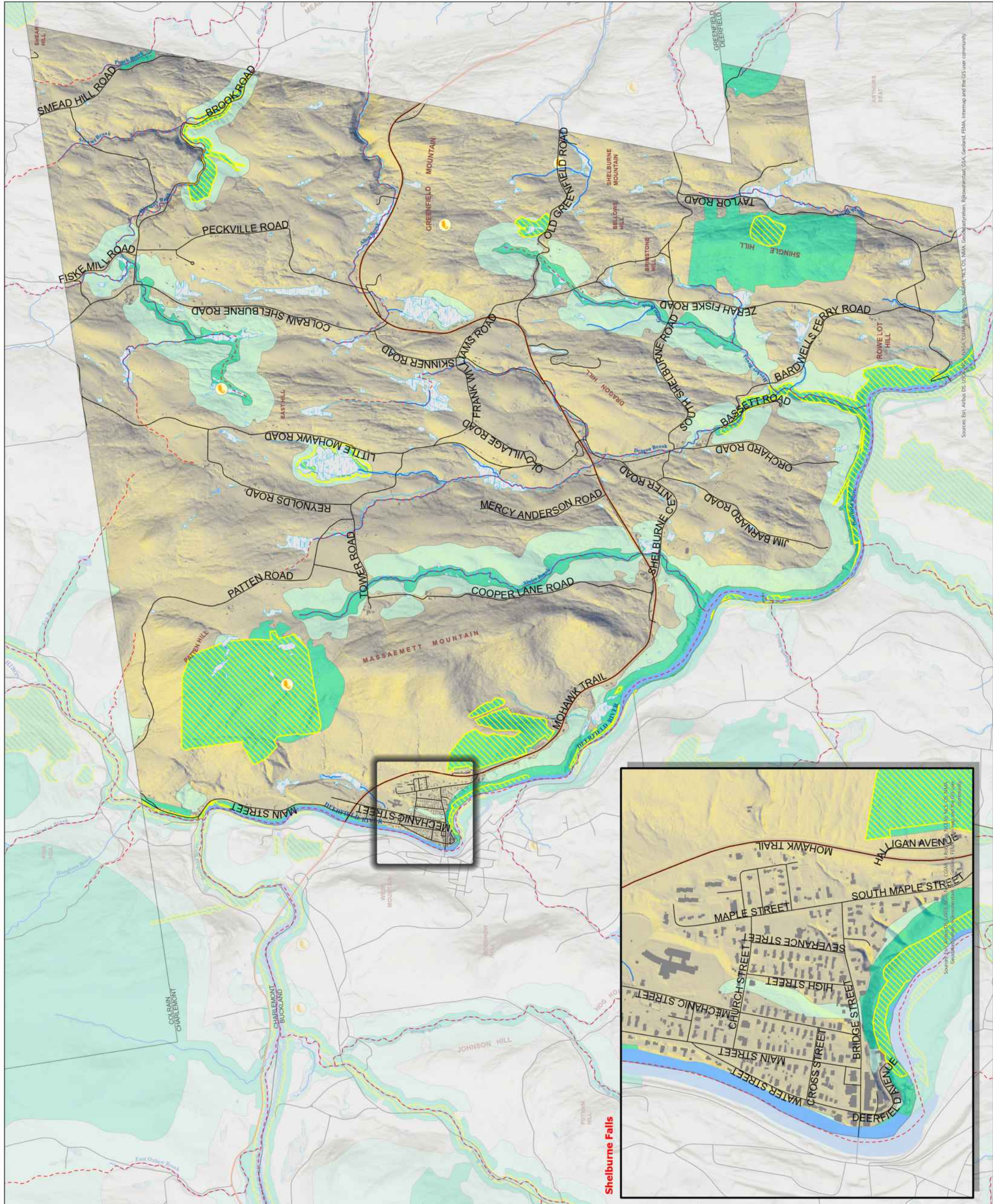
\*Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program



Sources: Map produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department. GIS data sources include MassDOT, MassGIS and FRCOG. Depicted boundaries are approximate and are intended for planning purposes only, not to be used for survey.



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*Wheel-View Farm (Carolyn Wheeler)*

# 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

## 5.1 PROTECTED LANDS

Previous sections of this plan have identified areas within the town of Shelburne that are significant for their ecological, cultural, and scenic value. This information is helpful for understanding the character of Shelburne and for outlining issues that may be of particular interest in open space and recreation planning decisions. Lands of conservation interest are those parcels of land that are significant because they are already protected from development or could be a priority for protection. This section provides a detailed inventory of those lands so they can be prioritized for either protection, maintenance, and improved access.

Open space is generally defined as undeveloped land or land lightly developed for recreation. Shelburne residents value undeveloped land because of what it provides: actively managed farm and forestland, wildlife habitat, native vegetation, protection and recharge of groundwater, public access to recreational lands and trail systems, structures and landscapes that represent the community's heritage, and scenic views. Many of these features are vital to climate resilience (see *Section 4*).

Approximately 54% of Shelburne's total 14,973 acres is undeveloped open space with some level of protection from development (see Table 13). Land protected in perpetuity (permanently) by conservation easements, Agricultural Preservation Restriction, or other covenants represents nearly 20% of the town's total acreage. The community's long-term open space and climate resilience goals call for ongoing permanent protection of the town's most valued resources, not all of which are currently under protection.

Shelburne's long-term recreation goals also necessitate that the Town continues to work for improved access to the Deerfield River and open space via trails and recreation facilities for a wide variety of users. The burden of providing open space and recreational trails currently falls primarily to the private and nonprofit landowners due to a lack of public lands in Shelburne. Additionally, Shelburne has a unique multi-level public review and approval process for municipal and nonprofit trails, making it very difficult to create trails despite a very strong desire for trails as reflected in the community survey.

This section breaks down land by level of protection. At the end of this section is the **Open Space Map** for Shelburne.

### 5.1.1 PERMANENT PROTECTION

Land is considered permanently protected when it is under fee ownership by a conservation organization or subject to a legal restriction prohibiting certain acts and uses for the purpose of protecting conservation values present on the land in perpetuity. Permanently protected land enjoys the highest degree of protection from development. In Massachusetts, land can be considered permanently protected from development in the following ways:

- a conservation restriction attached to the deed (Agricultural Preservation Restriction falls in this category);
- land owned by a state conservation agency, a non-profit conservation organization, or a conservation land trust;
- water supply land owned by a municipality or water district containing language in the deed that references water supply protection or Article 97;
- state or Town-owned land containing language in the deed that references use of that land for recreation in perpetuity; and
- Town-owned land managed and controlled by its Conservation Commission.

Any land that falls into the categories above are protected as permanent under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts State Constitution. Removing protection of this land involves a number of steps, including a vote of two-thirds majority of the state legislature to change the use of the land. Though this rarely occurs, the state legislature can vote to release this protection at the request of local communities so that conservation land can be used for schools, roads, economic development, or other public projects not related to resource protection.

A conservation restriction (CR) is a voluntary, legally binding covenant between a landowner and an organization such as a land trust, the Town Conservation Commission, or state agency in which the owner relinquishes some or all of the development rights of the land forever. The limitations are designed to prevent harm to the features or qualities sought to be protected, while preserving the rights to activities such as farming, forestry, and recreation. The landowners retain the other property rights of ownership and they continue to pay property taxes, though the taxes are lower due to the reduced fair market value of the land.

Like non-farmland, farmland can also become permanently protected from development when the landowner sells development rights for a parcel to a land trust or state agency. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) purchases the development rights of farmland in Franklin County regularly through its Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program.<sup>67</sup> The program offers to pay farmland owners the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their farms in exchange for a permanent deed restriction that precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability. The APR program often requires a local match that can come from any combination of three sources: the municipality, a non-governmental organization such as a land trust, or a bargain sale offered by the landowner.

### 5.1.2 TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Parcels enrolled in Massachusetts Chapter 61 Current Use Tax Programs—61 (forestry), 61A (agriculture), and 61B (open space/recreation)—are considered to be temporarily protected from development. These programs offer landowners reduced local property taxes in return for maintaining land in productive forestry, agricultural or recreational use, or in a wild condition for a period of time. Chapter 61 lands, also called “chapter lands,” provide many public benefits, from maintaining wildlife habitat and recreational open space to sustaining rural character and local forest and farm-based economic activity. A lien is attached to the property to ensure that undeveloped land will continue to provide public benefits. The lien stays with the property when bought or sold. If enrolled land is converted to nonchapter use within 10 years, the landowner is responsible for rollback or conveyance taxes in most cases.

A benefit of the Chapter 61 programs is that they offer Town governments the opportunity to protect land. When a parcel that is currently enrolled in one of the Chapter 61 programs is proposed for conversion to a use that would make it ineligible for the program, the Town is guaranteed a 120-day waiting period during which it can exercise its Right-of-First-Refusal to purchase the property. After signing a Purchase and Sale Agreement, the municipality has ninety days to complete the purchase if it elects to buy the property (or assign the right).

Exercising the Right-of-First-Refusal is difficult to do within the short time frame. Towns looking to act on their Right-of-First-Refusal benefit from having criteria by which they identify ahead of time priority protection lands. Shelburne has a “Select Board Chapter 61 Right of First Refusal policy” that is linked on the Select Board documents web page.<sup>68</sup> Shelburne could tighten up this process by reviewing and updating the criteria.

Towns can be more successful in taking advantage of the Right-of-First-Refusal opportunity when partnering with a land trust like the Franklin Land Trust or state conservation agency such as the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife). These organizations can often fundraise much more quickly than a Town can and do not have to bring the decision to purchase the land to a Special Town Meeting. The Town can work on these relationships ahead of time so that it is able to assign its Right-of-First-Refusal to the conservation

<sup>67</sup> APR Program: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/apr-program-objectives-benefits>

<sup>68</sup> <https://townofshelburne.com/g/42/Selectboard>



organization as soon as the Select Board receives a property's notice to withdraw from a Chapter 61 program.

Currently, 31% of land in Shelburne, or roughly 4,696 acres, is enrolled in one of the Chapter 61 programs and is considered to have temporary protection from development. A summary of the details of each program is shown in the table below.<sup>69</sup>

**Table 12: Summary of Chapter 61 program categories**

Program Name	Requirements	Owners Must Renew at Assessor's Office	Description
<b>Chapter 61 Forestry</b>	10 contiguous acre minimum. Land must have state-approved forest management plan and periodic forest management.	Every 10 years	Applies to lands on which trees will be harvested for firewood, timber, Christmas trees, and other timber products. The landowner commits to improve the quality or quantity of timber on the land. Wildlife, aesthetics, and recreation can also be incorporated into property management goals with DCR's Forest Stewardship Program. The minimum house lot size required by town's zoning bylaw is excluded if there is a house on the lot.
<b>Chapter 61A Agriculture</b>	5 acre minimum. Land must be in agricultural use for at least 2 years before applying, and there are product sales requirements.	Every year	Applies to land used to grow agricultural or horticultural products. Excludes land for family living. Land for family living is assessed at full value. Enrolled land may contain up to 50% nonagricultural "accessory" land that is not in residential, industrial, or commercial use; it may include unmanaged forest land. Assessment and program requirements for Ch. 61A forestland are the same as they are in the Ch. 61 program.
<b>Chapter 61B Open Space and Recreation</b>	5 contiguous acre minimum. Land under the recreation category must remain open to the public or to members of a nonprofit organization.	Every year	<u>Open space</u> includes land in a landscaped or pasture condition, or managed forest with a forest management plan. Public access is not required for open space lands. <u>Recreation</u> land is available for recreational purposes, which includes a large range of recreation activities, but don't include recreation inside a building. Forest management is not required for lands under 61B.

<sup>69</sup> More information on Chapter 61 programs can be found on the UMass Extension's MassWoods website: <https://masswoods.org/landowner-programs/chapter-61-current-use-tax-programs>

### 5.1.3 LIMITED PROTECTION

Land considered to have limited protection includes any Town-owned open space not under the authority of the Conservation Commission and without reference to recreation or water supply protection in the deed. Without this control or language to trigger Article 97, land can be developed through a decision by the Select Board or by a Town Meeting vote. Roughly 2.4% of land in Shelburne, or 362 acres, is considered to be under limited protection. The specific parcels are discussed in more detail later in subsection C.3.

### 5.1.4 SUMMARY AND OPEN SPACE MAP

Summary Table 13 lists land under permanent, temporary, or limited protection, and within those categories ownership is designated as private, non-profit, or public. These categories of open space are also identified on the *Open Space Map* found at the end of Section 5. The inventory that follows in Sections B thru D lists parcels by ownership type (private, non-profit, or public), and then by level of protection.

The *Open Space Map* shows that there are potential linkages that could be made between existing permanently protected lands for ecological or recreational purposes. The land that lies between protected lands are likely to be owned by private citizens. Landowners interested in protecting land can work with the Town, state conservation agencies, land trusts, and other conservation-minded organizations invested in protecting forest and habitat in this region.

Table 13: Summary of Protected Open Space in Shelburne

PROTECTED OPEN SPACE	Area in Acres	% of Total Land in Shelburne (14,973 acres)
<b>Permanently Protected Land</b>		
<b>Publicly Owned</b>		
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	74.7	0.5%
<i>Total Publicly Owned</i>	<i>74.7</i>	<i>0.5%</i>
<b>Privately Owned</b>		
Great River Hydro conserved land (CR)	122.6	0.8%
Conservation Restrictions (CR)	652.3	4.4%
Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR)	1,329.3	8.9%
<i>Total Privately Owned</i>	<i>2,104.3</i>	<i>14.1%</i>
<b>Non-Profit Owned</b>		
Franklin Land Trust	31.6	0.2%
New England Forestry Foundation	55.0	0.4%
MassAudubon	816.5	5.5%
<i>Total Non-Profit Owned</i>	<i>903.1</i>	<i>6.0%</i>
<b>Cemeteries (public and private)</b>	37.0	0.2%
<b>Total Permanently Protected Land</b>	<b>3,119.1</b>	<b>20.8%</b>
<b>Land Under Limited Protection</b>		
<b>Publicly Owned</b>		
Town of Shelburne	63.7	0.4%
Shelburne Historical Society	0.5	0.0%
Shelburne Fire District	1.0	0.0%
Shelburne Falls Fire & Water District	297.1	2.0%
Mohawk Trail Regional School District	16.6	0.1%
<i>Total Publicly Owned</i>	<i>362.3</i>	<i>2.4%</i>
<b>Total Land with Limited Protection</b>	<b>362.3</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Temporarily Protected Land (privately owned)</b>		
Forestland (Chapter 61)	1,397.2	9.3%
Farmland (Chapter 61A)	2,942.2	19.7%
Recreation Land (Chapter 61B)	339.8	2.3%
<b>Total Temporarily Protected Land</b>	<b>4,679.2</b>	<b>31.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL OPEN SPACE WITH SOME LEVEL OF PROTECTION</b>	<b>8,160.6</b>	<b>54.5%</b>

## 5.2 PRIVATE PARCELS

Approximately 96%, or 3,007 acres, of Shelburne's permanently protected land is privately owned. Public access to protected private land is not automatically granted and may be subject to change. State conservation agencies often require some level of public access before accepting conservation restrictions. There are programs that allow land trusts to purchase temporary or permanent public-access easements for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and hiking from willing landowners so that landowners can supplement their income from their land in exchange for providing a community recreation asset.

In the following subsections, privately owned protected land is categorized first as agricultural land or forest, then by level of protection from development. The ownership of parcels, assessors' map and lot number, and acreage are provided in tables within each subsection.

### 5.2.1 PRIVATELY OWNED FARMLAND

Agricultural lands are valuable as a source of food, a source of income for farmers, and they offer scenery. Residents are often attached to agricultural land as an integral part of the community. Some agricultural parcels in Shelburne contain valuable conservation assets such as stream corridors, prime farmland soils, wetlands, and areas that have been identified as containing key wildlife habitats and plant communities.

#### 5.2.1.1 Privately Owned Permanently Protected Farmland

According to MassGIS, there are 1,329 acres of farmland in Shelburne that are permanently protected from development through an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR). This is 8.9% of the town's total acreage. The Shelburne Assessor's office does not keep records of properties under APR. Table 14 below includes the land in Shelburne protected under the APR program, which as mentioned previously has protection that is permanent.

**Table 14: Agricultural Land with Permanent Protection from development through an Agricultural Preservation Restriction**

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
009.D-0007-0000.0	FOXBARD TRUST	0 ZERAH FISKE RD.	70.1
009.D-0007-0000.2	FOXBARD TRUST	0 ZERAH FISKE RD.	24.3
013.D-0027-0000.0	WHOLEY, PRUDENCE MAY	0 ZERAH FISKE RD.	15.7
018.D-0032-0000.0	VASSAR, ERIC & STEPHANIE	891 MOHAWK TRAIL	14.5
021.D-0007-0000.0	DAVENPORT, NORMAN R.	111 TOWER RD.	216.9
021.D-0009-0000.0	DAVENPORT, NORMAN R.	383 COOPER LANE.	7.3
023.D-0010-0000.1	HAGERS FARM MARKET REALTY, LLC	1232 MOHAWK TRAIL	4.9
023.D-0018-0000.0	APEX ORCHARDS, INC.	0 MOHAWK TRAIL	18.8
027.D-0006-0000.0	DAVENPORT, NORMAN R.	0 PATTEN RD.	27.7



Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
027.D-0007-0000.0	DAVENPORT, NORMAN R.	0 PATTEN RD.	57.0
027.D-0011-0000.2	DAVENPORT, NORMAN R.	0 PATTEN RD.	16.5
027.D-0016-0000.0	DAVENPORT, NORMAN R.	0 REYNOLDS RD.	34.4
028.D-0006-0000.0	SHEARER, JR., LAWRENCE E.	0 COLRAIN-SHELBURNE RD	132.0
028.D-0010-0000.0	HAGERS FARM MARKET REALTY, LLC	69 COLRAIN-SHELBURNE RD	48.4
028.D-0012-0000.0	APEX ORCHARDS, INC.	0 PECKVILLE RD.	92.0
028.D-0014-0000.0	APEX ORCHARDS, INC.	0 PECKVILLE RD.	7.2
028.D-0017-0000.0	WEST COUNTY CIDER LLC	208 PECKVILLE RD.	62.0
028.D-0020-0000.1	APEX ORCHARDS, INC.	225 PECKVILLE RD.	2.0
032.D-0002-0000.0	WHEELER, JOHN L. & CAROLYN E.	0 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	44.2
032.D-0005-0000.0	WHEELER, JOHN L. & CAROLYN E.	0 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	61.6
032.D-0008-0000.0	WHEELER, JOHN L. & CAROLYN E.	0 REYNOLDS RD.	4.9
033.D-0004-0000.0	GRAVES, JONATHAN C.	10 BROOK RD.	21.0
033.D-0008-0000.0	APEX ORCHARDS, INC.	337 PECKVILLE RD.	171.9
037.D-0005-0000.0	SHEARER, DAVID R.& ARDITH	0 COLRAIN-SHELBURNE RD	15.7
037.D-0018-0000.0	GRAVES, JONATHAN C.	0 FISKE MILL RD.	87.0
038.D-0006-0000.1	RANDALL, GEORGE W.	0 SHEARER RD.	13.2
009.D-0006-0000.0	FISKE, JULIA M.	0 ZERAH FISKE RD.	58.4
<b>Total APR Protected Land</b>			<b>1,329.3</b>

Source: MassGIS, 2022 and Town of Shelburne Assessor records, 2023

### 5.2.1.2 Privately Owned Temporarily Protected Agricultural Land

There are approximately 2,942 acres of farmland in the Ch. 61A Program in Shelburne (Table 15). The degree of protection of these parcels is temporary. The owner receives an annual tax break. Chapter 61A lands offer much value to Shelburne, even if the farmlands are only temporarily protected. Some landowners may allow access to their property for recreational purposes, such as hiking and birdwatching. However, access should not be assumed, as the land is privately owned. Most Chapter 61A landowners take pride in their land and practice good stewardship. Some lands in Chapter 61A are also protected under the APR program, which has permanent protection. In Table 13, lands that are in both APR and Chapter 61 are counted as APR land so as not to double count (the higher level of protection is given precedence).

**Table 15: Agricultural Land with Temporary Protection from Development through Enrollment in the Chapter 61A Land Classification and Taxation Program**

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
001.D-0011-0000.0	HERRON, JOHN H.	34 HAWKS RD.	61.0
001.D-0012-0000.0	HERRON, JOHN H.	0 HAWKS RD.	10.7
001.D-0013-0000.0	WHOLEY, JAMES D. & DIANTHA J.	0 TAYLOR RD.	66.6
004.D-0007-0000.0	HARRINGTON, FERNANDA	0 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	4.5
005.D-0001-0000.0	WHOLEY, JAMES D. & DIANTHA J. LIFE ESTATE	435 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	23.0
005.D-0002-0000.0	RICHARDSON, JAMES	0 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	40.0
005.D-0003-0000.0	FOXBARD TRUST	0 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	21.0
005.D-0004-0000.0	RICHARDSON, JAMES T. & NANCY E. & JACOB	0 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	68.0
005.D-0004-0000.2	RICHARDSON, JAMES T. & NANCY E. & JACOB	0 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	6.9
005.D-0006-0000.0	HARRINGTON, FERNANDA	0 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	35.8
005.D-0008-0000.0	FOXBARD TRUST	400 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	186.0
006.D-0002-0000.0	HERRON, JOHN H.	0 TAYLOR RD. (OFF)	40.0
007.D-0001-0000.0	HERRON, JOHN H., SR.	0 BARNARD RD.	40.0
008.D-0004-0000.0	HERRON, JOHN H.	127 BARNARD RD.	120.0
008.D-0006-0000.0	BARDWELL FARM LLC	0 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	1.1
008.D-0012-0000.0	HERRON, JOHN H.	0 BARNARD RD.	6.6
009.D-0004-0000.3	RICHARDSON, JAMES T.	0 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	7.1
009.D-0005-0000.0	HARRINGTON, FERNANDA	264 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	62.5
009.D-0007-0000.2	FOXBARD TRUST	0 ZERAH FISKE RD.	24.3
009.D-0008-0000.0	WHOLEY, PRUDENCE MAY	314 ZERAH FISKE RD.	2.5
010.D-0002-0000.1	MANNING, BETH R.	69 TAYLOR RD.	6.0
010.D-0002-0000.5	MANNING, BETH R.	0 TAYLOR RD.	8.7
010.D-0023-0000.0	HERRON, JOHN H.	0 OLD ALBANY RD.	18.2
010.D-0025-0000.0	HAWKS FARM REALTY TRUST	100 GUY MANNERS RD.	120.8
011.D-0003-0000.0	GOULD MAPLE FARMS, INC	0 MOHAWK TRAIL	53.0
011.D-0004-0000.0	DAVIS CARL T.	4 GOULD RD	24.0
011.D-0005-0000.0	REDEKER AMIE M.	441 MOHAWK TRAIL	19.0
011.D-0020-0000.0	GOULD, LAWRENCE J.	0 COOPER LANE.	34.0
011.D-0021-0000.0	GOULD, LAWRENCE J.	56 SOUTH COOPER LANE	100.0
011.D-0024-0000.0	HAAS JILLIAN A	0 SHELBURNE CENTER RD.	6.4
012.D-0001-0000.0	GOULD MAPLE FARMS, INC.	0 MOHAWK TRAIL	11.0

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
012.D-0030-0000.0	HERRON, SR., JOHN H. & JOANN W.	0 SHELBURNE CENTER RD.	16.8
012.D-0034-0000.0	HAAS JILLIAN A	55 SHELBURNE CENTER RD.	18.9
013.D-0001-0000.0	YORK, CHARLES A. & LAUNIE M. (TRUSTEES)	180 SOUTH SHELBURNE RD.	110.0
013.D-0033-0000.0	KELLEY, ERNEST W. & FREDERICK C.	159 SOUTH SHELBURNE RD.	78.0
016.D-0009-0000.0	GOULD, LAWRENCE J.	114 COOPER LANE.	8.2
016.D-0010-0000.0	GOULD MAPLE FARMS, INC.	0 COOPER LANE.	66.0
016.D-0016-0000.0	BORON MATTHEW J	0 COOPER LANE.	2.6
016.D-0017-0000.0	GOULD MAPLE FARMS, INC.	0 COOPER LANE.	12.5
017.D-0004-0000.0	DOLE, GEORGE A. & STEVENS A.	0 MERCY ANDERSON RD.	12.6
017.D-0005-0000.0	DOLE, LYNN R	180 MERCY ANDERSON RD.	262.0
017.D-0005-0000.0	DOLE BROTHERS	0 MERCY ANDERSON RD.	1.0
017.D-0006-0000.0	DOLE BROTHERS	0 MERCY ANDERSON RD.	1.0
017.D-0028-0000.0	WILLIAMS, PETER B. & FAITH L.	120 FRANK WILLIAMS RD.	63.8
017.D-0033-0000.1	PALMERI, JOSEPH F.	0 OLD VILLAGE RD.	6.6
017.D-0037-0000.1	MEIJERS, MAIJA I.	41 OLD VILLAGE RD.	17.6
021.D-0001-0000.0	DOLE, STEVENS A. & GEORGE A.	0 COOPER LANE.	35.0
021.D-0008-0000.0	KULP, JUDITH	0 TOWER RD.	1.6
021.D-0009-0000.0	DAVENPORT, NORMAN R.	383 COOPER LANE.	7.3
021.D-0010-0000.0	GOULD MAPLE FARMS, INC.	311 COOPER LANE.	101.0
022.D-0003-0000.4	KULP, JUDITH	0 PATTEN RD.	64.3
022.D-0008-0000.0	GOLDTHWAITE, RICHARD A.	314 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	59.0
022.D-0010-0000.1	GOLDTHWAITE, RICHARD A.	0 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	1.0
023.D-0001-0000.0	WILLIAMS, PETER B.	0 FRANK WILLIAMS RD.	45.0
024.D-0008-0000.0	BARDWELL FARM LLC	0 MOHAWK TRAIL	7.2
024.D-0010-0000.2	PAYNE MARGARET	0 MOHAWK TRAIL	51.0
026.D-0001-0000.0	GOULD MAPLE FARMS, INC.	0 PATTEN RD.	49.0
027.D-0011-0000.0	DAVENPORT, NORMAN R.	0 REYNOLDS RD.	5.0
028.D-0012-0000.1	APEX ORCHARDS, INC.	0 COLRAIN-SHELBURNE RD	2.0
028.D-0014-0000.0	APEX ORCHARDS, INC.	0 PECKVILLE RD.	7.2
028.D-0020-0000.2	APEX ORCHARDS, INC.	0 PECKVILLE RD.	2.0
032.D-0001-0000.0	WHEELER, JOHN L. & CAROLYN E.	212 REYNOLDS RD.	200.0
032.D-0006-0000.1	WHEELER, JOHN E. & CAROLYN E.	0 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	18.5
032.D-0006-0000.2	WHEELER, CAROLYN AND JOHN	0 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	6.7
032.D-0007-0000.0	WHEELER, CAROLYN G. & JOHN E.	0 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	15.7

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
032.D-0007-0000.1	DUBREUIL, TODD	510 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	7.5
034.D-0007-0000.0	GRAVES, JONATHAN C.	104 WILSON GRAVES RD.	38.8
034.D-0014-0000.0	RAE SCOTT J	120 SMEAD HILL RD.	44.6
034.D-0015-0000.0	GRAVES, JONATHAN C.	0 WILSON GRAVES RD.	57.0
036.D-0004-0000.0	BENZ, THOMAS M.	0 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	35.5
036.D-0006-0000.0	HERZIG, CHARLES R.	0 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	43.7
036.D-0009-0000.0	BENZ, THOMAS M	0 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	54.0
037.D-0008-0000.0	ALLEN CARLOS R	10 CARPENTER RD.	11.4
038.D-0001-0000.0	GRAVES, JONATHAN C. AND TIMOTHY E.	0 WILSON GRAVES RD.	65.0
<b>Total Chapter 61A Acres</b>			<b>2,942.2</b>

Source: Town of Shelburne Assessor records, 2023

## 5.2.2 PRIVATELY OWNED FORESTLAND

Forest landowners can impact the forest beyond their property lines through development and management choices. Large blocks of contiguous forest across multiple properties form the basis for sustaining biological diversity in forested regions. Contiguous forestland in Shelburne contributes to areas of connected forest habitat that span neighboring towns. The following inventory includes privately owned forestland at different levels of protection from development.

### 5.2.2.1 Privately Owned Permanently Protected Forestland

There are approximately 774 forested acres (5% of town) in Shelburne that are privately owned and permanently protected from development through a conservation restriction (CR) (see Table 16).

Three parcels (123 acres) of land along the Deerfield River are owned by Great River Hydro LLC, which owns and operates the Deerfield River Project (FERC Project No. P-2323). This includes the Deerfield No. 3 and Deerfield No. 2 Dams in Buckland and Shelburne. The Deerfield River Settlement Agreement and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) License Article 427 included the protection of project land from development through permanent conservation easements. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (Department of Environmental Management at the time of the Settlement Agreement) holds the easements for the Great River Hydro project lands in Massachusetts.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>70</sup> Great River Hydro, 2020. Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) Recertification Application, Deerfield River Project, November 2020. Page 39.



**Table 16: Privately Owned Land Permanently Protected from Development by a Conservation Restriction**

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)	Holder of the Conservation Restriction
007.D-0002-0000.0	GREAT RIVER HYDRO LLC Deerfield River Project (P-2323)	0 BARNARD RD.	109.0	MA DCR
008.D-0006-0000.0	BARDWELL FARM LLC	0 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	1.1	FLT
008.D-0007-0000.0	BASSETT HOMESTEAD, LLC	80 BASSETT RD.	124.4	FLT
008.D-0007-0000.1	ASHENDEN, REBECCA C.	47 BASSETT RD.	17.7	FLT
008.D-0009-0000.0	BARDWELL FARM LLC	0 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	237.0	FLT
010.D-0002-0000.0	COSBY, CAMILLE O.	0 SOUTH SHELBURNE RD.	55.5	FLT
015.D-0006-0000.1	GREAT RIVER HYDRO LLC Deerfield River Project (P-2323)	0 MOHAWK TRAIL	8.0	MA DCR
016.D-0013-0000.0	BORON MATTHEW J	0 COOPER LANE.	53.0	FLT
018.D-0032-0000.1	PAYNE MARGARET	0 MOHAWK TRAIL	142.1	Town of Shelburne
022.D-0003-0000.0	HITOR, LLC	94 PATTEN RD.	21.6	FLT
025.D-0003-0000.0	GREAT RIVER HYDRO LLC Deerfield River Project (P-2323)	232 MAIN ST.	5.6	MA DCR
<b>Total Conservation Restriction Land</b>			<b>774.9</b>	

Source: MassGIS, 2023

### 5.2.2.2 Privately Owned Temporarily Protected Forestland

Parcels in Shelburne enrolled in the Chapter 61 forestland program are primarily forested lands temporarily protected from development.

Table 17 lists parcels in the Ch. 61 forestland program, which total approximately 1,404 acres (9% of the total land area of Shelburne). The zoning for these parcels is Residential-Agricultural. Owners do receive a property tax break.

**Table 17: Forestlands with Temporary Protection from Development through Enrollment in the Chapter 61 Forestland Classification and Taxation Program**

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
010.D-0014-0000.0	HERRON, JOHN H. / HERRON, JOANN W	OLD ALBANY RD. (OFF)	39.0
010.D-0024-0000.0	HERRON, JOHN H. / HERRON, JOANN W	GUY MANNERS RD.	14.0
013.D-0012-0000.0	THOMAIER, SANDRA A.	38 LUCY FISKE RD.	19.4

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
013.D-0031-0000.0	SPEARANCE INVESTMENT TRUST / C/O PENELOPE SPEARANCE, TRUSTEE	187 SOUTH SHELBURNE RD.	16.0
017.D-0011-0000.0	BURNHAM, JAMES A. / BURNHAM, ELIZABETH W	LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	16.0
017.D-0015-0000.0	BURNHAM, JAMES A. / BURNHAM, ELIZABETH W	LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	39.2
018.D-0017-0000.0	CLARKE, CONSTANCE C.	117 OLD GREENFIELD RD.	32.4
019.D-0001-0000.0	PAYNE MARGARET / WATT TRUSTEE HELEN P	OLD GREENFIELD RD.	292.1
019.D-0001-0000.1	APPLEY, JOHN B	OLD GREENFIELD RD.	11.3
019.D-0006-0000.0	BOGEL, ALEXANDER D. / BOGEL, SCHUYLER S.	20 STODDARD RD.	46.0
022.D-0010-0000.0	RAYMOND S HARTMAN REVOCABLE TR / HARTMAN, RAYMOND TRUSTEE	373 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	84.0
024.D-0001-0000.1	FLACCUS, SUSAN T. / FLACCUS, LAURENCE K.	1394 MOHAWK TRAIL	2.0
024.D-0009-0000.0	MOES CHRISTOPHER	1449 MOHAWK TRAIL	18.0
025.0-0012-0000.0	SMITH, DAVENPORT	105 MECHANIC ST.	110.5
027.D-0020-0000.0	JENKS RAE ANNE E	LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	44.6
027.D-0020-0000.2	JENKS RAE ANNE E	431 LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	22.5
028.D-0007-0000.0	MAZANEC ROBERT H / MAZANEC DOUGLAS S	176 COLRAIN-SHELBURNE RD	29.5
029.D-0005-0000.0	BENOIT TTEE CHARLES E / OLD GORGE NOMINEE TRUST	MOHAWK TRAIL	19.9
029.D-0006-0000.0	TRAINOR, JOSEPH A. & EILEEN J.	OLD GORGE RD.	58.0
031.D-0008-0000.2	O'BRIEN, DIANA M. & C. ETHAN, TRUSTEES / ETHAN& DIANA O'BRIEN IRREV TRU	PATTEN RD.	9.8
031.D-0009-0000.0	O'BRIEN, DIANA M. & C. ETHAN TRUSTEES / ETHAN&DIANA O'BRIEN IRREV TRUS	595 PATTEN RD.	25.0
031.D-0009-0000.1	O'BRIEN, DIANA M. & C. ETHAN TRUSTEES / ETHAN&DIANA O'BRIEN IRREV TRUS	PATTEN RD.	24.5
031.D-0009-0000.2	O'BRIEN, DIANA M. & C. ETHAN TRUSTEES / ETHAN & DIANA O'BRIEN IRREV TR	PATTEN RD.	10.0
032.D-0006-0000.0	LEE, JOHN J.	LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	86.2
033.D-0002-0000.1	LAWES, GRAHAM / LANDAU, JOYCE	240 COLRAIN-SHELBURNE RD	87.5
034.D-0005-0000.0	GOLDBERG SIRI / SWANSON WILLIAM F	40 WILSON GRAVES RD.	35.2

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
034.D-0013-0000.0	BUTYNSKI, MICHAEL E. & RITA T. / BUTYNSKI, PAUL A. & JANE M.	SMEAD HILL RD.	63.0
034.D-0014-0000.1	LOGAN, JAMES R. & VIRGINIA F. TRUSTEES / LOGAN REALTY TRUST	BROOK RD.	30.3
034.D-0014-0000.2	LOGAN, JAMES R. & VIRGINIA F. TRUSTEES / LOGAN REALTY TRUST	SMEAD HILL RD. (OFF)	20.0
038.D-0002-0000.0	LOGAN, JAMES R. & VIRGINIA F. TRUSTEES / LOGAN REALTY TRUST	230 WILSON GRAVES RD.	32.8
038.D-0004-0000.0	LOGAN, JAMES R. & VIRGINIA F. TRUSTEES / LOGAN REALTY TRUST	SMEAD HILL RD.	3.6
038.D-0005-0000.0	HOLLISTER, LISA K.	SHEARER RD.	28.1
038.D-0013-0000.0	LOGAN, JAMES R. & VIRGINIA F. TRUSTEES / LOGAN REALTY TRUST	WILSON GRAVES RD.	26.9
<b>Total Chapter 61 Acres</b>			<b>1,397.2</b>

Source: Shelburne Assessor's Records, 2023

The Chapter 61B Program is intended for landowners interested in maintaining the land in a substantially natural, wild or open condition. Assessment of forestland under Chapter 61B is 25% of the current assessed value of the land.

**Table 18: Lands with Temporary Protection from Development through Enrollment in the Chapter 61B Open Space and Recreation Lands Classification and Taxation Program**

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
010.D-0013-0000.0	KIMBALL, TERRY	216 OLD ALBANY RD.	20.5
014.D-0002-0000.2	MANNERS, ROBERT & LAURA	440 SOUTH SHELBURNE RD.	7.4
016.D-0005-0000.0	IWANOWICZ JOHN J.	354 MOHAWK TRAIL	74.0
016.D-0006-0000.0	IWANOWICZ JOHN J.	368 MOHAWK TRAIL	27.0
018.D-0002-0000.0	CALL, C. DONALD	966 MOHAWK TRAIL	12.3
018.D-0021-0000.0	WEBLER, THOMAS N.	111 ZERAH FISKE RD.	23.0
020.D-0001-0000.0	PERRY INVESTMENT TRUST	0 HALLIGAN AVE.	61.4
024.D-0013-0000.0	GOODNOW, LEWIS R. .	1403 MOHAWK TRAIL	55.0
030.D-0012-0000.0	MOZDZIERZ, BRENDA L	0 FRANKTON RD.	25.7
034.D-0008-0000.0	NORMAN JUSTIN	0 SMEAD HILL RD.	10.9
034.D-0014-0000.3	NORMAN JUSTIN R / LETENDRE-CAHILLANE ASHA	0 SMEAD HILL RD.	6.3

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
038.D-0007-0000.1	NORMAN JUSTIN / LETENDRE-CAHILLANE ASHA	0 SMEAD HILL RD.	2.0
038.D-0008-0000.0	NORMAN JUSTIN / LETENDRE-CAHILLANE ASHA	97 SMEAD HILL RD.	14.3
<b>Total Chapter 61B Acres</b>			<b>339.8</b>

Source: Shelburne Assessor's Records 2023

### 5.2.3 NON-PROFIT OWNED OPEN SPACE

The Franklin Land Trust (FLT), MassAudubon, and New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) are 501(c)(3) conservation land trusts that own land in fee in Shelburne. These properties in Shelburne are considered to be held in perpetuity for conservation purposes.

Land trusts can assist towns by pre-acquiring land and holding it long enough for the town to find funding to purchase the land. Towns are limited in their ability to respond quickly when important open space parcels come on the open market (and also in Chapter 61 Right-of-First-Refusal situations) because the town usually lacks an immediate source of funds and because it may be necessary to wait several months before the next Town Meeting at which residents can vote to approve the project. It requires many months and much hard work on the part of the Open Space & Recreation Committee or Conservation Commission to apply for and receive the necessary grants to cover the cost of Town conservation land.

**Table 19: Permanently Protected Parcels Owned by Private Non-Profit Conservation Organizations**

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
008.D-0013-0000.0	NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION "Wells Forest"	JAMES BARNARD RD.	55.0
012.D-0016-0000.1	FRANKLIN LAND TRUST, INC.	0 BARDWELLS FERRY RD.	10.6
015.D-0001-0000.0	FRANKLIN LAND TRUST, INC.	0 MOHAWK TRAIL	21.0
026.D-0003-0000.0	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.	0 PATTEN RD.	1.2
026.D-0004-0000.0	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.	0 PATTEN RD. (OFF)	364.0
030.D-0002-0000.0	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.	0 COLRAIN RD.	3.0
030.D-0010-0000.0	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.	0 PATTEN HILL RD.	30.0
030.D-0022-0000.0	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.	0 COLRAIN RD.	80.0



Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
031.D-0003-0000.1	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.	360 PATTEN RD	49.0
031.D-0003-0000.3	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.	0 PATTEN RD.	179.0
031.D-0005-0000.0	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.	0 PATTEN RD.	63.0
031.D-0006-0000.0	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.	0 PATTEN RD.	30.0
031.D-0011-0000.0	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.	0 PATTEN RD.	17.3
Total Nonprofit-Owned Protected Land			903.1

Source: MassGIS, Shelburne Assessor's office, MassAudubon

### 5.2.3 CEMETERIES

Cemeteries in Table 20 are considered permanently protected. Shelburne has five cemetery properties totaling 37 acres, both public and private. The largest cemetery is Arms Cemetery, which is located across Route 2 from Shelburne Falls village and is used for passive recreation such as walking.

**Table 20: Cemetery Land**

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
012.D-0040-0000.0	SHELBURNE CENTER ROAD CEMETERY	SHELBURNE CENTER RD.	1.4
013.D-0030-0000.0	SOUTH CEMETERY	SOUTH SHELBURNE RD.	1.0
017.D-0021-0000.0	TOWN OF SHELBURNE (HILL CEMETERY)	OLD VILLAGE RD.	2.1
023.D-0022-0000.0	SHELBURNE CENTER CEMETERY	PERCY ROBERTS RD.	1.0
025.0-0011-0000.0	ARMS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION	MECHANIC ST.	31.6
Total Cemetery Land			37.0

Source: Town of Shelburne Assessor records, 2023

## 5.3 PUBLIC PARCELS

Only 0.7%, or 112 acres, of protected land in Shelburne is publicly owned. Additional parcels of land in public ownership through the Town of Shelburne, the Shelburne Fire District, the Shelburne Falls Fire and Water District, and the Mohawk Trail Regional School District have a limited level of protection.

Some of these parcels may be permanently protected if there is a statement in the deed, but this Plan did not involve deed-level research.

### 5.3.1 STATE-OWNED LAND

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) manages two Commonwealth-owned parcels in Shelburne. These include Wilcox Hollow State Park and Shelburne State Forest on top of Massaemett Mountain. Wilcox Hollow State Park was acquired by a previous owner of Gardner Falls Dam and turned over to the Commonwealth (Department of Environmental Management at the time, now DCR) for recreation purposes. It links with land owned by the owner of Gardner Falls Dam (FERC Project No. P-2334), currently Central Rivers Power MA, LLC (a subsidiary of Patriot Hydro, LLC) and provides recreation access to the Deerfield River at Wilcox Hollow. The land owned by Central Rivers Power MA, LLC is unprotected.

Table 21 lists permanently protected public parcels of land owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These parcels total 75 acres or 0.5% of the total land area of Shelburne.

**Table 21: State-owned Permanently Protected Land**

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)	Site Name	Condition	Public Access	Recreational Value
016.D-0003-0000.0	MA DCR	ROUTE 2	25.7	WILCOX HOLLOW STATE PARK	Good	Yes	Access to high
021.D-0003-0000.0	MA DCR	TOWER RD (OFF)	49	SHELBURNE STATE FOREST	Good	Yes	High
Total State-owned Protected Land			74.7				

Source: Town of Shelburne Assessor records, 2023

### 5.3.2 LAND OWNED BY THE TOWN OF SHELBURNE

The Town owns a total of 63.7 acres, most of which is considered open space, recreation, or historic resources. Some of these parcels with municipal buildings and other functions on them and are not broadly considered open space.

All municipal park and conservation areas and programs in Shelburne are evaluated for accessibility for people with disabilities as part of this plan. The results of this evaluation are included in *Appendix C: ADA Access Self-Evaluation*.

### 5.3.2.3 Town-owned Land

All parcels under the authority of the Select Board, or under any other jurisdiction other than the Conservation Commission that do not have protective language under Article 97 in their deed, are subject to land conversion based on a Town Meeting vote. As a result, such parcels are considered to have limited protection. The Town of Shelburne does not own any conservation properties, but once a site receives a state PARC grant, the land is permanently protected open space under Article 97. The Cowell Gymnasium and associated outdoor courts received state PARC grant funding in 2017, and the property is now protected by Article 97. All other town-owned parcels are understood to have limited protection. Town-owned land constitutes 63.7 acres as shown in Table 22 below. The Cowell Gymnasium parcel is shaded in yellow as the only parcel with known Article 97 protection. Parcels are listed by parcel ID. The Zoning District for the parcels noted in Table 22 as follows: RA=Rural Residential/Agriculture; VC=Village Commercial; C=Commercial; and I=Industrial. The Town's Zoning Map is included at the end of Section 3.

**Table 22: Town-Owned Land with Limited Protection**

Parcel ID	Site Name/Current Use	Location	Land Area (Acres)	Zoning District	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Conservation Interest	Condition	Grants Used
043.0-0044-0000.0	COWELL GYM Gymnasium building and outdoor courts for tennis, pickleball, and basketball	51 MAPLE ST.	1.55	V	Yes	High: existing indoor and outdoor facilities. Aging building has a number of potential upgrades. Few ADA improvements in bathrooms.	None	Good	Tennis court renovations 2017: DCS PARC grant. Mini-split installation 2023: Massachusetts Green Communities Grant.

Parcel ID	Site Name/Current Use	Location	Land Area (Acres)	Zoning District	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Conservation Interest	Condition	Grants Used
017.D-0016-0000.0	ATHLETIC FIELD Former ballfield	LITTLE MOHAWK RD.	4.61	RA	Yes	High: Baseball field upgrade and bench repair needed, or repurpose for other outdoor recreation use	Potential natural area viewing, property adjacent to wetland	Fair	None
015.D-0012-0000.0	FORMERLY FURHMANN Wooded rocky steep slope	MOHAWK TRAIL	24.00	C, V	Yes	None	Biomap Core Habitat	Good	None
020.O-0014-0000.0	RAVINE No current use	BRIDGE ST. (RAVINE)	8.53	I, VC	Yes	High recreation potential; data being gathered for possible trails	Biomap Rare Species Core and Aquatic Core Buffer Habitat	Fair	None
021.D-0004-0000.0	MT. MASSAEMETT FIRE TOWER Hiking destination, tower is publicly accessible for views. Active fire tower.	TOWER RD.(OFF)	0.21	RA	Yes	High: Hiking destination, potential picnic table upgrades	None (tiny property surrounded by high conservation value land)	Good	None
023.D-0014-0000.0	TOWN OF SHELBURNE Next to highway garage. Portion leased as an orchard	COLRAIN-SHELBURNE RD	6.90	RA, C	Yes	High: No current plans, but potential for active or passive recreation	None	Good	None



Parcel ID	Site Name/Current Use	Location	Land Area (Acres)	Zoning District	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Conservation Interest	Condition	Grants Used
023.D-0012-0000.0	HIGHWAY GARAGE	24 COLRAIN-SHELBURNE RD	0.13	RA	Yes	None	None	Good	None
040.0-0073-0000.0	ARMS ACADEMY LOT Parking & ballfield	SEVERANCE & CHURCH	1.58	V	Yes	High: ballfield upgrades planned in 2024.	None	Fair	Improvements scheduled in 2024 from Woodlands Partnership grant.
040.0-0114-0000.0	BRIDGE ST. RAVINE No current use	BRIDGE ST.	1.00	VC, I	Yes	High: potential river trail access	Biomap Rare Species Core and Aquatic Core Buffer Habitat	Fair	Woodlands Partnership of NW Mass. Grant for invasive tree removal in 2023.
041.0-0100-0000.2	BANK TO POT HOLES No current use. Former public access to Potholes.	DEERFIELD AVE.	0.12	I	No	High: Public access cut off because of safety concerns.	Biomap Rare Species Core and Aquatic Core Buffer Habitat	Good	None
041.0-0101-0000.0	BANK TO POT HOLES No current use. Former public access to Potholes.	8 DEERFIELD AVE.	0.13	I	No	High: Public access cut off because of safety concerns.	Biomap Rare Species Core and Aquatic Core Buffer Habitat	Good	None
041.0-0111-0000.0	DEERFIELD AVE GARDEN Flower garden at viewing area for Potholes	DEERFIELD AVE	0.03	I	Yes	High: Recently upgraded pocket open space in village	None	Good	None

Parcel ID	Site Name/Current Use	Location	Land Area (Acres)	Zoning District	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Conservation Interest	Condition	Grants Used
042.0-0022-0000.0	BAPTIST LOT Tiny portion of larger privately-owned Baptist Lot	MAIN ST.	0.06	V	Yes	None	None	Good	None
043.0-0049-0000.0	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOT Rear of soccer fields at Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School	MOHAWK TRAIL	1.93	V	Yes	High: Current use as part of mowed soccer fields	None	Good	None
011.D-0022-0000.0	POLICE STATION	623 MOHAWK TRAIL	0.50	RA	Yes	None	None	Good	None
012.D-0012-0000.0	SHELBURNE PUBLIC LIBRARY	233 SHELBURNE CENTER RD.	0.25	RA	Yes	None	None	Good	None
030.D-0015-0000.0	TOWN OF SHELBURNE Empty lot, former house lot	379 MAIN ST.	2.50	V	Yes	Low: Possible parking for river access	None	Fair	None
030.D-0016-0000.0	KNAPP LOT Empty lot, former house lot	375 MAIN ST.	0.33	V	Yes	Low: Possible parking for river access	None	Fair	None
034.D-0001-0000.0	PARSONS LOT Wooded lot	BROOK RD.	8.00	RA	Yes	Unknown	Biomap Rare Species Core and Wetland Core Habitat	Fair	None
040.0-0002-0000.0	PRESTON - KING LOT Old barn structure	49 MECHANIC ST.	0.24	V	Yes	None	None	Poor	None

Parcel ID	Site Name/Current Use	Location	Land Area (Acres)	Zoning District	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Conservation Interest	Condition	Grants Used
041.0-0059-0000.0	CROSS ST. PARKING LOT	23 CROSS ST.	0.12	VC	Yes	Low: if parking lot no longer needed, could be future village pocket park	None	Good	None
041.0-0064-0000.0	ARMS LIBRARY	BRIDGE & MAIN ST.	0.14	VC	Yes	Medium: Meeting space for cultural events. Open space in rear could be used for demonstration garden	None	Good	Grants for library renovations not tracked in this OSRP.
041.0-0064-0000.2	PARKING LOT BEHIND BANK DRIVE-UP	BRIDGE ST.	0.02	VC	Yes	None	None	Good	None
041.0-0075-0000.0	WATER ST. PARKING LOT	5 WATER ST.	0.10	VC	Yes	None	None	Good	None
041.0-0081-0000.0	BAKER AVE. PARKING LOT	BAKER AVE.	0.15	VC	Yes	None	None	Good	None
041.0-0083-0000.0	BAKER AVE. PARKING LOT	BAKER AVE.	0.35	VC	Yes	None	None	Good	None
041.0-0087-0000.0	INFORMATION CENTER Visitor Center staffed by volunteers	75 BRIDGE ST.	0.04	VC	Yes	None, other than public bathroom	None	Fair	None

Parcel ID	Site Name/Current Use	Location	Land Area (Acres)	Zoning District	Public Access	Recreation Potential	Conservation Interest	Condition	Grants Used
041.0-0091-0000.0	MEMORIAL HALL Downstairs is town hall offices & meeting rooms, upstairs is theater for movies, operas, and performances	51 BRIDGE ST.	0.12	VC	Yes	None	None	Fair	Grants for town hall renovations not tracked in this OSRP.
041.0-0100-0000.1	PUMPING STATION	12 DEERFIELD AVE.	0.10	I, VC	No	None	None	Unknown	None
<b>Total Town-owned Lands</b>			<b>63.7</b>						

Source: Town of Shelburne Assessor records, 2023



### 5.3.3 OTHER MUNICIPALLY OWNED LAND

The Shelburne Falls Fire & Water District owns 297 acres on Patten Hill Road that is forested, and a tiny amount of land on Water Street that provides access to the Bridge of Flowers on the Shelburne side. This parcel is landscaped and contains a bench and water fountain. The Shelburne Historical Society owns the former Arms Academy, which was the high school before Mohawk Trail Regional School was built in the late 1960's. It's currently used as a historical museum of town artifacts. The Shelburne Fire District owns one acre on Church Common Road for their fire station. The Mohawk Trail Regional School District owns two adjacent parcels of land in the village residential district. One parcel contains Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School, playgrounds, playing fields, and a parking lot. The other lot contains a band shell and mowed open space.

**Table 23: Other Municipal Land With Limited Protection**

Parcel ID	Owner	Location	Land Area (Acres)
017.D-0009-0000.1	SHELBURNE FIRE DISTRICT	34 CHURCH COMMON RD.	1.0
031.D-0004-0000.0	SHELBURNE FALLS FIRE DISTRICT / WATER DEPARTMENT	0 PATTEN HILL RD.	8.0
031.D-0010-0000.0	SHELBURNE FALLS FIRE DISTRICT / WATER DEPARTMENT	0 PATTEN HILL RD.	289.0
040.0-0072-0000.0	SHELBURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY	33 SEVERANCE ST	0.5
041.0-0005-0000.2	SHELBURNE FALLS FIRE DISTRICT	WATER ST.	0.1
043.0-0035-0000.0	MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT / BUCKLAND-SHELBURNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	75 MECHANIC ST.	14.0
043.0-0036-0000.0	MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT / BUCKLAND-SHELBURNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	75 MECHANIC ST.	2.8
<b>Total Other Municipal Lands</b>			<b>315.4</b>

Source: Shelburne Assessor's office, 2023

## 5.4 UNPROTECTED LANDS OF CONSERVATION INTEREST

A number of power company, nonprofit, and institutional land holdings in Shelburne are used for recreation or conservation purposes but are not protected from development. The following are properties in Shelburne with recreation or open space value that currently have limited to no protection. This is not an exhaustive list.

### Wilcox Hollow

An 18-acre parcel of land that is the part of Wilcox Hollow and provides Deerfield River access is owned by the company that owns Gardner Falls Dam (FERC Project No. P-2334). This dam has had numerous owners in recent years, but it is currently owned by Central Rivers Power LLC, a subsidiary of Patriot Hydro LLC. The river access is required to be maintained under the Recreation Management Plan that is part of the project's hydropower license under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which expires in 2037. The Recreation Management Plan is being updated in 2023 because of some changes the company wants to make, but when this license comes up for renewal, it may make sense for the Town and other river advocates to request permanent protection of this land, as was done with the Great River Hydro land in the Deerfield Project license that has the same license date.

### Baptist Lot

Most of the empty lot at the corner of Water and Main Streets is owned by the Trinity Church. This grassy park land is used for the Shelburne Falls Farmer's Market on Fridays. This plan did not research whether there are any deed restrictions on this land. Assuming none, the Town may wish to acquire this as park land if the Trinity Church were ever interested in selling it.

### Mohican-Mohawk Trail

The existing Mohican-Mohawk Trail crosses many private properties and one property owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Public trail access is blocked on some of the private properties. When there are opportunities to purchase lands or easements and create new sections of trail that connect the trail to the village of Shelburne Falls, the Town may be interested in this in order to complete this trail.

## 5.5 RECREATIONAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE EQUITY

One dimension of environmental equity is the distribution of and access to open space. This is somewhat difficult to evaluate in a town like Shelburne, where residences are spread out along the rural roads in town. Shelburne's public recreation areas within the village include the Cowell Gymnasium inside and outside facilities, a ballfield, and a couple very small pocket parks. Other public spaces are outside the village and are only accessible by car. Many people walk on private property in their neighborhoods, with permission. With long distances and no pedestrian accommodations along rural roads (and along Route 2), plus a lack of trails and walkways or bike paths, access to open space is difficult for those who do not have vehicular access.

## 5.6 CRITERIA FOR OPEN SPACE PROTECTION

Shelburne has a "Land Evaluation Workbook" that the Shelburne Open Space Committee prepared in 2009 to assist in the evaluation of land parcels for protection as opportunities arise. This document may need updating to reflect current priorities as reflected in this Open Space and Recreation Plan, and to use new mapping information and resources developed statewide since 2009. With an updated set of evaluation criteria, the Open Space Committee can move forward with related objectives and action

items in *Section 9: Seven-Year Action Plan*. The Land Evaluation Workbook enables Shelburne to be strategic in proactively identifying parcels and resources that meet the goals of the open space plan, and to analyze the merits of individual parcels of land and projects as they present themselves.

Given concerns about keeping land on the tax rolls, one form of open space protection for the future is the purchase of conservation restrictions and trail easements (in which private landowners agree to allow the public use of a trail that passes through their land). In this way, the land itself remains in private ownership and stays on the tax rolls. An open space and recreation budget stretches further when it is possible to purchase just a restriction or trail easement, rather than having to pay for the entire parcel.

The Open Space Committee could move forward with related objectives and action items in *Section 9: Seven-Year Action Plan*.

## 5.7 OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS

The opportunities for small, rural towns like Shelburne to procure adequate funding for open space projects can be a challenge. The following summaries provide a brief description of some of available resources for funding open space and conservation projects.

### 5.7.1 LAND GRANT PROGRAM (FORMERLY THE SELF-HELP GRANT PROGRAM)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts offers a grant program through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, to assist municipalities with open space projects. This program was formerly known as the Self Help grant program and is now entitled the LAND grant program (Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity).<sup>71</sup> Conservation or Agricultural Commissions from communities with an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan are eligible to apply for reimbursement grants to acquire land for conservation and passive recreation in fee or for a conservation restriction. The grant supports the purchase of forests, fields, wetlands, wildlife habitat, unique natural, cultural, or historic resources, and some farmland. The public must have reasonable access to the land. Reimbursement rates are between 52-70%, with a maximum grant award of \$500,000.

### 5.7.2 PARC GRANT PROGRAM

The Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program, offered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, was established to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes.<sup>72</sup> These grants can be used by municipalities to acquire parkland, build a new park, or to renovate an existing park. Applications are open to all municipalities that have submitted an up-to-date Open Space

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/local-acquisitions-for-natural-diversity-land-grant-program>

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/parkland-acquisitions-and-renovations-for-communities-parc-grant-program>

and Recreation Plan, however, the number of residents in a town may affect the grant amount. Reimbursement rates are between 52-70%, with a maximum grant award of \$500,000.

### **5.7.3 MASSACHUSETTS LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM**

The Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program is offered through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, and is funded from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.<sup>73</sup> The program provides up to 50% reimbursement for the acquisition of parkland or conservation land, creation of new parks, renovations to existing parks, and development of trails. Municipalities with up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plans are eligible to apply.

### **5.7.4 MASSTRAILS GRANT PROGRAM**

MassTrails provides grants to support recreational trail and shared-use pathway projects across the Commonwealth.<sup>74</sup> The award maximum is generally \$100,000 for recreational trails projects and up to \$500,000 for shared-use path projects demonstrating critical network connections of regional or statewide significance. Eligible grant activities include project development, design, engineering, permitting, construction, and maintenance of recreational trails, shared-use pathways, and the amenities that support trails. MassTrails grants are reimbursement grants, meaning grantees must first pay for expenditures and then submit for reimbursement using the required documentation. They also require a 20% match of the total project cost.

### **5.7.5 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUNDING**

DCR has a limited budget for funding land protection state-wide through fee purchases or buying Conservation Restrictions. To make their expenditures as effective as possible, DCR is focusing on expanding existing large blocks of state-owned land. DCR has designated areas throughout the state that have priority for funding.

### **5.7.6 CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM**

The Conservation Partnership Grant Program is a Commonwealth grant program that is designed to help land trusts and other non-profit conservation organizations acquire interests in land for conservation or recreation purposes.<sup>75</sup> Potential projects fall into one of two categories: acquisition of the fee interest in land or a conservation restriction; or due diligence for land or a conservation restriction that was donated to the organization. The maximum reimbursement amount available for a single project is 50% of the total eligible project cost up to the grant award maximum of \$85,000. Finding funds for the remaining 50% of the project can be challenging.

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<sup>73</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-land-and-water-conservation-fund-grant-program>

<sup>74</sup> [https://www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants?blm\\_aid=23358](https://www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants?blm_aid=23358)

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/conservation-partnership-grant-program>



### 5.7.7 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

Shelburne is now enrolled in the Community Preservation Act (CPA), legislation that allows cities and towns to exercise control over funding local planning decisions.<sup>76</sup> The CPA provides new funding sources including a 3% property tax surcharge and matching funds from a Trust Fund filled by excise taxes on property land transfers in the Commonwealth that can be used to address three core community concerns:

- Acquisition and preservation of open space
- Creation and support of affordable housing
- Acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes

A fourth category, recreation, is also an allowable use for funds, though it is not required that CPA funds be expended for recreation.

Shelburne has now created a local Community Preservation Fund to raise money through a surcharge of 3% of the real estate tax levy on real property to be used for open space protection, historic preservation and the provision of affordable housing. The act also creates a significant state matching fund. Shelburne Town Meeting adopted the CPA in May 2023 at the 3% surcharge rate, exempting the first \$100,000 on residential and commercial properties and low-income residents.

A minimum of 10% of the annual revenues of the fund must be used for each of the three core community concerns, and up to 5% may be used for administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee. The remaining funds can be allocated for any combination of the allowed uses, or for land for recreational use. This gives each community the opportunity to determine its priorities, plan for its future, and have the funds to make those plans happen. Projects using CPA funds must have those funds approved by a Town Meeting vote. Additionally, CPA funds can be used as local matching funds to leverage many of the grant programs discussed above.<sup>77</sup>

### 5.7.8 AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM / WETLANDS RESERVE EASEMENTS

The Agricultural Lands Conservation Program / Wetlands Reserve Easements is a federal funding program through the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).<sup>78</sup> The program provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component of the program, NRCS helps state and local governments and conservation organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. NRCS provides up to 50% of the fair market value of the agricultural land restriction. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component of the program, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance wetlands. Depending on the length of the restriction, NRCS may pay up to 100% of the cost of the restriction as well as wetland restoration costs.

<sup>76</sup> <https://www.communitypreservation.org/>

<sup>77</sup> For more information on projects completed using CPA funds, go to <http://www.communitypreservation.org>

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/acep-agricultural-conservation-easement-program>

### 5.7.9 COMMUNITY FOREST AND OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The U.S. Forest Service's Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (Community Forest Program) offers communities an opportunity to acquire and conserve forests that provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, serve as demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber products.<sup>79</sup> Full fee title acquisition of a property at least 5 acres in size is required; conservation easements are not eligible. Community Forests can be owned by local governments, tribal governments, and qualified nonprofit entities. The program pays up to 50% of the project costs and requires a 50% non-federal match. Project costs can include appraisals and land surveys, legal and closing costs, title examination, and development of a Community Forest Plan. Public access is required for Community Forest Program projects. Lands acquired through the program are actively managed in accordance with a community forest plan to provide community benefits.

### 5.7.10 LOCAL LAND TRUSTS

Franklin Land Trust, MassAudubon, and the Trustees are local and statewide non-profit organizations that assist farmers and other landowners who seek to protect their land from unwanted development. A land trust does not seek to own land, but instead encourages private stewardship. Although land trusts could assist the Town of Shelburne in land conservation, they generally do not have funds to donate to the Town for protecting open space. Land trusts may be most helpful by serving towns on a consultant basis, by recommending funding sources, and by partnering with towns to provide public education and outreach.

### 5.7.11 REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

In addition to local land trusts, several other regional and statewide conservation organizations are available for partnership conservation projects. The New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) has a focus in conserving managed forest lands. Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) works to protect the diversity of Massachusetts natural resources. Additional organizations include The Trustees of Reservations and The Nature Conservancy. Each of these conservation organizations has access to no-interest or low-interest loan funds to assist in the conservation of significant natural resources through the Norcross Wildlife Foundation's loan program and the Open Space Institute's Western Mass Loan Fund.

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<sup>79</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest/program?blm\\_aid=23358](https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest/program?blm_aid=23358)



# Town of Shelburne

## Open Space & Recreation Plan 2024

### Open Space

#### Permanently Protected

- State Owned
- Conservation Restriction
- Agricultural Preservation Restriction
- Land Trust
- Shelburne Falls
- Fire & Water District
- Cemetery
- Water
- Stream/River
- Gravel Road
- Road
- Route 2
- Building Structure

#### Temporarily Protected

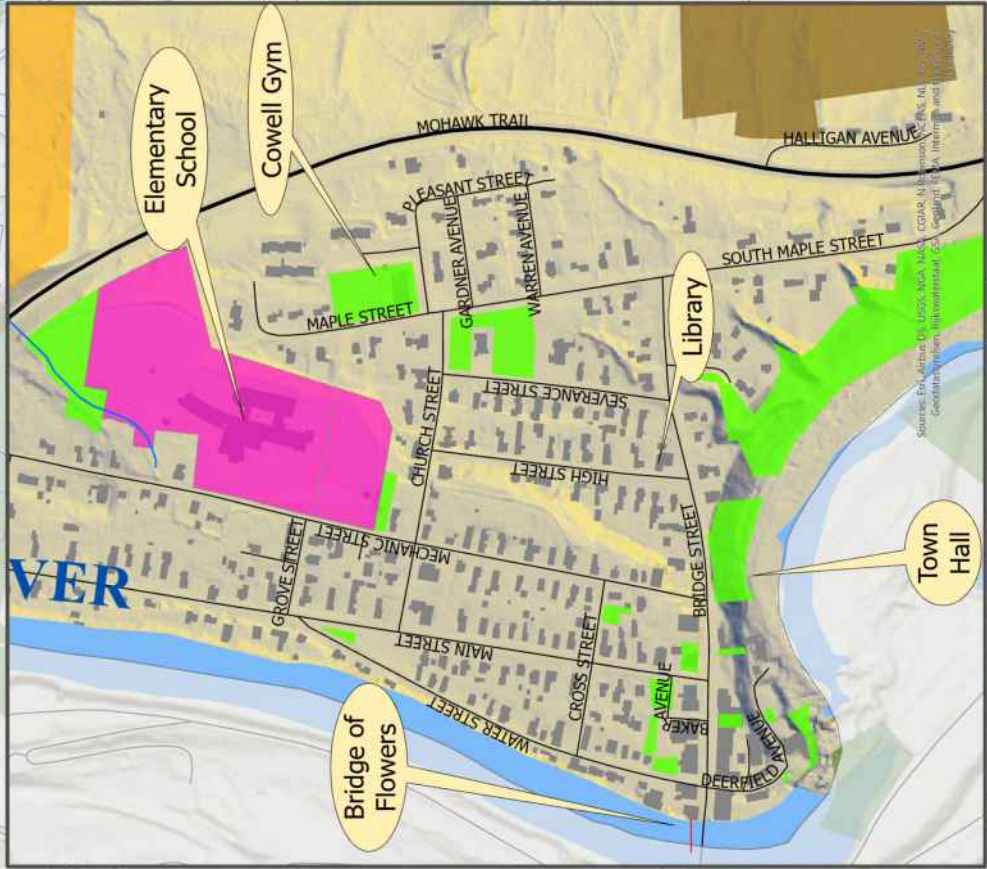
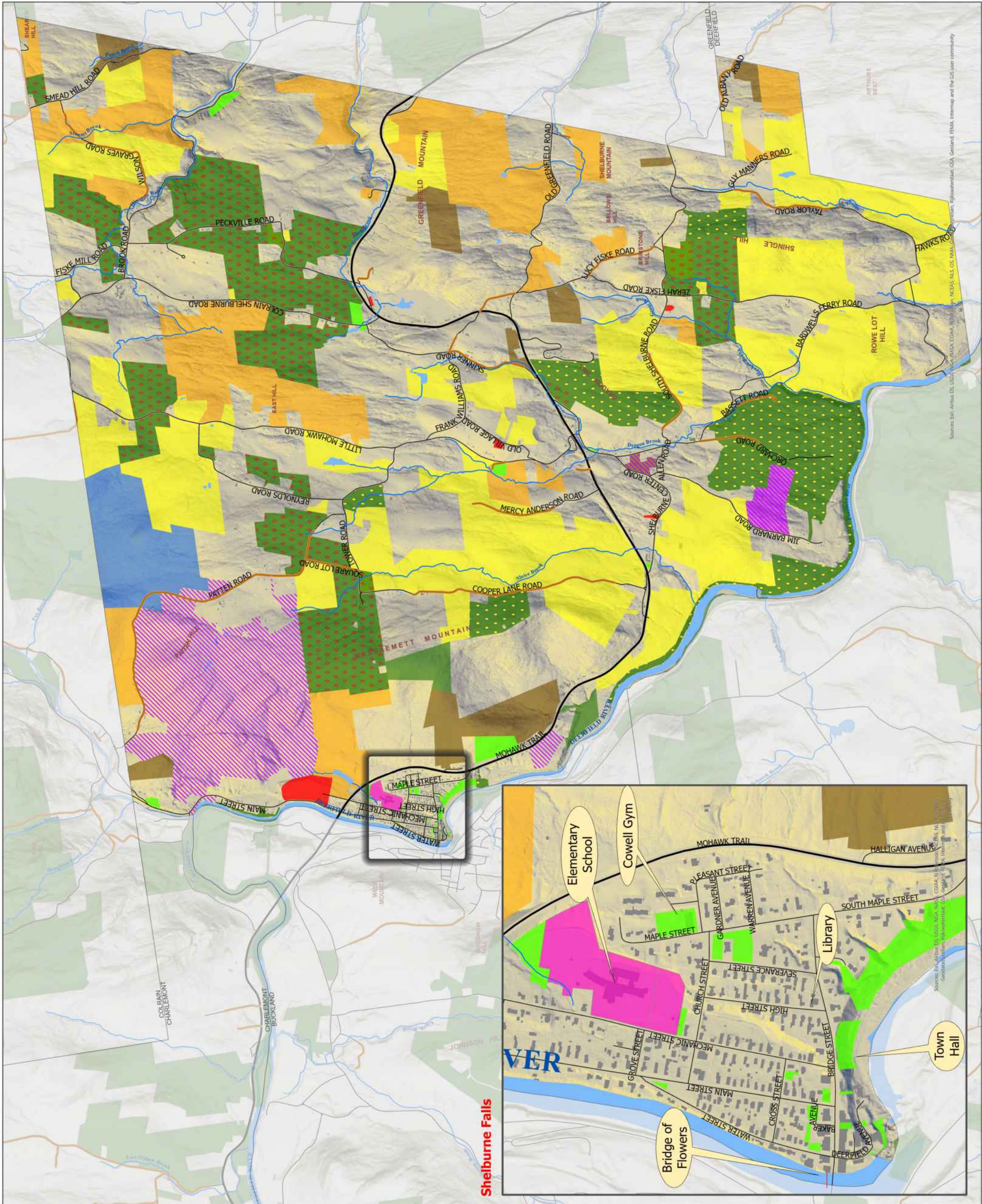
- Chapter 61
- Chapter 61B
- Chapter 61A
- Limited Protection
- New England Forestry Foundation
- Town Owned
- School



Sources: Map produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department. GIS data sources include MassDOT, MassGIS and FRCOG. Depicted boundaries are approximate and are intended for planning purposes only, not to be used for survey.



Franklin Regional  
Council of Governments







*On the Road to High Ledges (Joan LaPierre)*

## 6 Community Vision

### 6.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

Open space and recreation goals for the Town of Shelburne were developed by the Open Space Committee (OSC) and Recreation Committee (RC). The Open Space Committee has representatives of the Planning Board, the Recreation Committee, the Conservation Commission, and the Agriculture Commission as well as 11 at large members appointed by the Select Board. These goals were reaffirmed through a public outreach and planning process that included the activities described below.

In the fall of 2022, an Open Space and Recreation Survey developed by the Shelburne Open Space Committee and Recreation Committee was posted to the Town. It was advertised in the community's newsletter, email communications, the FRCOG and a community Facebook page, and via a postcard mailed to every postal customer in Shelburne (Shelburne Falls routes to parts of nearby towns were excluded; post office boxes in Shelburne were included). Additional copies of the survey were made available at the two libraries and Town Hall. The survey was open from November 15, 2022 to January 31, 2023. The Committee received 252 responses to the survey (234 e-survey responses and 18 paper surveys). With approximately 1,436 residents, this represents 17.5% of Shelburne's population and is considered to be statistically significant.

From August 2022 to December 2023, the Shelburne Open Space Committee developed the Open Space and Recreation Plan( OSRP) using several methods for involving public participation:



- The Open Space and Recreation Survey results were used to support the development of Section 8 Goals and Objectives as well as the overall open space and recreation goals and vision. The results of the survey were posted on the Town’s website in June of 2023, and the July 2023 Town Newsletter included a link to the results of the survey on the Town’s website.
- Monthly meetings were held by the Open Space Committee and were posted and open to the public.
- Drafts of plan sections were sent by the Open Space Committee to Town boards and community groups considered stakeholders in the plan (see Responsible Board/Group column in the *Section 9* seven-year action table).
- A public forum was held on October 10, 2023, where residents reviewed and discussed the inventory, analysis, community goals, objectives, and seven-year action plan. A one-month public comment period followed the public forum that closed on November 10, 2023. All public comments were recorded and incorporated into the plan (see *Section 10*).

## 6.2 STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

Shelburne residents who responded to the Open Space and Recreation Survey and participated in the process of developing this plan expressed a vision for the future of Shelburne’s natural, scenic, recreational, and historical resources. Their vision for Shelburne rests in the following main themes:

- continue to support the rich forest and farmland in town largely under private ownership;
- provide more opportunities for river access and a larger network of trails;
- develop more open space and recreation access opportunities in and from Shelburne Falls village;
- enable growth while preserving open space.

These themes include:

### *Protecting the Town’s Most Climate Resilient and Ecologically Vulnerable Areas*

Shelburne is rich in intact forest, farmland, and healthy ecosystems that contribute to ecosystem services and climate resilience, the protection of which is important both locally and regionally.

### *Preserving Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function of Conservation Lands under a Changing Climate*

Public, nonprofit, and private landowners manage large tracts of land in Shelburne that are an important part of being resilient to climate changes. A mix of climate-smart stewardship approaches to these lands will increase their resilience and be models for land managers in the community and beyond.

### *Improving Recreation Access to the Deerfield River*

The Deerfield River runs along Shelburne’s border. The community highly values the river, and desires more and better opportunities to swim/wade, hike along, paddle and boat, and fish in the Deerfield River.

*Making Recreation Opportunities Accessible Across Town*

Shelburne residents appreciate the opportunity to walk, hike, and bike near their home. They would like to be able to travel within town, in and out of the village of Shelburne Falls, on trails and paths without being on Route 2.

*Increasing Public Open Space in Shelburne Falls*

The Shelburne side of Shelburne Falls village qualifies as an Environmental Justice community based on average income. The Town has a very limited amount of protected open space in the village. Residents in the village desire more and a greater variety of places to come together as a community, maintain good health, and enjoy the natural beauty of their surroundings.

*Maintaining Shelburne's Character and Sense of Place*

Residents love the mix of a tight-knit, vibrant village, combined with good air and water quality, forests, farmland, and dark skies at night. Residents want Shelburne to maintain its rural character while allowing for some growth. They embrace traditions and recreation opportunities to allow community members to stay connected and to feel a sense of place in the town where they live.

*Making Shelburne's Open Space and Recreation Opportunities a Place for All Ages and Abilities*

Outdoor spaces should be able to be enjoyed by all, including aging residents who want to continue to be active. Shelburne residents recognize that their recreation facilities and recreation areas can be made to be more accessible to the full spectrum of ages and abilities.

*Working with the Community and Regional Partners to Improve Awareness and Literacy and Planning of Open Space, Recreation, the Environment, and Climate Resilience*

Shelburne is a close-knit community that is committed to working together as a community to develop forward-thinking management practices and work with neighboring communities to support regional, landscape-scale conservation and recreation projects.

*Improving Public Awareness of Open Space and Recreation Opportunities*

Shelburne residents recognize that the accessibility of open space and recreation is also a function of peoples' awareness of and access to information about open space. Making detailed recreation information available to the public about these opportunities helps make them accessible to all.



*Rainbow view of Shelburne and beyond (Joan LaPierre)*

## 7 Analysis of Needs

The Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan incorporates an inventory of land-based natural, historic, scenic, and recreational resources in town (Section 4), identifies the areas that contain these resources (Section 5), and based on the community's general goals (Section 6), makes comparisons between what exists and what is needed or desired (this section). In the following subsection, A. *Summary of Natural Resource Protection Needs*, the most important environmental issues are highlighted. In B. *Summary of Community's Needs*, the most important needs of the residents are discussed. Finally, in C. *Management Needs*, the obstacles to the effective resolution of these needs are addressed.

### 7.1 SUMMARY OF NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS

The previous sections of this Open Space and Recreation Plan examined the variety of natural and cultural resources that give Shelburne its distinctive rural character. Public input, in the form of survey results, and review by Shelburne Open Space Committee members, provided a basis for discussion as to what resources are of priority concern to residents. This section outlines key natural resource protection needs.

As the climate change trend continues to unfold, the present and potential impacts of climate change on the environment, people, and the local economy are coming into focus in small communities. Local decisions about how land is used and ecosystems are managed will profoundly affect how Shelburne

adapts to the challenges of climate change. Opportunities for mitigation and to promote resilience are described throughout this section.

### **Areas of Conservation Interest**

According to the 2022 OSRP Community Survey, more than 80% of survey respondents thought it was “very important” to protect clean drinking water, rivers and streams, clean air, ponds and wetlands, wildlife migration corridors, large blocks of forest, pollinator habitat, and preserving scenic views. Specific areas of conservation interest identified by survey respondents included the Patten District, Wilcox Hollow, ridgelines around the village and Route 2, Shingle Hill, the Deerfield River including the Potholes, and existing farmland. Half of survey takers were “very interested” in having the Town recognize indigenous heritage of the land when thinking about open space protection in town.

### ***Farmland and Forests***

Farmland and forests give Shelburne its rural, small-town feel. Farmland and forests provide multiple public benefits to Shelburne residents. Active farming and forestry support the Town’s and the region’s economy. The support of local farms affords residents access to fresh vegetables, fruits, and dairy products, as well as the opportunity to buy forest products grown by neighbors. Shelburne is a hilly town, and it’s this topography that provides stunning views of farm fields and forests along hillsides in many areas of town.

A mix of forest, pasture, and hayfields offer different habitat types for mammals, birds, and insects. Large areas of contiguous forest and agricultural areas provide habitat and migration corridors for wildlife. Forest cover allows rainfall to infiltrate slowly into the ground and replenish streams and wetlands over time. Trees provide shade, sequester carbon, and clean the air.

### ***Water Resources***

Shelburne residents value clean drinking water, as well as clean rivers, streams, ponds, and wetlands. Shelburne Falls Fire and Water District owns and protects 297 acres around the drinking water source for Shelburne Falls village residents. The remainder of town relies on private wells for drinking water, and land uses can impact private water supplies. Protecting areas along rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands would provide storage for floodwaters, increased flood resilience, benefit habitat, and improve water quality.

## **7.2 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS**

Over the next seven years covered by this plan, Town boards, committees, and commissions may need to focus on how they can collaboratively and positively impact key community needs given the community’s vision of having age and ability-friendly recreation opportunities across town.

In 2017, the Commonwealth completed the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), an update of the SCORP 2012 five-year plan. SCORPs are developed by individual states to be eligible for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants and serve as a tool for states to use in planning for future needs and uses of outdoor resources for public recreation and relaxation. A survey of Massachusetts residents was conducted to assess their desires and needs for outdoor recreation as part of the 2017 SCORP update. Informed by the survey and review of municipal



open space and recreation plans, the SCORP identified the top four outdoor recreation goals for the state as:<sup>80</sup>

- Access for underserved populations
- Support of the statewide trails initiative: community-wide trail systems, hiking trails, and multi-use trails
- Increased availability of water-based recreation
- Support of the creation and renovation of neighborhood parks

Interestingly, the statewide top recreation goals reflect much of what Shelburne residents want in Shelburne as reflected in the community survey results.

### **Recreation Needs**

The top recreational activities that survey respondent households currently participate in or near Shelburne are as follows:

walking/jogging (78%)

hiking (77%)

gardening (73%)

birdwatching (64%)

swimming (50%)

photography (50%)

forest bathing or relaxation (49%)

bicycling (46%)

paddling (45%)

According to the survey respondents, the highest priority for the Town to expand, improve, or create was access to the Deerfield River for swimming, hiking, walking, fishing, floating or boating. The next highest was hiking or walking trails both within the village and in the surrounding hills. Residents also cited a need for more places for children to play, and for picnicking, dog walking, and cross-country skiing. Survey respondents also stated a desire to safely travel to destinations in town without a car.

### **Special Groups**

Consideration for the recreation needs of teens and seniors can often be secondary to children and mobile adults, meriting additional attention in open space and recreation planning to these special groups. There are approximately 64 teenagers living in Shelburne. Although teenagers tend to be engaged in sports and activities connected with their school during the academic year, it is important that teenagers have places to be where they feel welcome and engaged outside of the school setting. The upgraded tennis courts and basketball courts outside the Cowell Gymnasium and the Cowell

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<sup>80</sup> The 2017 Massachusetts SCORP is online at <https://www.mass.gov/files/massachusetts-scorp-2017-for-submission.pdf>. A new SCORP is due out soon.

Gymnasium inside basketball court provide some options. The lack of swimming access in Shelburne is an issue that impacts teens.

As discussed in Section 3, Shelburne's population is aging. By 2040, it is projected that almost a third of the Town's population will be over the age of 65, compared to 20 percent currently (about 520 people). Walking paths, safe sidewalks, community gathering locations (pocket parks) and exercise facilities for seniors are an identified need. Public bathrooms in Shelburne Falls were also a high priority for survey respondents.

### **Expanding Public Access**

According to the Survey, residents in town love observing nature, photographing nature, and walking in nature. Shelburne residents value and respect that much of the land in town is privately owned. While not wanting to overreach, survey respondents overwhelmingly expressed a need for greater public access to open space and natural areas. In one of the open-ended questions in the public survey (question 5), almost a quarter of responses (46) mentioned the word "access." This was a common theme throughout the survey.

There are currently few locations along the Deerfield River that are publicly accessible in town, and many favorite places, such as the Potholes, where residents formerly accessed the Deerfield River, have been closed to the public. Shelburne residents, particularly those in the village who do not own large tracts of land, desperately want access to the Deerfield River and forested areas in Shelburne. There is a strong desire for more trails throughout town and in and out of the village. The survey identified the interest in a system of non-vehicular connections throughout town, whether on bicycle or on foot.

The Shelburne side of Shelburne Falls village is an environmental justice community. As such, the Town should consider the health and wellbeing benefits for village residents that would result from expanded access to green space and outdoor recreation.

### **Community Connections**

Shelburne is a tight-knit community that enjoys places to meet and get to know community members. The Cowell Gymnasium is a well-loved recreational resource that offers several indoor and outdoor activities for multiple ages at an affordable price or is free. Despite drawing visitors from around the world, Shelburne residents are also frequent visitors and users of the Bridge of Flowers, taking in its bounty, with the backdrop of the river and hills in the background. The Bridge of Flowers will be closed for repairs in 2024, and this will present challenges in the coming year. Residents want more places to meet to sit and talk, to exercise together outside, and to enjoy the natural resources of Shelburne. They recognize the potential that open access places can get overcrowded, and this would need to be balanced or considered during any planning process.

### **Shelburne's Rural Character**

The rural part of Shelburne is known for its scenic agricultural landscapes and forested hills that descend to the Deerfield River. The village of Shelburne Falls is the town's downtown, with dense neighborhoods and historic commercial buildings, surrounded by views of the river and of surrounding hills. Residents

support maintaining a vibrant, livable village center, as well as commercial and industrial growth along Route 112 towards Colrain and along parts of Route 2.

These desires are reflected in the survey responses and feedback received during the public forum. In Question 1 of the Survey, an overwhelming majority of respondents (87%) felt that preserving the rural and agricultural character of Shelburne is ‘*very important*’. Residents tied this to climate change resilience and carbon sequestration in Question 4.

### 7.3 SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT NEEDS

This section addresses opportunities for improvement in the ways open space and recreation areas are managed and maintained in the Town of Shelburne.

#### ***Town-Wide Cooperation***

There is a high degree of interest in open space and recreation in Shelburne. Shelburne has active Open Space and Recreation Committees, with communication and representation across these two committees. Shelburne passed the Community Preservation Act by vote in November 2022 and at Annual Town Meeting in 2023, and formed a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) at the end of 2023, represented across interests and boards. The Open Space Committee and the Recreation Committee will have representatives on the Community Preservation Committee when formed. The CPC will then formulate a plan, and, with a 3% property tax surcharge and funds from the Commonwealth’s Trust Fund there will soon be a funding source for preserving land and recreation projects. This is an exciting opportunity for the town.

Shelburne has a Land Evaluation Policy and workbook for lands covered by Chapter 61. The Town may be interested in using this updated OSRP, its maps, and the survey results to review and update their Land Evaluation Workbook and Shelburne’s procedure for notification of right-of-first refusal when Chapter 61 lands are up for sale.<sup>81</sup> The Open Space Committee can articulate qualities in parcels that would rank high and determine ways that the Town could be responsive in deciding whether and how to purchase lands of conservation interest, or to cede their right-of-first-refusal with a land conservation organization.

The key to successful implementation of this plan will reside in communication among town boards and the willingness of private landowners and the public to participate in ways that bring projects of high value to fruition.

#### ***Remove Barriers to Recreation Development***

Survey responses consistently indicated a very high interest in more trails in Shelburne that are accessible to the public. However, the Towns’ zoning bylaw requires a special permit through the zoning board of appeals for any municipal or nonprofit trail in town. This unusual requirement in a zoning

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<sup>81</sup> [https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Chap\\_61\\_Review\\_Procedure.pdf](https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Chap_61_Review_Procedure.pdf)

bylaw serves as an effective barrier to trail creation. The Planning Board is exploring the purpose of this provision in the bylaw, and either eliminate it or modify it.

Shelburne residents express a desire for the town to continue to grow, have a vibrant economy, and be a good place to raise children and get old. This Open Space and Recreation Plan update is an opportunity for the town to reflect on locations where new development can take place and what parts of town should be left “as is” or preserved.





*Shelburne Falls pickleball (Mary Lou Gallup)*

## 8 Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives were formulated from the results of the 2022-2023 Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Planning Survey and meetings of the Open Space Committee. Many of these goals and objectives will be pursued and implemented within the context of increasing and strengthening Shelburne's resiliency to climate change.

**Goal A: Sustain and enhance the small town, rural feel of Shelburne as reflected by large tracts of farm and forested lands, its ridgelines with views, and its lively village in Shelburne Falls.**

### Objectives:

- A1. Promote and support the viability of farms and forests in Shelburne.
- A2. Identify and protect lands that have ecological, agricultural, historical, cultural, and recreational significance, including places that are significant to indigenous people.
- A3. Create public spaces in Shelburne Falls village where residents of all ages can meet, socialize, eat together, stay active, and enjoy arts and culture.
- A4. Propose changes to zoning bylaws that reflect desired characteristics in the village and rural areas, enabling trail construction and housing diversity, while still protecting open space.
- A5. Explore adopting zoning measures that protect water resources, encourage climate resiliency, keep skies dark at night, enhance access to recreation and trails, and preserve scenic views.

**Goal B: Maintain and improve the quality of Shelburne’s natural resources for today and the future.**

Objectives:

- B1. Encourage strategic land conservation to protect natural habitats, wildlife corridors, forests with significant carbon sequestration potential, contiguous undeveloped tracts of land, and plants or places that are significant to indigenous peoples.
- B2. Execute water quality protection initiatives to conserve and protect rivers, groundwater, wetlands, and lakes, along with riparian areas.
- B3. Identify infrastructure and property vulnerable to extreme flooding, droughts, and extreme temperatures resulting from climate change and complete projects that reduce Shelburne’s vulnerability.
- B4. Identify and promote land use practices that improve and sustain healthy landscapes that can provide local food, recreation, wildlife habitat, and community living for current and future generations.

**Goal C: Offer recreational facilities and programming for residents of all ages and abilities, especially those that connect people with Shelburne’s rich natural environment and landscapes.**

Objectives:

- C1. Continue to offer high quality recreational programming and facilities for all ages and abilities.
- C2. Identify, protect, and enhance river access points to the Deerfield River.
- C3. Work with nonprofit and private landowners to maintain and expand the number of trails in Shelburne.
- C4. Identify the best prospects for safe roadside and off-road biking, walking, running, and jogging; work to develop those facilities.
- C5. Provide access to natural areas.
- C6. Provide information on the available public recreation resources in town.

**Goal D. Promote community involvement in open space and recreation.**

Objectives:

- D1. Continue to engage the community in open space and recreation efforts.
- D2. Improve availability of public information on recreation and open space in Shelburne.



Trail maintenance (Jim Perry)

## 9 Seven-Year Action Plan

The Seven-Year Action Plan fulfills the Open Space and Recreation Plan objectives. The objectives address open space, natural resources, recreation, and community development needs. The quantity and quality of accessible open space relates directly to the state of Shelburne's environment, the Town's recreational opportunities, and the quality of future development in Shelburne. The community survey overwhelmingly called for preserving open space and water quality and increasing public access to the Deerfield River and natural areas. The goals in this Plan aim to address the values expressed by Shelburne community members.

On the following table, the objectives are listed in the far left column are followed in the same row by *Recommended Actions*, *Participating Board or Group*, *Start date*, and *Potential Funding Sources*. Implementing the Open Space and Recreation Plan will require the participation of the Open Space Committee, as well as the involvement of many other Town groups; other participating entities are suggested in the *Participating Board or Group* column in the action plan. Boards and organizations listed are suggestions of those who might be involved, and do not necessarily reflect a commitment to work on these items in the time frame shown in the table.

Many of these actions may be constrained by a lack of volunteer time, in addition to funding limitations. Where money is required, such as to permanently protect open space, it does not have to be provided by the Town alone. The Community Preservation Act recently approved by the Town will serve as an important funding source for open space protection and for the development of recreational opportunities. State and federal governmental agencies, private non-profit conservation agencies, and

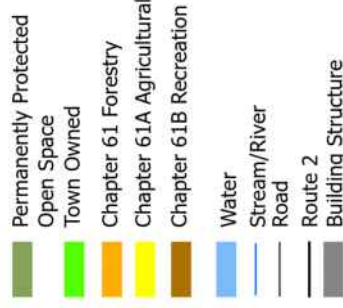
foundations are also potential sources of funding. These sources are more likely to invest in land protection and recreation projects that have a broad base of community support.

Under the primary stewardship of an Open Space Committee, the Town can achieve the action steps listed below over time. It will be important to establish the Town's top priorities. The Open Space Committee has prioritized action steps by the goals and objectives listed in the previous chapter. The Open Space and Recreation Committees have identified priority actions highlighted in light yellow in Table 24, and priority actions are also featured on the *Seven-Year Action Plan Map* at the end of this section. Any project the Town decides to take on will ensure avenues for public input and comment.



# Open Space & Recreation Plan 2024

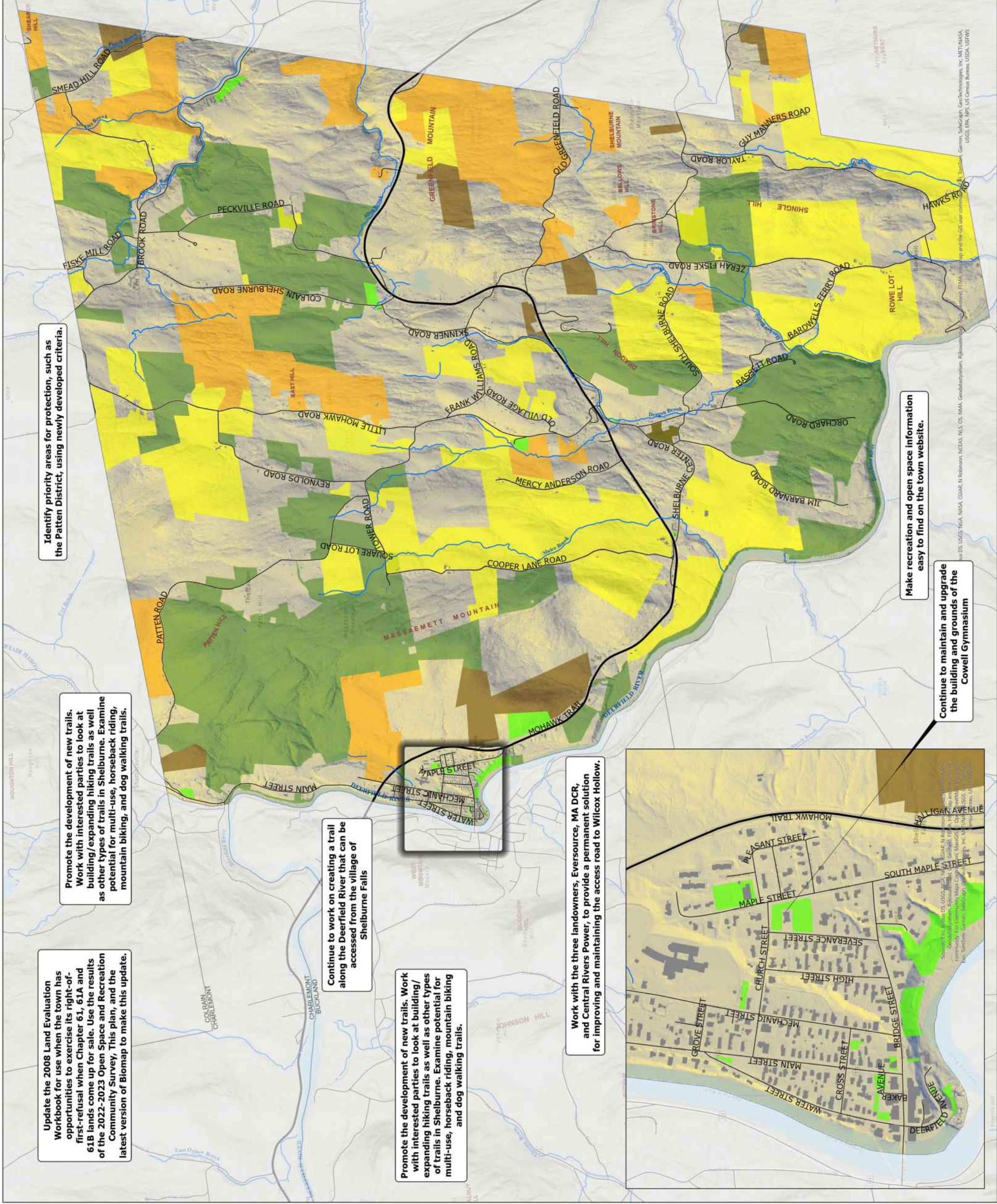
# Action Plan



**Please see Sections 8 & 9 for the full list of goals, objectives, and Action Items developed as part of the OSRP update.**



Sources: Map produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department. GIS data sources include MassDOT, MassGIS and FRCOG. Depicted boundaries are approximate and are intended for planning purposes only, not to be used for survey.

Franklin Regional  
Council of Governments



**Table 24: Recommended Action Steps to Implement the Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>Goal A:</b> Sustain and enhance the small town, rural feel of Shelburne as reflected by large tracts of farm and forested lands, its ridgelines with views, and its lively village in Shelburne Falls.				
<b>A1.</b> Promote and support the viability of farms and forests in Shelburne.	Continue participating in the Woodlands Partnership of Northwestern Massachusetts (Woodlands Partnership).	Selectboard	2024	Woodlands Partnership of Northwestern Massachusetts
	Actively pursue applications for Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grants to fund OSRP goals.	Open Space Committee	2024	Woodlands Partnership
	Convene the Agricultural Commission 2-4 times per year, and identify and work on projects consistent with the mission of the Agricultural Commission.	Agricultural Commission	2024	Volunteer time
<b>A2.</b> Identify and protect lands that have ecological, historical, agricultural, cultural, and recreational significance, including places that are significant to indigenous peoples.	Consult with state- and federally-recognized Tribes in the area as well as indigenous ally groups like Nolumbeka Project, the Oketeau Center, and the Atowi Project, to better understand places of indigenous value in Shelburne and use the information in prioritizing areas to protect.	Open Space Committee; FRCOG	2024	Volunteer time; Cultural Council grant

<sup>82</sup> Any action highlighted in yellow is considered a high priority. The high priority designation was determined through the OSRP Community Survey, Community Forum, and by the Recreation and/or Open Space Committees.

<sup>83</sup> For action items that are considered to be ongoing efforts, the start date is given as 2024. Many of the action items can be worked on simultaneously. Also, the start date for a given action item is not set in stone. The Participating Board/Group could change the start date for a specific action item, as it deems appropriate, in consultation with the Open Space Committee. The start date is also dependent on available funding.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>A2 (continued).</b> Identify and protect lands that have ecological, historical, agricultural, cultural, and recreational significance, including places that are significant to indigenous peoples.	Update the 2008 Land Evaluation Workbook <sup>84</sup> for use when the town has opportunities to exercise its right-of-first-refusal when Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B lands come up for sale. Use the results of the 2022-2023 Open Space and Recreation Community Survey, this plan, and the latest version of Biomap to make this update.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2025	Volunteer time
	Incorporate information learned from consultation with indigenous peoples into the Land Evaluation Workbook and use this information to identify priority areas for protection.	Open Space Committee	2025	Volunteer time
	Identify priority areas for protection, such as the Patten District, using newly developed criteria.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Conservation Commission	2025	Volunteer time
	Identify and document historical sites in Shelburne.	Shelburne Historical Society	2025	Community Preservation Act (CPA); Mass. Historical Commission

<sup>84</sup> The Land Evaluation Workbook is a document that is part of Shelburne's right of first refusal policy ([https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Chap\\_61\\_Review\\_Procedure.pdf](https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Chap_61_Review_Procedure.pdf)). It can be found online at [https://townofshelburne.com/g/47/Open-Space-Committee#section\\_1081](https://townofshelburne.com/g/47/Open-Space-Committee#section_1081)

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>A2 (continued).</b> Identify and protect lands that have ecological, historical, agricultural, cultural, and recreational significance, including places that are significant to indigenous peoples.	Respond to Right-of-First-Refusal opportunities by engaging Shelburne's Selectboard, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Assessors, and other relevant Boards & Committees in the process.	Open Space Committee; Conservation Partners	2024	Volunteer time
	Use the Right-of First-Refusal process for determining, on a case-by-case basis, whether Shelburne should own permanently protected open space in fee, accept a conservation restriction, or encourage ownership by others.	Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission; Finance Committee	2024	Volunteer time
	Hold periodic workshops on estate planning and land management options in coordination with the MassWoods Program, UMass Extension.	Franklin Land Trust; Open Space Committee	2026	Town funds; Volunteers
<b>A3.</b> Create public spaces in Shelburne Falls village where residents of all ages can meet, socialize, eat together, stay active, and enjoy arts and culture.	Assess whether there are small lots in Shelburne Falls village that could be acquired for the purposes of developing permanent open space or pocket parks in the village.	Select Board; Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2025	CPA; PARC grant program
	Enhance existing parks in Shelburne Falls village by installing benches, tables, new vegetation, or play structures.	Select Board; Recreation Committee	2024	CPA
	Support the development of public spaces in downtown Shelburne Falls that addresses uses, design, and solutions for the Singley Lot, the Pothole area, and other parcels.	Select Board; Open Space Committee	2024	Community One Stop grants



OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>A3 (continued).</b> Create public spaces in Shelburne Falls village where residents of all ages can meet, socialize, eat together, stay active, and enjoy arts and culture.	Work with downtown businesses and Town boards to establish seasonal or permanent bathroom facilities that are open to the public.	Franklin County Chamber of Commerce; Select Board	2024	Woodlands Partnership of Northwestern MA for capital expense; opt in and earmark meals tax for maintenance <sup>85</sup>
<b>A4.</b> Propose changes to zoning bylaws that reflect desired characteristics in the village and rural areas, enabling trail construction and housing diversity, while still protecting open space.	Continue to implement the 2018 Shelburne Housing Plan <sup>86</sup>	Planning Board; FRCOG	2024	Community One Stop; FRCOG's Improve Housing to Improve Health (IH2) Grant
	Eliminate special permit requirement for municipal and nonprofit trails in Shelburne zoning bylaw to simplify trail-making process and to make more consistent with other zoning bylaws in the region.	Shelburne Planning Board; Shelburne Open Space Committee	2024	Volunteer time
<b>A5.</b> Explore adopting zoning measures that protect water resources, encourage climate resiliency, keep skies dark at night, enhance access to recreation and trails, and preserve scenic views.	Work with FRCOG to update the floodplain bylaw using the 2020 MA Model Floodplain Bylaw and support the Planning Board in drafting updates to the Zoning Bylaw.	Planning Board; FRCOG	2024	Volunteer time; DLTA; s.319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Program

<sup>85</sup> Although the Town has adopted the Local Rooms Tax, the Town has not adopted the local meals tax or the short-term rental community impact tax. If either are adopted, the Select Board and Finance Committee could decide that revenues collected from these visitor-related services be dedicated to fund services that support the village center business district, such as maintenance of a public toilet and similar services.

<sup>86</sup> The Housing Plan can be reviewed on the Town website at [https://townofshelburne.com/files/Shelburne\\_Housing\\_Plan\\_2017.pdf](https://townofshelburne.com/files/Shelburne_Housing_Plan_2017.pdf).

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>A5 (continued).</b> Explore adopting zoning measures that protect water resources, encourage climate resiliency, keep skies dark at night, enhance access to recreation and trails, and preserve scenic views.	Collaborate with the Town of Buckland to adopt ridgeline protection bylaws for both towns to prevent further visual impacts within Shelburne Falls village and to prevent erosion and forest fragmentation. <sup>87</sup>	Shelburne Planning Board; Buckland Planning Board	2025	Volunteer time; DLTA
	Compare Shelburne's Open Space Development provision in zoning bylaws to MassAudubon's "best practices" for Open Space Zoning and consider changes to Shelburne's bylaws that differ from best practices <sup>88</sup>	Planning Board	2026	DLTA
<b>Goal B:</b> Maintain and improve the quality of Shelburne's natural resources for today and the future.				
<b>B1.</b> Encourage strategic land conservation to protect natural habitats, wildlife corridors, forests with significant carbon sequestration potential, contiguous undeveloped tracts of land, and plants or places that are significant to indigenous peoples.	Learn more about how other Community Preservation Act towns have successfully used CPA funds for open space and recreation projects to guide effective use of Shelburne CPA funds for protection of high priority open space.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2024	Volunteer time
	Work with willing landowners to protect BioMap priority habitat as identified on parcels identified in the Plant and Wildlife Map in this OSRP.	Open Space Committee	2025	Volunteer time

<sup>87</sup> The Planning Boards may wish to review Hadley's zoning bylaw, section 5.8, which attempts to limit development impacting views of the Holyoke Range.

<sup>88</sup> See "Download the Bylaw Review Tool" section of <https://www.massaudubon.org/our-work/climate-change/local-climate-resilient-communities/land-use-rules>. Worksheet #5 covers the Open Space Development Analysis.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>B1 (continued).</b> Encourage strategic land conservation to protect natural habitats, wildlife corridors, forests with significant carbon sequestration potential, contiguous undeveloped tracts of land, and plants or places that are significant to indigenous peoples.	Develop an updated whitepaper describing how the Town can receive lands for conservation purposes that can be transferred to a land trust or other land conservation agencies. Post and promote on the Open Space Committee's webpage and elsewhere.	Open Space Committee; Franklin Land Trust	2025	Volunteer time
	Work with local and regional land conservation trusts (e.g., Franklin Land Trust and Hilltown Land Trust) and state conservation agencies like Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to encourage private conservation efforts and to provide resources for landowners interested in protecting their land.	Open Space Committee	2026	Volunteer time
	Attend the annual Massachusetts Land Trust Conference and events hosted by the Massachusetts Open Space Network to learn of efforts underway that Shelburne could implement.	Open Space Committee	2024	Volunteer time
	Explore the option of a municipal carbon project, or provide outreach to landowners about their options	Open Space Committee with help from land trusts and DCR; Energy Committee	2027	Free initial consultation with MassAudubon

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>B2.</b> Execute water quality protection initiatives to conserve and protect rivers, groundwater, wetlands, and lakes, along with their riparian areas.	Work with the Conservation Commission and planning board to review the wetlands regulations, zoning bylaw, and subdivision rules and regulations to ensure that wetlands and water quality are adequately protected.	Conservation Commission; Planning Board; Open Space & Recreation Committee; FRCOG	2025	DLTA
	Assist riparian landowners to improve the water quality of streams such as Dragon and Hinsdale Brooks by developing natural buffer strips to increase shading and reduce impacts from bacteria.	Franklin Conservation District; Selectboard; Conservation Commission	2024	NRCS; s.319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Program; Woodlands Partnership
<b>B3.</b> Identify infrastructure and lands that are vulnerable to extreme flooding, droughts, and temperatures resulting from climate change and complete projects that reduce Shelburne's vulnerability.	Complete the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan by July 1, 2024.	Shelburne MVP Project Liaison; Consultant	2024	MVP Planning Grant
<b>B4.</b> Identify and promote land use practices that improve and sustain healthy landscapes that can provide local food, recreation, wildlife habitat, and community living for current and future generations.	Create an invasive plant management plan to prioritize areas and actions.	Tree Warden; Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission; Highway Department; MassDOT	2026	MVP; Volunteer time



OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>B4 (continued).</b> Identify and promote land use practices that improve and sustain healthy landscapes that can provide local food, recreation, wildlife habitat, and community living for current and future generations.	Implement recommendations of the Shelburne Pollinator Action Plan from 2021. <sup>89</sup>	Open Space Committee	2025	Volunteer time; Franklin Conservation District's Lawn Conversion Grant Program
	Sponsor educational events and materials for residents concerning the management of invasive plant species, invasive pests, and diseases affecting vegetation, including food crops and trees.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Tree Warden; Conservation Commission; UMass Extension; Highway Department	2027	Volunteer time; MDAR grants <sup>90</sup>
	Engage with MassDOT (through FRCOG) about whether there are any appropriate locations for animal crossing tunnels under Route 2.	Conservation Commission; Deerfield River Watershed Association; FRCOG; MassDOT	2026	MassWildlife Habitat Management grant

<sup>89</sup> Shelburne's Pollinator Plan is found online at [https://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Shelburne-Pollinator-Action-Plan\\_FINAL\\_2021.pdf](https://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Shelburne-Pollinator-Action-Plan_FINAL_2021.pdf)

<sup>90</sup> Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>Goal C:</b> Offer recreational facilities and programming for residents of all ages and abilities, especially those that connect people with Shelburne's rich natural environment and landscapes.				
<b>C1.</b> Continue to offer high quality recreational programming and facilities for all ages and abilities.	Continue the process of resuming youth and other programming that stopped during the pandemic	Recreation Committee; Cowell Gym Director	2024	Volunteer time
	Continue to develop recreation programming in response to residents' interest.	Recreation Committee	2024	Cowell operating budget; program fees; Cultural Council grants
	Develop additional programming at the Cowell Gym during school vacation periods.	Recreation Committee; Cowell Gym Director	2025	Cowell operating budget; program fees
	Continue to maintain and upgrade the building and grounds of the Cowell Gymnasium.	Recreation Committee; Select Board; Highway Department	2024	PARC grant; CPA
	Renovate the Arms Academy field and look to expand its use.	Recreation Committee	2024	Woodlands Partnership Grant; PARC grant
<b>C2.</b> Identify, protect, and enhance river access points to the Deerfield River.	Work with private landowners, power companies, MA DFW and DCR, and river users to identify river access sites. Acquire land for this purpose if necessary.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee; Deerfield River Watershed Association; Select Board	2025	CPA; PARC grant program

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>C2 (continued).</b> Identify, protect, and enhance river access points to the Deerfield River.	Remove invasive plants from the town-owned Lillian Davenport property.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2026	Woodlands Partnership Funding; Volunteer time
	When the Deerfield River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2022 becomes law, designate an Open Space Committee member to serve on the local advisory committee. <sup>91</sup>	Open Space Committee	2027	Volunteer time
	Research and implement river access locations downstream of Dam No. 3 (Salmon Falls) and within a short walk from Shelburne Falls Village.	Open Space Committee; Deerfield River Watershed Association	2026	Volunteer time
	Work with the three landowners, Eversource, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and Central Rivers Power (owner of Gardner Falls Dam), to provide a permanent solution for improving and maintaining the access road down to Wilcox Hollow. <sup>92</sup>	Open Space Committee; Deerfield River Watershed Association; Connecticut River Conservancy	2024	Operating budget of land owners
<b>C3.</b> Work with nonprofit and private landowners to maintain and expand the number of trails in Shelburne.	Continue to maintain and promote existing trails in Shelburne.	Open Space Committee Recreation Committee	2024	Woodlands Partnership Grants, CPA; Volunteer time

<sup>91</sup> Find up to date information on the progress of the bill here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4631/text?r=2&s=1>

<sup>92</sup> Wilcox Hollow is a recreational amenity required under the Gardner Falls FERC license P-2334, but the access road crosses land owned by three entities.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>C3 (continued).</b> Work with nonprofit and private landowners to maintain and expand the number of trails in Shelburne.	Continue to work on creating a trail along the Deerfield River that can be accessed from the Village of Shelburne Falls.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2024	Woodlands Partnership Grants, State Trail Grants; CPA; Volunteer time
	Upgrade and expand educational signage program.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2025	Woodlands Partnership Grants, CPA; Volunteer time
	Promote the development of new trails. Work with interested parties to look at building/expanding hiking trails as well as other types of trails in Shelburne. Examine potential for multi-use, horseback riding, mountain biking, and dog walking trails.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2025	Woodlands Partnership Grants, State Trail Grants; CPA; Volunteer time
<b>C4.</b> Identify the best prospects for safe roadside and off-road biking, walking, running, and jogging; work to develop those facilities.	Develop a Complete Streets Plan and participate in the MassDOT Complete Streets funding program.	Select Board Highway Superintendent	2024	MassDOT; FRCOG can assist town with application.
	Support the creation of opportunities for bicycling in Shelburne, both on and off the roads.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2026	Volunteer time; MassTrails
	Work with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to explore the creation of new off-road paths in town.	Recreation Committee; FRCOG	2025	Community Preservation Act; FRCOG Unified Planning Work Program



OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>C4 (continued).</b> Identify the best prospects for safe roadside and off-road biking, walking, running, and jogging; work to develop those facilities.	Review and provide comment on FRCOG's updated regional bicycle plan (planned for federal fiscal year 2024). Provide recommendations for specific locations.	Shelburne residents; Recreation Committee	2024	Volunteer time
	Explore options for linking walking options in Shelburne Falls village to locations outside the village.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee; FRCOG	2025	MassTrails
<b>C5.</b> Provide access to natural areas.	Develop a plan for creating access to natural areas.	Open Space Committee; Franklin Land Trust	2026	Volunteer time; CPA
<b>Goal D:</b> Promote community involvement in open space and recreation. .				
<b>D1.</b> Continue to engage the community in open space and recreation efforts.	Engage and recruit residents to actively participate in volunteering and implementing this Plan even if they are not on a town committee.	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee; Select Board	2024	Volunteer time
	Update community members on open space and recreation by email, the town website, the town e-newsletter, and social media.	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee	2024	Volunteer time

OBJECTIVE	ACTION <sup>82</sup>	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE <sup>83</sup>	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>D1 (continued).</b> Continue to engage the community in open space and recreation efforts.	Partner on the development of Open Space and Recreational Opportunities with The Town of Buckland and the Franklin Land Trust.	Town of Buckland and the Franklin Land Trust and its representatives interested in Open Space and Recreation.	2025	Volunteer time
	Involve the schools, Arms Library; and the Shelburne Falls Senior Center in a variety of student and adult walks and educational and community service projects.	Mohawk Trail Regional School District; Arms Library; Shelburne Falls Senior Center	2024	Volunteer time
<b>D2.</b> Improve availability of public information on recreation and open space in Shelburne.	Make recreation and open space information easy to find on the town website.	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee; Select Board	2024	Volunteer time
	Establish a positive culture of respectful use. Consider doing this in cooperation with surrounding towns.	Recreation Committee; Franklin Conservation District; Deerfield River Watershed Association; FRCOG	2025	Town funds; Deerfield Hydro trust fund grant (every 4 years); volunteer time



*Shelburne Falls pickleball (Mary Lou Gallup)*

## 10 Public Comment

Public feedback was sought throughout the entire open space and recreation planning process. The Open Space Committee led the effort and the Recreation Committee provided specific input on the development of the community survey questions and the Action Plan; the Recreation Committee's member on the Open Space Committee was involved throughout the development of the Plan. The Open Space Committee shared sections and requested input from the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. Track-changes edits were provided by the Planning Board.

A more direct request for feedback from residents was presented in the public forum, which was held in the Shelburne Town Hall on October 10, 2023. Participants were encouraged to provide input on the Seven-Year Action Plan and on the maps. Comments and discussion points during the public forum are included in meeting minutes attached to the end of this section, and suggestions were incorporated into the Plan, as appropriate.

A public comment period was held from October 10, 2023 to November 10, 2023. One set of comments was received from a former member of the Open Space Committee.

Letters of support from the Selectboard, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the Planning Board, and the Conservation Commission are included at the end of this section.

# OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

## *PUBLIC FORUM*



Town of Shelburne  
Open Space Committee

invites you to a presentation of the  
**Draft Shelburne Open Space & Recreation Plan**

**Tuesday, October 10th**  
**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall meeting room**  
*Masks recommended but not required*

To review a copy of the draft plan go to:  
[https://townofshelburne.com/g/47/Open-Space-Committee#section\\_1102](https://townofshelburne.com/g/47/Open-Space-Committee#section_1102)  
For questions or to submit public comment by November 10, email:  
[Openspace@TOWNOFSHELBURNEMA.GOV](mailto:Openspace@TOWNOFSHELBURNEMA.GOV)



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Shelburne Open Space and Rec. X

https://townofshelburne.com/v/13332/Shelburne-Open-Space-and-Recreation-Plan-Public-Forum

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## Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Forum

The Shelburne Open Space Committee is updating the Town Open Space and Recreation Plan and seeks input from town residents. **A public forum will be held on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall meeting room. (Masks recommended but not required.)**

You are invited to review and comment on highlights of the plan, including survey results, draft maps and draft goals, objectives, and actions.

An Open Space and Recreation Plan contains conservation and recreation goals for the town, and includes an inventory of cultural, natural, and recreational resources. It also identifies open space and recreation needs, and outlines a seven-year action plan with specific recommendations.

Your input is an essential part of Shelburne's ongoing work to identify, prioritize, and develop projects that

1. meet the recreation needs of our residents;
2. protect our natural, scenic, historic, and recreation resources;
3. plan future land use, and;
4. help make our community more resilient to a changing climate.

The previous Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan was completed in 2014. Having an up-to-date plan qualifies the Town to apply for state grants for land conservation and recreation facility improvements.

The draft plan is posted on the Town Website at [16/47/Open-Space](#)

[Committee#section\\_1102](#)

Written comments may be sent to [genspace@townofshelburne.ma.gov](mailto:genspace@townofshelburne.ma.gov) until November 10, 2023.

Posted to Town of Shelburne News on Mon, Oct 9, 2023

Updated Mon, Oct 9, 2023



(<https://www.recorder.com>)

News > Local (</News/Local/>)

## Shelburne seeks input on updated Open Space and Recreation Plan



([/byline?byline=](#))

Staff Report

Published: 10/6/2023 3:28:39 PM

Modified: 10/6/2023 3:27:38 PM

**SHELBURNE** — The Open Space Committee is updating the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan for the first time since 2014 and is seeking input from residents.

A public forum will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room. Residents will have an opportunity to review findings from the draft plan, review maps, and

help prioritize which open space and recreation projects Shelburne should pursue.

An Open Space and Recreation Plan contains conservation and recreation goals for the town, and includes an inventory of cultural, natural and recreational resources. It also identifies open space and recreation needs, and outlines a seven-year action plan with specific recommendations.

Many of the action items outlined in the draft plan are based on information gleaned from a public survey that was distributed to residents at the end of 2022. According to Larry Flaccus, co-chair of the Open Space Committee, “the most frequent public responses to the open space and recreation survey were the public’s desire for more access to the Deerfield River and more hiking trails.”

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---

The last Open Space and Recreation Plan was completed in 2014. Having an up-to-date plan qualifies the town to apply for state grants for land conservation and recreation facility improvements.

The Open Space Committee has been working on the update for the last year with help from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments’ Planning Department.

Feedback from Tuesday’s public forum will be incorporated into the final plan.

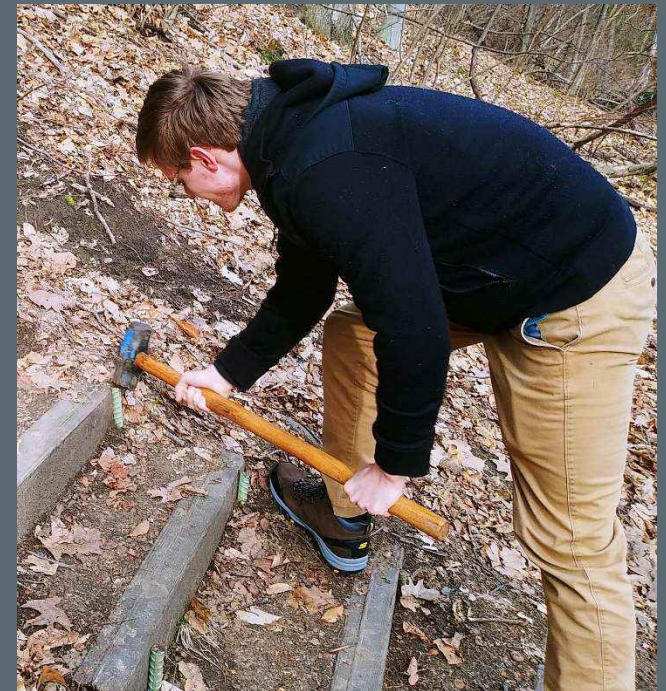


# TOWN OF SHELBURNE

## 2024 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN (OSRP)



Town of Shelburne  
Open Space Committee



Public Forum

Tuesday, October 10, 2023



# Introductions

2

- ☐ Open Space Committee
- ☐ Recreation Committee
- ☐ Franklin Regional Council of Governments planning staff

Effort made possible by funding through:

- Woodlands Partnership Grant
- District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Grant, 2022 and 2023

# Public Forum – Review of Draft OSRP

## AGENDA

3

### □ **OSRP basics**

- What is an OSRP
- Process

### □ **Summary of OSRP Sections**

- Survey highlights
- Sections 3-8
- Section 9: Action Plan
- Your comments and input

### □ **Map Review**

### □ **Next Steps**

### □ **Public Comment Period**

- Review the plan and provide comments by 11/10/23



Photo by Joan LaPierre

# What is an Open Space & Recreation Plan?

4



Photo by Jim Perry

- ☐ Summarizes town's conservation and recreation goals
- ☐ Inventories natural, recreational and cultural resources
- ☐ Identifies open space and recreation needs
- ☐ Establishes Goals, Objectives, and Actions to address these needs
- ☐ Qualifies the Town to apply for state grants

# Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update Process

5

- ❑ First OSRP was completed in 2004 – this led to the establishment of the Open Space Committee
- ❑ Most recent Shelburne OSRP completed in 2014
- ❑ Public Survey in 2022 (252 responses!)
- ❑ Monthly Open Space Committee meetings
- ❑ Public Forum – October 10, 2023
- ❑ Comment period – now through November 10, 2023
- ❑ Submit to the Department of Conservation Services for approval



# OSRP highlights – Community Setting

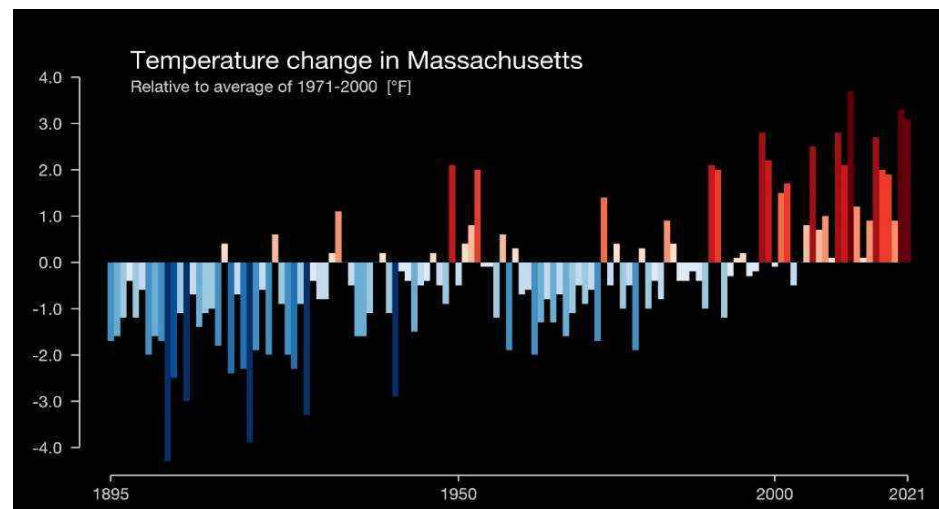
6

- ❑ Shelburne's 2020 population: 1,884 (gradual decline since 2000)
- ❑ Shelburne's median age: 58.7 (2<sup>nd</sup> oldest in Franklin County )
- ❑ Shelburne's median household income: \$72,236 (higher than Franklin County at \$64,949)
- ❑ Shelburne Falls village section of town meets the income definition of an **Environmental Justice** community (median household is < 65% of statewide median)
- ❑ Minimal housing development – 15 single-family houses since 2010, no multi-family dwellings, no accessory apartments, one conversion to 2-family

# OSRP highlights – Environmental Inventory and Analysis

7

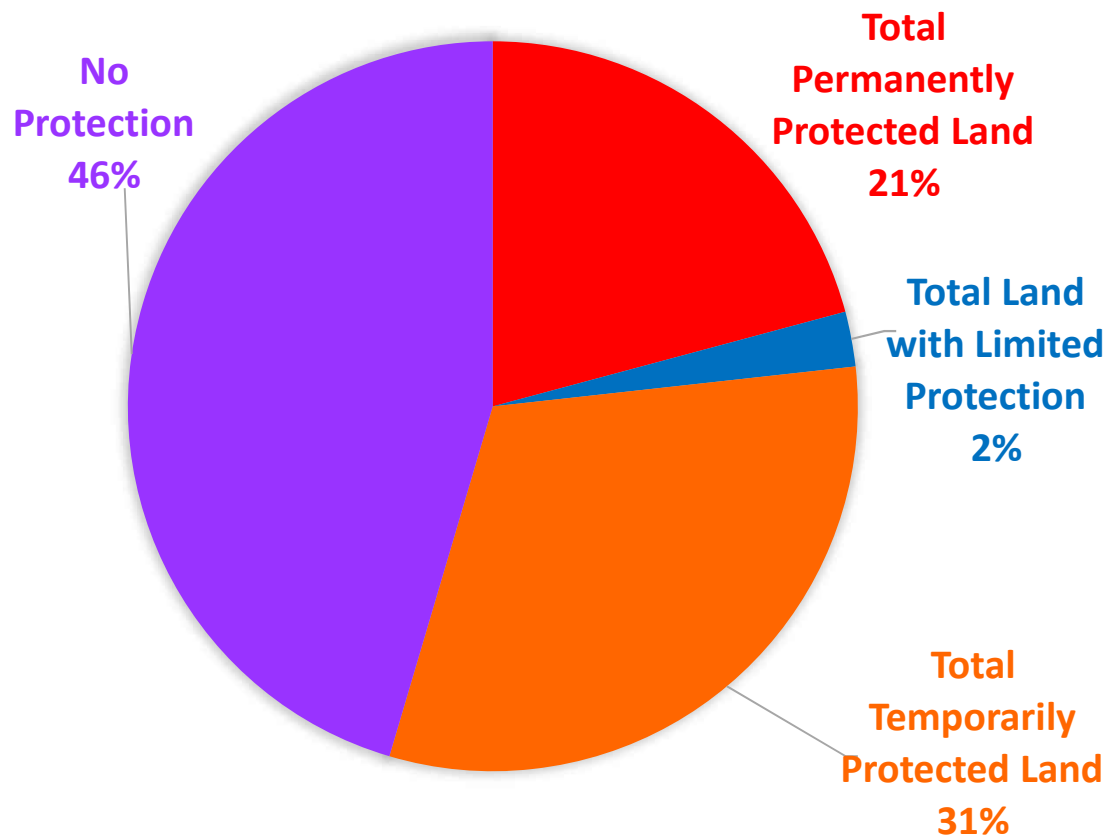
- Shelburne is entirely within the Deerfield River watershed
  - All tributaries are coldwater streams
  - Dragon Brook, Hinsdale Brook, and the North River are all considered water quality “impaired” because of they are too warm, and Hinsdale Brook has bacteria contamination
- Invasive plants threaten the biodiversity in the Town
- Climate change is having an impact on the number of growing days, droughts, increased flooding



# OSRP highlights – Inventory of Lands

8

## LAND IN SHELBURNE – TOTAL 14,973 ACRES



Permanent Protection  
Conservation Restrictions  
APR (Agricultural Preservation Restrictions)  
Cemeteries  
Nonprofit-owned  
Great River Hydro land

Limited Protection  
Town land  
Other municipal land (fire district, school district, etc.)

Temporary Protection  
Chapter 61, 61A, 61B lands

# Survey Results – Priorities

9

## □ **Top open space concerns**

- access to the river and trails
- preserving farmland
- increasing the amount of public spaces and parks

## □ **High priorities for expanding or creating recreation resources**

- access to the Deerfield River for a variety of uses
- hiking and walking trails both in the village, outside of the village, and linked with areas of town
- public restrooms
- access to the Potholes
- bike paths/trails/lanes



# OSRP highlights – Community Vision

10

- ❑ Protecting Town's resilient and vulnerable areas
- ❑ Preserving biodiversity and ecosystem function
- ❑ Improving access to Deerfield River
- ❑ Making recreation accessible across town
- ❑ Increasing open space in Village
- ❑ Maintaining Shelburne's character and sense of place
- ❑ Making open space and recreation for all ages and abilities
- ❑ Working with community and regional partners
- ❑ Improving public awareness of open space and recreation opportunities

# DRAFT OSRP Goals

11

- **Goal A:** Sustain and enhance the small town, rural feel of Shelburne as reflected by large tracts of farm and forested lands, its ridgelines with views, and its lively village in Shelburne Falls.
- **Goal B:** Maintain and improve the quality of Shelburne's natural resources for today and the future in the face of a changing climate.
- **Goal C:** Offer recreational facilities and programming for residents of all ages and abilities, especially those that connect people with Shelburne's rich natural environment and landscapes.
- **Goal D:** Engage residents in discussions about community projects and the town's natural, recreational, and cultural resources, and as volunteers and stewards of these resources.



**Goal A: Sustain and enhance the small town, rural feel of Shelburne as reflected by large tracts of farm and forested lands, its ridgelines with views, and its lively village in Shelburne Falls.**

**Objectives:**

- ❑ A1. Promote and support the economic viability of farming and forestry in Shelburne.
- ❑ A2. Identify and protect lands that have ecological, agricultural, historical, cultural, and recreational significance, including places that are significant to indigenous people.
- ❑ A3. Create public spaces in Shelburne Falls village where residents of all ages can meet, socialize, eat together, stay active, and enjoy arts and culture.
- ❑ A4. Propose changes to zoning bylaws that reflect desired characteristics in the village and rural areas, enabling trail construction and housing diversity while still protecting open space.
- ❑ A5. Explore adopting zoning measures that protect water resources, encourage climate resiliency, keep skies dark at night, enhance access to recreation and trails, and preserve scenic views.

# Example DRAFT Action Items – open space

13

*Goal B: Maintain and improve the quality of Shelburne’s natural resources for today and the future, in the face of a changing climate.*

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>B4.</b> Identify and promote land use practices that improve and sustain healthy landscapes that can provide local food, recreation, wildlife habitat, and community living for current and future generations.	Create an invasive plant management plan to prioritize areas and actions.	Tree Warden; Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission; Highway Department; MassDOT	2026	MVP; Volunteer time
	Implement recommendations of the Shelburne Pollinator Action Plan from 2021.	Open Space Committee	2025	Volunteer time; Franklin Conservation District’s Lawn Conversion Grant Program
	Sponsor educational events and materials for residents concerning the management of invasive plant species, invasive pests, and diseases affecting vegetation, including food crops and trees.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Tree Warden; Conservation Commission; UMass Extension; Highway Department	2027	Volunteer time; MDAR grants
	Engage with MassDOT (through FRCOG) about whether there are any appropriate locations for animal crossing tunnels under Route 2.	Conservation Commission; Deerfield River Watershed Association; FRCOG; MassDOT	2026	MassWildlife Habitat Management grant



# Example DRAFT Action Items – recreation

14

*Goal C: Offer recreational facilities and programming for residents of all ages and abilities, especially those that connect people with Shelburne’s rich natural environment and landscapes.*

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTICIPATING BOARD / GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<b>C3.</b> Work with nonprofit and private landowners to maintain and expand the number of trails in Shelburne.	Continue to maintain and promote existing trails on Mt. Massaemett, along the Deerfield River, and on the Wooded Loop.	Open Space Committee Recreation Committee	2025	Woodlands Partnership Grants, CPA; Volunteer time
	Upgrade and expand educational signage program to new trail areas.	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2025	Woodlands Partnership Grants, CPA; Volunteer time
	Organize and hold a “Trail Summit” to dig deeper into short- and long-term trail planning in Shelburne.	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee	2025	Woodlands Partnership Grants; volunteer time
	Use results of Trail Summit to implement more multi-use trails in town. Examine potential for horseback riding, mountain biking, and dog walking opportunities	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee	2027	Volunteer time; various state and private trail grants

## 15

- 
- Town of Shelburne**
- ## Open Space & Recreation Plan 2024
- ### Soils
- 28 Categories**
- |            |                       |                  |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Cowichan   | John West             | Flow             |
| Lewisville | Salem                 | Planning Council |
| Burnaby    | NW Slope of Mt. Baker |                  |
| Shirley    | Parkland              |                  |
| Porter     | Proton                |                  |
| Rocky Hill | St. John's            |                  |
- For more information, contact the Planning Council at 604-679-1234 or visit our website at www.shelburne.ca.
- The map displays various soil types across the town area, color-coded according to the legend. Major roads like Highway 1 and Highway 10 are shown. An inset map shows the location of the Town of Shelburne within the larger regional context.

# Next Steps

16

- ❑ Complete gathering feedback
- ❑ Submit Draft 2023 OSRP to the Department of Conservation Services for review
- ❑ Pursue Seven Year Action Plan priorities – look into grant funding and coordinate with other Boards & Committees
- ❑ Your ideas!



Jim Perry photo

# Public Comment

17

*Review the plan on the Open Space & Recreation Committee webpage:*

[https://townofshelburne.com/g/47/Open-Space-Committee#section\\_1102](https://townofshelburne.com/g/47/Open-Space-Committee#section_1102)

*Send your comments to:* [Openspace@TOWNOFSHELBURNEMA.GOV](mailto:Openspace@TOWNOFSHELBURNEMA.GOV)

**Deadline for public comments: November 10, 2023**



Jim Perry photo



# Shelburne Open Space Committee/Recreation Committee Joint Meeting Minutes 10/10/2023

(Approved 10/23/23)

**Call to order:** Larry called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm. as a joint meeting of the Open Space Committee and the Recreation Committee. Meeting held in person in the Memorial Hall meeting room for the purpose of reviewing the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Joel appointed Secretary Pro Tem

**Open Space Committee Members Present:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Nina Talayco, Joan LaPierre, Peggy Warwick, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Joel Dwight

**Guests and interested Shelburne residents present:** Andrea Donlan from FRCOG, Stephanie Gelfen (Cowell Gym renter), Sue Reed, Tamara Sloan, Cynthia Boettner, Barbara Watts, Susan Flaccus, Chris Skelly, Amy Snow, and Tom Miner

Larry recognized the important work Andrea has done and the financial support of FRCOG 2022 and 2023 DLTA funds and a grant from The Woodland Partnership.

The public comment period will be open until November 10, 2023.

Norm reviewed what an Open Space and Recreation plan entails. Larry and Norm presented information following along with a slide presentation covering the process and draft plan elements.

**The top 3 open space concerns reflected by the public survey for Shelburne are**

- access to the river and trails,
- preserving farm land, and
- increasing the amount of public space and parks.

Larry and Norm then reviewed the four main goals of the OSRP and the objectives for each goal. Draft action items were presented. Also presented was a list of the 9 maps to be found within the ORSP.

## Public Comments –

- **Tamara Sloan, 51 Water St,** asked for clarification as to the geographic scope of the plan. Larry shared it was totally the town of Shelburne. Tamara asked if Buckland and Shelburne were working together. Norm answered no, there hasn't been any cooperative effort between the towns. Jim pointed out there was pre-Covid Buckland trails activity but that seems to have run out. Andrea noted there is some interest in the Planning Boards of both towns getting together for ridge line development talks. But interest hasn't been strong on the Buckland side. There has been one person appointed to a Buckland OSC (Skelly) but no committee currently exists and no meetings have been planned. Jim told the group the power company is trying to down grade the recreational plan they had agreed to previously.
- **Cynthia Boettner, 132 Bridge St,** said there was a joint master plan done by Buckland and Shelburne years ago. Larry said there has been talk in the Planning Board about doing that again. Cynthia wondered if invasive species that aren't here yet but we should be on the watch for are on the plan. Andrea thought that was a good idea and should be included. Larry noted invasive insects travel faster than plants and both should be on the list.
- **Cindy Snow, 15 Masonic Ave,** wanted to say thank you for the volunteer work and that she was impressed by the detail in the draft OSRP. Larry noted the representation of other boards on the committee along with 11 at large seats, two of which are open.
- **Chris Skelly, 22 Williams St, Buckland,** asked if a Shelburne CPA Committee had been formed yet. Larry said that is in process right now. (Joan LaPierre represents the OSC on the CPA Committee) They also discussed the zoning involvement in trail development and the Planning Board will be addressing that in the next year.
- **Tamara Sloan, 51 Water St,** asked if the CPA worked with various funding groups. Joan Lapierre answered they are just in the initial stages. Andrea said the CPA Committee reviews suggestions for use of CPA monies and makes recommendations to the Selectboard and each use of CPA money has to be voted on at Town Meeting.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Jim Perry at 7:15 pm, seconded by Joel Dwight., approved unanimously.

**Map Review:** The group then broke up to review draft maps that will be included in the ORSP. Andrea encouraged participants to write on the maps.

**Next OSC Meeting:** Monday, October 23 via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Dwight

## Andrea Donlon

---

**From:** Shelburne Open Space Committee <Openspace@TOWNOFSHELBURNEMA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 4:12 PM  
**To:** Carolyn Wheeler; david.schochet@gmail.com; Garth Lapointe; jimeperry@gmail.com; 'Joan LaPierre'; joel dwight; jwheeler@wheelviewfarm.com; larry@kenburnorchards.com; Laurie Wheeler; 'Nina Talayco'; Norman Beebe; Norman Davenport (norm.davenportmaple@gmail.com); 'Peggy Warwick'  
**Cc:** Andrea Donlon  
**Subject:** Fw: Thoughts from a Committee 'dropout'

Sharing the following comments from Joan Greenfield regarding the draft OSRP action plan.  
Larry

---

**From:** Joan Greenfield <greenjoanie3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 1:33 PM  
**To:** Shelburne Open Space Committee <Openspace@townofshelburnema.gov>  
**Subject:** Thoughts from a Committee 'dropout'

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

### Open Space and Recreation Plan

Greetings All,

Enthusiastic about the clear OS&RP Goals and Objectives. My thoughts may be redundant or overlapping, but here they are and thanks for the work.

- Identify funds for (two) mailings to keep community in a dialogue on open space/recreation use
- Consider a variety of ways to inform residents (old and new) and get feedback on programs (eg. how to involve Greenfield Recorder) -
- Discuss with K-12 teachers the concept: the environment "where I live" Sponsor an essay 'contest' with prizes, scavenger hunt with elementary students
- Adopt a tree/ photo of a student/resident with a tree, river, field...
- Research other communities that are successful in engaging their residents

- Partner with schools, clubs, senior centers, individual residents (eg. Deerfield River Watershed Association, Trout Unlimited)



December 20, 2023

Ms. Melissa Cryan  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is pleased to endorse the work of the Shelburne Open Space Committee and Recreation Committee in their update of the Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). We support their submission of the 2024 Shelburne OSRP to the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for final review and approval.

Development of the Plan was led by the Shelburne Open Space Committee, which includes representation from the Recreation Committee, Planning Board, Agricultural Commission, and residents. The FRCOG provided technical assistance to complete the update. The Plan represents more than a year of work to gather public input, build consensus, and prioritize natural, recreation, and open space needs in the town. The goals and objectives in the Open Space and Recreation Plan reflect the vision and values of Shelburne residents gathered during the public input process.

The 2024 OSRP will provide Town officials and volunteers with resources to help inform decisions regarding land use, recreation, cultural, and open space issues. The Plan update, once approved by the Commonwealth, will make Shelburne eligible for funding to implement open space and recreation projects. In addition, the Town will be better able to collaborate with neighboring towns, local land trusts, the FRCOG, and others to work towards the OSRP goals and objectives of protecting and enhancing Shelburne's significant natural, cultural, and recreational resources. We congratulate Shelburne on completing this project!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Kimberly Noake MacPhee".

Kimberly Noake MacPhee, P.G., CFM  
Land Use and Natural Resources Program Manager  
Climate Resiliency Specialist



**TOWN of SHELBURNE  
OFFICE of the SELECT BOARD  
51 BRIDGE STREET  
SHELBURNE, MA 01370  
(413) 625-0300 ext. 1**

[Townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:Townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov)

December 12, 2023

Melissa Cryan  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Melissa Cryan,

The Shelburne Selectboard is writing this letter of support for the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan prepared by Shelburne's Open Space Committee & Recreation Committee with the administrative support of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). The Open Space Committee led the effort, and their composition provides representation from the Recreation Committee, the Planning Board, the Agricultural Commission and residents. Each representative provided a unique perspective that helped to develop a comprehensive plan that will meet the recreational and open space needs, challenges, and opportunities of our community.

The Committees thoughtfully conducted a community survey and reflected on the feedback provided by community members. With this information, the Open Space Committee spent several months reviewing each chapter of the plan and identifying priority action items and goals to achieve within the next seven years. The Shelburne Selectboard has reviewed the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan that the Committees have prepared and supports its submission to your office for approval.

Over the year during which this Plan was developed, Shelburne adopted the Community Preservation Act. Our Community Preservation Committee has just formed, and are meeting for the first time in December, 2023. The Committee will be using the updated Plan as they develop Shelburne's first Community Preservation Plan.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Manners", written in a cursive style.

Robert A. Manners, Chair  
Shelburne Selectboard



# Shelburne Planning Board

51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 [Planning@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:Planning@townofshelburnema.gov)

December 19, 2023

Melissa Cryan  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Melissa Cryan,

The Shelburne Planning Board is writing this letter of support for the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan prepared by Shelburne's Open Space Committee & Recreation Committee with the administrative support of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). The Open Space Committee led the effort, and their composition provides representation from the Recreation Committee, the Planning Board, the Agricultural Commission, and residents. Each representative provided a unique perspective that helped to develop a comprehensive plan that will meet the recreational and open space needs, challenges, and opportunities of our community.

The Committees thoughtfully conducted a community survey and reflected on the feedback provided by community members. With this information, the Open Space Committee spent several months reviewing each chapter of the plan and identifying priority action items and goals to achieve within the next seven years. The Shelburne Planning Board has reviewed the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan that the Committees have prepared, provided edits to sections related to Shelburne's zoning bylaw, and supports its submission to your office for approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John L. Wheeler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Wheeler  
Shelburne Planning Board Chair



*Mahican-Mohawk Trail sign (Jim Perry)*

## Appendix A: Agendas and Publicity

## Shelburne Town E-Newsletter – December, 2022



Holiday lights can be found in many places – here are a few colors of the season provided by the Japanese maple and its myrtle companions close by the entrance to the Bridge of Flowers.

Kudos to Whit Sanford and Nick Danilow and their team of volunteers for the wonderful holiday lights in the Village! Come by and stroll the village after sundown if you don't already do that regularly.

And Kudos to Missy Elie (Rethreads) and Crystal Stinson (Bridge St. Bazaar) and their numerous team of volunteers who put together another wonderful Moonlight Magic celebration.

Here is the news for December – a big win for the Bridge of Flowers, our new Pocket Park, funding for demolition of town eyesores, Holiday Concert, pickleball, youth basketball and more! Help me spread the Shelburne e-news. Forward this newsletter to a few friends and encourage them to subscribe. Subscribers can join by sending me their name and email address to [andrewbaker1959@gmail.com](mailto:andrewbaker1959@gmail.com) You don't have to live in Shelburne to subscribe, but do let me know what town you do live in.

Best of the season to each of you and your families,

Andrew Baker - Interim Newsletter Editor & Shelburne Select Board member



### A new “Pocket Park” is taking shape in Shelburne Falls!

The Shelburne Select Board voted in October to approve a 7-year lease of the former Singley Furniture building lot at the corner of Bridge St. and Deerfield Ave. from the Ancient Glacier LLC (a partnership between Josh Simpson, Cady Coleman, Susan and Jon Stark) for use as a town park, following authorization by Town Meeting.

Anticipating completion of the lease, the Select Board approved use of a \$9,500 REDO economic development grant in June, secured by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to help spur downtown economic recovery from COVID impacts. That grant purchased 4 sturdy picnic tables made from recycled plastic and paid for the gravel and landscaping. While the tables pictured above are empty, they were busily occupied by locals and visitors during the fall leaf season.

Planning is now under way to partner with the Franklin County Technical School to design and build a pavilion to provide shade and rain protection over the picnic tables next season. The Town goes before the Zoning Board of Appeals on December 8 to request a variance to the 20' frontage setback requirement, in order to site the Pavilion about 10' back from the sidewalk. ZBA meeting is at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3590583442> Design plans and further grants are being sought to do terracing and landscaping of the site to allow for gardens, handicap seating and a concert area.



## Select Board approves \$76,000 for demolition of two condemned houses

On December 1, the Shelburne Select Board voted to award a contract to the lowest bidder - Bourgeois Wrecking & Excavation -- of up to \$76,450 to demolish the two condemned houses at the end of Main Street (near the turnoff to the transfer station). Oil tanks, asbestos and all hazardous materials at 375 and 379 Main Street will be removed under 3<sup>rd</sup> party observation by Atlas Technical Consultants for an additional contract of \$4,750. The abandoned homes, which have been condemned for many years, will then be demolished and removed. Funding for the demolition will come from the town's allocation of federal ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act) – funding Congress approved for COVID relief and economic recovery efforts.

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## Bridge of Flowers awarded \$2.3 Million MassWorks Grant on December 1

Ashley Stolba, Undersecretary of Community Development for the Mass. Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development, came out to Shelburne Fall on Dec. 1 to announce a \$2.3 million MassWorks infrastructure improvement grant to the Shelburne Falls Fire & Water District for renovations to the Bridge of Flowers. These much-needed renovations to the Bridge will be the first in nearly 40 years. Marion Taylor led that effort in the 1980s for a bridge renovation that snowballed into a village-wide multi-million dollar downtown revitalization effort in the 1990s. Now it's time for another Bridge fix up. This grant will allow the Fire & Water District to replace the main pipe that carries water for the town of Buckland across the bridge (underneath the walking path). The interior steel stays that strengthen the bridge will be replaced. And the concrete surface cracks will get patched up. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024. The Bridge of Flowers committee will be looking for temporary homes for the perennial plantings on the bridge during construction – perhaps the new “pocket park” gardens can help!

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## Winter Parking Ban Goes into effect December 1, 2022

The blue lights will be shown to warn people to remove vehicles from town streets during winter snow storms. Town Clerk, Joe Judd, and Highway Superintendent, Mark Shippee, are working with the FRCOG on a map showing alternate parking spaces during snow events. The map should be ready soon.

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## New “Winter” Transfer Station Hours start on December 6

Starting on December 6, the transfer station will be closing on Tuesdays at 4 pm instead of 7 pm. Adjust your recycling and trash runs accordingly.

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## **Should Buckland & Shelburne Share Police Services? See the Public Forum on Nov. 16 here**

A video recording by Falls Cable of the public forum is available here: <http://fallscable.com/portfolio/shared-police-services-forum-11-16/> Look for notices in this newsletter about the next public forum scheduled for February 2023. Shelburne and Buckland are currently sharing the services of police chief, Greg Bardwell this year. The goal of the working group of Buckland and Shelburne town officials is to bring a proposed InterMunicipal Agreement (IMA) for longer term sharing of police services to Town Meetings in the spring of 2023. The next public forum will seek community input on a draft version of the IMA.

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## **Holiday Concert at Trinity Church on December 16**

The Recital Chorus will present its annual Holiday Concert on Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Church. The program features rounds, carols, and music by Palestrina, Praetorius, Handel, Rossi, Vivaldi, and Vaughan Williams for chorus and soloists. The singers are voice students of Margery Heins from her home studio in Shelburne Falls and from GCC. Keith Rollinson will accompany. Donations at the door will benefit the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry. Everyone is invited to attend! Free admission - please wear a mask.

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## **Pickleball News!**

The Shelburne Recreation Committee Pickleball program has been going gung-ho this fall with five beginner lessons, five intermediate lessons, two demos and many well attended play sessions. Over 417 court hours of fun. Come join the growing pickleball community this winter in the Cowell Gym, on three well-lit courts. The December schedule includes play times for all levels, lessons, opportunities to work on your team play in anticipation of upcoming leagues..

Pickleball will be utilizing the gym Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The number of player per session is limited. Sign-up is required Cost is \$5PP per session for play or a lesson. Come join the fun.

For more information go to Shelburne Falls Pickleball or the Shelburne Recreation page on Facebook. To see the current schedule, learn more, or to sign up go to <https://bit.ly/3N3HgNb> Have questions or want to sign up for future notices, e-mail [shelburnefallspickleball@gmail.com](mailto:shelburnefallspickleball@gmail.com) or contact Mary Lou Gallup 207-530-6316.

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## **Open Space & Recreation Survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP)**

We need your help! Shelburne's Open Space Committee and Recreation Committee are preparing to update our expired 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Shelburne residents, please fill out the community survey, either online (link below) or on paper. Your responses will help bring new grant money into our community and provide recreation opportunities you would like to see in Shelburne! With the town passing the Community Preservation Act in the midterm election, there will soon be a regular funding source for recreation & open space projects, so your survey choices will also be useful in guiding how the money is spent. Click the link provided to take the survey online (easiest method). Survey link: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP)

Another option is to pick up and drop off paper copies of the survey at the: Town Hall; Arms Library; or, Shelburne Center Free Library.

## Shelburne Senior Center – News & Activities

### **Spot the New Scams Presentation**      Wednesday December 7, 1-2 pm

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office will be at The Senior Center to review the latest scams and how to protect yourself from fraud. Presentation twist, it will be in Trivia Game format!

#### Senior Savvy Trivia Game

This is a fun, interactive game designed to test your knowledge about topics such as:

- Trending Senior Consumer Issues
- Credit Reporting and Money Management
- Phone, Internet, and Email Scams Targeted Towards Elders
- Elder Law
- The Adult Protective Services

Game questions are divided into four categories, with difficulty levels ranging from 100 to 500. Contestants will be provided questions and four possible answers. Are you up for the challenge? Please call 625-2502 to pre-register

### **Book Club A Novel Idea**      Wed., Dec. 14, 2:30 p.m.

Favorite books, authors and genres are shared by all in the group. Notes of the meeting make it possible for members to pursue books and authors they had not previously considered, especially after another member's sharing of what it meant to them. The Book Club meets the second Wednesday of each month. The novel idea is to bring one of your favorite books or information on your favorite author. If someone shares a book or author you may be interested in, the book may be shared or can be found at the library, which is open the same time of Book Club! Come one, come all, it's a Novel Idea!

### **Senior Learning Network Virtual Programs**      Tues., Dec. 6, 2 p.m.

"FDR Presidential Library and Museum-Christmas at the White House" – Jeff Urbin shares about Christmas at the Roosevelt White House.

### **Men's Night Meetings**

The Men's Night Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Call Don Bascom at 625-2970 to register.  
Dec. 14 - Trip to Mark Leue, the Luthier

### **The West County Memory Café**      Fri., Nov. 18, Dec, 16, 12-1:30 p.m.

The Cafe is a monthly gathering of individuals with memory loss and their care partner. Come and enjoy some lunch, an activity, socialization and meet others experiencing similar challenges. Sign up by calling Teddy at The Senior Center at 625-2502. There is no charge to attend, and donations are always welcome

Reminder: The Senior Center provides Outreach Services for residents of Shelburne. Residents who need help with Fuel Assistance, benefits applications, homecare, housing searches, connecting to local resources, or registering for Meals on Wheels can contact Teddy at 413-625-2502.

Thursday Weekly Lifepath Lunches – Meals are Thursdays at 11:30. Inside dining will allow up to 12 people to enjoy a hot plated meal, in the company of others, with safe distancing guaranteed! Monthly menus are available at the Center. Pre-registration is required by Mondays 3:30 p.m. by calling 625-2502. Suggested donation: \$3.

### **Yoga**      Every Wednesday at 8:30 am

We have a new Yoga Instructor, Kate Peppard. \$20 monthly fee. Call 413-625-2502 to register.

### **"Ask the Nurse"**      Tues. Dec. 27, 10:30-12

A FRCOG nurse is available at The Senior Center every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10:30-12. They can answer your health questions, take your blood pressure, check blood glucose levels, collect used needles and provide safe collection boxes for needle disposal. Each month the Nurse will provide information and resources on a specific health related topic. The resources, tips, and guidance can be invaluable to your overall health and wellbeing. This service is provided through Buckland and Shelburne's Cooperative Public Health Service membership with FRCOG. For more information, contact Nurse Lisa White at (413) 665-1400, ext. 114

Shelburne Recreation Committee  
**Youth  
BASKETBALL PROGRAM**



This is a **free**, evening, drop-in program run by the Shelburne Recreation Committee at the Cowell Gym. This program is open to

**all K-6 th grade Children** in Buckland and Shelburne.

**Skills & Drills for all!**

**Scrimmaging Thrills for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders!  
starts the week of December 12th.**

**coed grades 1- 2 • Monday, 5:45-6:45 -coaches TBA**

**co-ed Kindergarten• Tuesday, 5:30- 6:30 coaches TBA**

**coed grades 3 to 4 • Wednesday, 6:15- 7:15 -coach- Fred Redeker**

players in this 3 to 4 grade group are also welcome to play on Sat. Morning, but not required

**co-ed grades 5, 6 • Thursday 5:30- 7:00 coaches- tba**

players in this 5 to 6 grade group are also welcome to play on Sat. Morning, but not required

**(See below for additional basketball opportunities.)**

- This program will run through the first week of March.
- K-6th graders are welcome to join in at any week during this program.
- We will be looking 2 to 3 parents to take primary responsibility for grades k-2 and 5-6. A guide will be provided with games and drills to organize the hour. No experience necessary.
- Remember the Cowell Youth Basketball Program requires many parent volunteers in order to be successful!
- Fred Redeker, on behalf of Hilltown Basketball, is providing coaching staff for the 3 and 4 sessions at the Cowell Gym.

**So Please Help Out!**

- If you feel you can help coach or have questions, please contact  
Diana Hardina at (413)625-9921, or [dianahardina@gmail.com](mailto:dianahardina@gmail.com) or  
Fred Redeker at (413) 522-3450 or [fredeker@gmail.com](mailto:fredeker@gmail.com) .

**Additional basketball opportunities:**

**Hilltown Basketball** sponsors games at the Mohawk High School on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

It also holds co-ed practices for a Hilltown team of grades 5 to 6 at Mohawk High School. Hilltown Basketball requires a \$30 fee for weekend participation. All of the Cowell Program players are welcome to participate in these games but no player is required. Please contact Fred Redeker at (413) 522-3450 or [fredeker@gmail.com](mailto:fredeker@gmail.com) for more information.





## Relocation of the Veterans' Memorial at BSE

Local Veterans requested that the Veteran's Monument and flag pole located on the grounds of BSE be relocated to an area that is more accessible. The MTRSD School Committee approved the relocation request and the Town is now in the process of finding a suitable location on town-owned property. The town anticipates coordinating the relocation in the Spring of 2023. Your suggestions for a suitable location are welcomed. Suitable Town owned properties include: Town Hall, Village Information Center, Arms Library, Shelburne Free Public Library, Cowell Gymnasium, and the Police Station.

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## Shelburne Falls Village Taskforce meets next on December 14 at 5:30 pm

Want to help revitalize Shelburne Falls? The Village Taskforce is looking at ways to continue and improve Shelburnefall.com as an information source for the Shelburne Falls village and surrounding area. It is also looking at potential models for a successor organization to the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association. And the organizers of Moonlight Magic are always looking for new volunteers! Feel free to attend the next monthly meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 pm online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82067987432?pwd=aDR4VDV5MjVnWkx3OGJlbWNuZGxJZz09>

Meeting ID: 820 6798 7432

Passcode: 894356

If you have difficulty connecting, contact Jessica Atwood at FRCOG: [jatwood@frcog.org](mailto:jatwood@frcog.org)

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## Community Preservation Act passes at Shelburne election

Shelburne voters approved the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as Question #5 on the Nov. 8 election ballot by a substantial margin – 457 yes votes and 322 no votes (over 200 voters left the question blank). The CPA will add a 3% surcharge on property tax bills starting July 1, 2023. The first \$100,000 of property value is exempted for all property owners from the surcharge. Low income property owners can request a complete exemption from the surcharge, as can low- and moderate-income senior property owners. It is estimated that Shelburne will raise \$90,000 in local taxes through the CPA that can be used for community improvement projects in four categories: Historic Preservation, Open Space, Recreation and Community Housing. Because voters passed the CPA at the maximum 3% surcharge level, the town is eligible to receive a 100% match from state CPA trust funds each year. If the full match is awarded, Shelburne can anticipate \$180,000 per year in revenue for community improvements. (Our neighbor towns – Conway, Sunderland, Whately, Leverett – have all successfully received a 100% state match for over a decade as CPA towns.)

The next step toward implementing the CPA law is to draft a warrant article defining how the town's Community Preservation Committee will be structured. The Committee will review proposed CPA projects, assist proponent with making their proposals eligible and worthy, and recommend projects for approval by voters at Town Meeting. The warrant article on the Committee structure will be presented for approval at Town Meeting in Spring, 2023.

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## From the FRCOG Public Health Team:

### Holidays and Health

For many, the winter holiday season has a complicated relationship with the word "healthy"—either because we think we are not doing enough to maintain our health, or because we avoid thinking about health until January. Instead, it may be easier to ask ourselves, "What steps can I take to manage my health during the holidays?" Each of our answers may look different, and that is the point: We can each add our own ways to manage stress, incorporate exercise, and eat healthfully. Each day is an opportunity to practice healthy options.

### Healthy eating

There are many, many resources that focus on nutrition around the holidays. Most offer this basic advice: act in small steps and remove the guilt. The Mayo Clinic's holiday nutrition tips suggest trying to adding in an extra serving of veggies, drinking more water, limiting soda and alcohol, and to "choose your splurges" to eat portions of seasonal food and actually enjoy it!

## Exercise

Incorporating exercise can be easier when thinking of “increasing movement” over “improving fitness.” One resource—“Mass in Motion” on mass.gov—lists numerous ways to add in walks or create active TV time by using hand weights, doing calisthenics, or simply marching in place during commercial breaks. For others, setting timers to limit screen time (TV, computer and/or phone) are easy ways to purposefully make time for other things—like adding in a self-care activity or getting to bed on time.

## Managing stress

Finding low-cost ways to manage stress during a busy and often expensive time is important. Examples include taking a walk or bath; calling a family member or friend; and writing in a journal. During the short daylight, simply getting outside for 10 minutes can be helpful. Starting or ending your day with a few minutes focused on breathing can feel grounding. Although we often let go of some routines and expectations, prioritizing ongoing support groups and meaningful connections can help us manage, relax and enjoy the season.

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# Shelburne’s Winter Parking Ban is in effect until March 31, 2023

## Winter Parking Regulations

### 1. Snow Removal:

The Highway Department Superintendent or the Select Board may declare a “Winter Snow Event” when winter weather conditions require removing excess snow and/or ice from Town roads and streets. Winter Snow Events remain in effect until canceled and are often in force for more than one night. When the “blue” flashing lights are activated in the Village, residents are to assume that a winter snow event has been declared.

### 2. Overnight parking prohibited.

During a Winter Snow Event no vehicle may be parked on the streets or parking lots listed below between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. except for emergency situations involving medical, police, or fire personnel. During a Winter Snow Event vehicles may park in the off-street locations listed in paragraph #3 below.

#### Parking prohibited

- a. On all Streets and Roads;
- b. The parking lot behind the Greenfield Savings Bank, Keystone Market and the Art Bank Building

### 3. Acceptable Off-Street Parking locations:

- a. Behind Keystone Market (the second row furthest away from the building to Water Street)
- b. Cross Street parking lot
- c. Arms Academy parking lot (located on Church & Maple Streets)
- d. Cul-de-sac below the former Mole Hollow Candle (located off of Deerfield Ave.)

\*Any vehicles parking in these locations must be moved within 24 hours after the Winter Snow Event ends or they will be subject to towing.

### 4. Penalties for violations.

- a. The owner of any vehicle parked in violation of this section shall be fined the sum of \$10 for each such violation. Each day a vehicle remains parked in violation of this section shall be considered a separate violation. In addition;
- b. During a snow event, any vehicle parked in violation of this section may be towed upon order of the Highway Department or the Police Department and the owner of said vehicle shall be responsible for the cost of said towing and any storage charges which may accrue.

Please note: it is the responsibility of each vehicle owner to ensure removal of his or her vehicle from the restricted areas during a declared Snow Event whether or not he or she has received notice.

# Shelburne Town E-Newsletter – January 2023



Happy new year! We've completed 2022 and 12 issues of this e-newsletter!

Here is the news for January 2023. This is the time of year when darkness turns to light in our little village, and the bridge to what comes next can only be seen in faint outline. We are a bit light on content this month. I think the holidays, travel and visiting took precedence over sending in news items. Help me spread the Shelburne e-news this year. Forward this newsletter to a few friends and encourage them to subscribe. Subscribers can join by sending me their name and email address to [andrewbaker1959@gmail.com](mailto:andrewbaker1959@gmail.com) You don't have to live in Shelburne to subscribe, but please let me know what town you do live in.

My new year's resolution is to invite guest editors in to try out a month or more of newslettering. Let me know what month you want. Step one will be creating a town newsletter email address that we can use together for news gathering.

But for this month, send in your news items to my address above by Friday, January 27 for the February edition. If it is news about Shelburne and not too long, we'll print it! All the best,

Andrew Baker - Interim Newsletter Editor & Shelburne Select Board member

## What's All the Hoopla about Heat Pumps? Shelburne Falls, January 29

Heat pumps are the primary way to get rid of the fossil fuels that most of us rely on to stay warm in winter. Great strides have been made in recent years to develop units (most commonly "mini-splits") that are efficient at even colder temperatures. They also provide cooling in the summer at a drastically lower cost than traditional air conditioners. New incentives from the federal and state governments are making heat pumps more affordable and they are becoming extremely popular in our area.

"What's All the Hoopla about Heat Pumps?" is a public event devoted to learning about heat pump technology and its applications for homes in our area.

**When:** Sunday, January 29 from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

**Where:** Buckland Shelburne Elementary School, 75 Mechanic St., Shelburne Falls

**What:** ☐ Presentation 1:15 – 2:45 pm. : "Heat Pumps: The What, The Where, And The How Much" by Mike Simons, the Training and Development Manager for Abode Energy Management, an independent company on clean energy.

**Cost:** Free

Mike is an expert on heat pump system design and trains installers to the highest standards. Learn what they are, the basics on how they work, what they look like, how a system is designed to meet a specific building's layout and existing conditions as well as the needs of its occupants.

Mike will share his insights from the industry as the heat pump installation wave continues to build. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

- Hear from your neighbors about what they think of their heat pump systems.
- Leading up to the event, the organizers will be researching the projected outlook for heat pump availability in our area. (There is currently a backlog.) We hope to organize a "Meet and Greet" of local installers and companies that service them.
- Learn how the state heat pump rebates fit in with the Mass Save home energy assessment program. Information will be available about assessments and how to sign up for one.

Sponsored by the Shelburne Energy Committee, Shelburne Senior Center, and Arms Library. The Town of Shelburne is a participant in the Community First Partnership, offered by Mass Save Sponsor, Eversource. You do not have to live in Shelburne to attend the event.

Do YOU have a heat pump/mini-split in your home? Would you be willing to informally share your opinions about it with participants at the above event? If so, please contact Cynthia Boettner with the Shelburne Energy Committee at [Cynthia.boettner1@gmail.com](mailto:Cynthia.boettner1@gmail.com) or 413-325- 5564.

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## **From your Emergency Management Director.... Preparedness**

As we continue to deal with the events that winter weather can bring us let's be sure to keep in mind how to best be prepared for what may come our way. One of the best things we can do to protect ourselves and our loved ones is to be prepared for the loss of power during these frigid cold days and nights. I've been writing on how best to prepare for emergency events, especially if you need to evacuate to a community warming center. This month I'd like to address the topic of Individuals with Access and Functional Needs, or AFN. What is AFN? Persons with Access and Functional Needs are those individuals with function-based needs (related to a restriction or limited ability to perform activities normally considered routine) that may require assistance before, during, and /or after a disaster or an emergency. This may include, but is not limited to:

- People with disabilities
- People who live in institutionalized settings
- Elderly
- Children
- People from diverse cultures
- People with limited English proficiency/non-English speakers
- People who are transportation-disadvantaged

To be better prepared and depending on your specific needs or the needs of a family member consider adding the following to your basic emergency kit:

- Extra eyeglasses and/or hearing aids
- Battery chargers and extra batteries for hearing aids, motorized wheelchairs, or other
- battery-operated medical or assistive devices
- Extra medicine, oxygen, insulin, catheters, or other medical supplies you or a family member uses regularly
- Medical insurance cards, Medicare/Medicaid cards, physician contact information,
- list of any allergies and medical history
- Copies of medical prescriptions, doctor's orders, and the style and serial numbers of
- the support devices you or your family member uses
- Medical alert tags or bracelets, or written descriptions of you or your loved one's
- support needs, in case you are unable to describe the situation in an emergency
- Supplies for a service animal

You can find more in-depth information on AFN at MEMA's website at:

**[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-preparedness-for-individuals-with-disabilities-and-access-and-functional-needs#who-are-individuals-with-access-&-functional-needs-\(afn\)?-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-preparedness-for-individuals-with-disabilities-and-access-and-functional-needs#who-are-individuals-with-access-&-functional-needs-(afn)?-)**

REMEMBER: Failing To Plan is Planning To Fail! Tom Williams - Emergency Management Director

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## **Updates from the Town Treasurer/Collector**

Here is my January newsletter submission. It can still be found on my page of the website:

<https://townofshelburne.com/p/24/Tax-Collector-and-Treasurer>

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## From the FRCOG Public Health Team: Home Heating

Staying warm in the winter is important! With rising costs, heating your home can be stressful. That's where homeowners and renters can use fuel assistance.

You are eligible for fuel assistance if your household income is not more than 60% of the estimated state median income. For a single-person household, that's \$42,411; for two people that's \$55,461. [For three people, it's \$68,511 and \$81,561 for four people.] These numbers, and more information on who can get help is available on the Community Action website: <https://www.communityaction.us/fuel-assistance>. Locally, Community Action is the agency that processes applications for fuel assistance; the program itself is called LIHEAP in Massachusetts. If you have not used fuel assistance in the last two years, you'll need to first apply and then have an intake.

Apply over the phone (413-774-2310) or online (website above). An application checklist and a list of necessary documents are available online, or you can call the phone number and an automated message will guide you to the list of documents. Community Action wants its participants to know:

- From Nov 15 – March 15, there is a moratorium in place that prevents shutting off your gas or electric if that heats your home.
- Fuel assistance can only pay for deliveries/heat usage from Nov 1 to April 30.
- Please plan ahead—it can take weeks to process an application.
- This is an assistance program; you are still responsible for your bills.

Separate from fuel assistance, Community Action has other programs for renters and homeowners, including free energy efficient and weatherization assessments, and programs for homeowners that have funding to repair/replace heating systems. They also have an Older Adult Modification Program to help eligible homeowners age in place. Please remember that state minimum wage increases to \$15/hr starting January 1 and may change income.

Editorial/content questions? Contact Maureen O'Reilly, community health educator/epidemiologist at [moreilly@frcog.org](mailto:moreilly@frcog.org)

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Additional COVID information that you may find useful:

- Curative testing sites are closed as of Dec 28<sup>th</sup>. The Shelburne Falls and Deerfield testing sites are closed.
- With MassHealth, Medicare and private insurance, folks are eligible for up to 8 rapid tests per person each month. [Private insurance will need to check with your insurance company.] More information is available on [frcog.org/covid](https://frcog.org/covid) under the "Testing" tab. Note: we are updating our flyer, which has instructions, and that will be posted online tomorrow (12/21).
- Another round of government rapid tests are available on <https://www.covid.gov/tests>

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## Volunteer Opportunities in Shelburne:

Looking for volunteers? Post your volunteer opportunity here! Want to Volunteer? Contact these folks:

**Memorial Hall Association:** Want to help renovate the Town's historic 400 seat Memorial Hall Theater, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Town Hall? MHA is looking for board members eager to help launch a capital campaign. For more information, contact Jessica Murrow at [murrjessica404@gmail.com](mailto:murrjessica404@gmail.com)

**Shelburne Falls Porch Fest:** Did you enjoy the 3rd annual Shelburne Falls Porch Festival last month? Want to help organize the 4th annual? Contact Paul Bennett at [4paulbennett@gmail.com](mailto:4paulbennett@gmail.com)

**Shelburne Falls Women's Club** is looking for new members. Contact Penny Spearance at 625-9639

**Village Information Center:** The center is open to visitors from 10am to 4pm Thursdays through Mondays from May through October and is fully operated by volunteers. The center hosts visitors who come from around the world, and more locally, who learn about what to see and do in western Franklin County and beyond. Many more volunteers are needed. Interested community members can drop in whenever the center is open, or leave a message of interest at 413-625-2544. Those who volunteer receive an orientation, learn about what the area has to offer, and get to greet and meet some of our interesting tourists.

**Shelburne Finance Committee:** Want to help shape and oversee the town budget? There are still two open seats on the Shelburne Finance Committee. Send your nomination to Town Administrator, Terry Narkewicz at [townadmin@townofshelburne.gov](mailto:townadmin@townofshelburne.gov) Appointments to the FC are made by Town Moderator, Roland Giguere.

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## Open Space Committee News

Shelburne residents, land and business owners: The Open Space and Recreation Survey closes **January 31**. Taking it online is easiest: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP)

Another option is to pick up and drop off paper copies of the survey at the: Town Hall entranceway; Arms Library; or, Shelburne Center Free Library.

Hiking in January (The Secret)

Hiking during the cold weather months is now easier than ever!

Trekking poles with ice point tips give all ages 4-wheel drive-like stability and can help power you up the trail. Two trekking poles can cost as little as \$35. Lighter weight and higher quality poles for serious hikers cost a lot more. For those who like to walk on dry pavement, but need more stability, rubber caps are available to cover the poles' ice tips.

Ice Cleats are amazing! Do you remember how slippery it used to be walking on icy or snow packed hiking trails? Tired of falling?! Trails are no longer slippery with the right Ice Cleats (also known as MICROspikes, traction cleats, ice crampons [but not the ice climbing type], etc.) Ice Cleats quickly stretch and slide onto your existing hiking boots.

Ice Cleats cost as little as \$20 and can open up a whole new world of winter hiking and adventure.

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## Other SF web sites and social media:

Find more news about Shelburne here:

<https://www.facebook.com/shelburnefallsvillagenetwork/>

<https://shelburnefalls.com/>

<https://the-senior-center.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetShelburneFalls>

<https://www.armslibrary.org/>

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That's all we wrote. Send me news for January 2023 by Friday, January 27

# Good news, fun news, news you need to know

## SHELBURNE, MA NEWSLETTER



### July, 2023 Celebrate Summer!

Native strawberries are in, and that means my favorite supper of fresh local tomatoes and corn on the cob will be here soon. I love this time of year when the local fields produce an abundance of wonderful, healthy goodness and our heroic farmers deliver vital sustenance to the community. Thank you to all our farmers and others engaged in agriculture!

The contract with our consultant for the Town's **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Grant** from the MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs has been finalized!

The organizational meeting with our consultant Weston & Sampson, is set for July 12, and I expect the kickoff meeting with our Core Team will take place in the beginning of August. Look for news about that next month.

On a personal note, this will be my last edition serving as the newsletter editor. My goal when volunteering for this role was to make the newsletter esthetically pleasing, friendly, and broad in scope in order to help foster the social ties that are critical to building a **resilient community**. Facing the challenges of the twenty-first century will require a **collective** effort that welcomes everyone, and I saw the newsletter as a perfect vehicle to enhance **cross-community communication**. The Selectboard has proposed that the newsletter become more formal and under their editorial control, which unfortunately does not align with either my vision or the way I wish to communicate. I have **thoroughly enjoyed** serving in this role and meeting so many new people! I **admire** everyone's care and **dedication** to the Town of Shelburne and look forward to engaging with you again during the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) project in the coming months. If you are interested in serving as the **next editor**, please send an email to [E-Newsletter@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:E-Newsletter@townofshelburnema.gov).

Remember to send your 100-250 word submissions for next month's newsletter by **July 21** to [E-Newsletter@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:E-Newsletter@townofshelburnema.gov), and be sure to **include the name of your group or committee** in the subject line of the email and any attachments (e.g., "EnergyCommittee-August"). Thank you!

*Tricia Yacovone-Biagi*

# Town Hall News

Bridge Street Construction and other repairs top the news from Town Hall this month.

**Bridge Street Paving.** The first layer of pavement has been installed. Final road surface paving will occur in the fall.

**Sidewalks.** New sidewalk construction will continue on the south side of Bridge Street, from Memorial Hall to the Mechanic Street intersection. The contractor has been instructed to maintain building access at all times and will install temporary ramps to building entrances. Once the sidewalks are installed, the contractor will begin repair of the Memorial Hall ramp and install business stair railings. The contractor and sidewalk subcontractor will not be on site the week of July 3. **Target Completion Date: July 28.**

**Trees.** Trees will be planted in the fall.

**Traffic and parking changes during construction.** Pedestrian traffic will be accommodated to ensure that patrons have safe access to local businesses. Police details will be used to control traffic, as directed by the Police Chief. Sidewalk construction will also **temporarily eliminate parking** in the section of sidewalk where work is occurring. Paving will require that traffic be **detoured**.

## PROPERTY OWNERS:

Please pass all this information along to your business and apartment tenants.

**Memorial Hall Access will be restricted** in this phase of the Bridge Street Construction project. In late June or early July, the **stairs and handicapped access ramp** providing access to Memorial Hall will be removed and reconstructed by the contractor. The contractor estimates that the work will take approximately one week.



During that time, individuals will have the option of accessing Memorial Hall during normal business hours by using the **alleyway on Bridge Street** (near the iconic bowling alley sign) and entering via the back door. Individuals with physical limitations can call the Town Hall in advance of their arrival and staff will be happy to accommodate your requests in-person on Bridge Street.



**Repairs to the south side pedestrian walkway of the Iron Bridge** are slated for **mid to late July**, according to the Mass.

Department of Transportation, District One Office. The schedule is contingent upon the availability of steel material.



**Repairs to the Memorial Hall Elevator** are underway. The elevator became non-functional in early January. Members of the Selectboard earmarked more than \$118,000 in America Rescue

Plan Act (ARPA) funds for its repair. Completion of the repair is anticipated by the **end of July**.





### **Town Collector and Treasurer** Angelina J.

Bragdon, CMMT sent tax bills at the end of June for the first and second quarters. The first quarter is due on **August 1**. The second is due on November 1. You can pay your taxes using the [online payment center](#) or by enclosing a check in the **gray lockbox** inside the foyer at the Town Hall.

The Town of Shelburne voted to adopt the **Community Preservation Act (CPA)** at last year's Town Meeting and Elections. This law requires the Town to place a **3% property tax surcharge** on each parcel of taxable real estate. Eligibility for an exemption of the surcharge is available by annual application to the Assessor's Office for qualifying individuals. Please see the "Information about the Community Preservation Act" notice at the end of the newsletter for more details.

You can reach our treasurer at [treasurer@townofshelburne.ma.gov](mailto:treasurer@townofshelburne.ma.gov) or via phone at: (413) 625-0300, ext. 6. Look for her informative newsletter on the town website at <https://www.townofshelburne.com/p/24/Tax-Collector-and-Treasurer>.

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## Fire Department News

Shelburne **Fire Chief John Taylor** provides guidance on how to properly handle batteries to prevent fires. He says, "While charging a battery seems an insignificant and unimportant task, **don't be complacent.**"

**Lithium-ion batteries** are now in common use to supply power to many kinds of devices

including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode. **See flier** at the end of the newsletter.

**Identification:** Rechargeable batteries will indicate the type of **material used** with a full description or abbreviation on the unit: Lithium-ion (Li-ion), Nickel-Metal Hydride (NiMH), and Nickel-cadmium (NiCad or Ni-Cd) are common.

**Follow the recharging recommendations** below for all these types of rechargeables, however, lithium-ion batteries have experienced the most problems with overheating and fires:



Don't recharge batteries or devices on soft surfaces like on a bed, couch or rug to avoid the device overheating.



Place the unit on a **solid, non-combustible surface**. Keep a watchful eye on the device when charging. Don't leave chargers plugged in when you are away or asleep.

**Disposal: Don't throw batteries in the trash.** We are told that you can dispose of old rechargeable batteries at Home Depot, Staples or through the local Solid Waste District (413-772-2438).

**Signs of a Problem:** Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: **odor, smoke, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises.** If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire, like outside, and call 9-1-1. If you can't move it safely, exit the building, and call 9-1-1.

# Selectboard notes

**Veteran's Memorial Relocation.** The Selectboard has approved funding the relocation of the Veterans Memorial from its current obscure location behind Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School, to Main Street adjacent to the Arms Library who graciously agreed to host the memorial. The move was done at the request of local veterans as the new location is on the annual parade route.

**Streetlight Conversion Update.** After voting to proceed with conversion of the town street lights to energy-saving LED lights at no cost, the board has put that approval on pause, tabling the issue until August 1, to allow the town Energy Committee time to present an alternate approach of pursuing a plan for town purchased and maintained street lights.



Photo: Paul Franz

**Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Grant Award.** The Town of Shelburne has been awarded \$187,000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, which coupled with matching funds, will be used to support the

renovation of the Memorial Hall Theater. The Town of Shelburne has earmarked \$150,000 in matching funds. Members of the Memorial Hall Association will raise the remaining \$37,000 for the first phase of the project.

The project focuses on improving accessibility and the design, rehabilitation and replacement of the theater's 100+ year-old wooden floors and seating.

**Highway Pole Barn.** Materials for the new pole barn at the town garage are expected to arrive soon. The bidding process to secure a contractor to erect the structure continues.

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## Boards & Committees

### BOARD OF HEALTH

Revisions to the Town's marijuana regulations were adopted by the Board of Health on June

14, 2023. The revised regulations go into effect on August 1, 2023. A copy of the updated regulation can be found on the Board of Health's web page at [www.townofshelburne.com](http://www.townofshelburne.com)

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### ENERGY COMMITTEE

Cynthia Boettner sends in lots of great information about Mass Save®, learning more about solar, energy assessments, and LED streetlights.

**Mass Save®:** The Energy Committee is collecting **testimonials** to add to the Shelburne portal of Mass Save ([www.masssave.com/shelburne](http://www.masssave.com/shelburne)). Please

contact our Energy Efficiency Advocate, Cynthia Boettner at 413-325-5564 or [Cynthia.boettner1@gmail.com](mailto:Cynthia.boettner1@gmail.com) to share your thoughts or ask questions.



Register for a Mass Save **Home Energy Assessment** at [www.masssave.com/Shelburne](http://www.masssave.com/Shelburne) or call 413-232-9922. Partner

company Revise can perform the assessment and recommended upgrades, and apply the Mass Save® incentives. If you want a different company to perform the assessment and/or recommended measures, please contact our Energy Efficient Advocate (above) for advice.

**Free public webinar!** Learn about **roof readiness, rebates, incentives, and how to compare quotes** in this free webinar sponsored by the Green Energy Consumer's Alliance (<https://www.greenenergyconsumers.org/>) and their partner EnergySage, which simplifies the research and decision-making process through its online platform where you can compare up to seven quotes for solar, "privately and with no sales pressure."

**September Solar Fair.** The Energy Committee is considering holding A Solar Fair for some time in September. If you're interested in helping with the planning or sharing your experiences with solar, please contact [energy@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:energy@townofshelburnema.gov)

**LED Streetlight Update.** As noted by the Selectboard, the Energy Committee is studying LED streetlight options that the town may want to consider as an **alternative to Eversource's offer**. We have contacted RealTerm Energy (RTE), which specializes in LED streetlight conversions and offers turnkey upgrades for

small- and medium-sized municipalities. RTE's proposal offers roughly an **80% energy saving**, with an operating savings of about **\$5000 per year** compared to what Eversource has offered to install. We are investigating options for covering the upfront cost of the RTE proposal.

**Coming in August!** From August 14-28, 2023, Mass Save® sponsors will have a special offer available for small businesses (including farms), non-profits, and houses of worship to receive a **no-cost, no-obligation building energy assessment**. The normal "up to 70% discount" on certain energy-saving upgrades increases to "up to 90%" during this period. Visit [eversource.com/mainstreets](http://eversource.com/mainstreets) or send your questions to [energy@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:energy@townofshelburnema.gov).

## OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEES



*Shelburne Falls Urban Tree Walk, June 10, 2023*

The Open Space and Recreation Committees submitted a joint article for this month's newsletter to share what they've been doing on town issues in addition to creating all the wonderful activities they're known to set up around town, like the Shelburne Falls Urban

Tree Walk from June 10 shown above. Jim Perry of the Open Space Committee says the walk was “a really informative and enjoyable walk and tour of the village.”

In preparation for the update of Shelburne’s **Open Space and Recreation Plan**, the Open Space and Recreation Committees created a survey for all residents, so that we could find out what you think and how you feel about **open space and recreation resources within our town**. The public survey was heavily promoted and available and open from November 15, 2022 to January 31, 2023. We received 252 responses, which is considered to be a very high rate of completion. Thank you!!

Here is a link to a full assessment of the public survey including public responses and comments:

[https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Shelburne\\_OS RP\\_Survey\\_Results\\_summary\\_05-31-2023.pdf](https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Shelburne_OS RP_Survey_Results_summary_05-31-2023.pdf)

- **252 surveys were completed.** The optional written comments indicate that residents put thought and care into sharing their ideas about open space and recreation.
- **Top open space interests** were the need for: increased **access to the Deerfield River**; more **trails**; **open space** and **farmland** conservation and preservation; and more **public spaces and parks**.
- The **top open spaces and lands used for recreation** in town are the Bridge of Flowers (Shelburne Falls Fire District-owned), the Pothole viewing area (town-owned since 2022), Audubon’s High Ledges (nonprofit-owned), the Fire Tower Trails (mostly private), Arms Cemetery

(privately-owned), and the park at Water & Main Streets (church-owned).

- **The highest priorities** identified for expanding or creating recreation resources would be to provide increased: access to the Deerfield River for a variety of uses; hiking and walking trails both in the village, outside of the village, and linked with areas of town; public restrooms; access to the Potholes; and bike paths/trails/lanes.
- **If the town increased its offering of recreation activities**, respondents were most likely to participate in nature walks or guided hikes, fitness classes, or arts & crafts activities.

Currently, most of the land available for open space and recreational trails is under **private or nonprofit ownership**. This is largely due to the lack of public lands in Shelburne and the complex, multi-level review and approval process the Town of Shelburne relies on for considering development of any new municipal trails.

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## PLANNING BOARD

The Shelburne Planning Board **welcomes our newest member Faith Lally Williams** who was elected to the seat vacated by new Selectboard member Rick LaPierre. Faith has lived in Shelburne since 1988 and is co-owner of Mapledgee Jerseys Dairy Farm with Peter Williams. She is a founding member of the Dairy Farm Cooperative Our Family Farms, and is currently the Senior VP of Property and Asset Management for Way Finders, Inc., which she joined in 2005. She’s been a member of the



Franklin County Regional Housing Authority since 2019 and on the Board of Directors for Rural Development, Inc., since 2020. Faith clearly brings lots of experience to the table and we're happy she decided to serve our town!

The **next meeting** of the Shelburne Planning Board is **July 11 at 6:30 pm** over Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3122115885>  
Meeting ID: 312 211 5885 Passcode: 056099  
Or call in at: 1 929 436 2866. The agenda will be posted at <https://townofshelburne.com/f/0/12/>.

Professional Geologist Kimberly Noake MacPhee of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) will be our guest as we start to discuss ways that **climate-resilient zoning changes** could protect water quality and river health as part of her grant-funded **Watershed-Scale Zoning Project** involving Shelburne, Greenfield, and Bernardston. (Please note that this **corrects my error** in last month's newsletter that stated she would start the project in August.) Zoning with the watershed in mind will improve and protect water quality, reduce flooding and stormwater runoff, increase climate resiliency, and protect wildlife habitat.

July's meeting will be the **first of six meetings** to review applicable sections of the bylaws and develop draft updates. There will also be three working group meetings with the Planning Boards of the three participating towns. There will be **opportunities to collect public input** about the proposed zoning bylaw changes during the process, and of course, any proposed bylaw changes are subject to a public hearing and vote at Town Meeting.

A member of our Planning Board also attends the meetings of the **Regional Planning Board** for the FRCOG. After the annual election to various board positions, attendees heard a presentation from FRCOG Transportation Program manager Beth Giannini with updates about the Regional **Transportation Plan**. She noted that the intersection of Route 2 and Colrain-Shelburne Road was identified as a 'hot spot' of concern.



Assisting municipalities with **assessing transportation infrastructure** most at risk to the effects of climate change, and **increasing accessibility** to outdoor recreation sites are two of the top recommendations for focus. Giannini also provided updates on the **Valley Flyer** (now permanent service), **East-West Rail** Development (needs more study), and **Northern Tier Rail** Study (currently reviewing costs and economic opportunities). She said the Western MA Rail Commission will release its findings later this year.

Next, Andrea Donlon, a Senior Land Use and Natural Resources Planner at the FRCOG provided details about the **Proposed Recreation Facilities** within the FERC Relicensing agreement. New amenities for recreation will include **cartop access** locations to the river, a walkable **portage** around Turners Falls Dam, two **paddle-in camping** locations, and a website that provides flow and water-level notifications in real time.

# Arms Library

There's lots going on at the Arms Library this month. Give them a call at **413-625-0306**, email [armslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:armslibrary@gmail.com), visit [www.armslibrary.org](http://www.armslibrary.org) or the [Facebook page](#), or [sign up for](#) the weekly newsletter.

**“Find Your Voice!” and explore with us** this summer at the Arms Library. Read, track what you read throughout the summer, earn prizes, eat ice cream, hang out with new friends, and be ready to show your improving reading skills in the fall.

We have **seven weeks of programs** that explore different ways of finding our own voices in the world, whether it's astronomy, photography, environment, art, science, music, or woodworking. We're able to accommodate most ages, to make something easier or more challenging!

**July 1, 1-2:30 pm: Astronomy.** Bring your family Saturday to the Arms Library for a special program of Astronomy, Space and Science! In a hands-on program designed for all ages, participants will soar to the sky with a custom-designed starscape t-shirt.

**July 8: Arts & Recycling.** Bring your family in to create a beautiful, decorative box out of found items.

**July 15, 1-2:30 pm: Making Cyanotypes.** Sun Printing.

**July 29, 1-2:30 pm: Journaling Outside.** What do you see? Feel? Hear? Taste? Understand? We will walk about and take time to write in brand new notebooks from the library.

Our Find Your Voice Summer Reading Program is made possible by The Friends of the Arms Library, MA Library System, Boston Bruins, and the MA Board of Library Commissioners.

## OTHER JULY PROGRAMS

**July 8, 11 am: Kites & Things That Fly!** Led by Dr. Bill Strader, who writes, “I'm a lifelong kite flyer! I love watching, supporting and flying kites and things that fly! So how about coming to see a veritable plethora of kites and things that fly! We will see a wide variety of kites, assemble some...and even make your own Scottish Sled Kite!”

**July 9, 1 pm: Music of Appalachia and Beyond – Carrie and Michael Kline**



Behind the Arms Library during our Shelburne Falls June Art Walk, and Shelburne Falls 4th Annual Porchfest. Michael and Carrie weave songs and stories about time with family and friends, spiritual times, all wrapped in a patchwork quilt of vivid imagery. **All ages.**

**July 29th, 6:30 pm: D.K. McCutchen Author's Talk.** Leapfrog Press' Global Fiction Prize winner reads from the gender-bender, post-apocalyptic speculative-fiction, *JELLYFISH DREAMING*. (Jellyfish will be served and books signed.) **16 years and up.**

# Emergency Management Director's Page

Ever wonder what emergency management is all about? Until I took on this job as Shelburne's Emergency Management Director, I had always pictured emergency management as one group of people working on their laptops in a building while another group worked at the actual scene assisting or rescuing others.

Well...in reality that's just the half of it. Much of what these dedicated heroes do is accomplished ahead of time before an emergency strikes. And Shelburne, although not on par with state or national capabilities or size, needs its own **team of dedicated achievers** willing to help in times of crisis.

*I emphasize the word **'team'** because individuals must become **unified to effectively respond** to any incident.*

If you are one of those who has it in you to serve your community, then come join our Emergency Management team, either on the **Emergency Management Committee** or the **Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Team**, which is activated during an emergency incident.

An Instructor Team will allow you to share your knowledge and skills with others and enhance our overall capabilities. What's more, our entire community will benefit by building a well-organized, highly trained, extremely motivated group of volunteers who are dedicated to serving their neighbors.



**Communities are stronger** when people take action and work together for a common purpose. Our common purpose in emergency management is to save life and property. Interested in helping? Contact me at [EMD@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:EMD@townofshelburnema.gov).

As always, stay safe and remember what Ben Franklin once said: "Failing to plan is planning to fail."


**Tom Williams**  
Emergency Management Director

# Other news

## SENIOR CENTER

Center Director Juli Moreno announces an exciting new event and puts out a **call for volunteers** to help with the Center's home repair program, described in last month's newsletter. Please contact the Center at 413-625-2502 to sign up for activities, visit the Senior Center's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetShelburneFalls/> or go to the [website](#). Activities are shown in this newsletter's calendar.

## Home Repair Helpers Needed!

Do you know how to put in an air conditioner? Or maybe you're handy with screens, windows,  or cupboard handles. Basic woodwork and light fixtures, these are many things our Home Repair Volunteers do for folks.

We're looking for **new volunteers** to help out the people who need this program. If you, family, or a friend have the ability to make a repair or help with house needs, we'll train you on the program, provide mileage reimbursement, and do it all within your time availability. Even an hour or two a month will go a long way in helping a senior stay safely at home! Call 413-625-2502 or email [teddydoucette@crocker.com](mailto:teddydoucette@crocker.com).

## The Adventurer Club is Here!

The Adventurer's Club is a fantastic opportunity for folks to embark on **fun and unique escapades** each month! On July 28th at 10 am, we're heading to Berkshire East for an adrenaline-pumping experience on the

Mountain Coaster. Feel the wind in your hair as you navigate the twists and turns of this exhilarating ride, surrounded by stunning mountain vistas. It is \$20 for each ride down the mountain. For more information and to become an Adventurer, contact Juli at 413-625-2502.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

**FRCOG's Community Health Educator, Epidemiologist** Maureen O'Reilly informs us about a free event to keep us safe from ticks:

In the last few newsletters, you've heard a LOT about ticks! This time, you're invited to a **free community event to prevent tick bites**. Tick-borne illnesses, like Lyme disease and anaplasmosis are preventable by preventing tick bites.

**On July 29th from 10 am - 1 pm** bring your shoes to Aubuchon/Shelburne Farm and Garden to be treated in order to help prevent tick bites. **Treating shoes and clothing with permethrin**, a chemical that comes from the chrysanthemum flower. Permethrin is an odorless and invisible insect repellent that is applied to fabric. Permethrin is non-toxic to humans but deadly to ticks.

Why shoes? When ticks attach on your shoes, they want to crawl up your legs to bite. Treating shoes turns them into protection from you and into ticks' enemy: treated shoes are deadly to ticks for weeks.

**What to expect:** At the event, we'll spray a pair of your shoes with permethrin and hand them back to you in a paper bag, where they should remain for ~24 hours to dry. You will need to

wear a pair of shoes that you do not want to treat.

This event is brought to you by the Cooperative Public Health District of the FRCOG and on behalf of the Boards of Health of West County towns! Want to read more? Read this EPA fact sheet on permethrin treated clothing.

## Legislative News

*This page will provide information from our local elected officials. This month features MA Rep. Natalie M. Blais.*

### REP. NATALIE M. BLAIS



I am proud to have served as the State Representative for the 1st Franklin District since 2019. As a result of redistricting, our district looks very different today than it did back then! It includes Ashfield,

Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Whately and Precincts 5, 6, 7, and 8 in Greenfield. Believe it or not, our impressive **district spans over 450 square miles**. I look forward to continuing to work alongside you to bring our voices to Beacon Hill.

There were nearly **8,000 bills** introduced this legislative session and every bill will have a hearing before a committee. One of the silver linings of the COVID-19 pandemic is the

opportunity for you to **participate in committee hearings virtually**. If you want to weigh in on a bill, you can now submit written testimony, testify virtually from your home computer or phone, or appear in person in the State House. If you're interested in learning more about how to participate in the process, please reach out to my office.

And while legislation is often top of mind for constituents, I want you to know that if you are in need of **assistance** with a state agency, I am happy to help whenever possible. Some of the most common areas we are contacted about include veterans affairs, section 8 housing, utilities, unemployment, registry of motor vehicles, and MassHealth. Please don't ever hesitate to reach out to me for assistance at 413-362-9453 or [Natalie.Blais@mahouse.gov](mailto:Natalie.Blais@mahouse.gov).

The Greenfield Recorder reported "State Rep. Natalie Blais, D-Deerfield, will hold **office hours** for constituents of her 1st Franklin District at the Greenfield Senior Center on **Monday, July 10, from 1 to 3 p.m.**"





# July 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Senior Center activities shown in color.						1 1-2:30 pm Astronomy @ Arms Library
2	3	4 Independence Day	5 4 pm LEGOS @ Arms Library	6	7 2-6:30 Farmers Market	8 11 am Kites etc. @ Arms Library
9 1pm Music of Appalachia @ Arms Library	10	11	12 8:30 am Yoga 4 pm LEGOS @ Arms Library	13	14 12 -2 pm Wind-chimes Craft 2-6:30 Farmers Market	15 1-2:30 pm Making Cyanotypes @ Arms Library
16	17 11-12:30 Library Grant - Community Conversation	18 1 pm Movie: 80 for Brady	19 8:30 am Yoga 4 pm LEGOS @ Arms Library	20	21 12-1:30 pm Memory Café 2-6:30 Farmers Market	22
23	24	25	26 8:30 am Yoga 4 pm LEGOS @ Arms Library	27	28 2-6:30 Farmers Market	29 1-2:30 pm Journaling Outside @ Arms Library*
30	31					*also 6:30 pm Author Talk @ Arms Library on July 29

## Notes

### Upcoming dates to remember

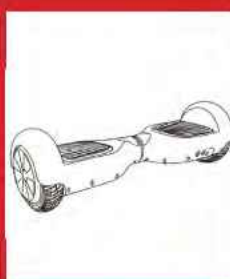
August 1 – Tax bills due

August 26 – Energy Committee booth at Grange Fair

September (TBD) – Solar Fair

## DANGERS OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

### Safety Tips & Precautions



Fires caused by lithium-ion batteries have increased dramatically in New York City with deadly consequences. These rechargeable batteries are found in electric bikes and scooters, cars, laptops, tablets, phones and common household devices. Lithium-ion battery fires have caused deaths, serious injuries and devastating damage to property around the city.

#### ALWAYS

- ALWAYS purchase and use devices certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory UL (Underwriters Laboratory) and the most common laboratories



- ALWAYS follow the manufacturer's instructions for: charging and storage.
- ALWAYS use the correct battery, cord and power adapter
- ALWAYS plug directly into a wall electrical outlet for charging.
- ALWAYS keep batteries and devices at room temperature.
- ALWAYS store and/or charge batteries away from anything flammable.
- ALWAYS keep away from heat sources.
- ALWAYS bring batteries to NYC Battery Recycling Centers. Find one at [nyc.gov/batteries](http://nyc.gov/batteries).

#### NEVER

- NEVER use aftermarket (or generic) batteries or chargers
- NEVER plug into a power strip or overload an outlet.
- NEVER overcharge or leave battery charging overnight.
- NEVER charge a battery or device under your pillow, on your bed, or near a couch.
- NEVER leave e-bikes or e-scooters unattended while charging.
- NEVER block your primary way in or out of a room/space
- NEVER place batteries in Trash or Recycling bin. It is illegal.





# SUNDAY JULY 9 2023

## SHELBURNE FALLS

### PORCH MUSIC FESTIVAL

[WWW.SHELBURNEFALLSPORCHFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.SHELBURNEFALLSPORCHFESTIVAL.COM)

[IESHELBURNEFALLSPORCHFESTIVAL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:IESHELBURNEFALLSPORCHFESTIVAL@GMAIL.COM)

REGISTER BY JUNE 20 TO  
PERFORM, VOLUNTEER,  
OR HOST A PORCH



SCAN QR CODE FOR  
PERFORMANCE SCHEDULES  
AND MORE INFO





*Shelburne community: We need your input!*

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

- *What aspects of Shelburne would you like to preserve?*
- *What recreation opportunities would you like to see in town?*

***Pick up and drop off paper copies at the  
Town Hall | Arms Library | Shelburne Center Library***

***Or complete the survey online at  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP)***



***Scan the QR  
code with your  
smartphone  
camera to get to  
the link above  
(case sensitive)***

**Deadline to  
complete survey:  
December 31<sup>st</sup>**



## Input Needed for Open Space & Recreation in Shelburne

Hello, Neighbor!

**We need your help!** Shelburne's Open Space Committee and Recreation Committee are preparing to update our expired 2014 **Open Space and Recreation Plan**.

**Please fill out the community survey**, either online (link below) or on paper. Your responses will help bring new grant money into our community and provide recreation opportunities you would like to see in Shelburne!

**Pick up and drop off paper copies at the:**  
Town Hall | Arms Library | Shelburne Center Library



Scan the QR  
code with your  
smartphone  
camera or  
navigate to the  
link below  
(case sensitive)

Survey link: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP)

We want to hear  
from **you** about  
Shelburne's priorities  
for recreation and  
open space.



Town of Shelburne  
51 Bridge St.  
Shelburne, MA 01370

Prsrt Std  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit 183  
Greenfield MA



April 25, 2022

**Members present** Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight, Larry Flaccus, Joan Greenfield, Garth Lapointe, Jim Perry, David Schochet, John Wheeler

**Guests** - Kimberly MacPhee, Andrea Donelan from FRCOG; Laurie Wheeler from Arms Library

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**Kimberly spoke about Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan update.** FRCOG has \$7,000 from the state of Massachusetts dedicated to use on our plan. An additional \$14,000 or \$15,000 will be needed to complete the plan. **Kimberly spoke with Peggy Sloan of FRCOG about a grant program** they are starting that might be used to cover our update. She has submitted a proposal to Mass Audubon and will probably know the result this fall. **It would cover the entire plan.**

**Related OSRP issues:**

-Kimberly **has woven aspects of climate resiliency into the grant;**

-She suggests doing the public service portion and an interactive portion on the Town website that residents can access.

**-Funding--**If the Audubon funding doesn't come through we will have to work around it. Norm said the ReComm is working on a grant application to fund a skating rink. Kimberly suggested talking with the fellow in charge of the Audubon grant to see if there were any crossovers between our grant and the Recreation Committee grant. Larry said the Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grant has a possibility of making \$25,000 available to each town in the partnership. David said he had gotten a call from Samantha Smith (MASSAudubon) and wondered if she might be involved with the grant program that could be used for our Plan update..

David wondered about which sections within the Plan need to be rewritten. Regarding the body of the Plan, Kimberly thought that some of the text some could stay the same but much would need to be updated.

**The group agreed we should start the process with the public survey.** Kim thought we could use much of the old survey and make a few additions to include climate. Kimberly thinks FRCOG has a copy of our previous survey. If not, Larry will send it to them. FRCOG will start working on the survey, and then we can go on to maps in parts 3 and 4 of the Plan update. Kimberley will check with Peggy Sloan to see if FRCOG can write a Letter of Support for the skating rink grant application Norm and the RecComm is working on. Kimberly would also like pictures that could be used showing some of the projects we have worked on.

## **OSC Collaboration with Arms Library**

**Laurie Wheeler came to discuss an OSC and Arms Library collaboration** re: encouraging Town residents to utilize walking/hiking routes—in town or nearby-- that the OSC and /or private citizens have created and made available to the public. The Library is doing a summer reading program called "Off the Beaten Path" to inspire people to get out into the natural world. Adults will read a book about a unique Appalachian Trail hiker and meet to discuss it. There will also be theme-related books for young people to read and opptys to discuss them. Laurie said the program starts at the beginning of June and will include walks at least once or twice a month.

Jim Perry said he would be willing to lead hikes. Jim will select hikes targeted for different groups. Joan volunteered to work with Jim and Laurie on the project. Jim has given Laurie a selection of brochures and maps of the various trails in Shelburne. Laurie will send a emails to Jim and Joan to get the project started.

**Minutes from our March 28th meeting** were reviewed and accepted as presented. Moved by Jim Perry, seconded y Norm Beebe. Minutes approved unanimously.

## **Trail status updates –**

Larry recently spoke with the Selectboard, where Andrew Baker noted he had walked **the Tower Trail** and really enjoyed it.

**Wooded Loop Trail update** - Jim and Garth rewalked a possible future trail going out from the Wooded Loop Trail towards Summit Drive. Garth said it was a fairly easy hike after you have completed the steep climb up from Summit Drive. The fairly sizable loop crosses a brook, abuts cliffs, travels a ridge, and goes by several vernal pools. **Jim spoke with an abutting landowner**, Art, on the hill above the proposed trail and he was quite supportive of the project. Jim also spoke with Donna West (resident in the house on Summit Drive below the trail); she wasn't opposed, but wasn't as strongly enthusiastic as Art.

**Jim and Garth have pretty well laid out a viable route.** The trail would connect the furthest loop of the Orange Loop Trail to Summit Drive. It would need one simple plank bridge across a brook and some proper blazing and signage. They found a way around the logging debris but encountered a lot of thorn bushes colonizing the recently-logged areas abutting the Summit Drive end.

Larry asked if the color of the new trail could be changed on the map or labeled with "trail starts here" so that the new portions are easy to distinguish. He would then send it on to the Paynes for their input. **Jim will send Larry a PDF of the map that he can use.**

**David gave a membership update.** Thor, sadly, tendered his resignation from the OSC, to relocate to the Newberryport area, leaving another vacant seat on the Committee. He will be missed by the group: hopefully a replacement can be found.

David reviewed the structure of the OSC's membership:

the Committee has 15 membership slots:

11 are filled by "**At Large**" **volunteers** who serve 3 year renewable terms (we currently have 6 active members –Larry, Joan, Garth, David, Jim, Joel and 5 vacancies—in this category).

4 remaining slots are filled by representatives from other relevant Town committees ---Planning Board (currently John Wheeler); Conservation Commission (Norm Davenport); Recreation Committee (Norm Beebe); Agricultural Commission-(status unclear)--whose purview overlaps with the work of the OSC. They are selected --or volunteer--by each committee.

Of our At-Large membership--Larry, Joan, and Garth's memberships expire this year. Joel and Jim expire next year. David's was just renewed till 2024. Norman is the liaison for the Recreation Committee, John Wheeler has been acting as the liaison for the Planning Board. The Conservation Commission and the Ag Committee have sent no representatives for some time and have not responded to outreach attempts.

#### **Ideas for attracting new members :**

**Garth** thought we might add to our membership by attracting volunteers to work on the trails and put the word out using Andrew Baker's new newsletter.

**John** said the Ag Committee currently consists of Carolyn Wheeler, Courtney from Apex Orchards, Jonathan Graves, and Ernie Kelly. **Norm** will post something on his Recreation Committee communication to try and attract members for the OSC and volunteers to work on the trails.

**Jim** will put up notices at the trailheads.

Joan wondered about the deadline for a trail article that could be put into the newsletter.

Larry thought we might benefit from finding out how Ashfield.org organizes trail volunteers.

#### **Member Committees' Reports –**

John Wheeler reported that the **Planning Board** has 5 warrant articles prepared for Town Meeting. 1 - Ag Green Houses, 2 -Retail in Residential area, 3 - Marijuana, 4 - Clarification of Signage laws, 5 - Special Permits that the Zoning Board deals with. John also said Patricia Piaggie was appointed to fill out a one year term last year and is running for a four year position. There is also a five year position open that no one is running for. This will be John's last year on the Planning Board, as he will not be running again when his term expires.

**Recreation Committee Report** - Norm is applying for a grant to level the ball field in preparation for installing a skating rink and also working on the Open Space and Recreation Plan update. He would like Larry to write a letter of support for the Recreation Comm's grant application.

David reported that there was no correspondence.

No visitor or guest comments.

Joan remarked about the unwelcoming No Trespassing sign at the end of Cosby's road across from the the Wooded Loop Trailhead, and its threatening tone. Was it having a negative impact on folks who wanted to hike the Wooded Loop trails? Norm thought that the bigger issue is more about exploring access to that land for more trails, and the that signage is secondary.

**Our next meeting will be May 23, 2022.**

Motion to adjourn made by Joan Greenfield, seconded by Jim Perry. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

## OSC Meeting Minutes 5/23/22 Approved 6/27/22

**Members Present:** Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight, Larry Flaccus, Joan Greenfield, David Schochet, Jim Perry,

**Guests:** Kimberly McPhee and Andrea Gnocchi from FRCOG; Laurie Wheeler from Arms Library

Larry called the **meeting to order** at 7:03 pm meeting via Zoom and recorded

**Minutes of 4/25/22 accepted** with a few small corrections. Jim Perry moved to accept, Joan Greenfield seconded, accepted unanimously.

**Arms Library Director Laurie Wheeler joined us to report** that she has met with Joan and has spoken with Jim, in order to plan several village walks in conjunction with the Village Info Center. Laurie will lead some of the walks, and others will be self directed. An additional four hikes, each in a different month, will be led by Jim, and will tie into the Library's summer reading program: **July 9th's hike** will be on the Mohican Mohawk Trail starting at the Franklin Land Trust pulloff on Rte 2; **August 13th Wooded Loop's** yellow and orange trails with a focus on forest management; **September 10<sup>th</sup> will** feature The Big Trees trail, up to the Fire Tower; and **October 8th will feature** a hike to the High Ledges. Laurie is considering bringing in a naturalist with plant knowledge.

### Open Space Plan Renewal

Kimberly and Andrea stopped to talk with us about our Open Space Plan renewal. There is a grant for Rowe and Shelburne which may be available for us to use towards our Open Space Plan renewal; however, we will not know if it is funded until the end of August or September. We do have funding that will carry us until then. We may also have a seven thousand dollar **MVP grant available** which we should know about in June. The MVP program is very much about public engagement and outreach. Additionally, It will be **important to weave climate resiliency into** our Open Space plan. Kimberly will send us an example of a climate resiliency story map. We will need to look at our old seven year action plan and see what needs to be carried over into the new update.

Andrea spoke about **a draft survey** she had put together. Larry said we want to see how the answers to our last survey compare to those of our new survey. The survey will be on paper as well as online. The paper ones are then entered onto Survey Monkey so the results can be collated with the ones that have been entered online. Andrea said she is new to FRCOG and has been looking at surveys that have been done in the last few years. She has also reviewed the two previous surveys from Shelburne. Jim said he like the way the 2014 survey was done and thought the same questions would really show how things had changed. Jim and Larry both thought demographics should be kept at the end and the language used should be plain and simple. Joan questioned how **we'd measure success of this survey**. David said we had a 13% response rate last time and we were told that was an amazing amount. **Kimberly will look in to the availability of funding to mail out paper surveys to residents**. Larry agreed **that September should be when the survey should be sent out**. **A subcommittee consisting of Joan, Jim and Norm will help Andrea refine a draft survey we can discuss at our July meeting**.



## **Trails Update**

**Wooded Loop Trail** - Larry wrote to Helen and Margaret Payne **about extending the trail to Summit Road**. Helen said they are happy with our partnership and have a positive attitude about extension of the trail. Jim said some work needs to be done for the extension but nothing too crazy. We will try to set up a tour of a proposed trail with the Paynes and interested members in July. Joel will try to find the location of a natural formation in the ledge which might be incorporated into the walk.

**River Trail** - Guntlow Associates got back to Larry about surveying of easements related to the River Trail with **a quote of \$11,200**. Larry said this did not include everything he thought it would and feels we will have to decline this offer and also decline the Woodland Partnership money we were going to use to help pay Guntlows for this survey. Joel suggested we might contact a local surveyor, such as Dan Warner, to see if he can conduct the needed work at a more reasonable price.

**Fire Tower Trail** - Jim spoke with the author of a book about fire towers in New England and noted that we may get some exposure of our trail through that.

## **CPA Update**

A pre-Town Meeting discussion will take place on May 26th. The CPA will be on the town warrant for June. The committee is recommending the 3% rate to make the most use of the program and State matching funds. The Finance Committee is not in favor of the CPA.

Committee members will **look at bearwise.org** to see if there is a pamphlet there we may use at our trail heads.

**David said we need new members.** Recreation Committee and Planning Board are the only committee liaisons that regularly come to meetings and that there are five open seats. Joan will see if Laurie Wheeler might be interested in becoming a member. We can also promote membership at the library hikes.

## **Recreation Committee Report by Norm**

They are still offering basketball and volleyball for adult drop ins at the Cowell Gymnasium and are going to be doing pickleball outdoors three days per week. They have also recovered their email list.

There is no correspondence and no guests comments.

Next meeting is Monday June 27th at 7 pm via Zoom.

Jim Perry moved to adjourn, Norm Beebe seconded. Meeting adjourned 8:57 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Dwight  
Secretary Pro Tem

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

## Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 6/27/22

**Members Present:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Joan Greenfield, Jim Perry, and Joel Dwight

**Guests:** Andrea and Kimberley from FRCOG

Larry brought the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. **Minutes of 5/23/22 were reviewed and accepted** with a minor amendment. Joan Greenfield moved to approve Jim Perry seconded.

### Open Space Plan Update

At the May meeting **we formed a subcommittee made up of Norm, Joan and Jim to meet with Andrea from FRCOG to review the old Open Space Plan survey** and come up with a new survey.

**Issues discussed:** Larry wondered why some questions **related to, during, and after the pandemic**. Andrea explained other towns have done it and it gives more information. Larry thought we should **focus on what the townspeople want next going forward**.

**Response issues:** David noted keeping the survey as direct and simple as possible would enhance the response we get from it. David and Larry noted that the information taken from the survey is used to inform the Action Plan. Joan asked what **rate of response we got from the survey in 2014**. David said it was 13% which was considered great. Joan thought 13% was not good at all. Jim said we also use the survey to justify action we take. Andrea wondered if our experience over the last 7 years would change our survey questions. Jim said Norm had made some recreation related changes based on his past 7 years experience.

**CPA questions in the survey:** Kimberley wondered if questions related to the CPA would be allowed in our survey because it will be on the ballot in November at town elections. She suggested we could craft questions that didn't directly refer to the CPA.

Andrea asked what we **would want to highlight from the last Action Plan**. Larry said although we encouraged other boards to work on action items they did not embrace these items over time which limited what we could do without the other committees engaging on their end. **Because of this Larry thought we should focus on things we could accomplish as the Open Space Committee alone**. Larry told the group we should be proud of what we've accomplished regardless of things not accomplished because of lack of buy in from other committees. **Larry also suggested FRCOG might facilitate collaboration between towns' Open Space Committees**. Kimberley said that was a great idea to have a yearly collaborative meeting. She also noted that Buckland has no standing OSC. Jim told us the Deerfield River Watershed Council is working on several collaborative projects such as a trail that spans a number of towns. Charlemont however is one town that does not seem to engage with the others.

**Kimberley and Andrea will follow up with the Planning Board to see if there are planning and zoning items that have been approved or rejected since our 2014 plan.** Jim noted a lot of what the Planning Board is involved with does not relate to Open Space. Kimberley said different rules that have been passed in town may bring up some questions for the survey. **Kimberley and Andrea both agreed with Larry that our goals are still valid and don't necessarily need updating.** Kimberley suggested there could be an executive summary created that would give an overview of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

**Funding issues--**Larry questioned if money had been approved for work on the town master plan. **Kimberley will ask Peggy Sloan about this.** Larry asked if there are funds available to do a mailed survey to 800 households as well as an internet based survey. Andrea will call a subcommittee meeting. She said the town of Wendall's expense for a paper survey was about \$1,000. Kimberley wondered if the OSC has any funds available to use. Larry informed them we have no budget but we might get some funding from the Woodlands Grant. Kimberley and Andrea will fine tune the expense for the survey. Andrea said piggy backing with other mailings might work and announcing the survey on the E911 network might be helpful. The town of Wendall recently had a 40% return on their survey over 200 returned out of 500 distributed. Larry stressed a simplified survey would reduce the cost and enhance the return. Kimberley and Andrea will return with us on July 25th.

**Andrea said they will be ready with a preliminary survey for our July meeting. Kimberley thought September was still a good time to implement the survey.**

## **Trail Status Update**

**Wooded Loop Trail** - Helen Paine will return on July 10th and Jim and the Paines will hike across their land to Summit Road on Route 2. Jim said to keep in mind it is a rigorous overgrown hike. There is a logging road to get to the proposed trail but from there it is quite overgrown.

**Riverside Trail** - A question was posed if we could extend the Woodlands Partnership Grant. Larry filed with the state to move \$14,000 to extend into next year. The commissioner needs to approve this by June 30th.

**Tower Trail** - Jim has a **proposal to print a map and brochure** which would be roughly \$392 for 2,500 copies. Larry wondered if we needed to print more because it is so popular but Jim said we may need to update the map and brochure. Jim thinks 2,500 is a good number for now. Larry reported we have enough money in our revolving fund to pay for the printing. David moved we spend the money on the brochure printing, Jim seconded the motion approved unanimously. Jim will get the information to the printer.

## **CPA Update**

The CPA will be on the town ballot in November. There will be a debriefing meeting tomorrow night June 28th at 7pm concerning the CPA.

## OSC Membership

David said we have vacancies and no one looking to come on board. Joan will be talking to Laurie Wheeler and she thinks Peggy Warwick, who is a friend of Cynthia's, would be a good addition to the committee. Larry will follow up with Peggy. David questioned how we might get the word out that we have vacancies and welcome interested applicants. Larry suggested we should put it on the survey. Larry had talked to Cynthia about rejoining the committee but she declined due to her busy schedule.

## Other News

Jim said we are **partnering with the Deerfield River Watershed Council on the upcoming beach hike and Larry thought we should put on article in the Greenfield Recorder**. Jim said it is on the Watershed's website and ten people would probably be an ideal size group. Larry suggested putting it in The Recorder and including a limited registration. Jim thought that might be better done on the Wooded Loop Extension Trail.

## Liaison Reports

No committee liaisons were present at this meeting to make any reports.

Jim told the group the Boy Scouts had done some printings on waterproof paper that they had posted outdoors and they continue to look like they are new.

Next meeting Monday July 25th.

Motion to adjourn by Joan Greenfield seconded by Jim Perry. Meeting adjourned 8:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Dwight

***These minutes approved at August 22, 2022 OSC meeting***

## **Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes July, 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Larry called the meeting to order at 7 pm

**Members Present:** Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight, Larry Flaccus, Joan Greenfield, Jim Perry, David Schochet, John Wheeler

**Guests:** Lara Radysh from Shelburne Falls; Andrea Donlon from FRCOG

**Minutes from June 27th were reviewed and accepted** with two corrections. Moved by Jim Perry seconded by Larry Flaccus.

Larry called for new agenda items, none were offered.

**Trail Brochures/New trail opptys:** Jim had 2,500 of the Tower Trail map brochures printed and has begun distributing them. Jim reported the Visitors Center has a nice display of brochures. Jim will check on donations there.

Jim reported on 8/15 he, Norm, Helen Payne Watt, and Corey Bailey from Foxbard Farm walked **on two proposed trails on the Payne property**, one of a loop and one that would connect to Summit Drive. They hiked to the top of middle Greenfield Mountain, not quite all the way to Summit Drive because of it being so overgrown. **They all liked the loop trail and Helen thought we should begin with that.** Garth and Jim have laid that trail out and Norm showed the group a map of the proposed trails. Larry wondered if a second stage of **another loop** might be developed to middle Greenfield Mountain. **It was recommended to start with Garth's loop trail which would be fairly easy to make and maintain. Jim suggested this fall might be a good opportunity to make the trail.**

Jim pointed out a parcel of land the town acquired in 2019 across from Davenports gas station that might lend itself to a trail.

**Jim reported that there were 14 participants on the Sandy Beaches hike. Both the terrain and the Jim's commentaries were** very well received. They were out for about two hours. **The August hike** will be part of the Fire Tower Trail system but not including the Fire Tower. They will meet on Route 2 at Halligan Avenue.

### **CPA Update:**

The CPA was approved at the last town meeting and will be on the ballot in the fall. As a result, the OSC can't take any official position or activity—pro or con—on the matter.

### **Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Survey:**

**Andrea Donlon** (FRCOG) presented the latest version of the survey for the OSRP. Norm has a few things to nail down with the Rec Committee and then we can move forward. **Larry suggested a few points of**



**clarification** to indicate the survey is from two separate committees that are collaborating. Larry will be monitoring our OSC emails more frequently. Andrea wondered where completed surveys might be **returned to**. Larry suggested multiple distribution points **and return to the Shelburne Town Office**. Andrea thought **a town wide mailing would cost \$1,500**. Larry said we might be able to **piggyback the survey with another town mailing in January but it might make it quite bulky**. Norm has not yet heard back from **a grant that he applied for from the Woodlands Partnership** that might help with the mailing. Larry noted there are 800-850 households in Shelburne. **OSC members should look at the proposed survey and send any comments to Andrea**. Larry asked if Andrea could format the survey for our next meeting and if we could see a SurveyMonkey version.

#### **OSC Membership:**

Joan said **Laurie Wheeler is interested in joining the committee**. Larry will speak with Joan's friend **Peggy Warwick who is also interested** in joining the committee. Larry thought we should consider putting **a line in the survey "advertising" membership openings on the OSC and Rec Committees**. Larry is also going to talk with Rich Andrews and Peggy Warwick about becoming members; David will follow up with Laurie Wheeler.

Larry is still awaiting Bob O'Connor's reply to our request for an extension of one of our approved but unspent state grants.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Recreation Committee**- Norm reported three pickle ball courts have been painted, but all three can't be in use simultaneously.

**Planning Board - John** Wheeler reported they are looking in to sign bylaws, village residential, tag sales and flea markets on Route 2. Later this year they will be looking at master plan economic updates and are hoping to get assistance from FRCOG.

**Ag Committee and Conservation Commission** liaisons were not present for comments. No correspondence. No visitor comments.

Larry has sent out a notice about the upcoming trail conference.

**Next meeting Monday August 22nd**. The State has approved continued use of Zoom for meetings through next March.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Perry, seconded by Larry Flaccus.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Dwight  
Secretary Pro Tem

## **Town of Shelburne**

### **Open Space Committee**

**Meeting Minutes August 22, 2022** (Approved 9/26/22)

**Members Present:** Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight, Larry Flaccus Garth Lapointe,, Jim Perry, David Schochet, John Wheeler

**Guests:** Kimberly Noake McPhee (FRCOG); Laurie Wheeler (Shelburne resident); Peggy Warwick (Shelburne resident)

Meeting is being recorded

**Meeting minutes from July 25, 2022-** The minutes were accepted with a few spelling corrections and one alteration concerning the pickle ball courts. Accepted as amended: moved by Norm Beebe seconded by Jim Perry.

#### **Trail Status Update-**

Jim **mowed the Wooded Loop Trail** last week and reported he saw Garth (who's leg injury is improving).

**Jim led a Fire Tower Trail hike** to an overlook of the village that went very well. Jim is working on a writeup for the Town Newsletter about the upcoming September High Ledges hike that he will be leading.

The **Tower Trail brochures** have been printed and distributed. Available at the Village Info Center, where there has been a lot of interest in them.

**John Wheeler** said the water district has been talking to Audubon about taking over management of some of their land which **might be available for trails**. Larry thinks there may be a forest management grant involved with that land.

#### **Other News-**

**Larry** reported we are approved to **extend our Woodlands Partnership** grant to next July. Larry will be contacting surveyors for bids on the work needed at Deerfield Avenue.

David noted **the ball field on Little Mohawk Road** looks abandoned and Norm said he isn't certain what is going on there.

### **CPA Update-**

As the Town Meeting voted to put CPA on the November ballot, town committees (such as the OSC) can no longer take an official position on the issue.

### **Town OSRP Survey( with Kimberly)--**

Kimberly sent a draft survey out to members on August 19<sup>th</sup> for our review.

Larry thought the survey is laboriously long: he and Jim suggested not having the whole text of the environmental justice portion (paragraph beginning with "did you know") in the brochure's Intro section but rather have it begin with "as you fill out...."

**David wondered** if the deleted portion would appear anywhere else. Kimberly said there will be a discussion concerning environmental justice within the document.

Kimberly suggested we include a reminder that the community has all ages, abilities, and income levels. She felt this would be useful to help people be thoughtful of the rest of the community as they fill out the survey. David also felt it would be best to encourage people to consider what's best for the totality of the community, not just themselves. Larry commented he would like the section on open space to come first on the survey. Norm thought that would be fine.

Kimberly will condense the options to check under Recreation as much as possible. She will make question one into two columns for the paper version.

The Committee then went over the survey with Kimberly and shared questions and concerns.

### **Membership-**

**Joan Greenfield and Thor Holbeck have resigned** from the Committee, Thor having moved to eastern Mass, and Joan unable to continue to attend meetings. The Committee thanked Joan for the many and enthusiastic contributions to committee work, be they educational, trail maintenance, outreach. She allowed that she could be contacted should a project arise that matched her skill-set.

**Laurie Wheeler and Peggy Warwick** would like to join the committee. Larry explained the process to become members. **Laurie** spoke first. Her interests include making walking and hiking accessible to more people. She also has a good deal of experience in publicity, writing, photographic surveys, and is very enthusiastic. **Peggy Warwick** spoke about her passion for the outdoors. Being semi-retired she has time to engage in committee work. She really enjoys getting people into the outdoors and she also has a deep interest in birds. Larry referred Laurie and Peggy to the Town Website and the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan to learn about the various things the committee has been involved with.

A brief discussion followed nomination , and it was decided to act on Laurie's and Peggy's applications for membership. Jim moved (and Norm seconded) that Laurie be nominated for membership in the OSC. Peggy's nomination was moved by Jim Perry and seconded by David Schochet. Each nomination was approved unanimously: Larry will follow up with the Selectboard and officially recommend them for appointment.. He will also share the short biographies they submitted on to the Selectboard. Hopefully, they both will be official members by our next meeting in September.

#### **. Other News-**

Legislation has been proposed to **designate the Deerfield River as a wild and scenic river**. Larry spoke in favor of the legislation and has sent an information sheet out to our members. Jim said the town of Shelburne has already signed on in support of the legislation which includes support from 18 communities and 12 organizations. Larry will present the legislation to the Woodland Partnership to see if they will support it. Larry suggested that the OSC submit support as well. It will be a several years' process for the federal government to approve the designation. David motioned to approve sending letters of support to Jim McGovern and Ed Markey; Garth Lapointe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Planning Board Report from John Wheeler**

Planning **Board's next meeting is September 20th**. They are going to talk about climate resiliency and a member of the PB will be attending the FRCOG climate resiliency meeting. John also said concerns had arisen about some practices of some of the businesses along Rte 2--mostly involved with traffic, signage and parking. **Joel commented that we should be a bit careful** with regulating the businesses along the trail. Not only does it take a good deal of work and money to start and maintain a business along the trail but we also need to recognize that viable businesses along the Trail promote tourism: we have no farther to look than Calvin Call's former antique shop to observe what abandoned businesses look like. Garth agreed.

#### **Recreation Committee Report-**

Norm said the Recreation Committee has been working on the Open Space and Recreation Plan and will meet again in September.

#### **Other Comments-**

-- **Garth said he heard some of the Payne** property might be coming up for sale and we should be aware of how that might affect our plans in the future. **Larry** said he will try to find out more information.

David reported there was no correspondence. No comments from visitors or guests.

Next meeting will be September 26, 2022 by Zoom.

Motion to adjourn made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry. Meeting adjourned 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel V. Dwight, Secretary Pro Tem



# **Town of Shelburne**

## **Open Space Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes September 26, 2022 (Approved 10/24/22)**

Larry called the meeting to order at 7pm. Meeting recorded on Zoom.

**Members Present:** Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight, Larry Flaccus, Jim Perry, David Schochet

No guests

**Minutes from 8/22/22 reviewed.** Wording changed to clarify the prospect of the Deerfield River being designated a Wild and Scenic River. Motion to approve minutes as amended made by Jim Perry, seconded by David Schochet. **Minutes approved unanimously.**

**Committee membership:** Laurie Wheeler and Peggy Warwick were approved by the Selectboard to become members of the Open Space Committee and need to be sworn in.

#### **Trail Updates:**

Jim reported **five people attended the September hike** out to the Audubon High Ledges and they all enjoyed the experience. Garth has recovered from his injury and has resumed mowing the trails. Jim reports our trails are now officially connected to Audubon High Ledges. There are now signs on the Audubon property clarifying directions to High Ledges and to the Fire Tower, and they are mowing the connecting path to our Ridge Trail. Jim explained **Audubon color coding on trail blazing** is yellow toward the main service toad, blue away from the main service road. Unfortunately, unless one has a map with named trails, it's not difficult to get mixed up at trail intersections. **Jim will be hiking this Fall with Melissa and the fellow in charge of the refuge and will try to bring this to their attention.**

**Open Space and Recreation Plan:** Andrea Donlon emailed Open Space members a draft survey and action plan for the OSRP renewal.

Jim reviewed these and thinks our problems with the survey have all been dealt with. Norm had a few questions and he will get back to Andrea. Norm has concerns people taking the survey may be confused as to how to respond to a few of the questions including reference to ranking systems. Jim said he had taken it on Survey Monkey and everything seemed to work well online. **Larry would like to have the survey finalized by our next meeting so it could be ready for November elections. Jim and Larry agreed that the survey should be mailed to every Shelburne household. Larry has questions about budgeting and how exactly the survey and plan will be funded.** We may leave a flyer with a link to the survey at the transfer station and perhaps the Senior Center. **We will try to get returns of the survey by the end of December unless poor returns warrant further promotion.** Jim noted nothing on the survey requires a name and shared a concern for multiple survey returns from the same individual. We also need to clarify what FRCOG is supplying for a budget. Larry thinks we can cover the mailing separately. Larry said we also need to ask Kimberley about who is going to host the survey; FRCOG or OSC. **Larry will follow up with Kimberley on financing the OSC and Recreation Plan renewal. Norm and Jim will speak to Andrea concerning this survey.**

**October Hike:**

**The October hike will be on the Wooded Loop Trail** and will cover topics including forest management and wildlife management. Larry sent information about the hike to Margaret and Helen. They responded in a very positive way and Margaret may join the hike.

**Recreation Committee Report:**

Norm reported the Rec committee is looking into how they will spend their available funds. **Norm asked who might be approached for landscaping. Joel suggested Kyle Canepari. Joel will also get the name of the surveyor he met and send it to Larry.** Norm also said the Rec Committee is working on pickle ball and a demonstration of the sport. **Jim suggested an article in the town newsletter.**

Other committees and boards had no representatives at this meeting .

No correspondence.

No guests for comments.

**Next meeting 10/24/22.**

Motion to adjourn by Norm Beebe seconded by Jim Perry. Meeting adjourned at 8pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Dwight Secretary Pro Tem

## **OSC Meeting Minutes 10/24/22 approved 11/28/22**

Meeting called to order by Larry at 7:04pm. This meeting is Zoom recorded.

**Members Present:** Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight, Larry Flaccus, Jim Perry, David Schochet

**Guests:** Andrea Donlon

Minutes from the 9/26/22 meeting were reviewed. A small change was made regarding Recreation Committee funds, then accepted unanimously as amended. Motion by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry.

### **Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey**

Andrea explained **paper surveys** will be manually entered into the e-survey. There was discussion concerning how the questions break up per page on the paper version. Andrea will look into a method to **reduce the number of pages making up the paper version**.

Norm wondered if there could be **an option to join the Rec Committee list serve on the survey**. **Andrea will work on adding the option of being put on the Rec Committee list serve**. The survey will pretty much be ready to go out at that point.

Andrea told us Kimberly suggested **costs could be saved** by doing a postcard mailing with a QR code. She also suggested a **flyer or a postcard might be placed** where they could be picked up at town voting. **Norm will approach Joe Judd about the legalities of that**. Andrea suggested **Norm ask Joe about bulk mailing the postcards because FRCOG no longer has their bulk mailing permit**. Larry suggested Adams Direct Mail might be able to handle it but will probably need to use some entities bulk mail permit.

Jim wondered if the **formatting could be changed to make the paper version better**. Andrea said she could do it but it would take her quite a lot of time but that it could be done quicker in Word, which she doesn't have access to. **Norm thought he might** have someone that could put it into Word just to see how the formatting would change.

**Norm** will also see if Joe Judd has a list of Shelburne residents we could use as a mailing list and if we could send out a notice on a town wide phone call. Larry suggested November 15 to January 15 as a time frame for the survey to be taken with a look at how well it is going in December. **Jim will work on an article for the town newsletter**.

**Norm will also speak with Andrew Baker** about the postcards concerning the CPA that Andrew is doing through Adams Direct Mail. Larry suggested 200 extra postcards be put in various locations to be picked up. Andrea suggested asking Andrew how many postcards he had placed out for random pick up.

Larry wondered about **the cost for the Open Space and Recreation Plan update** as the OSC was cut out of a \$20,000 grant opportunity which leaves us with \$7,000 from FRCOG and \$7,000 from OSC funds. He

suggests asking the Select Board for 2023 DLTA money. Andrea said Kimberly and Peggy might identify funds which could be shifted around. Everyone thanked Andrea for her efforts and her patience.

### **Trail Status Updates**

**Jim reports** he has been painting blazes and removing fallen trees on the Fire Tower Trail. Larry suggested Jim could post times when these activities were being engaged in and members might volunteer to help him.

Jim reports that on October 8th seven people, including four members of the OSC, went on the **Wooded Loop Trail hike which went very well**. This was the last in a series of four hikes. **The Senior Center has approached Jim about their interest in hikes**. Jim wondered how we might **increase the response** to engaging in hikes and Larry suggested the **upcoming survey might shed light on residents' interest**. Larry wondered about **liability** and Norm said the Rec Committee is covered by the town and he will ask Joe about liability on hikes in regard to the OSC and Jim. Larry suggested we try to get something in writing.

### **Recreation Committee Report**

**Norm reported** that **pickleball** is planning on moving inside for cold weather. He also said a backboard is in the plans for practicing in the future. Senior walking and volleyball will be starting in November. There is a \$5 per person fee for activities inside the gym to help with maintenance costs with a small portion taken out to go to the Rec Committee.

No new business

No correspondence

No guest comments

Next meeting Monday, November 28th at 7pm by Zoom

Motion to adjourn made by Norm Beebe seconded by Jim Perry.

Meeting adjourned 8:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Dwight  
Secretary Pro Tem

## OSC Meeting Minutes 11/28/22

Approved 12/27/22

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

**Members present:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Garth LaPointe, and Joel Dwight

**Guests:** Lara Radysh and Bob Higgins from Shelburne Falls and Andrea Donlon and Peggy Sloan from FRCOG

Minutes from 10/24/22 were reviewed and accepted after a few amendments. Motion to accept as amended by Jim Perry seconded by Norm Beebe.

Lara requested that the current meeting and all future meetings be recorded.

Larry told the group Peggy Warwick is planning on joining the group at 8 pm.

### Activities and Issues in Support of the OSRP Survey

Andrea said survey notification post cards were mailed last week and 37 people have already responded. Jim put copies of the post cards at both libraries and the Town Hall. Andrea put up a few flyers and is willing to print out more if anyone is willing to put them up. Norm said Terry was going to post notification of the survey in the town newsletter with a link to the survey. Norm talked to Joe Judd about a town wide telephone announcement and Norm will follow up with Terry as that is a decision for the Select Board. Jim put two posters, about the survey, up on the hiking trails. Larry asked Andrea how one computer could be used by several household members to take the survey. Andrea will look into it but suggested people will need to use separate devices or use a paper survey because SurveyMonkey is set up to accept only one survey from an IP address. Andrea reported an 80-90% completion rate on the electronic surveys taken so far with a roughly average time of 18 minutes to complete a survey. She thinks the survey is going well. She will look into a survey reminder to be posted on Falls Television Cable. Jim noted there are several Shelburne Falls Facebook groups and he may be able to put a survey reminder there. Norm will talk with Whit Sanford about getting a survey reminder on the Facebook group she moderates. Funding for Andrea's work is being provided in part by the District Local Technical Assistance Program. She will get in as much work as she can before the end of the year and then the town will have to re-up for 2023 funding with DLTAP. Larry said we have funds available to bridge the gap time so work on the survey can be continuous. We will have the survey results to use at the Community Meeting and in the Action Plan. FRCOG will be entering the paper survey results into the computer version at the end of the survey period. Jim will be collecting completed paper surveys at both libraries and the Town Hall. **Norm wondered if we were ending the survey at the beginning of January. Larry said we will assess how well the survey is going at our December meeting and decide then.**

Andrea asked if the write up on Shelburne history needed to be updated. She will send out a reminder to review the history section that is on the last OSRP which is posted on the Town website. Larry also



suggested Laurie Wheeler and Peggy Warwick might be helpful on updating the history. Andrea said **FRCOG might like to see it shortened and focus more on land use history.**

Before Andrea left the meeting the group chose **Tuesday December 20th at 7pm to be the date and time of our next meeting.** Motion to accept that meeting time made by Norm Beebe seconded by Jim Perry.

### **Committee Reports**

**Recreation Committee** - Norm has located lumber for building a practice backboard. Garth noted that plywood backboards can be loud and Norm thought there was a plan for some noise deadening.

No correspondence. No visitor comments.

### **Announcements and Reminders**

Garth said he was away for the last meeting and hadn't been on the Loop Trails for about a month. He went around them today and the only piece of trash he found was one aluminum gum wrapper. He stressed this indicated that trail users tended to clean up rather than litter.

Motion to adjourn made by Norm Beebe seconded by Garth LaPointe. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

**Next meeting Tuesday December 20th at 7 pm by Zoom.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Dwight  
Secretary Pro Tem

Members present: Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Jim Perry, Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight

Meeting called to order at 7:15. Norm recorded on Zoom.

Minutes of 11/28/22 reviewed. Motion to accept as presented by Jim Perry seconded by Norm Beebe. 11/28/22 minutes accepted unanimously as presented.

#### New Agenda Items:

Mass Trails has asked the OSC to sign onto a letter supporting Mass trails.

#### Trail Status Update:

Jim said he removed quite a few branches off the Tower Trails and he'll be checking the Wooded Loop trails soon. Larry mentioned the good feedback we are receiving about the trail hikes Jim led. David wondered how we could increase participation in those hikes. Jim mentioned a number of ways we are already getting the word out. Norm said he will share information about the hikes through his Rec Committee channels.

#### Survey Status Report:

Between 130-140 have responded with the survey over the internet and about 20 by paper. Larry is going to send a message about the survey to the Grange in January. Larry said Andrea is very pleased with the response. Larry hoped we could do better. The group decided to extend the time for responses through January. Norm will put a notice on the Rec Committee list serve. David will notify folks in the Shelburne Center area. The information about the survey will also be in the town newsletter. Larry noted that funding for projects may be available through the CPA and this survey will help identify where those funds might be used. The next step will be FRCOG compiling the results of the survey then a public meeting most likely by Zoom. Andrea sent out a chapter on Shelburne history for review and we will all try to review it for our next meeting. She thought maybe it was too long and not focused enough on Open Space and Recreation. Larry will send it out again to all of us.

#### Next Steps in Funding Renewal:

Larry will write a note to the Select Board that we need another \$7,000 in the 2023 funding round from FRCOG to cover the costs of creating a new Open Space and Recreation plan.

#### New Business:

We were requested to sign onto a letter addressed to the governor supporting the Mass Trails program in the Department of Conservation and Recreation that provides funding for trails. Norm will circulate it among Rec Committee members. It needs to be signed by name and name of organization and has to be back by December 30th. Motion made to sign onto the letter by Jim Perry seconded by Norm Beebe and Jim will sign on for the Deerfield River Watershed Association.

Liaison Reports:

Norm reported for the Rec Committee that the senior walking program will begin in January. It is free and will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-10AM. Youth basketball has started at Cowell Gym. Adult basketball is going two days a week, volleyball one day a week, and pickleball three days a week. Tai Chi is coming back in March. Ice skating will also be happening; weather permitting. The Rec Committee purchased a skating rink liner for Stefan Topolski to use.

Jim reported there is a four week webinar held Thursdays at noon about the benefits of Open Space to the community.

Next meeting January 23rd 2023 at 7 PM by Zoom

Motion made to adjourn by Norm Beebe seconded by Jim Perry

Meeting adjourned 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Dwight

Secretary Pro Tem

## **Minutes of Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 2/27/23    *Approved 3/27/23***

**Members Present via Zoom:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Laurie Wheeler, Jim Perry, Norm Beebe, John Wheeler, Joel Dwight

**Guests:** Andrea Donlon from FRCOG

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Norm recorded the meeting on Zoom

**Minutes from the 1/23/23 OSC meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously** after a couple of minor amendments. **Motion to accept 1/23/23 minutes** made by Jim Perry, seconded by Norm Beebe.

### **OSRP Update:**

**Andrea Donlon from FRCOG** brought the group up to date on the **community survey** taken for the Open Space and Recreation Plan update. Larry asked if we needed to have a public meeting to review the survey results and get public comment. Andrea thought a community meeting would be useful when a draft OSRP and maps are completed. She will look at the DCR Handbook to see if a public *meeting* or a public *hearing* is called for.

Andrea said FRCOG has been continuing to work on the OSRP update and **is ready to finish drafts of chapters 3 and 4 and to begin on chapter 5**. She will have sections for us to review in months to come.

Larry said **our 2023 Woodlands Partnership of Northwestern Mass grant** of \$7k for the OSRP expires on 6/30/23 which means **the work under this grant will have to be completed by late May** to allow time for receipts to be submitted to the state. Larry said we would need to have an invoice to approve at the May meeting. Norm pointed out the Recreation Committee is meeting early in June and they could sign off on invoices then. **Larry explained the three funding pieces that will be used to pay for the OSRP update** -2022 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA), the WPNM grant and the 2023 DLTA funding (still to be awarded).

Andrea reported that **over 200 community surveys have been returned. She will give a summary of the survey** results and discuss Chapter 3 of the new OSRP at our meeting in March. Larry asked Andrea what we should be accomplishing over the next few months. She said the survey and section 3 in March, section 4 in April and section 5 in May. Larry asked **about the 8th map** that must be completed for the Plan update: **Andrea said** it is the action plan plotted in map form, commonly called a "story map": she will ask Kimberly if it is required that we create one for the Plan.

### **Hiking Info Update**

Jim noted that he led four hikes last year and that **this year's first hike will meet at 9 AM on Saturday May 20th at the Arms Library and go to the High Ledges to view lady slippers**. Jim reported he attended the Mohican Mohawk Trail partnership meeting but there was nothing major to tell us about. Jim wondered if the town would be open to applying for a grant to be used by the Deerfield River Watershed group to move the trails' location near the railroad tracks by the river at Bardwell's Ferry. **General consensus was the OSC supports Jim in his efforts to receive funding for the project by way of the Town of Shelburne.**

### **Community Preservation Act next steps:**

Larry sent out a draft of a proposed bylaw prepared by Will Flanders to establish the Town's CPA Committee. Jim sent in a few notes to consider and Carolyn Wheeler wrote in to ask that a rep from the Ag Committee be added as a member. Larry urges that the OSC have a seat on the CPA Committee

as well. Jim wondered if the new committee could be structured so members who are repeatedly absent could be removed. Larry will send some more thoughts concerning the formulations of the CPA committee to Will Flanders.

#### **Town Newsletter Topics for April:**

Larry suggested promoting the May "Lady Slipper Walk" in the April newsletter. Laurie said she would start on something about the different architectural styles of the houses in the village. She said she had begun working with Jim and Joan last year about a guided walk in the village, and we have the village tree walk/historical buildings brochure. Laurie will discuss options with Peggy. Laurie thought we might find knowledgeable people on the Facebook page 'Shelburne Then and Now'. David said he's had contact with someone who lives in Buckland who works on historic preservation for the State and he will try to track him down. **Jim will keep a list of potential newsletter topics.** Laurie asked if the OSC has a Facebook presence: currently, we do not. Norm said the Rec Committee does have a Facebook page and he would be glad to post upcoming hikes, etc.

#### **Annual Report:**

Larry sent us a draft Annual Report and anyone who has comments should contact him as he still needs to gather a few figures regarding our accounts. He will then submit the report and post it on the Website. Due date for the Town Reports is March 23.

#### **New Business - none**

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Norm reported for the Rec Committee** pickleball is really taking off and they've collected around \$2400 in user fees mostly from pickleball and basketball. They are hoping to start softball. Norm also reported the Recreation Committee is working on how to best utilize the Woodland Partnership of Northwestern Massachusetts \$13,000 grant for the ball field and ice rink which needs to be expended by 6/30/23. He noted they have a lack of volunteers so they might stay with the rink on Stephan Topolski's property.

**John reported for the Planning Board Public hearing on March 21.** Two proposals for Town Meeting: One about a change for the size of signs in Village Residential and one about tax-delinquent Town-owned property and how they might be used for affordable housing. He said Will Flanders and Tricia Yacevone-Biagi are working on municipal vulnerability planning grants.

-Ag Com and Cons Com reps not present

-No correspondence

-No visitor or guest comments

#### **Announcements**

Larry reminded us about the Open Space webinars available from the state, including the Biomap2

**Next meeting Monday March 27th by Zoom** Larry said the legislature will be deciding if we will be allowed to continue to meet via Zoom after March.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry  
Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Dwight, Secretary Pro Tem



**DRAFT**

**DRAFT**

**DRAFT**

## **Minutes of Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 3/27/23**

**Members Present:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Garth LaPointe, Norm Beebe, Laurie Wheeler, Jim Perry, John Wheeler, and Joel Dwight

**Guests:** Nina Talayco and Joan LaPierre of Shelburne. Andrea Donlon from FRCOG

**Larry called the meeting to order 7:04 PM** Joel appointed Secretary ProTem. Meeting is being recorded on Zoom.

**Minutes of February 27th, 2023 reviewed and accepted unanimously** with two minor corrections. Motion to accept by Jim Perry, seconded by Laurie Wheeler.

### **New Candidates for Committee membership---**

Larry introduced **Joan LaPierre** as a candidate for membership in the Open Space Committee. She said she is a 40 year resident of Shelburne and has concern for water and natural resources, and would like to help facilitate good stewardship and help others to enjoy the natural world. **Norm Beebe made a motion to nominate Joan**, seconded by Jim Perry. **Unanimous vote to recommend Joan to the Selectboard for their approval.**

Larry then introduced **Nina Talayco** Nina is a seven year resident of Shelburne Falls with a degree in Fisheries and Rivers and would like to give back by volunteering. She brings experience studying trout and salmon habitat in wilderness areas and has worked in water management in Washington State. She is now an occupation therapist and enjoys white water canoeing. She has been active with Trout Unlimited in the last few years. David asked if Nina or Joan had used any of the Shelburne trails--Nina has used the Fire Tower Trail and been to the High Ledges. Joan has hiked most of the trails but hasn't been on the Wooded Loop yet. Motion to nominate Nina made by Jim Perry seconded by Laurie Wheeler. **Unanimous vote to send recommendation on to the Select Board.**

### **Andrea Donlon from FRCOG joined the meeting to talk about the OSRP and the survey.**

We discussed the survey results first. 252 completed surveys represent about 17% of Shelburne's population. Andrea explained how the information from the survey is presented and asked for any comments and suggestions as she went through the survey from beginning to end. Overall the group **felt positive about Andrea's much appreciated efforts**, identifying some minor tweaks (mainly in color and number presentation on graphs).

**Committee members were reminded to read** through the Section Three draft and send Andrea any comments, preferably in the next two weeks. Additional sections will keep coming to us for review as they are ready. Andrea suggested we could split up reviewing the sections among members if everyone didn't want to go through the entire document. The Committee officially thanked Andrea for her work and accomplishments.

### **- Community Preservation Act next steps**

Larry shared an update of the draft warrant article for the establishment of the CPA Committee which will be voted on at Town Meeting. John Wheeler said he hasn't heard from Will Flanders but has questions about the part about how members would be added.

### **- Trails Update**

**Jim is leading a Lady Slipper Walk on May 20th.** Peggy is considering leading some walks around town focusing on bird and tree identification..

**Jim said that maybe a Red Loop Trail may be added to the Wooded Loop Trail system.** He said the Tower Trail has an overlook of Shelburne Falls from the transmission line right of way without going all the way to the Fire Tower. Jim spoke with the land owner who is receptive to the idea and he may include

that within the Tower Trail network. The April 1stTown newsletter article will be all about ticks, including access to a tick study being done at UMass.

#### **- New Business**

There is a Gardner Falls recreation plan by CRA which includes recreation development on the Shelburne side and involving mitigation to counter the reduced access to the river. A meeting will be held to explore all of the impacts of expanded recreation. Jim has agreed to represent the OSC and Larry will suggest to the Select Board that he represent the town as well. **Motion for Larry to recommend Jim to the Select Board made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Garth LaPointe, and passed unanimously. Comments are due back to the power company by April 17th.**

**Norm will send a copy of Jim's comments to all of the OSC members.** Jim, Garth, and Norm are planning on exploring the area being proposed by the power company for recreational opportunities to get a better sense of the scope of the project.

#### **- Committee Reports**

**John Wheeler reported for the Planning Board**, which held a public hearing last week on two proposed warrant articles. Next year they are going to be looking at short term rentals. **Congressman McGovern will be at the Town Hall on April, 6th and it might be useful for some of us to attend to emphasize Open Space and agricultural land conservation.**

**Next week there will be a public hearing on April, 4th concerning a common driveway on Old Greenfield Road.**

**Norm reported on activities for the Recreation Committee.** Pickleball remains very popular and has brought in over \$5,000 in fees which will help for working on chalking of outdoor courts for outdoor pickleball. There is still a plan for putting up the pickleball backboard.

They are looking to acquire **a ping pong table...**

Softball did not get enough response to run this year.

Ice skating will most likely stay at Stephan Topolski's.

**Ag Commission and Conservation Commission representatives not present.**

No correspondence.

No visitor or guest comments.

Larry explained the need to meet Congressman McGovern and to talk about the burden of the seven year requirement to update the OSRP by small towns.

**Next meeting April, 24th by Zoom.** Motion to adjourn made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry.  
Meeting adjourned 9:06 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Dwight  
Secretary Pro Tem

## **Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 4/24/23 *approved 5/30/23***

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. The meeting was held on Zoom and recorded. Joel appointed secretary pro tem

**Members Present:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Joan LaPierre, Nina Talayco, Laurie Wheeler, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Garth LaPointe, and Joel Dwight  
Peggy Warwick will not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

**Guests:** Andrea Donlon, FRCOG

**OSC minutes of 3/27/23 minutes** reviewed and accepted unanimously as presented. Motion made by Norm Beebe seconded by Joan LaPierre.

Larry welcomed two new members Nina Talayco and Joan LaPierre who have been appointed to the committee by the Selectboard.

### **Ongoing Business**

#### **Open Space and Recreation Plan Revisions**

Andrea Donlon from FRCOG is working on edits from Section 3 and has sent out Section 4 for review. Larry asked if the survey was ready to post on the town website. Andrea said if we were happy with it we could post it. Andrea will send the survey results out to all of us again so we'll hold off on posting it until we all review it.

Nina thought there should be more content concerning Indigenous Peoples use of the land before the European settlement. Larry will refer Andrea to the Woodlands Partnership agent who has contacts with Indigenous Peoples representatives. Andrea will look into it. Nina will see if the Historical Society has any information.

Section 4 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Andrea sent out a Section 4 draft and suggested we consider what parts are most useful to us. Members will review and circulate suggested changes. The next draft will be Section 5 on protected lands. Andrea then shared some draft maps on screen, showing plant and wildlife habitat and water resources. She will send the maps to us to review.

Everyone thanked Andrea for her work. She will have the invoice for approval at our next meeting and then send it on to the Selectboard. She will get the second invoice in before the next meeting. Larry asked if we could have one invoice for \$7,000 covering work completed under the Woodland Partnership grant to approve at the next meeting. She will speak with Kimberley to see if it can all be placed on one invoice.

#### **Community Preservation Act**

On the agenda at town meeting will be approval of the committee that will manage the CPA program. Open Space will have a seat on the committee if it passes town meeting (Tuesday May 2nd at the elementary school). Also on the TM agenda are bylaw changes proposed by the Planning Board.

#### **Gardner Falls Recreation Management Plan**

Jim was appointed by the Selectboard to represent the Town in discussions about the proposed changes to the Gardner Falls Recreation Management Plan. Jim reported that each company that takes over the power plant wants to downsize their commitment. They did not consult with local towns about changes and they are looking to submit a plan to FERC. Jim will respond with comments asking for changes prior to the FERC submission.

#### **Trail Status Updates**

Jim will be leading a lady slipper hike Sunday May 21st at 9 am meeting at the Arms Library. There will also be a hike up to the Shelburne Falls Water Reservoir in Colrain May 20th. Peggy Warwick will host two bird meetings/walks, one on May 29th at the Senior Center which will be a talk about local birds and one on May 5th which will be a bird walk around the village.

### **Tower Trail Vandalism**

Jim said we have experienced a bit of vandalism on the Tower Trail -- snapping off golf tees that hold ID signs on trees, spinning around our invasives sign, and another sign knocked over and bent. Jim put in a new post and straightened the bent one which Joel volunteered to weld. Jim also needs pressure treated material for a bridge, sign points, and post material. He's working with National Grid to get a permit to cross their line easement with our trails. The Selectboard will probably have to sign off on it. Norm will see if the Rec Comm can spare some of the ballfield money to buy signage supplies.

### **River Trail**

Norm discussed access to the Town property (former Lillian Davenport lot) from Deerfield Avenue over (former) Mill Road. He followed up with John and Bill Lawless who own the Mahew Steel Property adjacent to Deerfield Ave. about conducting a survey of the former Mill Road layout. Bill initially said it was okay to cross their property but then wanted Norm to speak with the other four owners of land adjacent to Mill Road which would potentially be crossed by the trail route. Norm spoke with all of them and they all support doing a survey. Norm proposes we schedule a survey to clarify the Mill Road layout. He will also discuss trail status with the Selectboard.

***Motion made by Jim Perry, seconded by Norm Beebe*** to engage a survey company to clarify the Mill Road layout and required easements over private property. Unanimous vote approved to engage a surveyor as soon as possible.

### **Wooded Loop Trails**

David asked what was needed at the Wooded Loop Trails. Jim said we had decided to do a new red loop trail last year. Jim will put together a list of materials needed and a cost. Once we have materials, we will put together a work day.

### **Town Newsletter**

The lady slipper trail hike article is pending for the newsletter. The June entry for the newsletter could be about Gardner Falls Recreation Plan. Laurie will look into a newsletter contribution for June.

### **New Business - none**

### **Committee Reports**

- Ag Committee - no representative present.
- Conservation Commission - no representative present.
- Planning Board - no representative present.
- Recreation Committee - Norm reported pickleball is moving outside and the backboard will be installed soon. Senior walk over the winter was held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Cowell Gym. They are putting up a no dog sign on the Cowell courts.

### **Correspondence**

Received a memo from Lara Radysh asking for any correspondence, calls, letters or private meetings concerning the River Trail. Larry responded that there were none and all meetings were posted. Meetings are recorded on Zoom and sent to her at her request. Lara also emailed Norm to see if there was anything going on with the River Trail at the Rec Committee and Norm reported he had been in contact with the abutting land owners concerning access to the trail.

### **Visitor and Guest Comments - None**

### **Next meeting Monday, May 22nd by Zoom**

**Motion to adjourn** made by Jim Perry seconded by Norm Beebe, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned 8:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Dwight, Secretary Pro Tem

## **Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting May 30, 2023** **Approved 6/26/23**

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting is being recorded on Zoom by Laurie Wheeler. Joel Dwight appointed Secretary Pro Tem

**Members present** - Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Laurie Wheeler, Joan LaPierre, Nina Talayco, Jim Perry, Garth Lapointe, Joel Dwight, Peggy Warwick

**Guests** - Andrea Donlon from FRCOG, Lara Radysh Shelburne Resident

Requests for any additions to the posted agenda - There were none

**Minutes April 24, 2023** Review of the April meeting minutes – no additions or corrections.

Jim Perry moved to accept the minutes as presented. Joan Lapierre seconded.

Approved by unanimous vote.

### **Mill Road Survey**

As a follow-up to the vote to proceed with a survey of Mill Road at the last meeting, Larry contacted 5 surveyors. Green River Surveyors came back with a quote of \$4900.00. Larry/Norm met with Selectboard who approved proceeding with the survey and also approved a meeting with Town Counsel regarding easements.

The surveyor will begin the work right away focusing on locating the centerline of Mill Road and outlining the potential easements required where the proposed trail might cross private property. Jim provided his deed research and will work with the surveyor to answer his questions on-site. Jim, Garth, and Norm will clear a path for the surveyor.

This work will be paid with funds from the 2021 Woodland Partnership Grant. There has been a verbal approval for an extension of the grant until June 30, 2024. Motion to request the grant extension of \$14,000 to 6/30/24 made by Laurie Wheeler, seconded by Jim Perry, approved by unanimous vote.

### **Open Space and Recreation Plan**

Andrea Donlon from FRCOG addressed the meeting concerning her work on the Open Space and Recreation Plan. She has received some Section 4 edits from Jim and Larry will be sending in a few as well. Andrea worked on Section 5 over the past month which shows protected properties.

FRCOG's work under Woodland Partnership Grant money has been completed and an invoice has been sent to the town. DLTA will cover the rest of her work for 2023. The first portion of the work was covered by money from 2021 DLTA. The second was the Woodland Partnership and the third is \$7000.00 from the 2023 DLTA.

Andrea will also be working on Sections 6,7,8, and 9 over the summer. Once there is a draft of the plan, we can have a community meeting in the fall. Andrea will be on vacation at the time of our August meeting. She got parcel information from the Shelburne Assessors Office and information from the State GIS database concerning conservation restrictions and APRs. There was a question raised about including names of property owners and privacy issues. Andrea will check on requirements and how other towns handle it. We should let her know if we are aware of any property transfers that she may not know about. Andrea said 44% of Shelburne land is in some type of permanent conservation restriction. She discussed other protected lands and programs. She would appreciate feedback as we review the information. Larry wondered how we will review the maps. Andrea said they will need a bit of reworking before she shares them with us but they could be available as soon as next month.

Motion to approve paying FRCOG \$6,975.13 for the work done so far and submit invoices to the state for reimbursement made by Jim Perry. Seconded by Nina Talayco. Approved by unanimous vote.



Motion made by Laurie Wheeler and seconded by Jim Perry to authorize Larry to request extension of \$13,024.87 of the 2023 Woodland Grant to 6/30/24 that will be used for ball fields. Approved by unanimous vote.

### **Community Preservation Act**

The CPA was authorized at the Town Meeting. We need to have a member of the OSC to serve on the CPA Committee for 1 year. We have 60 days after the Attorney General has approved our CPA to present a candidate for the post. We need to be thinking about that for our next monthly meeting.

### **Gardner Falls Recreation Falls Update**

Jim has been contacted by the Hydro Company which now owns the Gardner Falls generating facility as recently as May 8th and they are setting up a meeting to discuss the proposed recreation plan. Jim had sent them a reminder to set a meeting date.

### **Trail Status**

Jim reports the M&M Trail and the Red Loop Trail will need some minor foot bridge work. The cost of materials and signage needed for the work will be a little over \$1200.00 dollars. Larry thought we should wait on material purchases until we get approval from the state on the grant extension. We are still waiting for approval to use the Power Company transmission line right of way to the east of the Village as a Shelburne Falls overlook. Jim has done some brush removal on several trails. Garth has been mowing at the Wooded Loop Trail and will let Jim know if there is a need for more trail brochures there.

### **Lady Slipper Hike and Bird Walks**

The Lady Slipper Hike was attended by 14 people. The next hike will be June 10th consisting of two different loops around the Shelburne Falls Village. Attendees can choose which loop they would like to go on depending upon how strenuous a hike they want to go on. Peggy reported the Bird Walk in mid-May in conjunction with the Senior Center had 6 participants. The proposed bird walk at the Arms Cemetery had several people sign up but no one showed up.

### **Town Newsletter**

Jim suggested we might include some of the topics we review at our meetings such as the town survey for the OSRP, the summary from Andrea has key items that could be shared, we could also include a link to the survey that could be posted on the Town website. Larry will look at Andrea's summary with that in mind. Joan will follow up with Andrea to see if there is a final copy of the survey which Larry will post on the Website.

### **New Business**

Jim and Joel are up for renewal as committee members for another 3 years. Motion made by Joan Lapierre and seconded by Nina Talayco to recommend to the Selectboard for both of them for new 3-year appointments. Passed unanimously. Larry thanked them for their service and will write to Selectboard.

### **Committee Reports**

No Committee Liaisons were present to give reports.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Guest Comments**

Lara Radysh joined the meeting for the second hour. She had planned to be present for the discussion about the Mill Rd survey. Larry let her know that this topic was bumped up to the first item on the agenda, as the first guest, the FRCOG rep, had not yet arrived. Lara asked what was covered concerning the Mill Rd survey. Larry said we have engaged a surveyor to locate Mill Rd and to lay out the necessary easements. Jim added that there are plans in place to brush out the trail prior to the survey. Lara asked about discussions with the lawyer. Larry responded that there has been a meeting with the lawyer and that the details of that conversation are privileged. Lara asked to be informed in the next meeting about

any conversations that can be shared. An exchange followed between Lara and Larry about the landowners concerned, and the granting of permission to access property to survey. Larry stated that it is now the surveyor's role to obtain permission to access the properties, and that affected property owners would receive a 2 week notice. Lara said that, as far as she knows, Lawless has not given permission. Norm was not present tonight, and he is the committee member who has been in contact with landowners. Lara stated what seems to her to be unclear communication between the OSC and herself and the other landowners in the Mill Rd. area. Laurie Wheeler said she would send the recording of this meeting to Lara.

**Other Notes**

Laurie asked about maps - Larry said all the full-sized original maps are in the Town Office meeting room and the maps from the last ORSP are online.

Garth asked if we could meet in person at those times when we have to look at maps. Larry confirmed that we will continue to meet via Zoom, but meet in person when it comes time to review the maps.

Our next meeting will be June 26, 2023 at 7:00 pm by Zoom. Motion to adjourn made by Jim Perry. Seconded by Laurie Wheeler. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Dwight

## **Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes 6/26/23 Approved 7/24/23**

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Joel Dwight appointed Secretary Pro Tem. Norm recorded the meeting on Zoom. Riparian study is being added to the agenda.

**Members present** - Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Laurie Wheeler, Nina Talayco, Peggy Warwick, Joan Lapierre, Jim Perry, Norm Beebe, John Wheeler, Garth Lapointe, Joel Dwight

**Guests** - Andrea Donlon from FRCOG

**Minutes of 5/30/23** were reviewed. Nina suggested we expand on Lara's concerns on transparency and clarity. Larry read Nina's paragraph to edit remarks made by Lara Radish about the proposed River Trail. After slight modifications suggested by Peggy the minutes were edited to include Nina's proposed changes.

*Motion made to accept minutes with edits made by Nina Talayco.* Seconded by Peggy Warwick. Motion accepted with abstains by David and Norm who were not present.

**Open Space and Recreation** Plan revision - Andrea Donlon from FRCOG reviewed progress on the OSRP. Following-up on discussion at the last meeting, the state does not require protected properties in Chapter 5 to include the owner's name but does require a parcel number for identification. The names were included in our last OSRP.

*Peggy Warwick made a motion to include names of parcel owners in the new ORSP.* Motion seconded by Jim Perry. Motion carried with David Schochet abstaining.

Andrea reported she has edits to sections 3, 4 and 5 and she feels they are good on grammar and clarity but would still welcome input about these sections. She would also like to review section 3 with a Planning Board member. Jim told Andrea there have been 3 efforts to put a trail along the river and a Zoning Board component has been added for municipal trails. Also needed are approval from the Select board, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board. Jim said other area towns do not seem to have this level of complexity. Larry pointed out there is no definition of what constitutes a municipal trail.

Andrea asked if Shelburne had a pool of cash available to purchase property if the occasion arose. Larry said there is a small fund available for open space preservation. Larry and John said CPA money could be set aside for property purchases. Larry also said the Franklin Land Trust has a revolving fund to purchase property. Andrea suggested we could identify qualities of properties that might be of interest.

Andrea is going to look into a suggestion made by Nina to clean up the section on Chapter Lands and make it more user friendly. There is a table of all town owned properties and Andrea will need information on current use and recreation potential. Larry will distribute the policy adopted by the Selectboard regarding the right of first refusal procedure. Larry suggested the members review the parcels and we can cover that at another meeting. Andrea wondered if we wanted to include private property of interest to the Town. Nina said she is willing to talk more to Andrea about notes she has made. Andrea said she is working on sections 6 and 7 which should be done by our next meeting. Then she is on to sections 8 and 9. After which we can consider dates for a public meeting in the Fall. Larry will send out our old Chapter 9 plan for review by the OSC members. Andrea suggested considering how many items we want on the new action list. Larry noted that action items often need to be worked on by other boards and committees. We need to consider if they will actually step up and participate. John said he will look into section 3 that includes zoning items. Andrea will pull out those items and John will bring them up at the next Planning Board meeting.

**Community Preservation Act Committee** - Joan expressed interest in being the OSC representative for a 1 year appointment on the CPA committee. *Motion made by Jim Perry to recommend Joan for appointment.* Seconded by Norm Beebe. Motion passed unanimously.

**Gardener Falls Power Plant Recreation Plan** - Jim reported that local involved groups had made many comments concerning the plan. There was a meeting at Buckland Town Hall with Power Company Reps. The Power company is going to modify their plans and come back with another proposal.

**Trail Status Updates** - Jim said the surveyor will be working on the proposed River Trail but no vegetation clearing is needed for him yet.

Jim will see John Wheeler about a potential trail on his property and anyone interested is invited to take a look as well.

Nina wanted more information about the proposed River Trail. Norm provided a short synopsis of the history of the proposed River Trail to bring Nina and other new members up to speed on what has transpired so far concerning this town owned property. Jim said he could make any pertinent maps available to Nina and much of it is available on the Town website.

**Planned Walks** - Jim reports 6 walks have been completed so far and he is open to discussing ideas about new walks.

**Town Newsletter** - Jim and Nina worked on an article for the Town Newsletter. Norm said the Rec Committee thought the article was well done, explaining that most of Shelburne's recreation land is privately owned. John asked if the Water District Land might be coming up for sale. Jim noted ownership of the dam could be problematic and he thinks Mass Audubon is interested in the property.

**Woodland Partnership Grant** - Application due July 10 for a \$25,000.00 grant if we have a project we could use it for. Larry said the Grant goals have to meet the goals of the Woodland Partnership and he would send out a list of grants that have been awarded in the past.

- Jim said the trail down by the railroad trestle wouldn't be available for consideration for another year.
- Norm said the ball field project is being reconsidered due to lack of interest.
- John said the Planning Board has been talking with FRCOG about a Master Plan with Buckland. John will look into it but the next Planning Board meeting is July 11 and the application needs to be in by July 10. John thought the Planning Board might be able to schedule a meeting and discuss the grant and how it might be directed towards the Master Plan.
- Larry also suggested to the Fire Department that the grant might be available for an ATV.
- Jim suggested at some point we will want to consider a piece of equipment for keeping trails mowed. Larry didn't think we were ready to purchase equipment yet.

**Woodland Partnership Riparian Study** - The idea of tree planting on the Lillian Davenport lot was proposed in the study. Jim pointed out most of the property is already covered with mature trees and invasives and the land within the flood zone is controlled by the Hydro Company or Bell Atlantic. He noted the bank area that is currently covered with knotweed. Larry asked for all to review the riparian study that he sent out today.

**Committee Reports:**

- Ag Committee - No rep present
- Conservation Commission - No rep present
- Planning Board - John reported a major focus for the coming year will concern watershed zoning, climate resiliency and runoff.
- Recreation Committee - Norm reported they had skipped their last meeting.

**Visitor and Guest Comments** - none

**Announcements**

- Larry reminded the group there is a pollinator workshop coming up on Thursday of this week.

- Jim asked everyone to remember he is soliciting ideas for the August newsletter and suggestions for future hikes.
- David thanked all of our new members for joining the group.

**Next meeting:** 7/24/23 by Zoom.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Jim Perry seconded by Norm Beebe, meeting adjourned 9:01 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Joel Dwight  
Secretary Pro Tem



# **Town of Shelburne**

## **Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes 7/24/23**

### **approved 8/28/23**

**Meeting called to order** by Larry Flaccus at 7:07 pm.

Joel Dwight appointed Secretary Pro Tem

Norm recording the meeting on Zoom

**Members present:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Peggy Warwick, Joel Dwight

- Laurie Wheeler and Joan Lapierre sent notice they were not able to attend tonight's meeting.

**Guests:** Ted Sicker, Lara Radysh, Andrea Donlon

No new agenda items to add

**Minutes:** June 26, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed. Motion made to accept as presented by Norm Beebe. Seconded by Jim Perry. Unanimously accepted.

### **Old Business**

**Gardner Falls Recreation Plan** - Jim reports they are still waiting on the Hydro Company to rewrite their proposed recreation plan. The road to Wilcox Hollow is washed out and the Hydro Company and the Electric Company have been notified. Norm noted many cars at the trailhead on Rt 2 parked to gain access to Wilcox Hollow.

### **Open Space and Recreation Plan Update**

Andrea from FRCOG updated status of the OSRP –

- Section 3: Andrea received suggestions for Section 3 and incorporated these and forwarded it to John Wheeler (Planning Board) to look at zoning related items. Edits to section 3 are done except for Planning Board inputs.
- Section 4 should be in final draft soon. Members should send any additional edits in to Andrea.
- Section 5: Andrea asked if the tow- owned property table could be looked at by the members to see if there are any corrections.
- Drafts of sections 6 and 7 were sent to members last week and we can go over them during this meeting.
- Section 8 will be sent out before the next meeting.
- Andrea will be on vacation during the August meeting. Andrea suggested making a draft action plan before the public meeting to give more information for people to react to. She also suggested deleting items on the old action plan we probably wouldn't do in the next 7 years.
- Maps: Andrea said FRCOG is coming up with a more uniform way to format the maps so they would be the more standardized from town to town. Larry proposed

an in-person meeting in September to review the maps. Will select the date for that at our August meeting.

- Next steps: In Sep or early Oct will go over maps, major goals, survey information and get feedback from the public. Andrea said there will be a final draft OSRP by then and it might be best to have the meeting in early Oct. This would allow us to review public comments at our Oct meeting. Andrea will need 2 to 3 weeks to work on the public meeting suggestions to have a draft ORSP.
- The OSRP needs to be completed by the end of December.
- Sections 4 and 5 edits should be sent in to her by the middle of August.
- Sections 6 and 7 edits should be sent into her by the end of August. She will incorporate Jim and Nina's edits into section 5 and then send them out to all members for review. Andrea will be reviewing the action plan and Larry has sent his revisions and all members should review that. At this point Andrea had completed her portion of the meeting and left.

**Trail Updates** - Jim said rain has prevented much maintenance from being done on the trails. He did spend some time maintaining water bars on the Tower trails. Jim has not heard from the surveyor about the Mill Road survey. Larry will email the surveyor for an update.

**Hikes** - Peggy is planning a hike focused on late blooming wild flowers and their pollinators in late Sept. at High Ledges. Jim spoke with Cynthia Boettner about a 2024 hike focused on invasive weeds. The best spot for that is probably behind Mohawk High School. Cynthia is figuring what month might be best for that hike and will get back to Jim.

**September Newsletter** - An article by Peggy and Jim has been submitted for the August newsletter. They are looking for more ideas for the Sept and future newsletter articles.

**Woodland Partnership Grant** - Larry spoke with folks from the Bridge of Flowers and also the Fire Department about their ability to access this grant. Neither group could act quickly enough so no grant applications were filed.

**New Business** - None

#### **Committee Reports –**

- Recreation Committee: Norm reported for the Recreation Committee and 8 x 16 backboard is being installed outside the Cowell Gym and the town crew is going to help put it in.
- Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Agricultural Commission - no reports as no representatives were present.

#### **Correspondence**

The New England Forestry Federation owns the Wells Forest on Barnard Rd. They are currently logging the parcel, and existing trails have been damaged. At the request of

Ted Sticker, Larry contacted Lisa Hayden at NEFF and suggested they contact Ted and Ron about trail maintenance. Ted got a response that there were no official trails on the property so they may have been made without permission of the NEFF. There are 57 acres of forestry land there. NEFF is a non profit so they pay no taxes. They also appear not to want to have community contact. There are signs on the property that say Wells Forest and that respectful visits are encouraged. Ted thinks it could be a good addition to the Shelburne trail system because the property extends down to the Mohican Mohawk trail. No further action was taken.

**Visitor and Guest comments** - Lara Radysh wished to correct comments made at the last meeting regarding swimming in the river from their property. While they did at one time access the river with their child, she wanted to make it clear that she and Bob Higgins do not use the Lillian Davenport property as their private swimming area.

**Next meeting:** August 28, 2023 by Zoom.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry. Meeting Adjourned - 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Dwight

## **Town of Shelburne**

### **Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes 8/28/23 (approved 9/25/23)**

**Meeting called to order** by Larry Flaccus at 7:02 pm.

The Meeting is being recorded on Zoom.

Joel appointed Secretary Pro Tem.

**Members present:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Peggy Warwick, Joan LaPierre, Nina Talayco, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Joel Dwight.

**Guests:** Lara Radysh, Rick LaPierre

No new agenda items to add.

**Minutes:** 7/24/23 meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously as presented. Motion to accept made by Jim Perry. Seconded by Norm Beebe.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Open Space and Recreation Plan Update**

Andrea could not meet with us tonight but reported the following:

- She has received suggestions on section 3 from the Planning Board.
- She is still accepting final edits for sections 4 and 5.
- Drafts of sections 6, 7 and 8 have been sent out to the OSC members.
- Our next step is to schedule a public meeting in October. Final draft maps and final draft action plan should be ready by then.

Larry suggested we have an in-person meeting sometime in the first two weeks of Oct so we can look over the maps. We could get together at 6:30 and have the public meeting at 7:30. Larry suggested we meet in the Town Hall because the old maps are there in case we need to refer to them. The group settled on Tues Oct 10 at 6:30 pm. Larry will check with Terry to see if the room is available. Norm suggested an alternative location might be Fellowship Hall, if necessary. Larry encouraged everyone to get their edits in to Andrea as soon as possible.

**Woodland Partnership Riparian Planting Project at BSE** - Norm said the Selectboard had signed off on the plan contingent upon approval by the School Committee.

**Gardner Falls Recreation Plan** - Jim reports the plan deadline has been missed by Patriot Hydro and he expects to see an extension. He also reports the road to Wilcox Hollow is closed due to erosion damage. Patriot Hydro, Eversource, and the DCR all share responsibility for maintenance of the road. Allen Harris is interested in getting the companies to do a proper job of doing the road repair and Jim said he would welcome the opportunity to have him become involved.

**Trail Status Updates** - Jim reports there has not been much action taken on the trails other than occasional maintenance. He also needs to get up and check the Ridge Trail.

**Walks** - Peggy is planning a Late Blooming Wildflower hike for Sept 10 at 9 am at High Ledges. Park at the first parking lot. Jim said the Deerfield River Watershed Assoc had reached out to a list of past hikers about the wild flower hike.

**Publication of Activities** - Jim reports the town newsletter is now defunct and is looking for a volunteer. Rick said they are looking for a new Editor for the newsletter and it is difficult to find anyone due to the time commitment involved. Larry wondered how we might work with local Facebook groups, such as Shelburne Falls in a Nutshell, in the future now that the newsletter is gone. Norm will work at getting information on the Recreation Committee Facebook page.

**Mill Road Survey** - Larry talked with our surveyor about progress on Mill Rd and he suggested waiting until the leaves had fallen to make it easier, so he will attempt to get it done before winter. The 2021 Woodland Partnership Grant is paying for the survey with the balance being used on invasives control.

**CPA Committee** – Town is still waiting for approval of the Bylaw by the Secretary of State's Office. Selectboard is looking for two more members. Nominations and applications can be made to the Selectboard.

**Brush Over River View** - Jim reported he and his wife received Selectboard approval to trim brush from the river viewpoint across from the end of Mechanic St. The Town crew usually does some trimming there but don't have time due to all the road damage done by the wet weather. Joel asked if woodchips could be blown down from the top to knock down and smother what was growing there. Jim said the plants were too substantial for that to work. Larry wondered if we might find a contractor to handle the job. Joel suggested Woody Lanoue of Lanoue Tree Service. Jim will contact Woody for options and prices. Peggy suggested Carl's Four Season Landscaping. Larry thinks we probably have about \$5000 left from the grant to pay for brush control at the viewpoint.

**Committee Reports –**

- Recreation Committee - Norm reports Bill Buck is stepping down as the Cowell Facility Director. This position comes with a stipend and they are looking for someone to take over. He reports they are still working on a backboard and they are looking into tennis court maintenance. Larry wondered how tennis players schedule time on the courts when they are not being used for pickle ball. Norm is hoping to get in two more pickle ball courts and is hoping to get in a barrier to separate tennis and pickle ball.
- Conservation Commission, Agricultural Committee, and Planning Board. No liaisons present.

**Correspondence** - none



**Visitor/Guest's Comments –**

Lara expressed a concern over using chemical options as a way of clearing the brush from the overview at the end of Mechanic St.

Rick says he isn't aware of anyone having the Meeting Room in the Town Hall booked for Oct 10th. So he suggested getting a hold of Terry as soon as possible to reserve it.

**Next meeting:** September 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

**Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Dwight  
Secretary Pro Tem

## Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 9/25/2023 Minutes

*(approved 10/23/23)*

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held on Zoom and recorded.  
Joel appointed secretary pro tem

**Members Present:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Joan LaPierre, Peggy Warwick, Nina Talayco, Jim Perry, Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight

**Guests:** Andrea Donlon, FRCOG

Larry asked for new agenda items. Jim responded with tree planting at the elementary school.

**OSC minutes** of August 28, 2023 reviewed. Motion by Jim Perry. Second by Peggy Warwick and accepted unanimously as presented.

### OSRP Update

- **Draft Section 9** - The Committee reviewed the section 9 action plan and made comments to simplify and clarify the document. Andrea will make the changes and send out a revised version.

**Trail Status Updates** - Jim reports he trimmed brush on the Ridge Trail between the Fire tower and Audubon. He also suggested we need to be thinking about long term maintenance for the trails as our members age. An Invasive Species Walk will be scheduled for next year. Peggy reported the Late Blooming Flowers for Pollination Walk was attended by a small group but went very well.

**Recreation Committee Report** - Norm reported pickle ball is ongoing. Bill Buck is leaving his post as Cowell Gym Director at the end of the month. Diana Hardena will be the Interim Director and there is an applicant that would like to be the new Director.

### Reports from the Ag Committee, Conservation Committee, Planning Board.

No representatives attending

**Correspondence** - None

**Guest Comments** - None

**Woodland Partnership Riparian Tree Planting:** Jim shared with the group that riparian tree planting will take place at Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School on Oct 29, 2023 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to plant about 50 trees.

**Wilcox Hollow:** Jim also reports temporary repairs have been done to Wilcox Hollow road.

**Gardner Falls Recreation Plan:** Jim told the group a new Gardner Falls Recreation Plan has been filed with FREC with no input from local groups.

### Announcements:

- Larry told the group about an upcoming Invasive Insect Program at UMass.
- Joel suggested that we start lobbying our state representatives to increase the Open Space Recreation Plan filing interval from the current 7 years to 10 or 12 years so we could be concentrating on the work at hand instead of spending all the time working on a plan that doesn't change that much for a small town.
- Jim said state representative Paul Mark will be at the Buckland Town Hall 9/26/23 from 10 am to 12 pm and that would be a good opportunity to bring the OSRP interval up with him.

**Next meeting** will be Tuesday October 10, 2023 at 6:30 pm, live in-person Public Forum on the draft OSRP at Memorial Hall.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Jim Perry. Seconded by Norm Beebe. Approved unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Dwight, Secretary ProTem

# Shelburne Open Space Committee/Recreation Committee Joint Meeting Minutes 10/10/2023

(Approved 10/23/23)

**Call to order:** Larry called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm. as a joint meeting of the Open Space Committee and the Recreation Committee. Meeting held in person in the Memorial Hall meeting room for the purpose of reviewing the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Joel appointed Secretary Pro Tem

**Open Space Committee Members Present:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Nina Talayco, Joan LaPierre, Peggy Warwick, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Joel Dwight

**Guests and interested Shelburne residents present:** Andrea Donlan from FRCOG, Stephanie Gelfen (Cowell Gym renter), Sue Reed, Tamara Sloan, Cynthia Boettner, Barbara Watts, Susan Flaccus, Chris Skelly, Amy Snow, and Tom Miner

Larry recognized the important work Andrea has done and the financial support of FRCOG 2022 and 2023 DLTA funds and a grant from The Woodland Partnership.

The public comment period will be open until November 10, 2023.

Norm reviewed what an Open Space and Recreation plan entails. Larry and Norm presented information following along with a slide presentation covering the process and draft plan elements.

**The top 3 open space concerns reflected by the public survey for Shelburne are**

- access to the river and trails,
- preserving farm land, and
- increasing the amount of public space and parks.

Larry and Norm then reviewed the four main goals of the OSRP and the objectives for each goal. Draft action items were presented. Also presented was a list of the 9 maps to be found within the ORSP.

## Public Comments –

- **Tamara Sloan, 51 Water St,** asked for clarification as to the geographic scope of the plan. Larry shared it was totally the town of Shelburne. Tamara asked if Buckland and Shelburne were working together. Norm answered no, there hasn't been any cooperative effort between the towns. Jim pointed out there was pre-Covid Buckland trails activity but that seems to have run out. Andrea noted there is some interest in the Planning Boards of both towns getting together for ridge line development talks. But interest hasn't been strong on the Buckland side. There has been one person appointed to a Buckland OSC (Skelly) but no committee currently exists and no meetings have been planned. Jim told the group the power company is trying to down grade the recreational plan they had agreed to previously.
- **Cynthia Boettner, 132 Bridge St,** said there was a joint master plan done by Buckland and Shelburne years ago. Larry said there has been talk in the Planning Board about doing that again. Cynthia wondered if invasive species that aren't here yet but we should be on the watch for are on the plan. Andrea thought that was a good idea and should be included. Larry noted invasive insects travel faster than plants and both should be on the list.
- **Cindy Snow, 15 Masonic Ave,** wanted to say thank you for the volunteer work and that she was impressed by the detail in the draft OSRP. Larry noted the representation of other boards on the committee along with 11 at large seats, two of which are open.
- **Chris Skelly, 22 Williams St, Buckland,** asked if a Shelburne CPA Committee had been formed yet. Larry said that is in process right now. (Joan LaPierre represents the OSC on the CPA Committee) They also discussed the zoning involvement in trail development and the Planning Board will be addressing that in the next year.
- **Tamara Sloan, 51 Water St,** asked if the CPA worked with various funding groups. Joan Lapierre answered they are just in the initial stages. Andrea said the CPA Committee reviews suggestions for use of CPA monies and makes recommendations to the Selectboard and each use of CPA money has to be voted on at Town Meeting.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Jim Perry at 7:15 pm, seconded by Joel Dwight., approved unanimously.

**Map Review:** The group then broke up to review draft maps that will be included in the ORSP. Andrea encouraged participants to write on the maps.

**Next OSC Meeting:** Monday, October 23 via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Dwight

## **Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 10/23/2023    MINUTES APPROVED 11/27/23**

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The meeting was held on Zoom and recorded.  
Joel appointed secretary pro tem

**Members Present:** Larry Flaccus, David Shochet, Jim Perry, Norm Beebe, Nina Talayco, Joan LaPierre, Laurie Wheeler, and Joel Dwight

**Guests:** Andrea Donlon, FRCOG

Larry asked for new agenda items. Joel wants to talk about Kay Kafasso of the permaculture place sowing solutions.

### **OSC minutes**

- Minutes from 9/25/23 reviewed. Motion to accept by Jim Perry, seconded by Norm Beebe. Approved unanimously as presented.
- 10/10/23 Joint meeting minutes motion to accept by Norm Beebe, seconded by Nina Talayco.. Approved unanimously as presented.

### **Bridge Street overlook clearing**

Jim reported that he has contacted Canaperi Landscaping, Jim's Tree Service, and Richard Pantermehl for site review, proposals and bids. He received no word back from Lanoue Tree Service. Larry said funds from the 2021 Woodland Partnership grant for invasive weed control could be used to help pay for the work.

### **OSRP Update Draft Section 9 -**

Open Space and Recreation Plan revisions edits are open until November 10th. Andrea presented an update on the OSRP to the group. All of the draft sections are on the town website. She also let Franklin Land Trust know the sections are ready to review. She tried unsuccessfully to get in contact with DCR, Nolumbecca, the Okotea Center in Ashfield, and an indigenous group in Vermont.

Larry sent e-mails about section 9 to the Ag Committee, the Conservation Commission, and the Planning Board asking for them to include their action items in the plan. He still needs to contact the select board. He has not heard back from the others.

Joan Greenfield sent some suggestions that Larry had forwarded to the group on 10/15 and Larry went over her suggestions with the group. Andrea was sent a copy of Joan's suggestions as well. It was noted that Joan is a former member of the OSC and has special interest in education and community involvement.

Jim suggested collecting all comments coming in from the public into a single document for our review to see what might be included in the action plan. Larry mentioned Buckland is in the process of forming an OSC and Chris Skelley has been appointed as its first member. Andrea said the scenic views map hasn't been updated since 2014 so that will need updating. She also said the action plan map might be done on a different format. She can make the paper maps available if someone wants to see more of them and Larry said they are also on the town website. Laurie wondered if copies of the maps could be made available at the Arms Library and Andria said she will make that happen.

Larry said we will approve a final draft plan for the 2024 OSRP so it can be sent to the state for review. Andrea said we need to review the public comments to see what should be included in the draft plan which could be done at the November meeting. She will draft something ahead of the meeting for section 9.

### **Trail Updates**

Jim reported a fallen tree was removed from the Big Trees trail and he was able to use some road grindings from the town to fix some muddy spots. He also said Eversource did some repair work on the Wilcox Hollow access road but it was very poorly done. He said part of the FERC Recreation Plan agreement would be related to keeping the road maintained and he will be sending a letter to FERC with concerns.

Jim suggested we could start a red trail as part of the wooded loop trail system if we can secure funding. Larry thought some money might be left from the Woodlands Partnership grant.

No guided walks are planned until next spring.

### **Pollinator issues**

Joel wondered if the Lillian Davenport property might lend itself to a pollinator garden but Jim thought it was too wooded. Nina suggested we might encourage residents to make private pollinator gardens and then form a tour group to see them. Laurie said there is a pollinator garden on High Street and that the owner was already thinking about a tour. Laurie will check with the Women's Club to see if they have considered a pollinator garden tour as an option when the Bridge of Flowers is closed next year.

**Town Newsletter** Larry asked Laurie if she could be our contact to Shelburne Falls Two-Town Newsletter. Laurie said the input deadline is October 27th for the next edition. Laurie will include in the newsletter that the draft plan is available for review on the town website and the paper maps can be reviewed at the Arms Library.

**Announcements and Reminders-** A riparian tree planting is scheduled for Sunday, October 29th from 10am to 2pm along the brook at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary school. It's a project of the Woodlands Partnership and they are looking for volunteers to bring shovels, etc.

#### **Liaison Reports**

- **Ag Commission**
- **Planning Board**
- **Conservation Commission**
- **Recreation Commission.**

No liaisons present. Norm from the Recreation Commission had to leave the meeting early.

#### **Correspondence**

None.

#### **Guest or visitor comments.**

None

**Next meeting** November 27th at 7pm by Zoom.

**Motion to adjourn** by Jim Perry. Seconded by Nina Talayco. Meeting adjourned 8:06pm.

#### **Respectfully submitted**

Joel Dwight. Secretary pro tem





*Salmon Falls/Deerfield No. 3 Dam (Jim Perry)*

## Appendix B: Community Survey Results

# Shelburne OSRP Survey Results Summary

Survey was available and open from November 15, 2022 to January 31, 2023

**Total Surveys Completed: 252** (234 e-surveys using SurveyMonkey and 18 paper surveys)

**Shelburne population: 1,436.** US Census Bureau: 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021)

**Postcards mailed to 1,139 postal customers in Shelburne, including PO Boxes**

Return rate was approximately 17.5% of Shelburne's population.

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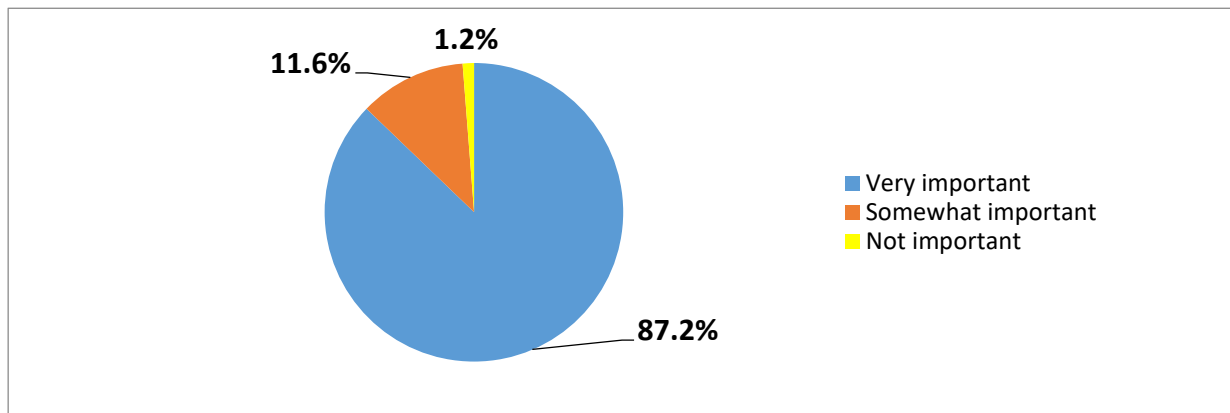
## Some highlights:

- There were 252 surveys completed, and the free responses indicated that residents put care into sharing their ideas about open space and recreation.
  - Respondents were mostly homeowners in Shelburne (62%). Renters made up 15% and farm owners 7%.
  - Ages of household members were mostly 45 years old and up, but we did get a decent number in each age group.
  - About an equal percentage of respondents lived in Shelburne Falls village vs. outside the village, and a good variety of streets in each. There were a few surveys completed by folks from Buckland and Charlemont, probably due to sending postcards to PO address boxes and postings on Facebook. It was not a large enough number to throw off results.
  - Top open space concerns were access to the river and trails, preserving farmland, and increasing the amount of public spaces and parks.
  - Residents pretty universally engage in walking/jogging, hiking, gardening, birdwatching, nature observation, swimming, and photography in town and nearby.
  - The top open spaces and recreation resources used in town are the Bridge of Flowers, the Pothole viewing area, High Ledges, the Fire Tower Trails, Arms Cemetery, and the park at Water & Main Streets.
  - High priorities for expanding or creating recreation resources is access to the Deerfield River for a variety of uses; hiking and walking trails both in the village, outside of the village, and linked with areas of town; public restrooms; access to the Potholes; and bike paths/trails/lanes.
  - If the town increased its offering of recreation activities, respondents were most likely to participate in nature walks or guided hikes, fitness classes, or arts & crafts activities.
- 

## OPEN SPACE QUESTIONS

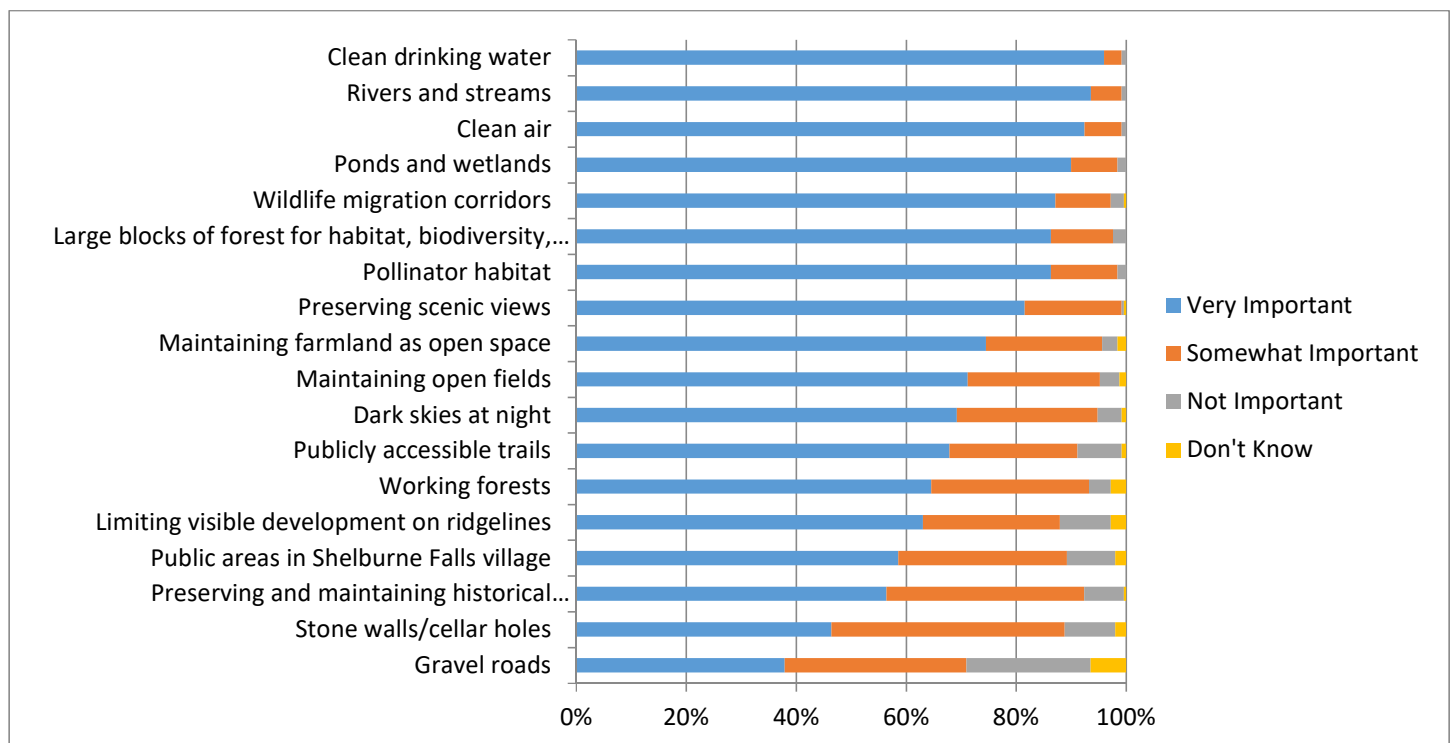
### Question 1: How important is it to you to preserve the rural and agricultural character of Shelburne?

Answered: 250 / Skipped: 2



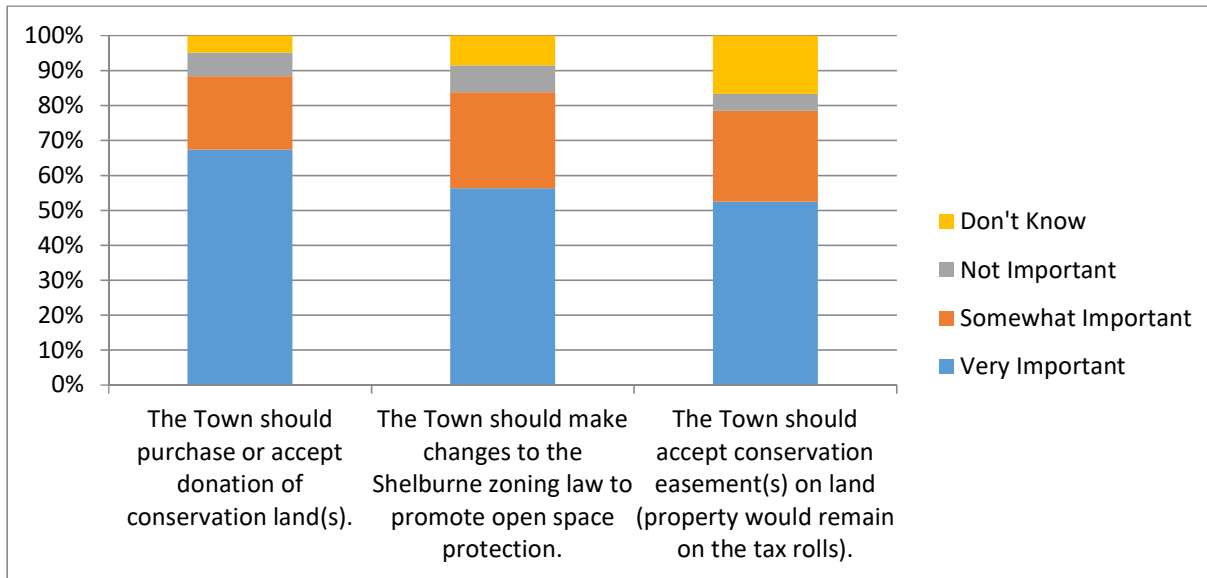
**Question 2: Open space in this survey refers to undeveloped land (fields, forests and wetlands, etc.) with particular conservation, recreation, or scenic interest. These can be public or privately owned. How important is it to you to conserve these natural and scenic resources?**

Answered: 251 / Skipped: 1



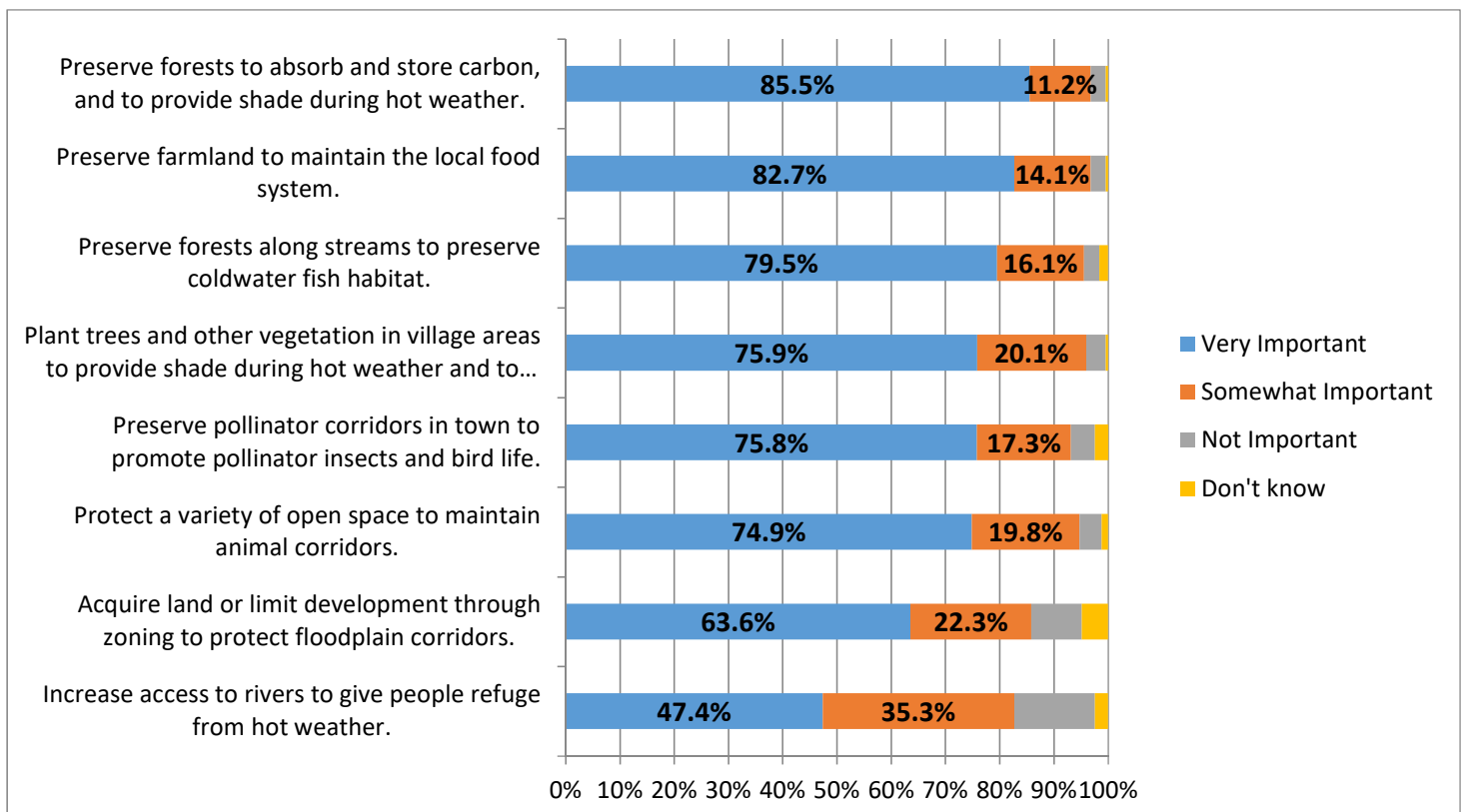
### Question 3: How important is it for Shelburne to move forward on the following open space protection measures?

Answered: 248 / Skipped: 4



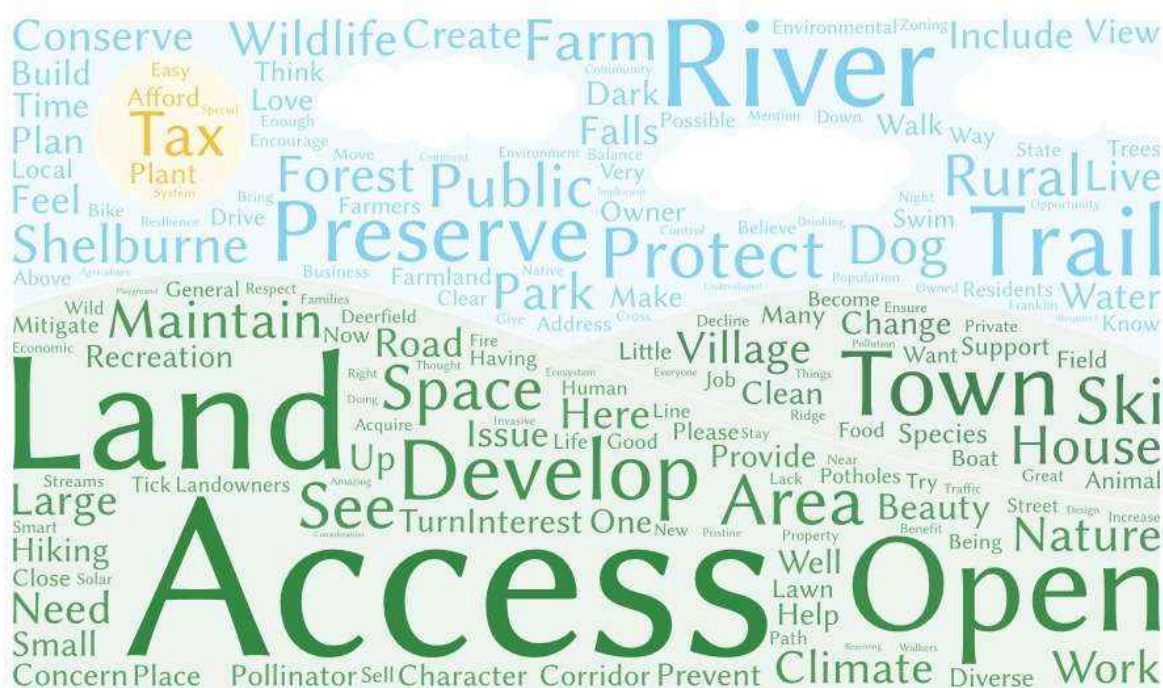
### Question 4: How important are the following strategies in the face of climate change?

Answered: 249 / Skipped: 3



**Question 5: What is your top interest or concern about open space in the town of Shelburne?**

176 respondents weighed in with interests and concerns. Common answers are summarized below in a “word cloud.” All individual answers are included below that.



*Key words mentioned repeatedly:*

Access (46)	Public (26) – related to	Village (15)	Character (8)
Land (41)	access, lands, spaces, parks	Rural (15)	Dogs (7)
River (27)	Farm/farming/farmers	Wildlife (13)	Potholes (5)
Trail (26)	(20)	Hiking (8)	

Question 5 responses: top interests and concerns about open space in Shelburne
Keeping land and keeping housing affordable.
Mitigating effects of climate change. Protecting the rural character of the town.
Saving/adding trees and pollinator food and habitat
Maintain character of village
Preservation!
Large space, accessible to all abilities and persons (wheelchair, walkers, canes, etc.)
Preserve them [open spaces] and protect habitat
No comment
Top interest is to preserve the natural beauty of the area we live in from over-development, establish a recreation plan that respects the preservation of open space, and provides opportunity to grow our food locally.



<b>Question 5 responses: top interests and concerns about open space in Shelburne</b>
To conserve land and farms from development.
Securing access to town-owned land along the Deerfield River from the village.
Are not "our" landowners doing this and have been for generations?
My main concern is that the rural small town character of Shelburne could easily become eroded through "Approval Not Required" development along the rural roads and that farmland and forests will dwindle, turning into sterile lawns and development.
More public spaces to look at/get near the falls & potholes & river -- preserve vistas & give seating. Also, more pop-up sales on streets to let artists sell.
Interest: establish a dog park (gated). Concern: that it's being diminished
To conserve as much undeveloped land as possible, and to limit development in rural areas.
Not developing on natural land, preventing light pollution. and preserving habitats.
That they are pushing for a dead end trail which would open up access to the potholes and disturb an amazing wildlife corridor/haven . It would also cross over what I believe are some wetlands. I strongly feel this area should be protected and not developed. The town closed the potholes because of issues of misuse and this would no doubt become another misused over run area. Open Space should be working on protecting areas not developing.
Protection of open natural areas for wildlife, clean water, and the beauty of our rural town. This is especially important in this scary time of climate change and declines of so many species of wildlife (birds, insects, etc.).
Preserving pristine and undeveloped wild spaces for humans and wildlife, with special consideration to protect drinking water. As a swimmer, I'd love a place to swim in town.
Wildlife habitat, reservation
TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE OF PRESERVATION AND GROWTH
Local food, hiking trails
I'm too new in town to know how to apply general climate change and habitat concerns , which are a cute, to this specific locale. Try me in a year or two!
River and trail access. Shelburne Falls has an amazing river, but most of the housing and commercial buildings face away from the river. Time to figure out how to have a little greenway so we can see and enjoy the river!
I'm concerned the focus has been on river access more so than open space. There are many with large tracts of open field that I'd like to see outreach on estate planning/donation, tax considerations to opening for hiking/walking.
There is very little public open land in Shelburne (no state or town forest or parks), so most open space needs to come from private landowners. We can acquire land when possible, but need to work with landowners to maintain working farms and forests for the long term. Your survey does not mention rare and endangered species, but these are important and should be addressed where possible.
Find ways to make it publicly accessible by trail
That it's interest do not interfere with a landowner's rites.
Basically all of the above. Preservation of migration corridors, including light pollution, essential. Keep our ridgelines free from visible development/clearcutting - as per the Crittenhill disaster. Keep rivers and streams clean.
I would love to see an easy public boat launch (for motorless boats) in town on the Deerfield River, and/or improved access for Wilcox Hollow (both driving down and getting a boat in the water).
Creating and improving walking trails and park areas
trails accessible from own centers
Seek dialog to reopen (while addressing the owners issues) the M&M trail across the Gould property along the Deerfield River. I think this closure has been unfortunate. Perhaps volunteer trail stewards could help mitigate potential trail damage, littering etc.
The building of large, expensive dwellings. Housing development of primarily rural properties whose owners pass away. Shelburne is experiencing a period of growth in which many of the people who have been here for generations can no longer afford to live here.
Environment/Forest protection
There is currently no public river access in the Village.

<b>Question 5 responses: top interests and concerns about open space in Shelburne</b>
That large tracts of farmland not be developed.
Maintenance of public spaces
Access to the waterfront in town
Not a top interest but having a huge fenced in dog park would be great. So many dogs are kept on leases or indoors. I'm not a dog owner but I think this would be great!
It is not the Town's job to do this work. Let the landowners. Good people are moving into town. Farmers historically have maintained much of what you have listed. Let them do it, and not feel you have to legislate every step. People who buy land for the view, will maintain that if they can.
Not enough places for kids to play
Dollars to purchase crs
No more wealthy people who post their land so no one else can enjoy it.
Maintaining it's small town charm.
The environment is obviously important but so is affordable housing, economic development, and a diverse population to support our business, culture, and schools.
Public park and or bike path
Open land not for building of new structures
Preserve forests for diverse plant and wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration.
My concerns are very broad/wholistic in that they include Habitat preservation, bio-diversity, clean water, and climate change mitigation. Would also like to see ridge lines protected in the future.
Access, particularly rivers and places with our dogs
Preserving the natural beauty of the area while also providing access to this for all to enjoy
Keeping forest land, promoting pollinators, animal corridor, access to water for town residents
That we can have public access balanced with protecting habitats
Protection of our environment and reestablishment of protected spaces for environmental protection. Also, dark skies are vitally important!!!!!! Please please please prioritize protecting dark skies
Public access
Keeping them and public access
It's all inclusive: preserve the rural nature of our town and work smart to counteract climate change.
I wish there was more hiking that was dog friendly
Nature preservation
clean air
Protecting natural habitats and combating climate change is always #1 no matter what. Preventing greed from harming the ecosystems is crucial. I'll pay extra taxes to ensure this.
More walking trails, biking trails, ski trails etc to encourage outdoor activity
Ensuring that farm families who are land rich and cash poor have a fair way to access a fair price for their land if they need it. Exploring what restorative justice means for the Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, Mohican, and Wabanaki people who lived here before their land was taken from them.
Maintaining a rural town which preserves nature and farming over commercial interests and maintains natural beauty.
Maintaining forests and open fields
That, if not protected, the land will be developed in housing communities or developments without thought of impact on rural farmers and sustainability of their way of life.
I know its impossible but I would love access to a 1-5 mile bike path from the downtown
Open meetings for residents to share their views
Public access to land for recreational purposes and preventing development of ridge lines.
Expanding and linking trails for non motorized recreation.
Important to maintain rural character.
I believe you've listed them all

<b>Question 5 responses: top interests and concerns about open space in Shelburne</b>
Government Overreach - Mandates - proof of medical status to access public lands
Zoning laws
Maintaining open fields and farmland as open space, Public areas in Shelburne Falls village and dark skies at night.
Don't know enough yet. Farms shutting down seems to be the most timely issue, but preserving wildness and semi-wildness is important to me.
Support of agricultural land
Stop allowing people to clear cut the mountains surrounding the village to build on. This has partially ruined the feel of our town. Looming buildings over our village is not ok.
Keeping the integrity of our small town and the lands open and undisturbed. Also, keeping the housing market accessible to those who grew up here.
Access to trails and rivers.
Opportunity to reach trails and the river from the village without having to drive.
Removing bittersweet (especially) and other invasive species that are killing trees!!
clean water and public access to rivers
My biggest concern is that we develop smart— that environmental laws and refining are not used by the rich or NIMBY folks to prevent affordable housing, solar projects or other smart and critical development that will benefit the greater good
Our rivers and streams protected from runoff from the roads. Woods to walk in are important to me.
Don't overly advertise the river access to people from out of the area.
Public access to rivers, streams.
Preserving and maintaining open space with a reasonable understanding of the importance of development, respect for long term land owners and the burden of taxes.
Creating more public access to River that creates brings trash and total lack of respect for the beautiful area—think sunburn beach area
Access to farming and access to all public lands and conservation lands for hunting use. It is important to open areas for hunters as they contri use the most to conservation and regulating a healthy wildlife population.
Helping farmers stay in business and attracting future farmers.
Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity and ensuring climate change resilience
All of it is interdependent for environmental community climate and wildlife resilience as well as economic boons
Reopen the Potholes, maintain Wilcox Hollow access road, boat/fish/swim access on DOT easement under Rte 2 bridge. Bardwell's Ferry area access...
I'm very upset about homes being built on the ridgeline.
Access to riverfront and river water
That it not become part of the recommendation that multi housing should be considered
Open space should automatically have a low tax rate.
Besides the above importance of not having development encroach on the natural beauty and natural resilience and resources that Shelburne has, We're interested in more effort being put into tick control. Global warming will increase occurrences of and bring new diseases to Franklin county. Shelburne could benefit from implementing a solution like the deer-bating stations described here: <a href="https://www.easthamptonstar.com/government-villages-nature/2022519/targeting-ticks-killing-them-their-hosts">https://www.easthamptonstar.com/government-villages-nature/2022519/targeting-ticks-killing-them-their-hosts</a> and here: <a href="https://www.deerfriendly.com/lyme-disease/4-poster-system-for-tick-control">https://www.deerfriendly.com/lyme-disease/4-poster-system-for-tick-control</a> . Other towns in Massachusetts and across the East Coast have implemented studies into these tick station deployments. Maybe Shelburne could try out these stations as well."
Not developing public trails too close to quiet residential neighborhoods.
The Open Space Committee has done wonderful work developing and maintaining hiking trails in rural areas. I'm concerned about the NIMBY backlash they have encountered while trying to provide a walking path in the village. I would like to see a Town policy that supports the work of the Open Space Committee .
Overuse by humans; invasive plants; educating the public on natural resources and value of preserving them; get rid of lawns/pesticides; ban leaf blowing, weed whacking, clearing/disposing of leaf litter, etc

<b>Question 5 responses: top interests and concerns about open space in Shelburne</b>
Although I agree with most mentioned, the roads need to have better reflective paint with clear lanes and overhead street lights at all intersections for the safety of all. Safety matters as much as any other issue - and should be viewed as a necessity, not an inconvenience.
We want hiking trails accessible by foot from the Village and better River access!
preserve dark nights, preserve areas along river from foot traffic, preserve river wildlife in the village
I really want trail access from town into woods, river access. Right now only landowners have access. Village residents have to drive, use gasoline, to access trails. This is elitist.
Too easy for 2-6 acre lots to gobble up farm and forest land. Everyone seems to mow all the native species down and have big lawns. I would like to encourage smaller lots and more density in the village center and in other pockets of space, while maintaining larger connected undeveloped parcels. Also, encourage and somehow give people credit for planting more native species and having more diversity in their yards. Also, to encourage invasives control, I think it would be helpful to help people identify them and have a facility where people could bring them, because no one knows what to do with them.
Don't regulate too much! Be realistic about preserving farmland if there are no farmers to make it work.
River access
More river access
Some of the questions I was unable to answer because I feel that I don't have enough information yet.
City people taking over our town, ignoring no trespassing, no swimming, stay on trail, and polluting our waterways and land.
Provide more trails (easy and intermediate) for locals and visitors. Keep the rural atmosphere by not over-developing yet still supporting an emerging crafts village and a sustainable tourist destination.
Preservation of forests and fields, land along rivers and streams, and that of wetlands of all varieties, in order to guarantee a thriving and diverse community of plants animals and insects.
I believe we need to address the loss of population and jobs at the same time we address open space. As people leave, schools close and tax revenue decline, we will be forced to do things quite differently. History says we *always* vote against business and jobs, often under the guise of "preservation and conservation", and for this reason our economy is where it is now. Franklin County population has declined steadily for the last 20 years, primarily due to lack of jobs and lack of housing, both of which are a result of overzealous anti-development zoning. While it's wonderful to protect all open space, it makes little sense if there's nobody here to appreciate it! Please consider broadening this study beyond simply asking how important open space is. Of course it's important. But other things are important too, like the economic survival of the area. Right now we're on life support from Boston for nearly everything, because we've closed off all other sources of funding via "zoning out" all development and business. Finally a simple request: Please ask the Mountain Lodge of Masons and the Shelburne Fire District to PLEASE TURN OFF that Christmas spotlight shining out of the fire tower. It's obnoxious and probably illegal (not everyone here is Christian), not to mention a blight on our dark night skies.
Rural characteristics. Climate stabilization
Conserving forests.
protecting nature, mitigating climate change, keeping natural places pristine
having an aesthetically designed and thought out plan. Not just a slab of grass.
That the open spaces will be fill with things that don't need to be there just because we get grant Money. Or Just because one small group wants something but it doesn't benefit a large group of the community
Attempt to include in the conversation a cross section of homeowners: newcomers as well as those here for generations
Accessibility
system of hiking trails
My top concern is these efforts are designed to prevent development of much needed housing. Addressing climate change at the town level is ridiculous. There is plenty of forest. Shelburne is home a small portion of it, and it's

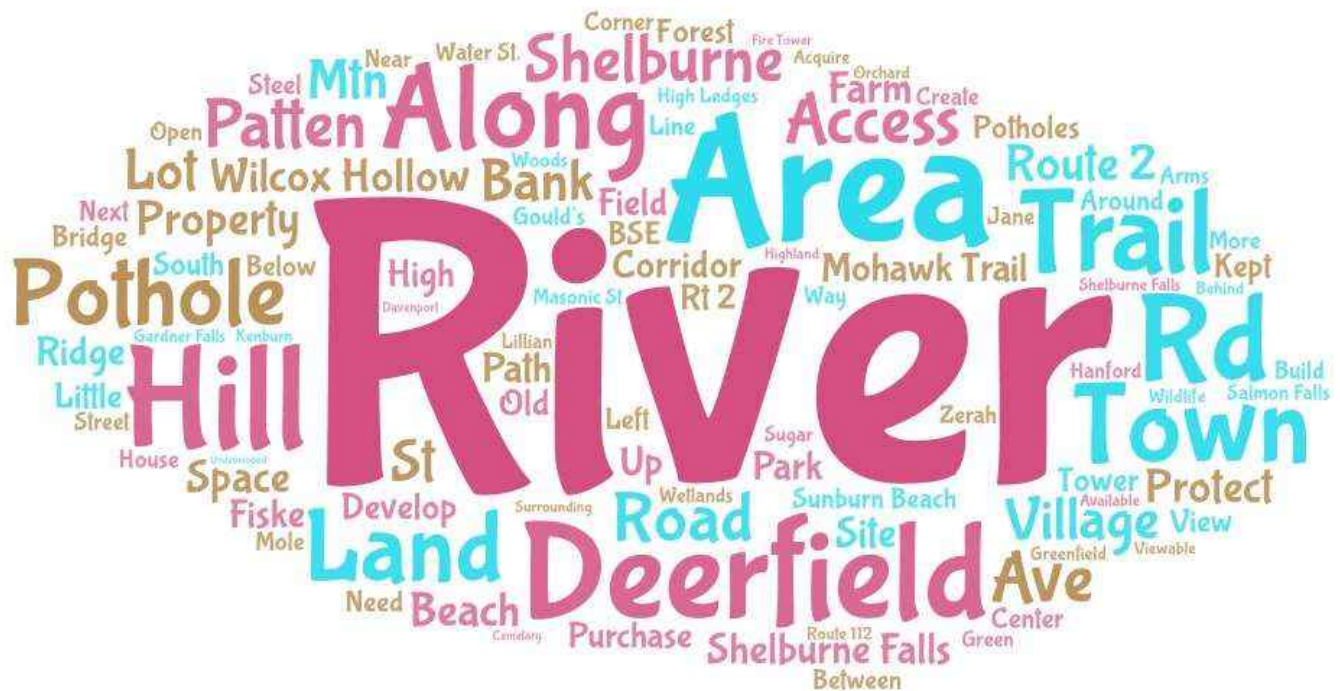
<b>Question 5 responses: top interests and concerns about open space in Shelburne</b>
development and the development of farm land for large solar arrays and housing is necessary. There is a lot of talk of land conservation and not enough talk of increasing housing density.
Reserving the rural character of Shelburne
Preserving the rural character of the town.
Preserving farmland
Clear information on issues requiring input from voters/residents
Provide alternatives for dog walkers to keep them out of High Ledges.
Would like to see more recreation opportunities for young children. This includes places to swim and cool off (like small splashpads), playgrounds, winter activity spaces like sledding and ski hills, permanent access to sunburn Beach. Families with young children don't see Shelburne Falls as a good place to move bc everyone is too old (sorry) and there's nothing to do without driving to greenfield or turners. Playground at BSE is 'well worn'. Could use some upgrades or an additional playground near Arms academy
Public access to forests with trails (and second, dark skies).
Tax implications. Town taxes are too high based on the average wage and age of residents.
All the above are great. Can we also find space for a dog park? Also develop a downtown park gathering area, lastly make bridge street a no ar area. Have parking in side lots, traffic can go around and make Shelburne Falls a walking village
Forests that are not logged. Solar with pollinator habitat
Keeping wildlife and plant life biodiversity and keeping Ridgeline views undisturbed.
I worry about that beautiful parcel of land across from Gould's Sugar House. It would be a shame to see that sold for development. Has anyone thought about seeing if it could be purchased by the state as a state park. It would also include access to the Deerfield River
Preservation from development combined with access for non-motorized recreation
All of the above on #4. Everything is connected as one system so doing all those items is important.
Hiking trails and climate mitigation
Too many pastures turning into brush.
Land that is deemed of interest to the town - that the land owners won't be properly compensated or don't want to sell will be forced to lose their land
Keep agricultural land owned by farmers.
Careful development-- maintaining animal corridors, floodplain corridors, and pollinator corridors
First, protect land from development. Use CPA and other funds to buy parcels so beautiful areas don't turn into suburbia. Second, follow Ashfield's lead and work with landowners to create a large network of public access trails so people can be outside.
Publicly accessible trails
Limit building on usable farm land
Maintainance of wildlife habitat; support species diversity; set a precedent for awareness of human impact; reducing development...
Preserve for the public good, not special interests, whether they be financial or environmental. A fine line to tread.
It is important to me that Shelburne plan and implement road maintenance and construction in a way that slows traffic to promote the rural town feeling that we all moved to Shelburne for. Open space, view shed protection and protected environments are welcome and desireable. But if you can't enjoy living in one of Shelburne's beautiful original houses because the cars speed by and the intersections are dangerous, we might as well be Greenfield. You may think this comment is irrelevant to the survey, but the town's feel and character very much includes it's roads and the design of those roads is key to keeping Shelburne lovely, rural and safe.
Maintaining a balanced and healthy ecosystem for humans and other animals.
over use
Open space accessible from town. Direct access to Mohawk/Mahican. Direct access to Fire Tower. Encourage Goulds to open their section of trail!!!



<b>Question 5 responses: top interests and concerns about open space in Shelburne</b>
Keep as much land as possible open, especially what is or has been farmed now or in the past.
Wildlife conservation.
Maintaining farmland
retaining open space
My property taxes
Creating affordable housing for families to help relieve development pressure, tax breaks for seniors and low income property holders, and providing access to trails and river areas.
We need a dog park as many people in Shelburne falls have dogs, some mobility issues, and dogs need safe spaces to socialize. Especially since access to cemetery has been denied, and which we pay taxes to upkeep, despite not planning to use it.
Land protected as open space should include forests as well. Habitat protection (animals, pollinators), all wetlands should be prioritized. Shade trees planted throughout town.
Making sure public use stays an option for fishing hiking and general recreation
Clean air and drinking water
Preserving private land owner rights during this process.
Would like river access in the village. Don't want to see more houses on the ridge
Preventing overdevelopment and preserving wildlife and their habitats
protecting pollinators and reducing purely lawn areas
wildlife conservation corridors.
Agriculture protection
Keep it. Increase it. Support it
continue developing access to Mahican-Mohawk trail corridor along river
Acquire and create more open space accessible for public use. This includes constructing roads, trails, and parking areas.
Creating habitat for pollinators and native species
There is so much private land and so little public land, the town should acquire or help the Franklin Land Trust acquire, more land that would be open to the public.

## **Question 6. Please list any specific areas in town that you feel should be protected, kept natural, or acquired for recreation or open space purposes.**

There were 104 specific ideas of places to protect, keep natural, or acquire for recreation or open space purposes. Answers varied, but common words are shown in the “word cloud” below. Access to the river (river was mentioned 62 times) was the most common theme, with the word Pothole mentioned 16 times. Patten District or Hill was mentioned 10 times. Wilcox Hollow as mentioned 10 times, and Sunburn Beach was mentioned 8 times.



Location – to be protected/acquired/kept natural	Tell us why
Ridges and hills around the village and Route 2.	If tourism is your goal, aesthetics are important
Potholes should be viewable and cared for	Presently fenced in by an eyesore fence
Baptist Corner Triangle (Main & Water Streets)	Large space for picnics, concerts, farmer's markets
the river	
NA	
All areas along Little Mohawk Rd., Patten Hill District, Square Lot Rd., Frank Williams & Old Village Roads, Zerah Fiske Rd., and Lucy Fiske Roads.	Preserve natural beauty and locally-grown food
Mayhew Steel site (acquire)	It would ease access to town-owned land along the Deerfield.
all of rural	
Mt. Massamet - protect, but expand access	Provides natural resource close to village of SF. Important to wildlife & could be expanded as a place for residents to access nature from town via trails. Beaver ponds at base are also a great resource.
Village outdoor seating & eating spaces	Help tourists park at Trolley Museum and Historic Museum and keep it a walking town. Pedestrian-friendly, healthy, keep downtown bustling with music events and art sales, keep natural areas wild with minimal trails, less human intervention.
Down by the potholes	I like the wooded hill on the left after you turn left at the new condos-for-the-rich. Also the trees and any brush surrounding large parking lot.
Shingle Hill -->Bellows Hill/Shelburne Mtn.-->Greenfield Mtn-->Shearer Hill	Large, continuous forest block, currently mostly unprotected

2022-23 Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey Results

Location – to be protected/acquired/kept natural	Tell us why
Protect the Deerfield River below Salmon Falls. Do not develop this area.	This area is a wildlife haven, I have so many photos of animals that come from there. The eagles also have a nest near there. The family of the person who donated the land has said that they would never have wanted this land to be developed. The town closed the potholes because of issues of misuse and this would no doubt become another misused over run area. It would be foolish to put a short dead end trail there. The police and fire department do not see this as a beneficial development, on the contrary.
deerfield river/ potholes	public access is important
Patten district/Little Mohawk road and up the hill to Tower and Patten Roads area	It is connected to already-preserved land (high ledges and water district)
Patten Hill area	To expand & protect the High Ledges sanctuary
Patten hill	It's a wildlife corridor and has the potential to be greatly impacted by development and I hope that doesn't
Wetlands between Little Mohawk and Reynolds Road	Contains Mass rare species
trail along the river from town to Wilcox Hollow	It's a beautiful natural resource, great to share among us.
any riverfront	access
Rivers and streams should be kept free of any kind of development & human footprint.	Preservation of wildlife habitat and migration corridors need to be free of human presence.
Wilcox Hollow	see above #5
purchase Mahew property by river	clean up area and provide access to riverfront
Potholes	Create a pathway/bridge/park that would allow closer access to them, without allowing swimming access.
Salmon Falls	The removal of the parking lot means less people are likely to enjoy the falls.
Deerfield River front	It is the heart of the village
Patten District view	Long, beautiful worth preserving
Gould's Sugar House	It's a historic site
Deerfield river bank corridor	Acquire access for public
river frontage	Water frontage should not only be available to those that can out pay the rest of us.
Protect the area around Gould's Farm	Scenic
Deerfield river in shelburne	It is essential and keeps getting g fenced off
High ledges	
Everywhere	Humans are ruining everything
glacial potholes	beautiful, interesting, should be more accessible
Pot Holes, the Deerfield River and the forest land surrounding it	clean water, wildlife habitat, health of nature
Potholes	Best place to swim in Franklin County
pot holes	More visual access...if not physical access
East Shelburne	Farm land and apple orchards
Property next to info center	Visitors
buckland state forest, lucky dog forest, flag mtn fish and wildlife mngme area	continous forest tracks

## 2022-23 Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey Results

Location – to be protected/acquired/kept natural	Tell us why
Deerfield river	There should be public access to river for residents, maybe below Sunburn
BSE playground, Mechanic St	I've heard people talk about the possibility of putting the senior center near the elementary school which would take part of the playground for parking. Currently, people are parking on the lawn (picking up students). It's one of the very few open spaces in the village, and it's so beautiful--I don't want it turned into a parking lot, and I wish people wouldn't park on it for student pick up.
Green space on Bridge St	There isn't much there!
All green spaces in the Village.	Green, public and open spaces create better cities and towns.
All that is left un touched	To keep our rural feel and from being over populated.
The River ways and all lands surrounding	Available for appreciation to locals who respect the lands, and to Be protected from outsiders disrespect,
Deerfield River - with very limited access, protected, kept natural	
Caramonut	The private owner has blocked parking access
Corridor along the river from village to Wilcox Hollow / Shelburne town forest (off Masonic Ave)	Opportunity to be in nature without driving
Wilcox hollow	Animals, beauty, recreation
rivers: sunburn beach, wilcox hollow	these are beautiful assets for our local and visiting community
Access to swimming at potholes should be restored	Public use will lead to public investment
Hinsdale Brook	Runs along Brook Rd and is critical trout habitat and suffers from road gravel filling in naturally occurring cavities and waterfalls
the river bank from Masonic Ave to the Pothole area	looks like a good opportunity for a public access trail
Sunburn beach	
South Shelburne Rd	It has beautiful woods, views, ponds, dirt road, wildlife
River access	Leave private land alone~also see comment on 5
All the woods	I love all the woods, I don't want to see them cut down and developed.
Sunburn Beach area	The ridiculous parking requirements
Create trail from Bridge St or the river in the village to Wilcox Hollow	Prevent temptation to walk unsafely on Rt 2
All hilltowns	Essential for livable sustainable future
Mathew Steel area	Connecting to downtown
Town land by the river	Opening this up for residents to enjoy views of or have access to the river
Deerfield river valley	open access to riverside paths and water

Location – to be protected/acquired/kept natural	Tell us why
The new parking lot below the old Mole Hollow store should belong to the town, I feel, that the town should purchase the river bank and build a viewing platform for tourists and townspeople to view the falls and pot holes from that area. The town should have purchased that property. mother condos there are ridiculous. There's no longer public parking for our towns most famous feature.	
152 Shelburne Center Rd	152 is a mansion that has been on the market for more than a year. It has 21 acres of land and large home that could be used as a function space for the town and rented out for events for extra town revenue. There are many potential uses for the space either for direct town or municipal use or for renting. I know that Lincoln, MA has a similar mansion that is owned by the town that has tenants who live there and run the space as an events location. More information about there ownership and management is here: <a href="https://www.lincolntown.org/764/Pierce-House-Committee">https://www.lincolntown.org/764/Pierce-House-Committee</a>
Highland Village	Up to six trees removed/not replaced. Less lawn, more raised bed gardens for veggies
The end of deerfield ave along the river.	for river access and to connect to the Wilcox Hollow trail
village	too much light at night now, much river wildlife has gone with the rise in lighting
Deerfield River access	Village residents need access to river
Pot holes	Open for swimming
River bank along the Mohawk Trail path between town and Wilcox hollow	The erosion is outrageous, taking down very old trees and leaving it vulnerable to encroaching invasives.
Mohican trail	Need to complete access to the entire trail it is an important historical and recreational item
Baseball field at Arms Academy	Accessible for all ages, useful for impromptu gatherings. Pretty.
The old Singley building site needs help.	There is no thought behind it currently. Just a slab of grass. Has a lot of potential.
Singley lot	Should be leveled and left open so that it can be use for events, markets, fairs, does not need a building on the lot
Potholes	
Sunburn beach	So important for kids to learn to swim. Sunburn Beach is unique, It's beautiful, it's free!
hills around town	maintain view of nature, rather than development; keep dark sky
Area below the potholes	Connect the trail to town & allow public access to the river



## 2022-23 Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey Results

Location – to be protected/acquired/kept natural	Tell us why
Potholes and river access. Need more areas like Wilcox hollows	It is so sad how we have lost that area with the conversion of the building to condos. Is there a way to create a public path on the other side? We need more public access to riverside (town folk and visitors such as a swimming area)
Zerah fiske road - from S. Shelburne rd to Bardswell Ferry rd and Foxbard farm	No power lines. One of the prettiest roads in massachusetts
The land across route 2 from Gould's Sugar House	Incredible views. Totally pristine. Would allow for good access to the river
Deerfield River in town	Create and maintain access for residents and visitors
Mahican Mohawk Trail	No longer usable full length
No preference for any one area or another.	
Anything available on Patten Hill should be purchased and protected by the town so it doesn't get chopped up and developed. Same with other tracts of land that can be bought and left wild.	Patten Hill is under threat of development since the Goldthwaite properties sold without conservation restrictions, and the view from Patten Road is threatened by the sale of the parcel opposite the Washers' home.
Ridge line by fire tower	don't need to see towers/ wind mills/ or buildings
along the river downstream from the dam in SF to Stillwater.	River area habitat is precious for all life
Unaware	
The 'singley' lot downtown should be developed as a pocket park.	For small gatherings such as families, musicians, artists.
dairy farms/pastures	rural vistas, wildlife habitat
Access to river from town	Quality of town life. Tourism. Etc.
Former Golf Course on Greenfield Mtn	Great location
Salmons Falls to Wilcox Hollow and trails along the river	beauty and enjoyment, as well as habitat preservation
Gardner Falls trail and river access	Hidden gem of a safe easy river access above the falls
The ridgeline above town	Being overlooked by houses changes the feel of the town
Ravine at corner of Bridge and Masonic	
Rt 2 wetlands by kenburns orchard	reduce wildlife collisions at this spot via wildlife tunnel under Rt 2
Lillian Davenport land, and Jane Hanford ridge along river	share resources given to town
An extended corridor along the Deerfield River from Franklin Land Trust property on Route 2 all the way to the Potholes overlook..	For Recreation: The river is one of the town's most important assets.
route 2 corridor	
Along the Deerfield River	Provide access to the river for recreation and viewing.
All open spaces need protection from development, which should be clustered	
Potholes - stairs access	Swimming once again for locals
space behind school	
Areas along Route 112 and Colrain/Shelburne Rd.	Preserve natural beauty and locally-grown food
Hanford property (acquire or purchase permanent easement)	This would connect the Mahican Mohawk Trail to the village

## 2022-23 Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey Results

Location – to be protected/acquired/kept natural	Tell us why
Land near Kenburn Orchards should be assessed for value to wildlife.	Less common species have been found on Route 2 as roadkil. Consider applying for funds for wildlife underpass if that's feasible in this location.
Massamett Mtn.	Large forest block, abutting protected lands
sunburn beach	people should have access
South Shelburne (south of Rt 2)	Natural beauty; farms; wildlife habitat
Rt. 2 corridor & ridge lines/hill tops	To avoid urban sprawl/ big box development on Rt.2; to avoid the type of ridge development (Buckland Crittenden Hill house with clear cut ) from Shelburne ridge lines
Shelburne	
Areas on Deerfield Ave - fund the projects that are trying to create gardens (next to Mole Hollow) for butterflies/education and corner with Bridge Street.	To provide for butterflies and educate the public and give people a place to congregate/listen to local music/small art festival/etc.
Deerfield River access in town	see above #5
connect Mohawk Mahician trail along river	continuous trail along riverfront
Any place riverside where people could safely and legally access our river.	The Deerfield is part of what forms this area. People should be able to have access to it.
14 Deerfield Ave.	Potential space for river access
It would be good to having a walking path on the water	The water is not accessible
Route 2	
Lillian Davenport property and lawless property	Clean up river access at end of Deerfield ave
Develop trails/bike path	Good for families and kids
Gardners falls	See above
Bridge of Flowers	
High Ledges and the network of paths leading to it	accessible paths, scenic views
The Deerfield river banks and the Potholes should be available to more town citizens.	Would build community, fabulous recreation for families, provide relief from heat in the future,
Any fields , kept open space	To Preserve the open space and natural ecosystem
Sunburn beach	The private owner has blocked access
Gardners falls	Recreation, animals, scenery
All sites of Native American importance	Should be developed/regulated with input from local indigenous leaders
Woods encircled by Wilson Graves Rd, Smead and Fiske Mill.	I don't know who owns it, but it would be nice if was never developed (I don't think anyone's planning to) it's lovely to walk in, lots of old roads, vernal ponds and a stream that runs into Hinsdale Brook.
river bank upstream from the FOE (or similiar location)	create public river access safely upstream of the dam
Deerfield Ave terminus	River access, then lunch in town, maybe bowl a line, sleep it off at Sweetheart
high ledges and surrounding	a natural gem and place to get outdoors
The river bank and parking lot by the pot holes	
Highland Ave, SF	Removing those trees raised temps in hot months and took away our shade, as well as spaces for flora/fauna, but the don't destroy the invasive species, rather dump them elsewhere.

2022-23 Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey Results

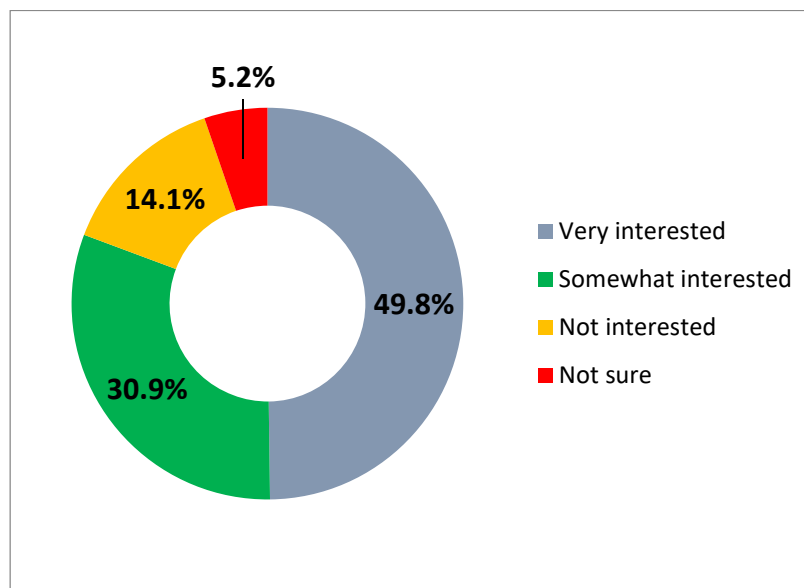
Location – to be protected/acquired/kept natural	Tell us why
open the pothole area	for the freedom to access the river.
along river	want to preserve instead of having people walking around there
M& m trail	Village residents need access to nature without driving.
Land adjacent to the village center	Could be a sweet little in-town park
All the undeveloped farm and field acreage.	Beautiful, useful to Nature/creatures all seasons, night sky darkness.
The trails behind the softball field along the river.	A bpwrfecl short hike right here in town. Maybe make the beach a bit bigger for access to the river.
Part of BSE by bandstand	Would be great to have a splash pad there. Wouldn't conflict with school in the summer. Plenty of space.
land along our rivers	keep it public, rather than limiting access to the few who can afford to live along the rivers
Fire tower hike	Great local hike. Great place to run dogs , and get fit!
All undeveloped land along route 2	Route 2 is the goose the lays our golden eggs. If it's commercialized like route 9 in Hadley it will be ruined
Working farms	Crucial to local food system and reliance on outsourced foods
anymore along ft 2	Most is usable farm land
Tower hill area visible from SF	This higher elevation houses great diversity.
Unaware	
Trails and forest area between the Arms Cemetary and High Ledges.	beauty and enjoyment, as well as habitat preservation
Property near entrance to cemetary (D. Smith's)	adjacent to Mass Audubon land, nice access to trails and ponds.
Jane Hanford ridge along river	continue Mohawk Mahican trail
Shelburne Falls Water District property off Patten Road	For Recreation: This huge, unused property connects to existing Audubon Property

**Question 7: Do you own land in Shelburne that you would like to open up for public use with tax benefits and without liability, or have preserved as open space? (if you answer yes, please contact the Shelburne Open Space Committee at [openspace@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:openspace@townofshelburnema.gov))**

There were 17 “yes” answers and 216 “no” answers.

**Question 8: Shelburne is located on land that was formerly part of Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, Mohican, and Wabanaki homelands (<https://native-land.ca/>). How interested are you in having the town recognize the indigenous heritage of the land when thinking about open space protection in town?**

Answered: 249 / Skipped: 3



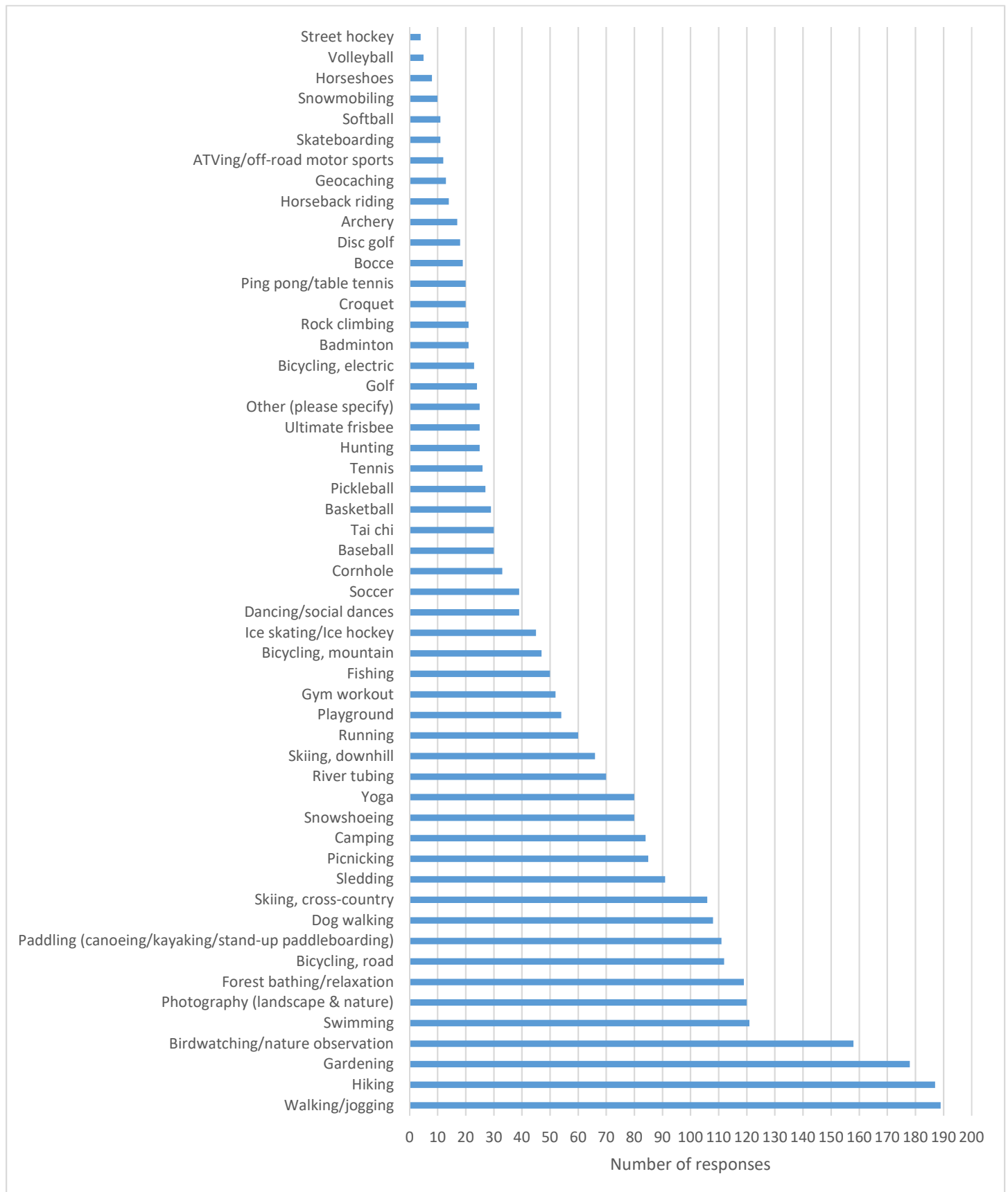
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## RECREATION QUESTIONS

**Question 9: Which of the following recreational activities do members of your household do in, or near, Shelburne? Please select all that apply.**

Answered: 243 / Skipped: 9

## 2022-23 Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey Results



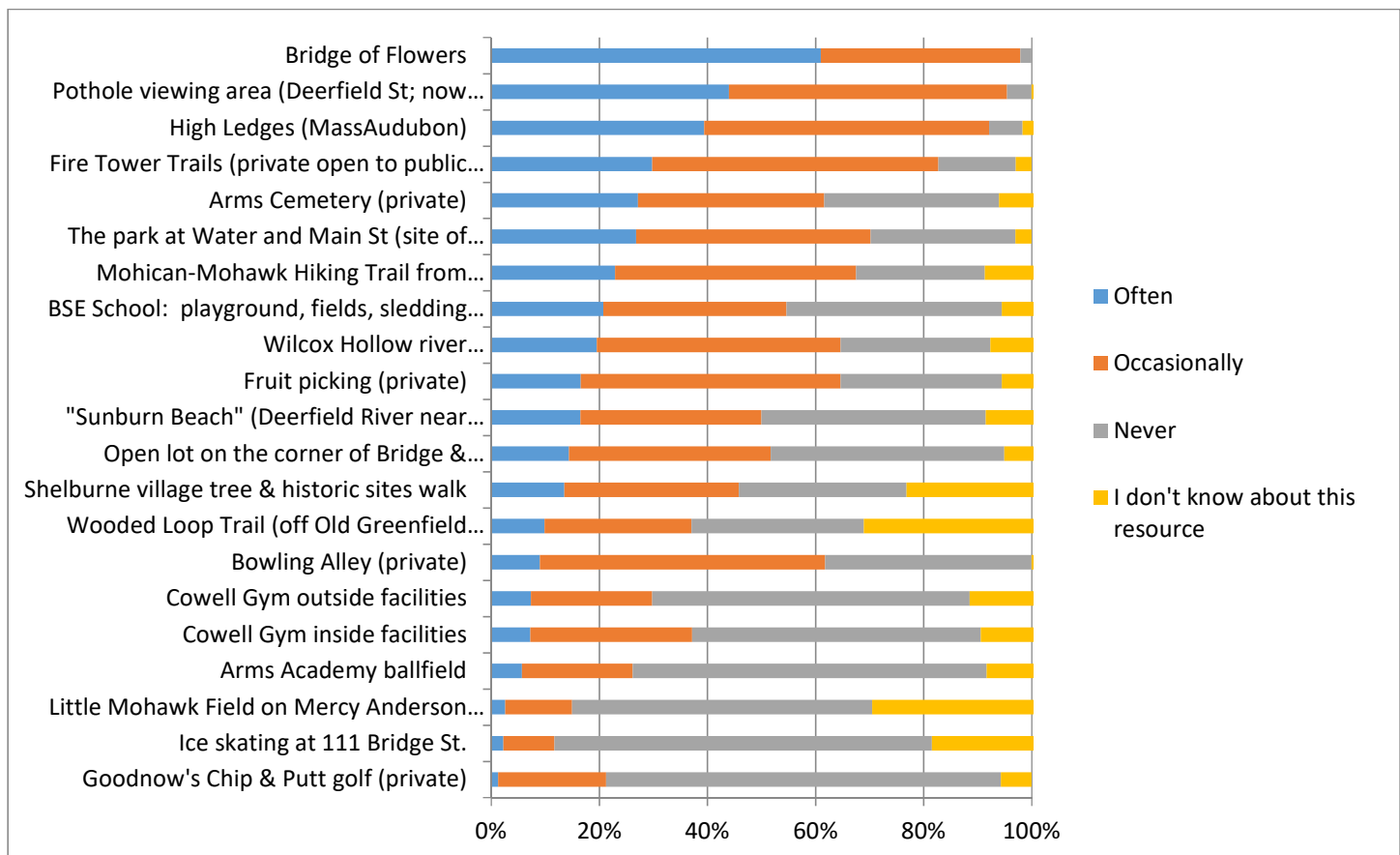


“Other” responses included the following activities:

- Wading (5 responses)
- Producing crops on open land!
- Would love to do ziplining!
- Handicapped accessible activities
- Ice climbing
- listening to outdoor live music
- Gravel road biking
- An adult outdoor exercise area would be great
- Trapping
- Trail Running
- Landscape painting
- Meditation (2 responses)
- Star and sky gazing
- Walking
- Looking for moths, butterflies, insects in forests and fields
- Painting and drawing (landscape and nature)
- Cross-country skiing
- Loading wood
- NOTE; too old/gimpy to do most of these things myself
- Walking around the village

### Question 10: How often do you use the following open space and recreational resources that are open to the public in town?

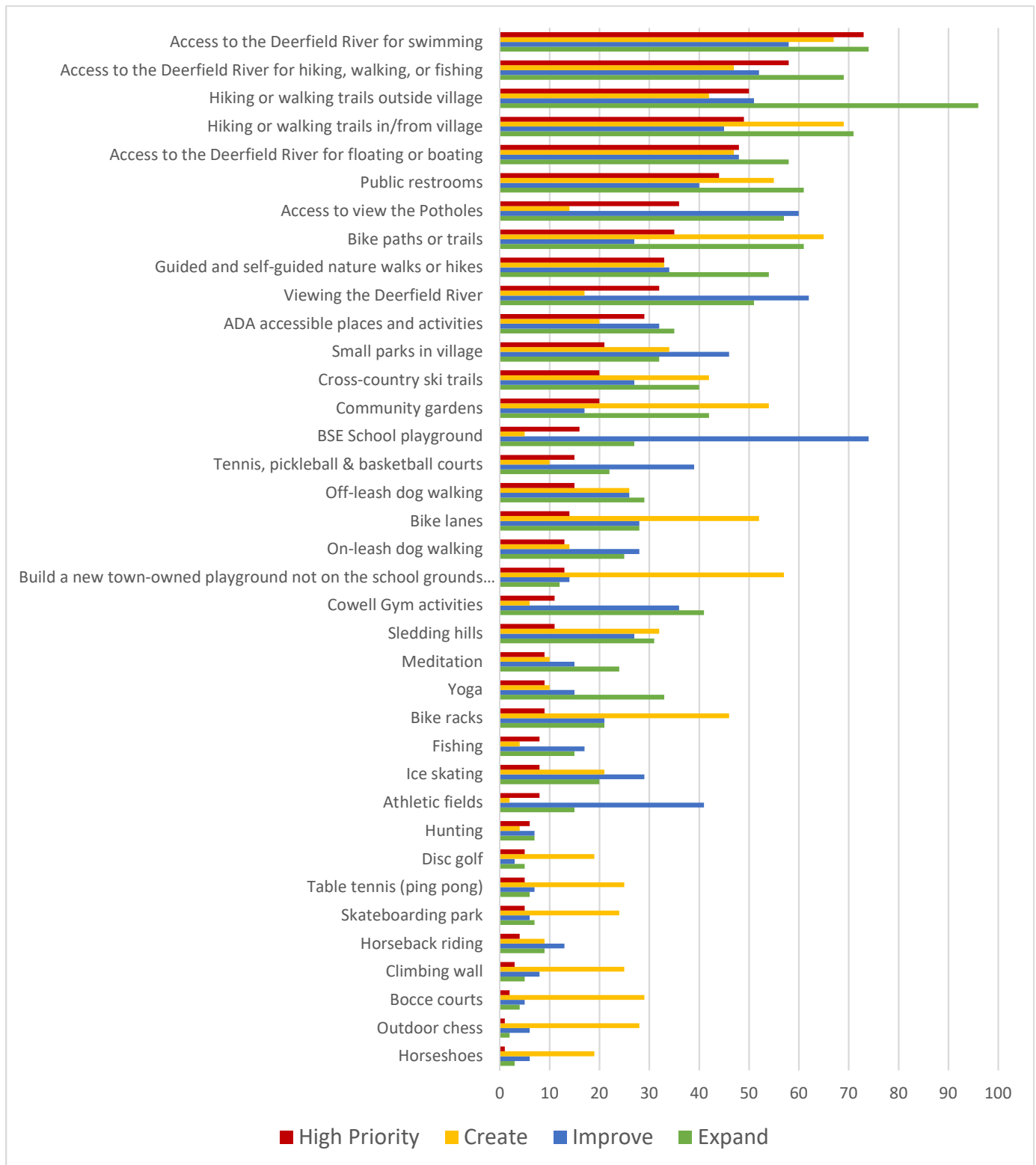
Answered: 245 / Skipped: 7



### Question 11: Which of the following would you like to see expanded, improved, or created in Shelburne? Please select the appropriate columns for the resources you are interested in,

**and identify your highest priorities. If you are not interested in a resource you do not need to fill in a bubble.**

Answered: 237 / Skipped: 15



“Other” responses included the following activities:

- Bathrooms at BSE playground
- None
- Outdoor tai chi, arts and crafts instruction for adults, not just for seniors
- Make Cowell gym affordable (free), open 24/7 a safe haven for anyone who can't sleep, is bored, needs to get warm, needs community and athletic events, especially ping pong. I have a good table I'd donate if I could play for free!
- Add enclosed dog play space at Cowell gym outside facilities. Also, need trash cans for dog poop around town.
- More public parking/ reduced parking standards for property owners, commercial and residential.
- Swimming pool
- The skate rink at 111 Bridge St is a wonderful idea but very limited. It does prove that there is interest in a town rink. Create a large one on the grounds of BS Elem School with double use as skateboard park in summer. Build a warming shed. Everyone will come! Great fun for the whole family and gets people outside and off devices. Publicly accessible for all with available parking which is always key.
- fitness trail along river
- Labyrinth at St. Joseph's church
- Stop hunting!!
- Really, we already have a lot to offer townspeople in the way of getting out.
- Ways for students from MTRS to quickly (shortest route through woods) walk to town for community engaged work, or public transportation
- Nature programs such as tracking, tree “literacy”, mushrooms, stone walls, etc.
- tai chi, indoor walking, senior exercise groups, arts and crafts
- More Swimming options, a "town beach"
- Dog park
- Night sky observation (dark sky locations)
- restrict or prohibit hunting on hiking trails for hiker safety
- A bathhouse with a sauna - hot tubs- steam rooms would be life changing. Like in Sweden Japan Russia Greece turkey finland etc.
- Community gardens?- plant and learn from those experienced
- Re-open potholes
- fitness trail along riverfront, backboard on tennis court
- More public benches and tables at more locations in the village.

## Question 12: What are your top 1-2 priorities for recreation in Shelburne?

There were 144 top priorities. Common themes were river access (for swimming; access to Potholes; for fishing and paddling), walking and hiking trails, bike lanes/trails/paths, on- and off-leash dog areas, a community garden, hunting access, and there were various ideas within the village and at the Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School. Top answers for youth were a skateboard park and a new playground. The top answer for winter recreation was cross-country skiing trails.

Priorities are also summarized in a “word cloud” below.



<b>Top recreation priorities</b>
bike riding, walking
Swimming access
Wooded walks accessible from village
keep it simple, keep it clean, keep it free
ADA accessible places and activities
Child (and adult-size) new playground built for all
Suggestion: For all activities to be free for Shelburne residents. Fees normally charged could be underwritten by businesses/bank sponsorship. This guarantees access for all -- all ages -- all abilities -- all income levels -- all equitable.
1) Access to river for tubing, swimming, and fishing
2) Camping sites
I like the idea of having more swimming areas but am concerned about increasing littering and other human impacts on nature and its other inhabitants. If there would be some kind of moderation of this I would feel better -- perhaps an appointed person of a department?
Don't know
1) Hiking/walking
2) Biking
Community gardens and small parks in the village
1) Creation of a trail to connect the village to the Mahican-Mohawk Trail.
2) Expansion of hiking trails.
Take a walk on town streets
Park/natural space for picnicking and possibly also swimming.
More hiking trails, but with respect for maintaining natural diversity/integrity and abutting landowners' need for privacy. Views of streams and other special scenic elements would be wonderful! Consider working with The Trustees (of Reservations) for these.

Top recreation priorities
Keep the wild parts wild. Make the town more artsy & musical. Plant more trees, teach kids about soil science. Have more common areas and picnic tables so people share food & conversation, husbands can sit while wives shop ha ha, get old people outside with social activity to keep them happy and active, paint chess boards on picnic tables and backgammon.
Walking, shopping
Quiet places in woods and by streams
hiking and swimming
Something for teenagers, like a skate park. Keeping the swimming areas there are clean and not over populated because of advertising about them.
Access to the potholes!
Protected land for wildlife
Swimming & Pickleball
Hiking
Well, my personal priority is to find fragrance-free public places. That's what limits my access, and is a hidden health problem for the general public.
Given the new condos at the potholes I think it imperative we protect public access to the viewing deck
Activities at the cowell gym A hiking trail from town along the river
Preserve rivers and streams from any kind of human development/presence for wildlife preservation. High priority is to dim all the lights - streetlights should be effectively shielded with light directed downwards. Keep a focus on our young people - to bring them visibly into town for activities: a rink at BS Elem would be wonderful; the baseball diamond at Arms is perpetually empty—make it inviting; art/writing/achievements 'corridor' in town that showcases our youth's interests. Help the park at corner of Bridge and Deerfield become a hub for community gathering: shade and/or a pavilion of some kind esp for music and arts to help support our collective culture and economy.
Access to Deerfield River Bike paths
Create an improved hiking loop from Tower trail to ledges and back down to Arms Cemetery. Improve the Ancient Glacier pocket park.
Increased availability to use cowell indoor court especially during school vacation when kids would want to use it
tennis, hiking walking trails
Hiking and Ice Climbing
dedicated outdoor pickleball courts
I really miss access to the potholes. Yep. I've been here that long. I don't see its use as for swimming, but for enjoying the sun, relaxing, exploring. With all of these questions, that is my fondest wish. I am not a dog owner, but many people are. Perhaps a dog park? Someplace where owners could their dogs run off leash. It's not a top priority in my mind, but I just thought of it.
Ice Skating in Winter (with Cocoa ;) ) Swimming in Summer
Community gardens



Top recreation priorities
Better signage for visitors to the downtown. Send them to the labyrinth, have historical brochure & signage on sites where Mary Lyon lived; at Buckland end of BOF, have signage to the newly renovated mill; make the small overlook deck on buckland side of river nicer to look like a destination - Flowers, signage for "overlook" maybe historical marker explaining how the dam works, why the plywood gets washed away, who puts it back up?
Start a committee very early to market Moonlight madness with signage along Rt. 2 a month in advance, etc. Maybe tech school can build signs and artists can paint them in a really beautiful way? How about new painted murals downtown? Most are faded.
Able to walk in nature and enter the river from the village.
Playground for kids, cross country ski trails
Tennis
Fitness trail on Davenport riverside
baseball & soccer fields basketball courts for all ages
The river and forest
1) Trails for mountain biking.
2) Dog park
Swimming and hiking
Fishing access and hiking trails
River access
Off leash dog areas
Make it even more bike friendly and increase access to public swimming areas
Access to water, trails
Dog park and river access for swimming
Access to the river for swimming & other recreation.
Playground areas
Dog spaces both on and off leash
Hiking
Safe places to walk, trails for horseback riding, and cross-country ski trails
Hiking, swimming. I love the idea of a community garden!
access to river
Preserving habitats, pollinators, gardens, chess sounds super cute, no cutting trees, we don't need more grass!! We need wildflower fields and natural life
hiking, walking
Deerfield River access
Teaching new residents how to walk on a rural road with traffic
Hiking trails and Bridge of Flowers
swimming and fishing in Deerfield River
bike path from town center would be amazing
viewing the Pot Holes, walking Bridge St
pump track/bike park for kids, connect lucky dog trail to flag mtn/buckland state forest trails with signage, maps, etc. Update and expand playground equipment at BSE
Access to the river for swimming, and improved/expanded playground at BSE!
Expanding hiking trails and linking them
Walking. Preserve rural character. Keep out large corporations.

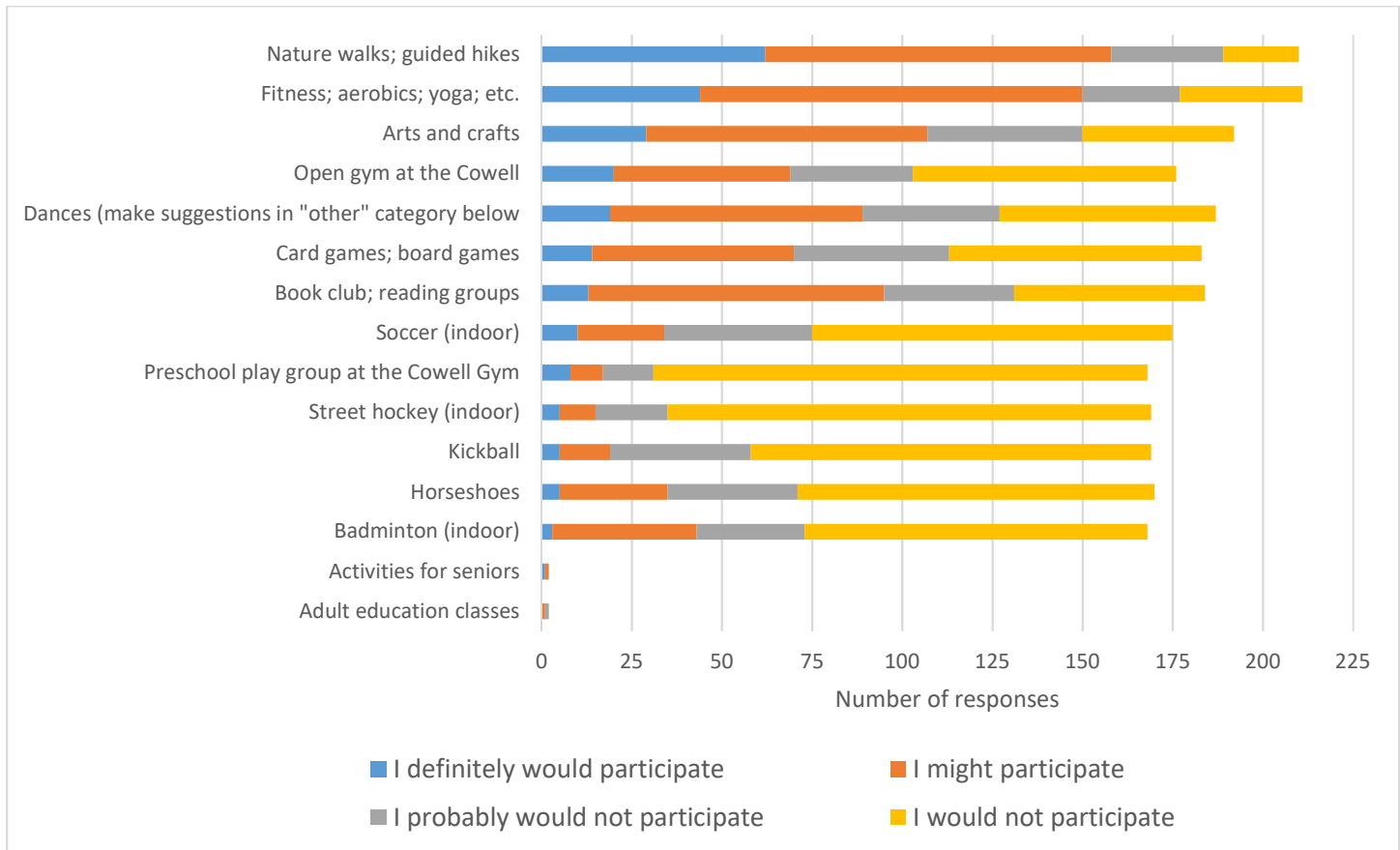
Top recreation priorities
Hiking
Snowshoeing/cross-country skiing (if we ever get snow)
Hiking trails accessible from town, preserving open spaces
Maintain green spaces & walkability in the village.
Access to river for boating/paddleboarding and pickle ball
1. Access to the Deerfield River for swimming. 2. Hiking or walking trails in/from village.
Places for our of towners to park when they come to walk or bike in our area.
Bike trails lanes/safety Expand Recreation activities offered
Dog friendly and swimming
river
Hiking trails outside the village
Connecting students at MTRS with community, improving school assets and facilities
1. increased opportunities w/in the village of various sorts 2. attention to sound in the valley - narrow valley walls cause every sound emitted to be amplified (ie echoed). Also, sound travels easily on water - Noise impacts relaxation and enjoyment of nature and natural sounds for many of us
Easy hiking walk.
access to swimming areas
Playground
Hunting and public access to hunting is number one priority, number two is river access/fishing access especially at the sunburn Beach area...the situation for public access/parking needs to be rectified and allow residents to park and use the area.
Integrating ecology/climate/biodiversity education (through village/nature walks, guided trails, classes in natural history) into conservation strategies. Bring tourists to SF to learn about nature!
Winter ice skating rink, maybe on Baptist church lot, play grounds, park
River access - hiking/walking variety
Hiking trails in the village
Parks where people can gather; hiking trails
Kid friendly
See above priorities.
Swimming, cross country skiing, hiking, but without drawing huge crowds or taking away from village.
I would love to see walking and bike paths that connect the Shelburne Center Road and Bardwells Ferry Road Neighborhood to the town center. It would be great to be able to access the town center without needing to drive in the warm months.
Non motorized enjoyment of nature, and whatever organized recreation this survey indicates is important to residents
Access to Deerfield River for swimming
Easy access birdwatching
Expand activities for kids. Definitely a public playground other than the school.
1. Hiking trails with/and River access accessible by foot from the village!

Top recreation priorities
1) A multi use and purpose built trail system (mt bike, hike, horse) that is destination worthy, compliments Thundermountain Bike park and can be leveraged for community and economic development similar to what's happened at Kingdom Trails in East Burke VT.
2) Bring back swimming at the pot holes. Keep river access easy, clean and open to diverse pursuits
large indoor space for indoor activities like yoga and tai chi and meditation workshops, also warm indoor space for walking in winter,
Hiking trail from town. Deerfield River access for swimming and paddling in town.
We need better swimming options locally. The pool at Buckland Rec will be nice, but a pond with a beach would be even better. Improving safety and protecting nature at Sunburn beach would be good, too.
Swimming at Wilcox Hollow
Hiking to fire tower
Accessible hiking/walking trails. Street music venues
Activities that go hand in hand with undisturbed open space: forest bathing, nature observation, hiking, boating/swimming , and more recreation geared toward seniors.
Dark Sky (and please shut off that obnoxious Christmas light the Masons and Fire District have turned on again in the fire tower.)
Quite place
Cycling, birding, insect/moth/butterfly observation, night sky viewing, hiking
Hiking, forest bathing
Bathhouse/hydrotherapy center. Like a gym with a monthly membership.
What about creating and maintaining a park (adjacent to BSE or on Trinity Church property - Main and Water Street) - for use by residents of all ages- to gather and chill. This would require maintenance, as would some other initiatives
walking/hiking - bike trails
Bicycle lanes and racks
Access to Deerfield River for swimming.
Bike touring center
Create a skating rink at Buckland Shelburne Elementary School that could double as a skateboard rink in summer.
Permanent access to sunburn beach, improve playground at BSE
water-edge hiking trails, lighted tennis courts
Access to the river and walking trails along the river
Off leash dog park
River access and trails
Bocce
Wide (preferably paved for ADA access) walking paths in nature away from road noise
Swimming in the river
Hiking outside the village (and parking for access to it)
Swimming. Public space, like a plaza, for people to gather informally.
Hiking biking
Expand hiking trails.
Eliminate illegal fireworks and other unnecessary noise pollution.
More access to swimming areas and more public tennis/pickleball courts

Top recreation priorities
Hiking Kayaking
Hunting/fishing
Cross country skiing, hiking, no car zones and periodic street blocking to encourage pedestrian traffic.
Swimming access. Safe places for children to learn to swim and to swim.
Hiking, nature related activities, such as birding or paddling
Trails tied to town. Trails tied to each other.
walking
Games with balls. Items to climb. Bacci lanes , shuffleboard maybe?
To create a town playground and splash pad
Expanding public access trails.
Open space for enjoying nature via hiking, trail running, swimming, biking
More club based activities like bowling, pickleball, and bocce at times working folks could partake
Playgrounds and walking trails
Water access
Walking trails Create better boating and swimming access for Deerfield River without overcrowding
Walking with or w/o dog
Better access to river for swimming. Hiking areas.
Walking and hiking trails
walking trails, tennis/pickleball backboard
Shelburne should be a livable community with plenty of outdoor and indoor recreation opportunities for all ages.
More hiking trails and places to view Deerfield river
River access. Hiking trails.

**Question 13: The Town of Shelburne currently offers recreational activities such as baseball, basketball, ice skating, senior walk (indoors), softball, tennis, pickleball, and volleyball. Would you or a family member participate in any of the following recreation activities currently not offered by Shelburne?**

Answered: 228 / Skipped: 24



**Free answers to “other” category:**

- Dancing for all ages -- popular and good 60's, variety of contra, square, etc.
- Bocce courss and balls, outdoor volleyball and badminton nets
- Any dance
- Square dancing. My participation in the above would depend on my current responsibilities and activities.
- Community garden plot to augment small home garden. Tai chi outdoors.
- Ping pong. Pothole pictures: would love to turn the theater into a REAL theater with movies every night! I would fix all the seats. I have thousands of pieces of fabric and I need work. I can sew and upholster seats and cushions. I LOVE movies and envision a way to bring more people to SF at night.
- Dances: salsa/bachata, contra, and even square dancing
- climbing wall
- Start with Memorial Hall preservation and go from there.
- Contradance or English Country Dance
- Ping Pong
- live music
- English country dancing
- contra/square dances
- Swing or Square dances maybe line dancing

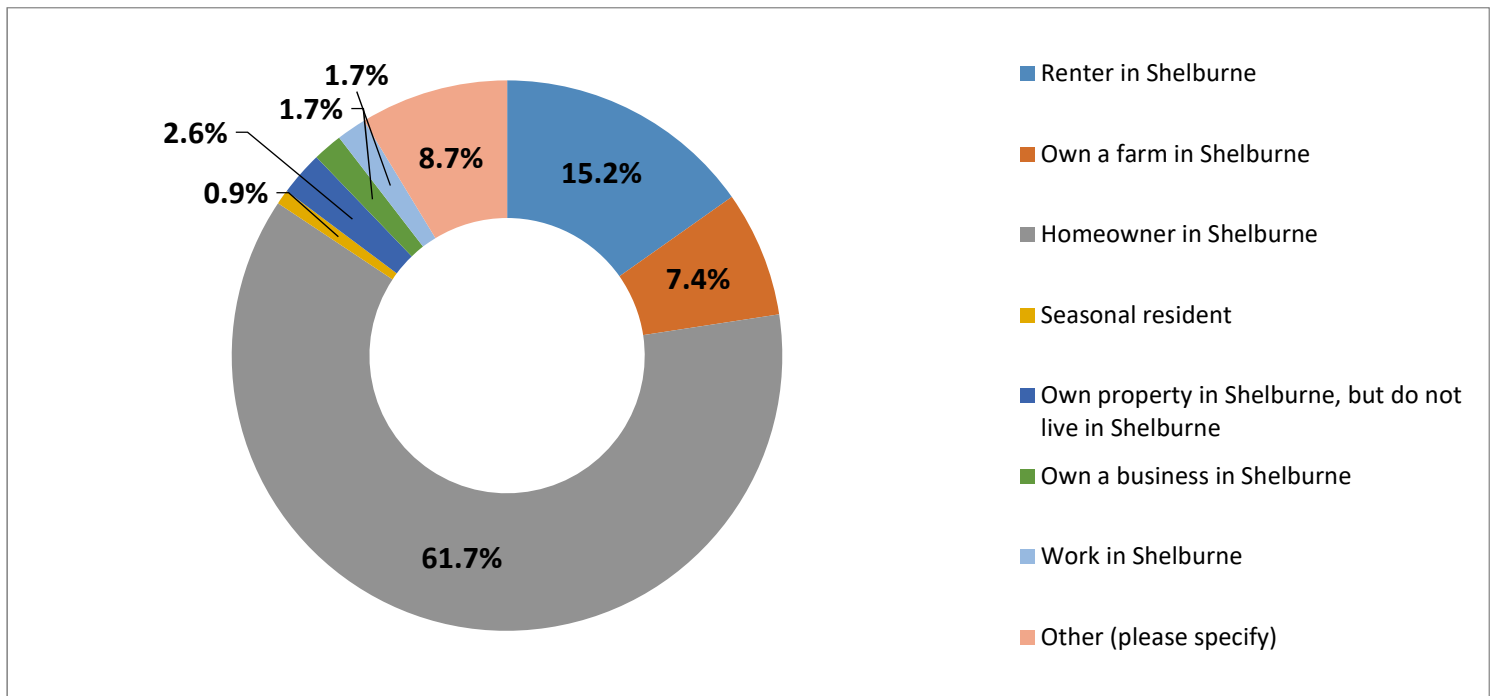


- Educational nature walks: geology, Indigenous history/relation to the area, birds, habitat, plants, etc.
- Town dances would be great!
- Contra/ square dance down bridge stree. At Moonlight manic? Harvest supper?
- i probably wouldn't take part myself - but would like to see these offerings in town
- Some sort of community hunting/fishing events (flyfishing classes, hunters safety courses, community organized group hunts, etc)
- Square dancing
- What is indoor street hockey? When I was a kid, we played street hockey in the places cars drive.
- I may be interested in organizing or attending a contra dance
- Swing Dancing would be cool
- square dance.
- Ultimate frisbee
- Chamber music venue
- Bocce
- dance: square, contra, salsa
- in-town boating
- square dancing
- Shuffleboard?
- Contradances
- Organized walks around the village.
- Regular walks, x-country skiing, snowshoeing, or hikes

## ABOUT YOU QUESTIONS

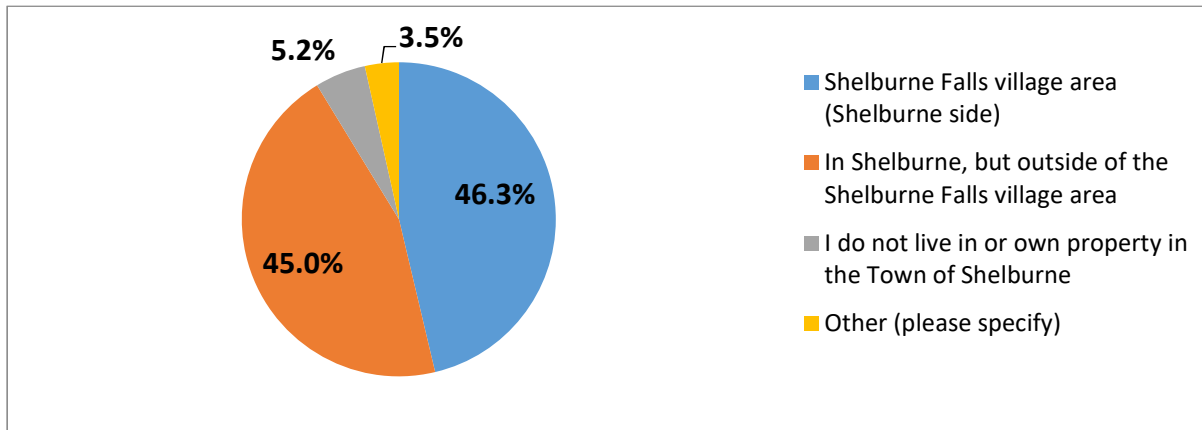
### Question 14: Select the option that best describes you.

Answered: 230 / Skipped: 22



### Question 15: In what part of the town of Shelburne do you live or own property? (Select one)

Answered: 229 / Skipped: 23



### Question 16: What is your street address? (to make sure we get responses from all over town)

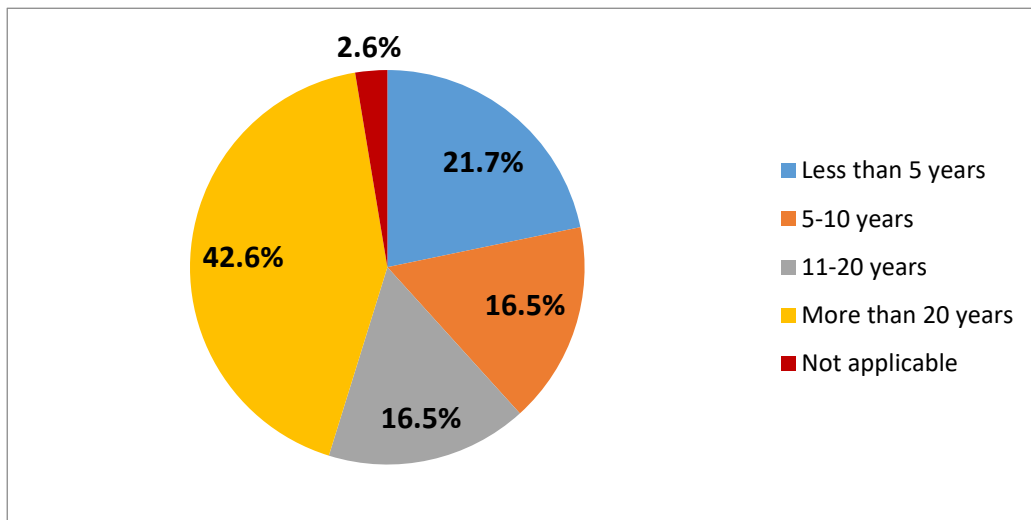
Answered: 190 / Skipped: 62

The number before the street name shows the number of responses on each road, not the street address. Streets that are outside of Shelburne are not listed below.

1 - Baker Ave.	1 - Halligan Ave.	6 - Patten Rd.
6 - Bardwells Ferry Rd.	4 - High St.	1 - Peckville Rd.
4 - Barnard Rd.	1 - Highland Ave.	4 - Reynolds Rd.
2 - Bassett Rd.	4 - Highland Village	1 - Severance St.
9 - Bridge St.	4 - Little Mohawk Rd.	5 - Shelburne Center Rd.
3 - Church St.	3 - Lucy Fisk Rd.	3 - Skinner Rd.
6 - Colrain Shelburne Rd.	23 - Main St.	7 - South Maple St.
1 - Dragon Hill Rd.	7 - Maple St.	2 - South Shelburne Rd.
1 - Dwight Circle	2 - Masonic St.	4 - Taylor Rd.
1 - East Shelburne	15 - Mechanic St.	1 - Tower Rd.
2 - Fisk Mill Rd.	1 - Memorial Drive	4 - Warren Court
2 - Frank Williams Rd.	5 - Mohawk Trail	3 - Water St.
1 - Gardner Ave.	1 - North South Rd.	3 - Wilson Graves Rd.
1 - Gould Rd.	2 - Old Albany Rd.	2 - Zerah Fiske Rd.
4 - Grove St.	6 - Old Greenfield Rd.	

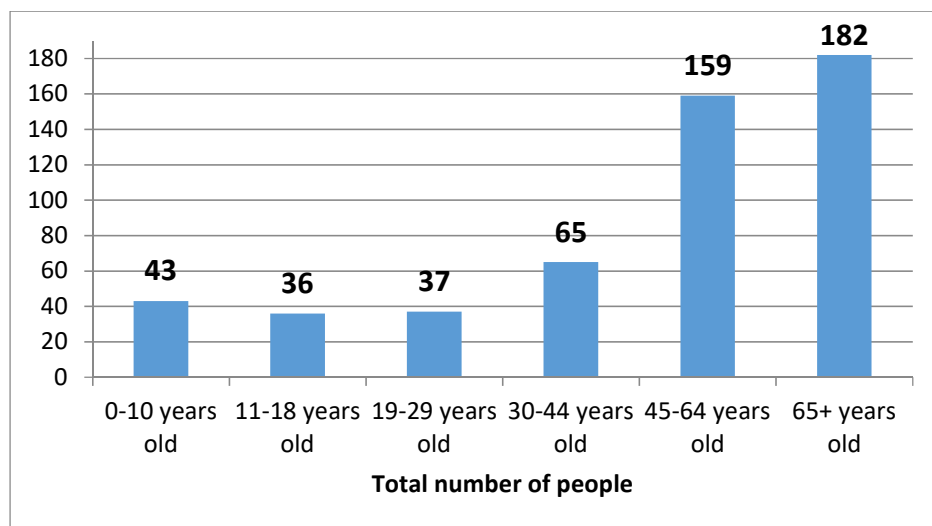
### Question 17: How many years have you lived or owned property in Shelburne? (Select one)

Answered: 230 / Skipped: 22



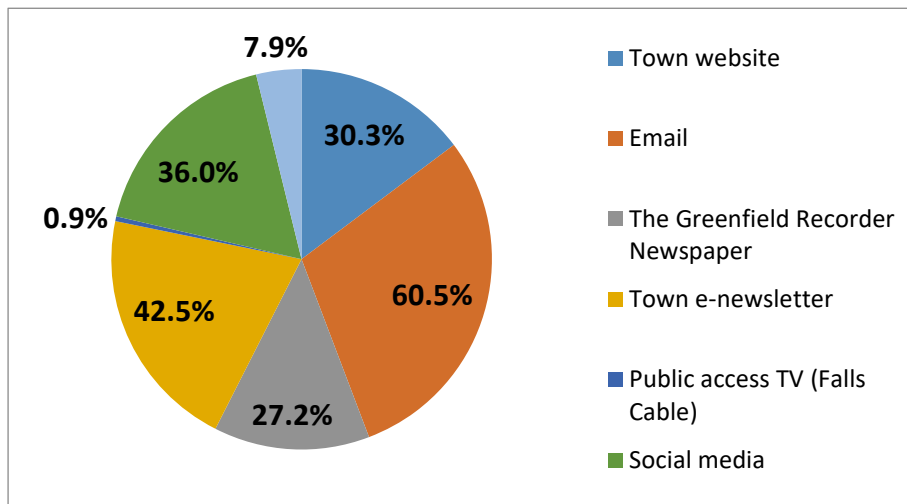
**Question 18: Please use the blanks to write the number of people in each of the following age groups in your household.**

Answered: 223 / Skipped: 29



**Question 19: What are the best ways for you to receive information about open space and recreation issues?**

Answered: 228 / Skipped: 24



Responses to “other” category:

- Library publicity -- posters, flyers, email
- Word of mouth from neighbors
- Snail mail
- Library handout or Sr. Ctr Handout
- Town meeting
- Text threads
- andrew's newsletter
- letter
- Robo calls from the town
- Posting in town - at town hall or library
- Text
- Town call system
- Snail mail always good
- USPS
- If I'm notified of a posting or meeting on the auto phone system I'll check it out
- The real mail . Guess not.
- Mail
- Facebook Page: Shelburne Falls in a Nutshell

**Question 20: If you would like to be notified of Shelburne Recreation programming, please include your email address here:**

108 responses with email addresses – withheld here for privacy reasons, but forwarded to the Shelburne Recreation Committee for e-notifications on recreation programming.



*Youth Programming at Cowell Gymnasium (Diana Hardina)*

## Appendix C: ADA Self Evaluation Report



## **TOWN OF SHELBURNE**

### **ADA INVENTORY**

#### **SELF-EVALUATION OF TOWN RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PARKS**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

The Town of Shelburne has undertaken a Self Evaluation of its recreational programs, practices, and recreation facilities in order to assess their compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. The objective of the Self Evaluation is to identify and bring into reasonable compliance programs and practices that do not currently meet the requirements of the Act. The three major elements outlined below have been assessed for this evaluation. By evaluating these three elements, Shelburne will work to comply with ADA Self Evaluation regulations.

- 1) Site Accessibility: if the site has amenities that are open to public access, is the site accessible to persons with disabilities?
- 2) Program and Service Accessibility: are the programs and services offered available to all persons, regardless of their disability?
- 3) Employment Practices: Are employment decisions made without discrimination on the basis of disability? Are reasonable accommodations made for employees who may require them? Are employment notices in formats accessible to people with sight or hearing disabilities?

##### **ADA COORDINATOR**

The ADA requires public entities with 50 or more employees to designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title II and investigate any complaints of ADA-related discrimination. The Selectboard has designated Town Coordinator, Terry Narkewicz, to act in this capacity.

##### **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

A public entity is required to inform applicants, participants, beneficiaries and other interested parties of their rights and protections afforded by the ADA. A copy of the Public Notice of the Town of Shelburne's Policy of Non Discrimination on the Basis of Disability is placed at the back of this document.

##### **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Also required by ADA regulations is a formal grievance procedure by which complaints of ADA violations may be resolved. The Town of Shellburne's ADA Grievance Procedure is placed at the back of this document.

## **EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

The Town of Shelburne's employment practices are in compliance with the ADA regulations, especially regarding: recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training, tests, medical exams/questionnaires, social and recreational programs, fringe benefits, collective bargaining agreements, and wage and salary administration. A signed statement from the Town's ADA Coordinator attesting to this can be found at the back of this document.

## **SITE ACCESSIBILITY**

The following inventory describes the parks, playgrounds, and public open spaces in the Town of Shelburne that are under the jurisdiction of the Town and have amenities open to public recreational use. The inventory includes a description of the facilities, accessibility needs, and recommendations for modifications, which would help to provide people with disabilities equal access to these resources. The specific recommendations for each site are summarized in a table, the ADA Transition Plan, at the end of this document. The standards by which the park facilities are judged are from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services and are based on state and federal guidelines. There are additional town-owned open spaces in Shelburne that have not been evaluated for ADA compliance because they do not contain any public amenities, such as parking or trails.

## **Baseball Field off of Little Mohawk Road**

The Town of Shelburne owns a baseball field, located off of Little Mohawk Road on Anderson Farm Road across from 123 Little Mohawk Road. The baseball field is not maintained. This baseball field has a backstop and two benches. The two benches are missing back rests. There are no handicapped accessible parking spaces designated. There is no paved or other hard surfaced path connecting the parking areas with the baseball field for player for spectators. There are no defined areas for spectators to sit.



***Baseball Field off of Little Mohawk Road***



***Parking area***



***Entrance to baseball field***



***Benches at Baseball Field***



## **Bridge Street Ravine**

In the Village of Shelburne Falls, the Town is in the process of evaluating and developing trails on two connecting parcels located off of South Maple Street, Masonic Ave, and Bridge Street. This is around 10 acres in land between the two parcels.

Though the trail is not constructed yet and has very limited public access at this point, the land contains steep slopes with unstable footing and rough conditions. Also, there are no designated parking spaces or accessible parking spaces.



*Ravine (on left) Bridge Street (on right)*



*Looking over the ravine*



*Looking at steep grade of ravine*



*Sidewalk on Bridge Street  
connecting the two parcels*



*Road frontage of Ravine parcel on Bridge at  
Masonic Ave on Bridge Street*





*Trail location and entrance next to 25 Masonic Ave*

### **Deerfield Avenue Garden**

This parcel is less than 0.5 acre on Deerfield Avenue next to the Deerfield No. 3 Dam and Pothole Viewing Area. This parcel is now a pollinator garden for native wildlife and it is encompassed by a sidewalk and parking lot. The sidewalk is in good condition with a curb ramp and tactile pads.



*View of entire parcel*



*Curb ramp and sidewalk around parcel*



### **Baptist Lot at Main Street and Water Street**

This parcel is over 0.5 acres in size on the corners of Main Street and Water Street and is owned by the Town of Shelburne, but it part of a larger lot owned by the Trinity Church (church located at 17 Severance Street). This is a flat plot of land and has no structures. Together, this land is the site of a weekly farmer's market from May to October. There is a curb ramp with tactile pad present at the crosswalk which needs cleaning. There is no clear designated parking site or handicapped parking signs. The sidewalk is not level with upheaving occurring that can be a tripping hazard.



*View of Baptist parcel*



*Curb ramp and sidewalk*



*Sidewalk and memorial with benches*



*Parking area on parcel*

## **Arms Academy Lot**

This 0.5 acre lot on 33 Severance Street contains a parking lot for the town Historical Society and a baseball and softball field. There are no accessible paths from the parking lot to the baseball field. The benches at the baseball field need back rests.



***Baseball Field from parking lot***



***Benches at Baseball Field***



***Baseball Field backstop***



### **Fields behind Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School**

There is a lot north of the Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School almost 2 acres in size and owned by the Town. This field is bordered by residential homes, Route 2, and the Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School. The Elementary School property is owned by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District; the town lot is utilized by the staff and students. Part of the property is an open, flat, grass field which contains the back portion of a soccer field with nets. The remainder of the property is wooded and also contains a stream that drains Davenport Pond (located on the other side of Route 2) and flows to the Deerfield River. It can be accessed from the school parking lot and through the fields. There is no accessible path connecting the parking lot to this section of the fields.



*Field view from parking lot*

## **Cowell Gym**

The Cowell Gym at 51 Bridge Street in the village of Shelburne Falls is a 1.5 acre lot which contains the Cowell gym itself, a parking lot, and multi-use court with basketball, tennis and pickleball paint markings. The courts have a hard surface with a clearly defined entrance from the parking lot at one of the entrance gates. The surface of the courts are in good condition. There are 20 marked parking spots with 2 being labeled as accessible parking. This meets the parking to accessible spaces ratio. There are multiple picnic tables outside of this building that are not considered accessible. There are clearly defined signage at all entrance doors denoting whether an entrance is accessible or not. There is a bike rack located on the pavement of the parking lot which appears to be stable and connected to a path. Entering the building through the southern end, where the accessible parking spaces are located, there is an Accessible Door Activation Switch outside that does not work properly. When entering the building there is a greater than a ¼ inch gap in the concrete to get into the building and the mat inside the building at this entrance needs a beveled edge. Inside the building, the elevator is labeled properly and functioning and meets the size requirements. The only door entrance that showed measurements below the minimum 32 inches was to the Office on the first floor. This entrance was measured to be 30 inches wide. The rooms inside the building are all labeled with tactile words and braille, and the knobs to the rooms were all lever handles. The bathrooms were in good condition, but could use hinge adjusters on the accessible stalls to make them shut completely without having to lock them. There is a railing on the stairs from the northern entrance of the building, by the large parking lot that is not long enough not does it have the loop return shape.



*Accessible Parking sign*



*Accessible parking spots*

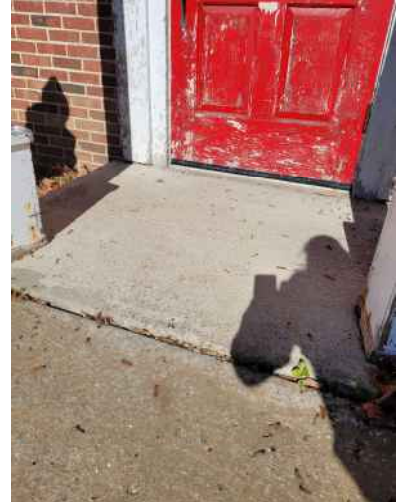




*Handicap push button*



*Hanicap push button activated door*



*Curb leading to handicap door*



*Mat at handicapped entrance*



*Handrail at northern entrance staircase*



*The Office doorway*



*Woman's accessible bathroom stall door*



*Men's accessible bathroom stall*



*Bike rack on pavement  
Path to northern entrance*





*Entrance gate to courts*



*Entrance surface to courts*



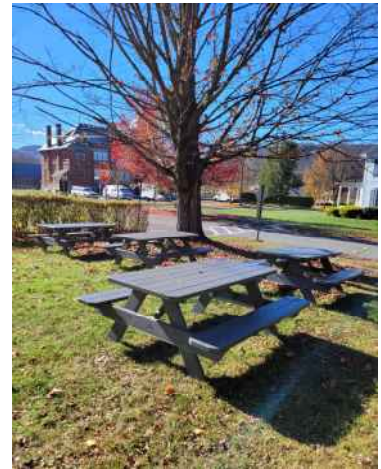
*Basketball Courts*



*Pickelball/Tennis Courts*



*Path to northern entrance  
from street and southern  
entrance*



*Picnic benches in front of gym*



*Picnic benches in front of gym*

## **Fire Tower**

The Town of Shelburne's Fire Tower, otherwise known as the Mt. Massaemett Fire Tower, is located on a 0.21 acre parcel off of Tower Road. The fire tower parcel is surrounded by land owned by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and is called Shelburne State Forest. There is an access road to the tower from Tower Road that is used only for fire observation personnel. There is a clearly defined entrance to the Fire Tower. This entrance does not meet ADA accessible width nor is there accessibility accommodations to climb the tower. There are no town-owned parking areas for the access trails that lead to the tower, but there are two parking areas available to the public. One parking area is on Massachusetts Audubon Society's High Ledges property, while the other is on-street parking on Halligan Avenue. The parking lot at the Massachusetts Audubon Society site is unpaved with no designated accessible parking spots or signage. The three hiking trails to get to the Fire Tower property are all steep with uneven footing and over 1 mile in length. On the property, there are two picnic benches that are not considered accessible.



*Picnic bench at fire tower*



*Entrance to inside of fire tower*



*Staircase inside fire tower*

## **PROGRAM AND SERVICE ACCESSIBILITY**

The Cowell Gym provides various programming for all ages. These programs are run year round and consist of:

- Basketball year round in the Cowell Gymnasium
- Pickleball year round in the Cowell Gymnasium and at the Cowell Outdoor Courts
- Volleyball year round in the Cowell Gymnasium, Basketball, Tennis and Pickleball at the Cowell Gym's outdoor Community Courts
- Basketball, Tennis and Pickleball at the Cowell Gym's outdoor Community Courts  
Spring/Summer/Fall: April- October
- Youth Basketball program Dec-March
- Senior Walking Group “Heart and Soles” January-March in the Cowell Gymnasium

Because the Cowell Gym is an accessible location, these services are also accessible.

## ADA Transition Plan - Town of Shelburne

### Shelburne ADA Transition Plan for the Shelburne Open Space & Recreation Plan

#### *Baseball Field off of Little Mohawk Road*

Physical Obstacles	Type of Action to be Taken	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party
There is no ADA parking designated.	Designate at least 1 ADA parking space as accessible closest to the baseball field.	Long term	Selectboard
There are no paths from the parking lot to the baseball field.	Create a smooth, stable path that is 36" wide from parking area to each of the amenities.	Long term	Selectboard
Benches are missing backrests.	Add backrests to benches.	Long term	Selectboard
There are no defined areas for spectators to sit.	Create accessible rest areas for spectators and a clearly defined, firm surface walking path from the parking lot to the rest areas.	Long term	Selectboard

#### *Bridge Street Ravine*

Physical Obstacles	Type of Action to be Taken	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party
There is no parking designated for this site.	Designate at least 1 ADA space near or on Masonic Ave or Bridge Street.	Medium term	Selectboard
The ravine parcel has very steep and unstable footing.	Create a smooth, stable path that is 36" wide from parking area to the path.	Medium term	Selectboard

#### *Deerfield Avenue Garden*

Physical Obstacles	Type of Action to be Taken	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party
This is accessible - no recommendations necessary.		N/A	N/A

#### *Baptist Lot at Main Street and Water Street*

Physical Obstacles	Type of Action to be Taken	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party
There are no features on this site that are recreational.	No action necessary.	N/A	N/A

#### *Arms Academy Lot*

Physical Obstacles	Type of Action to be Taken	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party
There are no paths from the parking lot to the baseball field.	Create a smooth, stable path that is 36" wide from parking area to each of the amenities.	Medium term	Selectboard
Benches are missing backrests.	Add backrests to benches.	Long Term	Selectboard

#### *Fields behind Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School*

Physical Obstacles	Type of Action to be Taken	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party
There is no accessible path from the parking lot to the field.	Create a smooth, stable path on the town-owned parcel to allow mobility devices to navigate to the spectator areas.	Long term	Selectboard
There are no defined areas for spectators to sit.	Create accessible rest areas for spectators.	Long term	Selectboard

#### *Cowell Gym*

Physical Obstacles	Type of Action to be Taken	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party
The picnic benches outside are not accessible.	Replace or modify benches so that there is space for a wheelchair to pull under.	Medium term	Recreation Committee
There are no paths from the parking lot to the picnic benches.	Create a smooth, stable path that is 36" wide from parking area to each of the amenities.	Long term	Recreation Committee
Accessible Door Activation Switch outside does not function properly.	Evaluate problem and fix switch to function properly.	Short term	Recreation Committee
When entering the building there is a greater than a 1/4 inch vertical gap in the concrete path to the building.	Add concrete to fill this gap so that the sidewalk is smooth.	Short term	Recreation Committee
Mat inside door at accessible entrance is more than 1/4 inch in height.	Add beveled edge to side of mat that it is missing or replace entire mat.	Short term	Recreation Committee

## ADA Transition Plan - Town of Shelburne

The door entry way to the Office room is < 32 inches.	Widen door entry way to 32 inches or greater.	Long term	Recreation Committee
Womens and Mens ADA stalls in bathrooms do not self-close all the way.	Adjust hinges for door sto be able to self-close entirely without force.	Short term	Recreation Committee
Handrail is not ADA compliant in length and shape leading up southern entrance staircase.	Extend handrail 12 inches beyond the last step and create loop return.	Medium term	Recreation Committee

### *Fire Tower*

Physical Obstacles	Type of Action to be Taken	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Party
There is no ADA parking designated.			
Surface of trail to the Fire Tower is rugged and steep. And Fire Tower itself is a many flights of stairs.	No action. The Town of Shelburne does not own the land with the parking or the trail leading to the Fire Tower.	N/A	N/A



## **APPENDIX A-1: ADA COORDINATOR**

TERRY NARKEWICZ  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
TOWN OF SHELBURNE  
51 BRIDGE STREET  
SHELBURNE, MA 01370  
(413) 625-0300  
TOWNADMIN@TOWNOFSHELURNEMA.GOV

## APPENDIX A-2: PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

**TOWN OF SHELBURNE  
51 BRIDGE STREET  
SHELBURNE, MA 01370  
[www.townofshelburne.com](http://www.townofshelburne.com)**

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**This notice is provided as required by the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).**

The Town of Shelburne does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to or operations of its programs, services, or activities. The Town of Shelburne does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to the following ADA Coordinator.

Name: Terry Narkewicz  
Title: Town Administrator  
Address: Town of Shelburne  
51 Bridge Street  
Shelburne, MA 01370  
Phone: (413) 625-0300  
Email: [Townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:Townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov)  
Days/Hours  
Available: Monday – Thursday 7:00 am – 3:30 pm

Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication with respect to programs and services of the Town of Shelburne are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Coordinator.

## APPENDIX A-3: GREVIANCE PROCEDURE

**TOWN OF SHELBURNE**  
**51 BRIDGE STREET**  
**SHELBURNE, MA 01370**  
[www.townofshelburne.com](http://www.townofshelburne.com)

### SECTION 504 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

This Grievance Procedure has been established to meet the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in employment practices and policies, or in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Shelburne.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date and description of the problem. Complaint forms are available in the Selectboard Office, located on the main floor of the Shelburne Town Hall. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews, or a tape recording of the complaint, will be available for persons with disabilities upon request.

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

ADA Coordinator: Terry Narkewicz, Town Administrator  
Town of Shelburne  
51 Bridge Street  
Shelburne, MA 01370  
Phone: (413) 625-0300  
[Townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:Townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov)

Within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the above named ADA Coordinator, or her designee should she be unavailable, will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after the meeting, the ADA Coordinator or designee will respond in writing and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant. The response will explain the position of the Town of Shelburne and, where possible, will offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the ADA Coordinator or designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and his/her designee may submit a written request for a hearing with the Selectboard within fifteen (15) calendar days of the transmittal of the written response of the ADA Coordinator.

The hearing shall be held no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the receipt of the request. The ADA Coordinator shall be advised of the hearing. The Selectboard shall issue a written decision to the complainant and other parties as appropriate no later than fifteen (15) days after the hearing. If the vote of the Selectboard is not unanimous, a minority report may be included in the decision.

The Chair of the Selectboard will inform the complainant that he/she has the right to pursue the complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination of the courts at any time and shall provide the address and phone numbers of such agencies. All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, appeals to the Selectboard and responses, will be kept by the Town of Shelburne for a period of at least three (3) years.

## APPENDIX A-4: EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

Town of Shelburne  
Office of the Selectboard  
51 Bridge Street  
Shelburne, MA 01370  
(413) 625-0300 ext. 1  
[Townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:Townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov)

November 1, 2023

**SUBJECT: ADA Compliance Statement for Open Space and Recreation Plan**

To the best of my knowledge, employment practices for the Town of Shelburne are in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Employment practices relating to recruitment, personnel matters, leave administration, trianing, testing, medical exams, programs, fringe benefits, and wage & salary administration are covered under one or more of the following administrative methods:

- Town of Shelburne Selectboard
- Personnel Policies
- Contracts and/or Memorandums of Understanding
- Employee Assistance Program

Respectfully,

Terry Narkewicz  
Town Administrator  
ADA Coordinator