

**TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON**  
**2014**  
**OPEN SPACE AND**  
**RECREATION PLAN**

**PHILLIPSTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**



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Cover Photo: Baldwin Hill Conservation Area  
All photos: Bonnie House

## Section 1 - Plan Summary

The Phillipston Open Space Plan is designed to address the needs and desires of the residents of the Town of Phillipston to protect and preserve the character of the town, open space, conservation and recreation areas. The plan has also detailed:

- Present protected conservation areas and natural and cultural resources of the town
- Conservation areas connecting to adjacent towns and recommendations for a regional system of trails and conservation areas
- A town survey addressing open space, conservation and recreational needs and interests of residents
- A seven year plan to acquire and protect conservation and recreation land

Town residents, through the survey, registered their needs of recreational fields and protecting areas rich in natural resources. Thousand Acre Swamp, Popple Camp Wildlife Area, Goulding Village Swamp and the central area of town provide natural wildlife corridors to already protected land, have established trail systems, and are areas of scenic interest. Protecting land in these areas would help the town to retain its rural character and natural beauty. By-laws addressing a 100' buffer zone from wetlands and rezoning the large Commercial/Industrial zone would provide additional protection.

## Section 2 - Introduction

### A. Statement of Purpose

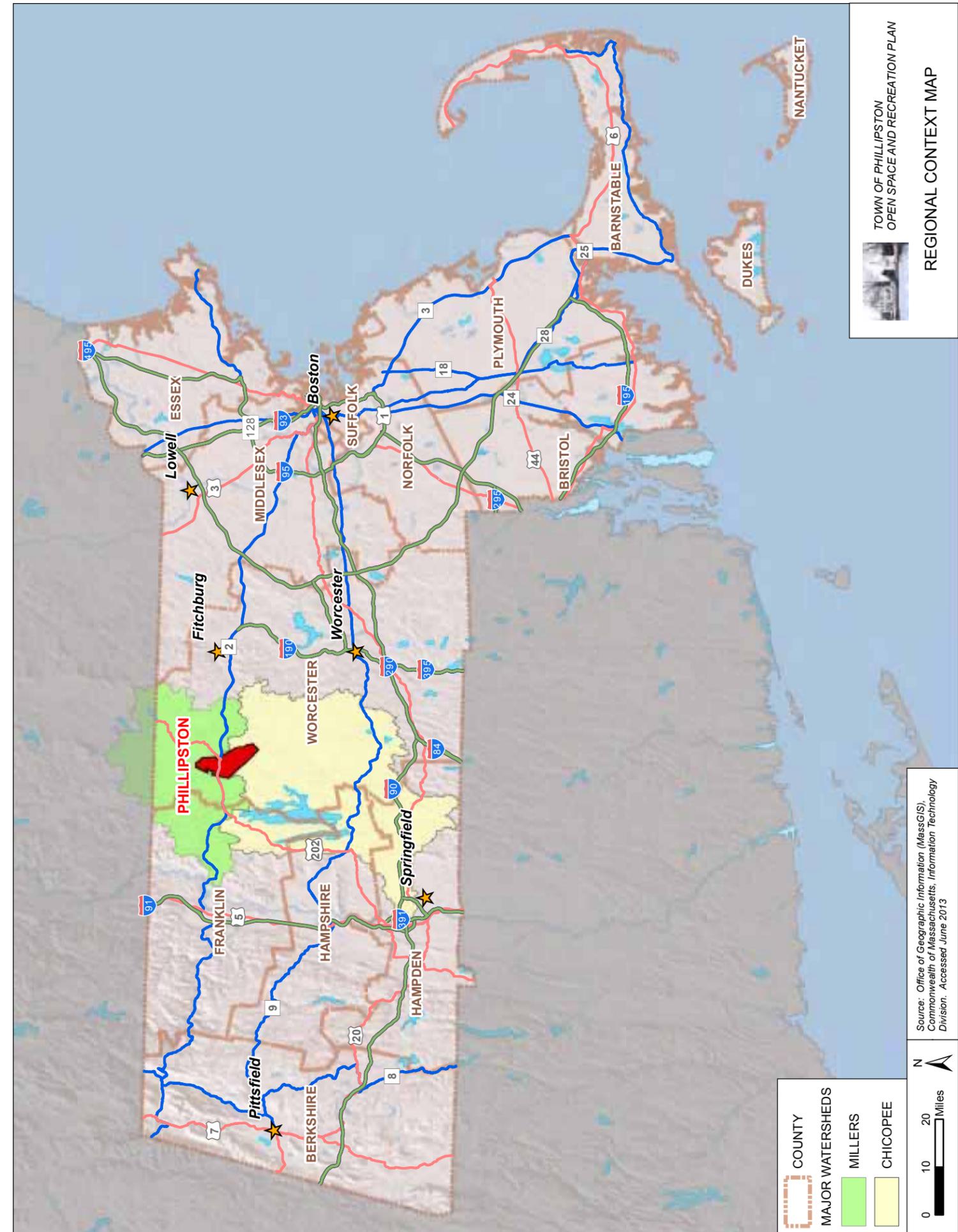
The purpose of this fourth edition is to update the existing Open Space Plan for the Town of Phillipston and develop a comprehensive model for development while preserving the open space which is characteristic of the town. This plan identifies conservation land and recreational facilities which will allow for the plan to serve as the authoritative source of information and planning policies for all town boards and commissions on conservation and recreation matters.

Of consequential concern to the committee is the recent increase in housing along the town's scenic roads. By identifying large land parcels it is hoped to connect parcels which would allow for wildlife green ways and protection of species dependent on open space tracts.

### B. Planning Process and Public Participation

The Open Space Committee is presently comprised of Kim Pratt, Dawn Odams, Judy Bartos and Bonnie House. Past members Karen Perkins and Rose Frizzell have also made contributions to this project. Once established, the committee broke down the objectives of the plan, and began to tackle each section of the plan based on individual interests and expertise. Assistance with mapping was provided by Andrea Buglione, Americorps Volunteer for Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Additional assistance was offered by the Greater Gardner Regional Planning Association.

Input was sought from the public in several ways. A public survey of use of various outdoor recreational sites was published and residents were asked to review it at the annual bazaar, the best attended event held annually in town. Results from the survey were used to update Goals and Objectives and the present Action Plan. A public forum was held to get additional input for the action plan. Announcements about the Open Space Planning Committee meetings were posted at Town Hall and in the town newsletter requesting the public to attend. A draft copy of the plan was placed on the Town website for review, [http://www.phillipston-ma.gov/pages/Open\\_Space\\_Documents.aspx](http://www.phillipston-ma.gov/pages/Open_Space_Documents.aspx), and comments and suggestions were requested from the Phillipston Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Greater Gardner Regional Planning Association, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs as well as the general public.



## Section 3 - Community Setting

### A. Regional Context

The Town of Phillipston is located in northern Worcester County in central Massachusetts. It is bordered on the north by Royalston, on the east by Templeton, on the south by Barre and Hubbardston on the southwest by Petersham and on the west by Athol. It is about 20 miles from Fitchburg, 34 miles from Worcester, 65 miles from Boston and 180 miles from New York City. It covers 24.29 square miles, including 0.59 square miles of water. Phillipston is located in two watersheds. The southern half of the town is within the northern most part of the Chicopee watershed with tributaries to the Ware River which feeds into the Quabbin Reservoir, the major water supply to metropolitan regions of Massachusetts. The northern half of the town is located in the Millers River watershed. Major wetlands border the towns of Athol and Templeton.

With Route 2, a major access road, cutting through Phillipston, it has become a bedroom community for surrounding cities as far away as Boston. Because housing costs to the east have become so high, people are looking to move to Phillipston. Although the number of housing starts has decreased due to the change in the economy, we have seen a substantial rise in taxes.

Residents rely on shopping centers in Fitchburg, Leominster, Gardner and Athol. Queen Lake and Secret Lake have summer residences for families of neighboring towns as well as farther away in Boston, Connecticut and New York State.

### B. History of Phillipston

“Phillipston’s steep hills and valleys have defined its history.”

“The Little Star That Never Sets” by Maria Barnes, Phillipston Bicentennial booklet, 1976

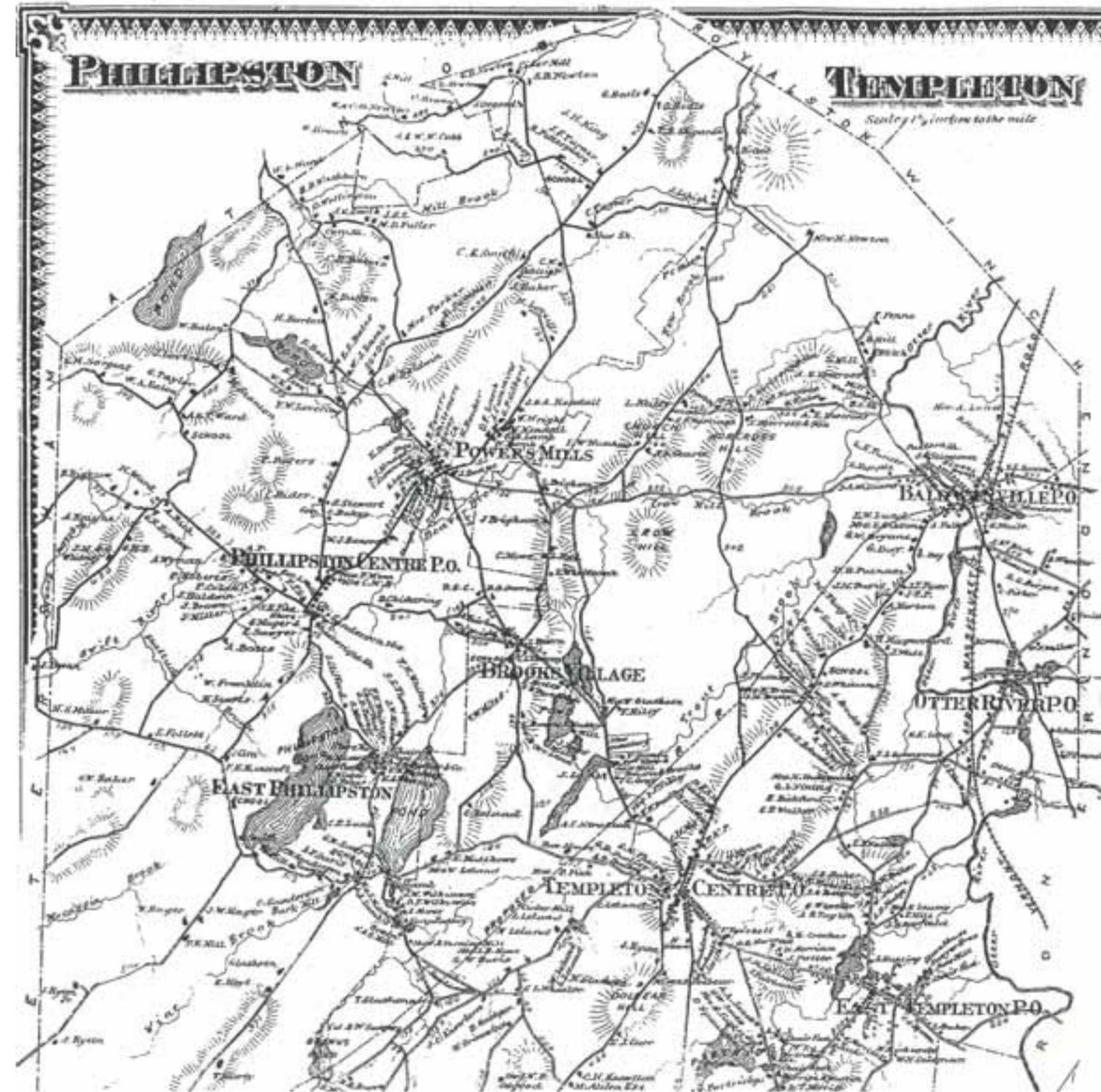
#### 1700’s

Native American Indians were present in this area, although not predominantly. Evidence of their activities are primarily located in the area of Queen Lake. A native grinding stone for corn is located on its shores, and on display at the Phillips Free Public Library is a wooden dugout boat that had been found submerged below the lake’s waters. In addition, there were stories of one Indian abode in town.

In 1728 and 1732, the General Court granted townships to soldiers who participated in King Phillip’s War and wars against the Narragansett tribe of Indians. “Narragansett No. 6” included what is now known as Templeton and the greater part of Phillipston. Families were given a cash incentive to move into these unsettled areas. The first to settle in Phillipston was Charles Baker in 1751, although Abner Sawyer built a log cabin in 1750 but no record of him drawing a bonus has been located. In addition, one story claims that the first settler lived in a cave or dugout near Queen Lake. As time went on, more families moved into Narragansett No. 6, and a church was built on Templeton Common. This location became an inconvenient long and difficult journey for those in the Western part to go to church and attend town meetings. Therefore, on February 15, 1774, the residents in this area petitioned the General Court to become a separated precinct. This tract of land was partly in Templeton, and partly in Athol, and became Templeton West Precinct. The American Revolution began and the part of the precinct that is now known as Phillipston had to wait yet another decade before constructing their own church/meeting house.

Eventually the West Precinct began a movement to become a town, and was granted its request on October 20, 1786. The town became known as “Gerry” after Hon. Elbridge Gerry who was on the General Court of Massachusetts Bay and represented this Commonwealth in Congress. He was also chosen for the Continental Congress and the Declaration of Independence bears his signature. He became an elected member to the first National Congress as an anti-Federalist, and in 1810 became the Governor of Massachusetts for two years.

Throughout the 18th century the primary means of survival was farming. Before railroads in 1835, stage coaches carried passengers to Boston and freight was conveyed by horse teams. Captain Baker transported produce as well as beef, pork, veal, butter, eggs, poultry, oats, rye, and other farmed products to Boston on trips that would take a week. Articles of groceries, cheese, sugar, fish, hardware, New England rum, and leather for the local shoemaker were brought back from his trip.



## 1800's

The War of 1812 was much opposed by the towns-people, unlike their namesake, Elbridge Gerry, who at this point was the Vice President under James Madison. His politics and principles were so disfavored that his name became associated with the term “gerrymandering”, which meant a political dirty trick intended “to keep the Federalists from getting a Congressman”. In addition he never came through on his promise to provide new, and at the time, expensive windows for the new meeting house. As a result, the name of “Gerry” was repudiated by the petition to the General Court asking that the town name be changed to “Phillipston” in honor of William Phillips, Lieutenant Governor of the State for twelve consecutive terms. In less than one month, on February 5, 1814, the change was granted. Shortly thereafter, industry began to prosper in Phillipston.

A large stream flowing from the “Great Pond at Phillipston” (Queen Lake), was the source for the first dam in 1826. Enough water power was created to operate the Damon and Goulding Mills that in 1837 alone produced 165,000 yards of cotton cloth and 11,500 yards of wool in an area known as “Goulding Village”. In the same year 65,000 “palm-leaf” hats were braided at another factory by women residents. Other industry that popped up included several sawmills, iron and tin works, leather goods, wood shops, two tanneries and a grist mill. Joel Parker and Francis Whitney converted one of the Goulding Mills later to cane seat chair manufacture, and J. W. Mixer’s Chair Factory was located in the village as well.

For several years Phillipston was a more active business place than many of the surrounding towns. People came from all over the area to the village mercantile that thrived and did more business than any other firm in this part of the state. However, Phillipston, with its steep hills and valleys witnessed the railroad taking easier trails through Gardner, Baldwinville, South Royalston and Athol. By the turn of the century, most factories had either been relocated to railway areas or simply went out of business. The Parker and Whitney chair factories burned down in 1929.

In 1886 the town of Athol requested Queen Lake for their public water system. Fortunately, Phillipston strongly opposed the grant and won. The lake was still being utilized for water power and in 1890 was stocked with fish and in five years was said to be a fisherman’s dream. Summer recreation as an industry began in 1898 when Sumner Morse built three cottages, developed campgrounds, and a boathouse and recreation areas. By 1902 he rented six cottages.

Phillipston remained an agricultural town throughout the century. Its open fields were exemplary for herds of cattle to graze upon, and the rich soil was ideal for planting fruit trees and produce of all varieties. A census taken in 1875 showed 126 farms with agricultural production of \$90,246, and over \$46,000 in livestock

## 1900's

The population in 1840 during the town’s industrial revolution was 919, with a steady decline continuing to its lowest of 354 in 1920. Queen Lake continued to increase in popularity as a summer resort. The Queen Lake Camp (separate from Morse’s cottages) operated from 1921 to 1969, boasting twelve cottages, dining and reception halls, athletic fields, and activities galore. The clientele was primarily young women from New York City.

Water power was still being utilized in Goulding Village for two factories, a cider mill and one paint factory. This and the recreational use of Queen Lake helped to repel yet another town, Baldwinville, from taking it for a reservoir in the 1930’s. Eventually electric power replaced water power, the automobile was invented, and with it came tarred roads. People were now able to commute to jobs out of town, but live in this quiet and pleasant town. The population grew steadily from the 1950’s on. Our town had been isolated once by being bypassed by the railroad. So, when Routes 2A and Route 2 were being engineered, town officials fought to insure convenient placement of access and exit ramps.

Agriculture remained the primary industry until after World War II. Phillipston is mostly a “bedroom community” now, but there is still some agriculture: apple orchards, hay fields, and Christmas tree plantations. Other businesses include: a restaurant, campground, package store, two antique and gift shops, an auto dealership, auto repair shops, two excavating companies, heavy equipment dealership, and a garden center. See Historic Phillipston Map.

## 2000's

The population in Phillipston increased during the first decade of the century, however, the economic downturn brought housing foreclosures and a decline to 1768 residents in 2013. The town remains rural with fields, forests, wetlands, streams and rivers, however, most of this natural area is not protected from development. Queen Lake no longer powers any factories and is used for recreation. There is a public beach on the southern end with seasonal camps and year round homes along its shores.

In 2007 the Town adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) which established accounts dedicated to funding projects for open space, historical preservation and restoration, housing and recreation. Funds have been used to purchase open space and build a new ball field.

In 2010 Massachusetts installed the first Heavy Lift Bridge on Route 2 in Phillipston. The structure was built off site and then lifted into place with cranes. Visit [www.massdot.state.us/abp/Projects/Phillipston](http://www.massdot.state.us/abp/Projects/Phillipston) to see video and learn more about this project.

The Phillipston River dam was built in the late 1800’s to provide a water supply for the Town of Athol. In 2007 the dam was found to be unsafe. Athol and the Fish and Game Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) have removed part of the dam and restored the water to its original state. Further information can be found at: [www.mass.gov/dfwete/DER](http://www.mass.gov/dfwete/DER).

## C. Population Characteristics

The population has steadily increased since 1930, although not as greatly as the Massachusetts Department of Health has predicted. From the following tables, one sees an increasingly older population in town while the number of school aged children is significant. The broad age span statistic of 15-59 years makes planning difficult since this is an age group that is mobile due to schooling and career changes. Little industry is located in the Town. As the population grows due primarily to increased housing, pressure will be placed on natural resources. The school and existing playing fields are used to capacity. Private wells are drilled through bedrock. Build out would present drastic changes and protection will become mandatory if the town character, the reason families move here, is to be preserved.

**Table 1: Population of Phillipston, 1930-2012**

Year	Population	% Increase
1930.....	354	
1940.....	485	37.0
1950.....	630	29.9
1960.....	690	9.5
1970.....	872	26.3
1980.....	1011	15.9
1990.....	1264	25.0
2000.....	1626	28.6
2005.....	1784	9.7
2010.....	1764	-1.1
2012.....	1768	.2

**Table 2: Age Distribution in Phillipston, 2012**

Age Group	Total
0-5 years .....	86
6-14 years .....	187
15-59 years.....	1134
60-64 years.....	144
65 and up.....	217

**Table 3: Births and Deaths in Phillipston, 1999-2012**

Year	Births	Deaths
2000	16	11
2001	12	10
2002	16	13
2003	14	10
2004	13	7
2005	16	13
2006	17	9
2007	14	11
2008	15	7
2009	10	11
2010	7	10
2011	13	10
2012	11	10

**Table 4: Housing Starts in Phillipston, 1940-2012**

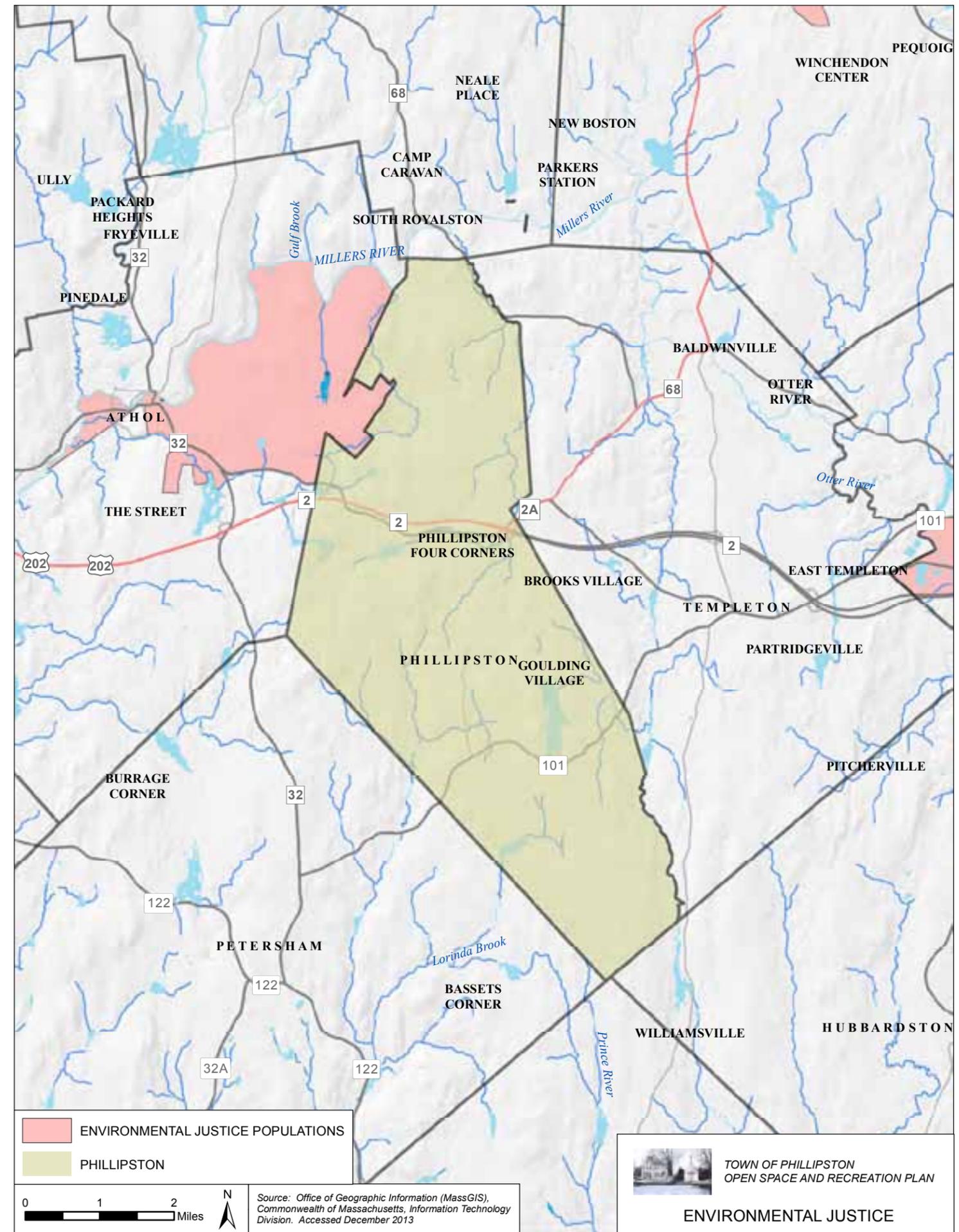
Year	Housing Starts
1940-1949	45
1950-1959	42
1960-1969	51
1970-1979	117
1980-1984	67
1985-1988	107
1989-1990	30
1991-1999	100
2000-2005	86
2006-2012	26

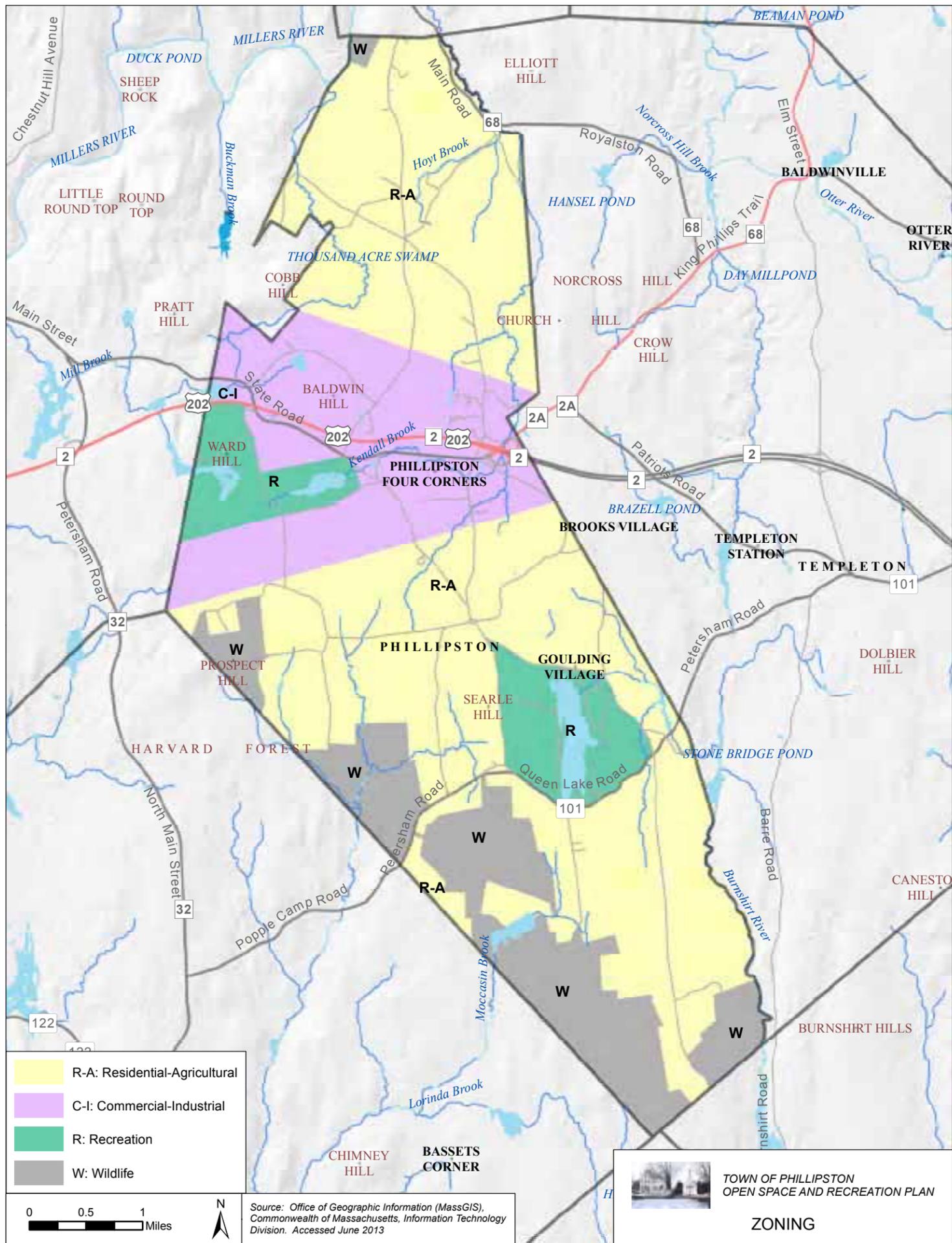
The present census states there are 1768 people living in Phillipston on a land area of 24.26 square miles giving a population density of 74. The median household income in 2010 was \$63,426, \$5000 lower than that for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Although the population of Phillipston is predominantly white (97.37%), racial minorities live and are assimilated in Town. There are no Environmental Justice populations in Phillipston. Please see the Environmental Justice Map and Appendix C: The Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Statement for the Town.

How do we provide resources for all of our citizens? If the present group of 15-54 year old citizens continue to live in town for the next couple of decades, how will Phillipston provide services and facilities for them? Residents of all ages will require programs and accessible open space for walking and other recreational activities.

Employment possibilities in Phillipston are limited. Phillipston has: King Phillip Restaurant, Red Apple Farm, a couple used car dealerships, Cycle Design, a large equipment dealership and auto repair shops, a doctor's office, and excavating services. Other employment opportunities exist working for the Town or the grade school. People are either self employed, contractors or commute sometimes long distances to work.





**D. Growth and Development Patterns**

Phillipston was cleared by the European settlers in the 1700's. Their farms were later abandoned in the middle and late 1800's when mills were the predominant industry. The pine forests began to grow back up, and with them, wildlife began to return. The cutting of these pine forests led to the mixed forests of today, dominated by oaks, maples and beech. In 1971, interpretation of the aerial survey maps determined that 85% of the Town was covered by mixed forests, 6.8% agriculture, 5.6% wetland, and 2.3 urban land. In addition, there were 44 acres of mined land and 22 acres of outdoor recreation land.

The Greater Gardner Sustainable Growth Management Plan of June 30, 1999 estimates the following growth rate for the Town of Phillipston under existing zoning for the time period of 1999-2025.

**Table 5: Impact on Growth Under Existing Zoning, 1999 - 2025**

New Population.....	752
New Housing Units.....	251
New School Children.....	218
Acres of Open Space Consumed .....	570
Miles of Road Frontage Consumed.....	12

If the Town continues to grow quickly, it will exceed expectations established in this study. A fundamental reason for the recent growth surge is the Town's lack of interest in a Growth Management Plan and a Wetlands By-law. The survey shows that families are anxious to move to Phillipston because of its open space and school system. If the Town continues to grow at its present rate these reasons for moving here will be lost.

**Table 6: Land Use in Phillipston, 1951, 1971, 1998**

Land Use	Acreage			
	1951	1971	1998	2005
Forest Land	13,212	13,545	13,332	
Agricultural land	1,975	1,082	560	299
Wet land	764	902	829	
Mined land	-	44	31	
Urban land	13	369	880	503
Outdoor recreation land	-	22	49	31
Forest, Wetlands, Open space				14,515
Water				267
Commercial, Industrial, Mining, Transportation				110

Between 1951 and 1971, urban land in Phillipston increased from 13 acres to 369 acres. The thirteen acres in 1951 consisted basically of the common area. Over the course of the next 20 years, as the population increased by a third, new urban uses were introduced including high density residential areas and rural clusters of houses. In 1975 the Town adopted its first zoning by-law. It has been revised seven times since then. Under the present zoning by-law, there are three districts. These districts are:

- Residential-Agricultural: This is the largest district, covering the upper third and 80% of the lower half of the Town.
  - Commercial-Industrial: This district occupies the center of Town on both sides of Route 2.
  - Recreational: This zone is found in two districts, around Queen Lake in the south of Town and around the reservoirs in the western border region with Athol.
- See the Zoning Map.

The minimum lot requirements are the same for all three zones: 80,000 square feet of area, 200 feet of frontage and 110 feet of lot depth. Maximum coverage of a lot cannot exceed 25% for residential uses, 40% for commercial and industrial uses.

## Transportation

Apart from public school buses, there is no public transportation in Phillipston. There continue to be major improvements made to Route 2 including widening of the stretch in the western part of town. This will help to reduce accidents and increase the commuter traffic to the east. Route 68 and Route 202 run north and Route 101 runs northeast to southwest while Route 2A runs east to west and adjacent to Route 2. Traffic accidents in Town have increased from 22 in 1988 to 41 in 1998 and 2012 respectively.

## Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems

All water supply and sewage disposal systems in Town are based on private wells and septic systems. Reservoirs for the Town of Athol are located in the western part of Town. An aquifer has been identified in the Popple Camp area, and a second aquifer runs from the Balchunis gravel pit area north to Route 2 and continuing north to the Beaver Brook Flood area. There is potential for future study for a municipal water supply if it is ever needed and to determine which land around it should be protected.

## Long term development patterns

Based on the information found in the Greater Gardner Sustainable Growth Plan, the town of Phillipston is not prepared for long term growth. Due to the proposed widening of Route 2 and the increased housing prices in towns in proximity to the Route 495 and Route 128 beltways, it is assumed that more development will occur as commuters become more willing to travel greater distances to work. Zoning in Phillipston is limited to two acre parcels with two hundred feet of frontage. Possible residential build out potential with developable land is 8,542 acres. This implies 3,175 new dwelling units within the next few decades. By 2025 expected impact of growth under existing zoning in Phillipston is:

- 752 new residents
- 251 new houses
- 218 more school aged children

This growth would consume 570 acres of open space and twelve miles of road frontage.

However, in actuality, growth has slowed in the last decade, most likely due to the economic downturn. Massachusetts Department of Transportation projected growth for Phillipston from 2010 to 2025 is 4%.

To protect our town character and open space, it is suggested that we adopt bylaws for cluster zoning, greater wetland protection and private well water protection. In addition, we should approach large landowners to suggest alternatives to land development.

The Planning Commission is drafting new zoning by-laws which are to be presented for a vote at an annual town meeting.

We have outlined ecological proposals in our seven year plan.

## Ecological Impact

Maximum buildout would impact residential water supply, wetlands and wildlife habitat negatively. Large developments will limit access for wildlife to their natural water and food supply, forcing movement into remaining resources. As wetlands shrink due to encroaching development, natural resources are lost, and the Town character would change drastically.

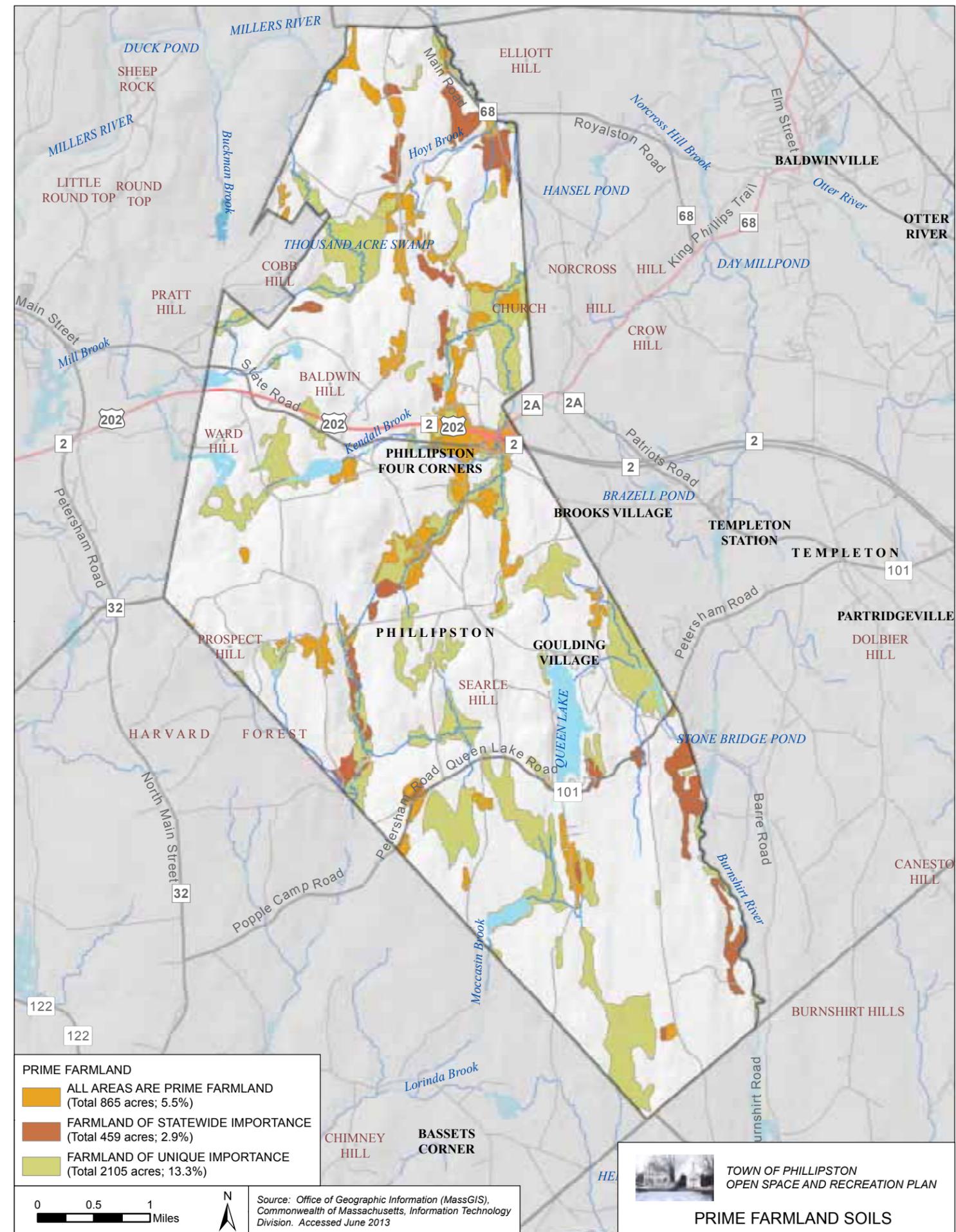
## Section 4 - Environmental Inventory and Analysis

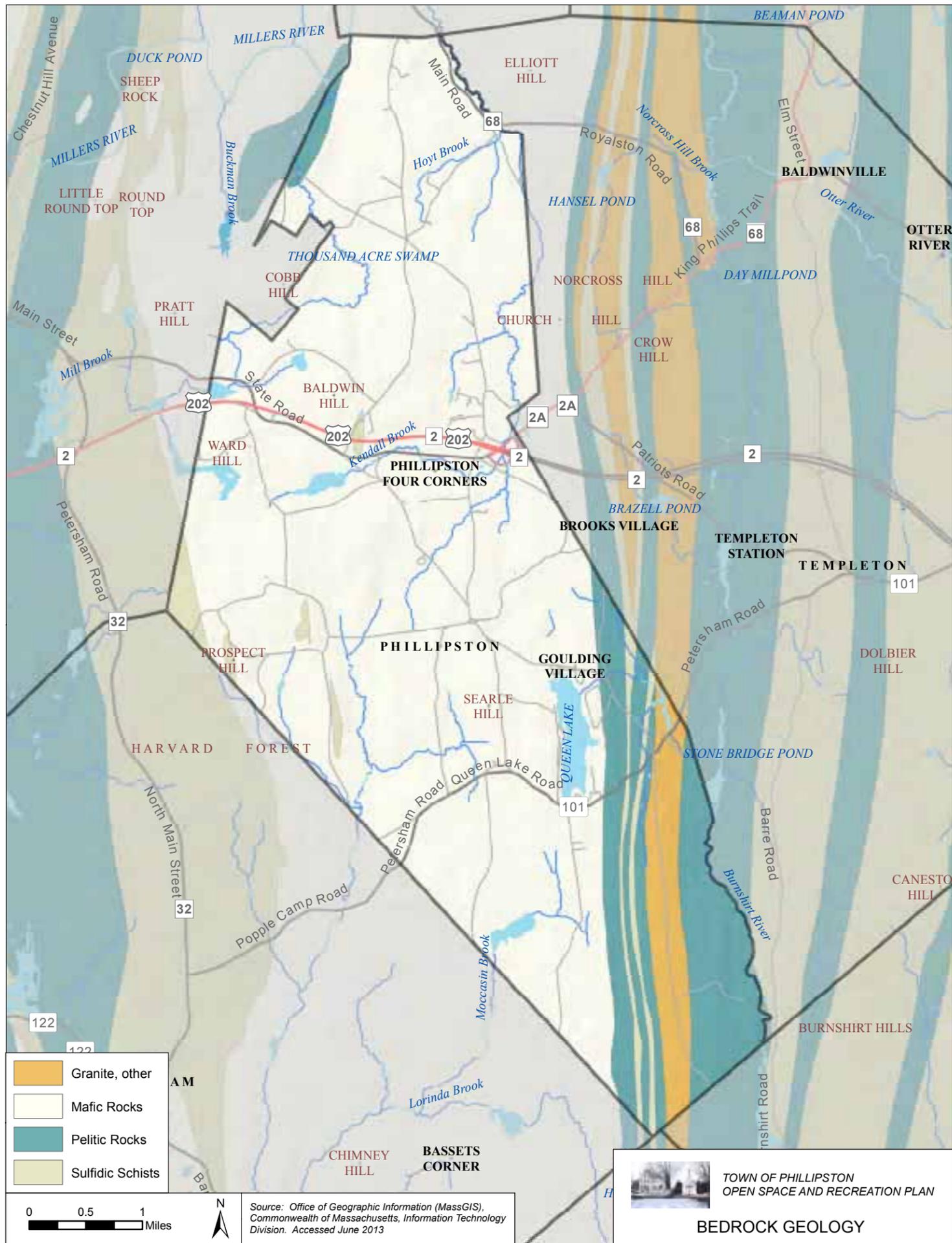
### A. Geology, Soils and Topography

Phillipston is a very hilly town with much evidence of the past glacier leaving exposed ledges, boulders and rock outcrops. As the glacier receded it did leave some very sandy areas as evidenced by the area running between lower cemetery and Athol Road to Baldwinville Road, Balchunis' gravel pit, then toward Route 2 and the Beaver Brook area. Also there are gravel areas as witnessed on Williamsville Road.

Many hills are over 1,000 feet with the town common at 1,166 feet above sea level. Baldwin Hill off of Highland Avenue at 1,383 feet is the highest elevation on Route 2 between Greenfield and Boston. Many of the hills are forested as the town still has over 13,000 acres of forest land. However, Phillipston land use has changed. By studying Land Use Change in Phillipston, MA as compiled by David W. Goodwin, Project Manager, Resource Mapping, Department of Natural Resources Conservation, 360.06 acres of forest land in 1971 changed to other uses in 1997. Total forest land in Phillipston in 1997 was 13,401.4 acres.

Phillipston has a wide variation of soil types (See Interim Soil Report and Maps for Northwestern Worcester County, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services). However, very little farming exists in town today, except for hay fields, one apple orchard and





two Christmas tree farms. Many old fields have now grown up to forest and the land has a rich organic matter layer as evidenced by the forest growth and its lush vegetation.

Phillipston has varied rolling topography consisting of forests and fields drained by many small streams that is typical of north central Massachusetts. There are no waterfalls, cliffs, high point scenic overlooks or unique geologic features either noted by geologic maps or regarded within the community itself. Numerous wetlands are found scattered all over town with many of them developed by the water runoff of all of the hills and rock ledges at or near the surface. Several large swamps are found in town: Thousand Acre Swamp, Beaver Brook area, Popple Camp Brook area, and Goulding Village Swamp.

Development has encroached on all areas of the town. Ledge has been blasted out for house cellars/foundations, major wetlands have been crossed, wetlands have been encroached to within 50 feet, and in some cases closer, and wetlands have been cleared for views and backyard uses. Future land development will mostly continue in undeveloped land behind or off of current roads. This will require developers to build costly private roads as well as expensive land perks/septic systems in this hilly, rocky land. However, due to Route 2 access (four lanes), if development continues, the town character, beauty and quality of life would be reduced with these drastic changes.

See the Bedrock Geology and Prime Farmland Soils Maps.

**B. Landscape Character**

The overall scenic character of Phillipston consists primarily of wooded hills surrounding scenic lakes, ponds and swamps. Queen Lake and Secret Lake are popular summer retreats providing boating and swimming as well as natural beauty. Stone bridges on Willis Road and the Burntshirt River and buildings of historic significance provide cultural interest. Hiking trails, wetlands, and woodlands make Phillipston a town where people want to visit and live.

**C. Water Resources**

Phillipston lies within two watersheds. The northern half is within the Millers River watershed, and the southern half drains into the Chicopee watershed which feeds the Quabbin Reservoir. Phillipston is known for Queen Lake, which has become the retreat for many of our summer residents who enjoy swimming, fishing and boating on its peaceful waters. Secret Lake is a quieter private waterway with limited access for canoeing and fishing. Bates Reservoir, Secret Lake and 1000 Acre Swamp were once a drinking water supplies for the town of Athol. Periodic flooding occurs on Route 101 near Barre Road due to beaver activity in the Goulding Village Swamp area. Other areas of concern are found near major wetlands and along brooks and streams. Flooding occurring along the Millers River is controlled by the Birch Hill Reservoir, completed in 1941. The Beaver Brook drainage area protects the surrounding area from flooding. Thousand Acre Swamp, Popple Camp Brook and Goulding Village Swamp Area are the primary wetlands. There is no public drinking water supply. All homes have private, individual wells. Aquifer recharge areas include Kendall Brook, Chickering Brook, Beaver Brook and Popple Camp Brook. See the Water Resources Map.

**D. Vegetation**

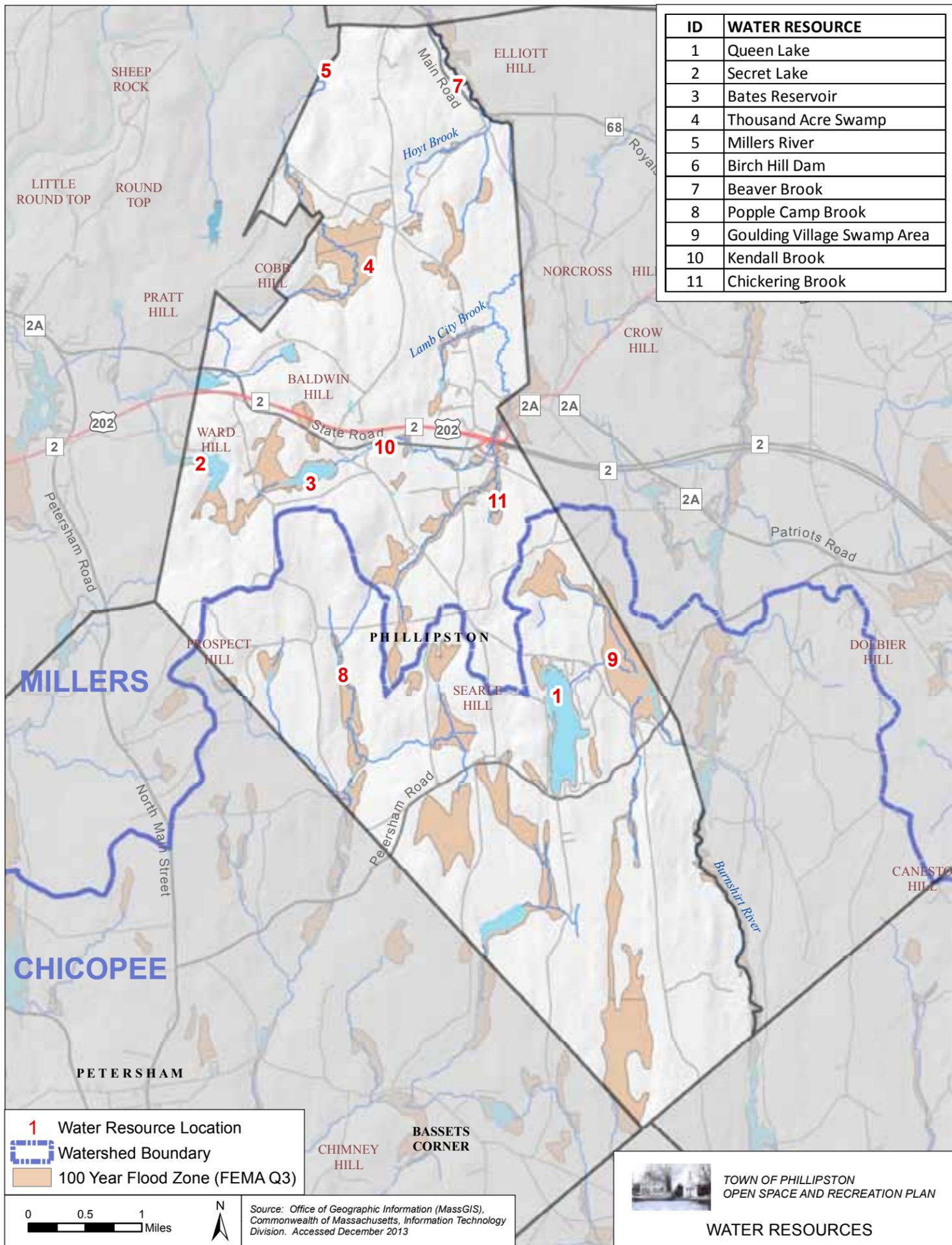
In 1971, 85 per cent of Phillipston’s 15,964 acres was covered with forest, an increase of three percent from 1951. These forests are the mixed northern deciduous and conifer forests that dominate the New England region. The principal species are red oak, American ash, yellow, grey, white and black birch, sugar and red maple, American beech, cherry, poplar, white pine, Eastern hemlock and hickory.

Shade trees of various maple species surround the Common located in the center of Phillipston. Maples, Oaks, Ash and Pine line the perimeters of the upper and lower cemeteries. All of Phillipston’s roads are lined with mixed northern deciduous trees and conifers that grow amongst the stone walls that border our roads.

Red Apple Farm, a local protected orchard, draws the public for blueberry and apple picking in the summer and fall. Drops provide a rich food source for many species. Thousand Acre, Goulding Village, and Popple Camp Swamps are large wetland areas of protection and rich wildlife resources. Trailing Arbutus, the State Flower, and Lady Slippers may be found along our scenic roadways. The following vernal pools were certified in Town: CVP 2420, CVP 2418, CVP 2417, CVP 2419. See the Certified and Potential Vernal Pools Map for locations.

**E. Wildlife**

In the last seventy years several different wild animals have returned to Phillipston after having been driven away when the land was cleared in the 18th and 19th centuries. Beavers returned in the 1940’s. In the 1960’s the Eastern coyotes were back in Town. By the 1970’s Fisher cats and morning doves were again seen. The Eastern turkey, introduced into the Bear’s Den Conservation Area in 1982, is now throughout the Town. Other returning animals in the 1980’s include the bald eagle, the osprey, moose, black bear, bluebirds, wood duck, possums and porcupines.



ID	WATER RESOURCE
1	Queen Lake
2	Secret Lake
3	Bates Reservoir
4	Thousand Acre Swamp
5	Millers River
6	Birch Hill Dam
7	Beaver Brook
8	Popple Camp Brook
9	Goulding Village Swamp Area
10	Kendall Brook
11	Chickering Brook

Today, Phillipston is home to a great variety of wildlife. Mammals found in Town include whitetail deer, cottontail and snowshoe rabbits, bobcat, porcupine, fisher cat, red and grey squirrel, skunk, weasel, red and grey fox, eastern coyote, beaver, otter, raccoon, chipmunk and possum. Birds in Town include Eastern turkey, ruffed grouse, woodcock, wood duck, mallards, morning doves, hawks, owls, pileated woodpeckers, songbirds, bald eagles, loons, ospreys, great blue herons and other water fowl. Phillipston would like to preserve open space connecting to the Harvard Forest, providing a natural wildlife corridor. Other wildlife corridors exist in 1000 Acre Swamp, and at the end of Williamsville Road in Fisheries and Wildlife and DCR lands.

Phillipston also contains numerous brooks and ponds where fish populations flourish. Beaver Brook is stocked with trout by the state Division of Fisheries and Game. Other fish found in Town waters include bass, bullhead, perch, bluegill, and pickerel. Four endangered species found in Phillipston are listed with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. They are: Two birds: *Botaurus lentiginosus*, American Bittern; *Ixobrychus exilis*, Least Bittern Reptile: *Glyptemys insculpta*, Wood Turtle; and Vascular Plant, *Viola adunca*, Sand Violet. Rare species documented in town include: Triangle Floater, Creeper, Spine Crowned Clubtail, Wood Turtle, Elderberry Long-horned Beetle, Sand Violet, American Bittern, Least Bittern, and Spring Salamander. Rare Species Priority Habitats are: PH 398, PH 1390, PH 1591. Rare Species Estimated Habitats are: EH22, EH32 and EH280. Core habitats are: 2207, 2220, 2240, 2243, 2246, 2249, 2283, 2284, 2304, 2357, 2368, 2374, 2390, 2495, and 2621. Critical Natural Landscapes are: 1116, 1127, 1137, 1144, and 1316. The following vernal pools were certified in Town: CVP 2420, CVP 2418, CVP 2417, CVP 2419 and CVP4457. See the Estimated and Priority Habitats of Rare Species Map. For more in depth discussion of Rare Species habitats, please see Appendix C, Classification of Natural Communities in Massachusetts as well as maps pertaining to rare species in the beginning of this plan.

**Table 7: Core Habitat**

Elements of BioMap2 Cores This section lists all elements of BioMap2 Cores that fall entirely or partially within Phillipston. The elements listed here may not occur within the bounds of Phillipston. Core 2207/2220/2240/2243/2246/2249/2283/2284/2368/2390/2495. See The BioMap2 Core Habitat Maps.

Wetland Core			
Core 2304			
Vernal Pool Core			
Core 2357			
Aquatic Core			
Species of Conservation Concern			
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>		E
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>		E
Core 2374			
Aquatic Core			
Wetland Core			
Species of Conservation Concern			
Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>		
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>		E
Core 2621			
Forest Core			
Aquatic Core			
Wetland Core			
Priority & Exemplary Natural Communities			
Hickory - Hop Hornbeam Forest/Woodland			S2
Low-energy Riverbank			
Shallow Emergent Marsh			
Species of Conservation			
Concern Creeper	<i>Strophitus undulatus</i>		SC
Triangle Floater	<i>Alasmidonta undulata</i>		
Arrow Clubtail	<i>Stylurus spiniceps</i>		
Spine-crowned Clubtail	<i>Gomphus abbreviatus</i>		SC
Zebra Clubtail	<i>Stylurus scudderi</i>		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>		SC

## Classification of Natural Communities of Massachusetts

The following is extracted from information sent to the town by Patricia C. Swain, Ph.D., Ecologist for the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.

The climate, geology and soils of Phillipston are typical of central Massachusetts. Being on the Worcester Plateau, Phillipston is somewhat cooler than much of the rest of the state, but the vegetation, that is, the forest type is typical of New England. Northern Hardwoods - Hemlock - White Pine Forest is the prevailing forest type in the area. There is a particularly good occurrence that extends into the northwest corner of Phillipston in and around the Millers River WMA. Along the river there are good examples of Low-energy Riverbank communities. On the northeast side of town is a good example of a Shallow Emergent Marsh. All of these community types provide important habitat for common and uncommon species and support the biodiversity of the town. There are a few uncommon species in Phillipston. There are multiple records of Wood Turtles (*Clemmys insculpta*), a state Species of Special Concern, which imply that good populations are present in town. Streams and surrounding wetlands and uplands provide the mix of habitats that Wood Turtles need. Phillipston has two state-protected species of "secretive waterbirds", that is, species that nest and live well hidden in marshes. Both the American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) and Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) are known from wetlands that are partially in conservation ownership. Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*)...have a heronry on a wetland partially on conservation land. All lands abutting conservation properties make good targets for conservation acquisition since larger contiguous areas generally provide the best habitat.

Areas with rare species habitat adjoining existing conservation land are prime areas to consider for additional protection. The presence of the Elderberry Long-horned Beetle (*Desmocerus palliatus*) ...indicates abundant wetland shrubs, and good wetland habitat. The Sand Violet (*Viola adunca*) is a species of dry open areas, which were more abundant in Massachusetts 100 years ago than now.

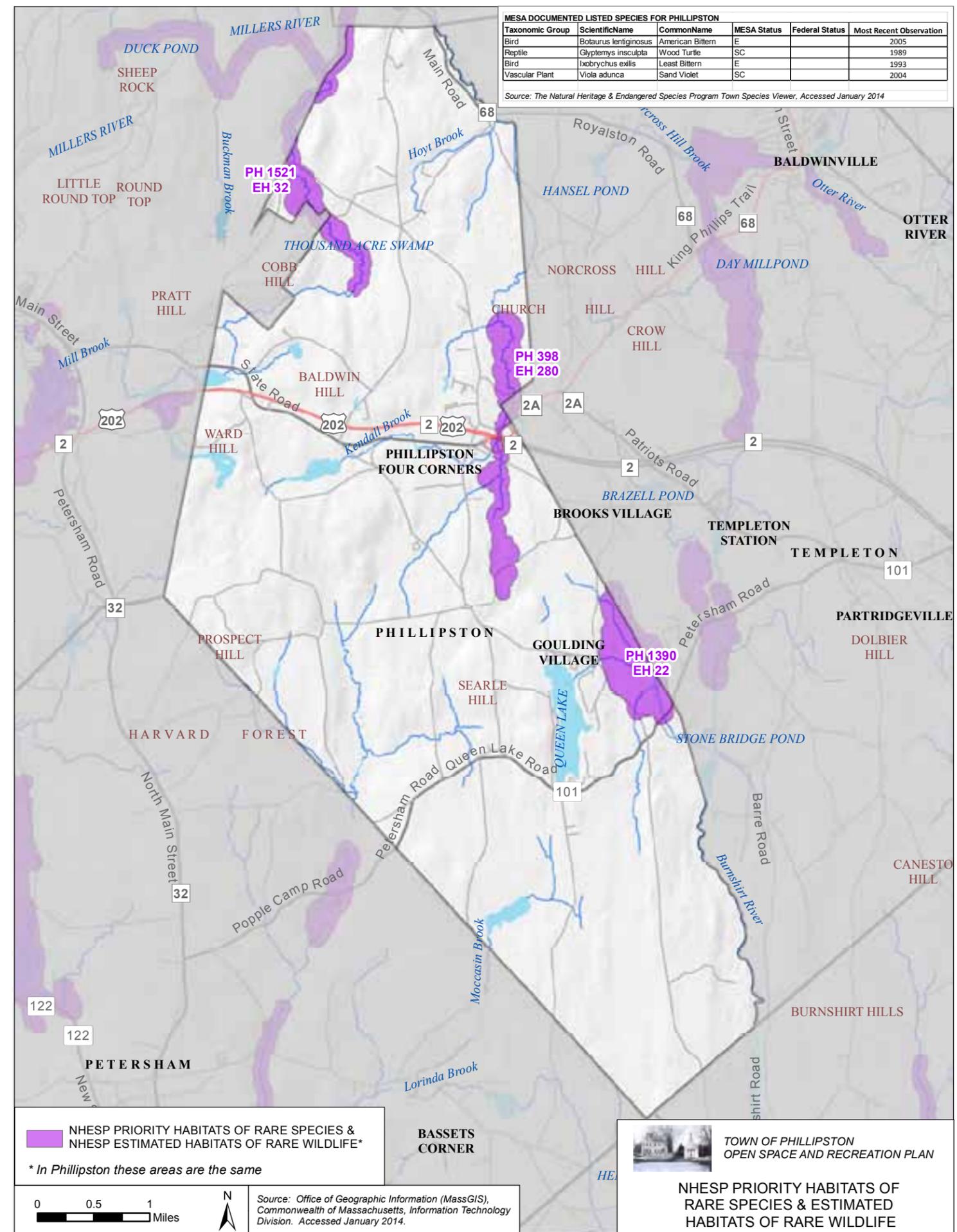
Phillipston has areas of possible Primary Forest, areas that were forested in the 1830s and in the 1999 MasGIS land use coverage. The intent of this data layer is to identify forested areas that may have been continuously forested. Primary forest is not Old Growth, but does occur on untilled soil. Even though they were usually woodlots and were cut repeatedly and were often pastured, they retain greater native biodiversity than adjoining areas that were tilled. It is not known if the areas in Phillipston that were forested in the 1830s and 1999 are primary forest. Much of the 1830s forest area in southern Phillipston is on the Wildlife Management Area, so protected, but some extends north of the WMA. There is a smaller area of 1830s forest on the western side of town that is mostly on the Harvard Forest tract, but extends onto private land. The areas of 1830s forest on private land might be good targets for conservation acquisition to maintain the biodiversity of the town and region.

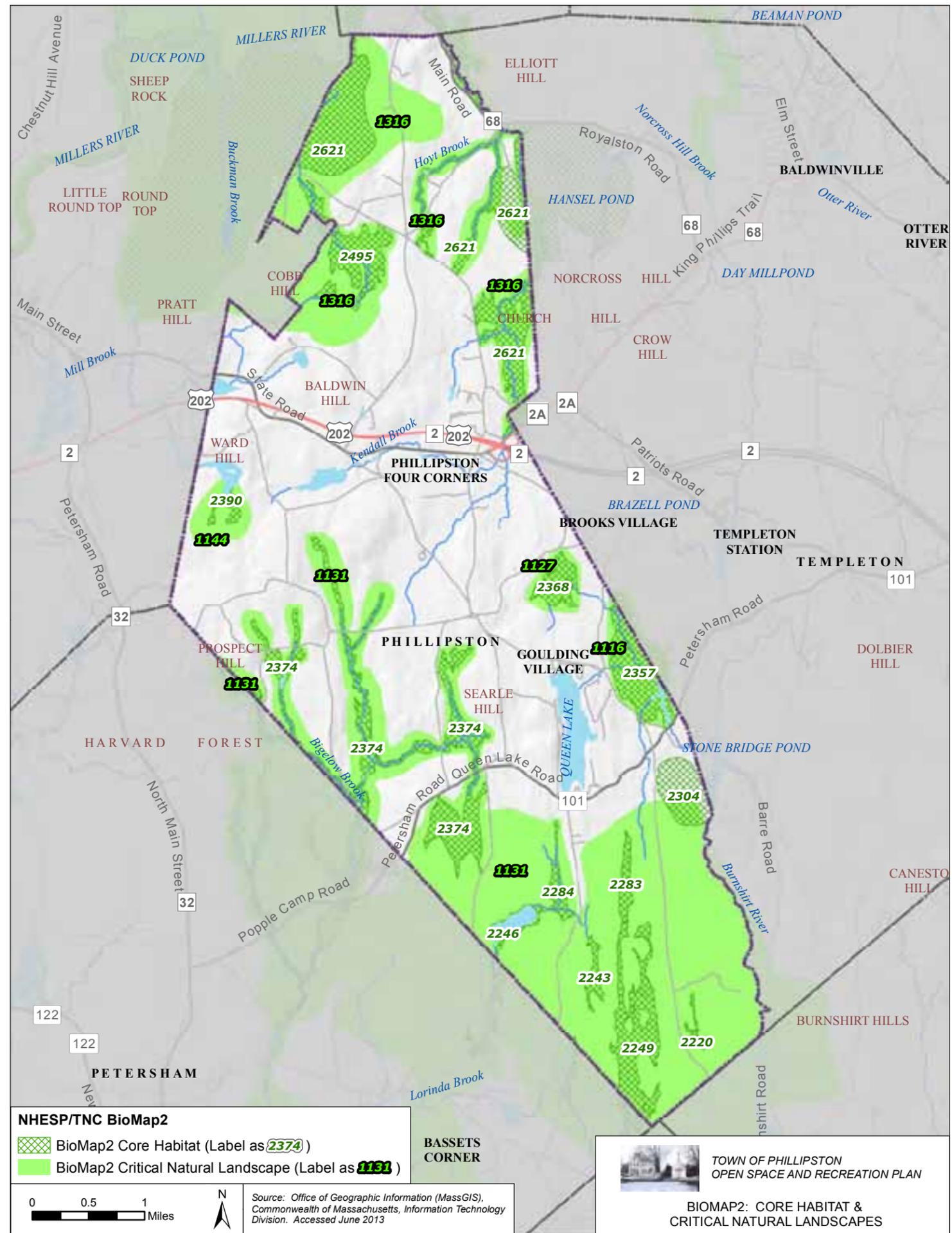
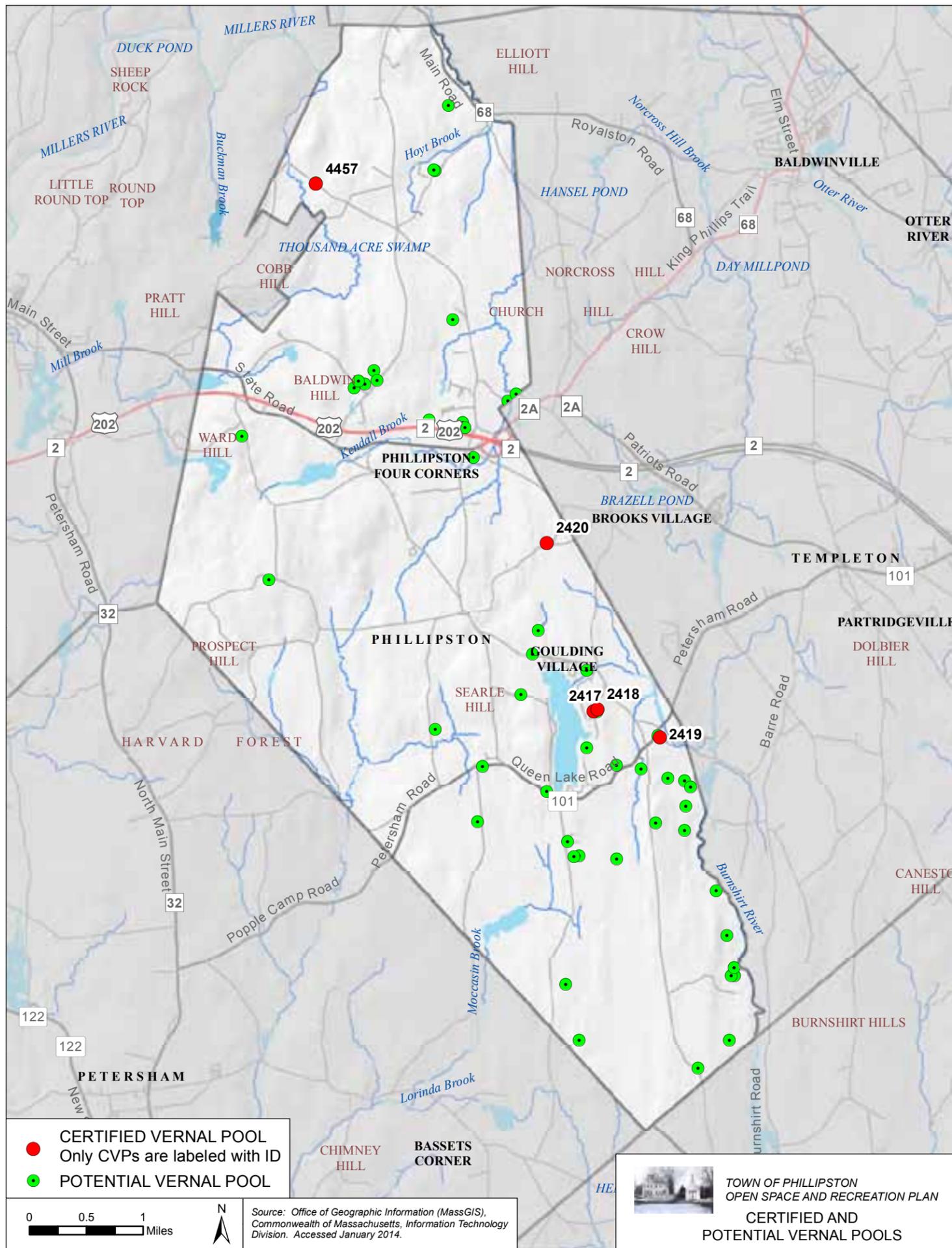
Phillipston has many probable vernal pools...and several certified vernal pools. There are several clusters of vernal pools, which indicate particularly good habitat for species that depend on vernal pools. The clusters mean that there are alternate habitats if something happens to one pool, and slightly different conditions in each may provide different habitats for pool dependent species. Certifying the PVPs would provide more protection to these wetlands and the species that use them.

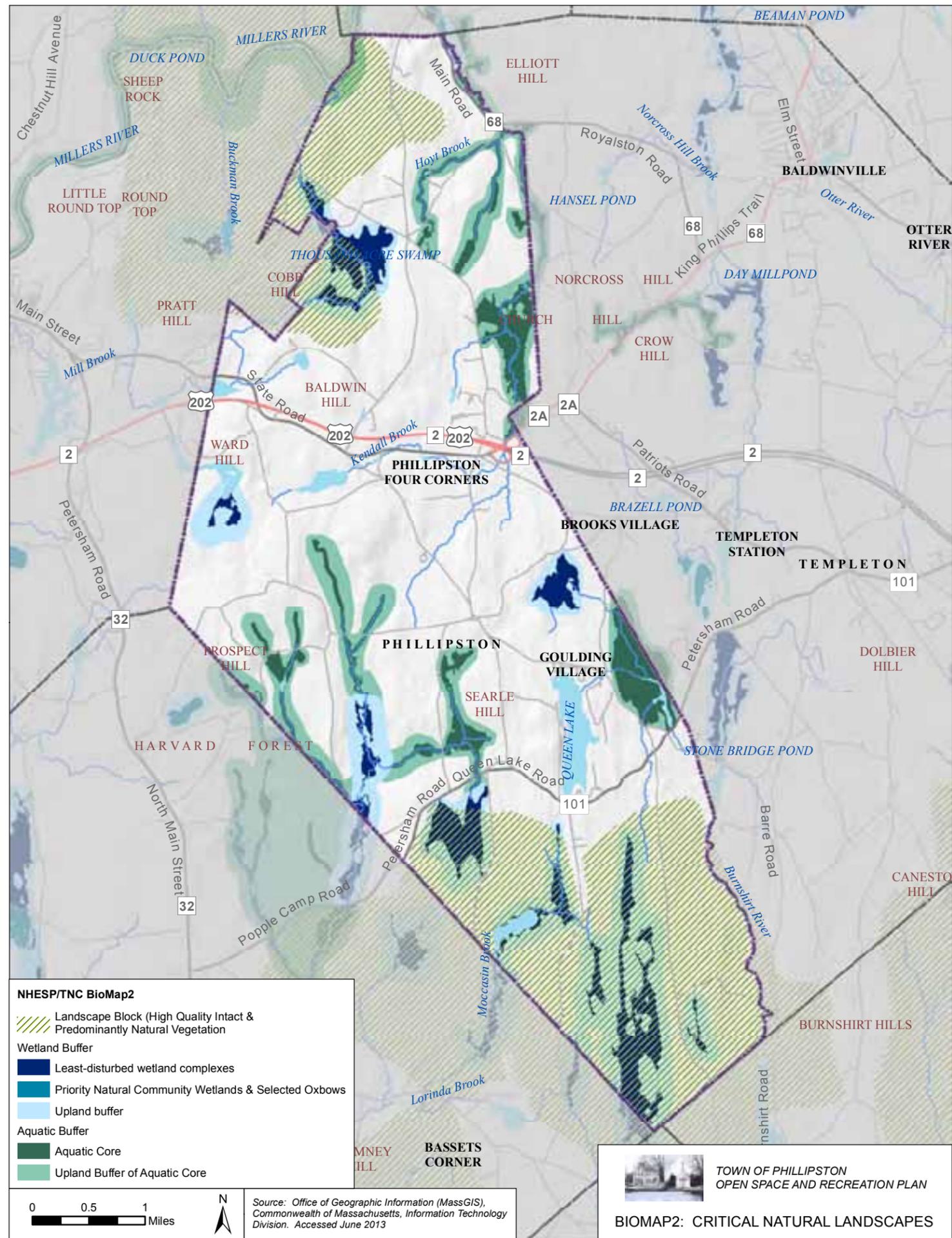
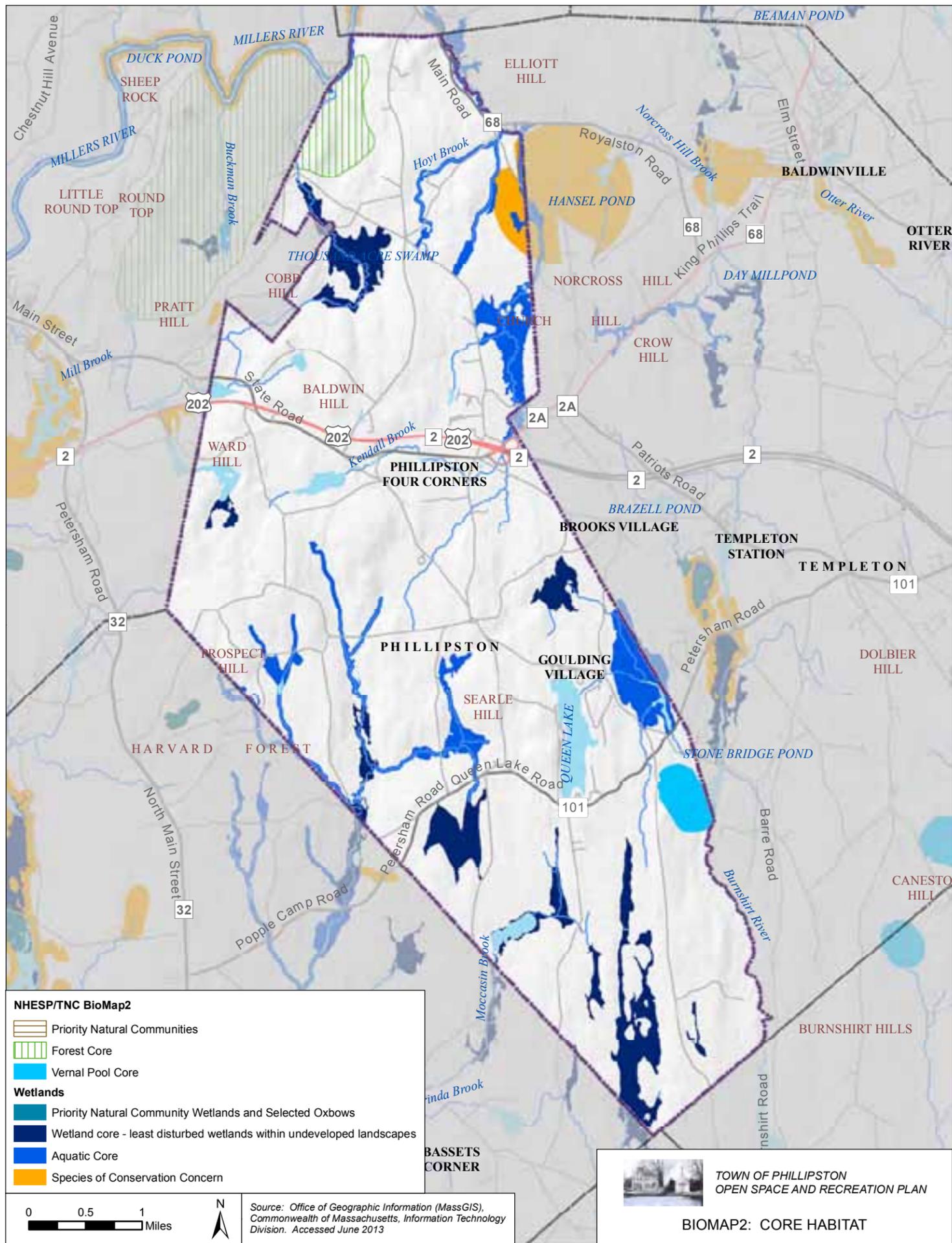
**Table 8**  
Rare Species of Priority Habitats and Rare Species of Estimated Habitats in the Town of Phillipston as of 1/17/14

Estimated Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Most Recent Year	
PH 1521 EH	<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC	1989	Core 2621, 2495 CNL 1316
PH 398 EH 280	<i>Viola adunca</i>	Sand Violet	E	2004	Core 2621
	<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC	1988	CNL 1316
PH 1390 EH22	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	E	1993	Core 2357
	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	E	1993	CNL 1116

E = Endangered, SC = Special Concern







## F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

The character of Phillipston is defined by being of a rural nature in its isolation from surrounding areas of more intense development. At a higher elevation, with several even more hilly areas, it is possible to view spires, steeples, mountains and tall buildings at a great distance from many of its locations. There are open meadows, relics of a past farming history, and several trail systems for a variety of recreational interests in locations preserved for such use. Wetlands abound in the low areas, which are well located for protection, including Queen Lake, a large lake with public access restricted to one area by the nature of its topography. Some of the highest grade schists in New England are found on the east side of Queen Lake on Barre Road at Route 101. The town center is well protected from development due to the close knit nature of the historic and community buildings surrounding the common. Typical of old New England towns covering large areas of land there have been clusters of development around past activities, such as isolated past industry and schoolhouses. As the effort continues to preserve the individuality of this town, it is essential that all agencies and departments concerned in any alteration of scenic landscape communicate with each other, so that alterations proposed do not interfere with its community.

On April 18, 1975, the Town adopted MGL40 Section 15C, Scenic Road Act, at the annual town meeting. The intent of the act is to ensure that scenic roads will be protected. Roads to become "scenic" can be recommended by the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission or the Historical Commission. This recommendation must be approved at the annual town meeting. Once a road is designated as a scenic road, any repair or maintenance work shall not involve or include the cutting or removal of trees or the altering or removal of stone walls without the written consent of the Planning Board (or Selectmen if there is no Planning Board). A fine can be imposed if written consent is not obtained prior to work being done. There were nine scenic roads as of April 18, 1975.

1. Templeton Road from the town line across the Common on Petersham Road up Lincoln Road, Ward Hill Road to Prospect Hill Road and thence to the town line.
2. Burnshirt Road from Barre Road to the town line.
3. Searles Hill Road
4. Baldwin Hill Road
5. Riley Switch Road from Goulding Village to the town line.
6. Ward Hill Road from State Road to Prospect Hill Road.
7. Center of the Common down Baldwinville Road to the fork, down Athol Road to Route 2A.
8. Williamsville Road.
9. Narrow Lane to the town line.

Criteria for a scenic road includes, but may not be limited to:

1. Overall scenic beauty
2. Contribution of trees to scenic beauty
3. Contribution of stone walls to scenic beauty
4. Age and historic significance of road, trees and stone walls



Stone Bridge, Willis Road

## Table 9: Places of Historical Interest

"An Inventory of the Phillipston Historic Area" was done from November 1994 through February 1995 by Susan McDaniel Ceccacci, an architectural historian. In addition to the inventory of historic homes and places of interest it was also recommended that the "inventory and subsequent protective measures should be extended to include significant outlying farmsteads and their most visible surrounding fields, woods, stone fences and large roadside trees." The following is a list of some historical places of interest. A listing of historic homes in town can be found by visiting the Massachusetts Registry of Historic Homes at <http://www.mhc-macris.net/> Information may also be found at the Phillips Free Public Library.

### Map Symbol Place

### Location

Please see the Unique Features Map

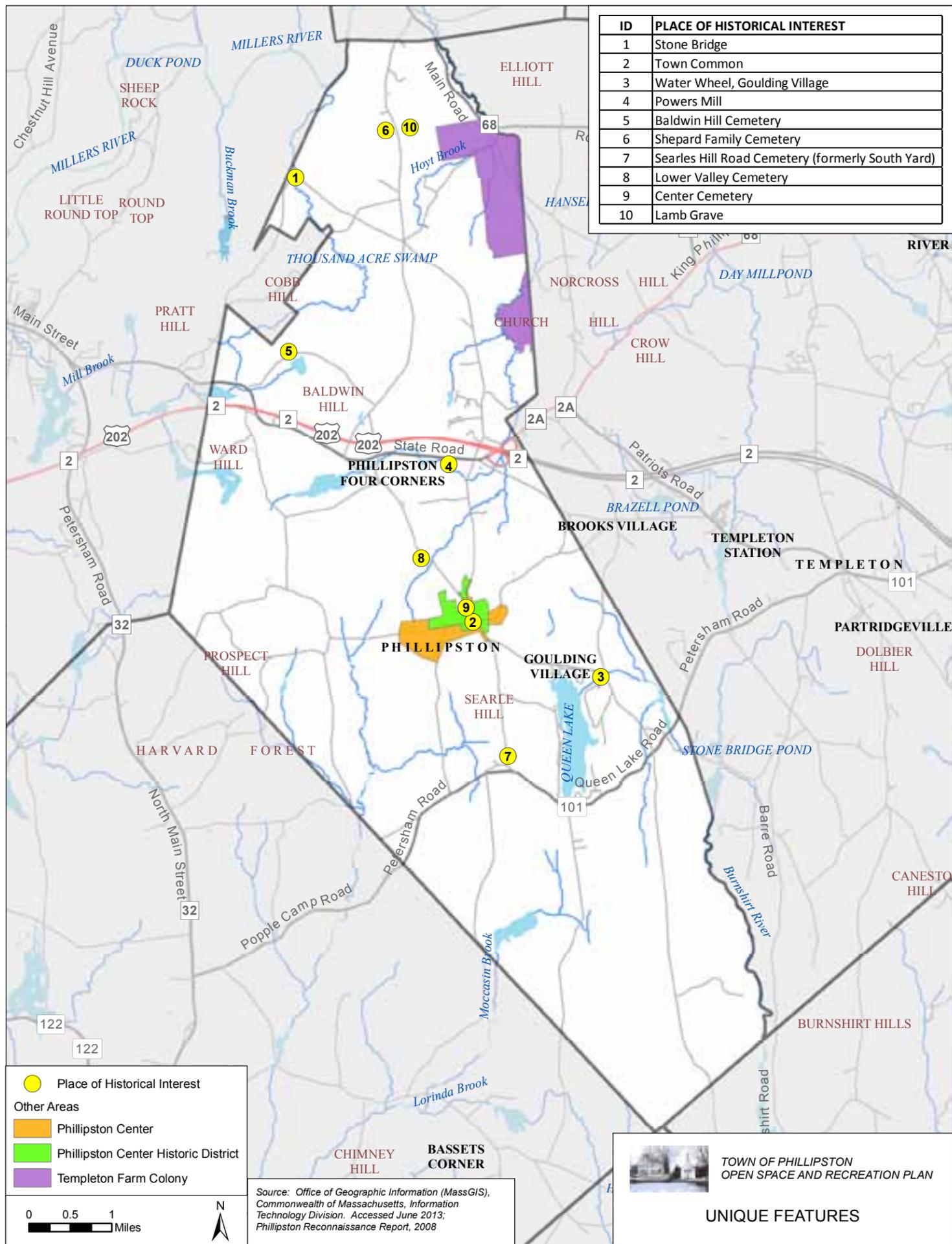
1. Stone Bridge ..... Willis Road
2. Town Common
  - Wheelwright shop ..... Barre Road
  - The Congregational Meeting House ..... The Common
  - Phillipston Town Hall ..... The Common
  - Phillipston District Schoolhouse #1 (Library)..... Templeton Road
3. Water wheel hole ..... Goulding Village
4. Powers Mill ..... State Road

Phillipston has several cemeteries. All of those listed are on town property, however #5 and #6 can only be accessed by crossing private property.

5. Baldwin Hill Cemetery ..... Baldwin Hill Road
6. Shepard Family ..... Off Royalston Road
7. South yard Cemetery ..... Searles Hill Road - Revolutionary War era grave sites.
8. Lower Valley Cemetery ..... Athol Road
9. Center Cemetery..... Baldwinville Road
10. Lamb Grave..... Royalston Road - private property, the person died of Smallpox and was not allowed to be buried in a Town cemetery.

In addition there are several residences of historical value worth noting.

- Various Buildings and Houses ..... Town Center
- Marr House ..... Colony Road
- MacKinen House ..... Royalston Road
- Rose, Recos and Schlicke Houses..... Highland Avenue
- Hirst House ..... Royalston Road
- Harvey House ..... State Road
- Smith House ..... Athol Road
- Haines and Fox Houses ..... Baldwinville Road
- Twohey and Nelson Houses..... Ward Hill Road
- Haley House ..... Riley Switch Road
- Various Houses ..... Goulding Village
- 1812 House ..... Route 101
- Templeton Development Center ..... Routes 202 and 68



## G. Environmental Problems

There is one Tier II hazardous waste site in Phillipston. Our trash is collected publicly at a transfer/recycling station and by private contractors. When the compactor reaches capacity, refuse is then transferred to Jaffrey, NH by Monadnock. Therefore, landfills are not an issue. Erosion, chronic flooding and sedimentation do not affect Phillipston due to its location. However, Phillipston is located within the 100 year flood plain.

Over development would have a significant impact on Phillipston. Households in Town depend upon private septic systems for sewage disposal. With fewer good building lots available in the area to meet the demand, people will try to build on lots too close to the wetlands.

There are many small housing lots surrounding Queen Lake. These seasonal camps are being used as year round homes without upgrading the private septic systems. Failing septic systems could contribute to pollution of private wells and Queen Lake. Phillipston does not have town sewerage. If a large development was built, the ground water could be effected by too many septic systems in an area. The Queen Lake Association controls water quality and invasive species of the lake.

The Route 2 corridor in Phillipston runs through wetlands. Presently 16,000 vehicles per day pass through the Town on Routes 2 and 2A. With the increased traffic load there is a danger of a hazardous spill in the area. The current widening of Route 2 will further reduce wetland area significantly in town. There will be replication of lost wetlands at Exit 18 of Route 2. The additional non-point runoff from the increased roadway will alter the wetlands significantly as well.

The U.S. Geological Survey conducted a study to measure arsenic levels in the drinking water of North Central Massachusetts communities. Arsenic is a semi-metallic solid that naturally occurs in soil and bedrock. Phillipston is not part of this survey, but is in the "arsenic belt". Private wells are not governed by federal water standards or by state and local regulations. Homeowners with private wells should have their water tested if they are concerned about arsenic.

Invasive Honeysuckles have been seen in Popple Camp Wildlife Management Area; Garlic Mustard, Asiatic Bittersweet and Japanese Knotweed grows along our roads; and Purple Loosestrife and Phragmites have invaded our swamps.

There is equal access to all of our public, protected parcels.



TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON  
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN  
UNIQUE FEATURES

## Section 5 - Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Open space defines the rural character of the town of Phillipston, its wildlife corridors, wetlands, and natural resources. By permanently protecting open space in Phillipston from development, we can help to ensure that future generations can live healthy lives and enjoy the high quality wildlife habitat that presently surrounds us.

The Town of Phillipston contains numerous beautiful natural areas. From the scenic, forested hilltops to the expansive, lowland swamps, the Town is the site of a wealth of nature. Several of these natural areas are being conserved; many are not. This plan identifies both protected and unprotected parcels of open space.

### A. Private Parcels

Protected land cannot be developed. Land is considered protected if it is owned by a state conservation agency, a nonprofit land trust, the Conservation Commission, or if the town received state or federal funds for the purchase or improvement of the property. Private land is protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity, if an Agricultural Preservation Restriction has been placed on it, or if DEP has placed a conservation restriction on it as part of the Wetlands Conservancy Program. At present, no land in Town is owned by the Conservation Commission. We do not have a water department since all wells are private.

### Brouillet Conservation Restriction

Selectman Tom Brouillet placed a conservation restriction on 50 acres of land bordering State Road and Thousand Acre Swamp in January of 2008. It now provides access to the scenic swamp and Bear's Den in the Town of Athol.

### Ellinwood Tree Farm

The Ellinwood Tree Farm is protected under a conservation restriction managed by the Town. It is located between Lincoln Road and the Lower Cemetery on Athol Road and is managed by the Phillipston Conservation Commission. It consists of 308 acres of white pine, hemlock, oak and various other hardwood species as well as new plantings of Colorado blue spruce, Norway spruce, Canadian hemlock, Japanese larch, European larch, Douglas fir, cedar, red pine and Austrian pine. In addition, various quantities of shrubs and plants have been planted to add beauty to the forest and provide food for the birds. There are also many wildflowers including laurel. Currently there are three entry points on Lincoln Road.

Wildlife abounds at the farm. The area is, however, posted and no hunting is allowed. The area is open to the public with the exclusion of motorized vehicles of any kind. Parking is permitted along the roadside. The logging roads provide the best accessibility along the trails of all of the conservation lands in Town.

### Red Apple Farm

Sixty acres of Red Apple Farm have been placed under an agricultural protection restriction which is managed by the Department of Agricultural Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The farm is primarily an apple orchard, but also produces pumpkins, blueberries, raspberries, peaches and pears. It has educational programs for school children, and fairs and social programs for the entire community. The farm is open for fruit harvesting in the late summer and hunting in the fall. A nature trail has been developed from Red Apple Farm northwest towards 1000 Acre Swamp. The trail is 3/4 mile long, crosses private land as well as town land donated by Peter Gerry to the dike and beaver dam in 1000 Acre Swamp. The trails are wide and well maintained, and a fully accessible portable toilet will be available. There is ample public parking available.

### Lindblad Conservation Restriction

Carl Lindblad placed a Conservation Restriction on 79 acres of his property with the aid of a Forest Legacy grant. The farm borders Lincoln Road with hay fields and woods.

### Rosewood Tree Farm

Rosewood Tree Farm comprises about 180 acres of forest land under Chapter 61 a forest management plan. It is registered in the American Tree Farm System and is currently open to all kinds of recreation.

### Thousand Acre Swamp

This swamp is located in the northwest corner of Town between the Athol town line and the Bears Den Conservation Area. The swamp is about three miles long and a half-mile wide at its widest point. This is a large wetland that is fairly isolated and thus abounds with wildlife, including rare bird and plant species. Hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, skiing, snow shoeing and snowmobiling are carried out in this area with hunting being the most popular. Thousand Acre Brook runs through the middle of the swamp and covers over four miles from Phillipston Reservoir to Miller's River. Much of the brook is in the swamp and very slow moving, however native brook trout are found in the faster moving water areas. Easiest access by hiking is off Cobb Hill Road and Willis Road and the Red Apple Farm where parking is available. Thousand Acre Reservoir is controlled by the Athol Water Department. The wild life and botanical study conducted by Dr. Kuriger and Paul Rezendes gave great value to preserving this area. Two endangered species are found here, a beetle and the wood turtle.

### Lamb City Pond and Brook

Lamb City Pond and Brook is located behind Lamb City Camp Grounds and covers about five acres with an additional five acres of swamp. Private camp grounds are located on Royalston Road for both tents and trailers. The small Lamb City Brook has native fish in it. The brook flows into Beaver Brook at an open swampy area. There is a two mile nature trail around the pond. There is a private camp ground will fully accessible toilets. The trail is accessible and there is off road parking.

### Millers River

Millers River touches the northwest corner of Phillipston for about half a mile. Trout fishing and white water canoeing are excellent. Wildlife abounds. Hunting and hiking can be combined at the Bears Den Conservation Area, and one should visit Skull Island on the river. Excellent access is from Royalston Road at the Fish and Wildlife sign where one finds off the road parking and well used trails.

### Burnshirt River

The Burnshirt River forms part of the border with the Town of Templeton and flows into the Ware River in the south. Its watershed area lies between Petersham Road and Barre Road in Templeton. This watershed feeds Stone Bridge Pond which is the headwaters of the Burnshirt River. Access is by canoe and there is off road parking.

### Dunn Brook

Dunn Brook is approximately one mile long and has its origin in swamp land southwest of Lower Cemetery. It runs northeast, crossing under Baldwinville Road and joins Chickering Brook about 1000 feet from Brooks Village Road. Dunn Brook has native brook trout. There is off road parking. The brook passes through posted private land, and cannot be traversed in a wheelchair.

### Kendall Brook

Approximately 2.5 miles long, Kendall Brook starts in swamp lands south and east of Ward Hill and runs east. It soon enlarges to form Bates Power Reservoir which drains from its east end. The Brook passes under Athol Road, State Road, skirts very close to Route 2, passes under State Road again then Baldwinville Road, Brooks Village Road and joins Beaver Brook at the entrance ramp from State Road to Route 2 east. Kendall Brook has been stocked for fishing in the past. Access is along Athol Road and State Road.

### Chickering Brook

Chickering Brook runs north about one mile, starting in swamp land just east of Phillipston Center. The brook flows under Templeton Road and Brooks Village Road until it is joined by Kendall at the Route 2 east bound ramp. This used to be a swamp before the construction of Route 2. Now the water passes through large culverts into Beaver Brook Swamp area. This runs through privately owned land and through a swamp. It is not stocked.

### Beaver Brook

Beaver Brook starts at the clover leaf of Route 2 and State Road and is fed at that point by Kendall, Dunn and Chickering Brooks. It is joined later by Lamb City Brook and Hoyte Brook. Beaver Brook forms the boundary between Phillipston and Templeton just before it passes into Royalston. This is an aquifer and excellent watershed. It once supported a tannery, a stove shop, a saw mill and possible a grist mill on its 4 mile course to the Millers River. Beaver Brook is currently stocked with Brook Trout. It is accessible in many areas.

## B. Public Parcels

Unprotected land may be developed at any time. Land owned by the school or other state agencies is not protected, and may be sold for development. These include agricultural lands under Mass. General Laws, Chapter 61A; forest land, Chapter 61 properties; less-than-fee interests such as Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, conservation restrictions, watershed protection restrictions (M.G.L., Ch. 184), wetlands restrictions; private recreation lands Chapter 61B; Agricultural Land Incentive Areas; major institutional holdings; estates and corporate holdings.

### Baldwin Hill Conservation Area

Emelda and Reginald Haughton protected 45 acres bordering Thousand Acre Swamp through a combined effort of the Town, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and a Massachusetts LAND Grant in May of 2012. A new trail system constructed by the North Quabbin Trail Association connects this beautiful property to the previously conserved Town owned 26 acre Gerry parcel and the Red Apple Farm trail, the Brouillet Conservation Area and Bears Den in Athol. The trail draws the visitor down to the swamp, and circles back providing views of Mount Monadnock, and a great blue heron rookery. Contiguous to the Baldwin Hill Conservation Area are 43 acres, owned by the Haughtons and protected by a separate conservation restriction.

### Elliot Laurel Reservation

Elliot Laurel Reservation was donated to the Trustees of Reservation by Frederick Elliot of Petersham. It is a quiet, secluded 33 acre tract of land in the rural hills of Phillipston. This largely pasture land has reverted back to a conifer forest. A short woodland path loops across the western slope of a hill where white pine, eastern hemlock and scattered hardwoods shade an undergrowth of luxuriant mountain laurel.

The reservation is entered from the roadside through a gap in a stone wall. A trail sign stands in a small clearing a few steps beyond the stone wall. The trail leads north alongside a stone wall that borders an open field on the right. To the left on this short stretch of trail is Elliot Laurel's most charming feature - a dense thicket of mountain laurel which blooms in the spring - a luminous mantle of pink and white flowers.

Next the trail emerges into a grove of white pine where a second sign marks a fork in the path. The trail which goes to the right is marked by white blazes painted on tree trunks. It ascends a hillside, finally reaching a high flat ledge. Through a gap in the trees one can see the southeast, with purple hills in the distance.

The trail continues along the top of the hill, then quickly descends through patches of mountain laurel and scattered hardwoods such as the distinctive stripped maple. It continues down the hill to join the main trail at the fork. The trail is a short 30 minute walk over moderately easy terrain. Hikers should exercise some caution since the terrain is strewn with numerous small boulders, some of which may be concealed beneath deep mats of conifer needles.

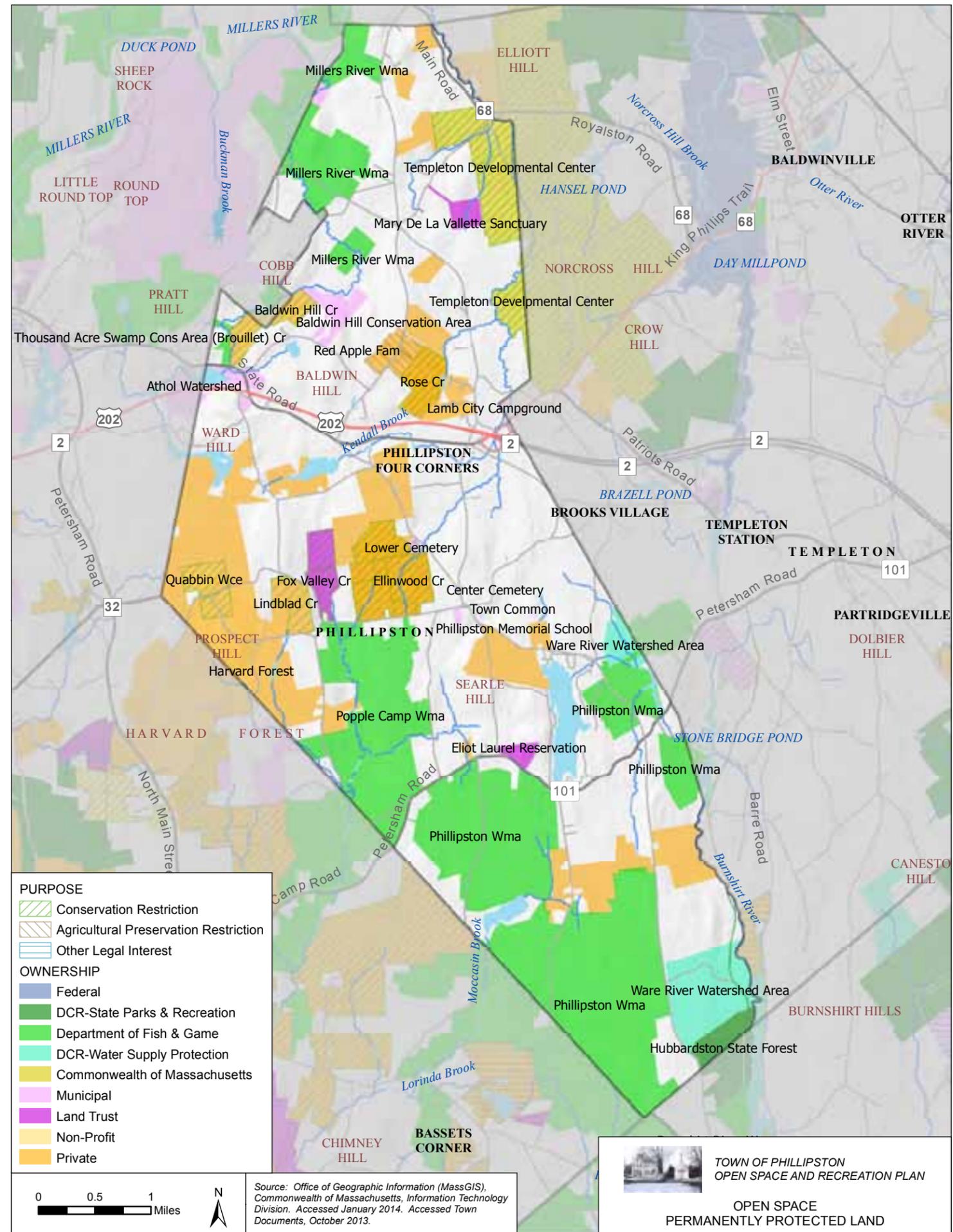
In addition to the varied plant life, the reservation is also home to a wide variety of wildlife. The most abundant forms are the many different species of birds, although it is possible for the quieter hikers to encounter deer, rabbits, foxes and other more wary residents of the reservation. Parking is along the road and it is accessible.

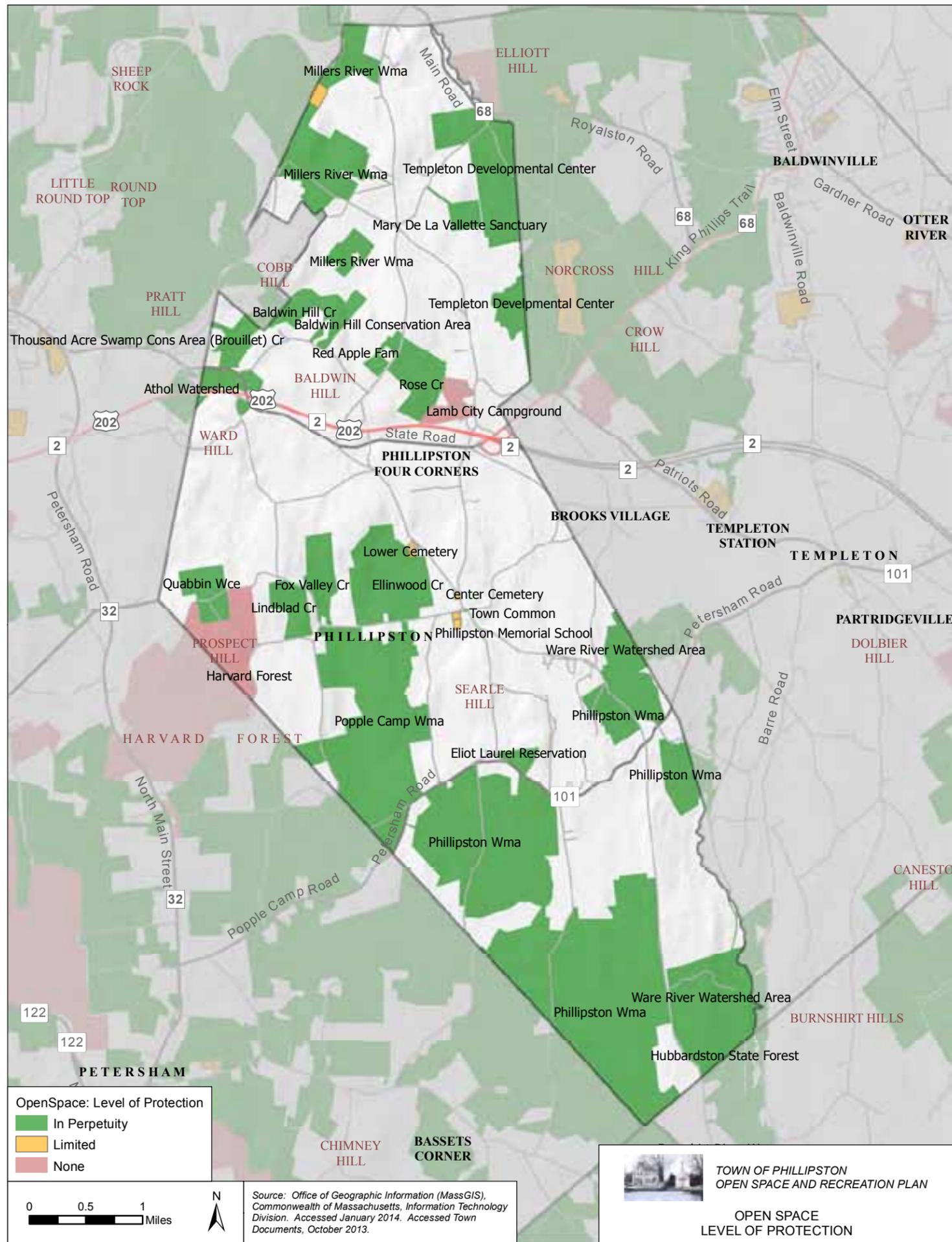
### Popple Camp Brook and Wildlife Management Area

The Popple Camp Wildlife Management Area together with the Phillipston Wildlife Management Area covers 2,750 acres in Phillipston and Petersham. It is home to a wide range of upland mammal and bird species. The terrain is mostly forested and swampy. Popple Camp Wildlife Management Area is open to hunting and fishing. It is controlled by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Division of Environmental Management and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The area borders both sides of the East Branch of the Swift River which is stocked with trout. There is parking along the road and it is accessible.

### Fox Valley

Protected under Forest Legacy and owned by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, this one hundred acre parcel Conservation Restriction is held by the Conservation Commission and monitored by Harvard Forest. The boy scouts cut a heart shaped trail at the lower end of the property that is accessible from Lincoln Road.





### Town Common

The Town Common is popular and used regularly for fairs. Land adjacent to the Town Hall was purchased by the Town from Marion Stoddard in 2006. The area across from the common is a park with off road parking. All of these areas are easily accessible.

### French Pond

French Pond is a privately owned pond of about 10 acres off Baldwin Hill Road. It has been known for excellent ice fishing for pickerel and was once stocked with Northern Pike. This is accessible, but privately owned.

### Hoyte Brook

Hoyte Brook starts on the northwest side of the Beaver Brook watershed. It flows northeast into Hoyte Pond before emptying into Beaver Brook. Most of the brook can be found on the west side of Colony Road. It is a mid-sized brook and has a healthy Brook Trout population. The land that holds it is privately owned, but it is accessible from the road.

### Queen Lake Beach

Queen Lake Beach is located along Route 101. This is the public swimming area for the Town. Queen Lake is a popular summer resort with summer residences along its perimeter. Parking is along Route 101. There is a portable toilet-potty on the premises. It is possible to make a Handicapped Parking space available adjacent to the beach. The Conservation Commission will request that the town address wheel chair access to the water and changing the portable toilet to one that is fully accessible.

### Phillipston Wildlife Management Areas

There are a number of Wildlife Management Areas in Phillipston that are owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Located on both sides of Bakers Lane, and Narrow Lane, and at the southern end of Williamsville Road, and bordering Templeton, Petersham and Hubbardston, they help to form a contiguous greenway for many species. They also help to protect the Ware River which flows into the Quabbin Reservoir, a major water supply for the greater metropolitan areas of Massachusetts.

### Ware River Watershed Areas

There are two areas protected by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts known as the Ware River Watershed Area. They are located along the Burnshirt River, and border the Town of Templeton. The Burnshirt River feeds into the Ware River which flows directly into the Quabbin Reservoir.

### Millers River Wildlife Management Area

Owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, The three Millers River Wildlife Management Areas are on both sides of Willis Road, along Royalston Road, bordering the Town of Athol, and abutting Thousand Acre Brook which flows into the Millers River.

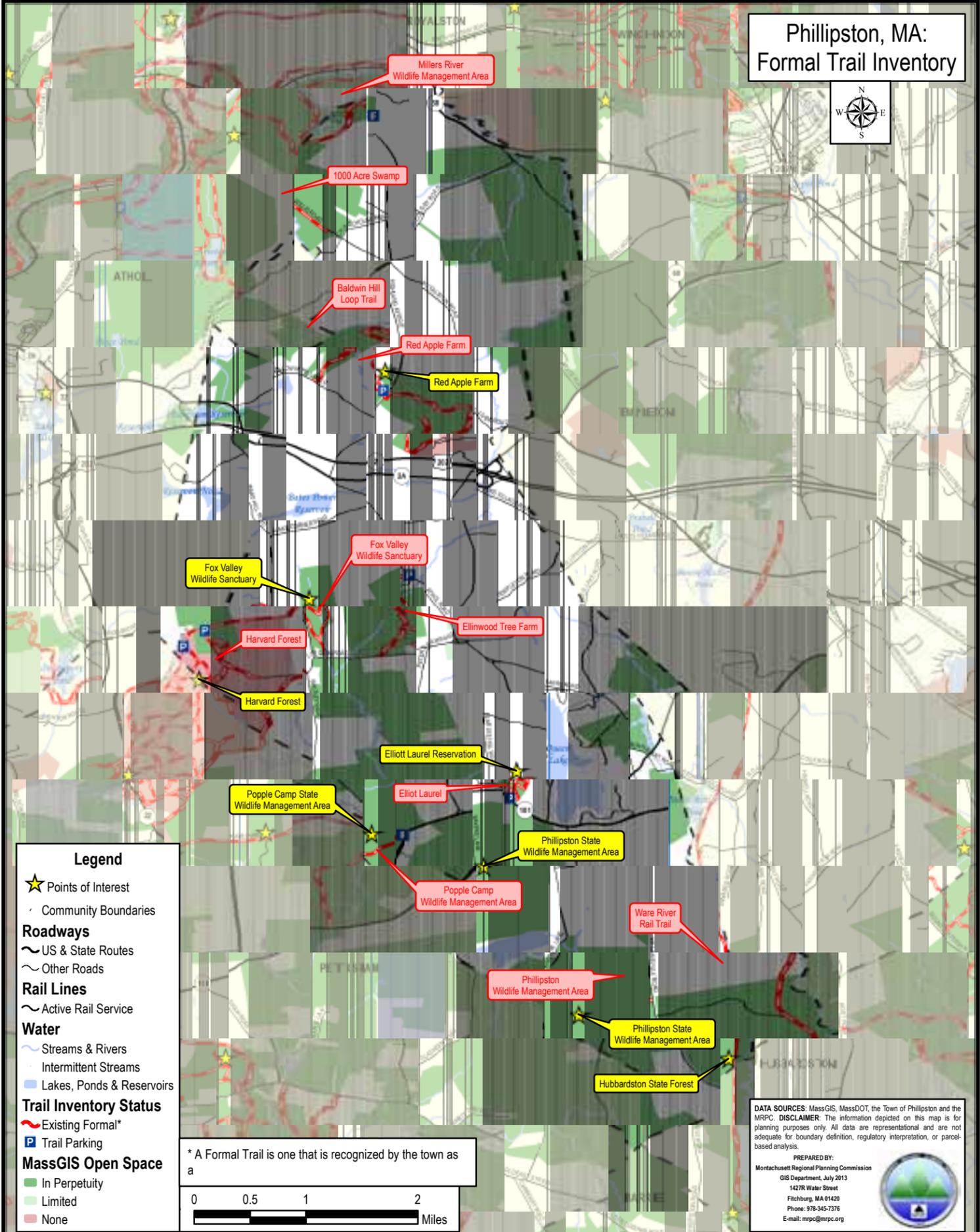
### Quabbin WCE

This ninety-seven acre parcel on both sides of Prospect Hill Road is owned and protected by the President and Fellows of Harvard College. Adjacent to, and now part of Harvard Forest, it provides a continuous wildlife corridor to Popple Camp Wildlife Management Area and other protected lands in the Town of Petersham.

### Popple Camp Brook Wildlife Management Area

This area protects land on both sides of the headwaters of Shattuck Brook and Popple Camp Brook, water leading to the Ware River and the Quabbin Reservoir.

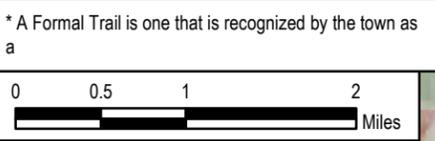
# Phillipston, MA: Formal Trail Inventory



**Legend**

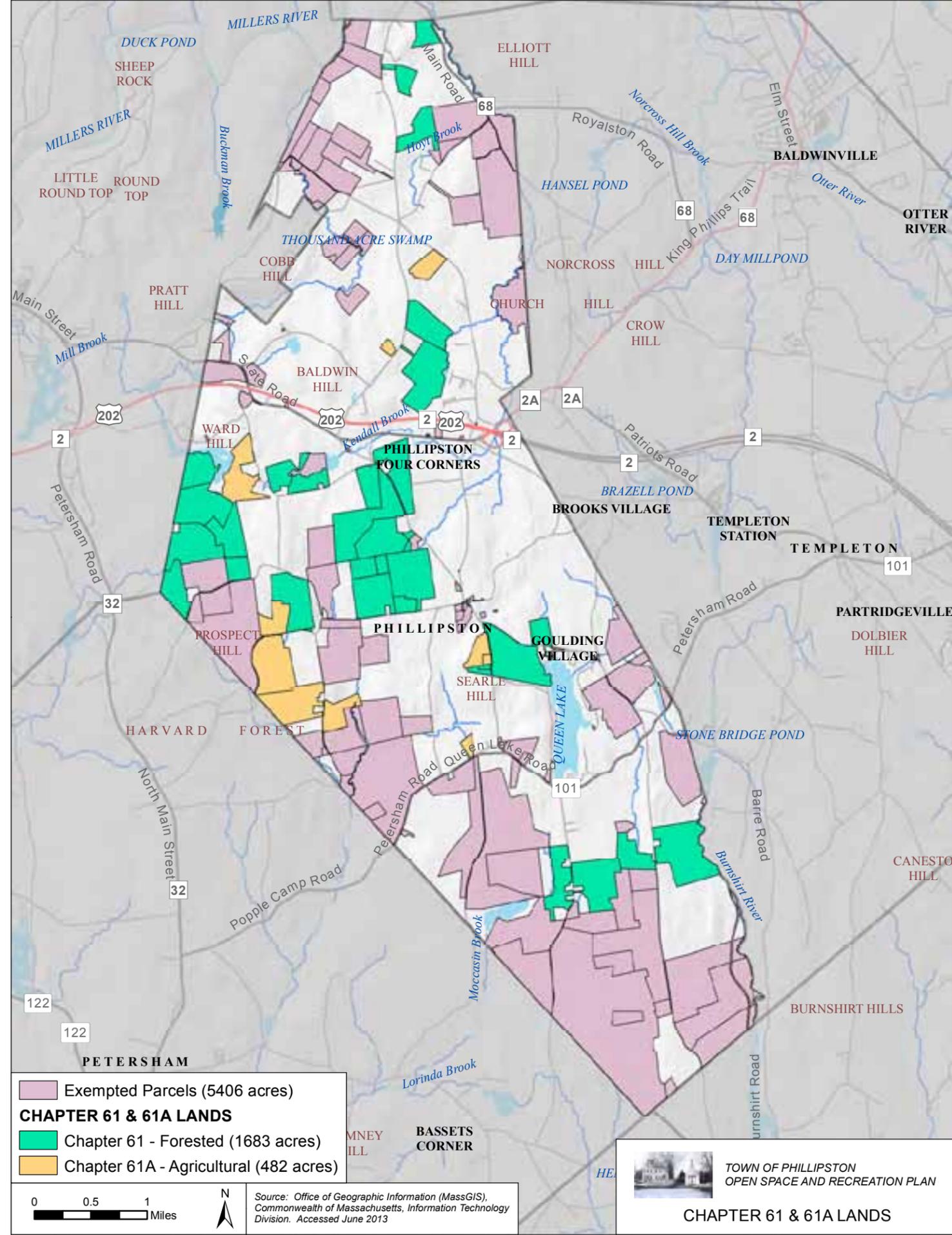
- ★ Points of Interest
- Community Boundaries
- Roadways**
- ~ US & State Routes
- ~ Other Roads
- Rail Lines**
- ~ Active Rail Service
- Water**
- ~ Streams & Rivers
- Intermittent Streams
- Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs
- Trail Inventory Status**
- ~ Existing Formal\*
- Trail Parking
- MassGIS Open Space**
- In Perpetuity
- Limited
- None

\* A Formal Trail is one that is recognized by the town as a



**DATA SOURCES:** MassGIS, MassDOT, the Town of Phillipston and the MRPC. **DISCLAIMER:** The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. All data are representational and are not adequate for boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-based analysis.

PREPARED BY:  
Montachusett Regional Planning Commission  
GIS Department, July 2013  
142/R Water Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
Phone: 978-345-7376  
E-mail: mrpc@mrpc.org



- Exempted Parcels (5406 acres)
- CHAPTER 61 & 61A LANDS**
- Chapter 61 - Forested (1683 acres)
- Chapter 61A - Agricultural (482 acres)



Source: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division. Accessed June 2013

**TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON  
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

**CHAPTER 61 & 61A LANDS**

**Table 10: Chapter 61 and 61A Land in Phillipston, 2014**

Site	Acreage	Zone	Owner/Administrator
<b>Chapter 61A (Agriculture) Land</b>			
Map 21, lot 6	83.87	A	private
Map 40, lots 4,6	59.39	A/B	private
Map 22, lot 3, Map 28, lot 1	134.32	A	private
Map 15, lot 1	46.4	A	private
Map 21, lot 1	36.31	A	private
Map 24, lots 47, 48	24.57	A	private
Map 36, lot 2	74.36	C	private
Map 43, lot 10	22.00	A	private
<b>Chapter 61 (Forestry) Land</b>			
Map 27, lots 1,2,3,4,5,16, Map 32, lots 1, 4	310.86	A	private
Map 30, lot 10, Map 29, lot 5	131.50	C	private
Map 43, lot 20	61.56	A/B	private
Map 40, lot 6	100.00	B	private
Map 10, lots 2,3	114.14	A	private
Map 35, lots 6,8,9	63.01	C	private
Map 32, lot 8	40.30	B	private
Map 18, lot 2	22.80	A	private
Map 49, lots 2, 2A	50.54	A	private
Map 7, lot 4	127.80	A	private
Map 7, lot 6	42.22	A	private
Map 19, lots 2, 6, 7	165.82	C	private
Map 22, lot 5, Map 28, lot 2	79.27	C	private
Map 29, lot 8, Map 30, lots 8, 9	165.14	C	private
Map 32, lots 6, 10	179.96	B	private
Map 50, lot 12	22.26	A	private
Map 51, lots 12, 13	26.79	A	private

Zoning Notations: See Chapter 61 and 61A Map.  
**A** = Residential/Agricultural  
**B** = Commercial/Industrial  
**C** = Recreational

**C. Recreation Program**

The Town has a yearly summer recreation program for children in Kindergarten through sixth grades. It runs for two weeks, three days per week from 9 a.m. to noon on the playing fields located behind the public grade school which is off of the Town Common. Counselors and a program director are hired to run the program. All hiring practices fulfill the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

Recreational land was purchased for a new, regulation size baseball field in 2011 located adjacent to the existing baseball field behind the Phillipston grade school. Funding for the entire project came from the Community Preservation Fund in 2011 and 2012. Additional donations were raised through Narragansett Area Youth Baseball and the newly formed Park and Recreation Committee.

The following tables are a listing of all pertinent recreational sites, conservation areas and other important open space in the Town of Phillipston.

**Table 11: Recreational Sites in Phillipston, 2014**

Site	Facilities/Condition	Acreage	Zone	Owner/Administrator	Recreation Potential	Public Access Protection	ADA
<b>Playing Fields</b>							
Memorial School	good, Little League	2.25	A	School Commission	playing fields yes	school	flat fields, parking
	Basketball, playground						universal access
Town Common	good	1	A	Town	walking	town center	universal access
<b>Swimming Areas</b>							
Queen Lake	good beach	.21	C	Board of Health	swimming, boating	lake	lake paved road to water sand beach, parking
<b>Fishing Areas</b>							
Queen Lake	public access, boat launch	.21	C	Board of Health	swimming, boating	lake	lake paved road to water
Beaver Brook	stocked	2.0 miles	B/C	private			
Bates Power Res.	private		C	private			
Secret Lake	private		C	private			
Hoyte Brook	good	1.5 miles	A	private			
Popple Camp Brook	good, public access	2.25 miles	A	private, DCR, Dept. Fish & Game			
Shattuck Brook	good, public access	2.0 miles	A	private, DCR			
1000 Acre Swamp	good, public access	2.75 miles	A/B	private, Town of Athol			
Burnshirt River	good, public access	2.0 miles	A	private, DCR			
French Pond	good, private		B	private			
Lamb City Pond	private		B	private			
Millers River	stocked		A	private			
<b>Hiking and Cross Country Skiing Areas</b>							
Elliot Laurel Res.	public, good	33	C	Trustees of Reservations	hiking, picnicking	yes	land trust parking, open fields
<b>Phillipston Wildlife</b>							
Management Area	public, roads	1343	A	DCR	hiking	state land	roads
Popple Camp	public						
Wildlife Area	public, roads	400	A	DCR	hiking	state land	steep, rocky trails
Harvard Forest	public access	204.5	A	private	hiking	private	roads, wide natural trails
1000 Acre Swamp	private, public access	100	A/B	private	hiking	private	steep, rocky trails
Ellinwood Tree Farm	private, public access	306	A	Phillipston Cons. Com.	hiking	CR	wide natural trails, roads
Fox Valley	public access	52	A	Mt. Grace Land Trust	hiking	land trust	natural trails
Rosewood Tree Farm	public access	180	A	private	hiking	private	fields, natural trails
Red Apple Farm	public access	60	A	private	hiking	APR	fields, orchard and trails
Brouillet Property	private	50	B	private	hiking	CR	steep, rocky trails
Baldwin Hill Cons. Area	public access	45	B	Phillipston Cons. Com.	hiking	CR	steep trails
Lindblad Property	private	79	A	private	hiking	CR	

**Table 12: Conservation Land in Phillipston, 2014**

Site	Facilities/Condition	Acreage	Zone	Owner/Administrator	Recreation	Public Access	Protection	ADA	Grant/Funding
Popple Camp									
Wildlife Area	public access		A	Dept. Fish & Game	hiking	yes	state land	steep, rocky trails	
Phillipston Wildlife									
Management Area	public access	1343.0		DCR, Dept. Fish & Game	hiking	yes	state land	roads	
Millers River Wildlife									
Management Area	public access	27.4	A	DCR	hiking	yes	state land	roads	
Elliot Laurel Res.	public access	33.0	C	Trustees of Reservations	hiking	yes	land trust	parking, open fields	
Hubbardston Forest	public access	69.8		DCR	hiking	yes	state land	roads	
DCR Land	posted	160.2	A	DCR	hiking	yes	state land	roads	
Harvard Forest	public access	204.5	A	Harvard University	hiking	yes	private	roads, wide natural trails	
Town of Athol	watershed protection	215.6	A/B	Town of Athol	hiking	yes	town land	natural trails	
Fox Valley	public access	52	A	The Mt. Grace Land Trust	hiking	yes	land trust	natural trails	Forest Legacy
Ellinwood Tree Farm	public access	306	A	Phillipston Cons. Com.	hiking	yes	CR	wide natural trails, roads	
Red Apple Farm	public access	60	A	Dept. of Agr. Resources	hiking	yes	APR	fields, orchard and trails	
Brouillet Property		50	B	private	hiking		CR	steep, rocky trails	NAWCA
Baldwin Hill Cons. Area	public access	45	B	Phillipston Cons. Com.	hiking	yes	CR	steep, rocky trails	LAND/Com. Pres. Fund
Lindblad Property		79	A	private	hiking		CR	woods and fields	Forest Legacy

## Section 6 - Community Vision

### A. Description of the Process

Input was sought from the public in several ways. A public survey of use of various public open space and outdoor recreational sites was published and residents were asked to review it at the annual bazaar in June, 2012. Results from the survey were used to update Section 8 - Goals and Objectives and the present Action Plan. A public forum was held to get additional input for the action plan. Announcements about the Open Space Planning Committee monthly meetings were posted at Town Hall and in the town newsletter requesting the public to attend. The Open Space and Recreation Plan was discussed regularly at these meetings.

### B. Overall Goals

Upon reviewing the findings of the survey, the Open Space Committee has identified the following goals:

- Phillipston wants to retain its natural beauty which is rich in wooded hills, lakes, ponds and streams.
- The residents wish to enjoy the Towns natural resources while expanding recreational areas to include more playing fields and trails.
- The Town character is important as many residents cited the Town Common and its surrounding public buildings as their favorite places in town.

## Section 7 - Analysis of Needs

### A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Survey results indicate that the following needs are of prime importance to the citizens of Phillipston:

- Protection of our water resources (aquifers, lakes, and streams)
- Voter supported land acquisition by the town, increased zoning/development restrictions and a 100 foot buffer zone from wetlands
- Maintaining popular recreation sites of Queen Lake, abandoned roads and old trails, and the Town Common

The Conservation Commission is looking at land which could provide wildlife corridors from Phillipston to Petersham, and Phillipston to Athol, Royalston and Templeton. By protecting this land these corridors would ensure habitat for greater numbers of species thus increasing biodiversity in these areas. Possible pollution caused by increased use of seasonal camps at Queen Lake and increased run-off along Route 2 from the proposed expansion will have an impact on the wetlands in Town.

### B. Summary of Community's Needs

In addition to protecting our natural resources, the Town of Phillipston needs recreation fields. Recent new home construction and population growth are placing pressure on the school playground. There are requests for soccer and softball fields, tennis courts and basketball courts. With the help of a Landscape Partnership Grant facilitated by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, and funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (as mentioned in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan), the Town could create a recreation area/multipurpose field on Town owned land. A Community Preservation Fund grant could help to offset additional costs. Walking trails would be easily accessible to seniors and special needs groups. Teenagers would have a much needed multipurpose field that could be used for various sports. A shaded area would provide families with a pleasant spot for a picnic. The space would be centrally located off of the Town common, and would draw people out of doors.

Although an overwhelming majority of residents prefer to maintain the rural nature of the town, there is a large Commercial/Industrial zone which should be changed to meet the present residential character of the area. The Conservation Commission is asking large land owners to consider alternatives such as conservation restrictions on their property to help meet these needs.

Accessibility to many of our trails is limited due to the rocky terrain. The Town should look at opening some trails for easy walking and wheel chair use. By increasing accessibility to open space, the Town acknowledges all of its citizens who appreciate our natural resources. Phillipston center has an acre parcel adjacent to the Town Hall which is dedicated as a park. There is off road parking, a paved driveway for easy access to the grass and shade trees. It is across from the Town Common another flat area with shade trees that is accessible.

**Surveys**

Of the 45 responses, the following needs were determined:

- to preserve open space respondent preferred voting for stronger zoning, purchasing of land and a 100 foot buffer zone from the wetlands over donation of land or money to buy land
- the need for playing fields for soccer, softball, volleyball and tennis and basketball, more public swimming and canoeing areas, and trail systems for hiking, biking and cross country skiing
- as many of the residents live in Phillipston for its rural character, a strong appreciation for nature was evident in the returned survey forms

By reviewing the questions on the survey the Open Space Committee was able to determine the needs of Phillipston’s residents. The results of the survey were useful in formulating the goals and objectives of the town with reference to open space and recreation.

**Question 1. Are you a resident of Phillipston?**

Of those who answered this question, 42 said yes, 2 had been residents of Phillipston at one time, and 9 said no.

**Question 2. Why do you live in Phillipston? Check all that may apply.**

affordable housing and low taxes .....	14
rural character and country living .....	37
school system.....	8
grew up here and stayed .....	11
friends or family in town .....	20
proximity to Route 2 .....	9
convenient access to Queen Lake .....	7
other (including close to work, grew up nearby, undeveloped forests).....	11

Comment: It is clearly evident that most respondents prefer the rural character and aspect of country living in Phillipston. Affordable housing and low taxes, remaining local, proximity to friends and family and work are also important to respondents to this question.

**Question 3. What would you like to see preserved in Phillipston?**

buildings or places of historical interest.....	49
rural New England town character (undeveloped roadsides) .....	47
protection of our water resources; aquifers, lakes and streams .....	42
open space to meet our recreation needs .....	39
agricultural preservation .....	40
peace and quiet.....	46
air and water quality.....	46

Comment: Answers to this question were of fairly even concern.

**Question 4. Do you think that the rural character of the town has changed?**

Yes.....	26
No .....	22
Too new in town to answer.....	11

Comment: Of respondents answering yes, reasons include: Increased development is eroding the countryside; suburban sprawl is encroaching; there are fewer farms and existing farms are highly taxed; crowding; increased traffic; development in wetlands; shape and size of house lots; roads are wider, stone walls pushed down, and old trees cut; houses are built on less land and near wetlands; septic permits are given where they were not in the past; paved roads.

**Question 5. Regarding open space and outdoor recreation, what activities interest you?**

hiking .....	55
fishing.....	32
snow shoeing .....	26
mountain and trail bike riding.....	21
hunting .....	22
cross country skiing .....	22
swimming .....	36
boating, canoeing or kayaking.....	38
nature walks, birding .....	42
picnicking .....	28
snowmobiling .....	10
atvng.....	8
tracking wildlife .....	24
horseback riding .....	12
tennis.....	7
softball .....	10
basketball.....	7
dog walking .....	36
dirt biking.....	7

Comment: This question brought a broad response.

**Question 6. Which recreational areas in town are you familiar with?**

Queen Lake .....	56
town beach and boat ramp.....	43
town common .....	55
school playground .....	50
abandoned roads and old trails.....	36
trails on private lands.....	27
1000 Acre Swamp and Goulding Village Swamp and Brook .....	31
Popple Camp Wildlife Area .....	28
Eliot Laurel .....	30
Fox Valley .....	20
Ellinwood/O’Brien Tree Farm .....	27
Harvard Forest .....	37
Mass. Fish and Wildlife Management Areas .....	23

Comment: By far, the most familiar open spaces in Town are Queen Lake and the town common. The town beach and boat ramp are at the southern end of Queen Lake.

**Question 7. Which recreational areas in town do you use?**

Queen Lake .....	41
town beach and boat ramp.....	24
town common .....	47
school playground .....	28
abandoned roads and old trails.....	32
trails on private lands.....	19
1000 Acre Swamp and Goulding Village Swamp and Brook .....	23
Popple Camp Wildlife Area .....	17

Eliot Laurel .....	16
Fox Valley .....	10
Ellinwood/O'Brien Tree Farm .....	17
Harvard Forest .....	28
Mass. Fish and Wildlife Management Areas .....	19

Comment: Respondents appear to utilize many conservation areas and trails in town.

**Question 8. Do you think our zoning laws help preserve the rural character of the town?**

yes .....	39
no .....	4
undecided.....	1

Those who responded no felt that the zoning laws need to be stricter.

**Question 9. Do you think zoning should be changed to allow for more development?**

Yes.....	2
No .....	42

Comment: Route 2A is one of the major corridors which crosses through the town. One respondent would like to see more industry along Route 2A and off of the exit ramp from Route 2. Another respondent would like back lots developed and cluster homes, leaving roadsides rural and greater open space and wooded areas.

**Question 10. Do you have any concerns about threats to open space in Town?**

loss of agricultural land and open fields .....	31
destruction of the Town's rural character .....	36
adequate recreation and wildlife habitat.....	24
wildlife .....	23
roads.....	17
housing development .....	29
lack of Town water and sewage facilities.....	10
pollution of water bodies.....	26
loss of wetlands.....	20
invasive plant species.....	28
areas of biodiversity.....	11
other.....	4

Comment: The majority of respondents are concerned about threats to open space in Town.

**Question 11. Would you be interested in a nature center which would explain the importance of conservation and show native plants and wildlife?**

yes .....	37
no .....	8

Comment: Of those who answered this question, the majority would show interest in a nature center which would explain the importance of conservation and show native plants and wildlife.

**Question 12. What uncommon wildlife have you seen, or seen signs of in Phillipston in the recent past?**

Moose .....	15
Coyote.....	3
Fisher .....	2
Bear .....	20
Great Blue Heron .....	5
Prairie warbler .....	1
Pileated Woodpecker.....	2
Great Grey Owl .....	1
Turkey .....	6
Bluebirds .....	2
Mink.....	3
Fox .....	3
Porcupine .....	1
Four toed Salamander.....	1
Yellow spotted salamander.....	3
Eagle.....	2
Otter .....	4
Little brown bats .....	1
Blue Grosbeak.....	1
Silver fox.....	2
Grouse.....	1
Bobcat .....	6
Mountain lion.....	3

Comment: Many now feel that black bear are common since they appear regularly at bird feeders.

**C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use**

The Queen Lake Association oversees the large resort lake. The Town owns and maintains the public beach and boat ramp. A new committee made up of Queen Lake Association members and town residents has formed to address the potential invasive species in Queen Lake. Occasional needs and concerns are brought to town attention via meetings with the Selectmen. The primary concerns of the Conservation Commission are the protection of natural swamps and bodies of water which provide connecting links from one forest to another, and from Phillipston into abutting towns. Town agencies must work closely together to ensure that the needs expressed in the survey are pursued.



Spring Peeper

## Section 8 - Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives were formulated from community input based on our outreach questionnaire and public meetings. Those who responded to our questionnaire show an interest in preserving more open space, establishing a trail system for hiking and biking, maintaining the rural character of the town and the development of a multi-use recreational field.

### Open Space Goal:

Ensure that Phillipston protects our natural resources in the form of farm land, forests, scenic views and other open space vital to the Town's historic rural character and maintaining the quality of air, water and wildlife habitat.

### Objectives:

Stewardship: Communicate with other land protection groups successful in preserving open space, and work towards community outreach about open space and the committee's goals.

Coordination: Work with town committees and other organizations to achieve our open space goal.

Funding: Apply for grants and use Commiunity Preservation Funding when necessary

Conservation: Continue to preserve areas of Phillipston that are most important to protect from development.

Management: Assist the Conservation Commission in managing Town owned and managed conservation areas and conservation restrictions held by the Town.

### Recreation Goal:

Ensure that Phillipston provides the variety, quality, and accessibility of recreational facilities important in the twenty-first century for health and well being of all its residents, and promotes the use of these facilities and any recreational programs.

### Objectives:

Coordination: Work collaboratively with Town boards, committees, and community organizations to achieve the recreation goal.

Community Park: Create a centrally located area that includes a multi-use recreational playing field, playgrounds, walking trail and other activities for all ages.

Trails: Promote the use of new and existing trails in Phillipston, and develop and/or improve trail systems throughout the Town.

Water: Improve access to Queen Lake beach and boat ramp.

## Section 9 - Seven Year Action Plan

### Prioritization

The Open Space Committee has identified the most important actions to be taken over the next seven years, and has prioritized them as follows:

1. Work on the development of a community park including a multi-purpose recreational field with the Recreation Committee.
2. Recruit new members to the Open Space Committee.
3. Work with the Board of Selectmen and Assessors to develop an action plan of right of first refusal when property becomes available.
4. Coordinate with the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee to map and maintain Town trails.
5. Coordinate with other boards on by-laws to maintain the rural character of the Town.
6. Map priority land parcels within BioMap 2 and areas impacted by climate change.

**Open Space Goal: Ensure that Phillipston protects farmland, forest land, scenic views, and other open space vital to sustaining the Town's historic, rural character and maintaining the quality of air, water and wildlife habitats.**

Objective	Action	Responsible Group(s)	Start Date	Funding
Stewardship: Communicate with other land protection groups successful in preserving open space, and work towards community outreach about open space and the committee's goals.	1. Recruit new members for the Open Space Committee. 2. Write articles for the Town newsletter; place posters in the Town Hall, library, the community TV channel, and at the annual bazaar. 3. Plan outreach days at Fox Valley, Baldwin Hill and other Town conservation areas and work on trail maintenance. 4. Map priority land parcels within BioMap 2 and areas impacted by climate change.	Open Space Committee (OSC) OSC	Ongoing Ongoing	Volunteer time Volunteer time
Coordination: Work with town committees and other organizations to achieve our open space goals.	1. Assist the Recreation Committee with development of a multi-use recreation field. 2. Network with other local groups and boards to discuss open space goals, preserving land and establishing connecting "green ways". 3. Meet with Town boards and evaluate recommendations for Town scenic roads. 4. Invite land trust representatives to discuss conservation options with landowners. 5. Work with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Assessors to develop an action plan for right of first refusal when property becomes available.	OSC, Recreation OSC	On-going Ongoing	LAND, CPF Volunteer
Funding: Apply for grants and use Community Preservation Funding when necessary.	1. Find funding from LAND Trust Grants, Forest Legacy, and/or Community Preservation Fund for land acquisition. 2. Institute a plan to access funds if or when priority land becomes available. 3. Print a map indicating all trails in town.	OSC OSC OSC	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	Grants Volunteer CPC
Conservation: Continue to preserve areas of Phillipston that are most important to protect from development.	1. Coordinate with the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee to map and maintain Town trails. 2. Meet with the Conservation Commission to write a wetlands protection by-law. 3. Identify scenic views, roads and byways, and special places. 4. Align Town goals with BioMap 2 for land protection purposes.	OSC, Conservation Com. OSC, Conservation Com. OSC OSC	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer

**Objective**

Management: Assist the Conservation Commission in managing Town owned and managed conservation areas and conservation restrictions held by the Town.

**Recreation Goal:** Ensure that Phillipston provides the variety, quality, and accessibility of recreational facilities important in the twenty-first century for health and well being of all its residents, and promotes the use of these facilities and any recreational programs.

**Objective**

Coordination: Work collaboratively with Town boards, committees, and community organizations to achieve the recreation goal.

**Community Park:** Create a centrally located area that includes a multi-use recreational playing field, playgrounds, walking trail and other activities for all ages.

**Trails:** Promote the use of new and existing trails in Phillipston, and develop and/or improve trail systems throughout the Town.

Study Queen Lake Beach areas and potential to expand parking areas

**Action**

1. Coordinate with other boards on by-laws to maintain the rural character of the Town.
2. Review Industrial Area zoning with the Planning Board.
3. Hold informational meetings about scenic roads in Town.
4. Work with the Recreation Committee to review the Queen Lake beach area and evaluate the potential for a picnic area.

**Action**

1. Work with the Recreation Committee to create a multi-use recreation area.
2. Study the Queen Lake Beach area with the Recreation Committee.
3. Design and map trails on Town property.

1. Coordinate with the Recreation Committee on a conceptual design and plan for a multi-use recreation area and park on Town owned land.
2. Sponsor public forums to obtain appropriate input for a community park.

1. Invite the public to walk trails in Conservation areas.
2. Develop trail maps.

**Responsible Group(s)**

OSC, Town boards  
OSC, Planning Board  
OSC

**Responsible Group(s)**

OSC, Recreation Com.  
OSC, Recreation Com.  
OSC

OSC, Recreation Com.  
OSC

OSC  
OSC

OSC

**Start Date**

Ongoing  
Ongoing  
Ongoing

**Start Date**

Ongoing  
Ongoing  
Ongoing

Ongoing  
2014-15

Ongoing  
Ongoing

Ongoing

**Funding**

Volunteer  
Volunteer  
Volunteer

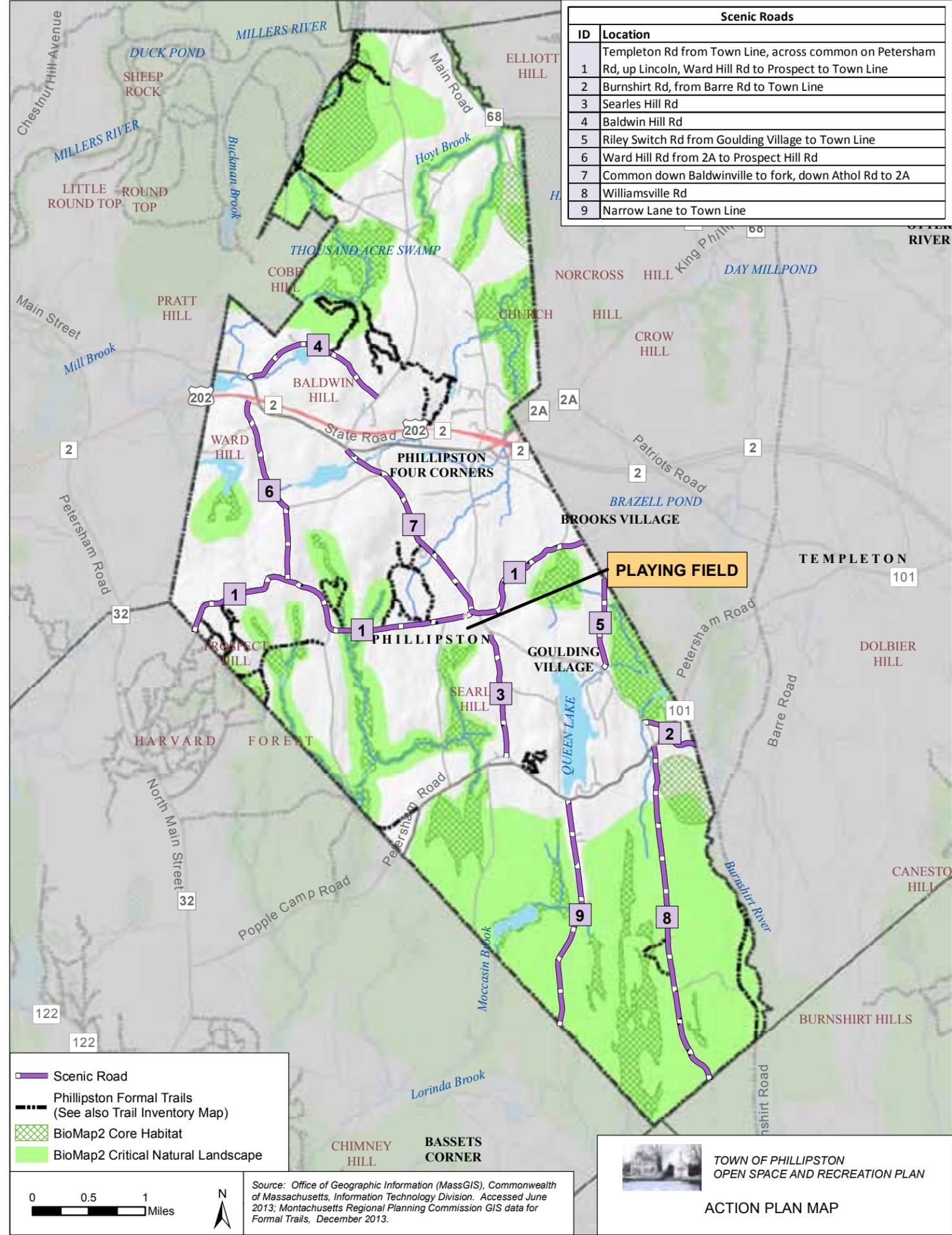
**Funding**

LAND Grant, CPC  
Volunteer  
Volunteer

LAND Grant, CPC  
Volunteer

Volunteer  
CPC

Volunteer





Deval Patrick  
GOVERNOR

Maeve Vallely Bartlett  
SECRETARY

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1181

September 11, 2014

Bonnie House, Chair  
Phillipston Open Space Committee  
110 Blake Corner Road  
Phillipston, MA 01331

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. House:

Thank you for submitting Phillipston's Open Space and Recreation Plan to this office for review for compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I am pleased to write that the plan is approved. This final approval will allow Phillipston to participate in DCS grant rounds through April 2021.

Congratulations on a great job. Please call me at (617) 626-1171 if you have any questions or concerns about the plan.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cryan  
Grants Manager



**TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON**  
Board of Selectmen  
50 The Common  
Phillipston, Massachusetts 01331  
selectman@phillipston-ma.gov

Phone: (978) 249-6828  
Fax: (978) 249-3356

February 3, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this s written notification that the Phillipston Board of Selectmen has approved the 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan as written by the Phillipston Open Space Committee.

Thomas Brouillet  
Chairman, Board of Selectmen



TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON  
 PLANNING BOARD  
 50 The Common  
 PHILLIPSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
 01331 - 9805

Telephone  
 (508) 249-6828

RE: LETTER OF APPROVAL

JUNE 4, 2014

TO: PHILLIPSTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE,

ON JUNE 4, 2014, AT A REGULARLY  
 SCHEDULED MEETING, THE PLANNING BOARD  
 UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE 2014  
 OPEN SPACE PLAN AS PRESENTED AND  
 DISCUSSED.

SINCERELY,

*Gordon Robertson*

GORDON ROBERTSON  
 PLANNING BOARD CLERK.

CC TOWN CLERK.



TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON  
 Board of Selectmen  
 PHILLIPSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
 01331 - 9805

Telephone  
 (508) 249-6828  
 FAX Number  
 (508) 249-3356

Conservation Commission  
 March 4, 2014

Open Space Committee  
 Phillipston Town Hall  
 50 The Common  
 Phillipston, MA 01331-9756

Re: 2014 Open Space Plan

The Phillipston Conservation Commission applauds your efforts in gathering information for the 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Phillipston. Our thanks go to Judy Bartos, Dawn Odams, Rose Frizzell, Bonnie House, and Kim Pratt for preparing this document. We look forward to working in support of the goals outlined within the plan. It is our recommendation that the updated 2014 plan be accepted.

*Rose Frizzell*

Rose Frizzell, Chairman

*Peter Stanley*

Peter Stanley

*Terry Dymek*

Terry Dymek

*Caroline Williams*

Caroline Williams

*Dawn Odams*

Dawn Odams

cc: Phillipston Board of Selectmen  
 file



**BOARD OF HEALTH**

50 The Common  
Phillipston Ma. 01331  
Tel./Fax. 978-249-1735

Bonnie House  
Chair, Open Space Committee  
110 Blake Corner Road  
Phillipston, MA 01331

February 6, 2013

At the February 12, 2014 meeting of the Board of Health, the Board unanimously voted to support the Town of Phillipstons Conservation Commissions submittal of their Open Space Plan to the Commonwealth. Open space and its critical attributes, in itself contributes to the health and well being of the general public and the environment. The Board of Health openly supports the protection of open space and its benefits. The Board wishes to thank the Conservation Commission for their efforts and time in renewing the Towns Open Space Plan.

Sincerely,

Matt Pearson, Chairman  
Phillipston Board of Health



TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON  
Office of the Assessors  
50 The Common  
Phillipston, Massachusetts 01331  
Phone/Fax (978) 249-1732  
[assessors@phillipston-ma.gov](mailto:assessors@phillipston-ma.gov)

Assessors:  
Reginald Haughton, Jr., Chair  
Gerhard Fandreyer, Clerk  
Rebecca A. Martin, Member

April 7, 2014

Town of Phillipston  
Open Space Committee  
50 The Common  
Phillipston MA 01331

Bonnie House-Open Space Committee,

Upon reviewing your 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan, we as the Board of Assessors respectfully give our approval.

Regards,

Reginald Haughton, Jr, Chairman

Gerhard Fandreyer, Clerk

Rebecca A. Martin, Member

kag



# MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1427R Water Street Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420  
(978) 345-7376 FAX (978) 348-2490 Email: mrpc@mrpc.org

March 14, 2014

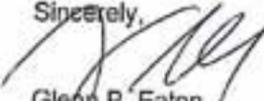
Bonnie House  
Chair, Phillipston Open Space Committee  
110 Blake Corner Road  
Phillipston, MA 01331

Dear Ms. House:

The Town of Phillipston has submitted to the MRPC for review and comment its 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan as per state requirements. An Open Space and Recreation Plan provides a community with an instrument to effect community goals. It establishes the community's aspirations and recommends patterns of development that will support them. Having this document available can help a municipality advocate for the open space and recreation needs of its community.

A Massachusetts community with an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan becomes eligible to apply for Self-Help, Urban Self-Help, Land and Water Conservation Funds, and other grant programs administered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services. Open Space and Recreation Plans also help to coordinate with ongoing acquisition efforts of state environmental agencies and local and regional land trusts. Local OS&R Plan goals consistent with the goals of the MRPC are in the areas of regional growth, environmental quality, land use, individual opportunity and welfare, and economic development. The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission finds this proposal in conformity with regional goals, policies and objectives of this region and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Phillipston's plan appears to contain all the required sections according to the Open Space Guidebook published by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). We recommend that local officials work with EOEEA staff should there be any, additional information to be required or corrected.

Sincerely,  
  
Glenn P. Eaton  
Executive Director



1461 Old Keene Road, Athol, MA 01331-9734  
Phone: (978)248-2043 Fax: (978)248-2053  
landtrust@mountgrace.org  
www.mountgrace.org

Protecting land and encouraging land stewardship in North Central Massachusetts

3 March 2014

Melissa Cryan  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge St. Suite #900  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Town of Phillipston Draft 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (Mount Grace) has reviewed the *Town of Phillipston Draft 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan* (Plan) and wholeheartedly supports the Plan. With the emphasis on establishing a dedicated Open Space Committee tasked with implementing its goals, the Plan will help guide the Town in achieving the community's long-term vision.

In 2007 Phillipston demonstrated great foresight by adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The CPA fund helped the Town in partnership with Mount Grace to acquire conservation restrictions on the Haughton and Brouillet parcels, two important environmental and recreational properties. Mount Grace is eager to continue collaborating with the Town on future conservation projects. We feel that this Plan update is an important planning tool and guide for Phillipston's future.

Sincerely,

Leigh Youngblood  
Executive Director

Board of Directors  
Nancy Allen, 1961-2011  
Lesley Johnson, 1961-2011  
Allen Kupper, 1961-2011  
Cecilia Smith, 2011

David Ferris, 1961-  
Walter Lacey  
Mike Feldman

Howard Matheson  
Ann McNeil, 1961-  
Kees Ovington

Mike Ruffin  
Liz Strongman  
Tom Wagoner

## Section 11 - References

- Town of Phillipston Open Space and Recreation Plans from 2007. 2001 and 1988-1993
- Flood Insurance Study, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Town Of Phillipston, Massachusetts, Worcester County, Community Number - 250328, January 16, 1984
- Greater Gardner Sustainable Growth Management Plan
- 2010 Census Board Statistics
- MassGIS at <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/>
- Jeff Newton, Building Inspector, Town of Phillipston
- The Open Space Planner's Workbook available online at [www.mass.gov/envir/dcs](http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs)
- Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) available online at [www.mass.gov/envir/dcs](http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs)
- Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, Fitchburg, MA
- Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs online at [www.mass.gov/envir](http://www.mass.gov/envir).
- Department of Conservation and Recreation: [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)
- Division of Conservation Services online at [www.mass.gov/dcs](http://www.mass.gov/dcs)
- Department of Fish and Game: [www.mass.gov/dfwele](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele)
- Department of Environmental Protection: [www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)
- Department of Agricultural Resources: [www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr)
- Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program  
online at [www.state.ma.us/dfwele/nhesp/heritage](http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/nhesp/heritage)
- Patricia C. Swain, Ph.D., Ecologist for the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.
- Land Use Change in Phillipston, MA as compiled by David W. Goodwin, Project Manager, Resource Mapping, Department of Natural Resources Conservation
- BioMap2 and Living Waters Core Habitats of Phillipston, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, 2004
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep>
- Roadside Geology of Massachusetts by James W. Skehan, Mountain Press Publishing Co., 2001

## Appendix A Selected Conservation Land and Compelling Rationale 1000 Acre Swamp

### Size

approximately 1000 acres plus

### Habitat

mixed swamp and wetlands  
uplands and around edges of the swamp have mixed plants and forest species  
part of swamp is dammed by beavers  
part is shrub cover and part tall grass or marsh grass  
common mammals: moose, deer, beaver, otter, muskrat, bobcat, Fisher cat, coyote, fox  
phragmites is now invading the western part

### Reasons for Interest

borders Athol and Bearsden Conservation Area allowing for potential connecting trails  
parcels of land are already owned by the town of Phillipston and Athol Public Works (Athol Water Department)  
excellent outdoor recreation area  
this habitat compliments Bearsden Conservation Area which is all hilly uplands, outstanding wildlife, bird and plant mix composition - see survey and study by Paul Rezendes and Dr. Bill Kuriger made for the Wharton Trust Fund Grant  
two endangered animals (insect and turtle) have been identified and recorded by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program  
area already studied by the Phillipston Conservation Commission for acquisition circa 1989 (Joel Lerner Self Help No. 1)  
area has some potential town forest  
area has been studied by Athol for potential water supply  
parcels border Millers River and Fish and Wildlife lands  
some owners contacted in 1989 may still be willing sellers  
home of Great Blue Heron rookery, Great Horned Owl  
in depth survey of botanical plant species conducted by Dr. Bill Kuriger

## Popple Camp Brook Area

### Size

approximately 1000 acres

### Habitat

mixed swamp, wetlands and uplands  
forest type is mixed hardwood, pine and hemlock  
part of swamp is dammed by beavers  
excellent forest shrub edge effect along forest edges of swamp  
large areas are open marsh grass meadows  
common mammals are similar to those found in 1000 acre swamp  
excellent trout fishing brook

### Reasons for Interest

borders town of Petersham  
borders Fish and Wildlife land  
borders Harvard Forest  
defined aquifer  
public access from three roads yet a remote area  
outstanding wildlife, forest and plant mix  
ideal recreation area  
housing development in this area is still limited  
potential area for some town forest

## Goulding Village Swamp Area

### Size

over 1000 acres

### Habitat

lake and swamp caused by original dam on Route 101

wet swamp with large area 1 to 3 feet deep with aquatic shrubs and plant mix

ideal waterfowl habitat

large mixed vegetation swamp on north end

forest shrub edge effect along north end

upland mixed hardwood, hemlock and pine on edges of swamp

beavers have dammed parts yet water level remains almost constant on south end

### Reasons for Interest

borders the Town of Templeton

borders Fish and Wildlife land

access to public from two roads

access for hunting, boating and fishing

outstanding waterfowl and bird habitat

ideal recreation area

housing development in this area is restricted

potential area for some town forest

ideal bird sanctuary



Bates Reservoir

## Appendix B

### Glossary of Terms and Resources

The following terms have been copied from the Department of Conservation and Recreation web site, the Forestry Stewardship web site, and The Trustees of Reservations web site. These web sites are listed below.

The Self-Help program was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions acquiring land for natural resource and passive outdoor recreation purposes. Lands acquired may include wildlife, habitat, trails, unique natural, historic or cultural resources, water resources, forest, and farm land. Compatible passive outdoor recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, bird observation and the like are encouraged. Access by the general public is required.

This state program pays for the acquisition of land, or a partial interest (such as a conservation restriction), and associated acquisition costs such as appraisal reports and closing costs.

**Agricultural preservation restriction (APR):** In Massachusetts, an APR is a special type of conservation restriction. Authorized by Chapter 780 of the Acts of 1977, an APR is a legal restriction prohibiting non-agricultural use or development of a parcel in order to preserve the land for agricultural purposes. To date, Massachusetts has authorized approximately \$126 million for the purchase of APR's by the Department of Food and Agriculture. Owners of productive agricultural land may also donate APRs to the Department of Food and Agriculture or to land trusts, subject to approval of the municipality and the Commissioner of Food and Agriculture.

**Conservation restriction (or conservation easement):** A legal agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization that permanently or for a stated period limits specified uses and development of the property to protect its natural and scenic features. The document conveys to the conservation organization the right to monitor the property and enforce the terms of the agreement. The provisions of conservation restrictions will vary from situation to situation, depending upon the desires and goals of the grantor and grantee. Usually, the restriction forever prohibits development of the land on which a conservation restriction (CR) has been granted or placed. However, some uses of the property, such as farming or timber harvesting, are frequently permitted where they are consistent with the objectives of the parties. The conservation restriction should make clear which uses of the property are permitted, and which are prohibited. It is recorded like a deed and is binding upon future owners of the property.

**Deed restrictions:** Restrictive covenants placed within a deed that guide the future use of a property. Usually placed on a portion of a property that is sold to protect the integrity of the parcel that is retained, these are less permanent than conservation restrictions as they may be released upon agreement of future owners of the parcels. The IRS does not allow deduction of their value as a charitable donation.

**Historic preservation restriction:** Authorized by the same Massachusetts law as conservation restrictions (Sections 31-33 of Chapter 184), it prohibits the alteration of historic features without the grantee's approval. Often known as a "facade easement," when limited to exterior features, though it may protect land areas as well as historic structures.

**Land trust:** A nonprofit organization that assists landowners who wish to voluntarily conserve their properties. Land trusts are usually organized as charitable corporations, not as trusts.

The Trustees of Reservations <http://www.thetrustees.org>

<http://nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/massachusetts/>

<http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/restrictions/default.htm>

East Quabbin Land Trust, Rick Romano, President, Box 5, Hardwick, MA 01037  
Telephone: 413-477-8229, E-mail: [eqlt@comcast.net](mailto: eqlt@comcast.net), Web Site: [www.eqlt.org](http://www.eqlt.org)

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Leigh Youngblood, Executive Director  
1461 Old Keene Road, Athol, MA 01331, Tel: 978-248-2043, Fax: 978-248-2053  
E-mail: [landtrust@mountgrace.org](mailto:landtrust@mountgrace.org), Web site: [www.mountgrace.org](http://www.mountgrace.org)

Scenic easement: A legal agreement that prohibits construction or development that would detract from a property's scenic quality as described in the easement document. In Massachusetts a scenic easement is simply a specially tailored conservation restriction and must satisfy the same procedures and legal requirements as other similar restrictions.

Watershed preservation restrictions: A special type of conservation restriction recognized by Massachusetts law that gives the holder the right to retain land in such condition so as to protect the water supply or potential water supply of the Commonwealth by prohibiting building construction and placement and surface alterations such as mining or excavation of materials.

### MA Current Use Forest Tax Program

State and local tax laws in Massachusetts can present a real threat to long term, sustainable forest management. Private non-industrial forestlands have been placed under 100 percent ad valorem assessment systems. This mandates the assessment of all land at "full and fair market value". This presents a problem for owners of forestland because the market value of the land for its "highest and best use" is usually greater than the value of the land growing trees. The potential negative impacts of this tax structure are forced timber liquidation, fragmentation of our forests, and development of previously forested land.

The Massachusetts Current Use Forest Tax Law, (Chapter 61), is designed to give favorable treatment to a landowner willing to keep forested land undeveloped and manage that land under a long-term strategy. Land which is classified under Chapter 61 is assessed at five percent of the fair market value or at \$10 per acre, whichever is greater. Chapter 61 defers payment of a portion of taxes until timber is cut and income is realized. At that time, an eight percent tax on the products harvested is paid to the town in which the property is located.

To insure that land under Chapter 61 is actually managed for the long-term production, there is a penalty for withdrawal from the program. This penalty consists of payment for the difference between taxes paid and taxes deferred plus interest. The penalty will range from a minimum five years or the number of years under certification, to a maximum of ten years.

In order to qualify for the Chapter 61 program, a landowner must have 10 or more contiguous acres of forest land and a long-term commitment to improving the "quality and quantity" of timber on that land. Other values such as wildlife, aesthetics, and recreation can also be incorporated into the management goals of the property through the Forest Stewardship Program. An approved, forest management plan describing and mapping property resources and making management recommendations objectives is required to guide management of the property. This plan is based on the landowners objectives and is renewed every ten years to reflect changing conditions, goals, etc. Click [HERE](#) to view a sample Chapter 61/Stewardship Plan.

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/service/fortax.htm>

### Hazardous Waste Sites

Sites are usually Tier Classified using the Numerical Ranking System (NRS). The NRS scores sites on a point system based on a variety of factors. These include the site's complexity, the type of contamination, and the potential for human or environmental exposure to the contamination. In addition, some sites are automatically classified as Tier 1 sites if they pose an imminent hazard, affect public water supplies, or miss regulatory deadlines.

\*TIER 1A: A site/release receiving a total NRS score equal to or greater than 550. These sites/releases require a permit and the person undertaking response actions must do so under direct DEP supervision.

\*TIER 1B: A site/release receiving an NRS score of less than 550 and equal to or greater than 450. These sites/releases also require a permit, but response actions may be performed under the supervision of a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) without prior DEP approval.

\*TIER 1C: A site/release receiving a total NRS score of less than 450 and equal to or greater than 350. A site/release receiving a total NRS score of less than 350, but which meets any of the Tier 1 Inclusionary Criteria specified in 310 CMR 40.0520(2)(a), is also classified a Tier 1C. These sites/releases also require a permit, but response actions may be performed under the supervision of an LSP without prior DEP approval.

\*TIER 2: A site/release receiving a total NRS score of less than 350, unless the site meets any of the Tier 1 Inclusionary Criteria (see above). Permits are not required at Tier 2 sites/releases and response actions may be performed under the supervision of an LSP without prior DEP approval. All pre-1993 transition sites that have accepted waivers are categorically Tier 2 sites.

## Appendix C Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Statement



**TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON**  
Board of Selectmen  
50 The Common  
Phillipston, Massachusetts 01331  
selectman@phillipston-ma.gov

Phone: (978) 249-6828  
Fax: (978) 249-3356

### Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity

The Town of Phillipston is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Town will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages both prospective and current employees to discuss potential accommodations with the Town.

This job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee, and is subject to change by the employer, as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.

The Town of Phillipston's employment practices are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act with regards to Recruitment, Personnel Actions, Leave Administration, Training, Tests, Medical Exams/Questionnaires, Social and Recreational Programs, Fringe Benefits, Collective Bargaining Agreements, and Wage and Salary Administration.

*Geoffrey J. Newton*  
Building Commissioner  
A.D.A. Coordinator  
Town of Phillipston  
7-15-14

Appendix D  
Americans With Disabilities Act Self Evaluation



**TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON**  
Board of Selectmen  
50 The Common  
Phillipston, Massachusetts 01331  
selectman@phillipston-ma.gov

Phone: (978) 249-6828  
Fax: (978) 249-3356

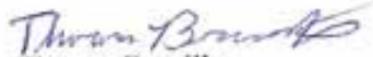
July 23, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

By the nature of his job as building inspector, Geoffrey Newton has been deemed the A.D.A. Coordinator for the Town Of Phillipston.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you are in need of more information.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas Brouillet  
Chair, Phillipston Board of Selectmen

**Town of Phillipston**  
**Equal Access to Facilities and Activities Grievance Policy**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a complaint? If so, please explain.

Is this a grievance? If so, please explain.

Do you have a request for a program policy interpretation or clarification? If so, which program?

Do you need special consideration of a response, such as enlarged type face or verbal communication? Please specify.

Please submit your grievance to the Town Building Commissioner who is the Americans With Disabilities Act Coordinator for the Town of Phillipston.  
Phillipston Town Hall, 50 The Common, Phillipston, MA 01331 Phone: 978-249-1736

Assistance in writing a grievance will be available to all individuals.

Copies of the complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification and response will be forwarded to the appropriate Town board. If the grievance is not resolved at this level, citizens will be informed of the opportunity to meet and speak with the Board of Selectmen with whom local authority for final grievance resolution lies.

## Program Accessibility

The Town of Phillipston is a small, rural town located in North Central Massachuestts. Primarily rocky and wooded, our recreation facilities consist of natural trails located in forested areas. There are few programs and services under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee.

1. School playground: This is located on the grade school grounds and is under the jurisdiction of the school.
2. Queen Lake Beach: The sandy beach has a paved ramp that goes down to the beach from the road, making the beach accessible. There is a Port-a-potty available during the summer months. The boat ramp is paved as well.
3. Baseball field: There are two baseball fields next to one another located behind the school. Access to the fields is along a gravel right of way; accessible parking is on the grass. There is a single row of benches along the edge of the field; all seating along the benches is accessible, as are the dugouts located on the new field.
4. Trails: Access beyond entrance to most trails in town is limited due to the nature of the terrain.

Baldwin Hill Conservation Area: This recently developed trail ha off road parking, is accessible for the first 100 feet, providing a view of Thousand Acre Swamp. It then drops off into the steep, rocky, wooded lot.

Ellinwood Tree Farm: An actively managed tree farm, this 315 acre property has off road parking, compact logging roads, and places to park and explore. There are more accessible trails here than any other wooded conservation area in Town.

Fox Valley: The Boy Scouts developed a heart shaped trail which is flat for the first 200 feet, before becoming rocky. There is off road parking.

Town Common: This open, flat lawn is accessible from all sides, and has designated handicapped parking areas by the Town Hall and the church. Additional parking may be found adjacent to the Town Hall Annex and the library. All public buildings have compliant rest room facilities.

5. Summer Camp: The Town holds a two week long summer day camp in the school gym and on the school grounds. The facility is fully accessible. Employment practices are in keeping with the ADA employment practices that the Town upholds.

## Facility Inventory: Ellinwood Tree Farm Lincoln Road

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities		N/a
Trails		Surface: Natural soils, compact logging roads Dimensions: Trails are wide logging roads over fairly flat terrain Rails: None Signage: Road sign at entrance
Programming		Contact Rich Valcourt for a guided tour
Parking		Off road parking Drop off at entrance is possible Road side parking available It is possible to drive along the logging roads to visit the Tree Farm.
Ramps		N/A

**Facility Inventory: Baldwin Hill Conservation Area Baldwin Hill Road**

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities	N/a	
Trails	Surface: Natural soils, rocky terrain Dimensions: Vary due to the steep terrain Rails: None Signage: Road sign at beginning of the trail	
Programming	N/a	
Parking	Off road parking for two cars available close to entrance Drop off at entrance is possible Road side parking available	
Ramps	N/A	

**Facility Inventory: Fox Valley Lincoln Road**

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities		N/a
Trails		Surface: Natural soils, uneven terrain Dimensions: Vary due to the natural terrain Rails: None Signage: Road sign and kiosk at the beginning of the trail
Programming		N/a
Parking		Off road parking for several cars available close to entrance Drop off at entrance is possible Road side parking available
Ramps		N/A

### Facility Inventory: Town Common

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities		N/a
Trails		Surface: Flat lawn surface Dimensions: Wide expanse ringed with shade trees Rails: None Signage: Road sign
Programming		N/a
Parking		Dedicated spaces: one roadside adjacent to the common, on in front of Town Hall Drop off is possible Road side parking available around the common
Ramps		N/A

### Facility Inventory: Queen Lake Beach

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Swimming	Pool	None
Beach		Paved accessible ramp from the road to the beach. Water is within 20 feet from the end of the path. Handrails are not available Shade trees are next to the beach.
Parking		The closest parking is located across the road. Drop off close to the paved ramp is possible.
Ramps		Paved walking ramp from the road to the beach Paved boat ramp into the lake located adjacent to the beach
Restroom		Handicapped accessible portapotty available during summer months

**Facility Inventory: Phillipston Memorial School Playground**

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities		N/a
Playground	Jungle gym Swings, slide, merry-go-round basketball court monkey bars	Surface: paved surface Dimensions: Wide expanse Rails: None Signage: None
Programming		N/a
Parking		Dedicated spaces Drop off is possible Parking adjacent to the playground, on the school property
Ramps		Not needed. Flat area

**Facility Inventory: Little League Baseball fields, behind the Phillipston Memorial School**

Activity	Equipment	Notes
Picnic Facilities		N/a
Ball Field		Surface: grass Dimensions: regulation size little league baseball field Rails: None
Fencing		4' coated cain link surrounding the perimeter of each field, yellow plastic safety cap safety fencing in front of dugouts, 24' chain link backstop fencing
Dugouts spectator seating		accessible cinderblock aluminum benches
Programming		Narragansett Area Youth Baseball
Parking		School parking Drop off is possible
Ramps		Not needed. Flat area