

# Town of Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan

2022-2029



# Acknowledgements

This plan would not have been possible without the support and leadership of many people in the Town of Nahant. Professional support was provided by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency serving the 101 cities and towns of Metropolitan Boston. Funding for this project was provided by MAPC's Technical Assistance Program and the Town of Nahant.

## **Town of Nahant**

Antonio Barletta, Nahant Town Administrator  
Board of Selectmen

## **Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee**

Paula Devereaux, Chair  
Nancy Cantelmo, Clerk  
Ellen Antrim  
Rebecca Durgin  
Trish Aldrich

## **Project Team**

Courtney Lewis, Regional Land Use Planner II and Project Manager, MAPC  
Ralph Willmer, FAICP, Technical Assistance Program (TAP) Manager and Principal Planner, MAPC  
Christian Brandt, Planner & Community Engagement Manager, MAPC

## **Metropolitan Area Planning Council Officers**

Erin Wortman, President  
Adam Chapdelaine, Vice President  
Sandra Hackman, Secretary  
Sam Seidel, Treasurer  
Marc D. Draisen, Executive Director

# Table of Contents

<b>Section 1: Plan Summary .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Section 2: Introduction .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Statement of Purpose.....	5
Planning Process and Public Participation.....	6
<b>Section 3: Community Setting.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Regional Context .....	9
History of The Community .....	13
Population Characteristics.....	16
Growth and Development Patterns .....	24
<b>Section 4: Environmental Inventory &amp; Analysis.....</b>	<b>34</b>
Geology, Soils, and Topography .....	34
Landscape Character .....	38
Water Resources.....	38
Vegetation.....	43
Fisheries and Wildlife .....	50
Scenic Resources and Unique Environments.....	52
Environmental Challenges .....	58
<b>Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation &amp; Recreation Interest .....</b>	<b>66</b>
Introduction to the Inventory .....	66
Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Resources .....	68
Levels of Protection.....	73
<b>Section 6: Community Vision.....</b>	<b>76</b>
Description of Process.....	76
Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals.....	77
<b>Section 7: Analysis of Needs .....</b>	<b>79</b>
Summary of Resource Protection Needs.....	79
Summary of Community's Needs.....	80
Summary of Management Needs.....	87
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) .....	88
<b>Section 8: Goals and Objectives .....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Section 9: Seven Year Action Plan .....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Section 10: Letters of Support.....</b>	<b>105</b>

## Section 1: Plan Summary

This 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) continues the ongoing efforts by the Town of Nahant to protect natural resources, conserve open space, and provide a variety of well-maintained recreational opportunities. Section 2 includes a statement of purpose and outlines the planning and public participation process undertaken for this OSRP update.

Sections 3 and 4 provide background information on the Town including history, demographic data, development patterns, and the natural environment. This information helps to set the community and natural context for the inventory of the Town's present open spaces and recreation facilities, contained in Section 5.

Sections 6 through 8 identify the Town's future open space and recreation needs and outline community priorities. Finally, the Action Plan in Section 9 provides detailed steps for achieving the plan's goals and objectives, including the relevant responsible parties, timeframe for achieving the action, and potential funding sources.

In addition to serving as a blueprint for park and open space planning, an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan allows the Town to apply for specific types of grant funding for projects related to open space and recreation. With final plan approval from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (MA EOEEA) Division of Conservation Services (DCS), Nahant is eligible for funding opportunities such as the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) and Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grants, which the Town can use for land acquisition and improvement of parks and other open spaces.

The open space and recreation goals of the Town identified in this Plan are as follows:

- **Goal 1:** Protect and improve Nahant's parks, open space, and natural resources
- **Goal 2:** Improve access and opportunities for open space and recreation for all
- **Goal 3:** Integrate cultural, recreational, and conservation activities
- **Goal 4:** Develop procedures for further evaluation of open space issues
- **Goal 5:** Protect the quality of Nahant's beaches, surrounding waters, and skies
- **Goal 6:** Increase appreciation and stewardship of Nahant's parks, open space, and recreational facilities



## Section 2: Introduction

### Statement of Purpose

#### ***Why was this Plan Update Written?***

This OSRP continues the work of previous open space plans completed by the Town of Nahant. The Town's first Open Space Plan was adopted in 1989 and was the first task executed by the newly formed Open Space Committee. The Committee at that time was known as the Nahant Open Space Management and Land Acquisition Committee and was reconstituted in 2014 as the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC). The OSRPC is a volunteer group, now appointed by the Town Moderator and the Board of Selectmen, whose purpose is to address open space issues. The Committee completed its first update of the 1989 Plan in 2000.

With guidance from the OSRPC and assistance from Town departments, boards, committees, and volunteers, many of the goals of the original 1989 Plan, the 2000 Plan, and the 2008 Plan have been accomplished. Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., Memorial Park (Lodge Park) has been rehabilitated and rededicated. Construction of a recreation path now known as the Heritage Trail, starting from Little Nahant, extending through the Lowlands conservation area, and ending at Bailey's Hill, has been completed. Management plans have been written for Lodge Park and Bailey's Hill. Access to the Nahant Thicket (Massachusetts Audubon Society Sanctuary) has been improved. In addition, a parcel of land adjacent to the Thicket has been acquired by the Nahant Preservation Trust for use as open space.

The present document is a revision of the 2008 Open Space Plan. Its purpose includes the following: to assess the Town's accomplishments; to reevaluate and update the Town's previous goals and action plan; and to help the Town create a vision for the future of its parks and open spaces.

This 2022 Plan Update has been compiled in accordance with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requirements and guidelines. In order to be eligible for state and federal grant aid offered through the EOAA, an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan is required.

#### ***What is Open Space?***

Open space is land that is undeveloped, usually without buildings or structures, and accessible to the public. Open space is typically divided into two categories: conservation lands and recreation resources.

Conservation land is usually left in its natural state, and it is often, but not always, open to the public. Conservation lands may include animal and plant habitats, water resources/aquifer protection, and other natural, historical, or cultural features.

Recreation involves activity. Active recreation activities include team sports, tennis, swimming, golf, etc. taking place in or on developed facilities. Passive recreation is defined as any activity that can be performed outdoors with a minimum disturbance to an area's natural resources. For example, hiking, picnicking, canoeing, ice-skating, swimming in a natural water body, and

informal sports activities on an open field are all considered passive activities. Conservation lands can also offer passive recreation opportunities.

This Plan inventories both active and passive recreation areas, as well as open spaces such as cemeteries that serve as historical and cultural features that provide information about the people, places, and events of an earlier time. The Inventory of Nahant's recreation and open space resources is in Section 5.

## Planning Process and Public Participation<sup>1</sup>

The Town of Nahant supported the development of this plan through the work of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC). The members of the OSRPC are listed below:

- Paula M. Devereaux, Chairperson
- Ellen Antrim
- Nancy Cantelmo
- Rebecca Durgin
- Trish Aldrich

The OSRPC also wishes to acknowledge former members Margaret Alexander, Diana Brandi and Dana Sheehan for their help in the development of this plan.

During this Open Space and Recreation Plan process, the OSRPC, whose members represent the park and open space stakeholders in Nahant, met regularly with Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) staff to review and contribute to elements of the plan and assist with community engagement. The Committee would also like to thank Calantha Sears and Julie Tarmy of the Nahant Historical Society, Vi Patek of Safer Waters in Massachusetts (SWIM), and Linda Pivacek and John Benson of the 2008 Open Space Management Committee for their assistance with sections of this Plan.

In cooperation with the OSRPC, MAPC organized and hosted virtual community forums, on March 25, 2021 and April 11, 2022. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and public health concerns, an in-person forum was not possible. Instead, using Zoom's teleconferencing platform and Qualtrics' online surveying software, MAPC staff created a virtual meeting space mirroring a traditional open house format. Recordings of the virtual meetings and copies of the meeting presentation were posted on the Town of Nahant website to allow residents who were unable to attend the live sessions to view content and provide feedback at their convenience. Information about the forums and the OSRP Community Survey, was distributed through the following means:

- Town website
- Press releases in local newspapers
- Flyers (Digital & Print)
- Individual outreach to nonprofits and community groups
- Individual outreach to Town Boards and Committees
- Individual outreach to recreation stakeholders and members of the community at large

---

<sup>1</sup> Full documentation of the feedback collected through the public participation strategies described in this section is included in Appendices.

## OSRP Community Forum #1

The OSRPC and MAPC hosted a virtual community forum on March 25, 2021, which 23 community members attended. The forum started with an interactive presentation and live Q&A session via Zoom. The purpose of the first forum and virtual open house was to introduce the OSRP planning process and gain insight into the community's open space and recreation use, goals, and needs. Immediately following the presentation participants were invited to visit the Virtual Open House where they could:

- Review informational content about the plan
- Review goals from the previous plan and suggest new goals for the 2021 OSRP update
- Provide feedback on park and open space use and priorities
- Provide general comments on strengths, deficiencies, opportunities, and challenges in Nahant's park and open space facilities

One-hundred and fourteen community members visited the Virtual Open House. Feedback gathered from the Virtual Open House was used to help evaluate what the town should prioritize as it invests in its parks and open space, e.g., "Acquire land for conservation purposes; Maintain existing parks and facilities; Improve access to parks and facilities through trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, safer crossings"; etc. Key priorities that emerged from the Virtual Open House responses included:

- Maintain existing parks and facilities
- Improve existing parks and facilities through new playgrounds, athletic fields, paving, trees, buildings
- Add or enhance programs at parks and facilities (e.g. group exercise, arts and culture, outdoor education, concerts, markets)
- Acquire land for recreational purposes (e.g., playgrounds, ballfields, boating)
- Acquire land for conservation purposes (e.g., wildlife habitat and water protection)

## OSRP Community Survey

Community members also had the opportunity to communicate their opinions and preferences through a survey developed by the OSRPC. The OSRP community survey allowed for open-ended comments and was designed to help measure and evaluate residents and community stakeholders' satisfaction with the town's current park, open space, and recreation offerings; what factors limit their utilization of open space and recreation amenities; how frequently respondents visited particular park and open space properties; and the types of programs and amenities they would like to see offered or expanded in the future.

The survey was administered online from June 29, 2021 through July 27, 2021, and paper copies were available at Town Hall, the Council on Aging, and the Nahant Public Library. The Nahant Public Library and the Council on Aging offered assistance with computer entry for the survey.

In total, the survey received 420 responses from 12.6% of the town's population. However, respondents under the age of 18 were underrepresented in the survey, relative to Nahant's overall population. Information and results from the survey were shared with the OSRC and used to inform reporting of Nahant's community needs and priorities in Section 7.

### OSRP Community Forum #2

MAPC and the OSRP Committee hosted a second community forum on April 11, 2022. The forum was set up as a virtual open house, with a brief presentation providing an overview of the OSRP planning process and the major phases of work to orient participants. During the presentation MAPC staff presented findings from the OSRP Community Survey and highlighted key themes of the draft 2021 Seven Year Action Plan.

A Working Draft of the 2022 OSRP was posted on the Town website and circulated for public review comment, and feedback following the second forum. The draft was also reviewed by town staff and boards and commissions for feedback which was incorporated into the final plan.

## Section 3: Community Setting

### Regional Context

Nahant is a coastal community located to the north of Boston Harbor in eastern Massachusetts (Essex County). The town is surrounded by Nahant Bay to the east, Nahant Harbor to the south, Lynn Harbor to the west and connected to the mainland by a 1.5-mile-long causeway to the City of Lynn. The smallest Town in area in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Nahant is 1.04 square miles and is known for its sandy beaches and rocky coastline. According to the United States Census Bureau, the Town of Nahant has a total area of 15.5 square miles of which 1.04 sq. mi. are land and 14.36 sq. mi. or 93.24% is water. Included within the Town limits is an uninhabited island, Egg Rock, which sits 1.1 miles offshore.

Due to its location on the Atlantic Ocean and natural scenic beauty, the town has drawn visitors to its shores for centuries. Nahant is the ancestral land of indigenous people who lived here and utilized this land for many generations prior to the influx of European colonizers. Used in early colonial days as a grazing area for cattle, sheep and goat flocks owned by Lynn residents, Nahant very soon became a maritime community with a small population devoted to fishing. By the middle of the eighteenth-century the town was known as a major tourist resort and vacation spot for Bostonians trying to escape the summer heat.

The two main sections of Nahant are connected by another causeway and are known as Big Nahant and Little Nahant. Historically, Big Nahant consisted of large estates in the eastern part of the peninsula, more modest homes in the center bordering a salt marsh, and a thickly settled resort area in the western part of the Town. Little Nahant was developed in the early 1900s with small homes built close together.

Today the homes with larger land areas still tend to be located on the eastern part of Big Nahant while both Little Nahant and the western part of Big Nahant are thickly settled. The Town's parks and open spaces offer not only scenic beauty but also a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors such as swimming, boating, sport fishing, biking, windsurfing, kiteboarding, kayaking, picnicking, and nature study just to name a few.

Many of the town's residents work in Boston and other employment centers throughout the region. Nahant is served by the MBTA 439 bus route and there is commuter rail and subway service to Boston and other areas just over the border in Lynn and Revere. Logan International Airport is located twenty minutes by car to the south. Figure 2 shows Nahant within the context of the Boston Metropolitan area.

**Figure 1: Welcome Sign**



*Image Source Elizabeth K. Berman*



## Regional Planning Context

Nahant is one of 101 cities and towns served by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency for the Greater Boston region. Nahant is a member community of the North Shore Task Force (NSTF), which also includes the communities of Beverly, Danvers, Essex, Gloucester, Ipswich, Hamilton, Manchester, Marblehead, Middleton, Peabody, Rockport, Salem, Swampscott, Topsfield, and Wenham. Council membership consists of community representatives, gubernatorial appointees, and city and state agencies that collaborate around issues of regional importance. MAPC's professional planners, GIS specialists, demographers, and others provide extensive technical assistance to member communities through the development of comprehensive plans and recommendations in areas of housing, transportation, economic development, public health, environment, and more.

In 2021, MAPC adopted MetroCommon 2050, a comprehensive plan for the region with goals through the year 2050. MetroCommon 2050 guides the work of MAPC agency-wide and every project MAPC undertakes works towards reaching these goals. Many MetroCommon goals are applicable to Nahant's Open Space and Recreation Plan, including:

- **Goal A: Traveling around Metro Boston is safe, affordable, convenient, and enjoyable.**
  - Bicycle, pedestrian, and other personal mobility infrastructure is safe, extensive, high quality, and linked to other modes, so that people frequently use active transportation as a preferred mode of travel.
- **Goal C: Metro Boston is prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change.**
  - New homes, institutions, businesses, and hazardous facilities are built away from ecologically sensitive areas or areas vulnerable to climate impacts, or they are built in such a way as to withstand those impacts
  - Green infrastructure beautifies neighborhoods. It is included in all developments, providing multiple co-benefits, such as stormwater filtration, shade, cleaner air, carbon storage, and cooling.
- **Goal F: Greater Boston's air, water, land, and other natural resources are clean and protected – for us and for the rest of the ecosystem.**
  - Water is clean and sustainably managed. Waterways exceed Clean Water Act standards and meet the appropriate needs of residents, industry, forests, farms, and wildlife.
  - A robust network of protected open space, waterways, farms, parks, and greenways provide wildlife habitat, ecological benefits, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty.
  - Farms, fisheries, community gardens, and natural landscapes are prevalent, and able to adapt and thrive in the face of the changing climate. They offer residents access to fresh, affordable, healthy, and local food.
  - Few contaminated sites exist. Former contaminated sites have been redeveloped to create jobs or homes, or restored to support green infrastructure and habitat,

and to mitigate climate impacts.

- **Goal I: The region is safe, healthy, and connected to one another.**
  - Exposure to pollution has been minimized: no one lives in a place where air, water, or soil pollution could diminish life expectancy or quality.
  - State and local governments have the resources to maintain their parks, public squares, sidewalks, and open space.
- **Goal J: Greater Boston is full of unique places and experiences that bring joy and foster diversity and social cohesion.**
  - People of all ages and backgrounds are able to participate in arts, cultural, and social activities, building community and social cohesion.
  - Historic buildings, properties, and landscapes are adapted to meet contemporary challenges, including climate, housing, accessibility, and recreational needs.
  - Urban design, public art, and new development contribute to a human-centered, safe, and delightful public realm.

## Regional Open Space Resources

Nahant also shares significant regional open space and water resources with the City of Lynn and surrounding communities. The Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) owns and manages the Lynn Shore and Nahant Beach Reservation, a 3,202,000-square-foot reservation along the causeway connecting Nahant and Lynn. The reservation, which includes Long Beach and Nahant Beach, is a popular destination for residents from all over Greater Boston and features a public promenade, bathroom facilities, and public parking.

Nahant's neighbors also include those communities that share its coastline. SWIM (Safer Waters in Massachusetts) is a local advocacy group based in Nahant that works with the Town and the surrounding communities, including Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach and Salem Sound Coastwatch to protect wildlife resources and the marine environment.

The Town of Nahant participates in open space planning for the larger region, including meetings and activities of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Essex National Heritage Foundation, and the Massachusetts Biodiversity Initiative.

## Planning Context

As listed below, several planning efforts in Nahant are on-going or have recently been completed, including:

- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2021)
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (2019)

**Figure 2: Regional Context Map**



## History of The Community<sup>2</sup>

The town of Nahant is situated within the ancestral lands of the Massachusetts Tribe. These people inhabited the coastal area of what is now the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which has taken their name for the entire state. Archeological records indicate that these indigenous people inhabited our area long before the arrival of the European traders and settlers in the 1600's.

Until 1853 Nahant was part of Lynn, which was settled by Puritan farmers in 1629 and incorporated as a Town in 1631. While Salem to the north and Boston to the south became world trading centers, attracting wealthy merchants, Lynn was an agricultural town through the early 1800s. Lynn farmers used Nahant as a pasture for domestic animals.

**Figure 3:** 1855 Map of Nahant



Image Source: Alonzo Lewis, HathiTrust<sup>3</sup>

By the time of the American Revolution, there were three Quaker families living on Nahant, engaged in fishing, farming, and making shoes to sell. Since ownership required that lots were to be cleared of wood in six years, Nahant lost its woodlands at an early date.

Nahant's natural beauty shaped its future. The beaches, rugged rocks, fishing, and tide pools, as well as the kind hospitality of the residents, began to attract visitors. Steamboat service from Boston started in 1817. By 1820, Bostonians and others began to summer in Nahant, and 1823 saw the opening of the Nahant Hotel at East Point. Stage service from the Nahant Hotel to Boston

<sup>2</sup> Nahant OSRP, 2008

<sup>3</sup> Image source: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=loc.ark:/13960/t6d224f9f&view=1up&seq=6&skin=2021>

and Salem began in 1826. This was the beginning of the era of Nahant as a resort town, with resort facilities centered initially at East Point. The town's civic and commercial buildings were concentrated in the center of Big Nahant along with the homes of permanent residents. The western portion of Big Nahant remained mostly undeveloped.

The year-round population grew from 197 in 1847 to 270 in 1855. In 1865 there were 313 residents. Some residents farmed while others fished for cod, mackerel, haddock, and halibut. The lobster industry began in 1858 and survived after the fishing industry died out with the introduction of trawlers. Several ocean-going vessels were built in Nahant. The first, a schooner, was launched in 1858. A few Nahant families made shoes on consignment for Lynn manufacturers. The construction industry was an important source of income for Nahant residents from the 1860s to the early part of the twentieth century. The resort industry, however, was the most significant contributor to the town's economy.

**Figure 4:** Photo of the Nahant Hotel

When the growing temperance movement threatened the summer resort trade in 1853, Nahant became a separate Town, leaving Lynn and its Temperance Society behind. The town became home to the most massive hotel complex on the Atlantic Coast and the location of an annual regatta. By the 1860s various districts in Nahant were becoming more clearly delineated. The western part of Big Nahant was the center of a working-class entertainment area. Toward the east was a Boston summer community of merchant families and intellectuals. There were several large estates, including the home of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge and his family at East Point, on the former site of the Nahant Hotel, which burned in 1861.



*Image Source: Nahant Historical Society, photo by Robert Wilson*

The town's civic and commercial buildings were clustered on Nahant Road. There was a large saltwater marsh called The Meadows, which separated Bass Point from the main part of Town. In the center of The Meadows was Bear Pond. The Bass Point area to the west of the marsh catered to visitors from Boston and other surrounding areas. Bass Point contained several hotels, seafood restaurants, and entertainment facilities, including a roller-skating rink, bandstand, shooting gallery, bowling alley, theater, and roller coaster (also known as the "scenic railway").

In 1880 the environmental pressures that resulted from the influx of people led to an outbreak of typhoid fever. As part of the remedy, the marshland was drained. In 1905 the Nahant and Lynn Street Railway broke ground, laying track alongside the causeway, with a trestle across what was left of the existing marsh to the intersection of Flash and Spring Roads. From there, one spur went on to the Relay Yard at Bass Point and another traveled to Tudor Wharf via Willow Road along Tudor Beach. There was probably extensive filling of The Meadows at this time. The resident population was 475 in 1870 but had increased by 192 percent to 1,387 in 1915. By the 1900s, Bass Point became the focus of visitors, with as many as 40,000 arriving on weekends to visit its



entertainment facilities. In the western part of Big Nahant as well as Little Nahant there were small, tightly clustered cottages-the development pattern that remains today.

A combination of factors brought an end to the resort era in Nahant. When the United States entered World War I, the steamers bringing people to Nahant were taken over by the military, and this service stopped. Later, the Great Depression made the large estates impractical, and prohibition had a negative impact on the resort industry. The hotels and entertainment areas at Bass Point burned or were torn down, and many of the large estates in the eastern portion of the Town were sold off and subdivided.

Two large areas of open space in beautiful ocean settings, East Point and Bailey's Hill, would have been developed were it not for the protection of these areas for their military value. Starting in 1886, portions of Nahant had been set aside for gun emplacements. The military drastically altered these landscapes to conceal the guns behind man-made hills. Although the military occupation ended in 1962, the Army remained involved in the maintenance of these areas, gradually removing some of the gear and hazardous materials.

East Point, first the site of the Nahant Hotel, then the estates of George Abbot James and Henry Cabot Lodge, then a military base, now belongs partly to Northeastern University and partly to the Town of Nahant. After the closing of the military base, the missile silos at East Point were gradually filled with a variety of materials and topped with landfill, including asphalt and cement, resulting in an unsightly public hazard.

Immediately following its formation in 1988, the Open Space Committee sponsored the rehabilitation of this area, which is 361,548 square feet. This area is now known as Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., Memorial Park. A stone monument dedicated to Lodge was placed in the park in 1988, and in 1997, a stone bench and medallion were added to the site to honor former Governor John Volpe, a Nahant resident.

Northeastern University owns 889,495 square feet at East Point, where it maintains a marine biology laboratory and research station. Northeastern University proposes the creation of a Coastal Sustainability Institute, with expansion of its current buildings. The proposed expansion has caused considerable dissension among some residents of the town. At the Annual Town Meeting on May 15, 2021 the Town authorized the Board of Selectmen to take by eminent domain a conservation restriction and easement on a portion of the Northeastern property and the portion of Canoe Beach owned by Northeastern to preserve the affected areas for open space and recreation purposes.

Today, the Northern part of The Meadows, where the railroad once ran, contains two softball fields (located across the main road from Short Beach), a filled area set aside for Town-generated compost and the storage of commercial lobster pots, and some undeveloped land. Wet "canals" run through this area. The southern side of The Meadows has more ball fields and a golf course, which was purchased by the Town in 1988. The golf course constitutes the largest single tract of land in Nahant. It is separated from the ocean by a dike, and, since the whole area is frequently flooded, there is a system of pumps to dry it out. Remnants of Bear Pond and the marsh can be seen on the golf course, and this habitat attracts herons, geese, and glossy ibis. The Heritage Trail, a walking trail, meanders in part through this area.

The Nahant Country Club, originally the homestead of Frederic Tudor, occupies another large tract of land, which contains tennis courts, buildings, and open space. It is owned by stockholders and maintained as a private club. It is the site of the beginning of the annual baseball parade and many community social affairs.

Many Nahant traditions and social gatherings involve the Town's parks and open spaces, and the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically altered how residents and visitors engage and interact with these spaces. In 2020, parks, playgrounds, and open spaces throughout Nahant were temporarily closed, and several community, school, and religious events were postponed or canceled.

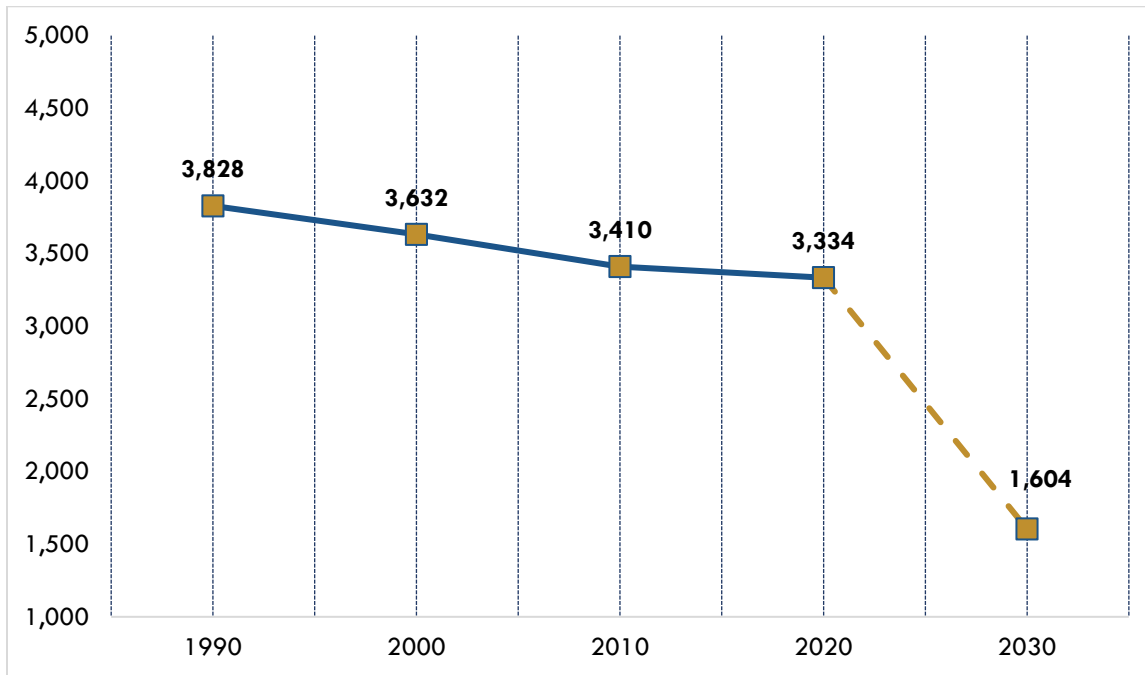
The town's annual Memorial Day Parade, a 120-year tradition, was not held in person but instead prerecorded for virtual attendance by the Town's citizens. Likewise, the Nahant's annual Fourth of July fireworks show which is usually held at Bailey's Hill was also canceled due to restrictions on public gatherings. However, one potential positive outcome of the past year's restrictions is the community's renewed appreciation for these valuable public spaces.

## Population Characteristics

### Population and Projections

As of the 2020 U.S. Census, the population of Nahant was 3,334 people, only slightly lower than its 2010 population of 3,410 residents. Historical trends show a continuous decline in the town's overall population. **Figure 5** illustrates a 13% decrease in the town's population from 1990 to 2020. Compared to surrounding communities, Nahant has a significantly smaller population than Lynn, Revere, Saugus, and Swampscott.

**Figure 5:** Total Population and Projections, 1990-2030



(Source: U.S. Census and MAPC Stronger Region Projections)

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has prepared population projections through 2030 for the Metro Boston region. These projections are based on two scenarios: Status Quo (SQ), based on the continuation of existing rates of births, deaths, migration, and housing occupancy; and a Stronger Region (SR) that assumes higher population growth, greater housing demand, and a larger workforce. Specifically, the Stronger Region scenario assumes that in the coming years:

- the region will attract and retain more people, especially young adults, than it does today;
- younger householders (born after 1980) will be more inclined toward urban living than were their predecessors, and less likely to seek out single family homes; and
- an increasing share of senior-headed households will choose to downsize from single family homes to apartments or condominiums.

Current trends appear to bear this out, so the Stronger Region scenario was used to project population and demographic changes in this plan. MAPC's Metro Boston Population and Housing Demand Projections, most recently updated in 2014, indicate that the Town's population will continue to decrease between 2020 and 2030 in the Stronger Region scenario.

### Population Density

Population density influences demand for public outdoor parks and recreation spaces. In high density areas, residences may lack private yard space. Typically, these areas would benefit from neighborhood parks or playgrounds. In residential areas with lower density where many properties have private yards, there may be less of a demand for neighborhood parks and more of a demand for trails, playgrounds, and sports fields. Nahant ranks in the top third in the state for population density (33 communities are more densely settled, 317 are less densely populated). Communities with similar densities are listed in **Figure 6**.

**Figure 6:** Population Density, 2018

Community	Population Density (Persons per sq. land miles)
Wakefield	3,687
Randolph	3,499
Weymouth	3,438
<b>Nahant</b>	<b>3,356</b>
Peabody	3,287
Woburn	3,196
Wellesley	2,961

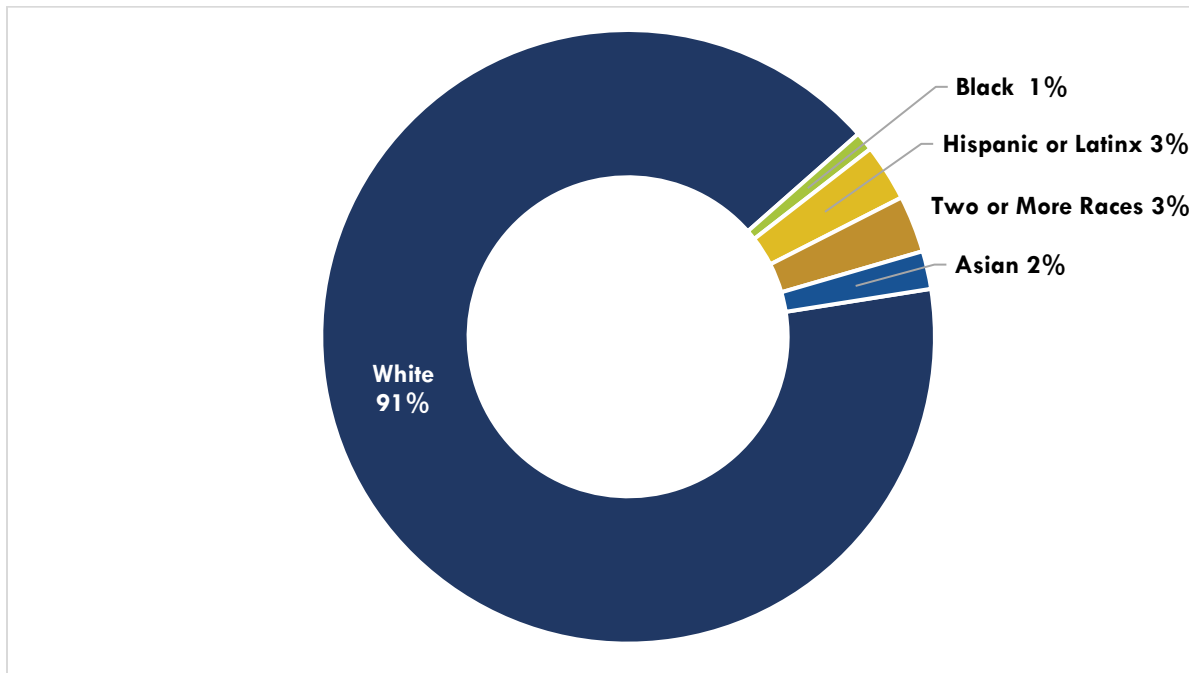
Source: MA Department of Revenue, Community Comparison Reports.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> [https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/reports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Community\\_Comparison\\_Report](https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/reports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Community_Comparison_Report)

## Race and Ethnicity

In 2020, 91% of Nahant's population identified as White. Approximately 3% of the Town's population identified as Hispanic or Latino, 3% identified with Two or More Races, and people of other races and ethnicities made up the remaining 3% of the town's population. Nahant has significantly fewer people of color as a proportion of its total population compared with the state as a whole, which was 68% White in 2020, and is slightly less diverse than the rest of the North Shore Task Force, which was about 83% White in 2020. However, the Town has become slightly more diverse; in 2010 approximately 96% of the population was White.

**Figure 7: Race and Ethnicity**

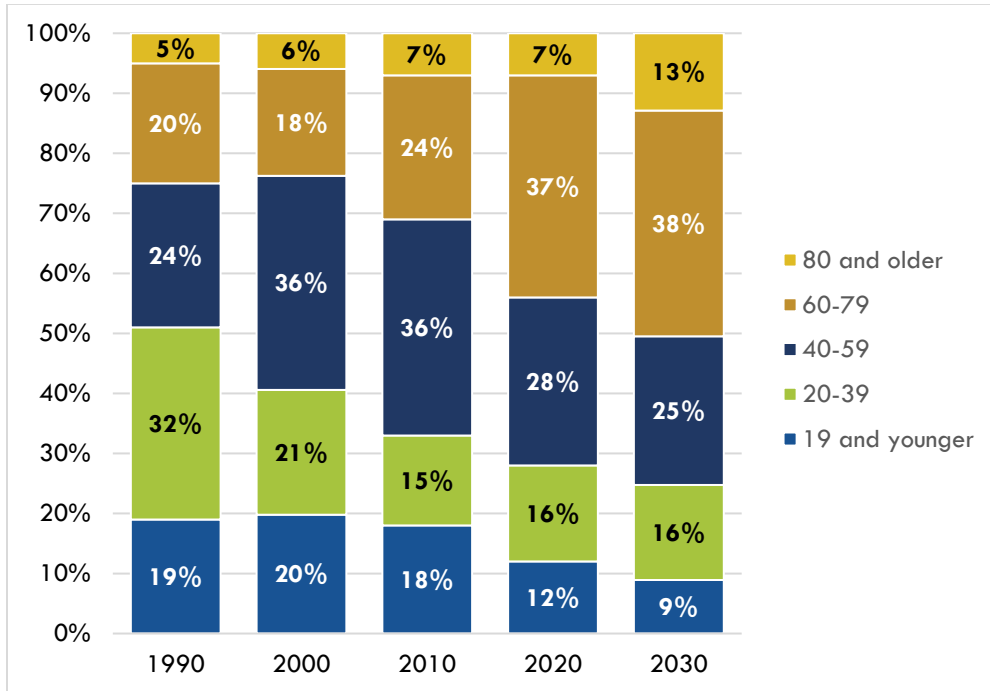


Source: U.S. Census

## Population by Age

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates for 2015-2019, Nahant's median age was about 52.3, considerably higher than the state median at 39.5. This means Nahant's population is generally older than the population of most municipalities in Massachusetts due to significant increases for those 40 years of age and older since 1990, along with a significant decrease in the 20-39 age group. As shown in **Figure 8**, individuals 60 and older are expected to make up approximately 51% of the town's population by 2030, according to MAPC Stronger Region Projections. Growth for the younger age cohorts will likely increase at a slower rate as the town's population ages as a whole.

**Figure 8: Population and Projections by Age**



#### Recreational Needs by Age Group

Population demographics can influence open space and recreation needs. For example, while residents young and old differ in their recreational needs based on individual interests, some assumptions can be made about the demand for facilities based on age.

Families with young children tend to need neighborhood playgrounds that provide family recreational opportunities. Additionally, the availability of neighborhood parks and recreational facilities for physical activity may be particularly relevant for youth, seniors, and disabled individuals, who are unable to drive and whose activity is limited to the immediate distance they are able to walk or bike. Therefore, their access to parks and open space is dependent on safe and convenient walking, biking, and transit options, or on others who can drive.

Children under five need structured preschool programs that focus on teaching basic social skills, while school age youth are typically served recreationally through school and after-school sports programs. This can pose difficulty for those not interested in participating in traditional programs that are structured or involve adult supervision. Adolescents interested in being more actively involved in determining their activities may prefer programs like rock climbing, adventure programs, skateboarding, hiking, outdoor obstacle courses, band concerts, cookouts, dances, and more.

Adolescents and adults need athletic fields for sports, and increasingly, areas for running, biking, and walking. In addition, adults may choose to pursue an array of recreational activities including, but not limited to sports, health and wellness, crafts, and fine arts. Some may want to join an adult sports league or practice martial arts, while others may wish to participate in a yoga or fitness class.



It is important for older adults and seniors to remain active as they age. Therefore, a community's parks and open space should provide settings for both passive recreation (e.g., places to sit, read, socialize with friends) and active recreation (e.g., walking paths, exercise activities, gardening, etc.). In addition, as Nahant's population continues to age, seniors will need recreational programming and spaces that accommodate their limitations in mobility and strength.

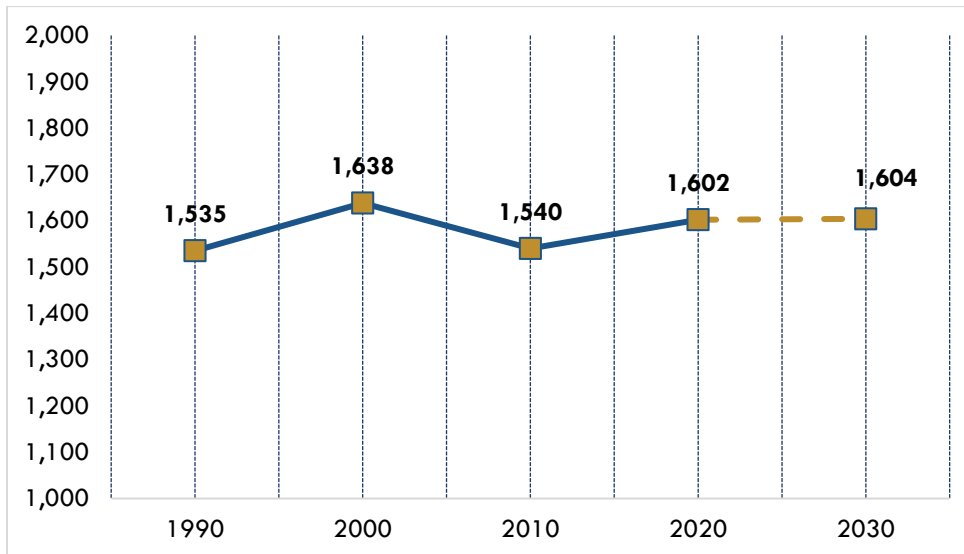
More active seniors may enjoy activities such as walking, golf, bocce, tennis, pickleball, and swimming, while seniors suffering from an illness or disabling condition may be better served through therapeutic recreational activities such as arts and crafts or table and card games.

The needs of residents with disabilities also vary. Some residents with disabilities can participate in regular recreational programs without any modifications, while others may need assistance or programs specifically geared toward those with disabilities. Physical barriers are a key factor for consideration and are evaluated in the ADA Access Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan in Appendix A of this plan. Along with the evaluation, the appendix also includes recommendations for improving accessibility by removing physical barriers and enacting programmatic changes.

### Households and Projections

In addition to population trends, examining changes to household number and composition should also inform open space and recreation planning. According to American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates for 2015-2019, there were 1,602 households in Nahant, a 4% increase (62 households) from 2010. Going forward, the number of households in Nahant is projected to increase slightly to 1,604 in 2030, based on changing trends in deaths, births, and migrations.

**Figure 9:** Nahant Projected Total Households 1990-2030



Source: US Census, MAPC Population and Housing Demand Projections 2014

As of 2020, Nahant's average household size was 2.15 people per household, which is down slightly from 2.18 people in 2010. The average household size is projected to continue to fall in the future which is consistent with trends seen throughout Greater Boston and the rest of the Commonwealth. Factors contributing to this decline include the decision to have fewer children and

later in life, and an aging population that is living longer as empty nesters. These smaller households often look for housing that differs from the traditional single-family detached house. If the additional demand for housing is met through smart growth principles that encourage high density, walkable neighborhoods, it will be easier to safeguard open space and recreation land from future development.

**Figure 10:** Household Types in Nahant

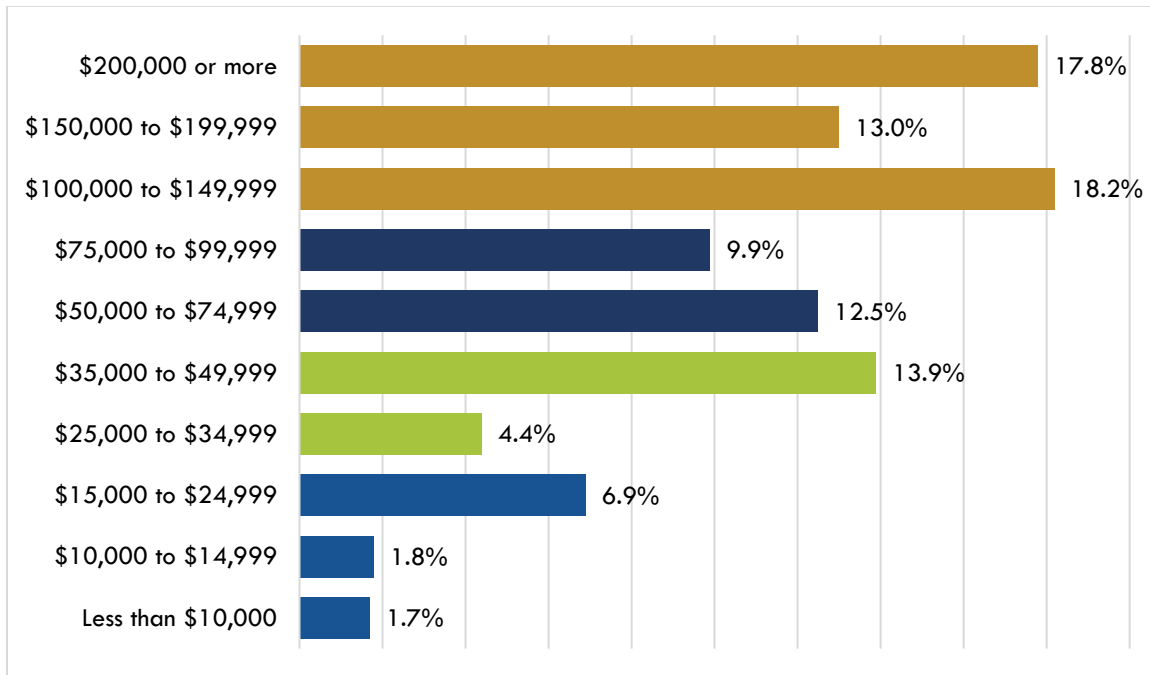
Household Type		
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>100%</b>
Households with individuals under 18 years	318	20%
Households with individuals 65 years and over	618	39%
Households with Persons Living Alone	583	36%
<b>Family Households</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Non-Family Households</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>41%</b>

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey

Of Nahant's 1,602 households, approximately 59% were family households and 41% were non-family households. The US Census Bureau defines family households as those with "a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption." Non-family households include people who live alone as well as households with two or more unrelated individuals. In Nahant, the majority of non-family households are individuals living alone; they comprise an estimated 36% of the total households. Of the households with persons living alone, 42% are individuals 65 or older.

According to the ACS 5-Year Estimates for 2015—2019, the median household income in Nahant is \$97,778. The median family income is higher at \$136,548 and the median non-family income is significantly lower at \$52,833. Household income distribution in Nahant is shown in **Figure 11**.

**Figure 11:**Household Income Distribution in Nahant



American Community Survey Estimates 2015-2019

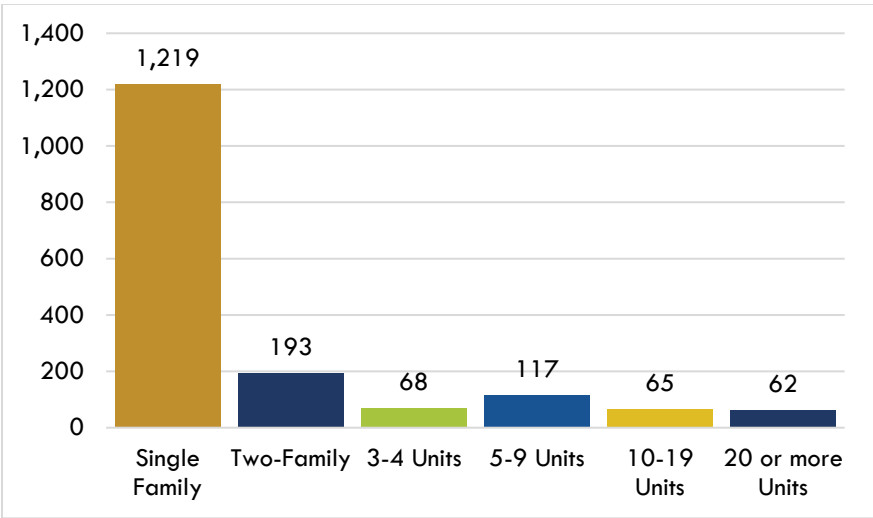
Approximately 10% of the Town's households earn less than \$25,000 a year, and an additional 18% earn between \$25,000 and \$49,999. Nearly half of the households (49%) in Nahant have an income that exceeds \$100,000.

While this data would suggest that, in general, Nahant is an affluent town, it is important to provide open space and recreation services that are accessible and affordable to all. There are some residents and families in town who are living on limited means or fixed incomes. For example, while higher-income households can pay for private recreation and have the resources to travel to recreation centers outside the town, low and moderate-income families are more dependent on free public recreation that is readily accessible.

#### Housing and Economic Characteristics

In terms of housing tenure, the majority of Nahant residents own their own home: approximately 70% of housing units are owner-occupied and 30% are renter-occupied. The dominant housing type in Nahant is the single-family homes. This particularly land intensive type of housing makes up approximately 71% of the town's housing stock. Two-family homes make up 11% of Nahant's housing stock, followed by buildings with 5-9 units at 7%. According to ACS 2019 5-Year Estimates, more than half (56%) of the homes in Nahant were built prior to World War II. Homes built in the 1950s make up 14% of the town's housing stock, followed by homes built in the in the 1970s (9%) and the 1990s (7%). Approximately 3% of Nahant's housing stock has been built since 2000.

**Figure 12: Housing Units by Type**



American Community Survey Estimates 2015-2019

Employment characteristics provide a picture of the types of jobs that exist in the town. According to data maintained by the State Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), there were 68 wage-paying establishments in the Nahant in 2019, employing 411 workers and paying an average weekly wage of \$833.

The following three industry sectors employ the most people in the town: Accommodation and Food Services (25%), Construction (10%), and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (6%). The three industry sectors with the highest average weekly wages are Wholesale Trade, Construction, and Professional and Technical Services. The largest employers in Nahant are Jesmond Nursing Home and Northeastern University which both employ approximately 50-99 employees. Approximately 13 commercial lobstermen work from Nahant, landing approximately 423,478 pounds of lobster annually.

**Figure 13: Employment by Industry Sector**

NAICS Sector	Industry	Average Monthly Employment	Average Weekly Wages	Total Wages
23	<b>Construction</b>	40	<b>\$1,108</b>	\$2,305,461
42	Wholesale Trade	20	<b>\$1,597</b>	\$1,660,574
54	Professional and Technical Services	5	<b>\$1,107</b>	\$287,817
71	<b>Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation</b>	26	\$345	\$466,878
72	<b>Accommodation and Food Services</b>	103	\$499	\$2,671,334
81	Other Services, Ex Public Admin	12	\$1,099	\$685,526
	<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>\$833</b>	<b>\$17,794,045</b>

Source: MA EOLWD ES-202 2019

## Growth and Development Patterns

### Patterns and Trends

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council categorizes Nahant as a Mature Suburban Town. Mid-century suburbs like Nahant are nearly built out, and housing consists largely of owner-occupied, single-family homes on ¼-½-acre lots. There are scattered parcels of vacant development land; however, new residential development is mainly produced via infill development, some redevelopment, and teardowns.

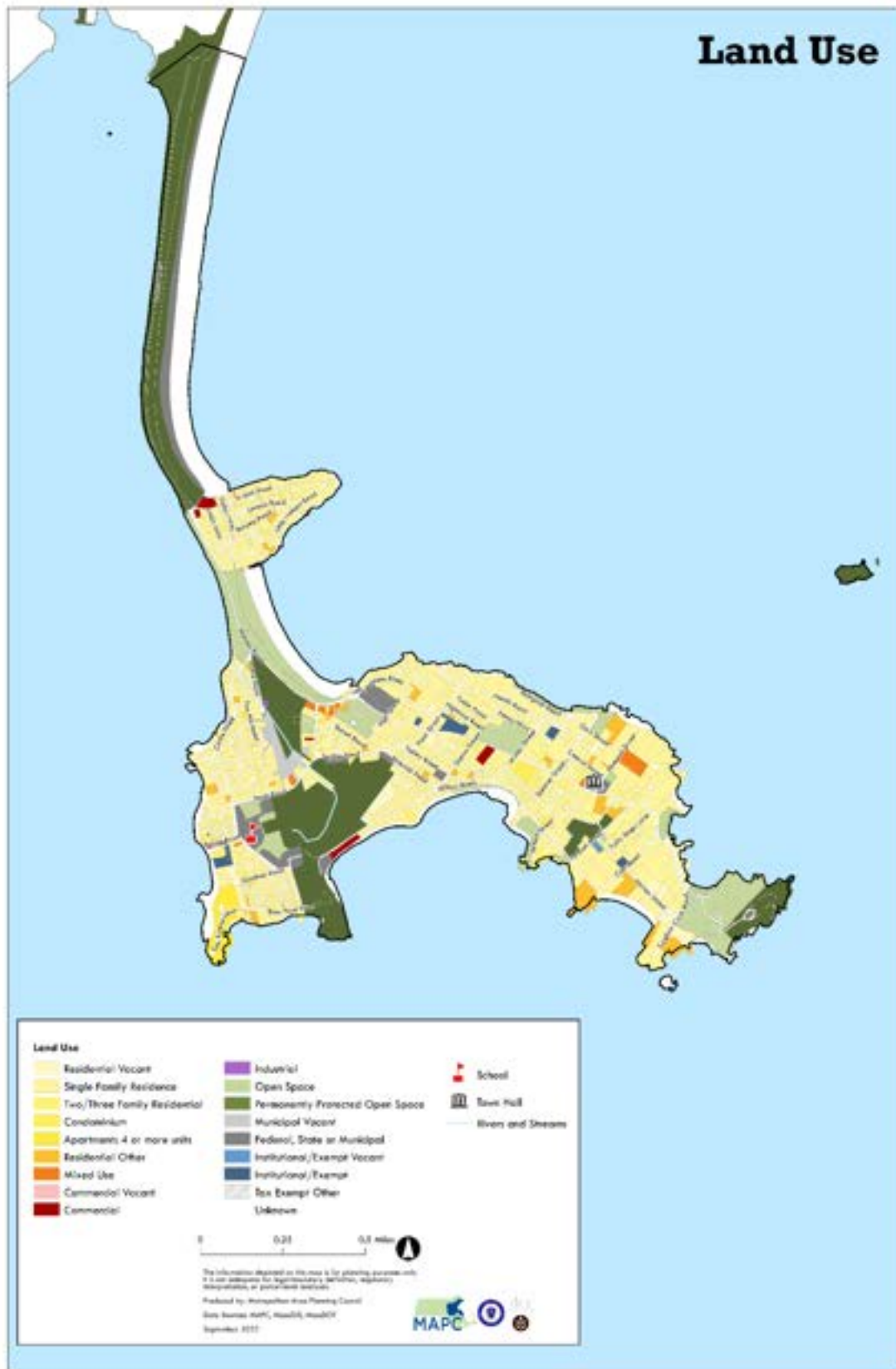
More than half of the Nahant's housing stock was built before 1939. Some sections of the town are hilly, with complex street patterns and small lots, while other areas, mainly in the eastern section of Big Nahant, have sizable homes on large lots. Although single-family housing is the dominant housing type in Nahant, there are a few apartment buildings in the town, the largest being Bass Point Apartments, a 128-unit building built in 1973 after a change in the zoning bylaws. In communities where vacant land is scarce, such as in Nahant, opportunities for open space preservation are often limited.

### Land Use

"Land use" is a term used to describe the primary use, or combination of uses, occurring on a parcel of land at any given time. Land use patterns are influenced by numerous factors, including historical development patterns, population and economic growth over time, infrastructure investment, transportation access, natural resources, and environmental constraints. Importantly, land use is not permanent – it can and often does change over time.

**Figure 14** depicts land use by parcel in Nahant as classified by tax assessment purposes, and **Figure 15** shows the breakdown by area. If all residential categories are aggregated, residential uses make up more than two-fifths (45.6%) of the town's total land uses. Approximately one third of the town is publicly-owned by a government entity or tax-exempt institution. Land in this category includes the following: Egg Rock, Lodge Park, Greenlawn Cemetery, the Massachusetts Audubon sanctuary known as the "Thicket," the Johnson School, the former Valley Road School, the Library, the Town Hall, the Fire Station, the Police Station, the Nahant Life Saving Station, the Public Works building, the Lowlands ball fields, the causeway, Tudor Wharf, Bailey's Hill, the Kelly Greens golf course, the Coast Guard Station, Marjoram Park, conservation land, parcels of the Nahant Housing Authority, playgrounds, Town beaches, two churches, Northeastern University, and private clubs.

**Figure 14: Land Use Map**



**Figure 15: Land Use** (Massachusetts Land Parcel Database FY 2019)

Property Type	Square Feet	Acres	% Total
<b>Residential</b>	<b>15,363,735.50</b>	<b>352.70</b>	<b>45.67%</b>
Single Family	12,730,650.50	292.26	37.84%
Two/Three Family	660,019.00	15.15	1.96%
Condominium	140,019.17	3.21	0.42%
Multifamily (4 or more units)	396,952.77	9.11	1.18%
Other Residential	869,444.38	19.96	2.58%
Vacant	566,649.68	13.01	1.68%
<b>Mixed Use</b>	<b>559,745.30</b>	<b>12.85</b>	<b>1.66%</b>
<b>Commercial/Industrial</b>	<b>486,207.88</b>	<b>11.16</b>	<b>1.45%</b>
Commercial	181,327.56	4.16	0.54%
Industrial	7,549.43	0.17	0.02%
Vacant	297,330.89	6.83	0.88%
<b>Municipal/State/Federal</b>	<b>9,077,532.65</b>	<b>208.39</b>	<b>26.98%</b>
Municipal/State/Federal Vacant	1,520,726.55	34.91	4.52%
<b>Institutional</b>	<b>1,288,516.03</b>	<b>29.58</b>	<b>3.83%</b>
Institutional Vacant	201,075.24	4.62	0.60%
<b>Exempt Other</b>	<b>60,645.87</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>0.18%</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>3,454,413.87</b>	<b>79.30</b>	<b>10.27%</b>
<b>Right-of-Ways</b>	<b>3,188,849.28</b>	<b>73.21</b>	<b>9.48%</b>
Public	3,181,887.11	73.05	9.46%
Private	6,962.16	0.16	0.02%
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>162,929.73</b>	<b>3.74</b>	<b>0.48%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,642,576.10</b>	<b>772.33</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: Massachusetts Land Parcel Database

## Infrastructure

### Transportation Systems

Vehicular access to Nahant is limited to a single road maintained by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Nahant (Phillip N. Carney) Causeway, a four-lane divided roadway for most of its length, runs the length of the Nahant Reservation and connects the town to the mainland and Route 1A through the City of Lynn. The Department of Public Works maintains 23 miles of roadways within the town. There is a concerted effort on the part of the Town and the DPW to improve local roadways and sidewalks using Chapter 90 funding from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.



Nahant Road is the primary access into and through town. This primary arterial can be divided into three distinct segments, Little Nahant, Municipal, Residential, and Short Beach/ commercial area. The first segment starts in Little Nahant where the causeway ends. This area acts as the gateway to the town and establishes a first impression for visitors and residents. The Municipal segment of Nahant Road runs between Summer Street and Wharf Street and features the Town Hall, Public Library, Post Office, and some commercial spaces.

The residential portion of Nahant Road makes up the majority of the street length and runs from Antigo Way to Summer Street and from Wharf Street to Swallow Cave Road. The primary land use in this portion is residential, though it does include the Police Department, cemetery, country club, and church. The final segment of Nahant Road, Short Beach/commercial area, runs from the north end of Short Beach to Antigo Way. This portion features Short Beach to the east, Veterans Park and the Lowlands on the west and then the commercial area at the southeastern end.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 16:** Nahant Road Corridor



Image Source: 2016 Open Space & Recreation Master Plan

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) bus Route 439 serves the town and provides connecting service to Central Square and several MBTA bus routes in Lynn as well as the Blue Line Subway at Wonderland in Revere. Central Square is home to a stop along the Newburyport/Rockport Line commuter rail, which provides service between the North Shore and Boston's North Station. The Ride, a shared-ride door-to-door service operated by the MBTA in 60 cities and towns, is also available to Nahant's seniors and residents with disabilities.

<sup>5</sup> 2016 Open Space & Recreation Master Plan

As part of their Bus Stop Accessibility and Safety Improvements Program, the MBTA recently worked with the Town of Nahant to construct a new bus stop and crosswalk in the area of the Little Nahant Playground to improve pedestrian safety. In the past, there have been safety concerns among residents about having a playground with no crosswalk in sight of the area. The new landing areas will increase safety for users of the bus and those waiting to cross Nahant Road. These improvements will improve rider accessibility and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

## Pedestrian/Trail Connections

There are no marked bicycle lanes or shared lanes (sharrows) in Nahant. While, biking is a popular activity on the 2.9-mile paved path along Lynn Shore & Nahant Beach Reservation, there are no marked or dedicated lanes for bicycles in the Reservation.

The Heritage Trail is a 1.4-mile recreation path that links several parks and open spaces throughout the town. This town-owned trail is divided into five segments and starts at Little Nahant Playground, at the north end of Short Beach. It then extends through the Lowlands conservation area and travels southward until it terminates at Bailey's Hill.

## Water and Sewer

The town obtains its water from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Over 40 other municipalities in the Boston metropolitan area receive drinking water from the MWRA, which primarily receives water from the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs in western and central Massachusetts.

**Figure 18: MBTA Bus Improvements**



**Figure 17: Nahant Heritage Trail**



All water supplied to Nahant is metered at the Nahant Rotary. This water is distributed through 26 miles of water distribution pipeline throughout Town ranging in sizes from 4 to 16 inches in diameter serving approximately 1,400 service connections. Water meters are read three times per year using an Automatic Remote Reading System. The Town's water distribution system experienced several water main breaks in 2017 due to deterioration, aging pipelines, and limited maintenance. However, with assistance through the MWRA Loan Program, the Town has recently replaced several water mains, water gate valves, and fire hydrants. In 2018, the average daily consumption was 312,000 gallons per day.

The Lynn Water and Sewer Commission (LWSC) provides wastewater treatment services for Nahant. The Town's sewage is pumped to a regional wastewater treatment facility in Lynn, where it receives primary and secondary treatment. In addition to Nahant, the Lynn Wastewater Treatment Plant (LWWTP) receives flows from the communities of Lynn, Saugus, and Swampscott. Saugus, Swampscott and Nahant deliver flow to the facility via three force mains: two 30 inch and an 18 inch, respectively. The plant has been designed to process flows averaging 25.8 million gallons per day during dry weather periods. During wet weather conditions, the plant can process flows in excess of 110.8 million gallons per day. A sewer outfall discharges treated waste into the outer harbor. The Special Town Meeting held on Monday, September 27, 2021 authorized the Board of Selectmen to borrow money to fund the replacement of the sewer force main to the LWWTP.

### Long-Term Development Patterns

Nahant is a largely built-out community with little vacant land. New development occurs largely through a process of redeveloping existing land. The current pattern of land use is indicative of past trends and long-term future development patterns. The previous discussion of Nahant's history includes detailed information on the town's growth and development patterns.

#### Recent and Anticipated Development Activity

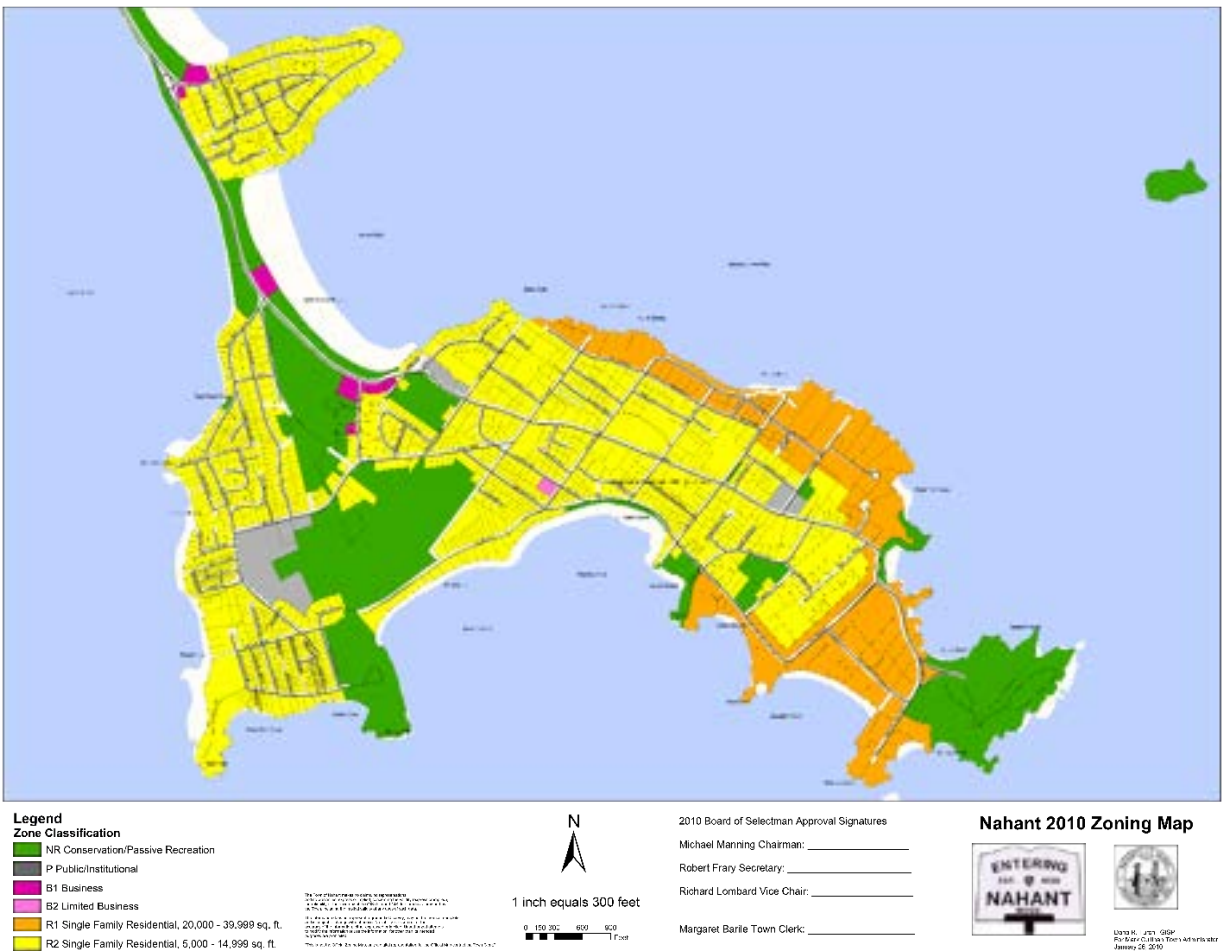
Development trends throughout the metropolitan region are tracked by MassBuilds, MAPC's Development Database, which provides an inventory of new development over the last decade. The database tracks both completed developments and those currently under construction. The database also includes several attributes of the new development, including housing units, and commercial space.

The database includes one planned project in Nahant for the redevelopment of a 4-acre former military housing site containing twelve single-family housing units located at Gardner Road, Castle Road and Trimountain Road. The Town purchased the property from the federal government in 2005 and planning consultants were hired to determine possible development options for the property. At the Annual Town Meeting on May 15, 2021, the Town authorized the Board of Selectmen to demolish the existing houses, remove the oil tanks, and sell the twelve (12) lots subject to certain conditions, including maintaining access to the Heritage Trail through this area.

## Zoning

Zoning land use regulations are a tool for communities to slowly shape the physical landscape through permitting. Zoning dictates what can be developed on every parcel of land: the allowed uses (there can be multiple allowed), the placement and massing of structures, the amount of open space required, the number of parking spaces, and more. Nahant has a relatively simple zoning structure, as shown in **Figure 19**. The Town is divided into six base zoning districts (**Figure 20**), which includes two business districts (B1 and B2), two residential zoning districts (R1 and R2), a natural resource district (NR), and a public/institutional use district (P).

**Figure 19: Zoning Map<sup>6</sup>**



<sup>6</sup> [https://nahant.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Nahant\\_Zoning\\_With\\_Parcel\\_Boundary\\_2\\_17\\_2010.pdf](https://nahant.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Nahant_Zoning_With_Parcel_Boundary_2_17_2010.pdf)

**Figure 20: Zoning Districts**

Zoning District	Minimum Lot Size	Minimum Frontage
Single Residential (R1)	30,000 sf	125 ft
Single Residential (R2)	10,000 sf	75 ft
Business (B1)	10,000 sf	75 ft
Limited Business (B2)	10,000 sf	75 ft
Natural Resources (NR)	-	75
Public (P)	-	-

With respect to business growth, the town's current zoning does not allow for future business development. The Valley Road School Building, now known as the Nahant Community Center, was converted in 2003 and now houses small businesses, the Nahant Historical Society, and community meeting spaces for the Council on Aging, the Boy Scouts, and other private entities.

The Nahant Life Saving Station (LSS), a historic landmark building used by the U.S. Coast Guard in 1915 was also redeveloped after being deeded back to the Town from the federal government in 2001. Today, the LSS building is leased by the Town to the Nahant Preservation Trust and is available for rent for events and community functions with up to 100 guests. The historic building also houses the Nahant American Legion Post 215.

Residential densities in Nahant range from 10,000 to 30,000 square foot lots. Although the town's current zoning does not allow for multi-family dwellings the Land Use Map (**Figure 14**) shows that a number of such buildings presently exist and have either been officially recognized or could be recognized in the future.

In terms of residential growth, the town currently lacks a Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) approved Housing Production Plan (HPP). By state statute M.G.L. Chapter 40B, cities and towns are encouraged to provide 10% of their total year-round housing units as deed-restricted Affordable Housing. Nahant has 1,612 year-round housing units, per the 2010 Decennial Census, of which 48 or (3%) are deed-restricted Affordable Housing units on the state's Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI)<sup>7</sup>.

In communities like Nahant, where less than 10% of housing units qualify as Affordable Housing, developers may override local zoning bylaws through a Comprehensive Permit for mixed-income housing development that includes Affordable Housing units. A community may claim "Safe Harbor" and thereby deny a developer a Comprehensive Permit if the municipality has a locally adopted and state approved Housing Production Plan (HPP) and is making measurable progress toward reaching the state goal of 10% Affordable Housing. Measurable progress means that the community is producing Affordable Housing units at an annual rate of 0.5% or 1% of its year-round housing units (at these production rates, Safe Harbor lasts for a one-year or two-year

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/subsidized-housing-inventory/download>



period, respectively). A Housing Production Plan could help the town discourage large or otherwise incompatible comprehensive permits. It also could focus attention on providing affordable and appropriate housing for seniors and providing a variety of housing options that increase naturally occurring affordable housing.

Nahant is a residential community and will likely continue to be so in the future. Given the built-out nature of the town, there are limited opportunities for new development. Any future development will likely be the redevelopment of vacant or underutilized parcels.

The 2008 OSRP does indicate concern over potential subdivision of existing lots into smaller lots and the conversion of existing single-family homes into multi-family units and condominiums. There is also general concern noted that because there are few developable lots, pressure to develop in areas prone to flooding and poor drainage could resume, as it did prior to the economic recession beginning in 2008-2009.

In the past 20 years, less than five subdivision projects have been approved by the Nahant Planning Board; none of these subdivisions has resulted in the construction of new roadways and all have been approved for the construction of a single-family dwelling on each lot.

Nahant's convenience to regional employment centers and proximity to the water may attract new residential development through future subdivisions of larger lots. At the same time, the community places a high value on its parks, open spaces, and recreation areas. As allows, a balance will have to be struck between providing adequate services and affordable housing for residents while still protecting the valuable natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Town.

Without permanently protecting open space by publicly acquiring the land, protecting it with conservation easements, and/or promoting Open Space Residential Design (in which natural resources are protected during the subdivision process and housing units are clustered), the Town expects that most if not all privately-owned, unprotected open space will be developed at some point. Of particular concern is the need for buffer areas for land that is already protected such as the areas surrounding East Point, Bailey's Hill, the Heritage Trail, the Lowlands, the Thicket, and the Kelley Greens Golf Course.

In addition to the business and residential zoning districts in Nahant, the town also has the Natural Resource District. The Natural Resource District is intended for natural resource and recreation uses in accordance with the following purposes:

1. The preservation and maintenance of protected wildlife and wetlands resource areas and habitats.
2. The protection of the Town against the costs which may be incurred when unsuitable development occurs in swamps, marshes, along water courses, in areas of high impact due to overcrowding of land and undue concentration of population, or on slopes subject to erosion.
3. To preserve and increase the amenities of the Town and foster enjoyment of its remaining

natural resources as recreational values.

4. To conserve natural conditions, wildlife and open space for the education, passive and active recreation and general welfare of the public.

Allowed uses, by Special Permit granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals include the following:

- Boathouses and other non-profit recreational uses;
- Utility lines where other access is not feasible;
- Environmental restoration or reclamation projects.

## Other Land Use Controls

The Floodplain District is an overlay district, which includes wetlands and floodplains in the Town. Where its requirements conflict with those of the underlying zoning district, the more restrictive requirements are enforced. The Floodplain boundaries are based on the 100-year floodplain, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

In 2019 the Town of Nahant passed the Nahant Wetlands Bylaw which was added as Article 17 of the Town of Nahant General Bylaws. The goal of the Wetlands Bylaw is to protect wetlands, water resources and adjacent land areas as more particularly described in the Bylaw. The permitting authority under this Bylaw is the Nahant Conservation Commission and it is intended to be used along with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c. 131 section 40) to regulate projects that may impact wetlands, flood control and adjacent areas

## Section 4: Environmental Inventory & Analysis

### Geology, Soils, and Topography

#### Geology

Long before Nahant, as we know it today, came into existence, the rocks, which make up its core, were part of a chain of volcanic islands in an ocean that was the precursor of the Atlantic. Modern geologists refer to this ocean as Iapetus and the volcanic archipelago as “Avalonia” (after the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland, where the suite of rocks was first described).

During the Paleozoic era, sedimentary rocks (chiefly shales, sandstones and muddy limestones) accumulated on the shallow seafloor surrounding Avalonia. This rock composition may be correlated to the Weymouth Formation and the Cambridge Argillite exposed in other areas of Massachusetts. Some of those rocks are exposed at East Point, where they are an area of continuing geologic study.

These ancient sediments contain some of the earliest lifeforms, including the trilobite *Olenellus* and possible specimens of *Hyolith*, a mollusk-like creature of uncertain affinity. Other species reported in these sediments include two species of brachiopods and nine species of gastropods.

These sedimentary rocks are of early Cambrian or latest Proterozoic age, deposited some 600 million years ago. During this period, the Iapetus Ocean was closing under the inexorable forces of Plate Tectonics and continental drift. As the core landmasses (the cratons) of North America, Europe, and Africa came together, Avalonia was crushed, buried, folded, and faulted, and remelted into the core of an extensive mountain range in the middle of the supercontinent of Pangaea. There, some 60 to 100 miles beneath the earth's surface, the molten magma that had supplied the volcanos of Avalonia began to cool slowly and crystalize into Nahant Gabbro, the igneous rock that forms most of the town's bedrock.

Throughout the Paleozoic Era (540 mya to 250 mya), on the surface above, marine life underwent dramatic evolutionary changes, plant and animal life colonized the land, coal swamps

**Figure 21:** Geological upheaval at East Point

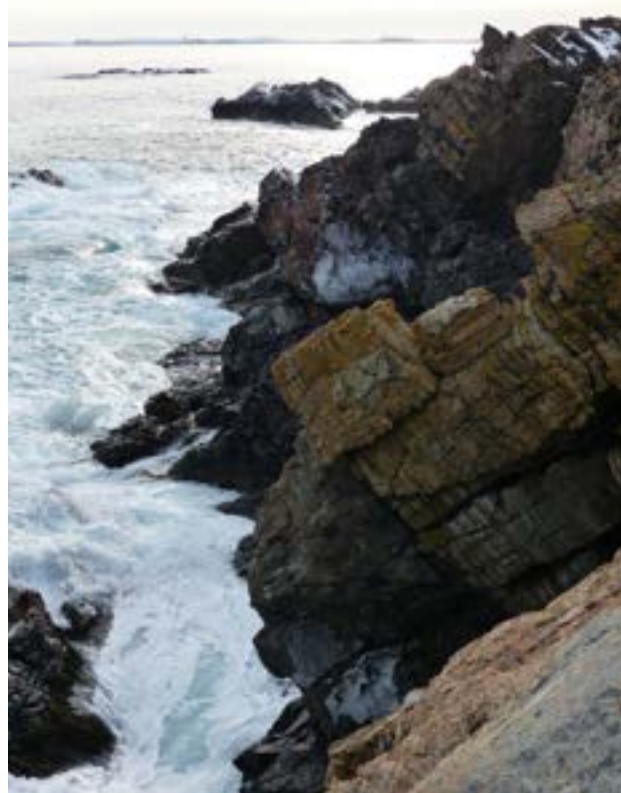


Image Source: Susan C Snow



and ice ages came and went. At the same time, the rocks of Nahant slowly crystallized and metamorphosed, hidden deep underground. For more than 300 million years, there were no fossils emplaced in the rocks of Nahant.

By the beginning of the Mesozoic Era, some 250 million years ago, as dinosaurs emerged as the new dominant life forms, the forces of Plate Tectonics changed direction, and Pangaea began to be torn apart. Nahant experienced several episodes of faulting and igneous intrusion during this process. Blocks of bedrock were uplifted and separated from the mainland by a major fault. Many smaller faults are also present in Nahant's bedrock.

The forces of erosion continued their work as well. As the weight of many miles worth of overlying rock was gradually removed, the rocks of Nahant slowly rose towards the surface. Eventually, as the Atlantic Ocean opened and erosion continued to remove the great mountain range and shape the surface topography of Eastern North America, the modern world that we know began to appear. After the extinction of the dinosaurs, some 66 mya, during the Cenozoic Era, new, more familiar animals began to appear and dominate the planet.

Most recently, in the last 2 million years or so, the current landforms of Nahant were dramatically re-shaped by the Pleistocene Ice Ages. During this time, massive glaciers sculpted the coastline, and changing patterns of wave action, coupled with periodic changes in sea level, shaped the patterns of bays, marshes, and beaches that we see today. The tombolos, beaches, and sea cliffs that are so prominent in the town's landscape today are the result of these processes, as are the soils which developed on the extensive glacial till which mantles most of Nahant.

## Soils

Nahant's soils are derived mainly from glacial till, and much of the soil exhibits urban disturbance (Dennen 1969). Deep deposits of well-drained, loamy soils with exposed bedrock occur in the higher areas, and highly drained loamy and sandy soils occur in outwash deposits.

Nahant's soils are comprised of four major soil types. The area around Nahant Road north of Little Nahant is characterized by the Udorthents-Urban land complex. This complex consists of moderately well drained to excessively drained soils that have been disturbed by capping or filling, and areas that are covered by buildings and pavement. East of Nahant Harbor, the wetlands in the central portion and the southeastern tip of Nahant belong to the Chatfield-Hollis Rock outcrop complex. The Chatfield-Hollis-Rock outcrop complex is an extremely stony soil type usually found on ridges and hills. These soils are well drained to somewhat excessively drained and have a high runoff class due to their rocky and steep nature.

The soils in the area north of Nahant Harbor are associated with the Merrimac-Hinckley-Urban land complex. This complex consists of deep deposits of extremely well-drained loamy and sandy soils formed in outwash deposits. Soils of the Paxton Montauk-Urban land complex are found in the area east of Nahant Harbor to a line between Bass Rock and Saunders Ledge. These soils are well-drained, loamy soils formed in glacial till.

### Prime Farmland

Soils particularly well suited for agricultural uses are defined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as Prime Farmland. Categories of prime farmland include Prime Farmland, Farmland of Unique Importance, and Farmland of Statewide Importance.

While there is no considerable agricultural activity in Nahant, approximately 32.7 acres of land is classified as Farmland of Unique Importance. These areas are generally located in and around the Lowlands, the Kelley Greens Golf Course and the Nahant Thicket with soil types consisting of Freetown muck and Swansea muck.

According to the NRCS, Farmland of Unique Importance is land other than prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance that might be used for the production of specific high value food and fiber crops. Examples of such crops are tree nuts, cranberries, fruit, and vegetables. In Massachusetts, Unique soils are confined to mucks, peats, and coarse sands. The presence of other crops on these soils is usually, possibly always, limited to small, incidental areas.<sup>8</sup>

### Topography

Nahant lies within the Seaboard Lowlands, characteristic of Essex County, with scattered hills of less than one hundred feet (Nahant Conservation Commission 1969). The Town is built on a group of three large masses of bedrock called Nahant Gabbro, connected originally by sand spits and natural marshland, much of which is now filled or otherwise altered. Barrier beaches connect areas of higher elevation, and the varied coastline includes cliffs, coves, and tidal flats.

---

<sup>8</sup> "Prime Farmland Definitions," USDA NRCS, [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/pr/soils/?cid=nrcs141p2\\_037285](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/pr/soils/?cid=nrcs141p2_037285)

Figure 22: Soils and Surficial Geology Map



## Landscape Character

Despite its small size, the Town of Nahant features varied landscapes ranging from recreational parks and fields to open and wooded wetlands, meadows, rocky cliffs, barrier beaches, and dunes. These significant natural and scenic resources are discussed throughout this section.

Surrounded by the sea, Nahant has always been noted for its scenic beauty. The narrow causeway connecting Nahant to the mainland is bordered by a barrier beach to the east and a shallow bay to the west. After passing the rocky highland of Little Nahant and a second barrier beach, the main road reaches Big Nahant; here, winding drives offer a series of views alternately tranquil and dramatic as they follow the intricate coastline past rocky cliffs, sandy coves, and cobblestone beaches. Lobster boats anchor alongside recreational yachts in Nahant Harbor.

Tidal mudflats stretch outward into Broad Sound on the western side of the peninsula. The beaches, coves, and tidal flats are important recreational sites as well as vital areas for waterfowl, gulls, terns, and shorebirds. The central lowland meadows are bordered by uplands, with scattered hills of less than one hundred feet in height. These include Little Nahant, Bass Point, Bailey's Hill, East Point, John's Peril, and the hillside overlooking Forty Steps Beach. Several of these hills have land sloping down to the sea.

**Figure 23:** Castle Rock and East Point



*Image Source: Robert Wilson*

The exposed cliffs at Little Nahant, John's Peril, Hood's Point, Castle Rock, East Point, Bailey's Hill, and other coastal sites present dramatic rock formations. East Point, one of the highest land elevations in Nahant, is a windswept grassy promontory offering an unrestricted view of the Boston skyline to the southwest and the expanse of open ocean to the east.

## Water Resources

### Watershed

A watershed is an area of land that drains into one river system or body of water. Nahant lies within the North Coastal Watershed, which has a drainage area of approximately 168 square miles, and it encompasses all or part of five river sub-basins (the Danvers, Essex, Saugus, Pines, and Annisquam Rivers). There are over 2,400 lakes and ponds within the North Coastal Watershed that, combined, support a population of approximately 500,000 people. Nahant is one of 26 communities within the North Coastal Watershed.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs has developed priorities for all the watersheds in the state. Priorities for future planning for the North Coastal Watershed include:

- Working to reduce contaminated stormwater emanating from street drainage systems along highways and local roads'
- Implementing sustainable growth management techniques and innovative land use planning, by addressing wastewater management;
- Conserving and protecting open space;
- Preventing the introduction of invasive plant species and reducing the loss of productive shellfish habitat; and
- Determining the impact of growth on drinking water supplies and working to maintain adequate base flows in rivers and streams.

Given the fact that the town is served by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), there are no aquifer recharge areas in Nahant.

## Surface Waters

Bear Pond is located on the southern extreme of the central lowland meadows. Bear Pond is now a series of small ponds within the Kelley Greens Golf Course. The ponds and surrounding lowlands act as a recreational resource and also provide a habitat for migrating birds. The town has no rivers, streams, or other significant bodies of freshwater. However, Nahant does contain several coastal resources, including Nahant Bay, Massachusetts Bay, and Broad Sound. These waters support commercial and recreational fishing and boating. In addition, the town's beaches, which include Nahant Beach, Short Beach, and Tudor Beach, and its many coves, provide areas for passive recreation activities like swimming, picnicking and sunbathing. Water resources are shown in **Figure 25**.

Nahant Beach is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as part of the Lynn Shore Reservation, a protected coastal region covering 67 acres with a connected multi-use paved path. There is extensive public parking along the site, and the beach is frequented by both local and regional visitors. The highest standards of quality must be sought for Nahant's coastal waters, which are perhaps the town's most important resource. These waters have been subjected to contamination from commercial sources as well as sewage. The future quality of the Nahant's shores will depend on vigilance and thoughtful planning.

**Figure 24:** Lynn Harbor, Nahant Causeway, and Long Beach



*Image Source: Susan C Snow*

### Flood Hazard Areas

The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) most recently updated its Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) in 2014 to reflect the actual flood risks to communities in the United States. The last time the maps were published was in 1982. The modernized data is shown in FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) dataset available on the FEMA website, which depicts the areas subject to flooding, grouped by flood zone, along with the base flood elevation, when known. Since Nahant is situated on a peninsula and surrounded on three sides by the Atlantic Ocean, the town is particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surge and both coastal and inland flooding.

High-risk coastal areas (FEMA Zones V and VE) are those that are subject to a 1% annual chance of flooding with velocity hazard, also known as wave action. Buildings and other structures in these zones are often most susceptible to damage during a hurricane or extreme weather event due to this wave action. The town's entire coastline, including the Nahant Causeway and Short Beach, are considered high-risk coastal areas.

The Lowlands, portions of the Flash Road recreation area, the municipal golf course, and the Furbush Road area, including the Nahant Thicket, all lie within FEMA Flood Zones A and AE, areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding, also known as the 100-year flood. The upland areas of Nahant are not depicted within any flood hazard zone.

## Wetlands

Wetlands serve a number of vital roles in both the natural and built environments. They provide important habitats for many species of wildlife and are among the most productive ecosystems in the world. Wetlands also protect water quality by filtering out pollutants and thereby reducing the contamination of waterbodies. Because of the important roles played by wetlands, it is essential that they be protected. Activities that create impervious surfaces result in increased runoff rates, reduced flood storage, and elevated peak flows, leading to more significant damage from storms. Alteration of wetlands reduces wildlife habitat and plant diversity and can increase contamination of streams, rivers, and ponds due to reduced filtration of pollutants.

Under the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L., Ch. 131, sec. 40), wetlands are defined in terms of vegetative cover and hydrological indicators (including soil characteristics), and the Act regulates dredging, filling or altering areas within 100 feet of such wetlands.

In addition, in 2019, Nahant passed its Wetlands Protection Bylaw, which was added as Article 17 of the Town of Nahant General Bylaws. Under Massachusetts law and the Nahant Wetlands Protection By-Law, the Conservation Commissions is responsible for reviewing and permitting work proposed within, or in close proximity to, inland and coastal wetlands including floodplains, rivers, ponds, beaches, banks, bays, or other surface waters. The Commission is charged with protecting the following interests under both the Act and By-Law: 1) protection of public and private water supply; 2) protection of groundwater supply; 3) flood control; 4) storm damage prevention; 5) prevention of pollution; 6) protection of land containing shellfish; 7) protection of fisheries; and 8) protection of wildlife habitat.

**Figure 25** illustrates the locations of wetlands in Town. Freshwater Emergent wetlands are located throughout the Lowlands and the Kelley Greens golf course. Another significant wetland is located near the southwestern shore in the area of Willow Road and Wharf Street. Included in this Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetland is the Massachusetts Audubon Nahant Thicket Wildlife Sanctuary (“Nahant Thicket”) and other lands protected through conservation restrictions. Lastly, Estuarine and Marine Wetlands extend along Nahant’s entire coastline.







## Vegetation

### General Inventory

Nahant historically has been cleared of natural vegetation to accommodate the farming community settled in the 1600s and today is predominantly covered by residential landscapes. However, Nahant does contain a variety of important vegetative landscapes within its small area of one square mile. Nahant's vegetation varieties include rocky coastlines, sandy shores, dunes, eel grass beds, rocky highlands, open and wooded wetland habitats, Nahant Thicket, small forests, meadows, maritime shrubland, recreational parks and fields, and scenic landscapes. Each vegetative community performs functions critical to the health, value and preservation of Nahant's parks and open spaces.

### Wooded Land

#### Bailey's Hill Complex

The largest wooded land area resides at the Bailey's Hill Complex (4.6 acres). This area is a prominent south-facing rocky hill surrounded by ocean on three sides. The predominant trees on the southside of the complex, Bailey's Hill proper, include aspen/poplar, black/rum cherry, and pine. Shrubs include bayberry, Oriental bittersweet, native wild rose, rugose rose, and staghorn sumac.

To the north, is a flat, lowland park consisting largely of a mowed lawn. The Fort Ruckman area on the opposite hillside is overgrown with invasive species including black locust and Norway maple, with an understory including black cherry, sumac, Oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose, as well as blackberry and bayberry. Atop Fort Ruckman there are several mature shade trees and an open lawn area for leisurely walking.

#### East Point/Lodge Park

A variety of trees and shrubs can be found on the westerly portions of the hillsides, including black/rum cherry, crabapple, elm and pine. Circling the boundary of Lodge Park vegetation includes native wild rose, *rosa rugosa*, staghorn sumac, and a few hardy stands of bayberry.

#### Marjoram Park

There are numerous mature trees scattered throughout the park especially on the hill portion of the land, creating a forested area. These trees provide excellent shade opportunity throughout the space as well as bird nesting. Trees in this area include Norway spruce, oak and black pine with a sumac and cherry understory.

### Public Shade Trees

The Nahant Tree Bylaw, in its role as an addition to Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General laws, defines Public Shade Trees as those lying on land between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues or ways within the Town and public parks and all areas owned by the town or to which the public has free access as a park. These public trees are recognized as valuable to the town's visual character and for the community benefits they provide in moderating temperatures, providing shade and habitat for wildlife, and filtering pollutants from the air.

The bylaw is intended to help preserve, protect, and improve Nahant's urban tree canopy. In order to carry out this goal a Tree Task Force was created to serve in a volunteer capacity under the direction of the Superintendent of Public Works. The Department of Public Works is responsible for the care and maintenance of all town trees. Removal of any public shade tree requires an inspection and written permit from the town's Tree Warden. The Nahant Tree Task Force is currently working with the Town's DPW to develop an inventory of all trees on public lands.

**Figure 26:** Nahant Tree City USA Designation and Spring Road Basketball Court dedication



Image Source: Itemlive.com, Hannah Chadwick<sup>9</sup>

In addition, Nahant was recently designated as a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation. To achieve this recognition, the town met the program's four requirements: formation of tree board, observation of a tree-care by-law which Nahant follows under the Massachusetts General Laws regarding public shade trees, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day celebration and proclamation.

### Wetland Vegetation

Wetlands are areas in which a significant part of the vegetative community has adapted to life in saturated soil. The Lowlands section of Nahant was once a large wetland area of approximately 59 acres that extended from Short Beach to Bailey's Hill. Today, much of this area has been drained and filled for recreational purposes. Two large segments of wetlands remain, the golf course and the areas surrounding the Heritage Trail.

The golf course includes grassy lawn areas for recreational use as well as trees along the perimeter of the site. The Heritage Trail is a 1.4-mile trail running south from Short Beach to Bailey's Hill, through a diverse wetland and woodland habitat. Aging trees and invasive species are scattered throughout most of the Lowlands and the Heritage Trail. These include Oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, phragmites grass and multiflora rose. Trees found in these areas include cherry, cottonwood, black locust, pine, sycamore maple and willow. Some flowering herbaceous plants found in this area include aster, milkweed, burdock, garlic mustard, raspberry

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.itemlive.com/2021/10/20/nahant-celebrates-new-park-tree-city-designation/>

and stinging nettle. Restoration work in these areas is ongoing to remove invasive species and replace them with native plantings.

**Figure 27:** Aerial view of Kelley Greens Golf Course



*Image Source: Google Earth*

Another significant wetland area is in the Nahant Thicket. Red and swamp maple trees are found on this 4.5-acre site, as well as swamp white oak and American elm. The understory is composed of greenbrier, multiflora rose, northern arrow-wood viburnum, shadbush, sweet pepper bush and common elderberry. Honeysuckle, winged euonymous, and common buckthorn are found in the shrub section. Two invasive grasses, phragmites and reed canary grass are found in a wet meadow section.

Mass. Audubon recently developed a restoration and management program in this area. This plan includes clearing of invasive species and old trees, maintenance of plantings and the construction of a new walkway. These site improvements have greatly enhanced accessibility to the Thicket. This Mass. Audubon property along with an adjoining private, but accessible, wetland/forested area are important places for migrating and nesting songbirds.

## Beaches

Rocky shoreline and sandy beaches comprise the majority of land around the perimeter of the Nahant tombolo. Nahant's beaches are heavily trafficked which makes dune areas highly vulnerable to disturbance. Pedestrian foot traffic can compact sand and crush vegetation. To protect the dunes in sandy areas, rope fences are installed which has had significant positive impact on the protection of dune vegetation. Nahant beaches provide food and nesting sites for many birds. Of note are the thousands of migrating shore birds which stop to replenish on the Town's shores each year. Of special interest on sandy beaches is a frequent year-round alga, *Pilayella littoralis*. The Algae is locally abundant but globally a very rare mutant algal species. It may at times cover the beach with a thick brown foul-smelling mat, which is harmless to humans, but helpful to the shore birds which feed upon the small organisms in the algae.<sup>10</sup>

### Nahant Beach (Long Beach)

Nahant Beach is a sixty-six acre stretch of barrier beach located between Little Nahant and traffic rotary at the Lynn-Nahant boundary. This area is managed by the DCR. The sandy beach is bordered by a narrow strip of low dunes (adjacent to the causeway), which is vegetated with traditional dune community plants, including beach plum, beach rose, bayberry, dune grass, seaside goldenrod, beach pea, aster, black pine and white poplar. This area has undergone a recent replanting by the DCR.

### Short Beach

Short Beach is a six-acre stretch of sandy beach located between Little and Big Nahant. Dune restoration at this site with plantings of American beachgrass has enriched the dunes and helped stabilize the impact of rising sea levels. In addition to the plants found on Nahant Beach, staghorn sumac, sea rocket, wild radish, milkweed, and stonecrop are found here.

### Black Rock Beach

Across the street from Short Beach is Black Rock Beach, a of 3.2-acre sandy beach facing Lynn Harbor. This site is bordered by a low-lying dune habitat, with planted vegetation similar to that found on Short Beach, including barberry, Oriental bittersweet, poison ivy and crabapple.

### Forty Steps Beach

Located on the seaward side of Nahant Road, Forty Steps Beach is a 1.4-acre stony beach, bordered by rocks and steep cliffs. Short grass is the dominant vegetation in this area and covers most of the hillside. Other vegetation at this site includes small trees and shrubs, such as staghorn sumac, crabapple, cherry, bindweed, mullein, oak, pokeweed, privet and beach pea.

### Canoe Beach

Canoe Beach is a wide stony beach located near Forty Steps Beach that is often subject to erosion and storm damage. Dune grass plantings at this site have repeatedly been challenged by storm surge.

<sup>10</sup> "The Brown Algae of Nahant Bay and Broad Sound," Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/rw/pilayella-brochure.pdf>

Tudor Beach

Located on the southern side of Nahant this predominantly sandy beach directly meets seawall and adjoining pavement. Seagrass is found on the northeast side of Tudor Beach and a small linear green space runs along the Willow Road length of the site.

Rare and Endangered Species

As a part of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), the population status of rare species, whether they are plants or animals, is described using three categories: special concern (SC), threatened (T), and endangered (E). Species of special concern have either experienced a decline that could threaten the species without intervention, or whose populations are so small, localized, or dependent upon specialized habitats that they could become threatened. Threatened species are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. Endangered species are in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife lists the historic observation of one rare vascular plant in Nahant: Seabeach Dock (*Rumex pallidus*), with the last recorded siting dating back to the 1800's.

Figure 28: Rare Plant Species Observed in Nahant

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status	Last Spotted
Seabeach Dock	<i>Rumex pallidus</i>	Vascular Plant	T	1800's (Historic Observation)

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

Figure 29: Plant & Wildlife Habitat Map



## Unique Natural Resources

### East Point Meadow

East Point is a vital resource, both as a natural habitat for wild plants and migrating birds and as a passive recreational area for the community. A significant wildflower meadow is located at the center of the park. Monarch butterflies, various bee species and other pollinators are found in this area where milkweed and wildflowers grow in abundance.

### East Point Maritime Shrubland

Maritime Shrubland communities occur along the coast within the area of direct influence of the ocean and salt spray. The rocky headlands that surround East Point are defined as Maritime Shrubland. These vegetative areas often have dense patches of shrubs, up to about 10 ft. tall, with various species dominating in different areas. Black cherry, beach plum, chokeberry, lowbush blueberry, and bearberry may be abundant. Catbrier and poison ivy often cover other plants or grow in dense patches on their own. Non-native species are often abundant including Oriental bittersweet and Morrow's honeysuckle. Maritime Shrub thickets provide important nesting areas for many bird species.<sup>11</sup>

### Eel Grass Beds

Seagrass beds are critical wetlands components of shallow marine ecosystems along the Massachusetts coastline. Seagrass beds absorb nutrients, stabilize sediments, and provide food and cover for a great variety of commercially and recreationally important fauna and their prey. Seagrasses are often referred to as "Submerged Aquatic Vegetation" or SAV. In Massachusetts, the dominant SAV is *Zostera marina* or eelgrass. Eelgrass is home to both economically important species, such as American lobster and winter flounder. Eelgrass beds are currently growing offshore, east of Nahant in Lynn Harbor.<sup>12</sup> Although not indicated on recent maps due to an oversight, the southern coast of Nahant continues to support Eelgrass from Dorothy's Cove, Curlew Beach and the Joseph's Beach cove.<sup>13</sup>

## Mapping Projects

In partnership with the Nature Conservancy, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program produced strategic biodiversity conservation plans for every city and town in Massachusetts in 2012. *BioMap2* is designed to focus "land protection and stewardship on the areas that are most critical for ensuring the long-term persistence of rare and other native species and their habitats, exemplary natural communities, and a diversity of ecosystems."<sup>14</sup> The project was developed to protect the state's biodiversity in the context of global climate change.

<sup>11</sup> "Classification of Natural Communities of Massachusetts: Maritime Shrubland," Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/maritime-shrubland/download>

<sup>12</sup> MassDEP Eelgrass Mapping Project, <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-massdep-eelgrass-mapping-project>

<sup>13</sup> Per Phil Colarusso, EPA, email communication 1.5.22

<sup>14</sup> "BioMap2," MA EOEEA, [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/land-protection-and-management/biomap2/](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/land-protection-and-management/biomap2/)



As a part of the *BioMap2* mapping project, two components in each community are identified: Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape. Core Habitat describes areas that are crucial to the long-term existence of rare species, as well as a wide diversity of species in an intact ecosystem.

According to *BioMap2*, 121 acres in Nahant is considered Core Habitat. Of this, 71 acres are already protected in perpetuity.<sup>15</sup> **Figure 29** shows the locations of the *BioMap2* Core Habitat, which includes Nahant Beach, Short Beach, and the rocky shore areas at the easternmost part of town along the periphery of East Point and Lodge Park.

Critical Natural Landscape describes large areas of natural “Landscape Blocks” that are not greatly impacted by development. As the world’s climate changes, these areas, if protected, will provide habitat for native species, enhance ecological resiliency to disasters, and connect habitats. According to *BioMap2*, there are no areas of Critical Natural Landscape in Nahant.

## Fisheries and Wildlife

Although most of the land in Nahant is developed, typical suburban wildlife is present including squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, opossum, red foxes, mice, woodchucks, muskrats and coyotes. The offshore waters of the town support fisheries of commercial and recreational importance. Typical finfish populations include striped bass, bluefish, cod, flounder, mackerel, and pollack. Additionally, sea urchins found in the offshore waters of Nahant are harvested commercially. Commercial and recreational lobstering is an important activity in the Town. There are 13 commercial lobstermen and many citizens maintain recreational lobster pots and dive for lobsters in Nahant’s waters. Recreational fishing for squid is also a popular fishing activity – often at the Town Wharf.

Birds constitute a significant wildlife population in Nahant. The town’s beaches and mudflats are a critical habitat for thousands of gulls and other shorebirds. In winter, the waters surrounding Nahant support most of the species common to New England waters including gulls, loons, grebes, cormorants, geese, and large flocks of ducks. Many of the common breeding birds of Massachusetts nest in Nahant. This is also an important location for migrating birds. Known as a “migrant trap” due to its strategic insular location on the Atlantic flyway, Nahant has the only undeveloped headland between Cape Cod and Cape Ann and is an important resting and staging area. During the spring and fall large “fallouts” of migrants occur. The variety and number of passerines is impressive, and the number of shorebirds continues to be in the thousands.

In 2002 Nahant and its surrounding waters were designated an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the Massachusetts Audubon Society for its importance as a migratory bird resting area. This program is part of an international initiative to identify and protect sites that are globally important for the conservation of bird species. There are currently more than 12,000 IBAs worldwide. Nahant qualified on two criteria: a site regularly holding significant numbers of endangered/vulnerable species and habitat, and as a site where birds are found in significant numbers.

<sup>15</sup> “BioMap2: Nahant” (2012), MassGIS, [http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap/pdf/town\\_core/Nahant.pdf](http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap/pdf/town_core/Nahant.pdf)



**Figure 30:** Barred Owl at Nahant Thicket



**Figure 31:** Snowy Owl at Lodge Park



Image Sources: Nancy Cantelmo (Left), Vi Patek (Right)

Additionally, Nahant participates in the International Shorebird Survey (ISS), an international effort to monitor shorebird populations, which have been dramatically declining in recent years. Since 1974, the Manomet Center for Conservation has depended on volunteers to gather information on shorebirds and the wetlands on which they depend. These shorebirds stop in Nahant for food and rest during spring and fall migrations, many of them traveling thousands of miles between their northern breeding territories and the far reaches of South America.

#### Rare Species

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has identified one rare animal species in Nahant: the Piping Plover. Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) is a threatened (T) species at the state and federal level. Last observed in Nahant in 2019, it is a small shorebird whose populations declined due to hunting for fashion accessories. More recently, these birds have been impacted by increased predation and the degradation and loss of nesting habitat, including beach development. Each spring, Piping Plovers return to Massachusetts coastal beaches to nest and raise their young. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) maintains nesting sites for the Piping Plover and other state-listed terns on Nahant Beach. Symbolic fences exist to protect nesting habitat and prevent people from harming or harassing the birds and their eggs, which is illegal due to State and Federal regulations.

**Figure 32:** Rare Animal Species Observed in Nahant

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status	Last Spotted
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Bird	T	2019

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

## Wildlife Corridors

Many of the existing habitat corridors in Nahant are relatively small yet support a surprising amount of biodiversity. These areas include the Lowlands, the golf course, and Bailey's Hill. Alone, these sites are not large enough to sustain a substantial wildlife population. Linked, however, these open space areas provide more than enough habitat. As previously mentioned, many species of birds and mammals rely on the wetlands in these areas for food, water, and shelter, especially during migration and breeding. Other significant swaths of wildlife habitat areas include Nahant Thicket, East Point, Lodge Park, and the Heritage Trail. The town's beaches and rocky coastline also act as a wildlife corridor for marine life, birds, and other animals.

## Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Despite its small size, Nahant has a number of scenic resources and unique environments that reflect the town's character and history. The Town includes several significant historical and cultural landmarks, many of which have been noted throughout this plan. Below is a discussion of some of the areas not mentioned elsewhere and a further discussion of some of the areas that were mentioned with emphasis on their unique or scenic features.

**Nahant Civic Historic District:** The intersection of Nahant Road and Pleasant Street has been the focus of public life in this town since the early nineteenth century. The Nahant Public Library began as a private subscription library founded in 1819, which was transferred to town ownership in 1872, making it one of the earliest public libraries in the Commonwealth. Having been housed in school buildings and the town hall, the library finally achieved its own home in 1895, when the handsome granite building (15 Pleasant Street) by Ball and Dabney was dedicated. Ernest Bowditch laid out the grounds.

The Post Office Block (332 Nahant Road), a Colonial Revival frame structure articulated by slender pilasters, was constructed in 1900–1901 on land owned by Francis H. Johnson, who was active in real estate development in Nahant. Here the post office still remains; the original grocery store replaced by a convenience store. When the first town hall (1868) became too small, the town appointed a committee to consider remodeling or constructing a new building. They consulted the architectural firm of Andrews, Jaques and Rantoul, who recommended a new building, which they subsequently designed in 1912. The town hall (334 Nahant Road), built of buff brick and cast stone, follows the common patterns of the Colonial Revival, in contrast to the English allusions of the library across Pleasant Street. These two relatively unaltered structures continue to serve their original functions.<sup>16</sup>

In addition to the Civic Historic District, a number of other sites in Nahant are also recognized for their historical significance. The prior home of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, located at 5 Cliff Street, was named a National Historic Landmark in 1976. The Ellingwood Chapel and Greenlawn Cemetery were placed on the National Register in 2000, and the Nahant Life Saving Station was

<sup>16</sup> Keith N. Morgan, "Nahant Civic Historic District", [Nahant, Massachusetts], SAH Archipedia, eds. Gabrielle Esperdy and Karen Kingsley, Charlottesville: UVaP, 2012—, <http://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/MA-01-NH4>.

placed on the National Register in 2012.

Four properties are protected by preservation restrictions drawn up in accordance with MGL Chapter 183, Sections 31-33. A preservation restriction runs with the deed and is one of the strongest preservation strategies available. Nahant's four properties that are under preservation restrictions are the **Town Hall** and the **Library**, both also listed in the Nahant Civic National Register District, the **Coast Guard Life Saving Station** and the **Valley Road School**, both of which have no other designations.<sup>17</sup>

**Figure 33:** Nahant Life-Saving Station



Image Source: Wikipedia

**Nahant Harbor:** The small and picturesque Nahant Harbor is ideally situated in a sheltered cove. The harbor supports lobster boats, a fleet of sailboats and a program of instruction in sailing for Nahant youth and adults. Yacht racing has a long tradition in Nahant, with regattas sponsored by the Nahant Dory Club having been established around 1894.

**Nahant (Long) Beach and Short Beach:** The two largest barrier beaches in Nahant, Long Beach and Short Beach, are spectacular flat sandy beaches enjoyed by beachgoers and are an important resource for birds.

**Egg Rock (Henry Cabot Lodge Bird Sanctuary):** Egg Rock is a small 3-acre island located approximately 1 mile off the coast of Nahant in Nahant Bay. The island was formerly the site of a lighthouse known as Egg Rock Light. Today the island is known as the Henry Cabot Lodge Bird Sanctuary and is managed by the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife. The sanctuary serves as an important nesting area for gulls, cormorants, and common eider.

**Northeastern University Marine Science Center:** The Northeastern University Marine Science Center is located at East Point. Northeastern undertakes scientific research on the surrounding

<sup>17</sup> MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program: Nahant Reconnaissance Report, 2005. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/nahant/download>

ocean and the life that it supports and has studied the offshore waters of Nahant over the past 50 years.

**Kelley Greens Golf Course:** The Town-owned Kelley Greens Golf Course provides a more directed recreational opportunity. The largest inland open space in Nahant, the golf course represents a successful effort by Nahant citizens and officials to save this wetland from further development.

**Nahant Heritage Trail:** The Nahant Heritage Trail is a 1.4-mile passive recreational trail that runs from Little Nahant through the central lowland meadows to Bailey's Hill. Enhancements to this trail are being planned, to remove invasive species and provide general clean-up of areas adjacent to the trail on the Bailey's Hill embankment.

**Figure 34:** Heritage Trail



*Image Source Elizabeth K. Berman*

### Priority Heritage Landscapes

In 2005 the town, in coordination with the Essex National Heritage Foundation, participated in the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Heritage Landscape Inventory program (HLI). The primary goal of the HLI program is to help communities identify unique landscape resources, particularly those that are significant and unprotected. With public participation the landscapes important to the community were identified and surveyed. Methods to protect and preserve these landscapes were published in the Nahant Reconnaissance Report, which is available at the Nahant Public Library, and electronically on the Town of Nahant website.<sup>18</sup> The priority heritage landscapes identified in the report are listed below and represent a range of scale from a single structure to a neighborhood.

**Bailey's Hill - Lewis Cove - Bass Point:** Bailey's Hill and Bass Point, also referred to as the Twin Points, jut out into Broad Sound and shape Lewis and Bass Coves. Bailey's Hill rises high above the water and offers fine views of the landscape, of the sea and of the Boston skyline to the west. Looking east from Bailey's Hill one has a view of Nahant Harbor, the Town Wharf, Tudor Beach, and the roofs of houses and some of the concrete towers that are out on East Point. Bailey's Hill is open space that is owned by the town. It has rock outcroppings, clusters of trees, a meadow and paths leading up from Fort Ruckman and from the coastline. Bass Point is a low-lying area that is covered by a condominium complex. There were at least five large hotels at Bass Point in the late 19th century along with steamboat wharves and an amusement park. The Bass Point neighborhood was made up of small cottages. This residential neighborhood retains the modest

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

housing laid out on small lots. Bailey's Hill was given to the town by the federal government for the express purposes of recreation and education.

**East Point Neighborhood:** East Point once was the site of the Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. Estate, which took its place among many fine summer residences in Nahant in the 19th century. Although the main estate that was on top of the hill at East Point is no longer extant, the estate is remembered in the Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. Memorial Park out on the point. Many of the estates located along Nahant Road, Cliff and Vernon Streets reflect the stature of Nahant as a summer retreat for prominent Boston families. The best known is the Henry Cabot Lodge [Sr.] House, the Lodge Villa at 5 Cliff Street, which is situated on a large estate-like parcel overlooking the ocean across Nahant Road. The granite house with distinctive two-story balconies is a National Historic Landmark. The Hammond House, 405 Nahant Road, also known as Castle Rock, retains its landscape marked by mature trees, rock outcroppings, a curvilinear entrance drive and a remarkable heavy granite block wall with decorative iron entrance gate that outlines the road side of the property. This ca. 1820 house was updated in the late 19th century in the Stick Style. The Charles Gibson House also has been modified over the years but retains its prominent spot with fine views over Forty Steps Beach to Castle Rock and the Atlantic Ocean. Another property of note is the 1868 Village Church designed by Ware and VanBrundt, built for summer residents but now a year-round house of worship. An old stone wall at the corner of Vernon Street and Swallow Cave Road marks the former Sears Estate, dating from the 1820s.

**Marginal Road – Maolis Garden Area:** Marginal Road formed the northern edge of the 19th century Frederick Tudor Estate that extended across the peninsula. Tudor built Maolis Gardens on his estate. Maolis Gardens was an amusement park with swings, tilt boards, caged animals, ice-cream pavilions and a dining hall all in operation until 1892 when some of the park buildings were moved to Bass Point. One structure known as the Rock Temple was designed by John Q. Hammond and built on top of Witches Cave, a reputed hiding place during the Salem Witch hysteria. Marginal Road runs between Summer Street to the east and Ocean Street to the west and follows the coast line overlooking Stony Beach on the north side of Nahant. It forms the northern edge of the old Frederick Tudor Estate and has a high stone retaining wall that was part of the Tudor property, now divided into three large estate properties that rise above Marginal Road. Features on Marginal Road are remnants of Tudor's Maolis Gardens overlooking Stony Beach and the North Spring at the western end of Marginal Road on the site of the Guild/Patterson estate. The only remaining structure at the original site of the Garden is the Rock Temple at 54 Maolis Road. This is a polygonal garden pavilion built in ca. 1859.

**Nahant Country Club:** The original ca. 1824 house of Frederick Tudor is embedded in the clubhouse which sits high on the land overlooking Nahant Road to the south. Tudor owned most of Nahant stretching from the ocean along Marginal Road south to the Lowlands and out to Bass Point. In the late 1880s his cottage, the granite gable front central element, was expanded with large flanking wood frame wings to become the Nahant Club. In spite of the Depression and World War II the club survived until 1945 when it was purchased by the Thomsen Club, an association of engineers who were employed by General Electric. The property was under threat of demolition and development in the 1960s when shares were sold in the New Nahant Land

Company and the club was reorganized as the Nahant Country Club with membership open to town residents. The broad lawn between the clubhouse and Nahant Road was protected from development at that time and now is common space used by Nahant residents for passive recreation. The status of the shares in the New Nahant Land Company is somewhat untested and it remains unclear whether this is a form of permanent protection.

**Spouting Horn Neighborhood:** The Spouting Horn neighborhood is named for a natural feature formed by the rising tides effect on the rock creating a roaring noise and large splash known as the Spouting Horn. It is a significant site on the old Perimeter Path which extends from Stony Beach to Forty Steps Beach and once was a popular walking path along the shoreline. Most of the properties in this neighborhood on the northern coast of the Nahant peninsula are estates with commodious houses, some architect designed, in mature landscapes. Egg Rock Estate is on Mifflin's Point is marked by many fine specimen trees such as European beeches. The Mifflin House, also on the Point, has one of the concrete military observation towers on the property.

**Stone Barn:** The Stone Barn is located on a triangular piece of land bordered by Spring Road and High Street Extension. The barn is situated immediately adjacent to Spring Street with its gable end facing the convergence of the two roads. The apple barn was constructed for fruit storage in ca. 1838 as part of Frederick Tudor's complex which stretched from Marginal Road southerly to the Lowlands. This was one of Tudor's farm buildings. The building is unique in Nahant where few agricultural buildings remain and no others of stone. The farmer lived nearby in the brick farmhouse diagonally opposite this site on Spring Road.



Figure 35: Scenic Resources and Unique Resources Map



## Environmental Challenges

### Hazardous Waste Sites

Hazardous waste is considered to be any human-created or modified substance released into the environment that constitutes a present or potential threat to public health and safety, to plants and animals, and to the quality and quantity of a water supply. Hazardous wastes can be solid, semi-solid, liquid, or gaseous in nature. These wastes pose a threat when improperly stored, used, transported, disposed of, treated, or mismanaged.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup Reportable Release Lookup Database has identified ten hazardous waste sites in the Nahant in various stages of assessment and cleanup. MassDEP has files for each site regarding their contamination and associated remediation; the files can be viewed online through the Reportable Release Lookup Database. The listed sites are those that may contain potentially contaminated soil, water, and air. Most sites have been restored or deemed close to their original state.

Of the ten sites listed, only one has an Activity and Use Limitation (AUL). The site is listed as a residential property located on Highland Avenue. AULs are legal restrictions meant to limit future exposure to contaminants that may remain on a site after cleanup. AULs are a part of the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, and they allow the current and likely future use of a property to be considered during the cleanup of oil and hazardous material disposal sites. In addition, AULs provide critical information to the people who will control and use the property in the future about the risks remaining at the site.

### Landfills and Waste Disposal

An old, inactive landfill site located off Spring Road is currently used as the Town's composting facility. Appropriated funds were used in October of 2019 to remove approximately 2,500 cubic yards of mixed compost and debris and the site was regraded to improve drainage and runoff.

### Chronic Flooding

Flooding was the most prevalent serious natural hazard identified in the Town's 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The Town of Nahant is subject to two kinds of flooding: coastal flooding where wind and tide leads to flooding along the shore and tidal waterways; and localized, inland flooding where the rate of precipitation or amount of water overwhelms the capacity of natural and structured drainage systems to convey water causing it to overflow the system. **Figure 36** shows the locally identified areas of flooding listed in the Town's HMP.



**Figure 36:** Locally Identified Areas of Flooding

Name	Description
Nahant Causeway	Coastal flooding
Nahant Road	Coastal flooding between Little and Castle Roads
Basspoint Road	Coastal flooding; from Gardner to Trimountain Roads
Willow Road	Coastal flooding; from Oceanview to Winter Streets
Willow Road at Furbush Road	Coastal Flooding
Lowlands Area	Inland flooding, drainage issue
Furbush Road	Inland flooding, drainage issue

### Climate Change

Climate change will exacerbate many of the existing environmental challenges in Nahant, including flooding, shoreline erosion, and invasive species. To strengthen its resiliency to climate change, the Town has looked to both mitigation measures that address the causes of climate change and adaption measures that address the impacts of climate change.

In 2019, the town completed a Community Resilience Building Workshop and produced a Summary of Findings (MVP Report) as part of the State’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program.<sup>19</sup> The MVP Report reviews and defines natural and climate related hazards that will be exacerbated by climate change and provides recommendations and actions that the Town can take to improve resiliency. The report reviewed recent storm events and identified the areas in Town that are prone to flooding, storm damage and erosion. Open space and recreation planning can help mitigate flooding, erosion, invasive species, extreme temperatures, and other climate change impacts. The areas identified in the MVP Report that are also listed as open spaces in this OSRP include the Lowlands softball fields and parking lot, the Heritage Trail, the Flash Road recreation areas and the Kelley Greens golf course.

Establishing a long-term strategy to improve the town’s existing drainage infrastructure was listed as a top priority in the MVP Report. Many of Nahant’s open space areas, including the Lowlands, the Kelley Greens Golf Course, and the Nahant Thicket, play a critical role in drainage and flood protection for the town. To the extent that the MVP Report recommends improvements to these areas, it will be important for these sites to remain accessible to residents and that connections to the Heritage Trail be maintained as part of any planned maintenance or improvements.

In May 2020, the Town was awarded a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant to plan improvements to Short Beach access ways in order to reduce flooding and improve drainage in the Lowlands areas, one of the priorities listed in the MVP Report. This grant will allow the Town and MVP Committee to develop plans for these improvements.

<sup>19</sup> Nahant Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings; [https://nahant.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Nahant\\_Final\\_MVP\\_Report\\_April\\_11\\_2019.pdf](https://nahant.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Nahant_Final_MVP_Report_April_11_2019.pdf)

In 2021, the Town began working with MAPC to update its local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). This plan identifies risks and vulnerabilities in Nahant associated with natural disasters, and offers long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events. Climate change impacts determined by the 2014 FEMA funded study were incorporated in the updated HMP. Examples of mitigation include dredging natural ditches and resizing culverts to reduce flooding; coastal dune restoration, of installing green infrastructure, and repairing and replacing the Town's stormwater drainage system.

## Forestry Issues

Forests are important as they provide wildlife habitat and support biodiversity, help to regulate climate and assimilate pollution, protect water supply and quality, retain soil, and mitigate flooding. They also have important recreation and aesthetic value. Invasive species can cause harm to ecosystems and negatively impact the biodiversity and health of forested areas and natural landscapes. There are no forests or woodlands of significant size in Nahant. There are however small areas of deciduous forest, shrubland, and grassland that cover East Point and Henry Cabot Lodge Park. Invasive species that have been identified in these areas include Black swallowwort (*Cynanchum louiseae*), Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*), Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). Mass Audubon recently developed a Management and Restoration Plan For Henry Cabot Lodge Memorial Park to address this issue.

## Weathering/Erosion/Sedimentation

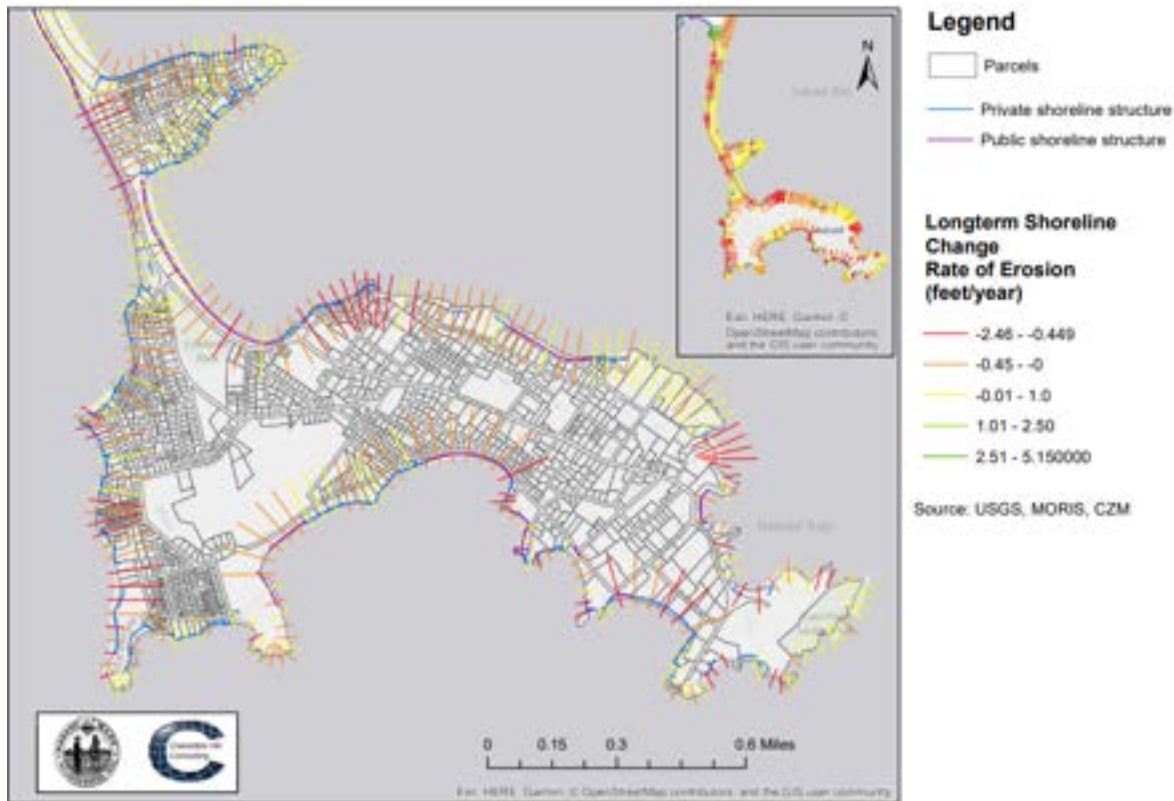
Weathering describes the wearing away of land surfaces (primarily soil and rock debris) by natural forces, such as running water, wind, and ice.<sup>20</sup> Erosion is the process by which natural forces move the weathered rock and soil. One of the most critical threats with respect to erosion in Nahant occurs along the Town's shoreline during coastal storms. The areas identified in the Town's HMP as most vulnerable to coastal erosion include Forty Steps, Short Beach, and the north end of Ocean Street.

Coastal shorelines change constantly in response to storms, seasons, sea level, and human alterations. Coastal erosion is measured as a rate of change over time. Rising seas and more frequent and intense storms will tend to increase erosion, although some areas may actually accrete material. Erosion may be exacerbated by efforts to protect shorelines as when engineered hard structures reduce sediment sources to downdrift areas or increase erosion seaward of structures due to interaction with waves. The severity of erosion is related to such factors as exposure to high energy waves, sediment size, sea level rise, near-shore bathymetry, and human interference with sediment supply. The Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provides shoreline change data for the Massachusetts coast. They provide long-term (1800's – 2014) and short-term (1970-2014) data.

**Figure 37: Long-term Shoreline Changes in Nahant** demonstrates long-term shoreline change projections for Nahant.

<sup>20</sup> MassDEP (2003), "Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Urban and Suburban Areas," <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/esfull.pdf>

**Figure 37: Long-term Shoreline Changes in Nahant**



Source: USGS; MORIS; CZM. Map created by Clarendon Hill Consulting for MVP Planning Workshop in 2019.

Sedimentation can be thought of as the opposite of erosion; it is the deposition of soil particles that have been transported by wind and water. Sedimentation issues in Nahant are partially attributed to disturbances to natural drainage areas and clogged sewer infrastructure. The impacts of sedimentation can be most readily seen in low-lying areas like the municipal golf course, Bear Pond, and the Lowlands, following extreme weather events. The Town's 2019 MVP Report recommends dredging the town's natural ditches for improved surface and stormwater drainage. Additionally, low impact development (LID) techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs, and porous pavement can help control erosion, sedimentation, and water pollution, by slowing the flow of stormwater, filtering out sediments and other pollutants, and promoting groundwater infiltration.

### Development Impacts

As described in the Community Setting element of this plan, Nahant is almost entirely built out and the Town's current zoning only allows for residential development. Since there are very few parcels of vacant land that are developable and free of constraints, most new development in town must occur via infill development, some redevelopment, and teardowns. Impacts of proposed development are mitigated through state and local regulations. The Planning Board and Conservation Commission review proposed development projects and ensure that the

development proposals meet local requirements such as zoning, stormwater mitigation, and preservation of wetlands and buffers.

As of the date of this Plan, the only significant development proposed in the Town is a 55,000-square-foot expansion of Northeastern University's Marine Science Center atop an existing military bunker on East Point. At the Annual Town Meeting on May 15, 2021, the Town authorized the Board of Selectmen to take by eminent domain a conservation restriction and easement on a portion of the Northeastern property and the portion of Canoe Beach owned by Northeastern to preserve the affected areas for open space and recreation purposes.

At the Annual Town Meeting on May 15, 2021, the Town committed to developing 12 former single family Coast Guard Housing units currently being utilized as rental units to market-priced (lottery) single-family lots.

In communities where vacant land is scarce, such as in Nahant, opportunities for open space preservation are often limited and come up against demands for residential and commercial growth. Fortunately, the Town of Nahant has been proactive about preserving land for open space even with development pressures.

#### Ground and Surface-water Pollution (Point and Nonpoint)

The thirty-odd private (home) sewage outfalls that used to exist in Nahant were closed years ago, and today all Town sewerage is sent under the causeway to Lynn, where the Lynn Water and Sewer Commission (LWSC) treatment plant provides secondary treatment to Town wastewater along with wastewater from Lynn, Swampscott, and Saugus.

The town's 2019 MVP Report notes that stormwater runoff negatively impacts water quality at Nahant's beaches following major storm events. Intense rainfall often overwhelms the capacity of the Town's natural and structured drainage systems causing stormwater ponding and localized flooding. As a result, runoff from the streets goes directly onto town beaches and other surrounding areas. As indicated earlier, both the HMP and MVP Report recommend that the Town's natural drainage ditches be dredged in order to channel stormwater more effectively. In addition, the Mass. Audubon Society has planned improvements for the Nahant Thicket that will improve drainage in the Wharf Street and Furbush Road areas of town.

Also affecting the quality of Nahant's coastal waters is the Greater Boston Sewage Treatment Plant at Deer Island administered by the MWRA. This plant, which began operations in the spring of 2000, is discharging secondary treated sewage from forty-two cities and towns through an outfall about 5.5 miles from Nahant. Because Nahant is a peninsula that extends more than two miles out into the ocean, it is particularly vulnerable to pollution from surrounding sources.

Dog waste is another source of water contamination in town. Although Nahant has a "pooper-scooper" bylaw requiring pet owners to clean up waste from pets in the public right-of-way, there are ongoing challenges with enforcement.

### Air Pollution

Air pollution is a serious problem, not only for the ambient air in Nahant but also for the waters surrounding the town. The combustion of fossil fuels, our primary energy source in the age of industrialization, releases “greenhouse gases” (GHGs) into the atmosphere. In the past century, human activity associated with industrialization has contributed to a growing concentration of GHGs in our atmosphere.

Vehicular exhaust is the major and common source for air pollution in most urban areas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified six criteria air pollutants that have human health impacts. Of these, the four most closely linked to vehicular traffic pollution are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter.

Vehicular air pollution is a known environmental health hazard that has been linked to mortality and hospitalizations due to asthma exacerbation, chronic lung disease, and major cardiovascular diseases. Certain pollutants emitted from vehicles impact local air quality, while others from vehicle exhaust or other sources, such as fine particulate matter or ozone, impact air quality across a larger scale.

The Town has been proactive in taking action to address energy use and reduce GHGs. In 2019, Nahant received a Green Communities Designation from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). In order to be designated, the Town created an energy reduction plan (ERP) to reduce municipal energy use by 20% in the next five years.

In addition to the ERP, the Designation requires the community to achieve four additional criteria, including 1) approve zoning for renewable energy generation, 2) adopt expedited permitting for as-of-right energy facilities, 3) adopt a fuel-efficient vehicle policy, and 4) adopt the Massachusetts’ Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) Stretch Code (780 CM 115.AA) in order to minimize life-cycle costs and increase energy efficiency in new construction. The Green Communities Designation allows the Town to be eligible for state grant funding to implement energy conservation measures (ECMs) across town owned property, buildings, and vehicles.

### Noise Pollution

According to the National Geographic Society, noise pollution is considered to be any unwanted or disturbing sound that affects the health and well-being of humans and other organisms. Nahant is subject to noise pollution from aircraft taking off from Logan International Airport in East Boston. The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) noise-abatement rules require that planes maintain a runway heading until they reach Revere Beach, then turn to the right, and head over the middle of the Nahant Causeway. From there, they are supposed to continue well past Nahant before turning south. This plan is intended to prevent aircraft from flying directly over populated areas in Nahant. Unfortunately, many planes do not adhere to these regulations, often causing them to fly right over the Town at low altitudes and creating frequent severe noise pollution for residents. If

airline providers complied with existing regulations, the Town would experience fewer issues with noise pollution.

Massport installed a noise monitoring station at the Nahant Life Saving Station to monitor noise complaints and also developed an online flight tracker that allows residents to submit noise complaints. Additionally, Massport publishes monthly reports online of noise complaints. In 2019, approximately 73 noise complaints were submitted to Massport from Nahant.

Recently, especially during the summer season, residents have complained about the noise from speedboats near local beaches. As a result, the Town installed buoys to help prevent boats from coming too close to the beaches. Additionally, some citizens have complained about the noise from duck hunters during duck hunting season.

## Environmental Equity

In the context of open space and recreation planning, environmental equity refers to differences in access to open space and recreational opportunities based on demographics and geography. In Massachusetts, a community is identified as an “Environmental Justice” community based on median household income, race, and English-language proficiency. There are no environmental justice populations as identified by the state in Nahant.

However, important differences in access to open space and recreation still exist between different groups of residents. For example, residents who do not have access to a vehicle or cannot drive, including the youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and some low-income residents, may be unable to access parks and open spaces in Nahant without the help of someone who can drive them. Passive recreation areas are well distributed throughout the town and active recreation areas are generally concentrated around the Johnson Elementary School and along Spring Street and Nahant Road.

In order to promote greater equity throughout the Boston region, it is also important to promote access to public open space areas and parks across municipal lines. Therefore, providing access to open space areas and parks to non-Town residents, especially those acquired or improved with State and/or Federal monies, is an important equity concern. In particular, Nahant Beach provides a valuable open space area for residents of many nearby municipalities.

In addition, certain environmental challenges affect vulnerable populations more than other populations. According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the factors that lead to vulnerable population health impacts are:

- “Exposure: Exposure is contact between a person and one or more biological, psychosocial, chemical, or physical stressors, including stressors affected by climate change;
- “Sensitivity: Sensitivity is the degree to which people or communities are affected, either adversely or beneficially, by climate variability or change; and

- “Adaptive capacity: Adaptive capacity is the ability of communities, institutions, or people to adjust to potential hazards, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences.”<sup>21</sup>

As climate change will affect different segments of the population in different ways, environmental equity is an important consideration in becoming more resilient to extreme weather. For example, older residents are more vulnerable to hot temperatures from climate change, due to their increased sensitivity. Low-income residents who cannot afford air conditioning are more vulnerable to heat due to their increased exposure and lack of adaptive capacity.

Nahant’s MVP identifies the following potentially vulnerable segments of the community:

- Seniors
- People with medical needs
- School children

---

<sup>21</sup> Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. *Vulnerable Residents and Areas*.



# Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest

## Introduction to the Inventory

The open space and recreation areas in the Town of Nahant encompass both land and water sites and include parks, beaches, and wetlands. This section contains an inventory of all conservation, open space, and recreation lands, both publicly and privately owned. The purpose of this inventory is to identify areas of conservation and recreation interest in the Town in order to evaluate current and future open space planning needs. Areas of interest include open spaces that are valued for one or more of the following factors: recreation opportunities, protection of natural resources, historic and scenic character.

The inventory is divided into two sections—public or non-profit land and private open space. Within these sections, land has ranging degrees of protection, which prevent or restrict land uses and development. Protected open spaces are private or public parcels that are permanently committed to conservation or recreation purposes by deed restriction or easement.

According to the Division of Conservation Services, land within a community is permanently protected if it is managed by the local Conservation or Parks & Recreation Commission, by an Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) agency, by a nonprofit land trust, or if the municipality received state or federal monies for the improvement or purchase of the land. Typically, land owned by other Town agencies, or the local school system should not be presumed to be permanently protected.

Unprotected open spaces are areas that are of conservation or recreation interest to the Town but are not permanently protected as open space. Partially protected open spaces are areas that have a partial or short-term restriction on development but are not protected in perpetuity.

Information on ownership, management responsibility, level of protection, and primary use of the property are some of the other elements of this inventory. The areas shown in the Open Space and Recreation Inventory Matrix table are depicted in **Figure 38: Open Space and Recreation Inventory Map**.

The following inventory was created based on the 2008 Open Space Inventory, data from the MassGIS geospatial database of open space, and 2019 assessor's data. In addition, committee members, MAPC staff, and volunteers assessed town-owned open space parcels for condition, use, and ADA accessibility.

**Figure 38:** Open Space and Recreation Inventory Map



## Inventory of Open Space and Recreation Resources

The inventory matrix below includes 33 sites covering approximately 231 acres of open space and recreation land owned and managed either by the Town of Nahant, the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or private entities.

The column headings of the inventory are defined below:

- **Site Name** - Names the open space site.
- **Owner** - Indicates the owner of the property.
- **Manager** - Indicates the agency or department responsible for managing and maintaining the property. May be the same as the owner.
- **Current Use** - Details the main use for the site and its facilities.
- **Condition** - Identifies the site condition (excellent, good, fair, or poor). Town-owned open spaces and parks were surveyed to obtain a general sense of the condition of the property and any facilities located on it.
- **Recreation Potential** - Indicates the recreational use of sites. For land not used for recreational purposes, potential for recreational activities is identified. Conservation land is generally deemed to have limited recreation potential except for passive recreation such as hiking and walking. Some small tax title lands and sensitive environmental areas are presumed to have no recreational potential.
- **Funds Used** - Identifies the funds used for the acquisition of or upgrades to the site, including grant funds.
- **Zoning District** - Identifies the zoning district in which the site is located.
- **Level of Protection** - Indicates if the site, either by virtue of its ownership, existence of deed restrictions, or by the fact that it has received state or federal funding, is protected against conversion to some other use. Levels of protection are described in more detail in this section.
- **Public Access** - Indicates if the public can access the site. All Town- and State-owned sites are publicly accessible.
- **Acres** - Gives the site's acreage or an approximation in cases where specific information was not attainable. One acre is 43,560 square feet or 1/640 of a square mile.

**Figure 39: Open Space and Recreation Inventory Matrix**

Town-Owned Land (Permanently Protected)										
Site Name	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Zoning District	Funds Used	Level of Protection	Public Access	Acres
Bailey's Hill Park	Town of Nahant	Town of Nahant Recreation Department	Recreation: walking paths, benches, gazebo	Good	High, used for passive recreation, potential for active recreation, playground/tot lot	NR	None	Article 97	Yes	14.25
Bang's Trust	Town of Nahant	Conservation Commission	Buffer Zone: vegetated green buffer	Good	None	NR	Gifted to Town	Perpetuity	Yes	0.22
Flash Road Playground	Town of Nahant	Town of Nahant Recreation Department	Recreation: baseball fields, soccer field, basketball courts, playground, picnic tables	Good	High, used for active recreation, potential for passive recreation, walking paths	NR	None	Article 97	Yes	6.37
Henry Cabot Lodge Park/East Point	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: walking paths, monuments	Good	High, used for passive recreation, picnic	NR	Town	Article 97	Yes	9.98
Kelley Greens Golf Course	Town of Nahant	Kelley Greens (Leased)	Recreation: 9-hole golf course, Pro-shop walking trail, benches	Good	High, passive recreation	NR	Town	Article 97	Yes	37.62
Lowlands Park (Veterans Park)	Town of Nahant	Town of Nahant Recreation Department	Recreation: softball fields, viewing stands, benches, walking paths, veterans memorial	Excellent	High, used for active recreation, potential for passive recreation, walking paths	NR	None	Article 97	Yes	14.80

Town-Owned Land (Limited Protection)										
Site Name	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Zoning District	Funds Used	Level of Protection	Public Access	Acres
Black Rock Beach	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: beach area, boat ramp, footpaths, off-leash dog area	Good	Low, used for passive recreation	NR	None	Limited	Yes	6.83
Forty Steps Beach	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: beach area, viewing area, benches	Good	Medium, used for passive recreation	NR	None	Limited	Yes	2.09
Johnson Elementary School (Playground & Community Garden)	Town of Nahant	Town of Nahant School Committee	Recreation: playground, community garden, walking paths	Excellent	High, used for active recreation, potential for walking paths	P	None	Limited	Yes	5.54

Town-Owned Land (Limited Protection)										
Site Name	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Zoning District	Funds Used	Level of Protection	Public Access	Acres
Little Nahant Playground	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: playground, picnic table	Fair	High, used for active recreation, potential for walking paths	NR	None	Limited	Yes	0.34
Marjoram Park	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: benches, picnic tables	Good	Medium, used for passive recreation, potential for walking paths	NR	None	Limited	Yes	1.85
Memorial Point Park	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: memorial, benches, flagpole	Good	Low, used for passive recreation, potential for walking paths	R1	Gifted to Town	Limited	Yes	0.47
Pleasant Street Playground	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: playground, picnic tables, benches	Good	High, used for active recreation, potential for walking paths	NR	None	Limited	Yes	0.51
Short Beach	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: beach area, walking paths, benches	Good	High, used for passive recreation	NR	None	Limited	Yes	12.84
Spring Road Basketball Court	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: basketball court, compost area	Excellent	High, used for active recreation, basketball court	NR	None	Limited	Yes	1.36
Tudor Beach	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: beach area, benches, walking paths, bike rack	Good	High, install kayak rack	NR	None	Limited	Yes	1.35
Tudor Wharf	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: Harbormaster/Wharfing er's Building, benches, flagpole	Good	High, install dinghy/pram racks, add additional benches	NR	None	Limited	Yes	1.41
Greenlawn Cemetery	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Cemetery: chapel, veterans memorial, benches, gravel path	Good	Low, passive recreation, walking paths	NR	None	Limited	Yes	5.50

### Town-Owned Land (No Protection)

Site Name	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Zoning District	Funds Used	Level of Protection	Public Access	Acres
Nahant Life Saving Station	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Historical/Cultural: Historic Building, garage	Good	Low, used for passive recreation, historic landmark	B1	None	Preservation Restriction	Limited	1.19
Stony Beach	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Recreation: stony beach area	Fair	Low, used for passive recreation	R1	None	None	Limited	2.43
Swallow Cave	Town of Nahant	Board of Selectmen	Scenic/Recreation	Fair	None, scenic overlook area	R1	None	None	Limited	0.08

### State-Owned Land

Site Name	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Zoning District	Funds Used	Level of Protection	Public Access	Acres
Henry Cabot Lodge Bird Sanctuary (Egg Rock)	Department of Fish and Game	Department of Fish and Game	Conservation/Wildlife Habitat	N/A	None	NR	State	Article 97	Yes	3.21
Lynn Shore & Nahant Beach Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	Recreation	N/A	High	NR	State	Article 97	Yes	66.51

### Protected Open Space Parcels Owned by Non-Profits (Land Trusts)

Site Name	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Zoning District	Funds Used	Level of Protection	Public Access	Acres
Furbush Road	Nahant Preservation Trust	Nahant Preservation Trust	Conservation	Fair	Medium	R2	Private	Perpetuity	Yes	0.28
Nahant Thicket Wildlife Sanctuary	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Conservation/Wildlife Habitat	Good	Medium	NR	Private	Perpetuity	Yes	3.92
Walton Road/Wharf Street Conservation Area	Nahant Preservation Trust	Nahant Preservation Trust	Conservation	Good	Low	R2	Private	Perpetuity	Yes	0.21

Private Parcels										
Site Name	Owner	Manager	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Zoning District	Funds Used	Level of Protection	Public Access	Acres
Canoe Beach	Northeastern University	Northeastern University	Recreation	N/A	Medium	NR	N/A	Limited	Yes	0.49
Cary Street Club	Cary Street Club	Cary Street Club	Recreation	N/A	N/A	R1	N/A	None	No	1.78
Curlew Beach	Private	Private	Recreation	N/A	Low	R1	N/A	None	No	0.37
Hall CR	Hall Henry K and O'Donnell Elizabeth H		Conservation	N/A	N/A	R2	N/A	Perpetuity	No	0.49
Nahant Country Club	New Nahant Land Co Inc.	New Nahant Land Co Inc.	Recreation	N/A	Medium	R2	N/A	Ch 61B	Limited	6.53
Northeastern University	Northeastern University	Northeastern University	Education, Research, Recreation	N/A	Medium	NR	N/A	Limited	Portions are Public	20.19



## Levels of Protection

### Permanently Protected

Approximately 158 acres of land is permanently protected within the Town of Nahant. This includes major State-owned properties such as Nahant Beach Reservation, as well as Town-owned recreation properties like, the Flash Road Playground and the Kelley Greens golf course and conservation properties like, Bang's Trust. A site is considered to be permanently protected if it is recorded in a deed or other official document. Such land is to be considered protected in perpetuity if it is deeded to and managed by the local Conservation Commission or Parks & Recreation Department and thereby subject to Article 97. Also, if it is subject to a conservation restriction or easement in perpetuity, if it is owned by one of the state's conservation agencies and thereby subject to Article 97, if it is owned by a nonprofit land trust, or if the municipality received federal or state assistance for the purchase or improvement of the property. Private land is considered protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity or a conservation restriction has been placed on it.

Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution protects publicly owned lands used for conservation or recreation purposes. In order for a property to be sold, transferred, or converted to a different use, Article 97 requires a unanimous vote by the Conservation Commission or parks committee, a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting in support of the disposition, a 2/3 vote of the Massachusetts Legislature in support of the disposition, demonstration of compliance with applicable funding sources, and the municipality must file an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). Given the extensive nature of this process and the rarity with which the disposition process occurs, these public recreation and conservation lands are assumed to be permanently protected.

### Limited Protection

Sites in this inventory have limited protection if they are legally protected for less than perpetuity (i.e., short term conservation restriction) or temporarily protected through an existing functional use. These lands could be developed for other uses when their protection expires or when their functional use is no longer necessary. In general, this includes all land owned by other municipal departments or commissions, including lands managed by the Town for non-recreational purposes. In Nahant, this includes sites like the Johnson School property, Greenlawn Cemetery, and Tudor Wharf. It also includes several beaches like Black Rock Beach, Forty Steps Beach, Short Beach, and Tudor Beach.

In Massachusetts, there are three special taxation programs available to private landowners. Private landowners who enroll in Chapter 61, 61A or 61B (forested lands, agricultural lands and recreational lands, respectively) benefit by a reduced property tax if they manage their lands for these purposes. This is not truly a protection program because a property owner may withdraw from the program at any time. The town does have the right of first refusal or the ability to assign that right to a nonprofit in the event that the land is put up for sale. Purchase would have to be at fair market value (unless a property owner makes a donation for tax purposes) and the right of first refusal must be exercised within 120 days. Currently, one parcel

(Block 8/Lot 1) totaling approximately 6.5 acres of land in Nahant is classified as temporarily protected under the Chapter 61B tax abatement program. This parcel is owned by the New Nahant Land Company and is the site of the Nahant Country Club.

## No Protection

This category includes land that is totally unprotected by any legal or functional means. This land is usually privately owned and could be sold without restriction at any time for another use. Only a small percentage of open space and recreational land in Nahant has no protection. Sites that fall into this category include sites like the Cary Street Club and Curlew Beach.

## Town-Owned Land

Approximately 127 acres of town-owned land provide areas for various recreational activities, including access for boating and fishing, athletic fields, golfing, and playgrounds. The Board of Selectmen manages several of the largest properties in town, including the Lowlands, Kelley Greens Golf Course, Bailey's Hill Park, and Lodge Park.

The Lowlands is a significant open space area that plays a key role in the hydrologic and ecologic systems of Nahant. The site serves as part of a larger wetlands network which connects to the south through the Flash Road recreation area and finally into Bear Pond in the golf course. The golf course is the largest single tract of land in Nahant. This 37-acre Town-owned site is leased and privately operated as Kelley Greens and features a series of small ponds and a 9-hole golf course. Bailey's Hill Park is a beautiful landscape at the southern side of Nahant. It is the end point of the Heritage Trail and is also a destination point for walkers, hikers, dog owners, and special town events.

The town's active recreational facilities include athletic fields, courts, and playgrounds. The Flash Road Recreation Facility is one of Nahant's largest open space areas and supports a variety of athletic and recreation programming for residents. Other town-owned facilities include the Pleasant Street playground behind the Nahant Public Library, the basketball court along Spring Road, and the playground and community garden at Johnson Elementary School.

**Figure 40:** Flash Road Playground



Image Source: Elizabeth K. Berman

**Figure 41:** Nahant Community Garden



Image Source: Elizabeth K. Berman

Bang's Trust is a small linear green space along Summer Street at the eastern side of the intersection of Nahant Road and Summer Street. This parcel of land was gifted to the Town with a conservation restriction and is managed by the Conservation Commission.

## State-Owned Land

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts owns approximately 70 acres of open space in the town, including Nahant Beach and the Henry Cabot Lodge Wildlife Sanctuary. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) owns and manages Nahant Beach as part of the Lynn Shore Reservation. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife manages the Henry Cabot Lodge Wildlife Sanctuary (Egg Rock), a 3-acre island located approximately 1.1 miles northeast of the town in Nahant Bay.

**Figure 42:** *Overlook with Egg Rock in the distance.*



Image Source: Susan C Snow

## Privately-Owned Land

Private organizations own approximately 30 acres of conservation and recreation land in town. This includes the Northeastern University Marine Science Center, the Nahant Country Club, a private sports club and two private beaches.

Conservation restrictions are voluntary, yet binding legal agreements between a landowner and a public agency or conservation organization. The landowner may be offered incentives through estate tax and federal income tax deductions and property tax relief, to keep parcels in an undeveloped state. The owner keeps control over the land, while the holder of the restriction promises to enforce the terms of protection. According to Town records, there is one property on Wharf Street that is subject to a Conservation Restriction held by Mass. Audubon.

## Section 6: Community Vision

### Description of Process

The 5 member Town of Nahant OSRP committee worked with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to conduct an update of its 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The 2008 OSRP plan offered a foundation for the current plan update. The goals and action items of the 2008 Plan were reviewed and categorized as completed, not completed, ongoing or not applicable. COVID-19 and the resulting closures and social distancing requirements prevented in person meetings and events for much of the process and the committee utilized virtual formats when necessary.

During the course of the OSRP update process, MAPC organized a series of public forums (virtual). The purpose of the first forum held on March 25, 2021, was to introduce the OSRP planning process and gain insight into the community's open space and recreation use and needs. Community members were invited to weigh in on the goals of the previous 2008 OSRP and provide suggestions on priorities, goals, and objectives for the 2021 OSRP update.

The OSRP committee also developed an Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey that aimed to identify community goals and priority projects, assess community satisfaction of open space and recreation resources, and invite input on community actions to preserve open space and improve recreation facilities. The OSRP survey was a very effective means of engagement, as 420 Nahant residents shared their views on open space and recreation, of which 325 completed the entire survey. Detailed results of the survey, as well as other feedback from the community, can be found in Section 7 of this plan. The Survey results were reviewed at an OSRP meeting which was open to the public and posted on the Town of Nahant website.

Community engagement was a critical component of this plan and having an outreach strategy with diverse components was an effective way to reach Nahant residents. The information about the Community Forums as well as the survey, was advertised in a flier that was distributed in a variety of ways, with hard copies and/or electronic copies sent out as follows:

- Posted on the Town of Nahant's website
- Made available in hard copy at Nahant Town Hall, Council on Aging, and the Nahant Public Library, (assistance was offered at the library for filling out the survey electronically)
- Shared with community organizations including the Nahant Garden Club, the Nahant Dory Club, churches, youth sports teams and leagues, and local environmental groups
- Shared with Town Committees including the Planning Board, Beautification Committee, Community Preservation Committee and Nahant Housing Authority

The OSRPC hosted a Virtual Open House on April 11, 2022, to inform the public of the key points of the OSRP, answer questions about the Seven Year Action Plan and gather any additional feedback. The public had an opportunity to review and provide comment on a full draft of the 2022 OSRP update through an online link from the Town website, or a print version available at Town Hall.

## Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The Town of Nahant is committed to ensuring that all residents of the Town will be able to enjoy the natural and scenic beauty of its parks and open spaces. The Town also strives to make the most of its recreational areas for all ages and abilities. For a small town, area wise, Nahant is lucky to have wonderful vistas and access to the sea, as well as park, recreation and open space areas that are available for all of its residents to enjoy and use. The pandemic has led to a renewed appreciation for Nahant's open spaces, beaches, and recreation areas. The Town faces challenges with respect to predicted sea level rise that could negatively impact the open space and recreation areas, many of which are located in some of the lowest points in Town. Any improvements or mitigation measures undertaken to make Nahant more resilient and sustainable must take into account continued access to these open space and recreation areas for all.

The Open Space and Recreation Goals identified in this Plan are summarized as follows:

- Maintain, improve and enhance existing parks, open space and recreational facilities.  
Maintenance was identified as a key area of improvement for the Town's open space and recreation areas. Regular maintenance also helps to identify which areas need enhancements, improvements and replacements. The development of plans to maintain and improve Nahant's open space and recreation areas will assure safety and good stewardship of those areas.
- Preserve the scenic and historic character of the Town.  
People like the small town feel and character of Nahant, which has preserved and maintained many historic features (given its history as a summer resort community). While no longer a summer resort community, the attributes that contributed to that era, Nahant's proximity to the ocean, open vistas, and walkable features of the Town, continue to be of utmost importance to the residents of the Town and must be preserved.
- Improve accessibility to parks and open space.  
This is a continuing challenge given the rocky coastline and natural hilly areas of Nahant. But it is of paramount importance that the unique features of Nahant and its park and open spaces be made available and accessible to all. All maintenance and improvements to the open space and recreation areas must be done with accessibility in mind. Coordinated signage and other wayfaring measures can help with this.
- Expand opportunities for active and passive recreation.  
As the population and activities change, so must the recreational opportunities. Pickle ball is a prime example of a need that was identified during this planning process. We hope to see progress made by the Town in this area. The provision of high-quality recreational programming and facilities is also important. Areas of passive recreation in our open spaces are also highly valued and we strive to protect and preserve their ecologic and aesthetic qualities.
- Protect and preserve the Town's environmental resources.  
As identified above, sea level rise is a continuing threat to Nahant, as is water, air and noise pollution. Nahant is fortunate to have active environmental advocacy groups, including Safer Waters in Massachusetts (SWIM) which address many of these issues. The

Town must continue to work with such advocates to preserve and protect the Town's resources, for many years to come. Lobstering also provides jobs and recreational opportunities for many, as does fishing, and protection from water pollution is paramount in protecting those activities. The Town of Nahant has made and must continue to make improvements to storm water runoff to protect those areas.

## Section 7: Analysis of Needs

The summaries of open space and recreation needs were determined based on information from the 2008 OSRP, public input from the virtual open house, the OSRP Community survey, the virtual community forums (as described in Section 2 Introduction), and consideration by the OSRP Committee. The consolidated community input can be sorted in three broad categories of needs which are carried over into the Goals and Objectives section:

- Resource Protection Needs
- Community Needs
- Management Needs

### Summary of Resource Protection Needs

#### Protecting Open Space

Open space and conservation lands provide the Town with a multitude of irreplaceable benefits, including wildlife habitat, walking trails, scenic vistas, and flood protection. Collectively, these benefits contribute to Nahant's character and are integrally linked to residents' quality of life. Residents of the Town value and appreciate their open space resources, and over the past several years, both public and private entities have demonstrated a commitment to conserving and protecting these resources.

Because of the Town's physical size and buildout, there are few remaining large parcels of conservation interest. There are, however, smaller sites and buffer areas that border land that is already protected that should be considered for acquisition or further protection through conservation restrictions or easement. Some of the areas that the Town should prioritize for future protection include those areas surrounding East Point, Bailey's Hill, the Heritage Trail, the Lowlands, the Nahant Thicket, and the Kelley Greens golf course.

Other areas that would benefit from permanent protection status include those areas identified as BioMap2 Core Habitat. BioMap2 Core Habitat areas are critical for the long-term persistence of rare species and other Species of Conservation Concern and contain a wide diversity of natural resource communities and intact ecosystems. In Nahant, this includes Short Beach and most of the shoreline surrounding East Point.

#### Impacts of Climate Change

The "2019 Nahant Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings" identifies stakeholders' highest priority concerns about local climate change impacts.<sup>22</sup> The top recommendations to improve resilience include:

<sup>22</sup> Town of Nahant Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings, 2019.  
[https://nahant.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Nahant\\_Final\\_MVP\\_Report\\_April\\_11\\_2019.pdf](https://nahant.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Nahant_Final_MVP_Report_April_11_2019.pdf)

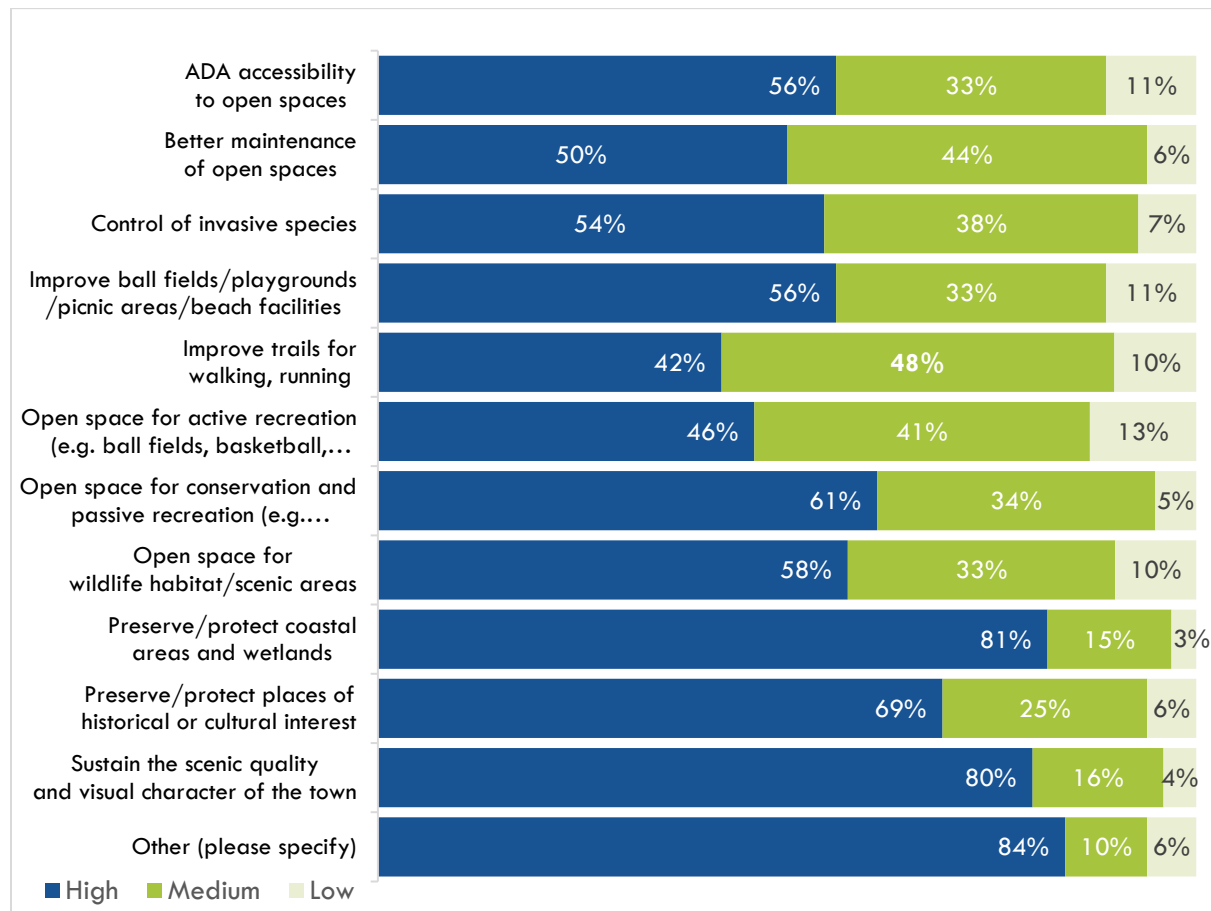


- Developing a long-term coastal defense plan for the entire coastline to enhance natural ecosystems in order to reduce the vulnerability to storm damage including a living shoreline & dune management plan.
  - Establishing a long-term strategy to upgrade and maintain the storm water and natural drainage systems including green infrastructure solutions to reduce inland flooding
  - Reducing flood pathway impacts (e.g. at beach parking locations) by installing permeable surfaces.
  - Implementing natural green infrastructure solutions for storing / removing excess water
- Management of invasive species and shoreline erosion were also raised as concerns in the Summary of Findings and the OSRP survey. Approximately 81% of OSRP survey respondents felt that preserving and protecting the Town's coastal and wetland areas was a high priority.

## Summary of Community's Needs

The OSRP Community survey was designed to uncover and better understand the community's open space and recreation needs. The findings of the survey are illustrated and summarized below. The survey asked respondents to rate the importance (high, medium, and low) of a variety of open space and recreation priorities, and the results are shown in **Figure 43**

**Figure 43:** Rate the importance of these priorities for Nahant's Open Space and Recreation Plan



Key themes and priorities that emerged from the survey and write-in comments are listed below. These priorities reflect the specific goals and attainable objectives that are embedded in the plan. They hold equal importance and represent the concerns shared by Town residents for maintaining and raising funds for, and working collaboratively to preserve, protect, and enhance open space resources and recreational facilities in town.

## **Maintain and Improve Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities**

Maintenance and improvements to existing facilities were identified as areas in need of attention in the survey. Establishing site specific plans for maintenance and improvements to playgrounds, fields, beaches, and other open spaces will be a priority for the OSRPC. Enhancing facilities, equipment and programming related to open spaces is also a goal. Collaboration with Town staff and committees— including the DPW & Recreation Committee – is critical to achieving this goal.

## **Improve Public Access to Open Space and Coastline**

Making accessibility upgrades for seniors and persons with disabilities was identified as a high priority by 56% of survey respondents and as a medium priority for another 33% of respondents. The open space and recreational facilities in Nahant can meet their fullest potential, as indicated in the survey results, if they are accessible and navigable to all residents. The research during this planning process found that amenities and accessibility were lacking at some open space areas and/or there were inconsistencies among various open space areas. Priorities include additional beach amenities and accessibility upgrades to parks and playground areas, adding physical signage, and providing informational materials in print media and online.

## **Preserve the Scenic and Historic Character of the Town**

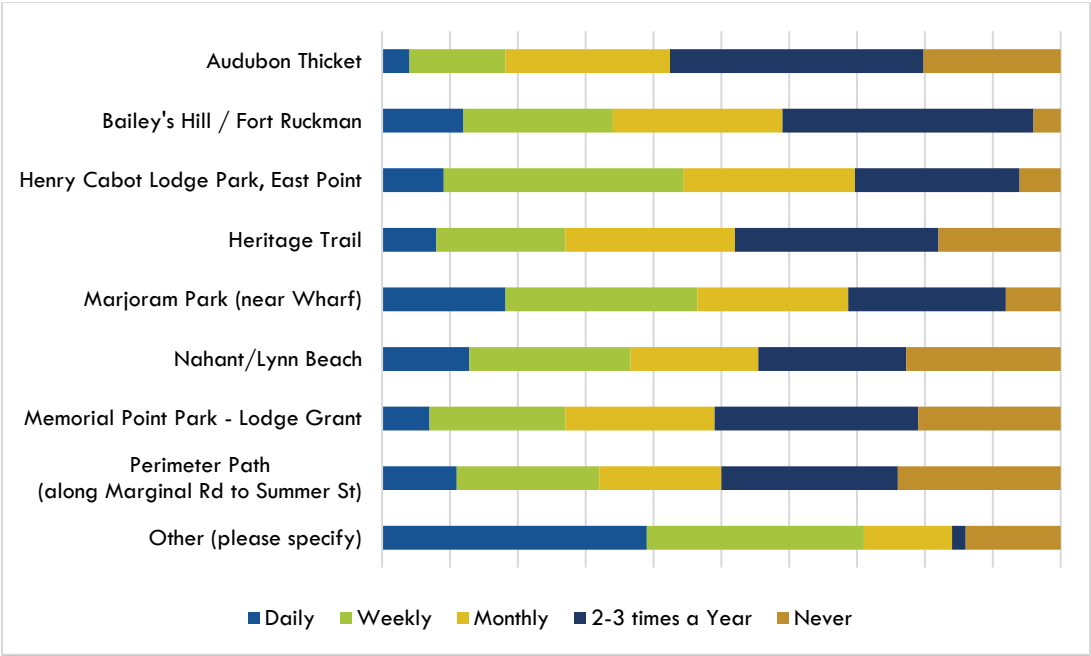
The majority of residents value the scenic, tranquil and historical qualities of Nahant and want to preserve these qualities. Maintaining the visual character of the Town will be improved through focusing our resources on the existing open spaces and parks, maintaining them with ecologically sound plans, and supporting the preservation of our historic sites and buildings. The addition of signage in natural and historic areas would enhance this goal. Re-establishing and protecting public rights of way were also identified as priorities.

## **Preserve and Protect Coastal Areas and Wetlands**

This plan will strive to enhance stewardship of Open Spaces, focusing on environmental issues such as protection of wetland resources, assessing climate change impacts and re-establishing native vegetation in open spaces.

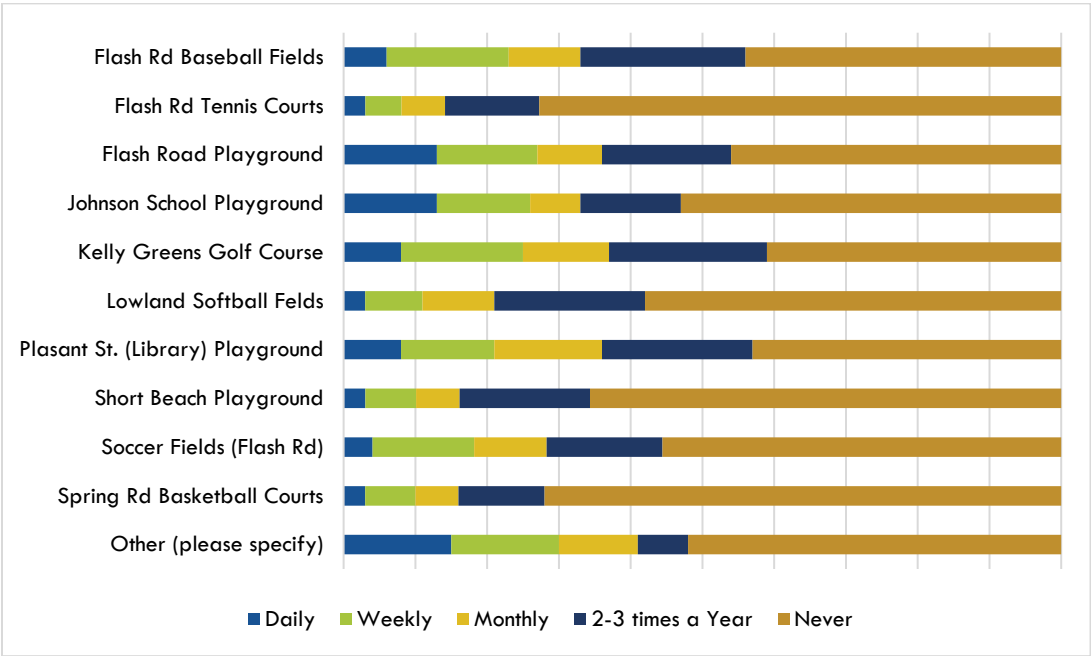
Nahant residents are fortunate to have many recreational opportunities available to them. The OSRP survey results demonstrate that the Town's most frequently visited park and open space areas are Bailey's Hill, Marjoram Park, and Henry Cabot Lodge Park (see Figure 44).

**Figure 44:** How often do you or your family members visit or use the following parks and open space areas?



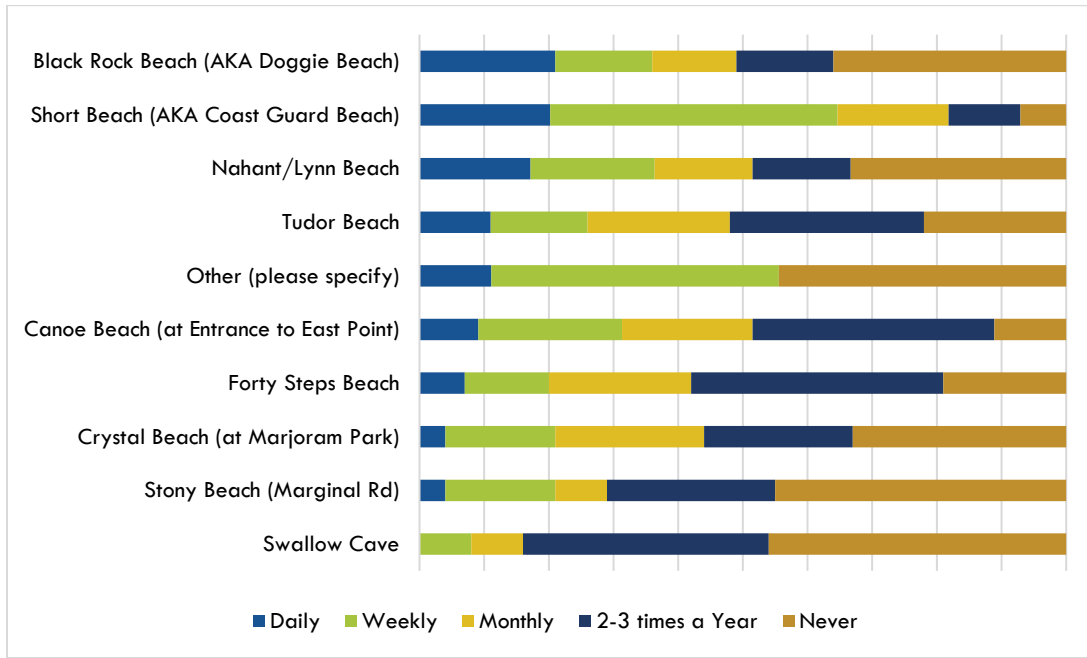
In terms of active recreation, the most commonly used recreational areas are the Flash Road Playground, the Johnson School Playground, and Pleasant Street Playground (see **Figure 45**). Conversely, the Flash Road tennis courts and the Spring Road basketball courts were the least visited recreation sites among survey respondents.

**Figure 45:** How often do you or your family members visit or use the following recreation areas/ facilities?



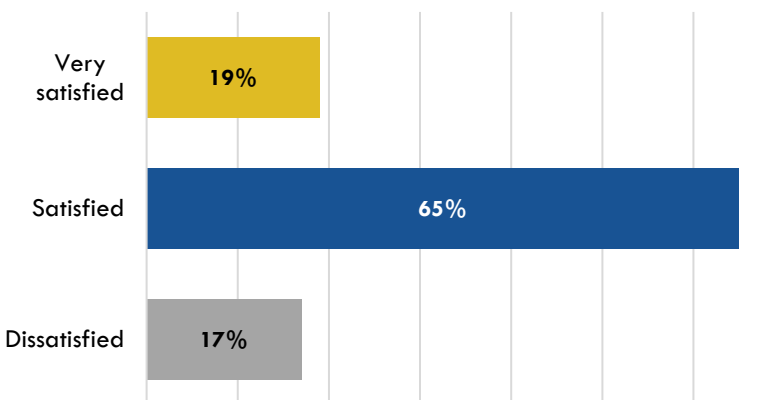
Nahant's beaches and shoreline areas are also very well-used, with Black Rock Beach, Short Beach, and Lynn Shore & Nahant Beach Reservation being the most frequently used among respondents (see **Figure 46**). Stony Beach and Swallow Cave were the least visited beach and shoreline areas among survey respondents.

**Figure 46:** How often do you or your family members visit or use the following beach/shoreline areas?



When asked about Nahant's park and open space system as a whole, 84% of survey respondents reported that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the overall condition of the Town's parks and open space properties.

**Figure 47:** How satisfied are you with the overall condition of Nahant's parks and open space properties?



Residents enjoy visiting the Town's parks and open spaces for a wide range of reasons, particularly passive recreation. Sightseeing and enjoying nature were the top activities respondents enjoyed doing in parks, other activities like walking/jogging, dog walking, and

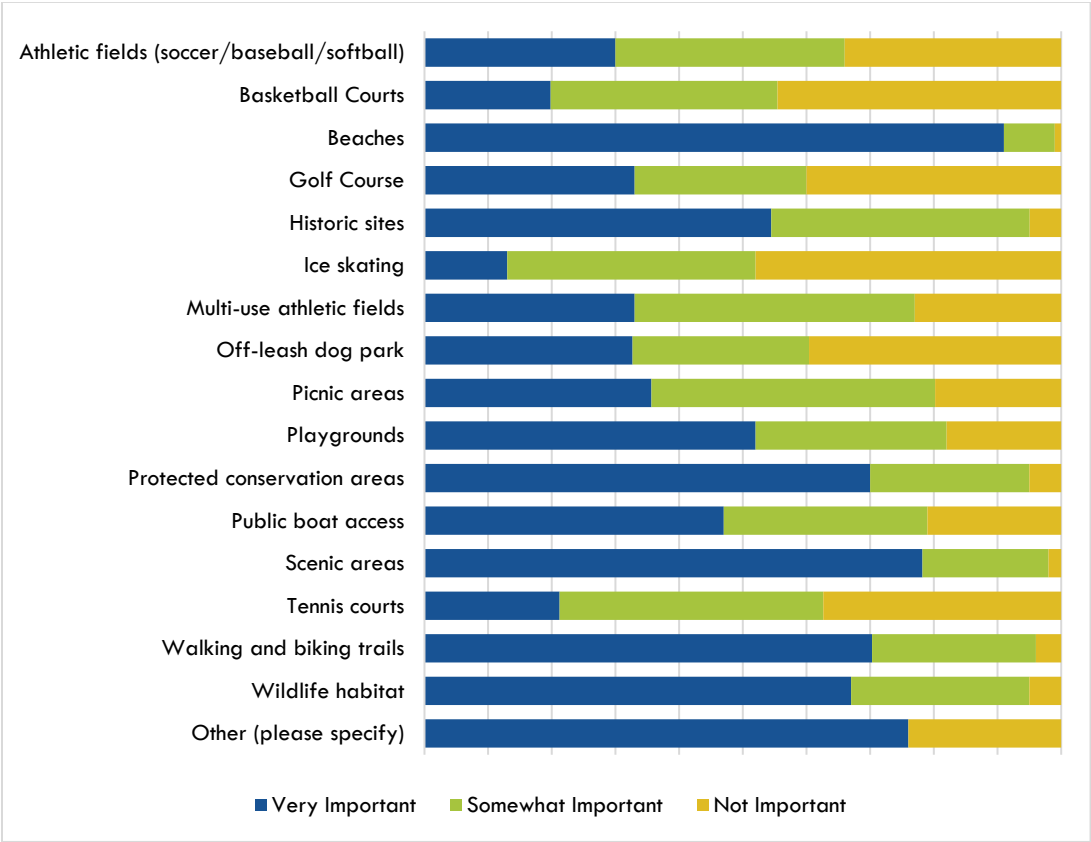
swimming also ranked high. Sports and recreation were less frequently mentioned, but this may be more of a reflection of respondent demographics than town-wide demand for fewer active recreation opportunities (see **Figure 48**).

**Figure 48:** How often do you or any member of your family participate in the following activities in Nahant?

Activity	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Basketball	11%	14%	23%	52%
Bicycling	41%	30%	16%	13%
Bird watching, nature study	32%	30%	22%	17%
Boating (sail, power, kayak etc.)	36%	31%	17%	16%
<b>Dog walking in designated areas</b>	<b>47%</b>	11%	9%	33%
<b>Enjoy serenity/quiet space</b>	<b>75%</b>	18%	5%	2%
Fishing	18%	20%	26%	36%
Golfing	22%	19%	15%	44%
<b>Ocean watching</b>	<b>87%</b>	10%	2%	1%
Picnicking	18%	41%	24%	17%
Rollerblading/skateboarding	6%	13%	19%	62%
Soccer	14%	15%	16%	55%
Softball/baseball	14%	14%	15%	57%
<b>Swimming</b>	<b>55%</b>	29%	11%	5%
Tennis	13%	25%	20%	42%
Using playgrounds	34%	16%	19%	30%
<b>Walking/jogging</b>	<b>82%</b>	14%	3%	1%
Windsurfing/kite sailing/paddle boarding/surfing	20%	15%	19%	46%
Other (please specify)	47%	11%	5%	37%

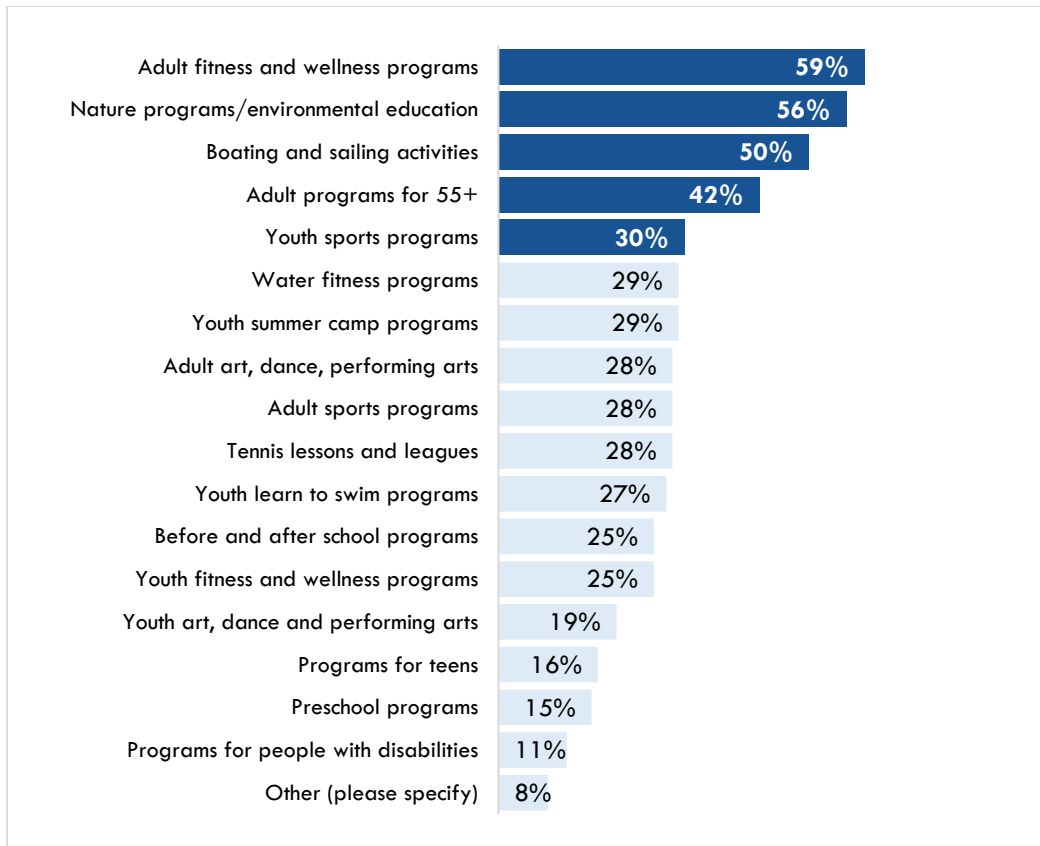
Survey respondents were also asked what recreation options and amenity areas were most important to them and their families. The three most important amenities among respondents were beaches, scenic areas, and walking and biking trails.

**Figure 49:** Which recreation options are most important to you and your family?



In terms of recreational programming, people expressed a need for adult fitness and wellness programs, environmental educational programs, boating and sailing activities, expanded youth sports, and programs for adults 55 and older.

**Figure 50:** What recreation programs do you or your household have a need for?



### Age-Friendly Communities

In 2006 the World Health Organization began an initiative to create age-friendly communities throughout the world. While the initial goal was to address aging concerns in metropolitan and urban areas, it became clear that this ideology could be applied regardless of the size of the community. What was also quickly learned is that while addressing the needs of older adults, communities can actually create an opportunity to ensure that the needs of individuals of all ages and abilities were addressed.

For the first time in the history of the Commonwealth, there are more individuals over age 60 than those under age 20. This trend will continue for many years. In 2018, Gov. Baker designated Massachusetts as an Age-Friendly State, with the goal that all 351 communities would work towards this designation.<sup>23</sup> As of 2021, there are 195 communities in Massachusetts in the process of or that have successfully acquired the age-friendly status. In 2018, the Governor also introduced this designation as an option within the Community Compact and by doing so, offered funding opportunities for those communities working towards this designation.

There are 8 themes to be addressed as part of age-friendly initiatives: Outdoor Spaces & Buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect & Social Inclusion, Civic Participation & Employment, Communication & Information, and Community & Health Service.

<sup>23</sup> Executive Office of Elder Affairs. ReiMAGine Aging.



Several of these themes, including Outdoor Spaces & Buildings, Social Participation, and Community & Health Service, are related to open space and recreation facilities and programs. The Nahant's Senior Center and Council on Aging provides a variety of recreational, social, and educational programs, as well as support services to senior residents. Nahant's parks, open space and recreational facilities provide settings where seniors can interact with other seniors, exercise, relax and enjoy the beauty of their natural surroundings. However, several write-in comments from the survey reflect a need for accessibility upgrades at Town parks as well as improved beach access for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Planning for youth and teenagers is also important to meet the needs of all residents. Nearly half of the survey respondents (46%) have someone under the age of 18 in their household. In addition, approximately 30% of survey respondents expressed a need for additional youth sports programs. Some youth recreational programming needs are met through school and after-school sports programs, and others are met through private non-profit leagues such as Nahant Little League, the Swampscott/Nahant Youth Lacrosse, the Swampscott Nahant Youth Basketball Association, and the Boys and Girls Club of Lynn. The Nahant Sailing Program also provides sailing instruction for youth and adults during the summer. Additionally, the Town has a five-member Youth Commission that is charged with providing programs and services to meet the needs of youth in Nahant.

## Summary of Management Needs

### Maintenance

Increased maintenance of parks, playgrounds, beaches, and open space areas was a top priority mentioned in the survey and is one of the top priorities identified in the Goals and Objectives. There is a need for, and a desire to develop, preventative maintenance standards and site-specific plans for parks, playgrounds, open spaces, beaches, trails, and recreation facilities that are owned by the Town of Nahant to:

- Improve the overall quality of the Town's park and open space system
- Improve safety by replacing older, worn out and broken equipment, and
- Improve compliance with ADA accessibility standards.

The Department of Public Works is responsible for maintaining all town owned parks, beaches, playgrounds, athletic fields, cemeteries, and grounds maintenance for all town owned buildings. The DPW is also tasked with the maintenance and management of Nahant's public shade trees. The ability of the Town to maintain high-quality open space and recreation opportunities depends on staffing, technical resources and funding. To implement the actions in this updated OSRP, better serve youth and seniors, provide higher levels of maintenance, and fully meet the potential of active and passive recreation, additional funding and staffing resources for the DPW may be needed.

### Partnerships

Communication amongst the regulatory and planning authorities in the Town of Nahant will be imperative to the success of this Open Space and Recreation Plan. This will require regular

cooperation amongst the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Recreation Commission, Youth Commission, Department of Public Works and more. Increased collaboration among Town departments, matched by expanded partnerships with non-profits, Friends Groups, and volunteers will also help improve park maintenance and programming.

### Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is the Commonwealth’s equivalent of a municipal open space plan. SCORP plans are developed by individual states in order to be eligible for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants. In 2017, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs completed the Massachusetts SCORP to help guide the distribution of federal funding to state agencies and municipalities for the acquisition of open space, renovation of parks, and development of new parks. The SCORP is a planning document that discusses the available recreational resources in a state, as well as its needs, and identifies the gaps between the two. The goals and objectives of the 2017 SCORP are shown in **Figure 51**. This Plan is consistent with these goals and objectives.

**Figure 51:** 2017 SCORP Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Improve Access for Underserved Populations
Objectives:
1. Support the acquisition of land and development of new open spaces in areas that lack existing or useable open spaces, such as Environmental Justice neighborhoods
2. Develop parks and open spaces that offer amenities that go above and beyond ADA requirements for people with disabilities
3. Consider the needs of underserved demographic groups — senior citizens and teenagers — in park and open space designs
4. Encourage establishment of programming endowments
Goal 2: Support the Statewide Trails Initiative
Objectives:
1. Support the acquisition of land and development of new open spaces that can provide a trail network
2. Fill in the gaps of existing trail networks
3. Ensure that any existing or new trails are fully accessible to people with disabilities

<b>Goal 3: Increase the Availability of Water-based Recreation</b>
Objectives:
1. Support the acquisition of land that will provide for water-based recreation
2. Support the acquisition of land that will increase drinking water supply protection
3. Develop water-based recreational facilities, including swimming areas, spray parks, boating facilities, fishing areas, etc.
<b>Goal 4: Support the Creation and Renovation of Neighborhood Parks</b>
Objectives:
1. Promote the acquisition and development of neighborhood parks where none currently exist
2. Develop amenities supported by neighborhood parks, such as playgrounds, off leash dog parks, and community gardens
3. Work with community development organizations to improve walking access to local parks

## Section 8: Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives were developed by the Open Space and Recreation Committee after reviewing previous plans and studies, gathering input from the OSRP Community Survey, and incorporating feedback from the virtual community forums.

### **Goal #1: Protect and improve Nahant's parks, open space, and natural resources**

- **Objective 1.1:** Maintain and Improve Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities.
- **Objective 1.2:** Preserve Nahant's important land resources through land acquisition, conservation restrictions, zoning, and education.

### **Goal #2: Improve access and opportunities for open space and recreation for all**

- **Objective 2.1:** Improve the accessibility of both passive and active recreational sites for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- **Objective 2.2:** Facilitate greater access to parks and open space through improved sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and bicycle and streetscape improvements.
- **Objective 2.3:** Improve Public Access to Open Space and Coastline.

### **Goal #3: Integrate cultural, recreational, and conservation activities**

- **Objective 3.1:** Expand active recreation, nature-based, and arts and culture programming.
- **Objective 3.2:** Use public art elements to activate public spaces and beautify the public realm.

### **Goal 4: Develop procedures for further evaluation of open space issues**

- **Objective 4.1:** Identify and implement resiliency projects that address impacts from climate change and support Nahant's sustainability goals.

### **Goal #5: Protect the quality of Nahant's beaches, surrounding waters, and skies**

- **Objective 5.1:** Continue to implement stormwater management measures to improve the quality of runoff to Nahant's surrounding waters.
- **Objective 5.2:** Support the efforts of regional organizations and stakeholders who are working to resolve issues related to air traffic noise pollution generated from Logan International Airport.

### **Goal #6: Increase appreciation and stewardship of Nahant's parks, open space, and recreational facilities**

- **Objective 6.1:** Promote awareness of open space amenities through wayfinding and signage.
- **Objective 6.2:** Work closely with local and regional partners to enhance natural resource activities townwide.
- **Objective 6.3:** Improve web-based information about all town parks, recreation, and conservation areas.

## Section 9: Seven Year Action Plan

### Accomplishments since the 2008 OSRP

The Town of Nahant has undertaken a number of projects since the adoption of the 2008 plan. **Figure 52** shows a summary of significant Open Space and Recreation accomplishments, a majority of which include projects that were fully or partially funded through the Community Preservation Act.

#### Community Preservation Act

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. The CPA is funded through a local option surcharge on property tax bills and a state match on those surcharges. The Town of Nahant adopted the CPA in 2004, implementing a 3% property tax surcharge rate and establishing a Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The primary mission of the CPC is to protect and enhance Nahant's unique character as a coastal residential community by facilitating efforts to preserve historic places and structures, to retain and protect open spaces, to increase and/or develop lands available for recreational use and to seek creative solutions to the problem of affordable housing in Nahant. Since 2008, the Community Preservation Committee and the Board of Selectmen have approved approximately 34 projects related to Open Space and Recreation.

**Figure 52:** Open Space and Recreation Accomplishments

Project Name	Project Description	Year
<a href="#">Public Ways Mapping Study</a>	Completion of next phase of study and mapping of public ways within the Town	2009
<a href="#">Community Garden Study</a>	Completion of a study and establishing guidelines of a community garden program in the Town of Nahant	2009
<a href="#">Public Ways Mapping Study</a>	Completion of next phase of study and mapping of public ways within the Town	2010
<a href="#">Town Wharf Improvements</a>	Extraordinary repairs to Town Wharf	2010
<a href="#">Dune Restoration Project</a>	completing the next phase of dune grass plantings as part of the dune restoration project	2010
<a href="#">Public Ways Mapping Study</a>	Completion of next phase of study and mapping of public ways within the Town	2011
<a href="#">Community Gardens and Tree Nursery</a>	Community Gardens and Tree Nursery	2011

Project Name	Project Description	Year
<a href="#">Master Plan for Short Beach Improvements and Preservation</a>	Preparation of Master Plan for Short Beach improvements and preservation, including as a first phase the site design and construction of landscape improvements to the Nahant Life Saving Station	2011
<a href="#">Public Ways Mapping Study</a>	Further phase of Mapping Project of public rights of way leading to the water	2012
<a href="#">Town Wharf</a>	Rehabilitation of Town Wharf	2013
<a href="#">Town Wharf Emergency Repairs</a>	Town Wharf Emergency Repairs	2013
<a href="#">Flash Road Recreation Study</a>	Study the feasibility of rehabilitating the Flash Road recreation area.	2013
<a href="#">Platform Tennis</a>	Acquisition and installation of a second platform tennis court adjacent to the existing platform court located at the Nahant Country Club tennis facility, subject to matching funds from outside sources of \$40,000	2015
<a href="#">Town Wharf Boat Ramp and Seawalls</a>	Required local share of Seaport Advisory Council grant for the rehabilitation of seawalls and boat ramp.	2016
<a href="#">Furbush Road Open Space Creation</a>	Open space creation for property purchase and demolition of the structure at 25 Furbush Road, the assessment and remediation of hazardous materials, and site restoration by the Nahant Preservation Trust as applied for by the Nahant Preservation Trust and S.W.I.M. Inc. Deed showing sale of land from the Town of Nahant to the Nahant Preservation Trust, book 35772, page 150, recorded on 3/31/2017	2017
<a href="#">Wharf Gangway</a>	Replace the Wharf gangway.	2018
<a href="#">Wetlands Zoning Bylaw Amendment</a>	To perform a comprehensive survey of Nahant's wetlands as delineated in the Zoning Bylaw amendment.	2018
<a href="#">Flash Road Basketball and Tennis Courts</a>	Replacement of the defunct basketball and tennis courts at the Flash Road Recreation Area.	2019
<a href="#">Nahant Road Softball Field</a>	Improvements to softball field including new backstop, clay running paths between bases.	2019
<a href="#">Flash Road Recreation Area: Tennis and Basketball Courts</a>	Demolition of existing basketball and tennis courts. Study potential relocation to another area in the Recreation Area as current courts are in immediate proximity to wetlands. If not alternative is approved, construct in present location in compliance with Conservation Commission requirements.	2019
<a href="#">Johnson School playgrounds</a>	Repairs and paving of the single net basketball court serving the Johnson Elementary School.	2019

Project Name	Project Description	Year
<a href="#">Tudor Beach Stairs</a>	Replace stairs to the beach damaged by storm impacts.	2019
<a href="#">Open Space Master Plan</a>	Planning grant funding to support updating the Open Space Master Plan last submitted in 2008.	2019
<a href="#">Johnson School Basketball Court</a>	Replacing the surface of the Johnson School basketball half court.	2020
<a href="#">Nahant Road Softball Field</a>	Installation of new backstop, scoreboard, and resurfacing of the clay running paths between bases.	2020
<a href="#">Tudor Beach Stairs</a>	Replacement of the stairs to Tudor Beach damaged in winter storms.	2020
<a href="#">Open Space Master Plan</a>	Planning grant to support preparation of an updated Open Space Master Plan.	2020
<a href="#">Dory Club Gangway and Floating Dock</a>	New gangway, davit apparatus, and two floating docks	2021
<a href="#">Spring Road Basketball Court</a>	Restore the basketball court on Spring Road.	2021
<a href="#">East Point Eminent Domain</a>	Acquire a restriction and easement interest in an approx. 12.5-acre portion of the land located at 430 Nahant Road for open space, recreation, conservation, and/or historic preservation	2021
<a href="#">Nahant Little League Flash Road Baseball Fields</a>	Fencing, backstop and related costs.	2021
<a href="#">Lowlands Softball Field</a>	Softball field improvements.	2021
<a href="#">Town Basketball and Tennis Courts</a>	Improvements to basketball & tennis courts at Flash Road.	2021
<a href="#">MBTA Short Beach Bus Stop Accessibility and Safety Improvements</a>	The MBTA constructed a new bus stop and crosswalk in the area of the Little Nahant Playground.	2022



The following table identifies the specific actions to be undertaken by the Town to implement this plan. Each action item is organized by goals and objectives and where applicable, a funding source is identified. The party or parties responsible are listed with the primary one being in **bold** type (there are a few where several entities are primary and are listed in **bold**). A list of the responsible departments, boards and commissions is below.

## List of Responsible Party Acronyms

- **ADACoord:** Ada Coordinator
- **BC:** Beautification Committee
- **BOS:** Board of Selectmen
- **CC:** Conservation Commission
- **COA:** Council on Aging
- **CPC:** Community Preservation Committee
- **CuIC:** Cultural Council
- **CZM:** Coastal Zone Management
- **DPW:** Department of Public Works
- **GrCom:** Green Communities Committee
- **FoEP:** Friends of East Point
- **MPCAC:** Mass. Port Authority Community Advisory Committee
- **NGC:** Nahant Garden Club
- **NHS:** Nahant Historical Society
- **NMV:** Nahant Municipal Vulnerability Committee
- **NPD:** Nahant Police Department
- **NPS:** Nahant Public Schools
- **NPT:** Nahant Preservation Trust
- **NSP:** Nahant Sailing Program
- **OSRC:** Open Space and Recreation Committee
- **PB:** Planning Board
- **RC:** Recreation Commission
- **SWIM:** Safer Waters in Massachusetts
- **TA:** Town Administrator
- **TW:** Tree Warden
- **YC:** Youth Commission

The 2021 Seven-Year Action Plan was developed by first reviewing the action plan from the 2008 OSRP. All completed actions were removed from the list and the remaining action items were reviewed by the OSRC to determine whether they were still applicable. New action items were added based on Town priorities, input from the community survey, and feedback from the virtual community forum.

The Action Plan is arranged sequentially beginning with the first goal and the associated objectives and actions to facilitate the achievement of this goal. For each action, a timeframe for when the proposed action should be taken is listed. Short-term recommendations fall within Years 1-2, mid-term recommendations fall within years 3-5, and long-term recommendations fall within years 6-7. Recommendations that are ongoing are marked as such. The Seven-Year Action Plan Matrix lists a range of action items, some of these actions are already in the planning process; others are ongoing but need additional support.

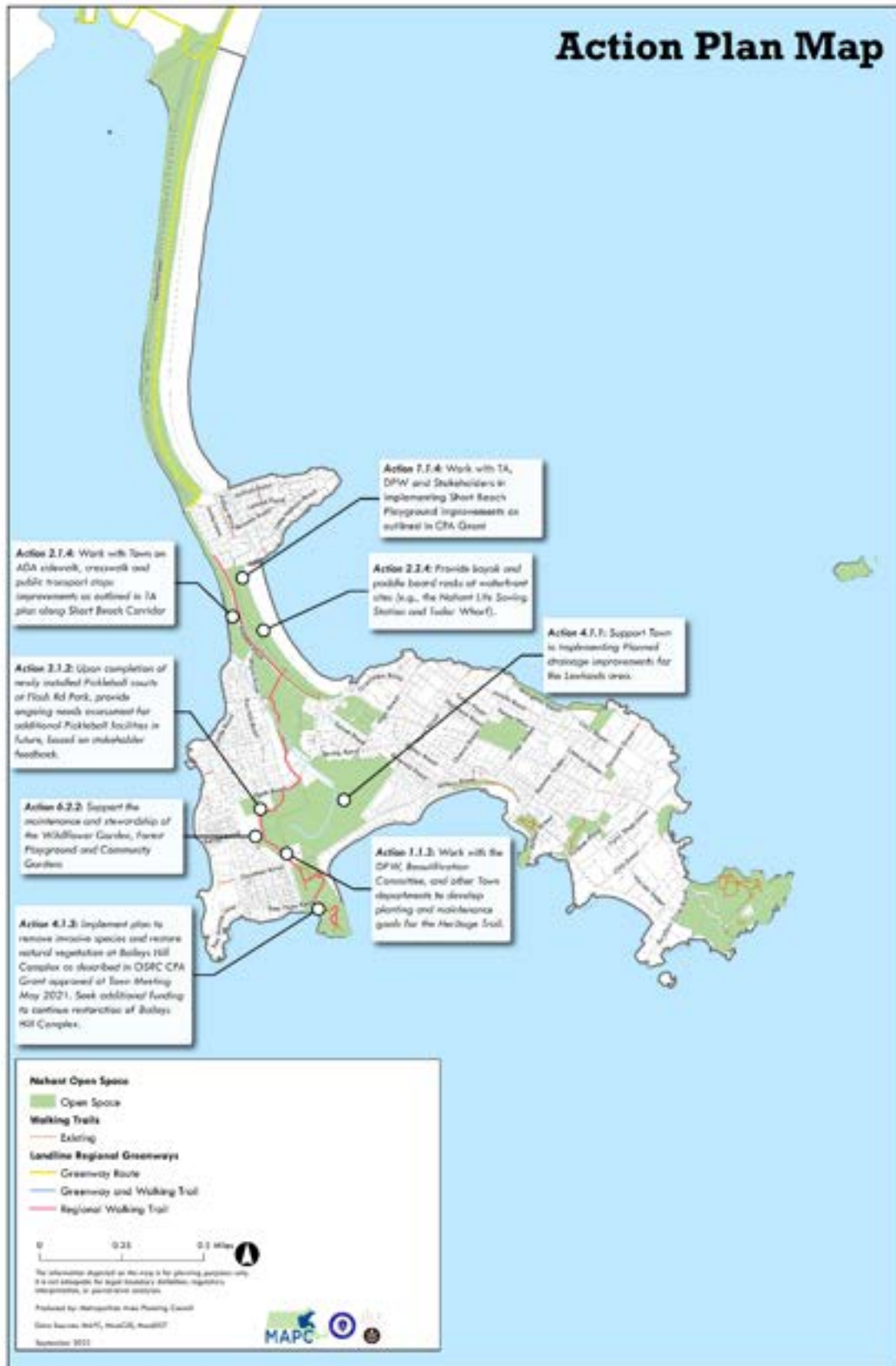
## Potential Funding Source Acronyms

Acronyms for potential funding sources (see program descriptions below) listed in the Seven-Year Action Plan are:

- **Town Funds:** funding from the Town budget
- **ACR:** [MAPC Accelerating Climate Resiliency Grant Program](#)
- **CPA:** [Community Preservation Act funding through the Community Preservation Committee](#)

- [\*\*LAND:\*\* Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity Program through DCS](#)
- [\*\*LWCF:\*\* Land and Water Conservation Fund grant through DCS](#)
- [\*\*MADA:\*\* Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) Improvement Grant Program](#)
- [\*\*PARC:\*\* Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities through DCS](#)
- [\*\*RTP:\*\* Recreational Trails Program Grant through the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation \(DCR\)](#)
- [\*\*PGP:\*\* Essex Heritage Partnership Grant Program](#)

**Figure 53: Action Plan Map**



**Figure 54: Seven-Year Action Plan Matrix**

Goal 1: Protect and improve Nahant's parks, open space, and natural resources			
Action Item	Parties Responsible	Timeframe	Funding Sources
<b>Objective 1.1: Maintain and Improve Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities</b>			
<b>Action 1.1.1:</b> Work with the DPW to develop preventative maintenance standards and site-specific plans for parks, playgrounds, open spaces, beaches, trails, and recreation facilities.	<b>DPW, OSRC</b>	Short-to long-term	PARC, LWCF, CPA, Town funds
<b>Action 1.1.2:</b> Develop design standards for park elements including benches, trash receptacles, and bike racks.	<b>OSRC, TA, DPW, RC</b>	Long-term	CPA
<b>Action 1.1.3:</b> Work with the DPW, Beautification Committee, and other Town departments to develop planting and maintenance goals for the Heritage Trail.	<b>DPW, OSRC, BC, GC</b>	Short-term	CPA, Town funds
<b>Action 1.1.4:</b> Work with TA, DPW and Stakeholders in implementing Short Beach Playground improvements as outlined in CPA Grant.	<b>TA, DPW</b>	Short-term	CPA
<b>Action 1.1.5:</b> Seek guidance for town-wide playground review and work to improve playgrounds to meet current design and accessibility standards.	<b>TA, DPW, RC,</b>	Long-term	PARC, Seek Funding, Community fundraising
<b>Objective 1.2: Preserve Nahant's important land resources through land acquisition, conservation restrictions, zoning, and education.</b>			
<b>Action 1.2.1:</b> Work with the Planning Board to investigate zoning measures and other regulatory tools that encourage the protection or creation of open space.	<b>PB, OSRC</b>	Long-term	
<b>Action 1.2.2:</b> Work with the Board of Selectmen and the Town-Owned Land Committee to develop a prioritized inventory of Town-owned land that may be appropriate for conservation restrictions.	<b>TA, BOS, OSRC</b>	Long-term	LAND
<b>Action 1.2.3:</b> Provide information and resources to residents on the advantages of conservation restrictions. Include information about what a CR is, the different ways a CR can be used to protect land, and the benefits for landowners.	<b>NPT, OSRC, BOS, PB, CC, TA</b>	Long-term	

Goal 2: Improve access and opportunities for open space and recreation for all			
Action Item	Parties Responsible	Timeframe	Funding Sources
<b>Objective 2.1:</b> Improve the accessibility of both passive and active recreational sites for the elderly and persons with disabilities.			
<b>Action 2.1.1:</b> Develop an inventory and prioritize how facilities, parks, and open spaces will be upgraded to meet ADA accessibility.	TA, BOS, OSRC, COA, ADA Coordinator	Long-term	MADA, CPA
<b>Action 2.1.2:</b> Explore feasibility of an ADA Evaluation and Transition Plan.	OSRC, TA, COA, ADA Coordinator	Long-term	Town Funds, MADA
<b>Action 2.1.3:</b> Seek opportunities to go beyond minimum ADA requirements by integrating universal design principles and programming that provides broader access for all residents.	BOS, TA, OSRC, COA, ADA Coordinator	Ongoing	MADA, PARC, LWCF
<b>Action 2.1.4:</b> Work with Town on ADA sidewalk, crosswalk and public transport stops improvements as outlined in TA plan along Short Beach Corridor.	TA, DPW, OSRC, NPD	Long-term	Town Funds
<b>Objective 2.2:</b> Facilitate greater access to parks and open space through improved sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and bicycle and streetscape improvements			
<b>Action 2.2.1:</b> Develop a plan for pedestrian and bicycle connectivity among facilities and parks; coordinate with Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS).	DPW, Johnson School, OSRC	Short-term	SRTS
<b>Action 2.2.2:</b> Increase secure bike parking near entrances to Nahant's parks, open space, and recreational facilities.	OSRC, DPW	Short-term	" <a href="#">PeopleForBikes</a> ", PARC, CPA

Objective 2.3: Improve Public Access to Open Space and Coastline			
<b>Action 2.3.1:</b> Assess the potential for improving and maintaining the Perimeter Path, making it generally accessible to residents while addressing the legitimate concerns of abutting property owners.	PB, OSRC, TA	Short-term	CPA, RTP, LAND
<b>Action 2.3.2:</b> Work with Planning Board to establish marking system for ROWs in Little Nahant and work toward surveying of ROWs in Big Nahant.	PB, OSRC	Short-term	CPA and seek additional funding
<b>Action 2.3.3:</b> Use GIS Map and survey maps to identify ROWs existing and provide web to print ROW map on Town Website.	PB, OSRC, TA, Web Master	Short-term	
<b>Action 2.3.4:</b> Provide kayak and paddle board racks at waterfront sites (e.g., Tudor Wharf and the Nahant Life Saving Station).	BOS, OSRC, DPW, RC, NPT	Short-term	CPA, Town Funds

Goal 3: Integrate cultural, recreational, and conservation activities			
Action Item	Parties Responsible	Timeframe	Funding Sources
Objective 3.1: Expand active recreation, nature-based, and arts and culture programming			
<b>Action 3.1.1:</b> Increase the town's offerings of recreational programming and special events based on the OSRP community survey feedback.	CuIC, RC, NPL, JS, OSRC, SWIM	Ongoing	MACC, RC, SWIM
<b>Action 3.1.2:</b> Upon completion of newly installed Pickleball courts at Flash Rd Park, provide ongoing needs assessment for additional Pickleball facilities in future, based on stakeholder feedback.	OSRC, RC	Ongoing	CPC, PARC
<b>Action 3.1.3:</b> Continually assess community needs through stakeholder surveys and proactively plan for recreation programming that aligns to these needs and trends.	CuIC, OSRC, BOS, NPL, JS, SWIM	Ongoing	MACC, RC, SWIM
<b>Action 3.1.4:</b> Collaborate with the Nahant Historical Society and the Nahant Preservation Trust to develop materials and a web presence for Nahant's historic sites; explore opportunities to provide interpretive materials, on-site signage, and audio or print- based storytelling.	NHS, OSRC, NPL, NPT	Ongoing	PGP

<b>Action 3.1.5:</b> Continue to support and promote walking tours of cultural and historic resources in Nahant to showcase the Town's historic buildings and heritage landscapes.	<b>NHS, OSRC, NPL, NPT</b>	Ongoing	NHS, NPT, PGP
<b>Objective 3.2:</b> Use public art elements to activate public spaces and beautify the public realm			
<b>Action 3.2.1:</b> Consider using public art elements as a way to interpret natural open spaces and features.	<b>CulC, OSRC</b>	Long-term	MACC/CulC, NPT
<b>Action 3.2.2:</b> Provide support for artists to offer input on increasing art in community settings.	<b>CulC, OSRC, JS,</b>	Short-term	OSRC, CulC
<b>Action 3.2.3:</b> Support Nahant Cultural Council sponsored Art-Nature-Nahant Annual event.	<b>CulC, OSRC</b>	Ongoing	CulC
<b>Action 3.2.4:</b> Identify suitable locations to incorporate public art into parks and open spaces e.g., murals and art installations.	<b>OSRC, CulC, JS, BOS</b>	Long-term	MACC, NEF

Goal 4: Develop procedures for further evaluation of open space issues			
Action Item	Parties Responsible	Timeframe	Funding Sources
<b>Objective 4.1:</b> Identify and implement resiliency projects that address impacts from climate change and support Nahant's sustainability goals.			
<b>Action 4.1.1:</b> Support Town in Implementing Planned drainage improvements for the Lowlands area.	<b>BOS, TA, DPW, CC, MVP</b>	Short-term	
<b>Action 4.1.2:</b> With the assistance of volunteers, manage the presence of invasive vegetation and require the consistent use of native or adapted planting in ecologically significant landscapes.	<b>DPW, OSRC, FOEP, CC, SWIM, NGC, BC</b>	Ongoing	CPC, <a href="#">MHMGP</a>
<b>Action 4.1.3:</b> Implement plan to remove invasive species and restore natural vegetation at Baileys Hill Complex as described in OSRC CPA Grant approved at Town Meeting May 2021. Seek additional funding to continue restoration of Baileys Hill Complex.	<b>OSRC, DPW, CPC, CC</b>	Long-term	CPC, Seek additional funding

<b>Action 4.1.4:</b> Support the efforts of the Nahant Tree Task Force and DPW to develop a street tree inventory and plan for the planting of trees throughout the town.	<b>DPW, OSRC, TW</b>	Long-term	ACR
<b>Action 4.1.5:</b> Promote and support education and measures to reduce carbon use, noise pollution, implement composting and solar energy.	<b>OSRC, SWIM, Green Comm</b>	Short-term	ACR

Goal 5: Protect the quality of Nahant's beaches, surrounding waters, and skies			
Action Item	Parties Responsible	Timeframe	Funding Sources
<b>Objective 5.1:</b> Continue to implement stormwater management measures to improve the quality of runoff to Nahant's surrounding waters			
<b>Action 5.1.1:</b> Support the DPW to Implement BMP recommendations outlined in the 2021 Stormwater Management Program (SWMP).	<b>DPW, TA, BOS, OSRC, CC</b>	Long-term	
<b>Action 5.1.2:</b> Gain better understanding of stormwater and watershed management opportunities through partnerships (DPW, SWIM, CZM etc.).	<b>DPW, SWIM, OSRC, CZM</b>	Ongoing	<a href="#">CZM</a>
<b>Objective 5.2:</b> Support the efforts of regional organizations and stakeholders who are working to resolve issues related to air traffic noise pollution generated from Logan International Airport.			
<b>Action 5.2.1:</b> Work in partnership with other North Shore and Inner Core communities to develop a regional approach to addressing issues related to air traffic noise pollution.	<b>MPCAC; Noise Abatement Committee, MAPC</b>	Ongoing	

Goal 6: Increase appreciation and stewardship of Nahant's parks, open space, and recreational facilities			
Action Item	Parties Responsible	Timeframe	Funding Sources
<b>Objective 6.1:</b> Promote awareness of open space amenities through wayfinding and signage.			
<b>Action 6.1.1:</b> Develop a consistent universally designed signage and wayfinding system to direct people to the Town's parks and open spaces, especially from adjacent roadways and walking paths.	<b>BOS, OSRC, DPW, NHS</b>	Long-term	CPA, PARC, PGP
<b>Action 6.1.2:</b> Integrate geographical, historical, and natural history elements into signage at Short Beach, Heritage Trail, East Point, Baileys Hill.	<b>NHS, OSRC, CC FoEP</b>	Short-term	CPA, PARC, PGP



<b>Objective 6.2:</b> Work closely with local and regional partners to enhance natural resource activities townwide.			
<b>Action 6.2.1:</b> Offer support to the robust volunteer program that supports and supplements education, stewardship, and resource management objectives.	FOEP, <b>OSRC</b> , JS, SWIM, NPL, GC	Ongoing	PGP
<b>Action 6.2.2:</b> Support the maintenance and stewardship of the Wildflower Garden, Forest Playground and Community Gardens.	GC, JS, <b>OSRC</b> , Community Garden volunteers, BC	Ongoing	ACR
<b>Objective 6.3:</b> Improve web-based information about all town parks, recreation, and conservation areas.			
<b>Action 6.3.1:</b> Improve web-based information describing the Town's park and open space system to help people quickly find amenities and experiences they are seeking. Provide web to print trail and open space maps with information on access and environmental protection.	<b>TA</b> , OSRC, BOS, Webmaster	Short-term	

## State and Federal Funding Sources

### Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Program

The LAND Program (formerly the Self-Help Program) was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions acquiring land for natural resource and passive outdoor recreation purposes. Lands acquired may include wildlife, habitat, trails, unique natural, historic, or cultural resources, water resources, forest, and farmland. Compatible passive outdoor recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, bird observation and the like are encouraged. Access by the general public is required. This state program pays for the acquisition of land, or a partial interest (such as a conservation restriction), and associated acquisition costs such as appraisal reports and closing costs.

### Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Program

The PARC Program (formerly the Urban Self-Help Program) was established in 1977 to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Any municipality with a population of 35,000 or more year-round residents, or any city regardless of size, that has an authorized park/recreation commission is eligible to participate in the program. Only projects that are to be developed for suitable outdoor recreation purposes, whether active or passive in nature, shall be considered for funding. Grants are available for the acquisition of land and the construction, or renovation of park and outdoor recreation facilities, such as swimming pools, zoos, athletic play fields, playgrounds and game courts. Access by the general public is required.

### Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

This is a federal program administered by the State Division of Conservation Services for the acquisition and development or renovation of park, recreation, and conservation land. The Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (P.L. 88-578) provides up to 50% of the total project cost for the acquisition, development, and renovation of park, recreation, or conservation areas. Municipalities, special districts, and state agencies are eligible to apply. Nearly 4000 acres have been acquired and hundreds of parks renovated using the \$95.6 million that Massachusetts has received from the state side portion of the federal program since 1965. DCS administers the state side Land & Water Conservation Fund program in Massachusetts. Access by the general public is required.

### Recreational Trails Grant Program (RTGP)

The Recreational Trails Program provides grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000 on a reimbursement basis for a variety of trail protection, construction, and stewardship projects throughout Massachusetts. It is part of the National Recreational Trails Program, which is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Funds are disbursed to each state to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. In Massachusetts, funds are administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), in partnership with the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board.

## Community Preservation Act

The establishment of a real estate transfer tax was signed into law on September 14, 2000 as the Community Preservation Act (CPA). CPA is a tool for communities to preserve open space, park and recreational facilities, historic sites, and affordable housing. The Community Preservation Act is statewide enabling legislation that allows cities and towns to exercise control over local planning decisions by providing a funding source which can be used to address three core community concerns:

- Acquisition and preservation of open space
- Improve park and recreation facilities
- Creation and support of affordable housing
- Acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes

A minimum of 10% of the annual revenues of the fund must be used for each four core community concerns. The remaining 70% can be allocated for any combination of the allowed uses. This gives each community the opportunity to determine its priorities, plan for its future, and have the funds to make those plans happen.

## Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvement Grant Program

The Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvement Grant Program provides planning grants that support updating or creating a Self-Evaluation and/or Transition Plan as required under the Administrative Requirements of Title II of the ADA.

The program also offers project grants that support capital improvements specifically dedicated to improving programmatic access and/or removing barriers encountered by persons with disabilities in public facilities. Examples include but are not limited to increasing both physical access and programmatic access through the addition of features such as: ramps, elevators, power lifts and Limited Use/Limited Application (LULAs) signage, communication access devices, curb cuts and/or any other features that are designed to improve architectural access and/or programmatic access.

## **Section 10: Letters of Support**

- Nahant Planning Board
- Nahant Board of Selectmen
- MAPC
- DCS Letter of Approval



## *Nahant Town Hall*

TOWN OF NAHANT, MASSACHUSETTS  
334 Nahant Road, Nahant, MA 01908  
781-581-9927

September 8, 2022

RE: Town of Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear members of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee,

This is to inform you that the Nahant Board of Selectmen, at a regularly scheduled meeting on September 7, 2022, approved the Open Space and Recreation Plan update for the Town of Nahant. With careful review and consideration the Board has no objections and looks forward to working with the committee to implement the goals of the plan.

We would like to thank the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee for their dedication to the town and their hard work in creating the update to the plan.

*Sincerely,*

The Nahant Board of Selectmen  
Gene Canty, Chairman  
Mark P. Cullinan, Vice Chairman  
Joshua A. Antrim, Recording Secretary



TOWN OF NAHANT, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE  
NAHANT PLANNING BOARD

July 13, 2022

Antonio Barletta  
Nahant Town Administrator  
Nahant Town Hall, Nahant, MA

RE: Town of Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Barletta,

Please be advised that the Nahant Planning Board has approved the Town of Nahant's Open Space and Recreation Plan update at a regular meeting held on July 5, 2022, with no objection. The Planning Board supports the plan's goals, especially 1) improving Nahant's parks, open spaces and natural resource areas, and 2) improving access and opportunities for open space and recreation for all. The Board thanks the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee for their hard work, and look forward to working with them in the future.

Sincerely,

Shannon Bianchi, R.S.  
Nahant Planning Board



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

April 14, 2022

Melissa Cryan  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Division of Conservation Services  
100 Cambridge Street  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

This letter will serve as MAPC's review of the Town of Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan. MAPC enjoyed working with the Town to develop this plan. It was written to comply with the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) guidelines and to integrate a regional perspective on the issues addressed during the planning process. We have also worked to make the plan consistent with the goals and objectives of MetroCommon 2050, the new regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area. We believe that the participation of Town staff and the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, as well as MAPC's regional perspective, has generated a plan that will help to guide the Town in its continued efforts to improve open space and recreation opportunities and facilities in Nahant.

MAPC wishes the best of luck to the Town as it moves forward with implementation of the plan.

Sincerely,

Ralph Willmer, FAICP  
Principal Planner and Technical Assistance Program Manager



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

Charles D. Baker  
GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Bethany A. Card  
SECRETARY

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

October 4, 2022

Courtney Lewis  
Metropolitan Area Planning Commission  
60 Temple Place  
Boston, MA 02111

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for submitting the Open Space and Recreation Plan for Nahant to this office for review and compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I'm pleased to write that the plan has received final approval and the town is eligible to apply for DCS grants through May 2029. Please contact me [melissa.cryan@mass.gov](mailto:melissa.cryan@mass.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Cryan*

Melissa Cryan  
Grant Programs Supervisor



# **Appendices**

Appendix A: ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Appendix B: Maps

Appendix C: Public Forum Presentations and Feedback

Appendix D: Community Survey

## **Appendix A**

## Town of Nahant: ADA Grievance Procedure

The Town of Nahant has established a complaint procedure to meet the requirements of Title II the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of a disability in the provision of services (including transportation), activities, programs or benefits provided by the Town of Nahant.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the alleged discrimination. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape-recording of the complaint, will be made available upon request for persons with disabilities preventing them from submitting a written complaint. The complaint should be submitted as soon as possible after the alleged violation to Robin & Dan deStefano, 7 James Avenue, Nahant MA the Town of Nahant's ADA coordinators.

Within 30 calendar days after the ADA coordinator receives of the complaint, she or her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 30 calendar days of that meeting, the ADA coordinator or her designee will respond in writing and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant (i.e., large print, Braille, or audio tape). The ADA coordinator's response will explain the position of the Town of Nahant and offer options for resolution of the complaint.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the ADA coordinator's response (or that of her designee), the complainant may appeal the decision within 10 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Town Administrator.

Within 30 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Town Administrator or his designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 30 calendar days after the meeting, the Town Administrator or his designee will respond in writing and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints the ADA Coordinator receives, all appeals to the Town Administrator, and all responses from these two officials will be retained by the Town of Nahant for three years.

The Town of Nahant's ADA Complaint Information form is below.

**Town of Nahant**  
**ADA Complaint Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cellular telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your primary type of a disability? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of this complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe, in detail, the event/situation you believe violated the ADA. Please provide name(s), if appropriate, of individuals who were involved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If this is a general request for an accommodation, describe the functional limitations caused by your disability for which you are requesting an accommodation:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe any accommodations that you believe would minimize or eliminate the barriers to your participation in the Town of Nahant's services (including transportation), activities, programs, or benefits:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If a complaint has been filed with any other federal, state or local civil rights agency or court regarding this issue, please identify each those agencies or courts:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(August 2015)

\_\_\_\_\_

# ADA Access Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan

These are properties that are managed by the Town of Nahant, the Board of Selectmen, or Conservation Commission. All sites were outdoors (with the exception of bathrooms), and had no entrances, doors, swimming pools, shower rooms, or public phones.

Location	Parking	Pathway	Stairs	Toilet Facility	Ramp	Picnic Area	Water Fountain
Bailey's Hill Park	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Bang's Trust	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Rock Beach	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Flash Road Playground & Recreation Fields	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X
Forty Steps Beach	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
Greenlawn Cemetery							
Henry Cabot Lodge Park/East Point	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
Johnson Elementary School (Playground & Community Garden)	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X
Kelley Greens Golf Course*	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-
Little Nahant Playground	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Lowlands Park (Veterans Park)	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
Marjoram Park	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
Memorial Point Park	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pleasant Street Playground	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Short Beach/ Nahant Life Saving Station	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X

Location	Parking	Pathway	Stairs	Toilet Facility	Ramp	Picnic Area	Water Fountain
Spring Road Basketball Court	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stony Beach	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swallow Cave	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X
Tudor Beach	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
Tudor Wharf	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X

*\*This site is owned by the Town and leased to a private entity and was not evaluated as part of this OSRP. The Town has an obligation to oversee that the private entity complies with the Title II obligation. The ADA Coordinator will be responsible for this oversight.*

Evaluations in this document are for properties owned by the Town of Nahant, managed by the Board of Selectman or the Conservation Commission, and have facilities such as parking, a pathway, toilet facility, ramp, picnic area, or a water fountain. Properties that lack any facilities are identified on the ADA Inventory, but are absent from this document, as there are no facilities to evaluate.

## BAILEY'S HILL PARK



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No ADA accessible parking (resident permit only)</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no accessible pathways to guide users into the site</li> <li>Gravel pathways over steep and rocky terrain at the northern side of the site (Gardner Road entrance)</li> <li>Deteriorated pavement along circular access drive through the center of the site (Bass Point Road entrance)</li> <li>No accessible path of travel to where the gazebo is located</li> <li>Asphalt path to the top of Bailey's Hill</li> <li>Heritage Trail</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gazebo, benches, trash can</li> </ul>
Recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install accessible parking spaces</li> <li>Replace asphalt driveway and parking area</li> <li>Install accessible path from the central access road to the gazebo</li> <li>Construct access ramp to the gazebo</li> <li>Install site-specific signage with regulatory information such as hours of operation and dog regulations</li> </ul>



## BLACK ROCK BEACH (DOGGIE BEACH)



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No designated parking</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrian access is available to the site via a crosswalk that connects to a sidewalk on the opposite side of Nahant Road</li> <li>No accessible paths throughout the site</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benches, trash can</li> <li>Known as the Town's "doggie beach"</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend the sidewalk on the western side of Nahant Road north to Little Nahant Road</li> </ul>





## FLASH ROAD PLAYGROUND & RECREATION FIELDS



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No ADA accessible parking spaces</li> <li>Shared parking lot with the fire station and public works</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No accessible pathways from Flash Road entrance or parking lot to play structures, ballfields, bleachers, courts, picnic areas, or benches</li> <li>Wood chips in playground flush with ground surface</li> <li>Heritage Trail</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball)</li> <li>Recreation fields (little league fields, soccer field)</li> <li>Snack Shack, picnic tables, bleachers, trash cans, benches (no armrests)</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install accessible parking spaces</li> <li>Install accessible path from the sidewalk along Flash Road to the playground</li> <li>Install accessible paths to play structures, ballfields, courts, and bleachers</li> <li>Incorporate an edge element to separate the grass and play area that doesn't create a tripping hazard</li> </ul>



## FORTY STEPS BEACH



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No designated parking</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrian access is available to the site via the sidewalk along Nahant Road</li> <li>No accessible route to beach area</li> </ul>
Stairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A series of stairs and landings provide access to beach area</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viewing platform, benches, trash can</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No recommendations</li> </ul>





## GREENLAWN CEMETERY



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No parking lot, only street parking</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrian access is available to the site via the sidewalk along Nahant Road</li> <li>Crushed gravel paths throughout the site with stone edging</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ellingwood Chapel, benches, trash cans</li> </ul>
Recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No recommendations</li> </ul>



## HENRY CABOT LODGE PARK/EAST POINT



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited parking area (special permit), no marked ADA accessible parking spaces</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrian access is available to the site via Nahant Road</li> <li>Asphalt access drive that runs through the site has cracks</li> <li>Gravel access drive that encircles the lawn area at the top of the park is steep and inaccessible</li> <li>No accessible route to benches or viewing areas</li> <li>Natural trails run throughout the site, steep and rocky terrain</li> <li>Rusted and deteriorated fencing/guardrails along steep cliffs</li> <li>No safety guardrails along the cliff edge on the eastern and southern sides of the park</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorials, benches, trash can</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install accessible route throughout the park</li> <li>Repair deteriorated asphalt surfaces</li> <li>Install new fencing and guardrails</li> <li>Install site-specific signage with regulatory information such as hours of operation and dog regulations</li> </ul>





## JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PLAYGROUND & COMMUNITY GARDEN)



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 ADA accessible parking spaces at Johnson Elementary</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrian access is limited to the sidewalks along Spring Road, Flash Road, and the access drives through the site</li> <li>Asphalt pathways throughout the site have cracks</li> <li>No accessible pathways to playground areas, community garden, half basketball court, or Flash Road recreation fields</li> <li>Playground areas are inaccessible due to grass and uneven wood chip surfaces</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 playgrounds, benches, trash cans</li> </ul>
Recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct access route to play structures, community garden, and recreation fields</li> <li>Incorporate an edge element to separate the grass and play area that doesn't create a tripping hazard</li> <li>Provide bench with armrests</li> </ul>



## KELLEY GREENS GOLF COURSE



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 ADA accessible parking spaces, deteriorated pavement in parking lot</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This site is owned by the Town and leased to a private entity and was not evaluated as part of this OSRP. The Town has an obligation to oversee that the private entity complies with the Title II obligation. The ADA Coordinator will be responsible for this oversight.</li> </ul>





## LITTLE NAHANT PLAYGROUND



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No designated spaces</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no accessible pathways to guide users into the playground</li> <li>No accessible path of travel to play structures, picnic area, or benches</li> <li>Playground is inaccessible due to sand surface</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play structures, swing sets</li> <li>Small covered picnic area with picnic table</li> <li>Benches, no armrests</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install accessible paths from the sidewalk along Nahant Road to the playground</li> <li>Construct access route to benches and play area</li> <li>Improve the play area surfacing and incorporate an edge element to separate the grass and play area that doesn't create a tripping hazard.</li> <li>Install site-specific signage with regulatory information such as hours of operation and dog regulations</li> </ul>

## LOWLANDS PARK/ VETERANS PARK



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 ADA accessible parking spaces, deteriorated pavement in parking lot (resident permit only)</li> <li>• 1 ADA accessible on-street parking space on Ward Road</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No accessible pathways to guide users into Veterans Park</li> <li>• No accessible path of travel from Veterans Park to the Lowlands parking lot</li> <li>• Paved pathways throughout Veterans Park are narrow and cracked</li> <li>• Narrow asphalt path from Lowlands parking lot to Nahant Road (connecting to Short Beach)</li> <li>• No sidewalks around park perimeter</li> <li>• No accessible path from the Lowlands parking lot to the softball fields, bleachers, or viewing stands</li> <li>• Heritage Trail</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 softball fields</li> <li>• Veterans memorial, flagpole, benches, viewing stands, trash cans</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repave and restripe parking lot with accessible spaces</li> <li>• Install accessible paths from the parking lot to the ballfield and bleachers</li> <li>• Install site-specific signage with regulatory information such as hours of operation and dog regulations</li> </ul>





## MARJORAM PARK



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No ADA accessible parking spaces</li> <li>Shared parking lot with Tudor Wharf</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no accessible pathways to guide users into the site</li> <li>Pedestrian access is limited to the sidewalks along Willow Road and Wharf Street</li> <li>No safety railing along the paved walkway along the southwest corner of the site</li> </ul>
Stairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concrete stairs provide access to the beach area</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benches</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install ADA accessible parking space</li> <li>Install safety railing along walkway and seawall</li> <li>Install accessible path from the sidewalk along Wharf Street to the walkway along the seawall</li> </ul>



## MEMORIAL POINT PARK/ CANOE BEACH



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No ADA accessible parking spaces</li> <li>9 Designated parking spaces, on-street parking (Swallow Cave Road), resident permit parking only</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrians have to walk in Nahant Road, no crosswalks</li> <li>No sidewalks or accessible pathways to guide users into the site</li> <li>No accessible route through the park or to the beach area</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wooden benches</li> <li>Flagpole, memorial rock, and trash can</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install accessible parking space</li> <li>Install accessible paths throughout park</li> <li>Install accessible path to beach area</li> <li>Install site-specific signage with regulatory information such as hours of operation and dog regulations</li> </ul>





## PLEASANT STREET PLAYGROUND



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 ADA accessible on-street parking space at Nahant Library</li> <li>• No parking lot, only street parking</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no accessible pathways to guide users into the playground.</li> <li>• No accessible path of travel to play structures, picnic tables, or benches</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood chips in playground are flush with ground surface</li> <li>• Play structures, swing set</li> <li>• Picnic tables, bike rack, trash barrel</li> <li>• Benches, no armrests</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install accessible paths from the sidewalk along Pleasant Street to the playground.</li> <li>• Construct access route to play structures</li> <li>• Incorporate an edge element to separate the grass and play area that doesn't create a tripping hazard.</li> <li>• Install site-specific signage with regulatory information such as hours of operation and dog regulations</li> </ul>



## SHORT BEACH / NAHANT LIFE SAVING STATION



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated ADA accessible parking spaces at Nahant Life Saving Station</li> <li>No accessible pathway from limited parking area to beach, currently gravel parking lot</li> <li>Shared parking lot with the Lowlands Park (resident permit only)</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrian access is available to the site via an asphalt path along Nahant Road</li> <li>Beach access (Castle Road): asphalt path to beach area is deteriorated and unevenly paved</li> <li>Beach access (Lowlands Parking Lot): rough transition from the concrete path to beach area</li> <li>Beach access (Spring Road): rough transition from the concrete path to beach area</li> </ul>
Toilet Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADA accessible toilet facility at Nahant Life Saving Station</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nahant Life Saving Station, benches, boat ramp, bike racks, trash cans</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install accessible parking spaces and paths from the parking lot to beach access points</li> <li>Install ADA compliant beach access mat at Castle Road access point</li> <li>Install site-specific signage with regulatory information such as hours of operation and dog regulations</li> </ul>





## SPRING ROAD BASKETBALL COURT



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No parking</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrian access is available to the site via the sidewalk along Spring Road and the Heritage Trail</li> <li>No accessible pathways to guide users into the site</li> <li>No accessible path to the basketball court</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full basketball court</li> <li>2 metal benches, trash barrel</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install accessible path from the sidewalk along Spring Street to the basketball court</li> <li>Install accessible parking space</li> <li>Consider installing bike rack</li> </ul>



## STONY BEACH



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No designated parking spaces</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No accessible paths to guide users into the site</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benches</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install accessible path to the site at the end of Hood Street.</li> <li>Install site-specific signage with regulatory information such as hours of operation and dog regulations</li> </ul>





SWALLOW CAVE

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No designated spaces</li></ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No pathways, steep slope</li></ul>
Stairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Non-compliant stairs</li></ul>
Recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No recommendations</li></ul>



# TUDOR BEACH



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No designated spaces</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrian access is available to the site via Willow Road</li> <li>Asphalt path runs along site perimeter</li> </ul>
Stairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No accessible route to beach area</li> <li>Non-compliant concrete stairs provide access to the beach area</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wooden benches, bike rack, trash barrels</li> <li>Boat ramp located at eastern end of beach</li> </ul>
Recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install fully compliant stairs</li> <li>Install site-specific signage with regulatory information such as hours of operation and dog regulations</li> </ul>





## TUDOR WHARF



Facility	Evaluation
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADA accessible parking spaces at Harbormaster/Wharfinger's Building</li> </ul>
Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No accessible pathways to guide users into the site</li> <li>• No safety railing along the paved walkway that runs along the seawall and parking lot area</li> </ul>
Toilet Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADA accessible toilet facility</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harbormaster/Wharfinger's Building</li> <li>• Boat ramp</li> <li>• Boat storage, bicycle racks, benches, picnic tables, trash cans</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install accessible path from the sidewalk along Wharf Street to the walkway along the seawall</li> <li>• Install safety railing along seawall</li> <li>• Install site-specific signage with regulatory information such as hours of operation and dog regulations</li> </ul>



# Appendix B



# Regional Context



**Regional Open Spaces**

- Regional Open Spaces
- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Route
- T Stations
- Blue Line
- Commuter Rail Line

**Landline Regional Greenways**

- Greenway Route
- Greenway and Walking Trail
- Regional Walking Trail

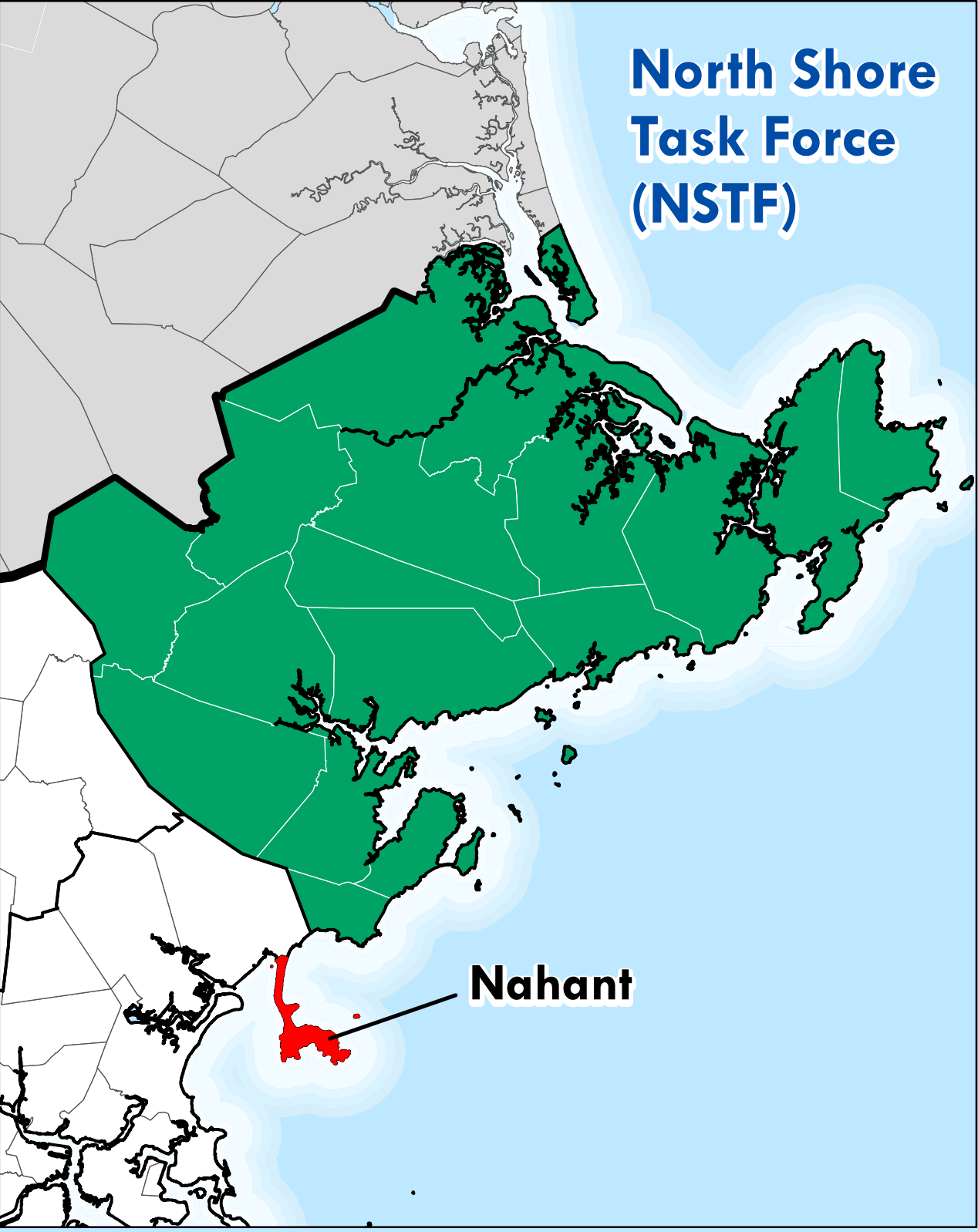
00.250.50.751 Miles

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

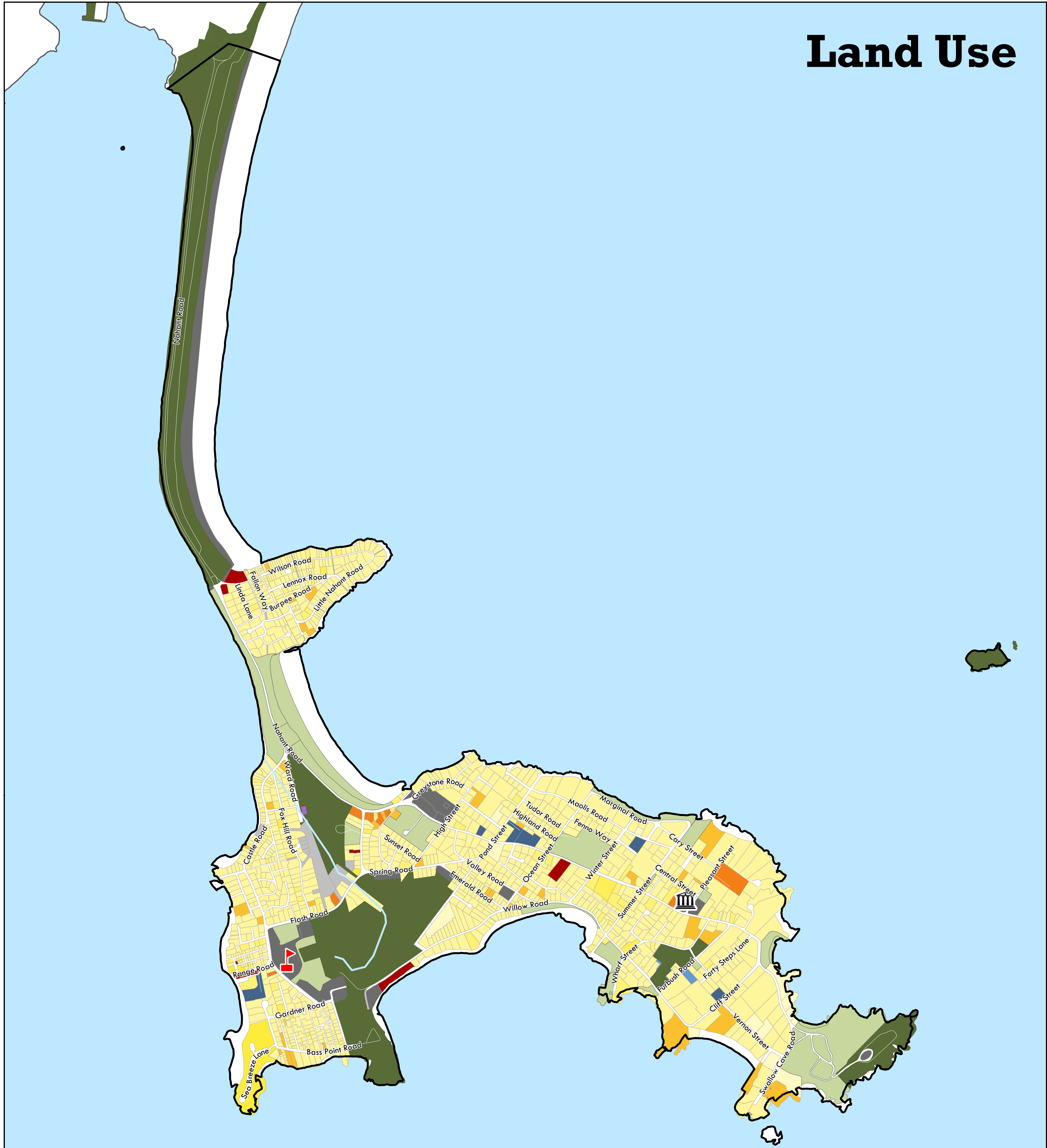
Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

September 2022



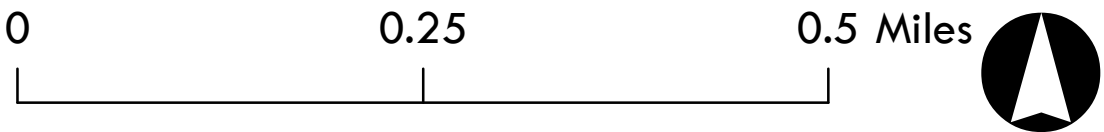


# Land Use



## Land Use

- |                              |                                  |                    |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Residential Vacant           | Industrial                       | School             |
| Single Family Residence      | Open Space                       | Town Hall          |
| Two/Three Family Residential | Permanently Protected Open Space | Rivers and Streams |
| Condominium                  | Municipal Vacant                 |                    |
| Apartments 4 or more units   | Federal, State or Municipal      |                    |
| Residential Other            | Institutional/Exempt Vacant      |                    |
| Mixed Use                    | Institutional/Exempt             |                    |
| Commercial Vacant            | Tax Exempt Other                 |                    |
| Commercial                   | Unknown                          |                    |

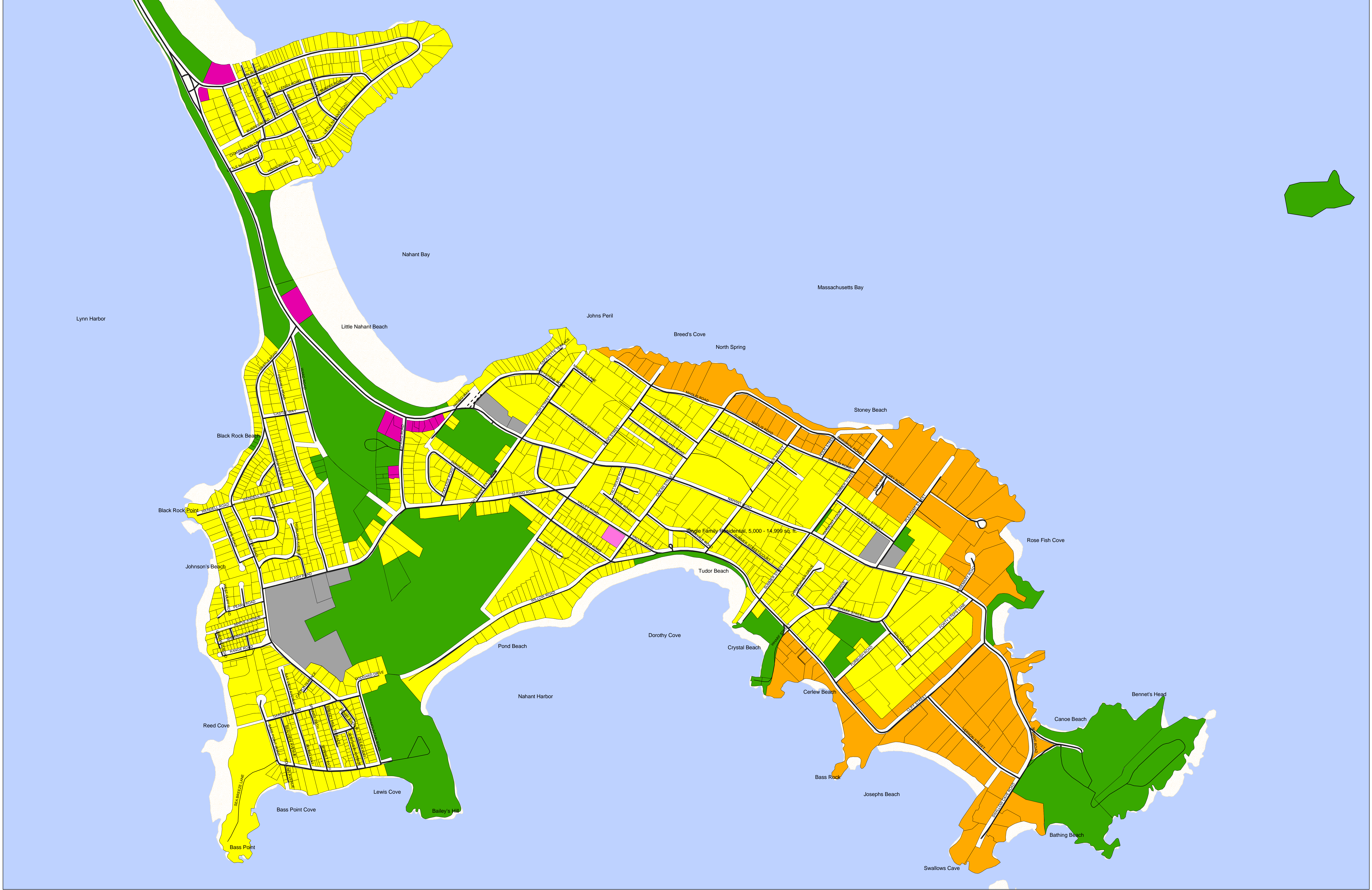


The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only.  
It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory  
interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by: Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT  
September 2022







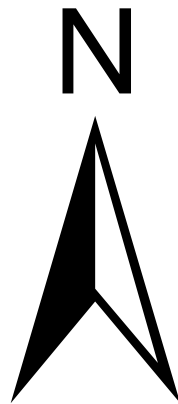
**Legend**  
**Zone Classification**

- NR Conservation/Passive Recreation
- P Public/Institutional
- B1 Business
- B2 Limited Business
- R1 Single Family Residential, 20,000 - 39,999 sq. ft.
- R2 Single Family Residential, 5,000 - 14,999 sq. ft.

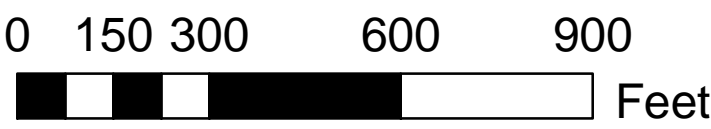
The Town of Nahant makes no claims, no representations, and no warranties, express or implied, concerning the validity (express or implied), the reliability or the accuracy of the GIS data and GIS data products furnished by the Town, including the implied validity of any uses of such data.

The information does not represent a ground field survey, may not be the most complete and is subject to change without notice. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of the information, either expressed or implied. Unauthorized attempts to modify the information or use the information for other than its intended purposes are prohibited.

\*This is not the Official Zoning Map, only a digital representation, for the Official Map contact the Town Clerk.\*



1 inch equals 300 feet



2010 Board of Selectman Approval Signatures

Michael Manning Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Frary Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Richard Lombard Vice Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Margaret Barile Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

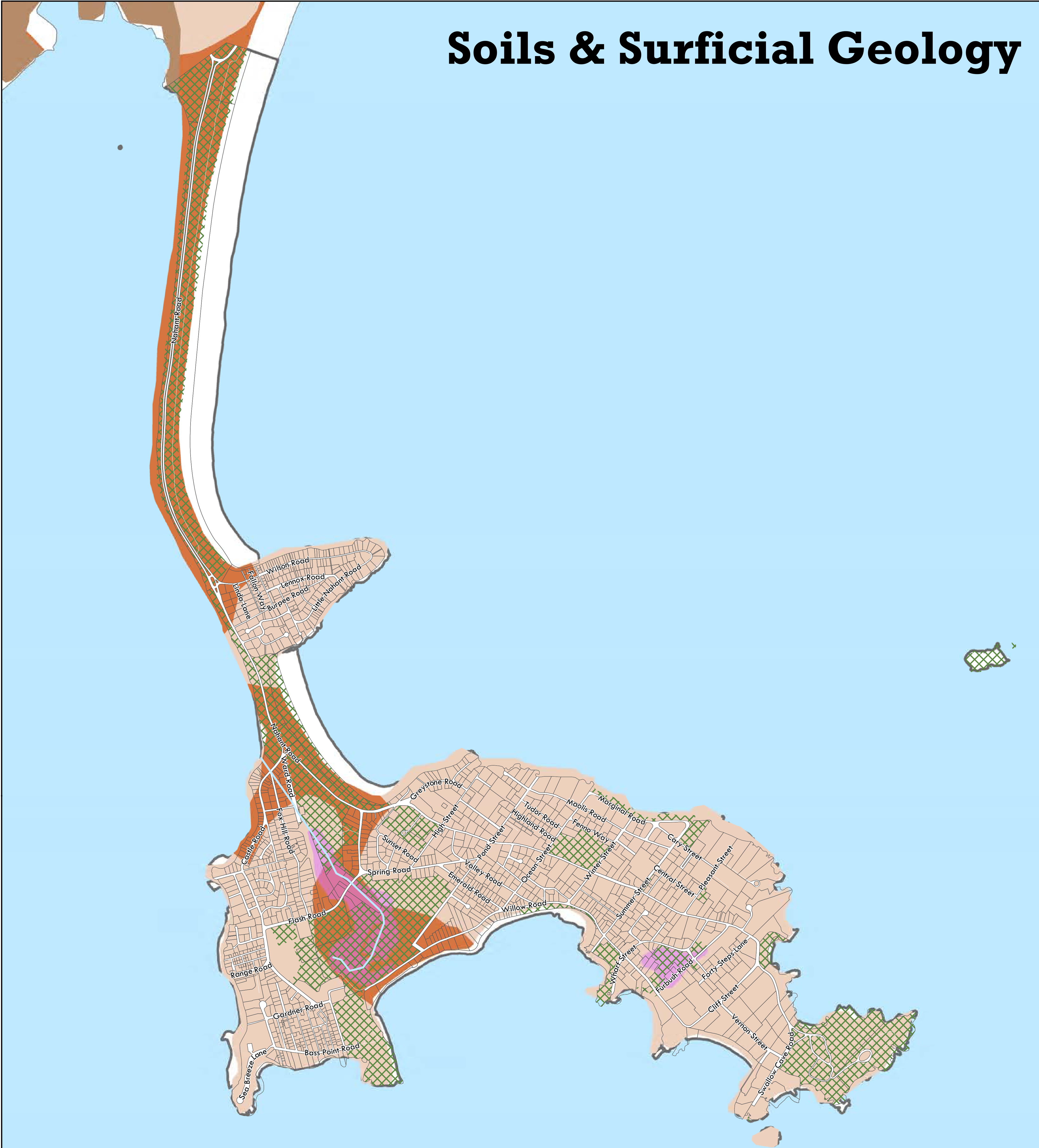
**Nahant 2010 Zoning Map**



Dana R. Turchi, GISP  
For Mark Cullinan Town Administrator  
January 26, 2010



# Soils & Surficial Geology



## Surficial Geology

- Sand and Gravel
- Till or Bedrock
- Fine-Grained Deposit
- Floodplain Alluvium
- Farmland of Unique Importance
- Open Space
- Rivers and Streams

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only.  
It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory  
interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

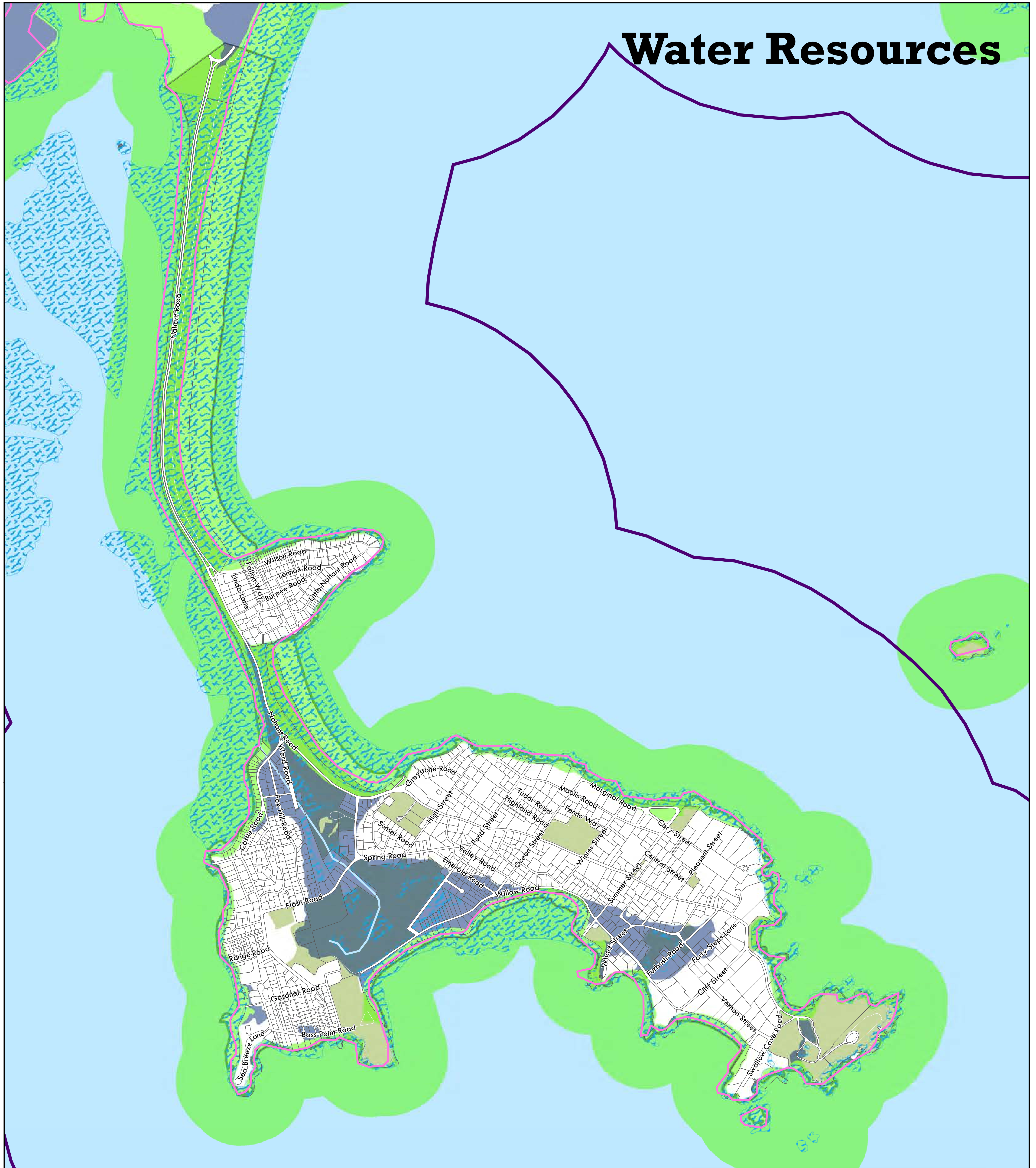
Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

September 2022





# Water Resources



## Flood Zones

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1% Annual Chance of Flooding or Ponding | North Coastal Watershed |
| Regulatory Floodway                     | Sub-basins              |
| High Risk Coastal Area                  | Wetlands                |
| 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding          | Open Space              |
| Rivers and Streams                      |                         |

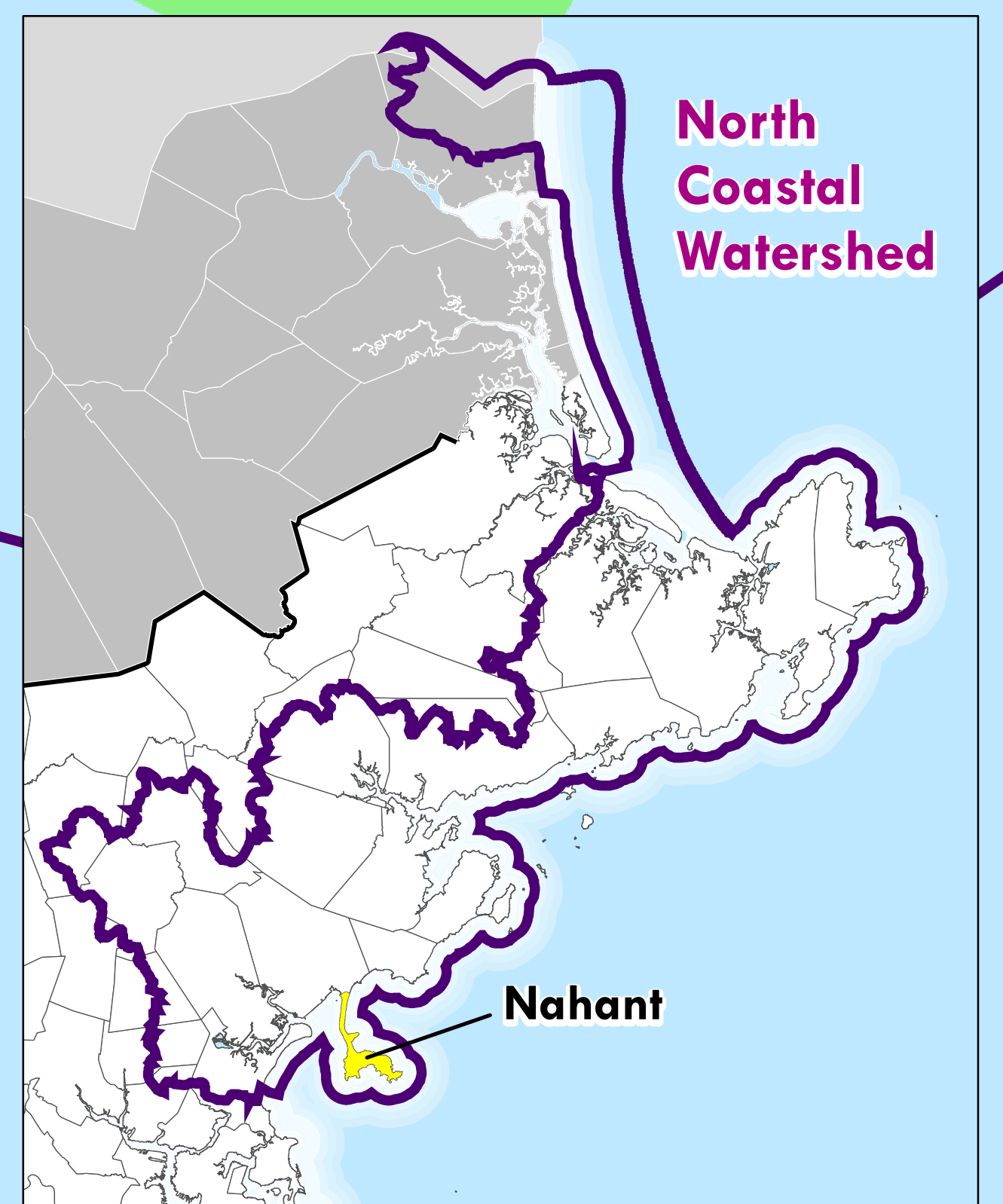
0 0.25 0.5 Miles

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

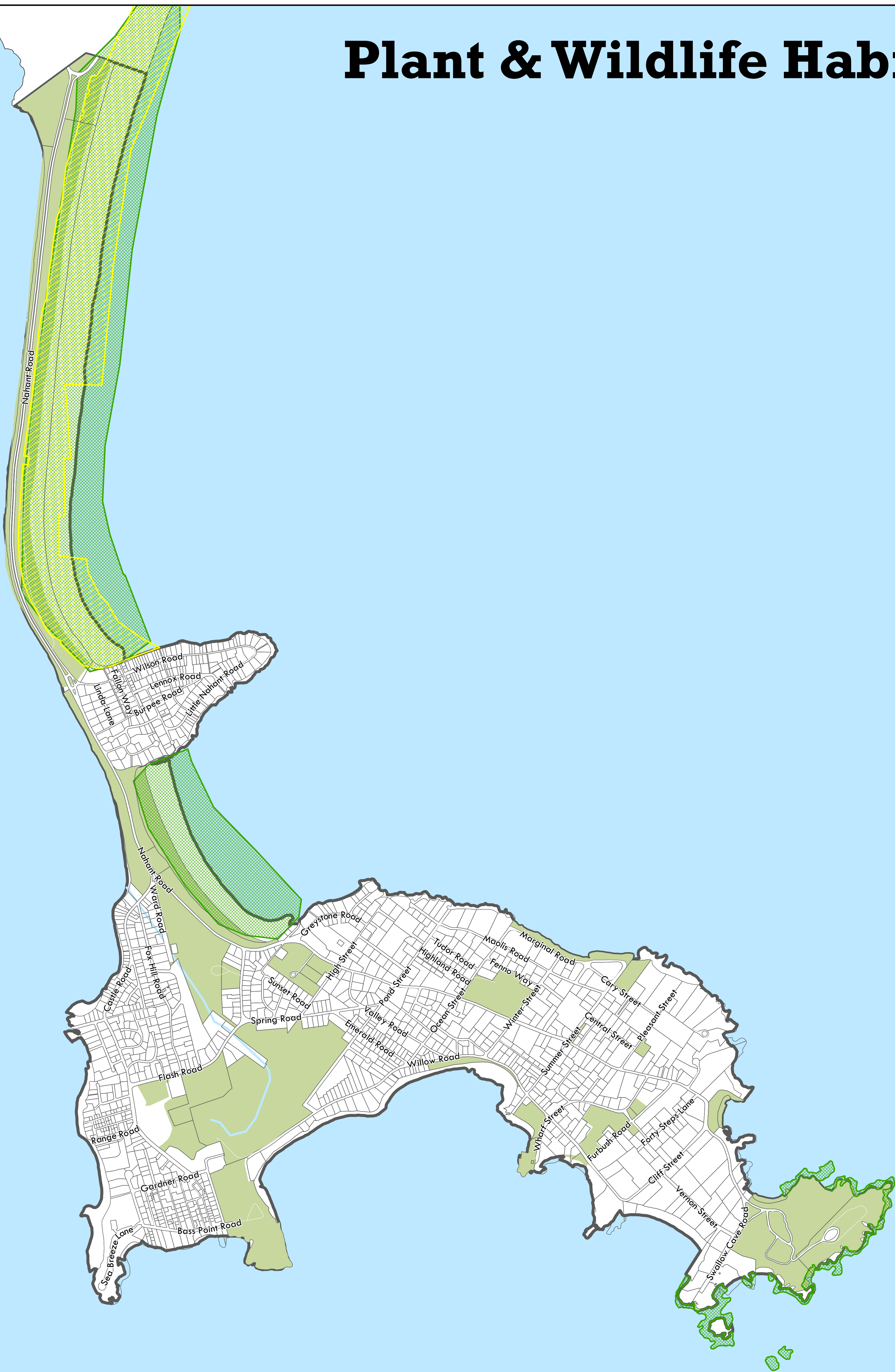
Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

September 2022



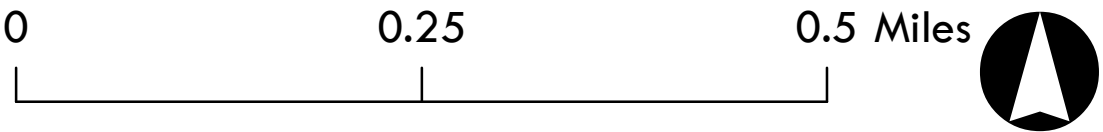


# Plant & Wildlife Habitat



## Plant & Wildlife Habitat

- Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- BioMap2 Core Habitat
- BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape
- Open Space
- Rivers and Streams



The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only.  
It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory  
interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

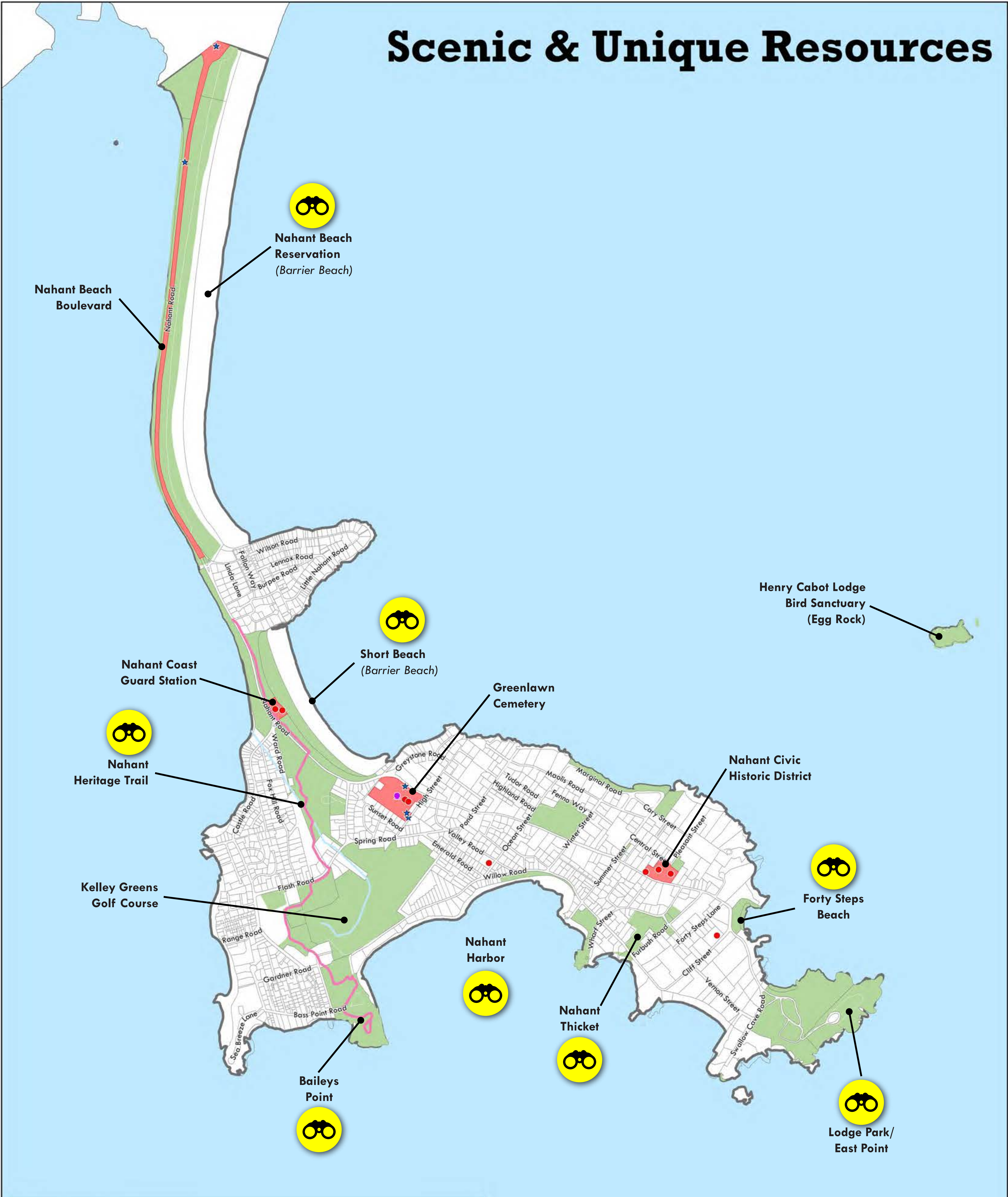
Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

September 2022





# Scenic & Unique Resources



## Scenic and Unique Resources

- Open Space
- National Register Designation
- Historic Building
- Historic Burial Ground
- Historic Structure
- Nahant Heritage Trail
- Scenic Landscapes/Views



The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

September 2022





# Open Space & Recreation



## Nahant Open Space Inventory

### Ownership

- Town of Nahant
- Land Trust
- Private
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### Level of Protection

- Permanently Protected
- Limited Protection
- No Protection

### Walking Trails

- Existing
- Under Construction / In Design
- Envisioned / Planned

### Landline Regional Greenways

- Greenway Route
- Greenway and Walking Trail
- Regional Walking Trail

### Bicycle Facilities

- Bike Lane - Proposed
- Bike Lane, Existing
- Marked Shared-Lane - Proposed
- Marked Shared-Lane, Existing
- Shared-Use Path - Proposed
- Shared-Use Path, Existing

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

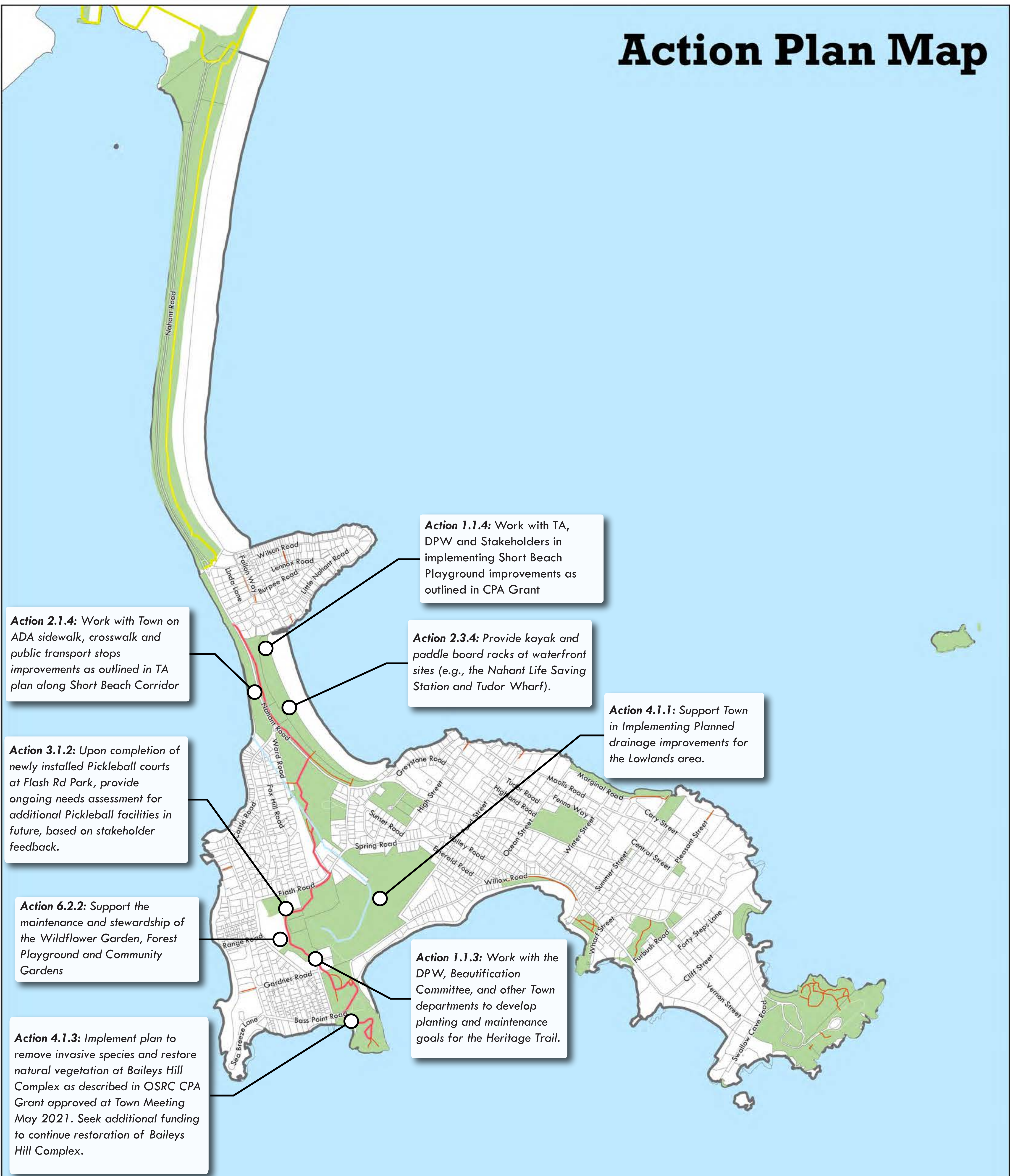
Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

September 2022





# Action Plan Map



**Nahant Open Space**  

Open Space

**Walking Trails**  

Existing

**Landline Regional Greenways**  

Greenway Route

Greenway and Walking Trail

Regional Walking Trail

00.250.5 Miles

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Data Sources: MAPC, MassGIS, MassDOT

September 2022

MAPC

dc

dc

Document Path: \\data-001\public\DataServices\Projects\Current\_Projects\OpenSpace\_Plans\Nahant\Nahant\_Action Plan Map\_Final.mxd



## Appendix C

# TOWN OF NAHANT

## OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

The Town of Nahant with the assistance of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is preparing an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). This OSRP is an update to Nahant's 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan and will serve to guide the Town's decisions on open space and recreation activities for the next seven years. The Town and the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee invite you to join us for a virtual meeting and open house to give your input into the development of this plan. This will be the first of several opportunities during the update process to learn more about the OSRP and to provide input. Please register for the Live Presentation using the [Zoom link](#) below. If you can't join us for the Live Presentation, we will be publishing a link to the recording and the Virtual Open House on the Town's [Open-Space](#) web page where you can view content and provide input.

### Live Presentation:

Thursday, March 25, 2021

7:00pm -8:00 pm

### Register Here:

[mapc.ma/nahantospforum](http://mapc.ma/nahantospforum)

*(Following the Live Presentation)*

### Virtual Open House:

Mar. 25- Apr. 16, 2021

A link to the site will be posted on the [Open-Space](#) web page

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Demographic Information**  
A snapshot of Nahant's demographic trends.
- **Recreational Resources**  
A summary of key open space and recreational resources in Nahant.
- **Virtual Open House**  
Review project information and potential goals at your convenience and provide feedback on the priorities of the plan.



NAHANT 2021 OSRP KICK-OFF MEETING

# **Town of Nahant**

## **2021 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

**Community Forum & Virtual Open House**

*March 25, 2021*



# NOTIFICATION OF RECORDING

This meeting will be recorded and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) may choose to retain and distribute the video, still images, audio, and/or the chat transcript. By continuing with this virtual meeting, you are consenting to participate in a recorded event. The recordings and chat transcript will be considered a public record. If you do not feel comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera and/or mute your microphone, or leave the meeting.



# **Town of Nahant**

## **2021 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

**Community Forum & Virtual Open House**

*March 25, 2021*



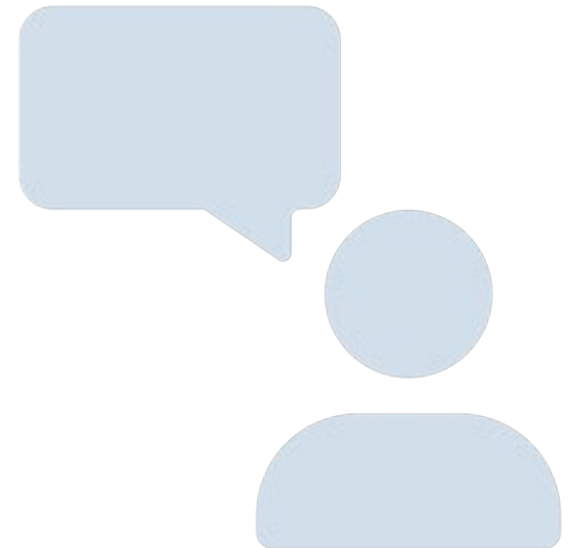


# Chat Box Question

---

*In the chat function tell us:*

**What is your favorite park or open space to visit in Nahant?**



# Presentation

Zoom



- Introduction to the Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan and planning process
- Overview of demographic and land use trends
- Prominent Parks and open spaces in Nahant
- Next Steps



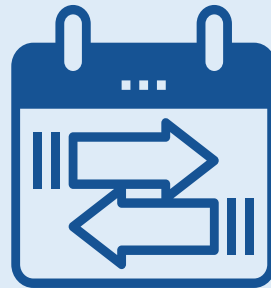
**30-45**  
*min*

# Virtual Open House

Qualtrics



- Tell us what you enjoy about Nahant's parks and open spaces.
- Prioritize and provide feedback on the OSRP Goals
- Tell us about any current park or recreational deficiencies, opportunities, or challenges
- <http://mapc.ma/NahantOSRPVirtualOpenHouse>



**25-09**  
*March-April*



# Introduction

- What is “Open Space?”
- Why complete an OSRP?

# What is “open space?”

- Often refers to conservation land, forested land, recreation land, agricultural land, corridor parks and amenities such as small parks or green buffers along roadways



- The term can also refer to vacant or undeveloped lands with conservation or recreation potential

*Open space varies by ownership, level of protection, and use*



# Why Parks are Important

## Park and Open Spaces Benefits:

---



**Promote Healthy  
Lifestyles**



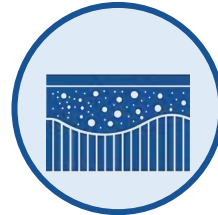
**Increase Access to  
Healthy Foods**



**Capture & Clean  
Stormwater**



**Stabilize  
Neighborhoods**



**Clean Soil**



**Create Habitat  
for Wildlife**



**Promote  
Social Interaction**



**Improve  
Air Quality**



**Provide Flood  
Protection**

# Types of Recreation

Parks and open spaces can be utilized for either passive or active recreation

- **Passive recreation** requires minimal facilities/development and is often less of an environmental impact
- Examples: **walking, hiking, fishing**



- **Active recreation** involves structured activities which require specialized parkland development and management
- Examples: **playgrounds, sports/ball fields, swimming pools**



# Why complete an OSRP?

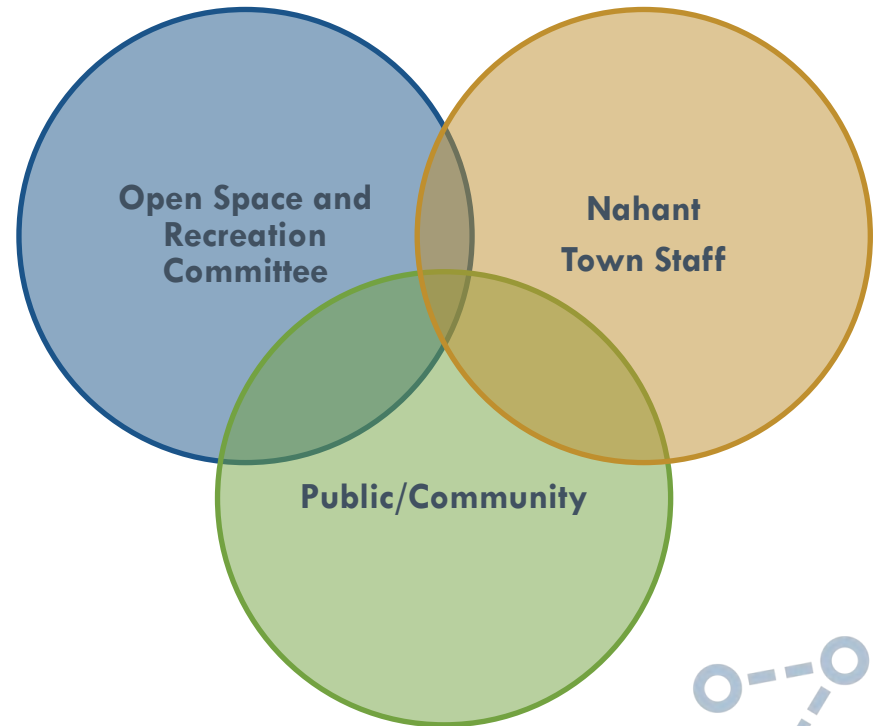


- An Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) provides information about the community, its environmental and recreational resources, and what residents want to achieve in the **next 7 years**
- OSRPs help encourage community protection and stewardship of these vital resources
- Completion of an OSRP makes municipalities **eligible to apply for State grants** through the EOEEA to acquire and improve land for conservation and recreation

# The Planning Team

## Open Space and Recreation Committee

- *Margaret Alexander*
- *Ellen Antrim*
- *Nancy Cantelmo*
- *Paula M. Devereaux*
- *Rebecca Pillsbury Durgin*



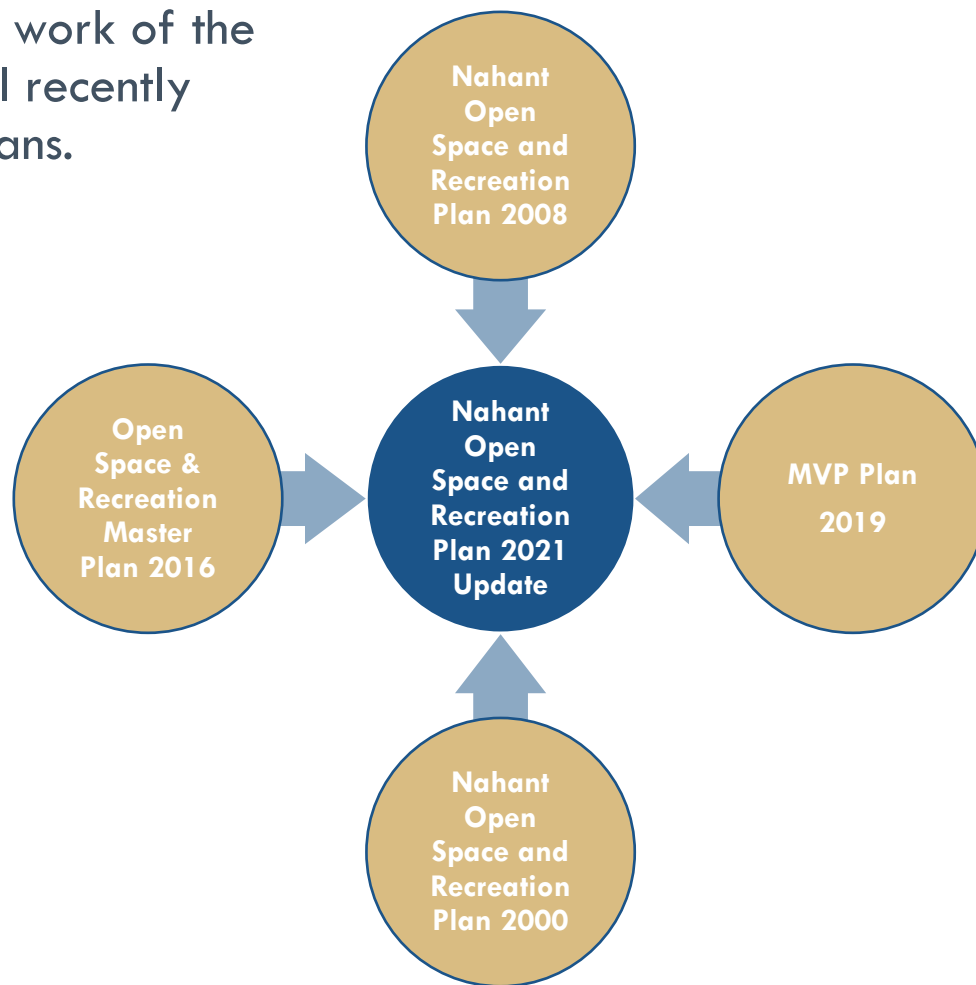
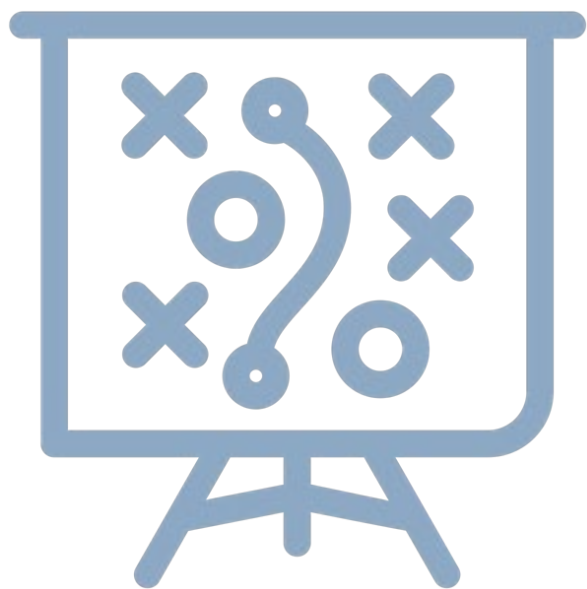
**We also need  
your input!**





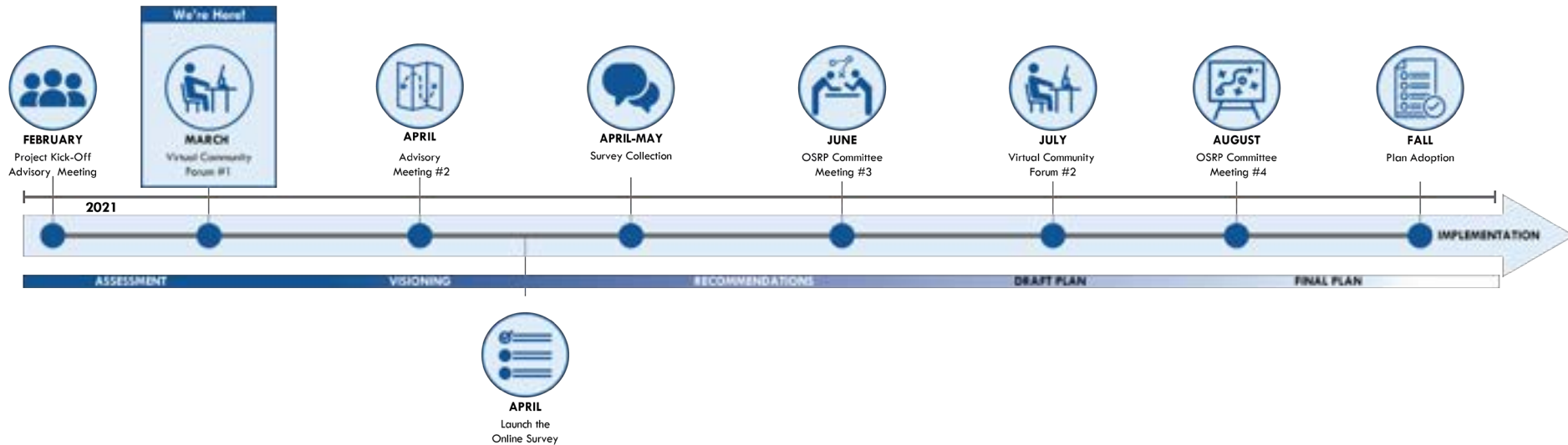
# Relationship to Other Plans

- The 2021 OSRP will build off the work of the previous OSRP as well as several recently completed Town-wide studies/plans.



# The Process

## PROJECT TIMELINE

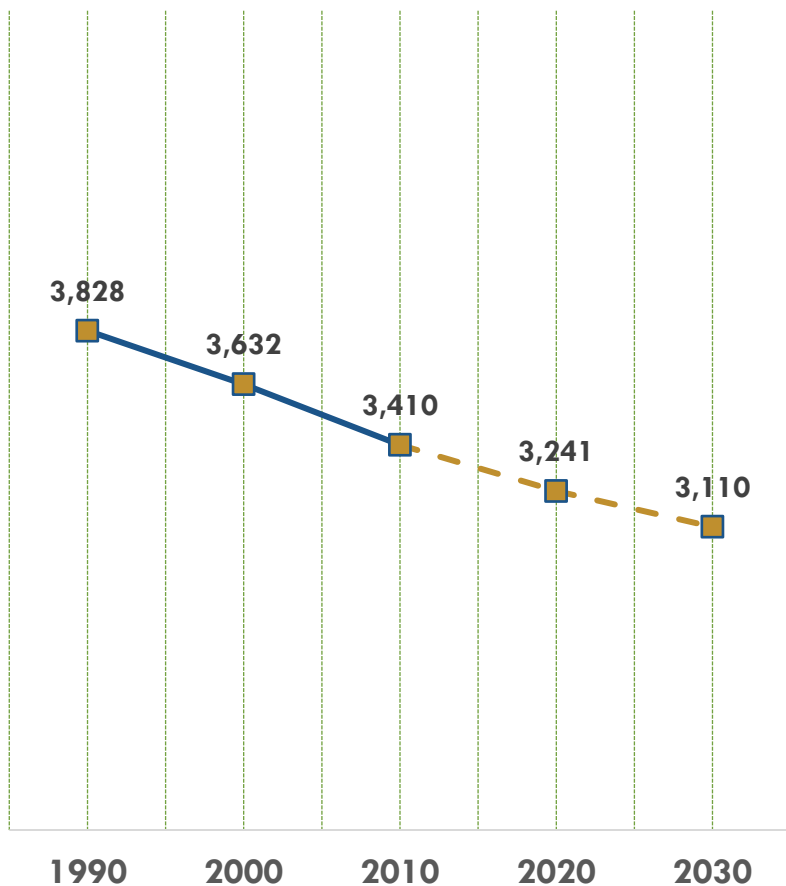




# Data Trends

- Population
- Land Use

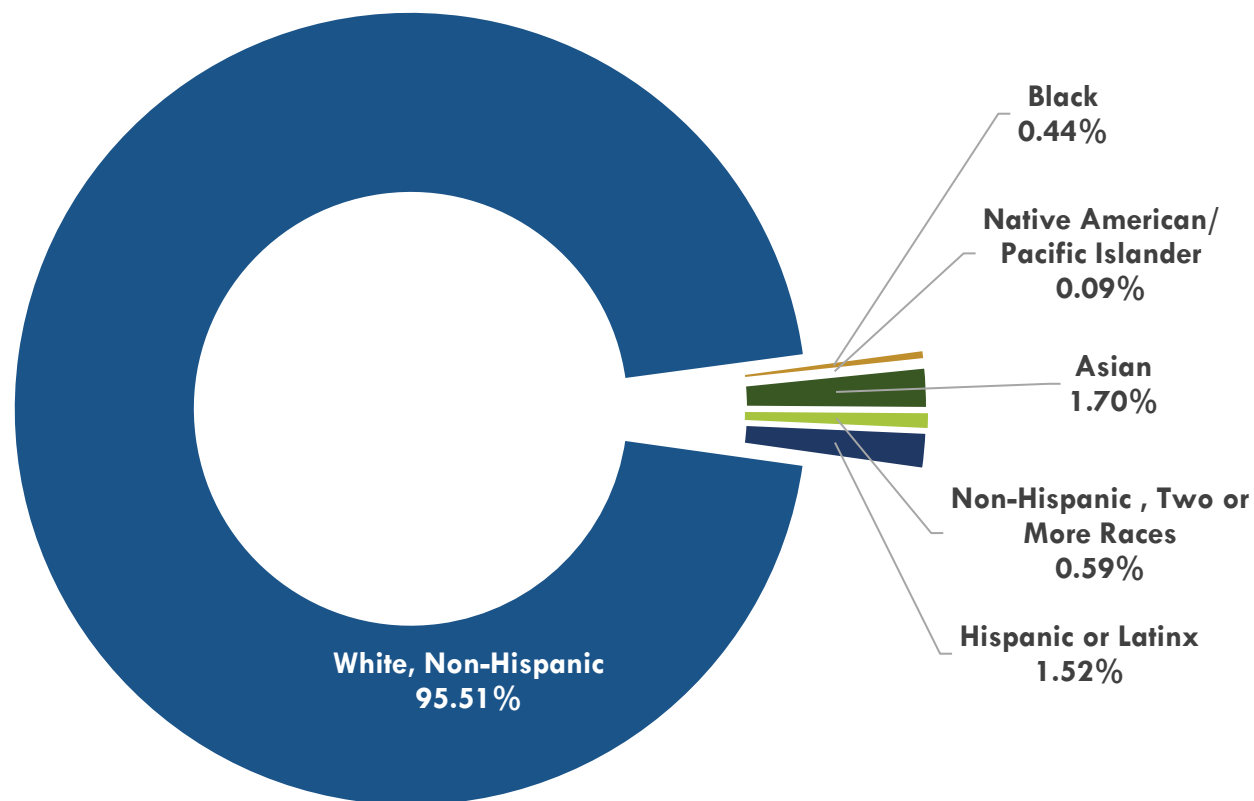
# Population



- Trends show that from 1990-2010, Nahant saw a gradual decline in population.
- Future projections estimate a n8% decrease in the total population by 2030



# Race & Ethnicity



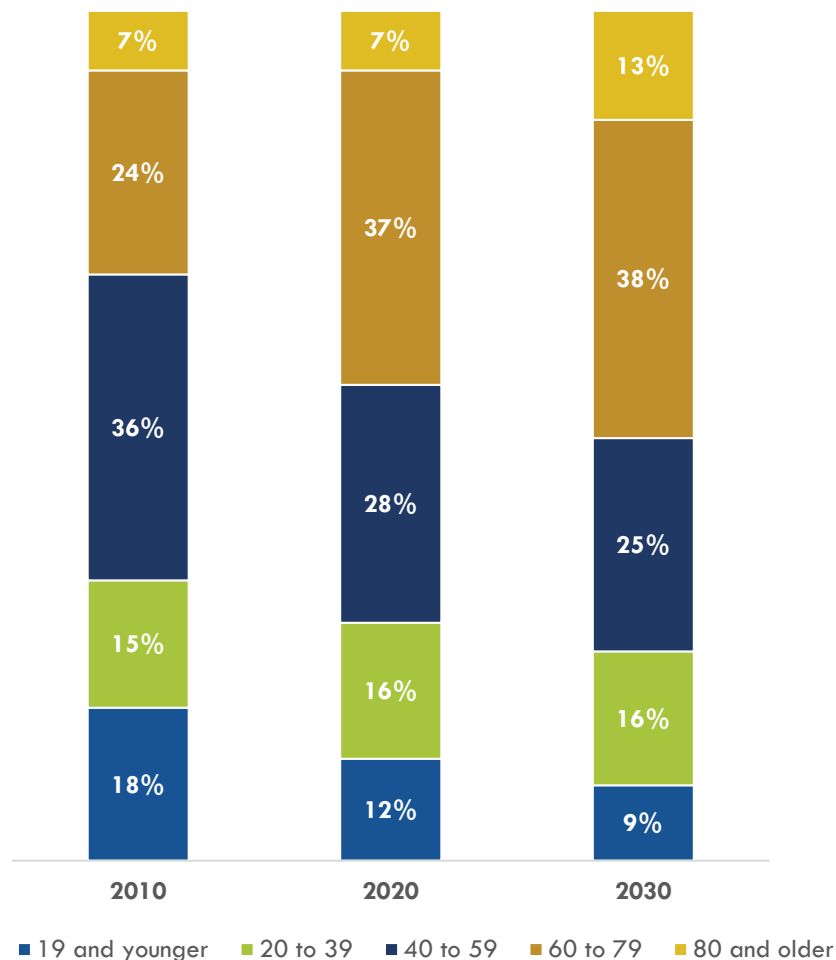
- Nahant is less racially diverse than surrounding communities with approximately 96% of the population identifying as White, Non-Hispanic
- People of Color make up the remaining 4% of the population with 1.7% of individuals identifying as Asian.

# Households



- “A household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit.”
- Household numbers fluctuated slightly between 1990 and 2010
- Population projections show a 4% increase in the number of households in Nahant by 2030

# Age Cohorts



- *A significant portion of the population is between the ages of 40 and 59*
- *Different user bases use recreations spaces with variable frequency and for a range of activities.*

# Age Cohorts

- **Example:** Facilities required by a large youth sports organization differ from those enabling individual passive recreation activities pursued by older residents.



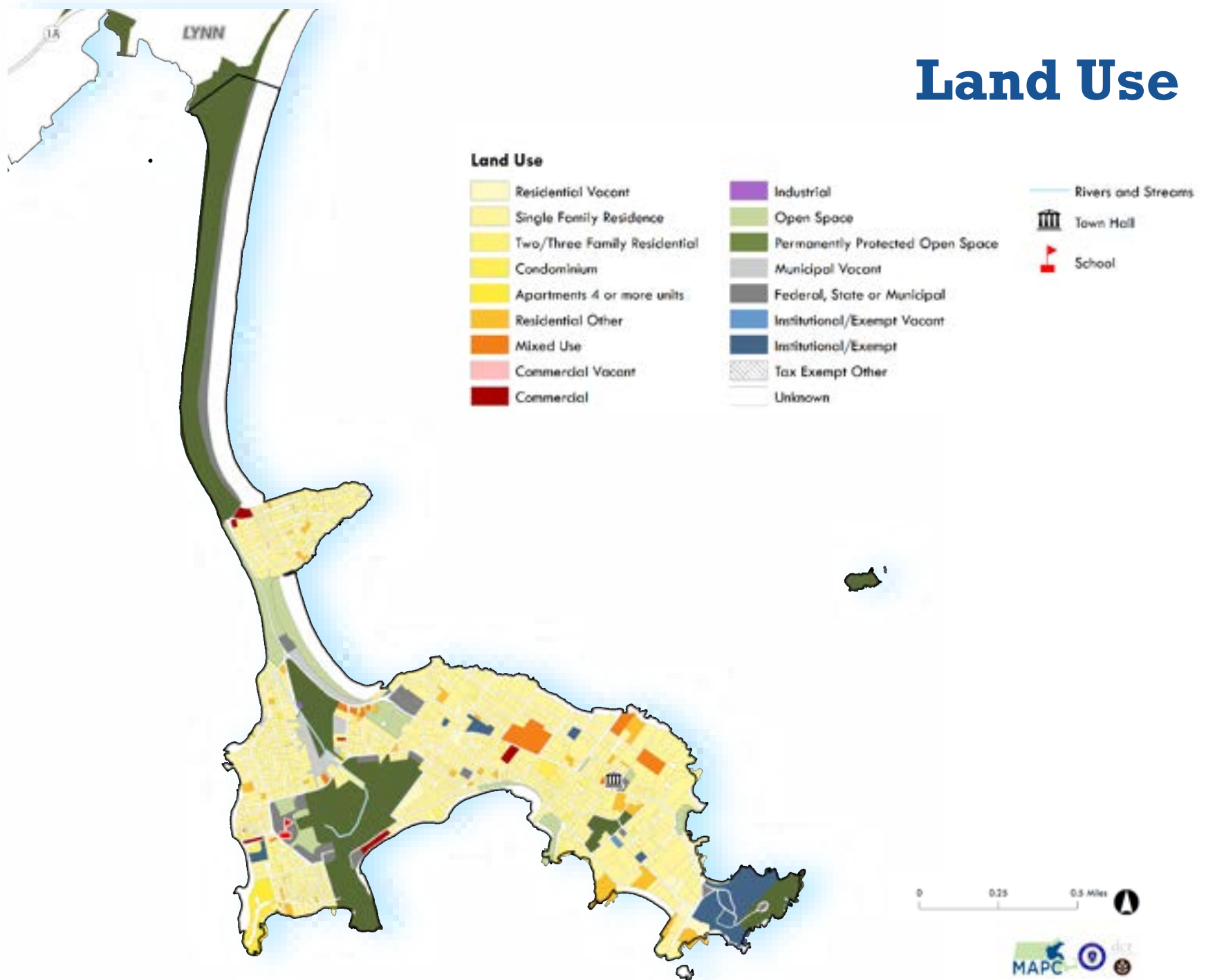


# Land Use

Property Type	Square Feet	Acres	% Total
<b>Residential</b>	<b>15,363,735.50</b>	<b>352.70</b>	<b>45.67%</b>
Single Family	12,730,650.50	292.26	37.84%
Two/Three Family	660,019.00	15.15	1.96%
Condominium	140,019.17	3.21	0.42%
Multifamily (4 or more units)	396,952.77	9.11	1.18%
Other Residential	869,444.38	19.96	2.58%
Vacant	566,649.68	13.01	1.68%
<b>Mixed Use</b>	<b>559,745.30</b>	<b>12.85</b>	<b>1.66%</b>
<b>Commercial/Industrial</b>	<b>486,207.88</b>	<b>11.16</b>	<b>1.45%</b>
Commercial	181,327.56	4.16	0.54%
Industrial	7,549.43	0.17	0.02%
Commercial/Industrial Vacant	297,330.89	6.83	0.88%
<b>Municipal/State/Federal</b>	<b>9,077,532.65</b>	<b>208.39</b>	<b>26.98%</b>
Municipal/State/Federal Vacant	1,520,726.55	34.91	4.52%
<b>Institutional</b>	<b>1,288,516.03</b>	<b>29.58</b>	<b>3.83%</b>
Institutional Vacant	201,075.24	4.62	0.60%
<b>Exempt Other</b>	<b>60,645.87</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>0.18%</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>3,454,413.87</b>	<b>79.30</b>	<b>10.27%</b>
<b>Right-of-Ways</b>	<b>3,188,849.28</b>	<b>73.21</b>	<b>9.48%</b>
Public	3,181,887.11	73.05	9.46%
Private	6,962.16	0.16	0.02%
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>162,929.73</b>	<b>3.74</b>	<b>0.48%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,642,576.10</b>	<b>772.33</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

- *Nearly half of Nahant's land is comprised of residential development, the majority of which are single-family homes*
- *More than a quarter is tax-exempt public land, which includes open space, schools, municipal buildings, etc.*

# Land Use





# Open Space

- Inventory
- Prominent parks and open spaces

# Inventory

Ownership	Acres	% Total
State	69.73	35.75
Municipal	120.18	61.62
Land Trust/Conservation Org.	4.13	2.11
Private	0.98	0.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>195.02</b>	<b>100%</b>

Level of Protection	Acres	% Total
Protected	157.58	80.80
Limited Protection	37.45	19.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>195.02</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: MassGIS Protected and Recreational Open Space Database

- The majority of open space in Nahant is municipally owned
- Land specifically acquired for conservation and recreation purposes are considered protected by “Article 97” of the State Constitution
- Lands purchased for general municipal purposes are not protected by Article 97, but are considered to have limited protection due to their public ownership



# Open Space





# Bailey's Hill Park

Town Owned

*Use: Recreation*



**Size:**

**4.6 ac**

**Amenities:**

- *Heritage Trail endpoint*
- *Gazebo*
- *Benches*



# Kelley Greens Golf Course

**Town Owned/ Privately Leased**

***Use: Recreational***



**Size:**

**27.4 ac**

**Amenities:**

- 9-hole golf course
- Bear Pond
- Benches





# Flash Road Recreation Facility

Town Owned

*Use: Recreational*



**Size:**

**~17.33 ac**

**Amenities:**

- Soccer fields
- Baseball fields
- Basketball Courts
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Picnic tables





# Nahant Thicket Wildlife Sanctuary

Land Trust (Mass Audubon Society)

*Use: Conservation/ Passive Recreation*



Size:

4. ac

Amenities:

- Walking trails
- Parking





# Lynn Shore Reservation

State Owned (DCR)

*Use: Recreation*



**Size:**

**22. ac**

**Amenities:**

- *Playground*
- *Athletic fields*
- *Bandstand*
- *Picnic area*
- *Boat ramps*
- *Restrooms*
- *Showers*



# Questions?





# What Happens Next?

---

The feedback and ideas received at today's meeting and follow-up **Open House** activities will be used to prepare the OSRP Community Survey and the feedback we receive will serve as a basis for the goals, strategies and actions of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Be sure to check the Open Space and Recreation Committee website, [https://www.nahant.org/documents/default.shtml#gpm2\\_13](https://www.nahant.org/documents/default.shtml#gpm2_13) for updates!



# Virtual Open House

---

## Instructions:

1. Click on the Open House link that is posted in the Chat Box
2. You will have an option to read some background information  
*(this is a summarized version of information covered in the PowerPoint presentation)*
3. Follow the instructions and answer each question  
**Participants will be able to share ideas and provide feedback until April 09<sup>th</sup>**
4. Make sure we have your email for updates on the plans and the forthcoming Parks and Recreation Survey

If you have questions about the background information or about the input exercises, feel free to email me at [CLewis@mapc.org](mailto:CLewis@mapc.org)





# Virtual Open House

**<http://mapc.ma/NahantOSRPVirtualOpenHouse>**

# Agenda

---

- **Introductions**

- Name and affiliation

- **Review Open House Findings**

- Debrief on public kick-off and Virtual Open House

- **Review Draft Survey Questions**

- Review draft questions for the Online Community Survey
- Suggest additional questions to add
- Discuss promotion and outreach

# **Town of Nahant**

## **2021 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

**OSRP Committee Meeting #2**

*May 4, 2021*



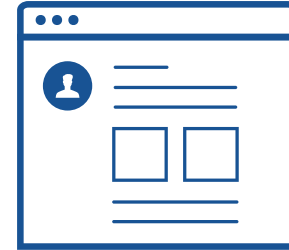
# Presentation & Open House

---



**23 Participants**

ATTENDED THE LIVE  
KICK-OFF PRESENTATION



**114 Respondents**

VISITED THE ONLINE OPEN HOUSE



**88 Respondents**

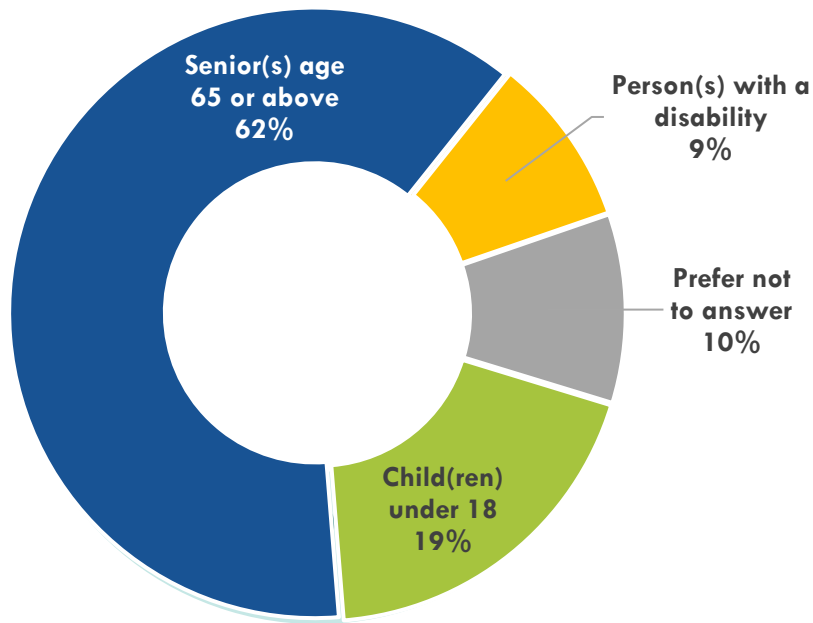
VISITED/COMPLETED ALL QUESTIONS  
THE ONLINE OPEN HOUSE



# Who Participated?

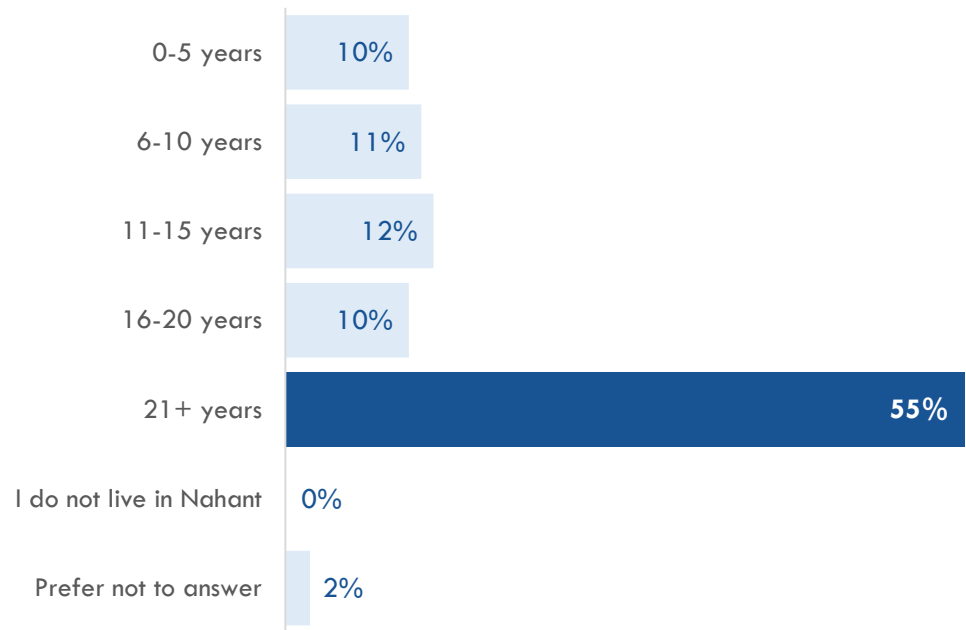
## HOUSEHOLD

Do you or any members of your household match the following descriptions?

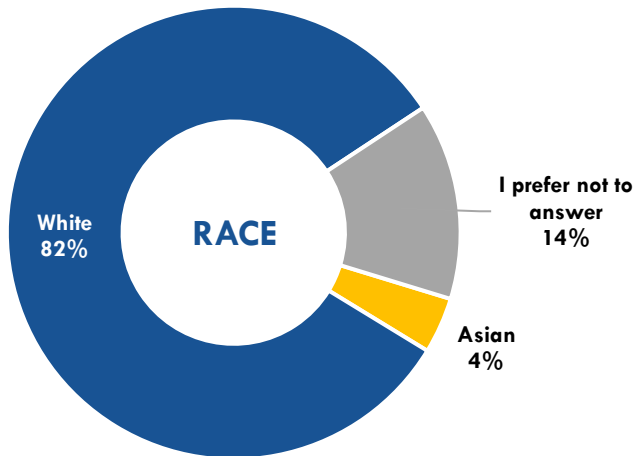
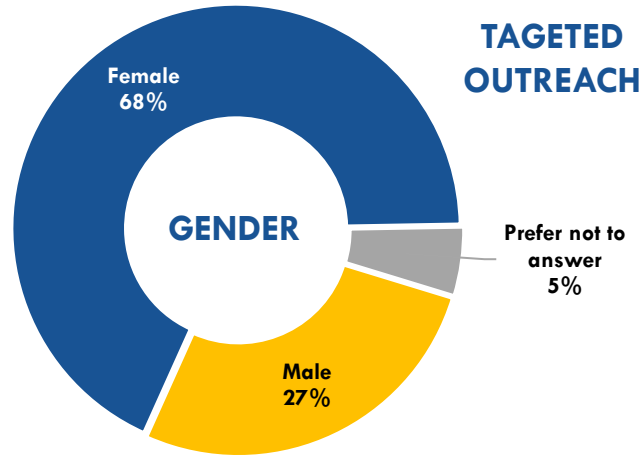


## TENURE

How long have you lived in Nahant?



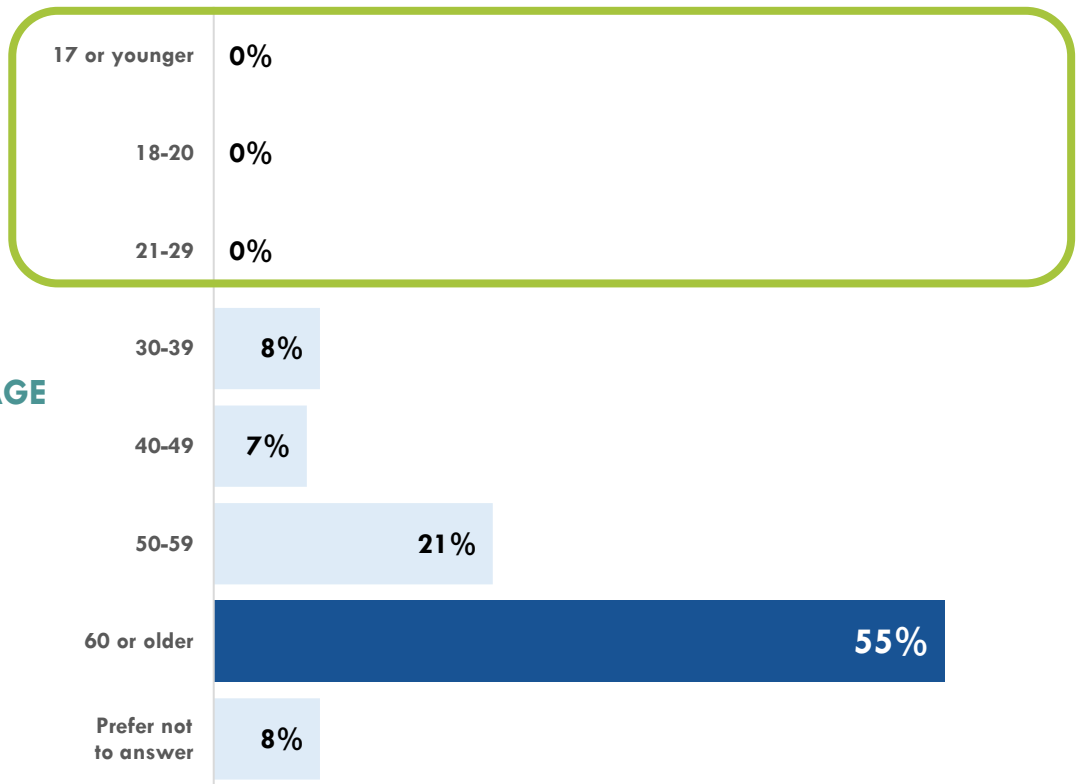
# Who Participated?



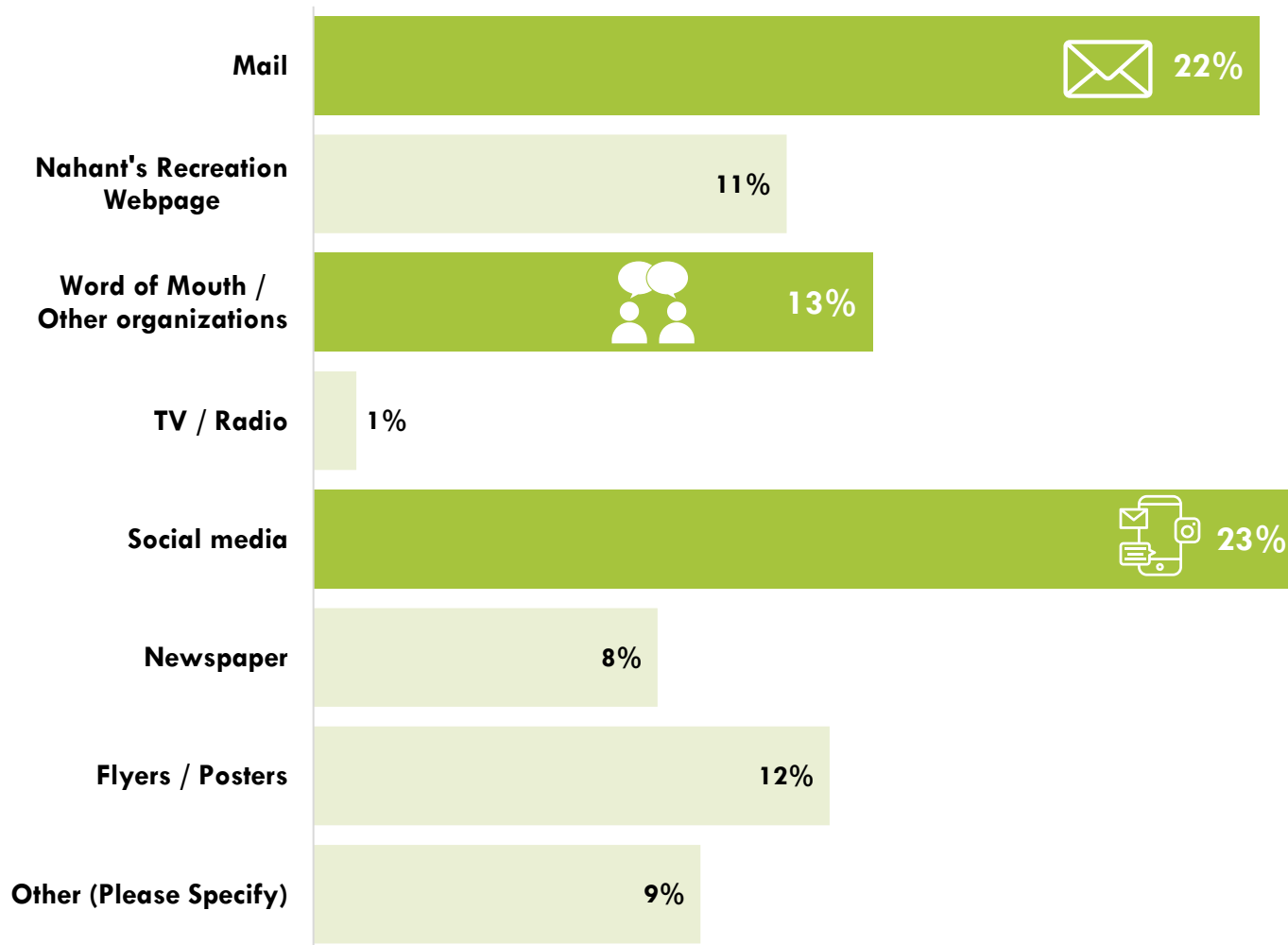
**TARGETED  
OUTREACH**



**AGE**

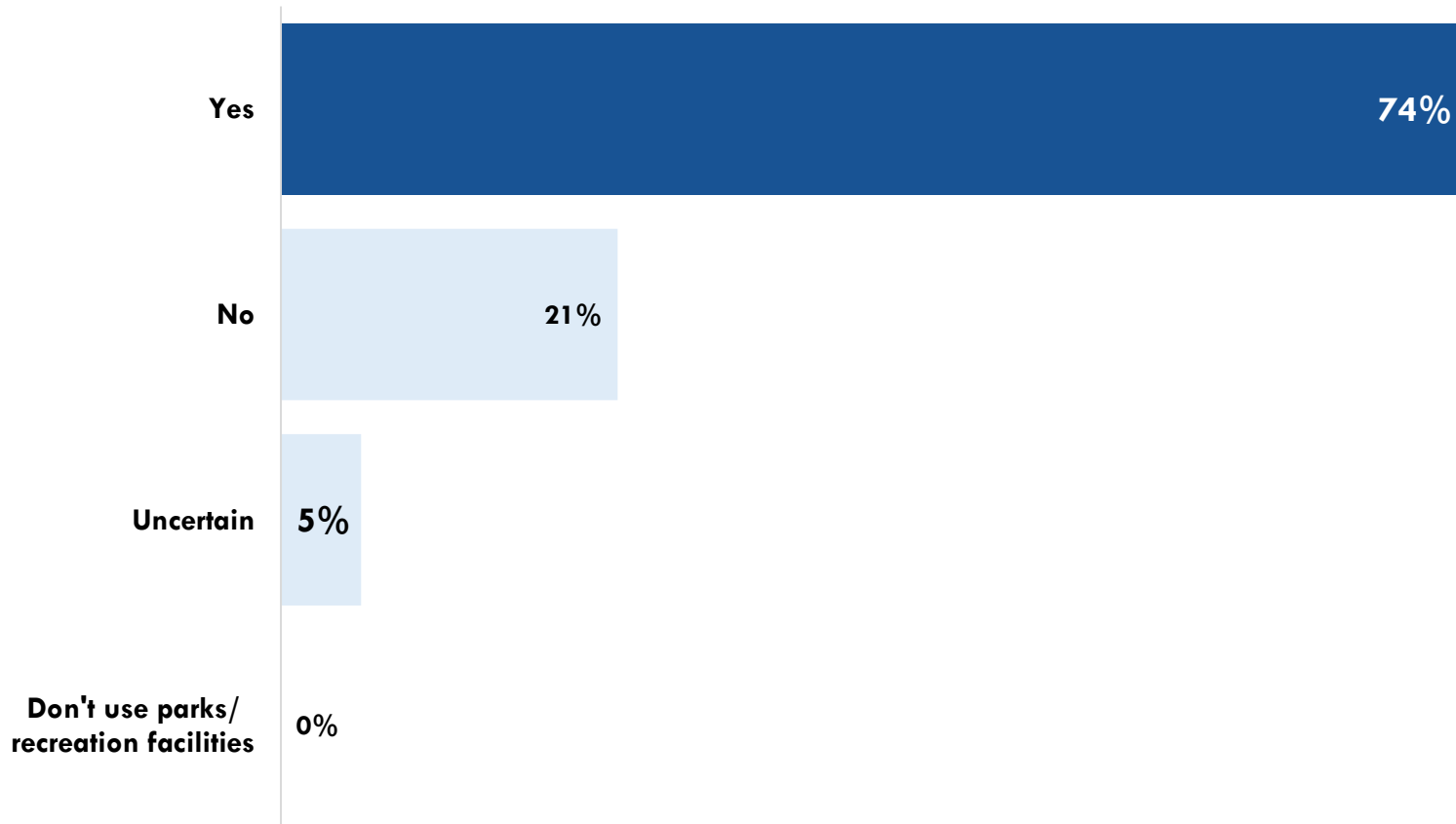


# What is the most effective way for you to find out about Nahant's events, recreation opportunities, and park programs? *(Select all the apply)*



# Do you feel there are adequate parks and usable green space within walking /biking distance from your home?

---





# How do you usually get to parks and open spaces in Nahant?



Walk / Jog, 67%



Drive, 25%



Bike, 6%

Email  
Other,  
2%



# What would encourage you to walk or bike to parks?

---

"Trim trees and shrubs to clear sidewalks"

"Seats. Bathroom. Events"

"Bike lanes"

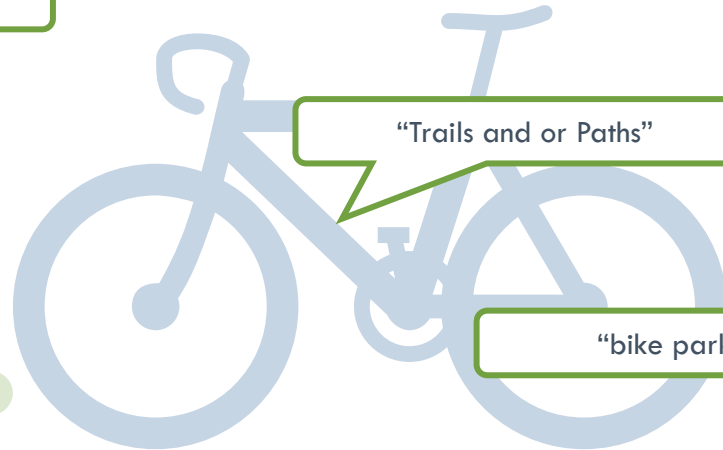
"better sidewalks"

"Trails and or Paths"

"bike parking"

"well marked or groomed paths, bike racks for locking, benches to rest"

"Less traffic, dedicated bike lanes, NO DOUBLE PARKING on Nahant Rd"



# What Respondents Value

**In general, what makes a park valuable to you?**

“Healthy pristine ecosystems”

“Being able to take my dog on a walk.”

Sandy beach for walking/sitting and access to swimming in salt water

**#1**

**BEAUTY** (e.g. natural features, landscape, views)

**#2**

**PLACES TO CONNECT WITH NATURE**

**#3**

**CLEANLINESS**

4. Quiet places and places to relax
5. Easy to get to
6. Places to exercise or be active
7. Opportunities to socialize, be with family or friends
8. Safety
9. Lots of diverse activities in the park

## As Nahant invests in its parks system, what should it prioritize?

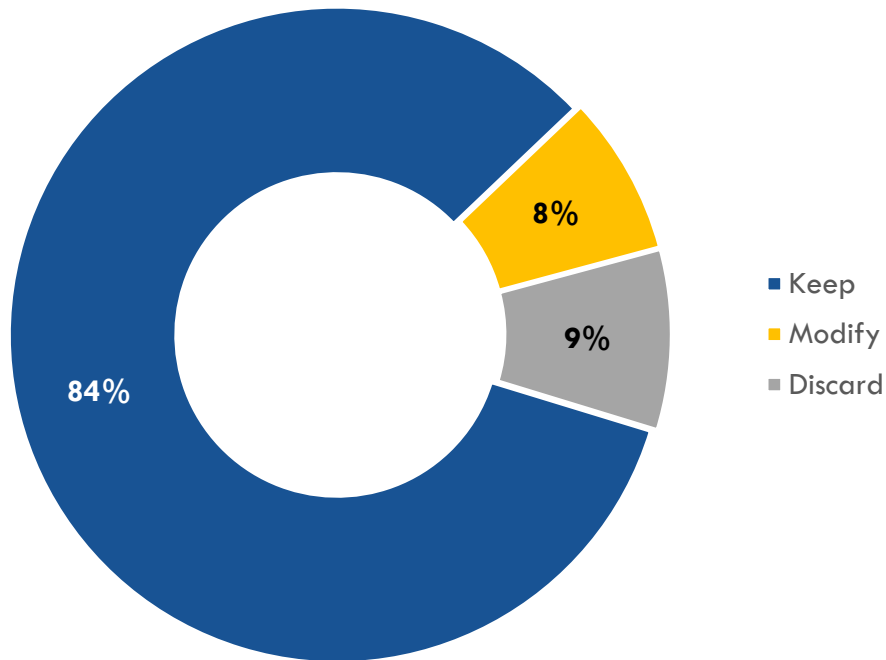
# Priorities

1	Maintain existing parks and facilities
2	Acquire land for conservation purposes (e.g. wildlife habitat and water supply protection)
3	Improve existing parks and facilities through new playgrounds, athletic fields, paving, trees, buildings
4	Add or enhance programs at parks and facilities (e.g. group exercise, arts and culture, outdoor education, concerts, markets)
5	Acquire land for recreational purposes (e.g. playgrounds, ballfields, boating)
6	Improve access to parks and facilities through trails, sidewalks, bike lands, safer crossings
7	Acquire land for parks and facilities in areas that lack parkland



# Plan Goals

- **Goal 1:** Protect existing open space and special plant and animal habitats.

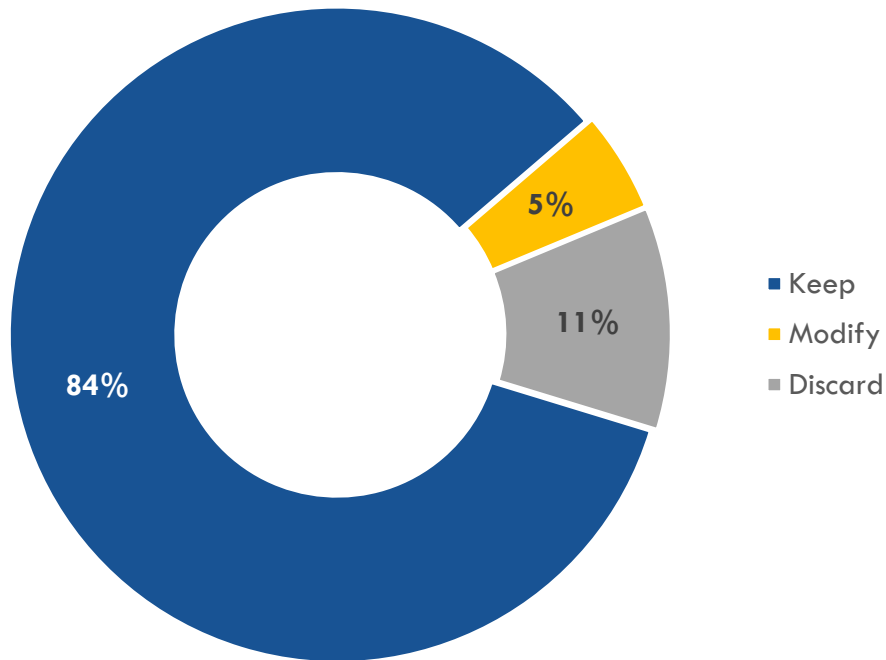


"Include all town owned land. I.e. street-to-shore lots."

"If, future NPT could be used to acquire property in Little Nahant, that should be priority and town should be working with NU and end adversarial relationship"

# Plan Goals

- **Goal 2:** Integrate cultural, recreational, and conservation activities.

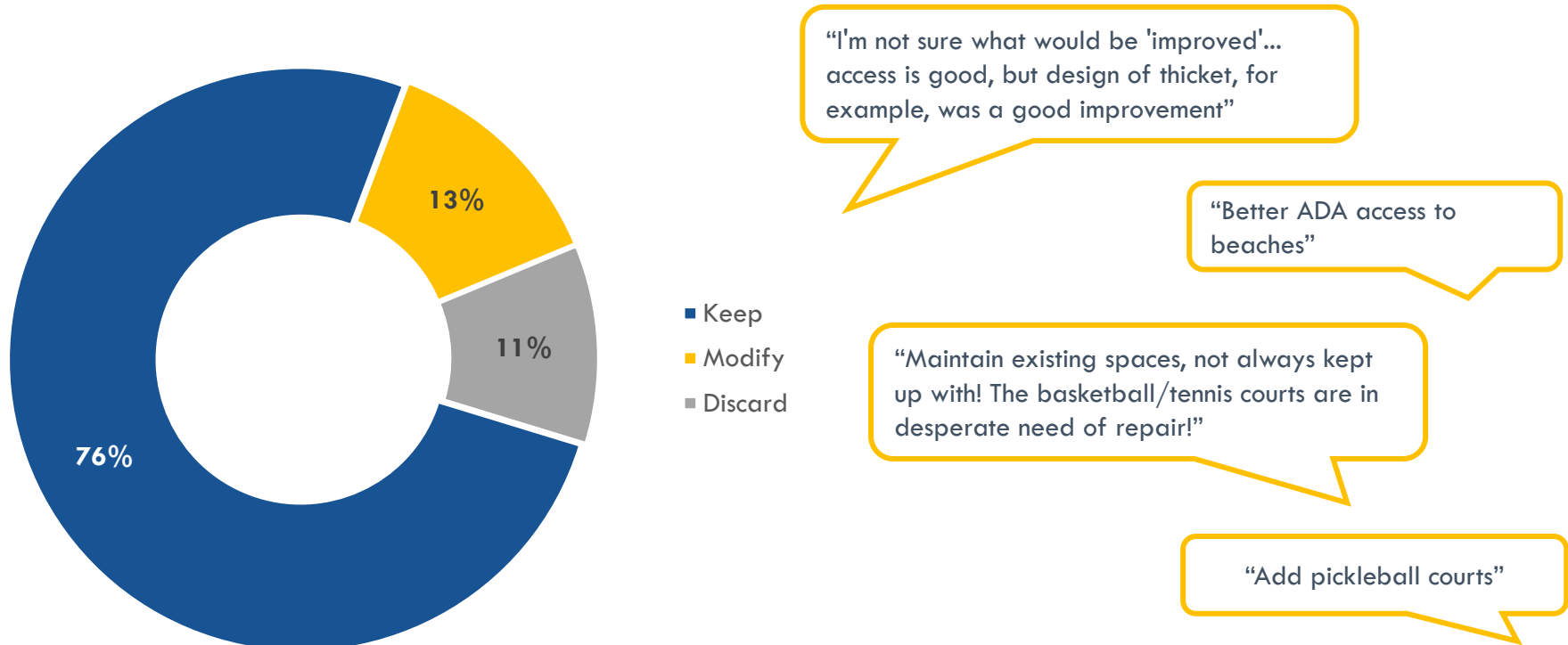


“each special interest group should anchor to one committee- for example trees planted at Flash Road playground impede recreation in that open area- was that coordinated?”

“Integrate cultural and conservation (remove “recreational”, as the other two are the enjoyment of place)”

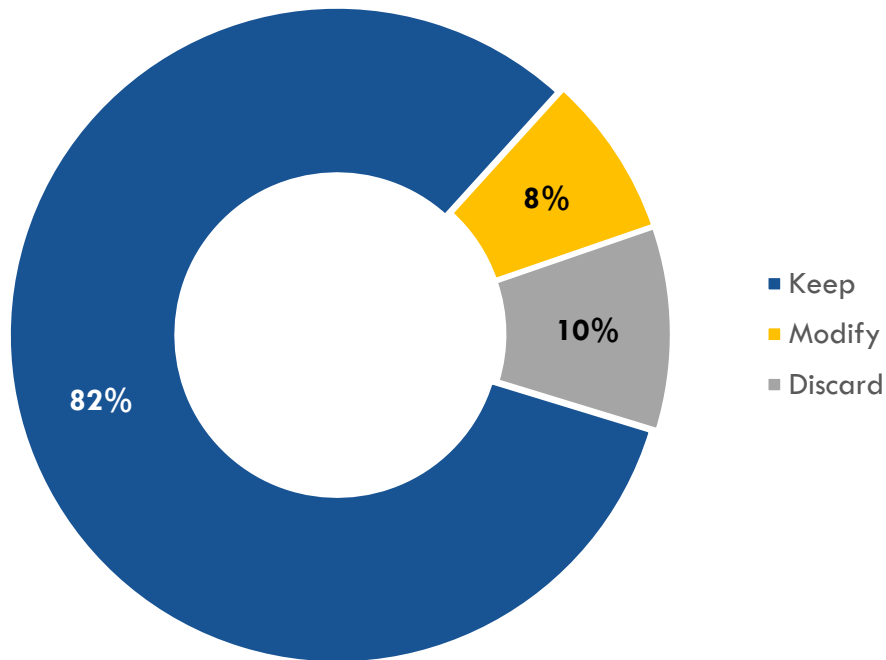
# Plan Goals

- **Goal 3:** Improve opportunities for open space recreation.



# Plan Goals

- **Goal 4:** Develop procedures for further evaluation of open space issues.

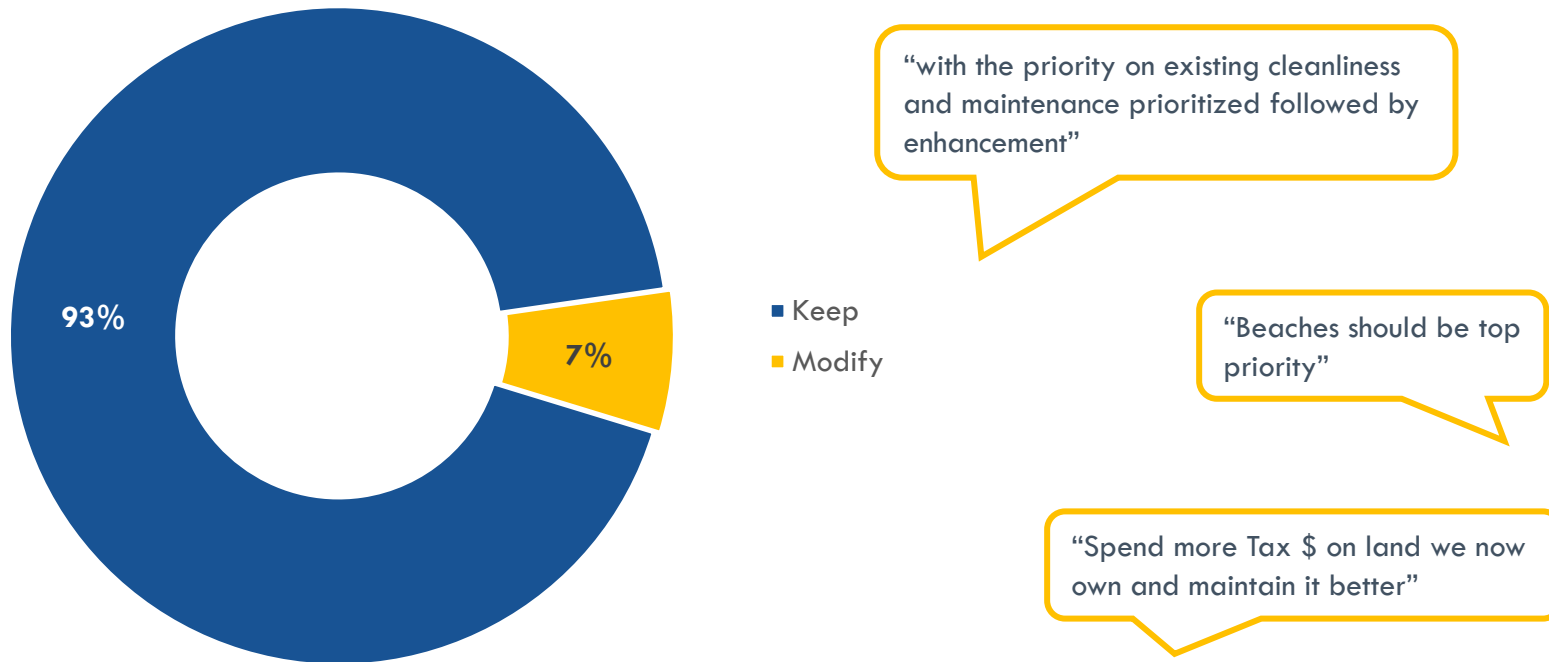


"Review open space issues periodically"

I'd say maintain monitoring

# Plan Goals

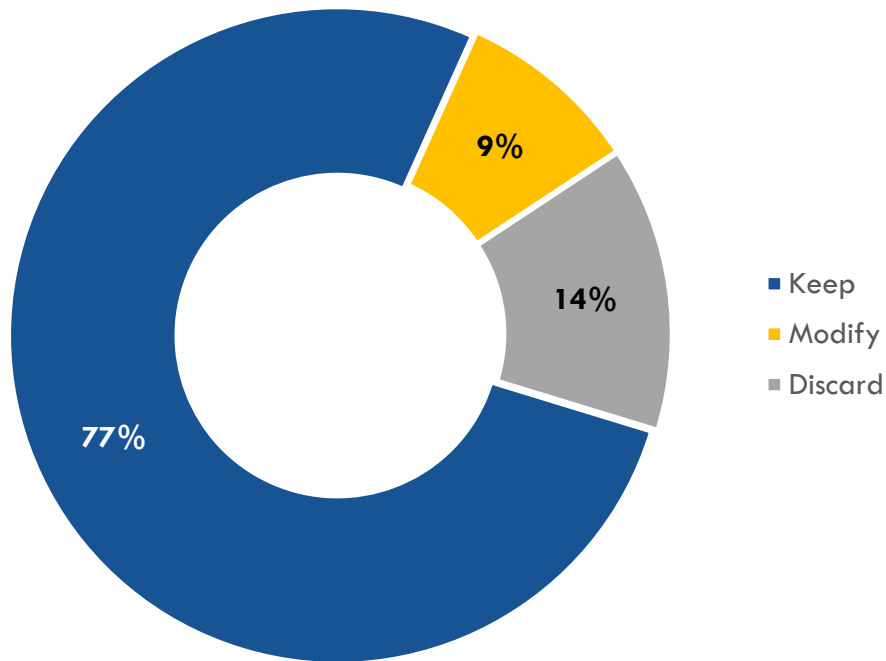
- **Goal 5:** Protect the quality of our beaches, surrounding waters, and skies.





# Plan Goals

- **Goal 6:** Increase the appreciation of Nahant's open space.



"How do you increase appreciation?"

"Education program for kids"

Address the deterioration of existing space we currently have!

# Comment Suggestions on New Goals

---

- Manage the infrastructure of all open space, including recreational, pedestrian, and vehicular, to maximize ecosystem services and ecological health of Nahant's natural living systems
- Partner with organizations to enhance recreation opportunities (NU, NPT, NHS, etc.)
- Enhance multigenerational and ADA access to open spaces and recreation
- Plant trees and other vegetation
  - Maintaining parks from invasive plants and weeds
  - Increased protection of open spaces plants and wildlife
  - Improve existing open space with invasive species vegetation management plan. Also plant more trees

# What did we miss? Please provide any general comments you have on specific town facilities and public spaces.

*(e.g. better lighting, restrooms, new benches, more trees, better maintenance, etc.)*

There should be a user fee to help maintain our facilities and open spaces by non-residents. This is especially needed at short beach, the town wharf, the softball fields, and doggie beach. Lots of people use these facilities but the residents are burdened to pay for all repairs and maintenance.

"We need swings at Marjoram park and Bailey Hill"

Planting native plants, educating people about the benefits of open space, community events that take advantage of our open space, funding for open space acquisition, funding for open space maintenance, more trash barrels

"more plantings like trees and shrubs"

"Restrooms and lighting"

"Let's take better care of the Open Spaces we currently have, before looking to acquire more. Some of our current Open Spaces look a bit dumpy."

# Survey Questions

---

- **Values, Goals and Priorities** *(Open House Questions)*
- **Park Use and Park Type**
  - Most Frequently Visited
  - Active vs Passive Recreation
- **Desired Amenities and Facilities** *(Now and in the future)*
- **Desired Programing**

# TOWN OF NAHANT

## OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

The Town of Nahant with the assistance of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is preparing an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). This OSRP is an update to Nahant's 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan and will serve to guide the Town's decisions on open space and recreation activities for the next seven years. The Town and the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee invite you to join us for a virtual meeting to give your input into the development of this plan. This second Community Forum will provide residents an opportunity to review and provide feedback on draft action items for the OSRP's Seven Year Action Plan. Please register for the meeting using the Zoom link below. If you can't join us for the Live Presentation, a recording of the meeting will be posted on the Town's [Open-Space-Recreation Plan Committee](#) web page.

### Zoom Meeting:

Monday, April 11, 2022

7:00pm -8:00 pm

### Register Here:

[mapc.ma/nahantospforum](https://mapc.ma/nahantospforum)

*(or scan this QR code)*



### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Project Update**  
A brief update on the OSRP planning process.
- **OSRP Survey Findings**  
A summary of the OSRP Community Survey results.
- **Seven Year Action Plan**  
An overview of proposed action items for the updated OSRP Seven Year Action Plan.

[Review the draft Action Plan Here!](#)

NAHANT

OSRP COMMUNITY FORUM





# **Town of Nahant**

## **2022 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

**Community Forum**

*April 11, 2022*



# NOTIFICATION OF RECORDING

This meeting will be recorded and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) may choose to retain and distribute the video, still images, audio, and/or the chat transcript. By continuing with this virtual meeting, you are consenting to participate in a recorded event. The recordings and chat transcript will be considered a public record. If you do not feel comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera and/or mute your microphone, or leave the meeting.



# **Town of Nahant**

## **2022 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

**Community Forum**

*April 11, 2022*





# Tonight's Agenda

---

- **Introductions**
- **Project Background**
- **Major Phases of Work**
- **Draft Seven Year Action Plan**
- **Next Steps**



# **Zoom Poll**

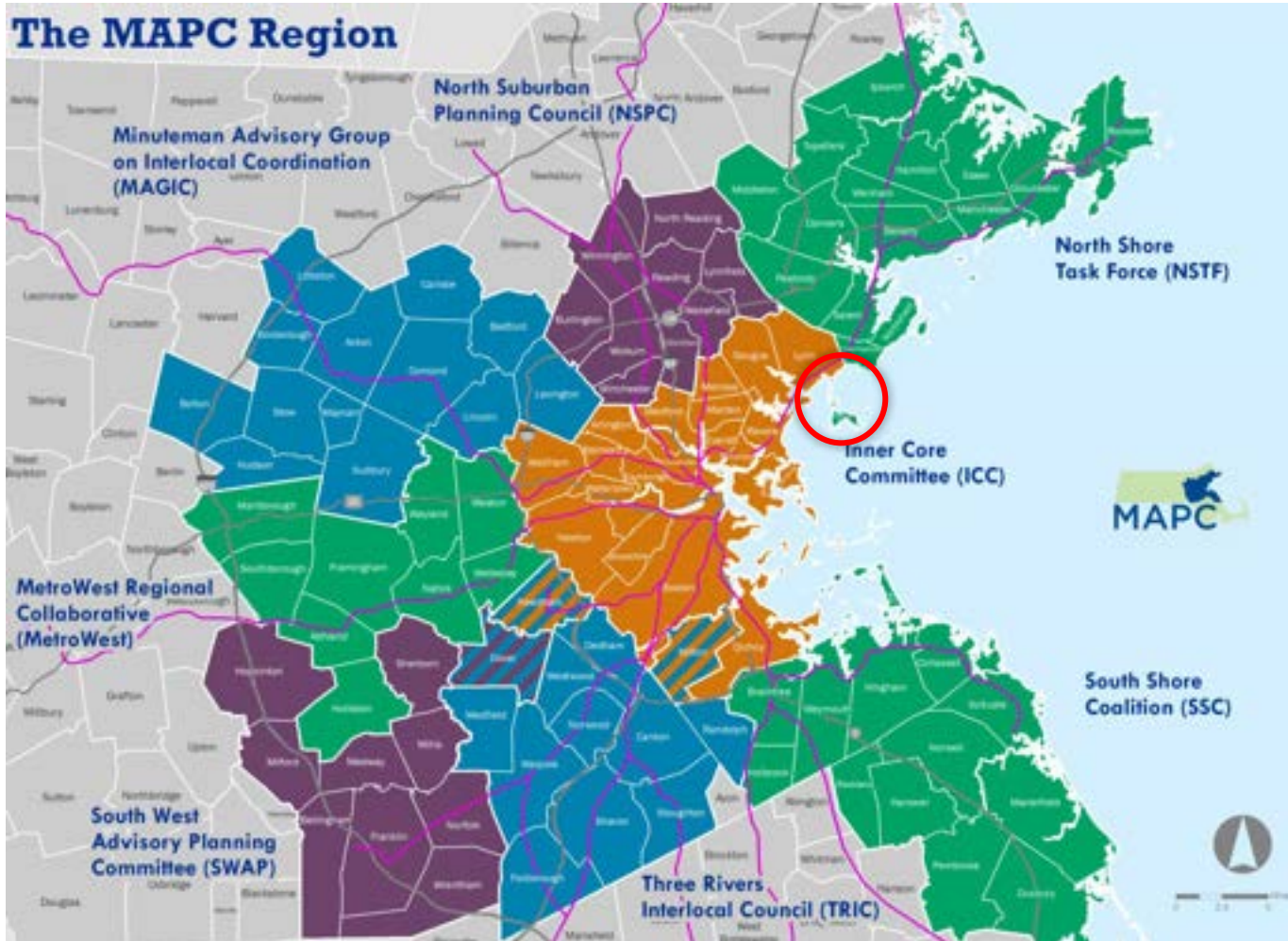
---

**Did you attend or watch the  
March 2021 Community Forum?**

**Did you take the OSRP Survey?**



# Who is MAPC?



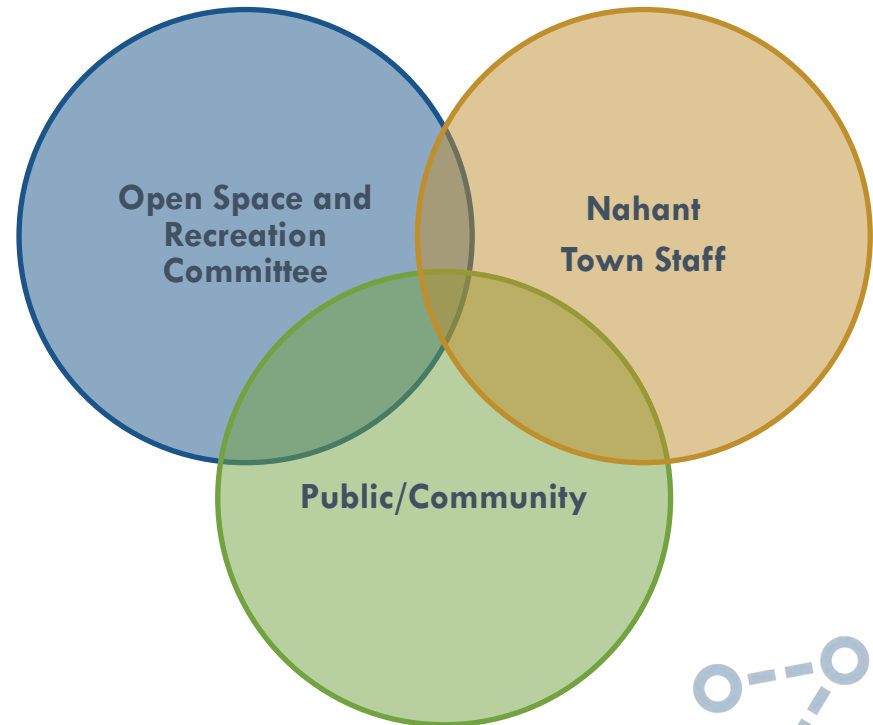
- 101 cities & towns
- 8 Subregions
- 4.3M people
- Smart Growth & Regional Collaboration

[www.mapc.org](http://www.mapc.org)

# The Planning Team

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

- *Paula Devereaux, Chair*
- *Nancy Cantelmo, Clerk*
- *Ellen Antrim*
- *Rebecca Durgin*
- *Trish Aldrich*



**We also need  
your input!**





# Project Background

# Why complete an OSRP?



- An Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) provides information about the community, its environmental and recreational resources, and what residents want to achieve in the **next 7 years**
- OSRPs help encourage community protection and stewardship of these vital resources
- Completion of an OSRP makes municipalities **eligible to apply for State grants** through the EOEEA to acquire and improve land for conservation and recreation



# Plan Outline

## OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLANNER'S WORKBOOK

Cooperating in the Development of the  
Open Space and Recreation  
Plan for the Metropolitan Area  
Planning Council  
Bureau of Open Space and Recreation  
Bureau of Planning  
Bureau of Community Services  
Bureau of Economic Development  
Bureau of Environmental Services  
Bureau of Health and Human Services  
Bureau of Housing and Community Development  
Bureau of Transportation  
Bureau of Urban and Community Development  
Bureau of Water and Wastewater Services

## NANTUCKET OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN 2008



Prepared for the  
Nantucket Open Space Management and Land Acquisition Committee  
September 2007  
John A. Brown  
Michael P. Brown  
Project, Nantucket  
Nantucket Open Space Management and Land Acquisition Committee  
September 2007

<b>Section 1</b>	Plan Summary
<b>Section 2</b>	Introduction
<b>Section 3</b>	Community Setting
<b>Section 4</b>	Environmental Inventory and Analysis
<b>Section 5</b>	Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest
<b>Section 6</b>	Community Vision
<b>Section 7</b>	Analysis of Needs
<b>Section 8</b>	Goals and Objectives
<b>Section 9</b>	Seven-Year Action Plan
<b>Appendix</b>	ADA Self-Evaluation



# Plan Maps





# Major Phases of Work

# Open Space



**DRAFT**



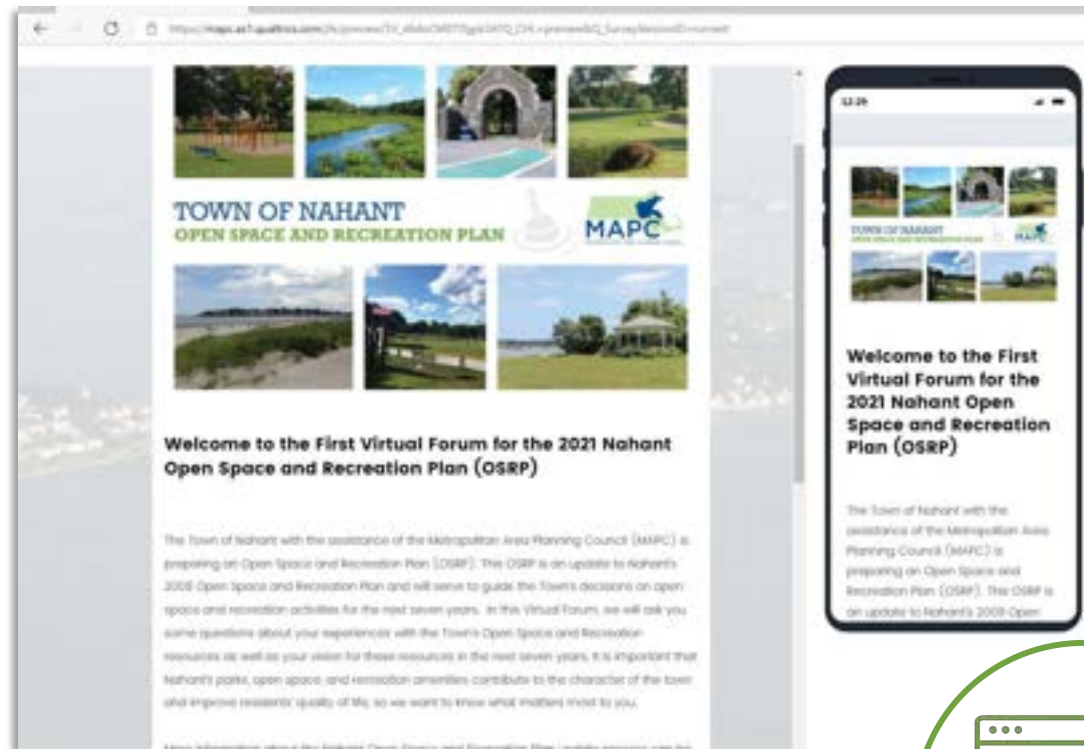
# Presentation & Open House

## March



## Kick-off Presentation

March 25<sup>th</sup> (via Zoom)



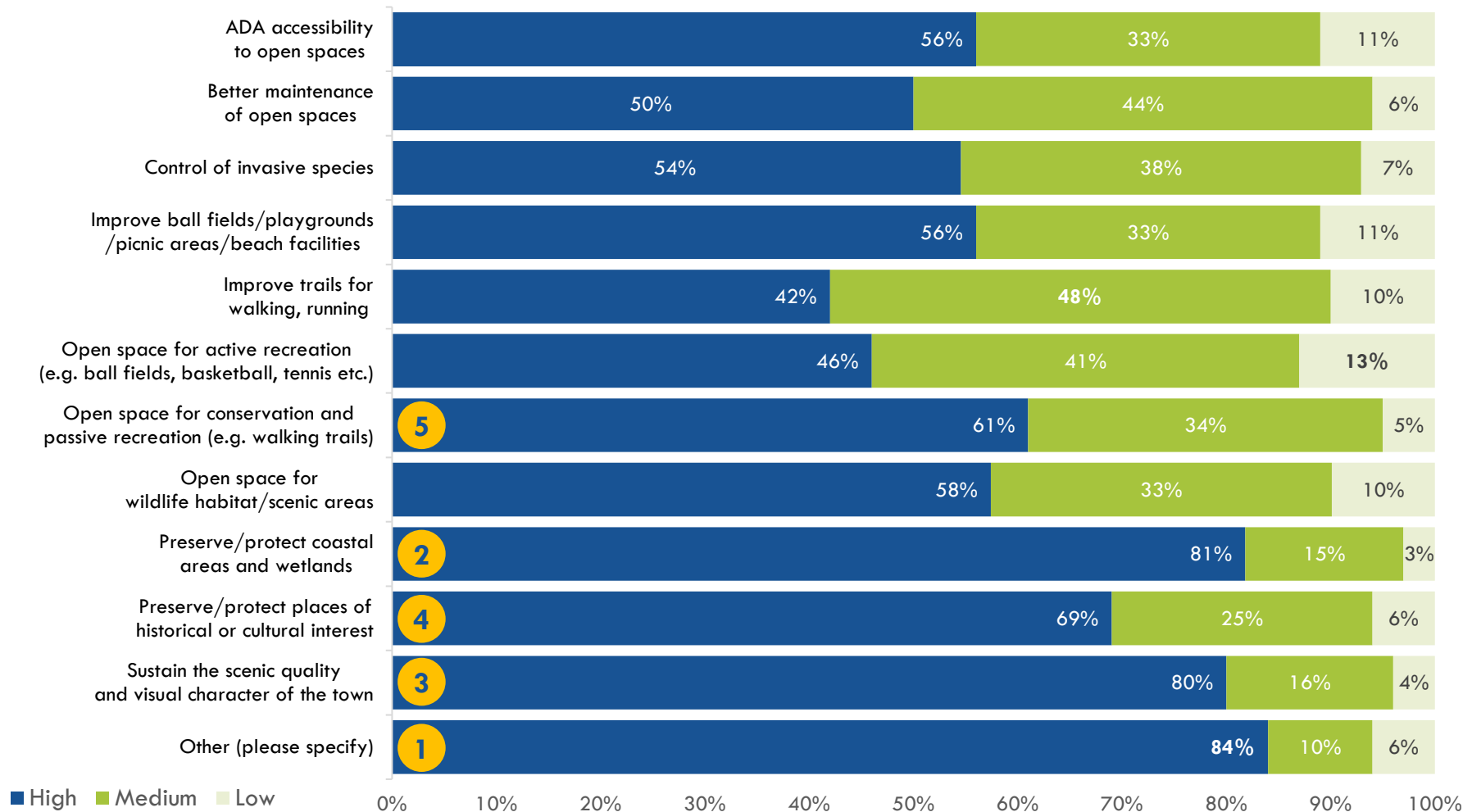
## Virtual Open House

March 25<sup>th</sup> - April 09<sup>th</sup> (via Qualtrics)



# Rate the importance of these GOALS for Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan (High, Medium, Low)

## Priorities (OSRP Community Survey)





# Write-in comments for “Other”

---

*“Preserve habitat specifically for birds - we have so many migratory and rare species that use Nahant and should be protected.”*

*“Maintain public rights of way”*

*“Very important to provide access to older and disabled people to open spaces, beaches, parks. Some towns have “senior” playground equipment for residents to enjoy.”*

*“Climate change and rising sea levels”*

*“Protect beach areas and promote erosion control on Short Beach”*

*“Preserve our open spaces and beaches through flood mitigation. Replace cement and asphalt entries with natural flood resistant approaches.”*

# Parks Tour

## July & April

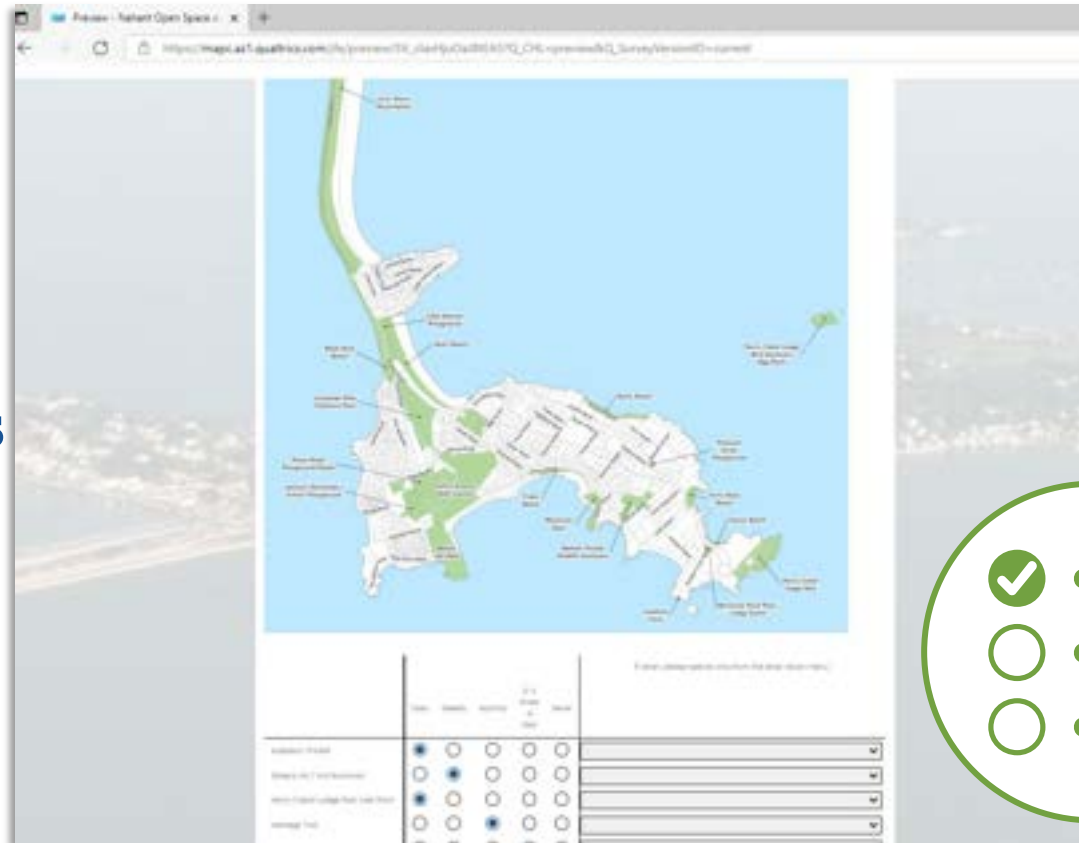


# OSRP Community Survey

## June-July

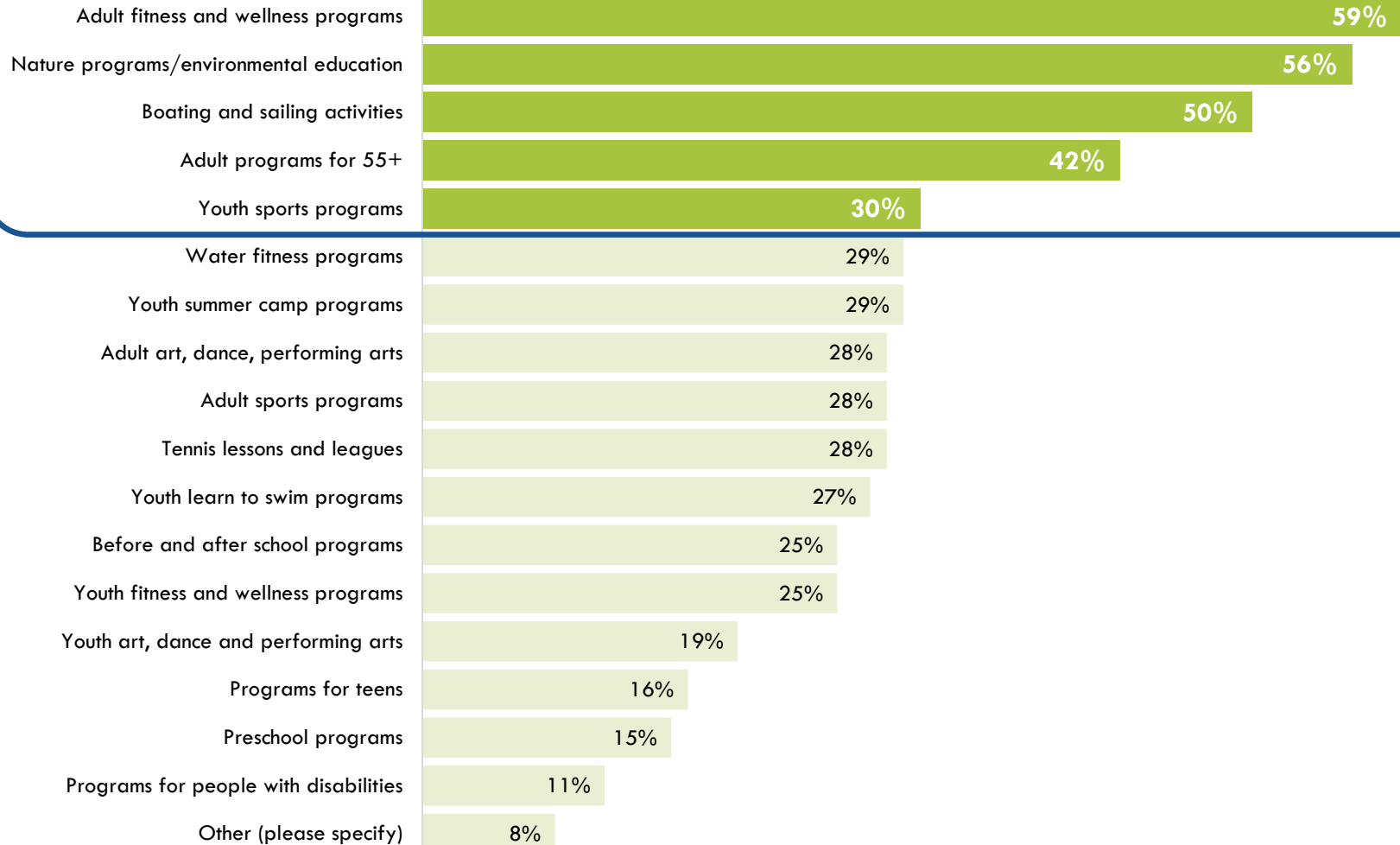


**420 Responses**  
Recorded Responses



**327 Participants**  
Answered All Questions

# What recreation programs do you or your household have a need for?



# Themes & Key Issues

---

## 1. GENERAL OVERALL MAINTENANCE

- **Improve overall maintenance**
- **Invest in existing parks and open spaces**
  - Clean up trash and litter

## 2. ACCESSIBILITY

- **ADA accessibility/ Universal Design**
  - Access to parks, beaches and open space
  - Park and open space programming for kids and adults with disabilities
- **Lack of parking/Non-resident parking**
- **Encroachment of and restricted access to public rights of way**

## 3. ENHANCING FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND PROGRAMING

- **Playgrounds and athletic courts**
  - Renovate or replace playground equipment
  - Resurface or replace athletic courts
  - Wooden mulch surfaces at playgrounds
- **Off-leash dog area**
  - A fenced dog-park

## 4. CLEANLINESS & SAFETY

- **Trash and litter**
- **Coyotes and rodents**
- **Deteriorated equipment**

## 5. STEWARDSHIP OF OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Multiple functions of open space, including recreation and environmental**
  - Striking a balance between active recreation/programming and preserving parks and open space as natural areas.
- **Actively manage natural spaces and conservation areas**
  - Control invasive species
  - Protect and plant new public shade trees
- **Responding proactively to climate change**
  - Using green infrastructure in parks to build a more resilient town.





# **DRAFT: Seven Year Action Plan**



# Accomplishments

- Public Ways Mapping Study, **2009**
- Community Garden Study, **2009**
- Public Ways Mapping Study, **2010**
- Town Wharf Improvements, **2010**
- Dune Restoration Project, **2010**
- Public Ways Mapping Study, **2011**
- Community Gardens & Tree Nursery, **2011**
- Master Plan for Short Beach, **2011**
- Public Ways Mapping Study, **2012**
- Town Wharf, **2013**
- Town Wharf Emergency Repairs, **2013**
- Flash Road Recreation Study, **2013**
- Platform Tennis, **2015**
- Town Wharf Boat Ramp & Seawalls, **2016**
- Furbush Road Open Space Creation, **2017**
- Wharf Gangway, **2018**
- Wetlands Zoning Bylaw Amendment, **2018**
- Flash Road Basketball & Tennis Courts, **2019**
- Nahant Road Softball Field, **2019**
- Flash Road Recreation Area: Tennis & Basketball Courts, **2019**
- Johnson School Playgrounds, **2019**
- Tudor Beach Stairs, **2019**
- Open Space Master Plan, **2019**
- Johnson School Basketball Court, **2020**
- Nahant Road Softball Field, **2020**
- Tudor Beach Stairs, **2020**
- Open Space Master Plan, **2020**
- Bailey's Hill, Fort Ruckman, East Slope, **2021**
- Dory Club Gangway & Floating Dock, **2021**
- Little Nahant Playground, **2021**
- Spring Road Basketball Court, **2021**
- East Point Eminent Domain, **2021**
- Nahant Little League Flash Road Baseball Fields, **2021**
- Lowlands Softball Field, **2021**
- Town Basketball & Tennis Courts, **2021**
- MBTA Short Beach Bus Stop Accessibility & Safety Improvements, **2022**



# Seven Year Action Plan



# OSRP Goals



- **Goal 1:** Protect and improve Nahant's parks, open space, and natural resources.



- **Goal 2:** Improve access and opportunities for open space and recreation for all



- **Goal 3:** Integrate cultural, recreational, and conservation activities



- **Goal 4:** Develop procedures for further evaluation of open space issues

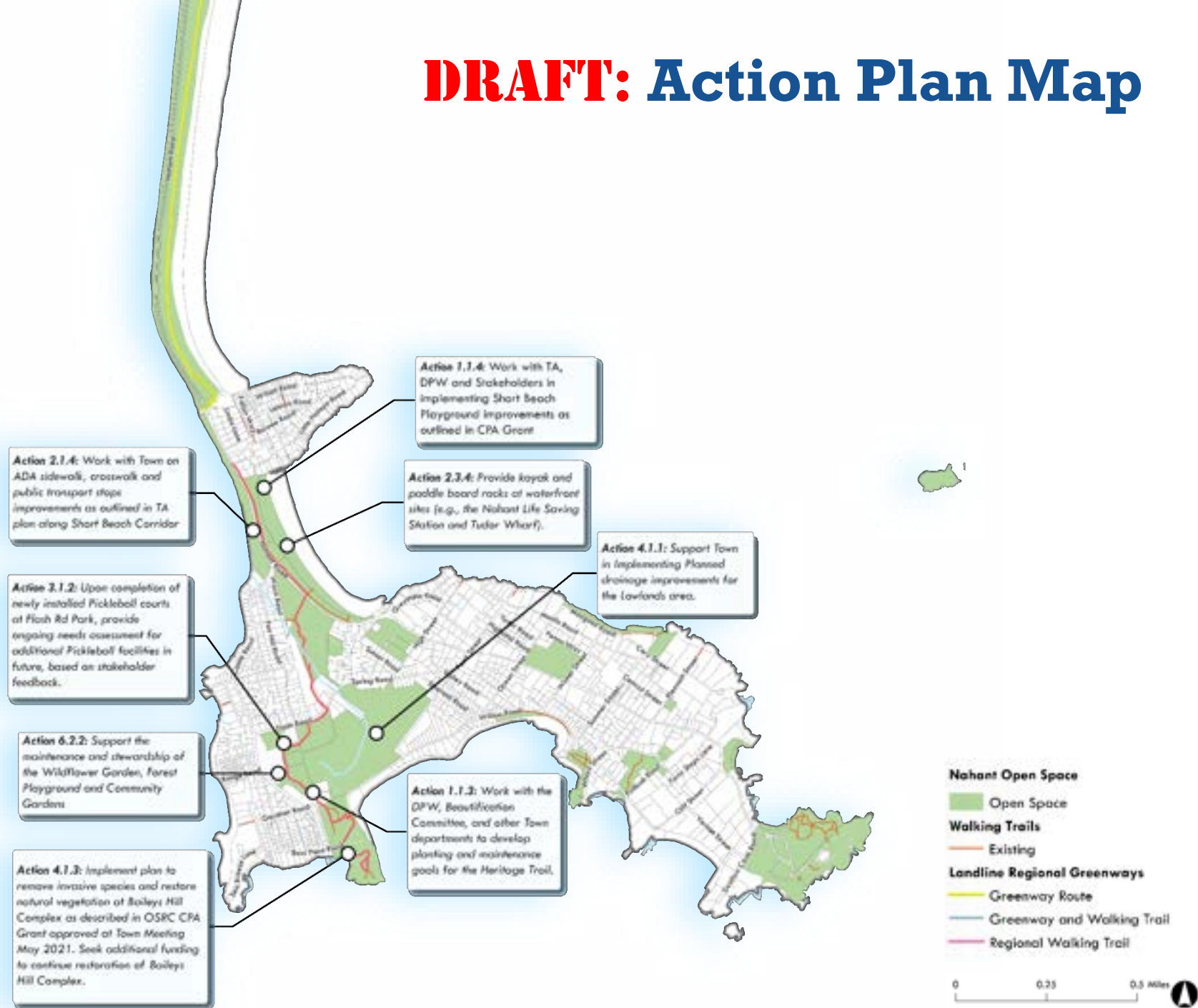


- **Goal 5:** Protect the quality of Nahant's beaches, surrounding waters, and skies



- **Goal 6:** Increase appreciation and stewardship of Nahant's parks, open space, and recreational facilities.

# DRAFT: Action Plan Map





# Seven-Year Action Plan Matrix

**DRAFT**

Figure 3: Seven-Year Action Plan Matrix

Goal 1: Protect and improve Nahant's parks, open space, and cultural resources			
Action Item	Parties Responsible	Timeframe	Funding Sources
<b>Objective 1.1: Maintain and Improve Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities</b>			
<b>Action 1.1.1:</b> Work with the DPW to develop preventative maintenance standards and site-specific plans for parks, playgrounds, open spaces, beaches, trails, and recreation facilities.	DPW, OSRC	Short-to long-term	PARC, LWCF, CPA, Town funds
<b>Action 1.1.2:</b> Develop design standards for park elements including benches, trash receptacles, and bike racks.	OSRC, TA, DPW, RC	Long-term	CPA
<b>Action 1.1.3:</b> Work with the DPW, Beautification Committee, and other Town departments to develop planting and maintenance goals for the Heritage Trail.	DPW, OSRC, BC,GC	Short-term	CPA, Town funds

Nahant Open Space and



# OSRP Goals

## Goal 1: Protect and improve Nahant's parks, open space, and natural resources

### Objective 1.1: Maintain and Improve Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities

**Action 1.1.1:** Work with the DPW to develop preventative maintenance standards and site-specific plans for parks, playgrounds, open spaces, beaches, trails, and recreation facilities.

**Action 1.1.2:** Develop design standards for park elements including benches, trash receptacles, and bike racks.

**Action 1.1.3:** Work with the DPW, Beautification Committee, and other Town departments to develop planting and maintenance goals for the Heritage Trail.

**Action 1.1.4:** Work with TA, DPW and Stakeholders in implementing Short Beach Playground improvements as outlined in CPA Grant.

**Action 1.1.5:** Seek guidance for town-wide playground review and work to improve playgrounds to meet current design and accessibility standards.



# OSRP Goals

## Goal 1: Protect and improve Nahant's parks, open space, and natural resources

**Objective 1.2:** Preserve Nahant's important land resources through land acquisition, conservation restrictions, zoning, and education.

**Action 1.2.1:** Work with the Planning Board to investigate zoning measures and other regulatory tools that encourage the protection or creation of open space.

**Action 1.2.2:** Work with the Board of Selectmen and the Town-Owned Land Committee to develop a prioritized inventory of Town-owned land that may be appropriate for conservation restrictions.

**Action 1.2.3:** Provide information and resources to residents on the advantages of conservation restrictions. Include information about what a CR is, the different ways a CR can be used to protect land, and the benefits for landowners.



# OSRP Goals

## Goal 2: Improve access and opportunities for open space and recreation for all

**Objective 2.1:** Improve the accessibility of both passive and active recreational sites for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

**Action 2.1.1:** Develop an inventory and prioritize how facilities, parks, and open spaces will be upgraded to meet ADA accessibility.

**Action 2.1.2:** Explore feasibility of an ADA Evaluation and Transition Plan.

**Action 2.1.3:** Seek opportunities to go beyond minimum ADA requirements by integrating universal design principles and programming that provides broader access for all residents.

**Action 2.1.4:** Work with Town on ADA sidewalk, crosswalk and public transport stops improvements as outlined in TA plan along Short Beach Corridor.



# OSRP Goals

## Goal 2: Improve access and opportunities for open space and recreation for all

**Objective 2.2:** Facilitate greater access to parks and open space through improved sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and bicycle and streetscape improvements

**Action 2.2.1:** Develop a plan for pedestrian and bicycle connectivity among facilities and parks; coordinate with Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS).

**Action 2.2.2:** Increase secure bike parking near entrances to Nahant's parks, open space, and recreational facilities.





# OSRP Goals

## Goal 2: Improve access and opportunities for open space and recreation for all

### Objective 2.3: Improve Public Access to Open Space and Coastline

**Action 2.3.1:** Assess the potential for improving and maintaining the Perimeter Path, making it generally accessible to residents while addressing the legitimate concerns of abutting property owners.

**Action 2.3.2:** Work with Planning Board to establish marking system for ROWs in Little Nahant and work toward surveying of ROWs in Big Nahant.

**Action 2.3.3:** Use GIS Map and survey maps to identify ROWs existing and provide web to print ROW map on Town Website.

**Action 2.3.4:** Provide kayak and paddle board racks at waterfront sites (e.g., Tudor Wharf and the Nahant Life Saving Station).



# OSRP Goals

## Goal 3: Integrate cultural, recreational, and conservation activities

### Objective 3.1: Expand active recreation, nature-based, and arts and culture programming

**Action 3.1.1:** Increase the town's offerings of recreational programming and special events based on the OSRP community survey feedback.

**Action 3.1.2:** Upon completion of newly installed Pickleball courts at Flash Rd Park, provide ongoing needs assessment for additional Pickleball facilities in future, based on stakeholder feedback.

**Action 3.1.3:** Continually assess community needs through stakeholder surveys and proactively plan for recreation programming that aligns to these needs and trends.

**Action 3.1.4:** Collaborate with the Nahant Historical Society and the Nahant Preservation Trust to develop materials and a web presence for Nahant's historic sites; explore opportunities to provide interpretive materials, on-site signage, and audio or print- based storytelling.

**Action 3.1.5:** Continue to support and promote walking tours of cultural and historic resources in Nahant to showcase the Town's historic buildings and heritage landscapes.



# OSRP Goals

## Goal 3: Integrate cultural, recreational, and conservation activities

### Objective 3.2: Use public art elements to activate public spaces and beautify the public realm

**Action 3.2.1:** Consider using public art elements as a way to interpret natural open spaces and features.

**Action 3.2.2:** Provide support for artists to offer input on increasing art in community settings.

**Action 3.2.3:** Support Nahant Cultural Council sponsored Art-Nature-Nahant Annual event.

**Action 3.2.4:** Identify suitable locations to incorporate public art into parks and open spaces e.g., murals and art installations.



# OSRP Goals

## Goal 4: Develop procedures for further evaluation of open space issues

**Objective 4.1:** Identify and implement resiliency projects that address impacts from climate change and support Nahant's sustainability goals.

**Action 4.1.1:** Support Town in Implementing Planned drainage improvements for the Lowlands area.

**Action 4.1.2:** With the assistance of volunteers, manage the presence of invasive vegetation and require the consistent use of native or adapted planting in ecologically significant landscapes.

**Action 4.1.3:** Implement plan to remove invasive species and restore natural vegetation at Baileys Hill Complex as described in OSRC CPA Grant approved at Town Meeting May 2021. Seek additional funding to continue restoration of Baileys Hill Complex.

**Action 4.1.4:** Support the efforts of the Nahant Tree Task Force and DPW to develop a street tree inventory and plan for the planting of trees throughout the town.

**Action 4.1.5:** Promote and support education and measures to reduce carbon use, noise pollution, implement composting and solar energy.



# OSRP Goals

---

## Goal 5: Protect the quality of Nahant's beaches, surrounding waters, and skies

**Objective 5.1:** Continue to implement stormwater management measures to improve the quality of runoff to Nahant's surrounding waters

**Action 5.1.1:** Support the DPW to Implement BMP recommendations outlined in the 2021 Stormwater Management Program (SWMP).

**Action 5.1.2:** Gain better understanding of stormwater and watershed management opportunities through partnerships (DPW, SWIM, CZM etc.).





# OSRP Goals

---

## Goal 5: Protect the quality of Nahant's beaches, surrounding waters, and skies

**Objective 5.2:** Support the efforts of regional organizations and stakeholders who are working to resolve issues related to air traffic noise pollution generated from Logan International Airport.

**Action 5.2.1:** Work in partnership with other North Shore and Inner Core communities to develop a regional approach to addressing issues related to air traffic noise pollution.



# OSRP Goals

## Goal 6: Increase appreciation and stewardship of Nahant's parks, open space, and recreational facilities

**Objective 6.1:** Promote awareness of open space amenities through wayfinding and signage.

**Action 6.1.1:** Develop a consistent universally designed signage and wayfinding system to direct people to the Town's parks and open spaces, especially from adjacent roadways and walking paths.

**Action 6.1.2:** Integrate geographical, historical, and natural history elements into signage at Short Beach, Heritage Trail, East Point, Baileys Hill.



# OSRP Goals

---

## Goal 6: Increase appreciation and stewardship of Nahant's parks, open space, and recreational facilities

**Objective 6.2:** Work closely with local and regional partners to enhance natural resource activities townwide.

**Action 6.2.1:** Offer support to the robust volunteer program that supports and supplements education, stewardship, and resource management objectives.

**Action 6.2.2:** Support the maintenance and stewardship of the Wildflower Garden, Forest Playground and Community Gardens.



# OSRP Goals

---

## **Goal 6: Increase appreciation and stewardship of Nahant's parks, open space, and recreational facilities**

**Objective 6.3:** Improve web-based information about all town parks, recreation, and conservation areas.

**Action 6.3.1:** Improve web-based information describing the Town's park and open space system to help people quickly find amenities and experiences they are seeking. Provide web to print trail and open space maps with information on access and environmental protection.

# Questions?







# Draft OSRP & Comment Matrix

---

## Instructions:

- Use the link in the chat to download a copy of the draft OSRP and the Comment Matrix

**<https://mapc.ma/NahantOSRPDraft>**

- Fill out the general information at the top of the page, then use the matrix to provide comments on the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan. **Participants will be able to provide written feedback until May 3rd**
- Save your file and then email it to **[clewis@mapc.org](mailto:clewis@mapc.org)**

# Next Steps

---

- Public Review of the Draft OSRP April 11<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Review and address the comments and feedback gathered from the community
- The plan will be reviewed by Town staff and the Open Space and Recreation Committee will seek letters of support
- Once complete, the plan will be delivered to the EOEEA Division of Conservation Services for approval



# Thank You!

---

**Courtney Lewis**  
**Regional Land Use Planner**  
[clewis@mapc.org](mailto:clewis@mapc.org)

## Appendix D

# **Town of Nahant**

## **2021 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

**OSRP Committee Meeting**

*September 22, 2021*





# Agenda

---

- **Introductions**

- Name and affiliation

- **Review OSRP Survey Findings**

- Review and discuss survey OSRP findings

- **Next Steps**

- Draft Action Plan Working Sessions
- Draft Plan Schedule
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Forum

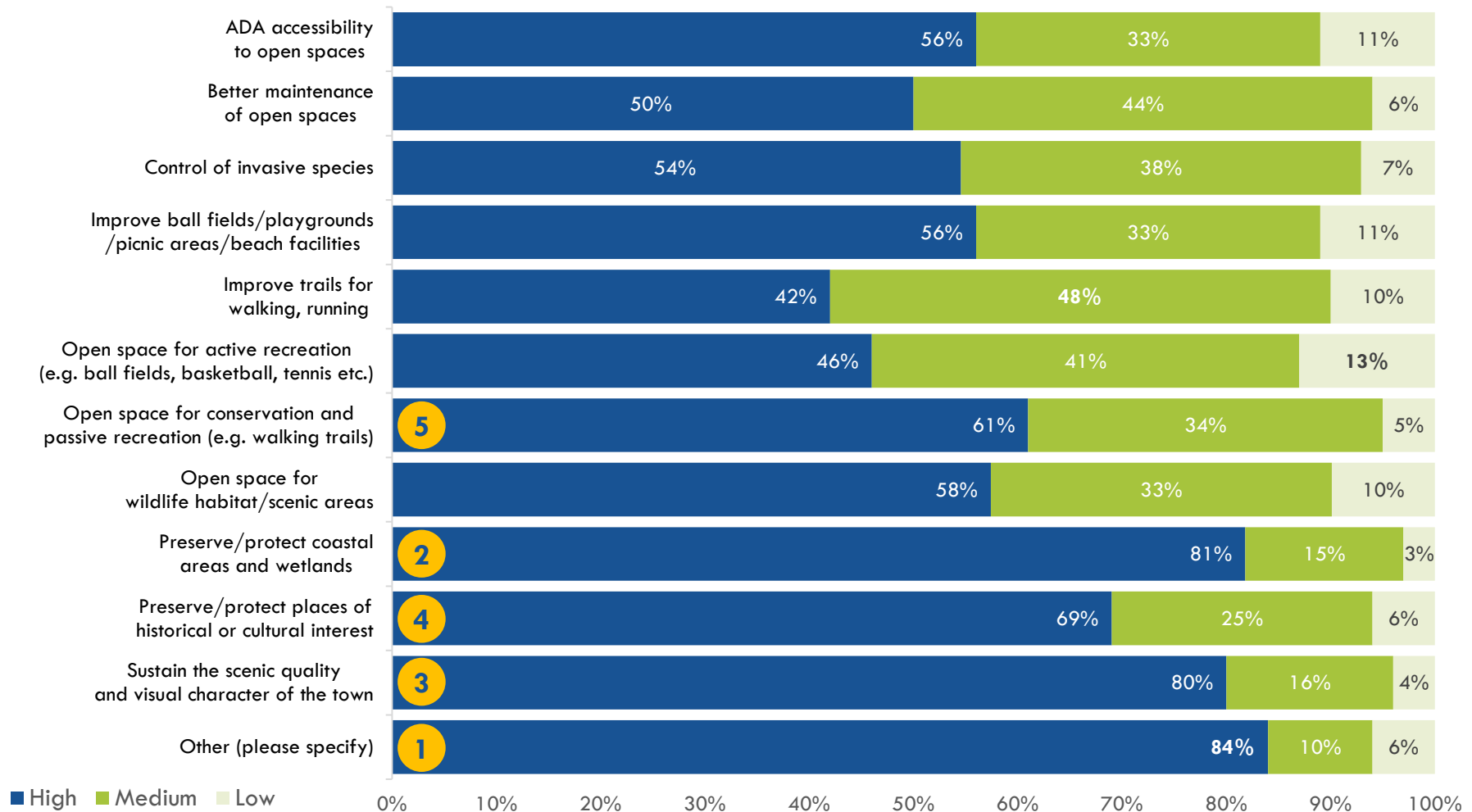
# Plan Goals

(Virtual Open House)

<b>Goal 1:</b>	Protect existing open space and special plant and animal habitats
<b>Revised:</b>	Protect <b>and improve Nahant's</b> parks, open space, and <b>natural resources</b>
<b>Goal 2:</b>	Integrate cultural, recreational, and conservation activities
<b>Goal 3:</b>	Improve opportunities for open space recreation
<b>Revised:</b>	Improve <b>access and</b> opportunities for open space recreation
<b>Goal 4:</b>	Develop procedures for further evaluation of open space issues
<b>Goal 5:</b>	Protect the quality of our beaches, surrounding waters, and skies
<b>Revised:</b>	Protect the quality of <b>Nahant's</b> beaches, surrounding waters, and skies
<b>Goal 6:</b>	Increase the appreciation of Nahant's open space
<b>Revised:</b>	Increase <b>appreciation and stewardship</b> of Nahant's <b>parks, open space, and recreational facilities</b>

# Rate the importance of these GOALS for Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan (High, Medium, Low)

## Priorities (OSRP Community Survey)



# Write-in comments for “Other”...

---

*“Preserve habitat specifically for birds - we have so many migratory and rare species that use Nahant and should be protected.”*

*“Maintain public rights of way”*

*“Very important to provide access to older and disabled people to open spaces, beaches, parks. Some towns have “senior” playground equipment for residents to enjoy.”*

*“Climate change and rising sea levels”*

*“Protect beach areas and promote erosion control on Short Beach”*

*“Preserve our open spaces and beaches through flood mitigation. Replace cement and asphalt entries with natural flood resistant approaches.”*

# Analysis of Needs

(OSRP Community Survey)

<b>Section 1:</b>	Plan Summary
<b>Section 2:</b>	Introduction
<b>Section 3:</b>	Community Setting
<b>Section 4:</b>	Environmental Inventory and Analysis
<b>Section 5:</b>	Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation
<b>Section 6:</b>	Community Vision
<b>Section 7:</b>	Analysis of Needs
<b>Section 8:</b>	Goals and Objectives
<b>Section 9:</b>	Seven Year Action Plan

- Resource Protection Needs
- Community Needs
- Management Needs



# Themes & Key Issues

*(Virtual Open House & OSRP Community Survey)*

---

<b>1</b>	<b>GENERAL OVERALL MAINTENANCE</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>ENHANCING FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND PROGRAMING</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>CLEANLINESS &amp; SAFETY</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>STEWARDSHIP OF OPEN SPACES &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b>

# Presentation & Open House

---



## How we got the word out



### WEB

Town website, social media,  
open house e-blast

**420 Responses**

COMMUNITY SURVEY



### PRINT

Flyers, press release to  
local newspapers

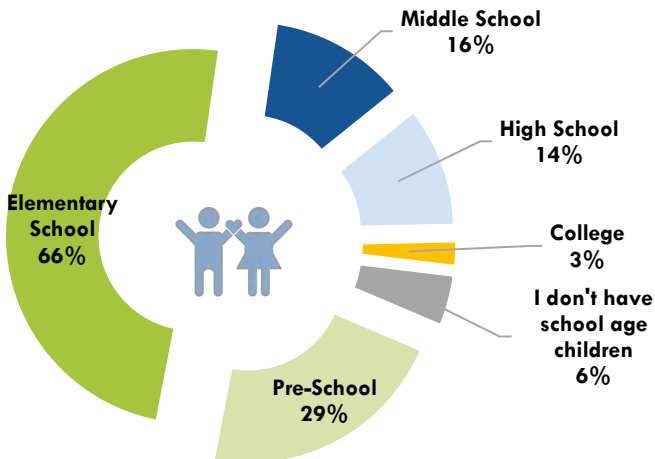
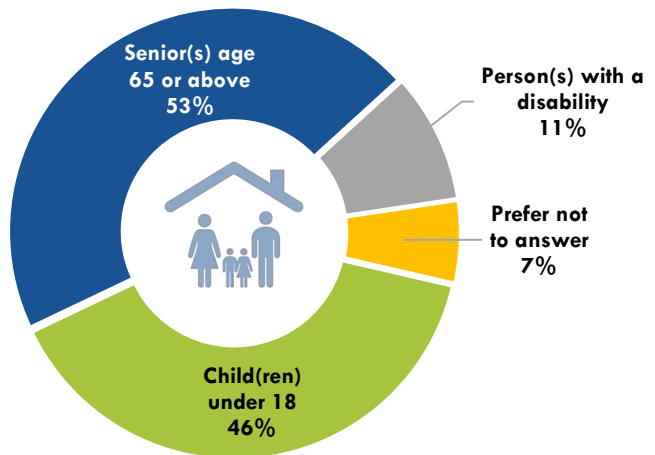


**327 Respondents**

ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS

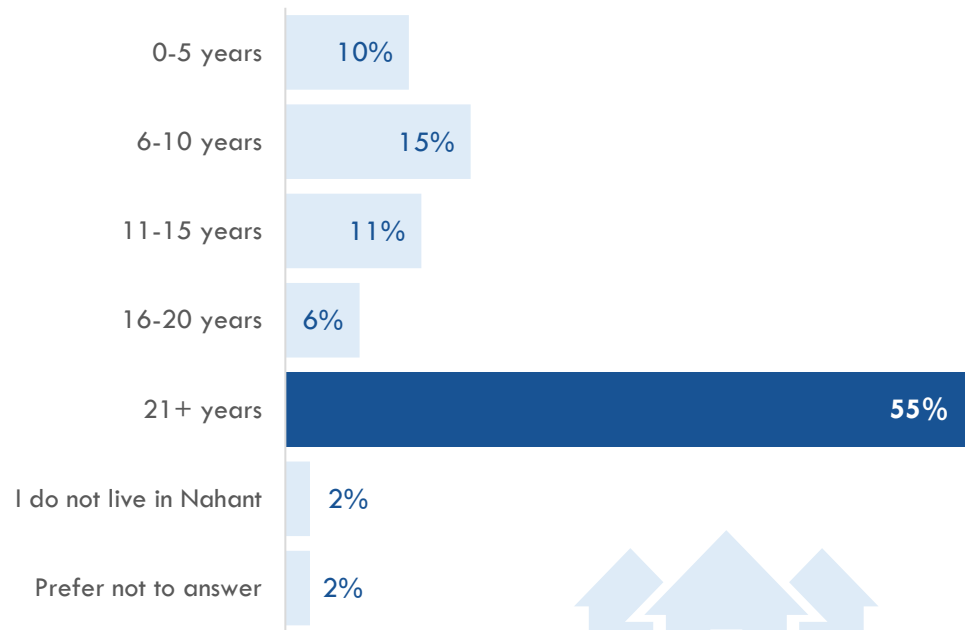
# Who Participated?

## HOUSEHOLDS

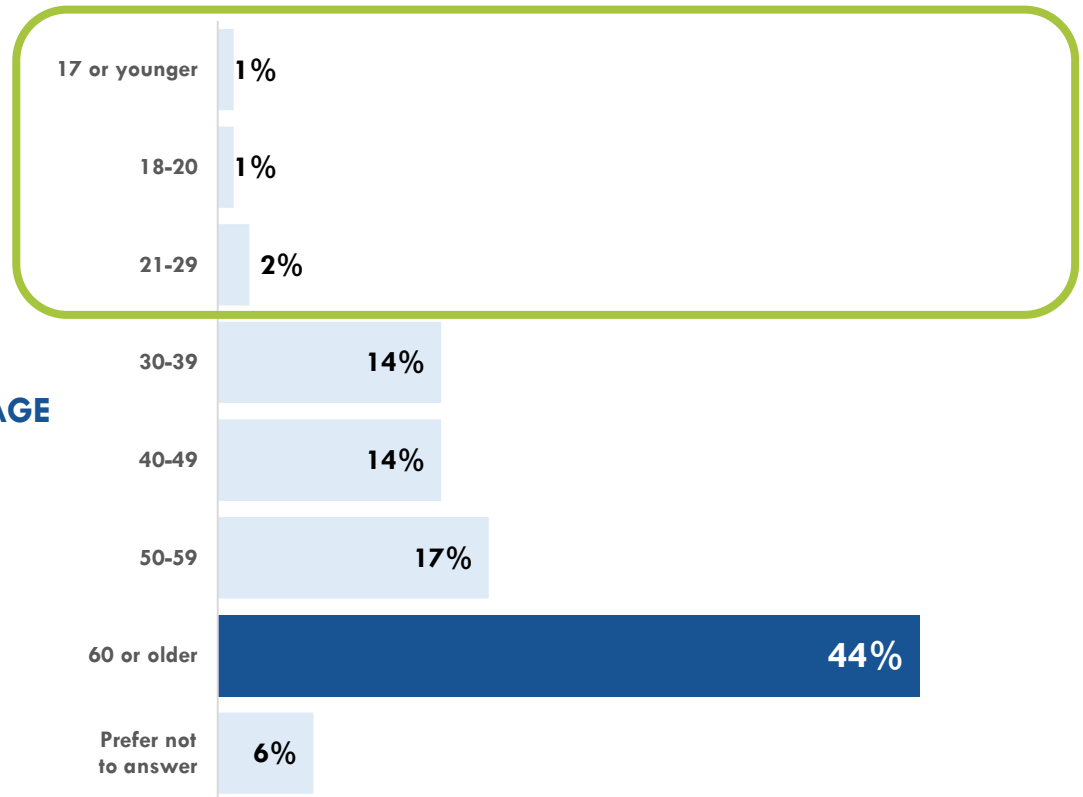
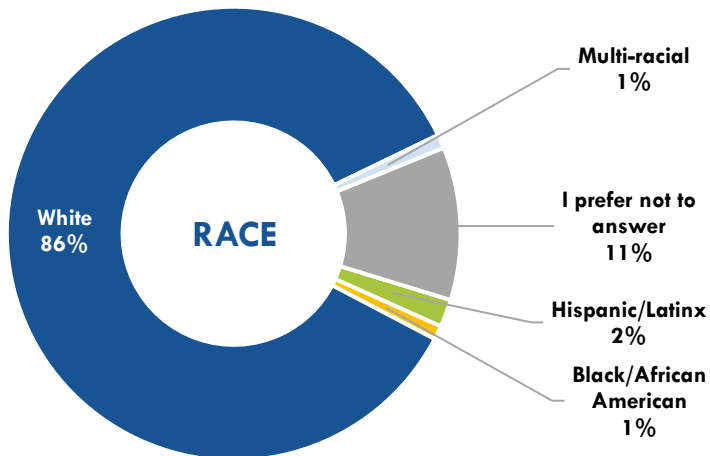
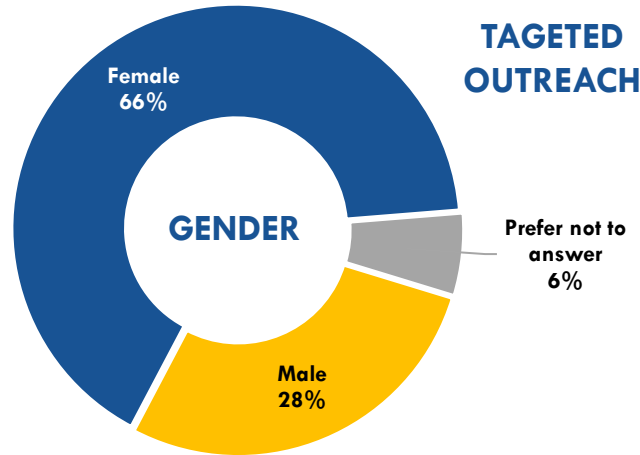


## TENURE

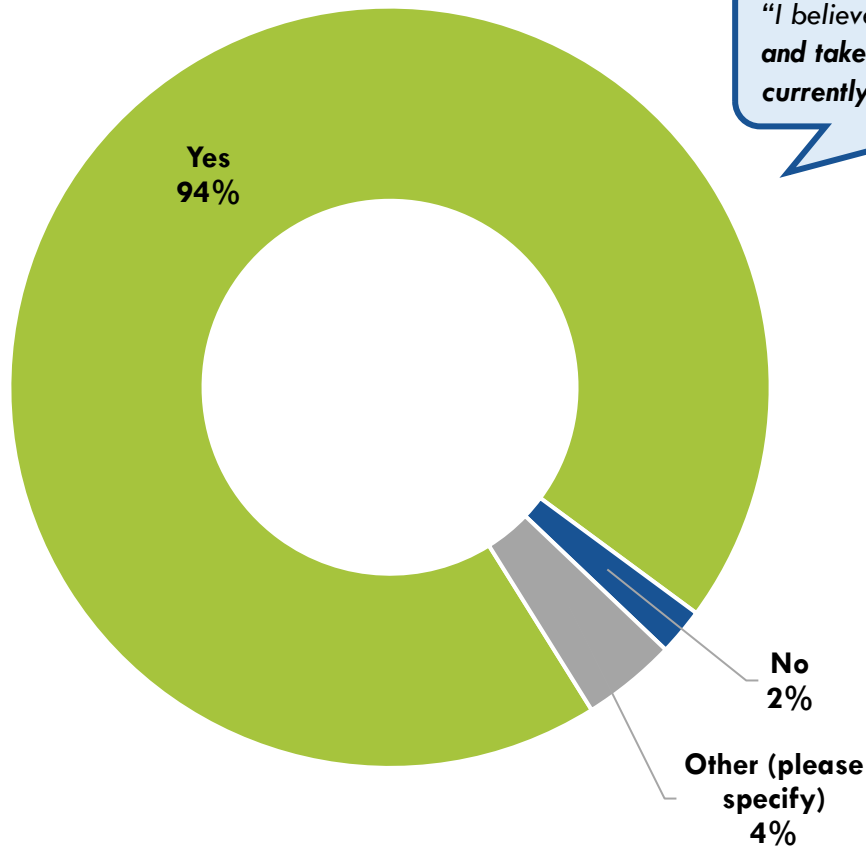
How long have you lived in Nahant?



# Who Participated?



# Do you feel there is a need to preserve open space and natural areas in Nahant?



*"I believe we should strive to **preserve and take care of the open space we currently have to enjoy.**"*

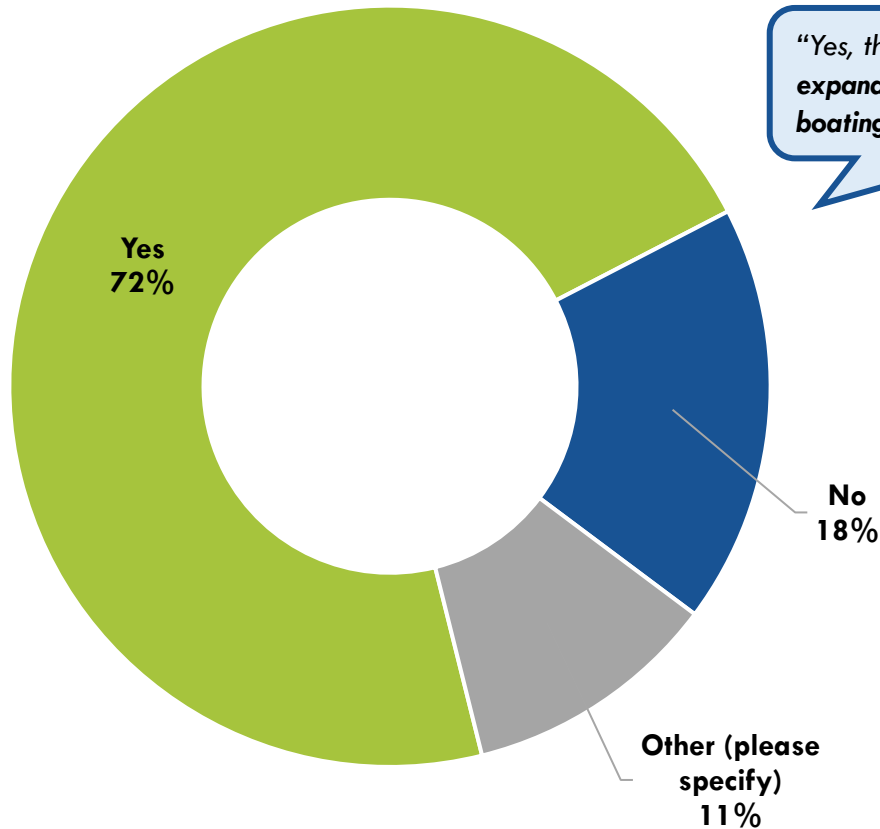
*"Yes, maintain the open space land already **OWNED** by the town, do not take eminent domain"*



*"We already have **MORE THAN ENOUGH** open space"*



# Do you feel Nahant has adequate public access to the coast?



"Yes, though it would be nice to **expand access to kayaking and boating** beyond our sailing program"

"Need more **handicap access**"



"There is not enough access **for people without resident stickers**"

# How often do you or your family members visit or use the following parks and open space areas?

Site Name	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	2-3 times a Year	Never
Audubon Thicket	4%	14%	24%	37%	20%
Bailey's Hill / Fort Ruckman	12%	22%	25%	37%	4%
Henry Cabot Lodge Park, East Point	9%	35%	25%	24%	6%
Heritage Trail	8%	19%	25%	30%	18%
Marjoram Park (near Wharf)	18%	28%	22%	23%	8%
Nahant/Lynn Beach	13%	24%	19%	22%	23%
Memorial Point Park - Lodge Grant	7%	20%	22%	30%	21%
Perimeter Path (along Marginal Rd to Summer St)	11%	21%	18%	26%	24%
Other (please specify)	39%	32%	13%	2%	14%

# If never, please specify why...

	Audubon Thicket	Bailey's Hill / Fort Ruckman	Henry Cabot Lodge Park, East Point	Heritage Trail	Mariaram Park (near Wharf)	Nahant/Lynn Beach	Memorial Point Park - Lodge Grant	Perimeter Path	Other
Site is not easily accessible by walking or biking from my home	11%	7%	0%	4%	0%	6%	3%	3%	25%
Lack of parking	11%	7%	16%	0%	0%	0%	3%	5%	0%
Poor condition or maintenance	0%	7%	5%	0%	6%	0%	3%	13%	25%
Not interested in the trails provided	11%	7%	5%	8%	6%	3%	6%	0%	0%
Not interested in the sports fields and playgrounds provided	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	6%	0%	3%	0%
Lack of restrooms	0%	7%	5%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lack of shade	0%	0%	5%	0%	6%	3%	0%	3%	0%
No place to sit	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Safety concerns	18%	29%	11%	31%	0%	3%	3%	3%	13%
Too crowded	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	47%	0%	0%	13%
Unable to access due to disability barriers	0%	0%	16%	4%	0%	0%	3%	3%	0%
Dogs are not allowed	3%	7%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know where the site is located	8%	7%	5%	31%	6%	3%	44%	40%	0%
No specific reason	39%	21%	32%	19%	61%	28%	35%	30%	25%

# How often do you or your family members visit or use the following recreation areas/ facilities?

Site Name	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	2-3 times a Year	Never
Flash Rd Baseball Fields	6%	17%	10%	23%	44%
Flash Rd Tennis Courts	3%	5%	6%	13%	72%
Flash Road Playground	13%	14%	9%	18%	46%
Johnson School Playground	13%	13%	7%	14%	53%
Kelly Greens Golf Course	8%	17%	12%	22%	41%
Lowland Softball Fields	3%	8%	10%	21%	58%
Pleasant St (Library) Playground	8%	13%	15%	21%	43%
Short Beach Playground	3%	7%	6%	18%	65%
Soccer Fields (Flash Rd)	4%	14%	10%	16%	55%
Spring Rd Basketball Courts	3%	7%	6%	12%	72%
Other (please specify)	15%	15%	11%	7%	52%

# If never, please specify why...

	Flash Rd Baseball Fields	Flash Rd Tennis Courts	Flash Road Playground	Johnson School Playground	Kelly Greens Golf Course	Lowland Softball Fields	Pleasant St (Library) Playground	Short Beach Playground	Soccer Fields (Flash Rd)	Spring Rd Basketball Courts	Other
Site is not easily accessible by walking or biking from my home	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Lack of parking	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Poor condition or maintenance	2%	64%	5%	0%	3%	2%	8%	23%	0%	35%	0%
Not interested in the trails provided	4%	1%	5%	2%	0%	4%	3%	1%	5%	0%	20%
Not interested in the sports fields and playgrounds provided	66%	27%	53%	69%	76%	65%	58%	44%	67%	44%	20%
Lack of restrooms	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Lack of shade	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
No place to sit	0%	1%	0%	0%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Safety concerns	0%	1%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	20%
Too crowded	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Unable to access due to disability barriers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%
Dogs are not allowed	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%
Don't know where the site is located	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	20%
No specific reason	26%	5%	33%	27%	16%	27%	29%	23%	26%	14%	0%



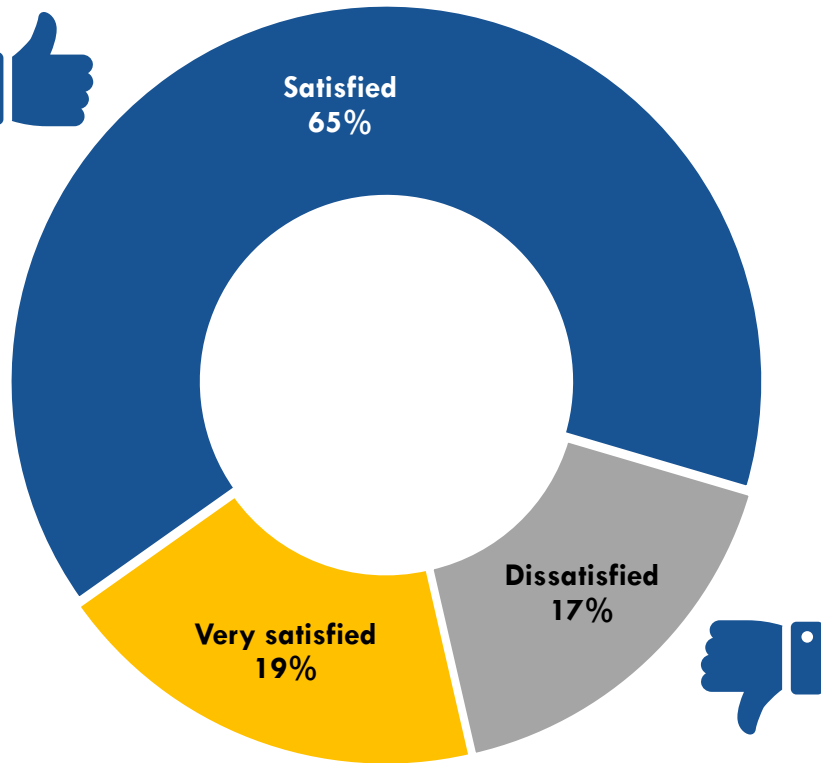
# How often do you or your family members visit or use the following beach/shoreline areas?

Site Name	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	2-3 times a Year	Never
Black Rock Beach (AKA Doggie Beach)	9%	15%	14%	24%	37%
Canoe Beach (at Entrance to East Point)	9%	24%	22%	31%	14%
Crystal Beach (at Marjoram Park)	7%	22%	18%	27%	26%
Forty Steps Beach	7%	19%	26%	36%	13%
Nahant/Lynn Beach	7%	17%	15%	25%	36%
Short Beach (AKA Coast Guard Beach)	21%	35%	21%	17%	6%
Stony Beach (Marginal Rd)	5%	16%	10%	25%	45%
Swallow Cave	1%	6%	10%	36%	47%
Tudor Beach	16%	24%	20%	26%	15%
Other (please specify)	20%	27%	13%	0%	40%

# If never, please specify why...

	Black Rock Beach (AKA Doggie Beach)	Canoe Beach (at Entrance to East Point)	Crystal Beach (at Marjoram Park)	Forty Steps Beach	Nahant/Lynn Beach	Short Beach (AKA Coast Guard Beach)	Stony Beach (Marginal Rd)	Swallow Cave	Tudor Beach	Other
Site is not easily accessible by walking or biking from my home	8%	27%	6%	23%	10%	40%	22%	26%	25%	67%
Lack of parking	3%	20%	0%	54%	0%	0%	16%	13%	21%	0%
Poor condition or maintenance	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	0%	8%	0%
Not interested in the trails provided	11%	0%	12%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Not interested in the sports fields and playgrounds provided	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lack of restrooms	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	0%
Lack of shade	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
No place to sit	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Safety concerns	19%	0%	0%	8%	3%	0%	11%	0%	4%	33%
Too crowded	17%	13%	12%	0%	45%	0%	0%	2%	8%	0%
Unable to access due to disability barriers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	4%	0%	0%
Dogs are not allowed	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know where the site is located	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	14%	32%	0%	0%
No specific reason	42%	40%	53%	15%	32%	60%	27%	23%	21%	0%

# How satisfied are you with the overall condition of Nahant's parks and open space properties?

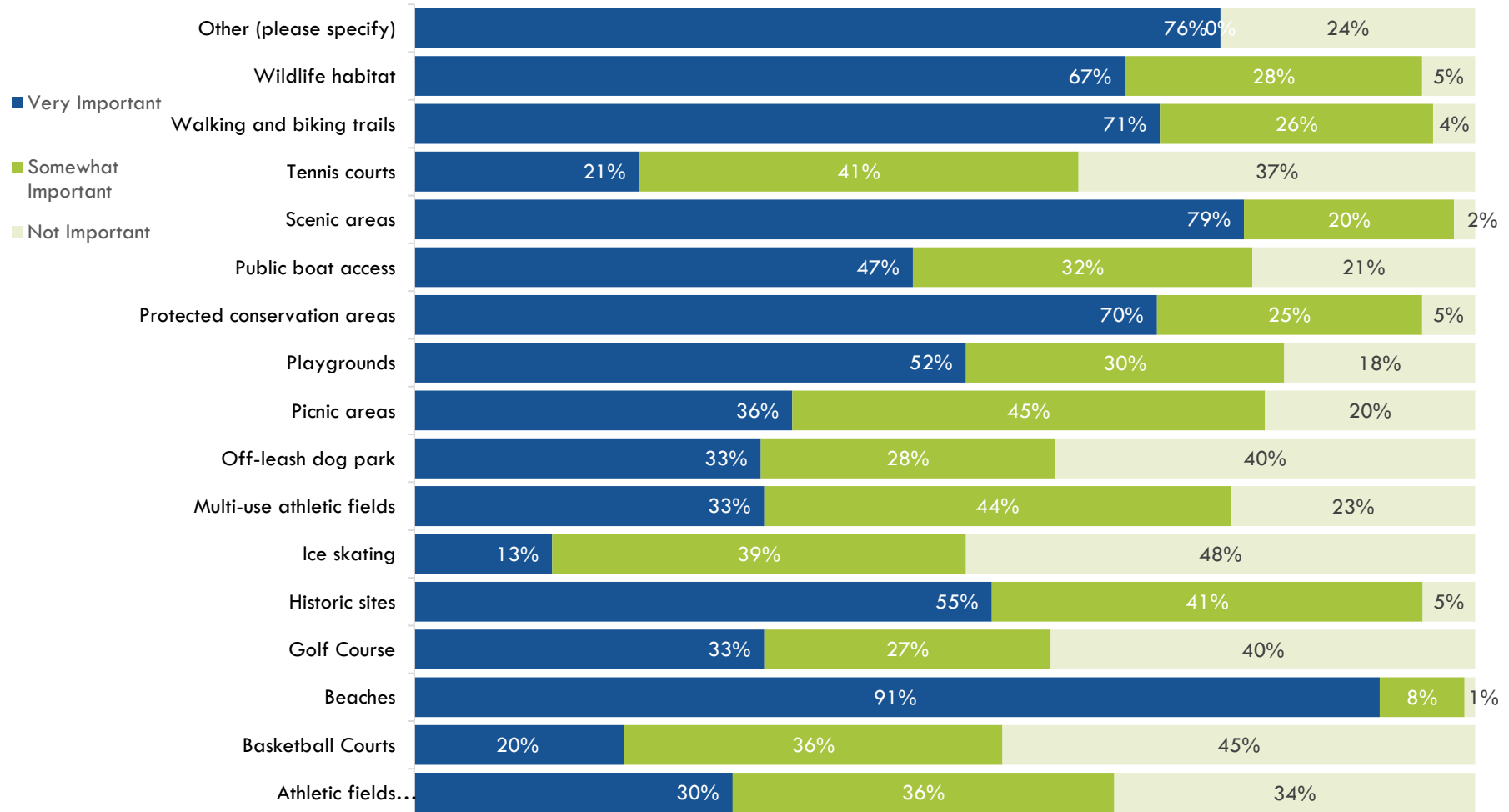


***"Not maintained adequately"***

***"Quality of playground equipment, lack of toddler safe playground equipment, lack of fencing"***

***"The condition of some of the." playgrounds, courts and sports fields"***

# Which recreation options are MOST important to you and your family?

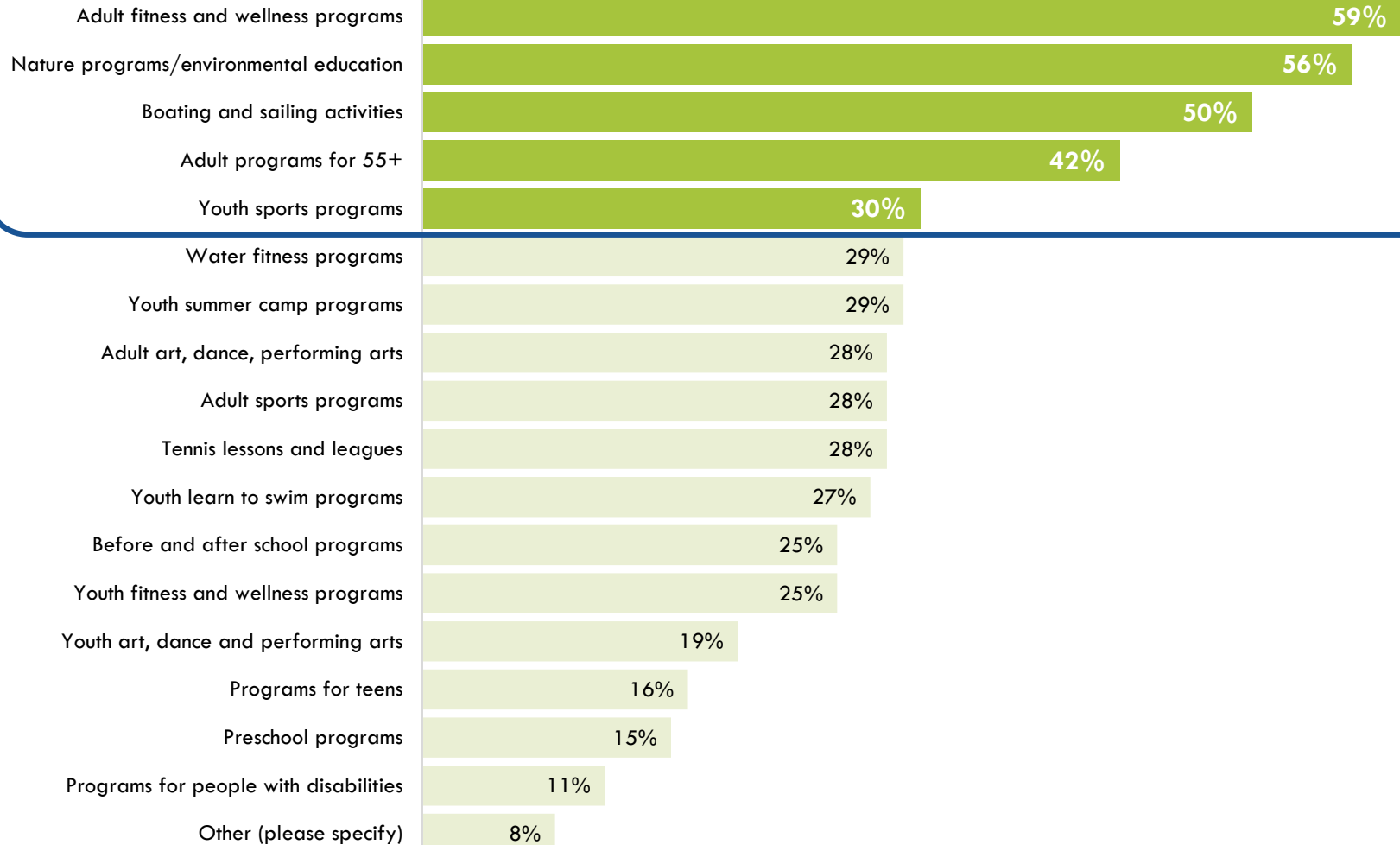


# How often do you or any member of your family participate in the following activities in Nahant?

Activity	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Basketball	11%	14%	23%	52%
Bicycling	41%	30%	16%	13%
Bird watching, nature study	32%	30%	22%	17%
Boating (sail, power, kayak etc.)	36%	31%	17%	16%
Dog walking in designated areas	47%	11%	9%	33%
Enjoy serenity/quiet space	75%	18%	5%	2%
Fishing	18%	20%	26%	36%
Golfing	22%	19%	15%	44%
<b>Ocean watching</b>	<b>87%</b>	10%	2%	1%
Picnicking	18%	41%	24%	17%
<b>Rollerblading/skateboarding</b>	6%	13%	19%	<b>62%</b>
Soccer	14%	15%	16%	55%
Softball/baseball	14%	14%	15%	57%
Swimming	55%	29%	11%	5%
Tennis	13%	25%	20%	42%
Using playgrounds	34%	16%	19%	30%
Walking/jogging	82%	14%	3%	1%
Windsurfing/kite sailing/paddle boarding/surfing	20%	15%	19%	46%
Other (please specify)	47%	11%	5%	37%



# What recreation programs do you or your household have a need for?



# Please comment further on any problems that hinder your opportunities to enjoy open space in Nahant. Are there other open space resources which you would like to see protected and/or made more accessible? (124 comments)

---

*"Coyote population is out of control and getting worse. This needs to be controlled for our safety"*

*"I would like to see perambulation day revived. We all own those properties."*

*"Handicap Access to Short Beach"*

*"Accessibility is a BIG problem. Very difficult for mobility impaired persons to enjoy Nahant."*

*"The playgrounds are not remotely ADA accessible and are in poor Shape/condition"*

*"An Off-leash dog park would be a great addition!"*

*"Whatever is created, added or kept, maintenance is paramount! "*

*"Really wish the town would enforce access to public rights of way and all beaches."*

# Themes & Key Issues

---

## 1. GENERAL OVERALL MAINTENANCE

- **Improve overall maintenance**
- **Invest in existing parks and open spaces**
  - Clean up trash and litter

## 2. ACCESSIBILITY

- **ADA accessibility/ Universal Design**
  - Access to parks, beaches and open space
  - Park and open space programming for kids and adults with disabilities
- **Lack of parking/Non-resident parking**
- **Encroachment of and restricted access to public rights of way**

## 3. ENHANCING FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND PROGRAMING

- **Playgrounds and athletic courts**
  - Renovate or replace playground equipment
  - Resurface or replace athletic courts
  - Wooden mulch surfaces at playgrounds
- **Off-leash dog area**
  - A fenced dog-park

## 4. CLEANLINESS & SAFETY

- **Trash and litter**
- **Coyotes and rodents**
- **Deteriorated equipment**

## 5. STEWARDSHIP OF OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Multiple functions of open space, including recreation and environmental**
  - Striking a balance between active recreation/programming and preserving parks and open space as natural areas.
- **Actively manage natural spaces and conservation areas**
  - Control invasive species
  - Protect and plant new public shade trees
- **Responding proactively to climate change**
  - Using green infrastructure in parks to build a more resilient town.

# Next Steps

---

- **Draft Action Plan Working Sessions**

- OSRC (Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals and Draft Action Items)
- MAPC & OSRC

- **Draft OSRP Section Schedule**

- Sections 2-3 (10/1)
- Sections 4-5 (10/15)
- Sections 6-7 (10/29)
- Sections 8-9 (11/12)

- **Public Forum #2** (Set a tentative date)

- Present Draft Action Plan (Presentation)
- Release Draft OSRP for public comment & DCS Review