

SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATIONAL INTEREST

This section of the plan provides an inventory of lands that are of conservation and recreation interest to the Town of Holland. This inventory includes lands, both public and private, that possess different levels of protection. Some parcels, such as the parcels that form the Army Corps of Engineers lands, are permanently protected from development. Other parcels, such as those enrolled in the Chapter 61 Program, possess temporary protection from development. Privately owned parcels of open space land, such as those owned by the Springfield Girls Club, have no level of protection and can be developed or sold for development by the owner.

Holland possesses a number of private parcels enrolled in the Chapter 61 Program. Chapter 61 parcels are of interest to the town because Holland is granted first right of refusal on these properties if they are removed from the program and are offered for sale by the owner. In order to take advantage of this option, the town needs to have a mechanism in place to acquire these parcels when they are offered for sale. One of the strategies the town can employ if it does not have the financial resources to purchase a Chapter 61 parcel for sale is to assign its right of first refusal to an organization, such as a local land trust, that possesses the funds to purchase the parcel. An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation for municipally owned recreation sites is provided in the Appendix.

Private Parcels

TableOS-8: Chapter 61 Forested Lands of Interest, Town of Holland, 2004

Parcel ID	Location	Approximate Acreage
79	Marcey Road	6
76	Howlett Drive	43
571	75 Leno Road	13
2298	Sturbridge Road	2
752	58 North Wales Road	16
3071	Maybrook Road	16
1069	281 Brimfield Road	43
2999	Stafford Road	5
3005	Barney Road	16
3006	Barney Road	4
2341	Barney Road	10
2342	24 Bennett Road	127
2343	Bennett/Wales Road	61
1590	Sturbridge Road	60
1889	East Brimfield Road	31

Source: Assessor's Database, Town of Holland, 2004.

Table OS-9: Chapter 61 Agricultural Lands of Interest, Town of Holland, 2004

Parcel ID	Location	Approximate Acreage
2508	Marcey Road	25
3144	30 Marcey Place	10
2429	Stafford Road	309
2428	South Wales Road	2
2430	Old Turnpike Road	10
2431	South Wales Road	35
2067	30 Marcey Road	84
2066	30 Marcey Road	36

Source: Assessor's Database, Town of Holland, 2004.

Table OS-10: Chapter 61 Recreational Lands of Interest, Town of Holland, 2004

Parcel ID	Location	Approximate Acreage
631	38 Wales Road	15
1122	Brimfield Road	10
2308	South Wales Road	32
2309	South Wales Road	7

Source: Assessor's Database, Town of Holland, 2004.

Public and Nonprofit Parcels

Table OS-11: Recreation Sites and Facilities, Town of Holland, 2004

Site/Facility	Ownership	Approximate Acreage
Holland Elementary School Playground	Public	1
Hitchcock Field (playing fields, basketball courts)	Public	4
Lake Siog Town Beach	Public	.5
Leadmine Wildlife Management Area (conservation, recreation)	Public	353
Army Corps of Engineers Lands (flood control, conservation, recreation)	Public	522

Table OS-11: Recreation Sites and Facilities, Town of Holland, 2004 (Continued)		
Holland Rod and Gun Club	Private	40
State Owned Fishing Pier and Boat Launch at Hamilton Reservoir	Public	.5
Springfield Girls Club Summer Camp Area	Private	92
Palmer Beagle Club	Private	216

Source: Holland Open Space Plan, 1998

Table OS-12: Town and Nonprofit Conservation Lands, Town of Holland, 2004

Site	Parcel ID
The Helen Krieger Conservation Area	Parcels: 1-B-03, 13-A-05, R31-A-04, R31 A 02, R31-B-04, R31-B-05, R31-C-14.1, R31-C-14, R31-C-12, R31-C-8, R31-C-5, R31-C-4.3, R32-A-1, R32-A-1.3
Lands from the Estate of Andrew Manickas	Parcels: R15-D-07, R15-D-12.01, R35-D-09, R35-D-10, R35-D-11, R35-D-12, R35-D-14, R36-H-09, R36-H-18, R36-H-20, R38-A-24, R39-E-10, R39-E-11
Norcross Wildlife Conservation Lands	Parcels: 22-A-05, 17-A-13, 19-A-01, 19-A-01.02, 19-A-03, 19-A-04, 19-A-04.02

Source: Assessor’s Database, Town of Holland, 2004.

SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION

Description of Process

The Town of Holland's open space and recreation goals were developed through the following planning process:

On September 16, 2003, Office of Geographic and Information Analysis staff conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis with members of the Open Space and Recreation Committee to begin determining the major concerns and priorities of Holland residents. The results from this analysis were to be used to generate discussion at a public forum.

A public forum was held on November 24, 2003 at the Holland Town Hall. The main focus of the public forum was to identify the major open space and recreation priorities of Holland residents. Citizens in attendance reviewed the open space and recreation priorities generated by the SWOT analysis conducted with the Open Space and Recreation Committee and were provided the opportunity to suggest additional priorities.

Once a final list of potential open space and recreation priorities were compiled at the public forum, citizens in attendance were each given a set of votes, in the form of dot stickers, to select their open space and recreation priorities for the town. Votes were tabulated and the top five open space and recreation priorities were selected for the town.

On March 18, 2004, the Holland Open Space and Recreation Committee convened to review and discuss the results of the public forum. Information gathered at the forum was used to establish the major goals and objectives of the plan.

Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The following open space and recreation goals were established as a result of the planning process.

- Protect present and future water resources
- Provide recreational opportunities for residents
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Preserve the town's rural character, natural areas, scenic views, and historic sites

SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

Summary of Resource Protection Needs

There are several natural resources in Holland that would benefit from a higher level of protection. These resources include: Hamilton Reservoir, the medium flow aquifer in the northern section of the town, and wildlife habitat in the western section of the town. The threats to the water quality of Hamilton Reservoir are especially serious.

Sedimentation and pollution from dense residential development along its shoreline present serious threats to the water quality of Hamilton Reservoir. Much of the dense development surrounding the reservoir is located on steep slopes and on soils that are subject to moderate to severe erosion. Dirt roads and driveways serve a significant number of these residences. During periods of heavy rain, storm run-off carries soil from these unimproved roads into the reservoir and this leads to increased sedimentation. Pollution from residential sources also poses a serious threat to water quality at Hamilton Reservoir. Inadequate or faulty septic systems can release effluent into the reservoir's waters. In addition to posing a threat to human health, the effluent often contains phosphates. In order to adapt to this increased level of phosphates, the reservoir ecosystem compensates by increasing plant growth. This plan recommends the adoption of a Lake Protection Overlay District in order to slow the process of water quality degradation at the reservoir.

The high to moderate yielding aquifer located in the northern section of Holland serves as a source of well water for residences in the area and may one day serve as a future municipal water supply. The section of the aquifer in Holland is located under layers of gneiss and schist. Due to the impermeability of these rock layers, it is unlikely that development directly over the aquifer will pose a threat to its water supply. However, most of the recharge area for this aquifer is located in the Town of Brimfield. Protecting the aquifer requires protecting the aquifer recharge area that supply it.

The large forested tracts of wildlife habitat located in the western section of town are a valuable natural resource. The numerous unprotected parcels of land in this area that could serve to link the permanently protected habitat lands would benefit from a higher level of protection. Ultimately the goal for the town would be to acquire permanent protection for these "linking parcels" and therefore create a wildlife corridor in the western section of the town.

Summary of Community's Needs

Since much of Holland's identity is based on its valuable natural resources, the community has expressed a strong desire to protect and preserve these resources for future use. Protecting water resources was identified as the most important goal by residents at the Public forum held on November 19, 2003. Citizens at the meeting were concerned that the community's health and financial well-being would be jeopardized if water resources, both drinking water supplies and recreational waters, were not protected from current and future degradation. Hamilton Reservoir

was cited as a valuable recreational and economic resource that required a higher level of protection.

In addition to protecting water resources, the community is determined to preserve the town's rural character, historic sites, and scenic views. Many residents of Holland choose to live in the town due to its natural scenic beauty and small town rural character. Since the quality of life in Holland is tied closely to its natural beauty and rural character, residents want to ensure that future development within the town does not pose a threat to these valuable qualities of the town. The goal of the community is to seek an appropriate balance between new development and the protection of the Holland's unique natural and historic resources. Residents realize that acquiring additional commercial and residential growth at the expense of the town's natural resources, will ultimately lead to the reduction in their quality of life.

Many residents in Holland have expressed the need to provide permanently protected habitat for the town's wildlife populations. Although the majority of Holland's land area is forested, and therefore provides large tracts of contiguous wildlife habitat, much of this forestland may eventually be developed in the future. Residents of Holland want to ensure that critical wildlife habitat areas acquire permanent protection against future commercial or residential development.

Management Needs

A significant proportion of Holland's natural resources are under the management of federal, state, or private control. The most important area that requires a higher level of management by the town is the area surrounding Hamilton Reservoir. This area is covered with dense residential that poses a serious threat to the health of the reservoir ecosystem. Management of this area should focus on reducing the negative impacts of development that are degrading the water quality of Hamilton Reservoir. In order to effectively manage the land area surrounding Hamilton Reservoir, the town will need to adopt a set of growth management strategies. One of these strategies, acquiring additional regulatory power through the adoption of a Lake Protection Overlay District, is a major recommendation of this plan.