

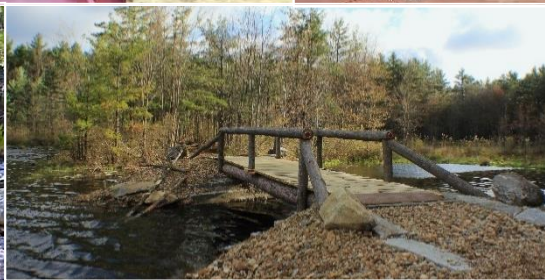
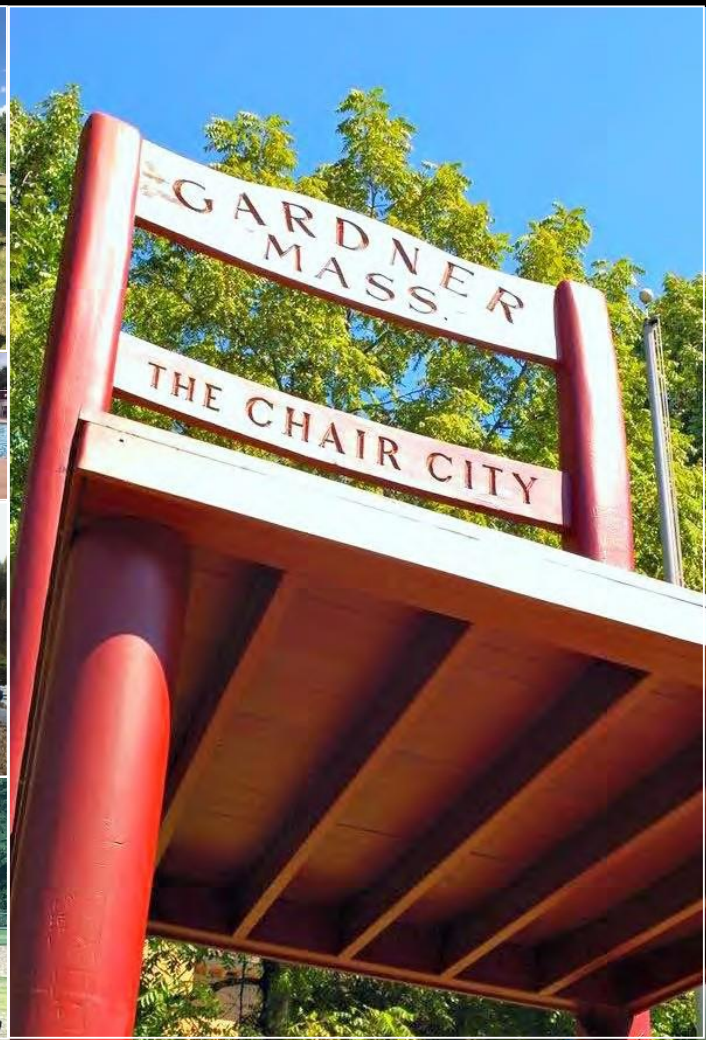
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

April 2023

Initial Document: 1986
Updated: 1994, 2000, 2006, 2015



City of Gardner
Massachusetts



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Table of Contents

SECTION 1	PLAN SUMMARY	1-1
SECTION 2	INTRODUCTION	2-1
A.	STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	2-1
B.	PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....	2-2
C.	ENHANCED OUTREACH and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	2-2
SECTION 3	COMMUNITY SETTING	3-1
A.	REGIONAL CONTEXT	3-1
B.	HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY	3-2
C.	POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	3-3
D.	GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS	3-4
E.	IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS	3-9
SECTION 4	ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS	4-1
A.	GEOLOGY, SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY	4-1
B.	WATER RESOURCES	4-2
C.	VEGETATION	4-5
D.	FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE	4-6
E.	SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS	4-8
F.	ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES.....	4-9
SECTION 5	INVENTORY OF LANDS.....	5-1
A.	OVERVIEW	5-1
B.	LANDS OF CONSERVATION INTEREST	5-1
C.	LANDS OF RECREATION INTEREST	5-6
D.	PARK AND OPEN SPACE EQUITY	5-10
SECTION 6	COMMUNITY VISION	6-1
A.	DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS	6-1
B.	STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS	6-2
SECTION 7	ANALYSIS OF NEEDS	7-1
A.	SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS	7-1
B.	SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS	7-2
C.	SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT NEEDS	7-4
SECTION 8	GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	8-1
SECTION 9	SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN	9-1
SECTION 10	PUBLIC COMMENTS	10-1
SECTION 11	REFERENCES	11-1

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 3-1 SUMMARY OF PROTECTED OPEN SPACE IN GARDNER.....	3-1
TABLE 3-2 TEN LARGEST EMPLOYERS AND LABOR COSTS	3-4
TABLE 3-3 BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED.....	3-5
TABLE 3-4 APPROVED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS	3-5
TABLE 3-5 PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS	3-5
TABLE 4-1 SURFACE WATER RESOURCES	4-3
TABLE 5-1 SUMMARY OF OPEN SPACE.....	5-2
TABLE 5-2 PRIORITY 1 AND 2 PROPERTIES	5-4
TABLE 5-3 CHAPTER 61 PARCELS.....	5-5
TABLE 5-4 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.....	5-7
TABLE 6-1 MEETING AND PRESENTATIONS	6-2

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: MAPS

MAP 1 – REGIONAL CONTEXT
MAP 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
MAP 3 – WATER SERVICE AREA
MAP 4 – SEWER SERVICE AREA
MAP 5 – SIDEWALKS
MAP 6 – ZONING
MAP 7 – SOILS AND GEOLOGIC FEATURES
MAP 8 – UNIQUE FEATURES
MAP 9 – WATER RESOURCES
MAP 10 – DEVELOPED LANDS
MAP 11 – LEVEL OF PROTECTION
MAP 12 – OPEN SPACE OWNERSHIP
MAP 13 – PRIORITY RANKING
MAP 14 – CHAPTER 61 LANDS
MAP 15 – OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES
MAP 16 – ACTION PLAN

APPENDIX C: TABLES

TABLE 1 – INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
INTERESTS
TABLE 2 – PRIORITY OPEN SPACE PARCELS

APPENDIX A: BIOMAP REPORT

APPENDIX D: POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES

APPENDIX E: PROS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

APPENDIX F: ADA ACCESS AND SELF EVALUATION

ADA/504 SELF EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN POLICY STATEMENT
ADA POLICY STATEMENT
TABLE 1 – ADA INVENTORY OF MUNICIPAL
ADA DESIGNATION LETTER

APPENDIX G: ENDORSEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

MAYOR ENDORSEMENT
CITY COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION ENDORSEMENT
PLANNING BOARD ENDORSEMENT
MRPC ENDORSEMENT
DCS ENDORSEMENT
SURVEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SECTION 1 PLAN SUMMARY

The Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is a comprehensive planning document that guides future policies and actions by examining the City's need for new or improved conservation areas and recreational facilities. The overall purpose of the 2022 OSRP is to provide Gardner's residents with a diverse system of interconnected open space areas and quality recreational opportunities that protect natural resources, promote public health, and enhance the quality of life. Enhancing the quality of life in a community must maintain a careful balance between equity, environment and economy.

Having an OSRP is very important for a number of reasons. A comprehensive plan identifies open space and recreation assets; prioritizes needs; identifies goals, objectives and actions; and allows the City to participate in state and federal grant programs to make capital improvements to recreational facilities and to protect open spaces.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee built this plan on previous OSRPs; consultation with City Departments, in particular the Engineering, Public Works and Planning Departments; and nearly one year of public outreach. During this public outreach and planning, six specific goals were identified:

- Protect and improve the quality of existing open spaces, parks, and recreational opportunities.
- Selective expansion of open spaces, parks, and recreational opportunities.
- Protect water resources and improve water quality.
- Accommodate new growth where the environment can best support it.
- Increase public awareness, use, and stewardship of the City's water resources, forests, parks, conservation areas, and recreational opportunities.
- Expand multimodal connectivity by improving bicycle and pedestrian paths, trails and sidewalks.

Public outreach and planning also highlighted four new initiatives that resulted in several key actions contained in the plan:

- Sustain the recent focus on improved maintenance of existing recreational facilities.
- Ensure parks and playgrounds are safe and family friendly.
- Upgrade existing sidewalks and build connections between existing sidewalks.
- Improve coordination of municipal efforts and better support volunteer initiatives.

This plan has ten sections, including this section, with appendices and conforms to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Conservation Services *Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements*. The primary sections of the OSRP are as follows:

- Section 2 describes the planning process and public participation.
- Section 3 gives a broad picture of the City's history, demographics and growth patterns.
- Section 4 presents an inventory of the City's environmental resources.
- Section 5 presents an inventory of open space and recreation lands.
- Section 6 contains the City's open space and recreation goals.
- Section 7 examines what is needed to achieve the City's stated goals.
- Section 8 establishes the City's primary goals and objectives.
- Section 9 establishes the City's seven-year action plan and lists the municipal entities responsible for implementation.
- Section 10 announces what public comments were provided.

SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION

A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The overall purpose of the 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is to provide Gardner's residents with a diverse system of interconnected open space areas and quality recreational opportunities that protect natural resources, promote public health, and enhance the quality of life. Enhancing the quality of life in a community maintains a careful balance between equity, environment, and economy. More specifically, the purposes of this plan are:

- To identify open space and recreation assets;
- To prioritize open space and recreation needs;
- To identify specific goals, objectives, and priority actions; and
- To allow the City to participate in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts grant programs for capital improvements and acquisition projects.

This edition of the plan builds on previous OSRP's. Gardner's first OSRP was prepared in 1986 and comprehensive updates were completed in 1994, 2000, 2006, which was granted an extension to 2013 by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), and 2015.

Since the last complete update of the OSRP in 2015, progress was made toward protecting and enhancing open space and recreational opportunities despite the City's significant financial constraints. Major efforts included:

- Acquiring 128 +/- acres of land coupling local resources with the Federal Forest Legacy, State Drinking Water Supply Protection, and Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant programs;
- Improving boat access to the Otter River;
- Consolidating responsibilities for cemeteries, forests, and playgrounds in the Department of Public Works and increasing the related maintenance budgets;
- Upgrading playground and recreational opportunities at all five neighborhood playgrounds; and
- Creation of a Skateboard Park, Dog Park, and Splash Pad in the City.

B. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In April 2022, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee met to initiate the work of updating the 2015 plan. The Committee members represented the following:

- Conservation Commission
- Planning Board
- Municipal Grounds Commission
- Dept. of Community Development & Planning
- Engineering/Survey Dept.
- North County Land Trust

The Committee met eight (8) times between April 2022 and March 2023. One public forum was held on August 11, 2022. A citizen-based survey consisting of thirty-seven (37) questions that focused on the types of recreational activities and open space priorities that respondents believe to be important. The questionnaire was made available on the City's website and at the public library, City Hall, Senior Center, and Senior Housing projects. Over 2,900 postcards with the quick response code (QR Code) to the City's questionnaire were distributed by mail to specific Environmental Justice populations in the Town, identified through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) mapper. Two hundred and forty (240) online surveys were completed. Survey questions and results can be found in Appendix F – Endorsements and Public Comments.

Other means of outreach included 2 paid advertisements, intermittent text notices on the local cable station, announcements at City Council televised meetings, a request for comments in the North County Land Trust's monthly newsletter, and postings on several widely followed Facebook pages including the City of Gardner and Mayor Michael Nicholson.

Lastly, formal presentations were made at a City of Gardner Planning Board special meeting, of which the Conservation Commission and City Council were invited and attended. The meeting was broadcast live and rerun several times on the local cable network. The City Council passed a resolution endorsing the OSRP, which is included in Appendix F.

Map 1 Regional Context is attached in Appendix A.

C. ENHANCED OUTREACH and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In June 2021, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) updated its Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy and redefined EJ and what would be considered an EJ population area. According to the 2021 Policy:

Environmental justice is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment regardless of race, color, national origin, income, or English language proficiency. Environmental justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people and communities with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of energy, climate change, and environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of energy and environmental benefits and burden. The definition for EJ populations is as follows:

A neighborhood that meets 1 or more of the following criteria:

- (i) the annual median household income is not more than 65 per cent of the statewide annual median household income;
- (ii) minorities comprise 40 per cent or more of the population;
- (iii) 25 per cent or more of households lack English language proficiency; or
- (iv) minorities comprise 25 per cent or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150 per cent of the statewide annual median household income; or a geographic portion of a neighborhood designated by the Secretary as an environmental justice population in accordance with law.

In Gardner, the Environmental Justice (EJ) low-income areas reside in Census Tracts 7071 (Block Group 2 and most of Block Group 1), 7072 (Block Group 1), 7073 (Block Groups 1 and 2), 7074 (Block Group 2), which contains a small portion of the City's Senior Center and two of the Gardner Housing Authority's largest projects predominantly occupied by senior citizens, and 7075 (Block Group 1). The EJ minority area resides in Census Tract 7075 (Block Groups 2 and 3), which is primarily due to the incarcerated population in the North Central Correctional Institution. The EJ minority and low-income area resides in Census Tract 7073 (Block Group 3). Postcards with the survey QR code were mailed to the residents in these areas to involve this population and inform them about the Open Space planning process.

Map 2 Environmental Justice is attached in Appendix A.

SECTION 3 COMMUNITY SETTING

A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Gardner (herein referred to as the “City”) is located in the north central portion of Massachusetts (the Montachusett Region), within Worcester County, and is 28 miles northwest of Worcester, 59 miles west of Boston, 61 miles northeast of Springfield, and 195 miles from New York City.

The City is bordered by Winchendon and Ashburnham on the north, Templeton on the west, Westminster on the east, and Hubbardston on the south. Gardner serves as the hub of regional activity housing major shopping areas, significant employment opportunities, the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce, Mount Wachusett Community College, Heywood Hospital and The Gardner News. The Greater Gardner area has a population of approximately 21,287 people (per the 2020 U.S. Census) and occupies 22 square miles. Map 1 Regional Context is attached in Appendix A.

The dry land area, protected open space, and percentage of protected open space in each of the five surrounding towns and the City is listed in Table 3-1. The percentage of protected open space to dry land is very similar for the neighboring towns. However, the ownership of open space in Gardner is predominantly municipal while open space in the surrounding communities is predominantly State-owned.

Table 3-1 – Summary of Protected Open Space in Gardner and Area Towns

Community	Land Use (dry acres)	Protected Open Space (acres)	% Protected Open Space
Ashburnham	23,300.43	9,257.52	39.74%
Gardner	13,145.51	4,777.60	36.34%
Hubbardston	22,991.64	13,798.24	60.04%
Templeton	18,095.20	6,014.14	33.22%
Westminster	21,283.55	7,161.46	33.64%
Winchendon	23,657.04	10,017.05	42.34%
Community Average			40.89%

State Route 2, also known as the Mowhawk Trail – George W. Stanton Highway, is the major east-west highway linking Boston to upstate New York and provides access to Interstate 91 in Greenfield. A Route 2 overpass bisects the City with two exit rotary ramps. Interstate 190 lies 15 miles east and interconnects with the Massachusetts

Turnpike in Worcester. MART provides bus service to the Montachusett Region, including transportation from Gardner to Athol area (see Figure 1) including towns; Templeton and Phillipston. In addition to scheduled service, MART offers dial-a-ride for the elderly and handicapped. Major commercial flights are available at Logan International Airport in Boston, T.F. Green International Airport in Providence Rhode Island, Manchester Airport in Manchester New Hampshire, Bradley International Airport in Bradley Field Connecticut, and to a lesser degree, Worcester Municipal Airport in Worcester. Gardner Municipal Airport, located in Templeton, supports business and recreational light aircraft activity.

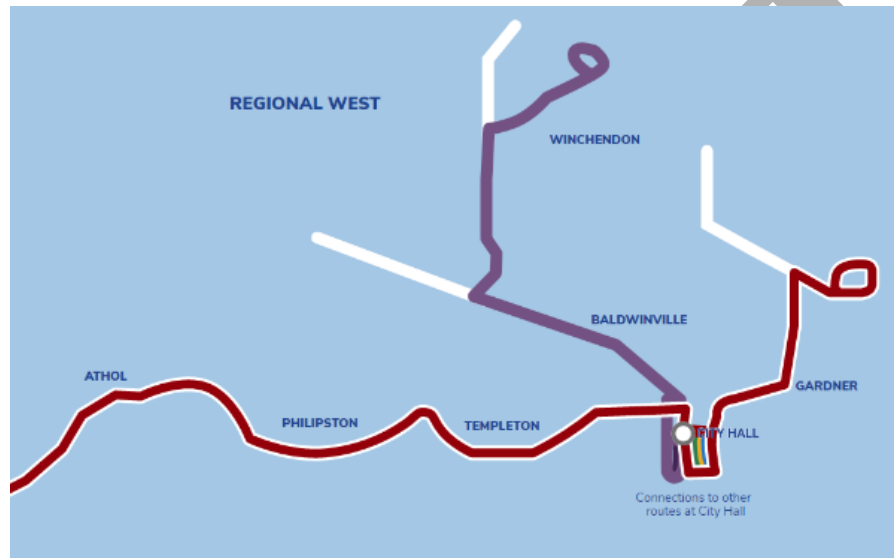


Figure 1

The hills of Gardner form a natural separation point for the Millers River and the Nashua River watersheds. The majority of Gardner lies within the Millers River watershed, including the historically industrialized area. The northeastern and eastern sections of Gardner, situated in the Nashua River Basin, are less developed with a more rural character.

Gardner is in the 3rd Massachusetts Congressional District, the Worcester & Middlesex Senatorial District, the 2nd Worcester State Representative District, the Governor's Council 7th District, and the District Attorney Middle District.

B. HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

Development of industry during the late eighteenth century along many of the streams feeding into the Otter River, located in the Millers River watershed, were the basis for the formation of Gardner. Incorporated as a town in 1785, the industrial center of Gardner emerged from sections of the towns of Ashburnham, Westminster, Winchendon, and Templeton. Gardner later was re-incorporated as a city in 1923.

The City of Gardner became an urban/industrial center. The City showed a dispersed,

small-scale woodworking industry in the 1700's. By the early 19th century, the industry had become concentrated in a large number of chair manufacturing shops. Between 1830 and 1870, the expansion brought in immigrants mostly from England, Ireland, and Canada. Russian, Finnish, Swedish, and Polish emigrants joined them in the 1890's as the chair-making industry grew. The Heywood-Wakefield chair factory complex was created and expanded between 1870 and 1897. It remained a major factor in the City's economy for the whole of the 19th century.

The Gardner Light Infantry, a voluntary military troop, formed as early as 1813 in the City. Mt. Gardner Seminary, a college for women, formed in 1884. The free public library was created in 1886. In 1896, the State commended Gardner for evening naturalization classes, established to help immigrants become citizens. The Gardner State Colony for the Insane, built in 1904, was a pioneer in the then innovative dispersal of patients in cottage residences rather than one large building, a model subsequently copied around the country.

Mount Wachusett Community College began operations in Gardner in the 1960s and has evolved to become a major regional influence on a modern campus located in Gardner. In addition to curricula for matriculating students, the college provides modern recreational facilities and theater to the Greater Gardner community.

C. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Population

Between 2010 and 2020, Gardner's population increased slightly from 20,228 to 21,287, with a population density of 933.7 persons per square mile. The U.S. Census Bureau had projected a modest increase of 0.6% in Gardner from 2010 to 2020, whereas the population actually rose 5%.

Education and Housing

The 2016-2020 percentage of Gardner residents age 25+ graduating from high school or higher, was 89% compared to 91.1% statewide. The percentage of Gardner residents age 25+ graduating with a Bachelor's degree or higher was 18.9% compared to 44.5% statewide.

The 2020 homeownership rate in Gardner was 55.5% compared to the state rate of 62.5%. Housing units in multi-unit structures was 46.5% compared to the state rate of 41.7%. The median value of owner-occupied housing units in Gardner was \$192,500 compared to the state median value of \$398,800.

Income and Poverty

Annual median household income in Gardner during the period 2016 to 2020 was \$51,708 while the annual household income in Massachusetts was \$84,385. The

percentage of persons below poverty level in Gardner during that same period was 13.7% while the percentage of persons below poverty level in the state was 9.8%.

Unemployment Trends

The unemployment rate in Gardner is just under the state unemployment rate and 0.4% higher than the national rate. In April 2022, the unemployment rate in Gardner was 4% while the state unemployment rate was 4.1% and the national unemployment rate was 3.6%.

Labor Force, Employment and Ten Largest Employers

Gardner's labor force and employment numbers have increased from the last decade, but experienced periods of decline as well. In 2000, the labor force was 10,145 and 9,815 persons were employed in Gardner. In 2010, the labor force was 9,718 and 8,624 persons were employed in Gardner. As per the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development of the Massachusetts Department of Economic Research, in 2015, the labor force was 9,488 and 8,872 persons were employed in Gardner. In 2018, the labor force increased to 10,178, similar to 2000 levels, and 9,717 persons were employed in Gardner. In 2020, however, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the labor force dropped to 9,918 and 8,818 persons were employed in Gardner. The unemployment rate was 11.1 percent compared to 4 percent in 2019. In 2021, the labor force was 9,904 and 9,182 persons were employed in Gardner, bringing the unemployment rate down to 7.3 percent.

Table 3-2 – Ten Largest Employers and Labor Counts

Name of Employer	Production/Function	Number of Employees
Mount Wachusett Community College	Educational Facility	830
Heywood Hospital	Hospital	1,000
North Central Correctional Institution	Correctional Facility	540
Garlock Printing & Converting	Printing Company	240
Price Chopper	Supermarket	220
Walmart	Department Store	150
New England Woodenware	Carton Manufacturer	148
Gardner Rehabilitation & Nursing Center	Rehabilitation Care Facility	140
Advance Cable Ties	Manufacturer-Cable Ties	100
Dennecrepe Corp.	Manufacturer-Crepe Paper	80

Environmental Justice (EJ)

Ten of Gardner's thirteen Block Groups meet the EJ criteria. Seven Block Groups meet the criterion for income, two Block Groups meet the criterion for minority status, and

one Block Group meets the criterion for income and minority status.

The Massachusetts Department of Corrections North Central Correctional Institution is located in one of the Block Groups that meets the minority status criterion. This Block Group would not meet the criteria if the prison population was excluded.

Map 2 Environmental Justice is attached in Appendix A.

D. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Patterns and Trends

Between fiscal years 2014-2021, Gardner's residential development tripled (312% increase) and its commercial development quadrupled (433% increase) from the previous OSRP fiscal years 2008-2013.

Table 3-3 – Building Permits Issued

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	Fy19	FY20	Fy21	FY14-21 Total	FYo8-13 Total
Single-Family Homes	14	26	24	25	22	15	13	20	159	51
Multi-Family Homes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Commercial	9	5	6	7	1	1	3	4	36	9
Industrial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Totals	23	31	30	32	23	16	16	24	195	69

Source: Gardner Building Commissioner

In the short term, residential development is anticipated to continue, increasing including both single family residential and multi-family housing development.

Table 3-4 – Approved Residential Developments

Approved Residential Developments				
PROJECT	OWNER	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACRES
Sapphire Park	Sunshine Realty Trust	Pearl Street	130 units — 65+MHP	86
Total				86

MHP = Mobile Home Park

Table 3-5 – Proposed Residential Developments

Proposed Residential Developments				
PROJECT	OWNER	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACRES
Clark Street OSRD	Harbor Classic Homes	Off of Clark St and Century Way	# units TBD	90
Multi Family Dev.	Private Oversight, LLC	o West Broadway	Multiple buildings +/- 40 units	16.5
Multi Family Dev.		Garbose Block	18 one bedroom units	
Multi Family Dev.				
Multi Family Dev.	TBD	Rear Main Street / Derby Drive	One multi family building +/- 56 units	2
Multi Family Dev.	MassAve Rentals	42-52 Parker Street	28 market rate units	0.5
Total				109

OSRD - Open Space Residential Development

Water and Sewer Infrastructure

The vast majority of Gardner's population occupying approximately 40% of the City's land area is served by municipal water and sewer systems. Current plans for both systems focus on upgrades rather than expansion.

In 2014, the City began phased upgrades to the wastewater treatment facility. Phase II of the upgrades are near completion. Upgrades as part of this project include new headworks, a dewatering system, and many electrical and computer upgrades at a cost of approximately \$11.5 million. Additionally, the recently approved EPA discharge permit system (NPDES), progressively requires more stringent nutrient removal and effluent quality with each discharge permit issued.

Gardner's water treatment facilities have all been constructed or upgraded since 2000. The Crystal Lake Water Treatment Facility continues to produce high-quality drinking water. The facility uses microfiltration membrane filters and has a total capacity of 4.5 million gallons per day. Crystal Lake is responsible for providing the City with 30-40% of its drinking water from April to November. The secondary source of drinking water in the City is the Snake Pond groundwater treatment facility constructed in 2000 and located in the south eastern area of the City.

The current focus continues to be on the replacement of aged water mains, many of which are at or near 100 years old, to better control and mitigate losses in the distribution system and thereby conserve water resources and maintain or increase revenues.

The rural areas not served by municipal water and sewer systems include most of

Gardner's open space. Like all Massachusetts communities that have undeveloped outlying areas, the potential exists for development of lots with frontage on existing public ways with no subdivision control by the Planning Board. Portions of these outlying areas also include environmentally sensitive areas such as lands that recharge the City's drinking water supply.

Map 3 Water Service Area, Map 4 Sewer Service Area and Map 5 Sidewalks are attached in Appendix A.

Transportation Infrastructure

Route 2 is the most important roadway to the City and the region, running east west through the entire region. This limited access roadway provides the area with a direct link to Boston and to the western half of the state. Route 2 connects Gardner to the region's other major urban communities including Fitchburg and Leominster and includes two interchanges for convenient access to our City. Gardner is 20 minutes from Interstate 190 and 30 minutes from Interstate 495 both major north south transportation Routes that tie into the Interstate 95 and 93 corridors servicing the metropolitan Boston area. Other arterial roads that pass-through Gardner are Route 140, Route 68, Route 101 and Route 2A.

Gardner is a member of the Montachusett Area Regional Transportation (MART) Authority, which provides fixed route service within Gardner, to the Fitchburg-Leominster Area, west to the Athol Area, and paratransit services for the elderly and disabled. There are two intercity operators that travel through the Montachusett Region, Peter Pan and Greyhound Bus Lines, that both stop at the junction of State Route 2 and Route 13 in Leominster. Both lines connect the cities of Leominster, Worcester, Boston, Springfield, Hartford, CT and New York City, as well as destinations in northern New England.

Commuter rail service previously existed from Gardner to Boston. The service to Gardner was drastically cut back late in 1983 and discontinued on January 1, 1987. Today, service along the Fitchburg line to North Station in Boston terminates at the MBTA Wachusett Commuter Rail Station. Access to the Wachusett Station is available via connecting Wilson and MARTA buses.

The North Central Pathway is a recreational trail that runs over 5 miles through Gardner and the neighboring Town of Winchendon. It connects downtown Gardner with the Veterans Memorial Skating Rink, Heywood Hospital, and Mount Wachusett Community College before continuing through scenic landscapes and densely forested areas of the City.

The City continues to implement its Complete Streets Plan by developing new bike lanes, multi-use paths, and shared lanes from the existing bike path at the Veterans Rink through downtown, under Route 2, to Walmart near the Hubbardston town line. The City is working creating a new parking lot and park at the former NGRID substation site on Park Street to service a portion of these new bike lanes along with a

proposed North Central Pathway connector from Park Street north along the NGRID right of way to Route 140. A multi-use bridge is currently being designed to be constructed over Route 140 to connect the proposed connector path with the existing North Central Pathway. This will add approximately two miles of new bike path to the City's network.

There are also a number of City-owned conservation properties that allow for off-road biking and hiking. In terms of walking, there is a network of sidewalks within the City's neighborhoods and the City's Subdivision Regulations require sidewalks for new subdivisions.

The Gardner Municipal Airport is a General Aviation (GA) facility with a 3,000 foot by 75-foot asphalt runway. A new runway is scheduled to be installed in the Summer of 2023, which will require federal, state, and municipal funding. Recently a new hangar was constructed, and a new airport manager was hired. In the new future, more updates are proposed at the airport involving the construction and installation of new taxiways, runway and taxiway lighting systems, airfield electrical vault, and NAVAIDS (REILs and Windcone), etc. There will also be reconstruction of runways 18-36 and existing taxiways.

Long-term Development Patterns

Long-term development patterns are difficult to predict because there are numerous factors that determine how land is developed. Many of these factors, such as the economy, are beyond the control of the municipal government. Municipal government control over long-term development is dependent on local planning and zoning tools.

Gardner's most recent Community Development Plan was prepared and finalized in September of 2004, and the most recent Open Space & Recreation Plan was completed August 2015. Gardner is implementing two Urban Renewal Plans: the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan dated July 2011 and the Mill Street Corridor Urban Renewal Plan dated September 2012. Projects have included clearance of blighted areas and structures in the City and the creation of park space and multi-modal options for residents including a multi-use path along Derby Drive (Rear Main Street) as well as the bike lanes and shared lanes noted above. In addition, accessible crossings with pole mounted rapid flashing beacons have been installed at many of the City's crossings. The City intends to create opportunities for more outdoor dining areas in the downtown with newly constructed parklets and additional park land.

Gardner's zoning ordinance was updated in 2015 and contains a number of provisions designed to regulate smart growth and to protect environmental assets. The following is a list of those planning and zoning tools:

- *Open Space Residential Development* — Reduces lot size and preserves common open space. 50% of the subdivision's land area must be set aside for permanently protected open space.
- *Accessory Apartments* — Allows one supplemental housing unit within a single-

family home.

- *Earth Removal* — Special Permit to regulate removal operations and restoration at closure.
- *Mixed-Use By Right* — Promotes commercial and residential uses in the same zoning district encouraging more compact development.
- *Site Plan Review* — Subjects larger projects to an additional level of review.
- *Infill Development and Development Overlay District* — Special Permit allows higher density, mixed-use, and relaxation of parking and set back requirements in commercial and industrial districts.
- *Smart Growth Planned Unit Development (PUD)* — Special Permit to promote compact, mixed-use development.
- *Water Supply and Wetlands Protection* — Establishes overlay districts to provide additional protection to the City's water supply and wetland resource areas.
- *Wind Energy* — Promotes wind energy systems in industrial districts.
- *Large-scale Ground-mounted Solar Photovoltaic* — Promotes large-scale solar PV in industrial districts.
- *Senior Residential Development* — Provides for a variety of housing types, settings, and residential services to meet the needs of people as they age.
- *Stormwater Management* — Maintains and enhances the public health, safety, environment and general welfare of the City by establishing minimum requirements and procedures to control the adverse effects of soil erosion and sedimentation, construction site runoff, increased post-development stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution associated with new development and redevelopment.

Map 6 Zoning is attached in Appendix A.

In addition to smart growth provisions in the zoning ordinance, the City received approval of three priority development areas pursuant to MGL Chapter 43D on September 24, 2008:

- Summit Industrial Park
- S. Bent Mill Site
- Rear Main Street Downtown Corridor

The City was also designated a Green Community pursuant to Chapter 451 of the Acts of 2008 on December 16, 2010.

E. IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Gardner is a small urban center with low population density except in the long-established neighborhoods around the central business district where there has been

limited to no substantial population growth. Gardner has historically offered residents of Greater Gardner opportunities for work, shopping, and play.

Over the last several decades, manufacturing jobs became concentrated, and the woodworking industry slowly disappeared. Commuting to work outside of the region is now common.

Gardner continues to face stubborn social and economic challenges many small, manufacturing-based cities experience as defined in the data set in this section. Stagnate population growth, high low-income and unemployment rates, and low property values expose the limited local resources the City has. Therefore, funds allocated to open space and recreation should focus on protecting existing environmental assets and maintaining current recreation facilities, which will depend on creative alternatives such as grant funding as well as innovative planning and zoning tools. These methods have already proven to benefit Gardner through the Complete Streets program.

DRAFT

SECTION 4 ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. GEOLOGY, SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

Gardner is located in the Gardner belt of the Merrimack Terrane. Retreating ice of the Connecticut Valley-Worcester Plateau lobe left dimples of sediment and a significant esker with exploitable sand and gravel deposits.

Soils

A majority of the soils within the Gardner area are composed of very deep, loamy, and sandy soils formed in glacial till derived from granite, schist, and gneiss on upland fill plains and moraine. A small percentage of the soils are very deep, loamy, and sandy soils formed in glacial outwash, lacustrine and alluvial sediments on outwash plains and in stream valleys.

The soils in the area can be classified into two soil associations. One is Hinckley-Merrimac Association, located in the western part of the City, identified on Map 7 as Sand and Gravel. The second is Paxton-Woodbridge Association, located throughout the rest of the City and land surrounding, identified on Map 7 in Appendix A as Till or Bedrock.

Topography

Gardner is located in the rolling uplands east of the Connecticut Valley with some slopes greater than 10%. Development in hilly terrain is more costly and presents greater risks to the environment.

The vast majority of the City's streams flow into the Otter River which feeds the Millers River. A very small portion in Gardner's northeast corner is located in the watershed of the Nashua River.

Elevations in the City range from just over 900 feet above sea level near the Otter River to 1,300 feet at the crest of Reservoir Hill. Wachusett Mountain, the highest point in the state east of the Connecticut River, rising 2,006 feet, is located 12-miles southeast of Gardner.

Map 7 Soils and Geological Features is attached in Appendix A.

B. WATER RESOURCES

Surface Waters

Dunn Pond is another recreational pond well used by the public. Located within Gardner Heritage State Park its facilities (public beach, picnic areas, and visitor's center) and fish- stocking program attract sizable crowds.

The largest artificial body of water is Wright's Reservoir. Originally constructed by Joseph Nathaniel and David Wright on Bancroft Hill for industrial purposes, today it serves the community as the main support in the local flood-control project built in the 1940's by the US Army Corps of Engineers. This pond, although limited to public access, offers warm water fisheries and other excellent recreational opportunities.

The second largest artificial body of water is Perley Brook Reservoir. It was built in 1958 to supplement Crystal Lake as Gardner's water supply. Although a secondary reservoir, it is closed to public use except by permit. While shoreline fishing is currently allowed at Perley Brook Reservoir, other recreational uses are restricted and swimming and boating is prohibited.

Crystal Lake is the City's primary public water supply and provides a scenic backdrop overlooking Monument Park and the downtown commercial district beyond. While active recreational opportunities, such as swimming, boating, and fishing, which were once popular on this waterbody, are no longer allowed, the area still provides many passive recreational opportunities. For instance, the North Central Pathway bike trail begins overlooking Crystal Lake and travels for nearly a mile overlooking the shoreline of the reservoir. On the opposite shoreline walkers, photographers, birdwatchers, and many other local people enjoy the wildlife, scenic beauty, and attractive landscaping of the Crystal Lake Cemetery overlooking the reservoir. This is a popular place for walking and often hosts local residents and workers on their lunch breaks, afternoon or evening strolls, or exercise routes.

Parker Pond is an artificial pond of substantial size, totaling some twenty-nine acres and having a linear shape. Parker Pond has been heavily impacted by silt deposits and weed growth. Parker Pond has been recognized in past OSRPs as in need of rehabilitation. Studies have been done on the water quality, bottom conditions and the possibility of dredging the pond. If rehabilitated Parker Pond could offer warm water fishery and recreational opportunities close to the center of the city with existing and possible additional public access.

The Otter River forms a portion of the western boundary between Gardner and Templeton. Named after the abundant Brown Bearing Otter found by the early settlers, this is the only stream in Gardner worthy of being called a river. It runs through the southwest portion of the city and has the rare quality of running in a

general direction towards the north. It empties into the Miller's River beyond the city limits. Several brooks feed the river including Bailey, Wilder, Foster, Greenwood, Pail Factory, Pond, Mahoney, Perley, and Baker's Brooks. The River and tributaries offer excellent recreational opportunities, including waterfowl hunting, fishing, hiking, and nature study.

The Gardner Fish and Gun Club and the Gardner Recreation Department stock the river and brooks with trout.

The City of Gardner has developed an area along the headwaters of the Otter River with a City well identified as the Snake Pond Well. This has brought the area and adjacent lands to greater attention and interest for well-field protection and for general open space conservation.

Table 4-1 – Surface Water Resources

Name	Approx. Size	Water Quality	Public Access	Recreational Uses	Notes
Baker Brook	1 mile	Good	Poor		Very shallow, slow moving
Bailey Brook	2.5 miles	Good	Fair	Fishing, stocked w/trout & hunting.	
Bents Pond	14 acres	Poor	Poor		Very shallow
Cowee Pond	21 acres	Excellent	Restricted	Fishing	Public Water Supply
Crystal Lake	156 acres	Excellent	Restricted	Adjacent to North Central Pathway	Public Water Supply & Great Pond
Brick Yard Pond	5 acres	Poor	Poor		Former clay pit
Duck Pond	3 acres	Poor	Poor		Mt Wachusett CC
Dunn Pond	18 acres	Excellent	Excellent	Heritage State Park - fishing, swimming, boating. Stocked w/trout. Handicap accessible.	
Dyer Pond	2 acres	Good	Restricted	Used for raising bait shiners.	Privately owned
Foster Brook	3+ miles	Fair to Good	Fair	Fishing	
Greenwood Brook	1+ miles	Fair	Poor		

Name	Approx. Size	Water Quality	Public Access	Recreational Uses	Notes
Hilchey Pond	11 acres	Fair	Poor		Very shallow
Hobbys Pond	9 acres	Good	Poor	Fishing	
Hubbardston Brook	1+ miles	Good	Fair	Fishing	
Kendall Pond	14 acres	Good	Poor	Several private clubs provide access for fishing, swimming, boating.	Great Pond
Mahoney Brook	3+ miles	Fair to Good	Fair		
Murdock Pond	2 acres	Good	Poor		
Otter River	6+ miles	Fair	Fair	Fishing (catch/release), stocked w/trout, boating & hunting	
Pail Factory Brook	1+ miles	Good	Fair		
Parkers Pond	29 acres	Poor	Poor	Fishing & boating	Shallow due to stormwater runoff
Perley Brook	4+ miles	Excellent	Fair	Fishing	Public Water Supply
Perley Brook Reservoir	55 acres	Excellent	Fair	Fishing, stocked w/trout	Public Water Supply
Pond Brook	2.5 miles	Good	Poor		
Quag Pond	1 acre	Bog	Poor		Bog
Ramsdell Pond	10 acres	Fair	Fair	Fishing	
Snake Pond	12 acres	Fair	Poor	Fishing	Great Pond
Stump Pond	1 acre	Good	Fair		
Travers Pond	4 acres	Poor	Poor	Fishing	
Lake Wampanoag	107 acres	Excellent	Fair	Fishing, swimming, boating	

Name	Approx. Size	Water Quality	Public Access	Recreational Uses	Notes
Wilder Brook	3.5 miles	Good	Fair	Fishing	
Wrights Reservoir	65 acres	Good	Poor	Fishing & boating	

In addition to surface water resources, Map 9 Water Resources is attached in Appendix A and depicts surface and groundwater protection areas, aquifer recharge areas, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) approved Zone II's, interim wellhead protection areas and wetland resource areas.

Flood Hazard Areas

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map for the City of Gardner indicates flood prone areas. Gardner, with its relatively steep slopes and drainage characteristics, has well defined flood prone areas. The abundance of wetland areas provides large amounts of natural storage, thus reducing flood dangers downstream. Flooding sources studied include the Otter River, Perley Brook, Wilder Brook, Pond Brook, Baker Brook, Foster Brook, and Greenwood Brook.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Maps indicate flood prone areas in Gardner. With relatively steep slopes and drainage characteristics, Gardner has well defined flood prone areas. Flooding sources include the Otter River, Perley Brook, Wilder Brook, Pond Brook, Baker Brook, Foster Brook and Greenwood Brook.

Wetlands

Wetlands comprise numerous types of wet environments such as marshes, wet meadows, ponds, bogs, swamps, and water bodies providing many ecological benefits. They help to maintain water supplies, purify polluted waters, diminish the destructive power of flood and storm waters, nurture wildlife, and provide numerous recreational opportunities. The general wetlands areas of Gardner have been mapped using information obtained from the Massachusetts Geographic Information System.

C. VEGETATION

Gardner contains many valuable vegetative resources. In particular, the City has a considerable amount of forested lands containing quality, harvestable timber products. In addition, there are vast areas of wetland habitats containing a large variety of wetland vegetation which supports wildlife and provides important pollution and flood control measures for the City and region.

Approximately 59% of the City's dry land area is undeveloped. Since the last OSRP update, 95-acres in the City have been developed. Map 10 Developed Lands in Appendix A highlights the areas already developed. The undeveloped land is diverse

and consists of woodlands, open wetland resource areas and abandoned fields. White pine, red maple and mixed oaks are the dominant tree species in the upland forest areas. Forested wetlands consist of red maple, spruce, fir, tamarack and hemlock. The timber quality ranges from poor to good throughout the forest. Invasive and non-native vegetation include barberry, buckthorn, bittersweet, autumn olive and honeysuckle. Most of the invasive species can be found growing in the abandoned fields and near the roadways.

Much of the forest and wetland vegetation communities found in Gardner are relatively undisturbed and composed primarily of native plant species. However, non-native, introduced, and invasive species can be found in some areas. Invasive and non-native vegetation include Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). Most of the invasive species can be found growing in the abandoned fields and near the roadways. The 2022 BioMap inventory tool can be found at <https://biomap-mass-eoea.hub.arcgis.com/>. The City of Gardner's BioMap Summary Report can be found in Appendix C.

The City's Forest Stewardship Management Plans include Cowee Pond Reservoir, the Perley Brook Reservoir, the Crystal Lake Reservoir, Wildwood Cemetery Forest, and the Snake Pond Forest. Management focuses on promoting a healthy forest environment for the safety and enjoyment of the Gardner residents who will visit the property. In 2014, forest management of these areas began in the form of timber harvests according to the City's Forest Stewardship Management Plans and the guidelines of the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program. To date, Crystal Lake Reservoir, Perley Brook Reservoir, and Cowee Pond Reservoir have all had some of their area harvested. Approximately 186 acres of these areas have been harvested for timber.

Since the last OSRP, the City has been actively engaged in the management of public shade trees. Please refer to Section F within this Environmental Inventory and Analysis section for more details about the City's shade tree inventory efforts.

D. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Gardner's many open spaces, forests, wetlands, lakes, ponds, rivers, brooks, and streams provide ideal habitat for a wide variety of fish and wildlife.

It is not uncommon to find deer, bear, moose, otter, weasels, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, beaver, muskrat, skunks, possums, porcupines, or any other common mammal inhabiting this area. The forests, fields, wetlands, and considerable edge-land habitats occurring along their interfaces also provide habitat for a great many different species of birds, owls, hawks, and waterfowl. It is not uncommon to view, red tail hawks, woodland hawks, osprey, bald eagles, loons, wood ducks, and all other common

varieties of avian species. In particular, owls seem to gravitate to the area probably as a result of the substantial matrix of habitat types found within a small area providing a complex of edge, open space, and forest, and presumably affording abundant forage prey and ideal hunting conditions. Open areas like Crystal Lake Cemetery, the Otter River Conservation Area, and the North Central Pathway bike trail provide many wildlife viewing opportunities.

Popular game species can also be found in Gardner's woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife management areas. Hunting opportunities exist for ruffed grouse, woodcock, turkey, deer, bear, rabbit, hare, fox, raccoon, and ring-necked pheasant. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife manages the High Ridge Wildlife Management Area for upland bird hunting and stocks pheasant annually. Local sporting clubs also release populations of some of these game species annually on their lands.

The forests, wetlands, and waterways of Gardner also support numerous amphibians and reptiles such as salamanders, newts, snakes, and turtles.

Fishing opportunities are also prevalent and worthy in Gardner. Wright's Reservoir and Lake Wampanoag, two of the largest water bodies in Gardner, sustain good warm water fish populations and have been known to produce trophy bass. Warm-water fish populations in Gardner's ponds include large-mouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), chain pickerel (*Esox niger*), pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*), bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*), American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*), and white sucker (*Catostomus commersonii*). The many different ponds, which are easily accessible, provide good recreational fishing opportunities.

Cold-water fisheries also exist within Gardner. For instance, Perley Brook Reservoir, another large body of water and back-up reservoir, is a cold-water resource that supports healthy populations of stocked and native trout. The network of trails around the reservoir provides great access for fishing and the cold-water springs and feeder streams allow for hold-over trout, increasing the chances of a nice catch. Dunn Pond, Kendall Pond, Bailey Brook, and Hubbardston Brook have suitable cold-water conditions and access to allow stocking of trout.

The Otter River also receives trout stockings. The entire river is a catch and release stream. The tea-stained water characteristic of this river is a result of the high mineral content of the drainage area.

The many wetlands, swamps, and streams associated with these water bodies provide ideal habitat for muskrat, beaver, mink, skunk and a variety of waterfowl.

Substantial and significant wildlife corridors exist throughout the City as a result of protected lands, protected water supplies and their associated forested watersheds, unprotected forested lands, stream corridors and their riparian zones, and associated bordering vegetated wetlands. In general, most of these corridors follow stream systems and their riparian buffer zones. While many such corridors exist, some are limited and bisected by road crossings and developed areas. Several of these corridors

end abruptly where they are bisected by the Route 2 corridor. Specifically, Pond Brook, Foster, and Mahoney Brooks as well as the Otter River and their associated wetlands, provide lengthy intact corridors on both the north and south sides of Route 2 but are not connected by adequate pathways or crossings where Route 2 bisects their associated stream corridors. Currently, the existing culverts are not designed to current stream crossing standards. Implementation of stream crossing best management practices to meet current standards within these areas could provide substantial benefits to wildlife and fisheries resources that would have a regional impact.

E. SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

There are no landscapes located in Gardner listed in the Massachusetts Landscape Inventory as significant features recognized by the State. However, the Landscape Inventory does list nearby Wachusett Mountain as a significant feature which is visible from many areas in Gardner. Preservation of views from the City to Wachusett Mountain should be a priority for City planners.

Another significant land area in the region is the High Ridge Wildlife Management Area consisting of 2,018 acres located in the towns of Ashburnham and Westminster as well as Gardner. The High Ridge Wildlife Management area occupies 2,018 acres of variable terrain ranging from steeply sloping hillsides to nearly level fields and marches. There are several parking sites within the area. There are a number of small, cold-water streams within the area as well as some marsh habitat. Vegetation includes mixed hardwoods interspersed with agricultural and brushy fields.

Major Characteristic or Unusual Geologic Features

In addition to NHESP and BioMap2 features, Map 8 Unique Features is attached in Appendix A and identifies two types of land areas that offer unique features. The first area of uniqueness is the Gardner Esker, partially located on land owned by the City. The Cummings Conservation Area now has a provided walking trail with signage to access a portion of the esker, with a trailhead off of Bridge Street. Unfortunately, the east/west trunk line of the Pan Am Railways bisects the esker. The City would like to continue to explore options for this area.

The second area of uniqueness is acidic bogs and peatlands. Quag Pond is a highly acidic bog where the parasite Dwarf Mistletoe dominates. Dwarf Mistletoe is a threatened species.

The unnamed Level Bog and Kettlehole Level Bog are both considered to be of good quality, although the Kettlehole Bog is poorly buffered. All three bogs are relatively remote with no formal access.

The Acidic Shrub is an acidic peatland fern which is in fair condition, although degraded by its lack of buffer to development.

Cultural, Archeological and Historic Features

Map 8 Unique Features in Appendix A also depicts Gardner's two registered Historic Districts. West Gardner Square Historic District encompasses the current civic and commercial center of the City and significant areas that once accommodated Gardner's furniture industry. The most significant buildings in the district include the Gardner News Building, the Heywood-Wakefield Company Complex, and City Hall. The district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

The Gardner Uptown Historic District encompasses the former civic heart of the City. The 65-acre (26 ha) area includes the old town common, an early cemetery, and a modest number of non-residential buildings among a larger number of houses. The area was the center of civic life from the incorporation of Gardner in 1785 until municipal functions were moved to West Gardner beginning in the late 1920s. The district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

In 1978, the Gardner Museum was established in the Levi Heywood Memorial Library building. Since the Museum building's completion in 1886, it has remained as one of the finest extant examples of Richardson Romanesque architecture in the City. The building is detailed with stained glass windows and numerous decorative plaques. Gardner was known as the "Chair City of the World;" therefore, the shape of a chair was incorporated into the center front façade of the building. Interior features include three ornate brick and stone fireplaces and well-preserved oak moldings. The Gardner Museum was individually placed on the National Register of Historic Places and is in the Gardner Uptown National Register Historic District.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Brownfields

Gardner's economy has been based on manufacturing since the City was first settled in the late 1700's. By the mid-1800's the economy was dominated by 15 major furniture manufacturers and became known as the "Chair City Capital of the World". Today, the few surviving large mill buildings that once accommodated furniture manufacturing now serve a variety of uses, including retail furniture outlets, offices and apartments and an assisted living facility.

According to the latest information from the MA DEP, and the City's own records, there are over 100 Brownfield sites located in the City of Gardner ranging in size from under one acre to over 30 acres. The majority of these are located within the central downtown area, the historic city center, and many others are spread throughout the City, in many cases surrounded by residential neighborhoods, and located adjacent to waterways. In fact, most residential neighborhoods are directly adjacent to the mills where the residents once worked, along with the City's schools, churches, playgrounds, and stores.

The City of Gardner has an established track record of successfully using United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MA DEP funds for site assessment and remediation projects. Funds have been accessed either directly through grant awards to the City, or by intermediaries, such as the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission's (MRPC) site assessment funds. The City has also accessed resources from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Brownfields Initiative, and MassDevelopment's Brownfield Fund for assessment and cleanup activities.

Ground/Surface Water Protection

A very different challenge exists on the 2,733.50 City-owned acres of permanently protected, forested land much of which is located within the Crystal Lake watershed, the City's primary source of drinking water. These areas have numerous informal trails and are used for hunting, fishing (not in Crystal Lake), hiking and snowmobiling. Monitoring this usage is inadequate because of budget and staff limitations in the DPW and Conservation Commission.

Landfills

The City Landfill located on West Street was closed in 2005 and the cap was completed in 2007. The site is still used as a transfer station. The City also maintains a sludge landfill for the City's Waste Water Treatment Facility. The sludge landfill is approaching capacity and the City is currently in the permitting stage of a planned expansion of the landfill to extend the useful life of the facility.

Erosion/Chronic Flooding

The City has a very active and involved Conservation Commission which enables the City to deal quickly with any erosion and flooding issues. There are very few chronic flooding or erosion problems in the City. However, one exception is the Elm Street drainage system which is over capacity and undersized. Frequent flooding and surface flow occurs within this area during periods of heavy rains. Recently the City has made improvements to this system and will continue to monitor conditions. In general, the abundance of wetland areas throughout the City provides large amounts of natural storage, thus reducing flood dangers downstream.

The City maintains 8 dams and performs vegetation management in accordance with the office of dam safety and the US Army Corps of Engineers. This has not caused any flooding issues. There are no sites having significant erosion potential and no recent erosion problems have been identified. In terms of flooding, Pond Brook floods a culvert and overtops John Street during substantial rain events. To prepare, the City often closes down this infrequently used road during such events.

Development Impact

As seen in Section 3, Table 3-3 Building Permits issued, single family homes increased from the last OSRP. Of the approved residential developments, Wilder Brook has

primarily been built out and nearly close to completion. Sapphire Park continues to be an active construction site with many units added since that last OSRP update. The City does not have additional active developments at the moment.

Forestry

As part of the Forest Stewardship Program, the City is committed to promoting ecologically responsible resource management by maintaining healthy forests. We have up to date forestry management plans which can be viewed under "Completed" in the Forest Stewardship Plans section at the bottom of the page on the City's website here: <https://www.gardner-ma.gov/174/Forest-Stewardship-Program>.

The City began the Forestry Stewardship Program in June 2011 and developed plans for five locations: Cowee Pond, Perley Brook, Crystal Lake, Snake Pond, and Wildwood which can be seen on Map 16 Action Plan, in Appendix A. A forestry consultant has performed selective cuttings at Perley Brook, Crystal Lake, and Cowee Pond. The 88-acres of Perley Brook have been harvested, and the vista of the lake was pruned for a clear view at Crystal Lake.

Sedimentation

As with many ponds in the Northeast, the City has issues with sedimentation and excessive aquatic plant growth in many of our ponds. Of the many shallow ponds, Parkers Pond has had a study done to analyze the contaminants contributing to the sedimentation problems. There is also a stormwater management program plan, which the City obtained coverage for under the 2016 Massachusetts Small MS4 General permit on May 30, 2019, replacing the City's 2003 Small MS4 General Permit. This plan provides stormwater Best Management Practices to help improve the water quality.

Public Shade Trees

A Shade Tree Inventory was completed by the City in 2020 and documents and assesses the quantity and quality/condition of the City's shade trees. This could coincide with and complement the ongoing City Sidewalks Inventory.

Since the last OSRP, the City has been actively engaged in the management of public shade trees and developed its "Greening Gardner: Downtown Tree Inventory & Plan" in October 2020. The plan first inventoried existing street trees and quantified the benefits of those trees. Second, a strategic plan was created for increasing tree cover in the focus area, which is in the City's downtown and surrounding neighborhoods as these areas especially lack tree cover. The inventory and analysis of benefits revealed the following key findings:

- There are three hundred and sixty-four trees in the study area.
- The vast majority are near the street, but on private property. There are few street trees within the public right of way.

- Nearly four out of ten trees in the study area are Norway Maple trees.
- Gardner's downtown street trees provide almost \$75,000 in total annual benefits, or almost \$200 per tree each year.
- The majority of the benefits of street trees in the area come from reduced energy bills, and increased aesthetic/property values.

The strategic planning came to the following conclusions:

- Due to the existing build-out of streets, sidewalks and buildings in the study area, there are few "easy" locations for planting new street trees within the existing right of way.
- Despite the challenges of Gardner's built environment, there are ample opportunities to plant new trees in the study area. The potential location for new trees likely exceeds the City's capacity to plant new trees for the foreseeable future.
- Settings in which new trees can be planted include existing and new tree belts, medians, curb bump outs, tree pits and stormwater planters, parking lots, and on private property adjacent to the right of way (front yard trees).
- Of the potential planting locations, private property next to the right of way has the greatest potential. Planting in these locations will require cooperation from private property owners and thus public outreach is the crucial step for future tree planting efforts.
- In addition to planting new trees, Gardner can support its urban forest by incorporating consideration of trees into its ordinances and regulations, and ensuring adequate funding for tree planting and maintenance, including seeking grants and other funding sources.

The status and need for public shade trees within Environmental Justice neighborhoods should be considered as a priority.

SECTION 5 INVENTORY OF LANDS

A. OVERVIEW

For the purpose of this report, Open Space is defined as any substantially undeveloped property with conservation or recreation interest whether owned by a public entity, nonprofit, or private party. Property intended primarily for recreation, whether developed or undeveloped and whether or not it includes open space (e.g., Greenwood Pool) is included in the inventory.

Protected and unprotected properties are included and identified. A protected open space and recreation property has provision to reduce the risk of destruction or degradation on the property. Unprotected properties lack those provisions and are therefore more vulnerable to loss or conversion to non-open space and recreation uses.

- Properties can experience various degrees of protection and by several methods:
- Private lands can be protected in perpetuity or for a specified time through deed restrictions or conservation easements.
- Lands under special taxation programs (Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B) are actively managed by their owners for forestry, agricultural, horticultural, or recreational use. These lands have limited protection.
- Lands acquired for watershed and aquifer protection are usually permanently protected open space.
- Lands that have been identified and used by the City as open space and recreation for an extensive time frame are usually permanently protected open space.
- Public recreation and conservation lands may be permanently protected open space, provided they have been dedicated to such use by deed.
- Municipal properties may be protected via a City Council vote to acquire them as protected properties.
- Private, public, and non-profit conservation and recreation lands are protected under Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the State Constitution.

B. LANDS OF CONSERVATION INTEREST

The primary objective of this section is to consider all valuable open land and identify those parcels that are protected open space, and those that are not protected and therefore vulnerable to some type of development. The vulnerable open space parcels are then prioritized to direct future preservation activities by the City, State, and private conservation groups.

Table 5.1 contains a summary of all open space parcels. The open space parcels are

categorized according to each parcel's level of protection: permanent, limited (time restricted or municipal, state, or nonprofit with no permanent protection), and not protected.

Table 5-1 – Summary of Open Space

	Number of Parcels	Size (Acres)
Permanently Protected		
Municipal	95	2,733.50
State	12	1,080.60
Non-Profit / Trust	107	397.60
Private (Conservation Restriction)	10	565.90
<i>Subtotal</i>	224	4,777.60
Limited Protection		
Chapter 61 Forest	1	41.10
Chapter 61A Agriculture	10	322.30
Chapter 61B Recreation	12	502
Other (Municipal, State, Non-Profit, Trust)	26	863.80
<i>Subtotal</i>	49	1,729.20
Total Acres of Land Having Some Level of Protection	273	6,506.80
Not Protected (Undeveloped Lands)	99	1,980.60
Total	372	8,487.40
Total Acres of Land in Gardner		14,728.30
% Open Space		57.66%
% Permanently Protected Open Space		32.47%
% Open Space Having Limited Protection		11.74%
% Open Space Having No Protection		13.44%

Table 1 in Appendix B contains the complete Open Space Inventory listing ownership, management entity or second owner, purpose (current use), zoning and level of protection for each of the 416 (103 of which make up the Keyes Road Subdivision) parcels. Map 11 Level of Protection is attached in Appendix A depicts all open space parcels and the level of protection for each parcel. Map 12 Open Space - Ownership is attached in Appendix A and depicts all permanently protected parcels by the ownership type (Land Trust, Municipal, Private, and State).

The process used to define an open space parcel for the purpose of this plan and to generate the inventory of 416 open space parcels is as follows:

Open Space Inventory:

1. Begin with the current record of the Assessor's database and the City's updated GIS parcel layer as well as the MASS GIS open space layer.
2. Identify Chapter 61 parcels and Open Space/Recreation parcels by DOR use code. Add any parcel with a Conservation Restriction (Gardner has only one).
3. Identify any remaining parcels of open, undeveloped land (parcels with no structures on them) and exclude parcels less than 5 acres in size.
4. Sort the resulting list by Assessor's land use code to exclude industrial, commercial, and other non-appropriate properties with discretion.
5. Assign protection levels: permanent, limited (time restricted or municipal, state or club owned and not otherwise protected) and not protected.
6. Review parcels of less than 5 acres removed in step 3 and add back to the inventory if special circumstances make the parcel desirable open space vulnerable to development.

The next steps identified which of the 416 open space parcels are a priority and then ranks each priority parcel to focus future preservation efforts. The process used to prioritize open space parcels for future preservation activities is described below.

Prioritizing Lands of Interest:

1. Remove parcels from the Open Space Inventory that are permanently protected or have a conservation restriction.
2. Remove parcels from the Open Space Inventory with limited protection.
3. Rate the remaining parcels according to the following criteria: located within a watershed protection district; adjacent to the Otter River; adjacent to Chapter 61 parcels or permanently protected open space; adjacent to other open space parcels identified in the Inventory; and identified on the MassGIS BioMap2.
4. Remove parcels of less than 10 acres that do not meet at least two of the criteria in step 3.
5. Review the less than 5 acres list (item 6 above) to extract and include as open space selected desirable parcels per criteria in item 3.

6. Remove parcels known to be inappropriate for open space. For example, properties owned by utility companies and properties with subdivision or special permit approvals.

This process reduced list to 58 open space parcels that were then ranked using the following criteria:

- Priority Rank 1 — greater than 50 acres and adjacent to protected open space.
- Priority Rank 2 — greater than 50 acres.
- Priority Rank 3 — adjacent to protected open space.
- Priority Rank 4 — in watershed or BioMap2 or adjacent to Otter River.
- Priority Rank 5 — remaining parcels.

The priority rankings were then adjusted to emphasize connected areas or corridors. If a cluster of properties had mostly 2 and 3 rankings, then they area was treated as a whole and assigned the value of the highest priority.

Table 5-2 contains a list of the 19 open space parcels categorized as priority 1 and 2 for future preservation activities.

Table 5-2 – Priority 1 and 2 Properties

Street Address	Parcel ID	Acres	Water Supply	Otter River	Adjacent	BIOMAP	Priority Rank
RAYMOND ST	W42-9-22	86.75			OS	X	1
PEARL ST	W37-24-5	74.14			OS, CH61	X	1
HOWARD ST	H42-21-21C	14.65					1
CLARK ST	H42-21-2B	13.60					1
STONE ST & EATON ST	R47-12-B	62.00	X			X	1
CLARK ST	H37-12-32	11.29	X		OS		1
RIVERSIDE RD	H22-2-3	62.73		X	OS, CH61		1
MATTHEWS ST	W37-17-2	50.4	X		OS, CH61	X	1
LOVEWELL ST	R07-3-11	127.5			OS, CH61	X	2
GREEN ST	M42-8-8	31.5			OS, CH61	X	2
COLEMAN ST	H22-15-37	50.81		X			2

Street Address	Parcel ID	Acres	Water Supply	Otter River	Adjacent	BIOMAP	Priority Rank
WEST ST	H32-17-11	145.51			CH61		2
BETTY SPRING RD	X22-22-4A	10.31					2
BETTY SPRING RD	W22-20-26	68.72					2
WILLIS RD	W27-25-5	27.13					2
WEST ST	H32-11-9	21.97					2
OTTER RIVER RD	C37-9-23	32.62					2
OTTER RIVER RD	C37-18-31	23.47					2
OTTER RIVER RD	C37-19-19	48.77					2
OTTER RIVER RD	C37-20-20	27.19					2
CHAPEL ST	X22-2-9	11.80					2
CLARK ST	H37-16-1	44.89			CH61		2

Table 2 in Appendix B contains the entire list of the 58 parcels of interest ranked according to the above criteria. Map 13 Priority Ranking is attached in Appendix A and depicts all 58 ranked parcels of interest.

Table 5-3 contains the list of the 23 Chapter 61 properties.

Table 5-3 – Chapter 61 Parcels

PID	Address	Acres	Type	Owner
W37-17-2	MATTHEWS ST	50.43	61	KYMALAINEN THOMAS J & ALICE M TRSTES
W12-4-3	PARTRIDGE ST	50.00	61	SHUFFLETON BLANCHE E
W17-17-9	81 PARTRIDGE ST	94.21	61A	ANDERSON AUGUST P & SHERRY C TRSTES
R07-7-1	386 WHITNEY ST	23.38	61A	ANDERSON PAUL H & GAIL A
R07-23-14B	426 LOVEWELL ST	5.85	61A	BARRETT JAMES A & JOANNE M
W27-14-1	SMITH ST	8.00	61A	CROTEAU RUSSELL R & MARY A
M42-8-8	GREEN ST	31.50	61A	GUERTIN ANDRE E & SUZANNE G
R07-12-4	402 WHITNEY ST	25.00	61A	HALLOCK PETER E & JAYNE
H32-5-17	CLARK ST	27.90	61B	GARDNER FISH & GUN CLUB

PID	Address	Acres	Type	Owner
M12-4-17	SAWYER ST	43.82	61B	BALDUCCI MARIO
R12-19-39	102 LOVEWELL ST	26.77	61B	BAZYDLO TODD H
M22-19-1	HARVARD ST	10.63	61B	BORIS REALTY TRUST
H42-17-2E	61 HOWARD ST	13.75	61B	BOUCHER EUGENE J & CRYSTAL L
R07-3-11	LOVEWELL ST	127.49	61B	DUBZINSKI WJ JR & FISHER DANA M TRSTS
R07-12-1	443 WHITNEY ST	53.00	61A	CROTEAU FRANCIS, TRUSTEE
W02-1-4	778 WHITNEY ST	25.51	61	GEMBORYS, BRIAN P
W02-1-5	804 WHITNEY ST	1.50	61	GEMBORYS, BRIAN P
W07-13-6	WHITNEY ST	30.00	61B	GARDNER RABBIT CLUB INC
H32-5-17	CLARK ST	27.90	61B	GARDNER FISH & GUN CLUB
H37-23-1A	CLARK ST	14.00	61B	GARDNER FISH & GUN CLUB
H37-23-34	CLARK ST	10.00	61B	GARDNER FISH & GUN CLUB
W27-4-4	48 CHAPEL ST	25.70	61B	HUNTER GLADYS SL/E
H27-7-2	500 NOTRE DAME RD	69.10	61B	ROUSSEAU ALAN

Map 14 Chapter 61 Lands is attached in Appendix A and depicts all 23 parcels covered by the provisions of Chapter 61.

Chapter 61 properties are listed separately from other open space properties because of ‘right of first refusal’ provision that gives the City more control over the future development of the properties. The City has a track record of exercising Chapter 61 ‘right of first refusal’ provision or assigning that right to a conservation organization. A separate listing of the Chapter 61 properties helps to highlight properties that should be considered for permanent bases if they become available. Parcel W37-17-2 will no longer be identified as a Chapter 61 property by fiscal year 2024.

C. LANDS OF RECREATION INTEREST

Municipal, State-owned, and privately-owned public recreational facilities are listed in Table 5-4.

Table 5-4-Recreational Facilities

Facility	Ac.	Main Activities	Responsible Entity	EJ Area	Condition
Municipal					
Jackson Playground	8.1	Ballfield, Basketball, Tot Lot, and skate park	DPW	Yes	Good
Greenwood Playground	3.6	Ballfield, Basketball, Tot Lot, and paved walking path	DPW	Yes	Good
Bailey Brook Park	37	Improved trails, Wetland Overlook, and Accessible Trail	DPW	No	Good
Bailey Brook Conservation Area	37	Trails	ConCom	No	Good
Ovila Case Playground	7.7	Ballfield, Tennis, Tot Lot, Barbecue Grills, and hard packed walking path	DPW	Yes	Excellent
Stedman Ballfield	3.0	Ballfield, Fitness Station	School Dept.	Yes	Good
Pulaski Playground	4.4	Basketball, 2 Tot Lots, and paved walking path, dog park	DPW	Yes	Good
Bickford Playground	3.9	Ballfield, Basketball, Volleyball, Tot Lot, 2 picnic tables and hard packed walking path.	DPW	Yes	Good
Volney Howe Park	0.04	Outdoor seating	Parks and Rec, DPW	Yes	Good
Otter River Conservation Area	60.5	Fishing, car-top boat launch site, hiking	ConCom	No	Unimproved trails
Cummings Conservation Area	122.0	Hiking, fishing, and hunting	ConCom	No	Unimproved trails
Gardner City Forest	2,009.0	Hiking, hunting, fishing, and water supply protection	DPW	No	Unimproved trails
North Central Pathway	5.0	Paved walking/biking path	North Central Pathway Comm & DPW	Yes	Good
Monument Park	1.0	Outdoor movies and concerts	DPW	Yes	Excellent

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Ac.</i>	<i>Main Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Entity</i>	<i>EJ Area</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Municipal					
Golf Municipal Course	166.0	18-hole golf course, pro shop, and restaurant/club house	Municipal Golf Course Commission	Yes	Good
Municipal Driving Range	66.0	12 teeing stations	Municipal Golf Course Commission	Yes	Good
Greenwood Outdoor Pool	3.0	Swimming	City	Abutting	Good
Wilder Field	7.5	Ballfields	DPW	Yes	Poor (wet)
Bullnose Park	0.05	Outdoor seating	Parks and Rec, DPW	Yes	Good
Stone Field	5.3	Sports field	School Dept.	Yes	Good
Perley Brook	764.5	Outdoor recreation, trails, biking, cross country skiing, hiking, fishing, and water supply protection	DPW	No	Good
Westminster State Park (North-East Gardner)	45.0	Trails for hiking, biking	Commonwealth of Mass	Yes	Good
Alisaukas	204.2	Passive recreation	ConCom	No	Good
Watkins Field	5.3	High school athletic field, football, soccer, field hockey	School Dept.	Yes	Excellent

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Ac.</i>	<i>Main Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Entity</i>	<i>EJ Area</i>	<i>Condition</i>
State					
Mount Wachusett Comm. College	272.0	Swimming, tennis, health & wellness center, athletic fields	MWCC	Yes	Excellent
Veterans Skating Rink	4.5	Ice Skating	DCR	Yes	Good
Dunn Park	116.0	Swimming, hiking, picnicking, tot lot	DCR	Yes	Excellent
High Ridge Wildlife Area	1,012.0	Hunting and hiking	Fish & Wildlife	Yes	Unimproved trails
Mass Audubon Society	325.8	Passive Recreation	Commonwealth of Mass	Yes	Good

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Ac.</i>	<i>Main Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Entity</i>	<i>EJ Area</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Private					
Rome Conservation Area	175.0	Hunting and hiking	North County Land Trust	No	Nature trails
Lake Wampanoag Wildlife Sanctuary	368.0	Hiking	Audubon Society	Yes	Nature trails
Camp Collier	101.3	Camping, fishing, and hiking	Monadnock Trust	Yes	Poor
Gardner Fish & Gun Club	146.9	Hunting, Fishing, and Trap Shooting	Gardner Fish & Gun Club	No	Good
Westend Beagle Club	47.7	Hunting and Fishing	Westend Beagle Club	No	Good
Gardner Rabbit Club	42.4	Hunting	Gardner Rabbit Club	Yes	Good
Sam Atter Field	2.69	Little League Field	Little League Field	Yes	Good

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Ac.</i>	<i>Main Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Entity</i>	<i>EJ Area</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Cemeteries					
St. Joseph's Cemetery	36.0	Cemetery	Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester	No	Good
Wildwood Cemetery	186.0	Cemetery	Cemetery Comm, DPW	No	Good
St. John Cemetery	44.0	Cemetery	Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester	No	Good
Greenbower Cemetery	9.0	Cemetery	Cemetery Comm, DPW	Yes	Good
Crystal Lake Cemetery and Park	21.0	Cemetery	Cemetery Comm, DPW	Yes	Good
Notre Dame Cemetery	28.0	Cemetery	Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester	No	Good

The City significantly increased efforts to improve the conditions of its five playgrounds since 2015. In addition, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

and City funded updates to municipal park projects including Stedman Ballfield, and construction of the 37-acre Bailey Brook Conservation Area and Park. The west side (conservation area) will remain in its current state as open space in perpetuity, while the east side will be used recreationally, providing the public access to improved walking and biking trails, a wetland overlook, accessible trail access, and recreational facilities for all ages. As of 2023, Stedman Ballfield also has a new outdoor fitness station as well.

Map 15 Open Space and Recreation in Appendix A and depicts the facilities listed in Table 5-4.

D. PARK AND OPEN SPACE EQUITY

As noted in Table 5-4, all five of the City's playgrounds are located within an Environmental Justice (EJ) area. Pulaski, Greenwood, and more recently Bickford playgrounds are 100% ADA compliant. The City's other two playgrounds are not 100% ADA compliant.

Site access and accessibility to people with disabilities for all municipally owned conservation and recreation facilities are detailed in Appendix E, Table 1 - ADA Inventory Summary of Municipal Playgrounds.

Due to adequate inventory and location of existing playgrounds throughout the City, the Action Plan proposes only upgrades to existing playgrounds including the newest facility (Bailey Brook Park) located in West Gardner. Northwest Gardner is not an EJ area. Improvements continue to be made to all playground areas as needed. A number of pocket parks have either been built, Orpheum Park, or are being proposed, Maki Park, and a new park along Rear Main Street / Derby Drive. All are in EJ areas.

SECTION 6 COMMUNITY VISION

A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

In April 2022, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee met to initiate the work of updating the 2015 plan. The Committee members represented the following:

- Conservation Commission
- Planning Board
- Municipal Grounds Commission
- Dept. of Community Development & Planning
- Engineering/Survey Dept.
- North County Land Trust

The Committee met six (6) times between April and January. Two public forums were held on August 11, 2022 and March 1, 2023 as listed in Table 6-1. A citizen-based survey consisting of thirty-seven (37) questions that focused on the types of recreational activities and open space priorities that respondents believe to be important. There was direct mail outreach to identified Environmental Justice populations, and the questionnaire was made available on the City's website and at the public library, City Hall, Senior Center and Senior Housing projects. Two hundred and forty (240) online surveys were completed.

Other means of outreach included announcements at the City Council televised meetings; a request for comments in the North County Land Trust's monthly newsletter; and postings on several widely followed Facebook pages including the Facebook page of Mayor Michael Nicholson.

Lastly, formal presentations were made at a City of Gardner Planning Board meeting, of which the Conservation Commission and City Council were invited. The Public meetings were videotaped and aired on the local cable network. The City Council meeting was broadcast live and rerun several times on the local cable network. The complete meeting schedule is listed in Table 6-1. All meetings were videotaped and shown on either the local cable network and the City YouTube station, or both.

Table 6-1- Meeting and Presentations

Event	Date
First Committee Meeting	4/24/2022
Committee Meeting	5/12/2022
Committee Meeting	5/25/2022
Committee Meeting	6/16/2022
Public Meeting	8/11/2022
Committee Meeting	12/8/2022
Committee Meeting	1/19/2023
Committee Meeting	1/31/2023
Committee Meeting	3/29/2023
Planning Board/City Council/Conservation Commission Presentation Public Hearing	4/13/2023

B. STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

The overall purpose of the 2022 - 2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is to provide Gardner's residents with a diverse system of interconnected open space areas and quality recreational opportunities that protect natural resources, promote public health, and enhance the quality of life. Enhancing the quality of life in a community maintains a careful balance between equity, environment, and economy.

More specifically, the goals of this plan are:

- Protect and improve the quality of existing open spaces, parks, and recreational opportunities;
- Selective expansion of open spaces, parks, and recreational opportunities;
- Protect water resources and improve water quality;
- Accommodate new growth where the environment can best support it; and
- Increase public awareness and stewardship of the City's water resources, forests, parks, and conservation areas.

SECTION 7 ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

The OSRP Committee, with help from various City staff and through the public input process, determined the most urgent resource protection, community, and management needs. This revised plan identifies several specific needs which are consistent with the targeted needs recognized by the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):

- Increase the availability of all types of trails for recreation;
- Increase the availability of water-based recreation;
- Invest in recreation and conservation areas that are close to home for short visits; and
- Invest in racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhoods given their projected increase in participation in outdoor recreation.

The Goals and Objectives and subsequent Action Plan items of this report reflect these consistencies and illustrate our plan for addressing them to meet the needs of Gardner and the statewide needs outlined by the Massachusetts SCORP.

A. SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS

The City has a large surface water supply (Crystal Lake) and a groundwater supply well (Snake Pond). In addition, there is Perley Brook, a secondary surface water supply to Crystal Lake. Much of the land has been protected adjacent to these areas, but the protection of additional lands will lend to enhancement of water supply protection.

Some of the more recent open space acquisitions have been in the western part of the City adjacent to the Otter River Watershed. The Otter River provides habitat to a variety of wildlife and provides recreational opportunities, and this river ultimately feeds into the Long Island sound. The goal is to protect additional open space to expand large blocks of existing preserved lands.

In the northwest portion of Gardner, the O'Mealia Property and Alisauskas property are the City's most recent acquisitions. In addition, Bailey Brook Park was granted conservation protections.

There is a need for improved stormwater management to assist with protecting our ground and surface water supplies, wildlife habitats, and preserving open space for future generations. The City has been classified by the US EPA MS4 and is required to protect water quality.

The City is in the process of implementing their Forestry Stewardship programs which

covers approximately 75% of City-owned open space. These plans were developed in 2010 and since implementation, approximately 186 acres in three separate forestry management areas have been harvested.

Copies of the five Stewardship Plans and an Outreach Plan are available on the City's website: <https://www.gardner-ma.gov/174/Forest-Stewardship-Program>.

B. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

The results of the community survey yielded a need for improving children's play areas, improvements to City sidewalks, and an increase in natural conservation areas. Meeting these needs is directly in line with several of the major goals outlined in the Massachusetts SCORP.

In general, the community would benefit from improved public access to waterways, additional conservation areas, enhancements to conservation and recreation areas and their associated amenities, improved visibility, security features and exterior lighting within playgrounds and along pathways, improved trails, and improved access, promotion, and signage of City-owned conservation areas and open space lands.

Improvements to pedestrian mobility throughout the City, and especially to schools, were identified as a top community need. The City has pursued some improvements to sidewalks and rail trails through grant writing and will continue to identify and pursue these opportunities. Through these grant funds, the City has been able to replace approximately 9.76 miles (51,525 feet) of sidewalks in the last decade, with the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods being the primary target area. The improvements of sidewalks and additional pathways would benefit the entire community and provide connections between neighborhoods, central business district, educational institutions, and recreational areas. The City continues planning for the extension of the North Central Pathway Rail Trail, which will provide a valuable shared-use pathway that can be used by all ages. Improvements to sidewalks and increased plantings of public shade trees within the City's Environmental Justice areas would have a substantial impact on addressing community needs within those areas.

Gardner has improved its entire playground infrastructure over the last several years and as part of the improvements, has addressed the needs of special populations. Three parks (Ovila Case, Bickford, and Polaski) have had walking paths added which are popular with young families and the elderly population. These paths also meet ADA requirements for wheelchair accessibility. Most recently, accessible play areas with equipment have been installed at Bickford Playground.

Greenwood Pool, the City's only public outdoor pool, has undergone renovations that has improved the facility and added a lift to the pool which enables handicap access into the water. The City has plans to demolish the indoor pool and building, due to the deteriorating conditions, and instead utilize the site for other recreational purposes that enhance the existing outdoor pool amenities and provide other community

services. One plan the City hopes to obtain funding for and build within the upcoming years as a part of the reuse plan for the indoor pool site, is an outdoor ice skating rink, which will be incorporated into a new pavilion at the site.

The City plans on constructing many additional parking spaces (including handicap parking) for the downtown central business district in 2023. There are several large apartment complexes in the downtown area that house elderly populations, so the City is working to assist this population with improvements such as signage, improved sidewalks, handicap ramps, and handicapped parking spots. In addition, the City will generate a municipal parking map that will be posted downtown to inform the public of their parking options.

A topic that was widely discussed at the start of the last OSRP's approval was the community need for a skate park. During the design process, the City requested formal ideas from students in the school system and incorporated many of the ideas into the design, which was finalized at the beginning of Fall 2015. The skatepark has since been completed in 2017 at Jackson Playground and has been a benefit to the young children and teenagers of the community.

Recreation Areas

The survey results indicated that more than half the community is satisfied or very satisfied by the amount of park and recreation areas, and nearly half of respondents indicated a desire for more open space. Many feel that improvements need to be made to existing recreational areas. Of the improvements to open space and recreation areas, the focus was specifically on young children while the least important areas were for hunting and fishing, farmlands, and historic preservation (see questions 2 - 9 of the survey in Appendix F). When asked what top three facilities were needed in Gardner (question 11 Appendix F), the responses were the additional opportunities for Children's Play (35.6%), improvements to Greenwood Outdoor Pool (30.7%), improved City Sidewalks (40.0%) and additional neighborhood parks and conservation lands.

Many comments received focused on improving/maintaining existing facilities rather than on development or acquisition of new facilities.

Sidewalks

The City has a significant amount of sidewalks which can be seen in Map 5 of Appendix A and almost 88% of respondents indicated that they considered availability of sidewalks for mobility and recreation important (question 14 Appendix F). The City has a Complete Streets plan and is implementing a sidewalk prioritization program. Several sidewalks in downtown Gardner have been recently updated during street improvement projects. Between 2015 and 2022, the City has improved or constructed 9 miles of sidewalks.

Tax Base

The City's residential tax base has been in a decline since 2008 while the commercial and industrial tax base has been in a slight incline. The residents of Gardner are still dealing with the financial implications of the economic downturn, so the goal is to reduce pressure on residential property taxes by expanding the commercial and industrial tax base. There are several available lots in commercial and industrial zones including the Summit Industrial Park and the Mill Street Urban Renewal area.

In addition to property taxes, it is equally important to hold water and sewer fees to levels necessary to meet ever increasing quality standards and to maintain maintenance programs.

Funding for Land Protection

There are a variety of potential funding sources for open space acquisition. The community indicated that they were willing to pay an increase in taxes for additional recreational opportunities and the implementation of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) may help to achieve this. Residents should be given the opportunity to vote for or against adoption of the CPA to provide additional financial support to preserve Open Space and develop outdoor recreational facilities. Additional funds may come from DEM trail grants, land trust purchases, negotiation of easements or other sources.

C. SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT NEEDS

In order to effectively implement the OSRP, the City needs to increase capacities to manage and maintain water resources, forests, parks, conservation areas, and recreation facilities. The continued coordination between the City's Conservation Commission Agent, Community Development & Planning Department, Parks & Recreation Department, Public Works Department, and the Open Space and Recreation Committee is needed to achieve this. This will improve coordination among local groups, neighboring communities, and state agencies, and will help expand the funding opportunities to implement the OSRP.

There are also several aspects in the land management of conservation areas that would benefit from improvement. Many of the open space lands are in need of trail management and better signage. With constricted budgets and lack of staffing, these properties have been low on the priority listing for the City. Expanded funding and implementing a volunteer program could help tremendously with improving the conservation areas.

SECTION 8 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Reviewing Sections 6 and 7, the City compiled a list of goals and objectives to coordinate future actions to improve their open space and recreation facilities. The list below was developed and reviewed by the OSRP Committee and through consultation with City staff, with consideration of community input from the survey results as well as from the public meeting.

Goal One — Protect and improve the quality of existing open spaces, parks and recreational opportunities.

1. Continue aggressive maintenance program at parks and playgrounds.
2. Upgrade playground equipment, playing fields and walking tracks.
3. Improve management and coordination among departments and with local groups, surrounding communities and State agencies.
4. Work with Police Department to ensure that parks and playgrounds are family friendly and to curtail illegal activities.
5. Upgrade existing sidewalks and hiking trail networks.

Goal Two — Selective expansion of open spaces, parks and recreational opportunities:

1. Protect additional open space (refer to Table 5-1).
2. Include provisions for open spaces, parks and recreation in redevelopment plans for Brownfields.
3. Improve access to lakes, ponds and rivers.
4. Create outdoor recreational opportunities in West Gardner.
5. Expand outdoor facilities for young children.
6. Provide a place for dogs to run free without getting in trouble.

Goal Three — Protect water resources and improve water quality:

1. Improve storm water management.
2. Protect additional land in water supply protection districts.
3. Improve capacity to administer local wetland resource protection ordinance.
4. Improve water conservation.

Goal Four — Accommodate growth where the environment can best support it:

1. Concentrate growth in established neighborhoods.
2. Upgrade existing municipal infrastructure.
3. Continue implementation of Gardner's Urban Renewal Plans.

Goal Five — Increase public awareness, use and stewardship of the City's water resources, forests, parks, conservation areas and recreational opportunities:

1. Promote use and stewardship of local natural resources and the health benefits of using recreation facilities.
2. Conduct a public shade tree inventory
3. Promote family friendly parks.
4. Promote universally accessible facilities.
5. Conduct public meetings and site visits.
6. Improve management and coordination among Departments and with local groups, surrounding communities and State agencies.

Goal Six — Expand multi-modal connectivity by improving bicycle and pedestrian paths, trails, and sidewalks.

1. Continue improvements to the City's bike lane & path network.
2. Continue sidewalk improvement program.

SECTION 9 SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Seven Year Action Plan contains a list of prioritized action items associated with each goal along with a timeframe for each. The projects and recommendations making up the action items were developed and prioritized by the OSRP Committee, City staff, and through public comment consideration. Some of the actions listed include projects and recommendations that have been in development for many years and were contained in previous OSRP's.

Each of the action items identify the responsible party(s) that will be critical to implementing and completing related tasks. Each of the action items also estimates the timeframe needed to implement the project or recommendation.

Funding is critical to the implementation of many of the action items, and the City will seek funding from a variety of sources – general City funds, grant awards, volunteer efforts, and private donations. It is difficult to identify specific funding sources for each of the action items, however, we have made an attempt to match each action item with applicable funding sources. The City has a long history of securing state grants for land conservation and recreation, and has recently made significant increases in the City budget for maintenance of parks and playgrounds. A list of these possible funding sources is listed in Appendix D.

Map 16 Action Plan is attached in Appendix A.

Acronyms of organizations potentially responsible for implementing action items:

Organizations		Funding	
CC	City Council	CF	City Funding
CE	City Engineer	P	Private
ConCom	Conservation Commission	NP	Non-Profit Donations
DCDP	Department of Community Development and Planning	GF	Grant Funds
DPW	Department of Public Works	PD	Private Donations
GPD	Gardner Police Department	VE	Volunteer Efforts
MRWC	Millers River Watershed Council	MRWC	Millers River Watershed Council
MRPC	Montachusett Regional Planning Commission		
PB	Planning Board		

GOAL 1 - Protect and improve the quality of existing open spaces, parks and recreational opportunities.

Goal	Responsible Party	Funding	Year						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Adequately staff DPW for maintenance of Parks and Playgrounds.</i>	DPW	CF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Continue implementation of Forest Stewardship Program.</i>	CE, ConCom	CF, VE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Upgrade the Equipment and Playing Fields at all playground facilities as needed.</i>	DPW , DCDP	CF, GF, VE, PD	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Prepare a reuse plan for the Greenwood Memorial Pool property.</i>	DCDP	GF, P, NP	•	•	•	•			
<i>Adopt Community Preservation Act (CPA).</i>	M, CC	N/A			•	•	•		
<i>Maintaining/replacing existing sidewalk infrastructure.</i>	DCDP, CE, DPW	CF, GF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

GOAL 2- Selective expansion of open spaces, parks and recreational opportunities.

Goal	Responsible Party	Funding	Year						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Support the Otter River Blue Trails Project.</i>	MRWC, ConCom	CF, VE, P, NP	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Complete the North Central Pathway.</i>	DCDP	GF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Continue to build out Bailey Brook Park in West Gardner.</i>	DCDP, M, CC	N/A	•	•	•	•			
<i>Update the 2018 Open Space Trails Inventory Report.</i>	DCDP, ConCom, MRPC	CF		•	•	•			
<i>Investigate promoting and improving public access to Lake Wampanoag.</i>	ConCom	N/A			•	•	•		
<i>Develop Multi-purpose Municipal park with Playground Equipment and athletic fields in West Gardner.</i>	DCDP, DPW	P, NP, CF, NP	•	•	•	•			
<i>Maintain and upgrade Off-Leash 'Dog Park' at Pulaski Playground.</i>	DPW	GF, VE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

GOAL 3 - Protect water resources and improve water quality.

Goal	Responsible Party	Funding	Year						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Continue upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Facility.</i>	CE, DPW	Sewer Enterprise	●	●	●	●			
<i>Continue Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Program.</i>	DPW, CE	Sewer Enterprise	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Continue Water System Maintenance and Replacement Programs.</i>	DPW, CE	Water Enterprise	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Continue Stormwater Management Program oversight.</i>	CE, DPW, ConCom	CF	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Identify and Protect Additional Land within the Water Supply Protection Districts.</i>	CE, M, ConCom	GF, CF	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Prepare a Wellhead and Surface Water Supply Protection Plan.</i>	DCDP, CE, DPW	Water Enterprise, CF				●	●	●	

GOAL 4 - Accommodate growth where the environment can best support it.

Goal	Responsible Party	Funding	Year						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Continued Priority on Maintenance and Replacement of Existing Municipal Infrastructure.</i>	Various	CF, GF	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Continue Use of Smart Growth Tools.</i>	PB	N/A	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Implement Projects Contained in Existing Urban Renewal Plans.</i>	Gardner Redevelopment Authority, DCDP	City funds, GRA funds, grant funds, private / non-profit donations	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

GOAL 5 - Increase public awareness, use and stewardship of the City's water resources, forests, parks, conservation areas, and recreational opportunities.

Goal	Responsible Party	Funding	Year						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Use City GIS and social media tools to improve public understanding of open space and conservation.</i>	GIS, CE	City funds	●	●					
<i>Improve Outreach and Educational Efforts.</i>	School Dept., ConCom	Volunteer efforts			●	●	●		
<i>Maintain and update the mapped water resources, City forests, parks, conservation areas, and other municipal recreation facilities.</i>	ConCom, GIS	City funds, grant funds, volunteer efforts	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

GOAL 6 - Expand multimodal connectivity by improving bicycle and pedestrian paths, trails and sidewalks.

Goal	Responsible Party	Funding	Year						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Create a bicycle and pedestrian multi-modal master plan.	MRPC, DPW, DCDP, ConCom	CF, GF	•	•					
Continue to implement the Complete Streets Plan.	DPW, DCDP	CF, GF	•	•	•	•	•		
Integrate multimodal improvements into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).	DPW, DCDP	CF, GF	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

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SECTION 10 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Letters of support from the Mayor, City Council, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, and DCS as well as the public survey questions and answers can be found in Appendix F.

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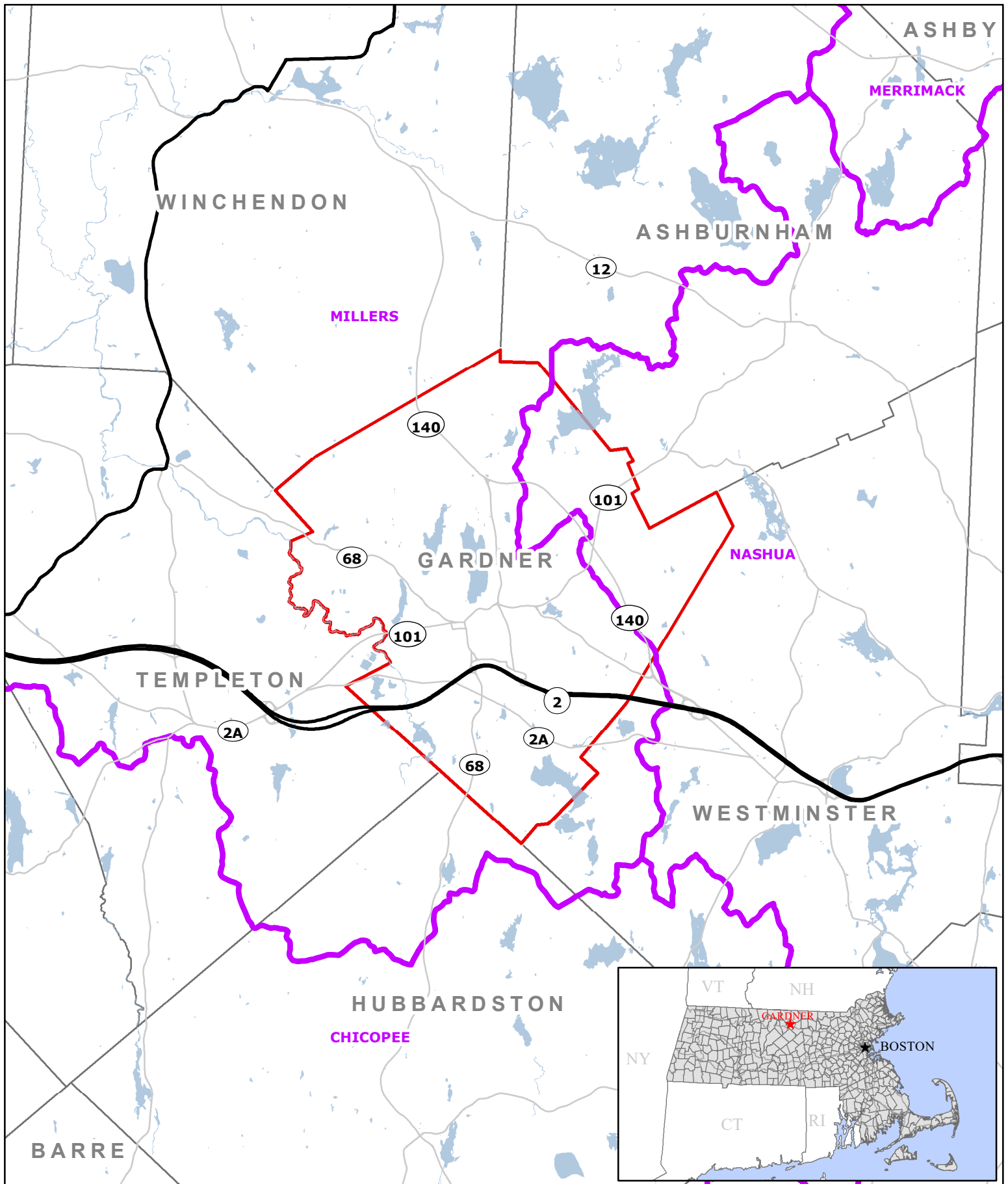
SECTION 11 REFERENCES

The following sources were used in the preparation of this Plan:

- Gardner Survey Department
- Gardner Assessing Department
- Gardner Department of Public Works
- Gardner Community Development and Planning
- City of Gardner Open Space and Recreation Plans (1994, 2000, 2006, and 2015)
- Various State of Massachusetts departmental websites: DEP, DCR, Department of Fish & Game – Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Agricultural Resources, EOEEA, etc.,
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Bio-Map, Living Waters, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and others.
- Various non-profit websites: North County Land Trust, Mount Grace Land Trust, and MRPC.
- All maps and acreage calculations were performed by the City of Gardner GIS Coordinator, Survey Department.
- City of Gardner Comprehensive Master Plan, 2014
- Community Development Plan, 2004
- Downtown Urban Renewal Plan, 2011
- Massachusetts Labor and Workforce Development
- US Census Bureau
- Montachusett Regional Strategic Framework Plan, 2011
- Worcester Business Journal, Jan 6, 2014
- MA SCORP <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/dcs/fy13-gr/draft-scorp-2012.pdf>
- BioMap2 http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap/pdf/town_core/Gardner.pdf

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Appendix A



Legend

- ▬ Watersheds
- ▬ Major Routes
- ▬ Major Roads
- ▬ Waterbodies

MAP 1 REGIONAL CONTEXT

City of Gardner
2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan

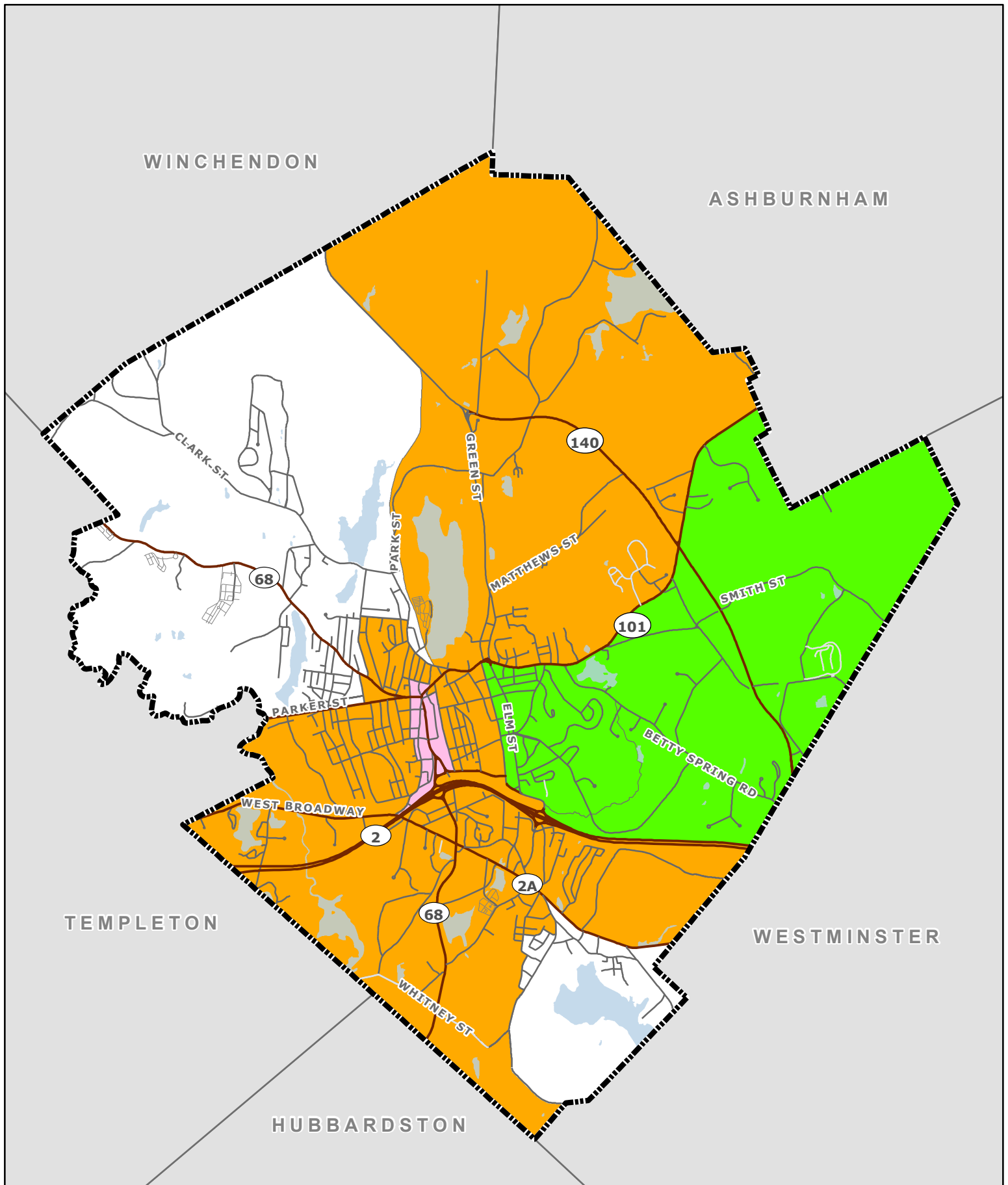
0 4,500 9,000 Feet
1 inch = 9,000 feet



Data Sources:
City of Gardner,
MassGIS

MAP

1



2020 Environmental Justice

- Income
- Minority
- Minority and income

MAP 2

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

City of Gardner
2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan

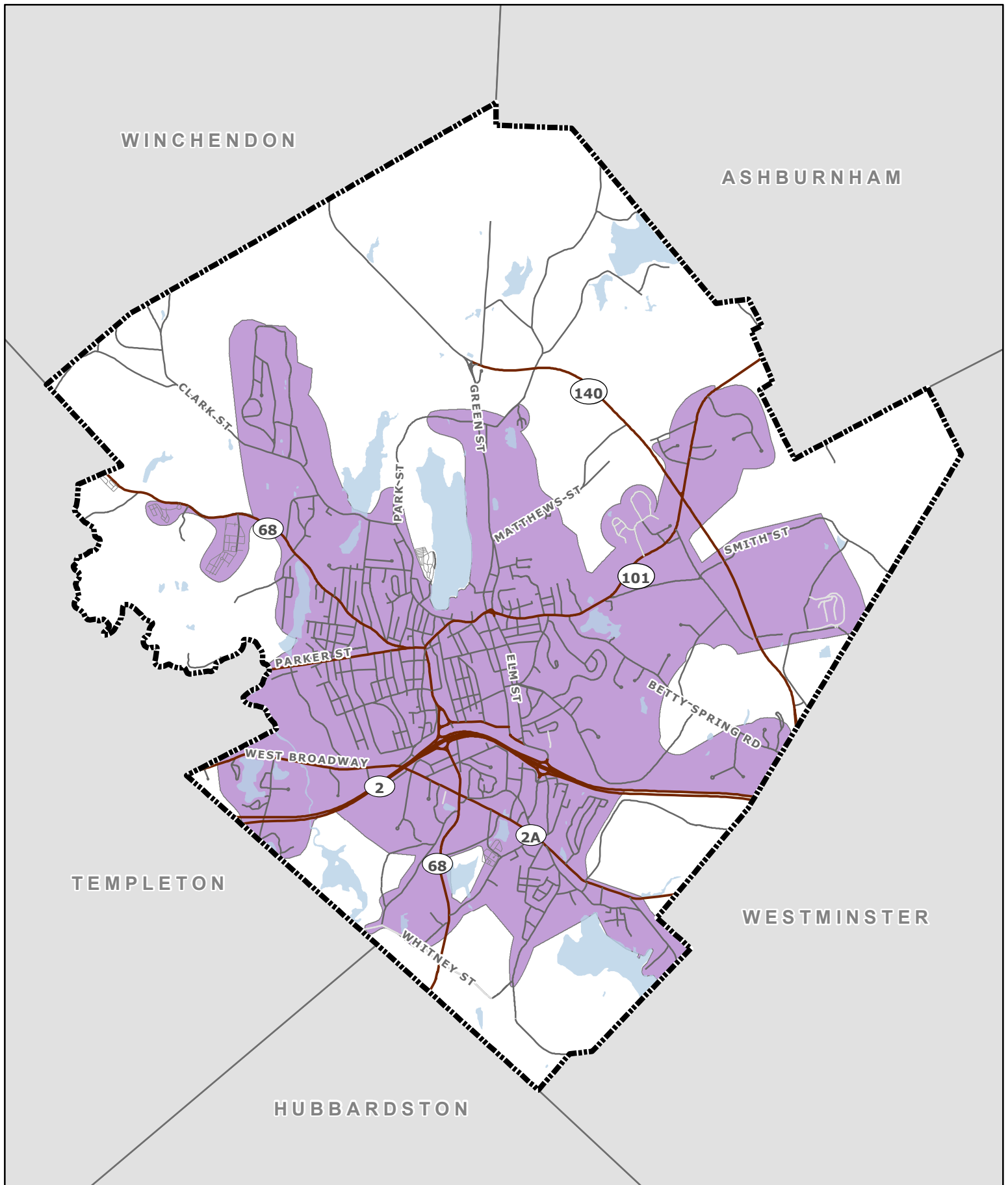
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 1 inch = 4,500 feet





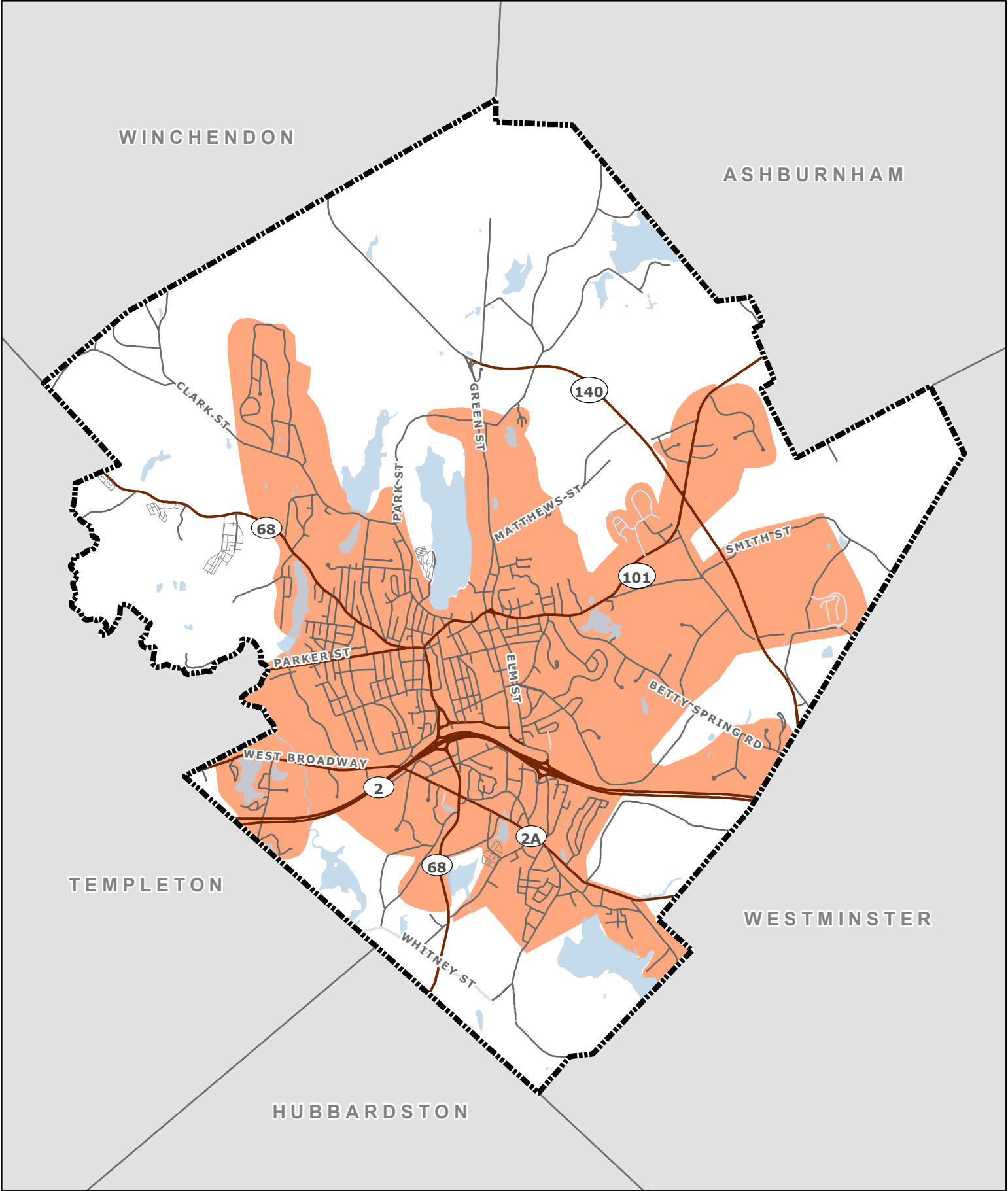
Data Sources:
 City of Gardner,
 MassGIS


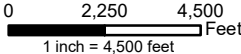

MAP

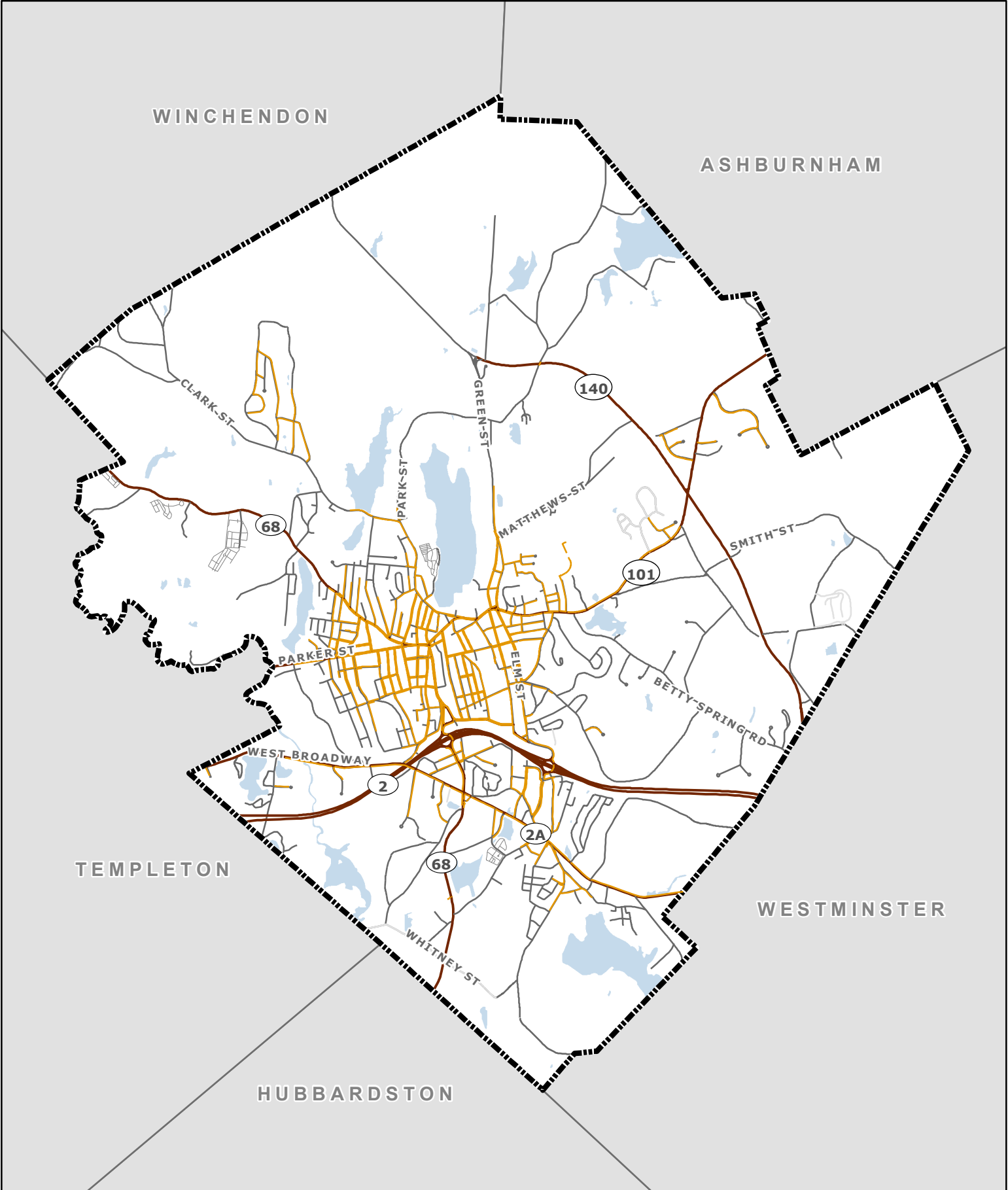
2


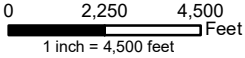



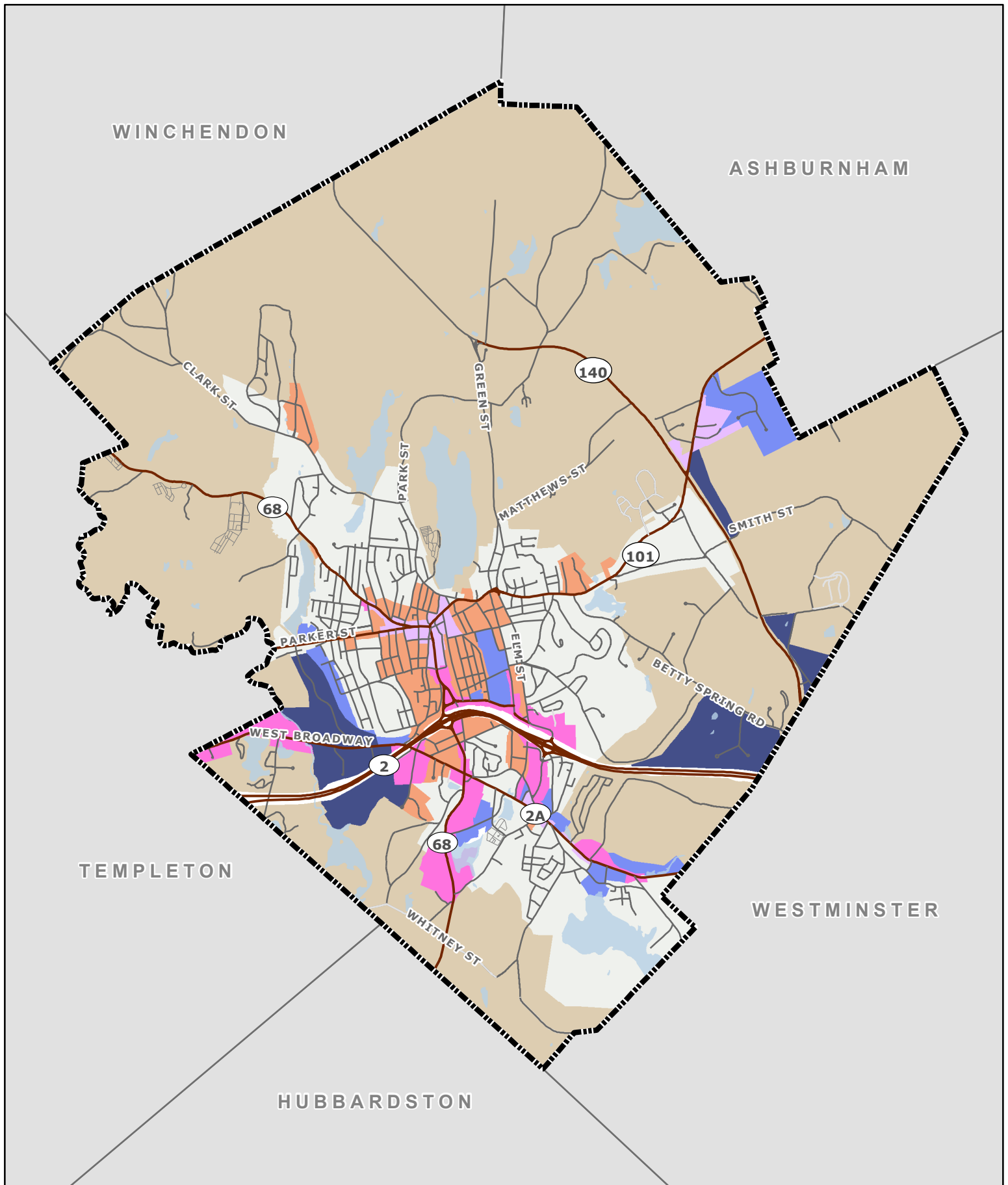
<p> Water Service Area</p>	<p align="center">MAP 3 WATER SERVICE AREA City of Gardner 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan</p>	<p>0 2,250 4,500 Feet 1 inch = 4,500 feet</p> <p>Data Sources: City of Gardner, MassGIS</p> <p align="right">  MAP 3 </p>
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 Sewer Service Area	MAP 4 SEWER SERVICE AREA	 Data Sources: City of Gardner, MassGIS	 MAP 4
	City of Gardner 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan		



 Sidewalks	MAP 5 SIDEWALKS	 
	City of Gardner 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan	
		MAP 5



- Legend**
- Commercial (C1)
 - Commercial (C2)
 - Industrial (I1)
 - Industrial (I2)
 - Single Family Residential (R1)
 - Rural Residential (R2)
 - General Residential (R3)

**MAP 6
ZONING**

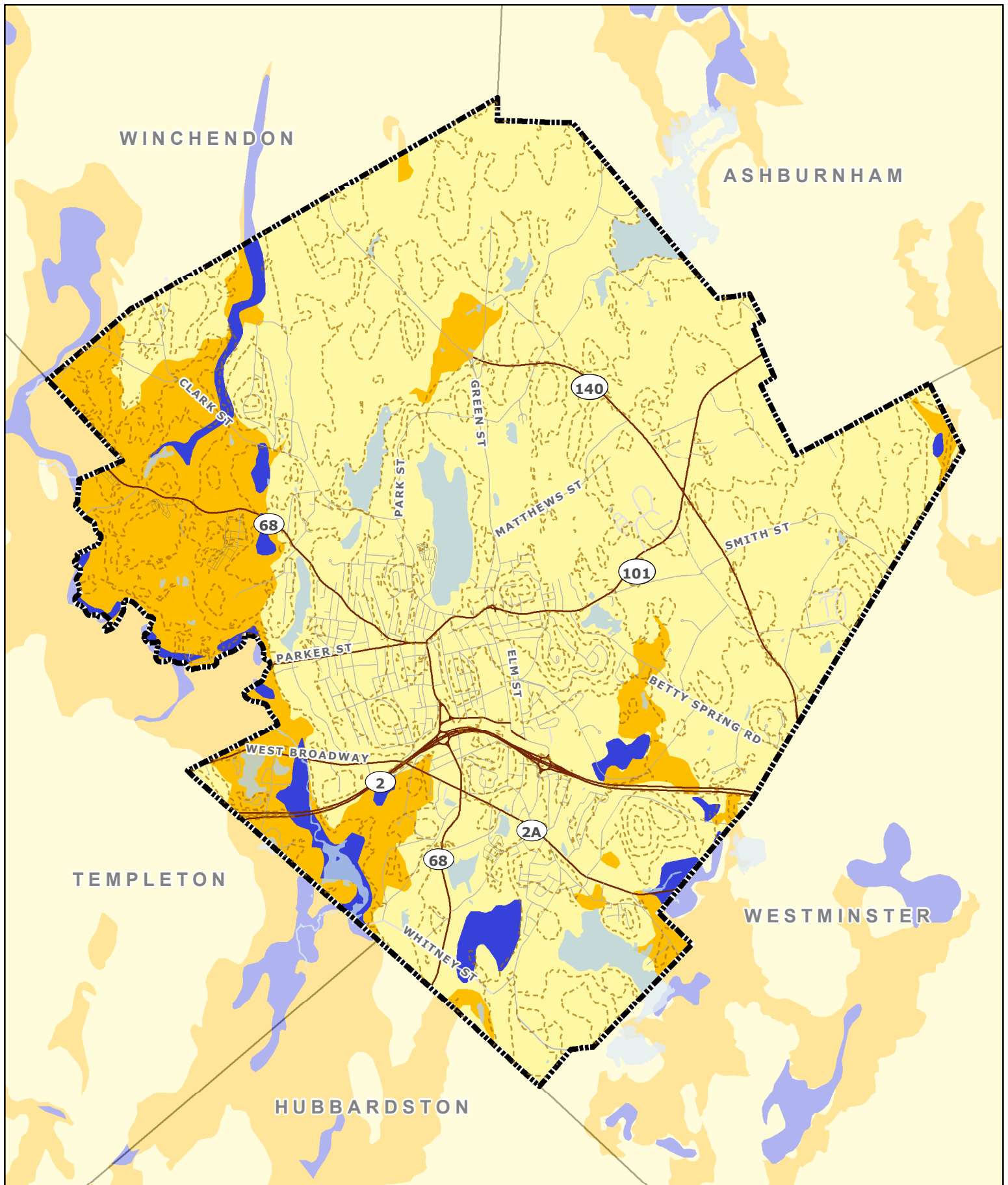
**City of Gardner
2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan**

0 2,250 4,500 Feet
1 inch = 4,500 feet

Data Sources:
City of Gardner,
MassGIS



MAP
6



Surficial Geology

- Sand and Gravel
- Till or Bedrock
- Floodplain Alluvium
- Contours
- Waterbodies

MAP 7
SOILS & GEOLOGIC FEATURES

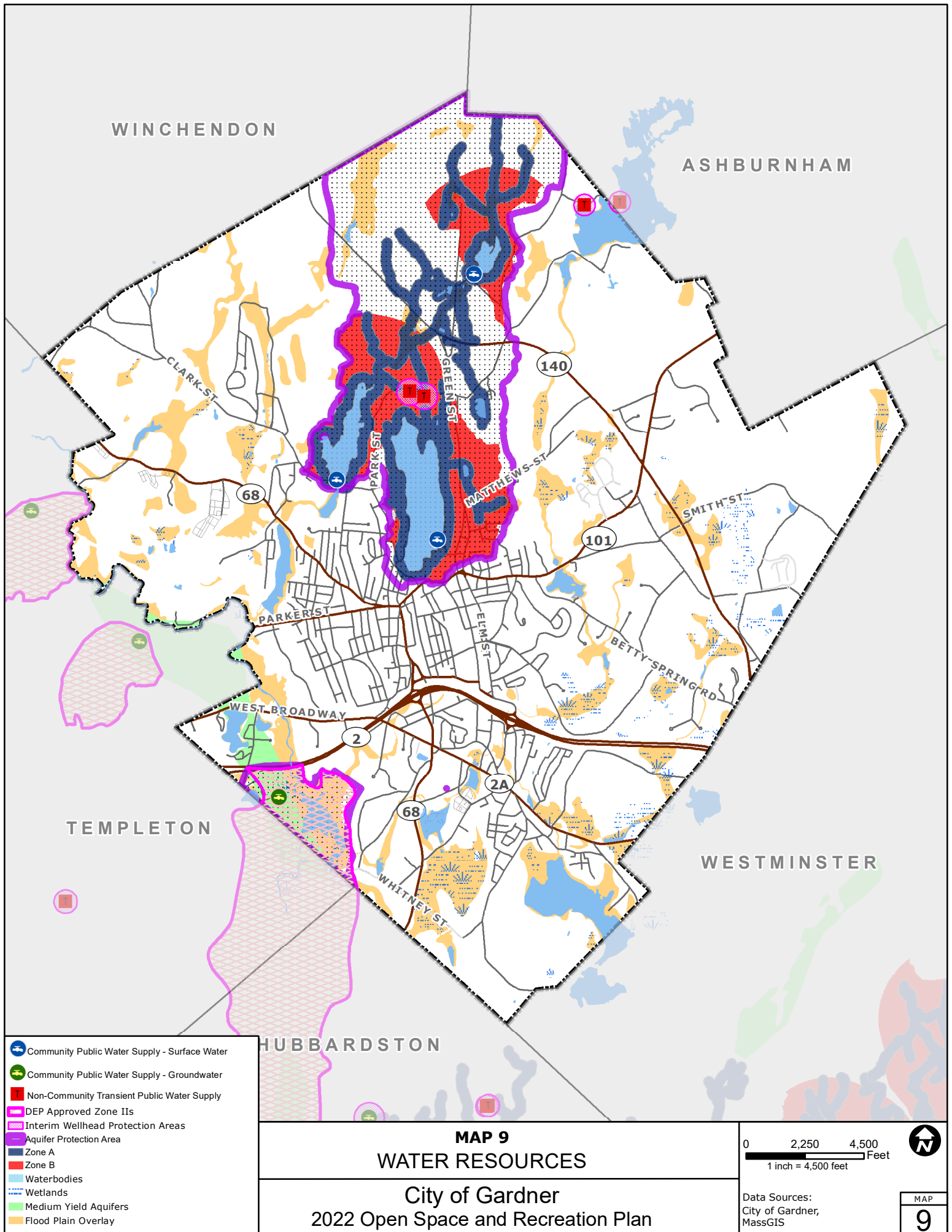
City of Gardner
2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan

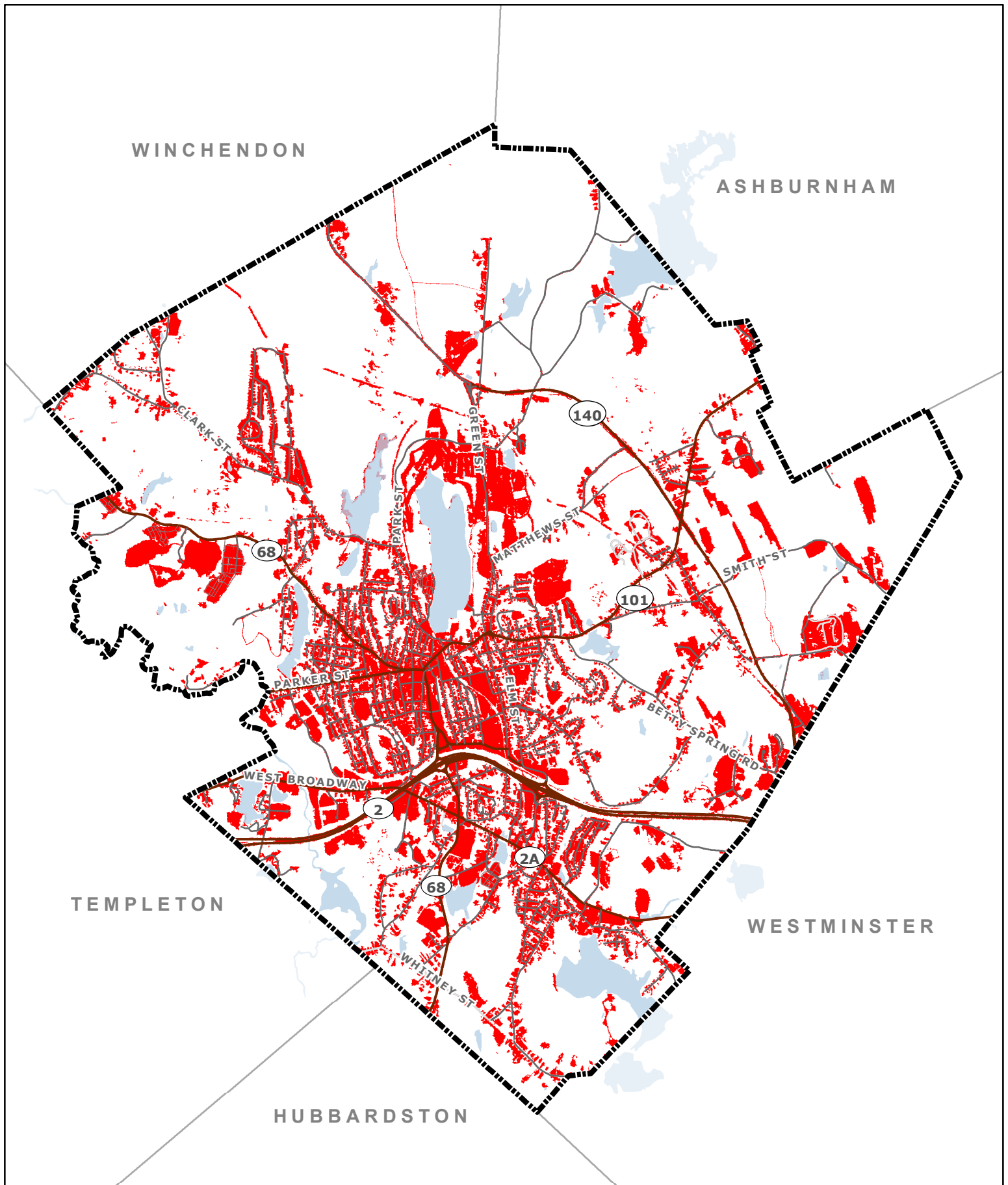
0 2,250 4,500 Feet
1 inch = 4,500 feet



Data Sources:
City of Gardner,
MassGIS

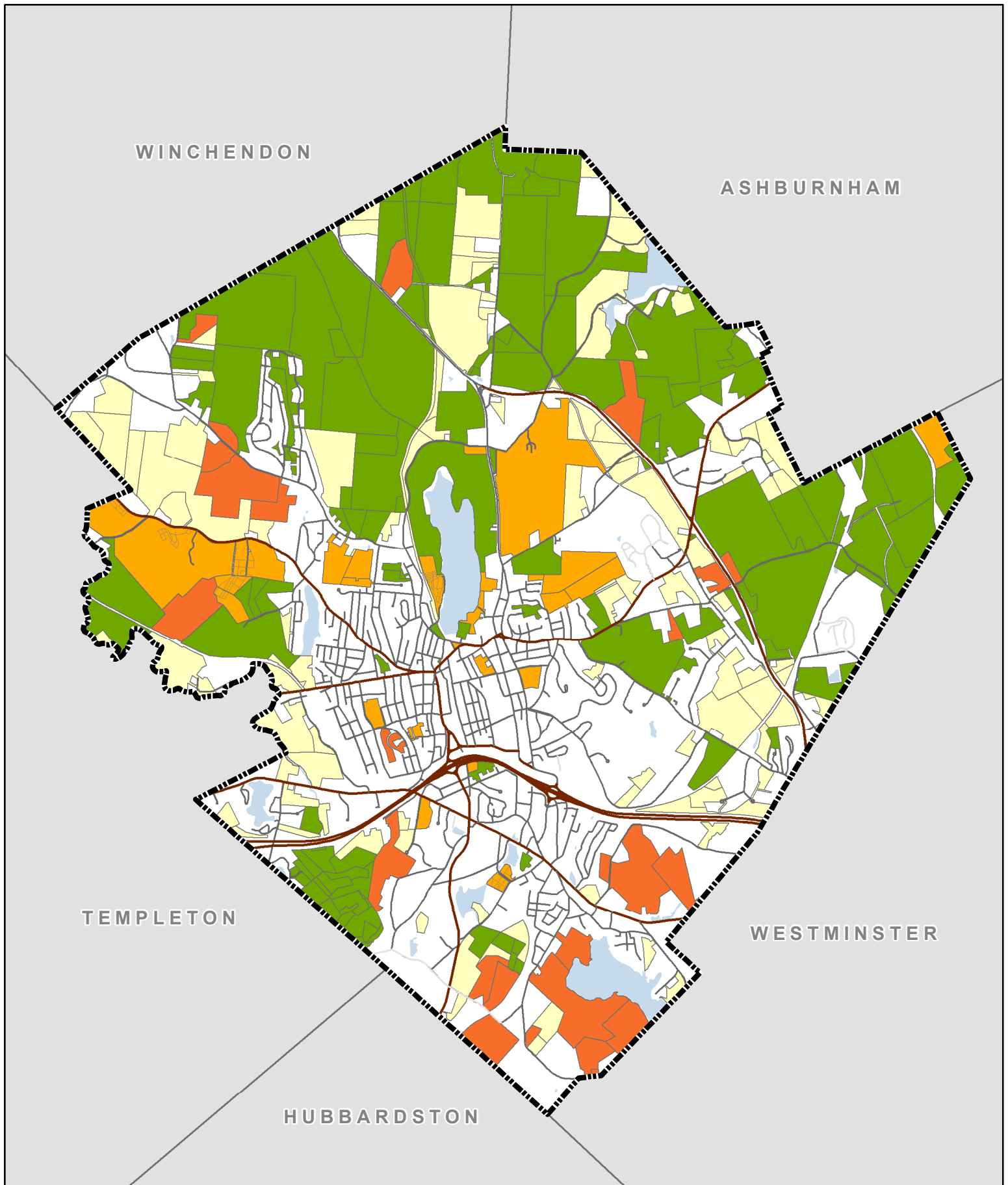


MAP
7





<p> Developed Lands (Approximately 3439 Acres)</p>	<p align="center">MAP 10 DEVELOPED LANDS</p> <hr/> <p align="center">City of Gardner 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan</p>	<p>0 2,250 4,500 Feet 1 inch = 4,500 feet</p> <p>Data Sources: City of Gardner, MassGIS</p> <p align="right">  MAP 10 </p>
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Open Space Lands

- Permanent (115)
- Term Limited (CH 61) (23)
- Limited Other (26)
- None (99)

MAP 11
LEVEL OF PROTECTION

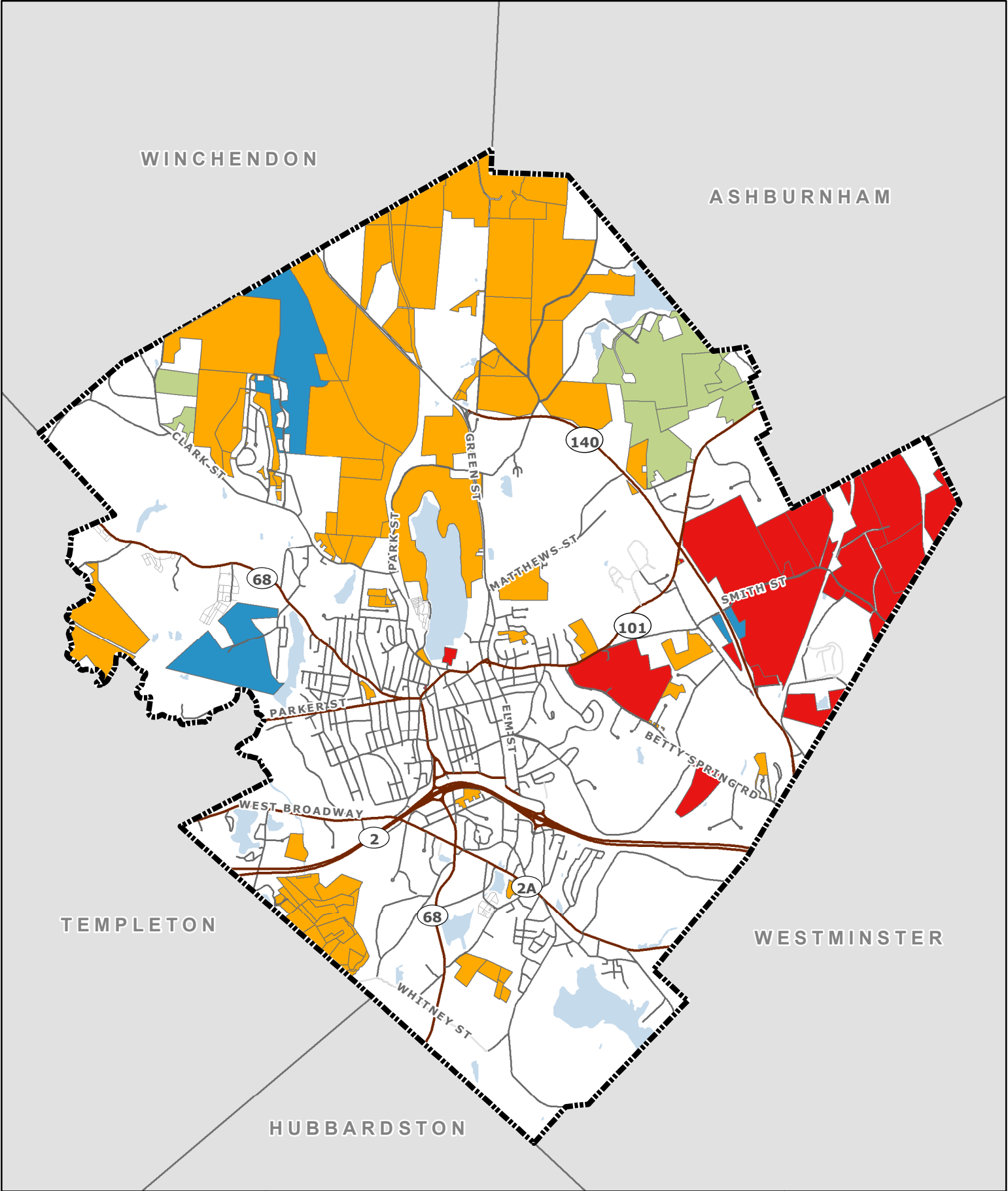
City of Gardner
2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan

0 2,250 4,500 Feet
1 inch = 4,500 feet



Data Sources:
City of Gardner,
MassGIS

MAP
11



Inventory of Lands

- LAND TRUST
- MUNICIPAL
- PRIVATE
- STATE

MAP 12
OPEN SPACE - OWNERSHIP

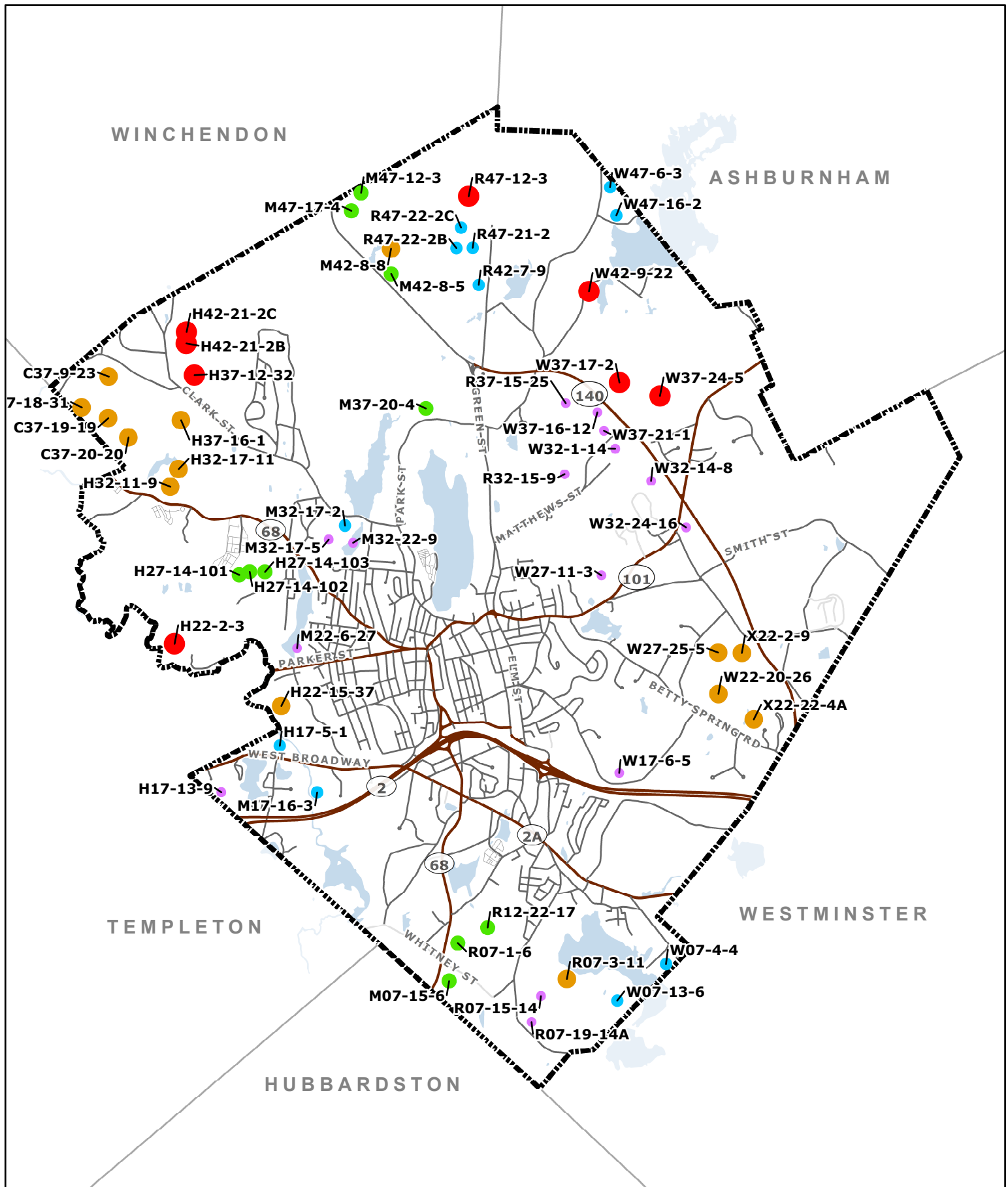
City of Gardner
2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan

0 2,250 4,500 Feet
1 inch = 4,500 feet

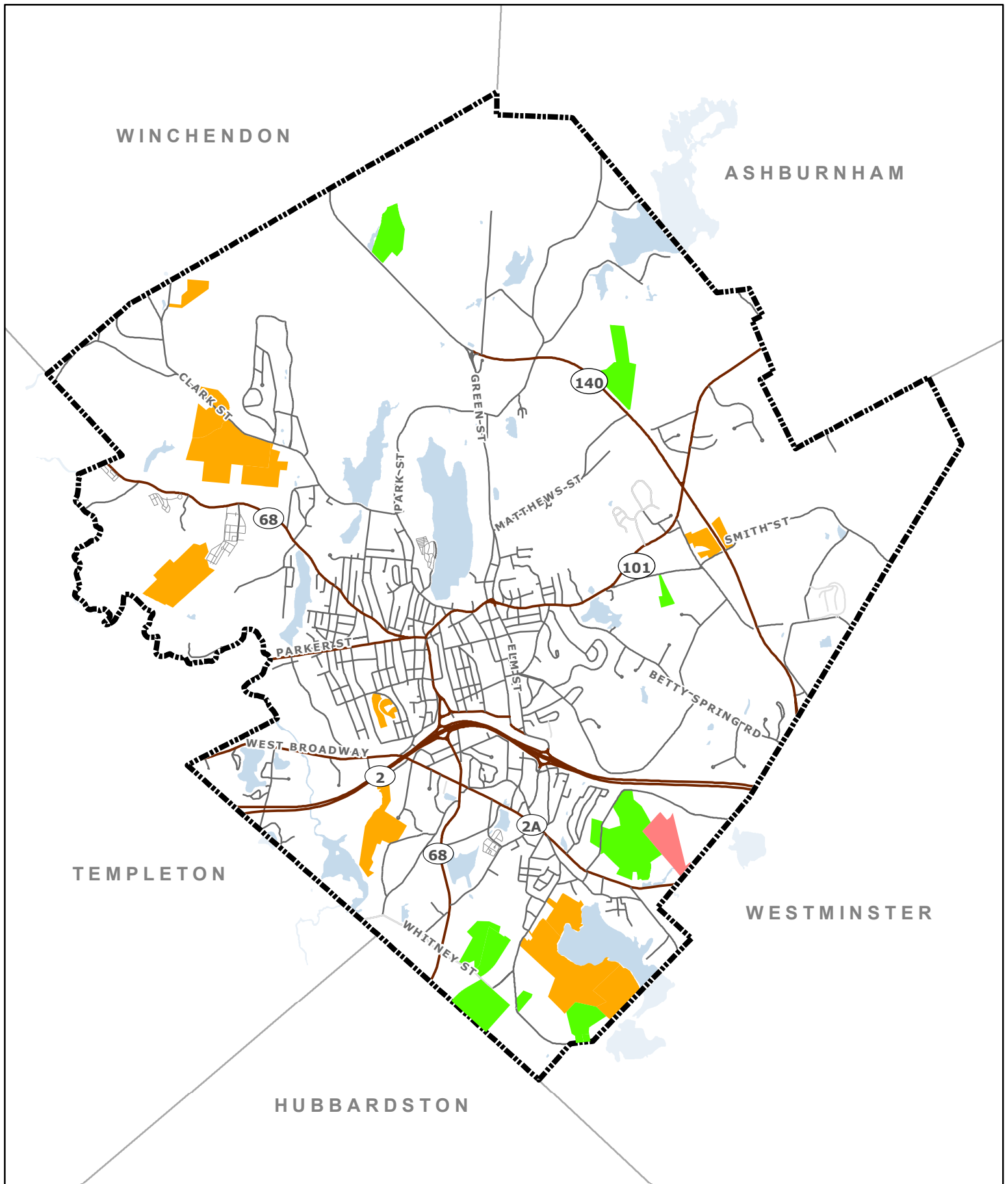
Data Sources:
City of Gardner,
MassGIS



MAP
12



<p>RANK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rank 1: Red dot Rank 2: Orange dot Rank 3: Green dot Rank 4: Blue dot Rank 5: Purple dot 	<p align="center">MAP 13</p> <p align="center">PRIORITY RANKINGS</p> <p align="center">City of Gardner</p> <p align="center">2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan</p>	<p>0 2,250 4,500 Feet</p> <p>1 inch = 4,553 feet</p> <p>Data Sources: City of Gardner, MassGIS</p> <p align="right">MAP 13</p>
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Chapter 61 Parcels

- Recreation
- Agriculture
- Scenic

MAP 14
CHAPTER 61 LANDS

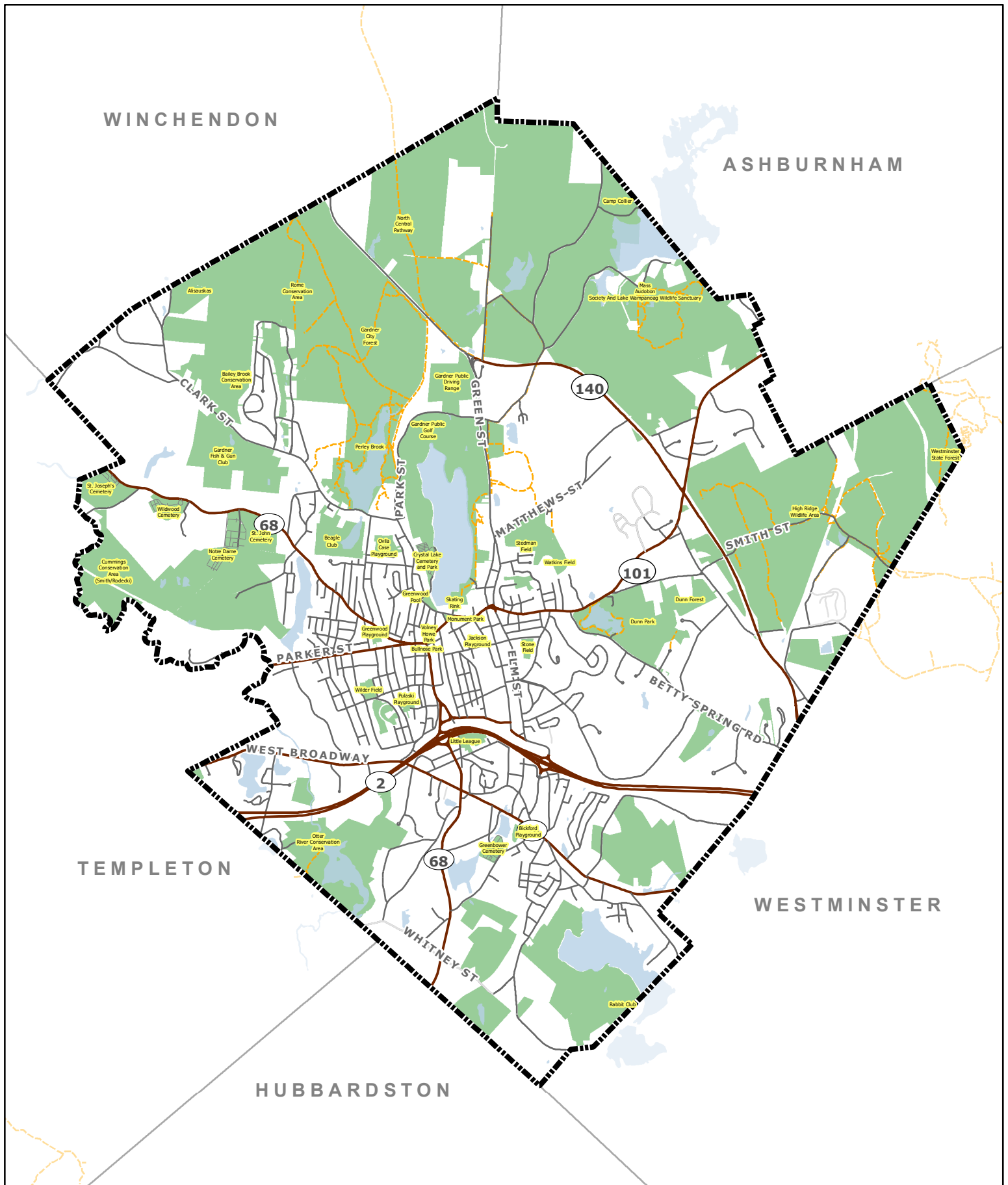
City of Gardner
2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan


0 2,250 4,500 Feet
1 inch = 4,500 feet

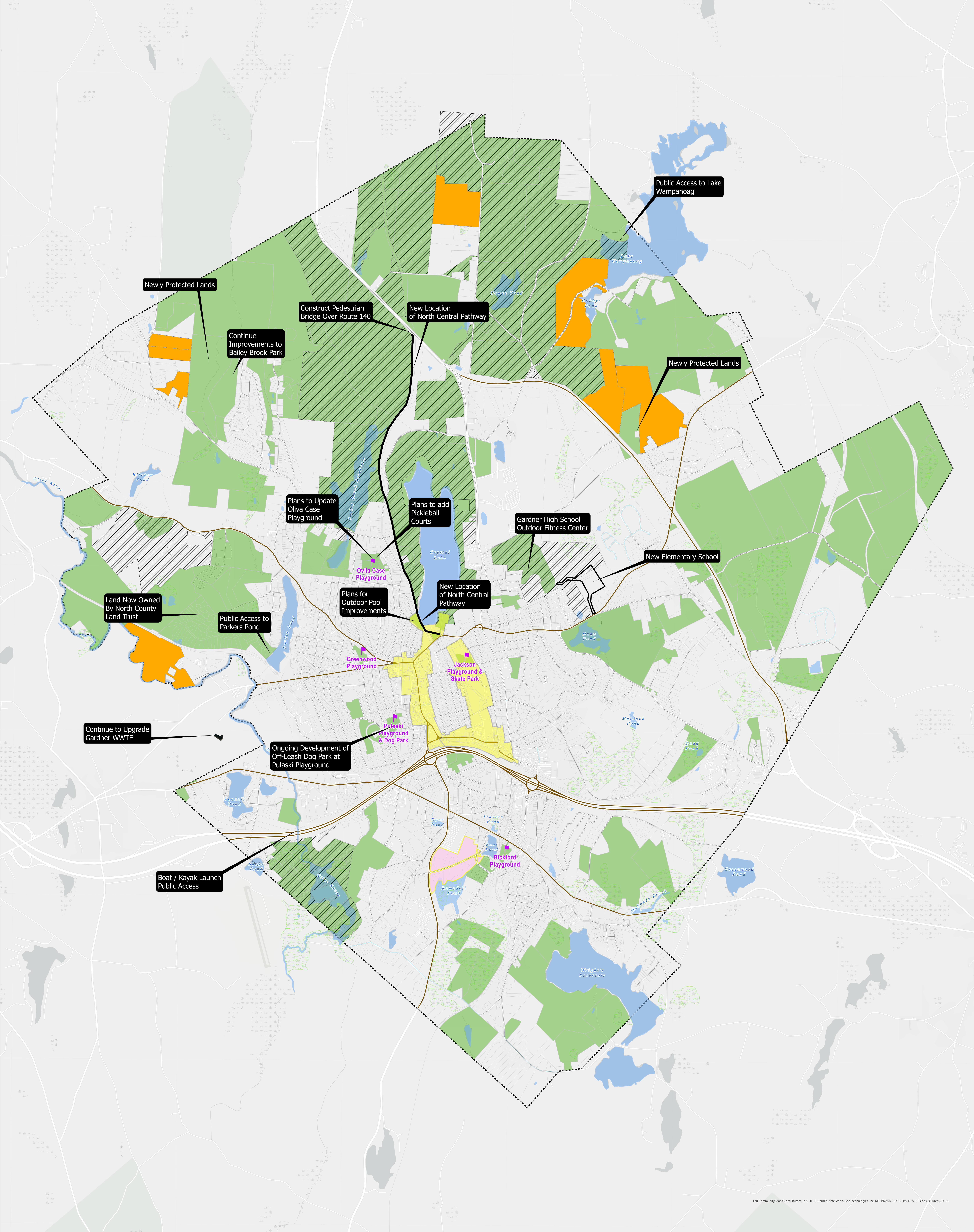
Data Sources:
City of Gardner,
MassGIS



MAP
14



<p> Towns Trails Open Space & Recreation </p>	<p>MAP 15</p> <p>OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION</p> <p>City of Gardner</p> <p>2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>0 2,250 4,500 Feet</p> <p>1 inch = 4,500 feet</p> </div> <div style="flex: 0.5; text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Data Sources: City of Gardner, MassGIS</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <p>MAP</p> <p>15</p> </div> </div>
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Appendix B

#	Parcel_ID	Address	Acres	Owner_Type	Use	Purpose	Protect	Zone	Owner	WS	OttRiv	Adjacent	AdjPropOS	BIOMAPNL
1	H17-20-3	W BROADWAY	6.09		Vacant Land		N	R2	MANCA CHARLES J TRSTE		Yes		Yes	
2	W42-9-22		97.55		Conventional		N	R2	MONADNOCK TRUST			OS	No	Yes
3	R12-19-39	102 LOVEWELL ST	26.77	PRIVATE	Two Family	C	T61B	R1	BAZYDLO TODD H			CH61		
4	R42-21-1	827 GREEN ST	115.00	PRIVATE	Colonial	W	N	R2	ROSENBLATT DEBORAH M	Yes		CH61		
5	W07-13-6	WHITNEY ST	30.00		Clubs/Lodges		T61A	R1	GARDNER RABBIT CLUB INC			CH61		Yes
6	R07-19-14A	LOVEWELL ST	6.03		Vacant Land		N	R2	HUNT PETER B			CH61	Yes	
7	W07-4-4	MINOTT ST	9.58		Vacant Land		N	R1	MORGAN NANCY S					Yes
8	M07-15-6	TIMPANY BLVD	6.76		Vacant Land		N	R2	HAKALA BROS CORP			CH61	Yes	
9	R12-23-13	KEN DR	12.50		Vacant Land		N	R2	L P L LLC					
10	H22-15-37	COLEMAN ST	57.83		Vacant Land		N	R2	MANCA JOHN F & DORINA G TRSTES		Yes		Yes	
11	M27-5-14	130 CRYSTAL LAKE DR	21.00	MUNICIPAL	Other Municip	H	L	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
13	M22-13-4	WATERFORD ST	12.20	MUNICIPAL	Schools-Public	R	L	R1	CITY OF GARDNER					
15	R07-7-1	386 WHITNEY ST	22.01	PRIVATE	Cape Cod	C	T61A	R2	ANDERSON PAUL H & GAIL A			CH61		
16	W37-24-5	PEARL ST	74.14		Vacant Land		P	R2	BOULANGER EDWARD & LOUISE			OSCH61	Yes	Yes
17	W47-16-2	123 CAMP COLLIER RD	42.00		Camp		N	R2	ROCKWOOD WENDELL A ET AL TRSTES				Yes	Yes
19	H32-17-11	WEST ST	146.00		Vacant Land		N	R2	D & E REALTY CORP			CH61	Yes	
20	R12-22-17	UNION ST	9.06		Vacant Land		N	R2	CROUCH CHARLES W JR			OSCH61		
21	M22-6-27	PARKER ST	13.50		Vacant Land		N	R2	525 PARKER STREET LLC				Yes	
22	M12-15-5	MILL ST	5.66		Vacant Land		N	R2	HINIKER GEORGE N JR					
24	X22-22-4A	BETTY SPRING RD	11.10		Vacant Land		N	R2	KNOLL MARC L & SUZANNE				Yes	
25	R37-16-26	152-154 EATON ST	152.00	MUNICIPAL	Restaurant	R	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
26	H32-4-19	538 CLARK ST	95.00	PRIVATE	Clubs/Lodges	R	T61B	R2	GARDNER FISH & GUN CLUB			CH61		
27	H27-14-103	KEYES RD	18.58		Vacant Land		P	R2	CEDAR HILLS LLC				Yes	
28	M27-3-14	STUART ST	7.70	MUNICIPAL	Outbuildings	R	P	R1	CITY OF GARDNER					
29	W17-6-5	SAUNDERS ST	9.00		Vacant Land		N	R2	NOONAN MELANIE M				Yes	
30	R07-12-4	402 WHITNEY ST	25.00	PRIVATE	Conventional	C	T61A	R2	HALLOCK PETER E & JAYNE			CH61		
31	W17-17-9	81 PARTRIDGE ST	94.21	PRIVATE	Antique/Victor		T61A	R2	ANDERSON AUGUST P & SHERRY C TRSTES			CH61		
32	M22-16-1	W BROADWAY	9.60		Vacant Land		N	I2	GREATER GARDNER INDUSTRIAL FOUNDATION				Yes	
33	H17-10-6	W BROADWAY	12.80		Vacant Land		N	R2	MANCA CHARLES J TRSTE		Yes		Yes	
34	M17-18-10	KINZER DR	23.00		Vacant Land		N	I2	GREATER GARDNER INDUSTRIAL FOUNDATION	Yes		OSCH61	Yes	Yes
35	H17-19-1A	AIRPORT RD	5.50		Vacant Land		N	R2	MANCA CHARLES J TRSTE				Yes	
36	M17-19-1	MANCA DR	9.70		Vacant Land		N	I2	MCCARTHY CHRISTOPHER W TRSTE			CH61	Yes	
37	R07-1-6	UNION ST	24.72		Vacant Land		N	R2	DUBIN RICHETTA C			OSCH61	Yes	
38	R12-12-12	UNION ST	5.50		Vacant Land		N	R1	TWOHIG ANN K					
39	R12-10-14	E BROADWAY	8.00		Vacant Land		N	C2	ADOLF JANDRIS & SONS INC					
41	M22-19-1	HARVARD ST	10.63	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	C	T61B	R1	BORIS CHARLES M & MICHAEL C TRSTES			CH61		
42	H17-5-1	837 W BROADWAY	10.67		Vacant Land		N	C2	MANCA ANTHONY J TRSTE		Yes		Yes	
43	M12-4-17	SAWYER ST	43.82	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	C	T61B	R2	BALDUCCI MARIO	Yes		CH61		
44	M17-14-5	W BROADWAY	5.00		Vacant Land		N	C2	SALVADORE ANGELO G & MELODY J TRSTES			CH61	Yes	
45	M17-16-3	W BROADWAY	10.50		Vacant Land		N	I2	ADOLF JANDRIS & SONS INC		Yes		Yes	
46	H17-13-9	AIRPORT RD	11.50		Vacant Land		N	R2	MANCA CHARLES J TRSTE				Yes	
47	R07-12-1	443 WHITNEY ST	5.85	PRIVATE		C	T61A	R2	CROTEAU					
48	R07-15-14	LOVEWELL ST	19.49		Vacant Land		N	R2	HAMEL SANDRA HUNT			CH61	Yes	
49	W37-21-1	MATTHEWS ST	24.90		Vacant Land		N	R2	HAMMOND DOUGLAS			CH61	Yes	
50	X17-2-9	BETTY SPRING RD	6.93		Vacant Land		N	I2	C B & B INC				Yes	
51	W22-19-2	SAUNDERS ST	7.62		Vacant Land		N	R2	GAGNON DENNIS D					
52	M17-6-4A	W BROADWAY	27.90		Vacant Land		N	I2	GREATER GARDNER INDUSTRIAL FOUNDATION		Yes		Yes	
53	W22-20-26	BETTY SPRING RD	55.24		Vacant Land		N	R2	GILLESPIE JAMES				Yes	

#	Parcel_ID	Address	Acres	Owner_Type	Use	Purpose	Protect	Zone	Owner	WS	OttRiv	Adjacent	AdjPropOS	BIOMAPNL
54	W27-25-5	WILLIS RD	29.39		Vacant Land		N	R2	FRANTZ BOBBIE JO TRSTE				Yes	
55	R22-3-26	160 ELM ST	11.75	MUNICIPAL	Schools-Public	R	L	R1	CITY OF GARDNER					
56	H22-5-14	PARKER ST	21.00	MUNICIPAL	Outbuildings		N	R1	CITY OF GARDNER		Yes			
57	W27-16-2	289 PEARL ST	130.00	STATE	Other State	B	P	R2	COMM OF MASS			CH61		
58	R27-22-12	SCHOOL ST	8.10	MUNICIPAL	Other Municip	R	L	G3	CITY OF GARDNER					
59	H27-7-2	500 NOTRE DAME RD	69.10	PRIVATE	Camp		T61B	R2	ROUSSEAU ALAN		Yes	CH61		
60	M32-13-4	PARK ST	7.40		Vacant Land		N	R1	BOUCHER SHIRLEY M ET AL	Yes				
61	W27-25-12	WILLIS RD	8.38		Vacant Land		N	R2	ST JOHN GERALD N & DORIS H					
62	W22-1-15A	BETTY SPRING RD	5.80		Vacant Land		N	R1	HARASIMOWICZ MARK R					
63	W27-11-3	PEARL ST	17.34		Vacant Land		N	R2	KYMALAINEN THOMAS J & ALICE M TRSTES				Yes	
64	H42-21-2C	HOWARD ST	14.61		Vacant Land		P	R2	MACINNES CHARLES ALAN				Yes	
65	H37-23-35	CLARK ST	122.00		Vacant Land		P	R2	OMEALIA JAMES P & MELINDA S			CH61	Yes	Yes
66	M27-2-2	RACETTE AVE	6.88	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	R	L	R1	WEST END BEAGLE CLUB INC				Yes	
67	R42-7-9	STONE ST	8.22		Vacant Land		N	R2	WOJTUKIEWICZ ROBERT J & CARLA J	Yes		OSCH61	Yes	
68	H42-11-2	HOWARD ST	204.25		Outbuildings		P	R2	ALISAUSKAS STANLEY H TRSTE			OSCH61	Yes	Yes
69	H32-11-9	WEST ST	20.57		Vacant Land		N	R2	YRAOLA FRANCIS A & PETER F				Yes	
70	W32-5-5	DINAN DR	6.20		Vacant Land		N	C1	GOREN R A & KERRIGAN R M TRSTES			OS		
71	W32-14-8	PEARL ST	54.82		Outbuildings		N	R2	HILL CLAIRE				Yes	
72	R32-15-9	MATTHEWS ST	30.17		Vacant Land		N	R2	GARDNER BICKFORD				Yes	
73	W27-4-4	48 CHAPEL ST	25.89	PRIVATE	Conventional	C	T61B	R1	HUNTER HUGH W & GLADYS S			CH61		
74	W27-10-15	SMITH ST	6.32		Vacant Land		N	R1	KORHONEN PETER S & ANNETTE S			OSCH61		
75	H27-14-102	KEYES RD	11.50		Vacant Land		P	R2	CEDAR HILLS LLC				Yes	
76	H37-1-30A	CLARK ST	6.09		Vacant Land		N	R2	LITTLEWOOD ARTHUR & LINDA				Yes	
77	W37-23-1	MATTHEWS ST	22.72		Vacant Land		P	R2	DONELL CONRAD J TRSTE			CH61	Yes	
78	R37-16-27	150 EATON ST	66.00	MUNICIPAL	Outbuildings	R	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes			Yes	
79	R37-7-6	STONE ST	6.01		Vacant Land		N	R2	NOVAK DANIEL A & CARRIE L	Yes				
81	H42-21-2B	CLARK ST	14.38		Vacant Land		P	R2	XARRAS JAMES				Yes	
82	M32-18-3	CLARK ST	18.00	MUNICIPAL	Outbuildings	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
83	H42-17-2D	HOWARD ST	8.40		Vacant Land		N	R2	DELLA-GIUSTINA DANIEL A & ANDREA L			CH61	Yes	Yes
85	R47-12-3	STONE ST & EATON ST	62.00		Vacant Land		N	R2	ERICKSON RONALD P & IRENE R	Yes				Yes
86	W47-1-1	KELTON ST	8.30		Vacant Land		N	R2	MEI DAVID J	Yes				Yes
87	M32-6-5	CLARK ST	85.41		Vacant Land		N	R2	PULTORAK CHESTER				Yes	
88	H37-12-32	CLARK ST	11.29		Vacant Land		P	R2	GELSOMINI MICHAEL D				Yes	
89	H42-17-2E	61 HOWARD ST	13.75	PRIVATE	Modern/Contemp	C	T61B	R2	BOUCHER EUGENE J & CRYSTAL L			CH61		
90	M47-12-3	GREEN ST	11.40		Vacant Land		N	R2	WHITNEY DONALD P & MARGARET A	Yes				Yes
92	W27-9-11	SMITH ST	20.00		Vacant Land		N	R1	FLETCHER JAMES L					
93	R37-15-25	PAIGE RD	11.00		Vacant Land		N	R2	CZASNOWSKI JOHN S & BROOKE S				Yes	
94	W17-10-28	LINUS ALLAIN AVE	14.84		Vacant Land		N	I2	SPECIALTY WHOLESALE SUPPLY CORP				Yes	
97	W37-16-12	MATTHEWS ST	11.87		Vacant Land		N	R2	RHO LTD				Yes	
98	M27-15-29	CRYSTAL LAKE DR	8.83		Vacant Land		N	R2	NEW ENGLAND POWER	Yes			Yes	
100	W42-12-16	RAYMOND ST	187.15	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	MASS AUDUBON SOCIETY INC			CH61		
101	M42-14-6	GREEN ST	17.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes		CH61		
102	M47-24-9	GREEN ST	80.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes		CH61		
103	R12-3-1	UNION ST	9.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	H	L	R1	CITY OF GARDNER					
104	W17-13-1	LINUS ALLAIN AVE	40.82		Vacant Land		N	I2	GARDNER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY				Yes	
105	M42-20-7	GREEN ST	12.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes		CH61		
106	M32-11-15A	CLARK ST	7.11	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes			Yes	

#	Parcel_ID	Address	Acres	Owner_Type	Use	Purpose	Protect	Zone	Owner	WS	OttRiv	Adjacent	AdjPropOS	BIOMAPNL
107	R42-2-2G	STONE ST	7.73	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes		OSCH61	Yes	
108	W47-21-1	KELTON ST	29.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
109	W27-11-1	PEARL ST	16.80	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER				Yes	
110	X32-20-6	SMITH ST	12.00	STATE	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	COMM OF MASS					
112	X22-7-8	CHAPEL ST	36.71	STATE	Vacant Land		N	R2	COMM OF MASS				Yes	
113	M12-1-2A	MILL ST	8.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
114	H37-14-14	LEO DR	20.25	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	B	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
115	C37-9-23	OTTER RIVER RD	31.41		Vacant Land		N	R2	FLETCHER JOHN L & JAMES L TRSTES				Yes	
116	W12-22-2	MINOTT ST	8.20		Vacant Land		N	R1	MORSE DANIEL B					Yes
117	M12-6-5	WHITNEY ST	7.63	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
118	M17-21-2	CRANSTON ST	14.50	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes	Yes			
119	R12-17-7	UNION ST	15.60	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
120	W22-20-6	SAUNDERS ST	30.72	STATE	Vacant Land	C	P	I2	COMM OF MASS					
121	M12-17-9	MILL ST	14.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes		CH61		
122	R12-22-15	UNION ST	9.60	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
123	H17-25-11	AIRPORT RD	7.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
124	X22-2-12A	CHAPEL ST	6.27	STATE	Vacant Land		N	I2	COMM OF MASS				Yes	
125	R07-3-11	LOVEWELL ST	127.49	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	C	T61B	R1	DUBZINSKI WJ JR & FISHER DANA M TRSTS			CH61		
126	M12-7-2	SAWYER ST	27.26	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes		CH61		
127	W12-4-3	PARTRIDGE ST	50.00	PRIVATE	Vacant Land		T61	R2	SHUFFLETON BLANCHE E			CH61		
128	W32-19-8	SMITH ST	601.99	STATE	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	COMM OF MASS			CH61		
129	M12-12-8	WHITNEY ST	5.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
131	R42-13-12	STONE ST	102.50	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
132	R42-17-16	STONE ST	16.20	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes		CH61		
133	M42-17-2	GREEN ST	12.80	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
134	R42-17-15	STONE ST	7.20	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes		CH61		
135	M12-1-1	WHITNEY ST	9.50	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
136	H17-15-1	AIRPORT RD	13.50	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER		Yes		Yes	
137	X32-13-14	SMITH ST	55.00	STATE	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	COMM OF MASS				Yes	
138	R27-13-13A	JAMES ST	6.18	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R1	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
139	W17-2-2	PARTRIDGE ST	8.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land		N	R2	CITY OF GARDNER				Yes	
141	R17-2-8	90-96 MECHANIC ST	5.13	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	G3	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
142	X22-17-3A	BETTY SPRING RD	7.17	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER				Yes	
144	X22-8-14	COLONY RD	10.70		Vacant Land		N	R2	ROCK PAPER SCISSORS CORP					
145	H32-19-2	WEST ST	44.00	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	H	L	R2	ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF WORCESTER					
146	X27-6-5	SMITH ST	14.70	LAND TRUST	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	NORTH COUNTY LAND TRUST INC			CH61		
147	C27-18-2	BRIDGE ST	5.00		Vacant Land		N	R2	OWNER UNKNOWN		Yes	OS	No	
148	M37-24-9	PARK ST	49.50	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
149	R37-4-24	PAIGE RD	10.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land		N	R2	CITY OF GARDNER				Yes	
150	W27-19-5	SMITH ST	26.62	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	B	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			CH61		
151	M32-17-1	CLARK ST	12.92	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
152	H27-7-6	KEYES RD	11.20	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	H	L	R2	ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF WORCESTER			CH61		
153	R27-16-7	100 HEYWOOD ST	8.79	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	R	L	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
154	R42-19-20	WHEELER ST	55.50	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
155	M32-7-8	CLARK ST	7.16	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
156	W27-14-1	SMITH ST	8.00	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	C	T61A	R2	CROTEAU RUSSELL R & MARY A			CH61		
157	M27-15-3	WOODLAND AVE	5.04	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	B	L	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
158	W42-25-2A	PEARL ST	106.83	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	MASS AUDUBON SOCIETY INC					
159	X42-21-6	HOSLEY RD	22.93	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	MASS AUDUBON SOCIETY INC					
160	H32-5-17	CLARK ST	27.90	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	R	T61B	R2	GARDNER FISH & GUN CLUB			CH61		
161	R37-9-21	STONE ST	70.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
162	R32-24-8	MATTHEWS ST	38.74	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
163	M42-14-3	GREEN ST	313.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				

#	Parcel_ID	Address	Acres	Owner_Type	Use	Purpose	Protect	Zone	Owner	WS	OttRiv	Adjacent	AdjPropOS	BIOMAPNL
164	M42-8-8	GREEN ST	31.50	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	C	T61A	R2	GUERTIN ANDRE E & SUZANNE G	Yes		CH61		
165	C37-18-31	OTTER RIVER RD	24.00		Vacant Land		N	R2	FLETCHER JOHN L & JAMES L TRSTES				Yes	
166	W37-2-23	RAYMOND ST	107.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			CH61		
167	M32-17-5	CLARK ST	27.58	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	R	L	R1	WEST END BEAGLE CLUB INC				Yes	
168	C37-19-19	OTTER RIVER RD	51.00		Vacant Land		N	R2	WOODMAN TR FLETCHER TR NO 1				Yes	
169	H32-19-16A	WEST ST	10.67		Vacant Land		N	R2	LONG ERIC M			CH61	Yes	
170	C32-14-18	WEST ST	36.00	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	H	L	R2	ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF WORCESTER		Yes			
171	Z32-17-1	SMITH ST	150.50	STATE	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	COMM OF MASS					
172	Z32-3-3	SMITH ST	45.00	STATE	Vacant Land	B	P	R2	COMM OF MASS					
173	H37-23-1A	CLARK ST	14.00	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	R	T61B	R2	GARDNER FISH & GUN CLUB			CH61		
174	M47-9-8	GREEN ST	16.28	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
175	R47-4-4	STONE ST	19.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
176	R52-24-2	STONE ST	40.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
177	W32-1-14	MATTHEWS ST	14.81		Vacant Land		N	R2	RHO LTD				Yes	
179	M37-11-2	PARK ST	197.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
180	H37-23-34	CLARK ST	10.00	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	C	T61B	R2	GARDNER FISH & GUN CLUB			CH61		
181	M37-18-1	PARK ST	22.75	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
182	R47-14-5	STONE ST	95.18	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
183	W47-6-3	KELTON ST	13.74		Vacant Land		N	R2	MONADNOCK TRUST				Yes	Yes
184	W37-10-11	PEARL ST	9.77	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	C	CR	R2	MACDONALD ANNE D			OS		
185	M47-22-4	GREEN ST	120.20	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
186	M47-24-1	GREEN ST	123.80	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes		CH61		
187	R47-5-6	KELTON ST	160.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
188	R52-22-3	STONE ST	56.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
189	R47-7-4	STONE ST	66.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
190	C37-20-20	OTTER RIVER RD	26.10		Vacant Land		N	R2	D & E REALTY CORP				Yes	
191	H42-24-1A	BROOKSIDE DR	174.97	LAND TRUST	Vacant Land	B	P	R2	NORTH COUNTY LAND TRUST INC					
192	C32-19-2	BRIDGE ST	78.50	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER		Yes	CH61		
193	M42-25-1	1010 GREEN ST	18.69		Vacant Land		N	R2	NEW ENGLAND POWER	Yes				
194	M17-23-1	KINZER DR	21.49	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	I2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes	Yes	CH61		
195	C27-10-1	BRIDGE ST	44.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER		Yes			
197	W22-4-7	FOSTER CT	6.67	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	B	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
199	X37-22-7	PEARL ST	6.44		Vacant Land		N	I1	GARDNER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY				Yes	
200	X37-22-7	PEARL ST	6.75		Vacant Land		N	R2	GARDNER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY				Yes	
201	X37-22-7	PEARL ST	10.28		Vacant Land		N	R2	GARDNER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY				Yes	
202	X37-22-7	PEARL ST	9.20		Vacant Land		N	R2	GARDNER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY				Yes	
203	X37-22-7	PEARL ST	2.85		Vacant Land		N	I1	GARDNER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY				Yes	
205	X37-22-7	PEARL ST	13.39		Vacant Land		N	I1	GARDNER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY				Yes	
207	X37-22-7	PEARL ST	37.20		Vacant Land		N	R2	GARDNER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY				Yes	
208	WATER	WHITNEY ST	14.81	MUNICIPAL		C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
209	X22-2-9	CHAPEL ST	11.00		Vacant Land		N	R2	SNYER JONATHAN A & STEPHANIE L				Yes	
210	H27-20-9	KEYES RD	4.40		Vacant Land		N	R2	BALOGH BELA F					
211	WATER	WHITNEY ST	6.98	MUNICIPAL		C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes				
212	X27-22-12	CHAPEL ST	4.70		Vacant Land		N	R2	PAQUETTE JEROLD G				Yes	
213	H27-7-4	WEST ST	17.18	PRIVATE	Mortuary/Cemet	H	L	R2	ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF WORCESTER			OSCH61		

#	Parcel_ID	Address	Acres	Owner_Type	Use	Purpose	Protect	Zone	Owner	WS	OttRiv	Adjacent	AdjPropOS	BIOMAPNL
214	W32-12-12A	PEARL ST	10.47		Vacant Land		N	R2	DONELL CONRAD J & SHERRY L TRSTES				Yes	
215	R27-16-6	PARK ST	4.48	STATE	Other State	B	P	R2	COMM OF MASS	Yes				
216	W17-19-15B	PARTRIDGE ST	10.04		Vacant Land		N	R2	OWNER UNKNOWN					
217	R42-17-4	STONE ST	4.05	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes		CH61		
218	R37-21-1	EATON ST	4.60	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	R	L	R2	CITY OF GARDNER	Yes			Yes	
219	M37-20-10	PARK ST	14.71		Vacant Land		N	R2	NEW ENGLAND POWER	Yes			Yes	
220	M37-20-10	PARK ST	11.43		Vacant Land		N	R2	NEW ENGLAND POWER	Yes			Yes	
221	M37-20-10	PARK ST	6.21		Vacant Land		N	R2	NEW ENGLAND POWER	Yes			Yes	
222	R42-21-4B	STONE ST	2.15	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			CH61		
223	R12-23-2	UNION ST	2.50	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			CH61		
224	R12-23-14	UNION ST	3.25	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
225	M27-4-19	STUART ST	0.19	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	R	P	R1	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
226	H12-5-23A	SNAKE POND RD	2.35	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
227	M22-19-17A	WRIGHT ST	4.42	MUNICIPAL	Outbuildings	R	L	G3	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
228	M12-22-10	WHITNEY ST	1.77	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
229	R12-23-16	KEN DR	3.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			CH61		
230	M17-21-1	SNAKE POND RD	0.87	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER		Yes	OS		Yes
231	H17-25-4	AIRPORT RD	4.58	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
232	R17-23-14	W BROADWAY	3.85	MUNICIPAL	Outbuildings	R	P	R1	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
233	M12-12-7	WHITNEY ST	3.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
234	M27-23-43	JEAN ST	3.66	MUNICIPAL	Outbuildings	R	P	G3	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
235	M12-1-3	WHITNEY ST	3.40	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
236	H12-5-22A	SNAKE POND RD	3.99	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
237	M17-10-21	416 W BROADWAY	8.61	MUNICIPAL	Garage/Office	R	L	C2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
238	M27-25-6	CENTRAL ST	0.13	STATE	Vacant Land	R	P	C1	COMM OF MASS			OS		
239	M27-25-10	26 LAKE ST	0.18	STATE	Other State	R	P	C1	COMM OF MASS			OS		
240	R27-16-10	PARK ST	0.95	MUNICIPAL	Outbuildings	H	L	R1	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
241	W32-19-1	PEARL ST	0.36	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R1	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
242	R27-14-9A	BLANCHARD ST	0.73	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R1	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
243	M27-4-18	STUART ST	1.04	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	R	P	R1	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
244	M32-23-1	RACETTE AVE	3.51	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	R	P	R1	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
245	H37-25-13	LEO DR	0.43	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	G3	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
246	R37-1-3	GREEN ST	1.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			CH61		
249	M27-20-50	69 PARK ST	3.50	MUNICIPAL	Cape Cod	R	P	R1	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
250	H37-25-15	LEO DR	3.64	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	G3	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
251	M12-18-11	WHITNEY ST	3.33	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
252	M12-7-6	WHITNEY ST	1.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	OWNER UNKNOWN			CH61		
253	W22-9-8	BETTY SPRING RD	0.21	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
254	W22-8-3	BETTY SPRING RD	0.23	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
255	W22-8-2	BETTY SPRING RD	0.14	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
256	W22-8-1	BETTY SPRING RD	0.21	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
259	W37-17-2	MATTHEWS ST	50.43	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	C	T61	R2	KYMALAINEN THOMAS J & ALICE M TRSTES	No	No	OS		
260	R27-5-3	CATHERINE ST	12.60	MUNICIPAL	Schools-Public	R	L	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
261	R27-3-1	CYPRESS ST	2.38	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	R	L	R1	CITY OF GARDNER					
262	M32-14-1	PARK ST	4.10	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
263	R42-9-19	KELTON ST	4.50	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	W	P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER			OS		
265	R27-5-2	CATHERINE ST	29.00	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land	R	L	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
268	R17-1-17	MECHANIC ST	2.69	PRIVATE	Vacant Land	B	L	G3	GARDNER LITTLE LEAGUE INC					
269	M32-22-9	110 CLARK ST	0.58		Clubs/Lodges		N	R1	WEST END BEAGLE CLUB INC				Yes	
275	Z32-6-2	SMITH ST	35.50	STATE	Vacant Land	C	P	R2	COMM OF MASS					
279	H32-16-4	850 WEST ST	186.00	MUNICIPAL	Outbuildings	R	L	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
281	H27-14-101	KEYES RD	9.52		Vacant Land		P	R2	CEDAR HILLS LLC			OS	Yes	
283	X27-21-7	CHAPEL ST	234.00	STATE	Outbuildings	C	P	R2	COMM OF MASS					
288	R27-9-1	CATHERINE ST	12.60	MUNICIPAL	Schools-Public	R	L	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					

#	Parcel_ID	Address	Acres	Owner_Type	Use	Purpose	Protect	Zone	Owner	WS	OttRiv	Adjacent	AdjPropOS	BIOMAPNL
289	Z37-18-1	MURRAY RD	38.00	PRIVATE	Different Municipality V	R	L		ASHBURNHAM WESTMINSTER REG SCHOOL DIST			OS		
291	M32-22-9	110 CLARK ST	17.80	PRIVATE	Fish&Game C	R	L	R1	WEST END BEAGLE CLUB INC				Yes	
294	R32-12-6	444 GREEN ST	268.00	STATE	Education C		L		COMM OF MASS			OS		
295	H22-2-3	RIVERSIDE RD	51.00		Accessory		N	R2	FLETCHER JOHN L & JAMES L TRSTES	No	Yes	OSCH61		
296	R47-21-2	406 STONE ST	7.53		Single Fam	MDL-01	N	R2	LITTLEJOHN DAVID C	Yes		OS	Yes	Yes
297	R47-22-2B	418 STONE ST	23.62		Single Fam	MDL-01	N	R2	JAMISON SETH M & DARCIE J	Yes				Yes
299	W32-24-16	2 CHAPEL ST	23.00		Single Fam	MDL-01	N	R1	HILL CLAIRE			OSCH61		
300	W42-9-11	142 WAMPANOAG SOUTH RD	13.38		SFR Water		N	R2	BAGDONAS EDWARD P ET AL TRSTES			OS	No	Yes
301	M37-20-4	169 EATON ST	10.69		Single Fam	MDL-01	N	R2	CHRISTIE MARIE H	Yes		OS		
302	R47-22-2C	430 STONE ST	16.53		Single Fam	MDL-01	N	R2	CLARKSON AMANDA M	Yes				Yes
303	H37-16-1	CLARK ST	44.31		Vacant Land Dev		N	R2	FLETCHER JOHN L & JAMES L TRSTES			CH61	Yes	
304	W42-17-4	414 RAYMOND ST	7.96		Single Fam	MDL-01	N	R2	WIINIKAINEN TOIVO B	No	No	OS	No	
305	M47-17-4	1433 GREEN ST	16.50		Single Fam	MDL-01	N	R2	PRICE KELLEY	Yes	No	OS	No	Yes
306	H42-11-2	HOWARD ST	204.25	MUNICIPAL				R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
307	W02-1-5	804 WHITNEY ST	1.50		Single Fam	MDL-01	C	T61A	R2	CROTTEAU FRANCIS W TRSTE			CH61	
308	R07-23-14B	426 LOVEWELL ST	5.85	PRIVATE	Bungalow	C	T61A	R2	BARRETT JAMES A & JOANNE M			CH61		
309	W02-1-4	778 WHITNEY ST	25.51		Single Fam	MDL-01	C	T61A	R2	CROTTEAU FRANCIS W TRSTE			CH61	
310	MANY*	KEYES ROAD SUBDIVISION	145.72	LAND TRUST			P	R2	MANY*					
311	H42-21-2BC	HOWARD CLARK ST		PRIVATE			P							
312	H37-12-32	CLARK ST	1.39	PRIVATE	Single Fam	MDL-01	P	R2	MEAGHER RYAN P & JODI L					
313	W37-23-1	MATTHEWS ST	22.72	MUNICIPAL	Vacant Land		P	R2	CITY OF GARDNER					
314	W37-24-5	PEARL ST	74.14	PRIVATE	Vacant Land		P	R2	MEUNIER BRIAN & BRANDY					

* 103 parcels make up the Keyes Road Subdivision (#310)

Purpose:

- C – Conservation
- W – Water Supply
- R – Recreation
- B – Conservation and Recreation

Protect:

- P – Permanent
- CR – Conservation Restriction
- L – Limited Other
- N – Not Protected
- T61/A/B - Chapter 61 Lands

- WS – Indicates whether the property is in the Water Supply District
- OttRiv – Indicates whether the property is to the Otter River
- Adjacent – Indicates whether the property is adjacent to other Protected Open Space properties
- AdjPropOS – Indicates whether the property is adjacent to other unprotected Open Space properties
- BIOMAPNL – Indicates whether the property is in the BioMap Corridor

#	Parcel ID	Address	Acres	Water Supply	Otter River	Adjacent OS/CH61	BioMap	Rank
1	W42-9-22	Raymond st	86.75			OS	X	1
2	W37-24-5	Pearl st	74.14			OS,CH61	X	1
3	H42-21-21C	Howard st	14.65					1
4	H42-21-2B	Clark st	13.6					1
5	R47-12-B	Stone st and Easton st	62	X			X	1
6	H37-12-32	Clark st	11.29			OS		1
7	W37-17-2	Matthews st	50.4	X		OS,CH61	X	1
8	H22-2-3	Riverside rd	62.73		x	OS,CH61		1
9	H22-15-37	Coleman st	50.81		x			2
10	H32-17-11	West st	145.51			CH61		2
11	X22-22-4A	Betty Spring rd	10.31					2
12	W22-20-26	Betty Spring rd	68.72					2
13	W27-25-5	Willis rd	27.13					2
14	H32-11-9	West st	21.97					2
15	C37-9-23	Otter River rd	32.62					2
16	C37-18-31	Otter River rd	23.62					2
17	C37-19-19	Otter River rd	48.77					2
18	C37-20-20	Otter River rd	27.19					2
19	X22-2-9	Chapel st	11.8					2
20	M42-8-8	Green St	31.5			OS,CH61	X	2
21	R07-03-11	Lovewell St	127.5	X		OS,CH61	X	2
22	H37-16-1	Clark st	44.89			CH61		2
23	M07-15-6	Timpany blvd	6.75			CH61		3
24	R12-22-17	Union st	7.22			OS,CH61		3
25	H27-14-103	Keyes rd	18.53					3
26	R07-1-6	Union st	33.15			OS,CH61		3
27	H27-14-102	Keyes rd	11.09					3
28	M47-12-3	Green st	10.1	x			X	3
29	H27-14-101	keyes rd	10.09			OS		3
30	M37-20-4	169 Eaton st	10.57	x		OS		3
31	M42-8-5	1263 Green St	3			OS,CH61		3
32	M47-17-4	1433 Green st	16.58	x		OS	X	3
33	W07-13-6	Whitney st	42.36			CH61	X	4
34	W47-16-2	123 Camp Collier Rd	42				X	4
35	R42-7-9	Stone st	8.08	x		OS,CH61		4
36	W47-6-3	Kelton st	13.74				X	4
37	W07-4-4	50 Banner rd	9.57	x			x	4
38	R47-21-2	406 Stone st	7.67	x		OS	X	4
39	R47-22-2B	418 Stone st	22.41	x			X	4
40	H17-5-1	837 West Broadway	10					4
41	M17-16-3	West Broadway	5.75		x			4
42	M32-17-2	130 Clark st	3.12	x				4
43	R47-22-2C	430 Stone st	16.97	x			X	4
44	R07-19-14A	Lovewell st	5.98			CH61		5
45	M22-6-27	Parker st	16.11					5
46	W17-6-5	Saunders st	8.01					5
47	H17-13-9	Airport rd	10.13					5
48	R07-15-14	Lovewell st	19.67			CH61		5
49	W37-21-1	Matthews st	22.17			CH61		5
50	W27-11-3	Pearl st	17.34					5
51	W32-14-8	Pearl st	55.47					5
52	R32-15-9	Matthews st	30.57					5
53	R37-15-25	Paige rd	12.74					5
54	W37-16-12	Matthews st	12.57					5
55	M37-17-5	Clark st	28.3					5
56	W32-1-14	Matthews st	15.25					5
57	M32-22-9	Clark st	18.83					5
58	W32-24-16	Chapel st	5.17			OS,CH61		5

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Appendix C

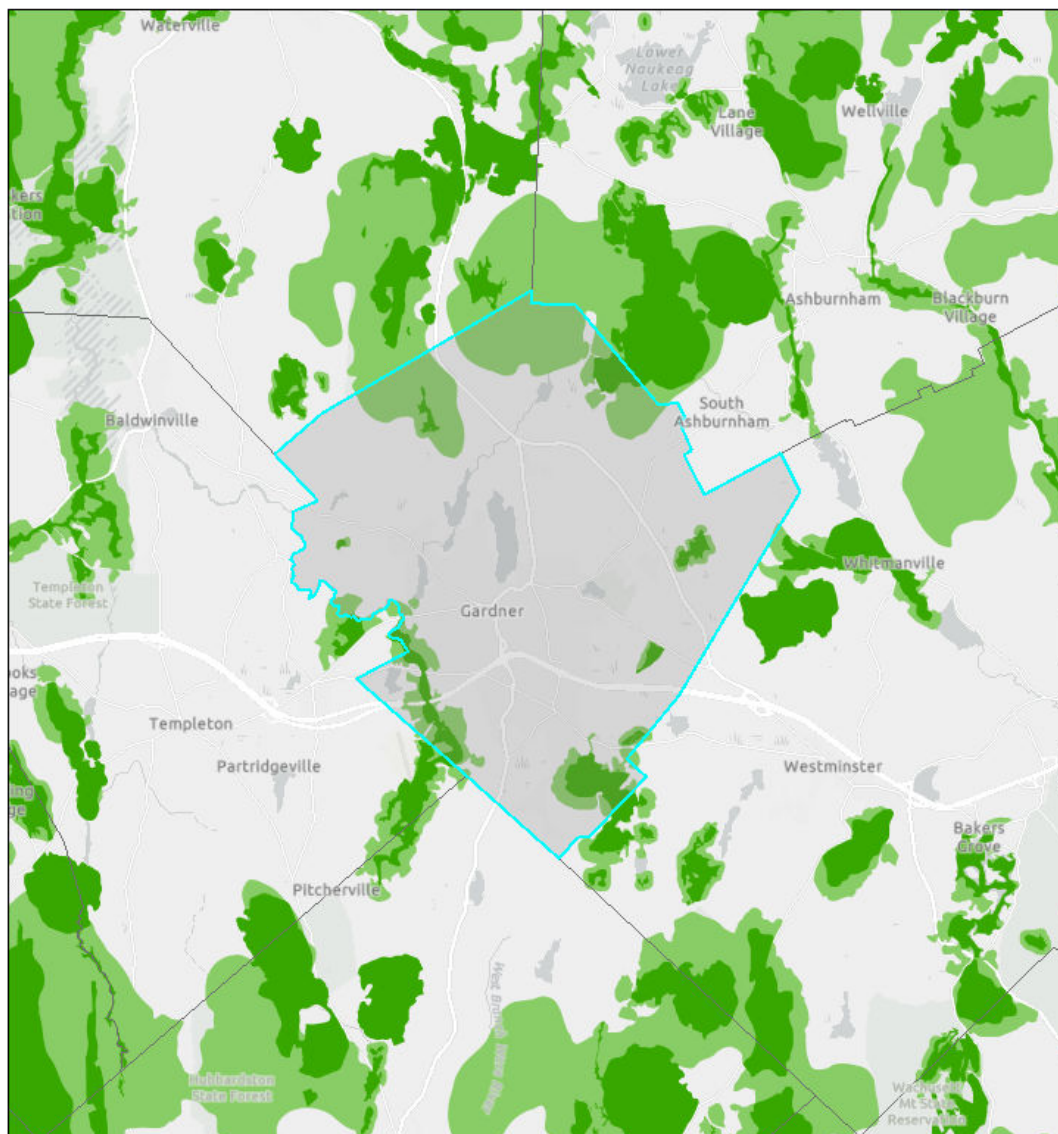


BioMap Summary Report: Gardner

Area of Interest (AOI) Information

Area : 14,728.72 acres

Feb 1 2023 10:35:07 Eastern Standard Time



 Critical Natural Landscape
 Core Habitat

1:144,448
0 0.75 1.5 3 mi
0 1.5 3 6 km

Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

Summary

Name	Count	Area(acres)	Length(ft)
Core Habitat	12	557.96	N/A
Critical Natural Landscape	17	2,635.92	N/A
Aquatic Core	7	426.45	N/A
Aquatic Core Buffer	7	548.43	N/A
Wetland Core	13	116.04	N/A
Wetland Core Buffer	12	203.42	N/A
Priority Natural Communities Core	5	27.36	N/A
Vernal Pool Core	0	0	N/A
Forest Core	0	0	N/A
Rare Species Core	8	303.12	N/A
Tern Foraging Habitat	0	0	N/A
Coastal Adaptation Areas	0	0	N/A
Landscape Blocks	2	1,538.81	N/A
Local Aquatic Habitats	6	308.92	N/A
Local Aquatic Habitats Buffer	10	714.93	N/A
Local Wetlands	16	289.78	N/A
Local Wetlands Buffer	24	556.09	N/A
Local Landscapes	11	1,365.51	N/A
Local Rare Species	2	180.10	N/A
Local Vernal Pools	2	513.03	N/A
Regional Rare Species	0	0	N/A
Regional Connectivity	3	1,239.38	N/A

Core Habitat

#	Core Habitat ID	Area(acres)
1	2360	183.30
2	2419	147.19
3	2686	101.46
4	2463	47.76
5	2506	29.44
6	2410	26.83
7	2373	13.12
8	2459	5.70
9	2423	3.16

Critical Natural Landscape

#	Critical Natural Landscape ID	Area(acres)
1	1056	1,067.15
2	1061	554.58
3	1008	421.98
4	997	341.53
5	1022	90.62
6	1010	48.31
7	1004	40.56
8	998	37.53
9	1021	11.26
10	1026	9.91
11	1009	7.76
12	1027	4.73

Aquatic Core

#	Aquatic Core ID	Area(acres)
1	704	178.68
2	716	147.18
3	742	97.69
4	718	2.90

Aquatic Core Buffer

#	Aquatic Core Buffer ID	Area(acres)
1	830	274.29
2	814	162.80
3	835	45.22
4	886	43.43
5	873	10.25
6	832	7.76
7	855	4.66

Wetland Core

#	Wetland Core ID	Area(acres)
1	7169	29.44
2	6968	28.32
3	6787	24.58
4	6658	13.12
5	6946	11.41
6	6963	5.70
7	6974	1.68
8	6817	1.34
9	6560	0.26
10	6483	0.10
11	6645	0.08

Wetland Core Buffer

#	Wetland Buffer ID	Area(acres)
1	849	70.99
2	686	50.89
3	3063	24.36
4	3076	15.99
5	745	8.23
6	2970	7.96
7	3022	6.54
8	713	5.56
9	2902	4.66
10	3080	3.48
11	2923	2.93
12	642	1.84

Priority Natural Communities Core

#	Natural Community Name	Area(acres)
1	Acidic Shrub Fen	13.12
2	Level Bog	8.54
3	Kettlehole Level Bog	5.70

Rare Species Core

#	Rare Species Core ID	Species Total	Area(acres)
1	1673	1	143.20
2	1881	2	86.76
3	1754	1	47.76
4	1719	4	23.66
5	1727	1	1.65
6	1678	1	0.09
7	1678	3	< 0.01

Landscape Blocks

#	Landscape Block ID	Area(acres)
1	172	988.34
2	175	550.47

Local Aquatic Habitats

#	Local Aquatic Habitats ID	Area(acres)
1	1,464	221.02
2	715	35.09
3	723	26.30
4	1,465	15.44
5	1,458	9.58
6	1,120	1.49

Local Aquatic Habitats Buffer

#	Local Aquatic Habitat Buffer ID	Area(acres)
1	208	542.67
2	206	68.35
3	225	54.07
4	1,578	27.52
5	300	10.32
6	218	9.03
7	286	1.43
8	1,619	1.29
9	219	0.14
10	207	0.13

Local Wetlands

#	Local Wetlands ID	Area(acres)
1	2,049	88.07
2	2,065	38.58
3	2,073	37.26
4	2,095	36.02
5	2,077	16.40
6	2,081	13.27
7	2,092	10.49
8	2,089	9.75
9	2,088	8.81
10	2,078	6.93
11	2,054	5.97
12	2,096	5.38
13	2,084	4.58
14	2,060	2.87
15	2,055	2.86
16	2,093	2.54

Local Wetlands Buffer

#	Local Wetlands Buffer ID	Area(acres)
1	5,769	98.27
2	5,602	60.28
3	5,132	53.96
4	5,721	51.07
5	5,567	37.33
6	5,669	33.96
7	5,400	33.25
8	5,677	28.64
9	5,361	25.88
10	5,517	24.77
11	5,637	23.58
12	5,108	18.82
13	5,497	17.95
14	5,398	15.54
15	5,103	9.63
16	5,044	6.57
17	5,054	5.88
18	5,701	2.85
19	5,095	2.27
20	4,898	2.12
21	5,726	2.00
22	5,505	0.97
23	5,080	0.32
24	5,724	0.16

Local Landscapes

#	Local Landscape ID	Area(acres)
1	1,804	337.66
2	1,551	215.65
3	678	199.11
4	1,097	128.99
5	673	91.73
6	932	86.57
7	675	85.57
8	732	84.38
9	674	80.87
10	752	29.37
11	914	25.63

Local Rare Species

#	Local Rare Species ID	Species Total	Area(acres)
1	1,955	1	180.10
2	1,955	2	< 0.01

Local Vernal Pools

#	Local Vernal Pool ID	Area(acres)
1	539	422.45
2	524	90.58

Regional Connectivity

#	Regional Connectivity ID	Area(acres)
1	33	1,162.78
2	35	74.88
3	36	1.72

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Appendix D

Funding Mechanisms and Programs

Property Acquisition

1) Program/Method:	Municipal purchase
Sponsoring Agency:	City of Gardner
Approximate Funding Maximum:	Dependent on Mayor/City Council Agency
Program Description:	This tool is probably the most direct and effective way for a City to achieve the acquisition objectives of its open space plan. Municipalities may either issue bonds to cover purchases or in some cases include a purchase item in the general budget. Bond issues are quite common and provide communities with the flexibility to negotiate with property owners, knowing that money has already been authorized to complete the acquisition.
Priority for pursuing:	High
Chances of success:	Moderate depending on a vigorous public outreach campaign prior to City meeting and the general referendum.

2) Program/Method:	Land & PARC Program
Sponsoring Agency:	Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services (DCS)
Approximate Funding Maximum:	\$250,000
Program Description:	The Program provides a percentage (typically 70%) of reimbursement for the purchase of land for conservation and passive recreation purposes. This program can provide funding for “regional” projects, whereby several communities can combine their funding to cover a larger land purchase.
Priority for pursuing:	High

Chances of Success: Moderate depending on quality of the City's application and level of competition.

3) Program/Method: **Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund**

Sponsoring Agency: National Park Service

Approximate Funding Maximum: Unknown.

Program Description: The first iteration of this Program provided up to 50% reimbursement towards the cost of acquisition or improvement of recreation land, including the development of active recreation facilities. Only selected areas of Gardner are eligible for these funds.

Priority for pursuing: Moderate.

Chances of success: Moderate depending on the funds to be made available upon the Program's reauthorization.

4) Program/Method: **Forest Legacy Program**

Sponsoring Agency: The Land & Water Conservation Fund Coalition

Approximate Funding Maximum: MA can submit up to 3 projects <= 20 million.

Program Description: This Program aims to protect private forest lands that provide public benefits for the community. It pays 50% of project costs and requires a 50% non-federal funding match.

Deadline: Usually October each year.

5) Program/Method: **Landscape Partnership Grants**

Sponsoring Agency: MA Division of Conservation Services

Approximate Funding Maximum: up to 1.5 million.

Deadline: Usually July each year.

Program Description: To permanently protect a minimum of 500 acres of land. Requires a partnership of non-profit, municipality or state/federal agency.

6) Program/Method: **Drinking Water Supply Protection Grants (DWSP)**

Sponsoring Agency: Mass. EOEEA

Approximate Funding Maximum: up to \$350,000.

Deadline: Usually January each year.

Program Description: Reimbursement funding for 50% of the acquisition cost of land or a conservation restriction. Eligible land must be within state determined Surface Water or Groundwater Protection Zones of a Public Drinking Water Supply.

Chances of success: Moderate - will depend on quality of City's application and level of competition.

7) Program/Method: **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant Program**

Sponsoring Agency: Mass. EOEEA

Approximate Funding Maximum: \$15,000-\$100,000 per plan.

Deadline: Usually January each year.

Program Description: Provides support for MA communities to identify climate hazards, assess vulnerabilities, and develop action plans to improve resilience to climate change. Designated MVP Communities are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding to implement the priority actions identified through the planning process.

Priority for pursuing: Moderate.

Chances of success: High with a good proposal

Studies and Construction/Maintenance

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1) Program/Method: | The National Recreational Trails Act (NRTA) |
| Sponsoring Agency: | Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) |
| Approximate Funding Maximum: | \$2,000 - \$50,000. |
| Program Description: | Part of the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Act, NRTA provides funds for trail projects. Eligible projects include: trail construction, land/easement acquisition, handicapped accessibility, interpretative areas/facilities, and education. Trails must be recreational, e.g. intra-city, on-road bikeways would probably not be eligible. A 20% local match is required (matching funds can be “non-cash”). Motorized and non-motorized trail use must be included in the grant with at least thirty percent of funds going to each activity with 40% going toward other diverse uses. |
| Priority for pursuing: | Moderate. |
| Chances of success: | High with a good proposal. |
-
- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 2) Program/Method: | Greenways and Trails Demonstration Grant Program |
| Sponsoring Agency: | Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) |
| Approximate Funding Maximum: | \$5,000. |
| Program Description: | Greenways and trail projects are at the center of this program. Funding categories include: planning, research, mapping, public education and community outreach, ecological assessment, and trail construction, maintenance and expansion. In recent years focus has been placed on projects that either educate the public or work on river greenways. However, all greenway/trail projects are eligible with the exception of those confined to a single |

parcel of land.

Priority for pursuing: Moderate.

Chances of success: High with a good proposal.

3) Program/Method: **MassTrails Grant**

Sponsoring Agency: MA annual Capital Investment Plan & US DOT FHWA

Approximate Funding Maximum: \$60,000 for “local” projects and up to \$500,000 for projects demonstrating critical network connections of regional or statewide significance.

Program Description: Greenway MassTrails provides matching grants to communities, public entities and non-profit organizations to plan, design, create, and maintain the diverse network of trails, trail systems, and trails experiences used and enjoyed by Massachusetts residents and visitors. Requires a 20% minimum match of total project cost.

Priority for pursuing: Moderate.

Chances of success: Moderate - will depend on quality of City’s application and level of competition.

Non-acquisition programs

1) Program/Method: **Conservation Restrictions (CRs)**

Sponsoring Agency: Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services (DCS)

Approximate Funding Maximum: Only technical support available.

Program Description: Conservation restrictions (CR’s) are legal, enforceable agreements, authorized by the state, which are made between a landowner and a charitable organization, or a City. They are used primarily to keep land in a "natural or scenic open condition". Restrictions can be written so that certain uses are permitted, and others prohibited, e.g. the current owner may continue to occupy an

existing house on the land, but may restrict the construction of any additional houses. Grantors of restrictions may also be able to benefit by reductions in various taxes including property, estate, and income.

Priority for pursuing:

High.

Chances of success:

Depends on property owner.

2) Program/Method:

Assessment Act (M.G.L. Chapters 61, 61A and 61B)

Sponsoring Agency:

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Agricultural Resources, and Department of Revenue (respectively)

Approximate Funding Maximum:

No public funds available.

Program Description:

These programs work by making available special property tax assessments to owners who agree to restrict their land to a particular use. Chapter 61 applies to lands actively devoted to forestry use, 61A applies to active agricultural lands, and 61B applies to public recreational lands like wildlife sanctuaries and golf courses. Generally, properties are assessed at their current use value rather than their highest use. This usually translates into a substantial property tax savings for owners. The program also requires a right-of-first-refusal option to the City when property owners look to sell their land.

Priority for pursuing:

Moderate.

Chances of success:

Depends on property owner.

3) Program/Method:

Agricultural Preservation Restrictions

Sponsoring Agency:

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Approximate Funding Maximum:

No public funds available.

Program Description:

This program ensures that active farms stay in

agricultural production. The state purchases a farmer's development rights. The price paid is the difference between the full market value of the property and its appraised agricultural value. A permanent restriction is then put in place prohibiting all non-agricultural uses on the parcel. The farmer is taxed at the agricultural value rather than the highest use value.

Priority for pursuing:

High.

Chances of success:

Depends on property owner.

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Appendix E

ADA/504 Self Evaluation and Transition Plan

Introduction

This Self-Evaluation and Transitional Plan is divided into seven sections:

- Access to Municipal Buildings and Other Facilities
- Municipal Employment
- Public Transportation
- Municipal Policies and Procedures
- Contact and Oversight
- ADA Policy Statement
- ADA Grievance Procedure

The goal of this plan is to guide the City's efforts to provide equal access and opportunity for all persons to the City's facilities and services. While there remain many identified barriers to universal access, the City has made substantial progress since the last evaluation and plan update in February 2015.

Access to Municipal Buildings and Other Facilities

City Hall (95 Pleasant Street) and City Hall Annex (115 Pleasant Street)

On-street parking on Pleasant Street does contain two ADA parking stalls, which follow ADA guidelines. The off-street parking area at the rear of the facility also follows ADA guidelines. There are no handrail extensions for the stairs at the entrance to the City Hall Annex. Power outlets inside the City Hall building do not follow ADA guidelines. The main restrooms in the City Hall facility are located on a half-floor within the stair wells and do not follow ADA guidelines. There are accessible restrooms available, however they are marked for employees only. In the City Hall Annex facility, the restrooms do not provide the minimum dimensions in the ADA guidelines, however the fixtures do follow ADA guidelines.

Department of Public Works (50 Manca Drive)

The parking area contains two accessible parking spaces that follow ADA guidelines for sizing and pavement markings; however, there is no signage. The interior of the facility follows ADA guidelines.

Fire Department Headquarters (70 City Hall Avenue)

There are no accessible parking stalls at the facility. The existing entry way does not meet ADA guidelines. Second-floor restrooms and shower areas do not meet ADA guidelines.

Gardner Municipal Golf Course (152 Eaton Street)

The parking area for the golf course has two ADA parking stalls, however there are no access aisles. The Gardner Municipal Golf Course consists of two buildings; one is being used as a restaurant and restroom facility, and the other is used as a pro shop. The restaurant is located on the second floor and access does not comply with ADA guidelines. The first-floor restrooms for golfers do comply with ADA guidelines, however the second-floor restrooms do not comply. The pro shop facility has one step to enter the building with no railings or ramps; therefore, it does not comply with ADA guidelines. The driving

range does not contain any walkways to connect the parking area with the golf ball dispensing machine or the tee area.

Levi Heywood Memorial Library (55 West Lynde Street)

The Levi Heywood Memorial Library is fully accessible throughout.

Police Department Headquarters (200 Main Street)

The Police Department Headquarters facility is fully accessible throughout.

Senior Center (294 Pleasant Street)

The parking lot meets the requirement for minimum number of ADA parking stalls. There is one stall that meets the dimensional requirements of a van accessible stall; however, there is no striped access aisle or van accessible signage. Interior stairway railings do not have extensions. The third-floor restroom does not meet ADA guidelines. The interior entryway at the rear entrance does not meet ADA guidelines.

Municipal Playgrounds**Bickford Playground**

The parking lot is comprised of a gravel surface; therefore, there are no marked parking stalls. In addition, there are no signs for accessible parking stalls. The playground equipment does not comply with ADA guidelines.

Crystal Lake Park

There is no off-street parking available. On-street parking is available; however, parking stalls are not marked and there is no signage for accessible parking. The park contains picnic tables and benches; however, there are no walkways to the tables and benches.

Greenwood Outdoor Pool

On-street parking is available for the Greenwood pool. There are no marked parking stalls nor any accessible parking signage. The pool and splash park facilities meet ADA guidelines.

Greenwood Playground

The off-street parking area does not contain a van accessible parking stall. Site access is paved and compliant. Playground equipment does not comply with ADA guidelines.

Jackson Playground

There is no off-street parking available for Jackson Playground. On-street parking is available; however, parking stalls are not marked and there is no signage for accessible parking. The playground equipment does not comply with ADA guidelines. There is no walkway to the skate park.

Monument Park

Parallel street parking is available on Park and Central streets. Perpendicular street parking is available on Cottage Street. None of the parking is marked with pavement markings. The Cottage Street parking area does not contain any accessible parking. Both Park Street and Central Street have signage for one accessible parking space each. There

are no accessible walkways within the park. Stairs within the park do not contain any handrails.

North Central Pathway

The off-street parking area near 372 Green Street does not contain any accessible parking stalls.

Ovila Case Playground

The parking lot is comprised of a gravel surface; therefore, there are no marked parking stalls. In addition, there are no signs for accessible parking stalls. The playground equipment does not comply with ADA guidelines.

Pulaski Playground

Off-street parking facilities do contain accessible parking stalls; however, neither parking area contains van accessible stalls. In addition, the parking areas do not contain any accessible parking signage. The curb ramps in both parking areas do not follow ADA guidelines. Within the park, the eastern side of the perimeter asphalt walkway is buckling and contains several trip hazards. The western side of the perimeter asphalt walkway is new and compliant. The playground areas do contain accessible walkways to equipment; however, the equipment does not follow ADA guidelines.

Stedman Ballfield

The parking lot is comprised of a gravel surface; therefore, there are no marked parking stalls. In addition, there are no signs for accessible parking stalls. The ballfield does not contain any walkways from the parking area to the ballfield or spectator viewing areas.

Downtown Area Streetscapes

Over the last ten years, the City has made many improvements to its sidewalks within the downtown area with the assistance of Community Development Block Grant funds. Sidewalk improvements include Connors Street (2013), Knowlton and Pleasant Streets (2014), Pleasant and Main Streets (2019), and the Theater Park area (2020). In addition, construction is scheduled to begin on sidewalk and accessibility improvements for Connors and Parker Streets as well as Timpany Boulevard, Main Street, Derby Drive, and Catherine Street in 2021.

Election Polling Places**Elk's Home (31 Park Street)**

Parallel on-street parking is available to the public. There is one accessible parking sign directly in front of the facility; however, there are no marked parking stalls or access aisles. Off-street parking is marked as parking for members only. The off-street parking area does not contain any ADA parking stalls or signage. Inside the facility, the restrooms do not follow ADA guidelines.

Acadien Social Club (193 Parker Street)

One accessible parallel parking space is available on Parker Street and two spaces marked accessible are located in the lot to the north of the building. However, these spaces do not include access aisles. The corridor immediately inside the building's entrance is sloped,

and its cross slope is greater than that of an accessible route. The building's restrooms do not meet accessibility guidelines for clear floor space or grab bars.

National Guard Armory (323 West Broadway)

Access to the National Guard Armory was not available at the time of evaluation.

Conservation Areas

The City owns several conservation areas. The Baily Brook Conservation Area was recently constructed and follows ADA guidelines. All other conversation areas do not have public access.

Educational Facilities

The Gardner School Department maintains an ADA/504 plan for its facilities through the office of the Director of Special Education. The School Committee has designated this office as the official ADA/504 Coordinator for the School Department. For further information call (978) 632-1000.

Public Housing

The Gardner Housing Authority maintains an ADA/504 plan for its facilities through the office of its Executive Director, which also serves as the ADA/504 Coordinator for public-assisted housing. For more information call (978) 632-6627.

Municipal Employment

The City of Gardner affords equal employment opportunity regardless of sex, age, race, color, creed, ancestry, sexual preference, religion disability or national origin. The City's employment practices have been in compliance with Civil Service rules and regulations and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and, therefore, significant changes are not necessary to comply with the ADA. The following actions will be taken to meet new or expanded requirements.

- Continue to review employment rules and regulations to ensure that they do not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.
- As recruitment occurs, physical or cognitive skills shall be reviewed to ensure that requirements relate to performance of essential functions of the positions.
- With the exception of positions covered by regulation, there are no automatic disqualifications for medical conditions. Each case is considered individually, and reasonable accommodation is considered in all cases.
- Positions requiring a physical agility examination will be reviewed to ensure the job relatedness of all physical activities simulated in the test.
- Reasonable accommodations are available upon request for use in the selection/hiring process.
- Job announcement should be available, upon request, in alternate formats.
- The City's EEO/AA Statement will be included on job fliers and employment applications.
- Potentially discriminating language is not allowed in job postings, applications, or test material.

Public Transportation

The Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) provides fixed route transportation to the City of Gardner that is fully accessible. MART also provides fully accessible door-to-door transportation on an 'on call' basis.

Municipal Policies and Procedures

One required component of the self-evaluation is a review of policies that affect accessibility to City services. The ADA requires that where policies are found to be discriminatory, appropriate modifications will be made.

A review was made of all existing policies within the City. This review considered both official and informal policies. Some areas require policies to be created.

- The City will assure equal employment opportunity and fair employment practices through affirmative action to all persons regardless of race, color, ancestry, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation, medical condition or disability.
- City services, activities and programs will be offered in an accessible fashion. Requests for reasonable accommodation will be responded to positively where no proficiency, safety and/or sanctioned requirements are in place.
- Efforts will be taken to ensure that all public meetings are accessible. If no notification is received prior to a meeting, items of interest may be rescheduled to a time when a needed accommodation can be provided.
- All material prepared for official public meetings of the City will be available, upon request, in alternate formats.
- Notification to the public will occur through statements. On all public meeting agendas and announcements, the process for requesting auxiliary aids will be noted.
- Large Type documents, documents on audio or video tape.
- Phone listings in City publications and local directories will contain references to TTY lines. All information developed to alert individuals to 911 service will include reference to direct TTY access.
- Where counter heights are too high to be accessible, an alternate transaction area will be identified and/or lapboards or clipboards will be provided as an assistive device.

Contact and Oversight

- Disability Commission
 - Eric Knudsen, Chair
 - Tom Davis, Vice-Chair
 - Debra Pond, Clerk/Secretary
 - Anne Hurst, Member
 - Sebazius Athame, Member
 - David Hackett, Treasurer
- ADA Coordinator: Ms. Debra Pond, Personnel Director
- Grievance Policy

ADA Policy Statement

The City of Gardner does not discriminate on the basis of disability in access to, or employment in, programs, services and/or activities.

Accordingly, the City of Gardner will:

- Take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with applicants, participants, and members of the public with disabilities are as effective as communications with others.
- Make reasonable accommodations in policies, practices, or procedures when necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless a fundamental alteration in a local government program would result.
- Operate its programs so that, when viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

The City of Gardner will not:

- Refuse to allow a person with a disability to participate in a local government service, program, or activity simply because the person has a disability.
- Require that participation in programs or services and benefits to individuals with disabilities be separate or different from those who are not disabled.
- Subject individuals with disabilities to discrimination in employment under any local government service, program, or activity.

The City of Gardner has appointed an ADA Coordinator to coordinate efforts to comply with these requirements. The ADA Coordinator also serves as a member of the City of Gardner's Disability Commission. Additional assistance and information may be obtained from the members of the City's Commission on Disabilities or through the City's representative on the Disability Commission/ADA Coordinator, who is:

Debra A. Pond
City of Gardner
95 Pleasant Street, Rm. 14
Gardner, MA 01440
Tel. (978) 630-4001

Other information on the federal regulations regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act can be obtained from:

Office of the Americans with Disabilities Act
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20035-6118
(202) 514-0301 (Voice) or (202) 514-0381 (TDD)

ADA Grievance Procedure

ADA Grievance Procedure The following grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in employment practices

and policies or the provision of services, activities, programs, and benefits by the City of Gardner.

1. The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of the complainant and location, date and description of the problem. Reasonable accommodations, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities who are unable to submit a written complaint.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible, but no later than 30 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

ADA Coordinator City of Gardner
95 Pleasant Street, Rm. 14
Gardner, MA 01440
Tel: (978) 630-4001

2. Within 15 days after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator will meet with the complainant to discuss the nature of the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 days after the meeting, the ADA Coordinator will (1) resolve the dispute through reasonable accommodation; (2) dismiss the complaint as not relevant to the handicapped regulations (ADA); or (3) refer the complaint to the Commission on Disabilities for review. The complainant, the Commission on Disabilities, the Mayor and the City Council must be notified of which action is taken either in writing or by other appropriate formal notification (such as audiotape). The response will explain the position of the City of Gardner and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.
3. If the response by the ADA Coordinator does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the ADA Coordinator within 15 days after receipt of the response to the City's Commission on Disabilities. Within 15 days after receipt of the appeal, the Commission on Disabilities will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. The ADA Coordinator will not participate in this meeting. The complainant must be notified City of Gardner 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan ADA/504 Self Evaluation Appendix F - 9 of the meeting and may be present with counsel if he/she so chooses. Within 15 days, the Commission on Disabilities will (1) resolve the dispute through reasonable accommodation; (2) dismiss the complaint as not relevant to the handicapped regulations; or (3) devise a plan for the needed structural or program changes to reach compliance. The complainant, ADA Coordinator, the Mayor and the City Council must be notified of which action is taken either in writing or by other appropriate formal notification (such as audiotape).
4. If the complainant is not satisfied with the response of the Commission on Disabilities, within 15 days he/she and/or his/her designee may file a formal complaint with the Mayor. Within 15 days of the formal notice of complaint, the Mayor will meet to review the complaint. The complainant must be notified of the meeting and may be present with counsel if he/she so chooses. Within 15 days of their meeting, the Mayor will (1) resolve the complaint through reasonable accommodation; (2) dismiss the complaint as not relevant to the handicapped

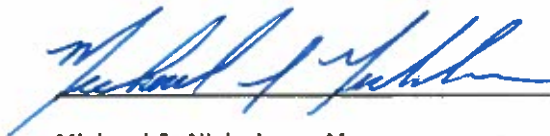
regulations; or (3) adopt plans for needed structural changes to reach compliance. The complainant, the Commission on Disabilities, the ADA Coordinator and the City Council must be notified either in writing or by other appropriate formal notification (such as audiotape) of the Mayor's actions.

5. The decision of the Mayor is final. All complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, Commission on Disabilities, the Mayor or the City Council as well as their responses shall be kept for a period of at least three (3) years.

The City of Gardner has made significant progress in recent years towards meeting the needs of its handicapped citizens. Unfortunately, strained municipal budgets make realization 100% accessibility unlikely within the next few years. Yet these limited resources have not stopped the City from implementing the above policies towards meeting that goal.

Through the efforts of the Gardner Disabilities Commission, the City's ADA/504 Coordinator, the self-evaluation team and citizen participation, the City is resolved toward the ongoing process of identification, investigation and remediation of barriers to access.

Respectfully submitted on the 31 day of August, 2021.



Michael J. Nicholson, Mayor

Table 1 ADA Inventory Summary of Municipal Playgrounds

Facility	Parking & Site Access	Activities & Equipment	Notes	Action Plan	Responsible Entity
Bickford Playground	Gravel off-street parking. No designated HC parking. Site Access is hard packed gravel and compliant.	Baseball, basketball, volleyball, playground	Parking lot and playground equipment not compliant.	No actions planned	DPW Parks & Recreation
Crystal Lake Park	No off-street parking. No designated HC on-street parking. Site Access not compliant.	Benches adjacent to Crystal Lake	On-street parking and site access not compliant.	Addition of small parking area being explored	DPW Parks & Recreation
Greenwood Outdoor Pool	No off-street parking. No designated HC on-street parking. Site Access paved and compliant.	Swimming pool and splash park	On-street parking not compliant.	Replacement of outdoor pool being explored	DPW Parks & Recreation
Greenwood Playground	Paved off-street parking area with HC parking but no van accessible parking. Site access paved and compliant.	Baseball, basketball, playground	On-street parking and playground equipment not compliant.	No actions planned	DPW Parks & Recreation
Jackson Playground	On-street parking only. No HC designated HC parking. Site Access is not compliant.	Baseball, basketball, playground, skate park	On-street parking, playground equipment, and site access not compliant.	No actions planned	DPW Parks & Recreation
Monument Park	On-street parking only. Two HC parking signs, but no striping to identify parking stall. Site Access not compliant.	Outdoor amphitheater	On-street parking and site access not compliant.	Installation of HC ramps and sidewalk improvements	DPW Parks & Recreation
North Central Pathway	Off-street paved parking with no HC designated parking stalls. Site Access paved and compliant.	Paved walking/bike path	Off-street parking not compliant.	Bridge over Route 140 and eventual connection to Greenwood Pool and downtown area planned	DPW Parks & Recreation
Ovila Case Playground	Gravel off-street parking with no designated HC parking. Site Access not compliant.	Tennis, baseball, playground, walking path	Off-street parking and playground equipment not compliant.	Updates to a portion of the playground equipment being explored	DPW Parks & Recreation
Pulaski Playground	Paved off-street parking with designated HC parking but no van accessible stalls. Site Access not compliant.	Basketball, dog park, playground, walking path	Off-street parking, playground equipment, and site access not compliant.	No actions planned	DPW Parks & Recreation
Stedman Ballfield	Gravel off-street parking with no designated HC parking. Site Access not compliant.	Baseball	Off-street parking and site access not compliant.	No actions planned	DPW Parks & Recreation

City of Gardner, *Executive Department*


Michael J. Nicholson, Mayor



DESIGNATION OF ADA COORDINATOR

Debra A. Pond, Director of Human Resource, is hereby designated as the City of Gardner's ADA Coordinator.

CITY OF GARDNER

BY 
Michael J. Nicholson, Mayor

DATED: September 10, 2021

DRAFT

Appendix F

Placeholder: Mayor Endorsement

Placeholder: City Council Endorsement

Placeholder: Conservation Commission
Endorsement

Placeholder: Planning Board
Endorsement

Placeholder: MRPC Endorsement

Placeholder: DCS Endorsement

Gardner Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

240
Responses

12:24
Average time to complete

Active
Status

1. Is the City adequately served by current Open Space?

Yes	70
No	108
No Opinion	46



2. **How satisfied are you with the places for children and youth to play and recreate?**

Very satisfied	22
Satisfied	122
Dissatisfied	91



3. **How important is it to you to preserve the following?**

a. City-owned Open Spaces for active recreation (ex, playgrounds, ball fields, team sports)

Extremely important	168
Somewhat important	56
Least Important	9
No Opinion	3



4. **How important is it to you to preserve the following?**

b. City-owned Open Spaces specifically for children.

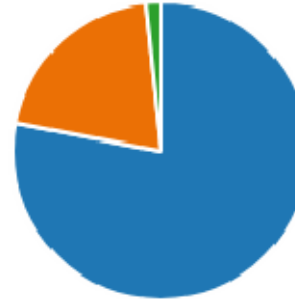
Extremely important	160
Somewhat important	64
Least Important	8
No Opinion	5



5. **How important is it to you to preserve the following?**

c. Open Spaces for passive recreation and aesthetics (ex. walking/running trails, cross country, benches, picnic areas)

Extremely important	184
Somewhat important	48
Least Important	4
No Opinion	0



6. **How important is it to you to preserve the following?**

d. City-owned Open Spaces to meet our water supply needs.

Extremely important	196
Somewhat important	31
Least Important	5
No Opinion	5



7. **How important is it to you to preserve the following?**

e. Historic places

Extremely important	119
Somewhat important	92
Least Important	24
No Opinion	2



8. **How important is it to you to preserve the following?**
f. Farmlands

Extremely important	154
Somewhat important	65
Least Important	12
No Opinion	4















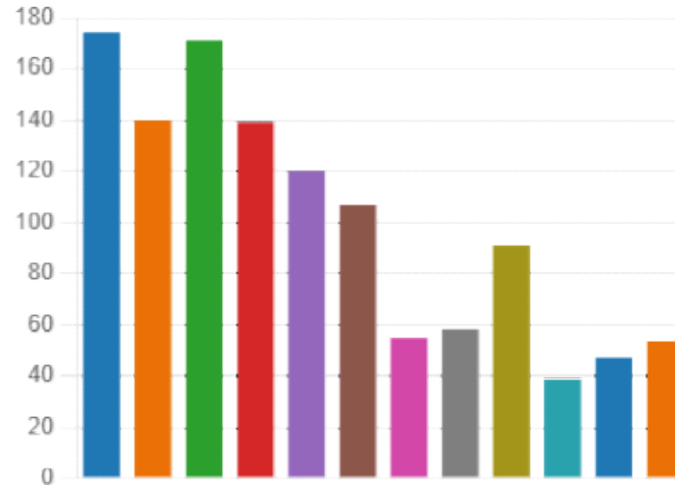
9. **How important is it to you to preserve the following?**
g. Open Spaces for hunting and fishing

Extremely important	73
Somewhat important	88
Least Important	70
No Opinion	6



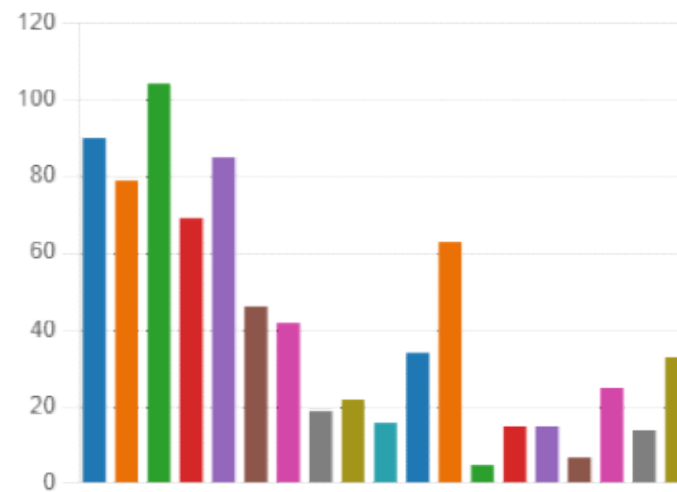
10. **Please check the recreation areas in the City that you have visited and enjoyed in the last 12 months.**

	Dunn Pond	174
	MWCC	140
	City sidewalks	171
	North Central Pathway (bike path)	139
	Monument Park	120
	Children's play areas	107
	Ice skating rink	55
	Baseball/Softball field	58
	Hiking/cross country skiing trails	91
	Soccer/Lacrosse/Football field	39
	Municipal Golf Course	47
	Greenwood Outdoor Pool	54



11. Please select the top three (3) recreation facility improvements you feel are needed in Gardner.

Additional/Improved children's ...	90
Improvements to Greenwood P...	79
Additional/Improved City sidew...	104
Additional neighborhood parks/...	69
Additional natural conservation ...	85
Improvements to Dunn Pond	46
Additional bike paths	42
Improved bike routes	19
Mountain biking trails	22
Additional soccer/lacrosse field(s)	16
Better access to Otter River	34
Access to Camp Collier/Lake Wa...	63
Additional baseball field(s)	5
Additional public open access t...	15
Additional tennis courts	15
Additional softball field(s)	7
Pickleball courts	25
Snowmobile trails	14
Other	33



12. Do you or any of your family require accommodations for accessibility?

Yes	38
No	197



13. If your household members travel to adjacent communities for recreational activities, please specify what type of activities.

123
Responses

Latest Responses
"Disc golf."
"Cycling walking nature viewing"
"Hiking"

14. How important is it for members of your household to use sidewalks in your neighborhood for recreation or travel?

Extremely important	141
Somewhat important	67
Least Important	21
No Opinion	7



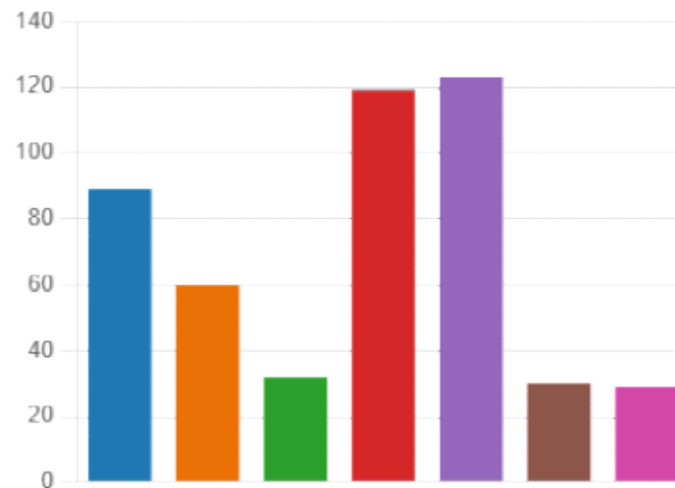
15. **How Important would it be for members of your family to use bike lane facilities if available?**

Extremely important	27
Somewhat important	66
Least Important	125
No Opinion	19



16. **Should the City act to (Check your TWO highest priorities)**

a. Improve its conservation/open space	89
b. Construct new recreational facilities	60
c. Acquire additional open space	32
d. Improve existing recreational facilities	119
e. Repair and improve existing sidewalks	123
f. Construct additional sidewalks	30
g. Construct additional bike lane facilities	29



17. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Bicycle paths (off-road)

Most Important	39
Somewhat Important	112
Least Important	71
No Opinion	14







18. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Bicycle lanes (roadway shoulders)

Most Important	24
Somewhat Important	75
Least Important	125
No Opinion	11







19. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Mountain biking trails

	Most Important	14
	Somewhat Important	77
	Least Important	119
	No Opinion	26



20. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Sidewalks

	Most Important	142
	Somewhat Important	80
	Least Important	12
	No Opinion	2



21. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Children's play equipment (swings, slides, climbing, etc.)

Most Important	122
Somewhat Important	95
Least Important	15
No Opinion	4







22. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Cross country skiing

Most Important	11
Somewhat Important	53
Least Important	134
No Opinion	38







23. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities: Dog park**

 Most Important	24
 Somewhat Important	96
 Least Important	99
 No Opinion	17



24. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities: Hiking trails**

 Most Important	76
 Somewhat Important	120
 Least Important	31
 No Opinion	8



25. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Areas for hunting and fishing

Most Important	29
Somewhat Important	85
Least Important	99
No Opinion	22







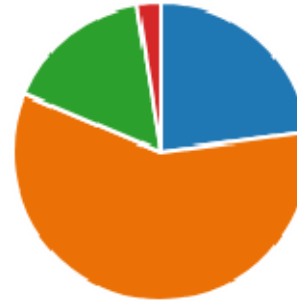
26. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Recreational exterior lighting

Most Important	74
Somewhat Important	106
Least Important	41
No Opinion	15







27. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Sitting benches

	Most Important	54
	Somewhat Important	138
	Least Important	38
	No Opinion	6







28. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Sledding

	Most Important	30
	Somewhat Important	107
	Least Important	81
	No Opinion	17







29. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Pickleball courts

	Most Important	19
	Somewhat Important	57
	Least Important	109
	No Opinion	51



30. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Fitness trail/exercise equipment

	Most Important	38
	Somewhat Important	108
	Least Important	69
	No Opinion	21



31. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Team court sport facilities (basketball, tennis, volleyball)

Most Important	47
Somewhat Important	107
Least Important	61
No Opinion	21







32. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Team field sport facilities (baseball, football, soccer)

Most Important	54
Somewhat Important	100
Least Important	58
No Opinion	22







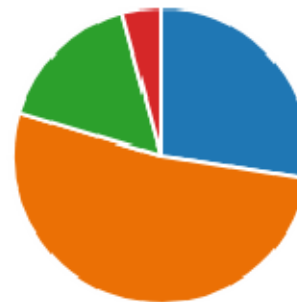
33. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Skate Park

	Most Important	24
	Somewhat Important	87
	Least Important	100
	No Opinion	25



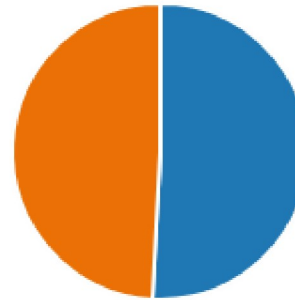
34. **Rate the following areas for investment by the City to make improvements or provide new facilities:** Picnic Areas

	Most Important	65
	Somewhat Important	123
	Least Important	38
	No Opinion	10



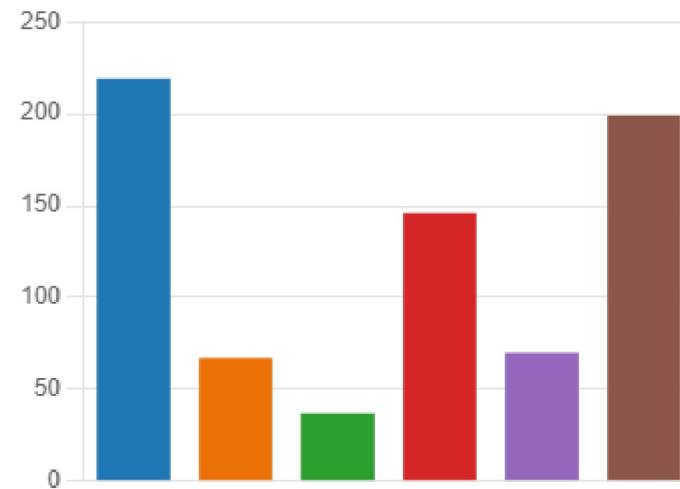
35. **Would you support an increase in your taxes to pay for improvements and/or new recreational facilities?**

● Yes	119
● No	115



36. **Please tell us about yourself (choose all that apply)**

● I live in the City	219
● I work in the City	67
● I visit family in the City	37
● I own property in the City	146
● I have children who attend scho...	70
● I am 18 or over	199



37. In your own words, please provide additional thought, comments, recommendations, or further explanations about the City's open space network

110

Responses

SEE RESPONSES IN TABLE
ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

ID Responses

1	Make sure neighborhoods and open space are safely connected by foot and bike paths.
2	Reinvest in the city! Open new businesses that actually have a chance of survival. If Athol can do it, we can too!
3	The city has one good park with basketball, a walking/bike path, baseball court and tables and several lower quality parks. I love what that one park had to offer. It has a lot for kids and adults to do. It would be cool if there was a walking path through the woods there too. But I think the sidewalks are a big issue. There's not enough and the ones there are need serious repairs. We use both of the bike paths and love hiking at Dunn. Anything to do with nature and outdoors would be wonderful!
4	<p>1. I'm a nature lover who hates to see forests torn down to make way for buildings. Let's make great use of the buildings we have. When I win the lottery, I'll buy some and do something with them. :-)</p> <p>2. For those of us who walk around town: pay attention to the shortcuts made by many feet. I think of the pedestrian shortcut made from Derby Drive to the Cumberland Farms on Main Street. I know that portion of the business district will be developed soon. But someone should make sure that pedestrians could still get between those two points without going too much out of the way. Another place that is overlooked, probably because it involves several private business owners, is the makeshift "link" between the Acadian Club parking lot on Parker Street, and the O'Reilly Auto Parts / Family Dollar parking lot on West Street. If you're on foot, this shortcut makes sense. It's too much distance to walk ALL THE WAY AROUND the Shell gas station and convenience store. So everyone climbs the little macadam hill between the two parking lots. I highly recommend that someone negotiate a deal between those businesses. And maybe the city could even install there a smaller set of metal stairs like the ones that connect Derby Drive with Pine Street. We walkers would love this! The piles of snow there are unmanageable in winter. We all walk in each other's snowy footsteps. And I have seen some folks with mobility problems or laundry /shopping cartlets do their best to negotiate that shortcut, when they really could have used real railings and real steps. Walk around town, and you'll see more natural shortcuts like those two. You only understand them when you're on foot. I heard of a college long ago wondering where to put sidewalks for best accessibility for their students to pass through a new space. They let the students decide with their feet. After a certain amount of time, administrators saw well-worn paths. The college put sidewalks where the natural paths had been. I think Gardner could do the same.</p> <p>3. Not necessarily an "open space" issue, as much as a Nature issue. A NATIVE Nature issue. I'd sure love it if the city could take the lead on eliminating all the Japanese knotweed that is springing up in certain places.</p>

ID Responses

	<p>ESPECIALLY around the skating rink parking lot. Now again, some of these properties are owned by private citizens and businesses. But if the city helped to initiate best practices in burning and in laying down non-penetrable material, these plants could be gone in a year or two. Make the offer to private citizens to help. Educate the public -- as well as city staffers -- about why this invasive species needs special attention for elimination. This could ONLY be good publicity for the city. It would help property owners and it would show that the city cares about such things. 4. I would love it even more if the city would stop putting chemicals on public property lawns. Like at city hall and the post office and in front of the library. Some folks are allergic to those chemicals. Dogs walk on them and get cancer from licking residue off their paws. Why do we need "perfect" lawns at all? Mow enough, and everything will be green anyway. Dandelions are the friends of bees. We have LOVELY places with natural native plants on them because they're not mowed. I LOVE the "empty lot" next to Price Chopper. I LOVE the corner lot at the corner of Nichols Street and City Hall Avenue. We need more natural places like this. Unexpected little gems. Put walking trails through them, along with little signs about the native plants that are growing there. And hey, thanks for asking. :-)</p>
5	<p>My husband is dependent on a walker, So easy short distance walks to a seating/picnic area would be great for him.</p>
6	<p>Outdoor seating for eating is not a priority. Building up the community and providing safe roads and sidewalks should be a priority.</p>
7	<p>I ran on the Gardner HS cross country and track teams in the early 2000s and am shocked that there have been no improvements to parks and rec land for runners since then. We need unpaved trails throughout any open space created so that middle school/high school cross country teams and all ages of adults can enjoy a surface that doesn't wear on the joints and bones, which can lead to injury, osteoarthritis and a decreased running life for Gardner residents. The only unpaved trail we ever trained on was at Dunn's State Park (not even funded by the City of Gardner). Not paving paths and trails saves a great amount of money as well. You would just potentially need to apply some drainage layers to the trails. Not paving also decreases the amount of impervious surfaces in town so we can be better able to manage stormwater and melting snows. Cyclists can use the bike trail. Gardner needs soft surfaces to walk and run on. Thank you for listening.</p>
8	<p>It's really sad to see the parks I grew up going to how they are now. I often take my toddler to other cities to use their playgrounds because ours aren't toddler friendly, broken equipment, profanities written everywhere</p>

ID Responses

9	With the building of the new elementary school, it was nice to have more areas for children to play closer to their homes. I also feel like the upgrades to Oliver case playground are wonderful with the walking path and the playground update it makes it easy for all ages to enjoy the one area. It would be nice to see that continue through other playgrounds in the city.
10	I'd love to to see an improvement in our softball and baseball fields, similar to what Westminster has. They have higher home values, but we have the tax rate to support such a thing if we put our money towards it. Also, I would love to see more on and off road bike trails. I love riding my bike with my family for exercise.
11	I'd rather see our officials use our tax money for stuff that matters. Our children , our roads and sidewalks, our down town, and our parks then waste it on electric vehicles and useless spending. Our officials don't need a mustangs and electric vehicles when we can't even drive down our roads. Our children have no where to go and our school system sucks. Our officials have overlooked basic things right in front of them that have pissed off the citizens of our city by using our money , our taxes for their selfish needs. Our current officials will not be getting my vote again and have lost all respect. Our taxes go up for your selfish needs. A crap trash company that can't even follow up with their contract. Get a grip on what matter Gardner officials. Your gonna lose more families then you realize and the money you wanna spend on parks will be for nothing if no one lives here to enjoy it.
12	More conservation area please!!!! And expanded sidewalks
13	I would love to see improvements made to Jackson Park, especially making it more difficult for the equipment to be broken.
14	PLEASE DO NOT INCREASE MY TAXES, WE ARE BARELY Surviving
15	I would love to see Gardner become more recreationally friendly. Being an avid athlete there are not tons of places where I feel I can enjoy activities and feel safe. I would love to see a running path that's out in the open and safe. Better options for cyclists. An outdoor park with picnic benches and pickle ball courts and bike paths would be incredible. Having a dedicated outdoor pool for lap swimming with early acces hours for swimmers would be great even at a cost! Even if residents paid \$30-\$50 a year to use these amenities if they wanted to think many people will take advantage of it and it would be money well spent.
16	Exercises place

ID Responses

17	I'm all for children's recreation, but I think the City has done a great job adding and maintaining. What I see is a lack of investment for adults who want to walk or run, or gather for events. I'd like to see us back to being a walkable city, since adults don't have access to the high school track and the MWCC track is in terrible shape. Where I live, sidewalks were removed and they shouldn't have been. All sidewalks to schools need attention as well. Thanks for asking our opinions!
18	It's not that we need places for kids to "play" We need businesses in the area that will want to cater to the younger demographic and get kids interested in spending money on entertainment and learning adventures. Kids can play out side anywhere. But what I don't have for my child is businesses that cater to kids and adults to have fun. Trails and hiking? Bike lanes. If that's all gardner is destined to offer then priorities are way off. We need businesses. I'd rather know my child spent \$50 to hang out at an arcade or apex trampoline park for the day then walking around town or hiking. Kids don't want to go hiking or such.
19	More dog friendly areas. More areas in downtown where it has a dog waste bags. And dog water bowls where it can have water area to filled sports bottles and an attached dog bowl
20	We should invest in more recreational land adjacent to land we already have.
21	We need more conservation land untouched by business or government
22	We have plenty of spaces that can be improved/updated currently. Acquiring of new spaces is not necessary. Please preserve as much natural environmental land as possible And do not spend money to develop more. Plenty of improvements need to be made downtown, sidewalks etc.
23	Investing in improvements is only effective if they are then protected from destruction/misuse for example the defaced skatepark and destroyed Jackson Park play area - graffiti and drug use on play areas for children is unacceptable, and a waste of money and resources. It makes no sense to continually invest money in areas that are being misused and rendered unusable for intended purposes. Same with dog parks when people don't clean up after their dogs on sidewalks.
24	Open space is geared towards residents. Gardner needs to attract outsiders, both residents and businesses that offer more than minimum wage. Gardner's priorities should include: 1) Fix and maintain roads 2) Trash cleanup and better Police monitoring on problematic littering areas 3) Pressure on slumlords by the board of health and building inspectors to maintain their buildings to a safe level.

ID Responses

	Buildings should be inspected every few years to ensure safety of the tenants. Rents have gone up while maintenance has gone way down.
25	We need improved/better roads to support the vehicles/traffic to get to certain areas to enjoy the outdoor activities ..and more shops/businesses to bring people out and to our area. .ie: any type of coffee..food: deli,sandwich, bakery and maybe a bigger name store .. to also help bring in more jobs/revenue to our area
26	What does the cuty plan to do with all the vacant (5+) school buildings? There is probably athletic fields/plagrounds at most of those places.
27	Why is recreation the only thing important for our input. Waste of money=bike lane, mustang. City government shout be parng down its spending just like we have to
28	We have facilities that are limited access - meaning no access without being a stakeholder. Note: Stone Field. Before Covid, GHS Baseball played maybe 10 games a year and Legion Baseball about the same. The one season of GHS Football played there (while Watkins was rebuilt) had significant negative impact on the outfield area. No repair work was done in the aftermath. Gardner at it's finest.....
29	I think recreation areas are so important to attract young families (increase average household incomes which ultimately makes Gardner more attractive to other businesses) For our current recreational areas, let's make sure they are in great condition, have proper security (lighting, locked at night if necessary, cameras if necessary). Clark St could use a sidewalk coming from Brookside/Leo dr. It's dangerous at night and I've seen a ton of people walking towards the reservoir now that the warmer weather is here. Bike trail access on park at - is there a way to add more parking/parking spots? At times it's all over the place. Sledding at the golf course. Is there a way to make it more accessible from the road (not the parking lot) a lot of people park on Eaton/park and walk through the woods/up a hill. It can be hard with little ones. Amazing job with the wooden playground area!!
30	City should focus on what we have already, and fix it. The space that was open behind Leo Dr displaced a LOT of wild animals and now they're roaming through the neighborhood. Should point and reiterate that we do not want a soccer/baseball or any field that will increase the transit of people, especially when is on a hiding spot.
31	Sidewalks are needed very urgently. With gas prices reaching very levels, people will walk more and more instead o f driving.

ID Responses

32	Playgrounds need to be updated and maintained.
33	Make the playgrounds safe and maintained and clean over time. Add more water splash parks for kids that is free to use (like leominster), keep the library open later hours and have more family events during the year.
34	I have mixed feelings about the proposed Greenwood expansion. It could bring in revenue but would need to be year round I think. The convertible option (dome) is interesting. I do not think expanding the waste containment area to pay for recreation or city services is a wise choice. I have lived in a city that had a large pig farm and the smell made half the city unpleasant at certain times of the year. I would hate to see Gardner's air quality go down in any neighborhood in exchange for some funding.
35	Pearly Brook offers world class mountain bike trails that are basically unknown. Promote it. The skate park is one of the best for miles. People drive to Gardner to skate and spent money in town. Expand the phase 2 skate part. It's good business for the city
36	I think the city has too many recreational parks, we need a nice area where people can gather maybe have cookouts and gatherings.
37	No team sports field behind Leo Dr.
38	Parks need to be repaired
39	It is important to maintain what we already have. For example, the new park off of Leo Drive needs much attention. Paths, including the main one, are already becoming overgrown making them unusable because of ticks, which I got yesterday on the main trail. Before investing in something new, let work on what we have !
40	I feel that the bike trails are sufficient. I think Dunns Park is great and does not need any further upgrades. I feel that the sidewalks do need some work and there could be additional sidewalks in other areas. I don't have children however I think it is important for there to be places where children can go and be safe. We used to have a community center for teens I don't know if that still exist but that is definitely a plus. I'm an outdoors person so anything having to do with nature and the access to it is highly important.
41	More recreational activities during the summer in downtown. Facilitate evening scrolls with places where to sit and have a drink on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Outdoor dining and a farmer's market with better hours for people to be able to go after work.

ID Responses

42	I fee like there needs to be another free option for water works in the city like a new splash pad that doesn't need to be only available when the pool is open. Like the splash pad in Leominster on Litchfield street
43	This city needs improvements for recreational activities for kids. We are falling behind in recreational soccer, baseball, softball and football. Kids are leaving this city to sign up at adjacent towns to play because of better programming due to field availability.
44	As part of an outdoor playground it would be cool if they're were small jump pads, like trampolines. A flexible pool schedule that supports working parents is important, 12-5 is not sufficient. Adding a water slide would be amazing, I recommend checking out the city of Neenah in Wisconsin for ways they revitalized as while and in regards to their pool facility a link to their pool is here. (http://www.ci.neenah.wi.us/departments/parks-recreation/neenah-pool/) Additionally offering snacks, beverages, etc. is another way to earn income to support the pool. A playground in the downtown area, perhaps near the library (yes I know Jackson playground is close) that kids could use if events are hosted on the road behind the police station would be beneficial and could also be used by the library for story hours, playgroups, etc. It would also be helpful if we open recreational fields, like tennis courts as an example, if kids could rent equipment in the event they don't want to invest until they understand if they like a sport. Also, bring back movies in the park and add food trucks to it :)
45	I think that things (for example, sidewalks) need to be prioritized. Many people walk for transportation, and although recreation is important, it is not the most. Additionally, it is crucial to improve the bike lanes. I do not yet have a drivers license, so biking is one of my personal most used means of transportation. I don't feel entirely comfortable using the bike lanes, because on multiple different occasions I have seen drivers positioned with their car partially in the bike lane. If a driver was distracted that could be a potential fatality. Lastly, I think before making new recreational places, the city should work on getting the ones we already have in better condition.
46	Pulaski park could use some new places to sit in the roofed areas at each side of park and the kids play equipment is 20 years old
47	I'm happy to see the parks and green spaces that the city has added to downtown after demolishing hazardous buildings, but most of them are not used or hard to be used. Making improvements to the existing areas I think is most important. Adding bathroom facilities and lights to highly used areas would be beneficial to the city. I use the skatepark a lot, it's a mile from my house, and at 40 years old my husband and I were so happy when it was finally constructed. It had been talked about since my husband was in elementary school. We often find that the

ID Responses

	older kids and teenagers are not using the park as it is intended and are more just hanging out and being in the way of using the features because it is on the smaller side. If it could be expanded with additional concrete areas and features it would help to spread everyone out a bit more and not have it feel so busy with less than 10 people trying to skate. Adding lights would be a huge help as well. In the summer it's not as bad but in the spring and fall and even some warmer winter days it's hard to get a skate in after work because it's dark so early. I love using the bike path behind the hospital but it's on the shorter side. The path on 140 is nice because it's about 7 miles round trip. Parking on the Gardner end is a bit scary with only having the side of the street and 140 is such a high speed road. If more parking could be added that would be awesome. I'd also love to see a long bike path in the city that is not just a bike lane. It would get a lot of use from walker, runners, bikers and skaters if it was somewhat in the trees.
48	While I would not support a tax hike, I would gladly get involved in fundraising efforts to meet the costs for upgrades to recreational facilities that are important to me.
49	Do not add any more amenities to the open space off Leo Drive.
50	City should gain control of the ice rink. Build a second rink and or outdoor rink.
51	Walking is very important to me. The sidewalks are lacking in many neighborhoods with high traffic volume like on Elm St. Sidewalks were removed from Lennon and Temple streets. Making Gardner a walkable city is essential to quality of life.
52	To improve and maintain areas that already exist. More sidewalks and access to Perley brook loop.
53	Build sidewalks on clark street, maintain and update current play grounds and sports fields, create a common downtown building facade with penalties for not maintaining the look and grounds,
54	Stop trying to build more sport Field you can't properly maintain the ones you already have. Spend money on taking care of what you already have people will enjoy it more
55	We live in New England. The only nice beaches nearby are overcrowded or restricted access (Jaffrey Public). More public beach space with Gardner resident only restrictions would be a huge bonus for us.
56	We need more things for the kids to do around here

ID Responses

57	I would love to see a sports complex, like in Westminster, Fournier Field in Leominster or Gilman Waite in Templeton that has fields for softball, little league, baseball and soccer. With a nice playground, concessions, bathroom facilities and ample parking. This could also be utilized for city festivals, bonfires, fairs and fireworks.....etc.
58	FIX THE [REDACTED] ROADS.
59	Improvements to the dog park are needed. The water spouts at Dunn's would be a great feature at the dog park. Liter on the streets & sidewalks is also a big problem.
60	I will support what you decide and have in the past. I use outdoor facilities. Biking, walking, etc.
61	With everything going up in price such as food, gas and everything else this is not the time for higher taxed
62	Area around Wright's Reservoir was included in Open Space plan before the last revision. Dubzinski's have tried putting a solar field there. Would make nice recreation and hiking area in South Gardner.
63	We need to invest in the parks and recreational spots of our city. Playgrounds need to be in safe areas of the city and need to have age appropriate equipment for all ages
64	Need to improve downtown to attract people to the area
65	This town is no longer family friendly kids can't play no longer you don't see children outside cuz everything is dirty broken and not safe what is safe the family's can't afford remember not everyone is wealthy and your talking pickle ball seriously what is that cuz it's 90 degrees and a 5 yr old want to do that this is why Gardner has lost contact with the family's
66	I'd like to see improvements to current recreation locations or add more recreation, and sidewalk improvement
67	Pickleball courts would be a great addition to the City and would appeal to people of all ages
68	Parker pond boat access needs to be restored, the area filled in, and the grass and weeds cut
69	Do not make the Leo Dr Park area into a massive facility unless you plan to police it

ID Responses

70	<p>I would love to see more access to safe outdoor exploration for all ages. Providing green space, with native trees and plants, has such immense health benefits for all. By providing space for people to freely choose how they wish to spend their time outdoors, you are attracting a broader audience to go there. Also, working with MART to add areas where busses run to explore outdoor areas would be helpful. My name is Carlee Mills. I am a resident in Gardner and an environmental educator with a focus on place-based education, nature-based learning and business. I would love to work with the city towards development of outdoor access areas for our future. Please email csmills15@gmail.com to connect.</p>
71	<p>I think the Greenwood pool could use an overhaul we travel as a family to use the splash park in Leominster with a playground trash barrels and picnic tables. A new one opened up in Fitchburg something like this would be extremely beneficial to the children and families in the community. The work that has been done at Olivia case is great but nothing for small children/toddlers</p>
72	<p>The Perley Brook Reservoir area should be re-evaluated for improvements. This was a very active area that has deteriorated, the old crossing bridge and the RR Grade has had large crushed stones applied to it, and the usage has gone down significantly as a result.</p>
73	<p>Better control of local playgrounds. Cameras, regular police patrols, etc.</p>
74	<p>I believe that there are MANY open space areas in place already but they are not maintained. I have a huge issue adding more spaces given we can't maintain the ones we have in place. I understand that the physical locations may not be convenient to everyone, but until we maintain what we have, and update what's in place we have no right to be adding to the problem.</p>
75	<p>We need to seek as much outside help as possible and hopefully get some increased tax revenue from new businesses. If you build it they will come!</p>
76	<p>I think it would be nice for the city to have its own soccer complex to avoid scheduling conflicts with the GHS fields</p>
77	<p>Let's get the rest of the bike trail completed. The proposed bridge over 140 was supposed to be built already. It's taking way too long getting the section down the Park St. railroad bed completed too.</p>
78	<p>I think some kind of LGBTQ center would be a fantastic resource for youth and adults. More programs to involve people in the community.</p>

ID Responses

79	In downtown area - we gave enough green space and parking areas in place of historic buildings that have been demolished.
80	Improve what we have. Convert Greenwood pool house to trampolines and bouncy houses
81	I feel that the city currently has a good ratio of natural resources and activities to more built and structured resources and activities, and hope to see that balance continued over time.
82	I have lived here since 2019 and the one thing that I discovered quickly was the large amount of abandoned buildings. If people don't want to take care or occupy their properties, possibly they could be given to the city to make into playgrounds, open space, etc. All the empty buildings makes the city look trashy.
83	City is approaching a good amount of open space. However, improvements to existing facilities are needed.
84	Stop all this open space fix old
85	This survey was excellent! Thank you!
86	Transforming Pulaski Park into dog parks (leaving very little open space for children to run, play, practise field games) was a real mistake. Please do not repeat this error.
87	A splash pad area similar to Leominster's Fournier park (which is free) would be a great addition.
88	With huge increases in property taxes there is no room for additional tax increase to pay for this, especially when we are a family of three on one income. Perspective is needed at this time.
89	Stop the poop facility expansion. Stop wasting our tax money
90	more community gathering areas....such as smoking lounge, bon fire pits, spaces to engage and sit and communicate with one another
91	The city has an excellent variety of recreational spaces and facilities. These EXISTING facilities should be well maintained rather than investing in additional new facilities.
92	help the pool areas, fix roads and sidewalks

ID Responses

93	add walk lights to busy downtown areas at cross walks, signage for pedestrian awareness
94	preserving historic properties, free access to parks, DCR has made Dunns more expensive and hard to pay
95	open space is good, but not to the detriment of affordable housing
96	Like the idea of all of this..but more taxes are not a good idea since we pay such high taxes now
97	Before new parks are created I will like to see Better use of current ones. Greenwood park for one
98	The skatepark at Jackson is an asset to the city. Expanding the second phase of the skatepark will bring skaters from around the state and NH to use the park and spend money in town at local shops. Skatepark are followings in the skate community. I see any improvements or growth of the existing part as an increase asset to bringing business to the city.
99	Gardner has so much potential and love how progressive the city is getting from when I first moved here 4 years ago . Getting young families to come to the city is so important for growth . I do with downtown would get more of make over a lot those building are run down and give the city an ugly view . I wish their were more farm markets and maybe a carinival that would come here and attract neighbor towns . For us to have family fun we have to go atleast 20 to 30 mins away . I wish we had more restaurants as well .
100	I wish when events were held in Gardner their is more up dates and more communication about the event
101	Get rid if ourdoor sitting it's not used properly
102	Please pave all streets throughout town. It's getting expensive to repair my car due to the bad road conditions
103	The parks on Parker Street where the theater was should be a parking area. Noone sits there. We need free and accessible parking for the businesses uptown.
104	Offer more things for the older kids teenagers
105	If you build it or improve it, do not stop there! It needs continued care. Areas w benches Already, have overgrown grass ,overflowing rubbish barrels. Take care of the areas that are in use right now ,maintain them. It is all good when you add

ID Responses

	to the area. It needs to be maintained ,it's of no use if it's all overgrown and or broken.
106	The City should continue to look for opportunities to conserve open space. Work to develop the City center and minimize residential sprawl. Gardner is a unique small city with forest and water resources that must be protected for our current residents and future generations. Need to have a program explains and teaches about Gardner's natural resources. This could be a kiosk or display at the Bailey Brook Park. All bridges should have signs that indicate the names of streams that the bridge crosses.
107	Please improve and extend the bike trails, sidewalks and picnic areas. It would be nice to see more shaded areas around the pool. Thank you
108	I would like to see an investment in the current structures we have in Gardner's open space network such as the existing playgrounds and the Dog Park.
109	Maintain and fix up the parks and sidewalks we presently have. Police surveillance once in a while would be great. Talk to the neighbors of the parks we have in the city once in a while.
110	I am all for the improvement of open spaces et al, but the city has to stop wasting money on other things.