

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Plan

2020

DRAFT



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Table of Contents

Section Header

Acknowledgements	3
Section 1: Plan Summary	3
Section 2: Introduction	3
Section 3: Community Setting.....	4
Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis.....	16
Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest	28
Section 6: Community Vision	37
Section 7: Analysis of Needs.....	37
Section 8: Goals and Objectives	41
Section 9: Five Year Action Plan.....	44
Section 10: Public Comments.....	44
Section 11: References	44

Acknowledgements

Section 1: Plan Summary

Section 2: Introduction

2A. Statement of Purpose

Dalton's vision for the protection of open space and accessible outdoor recreation includes protecting its treasured natural resources and parks and maintaining the scenic beauty of the town. This Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), the Town's first, notes existing resources and describes key trends and issues regarding open space and outdoor recreation. It also establishes the town's work plan for goals, objectives, and actions to achieve its vision. This document is a critical step in helping the Town to prioritize open space preservation as it advances economic development plans. Dalton can use this document to guide growth in a manner consistent with open space preservation tenets while addressing the necessity of increasing the tax base.

2B. Planning Process and Public Participation

In March 2020, the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee met for the initial planning meeting with a goal of creating and submitting to the Division of Conservation Services the Town of Dalton's first OSRP. Soon after the meeting the public survey was created, using the online service Survey Monkey. The committee went over the questions used from a previous and unfinalized draft OSRP plan of 2006 and tailored them to be more prevalent to the current time. The survey was then posted on the town website, shared on social media, put in various newsletters, posted on community TV, and posted in the newspaper. The survey was live for three months to collect data and gathered 182 responses of which 174 identified as a Dalton resident. The committee also put out another survey about potential use of a particular parcel of land owned by the Town. At Annual Town Meeting in May 2018, Dalton residents authorized the Dalton Selectboard to take custody of 9.5 acres of land for the purpose of recreation. The Open Place

Committee used the creation of this OSRP as an opportunity to seek further resident input on the type of outdoor recreation that should be pursued for this parcel.

The Open Space Committee has been working within the constraints of the Covid-19 Pandemic to solicit community input on this matter. To achieve this, we have been posting information on the Open Space Plan on the Town of Dalton Website, The Dalton Community Recreation Association Website, The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) Website and through the Dalton Community Cable Television. We have also been posting information on the Dalton Emergency Management Facebook page and four other community-based Facebook pages. We also have been communicating with the public through email blasts to different groups in the Community, by discussing the Plan and our goals at Select Board meetings and requesting that the Select Board make announcements about the Plan and different surveys that are available for the public to provide input on.

Table #: Open Space and Recreation Committee Members

Committee Member	Interest/affiliation
Dan Filiault, Chairman	Emergency Management
John Roughley, Co-chairman	Highway Superintendent
Rebecca Slick	Town Planner
Cheryl Rose	Green Dalton Committee and Conservation Commission
Dom Sacco	Conservation Commission
Gregory Barry	Dalton Resident
Steve Sears	Dalton Resident
Eric Payson	Community Recreation Association

This OSRP builds upon several planning initiatives and documents that have been developed by the Town of Dalton. The draft, unfinalized OSRP of 2006 and the Master Plan of 2016 are sources of information and inspiration, as both documents involved extensive public participation processes. The plan found updated data through the American Community Survey, the United States Census, and from various Dalton departments and commissions.

Section 3:

Community Setting

3A. Regional Context

Dalton is a close-knit community of about 6,600 residents, encompassing approximately 21.8 square miles in central Berkshire County, just east of Pittsfield. Dalton is bordered by Cheshire on the north and northwest, Windsor and Hinsdale on the east, Washington on the south, and Pittsfield and Lanesborough on the west.

Dalton has an attractive, concentrated center roughly in the middle of the town. Dalton is nearly bisected by Routes 9 and 8. Both state roads are main collectors for travelers and commuters from the north, south and east.

Outside of the center of town, development in much of Dalton is constrained by steep slopes, bedrock close to the surface, and wetlands. Of the land that has not yet been developed, roughly half is either completely or partially constrained for building; with a large percent dedicated to open space.

Dalton lies on the border of both the Housatonic and Hudson River Watersheds. However, most of the town is encompassed by the Housatonic.

3B. History of the Community

In 1743, Massachusetts granted to Colonel Oliver Partridge and his associates, a parcel of land from a section called, the "Lower Ashuelot." This parcel, called the "Ashuelot Equivalent," formed the original settlement. The town was later named Dalton (1784) in honor of Tristram Dalton, the speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and a well-respected politician in the founding years of the nation.

Characterized by a rough landscape with some good farmland in its interior, and a swift moving river, the Town of Dalton soon became a rural industrial community with many neighborhoods housing mill owners and their employees. Harnessing the power from the east branch of the Housatonic River, Dalton enjoyed the prosperity of many of the local mills. The river and the construction of a rail line between Boston and Albany provided the necessary elements to make Dalton into a prosperous mill town. By 1829, the town was comprised of three paper mills, a gristmill, and five sawmills: all within a mile of the town meeting house. Farmland was limited in comparison to the towns lower on the Housatonic River, but some still remain, such as Holiday Brook Farm on upper North Street/Route 9 which provides organic produce, grain raised meat, maple syrup and related products as well as mulch, hay and other organic materials.

Dalton's largest industry, papermaking, was started by Zenas Crane in 1801, along the banks of the Housatonic River. In 1844, Crane's company developed its distinctive bank note paper, which was quickly accepted by banks from Great Barrington to Boston, for printing of bonds and bank note papers.

In 1846 the Fitch-Hoose house was built (now a museum and in 2010 was inducted into the State and National Registry of Historic Places). The house was bought by Charles Hoose in 1858 to provide a haven for the family, the house was in the Hoose family for three generations. The Underground Railroad had three routes that went through Berkshire county, one of which that went through Dalton. The Fitch-Hoose house is located on Gulf road which is said to be a part of the Underground Railroad as is the house itself. This area housed a small community of African Americans that had fled from slavery and felt the area was safe from pursuit, also known as "Wizard's Glen". Now the Fitch-Hoose House and Gulf Road are a part of the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail.

Gulf road itself is one of the oldest roads in Dalton, dating all the way back to 1794 as a road for travel from Westfield to Vermont. On Gulf Road is "Wizard's Glen" where there is a formation of

various rocks making a type of gorge. This area is where the legend of Wizard's Glen takes place. The legend has various tellings but they all center around the same theme; a man was hunting and found a place for a night with the deer he got, a bad storm started and woke up the hunter at which time he saw devilish creatures dancing about and their leader sitting at an altar, the creatures fled once the man brought out a bible and proclaimed his creator. Now the area is popular with hikers and hosts the painting of the Indian Head by George Hoose, painted in 1926. Gulf road itself is now a designated scenic roadway.

3C. Population Characteristics

Dalton is a town in the Berkshires with a relatively large year-round population – 6,569 residents, as stated by the 2018 US Census Population Estimates Program, making it the 6th most populated town in the Berkshires. However, Dalton has experienced a population decrease over the past two decades. Census data indicates that the town population decreased from 7,099 to 6569 residents between 1990 and 2018. Additionally, Dalton's population is projected to decrease in the future. Population decreases can be directly connected to the decrease in manufacturing jobs in the region, the county's largest employer in the mid to late 20th Century, General Electric closed their local facilities and moved to other states eliminating many jobs. There has been no corresponding increase in jobs in other areas.

Age

Dalton faces an increasingly older population. Between the 2000 census and 2018 American Community Survey, the number of Dalton residents below the age of 45 decreased, while the residents age 45 and older increased (See **Table #**). The aging population could have effects on the town's services, as well as on its housing and recreation needs. Options for seniors to enjoy natural spaces in Dalton is limited because most public lands in Dalton are located on steeply sloped land. The Town's parks generally offer level terrain for seniors and others who may be mobile challenged, as do the playing fields at the schools. The eastern portion of the Mill Trail is accessible, but that portion of the trail is in Hinsdale.

At the other end of the spectrum, the decline in younger residents could influence school enrollment and funding, as well as future volunteers and town employees such as police and firefighters. **Enrollment of Dalton residents in the Central Berkshire Regional School District has decreased by 18.2% since 2000 (see Table #).**

Age Group	2000	2010	2018
Age 19 and under	1939	1663	1171
Age 20 to 39	1491	1283	1355
Age 40 to 59	2034	2131	2012
Age 60 to 79	1099	1257	1728
Age 80+	329	422	359
Source: US Census, American Community Survey			

As noted in the 2016 *Master Plan*, resident income in Dalton has declined due to the loss of higher paying manufacturing jobs and a subsequent increase in lower-wage jobs such as retail and services. Manufacturing jobs declined 46% between 2000-2013. Though there was a decline in income, Daltons median income in 2018 was \$59,122, up from a median of \$57,222 in 2010. (2010 CENSUS)

Environmental Justice

There are two large census blocks in Dalton where household median income (HMI) is less than the Massachusetts HMI. The neighborhood within the Main Street/Curtis Avenue/Gulf Road census block has an HMI of \$32,778, which is 46% of the state HMI. This neighborhood is characterized by modest single-family homes on small lots. This neighborhood has a wide variety of public open spaces within a half mile radius, including town parks, cemeteries, The Boulders, and the Appalachian Trail. The neighborhood within the Main Street/railroad tracks census block has an HMI of \$46,047 (65% of state HMI). This neighborhood is more geographically spread out and is more demographically diverse. This neighborhood has close access to the Nessacus/Wahconah school property and to an AT trailhead, but there are no Town parks within a half mile. It is located adjacent to Day Mountain WMA, but this site has no trails nor trailheads across the property. The neighborhood is within half mile of the Old Mill Trail, but there is no trailhead or bridge to access this trail directly from this neighborhood (access is in Hinsdale where there is a new parking area and trailhead being created).

Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity

The Dalton population of nearly all ethnic groups has fluctuated throughout the years, with the Hispanic community growing noticeably – the number of Hispanics or Latinos increased from 70 people to 262 from 2000 to 2018. According to the US Census American Community Survey 2014-2018, the town has a mix of ethnic groups. Of the total population in Dalton Hispanic or Latino persons make up 4.0%, Asian persons make up 1.9%, and persons who identify as two or more races make up 0.8%. See **Table #**, for a breakdown of the race and ethnicity of Dalton.

Race and Ethnicity	Total	Percent
Total	6625	
White alone	6135	92.6%
Black or African American alone	13	0.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	37	0.6%
Asian alone	124	1.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0.0%
Some other race alone	0	0.0%
Two or more races	54	0.8%
Hispanic or Latino	262	4.0%
Source: US Census American Community Survey 2014-2018		

3D. Growth and Development Patterns Infrastructure

Transportation system

Route 9, which also serves as the Dalton's Main Street, is the main roadway through the town. Route 9 is also a major east-west artery in the central Berkshire area, so this road carries a high volume of traffic that consists of local commuters, commercial vehicles and through traffic. Residents have expressed their difficulties with trying to cross the street or pull out of side streets and businesses located along Main Street during times of peak traffic volumes. However, because the road is a main artery, traffic is expected to continue to increase.

The other main roadway is Route 8, which also serves as a local commuter and commercial route. Other busy local roads are East Housatonic Street, which is parallel to and an alternative to Main Street, and Grange Hall Road and Kirchner Road, which serve as commuter roads for residents of Dalton, Hinsdale, and Washington.

Complete Streets

"Complete streets" is transportation concept that examines the design of roadways to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation (automobile, bicycle, or by foot). The complete streets concept provides a kit of parts and possible solutions that can be applied to any roadway to help improve and promote walking and travel by bicycle and makes the roadway safer for all users.

Within Dalton, some minor changes to the roadways, such as increased signage and pavement markings, as well as restriping and recoloring sidewalks could help to enhance safety. In 2016 the Town of Dalton received a Complete Streets Grant and rebuilt the sidewalk on High Street from main Street to Park Ave. to improve the ability of the community to walk safely in the area. In addition to the High Street sidewalk a sidewalk was added on Field Street Ext. to provide better access to the Dalton Senior Center. As part of the project the Town had route markers for the Appalachian Trail in the sidewalks. MassDOT also improved the sidewalks on Main Street and Route 9 to tie in with the project. Two major street reconstructions, on South Street and Housatonic Street were completed using the Complete Streets concept thus improving walkability in two major areas of Dalton

Water supply systems

A large portion, 94%, of Dalton's potable water supply comes from the Cleveland Brook Reservoirs in the Town of Hinsdale. Windsor Reservoir has been rendered unsuitable as a drinking water supply due to sedimentation and turbidity. The town relies solely on the water supplied by Cleveland Reservoir, which is owned and controlled by the City of Pittsfield. For extreme emergencies, the Town relies on two 1.2-million-gallon storage tanks, one off Reservoir Road, and the other off Pinecrest Drive. The public water system is shown on Map D, Infrastructure. The remaining 6% of water for residences outside the water system is drawn from private wells.

Wastewater systems

All but the farthest outlying areas of Dalton are serviced by a sewer infrastructure that collects wastewater from Hinsdale and Dalton and directs it to the Pittsfield wastewater treatment facility where it is treated. Over 90% of the town is served by this sewer system (see Map D, Infrastructure).

Telecommunications

Dalton recently approved the installation of two cellular phone towers, one is owned by Time Warner Cable and the other is owned by American Cable. Both are in the Chalet Wildlife Management Area. There is also a new cell tower on the Dalton American Legion property just outside the downtown area. This tower is contained within a large flagpole so that it does not detract from the character of the neighborhood.

Transportation

Regional Roadways

Two major regional roadways serve Dalton, Route 8, and Route 9. Route 8 runs north from Hinsdale into the downtown area, where it turns west and heads into Pittsfield. Route 9 travels along Route 8 from Pittsfield into downtown, where it turns north and heads into Windsor. In Massachusetts, most regional roadways and numbered routes are generally the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). In total, MassDOT maintains 6.6 miles of roadway in Dalton, or 12.7% of the roads.

Local Roadways

Dalton's predominant form of transportation is by automobile or trucks. South Street, East and West Housatonic Street, Dalton Division Road, Grange Hall Road, Park Street, High Street, Glennon Avenue, Depot Street and Orchard Road are the collectors throughout town. The town maintains 39.9 miles of roads, or 76.7% of all roads. The town also has private roads.

Private roads rely on private contractors for maintenance and snow plowing needs. They total 4.2 miles, or 8.1% of all roads in town.

Public Transportation

Public transportation in Dalton is available through the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) bus system. There is one bus route that currently runs through town as it travels from Pittsfield to Hinsdale.

BRTA Paratransit provide transportation services for elderly and disabled residents in Dalton through various providers. BRTA paratransit is a county wide on-demand ride service. A small fee for rides is charged, and a reservation must be made in advance.

The Council on Aging also provides lift van service to those over 60 and those who are disabled.

Complete Streets

"Complete streets" is transportation concept that examines the design of roadways to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation (automobile, bicycle, or by foot). The complete streets concept provides a kit of parts and possible solutions that can be applied to any roadway to help improve and promote walking and travel by bicycle and makes the roadway safer for all users.

Within Dalton, some minor changes to the roadways, such as increased signage and pavement markings, as well as restriping and recoloring sidewalks could help to enhance safety. In 2016 the Town of Dalton received a Complete Streets Grant and rebuilt the sidewalk on High Street from main Street to Park Ave. to improve the ability of the community to walk safely in the area. In addition to the High Street sidewalk a sidewalk was added on Field Street Ext. to provide better access to the Dalton Senior Center. As part of the project the Town had route markers for the Appalachian Trail in the sidewalks. MassDOT also improved the sidewalks on Main Street and Route 9 to tie in with the project. Two major street reconstructions, on South Street and Housatonic Street were completed using the Complete Streets concept thus improving walkability in two major areas of Dalton.

Road Maintenance and Upcoming Roadway Work

Roadway Needs

The roads in Dalton are overall considered in fair condition, however there are areas that have problems. The town does not have a long-term plan for road repair and renovation, and instead plans for a cluster of roads for the following year. Road repairs in Dalton are based on available funds through the State (Chapter 90), these funds along with money allocated through Town Meeting are used to repair and replace streets in town. Every year the Town makes a list of streets that needs work and evaluates each one to decide on what streets should receive attention. It is difficult and tedious process because of the number of town streets that do need attention. The town is in the process of hiring a design engineer to redesign Dalton Division Road to the latest MassDOT Complete streets spec. The construction of the project is funded with federal funds through the transportation improvement program. While the design phase is funded through town appropriation.

Bridge Needs

The bridges in town are in fair shape, however the town needs to proactively work on ensuring their condition and safety. MassDOT does yearly inspection of all bridges in Dalton, their review develops plans to address specific needs of each structure in a community. The Town of Dalton is looking into hiring an engineering firm to do an in-depth evaluation of each structure with an interest to evaluate all town infrastructure that runs underneath the bridges (water, sewer, etc.)

Sidewalk Needs

The sidewalks in town overall are in poor shape. The town tries to rebuild sidewalks when they rebuild streets, but there is not always funding for this. In 2016 the Town of Dalton received a Complete Streets Grant and rebuilt the sidewalk on High Street from main Street to Park Ave. to improve the ability of the community to walk safely in the area. In addition to the High Street sidewalk a sidewalk was added on Field Street Ext. to provide better access to the Dalton Senior Center. As part of the project the Town had route markers for the Appalachian Trail in the sidewalks. MassDOT also improved the sidewalks on Main Street and Route 9 to tie in with the project.

Transportation and Flooding

Dalton updated its existing Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2018, this plan which identifies various types of disasters and their impacts on the community. As with many communities in the county, the major environmental hazard facing Dalton is flooding. There are several locations in town that have periodic flooding, usually associated with major storm events such as a tropical storm or hurricane, these include Wahconah Falls Road where it crosses Weston Brook, and Kirchner Road where crosses Sacket Brook. A major area of concern is Walker Brook which crosses under High Street and travels underground to until it reaches the Housatonic River. During heavy rain events the water overwhelms the existing drainage and threatens the Dalton Senior Center and adjacent housing with flooding.

The Town of Dalton has applied for a Federal Assistance Grant to do engineering study of the Walker Brook drainage system with the plan to use the information to develop a plan to alleviate the flooding in the area. The other area of concern is the watershed surrounding and feeding Center Pond. Over the year's sediment from upstream of the pond has filled it in to the point where the capacity to hold water is greatly diminished. The resulting flooding has threatened

housing around the pond including Pomeroy Manor Senior housing as well as many homes and businesses along Wahconah Falls Brook and the Housatonic River which feed into the pond. In 2019 the Town completed the Municipal Vulnerability Plan for the community which helps the town identify the numerous areas of concern within the community and from that develop plans to address them.

Inflow and Infiltration

Dalton's sewer system, which connects to Pittsfield for treatment, exhibits a significant increase in flow during periods of rain. In 2015/2016, the town conducted the first phase of an Inflow and Infiltration study to determine where connections to stormwater may be occurring. It is believed that the majority of the inflow is the result of connections of downspouts, foundation drains and sump pumps to the sewer system that is causing the spikes in flow, but there may also be infiltration through broken pipes as well as a few connections to the stormwater system. In 2020 we are now in the investigative phase of the study where we are smoke testing and scoping the sewer lines to find the exact locations of the infiltration. Correcting problems identified in the study will likely have a high cost, and the town will have to determine how to fund the improvements.

The water, sewer and stormwater Systems are all older systems and do an adequate job of providing the service they were built to provide; however, they are currently maintained by replacing lines only when they cause problems. The town should take a proactive stance and try to improve the lines before they cause problems.

Stormwater System

The town of Dalton has an extensive storm water drainage system to direct precipitation off the roads and a Stormwater Management Commission that oversees the implementation of the town's stormwater management plan. Dalton is an EPA designated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) community, which requires the town to meet certain guidelines on storm water discharges into streams and rivers. The commission distributes information to the public on the impacts of stormwater, develops a plan to detect illicit discharges and dumping, prohibits non-stormwater discharges into the storm system, regulates construction site runoff controls and promotes the use of appropriate Best Management Practices.

To manage its program, the Town of Dalton has established a Stormwater Management Committee. This committee oversees the implementation of a Stormwater Management Plan, drafted as a requirement under the EPA regulations. The Stormwater Management Committee is made up of key municipal officials and staff, and members of the public. The Stormwater Committee has conducted several activities to control stormwater runoff, including the development of informational brochures, the establishment of a stormwater hotline, and the development of a Sediment and Erosion Control bylaw. The Dalton Stormwater Management Commission continues to search for ways to reduce and control stormwater runoff. Future activities are expected to include storm drain mapping, partner with the Housatonic Valley Association to conduct monitoring, education and storm drain stenciling, and conduct an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program.

Energy

The town is currently working to develop a solar array on its old landfill off Bridle Road. This array will be privately owned, but the town would enter into a 20-year lease and power purchase

agreement. This will reduce the cost of electricity for the municipal buildings. A private company has applied to place a solar array on Petricca's Property of off High Street and Raymond Drive. This plan is in the preliminary stages and the town is in the process of negotiating with the company about the plan.

In addition to the solar array, the town has achieved designation as a Green Community and has installed a charger for electric vehicles and is pursuing energy efficiency upgrades in town hall through conversion of their boilers to gas, upgrading the lights to LEDs, and implementing other efficiencies. The town has purchased electric vehicles to be used by the Town Manager and departments that conduct inspections in town as well as hybrid vehicles that are used by the Police Chief and Town Manager, and two plug in stations for town use. In 2018 the Town working with the Green Dalton Committee and the Planning Department developed a plan in which the streetlights in town were replaced with LED lighting, the new system has provided significant savings for the town in electricity costs and the lights have made the streets safer for use by everyone.

Services

Public Safety

The police department provides basic patrol functions and assistance for all medical related calls. The police department also has a K9 unit and participates in community police programs, including DARE, Police Explorers, School Emergency Planning, Emergency Management, Traffic Commission, Berkshire Law Enforcement Task Force, and TRIAD.

Fire Department

Dalton's Fire Department is operated by the Dalton Fire District, a separate entity from the town. The Dalton Fire Department also operates the Dalton Ambulance Service.

Library

The library has books and other media available to be checked out and provides interlibrary loan services in coordination with other libraries in the region. The library conducts programs on Children's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math), story time, and hosts a summer reading program, a book discussion group, and a variety of additional programs. The library's website provides people with information on events, groups, announcements, museum passes, along with other general information.

Highway, Cemetery, and Park Department

The primary mission of the Dalton Highway, Cemetery, and Parks Department is to maintain and improve the Town's roads, sewer, and drainage systems as well as maintaining the Town's parks and cemeteries.

Transfer Station

There is no public trash pickup in Dalton, and the Town Dump was closed some years back in favor of a Transfer Station run by Casella Resource Solutions. Residents either contract with a private trash hauler or purchase an annual sticker and bring their rubbish and recyclables to the Transfer Station. Large items that do not fit in the special "blue bags" may be accepted for an additional fee.

Council on Aging

The Dalton Council on Aging (COA) advocates on behalf of residents over the age of 60 to make the senior voice heard in the community and beyond. It links elders and their families to community resources (homecare, transportation, and wellness programs), and provides opportunities for community engagement, such as educational programming, social engagement, and volunteer opportunities. The COA operates the Dalton Senior Center, which is used throughout the year for exercise, recreation, nutrition, information, referral needs, and health programs. The center also hosts the nutritional Senior Lunch Program in partnership with Elder Services as well as Soup and Sandwich.

Town Website

The town operates a website (<http://www.dalton-ma.gov>) that serves as a central location for town data. The website allows for access to board and committee meeting times, agendas, and minutes.

Land use

Land Use Change 1971-1999 and 2005

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has land use data for the town of Dalton for a 28-year period from 1971-1999. While 1999 data is old, it does allow for a picture of land use change within the town to be developed. Between 1971 and 1999, residential acreage increased more than any other land use category, growing from 1,179 acres (8% of all land) to 1,439 acres (6% of all land). Commercial and industrial land uses also increased; however, they occupy minimal acreage (2%) within the town. Agricultural acreage decreased the most over the 28-year period from 1971-1999, changing from 928 acres to 640 acres, or a decrease of 31%. Forested land also decreased significantly, from 10,939 acres in 1971 to 10,541 acres in 1999, a decrease of 398 acres, which is only 4%.

GIS data from 2005 shows that Dalton was mostly forested (10,655 acres or 76% of the town), while agriculture covers 436 acres (3% of town). Of "man-made" land uses, residential land acreage is the greatest, extending across 1,297 acres or 9% of the town, while industrial uses cover 114 acres, institutional uses cover 121 acres, and commercial uses cover 61 acres.

Land Use 2016

Current GIS land use technology (2016) uses a vastly different methodology for mapping and calculating land use than previous technologies. The new GIS technology is much more detailed than the old, clearly delineating the footprints of buildings and mapping the vegetated cover surrounding those buildings. Take for example a 1-acre residential property, which includes a house surrounded by a grassed lawn and separated from its neighbor by a row of mature maple trees. The older technology would simply have mapped the entire 1-acre site as a residential use. In contrast, the newer technology would map the footprint of the house as a building, the lawn as developed open space and the tree line as deciduous forest. This technology more accurately depicts the developed, impervious acreage of the Town and the corresponding lawn coverage. However, it also increases or skews the acreage of forest cover, because mature trees within developed areas throughout the town center and in residential neighborhoods are being considered deciduous or evergreen forest. But clearly these clumps of trees do not constitute a forest, nor do they provide the same quantity and quality of habitat that unfragmented forests provide. The 2005 data more accurately depicts the acreage of land that is forest habitat.

The 2005 GIS data states that there were 10,655 acres of forest (76% of total land coverage) and 1,297 acres of residential development (9% of total) in Dalton at that time. The 2016 data states that there were 11,587 acres of forest (82% of total) and 240 acres of residential development (7% of total). The 2005 data does not calculate lawn area, but the 2016 calculates that there are almost 1,333 acres of “developed open space” and “grasslands” in Dalton. Due to the differences in mapping technology, it is not possible to use the 1999/2005 data and the 2016 when tracking land use changes.

Development Trend

Available town data showing the construction date of buildings within the Town of Dalton allow for a picture of development trends to emerge. This data shows the last available construction date for a given building, so do not capture earlier structures that may have existed on a given parcel and been replaced. This data is based on assessor’s information, current as of 2012.

The earliest structures in the Town of Dalton, built prior to the year 1900, were located primarily in the downtown, between Housatonic Street and High Street, and in areas off North Street.

The most significant building occurred between 1901 to 1950, when more than 1,200 buildings were erected. Most developing during this period was infill around Main and North Streets.

After 1950, dense development spread throughout Town and along outlying roadways that were sparsely developed. From 1951-1975, extensive construction of subdivisions was built off South Street, Grange Hall Road, Tower Road, Orchard Street, and East Housatonic Street. There was also development scattered throughout the rest of town.

From 1976 onward, there has been single lot residential sprawl and continued subdivision development off South Street and Grange Hall Road, as well as Raymond Drive, North Mountain Road, Yvonne Drive, and Silver Maple Farm. Scattered development continues to occur throughout the rest of town, but mostly around Johnson, Windsor, and Kirchner Roads. A large block of undeveloped land along Grange Hall Road has been subdivided and new access drives for residential homes now dot the roadway 2019-2020.

Table #

Year Built	Number of Buildings
Pre-1900	526
1901 - 1950	1,218
1951 - 1975	1,082
Post-1975	707

Source: Dalton Master Plan, Dalton Town Assessor, 2012

Zoning

Dalton currently has nine zoning districts, four zoning districts specifically for residential and five districts for commercial development. The zoning was originally created in 1954 and has been subsequently updated. In the past decade, the town’s zoning was recodified to modernize it.

In addition to the traditional zoning districts, there are several special districts covering a variety of interests.

Open Space Residential District

The Open Space and Residential District (OSRD) is an overlay district that encompasses the parcels located within the R-1 district. The OSRD allows for higher a density residential development than would be allowed in the underlying zoning but requires the developer to set aside land for conservation.

Floodplain Overlay District

The purpose of the Dalton Floodplain Overlay District is to “to ensure that the development of land is done with the awareness and understanding of the potential flood hazards in these areas. “Construction and other development within the Floodplain Overlay District requires issuance of a special permit from the Board of Appeals. The area determining the extent of the Floodplain Overlay District is derived from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). The district extends through low lying areas along the East Branch of the Housatonic River, Wahconah Falls Brook, and several other small areas.

Scenic Mountain Act

The Town of Dalton adopted the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act (SMA), which allows it to protect scenic views and watersheds. The SMA requires any construction over 1,500 feet to not be visible above the ridge line and it controls run-off and erosion created by development. The Scenic Mountain Act is enforced by the Dalton Conservation Commission.

Design Standard Overlay

Dalton adopted design guidelines in 2015 to help maintain the aesthetics along the major roads in town. The corridor extends the entire length of Route 9 from Pittsfield to Windsor, as well as East Main Street and Hinsdale Road (Route 8) southwards 500 feet from Fox Road. The corridor extends for 500 feet from each road. The bylaw establishes a design review board to review new construction and major modification of commercial/industrial and multi-family residential (more than 2 families).

Table # Zoning						
Zone	Description	Minimum Lot Size	Minimum Frontage	Maximum Building Coverage	Maximum Total Coverage	Stories
R-1	Residential/Agriculture	3 Acres	150	20%	30%	2 1/2
R-2	Residential	15,000	100	25%	30%	2 1/2
R-3	Residential	7,500	70	30%	35%	2 1/2
R-4	Residential	60,000	150	25%	30%	2 1/2
B-1	Dwelling	15,000	100	25%	30%	2 1/2
	Other permitted uses	20,000	100	60%	75%	N/R
B-2	Dwelling	7,500	70	30%	35%	2 1/2
	Other permitted uses	7,500	70	80%	95%	N/R
I-1	Business	20,000	100	60%	75%	N/R
	Other permitted uses	40,000	150	50%	80%	N/R
I-2	Business	7,500	70	80%	95%	N/R
	Other permitted uses	10,000	80	70%	90%	N/R
PIDD	Planned Industrial Development	20,000	70	80%	90%	N/R

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

4A. Geology, Soils and Topography (refer to Map 4. Soils and Geologic Features)

The central region of Dalton, where most of development has occurred, is along the East Branch Housatonic River valley. This watershed is within the Western New England Marble Valley Ecoregion, the bedrock of which was formed from ancient marine sediments and which is characterized by marble and limestone bedrock and calcium-rich soils. These alkaline foundations create the hydrologic and chemical conditions that, when combined with the relative undeveloped nature of the landscape, provide one of the state's most biologically distinctive areas. The soils offer conditions preferred by calcium-loving plants, some of which are found nowhere else in the state (NHESP, 2010). The higher elevations of Dalton, comprising of the undeveloped expanses of land in the northern half of the Town (culminating at North Mountain) and along the eastern sections (upland to Barrett Hill, Day Mountain and Tully Mountain) are within the Berkshire Highlands Ecoregion.

There are two main soil types that cover the geographical area of Dalton. Tunbridge-Lyman-Peru covers most of the hilltowns and higher elevations of Berkshire County. These soils predominate in the northern and southern sections of the town. The second type, Copake-Hero-Hoosic, is the soil type found along the lower elevations of the town, underneath the Housatonic River and Wahconah Falls Brook valleys. The USDA, Soil Conservation Service, defines these soil types as follows:

Tunbridge-Lyman-Peru: Moderately deep, shallow, and very deep, well drained, somewhat excessively drained, and moderately well drained, gently sloping to very steep, loamy soils formed in glacial till derived from schist, gneiss, and granite; on uplands

Copake-Hero-Hoosic: Very deep, somewhat excessively drained, and moderately well drained, nearly level to moderately steep, loamy soils formed in glacial outwash; on outwash plains and terraces.

The Soils map illustrates that much of the soils in Dalton are excessively drained soils. Interestingly, these soils tend to exist on both steeply sloped areas (such as North, Day and Tully mountains), and in the lower lying areas in the Housatonic River valley in the downtown area. There are also some areas of highly erodible soils in the downtown area, upstream of Center Pond, where Wahconah Falls Brook enters joins the Housatonic River. It should be noted that the soils map is generalized for planning purposes only. Exact soil conditions are extremely localized and can differ greatly from one building lot to the next.

4B. Landscape Character (refer to Map C. Current Land Use 2016)

Dalton has a rough mountain wilderness exterior with a gentle rolling plain along the Housatonic River that allows for a strong town nucleus. The main central valley where the Housatonic River flows is, at its lowest point, approximately 1,030 feet in elevation. On each side of the valley are mountainous regions that rise to heights of about 2,065 feet around Tully Mountain in the south and even higher in the north to about 2,270 ft at Weston Mountain. Approximately 70% of the lands in and around the areas of North Mountain in the northern section of Town and Day Mountain in the south have slopes that are often 15% or greater.

According to 2005 MassGIS land use data the Town is primarily forested, with slightly less than 11,000 acres of forestland. This is about 76% of the town's total of 14,000 acres. The next largest land use is residential with 1,300 acres (9%). Traditionally dense development is confined to the gentler lower slopes of the river valley, with major transportation being routes 8 and 9. These form the Main Street running parallel to the Housatonic River as it runs east to west crossing the central part of town. Rural residential development also follows local roads that connect to neighboring towns, such as Dalton Division, Old Dalton, Grange Hall, Kirchner, and Washington Mountain Roads. Agricultural uses make up just over 400 acres, with Holiday Farm being the largest and most prominent farm. Commercial and industrial properties combined, located along the Housatonic River, and associated lowlands, occupy 200 acres.

4C. Water Resources (refer to Map. 6 Water Resources)

Watersheds and Surface Waters

Dalton lies almost entirely within the Housatonic River Watershed. High mountains lie at almost at each of the four corners channeling flows into the central plain of the East Branch Housatonic River or westward into Pittsfield where waters eventually drain into the river.

The very northern reach of the Town is located within the Hudson River Watershed, where tributaries flow northward to join the South Branch Hoosic River. Land within this watershed lies entirely within the Chalet Wildlife Management Area.

The most prominent water feature in Dalton is the East Branch Housatonic River. It is actively used for purposes of industry, agriculture, and recreation. Beginning in 1801 Zenas Crane, founder of Crane Paper Company, built a series of paper mills in downtown Dalton along the river. The company provides paper for US currency and other governments around the world.

Numerous first and second order streams drain the Dalton landscape, almost all of it into the Housatonic River. Water flows downstream from the headwaters and tributaries of the East Branch Housatonic River and enters a broad floodplain area as it enters Dalton, all joining just upstream of Center Pond in downtown Dalton. The steepness of grade for a good portion of the region restricts much of this water from slowing or creating ponds. However, many of the mountainous areas have flat/ bowl shaped tops with shallow soils on them. Often water will collect in these shallow bowls creating marshes and high elevated freshwater ponds. Gore Pond in the North Mountain area is a good example of this, having an elevation reaching near 2,000 feet.

The Anthony Pond and Egypt Reservoir sub-watersheds have been designated as Outstanding Resources Watersheds by the Commonwealth. Fortunately, these highland watersheds are protected from the development, being located within the Chalet WMA, and protected under conservation deed restrictions. Center Pond, an impounded portion of the East Branch Housatonic River, is in the heart of Dalton. Although it is now shallow due to sediment build-up behind the dam, it was once a popular swimming and boating site.

Aquifer recharge areas

Dalton's physical features constrain the aquifer recharge area. Rainwater, as it runs down the slopes, does not have lengthy times to infiltrate and permeate the ground. There are three Medium-Yield aquifer areas within Dalton, located north and southeast of the town center. These aquifers are estimated to be able to produce water between 100-300 gallons a minute. The largest aquifer underlies the gravel pits north of High Street, within which Crane Company has a well from which it draws water for papermaking. There are no public drinking water sources that draw from these aquifers.

Flood hazard areas

The floodplain areas in Dalton follow the Housatonic River and its tributaries. Flooding occurs when the volume of water within a given stream or river exceeds the channel's capacity to contain it. The floodplain is the land area adjacent to the waterbody that is subject to recurring inundation, such as 10-year, 100-year and 500-year recurrence intervals. There are 464 acres of 100-year floodplain in Dalton, which is 3% of total land.

The largest floodplain area is upstream of Center Pond, including the rear of the American Legion Park, which often floods. Just upstream of this is another significant floodplain area, at the confluence of Wahconah Falls Brook and stream that flows out of the Egypt Reservoir. A third significant area of floodplain is at the confluence of the East Branch Housatonic River and Cleveland Brook, just upstream of where the floodplain of the Wahconah Falls and Housatonic River floodplain area is. Wahconah Regional High School is in this area, where playing fields commonly flood. Fortunately, most of these floodplain areas are open parks, farm fields or golf course, which allows the floodwaters to pool without inflicting high property damage. It should be noted, however, that residential neighborhoods back up to these areas, infringing on flood storage capacity.

Flowing into the East Branch of the Housatonic River, Walker Brook also creates flooding issues. Walker Brook goes underground at High Street and flows underground until just before the confluence with the Housatonic River. Where the brook goes underground, the High Street area, an undersized pipe periodically causes flooding. The flooding crosses High Street and will sometimes flood Field Street.

Inundation maps clearly show that significant flooding in Dalton would occur if either the Lake Ashmere, Cleveland Reservoirs or Windsor dams were to fail. The densely developed town center, which includes the Town's key commercial and industrial properties and entire residential neighborhoods, would be dangerously flooded if the Windsor Reservoir or Cleveland Reservoir dam were to fail. Wahconah Regional High School, which is listed as the major storm shelter in the

region, is within this inundation area and it because of this the High School could not be used as a shelter during such an event.

Wetlands

Wetlands perform important functions for wildlife and people. Wetlands are the most productive ecosystems on earth when measured by the amount of biomass or living biological tissue they support and produce. Valuable ecosystem services provided by wetlands include plant and animal habitat, flood storage and control, water purification and shoreline stabilization.

Dalton has relatively few large wetland areas. According to 2012 Mass GIS DEP Wetlands data, there are 400 acres of wetlands in the Town (3% of total land). The dominant wetland types are Wooded Swamp Deciduous wetlands (122 acres), Shrub Swamp (112 acres), and Wooded Swamp Coniferous (111 acres). Because the GIS data only recognizes large wetland areas, the actual acreage of wetlands is undoubtedly higher, so the data should be used only as a rough guide. As always, wetlands can only truly be identified and quantified on the ground by a person knowledgeable in the field.

4D. Vegetation (refer to Map. C. Current Land Use 2016, Map F. Vegetation and Fisheries and Wildlife, and **Appendix ___** for DFW reports)

Due to changes in topography, geology, soils and microclimates within the watershed, the landscape of Dalton provides an ideal setting for many types of natural habitats. Plant communities in Dalton contain many unusual species as well as hundreds of common plants in uncommon combinations. The largest, most abundant plant communities in Dalton are in its forests, with hundreds of acres of unfragmented habitat that reach outward and beyond town boundaries.

Forest Land

Dalton's forest has undergone many changes since colonial settlement. Trees were felled to make way for agriculture and industry. According to a study conducted by the Berkshire Conservation District, in 1840 only 25 percent of the land in Dalton remained in forest cover (Berk. Conservation District, 1974). In contrast, Dalton today is approximately 76% forested.

According to 2005 MassGIS Land Use data, there are approximately 10,700 acres of forest within the town, supporting diverse plant communities. Tree diversity ranges from predominate mixed northern hardwoods to fewer softwoods. Typical canopies of a northern hardwood forest include American beech, ash, birch, and sugar maple. Scattered throughout in the hardwood forest are white pine. On some of the south facing slopes are red oak stands. Hemlock forest covers are found in and along deeply incised stream valleys while red spruce and black spruces make up some of the higher plateaus. Below the main forest canopy are mountain laurels, azaleas, witch hazel and maple-leaf viburnums, along with striped maples, red elders, and witch hazel in the lower elevations. Common ground cover in the forest includes Indian cucumber roots, blueberries, wood ferns, pink ladyslippers, and wild oats.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) have identified several areas in Dalton that support plant communities designated as Priority and Exemplary Natural Communities.

These are assemblages of plant and animal species that share a common environment, which have limited distribution statewide, or which are deemed to be exemplary examples of more common community types. For example, Rich, Mesic Forest, and Spruce-Fir Boreal Swamp are found in the Chalet WMA, and Rich, Mesic Forest is found on and around Day Mountain in the center of town. Rich, Mesic Forests are a variant of northern hardwood forests, dominated by sugar maple with a diverse herbaceous layer that includes many spring wildflowers, in a moist, nutrient-rich environment. Spruce-Fir Boreal Swamps are forested wetlands found at stream headwaters or in poorly drained basins in the higher elevations of the state (NHESP, 2012). These forested swamps are already surviving at the southern edge of their range and are at high risk of disappearing from the state due to a warming climate and invasive insect species. A more in-depth discussion of these habits is found in **Appendix ____**.

Public Shade Trees

Mature trees along the Town's roadways contribute to the Town's rural character, adding complexity and depth to private and commercial properties. Additionally, they provide cooling shade for walking residents and school children. Public shade trees are defined as trees located along the roadways within the public right of way and are regulated by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87. This law outlines the authorities of the town's Tree Warden, establishes procedures for cutting or removing public shade trees, and sets penalties for violations. The cutting and maintenance of trees along town-owned roads can only occur by first holding a public hearing, or gaining approval from the Town's Select Board, or in the case of designated Scenic Roads, the town's Planning Board. Gulf Road has been designated as a local scenic road. Trees located along state highways are the jurisdiction of MassDOT, and do not require a public hearing to be cut, unless the cutting is part of a large improvement project.

Rare, threatened, and endangered species

The following list of rare and endangered species comes from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), as listed in a letter from DFW dated May 4, 2020. Additional rare species are found in Core Habitat areas within and adjacent to Dalton as listed in the DFW reports found in **Appendix ____**. The State Rank indicates Special Concern (SC) species are natives that have suffered a decline which could threaten the species, or have a small number, limited distribution, or specialized habitat; Threatened (T) species are likely to become endangered in the future; Endangered (E) species are in danger of extinction. To protect some rare plants and animals that reside within these areas and could fall prey to collectors, NHESP does not reveal the exact site of some individual plant and animal populations.

Table #. Rare Plants in Dalton

Taxonomic Group	Scientific name	Common Name	State Rank
Vascular Plant	<i>Equisetum scirpoides</i>	Dwarf Scouring-rush	SC
Vascular Plant	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	American Twinflower	SC
Plant	<i>Name not released</i>	NA	SC

The large amount of forest lands provides a wealth of opportunities for outdoor recreation such as walking, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. These lands also provide abundant wildlife habitat, which enables additional outdoor recreational opportunities such

as fishing, hunting, and bird watching. The Appalachian Trail brings hiking enthusiasts from all over the world as they hike the 2,174-mile trail. The picturesque scenery along with the fall season foliage are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

4E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Berkshire County is one of the most ecologically diverse and intact natural landscapes in the state. The region provides important expansive forest habitat that connects the northern forests of New England and New York northward to Canada and southward to the forests of the Appalachian Mountain chain, providing habitat and safe passage for roaming animals like black bear, fisher and bobcat and treetop habitat for migratory birds. The Nature Conservancy has recognized the importance of the Berkshire Highlands forest that blanket the county's eastern border, which includes the Town of Dalton (BRPC, 2014). Providing travel ways will be increasingly important as some animal and plant species may need to migrate northward or higher in elevation to continue to survive in a warming climate. Large blocks of habitat are particularly important for animal populations that need large territories to sustainably live, breed and disperse, such as black bears and moose.

Wildlife corridors between protected areas are important to the survival of threatened, rare and endangered species. The forest that covers the northern portion of Dalton provides cover and a migratory corridor for many species of wildlife, connecting protected lands in neighboring Lanesborough and Cheshire, to lands in Windsor and Peru. NHESP has noted that the northern forest is probably an important corridor for the rare Mustard White butterfly, a rare species. In addition, the forests of southern and eastern Dalton provide travel corridors between southeastern Pittsfield and northern Lenox, to Hinsdale and Washington

Wildlife is abundant throughout Dalton, including several popular game species such as deer, bear, and turkey, and fish such as trout and bass. Hunting is allowed in the Chalet and Day Mountain WMAs, in the Boulders, and on many private lands with permission from the owners. Fishing is popular along several stretches of the East Branch Housatonic River. Several duck, heron, hawk, and owl species can be found, as well as rare and common songbirds. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons are once again commonly seen for those who look for them. The open marsh area within The Pines offers the opportunity to see a variety of birds year-round.

The waterways, forests and vernal pools provide habitat for common and rare reptiles and amphibians, and for common and rare insects, which provide the basis of the food chain for the wildlife we enjoy. Wildlife can also be found in the densely developed town center for those animals who are less shy of humans, such as several songbirds, fox, coyote, bear, and deer. Small populations of moose are known to inhabit nearby hilltown communities and will occasionally wander through Dalton.

Coldwater Fisheries

There are 10 Coldwater Fisheries that flow through Dalton, including the East Branch Housatonic River and many of its tributaries. These streams support brook trout and other thermal-sensitive aquatic species, many of which are rare. Cold water fisheries, like the spruce-fir forest swamps, are increasingly stressed due to warmer air and soil temperatures due to climate

change. The East Branch Housatonic is noted by DFW as an important Aquatic Core for Species of Conservation Concern, hosting rare species of concern, including fish, birds, and insects.

Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are indispensable to biodiversity, both locally and globally. In many upland areas, where the nearest wetland or other waterbody is thousands of feet away, vernal pools are the only aquatic breeding grounds in the area. Some of the state's rarest amphibians, including the mole salamanders (Jefferson, spotted, marbled salamanders) and some species of freshwater snails and clams, are inexorably linked to the vernal pool in which they were hatched. Most live out their lives within ¼ miles of their natal pool, returning to breed. For a species with a narrow or small distribution, a specific vernal pool may be the only place in the region that the creature is found. If that pool is destroyed, that specific population of creatures could become locally extinct.

Vernal pools are most often found in the Berkshires in woodland areas, where evaporation from sunlight is limited due to the forest canopy. In Dalton there are 11 certified pools and 17 documented potential vernal pools, although that number could be higher.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

Areas within Dalton where rare plants and animals have been documented to exist in the northern forests in Chalet WMA, in a wetland off of Old Windsor Road, the area north and east of Day Mountain, along the lower slopes of Brattle Brook and along Hathaway Brook.

The American Bittern, a shy water bird, nests and hides in areas thick with cattails and marsh grasses. The wood turtle over-winters in stream banks but spend most of their time in the riparian forest that lines the stream. The higher-gradient streams of the northern and southern portions of town provide habitat for the rare Spring Salamander.

The forests of northern Dalton, bordering with Lanesborough and northeastern Pittsfield, includes a large tract of undeveloped and unfragmented Northern Hardwood forest, with sunny openings that is inhabited by the rare Eastern Veined White butterfly. This forest probably allows for the dispersal of individuals between sites known to harbor the butterflies in Windsor and Pittsfield. While much of this area is protected, efforts should be made to expand the protection to ensure unfragmented forest for this rare species. Map F indicates the approximate distribution of these species and more detailed discussion of individual species can be found in DFW reports in **Appendix ____**.

The following list of rare and endangered species comes from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), as listed in a letter from DFW dated May 4, 2020. Additional rare species are found in Core Habitat areas within and adjacent to Dalton as listed in the DFW reports found in **Appendix ____**. The State Rank indicates Special Concern (SC) species are natives that have suffered a decline which could threaten the species, or have a small number, limited distribution, or specialized habitat; Threatened (T) species are likely to become endangered in the future; Endangered (E) species are in danger of extinction. To protect some rare plants and animals that reside within these areas and could fall prey to collectors, NHESP does not reveal the exact site of some individual plant and animal populations.

Table #. Rare Animals in Dalton

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Rank
Reptile	<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC
Amphibian	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Jefferson Salamander (complex)	SC
Bird	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	E
Dragonfly/Damselfly	<i>Boyeria grafiana</i>	Ocellated Darner	SC
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Euphyes dion</i>	Dion Skipper	T
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Pieris oleracea</i>	Mustard White	T

Pulling it all Together: Priority Conservation Areas (Refer to BioMap2 Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity in MA, 2011)

BioMap2 is a statewide mapping project that combines 30 years of rare species and natural community data from the NHESP with wildlife species and habitat assessments. Additionally, BioMap2 data integrates the Nature Conservancy's assessment of large, connected, and intact ecosystems across the state to determine areas most suited for the long-term protection of biodiversity in the state (NHESP, 2011). Taking these analyses one step further, NHESP prioritized areas in each town in the Housatonic River Watershed to help communities and local conservation organizations focus their land protection and stewardship efforts. These areas are termed Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs), of which three have been delineated in Dalton.

- Town PCA 1: This is an approximately 70-acre area in southwestern Dalton, with many wetlands that support an Endangered marsh bird and two Threatened butterfly species. This area is on private, unprotected lands and vulnerable to development. See Map 8. Action Map for location of this area)
- Town PCA 2: This is a 235-acre area in central Dalton, north and downslope of Day Mountain, supporting large patches of Rich, Mesic Forest, and a plant of Special Concern. Fortunately, this area is already under permanent conservation protection.
- Town PCA 3: This is an almost 5,000-acre area encompassing a large portion of northern Dalton. This large, forested area supports a Spruce-Fir Forested Swamp, three sensitive salamander species, rare marsh birds and raptors. Fortunately, this area is already under permanent conservation protection.

4F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments (Map 5 Unique Features)

Scenic Landscapes and Unique Environmental Features

The Appalachian Trail is by far the most accessible route into northern and southern parts of Dalton's least populated regions. The state and federal governments manage and provide upkeep for the lands that the trail goes through. It is well documented that hiking the trail provides unique opportunities to see large vistas and the unique landscapes of largely unpopulated land.

Wahconah Falls Brook flows over several smaller falls before ending in the 40-foot Wahconah Falls. The cascades are attractive year-round, but peak flows during spring melt and after high rainfall events are especially majestic. The Falls has been given a rating of 4 out of 5 by the authors of the *New England Waterfalls*, a guidebook to more than 500 cascades/waterfalls in New England. The Falls are located within Wahconah State Park, where visitors can sit and enjoy the

falls from large boulders lining the streambank or picnic at tables provided near the parking area. The Park also offers a half-mile loop trail.

The Boulders property hosts large bedrock boulder outcrops. The weathered chunks of gray rock, some stacked like steps, are a handy rest stop after a moderate climb. The bedrock of this property is primarily pelitic rock, a metamorphosed fine-grained sedimentary rock. The large outcrops on the boulders ridge show part of a concentric arcing called a “lunate fracture.” These form as an interaction between ice, pressure, and a very hard rock like the quartzite found here (BNRC, 2020). Scenic views reward those who reach the summit.

The Gulf is a rugged wooded area in the west central part of Dalton. Natural resources and history intersect in this area, known to be an African American enclave in this predominantly white community. The Gulf was inhabited by free black citizens and sheltered run-aways fleeing slavery. The Fitch-Hoose House is a house museum depicting the type of homes African Americans lived in during the 19th century. This area is also where one can access The Boulders and the Appalachian Trail.

North Main Street (Route 9) offers a scenic drive by car or bicycle. Where the downtown of Dalton provides a glimpse of a historic industrial town center, Route 9 provides a glimpse of Dalton’s agricultural heritage. The lighter green and yellow farm fields at the foothills of North Mountain provide a pleasant contrast to the darker green of the forested uplands. The Town has many trees that run along the roads and keep the roads shaded and a feeling that you are not in a busy town. The forest is a green fringe that gives the Town a strong natural pleasingly esthetic appearance. Traveling from neighboring Hinsdale, down Grange Hall Road, offers long-range views of the mountains to the west, with settled Pittsfield in the foreground. The road is a corridor cut out of the forest, and the roadside trees frame the view ahead. Gulf Road is a local Scenic Road.

Cultural, Archeological and Historic areas

Dalton is a rural town with a Main Street that reflects its historic paper mill heritage. Many of the stately brick homes were built by members of the Crane family, such as Sugar Hill, which was built for Senator Winthrop Crane and is now restored for use as an extended care facility, and Model Farm, which is now owned by an investment firm. The Crane Museum is an invaluable source of knowledge on the beginning of how paper was made in the early and particularly by the Crane family. Dalton has several sites of significance that are on the National Register of Historic Places. These include the Craneville Historic District, Dalton Grange Hall site, the Crane Museum (Old Stone Mill Rag Room), the Fitch-Hoose House, the East Street Cemetery, the Main Street Cemetery, and the Fairview Cemetery.

The Fitch-Hoose House is an interpretive museum that honors the families that came to the area for safety and freedom. Fitch-Hoose House and Gulf Road (where the house is located) are a part of the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail and are believed to be part of the Underground Railroad.

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) travels through Dalton. The trail crosses Tully Mountain in Hinsdale, across Day Mountain and descends into downtown Dalton, before ascending northward over North Mountain. There are several access points in the Dalton area where one can park the car and hike a portion of the AT, including Pittsfield Road in Hinsdale, and Grange Hall

Road, Housatonic Street, and Gulf Road in Dalton. Hikers traveling the AT are a familiar site, as they often frequent the local motel, restaurants, and shops to rest and/or restock their supplies.

4G. Environmental Challenges

The Dalton Open Space and Recreation Committee, using the guidance provided by the *Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook* (EOEEA, 2008), has identified the pressing environmental challenges that face the Town.

Landfills

Currently, the town has two closed and capped landfills, both located off High Street and Park Avenue: the Dalton Landfill and the Warren Farms Landfill. The Dalton Transfer Station and Compost Site is located on Park Avenue extension.

Excess Sedimentation

Sediment-laden waters flow out of Windsor Reservoir during storm events, degrading the water quality of Wahconah Falls Brook and eventually entering Center Pond, in downtown Dalton. Residents have documented a distinct change in the water quality and habitat of Wahconah Falls Brook since a devastating storm in 2003. The water clarity has decreased, sediment has settled in areas of the stream that once were gravel/stone, and the banks of the stream are scoured and severely eroded. Each storm event delivers new loads of sediment throughout the stream's length.

Sediment naturally settles in Center Pond, behind the Byron-Weston dam, and the sedimentation has for years been diminishing the capacity of the pond to accommodate flood waters or to provide suitable aquatic habitat. The increased sediment load of Wahconah Falls Brook is accelerating the rate of sedimentation of Center Pond. The shallower water levels facilitate plant growth and increases in water temperature and limits the pond's use for recreation. Once the sources of sediment are controlled upstream, then efforts to improve Center Pond itself should commence. Center Pond has repeatedly been cited by residents as a natural and recreational resource worth protecting and improving, and the town should continue to partner with federal, state, and private entities to fund current and future improvement projects.

Development impact

Dalton has had limited residential development since the Great Recession beginning 2008, but what has been and is currently being developed is along steeply sloped lands. Currently there is the subdivision and sale of building lots along Grange Hall Road, where trees are being cleared and houses are being built on many large lots along the steeply sloped landscape. Large parcels of land are for sale off Dalton Division Road where residential development would occur on a steeply sloped forested area. Building in these areas can disrupt current wildlife corridors and their habitat by fragmenting forest coverage. Steep-sloped development can increase surface runoff and sedimentation into steeply sloped streams and exacerbate flooding in lower elevations downstream.

Because vernal pools are only prominently noticeable part of the year when they hold water, these vital habitats are extremely vulnerable to being destroyed by development. Much of the development in the Berkshires, including Dalton, is occurring by clearing forest lands. The most

effective way to protect vernal pools is to identify and certify them. The certification affords the pools and their surrounding area some protection from development. Vernal pools that are associated with Wetland Resources, such as riverfront or forested wetlands, are afforded some protection by the Mass. Wetland Protection Act. However, small, isolated pools not associated with a Wetland Resource are not protected by the Act.

The rare species area most notably unprotected in Dalton are located on privately owned lands on Brattle Brook, at the end of Pleasantview Drive in the Greenridge area of town and in the southwestern portion of town, in the area of Washington Mountain and Kirchner Roads.

Aquatic habitats and their surrounding riparian and floodplain areas are some of our most biologically productive areas, hosting a disproportionately higher number of rare species than corresponding uplands. They provide breeding habitat for reptiles and amphibians who need both water and land to fulfill their life cycles and provide resiliency against the impacts of climate change. Yet only 13% of the Housatonic River's riparian area in Berkshire County is permanently protected from development (BRPC, 2014). A large percentage of riparian habitat has already been developed over past centuries for agricultural, industrial, and residential uses. The Wetlands Protection Act provides some protection from development within 200 feet of streams and rivers, but development is not prohibited entirely from this area. Development within the floodplain is discouraged but can be allowed if compensatory flood storage is created in the vicinity.

Surface Water Pollution

The Housatonic Valley Association has conducted water quality testing in several sites within the East Branch Housatonic River watershed. Water quality testing collected in 2002-03 indicated that lower reaches of Wahconah Falls Brook occasionally suffered from high *E. coli* contamination. Following this revelation, stormwater runoff improvement projects were conducted at local farms in the vicinity. New *E. coli* data collected in 2017-18 indicated that the improvement projects were successful, as the brook in this area largely met the state requirements for primary contact recreational use. However, *E. coli* levels were still high downstream in the brook around the Demming Street area. Due a lack of access in this area, potential sources of contamination have not been identified.

Road Runoff

Dalton's roads often parallel rivers, streams and brooks, and roadways are now recognized as one of the most serious sources of non-point source pollution. Roads are typically crowned to allow water to drain away quickly from the center and onto surrounding lands. If the road has a storm drain system, as many do, the water is collected and piped directly into the nearest waterway. Sand, salt, debris, and auto-derived pollutants enter the waterway untreated. If the road does not have a storm drain system, the water flows off the road and onto the surrounding land.

Route 8, a major artery within the region, travels along the Housatonic River, collecting stormwater runoff from that road. steeply sloped roads such as Kirchner and Grange Hall are local commuter roads that are heavily sanded in winter.

Stormwater Runoff Management

Stormwater runoff is the greatest single source of nonpoint pollution in Massachusetts. The Town of Dalton is required to implement programs and practices to control polluted storm water runoff, because portions of the densely developed downtown have been designated as an urban area. It is known that stormwater runoff from urbanized areas contain higher concentrations of pollutants, so the U.S. EPA now requires urban areas to develop, implement and enforce a stormwater management program designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from its storm drain system.

To manage its program, the Town of Dalton has established a Stormwater Management Committee. This committee oversees the implementation of a Stormwater Management Plan, drafted as a requirement under the EPA regulations. The Stormwater Management Committee is made up of key municipal officials and staff, and members of the public. The Stormwater Committee has conducted several activities to control stormwater runoff, including the development of informational brochures, the establishment of a stormwater hotline, and the development of a Sediment and Erosion Control bylaw. The Dalton Stormwater Management Commission continues to search for ways to reduce and control stormwater runoff. Future activities are expected to include storm drain mapping, partner with the Housatonic Valley Association to conduct monitoring, education and storm drain stenciling, and conduct an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program.

Flooding

Dalton updated its existing Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2018, this plan which identifies various types of disasters and their impacts on the community. As with many communities in the county, the major environmental hazard facing Dalton is flooding. There are several locations in town that have periodic flooding, usually associated with major storm events such as a tropical storm or hurricane, these include Wahconah Falls Road where it crosses Weston Brook, and Kirchner Road where crosses Sacket Brook. A major area of concern is Walker Brook which crosses under High Street and travels underground to until it reaches the Housatonic River. During heavy rain events the water overwhelms the existing drainage and threatens the Dalton Senior Center and adjacent housing with flooding.

The Town of Dalton has applied for a Federal Assistance Grant to do engineering study of the Walker Brook drainage system with the plan to use the information to develop a plan to alleviate the flooding in the area. The other area of concern is the watershed surrounding and feeding Center Pond. Over the year's sediment from upstream of the pond has filled it in to the point where the capacity to hold water is greatly diminished. The resulting flooding has threatened housing around the pond including Pomeroy Manor Senior housing as well as many homes and businesses along Wahconah Falls Brook and the Housatonic River which feed into the pond. In 2019 the Town completed the Municipal Vulnerability Plan for the community which helps the town identify the numerous areas of concern within the community and from that develop plans to address them

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

The Town of Dalton has a mixture of open space, resources, and recreational areas that add to the quality of life and enjoyed by its residents. The gorges of the river valley are complimented nicely by the hiking trails and scenic vistas over the mountain forests. Dalton is fortunate in that approximately 8,800 acres of the land in the town (58% of total) is permanently protected from development, with an additional 603 acres of land under the Chapters 61 Program. These areas are under both public and private ownership, and they hold various levels of protection and various amounts of exposure to the possibility of future development, which may limit the level of public enjoyment they offer in the future. The size of the properties open to public recreation vary greatly in size, from the more than 3,600 acres of forested wildlife land within the Chalet Wildlife Management Area (WMA) to the smaller Town-owned neighborhood parks, such as the 7-acre Pinegrove Park. In general, the larger properties tend to be in areas of higher elevation and often involve steep slopes. The Appalachian Trail travels through Dalton and can be accessed at several sites in Town, offering residents the opportunity to say they have walked a portion of this famous national Trail. Dalton is a designated hiker-friendly Appalachian Trail Community that offers amenities such as overnight stays, showers and food for long-distance hikers traveling through the area.

This section contains an inventory of the forests, open spaces, cemeteries, and other areas in Town that provide Dalton residents with opportunities for conservation and outdoor recreation. Listed in this section are important parcels with a description of their ownership and management, the level of accessibility to the public, and the level of protection from development they hold.

The lands with the highest level of protection are those owned and managed by the federal and state governments, and those on which conservation deed restrictions have been placed. Other large tracts of undeveloped land with a good deal of protection are the municipal lands such as the drinking water supply lands owned by the City of Pittsfield and the Dalton Fire District. The Town of Dalton owns several open space parcels with varying degrees of protection.

Table #. Summary of Open Space Lands with some level of Protection (Refer to Map 7. Inventory of Land of Conservation and Recreation Interest)

Ownership	Size in Acres	Level of Protection
Federal (Appalachian Trail lands)	746	High
State (DCR, DFW)	4,878	High
Private Lands with Conservation Restrictions (APR, CR)	1,646	High
Town of Dalton (includes Craneville Elem. School)	338	Medium
Other municipal lands (City of Pittsfield, Central Berk. Reg. School District)	466	Medium
Land Trust	122	High
Chapter 61 with no permanent protection	603	Low
Total Acres	8,799	
<i>Source: BRPC Open Space Data, Town Assessors Data 2020</i>		

5A. Private Parcels

Private Deed Restricted Conservation Lands

Dalton is fortunate in that two of its farming families, the Cranes and Musantes, have enrolled large tracts of their land into permanent conservation programs. Although the property owners retain ownership of the land, they have sold the development rights and, as such, the land must remain undeveloped and/or in agricultural use in perpetuity. Maintaining the working farms in Dalton help to maintain the town's historic and rural character and provide local farm products to residents in the area.

The Town of Dalton owns 170 acres of land off North Main Street, known as the former Bardin property. An Agricultural Preservation Restriction is attached to these lands and limits the use of this land to agricultural uses.

The Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) has accepted ownership of two former Crane and Co. properties, maintaining these lands for non-motorized recreational purposes, including hiking, hunting, and snowshoeing. The Boulders is a 645-acre property, of which 80 acres and a trailhead is located within Dalton. More than six miles of trails are found here, along with scenic views to the Taconic Mountains in the west. An easy 1.4-mile easy trail loop can be accessed off the Gulf Road trailhead. The Old Mill Trail is set along the bank of the Housatonic River, with easy access at its trailhead in Hinsdale. The first half of this 1.5-mile trail is universally accessible and provides access to the river for fishing. Ninety acres of this 127-acre site is in Dalton.

Table #. Deed Restricted Conservation Land

Site Name	Ownership	Acres	Public Access?	Level of Protection
Holiday Brook Farm	Crane	1,194	Y (with permission)	High
North Mountain Park	Town of Dalton	170	Y	High
Musante Farm	Amy Musante	133	N	High
Bardin Farm	James Bardin	149	N	High
The Boulders	BNRC	80	Y	High
Old Mill Trail	BNRC	42	Y	High
Housatonic River Access	Crane and Co.	48	Y	High
Total Acres		1,646		
<i>Source: BRPC Open Space Data, Town Assessors Data 2020; Dalton Town Assessor communications June 2020</i>				

Chapter 61 Tax Program Lands

There are 17 property owners that have placed all or a portion of their lands into one of the Chapter 61 Tax Abatement Programs. The total acreage of land enrolled in the Chapter 61 tax programs in Dalton is 2,386 acres. The largest land area is Wahconah Country Club, a semi-private 161-acre 18-hole golf course established in 1930. There is a fee to play golf, but the owners allow free use of the course for sliding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter.

Chapter 61 is a tax abatement program that offers a 95% tax savings to forest landowners. The intent of the program is to protect and enhance the state's timber-producing capacity. To qualify for Chapter 61, landowners must have a minimum of 10 acres that are suitable for timber production. Like Chapter 61, Chapter 61A is a voluntary enrollment program for preferential tax assessment based on current agricultural use of the land. Chapter 61A requires a 5-acre minimum of agricultural land which must produce a minimum number of agricultural products. Chapter 61B is a recreational land classification program designed to encourage the preservation of open space and promote recreational uses. To qualify for Chapter 61B the landowner's property must consist of at least 5 acres that are suitable for recreational purposes. Wahconah Country Club golf course is enrolled in the program. The program offers a 75% tax savings. Wahconah Country Club golf course is enrolled in the program.

The Chapter 61 tax programs are of interest to municipalities for two main reasons. First, lands that are managed for forest, agricultural or recreational uses remain open and scenic, helping communities maintain their historically rural roots. Second, if a property that is enrolled in any of the Chapter 61 programs is placed on the real estate market for a change of use, the town has a 120-day right of first refusal to purchase the property at fair market value. For example, if a farm is purchased for the development of a subdivision or a commercial use, which is different from its current agricultural use, then the town has the right to purchase that property before anyone else. This gives the community some control over the destiny of its rural character. If the town does not acquire the land and it does change use, the tax savings that had accumulated during the land's enrollment in the Chapter 61 program must be paid back in full prior to the land use taking place.

There are 1,823 acres of land in Dalton that are enrolled in the Chapter 61s tax programs. Of these, 1,220 acres have permanent conservation or agricultural deed restrictions, making them permanently protected from development. This leaves a total of 603 acres of land temporarily protected by only the Chapter 61 tax programs. **Table __ lists** the lands that are enrolled in Chapter 61 tax programs and are not permanently protected from development.

Table #. Chapter 61, 61A, 61B Properties

Site Name or Area	Ownership	Acres	Public Access?	Level of Protection
Wahconah Country Club	Wahconah Country Estates Inc.	162	Y, golf fees	Low
Holiday Brook Farm	Holiday Farm, Inc.	113	?	Low
Musante Farm	Amy Musante Nominee Trust	35	No	Low
Washington Mt. Rd.	Stacey Carver Revocable Trust	61	No	Low
Watson Rd.	Robt and Karen Ebbeling	41	No	Low
West Housatonic St.	Crane and Co.	37	No	Low
East St.	Kevin LaCasse	23	No	Low
East St.	Richard Ladd	23	No	Low
Kirchner Rd.	Peri and Cindy Campoli	19	No	Low
East Housatonic St.	Timothy LeClair	18	No	Low
Off Chalet Rd.	Peter Bardin	18	No	Low
Rear Anthony Rd.	Robt. and Dolores Farrell	12	No	Low
East St.	Edward and Valerie Gero	12	No	Low
Washington Mt. Rd.	Washington Mt. Irrevocable Trust	10	No	Low
Rear Dalton Div. Rd.	John MacKenzie	10	No	Low
Pease Ave.	Ralph Suriner	8	No	Low
Wahconah Country Club	Wahconah Country Club, Inc.	1	Yes	Low
Total Acres		603		
Source: BRPC Open Space Data, Town Assessors Data 2020				

Privately Owned Recreational Areas without Protections

Dalton has lands owned by various private entities that are open to the public for recreational use. Some properties can be accessed free of charge, while others can be used for a fee. Either way, these lands are valuable assets providing the public with an array of recreational opportunities. The lands and their use are varied, such as the Community Recreation Association (CRA) (non-profit community center), Center Pond (created by Crane Company dam) and the Jeff Reardon Field (playing fields, owned by the nonprofit American Legion).

The American Legion has several athletic fields and a picnic area located on North Street on a 23-acre parcel. The Dalton Legion and the CRA have an agreement that allows the use of fields for recreational use. They also rent out the area for events, carnival, circus etc. They allow general usage for recreation only. They have a pavilion at the rear of the property that is rented out for parties, family picnics etc. The area known as Center Pond is in the process of being transferred to the Mass. Dept of Wildlife by Crane Co.

Table #. Privately-owned Unprotected Recreational Areas

Site Name	Ownership	Acres	Public Access?	Level of Protection
Jeff Reardon Field	American Legion Post 155	23	Y	Low
Center Pond	Crane Company	16	Y	Medium
CRA	Trustees of WM Crane	6	Grounds open; fee for programs	Medium
VFW Picnic Area	Veterans of Foreign Wars	3.5	Yes, with permission	Low
St. Patrick's Cemetery	St. Patrick's, Hinsdale	3.5	Y	High
Total Acres		52		

Source: BRPC Open Space Data, Town Assessors Data 2020

5B. Public and Non-profit Parcels

State and Federal Lands

A large percentage of open space in the town of Dalton is publicly owned. These lands are owned by the National Park Service, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The National Park Service owns much of the land along the Appalachian Scenic National Trail (AT), which travels 10 miles north-south through the center of Town. The DFW owns Chalet WMA, a 7,000-acre site of which a large portion is within northern Dalton, and Day Mountain which is in the central part of the Town. These properties are primarily managed for wildlife habitat, hunting, and hiking; no motorized vehicles are allowed on the properties. There is no easy access into Chalet WMA except for the AT, which runs through the heart of the property. DFW also owns two parcels of land along the Housatonic River; one 17-acre site has limited parking at the DFW office on Old Windsor Road, while the other 10-acre parcel, located off of Orchard Road, has no access. The DCR owns Wahconah Falls State Park, located in the eastern part of Town. The park has picnicking facilities as well as hiking trails to the falls and fishing. Wahconah Falls Brook flows over several smaller tiered falls then cascades about 40 feet into a deep pool.

Table #. State- and Federally owned Land in Dalton

Site Name	Ownership	Acres	Public Access?	Level of Protection
Appalachian Trail	US Park Service	746	Y	High
Appalachian Trail	DCR	810	Y	High
Chalet WMA	DFW	3,647	Y	High
Day Mountain WMA	DFW	372	Y	High
Housatonic River Access	DFW	27	Y	High
Wahconah Falls State Park	DCR	22	Y	High
Total Acres		5,624		
<i>Source: Source: BRPC Open Space Data, Town Assessors Data 2020</i>				

Municipal Lands

Lands owned or managed by the Town of Dalton total 338 acres and are scattered throughout the town. The Pines, off High and Pleasant Streets, is a 42-acre forested parcel of land with an informal trail system within easy walking distance of the densely developed town center. The Town owns 157.7 acres of land, known as the Bardin properties, off North Main Street. All but 9.5 acres of this land is protected for agricultural use under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program. In 2018 voters at Dalton Town Meeting voted to transfer the care, custody, and control of the 9.5 unrestricted acreage "for the purpose of recreation, including sport and physical education." The Town hopes to create recreational amenities, possibly athletic playing fields and a picnic area, on these 9.5 acres. The area designated the North Mountain Park is in the preliminary stages of planning with a private organization of citizens spearheading the project. There is hope that future funding for development would be provided by grants. There is also 80 acres of forested land owned by the Town off Kirchner Road, Washington Mountain Road, East Street and View Street. The Town also owns several small parks, located throughout Dalton, which provide outdoor recreational opportunities. These parks provide playgrounds, playing fields and picnic areas.

Town-owned cemeteries are valued historic resources to the Town. They are also valued for quiet recreation: as walking trails, a place for quiet contemplation, and a place for birdwatching. Most cemeteries in Dalton are easily accessed and are gently graded for walkers of most abilities. Although cemeteries have no formal protection, it is very unlikely that they would be developed. The Smith Burial Ground was established in 1832. Although located within the Chalet Wildlife Management area, there is no clear access trail to the site.

The City of Pittsfield owned drinking water protection lands in the southern portion of Dalton. Technically the Town of Dalton does not own Central Berkshire School District lands, but because these lands are located within the Town and the residents of Dalton figure heavily in their management, we are including these lands in the municipal category.

The 92-acre parcel of land between Old Windsor Road and Fox Road contains Nessacus Regional Middle School and Wahconah Regional High School. This property contains numerous playing fields, used for football, track and field, soccer, baseball, tennis and lacrosse, and a forested trail connects the two school sites. While these lands are currently considered somewhat protected from development, none have formal deed restrictions prohibiting their sale or their development.

Table #. Municipally-owned Land

Site Name	Acres	Ownership	Management	Condition	Current Uses	Recreation Potential	Public Access?	Level of Protection	Zoning
The Pines	42	Town of Dalton			Hiking		Y	High?	
North Mountain Park	157.7 (APR on all but 9.5 ac)	Town of Dalton			?		Y	High?	
Sackett Reservoir watershed land	44	Town of Dalton			Drinking water protection		N	Medium	
Landfill	20	Town of Dalton			No formal recreation		Limited	Medium	
Craneville Elementary School	18	Town of Dalton			Playground, soccer, baseball		Y	Medium	
Greenridge Park	10	Town of Dalton			Playground, baseball, basketball, soccer		Y	Medium	
Chamberlin Park	9	Town of Dalton	Dalton Parks Dept.		Playground, baseball, soccer, basketball		Y	Medium	
Pine Grove Park	7	Town of Dalton			Playground, basketball, football, softball, baseball,		Y	Medium	

Pittsfield Watershed land	374	City of Pittsfield			Drinking water protection		N	Medium	
Wahconah Regional High School and Nessacus Middle School	92	Berkshire Central Regional School System			Playing fields		Y	Medium	
Main Street Cemetery	10	Town of Dalton			Quiet solitude		Y	High	
Ashuelot Street Cemetery	6	Town of Dalton			Quiet solitude		Y	High	
Fairview Cemetery	6	Town of Dalton			Quiet solitude		Y	High	
Upper Main Street Cemetery	2	Town of Dalton			Quiet solitude		Y	High	
Senior Center	5	Town of Dalton	Council on Aging?		Walking, exercise		Y	?	
Total Acres	804								

Source: BRPC Open Space Data, Town Assessors Data 2020

Historic Properties and Resources

Historic landscapes, property and buildings contribute to the Town's charming historic character. Dalton has more than 760 buildings, monuments and other historic areas and resources listed in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System database. There are several individual properties or historic districts of note. The Craneville National Historic District includes 264 buildings, 204 of which are contributing properties, spread out over 154 acres. This District reflects the Town's historic industrial character, including the Crane and Co. mills and buildings, historic Crane family homes and their extensive lawns, and residential neighborhoods that include many early and historic houses. The Fitch-Hoose House is listed on the National Register, located in an area known as The Gulf, an African American enclave that sheltered free blacks or those who had fled slavery. This restored home is now a house museum that depicts how free African American residents lived during the 19th century. The house is located on the African American Trail within the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area. The site is near the Appalachian Trail and The Boulders. The Crane Museum, which explains paper making over the centuries, is located within the former Old Stone Mill Rag Room.

Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are eligible for potential historic preservation grants, and when grant funds are used historic reviews are undertaken before their owners make alterations that may affect the historic qualities of the facades of these buildings.

Table #. Historic Resources

Name	Location	Preservation Restriction	Historic Designation
Dalton Grange Hall #23 site Demolished in 1987/1988 (Building demolished)	Jnct. South Street and Grange Hall Road	None	National Register –Individual Property
Fitch-Hoose House	Gulf Road	Yes	National Register - Individual Property
Crane Museum - Old Stone Mill Rag Room	Just off Main Street	None	National Register – Individual Property
East Main Street Cemetery	East Main St.	None	National Register – Individual Property
Fairview Cemetery	Curtis Ave.	None	National Register – Individual Property
Main Street Cemetery	321 Main Street	None	State Register
Craneville National Historic District	Follows South Main St. and Park Ave.	None	National Register – Historic District

Section 6: Community Vision

6A. Description of Process

In March of 2020, the Dalton Open Space and Recreation Committee was formed to steer the efforts to develop the town's second Open Space and Recreation Plan. The open space goals developed for the Dalton Master Plan, completed in 2016, and the first draft, unfinalized Dalton Open Space and Recreation Plan (2006) were used as a foundation upon which the Committee expanded to form the town's Goals for its second Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Committee armed with data collected by BRPC and with information derived from the public survey formed the updated Goals and Objectives found in this plan.

While this plan was being conducted the Covid-19 pandemic was also occurring. The Pandemic did hinder the ability to go out into the public face to face but was able to take advantage of technology to receive the public's input. To include the public's input the following were done:

- In spring 2020, the public survey was put out and was shared via the town's website, various community social media pages (such as Dalton CRA), advertised on the local tv station, and sent out in various Dalton community newsletters
- Presented at Select board meetings on Zoom that were recorded
- Conducted a second survey about the North Mountain Park area and what the community would like to see be done with it

6B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

As described in the 2016 Dalton Master Plan, the vision for open space and outdoor recreation includes protecting Dalton's treasured open spaces and parks and maintaining the natural and scenic beauty of the town. This statement is still valid today. However, specific goals must be set, and actions must be undertaken to attain this vision as it pertains to open space protection and recreational opportunities. This plan identifies the specific goals and actions that should be undertaken to preserve and enhance the scenic and environmental assets of the town.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

7A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Dalton is fortunate in that much of its undeveloped lands are protected from future development. Most of these lands are located on rugged forested lands in the north and central, and to some extent southern portions of the town. These areas provide habitat for resident wildlife and travel corridors that allow wildlife to disperse and travel to other protected areas in neighboring communities. Dispersing and traveling wildlife includes the rare species discussed in previous sections of this plan.

However, as can be seen on the Biological Resources map, the areas where rare species are known to inhabit are the lowlands, of which very little is protected from development. Although the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act affords some level of protection, the areas outside the Act's jurisdiction is not protected from development. Intrusion into these areas could adversely impact species that are easily disturbed by human activities or that rely on both aquatic and terrestrial habitats to complete their lifecycles. Windsor Falls Brook and Cleveland Brook are partially protected by the Wetlands Protection Act but efforts to protect habitat along the brooks should be considered.

Maintaining a clean and healthy watershed is critical to the development and growth of Dalton's rivers as positive resources for its residents. Supporting the Housatonic Valley Association's on-going program for monitoring the chemical and biological health of the watershed should be continued and where possible expanded. This will allow the town and environmental organizations to track future improvements or degradation.

Wahconah Brook Falls continues to suffer from excessive sedimentation due to the degraded condition of the Windsor Reservoir dam and the road system in that area. This sedimentation not only affects the ecology of the stream, but it affects the water quality and storage capacity of Center Pond. This pond is a beloved and historic water resource for town residents and improving its ability to support wildlife and recreational use has consistently been cited as a need by residents and public officials.

The Priority Conservation Area #1 identified by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program is an area targeted by that agency for long-term protection of biodiversity. This area is situated between municipally protected lands and conserving this area would create an east-west link and expand natural resources protection lands for protection and movement of wildlife, some of which are rare species.

7B. Summary of Community's Needs

In March 2020, the Dalton Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee conducted an Open Space and Recreation Survey as part of the process of updating its Open Space and Recreation plan. The electronic survey solicited input via the Town's official website, the Dalton Community Recreation Association website and Facebook, and sent out in various community groups email groups. The survey garnered 182 responses, with 8 of them being from non-Dalton residents. Once controlled for only Dalton residents, we had 174 responses.

From the survey the top five recreation activities are walking, hiking, field sports, bicycling, and gardening. The most visited (13+ times a year) locations for recreation activities were rural and town roadways, Wahconah High School and Nessacus Middle School, Craneville Elementary School, Appalachian Trail, and The Boulders. When asked about who (youth, adults, older adults, people with disabilities) has a need for more recreation opportunities, the top two were close to equal for adults and youth opportunities followed by opportunities for older adults.

Respondents then said that the open space and recreation funds should go to Walking Paths (including along town and rural roadways), Bike Paths (both on and off-road), Hiking Trails, Playgrounds and Park Amenities (benches, grills, etc.), and Sport Playing Fields (Baseball, Football, etc.). This correlates with the top five activities the residents like to do. In terms of what the residents are willing to do to support or preserve the recreation and open spaces, they said participate in maintenance and cleanup, attend a meeting or join a committee, and pay a little more in taxes, if it was guaranteed for open space and recreation.

Of the 174 respondents 97% are full-time Dalton residents, with the ages 40-49-years old being the largest age group that responded to the survey. The survey asked for respondents to answer thinking about their household, and while the top age groups to answer the survey was 40-49, the top age group they additionally answered for were 10-19.

To get a better idea of what the priorities are of different age groups, we filtered the question “If your answers represent other members of your family, please indicate their number in the following age brackets (including yourself) that your answers represent” into three age groups of 0-29, 30-59, and 60+ year old. This was done so the children in these household’s that were too young themselves to fill out the survey are accounted for.

The top five activities for the ages 0-29 are walking, Hiking, Field Sports (Soccer, Baseball, Football, etc.), Bicycling, and Playgrounds/Swings/Slides. This is the same top five for ages 30-59, which may be because the younger ages in the 0-29 range are from the same households of 30-59. For the 60+ age group the top five are Walking, Gardening, Hiking, Bird watching, and Bicycling. Across the three age groups we see hiking, walking, and bicycling in the top five activities.

When it came to what the residents would like to see improved within Dalton, many responses referenced improvements needed with road and streets, garbage/trash removal, and hiking trails. Regarding roads and streets, there were references to improving or adding sidewalks, maintaining roads for both cars and other uses, and creating better parking at outdoor recreation sites. Many respondents referenced the need for more trash bins along sidewalks, within parks and popular hiking spots. For hiking improvements respondents talked about better trail markings, brochures for information on trails and maps, regular maintenance of the trails, creating more trails, connecting trail systems to the center of town, and creating accessible trails. Other improvements cited were more seating, more or improved parking, maintenance of sports fields/courts and play equipment, place to swim, public rest rooms, dog parks, and skate parks. The desire for improved access to walking and hiking trail systems and upgrades for parks and playgrounds corresponds with that of other Berkshire County communities and, according to the 2017 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, with that of other communities across Massachusetts. The City of Pittsfield’s OSRP cited a goal of reaching out to neighboring communities through a network of trails, including the extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail southward into the city. Improving access to the Rail Trail from Dalton, possibly along Gulf Road, would provide residents with a link to more than 13 miles of a paved biking and walking route

To see what groups of people, need more recreational opportunities, the respondents were asked to choose who they think needs more recreation opportunities. The top two were tied for adults and youth. Those were followed by older adults and then people with disabilities.

7C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

As noted in Section 5, Dalton is fortunate in that a large percentage of the town's undeveloped lands are under some type of permanent protection program, and most of these lands are open to public use. However, as was also noted in this section, these lands are concentrated in areas where the terrain is rugged and steeply sloped. In addition, the trail system through these areas is relatively sparse. Although this is conducive to a wilderness experience, these areas are unsuitable to families with small children and people with mobility disabilities. The Town should search for recreational lands with a relatively gentle terrain to meet the needs of residents who are unable to enjoy the more rugged and wild areas. The extension of the Old Mill Trail into the downtown area may provide such an opportunity. Promoting and expanding the trail system between Nessacus Middle School and Wahconah Regional High School is another opportunity.

The Town has been aggressive in improving the walkability and connectivity of its road system. Sidewalks were expanded along the full length of South Street and Housatonic Street during reconstruction of those roads, and a sidewalk is being planned for the length of Dalton Division Road. The Town has rehabilitated the sidewalk along High Street, with funds from the Complete Streets program. Benches were placed along Main Street and a few other key areas in the town center for those walkers who need to rest occasionally along their route. Continuing these efforts, although costly, can reap quality of life rewards for all ages and abilities.

As shown on the Protected Open Space map, there is a large amount of land enlisted in the various Chapter 61 tax abatement programs. These areas have been cited as one of the most scenic areas in the town. The town has a 120-day option of first refusal on these properties if they were to be placed on the real estate market for development purposes. However, at this time the town has no mechanisms in place nor funds set aside to take advantage of the 120-day option to acquire the properties or any type of protective deed restrictions.

The Dalton Highway/Cemetery/Sewer Department is responsible for the care and maintenance of the town parks. These responsibilities are in addition to the high demands of maintaining the road and sewer system infrastructure. The Town should investigate a mechanism by which the Town could secure funds dedicated to conservation and recreation. The town should reconsider adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which sets aside funding for conservation, historic preservation, and housing. While an effort to adopt the CPA failed at Town Meeting several years ago, neighboring communities in the county have shown how successful the program can be.

Another mechanism by which to secure funds for conservation is to consider selling Town owned lands to the Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife. An example might be the northern portion of North Mountain Park that is under a Conservation Restriction and is adjacent to existing F&W lands. This transaction would add to the acreage of Chalet WMA while provide funding to the Town for conservation and/or outdoor recreation. Part of the funds might be used to develop the remaining 9.5 acres of land for playing fields or other public outdoor uses.

Dalton must continue to manage, reduce, and control stormwater as required by the U.S. EPA. The efforts of the Stormwater Committee and the Stormwater Management Commission must continue to be supported through all levels of government.

This OSRP should be considered a living document, a blueprint for future strategies and actions. Establishing a formal and permanent Open Space and Recreation Committee to oversee the implementation of the plan should be considered by the Town.

Section 8: Goals and Objectives

In developing goals and objectives for this Open Space Plan, the Dalton Open Space and Recreation Committee revisited the goals and objectives adopted in the unfinalized draft OSRP of 2006 and the Master Plan of 2016. Many of the goals, objectives and actions from these previous plans remain relevant today and have been adapted to meet current needs and desires.

During review of OSRP and the Master Plan, the Open Space and Recreation Committee was pleased to learn that some of the actions listed in 2006 and 2016 have been achieved while others have been started. These include:

- The Town of Dalton has become a designated Appalachian Trail Community. Markers to help AT hikers navigate through the town center have been laid on sidewalks and kiosks have been installed at trailheads.
- The Town sold the Town Forest to Fish and Game for permanent protection of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation.
- Sidewalk improvements have been made along High Street and Field Street Extension.
- The Town has acquired 158 acres of land off upper North Street and Town Meeting has authorized the selectboard to pursue development of nine acres of that land for public recreational use.
- The Dalton Water District has conducted improvement projects at Windsor Reservoir to reduce downstream transport of sediment along Wahconah Falls Brook.
- The Town has received funding to conduct a hydraulic/hydrologic study of Walker Brook as a first step in reducing flooding in the High Street/High Street Extension area of Dalton.
- Housatonic Valley Association water quality monitoring indicates that bacteria levels in the upper reaches of Wahconah Falls Brook have improved, but that high levels are persistent in the Deming Street area.

Goal 1: Expand outdoor recreational opportunities

Objective 1.1: Create and expand recreational trail opportunities

Action: Establish bicycle trails and routes in town and connecting to other towns; including a possible link to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail along Gulf Road through The Boulders.

Action: Determine best route for a walking loop and prioritize sections for safety improvements.

Action: Work with HVA/BNRC to extend the Old Mill Trail into downtown Dalton, possibly linking to the Appalachian Trail.

Action: Connect the Boulders through Craneville School to Park Avenue.

Action: Promote the existing trail system that connects the middle and high schools.

Action: Support the designation of the series of trails and paths that exist in the community; rank them by level of difficulty so that those with limited mobility can be guided to easier or accessible trails.

Action: Work with snowmobile and motorized recreational groups to identify and promote areas that can be used by these groups.

Objective 1.2: Expand the recreational opportunities in playgrounds and playing fields

Action: Investigate expansion of athletic fields at Greenridge Park.

Action: Explore obtaining “the Pits” that holds the pond and the surrounding environs for future use as a town swimming area.

Action: Engage the public in determining the recreational use best suited for development of 9 acres of North Mountain Park and pursue funding options for development of the park; explore uses for the remaining part of the property not being developed (e.g. hiking, biking, agriculture, etc.)

Action: Develop a dog friendly area, such as a dog park or walking area.

Objective 1.3: Maintain and improve access to The Pines

Action: Establish the Pines Committee to help the town develop and maintain The Pines; this might include establishing routines for volunteer trail days.

Action: Develop a plan and program for improving the pines; consider improved parking and marking and rerouting trails as needed to better navigate the property; map the trail system and post maps at the entrances.

Goal 2: Maintain and improve the quality of water resources and riparian habitat**Objective 2.1: Strengthen and support the activities of the Conservation Commission**

Action: Consider hiring a shared conservation agent and/or administrator with neighboring towns.

Objective 2.2: Protect and improve Center Pond as a key natural asset of the Town

Action: Determine best approach to address siltation of Center Pond from Windsor Reservoir and other upstream sources.

Action: Explore the process needed to improve habitat, increase storage capacity and lessen risk of sedimentation downstream during storm events; identify the partners needed for this process (MA DEP, ACOE, MEMA, FEMA, etc.).

Action: Improve access to the pond, possibly at sites such as East Deming Street Extension and Riverview Drive.

Objective 2.3: Protect water quality within the East Branch Housatonic River Watershed

Action: Partner with the Housatonic Valley Association to monitor water quality and conduct water improvement projects in the East Branch Housatonic River Watershed.

Action: Support the Dalton Water Fire District in efforts to reduce sedimentation in the Wahconah Falls Brook watershed.

Goal 3: Maintain and protect the rich natural and cultural resources of Dalton**Objective 3.1: Protect sensitive natural areas and resources such as mountain ridges, steep slopes, rare-species habitat, forested areas, and prime agricultural soils.**

Action: Implement zoning overlays and restrict use of sensitive areas; refer to the areas of Dalton cited as Priority Conservation Areas in the BioMap2 Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity in Massachusetts report of 2011.

Objective: 3.2: Support local farmers and become a Right-to-Farm Community

Action: Adopt the Right-to-Farm bylaw and establish an Agricultural Commission.

Action: Promote local farms and their products in local publications and direct visitors to these sites.

Action: Support local farms in applications for grant and loan programs.

Objective 3.3: Promote preservation and conservation in the community

Action: Encourage local educational programs which foster a spirit of historic preservation, highlighting gems such as the Fitch-Hoose House, Crane papermaking and the cemeteries; involve schools, senior center, library, public television, and other venues.

Action: Work with schools to create an environmental class that includes field visits in Dalton and the local area.

Objective 3.4: Pursue funding to support land conservation and protection initiatives

Action: Investigate the Community Preservation Act to create a dedicated funding source for natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation, and historic resource preservation.

Action: Establish and strengthen relationships between the town and existing land conservancy organizations and state agencies.

Objective 3.5: Establish a formal, permanent Open Space & Recreation Committee to oversee implementation and update this OSRP as needed.

Action: Solicit community members for inclusion on the OSRP Committee.

Action: OSRP Committee will review goals, objectives and actions on a regular basis and advise the Select Board on steps needed to implement the Plan.

Goal 4: Promote Dalton's rich natural and cultural heritage**Objective 4.1: Develop guides to the Town's assets**

Action: Create a guide to draw residents and visitors to Dalton's attractions, including sites such public lands, the AT, historic sites, local farms, and the Crane Paper Museum.

Action: Create a guide to educate people about the natural resources and trail systems of Dalton and where they might view these resources. Develop Partnership with groups to promote the Community available resources: BRPC, AT, HVA, Crane Company, Historical Commission, CRA

Action: Create interpretive signs for a few key places to describe the flora and fauna found there; ideas might be the trail between Nessacus and Wahconah, The Pines and The Boulders. Partner with Community Members to get funding for program using available grants to purchase signs and other identifying features for each trail.

Section 9: Five Year Action Plan

Section 10: Public Comments

Section 11: References

Appendix A: Dalton 2006 Open Space and Recreation Survey
Appendix B: Dalton 2020 Open Space and Recreation Survey
Appendix C: Letters of Review

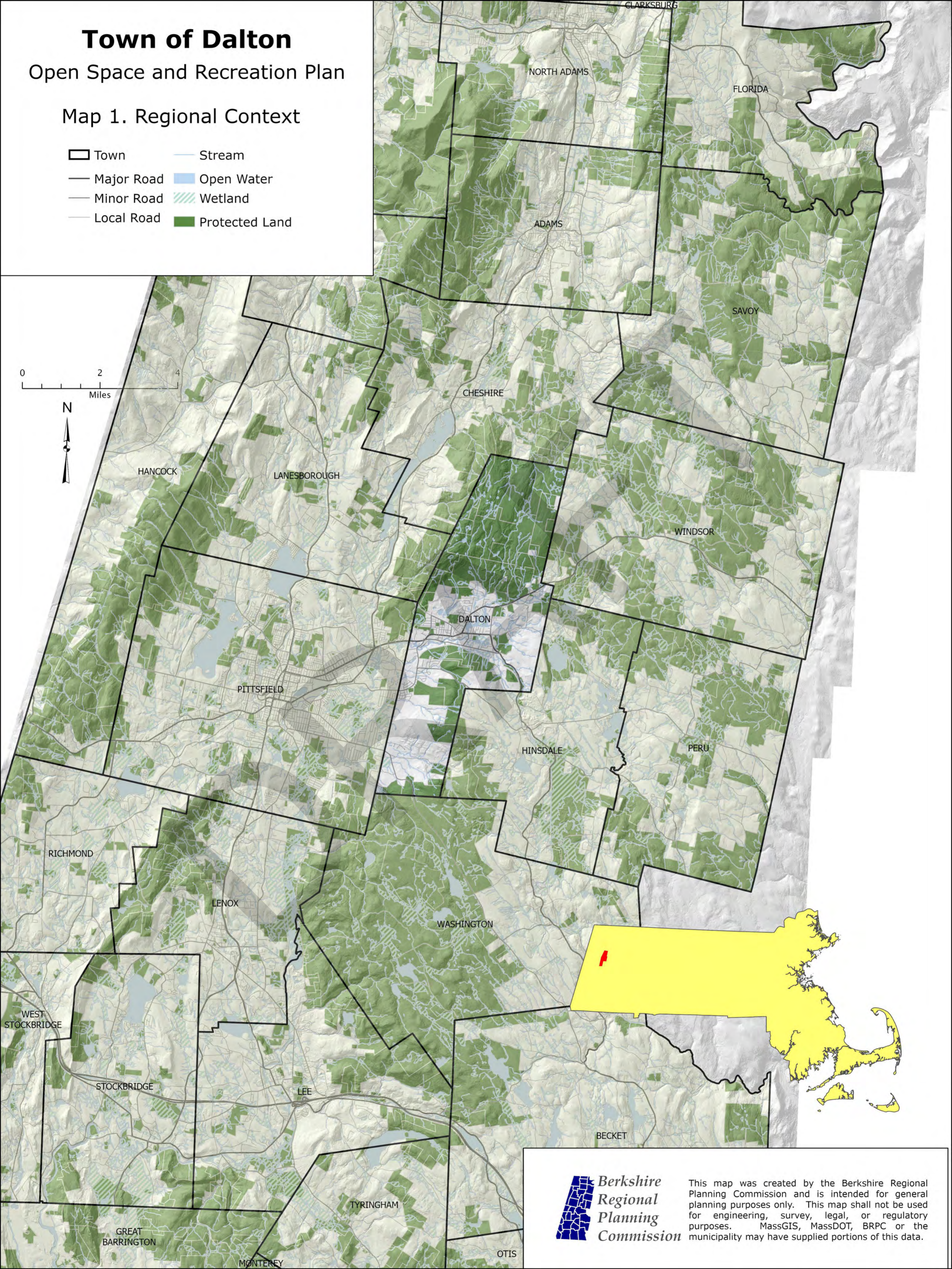
Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 1. Regional Context

- Town
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Local Road
- Stream
- Open Water
- Wetland
- Protected Land

0 2 4
Miles



**Berkshire
Regional
Planning
Commission**

This map was created by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and is intended for general planning purposes only. This map shall not be used for engineering, survey, legal, or regulatory purposes. MassGIS, MassDOT, BRPC or the municipality may have supplied portions of this data.

Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 2. Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice Thresholds exceeded

0 EJ Criteria Met

1 EJ Criteria Met - Median Household Income <65% of State Median

Protected Land

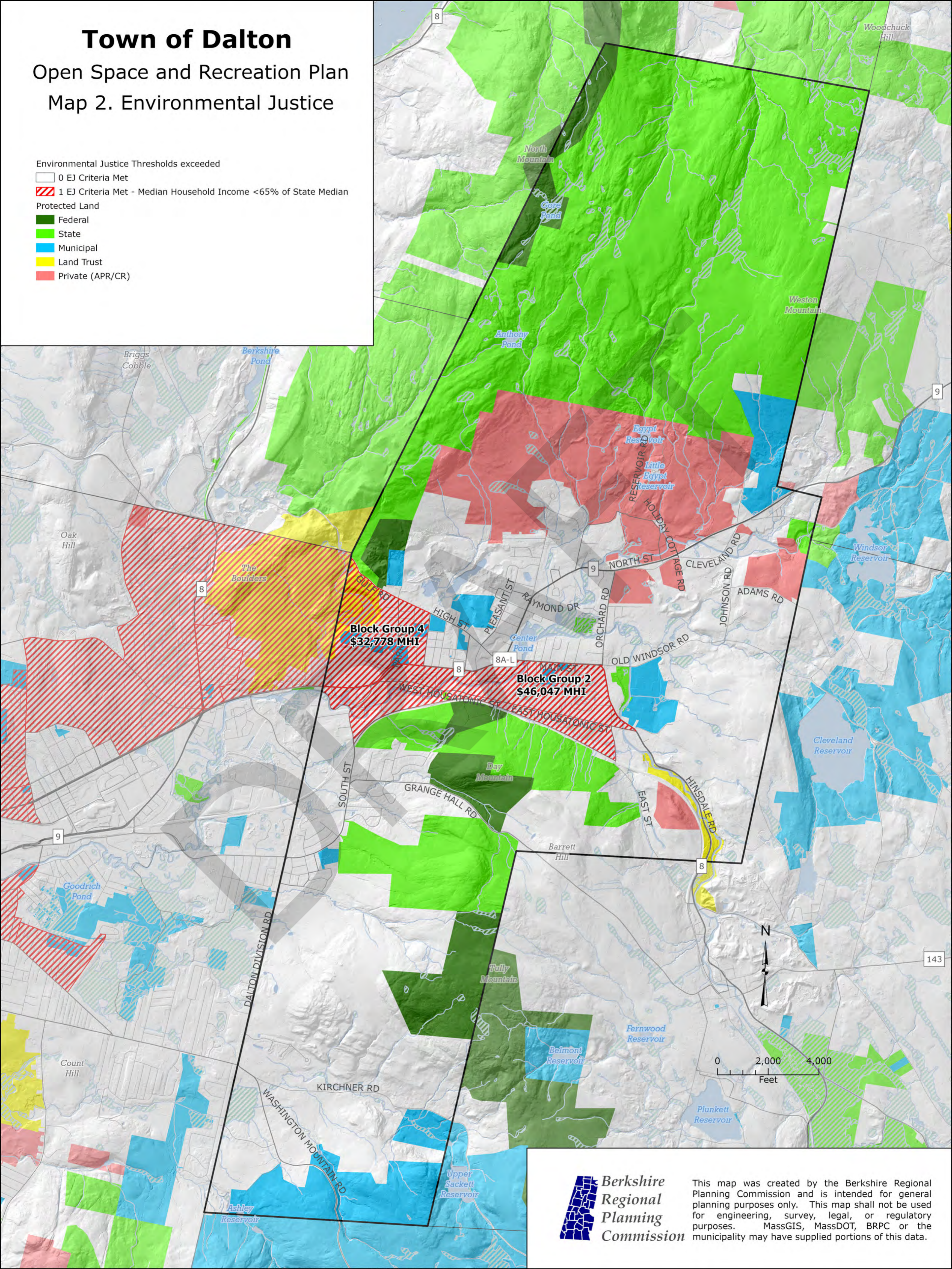
Federal

State

Municipal

Land Trust

Private (APR/CR)

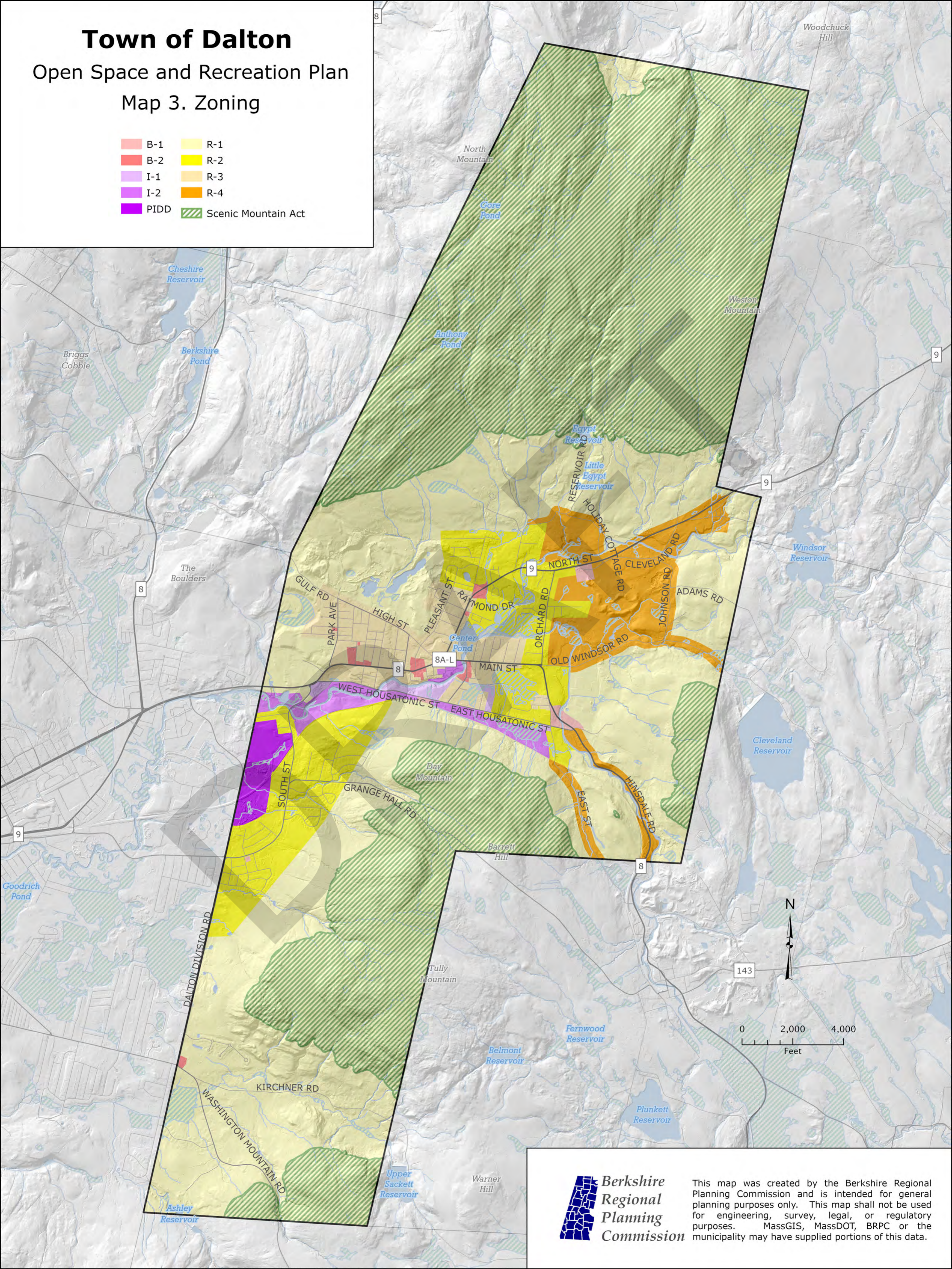


Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan




Map 3. Zoning

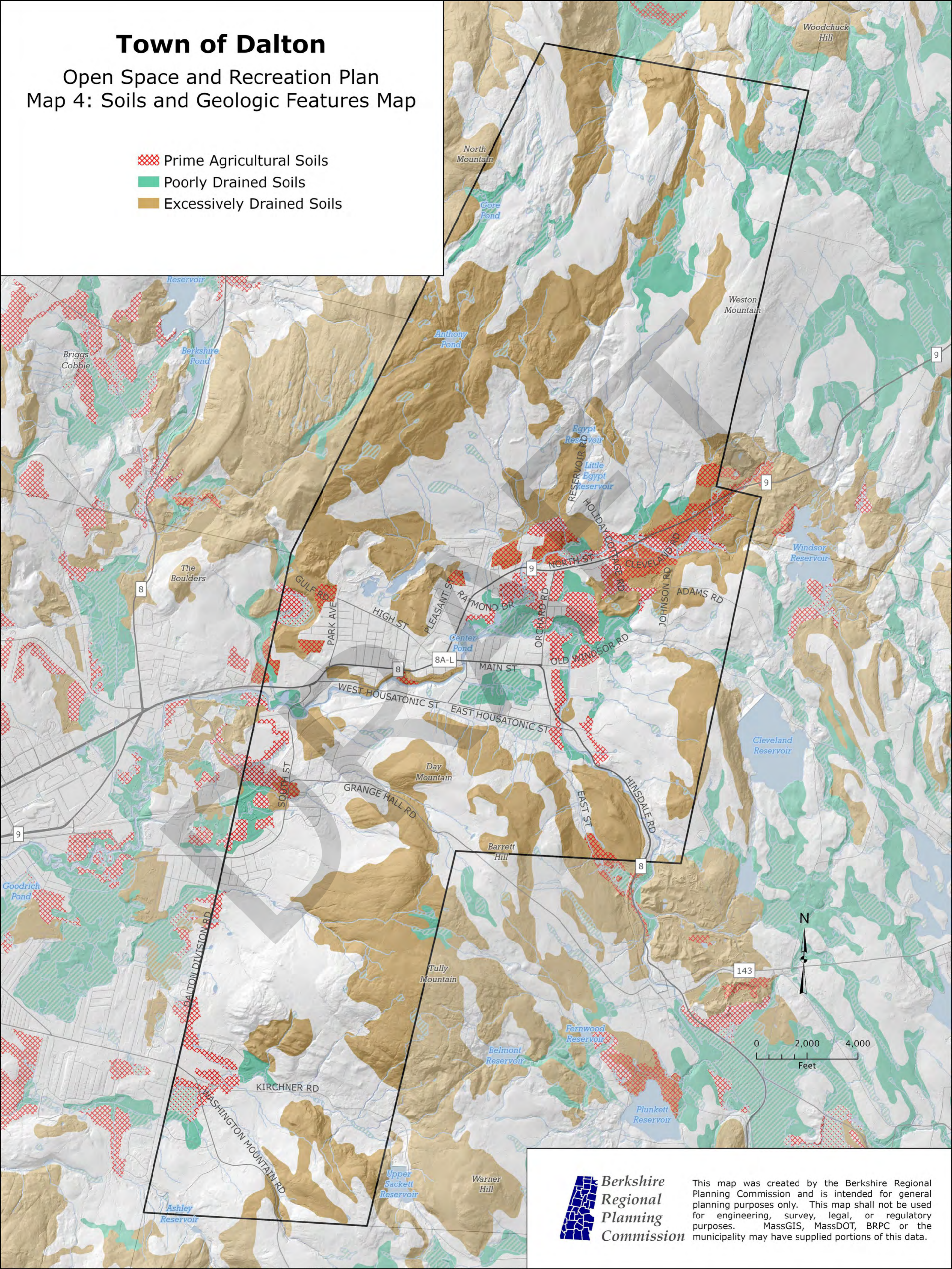
B-1	R-1
B-2	R-2
I-1	R-3
I-2	R-4
PIDD	Scenic Mountain Act



Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan Map 4: Soils and Geologic Features Map

-  Prime Agricultural Soils
-  Poorly Drained Soils
-  Excessively Drained Soils

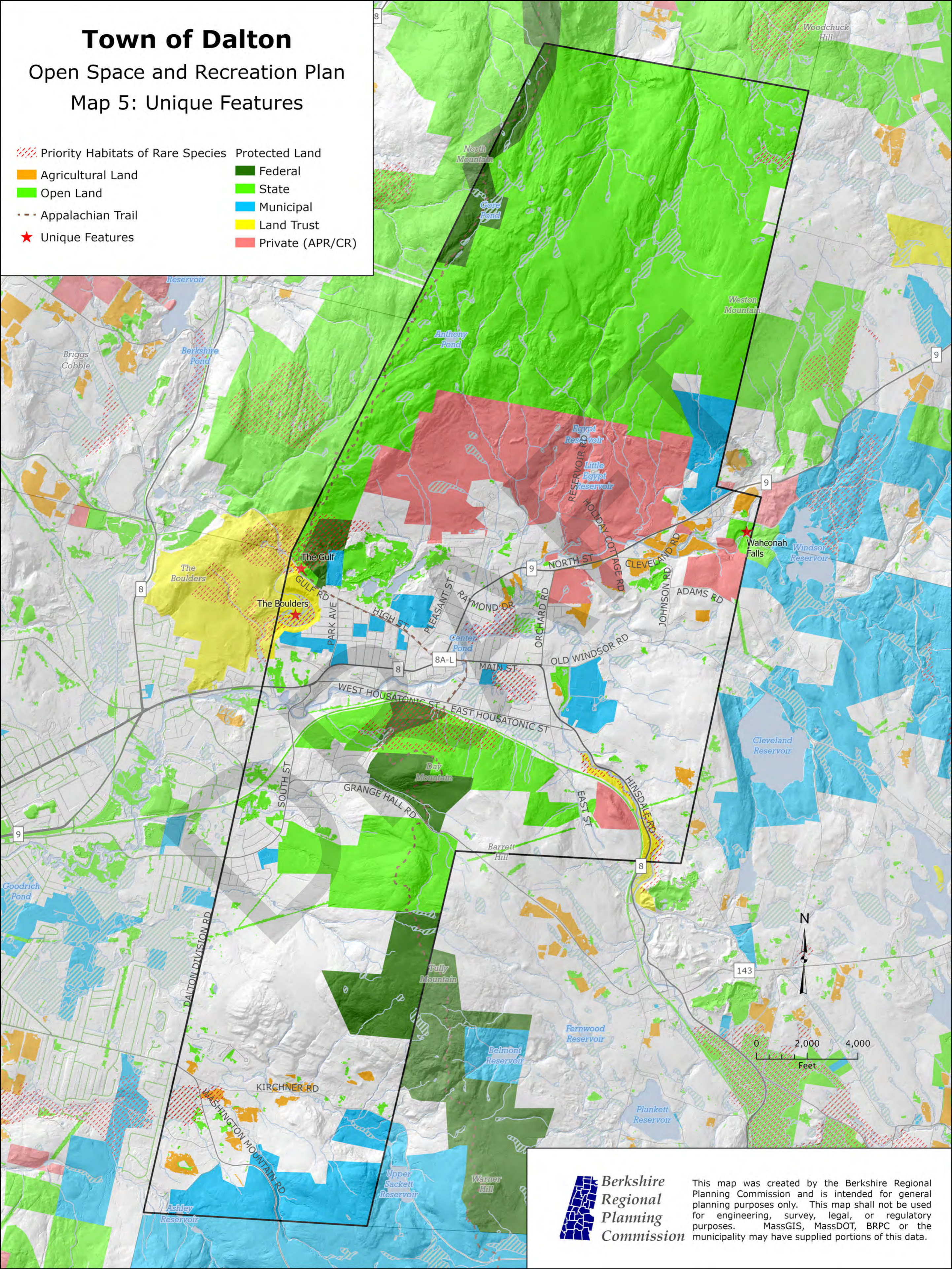


Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 5: Unique Features

- Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- Agricultural Land
- Open Land
- Appalachian Trail
- Unique Features
- Protected Land
 - Federal
 - State
 - Municipal
 - Land Trust
 - Private (APR/CR)

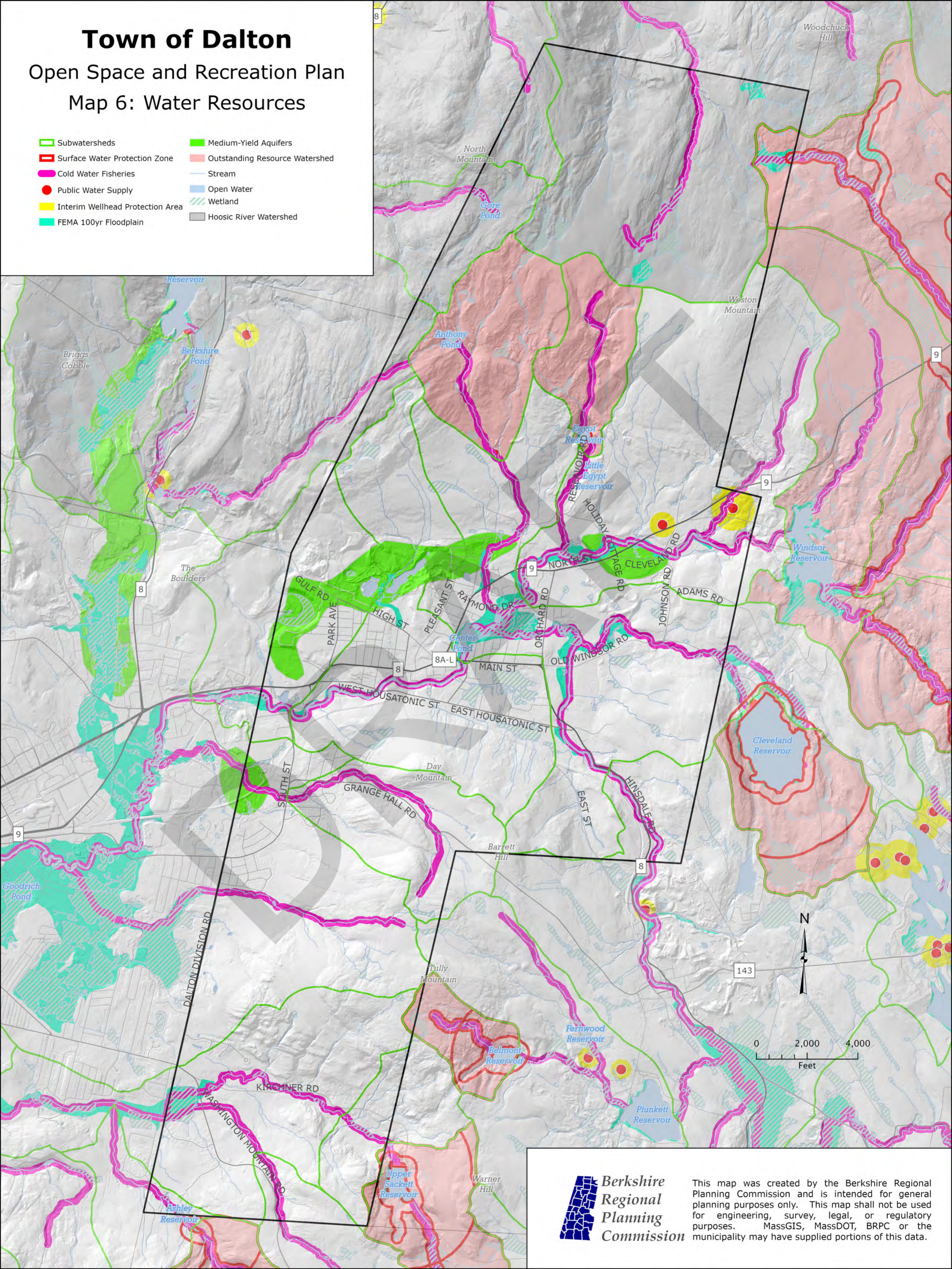


Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 6: Water Resources

- Subwatersheds
- Surface Water Protection Zone
- Cold Water Fisheries
- Public Water Supply
- Interim Wellhead Protection Area
- FEMA 100yr Floodplain
- Medium-Yield Aquifers
- Outstanding Resource Watershed
- Stream
- Open Water
- Wetland
- Hoosic River Watershed

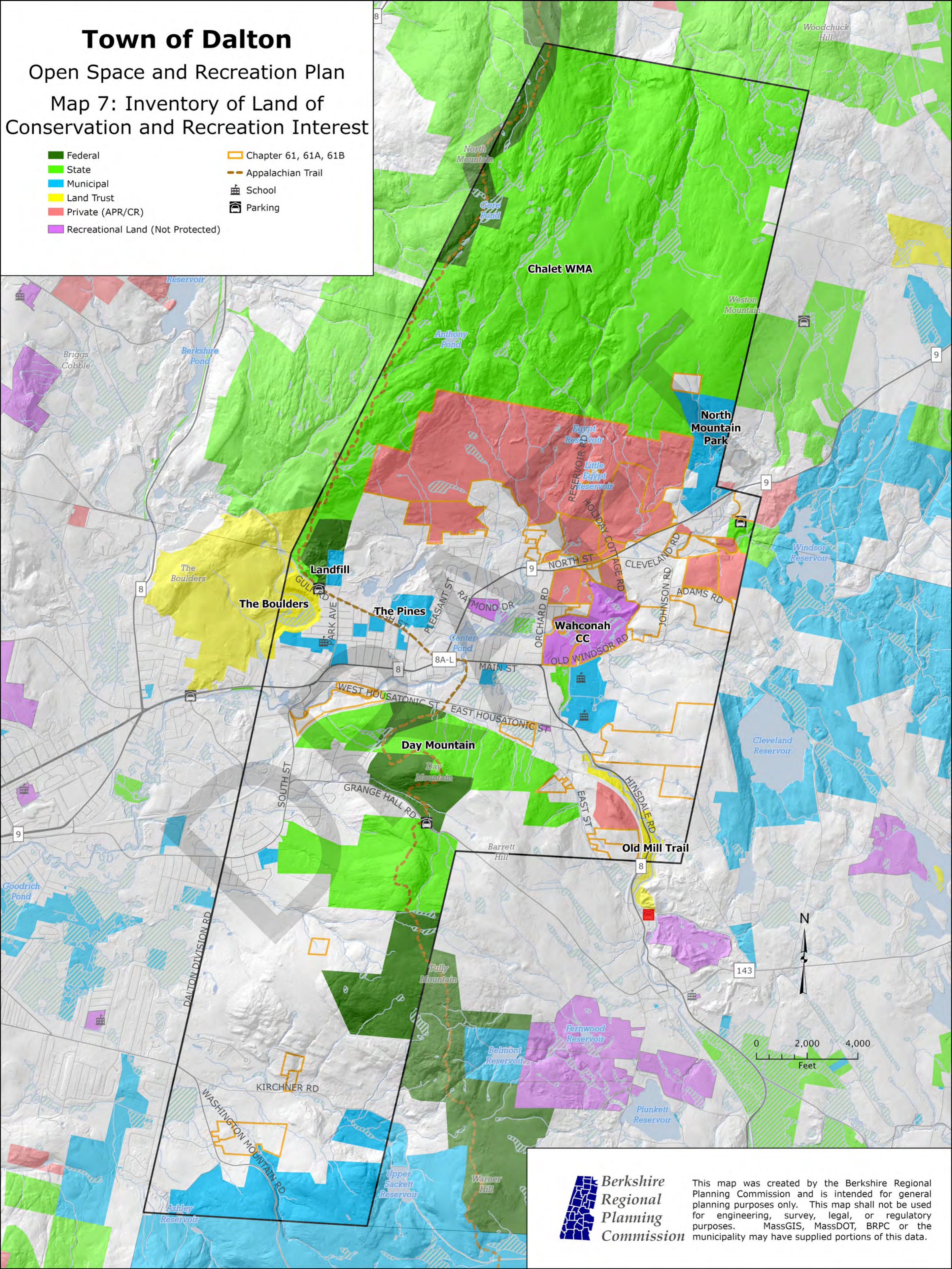


Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map 7: Inventory of Land of Conservation and Recreation Interest

- Federal
- State
- Municipal
- Land Trust
- Private (APR/CR)
- Recreational Land (Not Protected)
- Chapter 61, 61A, 61B
- Appalachian Trail
- School
- Parking

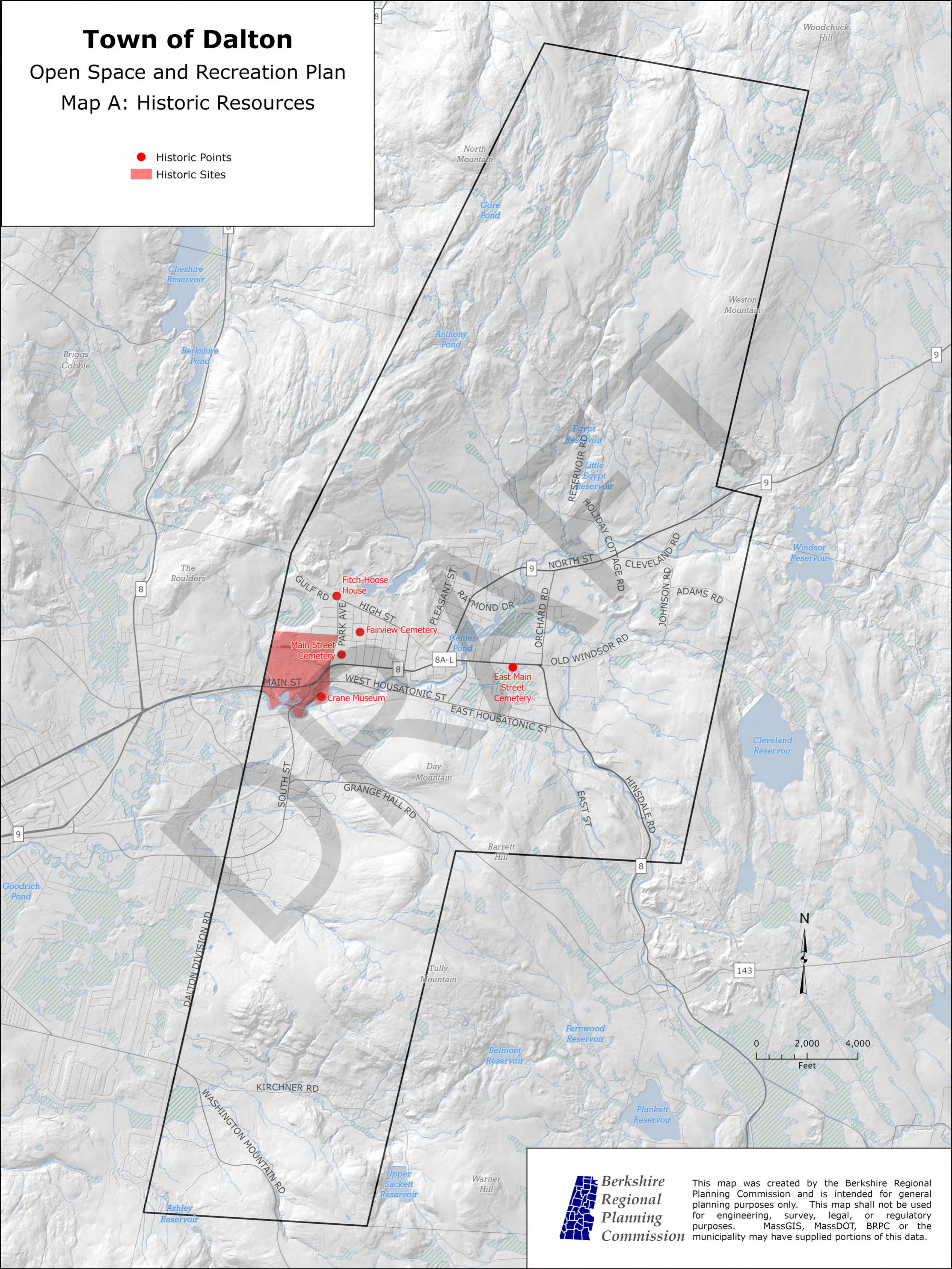


Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map A: Historic Resources

- Historic Points
- Historic Sites

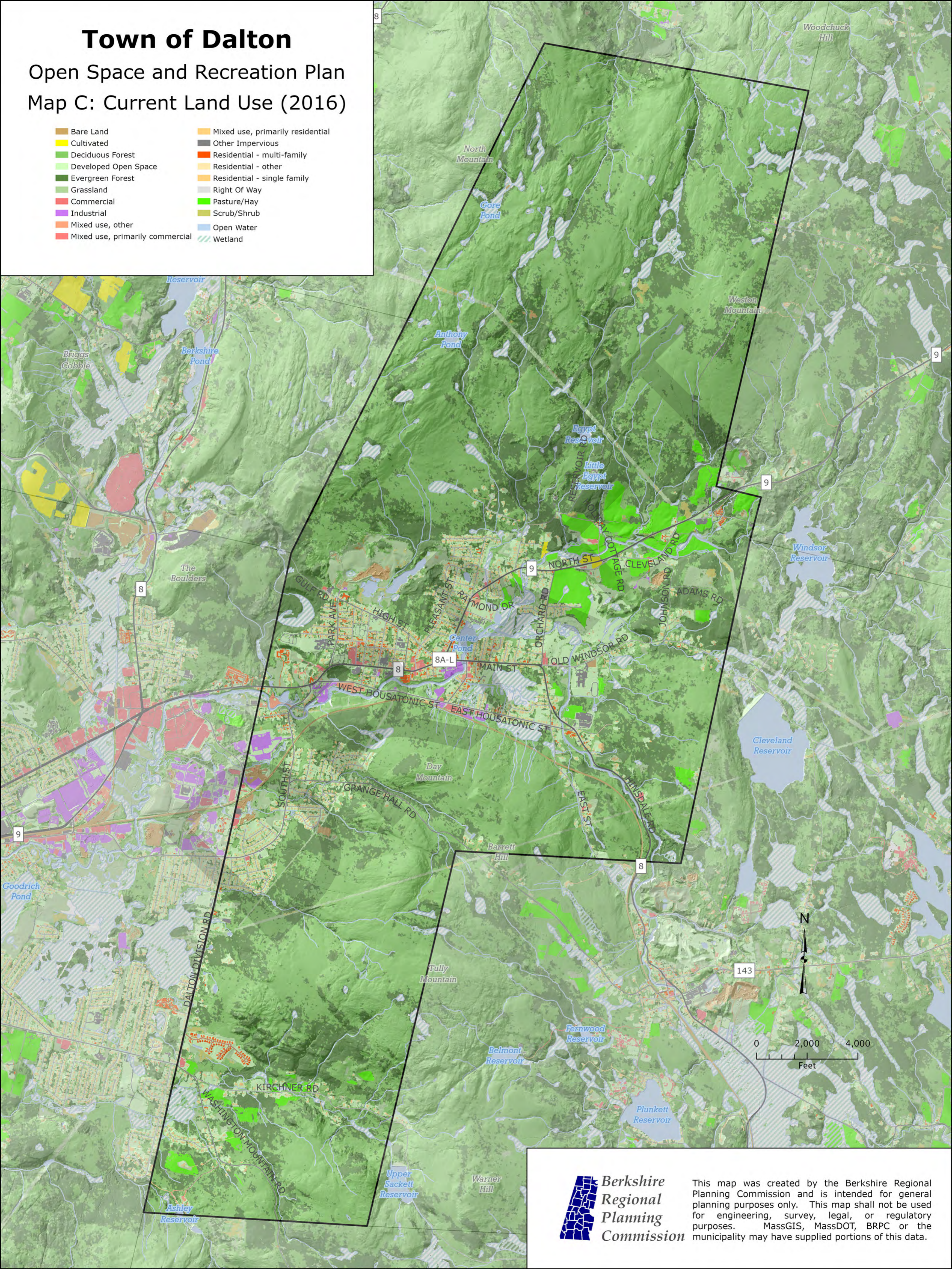


Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map C: Current Land Use (2016)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bare Land | Mixed use, primarily residential |
| Cultivated | Other Impervious |
| Deciduous Forest | Residential - multi-family |
| Developed Open Space | Residential - other |
| Evergreen Forest | Residential - single family |
| Grassland | Right Of Way |
| Commercial | Pasture/Hay |
| Industrial | Scrub/Shrub |
| Mixed use, other | Open Water |
| Mixed use, primarily commercial | Wetland |

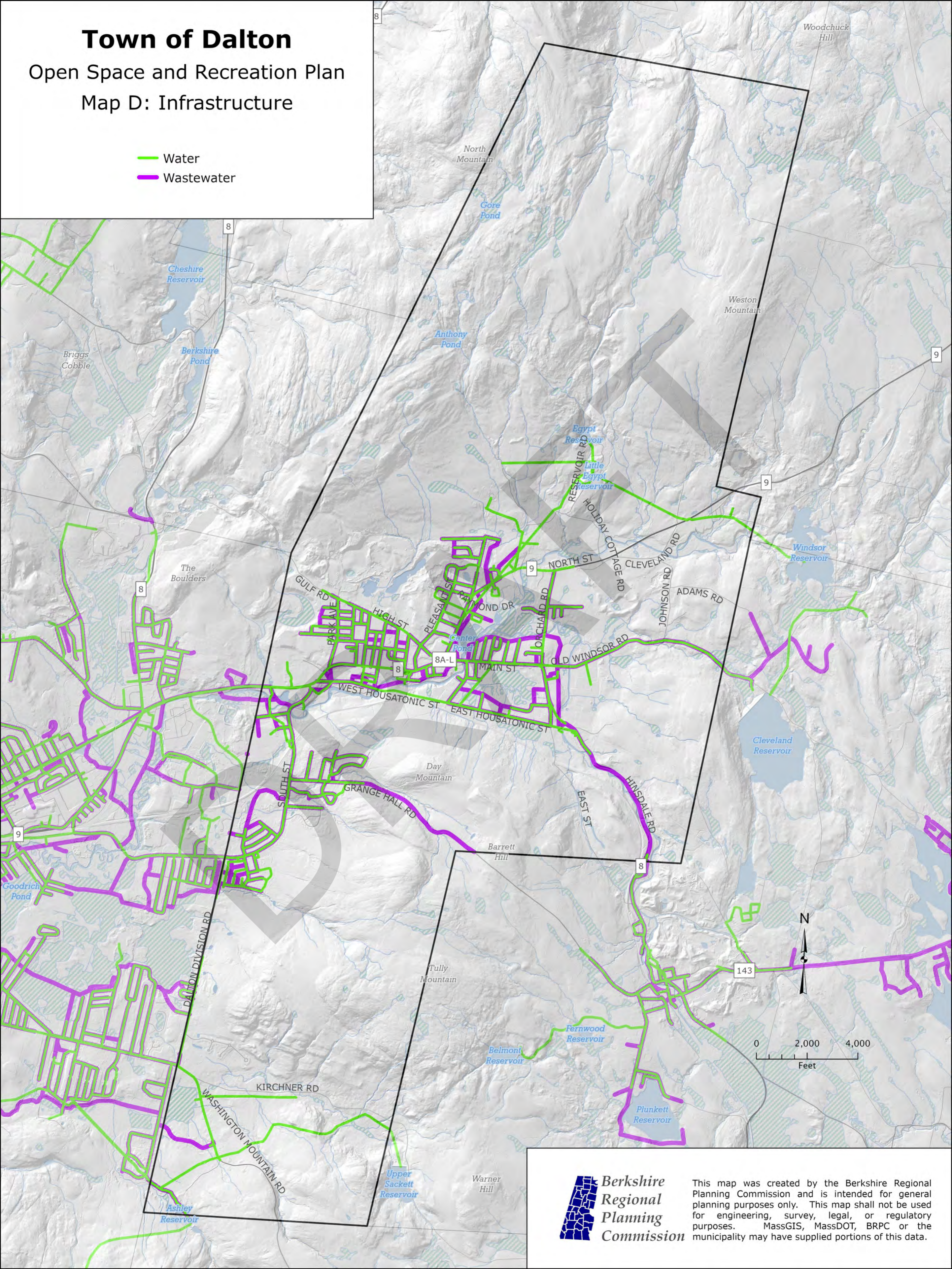


Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Map D: Infrastructure

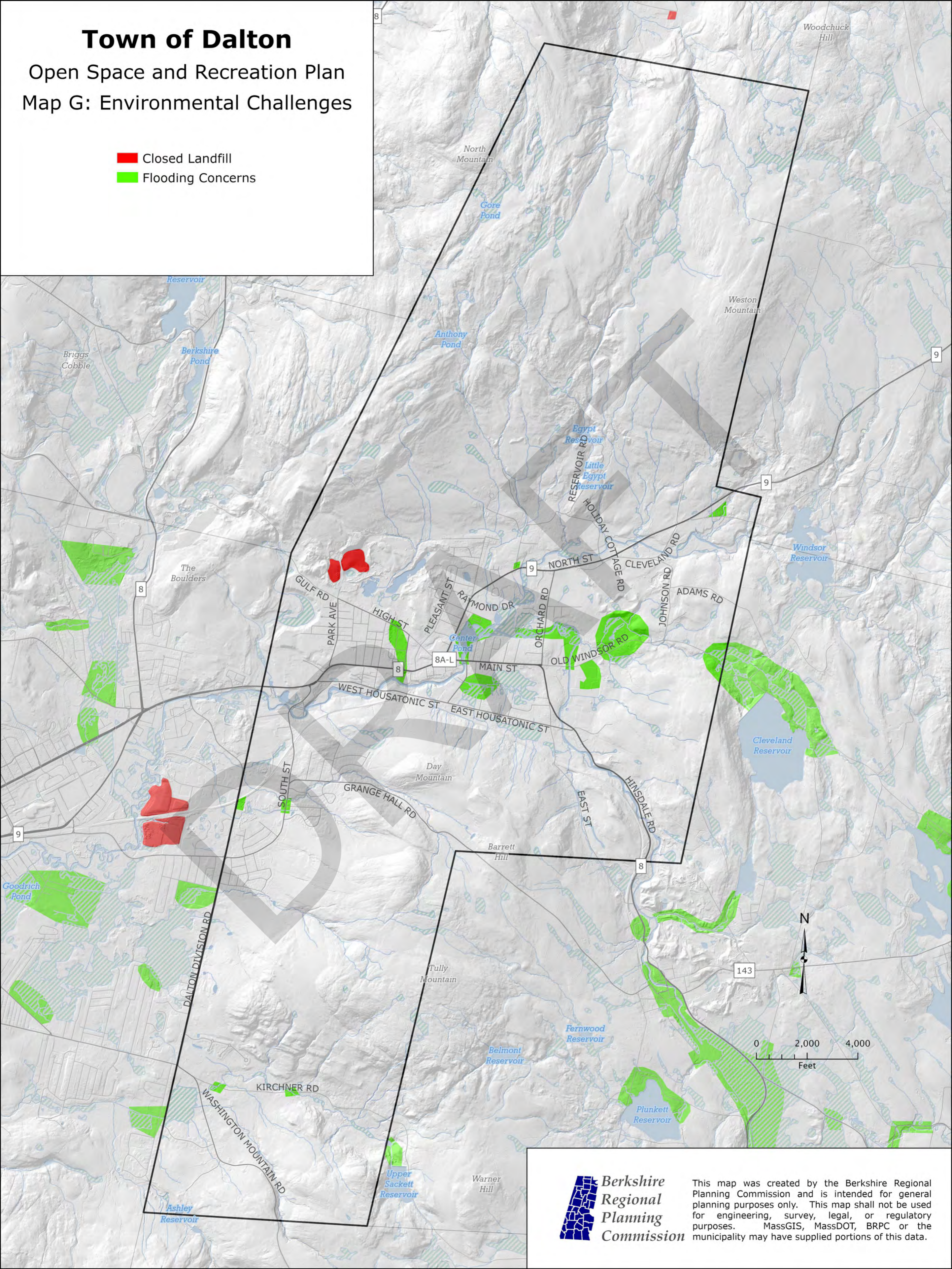
- Water
- Wastewater



Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan Map G: Environmental Challenges

- Closed Landfill
- Flooding Concerns

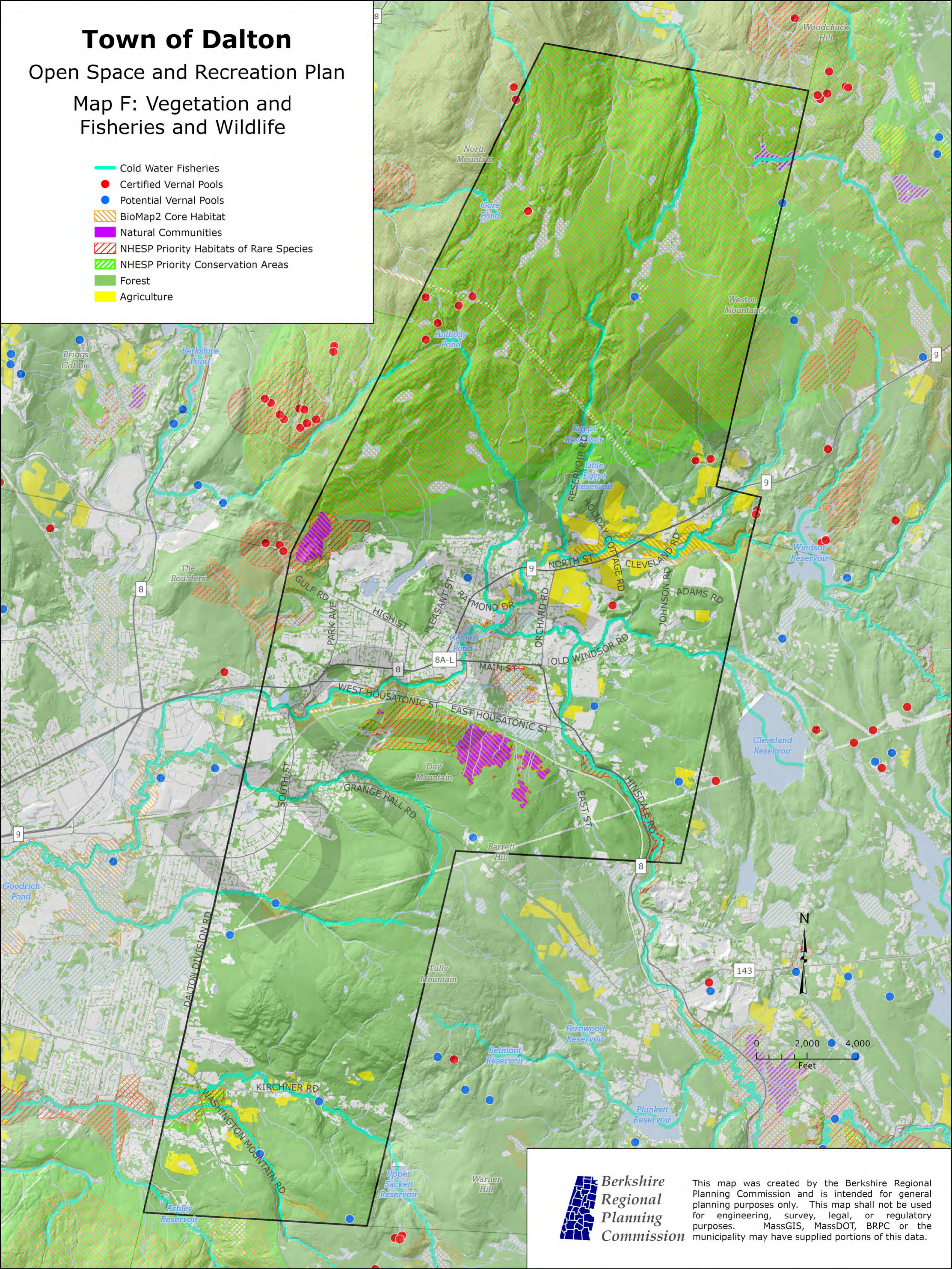


Town of Dalton

Open Space and Recreation Plan

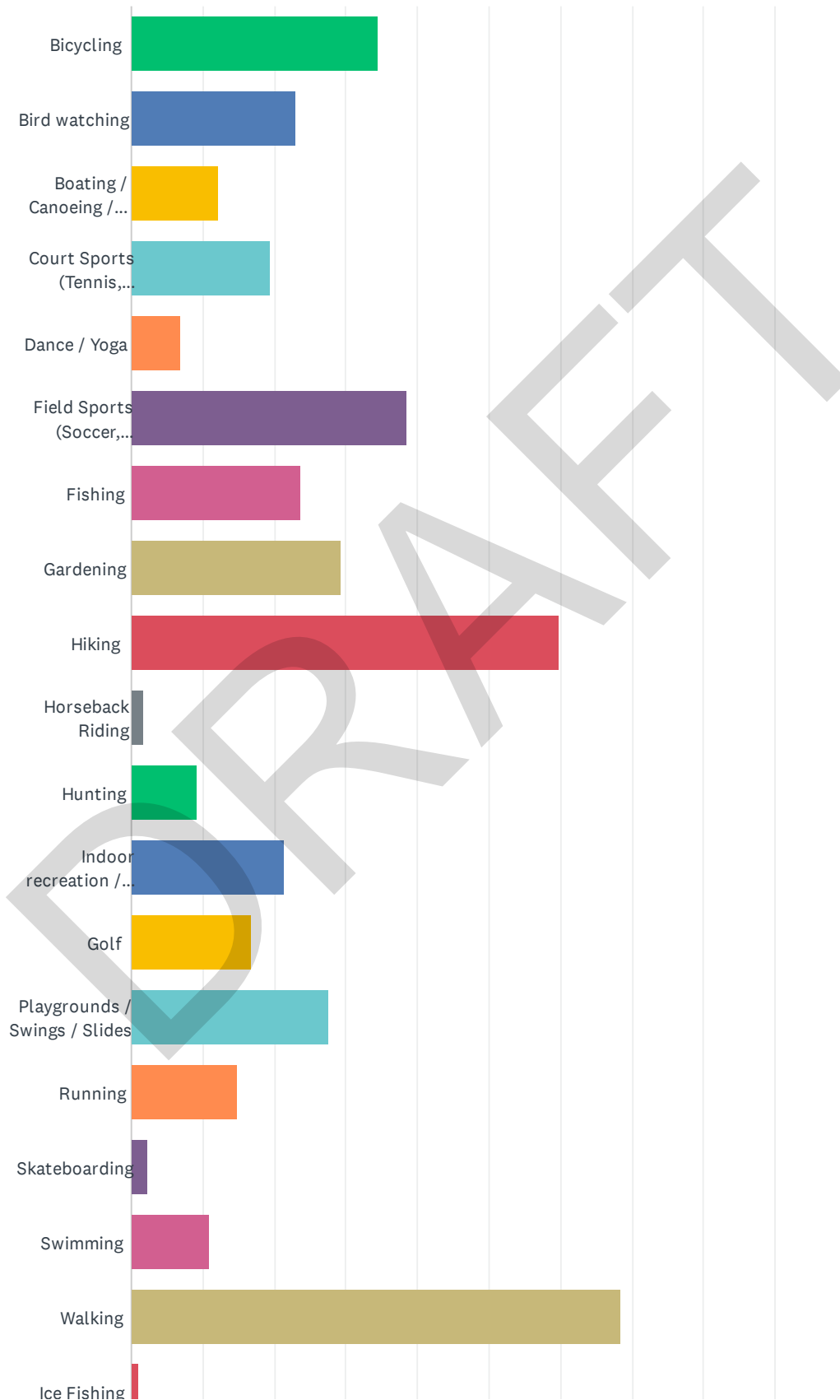
Map F: Vegetation and Fisheries and Wildlife

- Cold Water Fisheries
- Certified Vernal Pools
- Potential Vernal Pools
- BioMap2 Core Habitat
- Natural Communities
- NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- NHESP Priority Conservation Areas
- Forest
- Agriculture

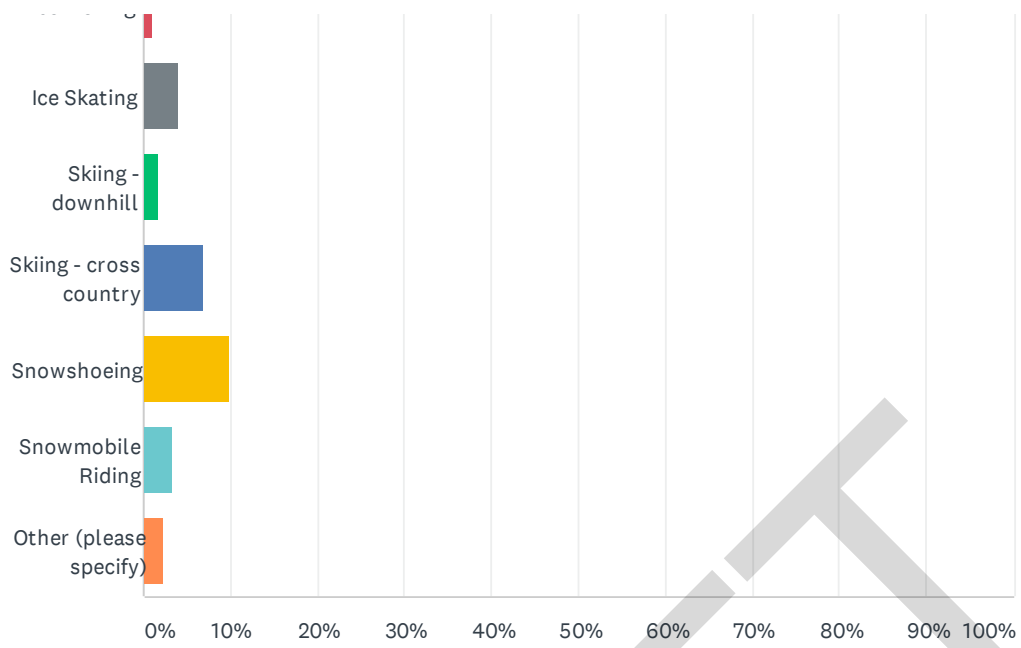


Q1 Choose up to five (5) activities that you enjoy doing in Dalton.

Answered: 174 Skipped: 0



Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey



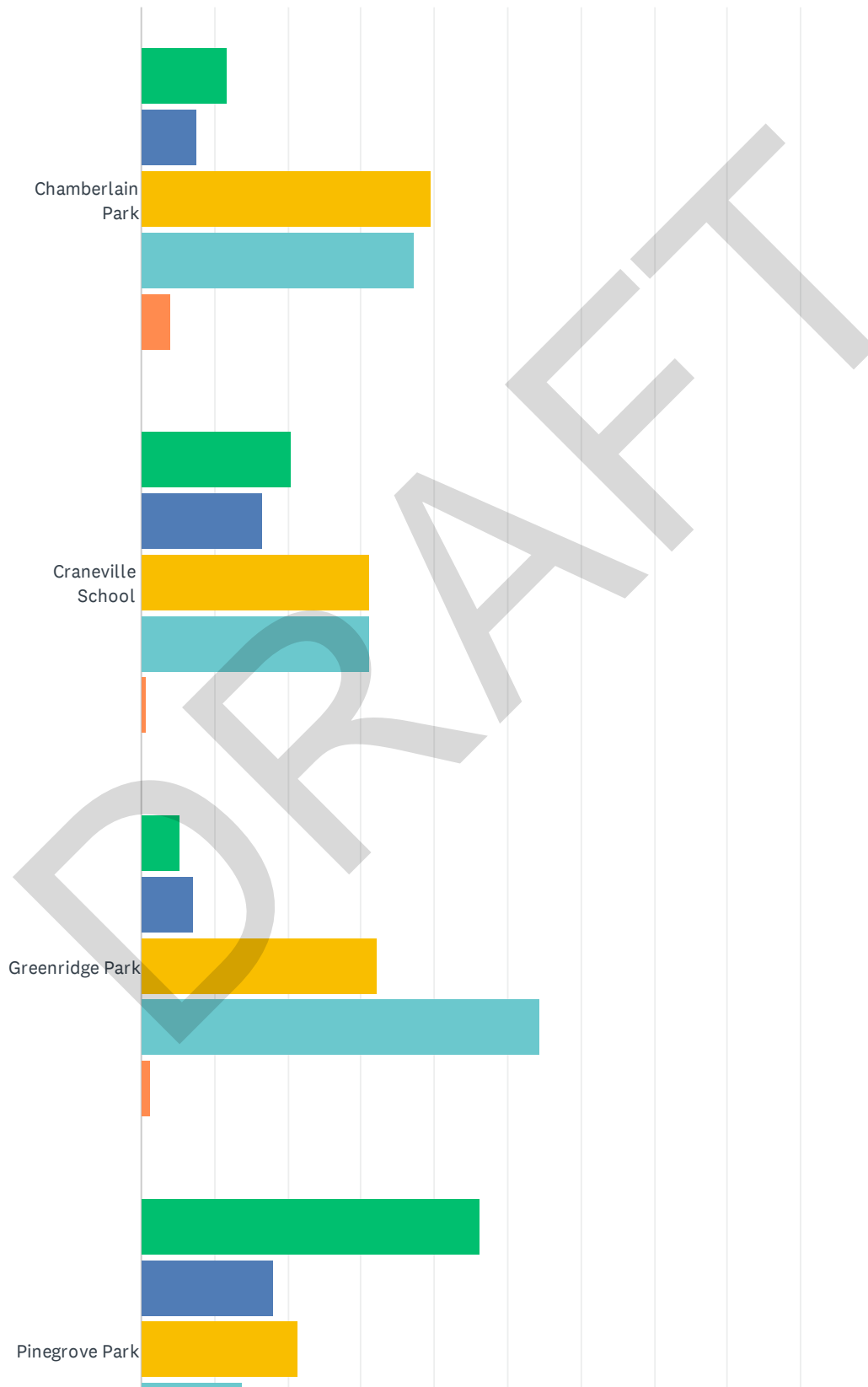
Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bicycling	34.48%	60
Bird watching	22.99%	40
Boating / Canoeing / Kayaking	12.07%	21
Court Sports (Tennis, Basketball, etc.)	19.54%	34
Dance / Yoga	6.90%	12
Field Sports (Soccer, Baseball, Football, etc.)	38.51%	67
Fishing	23.56%	41
Gardening	29.31%	51
Hiking	59.77%	104
Horseback Riding	1.72%	3
Hunting	9.20%	16
Indoor recreation / Fitness activities	21.26%	37
Golf	16.67%	29
Playgrounds / Swings / Slides	27.59%	48
Running	14.94%	26
Skateboarding	2.30%	4
Swimming	10.92%	19
Walking	68.39%	119
Ice Fishing	1.15%	2
Ice Skating	4.02%	7
Skiing - downhill	1.72%	3
Skiing - cross country	6.90%	12
Snowshoeing	9.77%	17
Snowmobile Riding	3.45%	6
Other (please specify)	2.30%	4
Total Respondents: 174		

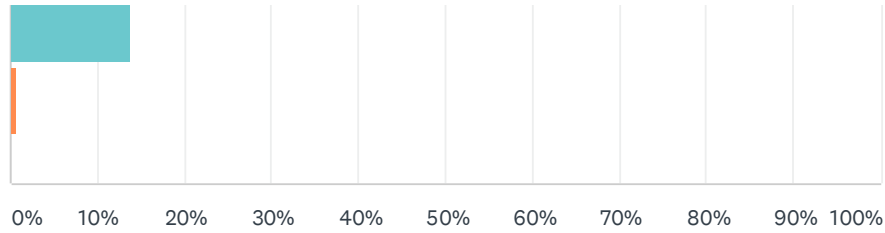
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	ATV riding	4/21/2020 5:35 PM
2	Picnics	4/16/2020 12:02 PM
3	Non of the above. Preferred the library	4/7/2020 10:05 PM
4	ATV riding	3/27/2020 2:28 PM

Q2 In a given year, how often do you visit the following parks & playgrounds in Dalton? (Please answer all items.)

Answered: 174 Skipped: 0



Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey



■ Very Frequently (13+ times/year)
 ■ Frequently (6-12 times/year)
 ■ Occasionally (1-5 times/year)
 ■ Never
 ■ Haven't heard of it

	VERY FREQUENTLY (13+ TIMES/YEAR)	FREQUENTLY (6-12 TIMES/YEAR)	OCCASIONALLY (1-5 TIMES/YEAR)	NEVER	HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Chamberlain Park	11.63% 20	7.56% 13	39.53% 68	37.21% 64	4.07% 7	172	3.15
Craneville School	20.59% 35	16.47% 28	31.18% 53	31.18% 53	0.59% 1	170	2.75
Greenridge Park	5.26% 9	7.02% 12	32.16% 55	54.39% 93	1.17% 2	171	3.39
Pinegrove Park	46.24% 80	17.92% 31	21.39% 37	13.87% 24	0.58% 1	173	2.05

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

#	OF THOSE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS, WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE?	DATE
1	Pinegrove	5/11/2020 10:54 AM
2	Pinegrove	5/7/2020 2:01 PM
3	Pine grove	5/2/2020 2:24 PM
4	Pinegrove has the most variety.	4/30/2020 3:17 PM
5	Pinegrove	4/30/2020 11:20 AM
6	Pinegrove	4/29/2020 9:54 PM
7	Greenridge	4/29/2020 5:40 PM
8	Pine grove park	4/29/2020 10:09 AM
9	Pinegrove	4/28/2020 7:25 PM
10	Pine grove	4/28/2020 7:25 PM
11	Pinegrove	4/28/2020 11:55 AM
12	Chamberlain	4/28/2020 10:14 AM
13	Pinegrove	4/28/2020 4:16 AM
14	Craneville	4/27/2020 10:11 PM
15	Pinegrove	4/27/2020 9:36 PM
16	Pine grove	4/27/2020 8:59 PM
17	Craneville	4/27/2020 8:52 PM
18	Pinegrove	4/27/2020 8:51 PM
19	Pinegrove	4/27/2020 8:45 PM
20	Pinegrove	4/27/2020 8:16 PM
21	Pinegrove	4/27/2020 8:10 PM
22	Pine Grove	4/27/2020 6:13 PM
23	Pinegrove	4/27/2020 3:51 PM
24	Greenridge	4/27/2020 3:09 PM
25	Chamberlain	4/27/2020 3:00 PM
26	Pinegrove	4/27/2020 1:05 PM
27	Pine grove	4/27/2020 12:19 PM
28	Pinegrove	4/27/2020 7:56 AM
29	Pinegrove	4/24/2020 4:34 PM
30	Pinegrove	4/24/2020 4:32 PM
31	Greenridge	4/23/2020 8:30 PM
32	Craneville	4/23/2020 7:26 PM
33	Greenridge Park	4/23/2020 7:18 PM
34	Pine grove Park	4/23/2020 1:02 PM
35	Pine grove	4/22/2020 7:21 PM
36	Pinegrove	4/22/2020 6:25 PM
37	Pine grove	4/22/2020 12:37 PM

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

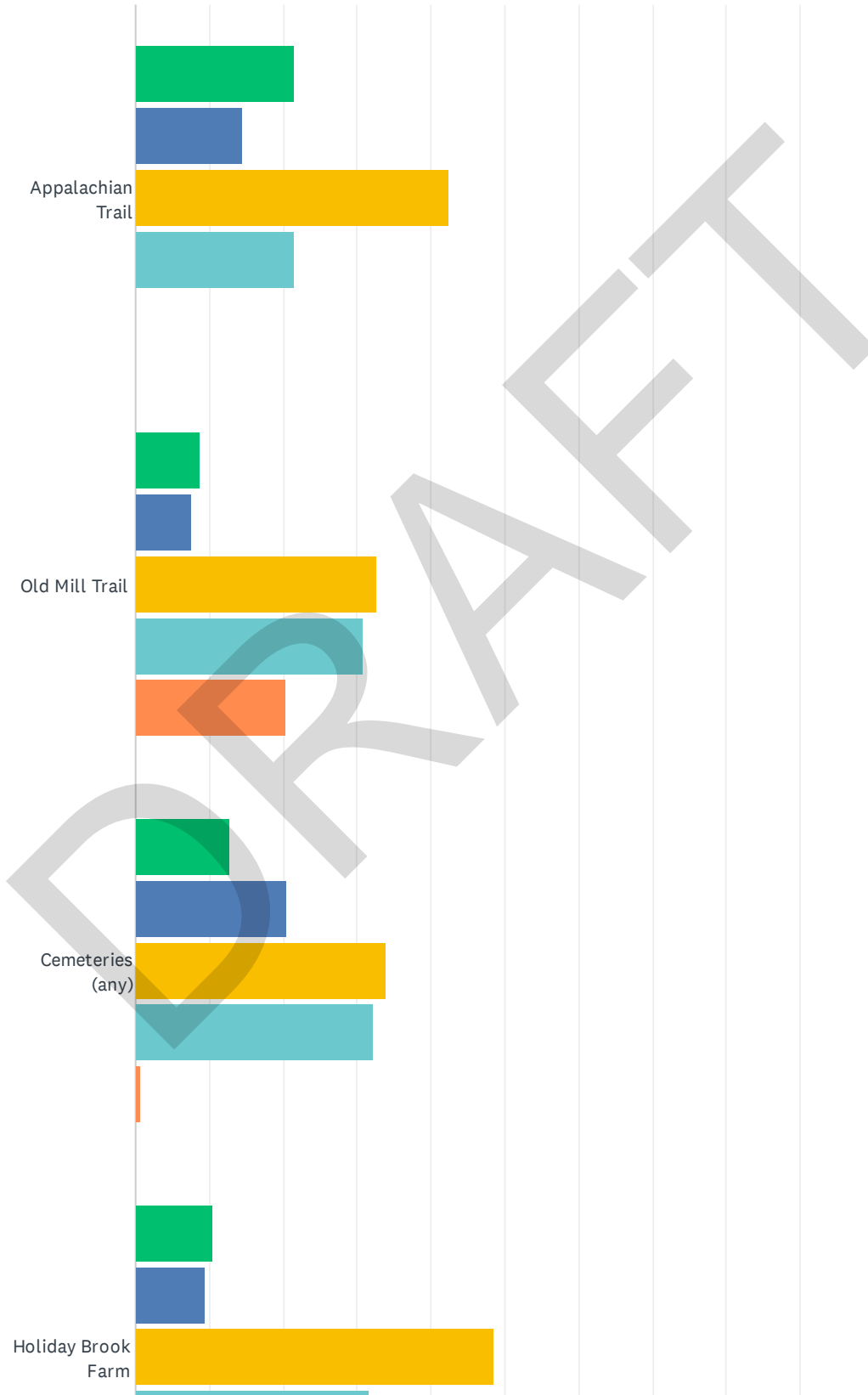
38	Pinegrove	4/22/2020 10:59 AM
39	Pinegrove	4/22/2020 9:02 AM
40	Pinegrove	4/22/2020 6:20 AM
41	Pine grove	4/22/2020 5:44 AM
42	Green ridge Park	4/21/2020 10:51 PM
43	Pine grove	4/21/2020 6:54 PM
44	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 5:35 PM
45	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 4:58 PM
46	Pine grove Park	4/21/2020 3:29 PM
47	Pine grove Park	4/21/2020 3:01 PM
48	Pine grove	4/21/2020 2:31 PM
49	Pinegrove Park	4/21/2020 1:35 PM
50	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 1:15 PM
51	Pinegrove Park	4/21/2020 1:03 PM
52	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 12:58 PM
53	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 12:43 PM
54	Chamberlain	4/21/2020 12:39 PM
55	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 12:02 PM
56	Pine grove	4/21/2020 11:58 AM
57	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 11:44 AM
58	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 11:39 AM
59	Pine grove	4/21/2020 11:36 AM
60	Pine grove	4/21/2020 11:30 AM
61	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 11:30 AM
62	Pinegrove Park and it needs attention 24 hrs a day.	4/21/2020 11:25 AM
63	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 11:23 AM
64	Pine Grove Park	4/21/2020 11:18 AM
65	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 11:14 AM
66	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 11:11 AM
67	Pinegrove	4/21/2020 10:57 AM
68	Craneville	4/20/2020 7:15 AM
69	Chamberlain	4/17/2020 9:40 AM
70	Pinegrove	4/17/2020 8:04 AM
71	Pine grove	4/16/2020 12:02 PM
72	Pinegrove	4/16/2020 8:04 AM
73	greenridge	4/11/2020 12:26 PM
74	Pinegrove Park	4/8/2020 1:37 PM
75	Pine grove	4/8/2020 12:10 PM

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

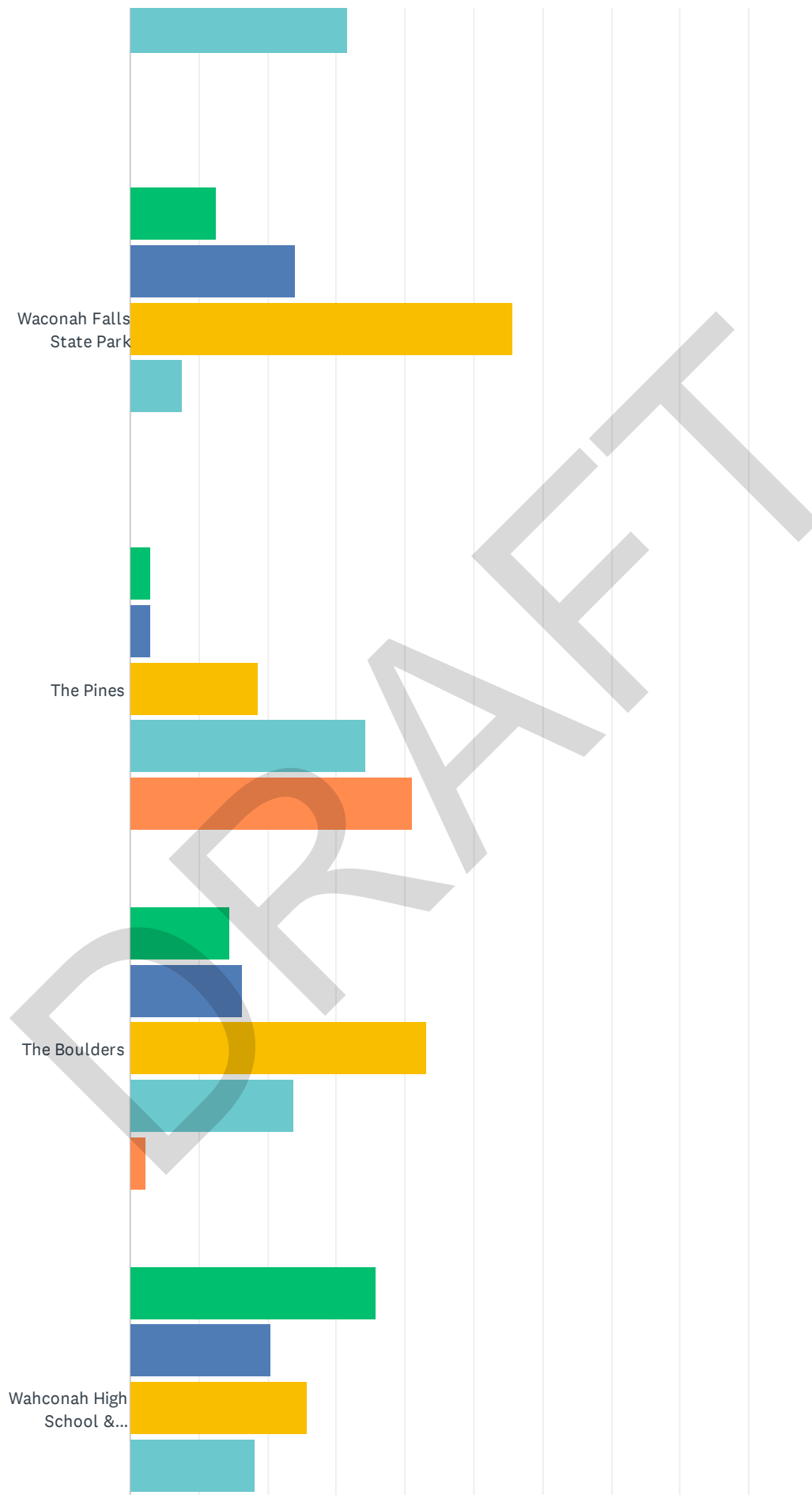
76	Use to be Pinegrove. But my kids are grown.	4/7/2020 10:05 PM
77	Pinegrove	4/7/2020 8:09 AM
78	Pinegrove when my children were little	4/6/2020 5:42 PM
79	Pinegrove	4/6/2020 2:36 PM
80	Pine grove	4/6/2020 12:02 PM
81	Pine Grove Park	3/31/2020 8:31 PM
82	Pine grove	3/30/2020 9:04 PM
83	Pinegrove	3/30/2020 4:37 PM
84	Pinegrove	3/30/2020 5:56 AM
85	Pinegrove	3/29/2020 11:20 PM
86	Green ridge	3/29/2020 10:14 PM
87	green ridge	3/29/2020 8:51 PM
88	Pine Grove	3/29/2020 8:16 PM
89	Pinegrove	3/29/2020 8:14 PM
90	Pinegrove	3/29/2020 8:13 PM
91	Pine grove...others are for kids sports only	3/29/2020 8:07 PM
92	Pine Grove Park	3/29/2020 8:05 PM
93	Pinegrove	3/29/2020 7:58 PM
94	Pine grove	3/29/2020 7:48 PM
95	Pine grove	3/29/2020 7:28 PM
96	Pinegrove	3/28/2020 10:25 AM
97	Pinegrove	3/27/2020 9:22 PM
98	Pine Grove Park	3/27/2020 7:42 PM
99	Pine grove	3/27/2020 7:02 PM
100	Pine grove	3/27/2020 6:48 PM
101	Pine grove	3/27/2020 6:14 PM
102	PineGrove	3/27/2020 6:01 PM
103	Pinegrove	3/27/2020 5:58 PM
104	Pine grove	3/27/2020 5:57 PM
105	Pine grove	3/27/2020 5:48 PM
106	Pinegrove	3/27/2020 4:59 PM
107	Pine Grove	3/27/2020 4:57 PM
108	Pinegrove	3/27/2020 2:51 PM
109	Pinegrove	3/27/2020 2:42 PM
110	Pinegrove	3/27/2020 2:29 PM
111	Pinegrove	3/27/2020 2:28 PM
112	Pinegrove	3/27/2020 1:55 PM

Q3 In a given year, how often do you visit the following Open Spaces and Trails in Dalton? (Please answer all items.)

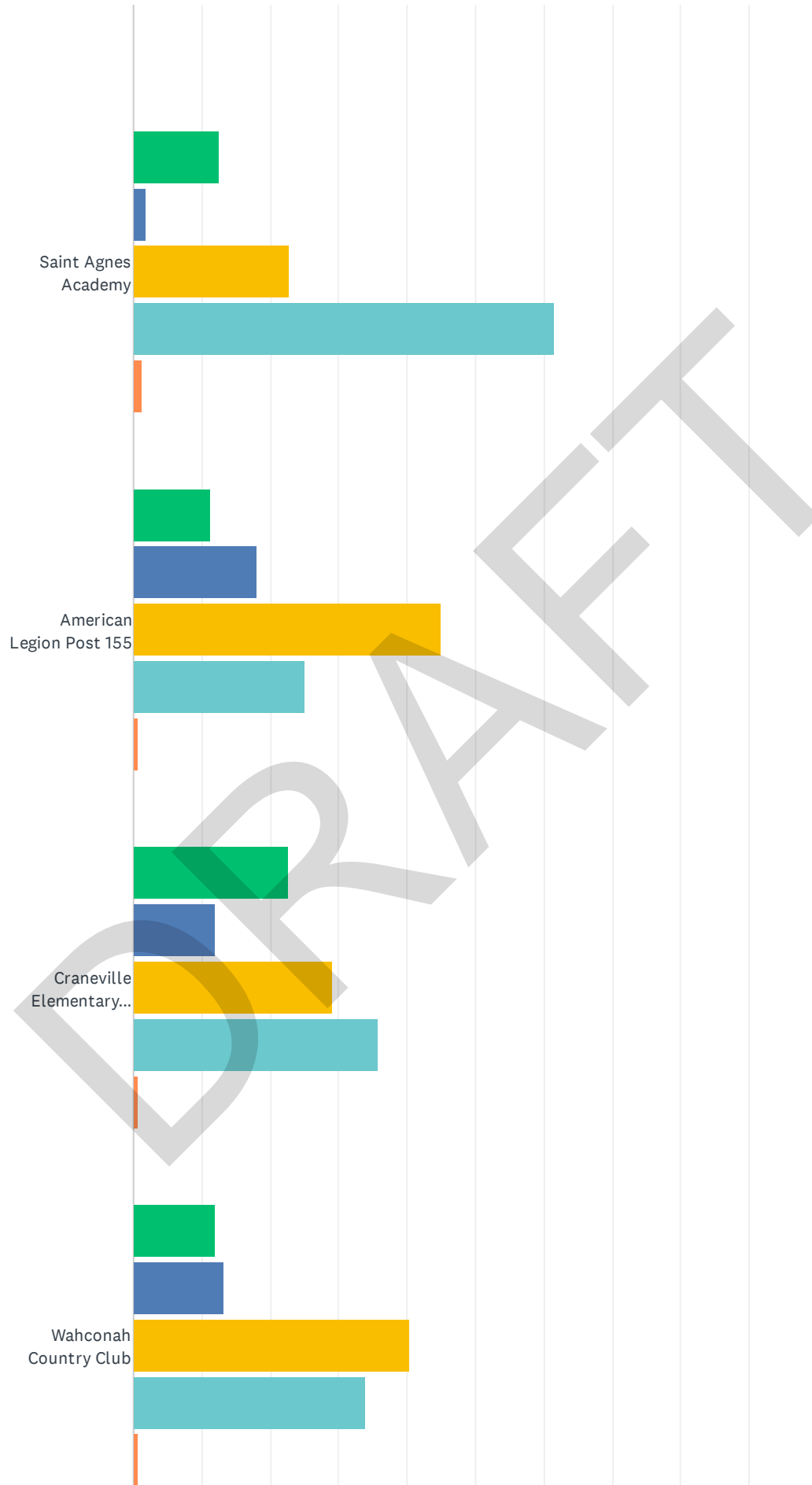
Answered: 174 Skipped: 0



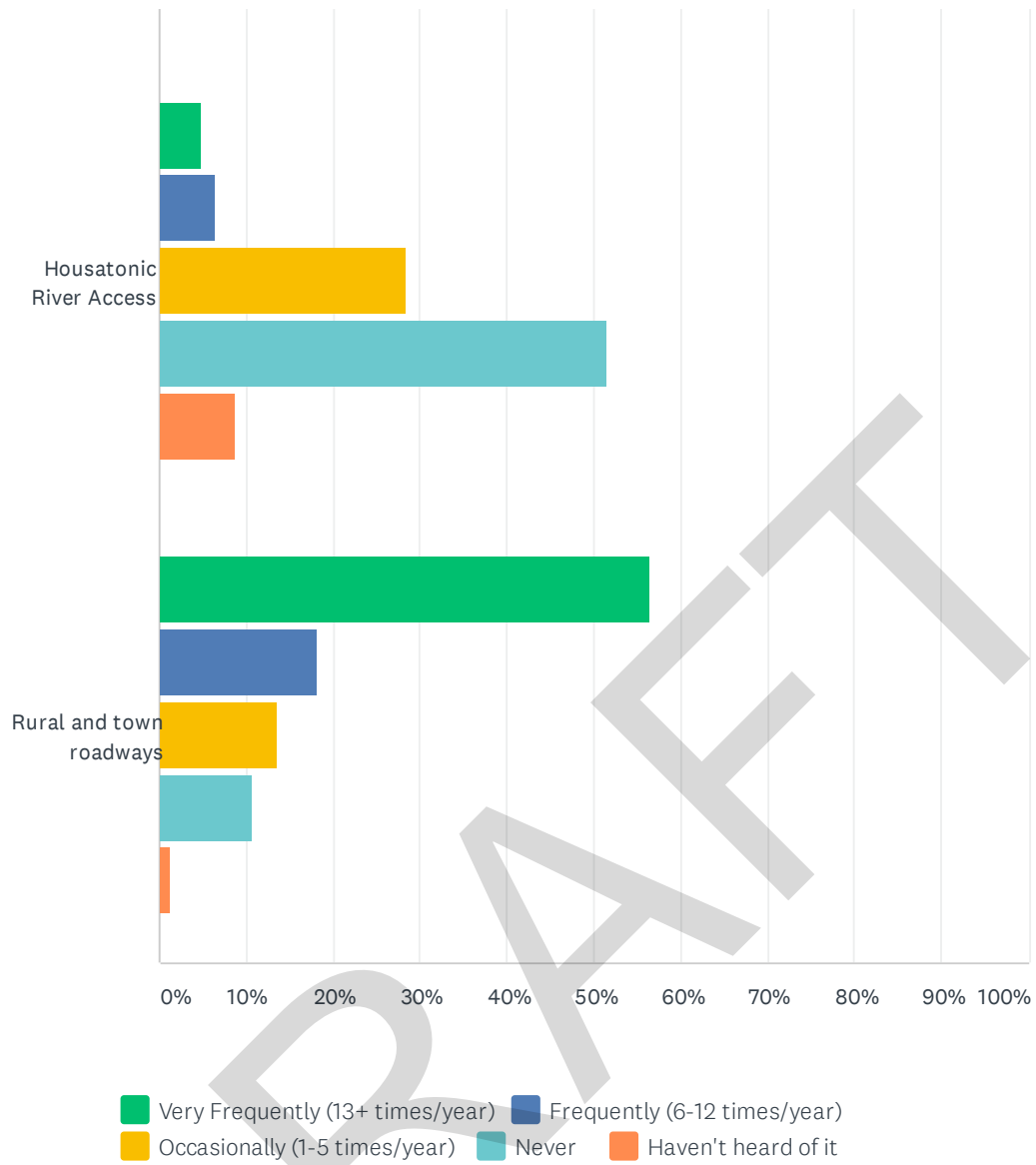
Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey



Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey



Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey



Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

	VERY FREQUENTLY (13+ TIMES/YEAR)	FREQUENTLY (6-12 TIMES/YEAR)	OCCASIONALLY (1-5 TIMES/YEAR)	NEVER	HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Appalachian Trail	21.51% 37	14.53% 25	42.44% 73	21.51% 37	0.00% 0	172	2.64
Old Mill Trail	8.72% 15	7.56% 13	32.56% 56	30.81% 53	20.35% 35	172	3.47
Cemeteries (any)	12.87% 22	20.47% 35	33.92% 58	32.16% 55	0.58% 1	171	2.87
Holiday Brook Farm	10.53% 18	9.36% 16	48.54% 83	31.58% 54	0.00% 0	171	3.01
Waconah Falls State Park	12.64% 22	24.14% 42	55.75% 97	7.47% 13	0.00% 0	174	2.58
The Pines	3.01% 5	3.01% 5	18.67% 31	34.34% 57	40.96% 68	166	4.07
The Boulders	14.53% 25	16.28% 28	43.02% 74	23.84% 41	2.33% 4	172	2.83
Wahconah High School & Nessacus Middle School	35.67% 61	20.47% 35	25.73% 44	18.13% 31	0.00% 0	171	2.26
Saint Agnes Academy	12.65% 21	1.81% 3	22.89% 38	61.45% 102	1.20% 2	166	3.37
American Legion Post 155	11.38% 19	17.96% 30	44.91% 75	25.15% 42	0.60% 1	167	2.86
Craneville Elementary School	22.62% 38	11.90% 20	29.17% 49	35.71% 60	0.60% 1	168	2.80
Wahconah Country Club	11.90% 20	13.10% 22	40.48% 68	33.93% 57	0.60% 1	168	2.98
Housatonic River Access	4.73% 8	6.51% 11	28.40% 48	51.48% 87	8.88% 15	169	3.53
Rural and town roadways	56.47% 96	18.24% 31	13.53% 23	10.59% 18	1.18% 2	170	1.82

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

#	OF THOSE OPEN SPACES AND TRAILS, WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE?	DATE
1	Appalachian Trail	5/11/2020 10:54 AM
2	AT	5/7/2020 4:51 PM
3	Pines	5/6/2020 8:35 AM
4	The boulders	5/2/2020 2:24 PM
5	Holiday Brook Farm	5/1/2020 12:52 PM
6	WRHS fields	4/30/2020 3:17 PM
7	Legion	4/29/2020 9:54 PM
8	Craneville	4/29/2020 5:40 PM
9	Don't have one.	4/29/2020 10:09 AM
10	American Legion	4/29/2020 8:18 AM
11	Adams Road	4/28/2020 7:25 PM
12	Wahconah state park	4/28/2020 7:25 PM
13	Mill Trail	4/28/2020 3:04 PM
14	The Boulders	4/28/2020 11:55 AM
15	River Access	4/28/2020 10:14 AM
16	Wahconah Falls and old mill trail	4/28/2020 4:19 AM
17	Boulders	4/28/2020 4:16 AM
18	WCC	4/27/2020 10:11 PM
19	Wahconah Falls	4/27/2020 9:36 PM
20	Appalachian Trail	4/27/2020 8:52 PM
21	Main Street	4/27/2020 8:45 PM
22	Boulders	4/27/2020 8:33 PM
23	Legion post 155	4/27/2020 8:10 PM
24	Boulders. We hike there about twice a week. We also hike gulf rd when it's closed and "happy land " every day	4/27/2020 6:13 PM
25	Boulders	4/27/2020 3:51 PM
26	Wahconah falls	4/27/2020 3:00 PM
27	The trails on North Mountain, which are not listed are my favorite. Some is owned by Holiday Farm.	4/27/2020 2:25 PM
28	Boulders	4/27/2020 12:52 PM
29	Country club	4/27/2020 12:19 PM
30	Gulf Road	4/27/2020 12:03 PM
31	Wahconah Country Club	4/27/2020 7:56 AM
32	Holiday Brook Farm	4/26/2020 7:55 PM
33	Falls	4/26/2020 3:28 PM
34	Wahconah Falls	4/24/2020 4:34 PM
35	Boulders	4/24/2020 4:32 PM
36	Wahconah falls	4/23/2020 8:30 PM

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

37	Boulders	4/23/2020 7:26 PM
38	Holiday Brook Farm	4/23/2020 7:18 PM
39	AT	4/23/2020 2:20 PM
40	That's a tough question, I love the AT, the Boulders, Wahconah Falls and Holiday Farm.	4/23/2020 1:17 PM
41	Wahconah Falls	4/23/2020 1:02 PM
42	Wahconah	4/22/2020 7:21 PM
43	Wahconah cc	4/22/2020 6:25 PM
44	Boulders	4/22/2020 12:37 PM
45	Legion	4/22/2020 10:59 AM
46	Wahconah Falls	4/22/2020 6:20 AM
47	Falls	4/22/2020 5:44 AM
48	Wahconah Regional High School	4/21/2020 10:51 PM
49	The Pines	4/21/2020 6:54 PM
50	Gulf Road area	4/21/2020 5:35 PM
51	Holiday brook farm	4/21/2020 4:58 PM
52	Wahconah High School and Nessacus Middle School	4/21/2020 3:29 PM
53	The Boulders	4/21/2020 3:01 PM
54	Appalachian Trail	4/21/2020 1:37 PM
55	Wahconah Country Club	4/21/2020 1:35 PM
56	Appalachian	4/21/2020 1:03 PM
57	Boulders	4/21/2020 12:58 PM
58	Holiday Brook Farm	4/21/2020 12:39 PM
59	Wahconah falls	4/21/2020 12:02 PM
60	Appalachian Trail	4/21/2020 11:58 AM
61	boulders	4/21/2020 11:30 AM
62	Boulders, Pines	4/21/2020 11:25 AM
63	Not sure if this applies but I enjoy being able to use Gulf Road in the summertime.	4/21/2020 11:23 AM
64	The Appalachian Trail	4/21/2020 11:18 AM
65	Cemeteries	4/21/2020 11:14 AM
66	American Legion Post 155	4/21/2020 11:11 AM
67	The schools	4/21/2020 10:57 AM
68	Holiday Brook Farm	4/17/2020 9:40 AM
69	Town roads	4/17/2020 8:04 AM
70	Wahconah Falls	4/16/2020 12:02 PM
71	Wahconah Falls	4/16/2020 6:16 AM
72	old mill trail	4/11/2020 12:26 PM
73	Rural and town roadways	4/8/2020 1:37 PM
74	Last choice is ridiculous. Everyone uses roadways.	4/7/2020 10:05 PM

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

75	All	4/7/2020 10:10 AM
76	Wahconah & Nessacus	4/7/2020 8:09 AM
77	Any hike where I can take my dogs with me	4/6/2020 12:28 PM
78	Pinegrove	4/6/2020 12:04 PM
79	Roadways	4/6/2020 12:02 PM
80	AT	4/1/2020 7:12 PM
81	The Appalachian Trail	3/31/2020 8:31 PM
82	Boulders	3/30/2020 9:04 PM
83	The Pitts... across from senior center	3/30/2020 4:37 PM
84	Waconah Falls State Park	3/30/2020 12:16 PM
85	Wahconah Country Club	3/30/2020 5:56 AM
86	St Agnes	3/29/2020 10:14 PM
87	Appalachian trail	3/29/2020 9:01 PM
88	wahconah falls	3/29/2020 8:51 PM
89	Wahconah Falls	3/29/2020 8:16 PM
90	Boulders	3/29/2020 8:07 PM
91	Old mill	3/29/2020 8:05 PM
92	Holiday Brook Farm	3/29/2020 8:05 PM
93	The Boulders	3/29/2020 7:58 PM
94	Cranville	3/29/2020 7:48 PM
95	Wahconah Country club	3/29/2020 7:28 PM
96	Wahconah Falls	3/28/2020 6:54 AM
97	HOLIDAY Brook Farm	3/27/2020 11:15 PM
98	Appalachian trail	3/27/2020 8:10 PM
99	Holiday Brook Farm	3/27/2020 7:42 PM
100	Wahconah falls	3/27/2020 6:48 PM
101	The Boulders	3/27/2020 6:14 PM
102	Wahconah Falls	3/27/2020 5:59 PM
103	Wahconah Country Club	3/27/2020 5:28 PM
104	Wahconah Falls	3/27/2020 4:57 PM
105	Craneville	3/27/2020 4:14 PM
106	Wahconah Falls	3/27/2020 3:30 PM
107	Old Moll Trail	3/27/2020 2:51 PM
108	Bolders	3/27/2020 2:29 PM
109	Gulf Rd area	3/27/2020 2:28 PM
110	Craneville	3/27/2020 12:16 PM

Q4 For the places mentioned in questions 2 and 3, what improvements would you suggest? Please try to be specific.

Answered: 93 Skipped: 81

DRAFT

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	More parking, but dependent on usage and ability of location to support increased usage. Parking can be a self-regulating control to ensure the trails cannot be overused.	5/11/2020 10:54 AM
2	More seating for parents	5/7/2020 2:01 PM
3	Places to get rid of trash/ Enforced leash laws on dogs to many dogs off leash randomly running about.	5/6/2020 8:35 AM
4	Keep up with maintenance, trash removal etc. Add more sidewalks on town streets	5/1/2020 12:52 PM
5	Legion fields could use some some playground equipment.	4/30/2020 3:17 PM
6	I think sidewalks and roads should be maintained and improved. It is not safe to walk on pleasant street sidewalks and other side streets. Bicycle riding with young grandkids on sidewalks is treacherous.	4/30/2020 11:20 AM
7	Even walking paths.	4/29/2020 9:54 PM
8	Of the places I've been to, I think they are in pretty good shape. I'd like to explore the places I have not been to.	4/29/2020 10:09 AM
9	More activities for Ages 12-18	4/29/2020 8:18 AM
10	better marking of side trails along with the main trail in/around Gulf Road in Dalton and Lanesboro	4/28/2020 11:55 AM
11	River could use a clean-up	4/28/2020 10:14 AM
12	The land and trails between Wahconah and Nessacus could be remarked and cleared for better use. The old mill trail and Wahconah falls are well marked. Chamberlain park is in need of updates to the fields and playground.	4/28/2020 4:19 AM
13	Maybe access to trash cans of some sort placed near entrances, something where wild life can't easily get into.	4/28/2020 4:16 AM
14	More access to garbage cans. Information posted at entrances about the lands history, and the animals that live there.	4/27/2020 9:36 PM
15	Nessacuss needs field and court improvements. Baseball field is a mess, big field is way out of grade.	4/27/2020 8:59 PM
16	More benches to sit on while kids are playing.	4/27/2020 8:51 PM
17	To be safer	4/27/2020 8:45 PM
18	N/A	4/27/2020 8:16 PM
19	Make Third street one way	4/27/2020 8:10 PM
20	Already working on the Boulders, it's really a nice improvement. It would be great if Gulf road was always closed to traffic	4/27/2020 6:13 PM
21	More Parking	4/27/2020 3:51 PM
22	Everything, its a mess	4/27/2020 3:00 PM
23	The parking on Gulf Road should be improved. Also, this is a great place to construct an outside area for having presentations and small gatherings. To the north of the header there is a perfect area to do this. It would bring with it some needed notoriety if accomplished.	4/27/2020 2:25 PM
24	more town trash cans. the amount of trash that is littered is ridiculous	4/27/2020 1:18 PM
25	Continuing maintenance and removal of rubbish. General upkeep - trails/roads.	4/27/2020 12:10 PM
26	None	4/27/2020 12:03 PM
27	Better care and maintenance of the ball fields and other sporting areas at the parks and schools (in particular, the track at Wahconah). Also more trail maintenance in the Appalachian Trail / Boulders area.	4/27/2020 7:56 AM
28	more hiking pathes	4/27/2020 6:54 AM

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

29	Permanent Public restrooms or maintained portable toilets Better maintained basketball courts	4/26/2020 3:28 PM
30	At The Falls, there should be easier access to get to the river itself, and the roads are not in the best condition at all places.	4/24/2020 4:34 PM
31	Keeping the parks clean. Keeping/ adding restrooms	4/24/2020 4:32 PM
32	Roads	4/23/2020 8:30 PM
33	It would be great to make sure trails are cleaned.	4/23/2020 7:26 PM
34	Possibly place more trash cans so people don't litter. Also some towns have animal feces disposal bags.. this might make it more apt for people to pick up after their animals	4/23/2020 1:02 PM
35	Trash removal	4/22/2020 3:37 PM
36	For starters, I would suggest getting the information out to people as a starting point. Many of these places and the activities they can do there are not known to people. A website linked through the town site and/or the CRA site and/or a brochure.	4/22/2020 10:59 AM
37	Legion Wahconah falls	4/22/2020 9:02 AM
38	There need to be dedicated ATV roads in Dalton. There is about 60% of the town that is unused and available.	4/21/2020 5:35 PM
39	The parks could be spruced up and more equipment added to chamberlain	4/21/2020 4:58 PM
40	Green ridge playground needs a total makeover.	4/21/2020 3:29 PM
41	The boulders trails need upkeep and to be remarked.	4/21/2020 3:01 PM
42	Less trash on trails and roadways. Footpaths/sidewalks on roadways.	4/21/2020 1:37 PM
43	keep up the great job you are doing	4/21/2020 1:03 PM
44	More policing of trash and see if there is a way to make it enforceable.	4/21/2020 12:58 PM
45	Someplace to leave water bottles/cans/snack wrappers.	4/21/2020 12:39 PM
46	Add a skate park!!! Also trash clean up at Wahconah falls and benches at pine grove.	4/21/2020 12:02 PM
47	None, they are great!	4/21/2020 11:58 AM
48	New sidewalks - bike lane - dog park	4/21/2020 11:44 AM
49	We need a skateboarding park for kids who like to do that.	4/21/2020 11:36 AM
50	Fix roads/ pot holes	4/21/2020 11:30 AM
51	The trees at the peak of the boulders could be trimmed to expose the view. The signage on the trails has improved significantly over the past couple of years. Wahconah Falls trails are poorly marked. The picnic area by the falls itself needs to be updated and cleaned. The road/trail from the parking lot to the falls should be crushed stone to make it wheelchair accessible like the Old Mill Trail. Add parking somewhere near Pine Grove. Parking is awful during youth football season and will be really bad during the next few years as Wahconah varsity softball and baseball are forced to use the park while construction is happening at the school. Additional parking could be used as well by events at the Stationary factory.	4/21/2020 11:30 AM
52	Create a "Friends of" group to attend and monitor the property. We need citizens groups to get involved to make kids know we care.	4/21/2020 11:25 AM
53	I think that the single best thing we could do as a community is bring back the Parks Program we had back in the day. College kids that want to run arts and crafts and organized games of all kinds. I believe the program covered all of the parks in town from 8-12 and 6-8 each weekday. The kids need organized programs to give up their phones. We need this!!!!	4/21/2020 11:23 AM
54	Better parking	4/21/2020 11:14 AM
55	Longer trail system. Pull up bars that adults could access.	4/20/2020 7:15 AM
56	Sidewalk on Orchard Rd.	4/17/2020 8:04 AM
57	More picnic areas w/tables	4/16/2020 12:02 PM

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

58	Allow did walkers, enforce leash and poop pickup requirements	4/16/2020 6:16 AM
59	My biggest concern is that the areas are well maintained and are kept free from garbage, debris, etc..I feel are parks and open spaces should be maintained.	4/8/2020 2:46 PM
60	Brochure detailing all trails within the town; location; distance and brief summary of sites.	4/8/2020 1:37 PM
61	Leave them alone if being used. Stop trying to take away stuff over this.	4/7/2020 10:10 AM
62	Happy land	4/6/2020 12:55 PM
63	Keep free of litter, drug/alcohol use, trash.	4/6/2020 12:28 PM
64	More space for youth sports	4/6/2020 12:02 PM
65	The hiking trails are periodically cleaned of the garbage that people leave. There is a lot of broken glass in certain areas.	3/31/2020 8:31 PM
66	Increased group hikes	3/30/2020 9:04 PM
67	Trash cans, organized nature hikes	3/30/2020 4:37 PM
68	More trash cans, road going into the Wacohnah Falls Park - MANY pot holes	3/30/2020 12:16 PM
69	Benches, taking care of the goose issue at the legion, more free community activities in dalton	3/29/2020 11:20 PM
70	Pine grove needs more equipment for younger kids. The new equipment is geared towards older kids and the little kids have one small area.	3/29/2020 10:14 PM
71	having a park leaders to organize activities for the children, there should be funds available for that. children first.	3/29/2020 8:51 PM
72	Better signage, paving the road to wahconah falls. Offering maps of local hiking trails	3/29/2020 8:16 PM
73	More athletic fields for youth sports.	3/29/2020 8:14 PM
74	Pickle ball courts	3/29/2020 8:05 PM
75	Pine Grove: many more picnic benches and seating within and around the park. Holiday Brook Farm: larger farm store and selection with chicken, eggs and refrigerated produce.	3/29/2020 8:05 PM
76	Better play equipment Open air outdoor pool	3/29/2020 7:59 PM
77	Updated equipment,	3/29/2020 7:48 PM
78	Better parks for the kids with proper fields for them to play on. That have better upkeep	3/29/2020 7:28 PM
79	Holiday Farm, Rural roads	3/28/2020 8:40 AM
80	Clearing trails	3/27/2020 11:15 PM
81	Updated playground equipment at Chamberlain Park	3/27/2020 8:10 PM
82	Need playing fields for all of the youth leagues. Need an access nature trail for disabled people to enjoy. Need hiking trails and trails accessible for motorized seasonal vehicles to have access to out of town trails.	3/27/2020 7:42 PM
83	More parking for the boulders trail system	3/27/2020 7:02 PM
84	Better trail markings Improved restrooms	3/27/2020 6:14 PM
85	A running/walk-in track around Pine grove would be wonderful.	3/27/2020 5:59 PM
86	More commercial business is needed	3/27/2020 5:57 PM
87	Nicer turf in the parks. A park Superintendent with a small 2 man crew.	3/27/2020 5:28 PM
88	A better road around the falls and more public access.	3/27/2020 4:57 PM
89	Walking track,	3/27/2020 4:14 PM
90	Expanded Greenridge Park	3/27/2020 3:30 PM
91	Bolders	3/27/2020 2:29 PM

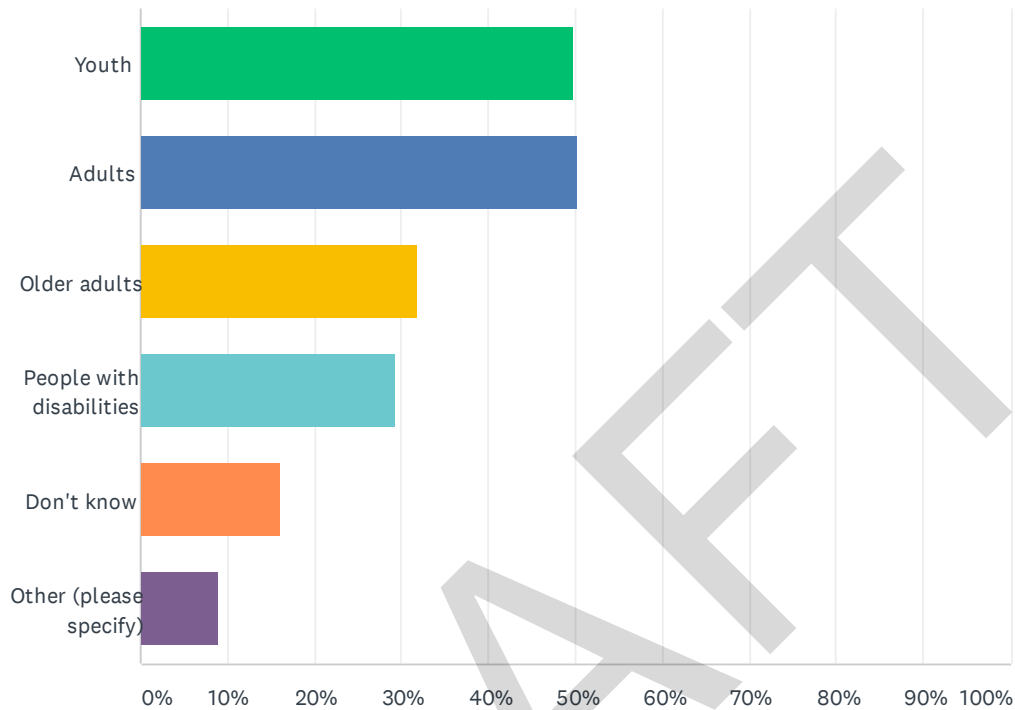
Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

92	There are ZERO areas for ATV use.	3/27/2020 2:28 PM
93	Better identification of Trails, signage etc.	3/27/2020 12:16 PM

DRAFT

Q5 Does the town of Dalton need more recreation opportunities for: (Check all that apply.)

Answered: 167 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Youth	49.70%	83
Adults	50.30%	84
Older adults	31.74%	53
People with disabilities	29.34%	49
Don't know	16.17%	27
Other (please specify)	8.98%	15
Total Respondents: 167		

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Something for younger kids like 4 & 5 year olds.	4/30/2020 11:20 AM
2	I think we are good.	4/29/2020 10:09 AM
3	Toddler/preschool	4/27/2020 8:16 PM
4	Dog park	4/27/2020 6:13 PM
5	Desperately need a place to swim. The Pitts would be perfect if it was purchased from Patricca and turned into a Park along with the Pines.	4/27/2020 2:25 PM
6	Dogs	4/27/2020 12:52 PM
7	None	4/27/2020 12:12 PM
8	Pet owners: a dog park. Many use Pinegrove park as their dog park. Loose dogs are a big problem here in Dalton!!	4/23/2020 1:17 PM
9	Swimming	4/21/2020 2:31 PM
10	Nonteam sports opportunities. I believe to high a % of our parks are dominated by team sports (baseball, soccer etc). There is a need for spaces for other uses.	4/21/2020 11:25 AM
11	Bike trail	4/6/2020 7:30 PM
12	Skateboard park, more areas where they can climb trees	3/30/2020 4:37 PM
13	Homeschool children	3/29/2020 8:05 PM
14	Could always have more but do an amazing job imo	3/29/2020 7:59 PM
15	Teenagers	3/27/2020 12:16 PM

Q6 What, if any, specific additional recreational opportunities would you like to add in Dalton?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 99

DRAFT

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	How about linking loctions and trails, and a unified town guide showing all of the recreational opportunities? Apologies if there is one - have not seen it.	5/11/2020 10:54 AM
2	Open space , the old middle school grounds could have been landscaped to be inviting	5/2/2020 2:24 PM
3	Bike safe lanes in roads, outdoor fitness opportunities for adults	5/1/2020 12:35 AM
4	Toddler (4-5) year old sports & camps.	4/30/2020 11:20 AM
5	Always can use more space for youth sports. Swimming opportunities and downhill skiing.	4/29/2020 9:54 PM
6	I'd like to see the tennis courts at Nessacus improved	4/29/2020 10:09 AM
7	Pool and Dances for teens	4/29/2020 8:18 AM
8	More Kayak access to Center Pond - Ramp or dock to put in	4/28/2020 3:04 PM
9	Maybe something like hi-jinx's (Adams) or block party (Hinsdale) type of social fun, where local businesses can set, student activities can perform, music, food.	4/28/2020 4:16 AM
10	I know it's too late, but thought a trail around Property of new high school with solar lights would have created a safe level trail conducive to all ages whether it was for walking, running, bike riding.	4/27/2020 10:11 PM
11	More open space recreational fields - North Mtn	4/27/2020 8:59 PM
12	A splash pad for the kids	4/27/2020 8:52 PM
13	Community gardens, farmers market, community events	4/27/2020 8:45 PM
14	Dog park	4/27/2020 6:13 PM
15	More accessible hiking, better youth fields	4/27/2020 3:51 PM
16	Indoor venues	4/27/2020 3:00 PM
17	Swimming. Public shooting range along where the police practice.	4/27/2020 2:25 PM
18	Dog park, like where the old Dalton HS/Nessacus was	4/27/2020 12:52 PM
19	Seniors - horseshoes	4/27/2020 12:10 PM
20	More tennis courts	4/27/2020 12:03 PM
21	Walking path and/or bike trail, artificial turf field for youth sports	4/27/2020 7:56 AM
22	bike path, more hiking paths	4/27/2020 6:54 AM
23	n/a	4/24/2020 4:34 PM
24	Combination parks	4/24/2020 4:32 PM
25	Dog park	4/23/2020 1:17 PM
26	Dog park	4/23/2020 1:02 PM
27	Adult team sport leagues and hiking trails.	4/22/2020 7:21 PM
28	An appropriate place for people to walk since pedestrians refuse to using sidewalks, including new ones, creating serious issues for all involved.	4/22/2020 10:59 AM
29	Outdoor community picnics	4/22/2020 9:02 AM
30	Dog park	4/22/2020 5:44 AM
31	Skating rink. Skateboard/BMX park. Dog park. Bike path.	4/21/2020 6:54 PM
32	ATV trails	4/21/2020 5:35 PM
33	A skateboarding park would be great	4/21/2020 3:29 PM
34	Team sports for adults	4/21/2020 3:01 PM

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

35	Swimming	4/21/2020 2:31 PM
36	Bike path	4/21/2020 1:37 PM
37	More/improved sidewalks for walking/running	4/21/2020 1:35 PM
38	outdoor pickleball, walking/biking trail	4/21/2020 1:03 PM
39	Skate park	4/21/2020 12:02 PM
40	Dome with lots of sports	4/21/2020 11:39 AM
41	Skateboarding Park	4/21/2020 11:36 AM
42	Something for teens to keep them busy and off the streets	4/21/2020 11:30 AM
43	Disc Golf	4/21/2020 11:30 AM
44	Simple quiet reflection time. Shade in summer. Access to safe clean forest lands. Too much emphasis on sports.	4/21/2020 11:25 AM
45	It would be great if the town had a larger park area with volleyball courts, open fields for throwing frisbees, BBQ grills and lots of hiking trails for families to be able to go spend the day having family picnics etc.	4/20/2020 7:15 AM
46	Walking track; bike trail; beach and cleaned up Legion pond	4/17/2020 8:04 AM
47	Skate board, rollerblading, trick bikes	4/16/2020 12:02 PM
48	nature programs	4/11/2020 12:26 PM
49	As a resident I would like to know about all the opportunities within the town - how are these communicated?	4/8/2020 2:46 PM
50	Theatre; Winter recreation; Water access	4/8/2020 1:37 PM
51	More outdoor athletic fields	4/8/2020 12:10 PM
52	Bike trail	4/6/2020 7:30 PM
53	More playing fields/ basketball courts	4/6/2020 5:42 PM
54	Hiking	4/6/2020 12:55 PM
55	Athletic fields, picnic areas, grills	3/31/2020 8:31 PM
56	Group hikes	3/30/2020 9:04 PM
57	outdoor live music	3/30/2020 12:16 PM
58	Public walking track	3/29/2020 10:14 PM
59	bike paths	3/29/2020 8:51 PM
60	Better cared for athletic fields	3/29/2020 8:07 PM
61	More hiking trails	3/29/2020 8:05 PM
62	Day programs for homeschool kids like arts and crafts, gym, swimming, sports, etc.	3/29/2020 8:05 PM
63	None	3/29/2020 7:59 PM
64	Open Wahconah falls to kayaking	3/29/2020 7:41 PM
65	More accessible walking trails	3/28/2020 8:40 AM
66	Bike/walking trail off road.	3/27/2020 7:42 PM
67	More outdoor concerts and movies	3/27/2020 7:02 PM
68	Tennis	3/27/2020 6:48 PM
69	Walking/biking trails	3/27/2020 5:59 PM
70	New playground or walking track. Use tv tower road farm for fields	3/27/2020 5:57 PM

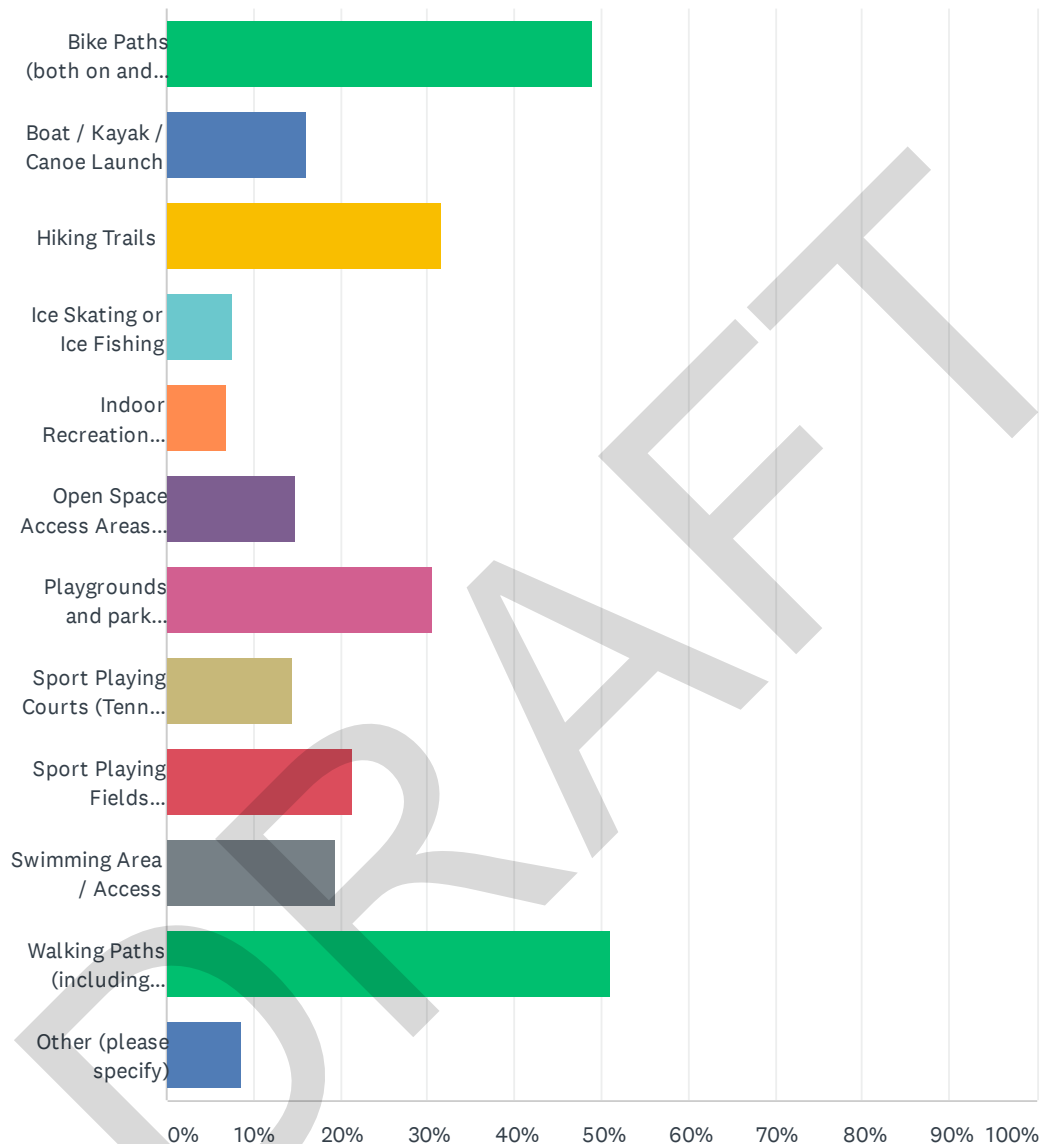
Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

71	Racing	3/27/2020 5:28 PM
72	Rod and Gun Club	3/27/2020 4:57 PM
73	Bike trails	3/27/2020 4:14 PM
74	ATV trails	3/27/2020 2:28 PM
75	Skateboard Park	3/27/2020 12:16 PM

DRAFT

Q7 For what improvements should Dalton use its open space and recreation funds? Choose up to 3

Answered: 174 Skipped: 0



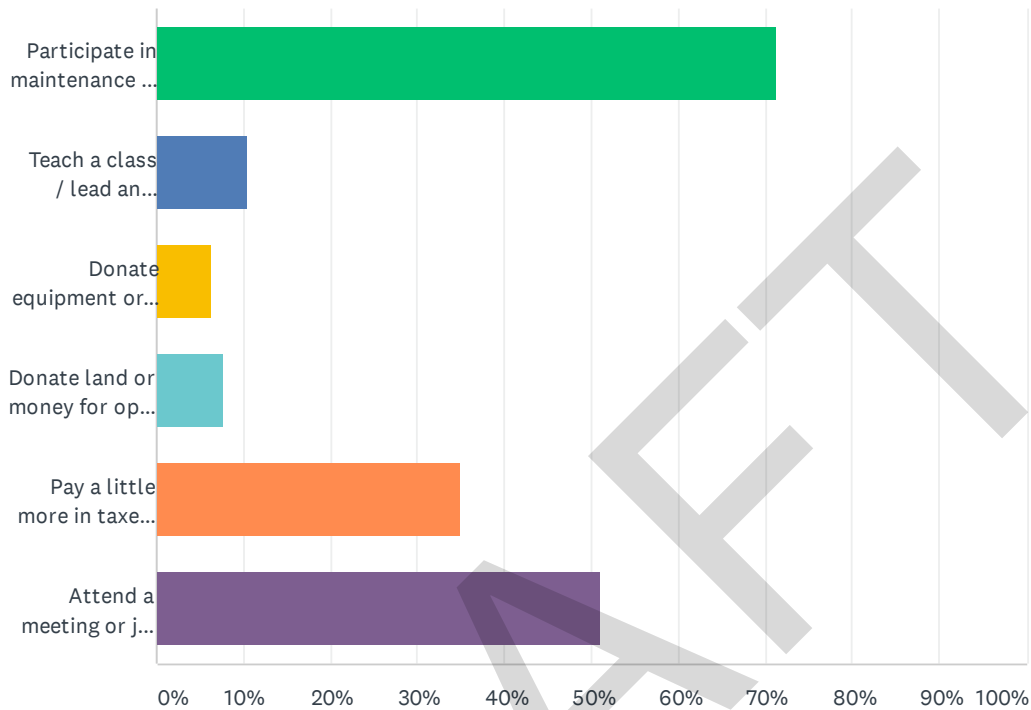
Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bike Paths (both on and off-road)	48.85%	85
Boat / Kayak / Canoe Launch	16.09%	28
Hiking Trails	31.61%	55
Ice Skating or Ice Fishing	7.47%	13
Indoor Recreation (Fitness, Weight Lifting, Yoga, etc.)	6.90%	12
Open Space Access Areas (Parking Lots and Trailheads)	14.94%	26
Playgrounds and park amenities (benches, grills, etc.)	30.46%	53
Sport Playing Courts (Tennis, Basketball, etc.)	14.37%	25
Sport Playing Fields (Baseball, Football, etc.)	21.26%	37
Swimming Area / Access	19.54%	34
Walking Paths (including along town and rural roadways)	51.15%	89
Other (please specify)	8.62%	15
Total Respondents: 174		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Playground, playing courts, and sport playing fields within same open space area.	4/29/2020 9:54 PM
2	I'd like to see cement sidewalks redone or repaired in some neighborhoods. They are dangerous.	4/29/2020 10:09 AM
3	Skatepark, splash pad (like North Adams)	4/27/2020 8:59 PM
4	all of the above	4/27/2020 8:45 PM
5	None	4/27/2020 8:08 PM
6	None	4/27/2020 12:12 PM
7	Public restroom	4/26/2020 3:28 PM
8	Skateboard Park	4/22/2020 5:55 PM
9	ATV trails	4/21/2020 5:35 PM
10	Skateboarding Park	4/21/2020 11:36 AM
11	Unless we get grant money let's not do anything that requires tax increases!	4/16/2020 8:04 AM
12	Street pavement	4/16/2020 4:32 AM
13	Keep what we have clean, bathrooms at parks	4/6/2020 12:28 PM
14	Downhill skiing	3/27/2020 7:42 PM
15	ATV trails	3/27/2020 2:28 PM

Q8 Which of the following are you willing to do to support or preserve open space and recreation resources in Dalton? (check all that apply)

Answered: 143 Skipped: 31



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Participate in maintenance and cleanup	71.33%	102
Teach a class / lead an activity	10.49%	15
Donate equipment or materials	6.29%	9
Donate land or money for open space or recreation (may receive tax benefits)	7.69%	11
Pay a little more in taxes, if it was guaranteed for open space and recreation	34.97%	50
Attend a meeting or join a committee	51.05%	73
Total Respondents: 143		

Q9 Any additional thoughts or comments on Dalton's open space and recreation:

Answered: 32 Skipped: 142

DRAFT

Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Dalton is a gem! Totally underrated. Spent my life like a kid in a candy shop , looking for something that is right in my backyard. Such a great community!	5/2/2020 2:24 PM
2	i Think roads, sidewalks and roads should be a higher priority. I am willing to be involved in the process to do that. I think town meetings and committees should be open to more people but Dalton doesn't do anything except post information on the town website which is not easy to navigate. Generally speaking more people respond when they have access to information. The Marc Strout page has been great but the town itself needs to do more.	4/30/2020 11:20 AM
3	Keep Dalton growing forward!	4/29/2020 9:54 PM
4	I feel our town is a lot of activities for our youth, adults and seniors. Nice parks, the CRA, very active sports leagues, outdoor recreation, people walking running and biking. It's nice to see an active town . I'd like to see cement sidewalks repaired or redone in and around town.	4/29/2020 10:09 AM
5	Some open spaces are best left alone. Access would not contribute to their preservation.	4/28/2020 10:14 AM
6	Possibly something like the winter wonderland that was set up at the old Model farm but something done in the summer that drew in so many people, even people from other towns. What was nice about that was it was for more than one day or just a couple hours. Friday night thru Sunday. Maybe have different big functions like arts n crafts show, car show, music. Almost like a fair but on a smaller scale.	4/28/2020 4:16 AM
7	Dalton needs so much more than just recreational and open spaces. It needs alot more commercial space for new businesses to want to invest in the community!	4/27/2020 8:45 PM
8	No	4/27/2020 8:10 PM
9	I really think keeping gulf road closed to traffic would be the best. Also a dog park is needed and would benefit a lot of people with pets	4/27/2020 6:13 PM
10	Stop raising taxes on things not all citizens in Dalton use. Fix the roads and sidewalks.	4/27/2020 3:00 PM
11	The American Legion fields could be redesigned for better use. I feel this is a much better space than up on the old Harrison / Bardin property. Access to that property is too dangerous and not contiguous to a neighborhood. That land is better to be kept open or sold to Mass Wildlife. The Legion could become the crown jewel of parks. Let the Legion operate the building and have the Town of Dalton take over the operation of the parkland.	4/27/2020 2:25 PM
12	n/a	4/27/2020 12:10 PM
13	None	4/27/2020 12:03 PM
14	Over all I feel Dalton has excellent open space but needs to increase maintenance. Basketball playing services could be improved and soccer fields. The lack of restrooms can also pose a problem particularly with children	4/26/2020 3:28 PM
15	A lot of children and teens in the town only have the outdoor activities, since it is such a rural area. funding more programs and spaces for this would definitely help	4/24/2020 4:34 PM
16	At the beginning, I could have easily checked off more than 5 activities that I enjoy. Thank you for creating this survey.	4/22/2020 10:59 AM
17	60% of the town is unused. Open it up.	4/21/2020 5:35 PM
18	I think the taxes in dalton are high enough to add these amenities without additional higher taxes.	4/21/2020 4:58 PM
19	There is already a sufficient emphasis on sports. We have many soccer/baseball etc fields. We need spaces that are meant for people to get outside and enjoy being outside. Dalton seems to have the idea that a park is always dedicated to sports. Take a look at Look Park (no pun intended) in Northampton. This is a nice place to enjoy being outside. Its not about scheduling soccer fields etc.	4/21/2020 11:25 AM
20	Let's not waste this opportunity on a one sided project for a certain age group. I do however feel that it is our youth that need more guidance and support.	4/21/2020 11:23 AM
21	It would be great if some areas of town could have slower speedlimits and better crosswalks for residents to be able to enjoy the town. The south Street train bridge is very unsafe to walk	4/20/2020 7:15 AM

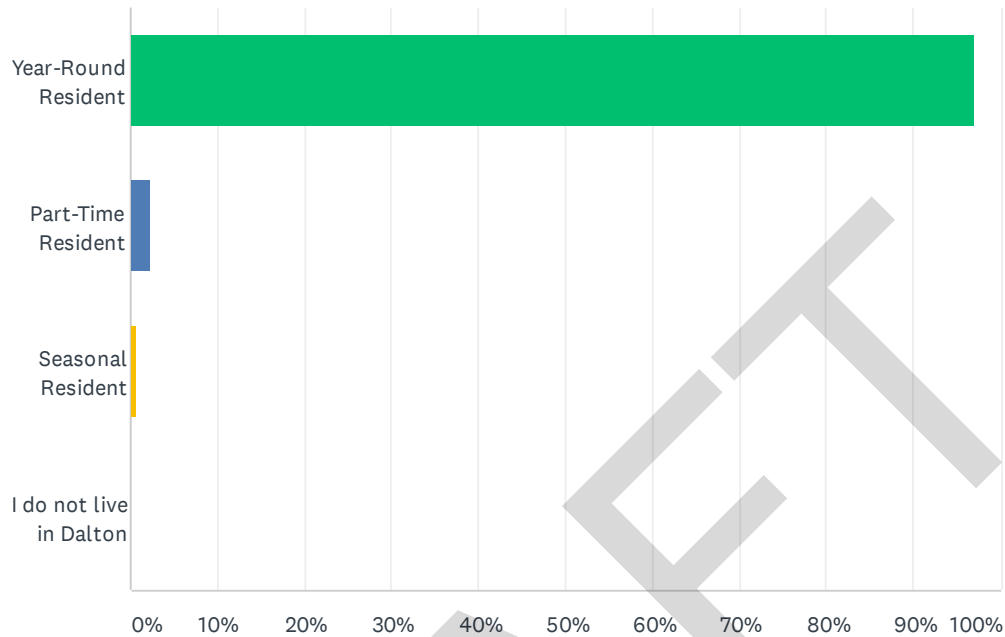
Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey

under between the speeding cars and lack of sidewalk. Also near playgrounds and water areas. Children want to access these areas but traffic is always a concern.

22	NO NEW TAXES!!!!	4/16/2020 8:04 AM
23	appreciate that the town seems interested in pursuing grant programs - we should be doing more grant applications -- our taxes already too high	4/11/2020 12:26 PM
24	Basically, the town is about twenty years behind in saving open space.	4/7/2020 10:05 PM
25	Hiking paths, walking paths, and athletics are our best bets with the usage of our land. We do not have waterways for kayaking which provide much of draw or lakes with beaches.	3/31/2020 8:31 PM
26	Keep the areas for the kids They are our future♥	3/30/2020 9:04 PM
27	i pay enough in taxes and clean up should be covered by the town workers. funds must be managed better. prioritize stop wasting funds.	3/29/2020 8:51 PM
28	Grills at Pine Grove Park would be great.	3/29/2020 8:05 PM
29	Keep our waterways clean no matter what you do! Honor the wishes of all the people in town, young, adult and elderly. Think about access in some areas for handicapped individuals.	3/27/2020 7:42 PM
30	No more tax raises as the new school is costing too much !!	3/27/2020 4:57 PM
31	Open and staff the parks	3/27/2020 4:14 PM
32	Look at a map. There is more unused land in Dalton than used land. People need reasons to live here. Open trails in to the North areas.	3/27/2020 2:28 PM

Q10 Are you a year-round resident or part-time resident of Dalton?

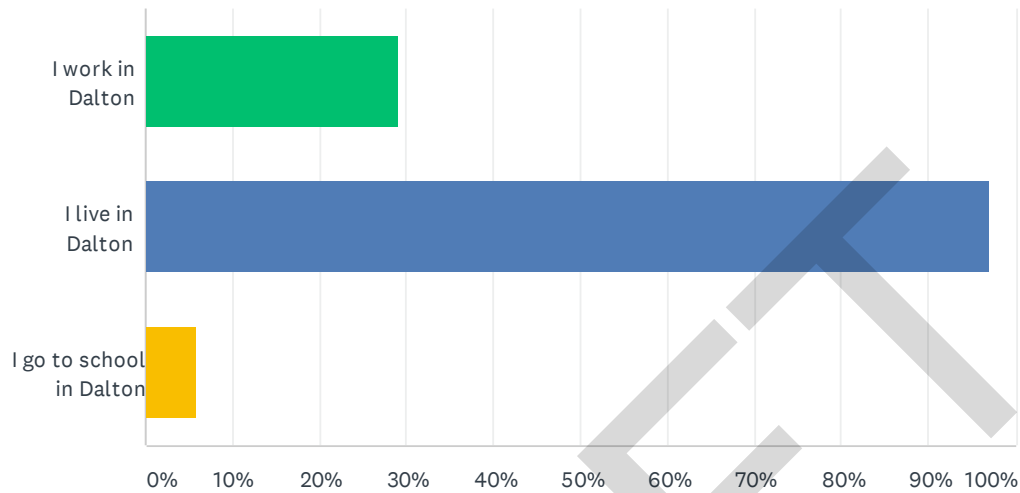
Answered: 174 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Year-Round Resident		97.13%	169
Part-Time Resident		2.30%	4
Seasonal Resident		0.57%	1
I do not live in Dalton		0.00%	0
TOTAL			174

Q11 Do you live, work, or go to school in Dalton? (Please check all that apply)

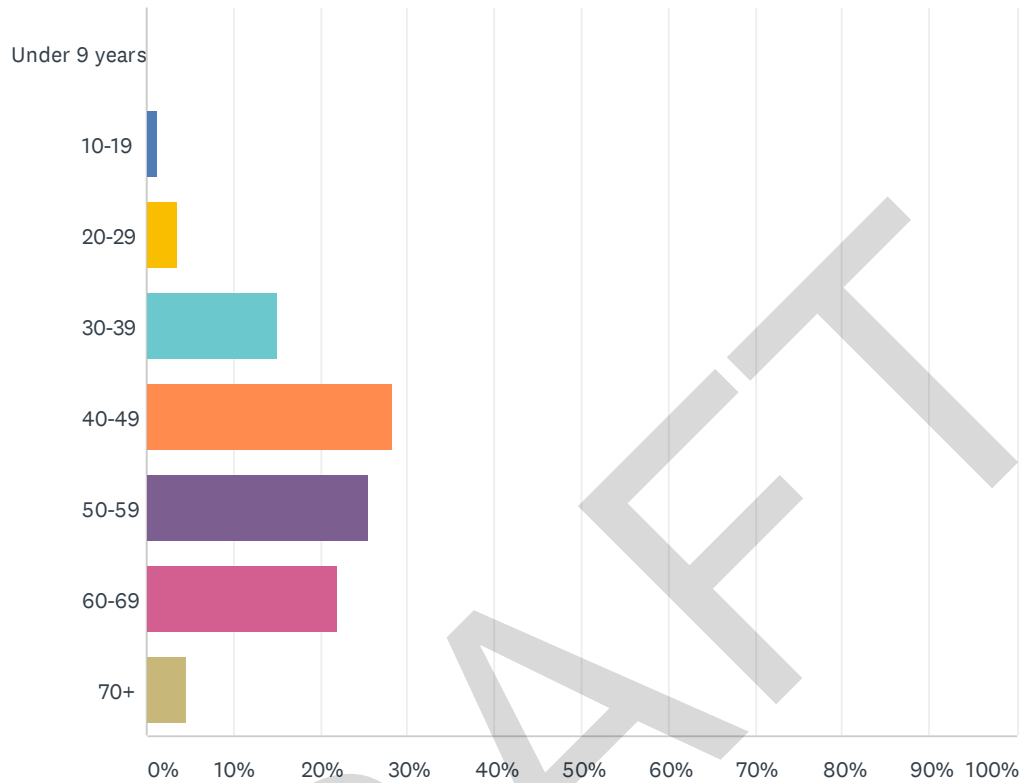
Answered: 172 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I work in Dalton	29.07%	50
I live in Dalton	97.09%	167
I go to school in Dalton	5.81%	10
Total Respondents: 172		

Q12 What is your age?

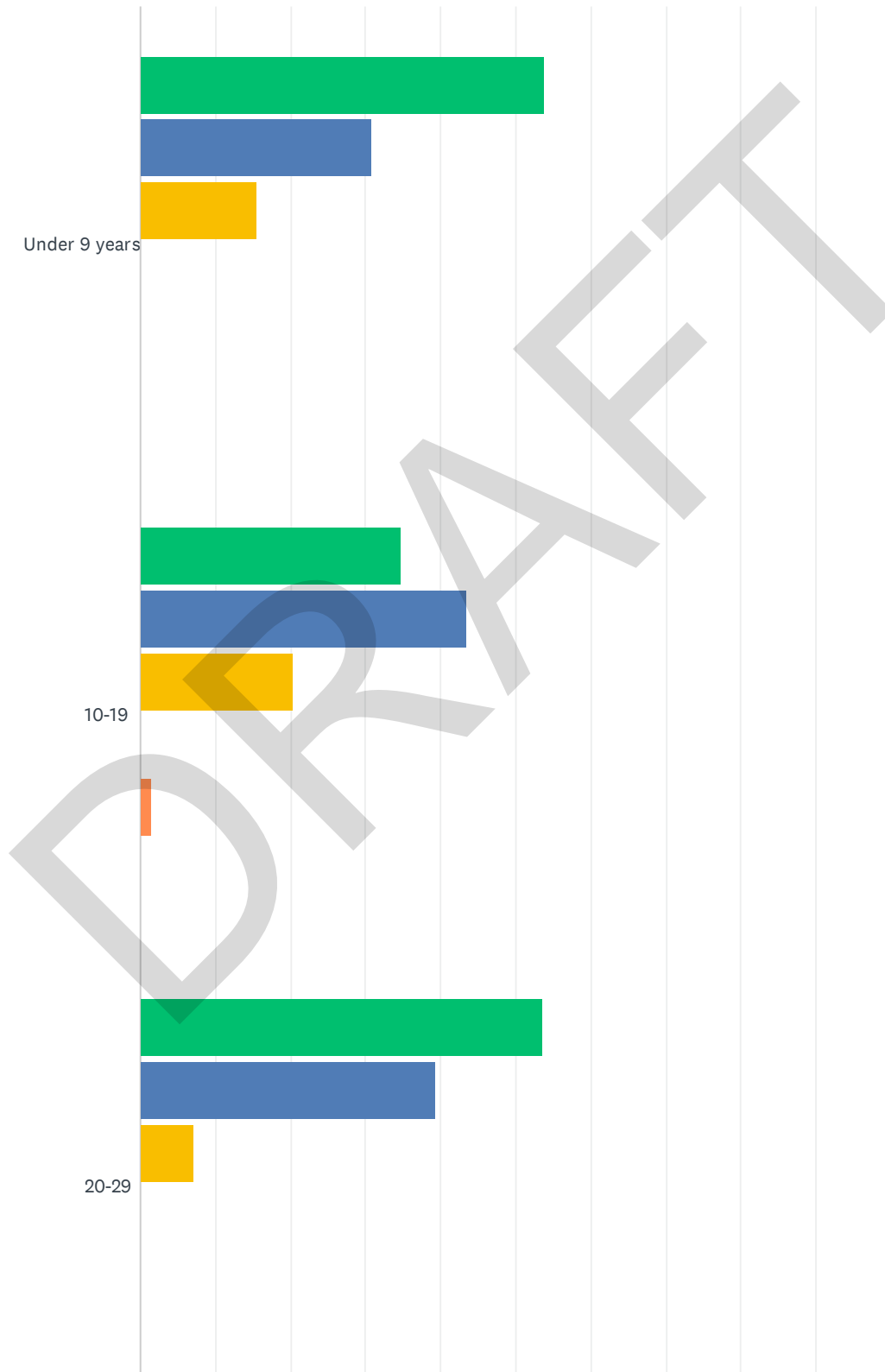
Answered: 173 Skipped: 1



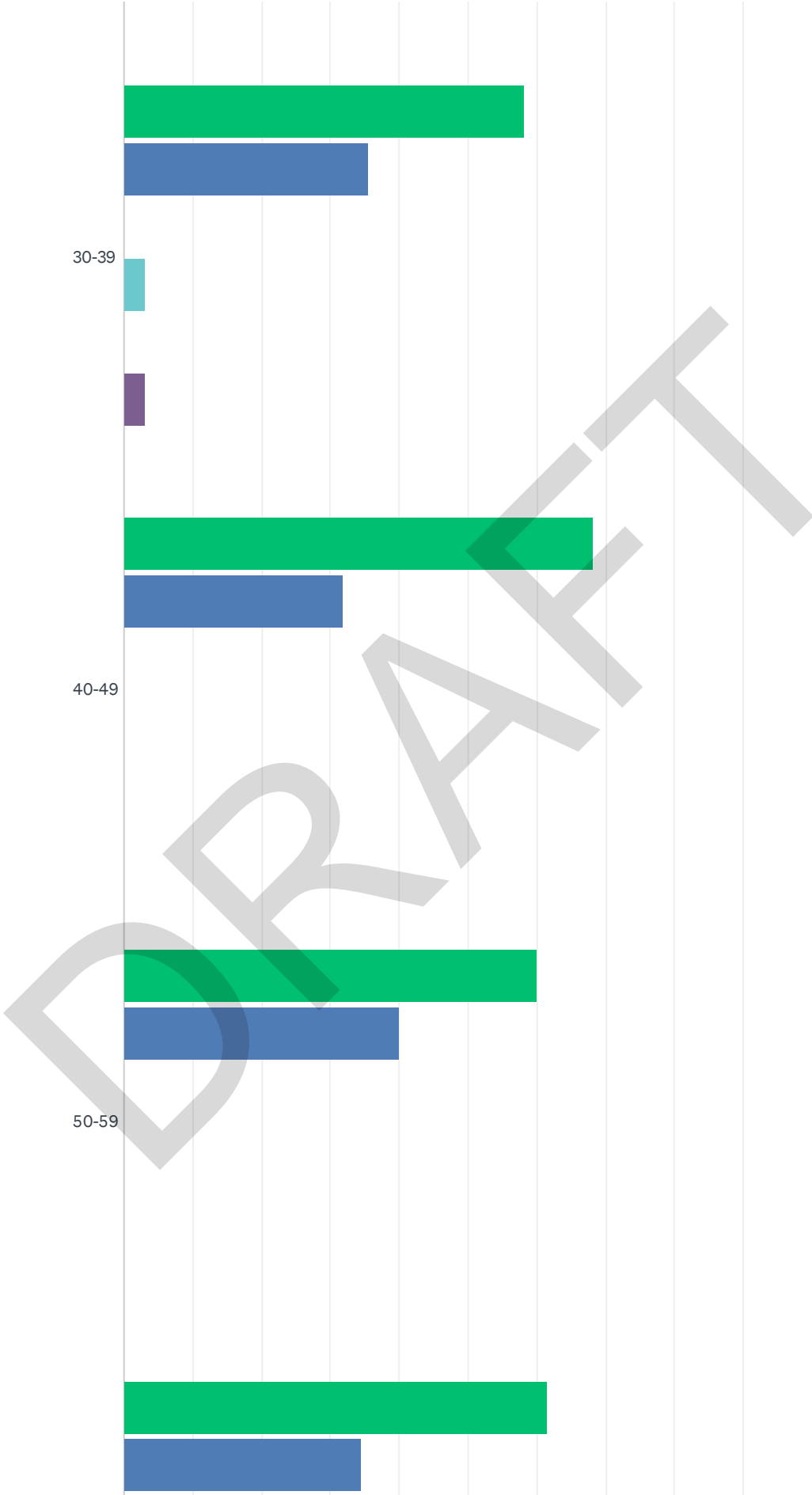
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 9 years	0.00%	0
10-19	1.16%	2
20-29	3.47%	6
30-39	15.03%	26
40-49	28.32%	49
50-59	25.43%	44
60-69	21.97%	38
70+	4.62%	8
TOTAL		173

Q13 If your answers represent other members of your family, please indicate their number in the following age brackets (including yourself) that your answers represent:

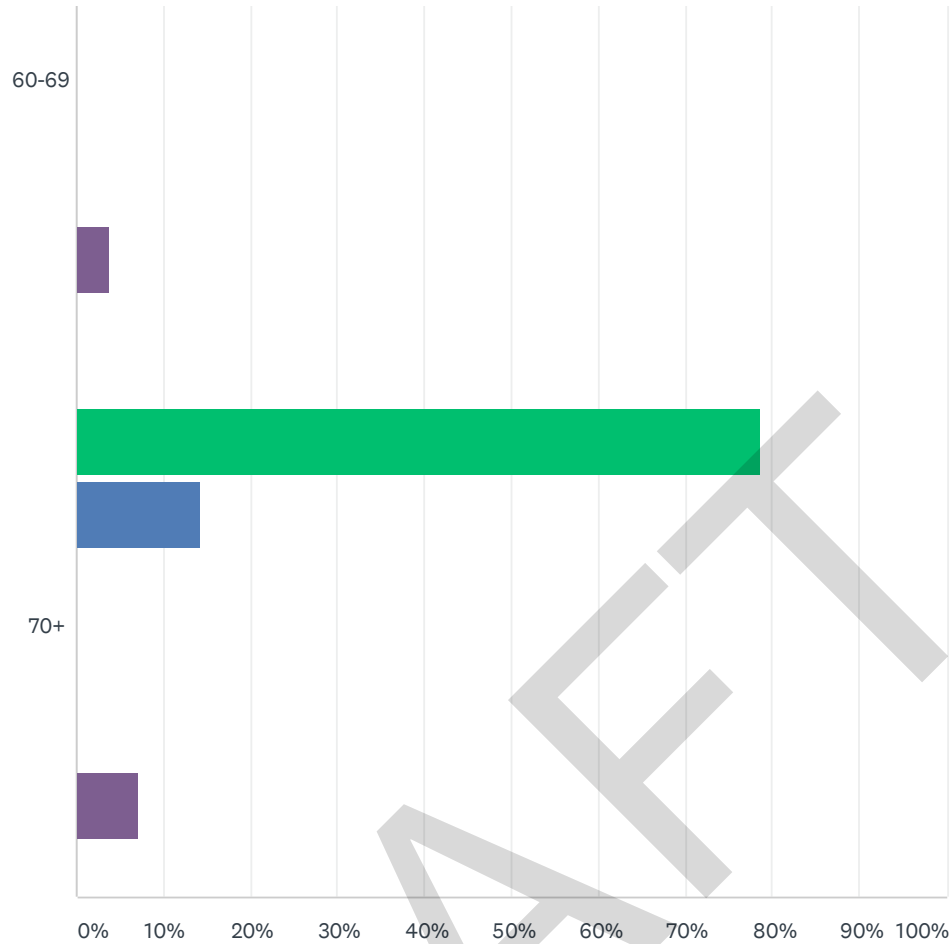
Answered: 143 Skipped: 31



Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey



Dalton Open Space and Recreation Survey



1 2 3 4 5 6

	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Under 9 years	53.85% 21	30.77% 12	15.38% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	39
10-19	34.78% 24	43.48% 30	20.29% 14	0.00% 0	1.45% 1	0.00% 0	69
20-29	53.57% 15	39.29% 11	7.14% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28
30-39	58.06% 18	35.48% 11	0.00% 0	3.23% 1	0.00% 0	3.23% 1	31
40-49	68.18% 30	31.82% 14	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	44
50-59	60.00% 24	40.00% 16	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	40
60-69	61.54% 16	34.62% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.85% 1	26
70+	78.57% 11	14.29% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7.14% 1	14